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### *My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron ~ January to December 1963 ~ 1964*

*6th Weather Squadron History for 1963 – 1964, written by Gerry Guay, 6WSAA Webmaster and Newsletter Publisher obtained from archives of 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron history of 1963 & 1964. The July to December 1963 is missing except for the AST-7 Photomapping Mission which was described in the October 2018 newsletter. The historian is unknown for this period. I am combining these two years into one for this report.*

**1963 – 64** were again busy years for our mobile weather teams. Lt Col Elwyn Moseley was commander for both years and CWO William Stricker was Operations Officer for 1963 with Lt Col John Baczuk in 1964. The 1963 manning chart is not available but the 1964 chart shows 261 personnel, with 7 officers, 1 warrant officer, 70 NCOs, 174 airmen and 1 civilian. There were 11+ projects in '63 in countries including New Guinea. And states of CA, AZ, AR, KS, TX, NV, NM, UT, MA, FL. In '64 there were projects with countries of Australia, Marshall Islands, New Guinea, Guam, Ethiopia, Greenland, Panama and states of AK, OK, CA, AZ, NV, NM, UT, FL, NH,

**1963 Operations Projects included:** USAF Project 60-13 Oyster Shell AST-7 (see Oct 2018 Newsletter); **Project Stratus** at Castle AFB, CA in support of SAC operations. 6th provided 1 NCO and 8 Airmen for 2 upper-air observations per day. **Titan II Wet Test Support** at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, McClellan AFB, KS, and Little Rock AFB, AR providing up to 13 Airmen for wiresonde support to SAC and RSD. Installation of Tri-X towers and Delta-T equipment reduced the need for extensive manpower support. **Project Mercury Drop** at NAF in El Centro, CA with 1 NCO and 2 Airmen providing 6 upper air observations per week to projects Gemini and Apollo conducted by AFSC. **Project Chico** at Chico, CA with 3 weather observers and 1 weather equipment technician providing upper air and pibal observations. **Project Sandstorm** at Edwards AFB, CA with 1 NCO and 15 Airman. Our mission was to operate and maintain micrometeorological equipment and air sampling system as required by the project director. Before the solid fuel rocket firing, the team must dress in their protective clothing and respirators and enter the test grid to start the 381 engines of the samplers with the sampling filters, and return to the blockhouse. The day after the test, the sample filters are collected and returned to the operations building, they remove their protective gear and shower. The grid covers 480 acres. **Project Tornado Alley 1963** with 3 upper air teams in Blytheville AFB, AR, Fort Chaffee, AR and Ellington AFB, TX provided USWB's Severe Storm Center with 2 upper air observations per day with additional releases as required. The 3 teams each had 1 NCO and 7 Airmen. **Project Waterhole** was at Edwards AFB, CA with 1 NCO and 3 Observers to provide AFSC with soil moisture samples at dry lake beds in California, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico. They determined the lake beds' current condition with soil moisture tests, soil temperature, weight bearability tests and surface weather observations at each lake bed. **Project Roller Coaster** in Tonopah, Nevada. At the Tonopah Test Site, the 1 NCO and 10 Airmen provided the USWB with pibal observations on and off the Tonopah Test Site. **ESD Project 703** at Newcomb Hollow Beach, Wellfleet, MA with 1 NCOIC, 5 Observers and 1 Technician (Me) to support a project for AFCRL and the contractor The Mitre Corp. We provided rawinsonde, wiresonde, surface observations and ocean temperature readings in a radar propagation over water study which included aircraft flights. **C-123 Spray Test** at Eglin AFB, FL was a US Army test project with 1 NCO and 12 Observers. This required low level wind direction and speed for airborne spray operations. A Jalbert J-5 barrage balloon with anemometers attached was used and a compass aligned with the tail section determined the wind direction. This method proved more accurate and faster than double theodolite method.

