



AWS Observer

Vol. 30, No. 5

Headquarters Air Weather Service

MAY 1983

Two AWS administrators win annual MAC awards

Two Air Weather Service administrators have won annual outstanding administration awards within MAC and are nominated for Air Force competition. They are:

MSgt. Linda L. Stanfield, 3rd Weather Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb., for outstanding Air Force senior administrator - systems and management.

Joyce E. Haigh, Det. 6, 26th WS, Pease AFB, N.H., for outstanding Air Force Administrator - Support Administration.

Sergeant Stanfield is chief, Publications Branch and managed all phases of the publications and forms management program. She serves as alternate security manager and implemented a cross reference system for filing and suspending security investigations. She has performed staff assistance visits that provided administrative assistance to four squadrons and three direct reporting units. She also monitors the remaining staff assistance visit reports for 46 CSUs. Other accomplishments were: assuming position of wing assistant chief of administration at a time of austere manning; researched pertinent regulations, reviewed and reaccomplished the wing civilian personnel records; and during an OJT monitor changeover, she assumed the responsibility for reviewing, for conformity and compliance with regulations, all the documentation of the OJT records. She also volunteered to be the wing representative for the

Base Resident Consultant for Military Women and acted as committee's secretary/recorder.

Joyce Haigh, a civilian secretary, has accomplished her routine duties, as well as her special endeavors, extremely significant in both quality and quantity, according to her supervisor. Some of her outstanding efforts are: suggested a SAC management engineering team help find alternatives to her unit's cramped, inefficient arrangement of offices. The plan validated a \$46,500 savings over a three-year period. She maintained a superior management leave program; no late performance reports submitted; supported the Unit Sponsorship Program; insured individuals receiving recognition received media recognition in three newspapers; administrative maintenance of the security program always received high praise from inspectors; also researches and organizes numerous documents of the Air Force and Army Reserve and National Guard organizations that her unit supports over a four-state area; and keeps individual mobilization augmentees well informed of any and all regulation, requirements, and policy changes.

In a message to all winners, Gen. James R. Allen, commander in chief, MAC, sent his congratulations to the winners and all nominees. We are extremely proud of our administrators within MAC and their outstanding support."



Joyce E. Haigh



MSgt. Linda L. Stanfield

Weather enters computer age

by SrA. M. G. Stinnett
Det. 36, 28th Weather Squadron
RAF Alconbury, UK

RAF Alconbury's weather detachment has entered the microcomputer age with installation of a computerized weather dissemination system. The system replaces 14-year-old mechanical pen-and-ink telewriter with video display screens and high speed printers.

The system is unique to the Air Force. Most other Air Force bases still use the old telewriter systems, but the video system could soon become the rule rather than the exception. The 28th Weather Squadron at RAF Mildenhall is considering the system for other U.S. bases in England.

The video screens display current and forecast conditions for the RAF Alconbury area as well as conditions for alternate bases. Det. 36 observers and forecasters input the latest weather in near real-time and the information is simultaneously updated

at 10 Alconbury and one RAF Wyton (10 miles east) location.

"The latest information on conditions at RAF Alconbury and alternate airfields is constantly displayed," says Maj. Clifford M. Rudy, commander of Det. 36. "There's no more legibility problems since all the information is typed from a keyboard."

Agencies that receive the weather information include the command post, the control tower, ground approach controllers and all squadron operations desks.

"A side benefit of the system is the ability to format teletype transmissions on the screen and quality control them for accuracy before cutting a paper tape," says Major Rudy. "This saves our forecasters and observers a significant amount of time, decreases error rates and allows them to spend more time actually observing and forecasting the weather. That's very important due to the rapidly changing weather conditions in England."

AWS unit takes part in medical evacuation

Following quick action by the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Det. 4, HQ AWS, and the 605th Military Airlift Support Squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam, a U.S. Coast Guardsman at Marcus Island was evacuated by a WC-130 crew for medical reasons.

On Feb. 20 the 54th WRS received a call from the Joint Rescue Coordination Center at 1:30 a.m. Sunday stating a man from Marcus Island was suffering from a kidney stone problem. Given the superb response of the 605th MASS, "Air Rescue 554", a WC-130E departed Guam at 6 a.m. for the three-hour flight to Marcus Island, located 920 miles northeast of Guam.

The crew landed the plane, boarded the patient with engines running, and took off again within 30 minutes of landing. An ambulance transported the patient from Andersen AFB to the Naval Regional Medical Center shortly after the 1 p.m. arrival.

Members of the aircrew were Maj. Bob McDonald, pilot; Capt. Chris Maracchini, co-pilot; Capt. Bill Kiele, navigator; 1st Lt. Gregory T. Marx, aerial weather reconnaissance officer and MSgt. Ronald Koplitz, dropsonde system operator (from Det. 4, AWS) and SSgt. McAndrew Manhart, flight engineer.



ENLISTED DINING OUT — Retired CMSgt. George Horn was guest speaker at the annual AWS enlisted dining out recently at Chanute AFB, Ill. Chief Horn looks over some photos with SrA. Malena Mass, one of more than 140 attendees of the dining out. The theme of the evening was "The

Enlisted Force — A Tradition of Leadership. Guests of honor were Col. George Chapman, AWS commander and Col. James L. Morris, 3330th Technical Training Wing commander. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Command line *AWS in the year 2000*

A few months ago, I had the privilege of speaking at the MAC Family Dining-Out at Andersen AFB, Guam. Some of my com-



Col. George E. Chapman
AWS Commander

ments on that evening focused on a recently completed Air Force 2000 study which projected that the Air Force would experience a major technological explosion by the year 2000. Refinements in just the past few years in computers and electronics have been significant, which implies that changes in the next two decades in these areas, alone, will be revolutionary by comparison.

