

*The Magazine for Air Force Weather*

# OBSERVER

March 1996

Vol. 43, No. 3

## 617th Weather Squadron



**'Always Ready To  
Serve' Throughout  
Europe**

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Headquarters  
Air Weather Service

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# SPOTLIGHT



**The 617th Weather Squadron**  
-- The 617th WS is "Always Ready To Serve" its customers, who stretch over 100 million square miles and are located in 86 countries  
... **Pages 12-15**

Cover Photo and photos on pages 12-15  
courtesy of the 617th WS.



# The Weather Warrior

## A Powerful Weapon In The American Arsenal

**T**here has been a great deal of talk within our career field on what it means to be a "Weather Warrior." Let me give you my perspective.

Being a warrior is more than holding down a job in a combat unit. It is a way of thinking that combines the warrior mentality of doing whatever it takes to complete the mission with being the very best scientific and technical weather officer, NCO, or airman you can be.

Weather is a critical part of every military mission.

Warriors throughout history have recognized the importance of weather on military operations.

Sun Tzu, the Chinese warlord of the 5th Century B.C., said weather was second only to politics in war.

George Washington used a sleet and rain storm to win the Battle of Trenton in December 1776. Surprised in the open, the British could not keep their powder and firing pins dry, while the Continental Army fired at will.

In World War II, the Allied forecasters accurately predicted the conditions along the French coast and launched the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Meanwhile, the German meteorologists were not as integrated into the operations and the German Army relaxed their defenses.

General Eisenhower claimed "The Allies prevailed because of superior meteorologists." In that context, Ike meant the Allies prevailed because the weather warriors were fully integrated into the whole operation.

During Vietnam, a team lead by Lt. Col. Keith Grimes forecast the only 12 hours of "go" weather in a 38-day pe-

by Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon  
Air Force Director of Weather

riod for the raid on the Son Tay POW camp. These are just a few examples of the tremendous impact weather has on military operations when the weather warrior is integrated into the military operation.

Unfortunately, in the wake of the Vietnam War, our warrior focus began to erode. We worried more about buying new systems, and less about influencing the nature of warfare. This decline had a direct impact on military operations, with the failure of the Iranian hostage rescue mission as the most visible failure.

**"... Lives depend on your ability to give timely, accurate, and relevant weather information to the rest of the country's warfighters."**



**Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon**  
Air Force Director of Weather

Weather was not integrated during DESERT ONE — there were no weather warriors present.

Santayana said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." I'd like to turn this around to say "Those who can remember the past can recreate it."

We've begun to get that focus -- the warrior attitude -- back. It's what makes us work the long hours of an increased operations tempo, sweat through Combat Lightning, and deploy for long periods away from family and friends.



It is what makes us do whatever it takes to get the mission done. We are focusing on how to make our military better prepared for whatever the nation needs us to do.

This warrior attitude is independent of what positions we fill within AFW. An NCO forecaster pitching tents in Korea with the Army, an action officer at Headquarters Air Weather Service, and a staff meteorologist at an Eglin AFB, Fla., test facility all need to bring the warrior attitude to their jobs -- and do whatever it takes to get the mission done.

Whether the Air Force is bringing disaster relief, developing the next generation fighter, promoting peace operations, or putting bombs on target, we are looking for ways to exploit the weather to advance America's ability to project air and space power.

Each of you knows that, quite literally, lives depend on your ability to give timely, accurate, and relevant weather information to the rest of the country's warfighters.

Every aspect of our operations — forecasts, climatology, briefings, observations, system development — impacts national military operations on a daily basis.

We contribute a powerful weapon to the American arsenal — foresight of the weather, and its impact on military missions. This sets you apart from other weather agencies, and makes each of you a Weather Warrior.

Remember Santayana — remember the *weather warrior* past, and recreate it.

Have a question for General Lennon? Write to: HQ USAF/XOW, 1490 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20330-1490.

# Know Your Geography

## Former AWS Commander Offers Advice

(Note from Col. Joseph D. Dushan, AWS Commander: I am very pleased to devote this month's column to an article by retired Maj. Gen. John W. Collens, the AWS commander from 1974-75. Until recently, he was also the president of the Air Weather Association.)

In his cover letter, General Collens shared a fresh perspective on "Back to Basics", supported initial skills training for newly commissioned meteorologists, and offered insightful observations about the current state of our military weather business.

"I am offering the article to stimulate those forecasters who may be scope readers," General Collens wrote. "Unfortunately, some rely on Air Force Global Weather Central to do (all) the work and resort to being little more than announcers."

You'll find his ideas thought provoking — and a bit uncomfortable. I hope the article sparks serious debate about our technical and scientific responsibilities. The article underscores our stress for science in base weather stations and helps introduce a more detailed discussion about Air Force Weather fundamentals. In his cover letter, General Collens concluded, "It is my wish that those who read this article will try to be the best at their craft and EARN those chief stripes or eagles." Me, too, General.)

by retired Maj. Gen. John W. Collens  
AWS Commander (1974-75)

It is no accident that meteorology is being taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy (Colo.) in the Department of Geography. Terrain influences local weather. Knowing the geography of your area is essential to

by Col. Joseph D. Dushan  
Commander  
Air Weather Service

producing a good forecast.

Ask long-term residents of Denver or Colorado Springs — they know that the Front Range of the Rockies shapes the local weather differently than a similar pressure pattern in the Great Plains.

Currently, Air Force policy discourages "homesteading" at a base. Therefore, you must acquire local knowledge from an assortment of aids. Start with a relief map.

A three-dimensional model should be a standard fixture at every base weather station. Review the base's climatic facts

**"You, the local weather forecaster, can make the difference between good or poor advice to the warfighter. Know the geography and earn the accolade "good ol' Stormy". Your career depends on it."**



**Maj. Gen. (ret.) John W. Collens  
Commander, Air Weather Service (1974-75)**

that produced the weather history while referring to the map types (analogue).

Without these three introductions to the local area, you will not produce good forecasts.

The base weather station's library may contain a book of empirical rules valid for your location. These time-tested weather roadmaps lead the forecaster from centrally produced surface and upper-air pressure charts to logical conclusions influenced by terrain.

While stationed at Shaw AFB, S.C., in the 1950s, I routinely used the empirical rules documented by the meteorologist husband/wife team, Oliver and



J.J. George, of Eastern Airlines. I left my copy behind when I PCSed from Shaw. If it's still available, this data spelled out for the inquiring meteorologists the influence of the Appalachian Mountains upon approaching fronts and East Coast weather.

Mountain ranges and their foothills greatly influence the progress of frontal systems. Occlusions often-times result from a range hampering the movement of a front. Orographic lift and downslope warming are other facets to be considered at bases near the world's many mountainous regions. Large bodies of water nearby must also be considered (for example, the Great Lakes bring abundant snowfall to Buffalo).

Centrally produced terminal forecasts by those not familiar with local influences are sometimes (some say often) lacking in detail. It is not unusual to find all of the local television announcers failing to call for a weather event. After all, their weather forecasts are read from the same sheet that is produced at a central location.

The foregoing is not to malign AFGWC or the National Weather Service. The complexity of modern meteorology demands centralized products. It would be too manpower-intensive to produce all the maps and charts locally. To ensure timeliness, today's forecaster must rely on the tools that automation has provided and then tailor the forecast.

A good forecaster will always customize his or her advice with local knowledge. That knowledge must be derived from a detailed study of geographic influences and application of empirical rules.

If you parrot your advice by simply

**See ROADMAP**  
*continued on Page 22*



# Training At The Schoolhouse

## Working Hard To Meet The Needs of Weather

*(Note from Chief Hoy: It's been a busy year for the weather training flight at Keesler AFB, Miss. They began with implementing and then restructuring the single schoolhouse, a change of leadership, two hurricane evacuations, a visit by the Air Force Chief of Staff, hosting the Air Force Weather Functional Review, training and more training.)*

*I asked Maj. Mike Babcock, the weather flight commander, and Senior Master Sgt. Rick Fiske, the weather flight superintendent, to give us an update on what's ahead for YOUR school. This article talks about their mission and vision, several initiatives to improve our graduates, a quick look at current courses, and the customer feedback programs.)*

**O**ur mission is to develop and train military professionals to be weather warriors.

This deceptively simple statement says a lot. We do more than train people in the art and science of military weather. We help develop them into effective officers and airmen.

In our initial skills courses, we build on their military training and arm them with the knowledge and skills to become productive members of your weather team sooner than ever before. In the able forecaster course, we "re-blue" our students and give them a chance to share experiences and learn from their counterparts in the Navy, Marine Corps, and even the Coast Guard. Our vision is to train for warfighting — the very core of existence for our military and weather operations.

To do this, we undertook several initiatives. Both of us go to each new initial skills, able forecaster, and officer class to help instill this vision in our students. In addition, every initial skills class starts

**by Chief Master Sgt. Jim Hoy  
Air Force Weather  
Superintendent of Weather**

in the Air Force Special Operations-sponsored Air Commando Room (they got here first, but we encourage all other MAJCOMs to sponsor one or more classroom) — a room filled with photos of their mission and weather warriors in action.

We also started a series of Weather and War vignettes, edited by our own Marine Master Sgt. Wade Piar to show the role of weather and weather people in the history of warfare.

To help bring warfighting closer to home, we started War Story Nights to tap the experience of many of our instructors

**"We're dedicated to training your people to help you accomplish your warfighter's mission and to move from 'cope and avoid' to 'anticipate and exploit' the weather!"**

**Maj. Mike Babcock  
Weather Flight Commander  
Keesler AFB Weather Schoolhouse**

in operations ranging from Grenada and Panama to Southwest Asia. Our goal is to give our students a sense of real warfighting experience and build in them a weather warrior spirit.

Our initial skills course graduates aren't just observers—they've been trained on the basics of meteorology and should be useful to you in other roles. They now come to you having experienced weather station operations laboratory and two weeks of combat/field skills training, including a week in the field at Hurlburt.

