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# AWS Observer

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## Chronic critical shortage skills

# Weather airmen eligible for added stripes

More airmen in critical shortage skills will be promoted to staff, technical and master sergeant during the next three years under the modified enlisted promotion system.

Airmen in the weather AFSC, identified as a critically short field, will be eligible for added promotions when the system takes effect in January 1982.

Although added promotions will go to all skills, an increase of 12,500 career grades over the next several years, more will go to those in critically short fields.

The Air Force has been increasingly concerned about the impact of noncommissioned officer shortages on mission readiness and expect this modification of

the promotion system to improve retention in critical shortage skills and encourage more airmen to retain into those skills.

Career-grade increases in staff sergeant through master sergeant will generate more than 4,600 additional promotions for 1982. The Air Force expects similar results in 1983 and beyond. To gain maximum benefit from the additional promotions, a two-tier promotion system to the grades of staff, technical and master sergeant will be used for the next three years.

The added promotions in 1982 will allow an increase in the number of promotions for all skills, and also an increase in the critical shortage skills of 5 percentage

points. Previously the Air Force promoted the same percent of eligibles in each AFSC.

The modification will not change the Weighted Airmen Promotion System. Factors, procedures and score notices will continue to be used exactly as they are today. The order of merit for each specialty also will continue to be determined in exactly the same way as now.

The difference between the two promotion rates for each grade will be limited to 5 percentage points. For example, if the promotion rate for a certain grade is 25 percent, the rate for the critical shortage skills will be 30 percent. The critical shortage specialties will enjoy the higher selection rates for

minimum of three years.

The first promotions to be affected will be staff sergeant selections in January 1982. Next summer's staff, technical and master sergeant cycles will also be included.

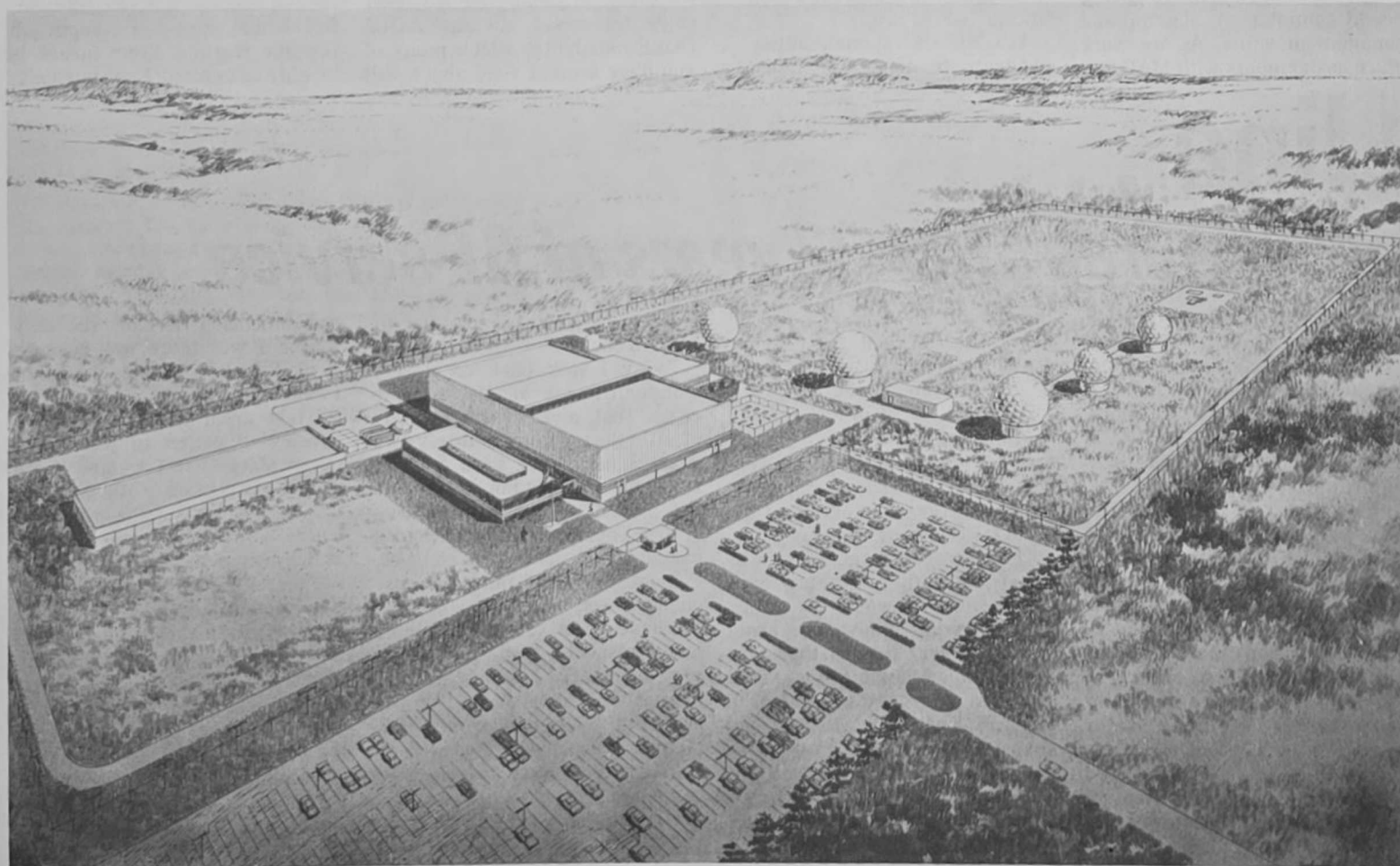
According to manpower and personnel officials, critical shortage skills are defined as those which have a direct impact on combat readiness. Current and projected skill-level manning of these skills was reviewed to determine which specialties would receive the higher promotion rates.

The approved Chronic Critical Shortage Skills are: 111X0, 112X0, 113X0, 115X0, 201X0, 202X0B, 203X0, 205X0, 206X0, 208XXX,

251X0, 272X0, 272X0D, 274 X0, 303X1, 304X1, 304X4, 304X6, 316X0, 316X0C, 316X0G, 316X0T, 316X2X, 321X0C, 321X1E, 321X2Q, 322X2A, 322X2B, 322X2C, 325X0, 325X1, 326X0C, 326X3X, 326X4X, 326X5X, 326X6X, 326X7X, 326X8X, 328X0, 328X2, 328X3, 362X3, 404X1, 423X0, 423X1, 423X2, 423X3, 423X4, 423X5, 426X3, 427X1, 427X5, 431X1, 431X2, 443X0E, 445X0F, 445X0G, 445X1, 461X0, 461X0, 462X0, 463X0, 464X0, 472X1C, 511X1, 553X0.

The skills identified will remain on the critical skills shortage list for a minimum of three years. The list will be reviewed at least annually and other AFSCs with serious shortages will be added if they meet the criteria. (AFNS)

# Center slated for space program



## Consolidated Space Operations Center

This is an artist's concept of the future Consolidated Space Operations Center. The center, to be located near Colorado Springs, Colo., will control the Department of Defense future

space programs. The Weather Support Unit is currently scheduled to be located in the northeast section on the first floor of the large technical building. (U.S. Air Force photo)

By Capt. Jeppie Campton,  
Det. 50, 2nd Weather Squadron,  
Los Angeles AFS, Calif.

The future nerve center of the Department of Defense Space Program will be built on a one square mile plot of land near Colorado Springs, Colo. This future space center will be called the Consolidated Space Operation Center.

To provide weather support, Air Weather Service will establish an 11 person Weather Support Unit at the center. This WSU will consist of a commander, four staff meteorologists, five operational meteorologists and an administrative specialist.

Current plans call for the construction of the CSOC to begin in March 1983. Based upon this schedule AWS will send in two staff meteorologists in 1984 to establish the WSU, check out the equipment and set up training procedures. Within the following two years the rest of the WSU personnel should be on station and in a training program. By 1987 the CSOC and the WSU should be completely operational.

The main focal point for the acquisition of the WSU for the center is at the Space Division Meteorology Office, Det. 50, 2nd WS, Los Angeles AFS, Calif. Personnel there work closely with Det. 3, AWS personnel at Sunnyvale AFS, Calif. and OL-A, Det. 50 at the Johnson Space Center.

