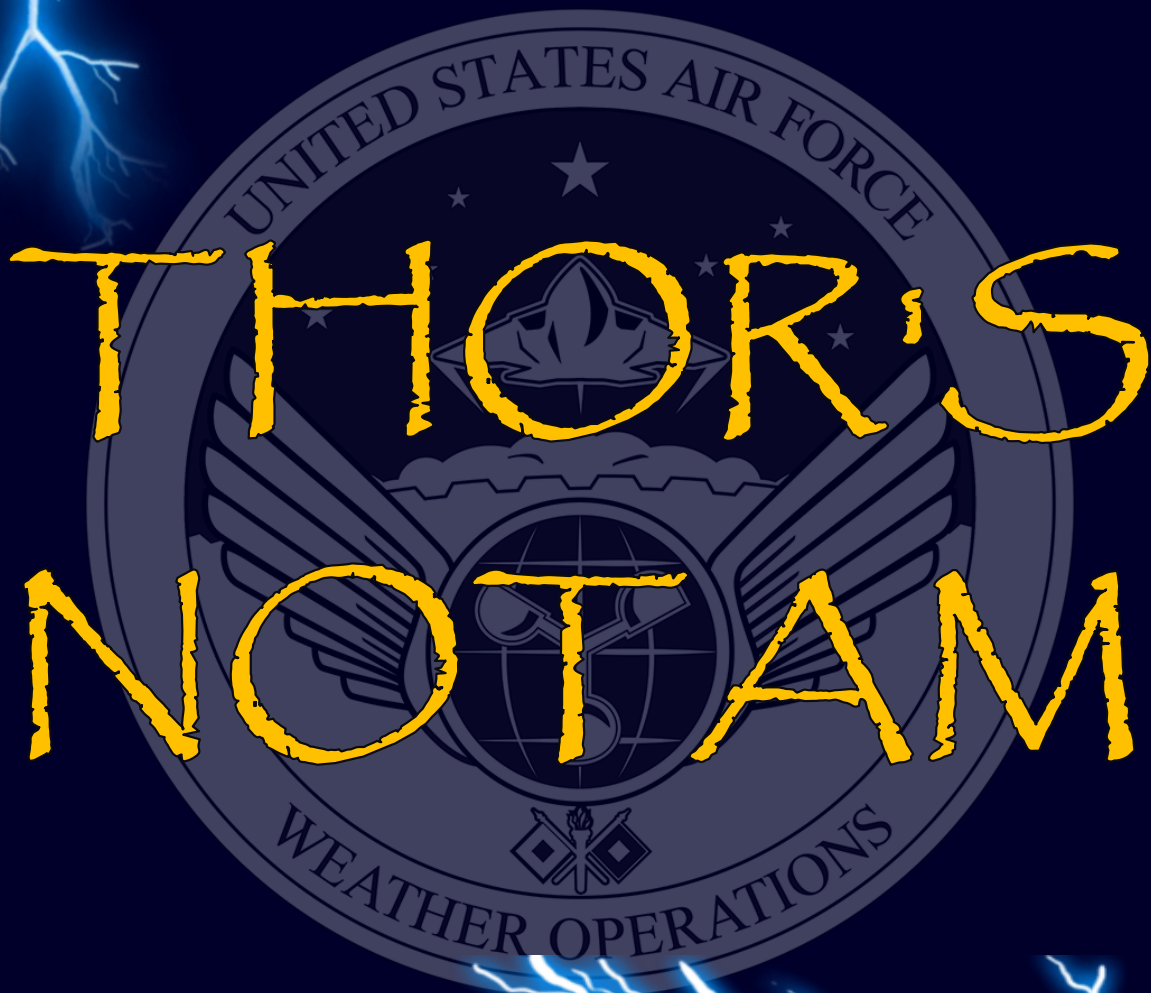


**United States Air Force**  
**Weather Airman's Magazine**



Volume 10 / Winter 2024



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE  
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**[AF.A3WT.AF-A3WT-WEATHER.FORCE.MANAGEMENT@US.AF.MIL](mailto:AF.A3WT.AF-A3WT-WEATHER.FORCE.MANAGEMENT@US.AF.MIL)**

# Table of Contents

## Awards

2023 Annual Awards.....	2
Thor's Challenge Winner.....	2

## A3W Leadership

Director of Weather, Col Patrick C. Williams.....	3
15W Career Field Manager, Col Dustin H. Hansen.....	4
Senior Enlisted Advisor/1W CFM, CMSgt John R. Rosario.....	5

## Enterprise Highlights

Did you know?.....	6
Getting to know our Airmen.....	7-9
It's More than Just a Job: Reflecting on 4 Decades of Service by Col Marsicek.....	10
Weather Fun Crossword.....	11
Articles from the Field (89OSS/OWS & 13 ECWS/OL-F).....	12-13
Weather in History.....	14-15
Weather in the News.....	16

Air Force Weather Directory.....	17
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Electronic version can be found at the AF/A3W AF Portal page:

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# 2023 Award Winners



## 2023 Weather Award Winners

CATEGORY	WINNER	UNIT	LOCATION
Airman	SrA Neil Mehta	45 WS (AFMC)	Cape Canaveral SFS, FL
NCO	TSgt Thomas Douglass	18 OSS (PACAF)	Kadena AB, Japan
SNCO	MSgt Ryan Kegler	36 OSS (PACAF)	Andersen AFB, Guam
CGO	Capt Travis Hodos	335 TRS (AETC)	Keesler AFB, MS
FGO	Maj Shane Cox	335 TRS (AETC)	Keesler AFB, MS
CAT-I Civilian	Ms. Jacquelyn Langdon	9 OSS (ACC)	Beale AFB, CA
CAT-II Civilian	Mr. Christopher Jones	23 SOWS, Det 1 (AFSOC)	Hurlburt Field, FL
Team		18 OSS Weather Flight (PACAF)	Kadena AB, Japan
Squadron		7 CWS (USAFE-AFAMERICA)	Wiesbaden, Germany

## 2023 Army Weather Support Award Winners

CATEGORY	WINNER	UNIT	LOCATION
Airman	SrA Jessica Evans	437 OSS (AMC)	JB Charleston, SC
NCO	TSgt Tayler Williams	7 CWS (USAFE-AFAMERICA)	Wiesbaden, Germany
SNCO	MSgt Paul Alfred	607 CWS (PACAF)	Camp Humphreys, ROK
CGO	Capt Darby Maier	607 CWS (PACAF)	Camp Humphreys, ROK
FGO	Maj Marcela Pineda	1 CWS (PACAF)	JB Lewis-McChord, WA

## Thor's Legion Forecast Challenge

From 48 teams down to 16 in week one, the top teams competed in an intense bracket to determine the best forecasters of the legion!

