

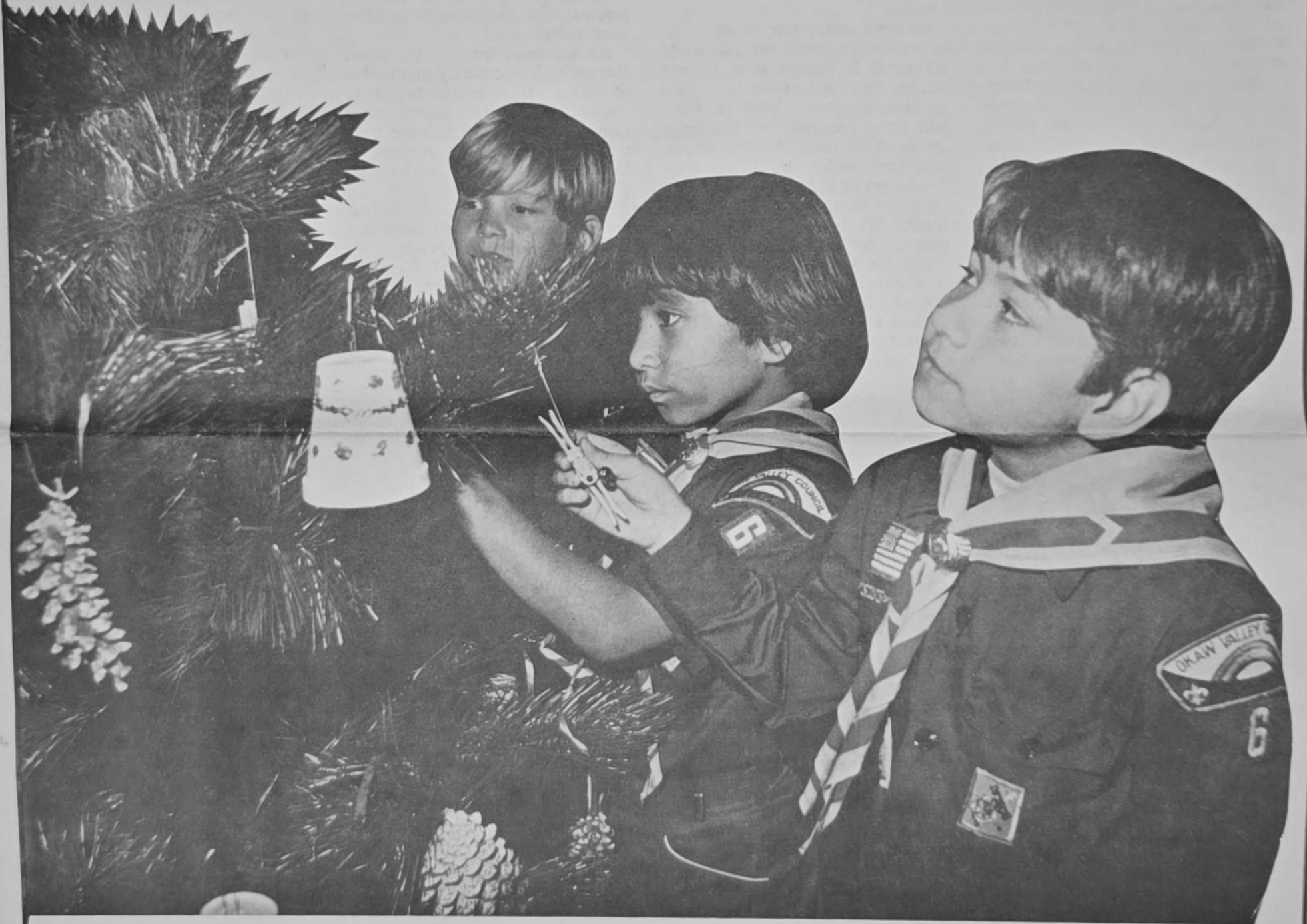


# AWS Observer

Vol. 27, No. 12

Headquarters Air Weather Service

December 1982



## *Tree trimming*

Timothy Jean, Michael Collette and Jody Jennings, (left to right), members of Cub Scout Pack 6, help decorate the Christmas tree in the lobby of the Headquarters Air Weather Service building at Scott AFB, Ill. More than 30 members of the pack, sponsored by AWS, met to sing Christmas carols and decorate the tree to get headquarters personnel into the Christmas spirit. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sgt. Lulu Delashmit)

# Command line

## Outlook is good for upcoming year

There's a refrain from a song popularized by Frank Sinatra many years ago which is a fitting description for Air Weather Service as we close out 1982 . . . It's been a very good year!

Capt. Charles Benson, CMSgt. Charles Melson and I have had the opportunity to visit nearly 50 of our units in the last four months, and we have really been impressed.

Our trips have taken us from weather extremes at Galena AFS, Alaska to Hickam AFB, Hawaii — but one thing was constant in all cases, The professional dedication and performance of the people was superb. Although the missions varied greatly as we visited units scattered across the continental United States and detachments throughout Europe, my impression became my "first-hand assessment" in a briefing I was privileged to give the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Charles A. Gabriel,

and Military Airlift Command Commander in Chief, Gen. James R. Allen.

"Morale in the Air Weather Service is high because the people are doing an important job well, they know it, and they know their leaders know it."

Believe me, your leaders do know you're doing the job well! To put it in perspective, let me outline the visitors we have had at Headquarters AWS in 1982, who have received full briefings on the AWS mission, the people, and how we're doing the job: Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr; Former Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Lew Allen, Jr.; current Air Force Chief of Staff, General Gabriel; CINCMAC, General Allen; the Deputy Comptroller of the Air Force Dr. Joseph P. Popple; Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, HQ USAF, Lt. Gen. John T. Chain, Jr.; the Director of Space Systems, HQ USAF, Maj. Gen. Bernard P.