# Command line . . .

## Officers, NCOs face professional challenge at AFGWC

Total professionalism is the only way to describe what I observed during a recent retirement ceremony at Air Force Global Weather Central. I had the distinct privilege of presiding at the retirement ceremony for CMSgt. Bertram R. Grigsby, better known as "Grigs" to most of us who know him well.

Grigs gave over 32 years of faithful service to the Air Force and the Nation, nearly all of it in Air Weather Service. His last two assignments were in the capacity of senior enlisted advisor; in his last four years at AFGWC, he served three different commanders.

It was a pleasure for Chief Horn and me to be involved in the retirement ceremony. Chief Horn represented the AWS at large at a retirement dinner for Bert Grigsby, where the men and women of AFGWC exhibited the highest degree of class and professionalism in retiring one of the most distinguished members of our Air Weather Service family. There is more.

I found AFGWC people participating in host wing parade formations, winning Offutt AFB Junior Officer of the Year honors, and otherwise excelling across-the-board. The enlisted force at AFGWC continues to respond to every challenge thrown its way; it was great to shake hands with those who earned top honors at the NCO Leadership School and the NCO Academy.

AFGWC must be viewed as an

AWS Wing, keeping in mind the one squadron-level organization subordinate to AFGWC, the USAF Environmental Technical Applications Center. However, that's somewhat misleading because two of the six divisions within AFGWC, all run by colonels, are larger in size than most squadrons — the Automation Division and the Forecasting Services Division; they are a tremendous challenge to any officer in AWS.

To go one step further in organization, four branches exist within AFGWC containing 80-100 people each; these people are led and managed by some topnotch lieutenant colonels.

If one adds the remainder of Offutt-based AFGWC folks, and those in additional direct reporting units, a large wing emerges that contains nearly 1,000 men and women — clearly the largest of our six AWS wings.

There are numerous topnotch jobs in AFGWC in addition to those addressed earlier. You'll find AFGWC sections that are larger than many detachments, where the opportunities to lead and manage are unbounded. There are tough station chief type jobs, and demanding technical jobs which require AWS's best talent.

In recognition of the importance of those jobs, we recently developed a list of nearly 50 key positions within AFGWC requiring special command, leadership and management skills. As we work future assignments with MAC and

AFMPC, we will be looking for people whose performance and potential suggest they are ready to fill those jobs. Key jobs offer great challenges where officers and NCOs can make a significant contribution to the Nation while enhancing their career progression and promotion opportunities.

The fact that AFGWC is undermanned in forecasters has not been a deterrent to superior achievements. You give solid jobs to quality people—as was the case—keep them tuned to the mission, and you get great results. And AFGWC officers and NCOs have done well in promotions, because their performance and potential have been recognized. AFGWC is a great place to work and get ahead; and I want it to stay that way!

If you do not have a basic or advanced degree in meteorology and you want one, consider AFGWC. AFGWC people have participated in the development of two programs at Creighton University, near Offutt AFB. Both are fully sanctioned by national educational authorities and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Any qualified person can enroll in either the undergraduate or graduate program in meteorology and obtain a degree. Both the individual and the Air Force profit. Offutt-based weather people are helping to alleviate the AWS shortage of advanced weather officers (AFSC 2546).

AFGWC is spearheading a program to afford airmen the



Brig. Gen. Albert J. Kaehn Jr.  
AWS Commander

opportunity to complete courses in meteorology, and combine them with Community College of the Air Force credits to nail down a degree in meteorology or fulfill personal aspirations for OTS and other goals.

More than 20 AFGWC officers and airmen have enrolled in the master's degree program in the last year. One is a recent graduate!

A final word about some initiatives being worked for AFGWC: A dial-up radar capability will be installed by the end of this year. It will provide the capability to dial-up radars across the U.S., tap their data bases, and use them to improve severe weather, terminal and low-level route forecasts; an automated GOES capability, which many of you have seen or read about, will

be installed before the end of the year.

This capability will be particularly helpful in visualizing synoptic systems as they develop, understanding thunderstorm life cycles, and in seeing the atmosphere from a fluid viewpoint.

We want to bring to fruition a fully capable Satellite Data Handling System (SDHS) at AFGWC in 1982. Then there is the Supercomputer—the future capability to run the best available dynamic cloud models and thereby improve support to the operational wings.

In a nutshell, GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT GLOBAL. The folks there are working full bore on challenges of today and tomorrow. Key jobs, leadership and management opportunities, promotion and career progression opportunities—they're all there.

Lest the people at AFGWC get too much of a swelled head—the people you get are the same ones who come from the other five AWS wings! They are good when you get them; your charge is to make them better, develop their careers, and send them back to the field all charged up.

I didn't intend this to be a recruiting article, but darned if it isn't. Seems like each time I pick up the pencil and talk about our people, our mission, or our technology, across this AWS, I get turned on. All 4,700 of you, worldwide, are doing a super job for our Nation. Your future is bright and assured. Keep pitchin'!

# Enlisted line . . .

## Chief Grigsby retires after 32 years of AF service



CMSgt. George M. Horn  
AWS Senior Enlisted Adviser

I can't think of a better way to use this month's column space than by printing CMSgt. Bertram Grigsby's remarks on the recent occasion of his retirement after

more than 32 years' devoted Air Force service.

"Bert," as many of us know him, was a retrainee, joining Air Weather Service in the late 'fifties. As an instructor at Chanute, a branch chief, a supervisor, and as senior enlisted advisor to two wings and many commanders, Bert exerted a positive influence on scores of AWS people, including me.

Bert never asked for much, and he gave all he had. I wish you all could have known Chief Grigsby as many of us do. Those of us who were so privileged are the better for it. A real Chief Master Sergeant, a patriot, one of the Air Force's biggest cheerleaders—I urge you all to read his retirement remarks carefully. I can tell you

they come straight from a big heart. It's straight talk from a straight talker.

### Retirement address

by CMSgt. Bertram R. Grigsby

I think that I am on firm ground, solid ground, when I say that nobody, and I repeat, nobody, has had a better service life than CMSgt. Bertram R. Grigsby.

Thirty-two years ago today I was a veteran with twenty-two days service. I was a very knowledgeable individual about the Air Force. I knew all there was to know about the Air Force. And, I even looked forward to a career in the Air Force. I wasn't very anxious about what was going to happen to me. All I wanted to know was what I was going to do, where I was going to go. And, at that time I

knew I was going to make the Air Force a career.

Today I look back on a very wonderful way of life. Let me repeat that, a very wonderful way of life that spanned thirty-two years. There have been a lot of changes in the Air Force. And, the Air Force has grown and I've grown. There have been some good changes and some bad changes, but changes were made because changes need to be made.

I have been very fortunate in many respects. And, I've had a very fascinating, interesting, and profitable career in many respects. I've met some very fabulous people, and I've worked with some fabulous people, and I've had some very fabulous assignments. And, then some

assignments I've had, the only reason I was there was because Uncle Sam told me to go there, but I went.

I take great pride in what I've done. I've gotten to just about every place that I wanted to go with the exception of Alaska. But, it's all been up to the offices of Uncle Sam. And, some of my assignments, 4925th Test Group Atomic, United States Security Service, and a test site assignment, they reflect favorably upon both myself and my family and my wife's family. This indicates a type of American's that we Grigsbys are. And, I take very great pride in that. The Air Force has been a way of life for me and my family and none of us regret it. None of us will

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Brig. Gen. A. J. Kaehn Jr.  
AWS Commander

SSgt. Sue Shearer  
Editor

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# Marines face added challenges

When a Marine Corps student arrives at Chanute AFB, Ill., for observing or forecasting school, he will generally find 15 other Marine students in the observer's course and one or two in the forecaster's course.

Marine students are assigned TDY to the Marine detachment, which handles any and all personnel problems which may arise during the school.

Students attending the school are assigned from basic training, or as cross-trainees with a rank of E-6 or below.

Prerequisites for a Marine to attend the forecasting school are that he is on his second enlistment, has completed the Navy 1 and Career Development Course, the

Navy Math course and the Navy Multi-Latitude CDC course.

In addition to the academic training received by all the students at the schools, a Marine must also maintain his physical training. At least one hour of physical training per day, three days a week, is required. He will also receive his annual physical fitness training while at the school. This includes a three-mile run, sit ups, push ups and chin ups. Failure of the test could mean possible removal from training.

Near the end of the course, the Marines attend a Navy-Marine unique section which helps tailor their learning to

suit the needs of their jobs.

