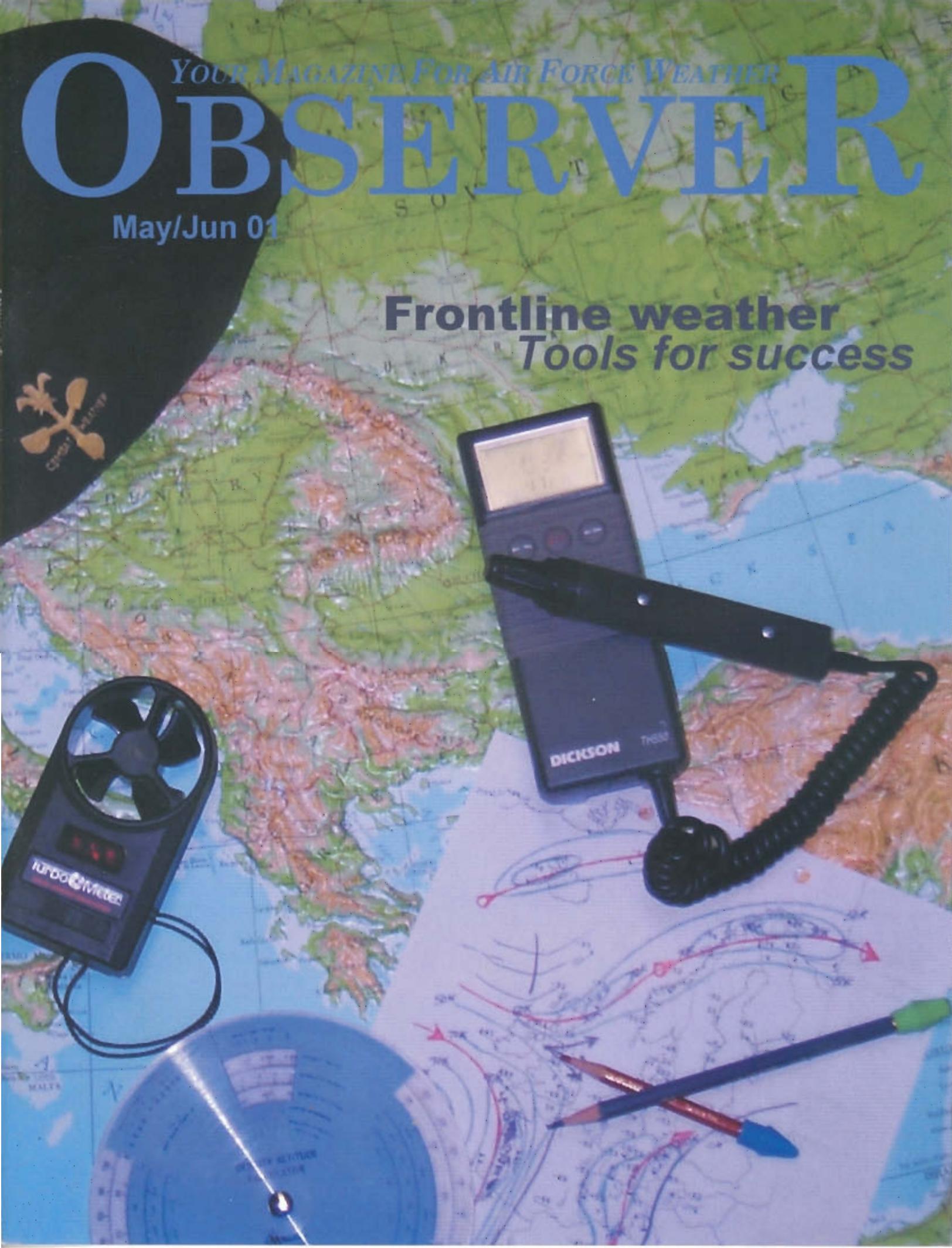


YOUR MAGAZINE FOR AIR FORCE WEATHER

OBSERVER

May/June 01

Frontline weather
Tools for success



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OBSERVER

AIR FORCE DIRECTOR OF WEATHER
Brig. Gen. David Johnson

**AIR FORCE WEATHER
AGENCY COMMANDER**
Col. Bob Allen

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
Paige Rowland

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Jodie Grigsby

OBSERVER EDITOR
Tech. Sgt. Miles Brown

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HQ AFWA/PA
106 Peacekeeper Dr., Ste. 2N3
Offutt AFB, NE 68113-4039

Please call (402) 294-3115, or DSN: 271-3115, for more information about this publication. Electronic mail should be addressed to:

"Observer@afwa.af.mil"

USAFE weather operations:

Frontline success!

By Col. Paul Harris
USAFE/DOW Chief, Weather Operations Division

Someone asked me to write about “frontline weather and combat” and in doing so, I tried to think real hard about it, but my head began to hurt. So, I took a few aspirins, thought about it some more, and then decided that I should defer to you experts to really tell us how it really is on the frontlines. But, in the meantime, what I can do is provide all of you my perspective on what I believe frontline combat weather is all about and relay a few successes that I have recently observed.

First and foremost is that we are all doing frontline combat weather and we are all on the “pointy end of the spear” together. I like to think of us as one Air Force expeditionary aerospace team, all working together to bring our full capabilities together to accomplish the mission. No single theater, major command, unit, or individual is poised to succeed by “going at it alone” nor do we have the only solutions to best do the mission. Here are a few “frontline successes” that I believe describe what frontline combat weather is all about.

Det. 9, 7th WS, Hohenfels, Germany is USAFE’s smaller version of the Ft. Irwin, Calif., National Training Center. Senior Master Sgt. Rob Fuller’s “Cyclone” Weather Team is a

true Combat Weather Team in every aspect. They are fully engaged everyday in the computer simulations and battlefield leadership maneuver exercises that help train Army leadership in combat operations and, as such, how to better understand and exploit weather for battle. At the same time, weather personnel are also learning from their Army operators how to improve weather operations and enhance combat operations. Combat weather people “ride” the Army’s weapon systems whether that means operating as an integral player in the Opposing Forces Operations Center, or taking a check ride in an M-1 tank, Bradley M-2, or Apache helicopter. Bottom-line – the Cyclone weather team is not only creating ways to improve Army weather operations, but also developing future CWT experts and leaders.

100th OSS/OSW, RAF Mildenhall, UK is led by Capt. Dennis Pukall. The 100th has an easy mission – support the 100th ARW, which operates theater-wide, and they also led 3 Air Force Joint Task Force operations for the command. Last December, the 100th ARW was months behind in their flying hour program. Leveraging capabilities of the USAFE/OWS, Pukall’s weather team worked with their operators to develop a long-range weather/aircrew-planning schedule. According to their commander, the 100th ARW caught up in their flying hour program in less than one month. This is a great example of a CWT being fully integrated with their operator and fully exploiting unit and theater capabilities to accomplish the mis-

sion. Most recently, the unit also played as the AIFOR weather lead in a USAREUR-led JTF exercise. Teaming with 7th WS, USAFE OWS, and Navy counterparts, we were able to get extremely valuable JTF training. The focus was not only on training in peacetime as we go to war, but mentoring and developing future AFW JTF leaders.

Det. 11, 7WS, V Corps CWT is not one small 11-person unit; it is more. Although Det. 11, 7 WS forms the core of the V Corps Weather Team,

“First and foremost is that we are all doing frontline combat weather and we are all on the “pointy end of the spear” together.”

Col. Paul Harris

they always team with separate brigades, divisions, echelon above corps, and the theater OWS to be mission ready and function as one weather

team. They are glued to the hip of their customers whether by being collocated with their respective tactical ops centers, being fully integrated into the military decision processes (i.e., combat planning and execution), or developing relevant weather decision aids that are overlaid on the C2 common operating picture. The team is also innovative in exploiting reach back communications, improving capabilities, and being more expeditionary. People like Master Sgt. Bill Dennis and Staff Sgt. Dave Gray see the opportunity to use “big-pipe” secure communications to reach back and reduce deployed T-VSAT/METSAT antenna requirements. They are also taking new systems such as the TACMET MOD and new tactical weather radar, exploiting capabilities, and remoting data to the OWS for improved situational awareness. Their vision is

right on: "same in peace as war."

Well, how do I really feel about life on the frontline? It has been absolutely great and all of our people, everywhere, have excelled. We certainly could not have been able to do it without you all – a total AFW team effort.

USEUCOM, USAFE, and

USAREUR have had their hands full over the last three years. We have been flying combat operations for Operation Northern Watch non-stop, conducting air and ground operations over the Balkans since 1996. We have mission rehearsed, deployed, and redeployed personnel over a 9-month period preparing for an air war, conducted a 78-day air war over Serbia with forces operating from CONUS, across the

Atlantic, and throughout the entire European theater. We deployed and continue to operate Task Force Falcon in Kosovo supporting Army air and ground operations, teamed with the 352nd SOG's weather team, supported humanitarian relief operations in Mozambique, conducted deployments to former Warsaw Pact nations, and more. There isn't anything better. ♣

Air National Guard Aligns for Ops

By Ted Houghton
ANG/DOOSW

Although the Air National Guard Weather Program has participated in the reengineering of Air Force Weather from its inception, the inherent differences between active duty and reserve personnel has presented a major challenge to the ANG. Among those differences are training, equipment, grade structure, and the fact that most Air Guard members remain in the same units for extended periods of time, in many cases, for their entire military career. On the other hand, the Guard truly was already structured as Combat Weather Teams, with fully authorized manning dedicated to training with and supporting the warfighter customer, be it Army or Air Force.

