

# *Air Force Missileers*

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Association of Air Force Missileers  
Volume 25, Number 3      "Advocates for Missileers"      September 2017

<b>Sentinel Warriors</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cheyenne in 2018, Our 25th Anniversary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>South Dakota Titan I</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Missileer Leaders</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Missile Models on Display</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Minuteman Missile NHS News</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>New Atlas Models, Missile Squadron Update</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Minuteman Key Return</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>A Word from AAFM, Letters</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>New Members Page, Taps for Missileers</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Donations Pages</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Registration for 2018 National Meeting</b>	<b>Inside</b>
<b>Back Cover</b>	
<b>Reunions and Meetings</b>	<b>Back Cover</b>



The Mission of the Association of Air Force Missileers -

- Preserving the Heritage of Air Force Missiles and the people involved with them
- Recognizing Outstanding Missileers
- Encouraging Meetings and Reunions
- Keeping Missileers Informed
- Providing a Central Point of Contact for Missileers

# Association of Air Force Missileers

## Membership Application

Complete and mail to:

AAFM PO Box 5693

Breckenridge, CO 80424

or log on to [www.afmissileers.org](http://www.afmissileers.org)

## Membership Categories

Annual (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty/Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Three Years (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty/Student (\$14) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lifetime (\$300) \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable in up to 12 installments)  
 Awarded Missile Badge - Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name				Home Phone	
Address				E-mail	
City	State	Zip Code	Rank/Grade	Active Duty <input type="checkbox"/>	Retired <input type="checkbox"/>
Can AAFM release this information-only to members and missile organizations? Yes _____ No _____				Reserve or Nat Guard <input type="checkbox"/>	Discharged/ Separated <input type="checkbox"/>
Signature				Civilian <input type="checkbox"/>	

Summary of your missile experience - used in the AAFM database - attach bio if you have one

<b>Missile Systems and Units</b> Navaho _____ Snark _____ 702SMW _____ Jupiter _____ Italy _____ Turkey _____	Thor _____ Units _____ Bomarc _____ Units _____	Matador _____ Units _____ Mace _____ Units _____	Blue Scout _____ Unit _____ Atlas D _____ E _____ F _____ 550 _____ 551 _____ 556 _____ 567 _____ 576 _____ 577 _____ 578 _____ 579 _____ 706/389SMW _____ ALCS _____ 2ACCS _____ 4ACCS _____	Titan I _____ 568 _____ 569 _____ 850 _____ 851 _____ 703/451SMW _____ Atlas D _____ E _____ F _____ 548 _____ 549 _____ 550 _____ 551 _____ 556 _____ 567 _____ 576 _____ 577 _____ 578 _____ 579 _____ 706/389SMW _____ ALCS _____ 2ACCS _____ 4ACCS _____	Titan II _____ 308 _____ 381 _____ 390 _____	GLCM _____ JCMPO _____ 38 _____ 303 _____ 485 _____ 486 _____ 487 _____ 501 _____ Dugway _____ 868TMTS/G _____ Minuteman I _____ II/Mod _____ III _____ Peacekeeper _____ 44 _____ 90 _____ 91/455 _____ 321 _____ 341 _____ 351 _____ 4062 (MM Train) _____ Small ICBM _____
Space Systems _____ Thor _____ Atlas _____ Titan II _____ Titan III _____ Titan IV _____ Delta _____ Nike _____ Vanguard _____ Scout _____ EELV _____ Apollo _____ Mercury _____ Gemini _____ MOL _____ Agena _____ ABRES _____ Ranger _____ Shuttle _____ Skylab _____ Sat Control _____ SpaceSurv _____ BMEWS _____ DSP _____ DMSP _____ DSCS _____ GPS _____ PavePaws _____ Other Space System _____ 21SW _____ 30SW _____ 45SW _____ 50SW _____ Other Space Units _____				Airlaunch _____ AIM _____ AIR _____ AGM _____ SRAM _____ ALCM _____ ACM _____ AAMRAM _____ RPV/Drone _____ Hounddog _____ Quail _____ Skybolt _____ Other Airlaunch Systems _____ Airlaunch Units _____		

Headquarters/Numbered Air Force/Specialized Units (Check only if assigned to the headquarters level)

JCS/DOD/SECAF _____ Air Staff _____ AFIG _____ AFOTEC _____ SAC or JSTPS _____ AFSPC _____ AFGSC _____ TAC _____ ACC _____ STRATCOM _____ PACAF _____ USAFE _____ EUCOM _____ NATO _____ or AAFCE _____ AFSOUTH _____ AU _____ AFMPC/AFPC _____ DTRA/OSIA _____ Other MAJCOM _____	HqARDC/AFSC _____ WDD/BMD/BSDB _____ BMO _____ SAMSO _____ SMC _____ WTR _____ ETR _____ 6555 _____ 6595 _____ SACSO _____ SATAF _____	HqAFLC _____ AMC _____ Ogden _____ SBALC _____ SAALC _____ SMALC _____ AGMC _____ SACLO _____
HqATC?AETC _____ CTTC _____ LTTC _____ STTC _____ VAFB ATC _____ 381TRG _____ 392TRS _____ 532TRS _____ 533TRS _____	NAF 2 _____ 3 _____ 5 _____ 8 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____ 16 _____ 17 _____ 20 _____	Division Hq _____ 4 _____ 12 _____ Other _____ Vandenberg Units 1MSlDiv _____ 1STRAD _____ 392 _____ 394 _____ 395 _____ 576 _____ 4315 _____ 3901 _____ 51MMS _____ Other VAFB Units _____
Other Units _____		

Specialties Operations \_\_\_\_\_ Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_ Munitions \_\_\_\_\_ Comm \_\_\_\_\_ Facility Mgr \_\_\_\_\_ Safety \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Eng \_\_\_\_\_ Support \_\_\_\_\_  
 Research/Devel/Test \_\_\_\_\_ Instrumentation \_\_\_\_\_ Security \_\_\_\_\_ Contractor \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

Missile/Space Competition Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_ Commander -Sqn \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Wing \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_  
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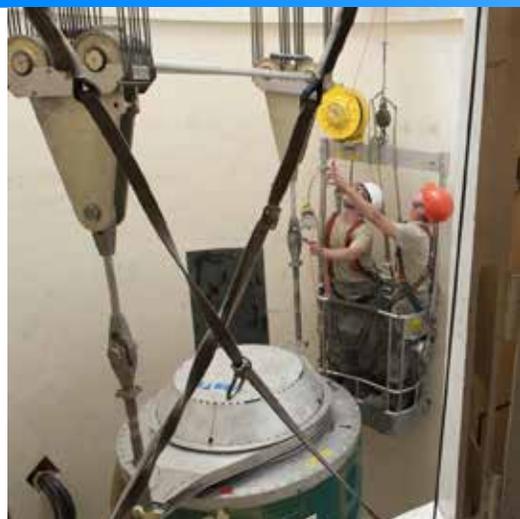
# Air Force Missileers

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*Maintainers from the 90th Missile Wing prepare the Minuteman III missile at India-09 for removal. The Air Force met the ICBM New START requirements with the removal of this booster from the LF*

*Maj Gen Cotton*



## **Sentinel Warriors Lead the Charge in Continuous Improvement** - By Major General Anthony J. Cotton, Commander, 20 AF, AAFM Mbr A2222.

It's been about one year since I last updated AAFM so, in what will likely be my last article as Commander, 20th Air Force (AF), I want to bring you up to speed on a few of our continuous improvement efforts. The Sentinel Warriors of 20 AF continue to work hard to improve the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) mission and I love to highlight their accomplishments. So let me share with you what we've done to meet the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) requirements, introduce you to our new Missile Security Operating Concept (MSOC) and discuss our integrated Road Warrior exercise.

On 2 June 2017, the 90th Missile Wing (MW) removed the booster from launch facility (LF) India-09, bringing the nation's ICBM force in full compliance with the New START. Thanks to the hard work of our maintainers and teamwork with Air Force Global Strike Command, the System Program Office and the 309th Maintenance Group, we were able to comply with the treaty nine months ahead of schedule! As you know, the New START treaty came into force on 5 February 2011 and directed a major change in the Minuteman III force structure. In order to meet treaty limits, we had to remove 50 ICBMs from the field by 5 February 2018.

Our 400 on-alert ICBMs will rotate through 450 Launch Facilities (LFs), so we are committed to keeping the 50 non-deployed facilities in an operational condition. In fact, our maintenance community is taking it a step further by implementing an innovative way to use this configuration as an opportunity to accomplish periodic depot maintenance (PDM) on our LFs. As we complete PDM on these initial 50 LFs, we'll move boosters to these sites and place the vacated LFs in PDM, always careful to maintain New START requirements.

To meet the security demands for New START activities and other missile field maintenance, we are overhauling how we deploy missile security forces. During my Senior Leader Conference in September 2016, I approved a beta test of a new security forces group organizational structure. In the legacy structure, several flights that belonged to different squadrons dispatched to fill the Alarm Response Team, Security Response Team and the Flight Security Controller position. In contrast, the Security Escort Teams would depart the main support base in support of maintenance activities while Camper Alert Teams would stay on base until needed. In MSOC, an entire squadron deploys to the field, it allows leaders to be with their Airmen while on-duty, off-duty and during training, giving them the flexibility to learn about their Airmen both professionally and personally.

We implemented MSOC to not only accomplish security operations in a more efficient manner, but to also tackle the long-standing issue of morale and retention among Defenders. For decades, our Defenders have struggled with quality of life issues, to include dwell time between field deployments and lack of white space on their schedule.

During the beta test at the 91 MW, Defenders were able to exceed maintenance needs while traveling thirty-two thousand fewer miles a month, with the added benefit of an additional twenty-eight training days in their schedule annually.



*A Tactical Response Force member, assigned to the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron, attempts to re-capture the exercise resource from a simulated Payload Transporter van during a Road Warrior exercise practice.*

Defenders also saw a significant decrease in their duty days, going from consecutive 16 hour days to normal 12 hour duty days with squad leader flexibility to support maintenance operations. In short, MSOC is a win-win concept as we accomplish security operations more efficiently while improving the quality of life and morale of our Defenders.

While MSOC improves teamwork between maintainers and defenders, our Road Warrior exercise improves air-ground coordination during convoy operations while providing wing commanders a report card on the effectiveness of their Convoy Response Force. Road Warrior occurs annually and allows each missile wing to participate as an integrated team. We execute Road Warrior at Camp Guernsey, WY, where we have access to a seventy-eight thousand acre range that provides realistic terrain and without impact to the public. During the week-long exercise, about 70 defenders from a wing plus 6 aircrew members and their two UH-1Ns from the 582nd Helicopter Group validate their ability to accomplish convoy operations against a Red Team led by the 620th Ground Combat Training Squadron. The Red Team is composed of members of the 321st Contingency Response Squadron from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, who assist in the creation of realistic scenarios that will enhance the combat capability of the Airmen involved in the exercise.

This year's Road Warrior will include more focus on mission planning and debriefing. Teams will spend the first two days receiving intelligence briefings so they can plan and train to mitigate the threats. Once they move into the execution phase, they will put their plans to the test against a simulated adversary. After the mission is complete, teams will de-brief with the Red Team to highlight strengths and areas for improvement.

