



# AWS Observer

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U.S. National Archives photo  
 With theodolite and pilot balloon, a military weatherman of the era between World Wars I and II gets ready to launch a probe of the atmosphere above the surface. He will track the balloon's flight using the three-legged theodolite.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
 WASHINGTON

March 27, 1987

I am pleased to send my congratulations to the Air Weather Service as you celebrate your Golden Anniversary.

For 50 years, you have done an outstanding job supporting America's military forces and originating many of the major advances in the science of meteorology. The Air Weather Service plays a vital role in the decision making process of military commanders by providing necessary weather information. You also perform a crucial function by aiding civilian meteorologists with accurate and timely weather reports through the use of satellites, radar and air reconnaissance.

I salute the men and women of the Air Weather Service for a job well done. With your continued dedication and professionalism, I am sure that the forecast of the Air Force will always be "clear and a million." Again, congratulations and God bless you.

*Ronald Reagan*

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# Weather Service started in the military

The first U.S. government "weathermen" were Army hospital surgeons ordered to observe the weather and keep records during the War of 1812. By 1853, 97 Army camps were keeping such records, looking for links between the weather and such scourges as yellow fever.

Meanwhile, other private and public organizations got into the weather business. In 1849, Professor Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian Institution established an extensive observation network by supplying weather instruments to telegraph companies.

By 1860, Henry had 500 reporting stations, but the Civil War reduced the size of his network. Local telegraphs made simultaneous observations and telegraphed the results to the Smithsonian, where maps were prepared. Professor Henry frequently made predictions based on the maps — his were the first published weather forecasts in the United States.

On Feb. 2, 1870, Congress passed a bill establishing a national weather service under the Secretary of War. Weather operations were placed under the Army Signal Service, because of its widespread telegraph system. The Smithsonian's remaining 383 stations were transferred to the Signal Corps Weather Service, and observers around the country telegraphed reports to Washington, where forecasts (called

"probabilities" until 1889) were made.

At first, the weather service's mission was to make observations at



A U.S. Army Signal Service Soldier of the late 1880s transmits the latest weather data by heliograph from one of America's earliest weather stations at Pike's Peak. (U.S. National Archives photo)

military stations and warn of storms on the Great Lakes and the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Service expanded rapidly between 1870 and 1890, and included studies of storm signals throughout the country "for the benefit of commerce and agriculture," river stages, warnings of cold waves, and, through cooperation with the British, expanded Atlantic Ocean storm monitoring.

Because the weather service was so important to farmers, it was transferred to the Department of Agriculture in 1891, where it was called the Weather Bureau. After that, meteorology in the Army waned until the U.S. entered World War I in April 1917. Soon after the American Expeditionary Force landed in France, its commander, General John J. Pershing, expressed a need for a meteorological service and the Signal Corps Weather Service was revived.

Weather information was not only applied to artillery, but also to aviation, as Allied pilots found the prevailing westerlies one of their biggest concerns.

The golden fleur-de-lis in today's Air Weather Service emblem commemorates the service of some 200-300 Signal Corps weathermen who saw service in France. Some of these weathermen saw action at such memorable battlefields as Chateau Thierry and the Argonne Forest.

## 1943

First radiosondes installed at AAF Weather Service units. Short-range (24, 36 and 48 hours) forecast verification program inaugurated by AAF Weather Service.

First 10 Women Air Force Service Pilots assigned to AAF Weather Service.

Aerial weather reconnaissance operations begin during the summer using the North American B-25 Mitchell bomber over the North Atlantic.

## 1944

JCS approved first formal plan for aerial reconnaissance of hurricanes by AAF Weather Service and Navy aircraft.

At mid-year, AAF Weather Service has more than 19,000 military personnel assigned. AWS' largest population ever.

Army transferred responsibility for research and development, maintenance and storage of weather communications equipment from Army Signal Corps to AAF.

## 1945

AAF is charged with responsibility for providing weather support to Army ground forces as well as to the Air Forces.

Air Staff's Weather Division (under AC/AS, OCR) in the Pentagon abolished and AAF Weather Wing at Asheville redesignated as new command, the AAF Weather Service.

War Department ordered all weather units outside continental U.S. in theater commands be assigned to, and come under operational control of AAF, through AAF Weather Service.

AAF Weather Service began around-the-clock forecasting support to AACS' Military Flight Service Center program.

## 1946

AAF Weather Service units received first B-29s for weather reconnaissance mission.

HQ AAF Weather Service moved from Asheville to Langley Field, Va., then to Gravelly Point, Va.

AAF Weather Service redesignated AWS and reassigned from HQ AAF to Air Transport Command.

First AN/GMQ-2 fixed-beam ceilometer installed at Langley Field, Va.

# A half century of service

## 1937

The War Department General Staff transfers control of the Army weather service from the Chief Signal Officer to the Chief of the Air Corps.

## 1938

The Army Airways Communications System (later named Air Communications Service, Airways and Air Communications Service, and then Air Force Communications Service) was established. Its mission included transmitting Army Air Corps Weather Service communications.

## 1939

First class of seven enlisted men enter first formal Army Air Corps weather observer school at Scott Field, Ill.

## 1940

Enlisted forecaster and observer schools moved to the Air Corps Weather School, Chanute AFB, Ill.

First meteorological cadet class enrolled in three-month course at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## 1941

First official Army Air Corps Weather Service long-range (30 day) forecast, and long-range forecast verification attempts.

Army Air Forces was established. The Weather Section was responsible for managing Army Air Corps

Weather Service and became part of the Training and Operations Division, Air Corps.

## 1942

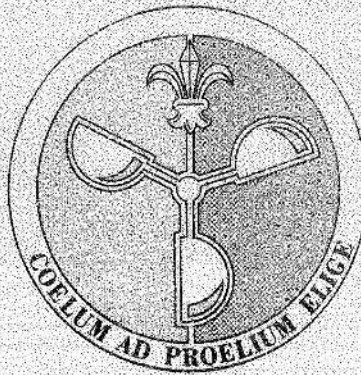
Expanding as a result of World War II, the AAF Weather Service establishes installations in the Pacific area, India, China, Australia, North and Central Africa, the British Isles, Greenland, Iceland, the Caribbean area, South America, Canada and all U.S. overseas possessions. Army Air Corps Weather Service

began using inaptyping (analogues) technique in preparing long-range forecasts for various Allied invasion dates.

Test facsimile transmission of weather products on circuit from AAF Weather Service Weather Central in Washington to SWS station at Presque Isle, Maine.

First weather reconnaissance unit is organized at Patterson Field Ohio. The AAF Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (Test) No. 1. First aircraft assigned is a Beech C-45 Expediter.

