

## Guardian Challenge Replaces Olympic Arena - 1 thru 6 May

*New name reflects combination of space and missile forces into one exercise program.*

The name is new, Guardian Challenge, but the exercise's mission remains the same. The Olympic Arena competition has not only changed its name to Guardian Challenge, but it will include the space wings as well as the missile wings. Guardian Challenge will take place at Vandenberg AFB from 1 thru 6 May 1994.

All the former Olympic exercise programs now fall under the Guardian name. The driving force behind the name change was Air Force Space Command's desire to cement the merger of space and missile operations.

Since the Olympic programs originated and have long been identified as a missile competition, it was thought that it would be best to have a new name to represent the combination of missiles and space units in the exercises and competitions.

The 30th Space Wing (VAFB) will have five teams competing, three communications teams, one range team and one launch team. This is the first time the Wing has been a competitor in any missile or space competition. The Wing's range and launch teams will compete on May 3rd and 4th.

*From the VAFB Space & Missile Times*

## Members of Our Board

Our twelve board and current officers are:

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

<i>LtGen Dirk Jameson</i>	<i>BGen Lance Lord</i>
<i>LtGen Jay Kelley</i>	<i>Col (Ret) Jack Lander</i>
<i>MGen (Ret) Barry Horton</i>	<i>Col (Ret) Charles G. Simpson*</i>
<i>BGen Seb Coglitore</i>	<i>CMSgt (Ret) Conrad A. Paquette</i>
	<i>CMSgt (Ret) Robert Kelchner</i>

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

## Workers Now Dismantling 300 Midwestern Missile Facilities

Air Force officials announced that workers using 500 pounds of explosives dismantled the first of 150 launch facilities in South Dakota. Experts imploded the top of the missile silo into the missile tube on Tuesday, 5 April 1994.

The test demonstrations precede the final phase for deactivating 300 Minuteman II Inter-continental Ballistic Missile Launch Facilities.

Two of 150 remaining sites in Missouri, were earlier dismantled, according to authoritative sources. Many AAFM members and people currently and formerly assigned here with Team Vandenberg, operated, maintained or protected these weapon systems.

The major missile work marks the final phase of deactivating the Minuteman II force in accord with the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

The process begins with removing the ICBM's reentry vehicles, the missile and reusable items.

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## Editor's Desk

Hello everybody! It's already well into April, the baseball season is underway, and we have at least three other "prime time" events on-going or about to start. *Cleveland, Baby, you just gotta do better this year! 1954 where are you?*

I received several great articles from members of AAFM regarding the on-going dismantling of Minuteman Missiles at Whiteman and Ellsworth Air Force Bases. Many of us served at one or more of those locations. When I see what is going on in the world today, I can't help feeling a little nervous about the dismantling of our first line of defense and the significant cuts in our defense budget. Maybe Stan Bricker, whose ranch house sits less than 500 yards from Mike 10 (Ellsworth AFB, SD) said it best: "It's still scary out there in the world." Well stated, Stan Bricker! Play it again one more time Sam, History 101? And to our "pardners" in the space business, keep those eyes and ears on alert and ever watchful!

Due to the high cost (\$70 per article) for reprint permission required by the newspapers involved, I will provide the silo destruct stories from USAF sources next quarter.

Other events upcoming are the Guardian Challenge (Olympic Arena) competition at VAFB, commencing on 1 May, and our first annual AAFM General Membership Meeting in Colorado Springs, during the third week of May. More details regarding our AAFM meeting later in the newsletter.

We are planning to have an AAFM display at the Guardian Challenge Competition Headquarters to provide the story of AAFM, meet potential new members, and say hello to old friends. Greg Ogletree will have a pre-pub copy of his book of USAF & missile insignia's on view. Sounds great. If any of you would care to volunteer to spend some time at our location, please contact either myself or Charlie Simpson. Hope to see you there! *Rodger S. Phillips, Major, USAF (Retired) Newsletter Editor*

## Comments From Our Membership

*We have been considering the incorporation of a "Letters To The Editor" type column for our Newsletter. I hope this first column will lead to an interesting and valuable addition. Letters or comments should be sent to either myself or to our Executive Director, Charlie Simpson. Both addresses are listed below in the subscription data.*

From Elmer Peterson, Spring Valley, CA - Mbr # A0360

I have just read your January 94 publication - it is quite professionally done. Congratulations! Re: the article on pp 9 about the V-1 Buzz Bomb - I too, assisted in conducting those early tests. This was in 1946 at Wendover Field, Utah. I operated and maintained a modified SCR-584 (gun-laying radar) strategically located on a hillside overlooking the air base and the range; When the V-1 was launched, we exercised control vice the radar to a beacon in the V-1. First, we had up/down control; then we stepped the control for right/left; then a final step for arm/dump. Course was plotted on a plotting board using radar range and azimuth information.

