

Absentee Ballot Time Draws Near; States Release Voting Information

Election Dates Listed For New Hampshire, Minnesota, Louisiana

Revised Air Force publications on voting information, USAF headquarters reports, may not be distributed in time for personnel to secure and vote absentee ballots in primary elections in Louisiana, Minnesota and New Hampshire.

Following voting information is based on a message from USAF headquarters.

Plea to Return Radiosondes Is Now Paying Off

Approximately 83,000 of the taxpayers' dollars were saved during the first 11 months of 1955 by the program to recover and rehabilitate radiosondes for reuse by AWS.

Latest countdown on the project indicates that 4,500 of the instruments were repaired and returned to stock during that period.

Repair costs for a recovered radiosonde average out at \$11.45 per instrument. New radiosondes cost about \$30 each.

Each radiosonde recovered and repaired for reuse represents a saving to the Air Force of around \$18.55, nearly two-thirds of the cost of a new instrument.

Approximately 135 radiosondes are released daily throughout the year by AWS within the US. During the first four months of last year, eight percent of these were being recovered.

During the seven-month period from May through November 1955, the percentage increased to a 13 percent rate of radiosonde recovery.

AWS materiel officials are hopeful that the recovery rate will ultimately rise to 25 percent, which would save the Air Force nearly \$228,000 annually.

The Observer regretfully reports the death of the following Air Weather Service personnel:

A/2c Edwin A. Bunn, Detachment 9, 25th Weather Squadron, on December 31, of injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Pope AFB, N. C.

Bird Colonel Promotions Due For Select Few Weathermen

Selected for promotion to the temporary grade of colonel on the list released by USAF headquarters early this month were nine present and former AWS officers.

Selected individuals and effective dates of promotion are as follows:

AWS headquarters—Hazen H. Bedke, Feb. 24.

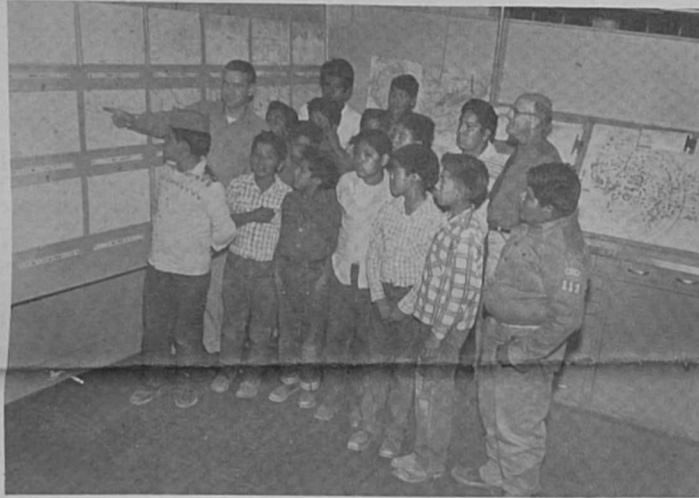
1st Group—Ralph G. Suggs, Feb. 24.

3d Group—Arthur W. Anderson, Mar. 6.

Louisiana—Primary will be held January 17 to nominate governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, state superintendent of public education, registrar of state land office and commissioner of agriculture. State Central committee members are also to be elected in this primary. Runoff will be held February 21.

Minnesota—Presidential primary will be held March 20 for party nominations for President and Vice-President of the US and delegates to the national conventions.

New Hampshire—Presidential primary and constitutional convention election will be held March 13 to elect delegates and alternate delegates at large and district delegates to the national conventions. Constitutional amendments will also be proposed.



MODERN INDIAN SCOUTS (of the Boy Scouts of America variety) from the Pima tribe, Bapchule, Ariz., and their scoutmaster, Prince Turner, are conducted on a tour of a base weather station by WO Leonard R. Scheppe. The weather station is at Williams AFB, Ariz., operated by Detachment 15 of the 16th Weather Squadron.

Tornado Conference Meets

Last month members of AWS participated in a three-day US Weather Bureau tornado conference held in Washington, D. C.

Severe-weather experts from throughout the country gathered at the National Science Foundation to outline next steps in studying the cyclonic storms that plague the Great Plains region each tornado season.

The Weather Bureau, which expects to initiate a large-scale

study project on tornadoes, asked conferees to consider the exact type of data needed. Further research will be based upon data gathered as a result of their recommendations.

AWS has a large share in the collection of observations on tornadoes and tornadic conditions. The weather net maintained by the 6th Weather Squadron for its Severe Weather Warning center at Tinker AFB, Okla., represents a large part of US facilities devoted to this work.

Maj. Robert C. Miller, SWWC officer-in-charge, presented a paper before the conference on tornado-forecasting methods in use by the AWS warning center. Weathermen of the 6th Squadron are generally acknowledged as pioneers in operational forecasting of severe weather conditions.

USWB is considering use of aircraft in gathering data for severe-weather forecasting, as well as extended use of radar, reports Frank Lewis of the AWS scientific services directorate, who attended the conference.

AIR WEATHER SERVICE

OBSERVER

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January 1956

Retrospect View of AWS Sees Changes and Advances in 1955 Accomplishments Are Recorded

Air Weather Service began 1955 in a familiar but unusual manner. On January 3, months before the annual hurricane season was due to begin, a Bermuda-based plane of the 59th WRF made the year's first hurricane penetration by flying into Hurricane Alice, a freak Caribbean storm.

