

Weather Component of USAF's Military Airlift Command

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Iran forecast center aids Apollo 8 flight

ENT AFB, Colo.—Apollo 8 astronauts received direct "space weather" support, during the recent Apollo Lunar Orbit Mission, from the 4th Weather Wing's Detachment 7, Solar Observing and Forecasting Facility, here.

Det. 7 personnel, stationed around the world, keep a 24-hour watch on the sun to predict any solar activity or disturbance in the aerospace environment. Information acquired during continuous observation and input to the space program includes data on solar flares, magnetic fields and lethal protons in space caused by solar storms.

Magnetic storms, radio blackouts, auroras and dangerous radiation conditions can occur between the Earth and the moon as the result of such solar activity. These conditions could threaten the safety of astronauts and equipment unless detected or predicted and proper protective measures taken.

To improve the 4th Weather Wing's "space weather" forecasting capability, a new operating location has been established. The new solar optical observing facility is Operating Location 9, Detachment 4, 4th Weather Wing in Tehran, Iran. Located about five miles north-

east of the capital city, the new site resembles a Muslim mosque situated in the foothills of the Elburz Mountains.

Although the terrain is quite barren, the land around the site is common grazing land for the local sheep herders, who asked (during the site's construction) when the new temple would be ready for worship.

The small solar observing facility was literally hand made in six weeks time. Concrete was mixed by shovel on the ground and carried to the waiting forms by native laborers.

Difference in building codes and practices resulted in occasional delays when parts of the construction had to be torn up and reaccomplished. The language barrier and scarcity of suitable materials plagued the project from beginning to end, but provided a note of humor to the construction workers as they looked back on their problem areas.

OL-9 is one of nine operating locations across the United States and overseas which comprises the Solar Observing and Forecasting Network (SOF-NET) engaged in 24-hour surveillance of the sun.

Gen. Pierce selected for second star

Hq. AWS—Brig. Gen. Russell K. Pierce Jr., Air Weather Service commander, was nominated this month by President Lyndon B. Johnson for his second star. The general was recommended for promotion after close screening by the Air Force's general officer promotion board.

As of press time, no information as to effective date, sequence number, or date of Senate confirmation was available. However, it is expected that this information will be available for the OBSERVER's February publication.



Brig. Gen. Pierce

General Pierce entered the Army Air Corps in August 1941 and on March 16, 1942, was commissioned a second lieutenant and graduated from flying school at Mather Field, Calif.

During World War II, he served with the 98th Bombardment Group in Palestine and the Middle East as a B-24 pilot, flying 308 combat hours and 33 missions during the first nine months of his overseas tour.

In 1946, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and in 1947 attended the Weather Officers School at Chanute AFB, Ill. Since 1947 the general has served with AWS continuously.

Funds needed for memorial

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.—A memorial honoring the late Gen. William S. Stone will be created at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this memorial fund may do so by sending a check or money order to USAFA (CSSA), USAF Academy, Colo., 80840, payable to Air Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

During his 30 year career the general served for nine years in Air Weather Service, in jobs ranging from a unit weather officer to AWS chief of staff.

2nd Weather Wing NCO selected MAC airman of the year

TSgt. Richard E. Williamson of Detachment 14, 7th Weather Squadron at Heidelberg, Germany, has been selected the Outstanding Airman of the Year for the Military Airlift Command (MAC).

One of three nominees representing the Air Weather Service, Sergeant Williamson was chosen from 21 finalists nominated by the major organizations of the Military Airlift Command. He was the primary nominee for the 2nd Weather Wing, headquartered at Wiesbaden, Germany.

Serving as a weather forecaster technician at the U. S. Army Forecast Center, Heidelberg, Germany, Sergeant Williamson was cited for his exceptional achievements and outstanding leadership while providing weather reports, advisories and briefings to field commanders in the U. S. 7th Army Area.

Sergeant Williamson is also a member of a mobile weather unit serving with Army headquarters under field conditions, providing centralized weather information

Weather NCO captures top grad honors

Hq. AWS—TSgt. Robert L. Walsh, Detachment 21, 31st Weather Squadron, Kindsback Consolidated Military Facility, Germany, has been selected as the top honor graduate for Class 69-2 of the Military Airlift Command NCO Academy.

Graduating late last month, the class consisted of 118 student NCOs. AWS also had two NCOs in the top ten percent category, they were: TSgt. Gayle J. Fenner, Det. 12, 9th Wea. Sq., Ellsworth AFB, S. D., and TSgt. Joseph D. Rogers, Operating Location 10, Det. 7, 4th Wea. Wing, Ent AFB, Colo.



TSgt. Walsh

This was the first full class to attend the five-week academy program since the school moved from Orlando AFB, Fla., to Norton AFB, Calif., last year.

Brig. Gen. Louis G. Griffin, commander of the 63rd Military Airlift Wing, Norton, was guest speaker at commencement exercises.

Class 69-2 was the 102nd to be graduated from the academy. Its 118 graduates brought to 12,318 the number of NCOs who have attended the school.



TSgt. Williamson

support to Army Corps and division weather teams.

Two other nominees from the Air Weather Service considered in the final judging for the MAC Outstanding Airman of the Year were SMSgt. Wayne A. Carlson, Hq. Air Weather Service at Scott AFB; and SMSgt. John R. Penz of the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

A veteran of 13 years service, Sergeant Williamson will represent the Military Airlift Command at the Air Force Association Convention, to be held in Houston, Tex., in March.

He will also represent the command at other events during 1969.

SSgt. Elmer J. Timmreck, a personnel specialist at Hq. Air Weather Service, placed 2nd in the MAC competition for the distinguished first term reenlistee. Eighteen nominees were considered in the final competition at MAC headquarters for this award.

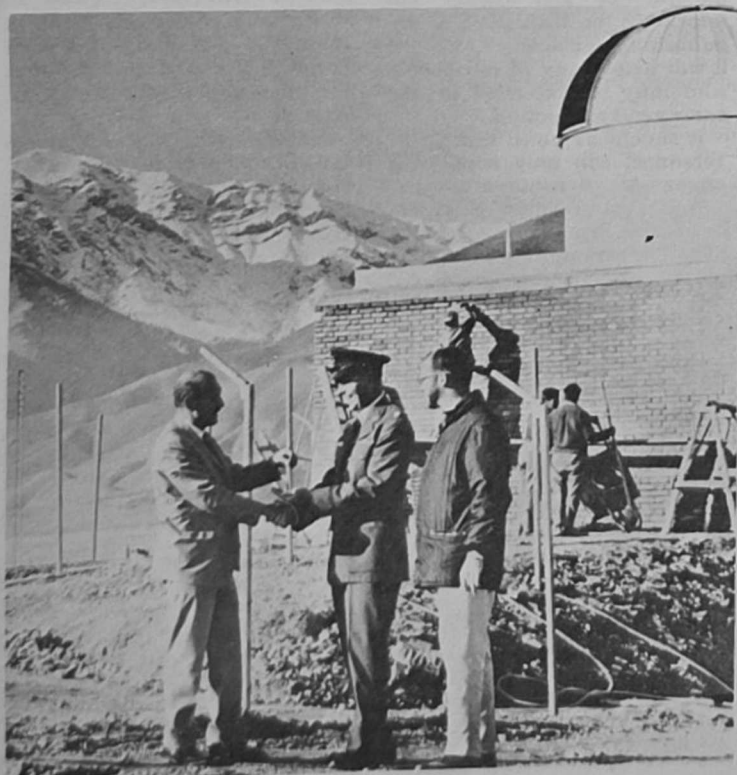
53rd cited for search aid

RAMEY AFB, Puerto Rico—The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters," were credited recently for their outstanding support to the 1968 Caribbean Barbados Experiment. (BOMEX)

This research program was conducted by Florida State University in the vicinity of Barbados in the Caribbean during July, August and September 1968. The scientific objectives of the experiment were to study the interrelationship of the ocean and the atmosphere and to study tropical forecasting problems which may enhance the effectiveness of future military operations in all tropical areas.

