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Association of Air Force Missileers

"Victors in the Cold War"

Post Office Box 5693

Breckenridge, CO 80424

The AAFM - A National Organization for Missileers

The last three months have been an interesting and exciting time, as I have worked to start up a new organization and help to make it grow. The idea started almost two years ago at a reunion of current and former members of the 3901SMES, and it is obvious from the response of missileers everywhere that it was time that we had our own association. After some excellent feedback - and encouragement - from those who are listed below as board members, as well as other missileers, I decided to get the ball rolling. The name and the logo may not be ideal - we can use your ideas to refine both - but the concept sure caught on fast. I expected strong supports from some of my long-time missileer friends, and got it. What has been a pleasant surprise is the response from people who have heard about AAFM through base newspapers, notices in magazines and journals and word-of-mouth. I wrote the commander at each base that once had a Titan or Atlas unit - I know some wing commanders were scratching their heads wondering where the missiles were around their bases - but it worked well. I heard from people around Altus, Plattsburgh, Patrick and many others. The exciting part has been to read the applications and see what some of these people did as missileers. Two of our members were assigned to the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron, and several were pioneers in the early ICBM programs, including a couple of wing commanders. I thought I came in on the ground floor when I started Titan I training in 1961, but we have members who already had ten years experience in missiles by then. We also have strong support and interest from our current missileers and their commanders. I received great letters from the leaders of three Major Commands, agreeing that AAFM was a superb idea whose time has come. We are off to an outstanding start.

The big question is "Where do we go from here?" My trip to Vandenberg this month, and to the missile wings over the next three months, will help spread the word to the current missile force. I am getting lots of help through addresses that units and members are providing. I ask that each of you keep providing contacts so we can continue to grow. The board will look at ways we can interact with the current missile force, as well as deciding on programs for the association. Two that are at the top of the list are awards for people in our missile wings and ways to help preserve our history through aiding some of the existing museums. We are working to make AAFM into a strong organization with clearly defined goals and programs - just watch this space to see where we head - and thanks for becoming part of the team.

-- Charles G. Simpson, Colonel USAF (Retired) Executive Director

The Members of our Board -

One of the first steps in forming AAFM was to put together a board to govern the organization. We have six members now, and are in the process of adding two enlisted members and four more officer members, for a total of twelve. The members of the board have reviewed and approved a set of by-laws for the organization and elected the first officers for AAFM. Our board and current officers are:

MGen (Ret) Ralph Spraker - President
Col (Ret) Dick Schoonmaker - Vice President
Col (Ret) Pat Henry - Secretary/Treasurer

LtGen Dirk Jameson
BGen Seb Coglitore
Col (Ret) Jack Lander

The Executive Director is a non-voting member of the board.

From the President -

"At last" "It's a long overdue effort" "Now is the time for a focal organization for missileers"...

Those are just a few of the comments from some of you who have joined AAFM in the last two and a half months. More than 160 of you have become members in the first ten weeks of our membership campaign - your support and help with addresses has allowed us to continue to increase our efforts to contact missileers around the country. In an era of significant change in our Air Force, our country and the world, it's obvious that the time was right for missileers to organize. I look forward to working with and for you as AAFM grows.

Ralph Spraker, MGen USAF (Ret)
President, AAFM

About our AAFM Members

The membership of the Association of Air Force Missleers reflects a wide variety in experience and time spent in missiles. Since starting the membership campaign in late January, we have had 162 people join AAFM. Thirteen signed on as lifetime/founding members and we have five sponsor members, including three chaplains, one contractor and a retired NCO who scheduled crews at Malmstrom in the early days - he was a 702, so he didn't get a missile badge. Our other 144 members, who joined for either one or three years, include NCOs and officers who spent whole careers in missiles, as well as people whose only experience in the USAF consisted of four year tours at an Atlas or Minuteman unit. One member states that he was the first enlisted man to earn a missile badge. We have members who served in Thor in England, Jupiter in Turkey, Mace and Matador in Europe and the Pacific and in Bomarc at air defense sites. Others were in the space launch business, and several of us opened - and closed - Atlas, Titan and GLCM units. The majority of us spent some time in Titan II, Minuteman and Peacekeeper. The chart below summarizes a number of categories - altogether, our database tracks 128 different entries. The chart shows the number of members in each category.



Snark - 0	Jupiter - 5	Mace - 13	Matador - 7	Thor - 3
Bomarc - 3	Navaho - 0	Airborne Systems - 4	Space Launch - 8	
Atlas D - 11	Atlas E - 10	Atlas F - 13	Titan I - 12	Titan II - 60
Minuteman I - 65	Minuteman II/Mod - 107	Minuteman III - 90	Peacekeeper - 32	
ALCS - 12	3901SMES - 32	4315CCTS - 13	HqSAC - 76	
1STRAD and VAFB Squadrons - 48	ATC - 8	JCS/DOD/Air Staff - 50		
Ops - 134	Maintenance - 59	Munitions - 3	Other Spec - 19	Active/Ret/Disch - 29/128/5

Remember - the AAFM Locator service can provide you info about individuals.

The Society of the Strategic Air Command

About the time that we started working to form the AAFM, a group led by retired LtGen Leo Smith II organized the Society of the Strategic Air Command, Inc. The society was established to safekeep the heritage of SAC, and to foster an understanding of the continuing need for aerospace power in the face of a very uncertain and unstable world. The society has announced plans for a celebration of SAC's 50th anniversary on 21 March 1996, in Omaha. For information about the society, write to:

Society of the Strategic Air Command
Post Office Box 1244
Bellevue, NE 68005-1244

Whiteman Yearbooks -

Would you like a copy of the 25th anniversary book for the 351SMW and Whiteman? Tom Kuenning (who paid for the book production) has about 60 left:

BGen Thomas Kuenning
US NATO PSC 81 Box 151
APO AE 09724

Articles and information for our newsletter are always welcome. We can use facts about old units - especially the Mace, Matador, Thor, Jupiter and Bomarc units.