One of the first challenges to face the ANG was how to best integrate training of its personnel with the new training pipeline of the active duty. With the conversion of active duty weather units to CWTs, they could no longer support the long-standing practice of providing follow-on training to ANG members. Due to the "part-time" status of the Guard, it was unreasonable to expect a Guard member to go to an Operational Weather Squadron after the initial skills course for the two to three year training program being established for active duty members.

After considering various alternatives, the Guard decided that the most cost-effective and efficient approach was to utilize the ANG Weather Readiness Training Center at Camp Blanding, Fla. Starting last August, all Guard ISC graduates now flow from Keesler directly to Camp Blanding for 120 days of FOT.

FOT consists of four blocks of instruction: technical forecasting proficiency, observing, Air Force deployed operations, and Army tactical field skills. These blocks of instruction fully prepare a Guard member for whatever mission they might encounter. Most ANG weather flights have multiple CWTs, some supporting Army customers,

and others supporting Air Force flying missions. Additionally, this all-around training ensures that all ANG members are trained and qualified to participate in AEF operations. It also provides, for the first time, standardized training regiment across the entire ANG weather program.

With the modular concept of the FOT program, the WRTC is able to offer other personnel the opportunity to attend whatever portions of the course they may need, such as field skills training, or small tactical terminal instruction. The WRTC has hosted students from the Army, Navy, Marines, as well as active duty Air Force personnel.

The second major challenge is with ever-increasing reliance on ANG weather people for both AEF and other contingency operations, as well as for augmentation of short-handed weather operations, it is imperative that the Guard be equipped the same as are active duty units. Currently, Guard members that deploy to some active duty location may require training in the operation of equipment. For example, the Guard was never provided with AWDS capability; thus our personnel required several days training before they could be truly productive. Only a few units have STTs.

This need for comparable equipment is now recognized. Brig. Gen. David Johnson, Air Force director of weather, has pledged his full support to procure Tactical Very Small Aperture Terminals for ANG weather flights. Some of the major commands have provided outstanding support for Guard weather units. The Air Force Special Operations Command has long been in the forefront in equipping its gained Guard weather units, providing multiple SOCRATES METOC systems to all three ANG Special Forces weather flights. Air Combat Command is beginning to provide some Electronic Staff Weather Officers kits to its gained units. Lee Page at Headquarters U.S. Army DAMI-POB has consistently fought to maintain IMETS

See ANG, Page 21

CHIEF'S MENTORING



By Chief Master Sgt. Penny Braverman
Chief Enlisted Manager

Helping our own – how often have you heard that term in your Air Force career? Most people hear this phrase at least annually, usually at Christmas, or other major holidays. But we should keep this phrase in mind every day of the year as we evaluate our troops for their performance reports, awards, and daily interaction. How well do you take care of your own people and how do your people perceive you take care of them?

As I travel around, I consistently hear our troops ask, “Who takes care of me when I retire or move to my next base or post?” As the hubs stand up and the CWTs/WF’s numbers drop, the troops express concerns about who will ensure they are taken care for retirements, awards, and performance reports. The best answer I can provide is the only people I feel should provide this support – the supervisors and commanders out in their unit.

I am very concerned that our airmen would even ask questions about their own well being. As supervisors, we must ensure our troops receive rewards when they perform well and fair discipline when they fall short of expectations. The grooming of our airmen starts with the feedback process – and honesty is the best policy, to coin a phrase. Supervisors should not surprise airmen when the performance report or award nomination comes due for completion. You still hear airman not knowing they deserved a “3” when they thought they were doing “5” work throughout the reporting period. Feedback is the key to success, so ensure you cover the airman’s strengths and weaknesses. Always try to end feedback sessions on a

positive note leaving the person feeling they can succeed but it is up to them. Explain and expand on the fact that everyone has room to grow and ensure you discuss goals to enhance their Air Force career which include items such as professional military training, technical training, personal education, etc.

When writing performance reports, again be honest and compare your troops to other airmen whom are of the same rank and work similar positions. Ensure the report has the specific facts and back-up material to support the duties. Actual numbers are great and provide substance, however, do not fudge or exaggerate the numbers to make the person look better. You and the airman lose credibility when the facts in the report are not accurate. Using the regulations as guidance really make writing the report easier and leaves little room for errors.

Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly awards are a simple means of caring for our people, and getting the supervisors involved in this process helps as well. Supervisors should prepare these awards automatically for all great workers. All supervisors should also groom their people as your replacement to prepare them for that inevitable reality. However, if supervisors are unwilling to take the time to help their troops, their supervisors need to step in and complete the task and then teach their troops the proper way to take care of the workers. Most people are apprehensive about writing awards for various reasons – my unit never wins so why waste the time or I don’t know how to write an award are just a couple of examples. These reasons are just excuses for lack of experience, laziness, and ineptness on the supervisor’s part. If you are unsure how and when to do awards, use the guidance and information in the regulations when writing the awards or you could also ask another supervisor in your section or different section for guidance on where to look. The bottom line is to do an accurate award reflecting your troops best accomplishments.

Finally, we must take care of the retiring airmen to keep the Air Force traditions and esprit de corp alive. Again the regulations provide guidance on ceremonies, awards, and other protocol issues for accomplishing these ceremonies, but you must also consider the individual’s wishes and desires, family participation, and unit moral. If we don’t take care of these people, we send the wrong message about our traditions and military values to the younger troops. ♣



Question from the field? Answers from the Staff!

The Director of Air Force Weather, Brig. Gen. David Johnson, and his staff are working to dispel rumors and educate the career field on “hot issues” in weather. Questions may be submitted to the Air Staff via e-mail at afxow@pentagon.af.mil

Q. Re-engineering began in 1997, and I haven't seen the promised manning improvements—so when will the manning get better?

A. Manning is a function of the new Initial Skills Course and we already have 2 years of ISC graduates at the hubs getting ready to move out to the Combat Weather Teams. We expect to see these airmen coming to the CWTs starting in January 2002 and most of these airmen are 6-year enlistees so they will be around a long time. Within the next 2 years we should start to see an influx of 5-levels to the field and these airmen will be better trained, mentored, and ready to hit the ground running.

Q. Are we really going to have one person taking observations and doing the old counter tasks?

A. The answer is a partial yes. Remember that many of the old counter tasks have been migrated to the Operational Weather Squadrons. As you reengineer, you need to configure your quarterback position to enable one person to take the observation and act as the eyes forward for the OWS. That same person interacts with the weather personnel in the squadrons to make sure everyone is giving consistent information. And yes, junior, mid level, and senior NCOs as well as officers can fill this role. In the reengineered end state, all of your personnel should be working as a quarterback or squadron person. Only one position is authorized as pure overhead for admit type tasks.

Q. When OS-21 gets fielded we won't have to observe anymore because it will be all automated, correct?

A. This is incorrect. When OS-21 is installed you will

continue to play a role in the observation process. The system will provide you a complete observation that is ready to go. You will still be required to check the visibility and ceiling. If you verify that the automated ceiling and visibility parameters are accurate, you press send. If not, you will change them. Basic Weather watch procedures will still apply. A notable exception is this; when the tower is closed, OS-21 will operate in fully automated mode allowing the CWT to close.

Q. I really need to be a 24/7 operation. How can I ever close?

A. This is a very common statement. Most weather stations will advertise that they are 24/7 operations. A quick review of the FLIP and you will find that only a handful of installations are really 24/7 operations. In our visits to many units we have found that units remain open because they always have; somebody says to do it for resource protection; or because they have one or two flights on weekends. Most units should be limited duty in the reengineered end state. When the airfield/tower closes, you should close as well. Resource protection and TAF support is provided by the OWS. Right now AOS provides the hub with a partial observation and soon OS-21 will provide a complete observation. And if you have only a few missions to handle, the hub takes over responsibility.

Q. How am I supposed to do training with the few people I have?

A. Training, as an old mentor once said, is the golden nugget of reengineering. While we use civilian trainers at our hubs, the CWTs will have 5-level forecasters arriving at their stations. In the future, just like most other Air Force organizations, you will be able to close for training.

Coordinate with your customer and pick a day of the month, and it may vary, when the flying schedule isn't as heavy. Coordinate with your servicing OWS and then, **CLOSE FOR TRAINING!** Don't dump on the OWS, so be honest. Perhaps you need to close one day every two months, maybe once a month. Choose the time and then accomplish all of your training requirements on equipment and MEF/Unit training.

Q. I don't have enough resources to meet my deployment commitments. When are we going to fix that?

A. Several things are happening on that front. First we are rescinding the old guidelines in the War Mobilization Plan. New DOC statements are being put into place and we are changing our equipment fielding policies. Our new equipment policies are based on an expeditionary concept. Not all units will receive all equipment because they no longer require it. So we have a combination of two things happening, first you will need less people and equipment to meet your reengineered taskings and as the new OWS graduates hit your units and the new equipment arrives you should be in good shape.

Q. I'm still an Observer, when do I need to get to forecaster school?

A. The last Forecaster School Class will start Sep. 30, 2002; however, we have a lot of overseas returnees that must get into the course between now and September 2002. By getting into Forecaster School early, you can help yourself and AFW progress forward and complete re-engineering. To get the course, first coordinate with your unit then contact Chief Master Sgt. Riggsby, AFPC/DPAAD3 at Lewis.Riggsby@afpc.randolph.af.mil and let him know you are ready to attend school. The requirements are simple — you must be a 5-level, have your CDCs completed, and we recommend you work with the forecasters as much as possible before going, to help build your analysis and other forecasting skills.

