

## Merry Christmas

### Pacific Recon Run Brings Gifts To Natives of Lonely Atolls

Each Christmas since 1947 the 54th Weather Reconnaissance squadron on Guam has played the part of South Pacific Santa Claus to many of the tiny islands scattered throughout its operational area.

During a regular flight on Christmas day, a crew of the Typhoon Chasers drops hard-to-get items contributed by squadron personnel.

Books and magazines head the list of Christmas presents in this air drop made "special delivery" to islands and atolls such as Yap, Anguar, Ulithi, Peleliu, Truk and Ponape. Also on the route is Iwo Jima, devastated by the force of Typhoon Louise in late September.

Almost daily during the year, aircraft from the 54th pass within a few miles of these islands while flying weather reconnaissance tracks. Flights are watched with interest by island natives, who dash from their grass huts and line the beaches of subtropical lagoons to wave to the WB-29 aircraft passing overhead, its wings rocking in recognition.

Preparations for the Christmas drop begin each year in January, as faulty parachutes from electronic weather devices are salvaged and saved for use in dropping the bundles gently

to earth. This continues throughout the year, until the time of the drop.

As September arrives, contributions begin pouring in from the squadron personnel. These contributions are sorted and re-assembled into various-sized packages, the larger islands and atolls receiving the larger bundles.

Included in the contents are candy, cigarettes, toys, food, photographic films, clothing and trinkets of jewelry, as well as the books and magazines.

Long before dawn on Christmas morning the WB-29 is airborne. Sunrise finds it 500 miles out on the first leg of its 3,000-mile round trip. As the plane swoops low over an atoll, a small parachute slips from the aircraft and floats slowly to earth.

Natives wave their hands to the "South Pacific Santa" as the silver aircraft circles the atoll, its crew members straining at the windows for a glimpse of the tiny figures below shouting Merry Christmas.

(Continued on page 2)

## AWS Scholar Aids Scientific Year Studies

Increases in knowledge of meteorology which will result from efforts made during the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year (IGY) are encouraging to Dr. Robert D. Fletcher, AWS director of scientific services.



As a member of the US National Committee's Technical Panel on Meteorology, Dr. Fletcher will join with seven other US scientists in planning US participation in the meteorological phase of the coming IGY.

During IGY, scientists of 40 nations will conduct the most comprehensive study of the earth and its atmosphere ever undertaken. In addition to meteorology, intensive data-gathering investigations will be carried out in latitude and longitude determination, geomagnetism, gravity measurement, glaciology, oceanography and seismology.

World-wide studies will also be conducted in ionospheric physics, aurora and airglow, cosmic rays, solar activity, rocket exploration of the upper atmosphere and the earth satellite program. Because of its uniqueness, the earth satellite program has been one of the most publicized aspects of IGY, but will be only a part of the over-all effort.

"With its world-wide operational capability," he said, "especially in aircraft reconnaissance and rawinsonde operations, AWS seems ideally suited to provide a portion of the US effort, consistent with our own operational requirements."

"By combining their efforts," Dr. Fletcher continued, "meteorologists, electronic and rocket engineers, physicists and astronomers hope to obtain a better understanding of the upper atmosphere."

In addition to his AWS post and special IGY duties, Dr. Fletcher is active in other national and international meteorological organizations.

He is a member of the World Meteorological Organization's Commission on Synoptic Meteorology and is the American Meteorological Society's delegate to the National Research Council's Division of Earth Sciences.

He serves as chairman of the AMS Committee on Encouragement of Meteorological Research and as a member of the AMS Committee on the Promotion of Research on Severe Storms.

# Miss AWS, 1956



At the AWS headquarters Christmas party, held at Andrews AFB on December 16, Miss Air Weather Service of 1956 was crowned by Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman jr., AWS commander. General Moorman presented her the inscribed gold Bulova wristwatch that symbolizes her year-long reign as Miss AWS of 1956.

She is Alice C. Sheffield, wife of 2d Lt. Karl S. Sheffield, assistant adjutant of the 2d Weather group, Langley AFB, Va.

A native of Waynesboro, Va., as is her husband, Miss AWS is a third-grade teacher at the Langley View school in Hampton, Va.

After graduating from Waynesboro high school in 1951, the lovely Miss Air Weather Service attended Fairfax Hall junior college in Waynesboro. She received her degree in liberal arts there in June 1954.

Queen Alice's reign will continue throughout the coming year of 1956, a lovely ambassador of whom the Air Weather Service and the 2d Weather wing

may well be proud.

The three judges, Milton Caniff, John Robert Powers and George Gobel, were unanimous in their admiration of the charm and beauty of the Miss AWS candidates.

"Lovely gals," penned Cartoonist Caniff in a note with his selections. The other judges were in accord.

The Observer staff, for whom the contest was a labor of love, takes this opportunity to thank the charming and lovely AWS ladies whose entries made the contest possible.

Joining with AWS personnel around the world, this paper's staffers say: "Congratulations, Miss Air Weather Service; may your reign be a happy one."



GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS at the 54th Weather Reconnaissance squadron on Guam includes packing gift bundles to be dropped on native atolls along the 54th's weather track. Left to right, Maj. Winton C. Brown helps A/2c Otto K. Boetticher and A/1c Durley Y. McLarty prepare a para-drop package of Christmas gifts.

## Leave Fares Cut to U.S.

Good news for weathermen stationed in Europe. Air Force personnel on duty in Europe will be allowed a 40 percent discount on round-trip air fares to the US, when on leave, by some airlines.

Approval for the trip to the US and back in each case must be obtained from the commanding officer of the individual con-

cerned. The new policy began on November 1.

For example, the 40 percent decrease will reduce the normal off-season tourist fare of \$590 between Frankfurt, Germany, and New York to \$354.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



HAPPY WINNER of the Miss Air Weather Service contest, Alice Sheffield (center) is congratulated on her newly won title by Finalists Mary McCully (left) and Betty McCarthy.



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## FIRST CHRISTMAS

*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.*

*And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.*

*And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*

*To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*

*And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*

*And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

*And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

*And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

*And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning the child.*

*And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

*But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

*And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (Luke 2:1-20)*

## Island Drop

(Continued from page 1)

For 15 hours this modern "sleigh and reindeer" of the sky tours over a 800,000-square-mile area of the Pacific making its drops. Among the native atolls are small detachments of Navy, Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey teams, at work on these far-flung islands.

In many cases their only con-

tact with the outside world is through radio conversation with passing aircraft and an occasional reefer ship bringing supplies.

By sundown on Christmas day, some 15 to 20 drops later, a weary but happy 54th crew heads back to Guam with a feeling of a job well done, having completed its Christmas mission as well as its regular weather track.