Upon graduation, the Marine Corps student will be assigned to one of only eleven Marine weather stations. Eight are in the continental United States, while three are in overseas areas.

Marine weather duties are similar to those of the Air Force. These include briefing pilots, taking observations, plotting charts and tearing data.

Shifts normally run 10 hours per day shift and 14 hour night watches with one forecaster and two observers per team.

Though few in number the Marine Corps Students have become an integrated part of the Chanute scene.

## Group recognized for achievements

Two achievement awards were presented to Detachment 1, 4,000th Satellite Operations Group Fairchild AFB, Wash., by Maj. Gen. Jack L. Watkins, commander of the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division, Vandenberg, AFB, Calif.

The unit received the 1980 Operational Achievement Trophy, which is presented annually to the unit in the 4,000th Satellite Operations Group that maintains the highest overall performance effectiveness for the calendar year.

The detachment provided nearly 100 percent of the mission data requested from its on-orbit spacecraft, the highest effectiveness rating in the 4,000th Satellite Operations Group.

The second award was the Dan Gray Memorial Trophy, presented semiannually to the detachment that demonstrates the highest degree of professionalism, mission effectiveness and overall excellence.

## Pay changes much in past 100 years

By J.R. Hopkins,  
Deputy Accounting and Finance Officer,  
Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Military pay has changed a lot in the past 100 years—and in more ways than just the amount. Today most people have their pay sent directly to banks or are paid by check.

Things were different 100 years ago in the Army. Pay day then was a festive occasion for the 50,000 members, most of whom were stationed in the western half of the United States.

The pay master, predecessor of today's accounting and finance officer, traveled to the various post approximately every two months.

After the pay master was set up, the bugler sounded pay call. The soldiers fell out in their dress uniform and white gloves.

A line formed in front of the pay master's table. When a member's name was called, he removed the glove from his right hand, stepped forward and presented his pay book.

The pay master recorded the payment, paid the member and returned the pay book. The member then saluted, with his left hand, according to the soldier's handbook, and was off for the rest of the day.

Military pay included base pay, clothing allowance and a ration allowance for some enlisted people.

In addition the men received "continuous service" pay, which was 5 percent of their base pay for each five years of service. This was placed in a soldier's deposit, which paid 4 percent interest, and could not be drawn out until the member was discharged or retired.

In 1881 a sergeant major, a senior noncommissioned officer, received \$23 per month. The first sergeant got \$22, a sergeant, \$17, a corporal, \$15 and private, \$13. More than 80 percent of the enlisted people were privates.

Officers didn't receive much more. The annual salary of a colonel was \$3,500, a lieutenant colonel, \$3,000, a major, \$2,500 a captain was \$1,800, first lieutenant, \$1,500 and second lieutenant, \$1,400. Most officers remained lieutenants or captains for 10 to 18 years. Very few became colonels until just before retirement.



SrA Russel Dahl (left) transmits an observation for the Corps helipad into the Automated Weather Network while Maj. Charles Stackhouse prepares a weather situation form to be distributed to key 1X Corps staff agencies. Both are with the 195th Weather Flight, Van Nuys ANGB, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## Weather team supports Army 'Gopher Broke'

Members of Det. 17, 30th Weather Squadron, Yokota AB, Japan and 195th Weather Flight, Van Nuys, AGB, Calif., joined at Shofield Barracks, Hawaii to support the U. S. Army 1X Corps exercise GOPHER BROKE XI.

The team members, Maj. John Reimer, Det. 17, 30th WS and Maj. Charles Stackhouse, and SrA Russel Dahl of the 195th WF, provided forecasting and staff support to the Corps headquarters Air Support Operations Center, and the control group.

In addition, they provided observation support to the Corps headquarters helipad throughout the five-day command post exercise.

Ninth Corps is unique to the U. S. Army because the corps staff consists of an active Army nucleus stationed at Camp Zama, Japan augmented by a large Army reserve element located at Fort Derussy, Hawaii.

The GOPHER BROKE exercise is conducted to allow frequent, integrated training of the active and reserve elements of the corps staff.

This "total Army" concept was reflected by the weather team, composed of Air Force active duty and Air National Guard members.

## B-1B production

# Combat aircraft approved

President Ronald Reagan has authorized development of the B-1B long-range combat aircraft. Based on the original B-1 design, the aircraft will have a larger payload and improved penetration capability.

Air Force officials say the B-1B will take over the penetration role from increasingly vulnerable B-52, and continue that task after an advanced-technology bomber is deployed. The B-1B will be able to carry cruise missiles and conduct a variety of missions during its estimated 30-year life. It will complement the advanced-technology bomber and contribute to conventional and strategic missions well into the next century.

The first of 100 LRCA's could be delivered to the Strategic Air Command in mid-1986.

Two of the original four B-1 bombers will be used for LRCA testing. Modification to the first will begin in 1982, with flight testing scheduled to begin in 1983. Flights with the second test LRCA will follow.

The first modified B-1 will be used for weapons and

separations tests. The second will be used for avionics development. It will also undergo engineering and fabrication modifications throughout flight testing.

Major changes to the B-1 include:

- Off-the-shelf FB-111A avionics currently in the B-1 aircraft will be replaced with the modern offensive avionics system developed to update the B-52 aircraft.

- Structural changes will permit increasing gross-takeoff weight from 395,000 (177,750 kg) to 477,000 pounds (214,650 kg), external and internal carriage of air-launched cruise missiles, addition of radar-absorbing material and use of ejection seats instead of an ejection capsule.

- Engine inlets will be changed to optimize the B-1B's high sub-sonic, low-altitude penetration mission.

- A terrain-following radar will allow the LRCA to follow the "nap of the earth" at near the supersonic speeds, thus cluttering a watching enemy's radar screen with hills, trees, mountains and towers and making it difficult to track the aircraft. High-speed, altitude flying also reduces the possibility of interception by enemy aircraft.

The B-1B will also be equipped with electronic jamming equipment, infrared countermeasures, radar location and warning systems and other devices to defeat enemy defensive systems.

Managing the B-1B LRCA for the Air Force is the Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Prime contractor is Rockwell International Corp. Testing will come under the direction of the LRCA combined task force at Edwards AFB, Calif. (AFNS)

### Does anyone know?

The Friez Instrument Division of the Bendix Aviation Company presented it's one millionth radiosonde instrument to Air Weather Service in 1953.

This was first displayed at AWS in March, 1953 and was last seen in the Early 1970's. If anyone knows where it is, contact CMSgt. George M. Horn, AWS/CMS, Scott AFB, Ill., 62225.

# AWS salutes . . .

Information for Salutes should be sent by unit public affairs officers to HQ AWS/PA or CSSP, Scott AFB, Ill. 62225. Items received by the 15th of the month are printed in the following month's AWS OBSERVER.

Abbreviations are AWS-Air Weather Service; HQ-Headquarters; AIN-Army Installation; AAF-Army Airfield; AFS-Air Force Station; CCAF-Community College of the Air Force; WW-Weather Wing; WS-Weather Squadron; AFGWC-Air Force Global Weather Central; USAFETAC-U.S. Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center; WRS-Weather Reconnaissance Squadron; BTZ-Below the Zone; OL-Operating Location; and OLC-Oak Leaf Cluster.

## Medals

**Legion of Merit:** Col. J.R. O'Neal, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.

**Airmen's Medal:** Capt. Beverly Baker, (1st OLC), SSgt. Roger Ritchie, (1st OLC), Det. 4, HQ AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam.

**Defense Meritorious Service Medal:** Maj. David J. Pace, Det. 6, 2nd WW, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany.

**Meritorious Service Medal:** Maj. Gibson Morris, (1st OLC), Det. 4, HQ AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam; Maj. Frank J. Luna, Jr., (1st OLC), Det. 6, 2nd WW, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany; Lt. Col. J. A. Zak, Capt. R. E. Godden, and CMSgt. D. W. Sowalskie, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; CMSgt. Charles L. Miller, 30th WS, Yongsan AIN, Korea; Capt. Julius A. Jackson, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.; Lt. Col. Dean A. Morss, Det. 1, 1st WW, Nimitz Hill, Guam; Maj. Dale L. Johnson, Det. 2, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Lt. Col. Owen Y. Macy, (1st

J. Brainard, 30th WS, Yongsan AIN, Korea; Capt. Joseph R. Gahlinger, (1st OLC), Det. 6, 2nd WW, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany; Capt. Frank L. Kendrick, Det. 17, 24th WS, Randolph AFB, Texas; 1st Lt. Mark A. Thomas, MSgt. Henry A. Binion, Sgt. Dorothy Sanford and Sgt. Richard W. Korich, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; TSgt. Randy L. Peterson, (3rd OLC), Det. 4, 11th WS, Ft. Wainwright, Alaska; 1st Lt. Karan T. Hofmann, 14th Student Squadron, Columbus AFB, Miss.; Capt. Thomas P. Walters, (2nd OLC), 1st Lt. James K. Hancock, (1st OLC), HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.