Q. When is the new Combat Weather Team course coming on-line for students and how do we get the airmen there?

A. The new course replacing the Forecaster School Course is the Combat Weather Team Operations Course

and it comes on-line starting Oct. 15. We expect the first attendees to be the airmen coming out of the hubs with January 2002 assignments. We have assigned a Personnel Processing Code to all CWT's worldwide. What this initiates is the mandatory attendance to the WFOC, unless previous attended or a graduate of the Forecaster School or Officer Initial Skills Course before December 1999. This course is for both enlisted and officers and is a one-time course that covers information needed to work in a CWT. It does not include field skills, but we are looking into developing a separate Army Field Skills Course (hopefully on line in the summer of 2002) for airmen and officers being assigned to Army detachments. Again, we will look at getting a PPC code for this as well. So in the end state, an airman coming out of a hub on their second assignment, will attend the WFOC and if they are going to an Army assignment, possibly the Army course.

Q. I hear the STAN/EVAL is coming soon. How am I supposed to get ready?

A. First, it is STAN/eval (big STAN; little eval). Our focus is to help you get reengineering right. The initial inspections will be more standardization focused vice evaluation. Things that you want to be doing are: use OWS products, have a good exchange of information with your OWS, be fully aware of your customers missions and mission requirements. Things that you don't want to be doing are: analyzing upper air packages, downloading the latest model data so you can figure out where the cold front will be 24 hours from now — that is now done at the OWSs.

Q. Why won't the OWS amend my TAF for all the required criteria?

A. XOW recently agreed to reduce the mandatory amendment criteria. We found that we were amending TAFS at many bases when we really didn't have to. If you have a criteria that your TAF needs amending for, the OWS will still do it. Before you jump on the phone asking your OWS to take on new amendment criteria please check with your local folks to verify that those criteria are really needed. We should only amend for criteria that are vital to the customer.

WHAT ARE ALL THOSE BADGES?

By Master Sgt. Ralph Ley
NCOIC, training and operations
AFSOC/DOW

The nature of Army Special Operations requires Air Force Special Operations Command weather members to attend Army schools that teach advanced field skills. Over the course of my career, I have attended a fair number of these Army courses and have been awarded various badges upon graduation. When attending conferences, I am often stopped and asked about the badges I'm wearing. Most people have heard the classic movie line, "Badges? Badges? We don't need no stinking badges!" That may be true, but they must be worn if directed by the Air Force. Many people may not be familiar with Army insignia. Some badges are self-explanatory, such as the parachute wings, others may not be quite so obvious. The following information provides a little background on badges that might be encountered when visiting an AFSOC weather unit.

RANGER TAB

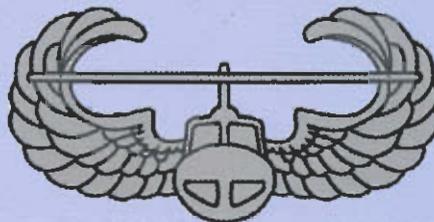


The Ranger course is a grueling twelve week test, teaching students advanced infantry skills. The schools are located at several Army installations throughout the southeast United States. During the Ranger course, the student proves he can overcome seemingly insurmountable mental and physical challenges. Trainees have to demonstrate, while under simulated combat conditions, that they have acquired the professional skills and techniques necessary to plan, organize, coordinate, and conduct small unit operations. They must

master basic skills needed to plan and execute dismounted, small-unit day and night operations, low-altitude mountaineering, and infiltration as well as exfiltration techniques via land, air, and sea.

Instruction of this course is provided mainly under field conditions that closely approximate a wartime environment. The Ranger tab is a coveted award that many seek to attain, but few acquire.

AIR ASSAULT BADGE



The Air Assault course is 10-1/2 days of training at Ft. Campbell, Ky. There are three phases of instruction within this course. Subject matter includes all phases of helicopter operations to include scout and assault zone operations, sling-loading operations, and rappelling. The course culminates with a 12-mile road march with 25 pounds of equipment that must be completed within 3 hours.

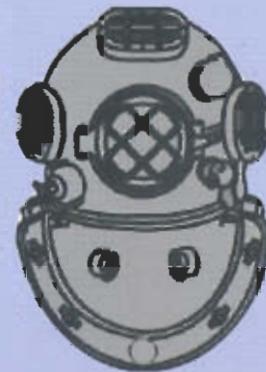
PARACHUTISTS BADGE



The Airborne school at Ft. Benning, Ga., is a three-week course that qualifies students as static-line parachutists. Course is conducted in a semi-boot camp atmosphere, and all students address the instructors as "Sergeant Airborne." The first week of training is called ground

week where students learn how to don the parachute harness, exit an aircraft, and execute a parachute landing fall. The second week is called tower week. Students practice mass exits from a 34 foot tower, landings from the swing landing trainer, and practice riser/ canopy control on the suspended harness for both the T-10C and the MC-1B/C. Students also conduct one drop from the 250 foot tower. The third week is called jump week where students execute five qualification jumps from C-130 and C-141 USAF aircraft.

COMBAT DIVER BADGE



The combat diver course located in Key West, Fla., is a five-week course covering basic and advanced diving skills. Prior to attending this course, members are required to attend a two-week, pre-scuba course that provides preparatory training in dive physics and medical problems associated with military diving operations. Pre-scuba also prepares students physically and mentally for the underwater environment. The combat diver course covers a full spectrum of instruction in dive physics, dive medicine, day and night underwater navigation, cast and recovery operations, submarine lock-in/lock-out operations, and underwater demolition.

MILITARY FREEFALL BADGE



The Military Freefall School is a 4-week course conducted at Ft. Bragg, NC and Yuma, Ariz. Graduation from the Army Airborne course is required prior to attending this course. Students learn techniques of High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) and High Altitude High Opening (HAHO) operations. A wind tunnel at Ft. Bragg is utilized for initial training with students transitioning to Yuma, AZ for the jump phase. Jumps, with and without equipment and oxygen tanks, are performed under daytime and nighttime conditions from altitudes as high as 25,000 feet.

PATHFINDER BADGE



The Pathfinder School is a 3-week course also at Ft. Campbell. Students learn to navigate the terrain, establish and operate a day/night helicopter landing zone, establish and operate a day/night parachute drop zone, conduct advanced sling load operations, and provide air traffic control and navigational assistance to rotary and fixed wing airborne operations. Students participate in a 3-day Field Training Exercise as a member of a Pathfinder Team to culminate this course. ♪

N-TFS for ALL

MIST users asked to switch to N-TFS by Jun. 30 or lose support

By Paige Rowland

Air Force Weather Public Affairs

Users of the Meteorological Information Standard Terminal, or MIST, are asked by Air Force Weather Agency to stop using the system Jun. 30.

"The contract expires at the end of June and no software upgrades or maintenance will be available," said Bill Swanson, Systems and Network Management branch, AFWA.

MIST, primarily used by National Guard weather units, will be phased out. The Director of Air Force Weather mandated the transition to a standard system in an effort to migrate active duty, guard and reserve units onto one standard system.

The system replacing MIST is the New Tactical Forecast System. N-TFS is an upgrade from the Automated Weather Distribution System and is a key component of the AFW architecture. This system gives in-garrison and deployed weather members the capability to obtain real-time meteorological data and provide the most current forecasts to decision-makers and operators whenever and wherever needed.

The transition emphasizes the AFW goal of "same weather ops - peace and war".

Having all meteorologists using the same system day in and day out will simplify the warfighting effort, said Swanson.

"If a Guard weather unit deploys, no additional training will be needed for them to use N-TFS," said Swanson.

Other MIST users such as flight/base operations, command posts and weather observation locations will need to transition to web-based solutions. Comparable data can be obtained from AFWA's Joint Air Force and Army Weather Information Network, Weather Subscription Service, NOTAMS Web Page or an Operational Weather Squadron website.

Training is available through various avenues. The AFWA Help Desk can provide assistance with N-TFS problems, and the technology exploitation branch of AFWA created a training website to assist members in the transition.

For a complete listing of websites, go to the AFWA military website or contact Tod Kunschke in AFWA's Product Tailoring branch at (402) 294-5124. ♪

401ST EWS "IN COUNTRY"

By Maj. Richard Sater

Coalition Press Information Center, MND (N)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – Today's forecast calls for partly-cloudy skies with a chance of afternoon thundershowers and high temperatures reaching the 70s

Oh, yeah? Says who?

Look no further than the 401st Expeditionary Weather Squadron. Seventeen people at five locations make up the squadron, headquartered on the Army side of the base in the White House. The mission of the EWS is to provide

direct weather support to the task force here and to all of multi-National Division (North).

"We're here primarily for the Army – for the aviation assets at Camp Comanche – but we support the Air Force as well," says chief weatherman Lt. Col. John Egentowich, whose home unit is the Air Force Weather Agency Headquarters, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

The backbones of the flying operation here are the UH-60 Blackhawk and OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters at Comanche. Rotator aircraft fly in and out of the Eagle Base airfield on a regular basis as well, providing routine transport of troops and supplies and medical evacuation when necessary. Weather conditions, naturally, are a prime concern for all aircrews, particularly for the low-flying helicopters.

Modern communication has greatly increased the reliability and timeliness of weather forecasting. Weather satellites, as well as tele-



Photo by Maj. Richard Sater

Lt. Col. John Egentowich (right) and Tech. Sgt. Gary Stevenson, 401st Expeditionary Weather Squadron, check the accuracy of a sling psychrometer.

phones, electronic mail, and the Internet define the "architecture of data collection" today, Egentowich says. The systems at the Eagle Base tower are all automated, but the human touch is still required to harness the data into a useable and useful format.

EWS observers monitor temperature, wind speed and direction, precipitation, cloud cover, barometric pressure, dew point, and more. They update their forecasts around the clock from Eagle Base and four other camps in MND (N): Comanche, McGovern, Zenica, and Doboj.

