



Forbes Crew and its Atlas Launch

The Day They Flew the Bird

This article appeared in the 8 December 1963 edition of the Topeka Capitol-Journal and was written by Saralena Sherman. It is reprinted thanks to the permission of the publisher. LtCol Francis A. Stone, a member of AAFM, passed away in 1998. He was one of the six deceased members we honored with our 1998 Missile Heritage Grants. His wife provided the article and numerous photographs. Col Stone served as a standardization evaluation crew commander in the 548SMS at Forbes, one of the Atlas E units, and then became the Chief, Stand Eval, in the newly activated Minuteman II wing, the 321SMW at Grand Forks. He also served at Vandenberg before retiring in California. MSgt (Ret) Ormond Dick, mbr no A1291, was Col Stone's BMAT in the 548SMS, and later served in the 455/91SMW at Minot. He lives in Ft Worth, Texas.

"Joe, do you have all our clocks wound tight?" The lieutenant colonel directed the question to his combat missile crew lieutenant. The reply came with half a smile; "Yes, sir. But none wound so tightly as this fellow here in this chair smoking this cigarette."

The conversation took place about 3:50 a.m. one day recently - underground at a point along the California coast. The two men were the officers of the 5-member "standardization" Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile combat crew from Forbes Air Force Base, Topeka.

The standardization crew is the base "hotshot" crew in Strategic Air Command language. It's the crew that checks out the other crews regularly on performance, particularly in techniques in the advancing missile program.

This crew, with two others from Forbes, backed up by two teams of missile maintenance men, were at Vandenberg AFB for a special three weeks of additional training. It was special training, all right. This time there was to be an actual launching of an Atlas E missile. The Atlas E is the same model as those poised around Topeka



for mass destruction and death delivery on the enemy, if needed. In fact Atlas complexes are scattered around SAC's Second Air Force (2AF) bases like a sprinkling system. No missile has been fired from these bases.

Now, a Forbes' crew from the 548th Strategic Missile Squadron (SMS) was to become the first in the 2AF to know what it feels like to experience the spine-chilling moments of a real countdown, pressing the button and firing the missile.

We all were really enjoying this training hitch at Vandenberg," related LtCol Francis A. Stone, commander of the Forbes crew. "The weather was dazzling - balmy days under bright blue skies. This time we didn't have to keep our noses in training manuals and all of us were

(Continued on page 4)

The Mission of the Association of Air Force Missileers -

- Preserving the Heritage of USAF Missiles and the people involved with them
- Recognizing Outstanding Missileers
- Encouraging Meetings and Reunions
- Keeping Missileers Informed
- Providing a Central Point of Contact for Missileers

In This Issue: Forbes Launch...1 A Word from AAFM, Letters ... 2 Cooke AFB.....5
Missile News Articles, Taps.....7 Uniforms and Missileers, Part II.....10 Green Bags Replace Blue....11

A Word from the Association

Our Growing Staff - Three members are now very involved in our activities in addition to your executive director. Bob Notman, in Tallahassee, is doing a superb job as our webmaster. If you haven't checked out our new Museum, look at our site at www.afmissileers.org. Kevin Mortensen, a crewmember at Warren, has taken over the job of keeping members informed of their dues status. Ken St. John, from Tacoma, is beginning work as editor for our newsletter. As Ken gets more involved in the editing job, expect to see improvements in format of our quarterly publication.

Junior Airman Recognition - Early this year, life member Jerry Strong made a significant contribution to AAFM to enable us to establish a new program. Jerry, who you will remember as the author of the article about arriving at Cooke AFB (Vandenberg) in the very early days, as a young airman, made an initial donation and will provide funds each year in memory of his wife. She passed away last year, and was very proud of Jerry's service as a missileer. Command Chief Master Sergeant Kevin Estrem, the Space Command senior NCO, and the other Command Chiefs of AFSPC decided that the best use of the funds would be for AAFM to be involved in the annual command junior enlisted recognition week. Each year, junior enlisted folks are brought to AFSPC for a

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

Association of Air Force Missileers

Phone/fax

PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424

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AAFMM@afmissileers.org

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week of tours, a banquet and special recognition. We will provide between \$1200 and \$1500 each year to help fund this superb program. If you would like to assist, send donations to AAFM, Box 4593, Breckenridge, CO 80424. Tell us that the donation is to support the Junior Enlisted Recognition Program. It is just one more way that AAFM can recognize outstanding missileers.

Letters to the Association

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

Master Missile Badge - I'm currently deployed to Vicenza, Italy from my home base, Yokota AB, Japan. In my travels coming this way I heard some info from former missileers about the eligibility requirements concerning "Master" rating changing in the late 80 - early 90s. I was told the time required went from 10 years down to 7 years to wear the Master level badge. I was a Missileer, both ground and air, from 1983 -1992. If the requirement did drop I would be able to wear the Master Ops Badge. I've tried to get the info but hit dead ends - any truth to this 7 year story? *LtCol Mike Thomas, mbr no A1387, Yokota AB, Japan*

Requirements for the master and senior badges have changed many times over the life of our badge - and in 1993 the requirement went from ten to seven to fifteen years in a very short period. Member Greg Ogletree's "The Missile Badge, a Not-so-brief History", documents all of these changes, and is available from AAFMM for a donation of \$8.