From underdog to champs, the CAPE'd Crusaders from the 45 WS at Cape Canaveral SFS/Patrick SFB, FL emerged victorious!

Capt Gregg McCambley, Capt Adam Thaler, SrA Dana Petersen, SrA Brandon Hough, Mr. Mike McAleenan, Mr. Tom Taylor, and Mr. Brian Cizek

**BREAK...BREAK...**

Huge congratulations to all of the winners!

Your hard work and dedication to the mission and your team did not go unnoticed.



## Weather Family,

Welcome to 2024. It promises to be a busy, productive year. Thank you for all your accomplishments during 2023. You are truly the backbone of the AF and AF Weather. This edition of Thor's NOTAM will focus on you, specifically, and deliberately developing and managing your talent. From the HAF, we took a hard look at our Talent Management Framework and made significant changes by building a pathway (informed by General Officers) to grow AF senior leaders from our 15W and 1W pool.

For example, Chief Rosario used the Enlisted Development Teams (eDT) to focus on the E-7 through E-9 ranks. These teams provided a foundational and future framework for senior enlisted leaders by vectoring individuals throughout their career and placing the right people in the right positions at the right time. There were a total of 5 eDTs conducted in 2023 (2 MSgt, 2 SMSgt, and 1 CMSgt). This year was the first time that CMSgt vectoring was implemented for the 2022 and 2023 CMSgt year groups. The eDT also had a 15W O-6 serve as the CMSgt eDT board president (Col Hank Chilcoat) for the first time. Chief's article (in this issue) provides more details on our enlisted deliberate development.

On the officer side, we executed the 15W Functional Advisory Council, chaired by the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Major General Slocum (AF/A3). The discussions showcased the caliber and quality of Weather and Environmental Sciences Officers (WESO) to HAF senior leaders. The council received and generated strategic guidance on force management practices to grow 15W senior leaders, specifically, the importance of command, how to bolster the pool of eligible candidates for Squadron Command; WESO senior leader pathway, how to grow 15Ws into General Officers who are ready to lead in Great Power Competition; and Special Experience Exchange Duty, Education with Industry, and PhD program management focused on how to deliberately outpace members who graduate from these prestigious programs.

This guidance informed the 15W Developmental Team (DT). The DT was comprised of O-6 Commanders at the Group and Wing level from across the AF, the vast majority of which were not WESOs. Maj Gen Slocum chaired the DT as well. It was enlightening to see how Wing and Group Commanders from across the AF viewed your records and what they valued as hiring authorities. Their feedback reshaped our Talent Management Framework and conversely those Commanders gained a better understanding of the outstanding caliber of talent the weather community offers. The goal is to offer WESOs more Wing Command opportunities (Air Base and Training Wings) while overcoming the year group bathtubs within our career field. Of course, Squadron Commanders can become Group Commanders, and Group Commanders can become Wing Commanders. A successful command tour (at whatever command) is the key to progressing.

Also new to the career field, is the DT mentoring program, created and implemented by Maj Kat Nelson at AFPC. Each DT member reached out to several members meeting the DT from the 2009, 2014, and 2017 Year Groups to provide personalized feedback and mentorship.



*Colonel Patrick C. Williams*  
*Director of Weather*

We also devoted significant effort improving and restructuring the 15W Advanced Academic Degree process. Part of this ongoing effort provides more deliberate connections between students and academic institutions. Mr. David Craft (A3WT), in coordination with the A3W Chief Scientist (Dr. Anil Rao) and the 15W Officer Assignments Team (Lt Col Emily Wood) are intentionally connecting students with their AAD sponsoring organizations earlier in the process. Since the sponsoring units provide recommended research topics that are relevant to the DAF and AF Weather priorities, this intentional connection provides the students with valuable insight and understanding of sponsoring units' missions well before they report for duty.

For our Total Force family members, Lt Col Molly Butler took over for Lt Col Scott Lisko who retired in 2023. Lt Col Butler immediately engaged with the Joint Staff and HQ AFRC to fill chronically vacant joint billets with our reservists. She drove the Reserve 15W DT toward the same goals as the active component in filling our Reserve 15W talent into key leadership positions to grow more senior leaders with AFRC.

Thank you for doing your best every day. You solve problems and create precision out of chaos. You make a difference and it's noticed.

**Until next time.**  
**Col Pat Williams**

## From the CFM's Foxhole.

Admittedly, I find myself obsessing about issues over which I have little control, such as the fall of the Roman Empire, much to my kids' bemusement. I also obsess over the international security environment and break a sweat when pondering the value of diplomatic handshakes or kinetic destruction. However, the one obsession I can influence is the direction of our career field and our role within the Air Force and joint warfare. With that said, one might ask if my passion for our career field is because I'm the new Career Field Manager? Nope. I was obsessed with our career field way before I became the CFM. Why? It's simple; the more enlisted, officers, and civilians I meet within our career field, the more amazed I am by the deep talent pool in science, academic rigor, critical thinking, gritty fighting ethos and joint experience. The talent in our career field soars from our tech school students to our PhD candidates, from our front-line supervisors to our commanders, and from our airborne forecasters to our Joint Staff action officers. Our career field is teeming with unique talent that cuts across all echelons of rank. Simply put, our career field forges a unique kind of Airman. I call it the "scientist-leader," and our calling could not have come at a more critical time.

