

Space and Missile Pioneers Meet



General Bernard Schriever and the OldTimers at the Bolling Club, with Gen Myers, Gen Jumper, Gen Lyles, Gen Lord, Adm Ellis and MGen Blaisdell

The Association of Air Force Missileers was recently asked to provide support for a very special reunion of General Bernard Schriever's Old Timers. Each participant received AAFM logo items and newsletters and we provided financial support for the gathering. (Note: LtCol (Ret) Jamie Wallace died subsequent to the Old Timers Reunion. See Taps, p12)

General Schriever's Old Timers Reunion

- by LtCol Keith Amburgey, IMA to the Division Chief, Space Integration and Policy, the Pentagon

The pioneers of early Air Force missile and space history arrived at Bolling AFB, Washington DC, to attend the 15th annual General Schriever Old Timers Reunion held 23 – 27 April 2003. General (Ret) Bernard A. Schriever, father of the Air Force space program and a key leader in the development of weapon systems such as the Minuteman missile, arrived for his annual reunion along with many of his former visionaries.

Gen Schriever, a 1931 graduate of Texas A&M, led his “school house gang” on projects dating back to the late 1950's with notable titles such as the Midas, Corona, Agena, and Pioneer. He later directed the nations highest priority projects (Atlas, Titan, Thor, Minuteman) leading to the development of the space and ballistic missile program and culminating in the early reconnaissance satellite and man-in-space research programs.

After Gen Schriever retired, his “school house gang” decided to meet annually around the country. They started to attract quite a following of Air Force and industry leaders. The largest event grew to over 400 people. Gen Schriever decided it was time to pare down the annual event back to its original members. The “Old Timers”, initiated in 1988, have met once each year at bases many of which they helped create. Of the 30 or so members of the original Old Timers, 14 of them made it to this year's four-day meeting.

The events for the week kept them very busy. The members were given a mission brief by the host of this year's gathering, MajGen Judd Blaisdell, director of Space Operations and Integration. MajGen Blaisdell's volunteers “...worked hard and long to guarantee the success of this worthy event and it went off without a hitch.”

(Continued on Page 4)

The Mission of the Association of Air Force Missileers -

- Preserving the Heritage of Air Force 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

AAFAM Newsletter ²

Volume 11, Number 2

June 2003

A Word from the Association

AAFAM Programs - Your association continues to grow (over 2,600 missileers have now joined) and also continues to add programs. You can read about some of these in this edition of your newsletter - The AFSPC Airmen of the Year program, the Cold War History project and the dedication of the BOMARC at Peterson AFB. There is much more going on, too. I recently was asked to assist a screenwriter who is planning a "ghost story" involving a Titan I site - it should work - it was certainly scary at times when I was a maintenance officer at Mt Home. The Colorado Department of Health has asked for assistance concerning hazardous materials around the old Lowry Titan I sites, and a similar project is ongoing at Chanute. Many of you have been instrumental on projects like this, disputing environmentalists claims that we disassembled nuclear weapons on site or spread "rocket propellants" all around. No doubt, we used some materials 40 years ago that were more hazardous than we knew then, but your expertise has helped keep the official record straight.

Bush School Conference - On 29-31 October, the Texas A&M Bush School will host "The Century of Airpower, Past Present and Future". Former President George H. W. Bush and Gen John Jumper are scheduled to attend. Those of you in the Texhoma region are invited to attend - we will be provided details later. I will provide information to those of you in the area as I receive it.

AAFAM is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. The Newsletter is published quarterly, printed by Allegra Print and Imaging, 20905 Western Ave, Torrance, CA 90501, 310-212-7727.

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 - CMSgt (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

MGen Bob Kehler, the Pentagon

Col Mike Lehnertz, USStratcom

Gen Lance Lord, Commander, AF Space Command

MGen (Ret) Bob Parker, Charlestown, WV

Maj Julie Wittkoff, Fairborn, OH

Executive Director - Col (Ret) Charlie Simpson

Association of Air Force Missileers

PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424

aafm@afmissileers.org www.afmissileers.org 970-453-0500

Addresses for Members - One of the facts of being part of the military is that we move often - several of our members have moved in recent months and we don't have current addresses - if you know where Jerry Perrymam, Angela Stickels, Robert Flowers or Frederick Nyberg are, let AAFM know

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.

Malmstrom Movie - I'm trying to find a short 8mm home movie that was made at Malmstrom AFB around 1965. I was a 10SMS, MMI crew member from the end of 1963 to the beginning of 1968 and during that time we made a home movie spoofing Batman and Robin defending a missile silo. It was quite entertaining. The Wing Commander and SAC HQ gave us permission to do the filming and it was shown at one or more of our Wing gatherings. As I remember, 8 copies were made and passed out to the participants and possibly to upper management. Briefly, "SATMAN" (Security Alert Team) and his sidekick "BLOBIN" (Robin) were dispatched from a Launch Control Facility in response to a security alarm at an LF. We used LF 11 in Alpha Flight as it was a training site at the time. I owned a four door 1928 Model A and it was used as our strike vehicle to hurry out to the LF to investigate the alarm. When we arrived, we found a penetrator dressed in black just climbing out of the silo. He had a large "K" on his costume that represented his name "FLUSH, THE KRAPPER". SATMAN and BLOBIN fought with him for a while and finally brought him under custody. During the fight scene, we inserted a variety of visual on screen sounds like "POW", WHAM" "OUCH" etc. to simulate a comic book fight. Captain Carmen Parella (I believe he was killed in Viet Nam) was "FLUSH", Captain Bill Leland was SATMAN and I don't remember who played BLOBIN. Captain Bill Botoms and I were the crew on alert in the LCF at the time and I'm not sure who any of the other characters might have been. I think I also drove the car (security strike vehicle) out to the site as SATMAN and BLOBIN clung to the running boards waving their arms. If someone has a copy of the film, it would be great to transfer the 8mm to a DVD or CD and have it available for everyone. The content is probably just as applicable to today's crew members as it was back in 1965. Col (Ret) Joe Lazzaro, mbrno L0011, Auburn, WA, , 253-288-0450, zardo@atbi.com