## ON THE skew-T AWS Global Report

At Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland, Lt Col Gene E. Drumbeck gave a brief weather summary over the Armed Forces Radio station in early October. The weather summary is intended to be a regular feature over Radio Station VOUS.

Lt Col Hershel H. Slater, 15th Wea sq, at Kadena AFB, Okinawa, was presented the Commendation Ribbon for services he performed while serving as commander of the Wea Central at Eniwetok atoll during Operation Castle. His outstanding technical ability and superior leadership enabled him to achieve superlative results while coping with an unusual and demanding forecasting problem.

Men of the 6th Wea sq boast a newly redecorated orderly room. Facilities now include partitioned offices for each officer, glassed individual mail boxes, indirect lighting and a new coke machine.

Also at the 6th, M/Sgt J. H. Gann jr. was presented a letter of appreciation for his work with the USAF Gunnery Meet. See last month's Observer.

In Tokyo 1st Wea wg hq is working out a deal with the Far East Network (AFRS) to broadcast a personalized daily five-minute weather briefing. Details still have to be firmed up.

1st Wg is also working up a series of lectures on weather for radio presentation, adapted from current briefings being given to FEAF headquarters staff members.

Scott AFB's 8th Wea gp takes time off from regular duties to brief students attending the Officers' Communication school at the Illinois base. Station personnel explain weather communications systems to the men who may soon be providing that service to the weathermen. Emphasis is placed on AWS dependence on adequate communications in performing the weather mission.

Four tours comprising more than 100 people were guests of the 12th Wea sq's Detachment 11 at Stewart AFB, N.Y. The guests, mostly youngsters, saw the base weather station and were briefed on the job of the AF weatherman.

At Detachment 6 of the 4th Wea gp, supporting Hanscom field, Mass., M/Sgt John F. Vail was a guest of the local scout troop at Newton. Sergeant Vail delivered a 30-minute briefing to 47 scouts on the weather and the role of the AF weatherman.

Detachment 19, 7th Gp, at Dugway proving ground in Utah has been training meteorological members of the Signal Corps stationed at Dugway in the duties of a weather observer. There will be a continuing program until all members of the Signal Corps team are qualified to take over any observational duties in a weather station.

There may be no snow and ice or cone-shaped Christmas trees, but the spirit of Christmas has been extended to hundreds of people whose names may never be known. Happy faces will be remembered for a long time as the islanders gather each day to wave at the South Pacific Santa Claus.

## It Ain't Easy

by Andy

### The Egnog Bowl Classic

With the possible exceptions of Clara Bow, pancake makeup and shedding Angora sweaters, no single factor has stirred up more troubled waters in the calm sea of matrimony than the annual Christmas party.

We are just as much for the spirit of Christmas and brotherly love as the next gent; however, we do maintain that the Yuletide season should be enjoyed insofar as possible in a vertical position on one's own two feet.

To this end, in the interests of public service, we are going to issue our timely annual warning: Beware of Christmas parties!

Case in point: For 364 days out of the year, we have the nicest neighbors you ever saw. On the 365th day, however, the annual Christmas party is held at kindly old Sam Stover's and the whole neighborhood comes unglued.

Last year the Christmas party started out innocently enough with just a few close friends, and a few close friends' friends. As the level in the eggnog bowl began to get lower and lower, the morale began to get higher and higher, until some of the neighbors were so full of brotherly love that they could barely stand up. As the evening progressed, the party was stimulated considerably by the addition of the Shadyside Riot Squad, and still later the party got another shot in the arm by the appearance of the Silver Springs Hook and Ladder Brigade No. 13.

All in all, a cherry little Yule gathering that resulted in only two divorces, four compound fractures and a reseeded of the front lawn, due to the grass being killed by the firetruck that had to foam down Kindly Old Sam's grandfather when his celluloid collar caught on fire.

Kindly Old Sam, our closest neighbor, is just one real James dandy nne guy. Very witty, he is a riot on picnics when he tries on ladies' hats or puts ants' nests in the bicycle seats; and he can make his bowtie jump by bobbing his Adam's apple. In short, he is the personification of the friendly, fun-loving, All-American next-door neighbor.

That is, until the night of the annual Christmas party. Once he gets inside that bar apron, behind his bobbing black bowtie, and hears the call of the ice crusher, a chemical metamorphosis sets in that transforms this lovable neighbor into a heinous, gurgling demon whose only ambition is to get everybody on the premises potted.

It was the afternoon of the party and I was commissioned by Kindly Old Sam to get the necessary groceries. "Since you are only having ten couples, Kindly Old Sam, don't you think two bottles of Scotch and two of bourbon should do nicely?" I ventured. He quit leering at my wife long enough to give me a crushing stare.

"I am not having a Christmas party for the local chapter of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Go out and get something to drink," said Kindly Old Sam.

I returned shortly with a case of each. "We'll try and get by on this," he said, shaking his head sadly.

As the party got under way, Kindly Old Sam reverted to the worse side of his Jekyll-Hyde personality, and soon I found myself in possession of a drink that tasted uncomfortably like a reject sample from Oak Ridge, Tennessee. After the second one, people began to get more and more blurred, until finally they got so blurred that I could no longer see them. It got to the point where things were so confused that husbands were caught taking their own wives under the mistletoe. All the while, Kindly Old Sam went around wringing his hands and chuckling fiendishly.

That's the case in point. The moral is obvious. If one expects to stick around long enough to cash in on his retirement pension, Christmas parties should be approached with the same attitude with which one goes about the task of defuzing an H-bomb.

My wife agrees, too, because that's what she said just before we went home last night, as she kissed everybody Merry Christmas and blithely walked out the second-story window.



HALF-DRESSED FOR CHRISTMAS weather is Miss Nan Leslie, checking her gift bag before donning the rest of her winter costume.

## Weather Bureau Takes Over Rawin Facilities at Griffiss

A nine-year era of upper-air data collection by the 6th Weather group's Detachment 12 came to an end recently, when Maj. Gordon Kitzman, commander of the Griffiss AFB, New York, AWS detachment, launched the final balloon.

Rawinsonde equipment used for the collection of upper-air data was then turned over to representatives of the Albany, N. Y., facility of the US Weather Bureau.

