



26 OWS NEWSLETTER



STAN EVAL

An evaluation team from HQ AFWA conducted an assessment of the quality of weather operations and technical support at the 26th Operational Weather Squadron (26 OWS), Barksdale AFB, LA during the week of 11-15 Aug 2003. The 26 OWS provides 24/7 weather operations services and products to the 8 AF and the active duty, guard, and reserve units in, and transiting through the South Central Region of the Continental United States. Based on an evaluation of capabilities, the squadron was rated as **COMPLIED WITH STANDARDS**, with a conformity index of 89%. To achieve this score, we had only 8 discrepancies out of a total of 120+ compliance review checklist items.

The Stan/Eval Team consisted of six HQ AFWA/XOP members, a HQ ACC/DOW augmentee, and an observer (non-voting) member from HQ AETC/DOYW. The team noted several positive observations, including "first look" graphical forecast products, improvements to the unit analysis and forecast process, and weather regime recognition. The Systems Flight developed the "first look" model-based products via an innovative use of the LEADS system, providing "a rapid-fire response to a customer's needs that maximized use of limited resources." The Stan Eval Team also noted that the 26 OWS "analysis and forecast processes and metrics programs have matured significantly since the June 2002 Reengineering Consultation Visit." Leadership harnessed the talents of operations, training, and systems flights into a synergistic team to ensure that unit processes and procedures were compliant with Air Force standards and met the operational needs of the squadron's many customers. Finally, a squadron-wide collaborative effort resulted in several web-based tools to guide weather apprentices in correctly identifying and comprehending large-scale weather regimes.

The team also noted a few negative observations. The first is although squadron SOPs comply with AFMAN 15-129 paragraph 2.5.1.7.2, they are not supported by the LEADS scripts that automate portions of the analysis process. Second, the forecast worksheet data entry procedures require technicians to manually enter discus-

sions on synoptic situations, regimes and model initialization, but could be automated for time savings. The third and final observation was the forecasters used a generic thunderstorm checklist that is based on forecast indices in AFTN 98-002, but does not contain location specific information or guidance on adjusting indices for different climatic zones. We have nearly completed changes to our processes and procedures that will correct each of these negative observations.

As for the specific discrepancies, most of the points "lost" can be summed up in three words - Memoranda of Agreement (MOA). We are working on several fixes that will standardize these documents and make them fully compatible with our SOPs. We will also need to lean forward to ensure our annual reviews

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Stan Eval cont</i>	2
<i>Providence House</i>	3
<i>Road Trips</i>	4
<i>New Arrivals</i>	5
<i>Annual Award Winners</i>	6
<i>Kudos</i>	7/8
<i>Base Softball Champions</i>	9

are completed in a timely manner with our CWTs. Other areas that we have corrected/are correcting include the addition of vorticity maxima to our satellite imagery; adding a few missing items to our TFRNs; and managing and better monitoring our use of TEMPO groups in TAFs. A "Fix Plan" was submitted to HQ AFWA/XO soon after the visit recommending closure of several action items with completion of all others early in 2004.

On a positive note, evaluators were impressed with the degree that the Systems Flight has enhanced the squadron's operations. The Systems Flight's upgrade and improvement processes have met and in numerous cases surpassed operational requirements. The team specifically cited the Flight's highly functional web pages, integration of site-specific conditional databases directly into forecast worksheets, development of the "FITL Viewer" solution to view fused CONUS OWS FITL graphics and regional graphics, and development of the squadron's training database.

Two of the many superstars we have in the 26th were specifically identified as "Superior Performers" by the Stan/Eval Team. A1Cs Adam D'Anthony and Cody Hansen both displayed their technical skills and professionalism to the Stan/Eval team. A1C D'Anthony "demonstrated outstanding knowledge of meteorology, regional forecast procedures, and customer impacts from space weather while performing duties as the D-Flight Zone Two

Regional Supervisor - a position designed for a more experienced technician." A1C Hansen "presented a professional and confident overview of the aircrew briefing services provided to the 26 OWS' flying customers and exhibited exceptional ability using all flight briefing tools; his thorough understanding of Space Weather impacts on operations, as well as his skill with the Target Acquisition Weapons Software suite was particularly noteworthy."

