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# AIR WEATHER SERVICE



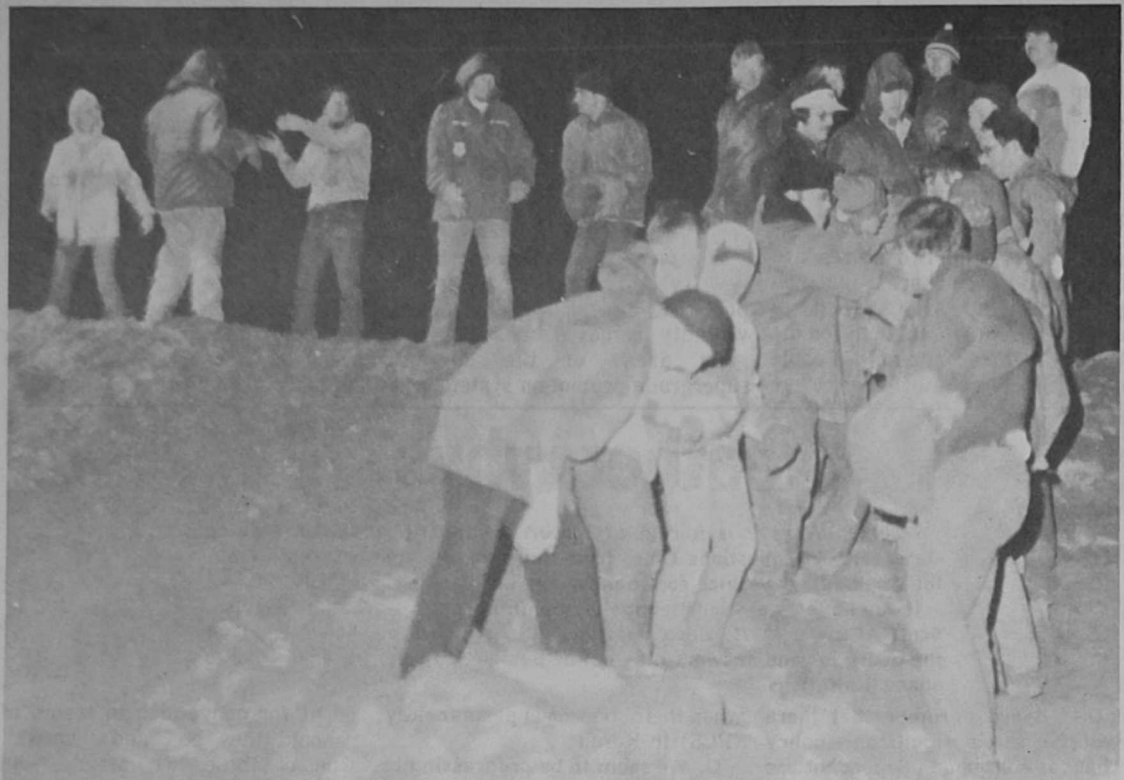
# OBSERVER



Vol. 23, No. 6

Headquarters, Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, IL.

June 1976



LIKE SCENES from a disaster movie are the lines of people from Minot, ND, and nearby Minot AFB, frantically stacking sandbags to keep dikes from collapsing and allowing a rampaging river to inundate the city. Air Weather Service's part in the effort is on page 5. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sgt. Joe Matson)

## Station chief

# Blankenship gets opening position

AVIANO AB, ITALY—In special ceremonies here MSgt. Charles V. Blankenship, Detachment 7, 31st Weather Squadron, became station chief.

Minutes later he was given a second honor when Col. Wilson J. Boaz, 2nd Weather Wing commander, informed him of his selection as the Wing's Top Three NCO of the Quarter.



Blankenship

Sergeant Blankenship has been a member of AWS since 1954. In the succeeding 22 years he worked as an observer and as a base weather station and center forecaster as well as staff weather briefer for the 16th Air Force.

According to Sergeant

Blankenship he decided to become a station chief when he became an accredited observer, "picked the brains" of MSgt. John E. Steffen, outgoing chief observer, then attended the On-The-Job-Training (OJT) Supervisor and Trainer Course as well as the OJT Administrator Course.

During the same ceremony the man said by Sergeant Blankenship to have given him much of his success ended his tour of duty at Aviano AB. He is MSgt. John E. Steffen.



Steffen

Sergeant Steffen was presented the AWS Outstanding Observer Supervisor of the Year Award. The honor, however, is far from being the first professional honor earned by Sergeant Steffen.

In 1973, 1974 and 1975 he was the 31WS's Observer Supervisor of the year. In 1974 and 1975 he held the same title for the 2nd Weather Wing and in 1974 he was the Wing's Outstanding Airman of the Year. His new assignment is as a student of the Forecaster School.

Also present at the ceremonies were Col. Glenn B. Rumley, 31WS commander; CMSgt. Walter P. Mardyla, 2WW senior enlisted advisor; CMSgt. Robert G. Zimmerman, 31WS senior enlisted advisor; and base officials Cols. Robert L. Miller III, Lowell D. Covington, Salvatore J. D'Angelo, Lt. Col. David M. Fry and Det. 7 people and their wives.

# MAC picks weather wife '75 volunteer

SCOTT AFB, IL (MNS)—Mrs. Elizabeth Von Werne, wife of Capt. Warren A. Von Werne, is the 1975 Military Airlift Command Family Services Volunteer of the Year.

The Von Wernes are assigned to Detachment 25, 31st Weather Squadron, Rhein-Main AB, Germany.

Mrs. Von Werne joined the Rhein-Main AB Family Services program in October 1974 as a volunteer on the committee for office administration. In 1975 she accumulated 978 hours of volunteer work.

For her efforts and having been selected for the honor Mrs. Von Werne will receive a silver serving tray.

# Weather pair receives special individual honors

SCOTT AFB, IL—Two Air Weather Service officers were recently selected for individual honors. Capt. Charles D. Beckenhauer, Detachment 1, 1st Weather Wing, Andersen AFB, Guam, will train at the Pentagon under the Air Staff Training Program (ASTRA). Capt. Louis R. Billones, 7th Weather Squadron, Heidelberg AI, Germany, will be included in the 1976 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America" (OYMA).

Captain Beckenhauer reports for ASTRA duty in January 1977 and will be assigned to the weather staff office for Programs and Requirements on the Air Staff. At Det. 2 he is wing weather officer and has been a chief forecaster.

Captain Billones, who becomes a student at the Air Force Institute of Technology in August, was chosen as an OYMA based on his "civic and professional contributions to his community, state and nation," according to Doug Blankenship, chairman of the board of advisors for the program. Among the requirements for the honor a person must be between 21 and 36 years of age.



AN ERUPTING VOLCANO is seen from space. The infra-red sensors (one third nautical mile resolution) aboard a spacecraft in the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) captured eruption of Mt. St. Augustine, an Alaskan volcano 170 miles southwest of Anchorage. The cloud produced by the eruption appears as the circular, intense white spot [lower left]. The elongated, less-intense white area to the right of the spot is a remnant of a cloud formed when the volcano first erupted earlier in the day. (DMSP photo)

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# Explains E-8, 9 selection system

In my first month on this job I attended a MAC Senior Enlisted Advisors' mini-conference at which a proposed new E-8 and E-9 selection system was discussed. During my later trips this proposal was a hot topic. Most AWS people said they favor the system, particularly the increased visibility it allows.

The proposal features a two-phase system and may be used in the next E-8 and E-9 promotion cycle. Phase one is an objective, modified weighted airmen promotion system (WAPS) similar to the one used for E-5 through E-7 promotion. It features a mandatory supervisory examination which each eligible E-7 and E-8 must take every fall and all competition is among NCOs in the same grade and specialty (AFSC). The areas evaluated in phase one and their maximum points are:

Supervisory examination . . .	100
Last 10 performance reports (APR) . . . . .	135
Education (PME) (NCO Academy and Senior NCO Academy) . . .	35
Decorations . . . . .	25
Time in grade (TIG) . . . . .	60
Time in service (TIS) . . . . .	25
Total possible points . . . . .	380

Points for APRs, decorations and TIG are gained as under the WAPS for E-4 through E-7 promotion. PME are NCO Academy (15 points) and the Senior NCO Academy (20 points), whether in residence or by correspondence. TIS gains one twelfth of a point per month and supervisory exam points are a direct conversion of the exam percentage score.

**Drawn Line**  
When objective scoring is

finished, people are aligned in point order by AFSC groups. The last 25 per cent of each AFSC group is dropped and their records don't meet the board. They will, however, receive score cards showing total score, their scores in each area of evaluation and the cutoff score for their AFSC group.

Phase two of the system is the selection board process. Records of the top 75 per cent of each AFSC group go to the board. The board will not know phase one scores so each person has a "whole person" evaluation by the board, which uses a point score ranging from 270 to 450.

Phase one and two scores are totaled and once more aligned in point order by AFSC group, to which the promotion quota for the cycle is then applied. People chosen for promotion are so

notified and others receive a score card showing the same type of information provided after the phase one scoring.

### Your voice

Many of your concerns about the proposal were aired. A few of the considerations were: Provide more points (200 vs. 100) for the supervisory exam; initiate a new APR system prior to implementing the proposal; use the last 10 years' APRs rather than the last 10 APRs to prevent "burying" low ratings; lower point values for PME completed by correspondence; and changes in point values of specific decorations.

The primary advantage of the new system is the visibility it provides in phase one. This visibility removes many of the gray areas of the current supergrade promotion system and



CMSgt. Howard M. Bock  
AWS Senior Enlisted Advisor

gives useful guidance to people whose records never get to the board.

Maybe by this time next year we can evaluate what is now but a proposed change to the supergrades selection system.

## Weathermen aid 'stranded' Jolly

PATRICK AFB, FL—An Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service unit recently thanked a weather unit for helping to keep one of its aircraft out of trouble.

The trouble came when Detachment 15, 39th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing had an H-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopter return from the Grand Bahama Islands. The pilot arrived here only to find lightning, gusting winds, rain and almost no visibility.

At Det. 11, 2nd Weather Squadron here, 2nd Lt. Donald L. Reinke and Sgt. Edward S. Von Hollen repeatedly gave weather updates to the Det. 15 duty officer, operations officer and commander. The AWSers also helped find an alternate landing site for the endangered helicopter.

Lt. Col. James K. Dunn, Det. 15 commander, later wrote, "I sincerely appreciate the professionalism displayed by these two individuals . . ." (Lieutenant Reinke and Sergeant Von Hollen).

## Top-Stripe

CMSgt. WILLIAM T. JENKINS  
SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR  
5th WEATHER WING  
LANGLEY AFB, VA



IN AIR FORCE 28 YEARS (20 IN AWS)

OVERSEAS SERVICE IN JAPAN,  
VIETNAM AND GERMANY.

