



ICBMs in the 1960s - Part II



B-52 andn Atlas D at Vandenberg

The Air Force in 1962 - by Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson, AAFM Executive Director

This issue of the AAFM newsletter is the second in our series about missiles in the 1960s, a critical time in the development of both ICBMs and the continuation of development of tactical missiles and air-launched systems. The September issue will continue this series, featuring more articles and stories about the early days in our business.

In 1962, the Strategic Air Command was a large, dynamic organization. The history of SAC published by the SAC Office of History summarizes the strength of the command as having 282,723 members, including 38,542 officers, 217,650 airmen and 26,531 civilians. SAC had 2,759 tactical aircraft (639 B-52, 880 B-47, 105 EB-47, 41 RB-47, 76 B-58, 515 KC-135 and 503 KC-97), 59 aircraft wings, 57 Tanker squadrons and four EB-47L squadrons. The SAC missile force consisted of 142 Atlas, 62 Titan I, 20 Minuteman,

(Continued on page 9)

Air Force News Summaries - A variety of news items from recent USAF news releases

Guardian Challenge 2002

The 341SW at Malmstrom walked away with the Blanchard Trophy for best Air Force intercontinental ballistic missile wing at the 35th annual Space and Missile Competition. Vandenberg's 30SW captured the Schriever Trophy as the outstanding space launch wing, while the 50SW from Schriever won the Aldridge Trophy for the best space operations wing.

Individual team and crew winners were: Space operations crew, 1st SpOS, 50SW; Spacelift operations crew, 30SW; Spacelift maintenance, 30th SW; Space communications, 50SW; Missile operations crew, S-143, 90SW; Missile code controllers, 91SW; Missile communications, 90SW; Missile maintenance, 91SW; Security forces, 90SW; Helicopter aircraft generation/reconfiguration, 90SW; Chefs (food preparation), 21SW.



Malmstrom's Blanchard Team

(Continued on page 9)

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

A Word from the Association

Local Meetings - We conducted local area meetings at Patrick and Minot in May and June. While a base exercise impacted our Patrick gathering, we did have several local members at the club for a discussion of AAFM programs. I also had an opportunity to spend some time with Mike Lehnertz, one of our board members - Mike is now the 45SW Vice Commander. The Minot gathering attracted a number of wing personnel, including new 91SW commander Mark Owen. The day of our meeting at Minot, the rebuilt topside building at Missile Alert Facility Golf-01 was dedicated. This MAF was destroyed by fire last year - see the AF news release in this issue..

SAC Reunion - AAFM members, including your executive director, Ken Fisher, Ron Resh, Ed Burchfield and Rod Perenovich, attended the recent gathering at the Mighty 8AF Heritage Center outside Savannah, Georgia. During the reunion, we were given a presentation on the planned new display "The Air Force after World War II." We were asked to provide comments and recommendations to ensure that missiles are properly represented in the new display, which covers AF activities from 1946 to present. We gave the museum a number of ideas on how to portray ICBM, tactical, airlaunch and air defense missiles during the last fifty years.

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, Hanscom AFB, MA

Col (Ret) Dick Keen, Punta Gorda, FL

Col Mike Lehnertz, Patrick AFB, FL

Gen Lance Lord, Commander, AFSPC

MGen Bob Kehler, the Pentagon

MGen (Ret) Bob Parker, Charlestown, WV

Maj Julie Wittkoff, Ogden ALC, UT

Executive Director - Col (Ret) Charles G. Simpson

Printer - Allegra Print and Imaging, 20905 Western Ave
Torrance, CA 90501, 310-212-7727

Association of Air Force Missileers

PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424

AAFM@afmissileers.org www.afmissileers.org

Phone/fax 970-453-0500

AFSPC Enlisted Recognition- AAFM is a major sponsor of the command's enlisted recognition program. I attended the awards banquet in April, the day before Gen Lance Lord took command of AFSPC. This is our second year to participate in the recognition program. We have received a number of thank you letters from enlisted members honored at the banquet, expressing their appreciation for our involvement.

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.

March NL - I really enjoyed the latest newsletter. The articles by LtCol Gordon (Confessions of a Missile Game Gunslinger) and LGen Kelley (Re-Visiting the ICBM Force) had something to hold my attention. Many of the past articles pertained to weapons systems of the distant past... systems in use when I was a baby. So I couldn't relate to them. The above mentioned articles contained info that I could relate to, being on missile crew from 84-88, and being in the Ellsworth CP from 89-92. *Bill Sims, mbrno A0242, San Antonio, TX*

Whiteman LCFs - Jerrie Jones, another member of AAFM, went to Whiteman F-01 last week and took some photos for me. He says that the LCFs around Whiteman seem to be holding up pretty well. Do you have any idea why the government has not declared the above ground LCFs surplus and disposed of them as they normally do for surplus property? It must not be a treaty limitation because one LCF near Belle Fourche, SD has been transferred to the city or county and turned into a community center. The below-ground LCCs and LCEBs were sealed off with concrete and gravel, so I can't figure out the reason the government is holding on to these sites. I would like to see them sold so that they don't just fall down from lack of maintenance. *Bill Huey, mbrno A0376, Montgomery, AL*

A good topic for a future article - any member who has information about the disposition and future of the MM LCFs at Whiteman, Grand Forks and Ellsworth can let AAFM know

UCONN AFROTC Awards - Susie and I attended the ceremony last saturday. It was very nice and I'm glad that we were able to attend. They had over 2 hours of presentations, both Army and AF. A lot of parents in attendance and a lot of interest by these cadets in joining
(Continued on page 3)

Letters (cont) - the AF. *Steve Forbes, mbrno A0027, Gales Ferry, CT*

Steve attended the annual UCONN AFROTC Awards Luncheon to give the "Outstanding Missile and Space Student" an AAFM certificate and one year membership - he has represented us at this event in previous years. It is one of several awards that we are asked to provide each year.