(Continued on Page 3)

There were several films like this made in the early days - Bill Swisher and others at Davis Monthan made a great one ending in a cream pie fight between the IG and the combat crew in a Titan II LCC. It was shown at Olympic Arena one year. Unfortunately, many of these old films have not held up well and come apart when one tries to transfer them to DVD. If you have a film that would be of interest to members and a good addition to our library, AAFM will cover the cost of transferring it.

Minot Early Days - Thanks for the quick response on my application to become a part of AAFM. I found out about the association from an Ex-Marine friend of mine, with the corresponding teasing I receive. I have come up with more a less a canned response to the teasing when I finally figure out that I have no idea what the Air Force was because I was apart of General LeMay's SAC and not the Air Force. After reading the AAFM Newsletter I was surprised to see the current missileers get to work shifts. That would have been nice. The maintenance officers and enlisted folks I spent time with from 1964 to 1968 often spent as much as 80 to 96 hours with little sleep and no food (the farmers use to send food to us) and when we got back to base we were informed we had 12 hours and we were sent out again. The bond the folks at Minot had became very strong and I really believe to this day what kept the them going was the support for their friends and they did not want to be the first one to quit. I had made up my mine to end my military career so I volunteered to keep the trucks running New Years night of 1968 (Minuteman maintenance. without trucks - out of business). The wind blew normally and it was probably 30 below at 0100 and I'm by myself (I guess I wasn't very smart). All of a sudden someone showed up to help me, it was pitch dark, so I start telling the new guy what to do. When we got in to the squadrom building and we took our parka hoods off, I discovered my helper who took orders well was the Squadron Commander who happened to be a Full Bird Colonel - I can't remember his name. Recently, I called Minot AFB to see if I could get a 455 SMW Wing Patch and was I surprised the person I talked to had never heard of it! *Roger Lippold, mbrno A2209, Brooklyn Center, MN*

October Meeting - We thought you might like to read about some of the mildly amusing incidents we encountered while attending the National Meeting in Santa Maria last October. Several citizens noted our name tags

and wanted to know if the "Air Force Missileers" were a musical group! Carol and I promised we would not attempt to sing. I suppose it is a sign of the times that we were asked the question, "What is a missileer?" Each time we explained about the Cold War, the USSR, and that we had been the victorious deterrent - we were rewarded with either blank looks (from young questioners) or "Oh!" (from the older types). On a serious note we thoroughly enjoyed the meeting, and we thought you did a great job of putting it all together. We also appreciate the certificate of donation to the Missile Heritage Program. Carol really appreciated the presentation about the Cuban Missile Crisis during the banquet. She had read about it in the papers and heard about it on the radio, but like most Americans she wasn't really aware of the real situation. Your presentation brought home the stark raving reality of the confrontation. On a more somber note Brigadier General (Retired) Fred W. Vetter, who commanded 585TMG at Bitburg died of a stroke on 8 August and was buried with full military honors on the 15th of August. He was living in Dover, Delaware, at the time. I knew him at Bitburg and was most impressed with his determination to get things to work the way they were supposed to. He definitely was one of the good guys. *Chuck Reynolds, mbrno L180, Salado, TX*

OAY2002 - Thanks for AAFM's support to AFSPC's Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Your assistance made a significant impact towards this year's events and is greatly appreciated. On behalf of AFSPC and the 2002 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, I'd like to thank you again for your dedication to the men and women of the Armed Forces. We look forward to your continued support. *CMSgt Ronald Kriete, Command Chief Master Sergeant, AFSPC, mbrno A2171, Peterson AFB, CO*

CMSgt Ron Kriete's letter was only one of many we got thanking us for our support of this AFSPC program - the third year we have participated. Ron and all involved with organizing the annual event did a superb job that recognized the accomplishments of the nineteen nominees for 2002. We also received thank you letters from the nominees.

AAFM has been asked to locate some missileers - if you know where Lee Kapit, Tom Sitarez, Dennis C. Wilson, Nelson Wolfe, Wayne J.W. Lee, Charles Weimer and Anthony Trujillo, who were in the 38TMW in Germany, or SSgt Benjamin F Juancito, 381SMW are, let AAFM know and we will pass along the information to the requestors.



Gen Schriever presenting special award to Lt Col (Ret) Jamie Wallace

Schriever (Cont) - Col (Sel) Chris Hale, team lead for the event, remarked how "It was an honor to lead the DC team putting the Old Timers Reunion together." Col Hale is a missileer from Malmstrom (Minuteman II) and AAFM member and credits much to these honored men. "We learned so much from talking to the Old Timers we probably deserve at least three college credits."

Those historical achievements amazed team member Maj Corey Keppler, a missileer in the 351MW from Whiteman. "I learned more about the creation of the missile programs in the past few days than in the last 14 years. It was a great experience to actually meet the people who built the program."