Randolph, and many other general officers serving in key positions throughout the Air Force.

That's why I can state with accuracy to the Air Force chief of staff that our people are doing a good job and their leaders know it. You are, they do and I'm proud of you.

As we head into a new year, the outlook is equally good. Our efforts to upgrade our capabilities and enhance your ability to make a greater contribution to the Department of Defense mission are looking great.

We continue to have strong support from the Air Force for our upgrade programs — notably the Advanced Weather Analysis and Prediction System in 1984; Satellite Data Handling System 1985; Automated Weather Distribution System, 1986; and Next Generation Weather Radar in 1987.

Captain Benson, Chief Melson

and I will be back on the road again in January. We have an ambitious travel schedule planned for 1983, because we want to get out and talk with you directly, get your ideas and thank you for your efforts.

In the meantime, keep up the great work. You have made it possible for me to say, "It was a very good year."



Col. George E. Chapman  
AWS Commander

## Chief's comments

# AWS makes positive gains

Several positive things have happened to AWS in 1982. We completed the new manpower



CMSgt. Charles T. Melson  
AWS Senior Enlisted Advisor

study, requirements for new equipment are being finalized for acquisition in the late 80s, more student inputs to the observer school are allowing a larger pool of observers to attend forecaster school, reenlistment rates are above Air Force averages, and the Selection Reenlistment Bonus is still being maintained — to just mention a few.

The area that gives me the warmest feeling is the quality of people we have in AWS — the quality of professionalism requiring that "above and beyond the normal call of duty."

This quality is obvious because of below the zone promotions, airman, NCO and Senior NCO of the year awards, AECP and OTS selections, PME honor and

distinguished graduates, and outstanding job performance. During a recent visit we were told "Your weather people are always tops on this base — they are real professionals." That's the kind of news a commander likes to hear.

As we are reflecting on the past and hearing the good news we should also be planning for the new year. Have you completed the PME level commensurate with your grade? Did you miss promotion by a few points? Maybe you should plan to begin studying for your WAPS test 3 months prior to testing rather than 3 weeks prior.

Have you taken the time to have the CCAF evaluate your off duty education and military

school credits? Have you updated your "Dream Sheet" lately? These may be some of the plans you would want to make for 1983.

This holiday season always has a special meaning for families, and it has a special meaning for the AWS family too. We know that the support of our families is definitely needed, especially during the many TDYs and separations caused by remote tours — and with AWS support required around the world — we find their understanding is needed quite often.

I hope your holidays were filled with happiness and love, and that you enjoy a glorious new year.

Col. George E. Chapman  
AWS Commander

SSgt. Sue Shearer  
Editor

The Air Weather Service OBSERVER is an official Class II Air Force newspaper published monthly for personnel of the worldwide Air Weather Service of the Military Airlift Command. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Air Force. Material which appears

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Editorial

# Instructor duty offers challenge

By TSgt. Rocco Calaci

“What! Instructor duty at Chanute? Are you crazy?”

Wait a minute! Before you completely reject the idea, remember that your opinions were formed from the student viewpoint. Take a look at it from the other side.

Imagine working in the second largest weather unit in the Department of Defense, made up of more than 110 weather people from all four branches of the service.

You'll be teaching students new concepts such as vorticity, cyclogenesis, map analysis, and prognosis. You can imagine the challenge this presents with 10 to 15 different personalities in one class, each with different backgrounds, educations and frequently with a different colored uniform. For those of you wanting to make a contribution to our career field, where else but at Chanute can you directly impact on the quality of forecasters in Air Weather Service?

The time tested maxim, “the

best way to learn something thoroughly is to teach it,” makes Chanute a veritable gold mine for career field self-development.

Off-duty education opportunities at Chanute are unsurpassed. Ninety-eight percent of the weather instructors at Chanute are enrolled in either the Community College of the Air Force or a bachelors' or masters' degree program offered on base by Eastern Illinois University.

With off-duty education and learning the career field in-depth through teaching, it's no wonder that Chanute instructors make above average scores on the Weighted Airman Promotion System tests.

For those interested in obtaining a commission, the weather training branch currently has a 100 percent success rate. Of the seven instructors who have applied, all seven were accepted for Officer Training School.

With a four-year controlled tour, and a basic Monday through Friday job, it's considerably easier to study for promotion tests or

pursue off-duty education. Imagine being able to make plans six months in advance. It offers both social and physical stability.

Some people might argue that Chanute is located in the middle of nowhere, with nothing to do. Not so. Champaign County offers a variety of activities.

You can enjoy the University of Illinois Big Ten collegiate sports, concerts, plays and other events. Major cities such as Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis are within a few hours drive from Chanute.

Skiing can be found in northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, and both Chanute and the city of Rantoul offer yearlong recreation programs for adults and children, such as softball, bowling, swimming, and soccer.

Instructor duty is demanding. There are times when you may have to give individual assistance to a student, which could take up your lunch hour or after duty time. From March through October there are occasional radar watches for severe weather. For master

sergeants and above, you'll serve as the enlisted representative to the center commander once every two years. This duty is for two nights and consists of stopping by various Chanute establishments and evaluating the facilities, services and morale. For technical sergeants and below, CQ duty is required twice a year.

To sum it up, life as an instructor isn't easy, but it is stimulating, challenging and rewarding. You should go there for the right reasons, mainly to teach and motivate others. You can leave Chanute with an education that will pay you and the Air Force a ton of benefits. You will look back and realize that your tour of duty as an instructor was one of the best in your career.

If you're interested, contact your local personnel office for the proper instructions and paperwork, and give Palace Weather a call to express your interest.

Sergeant Calaci is an instructor with the weather training branch, Chanute AFB, Ill.

