



26 OWS NEWSLETTER



I am honored and humbled to be the new commander of the 26th OWS. Assuming responsibility for mission accomplishment for a distributed operation such as this (answering to over 60 customers throughout "Tornado Alley" as well as JFCOM, NORAD, HQ 8 AF and others) is challenging enough. Add to that the awesome responsibility for the performance and well-being of some of America's finest sons and daughters and you get a great job that is worth doing!

My primary objective is to transition the 26 OWS from the rush to reach FOC into a sustainable posture tailored to operating over the long term future. Most of our focus for the last two years has been (quite rightly) locked onto the challenge of standing up the mission and transitioning to FOC. This has been done and done well, earning the 26 OWS an enviable reputation as an innovative unit with a war-fighter's focus on how weather impacts mission execution.

That tradition must and will continue as the foundation of what we do. Our challenge now is to retain that foundation while working out the many issues remaining from our standup. We need to take a critical look at our procedures, how our products meet customer needs, how we train and take care of our people, and how we work with the CWTs, other OWSs, and the AFWA as members of the AFW

team. As a center of innovation ourselves, we should be aggressive in seeking to learn from what others are doing and leveraging it wherever it makes sense.

We are already stepping forward with much of this, including accelerating TDYs to visit and exchange information with other units and preparing for a detailed self inspection to begin in October. In addition, I ask all of you to keep raising suggestions and comments concerning what we do now and what you believe we should be doing. Not all of these will be adopted, but we should never be afraid of the questions "Why?" and (even more important) "Why not?" The result of this process will be a firm yet flexible organizational framework—one that provides structure while leaving room for continual change.

For change will remain with us—some driven by our own innovations (such as efforts to improve CAOC weather support), others brought on by changing mission requirements (as shown by the AF/XOW proposal to align 26 OWS with the new Northern Command, or NORTHCOM). As military weather professionals we are constantly faced with change since every day is just a bit different from what happened yesterday. This is our natural environment—and we have shown that we can do some of our best work when things are moving fast!

Inside this issue:

<i>Change of Command</i>	2-3
<i>Memorial</i>	4
<i>Putting a Face/Training</i>	5
<i>Operations Updates</i>	6
<i>Bits n Pieces</i>	7
<i>New Staff Sergeants</i>	8
<i>Kudos</i>	9
<i>Court Martial</i>	10

CHANGE OF COMMAND

WELCOME to Lt Col Condray and Family



(From Left to Right:) Lt. Col Elkins relinquishes command; Lt. Col Condray accepts the guidon from Col. S. Wilson; Col. Wilson, Lt. Col Condray, Lt. Col. Elkins, and MSgt Montgomery (Guidon Bearer); The new 26OWS Commander; Lt. Col. And Mrs. Condray.

*FAREWELL
and
GOD SPEED
Lt Col Elkins
and
Family*



Chief Haines presents LtCol Elkins with his farewell gift from the Squadron and the AOR. Each coin represents one of the units that the 26OWS supports.



SSgt Stoddard presents flowers to Mrs. Betsy Elkins at the Change of Command ceremony.



A1C Aaron David Hedstrom
February 8, 1981 ~ July 23, 2002



Aaron David Hedstrom was born in 1981 in Turlock California. After relocating to Washington and Illinois his family returned to Turlock, where he graduated from Turlock High School in 1999. Aaron then enrolled and attended Merced College in Merced, California until he enlisted in the Air Force in 2001.

Upon graduating from Basic Military Training, Aaron married the former Jamie Nicole Farmer of Turlock, California in San Antonio, Texas on April 16, 2001. before moving to Keesler AFB, MS for the 20-week Weather Forecaster Apprentice Course. Aaron's main reason for joining the Air Force was out of his fondness for Meteorology, and he was subsequently assigned to Barksdale AFB, LA in October, 2001. Since October, Aaron has been a vital member of the 26th Operational Weather Squadron.