AMMS Reunion - Thank you for publishing information concerning the "Reunion 2000" for the GAM 77 Hound Dog and GAM 72 Quail missileers. Through your efforts many new members were located and several were able to attend our reunion. We had just over 100 in attendance for the festivities. Bernie Mullany and I thank you for your effort and assistance with our group. *MSgt (Ret) Lee Dunkin, mbr no A1630, Orlando, FL, Co-Chairman, Reunion 2000*

We have had several reports from folks who hosted reunions in 2000 - the 455SMW, 579SMS, Matador-Mace folks and the 485TMW all had meetings, and several more are scheduled this year. Send us an article and photos and we will report on your meeting in a future issue. We also encourage groups to schedule their meetings in conjunction with our National

(Continued on page 3)

Letters (Cont) - Meetings - our next is 23-27 Oct 2002 in Santa Maria, CA - have your next unit reunion with us there.

Atlas Historical Society - Thanks for the article about us, and on my site as well. We are slowly gathering site owners from other states and hope to discover if in fact there is any REALLY GOOD "F" site left. So far, a "good" site has silo structure with small amounts of water in the silo (30-40 feet), an LCC with original walls that have not been vandalized or burned out, and surface areas that have not settled or been ripped out for salvage. In our quest for a potential Atlas Museum site, the Oplin site still appears to meet many of the criteria in regards to silo structure and surface condition. Unfortunately, because of the renovation, the LCC would not pass the "original condition" inspection. Hopefully, somewhere, there is one in even better condition than this. But so far, if it exists, it won't be in Abilene, it appears. The Atlas Historical Society will be doing a fund-raiser/membership drive tour of the site in Nolan, designated S-10, I believe, on Saturday, August 26th between 2 and 7 pm. This site was purchased from the government by the current owner and the LCC is in very good original shape. No equipment, unfortunately. *Bruce Townsley, mbr no SA043, Clyde, TX*
For information about the Atlas Historical Society and their events, contact Joe Johnson at 915-691-1326.

38TMW Web Site - Thanks to all the contributors and folks who take the time to drop a note about the 38th TMW web site. We have updated the Site 7 page photos, thanks to Scott Murdock and George Kovack, and added a great page from Glen Curl about the first "insertion" at Rittersdorf. Take a look at <http://home.quixnet.net/~ilsem/site7.htm> and <http://home.quixnet.net/~ilsem/insertion.htm>. George Mindling, Mbr No A1761, Fort Charlotte, FL
More and more missileers are developing web sites that reflect our missile history. Our own site now features a Museum section, with photos and articles about many missile systems. We keep members who provide us with their e-mail address up to date on new sites.

DMSP - I spent three years as a Titan II DMCCC at Little Rock, and I spent another three years with the 4000th

Support Group at Loring AFB, ME. The parent organization was later called "DMSP" (Defense Meteorological Satellite Program). Back then, the mission was highly classified, but I understand that the DMSP program is no longer run by the AF. I can recall that on my original application to the Missileers, there was a block labeled "DMSP." I am assuming that former DMSP folks are eligible to join the Missileers. Back in the late sixties, our operations were launched via a Thor booster, so maybe that is the connection. Anyhow, I have been telling occasional former DMSP'ers about the Missileers. Ted Zambos, formerly at Loring, and others have started a web page, located at <http://www.zianet.com/tangoz/fourgrnd/> A brief history of the 4000th Support Group and DMSP would be appropriate for the newsletter. A "big picture" brief history would include headquarters (Offutt), Site I (Fairchild) and Site II (Loring). I should be able to scratch up a brief history on Site II. *Guy D (Don) Stone, mbr no A1571, Amarillo, TX*

AAFM has asked Don and another member for articles about DMSP, the 4000th and the 4300th. Look for them in the future

Airborne Missileers - I don't think any one has covered the role of Missile Operations and Missile Maintenance Officers with the Airborne Command Post or Looking Glass. Quite a few of us flew the Glass or the Auxiliary as Airborne Controllers, Airborne Logistics and ALCS. I also believe there were a few who were Communications Officers. Commonly known as Battle Staff in support of EWO. I was originally assigned as an Airborne Logistics Officer, but the powers to be decide that was inappropriate so we were designated Airborne Missile Officers. On average we flew 14 times a month plus alert duty. In 4 years I flew 2800 hours around the SAC flag post. Really glad I made the meeting in the Springs and looking forward to the next one. *Jim Kroskey, mbr no A0860, Jacksonville, AR*

Another good idea for an article or two - it just takes some creative writing by some of you who served in these jobs.