## Planes awarded for flying time

By 1st Lt. Gregory T. Marx

“Planes are human too...”

That's how the Typhoon Chasers of the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and Detachment 4, Headquarters Air Weather Service at Andersen AFB, Guam, view their WC-130s.

The occasional jolts and bounces endured by crew members as they are penetrating through the eye wall of a typhoon are mild in comparison to the buffeting the airplanes are subjected to.

Therefore, crew members decided that the individual aircraft are just as deserving of Air Medals as they are.

The prerequisite for the award is the same for both plane and personnel, fifteen penetrations into fully developed typhoons.

Nine typhoon emblems, the symbol of the Air Medal, were painted on five WC-130E models assigned to the 54th WRS at Guam, and to the 53rd WRS at Keesler AFB, Miss.

These tokens reflect more than 2,000 flying hours in tropical cyclone reconnaissance flown by the Typhoon Chasers so far this year.

Lieutenant Marx is the public affairs representative for Det. 4, HQ AWS.



Maj. Gibson Morris (foreground), detachment commander and 1st Lt. Gregory Marx, paint the Air Medal on a WC-130E. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## Altus construction projects approved

Congress has approved about \$12.7 million to replace and restore facilities damaged in the May 1982 tornado at Altus AFB, Okla., MAC civil engineering officials announced.

The tornado that swept through the base injured 27 people and destroyed 12 buildings. Also affected were 11 MAC aircraft, including two C-5 Galaxys that sustained “major” damage.

The funds are part of a supplemental military appropriation approved by congress in November, said Barry W. Kollme, deputy chief of MAC's engineering division.

Projects include a new dining hall, communications facility, electrical switching station and distribution system, environmental medical facility and the restoration of a hangar and several dorms.

Also undergoing restoration, but not included in the special congressional funding, are the roofs of military family housing units damaged in the storm. These funds and the money for a 400-person dorm currently under construction were previously appropriated, Mr. Kollme explained. Work on the dorm is proceeding “smoothly,” he added, and should be completed by September 1983. (MNS)

# Hurricane IWA

## Storm's fury sweeps Hawaiian islands

By Maj. Rod Henderson  
commander, Detachment 4,  
1st Weather Wing,  
Hickam AFB, Hawaii

The last part of November is a time for thoughts of Thanksgiving and family and friends.

The last thing we needed in Hawaii was exactly what we got — an intense, fast-moving hurricane.

Hurricane Iwa began as a small tropical storm well to the south-southwest of Hawaii and grew to be a life-taking hurricane which swept by the islands of Niihau, Kauai, and Oahu. It forced the evacuation of aircraft from Hickam AFB and protective actions for the people in Iwa's path.

Iwa remained nearly stationary for four days before beginning a northward lunge which took it past Hawaii, leaving destruction in its wake.

The first positive indication of Iwa's intent came early on the evening of Nov. 22, when weather satellite pictures showed movement of the storm center northward toward Hawaii. By early the next morning the storm showed signs of intensifying and accelerating toward Kauai.

Air Force "Hurricane Hunter" WC-130 Hercules aircraft flew into the storm on Nov. 22 and 23 to measure Iwa's winds, pressures, and temperatures. The WC-130 observations indicated that Iwa was getting stronger and its northward movement was accelerating.

"Hurricane Hunter" observations were relayed via radio phone patch to the Hickam base weather station where they were then relayed to the Central Pacific Hurricane Center and transmitted via COMEDS.

The Hickam AFB ramp bustled as aircraft were evacuated and equipment and material secured. People began other protective actions as Iwa moved more rapidly toward Kauai.

Hickam felt the effects of Iwa as winds increased in the late morning and early afternoon of the 23rd. By 3 p.m. on that day, winds at Hickam were gusting to forty knots.

As Iwa moved near and then past Kauai, Hickam's winds increased in strength. At 6:45 p.m., in heavy rainshowers, Hickam's winds peaked at seventy knots and then began to decrease to gusts of 35 knots by 8 p.m.

Throughout the storm, weather people at Hickam stayed busy providing warnings throughout the

islands, relaying WC-130 observations, taking weather radar observations, coordinating forecasts and tailoring CPHC forecasts for our military customers.

Phone calls received ranged from official calls to calls from badly worried husbands and wives wanting news of the hurricane.

Then, at the very height of the hurricane's fury, Hawaii weather people lost the ability to track the storm center.

The WC-130 had to abort and GOES-West quit working.

The next NOAA polar-orbiter satellite pass wouldn't be available from DMSP Site 7 at Hickam until early Wednesday morning. The CPHC lost teletype transmit capability and Hickam put out a military advisory over the Automated Weather Network with CPHC positions and forecasts based "on dead reckoning."

Fortunately, a young captain of the 169th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Mount Kaala on Oahu saw the center of Iwa displayed on his radar screen.

His call to Hickam let weather people know where the hurricane was and where it was moving — right on the forecast path to the north of and

away from Oahu. His reports enabled the CPHC to track the storm until it was clear of the islands. At its nearest point, Iwa passed about 118 miles north of Hickam as it began to move away from the islands.

Weather forecasters at Hickam and Wheeler were on the job 24-hours-a-day providing warnings and advice on setting conditions of readiness. Then they rode out the storm in the weather stations.

Although Air Force installations on Oahu had their share of damage, other places in the islands fared worse.

