



Observer

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AWS announces winners of annual awards for '78

SCOTT AFB, IL—Col. Albert J. Kaehn Jr., AWS commander, recently announced winners of this year's Air Weather Service special awards. The winners are:

WILLIAMS AWARD

The Williams Award for the most outstanding weather station unit which provides weather forecasting, observing or briefing goes to Det. 1, 7th Weather Wing (WW), Andrews AFB, MD.

MOORMAN AWARD

The Moorman Award for the most outstanding support to a numbered air force or higher command goes to the U.S. Army in Europe Tactical Forecast Unit, a function of the 2WW's 7th Weather Squadron (WS), Heidelberg, Germany.

COLLENS AWARD

The Collens Award, which is given to the most outstanding Air National Guard weather unit, was awarded to the 123rd Weather Flight, Portland IAP, OR.

PIERCE AWARD

The Pierce Award for excellence in weather forecasting in a non-centralized facility went to CMSgt. Alvin C. Wiens, Det. 2, 9WS, 3WW, Castle AFB, CA.

FORECASTER AWARD

(Centralized Facility)

The Forecaster Award for a centralized facility is given for excellence in weather forecasting at a centralized unit. This year it went to SSgt. Leslie O. Taylor, Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, NE.

ZIMMERMAN AWARD

The Zimmerman Award for the best application of climatology or development of a device or technique of greatest value to the AWS climatology

program went to Maj. Robert D. Smith, Det. 11, 2WS, AFGWC, Patrick AFB, FL.

MEREWETHER AWARD

The Merewether Award for the most significant technical contribution to military meteorology went to CMSgt. Eugene M. Weber, 3WW, Offutt AFB, NE.

BEST AWARD

The Best Award, which is given for excellence in performing environmental service support at staff level, went to Maj. Charles H. Tracy, 2WW, Kapaun, Germany.

SPENGLER AWARD

The Spengler Award goes to the most outstanding weather mobilization augmentee of the year. This year's award went to Maj. Roger C. Clapp, Det. 2, 24WS, 5WW, Columbus AFB, MS.

TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR AWARD

The award, which was formerly known as the Observer Award (Supervisor), went to SMSgt. John L. Williams, Det. 10, 2WS, AFGWC, Eglin AFB, FL. It is given for excellence in supervision.

OBSERVER AWARD

The award, formerly known as the Observer Award (Observer Function) is given for excellence in provision of surface observations or base weather forecasting support. This year's award went to SrA. Charles R. Pierce, Det. 2, 3WS, 5WW, Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT AWARD

The award, formerly known as the Observer Award (Specialized), is given for excellence of service in other than surface weather observing functions. This year's award went to MSgt. Harley O. Sundahl, Det. 1, 2WS, AFGWC, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Air Force Association

Annual membership push this month

SCOTT AFB, IL (MNS)—Weather people, during April, will be afforded the same opportunity as other MAC and Air Force people when the Air Force Association's annual membership drive begins — a chance to join.

Last year, MAC people accounted for 1,500 of the new members and, during the last six

years, MAC registered more than 12,000 new members.

Gen. William G. Moore Jr., MAC commander in chief, endorsed the campaign by saying, "When we number our real friends, we place the AFA at the top of the list... they (the members) gave us their strong support all the time."

To this Col. Albert J. Kaehn Jr., AWS commander, added, "The

AFA not only represents us, it is us.

"The strength of the organization, which speaks in our behalf, lies in our willingness to join it and support it — as it supports us."

From a handful of supporters in 1946, AFA's membership has grown steadily and now exceeds 150,000 people.

IF YOU HAD A DIFFERENT VIEW last Feb. 26, when the moon eclipsed the sun, and you had been 450 nautical miles in space, the earth would have looked like this at the time of the eclipse. The dark area (top right) crept across the face of Earth and is about to reach the Great Lakes (lower center) as it moves. (DMSP photo provided by the Air Force Global Weather Central)

COMMAND LINE

'My biggest concern—252X1s'



Col. A.J. Kaehn Jr.
AWS commander

A very interesting piece of paper crossed my desk the other day: it was a memorandum written to all the directorates in one of our deputes here in the Headquarters. The subject of the memo was "What the Boss Worries About." The memo had two main parts: first, a brief explanation, suggesting that the reason the boss looks like he does is that he worries a lot; the second part listing the things which worried him this week or month, on the assumption that it's advantageous for the staff to have an insight into the boss' anxieties.

The memo brought to my mind the words of Gen. William V. McBride, given at an Air War College graduation ceremony some years back—but very valid today. "You should always work your boss' problems, not your own. That's part of selflessness. Don't expect him to work your problems. You work his. You think about him. Think about his responsibilities. Think about what he is trying to do. Not only do what he told you to do, but think hard what he really wants to do. Work his problems . . . If you will be selfless, you will fit the category now of the bright leadership of tomorrow—the ones we need today. I'm confident you will."

I'll single out one of my biggest concerns. It affects the entire Air Weather Service, and we need the attention of a large segment of our AWS population to make our initiative succeed. My concern is those weather observers, Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 252X1, who have not made a commitment to attend the forecaster (weather technician) course. The single career ladder, station chief, and NCO

detachment chief programs are well under way, and our people are making them work through determination, skill and professionalism. However, to keep the momentum already established, I need, we need, the Air Force needs to retain the management and supervisory expertise represented in that group of skilled and experienced 252X1 people. The only way we can exercise that talent, which will be extremely difficult to replace, is to qualify those people for AFSC 25190, a conversion possible only after graduation from the forecaster training course.

I know that, in a corporate sense, we have "turned off" a lot of those people. I'm making this appeal in the hope of turning them back on, and I need the help, the salesmanship if you will, of a large segment of our people to convince those addressed by this issue.

We'll soon be writing letters to those uncommitted 252X1s, explaining our need for them, and particularly recognizing the outstanding NCO qualities represented by the stripes earned through hard work and worn with pride on their arms.

We'll not expect them to be leading meteorologists after the 18-and-a-half-week temporary duty forecaster course; but we know that schooling and subsequent on-the-job training and growth will make them super station chiefs and detachment chiefs, just as for years they were super managers, supervisors and technicians as "chief observers."

We are organizing a forecaster course class to be made up of senior NCOs. This class will convene on Aug. 7 and

graduate Dec. 17. We've asked the school staff to tailor the instruction to this group, recognizing that time may have momentarily taken a toll on physical science skills. But we know that a success-oriented staff, coupled with a success-oriented class, means only the best things can happen.

Yes, the newly graduated forecaster will probably work shift as a front-line forecaster to develop his skills and use the available tools. But data available show that because of projected losses, the 252XX who elects to convert to 25170 should be filling some kind of bonafide management position in about a year after completion of the forecaster course. We are consciously working toward that end.

You can see this is one of my major concerns. I ask you to play the initiatives we are taking (shown above) against the background of General McBride's charge. We can't be lulled into standing pat: the dynamic nature of our mission demands that we each play an important part in getting the job done. We need to retain (and retrain to 251X0) those talented 252X1s who, to date, are uncommitted. We need them as NCO leaders and managers. We offer them the excitement of weather support in the 1980s. As Tom Paine observed in the Revolutionary days: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must . . . undergo the fatigue of supporting it." I need everyone's continued help and concern in working this issue. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and are sincerely appreciated. Only we can keep this AWS moving—your past performance assures me we can handle it!

Keep pitchin'!

Personnel shorts

Did you know that:

* Selective reenlistment bonus (SRB) for 251X0 remains unchanged after the most recent review?

