

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE - UNMATCHED RESPONSIBILITY - OVERWHELMING CAPABILITIES

AIR FORCE MISSILEERS

The Newsletter of the Association
of Air Force Missileers

Robert A. Wyckoff
1940-2023



AAFM SPONSORS 2023

**NORTHROP
GRUMMAN**

BAE SYSTEMS



**AAFM
NATIONAL MEETING
BUELLTON, CA
OCTOBER 23-27, 2024**



SCAN ME



Volume 32, Number 1
January 2024

As I start the sixth year of being your Executive Director, I'm constantly amazed at the things AAFM has accomplished and baffled at the long list of things that we want to get done. The first major milestone was accomplished last year with the establishment of the scholarship program for our active duty missileers who are working on continued education programs. The second major action began this year with the nomination and Board of Directors approval of the first class that will be inducted into the Air Force Missileers Hall of Fame. Inductees will be notified in April, followed by membership and public notice in our Spring 2024 newsletter. The Inductees will be honored at our National Meeting Banquet on Saturday, October 27, 2024. There is a lot more to do and I'll be sharing some of those ideas with all of you once the board approves. Speaking of the Board, ballots will go out in February for the four board positions that expire in 2024. Two board members are retiring and two are interested in continued service.

Donations: As we end this calendar year, I'd like to send out a special recognition to the five members who made special donations to our operating funds or our scholarship fund this year. We appreciate the extra support to keep our efforts and this Association alive. Please remember that contributions to our non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization may be tax deductible.

Cancer study: The Air Force announced this month that there is sufficient evidence to extend the medical and environmental study on the impacts to missileers. We are glad to see there are no major problems found in the air/water/soil samplings from the Minuteman III facilities. Continual positive results from PCB exposures are concerning and reflect the commitment of the USAF to ensure safe facilities for the current deployed force. We share concerns with others in the missile community as to the environmental exposures of our ICBM veterans who continue to struggle with disproportionate rates of cancers and other lymphatic system issues. Those affected are in need of appropriate toxic exposure documentation so they can get the care they need and have the best chance for early diagnosis, medical treatment, and Department of Veterans Affairs coverage for their conditions. We also look forward to the continued investigation into other possible exposure sources including burning of materials within the Launch Control Center and other chemical exposures from weapon system components and environmental factors encountered in the LCCs as documented in the DoD IG Hotline complaints filed in 2023.

Chief Habenick: Career ICBM maintainer and AAFM Board of Directors member will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on March 8, 2024 at 1500 EST.

"First Strike": A doctoral student at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania is conducting research into Cold War discourse between national security policymakers and civilians. As part of the research, he is writing a monograph on the 1979 documentary "First Strike," produced by KRON-TV in partnership with the Department of Defense and the RAND Corporation. His research shows that numerous active-duty Air Force officers and airmen were involved in the production of this film, which begins with a fictional treatment of a decapitating nuclear attack against the United States by the Soviet Union. If you have any information on the development and production of this film and would be interested in talking, please let me know at Director@AFMissileers.org and I will connect you.

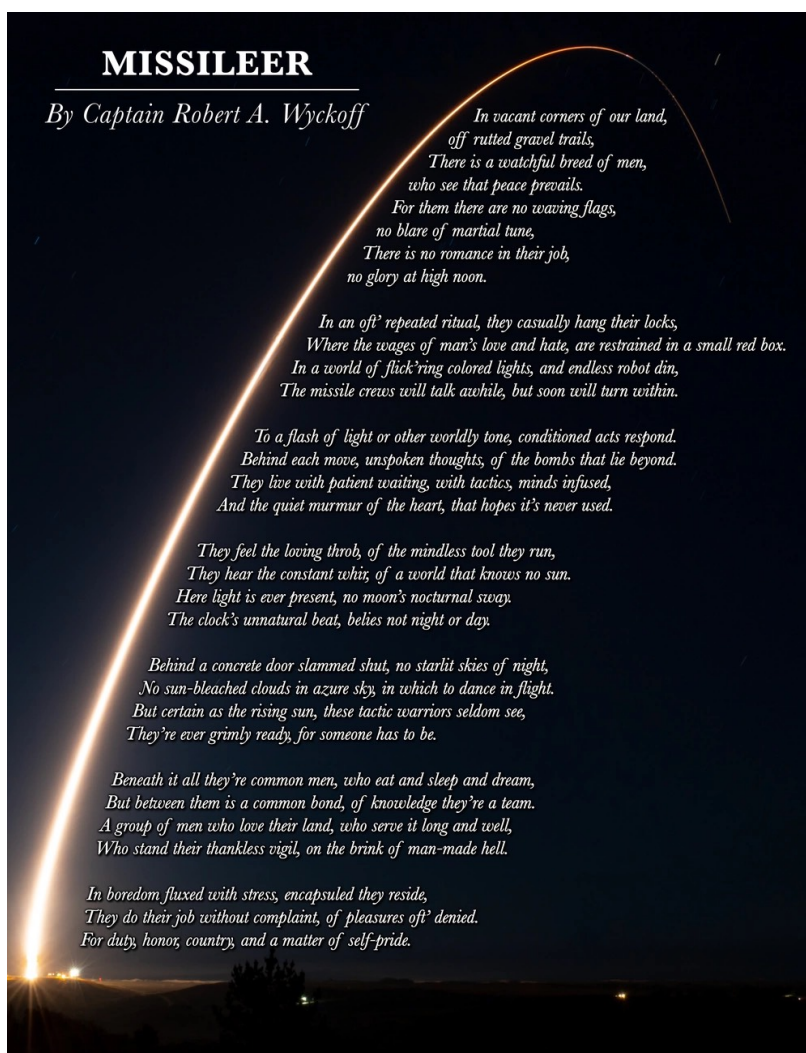
One final note: Some will notice this is a January 2024 edition and that there was no December 2023 edition. While finalizing the December 2022 edition, we experienced production challenges over the holidays and members didn't receive their copy until late January 2023. In order to prevent this issue in the future, we will now publish the newsletter in January, May, and September starting with this edition.