Before 1955 ended, AWS reconnaissance units had flown an estimated 59,126 hours, tracking hurricanes and typhoons and reporting weather data from south of Bermuda to north of Alaska, across the broad Pacific and Atlantic oceans and throughout the world in the US, Europe and Asia.

AWS flying outfits followed regular weather tracks across barren wastelands and trackless seas, ferreting out weather where it brews. They flew the hurricane and typhoon routes, entering the violent storms to gain data which helped forecasters to predict the paths of the tropical storms.

In 1955 recon units spent more than six years in the air, flew 3,990 weather missions for almost 12 million miles, making more than 95,000 weather observations on their aerial reconnaissance flights.

Tailwinds Harnessed

A joint MATS-AWS test project was completed in the Pacific. Called Operation Tailwind, it enabled MATS aircraft to harness the fast winds of the jet stream which flows across the Pacific.

Using techniques of minimal flight planning, normally scheduled MATS flights from Tokyo to Honolulu were able to bypass Midway island, usually a refueling point, and proceed nonstop to Hawaii. Such flights depend upon a favorable weather forecast and adequate tailwinds.

In 1955 nearly 300,000 observers of the Ground Observer Corps (GOC) began an extensive skywatch for weather, spotting tornadoes and other severe weather in conjunction with AWS. GOC aid in data gathering helped to increase the accuracy of tornado warnings issued by the AWS Severe Weather

Warning center at Tinker AFB, Okla.

Atom Test Supported

In March 1955, AWS assembled one of the most complete weather-support organizations ever set up for atomic test work during the series of nuclear weapons tests at the Nevada proving ground. An important aspect of atomic test work, accurate weather information is considered to be vital in the determination of direction and intensity of shock and blast waves and the subsequent radioactive fallout.

Tropical weather was the subject of an extensive research project in the Pacific, concluded in June 1955. Using data gathered in tropical areas, a manual was published to summarize the project work.

This AWS manual is a step-by-step weather recipe book, designed to give forecasters a working outline of tropical weather analysis, with particular reference to the Pacific ocean area.

Electronics and Weather

In May 1955 an electronic weatherman opened the door to a new concept in weather forecasting, in what meteorologists say is the most significant advance in weather prediction in the past 30 years. A giant "electronic brain," an IBM data-processing machine, began turning out daily pressure charts at the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction unit (JNWP) at Suitland, Md.

A joint effort of AWS, Navy Aerology and Weather Bureau, JNWP represents an entirely new approach to weather forecasting. Precise mathematical formulas, dealing with the dynamics of the earth's atmosphere, are the basis of the numerical prediction system.

Stalking a tropical hurricane at night was accomplished for the first time on record by the AWS hurricane hunters in August 1955. A WB-29 of the 59th WRF made a night penetration of Hurricane Connie.

In earlier years, daylight penetrations only were made, but future hurricane reconnaissance

(Continued on page 2)

Golden Oak Leaves Turn to Silver For 11 New Lieutenant Colonels

Eleven AWS officers have been selected for promotion to the temporary grade of lieutenant colonel. Individuals and effective dates of promotions are as follows:

AWS headquarters—John C. Scales, Mar. 2.

1st Wing—Donald E. Martin, Apr. 19.

2d Wing—Charles T. Hight, Jan. 16; Charles D. McCarty, Mar. 27.

1st Group—Roland Rogers, Apr. 26.

2d Group—Melvin Weinstein, Jan. 12.

3d Group—Richard C. Suehr, Dec. 27, 1955.

4th Group—Arthur M. Longacre, Dec. 27.

5th Group—William P. Mellen, Dec. 28.

7th Group—Harold C. Banks, Jan. 30.

9th Group—Philip D. Thompson, Apr. 3.



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Masterhead designed by Boykin A. Glover, MATS Hq.

Money from Home

Like money from home.

Like finding money in the streets.

That was the way the subscription-hungry Observer staff greeted the new AFR 190-7, which authorizes the use of appropriated funds for publishing base and command newspapers.

It was a bright hope that soon died to a faint flicker (for the present, at least) when we learned that the needed funds, although authorized, would not be available for many, many months.

The catch is that the Observer needs the money now.

Subscription renewal time is near at hand for many Air Weather Service units. If you have enjoyed the Observer and want it to continue publication, we earnestly request that you seriously consider ordering not less than one subscription for every four people in your organization.

And as many more as you possibly can!

We ask individuals to consider the "letter-home" possibilities of an Observer subscription. Buy the AWS newspaper, read it and mail it off to the folks at home. They're interested in AWS because you're in it.

For your convenience, page five of this issue carries an individual subscription blank. Clip it, fill it out, stick a dollar bill to it and mail it in.

Keep the Observer alive. (JDR)



BEST LEGS since Dietrich's is what they're calling the flashing, dashing underpinnings of Paramount's gamin star, Shirley MacLaine. Who's arguing? See her in "The Trouble with Harry" and Martin and Lewis' latest, "Artists and Models."

ON THE skew-T AWS Global Report

At Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland, T/Sgt Jim Economy was named base NCO of the month for November. Sgt Economy is personnel sergeant major for 5th Wea gp hq.

Lt Kenneth L. Peterson, 54th WRS navigator, has found Guam an island of bliss—marital bliss, that is. Peterson, 22, recently married Nancy Fish, 21, daughter of M/Sgt and Mrs. James B. Fish.