*The earliest known authorized weather emblem was a distinctive, disk shaped badge approved in September 1942. The disk's light blue left side and black right side indicate AWS' performance both day and night. The white anerometer cups, bordered in golden yellow, are symbolic of the principal instruments used in weather forecasting. The golden yellow fleur-de-lis represents participation of the weather service (American Expeditionary Forces) in France during World War I. The motto's motto, "COELUM AD PROELIUM FLIGE" translates from the Latin as "CHOOSE THE WEATHER FOR ACTION."*







WAF Corporal Phyllis L. Merrill, USAF, a weather observer attached to the Base Weather Station, Andrews AFB, D.C., is adjusting the facsimile machine prior to sending a radio weather map.

**1947**

UHF pilot-to-forecaster service established for AAF crews.

First Ptarmigan Arctic weather reconnaissance mission flown over the North Pole. ("Ptarmigan" is a native Arctic bird.)

National Security Act established the Air Force as a separate branch of service.

**1948**

First tornado forecast issued by AWS at Tinker AFB, Okla.

AWS, together with Airways and Air Communications Service, Air Rescue Service, Flight Service and Air Photographic and Charting Service is assigned to the newly formed Military Air Transport Service.

HQ AWS established Scientific Services function under Dr. Sverre Petterssen.

HQ AWS moved with HQ MATS to Andrews AFB, Md.

**1949**

Global Weather Central organized at Offutt AFB, Neb., to support the Strategic Air Command.

Air Force formally established "Airman Weather Career Field" with publication of AF Regulation 35-425.

**1950**

Formal flight following and met-watch advisory service inaugurated.

Hostilities in Korea commenced. Within 48-hours a weather detachment was airlifted from Japan to Taegu and began furnishing weather information for United Nations forces.

Fletcher's Ice Island (T-3) is discovered in the Arctic Ocean by a Ptarmigan weather reconnaissance crew.

**1951**

Severe Weather Warning Center is formally established by AWS at Tinker AFB, Okla.

AWS began field testing prototype SCM-19 Automatic Weather Station that automatically transmitted precipitation, temperature, pressure, humidity, sunshine and wind data every three hours.

**1952**

AWS began decentralizing its climatology service by placing climatology cells at selected field units.

AWS completes reorganization of its units from a geographical posture to one of functional alignment with the command being supported.

First three Teletographs installed at stateside bases.

**1953**

First Weathervision test begun at Hamilton AFB, Calif.

**1954**

First radar specifically designed for meteorological use, the AN/CPS-9, installed at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Joint (USAF-Navy-Weather Bureau) Numerical Weather Prediction Unit begins operation at

Suitland, Md., on July 1.

Weather Observing and Forecasting System (Project 433L) is launched with a target date of 1963.

First AN/GMO-11 surface wind set installed at Etelson AFB, Alaska.

The command newspaper, the AWS Observer, begins publication.



The GMD rawin set could be used to track radiosonde signals from a permanent site or transported to remote sections of the world.

**1955**

Daily weather chart production by an IBM 701 electronic computer at the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit is inaugurated.

Prototype of the weather-modified Boeing B-50, the WB-50 is delivered to AWS by Lockheed. This replacement for the Boeing WB-29 Superfortress raises the operational altitude of weather reconnaissance from 500 millibars (18,000 feet) to 300 millibars (30,000 feet).

VHF pilot-to-forecaster service (Channel 12#) network is established, making it possible for a pilot in flight to get current weather information directly from the AWS forecaster.

**1956**

Representative observation program is set up, moving the weather observer out onto the airfield, where his observations parallel

more closely the actual weather conditions encountered by the pilot.

First weathervision (closed-circuit weather briefings by television installation becomes operational) Grandview AFB (now Richard Gebaur AFB), Mo.

AWS Data Control Division Asheville, N.C., inaugurates IBM 701 electronic data-processing equipment for processing climatologic weather data.

Doppler radar is installed on WB-50 weather aircraft to measure wind speeds.

A weather balloon is developed to extend AWS upper-air probes to 100,000 feet.

First AN/TMO-11 surface temperature-humidity measuring set delivered.

**1957**

First of annual AWS Commander Awards, named in honor of past AWS commanders, are presented to two individuals and four AWS units.

First synoptic weather reconnaissance by a jet aircraft is made by a Boeing WB-47 Stratojet.

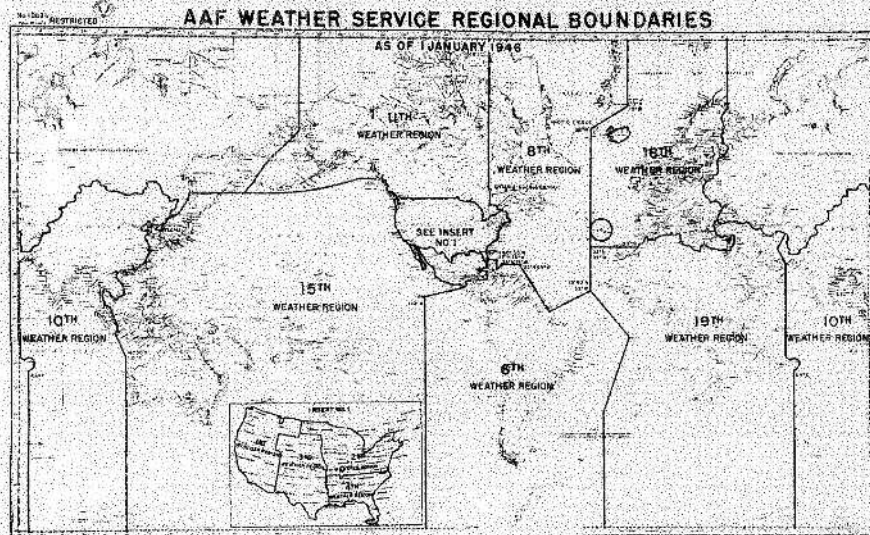
USAF Weather Central at Suitland Md., is closed and its resource combined with the Offutt (Global Weather Central).



Small rockets bearing sensor packages were fired to altitudes of 50 miles, after which the sensors were tracked as they parachuted back to the earth.

**Weather regions**

A weather region was a geographical area, not an Air Force unit. The region had no lineage and was not entitled to honors or emblem. For each region, the War Department constituted a numbered weather squadron as the organization to which personnel performing weather duty were basically assigned. The commanding officer of the weather squadron was normally the regional control officer. The function of the control officer was to supervise and technically control all weather activities within the region, to coordinate services with other regions, to inspect weather stations, and to make recommendations on matters pertaining to weather service in the region.



**1958**  
First AN/GMD-2 rawin sets tested at Andrews AFB, Md.  
AWS Headquarters moves from Andrews AFB, D.C., to Scott AFB, Ill.  
AWS Centralized Forecast Facility, Det. 4, 4th Weather Group, begins forecasting officially for the central U.S. from Kansas City, Mo.

**1959**  
First AN/GMO-13 rotating beam cellometers installed.  
USAF strategic facsimile network is inaugurated, connecting Global Weather Central with other weather centers and stateside facilities.  
Joint (Navy-Air Force) Typhoon Warning Center established at Navy's Fleet Weather Central facility, Nimitz Hill, Guam.  
First weather squadrons (7th and 10th) are activated for the exclusive support of the Army.