There were more surprises in store for the "Old Timers" as they were greeted by the senior leaders of the US military including Gen Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Gen John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff; Gen Lance Lord, commander of Air Force Space Command; Gen Lester Lyles, commander of Air Force Materiel Command; and Adm James Ellis, Jr., commander of United States Strategic Command.

Gen Jumper provided some inspiring words for those in attendance at the evening dinner. "Heroes populate this room tonight. It's a bit intimidating to finally place the many names you've only heard about to the faces of the legends - names that have followed you around your whole Air Force career." Speaking to the group about recent victories in Afghanistan and Iraq, he added "All of the successful operations you see accomplished in theater today are a direct result of your efforts in space. You guys started it all."

Gen Schriever, 92 years young, took center stage and addressed his former colleagues. "It's been my experience that we breed people who really solve problems. I've had the good fortune to be involved with a number of those early on. I was fortunate to be with people who got

A Note to AAFM from Gen Schriever

On behalf of the missiles and space Old Timers, thank you for the gifts and funds you made available for our just-concluded reunion at Bolling Air Force Base. Your gifts contributed significantly to the enjoyment of the reunion by all attendees and guests. We have enclosed a signed certificate as a small token of our appreciation. *B. A. Schriever, General, USAF (Retired)*

things done. It's hard to find anyone to beat what we accomplished. We have one hell of a team."

Special commemorative certificates, signed by Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Gen Schriever, were handed out to all members of the group in addition to an award given to LtCol (Ret) Jamie Wallace for his special help and inspiration in the past years.

No story would be complete without mentioning a few more words about the Old Timers and their personal accomplishments. Of the 30 or so members of the original group, many completed successful military careers, and eight reached general officer rank. Others went on to serve successfully in academia and industry. Three were recipients of the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Award - Gen Schriever, BGen William King and Col Fritz Oder. It would fill volumes of books to list the contributions these magnificent men made for their country during the early years of space and missiles. Due to their achievements and accomplishments, the United States continues to command the "ultimate high ground."

Front Row (Left to Right): Gen Myers, Gen Schriever, Gen Jumper; Back Row: Gen Lord, Adm Ellis, Gen Lyles





Don Luther and BGen Mark Musick and the 551SMS emblem

FIRST HOMECOMING - by Ken

Fisher, 551SMS Association President, mbrno A1590, Bronx, NY

It only took 13,889 days from the last alert tour pulled by an Atlas F crew of the 551SMS at Lincoln AFB to return to Lincoln, Nebraska in force. Former Sector "A" Commander, LtCol Hank Liljedahl, along with Calvin Wong flew from Hawaii, while Chuck Le Bay of Maine led the charge from the East Coast. Their target, with over 100 other former squadron members was the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

Since 1999, after finding a former 551SMS member on the Internet, Ken Fisher with the help of former squadron members has been able to account for over 570 squadron members. Unfortunately over 110 of the members have completed their "Final Countdown" and the searches continue for the remaining members.

The association conducted a survey almost two years ago asking the members where they thought would be a good place to hold a reunion, and Lincoln was chosen. "Why not come home?" asked Ron Resh, the squadron's first administrative officer, who serves as the 551SMS Association's Vice President. Several trips were made to Lincoln to plan the reunion and to put together a local ground crew.

Ken Fisher commented "In the long run, all the effort paid off when we saw the results. We used the Lincoln media, TV, radio, and newspapers to help locate former members. We now know that there are still members residing in Nebraska and around Lincoln. We have located 36 former members in the state with 17 residing in Lincoln. The guys were unaware of each other after all these years. At one of the preplanning dinners, two of the former squadron members realized that their children had previously dated. Two former squadron members live

around the corner from each other and never knew it until the association was started."

For the first time in over 38 years, crew commanders met with their former crew members while maintenance team personnel spoke about the interesting times they had in the MAMS Building and out at the sites. It made no difference where you worked in the squadron, at the reunion it was like being one big happy family. Bob Beaudro brought his son and daughter with him from Texas. At 87, Beaudro who served as a crew commander, was the oldest member to attend.

"I was surprised when association members were summoned to the State Capital Building" said Fisher. The people of the state of Nebraska did not forget about the 551SMS. A proclamation was presented to the association signed by the Governor and Secretary of State. The members were also presented with a state flag that had flown over the capital building that day.

The first day, an Ice Breaker Reception was held where members introduced themselves. The next day, a bus tour of the capital city was provided with a special stop at the town's Veterans Memorial Park. Friday started with a "Military Breakfast" which included "SOS over toast." BGen Mark Musick, the Chief of Staff of the Nebraska Air Guard, was the guest speaker. He provided an interesting update on the role played by today's Air Guard. Afterward, we toured the former base. Most of the wooden World War II buildings have been demolished, including our barracks and chow hall. Building 310 still stands, now home of HTI Plastics. This facility was built as the MAMS building and the overhead crane is still in use today. HTI's President, Paul Almburg, provided guides as the group was taken through the enlarged structure which currently houses a plastic molding plant. A trip to Seward followed. West of the town, the County Highway Department uses former Site 11 as their "yard." This stop brought back many memories as the former squadron members walked around the top of the site. Site 11 is almost like we left it in the 60's except that the Seward County Highway Department had added to the facility. These former SAC warriors were interviewed by two different newspaper reporters while at the missile site while several hundred photos were snapped.

