



The Weather Component of the Military Air Transport Service

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AWS Joins US Agencies, Services as Annual Tornado Alley Activity Starts

With the opening of the tornado season this month, military and civilian meteorologists again are combining their knowledge and efforts to minimize the devastating effects of dread twisters.

Today weathermen from the US Weather Bureau and Air Weather Service are working together in the heart of "Tornado Alley" to determine conditions that cause tornadoes and other severe weather. They predict the time and place of their origin, and paths they follow.

Located jointly in Kansas City, Mo., are the Severe Local Storm (SELS) unit of the Weather Bureau and the Severe Weather Warning Center (SWWC) of AWS.

Using the same facilities and information, simultaneous severe weather warnings are issued by the US Weather Bureau, tailored for civilian consumption, and by Air Weather Service, tailored to specific military requirements.

Alley Growing

Over the years, Tornado Alley has been broadened to include almost half the area of the continental United States. From Albany, Ga., operations extend northwest to South Bend, Ind., west to Grand Forks, N. D., and south to Lubbock, Tex. The Kansas City center is the hub of this giant complex.

Tornado Alley data is collected by two methods. Mobile AWS rawinsonde teams make upper-air soundings of temperature, humidity, pressure and winds with

(Continued on Page 8)

9th WGrp Takes Over 56th WRS, Will Run All Recon by March 18

On February 1, the 56th Weather Reconnaissance squadron, as one of the subordinate units of the 1st Weather wing, was assigned to the 9th Weather group. The 56th, at Yokota AB, Japan, had been one of two recon squadrons under control of the wing headquarters at Wheeler AFB, Hawaii.

Ninth Weather group, with headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill., is commanded by Col. William S. Barney. Under the group now are three recon units; the 55th WRS at McClellan AFB, Calif.; 59th WRS at Kindley AFB, Bermuda, and the 56th WRS.

This change is part of the overall deactivation program involving the 53d, 54th and 59th WRSs.

Locations of the three units being discontinued by or on March 18, are: 53d WRS, Mildenhall Royal Air Force station, England; 54th WRS, Andersen AFB, Guam, and 59th WRS, Kindley AFB, Bermuda.

This will give command of all AWS recon units to 9th Weather group after that date. The 55th WR squadron and a newly created 55th mobility unit, available for world-wide use, will be stationed at McClellan AFB, Calif. Its Detachments 1, 2, and 3 will be based at Ladd AFB, Alaska, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and Kindley AFB, Bermuda, respectively. The 56th WR squadron will continue at Yokota AB, Japan, and its Detachment 1 created at Andersen AFB, Guam.

Lt. Col. Thompson Named Co-winner of AWR Meisinger Award for 1959

Lt. Col. Philip D. Thompson of Air Weather Service, and Dr. Norman A. Phillips of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, were named joint winners of the 1959 Meisinger award at the recent meeting of the American Meteorological society in Boston.

Colonel Thompson, who possesses a doctorate title, is currently serving at the Institute of Meteorology at the University of Stockholm. He has been there on studies since summer 1958. Prior to that, Colonel Thompson had been commander of Detachment 2, AWS headquarters, up to July 1958.

His duties before this were as Chief of the Development section in the same detachment at Suitland, Md.

The AWS officer and Doctor Phillips were presented the famed Meisinger award "for their theoretical and applied research in the field of numerical weather prediction." This is the first time an AWS man has achieved this honor since 1955, the award being made in spring 1956.

The annual award is given in memory of Dr. Clarence LeRoy Meisinger, who was killed in a thunderstorm while performing upper-air research some years ago.



GENERAL CHEN CHIA-SHANG, Chinese Air Force commander, pins the first CAF Meteorological wings ever issued to a foreigner on Maj. Thomas S. Scanlon, staff weather officer, MAAG, at a special ceremony on Taiwan, recently. Maj. Ralph R. Woodiwiss, center, received CAF pilot wings, also the first ever presented to an Air Task Force 13 staff weather officer. They were awarded the wings for outstanding work in weather aid to the Chinese Air Force. (See story for details.)

Weather Officers Receive Chinese Air Force Wings

Another AWS historic first, the presentation of Chinese Air Force wings to two weather officers, (one non-AWS) occurred at Taipei, Taiwan, during the recent visit there by Brig. Gen. Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander.

General Chen Chia-Sheng, Chinese Air Force commander, pinned the wings on two majors in a quiet, dignified ceremony at CAF headquarters. Maj. Ralph R. Woodiwiss, staff weather officer for Air Task Force 13, 10th Weather group, received CAF pilot's wings, the first ever issued an ATF 13 staff weather officer.

The second recipient of the unique honor was Maj. Thomas S. Scanlon, staff weather officer for the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), Taiwan. His meteorological wings were the first such wings ever presented a foreigner by CAF.

Citation

The accompanying citations stated that the wings were awarded in recognition of "their earnest efforts in promoting the traditional friendship between the United States and Chinese Air Forces as well as for their invaluable assistance to the Chinese Air Force in uplifting its weather forecasting capability by carrying out the personnel training and improving the weather installation in various Chinese Air Force bases. Their enthusiastic cooperation, sincerity and profound professional knowledge has greatly promoted the coordination and cooperation between CAF and USAF weather units during their tenure of service as Staff Weather Officers of MAAG, Taiwan and ATF 13 (P).

Pioneers

Majors Scanlon and Woodiwiss have been on Taiwan over two and one-half years. It was through their efforts that an outstanding working relationship was developed between USAF and CAF weather personnel during the 1958-59 Taiwan emergency.

Witnessing the presentation were Brig. Gen. Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander; Col. Nicholas H. Chavasse, 1st Weather wing commander and members of their staffs.

Limerick Contest Starts; AWS Men, Families Eligible

A global limerick contest begins this month to seek out the "poets" in the Air Weather Service, as your Observer announces its official Limerick Contest.

Your limerick must be original and on the topic of weather and weathermen. As entries come in to the Observer editor, as many as practical will be printed in each edition, space allowing.

Judges, prizes and limerick contest deadline have not yet been decided upon but will be announced in next month's Observer.

Send in as many entries as you like to the Observer Editor, Headquarters AWS, Scott AFB, Ill. Each entry must be typed on a 3 by 5 inch card, with the limerick on one side and the name, rank and address of the author on the reverse side.

Sample limerick:

An eight-inch observer named Pound
Had a head that was perfectly round,
Said he, "I don't need your
Ground Safety procedure,"
Then fell in the rain gauge and drowned.

The Observer regretfully reports the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Reilly Shankey, wife of Maj. Leslie A. Shankey, as the result of an automobile accident near Ramstein Air Base, Germany, January 24. Major Shankey is assigned to 31st Weather squadron headquarters at Ramstein AB.



PAT YOUNG, Miss AWS of 1960, seems intrigued by a weather map her husband is plotting at Kelly AFB, Tex. She visited her husband, weather observer A/2c Robert C. Young, in Detachment 29, 8th Weather group, following presentation of Miss AWS prize, an engraved watch. Col. O. K. Jones, group commander, presented her the watch in his office at Randolph AFB, Tex. Later, Maj. Chester H. Bowers, Detachment 29 commander, gave Pat a briefing and tour of weather facilities.



