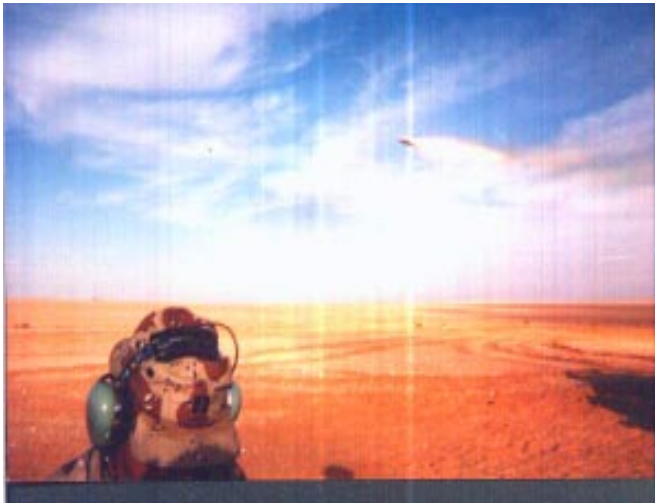


## GLCM Vets and the Gulf War



Drone Launch during Desert Storm by 4468TRG

### GLCM - 1983-1991

The ground launched cruise missile system was operational at NATO bases in Europe between 1983 and 1991, fielded along with Pershing II to counter the Soviet deployment of intermediate range missiles in Eastern Europe. The Soviets were slow to react, but finally signed the Intermediate Nuclear Force treaty that resulted in the end of the GLCM. The GLCM was featured in the July and October 1994 issues of the AAFM Newsletter. More than 150 AAFM members joined hundreds of other missileers to serve in a unique, demanding weapon system. The following story recounts a short rebirth of the GLCM mode of operation, when a few GLCM vets were called upon to deploy to the desert during the Gulf War.

### Desert Storm - A Short Rebirth of the GLCM Force - by Colonel (Retired)

*Doug Livingston, Mbr No L186. Doug lives in Tucson and is the director of the GLCM Historical Foundation.*

As most Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) alumni are aware, in May 1990, the 868th Tactical Missile Training Group (TMTG), the GLCM schoolhouse, closed its doors. The instructors and staff spread throughout the Air Force and the facilities had been turned over to another organization. Everyone remembers that in August of 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. However, most are not aware of a unique unit formed in September of 1990... which, in essence, resulted in a mini-reactivation of the 868TMTG.

It all began on 21 September 1990, a Friday, at Davis-Monthan AFB. The 868TMTG had been assigned to the 836th Air Division, headquartered on the base. Doug Livingston, the last 868TMTG commander, transferred to the Air Division as the Chief of Staff where he worked for the Air Division commander, BGen Eugene Santarelli. On that afternoon, the TAC/DO called the Air Division commander who in turn passed the following instructions to Livingston. "Think about what it would take to put together a GLCM flight." Words such as "there is no equipment; the people are gone; the INF Treaty prohibits..." seemed to make no difference. Late that same afternoon, the Air Division commander told Livingston to pack his bags for an Air Staff-dictated trip.

Early the next morning, Livingston boarded a flight for California where he was driven to a high security facility, briefed on a proposal to employ GLCM dispersed flight concepts in DESERT SHIELD by an Air Staff major and then taken to visit a contractor, Northrop-Grumman, and some high-tech hardware. After the tour, the major asked

*(Continued on page 5)*

### A Word from the Association

**Travels** - During May, your executive director, president and treasurer met at Guardian Challenge at Vandenberg, and the executive director continued on to Malmstrom for a local area meeting, the first there in over three years. While our display got a lot of attention at Vandenberg, the turnout at Malmstrom was disappointing. Those members and other missileers who did attend enjoyed the opportunity to get together and get an AAFM update and tell some missile tales.

**Missile Badge** - Our badge withstood another attack in April when the AF Space Command Director of Operations asked the field to provide inputs for a new combined missile and space badge. The overwhelming feedback favored leaving the badges alone - so for the foreseeable future, our historic and distinctive badge will still be part of the USAF uniform.

**Your Articles** - On occasion, we need to remind you that we can't always print every article as soon as it is received. We still want your articles and stories, but it would take a lot more than 12 pages to include them all in one issue of our newsletter. Keep them coming and keep watching the newsletter for your story.

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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**SAC 2000** - The Society of the Strategic Air Command (PO Box 1254, Bellevue, NE 68005) is conducting a SAC 54th Anniversary Reunion in Omaha, 12-16 July 2000. Events include a SAC 2000 Symposium, tours, memorial service, golf, tennis and a banquet at the new SAC Museum. Contact them for more information.