All arriving and departing personnel of the 57th WRS at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, receive flower leis and an "aloha" from the AWS squadron.

At Burtonwood, England, 53d WRS recently entertained a group of RAF officers from Aldergrove, representatives of an RAF meteorological reconnaissance squadron. Differences in methods and equipment were discussed.

S/SGT David D. Nelsen, 31st Wea sq, at Ramstein AB, Germany, won a scholarship from Maryland U. for outstanding achievement in the off-duty education program. The scholarships are the first in USAFE to be awarded by Maryland. Sgt Nelsen maintained a straight-A average in his first five courses.

M/Sgt Wesley W. Gifford, editor of Ptarmigan Tips, 58th WRS newspaper at Eielson AFB, Alaska, was interviewed on KFAR-TV. Interview concerned work of the 58th, duties of 58th personnel and interest of the civilian community in activities at Eielson.

The 2d Wea gp, recently busy with Exercise Sage Brush, as well as providing weather support for the maneuvers, has undertaken to compile a booklet recording the weatherman's role in the war games. The group ISO, 2d Lt Karl S. Sheffield, husband of Miss AWS of 1956, is preparing the record after a hectic week in the woods getting pictures of the weathermen at work under combat conditions.

In Hawaii the 57th WRS reportedly stole the show at the Maui county fair with its weather exhibits. The weather officer and two airmen manning the displays were called upon by the interested residents to answer many questions. Current weather observations from the Petrel-Fox trot weather track were received and plotted right at the fairgrounds.

AWS in 1955

(Continued from page 1)

will be performed by a flight into the storm center every six hours.

In September 1955 the first Boeing WB-50 Superfort, later christened "Bermuda Sunshine" in a formal ceremony at Kindley AFB, was put into operation by the Bermuda weather flyers.

Slated to replace the war-weary WB29 throughout AWS, the WB-50 with its longer range will allow AWS to lengthen its weather routes by as much as 850 miles. Greater cruising speed of the 50s will permit completion of the longer tracks in about the same time now needed for the shorter routes.

With the WB-50 on duty, AWS expects an increased capability in meeting its mission of providing accurate and timely weather support to US Air Force and Army units on duty throughout the world.

It Ain't Easy

by Andy

The Case for Communicatory Clarity

Uncle Samuel's Armed Forces is the business end of a whumping big stick that is the last hope of a world that seeks freedom, peace and prosperity. To maintain this threat to aggression, billions of dollars are spent annually for the ever-changing impedimenta of war.

However, in the age of atomic pencil sharpeners, jet-propelled First Sergeants and seven-course K-rations, we are still, ironically enough, coddling at our bosom a Neanderthal monster that all but threatens to strangle our fighting machine.

I refer to the ambiguous drool known as "military correspondence."

The Air University schools have long been battling the dreadful tangle of passive voice and third-personitis that manages to sneak into every military message, whether it's the new squadron list of latrine orderlies or instructions on how to fly a WB-50.

In civilian life, a business letter might read as follows:

Sam McClutchbutt
Ajax Nuts and Bolts

Dear Sam:

Regret to tell you, Old Bean, that the last batch of cotter pins received from you wouldn't hold up the knickers on my three-month-old baby, let alone keep the wheels from falling off a B-50. Get on the ball, Sam, and recheck your specifications or switch over to making bobby pins, a commodity which I can do without.

Love to Flossie and the kids,

Harry

The same message written by the military would read as follows: Tolerance, non-compliance (etc., etc., for ½ page)

1. It is the carefully considered opinion of this office that the recent shipment of AF Stock No. 295-905-4994A, Cotter Pin, M-1, unassembled, color: blue, ordered under contract 19404-89-47LB, dated 7 June 1919, as amended by AF Regulation 76-6, dated 5 May 1949, Subj: "Nuts and Bolts," which was rescinded by Dept of Def circ B-93-18, dated 7 June 1951, has not fallen within the tolerance of limits specified under contract 98-659-98, dated 12 June 1951, as amended.

2. It is respectfully requested by the undersigned that these component parts indigenous to the peripheral assembly be retooled to within one-millionth of a subometer, in order to comply with the rigid tolerance specifications demanded of this equipment—an integral part of a weapon that is instrumental in the prosecution of the Air Force's assigned mission; i.e., defending the limitless skies against attack from any instrument of destruction which may be conceived by any agency possessing ulterior designs on this country.

/s/ John Q. Malarkey, Capt
for ULYSSES P. MacSWOON
Major, USAF
acting for
*Sam Smith, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Requirements and Tolerance
*On 6 months TDY to Garmisch

In spite of new regulations, policy guidance and schooling to the contrary, this double-talk persists in all echelons of the service. According to psychologists, it stems from man's hesitancy to stick his neck out by signing his John Henry to anything that anyone can understand.

There is hope, however, that one day the dawn will come. We recently received a letter from an airman who had been indoctrinated in the new school:

Dear Observer Editor:

Of all the journalistic throwbacks and literary midgets, you win the cement bicycle. I have seen better writing on the bedroom walls of my mentally retarded three-year-old. Please take my subscription to your fish-wrapper and shove it.