With this outlook in mind, the corresponding interest in the AWS mission and our continuing ability to meet DOD requirements through the year 2000 have never been higher. In mid-April of this year, the Vice Commander in Chief, Military Airlift Command, Lt. Gen. Robert F. Coverdale, and the Vice Commander, Air Force Systems Command, Lt. Gen. Robert M. Bond, co-signed a letter to major commands and other DOD agencies initiating a Weather 2000 Mission Analysis and requesting General Officer participation on a Senior Officer Steering Group to

guide the study efforts. Let me quote from a portion of that letter:

"'Weather 85' was a study concluded in the early '80s which examined the required posture and resources necessary to provide optimum weather support to Air Force and Army forces through 1985. That study proved invaluable in the acquisition of resources critical to mission-essential weather support. Since the completion of this effort, significant changes have occurred in various technologies. For example, advanced sensor technology has improved our target acquisition and weapons delivery capability; however, it has also generated unique weather support requirements not previously considered by operators and meteorologists. Roadmap studies like 'Air Force 2000' and 'Air/Land Battle 2000' signal even greater changes in the complexion of Air Force and Army forces through the year 2000. Environmental support is a fundamental requirement for

the development and subsequent operation of these advanced technological systems. To ensure adequate environmental support is available for developers and operation through the turn of the century, the Air Force needs to extend the 'Weather 85' study into the year 2000."

That's powerful support from your senior Air Force leadership for you and the support you provide to the DOD mission. The study effort will run through the summer of 1984, involving primarily Air Force Systems Command, a civilian contract agency, and the General Officer Steering Group. Only four AWS personnel will be directly involved in this effort, as the objective viewpoint of non-AWS personnel will be far more beneficial.

This analysis of our mission will give us the perspective we need for the future. It's exciting, and we will keep you apprised of the results in the months ahead.

Chief's comments: *Preparation — key to success*



CMSgt. Charles T. Melson
AWS Senior Enlisted Advisor

To study or test? That's the question many of you will be confronted with prior to your next testing under the Weighted Airman Promotion System. From my experience with the WAPS, the answer was very simple — study.

Throughout the Air Force, I've found that the word "study" means anything from two nights before the test to up to eight months. And from this experience and exposure I would like to offer you some free advice on preparing yourself for your next WAPS test or, for that matter, any test.

Preparation, for anything, studying for a test, building a house, jogging, etc., is the key to success. And the only way to

prepare for a WAPS test is by studying. For those testing in February - March 1984, I suggest that you begin studying no later than August. Too early? Well, about all one can absorb in any study period is two to three hours per day. Studying anymore than that each day would cause an early burn-out. Starting in August would also give you time to reread/study the material at least twice — maybe more. Repetition of the study material is the key in getting good test scores. It is kind of difficult to get repetition when you allow yourself two weeks or less for preparation.

While studying the WAPS material, you should adjust the time you spend on the different subjects topics. Those you are familiar with, you should spend less time allowing more time on the less familiar areas. This will give you more time for repetition.

If there are any questions associated with the study material, you should try to answer them. This will reinforce the subject, plus give you practice in reading the questions — and this is very, very important.

I've heard this statement several times, and I am sure most of you

have too, "I know the material, but I just can't take a test." Well, I am sure there are some people who can't test as well as others. However, there are certain things we can do to help us improve our scores.

In most libraries, there are several books on "How to Prepare for Tests." Whether you have trouble or not taking tests, I contend that all would benefit by reading/studying one or several of these books.

Most of them cover how to read the question, how to look for the main point in the question, what the different words mean in the sequences they are presented, etc. Usually there are 1-3 hundred practice questions associated with the material. By learning to read the question properly, you can add 10-15 points to your scores. Some don't read the question in its entirety, others add their own words and change the intent of the question, etc...all very common mistakes but costly.

Everyone has their own special technique to take a test and I would like to pass mine on to you for whatever it is worth. I obtained it from one of the books I earlier mentioned and it has improved my

ability to do well on tests.

When I begin, I go through the entire test and answer only those questions which I can answer without extensive thought. Don't become alarmed when you go through a 100-question test and find that you've only answered 20 questions on the first pass. I continue to do this, answering the less difficult on each pass.

This keeps you from becoming bogged down on one certain question — wasting valuable time.

It also gives you a chance to review all the questions several times. Other questions and answers may contain a key word in helping you answer another question. The final questions are those which you will probably have to make an educated guess at anyway. The point being that if one of the questions was number 3 and you wasted 20 minutes trying to answer it, you still wouldn't do any better than an educated guess. But you stand to miss other questions because you have burned yourself out on that one question. It also keeps you at ease — saves the hardest questions for last.

That's about it — prepare well and test well. It's up to each of you as to how. Best of luck to all!

Lesson From History:

Training the Vietnamese



BUI VAN NHUNG (left), an aviation forecaster with the DOM weather station at Tan Son Nhut, and **Lt. Nguyen The Thau**, commander of the Vietnam Air Force weather detachment there, ponder a question about a weather

map analysis posed by **1st Lt. Edward D. O'Connor**, an advisor with the 30th Weather Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo)

by John Fuller

With the increased attention by the United States on events in Central America, it is well to reflect on Air Weather Services' advisory and training role in the early years of the Vietnam war.

U.S. military personnel and equipment dispatched to South Vietnam in the early 1960s were part of a military assistance effort to help the local government stop acts of terrorism and aggression by communist insurgents. In theory, fighting the insurgents was left to the South Vietnamese. Americans only observed and advised. That involved USAF special operations people and Army Special Forces trained in counter-insurgency, and Air Force aircrews engaged in photo reconnaissance and defoliant operations, and tactical airlift.

When AWS personnel were first detailed to Vietnam in late 1961 and 1962, their mission, in addition to supporting Air Force and U.S. Army elements, was to advise their Vietnamese counterparts, while training and integrating them into a workable weather support system. The ultimate objective was to improve the weather service in the Vietnamese Air Force to a point where it could function independently.

It was an imposing task. The VNAF had no weather equipment, and no weather organization per se. It had just one enlisted forecaster and 22 observers. It also had two officer forecasters on loan from the civilian Department of Meteorology, which itself had only 11 forecasters in 1962.

The Vietnamese civil weather service had been dominated by the French until 1954. After Dien Bien Phu, the responsibility for providing meteorological services was assigned the DOM, an agency under the Ministry of Public Works and Communications.

Functioning independently of the VNAF, the DOM operated 20 weather stations. Only three provided forecasting service. The central office in downtown Saigon furnished forecasts for all non-aviation activities. The station at Tan Son Nhut Airbase on Saigon's outskirts, and the station at Da Nang, furnished weather forecasting for aviation.