**Army Commendation Medal:** SSgt. Darryl K. Roth, Det. 6, 17th WS, Hill AFB, Utah.

**Air Force Humanitarian Service Medal:** Personnel stationed at Det. 3, 9th WS, Fairchild AFB, Wash. from May 18 to June 30, 1980 who participated in the Mt. St. Helens ash clean-up on the base are eligible for the humanitarian service medal. Contact Det. 3, 9th WS/CC, Fairchild AFB, Wash. 99011.

## Promotions

**To captain:** Richard Ferris, Det. 4, HQ AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam; Terry J. Clark, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

**To first lieutenant:** Richard C. Fleming, Det. 12, 31st WS, Torrejon AB, Spain; Elizabeth Eskridge, Det. 7, 24th WS, Mather AFB, Calif.; Douglas L. Sheadel and Mary J. Carr, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.

**To master sergeant:** Rickey M. Reichert, Det. 21, 2nd WW, Kapaun AS, Germany; David W. Gibson, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.; Bayardo Estrada, Det. 8, 30th WS,

**To senior airman:** Robert E. Campanara, (BTZ), 17th WS, Travis AFB, Calif.; M. Asbury, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Jerome P. Koch, (BTZ), Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.; Kenneth R. Anderson, Peter J. Rahe, Det. 7, 5th WS, Ft. Ord, Calif.; Scott A. Carlson, (BTZ), Det. 24, 26th WS, K. I. Sawyer AFB, Mich.; John F. Seereiter, Det. 1, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; John Hampshire, Det. 7, 24th WS, Mather AFB, Calif. Curtis A. Vock, Det. 18, 28th WS, RAF Fairford, United Kingdom; Lincoln D. Gordon, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska.

**To airman first class:** Salvatore V. Evola, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N. Y.; Michael A. Berkompas, Det. 5, 5th WS, Fort Knox, Ky.; Jeffrey L. Kaufman, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S. C.; Cynthia K. Lawhorn, Alan T. Van Horn, Sharon E. Russell, Det. 20, 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; Robin M. Griffin, Det. 14, 26th WS, Blytheville AFB, Ark.; Anne Marie Cipot, Det. 8, 30th WS, Kadena AB, Japan; Kenneth W. Briggs, Det. 4, 38th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom; James T. Banks, Det. 23, 3rd WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; Paul Lamon, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

**To airman:** Martin P. Fassinger, Det. 23, 3rd WS, Moody AFB, Ga.; Susan L. Slesser, Det. 8, 30th WS, Kadena AB, Japan; Darner J. Terver, Det. 6, 3rd WS, Homestead AFB, Fla.; Geoff A. Gatz, Det. 6, 9th WS, Peterson AFB, Colo.

## Unit honors

**NCO of the Quarter:** SSgt. James B. Bennett, Det. 9, 5th WS, Fort Rucker, Ala.; SSgt. Mary F. Hebert, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom; SSgt. William F. Kvedaravich, Det. 18, 28th WS, RAF Fairford, United Kingdom; SSgt. Peter L. Flinski, Det. 20, 30th WS, Camp Casey, AI, Korea; SSgt. Marshall W. Baer, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; Sgt. Gary L. Buck, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; TSgt. Michael J. Wellman, Det. 24, 26th WS, K. I. Sawyer AFB, Mich.; SSgt. John Billingsley, Jr., Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S. C.; SSgt. John M. Taylor, Det. 6, 9th WS, Peterson AFB, Colo.

**Airman of the Quarter:** A1C Bryan R. Hamilton, Det. 18, 28th WS, RAF Fairford, United Kingdom; SrA Robert M. Vaughn, Det. 9, 5th WS, Fort Rucker, Ala.; SrA Paul F. Schirle, Det. 19, 30th WS, Camp Humphreys, AI, Korea; Kenneth R. Anderson, Det. 7, 5th WS, Fort Ord, Calif.; A1C Scott A. Carlson, Det. 24, 26th WS, K. I. Sawyer AFB, Mich.

## Education

SSgt. Mary F. Hebert, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom earned distinguished graduate honors from the 3rd AF NCO Leadership School.

Sgt. Barbara L. Watkins, Det. 12, 25th WS, George AFB, Calif., received her masters degree in public administration from Golden Gate University.

SSgt. Kerryshane N. Clarke and Sgt. Nathaniel W. Thomas, Det. 12, 25th WS, George AFB, Calif., successfully completed Forecasting School. Sergeant Thomas was a distinguished graduate.

TSgt. Jeffrey M. Wilson, Det. 6, 5th WS, Fort Lewis, Wash., graduated from the MAC NCO Academy West.

SSgt. Glenn E. Van Knowe, Det. 14, 17th WS, Norton AFB, Calif. was a distinguished graduate from 22nd AF NCO Leadership School.

Capt. Kenneth M. Dropco, 30th WS, Yongsan AI, Korea received his masters degree in atmospheric science from Colorado State University.

## Retirements

SMSgt. Paul L. Schoen, Det. 6, 9th WS, Peterson AFB, Colo.

SSgt. Edward G. Williams, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.

## Births

SSgt. Charlie Shivers, Det. 6, 3rd WS, Homestead AFB, Fla., a boy, Charlie Shiver, III, June 7; TSgt. John R. Poudrier, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N. C., a boy, June 8; 2nd Lt. Angelo A. Giusti, a girl, Angela Patricia, July 20; 1st Lt. Edward L. Weniger, HQ 5th WW, a girl, Meaghan, July 22; Sgt. Richard T. Kocinski, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C., a boy, Aug. 3; A1C Elvis M. and Sheryle Gilt, Det. 5, 5th WS, Fort Knox, Ky., a girl, Colleen Paige, Aug. 26; 1st Lt. Patrick A. Lunney, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va., a girl, Elissa, Aug. 28; Maj. Richard A. Lunan, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, a girl, Beth Ann, Sept. 7; MSgt. Curtis and Sgt. Karlua Cessna, Det. 14, 31st WS, Hahn AB, Germany, a boy, Jessie, Sept. 8.



Graduates from Forecaster Class 810313 are kneeling, (left to right), SSgt. Dwight Fleming, MSgt. Charles Hunter, SSgt. Alan Rogers, Sgt. Richard Nickerson, SSgt. Patricia Jones and SSgt. Michael Childress. Standing are Sgt. Nathaniel

Thomas, Sgt. Francis Ferro, Sgt. Ronald Robison, TSgt. William Ackerman, SSgt. James Wilkes, SSgt. Raymond Pollett and SSgt. Vincent Aquino. (U.S. Air Force photo)

OLC), Maj. George F. Jacroux, Jr., and Capt. John M. Park, HQ, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Capt. Michael K. Read, Maj. George F. Duffield (1st OLC), Col. Gary S. Zeigler, (1st OLC), Maj. Rodney N. Yama (1st OLC), SMSgt. Thomas B. Lancaster, (1st OLC), HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.

**Air Medal:** Capt. P. W. Giese, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.

**Air Force Commendation Medal:** Capt. P. W. Giese, Sgt. T. J. Shrine, A1C M. H. Asbury, SSgt. E. G. Williams, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Capt. Michael W. Brooking, TSgt. Philip G. Lemon, (2nd OLC), HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; 1st Lt. Stephen Patterson, (1st OLC), Det. 3, 28th WS, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom; TSgt. Edmund D. Wallace, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.; Capt. Frank B. Bryson, (2nd OLC), SSgt. Joseph G. Kisela, (1st OLC), Sgt. Michael J. Battle, Det. 8, 30th WS, Kadena AB, Japan; SSgt. Miles S. Muzio, Det. 7, 17th WS, Kelly AFB, Texas; TSgt. Richard J. Whisnant, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.; SSgt. Anna C. Prince, (1st OLC), Det. 12, 31st WS, Torrejon AB, Spain; Maj. Jeffrey Johnson, MSgt. Gregory

Kadena AB, Japan; G. Wheeler, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.

