

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS FOR TECHNICIANS – COURSE NO. 1

A first course for Meteorological Technicians in meteorological computer applications was held at AES Headquarters, June 9-13, 1975. This course was presented by Professional Development Division in co-operation with Technical Training Division Training Branch. The ten participants represented Western and Central regions as well as the Canadian Meteorological Centre.

This course was in response to a growing need for qualified meteorological technicians with some training in computer methods, as a direct result of the installation of dedicated mini-computers at the major forecast offices. The course, an abbreviated version of the introductory Computer Applications to Forecasting course given to meteorologists, had the following objectives:

1. To provide some working knowledge of solving meteorological problems by computer methods using the FORTRAN programming language.
2. To provide an overview of the current and future operational applications of computers in the AES.
3. To provide some actual “hands-on” experience with computer related activities for technicians.



Front Row: (Left to Right) T. White (Course Director, Technical Training Division), G. Langevin (Wes), D. Duriez (Wes), J. Mullock (Wes), G. Burridge (CMC), A. Mistal (Cen), M. Balshaw (Chief Instructor, Professional Development Division).

Back Row: (Left to Right) J. MacDuff (Cen), R. Melick (Wes), T. Eliopoulos (CMC), H. Alleyne (CMC), M. Degrosbois (CMC).

Courtesy G.M. (Bill) Kiely

The response of the participants to the course was good. Suggestions solicited from the participants for future courses indicated that it should be expanded to include programming in other areas such as vorticity and Hovmöller diagrams. It is hoped that an expanded and improved computer applications course could be integrated into the training of operations technicians.