Aaron's interests included skateboarding, snow skiing, frisbee golf, and wakeboarding. Aaron is survived by his wife, Jamie Nicole Hedstrom; his mother, Charlene; his father, Daniel; his brother, Erik; his sister Emily; and his sister -in-law, Becky, all of Turlock. Other survivors include three nieces, four nephews, and grandmothers, Elsie and Clarice.

"When I first met Aaron I knew he was going to be a good friend. Aaron taught me...how to be a good person. He loved his wife and puppies, his job and his country. Aaron went above and beyond all expectations on the job...He understood things on a different level than other people could not and he was good at explaining his point of view...Aaron was a model Airman for people. He displayed high levels of professionalism on and off the job... I miss him now, and I will continue to miss him. He will live forever in my heart and my thoughts."

A1C Brian Smith

"Aaron was such a positive person who always made you feel comfortable." "He was a learned individual with an extreme amount of insight."

MSgt William Loy, supervisor.

"He was a brother and trusting friend. He always allowed me to share what was on my heart and he had the most amazing ability to make people laugh." A1C Daniel Mike

"He gave so many joy and acceptance, and he always was willing to accept the challenge of his field with skill and confidence."

Lt. Col Patrick Condray, 26OWS Commander
(Last three quotes courtesy of Heather Harper, Staff Writer, Barksdale Observer)



“Putting a Face to the Name”

AMN Desiree Herring

Home Town: River Grove, IL

Ops. Floor Position: Forecaster for Barksdale AFB and Ft. Polk for “D” (DAWG) Team.

What's the most challenging aspect of your job? Being Confident.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your job? Working with the best team; the people I work with make my job enjoyable!

TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING

July's Training Topic: Space Weather

<\\Wx5576-ows-int1\shared\TRAINING\Continuation Training\Seminar\s\Space Weather\solar\Our star, the sun.htm>

<https://ows.barksdale.af.mil/training/Case%20Reviews/July%202002/Microburst-KSHP.ppt>

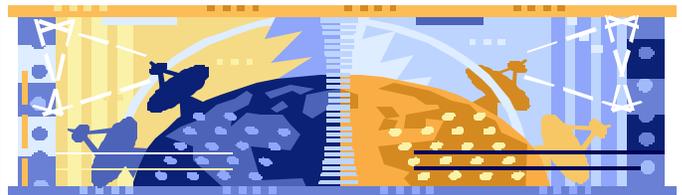
Cool Weather sites:

<http://www.weatherpictureoftheday.com/>

<http://weather.about.com/mbody.htm>

Goals while in the Air Force: Completing my Meteorology degree and becoming a weather officer.

Team Leader Quote: MSgt Loy , NCOIC: “Desiree hit the floor running and has excelled in all aspects of customer support. She has demonstrated outstanding military bearing and strives to be the best at her craft. She is an airman to be emulated by all assigned to this unit.”



SYSTEMS UPGRADE

Connecting faster? A long standing speed problem has been resolved with the Internet web! A piece of bad connecting equipment has been found and replaced.

PGSS UPGRADE

PGSS 5.4 has been installed. The briefing request page will look a little different to the customers requesting a briefing. Due to security concerns, users will no longer be able to create/edit their own profiles. Please contact the Customer Liaison for assistance.

YOUR TURN

We are working to make our website easier to navigate. Please check out our prototype navigation menu at:

https://ows2.barksdale.af.mil/ows_unique/26/menu_test/

and let us know what you think. (Please note that the links are active but take you to the current website). Please send any comments or suggestions to

26OWSWebmaster@barksdale.af.mil

OPS FLOOR UPDATES

PERSONNEL

This summer has provided changes to not only the Command Section of the squadron, but also to the “WXO” Operations Flight. With the departure of Capt Gray to be the Flight Commander of the Base Weather Station at Hurlburt Field, FL, Maj Eric Grelson is the Operations Flight Commander. Capt Dave Machen PCAd here from the Barksdale Base Weather Station and is the Flight’s OIC of Current Operations. SMSgt Pat Flieg continues to be the Flight’s Superintendent.