**1964 Operations Projects included:** USAF Project 60-13 Oyster Shell AST-7 continues (see Oct 2018 Newsletter); USAF Project 58-3 Kings Ransom (Continued on Page 3)





## My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron ~ January to December 1963 ~ 1964 (Continued from Page 2)

provided upper air observations in support of Aerial Survey Team Four, APCS in Ethiopia. Four teams including 14 personnel and CMSgt Morris were set up at Massawa, Tesseni, Acesum and Bahar Dar. Many problems were encountered including the hydrogen generators, the transmission of weather messages and the understanding of data by Ethiopian Weather Bureau. **Joint Parachute Test Facility Project** in El Centro, CA supporting the 6511<sup>th</sup> Parachute Test Group USAF. **Project Ding Dong (Sonic Boom Test)** at Tinker AFB, OK providing upper air and wiresonde observations in support of FAA Sonic Boom Studies to measure community responses to sonic booms of aircraft in supersonic flight. **Project Waterhole** at Edwards AFB, CA a continuation of the same project from 1963 (above) employing 2 Observers and 1 vehicle to obtain soil moisture samples on dry lake beds to determine the traffic ability and the usefulness of dry lakes for emergency landing fields in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico. *Note: I imagine it was for future emergency landing fields for spacecraft such as the Space Shuttle (1981).* **Project Lance Jet** provided 1 Observer to support to Det 10, 4<sup>th</sup> Weather Group for meteorological rocket operations and CB testing. **Titan II Wet Test Support** at Little Rock AFB, AR. 6<sup>th</sup> provided 8 Airmen to HSD and SAC with wiresonde operations at the SAC complexes. **Photogrammetric Triangulation System Calibration Tests** by Aerospace Corporation at Grenier Field, NH. 6<sup>th</sup> provided 2 Observers and one Equipment Technician provided AFSC with radiosonde support during antenna calibration activities. **Project Ash Can** at Goodfellow AFB, TX with an NCOIC, 6 Observers and 1 Technician providing upper air soundings for high altitude air sampling activities. **Joint Training Exercise Desert Strike** in CA and AZ. 6<sup>th</sup> Wx provided 2 mobile rawinsonde teams, each consisting of 1 NCOIC, 8 Observers and 1 Technician with 3 weather editing personnel in support of the weather center director. US STRICOM conducted the exercises in Southern CA, AZ and NV area. Each team provided support to opposing strike forces and were mobile and were capable of rapid movement and were operational at 4 sites through the exercise. **Project Tornado Alley 1964** saw 6<sup>th</sup> Wx teams of an NCOIC and 7 Airmen in Blytheville, AR, Fort Chaffee, AR, and Reese AFB, TX during Phase I, then Blytheville AFB, AR, Grand Forks AFB, ND, and Waverly, IA for Phase II. The provided Severe Local Storms Unit (SELS) and Kansas City Centralized Forecast Center (USAF) with upper air observations as scheduled and extras as required. **US Army Sounding Project** at Fort Sill, OK. 6<sup>th</sup> Wx provided support to US Army Research Board at Fort Monmouth, NJ with a NCOIC, 2 Observers, and 1 Equipment Technician. This study was to determine the effect of weather on the travel of sound caused by explosions. **Project Ash Can** to provide upper air observing and high altitude balloon tracking capability at Eielson AFB, AK. 6<sup>th</sup> Wx provided a team of 2 Observers and 1 Maintenance Technician. **AWS Rocketsonde Network** 6<sup>th</sup> Wx provided the first mobile rocketsonde training team with a 4 man team at Thule AFB, Greenland for training AWS personnel in the firing of rocketsondes and to assist in the personnel in the early stages of network operation. Air Weather Service was establishing a pilot network of rocketsonde stations at tropical, mid-latitude, and arctic climates. **Support to 9<sup>th</sup> Weather Reconnaissance Group** at McClellan AFB, CA with 5 Observers to assist in the in the reduction of dropsonde observations. **Support to Det 10, 4<sup>th</sup> Weather Group** at Eglin AFB, FL for Projects Indian River, CB Testing and Spray Tests with from 2 to 8 Observers. **Tinker AFB Operational Flight** provided 2 upper air observations daily as directed by Hq AWS and also served as a training unit for rawinsonde operations. **Det 1, 6thWx Sq Support** at Goodfellow AFB, TX, Panama and Alaska to provide upper air soundings, balloon tracking capabilities in support of high altitude air sampling activities. 6<sup>th</sup> Wx provided 7 Observers and 1 Technician at Goodfellow AFB, TX and 2 Observers and 1 Technician to Panama and Alaska. **Exercise Gold Fire I** at

