



Association of Air Force Missileers

"Victors in the Cold War"

Late News - September 1998

October Meeting - It may be too late - but you still may have time. If you haven't yet registered for our National Meeting at Cocoa Beach, call the hotel now and call **AAFM** at 970-453-0500 to ensure you can still get in. Join other members who have already signed up. If you have a topic that should be discussed at the general membership or board meeting, let us know now. Current topics include the missile and space issue, a review of by-law updates to conform to changes in the Colorado law, a proposal for a cadet program and an review of **AAFM** programs.

New SAC Museum - Your executive director recently visited the new museum, located between Omaha and Lincoln on Interstate 80. Several **AAFM** members have been among the more than 200,000 people who have been to the museum since it opened this spring, and most of you have expressed concern about the lack of missile displays. Based on my visit with Chief of Restoration Denny Haun, who gave me a superb, behind-the-scenes tour of the entire facility, you will see more missile displays each time you visit. The move from Offutt was a major undertaking - the staff now is busy refurbishing the many aircraft and missiles that sat outside for years and will now be housed inside the new "hangars." Today, there are Thor and a Blue Scout missiles mounted vertically in front of the museum, and the Atlas will join them soon. The missile is in the restoration bay, awaiting new mounts to replace the old ones, which were cracked. The Atlas will be in the center of the circle directly in front of the museum entrance. Denny and his staff are also working hard to get the Snark ready for display, and have a Hound Dog, Quail, Tom Cat, ALCM and ACM on the display floor. A number of reentry vehicles, consoles and other missile items are scattered around the display areas, and Denny is working with a number of agencies to get other missiles and related items. The museum's Titan I was almost totally destroyed several years ago, so they are working to replace it, and to add a Minuteman and other missiles. If you know the source of available missiles or equipment, let **AAFM** or the SAC Museum know about them. The museum is well worth a visit now - and is improving as the many aircraft and missiles in their inventory are being cleaned and repainted for permanent display in the new building.

Photos - We have gotten a number of great photos (early days at Hahn, for example) from members - we are always looking for good photographs to use in the newsletter and on our display. If you send us the original, it will be copied and scanned and returned ASAP. We can also use images on disk in most formats and good color copies of both color and black and white photos.

Lost Missileers - A former McConnell Titan II crew member is looking for four other friends from the 381SMW - if you know the whereabouts of Tom Lach (a BMAT), Ron Rehm (Deputy), Ron Falter or John Marsh (Commanders), let **AAFM** know.

Donation - The Order of the Warrior, the organization that ran the closing ceremony for the 321st at Grand Forks, donated \$500 to our **Missile Heritage Grant** fund. Grant applications went to museums early this month - we will select the 1998 grant winners at our National Meeting.

Oral History - The SAC museum is assembling an oral history of the Cold War. I have asked them for more information and offered our assistance. You can contact the project director, Barbara Sommer, at oralhistory@sacmuseum.org.

AFTO 22 - Member Tom Hafner, 2900 Gulf Blvd, #208, Belleair Beach FL 33786, is looking for a copy of the old form AFTO 22 - if you have one, contact Tom.

Upcoming Articles - Our "future article file" always stays full - we always have more words than space for each issue. For December, look for articles about the Patrick and Whiteman museums, our National Meeting, old Atlas sites and much more. And keep those articles coming in. Our newsletter now goes to over 1800 people and organizations, and the feedback on member-provided stories and articles is always superb.

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. Our mementos are leftovers from special events or have been donated by members or organizations. Donate the amount below and request the items listed:

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

\$8 - 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 - an **AAFM** golf cap, 1998 Guardian Challenge/**AAFM** coin, 1995-1997 newsletter reprints, Whiteman closing patch or 321OSS patch.

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

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