Lunch was at Mahoney State Park, next door to the Strategic Air and Space (former SAC) Museum. At Mahoney, Maj Tom Steel from US Strategic Command at Offutt AFB, joined the group. After lunch we toured the museum with its Atlas Missile on display. Major Steel, who fired the last Atlas "E" missile, addressed the group

(Continued on Page 6)



551SMS members walk across the cap of site 11 in Seward

551SMS (Cont) - and thanked them for the role that the members had played in the military.

Friday evening, we gathered for our banquet at the hotel. The 155th Air Refueling Wing provided a color guard while members of the AFROTC Detachment 465, from the University of Nebraska, performed a very moving MIA-POW ceremony that brought tears to a few eyes. Speakers for the evening's event included MGen Roger Lempke, Adjutant General of Nebraska's National Guard. At an early age, MGen Lempke's family lived near one of the 551SMS missile sites and he recalled this. The Keynote Speaker was BGen Kimber McKenzie, the first woman to command a missile wing, the 91SW at Minot and now US Strategic Command Director of Intelligence. Allen Beermann, who served 24 years as Secretary of State for Nebraska, spoke about the history of the dollar bill and Night Wing, a country rock ensemble from the Heartlands of America Band at Offutt performed several moving numbers to the delight of the audience. Awards were presented to those who helped the association get started and assisted with the reunion. A special award was presented to Harold Pollard, a Nebraska farmer, for his family's unselfish deeds to the former members of the 551SMS while the squadron was active. His farm is next to one of the former missile sites.

Saturday started with a business meeting that included AAFM Executive Director Charlie Simpson speaking about AAFM and its 2004 Omaha Reunion. The 551SMS was invited to join the AAFM at future reunions and the offer is under consideration. During this meeting the spouses visited radio station KFOR's Craft Fair.

After the meeting, we toured Lincoln ANGB, home to the 155th Air Refueling Wing. SMSgt Rachel Swetland conducted a walk down the wing's hallway of history which provided an historical insight into the mission of the 155ARW, from fighter aircraft to its current

tankers. Col Robert Bailey, Wing Commander, provided an operations briefing and we toured a KC-135R.

The Homecoming ended with a Nebraska home style B-B-Q as the evening meal. One of the highlights of the reunion was having a photo taken along side a plywood 44 inch copy of the squadron patch. Don Luther, the association's Secretary and Treasurer, worked for over 120 hours on this project and transported it to Lincoln for all to see.

551SMS Memories - by LtCol (Ret) Jon Tucker, MbrNo A1048, Bellevue, WA.

The March 2003 AAFM newsletter included a note about 551SMS Site 8 (Beatrice, NE) being taken off alert on 14 March 1964. Crew R-17, commanded by the late Maj Carol Smith, was on duty that day. Other crew members were 2Lt Jon Tucker (DMCCC), Msgt Vonard Bedker (BMAT), A1C Elbert Witt (MFT) and A1C Becker (EPPT). I had the pleasure of making the call to the Command Post to report the Site 8 "off alert". As usual they requested an Estimated Time on Alert (ETA). I promptly responded - "Never!" Major Smith always had us put the missile in "stretch" anytime we were off alert; following that practice we promptly placed the missile in stretch in preparation for deactivation activities. At the end of that tour we had to turn in all of the "Classified"; sure was a relief that every page was there - yes, I know there should have been no question but I still breathed a sigh of relief when we all agreed.

Site 9 was supposed to be the first 551SMS site to be taken down but a Titan having the same target went off alert and therefore, Site 9 could not be taken down until later. Site 8 was selected as the alternate.

Crew 17 was also the first partial (4 men with one officer only) crew to man a site. This was permitted after hazardous materials were removed. On that day I led the crew at Site 8 and there were numerous maintenance personnel crawling all over the site performing deactivation tasks. Shortly after assuming control of the site, we were advised that the IG had landed and part of their team appeared to be headed our way. Sure enough the IG showed up at our site to observe a partial crew in operation. Shortly after their arrival a cooling tower malfunction occurred that would require us to shut down the diesels and lose all NC power (commercial power was not available). With no water in the cooling towers and no power to run the pumps we would have to evacuate maintenance personnel and wait for a portable power source or water truck from the base to restart diesels.

(Continued on Page 7)

Memories (Cont) - When troubleshooting the problem, with nothing but plumbing diagrams and systems knowledge, we knew we could manually override the systems and prevent the power loss. The dilemma was that there were no procedures for what we were about to do but we went ahead, under the watchful eye of the IG Team leader, knowing we were at risk of being the good guys or the goat - depending on the IG's evaluation of whether we were following "Technical Data" or not. As luck would have it, the IG Team leader was a former Atlas F Crew Commander - when we returned to base the next day the crew got several accolades for "a job well done" and was complimented on knowledge and use of the technical information to address a unique problem not addressed by normal procedures.



Building 306, the home of the 321SMW/MG at Grand Forks is gone - several members sent information about its demolition. Many of us spent many hours in this old blockhouse.

Building 306 is Gone - by Scott Glush, mbrno A1230, Tallahassee, FL

I have been informed by Dave Penman and Clint Lowe, that on 8 April 2003 at Grand Forks AFB, another Cold War icon has met its fate. Building 306 was being brought down. A mighty fortress of the Cold War, this building was headquarters of the 321SMW. Now being removed from this country's arsenal as per treaty with our Cold War adversaries, this building was on the front line of the Cold War, as were the 150 Minuteman III Missile LFs and 15 LCFs it was headquarters to, recently meeting the same fate. Even as current events in the war on terrorism and in Iraq are taking place in today's headlines, let us never forget the officers and airmen of operations, maintenance and security that manned and still man facilities such as these and all veterans of the Cold War and the unsung battle they participated in.

