



AAFAM

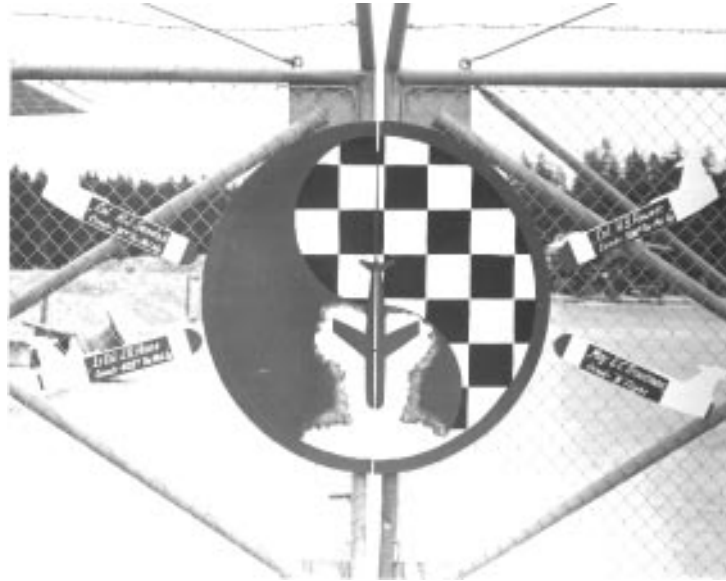
Association of Air Force Missileers
Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 1

"Victors in the Cold War"

March 2000

What Squadron Were You In?



Squadron Patch on gate at Hahn AB, Germany

A review of the Missile Squadrons - by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, Executive Director, AAFM, who served in the 569SMS, 446SMS, 447SMS, 448SMS, 3901SMES and 68SMS

Over the history of our missile systems, there have been many units - and the one that most of us felt closest to was the squadron. This article looks at the wide variety of squadrons that have existed since we first began missile testing. There may be some that we missed, but the research by several members, and others, has been documented in several ways, and this summary tells a little about each unit on which we could find information.

Some units have lived more than one life - most started as World War II bomber units, and some were active in more than missile system. The Ground Launched Cruise Missile units were, in many cases, reactivations of early Matador or Mace designations. Many changed designations over the years - Strategic Missile Wings (SMW) became Missile Wings (MW) and then Space Wings (SW), changing Strategic Missile Squadrons (SMS) to Missile Squadrons (MS). Note that to avoid repetition, that change is not reflected every time it applies.

The Early Squadrons

We start with some of the earliest units. Eglin AFB, Florida, was the home of some of the first. The 1st Experimental Guided Missile Squadron (EGMS), under the 1EGM Group, was activated in February 1946, to test the JB-2, VB-3, VB-6 and the VB-13. It became the 1st Guided Missile Squadron (GMS) of the 550th Guided Missile Wing (GMW) in 1949, tasked with testing the MX-674 Tarzon missile. The 1GMS and another unit, the 2GMS, were active at Eglin from mid-1949 until late 1950. The 1GMS relocated to Patrick AFB, Florida, and the 2GMS moved to Holloman AFB, New Mexico, under the 6540th Missile Test Wing (MTW), to test Matador and Snark

(Continued on page 4)

In This Issue: What Squadron Were You In?....1
The AAFM Executive Director....10

A Word from AAFM, Letters ... 2
New AF Logo??....11

Taps, Reunions....3
National Meeting.....12

A Word from the Association

1999 Financial Summary - Our income for the year totalled \$31,799.70, including dues (\$23,937.24), donations (\$1,731.68), interest (\$110.34), gain through sale of investment (\$6,000) and other (\$20.44). Expenses were administration (\$4,598.34), postage (\$3,689.80), printing (\$7,923.85), awards (\$2,697.70), grants (\$12,486.00), and meetings (\$354.50) for a total of \$31,750.19. We carried over \$49.51 into 2000. Income was \$3,300 over amount budgeted. Dues available for 1999 were \$900 below budget. Donations were \$1500 below budget. Investment Income was \$6000 over budget. Expenses were \$153 over budget. Awards were \$2486 over budget because a portion of 1998 awards were paid in 1999. Assests at end of year were an investment account (\$40,413.89 invested, valued at \$45,353.36) and cash (\$7,850.07), including \$1053 in prepaid 2000 National Meeting funds. Liabilitues were \$38,554.61 in prepaid future dues.

Board Election - a post card is enclosed with this newsletter to elect/reelect four board members. Please return the card as soon as possible.

Board Member? - Would you like to be considered for a nomination as a board member of **AAFM**? We have twelve board members, and elect four every two years for six year terms. If you are interested, send a short

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.