**Contact Chief Master Sgt. Jim Hoy at DSN 224-7410 or by electronic mail at "jhoy@pafosu3.hq.af.mil"**



On the able forecaster course side, the rapid changes created some confusion over school assignments. Forecaster school includes two separate courses and both must be completed. The school is still a PCS and students must have 36 months of retainability following graduation before they are assigned to us. We verified these requirements and all military personnel flights should now have the correct data.

After all these major changes, we definitely need your feedback. Many of you have already returned our initial skills course graduate assessment surveys and they'll soon be implemented for officer graduates, too. We're also developing our own surveys for the able forecaster and supplemental courses. We take your comments very seriously — we answer to our wing commander on any rating less than satisfactory.

We're working hard to focus the schoolhouse to meet the needs of AFW and our sister service weather communities. This is where it all begins!

By the way, we'll be looking soon for outstanding NCOs to replace our initial cadre at Keesler. If you want to influence the career field for the next twenty years, consider an instructor tour here at the schoolhouse — you'll train the future leaders of AFW.

We're dedicated to training your people to help you accomplish your warfighter mission and to move from "cope and avoid" to "anticipate and exploit" the weather!

If you have ANY questions or comments, please contact us.

For initial skills course questions, call Mr. Garey Simants at DSN 597-0300. For the able forecaster course, call Senior Master Sgt. Mike Dougherty at DSN 597-1957.

# AWS Just 'Peachy' In Atlanta

## Air Weather Service Wows AMS Crowds



Capt. Margo Bjorkman, right, from HQ AWS, demonstrates the new MetTIPS to (from left) Lt. Col. Judson E. Stailey, Assistant Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Service and Supporting Research, Silver Springs, Md.; Air Force Director of Weather Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Lennon; and AWS Commander Col. Joseph D. Dushan.



Maj. George Whicker, HQ AWS, demonstrates the Tactical Forecasting System to an AMS attendee.



All photos by Staff Sgt. Steve Elliott



**ABOVE LEFT:** Staff Sgt. Richard Slominsky shows General Lemon some of the products available from the Air Force Combat Climatology Center.

**ABOVE:** Capt. Mark D. Conner from Air Force Global Weather Central talks to another AMS attendee during a poster session.

**LEFT:** Where do former Air Weather Service Commanders go? Into the private sector, that's where! Several former commanders got together with current AWS commander Col. Joseph D. Dushan (center) for this photo during the AMS activities. From left to right are: retired Brig. Gen. George Chapman, 1982-88; retired Brig. Gen. John J. Kelly, Jr. (1988-91); Colonel Dushan; retired Brig. Gen. Albert J. Kachn, Jr. (1978-82), and retired Col. George L. Frederick, Jr. (1991-93).





# Opportunities In Europe

## Much 'Real-World' Experience To Be Gained



**W**ith the 617th Weather Squadron the feature story of this month's *OBSERVER*, this is a good time to discuss the many opportunities available in Europe.

I'm not talking about the beer, fish and chips, or schnitzel, but that is one positive aspect of the assignment. I'm talking about the many "real-world" operational opportunities supporting not only Air Force units, but many key staff, joint service, and even Army units (from field units to headquarters-level).

More than 50 years ago, the Normandy landings occurred with more than 133,000 allied troops wading ashore in wave upon wave, driving Hitler's armies back and regaining a foothold in occupied Europe.

Almost 11 months to the day later, May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II in Europe.

Tragically, the new peace, hoped for by so many for so long, developed into a troubled and divided peace — the "cold war" ensued which divided Europe between East and West. Even though the wall which physically divided East and West for those many years is gone, trepidation in the West continues, regarding the intentions of many former Eastern Bloc nations (especially those with ongoing civil unrest).

Because of our commitments to the United Nations (U.N.), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and our many allies, there will con-

by Maj. John D. Murphy  
Air Weather Service  
Chief of Personnel

tinue to be opportunities in Europe despite recent drawdowns. In order to continue U.S. influence in the affairs of Europe and to have a major say in eastern European security developments, Europe will continue to offer many opportunities for the career-minded officer.

"The bedrock of United States security policy remains the commitment to Europe," said Walter B. Slocombe, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. "We will remain fully involved in European security issues."

**"In addition to the job opportunities and interesting things to see, just think of the operational experience you'll gain while you work with Western and possibly Eastern military personnel."**



**Maj. John D. Murphy  
Chief of Personnel, Air Weather Service**

In order to meet those commitments, there are staff positions at U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE/DOW), Ramstein AB, Germany, and at the 617th Weather Squadron (see featured article, pages 12-15).

There is central forecast experience to be gained at the European Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC)

Forecast Center located at Traben Trarbach, Germany (Det. 4, 617th WS), as well as many command opportunities available, spreading across Europe from RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom (48th OSS/OSW) to Vicenza, Italy (OL-E, 617th WS). In addition, there's special operations assignments at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom (352nd SOG/SOWT) and Vaihingen, Germany (SOCEUR Staff METOC Officer).

In addition to the job opportunities and interesting things to see, just think of the operational experience you'll gain while you work with Western and possibly Eastern military personnel.

Military-to-military relationships have developed, allowing the U.S. and Russia to strike landmark agreements. These agreements enabled them to field a joint 4,000-member force in Bosnia-Herzegovina to carry out engineering, construction, and transportation duties in support of the planned 60,000-member NATO-led peace force.

You'll also come into contact with people and cultures that millions of Americans pay billions of dollars a year to experience — and be paid while you do it! I'm not saying it'll be one big vacation, but what an experience to tell your grandchildren about.

In any case, review last month's "Almanac" issue and look at the many different opportunities available to you in Europe — I'm sure you'll like the job and you'll love the location.

**If you have specific career questions, suggestions for future articles, or issues which you need answered, my mailing address is: Maj. John Murphy, HQ Air Weather Service, Director of Personnel (AWS/RMP), 102 West Losey St., Room 105, Scott AFB IL 62225-5206 or DSN 576-4895, ext. 344, or E-Mail "murphyj@hqaws.safb.af.mil".**

# Women In Weather

## Serving Proudly Today And Throughout History



by Ms. Lil Wilbur  
Air Weather Service  
Chief of History

### Did You Know?

March is Federal Women's History Month? This year's theme is "See History in a New Way", so featured this month are women who were "PIONEERS IN WEATHER".

It was not long ago when women were excluded from the uniformed services. While women have always played a vital role in the defense of our nation and have served proudly, they often served silently.

### Did you know?

Frances L. Whedon, a civil servant, served as the unofficial chief of the meteorology section from 1942 until she officially assumed the position in 1947.

President Roosevelt signed a bill May 15, 1942, establishing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). The Women's Army Corps (WACs) was established the following summer.

These women were all volunteers and were trained at Fort Des Moines in Iowa.

### Did You Know?

General Henry "Hap" Arnold was a staunch supporter of women in the military. Some 50,000 WACs served under his command in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

Although a majority of the women worked in the clerical arena, many attended technical schools for job specialties such as aircraft mechanic, electrical specialist, control tower operator as well as weather observer and forecaster.

By May 1943, the first WACs were being assigned to AWS stateside units.



Courtesy AWS History Office  
An unidentified enlisted weather specialist checks weather charts.

### Did You Know?

Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) became a vital addition to the Army Air Forces' Weather Service.

These female pilots ferried aircraft from the manufacturer to the bases overseas. One of these pilots, Jacqueline Cochran, a name familiar to many in aviation, went on to become General Arnold's first WASP Director.

The duty of the WASPs assigned to the Army Air Forces' Weather Wing and other Weather units was primarily to replace pilots who were qualified for combat. Upon assignment with the Wing, these pilots were given refresher training in meteorology. Their primary function was to ferry personnel on various inspection or administrative trips and haul meteorological equipment when necessary.

When the Commander of the Weather Wing, Colonel Senter, looked back on the inception of the WASP program he believed not only that it was a job well done, but that high standards were established in the areas of technical proficiency and loyalty.



U.S. Air Force Photo (1977)

An unidentified dropsonde systems operator works with the ML-615 "Rainbow Wheel" which determines temperature, humidity, and dewpoint.



## Did You Know?

The Women in the Air Force (WAF) program was established by an act of Congress in June 1948.

A young woman who had been part of the WASP forces completed training as a weather observer and, as a corporal, completed forecaster school. Once that was completed, Mary Scantland applied for and was granted a commission. When assigned to the 20th Weather Squadron in Japan, she was particularly adept at presenting weather briefings to combat pilots since she had, as a WASP, flown many of those same aircraft.

*(NOTE: The WASP program ended with its inactivation in December 1944. These women were civil servants, NOT considered active military at that time. These women truly inspired America with their devotion and total support.)*

## Did You Know?

Sergeant Vicki Esposito had two firsts for AWS; she is believed to be the first "WAF" to be assigned as a regular crewmember with weather reconnaissance as part of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, and, while with the 53rd WRS, she served as AWS' first female dropsonde operator.

Senior Master Sgt. Olive Folze spent 26 years in the Air Force; 12 with AWS. She enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1944, was trained in weather observing at Williams Field, Ariz., was subsequently reassigned as an administrative specialist, and finally was assigned to the 4th Weather Wing as Personnel Sergeant Major.

Upon completion of the NCO Academy in 1954, she arrived at AWS where she held many different positions including NCOIC, Officer Assignments and NCOIC, Directorate of Plans and Requirements. A WAF barracks at Scott AFB (demolished just a few short years ago), was dedicated to this woman who gave 26 years of outstanding service to her country.

These women and so many others were pioneers. They set the standard of excellence that we are challenged to maintain and which is so readily visible today not only in our uniformed women but in our civil servants too!



Photo from former Army Air Force Training Command, HQ AAF Western Flying Training Command, Santa Ana, Calif.  
Sergeant Christina L. Meaner (right) follows the movements of a pilot balloon with the theodolite, as Lt. C.J. Nolan checks the reports.