MADE 48 TYPHOON PENETRATIONS  
AND SEVERAL TIMES WAS A CHIEF OBSERVER.

HE AND HIS WIFE THERESE ARE THE PARENTS OF FIVE CHILDREN, ONE OF WHOM ATTENDS NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY.

IS A FAIRMONT, NC, RESIDENT WHO JOGS AND PLAYS GOLF AS HOBBIES.

## Weather whys???

Weather Whys?? is a regular feature of the Air Weather Service Observer. The questions come from you and the answers come from the Air Weather Service commander and his staff.

If you have a question, send it to: Commander, Air Weather Service, Scott AFB, IL 62225. Each question will be answered, however all of the questions and answers may not be published in the Observer due to space limitations.

**Q.—I heard a rumor that there will be some significant policy changes concerning dependent use of various on-base facilities in Korea. What are the details?**

**A.—**Your "rumor" is fact. Starting July 1, 1976, dependents who are not command-authorized will be denied use of exchanges and commissaries in Korea. They may still use medical facilities and may use base exchange (BX) and commissary items—as long as the sponsor does the shopping. The policy change also significantly effects dependents acquired during a tour of duty in Korea. Acquired dependents will only have BX or commissary and full medical privileges after they spend at least a year in the United States. Sometimes sponsors with Korean dependents leave them in Korea while they serve short tours elsewhere. Under the new policy, dependents can use the facilities

when their sponsor is permanently (PCS) in Korea.

**Q. We seem to be progressing in establishment of enlisted detachment commander (Detco) and station chief positions overseas. When are we going to move at our U.S. bases?**

**A.—**There are now two enlisted Detcos overseas (Grafenwohr, Germany; and Yokota AB, Japan) and three in the U.S. (Ft. Leonard Wood, MO; Ellsworth AFB, SD; and Buckley ANGB, CO). We will soon add an enlisted Detco at Kelly IMD, TX, and next year there will be two more in Germany. Recently the AWS deputy chief of staff for Operations asked the U.S. wings to nominate units to be converted to enlisted Detcos. These nominations, which include detachments at Ft. Meade, MD; Ft. Devens, MA; Peterson AFB, CO; Dobbins AFB, GA; Charleston AFB, SC; Ft. Eustis, VA; Norton AFB, CA; WPAFB, OH, are now being look-

ed at for conversion in terms of "should they be" and "when?" One of these, Ft. Meade, will convert to enlisted Detco in mid-1976 (If you are interested in this one, contact AWS/CMS, Scott AFB, IL 62225).

By 1977 we will have station chiefs at nine overseas and one U.S. locations. The overseas buildup of station chiefs will proceed according to last year's plan and by the end of 1978 there should be more than 30 overseas station chief positions. Because of our lingering enlisted forecaster shortage, we must go slowly with U.S. conversions.

As we progress toward the 1978 enlisted forecaster shortage get-well date we will have steady station chief conversion in the U.S. Our progress may seem slow, but it is continuous and according to plan toward enlisted Detcos in 10 per cent of our units and 150 station chiefs.

## Personnel shorts

Did you know that:

\* Starting July 1 E-4 senior airmen are not authorized to attend NCO Leadership School until they complete all requirements and are promoted to E-4 sergeant?

\* As a result of a change in the original "Status of the E-4 Program," E-4 senior airmen will not be authorized to attend Phase II, USAF Supervisors Course? The E-4 senior airman must attend Phase I, USAF Sergeants Course to

be promoted to E-4 sergeant, but will attend Phase II after promotion to sergeant.

\* Figures released by the Military Airlift Command indicate an advantage in having some college credits when competing for promotion to E-8 and E-9? E-8s going to E-9 with college credits had a 30 per cent selection rate. E-7s with college credits had a 21 per cent selection rate to E-8 compared to 12 per cent for those without.

\* No weather specialties (AFSCs) qualified for the initial roster of AFSCs eligible for the Zone B selective reenlistment bonus (SRB)?

\* Air Force recently instituted a more liberal retirement policy with regard to waiver of mandatory promotion and training times? The policy applies to O-4 through O-6 and E-7 through E-9 and your Consolidated Base Personnel Office has details on it.

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Brig. Gen. Berry W. Rowe  
Commander, Air Weather Service  
David F. Barr  
Editor

# OBSERVATION

## Court clips hair hopes

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—Airmen hoping the Supreme Court might look favorably on longer hair styles suffered a setback recently. The Supreme Court, in a case related to policemen of Suffolk County, Long Island, NY, ruled that the hair regulations are "... in the interests of 'discipline, esprit de corps and uniformity'." The six-to-two decision also upheld the police regulation which banned wigs to conceal long hair while on duty.

## Donated monies spread

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—The \$657,650 donated by weather people and the rest of the Air Force helped the 1976 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign top last year's contribution by more than \$250,000. Of the money received, the Air Force Aid got \$433,441; the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows Home, \$167,720; Air Force Village, \$56,111; and \$488 was undesignated.

## More movement money

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—Later this year weather people, along with other Air Force members, may draw 10 cents a mile when making a permanent change of station (PCS), according to Air Force officials. The Defense Secretary proposed the two-cent hike to help meet increasing costs to service members. Thirty-one cents would be the maximum that will be paid for a PCS move.

## DoD nixes Korean medal

RANDOLPH AFB, TX (AFNS)—Weather people as well as other Air Force members may not accept the Republic of Korea's Korean Service Medal, offered in 1974, for duty in that country, according to the Air Force Military Personnel Center. The Defense Department said duty in Korea today "... does not warrant reception of such a medal."

## Supergrades' service eligible for extension

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—According to Air Force officials E-8s and E-9s could be extended in service by as much as a year. If implemented, the high year of tenure (HYT) program would permit the extension of individuals: (1) within one year of HYT, (2) in a "critically manned" Air Force-wide Air Force specialty, (3) in a key management position, (4) without a suitable replacement, and (5) if no permanent change of station moves result from the approval.

## YC-14 makes debut

SCOTT AFB, IL (MNS)—The Boeing Advanced Medium Short Takeoff and Landing Transport (AMST) prototype YC-14 will make its debut at the company's Seattle facility this month. It will compete with the McDonnell Douglas YC-15 to become part of the Military Airlift Command's tactical airlift fleet.

## CRAF tests at Scott

SCOTT AFB, IL (MNS)—It isn't often that civilian airlines are engaged in a military exercise but representatives of 16 commercial airlines recently took part in a Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) exercise here.

CRAF is the arrangement for the military use of civilian airline aircraft in time of national emergency. The CRAF program—which would double military airlift capability—has never been formally activated.

During the exercise, airline representatives joined Military Airlift Command (MAC) staff members to evaluate procedures and to exercise centralized mission management that would be involved in the activation of CRAF.

No actual movement of aircraft was involved, but activities at MAC headquarters and the airlines' operations centers exercised capability reporting, mission scheduling, flight monitoring and logistics monitoring.

## Duo helps pass new AFA goal

HILL AFB, UT—Each year the Military Airlift Command's (MAC) Air Force Association membership drive tries to top the record of the year before. Such was not the case last year.

This year, however, an Air Weather Service airman became the new member to pass an all-time MAC high mark. A1C Lynda J. Tooley, Detachment 6, 15th Weather Squadron here became MAC's 3,000th new member this year and Sgt. Gregory D. Keates, also of Det. 6 became the 3,001st new member.

## Sarcasm gets state nicknamed

How did North Carolina, host state of Detachment 2, 3rd Weather Squadron, Det. 3, 5WS, Det. 21, 7th Weather Wing and ETAC's OL-G get the nickname "Tar Heel State?" It came after a fierce Civil War battle according to the state's Division of Economic Development.

As weary North Carolina troops trudged past a relatively fresh unit from another state one of the fresh troops asked, "Any more tar down in the old North State?" North Carolina was noted for its tar and pitch production.

"Not a bit. Jeff Davis (Confederate leader) bought it all up."

"What's he going to do with it?" Smiling, the North Carolinian retorted, "He's gonna put it on your heels to make you stick better in the next fight."

When Gen. Robert E. Lee heard of the conversation, he said "God bless the Tar Heel boys." (From the MAC News Service)



PILOT REPORT transmission is nothing new to Amn. Paul Castillo, a member of the 199th Weather Flight (ANG). Pilot report transmission is part of his job when he works shifts at the Wheeler AFB, HI, base weather station. (U.S. Air Force photo by TSgt. Ray Y. Kawamura)

## 199 Wea. Ft.

# Trained ANG 'pulls weight'

WHEELER AFB, HI—The 199th Weather Flight (ANG) and the base weather station here have one

thing in common—trained weather people to operate the station.

Members of the 199th are trained in all phases of station operation and now man it 24 hours each month. Their duty time comes during unit training assemblies (UTA) when they work two full shifts. The shift duty is toward eventual accreditation and takeover of the weather station operation for 12 hours during UTAs. Officer forecasters and enlisted observers man the station during the 24-hour periods.

### In memoriam

Mrs. Sara Jane Shupp, the unit clerk at Detachment 15, 15th Weather Squadron, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, died May 25 of a progressive illness. Mrs. Shupp served as a civil servant for seven years, six of which were with Air Weather Service here.

## Permanent eagles to 12

SCOTT AFB, IL—Military Airlift Command deputy chief of staff for Personnel recently announced that 12 Air Weather Service (AWS) officers were selected for promotion to permanent colonel in the Regular Air Force. They are:

Arthur Bidner and Alfred C. Molla Jr., AWS headquarters; Salvatore R. LeMole and Joseph E. Tucker, 1st Weather Wing (WW); Robert W. Fannin and Frank D. Reeder, 2WW.

Kenneth E. German, 3WW; Joseph D. Saccone and Thomas A. Studer, 5WW; and Kenneth D. Hadeen, Joseph J. Hope and Herbert A. Million, Air Force Global Weather Central.

## Swap list

Each of the following AWS people wants to swap assignments with another person of the same AFSC:

25150—A1C Patrice Marks, 1808 Cartier, N.L.V., NV 89030, wants to swap Nellis AFB assignment for any base in the New England states.

25150—A1C James M. White, PO Box 501, Duluth IAP, MN 55814, wants McGuire AFB, NJ; Langley AFB, VA; or Dover AFB, DE.

## LET'S SWAP

Present wing: (Circle) 1 2 3 5 7 AFGWC

Rank/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CAFSC: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Want to go: \_\_\_\_\_

The eligibility rules for exchanging assignments are contained in AFR 39-11. If you meet the criteria and want to swap, fill coupon and send to: AWS/CMS, Scott AFB, IL, 62225.