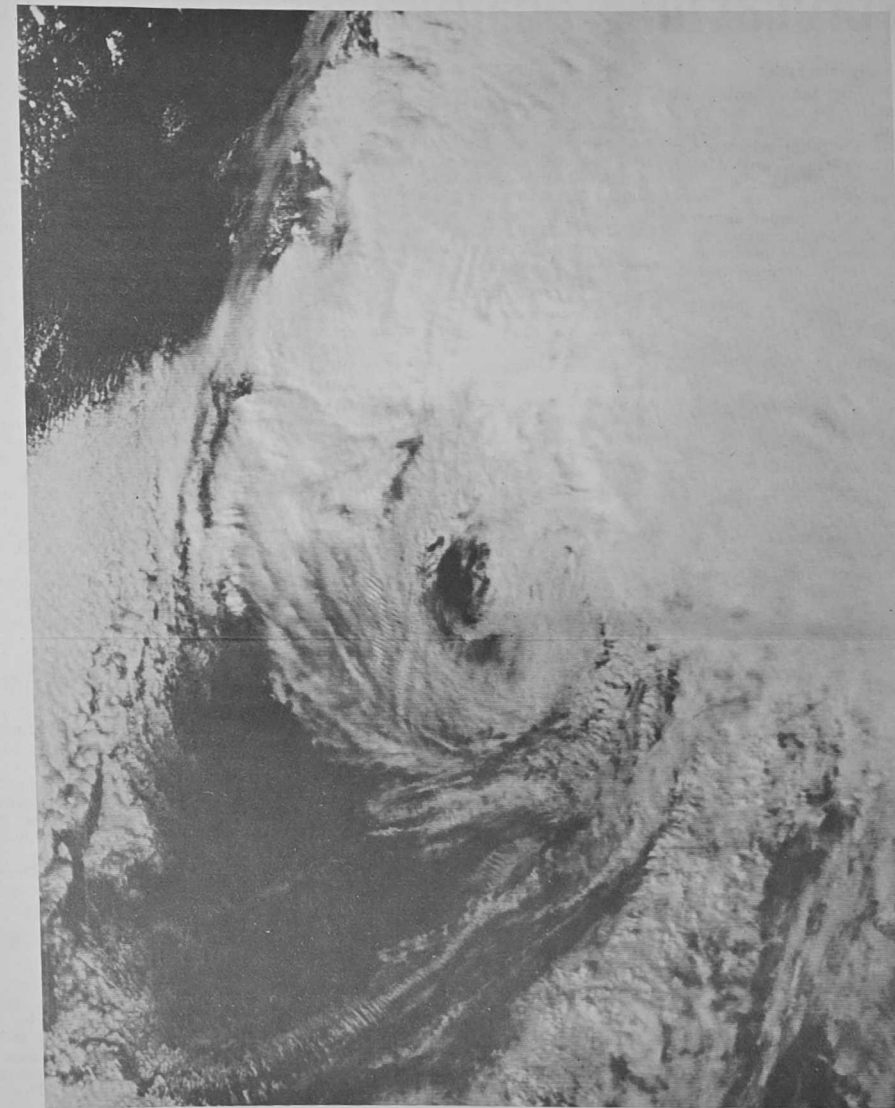
The USAF observatory at the 10,000 foot level on Mount Haleakala had winds gusting to 112 knots at one point. Wheeler had winds gusting to around seventy knots. Lihue on Kauai recorded 74 knot winds but it's very likely that winds were higher there. The most severe storm damage was on Kauai.

Hickam, Wheeler AFB, and other military installations were fortunate that the island did not feel the full effects of Iwa. There was enough warning to take protective actions and to evacuate aircraft. Even so, Iwa did more than two million dollars damage to Air Force facilities in Hawaii.



### Her fury

Hurricane Iwa vented her wrath in base housing areas as well as in industrial areas of the island. (U.S. Air Force photo)



### Hurricane Iwa

This NOAA-7 photo, from DMSP site 7, was taken just four hours before Hurricane Iwa's effects lashed Hickam and Wheeler AFBs, Hawaii on Nov. 23. The photo shows the storm at approximately 160 miles due west of Hickam.

## A lesson from history

# Forecasting adapted for African invasion

By John Fuller

Forecasting meteorological conditions for "Torch," the code name England's Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill selected for the Allied invasions of North Africa in November 1942, was a bellweather effort.

Forecasting techniques adapted for that operation, some successful, some not, bore lessons that were applied by meteorologists and decision makers alike to all subsequent large-scale amphibious invasions in World War II.

Because of substantial disagreement between his military advisors and those of the prime minister, it was July 25, 1942, before President Franklin D. Roosevelt cabled Churchill with the U.S.' commitment to invading North Africa. Other than Guadalcanal, it was the first U.S. amphibious operation in 45 years.

The next day, July 26, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was informed of his selection as supreme Allied commander for the operation and, on July 31, Allied

strategic planning began in London under extreme secrecy.

### Landing dates

On Sept. 8, General Eisenhower set Nov. 8 as the date for simultaneous landings at three locales: at Oran 39,000 troops and Algiers 33,000 men, in Algeria, in the Mediterranean, and near Casablanca 35,000 soldiers, French Morocco in the Atlantic. Most of the troops were American.

### Moroccan landing

Under command of Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, the main American landing centered around Casablanca. High surf and sea swells were customary there and, by November, would limit the days landing craft could be navigated to perhaps one in five. The tide would be ebbing on Nov. 8 so that, even with smooth water, landing craft would have to be speedily unloaded and retracted to avoid being stranded or even broached.

### Ship to shore

Transporting General Patton's force from the U.S., the first

time in history that a ship-to-shore operation projected across an ocean, was an American naval task force under Rear Adm. Henry K. Hewitt.

In September he recommended, somewhat to General Patton's dismay, that the Moroccan landing be delayed a week. Admiral Hewitt's proposal was discussed at higher Navy levels and dismissed.

Not only would available moonlight a week later make surprise less likely, and narrow the climatological likelihood of favorable weather, but further delay was deemed inadvisable. "Bad surf conditions on the Atlantic beaches is a calculated risk," President Roosevelt signaled Prime Minister Churchill on Sept. 3, emphasizing the president's determination to get the Allies on the offensive in Europe.