Board of Directors -

President - LtGen (Ret) Jay Kelley, Colo Springs, CO

Vice President - Col (Ret) Jim Burba, Bend, OR

Secretary - MSgt (Ret) Dayna Castro, Lompoc, CA

Treasurer - CMS (Ret) Bob Kelchner, Torrance, CA

BGen (Ret) Jim Crouch, Austin, TX

CMSgt (Ret) Joe Andrew, Woodbridge, VA

Col (Ret) Dick Keen, Punta Gorda, FL

LtCol Mike Lehnertz, Colorado Springs, CO

LGen Lance Lord, Commander, Air University

MGen Tom Neary, Commander 20AF

MGen (Ret) Bob Parker, Charlestown, WV

Capt Julie Wittkoff, Ogden ALC, UT

Executive Director - Col (Ret) Charles G. Simpson

Printer - Bob Kelchner, Allegra Print and Imaging,

20905 Western Ave, Torrance, CA 90501 800-701-7727

Association of Air Force Missileers Phone/fax

PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424 970-453-0500

AAFM@afmissileers.org

www.afmissileers.org

summary of your background and tell us why you want to be a part of the board. The next nominating committee will review applications and consider them for future vacancies. Keep in mind that we have a mix of officer and enlisted members, as well as four active duty board members. Active duty board members do not serve as officers of the association but are voting members of the board.

Letters to the Association

Address your letters to **AAFM**, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424, or send by e-mail to aafm@afmissileers.org. Letters may be edited to fit - content/meaning will not be changed.

Missile Heritage Grants - We are very appreciative of your donation of \$1500 as part of our campaign to build a visitor center at the Titan Missile Museum complex. We feel strongly that this project is one that will benefit not only our extended Arizona community, but the nation as a whole. Preserving and presenting history is our mission. We will acknowledge the donation honoring the **AAFM** members as requested. The Titan Missile Museum National Historic Landmark offers a rare and truly emotional view of the Cold War - your dollars will help us share that view with thousands. *Edward D Harrow, Jr Executive Director, Arizona Aerospace Foundation.*

Thank you and the association for your continued support of the South Dakota Air and Space Museum. We are looking forward to automating our Minuteman II Launch Control Center trainer. This will allow us to better tell the story of the professionalism and dedicated duty that was required to man these facilities in South Dakota for over 30 years. The actions of the men and women of the missile force deserve our continued support because the effort is still ongoing and needed. The visitors who take our summer bus tour to the Minuteman II missile silo continue to point to it as one of the highlights of their visit. The narrative in the LCC will be a real complement to silo tour. I am also encouraged to see that **AAFM** continues to grow, a trend in organizations that many are not able to maintain. We invite all missileers to visit the museum and see the display as well as the rest of our program. *Charles Roetter, Col, USAF, (Ret), President*

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the SAC Museum, I would like to express my thanks to you and to the **AAFM** for the recent contribution of \$1,600. The SAC Museum is committed to preserving and presenting the memory of SAC and the vital role it played in maintaining world peace, and exhibiting the history of the Strate-

(Continued on page 3)

Letters (Cont) - gic Air Command for future generations. It is through the generosity of our patrons that we will be able to continue into the new century and beyond. The SAC Museum has welcomed over 450,000 visitors since opening on April 1, 1998, and their first view is of the missiles that "stand guard" at the entrance to the building. I hope you will pay us a visit if your travels ever bring you in our direction Please extend our sincere thanks to the members of *AAFM*. *Scott Hazelrigg, Executive Director, SAC Museum*

I would like to personally thank you for the \$2000 grant the association recently presented to the Malmstrom Historical Foundation. The Money will be used to construct a detailed Minuteman missile system display at our base museum. We are grateful for the grant and plan to have the display complete during the October time frame. We would be honored to have you visit us here at "Wing One" as we unveil this display. *Col Greg Pavlovich, Commander, 341st Space Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT.*

The check for \$1400 has been received - I extend the gratitude of the 92ARW and that of the Fairchild Heritage Museum Board of Directors for your support of our project. The funds you have granted have been key in allowing us to produce a first class exhibit honoring the accomplishments of the 567th SMS and preserving the history of the Atlas E deployment at Fairchild Air Force Base. *Frederick D. Brown, Director Fairchild Heritage Museum*

Cold War Book - Air University Press recently published an excerpt from a more extensive piece on the Cold War. The excerpt is Chapter 5 of the major document and is titled: "INSIDE THE COLD WAR: A Cold Warrior's Reflections." Author is *AAFM* member MGen (Ret) Chris Adams. The pub is a 200 page reflective documentary centering on the "Cold Warriors" ..Bomber, Tanker, Recce, SLBM...And, the AF Missileers. The people, the equipment, their missions; the Heros; numerous anecdotes; the fun, the games and the serious business we all "enjoyed." The book is free to all former Cold Warriors by calling: AU Press Emily Adams or Joan Dawson, at 334-953-4924 or 6346 or 6136; via internet: www.au.af.mil/au/oas/aupress.