* Starting April 1, SRB will be paid in lump sum unless requested otherwise? Hint: Check on "income averaging" with your tax person.

* AWS' strength, as of Dec. 31, 1978, was:

	Authorized	Assigned
Officers:	1,238	1,189
Airmen	3,026	3,319
Civilians	374	348

* Air Force people can submit retirement applications only up to one year before the retirement date? Applications now on file are not affected by the change. Retirement dates requested to qualify for the "seven-day option" are not affected either.

* According to a recent Air Force Times magazine survey, respondents picked Hickam, McChord and Mather AFBs (in that order) as their favorites. Least favorite picks were Minot, Loring and Chanute AFBs.

ENLISTED LINE

'Your job enjoyment; part of getting ahead'



CMSgt. G.M. Horn
AWS enlisted advisor

Do you enjoy what you do? C'mon, be honest. Do you? If you don't, how come you're doing it? For money? Couldn't be — no one ever got rich in this business. Security? There aren't many Ferraris registered to retirees, either. A place to go during the week? OK for masochists, maybe.

If you really can't come up with a better reason than one of the above, maybe it's reflection time. If buying groceries and holding the mortgage company at bay are the only reasons we know to own a USAF serial number, maybe we're in the wrong business. Or maybe we're in the right business for the wrong reasons.

FUN TOO

Ever hear of the Flying Zucchini? If you haven't, they're an

otherwise sane family which climb into cannon barrels to be fired the length of a circus tent to amuse customers. I once asked a member of the troupe how much (money) they got for this. I was amazed to hear how little. When I asked why they risked their sequin-covered tail sections for little more than minimum wage, one of them answered, "Because we enjoy it. It's fun!"

Well, to each his own, but at least the Zucchini's don't see their occupation as "just a job." Maybe we shouldn't think of ours that way, either.

A military career was never meant to be "just a job." Obviously, it won't make us rich. What it should be is adventurous, rewarding and, yes, even fun. The fun part is occasionally hard to spot — like sweating out a rocket

attack in "Nam," checking a typhoon's guts, or freezing during an arctic exercise. But, there should be elements of enjoyment, contribution and satisfaction in what we do — or we should do something else.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Because of the insidious "just a job" philosophy, in recent years there's been a subtle move to make our business more "just a job." This seems to have touched off a tendency to work at career progression rather than at our occupation. We try to get our tickets punched at proper intervals and devote considerable skill and cunning to creating meticulous records for the next board. We invest much time in our next job, often before we've mastered this

one. A too common question is: "Never mind how enjoyable and satisfying it is — will it get me promoted?"

Sure, we should be concerned with tangible rewards. Everybody wants to get promoted and more money. But we shouldn't pursue career progression with so much zeal that we forget the real purpose of the exercise (i.e., why are we draining the swamp?)

I say, anyone coming into the Air Force with the goal of making chief master sergeant "ASAP" is going at the project backwards. A better and perhaps more realistic goal is simply to do our best in our current job, enjoy ourselves while doing it, gain pride and self respect from our efforts and accept whatever benefits come from them.

Trust me. They will come.

Col. A. J. Kaehn Jr.
Commander
David F. Barr
Editor

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Det. 5, AWS, Keesler AFB, MS

Unit 'clears air' for Reforger 79

KEESLER AFB, MS—"The Starlifters couldn't have landed without us," said Capt. Henry M. Turk, a Det. 5, AWS aerial reconnaissance weather officer (ARWO). He spoke of the success of Det. 5's and the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron's (WRS) Volant Clear mission during Exercise Reforger 79/Certain Sentinel in West Germany.

"Our mission was fog dispersal," he said. "When cold fog brought an airfield below minimums for landing or takeoff, we would fly right at the top of the fog layer and disperse dry ice powder into it to clear the field for an hour or so—long enough for the exercise aircraft to do their work."

Cold fog (also known as freezing fog) is water droplets suspended in air at below freezing temperature. The dry ice causes the water droplets to crystallize and fall from the air as a light snow. West German airfields to be "seeded" included Ramstein, Stuttgart, Hahn, Bitburg, Spangdahlem and Sembach, although not all of them were seeded. The forecasting agency was the 2nd Weather Wing, whose project officer was Maj. Lawrence Mendenhall.

Det. 5 and the 53WRS, nicknamed the Hurricane Hunters, from Rhein Main AB, earned the nickname "Fog Floggers" because they successfully cleared the landing areas on all of their missions.

Capt. Lawrence K. Richards, a Det. 5 ARWO, described a typical mission. "After takeoff from Rhein Main and a short flight to the target, we would fly a low approach to the field. We had special waivers to allow the pilots to do this in weather that would normally prohibit approaches.

"During descent to the field, the ARWO would take a temperature

profile of the atmosphere while the navigator took a wind profile. The temperature profile would show any warm inversion that might cause the dry ice to evaporate before it could start the clearing process. The wind profile told us from how far out we had to start our seeding pattern.

"Since it took some time for the clearing to occur, we had to take into account how far the seeded fog would move before it cleared. Once we had all the data, we would radio to get the go ahead to seed.

"Next, the navigator would line us up on the first of the several seeding lanes, about three miles long and in a rectangular pattern; the pilots would then fly the pattern."

SrA. David C. Johnson, one of several dropsonde system operators in the task force, said, "The WC-130 cargo compartment was loaded with several large ice chests. Each chest held half a ton of dry ice in five pound blocks. My job was to put the ice into the

crusher at the proper rate, so the right amount of dry ice powder would be dispensed through the hole in the bottom of the fuselage."

After several lanes were flown, the aircraft would orbit the area so the crew could monitor the clearing process—and the movement of the cleared area. Would the area be over the target field at the proper time? Would it be clear enough or was more ice needed? Was the area large enough for takeoffs and landings? These and other questions had to be answered by the weather crew.

Fields were cleared for the C-5 Galaxies and C-141 Starlifters deploying troops and equipment, as well as for fighter aircraft in the war games.

Other weather crewmembers in the exercise were: Capt. James S. Perkins and 1st Lt. Kenneth M. Dropco, ARWOs; and MSgt. James B. McClain as well as SSgts. VickiAnn Esposito and James W. Garrett, dropsonde system operators.



A CLEAR AREA (bottom left) begins to form in a fog bank following dry ice powder seeding during Exercise Reforger 79. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. James Perkins)



LOADING THE CHUTE is A1C Kelly Straight, a weather equipment repairman. The five-pound blocks of dry ice flow back to the rear of the aircraft to be crushed and used. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. James Perkins)



AT THE AIRCRAFT'S REAR SrA. David Johnson, a Det. 5 dropsonde system operator, inserts the five-pound blocks of dry ice into a crusher before dispersal. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. James Perkins)

Weather whys ???

"Weather whys ??? " is a regular feature of the AWS OBSERVER. Questions come from readers and answers from the AWS commander and his staff. If you have a question, send it to: Commander, Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, IL 62225. Although all questions will be answered, space limitations normally preclude printing all of them in the OBSERVER.

Q. How many women (officers and airmen) are assigned to AWS?

A. As of Dec. 31, 1978, there were 379 women (53 officers and 326 airmen)—eight percent of the total force. There were 51 officers in Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 25XX (one major, six captains, 24 first lieutenants and 20 second lieutenants). In AFSC 25XXX there were 263 airmen (one technical sergeant, 43 staff sergeants, 144 sergeants, 61 airmen first class and 14 airmen).