"We collect as much information as possible so that we can ensure safety of flight operations," Egentowich says. The weather staff briefs up-to-the-minute information to the aircrews. Forecasting can only be as accurate as the tools used to measure it. That's where the 401st Meteorological-Navigation Equip-

ment Shop enters the picture. The four-man METNAV shop – under the 401st Communications Flight – maintains and repairs the equipment used to measure weather conditions. "We couldn't do it without them," admits Master Sgt. Chris Stanziano, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 401st EWS – on tour here from the 7th Weather Squadron, Det. 5, at Katterbach AAF, Germany.

The weather in country changes, from hour to hour and day to day, but Egentowich has full confidence in his equipment and his crew.

"As you know, our forecast is always 100-percent accurate, all the time," he says with a straight face.

The 401st EWS is part of the 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group under Task Force Eagle, the American component of Operation Joint Forge. This multi-national, on-going stabilization mission began in 1995 after the Balkan conflict. ♣

Predicting desert weather - not always easy

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Elliott
332nd Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

AHMED AL JABER, Southwest Asia (AFPN) – People may think there is not much to observing and forecasting the weather in a desert environment like in Southwest Asia. “Hot!” should cover all the bases.

Hardly, say the weather warriors assigned to the shop tucked away in a small corner of the command post building here.

“Although it might not seem like it now, there are seasonal changes in Kuwait and this part of the world,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Compton, a forecaster deployed here from RAF Lakenheath, England. “During the winter months, there are rain and thunderstorms that can even lead to flooding here. In the summer, it’s the sandstorms that can be destructive.”

Blowing sand and dust can get as high as 20,000 feet into the atmosphere, which can make flying pretty dicey. Sandstorms look like big, brown snowstorms to the pilots, and are just as hard to fly through or around.

The weather shop, with the help of the 28th OWS at Shaw AFB, S.C., help provide information for 332nd Air Expeditionary Group pilots to safely and effectively take off, accomplish their mission, and return to base. They also provide information to the agencies on base in

charge of resource protection, in case there is a severe weather system on its way.

“We’re responsible for giving the wing leadership information about heat stress, so they can inform the base population about keeping good hydration, or instituting work-rest cycles when the heat becomes severe,” Compton said.

The 28th OWS is kind of a “one-stop shopping” weather information hub for U.S. Central Command, with a wide variety of information available, such as real-time observations and forecasts, and climatology studies of this area. Their mission includes providing operational level weather products and information for Air Force, Army, Guard, and Reserve units in the Southeastern United States, plus deployed forces stretching from Southwest Asia to Northeast Africa.

“This shop is the main weather station for Kuwait and much of the (area of responsibility),” said Master Sgt. Wendell Foreman, the flight chief deployed here from Randolph AFB, Texas. “There are smaller shops at other SWA bases, and between all of us, we cover a wide area of the no-fly zone in the AOR.”

“We also provide information in case an aircraft has to



Senior Airman Donica Betts (left) checks a sling psychrometer, while Tech. Sgt. Michael Compton takes a wet bulb globe temperature reading. Both are members of 332nd Air Expeditionary Group deployed to Southwest Asia.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Elliott

Desert forecasting continued

divert because of an emergency," said Senior Airman Donica Betts, a forecaster deployed here from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. "We have to brief the pilots about conditions at other SWA bases, just in case there's a problem with their aircraft or a weather-divert."

With the variety of aircraft here, there are different things the pilots need to know. A helicopter has a different tolerance than a fighter, which is different from a transport. Each aircraft has different visibility restrictions and wind tolerances to take into account for each mission.

The weather flight operates around the clock, with four forecasters rotating shifts to provide weather information whenever it is needed. All are dual-qualified as weather observers and forecasters, as opposed to years past where there would be two separate people for each job.

"The schoolhouse at Keesler AFB, Miss., now turns out weather people trained to do both jobs, which makes sense," Foreman said. "It's a long, difficult school and it's very fast-paced," Betts said. She said forecasters continue their education with career development courses.

Weather technology has grown exponentially in a very short time, Betts said.

"It's gone from tactical weather observation to more and more computer and Internet-based technology, such as the Joint Air Force and Army Weather Information Network, and other products from the Air Force Weather Agency," Betts said.

"The mindset in weather now is that the atmosphere is

a fluid thing, in both the horizontal and vertical planes," Compton said. "The software we have now in weather can give the pilot a three-dimensional view of how high cloud tops are, and how and when weather systems are moving. We can show them how it will affect them when they take off, on their way to their target, at the target site, and on the way back to home base."

While weather people like Betts are coming in at the cutting edge of weather technology, the ever-changing face of weather tools can be a challenge for those in the career field for a longer period of time, like Foreman's 17 years and Compton's 16-plus years.

"The dynamics of this career field have changed so much since I first came in," Foreman said. "A lot of (regulations) and the ways we do business have changed, but that's also one of the enjoyable things as well ... the fact that this is an always evolving science."

The weather team's efforts are greatly appreciated by their customers, the pilots.

"This is a combat weather team," Foreman said. "The pilots can know what to expect to see from our information. We help train the pilots on the unique characteristics of weather in the AOR, and they go away better informed and with a better basic understanding of weather."

Even the other military services have sat up and taken notice of the excellent support the Jaber weather shop supplies. "I've had the F-18 Marine pilots tell us that they get better weather support here than at their home station," Compton said. "It's all part of getting the weather to the warfighter." ♪

Rock Toss

Members of the 363rd weather flight, and other 363rd EOSS members, do their best during their deployment rotation to hurl the 24-pound weather rock as far as they can.

The 'S' on the rock is the Sandstorm symbol from weather plotting, and it referred to the old call sign "Sandstorm METRO" for Prince Sultan AB Weather, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The call sign was changed to "Scorpion METRO" to align with the 363 AEW call signs; however, the weather flight kept the historical reference by referring to themselves as the "Sandstorm Scorpions."



Photo by Maj. James Rickman

and away

Up...

Up...

Special tactics weathermen are on the go, and around the world, everyday

By 1st Lt. George Lavine
5th Special Forces Group staff weather officer

Flying low across the desert of Jordan, an MC-130P transporter lowers its ramp in preparation to get rid of some "excess weight." Twelve paratroopers, hooking up to the static-line cable and finishing with their pre-jump sequence, slowly begin to shuffle towards the howling portal. A message comes up from the ground party "winds NW at 5 knots." One of the paratroopers in line, a Green Beret, turns to the man behind him. "Good call, weatherman, we're gonna get to push this stick after all!" A minute later, the green light glows, and all twelve men walk right off the ramp into the moonless night.

Eight time zones and half-a-world away, a pilot wants to know if he can park his T-38 trainer at Ft. Campbell, Ky., overnight or if the impending storm is going to be as bad as expected. The forecaster at the counter takes one last look at

the radar and informs the pilot it would be best if he "got out of Dodge," so to speak. Severe thunderstorms, with frequent lightning and a strong possibility of hail, are expected within the hour. The pilot thanks him and heads out to his plane. Thirty minutes later, the storm unleashes its fury, the pilot calls back to the counter from five miles out at 20,000 feet – "Good call weatherman, I would've hated to have to explain dents in the wings!"

Sitting in a tent, a forecaster huddles over his laptop in a location even his wife doesn't even know about. He has thirty minutes to prepare his briefing for the helicopter pilots, and they want it all: where will the moon be when we hit the target, where is the turbulence, what is my ceiling, will the visibility be too bad to get this thing off? The forecaster finishes his slides, briefs the crews, and waits. They roll back in just before daybreak and ahead of the advancing fog. "Good call, weatherman, it was just like you said. We took that

target down just in time."

Sound like a lot of pressure to make the right call? You bet! But for the men of the Special Operations Weather Team at Det. 2, 10th Combat Weather Squadron, Ft. Campbell, KY, it's nothing new. "That's why we make the big bucks," notes Master Sgt. Andy Hopwood, detachment superintendent and long-time combat weatherman. "It's our job to make that call. We work hand-in-hand with the operators to ensure the missions are as successful as possible."

In the world of the rank-conscious Army, however, this can sometimes be a daunting task. In the planning cells or team briefs there is always a point when the top-ranking person turns to the weather forecaster and asks "Hey, weatherman, what do you think?"

Working alongside the men of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and the 160th Special Aviation Regiment (Airborne), the Air Force forecasters are paid not only to think, but to be ready for action, as well. "Hey, when that crisis in some no-name country suddenly erupts, who



Special Tactics continued

you gonna call?” asks Tech. Sgt. Stefan Padillo, a veteran forecaster of both Desert Storm and Somalia.

The possibility of rapid deployment to the world’s “hot spots” makes it imperative that all detachment forecasters stay both tactically and technically proficient. Training includes formal and informal Air Force and Army schools, as well as the standard weather career curriculum. The 18-man unit, all jump qualified and survival school gradu-

ates, includes six Jumpmasters, two Pathfinders, and an Air Assault troop.

“The more we understand about missions, the more we can add,” explains Hopwood. Plus, going to the Army schools helps build a level of trust between the operator and the forecaster. If an operator looks at the chest of a forecaster and sees Senior Parachutist wings, he’s going to trust the forecaster a lot more when told that the winds will be within thresholds for a jump.

Additionally, the more senior

NCOs of the detachment ensure that the younger troops stay sharp on their forecasting and tactical meteorology skills. “We train them to deploy anytime, anywhere, with minimal equipment and support,” said Staff Sgt. Scotty Gilbert, now in his second tour-of-duty at Ft. Campbell. “You have to be able to take what you can get and still accomplish the mission.”

Just ask Staff Sgt. Allan Price, who recently found himself as the sole forecaster on a Navy ship in the middle of rough seas in the Pacific



Special Operations Weather Team at Det. 2, 10th Combat Weather Squadron, Ft. Campbell, Ky., during a rigorous PT session.