Photo from AAFTF, HQ AAFFWTC  
WAC Private 1st Class Angela Michael uses a clinometer to test cloud ceiling at Carlsbad Army Air Base, N.M.



**AIR FORCE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL**

Master Sgt. Anthony A. Pearson, 21st ASOS/ASW, Fort Polk, La.  
 Tech. Sgt. Ronnie Caldwell, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Senior Master Sgt. Leonard L. Czepiel, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif. (4th OLC)  
 Capt. Gary L. Welch, 354th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.  
 Maj. Larry L. Moore, 2nd Weather Flight, Fort McPherson, Ga. (3rd OLC)  
 Master Sgt. Phil R. Carter, 2nd WF, Fort McPherson, Ga. (1st OLC)

**AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL**

Tech. Sgt. John S. Galliano, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Staff Sgt. Kenneth Brooks, 21st ASOS/ASW, Fort Polk, La.  
 Tech. Sgt. Brian Siciliano, 49th OSS/OSW, Holloman AFB, N.M.  
 1st Lt. Michael J. Calidonna, 645th AMCG/DOMW, Travis AFB, Calif.  
 Staff Sgt. Brian W. Anderson, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky. (1st OLC)  
 1st Lt. Timothy J. Hall, AFIT, Colorado State University, Greeley, Colo.

**ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL**

Capt. Daniel A. Vasenko, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

**AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

Tech. Sgt. Latanya L. Walls, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Staff Sgt. Shane P. Castle, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Senior Airman Michael A. Ramsay, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Staff Sgt. Gary N. Shaw, 12th OSS/DOW, Randolph AFB, Texas  
 Senior Airman Brian Thomas, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Staff Sgt. Brian W. Anderson, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.  
 Staff Sgt. Travis L. Longmire, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.  
 Master Sgt. Kevin B. McGarrigle, 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del.  
 Tech. Sgt. Howard A. Cowell, Jr., 426th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del. (1st OLC)

**ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

Capt. Daniel A. Vasenko, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

**AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL**

Senior Airman Michael A. Ramsay, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Miller, 56th OSS/OSW, Luke AFB, Ariz.  
 Staff Sgt. Robert Alexander, Det. 2, 50th WS, Sagamore Hill Radio Solar Observatory, Mass.

**JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD**

Staff Sgt. Brian W. Anderson, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky. (2nd OLC)

**AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD**

19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky. (June 1, 1993-May 31, 1995)

**PROMOTIONS**



Robert F. Crosby, 110th Weather Flight, St. Louis, Mo. (ANG)



Mark Fitzgerald, 48th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Christopher G. Smith, 16th OSS/DOW, Hurlburt Field, Fla.  
 Daniel A. Vasenko, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.



Dale R. Roth, Jr., 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan



Michael E. Rudis, 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del. (STEP promotion)  
 Darryl L. Guilford, 121st WF, Andrews AFB, Md. (ANG)  
 Christopher M. Ramball, 2nd WF, Fort McPherson, Ga.



Scott Mazur, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Samuel R. Mayfield, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.  
 John C. Cobb, 207th WF, Indianapolis, Ind. (ANG)  
 Mark D. Cope, 207th WF, Indianapolis, Ind. (ANG)  
 David J. Fulgham, 127th WF, Forbes ANGB, Kansas (ANG)  
 Monty D. McMahon, 207th WF, Indianapolis, Ind. (ANG)



Leslie K. Campbell, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Gary N. Shaw, 12th OSS/DOW, Randolph AFB, Texas  
 Travis L. Longmire, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.  
 Mark L. Evidon, 195th WF, Channel Island, Calif. (ANG)  
 Albert J. Garcia, 195th WF, Channel Island, Calif. (ANG)  
 Ross A. Davis, 207th WF, Indianapolis, Ind. (ANG)



Michael E. Atkins, 426th OSS/DOW, Randolph AFB, Texas  
 Christian P. Brace, 23rd OSS/OSW, Pope AFB, N.C. (Below The Zone)



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 Jamie M. Gerdes, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo.  
 Jennifer L. Short, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo.  
 Lucas T. Boyer, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo.



Lance Stringham, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Michael B. Jones, 4th OSS/OSW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

**HAILS AND FAREWELLS**

1st Lt. Eric C. Sorbo — to Offutt AFB, Neb., from 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Tech. Sgt. Scott Mazur — to Camp Stanley, Korea, from 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 Airman 1st Class Rocco Minetti — to 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash., from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Airman Lance Stringham — to 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash., from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Airman 1st Class Tami J. Azeltine — to Korea, from 21st ASOS/ASW, Fort Polk, La.  
 Tech. Sgt. Todd Barrett — to Bad Koenigshausen, Germany, from 49th OSS/OSW, Holloman AFB, N.M.  
 Airman 1st Class Ernest Kennedy — to 49th OSS/OSW, Holloman AFB, N.M., from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Airman 1st Class Kimberly Grobe — to 49th OSS/OSW, Holloman AFB, N.M., from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Staff Sgt. Paul Torres — to 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan, from McGuire AFB, N.J.  
 Staff Sgt. Kevin Wendt — to 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan, from Maxwell AFB, Ala.  
 Senior Airman Cheri Degeyter — to 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan, from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Airman 1st Class Kimberly Phegley — to 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan, from Hill AFB, Utah.  
 1st Lt. Julia Borowick — to Patrick AFB, Fla., from 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan.  
 Staff Sgt. Jimmy Scott — to Langley AFB, Va., from 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan.  
 Senior Airman Brian Thomas — to Keesler AFB, Miss., from 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan.  
 Senior Airman Thomas Isotrella — to ROTC (University of New Hampshire), from 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan.  
 Senior Master Sgt. Leonard L. Czepiel — to 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif., from Ramstein AFB, Germany.  
 2nd Lt. Jae-Lyn T. Patton — to 16th OSS/DOW, Hurlburt Field, Fla., from Andersen AFB, Guam.  
 1st Lt. Michael J. Calidonna — to 615th AMCG/DOMW, Travis AFB, Calif., from Hill AFB, Utah.  
 Capt. Daniel A. Vasenko — to NAS Pensacola, Fla., from 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.  
 Tech. Sgt. Samuel R. Mayfield — to Fort Carson, Colo., from 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.  
 Senior Airman Steven B. Adams — to 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky., from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Staff Sgt. Joni Conway — to 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark., from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Airman 1st Class Melissa Ann Kuhl — to 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del., from Kadena AB, Japan.  
 Airman 1st Class Kory L. Iverson — to 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del., from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Airman 1st Class Nancy A. Tranter — to Eglin AFB, Fla., from 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del.  
 Tech. Sgt. Eric Bonham — to 156th WF, Charlotte, N.C., to 140th WF, Willow Grove, Pa. (ANG)  
 Tech. Sgt. John H. Waldbilling — to 116th WF, McChord AFB, Wash., from 123rd WF, Portland, Ore.  
 Airman 1st Class Leon H. Schendel — to 123rd WF, Portland, Ore., from 426th WF, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Airman Sean Brannon — to Maxwell AFB, Ala., from 334th TTS, Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Airman 1st Class Scott Hill — to Maxwell AFB, Ala., from 324th TTS, Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 Master Sgt. Richard A. Pratt — to Scott AFB, Ill., from Maxwell AFB, Ala.



Senior Airman Jennifer Carrescia -- to Camp Red Cloud, Korea, from 4th OWS/OSW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.  
 Airman Jamileh Parker -- to 47th OSS/OSW, Laughlin AFB, Texas, from Keesler AFB, Miss.  
 1st Lt. Jody Komecky -- to 45th Weather Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla., from RAF Mildenhall, England  
 Staff Sgt. James Anderson -- to 45th Weather Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla., from AFGWC, Offutt AFB, Neb.  
 Airman 1st Class Michael Thornbury -- to Aviano AB, Italy, from 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.  
 Airman 1st Class Antonio Pressley -- to 3rd ASOS, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, from Fort Riley, Kansas  
 Capt. Robert J. Carroll, Jr. -- to HQ ACC, Langley AFB, Va., from 2nd WF, Fort McPherson, Ga.

## REENLISTMENTS

Tech. Sgt. Raul Loyo-Rodriguez, 47th OSS/OSW, Laughlin AFB, Texas.

## RETIREMENTS

Tech. Sgt. Ronnie Caldwell, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Staff Sgt. Timothy Moran, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 1st Col. Joseph L. Czarniecki, 2nd WF, Fort McPherson, Ga.  
 Maj. Larry L. Moore, 2nd WF, Fort McPherson, Ga.  
 Master Sgt. Phil R. Carter, 2nd WF, Fort McPherson, Ga.

## SEPARATIONS

Senior Airman Melissa Bourne, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan

## DEPLOYMENTS

### FOAL EAGLE 95

Capt. Donald Shannon, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Staff Sgt. Larry Jones, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Staff Sgt. Craig McDougall, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Staff Sgt. Craig Duvall, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Senior Airman Kevin Bourne, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Senior Airman Kevin McCormick, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan  
 Senior Airman Thomas Totarella, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan

### COPE NORTH 95

2nd Lt. Erin Willingham, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan

## AWARDS

### 60th OSS Company Grade Officer of the Quarter (October-December 1995)

2nd Lt. Gregory J. Goar, 60th OSS/WXF, Travis AFB, Calif.

### 60th OSS Airman of the Quarter (October-December 1995)

Senior Airman Barry C. Patterson, 60th OSS/WXF, Travis AFB, Calif.

### 60th OSS Civilian of the Quarter (October-December 1995)

Charlie Phillips, 60th OSS/WXF, Travis AFB, Calif.

### 60th OSS Senior NCO of the Year (1995)

Master Sgt. Carol A. Doolan, 60th OSS/WXF, Travis AFB, Calif.