We also tested many other early missile types - including the "GAPA" - (Ground to Air Pilotless Aircraft) except it wasn't an aircraft - it was a true missile.

I still have my old ID - I'll enclose it - but would appreciate its return - Thanks.

*Many thanks to you Elmer. Your ID is enroute by return mail. I was not able to get a good scan on it due to the dark color, but I enjoyed seeing you in your younger days (Circa 1946). Thanks again for your story and comments regarding our Newsletter.*

The AAFM Newsletter is published quarterly by the **Association of Air Force Missileers**.  
P.O. Box 5693, Breckenridge,  
CO 80424.

Membership: \$20/yr, \$50/3yrs, \$275/Lifetime

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*AAFM has been granted tax exempt status as a 501c(3) entity*



*MSgt Louis Harris trims up the weeds in front of a SNARK missile static display at Space Launch Complex 10, VAFB, California.*

### **394th OMMS Holds "GI Party" at SLC-10**

More than 75 members of the 394th Organizational Missile Maintenance Squadron (OMMS) held a clean up party at Space Launch Complex 10, a former Thor launch site.

The complex was declared a National Historical Landmark in 1986, and is now viewed by hundreds of visitors each month. The last Thor launch from SLC-10 was in 1980. The Thor program was cancelled before completion of a follow-on launch scheduled for 1981. We want to keep

all the Thor items at the site, but things that related to other systems used at the complex will eventually be moved to the Space Park Museum in Lompoc.

SLC-10 covers 138 acres, includes 11 buildings and houses tons of relics, according to MSgt Zeek Brownell, superintendent of Space and Missile Training Resources/Museum Director. A ready-to-go Thor missile, still on its launch pad sits on view. A BOMARC missile rests along side the Thor, with the launch complex's long shelter providing a suitable temporary home. The console for the first Atlas nuclear weapon on alert at Vandenberg is carefully set up in another building on the site. One of only two Titan 2 missile launch control centers and silos in the nation sits fully preserved below ground a few miles away from SLC-10.

The base is seeking \$480,000 from the Department of Defense "Legacy" program for preservation of historical and environmental assets. Capt Galen Mays, Vandenberg's Chief of Space and Missile Presentations, said that there is a growing awareness of the need to preserve the military's heritage. "Once you lose this you can never get it back because a lot of the assets we have are one-of-a-kind."

Information regarding tours of SLC-10 and Vandenberg AFB can be obtained from the Western Spaceport Museum and Science Center Office at (805) 736-6381. The five hour base tour starts at 8 am and includes looks at the Titan 2 underground silo and launch facility, a drive-by of space launch complexes on South VAFB, including the deactivated Space Shuttle launch complex, SLC-6, and the site of the 1923 Naval destroyer ship wreck(s) at Honda Point. There is a \$10 charge for the tour and a box lunch is available for an additional charge.

*From articles in the Space & Missile Times and the Santa Maria Times*

### **Missiles To Be "Off Target" By 30 May**

It was announced in post Cold War break throughs that Presidents Clinton and Boris Yeltsin signed Kremlin accords to stop aiming missiles at any nation and to dismantle the nuclear arsenal of Ukraine, the third largest (nuclear arsenal) in the world. The AP story appearing on 14 January, stated that "For the first time in nearly

half a century -- virtually since the dawn of the nuclear age -- the United States and Russia will not operate nuclear forces, day-to-day, in a manner that presumes they are adversaries," the two presidents said in Moscow.

Russia and the United States will take their missiles off target by May 30th, sweeping aside one of the most frightening relics of the Cold War.