**1960**  
Global Weather reconnaissance is consolidated, when the 55th and 55th Weather Reconnaissance Squadrons are assigned to the 9th Weather Group.  
World's first weather satellite, TIROS I, is launched.  
Both Global Weather Central and the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Unit receive IBM 7090 computers.

**1961**  
The 9th Weather Reconnaissance Group is activated in July at McClellan AFB, Calif., to include all AWS reconnaissance squadrons and detachments.  
AWS is designated by Air Force as single manager for Defense Department for aerial sampling. This assignment leads to acquisition of the 121st Test Squadron (Sampling) and 121st Balloon Activities Squadron, in August.

World's first official clear air turbulence forecast issued by AWS' Kansas City Centralized (Terminal Forecast Facility).  
First duplicate precision-approach, weather-observation facility -- to place weather instruments at both ends of the runway -- is installed at Suffolk County AFB, N.Y.  
Responding to PACAF and USAF requests, an initial cadre of 23 AWS personnel are deployed to the Republic of Vietnam.

**1962**  
Continental United States -- Meteorological Teletype, or COMET system, is implemented with an automated weather relay center at Tinker AFB, Okla.  
First AWS solar forecast issued by HQ AWS.  
The first WC-130B aircraft con-

figured for atmospheric sampling delivered to the 55th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, McClellan AFB, Calif.  
First simultaneous firings of meteorological rockets by the AWS-operated USAF rocketsonde network from four stations in the U.S., Canada and the Atlantic Ocean.  
Solar Branch created at HQ AWS to undertake test of solar flare and proton shower forecasting program. First forecast issued in October to four customers.

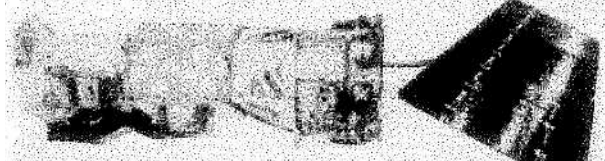
**1963**  
The first of 34 WB-47s equipped with the AN/AMQ-18 meteorological system are delivered to AWS at McClellan AFB.  
First operationally ready USAF Television Ground Station installed at 3rd Weather Wing Headquarters, Offutt AFB, Neb., to receive local readout of cloud pictures taken by weather satellites.

**1964**  
AWS transferred responsibility for clear air turbulence forecasting from 3WW centers at March and Westover AFBs to Global Weather Central.  
Solar forecasting function transferred from HQ AWS to 4WW, Ent AFB, Colo.  
First production model AN/TPQ-11 weather radar delivered.  
First AN/FPS-77 weather radar delivered to Griffiss AFB, N.Y., for testing.

Climatic Center, USAF, Washington, D.C., redesignated the Environmental Technical Applications Center, USAF.



Space Systems Division's weather vision facility at Los Angeles AFS, Calif., made its 100,000th telecast in mid-1965 when SMSgt. Stanley W. Marczewski (seated) and MSgt. Donald W. Taft broadcast weather briefing information to pilots of Los Angeles AFS.



Two classes of Defense Military Satellite Program satellites, near earth polar orbiters and stationary geosynchronous vehicles, are used to monitor weather around the world.

**1965**  
Automated Weather Network, linking weather centrals at Fuchu AS, Japan, High Wycombe, England and the Global Weather Central becomes operational.  
First Defense Meteorological Satellite Program weather satellite launched.  
Global Weather Central began transmitting six analysis and forecast maps twice daily to Fuchu and High Wycombe centrals over the AWN.

**1966**  
AWS ended inconclusive tests using dry ice with tethered balloons to dissipate cold fog.  
AWS expands in Southeast Asia to a group and three squadrons.  
Air Force approved establishment of the Air Force Global Weather Central, Offutt AFB, Neb.  
Solar Forecast Facility established at Ent AFB, Colo. By the end of the year, Det. 7, 4WW had begun mapping the ionosphere.

**1967**  
AWS WC-130s begin weather reconnaissance and rainmaking operations in Southeast Asia.  
Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer says, "This weather (DMSP satellite) picture is probably the greatest innovation of the war," during a television interview.

**1968**  
AWS formally unveiled plans for the Space Environmental Support System, consolidating several space metering and monitoring systems.  
Position of special assistant to AWS Commander for airman affairs established at HQ AWS. The title is later changed to: Chief Master Sergeant of AWS; Senior Airman Advisor and finally, Senior Enlisted Advisor.

**1969**  
AFGWC activated as a named, squadron-level organization and reassigned to HQ AWS.  
Solar optical telescope at Raimey AFB, Puerto Rico, becomes AWS' first solar telescope.  
Dedication of Automated Digital Weather Switch at Carswell AFB, Texas, marks the move of the AWN's "hub" from Tinker AFB, Okla.

**1970**  
Severe weather forecasting/warning function assumed by AFGWC when the Military Weather Warning Center (Det. 42, 7WW) at Kansas City is inactivated.  
AWN extended to the Philippines by activation of the Automated Digital Weather Switch at Clark AB.

## Air Weather Service Song

The AWS Song was written by 2nd Lt. Eugene Deveraux in the 1940s while assigned to Fort Warren, Mass. He was assigned by Bob Skinner and Walter Bascermann. The last three verses were written by Mrs. Barbara Bryan, a weather wife stationed at Guam in the 1950s, to recognize weather reconnaissance. It is sung to the tune of "McNamara's Band."

I'll never forget the day we met  
The General wanted to fly  
He said, "My boy is it O.K.  
For me to go on high?"  
When I said, "No, it's going to snow."  
You should have seen him frown,  
Say I'm the only guy who's ever  
Kept the general down.

**CHORUS**  
*We are the men  
The weathermen  
We may be wrong  
Oh, now and then,  
But when you see  
Our planes on high --  
Just remember we're the ones  
Who let them fly.*

I read the codes and spot the plot  
My maps are very neat.  
With isotherms and millibars  
These charts are most replete.  
I slip the slide-rule, check the graph,  
Consult the weather vane,  
I order sunshine every day  
But all I get is rain.

**CHORUS**  
The teletype's hot, synoptic shots

Anemometer's going around  
My pressure lines are intertwined  
The fronts are underground,  
The winds that blow from high to low  
Have blown me off the track  
I'll have to throw my books away  
And use the almanac.

**CHORUS**  
I do reconnaissance every day  
In my Baker Twenty-Nine,  
My double drifts and ascent rates  
Are always out of line,  
The "navigator" missed his fix  
The crew is all a-fright  
But that's the way it always is  
On a weather recon flight.

**CHORUS**  
In Hurricane's and Typhoon's eyes,  
I ride the thermals through,  
And by the time we're halfway there  
My seat is black and blue,  
The lightning strikes, the thunder  
roars,  
The sea looks awfully rough,  
The wind is blowing a hundred knots,  
I swear, I've had enough.

**CHORUS**  
Oh we're the weather boys, you see  
We catch it in the slats  
From passing out misleading tepe.  
To people down in MATS.  
But you'll always find us singing  
For we're never ever blue;  
Oh we're the weather boys you see  
And who the H... are you?