Q. What percentage of people draw an assignment to Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC) at Offutt AFB, NE, when there is no choice on the person's dream sheet within 1,000 miles of there? It seems that there should be some sort of system instead of just shuffling us into AFGWC.

A. To answer your question, let's review the overseas returnee assignment program. The first step is to identify units with a requirement. These are units that, because of their manning in relation to worldwide manning levels, "earn" a replacement. For example, say a unit is authorized 13 NCO forecasters and has 12 assigned. Although there is a shortage, the unit does not get a replacement because worldwide manning is only 93 percent. After requirements are identified, overseas returnees are matched against them. Short-tour returnees are matched first, and long-tour returnees are matched against the remainder (AFR 39-11, Table 4-19). To answer your question specifically, there is no set percentage of overseas returnees assigned to AFGWC. However, because of increasing authorizations, separations, etc., AFGWC has occasionally taken many overseas returnees. If this is the case, long-tour returnees, especially those without a tour at AFGWC, are usually assigned to fill its requirements. It's understandable that geography plays a part in assignment preferences, but it should be remembered that AFGWC is a large part of AWS (almost 20 percent of our authorizations) and everyone should plan for at least one assignment there during a career. In summary, there is a system for placing overseas returnees, and it's based strictly on requirements. We hope that the perception of being "stuck" with an AFGWC assignment will change after having lived and worked there. We note that nearly all negative perceptions of AFGWC belong to people never assigned there.

Q. What's the latest on AWS and MAC subdued patches?

A. The National Stock Number for the MAC subdued patch is 8455-01-065-3207, but the patch itself won't be in stock until July 1979. Subdued MAC patches are now in some BX outlets. The subdued AWS patch does not have an assigned number. Individual base supply offices should have information on how to obtain such organizational patches by the end of April.

**LEFT**

MEMBERS of Det. 4, 11th Weather Squadron (Fort Richardson, AK) and augmentee weather people, move into an operation site during Exercise Jack Frost 79. When in place they gather weather data to be passed along to be used to brief aircrews.

BELOW

A WIND VELOCITY CHECK is taken by A1C Roberto Gonzales, an observer from Det. 31, 5th Weather Squadron, Fort Polk, LA. Airman Gonzales' action is an initial move in preparing for the arrival of the first aircraft into the forward areas of Exercise Jack Frost 79. (U.S. Air Force photos)

'Jack Frost' — chilly pace for met people

ELMENDORF AFB, AK—Recently, on central Alaska's Fort Wainwright Military Reservation, soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen "fought the battle" of Jack Frost 79.

Jack Frost 79 was a month-long exercise which not only put the various services through their arctic paces, but taxed the abilities and tenacity of the 11th Weather Squadron units and several weather people borrowed from the "lower 48" (states) as well.

The exercise was a maneuver which saw a friendly force, in the south, facing a simulated hostile force approaching the Alaskan cities of Anchorage and Valdez from the north. Its objective was to give the 17,000 participants a chance to learn and practice skills needed to fight in an arctic environment.

The weather support force, commanded by Col. Wesley E. Robb, 11WS commander, was made up of almost 70 people. Since weather technicians are among the first to enter a combat area and are among the last to leave, members of Det. 4, 11WS, Fort Richardson, donned skis and snowshoes to move into the

exercise area. There they set up camp along with the 172nd Infantry Brigade for a month-long stay under less-than-ideal conditions. From their position the Det. 4 people provided weather observations and forecasts for air and ground crews.

At Elmendorf AFB, members of the local Det. 1, 11WS, augmented by an Air Force Global Weather Central (Offutt AFB, NE) member, provided support to the Alaskan Forecast Unit. The unit was the hub of the exercise area. As a centralized facility, it provided mission control forecasts each six hours and briefed aircrews as part of the job. At the base weather station, six Det. 75, 3WS (Hurlburt Fld., FL) members supported the Air Force Special Operating Base.

Members of Eielson AFB, AK's Det. 2, 11WS, furnished weather support to the unfriendly forces as well as to the exercise director's headquarters, which was on the base. Also on Eielson AFB was the joint Opposing Forces and Opposing Ground Forces headquarters—served by a six-man weather team of Det. 6, 5WS, Fort Lewis, WA. Six members of

the 7th Weather Wing supported the Airlift Control Element and the Clear Creek Landing Zone.

According to Capt. R.L. Coman, an 11WS spokesman, "Weather folks were involved in virtually all aspects and command echelons of Jack Frost 79." He continued, "Augmentees arrived from such warm areas as Eglin AFB, FL; Charleston AFB, SC; and Fort Bragg, NC, to face temperatures in the field as low as minus 53 degrees Fahrenheit and chill factors below minus 90 degrees."

"In what may be a first, special operations weather teams were infiltrated and exfiltrated by train," Captain Coman added. "By flagging down the Alaska Railroad passenger train, members were able to move into position and take observations in several outlying locations."

Jack Frost 79 was sponsored by the U.S. Readiness Command, which is headquartered at MacDill AFB, FL, but it was the arctic test of combat forces and their weather support. The weather people, according to Captain Coman, "made important contributions" and "provided outstanding weather support."



Ninth Squadron hosts meet

MARCH AFB, CA—The fourth annual 15th Air Force (AF) Staff Weather Officer Conference, hosted by the 9th Weather Squadron (WS) here, took place recently. The 10 conferees, among

whom was one person from Travis AFB, CA, where the 15AF has a tenant unit, fill two positions. Although they are staff weather officers, they also command the units in which they serve.

The conference opened with an address by Maj. Gen. William L. Nicholson III, 15AF vice commander. For the next week the persons attending covered primarily the weather services provided by their units to the Strategic Air Command customers they serve.

Key speakers included Col. George A. Dugard, 15AF director of operations; Col. Alfred C. Molla Jr., 3rd Weather Wing (WW) commander; Capt. Robert Lapinski, Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, TX; Capt. Jack Johnson, of 3WW; and SMSgt. George Coleman, the Det. 17, 9WS, station chief.

Part of the agenda included the awarding of two 15AF awards.

The Best Weather Unit in 15AF award went to Det. 17, 9WS, Ellsworth AFB, SD, and was accepted by Capt. Warren J. Plantholt. The Best Weather Facility in 15AF award was presented to Det. 15, 9WS, Grand Forks AFB, ND's Capt. Earl C. Bogard Jr.

Attending the conference were Capt. Doug Cone, Det. 2, 9WS, Castle AFB, CA; Maj. Michael P. McGaughey, Det. 3, 9WS, Fairchild AFB, WA; Maj. James S. Redman, Det. 7, 9WS, March AFB, CA; Maj. Estel P. Stogsdill, Det. 11, 9WS, Beale AFB, CA; Captain Bogard; Maj. David M. Booth, Det. 16 9WS, Dyess AFB, TX; Captain Plantholt; Capt. Glenn C. Ichinose, Det. 21, 9WS, Minot AFB, ND; Maj. Stephen C. Walden, Operating Location A, 9WS, F.E. Warren AFB, WY; and Maj. William A. Mork, Det. 2, 7WW, Travis AFB, CA.

AF Reservist leads seminars

SCOTT AFB, IL — Air Force Reserve Capt. Brian E. Heckman, a civilian meteorologist from the Kansas City Satellite Field Service Station, recently led seminars at two 7th Weather Wing units.

While on temporary duty to McChord AFB, WA, and Travis AFB, CA, Captain Heckman briefed Air Weather Service people there on the use of Geostationary Orbiting Environmental Satellite (GOES) pictures.