/s/ Sgt. K. P. Jones

Now it's easy to see by the above message that our degobbledegook program is beginning to pay off. There is very little double-meaning, ambiguity or fogging of the issue. Sergeant Jones doesn't call a spade a "broad, slightly concave blade of iron with a wooden appendage for digging in the soil," Sergeant Jones calls a spade a spade.

America's greatest secret weapon may well be in the field of guided missiles, nuclear power or electronics. Our guess is that it will be a good dependable gobbledegook eliminator, which would easily win hands-down in all fields. We say a big round cheer for Basic Airman Jones. His clear, concise message may well toll the approach of the new Air Force concept of "jet-propelled thinking."

A Century of AWS Service

Exactly two centuries of Federal service, precisely one half of it with the Air Weather Service, was represented by eight AWS civilian employees who received 20-year service pins this month from the AWS commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman jr., at a ceremony in his office.

Honored were Guy A. Culbert (21 years) who entered the Signal Corps weather service in December 1934; Ralph H. Ferrell (over 20 years), with AWS since

January 1942; Edwin W. Curtis (24 years), with AWS since June 1942.

Mary E. McCarthy (27 years), with AWS since November 1942; Frank C. Muth (25 years), with AWS since February 1943; Dr. Woodrow C. Jacobs (over 24 years), with AWS since June 1942; Richard H. Mills (over 28 years), with AWS since April 1948; and Margaret M. Hetrick (over 29 years), with AWS since December 1949.

Figures in parentheses indicate total Federal service.

Report on Sage Brush

Weathermen in Field Get Combat Practice

An Observer Feature

By S/Sgt. Robert G. McCartney

All US Army Photographs

Weathermen in the woods during October and November last year supported the largest combined Air Force and Army maneuver since World War II. Under the command of General O. P. Weyland, boss of the Tactical Air Command, 100,000 Army troops and 30,000 airmen turned the hills of western Louisiana into a practice battleground.

The larger air operational area extended from Florida to Texas, encompassing 14 states and some 35 air bases. TDY for the exercise were 129 weathermen, from AWS units throughout the world, who were assigned within the ground operational area. In addition, more than 500 AF weathermen at bases within the air area sup-

ported the exercise from their regular station assignments.

The 2d Weather group, commanded by Col. George E. Rath, provided weather support for the exercise from its advanced headquarters at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. A special weather center was set up at the Maneuver Director's headquarters for the over-all exercise.

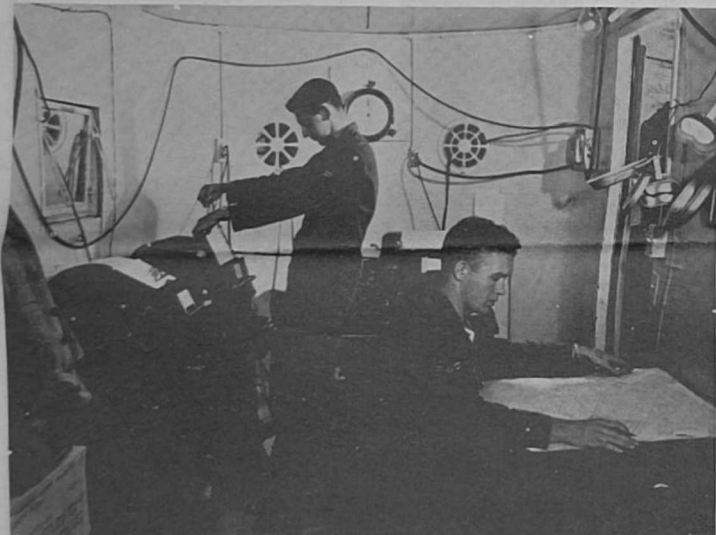
There were also tactical weather squadrons supporting the US and Aggressor forces, a special weather unit with the US forces' III Corps, supporting the Army unit, and another squadron providing weather information for the airborne phase of the operation.

Weather information was relayed from the weather center to both the US and Aggressor weather squadrons, where it was processed for use by the respective joint operation centers.

Each of the tactical squadrons operated in the field as a mobile combat unit. Tents, communi-



HOT WEATHER NEWS comes through the mobile weather communications van at US friendly forces headquarters. A/2c Michael O'Sullivan of Victoria, Tex., Detachment 28, 9th Group, rushes to deliver the data to the forecaster on duty.



USAF WEATHERMEN and communicators work hand in hand at Exercise Sage Brush to bring timely weather data to US Air Force and Army operational units. Here in an AWS mobile weather van, A/2c John Storyka of Cleveland, Ohio, Detachment 32, 9th Group, takes weather data from the teletype while A/2c Cecil Williams jr. of Zachary, La., Detachment 4, 25th Squadron, plots the information on the weather map.



HOT OFF THE WIRE, sequences are posted by A/2c William L. Scales of Monterey, Calif., Detachment 5, 4th Group, a weather observer with the 33d Tactical Weather squadron, which supported US friendly forces during Sage Brush.



FORECASTER 2d Lt. Peter C. Freudenthal of Massapequa, N. Y., 5th Group, prepares his forecast from the weather map. The desk at which he works is a special field weather table which folds into a compact unit for easy moving.



Col. George E. Rath, commander of the 2d Weather group.

expansion of its scope and accuracy.

"It is through such practical trials as these maneuvers that we learn to provide the best possible service to our air and ground units," concluded the colonel.

