564th Missile Squadron Inactivated - by Valerie Mullett, 341 MW Public Affairs

Hundreds of members of the 341 Missile Wing, civilian dignitaries, past 564 MS members, friends and family gathered at Medal of Honor Park on August 15 for the official inactivation ceremony of the 564 MS. It was the last step in the process that took more than 13 months to complete and included the deactivation and removal of 50 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.

“It is a great day because we can take the time to reflect on all the 564th has stood for and accomplished,” said Col Michael Fortney, 341 MW commander, before he introduced the ceremony host, Maj Gen Roger Burg, 20th Air Force commander.

General Burg was quick to say how honored he was to be at the ceremony with the airmen, leadership of the base and Great Falls, as well as current and former members of the 564 MS. He also reiterated there was still a mission to complete.

“We are here to celebrate and commemorate the achievements of the 564th and mark the end of their mission, but not the end of the ICBM strategic deterrent mission,” he said.

The general then presented the squadron with an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the streamer was added to the guidon. Lt Col Wayne Shaw, 564 MS commander, was emotional in his final public appearance for the squadron. He spoke after being presented with the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal for accomplishments while in command.

“When I was given this command, I was told ‘the sun always shines on the 564th,’” he said. “Today, that is truly the case. You have accomplished an amazing feat over the last year, and have done it professionally and positively. I am extremely proud of each and every one of the men and women in this squadron. If I could quote retired Maj Gen Phillip Ardery’s farewell message again, (the first commander of the 564th when it was a bomb squadron in World War II), “We have all done our duty and now we must move on to new challenges and assignments.” Finally, he asked his troops to always stay true to the heritage of “Deuce.” (see the following article for more on the origin of “Deuce”)

After the official inactivation order was read and Lt Col Shaw relinquished command, casing of the squadron guidon followed, with the assistance of some of the former crew members on hand for the ceremony. Colonel Shaw then asked permission to dismiss the 564 MS, which Maj Gen Burg acknowledged, and the remaining

The 564 MS guidon is cased
564 MS Closing - (Continued from Page 1)

members of the 564 MS marched to merge into the formation that represented the rest of the wing. Many of the remaining squadron members have been reassigned to other units here at Malmstrom.

“When I was at Vandenberg for training, I knew the 564 MS was going to be inactivated,” said 1st Lt Arthur Jones, 564 MS missile combat crew commander. “But I specifically asked to be assigned here because of its reputation for being the best and because of its rich history. The friends I have made in this squadron will last a lifetime.”

A little more from the AAFM Executive Director

A number of Deuce vets from throughout the history of the 564 SMS/MS attended the events at Malmstrom, which included a golf tournament, dinner and the ceremony. Those in attendance included ten of the original members of the missile squadron, Steve Wilson, Charles Winfield, Barry Fields, Bill Fuller, Dave Hanson, Robert Baldassano, Bob Wycoff, Chuck Stanberry, Chuck Thysell and Fred Leich. There were also a number of former squadron commanders present. Your executive director spent the day Thursday with the operations folks, beginning with predeparture briefing and then visiting each of the four ops squadrons, ending with a visit to the Malmstrom Museum.

“Deuce”?? - by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, AAFM Executive Director, one of the first Minuteman II crew members

It wasn’t called “Deuce” at the beginning - it was simply “Minuteman II.” In late 1965, the first missiles of the 321 SMW at Grand Forks came on alert, with the new and totally different Sylvania Ground Electronics System. Unlike the Boeing system that was in the first five wings, Wing 6, or Minuteman II, featured upgraded electronics, new consoles with the deputy having all the status monitoring indications, the Medium Frequency radio data transmission system and a new, much larger launch control center. We even had room for a jogging track underground.

This new configuration was only common to four missile squadrons, the three at Grand Forks and the new 564 SMS, also called Squad 20, at Malmstrom. Everybody else upgraded with the Force Modernization program, with Malmstrom, Ellsworth and Whiteman getting the same LGM-30F (Minuteman II) missiles and Minot and Warren getting the first Minuteman III missiles. The Grand Forks missiles were also replaced by MM III missiles in the early 1970s, but we still called the configuration the “Minuteman II” as opposed to the “Force Mod” designation for the others. Somewhere early in the process, the 564 SMS became known as the “Odd Squad” and, in some circles, the others the “Mod Squad.” When I was in the 3901 SMES in the early 1970s, those were the common slang terms for the 564 SMS and the other five wings, with the Grand Forks folks still just called “Minuteman II.” But somewhere along the way, a new term popped up - the folks with the big LCC became the “Deuce.” Deuce folks had some of their own traditions - all of which sadly went to the museum when the 564 MS closed this summer.

The Nuclear Issue - by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, AAFM Executive Director

You have read and heard a lot about problems in the Air Force with control of nuclear weapons, crew activities and related events. I have been in several discussions with both active duty and retired missileers, and there are many ideas floating around on how to “fix the problem.” As you know, I was at an event with the former Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff the day after they resigned - the event returning the missile badge to the operators and renaming the wings as missile wings, both actions related to reemphasizing the importance of the nuclear force.

You will hear and read much more about the issue in upcoming weeks and months. Mr. Donley, the new Secretary of the Air Force, and Gen Schwartz, the Chief of Staff, have spoken at several events, including the recent AFA convention, on the issue. There is a lot of speculation on the direction the Air Force will take. If you use the web, you can find lots of data about the issue, including the full Schlesinger report, part of which is contained in the article on the next page. This report followed the earlier report by a committee headed by former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen Larry Welch. Both are in our library.

You will note that several of the recommendations in the report require action by September or October of next year. We will keep you advised of the actions taken, both in the newsletter and in our email updates, which go to a majority of you. It will prove to be an interesting time as the current leadership of the Air Force works to return to the strict controls and procedures most of us lived with for years as part of the SAC nuclear force. Whether it is a return to a single nuclear command, putting bombers under a joint command or some other combination, it will sure be a time of interest to all of you who spent a good portion of your Air Force time very involved with nuclear weapons.
A New SAC?

On 12 September 2008, the Secretary of Defense released the study of a task force chaired by former Secretary of Defense Dr. James Schlesinger that examined the Air Force’s nuclear enterprise. The task force was formed after the much publicized problems involving the transfer of nuclear cruise missiles by B-52 from Minot to Barksdale, the shipment of Minuteman III reentry components to Taiwan as helicopter parts and other concerns about the control of nuclear assets. The 92 page report is available in our CD collection and from Air Force sources.