All weather equipment in Vietnam belonged to the DOM. It was of French make, vintage, and either obsolete or worn out. Saigon was the only upper-air facility (rawindonde) in Vietnam, and it made but a single run daily. The VNAF had no weather communications facilities, and no equipment or methods for measuring cloud ceilings at night. That was because the VNAF seldom flew at night or in instrument weather. Cloud ceilings in daylight hours were estimated, rather than measured. Not only did the Vietnamese not take hourly observations at night, but they did not take special or check observations. They did not append observations with remarks, and they did not issue warnings of hazards to flight. They did not have a pilot reporting system, did not have measured visibility check points, and did not disseminate observations on base as a matter of routine. A customer had to request an observation each time it was needed, and there was virtually no quality control system.

Despite such a relatively primitive service to begin work with, an air of optimism enveloped original plans by AWS' 30th Weather Squadron (headquarters at Tan Son Nhut) to shape a VNAF weather service that could stand alone. After a conference with Vietnamese officials in February 1962, the senior AWS officer in country was given assignment and operational control of the VNAF

weather personnel. The VNAF also agreed to furnish additional men for training on the job with AWS observers and, by the end of May 1962, such training was being administered at Tan Son Nhut and Da Nang.

By mid-1962, a school for training basic observers was underway in Vietnam. It used a syllabus from Chanute, and was taught in Vietnamese by Vietnamese instructors. A course in English was also taught concurrently, so that AWS instructors could teach more technical items. But there were problems. There was a reluctance on the part of officers to attend school with, or be taught by, enlisted men. VNAF personnel were reluctant to attend an in-country school because the attendant prestige was not that of one who graduated from Chanute, or one who received formal meteorological training at an American university. In fact, when the VNAF disapproved the school's continuance in late 1962, the 1st Weather Wing commander, Col. William S. Barney, thought it stemmed from a belief that the school obviated a need for training at universities and schools stateside.

With such incomplete training, it became quickly apparent to Colonel Barney that a formal plan was needed. He dispatched Capt. Sey Katz to Vietnam in 1962 on a fact-finding mission. When he returned, Captain Katz outlined a 5-year plan, that was later approved by the Pacific Command. It urged that more Vietnamese be trained (most in the U.S.); that better observing and communications equipment be obtained; that a joint VNAF-USAF forecast center be established in the Joint Operations Center at Tan Son Nhut; and that, eventually, an 89-man weather squadron be formed within the VNAF (just as had been done earlier in Korea). The 30th WS even published a plan for establishing the proposed VNAF weather squadron.

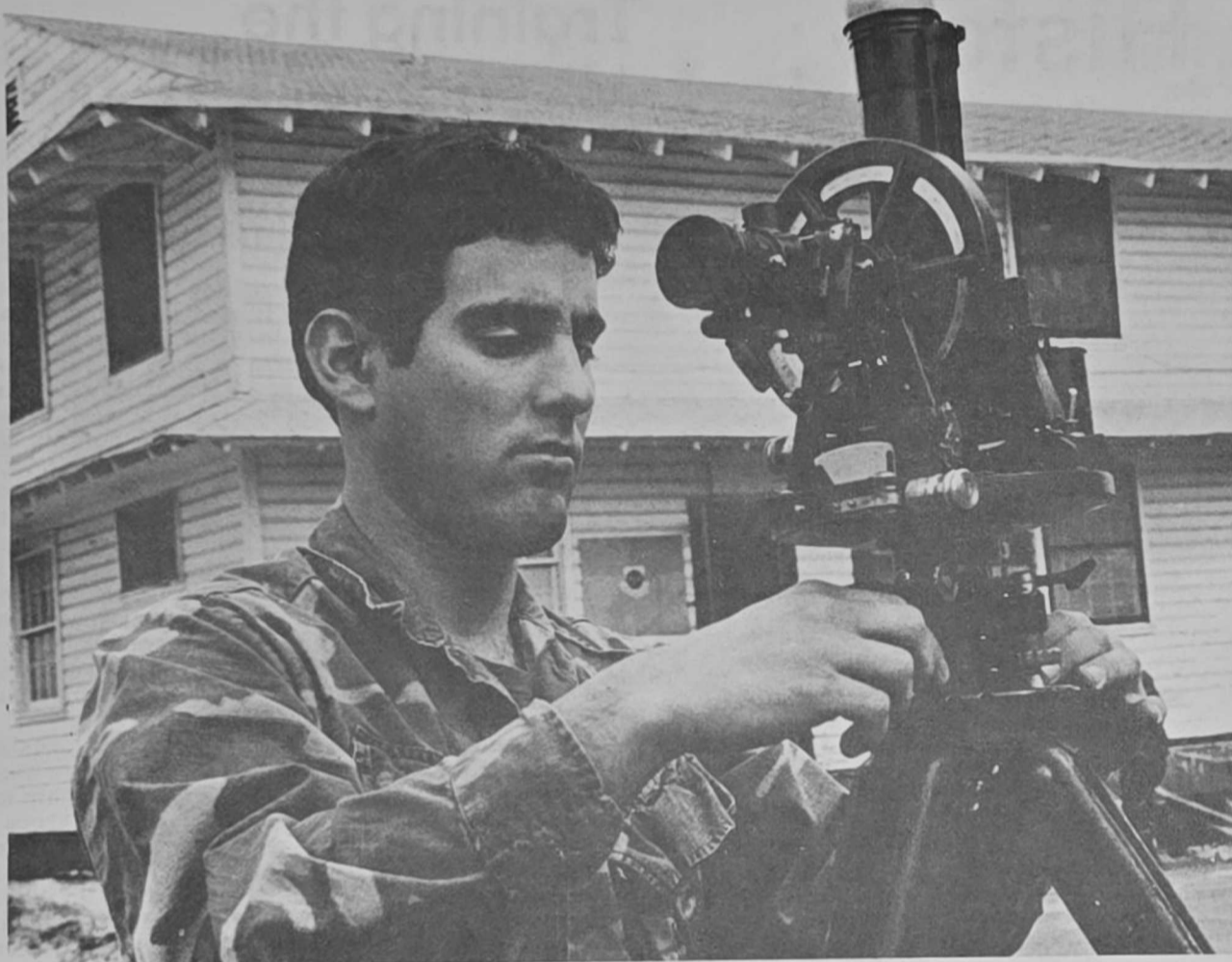
But, eventually, the plan for a VNAF weather squadron was scuttled as being too idealistic. Doubt was cast on the desirability of establishing a weather support organization as large or as sophisticated as a squadron. Costs were prohibitive, and there were not enough Vietnamese qualified in meteorology to man it. In fact, after the VNAF-USAF weather center at the JOC finally began joint operations in December 1963, the VNAF could only supply one of the three forecasters it was supposed to.