As the military complex pivots to win in this Great Power Competition era, our career field is evolving to thrive in a joint warfighting environment. We are carefully shedding the past echoes of weather support from the post-Cold War and counterinsurgency eras. We are now posturing for large-scale combat operations. As scientist-leaders, our value is harmonizing our scientifically focused minds with a warrior ethos that thrives in a violent, complex, ambiguous environment. The next fight will be with speed and complexity and we survive and prevail when we conduct ourselves as 100% scientists and 100% leaders. What does a flourishing 1W/15W scientist-leader look like? Our career field isn't currently designed to flourish the kind of hyper-scientific talent that's baked into our culture, but that is changing as we form a new path. That path includes growing our capability as joint planners, leveraging our advanced STEM degrees toward wicked problem sets within industry, academia, and Combatant Commands, harmonizing STEM PhDs with Key Leadership/ Development Positions inside and outside the career field, growing a robust bench of our highest performers who are competitive for flag officer ranks and attracting civilians in the genesis of their professional careers by boosting their professional development opportunities.

Our career field is already shifting to prevail in a high-end fight as we complete courses such as Contingency War Planning, Joint Air Operations Planning, Joint Task Force Staff Basic, Information Warfare Planning, and Non-Kinetic Effects Integration. Our culture evolves by leveraging our intellectual discipline and academic rigor



***Colonel Dustin H. Hansen  
15W Career Field Manager  
Chief, Weather Force Management***

within planning shops by scrutinizing how we can exploit the adversary's behavior during certain environmental conditions and discern when they act differently under similar conditions. Additionally, decision-makers use their intel professionals to target the "what," but they can use their environmental experts for the "when" and "where" of targeting; a confluence of the scientist-leader with the intel professional. Gone will be the days when Airmen were forced to choose between pursuing an advanced degree at the cost of leadership opportunities and key development positions. Now we need our scientist-leaders to engage operational-level planning shops and strategic programs such as Pathfinder and Blue Horizons, where they will leverage habits of mind and patterns of inquiry to solve complex problems while setting adversaries on the horns of multiple dilemmas. And from this talented pool of 100% scientists and 100% leaders will emerge the most talented Airmen with the highest potential to compete for senior leader ranks.

The scientific talent welling within our career field will pay big dividends within Great Power Competition. The leadership skills our community fosters in our flights, squadrons, MAJCOMs, schools, etc, will forge the scientist-leaders that the joint warfighting environment needs. Therefore, I try to only obsess about those things which I can influence, and building a bright future in the weather and environment career field is more than an obsession, it's a calling and we are on our way because of the talented, scientist-leader Airmen like you.



## Developing Our Enlisted Weather Warriors for Great Power Competition

In the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of military operations, your role as an enlisted weather warrior is more critical than ever before. You are dedicated professionals and the “go-to” operators for delivering accurate weather information that's vital to the success of military operations. To level up your capabilities and readiness, Air Force Weather (AFW) must take a strategic and deliberate approach to professional development.

Deliberate professional development is a systematic and purposeful strategy aimed at building the skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities of military personnel. So what does this mean for you? It's not about the same old routine training, delivered the same old way; it's about embracing a holistic approach to career growth and training methods. The 335th TRS is hard at work on transforming Tech Training to bring our initial skills and supplemental courses into the digital age. Also, programs like Education with Industry (EWI), Enlisted-to-AFIT, AF COOL, and Digital University are continuous learning opportunities available to all of you.

Tailoring training programs to meet the unique needs of our enlisted weather forces is key. How we provide weather information to the warfighter will continue to evolve. As such, we must stay on top of the latest in meteorological technology, mastering data analysis techniques, and understanding the weather impacts to cutting-edge weapons systems. It's all about arming you with the most advanced tools and knowledge available.

The fight against Great Power Competition (GPC) will be a Joint effort. We must break down silos and get our weather forces collaborating with other military disciplines. Cross-service training means our weather warriors get a full picture of joint operations, working



*Chief Master Sergeant John R. Rosario  
1W Career Field Manager  
AF/A3W Senior Enlisted Leader*

seamlessly with other Air Force specialties and sister services. This isn't just about being good at weather; it's about excelling in complex, Joint and Multi-National environments.

Leadership skills are a big part of the equation too. It's not just about technical proficiency; it's about developing leaders who can take charge, lead teams, and make critical decisions in high-pressure situations. We're grooming a generation of weather experts who can handle the heat both technically and strategically. The future fight is going to require all of you to have the confidence in your skills and abilities to make life or death decisions. It is our senior enlisted leader's responsibility to make sure you are ready! Thanks for all you do, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in 2024.

# Did you know?

**Did you know that that one of our Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force spent his operational career serving as a weather Airman?**

## **CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE SAM E. PARISH**

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Sam E. Parish was adviser to secretaries of the Air Force Verne Orr and Russell A. Rourke and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Charles A. Gabriel. Chief Parish advised them on matters concerning welfare, effective utilization and progress of the enlisted members of the Air Force. He was the eighth chief master sergeant appointed to this ultimate noncommissioned officer position.

Chief Parish was born in Marianna, Florida, and attended Malone High School. He joined the U.S. Air Force in December 1954, and graduated with the first class from SNCOA at Gunter Air Force Station, Alabama, in 1973.

Following BMT he was assigned to Chanute Air Force Base, IL., for training as a ground weather equipment operator. After completing the course as an honor graduate in 1955, he was assigned to the 18th Weather Squadron, Wiesbaden Air Base, West Germany, as NCOIC of weather communications.

In January 1960 he returned to Chanute Air Force Base for the weather observer technician course and again was an honor graduate. From August 1960 to May 1966 the chief was assigned to the Air Force Systems Command, Electronics Systems Division, Hanscom Air Force Base, MA, as NCOIC of operational procedures for the 433L Systems Program Office. While assigned at Hanscom, he attended the Air Force Systems Command NCOA and was honor graduate of his class.

He returned to West Germany as chief observer for the 7th Weather Squadron at Heidelberg from June 1966 until June 1969. He then transferred to Headquarters Air Weather Service, Scott Air Force Base, IL, as the command's chief observer and later as chief, observing services and procedures division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations.

The chief attended the SNCOA in January 1973, and in July 1973, was chosen senior airman adviser for Air Weather Service. In October 1975 he was assigned as the weather assignments adviser for Military Airlift Command's deputy chief of staff, personnel.

