

Air Force Weather

Journeyman AFSC 1W051A

(CFETP July, 2004)

1. Specialty Summary. As stated in AFMAN 36-2108: Performs and manages the collection, analysis, and forecast of atmospheric and space weather conditions, and the tailoring and communication of weather data. 2. Duties and Responsibilities:

2.1. Individuals in the Weather career field collect, analyze, tailor, integrate and disseminate weather and space environmental information, including forecasts of future conditions, in support of military operations. They take and transmit surface weather and space environment observations. They use weather observations, atmospheric and space sensing instruments, weather radar and satellite imagery, meteorological computer workstations, and products provided by military, national, and international weather centers. They apply a detailed understanding of the atmosphere and space environment to translate raw data into useful military intelligence information, and they integrate this information into the commander's Common Operating Picture (COP). Weather personnel must understand war fighter tactics, techniques and procedures, and help decision makers mitigate weather impacts and take advantage of favorable weather conditions. AFW personnel support Air Force, Army, Joint, and DoD conventional and special operations at Air Force and Army garrisons and at deployed locations worldwide. Qualified volunteers may perform airborne and special operations duty in this career field.

3. Skill and career progression:

3.1. Continuous training and timely progression from the apprentice to the Chief Enlisted Manager levels are vital to the Air Force's ability to accomplish its mission. All personnel involved in training must do their part to plan, manage, and conduct an effective training program. This section explains how enlisted weather personnel typically expand their responsibilities, receive training at appropriate points in their career, and progress to each skill level. Although all personnel have a responsibility for training and development, certain key individuals in the work center will be primarily responsible for continuously improving skill proficiency by exploiting training opportunities. These individuals include members of the OWS Standardization and Training Flight; commanders and supervisors; the Unit Training Manager; individuals appointed as trainers and/or task certifiers; and the individual trainee. Section C lists specific mandatory requirements for upgrade.

3.1. Apprentice, 3-Skill Level. Apprentices are awarded a 3-skill level upon completion of the ISC, Weather Forecaster Apprentice Course, at Keesler AFB, MS. Apprentices are assigned to an Operational Weather Squadron (OWS), where they will be teamed with an experienced trainer for extensive certification, qualification and upgrade training. (Exception: National Guard personnel proceed to the Air National Guard Weather Readiness Training Center (ANG WRTC) at Camp Blanding, FL for qualification and upgrade training). Trainers and supervisors use locally developed training plans (based on the STS and AFWA/DNT-developed Standardized 5-level Upgrade Training Reference), QTPs, and CDCs to systematically train newly assigned apprentices in a standardized manner. Apprentices work directly with a qualified trainer(s) to enhance task skills and knowledge. The primary task of apprentices is to complete their task qualification and skill-level upgrade training to become certified to work as Journeymen in designated positions on the OWS production floor or in a CWT for ANG personnel. When task certifiers certify task proficiency, apprentices may perform these tasks without direct supervision. Apprentices should verify enrollment in the CCAF at their first duty

station

3.2. Journeyman, 5-Skill Level. After successful upgrade to the 5-level, individuals are qualified for worldwide assignment including airborne and Special Operations duty. Journeymen are typically assigned to CWTs/space environment sites, OWSs, and Field Operating Agencies/Strategic Centers. They perform a wide range of duties depending on unit of assignment. Journeymen begin to serve as trainers and supervisors in addition to performing the technical tasks of the career field. Journeymen exploit training opportunities and continue to refine their technical skills. They enter continuation training to broaden their technical expertise and will complete Airman Leadership School prior to assuming the grade of SSgt. Journeymen should strive to complete the academic requirements for a CCAF Associate Degree in Applied Weather Technology. Journeymen are entered into 7-skill level upgrade on the first day of the promotion cycle following their selection for SSgt. (Reserve Component Journeymen are entered into upgrade training status upon assuming the grade of SSgt).

3.2.1. Journeymen assigned to an OWS or strategic center collect and analyze atmospheric and space data using sensors and direct readouts, satellite imagery, radar imagery, and computer generated graphics from weather communication equipment. They perform regional meteorological watch for specific weather parameters affecting military operating areas, ranges, routes, local bases, etc. Journeymen forecast local area, mesoscale and synoptic weather features, alert decision-makers of severe weather potential, and brief expected environmental conditions to aircrews. They prepare regional forecasts, terminal forecasts, weather watches, weather warnings, and weather advisories. Journeymen train apprentices in the performance of these duties. Journeymen assigned to a strategic center may also develop training resources, execute programs, or perform environmental and climatological studies.