This was 306 - by Clint Lowe, mbrno A1427, Fargo, ND

I recall a poem going around in 1976 recalling that Building 306 was the place "wherein all things begin." It was the DCM's lair, a place to which one didn't want to visit following a 3901st evaluation. It was the place from which Quality Control conjured schemes and projected the mischief they visited on us, the "wrench benders."

306 had the codes vault and keys and codes, where we'd walk in, bleary-eyed at 0400, to collect the means we'd use to penetrate a site. It was the place we'd go to speak to those in the field who were having problems (via radio - no cell phones back then) and the place we reported to (TCC) at various checkpoints (Alpha, Bravo, etc.) distantly located across Eastern North Dakota.

It was the warm, business-like environment where anonymous voices demanded we continue into the blizzards and thunderstorms to accomplish the job. 98% alert readiness was to be maintained at all times and foolish complaints about minus 30F temperatures or 2-inch hailstones were not to be tolerated.

306 was the place the over-dressed capsule crews appeared from, briefly, on their way to their Chevy Suburbans for the arduous treks into the wilds of the plains. After three days, they'd re-appear with Master Theses in tow, reeking of loneliness and desperation to return to civilization.

306 was the final resting place for the former "RV" maintenance vans, the homely looking trailers now used for crud control and manned by crews of personnel we suspected of having said something out-of-line to the wrong people.

In its ominous form, the windowless shape of 306 hardly could be described as cheerful. In spite of meager

(Continued on Page 8)

Thanks to member Mark Morgan for photos



306 (Cont) - efforts to decorate and paint (in sea-foam green) to lighten (or liven) up the place, it still was a featureless part of the landscape from which orders, inspections, and ass-chewings originated.

In spite of the history, I shall surely miss the building. Things of concrete, it seems, just don't fall down. The place (even isolated, useless and empty) would surely weather for eons as a reminder of the urgency with which we approached the Cold War. Six-ring alerts, ORI successes and failures, Missile Competitions, and, indeed, the occasional scare that Armageddon was coming, are well remembered by looking at that building. To have it levelled out of need for another parking lot seems to degrade the entire lifestyle so many of us lived through. May it Rest In Peace.

First Missile Wing? - There were units called Guided Missile Wings activated at Patrick and Holloman in the late 1940s and early 1950s - but they were missile test units - and later called Missile Test Wings - the 6555th at Patrick was one of them. The real "First Missile Wing" was the 701TMW at Hahn in September 1956. The first commander, Col Robert Zachmann was, an AAFM member - he lived in San Jose, CA and died in 1999. He served in 1STRAD at Vandenberg before retiring. He left Hahn in 1957 for the Pentagon and went from captain to colonel between 1951 and 1957. The article below appeared when he took command of the 701TMW.

World's First Missile Wing Commander Tells Problems; "In This Business. We Build To Climax, Then Quit" (Top Air Force operations planners have said that Martin Matador guided missile units in Europe are pioneering training techniques for future missile organizations. A first-hand report on the peculiar problems which will confront guided missile commanders was obtained in an interview between a Journal reporter and the commander of the world's first guided missile wing.) "It's like taking batting practice without hitting the ball!"

That's how Air Force experts describe the intriguing job of training guided missile units that will employ the lethal weapons now coming into the inventories of strategic, tactical and air defense forces LtCol Robert F. Zachmann puts it this way: "In most Air Force units, officers and enlisted men day by day get a chance to see their aircraft take off, perform their mission, return and land. There's plenty of competition at all echelons. "But it's another story in the missile business. Here, we build up to the climax that never occurs."

LtCol Zachmann speaks with unique authority, for he is the commander of the world's first guided missile wing - the new 701TMW at Hahn AB, Germany. In the months ahead, it will be his job to blaze new training paths in the Air Force. In this task, his mission will not only be to improve the combat readiness of the 701TMW, which is equipped with the Martin Matador, but also to accumulate experience that will be employed by other missile wings that will be phased into the Air Force during the next several years. Before activation of the 701TMW on 15 Sep, in ceremonies that were attended by MGen John Gerhart, USAF, 12AF Commander, and MGen Robert M. Lee, 4ATAF Commander, Zachmann commanded the 7382nd Guided Missile Group (later TMG). The Group included the 1TMS, 69TMS and 11TMS, which arrived in Europe in that order after training in Florida. At the outset, however, before the arrival of the 11TMS, the missile units had been responsible to base commanders - the 1TMS to the 36th Fighter Bomber Wing at Hahn. In February, a high level decision was made to activate the 7382TMG as an interim organization to pave the way for the Air Force's first guided missile wing. LtCol Zachmann moved up to head the Group from command of the 69TMS.

CALCM in Iraq - a USAF news release by Amy Welch, Oklahoma City ALC Public Affairs

Tinker AFB, OK - From the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, much of the success coalition forces experienced depended largely upon the ability to inflict maximum damage to precise targets while incurring minimum risk. The plan required accurate weapons as much as skilled strategists. One such weapon is the Conventional Air Launch Cruise Missile, a recently proven arsenal ace used more than 100 times in Iraq. The CALCM is a converted Air Launch Cruise Missile, a nuclear weapon. "Conversion made it possible for us to use them in the current conflict," said Joe Peach, CALCM program manager. "We had some ALCMs that were just in storage. What we did is put this conventional warhead on them. CALCM is the only weapon in the Air Force inventory that has long-range standoff capability. We can put a B-52 in the air 500 miles away and launch these, and they will go directly to the target that we tell them to go to."