The death knell came in March 1964 when the VNAF reorganized itself, and the weather and training sections became a branch of the operations division at VNAF headquarters. Moreover, the VNAF weather detachments that had been formed were placed under the operational control of the respective Vietnamese base commanders — a system similar to that practiced by the U.S. Navy.

In the absence of a steady source of trained Vietnamese weathermen, the majority of instruction for both VNAF and civilian personnel was conducted by the 30th WS through OJT at local base weather stations. Even then, a host of difficulties cropped up which severely crippled the effort. Despite the use of translators and translated materials, an ever present obstacle was the language barrier. Having received no schooling themselves on Vietnamese history, customs, and culture, the AWS weathermen did not understand why the Vietnamese seemed lethargic, and much less industrious than they were. Misunderstanding and mistrust generated by the culture gap and language barrier were compounded by the one-year tour policy. A native weather observer, for instance, no sooner became adjusted to the habits, methods, and techniques of his American advisor than the advisor was sent home and was replaced by someone with different techniques and a different personality. The rapid turnover of American advisors could be interpreted by a native as a lack of commitment to helping him; or a loss of face might arise if a Vietnamese came to believe that his advisor was replaced because he did not learn quick enough.

Other snags arose. There was misunderstanding

(Continued on Page 8)



MEASURING WIND SPEEDS — SrA. Joel Young, assigned to Detachment 3, 5th Weather Squadron uses a Theodolite to measure upper wind speeds. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Weather unit trains for Army support

by Ann. Debbie Berryhill
317th Tactical Airlift Wing
Pope AFB, N.C.

Most people don't realize how dependent the Army is upon weather conditions when it comes to communication, aviation and support activities. For this reason Detachment 3, 5th Weather Squadron, is assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C. It's their job to help the Army plan and prepare for their operations.

The Air Force people assigned to the Fort Bragg detachment provide staff and operational weather service to the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Corps, 1st Special Operations Command, and Simmons and Mackall Airfields.

"The majority of people at Pope don't know who we are," said 1st Lt. John Schneider, assistant staff weather officer. "They think we're in the Army, and the Army thinks we're part of the (Air Force) Combat Control Team or security police."

Since the detachment's main mission is Army support, they have to adapt and function to the ways of the Army. The people in the detachment are described as "jacks-of-all trades" since they receive training in many additional skills as well as their primary job. Such training includes rappelling, land navigation, first aid, weapons training, communications, chemical warfare and camouflage techniques. Also training is received in map and compass reading, survival, cryptology, vehicle maintenance and the use of all Army field equipment. Additionally, they go through three weeks of jump school at Fort Benning, Ga.

Said SMSgt. Jimmy Munday, detachment NCOIC, "We don't want the Army to carry our weight. We want to keep up with them, so we have to be just as good as they are. That's the reason for all the training."

Twenty-seven of the detachment's 30 people are qualified to jump and 19 of that number are on active jump status.

One of the detachment's missions is to send a team into an area to obtain weather data. If there's no cleared runway, they have to jump and that's why they must be qualified.

The detachment is different from a regular weather unit because of mobility skills. "The 82nd Airborne Corps is ready to go 18 hours after notification, and we must be ready when they are," said Lieutenant Schneider.

Korean officer becomes SWO

by Capt. Kenneth M. Dropco

OL-A, 30th Weather Squadron at Camp Red Cloud, Korea has recently realigned their support requirements through the addition of a Korean Air Force weather officer. Capt. Kim Dong Seon has joined Capt. Ed Eadon and TSgt. Rod Burton at OL-A to make their staff weather support function a truly "combined" effort.

OL-A provides staff weather support to the Combined Field Army which is commanded by a U.S. Army three-star general with the second in command being a Korean Army two-star. Captain Kim is providing a dimension in weather support and information to the Army ground forces which has not previously been available or understood. He has also been instrumental in providing instruction to the Korean observers who guard the northernmost edge of the Demilitarized Zone on how to take and transmit a limited observation as part of the Forward Area Limited Observation Program.

"He's a welcome addition" said Sergeant Burton, "because he certainly knows the language (Hangul) better than we ever will."

The folks at OL-A will certainly benefit from a more enriching assignment both professionally and culturally thanks to the addition of Captain Kim to their team.



ACCIDENT-FREE DRIVING RECORD — The 6th Weather Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla., has driven more than 1,300,000 accident-free miles since the 1973. The typical deployed rawinsonde team vehicle configuration consists of two 10-ton tractors, a 25-foot flatbed

trailer, and a 36-foot van. These vehicles are operated throughout the United States and encounter varying hazards in each part of the country during all types of weather in support of various Department of Defense projects. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Hurricane Hunters support Challenger's maiden voyage

by Capt. Timothy J. Thomson

A crew from Keesler's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron and Det. 5, HQ Air Weather Service, recently supported the launching of America's second space shuttle, Challenger. The initial Challenger mission, dubbed STS-6 by NASA, ushered in a new era in the U.S. space program providing NASA with its second reusable space vehicle. NASA's goal is to make space shuttle flights a routine occurrence. The Hurricane Hunters have supported NASA in four of six shuttle missions providing a WC-130 aircraft and crew on the day of each mission.

Strangely enough the part the WC-130 crew plays in the space shuttle mission is not weather reconnaissance but photographic support. On each shuttle mission the WC-130 is outfitted with a special camera and associated equipment to film the solid rocket booster separation and re-entry. The data gathered from viewing these photographs assists NASA officials in the timely recovery of the rocket boosters.

The WC-130 support aircraft for the Challenger mission launched at 0829 local on Monday, April 4. Capt. Steve McHan, commanding a crew of 12, flew the WC-130 from Keesler AFB, Miss., to a point approximately 140 miles east of Patrick AFB, Fla. This position placed the WC-130 downrange of the launch site at Cape Canaveral in the perfect spot to film the SRB separation and re-entry.

"We arrived on station 1½ hours prior to Challenger's scheduled launch," Captain McHan recalled after the mission. After arriving in the area Captain McHan and crew flew numerous racetrack-type patterns designed to position the WC-130 aircraft for the filming of the SRB separation and re-entry. "The timing was critical and we wanted to

make sure we were giving the special equipment operators the best possible aircraft positioning so that the photographs would be top quality," emphasized Captain McHan. After numerous "practice runs" the crew settled down to concentrate on the real task of flying the aircraft to the precise point at the exact time to film the SRBs.