Grand Forks Website - Request you publicize in the monthly email updates and the newsletter that I am building a website to cover the history of the Grand Forks AFB 321SMWing/321MG and its associated units. This

(Continued on page 4)

Letters (Cont) - site is expected to be a thorough review of the 321SMW history from WWII through the Group's official close on July 10, 1998 and the destruction of the missile facilities by the 791st Maintenance Squadron. I will also have information on the Safeguard ABM complex near Nekoma. Request anyone with information pertaining to the 321 SMW/321 MG and the 446SMS/MS, 447SMS/MS and the 448SMS/MS please email me at GFAFB321MG@aol.com.or contact me by mail. *Paul H. Whitmore, mbr no L188, 5840B Eagle Dir, Montgomery, AL 36116*



ALCS - I'd like to add to the information about ALCS from the March newsletter. In the beginning, there were 3 main operating bases, Offutt, with crewmembers part of the battlestaff and assigned to HQ SAC, Ellsworth, where the crews were assigned to 44SMW/68SMS and Minot, where the crews were assigned to 91SMW/741SMS. This was 1967/68. This meant 4 Alert ALCS Aircraft plus the Looking Glass. On 1 Apr 70, as part of the Post Attack Command and Control System reorganization, ALCS folks at Offutt were assigned to 2ACCS, with 3 individuals working in SAC/DOC who served as OPR and IG Augmentees. The ALCS crews from Ellsworth and Minot were consolidated (with the A/C, flight crews and Radios) at Ellsworth, along with the 15AF Airborne Battlestaff, to form 4ACCS. The Radio Relays and the former 8AF Air Battlestaff were consolidated at Grissom AFB to form 3ACCS, which never had ALCS

capability, nor did 1ACCS, at Andrews, who operated the NEACP EC-135Ns and ultimately E-4A/Bs. After Sept 70, all Operational Readiness Training for ALCS crewmembers was conducted at 4ACCS at Ellsworth instead of Vandenberg. The patch worn by some ALCS crews at 4ACCS was in response to those B-52D 100 Mission patches which showed up in the 28BW right after the ACCS was formed. *Matt Sekella, mbr no A1868, Vienna, VA*



Lincoln AFB and the 551SMS - When I was in Omaha in July for the SAC2000 meeting, I took some time to visit the old Lincoln AFB, which was home of the 551SMS, an Atlas F squadron where I served. The photo is of the original squadron headquarters building, Building 2388. The new headquarters building (MAMS Building), is also still standing, being used with a few new additions to it. While in Lincoln, I had lunch with former squadron member Walt Smith, and Ron Resh spent several hours with me during SAC2000. When I went in Lincoln to obtain information on the base and the squadron, everybody was very helpful. I went as far as running an ad in the Lincoln Journal Star. I was able to locate Sites 1, 2, & 3. Trees are around the site hiding any remaining standing buildings. Grass is all over the sites. I ran out of time, and could have used another week in trying to obtain information. The search will continue with the friends who I met during this trip. I would like to ask anyone who was in the 55 SMS to contact me to establish a reunion organization. *Ken Fisher, mbr no A1590, 2890 Lafayette Ave, Bronx, NY 10465, e-mail kjfdny@aol.com*

AAFM Internet Museum - I recently checked out AAFM's new Museum on the Internet (www.afmissileers.org). AAFM Member Bob Notman has done a great job assembling the photos and articles from our newsletters. I understand that Bob will continue to refine and add to our new Museum.

While browsing the pages, I came across some
(Continued on page 5)

Letters (Cont) -thing I can at least add to the Bitburg Missile Monument article, number 3, entitled "Missile Monument A 'Must'" on page six of the Oct 1993 issue. I was part of the detail that sodded the monument (I was an A2C), then later stood in Class A blues for the dedication. That very monument was the one dedicated at Wuescheim AS in 1989 when the 38th TMW was reactivated with the GLCM. SSGT Max Quitiquit wrote the article about saving the monument, I have it on my Bitburg page at http://home.quixnet.net/~ilsem/bab_1.htm. I don't know what became of the monument.

The photo is of the Matador monument at the Missile Support Area, Oberweis, Bitburg. I took one about a week after dedication in 1962. I took others on a return trip in 1973 after the US Army had taken over the Missile Support Area. I've forwarded a photo of CGM-13B Mace Hard Site 4 at Kadena, Air Base, Okinawa, after it was converted to a Buddhist temple. Of all the uses for a hard site, this one has to be unique. The Photo is from Carlo Croce via George Kovach. *George Mindling, mbr no A1761, Pt Charlotte, FL*



Welcome to Cooke AFB - from the 1957 pamphlet given to each new arrival. *Jerry Strong, mbr no L198, Oklahoma City, was an early arrival at Cooke AFB (later named Vandenberg AFB) and provided this document.*

Cooke Air Force Base is under the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division of the Air Research and Development Command, with headquarters located in Englewood, California. Formerly known as Camp Cooke, Cooke Air Force Base is part of a military reservation of 86,000 acres; located about 18 miles NW of Los Angeles. The reservation stretches along the coast of Santa Barbara County, from Surf to Point Sal. Built in 1942 for Armored Division Training, Camp Cooke was closed after World War II, and was reactivated at the start of the Korean conflict to serve as training grounds for the 40th and 44th Infantry Division. It was deactivated in 1953. With the exception of a small area operated by the Army as a Disciplinary Barracks, the entire reservation was maintained on a standby basis until January of this year; when 64,700 acres of the reservation were made available for use by the United States Air Force.