No man, I suspect, ever lived long in the country without being bitten by meteorological ambitions. He likes to be hotter and colder, to have been more deeply snowed up, to have more trees and larger blown down than his neighbors. —James Russell Lowell.

cations vans and lots of cold weather provided a realistic taste of life in the field.

Exercise Sage Brush was the first full-scale maneuver in which simulated atomic weapons were used. Implications of these new weapons are of extreme importance to the AF weatherman, who is called upon to supply accurate surface-data forecasts for use with these special weapons.

Colonel Rath pointed out, "The weathermen participating in this exercise learned just as much about how to do their job better in the future as the other operational units at Sage Brush."

The colonel continued by emphasizing that the ever-increasing capabilities of aircraft and weapons demand that the science of meteorology keep pace in the



"I still say this ain't what they meant by close weather support!"



FINAL MAN in the flow of weather data, Maj. Chester H. Bowers of Fort Wayne, Ind., 2d Wing, studies the information he has received from the supporting weather squadron. The major will brief commanders of friendly forces on how the weather will fit in with their operations.

Weathermen Earn Kudos



TOP GIVERS in the annual base charity fund drive at Grandview AFB, Mo., were the personnel of the 19th Weather squadron headquarters and Detachment 19-1. First-place trophy is presented to Lt. Col. Everett J. Cartwright (right), 19th Squadron commander, by Col. Richard L. Weltzin, Grandview AFB commander.

Pic Review Sees AWS Gets Much Applause



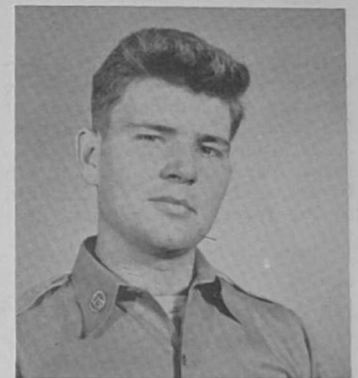
OPERATION INTELLECT award goes to the 31st Weather squadron at Ramstein AB, Germany, for having the highest percentage of personnel participating in off-duty educational programs within the 2d Weather wing. Lt. Col. Clarence E. Roache jr., 31st commander, (left) accepts the trophy from Col. James T. Seaver jr., 2d Wing commander.



WITH A BIG SMILE, A/1c Bernardette C. Skolny of the 4th Weather squadron receives the Airman-of-the-Month award for Hamilton AFB, Calif., from Lt. Col. Robert A. Taylor, 4th Squadron commander. Airman Skolny is chief clerk of the squadron's operations section, where her duties are meteorological as well as clerical.



TOP CREW IN THE 56th WRS logs 104 hours without a single late takeoff or abort for a whole month. The maintenance crew, bottom to top, are M/Sgt. Robert A. Andre, A/2c John R. Zieniewicz, A/1c William E. Newsted jr., A/2c Robert A. Carley, A/1c Ambrose Blasich jr., A/2c John M. Clark and A/3c Joseph B. Zepko



TOPS at the 56th WRS is A/1c Robert D. Chapman, named as airman of the month at the Japan-based unit. Airman Chapman was chosen by an NCO board on the basis of his job performance and military efficiency.



TOP AIRMAN in the 54th Weather Reconnaissance squadron was A/1c John W. Wilson, who works in squadron supply. Wilson recently won the Airman of the Month award at the Guam-based typhoon-chasing unit.



AIRMAN WINNER in the MATS Flying Safety poster contest, A/2c Leonard L. Komblevitz, formerly of the 30th Weather squadron in Korea, receives the second-place gold statuette from Lt. Gen. Joseph Smith, MATS commander. Following a Christmas leave, Winner Komblevitz reported for duty with the 2d Weather squadron's Detachment 20 at Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Career Change Moves Ahead

December was the month for career field revisions for all weather airmen and warrant officers. Some AWS units have already completed the conversion within their own organizations, AWS personnel officials report.

Instructions from AWS headquarters specify that reassignment actions necessary as a result of the conversion were not to be effected until the first of the month.

Although primary and duty AFSC's will both be awarded during conversion to the new career system and entered on the airman's record, airmen will continue in current assignments pending any necessary reassignment action.



TORNADO ALLEY observers T/Sgts. James J. Eldringhoff (center) and John Graham (right) receive letters of appreciation for their performance during the 1955 season at their severe weather warning lookout posts. Presenting the awards is Lt. Col. Bernard Pusin, commander of the 6th Weather squadron whose mobile units support the tornado operations.

The OBSERVER Spotlights



Detachment 4 15th Weather Squadron

By Maj. Robert E. Fuerst
15th Weather Squadron

You're Sergeant Joe Dryday of Homicide. The phone rings, You blank your cigaret and reach for the receiver.

"Joe, this is Dan at the Center. We've just found out there's a killer on the loose."

"Where?"

"Someplace down in the south-east."

"Any clues?"

"No, but we've got a couple of boys out looking for him. By the way, remember that idea we talked about last . . . ?"

"Later, Dan. All I want now is the facts. Just the facts, man."

You hang up. Nervously you pull out another cigaret and light it. A killer on the loose! Down in the southeast—there's a lot of empty space out there. Your job?

Track the killer!

That in a sense describes the unique mission of the weathermen at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa. The most important single task of the weather people there, the job that makes their station different from most others, is the observing and forecasting of weather associated with killer storms tagged "typhoon."