Earlier in the day the Challenger mission was in jeopardy due to strong upper level winds. As it turned out, those winds died down and Challenger rode a wall of flame from Cape Canaveral exactly on schedule. The WC-130 and crew were in the right place at the right time to get excellent photos of the solid rocket boosters. With the launch complete, the rocket boosters separated and in the water, Capt. McHan steered the WC-130 towards Patrick AFB to drop off the precious film for processing and analysis. After 15 minutes on the ground at Patrick to off-load the film, the WC-130 took off again, this time for Keesler AFB and home, the mission complete and highly successful.

Captain McHan and the rest of the crew had good feelings after the mission. "This was the first shuttle-support mission I've flown and it really was a great experience," Captain McHan said, "And my crew did an outstanding job," he added. The WC-130 crew included Maj. Frank Walsh, copilot; Capt. Tom Barth, instructor-navigator; 1st Lt. Ross Victor, navigator; Capt. Mike Middleton, weather officer; SSgt. John Jaynes, flight engineer; and SSgt. Timothy Smith, dropsonde systems operator.

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron in conjunction with Det. 5, HQ Air Weather Service expect to support future space shuttle missions as long as NASA has a need for the special data the WC-130 provides. Crew members of the "Hurricane Hunters" look forward to participating in one of these special and exciting missions.

In Memory

Maj. John C. Dirmeyer, a member of the Air Weather Service family for over 18 years, died March 28 after a two-month bout with cancer.

Born in Akron, Ohio Oct. 10, 1942, Major Dirmeyer was commissioned June 12, 1964, as a second lieutenant in the Air Force at Ohio State where he received ROTC training and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. From there he went to Penn State University and received meteorological training for one year after which he was assigned to Det. 7, 9th WS at March AFB, Calif in June 1965 as a Wing Weather Officer.

He was promoted to 1st Lt. and transferred to Offutt AFB, Neb. in September 1966 where he served for three years in the SAC Weather Support Unit. He was promoted to Captain during this assignment. He attended AFIT at Penn State University from September 1969 until March 1971.

Maj. Dirmeyer was then transferred to Det. 14, 1st Weather Group at Tan Son Nhut AB, Republic of Vietnam where he served as staff briefing officer to the 7th AF commander. In April 1972, he returned to AFGWC. From August 1975 to June 1976 he attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Ala., where he was promoted to the rank of Major. In July 1976 he was assigned as DETCO of Det. 14, 31st WS Hahn AFB, Germany, where he remained until June of 1979, when he again returned to AFGWC.

Prior to his medical retirement in February 1983, Major Dirmeyer was the officer in charge of the Current Operations Unit at AFGWC. In this position he became known as the voice of GWC for 105-18 special support requirements. Major Dirmeyer was the GWC point of contact for a wide variety of support requests from field units including all SAC ORIs and all aspects of Space Shuttle Support, from lift-off planning forecasts to contingency recovery forecasts. He was particularly instrumental in the establishment of the very successful Contingency Support Branch.

John Dirmeyer was well loved by his many friends throughout AWS. His personal and professional mark on AWS will not be forgotten. We extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to his family.

Major Dirmeyer is survived by his wife, Jane; daughter, Julie; son, Johnathan; his mother and father, Samuel and Virginia Dirmeyer of Waverly, Ohio and his sister, Mrs. Thomas Hartranft of Worthington, Ohio.



**PEACE
THROUGH
STRENGTH**

ARMED FORCES DAY 1983



TSGT. KENNETH R. CHESSON, 11th Weather Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska was chosen as the AWS Centralized Facility Forecaster of the Year. (U.S. Air Force photo)

AWS salutes. . .

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal: SSgt. Kenneth W. J. Nelmes, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; SMSgt. Wayne V. King, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; CMSgt. Charles G. Treser, HQ 1st WW, Hickam AFB.

Air Medal: Capt. Allen M. Middleton (1st OLC), Capt. Leo L. Lynn Jr. (1st OLC), Sgt. Jon G. Andre (1st OLC), and Sgt. Carole A. Roche, Det. 5, HQ AWS, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Air Force Commendation Medal: 1st Lt. Ronald E. Havholm, Det. 5, HQ AWS, Keesler AFB, Miss.; Capt. Donna M. Wojtak, 3rd WS, Shaw AFB, S.C.; SSgt. Colette K. Coe, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; TSgt. Wayne Becker, Det. 20, 24th WS, Laughlin AFB, Texas; Capt. Jim Smith, 24th WS, Randolph AFB, Texas; 1st Lt. Larry Bickerstaff, 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Sgt. Thomas G. Schmidt, Det. 27, 12th WS, Hancock Field, N.Y.; 1st Lt. Annamary N. King, 1st WW, Hickam AFB; TSgt. Richard L. Pendleton (1st OLC), Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; SrA. Scott R. Nelson, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam AFB.

Air Force Achievement Medal: SSgt. Benny S. Leal and Sgt. Rand R. Rosenwald, Det. 16, 25th WS, Nellis AFB, Nev.; A1C Timothy J. Scheidt, Det. 10, 30th WS, Kunsan AB, Korea; TSgt. Wayne A. K. Kim, 1st WW, Hickam AFB; Sgt. Jon G. Andre, Det. 5, HQ AWS, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Promotions

To first lieutenant: Robert D. LaFebre, Det. 16, 25th WS, Nellis AFB, Nev.; Charles F. Von Rossum, Det. 4, 11th WS, Fort Richardson AIN, Alaska.

To senior master sergeant: Hugh D. Hiscox, Det. 15, 25th WS, Luke AFB, Ariz.; Steven D. Wilson, Det. 4, 11th WS, Fort Richardson AIN, Alaska.

To master sergeant: George T. Gilligan, Det. 27, 12th WS, Hancock Field, N.Y.

To technical sergeant: Michael Josias and Vincent Aquino, Weather Training Branch, Chanute AFB, Ill.; Steven R. Meyer, Det. 21, 2nd WW, Kindsbach Command, Germany.

To staff sergeant: Jeff Synnett, Det. 27, 12th WS, Hancock Field, N.Y.; James A. Randolph and Patsy L. Zebert, Det. 14, 25th WS, Holloman AFB, N.M.; Larry D. Turner, Det. 14, 5th WS, Fort Hood, Texas; Steven G. Gruber, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Frank J. Hall III, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Panama.