Models - here is an update on the missile model scene. RealSpace models has issued a really nice 1/72 scale Titan II model made of resin and plastic, well worth the \$50 price tag. Glenn Johnson, the manufacturer, is also very helpful with online inquiries on how to most accurately build his models. Also, several companies are planning to issue missile models in the future. Members who are looking for old replicas (like Topping made in the '60s) and missile models that are out of production, such as Monogram's US-USSR display set, may have luck finding them on Ebay. I am also a member of the Yahoo group "Space modelers." While most of the members are primarily interested in space launchers, some are interested in ICBMs and IRBMs, and one can get great help on finding and building accurate models from the members in this group. As always, I'm available to field questions and provide information. *Scott Mattson, mbrno L217, Cheyenne, WY*

AAFM has discussed the possibility of Minuteman models with Glenn Johnson, too. We will keep our members posted on progress

Ellsworth Sites - The Air Force is turning over the D-01 and D-09 sites from Ellsworth to the National Park Service - the event was originally planned for Flag Day, June 14, but has been delayed. It will be a good ceremony for former 44SMW missileers to attend. *Lewis McCool, mbrno A1888, Durango, CO*

Lewis worked as a volunteer at the sites near Wall last summer - we will let members know when the dedication is rescheduled

Rascal - In response to Michael Binder's inquiry in the March 2002 issue regarding Rascal missile, the Rascal

was never operational nor was it ever deployed or fielded as indicated in the answer to his letter. The Rascal was cancelled near the end of its Category 2 Operational Testing in favor of the greatly improved GAM-72, Hound Dog that was in the pipeline. This I know, because I was a member of the 321BW, Pincastle AFB, FL, detached to Eglin AFB, FL as one of the SAC representatives in the Category 2 testing of that missile. The Rascal program was cancelled one day and I was assigned the next day to the concurrent operational testing of the Hound Dog missile and the Quail decoy missile. After the operational testing was completed, I was assigned to the 4135SW at Eglin AFB, the first SAC unit to become operational with the Hound Dog and Quail. *Robert V. Bush Sr., mbrnoA0733, Swansboro, NC*

Civilians and Missiles - I was wondering if you have a listing for any of the civilian personnel that did installation and checkout on the Atlas D,E,F, Titan II at Little Rock, Minuteman upgrades at Ellsworth or any of the Saturn people from New Orleans Michaud plant. Also Atlas OSTF2 Vandenberg 1959-60. I was involved at Warren, Salina, Walker, Little Rock, Altus, Ellsworth, Vandenberg and New Orleans. Looking for a Lt. Ratliff, Warren AFB 1959. *Dave Morris, mbrno A1931, Helena, MT*

If your were involved like Dave was, let AAFM know and we will put you in touch with him (see page 6)

OBL - Am looking for information about the long planned but never executed Operational Base Launch from Malmstrom. *John Boron, mbrno A1189, Sutton, MA*

Another topic for a good newsletter article - anyone interested?

Atlas Sites - I was assigned to the 576SMS at Vandenberg, 1962-1965 as a DMCCC at F Site (the Operational Site Test Facility (OSTF1). Colonel Francis Manda was the commander when I was assigned but he was replaced by Colonel Lorenzo Caliendo who commanded until the unit was deactivated. There were two Atlas E sites - not one as stated one of the AAFM newsletters. The sites were OSTF1 (576F) and 576C, which was used primarily for training of Atlas E crews but also launched Atlas E's in the operational testing and follow-

(Continued on page 4)

Letters (cont) - on operational testing of the Atlas E. My memory tells me that 17 Atlas E's were launched from these sites. I was an evaluator on one of the launches performed by a downrange crew - I think from Warren. I performed other chores, such as sitting alert and over-seeing downstream crews for the FOOT program. I also sat a lot of "tank watch." One day we spread-eagled the Command Post OIC on the top of the blockhouse because he tried to break our entry code. (we did at least five practice launches after he got back to the command post). My MCCC was Major Grover C. Price. He was LCO on at least 5 Atlas Launches and was the first Atlas Ace (so to speak). MSgt Roche was our BMAT and SSgt Wirth was our Facilities Technician. I was the project officer for a film that we made of launch operations in the squadron and I wonder if that film still exists. I know that two copies were made. There is a bit of history there that may be worth trying to find. *Edwin R. Floyd, mbrno A2116, Austin, TX*

Ed's comment about two E sites concerns the landbased missile history we published - the SAC document "From Snark to SRAM" only lists one E site at Vandenberg - not sure why the OSTF site is excluded from the SAC History

