

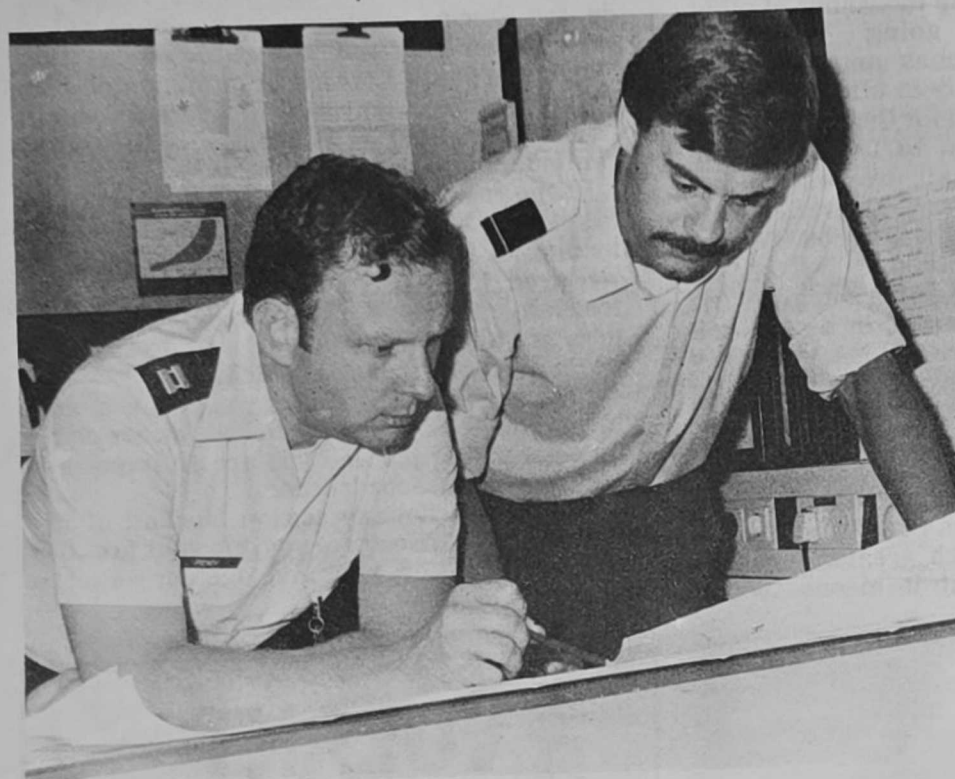


AWS Observer

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Headquarters Air Weather Service

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Capt. Wayne French and Lt. Dick Deinj review and analyze a weather chart.

Weather at Camp New Amsterdam, the 'whole atmosphere concept'

by AIC Theresa Timcik

Their day begins at 4:30 a.m. — rain or shine. But the job enables them to know which one that will be, in advance.

Operating Location A of the 31st Weather Squadron has a direct relationship with the Royal Netherlands Air Force. The information used in forecasting weather reports for American pilots comes from the meteorologists at Air Base Soesterberg.

Each morning, data are collected and compiled to form forecasts for low-fly and high-fly training areas, according to Capt. Wayne French, staff weather officer.

"These areas, or blocks of air space, are mostly throughout northern Germany where the 32nd Tactical Fighter Squadron jets practice intercepts," he said. "Low-level winds and cloud conditions have a lot of influence on how an attack is approached."

The forecasts also include turbulence expected and icing of condensation trails, which look like white streamers at the back of the jet.

All of this information is given to the pilots before they fly. That way, they can avoid pockets of very cool, moist air that cause unfavorable flying conditions.

As long as the pilots need information, the weather people are there to provide it.

"We are operational till the close of flying, whatever the time might be," Captain French said. "We're here as long as our pilots are in the air. Twelve-hour shifts are not uncommon to a weather guy."

The forecasters are also prepared to go wherever the 32nd TFS jets are deployed.

Much of the information used in the flying forecasts is compiled for many other purposes. First, a computer plots numbers on a chart, up to 30,000 feet. The chart is then analyzed by a member of the Dutch weather staff. This is called the "whole atmosphere concept."

Analyses of charts from Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States are combined to form one forecast.

As part of a worldwide weather watch system, Dutch observers are on duty 24 hours a day to note any major changes in weather patterns or formation. Their observations are sent to a collection point in De Bilt, the Netherlands, where they are exchanged with all of the big weather centers in the world, according to Capt. Robert Reijn, chief meteorological officer, RNLAf.

During wartime, the Dutch and American weather bureaus become one organization. Now, they work from separate areas, each having the capability to support the whole operation. (Reprinted from "the interceptor," Camp New Amsterdam.)

MEDS —

A comm dream come true!

ALMEDS, EURMEDS, PACMEDS — Myth, legend, science fiction? No — reality!

The Meteorological Data System, better known as MEDS, is a major step forward in bringing units overseas and in Alaska into the world of modern technology for the transmission of weather data.

No more punched paper tape; no more low and slow clickety-clack teletypewriters!

Enter the modern world of visual display systems providing easier editing and correcting of observations and forecasts. Its taken a long time, but MEDS is coming. Equipment delivery started in October. Alaska and Europe are projected to start installation in early 1985. Europe's progress is dependent upon whether or not the local communications units need Engineering and Installation Team assistance.

Preliminary estimates are that most of the locations can be done on a self-help basis. Upgrade of the Pacific is currently scheduled to begin in October 1985 with completion by summer of 1986.

But why has this program taken so-o-o-o-o long? The MEDS program has been talked about for years. What caused all the delays? Let's dust off the files and find out.

In the mid-to-late 1970s, a major step forward was taken when AWS was able to obtain off-the-shelf equipment and leased maintenance for the CONUS MEDS. The cost offset for CONUS MEDS, widely known as COMEDS, was the turn in of the old COMET I, II, III and NOTAM low-speed equipment. Since total leased systems were not available overseas, AWS recommended that Statements of Requirements be processed through the overseas communication divisions for similar upgrades. Thus the Alaskan MEDS, the European MEDS, and the Pacific MEDS programs were born.

By the time the weather Statements of Requirements reached the Air Staff in the late 1970s, many other customers had identified a need for upgraded teletypewriters. As a result the Air Staff directed that all requirements be consolidated into one project. Thus, the equipment developed had to have the capability of meeting many needs — upgrading weather teletypes, replacing equipment in base communications centers, etc. On Jan. 9, 1981, the government contract was awarded to the TRACOR Company of Austin, Texas. The Sacramento Air Logistics Center assumed the name of Fixed Record Communications Teletypewriter, or FRCT for

acronym followers.