Road Warrior provides an opportunity for our defenders to assess the effectiveness of convoy operations, practice integration and hone in their lethality in the protection of our most critical assets.

As you see, the dedicated and highly skilled Airmen in 20 AF are focused on innovation and continuous improvement. We are all in, and we will do whatever it takes to accomplish this mission while improving the quality of life of our Airmen and their families. I want to thank you for supporting our mission, our Airmen and their families; the work you do to keep our community informed and our heritage alive is instrumental to the strength of our ICBM community.



*Our Hotel for 2018*

## **Cheyenne in 2018 – Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson

Registration is now open for our next National Meeting – our 13th since we formed in 1993. We will gather in Cheyenne, WY, 9-14 October 2018, using the Little America Resort and Hotel as our headquarters. You can find details and registration information on the inside back cover and on our web page at [afmissileers.org](http://afmissileers.org). You can register by mail with a check or online using Paypal and a credit card.

Our 13th National Meeting will include some important milestones, the 25th anniversary of AAFM, and will the “change of command” for the AAFM Executive Director. Col (Ret) Jim Warner will replace Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, and we will have an appropriate recognition of this event during the meeting. We will also be joined by members of the 556 SMS and the 3901 SMES for unit reunions.

The AAFM board of directors will gather on Tuesday, 9 October, at the hotel for a day long board meeting. We began the day long meetings four years ago, with our first in Colorado Springs, and the next during our Omaha National Meeting in 2016. Non-board members can attend, but will not take part in discussions except in special circumstances or for scheduled presentations. The board will dine that night at the Rib and Chop House in Cheyenne.

As we did in 2006, we will stay at the Little America Resort and Hotel. Room rate will be \$93 per night for a room for two and two buffet breakfasts each day. As usual, there will be some rooms available at the same rate three days before or after the meeting for those who want to visit the region. Contact information for the hotel is included on



*Missiles at the Warren Main Gate*

the registration page.

We will begin meeting sign-in at 1300 on Wednesday, 10 October 2018, in the hospitality room. A \$15 registration fee covers the cost of name tags, mementos, snacks and soft drinks in that room throughout our stay. Our hospitality rooms are always popular gathering places for seeing friends and storytelling. That evening, we will gather for the Welcome Reception in the hotel ballroom, with enough “appetizers” to make a meal for the evening. There will be a pay as you go bar during the reception.

Thursday morning, after breakfast, we will depart for FE Warren AFB for a full day of tours and lunch, hosted by the 90<sup>th</sup> Missile Wing and Col Stacy Jo Huser, the commander. We will visit operations, maintenance, security and helicopter facilities and have lunch prepared by the Warren Top Three NCO organization. That evening, we will gather for an Italian buffet in the ballroom at Little America.

Friday morning, buses will depart after breakfast for tours of local attractions in and around Cheyenne. Stops will include the Depot, where we will also have lunch, the Terry Bison Ranch to view bison and other animals and wildlife, the Old West, which features displays about Frontier Days and Cheyenne history and the new Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. Friday evening, we will return to the hotel ballroom for a Western Buffet and entertainment by Ground Zero, the band that we all enjoyed during our Omaha meeting. Ground Zero includes former Missileers as band members and they will sing and play a few Groobers tunes, plus some great music for dancing.

Saturday morning begins with our General Membership meeting, immediately following breakfast. As usual, we will have some great briefings and talks by Air Force leadership, the National Park Service and other agencies. A short AAFM Board Meeting, open to all, will follow. Saturday afternoon, we will offer an optional tour of the new state run Quebec-01 Museum, one of the Peacekeeper Missile Alert Facilities that was left intact and is being converted to a museum similar to the Minuteman

Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota.

Saturday evening, we will gather at the hotel for the AAFM National Meeting Banquet, featuring a senior Air Force leader as speaker. We will host a number of young officers, enlisted members and spouses at the banquet. Sunday morning breakfast will be the last organized gathering, your one last time to socialize with fellow Missileers until the 2020 National Meeting.



*The Titan I First Stage Being Placed*

## South Dakota Titan I - by Dan Kuecker, Executive Director, South Dakota Air and Space Museum

I wanted to provide an update to you and the members of the Association of Air Force Missileers on the Titan I Missile exhibit here at the South Dakota Air and Space Museum. AAFM has been very generous in helping us with this project. I'm happy to report that we were able to move both stages of the missile to their new permanent home in the museum air park. I've attached some preliminary pictures and will send additional photos once we finish cleaning the missile and attaching the reentry vehicle (RV). The RV, which your grant funds made possible is being fabricated by a company called Action Mechanical in Rapid City and is nearing completion. Once complete, we will then move the RV to the Hot Rod Institute where they will finish the curved nose-cone tip and then paint the RV for us. Following that we will mate it with the 2nd Stage. We expect those tasks to be complete by the time your newsletter is published.

Please accept the sincere thanks of our Board of Directors, our members and staff, and myself, for the critical financial support that AAFM has provided in this project.



*Both Stages Emplaced on Cradles*

# AAFM Newsletter

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*Titan I Arriving at Mountain Home*

## Missileer Leaders – by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, AAFM Executive Director

You may have served a single tour in the Air Force as a Missileer, or you may have spent the majority of your career in the missile business. Either way, during your time as a Missileer, you probably had some great bosses, commanders, team chiefs, shop chiefs or leaders. Of course, we all experienced the other end of that spectrum, some who were not so great, but in my 23 plus years in missile jobs, I met and worked for or with a number of very good leaders. This article is, I hope, the start of a series made up of your stories of exceptional Missileers you knew or know – put your story together and get it to us for a future newsletter.

We all understand that a leader one person thought was great may have been seen as terrible by someone else – a lot depends on each individual's personal experience with his or her wing commander, squadron commander, crew commander, division chief, shop chief or team chief. This first article is about some leaders I knew well – and I know my opinion is far different on a couple of them than the opinion of some other Missileers. This series is about the “good ones.” We won't put together stories about the bad experiences – those are best left as memories of an event that has passed.

My own view of leadership probably grew from watching my father, an Air Force Chaplain and Baptist preacher, deal with people. His profession required him to interact with everybody, and I automatically adopted that characteristic as I began my Air Force career. Some of us don't interact much with our subordinates and our superiors, and some even have a very small population of those they interact with on a daily basis. In my first assignment, I often had conversations unrelated to the daily routine with young enlisted members, as well as senior leaders. As I moved up the leadership ladder in the Air Force, I continued those relationships. We had very clear and concise rules about socializing and fraternizing with those junior and senior to

us, but that didn't mean that one should only interact with one's peers. I found many ways to interact with those around me at all levels. Most of us interacted with all levels at unit “official” social events, like holiday parties and changes of command, but there were some who only associated with a few coworkers or neighbors. I have met people in the last few years who were on the same base that I was on, at the same time, and couldn't tell me who the senior officer or enlisted leaders were in their unit - and could barely recall names of any coworkers. I am convinced that those of us who interacted with all levels around us had much more fulfilling careers than those who kept to themselves.

There were many ways to interact, all within the guidelines of good order and discipline. Intramural sports, hobbies and outside interests all provided excellent ways to get to know your juniors and your seniors. At Mountain Home, I played water polo and volleyball, with teams made up of all ranks and specialties. You got to know junior enlisted members and more senior leaders a little better in this environment. At three bases, I was very involved with the base sports car club - we ran single car timed events on base taxiways and parking lots, ran hill climbs on public roads and in North Dakota, raced on frozen “potholes” during the extremely cold winters. We competed against young two-stripe aircraft mechanics with MGs and Minis to colonels with new yellow Corvettes. In Sicily, we set up a softball league about two weeks after we opened the base, and our small group of officers formed a team named the “Upper Echelon” to compete with the teams from the base units - another way to interact with all levels. I was the base commander, but on the field, my tee shirt read “Slugger” and I played both as a pitcher and catcher. Golf was another great way to interact with all levels, both in intramural matches and informal games. When I was in Spain, 20 to 25 of us, from Airmen First Class to Colonel, would gather one or two nights a week after dinner for a “Skins” game, all teeing off at the same time on the same hole, playing for a dollar a hole. With that many players competing there was seldom a winner - it took a spectacular shot to better the other 24 golfers, and it was like playing in a hail storm, but it was a great way to build spirit and morale, and get to know those who worked for you or that you worked for.

Another technique I learned, and used more as a senior leader, was to spend time with a single young officer or enlisted member. Off duty discussions with someone far removed from your daily routine could teach you much about what was happening in your organization or on your base. A couple of days after I got settled into my Portacabin at Comiso, my quarters with a bedroom and a living room, I realized that USAFE hadn't made any plans for a place for the 400 plus people living 12 to a room in other Portacabins to relax and watch television. There were a couple of buildings scheduled to be completed in two or three weeks, but nothing in the short term. I got one of the large television sets and video cassette players that would be used later and

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*Playing Golf with the Troops, Comiso*

put it in my living room, with a couple of couches. I put out the word that the room was available 24 hours a day - I just insisted that the noise level stayed low when I was sleeping next door. I got to know the regulars pretty well - one was an Airman First Class power production technician who ran our power plant and worked shifts. He would watch TV at some time almost every day - depending on what shift he worked. He also was the best dressed man on base - he had brought a trunk load of really sharp suits that he wore any time he left the base. Every few days, when he was alone watching a tape, I would ask him how things were going on base from his standpoint - I got great insight from him that I couldn't get talking to the senior leaders, commissioned or noncommissioned. About five years later, I was surprised when a staff sergeant stopped by to see me in my office at Minot - he was on temporary duty there and heard I was on base.

One more leadership trait I developed, again based on what I had seen from some good mentors, was to always recognize the work of those who supported the base. I was a base commander on four bases - at every social event at any of the clubs, my wife and I would always make a point of going back into the kitchen at the end of the event to thank the club staff. This isn't to say that they always did a great job, but I saved any criticism until the next duty day and provided that down the chain of command, to the officer in charge of the clubs and the club managers. I have no doubt that the leaders I worked for during my career taught me the right way to interact with people with positive impact on the mission.

I came into Titan I in 1961 after almost two years as an aircraft maintenance officer in Air Force Systems Command. During that early period, I was mentored by a couple of really good officers, a Lieutenant Colonel and a Major, and a Technical Sergeant, all veterans of World War II. That great mentoring continued when I got to Mountain Home AFB, ID, in the 569th Strategic Missile Squadron (SMS), again by people who had served in the war. I arrived at Mountain Home in February, 1962, after almost six months of training at Sheppard AFB, TX. I was a new first

lieutenant, having pinned on silver bars in May, 1961, and I was assigned to missile maintenance in the 569 SMS. Most of my classmates at Sheppard were senior to me, and I was the only Titan I officer in the Missile Fundamentals course. My class for six week long Titan I course was, except for me, all crew members, and all senior to me.

