

## **From The Commander, Air Force Space Command, on Missiles and Space**



*By General Richard B. Myers, Commander in Chief, NORAD and United States Space Command, Commander, Air Force Space Command*

Just a few weeks ago I had the good fortune to spend the day up at F. E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, Wyoming, for my first extended tour of an ICBM base. I was fascinated with learning more about the day to day ICBM mission. I saw crew members in action at the pre-departure briefing and on alert. Thanks to our gracious helicopter operators, I got some stick time in a UH-1N on the way out to the missile field. There, I watched maintainers performing their tasks, and even took a workcage ride to the bottom of a MMIII launch facility. I also saw security forces, services, medics and a number of other, equally tremendous support personnel performing their tasks. In short, it was the perfect education in "ICBM's 101."

The tour convinced me that our ICBM teams are central to a secure future guaranteed by continued strategic nuclear deterrence, and through the promise of space. Some might argue that our nuclear deterrence mission is obsolete. Nothing can be farther from the truth. As long as we have rogue nations aspiring to be nuclear weapons powers, defining superpower status on the basis of a weapon, we'll have the need for our deterrence mission. What those countries don't recognize, however, is that we derive our Superpower status not from the weapon, but from the weapon system, a system made up of the weapon itself, the supporting infrastructure, and most importantly, the highly trained, professional and disciplined team.

In fact, that was the real lesson of my F. E. Warren visit - a reminder of the outstanding caliber of people we have on our ICBM team, performing an important, enduring mission. I'm proud of each and every member - past and present. Moreover, I'm proud of the fact that as we continue to fully integrate our

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## A Word from the Association

AAFM had a superb 1998 National Meeting, as reported in this issue. We delayed this issue until after the holidays to give the Executive Director a break after the meeting.

We continue to grow, a topic of discussion at Cocoa Beach. Each member there was asked to find one new member this year - we learned a long time ago that the best way to get the word out about our organization was word of mouth. We encourage you to keep telling your missileer friends about us. We should pass the 2,000 member mark in 1999.

General Myers, commander of Space Command, gladly provided us the lead article in this issue. Jay Kelley, Ralph Spraker and Charlie Simpson met with him in October to update him about AAFM and discuss the fu-

## Taps for Missileers

William V. Mansmann was in Titan II at Tucson and had worked for Lockheed-Martin in Denver.

LtCol (Ret) Paul Doelker, an AAFM member who lived in Kissimmee, Florida and served in the 351SMW.

Major (Ret) Maurie Meacham was in the 4315th and his last assignment was as Chief, DO9 at Whiteman AFB.

Maj (Ret) Paul Clapp was in the 44SMW.

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ture of missiles and space. One hot issue is the future of the missile badge - with the two career fields becoming one, most people now in both space and missiles want a common, distinctive badge for the uniform. Of course, we prefer to keep the current, and historic, missile badge for all, but some changes may be necessary. If you have a good idea, let us know.

## Letters to the Association

Address your letters to AAFM, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424, or send by e-mail to AFMISSILEERS@compuserve.com.

Letters may be edited to fit - content/meaning will not be changed.

Dear AAFM - The 579th SMS had a wonderful two evening reunion in Las Vegas 7 & 8 Aug 98. We are planning another one in two years. *Gene Lamb, member number A1482, Midwest City, OK.*

Dear AAFM - About two years ago I was approached by Professor Terry Isaacs for information about the 579SMS. I had just planned to join two other former SAC pukes in Roswell and take a look at what happened after SAC pulled out. I met Terry in Roswell and we traveled throughout the former base, visited a former missile site (site 10) and learned how strong my bond was to the place, the people, and most certainly my many memories. Terry asked for stuff carried through many PCSs (three overseas), locked in storage and on several occasions almost tossed. When the stuff was returned I put it in my attic thinking I should just dump it. Les Hayles, who I didn't know but was in the 579SMS wrote me after having found me in the AAFM directory. "I never knew you but I read your column in the Strategian [the Walker AFB base newspaper] back then. Is it possible you have copies of the columns you wrote and, if so, would you consider sharing them...?" I got to thinking that I could probably save myself a few trips to the attic if AAFM would like to republish them. They relate to the 579th people, who they were, and what was going on in their lives. They might fill a page or two in your paper. If you have interest I'll fax a copy to you. There was a lot negative going on during that period. The 579th was the first Atlas F unit to anticipate McNamara's phase out of the F series. We were well on our way, having launched three sites (not missiles) before the order came through to abandon