On 15 February 1957, the 6591st Support Squadron was activated, and reached a strength of 15 officers and 10 airmen by 15 April 1957 when it was deactivated. On this same date, the 392nd Air Base Group was established at Cooke Air Force Base under the command of Colonel F. B. Howes, Jr.

On 23 April 1957, Camp Cooke was officially redesignated Cooke Air Force Base, with Colonel David K. Lyster assuming command of all Air Force activities at the base and, on 9 May 1957, formal Ground Breaking Ceremonies were held marking the start of construction on the initial phase of the first Missile Training Center in the free world. The formal dedicatory address on this important occasion was made by Brigadier General Osmond J. Ritland, Vice Commander of the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division, Headquarters, Air Research and Development Command. As a matter of interest, a portion of General Ritland's address is quoted below:

"The primary mission of Cooke Air Force Base is the development of a training facility capable of training Air Force units to include both of the ICBM's and the IRBM. A secondary mission of Cooke Air Force Base, is to provide an Operational Capability for the ICBM. As you may readily observe, we are beginning our effort on the construction required to support this effort. How

(Continued on page 11)



LtCol Stone and crew

Forbes Story (Cont) - gingery with excitement, knowing that sometime the word would be given to one of the crews to go all the way. "The our crew got the clue it had been tagged for the assignment."

Other members of the crew selected to fire an Atlas thousands of miles down the Pacific Range were 1stLt Joseph F. Law, 27, deputy crew commander, TSgt Ormond H. Dick, Jr., 35, ballistic missile analysis technician and TSgt Isaiah N. White, Jr., 33, missile maintenance technician. The fifth member, Sgt John Degler, 33, power production technician, wasn't to have a part in the launch. At Vandenberg, a giant, compact power house feeds the launch pads and the blockhouses.

Prior to erecting the operational launch of an Atlas, Stone and his crew had performed approximately 60 propellant loading exercises (PLX) with the missile. "A PLX is carrying through with the critical steps of erecting the bird, fueling it, preparing it for firing within the allowable 15 minutes - cutting just short of the final countdown," the colonel explained. "What we do at Forbes is fake the brains in the missile so she thinks she's going to go, but she doesn't. The commander doesn't press that button."

Only this year, SAC started giving some of its combat missile crews outside Vandenberg's 1st Division operational launch experience when a test firing is scheduled. This is how the Forbes crew got the big chance. Their shot was carried out with the Army "trying out some of its new fangled outfits," the Forbsemen reported. So many cross checks and tests were going on after they fired away, the crew couldn't even guess at the number.

When the Forbsemen arrived at Vandenberg on the firing assignment, the maintenance teams headed by SSgt

Lewis H. Hart and SSgt John M. Kershaw went into action first. They received a new Atlas delivered to the fight-line from the factory and started with assembly "from scratch." Every one of these 32 men was sitting on a distant hill at 4 a.m. on the day the "bird they had carefully nested" leaped in flight with a bellowing roar and fiery light.

When Stone's crew learned it was slated for the shot, each man tried to tell himself it wouldn't be any different from what they had done so many times in training, but it did tighten their nerves. The night for the big shot, the crew went on duty at 10 p.m. They knew sometime in the next hours the buzzer message would be sounded in the control room, followed by the verbal order. The thousand-cycle tone bleeper would begin screeching up the walls, through the underground chambers and every man would dive for his station. It did and they did.

The officers manned the launch console in control operations. Sergeants Dick and White raced to their launch posts. White, a 15-year man with the Air Force from Austin, Texas, who has served in Okinawa, the Phillipines, Korea and Germany, remembers it seemed to take an agonizingly long time to ready the bird. When he returned to the control room, he solemnly watched the button depressed and heard the thunderous thrust off. "I didn't say a word, but deep down inside I had the sensa-



LtCol Stone while 321SMW/DCOS, with Col Gil Frederichs, 321SMW/CC, Boeing employee and Capt Ernie Giepel, 321SMW/DCOS MCCC, on a tour of Boeing facilities.

Forbes Story (Cont) - tion of victory then."