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BRIG. GEN. NORMAN L. PETERSON
Commander, Air Weather Service

MR. JOHN D. RUGG, Director, Information

LT. R. K. McMILLAN, Chief, Information

TSGT CHARLES MOGENSEN, Editor

US Air Force -- Aerospace Power for Peace

Learn the Rules —

THEN PLAY THE GAME

On a recent staff visit I found very few individuals at any level who were conversant with Quality Control. Yet this concept has been formalized for about two years. Quality Control is the hottest item in the Air Force today, and I intend to make it the hottest item in Air Weather Service.

I expect everyone to become familiar with the subject. The first step in this direction is for all to read the Quality Control Handbook and the directives on which it is based. I shall expand the scope and distribution of the Handbook to provide commanders, supervisors, and others with necessary guidance. As a follow-up, I shall distribute Quality Control questionnaires during my field visits.

The purpose of Quality Control is to insure that only the most effective individuals are retained on active duty. Accomplishment of the program is the responsibility of commanders and supervisors. But it is a two-edged proposition. As in a game, the players as well as the referees must know all the rules and objectives.

Commanders and supervisors must make sure that their personnel understand all aspects of the Quality Control Program. Personnel must be fully utilized, fairly evaluated, and rewarded or released as appropriate. Substandard performers must be quickly identified, placed on control rosters, and rehabilitated. If rehabilitation efforts fail, release from the service through the efficient use of administrative procedures is a must. Conversely, the tools to reward the deserving are readily available through promotions and awards programs.

Quality Control is not a Personnel action. It is a concept to be exercised by commanders with the advice of their officer and NCO supervisors. Personnel officers will furnish technical guidance and assistance.

I am vitally interested in the results of the Quality Control program as it affects you. Your best interests will be served through it. Take time to find out what it means to you — and what it can do for you.

How Bases are Selected

Although many airmen wonder how their base happened to get plunked down where it is, there is a definite criteria used for selecting sites for air base installations.

There are seven requirements for picking a possible location for an air base, according to the Air Force and "Space Digest."

There are strategic or tactical requirements. Air Defense Command bases are spread out along the Canadian border to halt enemy attacks across the Polar icecap. Strategic Air Command bases and units are widely dispersed.

Geological requirements demand that sites be able to support massive runways, buildings and heavy-duty special equipment.

Climatology and geography are also factors. Meteorologists play an important part in the final decision. Training bases need sunshine and good flying weather, and bombers must be able to get off the runways safely with combat loads.

Transportation facilities—approach highways and railroads—must be adequate to support operations.

Community support is a necessity. The people of the adjoining town must want the air base, and the community must be large enough to support the influx of military and civilian workers.

Basic communications systems should be easily available in the general area.

Finally, there are many technical considerations which include such matters as the operation of line-of-site radar systems.

ON THE

skew-T AWS Global Report

From around the world and across the nation come more highlights of AWS personnel at work and at play.

Three-day passes and \$25 US Defense bonds were awarded recently to MSgt Wilbur L. Kinsey and A/2c Roger W. Davidson as 1st Weather wing's NCO and Airman of the Quarter.

Both men were chosen for this honor during the last three months of 1959, will "reign" for the first three months of 1960.

Capt. John A. Doglione, a WB-50 pilot with the 56th WRS, scored a 99% on the annual pilot's Instrument exam recently. That's the highest ever scored by anyone on this test.

Good Conduct medals were awarded to three members of the 11th Weather squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, by Lt. Col. Eugene A. Carter, commander. Recipients were A/2c James W. Garrett, TSgt John A. Sapp and SSgt Rufus Buffington.

RETIREMENT — CWO - W - 4

Herman A. Kutz, retired on January 31, after 22 years of military service. W O Kutz, formerly executive officer in the headquarters

AWS IG directorate, also received a Commendation Medal at the time for meritorious service between May 17, 1959 and his retirement date.

Detachment 11, 10th Weather group captured both base Airman of the Month and NCO of the Month awards, a "first" for any unit on the base.

Col. Virgil E. Sandifer, 3d Weather wing deputy commander, recently presented engraved lighters to two outstanding airmen. Selected as Outstanding NCO of the last six months was SSgt Ralph R. Molinaro, while A/2c Philip W. Lawrence, was chosen as Outstanding Airman of the last six months.

COMMENDATION MEDALS: to CWO W-2 John F. Schmitt, weather forecaster for the Los Angeles Air Defense sector, (part of Detachment 6, 4th Weather squadron); Lt. Col. Lonnie C. Brewer, 2d Weather wing headquarters, Lindsey Air station, Wiesbaden, Germany.

Attention Hams

KA2BB, the newly licensed amateur radio station at Yokota AB, Japan, is now in full operation, after almost eight months of preparation. Operated as part of the 56th WRS radio club, KA2BB, the new group has already contacted Mongolia, India, Guam, the Philippines and other 'hams' in Japan.

Fifth Air Force has licensed the 2-transmitter station. The wattage is 25 and 100, plus one receiver. A/1c Robert Nelson is club president.

Give! Your \$ Can Help Fight World-wide Hunger, Tyranny

By giving your time and dollars to the 1960 Federal Service Joint Crusade, you will be helping your less fortunate fellow men in three ways:

1. Through a CARE package, delivered in your name, you will be easing the hunger pangs of the needy throughout the world.

2. Through Radio Free Europe, supported by the Crusade for Freedom, 76,000,000 captive people in five Iron Curtain countries will hear the truth denied them by their Communist masters.

3. Through the American-Korean Foundation, millions in war-torn Korea will be given a fighting chance in their struggle for rehabilitation.

A generous gift to CARE, the Crusade for Freedom and the American-Korean Foundation will enable these organizations to continue their fight against hunger, disease, poverty and ignorance.

These are challenging times, when we Americans must share our blessings with those who do not enjoy the benefits of freedom and plenty.

I urge each of you to meet this challenge personally.

SUMNER G. WHITTIER
National Federal Chairman



Tip the scale in favor of life.

Need Your Aid in Federal Crusade

Indispensable?

Sometime when you are feeling important,
Sometime when your ego is in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room.

Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to your wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is the measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter
You can stir up the water galore;
But stop, and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example
Is — Do the best you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember:
"There is no indispensable man."

General Lauds AWS

Brig. Gen. Charles F. Blair, one of the pioneers who flew the polar route by F-100 jet recently, had words of praise for AWS in general and Detachment 15, 28th Weather squadron in particular.

The general, a reserve officer with USAF HQ Directorate of Operations, made the England to Fairbanks, Alaska, flight with two other aircraft.

In his article "Fighters Across the Arctic" in the February "Flying Safety," General Blair said:

"The trip weather and winds aloft were put together by Maj. Welton King and his highly efficient staff at Weathersfield (England). The best testimonial that could be given for the capability of the Air Weather Service was the accuracy of the flight plan we used in which the maximum digression at any check point en route was six minutes."

Top Military, Civilian Weathermen from 9 Lands Hold US-Asia Meeting

In keeping with the present trend for international summit conferences, representatives from eight Southeast Asia countries and six US weather services attended the US-Asian Military Weather symposium conducted by the 1st Weather wing this month at John Hay Air base in the Philippines.