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**Letters** (cont) - those enormous concrete lined gopher holes. My articles ignored the flames and smoke. Every time a site went up the unit was downgraded and retraining began. Those of us who broke the code knew the best way to stay out of trouble was HQ in all stanboards, 100 percent on PC, and ace the no-notices. With that the heat went someplace else. I recall with a clarity unmarked by time the day the CINC (General Power) visited Roswell after the last site launch. All crews reported to the base theater. The room was called to attention. He walked to the stage, stood before us, looking at us for a long time, and said "Take your seats." Then the most stirring CINC speech of all time, "Gentlemen, if it's in the tech order, do it. If it's not in the tech order, don't do it." That was it. He turned toward the stairs and left. Now, there is a speech easy to remember in its entirety. When one thinks he came all the way from Omaha to deliver it, it becomes all the more impressive. There was heat, enough to turn some careers into toast. *Joe Conrad, member number A1384, Mt Vernon, NH.*

*AAFM will plan to use some of Joe's columns in future issues.*

Dear *AAFM* - The proudest time of my life was the time spent on Combat Crew R-40 as a BMAT in Atlas F at Plattsburgh in the early sixties. Many things produced my feelings of pride: to be a member of a team trained to such a high degree in the state of the art technology. Technology that grew in leaps and bounds from a technology that came to public interest only 4 years earlier with the launch of Sputnik, to be trained into a career field, right after basic, that called for E5 or higher to fill the slot, to be trained as a Ballistic Missile Analyst. Very few people qualify for that training., to be able to pass a flight physical and be a member of an Alert team.

BUT.... flight crews had a special badge to wear with honor to show the world their accomplishments.. WINGS. We had the missile badge and that was worn with considerable pride. Until every one in the squadron got to wear a missile badge. Then supply clerks got to wear the badge for buying missile parts. Many different attitudes began to tarnish my pride of accomplishment. After 4 years I left the Air Force with 43 months time in grade as an E3 because the career field called for E5 or higher so stripes were allotted. Although the regulations stated the BMAT was to replace the Officer at the con-

sole during their absence...sleep, showers etc. General Power, then CINCSAC, inspected a site in Lincoln, Nebraska and was upset to find a E3 replacing the officer on the console. An E3 was not mature enough for that responsibility...but no other members on the crew had our degree of training. So for looks, an E5 or higher was placed on the console in the officer's absence, .but during launch it was still the BMAT that had to be prepared to launch in place of an officer should a mishap occur.

Finally, after many years of bragging without any proof of accomplishment, the Air Force put a wreath on the Missile Badge for members of combat crews. Our equivalent of wings. For that one little gesture, my heartfelt thanks. I now have an emblem I can show the world, that for 4 years of my life, I was Special. *Dick Somerset, Missile Combat Crew R-40 556 SMS, member number A1295, Essex Junction, VT*

Dear *AAFM* - I found the September 1998 article 'Drones in Arizona' by Jim Gasho very interesting. I spent from 1955 to 1957 in Drone Squadrons but not as a member of the units Jim mentioned. I was with the 3205 Drone Group, Auxiliary 3, Duke Field, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The Group consisted of three drone squadrons; the 3215th at Duke Field, the 3225th at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, and the 3235th at Point Mugu, California. I spent most of my time at Holloman. The mission of the three squadrons was to provide target drones for the Army, Navy and Air Force ground-to-air and air-to-air missile development programs. Each squadron flew Q-2A Firebee, QF-80 and QB-17 drones. The Q-2As were air launched and operated in the same manner that Jim described. The QF-80s and QB-17s were ground controlled for takeoff and landing on the runway. Once they were airborne they were flown by a 'Beeper Pilot' in a T-33 or a B-17 director aircraft to reach the firing range and the proper altitude. Then the director aircraft turned over control to the ground radar for the target positioning and waited for the shoot. If the drone wasn't downed (it seldom was) the director aircraft brought it back for landing. I worked primarily with the QB-17s and must say it was one of the most interesting jobs I had in my Air Force career. I departed the 3225 Drone Sq. in October 1957

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Letters (cont)** - for assignment with the 392nd Missile Training Sq, Cooke AFB, California. *SMSgt (Ret) Max Meyer, Member No A1043, San Diego, CA.*