As weathermen know, the hurricane of the Atlantic and the typhoon of the Pacific are one and the same storm, despite the different names at the two places. And if you're on Okinawa with Detachment 4, 15th Weather Squadron, you stand more chance of going through one than you do at any other AWS station in the world.

About 15 to 20 typhoons smash through the Far East each year. Four of them are almost certain to affect Okinawa and, of these, two are almost a sure thing to blast the island with a direct hit.

"In August of 1954," recalls A/1c Mario Mendez, records checker at Kadena's weather sta-

tion, "Typhoon Grace passed directly over us. The barograph trace ran off the bottom of the paper.

"We were in the eye for nine hours—it was a remarkable change from the lashing winds and driving rain and noise."

According to Mendez, the rain was so concentrated that observers' faces were beaten to a red flush as wind drove rain horizontally at unbelievable speed.

is AWS's smallest, yet it extends over an area larger than the United States. And, in all this vast area, less weather observations are available than in any one of the 48 states.

That should make map-plotting a cinch, with only those few reports.

"Not quite," says S/Sgt. Donald E. Mosher, chief observer. "Our maps cover a lot of territory and, although we're lean on data in some spots, we're fat in others. Japan, for example. And the long coast of eastern Asia."

Mosher smiled and added, "Of course, we have Okinawans who do much of our plotting. And they do a good job—neat and accurate. We Americans plot



WEATHER BRIEFING is given by Capt. Milton Ginsburg. Except for local flying, all operations from Okinawa are over water, where data is scarce. Observers and forecasters alike treat each scrap of weather information as if it were a flawless Mikimoto pearl.

"Raincoats were useless," he said. "It was like standing under a waterfall."

Winds during Grace reached 100 knots at Kadena.

Although typhoons are the most unusual weather sight at the Kadena station, other observing activities are also unusual, differing from the routine at most AWS stations.

"Our weather station," says Lt. Col. James W. Walker, Detachment 4 commander, "belongs to a squadron that is smallest in AWS in terms of personnel, yet largest in terms of area."

The 15th Weather squadron

a certain percentage of the charts to keep in shape, but the Okinawans help us out considerably."

Okinawans also work at the R-section. "They are excellent people to have working for you," says M/Sgt. Robert R. Neville, in charge of Kadena's upper-air section.

"Their work is dependable and accurate. And they are willing workers, even if they do bow everytime you look at them or speak to them."

Kadena's upper-air explorers also have another feature not normally seen—they have a few Army men working with them. Okinawa, the keystone of the Pacific, is essentially an Army island and the majority of the people on Okinawa are of the groundpounder class.

A few of these Army personnel work alongside the Air Force weathermen, keeping track of the upper air in the area. And here's some news. The Army men are pretty good.

The upper-air section, incidentally, has a fine reputation in the Far East. They have made "A's" on the 1st Weather wing report cards more than once during the past year and normally are among the Big Three each month. On December 12 they sent a balloon almost 25 miles up, reaching for weather data to 126,000 feet.

When an oldtimer thinks of Okinawa, he thinks of typhoons and tombs. The turtle-shaped tombs on Okinawan hillsides form a picturesque pattern for weathermen to photograph on a Sunday drive; but they also remind weathermen that they are in a different world, in the Orient.

Okinawan people place a great



AT WORK inside the station is A/2c Harry Nash. Pressure at Okinawa does not change radically until a typhoon comes. Then watch out!

deal of significance on ancestors, even worshipping them in some cases. Once every year they formally visit the tombs and pay their respects to their departed forefathers. Unmarried daughters of the family scrape the bones in this ceremony and then replace them in huge earthenware urns.

Not all the burials are in tombs, however. Americans visited Okinawa in 1853 under the command of Commodore Matthew C. Perry and during Perry's stay (when he tried unsuccessfully to get Okinawa as a coaling station for the United States) six men from his ship died and were buried in the International cemetery at Naha.

Rumor has it that one of the deceased was a weather observer from the ship who was shot because he had three WBAN errors in one week. Grave markers for these Americans still stand, more than 100 years later.

Okinawa is a gas stop for most long flights in the Far East, both military and civilian, and observers see a broad cross section of Asia—white-turbaned maharajah types from India, Dutch traders from New Guinea and points west, kimona-clad creatures from Japan, and slit-skirted beauties from Hong Kong.

The slit skirts or slit dresses expose charming limbs in provocative fashion when the lovely ladies walk to the terminal building, and more than one observer has been known to say, "It's a pleasure to record gusts to 38."

"The weather in general is a lot like Florida," says A/1c Harvey G. Hofkamp. "Especially like Tampa. The temperature averages about the same, the humidity, even the amount of rainfall."

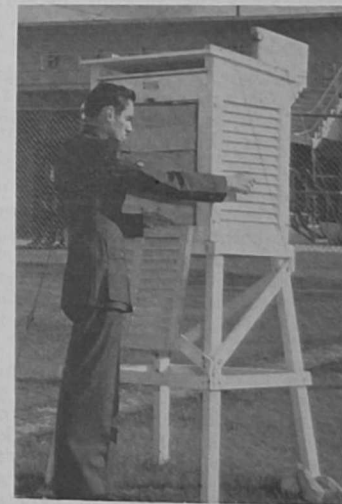
"One of our big observing headaches," says A/1c Earl R. Shelley, "is the rapid change in weather we get with showers. Showers occur on about 15 days during each month, and at times things change so fast that specials get as thick as the jellyfish at Ishikawa beach."