CONGRATULATIONS are given to Alan Kifolo, far left, son of TSgt. and Mrs. Joseph Kifolo, Detachment 10, 7th Weather Wing, McGuire AFB, NJ, and his fellow scout Edward McGee, second from left, by Brig. Gen. E.N. Block Jr., 438th Military Airlift Wing commander, after the boys received Scouting's highest rank, Eagle. Fifteen-year-old Alan entered Scouting in late 1972 and in four years progressed through five ranks to Eagle. As he did he earned 28 merit badges, nine skill awards and five separate awards. He said his easiest merit badge was for weather. The man in the background is unidentified. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sgt. Ken Schweider)

## Ad Altare Dei Brothers get Scout award

LAJES FLD, AZORES—Two of the four boys here to receive the highest Catholic award given to Boy Scouts of America were the sons of a weather man.

Steven and Dennis Gray, sons of Lt. Col. Eugene T. Gray, Detachment 19, 7th Weather Wing, along with Timothy Campbell and Bernard Collins II, were awarded the Ad Altare Dei. The award came in the base chapel on Scouting's 66th Anniversary.

The awards were presented by - Senhor Jacinto Dos Reis Moniz Silva, representative of the National Council of Boy Scouts of Portugal in the Azores Region.

The Ad Altare Dei is given only to Catholic Scouts who enter a special program designed to increase knowledge of scouting in a spiritual sense.



ON THEIR LEFT POCKET Life Scout Steven Gray, left, and his brother, Star Scout Dennis Gray, center, wear the Ad Altare Dei award presented to them by Senhor Jacinto Dos Reis Moniz Silva, right, representative of the National Council of Boy Scouts of Portugal in the Azores Region. The boys are sons of Lt. Col. Eugene T. Gray, Detachment 19, 7th Weather Wing, Lajes Fld, Azores. The award is given to Catholic Scouts for special religious training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Frank J. Misciasci Jr.)

## Weather communications system begins in Texas

by  
Warren K. Mahoney

(Mr. Mahoney is director of communications requirements, Air Weather Service Deputy Chief of Staff for Systems)

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Pilot weather briefings should be enhanced by changes that will take place later this year in Continental United States (CONUS) base weather stations. A new weather communications system will replace the old teletype networks for delivery of weather reports and forecasts.

The CONUS Meteorological Data System (COMEDS) will begin use in Texas in early July 1976 and the entire system should be complete by December 1976.

COMEDS will operate at 1,200 words per minute and its operations will be controlled by a computer located at Carswell AFB, TX.

Terminals in weather stations will consist of a page copy printer, a keyboard and an electronic screen visual display. The new system will change the routines of forecasters and briefers as well as the amount of weather data displayed. As a result, far fewer files of "teletype sequences" will be posted in weather stations.

Chances are that the weather report or forecast which users wish to see or use during briefings won't

be there—but is still at hand. Forecasters and briefers can ask questions of the central data file in the Carswell AFB computer by punching a few keys on the terminal of the new communications system. In seconds needed information will be flashed on an electronic screen similar to a television picture screen. This "soft copy" not only will save time and resources in the weather station, it will also insure that users get the latest weather information in the system.

Over the long term COMEDS is expected to result in a significant dollar savings to the Air Force.

### Units agree on met data swap

REUSE AFB, TX— Detachment 11, 24th Weather Squadron here and the National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Lubbock have a letter of agreement concerning exchange of weather data.

The agreement is for times of adverse weather and will be especially important if one of the units' radars should malfunction. If this happens, the remaining operational unit will pass information by telephone to the other. The agreement was coordinated by John C. Graham, who is an NWS forecaster and an Air Force Reserve major.

## Exercise Bold Eagle '76

# First Weather Squadron plays big part in desert war games

MACDILL AFB, FL—When military forces must practice for a war they pray will never come they do it as realistically as possible without destroying people or property. This was recently done under the name Exercise Bold Eagle '76 and took place in and around the desert areas of Nevada and California.

According to Col. Robert S. Wood, 1st Weather Squadron commander, MacDill AFB, FL, the weather in the exercise area played a big part in the "war" between the mythical countries of Titan, with its goal to dominate the equally mythical continent of Centralia, and Salton, a country friendly to the United States.

Titan attacked Salton in an effort to seize a port city and split the country. Two months later Salton asked for U.S. assistance and

within days help was on its way in the form of an airborne brigade and three tactical fighter squadrons. Other, but simulated, forces were also used.

Part one of the three-part exercise was an air defense and air superiority campaign. It allowed the Joint Task Force (JTF) air forces to test air tactics and defenses before the use of ground forces. At this point in the exercise wind and rain gave the desert exercise area abnormally bad weather. Atop Angel Peak snow reached 30 inches with drifts from 10 to 15 feet deep.

The second part of the exercise tested joint staff procedures, communications and intelligence operations.

The final part lasted four days and was a test of joint air and ground operations. As two bat-

talions of Ft. Hood, TX, mechanized armour "battled" each other, air operations also took place. These included interdiction, reconnaissance, close air support and electronic warfare missions.

Lt. Col. Robert E. Bagwell, 1st Weather Squadron, MacDill AFB, commanded the weather support force (WSF) using exercise orders produced by 5th Weather Wing headquarters, Langley AFB, VA.

The 37 members of the WSF came from 1WS; 5WS, Ft. McPherson AI, GA; 15WS, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; and 25WS, Bergstrom AFB, TX.

They also came from Detachment 9, 3WW, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ; Det. 14, 7WW, Norton AFB, CA; and three Air National Guard weather flights, the 122nd, New Orleans, LA; 164th, Mansfield, OH; and 196th, Ontario IAP, CA.

WIND measurements to be incorporated into his surface observation for the Deployed Forecast Unit site is part of the job of A1C Judson D. Waters, Detachment 14, 25th Weather Squadron, Holloman AFB, NM, during Exercise Bold Eagle '76. (U.S. Air Force photo)



## Det. 21, 9th Weather Squadron

# Unit helps muzzle 'roaring mouse'

MINOT AFB, ND—Minot residents kept referring to it as "the mouse that roars," but the same people and weathermen of Minot AFB's Detachment 21, 9th Weather Squadron, found no humor in the saying. The "mouse" translated into French is Souris—the name of the river which has so often savagely rampaged through this small North Dakota town.

Far to the north, in the Moose Mountains of Saskatchewan, Canada, snows were melting. As the tiny droplets fell they formed trickles, which became streams, which entered swollen creeks—which joined the badly glutted Souris River.

The Souris River passes through Minot, turns and runs back to Manitoba, Canada, where it empties into the Assinibone River. This year its flood threat was by far the worst in Minot's history.

Even though the air base is on high ground north of the town and above the river's threat, its people and those of Det. 21 played a big part in protecting their civilian neighbors as the waters rose.

Det. 21 entered the story of Minot's "big flood of '76" when Bob Barnicle, a hydrologist of the National Weather Service in Bismark, ND, asked the unit's people to help him determine what weather the area would have during the emergency.

On April 14 the people of Det. 21



NO MORE appropriate name could be given this threatened bridge in Minot, ND. The overflowing Souris River rips away at the "water treatment plant bridge." (U.S. Air Force photo by Sgt. Joe Matson)

began providing that information—and kept it up until the waters began to recede to a safe level four days later.

As it turned out, weather had a direct influence on the river's water level. On April 17 the city received 1.7 inches of rain. It not only added to the flood, which pounded its way through town at a rate of 10,100 cubic feet per second, but the unneeded water was a direct threat to the miles of frantically constructed sandbag

and dirt dikes erected to control the river.

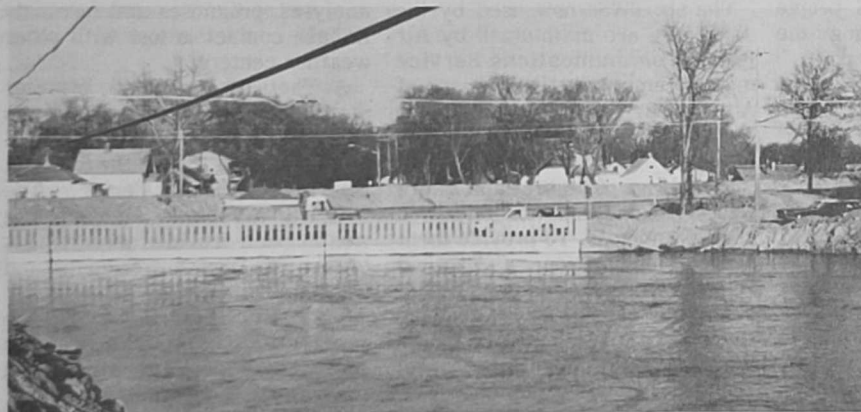
While dikes were built to protect the city other people worked to protect personal property. Heading a moving team of weather detachment people was SSgt. Michael Collins, chief of maintenance. Among the families whose goods the team took to higher ground were those of two weather unit people, Bonnie Benham, a secretary, and A1C Tim Sconyers, an observer.

Other Det. 21 people taking part in evacuation efforts were A1Cs Linc Thorner, John Pennington, Todd Keupp and Brian Tenney as well as the detachment commander, Capt. John E. Shaughnessy, who spent his nights as the Air Force Liaison Officer at the Disaster Center.

On Easter Sunday the river crested seven feet above flood stage but was contained by boundaries built with the aid of Air Weather Service people.

Unlike 1969, when Minot suffered more than \$10 million damages when 260,000 acre feet of water flowed through the city, this year's 348,000 acre feet of water were tamed.

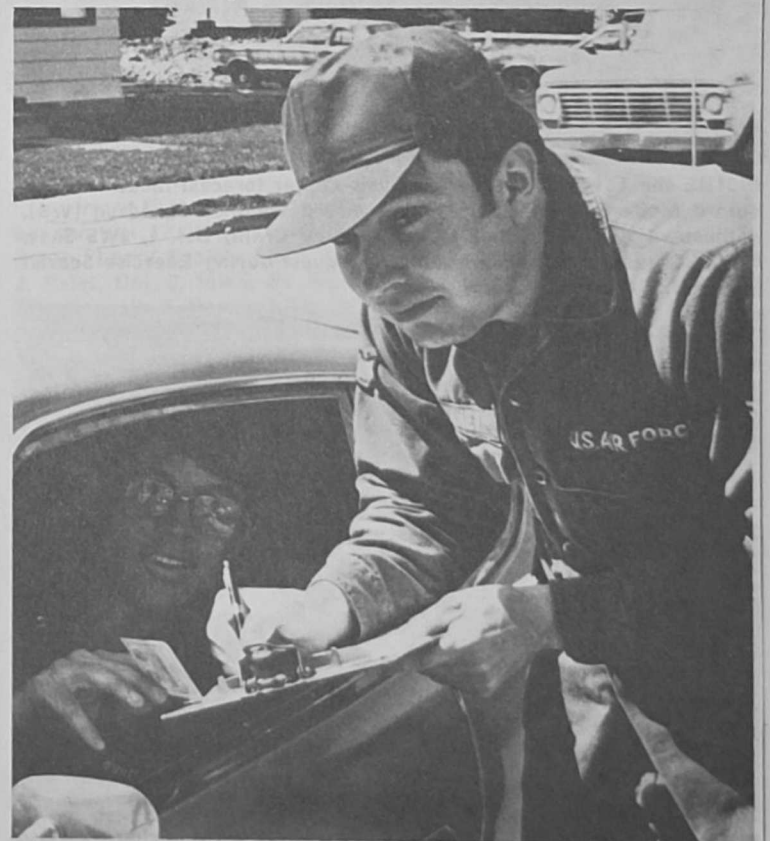
This year "the mouse roared through Minot"—but the people there "muzzled the mouse." (Information provided by 2nd Lt. Greg L. Magee and Capt. Shaughnessy, Det. 21, 9WS, Minot AFB, ND)