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### *My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron ~ January to December 1963 ~ 1964 (Continued from Page 3)*

Fort Leonard Wood, MI was an Army joint training exercise where 6<sup>th</sup> WX provided upper air soundings with an NCOIC, 6 Observers, 1 Technician and with a 3 man Wx Editing Section in support of Hq Wx Center during the exercise. **AF Project 698AJ – Project Hen House** at Clovis Municipal Airport Clovis NM, Hobbs NM, Abernathy TX, LaMesa TX, Morenci AZ, Buckeye AZ, Globe AZ, Phoenix AZ, and Iowa Park TX. 6<sup>th</sup> Wx provided 4 teams with 4 NCOICs, 20 Observers and 3 Technicians to provide upper air soundings, pibals and GMD/theodolite tracking fixes to the Balloon R&D Test Branch of AFCRL for the tracking and controlling of free-floating balloons after release from the launch site. (*Is this similar to the Chinese spy balloon?*) This project was carried out in 3 phases, Phase 1 in September, Phase 2 in October and Phase 3 in November. **Project Cat Feet** at Otis AFB, MA, we provided upper air observations support to AFCRL Warm Fog and Stratus Air Dissipation Project. A team of 7 Observers and 2 Technicians provided 2 rawinsonde observations daily and with additional obs every 3 hours when fog was present for a total of 155 observations. **Project Sound Ranging** at Fort Sill, OK in July. A team of 3 Observers and 1 Technician provided upper air observations for the US Army Research Board of Fort Monmouth, NJ studying the effects of meteorological parameters on travel of sound from ballistic firings. Our team provided observations every 30 minutes during range tests. This required a modification to the instruments to short out after 15 minutes. **Rocketsonde Support** in Thule, Greenland with a mobile rocketsonde team providing meteorological rocket probes at the first mobile rocketsonde launching site for AWS. Because the permanent, year round launch facility had not been constructed yet, the mission was changed to providing 15 meteorological rocket launches. **Project West Side** was classified with no information. **Oklahoma State Fair Display** where 6<sup>th</sup> Wx provided an AWS meteorological display in Oklahoma City. Supporting this were 8 Observers, an NCOIC and a Project Officer. The display consisted of a complete mobile rawinsonde unit including 5-ton van, tractor & trailer, 2.5 ton truck, meteorological equipment, ARCAS rocketsonde launcher, wiresonde equipment and other met equipment. The display attracted 250,000 spectators at the fair. **ASCENTS (Atmospheric Sounding Central Evaluation and Test Section)** received 11,655 rawinsonde observations, 827 dropsonde observations and 285 rocketsonde observations to be graphed and analyzed. They provided verification for quality control on 2,303 soundings and found out of limits deviations on 1,432 soundings. They also provided evaluation on overheating of the BA-529 batteries, testing on the XML-537 balloons, preparation for testing the modified AN/GMD-2 when it arrives from manufacturer. **Comet I & Comet II** - Meetings at Weather Branch Central Communications Region formulated plans for reconfiguration the Comet I & Comet II Networks to accommodate the addition of 50 US Navy stations. **Comet III** - A new broadcast transmitter became operational in July and a new ManOp in September. **Training:** The four general objectives of the Squadron Training Program remained unchanged, they are 1. Tactical Operations Tng for new personnel and maintaining proficiency of “old” personnel (“old in those days was 24+ years old) 2. General Military Tng to meet USAF and AWS requirements, and included small arms, code of conduct, security, safety indoctrinations, driver improvement, care of equipment, commander’s call, moral leadership, and proficiency B. 3. On-th-job Tng for job up-grade and proficiency. 4. Schools with personnel attendance at Chanute AFB, MATS NCO Academy, and at 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Tinker. **Support:** And we also must mention the support sections that often do not get mentioned but provide the backbone to all 6<sup>th</sup> Wx operations. They are: **Personnel & Administration, Materiel, Budget & Accounting, Motor Pool Operations, Weather Equipment Maintenance, and Safety.** There are also many Awards, Commendations, Decorations & Letters; too many to enumerate here which bolster the “esprit de corps” of our squadron and are well deserved.