To sergeant: John A. Newby, Det. 1, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Randel L. Brown and George R. Carlson, OL-A, Det. 4, 11th WS, Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Leslie Sexton, Det. 1, 11th WS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Debra Benkert, Det. 13, 25th WS, David-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; Michelle Timperio, Det. 41, 12th WS, Fort Lee AFB, Va.; Daniel Ward, 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.; Melody L. Norton, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas.

To senior airman: Eric Diaz, Det. 9, 5th WS, Fort Rucker, Ala.; Sam Dolinger, Det. 13, 5th WS, Fort Eustis, Va.; Randall J. Walsh, Det. 14, 5th WS, Fort Hood, Texas; Kathryn Gardner, Det. 15, 25th WS, Luke AFB, Ariz.; Christopher N. Daniel, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; Timothy J. Lovell, Det. 2, 11th WS, Eielson AFB, Alaska; Alan Dorman, Det. 2, 24th WS, Columbus AFB, Miss.; Debra Stewart, Det. 22, 24th WS, Keesler AFB, Miss.; Patrick J. Potter and Rodney P. Jacques, Det. 3, 11th WS, Shemya AFB, Alaska; Cynthia A. Huston, Det. 21, 2nd WW, Kindsbach Command, Germany; Michael J. Przybysz, Det. 21, 15th WS, Pope AFB, N.C.

To airman first class: Kenneth D. Pierce, Det. 15, 25th WS, Luke AFB, Ariz.; Anthony Woods, Det. 1, 24th WS, Randolph AFB, Texas.

To airman: John Turnbull, OL-B, Det. 2, 5th WS, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.; Derek G. Wooten, Det. 5, 5th WS, Fort Knox, Ky.; Mark R. McMahan, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas; Kevin Riley, Det. 1,

24th WS, Randolph AFB, Texas; Thomas Stanley, Det. 22, 24th WS, Keesler AFB, Miss and Steven J. Gale, Det. 4, 11th WS, Fort Richardson AIN, Alaska.

Unit honors

Junior officer of the year: 1st Lt. Robert C. Thorpe, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall, UK.

Senior NCO of the year: MSgt. Charles Newman, 3330th Technical Training Wing, Chanute AFB, Ill.

NCO of the year: TSgt. Rocco Calaci, 3330th TTW, Chanute AFB, Ill.; SSgt. Lee R. Bruce, Det. 1, 3rd WS, Shaw AFB, S.C.; SSgt. Mary F. Hebert, Det. 15, 28th WS, RAF Mildenhall, UK; SSgt. Nancy J. Hester, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii for 1st WW.

Airman of the year: A1C Robert Davidson, Det. 1, 3rd WS, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Officer of the quarter: Capt. Craig Wilkes, 3330th TTW, Chanute AFB, Ill.

NCO of the quarter: SSgt. Ronald Pagitt, 3330th TTW, Chanute AFB, Ill.; Sgt. Frances C. Camp, Det. 1, 3rd WS, Shaw AFB, S.C.; SSgt. Arthur W. Diggs, Det. 2, 3rd WS, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.; TSgt. David Dunklee, Det. 13, 25th WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; TSgt. Mark M. Wheeler, Det. 9, 5th WS, Fort Rucker, Ala.; TSgt. Larry K. Broomfield, Det. 12, 5th WS, Fort Devens, Mass.; TSgt. James Norris, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.; TSgt. Lewis F. Riggsby, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas.

Airman of the quarter: A1C Kevin D. Forster, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas; SrA. Linda R. Holland, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii for MAC Pacific; A1C Ronald V. Smith Jr., Det. 41, 12th WS, Ft. Lee AFB, Va.; SrA. Robert R. Rios, Det. 8, 5th WS, Fort Riley Kans.; SrA. Eric Diaz, Det. 9, 5th WS, Fort Rucker, Ala.; SrA. James Root, Det. 13, 25th WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.; SrA. Teresa A. Stoneburner, Det. 2, 3rd WS, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.; A1C Joel Young, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Forecaster of the quarter: SSgt. Scott R. Kingsley, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C.

Education

Air Command and Staff College: Capt. Thomas N. Talbot, Det. 2, 2nd WS, Hanscom AFB, Mass.

Squadron Officer School: Capt. John Conley and Capt. William C. Tallman, 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va.

NCO Leadership School: SSgt. Donald Jarvinen, Det. 5, 9th WS, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; SSgt. Anthony Pearson, Det. 5, 9th WS, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.; SSgt. Roswitha K. Collins, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla.; SSgt. James M. Laurendeau, Det. 15, 25th WS, Luke AFB, Ariz.; SSgt. Joseph M. Stampley, Det. 9, 5th WS, Fort Rucker, Ala.; SSgt. Eugene Lofton, Det. 1, 3rd WS, Shaw AFB, S.C.; SSgt. Dana Shifflett, Det. 11, 25th WS, Cannon AFB, N.M.; Sgt. Frances C. Camp, Det. 1, 3rd WS, Shaw AFB, S.C. (honor graduate); SSgt. Gary M. Billingsley, Det. 12, 5th WS, Fort Devens, Mass.; SSgt. Jerry L. Sanders, Det. 10, 5th WS, Fort Benning, Ga.; SSgt. Carole Lyons, Det. 11, 2nd WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Douglas L. Marr, Det. 16, 25th WS, Nellis AFB, Nev.; SSgt. Jeffrey B. Dunn, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Panama.

Phase I PME: SrA. Jeffrey P. Cunningham, OL-A, Det. 2, 5th WS, Fort Meade, Md.; SrA. John E. Coggins, Det. 10, 5th WS, Fort Benning, Ga.; SrA. Kim A. Sorrell, Det. 2, 5th WS, Fort Belvoir, Va.; SrA. Erick E. Douglass and SrA. Alfred E. Schutz, Det. 12, 5th WS, Fort Devens, Mass.; SrA. Michael DeYoung and SrA. Krispen McCann, Det. 58, 5th WS, Fort Carson, Colo.; SrA. John Kulas, Det. 7, 5th WS, Fort Ord, Calif.; SrA. Gregory S. McCurdy, Det. 40, 2nd WW, RAF Croughton, England; SrA. Lisa K. Brion, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas; SrA. Melanie Hoffmeyer, Det. 22, 24th WS, Keesler AFB, Miss.; Sgt. Kenneth E. Healy, Det. 15, 25th WS, Luke AFB, Ariz.; SrA. Richard J. Liebel, Det. 11,