"Meteorological reports indicated that a steady deterioration of weather was to be anticipated, beginning in the early fall," General Eisenhower wrote later; "naturally, therefore, time became of the essence" and "everything was done to launch the attack at the earliest possible date."

### En route to Africa

In coordination with Admiral Hewitt's aerologist, Lt. Comdr. Richard C. Steere, the admiral and General Patton determined they needed three days with sea swells eight feet or less for the Moroccan landing, together with clear skies overhead for requisite air support.

Moreover, by mid-October, General Patton wanted a basic operational planning forecast for November, to include day-to-day predictions of tides and sea swells. En route to Africa, he wanted 48-hour forecasts from Washington of weather and swells two-to-ten miles at sea.

Finally, 24 hours before the invasion, forecasts prepared in Washington were to be transmitted to Gibraltar, site of General Eisenhower's headquarters until a toehold was gained in North Africa. Positioned at Gibraltar with General Eisenhower's staff would be an Air Weather Service forecaster. Based on weather and sea-state reports available at Gibraltar, he would modify Washington's forecast as necessary. Both forecasts would then be conveyed to Admiral Hewitt's flagship where Commander Steere would use them to prepare his forecast.

"Washington," in that instance, translated to forecasters with AWS' weather research center and, for a period, with a joint Army-

Navy-Weather Bureau forecast central, at Bolling Field.

### Long range forecasts

Since the summer of 1941, they had been experimenting with long range forecasting. One of the forecasters there was Maj. Irving P. Krick, a 35-year-old former professor who had established the meteorology program at the California Institute of Technology in 1933-34. Aggressive, colorful, and quite controversial, Major Krick possessed credentials of the first order in both theoretical and applied long range forecasting.

In December 1940, his work captured the eye of Army Air Corps chief Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, who had Major Krick summoned to active duty in March 1942 for assignment with AWS' center.

Since most of the center's officer forecasters had received training under the major at Cal Tech, they naturally turned to his long range forecasting techniques for preparing the North Africa forecast. He was the dominant figure behind the "Washington" forecasts, but it was a team effort.

### Surface winds

Because no accepted technique existed for the long range forecasting of surface winds, the Washington team knew that no attempt had been made in the past to predict sea swells beyond 24-to-48 hours. They turned for help to forecasters in New York with Pan American Airways which flew scheduled flights across Africa before the war, and to California and Professor Harald H. Sverdrup at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

### November predictions

With such help, team forecasters, on Oct. 17, prepared a basic operational planning forecast for November which predicted a peak swell of 15 feet off French Morocco on Nov. 7, followed by subsidence to 5 feet or less by Nov. 14. They therefore recommended that the landing be slipped to sometime between Nov. 12 and 17.

Like Admiral Hewitt's recommendation, it was dismissed due to the uniqueness of a long range sea swell forecast, and the size, complexity, and momentum of the operation.

### Daily forecasts

The admiral's armada of 107 ships sortied from Norfolk, Va., a week later, on Oct. 23. Assault forces for the Mediterranean phase, Oran and Algiers, put to sea

(continued on page 7)



## New ROS

Col. Lawrence W. Foley (left), 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing vice commander, and Col. George E. Chapman, Air Weather Service commander, open a Representative Observing Site with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new site will give Detachment 36, 28th Weather Squadron observers at RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom, better visibility of the weather on and around the airfield. (U.S. Air Force photo)

# AWS salutes...

Information for the Salutes column should be sent by public affairs representatives to HQ AWS/PA, Scott AFB, Ill., 62225. Submissions should list information by category and include the rank, full name, unit and unit location.

Items received by the 15th of the month will be 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. Environmental Technical Applications Center; WRS - Weather Reconnaissance Squadron; BTZ - Below the Zone; OL - Operating Location; and OLC - Oak Leaf Cluster.

## Medals

**Meritorious Service Medal:** Lt. Col. Stanley D. Zlochen, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Lt. Col. Gary L. Doty (2nd OLC), CMSgt. Norman B. Cleghorn (1st OLC), HQ 1st WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Capt. Charles W. French, MSgt. John H. Depew, Det. 25, 5th WS, Howard AFB, Panama; Maj. Donald R. Cochran, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Maj. Richard A. Lunan, MSgt. Kenneth D. Hill, Det. 9, 7th WW, Scott AFB, Ill.; SMSgt. Gary R. Peterson, Det. 2, 11th WS, Eielson AFB, Alaska; Capt. Louis T. Hart, Jr. (1st OLC), Det. 32, 3rd WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Col. Dale C. Barnum (3rd OLC), Lt. Col.

Larry W. Jobes (3rd OLC), Lt. Col. Robert E. Black (2nd OLC), CMSgt. Horace L. Maxwell (2nd OLC), Lt. Col. James M. Connelley (1st OLC), Lt. Col. Robert C. Whiton, Capt. William F. Markert, Maj. Bryan E. Lilius, SSgt. Joseph Luteran, Jr., MSgt. William R. Matley, SMSgt. Bruce C. Brattlof, TSgt. Frederick B. Smiley, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Lt. Col. Douglas A. Abbott (1st OLC), Maj. Joseph F. Bryson, Jr. (1st OLC), Capt. Patricia K. Acevedo, SMSgt. Herbert W. Barnes, Maj. John R. Elrick, Capt. Malcolm D. Gifford, Maj. James L. Hatch, Maj. Edwin W. Jenkins, Maj. Martin N. Wisniewski, Maj. Richard A. Baker, Maj. Robert E. Goetz, Jr. (2nd OLC), Lt. Col. Venron G. Patterson (1st OLC), Lt. Col. Adrian A. Ritchie, Jr. (1st OLC), Capt. Gerard D. Wittman, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.; TSgt. Lee H. Batsel, Jr., Det. 40, 2nd WW, RAF Croughton, United Kingdom.

