



THE 6TH DIMENSION

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My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron ~ January to December 1967

6th Weather Sq History for 1967 (written by Gerry Guay, Webmaster and Newsletter Publisher obtained from archives of 6th Weather Squadron history of 1967 as recorded by 6WS historians MSgt Paul Hardy and TSgt Tom Rivers.)

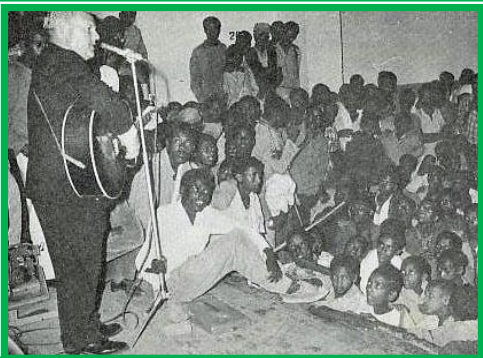
1967 with Col Elwyn Moseley as commander to May 2nd when Lt Col Robert Vincent takes command until Col Frank Kamer arrives and is new commander on July 5th. and Lt Col Vincent resumes as Operations Officer. In June there are assigned 5 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, 65 NCO, 172 Airmen and 2 Civilians for a total count of 245 personnel. Meteorological support was provided to 23 projects with 4 personnel augmentation supports in 12 U.S. states, Ethiopia, Panama, Brazil, Canada, Greenland, Puerto Rico, Liberia and several Pacific Islands.

AF Project 58-3 Kings Ransom supporting AST-4 at several sites in Ethiopia since 1964 terminated operations in May 1967 after more than three years operation. More than 1400 Rawinsonde observations and hundreds of surface obs were taken during this period. It included 34 station installations at 19 separate locations and included handling and transport of tons of food, supplies and expendables. **Project Ash Can/Cold Ash** involved overseas support for Detachment 31, 6th Wea Wing at Albrook AFB Panama and concluded operations at this site in April after 3 months of high altitude balloon air sampling operations. Two



MSgt Bishop prepares shipment for return to 6th Weather from Ethiopia

personnel deployed to Eielson AFB AK with full equipment in May and returned in June. The name changed to **Cold Ash** in the second half of the year with one airman deployed with a GMD to Panama for August through December and another airman deployed September to November to Natal, Brazil. **USQ-28 Tests (AFSC), FL, GA & AZ** continued this year for the Category II Tests conducted by the 1370th Photo Mapping Wing in FL & GA and were concluded in March with the four upper air obs teams returning to Tinker. A total of 216 special obs were taken using the UMQ-9 sub-system Phase I Tests. This has proven to be a reliable unit and an improvement over the GMD-



TSgt Tom Rivers strums a ballad to Ethiopian audience.

1 in obtaining radiosonde data for the HIRAN and SHIRAN projects. A four man team with a UMQ-9 sub-system was deployed to Luke AFB, AZ for operation in May through July. Four mobile teams were deployed to the FL & GA area with GMDs in lieu of the UMQ-9 in October with 166 special obs taken during the Phase II tests. **Skin Diver II (Classified)** a continuation from last year at many sites in the Pacific deployed 18 6th Wx personnel with equipment and provided support from April to August. Flight A provided 68 rawinsonde obs at site T-517. Flight B provided 76 Raobs and 79 Rawins aboard a Military Sea Transport Service ship. Flight B-1 provided technical support to the New Zealand rawinsonde operators to obtain 2 Raobs per day at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. **Project Mountain Iron** at Vandenberg AFB CA and contracted with Battelle-Northwest was terminated at the end of March after providing surface and upper air data in a long continuing study of variability in time and space of meteorological parameters over South Vandenberg AFB. **Long Range Oblique Photograph Project** at