**CHORUS**



MAC computer flight plan responsibility transferred from Det. 44, 7WW, Suitland, Md., to AFGWC.

Automatic Response to Query (ARQ) system becomes operational at the Carswell ADWS.

The date (Nov. 20) of a daring night raid by a small U.S. force on the prisoner of war camp at Son Tay, North Vietnam was determined by climatological studies and forecasts prepared by AWS personnel.

**1971**

Position of Chief Scientist at HQ AWS is approved by USAF.

AWS unique, high-altitude balloon sampling support of Atomic Energy Commission (Det. 31, 6WW) and Latin American Forecast Center (Det. 3, 15WS, 7WW) inactivated.

**1972**

AFGWC reassigned from HQ AWS to 6WW.

Air Force drawdowns reduced AWS by two wings, a group, five squadrons, nine aircraft and 2,315 manpower authorizations.

Automatic Digital Communications Network, AUTODIN, becomes operational at AFGWC.

**1973**

Last AWS unit in Republic of Vietnam, Det. 1, 10WS, Tan Son Nhut AB, inactivated.

AWS announced Sgt. Vicki Ann Esposito's assignment as dropsonde operator. She was the first bona fide female weather reconnaissance crewmember in AWS history.

"Palace Weather" career management team becomes operational at Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas.

**1974**

AWS launched a program to qualify all enlisted weather personnel as both observers and forecasters by the 1980s.

**1975**

Thirty three years of continuous years of organized weather reconnaissance in AWS ends with transfer of mission and resources to ARRS.

The first of five AN/FMQ-7 solar optical telescopes become operational at Palehua, Hawaii.

AWS implemented centralized forecast verification program.

**1976**

Last AWS unit (Det. 30, 1WW, U-Tapao, RTNAS) in Southeast Asia inactivated.

First CONUS Meteorological Data System, COMEDS, segment becomes operational, with a rate of 1,200 words per minute to replace the COMET weather communications service.

AFGWC began issuing Mission Success Indicators, probabilities that missions would have favorable weather for aerial refueling operations.

**1977**

The last warrant officer in AWS, CWO Billy G. Hance, retires at Det. 7, 24WS, 5WW, Mather AFB, Calif.

Air Force ordered transfer of AWS weather equipment maintenance mission and most associated manpower to Air Force Communications Service.

The last AN/APQ-13 weather radar at Det. 1, 3WW, Offutt AFB, Neb., is declared out of commission and turned in.

**1978**

The first RSTN site becomes operational at Palehua, Hawaii.

A major alteration to AWS' centralization and automation doctrine was announced, transferring responsibility for 0-to-24 hour terminal aerodrome forecasts from AFGWC back to the base weather station.

European Forecast Unit officially opened at Kapaun Barracks, Germany, preparing forecast and meteorological support for the European and Mediterranean area.

**1979**

Personnel from the 8th Weather Squadron (Mobile) supported NOAA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by taking observations at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant. Observations included six rawinsonde and six Pibal observations per day from April 1-18.

The German Military Geophysical Office approved 3WW/AWS' concept for establishing a unit at Traben-Trarbach, GMGO's fortified combat weather center complex.

Lowest pressure ever observed, 370 millibars, was recorded in the eye of Typhoon Tip. The new low pressure equated to a 700-mb height of 1,944 meters.

AFGWC began limited operational WWMCCS support to MAC, ADCOM, TAC and USEUCOM.

**1980**

The National Guard Bureau approved establishing an ANG position at HQ AWS to advise the AWS commander and his staff on matters relating to provision of weather support to reserve forces.

Air Force Digital Facsimile System became fully operational, providing transmitted weather charts in 2½ minutes.

Tests showed AFGWC could produce more than 100 computer flight plans an hour. During 1980, AFGWC produced more than 230,000 CPPs.

**1981**

AFGWC produced the first AWS global solar optical coverage chart.

"Single Career Ladder" concept for AWS enlisted people fully implemented, eliminating the weather observer (252X1) AFSC.

Lt. Col. Frederick F. Haddad Jr., Det. 2, 7WS, Hanau, Germany, received the first USAF Lance F. Sijan Leadership Award.

**1982**

The daily transfer of SESS data from AFGWC to USAFETAC's OI-A was replaced by weekly data transfer through the Astrogeophysical Data Base.

The first AN/TPS-88 tactical weather radars became operational at Tinker AFB, Okla.

The TAP function at AFGWC was terminated.

Upgrade of the COMEDS circuits doubled the system's speed and allowed for transmission of NOTAMS.

**1983**

The EURDIGS circuit to AFGWC became operational.

Sam E. Parish became Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. He began his career in 1954 as a weather equipment operator and in 1973 was named AWS Senior Enlisted Advisor.

4th Weather Wing was reactivated to support Space Command.

Nine men from Det. 3, 5WW, Ft. Bragg, N.C., receive Bronze Stars for their support to Operation "URGENT FURY."

**1984**

The Terminal Aerodrome Verification program is replaced by the Operational Verification program.

All MAC Training Advisor (MTA) operating locations with ANG weather flights are inactivated.

The last AWS AN/CPS-9 weather radar set is removed from Maxwell AFB, Ala., and sent for eventual display in the Air Force Museum.

**1985**

The Automated Weather Analysis and Prediction System dedicated at AFGWC. AWAPS uses two Sperry CPPs.

1100/72 computers as front end/data base systems for the AWAPS "Cray X-MP" supercomputer.

Contracts are awarded to replace AN/GMD-2 and GMD-4 rawinsonde sets; AN/FPS-103 and some FPS-77 weather radar sets; ionospheric sounders; AN/GMQ-11 and GMQ-20 wind measuring sets; and for tactical cloud height devices as replacements for the AN/TMQ-14, AN/TMQ-2, ML-121, and ceiling balloons.

NASA approved AWS' request for a weather officer to fly on a space shuttle mission. Major Fred P. Lewis is named to be the first AWS Weather Officer in Space.

**1986**

The first overseas Meteorological Data System circuit is accepted at Eielson AFB, Alaska.

The last rocket is launched from Shemya AB, Alaska, ending the era of Air Force rocketsonde operations.

AWS units track radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl reactor accident in the Soviet Union.

Contracts are awarded to replace the AN/TMQ-22 tactical meteorological stations and AN/TMQ-13 wind sets.

New ML-658/GM altimeter-barometer digital (DBASI) sets were installed at 197 sites worldwide.