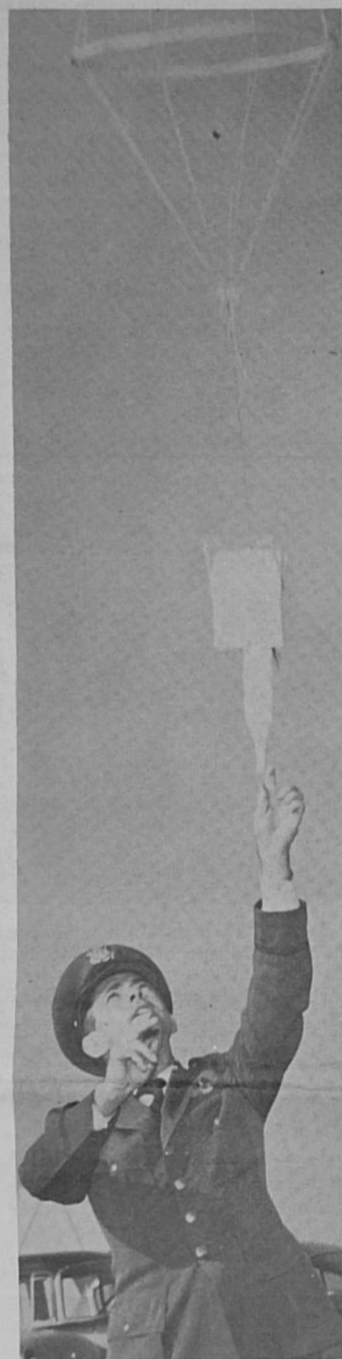
It was the first such transfer of AWS equipment to the USWB ever made in the Air Force, Major Kitzman reports.

Rawinsonde collection of data on wind pressure, velocity and direction and temperature and humidity from the surface to 50,000 feet and above will be carried out by the USWB. From the Weather Bureau's Albany airport station, information will be furnished by teletype to the Griffiss detachment.

Accepting the equipment was Chief Meteorologist James J. Cassidy of the USWB Albany station. He formerly commanded the Griffiss detachment in 1942 and again in 1945.

Explaining the AWS-USWB transfer, Major Kitzman stressed that it is an economy move. In addition, he said, it will help to relieve personnel shortage in a critical Air Force career field.

Following the transfer, the detachment was to lose 14 men, who were to be transferred to school or to another of the two 6th Group detachments still maintaining rawinsonde sections.



LAST RELEASE of a weather balloon by AWS at Griffiss AFB, N. Y., prior to transfer of equipment to the Weather Bureau is made by Maj. Gordon Kitzman, who commands the 6th Weather group's Detachment 12. Balloons have been released every six hours at Griffiss for the past nine years.

## Higher Study Help in View

The National Science Foundation has announced that it plans to award approximately 700 graduate and 80 post-doctoral fellowships during the 1956-57 academic year.

AWS headquarters personnel officials consider these fellowships an effective means of promoting the progress of science and an aid in keeping AF scientists abreast of research developments in their respective fields.

Both civilian and military personnel may apply for these scholastic aids. Detailed information is available through base education offices or the personnel planning division of AWS headquarters. Deadline for the graduate scholarship applications is January 3, 1956.

## Lieutenant Forecaster at 28th Praised for Academic Prowess

Most weathermen will agree that they seldom find themselves on the receiving end of praise. They will insist that their normal lot is brickbats, as their most earnest efforts are greeted with cynical snickers or contemptuous guffaws.

A weather officer at Manston AB, England, had a pleasant surprise last month when he received a hearty "well done," instead of the usual treatment. The 28th Squadron officer, 2d Lt. George C. Main, received a letter of commendation from Maj. Gen. Ralph P. Swafford Jr., commandant of the USAF Institute of Technology.

The letter cited Lieutenant Main's academic achievement

while attending Pennsylvania State university as a postgraduate student in meteorology. In completing his studies, Lieutenant Main attained a numerical average of 3.84 out of a possible 4.

The general stated in his letter that "the academic standing of the degree this officer has achieved is a credit not only to him as an individual officer, but to the United States Air Force."

Manston's weather detachment is Lieutenant Main's initial AWS assignment. He intends making the Air Force a career.

Weather personnel at Manston AB expect that the local weather will start improving any day now.



SIGNING FOR EQUIPMENT, Chief Meteorologist James J. Cassidy of the US Weather Bureau's airport station at Albany, N. Y., takes over for USWB the AWS rawinsonde section at Griffiss AFB, N. Y. Weather Bureau acceptance of the USAF weather data-collection equipment, first such transfer made under a Government economy program, relieved personnel of Detachment 12, 6th Weather group, of an upper-air responsibility of nine years' standing. Witnessing the transfer (l. to r.) are Maj. Gordon Kitzman, detachment commander; Lt. Col. Belvie Lowrance, deputy Griffiss AFB commander; S/Sgt. Emmett Hubler and T/Sgt. Steve O'Hara.

## Hurricane Book Off Press

The Hurricane Hunters. By Ivan Ray Tannehill. Dodd, Mead, \$3. Reminiscent in many ways of George Stewart's Storm and Fire, I. R. Tannehill's latest book, The Hurricane Hunters, clearly delineates much of the romance which is inherent in the business of storm-seeking.

Mr. Tannehill, veteran of long service with the US Weather Bureau, brings to his writing much of the same "feel" that the experienced subjective forecaster displays. His words and phrases march through the history of man's hunt for the violent hurricane and typhoon.

The reader is drawn inexorably along, at once astonished, admiring and dismayed.

He tells of the early belief that raging storms blew heavy in one direction, then reversed to blow back again. In 1821, Tannehill relates, William Redfield studied the position of trees fallen in a hurricane and recognized the storm as a huge whirlwind.

That meteorology is in its infancy is graphically presented, especially when the reader learns that it was in 1816—slightly more than a century ago—that a German professor named Brandes began a study to learn if weather moved from place to place.

Aircraft reconnaissance of the hurricane was foreshadowed, Tannehill recalls, by the irate citizen in 1932 who complained that storm reports from ships were not coming in because the Weather Bureau was frightening all the ship captains out of the storm area with its warnings.

This sort of feeling led in 1937 to a short-lived plan to send Coast Guard cutters out to reconnoiter hurricanes. The way in which this plan was adopted and the reason for its early abandonment are among the interesting aspects of the hard-hitting, fact-finding Tannehill book.

First aircraft of record flown into a hurricane eye by intent, the author reveals, was an AT-6,

Women who swear they've never been kissed can't be blamed for swearing. (AFPS)

Flattery is 90% soft soap, which in turn is 90% lye.

piloted by Col. Joseph B. Duckworth, stationed at Bryan, Tex. The date was July 27, 1943.

After the historic flight, Duckworth heeded the complaints of a weather officer who had missed the first penetration and flew into the hurricane a second time. Now the hurricane hunters knew it could be done and a lot of questions were answered at once—and many more raised.

It was the opening gun of the storm hunters' campaign of aerial reconnaissance against the hurricane and typhoon. The history of that campaign is vividly portrayed in The Hurricane Hunters, a book that should be in the library of every weatherman.