### 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.



**Mace** - The December issue featuring Mace brought back some memories - here is a cold war victor alert photo showing a CGM-13B launch control center at site Revenge #1 near Bitburg AFB Germany, with Hot missiles at the ready status. The young airman (me) and my launch officer (Lt Huge) are passing the wee hours of the long night with a friendly game of chess. By the way, I think I was winning! The picture was taken in the fall of 1964. *Stan Pisle, mbr no A1649, Roundup, MT.*

**Cold War** - An update on The Dept of Defense applications from those who served during the Cold War for a Cold War Recognition Certificate - all members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold war era are eligible. Dates: 2 Sept 45 to 26 Dec 91 (the date Japan surrendered to when the Soviet Union was disbanded.) Apply by mail to Cold War

(Continued on page 3)

**Letters (Cont)** - Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road Fairfax, VA 22030, or visit the web witeat <http://coldwar.army.mil>. *This information from several members.*

**Crew Blues** - I am trying to assemble a complete duty uniform, as I wore at the Minuteman II sites at Grand Forks. I am hoping to find a set of blue missile officer fatigues in size medium shirt, and size 34 trousers. I am also seeking one of the small missile scarf pins that were awarded to officers who participated in a test launch of a Minuteman II. I am willing to pay a reasonable price for these items. *Royal Barnard, mbr no A1191, email rbarn64850@aol.com, phone (office) 802-422-2399 by mail 135 Bellevue Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701.*

**381SMW** - I am the 22d Air Refueling Wing historian at McConnell AFB. As part of an enlisted heritage project, the senior enlisted advisor (now called command chief master sergeants) and I want to locate Tina Ponzer, the first female missile crew member here. Since she separated from the AF in 1979, her official records end there. Any information such as married name, hometown, etc. would be greatly appreciated. *SSgt Gary E. Johnston, 22 ARW Historian, McConnell AFB, KS 67221*

**Matador/Mace** - One small quibble on Joe Traina's description of the changes in designation. The TM-61B with inertial guidance was renamed TM-76B - they were deployed at Bitburg and in Korea and Okinawa. The birds shown in the newsletter are TM-76A models with the ATRAN radar based guidance and were deployed at Sembach and Hahn. The sites were not on the base but several miles away. By the way, the systems were later redesignated as MGM-13A & B and later still as CGM-13A & B. *Charlie Stone, mbr no A1621, Kissimmee, FL*

**Matador** - In October, I became aware of a Brookings Institution study entitled "Atomic Audit: The Cost and Consequences of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Since 1940," by Stephen Schwartz, published June 1998. I noticed in the study that it referred to the Air Force's first nuclear guided missile, the Matador, as the MGM-1C. I thought that this designation was incorrect. When I had been in training and then a launch officer with the Matador 1954-

1959, it was first designated the B-61 (pilotless bomber) and then the TM-61 (tactical missile). I emailed Dr. Schwartz, but he assured me that they had gotten the MGM-1C designation from a good source and that it is correct. I have just gotten specifics on the missile designation change from the AF Historical Research Agency. The Matador was redesignated MGM-1C by AF Regulation 66-20 effective June 27, 1963. This regulation, which also carried Army (ASR 705-36) and Navy (BUWEPSINST 8800.2) numbers and authorities, established a "uniform system for designation, redesignating, and naming and naming military rockets and guided missiles ... and applies to all elements of the military departments." The symbols in the Matador's redesignation come from the following letter designations: The first letter is the launch environment symbol. "M" denotes "Mobile - launched from a ground vehicle or movable platform." The second letter is the mission symbol. "G" stands for "Surface attack - vehicles designed to destroy enemy land or sea targets." The third letter is the vehicle type symbol. "M" stands for "Guided missile - unmanned, self-propelled vehicles designed to move in a trajectory or flight path above the earth's surface...controlled remotely or by homing systems, or by inertial and/or programmed guidance from within..." The number is "a number designating each vehicle type with the same basic design." An interesting point for those of us from the U.S. Naval Academy class of 1954: The official who signed the regulation for the Navy was K.S. Masterson, Rear Admiral, Chief, Bureau of Naval Weapons. (General Curtis LeMay signed for the Air Force and General Earle Wheeler for the Army.) *Dick Boverie, mbr no L0070, West Palm Beach, FL*

**Titan II** - I missed the TLC Megatech special that had a segment on the Titan II. I contacted them and they do not have tapes for sale and will not re-air this year. Do you know anyone who might have taped it? I'll be glad to cover costs. *Spencer Blank, 5827 Rancho Drive, Fresno, CA 93727*  
(Continued on page 4)

**AAFM National Meeting**  
**May 2000**  
**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**Letters (Cont) - SAC Flag** - I am looking for a small SAC flag 5" x 4" on a little pole—the kind that went with a desk set. Do you know of anyone who has one for sale or where I can acquire one. *Steve Brooks, mbr no A0251, Las Vegas, NV, e-mail S016@aol.com*