**To technical sergeant:** M. Moon, S. Janes, R. Eodchick and M. Mindnich, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Larry E. Combs, Det. 6, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Joseph M. Allen, Det. 14, 17th WS, Norton AFB, Calif.; Paul M. Dries, Det. 5, 15th WS, Dover AFB, Del.; Charles C. Johnson, Det. 7, 5th WS, Fort Ord, Calif.; John M. Taylor, Det. 6, 9th WS, Peterson AFB, Colo.

**To staff sergeant:** Tom Shine, HQ 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Jerry A. Monroe, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.; Paul K. Gibson, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.; Serina M. Thomason, Det. 4, 28th WS, RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom.

**To sergeant:** Frank J. Hall, III, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S. C.; Elizabeth A. Evans, Michael J. Battle, Det. 8, 30th WS, Kadena AB, Japan; Terry V. Bola, Det. 1, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Jeffrey A. Fries, Det. 21, 2nd WW, Kapaun AS, Germany; Jean A. Mar, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.; Mark L. Elyea, Det. 6, 9th WS, Peterson AFB, Colo.

# Weather unit spreads good word

By Sgt. Jean Mar,  
Det. 12, 26th Weather Squadron,  
Plattsburgh AFB, NY

Almost everyone has an interest in the weather and for good reason. Yet not many people get the chance to see a weather station in operation.

They think forecasts spring out of the cloudy crystal balls of media weather personalities and they have no idea how the hard data is collected to make those forecasts possible.

Nor does the average person recognize the important connection between safe flying and accurate weather forecasts; a pilot's flight briefing is taken for granted by the passenger. Similarly, the world-wide weather data-bank

and the magic of facsimile circuits are unknown and unimagined.

Thanks to the energy of the staff of Det. 12, 26th Weather Squadron at Plattsburgh AFB, New York, more people are aware of the Air Weather Service mission than might be.

During July and August alone over 400 persons in two ROTC encampments on base and nearly 250 members of the Civil Air Patrol toured the weather station.

Under the guidance of 1st Lt. Todd J. Leiss, Wing Weather Officer, each person received a ten-minute briefing during which equipment was demonstrated and questions were answered.

Visitors were shown a small sample of the variety of weather data routinely used by the forecaster to support flying operations. The world-wide teamwork necessary to

produce this data was stressed.

By the end of their tour, Det. 12 visitors had received a quick overview of a system more complex than they had ever imagined. Those ROTC members interested in the weather career field were able to return to the station for a further, in-depth look at the AWS mission so that they might better understand the roles they themselves might play if selected for an AWS assignment.

Det. 12, 26th Weather Squadron doesn't claim to be the only unit which opens its doors to ROTC and CAP members. However, because Plattsburgh AFB hosts such large encampments of both groups each summer, the weather detachment in Plattsburgh serves an important role in informing the general public about the way observers and forecasters function to come up with the "weekend weather outlook."

## Det. 15, 15th WS

# Unit gives support to AFLC

Located in the Miami River Valley near Dayton, Ohio, is Wright-Patterson AFB, where Det. 15, 15th Weather Squadron operates.

This unit functions 24 hours a day and provides support to Headquarters Air Force Logistics Command, Air Force Systems Command units, the 4950th Test Wing, Det. 2, 1401st MAS, the 2750th Air Base Wing, and other major command units.

The Det. 15 commander serves as director of weather for HQ AFLC and is assisted by a full time liaison officer. Together they provide weather briefings to the AFLC commander, emphasizing unusual or severe weather, forecasts for Wright-Patterson and the other AFLC bases climatology and tropical storms.

Other support involves global weather briefings to the AFLC contingency staff during national emergencies, alerts and exercises.

As host unit, the 2750th Air Base Wing serves approximately 70 organizations and 32,000 people. Weather support requirements for most of these units are negotiated through the host unit. Warnings and advisories for severe weather elements posing threats to unprotected resources

comprise much of the support provided.

Although the wing has no assigned aircraft, weather support is involved in each of the 90,000 take-offs and landings made by tenant and transient aircraft each year.

The 4950th Test Wing is responsible for many of the take-offs and landings that occur at Wright-Patterson. The test wing's mission includes flight tests of new aircraft systems and components and collection of telemetric data for the National Space Program and Department of Defense.

Overseas flights into data sparse areas require special attention from the 4950th wing weather officer.

Det. 2, 1401st MAS receives a portion of the Det. 15 support effort. This T-39 detachment transports Air Force personnel throughout the continental U. S. Det. 15's responsibilities are far reaching in that regard, with met watches initiated to cover VIP flight routes.

Support units outside of the Wright-Patterson complex includes telephonic briefing support to eight Reserve force locations in three states. In addition, Det. 15 also provided limited so observing service to the Air National Guard at Springfield, Ohio.



Robb



Hayward

## Sergeants continue careers together

A double re-enlistment ceremony was held at RAF Fairford, United Kingdom, where Det. 18, 2nd Weather Squadron sergeants John Robb and Theo "Shorty" Hayward both signed up for another six years.

Both men were in the same basic training flight, same specialist class, arrived at RAF Fairford together in August 1979, extended their tours and finally, reenlisted together.

# Alaskan sites clear out cold fog

By SSgt. Mary Jo L. Bertrand,  
Det. 1, 11th Weather Squadron,  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

If you were to drive on the back side of Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, you would see large white tanks with thin black pipes pointing skyward.

There are 24 such sites on Elmendorf which comprise the Cold Fog Dissipation System that base operations and Detachment 1, 11th Weather Squadron, control and operate. The purpose is to keep the field above minimums for air operations. Fairchild AFB, Wash. and Elmendorf have the only ground-based cold fog dissipation system in the United States.

There are three types of fog which occur in Alaska: warm fog, made of up water droplets with temperatures above 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius); ice fog, made up of ice crystals with temperatures below minus 20F (minus 29C); and cold fog which is known as supercooled fog or freezing fog.

Cold fog is significant because it occurs at temperatures between minus 20F and plus 32F and consists of supercooled water droplets which freeze on contact.

While it creates beautiful "winter wonderland" scenes, in recent years cold fog has severely damaged F-4 and C-12 aircraft engines from ice accumulation in the fog.

The average temperature at Elmendorf from October through April is plus 23F (minus 5C) and base weather is prepared to dissipate fog during these months.

During the winter months the Anchorage bowl acts as a trap for cold air and moisture. Cook Inlet and Knik Arm, with tides often 35 feet (10.7 meters), send low level moisture into the area and, coupled with cold air drainage from the mountains to the east and the Mat-Su Valley to the

north, they provide the necessary moisture and stability needed for cold fog. An average winter here sees 36 occurrences of cold fog totaling approximately 141 hours.

In 1961, the French began studying the prospect of spraying liquid propane into the fog from the ground. Evaporation of the pressurized propane resulted in intense cooling, causing ice crystals to form. The supercooled fog froze on these ice crystals until they became large enough to fall out as snow. Ideally, the propane will drift toward a runway, cause the fallout, and thus maintain air operations. This method was found to be both effective and inexpensive. In 1966, Orly Airport in Paris installed such a system - the first in the world.

Weather modification began at Elmendorf in the winter of 1967-68 when WC-130s deployed here from Andersen AFB, Guam, to seed the cold fog with dry ice. This was at the height of the Southeast Asia conflict and with the tremendous amount of air traffic supporting the U.S. effort, cold fog continuously hampered air operations.

However, it was soon discovered that aircraft seeding was very expensive and often the fog was too thick to launch the aircraft to seed it. Looking for a better way, the ASir Force saw the usefulness of the French design and installed similar systems at Fairchild AFB in 1969, Hahn AB, Germany, in 1970, and the fourth of its kind at Elmendorf.

The Alaskan Air Command approved the system in May 1971 and the sites were installed in December. The system went operational with 19 1,000 gallon (3,780 liter) tanks and 20 foot (6.1 meter) vertical pipes which were designed by Elmendorf's 21st Civil Engineering Squadron in January 1972.