Tannehill's lucid, readable style makes The Hurricane Hunters a suitable book for everyone—except of course Johnny, who, we are told, can't read. (JDR)

## First Study on SAC Support Now Available

First technical report on Project Black Sheep is hot off the press. Number 105-127, it concerns weather information from B-47 flights.

Black Sheep, begun in January 1953, was designed to test and select the best from among standard forecast methods for support of high-altitude long-range aircraft.

Personnel assigned to the project at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., worked with Strategic Air Command combat crews of the 305th and 306th Bomb wings. This first of several official AWS reports planned from the project covers one of the initial steps toward the final goal of determining the best techniques for weather support of this type of aircraft.

The study actually indicates to the forecaster the information he can expect from B-47 crews, clarifying points on the capability of this aircraft in making weather observations and pointing up the value of cooperation in briefing and debriefing the crews.

Working in cooperation with the crews, it has been found that the B-47 has the capability to take valuable observations without special equipment. Such observations can be used as an asset to the forecaster in further weather support of B-47 missions.

Further tech reports are planned from Black Sheep, to cover the flow of weather information the other way, from forecaster to crew. However, this initial report is the summation of much useful data, obtained in the process of study toward the end goal of methods to be used for best weather support of SAC-type aircraft.

AWS officials feel that the report should be of interest not only to weathermen who are directly supporting SAC missions, but also to any forecasters who may have occasion to brief or, more particularly, debrief transient B-47 crews.



SWINGING A FLASK of Bermuda water, Miss Katherine Woodall, daughter of the governor of Bermuda, christens the 59th Weather Reconnaissance flight's new WB-50 the "Bermuda Sunshine." Looking on, left to right, are Lt. Gen. Sir John Woodall, Bermuda's governor; the Right Reverend J. A. Jagoe, Bishop of Bermuda; and Col. George W. Peterson, Kindley AFB commander.

# USAF Family Features First Sergeants

## 56 Years for Three Topkicks

As first sergeants, three members of the Hart family have amassed many years of experience. Their total active Air Force service is 56 years.

The two living members of the trio are now stationed on the Pacific island of Guam—M/Sgt. Andrew J. Hart with the 54th Weather Reconnaissance squadron and M/Sgt. Harry M. Hart with the 6th Armament and Electronics squadron.

The third member was Herman Hart, father of Andrew and brother of Harry.

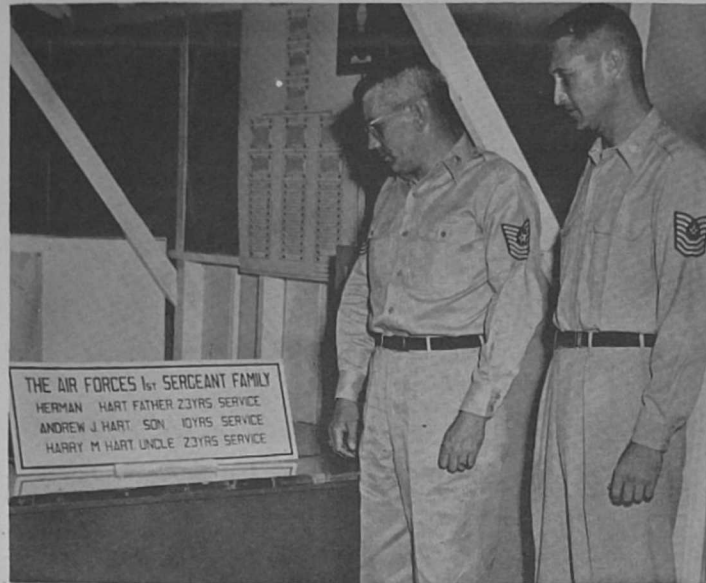
The military history of the Harts is almost synonymous with that of the Air Force. Herman Hart enlisted in 1919, when the Flying Jenny was regarded as a "hot" plane.

At that time, America's air arm was still a part of the US Army Signal Corps, its membership a mere handful of officers and enlisted men.

The younger Harts, Andrew and Harry, could talk for hours, retelling tales heard from Herman about "the good old days."

Herman Hart served 21 of his 23 service years as an enlisted man, 18 of them as a first sergeant. He was a bombardier with the rank of captain when he was killed in a mid-air collision during a storm over the Mediterranean in November 1943.

During his 23 years of service, Herman had seen the development of the Air Force from its



TWO TOPKICKS of the USAF's first-sergeant family, M/Sgt. Harry M. Hart (left) and M/Sgt. Andrew J. Hart, his nephew, look over the Air Force record of the Hart family.

earliest days. He had seen friends advance from the ranks of EM and cadets to become prominent Air Force general officers.

One of those generals, Henry "Hap" Arnold, sent a personal message of condolence to Hart's widow, now Mrs. Sally Randall of Dallas, Tex.

It was natural that Herman's son, Andrew Hart, should enter the Air Force to follow in his father's footsteps. Andrew served with the AAF in the European and North African theaters of operations during

World War II, winning seven battle stars and the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

He became first sergeant of the 54th WRS in May 1955.

Soon to complete his 23d year of active duty, Harry Hart too has had a long and varied USAF career. He took an active part in Operation Crossroads, the first atomic test in the Pacific, in 1946.

The future of the Hart family in the United States Air Force now lies to a great extent in the hands of the young sons of Andrew and Harry Hart.

Time alone will tell whether or not they will add to the long and illustrious record of the Hart family, the Air Force's first sergeant family.

## Hiawahi Recon Claims Record

The challenge to beat their dropsonde record which the 56th Weather Reconnaissance squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan, offered to all other AWS reconnaissance units has been picked up by the Hickam-based 57th WRS in Hawaii.

The 57th accepts the challenge on their record for six months ending in September 1955, which saw completion of 552 of 564 scheduled drops.

This completion average of 97.9 percent, the 57th believes, is an all-AWS record. The squadron challenges other weather reconnaissance units to match it.

During the months of May and November 1955, the 57th reports, 100 percent of scheduled drops were successfully completed.

Credit for the 57th's dropsonde record has been given to its outstanding dropsonde operators, like A/1c Robert Duval and S/Sgt. Michael W. Bichko.

Bichko completed 156 consecutive successful drops from October 1954 through November 1955. During the same period, Duval completed 139 drops.

Several other 57th operators have approached these marks. They attribute their success to professional pride and a desire to make the aircrews to which they belong the outstanding ones in the squadron.

Aircrew competition in the 57th is considered to be the result of a new squadron policy of rating the over-all proficiency of each 57th aircrew.