The high-tech explosives come in two models, C and D. "The CALCM C warhead contains a lot of fragmentation, like a hand grenade, only with bigger chunks," Peach said. "For example, if we use it on an airplane hanger, it would just rip the ariplane into pieces and rend-

(Continued on Page 9)

CALCM (*Cont*) - er it unusable." CALCM lead engineer Gary Haler explained, "It's more of a blast effect than you get from a grenade. We were looking for that blast from overpressure to do the damage."

The CALCM D is a penetrator missile. "Those are the ones designed to go after hard and deeply buried targets," Peach said. "This missile, when it impacts, is traveling at roughly 1,000 feet per second. What this does is penetrate the target. It goes inside a bunker, in a specific room and blows up once it gets inside the room and destroys everything."

The CALCMs were developed before Desert Storm as a classified project. "There were a handful made initially, and that was all that was ever going to be made," Peach said. "But they worked so well that we've made several hundred since then." In 1996, the CALCM was first conceptually demonstrated as a precision weapon. However, Peach said, "It was not near as accurate as it is today." The CALCM now has the ability to strike its intended target despite possible enemy interference efforts, Haler said. "In the presence of jamming, we are still a precision strike weapon," he said. "We have conducted flight tests under jamming scenarios, and the CALCM performed as expected."

CALCMs played a significant role in the initial coalition strikes against Iraq, Peach said. "From 500 miles away, it will go to Baghdad, find a palace and strike," he said. "What does that do? Well, we didn't have to put an aircraft over Baghdad. We didn't have to put a pilot in the air over Baghdad. There was no risk of losing an aircraft or a pilot (to hostile fire)."

"It allows the warfighter to take out maybe a command and control facility inside Baghdad to soften it up so that other aircraft can get closer," Haler said. The CALCM's successes gratify Peach and Haler, they said, but its more important life-saving measures are what they really care about. "It makes me feel good to know that our aircrews are out of harm's way and that (the crew) can return to their family in this great country because of what we do here," Haler said. "I think I speak for the whole team when I say we take great pride in that."

Omaha in 2004

AAFM's next National Meeting is less than a year away - 19-23 May 2004 in Omaha. We will be meeting at the Omaha Marriott, which is in the Regency area near Westroads shopping center, a very good hotel and a great location. This time, the cost of the hotel room includes a full buffet breakfast each morning, so we won't have to schedule separate breakfasts as in the past. We will begin with registration and a reception on Wednesday, as usual.

Thursday, we will tour Offutt AFB and US Strategic Command. The day will include briefings on the Stratcom mission, a tour of the underground, command and control aircraft and briefings and tours in the 55th Recon Wing. We will have lunch at the Offutt club. Thursday evening, we will have dinner and a tour of the Strategic Air and Space Museum, including a presentation by the director on the status of missile displays.

Friday will include golf at Pacific Springs Golf Club, not far from the hotel, for the golfers and tours of the new Western Heritage Museum and Henry Doorly Zoo, with many new exhibits, for everyone else. That evening, we will have a "Trail Drive Buffet" at the hotel.

Saturday, following breakfast, we will conduct a general business meeting followed by a board meeting open to all members. Saturday afternoon is free, and that evening, Admiral Richard Ellis, Commander of US Strategic Command, will be the banquet speaker.

If you would like to have a unit reunion with our meeting, let AAFM know now - we do all the work setting up the hotel and arranging all the activities and you get to gather with friends from a past unit.

A complete registration and information form will be on the back cover of the next four newsletters. Don't delay - call the hotel for reservations and send in your form today. And don't forget your AAFM President's "One Plus One" Challenge - encourage someone who has not joined us at our National Meetings in the past to be with us in Omaha. Let's make our sixth National Meeting the best and largest in our history.

One Plus One.....Keep Helping AAFM Grow!

We began our "One Plus One" project last October at our National Meeting - we ask each member to find one other missileer who hasn't joined us yet - and to bring one more missileer with you to Omaha in 2004!

Contact AAFM if you need brochures - or download an application at www.afmissileers.org

Air Force Space Command Enlisted Recognition Program

For the third year, AAFM has participated as a sponsor for the annual AFSPC Outstanding Airmen of the Year awards. Nominees in each category, along with their spouses, gathered in Colorado Springs in April, and the top airman, noncommissioned officer, senior noncommissioned officer, first sergeant and Individual Mobilization Augmentee were selected. The winners compete at the Air Force level for the Air Force Association's Twelve Outstanding Airmen.

AAFM member Jerry Strong first got us involved in this program when he donated a substantial amount in memory of his wife, to be used to recognize young airmen. During the 2000 National Meeting in Colorado Springs, Chief Master Sergeants Bob Kelchner, Mike Kenderes and Joe Andrew met with the Command Chief Master Sergeant of AFSPC, Kevin Estrem, to discuss the best way to satisfy this goal. Other members have joined Jerry in supporting this annual program, and this year we recognized LtCol (Ret) William T. Cooper, thanks to a donation from his mother in his memory, and former airman and AAFM member Gary Hoselton, who has supported the program since we began.