The seminars stressed proper interpretation of satellite pictures and procedures for integrating the derived information into unit forecasting programs.

Apt trivia

Have you heard these? "Parkinson's Law: Work expands to fill the time allotted to it. As by a worker's slowing his or her pace, or embellishing a task so that it will not be finished ahead of schedule."

"The Peter Principle: In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to his or her level of incompetence."

Observations

Fitness check offers choice now

WASHDC (AFNS)—The Air Force Physical Fitness Program now has choice in it—not "whether or not," but "which."

If you are 35 years old or more, you must now walk three miles rather than the prior running event. If you are under 35, you have the choice of running one and a half miles, a three-mile walk or a timed run in place.

To get in shape and stay that way, consult Air Force Pamphlets 50-56 (male) and 35-57, Volume 1 (female). Commanders may authorize participation in physical fitness conditioning during duty hours when mission requirements permit.

New CMSAF being sought

WASHDC (AFNS)—Major commands and separate operating agencies have been asked to nominate candidates to replace CMSAF Robert D. Gaylor, who steps down Aug. 1. MAC, SAC and TAC will nominate two candidates, other commands select one—based on the E-9 population in the command or agency. The person selected will be the sixth chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Military abortions OK for some

WASHDC (AFNS)—Military members and their eligible dependents will be permitted to obtain elective abortions at overseas military medical facilities that have the capability.

Alaska, Hawaii and the United Kingdom, where abortions are prohibited by status of forces agreements or local law, are excluded from the areas covered by the policy.

Further, a pre-payment requirement is in effect. This means that patients will have to cover the cost of the operation—with initial estimates set at \$185 for out-patient abortions and \$418 for in-patient abortions.

Some restrictions still stand. Persons interested should contact their local hospital officials for more information.

Beer, wine on contract flights

SCOTT AFB, IL (AFNS)—Service members and dependents traveling on MAC civilian contract flights may now purchase beer and wine with their meals. The new service applies to category-B contract flights, which move 75 percent of the Defense Department's passengers. Most other passengers travel aboard regularly scheduled commercial flights which already offer airline beverage service. The contract carriers will charge regular commercial rates for the beverages.



"Hey, sarge. Are we supposed to log the ML-17 out when it does that?" (U.S. Air Force photo by SrA. Greg Bova, Det. 11, 24th Weather Squadron, Reese AFB, TX)

From within

Five det. weathermen attend tornado seminar

BARKSDALE AFB, LA—Five members of Det. 20, 26th Weather Squadron, here, attended a tornado seminar recently. They were Maj. David Javier, 1st Lt. Charles D. Nutt, TSgts. Larry L. Baden and Gerald R. Smith, and Sgt. Garey D. Simants.

The seminar, led by Dr. Fujita of the University of Chicago, had as its subject the 1978 tornado which struck Bossier City, not far from

The gathering was in the Troop G, Louisiana State Police headquarters. Dr. Fujita told of tornado damage, strength and movement, and discussed areas of the United States where the storms are most likely to occur.

Ex AWSers have reunion

MATHER AFB, CA — More than 60 former and retired weather and weather reconnaissance officers gathered for the annual meeting of ex AWS officers recently. Of the 60, 20 were from Southern California and other western states and the remainder from Northern California.

Attending several "eat-ins" and "eat-outs" during the three-day event were a cumulative 201 people. Among them were two past AWS commanders, retired Maj. Gens. Russell Pierce and Thomas Aldrich.

The group's next meeting is planned for October and in the San Francisco Bay Area although an exact place is yet to be selected.

For more information about the meeting or the organization, contact retired Lt. Col. Milt Sipple, 2589 Dumbarton Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124 or call area code 408, extension 267-2555.

Of AWS part, officials say:

'FGGE highly successful'

SCOTT AFB, IL—Officials at Air Weather Service headquarters, here, say AWS' part in the First Global Atmospheric Research Program Global Experiment or FGGE (pronounced "Figgie") Phase I was highly successful.

In January and February, 101 C-141 sorties flew in the Pacific from Hickam AFB, HI; Norton AFB, CA; and Howard AFB, CZ. In the Atlantic, 11 WC-135 missions flew from Ascension Island, off the coast of Africa.

In all, a total of 1,945 dropwindsondes were launched and 1,737 (or 89.3 percent) were successful. Of the successful releases, 50.8 percent or 900 coded reports were transmitted real time by means of high frequency radio to the weather monitors for entry into the present weather data base.

On the outlying western Pacific islands of Kapingamarangi and Woleai, men from the 6th Weather Squadron operated mobile rawinsonde sites.

AWS' next role in FGGE is scheduled to take place from May 10 through June 8.

AWS salutes . . .

Unit abbreviations used in this column are: AWS — Air Weather Service headquarters; WW — weather wing; AFGWC — Air Force Global Weather Central; USAFETAC — U.S. Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center; WS — weather squadron; OL — operating location; and OLC — oak leaf cluster.

MEDALS

Meitorious Service Medal: (OLC): **MSgt. Lee B. Weiher** and **Col. Kenneth E. German**, AWS. (Basic): **MSgt. Thomas L. Cantwell**, Det. 24, 26WS, K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI; **MSgt. Donald R. Langley**, Det. 31, 3WS, Dobbins AFB, GA; and **CMSgt. Robert E. Miller**, 3WW, Offutt AFB, NE.

Air Medal: (Five OLC): **Capt. David G. Whitford**, Det. 4, AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam. (Four OLC): **TSgt. Ronald A. Koplitz**, Det. 4, AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam. (Three OLC): **Maj. John W. Pavone**, AWS. (Two OLC): **MSgt. Leonard C. Hume**, Det. 4, AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam. **Capt. Danley W. Brown**, **Frederick S. Reamer** and **Francis W. Naus**, and **SSgt. VickiAnn Esposito**, Det. 4, AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam; and **Capt. Gibson Morris Jr.**, Det. 5, AWS, Keesler AFB, MS. (Basic): **Capt. Richard H. Dickinson** and **Robert H. Allen**, 1st Lts. **Alain A. Chardain**, **Nancy E. Holtgard** and **Michael A. Kuchinos**, **SSgts. Krista E. Johnson**, **Sgts. Nola K. Bennett**, **Anthony D. Peckam** and **Alan W. Robb**, **SrA. Bartlett C. Hagemeyer**, **Craig J. Hugger** and **Peter E. Keegan**, and **A1C. Larry D. Dyer**, Det. 4, AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam; **Sgt. Michael J. McAllister**, Det. 75, 4WS, Hurlburt Fld., FL.

Joint Services Commendation Medal: **Sgt. Michael D. Dougherty**, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY.

Air Force Commendation Medal: (Three OLC): **TSgt. Gordon A. Fouts**, AWS; and **MSgt. Patrick G. Lee**, OL-A, AWS, Buckley ANGB, CO. (Two OLC): **MSgt. Terry M. Howard**, AWS. (OLC): **SSgt. Hugh R. Wells**, Det. 3, 7WW, Charleston AFB, SC; and **MSgt. Dennis F. Kurjack**, Det. 22, 24WS, Keesler AFB, MS. (Basic): **Maj. Charles E. Houghton III**, OL-B, Det. 6, 26WS, Westover AFB, MA; **MSgt. Joseph A. Tancos**, Det. 15, 15WS, WPAFB, OH; **SSgt. Eugene W. Dobry Jr.**, Det. 22, 24WS, Keesler AFB, MS; **Capt. Robert H. Allen**, Det. 4, AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam; **SSgt. David G. Nelson**, Det. 8, 12WS, Duluth IAP, MN; **Capt. Erwin L. Williams**, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, TX; **Sgt. Theodore S. Boomer**, Det. 29, 25WS, Buckley ANGB, CO; **SSgt. Leonard W. Gibson**, Det. 1, 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, AK; **Sgt. Deborah A. Arden**, 7WS, Heidelberg, Germany; and **Capt. Alan W. Gibbs**, 5WW, Langley AFB, VA.