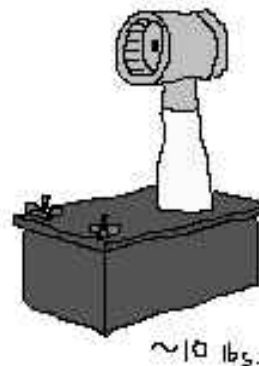
Sheppard - The latest newsletter really sent my memory spinning. I hadn't heard "Kearby Hall" for ages. I also went to school there, in the Atlas program, in Missile Facilities. I also was on A shift. What that meant was that you woke up at 0330, showered, cleaned the barracks for inspection and fell in formation, marched to the mess hall, ate, hustled back to the barracks, touched up any loose ends and fell in formation to march to school. 0600, class until 1200. Fall in formation again, march back to be part of Noon Review, go to noon chow, and FREE TIME! At least for a couple of hours, until evening chow formation. Fall in again, and this is crunch time. For if you didn't make a formation, or if your room didn't pass inspection that day, or if you somehow displeased one of the "Ropes", you probably would have a detail that night at Kearby Hall. At that detail you might have one classroom to GI, or three, or four. You may not get back to your barracks until 2300. Just a clarification, the classrooms that we were cleaning were those of the officers. So for all those who admired the janitorial staff at Kearby, we were it! And yes, there was many a night that I spent running a

buffer at Kearby Hall. I was part of the 3764th School Squadron from November of 1961 until July of 1962. No, I didn't flunk anything, it's a long story why I was at Sheppard that long. *David Dobbs mbrno A1519, Brookfield, IL*

Titan II Book - I am very pleased to be able to tell you that the Titan II ICBM book has sold out its first edition and is being reprinted as a second edition, with some corrections, available in 3-4 weeks. Any one who wants to order a copy should call 800-626-0090 to order a copy. *David Stumpf, mbrno A1008, Tucson, AZ*

Titan I Sites - Recently went underground out at Lowry again and spotted some work cards down there - part of TO SM68-WC-something-1PWE-1 or Lubrication and CSE Maint. (don't quote me on that title, I'm working off my faded memory here). Were there quite a number of sets of these work cards? Since I received the dash-1 TO from you, I've been digesting it slowly and along with it and other sources I see there are at least *hundreds* of TOs related to the Titan I. Any ball-park estimate as to how many there may have been? I get the feeling that the things were stacked everywhere in an operational site. I also found a strange piece of what I imagine was test or maintenance equipment: (see sketch) a small rectangular metal box with a ceramic insulator coming out of the top and on top of the insulator, a terminal for connecting to ? It appears like some sort of transformer and contains a fluid which you can hear when it is shaken. It was found on the catwalk in antenna silo B. Ever see anything like this? Was treated to a tour of an Atlas E near Greeley CO, from Peter Ambrose. He's done a nice job on the site. Too bad the Titans aren't nearly as neat and tidy as his site. *Pete Eaton, Mt View, CA,*

SM68-WHAZIT-2-1



Pete's Drawing - Any Ideas??

(Continued on page 12)



Vandenberg Ceremony

Missiles Come to California - A talk to the Santa Maria Kiwanis club on 28 Jan 1958 by then LtCol Nicolaus Gaynos - Col

(Ret) Nick Gaynos is AAFM mbrno A0671 and lives in Post Falls, Idaho

When the Air Force decided to use the 62,000 acres of California real estate located on the Casmalia Road, it placed reciprocal responsibilities on the surrounding communities and itself. A community responsibility to provide that environment that is conducive to a content serviceman proud of his profession and eager to get or with the job, and an Air Force responsibility to keep the community aware of what they are doing and what they will be doing. It is this second responsibility that is being carried out this evening, and I will attempt to give you some of the whys and wherefors of Cooke Air Force Base, so you can better understand and accept that long string of cars that winds its way along the Casmalia Road and disappears into the vastness of Cooke AFB at 8am, and emerges once again at 5pm to dissipate itself in the surrounding communities.

Santa Marians can well be proud of being closely associated with one of the most important programs in the international arena. There has been much said and read about the Ballistics Missile Program and the role it will play in the deterrent force. In essence, scientific breakthroughs have proven the feasibility of transonic unmanned space weapons. It is a long way, however, from the hardware development to a capability in being. Deterrent force consists of two elements - men and material. It is the marriage of those two elements that takes place at Cooke and all of us are in wedding party. Cooke Air Force Base has

three mission units -the 1st Missile Division (1MD), the 704SMW and the 392nd Air Base Group (ABG). Each has a specific purpose and goal. The 1MD is the element of command that must develop an initial operating capability by insuring adequate training of personnel and the activation and manning of other strategic missile units. It has been recently announced that Cheyenne will become host to an Atlas base. The 1MD will be responsible for this activation.

The 704SMW is responsible for ensuring that training is conducted that will train the human resources necessary to maintain a state of readiness with the weapon wherever it may be located. The 392ABG runs Cooke Air Force Base. (Col Gaynos then talked in detail about the missions of the three units)

One unusual aspect of the missile program is that concurrent actions are taking place so that early realization of missile concurrent capabilities is realized. These concurrent capabilities are research and development and test of the Weapons System itself, a buildup of base and manpower to operate the Weapons System and the acquisition and training in the technical area. Normally, a weapon is proven and the production line running before it is put into the inventory. This dynamic program of concurrent actions makes our job unique at Cooke AFB. For example, Douglas Aircraft in producing a developmental Thor. Cape Canaveral is testing this weapon and we are already placing people in training for its use. As you know, the last four firings



MGen David Wade and LtCol Nick Gaynos

(Continued on page 6)

Gaynos (*Cont*)- of the Thor have been successful, which speaks well of the planning actions. Convair, who is working on the Atlas, had a recent successful launch also. Each of these successes places us nearer to our goal.