Your executive director and his wife represented AAFM at the banquet on 17 April at Peterson AFB. SMSgt James Puscian, the IMA winner from the 21SW, SMSgt Robert McManus, senior NCO winner from the 48th Communications Squadron, Lakenheath, MSgt Ricky Shaffer, first sergeant of the 91st Maintenance Operations Squadron, TSgt James Coffey III, security forces flight chief in the 50SW and SrA David Peachey, Physical Security NCO in the 90SW were selected as the best of the best. A number of the nominees were not able to attend the banquet because they were deployed to the Middle East. TSgt Coffey's fifteen year old son accepted the award for his father, for example. A number of the nominees sent thank you notes to AAFM expressing appreciation for our support.

AAFM Members can help with this program by donating to the AAFM Enlisted Recognition Fund.

Cold War History

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation in Washington has asked AAFM to cosponsor a conference 8-9 September 2003 in Washington to identify the key episodes and facets of the Cold War, to discuss which physical sites are best suited to illustrate facets of the Cold War and to address key aspects in preservation and commemor-

ation relating to Cold War sites and museums. One of the basic goals is to develop a central clearing house for Cold War projects.

The AAFM board voted to provide \$2,500 to fund the publication developed by the project director, and several AAFM board members will attend the conference. This project fits well with our goal of preserving the heritage of Air Force missile systems and the people involved with them. We will keep members advised of progress on this important project.

Guardian Challenge Canceled

The 2003 Space and Missile Competition, scheduled for early May 2003, was not held this year because of AFSPC mission requirements relating to the Iraq war. Your AAFM president and executive director normally attend Guardian Challenge each year, and AAFM provides trophies and commemorative coins to participants. We look forward to the 2004 event.

AAFM Local Area Meetings and other Travels

In April, we conducted a local area meeting at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, in conjunction with your executive director's visit to Omaha to organize our 2004 National Meeting. BGen Roger Burg and several other members helped us set up our meeting, with about 40 in attendance. The following day, your executive director joined the members of the 551SMS at their reunion in Lincoln, attending their banquet and business meeting.

In May, we conducted a local area meeting at Warren AFB, with about 300 in attendance. MGen Tim McMahan and his staff (especially Maj Or Reid) assisted with the meeting, along with 90SW commander Col Tom Shearer. MGen McMahan briefed the attendees on current and future programs for the ICBM force. Your AAFM president and executive director returned to Warren on 30 May for Tim McMahan's retirement and change of command, where AAFM member MGen (Select) Frank Klotz took command of 20AF. MGen Klotz or his designee will become an AAFM board member next spring when we implement the change in board structure decided at the last National Meeting, which will ensure we have a current member of 20AF on the board at all times.

In June, your executive director was at Minot, but the wing was undergoing a major evaluation/inspection, so it wasn't possible to conduct a local area meeting. A meeting will be held at Malmstrom in early October.

Missileers and Food - Part II

The photo of the "Tactical Pizza Kitchen" on page 7 of the last issue, taken in a break room some forty years ago, had Playboy magazine foldouts on the wall in the background - a common practice in those days. Some of you objected to the photo - only the editor of your newsletter is to blame - and he apologizes to those who were offended - we won't use photos like it again.

Foil Packs - Tremendous Flashback!

- by Ron Alley, Director, South Dakota Air and Space Museum and mbrno Hon5, Ellsworth AFB, SD

My first encounter with foil packs was my initial assignment as a Flight Security Controller at Alpha 1 in 1971. As I was sent to the field with no training and very little knowledge of what working in the missile complex entailed or what conditions existed at the Launch Control Facility I truly believed that all meals were prepared from scratch. What a surprise it was to learn that we would be eating "foil packs". When inquiring what these were responses ranged from great to pig slop. I then realized that I had to develop my own opinion. Since we arrived at the site after the breakfast hour, lunch was to be my first encounter with the foil pack. I eagerly inspected the foil pack menu and decided on the fried chicken, macaroni and cheese and corn. After the required 45 minute cooking time the cook announced that my meal was ready. I opened each of the foil packs, everything looked great, and emptied each item onto my plate. Upon tearing into the chicken and taking the first bite I found that the chicken was raw and still partially frozen. In addition the macaroni and cheese was hard as a rock, but the corn was good. Needless to say that I was not very impressed with foil packs. I spent three years in the missile field on my first tour at Ellsworth and never did gain an appreciation of foil packs as they were meant to be consumed. However, I did serve with a cook that could do wonders with a variety of foil packs, making excellent soups that would rival the best restaurant fare anywhere.

After my three year tour in the missile field I was assigned to the Security Police Stan Eval Section. Whenever we traveled to the 66SMS to conduct exercises we would stop at a small cafe in Wall, SD for breakfast. My first time stopping at this cafe I ordered the silver dollar special (three small pancakes, bacon, and one egg). When my order arrived I was surprised to see that I had six large pancakes, four slices of bacon, two sausage patties, two eggs, and hash browns. I called the waitress over and stated that this was not my order.

The waitress responded with "you'll have to talk to the cook about that". I turned around and looked back toward the kitchen area and saw a grandmotherly lady standing, with arms folded, staring very sternly at me. She walked over to our table and said "you will eat everything on that plate young man, you need to gain weight (I am 6 ft 3 in tall and was around 147 lbs at the time). I did manage to eat everything on my plate, fearful of encountering the wrath of this woman. With every subsequent stop at this cafe, I was treated with the same meal every time, regardless of what I ordered. By the way, I was charged just two dollars every time and during the course of a year and a half I never gained a pound.