The selected contractor projected equipment delivery would initially begin in October 1982 to be followed by Qualification Operational Test and Evaluation in November and a production decision in December 1982. However, the equipment encountered some difficulty passing the AUTODIN and TEMPEST testing requirements. The equipment did pass the AWS Qualification Operational Test and Evaluation on March 31, 1983 at Carswell but, since the AWS MEDS requirements were a small part of the FRCT program, AWS had to wait until the contractor could pass the other tests.

Even as late as July of this year problems were encountered with one of the equipment configurations. Fortunately, the contractor was able to develop a satisfactory fix.

Now that the FRCT program is ready for production, what type machine will it be?

The military designation is AN/UGC-141. It can be configured five different ways, ranging from a version one (printer) to version 5 (keyboard, CRT, printer, and record storage device). Operational speeds range from 45.5 baud (50 words per minute) to 9600 baud.

The AN/UGC-141 weighs 70 pounds, is 21 inches tall, 22.5 inches wide, and is 28.2 inches deep. The paper is fan-fold and is fed through the bottom of the machine. The Sacramento Air Logistics Center has taken action to have the special slotted-tables provided with installation of the terminals. The visual display screen will have a capability of being 80 characters wide, 24 lines long, and have up to three full pages of data storage.

Although the FRCT program is an equipment upgrade, the AWS MEDS programs are a total capability upgrade to include circuitry as well as equipment. Planned operational speed for Europe, Alaska, and the Pacific is 1200 baud. The priority approved by Air Staff for AWS FRCT equipment is high. The order of priority for delivery of units is to: Sheppard for maintenance training, Ground Launched Cruise Missile sites, Alaskan and European MEDS (equal priority), Pacific Meds, and then to remaining customers.

Command level interest on the part of MAC, Air Force Communication Command, AWS and the Logistics Command has been exerted to prevent further slips.

This upgrade is needed by AWS units and is almost here. The next major upgrade will be the Automated Weather Distribution System, but that's another story....

Command Line



Col. George E. Chapman
Commander

A time for thanks

As I put these thoughts on paper, we are just entering our holiday season for 1984 and next week my family and I, like thousands of other Americans, will be going home for Thanksgiving. Home means an association with a much bigger family in Michigan — an opportunity to give thanks for the many things that America has meant to us. There are common values we can all give thanks for, based on that most precious of all privileges — freedom provided by this great nation of ours.

Back in 1983, I expressed a few of my thoughts, after returning from a trip to 2nd Weather Wing and Germany, in a *Command Line* entitled *What Price Freedom?* As you may recall, the trip gave me the opportunity to fly on a border patrol mission along the wall separating West Germany from the Communist Block countries. The image and memories are as vivid to me today as they were when I made the trip. Freedom becomes less abstract — has much greater meaning after a glimpse of what it means to live

without it. I like to share these visions and memories with family and friends. I hope you do, too. During your service, you often get to see the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea at Panmunjom, or the "Wall" in Germany, or the sunken U.S.S. Arizona at Pearl Harbor, or some other reminder of "What Price Freedom."

I hope you think about it. I hope you tell your family and friends about it. Each of you are helping to insure something so precious that we need to insure more people know that freedom can be a fragile thing — the reminders are all around us — we need to observe, be thankful, and remain dedicated.

I am proud to serve with you because, as I have reflected in recent articles, you are doing an outstanding job and you are an important part of our cause for freedom.

Enjoy your holiday season, and all of my best wishes go to each of you and your families as we begin a New Year and together we serve the cause of freedom.

Chief's Comments

It's Christmas everyday

'Tis the season to be jolly, to visit with family, friends and neighbors. It's also the time of year to reflect back on 1984 at our accomplishments, our contributions, and to make our plans for 1985.

Being an American is also something to be thankful for. For those of us that have been stationed in foreign countries or have visited them, the appreciation is more real. It's surprising to see how much effort and trouble some countries go through just to keep their own people from leaving. Not to keep us, the so-called enemy, out!

We, as Americans, do have a lot to be thankful for. Woodrow Wilson put it in perspective when he said, "America is not a mere body of traders; it is a body of free men. Our greatness is built upon our freedom — it is moral, not material. We have a great ardor for gain; but we have a deep passion for the rights of man."

This is also the time of year when we are asked, more openly, to help those less fortunate. But, as Americans, and as people in the military, we do provide for those less fortunate almost daily, around the world. Our military is ready to answer the call anytime — anyplace. You, the people in Air Weather Service, have proven this throughout 1984. The 30,000 plus mandays spent on exercises attests to the amount of training needed to meet these requirements.

Air Weather Service did exceptionally well in 1984 — and all of you are to be complimented for a job well done.

The holidays during this time of year have a special meaning for us. They sort of put problems on the back burner and allow the happiness and cheer to rise to the front. An anonymous writer ties together this time of year and that of being an American with this story:



CMSgt. Charles T. Melson
Senior Enlisted Advisor

A young Frenchman was applying for inclusion in his country's quota of immigrants to America. A member of the board asked him why he wanted to go to America.

The young man earnestly replied, "I want to go to America because — he paused and then continued with a rush — because in America, it's Christmas everyday."

May your holidays be filled with happiness and your New Year prosperous.

VOLANT SHAPE begins

by Gen. Thomas M. Ryan Jr.
Commander in Chief
Military Airlift Command

Of the many lessons learned from recent, real-world contingencies, perhaps the necessity for us to be physically fit is most fundamental. Regardless of our particular job specialty, we can be called upon, at a moment's notice, to work extended duty hours over sustained periods. For example, the Grenada operation tasked our occupational specialties across the board — many people were pushed to and beyond their physical limitations.

The Air Force is well aware of the physical demands placed on modern airmen and is now field testing an enhanced physical fitness program. The primary goal of the program is a worthy one — a higher state of mission readiness. Test data from seven worldwide test bases indicate the proposed program needs slight modification; however, the tougher standards are on track for late 1985 implementation. I want to ensure all MAC people are ready and able to meet the new standards. Accordingly, I'm establishing November as the kickoff month for our own program — the MAC Enhanced Physical Fitness Program — VOLANT SHAPE.