When I reported in to the 569 SMS, I was sent to the office of the Chief of Maintenance. The Titan I and Atlas squadrons were organized similar to bomb wings, with a colonel squadron commander, a deputy commander and two senior lieutenant colonels who were the Chiefs of Maintenance and Operations. When I entered the Chief of Maintenance office, I found two senior lieutenant colonels sitting at two desks, one on the left and one straight ahead. I walked up to the desk that I thought was probably the Chief's, saluted and reported in. The colonel at the other desk said, "Lieutenant, I'm Colonel Jannot - Colonel Jensen works for me." After another salute, I was welcomed to the squadron and the missile maintenance organization. Lt Col Jannot then told me his plans for me. Since I had almost two years of experience in aircraft maintenance, he said he had decided I would be a good Job Control Officer, and that Lt Col Jensen would be my first boss and get me started in the new job.

Both Jannot and Jensen had spent several years in Strategic Air Command (SAC) aircraft maintenance. Lt Col G. B. Jannot ("Don't ever call me Gaylord.") had been in the 9th Bomb Wing (BW) at Mountain Home since the early days of B-29s and B-50s, and had spent the last few years as commander of one of the aircraft maintenance squadrons. I was told that he was the senior Lt Col in the Air Force, and when I looked in the Air Force Register one day, it was obvious he was, at the very least, one of the most senior. He had flown bombers in World War II, and stayed on active duty after the war, and was around for the birth of SAC in 1946. He was methodical, deliberate and he knew the SAC and Air Force maintenance directives and the "SAC way" to do things. He trusted his maintenance officers and senior noncommissioned officers (NCO) and let them do his job, but that didn't stop him from asking penetrating, complex questions when he was concerned about a maintenance situation. He wrote almost every thought down in a stenographer's notepad, one of those tablets bound by wire at the top and about the size of half a sheet of paper. He kept all these notepads in his desk, clearly marked with the dates covered by each one. If a question came up about a situation several weeks or months old, he would open his desk and retrieve his "memory" for that event.

In the first few months after we got our nine Titan I missiles on alert, we all worked long days, often seven days a week. If there were people working in maintenance in the field, Col Jannot was in the office, and was often in Job Control with me following the progress if a missile was off alert. During those first few months, from June 1962 until the Cuban Missile Crisis in October, 15th Air Force (AF)



*Col Gilbert Friedrichs at Grand Forks*

had a requirement to send a “Red Ball” report to the 15 AF command post at midnight local every night. The report was a detailed summary of the alert and maintenance status of the nine missiles in our unit. For some reason, 15 AF didn’t think that the SAC V-1 report, an electronic message we had to send each time the status of a missile changed, was enough, so they insisted on the “Red Ball” every night. That meant that I had to be there each night to prepare the message on the standard message format form, which meant I had to keep a clerk/typist around, too. Shortly before midnight, I would have Lt Col Jensen review the message then take it to Jannot for signature and release. He had a habit of reading with a ball point pen in his hand, and often he underlined text as he read. The first night, we learned that his “underlines” confused the optical character reader at the message center, so we had to retype the message and start over. I would carefully watch him, and take the pen out of his hand if he started to mark up the text. It took a few nights to convince him that we needed a very clean sheet of paper with no extraneous marks on the message form. Luckily for us, during the first SAC Inspector General (IG) visit, the inspector had his boss call 15 AF and direct them to discontinue this duplicate alert report. The IG told 15 AF that the V-1 reports did the job – there was no need for a separate report to a lower level headquarters.

Col Jannot was a part of the 569 SMS from the start to the end. When Col Bernard Garfinkel became our commander, Jannot became the squadron deputy commander, and stayed in that job until we closed. He spent a few weeks working for the base commander after we shut down the missile squadron. While he was the deputy, one of the NCOs and I decided to play a little trick on him. All of us were receiving orders for our next assignment – I had just gotten mine for crew duty in Minuteman at Grand Forks AFB, ND. MSgt Herbie Vice, who was NCO in Charge (NCOIC) of Plans and Scheduling, had a good friend in the base personnel shop, so we had some bogus permanent change of station (PCS) orders made up for Col Jannot, assigning him to the missile wing at Grand Forks. We left

the orders in his in basket when he was down the hall one day, and waited out of sight until he came back and sat at his desk. Herbie and I listened to him utter a few expletives then start a phone call to personnel. We ran in, trying to control our laughter, to “apologize” for the trick. He took it pretty well – until the following week, when he got authentic orders to Grand Forks. It took personnel a while to convince him these were real.

In late April, 1965, I drove one of my cars to Grand Forks, before my May PCS move. When I got back to the 569 SMS, I told Col Jannot how great the weather was in North Dakota – blue skies, green grass (unlike the Idaho desert) and temperature in the low 80s. The Tuesday after Memorial Day, I walked out of the 321st Strategic Missile Wing building (306) to go home for lunch. As I was scraping ice and snow off the windshield of my Jaguar, wearing my Air Force parka, a blue Opel station wagon pulled up behind me – a very angry Lt Col G. B. Jannot, wearing his summer 505 tan short sleeved shirt, gave me a very good chewing out for falsely informing about the weather in North Dakota.

Col Jannot spent his last three years at Grand Forks first as an operations branch officer (OBO) (each missile squadron had a full colonel commander and five OBOs, all lieutenant colonels or majors) and as commander of the one of the three missile squadrons. He spent a few months in Viet Nam, flying C-123s, and returned to Grand Forks for a short time before retiring to Americus, GA, which for some time had a Titan I missile standing by the highway on the edge of town. He passed away in 1992. He had been a good teacher for me and several other junior Missileers – we learned the importance of attention to detail, documenting our actions and trusting our subordinates from a great Missileer leader.

Lt Col Loyd Jensen had flown B-25s in the Pacific in World War II. Before joining the 569 SMS, he was in B-47 maintenance at Dyess AFB, TX. I spent a lot more time day to day with him than I did with Col Jannot – although I saw both many times each day. Col Jensen designed and supervised the building of our Job Control and Maintenance Control offices. He supervised our NCOs and me with a hammer or saw in his hand – he was a working supervisor. He probably did at least a quarter of the work himself.

Our squadron was housed in a former B-47 nose dock, a large hangar that would hold a complete bomber, with only the tail exposed to the weather through special openings in the giant sliding hangar doors. All of the unit’s offices and shops were in a frame building constructed inside the hangar, with operations and some shops on the left side, the commander’s office in the center, and maintenance in all the other spaces. The center of the hangar floor was used to store our spare Titan I missile and we set up a volley ball court next to the missile. Col Jannot’s office was next door to the Squadron Commander’s office, with direct access between the two rooms. A door on the opposite wall led to a large room that became the Maintenance Control Officer’s office and Job Control, so the Squadron Commander and Chief



*Col Friedrichs at Boeing Visit, 1965*

of Maintenance could walk directly from their offices into our 24 hour Job Control Center. All other access was either through an electronically controlled door to the outside hall, or through another door to the Plans and Scheduling office, which was part of Maintenance Control.

Col Jensen's design placed the Maintenance Control Officer between the senior leaders and Job Control, so they had to walk by his desk to enter Job Control. We built a wall to enclose this space, with room for the Maintenance Control Officer, the Civil Engineering and Supply Liaison officers and a clerk. The remaining room was filled with our Job Control console and three walls of status boards. The console was provided by 15 AF, a large green and gray metal "desk" shaped in a flat bottomed V, with each of the three parts, the two arms and the bottom, each about six feet long. Above the cantilevered work surface, which held all our telephones and radios, were six display panels sloping away from the work surface, with six more above sloping back to the front for easier access. Each display panel was about two and a half feet wide and a foot and a half tall. We decided to only use the bottom part of the console, replacing the top displays with large wall mounted displays behind and to the sides of the console. Directly in view from the console, we built a large painted metal display that had outlines of three Titan I sites, with a foot tall magnetic tape missile on the board at each silo. The missiles were red on one side and green on the other, and we used them to display status. Col Jensen added a drapery rod and drapes so we could cover the classified display when we had guests. The wall to the right of the console included a large display that showed the results of each liquid oxygen loading for each of the nine missiles, and other panels reflected status of various systems and subsystems.

Jensen was a woodworker, so he used his skills to dress up the room. All of the walls not covered by display panels were painted a light green color (remember seafoam green?) and we put one by one inch wide strips of darkly varnished wood vertically over the blank walls, so that the

walls were decorated with alternating wood strips and green spaces. We all did a lot of sanding, staining, varnishing and nailing in the spring of 1962, and when we finished, we had a Control Center we were all proud of – all thanks to Col Jensen.

Once we completed the construction and communications system setup, Col Jensen spent several days working with us on procedures, checklists and all of the details involved with controlling a large maintenance activity. All of our Job Controllers, including my NCOIC, TSgt George "Robby" Robinson (more about him later), had extensive experience in either Matador/Mace missiles or SAC aircraft maintenance, so training them was a piece of cake. They spent most of the time training the new lieutenant, since they all had a good idea of what our new job entailed. Thanks to the expertise of Col Jensen and the skills of those superb NCOs, we had no problem transitioning from almost nothing to do to a very busy run of 24 hour days tracking the maintenance activity in our new squadron.

Col Jensen moved from Maintenance Control to Deputy Chief of Maintenance shortly after we became operational, and we had two more very good Maintenance Control Officers, both with similar backgrounds as World War II veterans and bomber pilots. Jensen left Mountain Home shortly before we closed the squadron, and spent several years in the 351 SMW at Whiteman AFB, MO, as a missile maintenance squadron commander and other jobs in missile maintenance. I saw him last in about 1972, when I visited Whiteman as a 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron evaluator – he was retiring a few days after our visit. He passed away in 2015 at 95, spending the last few years in the Houston area, and attended Astros baseball games well into his 90s.

I met TSgt Robby Robinson a few days after I got to Mountain Home, in our big empty room that became Job Control. Robby had spent several years in Matador and Mace in Germany, was a native of West Virginia and spent his off duty time hunting and fishing. He had served in the Navy during World War II, and entered the Air Force in the late 1940s. In those days, the Air Force didn't give much credit for time in other services, so he was a little older than most of his counterparts. Since the Air Force wouldn't count his Navy time for promotion, he was never eligible for selection to Chief Master Sergeant, and retired in the early 1970s as a Senior Master Sergeant.

Robby was an outstanding teacher and mentor for this new lieutenant. He fully understood the Air Force and SAC maintenance system, was fully knowledgeable of all the manuals and regulations that governed our day to day business and was an expert at dealing with both the senior leaders and the young maintenance technicians. He made sure that the sixteen or seventeen Job Controllers, all NCOs or senior Airmen, knew how to handle complex situations and how to keep the Commander and senior leaders informed. During the first few months after we got our first missile,



*Brig Gen Martensen, Crew s-291 (Lear, Simpson, Cousins), Col Fall and Maj Grohosky, 1967*

the two of us spent between 12 and 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, in Job Control – his expertise and easy going nature made the long hours much more pleasurable. Between him and Col Jensen, we had some real expertise at controlling a large maintenance effort for a new, complex missile system.