This "meteorological summit" was conducted for Pacific Air Force and was hosted by 13th Air Force on February 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Its primary purpose was to conduct approved Air Force Military Assistance Program training for the countries attending.

At the same time, however, it promoted mutual understanding and enabled Col. Nicholas H. Chavasse, 1st Weather wing commander, and his staff to make a realistic estimate of the potential of the Asian weather agencies in time of military operations.

Participants

Australia, the Royal Observatory in Hong Kong, Japan, Malaya, the Philippines, the Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and Thailand sent their top military and civilian meteorologists to the meeting.

Dr. Robert Fletcher, AWS, Director of Scientific Services, Mr. Colin Ramage of the Department of Geophysics at the University of Hawaii, and Colonel Chavasse were some of the distinguished representatives for the United States.

US Agencies

Represented were AWS, 1st Weather wing, 10th Weather group, the US Navy, the US Weather Bureau, Joint Task Force Seven Meteorological center and the University of Hawaii.

Subjects covered during the symposium included reports on the organization and operation of the weather services of the participating countries, typhoon forecasting, and a review of the 1959 typhoon season.

Civilians Get Special Honor at AMS Meet

Three US civil service employees, two of them in AWS, were the first of their category to receive certificates as Certified Consulting Meteorologists from the American Meteorological Society recently.

Honored with presentation of the certificates at the January 22 meeting of the AMS were Dr. Robert D. Fletcher, AWS Director of Scientific Services; Dr. Woodrow C. Jacobs, AWS Director of Climatology, and Dr. Helmut E. Landbert, Director, Office of Climatology, US Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C.

Another recipient was Arthur F. Merewether (USAF-retired), former commander of AWS and now superintendent of meteorology for a large commercial airline.

Dr. Fletcher's Talk

Dr. Fletcher's name also came in on another news story. His taped speech on the use of electronic computers in US meteorology was beamed over the Voice of America program to Europe from Boston on January 26. The doctor's talk concerned the growth of electronically produced forecasts and their fantastic future possibilities as part of the overall US meteorology program.



COMPUTING THE probable error of high altitude wind observations are several of the Air Weather Service officers who attended the January 26-29 workshop. The officers, who came from various USAF bases in the ZI, are being advised on the problem by Leonard Snellman (standing) and Dr. Karl Johannsen, second from left, technical consultants with the AWS Scientific Services directorate. Officers, left to right, are Lt. Col. Thomas H. Lewis IV, 3d Weather wing, Lt. Col. Harold L. Powell, 9th Weather squadron, Maj. Edward O. Jess, and Lt. Col. Robert G. Bundgaard, 4th Weather wing, and Lt. Col. Hubert W. Comer, 5th Weather group.

3,000th Ptarmigan

At just about the time you read this, Detachment 1, 55th WRS, should be making its 3,000th Ptarmigan weather flight.

On March 17, 1947, St. Patrick's Day, the first successful flight took place.

The original "Ptarmiganers" were the 59th Reconnaissance squadron men, which became the 375th RS in late 1947, then the 58th WRS, and finally the present 55th WRS.

So, to those dauntless and adventuresome members of the 55th from Ladd AFB and all others who have flown this lengthy and enervating weather track, the Observer says "Congratulations on your 3,000th Ptarmigan run!"

Japanese Lad Tours 56th WRS, Yokota AB as Junior Reporter



JUNIOR REPORTER Noboru Umabayashi studies a radio component as Capt. Shoji Takasugi, a 56th WRS crewman, explains it to him. The schoolboy inspected the big WB-50 as part of his tour and interviews conducted recently in the 56th and Yokota AB, Japan. His visit was sponsored by the Sankei Press, a well-known newspaper in Japan.

28th WS Airman to Sing in British 'Carousel'

Talented A/2c Tom Wilson, of Detachment 10, 28th Weather squadron, has been selected to play the part of Starkeeper in the British version of "Carousel," the world-famed musical. Airman Wilson is a weather observer at Chelveston Royal Air Force station, England.

He is presently rehearsing for the production at nearby Wellingsborough with the Wellingsborough Operatic society.

The 29-year-old Ohioan is a weather observer and has two years of experience in grand opera in Ft. Worth, Tex. Wilson had a part in "Oklahoma!" last year with the Wellingsborough company.

"I do acting as a hobby and it gives me an opportunity to know the English people better," Wilson said.

He is the first American ever to perform with the Society. How did the audience like his performance in "Oklahoma!"? He said, "At the close of the show the cast all wondered who would receive the traditional gift presented over the footlights." The airman said, "Was I surprised when it was I who received it. It's quite an honor. I received a standing ovation."

In the coming production of "Carousel," Wilson beat out six other actors in the audition for his part. "Acting is not an easy task. We have been rehearsing every week since September and will continue the pace until opening night, which is some time in March," he said.



A/2c Wilson

Wilson has been acting since high school days and pursued

acting further while he attended Texas Christian university. Asked if he would take acting seriously as a career he said, "I've been in the Air Force for 7½ years except for a break in the early '50's. No, I'll stick with the Air Force and continue acting as a hobby."

Besides being an actor and weather observer, Wilson is choir director at the Chelveston base and spends one night weekly rehearsing with the group.

He sang in a choir back home for five years and has an ambition to learn music. To accomplish this he attends music lessons two hours a week with a local instructor.

The producer of "Oklahoma!" and the present "Carousel" said Wilson was the only actor with a British accent and talked more like one in "Oklahoma!" than the Englishmen. However, he can speak pretty good "Yank" language too.

AF Seeks Help

The Air Force is seeking women, including AWS dependents, who are acquainted with the traditions and customs of foreign countries. These volunteer briefing officers can assist the overseas-bound dependent with useful information on life in a foreign country.

An official at AF headquarters stressed that the main qualifications for such volunteers should be a well-founded knowledge of the customs and background of the people and the country.

For further information on the program, interested personnel should write to Personnel Services Division, Directorate of Military Personnel, Dept. of the Air Force, Washington 25, D. C.

One of the youngest special guests ever to tour the 56th WRS facilities, a Japanese sixth-grader, recently gathered material on the unit for the Sankei Press of Japan.

Noboru Umabayashi, from Hamura Primary school, acted as a "junior reporter" on his visit to the Buzzard squadron. The Sankei Press sponsors visits to US bases in Japan by youthful news hawks whose articles are read by the paper's subscribers.

Umabayashi interviewed Col. Templeton H. Walker, Director of AWS Air Operations, and Maj. Robert Taylor, 56th operations officer, about the mission of AWS and the Big Buzzard unit. He was also briefed on the operation of the dropsonde equipment by Capt. Shoji Takasugi, a 56th flying weatherman.

The Japanese youngster also inspected a WB-50 weather aircraft, toured parts of the Yokota base, including the American dependent grade school.