VOLANT SHAPE — Sensible Health and Physical Exercise — is a voluntary fitness program targeted at the beginner. We want to assist those people who are concerned about their ability to comply with tougher Air Force standards. Your gymnasium staff already has program guidelines, including information on the VOLANT SHAPE incentive Awards Program. The MAC VOLANT SHAPE Regulation, dated Nov. 23, 1984, outlines comprehensive details on exercise, nutrition and stress management.

I'm enthused about the benefits we can accrue through VOLANT SHAPE participation. Familiarize yourself with the program and support it by personally setting the example. A positive approach now — a year before the implementation of tougher Air Force fitness standards — will greatly ease the transition period.

A lesson from history

The Son Tay raid

Every POW he talked to told him that the Son Tay raid was the greatest single thing that happened for their morale during all those years.

by John Fuller

Last month's article explained much of the work leading up to the Son Tay raid on Nov. 20, 1970.

How a 12-man study group prepared the feasibility study for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

How Maj. Keith R. Grimes was chosen as the meteorologist for the operation.

How the date was selected and what the "weather window" was.

Last month's article ended with approval from Secretary of Defense and the President to continue and the Joint Contingency Task Group's ground and air elements beginning their training at Eglin AFB, Fla., on Labor Day weekend.

Simply stated, the plan was to use five HH-53 helicopters to take 56 men to the Son Tay prison located about 23 miles west-northwest of Hanoi, deep in the heart of North Vietnam. The raiders would free the Americans and return with the prisoners to the launch bases in Thailand. All actions would be under the cover of a lead MC-130E, five A-1s and ten F-4s.

The raid was rehearsed more than 170 times at Eglin AFB. In his roles as planner, meteorologist and liaison to the Army, Maj. Keith R. Grimes was deeply involved and became intimately familiar with each facet of the operation.

Mid-November 1970 found Major Grimes and three others in Southeast Asia making final arrangements with local commanders and units for the necessary in-theater support.

At the same time, Brig. Gen. Leroy J. Manor, Commander of the Special Operations Force at Eglin AFB, and Major Grimes visited Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base and talked with two of Col. Leonard E. Zapinski's field commanders, Lt. Col. Albert Kaehn, Jr. and Lt. Col. Franklin A. Ross. Colonel Zapinski was commander of the 1st Weather Group at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon.

As with Colonel Zapinski, Lt. Cols. Kaehn and Ross could be told nothing about the raid. But with Lt. Col. Ross, commander of OL-2, 1st Weather Group, the topic was a weather recce mission for late in the afternoon of Nov. 20. Lt. Col. Kaehn was commander of the 10th Weather Squadron. In his case, Major Grimes wanted to ensure that Sgt. Wayne E. Fuiten (one of the first of Grimes' Det. 75 observers to work in Laos and, even then, working the back country of Laos and Cambodia in secret) could crank up the Laotian weather reporting net for a rescue effort should the raiders run into trouble.

By then, the meteorological situation was the worst in years. Climatologically, roughly five years worth of typhoons moved through the area in just eight weeks. In addition, cold surges out of central Asia were far stronger and more frequent than normal.

At noon on Nov. 18, Typhoon Patsy moved westerly from the Philippines, while another cold front pushed south from northern China.

In the wee hours of Nov. 20, the forecaster team

of SMSgt. Dennis H. VanHoudt and MSgt. Loyal E. Ralston advised General Manor that Patsy would roar ashore in Vietnam by the evening of Nov. 21, the day originally targeted for the raid. The ensuing cold front would move into the Son Tay area the following day, with at least four more days of very poor weather to follow.

Even as they briefed, North Vietnam and Laos were cloud-covered, but they forecast that an induced high pressure ridge with dry air from China would form between westerly moving Patsy and the southerly moving cold front.

Should the ridging continue southward, as the most recent DMSP imagery confirmed it was doing, then the Red River Valley should break wide-open about sundown that evening.

"Of all the decisions made, the most difficult one was based on weather," General Manor wrote later. "I was concerned about the weather in the Tonkin Gulf because I wanted the Navy diversionary force to go."

So General Manor consulted Major Grimes and asked, "What's your conclusion?"

"My conclusion," responded the major, "is if we don't do it tonight, we'll never do it because I don't think we can keep this operation secure for that long."

So Washington's approval was sought and received for jumping off a day early.



What the "well dressed" raider wore to Son Tay.

At 5 p.m. Nov. 20, just minutes after an RF-4C landed after a weather recce sortie across Laos to the North Vietnam border with Lt. Col. Ross in the rear seat, the final mission briefing took place at Takhli Air Base, Thailand.

Lt. Col. Ross's findings — as forecast. The ridging had cleared the target area and visibilities were unlimited in the Red River Valley.

The raid on Son Tay took place basically as planned and rehearsed. The weather was as forecast.

For eight consecutive days prior to the raid, Son Tay was below operational minimum. The site went below minimum again on Nov. 21 and remained that way for a month.

For their superb forecasting, SMSgt. Von Houdt and MSgt. Ralston received warm letters of commendation from General Manor. The general was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal for the raid while Army Col. Arthur D. "Bull" Simons, Joint Contingency Task Group deputy commander, received a Distinguished Service Cross. Most of the other raiders were awarded Silver Stars. Major Grimes, who was at the general's side at a command post near Da Nang during the raid, received the Legion of Merit.

As a postscript, while the Son Tay raiders returned empty handed, their rescue attempt did wonders for the morale of American POWs in North Vietnamese prisons. A raid into their heartland (without a serious U.S. casualty) shook the sense of security of the North Vietnamese leadership, resulting in drastically improved treatment of the POWs.

Through their grapevine, POWs were instantly aware of the rescue attempt. Some had been POWs in North Vietnam for years. Some had concluded they were forgotten. But the Son Tay raid was evidence they were not. Hope was restored to the POWs.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Stackhouse had been a POW for six years, some of it at Son Tay.

"You wouldn't have known us," he told Major Grimes shortly after being released from prison, "we were the living dead." But it all changed after the Son Tay raid.

After American POWs in North Vietnam were released following the Vietnam cease-fire of early 1973, briefing programs were initiated to bring them up to date on what happened in the world while they were interned. Part of the program Air University conducted included a briefing on Son Tay. Major Grimes was one of two raiders chosen to make that presentation.

After the briefing, every POW he talked to told him that the Son Tay raid was the greatest single thing that happened for their morale during all those years.



