



# Association of Air Force Missileers

*"Victors in the Cold War"*

## Late News - March 1998

### AAFM and Space...

Your response to our questions about inviting Space people into the association has been superb. The feedback to date is about 49 percent opposed - most very strongly against the idea. The 51 percent that said yes to the question mostly said it with some reservations - with the basic comments relating to retaining our current identity, goals and programs. AAFM belongs to the members - and the members have spoken.

We will continue to meet with Space Command representatives to discuss the issue, but you have made it clear that we are an organization for missileers first - and we will stay that way.

I have also been discussing the issue with the director of the AF Space Operations Association - he is also in contact with Space Command representatives. We will work together to see if we can jointly satisfy some of the concerns voiced by the command. I can see where the two organizations can work closely on some programs and help the command integrate the space and missile career fields, while retaining our own distinct identity.

A related issue is our own continued growth - there are still a lot of missileers out there who have never heard of *AAFM*, or who just haven't joined yet. I mail out brochures to about 2,000 people each year - you can help by encouraging your friends to join us, and by providing me with names and addresses of missileers you know. We have passed 1,700 total members - but that is a small percentage of the people we served with in AF missile systems over the last fifty years.

**Leather Jackets and Missileers** - The leadership of the Air Force has authorized missile and space operators (officers and enlisted) the wear of the standard leather A-2 jacket - the same jacket that the pilots got several years ago. Any officer or enlisted member (active duty - those of us who are retired or separated don't qualify) who served in missile or space operations positions (18XX or 20XX for officers, former Titan II enlisted crewmembers - BMATs and MFTs, and 276X0 or 277X0 AFSCs) or now serve in the 13SX or 1C6X1 specialties will be issued the jackets.

**Schriever AFB** - Falcon AFB, near Colorado Springs, and home of the 50th Space Wing and the Space Warfare Center, will be renamed in honor of General Bernard Schriever. Many of our members worked on the early ICBMs at Western Development Division in Los Angeles - now the Space and Missile Center, under General Schriever. He later commanded AF Systems Command. He recently expressed his surprise and gratitude for this honor.

**June "Grand Forks" Issue** - since the 321st Missile Group will close on July 2, our next issue will feature several articles and stories about the 321st and its members. If you have a good Grand Forks story, get it to me soon.

**Payne and Phillips Awards** - in early March, board member Jay Kelley and your executive director joined the commanders of all the space units when General Estes presented our two awards at a commanders conference. The 341st Maintenance Squadron, Malmstrom, was given the Payne trophy. The 320th Missile Squadron, Warren, received the Phillips trophy for best missile operations squadron.

**Vote** - cast your vote for four directors of the association with the enclosed postcard. We thank Ed Osborne and Jim Widlar for their service as board members. The nominees for the four board positions that require election are Lance Lord and Jim Crouch, who are being nominated for reelection, and Bob Parker and Joe Andrew, nominees to replace Osborne and Widlar. Immediately following the election, the board will elect officers who will serve for the next two years. We elect four board members every two years, with each board member serving a six year term. Board members are listed on page 2 of each issue of our newsletter.

**AAFM Member Honored** - Chuck Dwyer was recently honored for his contributions to the US space program, specifically for work in the Gemini program and its Titan II booster. Chuck's name is now part of the 20 foot high Gemini monument on the Walk of Fame in Titusville, Florida. Chuck was a Matador missile instructor, and joined the Martin Company after his AF service. He worked on Matador, Gemini, Apollo and Skylab, and is now retired in Oswego, New York.

**Soldiers', Sailors', Marines', Airmen's Club** Some of you know about this low cost, non-profit alternative to a hotel while in New York City. The club is open to all active, retired and honorably discharged veterans and offers lodging from \$25 to \$40 per night per person, depending on category. For information and reservations, call 800-678-8443.

**Taps for Missileers** Colonel (Retired) Warren Slagle, who served in Atlas in the 548SMS, in 3901SMES and SAC headquarters, passed away last year.

Senior Master Sergeant (Retired) Doug Barfield, who lived in Las Vegas, died in January.

**Member Directory** - we will publish an addendum to the directory in June, with added names and address changes, along with a glossary of terms used in the publication.