### 62nd OSS NCO of the Year

Tech. Sgt. John S. Galliano, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.  
 62nd Operations Group NCO of the Quarter (3rd quarter 1995)

Staff Sgt. Tom V. Carter, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.

### McChord AFB Forecaster of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Duane E. Klenke, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.

### McChord AFB Observer of the Quarter (3rd qtr. 1995)

Airman 1st Class Frank S. Howard, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.

### 21st ASOS NCO of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Staff Sgt. Iwana L. Burslen, 21st ASOS/ASW, Fort Polk, La.

### 56th OSS Senior NCO of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Senior Master Sgt. Andy Miller, 56th OSS/OSW, Luke AFB, Ariz.

### 18th OSS NCO of the Year (1995)

Tech. Sgt. Marvin Million, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan

### 18th OSS Airman of the Year (1995)

Senior Airman Kevin Bourne, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan

### 77th OSS NCO of the Quarter (3rd qtr. 1995)

Tech. Sgt. William Anderson, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif.

### 77th OSS Airman of the Quarter (3rd qtr. 1995)

Senior Airman Alula B. Berhane, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif.

### Pakistani Parachutist Wings

Capt. Daniel A. Vasenko, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### Jordanian Parachutist Wings

Tech. Sgt. John R. Walsh, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### Egyptian Parachutist Wings

Tech. Sgt. Samule R. Maxfield, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Staff Sgt. Brian W. Anderson, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### United Arab Emirates Parachutist Wings

Senior Airman Kenneth E. Harris, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### 19th ASOS Company Grade Officer of the Year

Capt. Daniel A. Vasenko, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### 19th ASOS NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Brian W. Anderson, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### 114th AW Outstanding Weather Company Grade Officer of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

2nd Lt. Darryl N. Leon, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS Senior NCO of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Master Sgt. Phillip D. Thompson, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS Civilian of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Mr. Frederick G. Martin, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS/OSW Forecaster Technician of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Mr. Frederick G. Martin, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS/OSW Observer Technician of the Quarter (3rd qtr. 1995)

Senior Airman Jennifer C. Barnes, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS/OSW Company Grade Officer of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

2nd Lt. Darryl N. Leon, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS/OSW Senior NCO of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Master Sgt. Phillip D. Thompson, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS/OSW Civilian of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Mr. Frederick G. Martin, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 314th OSS/OSW Airman of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Senior Airman Jennifer C. Barnes, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

### 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del., Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Kevin B. McGarrigle, 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del.

### 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del., NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Behn K. Wassel, 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del.

### 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del., Airman of the Year

Airman 1st Class Travis L. Culliton, 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del.

### 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del. Airman of the Quarter (4th qtr. 1995)

Airman 1st Class Nancy A. Tranter, 436th OSS/OSW, Dover AFB, Del.

### Pennsylvania Commendation Medal (ANG)

Staff Sgt. Janet M. O'Brien, 140th WF, Willow Grove, Pa.

### Award of 5-Level AFSC

Staff Sgt. Christian F. Johnson, 126th WF, Milwaukee, Wis. (ANG)

### 42nd OS/OSW NCO of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. David Thiery, 42nd OS/OSW, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

### 42nd OS/OSW Airman of the Quarter

Senior Airman Steve Ball, 42nd OS/OSW, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

### 47th OSS Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Robert E. DuFrame, 47th OSS/OSW, Laughlin AFB, Texas

### 47th OSS NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Warren W. Weyer, 47th OSS/OSW, Laughlin AFB, Texas

### 47th OSS NCO of the Quarter

Tech. Sgt. Raul Loyo-Rodriguez, 47th OSS/OSW, Laughlin AFB, Texas

### 45th Weather Squadron Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

Capt. Scot Heckman, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th WS Senior NCO of the Quarter

Master Sgt. George Strohm, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th WS NCO of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Robert Kane, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th WS Airman of the Quarter

Senior Airman Frederick Boyd, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th WS Civilian of the Quarter

Mr. Johnny Weems, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th WS Volunteer of the Quarter

Mr. Bill Roeder, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th Operations Group Company Grade Officer of the Quarter

Capt. Scot Heckman, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th OG Airman of the Quarter

Senior Airman Frederick Boyd, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th OG Mid-Level Civilian of the Quarter

Mr. Johnny Weems, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

### 45th OG Volunteer of the Quarter

Mr. Bill Roeder, 45th WS, Patrick AFB, Fla.

## EDUCATION

### Weather Officer Skills Course

2nd Lt. Dec Van M. Emory, 62nd OSS/OSW, McChord AFB, Wash.

### WSR-800 PUP Operations/Manager Course

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Gould, 18th OSS/OSW, Kadena AB, Japan

### Weather Satellite and Photo Interpretation Course

Senior Airman Bryan Garton, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif.

Staff Sgt. Phillip Jones, 4th OSS/OSW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

### Automated Weather Distribution System (AWDS) Managers Course

Mr. Homer Beddo, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif.

### High Frequency Course

Senior Airman Robert H. Martinez, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif.

Staff Sgt. Bradley Davis, 4th OSS/OSW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Henry, 4th OSS/OSW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

### Airman Leadership School

Senior Airman Alula B. Berhane, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif.

Senior Airman Kenneth E. Harris, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Senior Airman William A. Lane, 4th OSS/OSW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.

Senior Airman Keith E. Evans, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo. (LeVetow Award)

Senior Airman Westy M. Evans, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

### NCO Academy

Tech. Sgt. Mark K. Duke, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif.

Tech. Sgt. John R. Walsh, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### Bachelor's Degree in Public Management

Senior Airman Marcin L. Lindstrom, 16th OSS/OSW, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

### Basic Airborne School

1st Lt. Brian D. Griffith, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### Joint Special Operations Staff Officers Course

Capt. Daniel A. Vasenko, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### Introduction to Special Operations Course

1st Lt. Brian W. Griffith, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Tech. Sgt. John R. Walsh, 19th ASOS/5th SFG(A), Fort Campbell, Ky.

### Masters Degree in Aeronautical Science (Embry-Riddle University)

Capt. Chip Parker, HQ AWS, Scott AFB, Ill.

### Masters Degree in Human Resources Development (Webster University)

Staff Sgt. Richard Slominsky, AFCC, Scott AFB, Ill.

## MARRIAGES

Airman Rachel Andrews, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif., to Senior Airman Adam Wright

Airman Nya Scott, 77th OSS/OSW, McClellan AFB, Calif., to Mr. Jermaine Watt.

## BIRTHS

Hailey Serene Maurer, to Airman Joshua and Mrs. Valerie Maurer, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Wyatt Blake Schroeder, to Senior Airman S. Isabel and Jason Schroeder, 314th OSS/OSW, Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Kallie Kristine Slominsky, to Staff Sgt. Richard and Mrs. DeNeen Slominsky, AFCC, Scott AFB, Ill.

# The

# 617th

# Weather

# Squadron

by Master Sgt. Steve Potts  
617th Weather Squadron

Their area of responsibility (AOR) covers 86 countries and more than 100 million square miles. More than 200 members of the 617th Weather Squadron are committed to producing comprehensive weather intelligence for the European Theater. The 617th WS and its 15 subordinate units focus on weather support for the United States Army Europe (USAREUR), with an area of responsibility beyond the European continent, to include Southwest Asia and Africa.

USAREUR, however, is not the only customer for the



617th. The squadron provides weather intelligence to European Command (EUCOM) land forces and a variety of North Atlantic Treaty Organizations (NATO) including Allied Land Forces Central Europe (LANDCENT), Armed Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), and the ACE Mobile Force-Land (AMF(L)).

"If you're looking for a challenge, this is where you will find it. Supporting our numerous customers with their many different requirements takes a forward thinking go-getter," said Lt. Col. Malcom E. Gosdin, Jr., 617th WS commander. "If you can think on your feet and want job satisfaction, you're in the right place."

The squadron has a long history of service to the nation





A key time for all deployed forces came when the Implementation Force (IFOR) waited to cross the Sava on a pontoon bridge. To make difficult conditions worse, a levee broke at the proposed crossing site, and the floods that followed washed out many encampments set up along the river. In addition, storm systems dumped additional precipitation, increasing the flood waters.

and the European Theater. The squadron began as the 7th Weather Squadron, founded July 8, 1959. Since then, the squadron has been active defending the European continent throughout the Cold War. A new era began as the 7th WS was redesignated the 617th Weather Squadron July 1, 1994. The squadron falls under the operational command of the 617th Air Support Operations Group (ASOG), while HQ USAREUR maintains operational control.

The 617th WS mission is to "Provide peacetime and wartime weather intelli-

gence to the U.S. European Command, U.S. Army Europe, NATO's Land Forces Central Europe, and the ACE Mobile Force." The 617th deploys throughout the AOR using the most advanced tactical communications and meteorological equipment to date.

The squadron directly supported Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, PROVIDE HOPE in Somalia, SUPPORT HOPE in Rwanda, DENY FLIGHT and PROVIDE PROMISE in the former Yugoslavia, PROVIDE COMFORT in Iraq,

ABLE SENTRY in Macedonia, NOMAD VIGIL in Albania, and most recently, JOINT ENDEAVOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina. NATO participation included exercises such as ATLANTIC RESOLVE 94, COUNTER GUARD, CHINESE EYE, STRONG RESOLVE, CANNON CLOUD, CALM UMBRELLA, and ARCADE FUSION.

Maintaining the highest levels of readiness, the squadron logged over 1,500 man-days of deployed contingency support, and over 9,500 man-days of exercise support in each of the past 2 years.

By the completion of JOINT ENDEAVOR at the end of the year, the 617th WS will have deployed over 90% of its officers, NCOs, and airmen in direct support of the operation. "If you want to deploy, the 617th is definitely the place to be," said Maj. Paul G. Niesen, Det. 6 (Wiesbaden) commander, about the operations tempo the past few years.