Dear Gen Kelley - We received the Missile Heritage Grant of \$1,500. What a wonderful Christmas present! As requested, the funds will be used to purchase equipment for our library. We will be issuing a press release regarding the grant mentioning the honorees. Your support allows us to move forward in its preservation efforts by giving us the means to acquire those items not covered in our budget. That support is greatly appreciated!  
*Becky Roberts, Deputy Director, The Titan Missile Museum, Green Valley, Arizona*

Dear Gen Kelley: On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the SAC Museum, I would like to express my thanks to the *AAFM* for awarding the grant of \$3,692 for the restoration of the Atlas missile. We have taken special note of the members in whose memory the grant has been awarded. The Atlas has been installed in a place of honor in front of the New SAC Museum. It is certain to attract the attention of our visitors, and we are very proud to be able to display it. The SAC Museum has welcomed 235,000+ visitors since our quiet opening on 1 April. We are thrilled with the response from the communities around us and the throngs of vacationers who visited during the summer months. Our location near I-80 is proving to be a great advantage. I hope you and the other members of *AAFM* will visit. We are very grateful for your support. *Wayne Schmidt, Director, SAC Museum.*

Dear *AAFM* - I want to update you regarding our Thor project. The *AAFM* grant funding our effort means we expect our RV mockup fresh from the fabricator in the next week for installation on the Thor. Next is refurbishment of the transporter/erector which will be repainted and marked. This will begin in October. I expect that we will locate the full missile and launcher into our outside exhibitions area this fall. Our exhibit label will include information regarding *AAFM* support. Thank *AAFM* for your support of the National Atomic Museum Foundation and our effort to add our Thor to our museum dis-

plays.

On behalf of the board of Trustees, staff and volunteers, I want to express our great appreciation for the award of \$1,322 to create and distribute our new Missile History Handout series. We are thrilled at the financial support by *AAFM* to allow us to produce materials for our visitors who are interested in our collection of Air Force Missiles at the National Atomic Museum. We will soon begin our work on this with research in detail regarding all our missiles. As our project nears completion in design and production, we will indicate the *AAFM* support and memorialize these efforts as you have suggested. *Jim Walther, Director, National Atomic Museum, Albuquerque.*

## Can You Help??

Chris Storm, a UC Berkeley graduate student, is looking for a set of plans for the Titan I system for use in his graduate thesis project in architecture. If anyone has any material that he could look at to find this information, please let him know by e-mail at [cas007@uclink4.berkeley.edu](mailto:cas007@uclink4.berkeley.edu) or through *AAFM*

Member Fred Crytzer is a missile and space unit patch collector who is trying to get a collection together of all the old missile units. Help or leads on obtaining these patches would be most helpful. He will trade or buy patches. Contact Fred by e-mail at [wfc@stic.net](mailto:wfc@stic.net) or mail at 13702 Turtle Cross, San Antonio, TX 78253.

During WW II, a huge exhibition of military equipment (including captured equipment) was held on the grounds of the Washington Monument. The exhibit may have been called the "Back the Attack Rally." There apparently were a large number of aircraft and other weapons on display, including a German V-1 buzz bomb and V-2 rocket. AF Times columnist and writer Bob Dorr is looking for anyone who has information about, or photos of, this display, especially photos which show military equipment being displayed to the public. He is also looking for other photos taken in Washington during World War II. Contact Robert F. Dorr, 3411 Valewood Drive, Oakton VA 22124, (703) 264-8950, fax (703) 264-1295, e-mail: [RobertDorr@aol.com](mailto:RobertDorr@aol.com)

## **Matador, Mace and More - Stories from Early Missileers**



### **Reunion of the 1st, 69th and 11th Pilotless Bomber Squadrons**

*by Joseph V. Traina, member number A1222, Joe lives in Albuquerque.*

The 1st, 69th and 11th Pilotless Bomber Squadrons (PBS) held their fifth reunion 29 September in Cincinnati, Ohio. The group meets every two years. The 120 former squadron members and their guests enjoyed seeing old friends again, along with tours of Cincinnati and Covington, Kentucky ( a quaint German style village) and a 2 hour lunch cruise on the Ohio River.

The highlight of the reunion was a tour of the Air Force Museum in Dayton, where a group picture was taken in front of the outside display of the Matador and Mace missiles. At the Saturday night banquet, the members voted on holding the Year 2000 reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota.