Ocean. "Communications were bad, so all I had was a satellite shot I pulled using a Navy downlink, the observations I took from the flight deck, and what the pilots told me. It was pretty crazy." Considering the importance of the exercise, nobody wanted to turn around and go home. "These guys like to push it, but it was my job to keep them out of harm's way," said Price. How did he do? "Well, let's just say, I won't have to pay for my own drinks for awhile," he grins.

As hairy as things can get while



Photo by Master Sgt. Ralph Ley

deployed, life "back at the shop" is often just as hectic.

"Sometimes, it's just about putting out fires," muses Capt. Joe Piasecki, detachment commander.

"In any one week, I might have to schedule a guy for a shift working the counter at the weather station on Monday, update briefings for 5th GRP (A) or mission planning for the 160th (A) on Tuesday, range qualification or NBC training on Wednesday, and a night jump on Thursday. And, "Oh, by the way, you're on rapid deployment this weekend, so don't go anywhere." Still, despite the pressure, morale remains high. "These guys always come back asking for more," added Piasecki.

"They drive me crazy, always wanting to know who has the most man days or days deployed," laughs Hopwood. "It's a real type-A personality for most of the men here."

Nowhere is this more evident, perhaps, than the daily PT sessions. Held every morning, these can be as light as a 3.7-mile run with calisthenics, or as challenging as an 8-mile road march with full rucks.

Generally deploying in two-man teams, detachment forecasters are seen by their counterparts in the 5th and 160th as being the subject matter experts on all matters meteorological and oceanographic. "You can get some interesting questions from the Army guys, but they really treat you like family," remarks Staff Sgt. Dave Mack, a recent addition to the team. "When they have a question they need answered, we do everything we can to help them out."

Besides the standard update



briefings, unit forecasters can expect to advise Military Free-Fall, SCUBA, and mounted assault teams on mission planning, provide the intelligence section with climatology requests, and handle all aspects of aviation forecasting.

So what's next for these gray berets? "Improved tactical weather equipment and communications," says Hopwood. "Operator training," Adams chimes in. "More people," hopes Price, just back from yet another deployment. "Hopefully, all three," Piasecki adds.

Since their inclusion under the Special Tactics "umbrella," these needs are being better met. "In the past, we've been expected to fend for ourselves, which wasn't right," said Gilbert. "As our counterparts begin to understand that we're the only ones in the world who do what we do, we're seeing more training opportunities and better funding."

With the growing support of both the Army and Air Force operators and Air Staff on their side, the combat weatherman of Det. 2 are ready to take the next step – whether towards another mission, or off the end of a C-130 ramp from 1250 feet. ✎

OPERATION HANDSHAKE

Improving quality of life and military facilities in Puerto Rico

By Tech. Sgt. Miles Brown
Air Force Weather Public Affairs

The men and women of Det. 3, 55th Space Weather Squadron, Puerto Rico, now see the light at the end of the tunnel, and that light is held by deployed Civil Engineer units.

The U.S. Coast Guard's Borinquen Air Station, Puerto Rico, houses many of the Det. 3 members and their families. The infrastructure of the station, formerly Ramey AFB, has deteriorated over the years, and something had to be done.

"Manpower shortages and limited availability of skilled contractors has resulted in an overwhelming backlog of repairs (on the station)," said Cmdr. Gail Donnelly, executive officer for the station.

The answer was to bring in CE

Prime BEEF teams – elite members of CE who are able to construct, re-build, and repair just about anything on a base. The crews would hit the repairs hard and immediately start to improve the quality of life for everyone living, working and playing at the station.

Bringing the deployed crews to Puerto Rico started with simple conversation between Maj. Steve Cahanin, Det. 3 commander, and Lt. Cmdr. Keith Ingalsbe, Borinquen AS facility engineer.

"In March 2000, Lt. Cmdr. Ingalsbe and I had a short discussion concerning the need to install water filter systems in base housing since the water here is often undrinkable, and when it is drinkable, it's pretty nasty," said Cahanin.

Cahanin went on to suggest the

use of Air Force Guard and Reserve CE units to complete some of the most critical repairs at the station. From there, Cahanin went through the observatory's host unit, 45th Space Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla., to contact a unit willing to do the work.

"Chief Wayne Hosburgh, 45th CES, embraced the concept and introduced me to Chief Master Sgt. Danny Lewis, 181st Fighter Wing civil engineering squadron, Indiana Air Guard, Terre Haute, Indiana."

The 181st CE troops jumped at the chance to work in Puerto Rico in the middle of winter and get needed training in every area of installation repair, said Cahanin. Just like that, Operation Handshake was underway.

The first 30-member team arrived

See Handshake, Page 21



Members of 181st Fighter Wing's, Indiana Air Guard, Terre Haute, Ind., Prime BEEF team build new treatment rooms at the Borinquen Air Station, Puerto Rico, medical clinic.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Terry Arthur

Thru the eyes of a child

15th
ABW
Weather
Warriors
educate
Hawaiian
youth

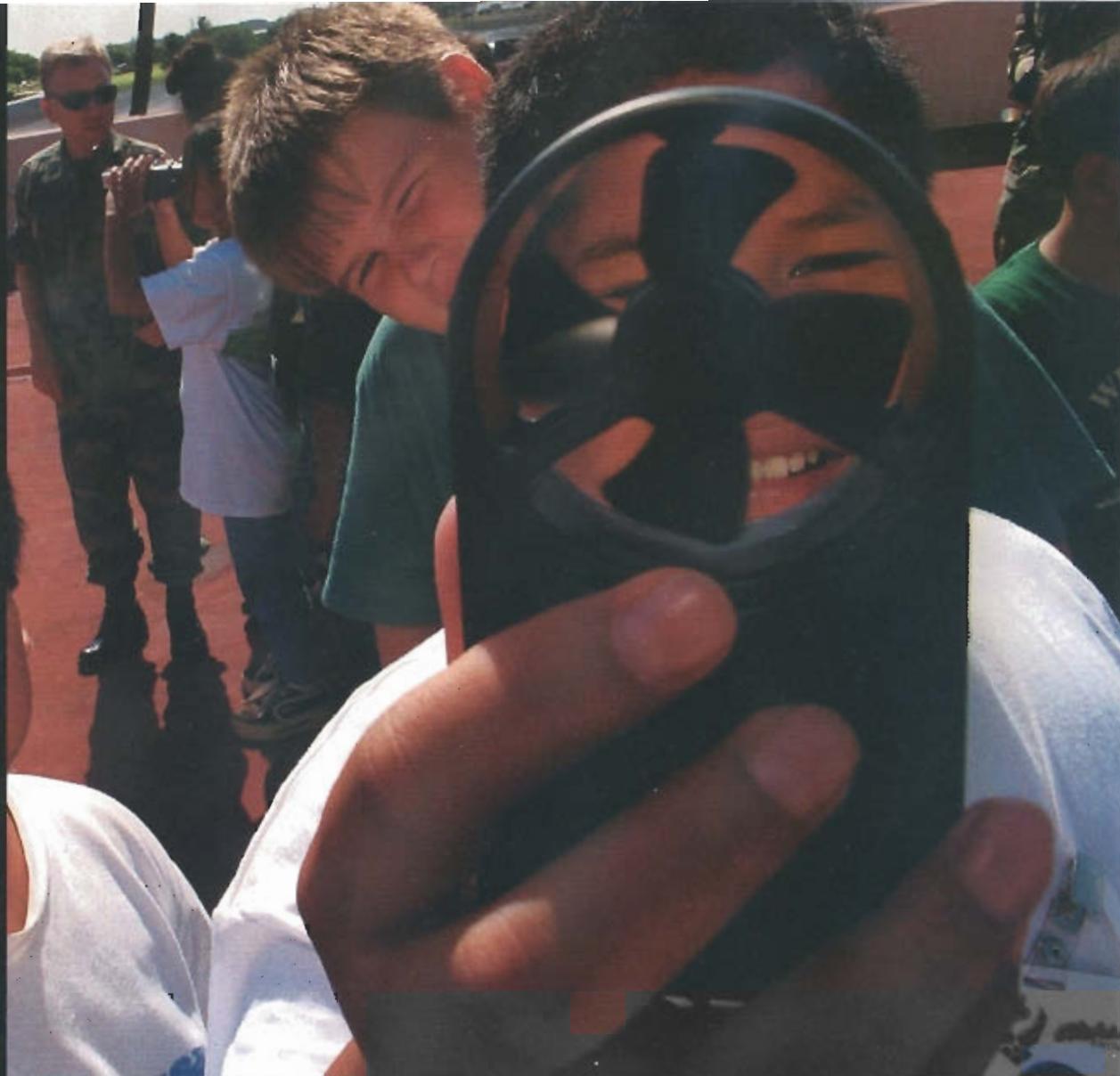


Photo courtesy of the Honolulu Advertiser

By Capt. Eric Sorbo
Weather Operations Flight Commander
Hickam AFB, Hawaii

Like sponges, soaking up every word, the elementary students on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, can experience first hand what Air Force weather is all about. Members of the 15th Weather Operations Flight at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, are busy helping youth from the community understand many aspects of Air Force Meteorology.

Base tours for these youngsters can include a trip to the base weather station, hands-on demonstrations with tactical weather equipment, discussions on numerous aspects of weather and the atmosphere, and talks about various careers in meteorology and the Air Force.

"Our weather operations flight is always a hit with our student tour groups. We (public affairs) like to incorporate the weather flight into our tours because they highlight the importance of math and science to an education. They also provide students a hands-on demonstration that

peaks their interest and keeps them asking questions," 15 ABW Public Affairs Officer Maj. Tina Barber-Matthew said.

Word of Life Academy science teacher Chevette Mooney recently brought 32 students from her class to the weather station to get a tour and to discuss meteorology.

