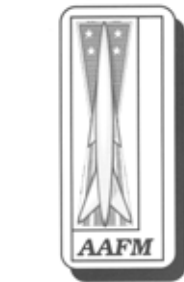


# Association of Air Force Missileers AAFM Newsletter

"Victors in the Cold War"

Volume 15 Number 4  
December 2007

## Association of Air Force Missileers 15th Anniversary



AAFM President  
Lt Gen (Ret) Jay Kelley



AAFM Members visiting US Stratcom

### AAFM...Fifteen and Counting! - by

Lt Gen (Ret) Jay Kelley, President, AAFM, Mbrno L194, Colorado Springs, CO

By some standards, I reckon our AAFM might be considered rather young and immature although it's a bit hard to be too serious about that when you consider the reality of our membership!! But remember the Air Force of which we all have been a part...the junior service, the mavericks, and we proudly represent that tradition and reputation.

Our 15 years may seem slight to some, but AAFM has been and continues to be a strong, steady, growing presence for the nation, our Air Force, and our members. We have grown to over 3,000 members while the number of missile wings has dropped from six to three and the number of missiles has dropped from 1,000 to 450. We have seen the uniform change from "two-piece blues" to green bags, and the blue jacket has given way to a brown leather one. The many targets we used to "sit on" during the Cold War have given way to no alert targets in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT). And our beloved "pocket rocket" that was "tattooed" on the hearts on many of us has given way to a new Missile and Space badge more relevant to the demands of today and for the nation's current missile and space warriors. I could go on and on about all this but you get the point...as our AAFM was growing the force we represented was

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### AAFM - the Beginning - by Col (Ret) Charlie

Simpson, Executive Director

Way back in 1991, a number of missileers attended the 30th anniversary of the 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron, the unit that evaluated Atlas, Titan and Minuteman wings - and for a short time, the sole Peacekeeper squadron - at least every year. The unit evaluated operations, maintenance, munitions, communications and civil engineering during two week long visits to each wing, with a team of 110 to 125 officer and enlisted evaluators.

The reunion was held in Las Vegas in July - rates were really cheap in the summer - and was attended by over 300 former and current squadron members. A significant number of founding members of the squadron from the early Atlas and Titan I days were present. During the course of the reunion, several of us discussed the fact that, unlike many unique military specialities, we missileers had no organization. The pilots had long had the Daedalians, with a chapter on almost every Air Force base. There were many other career field or specialty-unique associations and member organizations, but nothing specifically for us. There had been a number of attempts over the years to establish a viable missileers organization, usually by a group of active duty people while at a specific base, but every start ended after a short time, usually when the volunteer founders moved on.

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#### 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

## **AAFM...Fifteen and counting!** *-(Continued from Page 1)*

changing and continues so today. You might find an article titled, "50 Years of ICBMs" which was in our June 2004 issue, an interesting read. It is available in the newsletter library on our website.

But let's look beyond "our time" to a new time and what our AAFM has accomplished in its short 15 year existence. Since its inception, our AAFM has been well represented at Olympic Arena, and at every Guardian Challenge. We provide coins and trophies, we present them and encourage the competitors in every respect. Beyond GC we also sponsor performance awards in the form of the Payne and Phillips Trophies, discussed in another article for ops and maintenance.

Over the years we asked ourselves, "What else can we do?" At the meeting at Santa Maria a few years ago we shouldered up the challenge to embrace a first class piece of art that would be a fitting presentation to Air Force Space Command and commissioned Darrell Anderson to make it so. His mosaic work, "Countdown, 5-4-3-2-1" is stunning and is proudly mounted and displayed in AFSPC headquarters today. But we didn't stop there. It was most apparent to many of us that AFSPC Headquarters lacked the sense and feel of a real weapon system. So, thanks to the efforts of Lamberth Blaylock, Mike Jackson and Tim McMahon along with countless others, we located and assembled a MM III Post Boost Vehicle complete with Mk 12 RVs, and today it hangs with distinction in a central location in the headquarters. We have captured the legacy of missiles in our Air Force from patches, to unit histories, to tech data, and much more. Our AAFM is the national and international resource for US missile information.

And along the way we have managed to bring together good friends, old units, young faces and new places. We have coordinated seven national meetings from Colorado to California to Florida to Wyoming to Nebraska, with our next one in the Washington, DC area coming up next fall. We have provided more than \$130,000 in support of missile displays at museums across the nation and we support AFSPC's Outstanding Airmen of the Year annually.

As we look ahead, there are many challenges for us, and opportunity therefore abounds. As we see America's land based ICBMs deeply involved in alternative forms of adaptation to the needs and demands of the GWOT, our AAFM needs to be thoughtful about adapting and keeping up with change as well. So let us hear from you...what are your ideas for your AAFM as we move her into the next 15 years???

## **Beginning** - *(Continued from Page 1)*

When Lt Gen James Mullins was commander of 15 AF, he developed a series of professional associations at each base, for almost every specialty, but there were no ties to other bases or other similar organizations.

Shortly after I returned home to Breckenridge, I began putting together a plan for an organization for missileers. Things were changing fast in the Air Force - the Berlin wall had recently come down, the Soviet Union had collapsed and the Strategic Air Command, home for most missileers, was closing and missiles were moving to a new command, Air Combat Command. A number of us decided that if we didn't get organized soon, it might be impossible to get the involvement of whatever command had responsibility for the major part of our missile force. By early 1992, I had formulated a basic outline for an association, with a mission, goals, member requirements, etc., so I floated it by a number of missileer friends, both retired and active duty, to get their take on the idea. By late 1992, we had a name, a motto, a mission and bylaws, the beginning of a founding board of directors and applications pending for incorporation in the state of Colorado and with the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization.

Our state charter was effective in January 1993, but it took a little longer for the IRS to act, with our IRS Tax Code Section 501(c)3 status approved later in the year. I volunteered to be the "staff" and began work on membership and programs. Using Christmas card lists from founding board members, we mailed brochures to missileers, put notices in relevant publications like Air Force Times, Air Force Magazine and the Air Force Retired Newsletter, Afterburner, as well as notices at each of the missile and space bases. Within six months, we had over 500 members - an amazing accomplishment for something that grew like the old "bolt out of the blue" we used to worry about while on alert.

I made visits to several missile bases to let the active duty folks know about our new organization, and we had a display at the Missile Competition at Vandenberg in May 1993, the year that the comp was run by Air Combat Command and the last year that the event was solely for missileers - later that year ICBMs moved to Air Force Space Command and the event became the Space and Missile Competition. Since a number of our founding members were on active duty, some very senior, we had strong support at command and base level. We had our first national meeting a little over a year after we began, and attracted a great group of people to Colorado Springs

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## Beginning - (Continued from Page 2)

for the event. Our programs helped us sell the organization - the museum grants, recognition programs and the newsletter all had great impact on our success. You will find separate articles in this issue about each of these programs - they continue to grow as the association does the same.