Sergeant Dick, a big fellow who hails from Chicago, doesn't look as if he would ever get excited. But he explains, "Just the fact we were actually doing it was exciting." He, too, was summoned back to control for launch protection before the final countdown began. He anticipated something near tornado impact when the missile lifted. He recalls his surprise, when the noise and vibrations reached the underground room almost muffled and subdued. Topside, he knows, it's quite a jolt. Lieutenant Law, serious and alert in his actions, vows he doesn't remember a single word he spoke during those tense minutes before firing. "I just know I was busy all the time."

When the firing was all over, Law took a special look at the missile bay. "We had been through the maneuvers so many times and always when it's over that big hulking missile is right there with us. This time I wanted to see that the bay was really empty."

Colonel Stone, after the tense action, got a let down because a frost coating of liquid oxygen fogged the cameras in the complex and the actual firing couldn't be seen from there. But Forbes' quarter-backing missilemen from their hilltop watch could see it. SSgt James M. Taylor, a ballistic missile analyst technician from another crew, says, "When the launch came, it came with a violent shock, then a great light and thirty seconds later someone shouted, 'There she goes' After that no one spoke. Eyes just glued to the bird." Taylor and the others had seen movies of a shot, "But we weren't prepared for the real thing. We watched the Atlas out of sight and then felt a sense of accomplishment in our work. It was quite a thrill, you see, after working for months with missiles, always getting them ready to go, but never seeing them fired."

Three more missile crews from Forbes are to be sent to Vandenberg in the near future for another test firing. The selected crew is to get no forewarning this time.

Taps for Missileers

LtCol (Ret) Kenneth Jackson, who served in the 321SMW and GLCM

MSgt (Ret) Billy Quinton, an AAFM member who served in the 389SMW in Atlas D and E and in BMEWS, and lived in Lampasas, Texas.

F-22 Successfully Fires AIM-9 - an

Air Force Press Release

The F-22 test program met a major test milestone July 25 when Raptor 02 successfully launched an AIM-9 missile over test ranges at China Lake Naval Air Station, Calif. The test, which took place as the F-22 flew at 20,000 feet and a speed of Mach .7, evaluated the next-generation fighter's ability to successfully fire an air-to-air missile from an internal weapons bay. Today's assessment is the partial completion of a major milestone the F-22 Combined Test Force is tasked with meeting this year. An AIM-120 missile firing is scheduled this fall.

Young officers get inside 'look' at USAF Space Mission - an Air Force Press Re-

lease by Capt. Sean McKenna AFSC/Public Affairs

A new professional development program kicked off July 24 with the goal of giving Air Force captains a firsthand look at the Air Force's space-related missions. Vigilant Look, a five-day orientation course developed and conducted by Air Force Space Command, is designed to provide participants with a "big picture" insight to space and air integration through senior leadership perspective and mentorship. "This is the first of several programs where officers can learn how air and space [operations] tie together," said Maj. Ron Huntley, Air Force Space Command's chief of Aerospace Officer Development. "We need to continue training our people to understand how air and space missions are combined into aerospace operations." Twenty-six junior captains from a variety of Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units made up the inaugural class. Participants were selected based on recommendations from their wing commanders or from their major commands.

Vigilant Look is modeled after Air Mobility Command's successful Phoenix Horizon program, which brings lets participants learn more about the command's various missions. Vigilant Look is unique in that it gives Air Force officers a chance to see up close how vital aerospace integration is to accomplishing the Air Force mission, according to Huntley. The course began at Peterson Air Force Base with briefings from subject matter experts on AFSPC missions and assets. The second day, participants traveled to F.E. Warren AFB, WY, for training, demonstrations and briefings on the 90th Space Wing's

(Continued on page 8)

Vigilant Look (Cont) - intercontinental ballistic missile mission, before returning to Peterson. The Vigilant Look group is scheduled to fly to Nellis AFB, NV, July 26 for a tour of the US Air Force Weapons School Space Division and the Red Flag Threat Training Facility. They will also receive briefings on the Space Warfare Center's Aerospace Integration Center. The officers plan a return to Colorado July 27 for a 2nd Space Warning Squadron mission orientation at Buckley Air National Guard Base in Denver. The tour will focus primarily on the capabilities of AFSPC's planned Space-Based Infrared System, a satellite constellation that will provide missile warning, missile defense, battlespace characterization and technical intelligence to US forces. On the final day, participants are set to tour Schriever AFB, CO, where they will receive an orientation on the satellite operations mission of the 50th Space Wing and the Space Warfare Center.

Vigilant Look is tentatively scheduled to be held semiannually next year, with hopes of expanding to four classes per year by 2002, according to the AFSPC Personnel directorate. Classes will be kept small to facilitate a cross-flow of ideas and career experience between participants, Huntley said.