In August 1976 Chief Parish began his third tour of duty in West Germany as sergeant major for the 36th Combat Support Group consolidated base personnel office at Bitburg Air Base. From November 1977 to August 1980 he served as U.S. Air Forces in Europe senior enlisted adviser at Ramstein Air



Base, West Germany. He then became 40th Air Division senior enlisted adviser at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, MI. In November 1981, the chief was selected as the Strategic Air Command senior enlisted adviser at Offutt Air Force Base, NE. August of 1983 he became the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force until he retired on June 30, 1986.

## **MAJOR AWARDS & DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Air Force Commendation Medal

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS**

Life member, Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Director, Airmen Memorial Museum  
Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association  
Air University Board of Visitors

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Aug 1, 1983



# Getting to Know Our Airmen

**SrA Lawrence Kehoe**

**12th Operational Weather Flight, Scott AFB, IL**

**Years in the AF: 6**

**Job Title:** Weather Journeyman

**Family/Hometown:** Reside in Belleville, Illinois. Married for 15 years. Two kids, son 10 daughter soon to be 4

**Hobbies:** Officiating sports, reading, weather, running

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** As an attorney

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?** Being a loving father and being a role model to students and athletes.

**Who is your role model?** My parents.

**If you won a million bucks, what's the first thing you would buy?** I really do not know. I have everything that I could need.

**What is an item on your bucket list?** To run Dopey at Disney World



# Getting to Know Our Airmen



**SSgt Gareb Humphrey**

**Det 1, 23 SOWS, Ft. Campbell, KY**

**Years in the AF: 5**

**Job Title:** Weather Craftsman and Parachutist

**Family/Hometown:** Chattanooga, TN / Spouse, Ashlynn and 2 kids, Aiden and Scarlett.

**Hobbies:** Sports, Reading, Amateur Candle Maker, Homeowner, Swimming

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** OTS graduate returning to Detachment 1, 23d Special Operations Weather Squadron, coming back to the unique and rewarding mission that we have here.

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?** Deploying 3 times in 2023 in support of the 160 SOAR. The highlight of the year was being part of a highly sensitive Presidentially-approved special operations mission.

**Who is your role model?** SMSgt Brandon Coombs, because of his ability to challenge the way I do things, forcing me to become a better leader and individual.

**If you won a million bucks, what's the first thing you would buy?** 2024 Toyota Land Cruiser with an MWS strapped to the top, of course.

**What is an item on your bucket list?** Space travel at some point in my life.





# Getting to Know Our Airmen

**SSgt Alexander Sinclair**

**437 OSS/OWS, JB Charleston, NC**

**Years in the AF: 7**

**Job Title:** Weather Craftsman

**Family/Hometown:** Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada) / Geraldine Sinclair (Mother), Michael Sinclair (Father), Rosslyn Sinclair (Sister) Julita Alvaran (Grandmother)

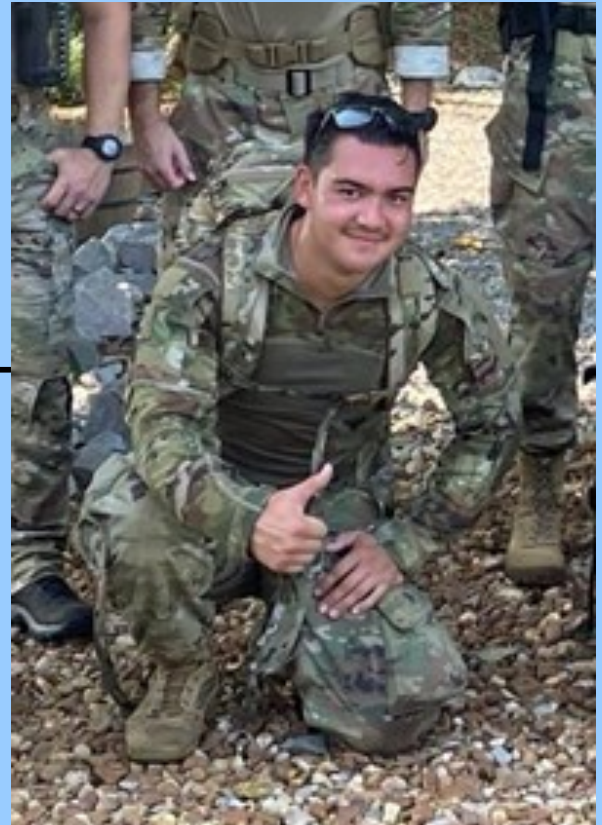
**Hobbies:** Gym, Golf (not good), Reading and Hiking.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** In 10 years I see myself in a 2 piece flight suit flying UH-60 Blackhawks in the Army as a CW3.

**Who is your role model?** Jesus Christ

**If you won a million bucks, what's the first thing you would buy?** Tan 2 Door Jeep Wrangler Willys

**What is an item on your bucket list?** Run a marathon and eventually qualify for and run the Boston marathon before I am 35 years old.





# It's More Than Just a Job

By Colonel Michael A. "Caveman" Marsicek

When I joined the Air Force in May of 1985 as an Airman Basic, gas was running just over a \$1.00 a gallon, Michael Jordan was the NBA Rookie of the Year and Back to the Future was playing in the box office. The Soviet Union was still in existence, and we were in this thing called the Cold War. China was an afterthought; all eyes were turned to Europe and the Fulda Gap.

It was that threat which laid a foundation for my training and guided how readiness was viewed by our leaders. Our Operational Readiness Exercises and Inspections were geared towards fighting in a degraded, contested environment with an expectation there would be attrition of people and equipment. Our training prepared us to operate in that environment and to fight through as we continued the mission. Not only did we learn how to be experts of our craft; we were expected to learn other skills of basic Airmanship that allowed us to continue to fight. Kind of sounds like a Mission Capable Airman, don't you think? It was deliberate development like this that has served me well across my career and allowed me to be a part of some unique history.

You see, too often we let ourselves believe that we are just doing a job. But it is more than that, sometimes much more. As a weather observer at Hill AFB, I remember waking up to hear that the space shuttle Challenger had exploded in the chilly morning hours of January 1986 as it took off from Cape Canaveral. Little did I realize then that this Airman would play an integral role in returning the United States to space. I was now a weather observer at Moron AB, Spain, responsible for documenting the weather conditions at one of the trans-Atlantic shuttle abort sites. Launch protocols required that two of the three abort bases needed VFR weather conditions for a launch to commence and our conditions were deteriorating due to smoke from a farmer's burning field. A fortuitous shift in the winds cleared the smoke away as the launch window approached and my observation provided the "GO" needed to allow space shuttle Discovery's return to space. It's more than just a job.

