



AAFAM

Association of Air Force Missileers Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 4

“Victors in the Cold War”

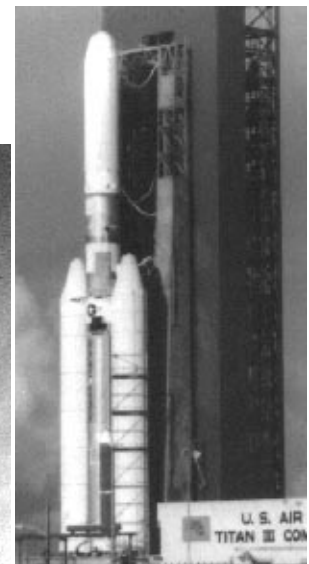
December, 1999

AAFAM Members - Experts in Every Missile System



Early JB-2 launch,
Matador
Titan III

A Small Sample of Systems
AAFAM members have been
Involved with



Who is AAFM? - A Look at Our Membership - *by Charlie Simpson, Colonel, USAF (Retired), Executive Director of the Association of Air Force Missileers. He served in Titan I, Minuteman and GLCM.*

Phillip Mack, Jr. is a member of the Association of Air Force Missileers - he tested the GB-1 and the JB-2 at the end of World War II. For those unfamiliar with the JB-2 - it was also know as the V-1 or the “Buzz Bomb” by people living in the target areas in England during the war. Ray King, who lives in California now, was involved in the earliest launch of an operational Atlas missile from Vandenberg. Lee Higley and Charles Dutton worked on some of our earlier airlaunched rockets and missiles. Don Pettit, another of our members, currently commands the 45th Space Wing at Patrick AFB in Florida - he is responsible for launching our newest space vehicles, including the Atlas V. One of our newest members, Kevin Mortensen, is a deputy combat crew commander on a crew in the 90th Space Wing at Warren. As you can quickly determine, AAFM members have been invoved in a wide variety of USAF missile systems over a long period.

As we end our seventh year as the Association of Air Force Missileers, I thought that members might like some insight into the membership of our organization. The folks mentioned above are only a small sample of the variety in background, rank and era that our missileers represent. We have members who have worked on every single planned, tested, developed or deployed ground or air launched missile since well before the USAF became a separate service. This wide variety in experience and involvement has been documented to a very small degree in our quarterly newsletter - as AAFM continues to grow, we will preserve even more of the personal stories from missileers from every era. Whether you are one of the original missileers in the United States Air Force, or one of the dedicated young professionals serving today, you have played an important role as a missileer.

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A Word from the Association

How Many? As we end our seventh year, we pass 2,000 in membership - a significant accomplishment for an organization as specialized as ours. I'm often asked how many missileers there have been - no one seems to know the answer. Since many of us served whole careers - or at least a good part of our careers - in the missile business, one can't just make rough estimates based on the number of units and the size of each. From the mid-1960s until the end of the 1980s, there were nine ICBM wings - many people had assignments in several of them. A majority of the folks who served in early systems (Snark, Matador, Thor, etc) went on to later systems. Many who worked on air-launched systems also worked on the "big" missiles. There have probably been between 60,000 and 100,000 of us throughout the history of the USAF - not a big number when you consider the size of the AF during most of the last 50 years.

Local Meetings - I continue to host local meetings as I travel around the US. During 1999, we met at Malmstrom, Warren and in the Pentagon. The Montana meeting was disappointing - a very small turnout. On the other hand, we had more than 60 missileers at Warren and more than 30 in the Pentagon (the afternoon before a four day weekend, too). We will continue to conduct these gatherings - thanks to the local folks who set them up.

AAFM is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS Code. The Newsletter is published four times a year.

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Taps for Missileers

Lt.Col (Ret) Billy R.Mantooth, in Sherwood, AR.

LtCol (Ret) Jim Gasho, AAFM Member, served in Bomarc and in Minuteman in the 341SMW. Jim authored articles for us in one of our first newsletters.

LtCol (Ret) Riley Vance, AAFM Member, served in Minuteman at Grand Forks and Ellsworth and lived in Spokane, WA.