Army Commendation Medal: **Capt. George C. Bogan**, OL-A, Det. 21, 5WS, Fort Stewart, GA; and **SSgt. John R. Schneider**, Det. 75, 3WS, Hurlburt Fld., FL.

Air Force Good Conduct Medal: (Five OLC): **MSgt. William R. Newberry**, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; and **MSgt. Joseph R. Carney**, Det. 3, 7WS, Heidelberg, Germany. (Four OLC): **TSgt. John R. O. Hart**, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY. (Three OLC): **SSgt. David E. Dunklee**, Det. 13, 26WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. (OLC): **SSgt. Robyn M. Smith**, Det. 21, 2WW, Kapaun, Germany. (Basic): **Sgt. Robert J. McMann**, Det. 14, 31WS, Hahn AB, Germany; **SrA LaTriece V. Fuller**, Det. 21, 2WW, Kapaun, Germany; **Sgts. Michael J. Carmody** and **James F. Sugden Jr.**, and **Amn. David S. McCright**, Det. 1, 7WS, Feucht, Germany; **Amn. John C. Spaller** and **Robert L. Buchin**, OL-A, Det. 8, 26WS, Fort Drum, NY; **SrA. Benjamin C. McRae**, Det. 9, 7WW, Scott AFB, IL; and **Sgt. Michael E. Dean**, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, TX.

SPECIAL HONORS

Kevin Kilpatrick, son of **CMSgt. and Mrs. Irvine D. Kilpatrick**, 1WW, Hickam AFB, HI, was recently nominated for acceptance into the U.S. Military and Naval Academies.

Det. 9, 7WW, Scott AFB, IL, was awarded the 7WW Safety Incentive Award for 1978.

A1C. Hector Saenz, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, TX, received \$25 for suggesting the reallignment of telephones to improve customer support in his unit.

Capt. Ronnie C. Portis, Det. 23, 26WS, McConnell AFB, KS, received the SAC certificate of merit as the base's 1978 security manager of the year.

The 2WW awarded its commander's trophy for outstanding support to U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) flying activities to Det. 12, 31WS, Torrejon AB, Spain.

Members of Det. 5, 5WS, Fort Knox, KY, received a certificate of achievement for their support to the 194th Armored Brigade before and during Exercise Autumn Safari at Fort Erwin, CA.

EDUCATION

Masters degrees went to **Maj. Winston K. Crandall** (Det. 1, 2WS, WPAFB, OH) and **Capt. Alan W. Gibbs**, (5WW, Langley AFB, VA.) For **Major Crandall**, the degree was in management and supervision from Central Michigan University and for **Captain Gibbs**, business administration from Troy State University.

Service school graduates are:

Industrial College of the Armed Forces: **Maj. Joseph A. Zak**.

Armed Forces Staff College: **Maj. Adrian A. Ritchie Jr.** Senior NCO Academy: **MSgt. Patrick G. Lee**.

NCO Academy: **TSgts. Kenneth B. Van Alstyne Jr.**, **Ronald A. Loney**, **Thomas M. Haskins**, **Bayardo R. Estrada** and **Wayne D. Becker**.

NCO Leadership School: **SSgts. John A. Johnson**, **James P. Fitzgerald** and **Stephen M. Mercer**; and **Sgt. Robert L. Hester**.

UNIT HONORS

(Parentheses indicates unit providing the honor when other than the individual's organization. Further, space limitations now preclude entry of "monthly" unit honors)

Junior Officer of the Year: **1st Lt. Richard W. Cannata**, Det. 6, 26WS, Pease AFB, NH; and **Capt. Robert M. Arn**, Det. 11, 2WS, Patrick AFB, FL (2WS).

Senior NCO of the Year: **SMSgt. John L. Williams**, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL (2WS); and **SMSgt. Arthur O. Johnson**, Det. 31, 3WS, Dobbins AFB, GA (3WS and 5WW).

NCO of the Year: **TSgt. Joe B. Carpenter**, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL; and **TSgt. Richard A. Hudson**, Det. 31, 3WS, Dobbins AFB, GA (3WS).

Airman of the Year: **SSgt. Dwight O. Allen Jr.**, (First term), Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL.

Observer of the Year: **SrA. Ronald C. Mueller**, Det. 3, 7WS, Heidelberg, Germany (2WW).

Forecaster of the Year: **Capt. Jack R. Stickel**, Det. 1, 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, AK (3WW).

Observer of the Quarter: **A1C. Larry R. Daugherty**, Det. 21, 2WW, Kapaun, Germany; and **A1C. Timothy J. Smith**, Det. 6, 26WS, Pease AFB, NH.

Editor of the Quarter: **SSgt. John A. Johnson**, Det. 1, 30WS, Fuchu, Japan.

Senior NCO of the Quarter: **SSgt. Raymond W. Kruser**, Det. 23, 26WS, McConnell AFB, KS; and **MSgt. John R.S. Kelley**, TUSLOG Det. 2.

NCO of the Quarter: **TSgt. Joe B. Carpenter**, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL.

Airman of the Quarter: **A1C. Charles E. Andrews**, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL.

Maj. Billy D. Bainter, Det. 23, 26WS, McConnell AFB, KS, received the 3WW staff service award.

PROMOTIONS

To lieutenant colonel: **Ernie R. Dash**, Det. 75, 3WS, Hurlburt Fld., FL; and **Richard D. Dickover**, Det. 21, 5WS, Hunter AAF, GA.

To major: **George F. Duffield**, Det. 36, 31WS, RAF Alconbury, UK.

To first lieutenant: **Michael J. Stapleton**, Det. 26, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, IN; and **Christopher Konze**, Det. 20, 24WS, Laughlin AFB, TX.

To master sergeant: **John M. Stefancik**, Det. 18, 26WS, Rickenbacker AFB, OH.

To technical sergeant: **Brian D. Higgins**, Det. 14, 31WS, Hahn AB, Germany; **William Kowal**, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; **Edward J. Nicewander**, Det. 18, 26WS, Rickenbacker AFB, OH; **Harold F. Lee**, Det. 29, 25WS, Buckley ANGB, CO; and **Gary E. Peel**, Det. 26, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, IN.

To staff sergeant: **Roy A. Pringle**, Det. 21, 2WW, Kapaun, Germany; **Robert R. Perry**, Det. 20, 26WS, Barksdale AFB, LA; **Gary L. Doescher**, Det. 10, 5WS, Fort Benning, GA; **Lyle E. Thompson**, Det. 36, 31WS, RAF Alconbury, UK; **John Beaton** and **George Ferriter**, Det. 6, 26WS, Pease AFB, NH; **Milton W. Clark** and **Charles R.**

Pierce, Det. 2, 3WS, Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC; **Robert L. Uland**, Det. 14, 7WW, Norton AFB, CA; **Kenneth S. Thurston**, Det. 26, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, IN; **Marsha J. Krell**, Det. 13, 25WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ; and **Peter D. Gibbard**, Det. 8, 6WS, Fort Riley, KS.