# Tornado Alley Sites Listed for Season

Tornado Alley assignments for mobile detachments of the 6th Weather squadron for the coming season have been listed by AWS headquarters.

Units assigned to the following locations are scheduled to make four rawinsonde runs per day. However, the number of runs and the locations may yet be changed, depending upon the number of personnel available for these duties.

During Phase I, the initial part of the tornado season, February 15 to June 30, observing units will be stationed at the following locations:

- Del Rio, Tex.
- Jackson, Miss.
- Altus, Okla.

- Bryan, Tex.
- Albany, Ga.
- Salina, Kan.
- Fort Smith, Ark.
- Memphis, Tenn.
- Knoxville, Tenn. (till May 15)
- Oklahoma City, Okla.

Phase II, from June 30 to October 31, which reflects the northward shift of tornado occurrence as the season progresses in the Great Plains area, will find units stationed at the following locations:

- Del Rio, Tex.
- Sidney, Neb.
- Huron, S. D.
- Cedar Rapids, Ia.
- Salina, Kan.
- Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Goodland, Kan.



DATA FOR DRIVE was contributed by these members of the machine section of the AWS Data Control division, Asheville, N. C. They volunteered their after-duty time to process pledge and record cards for the local United Fund drive. Machine time was donated by the International Business Machines corporation.

# New Wind Instrument at Manston

## First of New Sets for Europe

Weathermen at the Manston AB, England, detachment of the 25th Weather squadron have a new AN/GMQ-11 wind-measuring set. This is the initial installation within USAFE of the latest type of surface wind-measuring equipment.

The GMQ-11 is a fixed unit designed to provide visual indication of wind speed and direction values. The sensing element is located adjacent to the end of the runway, thus indicating as nearly as possible the exact wind factors the pilot will encounter.

Experts believe that the old exposure position near the

weather station did not always yield values indicative of the winds actually encountered on the runway.

In a recent USAF study of weather factors in aircraft accidents, it was reported that in 54 percent of accidents involving weather wind was the culprit. Most of these accidents involved cross wind and gust landings.

The sensing element of the set has an extremely low shear factor. Thus, if it is hit by a landing aircraft, it will break off easily, causing little or no damage.



WIND-MEASURING SET at Manston AB, England, is the first USAFE installation of the AN/GMQ-11. The sensing element, left, looks like an airplane itself, the tail acting as a wind vane and the "prop" recording velocity. The miniature plane is connected by an underground cable to the indicator component, inset right, located in the control tower. The two dials indicate wind direction and speed respectively.

# Goose Proficiency Gets Award

Not just one but two proficiency awards were attained last month by the weathermen at Detachment 4 of the 5th Weather group at Goose AB, Labrador. The local rawinsonde crew have nailed down the 5th Group's quarterly (rotating) Proficiency Plaque, plus the annual proficiency award.

Maj. W. P. Mellen, detachment commander, accepted the awards for his men. Col. Virgil E. Sandifer, 5th Weather group commander, wrote base commander Col. J. B. Knapp, thanking personnel of Goose AB for their support to the weather unit, which played a significant

part in the achievement of the awards.

The letter further stated, "The rawinsonde unit at your base has been the performance leader in the North Atlantic area for a period of more than a year. In spite of the handicaps due to winds and bad weather, these people have consistently been among the top units AF-wide."

Awards are made on the basis of the 5th Group's Proficiency Index and average observation height. Number of completed observations, error rate per unit and height, and total observation heights are considered in unit ratings for these awards.



"Is that your idea of a signal fire?"

## Officers Due Foreign Jobs

Bound overseas during January, February and March 1956, for duty with AWS units at locations given, will be the following weather officers:

### Majors

Melvin B. Cobb to Det 4, 15th Sq, Kadana AB, Okinawa; Victor E. Cram and Evan J. Deemer, Det 21, 31st Sq, Ramstein AB, Germany; Perry J. Emmert, Det 7, 15th Sq, Naha AB, Okinawa; Charles H. Harrison, Det 11, 31st Sq, Spungdahlen, Germany.

Charles G. Jackson to 15th Sq, Okinawa; Thomas W. Lane, 29th Sq, Tripoli; Clarence O. Seaman, Det 29, 18th Sq, Rhein-main AB, Germany; Douglas M. Sheehan, Det 2, 29th Sq, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; Howard W. Stevens, 1st Wg, Japan; Roy A. Weidman, Det 4, 5th Gp, Goose AB, Labrador.

### Captains

Albert A. Eckhoff to Det 12, 29th Sq, Tripoli; Kenneth E. Holmes, Det 28, 7th Gp, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Bennett O. Moyle, 1st Wg, Japan; John S. Rigden, 57th WRS, Hawaii.

### Lieutenants

Stuart D. Bremner to Det 8, 20th Sq, Johnson AB, Japan; Robert P. Bruns jr., 1st Wg, Japan; George S. Akers, Det 2, 31st Sq, Landstuhl AB, Germany; Harold M. Burnett, 30th Sq, Korea; Martin J. Cain jr., 1st Wg, Japan.

Herbert T. Carter to Det 6, 20th Sq, Itazuke AB, Japan; Gilbert Jager, Det 39, 20th Sq, Niigata AB, Japan; Lynn Cur-rin, 30th Sq, Korea; Arthur R. Hall, 56th WRS, Japan; Clayton L. Hogg, 1st Wg (Tokyo wea cent).

Roy L. Jenne to Det 4, 5th Gp, Goose AB, Labrador; Theodore S. Jordan, 58th WRS, Alaska; Roger E. Lakin, 56th WRS, Japan; Alvin B. Woddell-mog, Det 2, 15th Sq, Guam; Billy G. Moon, 1st Wg, Japan; John D. Morrow, Det 8, 29th Sq, Nouasseur AB, Germany; John E. Newell, Det 4, 20th Sq, Chi-tose AB, Japan.

Raymond L. Owen to Det 2, 29th Sq, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; Arthur E. Pierard, 1st Wg, Japan; Fred Powlishe, 30th Sq, Korea; Frank A. Rexroth,

## Lieutenants Doff Gold for Silver Bars

Since the last similar list was published in the Observer, the following 43 AWS officers have been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.

Unit of assignment and month of date of rank are as indicated.

### September

Robert A. Glovins, 59th WRF; Eugene J. Michalski, 59th WRF; Kenneth H. James, 25th Sq; Kenneth H. Conway, 58th WRS; Gerald D. Granger, 58th WRS; Harold H. Hicks, 6th Gp; John V. Ott, 56th WRS; Paul T. Wren, 1st Gp; Alexander Metzner, 55th WRS; Raymond L. Kuhlman, 57th WRS; and Earnest B. Wilson, 54th WRS.