**Air Medal:** Capt. Stephen W. Lizon (1st OLC), 1st Lt. Bill I. Greg, 1st Lt. Todd J. Leiss, Sgt. Scott P. Babecki (1st OLC), Sgt. David A. Bird (1st OLC), Det. 4, HQ AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam.

**Air Force Commendation Medal:** Maj. William E. Normington, Det. 17, 1st WW, Yokota AB, Japan; Sgt. Tom Catrett, Det. 9, 24th WS, Maxwell AFB, Ala.; SSgt. Peter M. Copeskey, Det. 4, HQ AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam; MSgt. Elvin A. Diaz, Jr., Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Panama; Capt. John J. Skorusa, Jr. (1st OLC), 1st Lt. Dan H. Vial, Jr. (1st OLC), HQ 1st WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Capt. Randolph D. Garvin (1st OLC), OL-K, HQ AWS, Las Vegas,

Nev.; 1st Lt. Mark J. Andres, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; 1st Lt. Elizabeth D. Eskridge, Capt. Gary R. Hudson (1st OLC), Capt. Robert E. Wallace (1st OLC), Capt. Donald S. Nicklin, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.; Capt. Susan L. Nelson (1st OLC), 1st Lt. Gary D. Wells (1st OLC), TSgt. Robert A. Bechtel (1st OLC), Capt. James W. Galloway, 1st Lt. Patrick A. Lunney, Sgt. Max E. McDonald, Sgt. Alan W. Robb, Capt. Robert J. Brotze, 2nd Lt. Kurt D. Malone, 1st Lt. Michael S. Rosemark, 1st Lt. Paul T. Scott, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**Army Commendation Medal:** SSgt. Richard T. Reck, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**Air Force Achievement Medal:** TSgt. Bruce E. Lovelady, A1C John M. Stumph, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Panama; Sgt. Scott C. Copeland, SSgt. Shirley A. Preston, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; A1C Dirk Christiansen, SrA. Magda Wold, Det. 2, 11th WS, Eielson AFB, Alaska, A1C Christopher N. Daniel, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; 2nd Lt. Sylvia M. Dake, Det. 23, 26th WS, McConnell AFB, Kan.; SSgt. Jean Mar, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.

## Promotions

**To colonel:** Roland E. Barth, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**To lieutenant colonel:** Pershin Hicks, Jr., Harvey J. Miller, Larry L. Terrell, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

(continued on page 8)

# The African invasion...

(continued from page 6)

from England on Oct. 22 and 26. Washington's forecasts were sent daily to Commander Steere at sea.

They were also transmitted daily to Gibraltar, where AWS' 1st Lt. Kenneth A. Willard had been detailed to generate forecasts. The lieutenant was from the weather research center and, like Commander Steere, had received training and indoctrination there on the long range forecasting techniques being applied.

Lieutenant Willard logged nearly 70 hours in Royal Air Force Hudson anti-submarine aircraft patrolling daily from Gibraltar. That way he could check the accuracy of Washington's forecasts, as well as obtain and relay observations to Washington and Commander Steere of weather and sea swells.

## Approaching Morocco

As Admiral Hewitt's task force approached Morocco on Nov. 6, after a smooth passage, heavy seas were reported there by Lieutenant Willard and a submarine. From the fourth to the sixth, weather there had deteriorated severely, confirming forecasts radioed from Washington.

On Nov. 7, Washington's forecast predicted surf too high for landings

the next day. Prime Minister Churchill mentioned the "grave concern" over Morocco's weather, and General Eisenhower, who left England for Gibraltar on Nov. 5 on a B-17, wrote that "I tentatively decided" late on the seventh that, "unless (weather) conditions should improve, to divert the Admiral Hewitt expedition into Gibraltar."

But a late change in the synoptic situation near Morocco, caught by Commander Steere, prevented a diversion.

Heavy swells at Morocco were generated by a severe storm located southeast of Greenland on Nov. 6. On the seventh, a storm centered south of Gibraltar created a countering sea swell that moved through the Straits of Gibraltar.

With such uncertainties how to estimate the rate of decay of one sea swell affected by another, Washington, in its forecast for the seventh, decided to stick with its forecast of Nov. 6: no change in the basic planning forecast, i.e., heavy swells off Morocco until at least Nov. 12, more likely Nov. 14.

But Hudson flights from Gibraltar on Nov. 6 and 7 that Willard was on saw evidence of a temporary interruption in Morocco's swells. It was reflected in Lieutenant Willard's forecast

from Gibraltar.

In possession of Washington's and the lieutenant's forecasts was Commander Steere, aboard Admiral Hewitt's flagship. Siding with the latter prognosis, he confidently offered a more optimistic interpretation to Admiral Hewitt and General Patton which suggested that the fast moving Gibraltar system would temporarily abate the high swells and surf at the landing sites around Casablanca on Nov. 8, perhaps enough to establish a beachhead.

## Landing day

Faced with a choice of landing at Morocco or sailing to Gibraltar to exercise a backup plan of putting General Patton's troops ashore in the Mediterranean, the admiral opted for the former.

Late on the seventh, seas off Morocco began subsiding to the point where, early on the morning of the invasion, they were relatively calm, under fair-to-hazy skies. The surf was slighter than on any other morning that month. Still, 64 percent of the 370 landing craft used at Fedala were damaged by the surf.

While the Atlantic landings at Morocco on Nov. 8 were successful, the respite in the sea state was

short lived. The sea began picking up again that very afternoon. It was fortunate that enemy resistance on Morocco's beaches was quickly subdued because landing losses were sustained on Nov. 9 and 10 with heavy swells, though under clear skies, that did not subsist until Nov. 12 — verifying Washington's long range forecast.