I was elated to received feedback from **Michael Seaver** after emailing the October newsletter, and I'm publishing excerpts from his emails. Michael was in the 6th Mob from April of '62 through the beginning of '65, and then he transferred to the 4th Weather Wing at Andrew's AFB. Here is what he provided for the Feedback column which applies to this newsletter's projects of 1963. And Thanks Michael.

Those Catch 22 days... the assignment to McConnell AFB, Cuban crisis and Titan II upgrading to Titan III. The escapades of deployment, living in the Launch Command Center during countdowns, the folly of working with Martin Marietta, fuel spills, et al. Then, of course, all of this is augmented by my introduction to ever lovable Bongo (*Robert Bongiovanni*). (Referring to the C-123 Spray Test at Eglin AFB, FL, a project described in this Newsletter 1963 History he adds): MSgt Gensler was our NCO. WOW. Every morning the C-123 as well as other aircraft would spay our position. We not only performed the duties identified in the '63 history, but setup collection plates -- square tin plates, approximately 6 inches square across a mapped-out grid. The



spray would create splatterings on the plates. Subsequently, the droplets could be analyzed for dispersion, density, and viscosity. And that study would be compared with airflow/windage for each plane that made the run that day. Gensler would tell us, from time-to-time, which gas was being used--oily water, Agent Purple, or, occasionally, the introduction of Agent Orange. If Gensler was correct, we probably saw more upclose Agent Orange events than the soldiers in Vietnam. They tested every Mon-Fri for the duration, minimally three runs a day, using different aircraft. Overall, I think it was well-planned and the 6th performed brilliantly. Of course, no one at

the time understood the long-term health problems resulting from exposure to those herbicides. Each day, we were allotted a box lunch which served as breakfast, and we would retire to Fort Walton Beach for R&R. A friendly beach Cafe owner would feed us with fried fish, free with the drinks we bought. Good beach time. The food problem: we arrived late and were given barracks assignments by the OD. But that was the extent of our check-in. We had access to everything, except the mess hall. No meal passes were issued. Gensler was able to chase down the female Col in charge of the mess, and she graciously had the box lunches made for us on the graveyard shift. We reported to the quartermaster for fatigues to wear while on the test range. They outfitted us with overhauls that at one time had been issued to officers. For a while, I was a Lt. Colonel. (*This sounds like a Bongo impersonation, LOL*) So, being somewhat precocious, I actually ventured to the Officer's Club. I was befriended by a 2nd Lt. Turned out we both had an interest in the performing arts. Got the Officer's Wives Club to finance and produce "Bell, Book, and Candle" to a really good audience that included the base commander. He invited a few of the local dignitaries. We got good reviews in the local papers. One of the invitees turned out to be some political representative. I never discovered who. Next thing I know, the Base Commander, along with this Representative, had organized a tour to the local minimal security prisons! Talk about being well received! These guys were hungry for entertainment. Back at the base, my Colonel impersonation had been revealed. The Commander was very gracious. Due to the good will we created with the play, he was very forgiving -- so, we all avoided any unpleasant ribs. At any rate, all to the good. As I said, the 6th performed well. I can't complain--good job, slightly nutty NCO, good beach time, free fish with my beers, an adventure with young Officers, their wives club, great reviews. No complaints about any of that. It was a difficult day for the Mob when the president was assassinated. We were summoned to Headquarters to await possible orders. That incident happened very close to the end of our tour. Yes, I do relate this adventure to some close friends and to family when they ask. Can't say for sure Gerry, but we probably crossed paths. I was pretty good friends with Steve Gladish and had a good relationship with Bongiovanni! Now, there's some stories about Bongo! Thanks again Gerry. Hope you got a kick out of this! Michael