Locator - If you know where any of these missileers are, contact *AAFM* and we'll pass the informaton along

to the individual looking for them.

Roger Bernard was at Minot in the 455SMW, 1965-1968 and was originally from Lewiston, Maine. Mike Elich is looking for him

Sgt Hopkins was an MFT at DMAFB in the mid to late 70s. His BMAT, Tom Preble, is looking for him.

Paul Hormann is trying to find Charlie Stillwell, who was in the 321SMW at Grand Forks in the late 1960s.

Taps for Missileers

LtCol (Ret) John Gilmore, an *AAFM* member who served in Atlas D in the 549SMS and 576SMS, and lived in Scottsdale. He worked both in Ops and munitions.

Hal Trueman, who lived in Omaha, was in the 394SMS, 1STRAD, 4315CCTS and at Offutt.

Col (Ret) Julius Pickoff, an *AAFM* member who lived in Larkspur, Colorado. He was vice commander of the Atlas wing at Warren, commander of the Titan I wing at Lowry and the Titan II wing at McConnell, as well as serving at Hq SAC.

Reunions

AMMS 2000 - AMMS Missileers will meet in Cocoa Beach, FL, 27-29 April 27-29 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. Visit their web site at www.homepage.hitter.net/tmc.

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

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

455SMW (Minot) - Williamsburg VA, 26-29 April 2000 at Raddison Ft Magruder Inn. Contact Pryce Brownfield, 8599 E. Aloe Dr. Gold Canyon, AZ 85219

556SMS - 4-8 October 2000, Le Baron, Best Western, Colorado Springs

485TMW (Florennes) - will meet with the *AAFM* National Meeting in May

69TMS, 586TMG, 701TMW - 14-18 October 2000, Victoria, BC Canada. Contact Louis G Koszarek 31809 37th Avenue SW, Federal Way, WA 98023, Phone 253-874-5428

Squadrons (Cont) - missiles. The 3GMS, of the 550GMW, was at Patrick during the last half of 1950, testing the Lark missile. At the end of 1950, the 3GMS became the 4803GMS, as part of the 4800GMW, and lasted until 1953. The change was probably due to a new USAF policy on squadron designations, since a number of four digit units came to life at about that time. The 4802nd Missile Test Squadron (MTS), tasked with Matador testing, also activated at the same time at Patrick. Others at Patrick included the 6545MTS, 6546MTS and 6547MTS, under the 6541MTW. These three units lasted until 1953 for the first and 1954 for the other two. The 6555GMS of the 6555th GMW was also part of Patrick from 1951 to 1959.

Three units were at Holloman in the 1952-55 time frame - they were involved with missile test, but we haven't tracked down the exact missions in every case. They were the 6556GMS, which tested the early Falcon air-to-air missiles, and the 6580MTS and 6580GMS, both assigned to the, 6580MTW.

6555GMS, Patrick



Matador and Mace

The initial test unit for Matador at Holloman was followed by units at Patrick and Orlando, and some of these then moved to Germany to become operational units. The 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron (PBS) became part of the 4800GMW at Patrick in late 1951. These were followed by the 69PBS in 1952, the 11PBS in 1954 and the 17PBS in 1955. A training organization, the 4504th Missile Training Wing (MTngW), was established at Orlando AFB for Matador and then Mace training. Many AAFM members spent time in this unit before heading for Europe or the Pacific. The 4504th MTngW had three squadrons, the 4504th Student Squadron (STURON), the 4504th Training Squadron (TS) (for Instructors and Education); and the 4504th Support Squadron (SS).

When it moved to Bitburg AB, Germany, the 1PBS began an evolution, first as part of the 7382nd Guided Missile Group (GMG) in 1954, then as part of the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) and finally as the redesignated 1st Tactical Missile Squadron (TMS) under the 701st Tactical Missile Wing (TMW) in 1956. The 1TMS was joined by the 71TMS, 585th Missile Maintenance Squadron (MIMS) and the 585SS under the 585th Tactical Missile Group (TMG).