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.

Maxwell Library - I had the pleasure of spending a month at Maxwell AFB while attending a historian development course. Although my Air Guard unit has absolutely no connection to ICBMs, I managed to spend quite a bit of time at AFHRA doing personal research.

I copied portions of histories on the 556SMS, 702SMW, and other units (one was BOMARC). I will type up an index and send a copy to AAFM. Among the 702SMW histories was the one for early 1961 when the Snarks were taken off alert and dropped from the inventory. The missiles (31 is the number I recall) and launchers were dismantled and sold for scrap.

Attached are two pages of photos I scanned from the history and a brief Snark chronology I put together to eliminate some of the confusion about the wing and the squadron. The wing histories I send you should provide more specific data on the system and the wing deactivation. *Ron Plante, mbr SA015, Bettendorf, IA*

BUFF Flyover and Models - I want to say how much I've been enjoying the newsletters. Though only in the AF as a dependent - sounds so much better than brat - have always been interested in the subject. Dad took me down into operational Atlas and MMI sites, experiences I won't forget. Even went over to the Atlas reunion in Spokane last winter, just to see the pictures and console.

I enjoyed Mr. Roberson's account of being at ground zero in the mock BUFF attack. I have been out to one of the Titan I sites in central Washington, so can imagine it well. Further, around those days (1962-64) my Dad was an AC, then Sqdn CO, of one of the B-52 squadrons at Fairchild (327BS, I think). I sent a copy of the story to him. I imagine he was in the cockpit on such runs more than a few times. I have asked him to write up any tales he might have involving Hound Dogs for AAFM. (My Dad, Francis H. (Frank) Potter, has

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Letters (Cont) - enjoyed writing his memories after we got him a computer. He has had several pieces published in the AF Museum's Friends Journal, mostly about his B-36 and B-52 days.)

You asked about models and I would like to be added to the list. A defunct company called Toppings was an early and prolific maker of presentation models for military and industry. They made very nicely done plastic injection models. I have a Titan I, Titan II, and MMII done by Toppings, and would like to obtain an Atlas to complete the earlies. I have used these models a couple of times speaking at my Civil Air Patrol Sqdn, in my guise as Aerospace Education Officer. If anyone has an Atlas, MMI or MMIII, I would like to purchase them.

Doug Potter, mbr SA053, Couer d'Alene, ID

GLCM - As a follow-on to the article about GLCM troops in Desert Storm, there is a book, "From the Line in the Sand: Accounts of USAF Company Grade Officers in Support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm" It's a great publication that I recently discovered while conducting some research last year. Although I had heard of this title before, I had never viewed a copy until a few weeks ago and I was sold. In fact I just purchased a copy from Air University Press. An excerpt that I have enclosed, "Tactical Deception in the Desert - Scathe Mean" was written by Capt Phil Smith. *Tony Cassanova, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada*

Details on the Book "From the Line in the Sand: Accounts of USAF Company Grade Officers in Support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm", Stock Number: 008-070-00690-1, \$20.00. Edited by Michael P. Vriesanga. Contains autobiographical narratives written by captains and first lieutenants who contributed to the Desert Storm Persian Gulf War. Illustrated with black and white photographs of scenes of the war and of the authors. Includes an index. L.C. card 94-1322. Item 422-K. Publisher: Defense Dept., Air Force, Air University Year/pages: 1994

Ellsworth Missile - The Minuteman I missile that stood guard at Ellsworth recently arrived in Fargo, ND to be used in a local air museum. It appears the missile is an old training missile for the training LF. It is entirely made of plate steel. The first stage "nozzles" are a poor facsimile of the real thing; it appears the training connec-

tion apparatus for the lower umbilical was removed long ago, but a paint outline shows where it used to be. In transit or storage at Ellsworth, the missile suffered a large hole at the interstage between stages II and III. Several other small dents and dings have occurred over time as well. But, it still looks like a Minuteman I (complete with the flared skirt on the first stage).