The recommendations of the task force are:

**Leadership and Culture Recommendations**

1. The Secretary of Defense should direct the Air Force to provide periodic reports on the Service’s progress towards improving nuclear weapons management.
2. The Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force should undertake a thorough review of all nuclear-related Air Force instructions, policies, and documentation to ensure these publications are consistent, current, accurate, and sufficient to support field operations. Additionally, the Air Force should establish an agile and fully resourced system for managing interim changes and clarification messages for nuclear-related procedures and publications. This review should be completed by September 2009.
3. Major Command (MAJCOM) commanders should promulgate policy requiring Inspector General involvement in the process of developing operational and procedural guidance for nuclear-related inspections. This should be completed by December 2008.
4. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Operations and Requirements (A3/5) should establish a policy for frequency and minimum acceptable levels of participation and designate a central waiver authority for nuclear exercises. All requirements and planning should be promulgated by September 2009.
5. The Air Force Inspector General should spearhead the overhaul and standardization of the nuclear inspection process across the Air Force. Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspections (NORIs) should occur at intervals of 36 months or less. This review and policy implementation should be in place by the end of March 2009.
6. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) should establish guidance for the conduct of SAVs and ensure the program is appropriately resourced and staffed with expert personnel. All program elements, policy, and resources should be in place by September 2010.
7. The Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) should provide the resources necessary for the initiatives required to upgrade and revitalize the nuclear mission. This should include all resources necessary to support the implementation of the Global Deterrent Force (GDF) concept for B-52s. This should be a specific matter for the Secretary of Defense review recommended in this section. (See recommendation 1.)
8. The Air Force should move to a 12-month rotation for each unit assigned to the GDF.
9. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Manpower and Personnel (AF/A1) should define nuclear-critical billets and identify critical nuclear positions as “must fill” on Unit Manning Documents. This should be completed by October 2009.
10. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Manpower and Personnel (AF/A1), in conjunction with Career Field Managers, should assess manpower standards for all career fields supporting the nuclear mission by October 2009.
11. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Manpower and Personnel (AF/A1) should designate personnel assigned to key operational unit nuclear billets as “deployed in place” and receive credit commensurate with deployment for promotion board purposes. This should be completed no later than October 2009.
12. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Manpower and Personnel (AF/A1) should ensure nuclear unit commanders have the ability to reclaim voluntary deployment requests by unit personnel. This should be completed no later than October 2009.
13. SECAF should include guidance to successive promotion and special selection boards emphasizing the need to promote and develop sufficient numbers of highly experienced nuclear personnel to fill critical nuclear positions. A plan for providing this guidance should be in place no later than December 2008.
14. The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Manpower and Personnel (AF/A1) should authorize and assign intelligence officers to each of the three missile wings and to Headquarters, 20th Air Force. This should be completed by March 2010.
15. The Commander, Air Education and Training Command should conduct a curriculum review of all Air Force Professional Military Education and expand educational offerings on nuclear deterrence, strategy, and operational theory. The curriculum review should be completed no later than May 2009 with the new
New SAC? - (Continued from Page 3)

curriculum added to appropriate courses beginning with the 2009–2010 school year.
16. The Air Force should conduct more numerous, small-scale wargames aimed at shaping internal attitudes on nuclear weapons. This should be initiated by October 2009.
17. The Air Force should establish a school for nuclear operations focused on professional excellence in the nuclear deterrence mission. This should be done by October 2010.
18. CSAF should initiate a Senior Mentor Program for nuclear operations fashioned after the JFCOM approach for Joint Task Force Operations. This should be completed no later than November 2008.

Organization Recommendations
1. The Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) and CSAF should redesignate Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) as Air Force Strategic Command (AFSTRAT). This should be completed by September 2009.
2. SECAF and CSAF should direct the assignment of all Air Force bombers to 8th Air Force. This should be completed by September 2009.
3. SECAF and CSAF should direct the removal of all non-bomber-related missions from 8th Air Force (e.g., Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance [ISR] and cyberrelated organizations) and their reallocation to other Air Force commands. This should be completed by September 2009.
4. SECAF and CSAF should direct the reassignment of the reconstituted 8th Air Force from Air Combat Command (ACC) to AFSTRAT. This should be completed by September 2009.
5. SECAF and CSAF should direct a review and validation of manning and resourcing of AFSTRAT headquarters, ACC headquarters, strategic missile and bomber NAFs, and their assigned wings. The revalidation and assignment actions should be completed by September 2009.
6. SECAF and CSAF should evaluate the grade structure of the NAF commanders assigned to AFSTRAT to ensure that the ranks of the various NAF commanders are equitable. This should be completed by September 2009.
7. CSAF should direct the consolidation of CONUS and USAFE-controlled weapons storage areas under NWC. This should be completed by September 2010.
8. SECAF and CSAF should realign the Space and Missile Systems Center from AFSPC to AFMC and realign functions associated with ICBMs and cruise missiles, including PEO responsibilities, under NWC. This should be completed by September 2009.
9. SECAF should designate Commander, AFMC as the Executive Agent for Air Force nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons-related materiel. This should be completed by September 2009.
10. CSAF should strengthen the Air Staff nuclear oversight and policy function by adding a one-star general officer billet to the office of the Director of Nuclear Operations, Plans, and Requirements (AF/A3/5N). CSAF should also conduct a review to establish the appropriate level of additional staff support required. This should be completed by September 2009.
11. The Task Force recommends that the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the commander of a newly designated Air Force Strategic Command, Director of Nuclear Operations, Plans, and Requirements (AF/A3/5N), Commander of the Nuclear Weapons Center, and Commander USSTRATCOM review on a quarterly basis resource allocation and mission readiness for the Air Force nuclear mission. This should begin immediately in order to influence FY10 budget decisions.

Sustainment Recommendations
1. The Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Installations & Mission Support (AF/A4/7) should develop guidance for creating a second category of assets that encompasses other sensitive nuclear delivery system components, which are distinct from nuclear weapons-related materiel but should be governed by the same requirements. The NWC Commander should identify and certify the list of items that fall within this asset category by September 2009.
2. The Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Installations & Mission Support (AF/A4/7) should redesignate asset accountability personnel to distinguish those directly involved with the nuclear weapons-related materiel supply chain (and potentially other sensitive nuclear delivery system components) from inventory managers by September 2009.
3. The Task Force concurs with the Air Force’s action to codify the organizational change for the 526th ICBM Systems Group to report through NWC to AFMC. Additionally, ICBM expertise should be required when filling the senior leadership positions within the 526th ICBM Group.
4. AFMC should reassess the division of technical engineering support provided to the ICBM missile maintenance organizations to ensure unity of effort under a single entity.
Women in Missiles - A Follow Up

We had a number of letters and emails about the June 2008 issue and the outstanding articles by three of our members who were some of the first females in the missile maintenance and operations areas. Here are some of the comments from you.

First Female Squadron Commander - by Lt Col (Ret) Dave Wright, MbrNo A1927, Colorado Springs, CO

The latest issue of the AAFM newsletter was full of good stuff. I really could relate to the Titan II stories. Sandy Morton (Finan) and I upgraded together it was her upgrade to deputy and she saved me from a crit math error and we both went on to HQ.