'HOME SWEET barricaded home' is the case in Minot, ND, where men of Detachment 21, 9th Weather Squadron, from nearby Minot AFB help keep dikes in condition to hold back the flood. [U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Rowland Clinton]



EVEN WITH no rain at the moment, Minot, ND's Souris River keeps rising—and the town is in danger. To fight the onslaught of water known to be coming, men of Detachment 21, 9th Weather Squadron, Minot AFB, help build then reinforce dikes to hold back the deluge. Left to right are A1Cs Todd R. Keupp, John Pennington, Brian W. Tenney and Lincoln A. Thorner. (U.S. Air Force photo)



PROTECTION against looters, such as this security check given by A1C Brian W. Tenney in part of the town of Minot, ND, about to be evacuated, is part of the emergency duties performed by weather people. Airman Tenney is a member of Detachment 21, 9th Weather Squadron, Minot AFB, (U.S. Air Force photo)



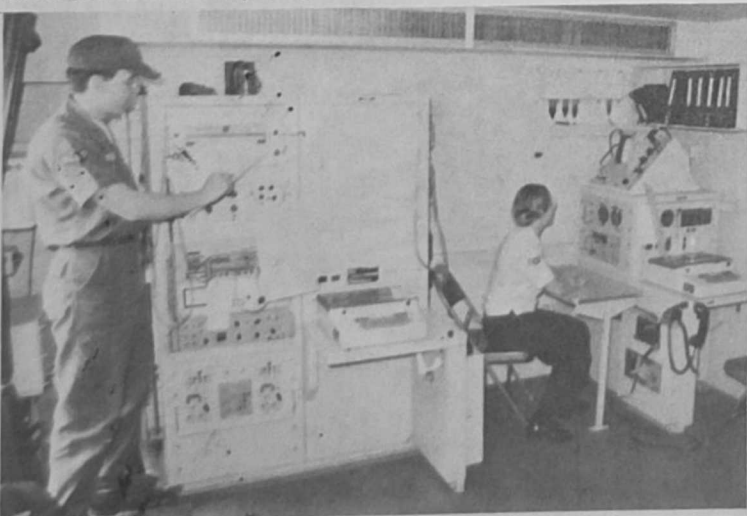
**WEATHERMEN BREAK** for lunch during Exercise Scarlet Bare at Robins AFB, GA. They leave the inter-connected modules which make up the Tactical Weather Analysis Center communications, maintenance and forecasting facility. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## Exercise Scarlet Bare

# Combined units test weather system



**INSIDE** the Tactical Weather Analysis Center forecast module, MSgt. Buford McKenzie, left, Detachment 6, 3rd Weather Squadron [WS], Homestead AFB, FL, and 1st Lt. Timothy Crum, Det. 1, 3WS Shaw AFB, SC, respond to a pilot-to-metro request during Exercise Scarlet Bare. [U.S. Air Force photo]



**BUSINESS** in miniature is the case in a module used during Exercise Scarlet Bare at Robins, AFB, GA. A1C Steven Millet, left, Detachment 5, 3rd Weather Squadron [WS], England AFB, LA, removes a facsimile chart from the communications console. Across the room A1C Sandra Phillips, Det. 3, 3WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, logs an observation from the weather equipment console. (U.S. Air Force photo)

ROBINS AFB, GA—Members of the 5th and 7th Weather Wing's (WW) headquarters as well as the 3rd, 5th, 15th and 25th Weather Squadrons and Air Weather Service (AWS) headquarters recently took part in Exercise Scarlet Bare. Scarlet Bare is an operational test of the new Tactical Weather System (TWS). The AWS people were observers evaluating the system's effectiveness.

The TWS is a set of modular shelters which can be inter-connected and moved by air to provide weather support to tactical forces in the field.

The system uses current tactical weather equipment with electronic reproduction as well as weather communications equipment. The equipment allows reception of weather information from practically all sources, including satellites, even in field situations.

The information received is processed and sent to command and control agencies, pilots and ground forces.

A complete TWS is made up of 10 modules: Three for forecasting, two for observing, one for radio intercept and four for maintenance.

The six TWSs now used by the Air Force are maintained by Air Force Communications Service mobile communications groups at Altus AFB, OK; in Germany; at Tinker AFB, OK; Wellesley, MA; Gadsden, AL; and here.

Knowledge of present and future weather conditions is vital to decision makers. To provide them needed information, a Tactical Weather Analysis Center (TWAC), consisting of six TWS modules, support the Tactical Air Force Headquarters-Tactical Air Control System (TAFH-TACS).

The TWAC is always "next door"

to the TAFH-TACS Airlift Control Center as the main weather data processing element for the tactical air force. It provides raw data, then receives tailored digital and pictorial data from Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC) at Offutt AFB, NE. The TWAC keeps a limited capability to make analyses, prognoses and forecasts in case contact is lost with other weather centers.

A Tactical Air Base Weather Station (TABWS), supporting the air bases, is made up of four TWS modules located near the Tactical Unit Operations Center. The TABWS watches surrounding weather and provides observations to pilots as well as worldwide and local agencies.

The TWS gives AWS the capability to provide weather support to tactical forces employed in combat operations—anytime, anyplace.

**SINCE PRACTICE** makes perfect A1C Sandra Phillips, left, Detachment 3, 3rd Weather Squadron (WS), Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, and SSgt. Ron Simmen, Det. 6, 3WS, Homestead AFB, FL, go over observing procedures using the portable TMQ-22 tactical observing set. [U.S. Air Force photo]



## A lesson from history

# Viet Minh, mud, moisture defeat French

by John Fuller  
AWS Historian

Nearly a decade before the United States became directly involved militarily in Vietnam, French colonialism in Indochina crumbled. It happened in May 1954 at a little outpost in a valley whose name became synonymous with siege warfare: Dien Bien Phu. The story of that siege is a saga of Frenchmen mired in monsoon created mud.

French meteorologists knew the Dien Bien Phu Valley got 50 per cent more rain than other valleys in northern Indochina. An average of five feet of rain fell there between each March and August. Despite that knowledge the French allowed Brig. Gen. Marie Ferdinand de la Croix de Castries, with 15,000 men, to fortify and hold

the village and a nearby airstrip, hoping to decoy Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap's communist Viet Minh forces into a trap. The prevailing low cloud ceilings, poor visibilities and incessant rain, however, helped spell the French fortress' doom.

The frantic defenders watched as attempts to parachute supplies to them failed due to poor weather and heavy anti-aircraft fire. To beat the weather they sent tethered meteorological balloons aloft to mark the drop zone for planes flying above the overcast, but with no way to measure ballistic winds they watched many of their supplies fall to the waiting hands of their enemy.

By late April 1954, with the monsoon in full swing, rain filled the fortress, its trenches and bunkers, making the use of parachutes for troops or supplies

almost impossible. On nine separate days during the two weeks before Dien Bien Phu's May 7, 1954 surrender, heavy rains fell. One account noted, "the rains are falling with the desperate regularity of the Biblical floods."

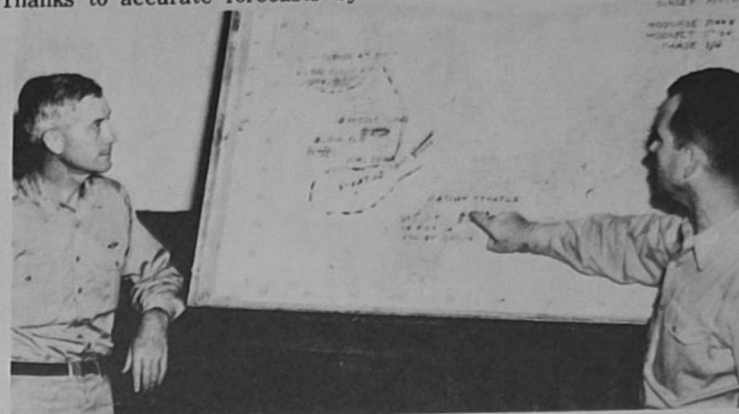
General de Castries, three days before he surrendered, radioed, "One must add to all this the continuous rain which causes the complete flooding of the trenches and dugouts. The situation of the wounded is particularly tragic—they are piled up on top of each other in holes completely filled with mud and devoid of any hygiene."

When Dien Bien Phu fell, with it, and half of them wounded, went 10,000 French soldiers.

Exactly 11 years, one month and 26 days later 24 USAF F-105s and A-4s attack a North Vietnamese

military barracks in the Dien Bien Phu valley to deliver 29 tons of bombs, rockets and missiles. Thanks to accurate forecasts by

Air Weather Service's people the pilots on that mission reported the weather there as "perfectly clear."



BRIEFING THE BOSS was the case for Col. O.K. Jones, right, 20th Weather Squadron commander, Nogoya, Japan. Maj. Gen. Earl E. Partridge, left, 5th Air Force commander, watched weather conditions closely since the Korean War had just begun. (U.S. Air Force photo, AWS historian)

## AWS salutes . . . . .

### MEDALS

Maj. John R. Sweeney, Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC), Offutt AFB, NE, received the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

Lt. Col. James A. DeGiovanni, Environmental Technical Applications Center (ETAC), Scott AFB, IL, MSM.

MSgt. William C. Waterman 2nd Weather Squadron (WS), Andrews AFB, MD, Army MSM for service in Europe.

Capt. Clarence G. Gordon, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE, third oak leaf cluster (OLC) to the Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM).

CMSgt. Robert P. Foggo, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE, third OLC to the AFCM.

SMSgt. David C. Bailey, ETAC, Scott AFB, IL, second OLC to the AFCM.

AFCMs with OLC went to Capt. Edward L. Leonard, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE; SSgt. Donald E. Armstrong, Detachment 15, 24WS, Vance AFB, OK; TSgt. Richard L. Wolf, Det. 12, 25WS, George AFB, CA; and MSgts. James A. Denton and Dale L. Marks as well as Capt. Gary E. O'Connor, all of ETAC, Scott AFB, IL.