National Safety Council

Col. George E. Chapman
AWS Commander

TSgt. Michael T. Devine
Editor

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AWS/CC
Col. George E. Chapman

Command and Staff Dec. 1, 1984



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AWS/CS
Col. Wesley E. Robb



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30th WS — Col. Jack H. Wyle
31st WS — Lt. Col. Louis R. Billones
USAFETAC — Col. Lawrence R. French

(* Reactivates Jan. 1, 1985)

AWS Salutes...

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal to:

Lt. Col. Lyman L. Kaiser (2 OLC), HQ 4WW, Peterson AFB, Colo.; Maj. Frank B. Holt, Det. 9, 4WW, Learmonth, Australia; SMSgt. Richard L. Curry (1 OLC), Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; SMSgt. Richard H. Prewitt, Det. 1, 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; CMSgt. Karl R. Hammerdorfer Jr., HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; SMSgt. Robert B. Tuttle, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Lt. Col. Joseph E. Sims (2 OLC), 25WS, Bergstrom AFB, Texas; TSgt. Lawrence Harper (1 OLC), Det. 1, 15WS, Andrews AFB, DC; SMSgt. Rodger A. Black (2 OLC), Det. 1, 17WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Maj. Jerry J. Cox (1 OLC), Det. 3, 3WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, SC; Maj. James R. Ahman, Det. 9, 3WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; SMSgt. James O. Dewberry (2 OLC), Det. 9, 3WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; MSgt. Earl W. Schneider Jr., Det. 23, 3WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; SMSgt. Wayne Boytim (1 OLC), Det. 32, 3WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Lt. Col. Arthur C. Kyle (3 OLC), AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Maj. Michael J. Kelly Jr. (1 OLC), AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Maj. Frank H. Grover, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Maj. Michael W. Mader, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Lt. Col. Bruce M. Nagle (1 OLC), 9WS, March AFB, Calif.; Lt. Col. Steve L. Richter, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SMSgt. Arnold T. Saunders, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; MSgt. J. B. McLeod Jr., AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Capt. David P. Urbanski, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG.

Joint Service Commendation Medal to:

2nd Lt. Timothy J. Hanson, HQ 4WW, Cheyenne Mtn Complex, Colo.

Air Force Commendation Medal to:

Capt. Alfred R. Brown (1 OLC), Det. 4, 4WW, Holloman AFB, NM; 1st Lt. Giles M. Cherrick, HQ 4WW, Peterson AFB, Colo.; TSgt. Floyd M. Parton (2 OLC), Det. 4, 4WW, Holloman AFB, NM; Sgt. David Resendez, Det. 20, 24WS, Laughlin AFB, Texas; SrA. Gary Justus, Det. 20, 24WS, Laughlin AFB, Texas; TSgt. Naymon Byers, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; TSgt. Gary W. Brakefield, Det. 1, 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; SSgt. Kenneth R. Bigson, OLOD, 11WS, Galena Airport, Alaska; SSgt. Gary D. Mercer, OLOD, 11WS, Galena Airport, Alaska; TSgt. Gerald A. Galarneau (1 OLC), Det. 15, 25WS, Luke AFB, Ariz.; Capt. Kathy M. Long, Det. 20, 31WS, Sembach AB, FRG; SSgt. Dave Ward, Det. 14, 31WS, Hahn AB, FRG; SrA. Thomas I. Parra, Det. 1, 1WW, Nimitz Hill, Guam; Capt. David S. Hadley (1 OLC), Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; 1st Lt. Ned A. Erickson, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; TSgt. Rosanne Eodchick (2 OLC), USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; 1st Lt. Michael H. McDonald, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Sgt. Angela Moore, Det. 11, 25WS, Cannon AFB, NM; SrA. Tomas Fredericks, Det. 1, 15WS, Andrews AFB, DC; SSgt. Samuel M. Gardner, Det. 1, 17WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; 2nd Lt. Daniel B. Adams, Jr., Det. 1, 17WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Capt. John P. Correnti, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; SrA. Lawrence H. Green, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Colleen Capel, Det. 6, 3WS, Homestead AFB, Fla.; TSgt. Herman E. Loftin, Det. 9, 3WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Timothy G. McDonald, Det. 9, 3WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; MSgt. Michael L. Jimenez (2 OLC), AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Capt. Jackie L. Wylie (2 OLC), AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; TSgt. Charles J. Lee (1 OLC), AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Capt. Steven A. Taylor, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Capt. John A. White III, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; 1st Lt. Michael A. Tighe, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SSgt. Victoria J. Archibald, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SSgt. Gary S. Keith, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; A1C Michael D. Dennis, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; TSgt. Robert R. Calvillo, Det. 7, 9WS, March AFB, Calif.; Maj. Victor H. Hill, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; 2nd Lt. Glenn M. Shelley, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Army Commendation Medal to:

MSgt. James N. Horne III, Det. 10, 2nd WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; SSgt. Peter L. Glinski, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Combat Readiness Medal to:

TSgt. Michael D. Miller, Det. 5, 5WS, Ft. Knox, Ky.; SSgt. John Spaller, Det. 1, 5WS, Ft. Campbell, Ky.; SSgt. David Walton, Det. 1, 5WS, Ft. Campbell, KY; Maj. Robert L. Eggum, HQ 4WW, Peterson AFB, Colo.

Air Force Achievement Medal to:

A1C Brian K. ...er, Weather Tng Div, Chanute AFB, Ill.;

Maj. David C. Danielson, HQ 4WW, Peterson AFB, Colo.; SSgt. Rodney E. Gunning (1 OLC), Det. 4, 4WW, Holloman AFB, NM; SSgt. William Ouellette, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; SSgt. Betty Turner, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; A1C Elizabeth A. Brown, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; SSgt. Month Fernandez, Det. 5, 15WS, Dover AFB, Del.; SSgt. Toni Humphrey, Det. 5, 15WS, Dover AFB, Del.; SSgt. Glen Meyers, Det. 3, 15WS, Charleston AFB, SC; Sgt. James C. Baker, Det. 10, 2nd WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Paul Heinz, Det. 1, 7WS, Feucht Bks, FRG; TSgt. Earl Wilsing, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SrA. James A. Keele, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; TSgt. James E. Foster, Det. 11, 7WS, Coleman Bks, FRG; A1C Theresa Ciotola, Det. 1, 31WS, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG.

Army Achievement Medal to:

Maj. Michael J. Kelly Jr., AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Promotions

To Lieutenant Colonel:

Martin W. Ledwitz (IMA), Det. 16, 25WS, Nellis AFB, Nev.; George R. Danenport, 4WW, Peterson AFB, Colo.

