

Missile Wings Redesignated**Air Force News Service Release, August 29, 1997**

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFNS) -- Air Force Space Command announced the redesignation of three missile wings as space wings Aug. 28. The change will take effect within the next 60 to 90 days. The change to space wings reflects the next logical step incorporating the entire spectrum of space operations as an integral element of air and space power, according to AFSPC officials. Intercontinental ballistic missile forces were transferred to Air Force Space Command July 1, 1993, aligning the ICBM missions with the major command whose core business is space. The ICBM force is the only part of Air Force Space Command that employs force application -- one of the command's four main mission areas.

Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall said the redesignation of the missile units is an essential step toward normalizing space operations. "This makes sense because we've already combined the space and missile career fields, management positions and training functions," Widnall said. "This action says we have truly integrated missiles into the space mission."

"As we look to the future, and begin thinking about conventional ICBMs, national missile defense, and the military 'spaceplane,' it is clear that we must reinforce and support the transition of missile forces into true space forces," said Gen. Howell M. Estes, commander of Air Force Space Command. "This is another indication that we are transitioning from an Air Force into an 'Air and Space Force' on an evolutionary path to 'Space and Air Force.'"

The redesignated wings are:

- 90th Missile Wing to the 90th Space Wing, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.
- 91st Missile Wing to the 91st Space Wing, Minot AFB, N.D.
- 341st Missile Wing to the 341st Space Wing, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Retired Col. Charles G. Simpson, president of the *Association of Air Force Missileers*, commented on the Air Force's redesignation of missile units. "While many members of the Association of Air Force Missileers may mourn the loss of the title 'Missile Wing,' we look at it as one more step in the evolution of the United States Air Force. The change to space wings is part of the Air Force's and Space Command's entry into the 21st century," Simpson said.

"Hooray for the United States Air Force! This is a major step into the future for our Air Force and it establishes a significant career path for our people," said Retired Gen. Russell E. Dougherty, former commander-in-chief of Strategic Air Command. (Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)

New Edition of Greg Ogletree's "History of the Missile Badge"

A new, revised and expanded version of member Greg Ogletree's history of the USAF missile badge is available from *AAFM* for a donation of \$8. This new publication, double the size of the original history, includes 25 pages of history, illustrations and other information about the badge missileers wear. Greg's history features illustrations of each version of the badge, a special section for collectors and a list of his sources. Send a check for \$8 to *Association of Air Force Missileers*, PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424 for your copy.

AAFM Book in work for '98

AAFM has contracted with Turner Publishing of Paducah, Kentucky, to produce a Missileers book for the 1998 National Meeting. This publication will feature biographies of members, histories of units, systems and events, stories by missileers and other articles and features.

Turner will soon be mailing a brochure to each AAFM member, asking for a biography and photos, both current and from your earlier years. We encourage each member to submit a bio, and send your interesting stories to AAFM for inclusion in this upcoming book.

AAFM has no financial involvement with the publication, and members are not required to purchase a book to have bios included. As you might expect, Turner will offer books for sale, and samples sent to us from other projects indicate that the AAFM book will be a welcome addition to your bookshelf.

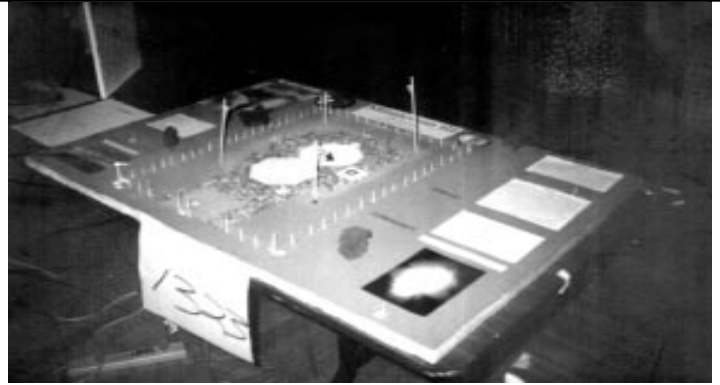
Don't delay returning your bio to Turner, and get those interesting stories directly to AAFM soon, too, so we can meet our goal of having the book for our October 1998 gathering in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Missiles on TV

The History Channel recently rebroadcast the USAF History, "Beyond the Wild Blue", based on the book by Walter Boyne. This five-hour review of the Air Force from 1947 to 1997 has some good coverage of missiles. Watch your TV listings for future broadcasts - and the tapes are available, based on ads during the recent showing.

Taps for Missileers

Senior Master Sergeant (Retired) Chris Myers, who lived in Las Vegas, died this summer. Chris was an instrumentation expert who worked on many systems.



Minuteman Model Project

By John Topolski, AAFM Student Member, Englewood, Colorado

During January of 1997, Chris Cheung and I entered the History Day competition on the junior level. This is a national contest that takes place at the regional, state, and national levels. This year's theme was triumph and tragedy in history. Our group chose the ballistic missile and narrowed that field down to the Minuteman III. Chris and I share an interest in the military and I plan to serve in the Marine Corps. The Minuteman III missile was our best choice because it is currently the mainstay of our ground based nuclear triad. When we were compiling our research throughout February, I traveled to F.E. Warren AFB and witnessed the many silos and launch control centers in Wyoming. This was my largest reward, the in-depth knowledge and the respect for the missile service that I now have. On March 15, we received first place at the regional competition at Regis University. Between March 15 and May 3, Chris and I modified and improved our table top model of a Minuteman III silo. On May 3, we traveled to the state contest at the University of Colorado in Boulder. We found that our display was the most unique selection; the other topics were more about political and social events. Although we were defeated at the state level, this was a valuable learning experience for both of us. The knowledge that Chris and I gained will be long remembered.

Even though I will be entering private high school next year, I will nonetheless enter an individual exhibit. I will definitely enter a military-related project that will be superior based on this year's invaluable experience.