Robby went from Mountain Home to Sheppard, as a Titan II instructor. While he and his wife Marie were at Sheppard, one of my brothers-in-law attended C-124 maintenance training there for several months, and the Robinsons took Don under their wings and made him part of the family during his stay in Texas. From Sheppard, Robby went to Vandenberg AFB, CA, as head of the Air Training Command detachment there, about the same time as my PCS move to the 3901 SMES. We saw each other many times during the couple of years we overlapped. He spent almost all of his off duty time at Vandenberg tearing down eight of the old World War II dormitories and transporting the lumber to Council, ID, to use to build his retirement home. Carol and I visited Robby and Marie several times in Council – they had the only house I have ever seen with a walk-in freezer – something every hunter and fisherman needs. For years, they would travel by motorhome to Valdez, AK, for a summer of halibut fishing, towing his fishing boat all the way to Alaska each year. Marie passed away several years ago, and Robby married a long-time family friend and West Virginian. Throughout his stay at Council, he never worked for pay – but he was the person you called when you need help with any project, from digging a pond with his Caterpillar to roofing your house to getting help with the Veteran’s Administration. Robby now makes his home in Lewiston, ID, and as recently as last year was still talking about trips to Alaska.

I moved from Mountain Home to Grand Forks in 1965, and spent five years on a Minuteman crew. There were more examples of great leadership there, including two wing commanders, Col Gil Friedrichs and Col (later Brig Gen) Gerry Fall. Col Friedrichs had been the first wing commander of the missile wing at Minot AFB, ND, before

doing the same at Grand Forks. He was a real anomaly in SAC, since he was not a pilot. He had a great talk he gave often at predeparture briefing about his career. He would point to his chest and say, “There are no wings on this uniform.” Throughout his career, from the early days of World War II until the 1960s, he had always been a commander of a unit, and was very proud of that accomplishment, in a time when only those who flew airplanes became colonels and became commanders. After he retired, he moved to Utah to head the Boeing facility there, and lived there until he passed away a few years ago. He knew the people in his units well, and he remembered them – years later I would see him at a missile competition and we would have a good talk.

Col Gerald G. Fall, Jr., took his place as commander of the 321 SMW. Fall had been at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, and Vandenberg, so had several years in the missile business. He, too, was a World War II bomber pilot. Like many during his time, he was not loved by all – some feared him, and some disliked him intently. Remember that during the early SAC days, the role model for leadership was General Curtis LeMay – a man known for his ability to intimidate and strike fear into those he led. For LeMay, and many others, there is no doubt that the “intimidation factor” was a leadership skill, and to a certain degree, an act. LeMay was well known for taking care of the people in SAC, and established most of the “people” programs that became common in the Air Force. To me, it was clear that Fall followed the LeMay model – I saw the other side of him, but many did not. He rarely slept, he roamed the base and the missile field at all hours, and he did things that didn’t sit well with some.

It was well known that he would wander into a shop area, see an unsecured piece of equipment, like a tire and wheel, take it with him and later call the unit commander and ask, “Are you missing any tires and wheels?” He would stop young enlisted members in the elevator in the Grand Forks missile building and ask a technical question that demanded a classified answer. The proper response was always, “Sir, I can’t answer that here, because the answer is classified.” Those who gave the proper answer were told to come by his office with the answer – when they did, he thanked them for responding properly and safeguarding classified material. Those who attempted to give a classified reply sometimes got a quick, immediate trip to his office to await arrival of their commander, so both could be reprimanded. One morning in wing standup, a new communications lieutenant was briefing the status of the wing comm systems. When he stumbled on one, Fall asked him a question about the system the lieutenant couldn’t answer. Fall told him to come back the next day and brief the details of that system, and to do a different system each day until he had covered all of them. The next day, I watched the lieutenant give a very good summary of the High Frequency Radio System – Fall said, “Good job, Lt. Do you understand why I asked for the briefing?” The lieutenant replied that he did, and Fall said, “I think you learned your lesson – you don’t need to brief

## Missile Models for Public Display

In recent months, a couple of models have gone on display to help non-missileers see what our current weapon system looks like. One is in a place almost anyone can visit, the Minuteman Missile NHS (MiMi), the other is in a Pentagon display case along with a number of aircraft and missile models.

AAFM Board Member Randy Tyymofichuk worked through his company, BAE Systems, to provide MiMi with a display model of the Minuteman III about six feet tall, in the current real colors. BAE produced the model using a 3D printer and delivered it to MiMi recently.

Earlier this year, Brig Gen Steve Davis, former 91st Missile Wing Commander, contacted AAFM and told us there was no Minuteman representation in the display case in the Pentagon, a case that includes many models of former and current US Air Force aircraft and missiles. AAFM provided the folks in the Pentagon with one of our standard 14 inch tall Minuteman III models in the current real colors, and the model is now prominently displayed.



321 SMW Blanchard Trophy Team and Col Fall any more systems.”

When we went through a most comprehensive emergency war orders procedural change in late 1967, he decided that he would personally certify every missile crew in the wing in the missile procedures trainer (MPT), with each crew undergoing a two hour scenario. I was one of three captains who were selected to be in the MPT with him, usually between midnight and 0600, seven days a week. For some reason, I was one of the young captains that he would talk to at social events and other occasions – and was amazed when, on one of the first nights in the MPT, he began telling stories as we sat in the cab overlooking the crew on the floor. If the crew was in some long, complex procedure, he would begin telling us how he built the golf course at Vandenberg, or some other “war story” from his past.

Col Fall left Grand Forks the same week I did, and became the commander of the wing at Malmstrom AFB, MT. He was selected for Brig Gen and became the commander of 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace Division at FE Warren AFB, WY, his final assignment. I saw him often during those years when I visited bases as part of the 3901 SMES. After he retired, he got a law degree and practiced law for several years. I saw him at several missile competitions in the 1990s. He passed away a few years ago. Throughout my time at Grand Forks, I was glad I was a junior officer, not one of the senior staff in the wing. My observation was that some that worked for him feared him, and thought he got too involved in everyday business. My impression was that he was not a micro-manager – he just wanted to ensure that all those under his command did their very best all the time – if he could pay attention to every detail, he expected each person in the wing to do the same. To me, he epitomized the old SAC ethic of doing everything perfectly the first time – do it right and do it by the book. There was no doubt that he was one of the most dedicated leaders I worked for.

There were many others that I worked for or with during my time in missiles – and all of you had experiences that were good. We look forward to your stories.



The MiMi Missile from BAE, Before Shipping, left, and the AAFM Minuteman III in the Pentagon Display Case, below.





*Exhibit Case at MiMi*

## **Parker Exhibit at Minuteman Missile NHS - a NPS Press Release**

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is pleased to announce the installation of a new temporary exhibit case at the park's visitor center.

"While the park's exhibits provide an excellent overview of the Cold War, the exhibit area did not include a capacity to rotate additional items from our museum collection," said Superintendent Eric Leonard, "the generosity of former missileers has allowed the park the ability to display additional items which explore our Cold War story."

The exhibit case was purchased through the support of a 2016 Missile Heritage Grant from the Association of Air Force Missileers. A long-standing partner of the park, the Association of Air Force Missileers is a nonprofit organization for all who have earned the United States Air Force Missile Badge or the Missile and Space Badge, as well as others with an interest in past or current missile and space systems. The Association has given more than \$250,000 to more than 29 museums since 1993.

The preliminary exhibit in the artifact case are items donated to the park by Maj Gen (Ret) Robert Parker. General Parker served as the Twentieth Air Force Commander, from June 1994 to July 1996. The collection, including a red box code safe, will remain on display through this October.

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site's headquarters and visitor center is located off of exit 131, Interstate 90. The park consists of three sites along a fifteen mile stretch of Interstate 90 in Western South Dakota. Authorized by Congress in 1999, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site preserves components of the Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile system, interpreting the deterrent value of the land-based portion of America's nuclear defense during the Cold War era and commemorating the people and events associated with this

recent period of American history. The park is open daily 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. More information about the park can be found on the internet at [www.nps.gov/mimi](http://www.nps.gov/mimi) or by phone at: 605-433-5552. Visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MinutemanMissileNHS](http://www.facebook.com/MinutemanMissileNHS) and Twitter at [https://twitter.com/mimi\\_ranger](https://twitter.com/mimi_ranger).

## **Work Temporarily Suspends Delta-01 Tours at MiMi - a NPS Press Release**

The Delta-01 Launch Control Facility will be closed to public tours for two months, beginning Monday, 18 September 2017, to allow replacement of critical infrastructure. During the closure of Delta-01, visitors will be able to visit the Delta-09 missile silo and the visitor center during their regularly scheduled hours. After 18 September, ranger programs will be held in the visitor center theater twice daily. A ranger program will be conducted at the Delta-09 missile silo daily. The closure of Delta-01 is to allow for a complete replacement of the fire suppression system inside the historic structure. The existing system utilizes components original to the building that were installed during its construction in 1962 and have aged well beyond their intended operational lifespan. "This project is necessary to ensure the building and all the historic artifacts within remain protected so we can safely continue to offer public tours now and into the future," said Superintendent Eric Leonard, "We regret the inconvenience to the visiting public during the fall season."



*The Subterra Castle in Kansas*

## **Missile site B and B**

Matthew Fulkerson hosts, through Airbnb, a possibility to stay in a former Atlas E Missile Base in Kansas, now known as Subterra Castle. You can check out the site on AirBnB at <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/15758095>

He would also like to contact Missileers who worked in the 548th Strategic Missile Squadron, especially at Site # 6 in Keene, KS. He also owns an Atlas F site near Wilson, KS, and would like to contact anyone who was apart of the 550 SMS, Site #8. You can contact him at 785-363-3433 [missilebases@gmail.com](mailto:missilebases@gmail.com).



Completed Model Kits

## Atlas Model Kit

Horizon Models, an Australian company, recently introduced new Atlas model kits. In their words, Convair's SM-65D Atlas was America's secret atomic weapon for the Cold War. The Strategic Air Command had it operational by 1959. It could deliver a 1.4 megaton yield payload over 9,000 miles (14,500 km). Later versions launched spy satellites, Ranger probes to the Moon, and interplanetary probes to Venus and Mars. It also sent the first Americans into orbit around the earth.

Horizon Models has two kits featuring the Convair SM-65D Atlas. Both kits feature:

- Finely engraved recessed panel lines
- Separately moulded pressure & fuel lines
- High quality Microscale™ water-slide decals
- Display stand and detailed instructions included

The ICBM kit also features three different payload options to choose from. The Mercury™-Atlas kit contains parts and decals included to build any mission, including alternate parts for early porthole and boilerplate capsules.

Horizon Models Pty Ltd, PO Box 305, Drummoyne NSW 2047, Australia. Web page [www.horizon-models.com](http://www.horizon-models.com), email [sales@horizon-models.com](mailto:sales@horizon-models.com).



11 PBS/TMS

## Another Look of the Missile Squadrons

- by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, Executive Director, AAFM, who served in the 569 SMS, 446 SMS, 447 SMS, 448 SMS, 3901 SMES and 68 SMS

We first published the original article about squadron in March, 2000, and decided it was time for an update. Over the history of our missile systems, there have been many units - and the one that most of us felt closest to was the squadron. This article looks at the wide variety of squadrons that have existed since we first began missile testing. This summary tells a little about each unit on which we could find information. Some units have lived more than one life - most started as World War II bomber units, and some were active in more than missile system. The Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) units were, for example, in many cases, reactivations of early Matador or Mace designations. Many changed designations over the years - Strategic Missile Wings (SMW) became Missile Wings (MW) and Missile Groups (MG), then Space Wings (SW) and then back to Missile Wings. Strategic Missile Squadrons (SMS) became Missile Squadrons (MS), and maintenance, operations and support units designations also changed. We list the full name of each designation the first time we use it, for example, see Strategic Missile Wing (SMW) above, then we use the abbreviation for all other entries to save space.