I hope you enjoy the work that went into this edition—if you do, thank Mark Nemish for making it look good. If not, tell me what else you want us to cover. Your letters and newsletter articles are always welcome. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out as I'm here to serve. You can always reach me at Director@AFMissileers.org or on my cell at 719-351-3962. Please remember I live in Florida and operate on Eastern Time!

Jim Warner, AAFM Executive Director

IN THIS ISSUE:

Remembering Bob Wyckoff	4
Chief Flosi Named CMSAF #20	5
AAFM National Meeting	6
Global Strike Challenge 2023 Results	6
Interview with AFGSC/CC	8
Space Heritage - 1Lt Patricia Fornes	10
Crew of The Year	11
AAFM Scholarship Winners	12
A Nuclear Life	15
The Rudolph Letter	17
Building ICBM Sites	18
2023 Heritage Grants	20
Charitable Donations	22
Board of Directors Election	22
Call for Uniforms	22
Malmstrom AFB Picture Request	22
Letters to the Editor	23
320 MS Gets New Emblem	24
National Meeting Information	25
Taps for Missileers, New Members	25
National Meeting Registration Form	27



A Tribute to Bob Wyckoff

Jim Warner, AAFM Executive Director

*In vacant corners of our land, off rutted
gravel trails,*

*There is a watchful breed of men, who see
that peace prevails.*

*For them there are no waiving flags, no
blare of martial time,*

*There is no romance in their job, no glory
at high noon.*



Major (ret) Robert A. Wyckoff

Most of you should recognize the beginning of the poem “Missileer” by former 564th crew member and Top Hander Bob Wyckoff. It’s with great sadness that we note the passing of Major (ret) Robert Wyckoff in December. I never had the chance to meet Bob but his poems on Missiles have stood the test of time and continue to tell our story. Bob, pictured here in an article from the *Lompoc Record* in 2008, wrote “Missileer” for the 1973 Olympic Arena closing banquet. He didn’t think it would last past the night but it still lives on today. “His military-themed poetry began as a way to liven up going-away parties for colleagues leaving

Malmstrom AFB, MT.” While those were light-hearted, he took a more serious approach as he reached deep inside himself to capture the philosophy and feelings of a missileer. “At the time, missileers were all but invisible amid the high-profile fighter and bomber pilots of Strategic Air Command.” Bob wrote more than 100 poems in his lifetime, but none as famous as “Missileer”. Over his lifetime, Bob wrote several other missile related poems including “The Ace in the Hole” to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, “Missile Maintainers” to honor all maintainers and the 532nd Training Squadron, “The School House”, and “Birthright”.

Maj. Gen. Michael Lutton, commander of Twentieth Air Force, noted: “Bob Wyckoff remained an Air Force missileer long after he hung up his uniform. For decades, he was our mentor, friend, and advocate, and his poetry inspired new Airmen in the ICBM force while bringing voice to the triumphs and challenges of those already serving. I was humbled when Bob honored my request to pen a poem about ICBM maintainers. Then, as always, he was gracious and a true gentleman. We will miss him dearly.”



CONGRATULATIONS ICBM CMSgt Selects!!

CMSgt (S) Keith Carpenter, Patrick AFB
CMSgt (S) Chris Daniels, Pentagon
CMSgt (S) Megan Dunlevy, Barksdale AFB
CMSgt (S) Errick Wernecke, Pentagon



Chief Master Sergeant David Flosi

Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi Named 20th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi was selected Dec. 11 to be the 20th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, adding a deeply experienced and proven Airman to the top echelon of Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin's emerging leadership team.