In addition to exercises and contingencies, each detachment is responsible for airfield support at their specific location. Detachments work closely with their local Base Support Battalion (BSB) or Area Support Group (ASG) to provide weather for the military communities throughout Germany and the northern half of Italy.

The European Met Center (Det. 4) is responsible for the Refined Area Weather Warning (RAWW) and the Military Community Weather Watch (MCWW) for ASGs throughout Belgium, Italy and Germany. While the RAWW provides operational decision assistance, the MCWW provides notification of winter or severe weather advisory information, the first in AFW to cover such a large scale. When issued, these "weather watches" are broadcast over American Forces Network radio and television.

Since its inception last fall, this service has proved to be a visible and valuable weather tool for military and civilian communities in the theater.

The 617th WS has been actively in-

involved in the Partnership For Peace Program since its inception. The squadron began by preparing and transmitting forecasts for exercise PEACEKEEPER 94, the first United States exercise in Russia. Since then, 617th WS personnel have provided assistance to COOPERATIVE LIGHT, COOPERATIVE JAGUAR, COOPERATIVE DETERMINATION, PEACEFUL EAGLE, and PEACEKEEPER 95 Partnership For Peace exercises.

In addition, four Romanian weather officers visited the squadron as part of the military-to-military exchange program. Their itinerary included visits to the squadron headquarters and Detachment 8 for hands on demonstrations of tactical communications and meteorological equipment.

Other military-to-military programs included weapon exchanges with the Germans. This program provides a unique opportunity for 617th weather warriors to train and qualify on German weapons systems.

World War II ceremonies in 1994 commemorating the Allied Forces invasion of Europe were a major part of the squadron's operations tempo. The squadron deployed weather teams to commemorations of Operation DRAGOON in southern France, Operation MARKET GARDEN in Holland, The Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, and the massive golden anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. During the D-Day ceremonies, the squadron's accurate and timely fore-

casts and observations overcame deplorable weather conditions.

While dignitaries from other nations became stranded, President Clinton, the Joint Chiefs, and other U.S. dignitaries were never caught unprepared or stranded when transportation plans changed due to adverse weather conditions.

Much of the squadron's success is credited to its unique and comprehensive training program. The Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany, is host to Detachment 9 and the Combat Weather Training Course (CWTC).

Each quarter, the detachment hosts all incoming Army support weather personnel for one week of rigorous training on theater-unique requirements. Weather warriors first take a class on European Theater Weather Orientation, which covers all aspects of meteorology in theater, from climatology to meso-scale events.

The next phase of the course focuses on all tactical communications and meteorological equipment. The third phase emphasizes soldier skills, while a fourth phase provides a wrap of all three phases with hands-on training.

As a result, 617th WS personnel are fully deployable and are highly trained for their EUCOM mission.

The 617th relies on its relentless pursuit of superior meteorological communications. The Squadron headquarters developed the Data Upload Download System (DUDS). This system, created with existing and readily available army equipment, uses customer communications networks and optimizes data flow through tactical or defense switchboard phone lines.

You can even find the 617th on the Internet. The 617th WS home page provides the latest European weather, including operational impact charts for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. Feel free to stop by at "<http://144.170.183.100/617ws.htm>."

In addition, Detachment 4, working side by side with the German Military Geophysics Office (GMGO), acquired the state of the art GMGO Metassi satellite communications system. The first system was fielded to

OBSERVER



The 617th Weather Squadron provided support for D-Day ceremonies like this.



Detachments 3 and 6, along with OL-E during exercise MOUNTAIN SHIELD 1, in June 1994. The units praised the systems capabilities.

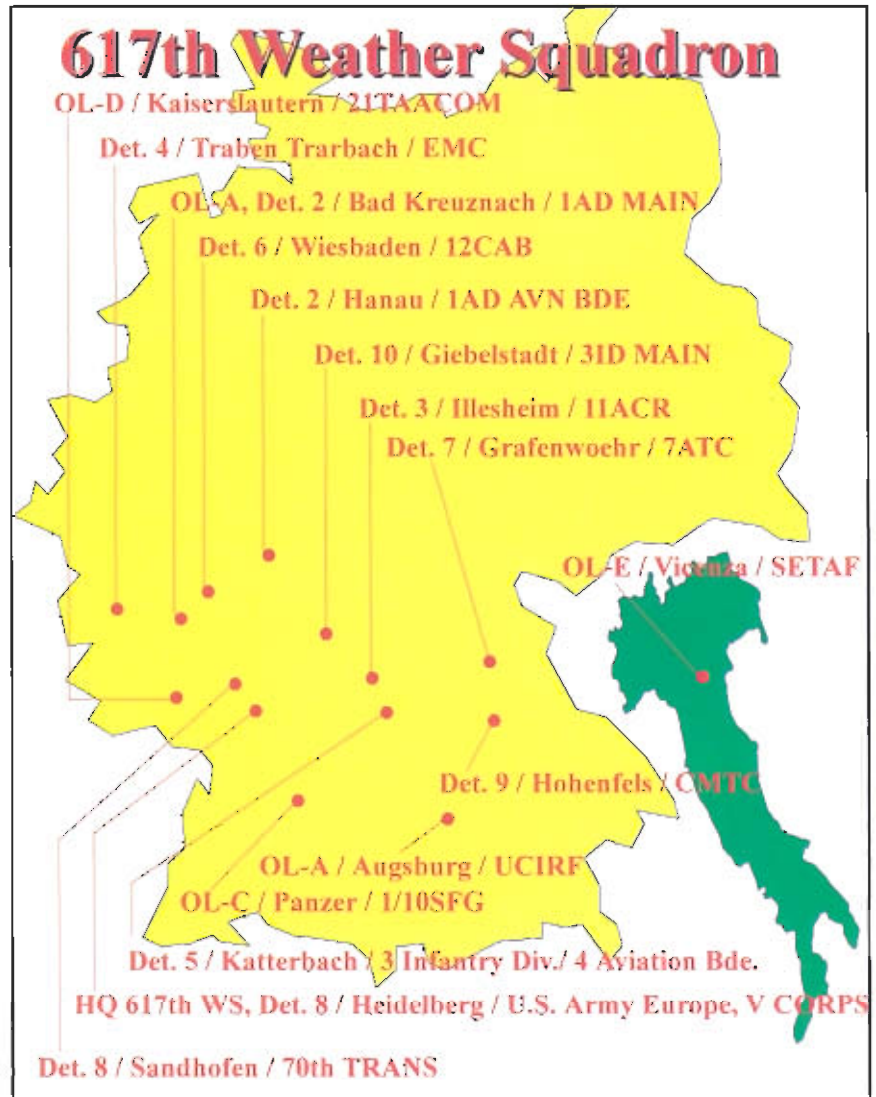
"All you need with Metassi is a (satellite) dish (two feet in diameter), (down) converter (size of a VCR), laptop, and 15 minutes," said Staff Sgt. Wright, Detachment 6. Twenty-seven systems have been procured, and Metassi is one of the primary meteorological communications system for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The squadron also takes full advantage of NATO's Linked OPS/Intel Center Europe (LOCE) and Tactical Information System (TIS). These systems provide optimum tactical and garrison communications for all NATO exercises and contingencies. With ongoing research on these and other systems, along with the fielding of the Integrated Meteorological Systems (IMETS) this spring, the 617th remains at the forefront of tactical and garrison weather communications.

The 617th deploys whenever and wherever our customers deploy. Over the years, the squadron has conquered tough conditions from the cold of Norway, to the deserts of the Middle East, to the tropics of Africa. The current deployment, operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, is no different. In the initial phases of the operation, the USAREUR FWD weather team overcame austere working and living conditions in Hungary. Tech. Sgt. Targaszewski, of OL-C, set up his command weather cell inside a bombed out factory's brick oven in Kiseljack, just outside of Sarajevo. Observers set up operations in a sea of knee deep mud at Zupanja, the Sava river bridging site.

A key time for all deployed forces came when the Implementation Force (IFOR) waited to cross the Sava on a pontoon bridge. To make difficult conditions worse, a levee broke at the proposed crossing site, and the floods that followed washed out many encampments set up along the river. In addition, storm systems dumped additional precipitation, increasing the flood waters.

Engineers and logistics planners worked closely with 617th deployed per-



sonnel in Taszar, Kaposvar, and Zupanja to determine the best bridge construction site and crossing time window.

The coordination between forecasters and engineers was perfect: the largest pontoon bridge since WWII was built on schedule, and the crossing took place as planned. The weather force was there and the Army was truly glad for the support.

The operations tempo continues to accelerate the rest of the year. The continuation of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, along with numerous USAREUR and NATO exercises are on the schedule in the months ahead.

But please don't get the impression the 617th is all work and no play. A tour with the 617th provides the once in a lifetime opportunity to absorb the

European culture. Additionally, the squadron logs over 500 volunteer hours per month. Our weather warriors spend their spare time working with local USOs, churches, hospitals, and other various other clubs. It promises to be an exciting future for the 617th, and the Squadron looks forward to the challenges ahead.

Our motto says it all, "SERVONS TOUJOURS PRET," Always Ready to Serve!



# AFGWC: The Regionalized Production Center

Transforming Air Force Global Weather Central (at Offutt AFB, Neb.) into a more responsive, production-oriented outfit is the driving force behind a major restructure that will revolutionize the way we operate.

We call our new structure *Regionalization* and with it, we will provide weather support that is more flexible and precisely focused to add value at theater, major command, and field unit levels.

By summer 1996, we will redesign our product suite to :

(1) better satisfy your theater's requirements;

(2) have these new products ready when you need them; and

(3) disseminate your theater's tailored product suite via the communications system available to you.

This, in a nutshell, is the business

by Capt. Don Berchoff and Mr. Bruce Telfeyan, AFGWC

plan that we believe will ultimately fulfill our vision to become the supplier of choice for Air Force Weather and America's warfighters.

## Why do we need Regionalization?

The hemispheric products AFGWC historically provided were primarily driven by "Cold War" strategic mission requirements.