The missile is painted white and currently lays on its side in the weather just north of the old terminal building at Hector International Airport. To gain access to see it currently, one would have to contact the North Dakota Air National Guard on the east side of the airport. The museum has plans to repair and repaint the Minuteman and put it on display (they didn't say whether it'd be indoors on its side or outdoors standing up). I'll update as I find out more. *Clint Lowe, mbr A1427, Fargo, ND*

Abilene Atlas - I am a member of the Atlas ICBM Historical Society here in Abilene, Texas. It is a newly formed group - about 1 year old - that is in the process of trying to develop a "virtual" museum as well as acquire one of the sites here to use as a physical museum to collect and archive information about the Atlas system. We have been fortunate to have several of the local silo owners and a number of former crew members of the 578SMS who still live in the Abilene area as members and resources. One man in particular has been an incredible source information about the daily routines and demands as a missileer and has provide us all with a greater understanding and appreciation of just how difficult an assignment this must have been. We also have a web page at www.atlasmissilemuseum.com which is only the beginning of what we hope to be a more elaborate and informative site. I would like to get more information - or an application - regarding AAFM grants. While we may be too late for this submission period, the information would be helpful for the future. Also, if you have any suggestions regarding persons who might be helpful to a newly developing organization such as this - the "voice of experience", as it were - we would appreciate your comments. *Bruce Townsley, mbr SA043, Clyde, TX.*

More and more museums are becoming interested in our Missile Heritage Grants - if you are involved with a museum that is not on our mailing list, let AAFM know and it will be added.

(Continued on page 4)

Letters (Cont) - Rascal Facts - Thanks for your work as Executive Director and the e-mail updates. In response to your request for news from the air-launched missile guys, I would like to submit the following. (although my last strictly Missile assignment was with the Atlas "F", 556SMS, my first assignments were with the Rascal, Hound Dog, and Quail. My biography is on page 82 of the Air Force Missileers Book.)

The March 1999 Newsletter mentioned that the Bell GAM-63 Rascal had been operational with the 321BW. Not so. Although the 321BW furnished the SAC contingent, of which I was a member, to the Category II operational testing at Eglin AFB, Florida, the Rascal never went "operational" anywhere. The vastly improved GAM-77 (AGM-28) was already in the pipeline. At the close down of the Rascal, I was assigned to the Category II concurrent testing of the GAM-77 Hound Dog and GAM-72 Quail and subsequently a member of the first operational to be equipped with the Hound Dog and Quail, the 4135SW at Eglin AFB, Florida.

In the Air Force Missileers Book on page 13, paragraph 3 correctly identifies the MX-674, on Bell Tarzon and the MX-776 or Bell Rascal as "air-to-surface" weapons. However, paragraph 6 identifies these same weapons as "air-to-air".

I could lay claim to one of the first Missileers to be officially awarded the Master Missile Badge, certainly the first in 8AF. I was assigned to 8AF Headquarters when the regulation outlining the criteria for its award was received. I submitted my application that day and orders were published several days later. *CWO-4 (Ret) Robert V. Bush, mbr A0737, Swansboro, NC.*

The reference to the our Missileers Book, page 13, points out an obvious typo - the sentence should read "The MX-674, or Bell Tarzon and the MX-776, or Bell Rascal; I, to be followed by the Rascal II with a 150 mile range were the only surviving air-to-surface projects."

AAFM Museum Web Page - I recently contacted the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson because their web page lists a "Gallery" listing for aircraft but not for missiles. The missiles are listed under the aircraft listing, but nothing leads one to missiles directly - let's hope they fix the page. *Richard T. Boverie, mbr L0070, West Palm Beach, FL*

The page can be viewed at www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/index.htm

Atlas E - Thanks to the Kramer family, the launch control console from site 5, 567SMS, near Lamona, outside Fairchild AFB, WA, has rested undisturbed for 35 years in their underground equipment storage. It was recently retrieved and brought to the Fairchild Museum. It only took a few hours, 46 light bulbs, a 28 volt power supply and a little wiring to get this console in a ready for count-down configuration. The alert klaxon works, but we haven't been able to get it to warble yet.