### October

Harry P. Seese, 6th Gp; Kenneth R. Collins, 6th Gp; Delbert W. Litton, 6th Gp; Marvin P. Harm, 55th WRS; Russell F. Lund, 58th WRS; Ronald A. Prieto, 58th WRS; Marc L. Reid, 58th WRS; and Donnis D. Rickard, 3d Sq.

### November

Joseph Selleck, 53d WRS; Richard A. Tully, 55th WRS; John R. DePiazza, 59th WRF; Charles R. Lewis, 56th WRS; Herbert G. Ames jr., 53d WRS; Alexander Falzon, 59th WRF; Paul Morgenstern, 15th Sq; Bobbie D. Fisher, 58th WRS; Paul H. Meisner, 53d WRS; John J. Yacalavitch, 58th WRS; Charles W. Dickens, 29th Sq; George G. Main, 28th Sq; Jack L. Buckingham, 4th Sq; Bertram W. Grable, 9th Gp; and Ben G. Zastrow, 12th Sq.

### December

Richard L. Millberg, 31st Sq; Markley L. Trimble, 2d Sq; Marvin D. Kays, 12th Sq; Thomas B. Henry, 7th Gp; James S. Cameron, 28th Sq; John B. Dixon, 55th WRS; David G. Litz, 55th WRS; William S. Manning, 55th WRS; and Thom-as E. Burford, 55th WRS.

Latest date of rank for officers listed here is December 2, 1955.

54th WRS, Guam; John I. Riggs jr., Det 24, 5th Gp, Thule AB, Greenland; William E. Rodger, 59th WRF, Bermuda; Donald C. Wilfong, 30th Sq, Korea.



**BOWING OUT** for the Air Force at the National Weather Analysis center is Maj. G. B. Skinner (right), commander of the 9th Weather group's Detachment 28. In the future the NWAC will be maintained solely by US Weather Bureau personnel, represented here by Mr. A. K. Showalter, NWAC chief.

## New Courses for Officers in Data Processing To Open for Eligibles

Special advanced training programs in data processing for qualified officers have been announced for fiscal years 1956 and 1957 under the USAF Institute of Technology.

The program will qualify officers for work with electronic business data processing machines, commonly associated with Air Force International Business Machine, (IBM) installations.

Covering a period of one to two years at a civilian institution, the course will include design and development of data-processing systems, as well as installation and supervision of machine operation.

Qualifications for the course include being under 37 years

old and having a bachelor's degree in physics, engineering, mathematics, business administration, economics or statistics. There are further requirements for mathematics with each specific degree.

Degrees from service academies or an Institute of Technology resident college engineering diploma will also meet the requirements.

Some of the courses included in the program are matrix theory, theory and operation of computing machines, analog and digital computers, computer logic, operations research and advanced courses in statistics and economics.

Col. Walter F. Todd, assistant MATS comptroller, points out that this is a wonderful opportunity for qualified officers to secure training in a field which promises to play an increasingly important part in providing essential data for effective resource management.

## New Weather Career To Get New Tests

Several top AWS NCO's recently went to Mitchel AFB, N. Y., to revise 5 and 7-level tests in the weather career field.

AWS personnel officials report that this was in line with the new weather career program and was necessary to bring the tests up to date with changes in the program.

Upon arrival at Mitchel, the AWS conferees spent two days in orientation, attending lectures on the structure of good and poor test questions.

They then were separated into four teams to work on the weather equipment technician, airborne dropsonde operator, observer, and forecaster tests.

Test experts from the 2200th Test squadron worked with each team as they reviewed the old tests, wrote new questions and revised old questions that were still applicable.

Later the teams conferred with test psychologists and carefully screened all questions for correctness, importance and applicability. Not all questions submitted go into the final approved examination.

When all members did not agree on a question, it was put aside or thrown out. Many questions were necessary to allow for an adequate selection in compiling the final test.

A new study guide will be published in the near future for each AFSC, outlining the reference material used in writing the various tests. New tests are expected to be put into use early in 1956.

## Back-to-School Officers Listed

A number of AWS officers have been nominated by MATS for entry into the August 1956 class of the Armed Forces Staff College and the September 1956 class of the Air Command and Staff School, Regular Course.

Nominees for the AFSC, final selections to be announced by USAF about January 1, 1956, are as follows:

Lt Cols Charles A. Beckham, 7th Gp; Harvey P. Hall, 6th Gp; and Paul M. Huber, 3d Gp.

Nominees for the ACSS, final selections to be announced by USAF about January 30, are as follows:

Lt Cols Douglas G. Bresler, 1st Gp; Alvin B. Buck, 5th Gp; Harold D. Cooper, 7th Gp; Gene E. Drubek, 5th Gp; Fred J. Franz, 1st Gp; Stephen M. Godfrey, 2d Wg; and James E. Grant, AWS Hq.

Lt Cols Arthur F. Gustafson, AWS Hq; Harvey P. Hall, 6th Gp; Robert B. Hughes, 8th Gp; John W. Kodis, 2d Wg; William A. Pope, 1st Wg; James W. Walker, 1st Wg; and Loran A. Weaver, 2d Gp.

Majors James R. Anderson, 1st Wg; Harold A. Bedient, 9th Gp; Laurel E. Boline, 7th Gp; Chandler R. Brown, 2d Wg; Winton C. Brown, 1st Wg; Joseph E. French, 2d Gp; Robert E. Hairston, 3d Gp; and Richard P. George, 1st Wg.

Majors William E. Gifford, 1st Wg; Robert L. Kane, AWS Hq; Irving L. Kuehnast, 8th Gp; James L. Lee, 2d Gp; Reed W. Lutz, 5th Gp; Francis McGiv-erin, 9th Gp; Russell G. McGrew, 2d Wg; and Carr L. Miller, 2d Gp.

Majors Carl D. Mitchell, 1st Wg; Charles H. Partridge, 2d Wg; Walter L. Records, 3d Gp; Jerome Reiss, 3d Gp; Orin W. Stopinski, 4th Gp; Lee E. Stubblefield, AWS Hq; Raymond J. Teliczan, 8th Gp; and Eugene Tiddy, 7th Gp.

Majors Charles D. Turner, 7th Gp; Brent F. Walker, 3d Gp; Ralph G. Wallace, AWS Hq; Merle P. B. Woodall, 5th Gp; Robert E. Wright, AWS Hq; Leonard E. Zapinski, 1st Wg; and Serafino S. Zungoli, 2d Wg.



**INTERNATIONAL GIFT** was presented to A/1c Martin Goerg on a handball court by young Japanese members of the Tokyo YMCA. Goerg received the encased Kabuki doll in recognition of his sportsmanship and promotion of Japanese-American friendship. He was recently reassigned from 1st Weather wing to Detachment 28, 9th Weather group.