Computer Succeeding at New Job, Preparing MATS Flight Plans

Forecasting tomorrow's weather already has become a part of the job "assigned" to the huge electronic computer at Suitland, Md. Within the last year, AWS experts, working as part of the National Meteorological center there, have helped develop computer-produced flight plans for MATS aircraft on both the East and West coasts. Thus, the fantastically speedy computers are turning out accurate flight plans for over-water trips to Europe and the Pacific area.

MATS flies its aircraft on exacting schedules in all kinds of weather all over the world. Being the country's only strategic airlift, MATS relies heavily upon its highly-trained aircrews, maintenance men and



METEOROLOGIST Arthur Kantor, Detachment 22, 9th Weather group at McGuire explains to an aircrew a flight plan to Europe based on machine-computed wind data. From left to right are: Lt. Albert D. Purvis, aircraft commander, Lt. Donald C. O'Brien, navigator, and Maj. Theodore Q. Gehoe, first pilot, all of the 29th Air Transport squadron based at the New Jersey installation.

weathermen. With the advent and constant development of flight-planning by electronic computers, MATS has taken a giant step towards the future. Automatic computation of flights, however, is but part of the work being performed by the weather experts at AWS and the other members of the National Meteorological center at Suitland.

IBM 704 Is "Heart"

In providing weather support to Air Force and Army, AWS works closely with the US Weather Bureau and is a primary user of information from the Suitland center. Heart of the center's operations is an International Business Machines Model 704 electronic computer.

With this giant computer, the Joint (Weather Bureau-Air Force-Navy) Numerical Weather Prediction unit of the Suitland center turns out automatic forecasts.

Fed Data

Weather observations from the whole Northern hemisphere are fed into the 704 computer and electronically digested. Applying complicated mathematical formulas, the computer prints out its information in the form of weather maps and forecasts. It has been estimated that a man would need to work eight hours a day for nine years to complete the work done by the computer in a single hour!

Program Starts

Early this year, Frank Lewis and Maj. Forrest Miller of the AWS staff at the Suitland center developed a computer program to combine the wind information stored in the 704's memory tapes with navigational data to produce a flight plan.

In May 1959, AWS asked the MATS Eastern Transport Air Force (EASTAF), which flies the Atlantic routes, to help with operational tests of these newly developed numerical flight plans. Initial tests, including six trans-Atlantic EASTAF routes flown at 18,000 feet, were successfully completed in June.

Tested, Succeeds

EASTAF, enthusiastic about initial results, asked for expansion in numerical flight planning. In June, 1959, AWS started tests on 25 tracks at the 10,000-foot level, the altitude flown by most MATS C-124 Globemaster cargo haulers.

Testing was expanded even further through the summer. By the end of October a final phase, including a program for the selection of the best tracks and a split-level flight plan, was completed. The split-level plan was useful for aircraft that changed altitudes in flight. EASTAF tabbed these plans more accurate than manually produced ones.

WESTAF Testing

Western Transport Air Force (WESTAF) at Travis AFB, Calif., has recently completed a two-week test of Numerical Flight plans between Travis and Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Those plans were compared to actual navigators' flight plans and proved about as accurate as the manually prepared plans.

These results are considered encouraging, as the routes tested are on the periphery of the JNWP grid, where data is sparse.

More Pacific testing will be resumed as computer time becomes available. This is definite proof that the machine-made forecasts are not only accurate

but proving their worth from a labor-time-cost saving angle.

What amazing possibilities can be effected from these mechanical geniuses is limited perhaps only by the human element — and judging by past accomplishments, there seems to be little to limit the inventive versatility of these weather experts.



LT. DONALD C. O'BRIEN, navigator with the 29th Air Transport squadron, consults numerical flight plan aboard a C-118 Liftmaster during a scheduled MATS overseas flight from McGuire AFB to Europe.



AN AIRCRAFT CHANGE is posted by A/3c Audrey A. Verbois on the "following" board at McGuire's Flight Progress center. This data is obtained from a POMAR report (Position operational, meteorological aircraft report) on all planes flying overseas.

AF Cancels Order Grounding Flyers; AWS Men Benefit

As a result of the Air Force's cancelling of the order on flight status suspensions of 2,107 rated officers, 48 AWS officers will retain their flying activities. The suspensions had resulted from the Air Force's annual screening of pilots, navigators and observers.

It would have gone into effect March 1. The cancellation was ordered by Gen. Thomas D. White, AF Chief of Staff, following an unexpectedly strong reaction from the field.

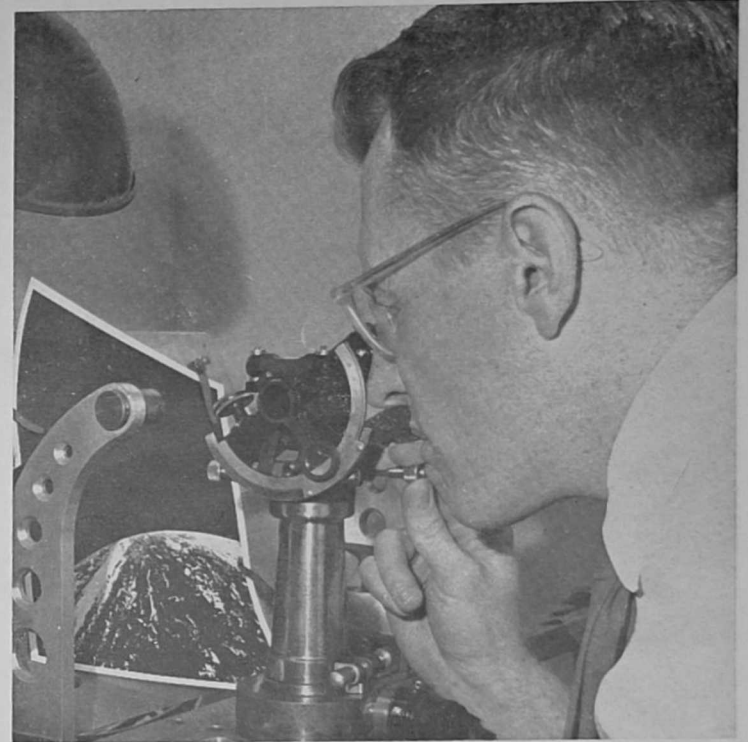
This means that rated officers who were tapped in this latest screening will be considered again, on the same basis as all other rated officers by future boards.

AWS officers in these units will remain on flying status: 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th Weather wings, 2d, 4th, 8th, 9th Weather groups, Headquarters AWS and its Detachment 3.

General White will personally review the criteria to be used in the 1960 flight status screening.



THREE WEATHER EXPERTS in an Allied Research laboratory in Boston, Mass., calculate the location and dimensions of a cloud system as seen from a 500-mile altitude by an Atlas-borne camera. Working during trial runs several weeks ago on the project are, left to right, Ralph Newcomb, Roland J. Boucher and Robert B. Smith. Large instrument is a specially adapted photograph enlarger.



MR. LEONARD WHITNEY, meteorologist with the Weather Bureau Meteorological Satellite section, measures viewing angles with a photograph alidade. The picture is a view of the Atlantic looking north-eastward from an altitude of more than 400 miles. The white band on the left is a portion of a cold front which lay off the Carolinas at the time of the photographing.