In announcing the selection, Allvin noted Flosi's experience, leadership and achievements across his Air Force career and said Flosi brings qualities to the job that are especially important when the Air Force is navigating one of the most challenging moments in its history.

"Our Airmen deserve the best leaders possible – and that's Chief Flosi," Allvin said. "He is a phenomenal leader and wingman who will empower our Total Force. His unique experiences, attitude and commitment will prove essential as we re-optimize our force for Great Power Competition. I am excited to work with him as we follow through on our efforts to meet today's pacing challenge."

Flosi emerged as the clear choice from a group of the most highly respected, experienced graduated command chief master sergeants from across the Air Force's global operations, officials said. These leaders were selected based on breadth of experience, recommendations from senior commanders and performance across each candidate's Air Force career.

"I'm honored and humbled to represent all Airmen as your 20th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force," Chief Master Sgt. David A. Flosi said. "We are serving at a time of great consequence where success hinges on our ability to optimize this team toward the changing character of war. I'm excited to serve the Total Force supporting the SECAF and CSAF's priorities. We have heard the call for action from General Allvin ... it is time to follow through!"

With Flosi's selection, the current Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, JoAnne S. Bass, will soon close out her tenure as the service's highest ranking noncommissioned leader. Bass has been in the job since August 2020. She was the first woman in Air Force history to be named CMSAF, and the first woman in Department of Defense history to serve as a service-level Senior Enlisted Advisor.

"Chief Flosi is an incredibly strong leader who has proven himself in every role at every level," Bass said. "I have no doubt he will continue building and developing our Air Force to be the future force our nation needs to compete, deter and win in any domain."

Department of the Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall offered praise and his endorsement, as well.

"The Department of the Air Force relies on our Senior Enlisted Advisors to represent the needs and perspectives of all our enlisted Airmen and Guardians, the majority of our force," Kendall said. "I have high confidence that Chief Flosi will build upon the great example provided by his predecessors and serve with distinction as our twentieth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force."

Flosi moves into his new job from Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he serves as the command chief master sergeant. That role is similar in many respects to the role he will assume at the Pentagon. At Materiel Command he is the senior enlisted leader and the primary advisor to the commander on

all matters regarding the readiness, training, professional development and effective utilization of the command's 89,000 total force Airmen.

Prior to his tour at Wright-Patterson AFB, Flosi served as the command chief master sergeant at the Air Force's Sustainment Center at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.

Flosi began his Air Force career in 1996 as a nuclear weapons specialist. That focus expanded over the years to include various leadership duties in conventional and nuclear munitions, as well as missile operations, program management and test and contingency operations.

Like his predecessor, Flosi has a deployment history, including tours in support of operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel.

Also, like previous CMSAFs, Flosi will be the public face for Air Force personnel to those in all levels of government. He will be a personal adviser to Allvin and other senior leaders, both military and civilian, and will be expected to provide insight on issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale and proper utilization and progress of the Air Force's entire cadre of Airmen.

Through his leadership, Flosi will provide direction for the Total Force and will represent the interests of all Airmen.

AAFM National Meeting October 23-27, 2024

Jim Warner, AAFM Executive Director

The Santa Ynez Valley Marriott will serve as our base location for the 2024 AAFM National Meeting with key events to include our inaugural Air Force Missileers Hall of Fame Banquet, a tour of ICBM activities at Vandenberg Space Force Base, and a tour of the Fess Parker Winery. Of course, there will be plenty of time to share stories and a few drinks during the week.

Registration is online or by printing and mailing the registration form at the back of the newsletter. A hospitality room will be open to gather and chat when we aren't off doing a group event. Events will start on Wednesday night with a no-host social and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Each morning a continental breakfast will be available (not included in hotel reservation). On Thursday, the first 100 that sign up will enjoy a short bus ride to the Fess Parker Winery for lunch and wine tasting. Thursday evening will include a buffet dinner with a guest speaker. Friday includes a day at Vandenberg

(access list required so make sure you fill out the info on the registration form, especially if you don't have a DoD ID card) and another buffet dinner with guest speaker. Vandenberg is not only the location of our Minuteman test organization but also the location for upcoming Sentinel flight testing. Construction is already underway to convert a launch facility for Sentinel and build a new Missile Alert Facility along with other support buildings.

On Saturday, there will be a General Membership meeting in the morning, with a guest speaker, time for individual gatherings in the afternoon, and the inaugural Air Force Missileer Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday night.