Fast forward to January 1991 and now SSgt Marsicek is providing the mission execution weather for a then classified launch of seven B-52 bombers from Barksdale AFB in the first strike against Iraq in DESERT STORM. Operation SENIOR SURPRISE (affectionately known as SECRET SQUIRREL) started the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait by eliminating power and communication nodes throughout the country. I had a front row seat to the launch. It's more than just a job. These are just a few examples where history and I have crossed paths.

I have been very fortunate in my career to have mentors and leaders who believed in my potential, resulting in my selection to Officer Training School. The transition to the officer ranks marked a whole new series of opportunities to be a part of history. My training allowed me to experience things



I never dreamed of when I first considered applying for officer training. I was introduced to international partnerships providing weather support to the Open Skies Treaty. With the 9/11 attacks on our nation, I was asked to run a battle staff as we navigated our response. I have learned how to run an airfield, provide best military advice to the Air Force Chief of Staff, contribute to the command and control of air power in AOCs, execute missions across numerous airframes and echelons, and the most humbling responsibility of all, command. It's more than just a job.

With all the deliberate development I have received across my career, it is only fitting that I am now asked to prepare the future leaders of our Air Force from squadron to wing command as Deputy Commander of the Eaker Center at Maxwell AFB. We focus on things like mission command; contested, degraded operations; mission capable Airmen learning how to fight through adversity to complete the mission. What is old is new again.

I am truly grateful for what the Air Force has done for me over the last four decades. I have touched history time and again. I have worked with some of the most inspirational and dedicated people I could ever hope to know.

It's more than just a job...

### 13th Expeditionary Combat Weather Squadron, OL-Foxtrot

By 1Lt Benjamin Pederson // Photos taken by SFC Jonathan Hornby & PFC Aiden O'Marra (82nd Airborne Division)

#### The Team:

13th Expeditionary Combat Weather Squadron,  
Operating Location-Foxtrot

#### The Mission:

Staff Weather Officers that support Task Force 82 assist in the planning, coordination, and resourcing a multi-echelon security force assistance and engagement program to help Allies' link national defense approaches and exercises to NATO's integrated regional posture and interoperability goals. As a priority, TF 82 and a subordinate US Army infantry brigade combat team, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), conduct realistic mission essential task training across eastern and southern Europe to hone their own warfighting competence at echelon. Finally, the TF also provides key inputs to help the Security Assistance Group sustain partner operations and tempo. Staff Weather Officers are also aligned with Task Force Nightmare (3rd Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade) providing mission execution forecasts enabling Task Force 82 mission requirements.



(11D AVN SWOs) TSgt Aaron Thompson, SrA Kai Fennett  
(3rd Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade)



(82 ABD\_3-101 BCT SWOs) SSgt Jake Sanders (TF 82),  
SrA Camerson Thomas (3-101 SWO)

#### Why it Matters:

Everything we do in TF 82 strengthens our own team and the Alliance. The Airmen assist our aligned Soldiers and units sharpen their skills through realistic training, shared hardship, and sharpening our Alliance capabilities. The work we do in support of our Allies in the Black Sea Region assures, deters, and reinforces our efforts to increase interoperability and readiness with our NATO Allies and partners. This campaign concentrates our communication efforts and builds a cohesive narrative.



### 89th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

By Captain Shelby Kniss and MSgt Jered Vest (HQ/AMC/A3AW)

#### The Team, as of January 2023:

Capt Shelby Kniss - Weather Flight Commander  
1Lt Cameron Hamnquist - Weather Officer  
MSgt Michael Clarke - Weather Flight Chief  
TSgt Jessica Jamanila - NCOIC, Mission Weather Integration  
SSgt Mark Hallowell - NCOIC, Airfield Weather Services  
SSgt Glendalys Feltner - Weather Craftsman  
SSgt Richard Hernandez - Weather Craftsman  
SSgt Alexis Paradas - Weather Craftsman  
SSgt Kevin Powers - Weather Craftsman  
SrA Brian Kineard - Weather Journeyman  
SrA Alan Medellin - Weather Journeyman  
SrA Eileen Sammon - Weather Journeyman  
SrA Jalen Turner - Weather Journeyman  
SrA Nathaniel Lee - Weather Journeyman  
A1C Corrina Smith - Weather Journeyman  
A1C Samuel Tomme - Weather Journeyman  
A1C Graulau Figueroa - Weather Journeyman  
Mr. Randall Ritchie - Weather Technician

#### The Mission:

The 89th Operations Support Squadron (OSS) weather airmen are integral to the global mission of the 89th Airlift Wing (89 AW), with roots tracing back to 1948 under the Military Air Transport Service, and presently operating under the umbrella of Air Mobility Command (AMC). Commonly known as SAM Fox, a designation derived from Special Air Missions (SAM) – Foreign (Fox), this distinguished unit embodies a legacy of safe, comfortable, and reliable global diplomacy.

SAM Fox's origins as an aircraft call sign aimed at distinguishing VIP missions has evolved into a symbol of extraordinary professionalism and dedication. Embracing the motto "Perfection is the Standard," the 89 AW entrusts the 89 OSS Weather Flight with delivering unparalleled weather support to key leaders in the United States government, to include the President and Vice President. This is a global mission to champion democracy.

The Weather Flight, standing as the sole weather entity on Joint Base Andrews, mirrors the SAM Fox culture by providing continuous support to 4 Total Force flying wings, 2 Major Commands (MAJCOMs), and 24 joint and civilian mission partners. Their responsibilities encompass mission support for ten unique airframes, oversight of weather operations for America's Airfield, and management of five 24/7 alert missions, including Distinguished Visitor (DV) airlift.

#### Why It Matters:

The 89 OSS Weather Flight serves as the weather subject matter experts for National Special Security Events within the National Capital Region (NCR). This includes Presidential Inaugurations, the State of the Union Address, and State Funerals. Their immersion in Joint Base Andrews host-wing's (316th Wing) battle staff and taking an advisory role to the Joint Task Force – National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) enhances mission



planning and contingency preparedness for 5 USNORTHCOM subordinate command's defense and civilian support operations.