John W. Firor, Director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colo., extended his personal appreciation to the squadron for their support. Firor remarked, "The weather observations made by the 53rd Wea. Recon. Sq., on a modified synoptic weather track in the Caribbean were crucial in fulfilling the objectives of the experiment."

WB-47 Stratojets and WC-130 Hercules aircraft were used in the experiment.



MAJ. WILLIAM O. BREEDLOVE (center) accepts the keys to Operating Location 9, Detachment 7, 4th Weather Wing (Solar Facility) from Andrew E. Stavroudis, Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency (GEEIA) civil engineer for site construction. To the local natives, the small facility resembles a temple of worship. At right, witnessing the exchange of keys, is Gary Barksdale, a member of the European GEEIA engineering team. (Air Force Photo)

Gardner to assist in airman affairs

Hq. AWS-Brig. Gen. Russell K. Pierce Jr., Air Weather Service commander has selected CMSgt. William M. Gardner to fill the newly created slot of Special Assistant for Airman Affairs. Sergeant Gardner will report directly to the general on all matters affecting the health, morale and job satisfaction of AWS NCOs and airmen.



CMSgt. Gardner

A 26-year Air Force veteran, Sergeant Gardner comes to his new job with 22 years of Air Weather Service experience in weather maintenance skills.

A resident of Miami, Okla., Sergeant Gardner will perform the following appropriate tasks while holding down the number one enlisted spot in AWS: Recommend appropriate courses of action for the overall welfare of AWS airmen.

Maintain contact with senior AWS NCOs to keep apprised of matters affecting the duties, morale and interests of AWS enlisted personnel. Accompany the commander on command visits. Respond to, or arrange for replies to, queries or requests for information received from AWS airmen and represent AWS at appropriate ceremonies, conferences, meetings and other

activities related to his area of responsibility.

The 46-year-old senior NCO was weather equipment superintendent for the DCS/Materiel, Hq. AWS, prior to assuming his new post.

AWS's version of Air Force's Sergeant Airy, recently stated, "I am hopeful that many items will be brought to my attention during visits or by letters. If you feel you have a problem, idea, complaint or recommendation that requires action or review by Hq. AWS, please let me know."

The father of four children continued, "I will give every item received my complete consideration. I do ask you however, not to break established military channels until you give your immediate supervisor, squadron, wing and local CBPO a chance to assist you first. If no one can help you, Sergeant Gardner continued, "then I will be most willing to obtain the advice of the AWS staff for you."

The AWS top-kick concluded by saying, "I am here to do things for you, and not to hurt you."

Offutt men net high SKT scores

OFFUTT AFB, Nebr.—Eight 2nd Weather Squadron (Air Force Global Weather Central) weather technicians, recently passed their 25370 skill knowledge test with high honors.

All staff sergeants, the weathermen achieving honors were Ronald C. Flagstad, Robert C. Moore and Hubert J. Casner 95 percentile, Daniel E. Herrmann, Charles H. Stark, Donald O. Noshre and Marcus D. Bailey 90 percentile and Ira M. Taylor Jr. 85 percentile.

RB-57F puts on air show over Offutt

OFFUTT AFB, Nebr.—People in the vicinity of this base recently witnessed an aerial demonstration of high and low altitude maneuvers by a two-man Air Weather Service crew piloting an RB-57F reconnaissance aircraft.

Putting on their demonstration over the Offutt flightline, the crewmen, Maj. Edward V. McGee and Capt. William Moore, were in the area to speak at a meeting of the Omaha-Offutt chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

Attached to the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M., the RB-57F has a wing span of 122 feet and is equipped with high thrust turbofan engines for high altitude, long range missions.

The \$12 million, 600 mph jet uses cameras, weather sampling equipment and research packages to perform its missions.

The crewmembers were greeted by Col. Robert L. Sorey, 3rd Weather Wing commander, after landing.

Need an answer to a personnel question?

Hq. AWS—Have you been wondering about promotions or why it takes so long for approval for Commendation Medals? The OBSERVER may soon answer questions of this type and other general questions in our forthcoming column, entitled Personnel Problems.

With various personnel policies being implemented, revised or dropped within the Air Force, the OBSERVER staff, and headquarters personnel officials have conspired to create a personnel problems column to assist our people in this area.

It is hoped that this column will answer general personnel questions submitted by weather people in the field. The column will appear monthly and be in a question-answer format.

Personnel who have questions in the personnel area and would like an answer should submit

58th names Penz as top airman

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M.—SMSgt. John R. Penz has been selected as the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Airman of the Year for 1968.

In the life support career field for 17 years, Sergeant Penz was selected for his outstanding achievements as NCOIC of the 58th Wea. Recon. Sq. life support section.

Among his many accomplishments, Sergeant Penz also achieved the highest retention rate as Career Motivation NCO that was ever attained at the 58th and through his leadership, a suggestion concerning life support vans resulted in a \$150,000 savings to the Air Force.

4th Wea. Wg. Vice Comdr.



Reconmen win Air Medals

Twenty two 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron men have been awarded Air Medals for meritorious service while participating in sustained aerial reconnaissance.

Receiving medals were Majors Robert W. Fett, Kerry Gomez and Edward G. Johnson, Captains Leroy R. Bonneau Jr., Kenneth H. Clark II, Fredrick H. Gramm, Wayne W. Kuppler, David Lacroix, Ernest L. McFarland, Albert T. Oldham, John M. Palanaro, John P. Powell, Thomas L. Price, James E. St. Dennis and Dan K. Waylett.

Also receiving Air Medals were 1st Lt. George E. Wilson III; Master Sergeants John M. Deknoblough and Bennett A. Hurt; TSgt. Norman R. Lehman; Staff Sergeants John D. Baker, Merlin L. Paulson and David G. Whitford.

MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND

Accent on Bars

Capt WALTER J. HARRISON

DET 4, 32 WEATHER SQ
OKLAHOMA CITY AIR
FORCE STATION, OKLA

WEATHER DETACHMENT COMMANDER
AND STAFF WEATHER OFFICER FOR 31ST
AIR DIVISION.

GRADUATED IN 1962 FROM AGRICULTURAL
AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE,
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA.

AWARDED THE BRONZE
STAR AND THE AIR MEDAL
FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE
IN VIETNAM.

HOMETOWN:
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA



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BRIG. GEN. RUSSELL K. PIERCE, JR.