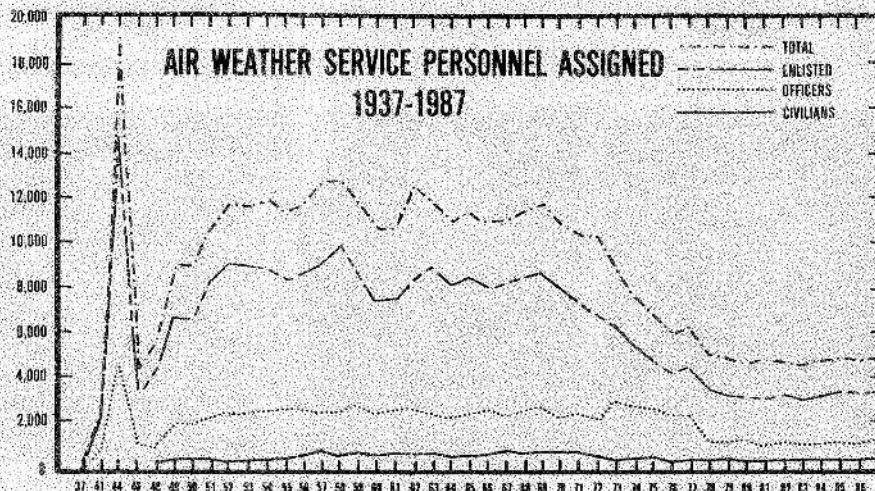
The Satellite Data Handling System was declared operational at AFGWC.

**1987**

The Air Force announced that, effective Oct. 1, 1987, the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam, would be deactivated and the Air Force Reserve's 815th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Keesler AFB, Miss., would be converted to a tactical airlift squadron.

Air Staff approved a new badge for wear by AWS personnel.

In a reorganization of HQ AWS, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics directorate was dissolved and a new directorate, the DCS for Program Management was created.



# AWS Commanders and



**Captain Randolph P. Williams**  
1937

*Since its creation in 1937, Air Weather Service has been fortunate to have strong leadership from its commissioned and non-commissioned officers.*

*During the past 50 years, few have risen to command the Air Weather Service, and since 1966, only six Chief Masters Sergeants have served as enlisted advisors to the commander. Listed in chronological order below are the men who have held these positions.*



**Capt. Robert M. Losey**  
1937 - 1940



**Maj. Arthur F. Merewether**  
1940 - 1942



**Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman Jr.**  
1954 - 1958



**Brig. Gen. Norman L. Peterson**  
1958 - 1959 - 1963



**Brig. Gen. Roy W. Nelson Jr.**  
1963 - 1965



**Maj. Gen. Russell K. Pierce Jr.**  
1965 - 1970



**Brig. Gen. Albert J. Koehn Jr.**  
1978 - 1982



**Brig. Gen. George E. Chapman**  
1982 - Present



**CMSgt. William M. Gardner**  
1968 - 1970



**CMSgt. Martin W. Dwyer**  
1970 - 1973



# Enlisted Advisors



Col. Don Z. Zimmerman  
1942 - 1943



Maj. Gen. Harold H. Bassett  
1943 - 1945 1958 - 1959



Brig. Gen. Donald N. Yates  
1945 - 1950



Maj. Gen. William O. Senter  
1950 - 1954



Brig. Gen. William H. Best Jr.  
1970 - 1973



Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Aldrich  
1973 - 1974



Brig. Gen. John W. Collins III  
1974 - 1975



Brig. Gen. Barry W. Rowe  
1975 - 1978



CMSgt Sam E. Parish  
1973 - 1975



CMSgt Howard M. Bock  
1975 - 1978



CMSgt George M. Horn  
1978 - 1982



CMSgt Charles T. Nelson  
1982 - Present

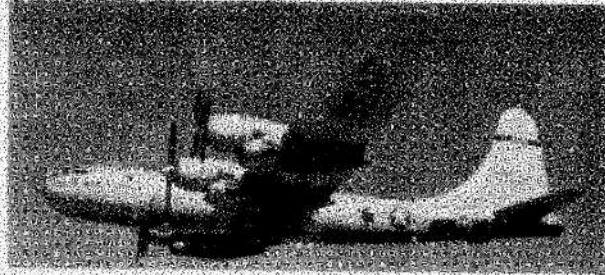
# Many aircraft types used for aerial weather reconnaissance

Air Weather Service's first aerial weather reconnaissance squadron was activated at Patterson Field, Ohio in 1947. Over the years, many aircraft types were used and flown by AWS, these included: the B-29, B-24, B-17, WB-29, WB-50, WB-47, WC-130, WB AND RB-57, and the WC-135.

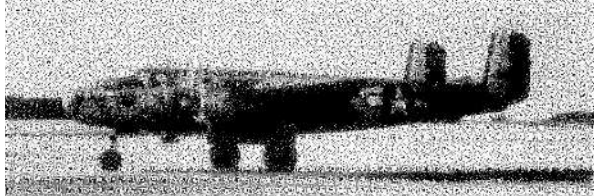
On Sept. 1, 1975, the AWS weather reconnaissance and air sampling mission and resources were transferred to the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service. AWS personnel continued to observe and report critical weather data from oceanic areas while flying in WC-130 and WC-28 aircraft operated by the ARRS (and later by MAC's 25th Air Force) and the Air Force Reserve.

In early 1987, plans to restructure aerial weather reconnaissance were announced. Plans that included the deactivation of the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Andersen AFB, Guam, and the conversion of the Air Force Reserve's 315th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Keesler AFB, Miss., to a tactical airlift squadron.

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron at Keesler AFB, Miss., will continue flying aerial weather reconnaissance to meet the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's operational support requirements for tropical storm reconnaissance.



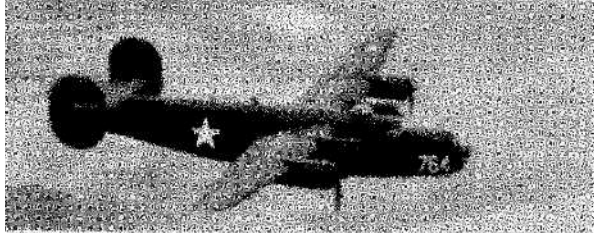
WB-50



B-25



WB-47



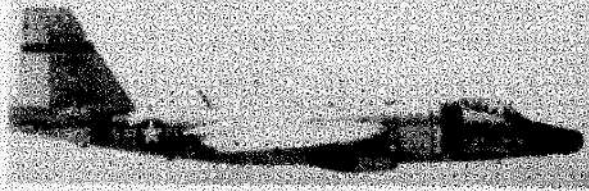
B-24



WC-130



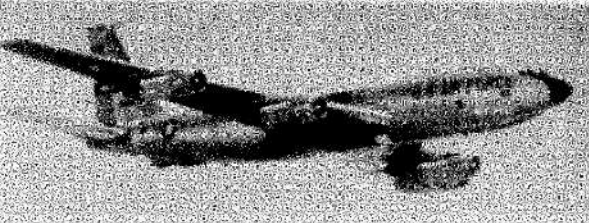
B-17



WB AND RB-57



WB-29



WC-135



# Congratulations from around the world

The following are letters sent to Brig. Gen. George E. Chapman and the men and women of AWS.

## MAC

July 1st is a great day for the Air Weather Service and the United States Air Force. You and your people can be justifiably proud of a distinguished heritage and extensive contributions made in the defense of our country.