Early 1973 was the last time that WC-130s were used to clear fog. In 1975, five sites were added with 500 gallon

(1,892.5 liter) tanks and several other sites were converted to 68 foot (20.7 meter) vertical pipes. These changes make up the system as it is today.

Using radio signals, the base weather station releases propane through electronically controlled nozzles on each tank. Every site is individually controlled.

The wind flow determines which sites are turned on and then detachment personnel go out to the sites to make sure they are working properly and ensure that the wind flow is in the direction of the runway.

At least twice weekly, 1931st Communications Group weather maintenance personnel inspect each propane tank for effectiveness. Because of the cold weather, batteries must be changed about every 10 days.

Since 1972, the cost/benefit ratio of the CFDS has maintained itself around 42 percent with the winter of 1979-80 averaging more than 46 percent. The system's costs were \$33,190, while the 26 military recoveries resulted in a diversion savings of \$72,210 for the Air Force.

A total of 64 aircraft were assisted last winter. The most extensive seeding operation for the winter, 1980-81, occurred on Nov. 20, 1980, with 12 military recoveries being credited saving the Air Force approximately \$28,500.

This figure does not include the 15 military launches nor the seven civilian airliners that diverted from Anchorage International Airport. On C-141s, C-130s and F-4s alone, it has saved the Air Force more than \$117,000.

This specialized function of Det. 1, 11th as a weather modifier in times of cold fog is truly a unique operation at Elmendorf. The CFDS minimized the threat of winter fog to air traffic and is a significant benefit to the Air Force mission both through cost savings and "keeping 'em flying."

# AF Family

## Conference delegates brainstorm, offer ways to improve military life

Finding new ways to keep Air Force members and their families looking forward to an Air Force career was the challenge laid down by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Lew Allen Jr., at the second annual Air Force Family Conference held Sept. 17 and 18 at Bolling AFB, D. C.

Thirty five family members and military personnel represented the Military Airlift Command when they met with representatives from other major commands to discuss eight areas that are of the most concern to Air Force families.

Linda R. Fass, wife of TSgt. Bob Fass, 5th Weather Wing, Langley AFB, Va. represented Air Weather Service with the other MAC delegates at the conference. Her report on the conference is given below.

### Background

An action plan began as a result of declining retention trends in 1978-79. Several studies were conducted to analyze these trends and, hopefully, turn them around. The Family and Retention Working Group was formed in August 1979 by the Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Personnel.

The working group met in February, March and June of 1979, to review available research data concerning military families, brainstorm new ideas, and develop initiatives to address family needs.

A concurrent study was sponsored by the Air Force Chaplain Service to provide Air Force leaders with accurate information on which family policies, programs, and services could be based. The major report of this study, **Families in Blue**, was published in August 1980.

These studies revealed that the 1970's was a period of dramatic change for Air Force families. During the past 10 years, the Air Force changed from a largely unmarried force to a force now predominantly consisting of members with families.

Even more significant was the revelation that Air Force families now include fewer "traditional" families and more military couples, single parents, and working or career spouses. In fact over half (52 percent) of the civilian wives interviewed were employed.

The studies indicated there is a high correlation between the attitude of the family toward the Air Force and the career decision of the member. This had not necessarily been true in the Air Force of the 50's and 60's.

Today's men and women are not as willing to sacrifice the interests of their families for their Air Force career and have different expectations from the Air Force than persons recruited a decade or more ago. Many Air Force policies had simply not kept pace with changing family needs.

In July 1980 the Chief of Staff approved the appointment of an assistant for Air Force Family Matters (AFFAM) within the Directorate of Personnel Plans, Headquarters United States Air Force. AFFAM's ultimate goal is enhanced Air Force mission readiness by working on family issues which impact on the retention and productivity of Air Force members. It will also serve as the family advocate on the Air Staff.

In order to begin its task of establishing and maintaining field contact with families and family issues, AFFAM held its first Air Force Conference on Families at Randolph AFB, Texas in September 1980.

The purpose of the conference was to provide a forum to discuss major family issues and concerns and to provide focus and direction to the overall Air Force family effort. The delegates included representatives from the Air Staff and the major commands.

The conference focused on four main themes: Families and the Air Force, Diversity of Families, Changing Realities of Air Force Life and Impact of the Air Force on Families.

The conference concluded that many Air Force family programs are effective in helping families but more can be done. Many families are having trouble coping with family, social, and economic stresses. Air Force members value their families as an institution above all others, including the Air Force. Therefore, when the families cannot cope with the stresses of Air Force life, retention of valuable personnel becomes a problem.

With these general conclusions, the Phase I conference outlined eight areas of family concern. These areas are: economics, PCS moves, community programs, health care, child care and youth activities, communication between the

AF and families, family education, and research to define family concerns. These areas became the basis of the Air Force Family Action Plan for the 1980's. These same concerns were the focus of the 1981 Air Force Family Conference which I attended as a civilian delegate representing Air Weather Service.

### Family conference

"Family Focus Phase II" convened on Sept. 17, 1981, at Bolling AFB. The keynote address was delivered by General Lew Allen, Jr., Chief of Staff, United States Air Force. In his address to the delegates, Gen. Allen outlined the conference objectives. They were as follows: To nurture pride and dignity in the family as an integral part of the Air Force Mission; to reinforce the concept of community and Air Force way of life; to inform about and encourage participation in the Air Force Family Action Plan; and to cross-feed information on Major Air Command and base-level family programs.

General Allen also recognized the role families play in the mission of the United States Air Force. He explained the Air Force's desire to help the members and their families find happiness and satisfaction so that the Air Force can operate with trained, experienced, and motivated individuals. He did caution the delegates, however, that the Air Force mission must always come first, and solutions to problems of the families must be worked within this framework.



The 250 delegates to the conference included both military and civilian family members. There were wives of members, male members, female members, adolescent family members, retirees, widows, single parents, non-military males married to female members, joint spouses, minority representations and GS members working with AF family programs.

The goals of the conference were to make the Air Force more aware of the concerns of Air Force families, to provide an opportunity to hear each others ideas, and to involve conference delegates on issues vital to Air Force families and the Air Force mission. In light of these goals, it is my opinion, and the opinion of other delegates I spoke with, that the family conference was an unqualified success.

The conference delegates were apprised of the actions being taken right now on the critical programs outlined by the "blue-shirts" at the 1980 conference. The order of the priorities of the majority of the delegates:

#### ECONOMICS

Despite recent gains, family finances is still the major concern for most Air Force families. Continuing emphasis must be placed on regaining and maintaining pay comparability.

**Initiatives:** Restore and maintain pay comparability; reduce or eliminate utility deposits for families moving into new communities; encourage use of part-time employment and job sharing; and expand AAFES credit program/limits; add major purchase items to authorized inventory.

#### PCS

Permanent changes of station result in several causes of family concern. Air Force families continue to experience setbacks as a result of moving which adds to financial worries. Moving causes the family stress due to spouse employment problems, loss of friends, new schools, new communities, and a new job environment for the

members. Also, PCS moves often entail temporary periods of family separation, another major family concern.

**Initiatives:** Increase travel per diem reimbursements; improve existing and construct more temporary lodging facilities; upgrade quality of household goods moves; improve INTRO (Individual Newcomer Treatment and Orientation) and develop OUTRO (Outbound Orientation) programs; encourage overseas volunteers by providing incentives for the families of volunteers; examine base quarters cleaning options; provide more information and increase flexibility of do-it-yourself moves; allow family to precede sponsor to new location and move into base quarters when available; provide fully funded house hunting trip for members and spouse in conjunction with PCS; and provide foreign language training and foreign culture orientation for family members going overseas.

#### HEALTH CARE

Families are concerned with the quality and availability of dependent medical services. Air Force health care programs have not kept pace with those now common in the private sector.

**Initiatives:** Provide dependent medical and dental care as an entitlement or a full support CHAMPUS medical and dental program as an alternative; establish Family Practice concepts at all USAF hospitals and clinics; establish and emphasize family preventive health care programs; and provide professional care for family members with alcohol, drug or domestic violence problems through the Family Assistance and Support Team concept and other programs.

#### CHILD CARE AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Air Force child care and youth programs are a must for many Air Force families with working spouses, or for single parents and geographically separated families. Traditional families need child care programs as well. Many child care facilities are not large enough to handle the demand and youth programs are inadequate. These programs should be strengthened and supported by appropriated funds. However, responsibility for dependent care rests with the parents.