A facilities remote control panel was retrieved from site 2 at Newman Lake. It is being restored so it can be added to the display at the museum. This is taking a little longer since it was completely stripped. *Dick Mellor, mbr A1651, Spokane, WA.*

Missileer in Mogadishu - Six years ago, I was in Mogadishu, wondering if I would see the light of a new day. I watched Army trucks unload dead Americans and Somalis. A firefight raged downtown that would result in the only award of the Medal of Honor since Vietnam.

When I found out I would be running the airport's Air Mobility Command command post, I decided I would write a journal about my experiences. I have published the journal as **Somalia Diary** - it is available for \$14.95 including shipping from William Sims, 6342 Regency Lane, San Antonio, TX 78249. I will sign copies ordered by AAFM members. *Bill Sims, mbr A0242, San Antonio, TX*

Missile Videos - Boomerang Publishers, 6164 West 83rd Way, Arvada, CO 80003, phone 303-423-5706, has a number of missile videos available.

Reunions

AMMS 2000 - AMMS Missileers will meet in Cocoa Beach, FL, 27-29 April 2000. Primarily for those who served in Hound Dog or Quail. Contact Lee Dunkin, 1504 Overlake Ave, Orlando, FL 32806, 407-859-5164, e-mail donut56@aol.com.

SAC 2000 - July 12-16, 2000, Omaha. Many activities at the new SAC Museum. Society of the Strategic Air Command, PO Box 1254, Omaha, NE 68005.

579 SMS Reunion, Roswell, NM; 8-11 June 2000. Contact Gene Lamb at e-mail dlamb@mmcable.com or (405) 737-2471.

567SMS Reunion, Post Falls, Idaho, 7-10 September 2000, contact Dick Mellor, 6331 N Elmhyust, Spokane, WA 99208, 509-327-2879, e-mail elm1929@aol.com.

AAFM Members (Cont) - As we end 1999, more than 2,000 people have joined our organization. Unfortunately, we have lost 34 members who passed away in the last seven years. And, as in any organization that requires a fee to be a member (even though ours is a tax-deductible donation), about 20 percent of our members are not current with their dues.

Note that you can't add up some of the figures below and get a matching total, because some folks don't fill in all the blocks when they join, and some served in several systems or specialities - so the percentages are approximate. For example, more than 120 members don't list a grade or rank for our title block, or listed MR, MRS, DR or some other nonmilitary title. Some also don't check what their status is (active duty, retired, etc). Active duty members make up 20 percent on the total, retired 64 percent, discharged 10 percent, Guard/Reserve 3 percent and civilian 3 percent.

Among the members who indicated military status, 75 percent are officers and 25 percent are enlisted. For the officers, we have 5 Generals, 7 Lieutenant Generals, 16 Major Generals, 24 Brigadier Generals, 328 Colonels, 430 Lieutenant Colonels, 276 Majors, 250 Captains, 44 Lieutenants, 4 Warrant Officers and one Lieutenant Commander. On the enlisted side, we have 75 Chiefs, 66 Senior Master Sergeants, 151 Master Sergeants, 82 Tech Sergeants, 43 Staff Sergeants, 21 Sergeants, 1 Senior Airman, 8 Airmen First Class, 10 Airmen Second Class, two Sergeants Major and three Sergeants First Class. Systems experience runs the gamut - remember that the totals are more than total membership because many of us served in more than one system

Navaho - 8	Snark - 34	BOMARC - 49
Thor - 76	Jupiter - 26	Matador - 99
Mace - 103	Atlas - 300	Titan I - 128
Titan II - 521	Minuteman - 1155	Peacekeeper - 184
GLCM - 175	Space - 110	Airlaunched - 136

When I travel around and talk about our association, I am often asked who our members are - I tell them some of the facts included above. I let them know that our members represent every speciality, every system and every rank in the history of USAF missile systems. Our members have worked with everything from captured German V-1s to the latest space systems - they have performed every task involved with every system. Researchers are amazed when they contact us and ask for help on a particular question. They expect me to give them one or two names for them to contact - I can often give them over a hundred. We really do possess the expertise on every question arises about Air Force missiles.