# THE 6TH DIMENSION

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**AIR FORCE ADMITS AGENT ORANGE SPRAYING IN FLORIDA IN 1962-70** By Barbara T. Dreyfuss In Vietnam during the war, a typical mission disseminated 14.8 kg of Agent Orange per hectare. Most of the Agent Orange in Vietnam was intercepted by forest canopy, and some of it was destroyed by the sunlight. But at Eglin, where the spray rate was 876 kg per hectare, the trees and bushes already had been removed from the spray area. Each hectare at Eglin received at least 1,300 times more dioxin than a hectare sprayed in Vietnam. The spraying went on from 1962 to 1970. The test area was three kilometers square or 2 square miles.

## IT WASN'T JUST AGENT ORANGE:

The Rainbow Herbicides of the Vietnam War Era



AGENT GREEN 2,4,5-T    AGENT PINK 2,4,5-T    AGENT PURPLE 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T    AGENT BLUE Glyphosate Acid    AGENT WHITE 2,4-D, Picloram    AGENT ORANGE 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T

**David Gironda Sr.** has provided us with pictures of Greenland for our website at: [https://6thweathermobile.org/david\\_gironda\\_sr.htm](https://6thweathermobile.org/david_gironda_sr.htm)



**Cost of Living in 1963-64** (Avg of both years): Inflation: 1.32%; Average Cost of new house: \$12,800; Average Income per year: \$5,900; Average Monthly Rent: \$113; Gallon of gas: 30 cents; Average price of a new car \$3,350; US Postal stamp: 5 cents; Movie ticket \$1.25; Ground Hamburger 40 cents/lb; Milk \$1.05/gal; Eggs 33 cents/doz; United States population: 188 Million.

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**President Kennedy Assassinated** in Dallas, Texas, and Vice President Lyndon Johnson became President. The accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, is shot and killed



**United States, Soviet Union and Great Britain** signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting testing of nuclear weapons in space, underwater or in the atmosphere.



**200,000 People March on Washington** in support of civil rights; Dr. Martin Luther King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech.



**USS Thresher, an atomic submarine** sinks in the Atlantic Ocean, killing 129 sailors and civilians. The sub unexpectedly plunged to the sea floor roughly 300 miles off the coast of New England.





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**The 1964 Alaska earthquake**, the strongest earthquake ever recorded in North America, struck Alaska's Prince William Sound, about 74 miles southeast of Anchorage. Most of Alaska's mainland felt the magnitude 9.2 earthquake, which wobbled Seattle's Space Needle some 1,200 miles away. The earthquake was so powerful it registered in all U.S. states



**U.S. military forces launch attacks** on North Vietnam in response to an attack on a U.S. destroyer, USS Maddox off the Vietnamese coast; Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution that gave the President greater freedom to authorize combat actions in Vietnam.

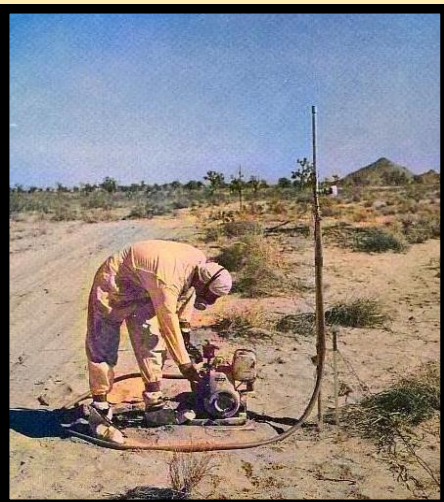


**Three civil rights workers murdered in Mississippi** during "Freedom Summer". The trio were shot and murdered by the Ku Klux Klan because Chaney was African-American and Goodman and Schwerner were both Jewish

**President Johnson declares "war on poverty"** introduces a variety of federal welfare programs, including Medicare, initially proposed by Kennedy in 1960.



**Soviet leader Khrushchev falls from power**, and is ultimately replaced by Leonid Brezhnev. Khrushchev lost his status as first secretary of the Communist Party and premier of the Soviet Union. Brezhnev arranged for take over as the party leader.