AFCMs were awarded to Maj. John M. Huck, Capt. William H. Elmer and SSgt. Harry B. Houwen, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE; and Maj. David K. Douglas, Capt. Leonard E. Bucklin, MSgt. Norman Maynard, SSgt. John Hall and Sgt. Bruce E. Maroni, all of 5th Weather Wing (WW) Langley AFB, VA.

Capt. Cleo G. Hogan, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE, received the Army Commendation Medal.

### EDUCATION

Maj. William T. Higham, Det. 15, 24WS, Vance AFB, OK, received high honors on completion of

his MBA degree through Oklahoma City University.

A 10-military man unit, Det. 1, 20WS, Fuchu AS, Japan, has people who accumulated 98 hours of college credits last year. MSgt. Joseph Santaniello received a master degree in education from Maryland University. SMSgt. Donald F. Inman Sr. and MSgt. Horace L. Maxwell gained associate degrees in business data processing and meteorology, respectively, from Los Angeles Community College.

Det. 2, 16WS, Ft. Belvoir, VA, is also educationally oriented. In 1975 the 15-man unit completed 68 credit hours of college work, 12 Extension Course Institute (ECI) courses and eight in-service schools. So far this year its people are enrolled in six college courses, 11 ECI courses, one man is on the Bootstrap Program and two observers are slated for the forecaster school.

SSgt. Preston E. Lewis and TSgt. Erwin H. Koriath, Det. 41, 12WS, Ft. Lee AFS, VA, recently received bachelor degrees in social sciences from Chapman College.

Capt. Roger H. Schauss, 2WS, Andrews AFB, MD, received a master of science degree in systems management from Southern California University.

### SERVICE SCHOOLS

SSgt. Wolfgang Wiedemann, Det. 23, 2WS, Kirtland AFB, NM, received the distinguished graduate and drill awards from the MAC NCO Leadership School (NCOLS).

TSgt. David L. Beets, Det. 22, 26WS, Carswell AFB, TX, was distinguished graduate, Air Training Command NCO Academy (NOA).

Sgt. Norman F. Riehle III, Det. 22, 26WS, Carswell AFB, TX, NCOLS commandant award; Sgt. Steven A. Clapper, also of Det. 22, was top graduate.

Capt. Edward H. Kelly, Det. 1, 2WS WPAFB, OH, became a distinguished graduate of Squadron Officer School recently.

SSgt. Efrain Cortes, Det. 8, 5WS, Ft. Riley, KS, was distinguished graduate and commandant award winner at NCOLS.

SSgt. Gary L. Aspin, 2WW, Kapaun Bks., Germany, was the NCOLS honor graduate at 21AF recently. He is an administrative clerk.

Sgt. Joseph G. Kisela Jr., Det. 8, 20WS, Kadena AB, Japan, was a distinguished graduate of the NCOLS.

Sgts. John F. Hofferle and John P. Boggs, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE, completed NCOLS as did Sgt. John R. Schendel, Det. 8, 5WS, FT. Riley, KS.

Maj. Charles M. Norman, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE, completed the Industrial College of the Armed Forces by correspondence.

### UNIT HONORS

Sgt. John R. Schendel, Det. 8, 5WS, Ft. Riley, KS, was selected for the 5WW's Observer of the Year honors.

Sgt. Kenneth R. Chesson, Det. 41, 12WS, Ft. Lee AFS, VA, is his unit's NCO of the Quarter (NCOQ) and Amn. Gary L. Gumm is the unit's Airman of the Quarter (AOQ).

TSgt. Stephen R. Hardt, ETAC, Scott AFB, IL, is his unit's NCOQ. Sgt. Joseph G. Kisela Jr., Det. 8, 20WS, Kadena AB, Japan, is his unit's NCOQ. He is an observer.

A1C Lynda J. Tooley, Det. 6, 15WS, Hill AFB, UT, is her unit's AOQ.

### PROMOTIONS

To lieutenant colonel; Jimmie D. Auten, 5WS, Ft. McPherson, GA; Dell V. McDonald, Operating Location (OL) E, 16WS, Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Jerry W. Roylance, Det. 16, 25WS, Nellis AFB, NV; and Richard I. Nummi and William B. Wright, 5WW, Langley AFB, VA.

To major: Elden C. Taylor, ETAC, Scott AFB, IL.

To chief master sergeant: Donald R. Jones, Det. 17, 20WS, Yokota AB, Japan.

To master sergeant; Philip A. Charron, Det. 1, 1WW, Nimitz Hill, Guam; Dino F. Frattaroli, 5WW, Langley AFB, VA; Billy J. Jarrett, Det. 16, 25WS, Nellis AFB, NV; Earl W. Raymond, Det. 6, 3WS, Homestead AFB, FL; and Milton G. Sisk, Det. 1, 3WS, Shaw AFB, SC.

To technical sergeant; John T. McLaughlin, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE.

To sergeant: Emerson J. Downing, Det. 8, 5WS, Ft. Riley, KS; Jeffrey E. Malan, Det. 6, 15WS, Hill AFB, UT; and Ronald G. Spainhaur, Thomas J. Edwards and James R. Curtis, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE.

To airman first class: Anthony J. Lawson, Det. 17, 20WS, Yokota AB, Japan; Larry Boatman and John J. Pales, Det. 6, 16WS, Ft. Knox, KY; Kenneth E. Hartnett, Det. 21, 9WS, Minot AFB, ND; Deborah A. Arden, James J. Logan, James A. Stubbs and John R. Wells, AFGWC, Offutt AFB, NE; Charles J. Lee, Det. 11, 12WS, Luke AFB, AZ; Beverly A. Newton, Carole A. Stamey, Terry D. Stamey, James L. Craig, Richard C. Sternberg, Terrie A. Hagelin and Howard L. McCorkle, ETAC, Scott AFB, IL; and Gary R. Rice, Det. 12, 25WS, George AFB, CA.

### SPECIAL HONORS

Maj. Charles L. Hill, Det. 2, 1WW, Andersen AFB, Guam, received \$100 for suggesting that only host bases report and manage fund-raising campaigns. The idea changed AFR 11-34 and slashed paper work.

Capt. Kenneth Y. Nozaki, ETAC, Scott AFB, IL, was named his base's Junior Officer of the Month. A1C Thomas A. Fissel, OL-F, 1WW, Schofield Bks. HI, was

chosen MAC Pacific First Term AOQ and TSgt. Harry A. Woodard, Det. 4, 1WW, Hickam AFB, HI, was runner-up for MAC Pacific NCOQ. Others competing for MAC Pacific NCOQ were Sgt. David B. Meek and SSgt. Stephen W. Bieda Jr., Det. 5, 1WW, Clark AB, RP; SSgt. Ellis D. Spencer, Det. 1, 1WW, Nimitz Hill, Guam; and TSgt. Donald C. Novak, Det. 18, 20WS, Yong San AI, Korea.

### BIRTHS

Sgt. and Mrs. James P. Rizer, daughter, LeeAnn Marie, March 27. Father is a manning specialist, 3WW, Offutt AFB, NE.

Maj. and Mrs. Daniel R. Gornell, son, Peter James, March 29. Father is electro-optic environmental consultant, 3WW, Offutt AFB, NE.

Capt. and Mrs. Leopold J. Andreoli, son, Michael James, Jan. 6. Father commands Det. 3, 11WS, Shemya AFB, AK.

First Lieutenant and Mrs. Gene A. Ballantyne Jr., daughter, Alexandria Victoria, March 27. Father is chief forecaster, Det. 12, 7WS, Finthen AAF, Germany.

Maj. and Mrs. Ronald D. Haynes, daughter, Lisa Michele, May 2. Father is a member of 3WW headquarters, Offutt AFB, NE.

### REENLISTMENTS

Sgt. Cecile Dyke, Det. 12, 15WS, George AFB, CA.

### COMMAND ASSIGNMENTS

Lt. Col. Hans-Joachim E. Fischer now commands Det. 4, 1WW, Hickam AFB, HI.

### INFORMATION

Terry Bush, daughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. David A. Bush, Det. 11, 12WS, Luke AFB, AZ, was inducted into the Dysart High School (AZ) Chapter of the National Honor Society, May 4, 1976.

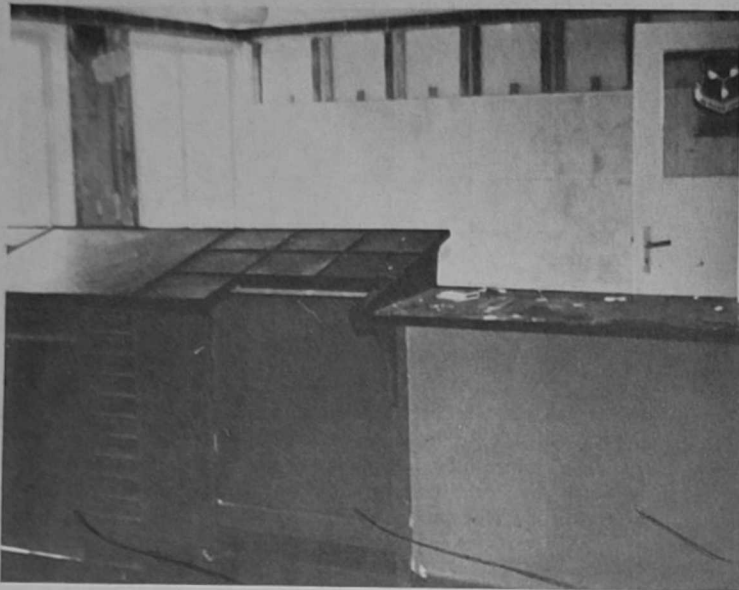
### RETIREMENTS

Maj. John D. Harder, 5WW, Langley AFB, VA.

SMSgt. Wanless J. Scott, 5WW, Langley AFB, VA.

# Det. 20, 31WS, Sembach AB, Germany

## Unit rebuilds facilities in three months



WALL TILE was missing as was almost everything else when the work started . . . . .

SEMBACH AB, GERMANY—Peace has come to Detachment 20, 31st Weather Squadron (WS). Peace and efficiency has been the unit's goal ever since last October when it returned to operation.

The story of the "new Det. 20" did not begin last October, however. It started more than 25 years ago, even before the F-84 fighter pilots here were being briefed by a detachment commander named John W. Collens III, a man who later took command of all Air Force weather units.

A decade later, in the late 1960's Sembach's flying mission gave way to the 601st Tactical Control Wing, but weather support still came from the small detachment.

In the summer of 1973 the 601st relocated to Wiesbaden AB and Det. 20 was disestablished, leaving only a handful of men to function as Operating Location A (OL-A).

With the return of the 601st to Sembach, Det. 20 again surfaced through the combination of part of the 31WS and OL-A.

As things turned out a lot of work came from the unit's reestablishment. It called for building a new weather facility with little help from an overburdened civil engineer section. It also called for Det. 20 to create facilities in three months in an old weather station which had long before deteriorated.

As seems customary for weather people, on Jan. 8, 1976, the people of Det. 20 had the new station ready, on schedule, for local commanders to officially open it.