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Castle Rock CO was a continuation from 1966 for Honeywell Corporation and the Photographic Branch, Air Force Avionics Laboratory. A seven person team deployed in June and was operational until the end of August providing upper air data for their photography study. A Density Index was computed for each of 112 soundings. **National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) at Norman OK** is the annual springtime project in Oklahoma with 5 teams at Tinker AFB, Paul's Valley, Watonga, Cordell, and Ringling with rawinsonde obs and special observations on request by NSSL for detailed analysis on severe storms during the three springtime months. **AF Project 770, Clovis NM** a highly classified high altitude balloon flight research project for the Aeronautical Systems Division through AF Cambridge Research Labs and civilian contractors. 6th Weather supported this month-long project with 54 Airmen during the month of April and with 4 mobile rawinsonde teams and 16 military vehicles. Later in September and October, 6th Weather sent out four more teams to Clovis, Tucumcari and Cannon AFB in New Mexico and Childress Texas. Three teams provided rawinsonde, pibal and balloon tracking data while the fourth team with 18 personnel provided drivers, target layers/retrievers, plotters/sextant operators and a theodolite tracking network. **Project E6457 Hill AFB Utah** Both Ogden Air Materiel Area with Strategic Air Command conducted a project to evaluate and develop ballistic tables for the BPU-33 Bomb. A team of four airmen and rawinsonde unit supported this project during the month of April. **Litton Industry Support (Classified)** in April and May with four airmen to Patrick AFB, Florida for a tracking study using 2 GMDs. **Naval Ordnance Test Station POPEYE, China Lake CA (Classified)** two NCOs to China Lake to provide support for the Cloud Physics Branch of Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory in a highly classified project. **Project Tromex Line Islands Experiment LIE South Pacific** 6th Wx provided upper air soundings in support of LIE conducted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research NCAR of Boulder, CO. LIE was extensive studies of tropical meteorological phenomena. 6th Wx



A1C Hermach releases balloon at Palmyra Island during Project Tromex (LIE)



A2C Parker shows girl balloon thru scope at Fanning Is. Proj Tromex

support provided 26 Airmen and 3 sets of rawinsonde equipment to Palmyra, Christmas and Fanning Islands with Project NCOIC at Honolulu, Hawaii for up to 60 test days. Ten Airmen returned to Tinker at end of April, eight to Upolu Point for Project 4108 and five to University of Hawaii in May to complete computations to the rawinsonde runs that were taken. Airmen from Fanning Island returned to Tinker in June. We provided 750 rawinsonde observations in support of LIE. **Project EMEB 4108 (AFSC) Upolu Point, Hawaii** The mission of AFSC, Air Force Systems Command was Research and Development for new weapons systems. The eight Airmen who were diverted from the South Pacific LIE in May to provide support to this project by Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The second phase resumed early July to August at the Upolu Airport with a 10 man

team providing 108 soundings to 500 millibars every three hours. **F-111 Test Project (AFSC) Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma Arizona** Flight Test Engineering Division of AFSC conducted climate tests on the F-111A aircraft at Yuma Proving Grounds. *(Continued on Page 4)*

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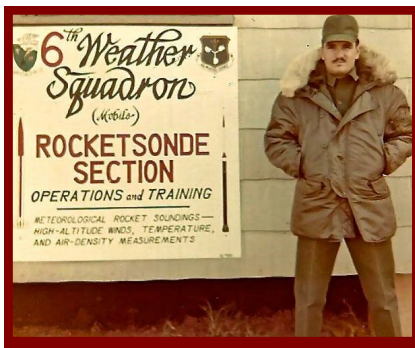
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Weather support was provided by six Airmen for surface and upper air weather data and solar radiation readings during July and August. **LO-LOCAT Project, Rome Air Development Center, Griffiss AFB, NY** continues from last year with two 6th Wx Airmen and rawinsonde soundings in support of RADC's electromagnetic energy propagation project, a mission of AFCRL. **AF Cambridge Research Laboratory, Hanscom Field, MA** in support of research and testing at the Aerospace Instrumentation Laboratory, 6th Wx provided weather support with two Airmen with one reassigned PCS to this facility. **Project Lonesome Tiger, Eglin AFB, FL** in January and February provided one observer to provide pibal and surface data for a special project at Eglin Air Proving Ground. **GCA (Ground Control Approach) Mobile Radar Study, Travis AFB, CA** was supported by 6th Wx, 4 man Flight D in August and September. Using a UMQ-9 sub-system, they provided 14 upper air soundings to determine an Index of Refraction for proper siting for a radar installation at Travis AFB. **Exercise Paddle Wheel (Classified) Location unknown**, 6th Wx provided 13 Airmen in September and October for this highly classified project. **AF Project 67-4 Liberian Photomapping Project** was provided 11 personnel in three teams to Camp Ramrod near Monrovia, Sanokole and Greenville Liberia in October for radiosonde sounding support to Aerial Survey Team Two (AST-2) of the 1370th Photomapping Wing. **AF Project 68-14, 68-15 (Classified)** in November provided a three man rawinsonde team to AST-3, 1370th Photomapping Wing using the UMQ-9 sub-system which arrived in December. **Project Cold Cowl, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska** was supported by one NCO observer as tasked by the Alaskan Air Command working with the Scientific Services Division, 11th Wx Squadron to determine the effectiveness of efforts to disperse supercooled fog by means of airborne seeding with dry ice particles. **Project Haven Winds, Ramey AFB Puerto Rico** took place in October 1967 with 6th Wx support with a 5 man team in the support of this project by AFCRL. We provided wind data to ballistics personnel during ionosphere exploration over Puerto Rico. The data was obtained by anemometers at 30 foot elevations and double theodolite upper wind observations. **Project Combat Two Fold (Classified)** is a perfect example of 6th Weather Mobile's ability to quickly