On 1 October 1951, the Air Force activated the 1PBS at Patrick AFB, and on 10 January 1952, the 69PBS was activated. These squadrons were the first operational missile units in the Air Force and were equipped with the B-61A Matador. On 9 March 1954, the 1PBS was assigned to Bitburg AB, Germany. Members of the 1PBS

who did not have sufficient service time available were transferred to the 69PBS to assist in training. The 69PBS arrived at Hahn AB, Germany on 1 October 1954. Men of the 69PBS not having sufficient time remaining were assigned to a new squadron, the 11PBS, forming in Orlando, Florida. The 11PBS was assigned to Sembach AFB, Germany in 1956. All squadrons conducted live firings of the Matador in Tripoli, Libya. The Pilotless Bomber Squadron designation was replaced with Tactical Missile Squadron (TMS) in June 1955. The Matador designation went from B-61A to TM-61A and TM-61C. The TM-61B, with inertial guidance and longer range was subsequently designated the TM-76A Mace.

The group is trying to obtain movies or videos of Matador launches to show at future reunions. Since the launches started in 1949, much of the Air Force archival film has deteriorated and is not available. If you have launch movies/videos, please contact Joe Traina (by e-mail at [RMTJVT@aol.com](mailto:RMTJVT@aol.com) or through *AAFM*).



DV Tour at Hahn, 1958

## Mace Troops and the F-105

by Al Mikutis, member number L100. Al lives in Philadelphia.

Harry Bosch's letter about the 38th TMW caused me to think of a few other insights of several years later at Bitburg. Sometime after the conversion to the Mace began, I arrived at the 36 TFW (in Oct 1962) as a new 2Lt and was assigned to the 36CAMRON as assistant OIC of the flight line, having responsibility for all the fighter squadrons F-105s. We had a severe personnel shortage with usually a ratio of less than one crew chief per bird on the Frag. Due to slippage in the construction of the new launch facilities the 38th had a lot of people with no visible means of support. There was a joint meeting between the two wings and my section wound up with a group of missile maintenance folks. Every day for almost a year I had an augmentation force to assist in preflight, launch, recovery and line maintenance. Some days I had more missile folks working than Thud folks.

There was many a Thud driver who, not knowing what had transpired, climbed into his F-105D, was assisted by the ground crew, taxied out, received a "High Ball" and went his way without knowing that the whole operation had been carried out by 38TMW maintenance personnel. When some stick shakers questioned the use of missile personnel we just pointed out that the only significant difference between the Mace and the Thud was one had a live pilot and one had mechanical pilot and that the airframe really didn't care which was in control. We really missed the missile folks as they drifted away a few at a time as the 38th gradually came on line.

My hat is off to a great bunch of folks who more than once saved the day. My best personnel wishes and a belated thank you to all the folks of the 38 TMW/71st TMS who gave helping hand to a very young and inexperienced 2nd LT. maintenance officer.



Matador in tow, Hahn

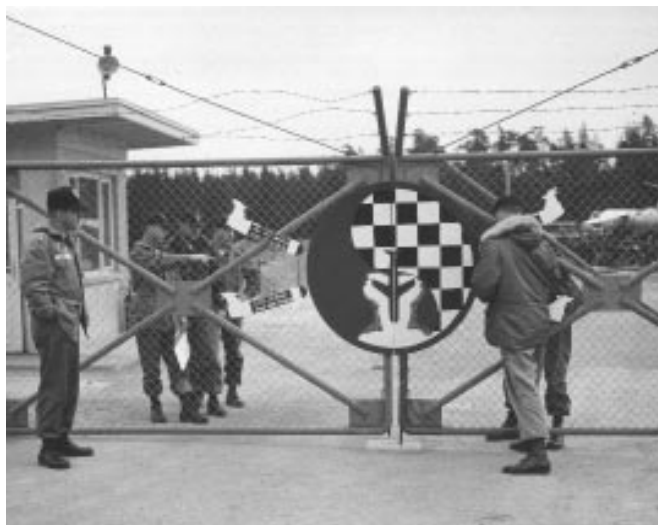
## Operation AMLO... ..The Follow Through

(A story about Annual Missile Launch Operations (AMLO) from the November 1958 issue of the 38TMW Magazine Missileer. Thanks to George (Robby) Robinson, member number A0502, of Council, Idaho for providing the magazines.