I join the men and women of the Military Airlift Command in saluting you and your many accomplishments as you celebrate this special day. All our best for a grand 50th anniversary.

Gen. Duane H. Cassidy

## SAC

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Air Weather Service, I extend my heartiest congratulations to you and all the men and women of Air Weather Service. During the past years, I have observed your continued progress in providing weather service tailored to our many complex weapons system. The high degree of professionalism and dedication displayed by your people, in particular those of the 3rd Weather Wing here at Offutt, has given us the weather support necessary to keep pace with the rapid process of change in today's developing aerospace era. I am confident that the future of your organization will be characterized by the same high standards of efficiency that have marked its performance in the past.

Gen. John T. Ustin, Jr.

## TAC

Congratulations to the men and women of the Air Weather Service on the occasion of your 50th anniversary. Since 1 July 1937, you have provided outstanding weather support that has contributed to our ability to win wars and preserve peace. I am confident the next 50 years will be even more productive. Happy anniversary.

Gen. Robert D. Russ

## USAFE

On behalf of the United States Air Forces in Europe, I congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of Air Weather Service. Weather is a critical consideration in planning and executing military operations, particularly in the European theater. Because of this, the men and women of the Air Weather Service, who have served so diligently through the years, have had a special importance in helping guide the course of history. Thankfully, they have done their job superbly, and their record of accomplishment in supporting our military forces and our NATO allies is exemplary. Today that fine tradition is alive and well in Europe, through the dynamic efforts of the men and women of your 2nd Weather Wing. They are top professionals, and we need and appreciate them.

Air Weather Service has compiled a proud record of 50 years of outstanding service. May you meet the challenge of the future with the same fine spirit and dedication. Happy Birthday!

Gen. Charles L. Donnelly, Jr.

## PACAF

On behalf of the PACAF family, I extend my hearty congratulations to you and all members of your command as you celebrate 50 years of outstanding service. The many significant achievements of the men and women of Air Weather Service have contributed to the successful accomplishment of the Air Force mission in the Pacific. Your programming efforts to improve equipment and support to the weather-sensitive technology of this command are particularly praiseworthy. I have full confidence in the ability of Air Weather Service and the 1st Weather Wing to continue your outstanding support to this war-fighting command.

Gen. Jack I. Gregory

## AFSC

Congratulations to the men and women of the Air Weather Service as you celebrate your command's 50th anniversary on 1 July 1987. AWS personnel contribute significantly to the successful accomplishment of the systems acquisition mission. Our dependence upon the weather service continues to grow; from the effects of icing on cruise missiles and B1-B development, to atmospheric scattering and absorption of laser beams, we rely heavily upon accurate, reliable weather data. AFSC is grateful for your fine record of support, and I have every confidence you'll rise to the challenges of the future.

Gen. Lawrence A. Skantz

## AFLC

The men and women of the Air Force Logistics Command join me in extending our heartiest congratulations during your 50th anniversary celebration. Air Weather Service has met the challenge of military weather support around the world and into space. May your future efforts be as distinguished as the first half century.

Gen. Earl T. O'Loughlin

## AAC

Throughout my flying career I have been keenly aware of the invaluable contribution of the members of the Air Weather Service. Weather forecasting is a cornerstone to safe flying operations. Here in Alaska, where the weather is traditionally hostile to both ground and air operations, we are especially dependent upon timely and accurate environmental data.

Due to the increasing recognition of Alaska's strategic importance, we are being asked to perform increasingly challenging missions. We must operate aircraft routinely in some of the world's worst flying weather; maintain and improve our long-range detection capability through a series of radar upgrades; and the newly formed 6th Infantry Division (Light) must train in arctic field conditions to support JTF-AK operations. The men and women of the 11th Weather Squadron have consistently responded superbly to the ever-increasing demands placed upon them, and will, no doubt, excel in the future.

Thus, it is with the greatest of pleasure that

I congratulate the Air Weather Service for 50 years of distinguished support to Air Force and Army operations. Please accept the sincere best wishes of the Alaskan Air Command for continued success.

Lt. Gen. David L. Nichols

## ATC

On behalf of the Air Training Command, I congratulate you and the personnel of Air Weather Service as you celebrate your 50th Anniversary on 1 July 1987. We in the "First Command" can certainly speak to the criticality of weather support to our business. I can also attest to the superb job your people in the 24th Weather Squadron have done in supporting our flying training mission for more than 25 years. As we look to the challenge of the future, I am confident the Air Weather Service will continue to display the same dedication, enthusiasm and professional competence it has shown these past 50 years. Again, my personal congratulations on this noteworthy achievement.

Lt. Gen. John A. Shand

## AU

My heartiest congratulations to you and the men and women of Air Weather Service on your organization's 50th Anniversary. Air University and its predecessor, the Air Corps Tactical School, have greatly benefited from the superb support provided by Air Weather Service during the last half-century. The truly outstanding support by your staff weather officers, weather forecasters, and weather observers has been indispensable to our management of the U.S. Air Force's professional education system. My best wishes for the continued success of your proud organization, and for another half-century of close cooperation.

Lt. Gen. Truman Spangriss

## AFCC

On behalf of the men and women of the Air Force Communications Command, I congratulate Air Weather Service on its 50th Anniversary of dedicated service to our nation. Our people serve side-by-side with yours around the globe, meeting the challenge of supporting myriad commands with widely varied, constantly changing missions. We are deeply proud of our long, close association with Air Weather Service and its people; and have accomplished much during your rich history and have served our nation well. Again, congratulations on this momentous occasion and best wishes for continued success.

Maj. Gen. John T. Still

## ESC

On behalf of the Electronic Security Command, I congratulate you and the dedicated men and women of Air Weather Service on the occasion of your 50th anniversary. The professional and dedicated weather support that Air Weather Service has provided to ESC in our first eight years is greatly appreciated. With units scattered at 90 locations in 11 countries around the world, we are very dependent on the day-to-day weather service provided by your detachments. Tasking adjustments, resource allocation, and mission management all rely on timely, accurate, and comprehensive weather data. Without question, this support has been outstanding.

Again, congratulations on this notable occasion, and best wishes for continued success.

Maj. Gen. Paul H. Martin

**SPACECOM (USAF)**

Air Force Space Command extends sincere congratulations to all members of Air Weather Service on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of your organization.

For half a century, Air Weather Service has been a leader in technological innovation in support of operational forces. As the military services entered the space age, you led the way in space environmental support to the sensor and satellite systems which are key to the Air Force Space Command mission. Currently, our cooperative roles in the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program stand as prime examples of the use of space as a medium for military support activities.

Air Force Space Command extends their best wishes for the next 50 years to the men and women of the Air Weather Service.

Maj. Gen. Maurice C. Padlen

**NORAD**

Our warmest congratulations to you and all your people on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Air Weather Service. This year also has special significance to us in NORAD as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our binational command. Since our inception in 1957, Air Weather Service has provided superb support to our many weather sensitive aerospace defense operations.