To Captain:

Donald Jauris, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; John P. Correnti, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; Edwin S. Brigrance, Det. 1, 7WW, Keesler AFB, Miss.; Howard C. Hart, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

To First Lieutenant:

Deanna T. Hlavacek, Det. 21, 9WS, Minot AFB, ND; Mary T. Germain, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY.

To Senior Master Sergeant:

William C. Leach, Det. 8, 17WS, McClellan AFB, Calif.

To Master Sergeant:

Stanley Erwin, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; George Frew, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Erik Johnson, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; William Anderson, Det. 2, 9WS, Castle AFB, Calif.; Michael R. Pukajlo, Det. 1, 1WW, Nimitz Hill, Guam; Robert W. Yates, Det. 13, 15WS; Johnny W. Kicklighter, Det. 20, 24WS, Laughlin AFB, Texas; Pieter Deman, Weather Tng Div, Chanute AFB, Ill.

To Technical Sergeant:

Kathy A. Nakaishi, Det. 21, 9WS, Minot AFB, ND; Tony Crutchfield, Det. 32, 3WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Gordon W. Breyette, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; Jeffery L. Fleming, Det. 7, 31WS, Aviano AB, Italy; Phil R. Carter, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Craig Cobb, Det. 11, 1WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Kenneth Nemes, Det. 11, 1WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Hans C. Hanson, Det. 4, 4WW, Holloman AFB, NM; John E. George, Det. 5, 4WW, Palehua, Hawaii; William R. Rhodes, Det. 5, 4WW, Palehua, Hawaii.

To Staff Sergeant:

Dennis Huggins, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; David Runge, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Douglas Smith, Det. 1, 9WS, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Teresa Brown, Det. 1, 9WS, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Michael C. Oswald, Det. 23, 17WS, Kirtland AFB, NM; Michael Kaszula, Det. 13, 15WS, Robins AFB, Ga.; Paul F. Leidig, Det. 1, 17WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Richard W. Korich, Det. 10, 25WS, Bergstrom AFB, Texas; Douglas Marr, Det. 23, 3WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; Stanley G. Grell, Det. 19, 30WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea; Jerry L. Ray, Det. 19, 30WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea; Robert W. Hoertel, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; Jane H. Pleer, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; Patricia E. Bell, Det. 20, 24WS, Laughlin AFB, Texas; Kathryn Miller, Weather Tng Div., Chanute AFB, Ill.; Carlton Wood, Weather Tng Div, Chanute AFB, Ill.; Michael R. Bitter, Det. 19, 31WS, Incirlik, Turkey; Mathew G. Caldwell, Det. 75, 7WW, Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Cynthia A. Huston, 26WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; James A. Kratzer, Det. 12, 26WS, Plattsburgh AFB, NY; Steve K. Long, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Sandra A. Thompson, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Appointed to Sergeant:

Terri Ferreris, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Anne M. Cipot, Det. 2, 17WS, Travis AFB, Calif.; Andrew J. Barbita, Det. 5, 15WS, Dover AFB, Del.; Kevin R. Foley, Det. 1, 17WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; James A. Ramsey, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Richard E. Covell Jr., Det. 5, 1WW, Clark AB, Philippines; Arlene

Neely, Det. 5, 1WW, Clark AB, the Philippines; Sharon E. Hornback, Det. 10, 7WS, Giebelstadt AAF, FRG; Michael G. Hornback, OL-B, Det. 10, 7WW, Kitzingen AAF, FRG; Leon Bass, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; Sombria Coley, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; Craig E. Richards, Det. 6, 4WW, Peterson AFB, Colo.; Darren Obermeyer, Weather Tng Div., Chanute AFB, Ill.; Timothy Meagher, Weather Tng Div., Chanute AFB, Ill.

To Senior Airman:

Shelli Peck, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Giles A. Blair III, Det. 15, 9WS, Grand Forks AFB, ND; Kenneth M. Krouse, Det. 1, 15WS, Andrews AFB, DC; Frank M. Macauda, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Richard W. Nieman, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; Betty A. Olaveson, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; Morya K. Bransford, HQ 11WW, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Pauline A. Brand, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Austin L. Conaty, Det. 4, 11WS, Ft. Richardson, Alaska; Kevin D. Evans, Det. 4, 11WS, Ft. Richardson, Alaska; James C. Palmer, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Thomas L. Para, Det. 1, 1WW, Nimitz Hill, Guam; Normal Lopes, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG; Gail Germin, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG; James N. Johnson, Det. 19, 30WS, Camp Humphreys, Korea; Roland A. Godan, Det. 2, 1WW, Andersen AFB, Guam; Bradford S. Ashby, Det. 2, 1WW, Andersen AFB, Guam; Scott D. Berg, Det. 17, 1WW, Yokota AB, Japan; Bruce Linde, Det. 11, 1WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

To Airman First Class:

Randall Damon, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Bryant Paradis, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Timothy Wilkin-son, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Imo Lax, Det. 3, 9WS, Fairchild AFB, Wash.; Joann M. Yuronic, Det. 7, 17WS, Kelly AFB, Texas; P. Scott Dean, Det. 1, 17WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Michael Davenport, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Jeffery D. Neaves, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Andrew K. Sizemore, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; John Truslow, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Brian Whitehead, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Jeffrey Van Brocklin, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY.

To Airman:

Sally Jensen, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Lisa Koenig, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Nela Gottsacker, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Michael McNeill, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Kimberly Patrick, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Dean Priebe, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; Roy T. Matsueda, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Unit Honors

Outstanding Detachment of the Year for:
15WS — Det. 15, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Junior Officer of the Year for:
15WS — 2nd Lt. Timothy F. Alsrue, Det. 15, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Senior NCO of the Year for:
9WS — SMSgt. William Phillips, Det. 5, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.;
25WS — MSgt. Michael H. A. Springer, Det. 18, Mt. Home AFB, Idaho.

NCO of the Year for:
9WS — SSgt. Frances Grenda, Det. 15, Grand Forks AFB, ND;
25WS — TSgt. Franklin C. Mullins, Det. 10, Bergstrom AFB, Texas.

Airman of the Year for:
9WS — A1C Robert Hirl, Det. 5, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.;
25WS — SrA. Lori J. McNamara, Det. 11, Cannon AFB, NM.