There were some key factors in our success besides the involvement of a number of active duty and retired missileers. The fact that we decided during the founding process to be an organization for all missileers, not just officer operators, was a major one. Unlike some other recently started associations that tend to emphasize "officer only", we have attracted a large number of people in several populations. We continue to have a good mix of officer and enlisted members. Our members have experience in every speciality, including operations, maintenance, research and development, test, training, munitions, communications, security, safety and support. While the majority of us served in ICBMs, we have a large number of members from other systems, including airlaunch, space, tactical and air defense. One of the most amazing factors to me personally is the very large number of members who served only a single tour in the Air Force as young officers or airmen, spending two to four years as a missileer, many times with one of the brand new Air Force systems in the 1960s and 1970s. It is always interesting to hear a very successful businessman tell other members that the "three years I spent at Malmstrom as a young airman missile mechanic were three of the best years of my life." I doubt most of us felt that way at the time we experienced those early years.

I hope you enjoy this special anniversary issue of the AAFM Newsletter. If you have been involved for a long time, you know about most of our accomplishments, but I am often surprised when a member says "we do that, too?" when I describe some aspect of the AAFM mission.

When I began this "job" in 1992, I told the founding board members that I would be the "workforce" for AAFM for as long as I enjoyed doing it - we have no paid staff, and a small budget, but we do a lot with it. Every two years, the board asks me about my plans for the future, and my reply again last year at Cheyenne was that I intend to stay as the "staff" for the foreseeable future. I have a lot of help, with Bob Kelchner printing and mailing the newsletter, Kevin Mortensen taking care of our dues mailings and the board accomplishing all the special tasks like grant reviews, elections and other special requirements.

Your association continues to prosper. We lose far too many members each year, as you see in our "Taps for Missileers" list, but we continue to add members every week. Almost 3,100 of you have joined since we began, and over 2,000 of you faithfully send in your dues and your donations - you should be proud of what we as Air Force Missileer have done over the last fifteen years.



AAFM Board at a National Meeting

## The AAFM Board

During the start-up process for AAFM, we established a founding board of directors, with the first issue of our newsletter listing the initial members while we added a few more over the next few weeks. The initial board included Maj Gen (Ret) Ralph Spraker, President, Col (Ret) Dick Schoonmaker, Vice President, Col (Ret) Pat Henry, Secretary/Treasurer, Brig Gen Seb Coglitore, Lt Gen Dirk Jameson and Col (Ret) Jack Lander, with Brig Gen Ron Gray (who we left off the list in our newsletter a couple of times), Maj Gen (Ret) Barry Horton, CMSgt (Ret) Bob Kelchner, Brig Gen Lance Lord and CMSgt (Ret) Connie Paquette added in the next few days.

We began elections in 1994, with members voting for twelve nominees, then the board members selecting the officers.

In our first election you selected Brig Gen (Ret) Jim Crouch, President, Col (Ret) Jim Burba, Vice President, Col (Ret) Jim Knapp, Secretary, CMSgt (Ret) Bob Kelchner, Treasurer, Col (Ret) Ron Bishop, Col (Ret) Pat Henry, Lt Gen Jay Kelley, Brig Gen Lance Lord, Col (Ret) Ed Osborne, Col (Ret) Ed Northrup, CMSgt (Ret) Connie Paquette and Col (Ret) Bob Pepe.

After the second election in 1996, your board consisted of some new active duty and enlisted members to better represent the cross section of our membership, with Brig Gen (Ret) Jim Crouch, President, Col (Ret) Jim Burba, Vice President, Col (Ret) Ed Osborne, Secretary, CMSgt (Ret) Bob Kelchner, Treasurer, MSgt (Ret) Dayna

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## Board - (Continued from Page 2)

Castro, Col (Ret) Dick Keen, Lt Gen (Ret) Jay Kelley, Lt Col Mike Lehnertz, Maj Gen Lance Lord, Maj Gen Tom Neary, Mr Jim Widlar and Maj Julie Wittkoff.

In 1998, you elected Lt Gen (Ret) Jay Kelley, President, Col (Ret) Jim Burba, Vice President, MSgt (Ret) Dayna Castro, Secretary, CMSgt (Ret) Bob Kelchner, Treasurer, Brig Gen (Ret) Jim Crouch, CMSgt (Ret) Joe Andrew, Col (Ret) Dick Keen, Lt Col Mike Lehnertz, Lt Gen Lance Lord, Vice Commander, Maj Gen Tom Neary, Maj Gen (Ret) Bob Parker and Maj Julie Wittkoff.

By 2000, we had changed the terms for our board members, with four board members elected every two years with each a six year term. The only change in the lineup was Maj Gen Bob Kehler replacing Maj Gen (Ret) Tom Neary in 2002. In 2004, the Air Force asked us not to place active duty members on the board, so Kehler, Lehnertz, Lord and Wittkoff became active duty advisors. Col (Ret) John Howe, CMSgt (Ret) Mike Kenderes, Col (Ret) Roscoe Moulthrop and CMSgt (Ret) Mark Silliman replaced them as elected board members. In 2006, newly retired Gen (Ret) Lance Lord replaced Jim Burba. We will have elections this spring when the terms of Castro, Keen, Lehnertz and Silliman run out. We now do elections both electronically by email (the vast majority of our members) and post card for the remaining 300 or so. As in the past, once the results are final, the twelve directors will select our officers for two year terms.

When we took the active duty members off the elected board, we began selecting our active duty advisors, after a review by the judge advocates at several levels. Gen Bob Kehler, Lt Gen Frank Klotz, Maj Gen Tom Deppe, Maj Kevin Mortensen CMSgt Joe Lafferty and CMSgt Charles Lee are our current advisors. We have had a few others the last four years who replaced as they retired.

We occasionally ask members to advise us if they are interested in serving on the board. Since we will select up to four members, depending on the number of reelections, we are looking for volunteers. Just email or mail AAFM a short resume - you need to be available to attend our national meetings, since we conduct our biennial board of directors meetings at these gatherings. Let AAFM know if you are interested. You just need to be current with dues and eager to be involved in AAFM governance. You can email us at [aafm@afmissileers.org](mailto:aafm@afmissileers.org) or write to AAFM, PO Box 5693, Breckenridge, CO 80424.



*National Atomic Museum Thor - an early AAFM Project*

## Preserving our Heritage

### The AAFM Grant Program

Since 1993, AAFM has provided over \$130,000 in grants to museums for projects that help preserve the heritage of Air Force missile systems and the people involved with them. In 1995, we began giving them in memory of members who passed away during the year the grants were presented. A list of those so honored is at the end of this section.

Each year, we mail grant applications to a large number of museums and request that they submit projects related to missiles and space, recommending that each project be in the \$2,000 to \$3,000 range. We use this range so we can use our budgeted \$10,000 each year for several projects. We have, on occasion, funded larger projects, like the move of a Minuteman MPT from Grand Forks to Omaha. We insist that the applications be confined to the single page form that we supply, with no attachments, photos or sales pitches. Each year, a committee of three board member (both current and past) reviews the applications and selects the grant winners. Typically, we receive eight to 12 grants totaling over \$40,000, so the selection process is very competitive. We have funded the renovation or placement of several missiles, including Thor, Atlas, Minuteman, Hound Dog and Snark. We have funded interactive displays, dioramas, video presentations and a wide variety of other projects.