**Initiatives:** Expand current child development programs and enlarge youth development program; and establish on-base parenting programs to emphasize parental responsibilities.

#### COMMUNICATION

Channels of communication between the Air Force and family issues are inadequate or non-existent. Programs to provide "two way" communication in these areas are a must.

**Initiatives:** Provide information for families directly to families and information about family needs, concerns, programs and trends to commanders and supervisors; develop spouse employment information for each Air Force base; encourage base commanders to host family "Town Meetings"; and provide an information package for spouses of members being assigned to unaccompanied tours overseas.

#### COMMUNITY

Many Air Force families do not have a sense of community belonging which results in a feeling of isolation. Strengthening community programs is essential to support the concept of the Air Force as an institution.

**Initiatives:** Develop and test a base level Family Support Center to act as a focal point in addressing family needs; and expand family-oriented on- and off-base recreation opportunities.

#### EDUCATION

Family education is a major concern for many Air Force families. Programs for spouse education, job training, financial assistance and education to address family problems are required.

**Initiatives:** Provide spouse and family employment education programs; permit transfer of Veterans Administration (VA) education benefits to member's spouse and children; improve the quality of overseas school facilities and education programs; conduct base-level informational programs (financial management, PCS/TDY family problems, dual career issues) and "event-oriented" family training (marriage, retirement/separation, divorce, moves); expand educational opportunities for spouses; and revitalize the Personal

(Continued on page 8)

# DOPMA changes separation pay

Officers involuntarily separated can get as much as \$30,000 in separation pay under the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act. DOPMA, which went into effect Sept. 15, authorizes the new separation-pay ceiling, but still gives some officers who were on active duty Sept. 14, 1981, the option of choosing regular officers' severance pay or reserve officers' readjustment pay.

Officers on extended active duty and involuntarily separated for length of service, age, non-selection for promotion or denial of an additional extended active-duty tour may choose one of the three types of separation pay. If severance or readjustment pay is chosen, the maximum amount payable is \$15,000.

To qualify for the DOPMA separation pay, an officer must have completed five years' active, but not necessarily continuous, service.

Those choosing the DOPMA separation pay can determine what they'll receive by multiplying years of active service — six months or more counts as a full year — by 12 months' basic pay. Multiply that figure by 10 percent.

The member's separation pay will be that amount of \$30,000, whichever is less.

Officers involuntarily separated for cause who elect DOPMA-separation or reserve-officer readjustment pay are limited to \$15,000. Regular officers separated for cause get up to one year of basic pay if they elect severance pay. An honorable or general discharge and five years' active,

but not necessarily continuous service, are required.

No payment is made if the officer is separated as the result of a court-martial sentence that includes discharge or dismissal or dropping the officer from the rolls of the Air Force.

Payment is also withheld if the secretary of the Air Force decides the conditions of separation don't warrant separation pay.

Officers involuntarily separated for cause can compute their separation pay by multiplying years of service — six months or more counts as a full year — by 12 months' basic pay. Multiply that amount by 5 percent. That sum of \$15,000, whichever is less, is paid the officer. (AFNS)

## Weather golfers capture base title

By 1st Lt. Stephen M. Longobardi,  
Det. 11, 2nd Weather Squadron,  
Patrick AFB, Fla.

I'm sure many of you Air Weather Service golfers and duffers have suffered much ridicule and embarrassment because of weather's usual showing, or lack of, in base competitions.

But, some units are holding their own. The team from Det. 11, 2nd Weather Squadron at Patrick AFB, Fla won this year's base championship.

After concluding a successful season as the American League champs, the team entered the playoffs in good shape. Team captain Chuck Spears shot his best scores of the season. Other team members were Mert Forsyth, Jim Murray and Mark Minard, all from Det. 11 and Mike Healy, Chet Mason and Chuck Kirk from Det. 4, Geodetic Services.

Their play in the double elimination playoff led them through to the finals where they met with the team from



Chuck Spears, Det. 11, 2nd Weather Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla., lines up a clip shot to the green. Headquarters Air Force Applications Center, the National League champs.

(U.S. Air Force photo)

This marked the first time that two league winners, American and National, met in the finals of the playoff competition. Scores were close, bit with weather team

members shooting the best golf of their careers, they defeated the AFTAC team.

Awards and trophies were presented by the Easter Space and Missile Center Commander, Col. Marvin L. Jones at the Patrick AFB Rod and Gun Club.

# Housing rates change for fiscal year 1982

Fiscal 1982 variable housing allowance rates were included in Oct. 30 pay checks. Some rates were increased while others were reduced or remained unchanged. The following questions and answers may help members understand the new rates.

**Question: What is the variable housing allowance?**

**Answer:** The variable housing allowance is authorized to help members entitled to basic allowance for quarters defray housing costs if government quarters are not assigned. This applies when the Military member is assigned in the United States — excluding Alaska and Hawaii — where the average housing costs exceed the allowance by at least 15 percent or when the member is on an unaccompanied overseas tour and the family resides in a stateside location where the average housing cost exceeds the allowance by at least 115 percent.

**Q How are the rates determined for VHA?**

**A:** They are based on a statistical survey of housing costs conducted by the Department of Defense. They are in effect for one year.

**Q: Will VHA go up in the future?**

**A:** Not necessarily. Housing costs will be determined by surveys and VHA rates adjusted annually. VHA rates will depend on local housing costs as well as quarters allowance raises.

**Q: Why isn't my VHA plus my housing allowance enough to cover my rent, utilities and maintenance costs?**

**A:** VHA isn't intended to completely make up the difference between housing costs and quarters allowance. VHA is only authorized where costs exceed 115 percent of the quarters allowance. It's based on a comparison of average quarters allowances and average cost. If your housing expenses are above the average for your grade at your location, you'll see a bigger difference between your costs and your allowance.

**Q: Is VHA taxable?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Why do certain grades at some stations get no VHA?**

**A:** If one or more grades receive no VHA, this means the average total housing costs determined for those grades at that location did not exceed 115 percent of their average quarters allowance.

**Q: Why doesn't everyone at the same duty location receive the same VHA rate?**

**A:** To determine VHA, average housing costs are compared to average quarters allowances for each grade at each location. Since the quarters allowance is different for each grade, the amount of the VHA will be different.

**Q: I am single and living off-base in a stateside high-cost area. Can I receive VHA?**

**A:** Yes, if you are entitled to the quarters allowance. The VHA is payable to all personnel receiving quarters allowance who have duty in a high-cost area.

**Q: My wife and I are both in the Air Force and drawing BAQ. How is the VHA paid to us?**

**A:** Each of you will receive VHA in your own right. If you are at different duty locations, each of you will be paid VHA based on your own duty location.

**Q: Can two members receive different VHA rates if both members receive quarters allowance at the with-dependents rate, are the same grade and are living in the same military housing area?**

**A:** Yes. VHA is determined by duty location, not place of residence, so the members could receive different VHA rates if they work at different duty locations.

**Q: As a recruiter, I am not assigned to a base but work in a local community. My records show I am assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, with a duty assignment of San Francisco. What VHA rate do I receive?**

**A:** Where you work, not the location of your parent organization, determines your VHA rate. Therefore, you would receive the San Francisco rate and not the rate at Wright-Patterson AFB.

**Q: I have three categories of dependents: wife and children, dependent parents and children of a previous marriage in the ex-spouse's custody. I am stationed**

**overseas; all my dependents reside stateside. Can I receive more than one VHA?**

**A:** No.

**Q: A member on an unaccompanied tour overseas must designate the location in which the VHA is to be paid if dependents reside in different locations. Would any particular dependent determine the primary location?**

**A:** No. The joint travel regulation does not designate any particular dependent.

**Q: I am stationed overseas and my dependents, who are stateside in a high-cost area, receive the VHA. What happens if they move?**

**A:** When the dependents move to join you or to another military housing area, you must notify the accounting and finance office to stop or modify the VHA. If you don't, you could be in debt for overpayment when VHA is finally stopped or modified. If they join you VHA terminates the day prior to the day either a child or spouse arrives at the overseas location if either remains there for more than 30 days.

**Q: I am going on a permanent-change-of-station move and I am living off-base with my dependents. When does my VHA change?**

**A:** It stops the day prior to your arrival at your new duty assignment and your new VHA begins the day you report at the new duty station.