We look forward to your continued support in the future. From your many U.S. and Canadian friends in NORAD, our best wishes for continued success.

Gen. John L. Piotrowski

**USEUCOM**

On behalf of all United States servicemen and servicewomen in the United States European Command, I extend my congratulations on the occasion of the half-century anniversary of the Air Weather Service, and add my personal best wishes for the future.

Your services have been valuable to all of us — from the soldiers in the field during exercises to the airmen supporting flying operations. Perhaps more visible, but no less important to morale, have been the daily contacts on the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service and in the Stars and Stripes. On several recent occasions, our joint operations have required the support of the Air Weather Service resources and personnel. The results have been predictably professional and contributed to successful operations.

May your next 50 years be equally prosperous as we work together in the defense of our nation and our allies.

Gen. Thomas C. Richards

**FORSCOM**

It is my great pleasure and honor to offer my personal congratulations to Air Weather Service on its 50th anniversary.

During the past I have observed the continued growth of tailored weather service support to the U.S. Army. Forces Command is particularly indebted to all the personnel of the "Fighting" Fifth Weather Squadron who have supported our operations and field exercises in the Far East, Europe, the Caribbean, and the United States.

Your people have kept pace with our changing requirements in the face of a

growing threat and have greatly contributed to the successful worldwide operations of this Command.

Gen. Joseph T. Palastra Jr.

**REDCOM**

Please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Air Weather Service. Your organization has a long history of providing exceptional support to the United States Readiness Command. We have consistently received accurate weather support tailored to our requirements in diverse environments from the Arctic to Central America. I want to particularly congratulate the First Weather Squadron, my staff weather office. Their support, both in-garrison and in the field, has been outstanding, and will undoubtedly continue as we transition to the United States Special Operations Command.

Gen. James J. Lindsay

**U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army**

Congratulations to you and the members of your command on the 50th anniversary of the Air Weather Service. Your hard work and professionalism have made weather service in the United States Army, Europe, the best ever.

I thank you for your support and wish you continued success.

Gen. Glenn K. Otis

**U.S. Forces, Korea**

The United States Forces Korea is made up of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. We all rely heavily on accurate, timely weather information to make our operations flow smoothly, effectively, and safely — in peace as well as war.

I want to add my heartfelt congratulations to the men and women of the Air Weather Service for so faithfully assisting us here in Korea. Fifty years and going strong. Keep up the good work!

Gen. William J. Livsey

**Air Force Academy**

It is a pleasure to extend our sincere congratulations to you and all members of your command as you observe the 50th Anniversary of the Air Weather Service. For half a century, the services of your command have contributed immeasurably to the successful accomplishment of the Air Force mission. Such an achievement is possible only through the superior professionalism and dedication of all the people of Air Weather Service. I am confident the coming years will see your command achieve ever greater successes as it adds to its proud tradition.

From all of us at the United States Air Force Academy, our sincerest congratulations and best wishes.

Lt. Gen. Winfield W. Scott Jr.

**CENTCOM**

All soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen of U.S. Central Command join me in extending a hearty congratulations to you and all members of the Air Weather Service on your 50th anniversary. I also note that July 1, 1987 marks the 50th anniversary of the First Weather Squadron. They have provided superb weather support to the United States Central Command, to include an extensive

exercise program which has taken us from the Southwest United States to Southwest Asia. In all instances, your forecasters provided the weather assessments necessary for this command to make sound operational decisions. Again, congratulations on this memorable occasion; meet the challenges of the future with the same spirit of outstanding service.

Maj. Gen. H.D. Penzler

**USSOUTHCOM**

We at United States Southern Command extend our heartfelt congratulations to you and all the men and women of the Air Weather Service on the occasion of your 50th anniversary. Here in Panama, we are particularly indebted to the members of Detachment 25, 5th Weather Wing. As our operations greatly expanded in recent years, these professionals provided outstanding command and field support to Headquarters, USSOUTHCOM, as well as our Army and Air Force components. Having responsibility for Central and South America, we have a diverse mission. The on-going war in El Salvador and the conflict in Nicaragua are certainly top priorities. Recently, we supported counterdrug operations in Bolivia and provided earthquake disaster relief in Ecuador. Weather was often a critical factor, and Det. 25's support was key to operational success. On routine missions in 1986, we made a documented savings of over 1.5 million dollars due to accurate forecasts. I'm sure a lot of effort by many members of your organization helped make this possible. We appreciate your invaluable support, and offer best wishes for continued success... congratulations!

Ret. Admiral Richard C. Ustick

**7th AF (PACAF)**

The Air Weather Service has made full use of the technological advances during the last 50 years by being farsighted and by continually upgrading their product. The increased ability of the AWS to provide accurate critical mission planning data has precipitated a direct increase in the safety and efficiency of combat air power.

My personal thanks are echoed throughout Seventh Air Force as we congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of the Air Weather Service. Your knowledge gives us power.

Lt. Gen. C.C. Rogers Jr.

**Kansas ANG**

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to you and all members of your command on the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Air Weather Service. The members of your command have always demonstrated outstanding professionalism and dedication to the difficult task of observing and forecasting the weather. The 35th Infantry Division has always received excellent support from the 127th Weather Flight. I have been most appreciative of their fine efforts since I spent a very rewarding civilian career in the weather field.

I am sure the quality men and women of the Air Weather Service will make the future of weather support as progressive and outstanding as the first 50 years has been.

Once again, I extend the congratulations and best wishes for the Kansas National Guard to you and your command on this remarkable achievement.

Maj. Gen. Ralph T. Tice



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

11 JUN 1987

TO THE AIR WEATHER SERVICE

The 50th Anniversary of the Air Weather Service is a significant milestone in the history of the United States Air Force. In serving the operational support requirements of combat air and ground forces all over the world, the Air Weather Service has been a leader in applied meteorology. As the United States Air Force launches into space, we find Air Weather Service already engaged in observing and forecasting the space environment. The importance of environmental support to national military missions continues to grow. We are confident that Air Weather Service will have another great fifty years of distinguished service to the Air Force and Army.

*E. C. Aldridge, Jr.*  
E. C. Aldridge, Jr.



CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

11 JUN 1987

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

Congratulations on 50 years of dedicated weather support to the United States Air Force and Army. The accomplishments of the Air Weather Service in the atmospheric and space sciences have contributed significantly to our nation's security. Air Weather Service units worldwide provide invaluable day-to-day operational support to our fighting forces. The Air Weather Service is, and will continue to be, an essential element of U.S. aerospace power.

*Larry D. Welch*  
LARRY D. WELCH, General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

**NOAA**

We at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are honored to acknowledge the celebration of the United States Air Force's Air Weather Service 50th Anniversary.

This is an occasion of introspection on one's achievements. Throughout its history the Air Weather Service has earned a stature within the international meteorological community that is of the highest order and has few peers. It is the individuals of your organization both in the United States and abroad, their dedication, devotion, sacrifices, and quality of work that have produced a weather service worthy of the highest praise. The citizens of our great Nation are more secure and more safe because of the diligent efforts of the Air Weather Service.