Since we started, we have given eight to the Titan Missile Museum, six to the South Dakota Air and Space Museum, five each to the Peterson Air and Space Museum, the National Atomic Museum, the Strategic Air and Space Museum and the Warren Museum, four to the Hill Aerospace Museum and three each to the Whiteman Museum, Mighty Eighth AF Heritage Center and the Octave Chanute Museum, two each to the March Field Museum, the Fairchild Museum, and the Malmstrom Museum, one each to the National Museum of the Air Force,

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**Heritage - (Continued from Page 4)**

the AF Space and Missile Museum (Patrick), the Clinton County Historical Association (Plattsburgh), the Altus Museum of the Western Prairie, the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum, (Travis), the Jacksonville Museum of Military History, the Woodrow Wilson Cold War Project and the Vandenberg AFB Museum.

The following members have been memorialized through our grants: Brig Gen Charles (Chick) J. Adams, Lt Col Gordon Adams, Lt Col Richard Adams, TSgt Bernard Anders, Col Burton C. Andrus, Jr, Col John Arnold, Lt Col Jean M. R. (John) Audette, Col Edward L. Bailey, SMSgt Neal Balmer, Lt Col Don Baldwin, SMSgt Douglas J. Barfield, Lt Col William Barnes, Col Willard "Barney" Barnett, Lt Col Robert Batchelder, MSgt Bobby E. Bazzel, SMSgt Julian Beard, Maj Kenneth Beaton, Lt Col Ray Bennington, Lt Col Victor L. Berg, Lt Col Ray Berry, William Bernstein, Col William Bifford, Lt Col William (Ret) Billar, CMSgt John Bodovinac, Col Thomas G. Bowen, Maj (Ret) Jerald Bozeman, Former Capt William P. Buffington, Lt Col Robert Buzan., Bradley Calahan, Lt Col Harvey Campbell, Col Henry V. Chace, Lt Col Jack Chandler, Maj David Chagnon, Former Capt Bruce Chalfant, Dr George Christensen, Col Raymond H. Cleveland, Former Airman Fred Clubb, TSgt Jerry Coffin, Lt Col Norman (Buck) Congdon, Lt Col William T. Cooper, MSgt Robert M. Cox, CMSgt Ottis Crenshaw, Lt Col John Darr, Col Wayne DeReu, Former Airman Stanley Dick, Lt Col Paul Doelker, Gen Russell E. Dougherty, Col Ralph Dowell, Maj Louis P. Dudderar, Charlie F. Dwyer, SMSgt John M. Earls, Maj Harold P. Edwards, James Elsner Jr, Maj William Fein, MSgt Andrew Fitzgerald, Lt Col Glenn Fornes, Lt Col Chad Fossen, Col Robert Friedmann, Maj Autrey Gardner, Col Bernard Garfinkel, Lt Col Jim Gasho, Lt Col Edward Gennaro, Col Thaddeus P. J. (Ted) Gicewicz, Lt Col John Gilmore, Col LeRoy (Roy) V. Greene, Col Ted Grossholz, Former Airman Jay Hansen, Col Bruce Harger, Col Edward D Hawkins, MSgt Johnny Honeycutt Jr, Maj Gen Frank B. (Barry) Horton III, Everett Howe, Col Lloyd Houchin, Capt Lawrence Howes, Capt Harold M. Hoyt, Maj Lee Hudson, Col Wells Hunt, Lt Col Bryon Johnson, Former Airman Jerrie Jones, TSgt Edgar Jordan, TSgt Frank Kerr., SSgt William Kidd, Col William Kottas, Col William A. Knapp, TSgt Paul Lackey, Col Jack Leathers, Lt Col Carl Leddy, Col Salvatore Legamaro, Maj Gen Bob Linhard, Maj Michael O. Little, TSgt Gary Lubbe, Chaplain, Col Chris Martin, Jeffrey Mazza, Col Charles E. McCartney, Maj William McCreery, Maj Joe Mercer, Col Sabato (John) Melone, H. C. "Bud" Meyer., Lt Col Rich-

ard L. Miller, Lt Col Randall Mills, 1st Lt Paul Monaghan, LtCol Richard Morgan, SMSgt William H. Murray, Col Gary Neighbors, Col Robert K. O'Connor, MSgt Ken Padgett, CMSgt Conrad A. Paquette, SSgt Nicholas Peters, CMSgt John Phillips, Col Julius Pickoff, Lt Col Dennis Piper, CMSgt Clayton Pyle, MSgt Billy Quinton, Lt Col Edward Reinhard, CMSgt Howard Rice, Lt Col Floyd D. Richardson, Lt Col Harry Robb, CMSgt Charles Roegge, Col Joseph Schaffers, Col John Shults, Col Jimmy F. Scott, TSgt Wilfred Seetoo, MSgt Thomas Senter, Joe Sesto, Col Donald H. Sherman, Col Warren L. Slagle, Col Larkin Smith, Lt Col Thomas W. Snide, CMSgt Bradley Solomon, Col Richard B. Spencer, Lt Col Hubert Spraberry, Lt Col Harry L. Staubs Lt Col Francis A. Stone, Lt Col Harry Strohecker, Lt Col Harry Sunderland, Lt Col Thomas R. Swanson, Jr, Maj Donald Thorne, Col Russell Thresher, Capt (Ret) Larry Tice, Lt Col George Timberlake, Lt Col Leland Turner, Lt Col Riley Vance, Lt Col Donald Vriezelaar, Col Leonard Wallace, SMSgt Tracy Walton, Lt Col Gordon Weihs, Col Robert Zachmann.

**Minuteman Missile National Historic Site**

Shortly after AAFM started, your executive director got a call from a National Park Service historian asking for advice on the best way to obtain one of the Ellsworth Minuteman sites for a national park site. We steered him to some of the leading local civilians in the Ellsworth area and recommended working with the congressional delegation, since the START treaties impacted keeping a site from the destruction list. As those of you know who have visited MIMI, it has been a great success story. Warren maintenance folks installed an inert missile and a glass and metal cap was placed on the silo. Both the launch facility and the launch control facility (they are now called missile alert facilities) are open to public year round. Record crowds have shown up - with reservations - every year since opening. If you want to visit



*The Missile in the Minuteman National Historic Site LF*

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## Heritage - (Continued from Page 5)

the site, you need to call for reservations well before hand. Call MIMI at 605-433-5552.

## Documentaries, Histories and Articles

We get many calls each year from producers, authors, researchers and others asking for details on specific missile systems or locations. Most want to talk to missileers who served in the specific system or at a location. We provide contact information to assist in these projects once we have determined it is a valid project. Many of you have been interviewed, have appeared in documentaries or been otherwise involved with projects like these. Researchers are often amazed at the resources we offer - especially when we ask "where do you want to meet the missileers?" They are surprised at the number of people we have all over the country eager to talk about missile duty.

## Countdown, 5-4-3-2-1

When we met in Santa Maria in 2002, the board of directors determined that AAFM should fund an art project representative of missiles and space that would be displayed in a prominent location. That was about the extent of the guidance they gave the executive director. Over the next few months, he looked for ideas, and was fortunate enough to paired with a couple of Denver artists one day on a Denver golf course. After extensive discussions with artist Darrell Anderson, known for his mosaics at Denver International Airport and other public works, Darrell and Charlie Simpson met with the AF Space Command staff and ultimately with the commander, Gen Lord, to illustrate Darrell's idea for a six by twelve foot glass mosaic representing a missile launch from earth. In 2006, a large crowd gathered to dedicate Darrell's work in he atrium near the command section of the Hartinger Building, headquarters for AFSPC. Darrell's outstanding work of art now hangs prominently in the area where special events are held. We had signed and numbered prints made of the work - they are still available for a donation of \$30. The artwork was completed for \$30,000 and is a truly superb mosaic.