Members can make hotel reservations directly with the [Santa Ynez Valley Marriott](https://www.marriott.com/hotels-and-reservations/usa-syvm/). Room rate is \$189 except Saturday which is slightly higher. Rate includes parking but does not include breakfast. The last day to book a room is Monday, 23 September 2024 or until our block of rooms is booked. There is no airport shuttle. As usual, we'll have a hospitality suite open every day when no other activities are scheduled, with snacks and refreshments. Registration fee covers suite operation. All of our events are casual except for the Hall of Fame banquet where business casual is expected (open collar shirts, coats optional, no jeans). Early registration closes on August 15, 2024 and final registration closes on September 22, 2024. If you have any special needs, please let me know at Director@AFMissileers.org.

Global Strike Challenge Winners 2023

Jaydee A. Burns, Lt Col, USAF

What an exciting time of year! Air Force Global Strike Command competitors gathered from around the world November 8-9, 2023 at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA, for the culminating events of this year's Global Strike Challenge. Of the 390 who competed, 140 competitors from 11 wings descended on Barksdale to attend the Striker Purpose Workshop to debrief each of the three major competition areas: Operations, Maintenance and Security. This year's Workshop theme was "Why we are here ... Why we will prevail."

The Striker Purpose Workshop allowed competitors to learn from each other's firsthand experiences and tactics displayed throughout the various competitions this year. The workshop included a professional development session by Air



Airmen from the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, MT hoist the Blanchard Trophy for their 5th consecutive Global Strike Challenge victory

Force Global Strike Command senior leaders Gen. Thomas Bussiere and Chief Master Sgt. Melvina Smith. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force #19, JoAnne Bass also spoke to the competitors about being leaders in the Air Force today and shaping the Air Force of the future.

On the evening of November 9th, wing competitors, AFGSC Senior Leaders and civic leaders gathered in Hoban Hall at Barksdale and via multimedia platforms to participate in the unveiling of this year's best of the best trophy presentations. This year marked the 75th year since the first bomber competition in 1948. This marks the oldest competition event in the Air Force's history.

"This is a phenomenal event to show the American people, the Department of Defense and the rest of the Department of the Air Force how professional, skilled and awesome the men and women of the nuclear enterprise are," Bussiere said. "Tonight is a celebration of your excellence in this competition."

This year's ICBM winners included a record setting five-time back-to-back Blanchard Trophy for Best ICBM Wing winner: the 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT. Other Top Honors included:

Operations Trophies

Klotz (Best ICBM and Helicopter Operations) – 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Linhard (Best ICBM Ops Crew) - 321st Missile Squadron, 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Neary (Best EWO Crew) - 12th Missile Squadron, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT

McMahon (Best Weapons System Crew) - 321st Missile Squadron, 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Maintenance Trophies

Blackburn (Best Mx Group) - 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Best ICBM Missile Handling Team - 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Best ICBM Electro Mechanical Team - 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT

Best ICBM Facility Maintenance Section Team - 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT

Best ICBM Missile Communications Maintenance Team - 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Best Nuclear Weapons Maintenance Team - 91st Missile Wing, Minot AFB, ND

Helicopter Trophies

Bourland (Best Helicopter Squadron) - 37th Helicopter Squadron, 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Best Convoy and Aerial Interdiction - 40th Helicopter Squadron, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT

Best Launch Facility Recapture and Threat Detection - 37th Helicopter Squadron, 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

Best Sensor Employment - 40th Helicopter Squadron, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT

Best Fires Observer - 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB, WY, Staff Sgt. Timothy Cruz

Security Forces Trophies

Charlie Fire Team – 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT

Best security Forces Tactics - 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB, MT

Best M4 Shooter - 219th Security Forces Squadron, North Dakota Air National Guard, Master Sgt. Edward Keller

Best M18 Shooter - 377th Air Base Wing, Kirtland AFB, NM, Staff Sgt. Austin Fleming

Best M320 Shooter - 253rd Security Forces Squadron, Wyoming Air National Guard, Tech Sgt. Ashton Henry

Best Sniper - 253rd Security Forces Squadron, Wyoming Air National Guard, Master Sgt. Brian Nafziger

We are grateful to all the competitors, trainers, evaluators, support personnel, and wing leaders for their support in making this year's Global Strike Challenge a success. A very big thank you to the vigilant alert crews for keeping America and its allies safe, secure and always ready! We look forward to seeing you all at Global Strike Challenge 2025.

Interview with AFGSC/CC

CMSgt (ret) Shane Finders, AAFM Board Member



Good afternoon, General Bussiere, thank you for making time to connect with over 2,500 missileers in the Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFM). As you know, AAFM is a non-profit organization that supports ICBM personnel that have committed their lives to the nuclear deterrent mission. I am Shane Finders, an AAFM board member. Given our previous association, it made sense to use AAFM as an avenue to directly connect you to current and former missileers and disseminate commanders' focus and intent. As the active duty, civilian, and contractor force prepares to deploy the Sentinel weapon system and gracefully retire Minuteman III, we know there are numerous challenges ahead. I have just a few questions but would like to give you the floor to talk about your intent and MAJCOM priorities.