With our national military doctrine now focused on limited, theater scale conflicts, we must make a corresponding adjustment in AFGWC's focus.

Our main emphasis will shift to providing regional and theater window forecast products. These windows will include theater support cells for Euro-

pean Command, Central Command, Pacific Command, and ACOM (over the United States) areas of interest. There will also be a Southern Command area support cell, capable of "floating" to any theater of concern. (See accompanying illustration)

The first of these cells, the EUCOM area support cell, was activated on Jan. 16, 1996, and is now producing a suite of products for the European continent, including contingency products to Bosnia. The products include, but are not limited to, Military Weather Advisories; Low Level Hazards charts; and cloud ceiling/visibility forecasts for three ceiling categories determined by U.S. Air Force and Army units in Europe.

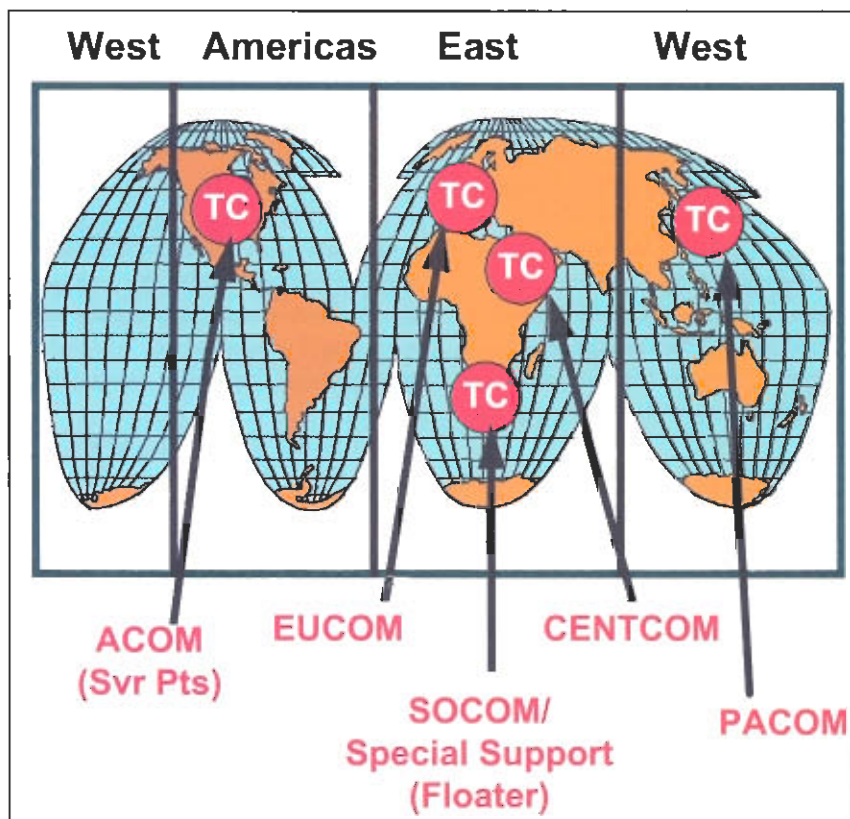
What about needed hemispheric weather charts?

AFGWC will continue to provide seamless hemispheric support products, with the capability to cover pole to pole, for our Global Reach/Power customers to sustain a global mission.

## How Will AFGWC Improve Forecast Accuracy and Precision?

We will accomplish this through advances in technology and communications. First, we are replacing our global forecast model, the fifteen year old Global Spectral Model (GSM) with the state-of-the-art Naval Oceanographic Global Analysis and Prediction System (NOGAPS) model.

Next, we are purchasing workstations to use along the Satellite Data Handling System (SDHS) consoles to bridge a technology gap until the upgrade several years from now. Forecasters will access the Relocatable Window Model on the workstations which provides higher reso-



See AFGWC,  
continued on Page 22



# Tailored Climatology

## 'Triple-C' Products Offer Instant Impact For The Warfighter

The Air Force Combat Climatology Center (AFCCC) produces a wealth of "first look" aids to help you gauge how weather may impact operations.

The types of products available include mission tailored climatologies, theater climatic probabilities, descriptive climatologies, and automated forecaster aids.

It's no mistake that mission tailored climatologies head the list. One of the center's strongest points is the ability to respond to specific, individual customer requirements and tailor our products and services appropriately. Our center-wide contingency response capability was recently put to the test in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

One of our customer's specific weather-related concerns was how often to expect snow cover during various months (*see illustration*).

We also have several ongoing, regular projects providing operational weather-impact information for the next three months using the climatic database for several theaters.

The theater climatic probabilities product was started for Bosnia. Similar packages for Korea and Southwest Asia are currently being reviewed by our customers, with another one under development for Central America. For these dial-in products, we display the historical occurrence of, or their values of, various meteorological elements.

Qualitative weather-impact remarks addressing weather anomalies and anticipated effects on air, land, and sea operations are also included. Descriptive climatologies are used mostly for planning, contingency support, and training, and they generally fall into three formats: point, small area, and regional studies. Point studies often cover only a few weeks of interest, but small area studies may encompass a season or the entire year.

Our North Slope Study, which was used in the FORECAST CHALLENGE '95 competition, covered one month.

by Capt. Phil Stone  
Applications Programming  
Branch, AFCCC/SYS

We perform extensive research to write and publish our regional climatologies. These narratives cover continent-sized portions of the globe and give a comprehensive look at a region's major climatic controls and special meteorological features.

The regionals are a good start in providing a planner or operator an overview of the climate and weather of a region. But the next step in this type of support will be a hypertexted CD-ROM containing narratives, data tables, and center-developed programs. AFCCC is currently prototyping these CD-ROMs known as theater climatic files (TCFs).

A TCF is designed as a first-in, single-source climatological database for deployed weather force, but base weather stations, MAJCOMs, and other staff planners will also find this an invaluable tool. The TCF's hypertext links will allow you to jump from one topic to a related topic instantly.

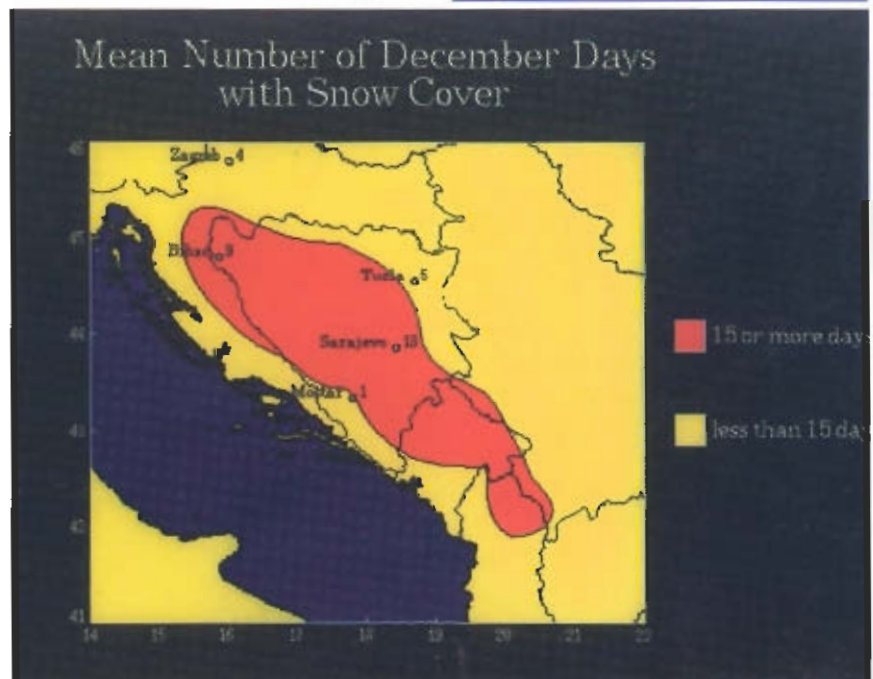
The first TCF is based on the regional

study for Eastern Europe, and, space permitting, it will also include pertinent point and small area studies as well as a variety of automated forecaster aids.

Automated forecaster aids are user-friendly programs developed for your computer. Here's a brief description of some of these programs:

- Cloud Ceiling Climatology Atlas: displays probabilities of cloud ceilings at various heights, for different months and times of day.
- EOCLIMO: provides atmospheric transmittance values and how weather impacts transmittance for locations worldwide.
- MODCV: displays modeled probabilities of ceiling and visibility for specific locations.
- MODCURVES: displays modeled diurnal and annual fluctuations of temperature, dew point, and pressure.
- UACLIMO: provides upper air climatology data for input flight routes worldwide as well as standard heights in the atmosphere.

Contact Captain Stone at AFCCC at DSN 576-4416.



## What's The Story?

Do you see a story about your flight or squadron here? Well, **WHY NOT?** If you have a story to tell (and it can be about something off-duty as well, like sports) then send it to: HQ AWS/RMA, 102 W. Losey St., Rm. 105, Scott AFB, IL 62225; or fax it to DSN 576-2417; or e-mail it to "elliotts@hqaws.safb.af.mil."

by Dale Eckroth  
12th Flying Training Wing  
Public Affairs  
Randolph AFB, Texas

**M**aster Sgt. Rick Downing of the 12th Operations Support Squadron weather flight at Randolph AFB, Texas, recently captured top honors in the 1995 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award competition.

The award recognizes individuals assigned to organizations at the wing level or below who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities. Downing was nominated in the junior enlisted category as a technical sergeant.

As superintendent of the 12th OSS weather flight, Downing is responsible for providing all operational weather support to 19th Air Force and 12th FTW commanders and staffs.

The weather flight supports eight flying squadrons at Randolph AFB.

# OBSERVATIONS

## Randolph Weather NCO captures Sijan Leadership Award



Photo by Charlie Perez

Master Sgt. Rick Downing (right) reviews weather data with (from left) Airmen 1st Class Farrell Brassell, Christopher Reddington, and Steve Baldinger.