Men of the 38th left all the anticlimactic routine of simulated launchings behind in Germany. Operation AMLO offered them the opportunity to throw the left lead and follow through with a tactical right - or what amounted to an actual firing of the Matador across a vast ocean of sand to a target deep in the Libyan Desert. The fledgling missileman making his first trip south with the birds joined the veteran of several hops across the Mediterranean for a test of missiles and men. Operation AMLO was their professional yardstick, their cup of tea and their tournament. And they made the most of it.

Launchings came often and with dramatic finality. When the end of the count-down was reached, it was followed by the order to fire, a determined push of the button, and the ear-splitting roar of the bird rising off its launcher. Time after time the Matador thundered away on its unseen track, its RATO bottle tumbling end over end behind it. The missiles tore from their launchers like unleashed monsters to roar hundreds of miles down the pike. Elsewhere in the desert, missilemen followed the

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586th Gate

**AMLO** (*cont*) - paths of the missiles as they raced to their target and destruction.

AMLO proved a tough taskmaster. When the time came for the first crews to fire, they had already received a thorough briefing. Up first were crews of the 71TMS, commanded by Lt Col George Ingersoll. Next in line were missilemen of the 405TMS, led by Lt Col Hans Smithline. The subtle tension and expectancy that comes over a man moved slowly but resolutely as the tournament got underway. The inscrutably silent Mafadors were assembled with neither a cue nor a protest to indicate they would go all the way or fall short. As always, it remained for the missile specialists to go over every inch of the missile prior to the launch. Would it be enough to just launch the bird? Would it suffice to run through the check-out and down the count-down? Not on your missile badge. Major Fay Dice Jr., 71st operations officer, had prepared a two-page criteria for launch crews with points given or deducted for teamwork, individual efficiency, transfers, live launches, post launch set-up and preparation of new missiles.

AMLO left no margin for error. Missilemen had to be at their legal and level best. Other factors weighed in the tourney included speed, alertness and smoothness of operation, positioning of equipment, quality of work in count-down, technical proficiency, promptness and efficiency in executing steps in the count-down, reaction to stress and trouble shooting.

When the 71st completed its turn, Flight "B"

headed by Major Oliver Hilderbrandt, had racked up the best record after a tough point-to-point battle with Flights "A" and "C". The "Groundblazers" led by 1st Lt Edward J. Kristoff Jr., emerged as the top crew. Members were TSgt Wayne L. McCravey, crew chief; A1C Donald Doherty and A2C John Nicol controls; A1C George Jones and William Stork, guidance; A1C Walter Passmore, crane operator; A2C Dennis Lowery, launch; and A2C Victor I. Brock. Members of the leading armament crew were: A1C LeRoy C. Moser, crew chief; A2C Richard J. Williford and A3C Walter Bell.

And then came Miss Marblehead, a mishap which almost tempted several missilemen to bury their missile badges in the sand. She had a chance to put on a good performance before high-ranking observers - but she goofed. With her nose pointed high in the sky and her tail covered with "bon voyage" messages, Miss Marblehead took off for her desert rendezvous, but she done went wrong. About seven miles out she veered erratically and went to pieces as a chase plane's Sidewinder found its mark. Miss Marblehead's brief career in show business was shattered.

Operation AMLO was an exercise of amazing magnitude. Its formidable logistics had encompassed thousands of miles, hundreds of men and countless tons of equipment. Even as the 585th was folding its tents in the Libyan Desert, men of the 586th were arriving for their turn. The traffic was sometimes as frenzied as a commuter's rush, with quick exchanges of beds and bucket seats between men of the 585th and 586th.

DV tour at Hahn

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Matadors at Hahn, 1958

**AMLO** (*cont*) - Preparing for AMLO was a masterpiece of planning, big think and hard work. It was accomplished with all three groups participating and a concurrent strike capability in Germany. AMLO owed a debt of gratitude to the crack air crews of the 322nd Air Division from Dreux Air Base in France, and for the support rendered by Bitburg, Hahn, Spangdahlem and Sembach Air Bases. There was also a big pat on the back due men of the 7272nd Support Group at Wheelus Air Base, who were gracious hosts. Tigertown, a squat city of one-story buildings, housed men of the 38th comfortably and adequately. It wasn't the Ritz, but Tigertown was a welcome change from the "Tent City" of former years.