Commander, Air Weather Service
CAPT. TERENCE MAYER, Director of Information
LT. RAY A. CROCKETT, Managing Editor
SSGT. GENE GOLDSMITH, Editor

Supply NCO best in MAC

KELLY AFB, Tex.—SSgt. Fidel D. Figueroa, Detachment 35, 7th Weather Wing, here, was recently selected by the Military Airlift Command as one of 39 outstanding supplymen in MAC for 1968. Sergeant Figueroa will receive a certificate of commendation from Maj. Gen. William H. Reddell, MAC deputy chief of staff for materiel.

Sergeant Figueroa was cited for his supply support to field units in Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico and the Canal Zone. He also monitored and assisted in expediting the shipment of equipment and spare parts to weather units in Southeast Asia.

The 39 outstanding supplymen were selected by a board of field grade officers at MAC headquarters.

Field comdr's hold conference

NHA TRANG, RVN—The 5th Weather Squadron Commander's Conference was recently hosted here by Detachment 31, 5th Weather Squadron.

Commanders were welcomed by I Field Force Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. J. G. Kelergis, who stressed the impact of weather on Army combat operations.

Lt. Col. W. E. Cummins II, commander of the 5th Weather Squadron, complimented the 14 commanders for their support to the U.S. Army. He also mentioned the squadron's short term goals and outlined each commander's responsibilities.

Bronze Star

SSgt. John W. Wright, Detachment 44, 7th Weather Wing, has been awarded the Bronze Star for bravery while assigned to Det. 10, 5th Weather Squadron, Ban Me Thout, Vietnam, from July 20, 1967 to June 2, 1968.



ACCEPTING THE ZENKOKAI INC. Good Deeds Award is Col. Whitney L. Morgan (right), commander of the 56th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. The 56th received the award for their support to the St. Joseph's Home for girls, Hoyashi, Tokyo. Presentation was made at the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo.



RECHECKING A PIECE OF equipment in the supply section of Detachment 35, 7th Weather Wing, Kelly AFB, Tex., is SSgt. Fidel D. Figueroa. Sergeant Figueroa was recently selected as one of 39 outstanding supplymen in the Military Airlift Command for 1968. He was cited for his supply support to field units in the southwestern United States and the Canal Zone.

Copter crews finish fog dissipation test

Hq. AWS—Two Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service helicopter crews from the 1st Aerial Cartographic and Geodetic Squadron, Forbes AFB, Kan., recently completed a month-long fog dissipation test at Smith Mountain Airport.

The test was a joint effort between ACGS and the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory, headquartered at L. G. Hanscom Field, Mass. The crew's mission was to determine whether or not helicopters could be used to rid airport runways of menacing fog. The tests proved "highly" successful.

As the "choppers" were flown over a fog formation, their large whirling rotor blades caused cold dry air above the fog to mix with the moist warmer air below.

This mixture caused the air molecules to condense and the fog to dissipate. In some cases, a light rain or mist was formed as the fog disappeared.

On the average, it took the helicopter crews about five minutes to clear one-half square mile. "After the fog was cleared from an area," said Maj. David Given, project commander, "it would not form again, especially over land. Over water, some fog would form once cleared, but not very much and what did form was close to the water surface."

Motion and still pictures taken of the fog dissipation tests, along with instrumentation readings will be evaluated by the Cambridge Laboratory for possible use in clearing busy airport runways of fog.

56th praised for orphan aid

YOKOTA AB, Japan—The 56th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron was recognized recently by Zenkokai Inc. of Tokyo, Japan, for their good will contributions to the St. Joseph's Home for Girls, Hoyashi, Tokyo.

During 1968, members of the 56th Wea. Recon. Sq. raised funds for the education of seven girls at the St. Joseph's Home by sponsoring several fund raising projects. Additional fund raising ventures netted heating equipment for the girls dormitories.

Last Christmas, 56th families collected toys and presented them to the children during a Christmas party. A number of the families hosted many of the girls at their homes following the party.

SSgt. and Mrs. Verl R. Best were lauded by 56th Commander, Col. Whitney L. Morgan for their many hours of hard work expended organizing squadron functions for the girls.

Fog dispersal tests conducted in Europe

WIESBADEN AB, Germany—For the first time in Europe, an airborne fog-dispersal system is being tested, using crushed dry ice to dissipate fog.

Similar tests last winter at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, proved successful in clearing the runway, making possible 91 landings that otherwise would have been diverted. Airborne fog-dispersal operations also enabled 94 aircraft takeoffs at Elmendorf AFB that would normally have been cancelled or delayed.

Potential savings to the commercial airline industry and to military aviation runs into the millions. Because of heavy fog, countless commercial flights are cancelled each year. Military air traffic in Europe particularly is hampered by fog.

The airborne system, nicknamed Cold Crystal, will be tested 90 days at Hahn, Bitburg, and Spangdahlem Air Bases, all in Germany, using WC-130 aircraft of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Ramsey AFB, Puerto Rico. The aircraft will be staging out of Ramstein AB, Germany. Tests are scheduled to be completed by next month.

Finely crushed dry ice is dispensed from the weather aircraft flying at low altitude over the fog bank. Best testing conditions call for minimum visibility, sub-zero temperatures and wind velocity of less than 10 miles per hour.

The dry ice serves as a cooling stimulant, causing ice crystals to form at the expense

of cold water droplets that make up the fog. As ice crystals form and grow in size, they precipitate as light snow.

Small amounts of the dry ice that reach the surface evaporate in three to four minutes.

Primary consideration in determining where the cooling stimulant is dispensed is wind conditions. Weathermen seek to estimate wind movement so that fog dissipates over the runway. Sometimes it is necessary to seed an area up to five miles from the active runway.

Wxmen find new way to gauge rainfall

PHUOC VINH, VIETNAM—Air Weather Service observers of Operating Location 2, Detachment 31, 5th Weather Squadron, here, have discovered a back-breaking way to gauge rainfall.

Sgt. Robert J. Schmidt described the rain-measuring method: "I was a member of a three-man weather observer team in a brigade base camp bunker at Landing Zone Jane in the I Corps area."

"One day, a particularly heavy thunderstorm broke and it started to rain. Some 17 inches fell, at the rate of an inch an hour. Being weathermen, the phenomenon was technically and academically very interesting to us. Soon however, our enthusiasm was dulled by the fact that our bunker was filling up."

Sergeant Schmidt continued, "Using five-gallon cans, we bailed an estimated 1,000 gallons out the door. In a storm a few days later, nature was kinder—we only had to move 700 gallons!"

OL-2 supports the Army's 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). At the present time, the division operates north of Saigon, in the III Corps tactical zone. Prior to a recent re-location however, their area of operations was in the I Corps area north of DaNang.

Det. 34 wins comdr's trophy

SOUTH VIETNAM—Detachment 34, 1st Weather Group, has been awarded the 1st Weather Wing Commander's Trophy for outstanding achievement in serving over 40 weather locations in South Vietnam and Thailand.

Det. 34, better known as the Southeast Asia Field Maintenance Shop, is commanded by Capt. Charles D. Peterson.



DR. FREDERICK G. SHUMAN, (left) Director of the National Meteorological Center (ESSA), presents the Air Force Commendation Medal to Lt. Col. James G. Howcroft, officer-in-charge, Operating Location 10, Hq. AWS. Colonel Howcroft earned the award for developing a limited-area, fine-mesh numerical weather prediction model while assigned as AWS representative to the center at Suitland, Maryland.