## Minuteman III Post Boost Vehicle

Shortly after we dedicated the AAFM mosaic, AAFM, the Colorado Springs AFA chapter and a number of contractors began an effort to obtain and display something Minuteman-unique not far from the mosaic. AAFM president Jay Kelley took the lead in the hunt for an appropriate object. It was finally determined that the best display would be an actual Minuteman III post boost vehicle complete with shroud and reentry vehicles. In 2006, the display was unveiled during AFSPC's Missile Heritage Days.



## Missile Heritage Days

In 2002, several AFSPC staff members, lead by Col Rick Patenaude, came up with the idea to conduct a recurring Missile Heritage Day at AFSPC. Each year for several years, contractors and military met together to discuss the future of ICBM programs while relating current efforts to the past development of missile and space systems. A number of AAFM members participated, sharing experiences from the past, including discussions of early Minuteman development, GLCM deployment, MX/Peacekeeper decision making and many other programs, with the basic idea of discussing past progress and well as past errors, with the assumption that the people who now develop new systems and modifications will learn from the actions of their predecessors.

## Missile Patch Collection

Two years ago, Greg Ogletree offered to allow us to post his Air Force missile patch collection on our web pages. The project took some time to get up and running, since there are more than 2,400 patches displayed in the gallery. The gallery is sorted by system, special purpose unit and location, with scanned graphics of each missile patch from Greg's collection on display.

We occasionally get offers from people who have a patch that is not in the collection - Greg will only display the graphic if he has the actual patch in his collection, so don't send us graphics of a patch you have. However, Greg will be glad to add any patches he doesn't have to his collection and then display it.

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## Heritage - (Continued from Page 6)

### Atlas



*A page from the AAFM Patch Gallery*

We hope to have the patch descriptions added to the gallery in the near future. As you might expect, this is a major undertaking, and we are finalizing details on the best way to combine the written descriptions with the patch graphics. The gallery is a fluid display - we add graphics as Greg adds new patches to his collection.



*AFSPC Payne trophy, for the best missile maintenance squadron*

## Recognizing Outstanding Missileers

### Payne and Phillips Awards

When we started our organization, all of those involved determined that while preserving our heritage was a primary goal, we also needed to emphasize the future by developing programs to recognize the men and women who currently serve with our missile and space systems. Over the years, we have refined and enlarged our recognition programs, and are continuously looking for other ways to honor outstanding missileers.

In 1995, we worked with AFSPC and became the sponsors of two annual awards, the Colonel Ed Payne Award for Maintenance and the General Samuel Phillips Award for Operations. Until last year, the Payne award went to the missile maintenance squadron that did most to improve the quality of life for its members. AFSPC restructured their awards program so the Payne award

now goes to outstanding maintainers in several categories each year. The Phillips is awarded to the best missile operations squadron each year. AAFM funds the trophies and participates in the award ceremonies.

## Guardian Challenge

We began participating in the Missile Competition, now the Space and Missile Competition, a few months after we formed. We provided trophies to the winning teams and crews through 20 AF for several years, and in 1996, we were asked to provide a memento to each competitor. We provided coffee mugs for a couple of years, as the organizations that had previously provided mementos had done, and in 1998, we began providing a Guardian Challenge coin to each participant. We have a unique coin made for each comp, and our president and executive director take part in the awards ceremony and present a representational coin to the comp commander.

## Outstanding Airmen of the Year

In 1997, one of our lifetime members, former airman Jerry Strong, came to us with a plan to recognize outstanding young enlisted missileers. He made a substantial donation, and we began taking part in the annual AFSPC Outstanding Airmen of the Year program. This year, we provided \$2,000 to the command to sponsor some of the events during the week that all of the AFSPC nominees come to the headquarters for the final selection process. AAFM board members attend some of the OAY events during the week. Several members continue to provide strong financial support to us to help with this program.

## Enlisted Heritage Hall

In 2004, AAFM worked with AFSPC to nominate a missileer into the Enlisted Heritage Hall of at Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex. One of our board members, CMSgt (Ret) Mike Kenderes, was selected as the first enlisted ICBM veteran in the Cold War exhibit in the hall.



*Gen Lord, Mike Kenderes, Enlisted Hall Director and Jay Kelley*  
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**Recognize - (Continued from Page 7)**

## Other Awards

At the request of a few Air Force ROTC units, we provide awards for the outstanding space and missile graduates, and give each winner an annual membership in AAFM. We are always looking for other ways to honor the accomplishments of the men and women who develop, test, operate, maintain and support our Air Force missile systems.



## Keeping Missileers Informed AAFM Newsletter

We decided early that we needed to keep our members up to date on current and future Air Force missile and space as well as documenting the history of the

systems and the people involved with them. Our first AAFM Newsletter, mailed to members in April 1993, only had four pages, counting a member application, and few members noted that the title page said "Missileers" in the title, but it was a first attempt to inform our growing membership. It featured a short history of the missile badge by Greg Ogletree.

We planned on four issues per year, and member Rodger Phillips, who lives in Santa Maria, took over as editor. In 1995, Bob Kelchner took over the printing for us, and the quality greatly improved. However, in the first couple of years, Rodger's work schedule and other problems meant we didn't always get four issues together, but we were back on track by 1997, when Rodger's workload meant the executive director had to take over the editor's job. We had grown to 12 pages and since 1996, we have had quarterly issues each year in March, June, September and December. We now print 20 pages, including the mailing cover, and provide more than 400 copies to AF units, organizations and museums. We print over 2600 copies of each issue now.

Over the years, we have tried to have a good mix of current news, historical articles and personal stories in each issue. We have had some excellent series, on everything from system histories, series about uniforms, transportation and food, and a wide variety of other missile and space subjects. We created a minor crisis with a small photo in the "What Missileers Eat, Part I" issue, when a couple of folks complained that in the background of the 1957 photograph were a couple of Playboy Playmate foldouts - things have changed in the area of what

gets displayed on dorm and work area walls in the military, so we are more careful with our "historical" presentations in today's more sensitive atmosphere.

We have been honored to have articles by several commanders of AFSPC, as well as the commander of US Strategic Command. The editing part of the executive director's job is relatively easy - when we call for stories and articles, we get a lot. The biggest problem we face is squeezing everything in that we get. The recent series on missile targeting is a good example - we had many good articles so had to continue the series through three issues. We have done full color issues on a couple of occasions, but the added expense is tough on the budget, so we normally stick with two color editions. The completed issues are sent to Bob Kelchner, our printer and board member, and undergo final proofing. Bob prints each issues and mails over 2,000 to members, with the unit issues mailed by the executive director in bulk.

We are always open to volunteers for the editing job - your executive director enjoys the task but would welcome assistance with a member with newsletter production expertise.

## Our Web Page

In 1995, we began using email and our first web page. The web page has grown and improved over the years. A couple of members offered to take over the page construction and maintenance, first Bob Notman from Florida and now Colorado member Nick Casale. We added to the page through a second server a couple of years ago to have more space for Greg Ogletree missile patch collection and our donation center. If you haven't visited [www.afmissileers.org](http://www.afmissileers.org) lately, take a look at the latest in AAFM and missile news, as well as Greg's comprehensive collection. We are currently building a new, improved on-line museum which should be up and running in a few months.