When the timetable allowed respite from the rigors of AMLO, men of the 38th swam in the Mediterranean, played golf, went horseback riding and took advantage of the bone-warming therapy of the African sun. Visits were made to Tripoli, where souvenir hunters exchanged a lively banter with wily merchants, shutterbugs recored exotic scenes and some went where the belly dancers shimmied and the pizza pie shimmered.

Out beyond Tripoli and into the desert, masts of the 587th guidance sites poked up above the date palms and the sun-baked olive groves. When the day was done and guards posted, these men returned from the site to their villa with its 9-inch thick walls and wrote letters and waited for the next day and the next launching. After a hot day in the vans they would sit down to a tasty meal prepared by SSgt Sidney E. Canada, who, in his time, had developed a knack for field-kitchen work which was well appreciated by men at the site. After dinner,

they might ride out to the base, take a dip in the Mediterranean or take in a local movie. They described one film, a Lone Ranger-Tonto-Silver bit, as a possible contender for the Arab Academy award. The part where the Lone Ranger talks to his horse reportedly sent the Arabs rolling in the aisles.

AMLO was a little bit of everything to men of the 38th Tactical Missile Wing. For TSgt Severo J. Nanez of the 586th Support Sq., it was the end of a long search for the origin of his first name. While poking around in the Roman ruins, he came across a stone tablet dating back to 1400 BC. On it was the name Severo. (Photos courtesy of member Walt Pierson and Photographer John F. Downing)

## Architecture and Design for Space

- The Art Institute of Chicago is organizing an exhibition "2001. Architecture and Design for Space: Vision and Reality". It will include historical photographs, architectural drawings and models related to mobile and ICBM launch facilities. They are interested in documentation related to Titan and Minuteman missile facilities, as well as the history of graphic design from the missileers badge to various squadron patches. If you can help, contact: John Zukowsky, Curator of Architecture, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60603, e-mail - jzukowsky@artic.edu, tel. 312-443-3949, fax 312-578-0960.

## Missiles and Groundwater

- A professor at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) is researching the changing environment of the Great Plains, particularly groundwater conditions. Several **AAFM** members have demonstrated that groundwater control around missile facilities was an ongoing endeavor. He is trying to locate records of groundwater conditions around missile facilities including maps showing locations, details of terrain surrounding missile facilities, geologic reports prepared as part of the construction phase, etc.; information on the nature of groundwater problems; methods used to monitor groundwater around missile facilities and other information. Those interested can contacting him: Dr. Stephen K. Boss, Department of Geosciences, 118 Ozark Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, telephone (501) 575-7134, fax (501) 575-3846, e-mail: sboss@comp.uark.edu



Touring the Apollo 1 launch pad (photo by John Forgette)

## National Meeting 1998 - A Great Success - by the Executive Director

The third national meeting of *AAFM* was attended by more than 150 members and guests and was a great success. Missileers gathered at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach on 21 October for the opening reception and the start of five days of tall tales, friendship and activities. Throughout the meeting, members and guests gathered in the hospitality suite to socialize and talk about our favorite subject - missiles.

On Thursday, participants gathered for a breakfast followed by a full day at Canaveral AFS and Kennedy Space Center. The morning was filled with a driving tour of historic and current launch facilities, including a drive around the shuttle pad only days before John Glenn's trip into space. We were unable to visit the AF Space and Missile Museum because a Delta launch was being prepared and the museum is in the hazard zone. We dined that night at the Patrick Officers Club.

Friday activities included a golf tournament won by member Dave Seares (who set up the tournament), with Bev Thompson losing in a scorecard playoff. The nongolfers spent the day touring some of Florida's nature attractions, with an airboat ride substituted for the scheduled dolphin cruise. Strong winds made the cruise impossible. We feasted that night on a seafood buffet.

All rose early Saturday to view a Delta launch a deep space probe to visit an asteroid, and then we assembled for breakfast and the general membership meeting. The meeting minutes are summarized below. Fol-

lowing the meeting, member Colonel Wayne DeReu gave an outstanding briefing about the current status and future plans for missiles - Wayne is on the staff at AF Space Command. Many questions followed his briefing. *AAFM* board members then held a short meeting, finalizing the winners of the 1998 Missile Heritage Grants and agreeing to conduct the next national meeting in Colorado Springs in May 2000.

Saturday evening was the banquet, with the Patrick commander, BGen Randy Starbuck and his wife, joining us. Board Member and new 20AF commander MGen Tom Neary was the featured speaker for the evening. Tom talked about the future of intercontinental ballistic missiles and the people who operate, maintain and support them. We closed the evening with a number of good stories from missileers.