**Q: How do I ensure that the VHA I receive is the current amount?**

**A:** Your VHA is based on your statewide duty zip code or the residence zip of your dependents, if you are in an overseas unaccompanied tour. If you suspect your VHA is incorrect, have the finance office check your records.

**Q: If I have other questions, whom should I call?**

**A:** Your local finance office. If they can't help, call the VHA Hotline, Autovon 221-0345/0346 or commercial 202-325-0345/0346. (AFNS)

# News briefs

## Unemployment pay tightens

Service members deciding to get out after completing a normal term of enlistment are no longer eligible for unemployment compensation.

Restrictions on unemployment compensation are contained in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and apply to anyone who

left the service on or after July 1.

To be eligible for unemployment payments, ex-servicemembers must now have completed at least one year of service, must not have resigned or voluntarily left the service and must not have been discharged for cause. (AFNS)

## DEERS program half complete

As the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System turns two years old, DEERS officials said program implementation is about half complete.

DEERS is a Department of Defense-wide centralized data base to confirm eligibility for health care. Benefits are provided to military active-duty members, retirees, dependents and survivors.

More than four million sponsors and two million dependents have been enrolled since the program began.

Enrollment is accomplished in 90-day phases. Active-duty members and those entitled to retirement pay are automatically enrolled by their service. During the enrollment phase they enroll their

dependents. Survivors not receiving annuities and their dependents must also enroll.

After the enrollment period local military medical agencies begin to check DEERS eligibility.

Until implementation is complete, no one will be denied treatment at military hospitals or clinics solely because his or her name doesn't appear in the system. Those later proven ineligible may be billed for services or legal action taken.

DEERS enrollment is becoming a part of the in- and out-processing at all military bases. Active-duty members or retirees who move to an area where DEERS has been implemented should check with the personnel office to enroll their dependents. (AFNS)

## Tax reduced for some families

To reduce the past marriage penalty for two-earner families, the new tax package will allow a 5-percent deduction of the first \$30,000 in earnings for the spouse with the smaller income beginning in 1982, and a 10-percent deduction of the first \$30,000 in 1983 and thereafter, to a maximum of \$3,000 in deductions.

To see how this is applied, consider the following. Assume a sergeant and spouse both work. They have a gross income of \$29,000 — \$15,000 from the sergeant, \$13,000 from the spouse, and \$1,000 of taxable income from other sources. The taxable income on their 1981 joint return totals \$22,000 after standard deductions such as mortgage interests, medical

expenses and financial losses. A tax of \$3,729.79 is due — \$3,273 plus 28 percent of the excess over \$20,200 minus the 1.25-percent tax credit.

In 1982, the couple can reduce their gross taxable income to \$21,350 by deducting \$650 — 5 percent of the spouses' \$13,000 income. Tax on this amount will be \$3,244.50, \$509.29 less than 1981's on the same gross income.

Continuing the example to 1982, the couple can deduct \$1,300, 10 percent of the spouses' \$13,000 income, to give a taxable income of \$20,700. The couple will pay a tax of \$2,759 on this amount, \$979.79 less 1981's and \$465.50 less than that paid in 1982 on the same amount. (AFNS)

## Prior-service openings increase

The Air Force has 6,800 openings for people with prior military service and is offering some their former rank back, according to Recruiting Service officials at Randolph AFB, Texas. This is the largest number of openings for people with prior service since the

beginning of the all-volunteer force in 1973.

Air Force recruiters now offer former non-commissioned officers their previous rank if they possess the needed skills and their break in service is less than four years. (AFNS)

# Early-outs offered members with Dec. 14-Jan. 4 separation dates

The Air Force is once again offering early separation to people ending their active duty during the upcoming holiday period.

Service members with separation dates between Dec. 14, 1981 and Jan. 4, 1982 can request separation any time during that period under the Christmas early release program.

Overseas service members

separating at port upon arrival in the United States due to lack of retainability are also eligible if their return date is within the early release period.

Certain members are ineligible for early release. This includes those on international hold, under investigation, on probation or rehabilitation programs, separating under the PALACE

CHASE program and others.

No valid request will be denied unless the commander determines that the early loss would have a "critical adverse impact on the unit's mission capability."

Anyone interested in applying should contact the separations section at their local base personnel office.

# Family Conference . . . (Continued from page 6)

Financial Management Program (PFMP) and reemphasize its availability to members and their families as well as commanders, senior enlisted advisors, and first sergeants who need to be sensitive to financial problems and potential solutions.

It was exciting to learn that most of the concerns we had gone to Washington to share had already been pinpointed by the Air Force. Of course we were encouraged to share other problems and offer alternate solutions. More important, we learned that Family Support Centers were being planned for every Air Force base worldwide to implement many of the initiatives previously outlined.

In October 1981, the Air Force opened four prototype Family Support Centers. If these prototype centers are effective, AFFAM's goal is to open a center on all 124 major bases by FY 87. The centers will be staffed by 5-8

civilian employees and one Air Force senior non-commissioned officer working directly for the base commander. The director position will be held by a civilian with a degree in social work.

Before a Family Support Center is opened, the staff will conduct a needs analysis at base level and look to existing resources on and off base to fill the needs of the personnel assigned to that base. If needs are discovered that available resources cannot fill, the Family Support Center is charged to find a way to fill that need.

These centers will not replace but will coordinate existing programs. They will provide information, referrals, relocation aid during PCS moves, employment consultation and job information for spouses, help people in crisis situations, provide support during family separations (TDY's, remotes, mobility), develop programs for special needs people, provide family development edu-

cation and financial management education.

I am encouraged by the results of the previous conference. A lot has happened in a short time. I am eager to see what initiatives develop from this year's conference. I know the delegates were heard in their "brainstorming" sessions and had some valuable input. Of course we must be realistic in our expectations and learn to help ourselves and not always wait for the government to do it.

In spite of its problems, the Air Force still offers a career that provides satisfaction and rewards unshared in civilian life for both the members and the families. The Air Staff is committed to relieving as many family problems as humanly possible. A better quality of life for Air Force families means an Air Force better prepared to defend the nation, and a strong national defense means a better life for everyone.

# Chief Grigsby retires . . . (Continued from Page 2)

forget it. And, I'd do it all over again.

It is a very valuable experience and we gave a lot, but I tell you we often received a lot from the Air Force. When I walk out of this Air Force today the Air Force owes me nothing. From the very beginning I aspired to reach the top of the NCO ranks. I didn't know what the system was, but I learned it with the help of others. When I became an NCO I tried fiercely to adhere to the established standards, to military technical performance, and to set a positive example for our younger airmen.

I look, and do take pride in being an NCO and I take pride in wearing my uniform. I consider it an honor to have had the opportunity to have contributed directly and personally to our country's well being. I consider it an honor and a privilege to have been a member of a community of exceptionally dedicated professionals. I have gotten some deep satisfaction knowing I have done something worthwhile and done it to the best of my ability.

As I prepare to conclude these remarks and step aside, I would ask all of you to consider these three thoughts.

First, you need always to be strong on discipline and professionalism in the performance of your duties, in your personal standards, in your dress, and your conduct.

Second, even I owe many people a lot for being where we are today. None of us got where we are on our own. Some have helped us along the way. Many of you will never be able to repay those who helped you, but you can however repay them by helping others.

And, the way to help others is to be fair and honest in your dealings with people. Help them to adapt and conform and adjust and pass on what you know, what you've learned, and what you were taught.

The third thought, I'd like to paraphrase a speech that was made by Maj. Gen. Kilpatrick and I've used several times. Be proud to be recognized as a member of the Air Force. Be conscious of the need to conduct yourself in a way that reflects favorably on the

uniform you wear. You are identified by that uniform and certain things have been and are expected of you for no other reason than the fact that you wear that uniform. Certain values are almost automatically imputed to you by virtue of what the uniform and insignia implies. And, the same thing applies to each of you who wears a similar type uniform and all that is understood because those values have remained constant.

Our popularity in the public eye has ebbed and flowed and our public image has had its cycles, but these are external manifestations. Internally our basic professional values have remained constant. If you perpetuate these thoughts then you will be helping the Air Force meet its commitments in a timely, efficient, cost effective manner.

We'll always be in good hands and remain the best friends of service. Ladies and gentlemen, young airmen, my family and I thank you very much for this moment and for these honors.