*Extracts from an article in the Santa Maria Times*

## 44th Missile Wing "Inactivates"

The 44th has a long and glorious heritage dating back to World War II. As the 44th Bombardment Group, the unit earned two Distinguished Unit Citations for their participation in missions against naval installations at Kiel and the famous low-level raid on the Ploesti oil fields. Following the raid on the Ploesti oil fields, Colonel Leon Johnson, the 44th commander, received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On the first day of 1962, the 44th Strategic Missile Wing was born. With the relocation of the wing from Chennault AFB, Louisiana, to Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, the wing inherited the new Titan I ICBM, fielded in the "Three by Three" system. Basically, there were three individual missile sites with three Titan missiles per site. Simultaneously, the wing was preparing for the newer Minuteman ICBM system. As a part of this effort, the wing reassembled much of its original structure. The 66th, 67th, and 68th squadrons, active during World War II, were redesignated as strategic missile squadrons for their new role. In April 1963, the first Minuteman ICBM at Ellsworth was placed on alert, and in less than eight months, the entire complement of 150 missiles was declared alert ready. Since that time, the wing has maintained the nation's first line of defense and the motto of the 44th has never been more accurate, "AGGRESSOR BEWARE."

The Secretary of Defense announced in February 1991, that the Air Force would retire older missile systems in response to the changing world environment and a declining defense budget. On 27 September 1991, President George Bush announced the deactivation of the Minuteman II weapon system. The members of the 44th have been busy removing reentry vehicles, pulling missiles, and disposing of equipment for the past 2 1/2 years. The last Minuteman II is scheduled for removal in April 1994. The 44th Missile Wing at Ellsworth AFB will inactivate on 4 July 1994, at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. All former members of the 44th Bombardment Group, 44th Strategic Missile Wing, 44th Missile Wing and friends of these units are invited. Personnel desiring to attend the inactivation should respond NLT 30 April 1994, by calling DSN 675-4401/4402 or Commercial (605) 385-4401/4402 for further information.

## REUNIONS

### 551st SMS

The 551st SMS is seeking all former unit members for a reunion (still in the planning stage). More information will be provided as the event firms up. All interested please contact R.L. Haun, 7709 99th Avenue SW., Tacoma, WA 98498. Telephone: (206) 584-3938.

23 - 26 May 94 - A Special Reservation

### AAFM Colorado Spring

See The Flyer Added To This Quarter's Newsletter

### 556th SMS Association - Atlas F

Former members of the 556th SMS. The Association of the 556th SMS is planning a reunion for 1994 from 25 August thru 27 August 1994, in San Antonio, TX. All interested, please contact John Bilotta, 7903 Remuda Drive, San Antonio, TX 78227.

### Calling Former VAFB "Atlas Troops"

A reunion of former Atlas personnel is in the early planning stages here at Vandenberg AFB, California. The purpose of the event will be to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the 1st "Blue Suit" Atlas launch operation from Vandenberg on 9 September 1959. More information will be available in our next quarterly AAFM Newsletter (July). Questions/persons interested in helping with the planning for the event should be addressed to: Lt Col Cary Gray, VAFB Liaison Officer, 1031 California Blvd., Suite A, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-6250.

All agencies/persons requesting reunion announcements: Please make sure you provide complete data regarding personnel contacts, phone numbers and area codes, to the AAFM Executive Director or AAFM Editor. We want to ensure that you have the best opportunity possible to reach distant friends.

Part 1 of a Series on "START"

## Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)

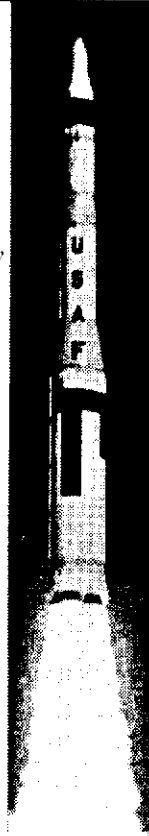
*As Minuteman Missile Wings are changing from our first line of defense to a category called "Inactivation," I thought it might be appropriate to take a look at the treaty called START and some of its details. I will try to keep it as simple as possible and still tell the important points.*

