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DEPARTMENT AWARDS GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS

Twenty-one ESSA employees were honored by the Department of Commerce at a ceremony on October 29.

Five men received the Department's highest award--the Gold Medal--from Secretary of Commerce C. R. Smith.

Newton A. Lieurance, ESSA's Director of Aviation Affairs, won the Gold Medal for his major contributions to the technology and administration of aviation weather services. Mr. Lieurance's vigorous guidance, leadership, and coordination were largely responsible for carrying out the final stages of development, testing, and acceptance of Runway Visual Range (RVR) equipment and the implementation of the program nationwide so as to assure RVR capability at all instrument landing systems airports throughout the country. His contributions to the administration of aviation weather services include the development of a program in which the Weather Bureau and the Federal Aviation Administration share responsibility for providing aviation weather briefing services.



With Dr. Robert M. White, the ESSA winners of the Commerce Gold Medal are (from left): seated, Ernest Bice, Dr. White, Capt. Allen L. Powell; standing, Richard C. Kirby, Newton A. Lieurance, Thomas J. Hickley.

Captain Allen L. Powell received the award "for highly significant contributions and leadership in the development of new concepts in the superior design of oceanographic and hydrographic ships of exceptional advantage to the national oceanographic program." Capt. Powell pioneered a new concept in the design and construction of oceanographic vessels used in the Coast Survey's Continental Shelf program. The U.S. Navy has adopted the basic design of the USC&GS Ship FERREL for two new naval research vessels now authorized for early construction.

Richard C. Kirby, Deputy Director of ERL's Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, was honored for exceptional service in the area of telecommunications. He served as Executive Secretary of the Telecommunications Science Panel of the Commerce Technical Advisory Board and played a major role in releasing the report, "Electromagnetic Spectrum Utilization--The Silent Crisis."

Thomas J. Hickley, Director of the Coast Survey's Engineering Development Laboratory, won the award "for outstanding contributions to the effectiveness of Coast and Geodetic Survey technical systems through personal creativity and the guidance of other employees." Mr. Hickley shared the invention of "two of the most important systems used by the Coast Survey: the Electronic Positioning Indicator and the Sono-radio Buoy."

Ernest G. Bice, meteorologist in charge of the Weather Bureau's⁶ Brownsville, Texas, station, won the award "for outstanding leadership of the Brownsville station under the extreme emergency conditions caused by Hurricane Beulah in September 1967. Despite personal danger and loss of contact with home and family, the Brownsville staff responded to Mr. Bice's leadership with an exemplary team effort which resulted in the continued flow of vital storm warnings, accurate weather observations, and operation of emergency equipment. Commendations from area user groups attest his distinguished leadership."

The 16 ESSA employees who received Silver Medals were:

Dr. James K. Angell, chief of ERL's Air Resources Trajectory Laboratory, "for his valuable contributions to science and technology in the field of atmospheric motions."

James R. Neilon, chief of NMC's Information Processing Branch, "for his role in automating weather communications."

Burton F. Loveless, chief of ESSA's Procurement and Supply Management Branch, "for his dedicated service and major accomplishments in ESSA's procurement and supply management program."

Dr. Terrell L. Noffsinger, chief of the WB's Agriculture and Forestry Section, "for his achievement in managing and planning the Bureau's agricultural and forestry service programs."



Silver Medal recipients, from left: seated, Dale R. Harris, Terrell Noffsinger, Dr. White, J. Glenn Dyer, Douglas Christensen; standing, Charles M. Crouch, Charles G. Knudsen, Burton F. Loveless, Allen D. Pearson, Harry H. Glahn, Jack C. Pales, David L. Coveney, James R. Neilon, Banner I. Miller. Not pictured are James K. Angell, Ernest E. Thomas, and Albert Whimpey.

Charles G. Knudsen, Deputy Director of the WB's Eastern Region, "for his outstanding executive leadership and for instituting very significant improvements in the preparation and dissemination of weather forecasts and warnings."

David L. Coveney, principal assistant in the WB's office at John F. Kennedy International Airport, "for his efforts in applying computer weather products and satellite photographs to improve weather services for international aviation."

Dale R. Harris, meteorologist in charge of the WB's office at Pomona, Calif., "for his unusually progressive leadership in providing frost warnings to fruit growers in California."

Allen D. Pearson, Director of the Weather Bureau's National Severe Storms Forecast Center at Kansas City, "for his leadership in improving tornado forecasts and warnings and for his effective efforts to educate the public in tornado safety measures."

Charles M. Crouch, meteorologist in charge of the Weather Bureau's station at Amarillo, Texas, "for his outstanding leadership in the Bureau's severe weather warning program."

Albert Whimpey, chief of the Coast Survey's Archives Branch, "for distinguished performance as the agency's archivist."

Douglas H. Christensen, electronics technician at the Weather Bureau's Brownsville, Tex., station, "for his extraordinary courage and devotion to duty at Brownsville, Texas, during the passage of Hurricane Beulah in 1967."

J. Glenn Dyer, Deputy Chief of the Weather Bureau's Overseas Operations Division, "for his dedicated leadership, over more

than 20 years, of Weather Bureau operations in polar regions."

Dr. Harry R. Glahn, chief of the Objective Forecast Branch in the Weather Bureau's Systems Development Office, "for his work in numerical weather prediction and statistical meteorology."

Ernest E. Thomas, research cartographer with the Research Group in the Coast Survey's Office of Hydrography and Oceanography, "for pioneering research achievements in graphic automatic data processing and compilation applications of great significance to marine charting."

Jack C. Pales, supervisory physicist at ERL's Air Resources Laboratory, Las Vegas, Nev., "for valuable and unique measurements of atmospheric characteristics and contributions to national safety and security."

Dr. Banner I. Miller, Prediction Development Branch of ERL's National Hurricane Research Laboratory, Miami, Fla., "for his valuable contributions in developing improved techniques for forecasting movement of hurricanes."

TIME TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 5, is election day. ESSA encourages employees to vote in all elections. Where the polls are not open at least three hours either before or after an employee's regular hours of work, he may be granted an amount of excused leave which will permit him to report for work three hours after the polls open or leave work three hours before the polls close, whichever requires the lesser amount of time off. Under exceptional circumstances where the general rule does not permit sufficient time, check with your immediate supervisor who will, if necessary, contact the appropriate personnel office.

FORMER SURVEY OFFICIAL DIES

Walter D. Lambert, who retired as chief of the Coast Survey's Gravity and Astronomy Section in 1947, died Oct. 27 in Washington, D. C. Mr. Lambert began his career with the Survey in 1904.

Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Friday for publication the following Friday. Send material to: Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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