**SUCCESS LADDER** climbers at the 15th Weather sq's Detachment 2 are six-year reenlistees (l. to r.) T/Sgt. Morris C. Smith, A/2c John D. Strange, Roy D. Homer jr., and Jack R. Miller and A/1c Hoyt E. Hart. Five of Detachment 2's 30 airmen reupped during the past two months.

# Pibal in the Corner Pocket

By Mack Risner

AWS ATHLETES are making their presence known on many Air Force installations. At Stewart AFB, N.Y., the 12th Wea sq is in first place in the base bowling league, and has an excellent chance for copping the base championship. To date, the squadron keglers have rolled the high single game and the highest 3-game series in the league.

THE THUNDERHEADS of 1st Wea hq combined a safety and a touchdown to beat the highly favored Operations sq at Offutt AFB, Neb., to take the touch football crown.

Boasting a team that was undefeated, untied and unscored on, the Operations team was outplayed by the lighter but more aggressive weathermen.

Dominating play in the entire game, the Thunderheads constantly threatened to increase their margin of victory. Except for a pass interception that was run back for a touchdown, the Operations crew was bottled up by the tough Thunderhead defense. Leading the Weather offense was quarterback Glenn Groves, who tossed a touchdown pass to halfback Bill Whatley for the 1st gp tally.

Representing Offutt AFB, they captured the Northern District title of the Great Plains conference. The Thunderheads played Ellsworth AFB, S.D., in the Great Plains tourney, extending Ellsworth to the limit, finally losing 13-12 in an overtime period.

THERE'S AN UNUSUAL STORY of an airman in the 54th WRS at Anderson AFB, Guam. As a young boy, he used to dream, as little boys do, of being on the US Olympic squad.

Henry S. Pflanz didn't know exactly which sport to compete in, but the thrill of winning an Olympic Gold Medal is one of many boys' dreams. But then his dream dimmed, with the realization that he was only one of a million or more who had the same dream.

He grew up—as most boys do—and joined the USAF. During his basic training, his dream was revived. One phase of his training was judo. Judo, a major sport in Japan, isn't well known in the US and there aren't many experts of the art in the entire country. Pflanz found the sport interesting and he studied with determination.

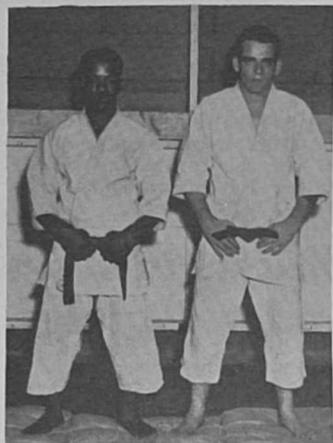
There was an opening for a judo instructor at Bergstrom AFB, Tex.; he applied for and got the job. While teaching, he learned more, and soon there weren't many who excelled him.

Last March he entered the 8th AF judo tourney, winning third place. It was apparent to the judges that Pflanz deserved a higher classification than the one he had; namely, the green belt. (Different colored belts denote the varying degrees of proficiency in judo.) He passed the test and was promoted to the brown belt.

Shortly thereafter, he was assigned to the 54th WRS, where he continued his training and practice.

The ending to this story hasn't been written yet. Sometime early next year, the Far East judo tourney will be held. After that, the national meet in the US. The four finalists in the national will wear the red, white and blue for the US team in the 1956 Olympics, although (we understand) judo is not yet an official Olympic event.

The road to the top is long and difficult but, who knows, it may be that Henry Pflanz will mount the center stand of the winner's circle to receive the olive wreath and gold medal. It has happened before. It could happen again.



BROWN BELT-wearing judo experts with the 54th WRS are (l. to r.) A/2c Ira Wade and A/3c Henry Pflanz.



COMMENDATION RIBBON is presented to CWO Jimmy P. Hayes by Col. Russell K. Pierce, commander of the 3d Weather group at Ent AFB, Colo. An inspector for the AWS group, Mr. Hayes was awarded the ribbon for recent service as a forecaster for the 1st Weather wing in Tokyo, Japan.

## New Rawin High Claimed

Shouts of glee have reached the Observer office from the men of the rawinsonde section of Detachment 12, 29th Weather squadron, at Wheelus field, Tripoli.

Their reason for elation: in October their runs averaged 98,789 feet, with the best run going up to 140,296 feet.

The best record previously noted for units of the 2d Weather wing, reported by the Observer in the September issue, was made by Detachment 8 of the 31st Weather squadron at Chamount AB, France. Their

score was a 95,000-foot average in July and a claim of one run over 141,000 feet.

M/Sgt. Glidewell, rawin NCOIC until recently, found his section pretty low on the totem pole. But that was before a new shipment of balloons arrived. With the new equipment, the rawinsonde section soon racked up the impressive average.

Wheelus field observers now claim the 2d Wing record for monthly average height of runs and challenge other AWS units to beat their score.



SMILING WINNER of the 59th Weather Reconnaissance flight's naming contest for their new WB-50 was Mr. Cyril Smith jr., who submitted the name "Bermuda Sufshine" and a poem to go along with it.

## AWS Tops All In Reenlistment

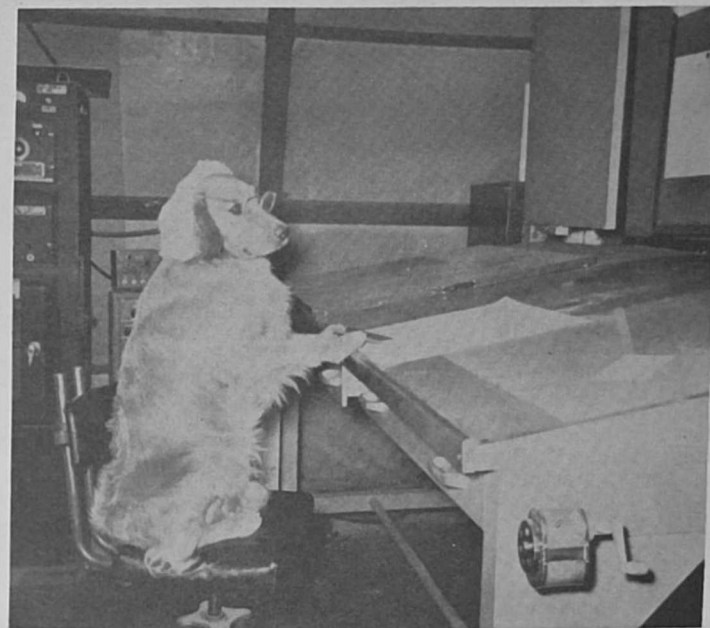
This month when MATS headquarters released the figures on final reenlistment rates for July, Air Weather Service came out smelling like a rose.