Hahn AB, Germany, became home for the 69PBS, first under the 50TFW, then the 7382GMG, which became the 7382TMG. The unit became the 69TMS under the 701TMW in 1956, and it was joined by the 405TMS, 586MIMS and 586SS, all as part of the 586TMG, beginning in late 1956.

Down the road at Sembach, the 11PBS was activated under the 601st Tactical Control Wing (TCW) in September of 1954, becoming the 11TMS under the 701TMW in 1956. The 587SS joined the 587TMG at the same time, and the 822TMS came to Sembach in 1958.

On the other side of the world, the 17TMS, which became the 868TMS late in 1958, became the Matador unit in Tainan, Taiwan, first under 13th Air Force and later under the 6214th Tactical Group (TG). Matador came to Osan, Korea, when the 310TMS and 58SS were activated under the 58TMG.

Mace followed closely behind the Matador. At Hahn, the 89TMS and 405TMS were Mace units under the 38TMW, beginning in 1962. At Bitburg, the 71TMS, also part of the parent 38TMW, was activated at the same time, but was under the 36TFW for its last few years. Sembach Mace units, also equipped in the same year, were the 38MIMS, 822TMS, 823TMS and the 887TMS, all also part of the 38TMW. At Kadena, Okinawa, the 498MIMS, 873TMS and the 874TMS were all part of 498TMG.

Snark

The Snark intercontinental cruise missile had a short life, with testing at Patrick and deployment at Presque Isle AFB, Maine. The 556SMS was activated at Patrick in 1957, and scheduled to be moved north in 1959. However, a decision was made to deactivate the 556SMS and not activate a planned 702nd Missile Maintenance Squadron, so the Snark was operated under the 702SMW structure with no subordinate squadrons until phase-out in 1961.

(Continued on page 5)



30ADMS, Dow

Squadrons (Cont) -

Air Defense and the BOMARC

The BOMARC interceptor missile was deployed under the 26th Air Division (AD) beginning in early 1959. Units included the 6th Air Defense Missile Squadron (ADMS), at Suffolk County AFB, New York, the 22ADMS at Langley AFB, Virginia, the 26ADMS at Otis AFB, Massachusetts, the 30ADMS at Dow AFB, Maine, the 35ADMS at Niagara Falls AFB, New York, the 37ADMS at Kincheloe AFB, Michigan and the 46ADMS at McGuire AFB, New Jersey. The 74ADMS at Duluth AFB, Minnesota, was part of the 30AD. The 430ADMS and the 4751ADMS were at Hurlburt under the 4751th Air Defense Missile Wing. BOMARC were launched there until late in the 1970s. The 25ADS, under the 10ADG, was at Vandenberg in the late 1960s.



99MMS, RAF Feltwell

Thor

The Thor was deployed as an intermediate range ballistic missile in the United Kingdom from 1958 until 1963. The operational units were Royal Air Force squad-

rons, with USAF launch officer performing duty along side their RAF counterparts. Units included the 77SMS (RAF) at Feltwell, the 97SMS (RAF) at Helmswell, the 98SMS at Driffield, and the 144SMS (RAF) at North Luffenham. The 99th Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS) and the 672th Technical Training Squadron (TTS) at Feltwell, and later at Lakenheath, were also part of the 705th SMW, which was the US parent unit for all the UK Thor squadrons. Vandenberg had several units involved with Thor, including the 10ADS under the 6595th Aerospace Test Wing (ATW) (with some operations at Johnson Island), the 392SMS, under the 704SMW and then the 1st Missile Division (MD) and 1st Strategic Aerospace Division (STRAD), the 4300SS, which along with Thor had Blue Scout missiles, and the 672SMS, under the 704SMW before it moved to Feltwell as the 672TTS.



866SMS, Huntsville

Jupiter

Jupiter started as an Army system, but in 1957, the Secretary of Defense tasked the Air Force with the responsibility for deploying and manning the system, since its range exceeded the 200 mile limit for Army weapons. The 864SMS was activated first at Huntsville, Alabama, in early 1958 and then moved to Camp Cook (Vandenberg AFB), California, first under the 1MD and then as part of the 704SMW. In 1959, the unit became the 864TTS, preparing Jupiter missileers for duty in Italy and Turkey. The 864TTS moved back to Huntsville in 1960, and joined the 865TTS and 866TTS, which were also activated in 1958 as the 865SMS and 866SMS. For a short time in 1959, there was also a 644SMS as part of the 704SMW at Vandenberg. The operational units for Jupiter were the two squadrons at Gioia del Colle, Italy, NATO I, and the single squadron at Cigli, Turkey, NATO II. Although operated by Italian or Turkish missileers,

(Continued on page 6)

Squadrons (Cont) - the warheads were controlled by USAF members of the units, similar to the Thor arrangement in the UK. These units were operational from 1959 to 1963. USAF personnel serving with Jupiter in Italy sometimes wore the patch of the 36th Brigata, the Italian AF Jupiter organization.