## Email Updates

Our electronic address book has over 2,000 email addresses in it, mostly current members but also other missileers who want to stay current on missileer doings. We try to send out an update at monthly, and provide members an updated email list quarterly. The biggest problems with the email updates are keeping addresses current and avoiding being spammers because of the volume we send out. Some have asked why we don't send out the AAFM Newsletter by email instead of print - if every member had email, and kept his address current, it would work. Unfortunately, neither is true, so the printed version is much easier to do quarterly.



*"The Four Chiefs" - not a singing group - just some our leaders*

## Reunions and Meetings

We fulfill this aspect of our mission in several ways - we encourage and facilitate unit level reunions, we conduct a National Meeting every two years and we conduct local area meetings around the country. Many of the units from a variety of systems have begun conducting reunions, with several scheduled each year. Many AAFM members attend these gatherings, and several members have been featured speakers for the meetings.

When a group decides to organize a meeting, we provide a list of all the AAFM members who served in the appropriate unit or system and offer to publicize the upcoming event. We strongly encourage these groups to combine their meetings with our National Meeting, since AAFM does most of the work for the meeting and provides space for unit-unique functions, and the smaller groups avoid the pitfalls that can occur when scheduling a reunion and dealing with a hotel. We have had three or four units at each of our recent National Meetings. We also encourage the groups to use care in scheduling, to avoid conflicts between meetings. Some of the most active groups are the 390 SMW, the 556 SMS, the original Minot 455 SMW, Mace/Matador and Malmstrom maintenance. A number of other units have had more than one reunion in recent years. Your executive director was the featured speaker at a recent 308 SMW reunion in Little Rock. We list all upcoming meetings on our web page, in our email updates and in the quarterly newsletter.

Beginning with our first gathering in 1994, we have conducted seven National Meetings, each one more successful than the last. We met in Colorado Springs in 1994 and 2000, in Santa Maria in 1996 and 2002, at Cocoa Beach in 1998, Omaha in 2004 and Cheyenne in 2006. We have had great support from the local Air Force organizations in the areas we met, enabling us to spend at least one full day touring missile and space facilities and

talking to the men and women who currently operate, maintain and support our missile and space systems. We have spent one day touring local area attractions and conducted a golf tournament. On the Saturday during our meeting, we conduct AAFM business with both a general membership and board of directors meeting. The general membership meetings have featured guests speakers on a wide variety of subjects, from former Secretary of the Air Force Tom Reed discussing his recent book to an update on the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota. Members are encouraged to attend the board meetings and provide feedback to the board. On Saturday evening, we hold our major event, the AAFM banquet, and have had commanders of AF Space Command, Strategic Command and 20 AF as speakers. When possible, we host young officers and enlisted members and their spouses at the banquet, giving members an opportunity to socialize with members of the current force. We have worked hard to keep the cost of attending reasonable, working hard to negotiate good rates at quality hotels. Best of all, the four day gatherings give missileers lots of time to gather together, tell stories and reflect on good memories.

Our local area meetings have been conducted at sites all over the country, including the Pentagon Athletic Club, in San Antonio, Albuquerque, Offutt, Peterson, Vandenberg, Patrick and the operational bases. AAFM provides refreshments and snacks, and there are presentations from both the executive director or president and local units or organizations. We haven't conducted meetings for several months, so we plan to get back on track soon and visit operational bases and other locations. If you want to help host a meeting in your area, let AAFM know and we will try to accommodate you.

## A Central Point of Contact

We have over 3,000 members in our database of missileers, with an additional 4,000 in other databases. While we have details on the missile experience of our members, all we have for the other 4,000 are addresses. But, if you are looking for a missileer by name, we might be able to provide the information.

As most members know, we track a lot of information for each member - over 150 different attributes. We list all the missile systems, units at wing or higher level, with squadrons listed for those systems that were deployed that way, like Atlas and Titan I. We don't track time periods, so if you are looking for someone who was in maintenance at Whiteman in the mid-1970s, we can provide members who were in maintenance at Whiteman,

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## Contact (Continued from Page 9)

but you will have to apply some personal memory with the list to track someone from a specific period.

We have also had some luck finding folks by listing the information a member has in a newsletter note - if you are trying to find a lost missileer, we can put all the data you have in our newsletter and our email updates - someone may know where the lost missileer is.

We publish a detailed member directory every three years. The vast majority of our members get the publication by email - we print about 300 hard copies and mail them to those without computer access. This directory lists every member, with the addresses of all those who are current with dues. The other 1,000 or so are listed only by name, and we list all deceased members as well. A good portion of the directory is taken up with the system and unit listings - you can cross reference the address listing with lists for specific units to find those who may have served in the same unit that you did. We provide new members with a list of all members in their home state, and we can always give you a list of members from a specific area, system, unit or discipline.

## The AAFM Donation Center

We have a portion of our web page set up with a donation center, and we also list all the items we have available in each newsletter. These items help us raise money for our programs and are basically items that were excess after a National Meeting, donated to us by a member or are CDs and DVDs we assemble from available documents, films and other sources.

We have a number of logo items - for example, at one of our early National Meetings, each attendee received an AAFM golf cap. It was more efficient to order a certain minimum number - the ones remaining are still available for a donation to AAFM. The same goes for lapel pins, golf shirts, briefcases and a changing collection of other items. Coins, missile and space badge lapel pins and a variety of other items are available. We traditionally give each Guardian Challenge participant a souvenir coin, so we have a few available for donation after each competition.

We occasionally have patches that were donated by a member - either original patches from someone's personal collection or reproduced patches made for a unit reunion - this part of the collection also changes as donations come in and stocks are used up.

Our CD collection is now set up by system. We have scanned a large number of Air Force, contractor and unofficial documents onto disk. The Atlas collection,



AAFMM Patch - one of the many logo items

for example, currently fills four CDs and continues to expand. We are slowly getting all the hard copy documents onto disk so we can clean out the "AAFMM closet."

The DVD collection is also basically by system, with a number of reproduced DVDs filled with old documentaries, like the Air Force television program from the early 1960s, contractor films and other videos and films. Some recent documentaries are on the disks if a member of the association was involved with the project. Occasionally, we have sets of DVDs donated to us to distribute to members. Recently, Lockheed Martin provided over a hundred copies of a multiple DVD set documenting the history of Titan - almost all have been snapped up by members.

The collection also includes copies of missile poems suitable for framing, Bill McKee's cartoon book, Greg Ogletree's History of the Missile Badge and other items as they become available. Your donations through our center have provided several thousand dollars to our programs the last fifteen years.

All are available by mail order using the form in each newsletter, or you can log on to the Donation Center and use a credit card with Paypal. We can't accept credit cards directly, since the expense of an AAFM account would be prohibitive, but the PayPal option works well for us. All items requested in exchange for donations are shipped by mail at no additional cost to the donor.

### The AAFM Donation Center



## AAFM Library

Our hard copy collection of documents, publications, photos and books continues to grow. We have a number of books documenting specific parts of missile history, as well as many Air Force and contractor documents. We have scanned many of these to disk, but some are also maintained in hard copy or may only be available that way. If you are interested in seeing what is available in the collection, ask for a listing. Publications are available for loan for those doing research on a particular topic. If you only need a small part of a book or document, we can probably scan pages you need rather than shipping a heavy book to you for your research.