Maj Grelson	DSN 781-2907
Capt Machen	DSN 781-3648
SMSgt Flieg	DSN 781-3400

SHIFTS

Other changes include the change in production floor teams and their shift schedules. The 26 OWS dissolved one team on 26 August to run a four-team schedule pulling 12-hour shifts. This allows WXO to consolidate personnel, providing more continuity and experience to the production floor. Below are each team’s OICs and NCOICs:

A Team: Lt Michele LoBianco, MSgt(s) Wes Fillmore
 B Team: Lt Jennifer Hettinga, TSgt Mitch Gilbreath
 C Team: Lt Mindy Chavez, MSgt Shawn Ambrisco
 D Team: Lt Jeff Gipson, MSgt Will Loy

METCON CHECKLIST

In August, WXO updated the “26 OWS – CWT Metcon Checklist” to accompany the SOP, “OWS and CWT Interaction and Responsibilities”. Below is a summary of the checklist that 26 OWS forecasters use when discussing the TAF with CWT forecasters:

1. Current weather regime
2. Significant regional wx features affecting the base during the next 24 hours, surface and aloft.
3. Satellite/radar indications
4. 26 OWS forecast model of choice and model discussion (performance and indications).
5. 26 OWS forecast problem(s) of the day for base, to include hazards, and data/indicators you used fore forecasting it/them.
6. Watches/Warnings/Advisories in effect.
7. Watches/Warnings/Advisories that may be required during the next 12 hours.
8. Discussion of the pending TAF (include reasoning).



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Exercise your rights and register to vote by absentee ballot! This requires just 4 easy steps!

First, complete and mail the Federal Post Card Application Form (SF-76).

Step 2 has the local election official approving the registration request or requesting more information.

Step 3, the local election official mails absentee ballot. And..

Step 4, active duty military, their families and U.S. citizens living outside the United States vote and mail the absentee ballot to the local election official in time to meet state deadlines.

If you have any questions, See [MSgt Segreti](#), the 26 OWS Voting NCO for answers and assistance.

Sports Shorts

The 26OWS softball team retain their standing as the National League Champions but lost their bid to the Test Group to become the 2nd Bomb Wing Champions. There's always next year. ☺

Weather Folklore...

Horses run fast before a violent storm or before windy conditions.

Pigs gather leaves and straw before a storm.

Flowers close up before a storm.

If autumn leaves are slow to fall, prepare for a cold winter..

From "Weather Wit" by Norm Dvoskin, News 12 Weather anchor, Long Island, NY.

HAIL AND FAREWELLS



From top to bottom: Capt Machen, Mr. Gideons, Major Fleishauer (center), Mr. Mauer and SrA Champion.

Welcome to our new 26OWS members. Major Fleishauer takes over as Deputy Commander. Capt. Machen joins us from the Barksdale Weather Flight and moves into the OIC Current Ops position. Mr. "Rich" Gideons (you may remember him as SMSgt Gideons) joins the CWT flight and Mr. Ron Maurer and SrA Jessica Champion add their talents to the Systems Flight. Welcome also to all our new airmen arriving from FTAC and Keesler. See the [Intranet](#) page for more.

Congratulations to our newest Arrivals:

Annabella Jean and Mia Jane , born July 01 to Amn Sarah Ramos

Celeste, born July 08 to A1C Joan and SSgt Josh Sallee

Cayden Zane, born 10 July to Candess and A1C Michael Winders

Trinity, born 22 July to A1C Chantrice and Joseph Rachal

Isabella Grace, born 15 Aug to SrA Shannon and Lou Antonellis





CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR NEWEST
STAFF SERGEANT SELECTEES!



