



Association of Air Force Missileers

"Victors in the Cold War"

Special End of Year Late News - December 1997

We need your Opinion...

In December, *AAFM* board members and the executive director met with AF Space Command to discuss an AFSPC proposal to integrate space personnel into our association. Those of us who represented you, the *AAFM* member, disagreed strongly with some parts of the AFSPC proposal, but we did not close the door, and will meet several times in the future to study and discuss the issue. We need your opinion and comments on this issue. A summary of the proposal was included in an e-mail update to about 700 *AAFM* members, resulting in some superb feedback to date.

The proposal resulted because *AAFM* has been successful in its first five years, and is strongly respected in the missile and space active duty community. Your association is the first attempt at an organization for missileers that has survived and succeeded - and that is because of the strong support of you, the members. *AAFM* represents missileers well - AFSPC would like to have an association that represents all missile and space people.

After the ICBM force became part of Space Command, the specialty codes of the missile and space disciplines were integrated, and there is a concerted effort in the command to encourage people to move back and forth between the two disciplines. As you know, the three missile wings that will remain after the unit at Grand Forks closes this year are now called Space Wings. There are a number of efforts to give "space missions" to the three ICBM bases. Missileers have done well in the integration - almost all of the current wing commanders in AFSPC and much of the senior staff at the headquarters, as well as both the 14AF and 20AF commanders are missileers. The old combat orientation and day-to-day standardized procedures (in every area - not just operations) many of us knew in SAC have become part of Space Command - it was the best way to accomplish our mission years ago and it still is.

Any move to allow others in *AAFM* is an very emotional issue - we founded our association to represent missileers, to preserve our missile heritage and to recognize outstanding fellow missileers. We are doing this well. We currently clearly identify members as "missileers" if they

earned the USAF Missile badge - others are designated "sponsors." Our name and our motto mean a lot to all of us. For those reasons, we don't anticipate changes in our identity or our goals.

All of us want *AAFM* to continue to be a significant and effective organization that represents missileers - and we need to continue to grow. Evolving with changes in the Air Force missile and space programs will allow us do that - we grow as the Air Force space and missile missions grow.

Our plan is to continue to meet with AFSPC while we get your opinions - and then move based on what the membership thinks we should do. The basic guidelines if we proceed:

-- The importance of the contributions that missileers have made over the last fifty years will remain our top priority as begin to accept space people.

-- We will slowly integrate space goals and programs into our own goals and programs.

-- We will maintain our current name, logo and motto.

-- We will continue our policy of being open to all ranks, all specialties and all systems related to USAF missiles - and to the space aspect of the USAF as we evolve.

Please return the enclosed card with your opinion and your comments - it will guide us as we determine the future course of your organization.

1997 Missile Heritage Grants - Jim Crouch, Dick Keen and Julie Wittkoff considered eight requests totaling more than \$27,000. The winners were the March Field Museum (\$2500 to move a Minuteman missile), Vandenberg Museum (\$1525 for the Vandenberg and the Cold War exhibit), Chanute Museum (\$3000 for the Chanute and the Cold War exhibit) and National Atomic Museum - Kirtland AFB (\$2500 to restore a Thor missile). The \$10,000 in 1997 grants brings our total to \$37,000. The grants were donated in memory of Major (Ret) Louis G. Dudderar, Colonel (Ret) Thaddeus P. J. (Ted) Gicewicz, Major General (Ret) Frank B. (Barry) Horton III, Colonel (Ret) Charles E. McCartney, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Richard L. Miller, Colonel (Ret) Jimmy F. Scott and Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Bradley Solomon.

New Brigadier Generals - Russ Anarde, who commands the missile wing (now called the 91st Space Wing) at Minot, Don Pettit, who was 341st commander and is Deputy Director, Plans and Programs, AF Space Command and Bob Summers, who commanded the 321st and 90th and is deputy Director of Operations at AF Space Command, were among the 43 recently selected for promotion.

Taps for Missileers - Colonel (Ret) Jimmy Scott, who commanded the 381st SMW at McConnell and served at Davis Monthan, Vandenberg, Offutt and on the Air Staff, passed away in December in Granbury, Texas
Captain (Ret) Harold Hoyt, who served in maintenance at Grand Forks and Whiteman, died in December in San Antonio, Texas.