Veterans recall, honor SAC History

An Air Force Press Release by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Meridith USStratCom

Veterans of the Strategic Air Command and their guests visited the base and the command's former headquarters complex July 13 and 14 as part of the SAC2000 reunion. The group toured Strategic Command and a variety of military aircraft, and gathered for a symposium in Omaha to discuss SAC's historic role in ending the Cold War. Retired Air Force Gen. Russell E. Dougherty, CINCSAC from 1974 to 1977, opened the symposium with a personal reflection on how SAC helped keep the peace for nearly five decades. "The military factor is nearly always critical to the prevention of war," said Dougherty, quoting Yale Professor Donald Kagan, who he described as "the nations preeminent military historian." "Deterrence doesn't work when it relies on ambiguous, halfway measures," he continued. "Deterrence requires a likelihood of real punishment, a genuine capability and a will to hurt an aggressor. If that doesn't sound like SAC, then I was at the wrong command."

From 1946 to 1992, SAC organized, trained and

equipped America's strategic air forces for a possible war with the Soviet Union. With the fall of the Iron Curtain and the end of the Soviet threat, SAC stood down and was replaced by the smaller, unified command, USSTRATCOM. Dougherty said that one of the keys to SAC's success was its leadership. He offered special praise for Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, who is often referred to as "the father of Strategic Air Command." LeMay served as CINCSAC from 1948 to 1957, and is credited with helping to modernize the nation's strategic forces into a credible deterrent against Soviet aggression. If there was a hero of the Cold War it was Curtis LeMay, Dougherty added. "The reason was he supplied the essential philosophy that made SAC work, 'If you develop the capability, it has to be real, it has to be seen, it has to be scary and it has to be sufficient to prevent things from happening that you don't want to happen.'"

Military Alert Facility Surcharge is History - An Air Force Press Release by SSgt Bryan Gatewood, 90SWing.

The daily surcharge paid by all personnel working at missile alert facilities throughout AF Space Command is no more. The surcharge has been in effect since 1997 and affected approximately 632 people on a daily basis, at a cost of \$63,000 per year, according to an AFSPC financial report. "It's my determination, based on the five exemption categories established by the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), that MAF personnel are exempt from the standard dining hall rate," said Joseph Kammerer, deputy assistant secretary (cost and economics). The determination is based on the fact that members out at MAFs are performing official duty at remote locations and do not receive the meal portion of per diem. "The duty status is comparable to personnel performing official duty on U.S. Government aircraft or field duty, standard meal-ate exemption categories," said Col. Roger Burg, 90SW commander. "This is one of many quality of life issues we have been working on to help keep money in our troop's pockets."

Air Force Orders New Cruise Missiles - News story from Military.com

Air Force officials concerned about depleted stocks of air-launched cruise missiles have ordered new production to replenish numbers needed for future conflicts, WorldNetDaily.com reported. Officials said they decided to relaunch the production program, which had been stopped at the end of the Cold War, after weapons stocks fell to an "all-time low" of just 60 missiles. Currently, WorldNetDaily.com said, Air Force officials are ordering the conversion of about 320 nuclear-tipped cruise missiles to conventional warheads, which will leave the service with fewer than 100 nuclear-tipped missiles with which to carry out its bombing missions. Also, the report said, officials have ordered an additional 618 weapons from Boeing, in an effort to bring missile stocks armed with conventional warheads back to 1,000. Boeing officials, however, said most of the equipment used to produce the original Tomahawk cruise missiles has been sold or was dismantled at the close of the Cold War. "Other leading candidates include missile proposals from Lockheed/Martin and Raytheon," said the online newspaper. Worrysome to military analysts, however, is the scheduled production time for the new weapons: Currently, Air Force officials, who did not have new missiles budgeted in 2000, hope to begin development of upgraded cruise missiles in 2001 with final production beginning in 2005.

Reunions - More and more missile units are holding reunions because our members are involved with their old units. Several are considering joining us October 23-27, 2002, in Santa Maria, combining their reunions with our next National Meeting. If your unit would like to join us, let AAFM know.

Are Your Dues Current??

Check the mailing label on this newsletter and send us a check for your donation for dues - the expiration date on the label is shown as month and year (for example 1100 means your dues are current through November 2000. You can save AAFM over a dollar per year if you send your donation before the expiration date. Send your check to AAFM, Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424

Missileers and Their Uniforms - Part II - The June issue featured several articles and stories about the uniforms we wore or now wear as missileers. Here are some additional tales and a great article that recently appeared in the USAF news releases about uniforms, specifically hats..

Matador Fatigues - by Richard Weigert, mbr no A1703, who lives in Union City, PA.