The award also recognized Downing for his successful training and application of the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD), Automated Weather Distribution System (AWDS), and the Marta Weather Radar base-wide network.

"This is the ultimate honor," Downing said when he learned of the award. "When you look at all those in the Air Force who are deserving of this honor, it's a milestone to be singled out.

"I didn't do this on my own," he added. "These accomplishments are the result of the dedication and professionalism of the forecasters and observers I supervise. They are the best I've seen in 15 years in the Air Force."

Downing, who supervises a 16-member enlisted staff, said he owes a big "thank you" to his supervisors and commander who have shown confidence in his abilities and allowed him to pursue quality improvements in accomplishing the mission.

Downing's other accomplishments include winning the Outstanding Air Force Weather NCO award, the Randolph NCO of the Year award, and the Air Weather Association Collens award, all in 1994. He is also president of the 12th OSS NCO Council and the Randolph AFB Top Three Association.



Photo by Charlie Perez

Master Sgt. Rick Downing points out severe weather to Airman 1st Class Steve Baldinger.



# FROM THE FIELD

## Former AWS Vice Commander Wins AMS Award

Retired Col. Gene J. Pfeffer, Air Weather Service vice commander from 1991-92, was recently awarded the Charles L. Mitchell Award at the American Meteorological Society Awards Banquet in Atlanta, Ga.

Pfeffer, now a senior scientist with Radian Corporation, Boulder, Colo., received the award for "an outstanding 30-year career at the forefront of national weather support activities in the Air

Weather Service."

The Mitchell Award is awarded for long-term service by a person engaged in weather forecasting activities. It is one of three awards given by the AMS specifically to weather forecasters.

Pfeffer's 30-year career included assignments at Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Scott AFB, Ill.; RAF Bentwaters, England; Hanscom AFB, Mass.; Washington, D.C.; and Peterson AFB, Colo. The colonel was a major figure in the reorganization of Air Weather Service in 1991, the largest such reorganization of weather since the Korean War.

Pfeffer was elected a fellow of the AMS in 1991.

## Hurricane Hunters Finish Record-Breaking 1995 Season

by Maj. Doug Lipscombe  
53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron  
Keesler AFB, Miss.

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, better known as the Air Force Reserve's "Hurricane Hunters", have completed the second busiest hurricane season since accurate records have been kept.

Throughout the season, the squadron provided critical and precise weather data to the National Hurricane Center. NHC estimates the data received from Hurricane Hunter aircraft increased their prediction accuracy by up to 30 percent.

The 1995 hurricane season, June through November, will go down in Hurricane Hunter history as a season of many new records. A few of those include:

- Hurricane Allison, formed June 1, was the earliest hurricane in a season in 15 years.
- Hurricane Felix, in August, set the record for the most missions flown during a single storm.
- More than 600 hours were flown on storm missions in the month of August in the Atlantic.
- The Hurricane Hunters flew a record 1,842 hours on 156 missions, setting the record for most hours flown by a single unit in support of the storm warning system.

The year ended with 19 named tropical cyclones, two short of the record of 21 set in 1933, and ended with 11 hurricanes, one short of the record of 12 set in 1969.

The Improved Weather Reconnaissance System (IWRSS) continued to provide enormous amounts of



Photo courtesy of AFCCC

Staff Sgt. William Ogle, the last USAFETAC guidon bearer, presents the guidon to retired Col. Dale J. Flinders, the first USAFETAC commander.

## USAFETAC Guidon Makes Full Circle

When the U.S. Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center at Scott AFB, Ill., was redesignated the Air Force Combat Climatology Center Sept. 29, 1995, the center's first (and only) guidon was also retired. Recently, this guidon was presented to retired Col. Dale J. Flinders, the first USAFETAC commander.

Colonel Flinders, who commanded the center from 1966-68, also served in Air Force Weather in Burma during World War II.

See **OBSERVATIONS**

*continued on Page 23*

# ANG takes FORECAST CHALLENGE '96 crown

The Air National Guard took the top award and a first-place award in another category at the third annual Air Force-wide Weather Forecasting Competition, Forecast Challenge '96, held at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Feb. 5-9, 1996.

Master Sgt. Jeffrey A. Goldman and Tech. Sgt. Nelson W. Lee, both from Ellington Field, Texas, took the ANG to its first overall victory. Goldman and Lee have represented the Guard in the past two Forecast Challenge competitions. The pair have worked together for nine years as members of the ANG.

The teams from Air Force Global Weather Central, Pacific Air Forces, Air Combat Command-Army support, and U.S. Air Forces in Europe were also multiple winners.

The Yates Award for best overall weather forecasting is named for Lt. Gen. Donald N. Yates and is given to the first-, second-, and third-place teams with the highest combined scores for all products during the competition. This includes weather warnings and advisories, mission planning forecasts, mission forecasts, target forecasts, and terminal aerodrome forecasts.

While the ANG team took overall first place, second place went to the Pacific Air Forces team of Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Haas, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; and Staff Sgt. Angela L. Uribe-Olson, Misawa AB, Japan. In third place was the AFGWC team, representing Air Weather Service, consisting of Tech. Sgt. Harry L. Druckenmiller and Staff Sgt. James D. Gunderson. Both forecasters are from Offutt AFB, Neb.

Several other awards were presented for different categories of weather forecasting. The Dunlap-Weiherg Award recognizes the teams with the highest combined scores for all terminal aerodrome forecasts.

First place in the Dunlap-Weiherg Award went to the AFGWC team of Druckenmiller and Gunderson. Second place went to the ACC-Air Force sup-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Elliott

Master Sgt. Jeffrey A. Goldman and Tech. Sgt. Nelson W. Lee celebrate winning the Yates Award for top overall forecasting team at FORECAST CHALLENGE '96.

by Staff Sgt. Steve Elliott  
Editor, OBSERVER

port team of Staff Sgt. Kirk D. Bailey, Cannon AFB, N.M.; and Staff Sgt. Wayne A. Davidson, Shaw AFB, S.C. The third place award went to the USAFE team of Staff Sgt. Dennis A. Anglin II, Traben Trarbach, Germany; and Staff Sgt. Scott J. Bradley, Ramstein AB, Germany.

The next award presented was the Lucey-Speer Award for the teams with the highest combined scores for all target forecasts issued during the competition. The first-place winner of the Lucey-Speer Award was the ANG team of Goldman and Lee, while second place was won by the ACC-Army Support team of Staff Sgt. Richard W. Willard, Fort Belvoir, Va.; and Senior Airman William H. Greenwood, Fort Sill, Okla. Third place was awarded to the USAFE team of Anglin and Bradley.

The final award was the Ellsworth Award for the highest combined scores for all mission forecasts issued during the competition. The first-place winner of the Ellsworth Award was the team from PACAF, Haas and Uribe-Olson. Second place went to the ACC-Army team of

Willard and Greenwood. Third place was won by the Air Force Space Command team of Staff Sgt. Robert A. Kane and Senior Airman June E. Ramsdell, both from Patrick AFB, Fla.

Simulating an actual deployment, the teams from nine major commands, the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and Air Force Global Weather Central, used only limited data to make an initial forecast.

Inside six partitioned cells, the 24 weather forecasters, working in teams of two, tested their technical ability in forecasting for a variety of climates and missions during the competition.

"During the initial preparation for a military deployment, weather personnel take the current weather charts and forecast information that is available to them. By the time they arrive at the deployed location and make the first forecast, 18 to 36 hours might have passed. To make that initial forecast, all you have are your old charts. Without current weather data, the forecaster is making a limited-data forecast," said Col. Mike Haas, chief, Resources Division,

See FORECAST CHALLENGE  
continued on Page 23



oh, by the way

## AWS forms Aerospace Sciences Division

Headquarters Air Weather Service has formed an Aerospace Sciences Division (AWS/XON) dedicated to the insertion of science into Air Force Weather operations.

The new division is building on the capabilities of our former Technology Training Division (AWS/XOT) to provide products and services designed to assist Instructor Meteorologists and Command Meteorologists in integrating science into the forecast process. All of the products formerly provided by AWS/XOT will continue. In addition, the focus of attention will be more on the scientific needs of the technical weather station leaders, the command and instructor meteorologists.

The division's new electronic mail comment address is "hqawsxon@hqaws.safb.af.mil".

The 24-hour voice mail comment line is still DSN 576-4721 ext. 441, commercial (618) 256-4721 ext. 441.

## Getting in touch with the Air Force Personnel Center

People trying to contact Chief Master Sgt. Tom Klumb, the chief of enlisted weather assignments, may experience delays and sometimes not be able to even get through.

"Because of the volume of 'am I hot' and 'what's going to be open next year' type phone calls the Air Force Personnel Center gets every day, it's really important for those callers in the rank of technical sergeant and below to call ext. 2111 or 2112," the chief said. "The people working the inquiry line are really quite good at answering most assignment questions. Master sergeants and above can call myself or Tech. Sgt. Austin directly at DSN 487-4768."

Chief Klumb also said that station chiefs and other supervisors should not call on behalf of someone else.

"This is not a cut in service," the chief said. "I think people will actually see an improvement in customer support since the people who man the inquiry line are more experienced in answering most assignment questions, leaving us more time to work questions from senior NCOs, the major commands, and the military personnel flights.

## Air National Guard vacancies

There are vacancies for officers and enlisted weather people at the following Air National Guard locations:

- 123rd Weather Flight, Portland, Ore. — 2 enlisted
- 140th WF, Willow Grove, Pa. — 1 enlisted
- 203rd WF, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. — 5 enlisted
- 207th WF, Indianapolis, Ind. — 2 officers
- 116th WF, McChord AFB, Wash. — 1 officer
- 122nd WF, New Orleans, La. — 2 officers
- 125th WF, Tulsa, Okla. — 2 officers
- 199th WF, Wheeler Army Air Field,



Hawaii — 1 officer

For more information about these positions, call Ted Houghton at DSN 278-8285.