Q: ICBM professionals (past and present) have been aware of the recent cancer study you ordered earlier this year. Can you provide the latest study findings, the way ahead, and do you feel confident the active workforce is operating in a safe environment?

A: Round 1 of testing is now complete. To date, the information we have from the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) for all three bases in the Missile Community Cancer Study is: No PCBs were detected in the air samples.

For high contact areas, 900 surface swipe tests were conducted and 92.5% of those tests showed no PCBs detected. We know 7.1% of those tests showed PCB detected but below the EPA threshold to mitigate, and less than 0.5% detected and showed above the EPA level for mitigating. No carcinogens were detected above the EPA thresholds in the soil or water samples. Working with 20 AF/A4, AFGSC/A4 and local Bio-Environmental teams, all areas above the EPA's legal limit will be cleaned to levels below the 10 microgram per 100 cm² threshold. We have mitigated potential exposure risks for current missile community Airmen, and they operate in a safe environment. We will take further action based on additional results from the ongoing Missile Community Cancer Study. Round 2 sampling has been completed for the Fall of 2023. We are now awaiting the results for PCB, air, soil, and water tests for round 2.

Q: While it's important for Global Strike to focus on the health and safety of our current missile force, can you share with us what the Air Force will do to ensure our past serving missileers get the medical attention they need?

A: The Air Force, through USAFSAM, is conducting a measured and thorough Missile Community Cancer Study that has two parts: First is sampling the missile site environment followed by assessing and documenting what is and what is not found about potential exposures. Second is looking at military and civilian databases for the Epidemiology study to see if cancer rates are higher in the missile community. The Veteran's Administration is one of our partners providing data to the study, and we are actively engaged with them as results emerge. Veterans experiencing potential symptoms should discuss them with their doctor.

Q: I was fortunate to have been involved in the MAJCOM's ICBM Analysis of Alternatives in 2014, where we studied the available material solutions supporting system replacement and the best cost-to-capability value. This effort road-mapped Minuteman III replacement needs due to system age-out, asset attrition through on-going testing, challenges with sustainment, and performance issues. Since the decision was made to move forward with Sentinel acquisition, strategic threats have materialized at an alarming pace. How important is the on-time fielding of an effective Sentinel system to national defense?

A: By the 2030s the United States will, for the first time in its history, face two major nuclear powers as strategic competitors and potential adversaries. Modernizing the U.S. Nuclear Triad is a fundamental element of U.S. extended deterrence commitments. ICBM modernization and the deployment of Sentinel is critical to that extended deterrent for and assurance of our allies and partners.

Q: I have heard it said previously, “Air Force Global Strike Command’s second decade will come with different challenges than the first.” What do you see as some of the differences for your MAJCOM staff and operational units?

A: Our nation is in a new era of strategic competition. The National Defense Strategy clearly names China as the pacing threat. The biggest difference for these next 10 years is China making their ambitions and intentions overtly known, including their unprecedented nuclear expansion and accelerated military growth. Additionally, China and Russia are trying to upset the international, rules-based order while modernizing their nuclear and conventional capabilities. These peer adversaries will use the information battle space to spread misinformation, test our resolve, and generate mistrust and fear among allies and strategic partners. We will need to become more effective and efficient communicators that translate what we are, can and will do in an ever-faster and fluid information environment. The power that does this best will have the upper hand in operating in or deterring future conflict.

Q: The Secretary of the Air Force recently released a memo underscoring required readiness changes. Specifically, our senior leadership team wrote, “we are not optimized for great power competition” and promised a comprehensive look at all aspects of how we organize, train, and equip the Air Force and Space Force. Can you provide some insight to some of the Secretary’s initiatives and any MAJCOM commander-focused plans to support the SECAF in this shift?

A: The changes in Air Force Global Strike’s future portfolio are already in step with the Secretary’s philosophy. From the B-21 Raider, LGM-35 Sentinel, MH-139A Grey Wolf, B-52J Stratofortress modernization programs using cutting edge digital engineering, to getting the most out of legacy platforms like the B-1 through the B-1 Embracing Agile Scheduling Team (BEAST) program. In Air Force Global Strike, we have embraced the Agile

Combat Employment philosophy (ACE) utilizing bomber task forces and long duration flights to prepare to defend from anywhere at any time. Lastly, we continue to get the most out of Minuteman III and have optimized training and deployment cycles from lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the board, Air Force Global Strike is engaged in innovation, pragmatic planning and execution that brings the future on time and at best cost while remaining always ready with the current fleet and force.