5th WS, Fort Sill, Okla.; SrA. Rick O'Steen, Det. 9, 12th WS, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; SrA. Robert Williams, Det. 6, 5th WS, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Phase II PME: Sgt. Kevin M. Krebill, Det. 8, 26th WS, Griffiss AFB, N.Y.; SSgt. Doretta D. Johnson and SSgt. James H. Collier, Det. 10, 2nd WS, Eglin AFB, Fla.; Sgt. Thomas Herb, Det. 7, 5th WS, Fort Ord, Calif.; Sgt. Felice M. Cortese, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C.; SSgt. Charles E. Crump, Det. 2, 5th WS, Fort Belvoir, Va.; Sgt. Robert M. Vaughn, OL-A, Det. 21, 5th WS, Fort Stewart, Ga. (honor graduate). SSgt. James R. Buckles and Sgt. Conrad Patterson, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash.; Sgt. Taffy M. Lawton, Det. 11, 1st WW, Hickam AFB, Hawaii; Sgt. Timothy R. Crume and Sgt. Mark H. Hafner, Det. 6, 5th WS, Fort Lewis AIN, Wash.; Sgt. Becky Hughes, Det. 11, 25th WS, Cannon AFB, N.M.; Sgt. Monica Vasey, Det. 13, 25th WS, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

NCO Academy: TSgt. Conrad D. Holtgard, Det. 6, 3rd WS, Homestead AFB, Fla.; TSgt. Raymond A. Barger, Det. 15, 9th WS, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.; MSgt. William Scheib, Det. 2, 9th WS, Castle AFB, Calif. (Senior NCO Academy); SMSgt. David T. Mursch, Det. 16, 25th WS, Nellis AFB, Nev. (SNCOA).

Degree recipients: Maj. Horst A. Schenk, 7th WS, Heidelberg AIN, Germany, received master of science in computer information systems; MSgt. Robert L. Albert, Det. 3, 3rd WS, Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C. and SSgt. Ramona Murphy, Det. 18, 25th WS, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, CCAF degrees. MSgt. Jerry K. Kaminaga and MSgt. Rodney L. Thacker, Det. 17, 1st WW, Yokota AB, Japan, received bachelor's degree from University of Maryland.

Weather technician course: SSgt. Kenneth Tegnell, Det. 7, 5th WS, Fort Ord, Calif.; SSgt. James Callen, Det. 7, 5th WS, Fort Lewis, Wash.; SSgt. Gary E. Hodges, Det. 23, 3rd WS, Moody AFB, Ga. .

Births

MSgt. Nyle and Susan Friesen, Det. 31, 5th WS, Fort Polk, La., a son, David Thomas.

Sgts. Cory W. and Pamela Knowles, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C., a son, Kristopher.

TSgt. Oscar and Helen Ayers, Det. 31, 5th WS, Fort Polk, La., a son, William Oscar.

SrA. Vicki Williamson-Lee, Det. 3, 5th WS, Fort Bragg, N.C., a son, Michael.

Sgt. Paul A. Ware, Det. 41, 12th WS, Fort Lee, Va., a son.

Maj. Ronald and Lynn Godden, 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va., a son, Eric Michael.

SrA. Gary and Hellen Altman, Det. 4, HQ AWS, Andersen AFB, Guam, a son, Ian Jon.

Sgt. Shirley J. Rodriguez, Det. 4, 17th WS, Altus AFB, Okla., a daughter.

SSgt. Bruce W. and Valerie A. Swartz, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas, a daughter, Stephanie Leigh.

SrA. David L. and Karen L. Smith, Det. 7, AFGWC, Carswell AFB, Texas, a daughter, Rachael Marie.

Capt. and Mrs. Edwin S. Arrance, 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va., a son, Harold Edward.

1st Lt. Ransom R. and Kathleen M. Traxler, 5th WW, Langley AFB, Va., a son, Todd Richard.

SrA. and Mrs. Robert R. Rios, Det. 8, 5th WS, Fort Riley, Kans., a son, Shaun Tyler.

Sgt. Debra A. Vest, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash., a son, Paul Michael.

2nd Lt. and Mrs. Thomas E. Coe, Det. 11, 17th WS, McChord AFB, Wash., a daughter, Sarah Christine.

A1C William M. and Anne-Christine Schmeiser, Det. 16, 25th WS, Nellis AFB, Nev., a daughter, Lara Elisabeth.

SSgt. Alan and Linda Mitchell, 3rd WW, Offutt AFB, Neb., a daughter, Shanna Lee.

SrA. Debbie and Michael Boney, Det. 25, 5th WW, Howard AFB, Panama, a daughter, Emilia.



REENLISTMENTS — Col. George E. Chapman, AWS commander, on his recent visit to Eglin AFB, Fla. re-enlisted the following people of Det. 10, 2nd WS. From left to right are: SSgt. Frank J. Simon, Sgt. Timothy Todd, TSgt. Leslie O. Taylor, Sgt.

Charles D. May, Colonel Chapman, Sgt. Arlyne M. Rzepecki, Sgt. Kimberly A. Reeb, SrA. Joel M. Rzepecki, and SSgt. Franklin E. Henry. (U.S. Air Force photo)

McCconnell airman becomes American citizen

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America..." were the words recited on Feb. 11 by A1C Carol Eames. A special day for Airman Eames because after much soul searching and thought, she formally became a citizen of the United States.

The Toronto, Canada, native began her quest for her citizenship two months ago with an interview concerning her knowledge of U.S. government, history and current events.

The Det. 23, 26th Weather Squadron, weather observer began her second most important requirement to receive her citizenship when she undertook the Oath of Allegiance, administered by a federal judge. Airman Eames raised her hand while her McConnell co-workers proudly looked on.

"This young lady has declined the citizenship of the country of her birth in order to become an American

citizen," explained TSgt. Edmund T. Calvert, the detachment's public affairs representative. "That action is something every native-born American should consider."

The detachment commander, Maj. Johnny Gelbhar, said that he was very pleased that Airman Eames made the decision and is honored she is a member of the weather detachment.

"It was a big decision for her," he said, "one I'm sure she'll never regret. She is an excellent weather observer and a credit to the Air Force."

During the Strategic Air Command Inspector General's visit she was recognized as an outstanding performer.

Enlisting at Riverside, Calif., she spent 11 weeks in technical training before being assigned to McConnell's weather detachment.