Today, commanded by Maj. William C. Culver, Det. 20 has a diversified weather support mission. In addition to the 601TCW it also supports a squadron of OV-10s, one of CH-53 helicopters and provides staff weather support to 17th Air Force headquarters and the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Tactical Air Control Center.

Peace is now a part of Det. 20—but it is a busy peace.



RUBBLE and filth was what the men found when they began construction of . . . . .



. . . . .which put TSgt. Harley Sundahl in a model forecast section. All work was done by weathermen on a self help basis. (U.S. Air Force photos)



. . . . .Detachment 20, 31st Weather Squadron's new observing section in which A1C John R. Norton works.

### DOR ON HEADQUARTERS SPOT-LIGHT AWS

by Maj. Bruce Ackert

Air Weather Service (AWS) weather reconnaissance aircraft were transferred to the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service Sept. 1, 1975. This shift of flying assets brought about the demise of AWS' deputy chief of staff (DCS) for Air Operations; however, the Air Staff directed that a hand in the reconnaissance business be kept. For this reason a directorate of Reconnaissance Requirements

(DOR) was formed in AWS' DCS for Operations.

The office, which is authorized a lieutenant colonel director, a major aerial reconnaissance weather officer (ARWO) assistant, two master sergeant airborne weather observers (WO) who are dropsonde operators, and a clerk, is to assure weather reconnaissance customers are satisfied. To do its job, DOR either inden-

tifies or establishes data sources to monitor the Rescue Service's accomplishment of its new weather mission. Much effort is devoted toward reconnaissance data quality assurance. Missions are selected for review based on such criteria as customer dissatisfaction, data rejection by the Air Force Global Weather Central's (AFGWC) computers, and adverse data quality impacts

in such areas as training, encoding and reporting procedures, calibration of equipment or non-standard practices.

DOR has a direct line to the National Weather Service through interdepartmental committees on hurricanes, East Coast winter storms and other unusual weather phenomena. Since September 1975, major contributions were made to the National Hurricane Operations plan and the East Coast Winter Storms Operations plan. DOR has made contributions to weather reconnaissance observing procedures and more will come when the aerial observing directives are again published.

AWS ARWOs and WOs are attached to the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron,

Keesler, AFB, MS, for flying duties. Their most recent aircraft mission activity was in support of AFGWC Cold Met flights in the eastern Pacific.

After many years of primary concern centered about aircraft performance, AWS now has a directorate with a sole mission to work with weather reconnaissance data and assure the highest quality of this essential information.

#### QUOTE OF NOTE:

"The operational environment of Southeast Asia requires centralized decision-making, from the planning phase through execution, is the timely, accurate input of weather information."—letter from Gen. George S. Brown, commander, Seventh Air Force, to the 1st Weather Group, Nov. 16, 1968.



**RADAR REPAIR** training recently brought two Korean NCOs to Detachment 15, 20th Weather Squadron, Osan AB, Korea, where they were taught by MSgt. Frederick Rasgado, right. The Korean NCOs are, left to right, MSgts. Hyong U Yi and Gong Yol Kin. The Koreans are members of the 730th Weather Group, Seoul, and their training lasted eight weeks. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## Lt. Gen. B.M. Shotts opens met workshop

MARCH AFB, CA—Fifteen staff weather officers (SWO) of the 9th Weather Squadron had their recent unit workshop opened by Lt. Gen. Bryan M. Shotts, 15th Air Force (AF) commander.

After the address by General Shotts, Lt. Col. Billy L. Moore, 9th Weather Squadron commander, chaired the remainder of the three-day workshop.

Topics covered included coordination between base weather stations and the 15AF Weather Support Unit during Strategic Air Command. Operational Readiness Inspections, the Officer Effectiveness Report program and the Single Career Ladder program.

The SWOs attended the 15AF stand up briefing then toured the Combat Operations Center.

# Commanders conference hits goals, mode changes

(Ed. Note: Each year the Air Weather Service (AWS) wing commanders meet with the AWS commander and its results are eventually felt throughout the command. This year the project officer felt weather people should know the conference's contents.)

SCOTT AFB, IL—The main topic of discussion at the recent AWS Commander's Conference was the command's most important resource—people. Brig. Gen. Berry W. Rowe, AWS commander, and the wing commanders used the two-day conference to discuss the career progression and promotion potential of AWS people, as well as the management strategy which will be needed to maintain a highly qualified force.

Capt. Larry Best, Automated Weather Distribution System (AWDS) project officer, told the assembled commanders of the latest developments in AWDS acquisition process.

Afterward, the commanders discussed the use of AWDS at specific locations throughout the wings.

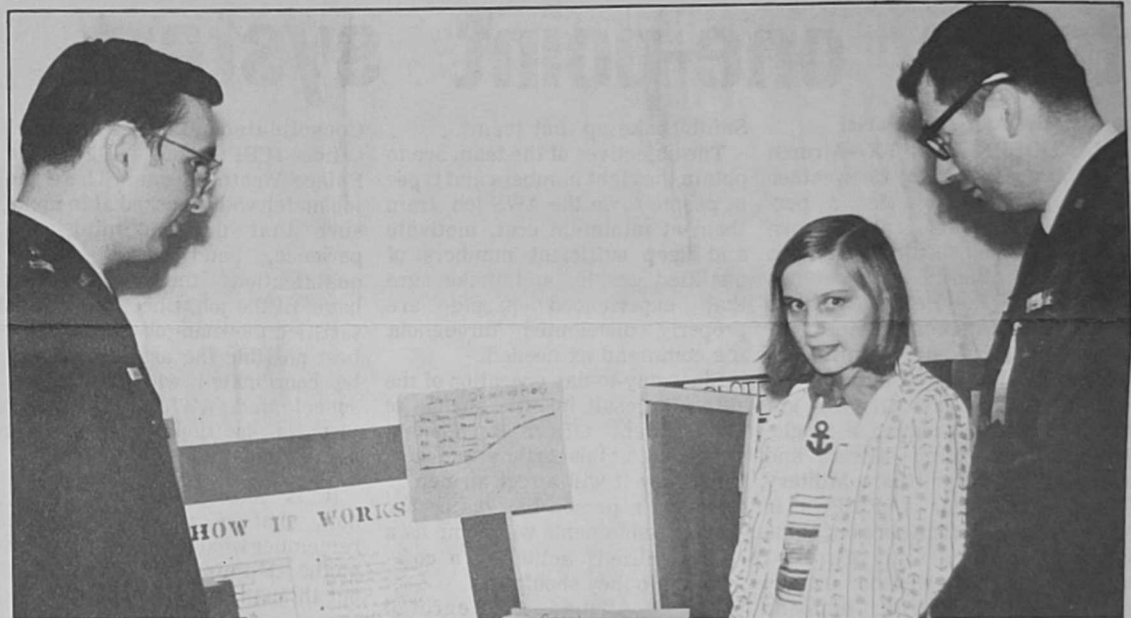
Considerable time was spent discussing which manual tasks now being done would be eliminated through automation and how change to an AWDS-era concept of operations could most effectively be done.

General Rowe and the wing commanders reaffirmed a major AWS goal to provide the best, most efficient services possible within programmed budgetary con-

straints. Automation will allow AWS to do its mission with fewer people; however, these people must be better trained to do more technical jobs.

The commanders also covered such people-related subjects as the single career ladder, station chiefs and NCO detachment commanders.

The conference conclusion was that officers and NCOs still have ample opportunities for meaningful careers in AWS and that weather people must learn new technical skills in new areas. They also agreed that through AWDS and the gaining of new skills weather people will have time to use the skills in the time now spent doing such things as tearing and filing.



**TWO JUDGES** of the four from 2nd Weather Squadron, Andrews AFB, MD, who took part in the Annual Montgomery Area Science Fair, Gaithersburg, MD, face the difficult task of choosing the

best projects. A hopeful student awaits their decision. The judges are Capt. Peter J. Havanac, left, and Maj. Robert E. Black, right. [U.S. Air Force photo]

## Expert tells of sports vs. women, older persons

This is the third and final excerpt from a U.S. News & World Report magazine article titled, "How to enjoy sports—and avoid injury." It is an interview with Dr. James A. Nicholas, founder of the Institute of Sports Medicine. This month's entry relates to women and older persons in sports.

(Reprinted from the "U.S. News & World Report.")

Q. Can women benefit from sports as much as men?

A. They certainly can, although their body structure prevents them from doing what men can do in some events. In golf, for instance, women can't hit the ball as far, but they can still play well because the game requires other things besides getting distance on a swing. In tennis, women can hit the ball hard, but they're not as tall or rangy, so they can't cover as much

ground. But they can play the game as well as a man can for what they've got.

Q. Are there sports in which women excel?

A. Gymnastics is one. They're better at it than men because they're more flexible. One study of some high school girls showed that 99 per cent of them could do what only about 20 per cent of West Point cadets could do in certain exercises.

Girls also make very good swimmers, especially in their early teens when they're maturing faster than boys. And their body density is less than that of males. They're smaller, more buoyant, and can cut through the water faster than a more bulky boy.

Q. What about older athletes?

A. Take the age group from 16 to 35. This is the prime age group for athletes. They are probably in the

best condition and are the most capable. Therefore, injuries to these people often occur out of a risk that they don't appreciate: imitating Evel Knievel on a motorcycle, or performing stunts on a trampoline—that sort of thing.

This is the age group where we get an awful lot of problems with ligaments, which connect one side of a joint with the other side. After age 16, the bones are harder than the ligaments, and the ligaments can go. You can get it from jumping, a sudden change in direction, stop-go movements, or in other ways. It's common in football, tennis, high jumping and many other sports. It can even happen to horseback riders.

Q. What are the hazards for those over 35?

A. From age 35 on up, attrition takes over. We get more tears of tendons, which connect muscle to

bone. A ruptured Achilles' tendon in the heel is one of the most common things we see. Sonny Jurgensen, the former Washington Redskin quarterback, suffered one of those. We also get them in paddleball, racket sports, jumping from a height, and from other activities.

The primary problem in the 35-to-40 age group, however, is the early signs of arthritis. A tight-structured person with a lot of friction in his joints has very little flexibility. He is apt to get the first stiffness in his hips in the morning or stiffness in his knees. A stiff neck or low-back pain may be the first signs of spinal-disc problems.

Q. Is there anything such a person can do to get back into shape for sports?

A. Yes. First, he must restore his flexibility. This is extremely important, and there are exercises

that are designed to do this.

Secondly, he must restore endurance. That means walking at a rapid rate of jogging. Or you can do it by horseback riding or bike riding—something to make your heart beat up to about 110, 120 beats a minute.

The other important thing is to try to restore your balance. You can try walking tiptoe, jumping rope, or just standing on one foot, or dance.

Strength is important and is best acquired by specific resistive exercises.