3.2.2. Journeymen receiving assignment to a CWT must complete the in-residence CWTOC prior to initial assignment to one of these units. If assigned to an Army unit, journeymen must attend the Army Staff Weather Officer Course. (Exception: National Guard personnel receive CWT training at the ANG WRTC at Camp Blanding, FL). Journeymen assigned to a CWT observe, collect and analyze atmospheric and space environmental data and predict future conditions. They provide tailored weather analyses, forecasts and predictions of mission impact to enhance the effectiveness of military operations and training. They apply their knowledge of weapons systems, tactics, and weather sensitivities to enable commanders to mitigate and exploit the impact of environmental conditions. Journeymen operate atmospheric and space weather equipment and monitor specific parameters affecting military operating areas, ranges, and routes. Journeymen forecast local area and mesoscale weather features and alert decision-makers of severe weather potential. They prepare and deliver briefings and provide mission execution forecasts to aircrews and weapons system operators. They develop proficiency in basic combat field skills, including tactical weather and communications equipment operation and operator maintenance. They maintain readiness and deploy in support of war fighter operations. Journeymen assigned to Airborne and Special Operations units receive additional mission-specific training and experience. 11

3.3. Craftsman, 7-Skill Level. After successful upgrade to the 7-level, Craftsmen assume increasing supervisory and management responsibilities in addition to performing the technical tasks of the career field. They may be assigned worldwide to any organizational level, to include MAJCOM and higher headquarters staff positions. They provide technical leadership to subordinates and ensure they meet Air Force standards. They manage and adapt the use of weather resources to meet mission requirements. Craftsmen schedule personnel for routine duties, severe weather duties, mission standby, and training. They assume a vital mentorship responsibility and provide a clear vision of career choices

and progression to enlisted weather personnel. Craftsmen increase technical expertise through job experience, OJT and QTPs. Craftsmen complete formal continuation training courses as needed to perform their duties. When selected for promotion to TSgt, Craftsmen are eligible to attend the NCO Academy, and must do so before assuming the grade of MSgt. Upon selection for promotion to the MSgt, members may attend a local or command senior NCO orientation course. MSgts are eligible to attend the SNCO Academy, and must do so before assuming the grade of CMSgt. Continued academic education through CCAF and civilian institutions is encouraged. Enlisted personnel with a Bachelor's Degree may be eligible to compete for a slot in the Air Force Institute of Technology Master's Degree program.

3.3.1. Craftsmen assigned to an OWS or strategic center manage weather operations and supervise Journeymen in the performance of their duties. They are fully qualified to perform all the duties of Journeymen. They typically are assigned as element and flight NCOICs and lead synopticians on the operations floor, or as NCOIC of a training flight. They provide leadership and supervision to ensure effective operations and training. They assist flight commanders in planning and executing mission support. They plan and schedule training events and career development opportunities for subordinates. Craftsmen assigned to a strategic center may also develop and distribute training resources, manage and execute programs, or perform environmental and climatological studies.

3.3.2. Craftsmen assigned to a CWT are fully qualified to perform all the duties of Journeymen and to supervise Journeymen in the performance of their duties. Craftsmen manage a variety of weather operations and resources. They tailor unit capabilities to meet the needs of military operations, and communicate those capabilities to supported customers. They develop subordinates and provide or schedule training for assigned personnel. They maintain readiness and deploy in support of war fighter operations. Craftsmen assigned to Airborne and Special Operations units receive additional mission-specific training and experience.

3.3.3. Craftsmen may be assigned to staff positions at MAJCOMs or equivalent organizations (e.g., Field Operating Agencies and Major Army Commands) and to Headquarters U. S. Air Force. In this capacity, they normally manage programs to ensure current and future capability to meet Air Force and DoD requirements. They organize, train and equip weather forces and tailor resources and capabilities to support combatant commanders.

DUTIES OF THE WEATHER TEAM NCOIC:

Maintain fully dual-qualified (observing and forecasting skills) J1W071 status.

Establish quarterly training goals and schedule training through the unit training officer.

Act as unit's Parachute Standardization and Evaluation Chief

Take responsibility for the readiness and maintenance of weather teams deployable equipment items (meteorological equipment, communications equipment, tactical operational equipment, and weapons systems).

Maintain and upgrade weather team's climatology library.

Establish standards for the evaluation of new weather team TACMET and field equipment.

Identify to OIC training requirements and new tactics to be evaluated during contingencies/exercises.

Establish non-weather related training requirements (survival, combat skills, small arms familiarization, dz/lz/airborne operations, etc).

DUTIES OF THE WEATHER TEAM FORECASTER:

Maintain fully qualified status as Airborne Weather Forecaster IAW current applicable CJQS.

Establish and operate limited forecasting and observing services.

Deploy as part of a weather team to provide one time go/no-go forecasts in response to specific operational needs.

Provide staff weather officer services to customer and their activities at forward locations.

Provide weather liaison to other forces attached to forward locations and to forces transiting through these locations.

Be able to establish and operate work centers in non-US weather facilities.

Capability to conduct Airborne infiltration with Army command and control elements

Static line parachute proficiency.

Identify and report limiting weather factors on Army operations.

Care and maintenance of airborne equipment and survival gear.

Packing, crating, and deploying of weather team equipment.

Capability to report tactical weather observations from forward staging/refueling areas

Maintain medical/administrative qualification for worldwide mobility