564SMS, Warren

Atlas

Atlas was deployed in three variants at bases around the US. Only one base, Warren AFB, Wyoming, had more than a single squadron. There, the 706SMW, which then became the 389SMW, began with the 564SMS and 565SMS with the Atlas D system 1958. In 1960, the 549SMS was activated with the Atlas E system. In 1961, this unit swapped designations with the 566SMS, the Atlas D unit at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. At the same time, the three squadrons, the 564SMS, 565SMS and 566SMS had a change in parent unit when the wing designation was changed to the 389SMW. Other units in the wing were the 706MIMS (389MIMS) and the 706SS (389SS).

At Vandenberg AFB, California, the 576SMS, initially part of the 704SMW, was equipped with all three Atlas variants, and became the first ICBM squadron in the USAF when it was activated in April 1958. It now exists as the 576th Flight Test Squadron (FLTS), overseeing the operational test program for Minuteman and Peacekeeper. Between 1959 and today, it progressed through several test missions, first for Atlas, Titan, and Minuteman under the 1MD, the short lived 392SMW and 1STRAD. When it was reactivated as the 576FLTS, it became part of the 30SW.

The only other Atlas D unit was the 566SMS, which became the 549SMS in 1961 at Offutt, under the 4321st Strategic Aerospace Wing (SAW).

Atlas E units included the 548SMS at Forbes

AFB, Kansas, under the 21AD, the 40SAW and finally the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW) and the 567SMS, at Fairchild AFB, Washington, under the 92SAW.

Atlas F silos were scattered around six states. The 550SMS was at Schilling AFB, Kansas as part of the 310SAW. The 551SMS was at Lincoln AFB, Nebraska, under the 818 STRAD. The home of the 556SMS was Plattsburgh AFB, New York, under the 820STRAD. The 577SMS at Altus AFB, Oklahoma was under the 11SAW. The 578SMS at Dyess AFB, Texas belonged to the 96SAW. The 579SMS at Walker AFB, New Mexico was under the 6SAW.

In 1965, all of the operational Atlas units were closed as part of the inactivation of all of the Atlas and Titan I missile systems.



569SMS, Mt Home

Titan I

At the same time that the Atlas was deployed around the US, a second liquid-fueled ICBM also came to life. The Titan I was active during the same period as the Atlas, from 1958 to 1965. Like Atlas, there was one wing and several independent squadrons. The 395SMS at Vandenberg had one Titan I complex used for training and operational test, with a short-lived silo called OSTF-1 (see the January 1996 *AAFM* Newsletter for a story about this silo.)

The wing at Lowry AFB, Colorado, began as the 703SMW but then became the 451SMW in 1961. The two operational squadrons were initially designated the 848SMS and the 849SMS, then the 724SMS and the 725SMS. The 4309SS (451SS) and the 703MIMS (451MIMS) were also part of the wing.

The other Titan locations were at SAC bases in

(Continued on page 7)

Squadrons (Cont) - the west. The 568SMS at Larson AFB, Washington was part of the 4170SAW and then the 467SAW. The 569SMS at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho was under the 9SAW. The 850SMS at Ellsworth AFB began life under the 28th Bomb Wing (BW), but was then made part of the newly activated Minuteman I unit, the 44SMW. The 851SMS at Beale AFB, California was part of the 4126th Strategic Wing, and later the 456SAW.

Like Atlas, the Titan I program came to an end in mid-1965, the victim of progress as the more advanced Titan II and Minuteman began to join the deterrent force.



570SMS, Davis Monthan

Titan II

The hypergolic-fueled Titan II was deployed at three bases beginning in 1961. The 395SMS at Vandenberg controlled Titan II sites that were used for training and operational test until 1969. Each of the three wings had two missile squadrons with nine missiles each, along with the normal maintenance and support units.

Little Rock AFB, Arkansas, has the 373SMS and 374SMS and was active from 1962 to 1985. The 308SMW also included the 308MIMS. Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona, was home of the 390SMW with the 570SMS, 571SMS and the 390MIMS, from 1962 to 1984. McConnell AFB, Kansas, home of the 381SMW, had the 532SMS, 533SMS and the 381MIMS between 1962 and 1985.