LOADING SANTA UP with mail for children are two members of Detachment 5, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska. In the background is Santa Claus House post office,

near Eielson, where letters sent in by parents are mailed to children all over the world. Over 92,000 of these letters have been mailed since the program was begun in 1955.



ONLY THE SECOND WAF detachment commander in AWS history, Maj. V. M. Olson works in her "office" at USAFE command weather briefing center, Lindsey AB, Germany. Maj. Olson's responsibilities include giving weather briefings to the USAFE commander-in-chief and various staff agencies.



WAITING FOR DINNER are some of the orphans whom men of Det. 13, 30th Weather Squadron have been aiding. The Binh Thuy based weathermen have donated time, materials and money to help these victims of the Vietnam war.



EVEN PRETTIER than the trophy she holds is Debora Mitchell, a secretary with DCS/Operations, Hq. AWS. This Commander's Trophy was presented to AWS by General Howell M. Estes, Jr., commander Military Airlift Command for outstanding improvement in ground safety in 1967.



STETSON AND SHOOTING IRON take a back seat to the pen and security manual. MSgt. William W. Price, AWS's only security policeman, "lays down the law" as a member of the Inspector General staff at AWS Hq., Scott AFB, Ill. One-of-a-kind assignments are nothing new to Price, who has spent most of his 18 Air Force years in unique posts all over the world.

January - AWS in review, 1968 - December

HQ. AWS—The year of 1968 was one of many changes, promotions, awards, honors and progress for nearly all of Air Weather Service's 12,000 people. In the command's 31st year of operation, AWS continued to excel.

Two AWS people distinguished themselves and the command during the year by becoming the Air Force Flight Surgeon of the Year and the 1968 MAC Airman of the Year. Capt. George S. Sutton, 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, won flight surgeon honors while TSgt. Richard E. Williamson, Det. 14, 7th Wea. Sq., was selected as MAC's Airman of the Year.

AWS Commanders' Awards winners included Capt. Charles F. Blount, 54th Wea. Recon. Sq., Yates Award; Lt. Col. James G. Howcroft, OL-10, Hq. AWS, Merewether Award and Joe S. Restivo, 4th Wea. Wg., Zimmerman Award.

Units capturing Commanders' Awards included Det. 9, 30th Wea. Sq., Williams Award; Det. 19, 15th Wea. Sq., Bassett Award; Det. 44, 7th Wea. Wg. Moorman Award and the 58th Wea. Recon. Sq., Senter Award.

MSgt. Jack G. Williamson, 7th Wea. Wg., was named AWS Maintenance NCO of the Year while Sgt. Kenneth H. Minnig, Det. 10, 15th Wea. Sq., garnered MAC Outstanding Specialized Maintenance Airman of the Year honors.

During the year, AWS people won the honor graduate and commandant's awards at the MAC NCO Academy once each, while nine AWS members made the top ten percent list at the academy.

Our personnel participated in such operations as Eagle Thrust, Polar Express, Stormfury and BOMEX. Weather people conducted fog dissipation tests with such names as Cold Cow, Cold Cat, Cold Fog and Warm Fog.

AWS's first owned and operated solar forecast observatory began operation in Puerto Rico. A second AWS observatory was completed two months

later in Iran.

The AN/FPS77 weather radar unit began operating from European bases in 1968, with units located in Italy, Germany, Spain and England.

More than 4,000 AWSmen were awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award during the year. Units receiving the award were the 4th Wea. Wg., the 9th Wea. Recon. Wg., the 6th Wea. Sq., and the Environmental Technical Applications Center.

AWS also captured the MAC Commander's Trophy for outstanding improvement in ground safety.

During the year MAC held a cost reduction emblem contest, with MSgt. Edward H. Cruey, 31st Wea. Sq., taking third place honors.

On October 1, the weather observer skill was taken off the variable reenlistment bonus list. This move affected 2,132 AWS observers.

Six air national guard weather flights were called to active duty after the capture of the USS Pueblo. They were the 119th, 120th, 121st, 127th, 154th and 165th Wea. Flts.

A significant anniversary last year was that of the Women in the Air Force (WAF). The WAF celebrated their 20th anniversary in 1968 as a part of the Air Force team.

It also marked the 14th year of Air Weather Service's Letters from Santa Program as well as the 14th anniversary of the OBSERVER.

In the world of society, Mrs. Pattie Fowler, wife of Capt. Frederick J. Fowler, Det. 10, 6th Wea. Wg., was one of three

finalist in the Mrs. Florida contest. In California, A1C Veronica Mercer, 9th Wea. Recon. Wg., became the first weather WAF to appear in the Air Force Times' Fair Force section.

AWS people fared well in the world of sports, as two 2nd Wea. Wg. men managed the European little league champions of Wiesbaden AB, Germany. They went all the way to the little league world series before being defeated.

In the Second Annual Great Race to the Ice Cap, held at Sondrestrom AB, Greenland, Capt. Stephen Hemenway, Det. 47, 12th Wea. Sq., was the first U.S. runner to finish the 20 mile race. Lt. Col. William H. Shivar captured the State of Virginia amateur tennis championship.

Flying units of the 9th Wea. Recon. Wg., received flying safety pins in 1968 for attaining more than 20 years worth of flying hours without an accident. This year also marked the final missions of WB-47 weather aircraft from Eielson AFB, Alaska. WB-47 aircraft assigned to Eielson were transferred to McClellan AFB, Calif.

Nearly one out of every four AWS military members were promoted last year, based on the combined airman and officer promotions of 2,868 and AWS's manning strength of 12,000.

Along with many other honors AWS people were awarded 606 Air Force Commendation Medals as well as various other ribbons and medals.

With such an outstanding year behind, it is hoped that 1969 will open even more avenues for AWS people to reap its benefits.



LAST, LONELY PASS is made by WB-47 012402 over Eielson AFB, Alaska. Aircraft "402" is the last WB-47 assigned to Eielson and to Detachment 1, 55th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. The WB-47s were moved to McClellan AFB, Calif., while Det. 1 was redesignated Det. 5, 9th Weather Reconnaissance Wing. Det. 5 is equipped with the WC-135 aircraft.



BERLIN AIRLIFT—Col. Bernard Pusin (left) is interviewed at Ramstein AB, Germany, on Armed Forces Radio and Television (Europe) program honoring veterans of the Berlin Airlift. Colonel Pusin, 2nd Weather Wing chief of operations, was staff weather officer for the operation. The program was aired in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift observed during July 1968.



COOL IT—With memories of a sunny beach and the personal sendoff of Miss Guam, (Hope Alvarez, 21, and 35-23-35) the "southern" boys from 54th WRS should have no trouble keeping warm in the frigid Alaska cold country. The three WC-130E crewmen (l-r), TSgt. William Tuggles, MSgt. Carl H. Zech and 1st Lt. Steven M. Stefanic Jr., were part of a group rotating to Elmendorf AFB to participate in "operation Cold Cow." This was an experiment in eliminating ice fog by airborne dry-ice seeding.



CAPT. GEORGES SUTTON, 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron was named the Air Force Flight Surgeon of the Year and received the accompanying Malcolm Grow Award.