MAJ. JAMES B. JONES, AWS liaison officer with the US Weather Bureau Meteorological Satellite section, measures a cloud on a photograph taken from a rocket at more than 200 miles altitude. Beside him is a spherical model of the same picture from which accurate maps of the cloud patterns may be made.

Military, Civilian Agencies Preparing New Weather Satellite for Shoot

It is anticipated that in the not too distant future, a new breed of observer will report for duty in a remote location — so isolated and remote, in fact that by comparison, Fletcher's ice island resembles Wright-Patterson! This new observer is a robot TV camera orbiting the earth aboard a meteorological satellite.

As our robot observer orbits the earth, "he" will check in periodically over ground control stations at which time he will be directed to take pictures along some portion of his next pass. On receipt of these instructions, he will take dozens of pictures as the satellite moves over the designated area, store them on a magnetic tape, and await the playback signal from a readout station. On receipt of the proper signal, the pictures, along with information about our observer's health, and the condition of his space vehicle, will be transmitted to a TV receiver in the ground station, where an automatic camera will record the scene for posterity and careful study.

Minutes after the pictures have been received on the ground, meteorologists at the readout stations will be hard at work, preparing a nephanalysis (cloud analysis) from the satellite data (over an area about the size of New England) for dissemination via facsimile and teletype circuits.

A Combined "Op"

The important job of interpreting and disseminating these observations is the responsibility of a seven man team of meteorologists at each of two readout sta-

tions. These teams, under general leadership of the US Weather Bureau, will be composed of men from the USWB, Geophysics Research Directorate, Allied Research Associates (a GRD contractor), the Naval Weather Service, as well as Air Weather Service.

Experience Limited

Studies to develop methods for interpretation and dissemination have been in progress for more than a year. These studies are difficult because meteorologists have had only a very limited experience in the interpretation of clouds viewed from a space observation system. Until recently, such experience had been limited to the analysis of a very few photographs taken during V-2 and Aerobee projects. Last summer, however, photographs taken from Atlas and Thor nose cones were successfully recovered. These photos have been used to improve

methods of analysis and reporting for application to the observations. Our intrepid satellite observer then, is a true pioneer in meteorological research.

AWS Liaison

To help insure maximum benefits to Air Force operations from meteorological satellite projects, AWS Headquarters has established a one-man liaison office at the Weather Bureau's Meteorological Satellite section in Suitland, Md.

Maj. James B. Jones, an advanced weather officer with extensive field weather center experience, works with his Weather Bureau colleagues in preparing for operational use of satellite observations. Many Air Weather Service units have already received preliminary information on various aspects of the meteorological satellite project, including sample analysis of cloud observations from rocket photos for study and evaluation.

Gratuity Pay

When a deceased serviceman is not survived by a spouse or child(ren) the local finance office is authorized to pay only designated parents, brothers and sisters, on gratuity settlements.

If no spouse, child(ren), or designated beneficiary is specified, the gratuity is settled by Air Force Accounting and Finance center.

Settlement for unpaid pay and allowances may only be made to beneficiaries designated by the member for that purpose, regardless of relationship. When a serviceman has failed to designate a beneficiary for this, the law requires payment be made upon settlement by the General Accounting office only.

Corn Corner

A real oldtimer can remember when the only dirty books in a library were the dusty ones.

Being a husband is just like any other job; it's much easier if you like your boss.

More people commit suicide with a fork than with any other weapon.

A mother-in-law is a wonderful and fine person when you can't afford a baby-sitter.

No man ever fell in love with the woman he loved, but with the woman who understood him.

Only trouble with some of the fine new homes is their location — on the outskirts of income.

An agriculturist is a person who used to be called a farmer before he could afford a station wagon.

If a wife always laughs at her husband's jokes, either he is a whizz as a wit, or she has very beautiful teeth.



ONE OF THE TWO maintenance technicians of Detachment 5, TSgt John T. Phillips, checks the lens of the transmissometer projector to insure that it's clean and free from snow or ice. The transmissometer is located near the touchdown point on Runway 28 at Harmon AFB.

AIREPS, COMBARS, and air crew briefings, provide the basis for routine prognoses and forecasts. For flights terminating outside the North Atlantic area, and/or operating at altitudes above 23,000 feet, coded forecasts and other products of Global Weather Central, NWAC and JNWP, and other central forecasting activities, provide the basis for forecasts and briefings provided the aircrews.

Diverse Duties

In addition to the briefing and forecasting service provided to departing aircrews, similar service is also frequently provided aircrews in-flight, via Pilot-Forecaster facility or the Harmon Air-Ground facility. In-flight forecast requests are received from all parts of the Atlantic, from all types of aircraft, flying at all altitudes. Recent requestors have included a Russian TU-114 enroute to New York.

In-station forecasting and briefing tasks are the responsibility of duty forecasters: Capt. John F. Ridge Jr., 1st Lt. Harvey D. Benson, 1st Lt. Floyd T. Cannon,

base, and for the SAC Alert Force. They also provide staff weather officer services to the local units of SAC, MATS, TAC, and ADC, and coordinate weather service for special exercises and missions. Each of the three briefing officers also has an important role in detachment affairs through additional duty assignments. Briefing officers are: Maj. Carl D. Mitchell, Operations officer; Capt. Johnson Roney III, Materiel officer; and, Capt. Jack L. Wulff, chief forecaster.

Also on TV

Another specialized service provided by the detachment for the information and use of personnel of Harmon, and their dependents, is the nightly weather presentation over the local joint AFRS-CBC television station CFSN-TV. Presented as a voluntary good-will gesture by forecasters of the detachment, preparation and presentation of the program is accomplished on off-duty time.

Among the more difficult local forecasting problems are: The

tion is equally as busy as the rep obs site position. Here the observer plots all of the many charts required to support the forecast requirement; monitors the receipt of incoming data; files weather data and forecasts, for terminals throughout the North Atlantic area, for ready reference by the forecaster; prepares an average of 65 weather bulletins a day for teletype transmission; and accomplishes other miscellaneous tasks required by the forecasters.

In addition to Sergeant Long, the surface observing section is manned by: SSgt Robert H. Lawler, SSgt James Terry, A/1c David M. Kirksey, A/1c Charles Minor Jr., A/2c Robert J. Amundson, A/2c Carmelo N. Gonzalez, A/2c Troy W. Henson, A/2c Edwin L. Horner, A/2c Phillip A. LaMantia, and A/2c Alfred J. Pearson.

Upper Air-men

Of particular importance to the local forecasters and to the AWS world wide mission are the observations made by the upper air observing section. Led by



PRIMARY USERS of the detachment's weather service discuss current weather with Maj. Carl R. Mitchell, operations officer. Watching operations officers of the MATS, SAC, ATC and TAC units confer with the major is Lt. Col. George B. Skinner, detachment commander. Behind the men are boards listing the latest weather data.

2nd Lt. James L. Kramer, CWO Raymond Kelliher, MSgt Howard R. Say Jr., MSgt George W. Sexauer, TSgt Russell O. Brunn, TSgt English G. Hammond Jr., and SSgt Robert P. Livesay.

