



ESSA NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Advanced Data System Set for RESEARCHER



Artist's conception of USC&GS RESEARCHER

The USC&GS Ship RESEARCHER--a new vessel scheduled for delivery to the Coast Survey in June--will bring to 15 the number of hydrographic, ocean survey, wire drag, and tidal current survey ships operated by ESSA. Installed aboard the ship will be the most advanced data acquisition system ever placed aboard an oceanographic vessel. The new system, called DAS, represents a major advance in the state of the art over DAS equipment installed in 1965 aboard the USC&GS Ship OCEANOGRAPHER and in 1967 on her sister ship, the USC&GS Ship DISCOVERER. The system is designed to collect and record scientific data. When the ship is underway, it will sample, record, and process geophysical, oceanographic, hydrographic, and meteorological data automatically and routinely. When the ship is stationary, the system will sample and process data sensed by shipboard instruments and by an underwater multisensor package, and also handle oceanographic data. The earlier systems perform two functions: First, they monitor engine room machinery and second, collect and process scientific data. The RESEARCHER's system will be devoted entirely to the collection and processing of scientific data. It is sufficiently advanced in design so that it will be possible for most scientists to use its facilities without the aid of computer specialists.

Memorial Plaque Honors Two Weather Pioneers

A memorial plaque honoring Dr. Clarence L. Meisinger, Weather Bureau meteorologist, and 1st Lieutenant James T. Neely, U.S. Army Air Service balloon pilot, who lost their lives on a weather mission in 1924, was unveiled in a ceremony held at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., June 2.

On June 2, 1924, while flying a mission to study air motion and other conditions at various levels within a storm system, their balloon was struck by lightning over Bement, Ill., and both men were killed. In dedicating the plaque to their memory, Brig. Gen. William H. Best, Jr., vice commander of the USAF Air Weather Service, paid tribute to both Meisinger and Neely, noting that the tradition of military-civilian cooperation in weather services was already established in 1924. The plaque, given to Scott AFB by the American Meteorological Society, reads: "In memory of Lt. James Thompson Neely and Dr. Clarence LeRoy Meisinger, who met their deaths 2 June 1924, on a weather research balloon flight from Scott Field, Ill...."



Col. Donald E. Libby (right), Vice Commander of Scott AFB, unveils plaque. Looking on, from left, Brig. Gen. William H. Best, Jr., Vice Commander of USAF Air Weather Service, and George N. Brancato, MIC of the St. Louis, Mo., Weather Bureau Office.

ATS Satellite Photos Studied To Aid in Tornado Predictions

The Weather Bureau is studying satellite photographs taken 22,300 miles above the earth in an effort to predict tornadoes in the United States. In order to begin the experimental program, a new antenna has been installed at the Command and Data Acquisition Station, Wallops Island, Va., to receive photographs transmitted from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Applications Technology Satellites--ATS-1 over the Pacific Ocean and ATS-3 over the Atlantic.

The pictures are transmitted to the Weather Bureau's National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo., on a special photofacsimile circuit. At Kansas City, the photographs are made into film loops, producing a motion picture of changing cloud systems. In addition, each individual picture is examined for information on high-level wind speeds, the rate of growth of individual clouds, and the convergence or divergence of cloud zones. Beginning June 1, the ATS pictures also will be sent to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, for use in tropical storm prediction.

The National Severe Storms Forecast Center keeps a round-the-clock watch for weather patterns that favor the formation of tornadoes and severe local storms, relying heavily on data gathered in the upper air by balloon-borne instruments and on radar observations. Now the availability of ATS pictures may give the forecasters a new source of information on tornado and severe storm development during daylight hours, enabling them to see which cloud systems are intensifying and changing most rapidly.

Dr. Wark Receives AAS Award

Dr. David Q. Wark, research meteorologist at the National Environmental Satellite Center, and Dr. Rudolf A. Hanel of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, were joint recipients of the American Astronautical Society's Lloyd V. Berkner Space Utilization Award for 1969. The award was presented at the Society's meeting in Anaheim, Calif., June 8.

Two New ESSA Pamphlets Carry Safety Messages to Institutions

"In Your Keeping" and "Getting Through" are two new pamphlets published by the ESSA Office of Public Information that offer some simple rules for tornado and hurricane preparedness to administrators of schools, hospitals, and other institutions. "In Your Keeping" carries a SKYWARN '70 message to these administrators urging them to hold periodic severe weather drills; to post spotters at social and athletic events if danger appears imminent; to keep people out of buildings with wide-span roofs; to have designated shelter areas ready in basements and inner hallways; to set up school bus, patient protection; and emergency power procedures before the storm. The pamphlet "Getting Through" issues a hurricane preparedness message to administrators of institutions emphasizing that pre-planning is the only way to meet a hurricane's most serious challenges when it cuts off normal supply, power, and water lines, and when the institution has to serve as one of the community centers for the dispossessed, with an increase in food and water and space consumption after the storm passes. It also offers a note on evacuation procedures. Both pamphlets are available free from local Weather Bureau offices or from the Environmental Science Services Administration, Rockville, Md., 20852.

NWRC Renamed National Climatic Center

The name of EDS' National Weather Records Center, Asheville, N. C., has been officially changed to the National Climatic Center to describe more accurately the functions of the organization.

\$11.50/PERSON

OPTIONAL DRESS

ESSA AWARDS NIGHT DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY * JULY 10, 1970

INDIAN SPRING COUNTRY CLUB
13501 LAYHILL ROAD * SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

COCKTAILS 7pm. * DINNER 8pm. * DANCING 10pm. - 1am.