WEATHER MATTERS—Maj. Victor Henkell, Det. 3, 15th Weather Squadron, briefs Gen. Howell M. Estes, commander MAC, on weather between Fort Campbell and the west coast. General Estes flew one of the first C-141's in Operation Eagle Thrust to Vietnam.



TYPHOON CHASERS ON FILM—A photography team from Cinesell, Inc., Tokyo, Japan, films a WC-130E lift-off as a portion of a documentary movie about the typhoon chasers of the 64th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. The film will depict tropical storm reconnaissance in the Pacific and its effect on Japan. The title of the film will be "Scientists of the Typhoon." From left are photographers Yuzo Yatsuyagi and Kunima Fukumi, and director Takao Hayashi.

54th makes Xmas happier for 3,000 islanders

ANDERSEN AFB, Guam--More than 3,000 grinning, waving Micronesian Islanders greeted crews of the 54th Weather

Reconnaissance Squadron and the 79th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron and their C-130 "sleighs" during the

1968 Operation Christmas Drop.

The drop, considered the largest ever, was engineered by Maj. Douglas Johnson, Chaplain John R. Meyers and TSgt. Barros Rippitee.

Fifty-three crates of clothing, food, school supplies, toys and fishing equipment were collected and airlifted to the islanders of Omari, Murile, Satawan, Nama, Lesap and Pisall located in the Truk district and Agrihan, Pagan, Anatahan, Alamagan and Sarigan, in the Northern Marianas.

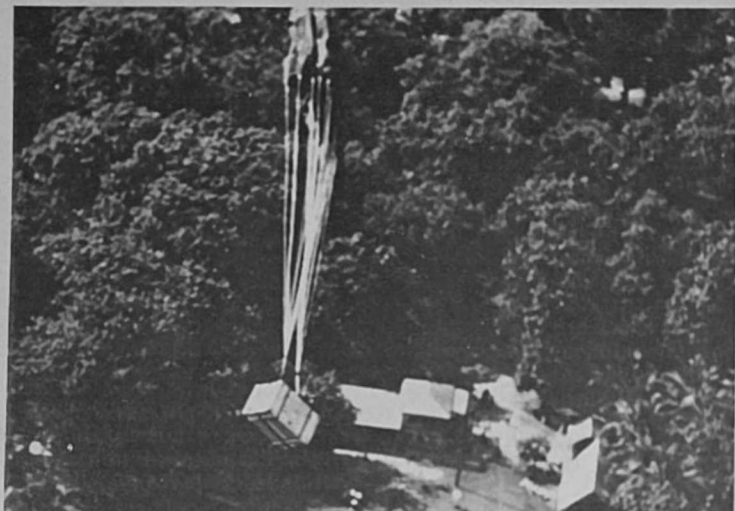
Piloting Santa 31 (special call sign) flight were Lt. Col. Arthur D. Weaver, 54th commander and Maj. Bill Hatfield, while TSgt. James Bird, Staff Sergeant David Whitfield and Lance Wilson and Sgt. David Basse released crates over each drop zone.

The above mentioned islands were selected by the U.S. Trust Territory for the relative remoteness and hardships they suffered during the 1968 Typhoon season.

The 16-year Christmas drop program was originated by 54th crews in 1952 when a WB-29 crew dropped Christmas gifts on Kapingamarangi Atoll, located 750 miles southeast of Guam. This year's drop included 11 atolls in the U.S. Trust Territory.

Since that first drop, the 54th has not been alone in providing Christmas cheer to the many underprivileged islanders in

the area. Nearly everyone at Andersen AFB and the Guam civilian community participate in one way or another.



ONE OF THE 53 CRATES OF MERCHANDISE from the 1968 Christmas drop glides toward the ground. Weighing over 200 pounds each, the crates were delivered to more than 3,000 Micronesian residents on 11 different atolls.



TSgt. JAMES BIRD, 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, dropsonde operator, acts as a "kicker" during this year's Operation Christmas Drop. Over 10,000 pounds of food, toys, clothing and fishing gear were delivered to islanders on 11 atolls.

Wxmen detecting solar disturbances for AFWTR

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif.--An unusual aspect of the mission of Detachment 30, 6th Weather Wing, here, concerns solar and atmospheric phenomena as they affect radio communications.

Electrically charged particles accompanying solar emissions stream through space and enter our atmosphere guided by the earth's magnetic field. One earth, we observe the results of this violent solar activity as aurora borealis, magnetic storms and degenerated radio communications. Det. 30 collects ionospheric, magnetic and solar data related to the latter phenomena.

The ionosphere, about 50 to 250 miles high, is subject to rapid variation in height and degree of ionization in response to the solar disturbances mentioned above.

When a major solar flare occurs, many phenomena result as after effects. One of these is a sudden ionospheric disturbance (SID) which is a rapid increase in ionization of the lower atmospheric layers. This SID may completely block the passage of high frequencies and block communication circuits for periods of 15 to 45 minutes.

Special care is therefore required to maintain reliable communications over diverse radio paths with ships and airborne sensors deployed throughout the Pacific Ocean.

Needless to say, it is essential to maintain communications during launch operations. To keep track of radio transmission conditions, data is gathered from the Air Weather Service Solar Observing and Forecasting Network (SOFNET) headquartered at Cheyenne Mountain, Colo., as well as from the ionospheric sounder operated by Det. 30, at the Air Force Western Test Range (AFWTR) headquarters, here. This latter information provides an indication of ionospheric conditions over an area approximately 1,000 miles in radius.

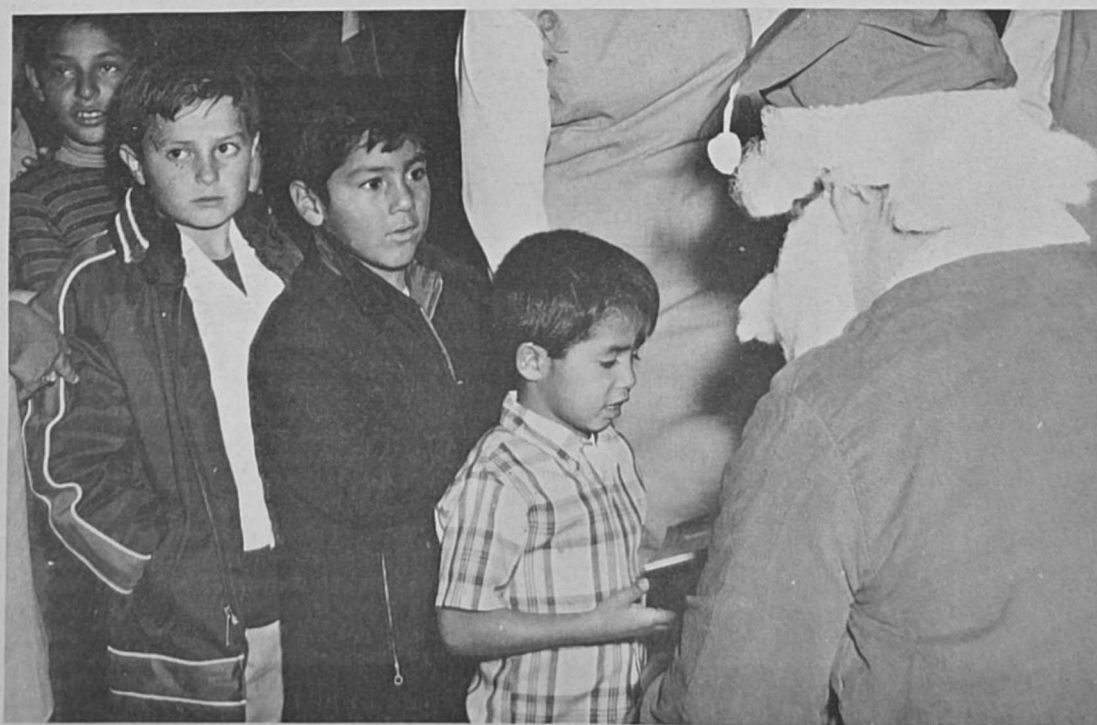
An example of the use of this information occurred recently when a launch countdown was at five minutes and large solar disturbance caused communications blackouts on the sunlit portion of the earth. Range communication controllers, knowing that a SID was occurring, were able to shift the downrange communication to other paths where the SID was less detrimental.