Civilian of the Year for:
25WS — Mr. Charles H. Texter, Det. 13, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Observer of the Year for:
25WS — SSgt. Bryan K. Goforth, Det. 18, Mt. Home AFB, Idaho.

Safety Officer of the Year for:
25WS — Capt. Sheryl A. Foerster, Det. 16, Nellis AFB, Nev.

AWS Salutes...

Unit Honors

Safety NCO of the Year for:

25WS — TSgt. David L. Wyman, Det. 18, Mt. Home AFB, Idaho.

Enlisted Administrator of the Year for:

25WS — Sgt. Robert V. Wright Jr., Det. 10, Bergstrom AFB, Texas.

Civilian Administrator of the Year for:

25WS — Mrs. Patricia L. Nun, Bergstrom AFB, Texas.

Junior Officer of the Quarter for:

15WS — 2nd Lt. John Pino, Det. 5, Dover AFB, Del.

Senior NCO of the Quarter for:

15WS — MSgt. Daniel O'Connell, HQ 15WS, McGuire AFB, NJ;
25WS — MSgt. Michael J. Visnaw, Det. 12, George AFB, Calif.;
31WS — MSgt. Dave Etheridge, OL-C, Hellinikon, Greece.

NCO of the Quarter for:

15ABW — TSgt. Charles C. Cobb, Det. 11, 1WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii;
3WW — SSgt. Frances Granda, Det. 15, 9WS, Grand Forks AFB, Mont.;
3WS — TSgt. Leonard Gibson, Det. 23, Moody AFB, Ga.;
11WS — SSgt. Kenneth R. Gibson, OL-D, Galena Airport, Alaska;
15WS — TSgt. David Griton, Det. 21, Pope AFB, NC.
25WS — TSgt. Henry Q. Giralt, HQ 25WS, Bergstrom AFB, Texas.

Airman of the Quarter for:

Hawaii MAC — Amn. John M. York, Det. 7, 1WW, Schofield Bks, Hawaii;
347 TFW — A1C Terry D. Hayes, Det. 23, 3WS, Shaw AFB, SC;
Bitburg AB, FRG — A1C Steven J. Brooks, Det. 1, 31WS;
Moody AFB, Ga. — A1C Terry D. Hayes, Det. 23, 3WS;
9WS — SrA Rick Butler, Det. 1, Offutt AFB, Neb.;
11WS — SrA Carl H. Campbell, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska;
15WS — A1C Bernard F. Stanton, Det. 5, Dover AFB, Del.;
25WS — SrA Lori J. McNamara, Det. 11, Cannon AFB, NM;
31WS — A1C Steven McConnell, OL-A, Det. 2, Siegenberg Range, FRG.

Airman of the Month for:

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska — SrA Morya K. Bransford, HQ 11WS.

Master Jump Wings to:

Lt. Col. Edward A. Town, Det. 75, 7WW, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Civilian Awards:

30 Years Service — Eleanor Turner, HQ 4WW, Peterson AFB, Colo;
Sustained Superior Performance — Mrs. Betty J. Kuhn, Det. 31, 15WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga.

Education

Squadron Officer's School:

Capt. James E. Walker, Det. 5, 15WS, Dover AFB, Del.;
Capt. William G. Munley, Det. 15, 15WS, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

NCO Academy:

TSgt. Emmitt Grant Jr., Det. 17, 1WW, Yokota AB, Japan; TSgt. James R. Sweeney, Det. 14, 17WS, Norton AFB, Calif.; MSgt. John R. Schendel, Det. 7, 17WS, Kelly AFB, Texas; TSgt. Robert E. Redinger, Det. 7, 3WS, Langley AFB, Va.; TSgt. Wayne A. K. Kim, 1WW/DOOA, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; TSgt. Richard L. Mitchell, Det. 12, 25WS, George AFB, Calif.

NCO Leadership School:

SSgt. Norma P. Smith (John L. Levitow Award winner), Chanute AFB, Ill.; Sgt. Armando Olazaba, Det. 13, 25WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; Sgt. Krispin J. McCann (Dist. Ad.), Det. 13, 25WS, Davis-Monthan

AFB, Ariz.; SSgt. Jeffrey W. Synnott, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Franciska B. Petersen-Lyn, Det. 75, 7WW, Hurlburt Field, Fla.; SSgt. Garland K. Head, Det. 31, 15WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga.; SSgt. John C. Ridley, Det. 31, 15WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga..

NCO Preparatory Course:

A1C Linda Kiff (Honor Graduate), Chanute AFB, Ill.; SrA. William T. Rigling, Det. 1, 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; SrA. Alain Goris, Det. 4, 11WS, Ft. Richardson, Alaska; SrA. James C. Palmer, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; SrA. Carl H. Campbell, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; SrA. Morya K. Bransford, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; A1C Christina J. Cartwright, Det. 1, 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; A1C James C. Palmer, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; SrA. Richard W. Nieman (Honor Graduate), Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; A1C Thad L. Carter, Det. 31, 15WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga.; Sgt. Don Fink, Det. 1, 3WS, Shaw AFB, SC; A1C Larry D. Simms, Det. 75, 7WW/SOWT, Hurlburt Field, Fla.; A1C Victor Torres, Det. 75, 7WW/SOWT, Hurlburt Field, Fla.; A1C David H. Bricker, Det. 11, 7WS, Coleman Bks, FRG.

Station Chief Course:

TSgt. Robert Cari, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, N.Y.; TSgt. Stephen Rosemier, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, N.Y.; MSgt. John Love, Det. 7, 9WS, March AFB, Calif.; TSgt. William H. Burr, Det. 31, 15WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga.

Tropical Weather Analysis and Forecasting Course:

2nd Lt. Bradley Todd Regan and MSgt. Ronald P. Szymkowski, Det. 75, 7WW/SOWT, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Weather Technician Course:

SSgt. David V. Jenkins, Det. 31, 15WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga.; Sgt. Mark A. Byrd, Det. 3, 15WS, Charleston AFB, SC; A1C Cynthia K. Hall, Det. 9, 7WW, Scott AFB, Ill.; A1C Bernard F. Stanton (Outstanding Academic Achievement), Det. 5, 15WS, Dover AFB, De.

Solar Observing Optical Network Course:

SSgt. Robert A. Mitchell, Det. 3, 4WW, Ramey, Puerto Rico.

Master's Degree

Maj. Jeff Hart, Det. 32, 3WS, MacDill AFB, Fla. in Public Administration (Manpower Management); Capt. Michael R. Formosa, 1WW/DOJSA, Hickam AFB, Hawaii in Systems Management.