**Wood Plaque** - For several years, a wood carved wall plaque of the missile badge has been available. I recently tried to buy one, but found that the missile badge is discontinued. The badge in the original brochure was the plain missile badge. I have written to the company and asked what sort of a minimum order they would want to do the missile badge with operations designator. I would guess the cost will be \$55-\$65, including the shipping and handling, depending on whether it is the basic, senior, or master. The Space operations badge is \$45.95/47.95/49.95 for the basic/senior/master, plus \$6.00 shipping and handling. The company name is SB Ellis 9151 High Pines Lane, Boulder Junction, WI 54512, 715-385-2963. *John O'Connor, mbr no A0350, Albuquerque, NM. If you are interested in a missile badge, let AAFM know and we will see if there is enough demand for the company to provide them. Call, write or e-mail AAFM if you would like to be put on the list.*

**WD-40** - The article by Ron Plante about WD-40 and the Atlas brings back a host of memories for me. When I was assigned to the 567SMS in September of 1962 I had no idea of what WD-40 was. When I reported for duty I found out that everyone new had to spend a few weeks with "Purdey's Raiders". As it turned out this was a detail that was devoted to "corrosion control". In other words, you painted whatever needed painting. But also, every time the raiders visited a site, before they left, they took gallon cans of WD-40 (not spray!), and cheesecloth and wiped down the entire surface of the missile. Well, only the tank section. SSgt Purdey was really an easy going guy, I have no idea why he got stuck with heading this detail. *David Dobbs, mbr no A1519, Brookfield, IL*

**Lost Friend** - I am looking for a long lost friend who is a missileer. He is an AF officer, now 58-65 years old, who was associated with USAF aerospace research, engineering and NASA. He served 20 years active duty and worked another 20 as a civilian employee, retiring about

3-4 years ago. He was working in Colorado Springs and traveling to LAAFB frequently between 1980-93. Last known residence was 1991-92 at a Colorado ski resort. His daughter (only child) was an Arizona police officer and his first wife died of cancer. I lost contact with him and lost his business card - would like to find him - *Heidi Lolies, 519 Center St #h, El Segundo, CA 90245*

**Atlas Info** - I am taking care of an Atlas E site south of Cheyenne and would like to get in touch with Atlas E vets who can help him with information about the site configuration and other information. *Pete Ambrose, mbr no SA050, e-mail psambrose@uswest.net, phone 970-686-7677*

## Taps for Missileers

Col (Ret) Chris Branch, who was a Minuteman wing commander and served in other Minuteman jobs, was killed in an experimental aircraft crash in Omaha.

Col (Ret) Willard "Barney" Barnett, who lived in Rapid City, died in March. He was in the 390SMW and was commander of the 68SMS and was 44SMW/DO.

Col (Ret) Leonard Wallace, who lived in San Diego, was in the Western Development Division and in Mace in the 58th and 498TMG.

Lt Col (Ret) William Barnes, who lived in Tucson, was in the 394SMS, 3901SMES, 1STRAD, 4AD and HqSAC in maintenance.

MSGT (Ret) Ken Padgett, who served in Atlas in the 548SMS and in Minuteman in the 44SMW, 90SMW, 394SMS and 3901SMES, lived in Lompoc, CA.

TSgt (Ret) Bernard Anders, who lived in Kirksville, MO, was in the 390SMW.

TSgt (Ret) Edgar Jordan, who served in Matador, lived in Bradenton, FL.

## Reunions

**390SMW** - Excaliber Hotel, Las Vegas, 5-8 Oct 1999. Contact 390th SMW Memorial Association, P.O. Box 17916, Tucson, AZ 85731, by calling (520) 886-3430, or Harry Helt at jolene@azstarnet.com.

**578SMS** - 22-23 October 1999 in Las Vegas. Contact Gene Wilson at mfr59@yahoo.com or Stan Socha, 5889 N Center Rd, Saginaw, MI 48604.

**44BG/BW/SMW** - 2-5 September 1999, New Orleans, LA. Contact Mike Yuspeh, 7214 Sardonyx St, New Orleans, LA 70124-3509, phone 504-283-3424

**GLCM** (Cont) - Livingston, "can you do it?" Livingston carefully mulled over all he had seen and considered the mission requirements for employment and answered a qualified "yes". He thought, this was the same sort of thing GLCM people did. So, assuming GLCM people would be made available and appropriate vehicles and support equipment could be obtained, the mission could be done.

So picture this: here is this colonel looking at some strange equipment for the first time; receiving a briefing on how the Air Force wants to use it in a pending war; an Air Staffer by the name of Maj Buck Rogers, saying the "check is in the mail" for whatever you need; and, after he has agreed it can be done told "oh, by the way, we want you, your people and equipment in theater, ready to go in TWO WEEKS!" Needless to say, at that point the silver eagles left little white stains on the colonel's shoulders.