## MOS kit accountability

Those weather units receiving the Manual Observing System (MOS) kits need to submit the necessary supply request forms to their base supply squadron with the accompanying receipt document, according to the Headquarters Air Weather Service logistics and configurations management office. This will assure proper documentation for these kits on their custody authorization receipt list (CA/CRI).

The applicable indicative data for these forms is as follows:

TA - 789; Duget Code - 9; ERRC - NF3; U/I - EA; Price - \$2,885; Source - local purchase through IIQ AWS/SYX; Noun - MOSKIT.

For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Sue Floyd or Master Sgt. Ernie Haswell at DSN 576-3840, ext. 317 or 316, respectively.

Put THIS on your "Hot List"

**What:** The Daily Planet.

**Who:** The Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign.

**URL:** <http://www.atmos.uiuc.edu/>

**What's there:** weather and climate products, weather visualizer, an online guide to meteorology, geosciences web server.

(Don't forget to check out the AWS Home Page at "<http://infosphere.safb.af.mil/~aws/>" and the Air Weather Association Home Page at "<http://www.infh.net/~cwt/awa.html>")

## ROADMAP

*continued from Page 4*

reading the computer monitor's display, then your meteorology schooling is wasted.

The 700- and 500-millibar levels are at the surface in some regions. Numerical weather prediction, while improving the prognosis of constant pressure charts, does not always foretell the meanderings of that weather producer — the jet stream.

You, the local weather forecaster, can make the difference between good or poor advice to the warfighter.

Know the geography and earn the accolade "good ol' Stormy". Your career depends on it.

In a future article, I will relate how this 'ol' Stormy" (Captain Collens) used analogues to predict an arctic polar outbreak in Western Europe.

Also, I'll talk about how our two-man detachment (Major Collens and Captain Chamberlain) developed an empirical rule for oceanographic influences in the Taiwan Straits.

I leave you with these historic facts about some of your predecessors:

— The World War II D-Day surf forecast was produced by a U.S. Army Air Forces weatherman/oceanographer working with the British Admiralty.

— The Korean War Inchon landing surf forecast was produced by an U.S. Air Force weather forecaster at the AWS Tokyo Weather Central.

Have a question for Colonel Dushan? Write to: HQ AWS/CC, 102 W. Losey St., Rm. 105, Scott AFB, Ill. 62225-5206.

## AFGWC,

*continued from Page 16*

lution, and more accurate output for generating area forecasts.

Third, we will access near real-time satellite imagery from the satellite global database and geostationary satellites (GOES, METEOSAT, GMS, and eventually INSAT).

Finally, we will supplement this information with WSR-88D reports, lightning detection data, AIREPS, PIREPS, wind profiler output, satellite special sensor microwave data, and traditional surface and rawinsonde reports.

How will you get these higher quality products in our hands quickly? By exploiting faster, more robust communications systems.

The Automated Weather Distribution System (AWDS) will continue as the primary dissemination system for Regionalization products. However, products will also be available via our dial-in service, AFDIS and the AFGWC home page, AFWIN.

For deployed customers without access to AWDS, AFDIS and AFWIN, we are working with theater customers to arrange for pushing products to a server in theater, so units may access them locally.

Currently, we are pushing products to the 617th Weather Squadron server in Heidelberg, Germany, ensuring our charts reach forecasters supporting

troops in Bosnia. AFGWC is also working to provide products over secure communication channels, such as SIPRNET and GCCS.

### How will AFGWC be reorganized?

Regionalization divides the world into three "strategic" regions, Asia-Pacific (135W-90E), Europe-Southwest Asia-Africa (90E-20W), and the Americas (20W-135W).

Strategic regions will produce hemispheric products similar to those produced today, and mission-tailored products to support global reach missions.

Theater area support cells assigned to each region will provide a suite of theater scale products for high interest areas of operation and special contingency products for other areas as required. Each theater cell will have an NCOIC directing production efforts.

While the cells will operate around the clock, each NCOIC's work hours will be aligned to coincide with the in-theater customer's peak workload requirements.

Also, we are modifying and simplifying our support assistance request (SAR) submission procedures. By incorporating an E-mail request capability, we will more responsively provide you with high priority special assistance. You'll also be able to quickly provide feedback on how we can do better.

What about the existing role of

the in-theater forecast cells currently producing products within those theaters?

AFGWC will complement and support, rather than duplicate or compete with the theater forecast units. There is more than enough work to go around for our limited resources.

AFGWC can help by relieving some of the burden, thereby, allowing the theater forecast units to redirect resources to more pressing theater weather support needs. We are working hand-in-hand with the using commands to facilitate this process.

Regionalization is no longer a dream or vision, it is a reality. Our EUCOM area cell is actively producing and disseminating quality, mission-tailored products. The same will hold true for other theaters this summer.

With all the changes going on, several areas will remain constant: both CONUS Severe and our Tropical Storm Fixing Section will continue to provide the same quality products and services. We also contemplate no changes in the way we support classified operations.

These are exciting times at AFGWC. Higher quality forecast products are headed your way. Let us know how we are doing; we hope to hear from you soon.

For more information on Regionalization, contact Capt Don Berchhoff, DSN 271-9766, or E-mail: DBerchhoff@oafbmail.offutt.af.mil.



## OBSERVATIONS

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data, automatically measuring temperature, pressure, humidity, and winds every 30 seconds of flight, translating to a data point every half-mile. This critical high-density, high-accuracy data continues to be crucial in NHC's forecasts.

The final hurricane missions for 1995 were flown in October, as Hurricanes Opal and Roxanne churned in the Gulf of Mexico.

While Hurricane Opal sped toward Florida, one mission in particu-

lar generated grateful praise from the NHC.

The aircraft detected a rapid lowering of the pressure, which caused the winds to increase to 150 miles per hour, giving Opal a Category Four status on the Saffir-Simpson scale, rather than the Category Two status previously indicated.

Had the aircraft not been there, the NHC's satellite pictures would not have revealed the strengthening early enough to warn Florida residents.

Several deaths were attributed to Opal, but many more might have perished had the warnings not gone out so quickly.

Later in October, during reconnaissance flights into Hurricane Roxanne, two aircrews were called upon to provide search and rescue assistance to a barge which sank off the Mexican coast. The crews continued to provide weather data while performing the search.

What's in store for next year? Colorado State University professor Dr. Bill Gray, noted for his accuracy in predicting seasonal activity, has called for a below-average year, with eight named storms.

Six of those storms should become hurricanes, Gray said, with two becoming major hurricanes.

## FORECAST CHALLENGE

*continued from Page 20*

USAF Directorate of Weather.

The competition was composed of three separate events which simulate real-world taskings and challenged weather forecasters' readiness and technical skills. Each event was built around a scenario to include a variety of Air Force Weather operations and reflected the complexity of forecasting in different climatic areas around the world.

By simulating the flow of raw weather information into an area of operations, the scenarios required the forecasters to provide several different products and services. At first, they used only limited-data forecasting techniques until communications lines were established and the data flow increased. After the competition, event scenarios are given to field units to provide philosophy, structure, and material for local readiness training.

To accomplish this, judges and controllers representing the Air Force Directorate of Weather and the Combat Weather Facility, Hurlburt Field, Fla., control a series of time-phased events simulating an actual deployment.

During the first phase of each day's competition, the scenario was as if the forecasters had just deployed to the location. They took whatever climatology was available to them and combined it with new information given them to set up the initial forecast.

During the second phase, the teams

were fed more information, as if they were in place for one day and had received information from other sources.

During phase three, the teams would have set up their communications and have their tactical equipment operational. During this phase, the competition simulates that the teams are receiving weather information from Air Force Global Weather Central (Offutt AFB, Neb., a center under the control of Air Weather Service.) From that point on, they're a tactical weather station for whatever the scenario is at the time.

While the missions were fictitious, the weather thrown at the competitors was real, gathered months earlier by the staff at the Combat Weather Facility at Hurlburt Field. The team predictions during the competition were graded against what actual weather occurred.

In addition to focusing attention on the relationship between technical quality and readiness, the competition reinforced the time-honored military values of teamwork, leadership, and cooperation to accomplish the mission.

"Scoring was based on the finished forecast project, not the method used to produce it. Each forecast product was judged by an objective set of scoring criteria as specified in the exercise plan," said Staff Sgt. Russ Louk from the CWF, the chief controller for the competition.

"The maximum number of points a team earned varied greatly from scenario to scenario. It depended upon the number of weather parameters we validated

through actual weather observations. Points were awarded to teams for the accuracy of their forecasts, based on the weather that actually occurred," Louk said.

Controllers acted as subject experts in various areas relating to the organization and execution of the competition. During the events, the controllers administered and executed the testing criteria. Their responsibilities included acting as a consultant to the head judge, assisting participants by addressing relevant questions, and ensuring necessary administrative procedures were carried out during the event.

The other competitors, the major commands they represent and their bases of origin were:

Air Combat Command (IMA) — Master Sgt. Carlos D. Vasquez (Fort Campbell, Ky.) and Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Carmody (Whiteman AFB, Mo.).

Air Force Material Command — Staff Sgt. Paul G. Hamilton (Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio) and Senior Airman Mitchell S. Sumrall (Robins AFB, Ga.).

Air Force Special Operations Command — Staff Sgt. Mark R. Gustillo (Hurlburt Field, Fla.) and Staff Sgt. Michael D. Evans (Fort Bragg, N.C.).

Air Education and Training Command — Tech. Sgt. Gregory A. Bond (Reese AFB, Texas) and Staff Sgt. Jimmy R. Odon (Randolph AFB, Texas).

Air Mobility Command — Tech. Sgt. Keith E. Daniels (Scott AFB, Ill.) and Staff Sgt. James J. Gracfe (McGuire AFB, N.J.).