Pat Fornes was not the first woman missile squadron commander - she was the first woman missile operations squadron commander, in 1993. Kai Lee Norwood commanded an OMMS in the 1987-88 time frame. Dave is right (Wright?) that I should have been more specific in describing Pat Fornes’ accomplishments. Some of us think of “missile squadron” as being an ops squadron and the others being “missile maintenance squadrons.” Kai Lee Norwood is also a retired colonel - I met here during my GLCM days when I was at Comiso and she was at Headquarters USAFE - she is another pioneer in the missile business.

Another Pioneer at Grand Forks - by Brig Gen (Ret) William Shields, MbrNo L462, Tucson, AZ

The articles on women in missiles in the June Newsletter were great. Most of that transition took place after I had moved out of the missile field, but I have personal knowledge of one pioneering woman missileer whose story may be of interest to newsletter readers.

When I arrived in Grand Forks in February 1974, I became immediately aware that the missile business in North Dakota was not only mentally and physically demanding, but on occasion downright dangerous. I had earlier observed that, unlike most military activities, the missile business reversed certain characteristics of operations and maintenance. In missiles, the maintainers were out in the field moving around day and night, in all weather, while the operators, once they were on-site, were static and usually warm. I had further learned that the tip of the maintenance spear was the combat targeting team, which was literally on call 24-7, blizzard or no blizzard.

Somewhat to my surprise, a leader of one of these combat targeting teams was a young woman, 2nd Lt Victoria K. Crawford. It did not take long for me to learn that she was not just a good team member, but a solid professional officer and an outstanding performer. I don’t know whether Lt Crawford was actually the first female missile maintenance officer, but she was certainly one of the early ones.

By the time that my term at Grand Forks was ending, Vickie Crawford was ready to move on to another challenge. She was accepted for the first class of women in Air Force pilot training, and graduated in September, 1977, as a member of class 77-08.

Reflecting on that period, the post-Vietnam era, which was in many ways not a happy one for the armed forces, I recall that the quality of the woman members that were being assigned to the wing was consistently good. Regrettably, I could not always say the same about the newly assigned men. I don’t know whether the Air Force as an institution learned a lesson from this situation, but I certainly noted it and took what actions I could to exploit this growing pool of talent. The assignment of these fine women, and the presence of our pioneering maintenance officer Lt Crawford, were, in retrospect, a portent of the developments that you reported in the newsletter.

Introducing Women to Missile Maintenance - by Col (Ret) Norm Miner, A0198, Redlands, CA

Attempting to recall events of some 30+ years ago is certainly a mental challenge. It seems as though we tend to remember the positives and neglect the negatives, unless they are significant. The following is a brief remembrance of those historic days.

I was the Commander, 341 Missile Maintenance Squadron, Malmstrom AFB from 1974 to 1976. (The 341 MIMS was deactivated in early 1976, followed by the activation of the OMMS and FMMS squadrons). In late 1974 or early 1975 we learned that we were to receive several females for missile maintenance duty. Most of us felt that it was about time, but the notice raised some immediate concerns. The first issue was to inform all
squadron members of the coming event and to stress that: (a) the women were to be welcomed with the same sincerity as any male newcomer; (b) that during their training they were to be evaluated fairly and evenly; and (3) that sexual harassment or any undue behavior by any of the males would not be tolerated.

This was followed by several meetings with the branch chiefs to discuss the “accommodation” issues. First and foremost was the question of bathroom facilities at the launch facilities (of which there were none). A variety of suggestions were offered but none proved to be practical. (Bear in mind that these discussions were among men, who only presumed to know what would be best for the women.) The second issue involved bathroom and sleeping accommodations at the launch control facilities. The preliminary solution was to place a reversible “men” and “women” sign on the bathroom door, along with installation of an interior lock. As for sleeping, both men and women would be instructed to sleep in “appropriate clothing”. The third issue involved team assignments. We agreed that, depending on the team composition and the number of women available, teams would have at least two women assigned. Otherwise, assignment would be against a routine vacancy. Within a period of about five or six weeks we received two female lieutenant combat targeting officers: two Electro-Mechanical Team enlisted; and three or four Facilities Maintenance Team enlisted. They were promptly entered into team training and subsequently all qualified for dispatch without any significant problems. During this period I took the opportunity to discuss our “accommodation” concerns with one of the female lieutenants. This was the first smart thing I did during the entire process. The lieutenant was bright, well qualified, sensitive to the concerns, and very straight forward in our discussions. As a result, we made portable privacy curtains and porta-potties available for every dispatch (note that they were available, but not mandatory for male and female). The Facility Managers adopted the restroom policy. As for the other issues, the lieutenant argued that the women should work them out between themselves and their team mates. This, I believe, was the best advice we had received.

I don’t pretend to know how these women really fared during their tour of duty. I attempted to solicit comments from time to time, and received generally favorable reports. I suspect that the branch chiefs dealt with any problems - which suggest that none were “major”. However, one event come to mind. The corrosion control teams were composed of a minimum of five enlisted personnel and frequently remained overnight at the launch control facilities. One particular team had two females assigned. One morning my secretary announced that there were four ladies wishing to see me. Upon entering my office, the ladies introduced themselves as concerned wives of members of the corrosion control teams. In no uncertain terms, they informed me that they did not want their husbands dispatching with those (censored). After much discussion, I informed them that if their husbands wished to make a formal complaint, or if they wished to be reassigned, he should report to me, with his spouse, within 48 hours. Not one made an appointment.

In 1977 I was assigned as the Commander, 3360th Technical Training Group, Chanute AFB. My group training responsibilities included missile maintenance, weather observation and forecasting, and aircraft avionics. During my two years there, the female trainees increased in number. Although some were not happy about entering missile maintenance, many were volunteers and anxious to complete training. In summary, the first females were hard workers and did feel as though they had to prove themselves, but in a positive manner. Many of them left the maintenance career field following their initial tour, but so did quite a few of the males. Those who did remain in the maintenance career filed (and in operations for that matter) set the standard for those to follow. The proof is the number of current and recent senior female commanding officers and enlisted senior managers who began their career in missile maintenance and operations.

Some Other Comments

A couple of other members pointed out that we had some inaccuracies in the June issue. We said that women were only in support positions until the late 1970s. From the comments we received, we had women in missile maintenance earlier in that decade, with some female targeting officers at the wings in 1974. There were other enlisted and officer maintainers at the wings during that period.