Briefing Officers

A staff of three briefing officers prepare and present routine out-of-station briefings for commanders, staffs, and units of the

predominant summertime condition in which a fog bank lies in wait off-shore and moves in and out over the base with frustrating irregularity and obvious lack of reason. The wintertime also brings unique conditions.

Ten Observers

Surface observing functions of the detachment are accomplished by ten weather observers under the guidance of SSgt Edgar L. Long, chief observer. Two positions, the representative observing site in the control tower cab, and the observer position in the weather station, are manned on a continuous basis.

Observations made at rep obs site, supplemented with information from the runway site, are disseminated by telautograph to seven locations on the base and by hot line to off base activities. Indicative of the frequent, rapid, and significant changes which occur in the weather at Harmon are the number of observations and special observations made. The average number of observations made in a year is 30,809. The average number of special observations made in a year is 6187.

Everyone Busy

The in-station observer posi-

SSgt Walter H. Pradke, this section of Detachment 5 makes four rawinsonde observations each day.

Operators currently assigned to the section are: A/2cs George E. Flintosh, Stephen P. Johnson, Ronald E. Kuhn, Clyde L. Morris, Leonard W. Ritchey, Kenneth W. Reuter, and Gary F. Schmidt.

All Men Vital

Maintenance technicians TSgt Johnnie C. Hopkins and TSgt John T. Phillips have reduced the effects of adverse weather conditions to a degree that equipment outage, due to factors other than scheduled maintenance, has become unusual at this detachment.

Support activities are the administrative section with A/2c Melvin J. Williams as clerk; and the supply section with A/2c Robert R. Carlson as supply specialist. Worthy of note in the supply section is the achievement of an average of 97 points out of a possible 100 in its last three inspections under the SAC Form 310 Organizational Supply Inspection Program.

The OBSERVER Spotlights



Detachment 5 5th Weather Group

Strategically located along the primary air routes between the United States and the Arctic, Europe, and North Africa . . . its weather created and modified by mountainous terrain, tropical waters of the Gulf Stream, arctic waters of the Labrador Current, the continental mass of North America, and the maritime mass of the Atlantic Ocean . . . where the unusual occurs with the frequency of the commonplace . . . this is Ernest Harmon Air Force Base, Stephenville, Newfoundland. This is the home of Detachment 5, 5th Weather group.

Detachment 5 (commonly known on base as "5th Weather") has a present assigned strength of 37. Its commander is Lt. Col. George B. Skinner. It is within the tasks performed in support of the AWS mission that the nine officers and 28 airmen of Detachment 5 find their tour at Harmon a series of new and, although occasionally frustrating, always interesting experiences.

Approximately 1600 aircraft depart Harmon each month on "175" clearances. Their destinations: from Thule, Greenland, to Miami, Fla.; and from Rome, Italy to Los Angeles, Calif. Their missions: Primarily, air refueling, transport, fighter-interceptor, deployment redeployment, and ferry. Their parent major commands: predominantly SAC, MATS, TAC, ADC. Aircraft types: nearly all types of manned aircraft currently operationally employed by the USAF.

All 'In the Act'

In addition to the "175" departures, an average of 200 commercial aircraft per month, on scheduled flights into Harmon, or diverted from the international airport at Gander, Nfld., depart for US, Canadian, and European terminals, with weather support provided by Detachment 5.

Included among the departures during the past few months have been the Presidential aircraft with President Eisenhower, the Royal Aircraft with Queen Elizabeth, and other aircraft carrying many of the most prominent dignitaries of the world.

Workload

To support the forecast and briefing requirements of this va-

ried workload, Detachment 5 forecasters routinely prepare: analyses and prognoses, for standard levels to 500 millibars, for the North Atlantic area; forecast winds for altitudes from 7000 feet to 23,000 feet, for all primary North Atlantic routes; Horizontal Weather Depiction prognoses for the North Atlantic area; and terminal forecast summaries for North American, European, Arctic, and Atlantic terminals.

Flight folders are prepared each six hours, for all routes, for briefing and clearance purposes. NWAC and JNWP products, combined with the large amount of information obtained from



CAPT JOHNSON RONEY III, briefing officer, waits for his TV cue as he starts the weather program over CFSN-TV. This is a nightly feature over the local joint AFRS-CBC television station.

11th WS 'Tech' Really Unique; Has Rank of 'SSgt., US Navy'

Probably the only "Staff Sergeant, US Navy" in the Air Force is assigned to the 11th Weather squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. And to make the story even more complicated, he is a technical sergeant!

This fellow with the unique status is TSgt C. J. Sowell, sergeant-in-charge of the 11th Weather squadron operations section. His double career started back in 1956, when as a staff sergeant, he attended the Ice Observer course at Navy Technical school, Lakehurst, N. J. Apparently impressed by the Air Force weatherman, the Navy decided to "adopt" him. To substantiate this generous gesture, they made out his diploma to "Clويد J. Sowell, AF 18145162, SSgt, USN."

AMS Gives Radio, TV Announcers Seals of Approval

The American Meteorological society recently gave Seals of Approval to certain radio and TV stations which met the group's professional qualifications for weather broadcasting. Those criteria include professional attitude, informational and educational value, and audience interest.

Seal presentations were made on January 22, at the annual, national AMS meeting in Boston, by Prof. Kenneth H. Jehn. He is chairman of the Society's Board on Radio and Television Weathercasting.

Announcers so honored for both radio and TV weathercasting are: Milton F. Barlow, Robert L. Hendrick, George M. Howe, James M. MacDonald, Frederick P. Ostby jr., all of WTIC, Hartford, Conn., and Albert E. Boyer jr., radio weathercasting only.

Seals also went to the following announcers for radio-TV weather reporting: Cecil C. Carrier, KTBH, Wichita, Kan.; Warren A. Culbertson, WBKB, Chicago; Robert T. Freeman, WKY, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Charles L. Hosler, WFBG, Altoona, Pa.; Donald E. Kent, WBZ, Boston, Mass.; Peter M. Kuhn, WHA, Madison, Wis.; Roy L. Leep jr., WTVT, Tampa, Fla.; Milton A. Strauss, WISC, Madison; Gordon B. Weir, KRCA, Hollywood, and Joe H. Wolters, WSFA, Montgomery, Ala.

Uniqueness seems to play a large part in Sergeant Sowell's career, in general. In 1943, he attended the Merchant Marine Radio Officer Cadet school at Boston, later serving aboard the SS R. C. Stoner in the Pacific. He subsequently saw action in the battle for Okinawa.

He enlisted in the Air Force in 1945. Among the many activities that followed his basic training were attendance at the Weather Observer course, Chanute AFB, Ill., weather observing in England and Germany and with the 6th Weather squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.

Later he served as a weather observer during Operation Long Horn at Fort Hood, Tex., then during the atomic bomb tests at the Nevada proving grounds. Another distinction which formed part of his background was attending the first class of the Weather Technician course at Chanute AFB, Ill., in January 1956.

Following graduation from the aforementioned Navy school, Sergeant Sowell was assigned to Detachment 13, 7th Weather group (now Detachment 13, 11th Weather squadron), succeeded by transfer to 7th WGP headquarters. The Air Force's "Navy" man and his family live on-base at Elmendorf AFB now.



