

Scherpf AG2, William A. Dotson AG1, Loren T. Cope AG1, William A. Conlon AG1, John G. Rodriguez AG1, Dudley E. Boatman AG1, Carl R. Remscheid AG1, James W. Scruggs AG1 and Arlen B. Jensen AG1.

On 8 April 1954 a PB4Y-2B, "Privateer" (single tail version of the WW2 B24 "Liberator") departed Argentia, Newfoundland on what is believed to be the first Navy ice observation flight. AGC Ret (then AG1) John Rodriguez was the aircrewman ice observer. Two flights were scheduled for 16 April. AG1 L.L. Martin switched assignments with Rodriguez in order to fly with a good friend. All hands were lost on Petty Officer Martin's flight which crashed at Paget Pt. Ellesmere Island, Northwest Territory, Canada. Eleven years later another member of that first Ice Observer class 5401, LT "Willy" Dotson, was killed when an ice observation flight went down in Alaska. In later years the number of ice observers diminished as more expertise was gained using satellite imagery.

**A Look at Computers** - In 1954 the Navy, Air Force and Weather Bureau formed the Joint Numerical Weather Prediction Group at Suitland MD to look into the feasibility of computerized predictions.

**Robot Observers** - On 11 Oct 1955. Automatic meteorological stations, developed by the ONR, Office of Naval Research and BuAer, the Bureau of Aeronautics were set adrift in the hurricane "lanes" north of Puerto Rico and provided continuous weather data on Tropical Storm Janet.

**South Pole Revisited** - On 31 Oct 1956 an R4D "Skytrain", sometimes called "gooney-bird", touched down at the South Pole. The 7 Navy men on board, including RADM, G.J. Dufek USN, Com Nav Sup For Antarctica, alit to be the first persons standing on that spot since Captain Robert Scott in January of 1912. During their 49 minute stay they installed navigation aids and scientific observation equipment.

**Naval Weather Service...Arriving** - The Naval Aerological Service became the Naval Weather Service in 1950.

**Up, Up and Away** - A Navy stratolab balloon manned by LCDRs Malcom D. Ross and M.L. Lewis bettered the existing world altitude record by soaring to 76,000 feet over the Black Hills of South Dakota on a flight designed to gather meteorological, cosmic ray and other scientific data necessary to improve safety at high altitudes. The men were awarded the 1957 Harmon International trophy for Aeronauts.

On 27 June 1957 LCDR Malcolm D. Ross and Charles B. Moore of the Arthur D. Little Co. successfully completed a balloon flight into a towering cumulus cloud over Mt.

Washington in Socorro, N.M. to further thunderstorm research. The flight was under the auspices of the ONR and BuAer.

**Trans-Pacific Balloons** - On 30 June 1957 the first transosonde balloon was released from NAS Iwakuni, Japan. It was set to float at 30,000 feet carrying instruments to record pressure and temperature every two hours with a terminal point just short of the European coast.

**MOETLOs Named** - On 6 March 1958 Officers involved in the installation, test and repair of meteorological and oceanographic equipment are formally designated as MOETLOs, short for Meteorological and Oceanographic Equipments and Technical Liason Officers.

**Lebanon Landing** - On 15 July 1958 USS Saratoga, CVA-60, and USS Essex, CVA-9, provide air support for the landing of 1800 Marines in Lebanon responding to the Suez crisis. Essex crew members: LT Thomas T. Davenport, AGC Vernon E. Riggall, AG2 Richard Fitterling, AG3s Charles W. McClain, John R. Hilderman, R. Franklin and Gary Miller; and AGANs Harold E. Slingerland, Robert W. Sanaom, Paul W. Sansom, Bruce J. Rubins, Thomas F. Williams, Donald E. Clark and George E. Soderberg.

The first bathymetric swath system is employed in 1958.

**Cloud Creation and Destruction** - From 23 to 31 July 1958 Dr. Florence Van Straten of the Naval Weather Service Division, OP-58, directed tests off the Florida coast to examine the feasibility of creating and/or destroying clouds with the use of air dropped carbon black. VW-4, CDR Nicholas Brango Commanding, was the vehicle for her test.

In October 1958 NANWEP, Navy Numerical Problems Group was formed in Washington, D.C. to focus on marine weather prediction in support of naval operations. Captain Paul M. Wolff, chairman.

**Navy Meteorologists** - On 10 Oct 1958 the terms "aerology" and "aerological officer" were replaced with "meteorology" and "Meteorological officer" as directed by the Secretary of the Navy. Aerographer's mates retained their name and their rating abbreviation of AG.

**Super CPOs** - A 1958 Amendment to the career compensation act of 1949 created two new senior enlisted paygrades for all U.S. military services effective 1 June 1958. E8 eligibility required at least 10 years service. E9 applicants were required to have 6 years service as CPOs and 13 years total service. The Navy created 922 senior chief petty officers (E8) "one star CPOs" and 149 master