Airman Eames will be off to Europe in May for an assignment to Germany.



AFGWC plays vital part in shuttle launch

by Capt. Mary Jordan
AFGWC Public Affairs Officer

With the help of Air Force Global Weather Central's weather forecasts, the Challenger launched April 4 as scheduled.

AFGWC's Forecasting Services Division provided prelaunch weather forecasts for use by NASA mission planners. The daily weather bulletins provided wind (from the surface to 100,000 feet), visibility, cloud, precipitation and altimeter forecasts for Kennedy Space Center, the solid rock booster recovery area and the

emergency landing sites.

AFGWC began providing forecasts March 29 for the April 4 Challenger launch. The day before the launch, the variation of wind speed and direction (wind shear) between 30,000 and 50,000 feet was too large to allow the shuttle to takeoff safely. The weather forecasters at Patrick AFB, Fla. and AFGWC closely monitored weather conditions and found that the wind shear would decrease enough to allow the launch to occur on schedule.

Throughout the mission, AFGWC provided 24- and 48-hour weather forecasts for the primary and alter-

nate landing sites. Forecasts were prepared for Kennedy Space Center, Fla.; Edwards AFB, Calif.; White Sands Space Harbor, N.M.; Rota Naval Air Station, N.M. and Dakar, Senegal (Africa). The Challenger landed at Edwards AFB April 9 at scheduled time.

In addition to weather support, AFGWC provides space environmental support for the shuttle. The Space Environmental Support Branch provides 24-hour space environment observations, forecasts of solar and geo-physical activity, and space watch alerts for energetic particle events to

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Space Environmental Services Center in Boulder, Colo. SESC contacts NASA, as necessary, to update space environmental forecasts and alert advisories. Geomagnetic indices, computed at AFGWC in real time, are passed through SESC to NASA for use in orbital tracking calculations for the shuttle.

AFGWC's space environmental support is especially important during all extravehicular activity (space walks). Astronauts outside of the shuttle can be exposed to extreme levels of radiation during solar flares.



PLAYER/COACH — Number 9, Rich Lunan, approaches volleyball tournament. Lunan is commander of Det. 9, 7th WW, Scott AFB, Ill. (U.S. Air Force photo)



1ST LT MARK A. KOOZER, Det. 21, 9th Weather Squadron, was recently selected as the 15th Air Force wing weather officer of the year. Lieutenant Koozer was awarded this honor for his diligent weather support of the missions at Minot AFB, N.D. He coordinates weather activities between the weather squadron and the 5th Bombardment Wing, 91st Strategic Missile Wing, 57th Air Division, and the Strategic Projection Force on the base. Lieutenant Koozer holds a bachelor's degree in Meteorology from Oregon State.

A lesson from History

(Continued from Page 3)

between the 30th WS, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam over who would do what by way of establishing a Vietnamese weather service. Because the 30th WS had no one assigned to the MAAG-Vietnam, that outfit had no one familiar with the type and extent of indigenous weather support necessary.

Then too, a problem existed in locating and consigning qualified, English-speaking Vietnamese for meteorological training stateside. Because of the skills they possessed when they returned from such training, there was no guarantee they (officers in

particular) would be assigned to weather duties.

In light of such developments, the 30th WS washed its hands of the matter in April 1964 by publishing a regulation saying its people would furnish advice, when asked, and little else. It had no direct responsibility for training Vietnamese military personnel. Responsibility for developing the civil weather service belonged to USAID, with assistance from the U.S. Weather Bureau. And the responsibility for programming Vietnamese into weather schools stateside rested with the MAAG-Vietnam. Thus, when the VNAF opened an observer school at Tan Son Nhut in January, 1964, the 30th WS kept its participation to a minimum.

Weather commander leads volleyball team

Rich Lunan, commander of Detachment 9, 7th Weather Wing, Scott AFB, Ill., led the Scott men's varsity volleyball team to a fourth-place finish out of 14 teams participating in the 1983 MAC volleyball championships held during March at Scott AFB.

Lunan, 5'9" player, selected to the 10-member 1982 All-MAC volleyball team, coached the Scott team to a 4-win - 2-loss record in the Western Regionals to finish in the runner-up position behind the eventual MAC champions, Travis AFB, Calif.

Lunan began playing volleyball when he entered the Air Force in 1969, but it wasn't until he attended navigator training at Mather AFB, Calif., in late 1972, that he got "hooked" on the game. That year, Mather AFB was the Air Training Command runner-up in men's volleyball.

For the next five years, Lunan flew as a C-5A navigator at Travis AFB, playing on the Travis varsity volleyball team in tournament play.

Lunan has coached the AWS/7th WW intramural volleyball team the past three years and he also plays fast-pitch softball and runs to keep in shape.

Sports briefs...

CARSWELL AFB Road Runners won first place in the Cowtown 10K military team competition held in Fort Worth, Texas. Over 2,000 runners participated in the fifth annual event. The 15-member team included Jeff Johnson, Frank Kephart, and Bill Meyler of Det. 7, AFGWC. Kephart led the Det. 7 trio with a time of 43:45.

1st WW GOLFERS on Oahu retained the Hickam AFB Par 3 golf championship by winning the winter intramural league. The championship round was extended to a one hole sudden death playoff for the win. During regulation play Jim MacKay scored a hole-in-one on the 169 yard, 6th green. The championship round was played by Joe Borja, Wally Chaplin, Jim MacKay and Chuck Viola. Other team members are Tom Metzger, Stogs Stogdill and Jimmie Troutman.

A CHALLENGE bowling match at RAF Alconbury, UK, between the base weather station, Det. 36, 28th WS, and the Pidley Mountain Rescue Team, ended in triumph for both teams and a group of very special children. The challenge was to raise money for the Seabreezes Organization, a national charity which provides unique holidays for handicapped children. Det. 36 was a somewhat ungracious host in winning eight of the nine games played. Even so, the event raised nearly 250 pounds (\$450) for the charity.

Therefore, after the incidents in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964, when the U.S. dramatically beefed up its active military involvement in Vietnam, most of the burden of weather support fell on AWS' shoulders. The relative handful of weather-qualified Vietnamese, in particular forecasters, represented a small portion of the number needed. There was no Vietnamese weather service, worthy of the name, capable of servicing the level of military operations after the Gulf of Tonkin. After three full years of advice and assistance by AWS, the VNAF weather service, in general, was a paper organization.

☆ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1983-664-048-1010