If you can help us document the history of women in missiles better, let us know. I have found some references to the “first woman to compete in Olympic Arena” and “the first enlisted maintenance team member” but I have been unable to verify the details so far. Many of you were there - if you can help us fill in the blanks on the issue, we can use your stories and articles. Like many of the topics we feature in the AAFM Newsletter, this one could fill several issues over the next few years, and it is history well worth documenting.
The Concept: The Reality - by SMSgt (Ret) Herbert L. Morris, Mbr No A2520, North Pekin, IL

The Concept

Minuteman was the first completely self diagnosing turnkey weapon system. The system was particularly sensitive since it contained a fully loaded booster with a nuclear weapon installed during most maintenance operations. The prime objective of the design was to be safe during all operating and maintenance operations.

In this day of cyberspace, I-pods and I-phones it is hard to remember that a mere fifty years ago the transistor was a new technology. Minuteman I was a state of the art system utilizing a logic machine for all ground functions. The only computer in MM I was the flight computer. Status of the remote launchers was provided by a continuous string of digital messages to the parent Launch Control Center (LCC). The messages contained the system mode, the enable state, a fault indicator and the inner and outer zone security condition. The fault indicator was further refined by the Voice Recording Signal Assembly (VRSA) which was a device that contained 20 prerecorded voice messages that could be heard on demand at the parent LCC. These recognizable symptoms would be used to identify a fault and reduce it to the most probable faulted component.

During the design process, the system was analyzed and a fault matrix was created by a combined effort of engineers from all the associate contractors. The results of the fault matrix were codified in the “cookbook”, the 2-1 Job Control technical order.

Maintenance was performed by highly trained and certified maintenance teams. The maintenance teams were organized and trained to perform specific functions. The LF targeting, alignment and missile startup was performed by the Targeting and Alignment Teams (T&A). Electrical/electronic maintenance was performed by the Electrical Mechanical Teams (EMT). Missile, guidance and control unit and re-entry vehicle were removed and replaced by the Missile Maintenance Teams (MMT). The missile transportation and handling was performed by the Transporting and Handling Teams (T&H). These teams performed their tasks using detailed written procedures and specified special test equipment when defined by the procedures. Deviations from the procedures were not allowed.

This maintenance concept was very safe and effective, but there were problems. The fault matrix considered only faults that occurred by themselves. Faults that occurred in conjunction with others or degenerated into other symptoms were not considered due to the immense complexity of the analysis.

The Reality

Early after deployment at Wing I several problems occurred that could not be resolved by the normal maintenance means. The Air Force Ballistic Missile Division formed the Rapid Evaluation and Correction Team (REACT). REACT consisted of knowledgeable engineers from each of the associate contractors. Using detailed system knowledge, engineering drawings and general purpose test equipment the problems were resolved and the sites brought to Strategic Alert.

The outcome of the REACT activity was a recommendation that SAC must have a capability to perform similar maintenance actions on a day-to-day basis with REACT backup as needed. Therefore the Technical Engineering Analysis Teams (TEAT) were formed at each wing. The teams were formed as 2 man teams consisting of an officer engineer and a senior enlisted technician.

The TEAT was charged with analyzing and correcting system problems that fell outside the normal maintenance procedures. The TEAT was allowed to use engineering and contractor drawings and data and general and special purpose test equipment. The TEAT would make all corrections necessary to bring the situation back to the where the other maintenance teams would take over and complete all subsequent actions directed by tech data to bring the site back to Strategic Alert. The TEAT was also the technical consultants to the Deputy Commander for Maintenance and the wing commander.

These new teams filled a needed hole in the maintenance concept and worked very well for MM I and II as the high level of system availability and

(Continued on Page 8)
Concept/Reality - (Continued from Page 7)
maintenance safety over the years attests. As follow-on
upgrades to Minuteman made the self monitoring and built
in diagnostics more robust, the need has diminished, but I
am sure that the need still exists for their skills.

Another Familiar Missile Site
Blizzard Story - by Bill West, MbrNo A1361, Tempe,
AZ

As part of the 44th Missile Security Squadron
(44 MSS) at Ellsworth in the 70's all of us missile cops
worked a variety of rotating shifts in the field. I remem-
ber working two days on, four days off, with a fresh
crew relieving us after 48 hours at an LCF. We also
worked a variety of other rotating shifts.

I recall New Years Eve 1975. I was a Flight Se-
curity Controller (FSC). At that time the security police
were working three days in the field, six days off. Of
course those six days more times than not included on-
base training or other commitments. As you can imagine
a famous howling winter blizzard was bearing down on
us at Charlie Flight near Phillip, SD. Talk about bad tim-
ing, our security crew were about to wrap up our three
days in the field and all of us were looking forward to
crew relief to get back to base to be off duty to celebrate
New Years Eve! Wrong - mother nature stopped every-
thing! No relief crew could make it out for anybody
including the capsule officers. The Interstate and two
lane state roads were closed and we were in the familiar
northern plains white-out conditions. None of us can for-
get it snowing "sideways".

Plans were cancelled with wives and girlfriends
back at the base or Rapid City and we hunkered down
and made the best of it despite being disappointed at our
fate. New Years day 1976 came and went, then another
day and as I recall we were getting antsy, our clothes and
fatiques were getting a little gamey, the cook started to
run low on the famous "foil" packs of food. In the Charlie
day room we had a color TV that, if we were lucky, would
barely pick up a "snowy" KOTA-TV signal from Rapid.
Just one channel! This in the days before widespread
cable TV or satellite. The radio station reception was even
worse that far out in the field. However, we maintained
our extended alert stay and by the 6th day were extremely
ecstatic the weather finally broke for us to get some re-
lief and get back to base.

Looking back, no one froze to death or suffered
frostbite and we realized that being stranded once in awhile
came with the territory of being assigned to a far-flung
launch control facility in the 44 SMW.

Air Force Tactical Missiles - by George
Mindling, MbrNo A1761, Port Charlotte, FL

Bob Bolton and I are reviewing the final proofs
neers”, and have forwarded copies for your review. Hope-
fully, you will enjoy the book as much as we enjoyed writ-
ing it. Bob and I thank both AAFM and the TAC Missleers
Association for help and cooperation in writing the book.

Our Foreword was written by Maj Gen (Ret)
Richard Boverie, who also served as our content editor,
and we have included his first paragraph of that forward
as our book summary and promo.

Pioneers offers the rich, fascinating history of the first
surface-to-surface tactical missiles of the U.S. Air Force,
the winged, nuclear-capable Matador and Mace missiles,
and their units and personnel in West Germany, Taiwan,
Korea, Okinawa and the United States. The U.S. Air
Force Tactical Missiles, 1949-1969, The Pioneers ties that
unique era and those of other tactical missiles together in
a remarkably broad, deep and valuable perspective that
also includes the World War II German V-1 and reaches
back all the way to the first flight in the United States in
1916 of an aircraft not controlled by a pilot.”

Our line and content editor was Maj (Ret) Greg
Ogletree, credentialed Air Force historian, and author of
"The Missile Badge." We are quite proud of the final prod-
uct, and hope it reflects well on the missilemen who were
part of that era.