We can predict another 50 years of great achievements, and we hope that the strengthening partnership of NOAA and the Air Weather Service can facilitate that.

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the Air Weather Service.

Anthony J. Calio

**Canadian Forces Weather Service**

On behalf of the Canadian Forces Weather Service, congratulations and all best wishes to Brig. Gen. George E. Chapman and staff on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Air Weather Service of the United States Air Force.

During your first 50 years you have built a record and tradition of service of which you can be justifiably proud. Moreover, we note with much satisfaction the excellent spirit of cooperation that exists between our representative services both at the local person to person level as well as at more formal levels such as the Meteorological Subcommittee of the CANUS Military Cooperation Committee. We wish you continued success during your second 50 years and look forward to many more years of fruitful cooperation.

Dr. Richard Asselin  
Dir. of Met and Oceanography

**Korea Meteorological Service**

The Korea Meteorological Service proudly sends a big congratulations to the US Air Weather Service for 50 outstanding years of service to aviation. Over the years your mission has expanded, and you've grown to meet these new challenges.

We look forward to the day that we can celebrate your 100th birthday.

Keep up the good work.

H.J. Son  
Administrator

**German Military Geophysical Service**

On behalf of the German Military Geophysical Service (GMGS), it is our pleasure to congratulate you most warmly on the 50th Anniversary of the USAF Air Weather Service. The close ties between these services became even closer when the 13th Detachment of the 2nd Weather Wing began to operate at the German Military Geophysical Office on the Moselle River at Traben-Trarbach. Besides, there have been many other occasions on which we have been cooperating successfully on a bilateral basis as well as within the frame-work of the NATO Alliance.

Services consist of -- and are run by -- people which, at first glance, seems a rather trivial and superfluous statement. However, it is the people of a service who account for its image and for its ability to establish cordial relations with colleagues of other nations. And here we gladly take the opportunity to congratulate you, especially on the fine people that make up your service, with many of which many of us have established close relationships and friendships.

We trust that these close relations will continue to contribute to maintaining a friendly and mutually fruitful cooperation between our services well into the third millennium.

Dr. H.U. Groening  
For the Minister of Defense  
Dr. H. Leese  
For the GMGS

**축 미 공군 기상단 창립 50주년**

한국의 중립기상대를 대표하여 미 공군 기상단과 창립 50주년을 전심으로 축하합니다. 본인은 이 자리를 빌어 귀 공군 기상단의 어떠한 새로운 상황에 대처하기 위하여 그동안 꾸준히 발전하여 왔음을 축하하며, 앞으로 창립 100주년을 축하할 그날을 기대합니다.

대한민국

중립기상대장

*이홍익*  
이 홍 익

**National Meteorological Service of Honduras**

The National Meteorological Service of Honduras which, is a Department of the General Direction of Civil Aeronautics, has kept since its creation in 1950 a close and decisive cooperation with the AWS of the United States Air Force. This association has permitted the training of professional personnel and technicians in meteorology.

We wish to take the opportunity to reiterate our appreciation to the AWS authorities at congratulations for the work developed in its 50 years of existence.

Saul A. Zaniga Lop  
Director

**WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office  
Washington**

AG320.2 GHQ Air Forces  
(8-21-36)

January 28, 1937

SUBJECT: Meteorological Services.

TO: Chief of the Air Corps.

1. Effective July 1, 1937, the Chief of the Air Corps will be charged with responsibility for the meteorological service for that arm and for weather forecasts required by divisions and higher headquarters.

2. After the above date such meteorological data as may be required by arms and services concerned, Chiefs of these arms and services will submit recommendations for changes in Tables of Basic Allowances or Tables of Allowances to provide the necessary equipment and supplies for this purpose.

3. The Chief Signal Officer will continue to be responsible for the development, procurement, storage and issue of meteorological equipment and supplies, and for teletype and other signal communications required by the meteorological service.

4. Subject to the approval of the Chief of the Air Corps in each instance, Signal Corps officers of the Regular Army with meteorological experience may be detailed, upon their own application, to temporary duty with the Air Corps.

5. With the approval of the Chief of the Air Corps in each instance, Signal Corps Reserve Officers who are meteorological specialists will be permitted to transfer to the Air Corps as non-flying reserve officers, provided that no officer will be transferred without his own consent.

6. Enlisted meteorological personnel now in the Signal Corps will be transferred without loss of grade or rating in accordance with instructions to be issued by the War Department at a later date. The training of meteorological observers and forecasters in the Enlisted Division of the Signal Corps School will be continued until such time as the Chief Signal Officer and the Chief of the Air Corps shall make mutual arrangements for the transfer of this course to the appropriate Air Corps School.

7. Allotment of additional grades and ratings for the expansion of this service will be published at a later date.

8. The Chief Signal Officer will submit recommendations for appropriate changes in Army Regulation 105-5 and the Chief of the Air Corps for corresponding changes in Army Regulations 95-5 to carry out the above instructions. The later will also submit recommendations for necessary changes in Tables of Basic Allowances and Tables of Allowances to authorize the necessary equipment and supplies.

By Order of the Secretary of War

**Meteorologists  
badge  
approved**

The long-awaited Meteorologists badge was approved by the Air Force Chief of Staff in April 1937.

The Meteorologists badge (right) is similar to the design of the air traffic controllers badge, except that it depicts the Air Weather Service shield in the center.

The badge, in antiqued silver or shiny platinum finish, will be awarded in three grades: basic, senior and master. A two-third scale and a subdued version embroidered in cloth are expected to be available for wear in conformance with Air Force Regulation 35-10.



Basic Meteorologist Badge



Senior Meteorologist Badge



Master Meteorologist Badge

**Specialized Support Award  
named for WWII weatherman**

The AWS Specialized Support Award has been named in honor of SSgt. Robert A. Dodson, a weather observer who parachuted into France in the predawn darkness of D-Day, in World War II. The award was established in 1968 to recognize individual excellence by an AWS NCO or airman in AFSC 25xxx providing specialized weather support.

Trained as a weather installation observer, Sergeant Dodson was assigned to Ascot, England in April 1944. He volunteered for jump school just before "D-day," and received a minimum of training prior to his first, and only jump, with the 82nd Airborne Division at 2:30 a.m.,

June 6, 1944.

Landing just outside St. Mere Eglise, France, Dodson and eight members of his Air Support Party, came under seige, forcing them all to act as riflemen soon after entering the city. When the seige lifted 36 hours later, Sergeant Dodson began duties as a weatherman, sending hourly observations, including wind direction and force, visibility, ceiling cloud and cloud heights, temperature and dewpoint, by radio. He continued taking and sending observations until June 21, when he was evacuated to the hospital at Bouteville for treatment of his knee, injured when he landed 15 days earlier. After the war, SSgt. Dodson left the Army.

HQ AWS/PA  
SCOTT AFB, IL 62225-5008

BULK RATE  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USAF  
PERMIT No. G-1