(Copyright 1975 U.S. News & World Report, Inc.)

Questions and answers in this series were arranged by the editor of the OBSERVER and were not necessarily in the order they appeared in the original article.



CAUGHT in the bicentennial act is A1C Gloria Quait, Detachment 17, 24th Weather Squadron, Williams AFB, AZ, as she puts the finishing touches on a 4-by-8-foot emblem. The bicentennial emblem was later

attached atop the base's FPS-103 radar tower with a picture of a bald eagle in flight on the tower's other side. [U.S. Air Force photo by TSgt. Herman Washington]

## Palace Weather Team tests one-point system

By Maj. John Parisi

RANDOLPH AFB, TX—Airmen and officers in the 25 weather career field eligible for a permanent change of station move this year or next should share these pearls with others.

On July 1 the Palace Weather Team begins a six-month test of a system which, if successful, could become an Air Force activity.

Air Weather Service (AWS) got interested in setting up a single-point for managing officers and airmen at the Air Force Military Personnel Center (AFMPC) in 1974. Since no firm action came immediately, assignment responsibility for weather airmen went to Military Airlift Command Personnel. Under the test a five-man team at AFMPC is charged to determine weather officer and airman assignments to unit level.

Today Maj. John Parisi, Capt. Bill Dean, CMSgt. Buddy Wilson, SSGt. Joe Walker and Sgt. Greg

Smith make up that team.

The objectives of the team are to obtain the right numbers and types of people to do the AWS job, train them at minimum cost, motivate and keep sufficient numbers of qualified people, and make sure that experienced people are properly distributed throughout the command as needed.

Since day-to-day operation of the test will result in little change to the current officer assignment procedures, this article will consider how it will affect airmen.

Should a person feel his or her future assignments will come as a "personalized" action by a computer? No they shouldn't.

The Airman Integrated Management System will be used as a first guess to match airmen available for reassignment to the jobs requiring the highest priority fill. However, these matches, which are based on the person's AF Form 392, will not go directly to

Consolidated Base Personnel Offices (CBPO), but will go to the Palace Weather Team. There the job match will be looked at to make sure that unit manning, experience, and any special qualifications the person may have, fit the job. Once the team is satisfied the man-job match is the best possible the assignment will be coordinated with MAC Personnel and AWS headquarters just as is done with officer assignments today.

It is strongly recommended, now, that if a person doesn't remember what he or she asked for on the AF Form 392, they check it out through the local CBPO.

Beginning July 1 we encourage 25XXX airmen to write to or call this office. The telephone number is AUTOVON 487-5061 and the mailing address is AFMPC/DP-MROS5E, Randolph AFB, TX, 78148.

More

## OBSERVATIONS

### Jack Frost exercise tests trio

EIELSON AFB, AK—Exercise Jack Frost '76 was more than an experience for three members of the 11th Weather Squadron's Detachment two here; it was hard work. They were 1st Lt. William Allen and Sgts. Rondal Whitley and Jenifer Allen (not related to Lieutenant Allen).

Sergeant Whitley worked at Ft. Greely, near Big Delta, AK, to assist the U.S. Army; Sergeant Allen went to Clear AFS, AK, which is near Mt. McKinley. There she worked 12-hour shifts for 10 days. Lieutenant Allen was weather briefer to the exercise director and also worked 12-hour shifts in the exercise command post.

### Red Flag again tags det

NELLIS AFB, NV—Weather people of Detachment 16, 25th Weather Squadron here once more took part in Exercise Red Flag; this time in Red Flag IV.

Det. 16, commanded by Maj. Jerry Roylance, has provided forecasts for the Red Flag war games since they began in December 1975. The exercise includes Air Force and Air National Guardsmen from throughout the United States.

### Twelve receive top stripes

SCOTT AFB, IL—Twelve men in Air Weather Service were recently selected to reach the top of the enlisted grade ladder. Chosen for promotion to chief master sergeant, and listed by Air Force Specialty Code, were:

25190—Edward D. Beard, Jack D. DuBose, William A. Gavers, Sam R. Griffith and Charles E. Lee. 25291—David L. Buzard, John H. Dansby and Jimmy F. Pitts. 30291—James R. Dyal and Norris Smalls. 70490—John T. Gilbert and Marvin L. Fuller.

### Four judge at science fair

FT. KNOX, KY—Four of the six judges taking part in two local science fairs were weather men of Detachment 5, 16th Weather Squadron here.

According to Capt. Roland F. Tadd, Det. 5 commander, at the fairs the Derby City Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) awarded the \$15 first prize to a girl who completed a home study on air pollution particles. First, second and third place winners received a year's subscription to "Weatherwise," an AMS publication.

The Det. 5 judges were Captain Tadd and Capt. Jerry R. Doss, 1st Lt. Edward J. Eadon and A1C Roland D. Wenger.

### SMSgt. E. Ziegler

## Observer wins \$\$\$

by Maj. Jack Booth

MCCLELLAN AFB, CA—SMSgt. Ernest Ziegler is all the way in. Setting the example for all Air Force members, Sergeant Ziegler, 41st Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance Wing here, was awarded \$1,000 through the Suggestion Incentive Awards program.

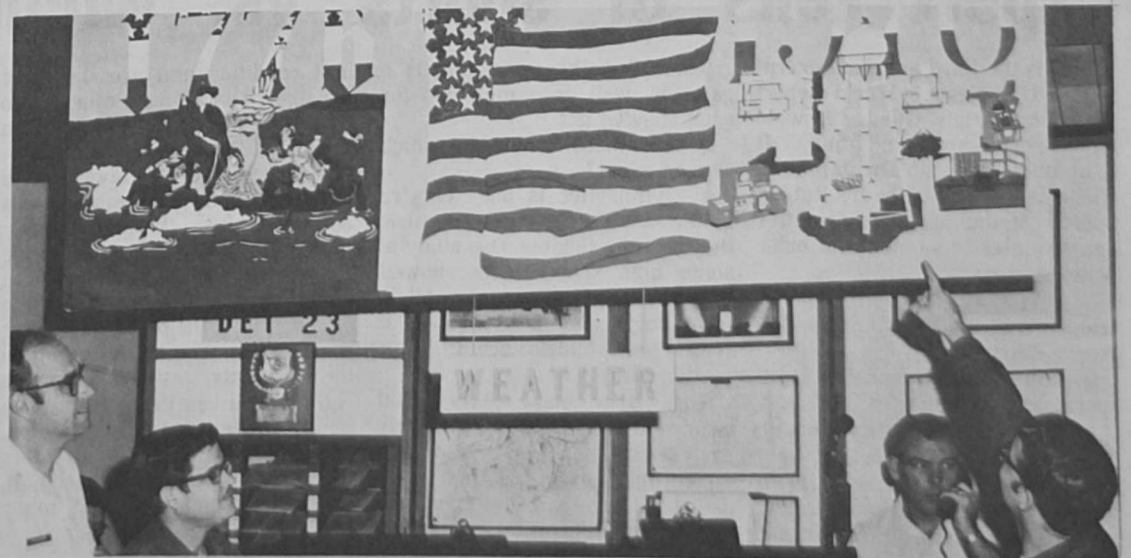
Following Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David C. Jones' advice that airmen must get all the way in or all the way out of the Air Force, Sergeant Ziegler went a bit further.

He gave the Air Force a head start on its bicentennial year U.S. Savings Bond campaign. He bought a \$1,000 bond with part of his award money.

Sergeant Ziegler, a standardization weather observer, flies as a standardization crew member on WC-130 Hercules aircraft. One duty of a weather observer on these aircraft is to deploy a dropsonde, an instrument which collects weather data and transmits it back to the aircraft as it falls to the ocean.

He received the \$1,000 award for suggesting repair rather than replacement of a dropsonde component. The suggestion saves the Air Force and the American taxpayer more than \$100,000.

Proof that Sergeant Ziegler is all the way in is evident. He reenlisted recently, adding two years to his 26-year military career.



BICENTENNIAL WEATHERMEN is the case at Detachment 23, 26th Weather Squadron, McConnell AFB, KS. It applies not only to Sgt. Ralph Podota, far right, who helped paint the mural, but to Gen. George Washington, who stands under the first "7"

of the "1776" he holds up one finger—testing the breeze as he crosses the river to invade Trenton, NJ. Others are, left to right, Lt. Col. Lee R. Clausen, SSGt. Dan R. Angell and MSgt. Harvey R. Hurtt. [U.S. Air Force photo]

**Selfridge ANGB, MI**

# Detachment 12, 3rd Weather Squadron goes civilian

by Robert L. Payne  
Detachment 12, 3rd Weather Squadron here has but one of its 15 members in an Air Force uniform.

There is no uniform shortage at the base clothing sales store, there is but one military man in the unit. Det. 12 is almost entirely

manned by civilians. The situation here began in August 1974 when Capt. James P. Lydon was tasked to establish an

all civilian weather unit. Selfridge ANGB was ideal for the program since the base is the largest reserve forces base in the U.S. It also serves tenant units from every branch of the uniformed services.

began to change. The blue Air Force uniforms began to disappear, replaced by leisure suits. Discussions of military haircuts and shaving slowly stopped—as did some haircuts and shaves.



PREPARING the CPS-O weather radar console for a periodic radar observation is John T. Pacek, chief forecaster at Detachment 12, 3rd Weather Squadron, Selfridge ANGB, MI. The weather mission here is

critical because the base is on the shore of Lake St. Clair, a connecting body of water between Lakes Huron and Erie. (U.S. Air Force photo by Gary Taylor and Terry Moore)

Selfridge ANGB, which is in the northeast suburbs of Detroit, was once known as the "home of generals" because more than 150 of them served here. Since its 1917 construction Selfridge has also been the home of many service branches. Today it hosts all branches including reserve forces and a National Aeronautics and Space Administration research unit; it is a total force base.

Civilians or not, the Air Force had a bearing on the new unit members. Four of the detachment's six observers are former Det. 12 chief observers and among them are 68 collective years of observing experience. Two of the "new" forecasters were chief forecasters before. The forecast section now has men with 49 total years of experience in it. Even the maintenance sections have a total of 83 years experience among their people. As Captain Lydon pointed out, "In the country's bicentennial year the people of Det. 12 have exactly 200 years of weather experience."

When Captain Lydon began his study of how to convert Det. 12 to civilians he had his hands full. He had to study Civil Service Commission (CSC) regulations, conduct many job applicant interviews, check CSC eligibility registers and make more trips to the local Civilian Personnel Office than he cares to remember.

John Pacek, the unit's chief forecaster and a retired Air Force master sergeant with 20 years in Air Weather Service, says the base weather support plan is unusually complex. "Following closed circuit television weather briefings," he said, "unlike most units, Det. 12 men must call roll of the various services—'Coast Guard, any questions?' 'Navy, any questions?' 'Air National Guard, any questions?' and on and on."