Drop AAFM a line by mail or email if you want a copy of the library list, or just ask if we have documents on a specific subject.

## The 2007 Missile Heritage Grants

We recently mailed checks to four museums, awarding \$12,471 for missile projects at these museums. The recipients were the museum at Warren, where we provided \$1,500 for a Peacekeeper missile heritage display, \$3,000 to the Aerospace Foundation of Utah (the Hill AFB museum) for signage for the Minuteman transporter erector and the GLCM transporter erector launcher, \$3,371 to the Jacksonville, AR Museum of Military History for a Titan II display and \$4,600 to the National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque for refurbishment of a Matador. As usual, we had requests for far more money than we could distribute this year. We have now provided more than \$130,000 in grants to 21 organizations since 1993.

Grants were donated this year in honor of AAFM members who passed away in the last year. This year, we honored Col (Ret) John Arnold, Col (Ret) William Bifford, Lt Col (Ret) William Billar, Col (Ret) Thomas G. Bowen, Lt Col (Ret) Robert Buzan, Former Capt Bruce Chalfant, Former Airman Fred Clubb, Gen (Ret) Russell E. Dougherty, Maj (Ret) Harold P. Edwards, Maj (Ret) William Fein, Col (Ret) LeRoy (Roy) V. Greene, Former Airman Jay Hansen, Col (Ret) Lloyd Houchin TSgt (Ret) Frank Kerr, TSgt (Ret) Gary Lubbe, Jeffrey Mazza, H. C. "Bud" Meyer, Col (Ret) Robert K. O'Connor, CMSgt(Ret) Charles Roegge and Capt (Ret) Larry Tice.

If you work with one of the many museums that have missile displays, make sure they submit an application each year for one of our grants. We mail the forms in mid-summer each year and members of our board select the grant winners. Help us improve the quality of missile displays at our museums.

## Models

A number of you have sent deposits for Minuteman models, and by the time you read this, we should have the first orders on the way. We have worked with three different manufacturers, and it looks like our first Minuteman III models in real colors (or white) will run less than \$200, including shipping. We are also working with a supplier for a smaller, less expensive version, probably in the \$50 range. Other systems should follow later. The supplier we picked says he can do other systems for us - it just takes time to get all the specifications right.

## Air Force Association Solicits

**AAFM Support** - by Maj Gen Bob Parker, AAFM board member, Mbrno A0145, Oakton, VA

Lt Gen (Ret) Mike Dunn, the President of the Air Force Association, invited AAFM to participate, along with about twenty similar associations, in a meeting at AFA headquarters to see if there were avenues available where the combined strengths of these associations could be captured to tell an even stronger story about the Air Force heritage, mission and needs. Attendees included representatives the Airlift/Tanker Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, AF Historical Foundation and I represented the AAFM. Of the organizations represented, AAFM with more than 3,000 members was the second largest!

All the represented organizations had similar missions: capture our heritage, educate the populous on the mission of the Air Force; and be an advocate for the Air Force and our men and woman.

It was clearly stated right up front that the intent of this initiative by the AFA was not to "take-over" or subjugate our individual organizations but rather to share information, cooperate and assist each of the associations. For example, several times during the year AFA or another large service organization will have a conference/function/symposium at the same time and in a couple of cases in the same city as another organization. One proposed initiative was to share a common calendar to avoid conflicts such as this. Another would be to get the Air Force message out to the various Associations so we could "spread the word" in our local communities.

The meeting ended with agreement that there is strength in numbers and that there were possible benefits of joining a loose federation of Air Force associations in order to better carry the Air Force message. We will keep our membership appraised of any further activities

## Air Force News



*Malmstrom maintenance at work replacing a guidance system*

### Malmstrom Completes Guidance Replacement

*- by AIC Emerald Ralston, 341 SW Public Affairs*

Missile maintenance airmen installed the final replacement to the missile guidance system of Malmstrom's Minuteman III fleet 4 Dec making Malmstrom the first base in AFSPC to finish the replacements at each missile launch facility.

The NS-20 system has been replaced with the NS-50 system through the Guidance Replacement Program. The GRP is managed by the 526th Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles Systems Wing at Hill AFB, UT, and is contracted through the ICBM Prime Integrating Contract.

The NS-20 was the designation given to the original Minuteman III missile guidance system. The MGS performs ground and in-flight functions for the Minuteman III weapon system. Hardware for the system consists of a computer, an inertial measurement unit, cabling, coolant hoses and other supporting hardware.

While on the ground, the MGS communicates to the ground system, responds to commands received from the ground system, and monitors and reports on the health of the missile system.

In flight, the MGS is responsible for guiding and steering the missile to a position in space that corresponds to the desired release point of the reentry vehicle so it will hit within the designated target area, said Capt Michael Ballak, 510 ICBMSG. "The primary reason the NS-20 is being replaced is because the electronics have aged, resulting in degraded in-flight reliability," Capt Ballak said. "The NS-50 replaces the aging 1960s vintage NS-20 guidance system electronics with 1990s vintage electronics."

"This system ensures more safety than the NS-20" said MSgt. Eric Lang, 341st Maintenance Operations Squadron.

The NS-50 contains modernized electronics that improve not only the in-flight reliability, but also the main-

tainability - it is more dependable on the ground, simpler to isolate faults, and easier to remove and replace components, MSgt Lang said.

"There is definitely a benefit to this new system," Sergeant Lang said. "It lasts longer in the field so maintainers don't have to go out as often, so it saves money and time. Any time you have to roll open the door to perform maintenance on the system it takes a lot of work and then a series of tests have to be performed as well. With all the other programs we have going on right now, having to go out fewer times is a huge benefit."

Malmstrom isn't the only one to benefit from this improvement. "The government, Air Force and the United States of America benefits from the NS-50 modernization of the Minuteman III fleet by ensuring the land-based leg of the strategic triad is ready to be used if required, is less expensive and safer to operate," Capt Ballak said.

While Malmstrom was the first to start and finish the system upgrades, the NS-50 is also being deployed at Minot and Warren.

"Warren still has two sites left to upgrade with NS-50 MSG systems and Minot has six left," Capt Ballak said. "It is expected that the last NS-50 will replace the last NS-20 at Minot in January or February."

"We try to lead the command in everything we do," MSgt Lang said.

"Our unit here was really focused on managing the schedule to get this done," said Col Deborah Kirkhuff, 341st Missile Maintenance Group commander. "Our community here should be proud. This was a base-wide effort and there were a lot of moving parts. Everyone can take great pride in being the first to get it done."

The first NS-20 was replaced with the NS-50 at Malmstrom 3 Aug 1999, at India-9. The final replacement at Malmstrom took place 4 Dec at Charlie-10.

### Kehler: 'The Future of Space is now'

*- by MSgt. Kate Rust, AFSPC Public Affairs*

"Air Force Space Command performs a national, and in some cases, an international space mission," said Gen C. Robert Kehler, the new commander of AFSPC. "The space capabilities we provide today are embedded in all of our combat operations," he said. "They're also embedded in our military operations, short of combat, across the board. In fact, we cannot fight the way America fights today without space capabilities."