In retrospect, Nov. 8 was the best day for the North Africa invasion. If attempted 4 or 5 days earlier, it probably would have ended in disaster due to high sea swells and extremely poor weather that would have impeded air support. If delayed a week for calmer seas, the long period of clear skies might have resulted in an all-out attack on Admiral Hewitt's task force by German submarines and aircraft.

As it was, the improvement in the weather that brought relatively clear weather along Morocco's coast facilitated Allied air support, but was probably sudden enough to prevent the Axis from marshalling aircraft at bases in North Africa close enough to oppose the landing.

Written by Mr. Fuller, the Military Airlift Command historian for AWS, this column is featured monthly as part of the Project Warrior program.

# AWS salutes...

(continued from page 7)

**To major:** Mike Sotak, HQ 3rd WW, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Peter B. Mills, Det. 1, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Robert L. Coman, Det. 2, 2nd WS, Hanscom AFB, Mass.

**To captain:** Michael J. Morrison, John G. Sladen, Bartlett Hamilton, Lyle A. Cubberly, Arthur C. Meade, Steven M. Savageau, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Dean W. Brown, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; Charles M. Davenport, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

**To first lieutenant:** Emilio R. Banos-Nieves, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Panama; William L. Collins, Edward Markel, Edwin S. Brigance, Ray M. Clark, Robert F. Hinman, Donald J. Jauris, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Kenneth A. Mitchell, Det. 6, 26th WS, Griffiss AFB, N.Y.

**To chief master sergeant:** Paul W. Crimmins, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**To senior master sergeant:** William S. Fulcer, Wayne D. King, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; John M. Stefancik, Det. 40, 2nd WW, RAF Croughton, United Kingdom; Rodger A. Black, Det. 1, 17th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.

**To master sergeant:** James R. Hoskins, William E. Elliott, Albert N. Faircloth, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Michael D. Storey, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Michael J. Visnow, Det. 28, 26th WS, Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.; Gary R. Emmons, Det. 26, 26th WS, Grissom AFB, Ind.

**To technical sergeant:** Mike Sepinski, Mike Josias, Randall Ravasio, Jean Brand, Weather Training Branch, Chanute AFB, Ill.; Rodney L. Smith, Det. 32, 3rd WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Michael W. Woolverton, Det. 19, 26th WS, Whiteman AFB, Mo.; Kenneth Chesson, HQ 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Mike McBratney, Jake Smith, Det. 11, 24th WS, Reese AFB, Texas; Rod Burton, Det. 12, 24th WS, Sheppard AFB, Texas; Harold Newman, Det. 22, 24th WS, Keesler AFB, Miss.; Norman L. Cohen, Nevin H. Dehoff, Brian C. Langley, Craig A. Lewis, Jefferson G. Martin, William F. Otting, David G. Jones, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**To staff sergeant:** Christopher L. Peer, Stafford J. Pelish, Robert H. Powell, Michael D. Thompson, Steven E. Rowland, Michael W. Wilver, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Joe Howard, Det. 7, 24th WS, Mather AFB, Calif.; Samuel T. Miller, Det. 4, 26th WS, Loring AFB, Maine; Harold F. Trull, Jr., Lawrence I. Wiggins, Det. 28, 26th WS, Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.; Walter L. Lewis, IV, Det. 32, 3rd WS, MacDill AFB, Fla.; Ken Starks, Mark Seigel, Weather Training Branch, Chanute AFB, Ill.; Garland K. Head, Det. 31, 15th WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga.; Richard C. Bonam, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

**To sergeant:** Jeanne L. Walthour, Det. 2, 11th WS, Eielson AFB, Alaska; Virgil W. Israel, Det. 4, 11th WS, Fort Richardson, Alaska; Larry E. Hampton, HQ 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La.; Brian K. Fuis, Det. 22, 26th WS, Carswell AFB, Texas; James R. Proch, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; John Hampshire, Det. 7, 24th WS, Mather AFB, Calif.; John McCabe, Det. 17, 24th WS, Williams AFB, Ariz.; Lorna A. Fletcher, Michael J. Harris, Charles E. Riddle, Michael Chandler, David Johansen, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Dan W. Stephens, 6th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.

**To senior airman:** Janiet L. Coleman (BTZ), Ricky R. Harver (BTZ), Douglas B. Drew,

Gregory Gaddis, Ricky A. Hiltbrand, Peggy F. Luteran, Lisa J. Thomas, Robert A. Tillisch, Theodore Van Houten, Rodney C. Voshell, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; Richard T. Poore, Amelia A. Edwards, Det. 4, 26th WS, Loring AFB, Maine; Larry J. Duber, Debbie F. Boney, Bruce R. Szelag, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Republic of Panama; Brenda E. Lawson, Thomas C. Balsoma, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; Kenneth M. Mars, 6th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Mitchell L. Lawson, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; Shawn T. Sankey, David C. Esparza, Det. 6, 7th WS, Fulda, Germany; Thomas Wiseman, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.

**To airman first class:** Michael D. Dennis, Det. 6, 7th WS, Fulda, Germany; Shelli M. Peck, Christina J. Cartwright, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Panama; Patricia A. Powell, Det. 6, 26th WS, Grissom AFB, Ind.; William Trudo, Det. 7, 24th WS, Mather AFB, Calif.; Brian W. Ramsey, William G. Trowman, Franklin Harris, Mark A. Webb, Ronald C. Trout, Evan M. Perkins, Timothy Walters, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

**To airman:** Veda J. Cramer, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; James Eppert, Det. 1, 9th WS, Offutt AFB, Neb.