When we meet for our fourth National Meeting in May, 2000, in Colorado Springs, we will continue a tradition started at our first gathering in 1994. At the banquet on the final night of the meeting recognize members from each of the era and systems that you represent. We end each banquet with a few personal stories, some serious and some "tall" tales from members proud to tell others about being a missileer.

Space Architecture

If you are interested in owning an impressive photo book that documents past, current and future space vehicles, stations and associated systems, take a look at the new large format book, Space Architecture: The Work by John Frassanito and Associates for NASA. The book sells for \$58.00 - call 1-800-462-6420 for information.

This 96 page hard cover book, with foreword by Buzz Aldrin, features 140 color photos, drawings and computer generated presentations of the Space Shuttle, MIR, space stations, reusable launch vehicles, planetary exploration and advanced space exploration. The book also includes a CD-ROM with computer animation of selected projects.

The author, John Zukowsky, contacted some members of *AAFM* early in the project, and we featured a short article about his work in our newsletter.

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

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

\$8 - choose an engraved *AAFM* ball point pen, *AAFM* mug or a mug honoring the anniversaries of AFSPC (10), the competition (30) and the USAF (50), 1995-97 Newsletter reprints or Greg Ogletree's "History of the Missile Badge"

\$10 - choose a 1998 Guardian Challenge *AAFM* coin, 321OSS Patch or *AAFM* Desk Clock. **\$15** - *AAFM* Golf Cap

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

\$60 - USAF 50th Anniversary Book

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

AAFM Newsletters - 1993-1999

This index lists the content, with the exception of letters, notices and editors/presidents remarks from the first seven years of *AAFM Newsletters*. Reprints of newsletters are available from the association. A collection of reprints of the 1993-1994 issues is available for a donation of \$5, the 1995-1997 issues for a donation of \$8 and individual issues for 1998 and 1999 are \$3 each. Your donation goes to our Missile Heritage Fund, which has provided \$57,000 to museums for missile displays. For back issues, send your order and check to AAFM, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424.

Atlas

Atlas Program Celebrates 40th Anniversary - Lockheed Martin - December 1997
 Atlas - the First ICBM - March 1999
 Atlas Then and Now - March 1999
 Home is Where the Silo Is - October 1995
 New Atlas V - Lockheed Martin - March 1999
 Lox, Atlas and Steam - Elmer Brooks - August 1997
 Vandenberg Celebrates 35th Year Reunion of First Atlas Blue Suit Launch - October 1994
 Vandenberg Launches Last Atlas E - April 1995
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 WD-40 and Atlas - Ron Plante - March 1999

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 Airlaunched Missiles, 1950 - March 1998
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 Drones in Arizona - Jim Gasho - September 1998
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 History of Airlaunched Missiles - September 1998
 Hound Dog - An Early Cruise Missile - March 1998
 Memories of the GAR - Charles Dunnet - October 1994
 Take Careful AIM - Lee Higley - August 1997

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 Missiles We Missed - December 1998
 New Space Command Mission - Lee Volker Cox - July 1993
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 On Missiles and Space from the Commander, AF Space Command - December 1998
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 Lessons From the Past - Learned the Hard Way - October 1993
 Minuteman III Guidance Replacement - AFSPC News Service - September 1999
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Magnificent MX makes it Debut - September 1996

Offutt Team Launches Peacekeeper - October 1995

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Minuteman II Returns as MSLS - September 1996

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VAFB Born with a Roar of Thor - 35th Anniversary Celebration - Cary Gray - January 1994

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Titan II Launches QuikScat - Lockheed Martin - September 1999

Air Force Missileers Book

Turner Publishing still has copies of our 1998 book that documents the history of USAF missiles, includes about thirty pages of personal stories from missileers, has biographies of almost 300 missileers and lists over 5,000 names of missileers. The book includes a large number of historic photos.

The book is in 8 1/2 by 11 format with glossy paper and a color outer and inner covers. The number available is limited. The book sells for \$58.50 including shipping. A plastic book protector is available for an additional \$3.75. Note that Turner offers discounts on larger orders.