Launch Complex Questions

The US Army Corps of Engineer ERDC-CERL
researchers would appreciate any information that would
clarify issue about two Minuteman launch complexes at
Cape Canaveral, LC 31 and LC 32. If you can answer
any of the questions below, contact AAFM or directly
respond to either Julie L Webster, architect, Email
Julie.L.Webster@usace.army.mil, phone 217-373-6717
or to Susan I Enscore, historian, email
Susan.I.Enscore@usace.army.mil, phone 217-373-4434

1. Development of the Pershing 1A missile began
in 1965 and by 1970 nearly all deployed batteries had the
Pershing 1A in place of the previous Pershing 1. “Follow-
on” testing of the Pershing 1A occurred at Pad 31A in
February and March of 1973. What was the purpose of
these follow-on tests?

2. Launch Pads 31A and 32A are concrete slabs
measuring 116 feet square. The square is subdivided roughly
into quadrants. The southeast quadrant is composed of 14”
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Questions - (Continued from Page 6)

the south wall, and a covered cable trench recessed in the floor along the south wall. (a) What type of work went on in the engineer support area? What was stored in the crib? (b) What was stored in the storage area?

3. Tie-down anchors are positioned at a 21' x 25' concrete paving projection on the center east side of both Pads 31A and 32A. Is this paving projection and its tie-down anchors for the Minuteman transporter-erector or miscellaneous cranes? The drawings indicate “two spaces” (as in parking spaces).

4. Each launch pad has an optical alignment building with 2 concrete pedestals. The larger pedestal (5' wide and 2' tall) is centered on trolley cart rails and runs the length of the building. The smaller pedestal (3' x 6.5' in plan) is located in the northwest corner and has a 4.5'-high 12" square post at its west end. Centered on this pedestal is a benchmark from which launch coordinates were presumably computed. (a) What was transported along the larger pedestal on the trolley cart rails? We’re assuming it’s some sort of alignment equipment, but what type? (b) What’s the purpose of the 12" square post? Since there’s a benchmark adjacent to it, we’re assuming it’s an instrument mount for a theodolite. Is this correct?

5. In 1966 the middle portion of optical alignment building 32 (for Pad 32A) was sectioned off from its two ends. This middle space was air conditioned at the same time that it was enclosed. What 1966 program or instrumentation required this building modification?

6. A corrugated metal shed was attached to the north wall of optical alignment building 32. A series of metal trench cover plates leads to this enclosure from the west. What was the date of this alteration? Did it coincide with the modifications noted in #5 above? Also, what was its purpose?

7. The Mobile Unit Support Facility (MUSF) was constructed at LC 31/32 in support of the Mobile Minuteman Program. The floor plan of this building originally featured a room in the northeast corner that is unnamed in the architectural drawings. Did this unnamed room serve as the MUSF office?

8. The floor plan of the launch support building (between the two silos) is divided into three spaces: engineer support area, storage, and toilet room. Approximately 2/3s of the engineer support area was sectioned off with a wire partition or ‘crib’. The storage area was the largest space in the building and had an 8’-wide overhead rolling door, several electrical panels on

Spanish Military Museum

The Spanish Military Museum in Madrid has a few missile uniforms, some donated by member Nick Mansolillo, but they are looking for more Air Force uniforms. If you have any of the following that you would like to donate, they would gladly take them.

- The blue uniform from before change in the early 1990s, (the service dress with four pockets on the coat and the old buttons with the Air Force crest). For officers, silver chin-strap for visor cap for informal uniforms and mess dress, visor cap for colonel, shoulder boards any rank for mess dress with old AF button, US collar sets, silver shoulder cords for aides or attache, old style plastic name tag, missile unit patches, badges. For NCOs, collar sets, cap insignia. For both, service dress shirts, long and short sleeve, light blue, medal and ribbons sets.

If you have any of these items or others that you think they might like, contact AAFM or send to:
Dr Ing Jesse M Ruiz Moreno, Conservador Antonio Lopez Aguado 09/10G 28029 Madrid, España

For Spanish Customs Declaration just say “gift with no commerical value.” If you have a question about an item you might want to donate, you can contact the museum by email at jesserm81@gmail.com The collection is exhibited in different halls in the museum, constituting complete uniforms from military services worldwide, with respective accessories, from the 18th century to present uniforms.

Missile Models

The Minuteman III is available in white or “real colors” from a few years ago. We used photos of the MM III from about the middle of its history. The Minuteman II is in final review and the Minuteman I will follow soon. We have delivered 20 MM III and have orders for about the same numbers of the earlier versions. If you would like one, go to our web page or drop us a line.

Tim Tucker, in Great Falls, who is medically retired from the Air Force, makes a 1/72nd scale model of the Minuteman II, Minuteman III and Peacekeeper and a 1/45th and 1/36th scale Minuteman III missiles on a limited basis. If you would like to see his work his web site is www.wolfstarwoodwork.com and he can be reached at wolfstarwoodwork@yahoo.com.
Missile Monument History - by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, AAFM Executive Director

When I visited Bitburg AB, Germany, in 1984, I was surprised to see a large marble monument near the officers’ club, with an aluminum missile badge as its main feature. I knew that Bitburg had been a tactical missile base, and after examining the monument, there was no doubt as to its source.

Shortly after AAFM was founded, the Air Force announced plans to close Bitburg. I contacted the commander, US Air Forces in Europe and offered funds to relocate the monument to an appropriate location to preserve it. The general told me that his staff had found that the monument was no longer at Bitburg, and that “the Army had removed it.” I then contacted the Commander, US Army, Europe, who I had met the year before. He asked his chief engineer to try and find the monument, but it could not be located. A few years later, one of our members, George Kovach, found the concrete part of the monument in a field at an Army post near Bitburg, but the missile badge casting was gone. Sadly, an important part of our missile history had disappeared. This is the story of the monument, from the October 1959 issue of “Missileer,” the magazine published by the 38th Tactical Missile Wing.

The Bitburg Monument and the remains

Program for the

Dedication of the “Missile Insignia and Plaque”

Bitburg Air Base, Germany - October 30, 1959

0930-1000  Briefing - “Pioneer Missilemen in Europe” - Officers’ Club
1000-1045  Tour Missile Support Area Enroute to Launch Pad
1045-1110  Simulated Launch and Pad Briefing
1110-1120  Return to Missile Static Display Area (Officers’ Club Parking Lot)
1120-1140  Tour Static Display (“Matador” and “Mace” Missiles and Related Equipment)
1140-1200  Dedication Ceremony
1200-1300  Luncheon - Officers’ Club

(The France District US Air Force Band will perform at the Static Display from 1100 to 1200 hours)

The idea, which eventually led to the “Missile Insignia and Plaque” originated among the men of the 71st Tactical Missile squadron during “Operation Marblehead,” the 1958 AMLO (annual missile launch operation) at Wheelus Air Base, Libya.