Their support extends beyond active-duty personnel, as their efforts ensure readiness through Nuclear Operational Readiness Exercises and Inspections for the 459th Air Refueling Wing (AFRC), operating on multiple network enclaves to brief weather scenarios they validate 2,000 Airmen's ability to execute USSTRATCOM's nuclear deterrence mission. Furthermore, they provide critical support to personnel in the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Wing, communicating hazards to twenty-six F-16 pilots during home-station operations and reach-back support during Red-Flag 23-3, increasing lethality by improving synergy amongst sister services while furthering the National Defense Strategy.

The constant vigilance of the Weather Flight manifests in the execution of worldwide diplomacy. They rapidly inject weather expertise throughout strategic events such as the United States-African Leaders summit, Trilateral Leader's Summit, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's historic address to members of U.S. Congress regarding the war in Ukraine. Weather forecasters are tasked with coordinating with foreign aircrews to ensure the safety of flight for key foreign leadership.

The 89 OSS Weather Flight stands as an indispensable force that continuously influence the course of global diplomacy. Their dedication to perfection and constant vigilance underscores their pivotal role in upholding the standards of excellence within SAM Fox's storied legacy.



## The Longest-Serving Commander of the Weather Service: From E-1 to O-7

By Dr. Kent Sieg, Historian, 557<sup>th</sup> Weather Wing

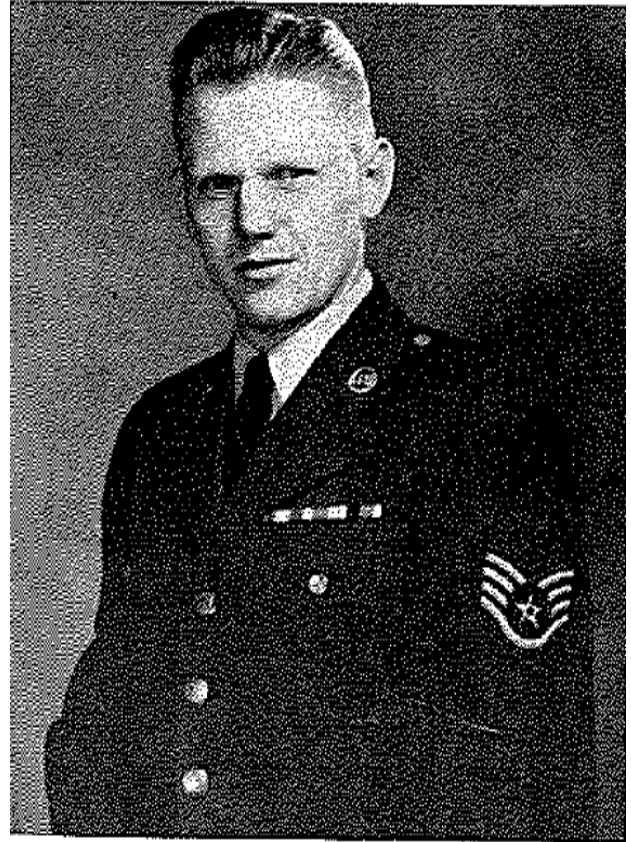
Brigadier General George E. Chapman served as the Commander, Air Weather Service (AWS), from 30 July 1982 - 30 June 1988. His service provides a remarkable example of how a truly successful career in Air Force Weather can be obtained by personnel at any level.

Chapman was born on 3 April 1934 in Detroit, Michigan, and due to the ongoing Korean War, he and a childhood friend enlisted into the U.S. Air Force right after graduating from South High School in Grand Rapids in 1952. Upon completion of BMT, he was informed that he would be entering the weather field. He attended initial weather training at Chanute AFB, Illinois, followed by assignments in West Germany, Michigan, and Maine.

While stationed in Germany, he married Lisa Modde, a local national employed at Bitburg AFB, with whom he would have four children, one of which was lost at a young age. The couple would move 23 times throughout Chapman's career. The support of a spouse is vital to success in any military career. "As my responsibilities grew, she more than matched my service by what she did for our Air Force family," Chapman would note when she passed away in 2015.

At the urging of his detachment commander, and in spite of having only completed 6 college credits, in 1959 he applied for, received selection to, and successfully completed Officer Candidate School, receiving his commission that September. Chapman would later note that his enlisted experience had given him an ability as a leader to "empathize, not just sympathize" with his subordinate personnel. His early assignments as an officer were as a base weather forecaster in TX, as a member of the team that developed the Television Infrared Observation Satellite (TIROS) IV program at Point Mugu, CA, in staff weather positions in the UK (during which time he was twice nominated for Military Airlift Command's Junior Officer of the Year), and with the Space and Missile Systems Organization.

Along the way, he attended the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) and Texas A & M, completing in two years a four-year program for his B.S. in meteorology, awarded in 1965. Subsequently, he received a master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a



SSgt Chapman serving in his highest achieved enlisted rank.

program to which he had been admitted following a fortuitous off-the-cuff discussion with the AWS Vice Commander and the head of training during their visit to facilities in England during 1968.

After that point, he deployed to Vietnam, serving at Ton Son Nhut Airport and then as a detachment commander in Cam Ranh Bay. It was there that he encountered issues stemming from the AWS components not being informed about highly classified operations that they were suppose to support. He then attended the Armed Forces Staff College, completed an advanced program at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and later went to the Air War College. This training was interspersed with serving at Headquarters, AWS, and as commander of the 25<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron.

Following those assignments, he became acting chief of the Aeronautical Systems Division at Headquarters, Air Force, serving as a special assistant and briefing leaders

## Weather in History (Brig. Gen. Chapman continued)

such as the Chief of Staff. Concurrently, he was a North Atlantic Treaty Organization representative for the Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS). Based upon communications with Brigadier General Albert Kaehn, the then-commander of AWS, Chapman next would assume a command role at Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC) at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, prior to becoming the AWS commander in mid-1982.