**Project Sandstorm 1963**  
Edwards AFB, CA

**Space probe Mariner IV flies by Mars**, transmitting pictures of the planet's surface back to earth.

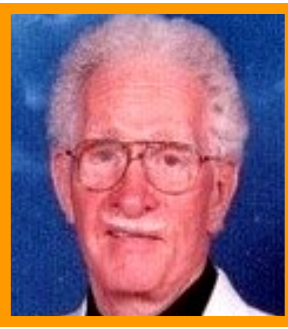


**Changes:** To keep our costs low: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at [weatherman@6thweathermobile.org](mailto:weatherman@6thweathermobile.org) or USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937





# Final Launch



**G Ed Connett 1929 - 2023** George Ed Connett Jr, CMSgt, Ret., passed on Thursday, Feb 9, 2023 at his home in Peoria, AZ 93 years young. Known as Ed or Eddie Connett, he was born in Dayton, Kentucky. At 18 years, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard where he earned his status as a Shellback after his ship crossed the equator. After serving six years, he transferred to the U.S. Air Force. He earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree while on active duty. He served in the Vietnam war during the Tet Offensive. He traveled extensively in Europe, the United Kingdom and the U.S. He earned over 20 ribbons and medals for outstanding service as a Weather Superintendent during his Air Force tenure of 26 years. He served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) as Operations NCOIC in 1969 and '70. He retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. With a MSW in family counseling, he pursued a career in therapy for another twenty years. He was a loved husband, father, grandfather and Great, Great Pappa. Survivors are his son David E Connett, daughter Diane D. Stuart, 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



**Glenn Dorkins 1943 - 2018** Glenn E. Dorkins, 75, of Buda, Texas, passed away on Sunday, December 16, 2018 in Springfield, Illinois. Born and raised in Iowa, Glenn attended college in Wisconsin. He later married, joined the Air Force and served in Vietnam. He served in 6th Weather Sq about 1979. Glenn then built houses, had a career in tech, adopted dogs, read thick history books, and dove into hobbies with a love for details that he shared with everyone. He had the best dry wit, rambling stories, and selfless disposition. He loved his family more than anything. Glenn is survived by his wife ,Terry, of 54 years; daughter, Meggan Webber; son, Evan Dorkins; brother, Paul Dorkins; sons-in-law, Jim Webber and Jeff McMillin; and two grandchildren, Ava and Matthew Webber. We love you, Dad. There is no one like you. Cremation was accorded by Lincoln Land Cremation Society.



**Robert Oshorski 1941 - 2017** Robert "Bob" Orshoski, 76 of Las Vegas Nevada was called to the heavens on Friday November 17th, 2017 surrounded by loved ones. Bob was born in Detroit Michigan in 1941, shortly after Bob's family moved to Sandusky Ohio where he was raised. Bob graduated from St. Mary's Catholic high school where he was the captain of the state championship golf team. In 2012 Bob's golf team was inducted into the St. Mary's Hall of fame. Bob met the love of his life Fay Russell in high school and the two were married in 1961. Bob joined the United States Air Force in 1959 where he served our country for 20 years. Bob was a 6WSAA member and served in 6th Weather Sq from 1975 to 1979. In 1979 Bob and Fay moved their family to Las Vegas. Bob spent 10 years working for EG&G and then finished his career as a slot technician working at the Mirage Hotel. Bob loved sports and while stationed in Oklahoma began officiating high school football and basketball which continued long after the family moved to Las Vegas. An avid Cleveland Browns, Ohio State Buckeyes and UNLV fan you could often find Bob in the stands giving the officials a hard time. Bob could light up any room with his smile and personality, he will be truly missed by all who knew him. "Heaven hit the jackpot today!!" He is preceded in death by his father Louis Orshoski and brother in-law Bob Burkey. Bob is survived by his wife of 56 years, Fay Orshoski, mother Helen Orshoski, sister Judy Burkey, children Julie Keena, Mark Orshoski, and Susan Schilder (Daniel). Bob was also a devoted grandpa to eight grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

