

meteorology and oceanography communities. The initial step was the establishment of the Director, Naval Oceanography and Meteorology in 1976. At this time the Navy's geophysical and oceanographic program moved to its present site at what is now the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. The two sections were fully integrated two years later with the creation of the modern Naval Oceanography Command, CNOC.

**A Matter of Semantics** - The most immediate changes were those in vocabulary. Just as "meteorology" had replaced "aerology" in the naval lexicon some 20 years earlier, "oceanography" now became the term of choice when referring to the Navy's environmental sciences. Geophysics officers became oceanographers. Once more the aerographer's mates were spared a name change although there was some debate on the issue in the mid 1980s. AGs who came into existence to support the aviation community, now found themselves producing analyses, forecasts, satellite interpretations, acoustic predictions and other services once the usual domain of officers. While some felt that the term "geophysics technician" was a more professional and descriptive term for the modern AG others stubbornly clung to tradition. Tradition won.

The changes of the mid thru late 1970s can be shown by the job descriptions of AGCM "Ron" Palmer who was the last Master Chief of the Naval Weather Service Command, the first and last Master Chief of DNOM, Director Naval Oceanography, and the first Master Chief of CNOC, Commander Naval Oceanographic Command. During this same period, and extending into the 1980s, the numerical prediction community was endangered and at one point an attempt was made to remove the subject from the curriculum of the NPS, Naval Post Graduate School.

**And All the Ships at Sea** - The automated Product Request System became operational during 1976 allowing ships at sea to request and receive FNWC products via AUTODIN.

**Inter-Service Togetherness** - Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force weather training was consolidated and co-located at Chanute AFB in Rantoul, IL as a cost cutting measure in 1977. Consolidated forecasting courses began on 1 Feb 1978. Under the new consolidation, students from all services entered jointly staffed basic meteorology-forecasting courses but then separated for their service-unique instruction after a few months. Chanute AFB was selected as the consolidated weather training site due to the relatively inexpensive cost of facility construction and the need for installation of a radar tower. The cost was \$89,000 for Chanute where Lakehurst was said to require an outlay of \$7,700,000.

In the late 1970s FNWC commenced operational processing of satellite imagery via the DMSP system and distribution along with numerical products.

**New Names to remember** - On 1 Sept 1979 the title Director Naval Oceanography and Meteorology was changed to Commander Naval Oceanography Command. Fleet Weather Centrals became Oceanography Centers. FWC Norfolk became Naval Eastern Oceanography Center Norfolk. FWC Pearl Harbor became Naval Western Oceanography Center and FWF Suitland the Naval Polar Oceanography Center. FWCs Rota and Guam became Naval Oceanography Command Centers. Naval Weather Service Facilities became Naval Oceanographic Command Facilities or NOCFs. Detachments were renamed Naval Oceanography Command Detachments or NOCDs. The command mission remained the same.

In Oct 1980 OPARS, Optimum Aircraft Routing System became operational at 6 forecast sites for 4 aircraft types. By 1986 it would have expanded to 130 sites and 76 aircraft types.

In Aug 1982 OTSR, Optimum Track Ship Routing, was shifted to Naval Western Oceanography Center Pearl Harbor.

**NOGAPS On Line** - On 3 Aug 1982 NOGAPS, Navy Operational Global Atmospheric Prediction System, began full operation on the computers of FNOC, Fleet Numerical Oceanography Center, Monterey, CA. NOGAPS replaced the Navy's earlier PE (primitive equation) system.

**Lebanon...Again** - Elements of BLT 2/8, Battalion Landing Team, from USS Guam (LPH-9) along with British, French and Italian forces landed in Lebanon on 25 Aug 1982 to provide separation between rival Moslem and Christian forces. USS Forrestal (CV-59), USS Independence (CV-62) and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CV-69) provided CAP (Combat Air Patrol). Guam crewmen: LT Peter Furze, AGC Shirl Smith, AG1 (AW) Richard W. Courtney, AG3s Larry Pratt, James Stewart, David Kinnaird, Edward Kidder, Ronald Humphries, and James Price.

**Grenada** - On 25 Oct 1983 Operation Urgent Fury is underway. Elements of the 2nd battalion, 8th Marines attached to the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit invade the island of Grenada to prevent a Communist take-over. USS Guam, LPH-9, and USS Independence, CV-62 participate. Guam weathermen: LT Jeff Gledhill, AGC (AW) "Rich" Courtney, AG1 Wayne Edwards, AG2 Eric Buehl and Jim Stewart; AG3 Ken Nichols and Steve Livesay and AGAN Mike Varick. Independence weathermen are: LCDR Dale Leichty, ENS Lewis B. Gilpin, AGCs Barry Eisner and Ken Barnett, AG1s Mario Delgado-Medina, Gene Crain and