Does anyone know details about the missile badge monument at Bitburg?

Do you have an interesting story about life in the missile force?

Send info/articles to AAFM for publication

Missile Unit Patches -

A member is gathering patches and information for an illustrated book on emblems unique to AF strategic missiles. He is interested in official and unofficial patches, including Glory Trip, Atlas, Titan, Olympic Arena and the new wing/squadron designations. Some of the specific older units that he is seeking info on are the 1st, 4th, 13th and 17th Missile Divisions, the 4062SW and the 556, 644, 848, 849, 865 and 866 missile squadrons. His address:

Capt Greg Ogletree
3419 Comstock Ave
Omaha, NE 68123-1394



The Missile Badge - by Capt Greg Ogletree

On 23 May 1958, AFR 35-5 authorized the first missile badge to "...recognize and identify those individuals within the Air Force who... have a direct, distinctive and important role in the development, maintenance and/or operation of guided missiles." The first badge (Fig 1) was called the "Guided Missile Insignia". The significant elements are the generic missile, the vertical bands representing vapor trails and flight and the stars that symbolize the aerospace environment. The hourglass shape came in the first change (Fig 2) to represent around-the-clock readiness.

In 1963, the name of the badge was changed to the "Missileman Badge", and shortly later three levels of expertise were added. The star (Senior Missileman Badge - Fig 3) and the star and wreath (Master Missileman Badge - Fig 4) were awarded after periods of service that have varied over the last thirty years. Initially, only crewmembers qualified for the star or wreath, but all specialties were included after a short period. The star is awarded after 4 years (at one time 3 years, and for a short time 5 years). The wreath is added at 10 years (at one point 7 years).

In the 1970s, women began to serve in the missile career fields, and the name of the badge was changed to the "Missile Badge."

Over the years, the criteria for award of the badge has varied substantially. Initially, the badge was awarded to officers and airmen who had "...demonstrated satisfactorily their ability for at least three months to accomplish their assigned tasks and be recommended by their supervisors." This definition allowed the badge to be awarded to a wide spectrum of individuals (e.g., launch crews,

maintenance teams, research and development, staff and command personnel), but did not initially include those performing support duties in the areas such as security, food service or personnel. Over time, the list of eligible specialties expanded to more than 40 missile-related and support jobs and the minimum qualifying time had been extended to 6 months. To curb the ballooning population of those with missile badges, in 1963 a requirement was added that dictated completion of specialized missile training to qualify for the badge. However, the eligibility continued to broaden over the years until, in 1974, the new regulation, AFR 35-42, deleted the training requirement and added specialties including those working with target drones, space vehicles and munitions.

In 1984, AFR 35-42 again changed, eliminating the space and drone personnel from eligibility and requiring time in a guided missile unit to qualify for the advanced badge. The new regulation also required two years of qualifying service before an individual could wear the badge permanently.

Suggestions were made to develop a new badge to distinguish missile combat crew members from other missile specialties, and in 1986 an enhancement to the badge was approved for those with operations experience. This new badge, with a wreath called the "Operations Designator", became part of the uniform in 1988. These new badges are called the "Missile Badge/Senior Missile Badge with Operations Designator" and the "Command Missile Badge."

AFR 35-42 states "...the missile badge should be a source of pride and a mark of distinction." The badge is in fact a badge of honor for today's missileer that announces the proud legacy of the often unseen professionals who not only helped win the Cold War, but continue to ensure peace.

Sources: *Missileers' Heritage*, ACSC Report No 20655-81, Maj Francis X. Ruggiero; *Missile Operator Badge*, article in *Missile Memos*, SACRP 55-2, Mar 87 and other undated handouts/brochures.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

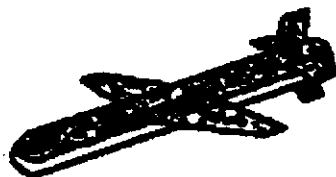


Fig. 5

Capt Greg Ogletree, the author, is an AAFM member assigned to 2ACCS. He served as a crew member in the 341SMW, as a 431SCCTS instructor and in 4ACCS. He is also an avid collector of ICBM patches and other items related to missile unit heraldry.

Coming in the Newsletter -

- A name - any ideas??
- A member directory
- A definitive review of units - where was the 702MW, the 848SMS? If you know details about our older missile units, tell us - the histories are not very precise, especially in the areas that include Thor, Matador, Mace and early ICBMs.
- Articles about your experiences in missiles - send them in and we will print them
- Current news about units and people



Reunion Information

- 551 SMS: Seeking all former unit members for possible reunion. R. L. Haun, 7709 99th Ave SW, Tacoma, WA 98498. 206-584-3938.
- 69TMS, 586TMG, 701 TMW (Hahn AB, Germany): Seeking all ranks for reunion in San Antonio in Oct 1993. B. Friedmann, 19189 Waterbury Ct, Port Charlotte, FL 33948.
- 455SMW: 30th Anniversary Reunion at Minot, ND, June 24-26, 1993. In conjunction with the 91SMW Silver Anniversary. For 455smw, contact Col (Ret) Tom O. Olofson, 4524 Banff St, Annandale, VA 22003. For info on 91SMW activities, contact 91MW/CC, 300 Minuteman Dr Unit 1, Minot AFB, ND 58705-5051.