Just reread the June Newsletter - particularly the uniform article. Dick Boverie remembers correctly that everyone wore fatigues at the various sites servicing the Matador. I was there 1957-1959 and recall that we wore a black baseball cap with the squadron patch. I wondered then, and still wonder, where the people come from who dream up these varying work uniform requirements. Perhaps our First Sargent started it all. Until he came along in 1958 (from the Air Police), we wore standard issue fatigues with the black cap. At the site, in summer, we either wore no fatigue top, just a tee shirt, or a top with sleeves that had been shortened. He started a starched fatigue, bloused boot program which we changed out of immediately upon reaching the site. A couple of enterprising guys dressed up in class As, bloused boots and all and went to town. Before long they were back courtesy of the APs for being out of uniform. A moratorium on uniform changes followed. I believe the First Sergeant was the only disappointed person on the base. In those days, the Air Policemen were undoubtedly the sharpest people on the block - being in the public eye I believe part of their job was to look good. We were not in the public eye - all we had to do was work good. Colored work uniforms, ascots, pretty boots, etc., didn't do anything toward work performance from my experience - but it did provide a focus for bellyaching.

A Navy Blue Bag? - by LtCol (Ret) Denny Lyon, mbr no A0937, who lives in Layton, UT

I enjoyed the story on uniforms in the latest Newsletter. It reminded me of something from my past, which might be of interest. I was a Peacekeeper crewmember in the early 1990s, when the crew force was transitioning from the two-piece uniforms to the current blue bag. I am tall (6' 5") and long waisted, and none of the initial bag sizes fit me comfortably. I could put on the largest size, but my voice changed if I sat down. This wasn't a problem initially, as I merely continued to wear the two-piece while

(Continued on page 10)

Uniforms (Cont) - awaiting more bag sizes to become available. Then, I was selected to be a competitor in the 1990 Missile Comp. Of course, it wouldn't do for one team member to be in a different uniform, so we had to figure a way to get me into a bag. Our DO24 NCOIC at the time knew the Supply system pretty well, and he found something which worked very well: A Navy Nomex flight suit! It was the correct color (okay, close enough), and was available in tall sizes, so I ended up with a couple of them. In addition to being much warmer in the winter because of the heavier Nomex, they also had pockets in useful places, unlike the calf pouches in the regular bag. I wore the Nomex bag the remainder of my time on crew.



Whites and Hammers - by Col (Ret) Mike Babbidge, mbr no A0023, who lives in Destin, FL

I just finished the June Newsletter and found the enclosed, really old picture. Larry Hasbrouck and I are wearing the Ellsworth version of the Whiteman painter's coveralls. We didn't have to cut off the hammer loops - and all showed up for pre-departure briefing one New Year's Day morning with hammers in place. The entire Ellsworth alert force got chewed out that day. The photo was taken in 1965 - it shows me accepting a Regular commission from Colonel Wilson Burrill, the 44SMW Commander. Lieutenant Colonel Joe Strickland, the 66SMS commander is on the right and my crew commander, Major Larry Hasbrouck is beside me.

You Can't Wear it Yet - by Phillip Layman, mbr no A1087, currently stationed at Thule AB, Greenland

I really enjoyed the June Newsletter article on our uniforms. I've only worn the current blue bag, and I am proud that missileers have a distinctive, recognizable uniform. When I was going through missile IQT in 1995, we had to wear BDUs until we made our first simulated key turn in the MPT. "Do a missileer's job then you can wear a missileer's uniform", our instructors said.

Hats On, Hats Off - from a recent Air Force News Release, by Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

It's not often you'll get someone to admit they wasted government time while at work. I'm stepping up to that proverbial plate and saying, yep, I wasted nearly an hour of the taxpayers' money the other day. It had been one of those weeks where you wonder if you're the last one to know some big, breaking news. Everywhere I turned someone was stepping out of a car, walking into a building, lollygaging around outside without his or her hat on.

Surely, I thought to myself, if the Air Force had rescinded the wear-the-hat-outside rule I'd have seen a blurb or two somewhere - Air Force Press Service, an e-mail from the first sergeant, a post-it note attached to some policy letter. But, I was beginning to think I was the last one to be read in on this important uniform change. The airman in desert cammies (uniform) sauntering into the off-base frozen drink place apparently got the word. The master sergeant waltzing around the housing area reading his mail saw the memo. The staff sergeant making a dash from the parking lot to the burger joint saw the news release. The starving airman hopping into the dining hall surely read the note from his commander about it. Each one provided that "Are you stupid?" look when I asked about a hat, a beret, a cover or cap. Maybe, I was the last to know.

That's when I decided before I stopped one more person about their missing top cover, I'd better spend a little quality time on the Internet. Checked Air Force Link, DOD Link, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force's home page, I even pulled down a copy of Air Force Instruction 36-2903 (35-10 to those still clinging to the good 'ole days). Not one mention, not one iota about a phase out for hats or a total abolishment of those pesky hair-messing gadgets. After nearly an hour of search engines

(Continued on page 11)

Hats (Cont) -and find-it buttons, I gave up. I wasn't out of the loop, outside the G-turn, off my lane, on a different sheet of music. Furthermore, there are no references to exceptions that allow excuses such as "I forgot it," "You don't need it in housing," "We don't wear them with this uniform," or (my personal favorite) "Yeah, whatever." Feeling victorious in confirming that more often than not, I am in on big news information, I was pretty cranky.