Bachelor's Degree to:

SSgt. Gregory Dillon, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY, in Management; MSgt. Phillip J. Zabolish, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan, in Asian Studies; MSgt. Alfred M. Glass, Det. 12, 31WS, Torrejon AB, Spain, Bachelor of Science.

Associate Degree to:

SSgt. Jacob Lee, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY in Weather Technology (CCAF); MSgt. Philip Canter, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG (CCAF); TSgt. Susan L. Lawrence, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG (CCAF); SSgt. Brenda Frazier, Det. 14, 31WS, Hahn AB, FRG (CCAF); MSgt. John R. Griffith, Det. 3, 3WS, Myrtle-Beach AFB, SC in Weather Technology; TSgt. Charles J. Evans, Det. 9, 3WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla., in Meteorology (CCAF); TSgt. Rickey Fruge, Det. 3, 9WS, Fairchild AFB, Wash., in Weather Technology (CCAF).

Retirements

SMSgt. Wayne Boytim, Det. 32, 3WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; CMSgt. Karl R. Hammerdorfer, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; SMSgt. Robert B. Tuttle, HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; MSgt. Charles Hendry, Weather Tng Div., Chanute AFB, Ill.

Reenlistments

MSgt. Marvin L. Freimund, Det. 11, 1WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; TSgt. Dennis L. Dykman, Det. 7, 17WS, Kelly AFB, Texas; SSgt. John T. Carty, Det. 5, 15WS, Dover AFB, Del.; SrA. Geri L. Swanson, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG; MSgt. Philip L. Canter, Det. 1, 31WS, Bitburg AB, FRG; SrA. Gail Fermin, Det. 1, 31WS, Boitburg AB, FRG; TSgt. Donn C. Wilson, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan.

Heir Force

Brandie Nichole to A1C Terry D. and Eva Hayes, Det. 23, 3WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; Natalie Jean to MSgt. John and Sandra Schendel, Det. 7, 17WS, Kelly AFB, Texas; Colin Kelly to SSgt. John D. and Nancy Sumption, Det. 7, 17WS, Kelly AFB, Texas; Jan Karl to 2nd Lt. Douglas and Mrs. Van Essen, Det. 7, 9 WS, March AFB, Calif.; Kristine Michele to SSgt. John and Kimberly Buinicky, Det. 11, 9WS, Reale AFB, Calif.; Brian to TSgt. Jeffrye and SSgt. Beth Davis, Det. 15, 9WS, Grand Forks AFB, ND; Garrett to TSgt. Ron and Beverly Whitt, Det. 15, 9WS, Grand Forks AFB, ND; Stephen Patrick to SSgt. Jocelyn D. and A1C William Richmond, Det. 10, 2WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; Elizabeth Ann to SSgt. and Mrs. Phil Leatherman, Det. 8, 1WW, Kadena AB, Japan; Kristin Nicole to SSgt. David and Lori Cramblett, Det. 4, 11WS, Ft. Richardson, Alaska; Katelynn to SSgt. Robert and Joanne Hoertel, Det. 8, 26WS, Griffiss AFB, NY; Kelly Ian to 2nd Lt. Dan B. and Marquita Mundell, Det. 13, 15WS, McGuire AFB, NY; Julie to Capt. John and Teresa Bender, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Kelly to Capt. Mark and Katharine DesRosiers, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Ashley to Sgt. Lynwood and Mary Davis, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Jonathon M. to Sgt. Richard and Alice Herbert, Det. 1, 24WS, Randolph AFB, Texas; Nathan Paschal to A1C Eddie and Brenda Lacroix Jr., USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

Arrivals and Departures

MSgt. James N. Howard from Staniford Field, Ky; to Det. 15, 15WS, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; SSgt. John A. Jackson to Det. 7, 3WS, Langley AFB, Va.; Sgt. Michael S. Grehan to Det. 23, 3WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; Sgt. Vaye M. Castillo to Det. 23, 3WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; MSgt. Gary Emmons to Det. 32, 3WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Hardy Frey to Det. 32, 3WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; SSgt. Thomas D. Wireman Jr., to Chanute AFB, Ill.; Sgt. Paul Heinz to Det. 1, 7WS, Feucht Bks, FRG; Lt. Col. James R. Avant, from HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.; Capt. Michael E. Hoofard from AFIT, Texas A&M; CMSgt. Roy W. Mullans from 7WW, Scott AFB, Ill.; MSgt. Nyle K. Friesen from Det. 31, 5WS, Ft. Polk, La.; MSgt. Brian L. Sutherland from OL-AF, Det. 6, HQ AWS, Suffolk County ANGB, N.Y.; TSgt. Michael S. Sepinski from 3350 Tech Tng Gp, Chanute AFB, Ill.; SSgt. Phil R. Carter from Det. 9, 3WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; SrA Pauline A. Brtand from Det. 23, 3WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; and A1C Susan E. Daniels from Det. 10, 2 WS, Eglin AFB, Fla., to HQ 11WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; MSgt. John A. Behnke to Det. 16, 25WS, Nellis AFB, Nev.; Sgt. Greg Bond from Chaute AFB, Ill.; A1C Phil Wats from Ft. Benning, Ga.; and SSgt. Henry Bergfeld from AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb., to Det. 16, 31WS, Zaragoza AB, Spain; SSgt. Volel Emile from Det. 16, 31WS, Zaragoza AB, Spain to Ft. Riley, Kan.; Sgt. Mona L. Mikkelsen from Chanute AFB, Ill. to Det. 5, 5WS, Ft. Knox, Ky.; Sgt. Richard G. Crow Jr., from Chanute AFB, Ill. to Det. 5, 5WS, Ft. Knox, Ky.; A1C Michael F. Shay from Det. 5, 5WS, Ft. Knox, Ky. to Camp Humphreys, Korea; SSgt. Keith Bender from Chantue AFB, Ill. to Det. 1, 5WS, Ft. Campbell, Ky.; A1C Tony C. Krogh to Det. 7, 1WW, Schofield Bks, Hawaii; MSgt. Frederick E. Gesser from 3WW/DN, Offutt AFB, Neb., to HQ AWS/DNTM, Scott AFB, Ill.; TSgt. Fredrick R. Branski from Det. 40, 2WW, RAF Croughton to Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas.

Oops...

