



THE 6TH DIMENSION

WILLING & ABLE

Here it is July already, where has the time gone? Thought I would have this newsletter out by May the latest. It seems you have more to do and less time to do it when you're retired. Or sometime it's because I like to procrastinate, and have more time for that now.

With the Air Weather Association's Reunion on August 1 thru 5 that means less than a month for the few of us who are going. The deadline of July 2 is already past for making the reservations. Colorado Springs Marriot is the place and pretty expensive too when you're used to the much cheaper rates we paid in OKC. I guess we pay for the view and location. As far as reunions go, and as the group gets older, there is no easy solution.

There were a few problem updating some pages on the website in the past couple months as the ownership of the webhosting company changed hands and I thought it was my problem, but the issues have been resolved as far as I can tell.



My computer room and newsletter publishing office.

We hope everyone is in good health and staying safe in these heat waves everywhere and coupled with high humidity in the East. After about 5 - 6 weeks of hot, dry weather with no rain here in Utah, it finally rained hard with thunderstorms yesterday, and travelled all the way from the Gulf of Mexico. More showers this afternoon and all week.

If you have news that our alumni members should know or be aware of, please write to 6WSAA or e-mail me at Webmaster@6thWeatherMobile.org

Thanks, Gerry Guay, Publisher



Are your dues up to date? Renew your membership today using enclosed Membership Renewal form and send in the \$10 fee per year to keep your association membership current. If you do not know what your dues date is, you can go to our website letstalk.6thweathermobile.org, enter the User ID and Password in the security window, click on Member List to get to the page, then click on **Member List** to view the list. You can also e-mail me at webmaster@6thweathermobile.org and ask for your dues date. Or for your User ID and Password to access the secure site. It will be e-mailed back to you. Thank You

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6TH WEATHER SQUADRON
(MOBILE)
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WILLING & ABLE



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This 6th Dimension Newsletter is published for the exclusive use of our 6WSAA members. Information is included as reported without vetting and is edited for space. If you discover an error or items that need a correction, please notify Gerry Guay Editor, Email: webmaster@6thweathermobile.org Members are encouraged to submit articles, information or stories that would be of interest to the general membership. Thank you.

My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - Operation Dominic - 1962

In the last newsletter I wrote about the 1962 6WS history but saved Operation Dominic for this newsletter. So here is more on 1962 and the Nuclear Tests of Operation Dominic at Christmas Island and high altitude tests at Johnston Island.

The Soviet Union resumed their nuclear testing in 1961 with 57 shots breaking a test moratorium during high tensions of the Cold War between the Communist Soviet Union led by Nikita Khrushchev and the United States led by John Kennedy. This meant that now we, the US had to test our nuclear weapons to maintain our edge on power and our nuclear deterrent.

6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) was tasked as part of Weather Reporting Element (WRE-8.4) under Joint Task Force 8 (JTF-8) of Operation Dominic, to provide a large weather support operation on remote, isolated islands for the many tests. Our participation included Phase 1 February through August, in the Central Pacific Ocean and included 96 people in the weather headquarters, 5 mobile weather flights, Ravu and the Records Checking Section. Phase 2 operated September through November with 55 personnel and 3 weather flights at Johnston, Palmyra and French Frigate Shoals. The headquarters was established at Hickam AFB, Hawaii and the selected islands for the mobile weather flights were Johnston, Christmas, Palmyra, Malden and Tutuila Island in American Samoa. 6th Weather Squadron's organizational equipment was assembled, checked and air shipped to the Pacific during January and February and the advanced echelon of HQ personnel was CWO Stricker, SMSgt Schumacher, TSgt Crowder and TSgt Drake



Test Chama at Johnston - Oct '62



Water Tower & Power Shed

who arrived the first week of February. The logistical requirements were assigned to Holmes & Narver (H&N), the AEC Support Agency, for setting up and maintaining the living quarters (large tents on concrete pads in some cases), electricity generation, water desalinization, and providing the meals and kitchen facilities. The communications was assigned to the AF's 1957th Communications Group and medical services were provided by Army medics at the uninhabited islands of Palmyra and Malden. Our headquarters personnel provided the recreational materials: movie projector and films, records & record player and BX services. Who provided that continuous, unending supply of beer and steaks?