So much for background and missions of units in the Ballistics Missile Program. Let us now take a closer look at Cooke Air Force Base. The \$100 million construction program which was started less than a year ago is manifesting itself in launching pads, guidance and tracking stations and control rooms. (Col Gaynos then discussed details of the Capehart Housing, industrial area, communications facilities, administration and command facilities, live and captive firings, negligible hazards from launch and barracks and morale facilities)

I have given you a fair insight into the whys and wherefors of Cooke AFB. I would like to leave you with this one thought. The Air Force is interested in having the communities know what they are doing within the limits of national security so that the communities can better understand reasons for the activities they see. I hope I have done this during the past few minutes..

Another Early Missileer at Vandenberg

- by Donald Glantz, MbrNo A2036, New Palestine, IN

The December newsletter featured ICBMs in the 1960s - I was one of those early missileers. After serving my first hitch in AC&W radar maintenance, I re-upped for 6 years in the newly forming ICBM program in August 1958. My orders indicated I was to report to Cooke AFB, California. Although I had spent my last 3 years in California, I had never heard of it. I quickly solved that problem with a map and when I arrived in early September after traveling from my home in South Bend, Indiana, I found a base under total reconstruction and renovation. The name was changed to Vandenberg with ceremonies over the weekend of October 4-5.

New 576SMS missileers were coming in from all over the country to await assignment for retraining at contactor schools. Finally, in February 1959, along with 14 others, I reported to General Electric in Syracuse, New York to study the Atlas D Mod III guidance system. GE was installing the system at 576-B Site. I returned to Vandenberg 9 Sep 1959, just in time to see the first ICBM launch from A-Site, making the 576SMS the first opera-

tional ICBM squadron in the USAF. The initial mission of 576-B Site was to train crews for the new Atlas units coming on line. Our first launch was the culmination of training for a crew from the 564SMS at Warren, on 22 Apr 1960. After completion of our crew training mission (ORT), we launched missiles for the ABRES program (new warhead designs) and the Nike-Zeus anti-missile tests. We also spent time on EWO alert status during slack times.

Some of the highlights during the time I was at Vandenberg included seeing the first missile launch from the base, a Thor IRBM on 16 Dec 1958. Raymond Burr filmed one of his Perry Mason TV series, "Case of the Misguided Missile" at the base, with many of the scenes shot at 576-B Site. Also, I was surprised one day when I came out of the operations room and there was the director of the CIA, Allen Dulles. Another important event was when President John F. Kennedy came to observe a launch from our site. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and General Thomas Power, CincSAC, accompanied him. SAC brought in a crew from Warren with their own missile for the shot. With all the many launches of Thor, Titan, Atlas and Minuteman there were also a fair number of spectacular failures. All in all, it was a very interesting and challenging six years and it was a different base and surrounding area when I left than when I arrived.

Memories of the Civilian Side

- by Dave Morris, mbrno A1931, Helena, MT

Wyoming was a cold, miserable place in January, 1959 when I went to work for G.A.Fuller construction on Warren 1. The site was just a big pile of dirt in several places and dirt roads that wound through the prairie. I remembered hunting antelope here during my high school days in Cheyenne. I was a laborer and it was my job to keep two carpenters supplied with lumber, nails, SIMONS concrete pans and all of the hardware to build the forms for the walls. We were just starting on the foundations for the first launch pad and the launch control building when I arrived.

Eleven months later I was on my way to Vandenberg AFB as an inspector with General Dynamics. I had gone from laborer to survey crew instrument man to optical inspector to installation inspector and now was headed for qualification as installation and checkout inspector. There were three of us; Dave Morris, Charlie

(Continued on page 7)

Civilian (*Cont*) - Noakes and (ml, stands for memory lapse). It was really nice to get to California for the winter. We worked on OSTF 2, the Atlas F silo. I remember we drove past the Titan silo on the first day there, it had blown up two days before. Really made you pause and think as this was the first real missile base we had seen with the bird in it. After VAFB for three months, we were sent back to Wyoming to be the key inspectors for training other inspectors. I worked I & C on Warren 1 and 2, the soft coffins and hard coffins. Kimball, Nebraska was my hard coffin site. From there it was Walker AFB for F series silos and a three month stint at Schilling AFB. I was at Walker when the Air Force scattered 2 silos within 30 days. After Walker it was off to Little Rock AFB and a new company, Martin Marietta and the Titan II. I believe that the year I spent there was the scariest of all the systems I worked on. The hypergolics and the general danger of the site and the area was more than enough. I remember getting the weekly pint of the best "shine" from the County Sheriff at the gate every Friday evening. It was one dollar and it guaranteed that you wouldn't get a traffic ticket for that week. It was interesting dodging tornados, hill country drivers, the Amish in their carriages, and the wildlife to get to work. I spent about four months on the "Red Crew" that donned the SCAPE suits and went in the hole to clean up leaks.

Next stop was back to Walker for retrofit and update on the Atlas F. I remember Nov 22, 1963. Charlie Noakes and I had gone to the snack bar in the MAMS bldg to get some coffee. This was through a restricted area but had become standard ops every day. On the return we were put up against the wall by the APs and held there for 30 minutes until it was determined we could return to our area.