There was a mistake on page 7 of last month's Observer. Under the "Retirements" headline, there are two paragraphs of names. The first paragraph are those AWS members retiring. The second paragraph should have had the word "Reenlistments" above it. So, to Sgt. Jerry LaVoie and the others who were listed as Retirements, you have to keep going to work. Sorry for the mistake. Editor.

Guam's "Typhoon Chasers," — call sign SWAN

by Capt. Brien G. McNamara
Andersen AFB, Guam

All over the Pacific they're known by their call sign... "Swan," after the Australian black swan on their patch.

On Guam, they're just an integral part of the Andersen family, but other bases pay special attention when the gray WC-130s land.

Known collectively as the "Typhoon Chasers," they're the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and Detachment 3, 1st Weather Wing. The Typhoon Chasers have many areas of responsibilities.

The 54th WRS provides aerial weather reconnaissance of tropical storms in the Western Pacific. They also accomplish sampling support for atmospheric research, special weather reconnaissance for Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, Military Airlift Command, Team Spirit and observances for the volcano observatory in Hawaii.

In this age of advanced satellites, one wonders why an airplane and crew are needed to search out typhoons.

The answer is that weather satellites and aircraft each have their respective vital role to play — satellites providing broad ocean storm surveillance and aircraft providing high resolution information on conditions within each storm.

"Satellites give the typhoon forecasters their first indication of tropical cyclone formation," said Maj. James S. Perkins, Det. 3, 1st WW commander, "but pictures from space don't reveal the details of

"...but pictures from space don't reveal the details of winds, pressures and temperatures that are vital to accurate forecasts."

winds, pressures and temperatures that are vital to accurate forecasts. That's why on-scene reconnaissance is irreplaceable."

Equally irreplaceable is each component of the team. The airplane is a basic C-130 used throughout the Air Force, except for additional weather equipment.

"The Lockheed WC-130 'Hercules' is well suited for the weather reconnaissance missions as it is a versatile, dependable and forgiving aircraft," said TSgt. David C. Woodward, 54th WRS flight engineer.

"Our oldest 'Herk' is a 1961 model. With the kind of flying we do, it shows how tough they are."

While the planes are tough, it's the crew who must perform varied duties.

During the mission, the two pilots and flight engineer perform their usual duties — watch systems, monitor fuel, maintain storm speeds and help the aerial reconnaissance weather officer with advisories of outside conditions.

"The ARWO is a fully qualified aircrew member and is the weather expert carried aboard all flights," said Capt. Todd J. Leiss, Det. 3, chief for standardization and evaluation.

"He acts as the mission director and coordinates the crew's efforts and maintains contact with the Joint Typhoon Warning Center to ensure the most useful and accurate data are collected.

"The navigator and ARWO work together to locate the eye of a storm," said Captain Leiss, who has 54 penetrations into the eyes of typhoons. "The ARWO uses the winds, pressure and temperature to determine the center of the eye. The navigator plots the track and the geographical coordinates of the eye's center.

"In addition, while the aircraft is doing all this twisting and turning, the navigator must also maintain a constant up-to-date fix on the aircraft's position," said 1st Lt. Craig G. Lundy, 54th WRS navigator.

"This is especially interesting considering the storm movement, the vast amount of open area without navigational aids, and the severe weather that has to be flown through."

Initial storm investigations are flown at 1,500 feet but as the storm develops and winds exceed 50 knots, the crews climb up to 10,000 feet. The wall of the typhoon is made of clouds, wind and rain around the eye of the typhoon.

Once the crew penetrates the eye wall and they are in the center, a dropsonde is released by the dropsonde systems operator. The dropsonde, which is a non-recoverable sensing device, measures temperatures, humidity and sea-level pressure.

The ARWO "reads" the waves to determine wind direction and velocity at the surface. Winds are especially critical as a storm tracks toward populated land areas.

"We transmit these observations to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center as fast as possible to help them in their forecasting of the intensity and movement of the storm," said Captain Leiss. This isn't the end of the mission, however.

The usual scenario requires the crew to exit the storm and fly to another quadrant before re-entering the eye. Missions typically last 10 to 12 hours and, if the storms are moving away from Guam, temporary duty assignments extend from overnight to several weeks. An assignment to the 54th WRS has challenges and opportunities for everyone.

"It's ideal for the younger crewmembers," said Maj. Larry D. Magnuson, 54th WRS operations officer. "We fly over 4,700 hours a year — which provides a lot of experience quickly. Before co-pilots leave Guam, they can easily have the 1,000 hours needed to upgrade to

aircraft commander. In fact, we presently have a first lieutenant aircraft commander and another is now finishing school."

The navigators fresh from undergraduate navigator training acquire enough time and experience to upgrade to instructors.

SrA. Kathy L. Richmond, Det. 3 dropsonde system operator, and one of the newest Typhoon Chasers said, "The minute I heard of this job in technical school, I knew it was what I wanted. It's challenging, exciting, and I have a chance to travel. The biggest reward is the humanitarian aspect. When I read of the damage caused by Typhoon Ike in the Philippines, I knew it would have been much worse without the information we were able to give."

As a unit of the 41st Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance Wing at McClellan AFB, Calif., the 54th WRS supplements search and rescue operations in this part of the Pacific.

These efforts range from looking for lost boats to evacuating the injured or sick from remote islands. Since January, the 54th WRS has been credited with saving 21 lives.

The Typhoon Chasers go to remote islands for another reason. One of their most noted projects is Operation Christmas Drop.

Christmas gifts are packaged into 250-pound bundles and then air-dropped by the Typhoon Chasers to remote atolls and islands throughout the Trust Territories. People from all over Guam support the program by offering donations and help.

This year the 54th WRS celebrated its 40th anniversary. It can easily be said that the efforts of the Typhoon Chasers have resulted in saving thousands of lives and billions of dollars in damage.

For the Typhoon Chasers it's just living up to their wing's motto, "Serving Mankind."



Answers for retiree pay questions

The Air Force Accounting and Finance Center in Denver, Colo., reminds retirees and their families that they can call the center about retired pay matters 24 hours a day. Most calls are toll free.

For example, when calling from within the continental United States, except Colorado, dial toll free 1-800-525-0104. Colorado residents should

dial (303) 370-7051, which is not toll free. If calling from Alaska or Hawaii, dial 1-800-525-1089.

Technicians are available to answer retired pay calls from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, Monday through Friday. A recorder takes messages after hours and on weekends. (Reprinted from "AIR-MAN" magazine.)

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