When Jimmy Stewart sat in his B-47, heading for his alternate at Kadena in "Strategic Air Command," Kadena weather observers were right in there with timely and accurate dissemination of surface observations.

As a rain shower moved in and ceilings dropped to a few hundred feet, visibility to a fraction of a mile, Kadena's weathermen made the observations promptly and tower knew about the change in a hurry.

After a harrowing let-down, Jimmy made it, and although he uttered a few bitter remarks about the weather itself, he found no fault with the weathermen.

Okinawa is no longer the grim unhappy place that it was in the early postwar days. Okinawa is good duty—the best in the Far East, according to some. If you get an assignment to Kadena AB, you may not find it the best you've ever had, but you will be pleasantly surprised. And you can be sure of one thing: It's different at Detachment 4!



DIFFERENCES can be seen in many things at Kadena AB on Okinawa, but the familiar instrument shelter is the same. Here S/Sgt. Donald E. Mosher double-checks an unbelievably low humidity reading of 75%.



FAX ADJUSTMENT is made by A/1c Robert W. Barber. Although Okinawa is thousands of miles from home, AACS is on the job with facsimile to make life easier.

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Santa Writes To AWS Kids

More than 800 Air Weather Service youngsters heard from Santa Claus last month, through the cooperation of their parents and personnel of the 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron in Alaska.

As announced in the November **Observer**, the Eielson-based weathermen added their bit to the holiday joy by remailing Santa Claus letters sent by AWS parents.

Santa letters were mailed from the post office at North Pole, Alaska, just outside Fairbanks. A few days later, Santa's young correspondents had a genuine, appropriately post-marked letter from Santa Claus.

Letters were mailed to Europe, the Pacific area, South America and Canada, as well as to children throughout the United States and in Alaska itself.

The Sounding Board

By Capt. John W. Collens, III

Commander, Detachment 20, 31st Weather Squadron
Sembach Air Base, Germany

A poor fit can be mighty uncomfortable, whether it be a suit, oxygen mask or weather that is not compatible with the mission. Here at Sembach, we are trying to provide weather service that fits the mission of the 66th Tactical Reconnaissance wing.

The beginning of this tailored weather service dates back to 1952 and the functional reorganization of AWS. This provided for each numbered air force to have a supporting weather squadron with a detachment at each wing-base. Thus a weather squadron and its detachments would be supporting one principal mission, such as tactical, strategic or training.

This organizational scheme insured that each weather squadron could concentrate all its efforts toward providing weather support suited to the particular needs of, say, a tactical mission, as is the case here with the 31st Squadron.

"So what are you doing about it?" This may well be the lament of a customer whose sunshiny weekend was washed out by an unforecast T-bumper. Obviously, until we can stock-number each weather element and have base supply maintain a stock of each, we are not always going to get the type of weather we want.

Further, since these weather elements are not contained by anything as tangible as a river bank, the course of a "weather flood" cannot be nearly as predictable as that of a stream. Someone just yelled, "more dang excuses!" Far from it; we are just admitting our own limitations. Now, let us do the weather intelligence job, as best we can, in spite of limitations and, specifically, in full support of the mission requirements.

Number one—we have recognized that we have no competitors, but cannot become complacent in our monopoly. The effectiveness of air power depends in a great part on whether we provide reasonably correct information on which to base the decision to "leap 'em, divert 'em or stand 'em down." And—number two—let us forecast for the mission; here it is reconnaissance. Recon people couldn't care less for info such as "it will rain for 40 days and 40 nights" or "it is going to be partly cloudy and warm."

Here we try to tell them where it is going to be clear or where the clouds will be high enough to permit photography underneath. To be sure, we don't have a 1.000 batting average—remember our limitations—but we do exploit all the tools of our trade in providing "tailor-made" weather information.

One such tool is called the "neph analysis" or cloud coverage chart. On this chart, cloud-cover observations are plotted and similar points connected, forming isolines of cloudiness. The Sembach weathermen go a step further and even forecast the movement of the cloudiness or clearness. The original idea for this method came from one of the officers in the 66th TAC Recon, which we support. By expanding his ideas a bit, we came up with just the "fit" that TAC needed.

We have spurred the mission by having a chart tailor-made for reconnaissance, but recon pilots must also have all-weather capability. There are many times when "photo weather" lies on the other side of a front and takeoff and landing must be executed under IFR conditions. We can't do much to change the field to VFR. GCA is still in business and Approach Control has to take care of its own stack of penetration requests.

However, coupled with the cloud-cover chart, we do have another handy tool for the recon flyers, particularly suited to their needs. How would you like to have a weather station right in your squadron operations? Sembach AB does. Though not the Hamilton AFB television type, we try through hard work by our forecasters and cooperation with the 66th communications people to keep an up-to-date picture of the weather available to our "subscribers."

Each morning our forecasters prepare an 8 x 14-inch pictorial cross section of the local weather forecast for a 24-hour period. It also notes the next six-hour forecast of weather at four principal alternate areas as well as winds aloft, runway conditions at other fields in France and Germany and hosts of other information.

Each morning the squadrons send a representative to the weather station for a complete briefing and return to their operations with the picture and a plexiglas overlay of the latest surface weather map. The squadrons' weather info is kept up to date by hourly calls from the weather station or, if conditions change rapidly, by special calls relaying late developments.