Minuteman

Six operational bases and Vandenberg had squadrons associated with the Minuteman I, II or III. Three of the operational bases are still active, but Ellsworth,



90MXS, Warren

Whiteman and Grand Forks no longer have missile units or missile silos. The strategic arms reduction treaties resulted in the destruction of the silos at these three bases, except for a single silo and launch control center near Ellsworth, which is becoming a national monument.

Malmstrom AFB, Montana, home of the 341SMW (now the 341SW), was the first operational Minuteman base. The 10SMS, 12SMS and the 490SMS were originally equipped with Minuteman I missiles - these were later replaced with the Minuteman II (Modernized) missiles. All three squadrons now have Minuteman III missiles. The units were first activated in 1961 and 1962. The 564SMS was built with the same ground system as the Grand Forks wing, and began life with Minuteman II missiles in 1966. It is also now equipped with Minuteman IIIs. Other units that have been or are now part of the wing include the the 341MIMS (1961-1975), the 341st Field Missile Maintenance Squadron (FMMS) and the 341st Organizational Missile Maintenance Squadron (OMMS) (1975-1992), and now the 341st Operations Support Squadron (OSS), the 341st Logistics Support Squadron (LSS) and the 341st Maintenance Squadron (MXS).

Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, was home of the 44SMW (then 44MW) from 1962 to 1994. The 44MW was the first Minuteman wing to be inactivated and have its launch facilities destroyed, with the closing ceremony on 4 July 1994. Equipped first with Minuteman I, then the Minuteman Modernized missiles and ground system, the wing had three operations squadrons, the 66SMS, 67SMS and the 68SMS. The 44MIMS was active from

(Continued on page 8)

Squadrons (Cont) - 1962 to 1975, the 44FMMS and the 44OMMS were the maintenance squadrons from 1975 to 1992, followed by the 44MXS, 44LSS and 44OSS until closing.

Initially, all Minuteman Airborne Launch Control System crews were assigned to the 68SMS, but in 1970, the 4th Airborne Command Control Squadron (ACCS), part of the 28BW, took over that responsibility until it was closed in 1991. Two other units, the 3ACCS, for four years in the early 1970s, and the 2ACCS at Offutt, had missileers assigned to them in airborne control jobs.

At Warren AFB, Wyoming, in the 90SMW, the 319SMS, 320MS, 321SMS and 400SMS started with Minuteman I in 1964, transitioning to Minuteman III in the early 1970s. The 400SMS became the only Peacekeeper squadron in the USAF in 1988. The wing also included the 90MIMS, the 90FMMS and 90OMMS, as well as the 90MMS (unique to single wing bases since the warhead functions were usually under munitions squadrons assigned to the bomb wings), and finally the current units including the 90OSS, 90MXS and 90LSS.

The 91SMW, at Minot AFB, North Dakota, began life in 1962 as the 455SMW, with the 740SMS, 741SMS and the 742SMS, along with the the 455MIMS. The wing transitioned from Minuteman I to III missiles in the 1970s. In 1968, the 455SMW became the 91SMW, but kept the same designations for the three operations squadrons, with the maintenance unit becoming the 91MIMS. Like the Minuteman wings, the 91FMMS and 91OMMS came into being in 1975. In 1992, the 91OSS, 91LSS and 91MXS became part of the wing.

Whiteman AFB, Missouri was home of the second Minuteman wing to be closed, the 351SMW, with the 508SMS, 509SMS and 510SMS, along with the 351MIMS. The 351FMMS and 351OMMS came into being in 1975. The last three years, the 351MW had the 351OSS, 351LSS and the 351MXS, until closing in 1995.

At Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, the sixth and last Minuteman wing, equipped in 1965 with the new Minuteman II missiles and Sylvania ground system, began life with the 446SMS, 447SMS and 448SMS along with the 321MIMS. The 321SMW also changed to Minuteman III missiles in the early 1970s, and added the new squadron maintenance squadron designations of the 321FMMS and 321OMMS. The 321SMW was inactivated in 1998, along with the 321OSS, 321LSS and 321MXS.



3901SMES, Vandenberg

Vandenberg

Vandenberg AFB, California has already been mentioned as home to some of the units for earlier systems, and some squadrons had multiple systems and missions because of the unique test role the base still has. For fourteen years, the 51MMS provided reentry system and munitions support. The 394MTS began in 1958 and eventually became the 394SMS, involved with Minuteman testing until 1976, when it became the 394th ICBM Test Maintenance Squadron, and then in 1991, the 394OMMS until 1994. Another of the 1991 changes was the activation of the 576TS, which became the 576FLTS in 1994. The 395MTS (395SMS) had both Titan I and Titan II sites and test missions.