On Sunday evening, 23 September, Livingston landed in Tucson at 1900. By 2030 he had briefed BGen Santarelli. Time was of the essence. He left California with the feeling that if there were going to be a war, it would not begin until he had his yet to be formed unit in place. At 2200 he met with Maj Mike Koller, a former GLCM maintenance squadron commander. By midnight they had compiled a list 28 names - 2 officers and 26 enlisted personnel - who would learn in a very short period of time that they were to become a top Air Force priority. The question in Livingston's mind was whether or not he would be able to get the people he had asked for,

**LGen Chuck Horner observing missile preparation**



because they were scattered throughout the Air Force. One individual was at Maxwell AFB getting ready to become an SOS section commander; another was in training to become an OSI agent. It would be interesting to see if the Air Staff promises of "tell us what you need" would come true. Was the check really in the mail?

Monday at 0700 the list was transmitted to the HQ TAC Director of Personnel. By Wednesday evening all twenty-eight personnel were assembled at a motel in Southern California! Those from Davis-Monthan had already received an overview of what was in store for them. However, those that came from other locations only knew that they had been tasked by their Major Air Command to report to a location in California with field gear and weapon for a classified mission. In addition to what was going through the minds of the personnel, one reassuring thought was going through Livingston's mind - the Air Staff major was true to his word - the first check, in the form of 28 of GLCM's best, had arrived.

The realization of this flight's mission was driven home the following day when the Air Staff major briefed the flight of twenty eight on where they were going and what they were expected to do. We have all heard the term "loose lips sink ships". The realization was that if word leaked out, the flight would be sitting ducks - it can be difficult to hide an elephant in the desert.

Another thing was made clear to the flight of 28. They were the experts and the Air Force was relying on them to make this mission 100% successful. The lives of hundreds of allied pilots depended on how well this newly formed flight carried out its mission.

The period 27 Sept to 5 Oct became a blur. The work that needed to be done exceeded the wildest imagination of the most seasoned GLCM veteran. Learn a new system and supply the flight with everything needed to operate as a stand-alone unit for 30 days. With the majority of personnel in training, additional expertise was needed to work with the contractor and the Air Force Logistics Command to identify and meet the needs of the flight. Col Bob Weideman and Maj Mike Koller were the leaders of that effort. In the nine days from the 27 Sept to the 5 Oct, miracles were performed. Vehicles, tools, equipment, and supplies were obtained and all flight members became qualified in the operation of the system.

*(Continued on page 6)*

**GLCM (Cont)** - Livingston, MSgt Tony Gross and SSgt Fernando Estrella completed their briefing to the TAC/DO, MGen Mike Ryan, and departed on the night of 3 Oct for Saudi Arabia. Having a smooth flight, they were about 10 minutes from landing in Riyadh when the crew chief came running through the aircraft shouting, "PREPARE FOR IMPACT!" The plane began a steep, noisy, vibrating and rapid approach to what the passengers hoped was a runway. Following a hard touchdown, brakes were slammed on and everything not tied down took flight inside the aircraft. As the aircraft was brought to a jolting stop, power went off and it was pitch black in the aircraft. The same crew chief shouted "Jump, she's going to blow!" Jump we did, about 15 feet to the hard pavement! As soon as Livingston hit the runway, Estrella and Gross each grabbed one of his arms and together, showed the colonel he could run a lot faster than he had previously imagined. The three stopped a distance away and looked back to see the right wing of the 135 engulfed in flames. Luckily the plane did not blow and the fire department got the fire out. Surviving their exciting entry into Saudi, they decided everything else would be a piece of cake.

On 5 Oct a newly formed GLCM convoy drove up the interstate to rendezvous with two C-5's for a flight into the unknown. As Weideman and Koller returned to the training location to work the details of more personnel and equipment to backfill the flight, the newly

**BGen Henry and his "Air Force" - one of the missiles**



designated 4468th Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TRG) winged its way to Operation Desert Shield. It took three C-5s and two C-141s on 5 and 6 Oct to get all the personnel and equipment there. The only items not transported by the 4468TRG were the ammunition and fuel.

BGen Larry Henry, sent to Saudi Arabia to plan the electronic combat portion of the war, was the 4468TRG's boss. Henry ensured this new organization had everything it needed so training could begin in earnest, and train they did for two months, sharing quarters with elite Army Special Forces.

The 4468TRG mission was to deploy and launch BQM-74C drones, manufactured by Northrop for the Navy. The drones were to operate as decoys over select Iraqi targets permitting Air Force "Wild Weasels" to destroy enemy radar and SAM sites as they tried to track the drones. Livingston had purposely "padded" the number of personnel he felt necessary for the initial mission just in case of injuries or illness. However, after the planners laid on an increase in mission targets, everyone was needed as they formed two separate, independent flights, each with the same mission, but different targets. The flights were commonly known as "General Henry's Air Force."