Det. 30 together with AFWTR communication specialists are constantly striving to provide Vandenberg and Range communication controllers with the latest solar and terrestrial "radio weather" information affecting communications. Some success has been made in this area, but some major areas are still to be explored.

Alaska site is best remote unit

NORTHEAST CAPE AFB, Alaska--Operating Location 5, 11th Weather Squadron, here, has been named the Outstanding Remote Weather Location in Alaska for the period April 1 through Sept. 30, 1968.

OL-5 also received the MAC Blue PRIDE Award for their outstanding performance of duties and for self-help projects accomplished by the unit to improve the operations and the appearance of the weather station.



MEMBERS OF DETACHMENT 30, 6TH WEATHER WING, Vandenberg AFB, Calif., brightened the Christmas season for more than 100 underprivileged children with a Christmas Party at the Leroy Park Gymnasium in Guada-

lupe. The party, in cooperation with the Office of Economic Opportunity, hosted children from ages five to ten. Santa was there distributing coloring books, crayons and stockings filled with candy.

SAC chief gets tour of 3rd WW facilities

OFFUTT AFB, Nebr.--Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, Strategic Air Command commander in chief, toured the weather facilities of the 3rd Weather Wing recently as part of a comprehensive "Look at SAC Weather Support" briefing.

The tour followed a detailed briefing by Col. Robert L. Sorey, 3rd Weather Wing commander, on the worldwide organization of weather support to SAC. The 3rd Wea. Wg., with the exception of the Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC) is organized parallel to SAC, with monitoring responsibility of other weather units supporting SAC.

The operations branch of the AFGWC was the first stop for

General Holloway. Lt. M. W. Burton discussed the global forecast capability of AFGWC for such operations as route forecast on a hemisphere basis and air-refueling missions.

The four-star general was briefed later by Lt. Col. Harry P. Pedersen on the responsibility of the SAC Weather Support Unit. This section is responsible for the dissemination of all weather information to the SAC commander, the SAC Command Post, the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, and the Strategic Reconnaissance Center.

The final portion of the tour was devoted to AFGWC and its responsibilities to other agencies of the Department of Defense. The Global Weather Central commander, Col. Ralph J. Steele escorted General Holloway through the new central where the UNIVAC 1108 computer complex is being installed.

Observer by day, pastor by night

POPE AFB, NC., -- TSgt. Colonel W. Thompson Jr., chief observer, Detachment 20, 3rd Weather Squadron, here, has a somewhat unique after duty hour job. He is a licensed minister in the North Carolina Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Completing his ministerial studies by correspondence after only one year of studying, the Mount Olive, N. C., native achieved the highest score possible on a written examination administered by the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

As a result of his outstanding achievement, this weather observer was licensed to preach and was assigned as pastor of the Garland Pentecostal Holiness Church, Garland, N.C.

Commendation Medals

U. S. Air Force Commendation Medals for the following Air Weather Service members have been awarded or approved recently:

Lt. Col. Richard H. Foote, Washington Office, Air Weather Service.

Lt. Col. Vernon M. Robertson, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), 56th Wea. Recon. Sq.

Lt. Col. George D. Thurman, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Hq. AWS.

Maj. Thomas D. Damon, 4th Wea. Wg.

Maj. Joseph K. Lambert, 4th Wea. Wg.

Maj. Robert R. McCutcheon, 55th Wea. Recon. Sq.

Maj. Margaret J. Perry, 2nd Wea. Sq.

Maj. John V. Quinn, Assistant Staff Weather Officer, 5th Air Force ADVON.

Capt. William G. Gess, Det. 1, 20th Wea. Sq.

Capt. Francis M. Kephart, 2nd Wea. Sq.

Capt. Gary S. Zeigler, Det. 19, 8th Wea. Sq.

First Lieutenant Terry P. Kloss, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), 4th Wea. Wg.

First Lieutenant Gary D. Swenson, 2nd Wea. Sq.

CWO Glenfield F. Thompson, Assistant Staff Meteorologist, United States Air Force Satellite Control Facility (AFSCF), Space and Missile Systems organization.

CMSgt. Donald R. Cradle, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), 57th Wea. Recon. Sq.

CMSgt. Chester J. Gueths, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Det. 1, 20th Wea. Sq.

CMSgt. Charles T. Law, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Hq. AWS.

SMSgt. William E. Bishop, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Det. 22, 15th Wea. Sq.

SMSgt. Will E. Cosby, (Second Oak Leaf Cluster), Det. 35, 7th Wea. Wg.

SMSgt. Earl J. Dinsmore Jr., weather forecaster, 8th Air Force Weather Support Unit.

SMSgt. Paul L. Lemar, Det. 30, 6th Wea. Wg.

MSgt. Donald F. Chase, Det. 27, 12th Wea. Sq.

MSgt. John F. Connelly, 5th Wea. Wg.

MSgt. William N. Daniel, (Second Oak Leaf Cluster), 55th Wea. Recon. Sq.

MSgt. Ralph E. Hammons, 9th Wea. Recon. Sq.

MSgt. Leroy W. Honsaker Jr., Det. 9, 35th Wea. Sq.

MSgt. George A. McNeill, Det. 10, 6th Wea. Wg.

MSgt. Kirby C. Nickell, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Det. 30, 6th Wea. Wg.

TSgt. Harvey Bowers, 57th Wea. Recon. Sq.



TSgt. James L. Mangino, Det. 2, 53rd Wea. Recon. Sq. and 53rd Wea. Recon. Sq.

TSgt. Eston G. Pennington, ETAC.

TSgt. John J. Richards, Det. 2, 6th Wea. Wg.

TSgt. Mary E. Rowland, Det. 41, 12th Wea. Sq.

TSgt. Harry B. Tipton, Det. 20, 8th Wea. Sq.

SSgt. Daniel L. Adair, Det. 19, 6th Wea. Wg.

SSgt. Stanley W. Anderson, Det. 50, 2nd Wea. Wg.

SSgt. Robert M. Cowher, Hq. AWS.

SSgt. Jesus Gomez, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), 1st Wea. Wg.

SSgt. Fidel D. Figueroa, Det. 35, 7th Wea. Wg.