Eastern Region/NAGE Officials Hold Joint Planning Meeting



Left to right: N. Rizzo, C. Knudsen, A. Kachic, S. G. Simplicio, Eastern Region Director, B. J. Tost, J. F. Liddle, and J. B. Fuge.

The first meeting of the Weather Bureau Eastern Region with representatives of the Regional Council of the National Association of Government Employees, was held in New York, May 25-27. The council was established in accordance with the requirements of the Multi-Unit Agreement between the Weather Bureau Director and the NAGE. Union representatives were: B. Tost, chairman; J. Fuge, and J. Liddle. Eastern Region representatives were: C. Knudsen, chairman; and A. Kachic and N. Rizzo.

Two-Day Art Exhibit Planned

The ESSA Office of Administration and Technical Services' Advisory Board is sponsoring a two-day Employees Art Exhibit in the rose garden area of the Washington Science Center, Rockville, Md., June 23-24. All ESSA employees interested in exhibiting their works of art in oil/acrylic, water color, sculpture, crafts, drawings, or photography are asked to submit them by June 19. For additional information, contact: Mrs. Linda Roberts, Code 14-68460.

Wallops Island Personnel Conduct Satellite Comparison Program

During June, July, and August, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Wallops Island facility will conduct a meteorological experiment to measure weather parameters in the atmosphere to calibrate and confirm Nimbus III and IV data. Weather Bureau Support Facility personnel will prepare, assemble, and fire rockets, including the multistage NIKE-APACHE. Special ozonesondes will also be made during this period to compare Nimbus IV ozone measurements.

Rigney To Head Portland, Maine, Weather Bureau Office

Stephen J. Rigney has been named meteorologist in charge of the newly established Weather Bureau Office at Portland, Maine. Mr. Rigney, who received a master's degree in meteorology from the University of Wisconsin, is presently MIC at Madison, Wisconsin. The Portland, Maine, WBO assumed responsibility for the preparation and dissemination of marine, agricultural, and public zone forecasts for the state, June 1. Charles Chibka, the new principal assistant, will be acting in charge until Mr. Rigney officially reports for duty on June 15.

Pacific Tsunami Warning System Improved

The Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific is being improved with the installation at key points of more sensitive gages for recording tide measurements and flashing notice of seismic sea waves to Honolulu. Lt. John B. Courtney of the Pacific Tide Party, C&GS, is in charge of the installations at Apia, Western Samoa; Suva, Fiji; Marsden Point, New Zealand; and Johnston Island. Field reconnaissance is underway for a similar gage on Nuku 'Alofa, Tonga.

Soviet Scientist Concludes ERL Visit



Dr. Armand (left) and Dr. Thompson

Dr. Neon Aleksandrovich Armand, deputy director for scientific affairs of the Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics in Moscow, has concluded a two-month visit to the ESSA Research Laboratories, Boulder, Colo. A specialist in the propagation of electromagnetic waves in the atmosphere, Dr. Armand worked with Dr. Moody C. Thompson and his staff in the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences.

ESSA Employees Complete Supervisors Training Course



Twenty employees recently completed ESSA's Personnel Administration for Supervisors course at the Washington Science Center, Rockville, Md. Instruction was provided by subject-area specialists from the Personnel Division. Shown, left to right, front row: Pearl Jones, Nancy Clark, and Ruth Kozlow. Second row: Melvin Johnson, Robert Harris, Clella Barry, and Helen DeVore. Third row: Thomas Jacobs, Ronald Bennett, Philip Brandis, George Littleton, and James Alvis. Fourth row: Thomas Whitely and Henry Ames. Fifth row: Donald Gilman, Harvey Klassen, James Hoobler, Frank Garcia, Carl Dietrich, and Herbert Hedrick.

Length-of-Service Awards

The following employees are eligible to receive length-of-service awards during the second quarter of 1970:

Washington-Area

40 years - Wallace Brewer (WB); Leo S. Straw (C&GS); Herbert C. S. Thom (EDS); and Torrence MacDonald (NESC). 35 years - Raymond P. Hogan (ADTECH); Clarence R. Jordan (WB); Edwin S. Thompson (WB); Anthony Lushene (C&GS); Benjamin Johnson (C&GS); Robert D. Goodrich (retd. C&GS); Charles S. Vitale (EDS); Jack O. McClaren (NESC). 30 years - Lila V. Paavola (ADTECH); Marguerite Wilcox (C&GS); John Hildebrand (NESC); Robert F. Ryan (NESC); Jesse R. Gulick, George L. Poole, and Curtis W. Spiker (WB); Cedric B. Samuel (C&GS). 25 years - Arthur R.

Melick, Celestino Loschiavo, Robert W. Smith, Leon D. Vogel, and Paul F. Murphy (ADTECH). John C. Straiton, Gordon D. Thiel, Stanley Herman, and Fred A. Meditz (WB); Clyde J. Beers, Jeffrey Stuart, Clarence Switlick, Donald R. Kramer, Wayne N. Anders, Stanley L. Reed, Francis B. Tosh, and Beatrice E. Avery (C&GS). Marie L. Weight, Lester F. Hubert, and Catherine M. Frain (NESC). 20 years - Horace L. Baugh, Donald W. Bowyer, George B. Kessler, Joseph R. Cefaratti, Solomon M. Levine, Ronald J. Finnican, Evelyn L. Boston, William E. Eggert, and Walter E. Hoehne (WB); John D. Mulchi, Lincoln E. Carlson, Thelma Harris Love, and James Dewitt (C&GS); Orrington R. Hall, Mary R. Marini, and Donald M. Mercer (NESC).

Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Monday 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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