As an added bonus for the hard work the entire squadron devoted to the Stan/Eval effort, Lt Gen Bruce Carlson (8 AF/CC), came to the Operations Floor and congratulated everyone on the superb job. In addition, he presented his commander's coin to the superior performers, several members of the System's Flight who directly contributed to the projects cited in the Stan/Eval Final Report, and the operations leads. We would like to thank everyone in the 26 OWS and all of our CWTs who did a lot of "heavy lifting" over the past year to make our Stan/Eval a success. Although there is still work to do, we have made great strides since FOC a mere 18 months ago and are very grateful for everyone's contributions.

Submitted by Lt Col Robert Fleishauer
26OWS/DO



Around the AOR

Left: Two waterspouts that formed south of Keesler AFB over the Mississippi Sound during the mid-afternoon on 27 Jun 03. The waterspouts, as many as 3 at one time, moved east before dissipating. (Photo was taken by 1Lt Greg McCampbell of the 81st Operations Support Flight.)

Thanks for being so patient between Newsletters. As you can see things have been very busy here at the 26th over the past few months. I would like to put these out more frequently, but I need stories from YOU! If you have good stuff to share about your deployed troops or your unit, please send them to me.

Providence House Thanksgiving

On the day before Thanksgiving, members of the 26 OWS prepared a Thanksgiving meal for 26 families, including 49 children at the Providence House Shelter . They cooked and served 11 large turkeys, plenty of stuffing, potatoes & gravy, green beans, sodas, plenty of rolls, cranberry sauce and 15 pumpkin and sweet potato pies. There were a total of 30 volunteers who attended and helped serve and prepare the meal including the event committee: SSgt Robert Yoas, TSgt Charles Hoffman, SrA Monica Yoas and A1C Daniel Whitton. Providence House is a residential development center for homeless families with children.

Right: MSgt Gary Davis serves drinks to residents.



Far Right: Waiting for Turkey! Two of the 49 children served at Providence House.



Below: Providence House moms share dinner and get a break.



Right: Capt Dean Carter, Lt Col Rob Fleishauer, mystery helper and Lt Col Mike Condray helping out in the kitchen.



Below: The 26OWS Volunteer Crew.



Road Trips

Two teams took to the road and visited a few of our customers this past summer. One group visited the Morgan City, LA TARS ([Tethered Aerostat Radar System](#)) site, Keesler AFB, MS, and Columbus AFB, MS in July. The other group went southwest to Texas and visited Randolph AFB, Lackland AFB, Laughlin AFB and the Eagle Pass TARS site in September. The purpose of the visits is to expand our knowledge of our weather customers, their operations and support needs. They also aim to improve customer relations, and encourage teamwork/understanding between the OWS and it's customers.

The visits to the two TARS sites proved to be the most popular and produced the most photographs. The biggest weather concerns for the Aerostat operations are Thunderstorm and wind shear they were also very interested in outflow boundaries and how to identify them. At the Morgan City TARS site, Ms. Cynthia Sanders, Mr. Herman Hamilton and Mr. Kevin Boudreaux conducted a well-prepared two-hour tour of the site.



Left to Right: A1C Robin Stutesman, A1C Loyeatta Manley, A1C Crystal LaRose, SSgt Ray Decker, SrA Carlos Austin and TSgt Benjamin Touchstone at Morgan City TARS site, LA.



Ms. Cynthia Sanders and Mr. Kevin Boudreaux giving a tour of the site at Morgan City.



Above: TARS balloon at Morgan City, LA.

Right: 2Lt Hurley, TSgt Hoffman, A1C Lachney, A1C Patterson, A1C Morgan, A1C Hulme at Randolph. SrA Martinez on the camera.





Left: TARS site at Morgan City, LA. The visiting team is dwarfed by the large "balloon".

Below: Mr. Kevin Boudreaux, Morgan City site operator, showing the cable mechanism that lets the tethered balloon out and draws it back in.

