

# NCAR



## Information Release

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For Immediate Release

### NCAR Scientists Decorated by Mauritania

Boulder, Colorado---The President of the West African nation of Mauritania has presented his country's highest decoration for non-Mauritanians, the Medal of National Merit, to two Boulder men, G. William Curtis and Nelder Medrud, both of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

In awarding the medals, President Ould Daddah expressed his appreciation to NCAR and the National Science Foundation (NSF) for their assistance in preparing the people of Mauritania for the influx of scientists and other visitors who came to observe the total eclipse of the sun that was visible over much of Africa last June 30.

NCAR organized and managed the NSF-sponsored United States eclipse expedition, which included more than 100 participants from many U.S. research organizations. Curtis headed the NCAR task group that worked over a period of about two years to organize the expedition. Medrud was field support manager for the eclipse expedition site at Chinguetti, Mauritania, one of the two principal U.S. observing sites.

Because he is a retired regular officer in the U.S. Air Force, Medrud could make only a token acceptance of the decoration. His medal is being held in escrow, as regular officers in the U.S. military services are not allowed to accept decorations from foreign governments without special Congressional authorization.

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