The cloud coverage chart is also completed four times daily. These fast-moving facets of our weather service, plus aggressive reporting of current weather through AACs and Tactical Control facilities, serves to put weather intelligence where it is needed when the cumulus is nimbusting.

"Try this for size." It is tailored weather service, thanks to cooperative wing-base personnel and some weathermen who feel that such cooperation deserves the best that they have to offer. It could work at your base, too!



Basic Weather Study Open to Officer Ranks

Quotas are available for active-duty officers to attend the basic meteorological training program, AWS personnel officials report.

AWS weathermen who receive queries from officers on how to enter the weather field may refer prospective weathermen to the USAF Training Prospectus, which outlines prerequisites for the program.

AWS personnel officials have asked cooperation of all AWS people in obtaining applications for meteorological training from active-duty officers.

The training prospectus is available at each base education office. Complete information on application procedure is given in AFR 53-11.

Graduate Space Due For Advanced Study

Thirty-five additional spaces are expected to be made available to AWS for graduate meteorological training this year, according to information received from Col. Oliver K. Jones, AWS deputy chief of staff for personnel.

These spaces will be available for classes to begin in June 1956. Applications for advanced meteorological training should be submitted as soon as possible, in order to be received by higher headquarters in sufficient time for selection of the June class.

Full details on application procedures and prerequisites for the training can be obtained from AWS unit commanders.



PISTOL CHAMP Lt. Roy E. Sadin represented AWS on the world-wide championship Air Force pistol team. Pistoleer Sadin is assigned to Detachment 24 of the 4th Weather group at Holloman AFB, N. M.

Pibal in the Corner Pocket

By Mack Risner

WITH AN EYE on first place in both sports, the 54th WRS basketball and bowling teams are currently in second place in their respective leagues at Anderson AFB, Guam. The 54th athletic teams have been making a strong showing in all base sports and are among Guam's perennial toughies.

THE NEWLY FORMED 54th WRS judo team saw four of its members upgraded in this ancient art recently, when Edward Brennan, Harold Oswald, Barry Haddock, Lloyd Wolfe and Robert Robinson were awarded green belts. (Different colored belts denote varying degrees of proficiency in judo.)

THE BOWLING team of Det 13, 5th Wea gp, copped second place in the base bowling league at Narsarsauk. The weathermen led the league during the first half of the season. But in the second half, player shortages caused them to forfeit two games, dropping the team into second place.

AT WIESBADEN, Germany, the 18th Wea sq basketball team dropped its first game by a score of 42 to 39. The 18th's bowling team took to the 2d Wea wg bowling tourney like a dog to a fire-plug, came out with second-place honors.

AN UNUSUAL tournèy is being held at Det 11, 4th Wea gp, at Patrick AFB, Fla. Detachment personnel are spending a great deal of time around the old fishin' hole, trying to beat the others in a detachment "trout-oo." Detco Maj. Robert Durbin is sponsoring the meet. Leading the race at present is Alorson Fussell with a 28-inch, 7-pound, 6-ounce trout.

KEGLERS of the 8th Wea gp bowling team got on the right track in November by grabbing some very welcome victories. Men of the 8th Gp take their bowling seriously, and are trying for a strike in each frame they roll. Their basketball team got off to a slow start in the Scott AFB league, losing its first three games in a row.

JERRY BURNS, leading the AWS hq basketball team on its quest for glory in the base intramural basketball league at Andrews AFB, Md. He is consistently one of the high scorers on the team. They have a win-loss record of 4 and 2. The AWS hq team is coached by Jack Friedheim, a native of Illinois, which is one of the hotbeds of basketball.

SPIRIT IS A MANY-SPLENDORED THING

Like the Air Force Academy, but with considerably less resources, Det 11, 16th Wea sq, at Mather AFB, Calif., has been creating athletic traditions.

Early last spring Ernest E. Pelto blithely ignored the fact that Det 11 had not been given a formal invitation to enter a team in the base softball league. Being a shrewd manager, he entered a team at the last minute.

Entering a team in the league with only 15 men in the organization is a difficult feat. It takes the likes of a Casey Stengel to have nine men on the field to play, using only men who are off duty.

Det 11 didn't win the championship, as they had to drop out of the league when too many leaves and TDY's cut the number of players on hand to less than the minimum of nine that are necessary to play the game.

Having to drop out of the softball league didn't dampen the spirit of Det 11. In the fall, the detachment basketball genius, George E. Cramer, sprang a potent surprise on the base basketball league by entering a weather team.

In the opening game of the season, their opponents were faced by a team whose talents and strategy had been kept super-secret by its inability to find time or place to practice.

In the first game, the "fearless five" from Det. 11 lost a tough one by a mere three points. Cramer, being blessed with the "fearless five" and no more, rolled over the next two opponents by impressive margins.

Hoping for Santa to bring them at least one substitute to sit on the bench and make them look respectable, they impatiently wait to take on all comers. Incidentally, they still haven't been able to hold a practice session.

The "fearless five" are Ernest Pelto, French Brown jr., Kenneth Phelps, Dennis Dougherty and George Cramer.

Spirit is a many-splendored thing, especially in Det 11, 16th Wea sq. (Moral to this story: support your unit's teams by playing or by helping to organize a team. If you can't play, go to the games and back your team with encouraging yells and cheers.)

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