1957th Comm Group - Malden

The main force of 64 NCOs and airmen departed for Hickam AFB by chartered plane on February 27. All personnel continuing to Malden and Palmyra were quickly shuttled by bus to Pearl Harbor where we joined our camp, construction, weather equipment, supplies and H&N personnel on board a Navy ship LST 1076 and we lost no time departing Honolulu within a few hours. It was a 12 day voyage under the



My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - Operation Dominic - 1962 (Continued from Page 2)

sky's bright Southern Cross on this flat bottomed landing ship with a one night stopover at beautiful Palmyra Island. We celebrated with beer and fresh caught fish cooked over a campfire on the beach that night. Continuing to Malden we traversed the Equator with an initiation and rituals to become Shellbacks in the Domain of Neptune Rex as we Air Force folks joined in the Navy's tradition of kissing the Royal Baby's belly, crawling on all our fours and receiving a good paddling as we travelled the length of the gauntlet. It did feel good with our hosing down and the hot sun overhead. We arrived at Malden middle of the day but could not land the ship on the beach for unloading until the Navy's Underwater Demolition Team blew up part



Carle "Hammer" Clarke with Moray Eel at Palmyra

of the reef. The following day they were able to land the ship and open the clamshell doors to unload all the heavy construction equipment, and supplies necessary to establish living quarters and life support on the island. The concrete pads, wood 2X4 skeletons and canvas tents, power and water desalinization sheds, water tower and reefers were quickly in place and operational. The bulldozer pulled the skids loaded with equipment and supplies from the hold of the LST up the soft, sandy, coral beach while the grader levelled and surfaced the already existing short, white coral runway which would wreak havoc on the C-124 Globemaster's tires.



MSgt Benson guides C-124

All the flights were working fast and hard to be ready for the start of the nuclear testing at both Christmas and Johnston Islands. Our extraordinary results attested to our 6th Weather Squadron's "Willing and Able" motto.

Flight C at Johnston Island under MSgt Miller was the largest and provided rawinsonde, surface and rocketsonde observations. Johnston was a little overcrowded with the island length of 1 mile, same as the runway and only a few blocks wide. There was nowhere to run.

MSgt Thompson led Flight E at Christmas Island where a very busy schedule of rawinsonde operations at a site in the Northeastern part of the island, three miles from the main camp site and surface weather observations at the RAF airstrip and a secondary site at the Southern tip of the island.

MSgt Benson established rawinsonde and surface observations with Flight F/Detachment "I" at the small, uninhabited desert island called Malden Island located 4 degrees south of the Equator. As Detachment Commander he had responsibility for operations and all 30 personnel on the island. Ah... the South Pacific.



Airmen Leinbach, Gladish & Sgt Hicks ready balloon launch on Samoa

(Continued on Page 4)

Changes: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at:



webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or
USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937



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My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - Operation Dominic - 1962 (Continued from Page 3)

MSgt Blanchard supervised Flight D and was Commander of Detachment "E" at the other uninhabited site, Palmyra Island with control of sometimes 80 people. This site provided rawinsonde and surface operations.

Flight B under MSgt Jones deployed to Tutuila Island in American Samoa and was also Commander of Detachment "A" at that location. Flight B provided rawinsonde and surface observations. At the close of Phase 1 of Operation Dominic, Flight B redeployed to Johnston Island to relieve Flight C to conduct the Weather Bureau's reporting commitments until the return of Flight C from the states to support Phase 2 of Op Dominic in September with MSgt Fisher taking over as NCOIC.



Clifford T. Jones - Commander Det "A" American Samoa in island attire



Ernie Workman & Dave Weiner on French Frigate Shoals

Flight E returned under MSgt Downey as NCOIC to conduct the mission at Palmyra from 15 September 1962 to October 30th.

Phase 2 also required the establishment of a new site on tiny coral shoal of Tern Island in French Frigate Shoals, NW of Hawaii with MSgt Benson redeploying to be in charge of Flight F.