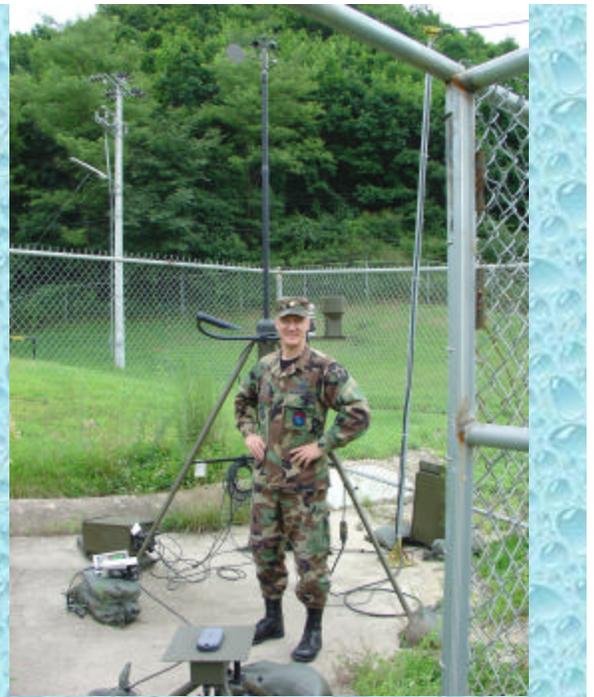


Right: Lt Col (s) Grelson, formerly the 26OWS Operations Flight Commander, at one of the 607th's automated observing sites, just north of the 38th parallel. The spot was in North Korea from 1946-1950 until we advanced the boundary between countries during the Korean War. It is now the site of a live-fire range.

Websites of Interest...

[Mars Exploration Rover Mission Home](#)

[Hubble Site Gallery](#)



Congratulations to our newest Arrivals:

Steven, born 21 Sep to TSgt Mitch and Kim Gilbreath

Samantha Kay, born 10 Oct to A1C Alena Shrock

Haley Brooke, born 19 Oct to SSgt Bernard and Donna Moyer

Jalena Marin, born 20 Dec to SrA Jennifer and Byron Giles

Silas, born 23 Dec to Capt David and Bettina Machen

Schyler Landon, born 18 Jan , to MSgt Jeff and Veronica Smeby



26 OWS Annual Award Winners for 2003



NCO of the Year
TSgt Charles Hoffman



Airman of the Year
SrA Monica Yoas



SNCO of the Year
MSgt Lee Benson



CGO of the Year
1Lt David Bieger



Civilian of the Year
Mr. Harry Druckenmiller

Applause! Applause!

26OWS Award Winners

26OWS Quarterly Award Winners Jul-Sep 2003

Airman - SrA Loyeatta Manley
 NCO - TSgt Charles Hoffman
 SNCO - MSgt William Loy
 CGO - 1Lt Jeff Gipson
 FGO - Maj Dave Biggar
 Civ - Mr. Nick Fillo

26OWS Quarterly Award Winners Oct-Dec 2003

Airman - A1C (SrA Sel) Burell Barnes
 NCO - SSgt Robert Yoas
 SNCO - MSgt Robert Baker
 CGO - 2Lt Dave Bieger
 Civ - Mr Harry Druckenmiller

8AF Airmen of the Month

A1C Jonathan R. Berry Jul 03
 SrA Desiree Herring Sep 03
 SrA Monica Yoas Dec 03

26OWS Monthly Award Winners

A1C Jonathan R. Berry Jul 03
 A1C Ian Patterson Aug 03
 SrA Desiree Herring Sep 03
 A1C Sarah Helwig Oct 03
 SrA Adam B. D'Anthony Nov 03
 SrA Monica Yoas Dec 03