OH, THOSE LUCKY feathers, nestling against the soft, creamy-textured skin of this wondrous damsel, who is none other than Jeanne Crain. This peerless example of palpating pulchritude labors for Universal Pictures Company, whom we thank most profusely for ourselves and males in general.

Elect AWS Man

Among the councilors recently elected at the American Meteorological society's meeting in Boston was Lt. Col. Robert C. Bundgaard, of 4th Weather wing headquarters, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Colonel Bundgaard, in the wing's Scientific Services section, was the only military man of the five new councilors. He will serve three years, from 1960-1962, inclusive.

Dr. Thomas F. Malone, research director for a large eastern insurance company, was elected president of AMS for a two-year term.

56th Expanding, Reorganizing

The 56th Weather Reconnaissance squadron at Yokota AB, Japan, is undergoing extensive expansion and reorganization in preparation for its role as lone typhoon chaser in the Western Pacific. The "Buzzards" gained two new flight crews on February 15, and by the first of next month, there will be 15 crews manning the giant WB-50 weathercraft.

These crews will be under the direction of three flight commanders within the squadron. Maj. Clifford M. Blue will be the head of Flight A and will also serve as Big Buzzard scheduling officer.

The two other flights will be temporarily commanded by Captains Harvey B. Towne and Robert I. Harwood. They will also assist Major Blue in his scheduling work.

The 56th WRS will begin flying to Guam in March and by April will start full weather reconnaissance operations in the Western Pacific's typhoon spawning grounds.

"Hunters" Espanol!

The always popular AWS film, "Hurricane Hunters," was recently loaned out by the US Weather Bureau to the Dominican Republic.

That country put a Spanish sound track on it and used it as part of a program to inform Dominicans on hurricane detection and warning procedures. The film was originally loaned out to the USWB by Information Office, Scott AFB, Ill.

Reg Gives New Promotion Data

A new Air Force regulation, 39-29, which could affect AWS men, gives commands authority to use 10 per cent of the authorized quota to promote "frozen" airmen from A/2c to A/1c. The new regulation is almost all-inclusive, and ties together all directives, letters, messages and other information on airman promotion.

It is now being sent to the field. MATS will use this 10 per cent authorization but selection and promotion of AWS airmen remains at AWS headquarters level. In addition to meeting the normal criteria for promotion consideration, A/2c in frozen career fields must have 36 months in grade.

To be eligible for promotion consideration under the "10%" quota, all AWS personnel below master sergeant rank must be "exceptionally well qualified."

This must be substantiated by their last two Airman Performance reports (Form 75), which should be checked in either block entitled "An Exceptional Airman of Great Value to the Service," or "One of the Very Few Outstanding Airmen I Know," in Section V.

The 10 per cent rule formerly applied to A/1c or above.

2 AWS Consultants Go to USWB Sites on Exchange Visits

As part of the weatherman exchange program begun last year between AWS and the US Weather Bureau, one AWS technical consultant has just completed a 3-day visit with a USWB unit.

Edwin B. Fawcett, of AWS Scientific Services directorate, held discussions on common weather problems with USWB men during February 15-17 at Idlewild International airport, N. Y. His exchange visit included talks on weather analysis, forecast techniques and the Numerical Weather Prediction unit program.

In June, Leonard Snellman, another AWS technical consultant, will visit the USWB office at San Francisco International airport. His discussions will cover the same subjects, basically.

The trips are 'returns' for two made to AWS facilities last year by Weather Bureau men. They came first to AWS headquarters for general indoctrination, then proceeded to the McGuire AFB forecast center, N. J., and 8th Weather group HQ facilities at Randolph AFB, Tex., for personal contacts.

It's in the Bag

Flight crews of the 56th WRS now carry the traditional Japanese sake bags on missions, but they're not filled with the potent Nipponese brew.

The white canvas bags are performing a very practical duty for the flying AWS men — hauling oxygen masks and earphones!



IN MEMORIAM—Lt. Col. Fellie F. Robinson, 59th Weather Reconnaissance squadron commander at Kindley AFB, Bermuda, presents a wreath to be dropped over the spot where a Hurricane Hunter plane and crew were lost a year ago this week. Presentation is being made to Capt. Larry Duke, aircraft commander of the WB-50 which dropped the wreath. Crew members on the Gull Duke, Quebec reconnaissance mission are, left to right: Capt. Lawrence Johnson, Maj. Charles Orrison, Capt. Guy Smith, MSgt John Yates, Capt. Carl Moden, SSgt Norwood Davis, TSgt Vincent Anderson, TSgt Arthur Riley, and SSgt Clyde Nellis. The 59th also held Memorial Services at Kindley's chapel, paying tribute to their fellow airmen who were lost in the ill-fated aircraft.



THAT B-I-I-G OBJECT in the hands of Lt. Col. Lawrence L. Cometh, 56th WRS commander, is the base Commander's Trophy and it has just been presented to him by Col. Ray Vandiver, Yokota AB commander, far right. The Big Buzzard unit won the handsome trophy as top all-round athletic squadron at Yokota in 1959. Helping mark the occasion are Col. Nicholas Chavasse, 1st Weather wing commander, far left, and Brig. Gen. Norman L. Peterson, AWS commander, on a recent visit to the base in Japan.

Proof of Citizenship Eased for Children Born Overseas

Under the latest regulations, AWS men will be among servicemen who will now have an easier job establishing proof of US citizenship for their children born overseas.

To help clarify and simplify registration of these children, the Air Force has issued a new pamphlet, AFP 34-1-18. The Department of State is preparing a new birth certificate for citizens abroad, additionally.

Also included in the regulation are instructions for obtaining "expeditious naturalization for spouses and adopted children" of US military personnel scheduled for overseas assignment.

The State Department decision to issue a form of "birth certificate" for citizens born abroad followed a series of meetings between immigration authorities and representatives of various US agencies, including the Department of Defense and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Need Obvious

The need for such form has become increasingly apparent, officials said, since neither the birth certificate issued by a foreign country nor the consular "report of birth" has proven satisfactory for purposes of school enrollment or employment.

"For many years, particularly since WWII," State Department officials said, "there has been a demonstrated need for some US agency to issue a form of birth certification for citizens born abroad somewhat similar to the usual birth certificate issued by the various states.

"The certificate of birth will not and is not intended to replace the consular report of birth in any way. The certificate of birth will be issued only where a consular report of birth has been executed."

For about 100 years American foreign service officers have, upon request, recorded the births of American children abroad. Since 1919 such births have been recorded on Form FS-240, generally referred to as a consular report of birth.

Marriages

ATCHISON-PAINTER—A/2c Army L. Painter to (former) A/1c Tommy E. Atchison, both of Air Weather Service HQ squadron, Scott AFB, Ill. (Atchison is now living in Weston, W. Va.)

Births

BENSON, A/1c and Mrs. James, a daughter, Marianne, January 22, at 2d General hospital. Father assigned 31st Weather squadron headquarters, Ramstein AB, Germany.

BREEDEN, A/2c and Mrs. Charles, a daughter, Susan Darlene, January 31, at USAF hospital, Mildenhall, England. Father assigned Detachment 16, 28th Weather squadron, RAF station, Woodbridge, England.

