

chief petty officers (E9) "two star CPOs" on 16 Nov 1958. Among them was the late Lee O'Rork who was our first Master Chief Aerographer's Mate. (Data from the office of the Master Chief of the Navy a "THREE star CPO").



**Optimum Ship Routing** - On 25 Aug 1958 the mission of Fleet Weather Facility Alameda was expanded to include a new service called OTSR or Optimum Ship Routing which provides recommendations for minimum time, minimum fuel consumption routes for the U.S. Navy and other selected vessels.

**Computing Moves West** - NANWEP moved to NPS, the Naval Post Graduate school in 1959 and in the following year struck a bargain with the school to utilize the CDC - 1604 computer at night in return for assuming maintenance responsibility for the unit.

**An Eye in the Sky** - On 13 Oct 1959 the U.S. placed its first dedicated meteorological satellite into orbit, Explorer VII was intended for research and development only. Experiments conducted included an infra-red radiometer to test feasibility of its use in detecting meteorological phenomena. With the emergence of the U.S. space program and its subsequent growth into the 1960s, the Navy's weather community was aided by imagery relayed to Earth via meteorological satellites. Development in this area would later cause a stand-down of Hurricane Reconnaissance squadrons and a cut back in the Ice Observation program.

**We Are Transferred** - On 15 January 1960 the Naval Weather Service Division was transferred from the office of the DCNO (Operations and Readiness) to the staff of the Vice CNO and an office of the U.S. Naval Weather Service was set up as a field activity under the management control of the CNO.

**Another eye in the SKY** - On 1 April 1960 Tiros I is launched from Cape Canaveral. Although it went out of operation in only two months it did prove our ability to use satellite imagery as an operational tool.

**Computer Interface** - In July of 1960 NANWEP made its first computer to computer data transmission to the Pacific Missile Test Center.

**Fleet Numbers Debut** - In February of 1961 NANWEP was re-designated as FNWF, Fleet Numerical Weather Facility, Captain Paul M. Wolff, Commanding. He would remain in this post for eleven years in what must be a record for longevity in a post for the Oceanographic and Meteorological service. In August of that year FNWF purchased its own CDC-1604 computer

The following quote from "America's Weather Warriors" captures the growth and reasons for growth in military numerical prediction programs. "Numerical weather prediction specialists learned their trade during the 1950s and by the mid-1960s began to dominate forecasting in the Air Force and in the Navy. This shift was based on five factors: the computer industry changed almost overnight from analog to digital sending, transmission, processing, plotting and storage of numerical data; digital data could be transmitted at megabit, millions of bits, per minute, and even globally via communication satellites; improvements in mid latitude weather predictions required expanded geographic coverage; meteorological satellites could fill in global weather gaps, and electronic computers had improved by a factor of 200 between 1955 and 1965.

**Bye Bye Blimps** - On 31 Oct 1961 Patrol Squadrons ZP-1 and ZP-3 of Fleet Airship Wing One, the last LTA, lighter than air, units were decommissioned.

**45 Years of LTA** - On 31 Aug 1962 The final flight of a Navy airship marked the end of service for two blimps kept on to conduct various experiments. VADM Charles E. Rosendahl USN Ret, an LTA pioneer and ardent advocate was among the passengers. LTA men came from all parts of the country to observe and to lend a hand in this final docking of a Navy airship.

**Cuban Quarantine** - On 24 Oct 1962 USS Enterprise (CVAN-65), USS Independence (CVA-62), USS Randolph (CVS-15) and USS Essex (CVS-9) got underway to establish a "Quarantine" of the island of Cuba as directed by the President of the United States. Service tours of officers and men were extended indefinitely. On 20 Nov the quarantine was disestablished and fleet units resumed normal operations. The tour extension order was cancelled.

**Tropical Twins** - On 29 Oct 1962 a V-1 a/c set a record by holding Typhoons Gilda and Ivy on their radar at one time. In August of 1963 a CDC-160A was installed at FleWeaCen Pearl Harbor marking the beginning of the Naval Environmental Data Network.