The 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron (SMES), at Vandenberg but assigned directly to SAC Headquarters, was born in 1961. The unit was originally the 3901st Strategic Standardization Squadron (SSS) (Missiles) and kept that name for its first three months. From 1991 until it closed in 1994, the squadron dropped the "Strategic" from the unit designation.

The 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS) began life in 1958 as the 4315STURON, but changed to the 4315CCTS in 1963. The unit was replaced in 1993 by the 392nd Space and Missile Training Squadron (SMTS) (from the 392SMS Thor unit), until the following year when the 381TG (reviving the unit number from the McConnell Titan II wing), was activated. The group includes the 392TS and 532T S, along with the 381st Training Support Squadron (TSS).

Other Vandenberg units have included the 6594th Launch Squadron and the 6595TS. In 1991, the 30SW

(Continued on page 9)

Squadrons (Cont) - replaced the long-lived 1STRAD, and includes the 30OSS, 30LSS, 30th Range Squadron, 30MXS and 30LSS, along with the 576FLTS mentioned above.



487TMMS, Comiso

GLCM

Beginning in 1982, new ground launched cruise missile wings were activated in Europe. These wings were equipped with the mobile GLCM missiles and manned by US and host country military members. The US provided the operations, maintenance and support, while the host countries provided a good share of the security force for each GLCM flight. These units were operational until the last was inactivated in 1991 as part of the INF treaty.

The 11TMS and the 501st Tactical Missile Maintenance Squadron (TMMS) made up the 501TMW at RAF Greenham Common, United Kingdom. The 71TMS (initially the 405TMS) and the 485TMMS were in the 485TMW at Florennes AB, Belgium. The 87TMS and the 303TMMS were under the 303TMW at RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom. The 89TMS and the 38TMMS of the 38TMW were at Hahn AB and Wiesbaden AB, Germany. Comiso AS, Italy (Sicily) and the 487TMW had the 302TMS and the 487TMMS. The 486TMMS and the 486TMW were at Woensdrecht AB, the Netherlands, which was inactivated before the operations squadron achieved operational capability.

GLCM training was conducted by the 868th Tactical Missile Training Group (TMTG) at Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona. This unit had two squadrons, the 868TMS and the 868th TMMS. All were inactivated as the GLCM program wound down.

Some Other Units

Missileers have spent time other units with varied missions. The 6586th Test Squadron, which became the 586th Flight Test Squadron, has a test mission at White Sands, New Mexico. The 3362nd and 3349th Instructor Squadrons and the 3421STURON were missile training units. The 4525th Combat Applications Squadron was an Air Combat Command unit, and the 6952nd Support Squadron (Missile Technical) had a missile related mission in the late 1950s.

Munitions, Security, CE and Others

A lot of people served in a number of other units that were not missile squadrons, but performed essential missile functions. Except in a few locations where the only wing was a missile unit, the reentry systems and warhead specialists were part of the Munitions Maintenance Squadron that was part of a bomb wing or other major unit on the base. These people wear the missile badge, and many are AAFM members. A number of civil engineering functions were part of the day-to-day mission of a missile unit, and members with these specialties even took part in the annual missile competition. Many other civil engineering specialists worked on real property equipment at missile sites, even though they were not authorized wear of the badge. In most cases, those who maintained missile communications equipment were assigned to Communications Squadrons that, for a number of years, were part of the AF Communications Command or Service. Some specialties qualified for the missile badge, other did not.

The specialty with the largest number of people that was part of a missile wing was the security force - the thousands of young airmen, NCOs and officers who provided missile security were usually assigned to Combat Defense, and then Missile Security Squadrons. During GLCM operations, these key people were part of the deployed GLCM flights, and in the last few years, Minuteman and Peacekeeper security troops have been part of the operations squadrons. At the same time the security forces became part of the operations squadrons, the site cooks (now called chefs) were assigned to the operations squadrons, along with some maintenance teams. The cooks, beginning in the early ICBM days, were assigned to the base support organization, but have always been an important part of the overall team. Some of the other people that performed critical missile maintenance or

(Continued on page 10)

Squadrons (*Cont*) - support tasks included liquid fuels specialists, shop specialists from the field maintenance shops in the aircraft wing on the base (machine shop, sheet metal, etc.) and many others. The helicopter units and themany support units also provided and still provide key missile support in a wide variety of areas. Many weren't or aren't assigned to missile units, but were a key part of the missile mission.

Airlaunched Missiles

A large number of *AAFM* members worked with various tactical and strategic airlaunched missiles and served in a wide variety of units in almost all the USAF major commands over the last fifty plus years. This aspect of "missile units" is beyond the scope of this article and the available space in the newsletter and outside the expertise of the author - it is a great topic for a future issue.