SSgt. Donald L. Jenkins, Det. 10, 20th Wea. Sq.

SSgt. Joseph E. Keegan Jr., (First Oak Leaf Cluster), 55th Wea. Recon. Sq.

SSgt. Serapio Munoy, 4th Wea. Wg.

SSgt. Norman T. Northenor, 6th Wea. Sq. (Mobile).

SSgt. Michael D. Schmidt, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), 58th Wea. Recon. Sq.

SSgt. Eugene F. Teeter, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), 16th Wea. Sq.

SSgt. Junior R. Walden, 9th Wea. Recon. Wg.

SSgt. Joel R. Zarnke, 55th Wea. Recon. Sq.

Sgt. Thomas L. Adams, OL-2, Det. 31, 5th Wea. Sq.

A1C Lonnie M. Saunders, 4th Wea. Wg.

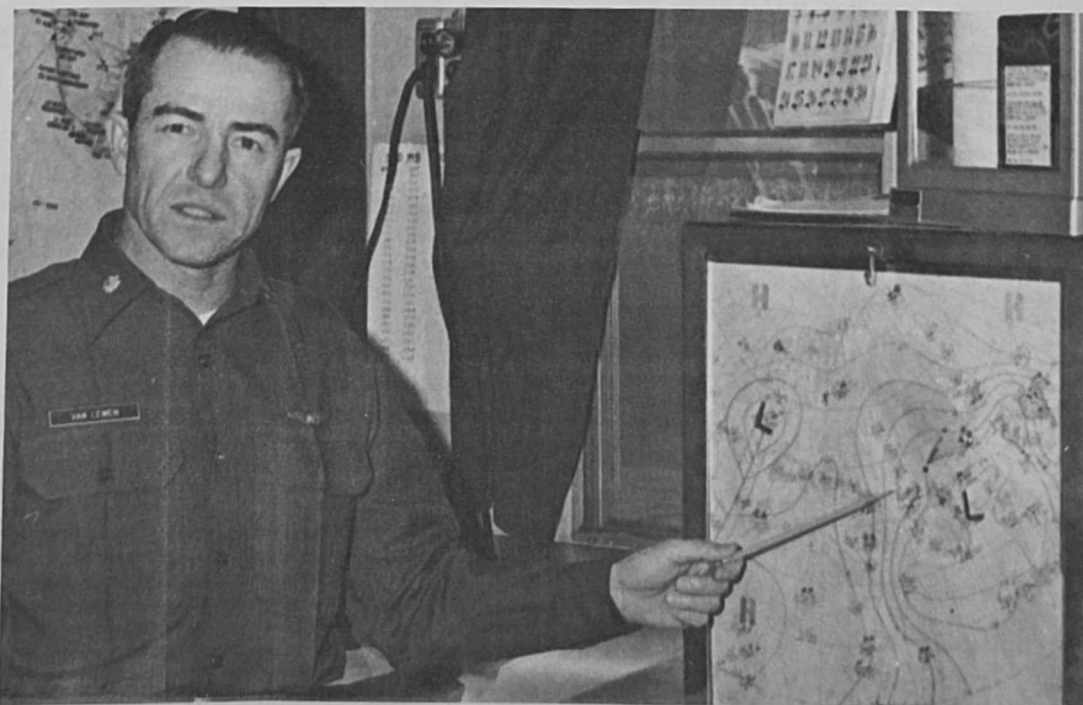
Weatherman 4th Infantryman

CAMP ENARI, Vietnam—TSgt. William A. Gavers, 5th Weather Squadron, was recently named an honorary member of the 4th Infantry Division by the Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Charles P. Stone.

Gavers, the only enlisted man to routinely brief the Commanding General during daily staff meetings, was also cited for outstanding service during a one year tour with the 4th.

Bronze Star

Capt. Robert P. Bron, Detachment 13, 16th Weather Squadron, Ft. Eustis, Va., has been awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service as division staff weather officer and officer in charge of an operating location with the 9th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Vietnam, from May 1, 1967 to Apr. 9, 1968.



ONE OF A KIND is Maj. Melvin C. Van Lewen, commander of Detachment 47, 12th Weather Squadron, Sondrestrom AB, Greenland. Major Van Lewen, an Air National Guard weather officer

permanently assigned as commander of the 120th Weather Flight, Buckley Field, Colo., is the only ANG weather officer serving north of the Arctic Circle. (Air Force Photo)

ON THE

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Highlights of Air Weather Service people at work and play.

AWS Global Report

MacDill AFB, Fla.

TSgt. Bobby R. Coker, Detachment 32, 3rd Weather Squadron was recently presented two Military Airlift Command PRIDE awards for outstanding accomplishments.

A weather observer technician, Sergeant Coker received a Silver PRIDE Award for his performance of duties during the period Feb. 15 to June 30, 1968 and the Bronze PRIDE Award covering the period Sept. 6 through Oct. 6, 1968.

Romanzof AFS, Alaska

SSgt. Lewis E. Wells, NCOIC, Operating Location 8, 11th Weather Squadron, was selected Outstanding Remote Location Observer for the period Apr. 1 through Sept. 30, 1968.

Sergeant Wells competed with 44 other observers. They were judged on job performance, military bearing and appearance.

The sergeant won the MAC Gold PRIDE Award for sustained error-free performance.

58th pilot gets 5,000 hour pin

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M., — The Military Airlift Command 5,000 Hour Accident-Free Lapel Pin was recently earned by Capt. Vernon Duenas, a RB-57 pilot assigned to the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, here.

Captain Duenas also received letters of favorable communications from MAC Commander, General Howell M. Estes Jr., and Brig. Gen. Russell K. Pierce Jr., AWS commander. The generals praised Captain Duenas for his outstanding contribution toward the MAC flying safety program.

Minot AFB, N. D.

A1C Kenneth Doykos, Detachment 21, 9th Weather Squadron, has compiled a number of accomplishments including Airman of the Month for November, a 95 percentile on the 25251 SKT test, was selected as detachment pride Airman of the Month for November and is currently enrolled in two courses at Minot State College, where he is working towards a degree in physics.

Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah

SSgt. David J. Levy II, Detachment 19, 6th Weather Wing, has been selected to attend the University of Denver under the Airman's Education and Commissioning Program.

A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Sergeant Levy attended Chaminade College in Hawaii for three and one-half years before entering the Air Force and has continued his education at the Philippines and the University of Utah. Levy will major in video photography.

Fuchu AS, Japan

Detachment 13, 20th Weather Squadron's maintenance section recently received the MAC Blue PRIDE Award for sustained high quality error-free performance in 1968.

Members of the detachment include NCOIC SMSgt. Stanley A. Coffman Jr. and Sergeants Donald E. Edwards, George C. Hahn, Garry M. Toba and Daniel T. Rost.

See CBPO for AFOUA facts

HQ. AWS—Over 3,700 Air Weather Service people were authorized to wear the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) effective Nov. 1, 1968.

Members of the 9th Weather Reconnaissance Wing who were assigned with the unit between July 1, 1967 and June 30, 1968 are eligible for the AFOUA.

If you were serving with the 4th Weather Wing during the period May 1, 1966 through Apr. 30, 1968, you can display the AFOUA.