*The Editor*

Following three years of START talks, the US and USSR agreed in January 1985 to conduct negotiations on strategic offensive weapons as part of the umbrella Nuclear and Space Talks (NST). Progress was slow for the first four years, in part because of the Soviet threat to pull out from START if the ABM treaty was abrogated in any way. Once this condition was dropped, the pace of the negotiations increased and a final agreement was made in July 1991.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union left many questions about the fate of its bilateral and international agreements, including START. The leaders of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Byelarus each pledged in separate letters, dated 7, 19 and 20 May 1992, respectively, to remove all strategic offensive arms from their territories within the START seven-year reduction period. The letters from President Kravchuk of Ukraine and Chairman Shushkevich of Byelarus also reiterated earlier constitutional declarations to achieve non-nuclear status. Based upon these commitments, which the US views as legally binding, talks with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Byelarus led to a new protocol among those four states and the US signed at Lisbon, on 23 May 1992. Under this "Lisbon Protocol," the four nuclear-armed successor states of the Soviet Union assumed the USSR's obligations under START. Furthermore, under Article V, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Byelarus pledged to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states Parties "in the shortest possible time." When this process is complete, Russia will be the sole nuclear weapon state in the former Soviet Union.

Because of START's seven-year reduction period, even if the Treaty were to enter into force by early 1993, Byelarus,



Kazakhstan and Ukraine would retain some strategic nuclear weapons at least until the end of this decade/century. The Ukrainian government initially pledged to remove all strategic offensive arms to Russia by 1994. It has recently rescinded this pledge, claiming that the Russians were not capable of ensuring total security for transport, storage and destruction of the arms.

Under Article II of the Lisbon Protocol, the four nuclear successor states "shall make such arrangements among themselves as are required to implement the Treaty's limits and restrictions, to allow the functioning of the verification provisions of the Treaty equally and consistently throughout their territories.

Although the US Senate gave its advise and consent on 1 October 1992, President Bush withheld his ratifying signature pending the other four states ratification of the agreement. On 14 February 1994, the final signatures were received.

Following a three-phase, seven-year implementation period, each signatory will have reduced their strategic nuclear weapons to 1600 Strategic

Nuclear Delivery Vehicles and 6000 "accountable" warheads, of which no more than 4900 may be loaded on ICBM's and SLBMs, 1100 warheads attributed to deployed ICBMs on mobile launchers of ICBMs; and 1540 warheads attributed to deployed "heavy" ICBMs. The requirements also cover nuclear-armed heavy bombers, nuclear Short-Range Attack Missiles (SRAMs), and nuclear Air Launched Cruise Missiles (ALCMs). The political declarations on nuclear Submarine-Launched Cruise Missiles (SLCMs) constrain each side from deploying more than 880 SLCMs for five years.

It is important to understand that the number of accountable warheads is not the actual number of warheads that will be left under the treaty. Complex accounting rules determine each sides's numbers of nuclear delivery vehicles and attributable throw-weight. The actual number of warheads that should remain following final reductions will be approximately 8,556 for the US and 6,449 for the former Soviet Union.

### **Workers Dismantling 300 Midwestern Missile Facilities** - Continued From Page 1

Workers fill holes drilled in appropriate areas around the launch facility before dumping dirt and 20 tons of cabling and other materials to contain the ordnance. Numerous blasts separated by fractions of seconds loosen the site.

The area remains open to satellite inspection for 90 days before a safety cap covers the hole. The Air Force offers the one-acre parcel for sale to the surrounding landowner.

*Space & Missile Times, 8 April 94*

launch crew is hoping to send the program off in style with a 25th successful launch in the latest list of liftoffs.

*Extract from the Santa Maria Times, 5 April 1994*



*Col J. Jensen, Vice Commander of 14th Air Force, awards 2nd Lt Trina Mayhill her space badge during the graduation ceremony of the first class of the Undergraduate Space Training Program at VAFB.*

Vandenberg Air Force Base held a graduation ceremony that marked as much a transition for the base as it did for the graduates. Space and Missile University as it is formally known is now officially open. The first undergraduate Space Training Class becomes one of several relocated programs making a home at the Space and Missile University now located at Vandenberg AFB. Initially just space training, the educational program expands with this year's marriage of space and missile careers. At its peak, the three month course is planned to graduate 450 students annually. The Air Force's last undergraduate Space Training Class graduated in May 93, in Colorado, before packing up and moving to Vandenberg.