The final event was breakfast Sunday morning, one last opportunity to say goodbye until our next gathering. A number of members remained in the area until the following Thursday to watch the Glenn shuttle launch.

## General Membership Meeting

by *AAFM* Secretary Dayna Castro. (Full minutes are available)

The 1998 *AAFM* General Membership Meeting was called to order by Charlie Simpson, the Executive Director. He thanked everyone for attending and he introduced our President, Jay Kelly. Kelly made welcoming comments and emphasized that first hand contact with folks was best for us to continue to grow. The Executive Director summarized the minutes of the 1996 General Meeting, where it was decided to hold our 1998 National

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AAFM members on NASA Tour (photo by John Forgette)



**Meeting 98 (cont)** - Meeting in Florida. Many ideas for locations of meetings were discussed but it was decided to hold meetings at locations related to missile operations or heritage (Vandenberg, Patrick, and Colorado Springs). The Executive Director summarized the results of our Missile Heritage Grant program and the financial history. He asked for inputs for the newsletter. Special thanks went to Bob Kelchner for donating his time in printing the newsletter. Topics then covered included the awards presented through AFSPC and 20AF, the local area meetings and a discussion of the Missile and Space Integration issue. The President, Executive Director and first president Ralph Spraker had a meeting in October with General Myers, AFSPC Commander, and discussed the issue and ideas about a modified missile badge or new badge for both disciplines. The Executive Director reviewed changes to our by-laws required by revisions to the Colorado laws governing non-profit organizations.. A motion to approve the resolution presented by the board stating *AAFM's* intention to abide by these new laws passed by a unanimous vote of the membership. Members then discussed ways to attract new members, specifically younger active duty members. At the close of the meeting, Past President Jim Crouch recognized and praised the Simpsons for their tireless efforts and devotion to our organization.



Rascal and B-47

### Missiles we Missed -

Following release of our recent Turner Publishing book, we have found a couple of missiles that we left out. The SM-73 Goose, built by Fairchild, was a groundlaunched diversionary missile. The delta wing decoy is on display at the Hagerstown Aviation Heri-

tage Museum in Maryland and the Patrick museum has a Bull Goose, which appears to be the same missile. Both museums claim the "only remaining copy."

The air-to-ground Bell GAM-63 Rascal was designed to be carried by the B-47 as a standoff weapon. It was rocket powered and could be launched before the aircrew attacked other targets with gravity bombs.



SM-73 Goose

### Missile Badge Pins

Landstrom's Jewelers is making original Black Hills Gold missile badge tie tack/lapel pins available to AAFM. The badges include a very small double leaf at the bottom of the badge (about as wide as the bottom of the badge and about as deep as half of the star on the senior badge, and come in gold or silver.

Available are the basic badge (\$59.20 gold, \$29.60 silver), senior badge with star (\$72 gold, \$36 silver), master with wreath and star (\$94.40 gold, \$47.20 silver) and master with operations designator (\$108 gold, \$54 silver). Prices include shipping and insurance

Send a check made out to Landstrom's Jewelers to AAFM, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424. Include the address the pins should be shipped to - they will be shipped direct from Landstrom's about two weeks after ordering.

**390SMW Reunion** - Las Vegas, July 1999, Specifics available from *AAFM* upon request.

**General Myers** (Cont) - space and missile operators within Air Force Space Command, the folks at our ICBM units reflect the caliber of people we have throughout the entire Command.

One of the greatest benefits to come out of the integration of our space and ICBM missions is the crossflow of experience and expertise. We have missileers performing space jobs and space operators on crew at our ICBM units. That's just as we intended. The next step is to eliminate the distinction. We need to reach the point where terms like "crossflow" and "integration" fade from our vocabulary - where the distinction is truly transparent and seamless. We've had a great start, not just with our operators learning both space and missile mission areas, but with other changes like redesignating our Missile Wings as Space Wings. This is as important for Air Force Space Command as the evolution of "air and space" into "aerospace" is for the USAF. In each case it helps lay the foundation for achieving the promise of space, and postures our service for the new American way of fighting war.

I applaud the **AAFM** for your foresight in addressing this issue and I look forward to drawing from the best of the ICBM legacy, along with the best of the space operations legacy, to establish an entirely new, combined and seamless legacy of our full complement of space systems. With the outstanding folks we have throughout the Command and with the tremendous support of organizations like the **AAFM**, I have no doubt that we will.