About six months later, the upgrade was winding down and everyone was looking for the next stop. I ended up in New Orleans for the next thirteen months on the Saturn V for Boeing. It was the biggest and probably the most complicated bird that was ever built. I ended up there as inspector, final stage testing. I remember the IBM 360 modified computer that covered the entire floor of one level of the test facility. After going through hurricane Betsy in Sept, I said that was enough and transferred to Ellsworth AFB on an update program. I worked there for the next two years and when that project phased out, there were Ph.D. engineers pumping gas so I looked for another field. I spent the next eighteen years with

Frontier Airlines.

If any of you know where any of the civvie guys are from any of these projects, I would like to hear from them. Also any of the stories about the sites would be interesting. The ghost of the millwright that blew the second site at Walker? Those were days when the ingenuity of the American worker produced what it had to. I don't know if that spirit still exists today. What do you think?

Plattsburgh and the 556SMS - by Robert Thompson, mbrno A0399, Alpena, Michigan

My introduction to the ICBM force occurred on 1 September 1961, when I signed in the 556SMS at Plattsburgh. I was the second or third operations officer to sign in. With little to do until it was time to go to Sheppard AFB, Texas, I was assigned to work for Col Calvin Fite, the SATAF (Site Activation Task Force) Commander. My duties consisted of reading every major news publication I could get my hands on, listening to the radio and watching the TV news to keep an eye and ear on what was being said about us (the ICBM force) in particular, and about the Air Force in general. Col Fite looked to me to help him keep abreast of the sense of the nation, and it led to many interesting dialogues between us. It got especially interesting when a contractor's gate guard took his own life, and we had news inquiries from as far away as the BBC about missile security. Running that story to the ground and being in on the briefings for the Division Commander, BGen Close, was heady stuff for a Lieutenant.

Off to Sheppard right after Christmas, I completed training in the spring, then back to Plattsburgh to await TDY to Vandenberg. There, our crew, S-06 got to meet the first time. Major Harry "the Horse" Hutton was the MCCC, I was the Deputy Dog. TSgt John Makowski the BMAT (Ballistic Missile Analyst Technician), TSgt Ray Tidaback the MFT (Missile Facilities Technician) and SSgt Joe Nadeau was our powerman. "Harry the Horse" got his name in Korea, when his P-51 engine was hard to start, and he had to hurry to catch up with his buddies who were in place and ready to take off. Harry did a tails up speedy taxi and did his routine gun clearing that killed the neighbor's horse.

During our second trip to Vandy Land, our crew's
(Continued on page 8)

Plattsburgh (Cont) - moment of glory came during our upgrade PLX (propellant loading exercise). Seems the previous crew had experienced a failure of the Airborne Fill and Drain valve, which caused an interesting stretching of the silo LOX (liquid oxygen) piping before the Abort button was hit. Having been briefed on this potential problem, I suggested to the Boss that I start a second stopwatch at countdown start. The BMAT was to announce when the valve opened. If it didn't in 10 seconds, I would announce "10 seconds" and the Boss would abort. Well, it didn't, the Boss aborted, and we wrote the emergency AFTO 22. It was a good one, and I see that it's still in the dash-1 some forty years later.

We were assigned to the site at Champlain, NY for duty. Since our complex had not completed construction, our missile was selected for demonstration as part of the BOD, and scheduled for removal. Just prior to that Major Hutton ended up in the hospital for evaluation of an old back injury. I was left in charge of our four man crew to work with the contractors and the 556SMS maintenance people during the BOD demos. We had got word (from the Air Force) that it was no longer permissible to step the Guidance system bypassing it's normal 90 minute self test. GDA (General Dynamics Astronautics) didn't like that, and the site manager told me he was going to ignore it. I told him if he did, I would shut down the demo. Well, he did, and I did. Not too often a 1Lt gets to shut down a major corporation, even for a short while. After the reverberations echoed all the way to Washington, I started looking for a hero's medal, but alas, it never happened.

Our crew was not on duty when the warble tone announced the Cuban crisis, but we were there the next day. The contractor people were somewhat in the dark at that point, and as senior crew for Site 1, (Major Hutton was the Site Commander) it was up to us to clue them in when the time came. It did, and Major Hutton sent me up to brief the civilians. We gathered in the Quonset hut.

By this time, the Air Force took over site security, and one of the iron workers decided to test the gate guards. He almost got a mouth full of gun butt for his trouble. The union steward decided to test me after I had briefed everybody. "Just what the hell would I do if they (the civilians) didn't go along with our plan of action?" I

told him if he didn't cooperate I'd draft them into the Air force and put them on 12 hour shifts 7 days a week for private's pay. Did I have the authority to do that? Nope! But it sure sounded good.

We got our missile back in the silo, and the last thing to do was to install the solid propellant gas generators, which required a hazardous current check, which did not pass. So, I spent the next 12 hours on the headset with the Tucker prints while the guys in the silo went from point to point, cable to cable, trying to find the source. We finally did. Fixed it and we were finally on alert.

The rest of the Cuban crisis was uneventful, except for the shortage of qualified crews. There were a few 48 hour tours. Which got interesting, when we ran out of food and the base did not have any way to resupply us. We got the wives to shop for us, deliver it to the site, and we found out we had some decent cooks.