### The Early Squadrons

Eglin AFB, FL, was the home of some of the first. The 1st Experimental Guided Missile Squadron (EGMS), under the 1 EGM Group, was activated in February 1946, to test the JB-2, VB-3, VB-6 and the VB-13. It became the 1st Guided Missile Squadron (GMS) of the 550th Guided Missile Wing (GMW) in 1949, tasked with testing the MX-674 Tarzon missile. The 1 GMS and another unit, the 2 GMS, were active at Eglin from mid-1949 until late 1950. The 1 GMS relocated to Patrick AFB, FL, and the 2 GMS moved to Holloman AFB, NM, under the 6540th Missile Test Wing (MTW), to test Matador and Snark missiles. The



26 ADMS, BOMARC

3 GMS, of the 550 GMW, was at Patrick during the last half of 1950, testing the Lark missile. At the end of 1950, the 3 GMS became the 4803 GMS, as part of the 4800 GMW, and lasted until 1953. The change was probably due to a new USAF policy on squadron designations, since a number of four digit units came to life at about that time. The 4802nd Missile Test Squadron (MTS), tasked with Matador testing, also activated at the same time at Patrick. Others at Patrick included the 6545 MTS, 6546 MTS and 6547 MTS, under the 6541 MTW. These three units lasted until 1953 for the first and 1954 for the other two. The 6555 GMS of the 6555 GMW was also part of Patrick from 1951 to 1959.

Three units were at Holloman in the 1952-55 time frame - they were involved with missile test, but we haven't tracked down the exact missions in every case. They were the 6556 GMS, which tested the early Falcon air-to-air missiles, and the 6580 MTS and 6580 GMS, both assigned to the 6580 MTW.

### Matador and Mace

The initial test unit for Matador at Holloman was followed by units at Patrick and Orlando AFB, FL, and some of these then moved to Germany to become operational units. The 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron (PBS) became part of the 4800 GMW at Patrick in late 1951. These were followed by the 69 PBS in 1952, the 11 PBS in 1954 and the 17 PBS in 1955. A training organization, the 4504th Missile Training Wing (MTngW), was established at Orlando for Matador and then Mace training. Many AAFM members spent time in this unit before heading for Europe or the Pacific. The 4504 MTngW had three squadrons, the 4504th Student Squadron (STURON), the 4504th Training Squadron (TS) (for Instructors) and the 4504th Support Squadron (SS). When it moved to Bitburg AB, Germany, the 1 PBS began an evolution, first as part of the 7382th Guided Missile Group (GMG) in 1954, then as part of the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) and finally as the redesignated 1st Tactical Missile Squadron (TMS) under the 701st Tactical Missile Wing (TMW) in 1956. The 1 TMS was joined by the 71 TMS, 585th Missile Maintenance Squadron (MIMS) and the

585 SS under the 585th Tactical Missile Group (TMG).

Hahn AB, Germany, became home for the 69 PBS, first under the 50 TFW, then the 7382 GMG, which became the 7382 TMG. The unit became the 69 TMS under the 701 TMW in 1956, and it was joined by the 405 TMS, 586 MIMS and 586 SS, all as part of the 586 TMG, beginning in late 1956.

Down the road at Sembach, the 11 PBS was activated under the 601st Tactical Control Wing (TCW) in September of 1954, becoming the 11 TMS under the 701 TMW in 1956. The 587 SS joined the 587 TMG at the same time, and the 822 TMS came to Sembach in 1958. On the other side of the world, the 17 TMS, which became the 868 TMS late in 1958, became the Matador unit in Tainan, Taiwan, first under 13th Air Force (AF) and later under the 6214th Tactical Group (TG). Matador came to Osan, Korea, when the 310 TMS and 58 SS were activated under the 58 TMG.

Mace followed closely behind the Matador. At Hahn, the 89 TMS and 405 TMS were Mace units under the 38 TMW, beginning in 1962. At Bitburg, the 71 TMS, also part of the parent 38 TMW, was activated at the same time, but was under the 36 TFW for its last few years. Sembach Mace units, also equipped in the same year, were the 38 MIMS, 822 TMS, 823 TMS and the 887 TMS, all also part of the 38 TMW. At Kadena, Okinawa, the 498 MIMS, 873 TMS and the 874 TMS were all part of the 498 TMG.

### Snark

The Snark intercontinental cruise missile had a short life, with testing at Patrick and deployment at Presque Isle AFB, ME. The 556 SMS was activated at Patrick in 1957, and scheduled to be moved north in 1959. However, a decision was made to deactivate the 556 SMS and not activate a planned 702 MIMS, so the Snark was operated under the 702 SMW structure with no subordinate squadrons until phase-out in 1961.

### BOMARC

The BOMARC interceptor missile was deployed beginning in early 1959, both in the US and in Canada as part of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Most of the US units were part of the 26th Air Division, and were the 6th Air Defense Missile Squadron (ADMS), at Suffolk County AFB, NY, the 22 ADMS at Langley AFB, VA, the 26 ADMS at Otis AFB, MA, the 30 ADMS at Dow AFB, ME, the 35 ADMS at Niagara Falls AFB, NY, the 37 ADMS at Kincheloe AFB, MI and the 6 ADMS at McGuire AFB, New Jersey. The 74 ADMS at Duluth AFB, MN, was part of the 30AD. The 430 ADMS and the 4751 ADMS were at Hurlburt Field, FL, under the 4751th Air Defense Missile Wing. BOMARC were launched there until late in the 1970s. The 25 ADS, under the 10 Air Defense Group (ADG), was at Vandenberg AFB, CA, in the late 1960s.

### Thor

The Thor was deployed as an intermediate range ballistic missile in the United Kingdom from 1958 until 1963. The operational units were Royal Air Force squadrons, with



550 SMS, Atlas F

USAF launch officer performing duty along side their RAF counterparts. Units included the 77 SMS (RAF) at Feltwell, the 97 SMS (RAF) at Helmswell, the 98 SMS at Driffield, and the 144 SMS (RAF) at North Luffenham. The 99th Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS) and the 672th Technical Training Squadron (TTS) at Feltwell, and later at Lakenheath, were also part of the 705 SMW, which was the US parent unit for all the UK Thor squadrons.

Vandenberg had several units involved with Thor, including the 10th Air Defense Squadron (ADS) under the 10 ADG. Initially, the 6595th Test Squadron (TS), under the 6595th Aerospace Test Wing (ATW), had the mission, which was transferred to Air Defense command with the 10 ADG was activated. Some operations were at Johnson Island. Other units were the 392 SMS, under the 704 SMW and then the 1st Missile Division (MD)/Strategic Aerospace Division (STRAD), the 4300 SS, which along with Thor had Blue Scout missiles, and the 672 SMS, under the 704 SMW before it moved to Feltwell as the 672 TTS.

## Jupiter

Jupiter started as an Army system, but in 1957, the Secretary of Defense tasked the Air Force with the responsibility for deploying and manning the system, since its range exceeded the 200 mile limit for Army weapons. The 864 SMS was activated first at Huntsville, AL, in early 1958 and then moved to Camp Cook (Vandenberg) first under the 1 MD and then as part of the 704 SMW. In 1959, the unit became the 864 TTS, preparing Jupiter missileers for duty in Italy and Turkey. The 864 TTS moved back to Huntsville in 1960, and joined the 865 TTS and 866 TTS, which were also activated in 1958 as the 865 SMS and 866 SMS. For a short time in 1959, there was also a 644 SMS as part of the 704 SMW at Vandenberg. The operational units for Jupiter were the two squadrons at Gioia del Colle, Italy, NATO I, and the single squadron at Cigli, Turkey, NATO II. Although operated by Italian or Turkish missileers, the warheads were controlled by USAF members of the units, similar to the Thor arrangement in the UK. These units were

operational from 1959 to 1963. USAF personnel serving with Jupiter in Italy sometimes wore the patch of the 36th Brigata, the Italian AF Jupiter organization.

## Atlas

Atlas was deployed in three variants at bases around the US. Only one base, FE Warren AFB, WY, had more than a single squadron. There, the 706 SMW began with the 564 SMS and 565 SMS with the Atlas D system 1958. In 1960, the 549 SMS was activated with the Atlas E system. In 1961, this unit swapped designations with the 566 SMS, the Atlas D unit at Offutt AFB, NE. At the same time, the three squadrons, the 564 SMS, 565 SMS and 566 SMS had a change in parent unit when the wing designation changed to the 389 SMW. Other units in the wing were the 706 Missile Maintenance Squadron (MIMS) (389 MIMS) and the 706 SS (389 SS). At Vandenberg, the 576 SMS, initially part of the 704 SMW, was equipped with all three Atlas variants, and became the first ICBM squadron in the USAF when it was activated in April 1958. It was inactive from 1966 to 1991, when it became the 576 TS under 20 AF. In 1993, it came under 14 AF, and in 1994 was renamed the 576th Flight Test Squadron (FLTS), overseeing the operational test program for Minuteman and Peacekeeper. In 1996, it came under then Space Warfare Center, and the 30th Maintenance Squadron (MXS) and parts of the 30th Logistics Support Squadron (LSS) were incorporated into the unit, and in 2009, it was assigned directly to Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC). The only other Atlas D unit was the 566 SMS, which became the 549 SMS in 1961 at Offutt, under the 4321st Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAW).

Atlas E units included the 548 SMS at Forbes AFB, KS, under the 21 AD, the 40 SAW and finally the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW) and the 567 SMS, at Fairchild AFB, WA, under the 92 SAW. Atlas F silos were scattered around six states. The 550 SMS, at Schilling AFB, KS, was part of the 310 SAW. The 551 SMS at Lincoln AFB, NE, was under the 818 STRAD. The 556 SMS was at Plattsgburgh AFB, NY, under the 820 STRAD. The 577 SMS at Altus AFB, OK, was under the 1 SAW. The 578 SMS at Dyess AFB, TX, belonged to the 96 SAW. The 579 SMS at Walker AFB, NM, was under the 6 SAW. In 1965, all of the operational Atlas units were closed as part of the inactivation of all of the Atlas and Titan I missile systems.

## Titan I

At the same time that the Atlas was deployed around the US, a second liquid-fueled ICBM also came to life. The Titan I was active during the same period as the Atlas, from 1958 to 1965. Like Atlas, there was one wing and several independent squadrons. The 395 SMS at Vandenberg had one Titan I complex used for training and operational test, with a short-lived silo called OSTF-1 (see the January 1996 AAFAM Newsletter for a story about this silo.)