SrA CHAD QUIN, E TEAM
AND
SrA JONATHAN WHITE, C TEAM

CONGRATULATIONS To ALL IN OUR AOR

TRACEY ALLEYNE, ANGELA BANKS, JACK WHITFIELD, CHRISTINE KEELEY, ANGEL RIVERA, JEFFERY ROOK, FT. HOOD, TX;

MARIA ANSLEY, TINKER AFB, OK;

DOUGLAS BUNN, TIMOTHY HUFFMAN, LAUGHLIN AFB, TX;

DELLA BENSON, SHEILA BABER, SCOTT CAPODICE, CHRISTINE COLLINS, SHARAY DIXON, JENNIFER DOWELL, MELODY GOODE, JOSHUA HARDY, AMY HILBUN, CHAD KESTERSON, JOSEPH TROTT, MARCIA MCLENNON, TOMAS MORALES, JEREMY NAULT, ALICIA NELSON, WILLIAM O'DONNELL, MARY ONEILL, APRIL OWENS, SONIA PRITCHETT, JAMES RAFINER, AARON STRICKLAND, DANIEL VANMETER, TIMOTHY VERVILLE, MANUELA WEISSER, AND DOUG WRIGHT, KEESLER AFB, MS;

ALEC FERGUSON, CHRISTOPHER REDDINGTON, LITTLE ROCK AFB, AF;

JOHNNY FLORES, SHEPPARD AFB, TX;

APRIL HIRES, ZACHARIAH RIDGEWAY, COLUMBUS AFB, MS;

HERMAN KAAUAMO, LACKLAND AFB, TX;

JESSICA MOORE, BARKSDALE AFB, LA;

NICHOLAS PATTERSON, MCCONNELL AFB, KS;

SAMY SABOGALSANCHEZ, MATTHEW STRACHAN, DYESS AFB, TX;

JERRY TRINIDAD, RANDOLPH AFB, TX;

KUDOS, KUDOS, KUDOS



TSgt(s) Suzanne Miller receives her notification letter from Lt. Col Elkins



GREAT JOB!

Congratulations to all our airmen who have passed their End Of Course exams.



A1C (s) Matthew Thompson gets "pinned" by Lt. Col. Elkins and CMSgt Haines.

26OWS Award Winners

2BW Quarterly Award Winner Apr-Jul 2002

SNCO: MSgt Lee Benson

8th Air Force Quarterly Award Winners Apr-Jun 02

SNCO: MSgt Lee Benson

8th Air Force Monthly Award Winner

A1C Matthew S. Thompson, C Team, Aug 02

A1C Burrell E. Barnes, C Team Jul 02

26OWS Monthly Award Winners

Amn Matthew S. Thompson, C Team, Aug 02

A1C Burrell E. Barnes, C Team, Jul 02



Congratulations to our newest SSgts!

SSgt Kevin Church, 01 Jul 02 and

SSgt Daniel Gaynor, 01 Aug 02

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

leslie.sexton@barksdale.af.mil

ROAD TRIP

2Lt Mindy Chavez led fourteen members of the 26th OWS on a road trip to visit the 3rd Weather Squadron at Ft. Hood on 6 Aug. 2Lt Louis Escamilla at Ft. Hood did an awesome job of planning out our day.

(Continued on page 11)

A Court-Martial Board Experience

I was recently the board president for a court-martial that convened here at Barksdale AFB. It was an interesting and enlightening experience, so I thought you might like to know how the military justice system REALLY works (it is not exactly like a scene from "A Few Good Men").

First, I need to tell you that this was a drug case. An A1C was charged with using methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA), which is more commonly known as Ecstasy. We started out with seven officers – three majors, three captains, and one first lieutenant. The trial began with about two hours of instruction and questioning...of the board members! The purpose of the questions was to excuse board members who might have been biased for or against the defendant, based on prior knowledge of the case, the people involved, previous experience with drugs, etc. At the end of the pre-trial discussions, the prosecutor and area defense counselor eliminated two members from the board, so that only a five-member panel remained to hear the case.

One of the main differences between a "real" court-martial and ones you see on TV is the number of times the board is excused from the courtroom. In the movies, you always see the judge telling the attorneys to "approach the bench" so that they can quickly hammer out some detail about the case before continuing on. In the military court system, any time the judge needs to clarify an issue or make a ruling on something, the board is excused from the courtroom. Our five-member panel took it in stride and kept a sense of humor about it, but we also got a lot of exercise going in and out between the courtroom and the deliberation area. Some of the reasons we were excused included 1) a witness came into the courtroom and could not be sworn-in because he was in shackles; 2) the judge had to make a determination on several debates about the line of questioning the attorneys were using on different witnesses; 3) the judge had to rule on what was admissible to the court as evidence. Altogether, I would say that we were excused 15-20 times over the day and a half that we were serving as board members.