Once we got all our sites up and running, we stayed busy doing Standboard Evaluations. That was most interesting. I remember when we were monitoring the upgrade PLX for our illustrious AAFM vice president, Jim Burba. Everything had gone just fine, and the site was in LOX drain, and "The Burb" was diligently monitoring the pressure panel. I asked Jim if he knew why the LOX tank pressure would take a 2 or 3 pound spike about the end of LOX drain. He didn't. Which wasn't surprising. Unless one saw a lot of PLXs, it wouldn't be noticeable, and wasn't really significant. I explained it to him, and watching the tension leave him was like watching a very large balloon (with ears) deflate. He told me after we finished that he thought he had flunked the PLX.

After a couple of years in Standboard, I upgraded to MCCC and got my own crew. When the 556SMS deactivated in 1965, I was one of the first crews to disband, and I headed for Malmstrom and Minuteman. Five years there, all in Maintenance. First in Targeting, then running Van Configuration, then to Wing to run Job Control; then finishing out as Chief of Quality Control. I retired 1 December 1970.. Looking back, I wish I had stayed in.

**Donate to the AAFM Missile Heritage
Fund and Enlisted Recognition Fund
Help support AAFM Programs
See the inside back cover for details**

AF in 1962 (Cont) - 547 Hound Dog and 436 Quail, with 13 Atlas squadrons, six Titan I squadrons, six Titan II squadrons (with no missiles yet assigned) and eight Minuteman squadrons (only one with missiles assigned). SAC had 43 bases in the US and 14 overseas.

General Curtis LeMay was the AF Chief of Staff, and Gen Thomas Power was CINCSAC. The Air Force had more than 887,000 military members, 139 stateside and 109 overseas bases. The Thor was still deployed in England and the Jupiter in Italy and Turkey. Air Defense Command had BOMARC sites, mostly in the northeast US, and the Mace was operational in Germany and the Pacific. Missileers involved with air-launched systems were working with Genie, Falcon, Sidewinder and Bullpup in addition to the Hound Dog and Quail mentioned above. The Skybolt was still alive and being tested for deployment with SAC and the Royal Air Force.

The inventory of aircraft was a mix of older propeller driven aircraft like the KB-50, B-26, C-47, KC-97, C-119 and others to new jet aircraft like the B-58, F-106 and F-4, and the RS-70 was being tested. John Glenn made the first US orbital flight, and the AF was increasingly becoming involved in space activities. A review of the AF Magazine "Highlights of the Year" for 1962 includes seven pages of specific events that included many Atlas, Titan and Minuteman launches from Vandenberg, space launches from both coasts. On March 23, 1962, President Kennedy watched an Atlas D launch from Vandenberg. 1962 was a very busy year for all of us who call ourselves missileers.

Atlas Crew at Warren



News Releases (Cont) - AF Launches Rocket from Kodiak Island

An Air Force and aerospace industry team successfully launched a quick reaction launch vehicle here April 24. The rocket flew a suborbital flight for a little more than seven minutes before hitting the ocean as scheduled in the Gulf of Alaska about 375 miles downrange. The QRLV-2 was a 30 foot long single stage vehicle weighing about 14,000 pounds. The primary objective of the \$13.5 million mission was to provide a theater ballistic missile scenario in support of the Alaskan Command Northern Edge 2002 exercise. This is an annual joint-service arctic-weather training exercise involving more than 7,500 troops from all branches of the U.S. armed forces and Alaska-region Canadian forces. Secondary objectives included several experiments, an Army Space and Missile Defense Command developmental flight battery and advanced accelerometer package (a device to measure acceleration being developed by the University of Mississippi), and an Air Force Research Laboratory Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology mobile range safety tracking system. The flight provided an opportunity for the Navy Sea-based Midcourse Defense program to exercise tracking capabilities and computer-simulated intercept scenarios. This was the fourth sounding rocket launched by the AF in four years from the commercial launch facility here.

AF Wings to undergo Reorganization

The way Air Force wings are organized will undergo major changes beginning Oct 1. Those changes include creation of a new maintenance group, restructuring support groups and reducing the taskings of operations groups. All aircraft and space maintenance specialists currently assigned to operations and logistics groups will be reassigned to a newly created maintenance group. Supply and transportation squadrons will be combined to form logistics readiness squadrons.

Last Titan arrives at Cape Canaveral

The first and second stages of the last Titan IV-B to be launched from Cape Canaveral were rolled off of a C-5 Galaxy aircraft here May 1. When the final mis-

(Continued on page 10)

Titan IV (Cont) - sion is flown, sometime in 2003, it will carry almost 50 years of Titan history with it. Titan rockets have been tested as ICBMs and used to launch payloads into space from Cape Canaveral since the 1950s. The first Titan II used for human space flight launched a Gemini capsule carrying Astronauts Virgil "Gus" Grissom and John Young into a three-orbit mission on March 23, 1965. The integrate-transfer-launch system where the Titan technicians process and ready rockets for launch began construction here in 1963. There have been several versions of the Titan. The Titan IV-B is the latest and last model. The first Titan IV launch was on June 14, 1989. The Titan IV is the Air Force's largest space launch vehicle. It is capable of carrying payloads weighing up to 10,000 pounds into synchronous orbit. Once the last Titan IV-B mission is flown, payloads in this weight class will be flown on the new Atlas V or Delta IV space launch vehicles. This last Titan mission from Cape Canaveral will put a DSP satellite into orbit. The last Titan is scheduled to launch from Vandenberg in 2005.