Q: As you are aware, we have already broken ground on facilities at Vandenberg in preparation for upcoming flight tests and proof of system concept. Accordingly, Sentinel is much closer to reality than some realize, and ICBM career fields will soon be tasked to support early test, technical data validation, and other development functions. As the commander, what are some of your expectations for the Airmen that will enable the development, testing, certification, and fielding of Sentinel in the coming 15 years.

A: My expectations to enable the development, testing, certification and fielding of Sentinel in the coming years are that we are forward thinking as we onboard Sentinel so it seamlessly integrates into the field. To do this, our Airmen will have to execute with speed, ingenuity, and dedication. We will do this by leveraging existing policies and regulations to our advantage, develop relationships with stakeholders, capitalize on lessons learned from other programs to accelerate ours, and prepare the force for these capabilities including new construction, training, support and manning. Simultaneously we ensure Minuteman III remains a safe, secure and credible deterrent to remain “always ready”.

Q: The Sentinel deployment comes with promises of reductions in lifetime operating costs and projected savings in manpower. How will the planned manpower savings impact the career paths of our missile operators and maintainers?

A: Initially, we will get bigger to get smaller. By that I mean, as we transition to Sentinel, we will bring in an increased number of ICBM Airmen to allow for parallel training and operations. Optimally, as we complete the transition to Sentinel, we would right size that force through normal attrition and/or retraining to other high demand career fields across the Air Force.

Space Heritage - September 16, 1978 - First Lieutenant Patricia M. Fornes

John M. Lacomia, HQ Space Operations Command Historian



Capt Fornes behind a Titan II console

Did you know that First Lieutenant Patricia M. Fornes was the first female officer to perform missile combat crew alert duty? On September 16, 1978, Lieutenant Fornes of the 532nd Strategic Missile Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base, KS, performed her first alert duty in a Titan II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) silo. This was after a three-year Department of Defense debate on whether or not women could serve on missile crews.

In 1975, the U.S. Air Force conducted an internal study on the advantages and disadvantages of bringing women into the missile crews. It wasn't until September 1977, that the Air Force notified all major commands that women would be trained and assigned to launch crews but restricted to the Titan II program. The Titan crew environment was much larger than the Minuteman and included separate sleeping, kitchen, and bathroom facilities that would afford more privacy.

Lieutenant Patricia Fornes was one of forty female officers and enlisted volunteers selected by a panel of experienced missile operators to undergo Titan II crew training in 1978. Each trainee received over five months of instruction on combat crew and upgrade training before they could pull alert duty. On August 18, 1978, Airmen First Class Tina M. Ponzer became the first female enlisted crewmember to go on alert. One month later, Lieutenant Fornes followed in Airman Ponzer's footsteps.

Fornes was a 1975 graduate from the University of Northern Colorado and earned her commission through Reserve Officer Training

Airmen Spotlight



A1C Ponzer and 1Lt Fornes on alert

Corps before entering the U.S. Air Force. In September 1978, Lieutenant Fornes was assigned to the 532nd Strategic Missile Squadron, 381st Strategic Missile Wing (SMW), at McConnell Air Force Base, KS. She continued to pull alert duty with the Titan IIs until they were decommissioned in the mid-1980s. The three wings that operated the Titans were inactivated and women missileers began their transition to the Minuteman system. Patricia Fornes played an integral part in that transition. By 1986, the Air Force allowed all-female crews for the Minuteman systems.

On June 17, 1993, Lieutenant Colonel Fornes set another milestone when she became the first female missile squadron commander after she assumed command of the 740th Missile Squadron at Minot AFB, ND. Ironically, her father Lieutenant Colonel Glen Fornes had commanded that same squadron 24 years before.

Patricia Fornes would retire as a Colonel, but would continue to serve and inspire women around the Air Force. By March 2016, the Air Force had its first all-female missile crews pull alert duty at the three active missile squadrons.



Col (Ret) Patricia Fornes with female Missileers at the 90th Operations Group, F.E. Warren AFB, WY

We're in Good Hands in the Missile Field

Linda Aldrich, AAFM Life Member and AAFM Board of Directors

After briefly meeting the 2022 Nuclear and Missile Operations General Thomas S. Power ICBM Crew of the Year during the AFA National Conference, it was time to make a run up to F.E. Warren AFB, WY to talk with Captain Jessica Fileas and First Lieutenant Jacqueline Woods for more information (pictured here with Gen Cotton at the AFA National Conference). Each year the Air & Space Forces Association honors the outstanding achievements of men and women throughout the United States Air Force, government, academia and the aerospace industry. The Association presents the awards during the Air, Space & Cyber Conference and Technology Exposition or at the recipient's organization. Nominations for these awards and selection of the recipients are managed by the AFA Awards committee or the USAF leadership. Not only was I privileged to spend time getting acquainted with the "best of the best" crew, but also received a tour of the 319th Missile Squadron (my old stomping grounds) in the building that houses the 90th Operations Group along with the 320th and 321st Missile Squadrons. The citation certainly speaks for itself, but that was only the beginning of all I found out from these well accomplished and dedicated crew members.