### **Memories Captured In Commemorative Book**

**Ellsworth AFB, SD** For over thirty years, Minuteman II missiles were buried within a 13,500 square mile missile complex in western South Dakota. During September 1991, President George Bush announced the deactivation of the Minuteman II weapon system. With that decision, the 44th Missile Wing is scheduled for inactivation on 4 July 1994. A commemorative book can be obtained by sending \$21.00 to the Commemorative Committee, 1750 LeMay Blvd, Suite 1, Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706-4866.

### **Final Countdown On SCOUT**

After 34 years and much success, it's time for the final countdown on the Scout rocket. With 118 launches at three liftoff locations over 34 years, the Scout rocket program will be no more.

Initially scheduled for a November launch, the last Scout's liftoff has been extended due to a payload delay. The final liftoff is tentatively set for 7:47 pm, April 19th, and will carry the second Miniature Seeker Technology Integration satellite to test Ballistic Missile Defense Organization technologies.

A Scout launch costs between \$10 and \$15 million. Scout had a string of 37 successes two decades ago. The

You can save the **AAFM** money by sending in your dues before we have a chance to mail you a notice. The mailing label on this newsletter shows your member number and the expiration month and year for your dues. Remember, annual dues are \$20, three years - \$50, and a lifetime membership (payable in six installments) is now \$275.

**May Meeting in Colorado Springs** - It is still not too late to sign up for the first national meeting of the *Association of Air Force Missileers*, scheduled for May 23-26 in Colorado Springs. A complete description of the event is included on a separate page of this newsletter. Note that some of the tours may be full - we have limits on the number that can take the Space Command tours, and bus availability could limit the number who can go to Warren or Cripple Creek. Finally, it may be difficult to get rooms at the Sheraton if you delay sending in your registration. Hope to see you there.

**Space and Missile Competition** - Your Executive Director and other volunteer members will be at Guardian Challenge, the first space and missile competition. We will have a display at Vandenberg from May 1 through May 5. Stop in and visit with us.

**Tax Exempt Status for AAFM** - In early April, we received a letter of approval for our application for non-profit, tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. We based our application on the primary *AAFM* goal of preserving the heritage of the missile force, qualifying us as an organization that supports educational activities. Your donations, both annually as members and for special programs, will be deductible for income tax purposes. The letter of receipt that we send to you will show when all or part of each donation is deductible.

**Membership Still Grows** - Shortly after Rodger Phillips mailed the newsletter for printing, we went over the 700 mark - keep helping us spread the word and get to all those who haven't joined.

**Stories, Photos and Articles** - We always need articles and pictures for our newsletters - we can use articles from early publications or new articles you write. Send to our editor or to the executive director.

**New Life Members** - Since the last newsletter, we have added twelve more Life members to our rolls.

Daniel R. Clark	Gregory W. Ogletree	William R. Brooks
Thomas E. Kuenning, Jr.		Kenneth D. Bodenhamer
James L. Crouch	Charles J. Lee II	Thomas J. Gosling
Janet F. S. Gecowets		Gregory A. S. Gecowets
Charles L. Nickerson		Bernard Stancati

**Annual Board Member Election** - Our by-laws require us to elect our twelve board members each April. A nomination committee of Ron Gray, Ralph Spraker and Bob Pepe put together the slate listed on the attached postcard. These twelve are their nominees - you can write in other names if you desire. The twelve that are elected will then select the four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) from their ranks early in May.

**Lapel Pins and Golf Caps** - *AAFM* now has silver and blue lapel pins with the logo and a limited number of golf caps. For a donation to our museum fund of at least \$3, we will send a lapel pin. For a donation of at least \$10, you will receive a navy blue golf cap with a silver gray logo. Proceeds from your donations will allow us to increase our support for museums who feature missile displays and projects. Send your donation to **AAFM, PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424.**

**AAFM Squadron Awards** - General Horner, Commander of Air Force Space Command, has agreed to *AAFM* sponsorship of two awards for missile squadrons - the Colonel Edward D. Payne Award for ICBM maintenance and the General Samuel C. Phillips Award for ICBM operations. We will publish details in the next newsletter.

**Museums Say Thanks** - The South Dakota Air and Space Museum, the March Field Museum and the Strategic Air Command Museum have all written to us to express appreciation for the grants that *AAFM* presented at the end of 1993 - thanks for your support.