New Center Focuses on ICBMs

AF Space Command has opened the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Center of Excellence at Warren AFB, Wyoming. The center will provide a more focused training and evaluation process for missile operators, maintainers and security forces members responsible for ICBMs. The project adds "bricks and mortar to ideas and concepts" long needed in the ICBM community, said retired MGen Thomas Neary, former 20AF commander, who formally opened the building. Before the center was established, officials at Warren, Malmstrom AFB and Minot AFB, homes to the three ICBM wings, all had developed their own training and evaluation methods. Capt Glenn Harris, chief of training for 20AF, said a total of 546 students will pass through the ICE every year - 210 security forces, 176 maintainers and 160 operators.

Minot MAF Reopens - by 1Lt Tressa Tillman, 91SW/PA

Missile Alert Facility (MAF) Golf-01, that burned two years ago was officially reopened June 21. The ceremony marked the end of nearly two years of temporary trailer shelters for the MAF team aboveground as they continued to provide support for the launch teams sequestered underground. A failed circuit breaker in the diesel generator room was the most probable cause of the fire.

Titan II Launch

A Titan II rocket was launched from Vandenberg on June 24 carrying a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather satellite. This is the last scheduled launch of a NOAA satellite on board a Titan II booster. The base has two Titan II rockets left to launch. The rockets have served the gamut of spacelift capabilities. They stood on alert as ICBMs, lifted satellites into orbit and took part in NASA's manned space program. Vandenberg's last Titan IIs are scheduled to launch by January and will be replaced with the next generation of rockets, the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle. The EELV is designed to ensure reliable and cost-effective access to space well into the next century. Vandenberg's first EELV launch will lift off from Space Launch Complex-6 in 2003.

US Space and Strategic Commands to Merge

As part of the ongoing initiative to transform the US military into a 21st century fighting force, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld today announced the intention to merge two unified commands whose missions include control of America's nuclear forces, military space operations, computer network operations, strategic warning and global planning. The intended merger of US Space Command (SpaceCom) and US Strategic Command (StratCom) will improve combat effectiveness and speed up information collection and assessment needed for strategic decision-making. USStratCom, located at Offutt AFB is the command and control center for U.S. nuclear forces. USSpaceCom in Colorado Springs commands military space operations, information operations, computer network operations and space campaign planning. Both commands are charged with countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. "StratCom and SpaceCom have successfully provided the capabilities to meet the nation's defense needs for many years," said Rumsfeld. "The merged command will be responsible for both early warning of and defense against missile attack as well as long-range conventional attacks." The merger is scheduled for October 2002, and the preferred location for the command headquarters is Offutt.

Are Your Dues Current???

AAFM at Guardian Challenge - by

Col (ret) Charlie Simpson, AAFM Executive Director

This year marked the tenth year for AAFM to participate in the annual Space and Missile Competition. AAFM was represented by president Jay Kelley, treasurer Bob Kelchner and your executive director. Our display (a brand new one for this event) was at the center of the Contractor Expo, and we saw a lot of people during the four days of the Expo. Member Bob Wycoff signed copies of his poem "Missileer", and we gained a number of new members and exchanged AAFM materials (CD-ROMs, coins, patches, etc) for over \$1,100 in donations. AAFM secretary Dayna Castro was part of the Guardian Challenge staff this year, so we didn't see her except when she was working at the many events that are part of the competition. There were hundreds of AAFM members at the comp this year, including those who were participating, contractor personnel and other visitors.

At the scoreposting/awards banquet, Bob Kelchner was introduced as a participant in Curtain Raiser, the first competition in 1967. Your AAFM president once again gave a rousing talk when he presented the representative AAFM Guardian Challenge 2002 coin to AFSPC Director of Operations MGen Mitch Mitchell (we provided 450 coins to participants). MGen Jerry Perryman, another longtime AAFM member, was the Competition Judge this year and had the job of announcing scores using the electronic scoreboard, and identifying the winners. When he announced that the 50SW had won the Aldridge trophy for Space Operations, the 50th mascot, "the General", dressed in 1880s Army dress blues, did a back flip right behind him. Perryman was startled by the sudden "thump", turned and stepped backwards off the stage, tumbling down the stairs in front of the head table. Gen Lord helped him back to the lectern and applied a napkin to a cut about Perryman's eye, and Gen Eberhart wrapped his flight suit scarf around the napkin as a bandage to help stop the bleeding - two four stars applied first aid to the two star judge while he announced the final trophy, the Schriever trophy for Spacelift Operations. On Friday, MGen Tim McMahan presented the 20AF trophies to winning missile teams. AAFM has provided these trophies each year since 1994.

The 35th annual competition was a superb event, successfully presented by the folks at Space Command, 20AF, 14AF and Vandenberg. Competitors and staff are enthusiastic, and many expressed thanks for AAFM's continued support and participation. An interesting sidelight

this year was the slight mistake on our coin - Missileers was spelled with only one "e" - making the coin a real collector's item for those who got one.



Schriever
and
Vandenberg
Guardian
Challenge
Banners



Minuteman I and Cuba - by Col (Ret)

Bill Grossmiller, mbrno A1010, Oceanside, CA.