Our job as the court-martial board was two-fold. First, we had to determine whether or not the defendant was guilty. If he was, then the second part of our job was to pass an appropriate sentence on him. The first part was fairly difficult, as the prosecution only had three witnesses and all of their testimony conflicted. One guy said he saw the defendant take the drug, while another person who was traveling with them said he did not actually see the defendant take the drug. The one who said he did see the offense was in jail; the other guy was a friend of the defendant. The third witness, another former friend of the accused, said that the defendant admitted to her the following morning that he had taken the drug on the previous night. Furthermore, he told her that he "wouldn't get caught, because he took something to cleanse his system." The most compelling piece of evidence for me was actually the sole defense witness. She testified that the accused had not been jumping around and acting like an idiot, while all of the other known drug users at the party had been highly agitated and were pale and sweating profusely. BUT, during the cross-examination, she also said his jaw had been "slightly clenched", which is another side effect of using Ecstasy. There was a lot of other circumstantial evidence that pointed towards the defendant's guilt and in the end we unanimously convicted the airmen of felony drug use.

The second part of the process involved passing a sentence. This was also very tough, because there were numerous things to consider in determining the severity of the punishment. Off the top of my head, we were thinking about the defendant's potential threat to society, his chances of rehabilitation, the deterrent effects of the punishment on potential drug users in the military, the defendant's record, character reference letters, testimony from several people (including the defendant's mother), and many Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) rules that

(Continued from page 10)

govern sentencing. There was no minimum punishment...we could have decided to let him go without any penalty. The maximum penalty was reduction to AB; forfeiture of 2/3 pay for one year; confinement for up to one year, and a bad conduct discharge. We could choose any gradation in between, such as reduction to Amn, forfeiture of a lesser percentage of pay for a shorter time period, or less confinement time. We could also have opted for just a letter of reprimand and assigned him up to six months of hard labor (without jail time). Curiously, though, we could not take any other administrative discharge actions against the defendant SHORT of a bad conduct discharge. In other words, we couldn't recommend that he get booted out with a less-than-honorable discharge or even a good conduct discharge – it was bad conduct or nothing.

In the end, we decided that a suitable punishment for this individual was reduction to AB, forfeiture of 2/3 pay for six months, and six months confinement. We decided that a bad conduct discharge was a little too harsh in this case, but not all members shared that view initially – we agreed in the end, but debated it for quite a while. After the court-martial was finished, we were able to ask the judge some questions. He felt that our sentence was very fair and he also explained to us why urinalysis results and other evidence (that would have made our job easier) was never introduced into court.

One final note that I would like to add is that you can attend most court martial proceedings at any time. There were quite a few spectators in the courtroom while I was serving there and I think it would be a worthwhile and educational experience for you to attend when you get a chance. It was definitely interesting and eye-opening for me – in the interest of space and time, I couldn't give you all of the details here, but I would be happy to share more with you about my court-martial experience at any time...just ask me when you see me or stop by my office. I promise to protect you from the Chief for the duration of your visit : >)

Submitted by Major Fleishauer/ OSW/CD

(Continued from page 9)

Following the CWT's morning shift-change/METCON briefing, Lt Col Twigg, 3rd WS/CC, gave us a welcome brief. 2Lt Escamilla then provided in-depth details on Ft. Hood and the 3rd WS mission. Especially valuable was explanation of weather's effects on Army weapons systems and low level operations. We received a tour of the weather observing site and were treated to a memorable UH-60 "Black Hawk" ride and front-seat tour of an AH-64 "Apache." Our trip to Ft. Hood provided us tremendous insight into the world of Army Support from the view points of both the Army customer and the weather operator.



A1C Mary Baldwin gets a front seat tour of the AH-64 Apache.



**The trouble with weather forecasting is
that it's right too often
for us to ignore it and wrong too often
for us to rely on it.**

- Patrick Young, Quotes For Gardeners