With such an immense area of flight deployments, some general problems were encountered such as slow mail. Malden had delays of 18 and even 22 days without mail, coordination of activities were sometimes difficult, communications contacts with some sites was at times slow and suffered interruptions, hampering planning and resupply.

By the end of Operation Dominic, the Weather Reporting Element (WRE 8.4), 6th Weather Squadron Mobile has completed many thousands of surface observations, nearly three thousand rawinsonde observations, 54 rocketsonde observations and many other geophysical observations. Special large balloons procured for Operation Dominic allowed our flights to set new records in rawinsonde flights with many soundings of 125K to 150K feet, and rocketsonde heights averaging 195K feet with the max of 210K feet. At the conclusion of the very successful Operation



Big Jim Fraser testing tracking on GMD-1 at Malden



Dominic, 6th Weather received congratulations from Lt Gen Kelly, Commander of MATS; Brig Gen Samuel, Commander of JTG 8.4, and Commander of AWS Brig Gen Peterson relayed these accolades to Col Moseley in a Letter of Appreciation. Our weather support led to the great success of Operation Dominic, the successful testing of nuclear weapons in this time of the Cold War.

If you would like to comment, correct or add to this, please e-mail me and I will try to include them in the next newsletter. Thanks, *Gerry Quay*

webmaster@6thweathermobile.org



Don't forget to visit our website at: <http://6thweathermobile.org>

Here is the form for 6WSAA Dues Renewal, also available for download on our website.



6th WEATHER SQUADRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (6WSAA)
NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership categories are:

Primary Members: Former members of the USAF 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) or any of its predecessor units including civilian employees. Annual dues are required to remain Active.

Associate Members: Current or former members of any organization that provided direct service to 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile). Civilian employees, spouses or other immediate family of this group may become Associate Members. Annual dues are required to remain active. *Spouses of Primary Members in good standing hold Associate Membership and are exempt from dues.* Voting privileges are not enjoyed by Associate Members.

Honorary Members: Persons who must be nominated for Honorary Membership by a Primary Member and who must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Widows and widowers of Primary Members are deemed Honorary Members by relationship. Honorary Members are exempt from dues. Voting privileges are not enjoyed by Honorary Members.

*YOUR NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

YOUR SPOUSE: _____ NICKNAME: _____

Check Type Membership Applying For: Primary _____ Associate _____ Honorary _____

*Widow/Widower of alumni member - Enter the deceased Member's name, rank, and year in which deceased:

Deceased Member's Name: _____ Rank: _____ Year Deceased: _____

Your Mailing Address: STREET/P.O. BOX: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone No: () _____ Office phone No: () _____

E-mail address: _____

Years in 6th WS (MOB) (ex. 60-64): _____

Organization (if not 6th MOB): _____

Enclose a check or money order for \$10.00/year payable to 6WSAA. Enclosed is \$ _____ for (# years) _____ Dues.

Mail to: Buck Bucklin
8 Sherwood Lane
East Hampton, NY 11937

Permission to release your information.

NOTICE TO THE ASSOCIATION: Release the above information ONLY to the members of the Association. You may also include the name, address***, telephone number*** and e-mail*** in a membership roster distributed ONLY to 6WSAA members and not for commercial use. YES _____ NO _____

DATE: _____ YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

If you checked YES, but do not wish your address or telephone number or e-mail address to appear in the roster, encircle the appropriate. We do not sell or freely provide the 6WSAA mailing list to non-member or commercial interests.