CINCSAC directed that the first ten Minuteman I missiles be placed on emergency launch capability when the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred. Two launch crews with separate launch checklists and classified documents were to be placed on alert, one crew in the launch control center and the second crew upstairs in the launch control facility under special guards. The classified documents were sent to the 15AF Plans Division and the ELC checklists to the 15AF Standardization Division. LtCol Bill Grossmiller from Missile Standardization and Capt John Swafford from Plans flew the documents to the 341SMW at Malmstrom. Thus the first ten Minuteman I missiles were placed on alert in December 1961, achieving that status before the Navy Polaris submarine launched ballistic missiles.

2004 National Meeting

During May, your executive director visited to Florida to check out several hotels for possible sites for our meeting in 2004. While our normal rotation would return us to the Patrick AFB area, other areas will be considered by the board of directors during the October 2002 meeting. At the suggestion of members, we are considering Omaha, with Strategic Command and the the Strategic Air and Space Museum, Albuquerque, with the National Atomic Museum and Kirtland and the Orlando area, still close enough to visit Patrick and the Cape but offering some opportunities for families. If you have a strong preference for one of these sites, or another location, let AAFM know where you think we should meet. Keep in mind that we try to mix local tours, attractions and entertainment with the availability of missile-related tours, facilities and museums.

Letters (Cont) - Cuban Crisis - In the March 2002 Newsletter I read about the upcoming Missileers and Cuban Crisis convention, if possible I will attend. During the Cuban Crisis I was stationed at Ben Guerier AB in Morocco with the B-47. We only had three B-47s on the alert pad, they did not carry missiles but they were fully loaded with (very large) nuclear bombs and JATO bottles to assist them on takeoff. During the Cuban Crisis we went on a very high state of alert. We Munitions Maintenance types (Bomb Loaders) lived, ate and slept on the alert pad for several days and nights under very high security. The old blue Metro Van became our home. I ate too many box lunches and drank more cartons of warm milk than I care to remember. The Air Crews had it even worse; they had to sit in the cockpit of the aircraft around the clock. They would rotate crews on scheduled bases but I believe they sat strapped in for 8-12 hour shifts. Periodically they would start up the six jet engines and rotate the tires on the old drooped wing bomber. I honestly don't recall how long we stayed on such high state of alert but it was several days. Given our geographic location I believe we would have been the first to launch nuclear loaded aircraft toward Russia if the situation would have escalated farther. I'm glad it never came to that, but like you Missile guys, we were damned sure ready.

Ed. Burns. mbrno A2047, Bee Branch, AR

Florida Meeting - Thank you for your briefing at the Patrick AFB Officers Club - it was very informative. If you decide to have the 2004 National Convention at the Cocoa Beach area, I would be more than glad to help. A suggestion - a few years ago we gained many members by placing an article in the "Afterburner", in fact that is how I found out about this great organization. You might try this again as I'm sure many Missile personnel are unaware of the AAFM. Just a thought!. *Victor J. Haas, mbrno AO267, Sanford, FL*

We've done the "Afterburner" notice several times - but they have a limit of once every two or three years - will try again in the near future

**Last Chance to Register
2002 National Meeting
See Back Cover for Details**

Reunions

44BG/BW/SMW - Omaha, Nebraska, 7-11 Oct 2002, contact 44BGVA, PO Box 712287, phone 801-733-7371, email 4thbgva@xmission.com

567SMS, Atlas, 28 Aug - 1 Sep 2002, Spokane WA. Contact Dick Mellor, 6331 N Elmhurst, Spokane, WA 99208, phone 509-327-2978, email elm1929@aol.com

556th SMS Plattsburgh, is holding a reunion in conjunction with AAFM, 23- 27 October 2002, Santa Maria, CA.. Information, contact: Bruce Raleigh, e-mail raleighb@CC.TACOM.army.mil, address 8273 Burning Bush, Grosse Ile, MI 48138

390SMW, 40th Anniversary of Titan II, 24-29 September 2002, Orlando, Florida, contact John or Sue Lasher, PO Box 17916, Tucson, AZ 85731, phone 520-886-7157 or visit www.390smwma.org

69th, 586th, 701st Tac Missile Reunion Association - 9 Sept 2002 in Washington, DC. Fred Herbert, email frederick.herbert@gte.net.

548SMS, seeking former members interested in having a unit reunion during 2003. Contact Don Peoples, 55 Bucknell Ave. (609-587-6487), Hamilton, NJ 08619 (njpeeps@att.net), or Stan Bieleski, 104 Teakwood Court (865-457-4317), Clinton, TN 37716, (sbieleski3@comcast.net).

Taps for Missileers

BGen (Ret) Charles (Chick) J. Adams, an AAFM member, commanded the 44SMW and the 821st Strategic Aerospace Division, both at Ellsworth AFB, SD. He lived in Santa Maria, CA.

LtCol (Ret) William T. Cooper, an AAFM member, passed away in 1997, served in the 91SMW, 351MW and at SAC and Norton. He lived in Ft Madison, IA.

MSgt (Ret.) Bobby E. Bazzel, an AAFM member, served with the Mobile Calibration Team, 549SMS and 389SMW and in Thor - he lived in Vicksburg, MS

Col (Ret) Wayne DeReu, an AAFM member, served in Minuteman at Minot, Malmstrom and Whiteman, in the 3901SMES, in the 38TMW in GLCM and at SAC, USAFE and AFSPC. He lived in Colorado Springs

BGen (Ret) Raymond V. McMillan, a missile combat crew member in the 90SMW in the 1960s, and at AF Space Command - he lived in Sterling, VA.