You can call Turner Publishing at 502-443-0121, e-mail them at turnerpc@apex.net or write to Air Force Missileers History Book, Turner Publishing Company, PO Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101.



Father of Air Force Space and Missile Programs Visits Florida

Bases - by Ken Warren, 45th Space Wing Public Affairs (AF News Release)

Retired Air Force General Bernard A. Schriever, considered the "Father of the U.S. Air Force's Space and Missile Programs," visited Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Station for a reunion with many of the men he affectionately calls the "old timers."

In the 1950s, Schriever and his teams developed the ballistic missile technology that is the same basic technology still used to launch the Atlas, Delta and Titan rockets of today. "We enjoy coming here because Cape Canaveral is where we 'proved out or proved not,'" the general said. "This is the place where we had good launches and some poor ones. It was dramatic."

The general also reminisced about his days as an advocate of military scientific research and development through the 1940s, 50s and 60s. During those years he also urged the development and deployment of intercontinental ballistic missiles to provide for America's security. "It was about deterrence. When it became obvious that long-range missiles would be a major factor in keeping the peace, President Eisenhower gave national priority to the ICBM program," Schriever said. "It all looked as though combining long-range missile capability with a nuclear warhead would be a very strong deterrent to an attack on the United States. Things are changing rapidly, but it's worked so far."

In June 1954, Schriever was handed the reins of the ICBM program. He assembled the teams that established initial operational capability for the Thor, Atlas and Titan missiles in six years or less. The Minuteman, whose development Schriever began, took only four years

(Continued on page 10)

Schriever (*cont*) - and eight months to develop and deploy. "We were able to achieve this because we had support from the top," Schriever said. He emphasized that although ICBM development was a priority from a national policy standpoint, he didn't have a blank check to get the job done. "We had to account for everything. I sweated it out in Congress on numerous occasions. That part of it — the political football — was much weaker because of the threat we faced."

That threat was from the then Soviet Union. According to Schriever, they were moving very quickly toward an ICBM capability, but it was their launch of Sputnik in 1957 that really got America's attention. "The press trumpeted the fact that we were behind the Soviets. But we were, in fact, not behind. We beat them to the punch on the ICBM," the general said. "But once triggered by Sputnik, our record in getting space capability was unmatched."

Modified versions of the Atlas and Titan missiles developed by Schriever's teams became the cornerstones of America's early manned spaceflight programs. Atlas supported the Mercury launches and Titan boosted Gemini missions into space. "Between the two programs we didn't have a single failure...didn't lose a man," he added proudly.

Schriever says the evolution of the ICBMs into space launch vehicles didn't come as a surprise, particularly after Rand Corporation studies that described what space could contribute to overall national security. "Their studies made space a very logical place for us to move into and get capabilities. That's where the ballistic missiles came in," he said. "They were ideal launch vehicles for putting considerable amounts of weight into orbit. And that's what happened."

The entrance of space-based systems into the national security equation changed the nature of warfare. "We envisioned that space would become critical to our warfighters. Even back in the 50s when we were talking about deterrent capabilities, we believed space would become an important factor," he said.

"Nowadays, thanks to space, in the first few days of a conflict we can shut their eyes, ears and their ability to talk. Then you can apply your forces with much less risk. Just look at what happened in the Persian Gulf and in the Balkans...entirely different from Korea and Vietnam. Space had everything to do with that," he said.

While the general is pleased with the contribution space is making to America's security, he strongly believes more must be done in the area of controlling space. "If we have capabilities and it's understood by our enemies we're willing to use them, that's deterrence in my book. Just like air superiority has been for the 20th Century, the same thing is true, maybe even more so, with the control of space. We've been slow in recognizing that."

One thing America clearly recognizes is Schriever's pioneering contributions to the development of the space and missile systems that have helped keep the peace. The Air Force provided the ultimate recognition June 5, 1998 when it renamed Falcon AFB to Schriever AFB.