Instead of the usual “blast-back-home”party, the men elected to pool their resources for the casting of a large replica of the new Guided Missile Insignia which was then being worn for the first time by missilemen of the US Air Force. Material for the casting was to come from the remnants of the missiles which these crews had fired earlier and which had been salvaged from the desert target area.

After considerable trial and error, and with help from many sides, a nine-foot-high solid aluminum replica of the Missile Insignia was finally cast by a firm in Trier, Germany. With the support and encouragement of the commanders of the 36th Tactical Firger Wing and the 38th Tactical Missile Wing, and the commander and personnel of Bitburg Air Base, a concrete (and marble) shaft was constructed by members of the 585th Tactical Missile Group and brought to Bitburg from Italy.

The “Missile Insignia and Plaque” parallels a similar memorial at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, which was the site of the first US Army Air Corps flying field and the place where the first military pilots of the United States were trained by the Wright brothers.

(Continued on Page 11)
USAFE CinC Dedicates Msl Memorial at Bitburg

Long months of work and preparation were culminated when Gen Frederic H. Smith unveiled the “Missile Insignia and Plaque” at Bitburg on Oct 30.

The USAFE commander-in-chief headed a long list of American, German and French military and civilian officials who attended the dedication ceremony.

The memorial is a salute to USAFE’s pioneer missilemen who set up operations in Europe more than five years ago. The base of the monument is a concrete obelisk covered on three sides by gray Italian marble. A nine-foot-high replica of the missile badge is mounted on the front. Underneath the insignia is a plaque with the following inscription:

In tribute to the pioneer missilemen of the first USAF operational missile unit - first in NATO and Europe -
1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron
1st Tactical Missile Squadron
585th Tactical Missile Group
Their Weapon
The TM61 Matador
Dedicated at
Bitburg Air Base, Germany
October 1959

After the opening brief at the Officers’ Club, the guests were taken on a tour of 585th missilemen installations. Feature of the tour was a countdown and simulated launch by Flight “C” of the 71st TM Sq.

Matador and Mace missiles and support equipment were on static display for the occasion.

The USAF Band from the France District supplied music during the ceremony.

The idea of construction of the monument came from the men of the 71st TM Sq during the 1958 AMLO at Wheelus AB, Libya.

Instead of the usual party when they returned from the “shoot” they elected to put their money into the casting of the Guided Missile Insignia which was then being worn for the first time by missilemen. Material for the casting was to come from the remnants of the missiles which the crews had fired earlier in the desert target area.

It meant a lot of work by a lot of people but the job was finally completed when Gen Smith unveiled the memorial.

Missile Retired after 37 years of Academy service - By MSgt. Dean J. Miller, USAFA

Dual responsibilities to represent those in the Long Blue Line - past and present, and a mission to inspire future officers of character are obligations of cadets and graduates alike; but they are also attributes of weapon systems on display at USAFA. For one such display, retirement day arrived 20 August 2008.

In front of Clune Arena since its dedication on 9 Dec 1971, the Minuteman III ICBM display has inspired thousands of cadets over the years, many of whom perform strategic missile operations in America’s missile fields today - each officer ready to execute a MM III strategic launch if ordered by national command authorities.

USAFA’s MM III, still in the nation’s official missile inventory and subject to Strategic Arms Reduction

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Retired - (Continued from Page 11)

Treaty (START-I) monitoring, was retired from permanent USAFA display. Based on a possibility of collapse related to internal corrosion combined with high winds common to the area, the veteran cold warrior was retired as a safety precaution.

Detailed inspections of static display missiles at various locations by the National Museum of the US Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB, revealed numerous examples of internal corrosion. This was especially true on the Minuteman family of missiles where internal corrosion was concealed by the original special coatings and over-layers of paint.

"In the instance of the Academy display, it appears that once again significant concealed internal corrosion was discovered during inspections. Despite the best of conservation efforts, missiles were never intended to remain exposed to the elements for decades and therefore we need to retire the missile from display," said Terry Aitken, Senior Curator of the National Museum.

Final preparations were made in late August, Academy experts and contractors dissembled the Minuteman III. The bulk of the missile frame and shell will be disposed of as scrap metal through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. As disassembly proceeds, two hazardous materials known to be on the display will be removed.

"Contractors will properly dispose of a fungicide-impregnated cork coating on the missile and a specialist from the National Museum of the United States Air Force will remove a 7.5 foot magnesium-thorium alloy component," said Paul Martin, USAFA Museum Specialist. "Both materials require professional handling different from the routine disposal of scrap metal."

A Visit to the Lewis Site - By: Dick Somerset, MbrNo A1295, Essex Junction, VT

Looking back, I still marvel at the advances this country made after World War II. Mid fifties saw the invention and application of solid state electronics. 1957 saw the Soviet Union beat the US into space by launching the Sputnik. We were trying to get the multi-stage Vanguard missile to launch, and it seemed like we were still experimenting with the V-2 rockets we captured from Germany. So it was little wonder that in 1961, after taking the Air Force Qualifications test, when asked if I would like to study autopilot systems for missiles, I jumped at the chance. I had delusions from science fiction movies that I was to sit in front of some strange gadget, on board the missile, and be a missile pilot.

Six hours a day, six days a week, for 13 weeks, my classmates and I studied various fields of electronics. Then all of us went on to study the autopilot system for the Atlas D. (Much different than my early delusions.) We covered still-well assemblies (crystals used to monitor fuel levels.) gyroscopes, accelerometers, and the electronics that sent and received ground based radio signals that were the guidance system for the missile, all susceptible to jamming. That lasted six weeks. Then we were held over and trained on the Atlas F autopilot for four weeks. This was an electronic guidance system that was not susceptible to jamming.

Finally, we were actual members of the Air Force, sent to an active duty site to practice our trade, to find out that the autopilot and guidance systems were to be combined. Out of our class, four stayed at Dyess AFB, one went to Titan II in Little Rock, and the rest were to be sent back to school, assigned to Plattsburgh AFB and launch crews. But, we still had time to do OJT at the new Atlas F site being built in the Dyess area.

The concrete silos and launch control centers were poured and most of the site work was complete when we started our visits to the sites. What an eye opener. We watched the antics of the steel workers as they did final assembly operations on the site. I watched one steel worker hook up his safety belt, hook the heels of his boots on the edge of an I-beam and actually lay horizontal over an open hole that dropped over 100 feet, while reaching for one of the hydraulic work platforms that was lowered into the missile enclosure area. Then, as if this was common, he pulled it toward himself and worked it back to the same edge he was hanging from, using a bar to align the bolt holes and bolting it into place. Another worker walked over to the opening where the missile counterweight moved when raising the missile and missile platform to the uplocks, and jumped into the opening, grabbing two of the cables that went to the counterweights and freefell 150 feet, then casually grabbed tighter on the cable, acting like a brake, stopping at the bottom to do his thing.