To sergeant: **David A. Morris**, Det. 21, 2WW, Kapaun, Germany; **Fred P. Brownell**, Det. 12, 5WS, Fort Devens, MA; **Augustine A. Huerta**, Det. 17, 24WS, Williams AFB, AZ; **George E. Kaplan**, Det. 11, 2WS, Patrick AFB, FL; **Richard G. Watling**, Det. 1, 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, AK; **Anthony J. Jonilas**, Det. 4, 26WS, Loring AFB ME; **Kimberly M. Persons**, Det. 25, 31WS, Rhein-Main AB, Germany; **Dennis W. White**, Det. 10, 7WS, Kitzingen, Germany; and **James W. Menard**, Det. 8, 6WS, Fort Riley, KS.

To senior airman: **Mitchell N. Skaff**, Det. 21, 2WW, Kapaun, Germany; **Donald M. Nelson**, Det. 15, 25WS, Luke AFB, AZ; **Susan F. Smith**, Det. 2, 11WS, Eielson AFB, AK; **Harry L. Bryant**, Det. 2, 3WS, Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC; **Steven G. Watson**, Det. 8, 30WS, Kadena AB, Japan; **Larry E. Taylor**, Det. 29, 25WS, Buckley ANGB, CO; **Brenda J. Frazier**, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL; **Alorie S. Heupel**, Det. 25, 31WS, Rhein-Main AB, Germany; **William M. Koger Jr.**, Det. 22, 24WS, Keesler AFB, MS; **Belva C. Amick**, Det. 20, 31WS, Sembach AB, Germany; **Travis J. Budlong**, Det. 8, 5WS, Fort Riley, KS; and **James Frank** and **Sandra E. Goff**, Det. 31, 3WS, Dobbins AFB, GA.

To airman first class: **John LaCorte**, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; and **Andrew J. Miracle**, Det. 58, 5WS, Fort Carson, CO.

To airman: **Kathryn E. Kerbo**, Det. 21, 5WS, Hunter AAF, GA; **Mark Frankum**, Det. 10, 5WS, Fort Benning GA; **Oris A. Green**, Det. 2, 11WS, Eielson AFB, AK; **Christopher S. Strager**, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; **Mark F. McBride**, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, TX; **Michele J. Tenbroeck**, Det. 29, 25WS, Buckley ANGB, CO; **Lloyd W. Pritchard**, Det. 26, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, IN; **Roger W. Ballew**, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL; **Craig A. Smith**, Det. 11, 2WS, Patrick AFB, FL; and **Biff Renkert**, Det. 20, 24WS, Laughlin AFB, TX.

CIVILIAN HONORS

Paul E. A. Quast, Det. 9, 7WW, Scott AFB, IL, is the 7WW 1978 outstanding civilian of the year.

Sandi Fraer, a Det. 7, AFGWC, (Carswell AFB, TX) secretary was married to **MSgt. H.D. Smith**, of the local communications squadron. The wedding date was not provided.

Outstanding performance ratings went to **Edwin B. Dickson**, **Loretta McMorris**, **Helen G. Severit** and **Bonnie M. Brave**, AWS; and **Edward J. Keppel**, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL.

COMMAND ASSIGNMENT

Capt. Gibson Morris Jr. now commands Det. 10, 5WS, Fort Benning, GA.

MARRIAGES

A1C. Cory W. Knowles and **A1C. Pamela L. McCoy**, Det. 21, 5WS, Hunter AAF, GA, married each other Jan. 11, in Georgetown, SC.

2nd Lt. Kathy Holland, Det. 8, 30WS, Kadena AB, Japan, was married to **1st Lt. Thomas J. Koch**, Jan. 8. The husband is assigned to a local fighter squadron.

SrA. Robert K. Quillen, an observer with Det. 13, 25WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, married **Betty Lux**, Feb. 2.

BIRTHS

Sgt. and Mrs. Bruce M. Olson, son, **Russell**, Sept. 6. (the OBSERVER overlooked this entry previously). Father with Det. 15, 25WS, Luke AFB, AZ, and mother assigned to a base unit.

SSgt. and Mrs. David E. Dunklee, daughter, **Kellie Ann**, Dec. 29. Father an observer with Det. 13, 25WS, Davis-Monthan, AFB, AZ.

SrA. and Mrs. Richard Joyce, daughter, **Tabitha**, Jan. 5. Father an observer with Det. 58, 5WS, Fort Carson, CO.

(Continued on opposite page)

B-29, RB-29, WB-29

Faithful bird fills big AWS history page

by
John Fuller
AWS historian

On March 13, 1946, the day it transferred from the Army Air Forces to the Air Transport Command, AWS was assigned four weather reconnaissance (recon) squadrons, one of which had B-29s. It was the beginning of 11 years service for the B-29 in AWS. Eight years later the command had 80 of them.

The first weather recon squadron, activated in August 1942, used B-25s to fly weather recon missions along the North Atlantic ferry route. In addition to AWS' World War II weather units, flying weather recon missions was also done by tactical air units in the various theaters of war. On Aug. 7, 1946, the Air Staff assigned all remaining Army Air Forces weather recon units to AWS.

Aerial history made

Beginning in 1946, some of AWS' B-29s were modified to become RB-29s. They were stripped of armament and unique meteorological equipment was installed. The equipment included the AN/AMQ-2 aerograph, ML-313 psychrometer and SCR-718 and APN-1 radar altimeters.

Many and varied tasks fell to this hard working aircraft. Among their accomplishments were:

* One of the first operational assignments for AWS' RB-29s was Project Crossroads—the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll (mid 1946). An AWS RB-29 was reported to be the first aircraft to fly through an atomic cloud.

* In May, 1946 the RB-29 overwater weather recon flights led to a concept of flying 8-12-hour missions over

2,000-3,000-mile fixed synoptic tracks rather than tracks chosen to meet daily weather situations.

* What is believed to have been the first flight over the top of a hurricane was made by an AWS B-29 (Oct. 7, 1946).

* The first low-level and night penetration of a hurricane's eye was by an AWS RB-29 (Oct. 19, 1947).

* The first AWS B-29 weather recon flight over the North Pole took place (March 17, 1947).

An amazing 'bird'

In the late 1940s, before the dropsonde was developed, the RB-29s made vertical soundings approximately each 100 miles along a track. The procedure required slow spiraling climbs or descents between 500 and 20,000 feet. As this was done, the weather people measured temperature, humidity and pressure each 1,000 feet. The dropsonde, which, technically, was a radiosonde, changed that procedure. While being tested, dropsondes deposited out the RB-29's camera hatch was done by hand. As the packages became operational, the RB-29s were modified with airlock ejection chambers.

During the 1948-1949 Berlin Airlift, in support of Operation Vittles, as it was known, AWS RB-29s flew synoptic tracks over the Atlantic Ocean and North sea. At that time an odd-looking fitting which aircrews called the "bug catcher" appeared. It was an air filter assembly for nuclear sampling. When Russia exploded its first atomic bomb, in 1949, and its first hydrogen bomb four years later, radioactive debris was first discovered by AWS' WB-29s using the "bug catcher."