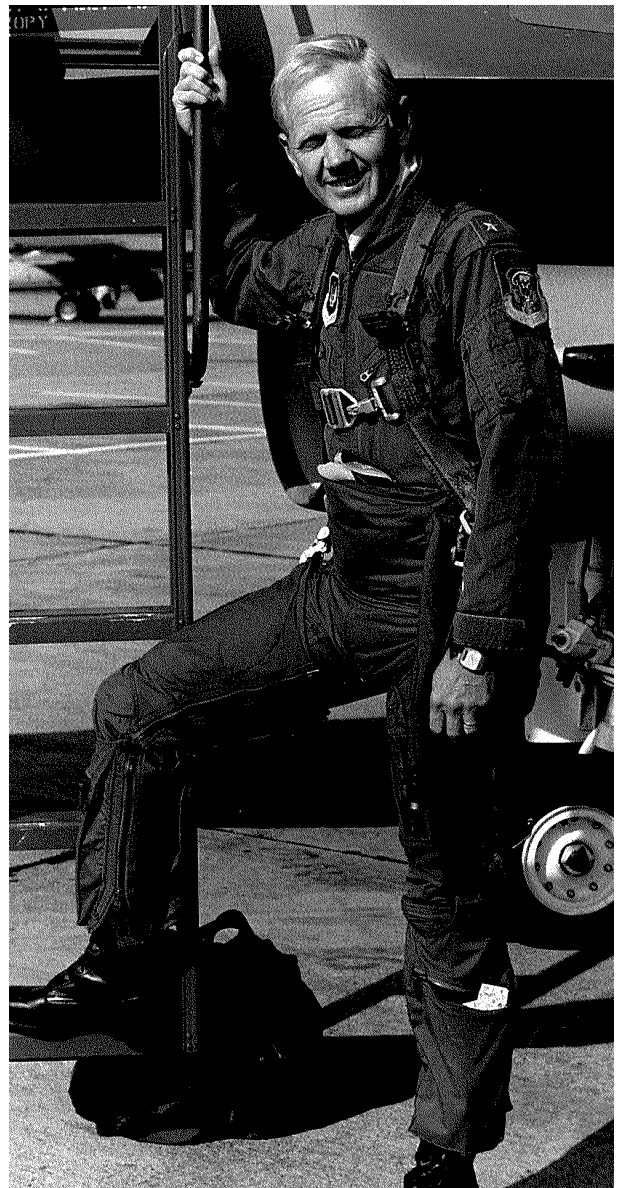
In this latter capacity, Chapman would be in charge of over 5000 people from his headquarters at Scott AFB. Not only was he the first commander to rise from the enlisted ranks, he also would become the longest ever serving head of AWS and its successor organizations. Notably, he would spend about a hundred days in travel to the field units each year. He became a general officer in 1985, and the following year received the award of the Order of the Sword, a special form of recognition from the command's senior enlisted workforce.

As AWS commander, Brig Gen Chapman achieved notable success in implementing 'Weather 85' concepts and the 'Weather 2000' vision, especially in terms of bringing personnel levels to full manning, a first since the post-Vietnam drawdown. Accomplishments in information technology included the acquisition of the Cray X-MP supercomputer, which greatly enhanced unit capabilities, the formation of an Automated Weather Distribution System, and putting online the Advanced Weather Analysis and Prediction System. He successfully accelerated the deactivation of the AWS weather reconnaissance mission to offset budget shortfalls. Development commenced on the Next Generation Weather Radar system. He stewarded the launching of the block 5D-2 series of Defense Meteorological Satellite Program satellites and dedicated AFGWC's Satellite Data Handling System. He worked hard to mitigate the negative publicity from the Atlas Centaur 67 explosion and ordered an unprecedented level of tracking of the fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. He oversaw the incorporation of weather officers in the space shuttle program and initiated construction of the Space Forecast Center in Colorado.

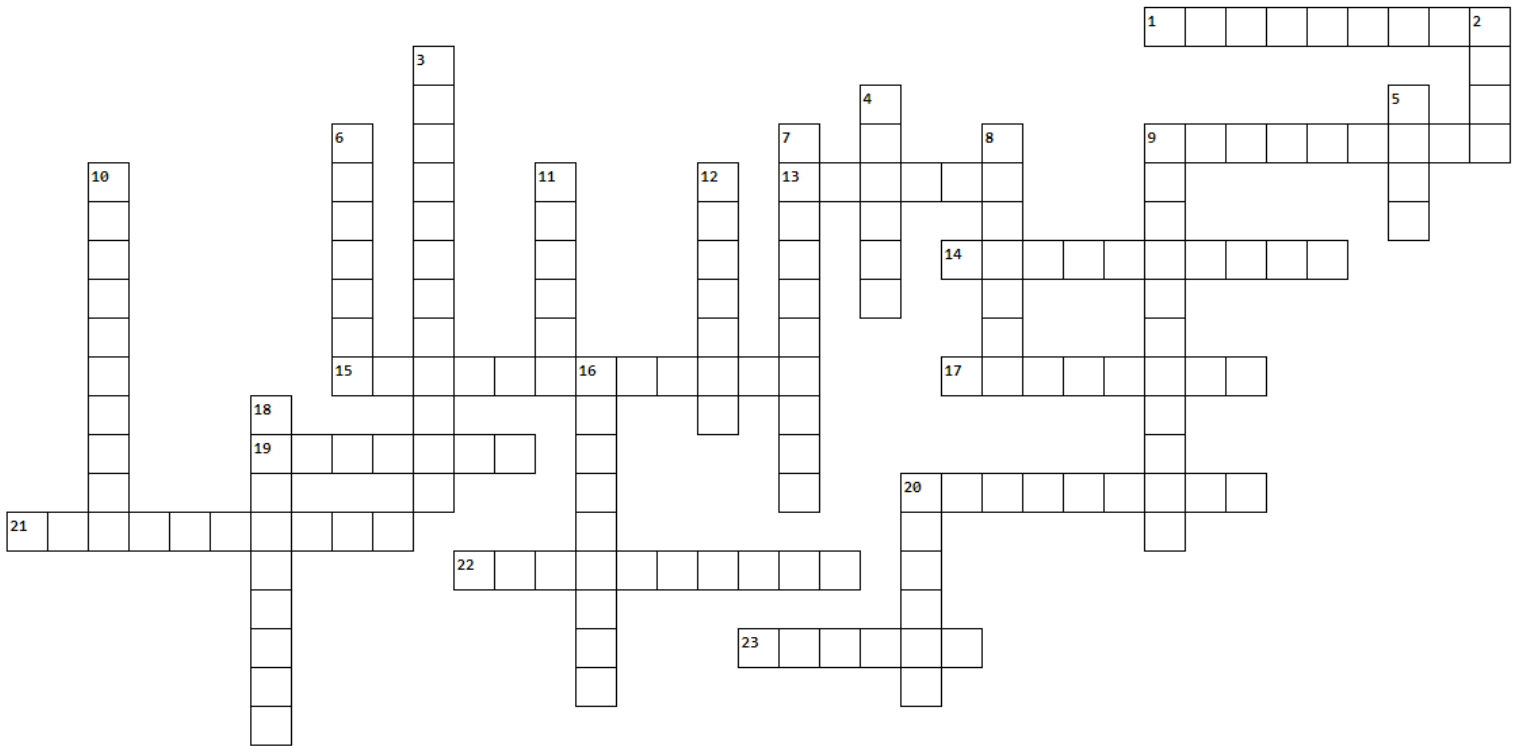
During his career, among the many awards he had received were the Distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious

Service Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. Knowing full well the personal impact of all the accolades he had garnered, for the sake of his airmen Chapman always went out of his way to be present at every awards ceremony he could attend. Given that he had engineered the authorization of a distinctive badge for Air Force Weather, he took special satisfaction in not just pinning on stripes or other awards but especially placing the weatherman's badge upon enlisted personnel.

After serving 36 years, Chapman retired from the Air Force in 1988. Long into retirement and with achieving nonagenarian status, he has since resided in Florida.



# Weather Fun—Winter 2023-2024 Weather Crossword



## Across

1. An instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure.
9. A progressive wave in a horizontal air flow that leads to lower air pressure.
13. A line of equal barometric pressure on a weather map.
14. Disrupted flow in the atmosphere that produces gusts and eddies.
15. The layer of the atmosphere above the troposphere, where temperature increases with height.
17.  $\geq 3$  hour storm with  $\geq 35$  mph winds and visibility reducing to  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile with snow.
19. A clockwise change in wind direction.
20. Boundary generally characterized by steady precip followed by showery precip. (2 wds)
21. Frozen raindrops that strike the earth's surface. (2 wds)
22. 2-5 minute, small downbursts, with  $< 2.5$  mile outflow diameter.
23. The percentage of light reflected by an object.

## Down

2. An opaque, or milky white, deposit of ice.
3. Rain that freezes on contact producing a coating of ice. (2 wds)
4. Man with a corncob pipe and a button nose.
5. Wind speeds from 39 to 54 mph (34 to 47 knots).
6. Flat low level clouds.
7. A 2-D process in which airstreams spread apart.
8. Another term that can be used for hail smaller than 5 mm in diameter.
9. Snow/ice changing into water vapor without first melting into water.
10. To move backwards, as it relates to a ridge or trough.
11. Warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean waters, usually every 3-7 years, and characterized by shifts in "normal" weather patterns. (2 wds)
12. The sound wave produced as a lightning stroke heats the air causing it to rapidly expand.
16. Uneven distribution of snow depth caused by strong surface winds. (2 wds)
18. A large mass of rapidly moving snow down a steep mountain slope.
20. The state of the sky when 9/10ths or more of the sky is covered by clouds.



## 1 CWS, Det 3, hosts second annual Arctic Weather Workshop

By Airman 1st Class Carson Jeney, 354 FW Public Affairs, Published Jan. 19, 2024



Col Paul Townsend, 354 FW Commander, gave the opening remarks at the University of Alaska Fairbanks



FTX led by Det 3 Airmen cadre

**EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** -- The 1 CWS, Det 3, hosted the 2nd annual Arctic Weather Workshop at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Jan. 16-19, 2024, to promote discussions between the Department of Defense, its partner countries, as well as academics and professors in AK.

The workshop was held to relay the importance of air power regarding Arctic operations to key METOC leaders from across the DoD and NATO, as well as address civilian institutions in attendance to emphasize the important role they play in sharing their Arctic expertise with the military.

"Over the last year, with Finland joining NATO, and Sweden in the process of ascending into NATO, we're starting to have a lot more of our NATO partners operating in the high north," said CMSgt Michael Adcock, USAFE, Manager, Readiness & Logistics, Weather Branch. "So that's going to be an area that we're going to really start seeing further focus on, as the Arctic remains a strategic interest for us."

Residing at the intersection between the U.S. homeland and two critical theaters, Indo-Pacific and Europe, the Arctic is an increasingly vital region for U.S. national security interests according to

DAF Arctic Strategy. By working together to better understand the weather in the Arctic, the 354 FW can better execute PACAF's strategic priorities.

"Weather is everything in the Arctic," said Jennifer Delamere, University of AK Fairbanks, Director, Geographic Information Network of AK. "You're going to be putting people, ships, and airplanes out there. You need to understand the nuances of the weather and how it's changing. I really appreciate this group of experts and what we're hearing about the climate. When you bring all of this together, we're going to get a better picture of what it's like to operate in the Arctic."

"We're already seeing an increase in exercises and operations going on in the Arctic," said Adcock. "It takes a village to get after a challenging topic, especially like the Arctic, so sharing what they've learned and working with them is definitely going to help us all out in the long run."

By collaborating with allies and partners to increase security capacity through enhanced integration and interoperability, PACAF sustains this advantage toward common security objectives.



**"The Arctic Weather Workshop was a huge success! There were 140 in-person attendees (+many more dialed in) and there was representation from 5 branches of the military, several partner nations (Royal Navy, UK Met Office, Royal Canadian Air Force, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and future NATO member Sweden), the National Weather Service, the University of Alaska, as well as long-distance travelers from PACAF, the Pentagon and USAFE. Thanks to Col Townsend, BGen Burke and BGen Moar (Canada) for their opening/closing comments and strategic perspectives. The FTX also went incredibly well as Det 3 Airmen cadre led 15 visiting participants through a challenging 2-day event, testing their forecasting and briefing skills through tough Arctic conditions."** - Lt Col Nicholas Reitz, Commander, 1 CWS.

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FOUND ON THE AIR FORCE PORTAL A3W PAGE.**

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