The majority of training was done at night. Flight commanders Phil Smith and Ron Cole, along with maintenance supervisors Van Bertram and Mike Violette, worked hard to ensure every one of their flight members knew all there was to know about the Navy drones. They were abetted by 10 Navy technicians and two Northrop personnel, Steve Axtel and Chris Duran. The learning curve dropped dramatically. In a few weeks, set up time in the dark, with night vision goggles had been decreased by 50 per cent. By mid-December 1990, these former GLCM "pukes" had everything down pat. The Navy folks were getting tired of the GLCM PT program, so with Air Force concurrence, the 10 from the Navy returned home and the 4468TRG became a total Air Force operation - except for Axtel and Duran - who were made "honorary Air Force types." About this time BGen Henry got his second star and was replaced by BGen Glenn Proffitt.

Training, surveying forward launch sites, refining

*(Continued on page 7)*

**GLCM** (Cont) - processes, maintenance, hours of PT and VIP visits, including one from the Air Force Chief of Staff, General McPeak, kept everyone too busy to get homesick. When the President announced that the Iraqis had until 15 Jan to get out of Kuwait, you could almost see relief on the faces of the 4468TRG. They knew time was nearing when their training would finally be put into practice. They were also painfully aware that a lot of allied lives would depend on the success of their mission.

On 6 Jan, 27 cops, led by Capt Wayne Borden, joined the unit as a defense force for each flight. On 10 Jan, with proficiency at its peak, training stopped and everyone waited to see what 15 Jan would bring.

At approximately 1900 on 15 Jan 1991, BGen Profit called Livingston with the 4468TRG's long awaited orders - *be prepared for initial launch hour on the 17th*. Alpha Flight's departure was less than 12 hours away. Alpha faced a 350-mile drive which paralleled the Iraqi border, passing in range of enemy artillery and observation posts. By sunset on the 16th, Alpha's dual cell convoy was within three miles of its launch site. The convoy waited to traverse the final three miles under the cover of darkness using night vision goggles. The night soon became pitch black and the convoy rolled. All went well until 75 yards from the launch site. "Murphy's Law" reared its ugly head as the vehicles carrying the drones and launchers bogged down in the sand.

Meanwhile, 400 miles away, Capt Ron Cole's Bravo Flight moved across 31 miles of desert without incident and was ready to launch in the wee hours of 17 Jan.

As the clock ticked away, Capt Phil Smith and his Alpha Flight tried everything short of dynamite to move the stuck trucks. Finally the flight was faced with no alternative but to download and physically carry the 500-pound drones and launchers the final 75 yards. It was done and the launch times were met!

Murphy's law struck again about 0300 on 19 Jan. Alpha was in rest status, awaiting a dawn launch. All the drones were loaded and ready for launch when Alpha's cop defenders reported vehicle lights approaching in a search pattern two miles away. Based on Alpha's location so close to the border, no one knew whether the lights were friend or foe. It quickly became obvious to Smith that the flight's location would be found by the

searching lights. MSgt Tony Gross, a former GLCM cop, volunteered to walk out, unarmed, and meet the searchers. Granted he was backed up by two M-60 machine guns, but he did what only a trained cop would do. Once outside the perimeter, he waved a flashlight so searchers could see him. It was then he learned that they too had what appeared to be a vehicle mounted with M-60s and they did not speak English. Gross pointed to the flag sewn on his shoulder, and said very clearly, "United States." The occupants of the vehicles conferred a few moments, then waved, turned around and drove off into the night. MSgt Gross had diverted, what could have been a deadly confrontation.

Following the second Murphy incident, the two flights of the 4468TRG continued to deliver as scheduled. For 30 hours they launched drones at precise times toward preselected targets. Between their launches they could hear the allied aircraft roaring overhead to their targets.

By 2100 on the 19 Jan, their job was done. As each flight arrived safely back at the base of operations, there was a great feeling of relief, pride and exhilaration. Their ultimate success was not known until later, when they learned not one single Air Force aircraft was lost during the first 30 hours of the war!! BGen Henry's original plan had been carried out with absolute precision. Interestingly, the Iraqis claimed to have shot down a number of "cruise missiles" in the early hours of the war  
(Continued on page 8)

**Gen McPeak, AF Chief of Staff, meets 4468TRG members**



**GLCM** (Cont) - when in fact it had just been 4468TRG drones running out of fuel and crashing with no help from the crack Iraqi gunners.

As allied aircraft continued to attack Iraqi targets, the 4468TRG packed up for a well-deserved trip home. When Livingston called BGen Profitt a few days later and told him they were ready for home airlift, Profitt let him know that the equipment was free to go home, but the personnel would remain as part of the local wing and help wherever needed. So the equipment left and the members of the 4468TRG reported to the wing for their new jobs and another three months in Saudi Arabia, but that is another story...