"First Lieutenant Jessica A. Fileas and First Lieutenant Jacqueline M. Woods distinguished themselves as Assistant Flight Commander and Crew Commander, 319th Missile Squadron, 90th Operations Group, 90th Missile Wing, Francis E. Warren Air Force base, Wyoming, from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. During this period Lieutenant Fileas and Lieutenant Woods planned Operation OLYMPIC STEP 2022 as the Project Officer, then directed the five-day mission from the Squadron Command Post, recoding fifty nuclear missile sites. Additionally, they seized a Qualification Level 1 rating in a Nuclear Surety Inspection no-notice evaluation, earning a Superior Performer award and a coin from the Air Force Global Strike Command's Inspector General. Finally in 2022, their accomplishments garnered the Squadron Crew of the 1st Quarter, Squadron Crew Commander and Missileer of the 2nd Quarter, and the Squadron Crew Commander of the Year! The distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Fileas



Capt Jessica Fileas and 1Lt Jacqueline Woods with Gen Anthony Cotton at the 2023 AFA National Conference

and Lieutenant Woods reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force."

When I asked the crew why they thought they were chosen as the crew of the year over other crews, they both very modestly said they were just doing their job, but their dedication to going above and beyond was so well evident. Both officers commissioned through the Officer Training School (OTS) at Maxwell AFB, AL. Capt Fileas first enlisted in the Air Force in 2011, serving in the Public Health area and earning a Bachelor of Science Degree before going to OTS in 2019. Currently she is a Minuteman III Instructor conducting Missile Procedures Trainer (MPT) and classroom training for 71 crew members. Lt Woods is an Assistant Flight Commander assisting in leading 21 missile crews and enlisted NCOICs, and she commands a mission ready missile crew. Neither one knew much about the career field when selected to serve in missiles, which is a reminder to the AAFM membership that we are often silent warriors about our jobs and the enormous responsibility that comes with being in the missile field. As such, when given the chance to talk about the opportunity to not only serve the country, but acquire incredible discipline and skills, we should share that information with possible recruits.

When asked about the current alert schedules, I found they were far different than many of us in AAFM remember. The alerts are in waves with an A1 and A2 crew responsible for alert from Thursday to Thursday. Generally, the A1 crew will

pull 4 alerts during that time and the A2 crew will pull 3. The two-person crew may return to base during their off time between shifts. I asked about the impact on family life and received a very positive response that the 90th leadership was very family oriented, including great support through the base child care facilities. I also queried as to how information was relayed to them about their importance in providing deterrence and security for the United States. Both crew members gave particular credit to their Squadron Commander, Lt Col Jared Bishop, and to the Group Commander, Colonel Jared Nelson, in addition to the intelligence briefings that reinforced the criticality of the nuclear mission.

Finally, when asked as to what they would say to individuals who have just been selected to serve in the missile field, Capt Fileas responded that being in missiles is a humbling profession because of what the nuclear force does for the security of the country, in addition to the importance and the privilege of being able to command an operational crew. She felt positive about being a part of the nuclear force and the skill set she is acquiring to help her move up in rank and responsibility in her future assignments, possibly to Hill AFB, UT or Vandenberg SFB, CA. Lt Wood declared it is a great honor to serve in the missile field and she feels that she is also learning about making the military service environment one where individuals take care of each other. She values her contributions and is looking forward to continuing to advance within the missile community. What a privilege it was to spend so much time with these talented and committed crew members. Not only is their service praiseworthy, but they are a reminder that our nuclear missile force is in good hands. Thank you, Capt Fileas, Lt Wood, Lt Col Bishop, Col Nelson and all the welcoming individuals with whom I spent time at F. E. Warren AFB.

AAFM Scholarship Winners - Fall 2023

Monte Watts, AAFM Board Member

AAFM is proud to announce 10 recipients of \$500 scholarships as part of our three named scholarship categories:

Colonel Charles G. Simpson Founders Scholarship

Colonel Simpson was a founding member of AAFM, served as the Executive Director for the

Association's first 25 years, and continued as the newsletter editor and Director Emeritus. His pioneering vision and leadership in AAFM serves as an inspiration to preserve and educate about the legacy of all who have served, continue to serve and advocate for the ICBM nuclear deterrence mission.

CMSgt Richard "Hawk" Hochheiser Memorial Scholarship

CMSgt Hochheiser was an AAFM life member who served as an Electro-Mechanical Team (EMT) member and Tech Engineering in all variants of the Minuteman missile system. He was a recognized technical expert in hardware and software on Minuteman.

