

Richard Gillingham; AG2s Robert Carlson and Andrew Lawhorn, AG3s James Beill, Gary Carpenter, Randy Culver, M. Darby, Kenneth French, James Guarnaccia, T. Harvey, Guy Lombardo, Roy Smalley and B. Wallace; AN Samuel Smith and AGAA Donald Weed.

The first digital bathymetric chart of the world was produced. in 1984.

The Matthew Fontaine Maury Oceanographic Library was dedicated in 1986.

Fortran Spoken Here - In June of 1986 ANSI Fortran was adopted as FNOCs standard programming language. In April of 1987 Active/Passive RAYMODE ocean model was operational.

Sub-Regional Forecasting - On 1 May 1987 CNOC, Commander Naval Oceanography Command, instituted the Sub-Regional Forecast concept in anticipation of manning shortfalls and cutbacks by the CNO. Where it is possible forecast responsibilities are condensed during times of low work load, AG manning is cut back and billets are opened up for the AW, ST, and QM ratings. Twelve Dets are to be manned by TARs.

In Sept 1987 the Arctic Basin Polar Ice Prediction system model, PIPS, is operational.

The Last Warrant Officer - On 2 May 1988 AGC (AW) Richard W. Courtney was promoted to CWO2. He was the last person selected and promoted under the Chief Warrant Officer Program for Aerographers Mates. Future assessions will be promoted under the LDO program.

In July 1988 the hemispheric ocean model, OTIS, became operational.

NAVWINDS and More Computers - On 15 Sept 1988 NOCD Pensacola was the first CNOC unit to go operational with NAVWINDS. The system utilizes a Z-248 computer and a software program written by AGCM David Wenzelberger to transmit flight weather briefing information to remote sites. Also in Sept FNOC commenced transmitting Oceanographic/Meteorological data to afloat units via the JOTS system.

Time Marches On - On 29 April, 1993 the new combined services weather school was dedicated at Keesler AFB MS by CNOC RADM J. E. Chubb and Keesler AFB Commander MajGen Clark Griffith USAF. For all practical purposes the forecasting part of the school had been operating since Dec. 1992 in their, as yet unnamed, 7.8 million dollar building. The final Chanute AFB observers class graduated on 5 May 1993 at which time the remainder of school personnel moved south. Cutbacks find

only 5 students in satellites, 4 in tropical weather and 4 in current weather techniques. Observer and forecaster classes have about twelve students each with 3 or 4 students being sailors or marines. Modern technology has overtaken the "old style" weather business. Maps have been plotted and analyzed by computers for over 20 years. A vast array of forecast charts are produced in the twinkling of an eye. It is no longer necessary to teach radiosonde soundings since it is now a one man operation in which the observer merely launches the 100 gram balloon and returns to other duties while the computer takes over, doing the computations, plotting and analyzing a Skew-T and preparing a coded message for transmission within a few minutes of balloon burst. There have been many other changes but you get the idea. They still need the trained AG to oversee the operation so we aren't out of business yet although post cold war cut backs by the Clinton administration will likely reduce AG manning levels.

The Desert Storm performance of AGs testified to the fact that they are more essential to the success of naval warfare than ever. Here's to another seventy three years....and many, many more.

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SOURCES - The 1991 CNOC NEWS AG history article by Cathy Willis was the framework around which this article was constructed. It also includes a heavy dose of Rich Courtney's NWSA weather service Chronology. Historical Data was lifted liberally from the NavAer Pub United States Naval Aviation 1910-1980. "America's Weather Warriors" by Charles Bates and John F. Fuller may have been more AF data than Navy but was also a very good source. The CNOC NEWS- PAO Staff were generous with advice, with copies of previous articles, current publications and even some vintage photographs. A bundle of xeroxed pages of the book "Rice Paddy Navy" from Capt