The wing at Lowry AFB, CO, began as the 703 SMW

but then became the 451 SMW in 1961. The two operational squadrons were initially designated the 848 SMS and the 849 SMS, then the 724 SMS and the 725 SMS. The 4309 SS (451 SS) and the 703 MIMS (451 MIMS) were also part of the wing. The other Titan locations were at SAC bases in the west. The 568 SMS at Larson AFB, WA, was part of the 4170 SAW and then the 467 SAW. The 569 SMS at Mountain Home AFB, ID, was under the 9 SAW. The 850 SMS at Ellsworth AFB, SD, began life under the 28th Bomb Wing (BW), but was then made part of the newly activated Minuteman I unit, the 44 SMW. The 851 SMS at Beale AFB, CA, was part of the 4126th Strategic Wing, and later the 456 SAW.

Like Atlas, the Titan I program came to an end in mid-1965, the victim of progress as the more advanced Titan II and Minuteman began to join the deterrent force.

## **Titan II**

The hypergolic-fueled Titan II was deployed at three bases beginning in 1961. The 395 SMS at Vandenberg controlled Titan II sites that were used for training and operational test until 1969. Each of the three wings had two missile squadrons with nine missiles each, along with the normal maintenance and support units. Little Rock AFB, AR, had the 373 SMS, 374 SMS and 308 MIMS and was active from 1962 to 1985. Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, was home of the 390 SMW with the 570 SMS, 571 SMS and the 390 MIMS, from 1962 to 1984. McConnell AFB, KS, home of the 381 SMW, had the 532 SMS, 533 SMS and the 381 MIMS between 1962 and 1985.

## **Minuteman**

Six operational bases and Vandenberg had squadrons associated with the Minuteman I, II or III. Malmstrom AFB, MT, home of the 341 SMW (now the 341 MW), was the first operational Minuteman base. The 10 SMS, 12 SMS and the 490 SMS were originally equipped with Minuteman I missiles - these were later replaced with the Minuteman II (Modernized) missiles. All three squadrons now have Minuteman III missiles. The units were first activated in 1961 and 1962. The 564 SMS was built with the same ground system as the Grand Forks wing, and began life with Minuteman II missiles in 1966. It was equipped with Minuteman IIIs when the 321 MG closed, and the squadron inactivated in 2008. Other units that have been or are now part of the wing include the 341 MIMS (1961- 1975), the 341st Field Missile Maintenance Squadron (FMMS) and the 341st Organizational Missile Maintenance Squadron (OMMS) (1975-1992), the 341st Operations Support Squadron (OSS), the 341 LSS and the 341 MXS.

Ellsworth was home of the 44 SMW/MW from 1962 to 1994. The 44 MW was the first Minuteman wing to be inactivated and have its launch facilities destroyed, with the closing ceremony on 4 July 1994. One missile silo and one



*373 SMS, Titan II*

launch control complex remains as the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. Equipped first with Minuteman I, then the Minuteman Modernized missiles and ground system, the wing had three operations squadrons, the 66 SMS, 67 SMS and the 68 SMS. The 44 MIMS was active from 1962 to 1975, the 44 FMMS and the 44 OMMS were the maintenance squadrons from 1975 to 1992, followed by the 44 MXS, 44 LSS and 44 OSS until closing. Initially, all Minuteman Airborne Launch Control System crews were assigned to the 68 SMS, but in 1970, the 4th Airborne Command Control Squadron (ACCS), part of the 28 BW, took over that responsibility until it was closed in 1991. Two other units, the 3 ACCS, for four years in the early 1970s, and the 2 ACCS at Offutt, had missileers assigned to them in airborne control jobs.

At Warren, in the 90 SMW/MW, the 319 SMS, 320 SMS, 321 SMS and 400 SMS started with Minuteman I in 1964, transitioning to Minuteman III in the early 1970s. The 400 SMS became the only Peacekeeper squadron in the USAF in 1988. The 400 MS closed in 2006. The wing also included the 90 MIMS, the 90 FMMS and 90 OMMS, as well as the 90 MMS (unique to single wing bases since the warhead functions were usually under munitions squadrons assigned to the bomb wings), and finally the current units including the 90 OSS, 90 MXS and 90 LSS.

The 91 SMW/MW, at Minot AFB, ND, began life in 1962 as the 455 SMW, with the 740 SMS, 741 SMS and the 742 SMS, along with the 455 MIMS. The wing transitioned from Minuteman I to III missiles in the 1970s. In 1968, the 455 SMW became the 91 SMW, but kept the same designations for the three operations squadrons, with the maintenance unit becoming the 91 MIMS. Like the Minuteman wings, the 91 FMMS and 91 OMMS came into being in 1975. In 1992, the 91 OSS, 91 LSS and 91 MXS became part of the wing.

Whiteman AFB, MO, was home to the second Minuteman wing to be closed, the 351 SMW/MW with the 508 SMS, 509 SMS and 510 SMS, along with the 351 MIMS. The 351 FMMS and 351 OMMS came into being in 1975. The last three years, the 351 MW had the 351 OSS, 351 LSS and the 351 MXS, until closing in 1995.

At Grand Forks AFB, ND, the sixth and last Minuteman wing, equipped in 1965 with the new Minuteman



*321 MIMS, Minuteman*

II missiles and Sylvania ground system, began life with the 446 SMS, 447 SMS and 448 SMS along with the 321 MIMS. The 321 SMW/MG also changed to Minuteman III missiles in the early 1970s, and added the new squadron maintenance squadron designations of the 321 FMMS and 321 OMMS. The 321 MG was inactivated in 1998, along with the 321 OSS, 321 LSS and 321 MXS. One launch control center and silo make up a state museum.

## **Vandenberg**

In addition to the Vandenberg units already mentioned, for fourteen years, the 51 MMS provided reentry system and munitions support. The 394 MTS began in 1958 and eventually became the 394 SMS, involved with Minuteman testing until 1976, when it became the 394th ICBM Test Maintenance Squadron, and then in 1991, the 394 MTS until 1994. The 395 MTS/SMS had both Titan I and Titan II sites and test missions. The 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron (SMES), assigned directly to SAC Headquarters, was born in 1961. The unit was originally the 3901st Strategic Standardization Squadron (SSS) (Missiles) and kept that name for its first three months. From 1991 until it closed in 1994, the squadron dropped the "Strategic" from the unit designation. The 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS) began life in 1958 as the 4315 STURON, but changed to the 4315 CCTS in 1963. The unit was replaced in 1993 by the 392nd Space and Missile Training Squadron (SMTS) (from the 392 SMS Thor unit), until the following year when the 381 TG (reviving the unit number from the McConnell Titan II wing), was activated. The group included the 392 TS, 532 TS, 533 TS, 534 TS and 381st Training Support Squadron (TSS). The 392 TS and 534 TS were inactivated along with the 381 TSS. Other Vandenberg units have included the 6594th Launch Squadron and the 6595 TS. In 1991, the 30 SW replaced the long-lived 1 STRAD, and included the 30 OSS, 30 LSS, 30th Range Squadron, 30 MXS and 30 LSS, and now includes a number of range, test and support squadrons.

## **GLCM**

Beginning in 1982, new GLCM wings were

activated in Europe, equipped with the mobile GLCM and manned by US and host country military members. The US provided the operations, maintenance and support, while the host countries provided a good share of the security force for each GLCM flight. These units were operational until the last was inactivated in 1991 as part of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty.

The 11 TMS and the 501st Tactical Missile Maintenance Squadron (TMMS) made up the 501 TMW at RAF Greenham Common, United Kingdom. The 71 TMS (initially the 405 TMS) and the 485 TMMS were in the 485 TMW at Florennes AB, Belgium. The 87 TMS and the 303 TMMS were under the 303 TMW at RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom. The 89 TMS and the 38 TMMS of the 38 TMW were at Hahn AB and Wueschheim AB, Germany. Comiso AS, Italy (Sicily) and the 487 TMW had the 302 TMS and the 487 TMMS. The 486 TMMS and the 486 TMW were at Woensdrecht AB, the Netherlands, which was inactivated before the operations squadron achieved operational capability. GLCM training was conducted by the 868th Tactical Missile Training Group (TMTG) at Davis-Monthan. This unit had two squadrons, the 868 TMTS and the 868 TMMS. All were inactivated as the GLCM program wound down.

## **Some Other Units**

Missileers have spent time in other units with varied missions. The 6586 TS, which became the 586 FLTS had a test mission at White Sands, NM. The 3362nd and 3349th Instructor Squadrons and the 3421 STURON were missile training units. The 4525th Combat Applications Squadron was an Air Combat Command unit, and the 6952nd Support Squadron (Missile Technical) had a missile related mission in the late 1950s.

## **Munitions, Security, CE and Others**

A lot of people served in a number of other units that were not missile squadrons, but performed essential missile functions. Except in a few locations where the only wing was a missile unit, the reentry systems and warhead specialists were part of the MMS that was part of a bomb wing or other major unit on the base. These people wear the missile badge, and many are AAFM members. A number of civil engineering functions were part of the day-to-day mission of a missile unit, and members with these specialties took part in the annual missile competition. Many other civil engineering specialists worked on real property equipment at missile sites, even though they were not authorized wear of the badge. In most cases, those who maintained missile communications equipment were assigned to Communications Squadrons that, for a number of years, were part of the AF Communications Command or Service. Some specialties qualified for the missile badge, others did not. The speciality with the largest number of people that was part of a missile wing was the security force - the thousands of young airmen, NCOs and officers who provided missile security were usually assigned to

Combat Defense, and then Missile Security Squadrons. During GLCM operations, these key people were part of the deployed GLCM flights, and in the last few years, Minuteman and Peacekeeper security troops have been part of the operations squadrons. At the same time the security forces became part of the operations squadrons, the site cooks (now called chefs) were assigned to the operations squadrons, along with some maintenance teams. The cooks, beginning in the early ICBM days, were assigned to the base support organization, but have always been an important part of the overall team. Some of the other people that performed critical missile maintenance or Rascal and B-47 support tasks included liquid fuels specialists, shop specialists from the field maintenance shops in the aircraft wing on the base (machine shop, sheet metal, etc.) and many others. The helicopter units and the many support units also provided and still provide key missile support in a wide variety of areas. Many weren't or aren't assigned to missile units, but were a key part of the missile mission.

## Airlaunched Missiles

A large number of AAFM members worked with various tactical and strategic airlaunched missiles and served in a wide variety of units in almost all the USAF major commands over the last fifty plus years. This aspect of "missile units" is beyond the scope of this article and the available space in the newsletter and outside the expertise of the author - it has been covered in other issues.

SAC had a large number of Airborne Missile Maintenance Squadrons (AMMS) throughout the life of the Hound Dog and Quail systems. Almost every bomb wing - and there were many - had an AMMS. The AMMS Missileers was organized by many who served in those units - a number of AMMS members are also AAFM members. We have had articles about all of the AMMS units in several issues of the AAFM Newsletter. You can check the index on our Newsletter Library page at our web site to find these articles and others about squadrons.

In the fighter units, missileers worked (and continue today) on air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles as part of the aircraft maintenance organizations or in the fighter squadrons themselves. This aspect of "missile" organizations has gone through many changes in the history of the USAF, as the makeup of fighter wings has evolved over the years.