Snowed In

- by Col (Ret) Bill Heske, mbrno A0084, Bethlehem, PA

Regarding meals, after being snowed in at K-1 at Malmstrom for four days, our last meal was spaghetti, sauerkraut, and chocolate ice cream. That was all there was left to eat!

Titan II Foil Packs

- by Rod Mollise, mbrno A1551, Mobile, AL

Most crews referred to it as "Foul Pack," but there may not be many tales about Titan II foil packs because they were, frankly, pretty good. That's the way I remember it, anyway - of course I was very young with very simple tastes back in the mid '70s, no doubt about that.

The way foil packs worked was simple. Upon returning from an alert, you dropped a slip containing your meal choices into a little box at the Foil Pack Kitchen. The next alert, after Pre-Departure, you stopped by said FP Kitchen and picked up an ice chest packed with blue ice and the crews' meals - or meals for however many crew members bought foil packs. Some guys preferred home-cooked stuff or frozen dinners, but, being single, I liked foil packs much better than my alternative, TV dinners! There were a fair number of choices (though much repetition, of course), and the cost was nominal.

The best feature of the foil packs was that many of the entree items were left uncooked. Breakfast, for example, in addition to precooked items like grits or hashbrowns, included raw eggs and bread for toasting. As you may know, the Titan II control center featured a fully-equipped kitchen for the crew's use - a stove with oven, a refrigerator, etc. The fact that you could cook your own eggs or hamburgers the way you liked 'em was a definite plus. More "complex" items, like meatloaf or spareribs were precooked.

The favorite foil pack meal for crews was un-

(Continued on Page 12)

Missileers and Food (Cont) - doubtedly Sunday's dinner. One choice was always steak. These generally good cuts of meat were uncooked as above, and you could, I suppose, broil 'em up in the oven. But no crew I was on ever did this. What we would do was throw a small barbeque grill into the back of the Crew Vehicle (Chevy Suburbans in my day), and the crew member who was most skilled at at the grill would fire it up topside at the appropriate time (usually near the access portal), while the rest of the guys worked on the fixins down below. I don't know if this was strictly "legal" or not, but we sure enjoyed it. Sitting down to a nice group meal, followed by a rousing game of Risk afterwards, was great for morale. Ah, those were simpler times!



BOMARC Dedication

On 13 June, AAFM president Jay Kelley took part in the dedication ceremony at Peterson AFB for the newly placed BOMARC, along with the daughter of Maj (Ret) Paul Thompson and Maj (Ret, Canadian AF) Ron Willard. Thompson was involved in BOMARC deployment and Willard served in BOMARC. We provided funds for the project, to provide missile displays at AFSPC headquarters. A number of AAFM members and your executive director attended the ceremony. Two AAFM members, BGen (Ret) Mike Drennan and BGen (Ret) Ron Gray have been key players in this project.

Reunions

548SMS, Topeka, KS, 27-31 August 2003. Contact Don Peoples, 55 Bucknell Ave, Hamilton, NJ 08619-2059 Phone 609-587-6487, email njpeeps@att.net.

341st Maintenance Quality Control (1962-75), Great Falls, MT, 15-16 August 2003, contact John Spencer, Phone 406-761-5721, e-mail jspensir@att.net.

390SMW (Titan II), Tucson, AZ, 29 Sept-3 Oct 2004, Tucson, contact the Lashers at elainelasher@aol.com.

741st Missile Squadron, Minot AFB, ND, 4-6 July 2003, for anyone who served in the 741st Bomb Squadron, Strategic Missile Squadron or Missile Squadron, 1943-2003, contact Lt Jason Wyrick, 701-727-9081 or davidjasonwyrick@yahoo.com

341st Maintenance Quality Control (1962-75), Great Falls, MT, 15-16 August 2003, contact John Spencer, Phone 406-761-5721, e-mail jspensir@att.net.

Association of Air Force Missileers, 19-23 May 2004, Marriott Regency, Omaha, NE, see back page for registration form

564SMS Annual Heritage Dinner/Reunion, 10 Oct 2003, Malmstrom AFB, MT, contact Capt Brande Walton at brande.walton@malmstrom.af.mil

556SMS, 18-22 April 2004, San Antonio, TX Sheraton Four Points, contact Fred Crytzer, wfc@stic.net or 210-679-6542

45th Anniversary, First Vandenberg Launch, 16 December 2003, launch of the first Thor from SLC-2, contact The Boeing Company, Attn- Eric Lemmon, Mail Code SLC-2 Bldg 1628, PO Box 5219, Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-0219, e-mail Eric.G.Lemmon@Boeing.com.

Taps for Missileers

LtGen (Ret) Roger Dekok, retired last year as Vice Commander of Air Force Space Command, and lived in Colorado Springs.

Col (Ret) Bernard Garfinkel, an AAFM member, served in operations and maintenance in Titan I in the 851SMS and commanded the 569SMS and lived in Don Ana, NM

LtCol (Ret) Jamie Wallace, a member of the Gen Schriever "School House Gang" and space and missile pioneer, died shortly after the April 2003 Old Timers Reunion (See Photo page 4)

Maj (Ret) Michael K. Schrettenbrunner, a missile crew member and missile security officer at Malmstrom in the mid-1970s, lived in Fairfax, VA

Maj Chris Musick, Chief of EWO Training and a former crew member in the 90SW at Warren, was killed in an auto accident in February - he was a major selectee and promoted posthumously.