As this went on Captain Lydon also commanded the weather detachment, then all military.

According to Captain Lydon, among Det. 12 and the various units it serves, there may be even more than what was intended when the total force policy was implemented.

As if his job was not a full one at the time, Captain Lydon was tasked to train the 107th Air National Guard (ANG) Weather Flight—and he did that too. The flight is now proficient in all base weather station jobs. This was proven during the flight's last general inspection when the unit had no IG findings.

As 1974 gave way to 1975, Det. 12

## 31WS extends helping hand

# Moving weather folks get new offer

RHEIN-MAIN AB, GERMANY—Once more the Air Weather Service hand of friendship is extended. The 31st Weather Squadron here offers to assist all weather people arriving at Rhein-Main AB's aerial port transient facility if they need it.

Weather people arriving here and desiring aid are asked to

telephone extensions 7065 or 7047 during normal duty hours. At other times they should contact Maj. Vann B. Gibbs Jr. at 691654 or Lt. Col. Richard L. Hager at 692451.

According to Capt. Bernard C. Diesen III, unit information officer, "We wish to join Detachment 10, 15th Weather Squadron, McGuire AFB, NJ, and help make the move to Europe a little easier."

Det. 10 earlier offered to assist arriving and departing weather people at the McGuire AFB aerial port.

Rhein-Main AB is known as "the gateway to Europe" and is the primary arrival and departure point for military people in Europe. More than 35,000 people enter or leave Europe through Rhein-Main AB each month.

## OBSERVER seeks weather cartoonists

The Air Weather Service OBSERVER is looking for cartoonists. According to the OBSERVER editor, David F. Barr, "We have a lot of talented people in Air Weather Service around the world, probably good cartoonists too. The weather job, if presented humorously, can give the cartoons exposure in the OBSERVER while giving enjoyment to weather people."

Interested cartoonists should submit samples of their work to: MAC/OIT, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

# AWS aids observers; simplifies instructions

SCOTT AFB, IL—This month a publication used by and complained about by Air Weather Service people taking observations will be clarified in an easily understood instruction, according to AWS' directorate of field support.

For two decades weather people complained about the difficulty of locating then understanding procedures contained in Federal Meteorological Handbook (FMH)-1, Surface Observations. During the 20 years AWS asked permission to publish their own version of the publication. This month, with the issuance of FMH-1 (B) the instructions and procedures are clarified.

FMH-1, Part B, is a handbook which combines the airways and meteorological aviation report (METAR) code reporting procedures as well as all other observing procedures used by AWS observing units.

Organizations are expected to be using the new publication by July 1.



VISITORS, Maj. Gen. Jean-Kun Yen, Chinese Air Force Weather Wing commander, center, and Lt. Col. Shih-Ting Wang, of the Chinese Air Force Weather Central, examine a piece of Palehua (HI) Solar Observatory equipment as it is explained by Capt. Paul Neu, Air Weather Service, left. Capt. James Parker, background, explained the workings of the Solar Optical Observing Network to the visitors. (U.S. Air Force photo)

# Weather family adopts German 'volksmarching'



'MOVING' ON' seems to be the motto of the Walter Czagas Family. They have collectively covered more than 9,000 miles using "heel-and-toe action" (walking). Their individual records, in kilometers, to date are: (1) Steven, 2,370; (2) Regine, 2,390; (3) John, 2,410; (4) William 2,390; (5) Joe, 2,450; (6) Cecile, 2,510; and (7) Walter, 3,223. (U.S. Air Force photo)

KINDSBACH, GERMANY—Seven members of a weather family here found a way to keep on the move and still enjoy togetherness. The Walter Czagas family did it through the German custom called volksmarching—walking.

Walter, a member of Detachment 21, 2nd Weather Wing, began volksmarching in 1974 and has since paced off 1,933 miles. Since the Czagas Family travels as a group, Mrs. Czagas, her sons (Steven, 7; William 9; John 10; and Joe, 11) and daughter (Regine, 8) have collectively covered more than 7,000 miles.

Some of the miles the family walked were as part of 250 volksmarches from Heidelberg to Luxembourg and from the French border to Frankfurt. Walter and his son, Joe even completed a 42-kilometer marathon walk.

In addition to receiving benefits in the form of better health and companionship with each other and other volksmarchers, the weather family has received 300 awards earned from the various organized walks.

If the people at Patrick AFB, FL, where the Czagas family will soon be assigned, ever feel urged to say, "Let's go for a walk" of any Czagas family member, they may have more than they bargained for. The question could possibly take them across the country.

## Felix Quinn leads ski team to Continental Conference win

KINDSBACH, GERMANY—When Ramstein AB's ski team walked off with the championship in the first Continental Sports Conference (CSC) Ski meet at Garmisch, Germany, a weather man led the way.

Felix D. Quinn, as the Ramstein first seed (a placement according to abilities) in the senior division, contributed 23 and a half points for individual finishes in the giant

slalom and a second place in the downhill.

The Ramstein Rams dominated the downhill, the specialty of Quinn, who coached the team. Throughout the downhill Quinn's teammates had the form and speed of champions. At the event's conclusion, six of the top 10 downhill contenders were members of the Ramstein team.

Although the Rams' points,

gained in the downhill, proved to be an unbeatable CSC score, the team did not let up. According to William Agrella, Detachment 21, 2nd Weather Wing unit information officer, the last event of the meet was a pro-type dual slalom with four-man teams meeting in man-to-man competition. In this event the Rams trounced the other six teams of the open division. Quinn is a member of Det. 21.

## Detachment people walk for needy; aid Korean children, disabled, lepers

YONG SAN AI, KOREA—"Over hill, over dale, we will hit the dusty trail" may be the words to an old Army song, but members of Detachment 18, 20th Weather Squadron here did it for children.

The seven weathermen involved began the collective 116 kilometer (km) walk in Seoul, Korea, where the Foster Parents Plan, Korean Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the St. Lazarus Village (a leper colony) Helpers Association sponsored the event.

Proceeds from the walk go to Korea's handicapped children and lepers (victims of Hansen's disease) as well as to children working their way through high school.

Walkers in the event had to have sponsors who agreed to pay for each km walked and the official distance was 20 km or 12 and four tenths miles.

The detachment people earned more than \$70 for the drive.

In addition to the weathermen, more than 13,000 other walkers

turned out for the event.

People making the walk were William R. Johnson II, Charles A. Meyers, Gregory W. Calkins, William L. Burton, Ronald E. Jenkins, Charles C. Wyman and William Taylor. Jenkins had worked through the night at Panmunjom before the event then went to Seoul to take part.

The weather for the walk? According to Lt. Col. Dale C. Barnum, detachment commander, "Perfect—forecasted that way of course."

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Dixon slams to hole-in-one

ROBINS AFB, GA—When Detachment 13, 15th Weather Squadron's Lee Dixon, a nine-handicapper, brought his club down to begin his drive to the twelfth hole recently, he had no idea he would claim golf's magic number. Lee made a hole-in-one on the 178-yard, par-three hole. It was the first ace of his golfing career and at the end of 18 holes gave him a low of 73.

### Two place in local games

ROBINS AFB, GA—When the Robins AFB Olympics ended on April 10, two weather men of Detachment 13, 15th Weather Squadron, had placed in the five-day event. Pete Abt received a bronze medal in open tennis singles and Lee Dixon had fourth place in open golf.

### Det men grab pin prize

HOWARD AFB, CZ—Members of the Detachment 25, 5th Weather Wing Bowling Team here recently took their division's 1975-76 intramural league championship. Team members were Bill O'Donnell, Tom White, Marv Coleman, Jim Parish, Ralland Smith, Rich Rasmussen, Marlyn Miller, Bud Hamer and Ernie Bundy. Rasmussen also claimed honors for a league average of 183 and high series scratch of 660.

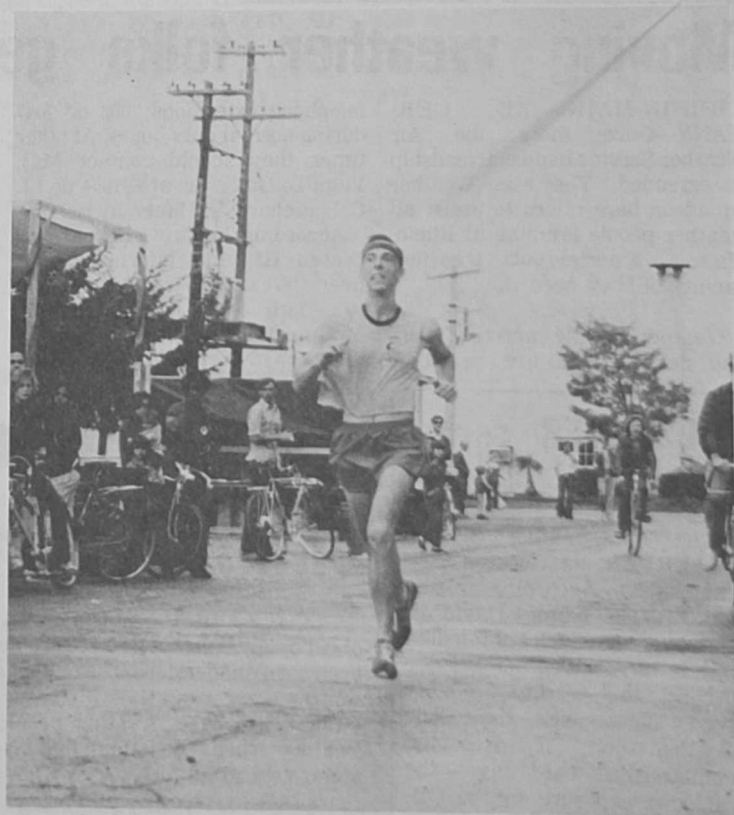
### Doubts dash, finishes fifth

ANDERSEN AFB, GUAM—When Elmer C. "Pete" Weir, a member of Detachment 2, 1st Weather Wing here, decided to run in the Annual Guam Marathon, he had his doubts—but Pete underestimated himself.

Three hours and 28 minutes after the grueling 26-mile, 385-yard event began the weary weatherman crossed the finish line to learn that only four other competitors had crossed ahead of him.

### Observer corrects data

Detachment 25, 5th Weather Wing, reported last issue as a 110-person unit with 43 people in on the winning of the Howard AFB, CZ, Commander's Trophy for Sports, is a 43-person unit and it won the trophy for the B-Division, which consists of six units, which have no more than 110 people assigned.



STRETCHING OUT at the finish line to take first place in the Fourth Annual Great Race and Carnival at Incirlik CD1, Turkey, is Ray Delmore, Detachment 2, 2nd Weather Wing. He completed the 12-mile run in 1:15:36, almost 10 minutes ahead of the second-place man. The race ended a two-day carnival to raise money for various on-base activities. (U.S. Air Force photo)