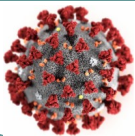
AST-2 Liberia Photomapping Project - Ground Power Units at Hdqs

respond to an emergency requirement of weather support. In a matter of a few hours after receiving a phone call from 3rd Weather Wing, a four man rawinsonde team with GMD with special orders, supplies, advanced per diem were ready for deployment to Matagorda Island at the request of the Base Commander. Matagorda is a long barrier island on the Texas Gulf coast. This weather support was required during the months of November and December. **MAC Op Plan 9-20's Combat Control Team** was provided pibal data by two 6th Wx observers in support to 7th Weather Wing at Fort Riley, Kansas for an air drop exercise. **Detachment 58, 6th Wx Wing Chico, CA** was provided support by one maintenance technician diverted from Project Mountain Iron, Vandenberg AFB, CA in June & July. **Detachment 30, 6th Wx Wing Vandenberg AFB, CA** was provided support with three observers from



David Gironda Sr at Rocketsonde Operations

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6th Weather Squadron Mobile



My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - January to December 1967 (Continued from Page 4)

Project Mountain Iron in June. **Detachment 21, 6th Wx Wing El Centro, CA** was provided support with a 7-level observer deployed from Tinker in June, July and August.

Rocketsonde Operations in 6th Weather in 1967 consisted of launch facilities at Vandenberg AFB, CA, Thule AFB, Greenland, Eniwetok Island, Cold Lake Canada and the Panama Canal Zone. A 4 man team at **Vandenberg** installed and operated two launch facilities in support of the **Atmospheric Variability Study** for the Office of Aerospace Research with the launch of 6 PWM-7a Robin systems in May and the **AFCRL** testing of the PWN-8A Lokisonde Systems in March and April for 12 test launches. Three separate deployments for a total of 17 Airmen were deployed for these tests in the second half of the year with a total of 29 LOKI and 23 ARCAS launches in the later tests. Pillar Point, CA was an additional site for launches. At **Eniwetok Atoll** in the Pacific, a continuously run site by a 3 man team in support of the Meteorological Rocketsonde Network (MRN) and AF Western Test Range (AFWTR) with 3 systems launched every week and additional launches as requested by AFWTR. US Weather Bureau performed the tracking and data reduction. Thirty eight ARCAS launches were completed from July to November. The **Panama Canal Zone** launch site is jointly operated the US Army and Air Force to provide weather data to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Since November 1966, 6th Wx provided a 3 man loading and data reduction crew. Three



Frank Bogart & Craig Lovstad
preparing rocketsonde at Eniwetok

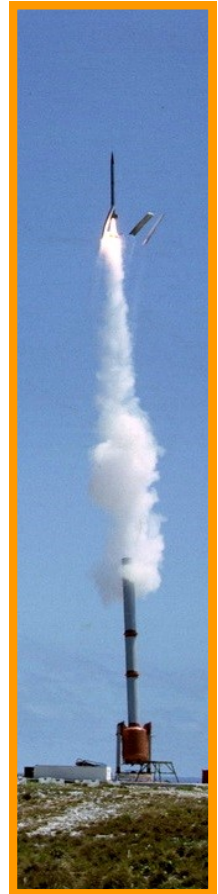
ARCAS and two LOKI II launches are scheduled every week. 6th Wx provided one



Lee Webb & rocket
launcher at Eniwetok

Airman to provide technical assistance at a rocketsonde site in **Cold Lake Canada**. A problem of tracking the rocketsonde system because of inexperience and radar limitations was resolved. Four Airmen were deployed to **Thule AFB, Greenland** in May for the continuation of rocketsonde operations in 1967. The first launch was delayed until 31 May because of bad weather and radar availability. A M-33 Radar was airlifted to the site and was operational in July. The previous radar support was erratic and this new radar made reliable scheduling possible for three ARCAS launches per week. A fifth Airman was assigned and assisted in dual theodolite operations. Year round launch operations were now possible because of construction of a new, all season launch building which opened in October. Now all work can be conducted indoors. The Thule rocketsonde facility became part of Detachment 48, 12th Weather Squadron in November with 3 of our personnel reverting to PCS status. From July through November there were 42 ARCAS

systems launched with 23 LOKI systems in support of Army test series. **Training, Testing and Certification** continues in many areas along with all the support functions of ASCENTS, Weather Editing, Weather Equipment Maintenance, Unit Personnel, Motor Pool, and Community Relations without which the operations support would be impossible.