## Unit honors

**Junior Officer of the Quarter:** 1st Lt. Gerald R. Borger, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; 2nd Lt. Donna J. Perez, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

**Senior NCO of the Quarter:** MSgt. David H. Palmer, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; MSgt. James D. Agnes, Det. 17, 1st WW, Yokota AB, Japan.

**NCO of the Quarter:** SSgt. Teresa Smith, Det. 2, 24th WS, Columbus AFB, Miss.; SSgt. Anthony R. Ramirez, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; TSgt. Terry F. Landsvork, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; SSgt. Donald Garske, Det. 21, 17th WS, Little Rock AFB, Ark., for Little Rock AFB; SSgt. Lance S. Jensen, Det. 17, 1st WW, Yokota AB, Japan; TSgt. Daniel Alston, Det. 3, 9th WS, Fairchild AFB, Wash., for 9th WS; Sgt. Mark R. Barnes, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

**Airman of the Quarter:** SrA. Gregory S. Gaddis, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; A1C Gregg C. Baron, Det. 10, 15th WS, McGuire AFB, N.J.; A1C Avery, Det. 2, 24th WS, Columbus AFB, Miss.; A1C Manuel Carrasquillo, Det. 20, 24th WS, Laughlin AFB, Texas; A1C Ronald Zahoryin, Det. 2, 9th WS, Castle AFB, Calif., for 9th WS; A1C Lurania M. Russell, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

**Forecaster of the Quarter:** TSgt. John R. Poudrier, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.

**Observer of the Quarter:** SrA. Thomas Wiseman, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.

**Junior Officer of the Year:** 1st Lt. Michael T. Moss, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C., for 15th WS.; 2nd Lt. Donna J. Perez, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

**Senior NCO of the Year:** MSgt. Frederick L. Watterson, Det. 15, 9th WS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D., for 9th WS; MSgt. Robert W. Platt, Det. 31, 15th WS, Dobbins AFB, Ga., for 15th WS; SMSgt. Lawrence J. Wojcik, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

**NCO of the Year:** TSgt. Daniel Alston, Det. 3, 9th WS, Fairchild AFB, Wash., for 9th WS; TSgt. Johnny W. Kicklighter, Det. 3, 15th WS, Charleston AFB, S.C.; TSgt. Raymond J. Perez, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; TSgt.

Lewis F. Riggsby, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas.

**Airman of the Year:** A1C Wanda L. Morron, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas; A1C Denis L. Delgado, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.; SrA. Paula Y. Przybysz, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.; SrA. Gerald Claycomb, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash., for 17th WS; A1C Stanley Grell, Det. 1, 9th WS, Offutt AFB, Neb., for 9th WS.

## Education

**Squadron Officer's School:** 1st Lt. Oliver J. Muldoon, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

**NCO Academy:** MSgt. Franklin R. Hauck, Det. 28, 26th WS, Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.; TSgt. Hugh R. Wells, Det. 22, 26th WS, Carswell AFB, Texas.; TSgt. Edward T. Calvert, Det. 23, 26th WS, McConnell AFB, Kan.; TSgt. Erik Johnson, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.; TSgt. Michael D. Storey, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

**NCO Leadership School:** SSgt. Norman F. Gotch, Det. 1, 17th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; Sgt. Frances Charlotte Camp, Det. 1, 3rd WW, Shaw AFB, S.C., graduated with honors; SSgt. Jack Tones, Jr., OL-K, HQ AWS, Las Vegas, Nev., graduated with honors; SSgt. Linda C. Washington, Det. 3, 15th WS, Charleston AFB, S.C.; SSgt. Alan R. Gideons, Det. 20, 26th WS, Barksdale AFB, La., graduated with honors; SSgt. Tracy Dovell, Det. 14, 26th WS, Blythesville AFB, Ark.

**Phase II PME:** Sgt. Thomas M. Dizdul, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.; Sgt. Allen E. Brandt, Sgt. Rick F. Hooser, 6th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.

**Phase I PME:** SrA. Mitchel L. Lawson, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; SrA. Vanessa U. Harris, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.; SrA. Thomas C. Balsoma, Det. 21, 2nd WS, Edwards AFB, Calif.

**Weather Specialist Course:** SSgt. Paul Reynolds, Det. 12, 26th WS, Plattsburgh AFB, N.Y.

**CCAF degrees:** TSgt. Robert A. Van Veghel, Det. 9, 7th WW, Scott AFB, Ill.; SSgt. Daniel E. Mitchell, OL-K, HQ AWS, Las Vegas, Nev.; SSgt. Evelyn Gibson, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.; SSgt. David Knieff, Det. 17, 9th WS, Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

**OTS Selectees:** SSgt. Steven Dawson, Det. 9, 7th WW, Scott AFB, Ill.

## Retirements

Oscar E. Richard, USAFETAC, Scott AFB, Ill.

MSgt. David A. Rosser, MSgt. John J. Slaby, Jr., SMSgt. Bruce C. Brattlof, MSgt. William R. Matley, CMSgt. Harvey D. McInnis, Capt. Robert J. Brotze, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.

## Births

Sgts. Pamela and Cory Knowles, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C., a son, Kristopher.

Sgt. Richard T. and Edith Kocinski, Det. 3, 15th WS, Charleston AFB, S.C., a son, Schon Michael.

A1C Kevin and Diana Foley, Det. 1, 17th WS, Tinker AFB, Okla.; a daughter, Tara Eileen.

Capt. Mike and Loretta Rock, HQ AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb., a daughter.

SSgt. Wayne and Vickie Bradshaw, HQ AFGWC, a daughter.

Capt. Michael J. and Sharon Stanley, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, a daughter, Cassandra Leigh.

A1C Robert and Carol Tillisch, HQ AFGWC, a son.