AWS racked up a whopping 49% against 44% for MATS and 42% USAF wide. The AWS rate broke down to 29% for first-termers and 85% for career airmen. An even 100 men reenlisted out of 204 eligibles during the month of July.

This AWS high tops any rate recorded for fiscal year 1955 by AWS, MATS or USAF.

Initial data on reenlistment for October was also released and showed AWS with 40% against the MATS initial rate of 38% towards the USAF estimated final rate of 42%.

Since AWS started with an initial rate of 39% for July, the final rate may well set another record in October.



ON-THE-JOB TRAINEE caught in a candid pose at Detachment 6 of the 7th Weather group in Alaska indicates no personnel problems there.

## Weathermen Due For Overseas Assignments

The following Air Weather Service personnel, from the organizations listed, have been alerted for overseas shipment during January, February and March 1956:

### Warrant Officers

WOJG Owen L. Palms, 1st Gp; WOJG James L. Hinds, 3d Gp; WOJG John J. Zimmerman jr., 9th Gp; CWO Orien Benton, 8th Gp; WOJG Donald J. Rowinski, 3d Gp; WOJG John D. Newhouse, 8th Gp; WOJG Ernest L. Cooper jr., 3d Gp; CWO Alfred D. Ritter, 1st Gp; and WOJG Eugene W. Wiggins, 2d Gp.

### Airmen

S/Sgt R. W. Agee, 12th Sq; S/Sgt H. G. Blanks, 3d Sq; T/Sgt H. C. Boker, 6th Gp; A/1c R. R. Campbell, 12th Sq; T/Sgt T. K. Carlisle, 25th Sq; T/Sgt J. A. Christie, 24th Sq; S/Sgt L. H. Cline, 4th Gp; S/Sgt L. DeAnda, 16th Sq; S/Sgt D. D. Dodson, 3d Sq.

S/Sgt T. B. Dowlearn, 9th Sq; A/1c L. F. Farkas, 6th Gp; S/Sgt W. C. Fischer, 26th Sq; T/Sgt P. F. Goldworm, 3d Gp; T/Sgt W. C. Gustafson, 6th Gp; S/Sgt D. E. Hayes, 3d Sq; S/Sgt G. L. Hiney, 9th Sq; S/Sgt A. E. Kolp, 19th Sq; S/Sgt J. J. Latham, 6th Gp.

S/Sgt P. A. Guba Jr., 9th Gp; S/Sgt A. F. Zarate, 12th Sq; S/Sgt R. W. Manning, 4th Sq; S/Sgt E. A. McCartney, 4th Sq; T/Sgt C. B. Minton, 3d Sq; T/Sgt D. S. Nickle, 25th Sq; A/2c P. Nizza, 12th Sq; S/Sgt R. S. Pack, 9th Gp; T/Sgt E. O. Peay, 25th Sq.

S/Sgt H. C. Rice, 12th Sq; T/Sgt I. C. Rodriguez, 6th Gp; A/2c F. M. Sanders, 12th Sq; A/2c J. Smith, 9th Sq; S/Sgt D. C. Spangler, 9th Sq; S/Sgt K. Thompson, 3d Sq; S/Sgt N.

G. Wiley, 19th Sq; S/Sgt C. W. Wollard, 2d Gp; S/Sgt R. A. Zippon, 4th Sq.

M/Sgt T. R. Arant, 25th Sq; T/Sgt J. T. Barrett, 8th Gp; M/Sgt A. A. Brown, 1st Gp; S/Sgt A. S. Burkett, 9th Gp; T/Sgt G. V. Costello, 3d Sq; M/Sgt B. G. Hance, 8th Gp; T/Sgt R. R. Hayward, 2d Gp; T/Sgt D. B. Hyde, 8th Gp; M/Sgt N. H. Jensen, 3d Gp.

M/Sgt W. S. Johns, 1st Gp; M/Sgt R. Kirkpatrick, 3d Gp; M/Sgt V. B. Larger, 2d Gp; T/Sgt R. F. MacKenzie, 3d Gp; M/Sgt F. D. Mastin, 2d Gp; S/Sgt C. R. Miles, 2d Gp; T/Sgt V. Noll, 2d Gp; M/Sgt A. J. Paonessa, 12th Sq; T/Sgt J. A. Polston, 2d Gp.

M/Sgt M. F. Pugh, 2d Gp; M/Sgt E. D. Revis, 1st Gp; T/Sgt J. Simkulet, 12th Sq; M/Sgt B. G. Steiding, 9th Gp; S/Sgt J. P. Buchanan, 19th Sq; T/Sgt D. E. Crosby, 6th Gp; T/Sgt D. M. Davis, 3d Gp; M/Sgt C. E. Mertensotto, 3d Gp; T/Sgt H. F. Swords, 12th Sq.

M/Sgt R. D. Thobe, 1st Gp; M/Sgt W. W. Thom, 3d Gp; S/Sgt R. L. Troyer, 9th Sq; T/Sgt A. B. West, 2d Gp; M/Sgt E. A. Anderson, 6th Sq; M/Sgt J. D. Collins, 4th Gp; S/Sgt F. E. Dahlke, 4th Sq; M/Sgt P. H. Eyclesheimer, 9th Gp; S/Sgt K. D. Fay, 6th Gp.

T/Sgt R. R. Felton, 4th Gp; S/Sgt J. A. Graham, 6th Sq; S/Sgt P. L. Hart, 3d Gp; T/Sgt G. O. Hopkins, 8th Gp; T/Sgt J. N. Jackson, 4th Gp; M/Sgt R. W. Kalbfleisch, 12th Sq; T/Sgt C. D. Mustain, 4th Sq; M/Sgt K. McKay, 12th Sq; M/Sgt W. T. McKay, 4th Gp.

T/Sgt S. O'Hara, 6th Gp; T/Sgt D. R. Piscitelli, 6th Sq; T/Sgt B. W. Smith, 6th Gp; M/Sgt E. P. Stoll, 4th Sq; T/Sgt W. J. Baylin, 2d Gp; T/Sgt E. Magnason, 12th Sq; S/Sgt J. E. Sanderson, 4th Gp; M/Sgt W. G. Smiley, 9th Gp; A/2c J. C. Terry, 8th Sq.

M/Sgt C. W. Vester, 9th Sq; T/Sgt J. G. Williamson, 11th Sq; M/Sgt G. A. Speer.

### SEND THE OBSERVER HOME

Fold and Fasten

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

From \_\_\_\_\_

TO \_\_\_\_\_