"Our students were most impressed with your radar and that airplanes were taking off right outside your window. They saw how weather affects the airplane's ability to fly because you're so close to the runway," Chevette said. The students stayed for two hours talking about weather and the military.

2d Lt. David Budzko, 15th Wing weather officer, recalls that "When we asked the students if they had any questions about weather, they all got out a list of questions they had previously prepared. It was neat seeing that many kids having an interest in weather."

The weather flight gets several speaking engagement and tour requests every month and tailors each visit to the

See **Child**, next page



AFW forecasters chip-in on South-Pole rescue effort

By Tech. Sgt. Miles Brown
Air Force Weather Agency Public
Affairs

The daring rescue effort to evacuate Dr. Ronald Shemenski from Amundsen-Scott Station in Antarctica in April was enhanced by the Air Force Weather Agency's numerical forecast models for the ice covered continent.

The Meteorological Models branch of AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb., has supplied Antarctica numerical forecast models to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command center in Charleston, S.C., in support of the U.S. Antarctic Program since 1998. The deployed USAP forecasters stationed in New Zealand and Antarctica use the Fifth Generation Mesoscale Models to fill a gap between the observed atmospheric conditions and the future state of the atmosphere.

"The availability of the MM5 window for Antarctica has greatly enhanced forecasting (for the continent), improving the safety of flights for all USAP operations," said Art Cayette, USAP Meteorological

manager, SPAWARSSYSCEM.

"The higher resolution and proper operational depiction of products (from AFWA) has assisted forecasters in providing a valued tool to U.S. Air Force and other USAP participant," added Art.

The short notice rescue effort, combined with the extreme winter conditions and pitch-black skies, required more accurate weather forecast models to ensure the safety of the aircrew and passengers. This was the first attempted aircraft landing at the South Pole this late in the polar winter.

"SPAWAR and the National Science Foundation contacted us (AFWA) to support this mission because AFWA was capable of fulfilling their time-sensitive requirements," said Dr. Jerry Wegiel, Fine Scale Models Team Chief, AFWA. "AFWA is known as the world-wide leader in operational mesoscale modeling. We have the expertise and infrastructure to integrate our customers needs into our production stream within minutes and disseminate those products in a timely

manner. We were proud to be part of another success story on the ice."

The team generates a 45-kilometer forecast model covering the entire continent on a regular basis, however, for the planning and execution of this mission, they generated a 15-kilometer model over McMurdo Station on the coast of Antarctica twice daily.

The efforts of the Models branch at AFWA were all in a day's work, according to Col. Bob Allen, AFWA commander.

"Our folks are always ready to step up to the plate and hit a home run when needed," said Allen. "The Models branch took the existing products we generate every day and sharpened them to pinpoint the numerical forecast for the specific region required for this mission.

"I am proud of the exceptional job our agency and the entire AFW community does day in and day out. This is just another example of the top-notch people providing Air Force weather products to our customers," added Allen. ♣

Child continued from previous page

and desires of each group. Events have ranged from 20 minute tours and discussions to 4-hour lectures. Scoutmaster of Hickam Boy Scout Troop 97, Col. Craig Hollenbeck, recently turned to the weather flight to assist scouts from several troops in the Kamchamecha scout district working on their weather merit badge.

"It gave the scouts a chance to learn about weather observing and forecasting from professionals, observe and work with special weather equipment and consider meteorology and/or the Air Force as a career option," said Hollenbeck.

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Using tactical equipment is a great way to explain how the weather flight measures the various atmospheric elements that are important to weather observations and forecasts. All age groups seem to enjoy using the hand-held anemometer and digital thermometer as well as the laser range finder. Another nice feature with tactical equipment is that it can travel to the students in their classrooms. Debbie Kim Morikawa, co-chair of the Junior Pacific Century Fellows program said "students enjoyed the hands-on demonstration while learning about the critical importance of weather forecasts to the military." ♣

AEF Center offers new web format

Lt. Col. Bryan Holt
Aerospace Expeditionary Force
Center

LANGLEY AFB, Va. – The Air Force's premier Web-based deployment tool has been redesigned to give airmen more help with AEF issues.

The Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center here recently unveiled its newly-redesigned website. The site now gives users more information, enhanced access and the convenience of a single source for all AEF deployment information.

The new format combines features of the previous AEF Center website information into a Web "portal," which provides access to various databases and can be customized for each user. The site offers an array of deployment information including deployment checklists, the AEF Commanders' Playbook, lessons learned, and the newest feature, the Commanders' Toolkit.

The major attraction for deployers is the position descriptions with information on the duties, requirements and conditions of specific deployed positions. These descriptions also provide a list of equipment operated and maintained at the deployed location and desired qualification and training needed to arrive fully prepared. This will allow members to focus their training and preparation efforts during the two-month, pre-deployment period of the AEF cycle. Users get the information by first registering at the site, which establishes their profile. Future logins will provide information tailored to the user's career field.

The deployment checklist includes training, medical and other qualifications required for deployment as well as links to references. Commanders can track training requirements of

their people.

"This is a major milestone to provide better service to those deploying," said Lt. Col. Marie Barboza, the AEF Center's project officer for Expeditionary Aerospace Force Online.

The Commander's Toolkit upgrade to EAF Online allows commanders to track the deployment status of their unit and people. Future enhancements will include a training module to track skill level training and a module to track operations tempo. All modules are updated by pulling data from existing Air Force data sources, such as the Personnel Data System.

"EAF Online is also very beneficial to Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members," Barboza said. The position descriptions and the Commanders' Toolkit includes information for active, Guard and Reserve personnel.

The restricted Web site can be accessed via military and government computers at <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil/>. The AEF Center has also added a new public Web site accessible from any computer. It can be accessed through the EAF Online or directly at <http://cfc.langley.af.mil>. Updated daily, the unclassified site allows users to link to EAF/AEF activities, theater information and other key issues.

"As the AEF construct matures, the unclassified Web site provides critical information on how the Air Force conducts business in the 21st century to the general public, family members and news media representatives," Barboza said. "This also allows Air Force people to get certain AEF information from their home computers."

The sites offer "one-stop shopping" for those eligible to deploy and those who want more information

about the EAF concept and AEF process.

"It is critical that everyone identified for an AEF should go to EAF Online to obtain the latest information they need for their deployment," Barboza said.

The site is the direct results of feedback from those who have been on AEF deployments.

Individuals can also provide feedback through the EAF Online website. ♣

To access EAF Online:

1. Log in to <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil/eafportal>
2. For first time users, click on "Register with EAF Online".
3. Provide the required information to register.
4. Once registered, provide your login and password for access.
5. The next screen will be your front page that provides you with the option to customize based on preferences.
6. The web portal is user friendly and includes instructions you need to make the most of the information provided.

If you have AEF Online questions, e-mail an AEFC representative at:

eafweb@langley.af.mil

If you have AFW deployment questions, call Maj. Ted Melton at DSN 575-2286, or e-mail at:

edward.milton@langley.af.mil

Solar Maximum: Here and gone...or so you think

By Maj. Shawn Filby

Palehua Solar Observatory, Hawaii

Capt. Chris Smithro

Space Environment Center, Colo.

So you have heard that solar maximum has come and gone. Well, you couldn't tell by some of the recent solar activity. Some of the largest and strongest activity can occur in the years following the peak in sunspots.

Solar Maximum is the peak of the sun's sunspot cycle, usually lasting around 11 years. Observers around the world have been taking detailed observations of the sun since the 17th century and have documented over twenty of the sun's cycles.

Currently the 55th SWXS, Det. 5 solar observatories are watching solar cycle #23 and it looks like it has peaked. The scientists at NOAA's Space Environment Center have based this conclusion on three pieces of evidence.

The first is the most obvious; we are not seeing as many sunspots on the visible "solar disk" as we have in the past few months. A thirteen-month smoothed sunspot number seems to have peaked in April, 2000. There's a chance a secondary peak can occur, but more than likely it will not surpass the magnitude of last April's peak.

Secondly, we have seen the return of polar coronal holes and they have reversed polarity. Coronal holes appear to be gaps in the sun's outermost layer and almost disappear during the Solar Maximum years.

While this evidence standing by itself is not conclusive, coupled with the smoothed

sunspot number decline it makes a strong case for a solar cycle weakening.