At the site where I was doing my OJT, they assembled the missile platform above ground and brought in the largest crane I have ever seen. One track to was brought in on it’s own 18 wheeler. When the crane was assembled, they lifted all four levels of the platform, in one piece, and dropped it onto its 10 cables.

Soon, those going on to Plattsburgh checked out of Dyess and returned to Sheppard AFB for another 24 weeks of schooling to become ballistic missile analysts.

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Lewis Site - (Continued from Page 12)

During that training we received glowing words of praise that we were part of a very special team. We were told that it cost millions to train each of us, so by the time we graduated, we felt like we were elite in the Air Force and those missile sites were our shrines. They still cause a certain reverence just thinking of them.

It has now been 43 years since I left the active Air Force, and my (Notice how possessive I am?) missile silo. Yes, I know that they were open for salvage. But, somehow that shrine image still prevails. I imagine a few things gone but, I wasn’t prepared for the condition of the site when I received an invitation to visit the site when the owner was visiting from Australia. Alexander Michael bought site 5 located in Lewis, NY. His web page is siloboy.com - you can see his dreams and progress in turning the site into a vacation home.

I saw his pictures and mentally assigned them to some other site. My old site couldn’t have been in such disrepair. We have been communicating a lot so I knew some of the things he was trying to repair. When I got there, the blacktop around the silo had been removed and soil and grass had been planted. The incoming power was all placed underground so no wires marred the site. The cooling tower was gone and with the changes I felt a little disoriented, but marveled at how nice the site was looking. I was conducted down into the launch control center. The entryway has been totally painted so it was even better than when we went up and down those stairs. There was a musty smell from all the water and moisture that had been allowed into the entry area prior to his monumental efforts to fix it up. On the level surfaces, he placed rubber mats to span the occasional damp areas. The entrapment area through the blast doors and down the steel steps to the LCC are all brightly painted and the LCC has been blocked up but the air cylinders are still there. The kitchen had been trashed, the wooden cabinets smashed, so Alex removed them. Put in a different sink, wire kitchen racks, a small refrigerator and a microwave and he has a place to prepare meals. The bathroom is original with original property tags still in place. The air handling rooms still have the original air handlers but no water runs to the coils. Alex has tried to make it have the feel of being an active site.

Then we went into the silo. My shrine is no more. It has become a rusted pile of scrap metal. Going through the access tunnel, there was evidence of water that had been at least two feet deep. That would have meant that water was at least two feet over the second level, or approximately 150 feet deep. They had been pumping water out of the silo so on the day I visited. It was only up to the 6th level. Whoever did the salvage at that site either thought of salvaging the steel structure or needed something from the first level because it is gone. The steel was removed to the deck of the second level. The enclosure has been removed from all levels so Alex has a cable strung as a safety rail to prevent accidentally stepping off into the open area. From what I could see, the logic units and responders were left and are rusted in place. I could see some of the structure was removed down on the 5th level and must have been done to ease the removal of the diesels and generators. The passenger elevator is sitting at a 45-degree angle over the elevator opening. No cables or places to run the cables as the 1st floor is gone. Someone told me that a stop was placed on the cables that went under the missile elevator, to hold the counter weights up due to the absence of the missile weight. When someone cut the stop, the counter weight fell and threw the missile platform out of the silo and about 100 feet to the south of the opening.

I want praise Mr Michael for what he is doing. The shrine is gone, but his dreams and plans will eventually convert our old relic into a showpiece of man’s ingenuity. I just hope his determination and funds do not run out and we, missilesers can point with pride that our shrine has become a new shrine to man’s ingenuity and spirit.

Where Do We Go Next?

By the time you read this, our 2008 National Meeting will be history - we will have a full report in the next issue. The crowd wasn’t as large as we hoped, but it was hard to top the 2006 gathering at Cheyenne. We had about 225 people at the the Washington area meeting.

Now it is time to start preparing for the next meeting - right now we plan to meet in Tucson, Arizona, which gives us the opportunity to visit the Titan II museum in Green Valley as part of our meeting. Your executive director will visit Tucson later this year to check out hotels and begin making arrangements.

We have also already been making plans for the 2012 National Meeting - a long way off yet, but on an important pair of anniversaries. We plan to meet in Great Falls, Montana, home of the 341 MW, the “First Aces,” a name they earned when the first Minuteman I missiles were put on alert in October 1962, in the middle of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Those two related events - one led to the others, since Minuteman wasn’t scheduled to attain alert that soon - will be the focus of our gathering in Great Falls. Mark your calendars now.
A Word from the Association

Newsletter Topics - we occasionally ask for ideas from you for future newsletter issues and series - give us ideas on topics you are interested in - and send in your stories and articles. We have done issues on lots of topics, from acronyms to missileer food, but there are lots more areas we can cover. Let us know what you would like to see.

Publicizing AAFM - Even though we are now in our sixteenth year, we still get calls and emails from missileers who “just heard about us.” We continue to get new member applications from missileers who have been retired or discharged for several years, and just found out we exist. Help us keep getting the word out, and let AAFM know if you have any good ideas to help let people know that we are still around. If you have missileer friends who aren’t yet among the more than 3,200 members, twist some arms and get them into our association.

Museum Grants - we mailed out grant applications to more than 20 museums in August, asking them to get the applications to us by the end of October. If you are involved with a museum, make sure they find a missile project that we can fund. We have given out over $130,000 so far, and will have at least $10,000 more at the end of this year, donated in honor of members who have passed away.

One tip - recommend to the museum that you are involved with that they make sure the project they select for the application relates to Air Force missiles. We get an occasional request to fund an Army, NASA or other system - those usually lose out to other projects.

Dues, Addresses and other Contact Info - many of us still are pretty mobile, and a number of you are still on active duty so you get moved around every two or three years - remember to keep AAFM informed of your change in address. We spend a fair amount of money each time we mail the newsletter because of noncurrent addresses, so you can help us save that expense and use the money other ways. Note that your dues expiration date is on the address label above your name. And let us know if you have changes in the information we have listed on you missile experience data sheet.

Letters to the Association

Address your 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.

VA Claims - We occasionally ask questions on VA disability claims for hearing loss or other conditions that may be related to missile duty. If you have information on claims like these, or have experience with filing such claims, AAFM would be glad to make the information available to other members - send your info to AAFM by mail or email. Your AAFM Executive Director

Space Badge Requirements - Do you know of a good POC for inquiring about the “former” space/missile badge (the one that was superceded by the new Space Badge/wings)? I have an eligibility/qualification question and was not able to get a solid answer from the Space Professional Development office at AFSPC. They are rightfully focused on the new Space Badge and (now/again) the Missile Ops Badge. Lt Col Gary Jones, MbrNo A0893, Lithia, FL,

You can provide any information directly to AAFM and we will forward to Gary and add to our files.