*Monte Watts Returns Key to 341 MW Commander*

## Minuteman Key Returned

On 11 December 1962, the 10th Strategic Missile Squadron, the country's first Minuteman missile squadron, achieved Initial Operations Capability (IOC) when the first 20 of its Minuteman IA intercontinental ballistic missiles were officially declared operational by Ballistic Systems Division of Air Force Systems Command (AFSC). To make achieving IOC official, a ceremony was held and Major General W. Austin Davis, Ballistic Systems Division (AFSC) Commander, presented a large key to Lieutenant General Archie J. Old, 15th Air Force Commander. The ceremony made official the turnover of the first 20 Minuteman missiles from Ballistic Missile Systems Division (AFSC) to Strategic Air Command (SAC).

That key has wandered around for the last nearly 55 years, but on 1 August, in a small, informal ceremony, that key found its way back to the 341st Missile Wing (MW) at Malmstrom AFB, MT, to reside in the Malmstrom Museum collection. The key was presented by AAFM Member Monte Watts to Colonel Ron Allen, the 341 MW Commander, on behalf of the Malmstrom Museum.

The key was found by Watts on the EBay auction site and was being auctioned from the estate of Maj J. C. Mitchell. Watts was a launch control officer assigned to the 12th Missile Squadron and the 341st Operations Group from 1993-97. Since then he has continued to serve and is passionate about his service to his nation. Not only does he continue in the civilian sector supporting the Minuteman III and Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) programs, but also by keeping an eye out for unique items that could be acquired to enhance the heritage of the Minuteman story.

## Membership Program for Active Duty Enlisted Missileers

Thanks to the generosity of a few of our senior noncommissioned officer members, we have a special fund set aside to provide free three year memberships to active duty enlisted missileers. If you are an active duty enlisted member and don't belong to AAFM, complete the form on the facing page and return it to us, or go online to [afmissileers.org](http://afmissileers.org) and complete a registration. Just tell us by e-mail or on the form that you are a new member taking advantage of this special offer.

## A Word from the Association

**2017 Missile Heritage Grants** - the grant forms were mailed in September to all of the museums on our mailing list - so far, AAFM has donated \$265,000 to museums for missile displays, and will add at least another \$10,000 this year. If you are involved with a museum, ensure they get their application in on time.

**2017 Global Strike Challenge** - this year's bomb and missile competition is scheduled for mid-November at Barksdale AFB, LA. AAFM is finalizing plans to sponsor a Santa Maria BBQ dinner for all participants to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the missile competition. Our investment account has done very well in recent years, so we have more than adequate funds to sponsor such an event.

**Our Missile Models** - we recently ordered another batch of Minuteman III models in the current real color, the most popular version we have available. Our supplier is increasing prices, so models ordered individually will now be \$215. These models are manufactured to order and shipped directly to you, usually in 3 to 4 months. The Minuteman III current real color models will be in stock here in December, and will be \$165 including shipping. Watch our Donations/Store area for availability of these missiles.

**AAFM Newsletter** - Some of you place your mail on hold when you travel or move to a summer or winter home. When our newsletter gets to your post office, we get a notice that we pay a fee for, telling us you are "temporarily away." You may or may not get the newsletter issue. The post office doesn't tell us. You can save us that fee, and get each issue quicker, if you change over to the electronic version. Just email AAFM if you want to change.

**AAFM Email Problems** - a couple of our email accounts, primarily the aafm@q.com address we use often, gets trapped by the spam filters on many providers, especially AOL, Comcast and some of the other common ones. You may or may not know if your email to us got through. You may get a bounce message saying the address is spam, or you may get no notification. Our old primary, aafm@afmissileers.org seems to work most of the time, but we have also added some new addresses, including aafm@email.com and aafmmail@afmissileers.info

**New AAFM Executive Director** - Jim Warner and I will begin transitioning some tasks early next year, preparing for the end of 2018 when he takes on the job full time. We will establish a new mailing address in his part of Colorado soon, and begin using that address for some business later in 2018, but not make the full transition until after our October 2018 meeting in Cheyenne.

## Letters to AAFM

*Address letters to AAFM, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424, or send by e-mail to aafm@afmissileers.org. Letters may be edited to fit - content/meaning will not be changed.*

**Little Rock Reunion** - Thank you providing info on the recent 308th Strategic Missile Wing reunion. I attended in August and it was great to see all who attended. I would not have known about the reunion if it had not been listed on the AAFM website. *Donald Hill, AAFM Mbr No A3190, Las Vegas, NV*>

*We try hard to include all the missile reunions, but on occasion, a group makes plans and we don't hear about it until too late to help get the word out. If you are involved in a unit reunion, let us know as soon as you start making plans, and we will add the event to our list and provide a list of members who were part of the unit. Keep in mind that the easiest way to have a reunion for your unit is to combine it with one of AAFM's National Meetings. We take care of all hotel, meal and tour arrangements, and provide locations for unit meetings and social gatherings. One or more units join us every time we meet.*

**Missile Competition** - I really enjoyed the articles in the June newsletter about Olympic Arena (Guardian Challenge, etc). I have always been a huge fan of the competition. When I was on active duty, I was involved from 1977 - 1987 and 2004; I competed twice, was a primary trainer, an evaluator with the 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron three times, as a Strategic Air Command Escort Officer 4 times and Commander of the 742th Missile Squadron (MS). I would like to point out an error in the June issue, under the article "The Winners- 1967-2015. The Newsletter says the 91 Space Wing (SW) won the Blanchard Trophy in 2004. To be accurate, in 2004, the 91st was actually a Space Group, not Space Wing. The Chief of Staff of the AF, Gen McPeak, directed a one Base, one Wing policy. Since the 5th Bomb Wing was the host base at Minot the 91st became a Space Group. The missile ops squadrons competed for the Blanchard. That year, one of my crews, Lts Vercher and Kovich, won Guardian Challenge from the ops side, and the 742 MS won the Blanchard - that was the first and only time a Missile Squadron won the trophy. *Col (Ret) Mark Smith, AAFM Mbr No A0366, Papillion, NE.*

*Mark has some good information, but some of his dates are wrong. The 91st became a Missile Wing in 1991, then was a missile group from 1994 to 1996, then a Missile Wing until 1997, when it became a Space Wing. The Missile Wing designation returned in 2008. Vercher and Kovich competed in 1994, when the Blanchard went to the winning squadron, not the wing. The Blanchard was a squadron award from 1994 to 1997, then became a wing award.*

AAFM continues to add new members every few days. For all of you who have joined recently, here is a recap of the benefits and activities for AAFM. One important facet of AAFM is that the dues have not changed since we began in 1993. Annual dues are still \$20 per year (\$5 for active duty and students), \$50 for three years (\$14 for active duty and students) and \$300 for a lifetime membership. Life membership donations can be made in up to 12 monthly installments. All dues can be paid by mail using a check or on our web page using Paypal. No other credit card options are offered. Our benefits and programs:

- A quarterly, 24 page newsletter featuring articles and stories by members, official news releases and other information. The newsletter is available in full color for those who select the electronic edition, at the end of March, June, September and December. For those who prefer the print, mailed copy, the mailings follow the release of the electronic version by about three weeks, and the issues don't have color illustrations.

- Email updates monthly or as needed, to every missileer on our contact list. Please keep AAFM advised of email address changes.

- AAFM's web page, at [afmissileers.org](http://afmissileers.org), featuring information about all of AAFM's programs, a frequently updated "Warble Tone" section with the latest news about missileers, meetings, books and much more, including our "Taps for Missileers" list of missileers who have passed away, and more. Our page also includes access to Greg Ogletree's collection of missile patches and our entire newsletter library.

- A complete Member Directory, updated fully every three years, and with changes as they occur, available free electronically and for a small fee for a print copy.

- National Meetings every two years, always near a base with a missile-related mission.

- Occasional local area meetings at locations around the country.

- Missile Heritage Grants to museums, donated in memory of members who have passed away, to museums for missile and missile-related displays. AAFM has donated over a quarter million dollars to date to museums for displays.

- Participation in Air Force events, including the Bomb and Missile Competition and others.

- A large library of publications, videos and CDs about missile history and missile programs.

- A Donations/Store area with a wide variety of logo items, lapel pins and badges, CDs and DVDs, models, books and much more. A link is on our web page.

### New Members since 1 April 2017

Lloyd Buzzell, Richard Maxwell, Martin Ollenschleger

New Life Members (some transitioned from regular members) - Michael Andert, Douglas Blackwood, Wallace Fowler, Jack Rupert, Larry Shafer, David Stumpf, Mark Taylor, Charles Wood

## Looking for a TO, and Authors

AAFM has two requests - first, we are looking for a copy of the Minuteman I or II combat targeting technical order, the manual used by Target and Alignment teams in the days of on-site targeting of Minuteman. We can scan a hard copy and return it to you if desired.

The National Museum of the Air Force publication, The Friends Journal, is looking for stories and articles from Missileers- If you would like to submit an article, You can contact Alan Armitage, Editor, Friends Journal, Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc P. O. Box 1903, 1100 Spaatz Street Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-1903, Email: [aarmitage@afmuseum.com](mailto:aarmitage@afmuseum.com), 937-656-9622

## Taps for Missileers

**Raymond J. D'Alfonso** served in operations the 351 SMW and lived in Vienna, Maine.

**Col (Ret) Kenneth E. Baker** served in Minuteman in the 351 SMW, in the White House and Department of Energy and lived in Spotsylvania, VA.

**MSgt (Ret) Virgil Emmert**, an AAM Member, served in Atlas D and Minutemen and lived in Topeka, KS.

**Lt Col (Ret) Donald W. Fink** served in Minuteman in the 341 SMW and lived in Albemarle, NC.

**Former Capt Denis J. Hughes**, an AAFM Member, served in Minuteman in the 44 SMW and 90 SMW, in 1 STRAD

and the 394 SMS, and lived in Cedar Rapids, IA.

**Otis C. Johnson III** served in Altas in the 551st SMS and lived in Hastings, NE.

**Col (Ret) Henry W. Poos**, an AAFM Member, served in Titan II in the 308 SMW and 390 SMW, in Minuteman in the 90 SMW and at Hq SAC, and lived in Windsor, CO.

**Robert Sletten**, one of the 341 MW and Malmstrom AFB's strong civilian supporters, lived in Great Falls, MT.

**Lt Col (Ret) Neal A. Sobieszczyk** served in Minuteman in the 321 SMW, 3901 SMES and 1 STRAD, and lived in Lompoc, CA.

# Donate to AAFM Missile Heritage and Enlisted Recognition Funds

Select logo and collector's items from below for your donation

## Lapel Pins and Badges



Space Badge lapel pins - silver, 1 1/4 inch, Indicate quantity of each in space above - \$5 each, any 3 for \$10 or 6 for \$25

Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Missile Badge lapel pins - silver, 1 1/4 inch, Indicate quantity of each in spaces above - \$5 each or any 6 for \$25  
Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_



Minuteman II  
100 and 200 Alert Pins  
\$5 each 100 \_\_\_\_\_ 200 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



AAFM Lapel Pin  
\$5 each or 6 for \$25  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



SAC Lapel Pin  
\$5 each or 6 for \$25  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Cuban Missile Crisis Commemorative Pins  
\$5 each \_\_\_\_\_ or 3 for \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**New Manufacture Full Size Missile and Combat Crew Badges - All six styles as above**  
Finishes, styles and sizes available below - NS is Non-shiny, CF is chrome finish FS - full size SS- smaller size for shirt outer wear. Indicate Quantity of each - only the options listed below are available at present.