The Strategic Air Command had a large number of Airborne Missile Maintenance Squadrons (AMMS) throughout the life of the Hound Dog and Quail systems. Virtually every bomb wing - and there were many - had an AMMS. One of the new professional organizations, the AMMS Missileers, was organized by many who served in those units - a number of AMMS members are also *AAFM* members.

In the fighter units, missileers worked (and continue today) on air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles as part of the aircraft maintenance organizations or in the fighter squadrons themselves. This aspect of "missile" organizations has gone through many changes in the history of the USAF, as the makeup of fighter wings has evolved over the years.

Summary

This review attempted to track the units that were or are now involved with missiles. A lot of members assisted, too many to name here. Greg Ogetree's book on Missile Patches and Fred Epler's squadron lists were two starting points, but the many e-mails, letters and phone calls were also big helps, as were a number of publications that document various aspects of our history. When I asked Matador or Mace vets for some facts on those squadrons in an e-mail, I got over 75 replies, all with great information, within 24 hours. One thing I learned - most missileers know a lot about the history of the systems that they operated, maintained or supported.

AAFM Executive Director and the Future

The current executive director of our association, Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, has been serving in this position since the birth of *AAFM*. He isn't planning on stepping down in the near future, but we need to start planning to find an assistant and backup for him, as well as replacement in a few years. In addition, for the last three years, Charlie has also edited our newsletter, replacing Rodger Phillips when Rodger was unable to continue because of other priorities (spelled job).

We use Adobe Pagemaker software to develop each issue, and the final product is sent to printer Bob Kelchner on a CD. Bob and his staff print 2,000 copies of each issue and ship them to Charlie for mailing, using our non-profit bulk mailing permit. Articles and letters come from many sources - it takes about seven or eight days to put together the entire twelve page newsletter.

The executive director's job (a volunteer position with no pay) involves a number of activities. First, he maintains the member records for the more than 2,000 folks who have joined *AAFM*, as well as keeping mailing lists of other missileers, units, museums and other agencies. The member records part of the job involves preparing and mailing renewal notices monthly and processing donations for dues and the Missile Heritage Grant fund. We track over 150 attributes on each member in our database, using a program called Alpha Five.

He also maintains contact with Headquarters, AF Space Command, 20th Air Force and the missile and space units, coordinates the various award and trophy programs, ensures that museums get applications for the annual grants, conducts local area meetings at numerous places around the country, attends official events like the Space and Missile Competition and awards presentations and meets with AFSPC leadership. He also maintains the financial records and files all required reports.

A growing part of the job involves providing researchers (for TV documentaries, books and other projects) with information and names of missileers who can be interviewed on specific systems.

If you would like to be very involved with *AAFM*, either as an editor, assistant, or as the future executive director of the association, contact Charlie and he will provide more details. See page two for phone, e-mail and mail addresses.



New Air Force Logo??

The USAF leadership recently paid a civilian firm over \$600,000 to develop a new "image" for the Air Force, both a new logo and a new slogan. The proposed emblem is shown here. The "wings" represent the "stripes of our strength", the enlisted force. The sphere represents the globe, the five points of the star represent the active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian and retired parts of the AF. The three diamonds below the star represent integrity, service before self and excellence, and the star represents the officer corps.

The Air Force has asked for feedback on the new

logo through the AF web site at www.af.mil, under a news story about the proposal. So far, most who have answered have been opposed to the new emblem

The proposed new slogan was "World Ready", but that idea was shelved and the AF is still looking at ideas for an appropriate phrase. The Air Force Times carried a story about the feedback they had received to date in late February - two thirds of those who responded to the AF Times don't like the new emblem..

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 range from \$59.20 to \$108 for gold pins and half that for silver, with every configuration of the badge available. Write to Landstrom's Jewelers, 620 St Joe, PO Box 1220, Rapid City, SD 57709, or call Landstrom's at 1-800-843-0069 for details. Marty Skovran is their resident expert on the badge.

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, Greg Ogletree's "History of the Missile Badge", or Two 3901SMES Collectors Pins

\$10 - choose a 1998 Guardian Challenge *AAFM* coin, 321OSS Patch, *AAFM* Desk Clock, Subterranean Sentinels Patch or one of two CD-ROMs - one features Minuteman, Titan II, Peacekeeper, Space and Competition photos and the other all other systems.

\$15 - *AAFM* Golf Cap

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

\$30 - *AAFM* Golf Shirt in white or blue, sizes M, L, XL or XXL

\$60 - USAF 50th Anniversary Book

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

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