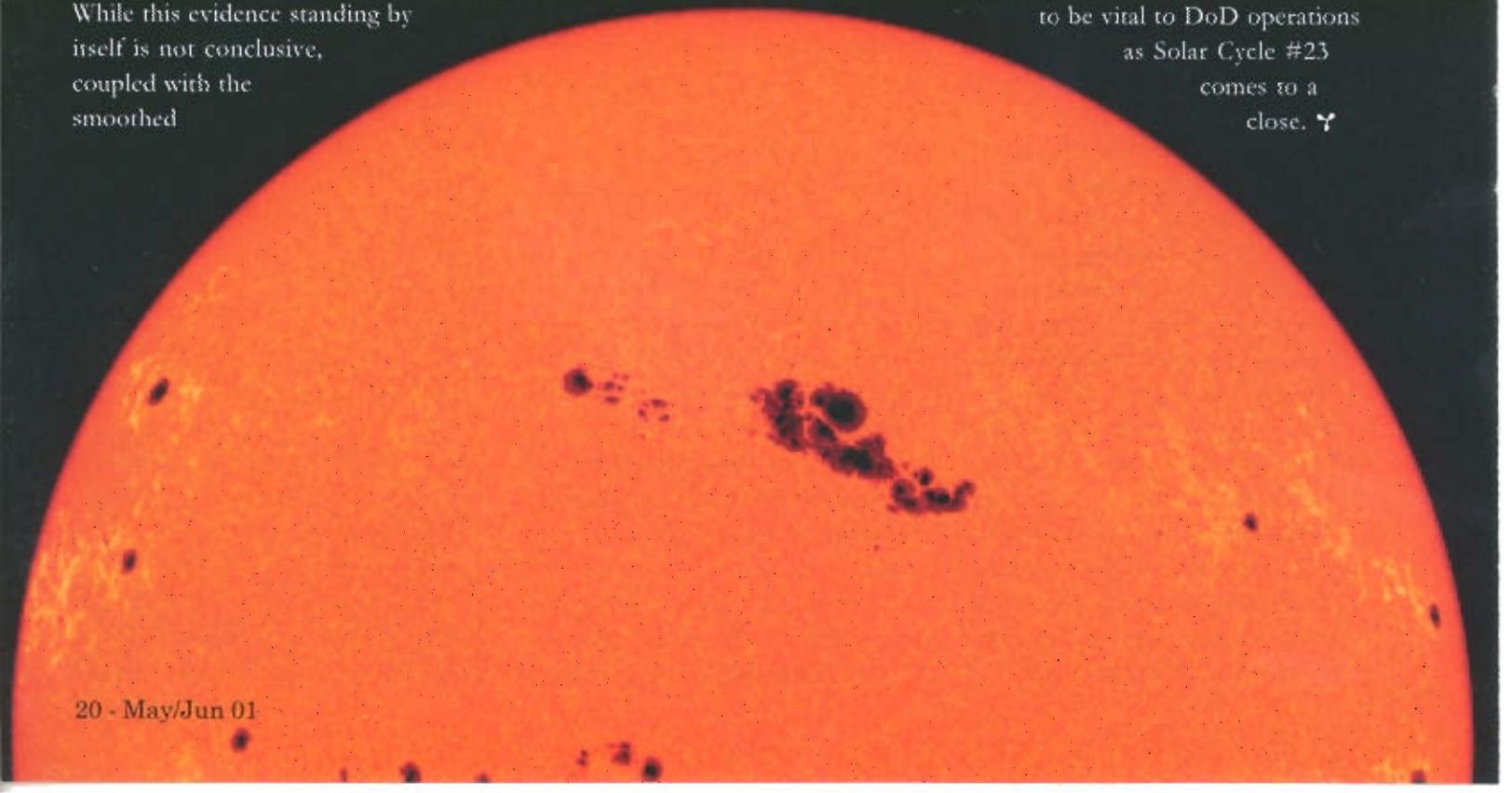
Lastly, the location of the sunspots also gives us a clue that the sun's activity is slowing. During the ramp-up phase to Solar Maximum, sunspots form around 30 degrees north and 30 degrees south latitude of the sun's equator. As the solar cycle progresses, the sunspot formation gets closer and closer to the equator until, during solar minimum conditions, they are about 5 degrees on either side of the equator and decrease in number.

Using these observations as a guide, it appears we are indeed in the solar cycle's decline.

But, just because the sun has entered a solar cycle decline does not mean large solar flares are over for the next couple of years. Post-maximum solar strength can be quite strong. Evidence of this strength was seen in April, when we experienced the largest solar flare on record. Sunspot Region 9393 produced this flare, which was classified as an X20 flare (10 times larger than what the minimum criteria is for an "extreme" flare), saturating the X-ray sensors on the GOES spacecraft.

This means that the weather community can not become complacent about space weather. Just as reaching the summer solstice doesn't mean the end of the hot weather for the year, instead, it means a few more weeks of summer are still in store. Similarly, as we pass solar maximum we still can expect strong solar activity for the next two years or so. Space weather observations, fore-

casts, alerts, and warnings will continue to be vital to DoD operations as Solar Cycle #23 comes to a close. ♣



ANG, continued from Page 4

funding sufficient to equip the Guard.

Another important concern for the Guard is what to do with our observers? Although ANG units have always encouraged everyone to commit to becoming forecasters, it has been impossible for some members to leave their civilian jobs for the time required to attend the Able Forecaster Course and the ensuing 45 days FOT. We have set a drop-dead date of Sep. 30, 2004, for all current observers to either become forecasters or leave the weather program. This is having an adverse impact on manning levels, and may take 3-5 years to correct.

The last major challenge facing the Guard weather field is the implemen-

tation of the newly developed Unit Type Codes that reduce the overall manning requirements for the "customers" the Guard now supports. Naturally, the ANG does not want to lose these authorizations and every effort will be made to utilize every one of them. But how? We suggest that the time may be right to address the overall Guard tasking requirements of AFW, with the MAJCOMs prioritizing their needs. It may be necessary for AFW to host a MAJCOM workshop to redefine the ANG missions for the Total Force.

The question is: "Is it worth it – the time and money spent on the Guard?" To answer that, let me point out the contributions of ANG **Weather** over the past few years.

Guard members have performed 12,236 days of duty in support of AFW operations worldwide. That's 33.5 man-years, and for every time a Guard member showed up, some active duty individual got to stay home from yet another TDY. On top of that, 18 ANG members volunteered to go on active duty for 2-3 years each. In 1999, 50 ANG weather personnel were activated for the Kosovo operation. In the AFE arena, the Guard plans to increase its commitments from the current 12 lines in Cycle 2 to 20 lines in Cycle 3. So is it worth it? You decide.

Total Force – it definitely exists in Air Force Weather! ✎

Handshake, continued from Page 16

Jan. 6, 2001, and began work in earnest. The plan was to deploy three teams of 30, each rotating on a two-week basis. Workers lived in empty station housing and messed using kitchen capabilities at a local Puerto Rican Air National Guard site. The USCG supplied materials necessary for each project and the teams were tailored to specific projects as the needs dictated (heavy equipment operations versus electricians or plumbers). Within six weeks this deployment executed a total of 6,536 total hours of labor, completing over 20 projects totaling more than \$280,000.

The repairs included doubling the number of treatment rooms at the station medical clinic, repairing tree-root damaged roads, removing diseased or hazardous trees, and repairing playgrounds. The team also volunteered their expertise off station as well. They worked alongside Coast Guard equipment operators and community volunteers in a Community Impact Day, hauling out abandoned vehicles and discarded appliances.

"We're ecstatic about what they've (181st) done for us, both on the mission and quality-of-life projects," said Inglesbe. Based on what we've seen, we hope to establish a long-term relationship with the Air National Guard."

There are already plans for the Guard to

return in the fall and continue working on the huge backlog of maintenance throughout the entire USCG station.

"The success of this operation is a classic example of a simple idea blossoming into an extraordinary operation when given the proper attention and care," said Cabanin. "The lesson here is to not forget many of the best ideas begin with mid-level NCOs and officers thinking 'outside the box' and being passionate advocates for their ideas," added Cabanin. ✎



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Terry Arthur

Member of 181st Prime BEEF team trimming trees in the local community around the Borinquen Air Station, Puerto Rico.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Culbertson

Det. 4, 10th Combat Weather Squadron/
75th Ranger Regiment, Ft. Benning, Ga.

Job Title: Chief, Weather Operations

Years in service: 15

Hometown: Seattle, Wash.

Family: Married to Deana with 2 Daughters:
Gabrielle and Katie

Hobbies: Computers, Outdoor Sports
(football), Reading

Reason joined the Air Force: See the world

Personal motto: Try not to become a man
of success, try to become a man of value

Most memorable AFW experience: As a
young forecaster during an exercise, I
generated a forecast briefing slide for my
commander. My commander headed out the tent without looking at the slide. He proceeded to brief
that the threat of thunderstorms was over, still without looking at the slide. I tried in vain to point to
the slide with my forecasted thunderstorms for the next several hours as he proceeded to brief no more
thunderstorms. The ground commander again asked, "are you sure that there will be no more thunder-
storms?" My commander's response: no more thunderstorms. Within 5 minutes of the weather brief, a
crash of thunder shook the tent and a downpour started. I learned a valuable lesson that day: the
importance of never briefing any forecast without having firsthand knowledge of the meteorology
behind it.



WEATHER WARRIORS

Master Sgt. David Tucker II

146th Weather Flight, Pittsburgh Pa.

Job Title: Meteorological Technician

Years in Service: 16

Hometown: Ashtabula, Ohio

Family: Married, 2 daughters

Hobbies: Computers, skydiving, travel

Reason Joined the Air Force: I've always
wanted to join the military, ever since I was a
young boy. The Air Force gave me the oppor-
tunities I was looking for.

Personal Motto: Just Do It

Most memorable AFW experience: As hard as
it may be for some people to believe, Forecast-
ing School was my most memorable Air Force
Weather experience. I've had numerous
deployments over the years, but Forecast
School still stands out as my most memorable
experience.

SALUTES

Retirements

Col. Richard Fisher, HQ USAF/XOW, Pentagon

Col. Charles French, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Col. Tamzy House, 366th SPTG, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Col. Douglas Pearson, 2nd WF, Ft. McPherson, Ga.

Lt. Col. Kevin Johnston, HQ ACC/DOW, Langley AFB, Va.

Lt. Col. Terry Laing, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Lt. Col. Paul Place, 20th OWS, Yokota AB, Japan

Lt. Col. Thomas Schott, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Lt. Col. Robert Thorp, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Master Sgt. Robert DuFrane, 3rd WS, Fort Hood, Texas

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Przybysz, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. William Anderson, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Dennis Davis, AFCWC, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Master Sgt. Stephen Harrison, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. William Howerton, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Gary Justus, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Timothy Kalb, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Gary Kimsey, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Raymond Bigler, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Burkholder, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Festus Etienne, 3rd WS, Fort Hood, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Richard Gomez, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Girard Hunter, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Russell Smith, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Catherine Cotton, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. John Lenz, 19th ASOS, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

Awards and Decorations

LEGION OF MERIT

Col. Charles Benson Jr., 34th SPTG, USAF Academy, Colo.