Basic, No Ops Designator - NS FS \_\_\_\_\_ SS \_\_\_\_\_  
Master, No Ops Designator - NS FS \_\_\_\_\_ SS \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior, Ops Designator, not available  
Combat Crew Badge NS FS \_\_\_\_\_

Senior, No Ops Designator - NS FS \_\_\_\_\_ SS \_\_\_\_\_  
Basic, Ops Designator - NS FS \_\_\_\_\_ CF SS \_\_\_\_\_  
Master, Ops Designator - CF SS \_\_\_\_\_

Badges are \$10 each - Total Amount for Badges Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Official Chrome Finish badges, any of the six in either full size or shirt size available by special order, prices vary.

## Challenge Coins

### Challenge Coins

Missile Competition Coins, \$5 each, 3 for \$10 or \$5 for \$25 Indicate Quantity for each



Guardian Challenge Coins (AF Space Command Competitions  
2006 \_\_\_\_\_ 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

Global Strike Challenge (AF Global Strike Command Comp)  
2010 \_\_\_\_\_ 2011 \_\_\_\_\_ 2012 (Cuban Missile Crisis) \_\_\_\_\_  
2014 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount for Comp Coins \_\_\_\_\_



AAFM Coin - \$10 each, 3 for \$25 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3901 SMES Mission Complete Coin \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
ICBM Deterrence Coin \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Patches



AAFM Patch  
\$5 each or 6 for \$25  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Subterranean Sentinels Patch  
\$10 each or 3 for \$25  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Cuban Missile Crisis Commemorative Patch  
\$10 each or 3 for \$25  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Reproduction Patches  
Made for reunions and donated to AAFM  
\$10 each Total - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate choices)



341 MIMS \_\_\_\_\_  
321 OSS \_\_\_\_\_

50 Years Deterrence \$10 \_\_\_\_\_  
ICBM Deterrence \$10 \_\_\_\_\_



SAC with Stripe \_\_\_\_\_



6555 ATW \_\_\_\_\_



# Donate to AAFM Missile Heritage and Enlisted Recognition Funds

*Select logo and collector's items from below for your donation*

**AAFM CD Collections - for research and historical use only - Photos, Tech Orders, articles, publications, other data**  
**- For example, Atlas is 8 CDs of data Indicate Quantity of each - Total Amount - \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

AAFM and Historical Data CD set - \$10 ____	Early and Airlaunched CD set - \$10 ____	Minuteman CD set - \$10 ____
Atlas CD set - \$10 ____	GLCM CD set - \$10 ____	Titan CD set - \$10 ____
Competition and Peacekeeper CD set - \$10 ____	Matador and Mace CD set - \$10 ____	All Eight CD sets - \$50 ____

**AAFM DVD Collections - for research and historical use only - Collections of films and videos from various sources, including documentaries that AAFM advised on. Indicate Quantities - Total Amount - \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

AAFM Historical DVD set - \$10 ____	Competition DVD set - \$10 ____	Minuteman DVD set - \$10 ____
Air Force Space DVD set - \$10 ____	Early/Airlaunched DVD set - \$10 ____	SAC DVD set - \$10 ____
Atlas and Titan DVD set - \$10 ____	GLCM DVD set - \$10 ____	All eight DVD sets - \$50 ____

SAC Memorial DVD - Dedication at Dayton - \$10 \_\_\_\_

AAFM 2012 National Meeting at Malmstrom

The Groobers Missile Music CD - - \$10 \_\_\_\_

\$10 each \_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_

## AAFM Logo Clothing and Other



**AAFM Golf Shirt in Blue or White**

Blue \_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_

Limited sizes available

Call or email first for availability

**AAFM Dress Shirts**

Call or email for style, colors, sizes and prices or visit our web page for details and to order. Price and availability vary.



AAFM Golf Cap \$15 Each Quantity \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_

AAFM Brief Case \$15 each Quantity \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_ AAFM Poetry Collection - \$10 \_\_\_\_

Greg Ogletree's "History of the Missile Badge" - \$5 \_\_\_\_ Missileers and the Cuban Missile Crisis" - \$15 \_\_\_\_

1998 AAFM Book, "Air Force Missileers" - \$30 \_\_\_\_ Bill McKee's Cartoon Book, "Missile Business" - \$5 \_\_\_\_

Bob Wyckoff's Collection of Poems - plus AAFM's "We are Missileers" For the poem Missileer - choose graphics preference - one, more or all

Missile Badge - Basic Senior Master Missile Badge with Ops designator Basic Senior Master

Space Badge Basic Senior Master All Poems printed on Photo Paper for Framing - \$10 \_\_\_\_

## Prints

Cuban Missile Crisis Painting of Malmstrom's A-06- \$15 each - Quantity \_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_

Randy Mayse signed print for Malmstrom 25th Anniversary - TE on site - \$25 each Quantity \_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_

Signed/numbered Art Project Print "Countdown - 5,4,3,2,1" - \$15 each - Quantity \_\_\_\_ Total Amount \_\_\_\_

Print of Joe Andrew's painting, "The Guardians" - \$10 each Quantity \_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_

Missile Models - Minuteman I, II and III models - available in white or real colors. Delivery time about four months - \$215 each - call AAFM for details and to order or go to our web page.

Order and Pay on-line at the Donations/Store area on our web page

Books and Special Collectibles (pins, patches, prints, and more) also shown there

Complete the form below and send your check to AAFM to the address below - shipping included

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip code:
Total Donation

**Association of Air Force Missileers, PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424**

# AAFM Thirteenth National Meeting, Cheyenne, WY, 9-14 October 2018

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary for AAFM

**Register On-Line, and use a Credit Card, at <http://afmissileers.org> on the Reunions and Meetings Page**

**Registration** - You must register using the form below no later than 8 September 2018. SORRY - NO WALK-INS

**Reservations** - Make your hotel reservations directly with the Little America Hotel, and ensure you say you are with Air Force Missileers. Rate is \$93, including breakfast for two each morning. You must make reservations before 5 September 2018. Call 307-775-8400 or 800-235-6396.

**Not Staying at the Hotel?** - If you are staying in a motor home, other hotel or with friends, or live in the area, you can attend any or all of the events. Complete the reservation form for the events you would like to attend.

**Hospitality Suite** - Open every day when no other activities are scheduled, with snacks and refreshments. Registration fee covers suite operation and mementos.

**Attire** - Casual dress for all events. Banquet business casual (open collar shirts, coats optional, no jeans)

**Refunds** - Registration fees can only be refunded if you cancel by 1 September 2018. Inform us immediately if you have to cancel.

**Special Needs** - Let us know of any special diet needs, handicapped access, etc.

**Schedule of Events - Tuesday, 9 October** - 0830 - AAFM Board of Directors Meeting and Dinner

**Wednesday, 10 October** - 1300 - Registration, Hospitality Suite open

1800 - Welcome Reception - Stand up buffet and pay as you go bar, \$29 per person.

**Thursday, 11 October** 0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)

0830 - Depart hotel for tour of FE Warren AFB - lunch on base - \$37 for bus and Santa Maria BBQ lunch.

1800 - Dinner at the hotel, Italian Buffet - \$30 per person, Italian Buffet.

**Friday, 12 October** 0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)

0830 - Depart hotel for Tour of Cheyenne attractions, including Old West Museum, Botanic Gardens, Terry Bison Ranch and the Depot Museum, lunch at the Depot Museum. Return to hotel at 1630, \$60 per person.

1630 - Dinner at the hotel - Western Buffet - \$30 per person

**Saturday, 13 October** 0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)

0900 - General Membership Meeting 1100 - Board of Directors meeting - open to all. Lunch on your own.

1200 - Optional Tour - \$25 per person - Q-01 Missile Alert Facility State Museum, and 3901 SMES Reunion Meeting at hotel.

1800 - AAFM Banquet with featured speaker and special program. - \$37 per person, choice of prime rib or chicken

**Sunday, 14 October** 0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate), Depart hotel

## Registration Form - 2018 National Meeting

Mail with check to AAFM, PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424

		Number	Amount
Name _____	Registration fee - \$15 each	_____	_____
Address _____	Reception Buffet - \$29 each	_____	_____
City, State, Zip _____	Thursday Tour - \$37 each	_____	_____
Phone _____	Thursday dinner - \$30 each	_____	_____
Number Attending _____	Friday Tour - \$60 each	_____	_____
Spouse/Guest Name _____	Lunch - Ham _____	Chicken _____	
Arrive _____	Friday Dinner, \$30	_____	_____
Depart _____	Optional Saturday Tour - \$25	_____	_____
Special Requirements _____	Banquet - \$37 each	_____	_____
(Enter names as preferred on name tags)			
Saturday Banquet choices - Prime Rib _____	Chicken _____	Total Amount	_____

For Base Tour

For Active/Retired Military or spouse with ID card - Full name and SSN for each

Member \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_

For those without active/retired ID cards, Full Name, State Driver's License No and last four digits of SSN

Member \_\_\_\_\_ DL No \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ SSN Last Four \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ DL No \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ SSN Last Four \_\_\_\_\_

**Association of Air Force Missileers**  
**PO Box 5693**  
**Breckenridge, CO 80424**

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## **Reunions and Meetings**

**390th SMW** - 26-30 September 2018, Colorado Springs Marriott. Contact: John or Susan Lasher - 520-886-3430 or email [redsnooty@comcast.net](mailto:redsnooty@comcast.net) All members of 308 SMW, 381 SMW and 395 SMS welcome to join us.

**455/91 SMW/MW Minot Missileers** - 14-18 February 2018, Las Vegas, NV, South Point Hotel, Contact Sam Hatfield at [hatfield77@cox.net](mailto:hatfield77@cox.net) or phone 703-354-1295.

**556 SMS, Plattsburgh AFB, NY, Atlas** - 9-14 October 2018 as part of the AAFM National Meeting in Cheyenne, WY. Contact Leon Hojegian at 973-7883-5738 or [hojegian@runbox.com](mailto:hojegian@runbox.com).

**3901 SMES** - 9-14 October 2018 as part of the AAFM National Meeting in Cheyenne, WY. Contact Cliff Dobbins at [cliffdobbins@yahoo.com](mailto:cliffdobbins@yahoo.com), phone 573-418-2322.

**Association of Air Force Missileers** - 9-14 October 2018, Cheyenne, WY, details coming later this year. AAFM Board meeting on 9 October, opening reception on 10 October.

Plan your unit reunion in conjunction with our National Meetings and let AAFM take care of all the details. Get your reunion notices in early so we can help spread the word. Keep in mind that a significant number of our members do not use Facebook or email, so include a telephone contact number in your announcement.

AAFM is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501c(3) of the IRS Code. The Newsletter is published quarterly, printed by Leesburg Printing, Leesburg, FL.

### **Board of Directors -**

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