Members of the 4468TRG did not have the satisfaction of public acclaim in 1991. Their mission remained classified for years. They did receive a presidential unit citation and recently their story has been told in several national magazines (including the 27 Oct 97 issue of *Aviation Week* and the Jan/Feb 98 issue of *Air Combat*) and on the cable History Channel. Probably the greatest single accolade came recently when a former member of the 4468TRG was singled out by a "Wild Weasel" crewmember. The weasel major shook the hand of the former GLCM troop and said he had been looking for years for members of the unit that he was convinced saved his life during the early stages of DESERT STORM. Drones with radar signatures of attacking aircraft took enough of the Iraqi attention to deserve this accolade. No one knows exactly how many allied pilots were saved, but it was certainly a significant number. None other than the former Air Force Chief of Staff, General Ron Fogleman, highlighted the unit's significant achievements when he spoke at the recent retirement ceremony of Lt Gen Eugene Santarelli. All members of the unit did receive decorations and seven were awarded the Bronze Star. In an April 92 note to Doug Livingston, BGen Profitt wrote "Your unit deserved all of the recognition we could get - your leadership and dedication made the difference and in the end, saved lives. What you accomplished is little understood by most people, but greatly admired by me. I know you feel the same pride for your people who pulled it off." Sadly, MGen Glenn Profitt, who provided the unit their in-theater support following BGen Henry's departure, was killed on 17 April 1995 in the crash of an Air Force C-21.

## 4468TH PERSONNEL

**Cannon AFB, NM**, SSgt Donald R. Fraser, Sgt Todd A. Isaac; **Davis Monthan AFB**, Col Robert D. Livingston; Capt Ronald H. Cole; SMSgt Van R. Bertram; MSgts Garland A. Gross and Michael E. Violette; TSgts Donald W. Harvey, James P. McElfresh and David A. Meyer; SSgts William T. Curley, James F. Dilmore, Fernando M. Estrella (AFOSI), Donald L. Fisher, Ray A. Harrell, Del N. Hildebrand, Jonathan Hunter, Darrell J. Johnson, Jeffrey Stephens, Steven P. Tudor, Gregory D. Walker and Robert Zalenski; Sgts Kevin J. Hodgerson, Onesimo Gonzales Jr and Octavio Villanueva; SRAs Patrick O. James and Brian K. Stephens; Amn Kevin A. Rhodes; **Eglin AFB, FL**, TSgt Robert McClintock; **Ellsworth AFB, SD**, SSgt Robert E. Somers; **Fairchild AFB, WA**, Major William G. Hughes III; **Holloman AFB, NM**, SSgt Sacarias T. Tampon; **Hurlburt Field, FL**, SSgt Brian G. Mann; **Los Angeles AFS, CA**, Capt Frank Scivally; **Luke AFB, AZ**, Sgt Scott A. Weum; **Malmstrom AFB, MT**, TSgt Jerried R. Brown, SSgts Randolph M. Simpson, Steven M. Smith; **Maxwell AFB, AL**, Capt Philip Smith; **Nellis AFB, NV**, SMSgt Ernie Richards, MSgt John M. Stephan, Sgt Michael A. Ellis; **Offutt AFB, NE** TSgt Neal P. Padbury; **Seymore Johnson AFB, NC**, MSgt Russell J. Haney, TSgt David A. Pennington; **Tyndall AFB, FL**, TSgt Jeffry S. Smith; **Whiteman AFB, MO**, Sgt Philip A. Smith, George N. Bell Jr.; **Northrup Corporation**, Stephen P. Axtell (Cmdr; USNR), Christopher Duran **Security Police** - Capt Wayne Borden; MSgt Michael Cloud; TSgts Andres Alonso Jr and Darren Rice, SSgts James Alba, Michael Johnson, Russell Jones, Thomas Kellum, Kenneth Parsons and Wesley Van Pelt; Sgts Charles Fields, Joseph Hoder, Alan Mayfield, Jeffrey McGaha, Ronald O'Steen, Shawn Roberts, Walter Saunders and Tim Seever; SrA Douglas Bolton, Thomas Degraives, Michael Guffy, and Todd Radoslovich; A1C Timothy Bennett, Scott O'Connor, Michael Peters, William Rowell and Bradley Stautihar **Behind the Scenes** - Col Bob Weideman (AFLC), Dr Larry Lashbrook and Maj Mike Koller (Davis Monthan), LtCol Kevin McNellis, CMSgts Larry Gross and Alan Schwartz, MSgts Mike Daniels and John Braun (AFLC, Ontario, CA), Maj Tom Alford (CENTAF), Ed Delaney (Northrop-Grumman)



## Guardian Challenge - The Competition Continues - by Col (Ret)

Charles G. Simpson, AAFM Executive Director

The crowd in the hangar grew quiet as the Master of Ceremonies, Major General Bill Looney, the new Director of Operations for Air Force Space Command, took the stage to open the final event of the 1999 Space and Missile Competition, Guardian Challenge 99. The three giant video screens reflected the image of the stage filled with the trophies for the winners, and Gen Looney opened the program. As he began introducing the Commander, AF Space Command, General Richard Myers, he realized that neither the general nor his wife were at the head table.