Whiteman Ops Reunion - About 80 of us Whiteman AFB vets from the 1980s-1990s ”351 SMW/MW operations” folks met recently. We really had a great time and are already looking forward to the next reunion in a few years. We have made a donation to AAFM on behalf of Col (Ret) Jim Roggero, former 351st SMW/CC, who was our quest speaker at the banquet as our way of saying thank you. Jeff Wilson

The Whiteman Ops reunion bunch gave us a check for over $800 - thanks to all you Whiteman folks.

Missile Site Geology - Enjoyed the interesting stuff on the missile site construction. I wondered how the bases/missions" folks met recently. We really had a great time and we will forward to Gary and add to our files.

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Letters (Continued from Page 14)

locations had been selected for missile squadrons and especially wondered why the hard rock geology of Plattsburgh was selected. Always suspected the bases were selected with a political element, as with most things in Congress. Did any of your research or any one else’s ever address this? Melvin Driskill, MbrNo A2415, Austin, Tx

We don’t have much on the basics of site selection in our historical files - if anyone has more details we would be glad to share them.

First Reunion - I am interested in the date of various reunions that took place before 1995. Bruce Raleigh, Mbr A0180, Grosse Ile, MI 48138-1305 braleigh@wideopenwest.com

New Museum at Beale - I am the President of a newly formed organization in Marysville, California near Beale AFB. We are in the early stages of opening a museum here called the California Cold War Museum & Memorial. Located near us are the Titan 1 sites that were attached to the 851 SMS. We will be creating a display about the local sites and the Titan 1 missile. I am looking for anyone who may have been a missileer here locally and would like to share their story to be included in the display. We are also looking for any photographs and other history about Beale and the Titan 1 that we may include with the display and on our website, www.calcoldwar.org. Richard Neault, richardneault@calcoldwar.org

Transporter - On the Peacekeeper CD, there are some great photos of what are called the MX Transporter. I found a photo sharing site stating that this vehicle is the Small ICBM Transporter. So, is it the MX Transporter for the Peacekeeper or the Small ICBM missile transporter? Dave Fields, MbrNo SA084, Missoula, MT

Your EMail Address

A majority of AAFM members have an email address on file with AAFM, and we use them to send out monthly updates to about 1800 addresses. We get back a lot of “invalid address” messages, some because the address we have on file is no longer valid, and some because a few servers, especially AOL, MSN and a couple of others, send us an error message even when our updates get to you.

The key is to keep your address updated with AAFM, and to enable our incoming messages to be received by your spam filter. We use three different addresses to send email - aafm@afmissileers.org, afmissileers@msn.com and afmissileers@q.com. You can also reach the executive director at simpson@q.com. Make sure your address is current with us so you keep getting our updates. Incidentally, we send updates to a lot of non-members or non-current members, so keep the address up to date no matter what your status.

Occasionally, we have to ask members not to forward messages, news releases and stories to us. It isn’t because we don’t want them - it is just that we usually get many copies of the same from well meaning members. AAFM is on distribution for all of the Air Force news services and we use other sources for information. Even with that, if you have something that you think we might not have gotten, ask us by email - if we don’t have it in the file, we will ask you to forward it to us.

Air Force Missileers - the Book

In 1998, AAFM worked with the Turner Publishing Company to publish a book for missileers that included the story of all Air Force missile systems, written by David Stumpf, and a collection of personal stories from a number of missileers. We recently got the remaining copies of the book that were in the Turner inventory. If you missed getting a copy ten years ago, you can now get yours at a reduced price. See the ordering information on the inside back cover Donations Page. Once this limited supply is gone, there will be no more. We have a few leather bound versions and a number with the color cover.
TAC Missleers Plaque

Joe Perkins and his wife presented a plaque for the Memorial Wall of the National Museum of the AF. There will be a dedication at the TAC Missleers July 2009 reunion in Dayton.

Home Sweet Home for C-133

Cargomaster  - by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

AMW Public Affairs

In front of more than 80,000 spectators, the last flying C-133A Cargomaster returned home to Travis AFB at the 2008 Travis Air Expo, 30 Aug. The C-133 flew at Travis from 1958 until its departure in 1971. According to Mr. John Lacomia, 60th Air Mobility Wing historian, the first C-133 arrived at Travis on 17 Oct. 1958 and was dubbed the “State of California” and assigned to the 84th Air Transport Squadron of the 1501st Air Transport Wing. The last Cargomaster a C-133B departed Travis on 30 July 1971 for Davis-Monthan AFB. The arrival of the C-133A has been more than 20 years in the making. Members of the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Foundation, formally the Travis Historical Society, played a major role in the acquisition. Many AAFM members helped load and offload Atlas and Titan missiles from C-133s, the primary means of transporting these early ICBMs.

Can You Add to our Library?

The AAFM library is now mostly on CDs and DVDs, as we scan more documents into digital form and give the hard copy documents to museums. We have provided the Peterson museum several boxes of documents and photos. Our CD collections consist of more than 20 CDs, and we have about the same number of DVDs full of old Air Force films and documentaries.

We would like to continue to add to the collection, since the documents are great research tools to help us document our missile history. If you have any old articles, regulations, manuals, photos or other items that would be of interest to us, either scan it and send us PDF files or send the documents themselves. We will either return them or give them to an interested museum.

We are especially interested in old SAC manuals and regs relating to ops and maintenance, like SAC manual 66-12 and similar publications.

Reunions

TAC Missleers, 15-18 July 2009, Dayton, OH, contact Joe Perkins - Perkster@fcol.com

Get notices in early - they'll be posted on our web page, monthly email updates and newsletter.

Taps for Missleers

Former Lt James Cunningham, an AAFM member, served in Minuteman in the 91 SMW and lived in Colchester, CT.

Maj (Ret) Russell S. Davis served as a Titan II crew member and lived in Moreno Valley, CA.

Maj Gen (Ret) Harry L. Evans, one of the original members of Gen Schriever's group, lived in Columbus, NC.

Maj (Ret) Calvin W. Hurd, an AAFM Life Member, served in Atlas D, Titan I and II and Minuteman in development, test and deployment and lived in Florence, OR.

Dr (Col) George Martin, served in Minuteman in the 351 SMW. He was killed in the recent B-52 crash near Guam.

John F. Mitchell, an AAFM Member, served in Madora and lived in Houston, TX.

Maj (Ret) Elmer Peterson, an AAFM member, served in Navaho and Snark, airlaunch and space, and lived in Spring Valley, CA.

SSgt (Ret) William G. Simon, an AAFM Member, served in Minuteman in the 341 SMW and lived in McCullom Lake, IL.

TSGt William W. Wwissianyk served in Minuteman maintenance in the 341 MW and the 321 MW.