Asked how he felt when told the AF was naming a base after him, Schriever laughed heartily and said, "Surprised. Absolutely surprised." Then he added wryly, "You know, it's quite a load." You get the feeling this 89-year-old living legend is still capable of carrying any load — much like he did more than 40 years ago when his teams carried America into the space and missile age.

Black Hills Gold Missile Pins

Black Hills Gold Missile Pins, to use either as a lapel pin or a tie tack are now available directly from Landrom's Jewelers.

Prices are \$59.20 for the gold basic badge, \$29.60 for silver, \$72.00 for the senior (badge with star), \$36 for silver, \$85 for senior with ops designator in gold, \$42.80 in silver, \$94.40 for the master (wreath and star), \$47.20 for the silver, \$108.00 for the master with operations designator (ops wreath plus wreath and star), \$54 for the silver. Prices include shipping, handling and insurance.

Black Hills Gold makers use a group of grape leaves as the basic emblem- each badge has a small double leaf at the bottom (about as wide as the bottom of the badge and about as deep as half of the star on the senior badge).

Send a check to Landstrom's Jewelers, 620 St Joe, PO Box 1220, Rapid City, SD 57709. Clearly specify which badge you want by describing it (for example, Gold Senior Badge with Ops Designator (star and large wreath on sides). You can call Landstrom's at 1-800-843-0069. Marty Skovran is their resident expert on the badge. Delivery normally takes two to three weeks.

SAC 2000

The Society of the Strategic Air Command will mark the 54th anniversary of the Strategic Air Command with a reunion 12-16 July 2000 in Omaha. Events will take place at the Holiday Inn Central and at the new SAC Museum between Omaha and Lincoln.

The event will feature several dinners, a cabaret show, golf and tennis tournaments, a memorial service and the SAC 2000 Symposium, with the theme "The Cold War didn't just end - it was won."

For information and registration forms, contact Steve Blackburn at 800-925-2053, or write to SAC 2000 Headquarters, PO Box 1254, Bellevue, NE 68005-1244.

Atomic Museum Fact Sheets

One of the projects that AAFM funded through our Missile Heritage Grants is now available to visitors to the National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque. The museum developed a series of single sheet fact sheets, featuring a photo on one side and an excellent description of the missile on the other.

The sheets cover each of the missiles on display at NAM, including Snark, Matador, Mace, Hound Dog, SRAM, Genie, Jupiter, BOMARC, Thor, Titan II and Minuteman I. Each fact sheet includes our logo, credits AAFM for its grant and recognizes the six members who died in the year prior to the grant, Warren Slagle, Floyd Richardson, Victor Berg, Francis Stone, Harold Hoyt and Douglas Barfield.

1999 Missile Heritage Grants

A committee of three board members just completed review of the applications for our grants for this year. The \$10,000 provided to museums in 1999 brings our total grants to almost \$57,000. Grant applications included \$32,400 from nine grants this year

The grants for this year went to six museums. The Ellsworth museum was provided \$2,500 for an automated narrative for the MMII MPT, Fairchild \$1,400 to restore an Atlas E launch control console and facility panel, Malmstrom \$2,000 for a MMII static display, the SAC Museum \$600 for Thor restoration, the Titan Museum \$1,500 for dehumidifier protection for artifacts and the Warren Museum (the official ICBM Museum) \$2,000 for a map depiction of US ICBM bases. .

As in past years, grants are presented in memory of members who have passed away in the last year. For 1999, we honor the memory of TSgt (Ret) Bernard Anders, Col (Ret) Willard "Barney" Barnett, LtCol (Ret) William Barnes, LtCol (Ret) Paul Doelker, LtCol (Ret) Jim Gasho, Capt (Ret) Lawrence Howes, Maj (Ret) Lee Hudson, TSgt (Ret) Edgar Jordan, MSgt (Ret) Ken Padgett, MSgt (Ret) Thomas Senter, Col (Ret) Donald H. Sherman, Col (Ret) Leonard Wallace, SMSgt (Ret) Tracy Walton, LtCol (Ret) Gordon Weihs and Col (Ret) Robert Zachmann.

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information on the meeting.**

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