BROWN, A/1c and Mrs. Daniel, a son, Daniel A., December 28, at Charleston Naval hospital, S. C. Father assigned 31st Weather squadron headquarters, Ramstein AB, Germany.

BRYANT, A/1c and Mrs. Olin, a son, David Martin, January 8, at Amerisham General hospital, Bucks, England. Father assigned Detachment 40, 28th Weather squadron, High Wycombe Air station, England.

HENRY, A/2c and Mrs. Francis, a son, Robert Wayde, November 22, at Patrick AFB hospital, Fla. Father assigned Detachment 1, 4th Weather squadron, Patrick AFB.

MASTERSON, SSgt and Mrs. Richard, a daughter, Sandra Joyce, at Irwin Army hospital, Ft. Riley, Kan. Father assigned Detachment 8, 16th Weather squadron, Marshall Army Air field, Ft. Riley.

TOWNS, Maj. and Mrs. Marion, a daughter, Judith Ann, December 22, at USAF hospital, South Ruislip, England. Father assigned Detachment 40, 28th Weather squadron, High Wycombe Air station, England.

WILLIS, A/1c and Mrs. William, a son, William Michael, November 25. Father assigned Detachment 14, 4th Weather group, McClellan AFB, Calif.

7th Weather Squadron Keglers Annex 2nd Wing Championship

Bowling in its first wing competition, the 7th Weather squadron at Heidelberg, Germany, edged out the 2d Weather wing headquarters in an exciting roll-off contest at the January 18-21 meet.

Playing host to the tournament, the 7th Weather keggers broke into the winning position after tying the headquarters lads with a 5,365 pin total. The thrilling three-game roll-off was in doubt till the last pin, finally ending up at 2,665-2,634.

Shaw Weathermen Tie for Hoop Title

Detachment 4, 3d Weather squadron, ended up in a tie for first place in the National league intramural basketball at Shaw AFB, S. C., recently, with a nine and two record.

Starting in late January, the weathermen quintet entered play in the base championship tournament against seven other teams. Coaches TSgt Dominick Lopez and A/2c James Bristow and their Detachment 3 hoopsters have high hopes for snatching the base title.

Col. Roy W. Nelson, 2d Weather wing commander, presented trophies to top teams and individuals at a banquet in the Old Dominion Service Club, after the meet.

Victors

Among those receiving trophies were Maj. Glen A. Groves and MSgt Jesse Hickson, 28th Weather squadron, doubles, and TSgt Fay Shaw, 21st Weather squadron, singles. All-events winners were Maj. Groves, first, 2d Lt. Joseph Irwin, 18th Weather squadron, second, and MSgt Hickson, third.

Other award winners: Majors Harold Minnick and Benton Venable, 7th Weather squadron, second place in doubles; SSgt Louis Forezo and MSgt Edward Gwarek, 2d Weather wing HQ, third in doubles; and Maj. Jean De Bellereuille, 31st Weather squadron, second in singles event.

Tornado Alley

(Continued from Page 1)

tiny radios attached to balloons. Other stations locate static electricity discharges using a radio direction-finding system called "sferics," a term derived from the word "atmospherics."

Augment Network

A network of permanent Weather Bureau rawinsonde stations operates year-round, but the tornado season requires more comprehensive coverage. During this season (February 15 through September 30) AWS sends out mobile teams to provide better coverage.

During the first phase (Feb. 15-May 15) mobile units are located at Dyess, Reese and Ellington AF bases, Tex., Fort Smith and Blytheville, Ark., and Turner AFB, Ga. In mid-May these units move to second-phase locations at Goodland, Kans., Scotts Bluff, Neb., Cedar Rapids, Ia., South Bend, Ind., Huron, S. D., and Grand Forks, N. D.

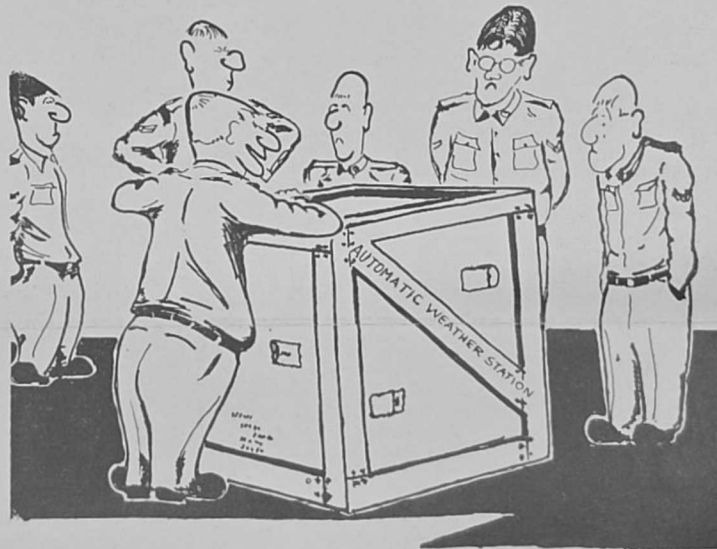
Sferics Sites

Sferics stations, with their ground direction-finding equipment, operate at Tinker AFB, Okla., Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo., Sioux City, Ia., Chanute AFB, Ill., Goodland, Kans., and Blytheville, Ark.

All data is funneled to the Kansas City center, where reports are plotted to fix the location of active storms. Revised forecasts are issued when necessary. Storm warnings go out to all areas in the path of severe storms—damaging wind storms and tornadoes.

Past Reports

Some 385 tornadoes were reported in 1959. None were reported outside areas where severe weather was forecast. A total of 845 severe weather warnings were issued, including 189 tornado warnings.



"Gentlemen, you have been replaced"

THANKS for the above cartoon to SSgt Sidney D. Arant, formerly of Detachment 11, 25th Weather squadron, Ardmore AFB, Okla. Future issues will carry more of his humorous sketches.

Personnel Warned on Saving of GI Insurance Premiums

AWS men who are still taking advantage of "free" GI insurance inaugurated during the Korean war may be hurting themselves, according to the Veteran's Administration. Servicemen not paying premiums on this type of insurance may be disqualifying their dependents from VA compensation in the future.

A routine check of records of officers reporting for duty in the Pentagon indicates that many still carry National Service Life Insurance (NSLI-World War II) or US Government Life Insurance (USGLI-World War I) under Section 622 waiver of premium.

There is no reason to think the failure to revoke the waiver of premium is confined to officers, a Pentagon spokesman said.

With such a waiver in force, the policy will pay off at the stipulated amount but dependents are automatically barred from consideration for VA compensation under the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Act (Public Law 881). This compensation could amount to \$112 plus

12 per cent of base pay per month.

Can Reinstate

During the Korean war, premium payments on USGLI and NSLI were waived at personal option. In 1957 steps were taken to eliminate the "free" insurance feature but evidence recently developed indicates not all policy holders are fully informed on the details concerning their insurance and directly related matters.

Both NSLI and USGLI policies for members still on active duty can be reinstated on a fully participating basis, the VA said. AWS men can get details in unit or base personnel offices and also at VA regional offices.