A central piece of this is the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile mission. "When it comes to nuclear weapons, perfection remains the standard," said Gen

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**AF News** (Continued from Page 12)

Kehler. "That's been the case since I was a young missileer, and that hasn't changed today. It's imperative we maintain that focus of perfection in all of our activities surrounding nuclear weapons, which remain the foundation of our defense."

The general also stated his concern about the need for increased focus on protecting US space capabilities in a contested environment. "Today, space has become a contested environment," the general said, "and we know that in any conflict our adversaries will try to deny us use of those space capabilities. We're taking steps to prepare for that. Not only are we working to improve our space situational awareness, but we're addressing the vulnerabilities we know we have in our space segment, in our ground segments and in the links that put those together."

Gen Kehler emphasized that the command must seek out alternative strategies for how AFSPC might deploy the nation's space capabilities sooner and more effectively. "We do a good job of deploying our space capabilities today, but as we look to the future -- in the information age we find ourselves in today -- it will be important to be able to deploy space capabilities far sooner in the future than we're able to deploy them today."

Finally, in terms of the mission, the general said he is committed to making sure the command continues to develop and retain space-experienced Airmen. "We need the right people with the right skills in the right place at the right time."

When Gen Kehler entered ROTC at Pennsylvania State University, he looked toward his future not knowing where the Air Force would lead him. "I certainly wouldn't have dreamed that I would be sitting here, 32 years later, in charge of this magnificent command," he said. "I'm proud of every single person in this great team that we call Air Force Space Command."

## The Firebee's Final Mission - by AIC

Anthony J. Hyatt, 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Two setbacks couldn't keep the BQM-34P Firebee sub-scale aerial target drone from launching on its final mission 5 Dec at the 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron Launch Facility at Tyndall AFB, FL. Due to a ground abort, the Firebees last flight was postponed to 12 Dec. The ground abort was caused by consecutive engine rollbacks; the engine shut down twice and was unable to restart, said Maj Kevin Brackin, 82 ATRS Sub-Scale Aerial Target Flight commander. Then sea fog rolled in and grounded the mission again but finally the Firebee launched. This specific drone has carried the load for air-to-air engagements at the 82 ATRS



*The first Firebees*

and will be officially replaced with the Air Force Follow-On Sub-Scale Aerial Target BQM-167A Skeeter. The BQM-34P arrived at Tyndall in 1958," said Maj Ronald Miller, 82 ATRS operations officer. "It has logged more than 1500 hours flown." With speeds that reach 0.96 Mach, the Firebee has been the most capable and reliable high performance aerial target system according to Maj Miller.

"The primary mission is to simulate tactical threats by enemy aircraft and missiles for defense readiness training, air-to-air combat training and the development and evaluation of weapons systems," said Maj Brackin.

"The sub-scale drone BQM-34 is like a 1970's Civic, while the BQM-167 is like a 2007 Civic," said Maj Brackin. "While the F-4 Phantom, a full-scale drone, is like a sports utility vehicle, in which it can carry a heavier load."

The Skeeter is constructed mainly of carbon fiber composites, which makes the airframe significantly lighter than the similar-sized Firebee, therefore significantly increasing the range for a given payload weight, according to Maj Brackin.

Not a well-known squadron by many, the 82 ATRS falls under the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group. The mission of the 82 ATRS is to ensure safe, effective and efficient contractor-provided aerial targets support for DoD weapons test and evaluation programs. It also assures the war fighter receives the best in combat capability; providing Air Combat Command with unique expertise for the thorough testing and integration of fighter avionics/weapons and electronic warfare throughout the testing process and beyond.

Now that the "Firebee" has flown out into the sunset, the BQM-167 will take up the drone missions.

## A Word from the Association

**October in Washington** - A number of members have already signed up for our upcoming national meeting at the Hyatt Dulles near Washington, DC. Get your registration in soon and join us for our eighth gathering. We have a very limited number of rooms available for three days before and three days after the meeting for the same rate - these will go fast, so if you plan to spend extra time in the DC area, call the hotel now. Keep in mind, too, that the banquet hall can only seat 350 people - when we reach that number, we can use a second room, but that isn't an ideal situation. We had 350 at our Cheyenne banquet, so again, get registered early.

**Board Elections** - We will elect (or reelect) four board members this spring - if you want to be considered, send a short resume and reasons why you should be a board member to AAFM. We will use the email ballot system again, sometime in March, and mail ballots to the members who don't have email addresses on file. Email saves us a lot, so if you don't have a current address with us, update your record. After the general election, the twelve members of the board will select the officers, who will serve for the next two years.

**Newsletter Topics** - As always, we are looking for good ideas for our quarterly publication. We have done issues and series of issues on a wide range of topics - once we pick a topic, getting articles has never been a problem. Members are always eager to tell their missile stories. Let us have your ideas for future articles or series.

**AAFM Dues** - Those of you who have been members from the early days know that we have maintained our dues structure the same for all fifteen years. Our \$20 annual and \$50 three year dues are a real bargain, compared to most organizations - and we still offer the \$5/\$14 deal to active duty enlisted members. Our budget runs about \$45,000 per year, all of it coming from your dues and donations. Thanks for your continued support, and remember that your dues expiration date is on the mailing label above your name. Our programs remain strong because of your financial support.

## Letters to the Association

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

**Thanks and Our Meetings** - I want to thank you for all your hard work over the years keeping the AF Missileers going. It is a real joy to read your reports and to hear about some of the old crew. I just returned from a week stay at the Shades of Green military facility at Disney World in Orlando and I was wondering if you had ever considered having one of the group's conventions at this facility. It is a wonderful place right on the Disney grounds with a private golf course and transportation to all of the Disney World attractions. It has meeting rooms and a private bar that can be used for functions. There is a sports bar and three or four restaurants on the grounds. The room rates are based on rank (Lt Col \$129 per night, no taxes nor resort fees added on.) This is really one of the "best kept secrets" in the military. *Jim Coleman, Mbrno L108, Port St Lucie, FL*

*First, for the many "Thank You" notes I receive, you know that I only keep doing this highly paid job at AAFM because I enjoy it - being able to accomplish the missions of our organization, with a lot of help from our members, makes it easy to stay involved. Second, we often get questions about locations for our national meetings - we meet near missile and space facilities, explaining why we have met in Colorado Springs, Cheyenne, Omaha, Cocoa Beach and Santa Maria. While the 2008 location isn't "missiles and space" it does relate to us as missileers, with tours set for the Pentagon and Air and Space Museum. Last year at Cheyenne, your board decided that we should look at Ogden or Tucson for 2010, and Great Falls for 2012, the 50th anniversary of Minuteman - it all started with the Ace in the Hole at Malmstrom.*

**Cold War Victory Medal** - Some time ago I read in the newsletter that a medal was in work to recognized Cold

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*970-453-0500*

**Letters** (Continued from Page 14)

War vets - is it still coming? *Roderick Hinek, Mbrno L143, Hot Springs, SD*

**Latest status is that the medal was not included in the final defense bill for 2008 - so we are still waiting**

**McCconnell Fuel Spill** - I have questions about an accident in 1971 at a 532 SMS missile site at McConnell. My crew experienced a massive diesel fuel spill in the area of the hard diesel fuel storage tank. I remember my BMAT and MFT returning from turning off the diesel fuel. They were dripping in diesel fuel. It took a week for the maintenance squadron to clean up this spill. During that time, with the apparent okay of the command, all the blast doors were kept ajar. I was really greatly concerned that we might have a fire and explosion. Neither DoD nor the Air Force (via my congressional representative) say they have a record of this accident. I tried to contact others but have had no response, and most of the other former senior officers of the 381 SMW are probably deceased. Although my BMAT and MFT did put on protective gear, I think it might be reasonable to suspect that diesel fuel is carcinogenic and that both of these fellows are probably still alive and could develop some long term condition that could be related to this exposure. Therefore, do you have any idea of how to document this accident with the VA? *Ron Morrison, Mbrno A1228, 2405 N Stevens St Tacoma Wash. 98406, email; trucker7ton406@hotmail.com*