Gen Looney asked the throng of competitors and staff if they could see the general - and suddenly, an image appeared on the three giant video screens above the stage. The screens showed a motorcycle approaching the hangar with two riders. The hangar filled with the noise of the motorcycle as it entered the hangar door and slowly cruised around the tables where the participants sat. Gen Myers and his wife, both attired in the blue one piece coveralls worn by all missile and space operators, stopped in front of the stage and dismounted, with a roar from the crowd. The awards banquet for Guardian Challenge had begun.

1999 marked the 32nd year for the missile, and now missile and space, competition, begun in 1967 as Curtain Raiser. This year, seven space wings, three with intercontinental ballistic missiles and four involved with

space operations, took part in the event. The event has evolved over the years, but the spirit of the competition, the gathering of the "best of the best", has not changed.

This year, competing teams, complete with mascots, arrived on Sunday and Monday. Competitive events took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the final event Wednesday night a combination score posting, awards presentation and banquet. The four wings involved with space operations, from Patrick, Vandenberg, Schriever and Peterson, quickly adopted the customs set years ago by the missile wings, now down to three from Minot, Malmstrom and Warren - each wing had a highly visible mascot, from the Hawks of Vandenberg to the Rough Rider from Minot, and each wing had distinctive ways to make a lot of noise. Minot's chorus of axe handles pounded on the hangar floor is only one of many ways teams show their spirit.

The ICBM wings competed in missile operations, with two combat crews each, in tactics, marksmanship and obstacle course for the security forces, in missile communications, in missile maintenance with teams from the ELAB, MMT, Pneudraulics and munitions maintenance, and in helicopter operations. The wings from Vandenberg and Patrick each competed with spacelift operations team, and the wings from Peterson and Schriever in space operations with two teams each. In addition, a Royal Air Force team from RAF Fylingdales competed with the other space operations teams. These four wings also competed with security forces. The Peterson and Schriever wings included space communications teams, and the Patrick and Vandenberg teams included helicopter teams.

AAFM took part in the Contractors Expo on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, joining about twenty contractors and AF units with displays in the ballroom of the Vandenberg Club. President Jay Kelley, Treasurer Bob Kelchner and Executive Director Charlie Simpson talked to hundreds of visitors about our association and exchanged pins, coins, cups and more for donations to our Missile Heritage Fund. Our new display, featuring four large photographs of Mace, Titan I, Minuteman and Titan IV, was located at the entrance to the expo. Bob Wycoff, member and author of the poem "Missileer", joined us and signed several copies of his poem for visitors.

(Continued on page 10)

**GC99 (Cont)** - During the days of Olympic Arena, score postings took place nightly in the old base theater, Sesto Auditorium. Many of you remember the noise of the teams as they entered, and the stone-faced sergeants who posted the scores for each competitive event. The banquet, featuring Santa Maria BBQ, took place the final night, and the trophies were presented the next morning at the auditorium. Now, all three of these events are combined into one big show.

The hangar on the Vandenberg flightline normally used by the base helicopter unit is decorated with draped camouflage netting and parachutes, and three large video screens and a gigantic sound system fill the front of the hangar. The teams enter one by one, led by the team mascot and wing commander, and dressed in their distinctive competition jackets. Each team is introduced by a short film clip - the Hawks of Vandenberg used a clip from the movie "Jaws", showing actor Roy Schieder blasting away at the great white shark (which happens to be Patrick's mascot). After the noise from the final team to enter had quieted down and the introductions had been completed, the three screens filled with an image of a four star general clad in the one piece blue operations coveralls, his mouth clamped on a big cigar. This general, though, was part of the "real" Air Force - he was the actor who played the commander of NORAD in the movie "War Games" and the retired astronaut in the television show "Northern Exposure." The "General" got the attention of crowd quickly - he welcomed the "Best of the Best" and commented on the important part the missile and space force plays in national defense.

Following the traditional Santa Maria BBQ, Gen Looney introduced the Competition Judge, Major General Tony Pelak, who began the score posting and trophy presentations. In this electronic age, the stone-faced sergeants and the big blue scoreboard are gone. After a short video clip showing the featured teams at work, the two video screens on the sides display scores for the event being posted. The center screen shows a giant "slot machine" drum, and the wheels turn to show the score earned by each team. Often, the judge asked "Is this high enough?", and spins the wheels again to the joy of the competing teams. As soon as all the scores for each speciality are posted, the winning team takes the stage to

receive their individual trophies. The last score posted in each of the three major categories, Missile Operations, Spacelift and Space Operations lead to the posting of the wing totals for the three major trophies, with these presented one after the other to end the awards ceremony.