Then, driving to work the next morning I saw someone else who reassured me that the hat rules are followed. A lieutenant had pulled her car into the median and appeared to be having tire trouble. Right behind her, an airman noticed the distress and pulled in to offer assistance. (The non-hat wearers in the bunch may want to sit down for this next part.) The airman gets out of his car, WITH his hat already on, walks over to the lieutenant and, no kidding, SALUTES! Off base, in the midst of morning rush hour traffic, in uniform he has his hat on and renders the proper military courtesies! Hundreds of people are zipping by this well traveled road, most late for work. And, this airman not only stops to help but also doesn't forget his military standards in the process. Future chief master sergeant of the Air Force, say I. As I silently applauded the airman's military bearing (I was driving and couldn't actually take my hands off the wheel), I wondered if he'd wasted any taxpayer's money searching for uniform changes, too.

Cooke AFB (Cont) - ever, it is the Air Force's objective to attain a full training capability at Cooke Air Force Base at the earliest possible date. Therefore, in the immediate future, there will be increased activity here. Substantial numbers of contractor personnel and technical individuals will be coming into the area. In addition, military personnel will be appearing on the scene at an increasing rate. More specifically, it is estimated that approximately 1300 contractor and technical personnel are required for this building task. As their work is completed, there will be a gradual phaseout of this activity. Concurrently, military personnel increases will absorb this phaseout, and, by December of 1958, several thousand military personnel and civilian government employees will be housed in this general area."

"In summary, we are beginning extensive rehabilitation and modernization on chapels, barracks, mess halls, and other support facilities. We are starting new construction associated with the Ballistic Missile technical requirements. There is a requirement for a new airfield. A modernized runway and supporting facilities will be constructed

to provide an air terminal in support of this activity. Dollar-wise, approximately \$30,000,000 will be expended during FY 57, and a like amount in 1958. The total program effort will be roughly in the vicinity of \$100,000,000."

Among organizations presently activated at Cooke Air Force Base are the 1st Missile Division, commanded by Colonel William A. Sheppard, the 704th Strategic Missile, Wing, commanded by Colonel William S. Rader, and the 392nd Air Base Group, commanded by Colonel David K. Lyster, Jr.

Green flight suits may Replace "blue bags" - an AF Press Release

For almost 12 years, space and missile operators have worn the blue one-piece crew uniform, commonly called the "blue bag." AFSPC has proposed to switch to wearing the green flight suit common among aviators. The proposal calls for the green flight suit to become the standard uniform for Air Force operators, including space and missile personnel. The plan calls for an Oct. 1 start date with a final phaseout of the blue uniform in late 2002. The existing contract for the blue crew uniform would not be renewed, according to Col. Mark Lilevjen, chief of AFSPC's Operations Training and Evaluation Division. The two-year implementation plan broadly calls for phasing in the green flight suit as the existing supply of blue crew uniforms are expended. Individual mixing of the two different colored uniforms will not be permitted, however.

The 3,000 individuals currently wearing blue crew uniforms would be supplied with green flight suits through the command, although the exact funding details are being staffed, Lilevjen said. Some may recall this same conversion was suggested in 1997, but rejected, because there were too many blue space and missile crew uniforms in the inventory. Ultimately, it was decided that switching would waste taxpayers' money. That no longer is the case, according to Lilevjen. It's economically feasible to switch to green because they cost approximately \$32 less per uniform than the blue polyester variety, he said. But Lilevjen is also quick to point out that, although the green flight suits are cheaper, the green flight jackets are \$64 more than the blue jacket issued with the blue crew uniform. Savings would be realized through the long-term replacement of flight suits.

(Continued on page 12)

Green Bags (Cont) - "The money is not the reason for the proposal," Lilevjen said. "It's the operational integration that matters. We're all AF operators and wear an AF operational uniform, whether we are an F-16 pilot, a Milstar satellite command and control operator or a Minuteman III operator. "Crewmembers will deploy more and more with other theater warfighters, and they will integrate much better in the green bag than in the blue bag." Coincidentally, the timing of the switch to the green flight suit is in keeping with the standing up of AFSPC's support of the 10 Aerospace Expeditionary Forces, which all have requirements for space and missile operators.

General Ed Eberhart, AFSPC commander, said the proposal has been in discussion since February. "We have been asking commanders and command chief master sergeants for feedback from those affected." CMSgt Kevin Estrem, AFSPC command chief master sergeant, said feedback goes both ways. "Some are supportive of the move but some are concerned about how it will be received by the aviators or that it will eliminate the space operator identity." But, Estrem said, once it is explained that this move is an attempt to recreate the identity of the space warfighter as an integration of air and space operators, more people understand that it is the right thing to do. Eberhart concurs that while the majority of the responses have been positive, he knows that not everyone will favor this change. "But we ultimately feel that it would help reinforce inclusiveness and promote our vision of the integration of air and space."

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