**We have had similar requests in earlier newsletters - if you have any information you can contact Ron directly.**

**Memento** - I have come up with a commemorative poem to be used as a memento for retirement and other occasions. The poem is called "Twilight of Service" and is available either printed, framed or mounted on a plaque. Contact me if you are interested in one of these. *Al Davy, MbrNo A0166, 400 N Brook Forest, Derby, KS 67037, phone 316-788-3394*

**Schilling Atlas Crews** - I served as a BMAT in the 550 SMS between 1961 and 1964 on crews R-53 and R-48. The crew change was due to the end of a waiver allowing BMATs less than SSgt to relieve officers on the consoles. I am trying to find the members of those two crews. *Mikel "McHale" Randleman, Mbrno A1485, Bellevue, WA, email mchale73@comcast.net, phone 425-957-4696*

**SAC Memorial**

The SAC Memorial that Ron Resh spearheaded and AAFM and its members helped fund is now in place at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton - it will be dedicated at the SAC 2008 reunion.

**AAFM and "Issues"**

We are occasionally asked to get involved in some issue regarding national defense, the military or some other related area, including medical care and current Air Force policy. Since we are an IRS 501(c)3 organization, we are limited from any activity judged as "lobbying" and any action we take adds pages to our annual report to the IRS. For that reason, you may see an occasional letter like the one to the left on the fuel spill - we will help spread the word, but it is up to individual members to take action to fight for a cause - we want to keep our tax exempt status.

**Taps for Missileers**

**Col (Ret) William Bifford**, an AAFM member, served in Titan II, commanding the 308 SMW, at Vandenberg, and lived in Rogue River, OR.

**Former Capt David Palmer Burr** served in Minuteman in the 351 SMW and lived in Gwynedd Valley, PA  
**David Cooley** served in Minuteman and ALCS, lived in Carriere, MS

**Col (Ret) LeRoy (Roy) V. Greene**, an AAFM member, served in Atlas in the 549 SMS, Minuteman in the 351 SMW, 90 SMW, the Pentagon and the Ballistic Missile Organization and lived in San Antonio, TX.

**Former Airman Jay Hansen**, an AAFM member, served in Atlas in the 579 SMS and lived in Georgetown, TX

**Col (Ret) Merle Johnson** served in Minuteman, including the 44 SMW and lived in Oregon

## Cape Canaveral Research

Susan Enscoe, a historical geographer with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, IL, has projects to document the historical and architectural features of Launch Complexes 21/22 and 31/32 at Cape Canaveral AFS. The project reports will need to thoroughly discuss how these complexes were constructed, modified, and used. She is looking for individuals that either worked at, or were familiar with, one or both of these complexes. In addition to information on the physical structures, she is also interested in gathering information about how the missiles launched at these complexes were prepared, placed, checked out and launched. Anyone with specific knowledge (or possessing operating instructions/manuals) for the following missiles would be very helpful: Bull Goose, Mace, Matador and Minuteman I, II, and III. You can contact her, preferably by the end of January, at: Susan.I.Enscoe@erdc.usace.army.mil, by phone at 217-373-4434, or mail to Susan Enscoe, CN-C ERDC-CERL 2902 Newmark Drive Champaign, IL 61822.

## Volunteer for MIMI

Minuteman Missile (MIMI) National Historic Site has had great success with missileers volunteering at the site. Missileers Lt Col (Ret) Dennis Cabrera (late 70s at Ellsworth, 67 SMS) and Al Martens (1963-65, Ellsworth all squadrons) have put in hundreds of volunteer hours leading tours over the past two seasons. Visitation increased to over 16,000 in 2007 and with the aid of our volunteer staff we were able to give 7,200 visitors over 700 tours in 2007. MIMI is hoping to expand our VIP program in 2008 with former personnel who worked in the Minuteman program over the past 40 years. Whether you have experience working in the missile fields or just an engaging interest in the Cold War, the park is looking for new volunteers. For further details please contact Park Rangers Pam Griswold or Chris Wilkinson at 605-433-5552 or e-mail the park at: mimi\_information@nps.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Deppe Honored for Service

Maj Gen Tom Deppe, AFSPC vice commander, was inducted into the Enlisted Heritage Hall Wall of Achievers. Deppe, an AAFM active duty advisor, began service in 1967 and was commissioned in 1977 after attaining the rank of TSgt. He had planned to serve four years and get out but "things changed after I attended Airmen Leadership School and became a recruiter."

## Missile Books

Three new books by AAFM members are in work or about to be released - we will keep you advised of their status.

"The Whiteman Scenario" is a work of fiction by Whiteman vet Steve McCurdy, set in the mid-1970s with missile crewmembers and maintainers the key players in this technoventure. It will be available soon.

John Boyes book, "Project Emily - Thor IRBM and the RAF" will be published in March.

George Mindling and Bob Bolton are coauthoring a book documenting the history of Air Force Tactical Missiles. They plan to have the book finished for the next Tac Missileers Reunion in 2009 in Ohio.

You also might be interested in a 1993 book by Scott Sagan, "The Limits of Safety", that takes a look at nuclear weapons accidents and incidents, focusing primarily on the Cuban Missile Crisis and the 1968 Thule B-52 crash. The author concludes that although we have never had a nuclear accident, we need changes to our nuclear policies to ensure we never do..

## Reunions

**SAC 2008** - 30 April - 4 May 2008, Dayton, OH, reunion and dedication of the SAC Memorial, contact J. T. Rovero, 520-203-8809 or 866-260-9302, jtrome25@excite.com,

**SAC Airborne Command Control Association**, 15-19 October 2008, Daytonm, OH, contact Wilton Curtis, 804-740-2290, wcurtis135@aol.com

**351 SMW** - 19-22 June 08, Warrensburg, MO, for those who served in ops from the early 1980s to early 1990s. Hotel is Holiday Inn Express, telephone 660-747-3000. Contact Jeff Wilson, 210-481-9849 jc.wilson@sbcglobal.net or Don Williams, pyro777@embarqmail.com

**485 TMW (Florennes)**, 5-8 June 2008, Valley Forge, PA, contact John Rudzianski, 570-278-2482, jrudz@epix.com

**455SMW (Minot)**, 10-14 September 2008, Northeast Harbor, ME, Contact Jack Twigg at JKTWigg@worldramp.net

**579 SMS**, 15-18 May 2008, Roswell, NM, contact Fred Mortimer, Fmortimer@tampabay.rr.com, 727-734-3487, www.579sms.com

**Association of Air Force Missileers** - 2008 National Meeting, 9-13 Oct 2008, Hyatt Dulles, Herndon, VA.

**Reunion Notices** should be to AAFM as early as possible for the newsletter, web page and e-mail updates.