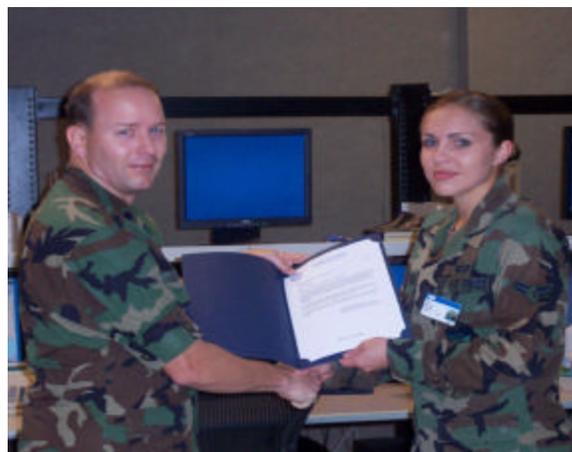


Want to recognize outstanding individuals in your unit? Got an article to share? Send pictures and information to:

leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil

Congratulations to SrA Jewaun McElroy from 2d OSS/OSW, a former 26 OWS alumni, on her selection as Barksdale's Airman of the Month for September 2003!

Congratulations to MSgt Paul Richard, MSgt William Loy, SSgt Robert Yoas, SrA Monica Yoas, and SrA Daniel Mike on receiving your CCAF degrees in Weather Technology. SSgt Yoas also received his CCAF degree in Aerospace Maintenance.



Congratulations to SrA Danika Van Tine on your BTZ promotion.

26OWS Quarterly Technical Awards Jul-Sep 2003

Regional Forecast Apprentice - A1C Tiffany Coutee
 Regional Manager - SrA Adam D'Anthony
 Zone Manager - SSgt Barney Roberts
 Flight Weather Briefer - A1C Rachel Scallan

Graphics Awards

Graphics Forecaster - A1C Jamie Smith
 Graphics Manager - TSgt Robert Yancey
 Homeland Defense Forecaster - A1C Robert Rath

Congratulations A1C Katrina D. Johnson Barksdale AFB Airman of the Month for January 2004



A1C Johnson, A Flight, was head and shoulders above tough competition to win the 26 OWS Airman of the Month and the 8AF Airman of the Month for January. She then went on to win the Base Level Award. Congratulations Katrina!

26OWS Quarterly Technical Awards Oct-Dec 2003

Regional Forecast Apprentice - A1C Micah Denton

Regional Manager - SSgt Jonathan White

Zone Manager - TSgt Burtice Wood

Flight Weather Briefer - A1C Kyna Davis

Graphics Forecaster - SrA Matthew Thompson

Congratulations also goes to MSgt Lee Benson, Systems Flight NCOIC, for his selection as the SNCO of the Year for the 608th Air Operations Group.



MSgt Benson

608 AOG Quarterly Award Winners

Oct-Dec 2003

Airman - A1C Burell Barnes

Civ - Mr. Harry Druckenmiller



A1C Barnes



Mr. Druckenmiller



Congratulations A1C Neel Rodgers for scoring a 92 on your End of Course exam (A set). Great Job!



Fledgling 26 OWS Softball Team Takes the Base Championship Trophy after defeating the Top rated CE team 8-5! And their T-shirts didn't even match!



This was the first time in years that a small squadron team took the trophy. . "Every game a different player came through. We won as a team, lost as a team, and never blamed anyone for a mistake. The key to our success was never giving up even when we were tired!"
Manager: SSgt Reed

Left to Right, Standing: MSgt Paul Richard, SrA Michael Winders, SSgt John Rosario, SSgt Steve Strickland (holding the base trophy with SMSgt Flieg and) SrA Brian Lachney, SSgt Pete Medhurst, SSgt Terry Hutton
 Left to Right, Crouched: SrA Danika VanTine and SMSgt Pat Flieg (holding the League Trophy in his glove hand).
 Left to Right, Kneeling: SrA Thomas Cook, Lt Col Mike Condray and A1C Matt Staton
 Team members not shown: 2Lt Joshua Werner, TSgt Mitch Gilbreath, SSgt Nick Reed and A1C D'Anthony



Left: SMSgt Pat Flieg and SSgt John Rosario
 Right: Winners of the Barksdale AFB Softball Championship