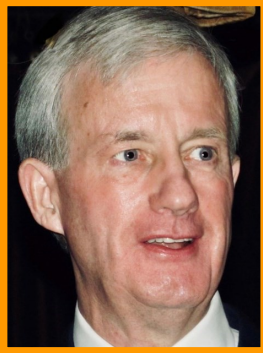


Fanning Island Children





Final Launch



Michael Sheskey Michael (Mike) Joseph, Sheskey age 73, passed away in Austin, Texas surrounded by family, on Wednesday, February 19th, 2020 after a valiant struggle to recover from a 2018 bicycle accident. He served in 6th Weather about '67-'69. He is survived by his devoted wife of forty-seven years, Susan; son, Matthew (Lindsey); granddaughter, Charlotte; siblings, Kathryn, Judith, Mary, and Roland; and twelve nieces and nephews. In death, Mike is reunited with his mother and father, Elizabeth and William Sheskey, and his beloved son Michael. Mike's unwavering strength, courage, and commitment to family will remain an inspiration to all who knew him.



Michael R Longo 1944-2019. Michael Longo, age 74, passed away on April 21, 2019 in Arizona City, Arizona. He was preceded in death by his parents, Angelo and Marjorie Longo. Michael grew up in Hartford, Connecticut and joined the Air Force after high school. He was a Vietnam War Veteran and served in the 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma from '72 to '80 and was a member of 6WSAA. He participated in weather projects around the world and enjoyed the travel and adventure. The most exotic assignment was on Kapingamarangi, Micronesia where he served as Team Chief for the First Global Atmospheric Research Program (FGGE). He worked for 23 years for the National Weather Service in Oregon, Oklahoma, Hawaii, and Alaska and retired as a meteorologist in 2006. He was an avid reader of weather and science information. He was a member of Portland Air National Guard and served for many years on the Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department in Gearhart, Oregon. He was a member of our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Seaside,

Oregon. He graduated from Linfield University and enjoyed being a parent volunteer at Gearhart Elementary School in his son and daughter's classes. He loved the Oregon Coast and the beautiful forests. Michael is survived by his son Robert (Jennifer) and by his daughter Angela Rose, his sisters Victoria (Charles) and Lorraine, two granddaughters, and his nephews, Michael, Jeffrey (Wendy), and Tony.

History of the 6WS Commemorative Coin



Back in 2005 at the 6WSAA 20th-year Reunion, an "Anonymous Donor" provided 130 colorized bronze 6th Weather Squadron coins for active members and 5 gold coins for former squadron commanders. The coins were presented to all attending members, and were well designed and looked great and everyone was thankful for the commemorative coin. At the reunion's awards ceremony, Joe Kerwin accepted the award for the "Anonymous Donor". Looking back at the August 2005 Newsletter following the reunion, the 1st page has Anonymous Member Donates 6WSAA Coins, and on the last page has Anonymous Coin Donor Revealed. Yes... in less than a week after the reunion, (maybe at the reunion?) the anonymous donor Ron Manning revealed he was the donor. A secret no more.

So I asked Joe Kerwin to shed some light on this with a little history. Here is what he said (and slightly edited by me for the newsletter): "I had been thinking about a commemorative coin for the 6WSAA for quite awhile and I wanted to do something about it. If we brought it up at one of our 6WSAA meetings it would have to go

before a Committee. The Committee would then have to accept inputs from everyone trying to put their own design and imprint on it. I knew this would take several reunions before we would even get approval for the design let alone the money. I visited Bill Callicutt and Ron Manning who lived nearby and mentioned to them I'd look for a couple of people to chip in with me to design and purchase a 6WSAA coin. Manning then told me he was trying to think of something he could do for the unit and told me he would pay for the whole thing if I would handle it. He added that I had to promise that the coins were to be donated "anonymously" and no one was to know it came from him. I told Ron I would accept his offer on the following conditions: 1. I would be solely responsible for the design and it would not be brought up to any board or committee for review. I would show the final design to him and Bill, and would accept only their comments in deciding if any changes were needed. The final decision on the coin would be mine. 2. I will keep my promise and not tell anyone who donated the money for the coins. Ron accepted the terms. I then had a young Captain I worked with, whose wife was in computer graphics, draw up the design I described for her and provided pictures of the original 6th WS emblem when the squadron was formed in Panama and the current one. Showed the final design to Ron and Bill and they approved. I then sent the draft to the coin shop. Gold coins were made for the commanders. The rest is history.

Joe "The NEWF" Kerwin"