Malmstrom's 341st Space Wing took the Blanchard trophy, as well as winning best missile ops, missile maintenance and helicopter operations. The 91st at Minot took the missile comm award. The 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg took the Schriever trophy as best spacelift wing, and also took best spacelift ops. The 50th Space Wing at Schriever AFB won the Aldridge award as best space operations wing, and the RAF team from Fylingdales took the space ops trophy. Best Security team came from the 21st Space Wing at Peterson and best space comm team from the 50th.

Bob Kelchner, the AAFM treasurer, was a competitor in the first competition in 1967, Curtain Raiser. This year, Bob sat with the team from Malmstrom, and got to see, up close, the spirit and enthusiasm that still exists at this great annual event. Air Force Space Command has updated the event in many ways, and the competition has entered the electronic/video age, but it is still the gathering of the best of the best of the world's space and missile officers, airmen and civilians.

#### Guardian Challenge 99 Security Force Competitor



### AAFM National Meeting - May 2000 In Colorado Springs

The fourth National Meeting of the Association of Air Force Missileers is scheduled for 17-20 May 2000, at the Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The newly renovated hotel is located near the World Arena on the south side of the city, and has outstanding conference and reunion facilities.

The meeting will begin on Wednesday with registration and an evening welcome party. Thursday activities will include a breakfast, tours of Space Command facilities and dinner. Friday activities will include a golf tournament, tours of local attractions, such as the Olympic Training Center and the AF Academy, and a dinner and show at the Flying W, a local attraction with a great western musical show.

Saturday morning will include a breakfast, general membership meeting and board meeting, with the afternoon free for individual activities. The banquet Saturday night will include a featured speaker. Sunday morning breakfast will be the final activity.

Reservations at the hotel will go fast, so early arrangements are recommended. The hotel should be contacted directly for room reservations at 719-576-8900, and ensure you tell the hotel that you are part of the AF Missileers meeting. Our meeting rate is \$94 per night plus tax, which is a little higher than the rate for the last

meeting, but rates are higher in the Springs, and the hotel is an outstanding facility. Our special rate will apply for three days before and after the meeting for those who want stay and see more of the area. As with all our previous meetings, you must reserve a room by 17 April 2000 to be guaranteed the room rate and to take advantage of our block reservations - don't delay reserving - hotels in the Springs are very busy.

A detailed registration form will be included in the September newsletter with specific details on all tours, meals and other activities. Mark your calendar now and join us in Colorado Springs.

### Missile Badge Pins

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.

**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**

## Malmstrom Museum - A Visit by your Executive Director

The museum at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, home of the 341st Space Wing, where many AAFM members served, recently reopened in a new building with a new director. Displays outside include several aircraft that were part of Malmstrom's history, as well as a Minuteman III missile and several support vehicles.

The indoor displays start with a history of the area, documenting Lewis and Clark's visit to the area, followed by the early history of the base. Missile displays include a complete Minuteman I launch control center built from an early Missile Procedures Trainer, Minuteman II (564SMS and 321SMW system) consoles, guidance and reentry systems displays, uniforms, a Genie air-launched missile and much more. A number of new displays are in work.

The museum is located just inside the base gate, and is open from 1100 to 1600, Monday-Friday. Museum Director Curt Shannon can arrange for special requests, and he hopes to have the museum open on weekends. Three members of the board of directors, Gerald Hanson, Duane Hedahl and Dane Donnelly have been involved for several years - their hard work, along with that of Curt Shannon and many volunteers, has ensured the success of this fine museum.

**Minuteman I Console at Malmstrom Museum**



## Titan Missile Museum Plans New Visitor Center

- *Becky Roberts, Deputy Director for Titan, Arizona Aerospace Foundation*

The Titan Missile Museum National Historic Landmark first opened on 21 May 1986. Visitors take a one hour tour of above and below ground displays and facilities, including a briefing on the history of the program. A simulated launch countdown is demonstrated in the launch control center and the tour culminates with a close up view of missile N-10 in the silo.

The visitor center started out in a refurbished construction shack because time and attention were focused on making the missile site as informative to the public as possible. Expansion over the last 12 years has been "temporary" in nature. The Museum is nationally recognized as the repository for the Titan II ICBM program. We are now in dire need of a permanent building that will permit us to continue to serve an increasing number of visitors, provide a comprehensive educational experience for of all ages and permit proper storage, cataloging and display of thousands of documents, photographs and artifacts.

We have \$180,000 in our fund as of April 1999, our goal is \$841,500. Please send your tax deductible gift, payable to the Arizona Aerospace Foundation, clearly indicating that it is a donation towards the Titan Missile Museum New Visitor Center, to Titan Missile Museum, P.O. Box 150, Green Valley, AZ 85622. Questions? Please call Becky Roberts, Deputy Director for Titan, at 520-625-7736.

## 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 1993-1994 newsletter reprints.

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

\$10 - choose an AAFM golf cap, 1998 Guardian Challenge/AAFM coin, 321OSS Patch or AAFM Desk Clock.

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

\$60 - USAF 50th Anniversary Book

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