People assigned to the U.S. Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center (ETAC) from the period Apr. 1, 1966 to Mar. 31, 1968 are also authorized to wear the AFOUA.

Anyone who served the above mentioned units during the stated time periods, should contact their local Consolidated Base Personnel Office (CBPO) to be certain the award is reflected in their records. All questions concerning the award may also be answered there.

ANG flight wins two OJT awards

Hq. AWS — Members of the 122nd Weather Flight, Louisiana Air National Guard (ANG), were recently presented two On-The-Job Training achievement awards during ceremonies conducted during the units November training assembly.

The National Guard Bureau OJT Training Unit Achievement Award was presented to Lt. Col. John S. Cordero, 122nd Wea. Flt., commander by Col. E. J. Murphy, New Orleans area ANG commander. Lt. Col. James P. Condaxis assigned to the 200th Weather Squadron, Langley AFB, Va., presented the 122nd with an achievement award.

The awards were presented in recognition of the flight's 100 per cent passing rate on skill knowledge testing during 1967. Weather Air Technical Advisor to the unit is TSgt. Albert S. Peterson, who was praised for his assistance in helping the 122nd capture both OJT awards.



College Pigskin Review

January 1 the curtain fell on another exciting college gridiron season. The year was filled with upsets and the final days of competition were no different.

Ranked by many as the nation's number one team all year, Southern Cal fought from behind to earn a 21-21 tie with tough Notre Dame in the last game of the regular season. New Year's Day dawned a different tale as Ohio State (9-0) ripped the Trojans 27-16, with USC adding a late six points.

Louisiana State, who has a knack for making bowl trips, finished the year 8-3 counting their wild triumph over Florida St. (8-3) in the first annual Peach Bowl.

The Crimson Tide of Alabama were getting neck burn from the bright scoreboard lights as Missouri became untouchable in the final period rolling to a startling 35-10 upset victory. The Tide hadn't allowed more than two touchdowns in any game all year.

Texas versus Tennessee promised to be quite a battle. It was very much a battle, but it was all Tennessee trying to get into the ball game. The Longhorns seemingly did everything right, while Tennessee couldn't have held a pass if their lives depended on it. So without a passing game, the old rushing game must falter and for the Volunteers, it did. At the end it was Texas 36 and the Vols 13.

In a New Year's Eve contest, Southern Methodist pulled a 28-27 upset at the expense of mighty Oklahoma. The Sooners started the season pretty slow, but made a sharp turnaround to finish with wins over Kansas and Missouri. SMU logged a respectable record with losses to Ohio St., Arkansas and Texas.

Georgia and Kansas Fall

Previously unbeaten Georgia fell at the hands of fired up Arkansas. The Bulldogs, who just couldn't get their offense in gear, lost 16-2. Arkansas, during the regular season, lost only to Texas 39-29.

Penn State, the only 10-0 team in the nation's top ten, stayed unbeaten and untied! In possibly the most exciting finish of any game this year, State's quarterback Chuck Burkhart threw 46 yards to halfback Bob Campbell with just over a minute remaining. On fourth down, goal to go from the three yard line, Burkhart rolled left after faking up the middle and put State just one point behind with 15 seconds left.

Nittany Lion mentor, Joe Paterno, wasn't even considering a tie—it was two points or nothing. And at first, it was nothing as Burkhart threw incomplete with Kansas crushing the Lion's offensive line hurrying the throw.

An infraction had occurred at the line of scrimmage and Penn State had new life. Paterno conferred with Burkhart and seconds later, halfback Campbell powered through the Jayhawks line for the win.

Some kind of finish for some kind of season!



GETTING "PAID OFF" by his daughters is Maj. Herman Heinlein, commander of Detachment 33, 26th Weather Squadron, K.I. Sawyer AFB, Mich., after he missed twice in the base's "Predict the Snow" contest. The weatherman's

youngest daughter, Robin, left, won the contest. His other daughter, Becky, came in a close second. Asked how she predicted the season's first snowfall, the winner said, "I do just like daddy — I guess!"

Weatherman picked for league team

RAMSTEIN AB, Germany—Sgt. Richard B. Dabney, 31st Weather Squadron, here, was recently chosen by the Continental Sport Conference football coaches for the 1968 all-league football team.

At end, defensive halfback and quarterback, Sergeant Dabney was selected for his play as an offensive end. He gained 535 yards as a receiver and scored six touchdowns.

As a high school student, Dabney lettered for four years in football, basketball and baseball at Capuchino High in San Bruno, Calif.

While attending San Mateo College, San Mateo, Calif., he won a letter for his efforts on the gridiron.

The sergeant is presently NCOIC of the squadron's administrative services section.

Young kegler rolls 211 game

HAHN AB, Germany—Johnny Propps, 11-year old son of SSgt. Elvin Propps of Detachment 14, 31st Weather Squadron, here, recently bowled a 211 game.

Carrying a 120 average in the Youth Bowling League at Hahn AB, Johnny started his finest game ever with four consecutive strikes and also finished the game with a strike.

Before his historic 211 game, Johnny qualified for an American Junior Bowling Congress (AJBC) triplicate award for three straight 107 games.

He will also receive an AJBC patch for rolling his 211 game.

Record field goal booted by AFman

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFNS)—Dennis Leuthauser's 57-yard field goal in the Academy's 10-3 football victory over Wyoming is a "modern day" college record, according to the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The kick surpassed a 56-yarder by Bob Martin of Washington University in 1967, also at Falcon Stadium. The all-time mark is a 65-yarder kicked by Princeton's James Haxall in the 1882 Yale game.

Detachment dumps wing headquarters

WIESBADEN AB, Germany—detachment 12, 7th Weather Sq., Finthen Army Airfield, Germany not only challenged, but defeated 2nd Weather Wing headquarters in a basketball game played at Wiesbaden.

The detachment, which practices on a home made court at Finthen, handed the wingmen a 44-30 trouncing.

New photorecorder may improve forecasting

L. G. HANSCOM FIELD—Mass.—A new fibre-optics photorecorder which holds the promise of radically improving weather forecasts by reducing the complexity of equipment for receiving pictures from meteorological satellites while increasing photo quality is being developed for the Electronic Systems Division, here.

Until now, weathermen have been hampered by the lack of reliable global weather data. This has been due mainly to the complexity and costliness of the ground terminal facilities.

The reduction in size of this photorecorder, however, will make it more tactically suitable. And despite its compact design, it will be able to produce the high quality pictures meteorologists need for long range weather surveillance and prediction.

Cloud cover across the globe will be photographed by satellites. Their pictures, beamed back as electronic digital signals, will be picked up by the termi-

nal receivers here on earth. These signals will be fed instantaneously into a photorecorder then reconverted into photographs for the forecasters' use.

Most widely used today for bringing satellite weather photos down-to-earth is a projection-optics conversion method. This type of photorecording equipment is not only bulky but also less effective in conveying its pictures from the cathode ray tube to the photographic printouts.

In contrast, the fibre-optics conversion system will use thread-like strands to transmit its signal or image—much as sound travels along a length of wire. The ability to "bend" these light waves into electronic images is the basis of the new concept.

The durability and compactness of this new photorecorder will make its use feasible both aboard ships and in large aircraft.



"What do ya mean, unnecessary roughness!"