Optional: List Deployments Locations and Dates: _____

*****Association Use*****

Release: YES _____ NO _____

Date Received: _____ Check/MO No.: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Received By: _____

Notes: _____

Changes: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at: webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937





Final Launch



Donald Garbutt 1932 – 2017 Donald Lee Garbutt, 85, died on November 12, 2017 in Midwest City, OK. He was retired from the Air Force, Air Weather Service and served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) at Tinker AFB, OK from 1960 to 1967 and 1969 to 1972. He was also a member of 6WS Alumni Association and served as Chairman for 12 years and was on the Board of Directors. He leaves four sons, Donald David and wife Marla of Midwest City, OK, Edward George of Richardson, TX, Lee Owen and wife Sherrie of Midwest City, OK, Gary Michael of Nicoma Park, OK. He also leaves behind 2 grandsons, 5 granddaughters, 2 great-grandsons and 6 great-granddaughters. Don is preceded in death by his wife of 61 years Erica in 2012, and his son Robert Charles Garbutt in 2008



Carl Bishop 1928 - 2017 Elbert "Carl" Bishop, of Moore, OK, passed away November 27, 2017, at the age of 89. He was born September 29, 1928, in Whiteville, TN, to Leo and Bertha A. (Haase). Carl proudly served his country in the United States Air Force and he served with 6th Weather Squadron from 1961 to 1968 at Tinker AFB. Following his military career, he retired from the Oklahoma State Department of Corrections, and then went on to retire from Oklahoma Publishing Company. Carl was an active member of First Moore Baptist Church. He was a member of Sixth Weather Squadron Alumni Association and served as Treasurer and on the Board of Directors. Carl enjoyed building projects, home improvements and gardening. He is survived by his wife, Anna Bishop, of Moore; 2 sons, John Michael Bishop & wife, Makiko, of Hubert, NC, and Alton Craig Bishop & wife, Melody, of Moore; 1 granddaughter, Sheridan Breann Bishop, of McComb, OK; 3 brothers, Joe Bishop & wife, Patricia, David Bishop & wife, Cathy, and Thomas Bert Bishop & wife, Cindy; 4 sisters, Elizabeth Ann Campbell & husband, Odel, Louise Murphy & husband, Carroll, Carolyn Payton & husband, Billy, and Linda Vawter & husband, Gerry; and a host of loving nieces and nephews. Carl is preceded in death by his parents, Leo & Bertha Bishop; brothers, Julius "Jupie" Bishop and William "Bill" Bishop.

Camaraderie in Sixth Weather

showed itself as mutual trust and friendship in a group sharing the same experience....

There was the camaraderie of similar pursuits, the camaraderie that made isolated duty bearable. There was an enforced camaraderie and freedom from normal restraints which had an attraction to Sixth Weather personnel. The morality, intelligence, and mental attitude required for working as team members were far more important than physical battle fitness or individual awards and promotions.

We might be spread around in a Tornado Alley season, starting in Texas or Louisiana in February and moving north to settings in Oklahoma and Kansas, and then by the end of the summer be stationed all the way in North Dakota. We might be spread all around the Nevada Test Site collecting surface and upper weather data for the 1021 nuclear tests out there. We might be spread around all over the Pacific Ocean providing surface and upper atmosphere weather data for the thermonuclear detonations in the stratosphere.

Our camaraderie came from the sense of overcoming obstacles together: isolated island duty, the island only two feet above sea level; high tide we could walk on one small island; low tide we could walk on six islands. We were thankful for the coral reefs that stopped the ocean waves from washing us out to the unlimited Pacific Ocean, ten thousand miles wide with one-quarter of the planet's water. We learned how to deal with heat exhaustion on the equator in the middle of the summer. We coped with a sense of loneliness. One cargo plane a week flew in from Hawaii with food, drink, and supplies. If there was a storm or an emergency somewhere else, we learned how to fish and find crabs to eat.

We had camaraderie of being a minority many times when we were deployed to an inhabited island or country especially where they spoke a different language. We had the camaraderie of learning how to function harmoniously as an element of a larger population or populations. We had the camaraderie of functioning on duty next to another military service like the Army or the Navy or a foreign Air Force Base. We had camaraderie because often there was no medical help or facilities anywhere near us. If we were on an inhabited island the medical care was often elementary and not helpful. Sophisticated help might be one or two days away. We learned how to look out after one another, to make sure their carelessness didn't lead to an injury or serious illness. We had camaraderie because of imminent dangers.

At the reunions, we loved sharing our stories. We had this in common! The camaraderie of being mobile! We were brothers in the Sixth Weather Squadron (Mob) common cause.

Steve Gladish