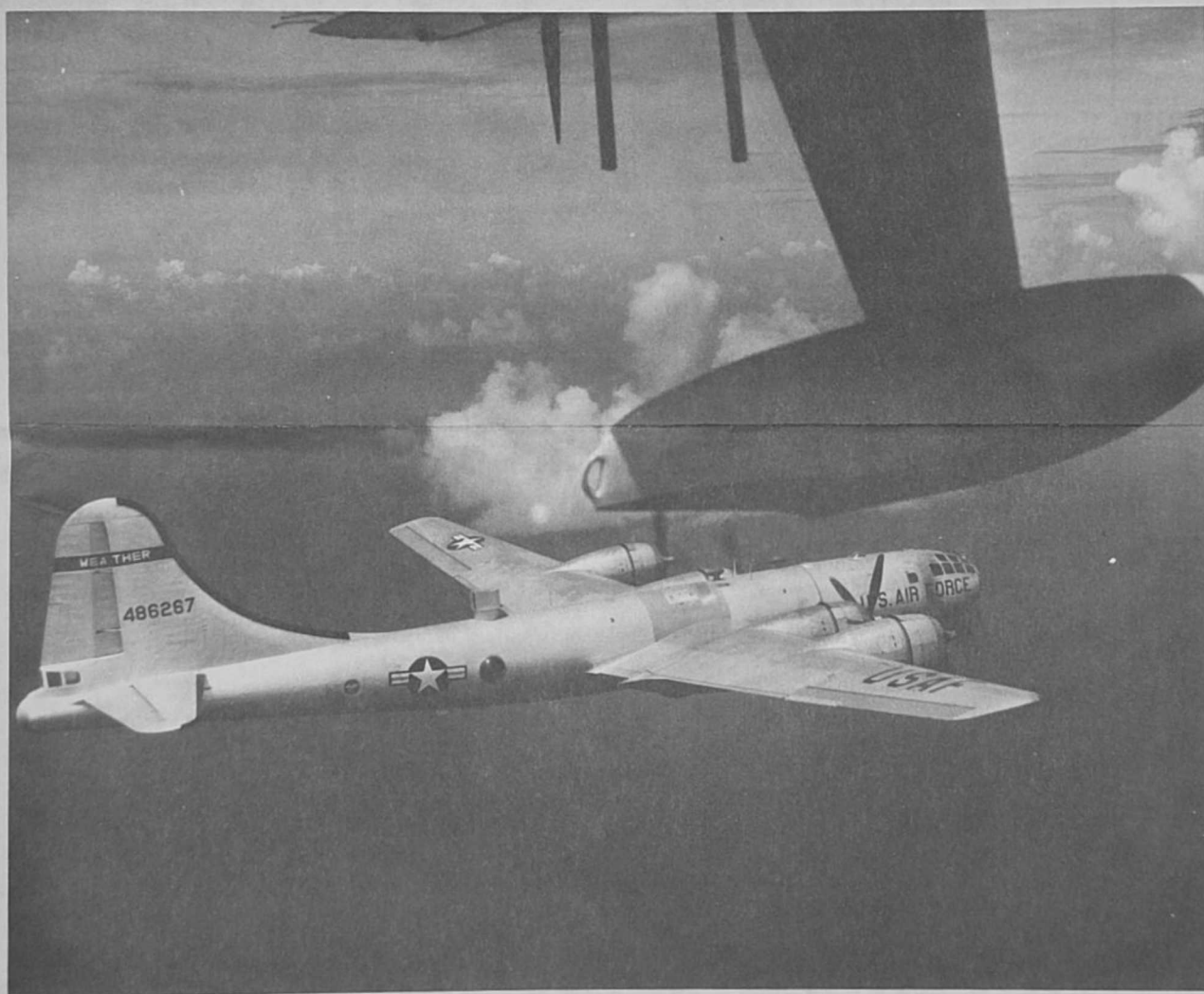
Famed newscaster Edward R. Murrow verbally illustrated an observation from the seat of a WB-29 in 1954. At the time he was in the eye of Hurricane Edna when he said, "The eye of a hurricane is an excellent place to reflect upon the puniness of man and his works. If an adequate definition of humility is ever written, it's likely to be done in the eye of a hurricane."

By the late 1940s, requirements for weather recon passed AWS' capability to meet them. The RB-29 was difficult to maintain, especially the engines (note engine three in the photo) and in November 1949 Air Force grounded all of them until the engines were replaced or overhauled. Half of the command's RB-29s were "modernized" by mid 1950 and on Aug. 30, they were redesignated WB-29s.

The RB- and WB-29s saw combat in the Korean War. Within 24 hours after hostilities began there an RB-29 from Yokota AB, Japan, flew a weather mission over Korea. The next month, on July 13, one led the first B-29 bombing strike from Japan against North Korea.

By war's end, AWS' RB- and WB-29 squadron in Japan had earned 11 campaign streamers and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The veteran warhorse of the air, with the numbers "29," proved itself worthy of all tasks—even those against Mother Nature; AWS saw to that.



A VETERAN among veterans—the WB-29. Note feathered number three engine (see story). (U.S. Air Force historical photo)

AWS salutes (Continued from opposite page)

SSgt. and Mrs. Steven D. Erickson, son, Daniel Myriah, Jan. 6. Father a forecaster with Det. 13, 25WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ.

SSgt. and Mrs. Andrew F. Gancarz, daughter, Natascha R., Jan. 8. Father with Det. 1, 7WS, Feucht, Germany.

SrA. and Mrs. John C. Spaller, daughter, Cynthia Marie, Jan. 8. Father with Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY.

TSgt. and Mrs. Martin Lucas, daughter, Heather Kathleen, Jan. 24. Father a forecaster with Det. 10, 7WS, Kitzingen, Germany.

Sgt. and Mrs. Gregory S. Davis, son, Christopher, Jan. 24. Father a forecaster with Det. 16, 25WS, Nellis AFB, NV.

Amn. and Mrs. William M. Hale, son, Daniel Edward, Jan. 26. Father an observer with Det. 15, 25WS, Luke AFB, AZ.

Sgt. and Mrs. Michael W. Kinney, daughter, Alexys Nichole, Feb. 5. Father with Det. 8, 31WS, Zweibrücken AB, Germany.

SrA. and Mrs. Jeffrey Nelson, daughter, Christine, Feb. 12. Father an observer with Det. 6, 15WS, Hill AFB, UT.

Maj. and Mrs. Stephen Savage, son, Scott Jeffrey, Feb. 23. Father a meteorologist with the Chanute (AFB, IL) Training Branch.

REENLISTMENTS

SSgt. Dennis M. Halbert, Det. 2, 11WS, Eielson AFB, AK.

TSgt. Anthony G. Sinclair and SrA. Roger D. Ritchie, Det. 26, 26WS, Grissom AFB, IN.

TSgt. Harvey L. Gates, Det. 10, 7WS, Kitzingen, Germany.

MSgt. Allan L. Reedy, 7WS, Heidelberg, Germany.

TSgt. Lawrence R. Hayward, Det. 31, 3WS, Dobbins AFB, GA.

RETIREMENTS

MSgt. Lee B. Weiher, AWS, after 24 years military service.

MSgts. Robert W. Barber and Berth C. Frankowiak, Det. 14, 7WS, Norton AFB, CA.

Lt. Col. Brent F. Walker, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, FL.

MSgt. Jerry L. Secrist, Det. 17, 24WS, Williams AFB, AZ, after 26 years military service.

MSgt. Donald R. Langley, Det. 31, 3WS, Dobbins AFB, GA, after 24 years military service.

CMSgt. Robert E. Miller, 3WW, Offutt AFB, NE.

SPORTS

Trio takes title 'Turtle Trotters'

KAPAUN, GERMANY—The trio earned the title "Turtle Trotters" but what they had to do to earn the title took far more than a turtle could do. Robert M. Chamberlain, Robert G.

Bachman and Frank Hellstern, all of 2nd Weather Wing, here, ran 100 miles.