### AAFM Book

The Book put together by Turner Publishing is now available to all those who did not order earlier. Our book features over 30 pages of missile history by member David Stumpf, over thirty pages of missile stories provided by many of you, more than 260 biographies and lists

of more than 4,000 missileers, It also includes lots of photos and some great color patches provided by member Greg Ogletree. All USAF air and groundlaunch missiles are included. All involved did a superb job, and the book should be in every missileer's personal library.

You can order a copy with the color cover shown above for \$57.50, or \$89 for the leather bound edition - embossing your name on the cover is \$6. Send orders to AAFM History Book, Turner Publishing Co, PO Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101.

**Help AAFM Continue to Grow**  
**Let Your Missileer friends know about us or send addresses to AAFM and we will mail brochures and newsletters**

### Join AAFM Now

Complete this short application and return it to us at the address below. We will return a form for you to document your detailed missile experience.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested donation for dues are \$20 per year (\$5 active duty enlisted/student), \$50 for three years (\$14 active duty enlisted/student) or \$300 for Lifetime, payable in up to 12 installments.**

**Mail with donation to AAFM, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424**

Patrick Navaho



### Museums -

The 1998 Missile Heritage Grants went to four museums. The SAC museum got \$3,692 to erect an Atlas missile in front of the new museum - it is now in place. The Natinal Atomic Museum got \$1,322 for Missile History Hand-outs, the Fairchild Museum, \$1,000 for a display on the 567SMS

(Atlas E at Fairchild), and \$1,500 to the Titan Missile Museum foreducational equipment for their library and the 8AF Museum in Savannah \$2,486 for a Cold War display. We have now donated over \$47,000.

The Titan Missile Museum in Green Valley, Arizon has four screen savers available. A portion of the income from screen savers sold through will go the Missile Heritage Fund. Information is available on the internet at <http://www.freeyellow.com/members4/ScreenSavour>. Mention in your order that you are an *AAFM* member.

The Whiteman Museum, formerly Oscar-1 LCF, on the base, recently hosted its 10,000th visitor. You must make reservations through 509th Bomb Wing Historian MSgt Roger Hooker (one of our members) to tour the museum.

The AF Space and Missile Museum at Canaveral AF Station is also a great place to see. Lots of missiles and othe displays. The museum is near active space launch complexes, so may be closed due to launch operations.



8AF entrance

The 8th AF Heritage Center is lacking missile displays - they are working on them - but has superb displays about the 8AF role in World War II. The museum is

located adjacent to I-95 in Savannah, Georgia and features a memorial garden in the rear dedicated to the people who served in 8AF. They are also looking for memorabilia of any kind from *AAFM* members.

The new SAC Museum between Omaha and Lincoln on I-80 is a great new location for the displays of SAC aircraft and missiles.



New SAC Museum

### Russian ICBM, US Satellite?

Washington - Unable to find suitable launchers at home, the U.S. Air Force and NASA are turning to organizations in Ukraine and Russia to get some of their experiments into orbit. Each agency is taking a different approach to getting around a 1994 U.S. government policy that prohibits the launch of government-funded payloads on non-U.S. rockets. The Air Force plans to request special White House permission to launch its PICOSat satellite next year aboard a foreign rocket, most likely a modified SS-18 ballistic missile, said Lt. Col. Gary Hendel, chief of mission design and management for the Space Test Program at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

**Missile Heritage Fund** - our grants to museums continue to grow, thanks to the generosity of *AAFM* members. Contribute and receive an *AAFM* memento to recognize your donation.

\$5 - choose an *AAFM* lapel pin, *AAFM* patch, Subterranean Sentinels Patch, Bill McKee's "Missile Business Cartoon" Book Bob Wycoff's poems ("Missileer") or reprints of 1993-1994 newsletters.

\$8 - choose an engraved *AAFM* ball point pen, *AAFM* mug or special 10/30/50 Anniversary mug (honoring the anniversaries of AFSPC, the missile competition and the USAF).

\$10 - choose an *AAFM* golf cap, 1998 Guardian Challenge/*AAFM* coin, 1995-1997 newsletter reprints or *AAFM* Desk CLock.

\$20 - the 44th Missile Wing Commemorative Book.

Mail your check to *AAFM*, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424.