Col. Douglas Pearson, 2nd WF, Ft. McPherson, Ga.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Lt. Col. Tom Frooninckx, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Lt. Col. Thomas Schott, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Maj. Christopher Bjorkman, IIQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Maj. Jeff Kapolka, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Maj. Eugene Layeski, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Capt. Jeffrey Leising, 126th WF, Milwaukee, Wis.

Capt. Scott Magnan, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Freddie Abshire, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Dennis Davis, AFCWC, Hurlburt Field, Fla. (1st OLC)

Master Sgt. Allan Easey, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Robert Hirl, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Timothy Kalb, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Scott MacDonald, 20th OWS, Yokota AB, Japan

Master Sgt. Derrick Parnell, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Girard Hunter, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Alan Delotelle, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

AIR RESERVE FORCES MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Master Sgt. Michael Gardner, 146th WF, Pittsburgh, Pa. (4th OLC)

Master Sgt. James Malia, 146th WF, Pittsburgh, Pa. (3rd OLC)

Tech. Sgt. Robert Hathaway, 140th WF, Willow Grove ARS, Pa. (2nd OLC)

Tech. Sgt. Mike Oliver, 140th WF Willow Grove ARS, Pa. (1st OLC)

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

Capt. Paul Helmbrecht, 126th WF, Milwaukee, Wis.

Capt. Dustin Yates, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Raymond Perez, 3rd WS, Fort Hood, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Dennis Miller, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. James Tracy, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Julie Clark, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Laurie Kline, 31st OSS/OSW, Aviano AB, Italy

Staff Sgt. Lawless Foster, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Cathleen Rayshich, 140th WF, Willow Grove ARS, Pa.

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Staff Sgt. Lesley Rouell, Det. 12, 7th WS, Vicenza, Italy

Staff Sgt. Richard Sanders, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Gerald Smieja, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Airman 1st Class Vinh Truong, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Senior Airman Jennifer McCaulley, Det. 3, 7th WS, Illesheim, Germany

Senior Airman Mathew Myers, Det. 3, 7th WS, Illesheim, Germany

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Capt. Morgan Mackey, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. James Jezek, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Timothy Kalb, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Barry Hastings, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Master Sgt. Jay Welshonse, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. George Booker Jr., 8th OSS/OSW, Kunsan AB, Korea (1st OLC)

Tech. Sgt. Daniel George, 25th ASOS, Wheeler AAF, Hawaii (1st OLC)

Tech. Sgt. Chris Olson, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Marty Ring, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Schultz, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Michael Claxton, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Olson, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Merle Richard, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Robert Decker, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Amy Harmon, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Robert Hinton, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

Senior Airman Cecil Kelly, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Andrew Kowal, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

Senior Airman LaTerese Lawrence, 25th ASOS, Wheeler AAF, Hawaii

Senior Airman Duilia Mora, 25th ASOS, Wheeler AAF, Hawaii (1st OLC)

Airman 1st Class Beau Jacobson, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Capt. Timothy Hall, OL-A, AFOG, Ft. Detrick, Md.

Tech. Sgt. Marc Allen, OL-A, AFOG, Ft. Detrick, Md.

Tech. Sgt. Larry Rodgers, OL-A, AFOG, Ft. Detrick, Md.

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Fuller, Det. 9, 7th WS, Hohenfels, Germany

Master Sgt. Thomas Boss, 7th EWS, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

Senior Airman Isaac Hinojosa, Det. 7, 7th WS, Grafenwoehr, Germany

Senior Airman LaTerese Lawrence, 25th ASOS, Wheeler AAF, Hawaii

Senior Airman Robert Phillips Jr., Det. 7, 7th WS, Grafenwoehr, Germany

Senior Airman David Sutton, Det. 7, 7th WS, Grafenwoehr, Germany

Senior Airman Jessica Thornock, Det. 7, 7th WS, Grafenwoehr, Germany

MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL

Senior Airman Jennifer McCaulley, Det. 3, 7th WS, Illesheim, Germany

Education

WEATHER OFFICER COURSE

2nd Lt. Bradley Harbaugh, 26th OWS, Barksdale AFB, La.

2nd Lt. Sarah Mussoni, 28th OWS, Shaw AFB, S.C.

2nd Lt. Matthew Sattler, 25th OWS, Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.

2nd Lt. John Syc, USAFE OWS, Sembach AB, Germany

2nd Lt. Jason Wild, 509th OSS/OSW, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

WEATHER CRAFTSMAN'S COURSE

Staff Sgt. Cecil Kelly, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Derrell Lankford, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Brent Persinger, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Carol Sweatt, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

FORECASTER COURSE

Senior Airman Vernee' White, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

Senior Airman Toby Wright, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

WEATHER FORECASTER APPRENTICE COURSE

Airman 1st Class Erica Carey, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

Airman 1st Class Eric Cox, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

Airman 1st Class Terry English, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

TROPICAL WEATHER ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING COURSE

Capt. Kathleen Campbell, 20th OWS, Yokota AB, Japan

ANG COMBAT WEATHER COURSE

Master Sgt. Rosario Gentile, 152nd AOG, Syracuse, N.Y.

Staff Sgt. Michael Casey, 159th WF, Camp Blanding, Fla.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Sonier, 122nd WF, Hammond, La.

Staff Sgt. Kurt Westerman, 110th WF, St. Louis, Mo.

Staff Sgt. Donald Wilhelm, 107th WF, Selfridge ANGB, Mich.

Staff Sgt. Victoria Winsor, 159th WF, Camp Blanding, Fla.

Senior Airman Patricia Ballou, 116th WF, Camp Murray, Wash.

Senior Airman Elizabeth Henderson, 120th WF, Buckley AFB, Colo.

COIN CORNER



Capt. Glenn Kerr, 88th WS/WEL, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, received a coin from the General for his work with the Global Hawk program. His work with the program through exercise TANDEM THRUST brought national attention to the program.

Senior Master Sgt. Paul Rano, 15 OWS, Scott AFB, Ill., received his coin for his leadership at the 15 OWS and winning the AFW Best Award. He was involved in the unit stand-up, implementation of the flight briefing center, and setting up the 3-level training.



2d Lt. James Otoki, 1st OSS/OSW, Langley AFB, Va., received a coin from the General for work during 2000/2001 winter Northeasters in the Langley area. He also simplified the program for briefing transit aircrews.

Photos courtesy of the Air Staff

Senior Airman Eric Lawrence, 207th WF, Indianapolis, Ind.
Senior Airman Nicholas Valenti, 125th WF, Tulsa, Okla.
Senior Airman Thomas Richards, 121st WF, Andrews AFB, Md.
Airman 1st Class Jacob Darling, 208th WF, Minneapolis, Minn.

OBSERVING TRAINING, ANG WRTC

Spc. Shirlene Liles, Los Alamitos AAF, Calif.

AMRY JUMPMaster COURSE

Tech. Sgt. Michael Gilbert, Det. 2, 10th CWS, Ft. Campbell, Ky. (Honor Graduate)

MILITARY FREE FALL COURSE

Senior Airman Robert Davis, Det. 2, 10th CWS, Ft. Campbell, Ky.

AWDS MANAGER COURSE

Tech. Sgt. Scot Fujioka, 25th ASOS, Wheeler AAF, Hawaii

Tech Sgt. Carl Thompson, 20th OWS, Yokota AB, Japan

AN/TMQ-53 (TMOS) COURSE

Tech Sgt. Billy Taylor, 27th OSS/WF, Cannon AFB, N.M.

SELECTED FOR OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Staff Sgt. Brian Carlson, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. James George, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Walker, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

NCO ACADEMY

Tech. Sgt. Richard McCarthy, 20th OWS, Yokota AB, Japan

Tech. Sgt. Kelly McGee, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb. (Distinguished Graduate)

Tech. Sgt. Larry Groff, Det. 7, AFWA, Tinker AFB, Okla. (Commandant's Award, Distinguished Graduate)

Tech. Sgt. Kevin West, Det. 3, 55th SWXS, Ramey, Puerto Rico (Distinguished Graduate)

AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Staff Sgt. Donna Nowalski, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Robert Ross, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Staff Sgt. Roxann Taylor, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Jerome Adams, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Elizabeth Covairt, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Traci Gaines, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Davina Hardin, HQ USAF/XOWR, Pentagon

Senior Airman Josh Hicks, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Carl Schuett, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb. (Distinguished Graduate and Academic Award)

Senior Airman Jill Schweigert, 57th OSS/OSW, Nellis AFB, Nev.

Senior Airman Ursula Smith, HQ AFWA, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Senior Airman Amy Whiteman, 204th WF, McGuire AFB, N.J. (John Levitow Award)

ANG Promotions

Promotion to:

Captain

James Lane, 207th WF, Indianapolis, Ind.

Major

Kimberly Pacheco, 210th WF, March ARB, Calif.

First Lieutenant

Roderick Coronel, 210th WF, March ARB, Calif.

John Cullen, 202nd WF, Otis ANGB, Mass.

Master Sergeant

Richard Slominsky, 110th WF, St. Louis, Mo.

Technical Sergeant

Gregory Bell, 140th WF, Willow Grove, Pa.

Jason Colon, 107th WF, Selfridge ANGB, Mich.

Brian Landtroop, 105th WF, Nashville, Tenn.

Barry May, 159th WF, Camp Blanding, Fla.

Scott Morgan, 111th WF, Houston, Texas

Staff Sergeant

David Hennig, 111st WF, Houston, Texas

Carlos Tucker, 120th WF, Buckley AFB, Colo.