Their runs were gauged by the Vogelweh (Germany) gymnasium people.

Man 'bowls 'em over' on leave

SCOTT AFB, IL—It was his first furlough after completing Officer Training School so Gregory D. Schmidt, now of the USAF Environmental Technical Applications Center, decided to go bowling. While he was at it, he entered the Ozaukee County (WI) Men's Open Bowling Tournament—and won it.

The meet took place in Port Washington, WI, and Schmidt rolled a winning 620 scratch series.

Golf team has back-to-back win

HICKAM AFB, HI—Golfers of the 1st Weather Wing, here, set a headquarters record recently.

The team, called the "Happy Hookers," had a back-to-back win of its division title

with a season record of 6-1-0.

Team members are Tom Studer, Ron Bound, Mike Burt, Mel Fourroux, Al Gordon, Al Cimoncic, Chuck Viola, Phil Wood, Arnie Oakes and Phil Lemon.



IT WAS TOUGH — BUT FUN for Sgt. Craig A. Anderson, left, and A1C. Howard C. Eaton, Det. 12, 5th Weather Squadron, Fort Devens, MA. The pair were attached to the 10th Special Forces Group (U.S. Army) to train at Alpine skiing, military skiing and

survival. For 18 days, skis, pack and all, they climbed slopes, used sleds and wearing a 45-pound rucksack, slalomed from the tops of peaks to the bottom. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Canal Zone det. trains Ecuadorian trio

HOWARD AFB, CZ — Three Ecuadorean Air Force weather observers are now training here with Det. 25, 5th Weather Wing. They will be with the American unit for six weeks. The trainees are MSgt. Jose Maria Obando Gonzalez, TSgt. Marcelo Jose Saenz Torres and TSgt. Angel Aurelio Barreno Benavides.

A two-week observing portion, taught by TSgt. Elvin A. Biaz Jr., includes operation of TMQ-11, TMQ-13 cloud detection and other observing instrumentation as well as an overall review of observing codes and reporting procedures.

TSgt. Francisco Balleste-Baeza

instructs a one-week session on rawinsonde launch and tracking procedures. It will be taught at Det. 25's Albright AFB rawinsonde site. The last section of training is three weeks of weather analysis

taught by TSgt. Reinaldo Alers.

The radar training is of particular interest to the Ecuadoreans because their Air Force plans to install weather radar at Quito (the country's capital city) soon.

USAF sets UK base tour length

WASHDC (AFNS)—Tour lengths for Air Force members assigned to RAF Fairford, UK, will be 30 months for those accompanied by dependents and 18 months for all others. RAF Fairford, a new base in the United Kingdom, is 45 miles southwest of RAF Upper Heyford. Officials expect 1,100 military and 1,500 dependents to be at RAF Fairford by September 1980. RAF Fairford will be the home of Det. 18, 31st Weather Squadron, when it is activated approximately May 18, 1979.

OBSERVER editor bids farewell

I recently accepted a position at Kelly AFB, TX, which means that after more than four years as your editor (the second longest run as an OBSERVER editor), I must leave. With the command section's approval, I now say my farewell in our paper.

Now that I am on the outside looking in, I want to tell you some things you may not fully realize. As an ex G.I., I always felt my commanders didn't really care about me, know about me or even realize that I existed. If that is your opinion, dump it! I have served three AWS commanders and three senior enlisted advisors here. Without an exception, each of them actually worried about all of their people — as individuals, not as numbers. You are not just specialty codes to them, you are individual personalities too. How many times have I mentioned a name I was about to use in the paper only to have the commander say, "Oh, yeah. He is an observer down at..." or "Yes, I met her — she's sharp!"

Your leaders here, and probably at your wings and squadrons too (I don't know them as I do the

people here), care, care, care about you. A daily echo in the halls of AWS Headquarters are such statements as, "We've got to do 'so-and-so' for our people" or "We've just got to get 'so-and-so' for the field units."

Your big boss may be a colonel or a general, but he is a spotlighted individual whose day-by-day and hour-by-hour success is measured by your success — and he knows and depends on it.

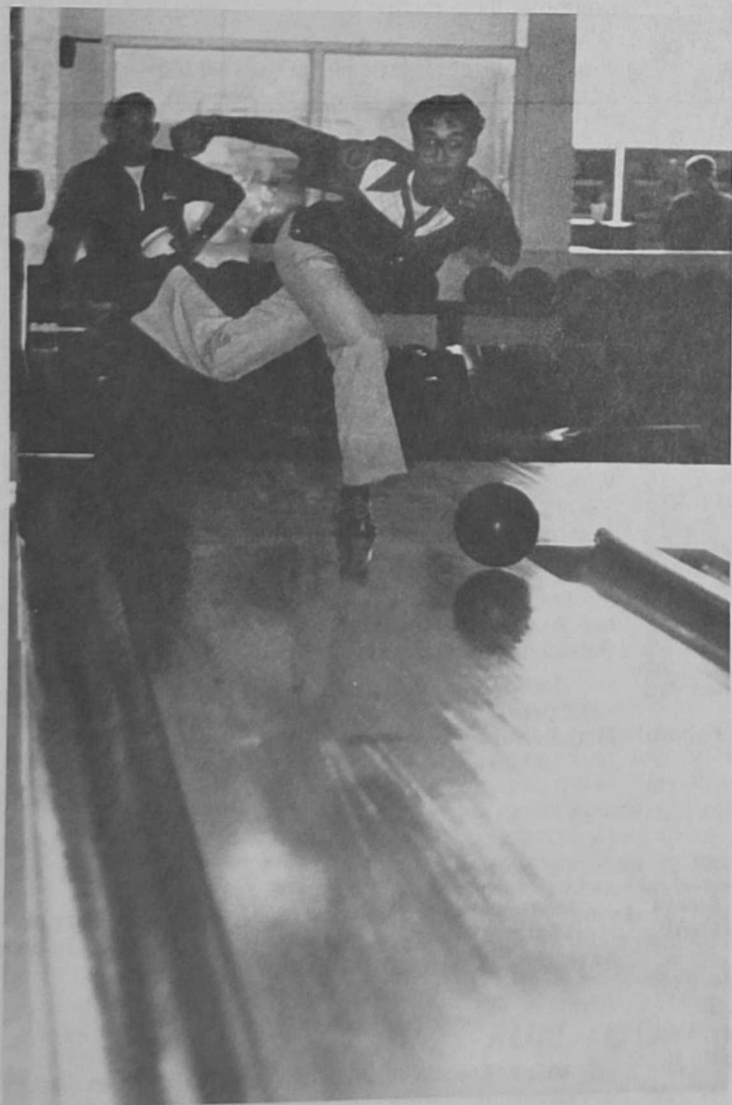
You have been a great "family" to serve and I hope I have served you well. As your editor, silence from you was my yardstick of success. If I goofed (and I certainly have done that on occasion) you let me know. Your silence was my applause and I thank you for it.

I regret that I will no longer directly serve "my AWSers," but I will never sell you short. You are a "high grade of cat" and you prove it.

So long.

David F. "Dave" Barr

☆ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1979-665-051-7



AL SIMON displays the hard-driving style that brought him within three pins of a perfect game. His 297 came in Intramural competition at Howard AFB, CZ. Oddly, the Det. 25, 5th Weather Wing team holds both first and second high games in the league—but ninth place in standing. Other team members include Roberto Sandoval, Stan Livingston, Max Peek and Jim Klucas. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Dennis Jennings).