Colonel Trevor W. Flint Memorial Scholarship

Colonel Flint was an AAFM member who, starting as a 2Lt Section Commander, was one of twenty officers selected to cross train into ICBMs where he greatly influenced our mission as an extremely personable leader with an amazing sense of humor leading maintenance and operations personnel. Colonel Flint played a critical role in laying the groundwork for what became Sentinel, the follow-on to the Minuteman III.

As a part of the application process, the Fall 2023 recipients were asked to share how their advanced degree pursuits impact the ICBM nuclear deterrence mission.

SRA Champagne Polanco (341 FSS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)



SRA Polanco is a Missile Alert Facility Chef assigned to the 341 FSS. "The ICBM mission is one that has a global effect. Pursuing a degree in International Relations and Global Security is helping enlighten me on the scale of our mission and the importance of nuclear deterrence. I will learn the reasons that lead up

to wars between nations and I think once you know the reason for an issue, that is when you can solve it. I would like to eventually help the mission in a slightly different way, and be an ambassador for the Air Force that helps in higher places. I don't want to only be a problem solver for this matter but also aid

in the preventative planning/relational aspect that goes into conserving peace. I would like to say thank you for this opportunity and the support! As a first generation American, going to college is a significant feat for my family and this scholarship will help me continue my efforts in finishing my education and eventually making a bigger difference in this career field.”

Capt Leah Throckmorton (12 MS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)



Capt Throckmorton is a Missile Combat Crew Instructor assigned to the 12 MS. While at first glance, public health’s relationship to the nuclear mission is not readily apparent, my interest in this topic was sparked when the COVID-19 pandemic

kicked off and I was a missileer with only a few alerts under my belt. The ability to do the mission during a public health emergency was severely impacted, especially with the concern over a large portion of our members being sick and unable to post to the field. Designated Self Isolation (DSI) was implemented for essential personnel to limit interpersonal contact and disease spread. Individuals on DSI, including myself, experienced negative effects in the short term, like disconnection from social circles and the unit, and isolation, especially among individuals who lived alone. Leave was heavily limited and even training was paused to prioritize readiness of a member’s health. An intervention this extreme can impact personnel reliability for members, on top of the general anxiety that we all experienced during this time. This is a great example of the dynamic relationship between people and the mission. The health of mission essential people was the priority. Thank you very much to the Association of Air Force Missileers for your support of my education. It is a great honor to be a part of such an important mission and work alongside some of America’s finest nuclear professionals. My education has been an excellent opportunity for professional and personal development, and I look forward to completing my Master’s degree next year.”

1Lt Justin Nebel (12 MS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)

Lt Nebel is a Missile Combat Crew member assigned to the 12 MS. “Obtaining my graduate degree in Systems Engineering directly correlates to the ICBM mission. Systems Engineering encompasses all aspects



of a product’s lifecycle from development, employment, and end of life. With the life extension/end-of-life programs for Minuteman III and the developments for Sentinel my academic pursuits will provide me with the tools to support these two missions. I will be able to incorporate the lessons learned from my degree program for my time at Malmstrom and beyond my initial crew tour. I am honored and appreciative of receiving the CMSgt Richard Hochheiser Memorial Scholarship. Due to the AAFM’s generosity, it will be possible for me to finish my Master’s Degree in Systems Engineering. The skillsets I have learned thus far in the degree program have been very applicable to the ICBM sustainment and modernization mission.”

2Lt Brendan Crossman (12 MS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)



Lt Crossman is a Missile Combat Crew member assigned to the 12 MS. “By pursuing a graduate degree, I can further my skills and develop a greater perspective of how to lead others. Whether it is the maintenance, security,

or missileer personnel involved in the mission of deterrence, public administration will allow me to develop as a versatile leader to understand how to learn about all aspects of a community, such as the ICBM career field. Furthering my education will also allow me to go on to become a leader on a grander scheme of the ICBM career field. Therefore, applying my skills in other aspects of the job, influencing members from other parts of the country, or even the world, to carry out the mission.

Overall, the Air Force has given me a great opportunity to serve a purpose that is greater than myself. In order to take advantage of that, I am passionate about bettering myself in order to lead the people I will be in charge of in the future. I am proud to receive this reward. This will greatly benefit me as I continue to further my education.”

2Lt Kayla Jencks (321 MS – F. E. Warren AFB, WY)

Lt Jencks is a Missile Combat Crew member assigned to the 321 MS. “My Masters in Public Health studies in disaster management, homeland security, and humanitarian relief align strategically with the nuclear deterrence mission. My coursework equips me for complex disaster response, emphasizing preparedness, mitigation and recovery. I have been able to put this to work in the mission. Further, humanitarian relief underscores international cooperation's importance, crucial for nuclear deterrence. My hands-on experience solidifies dedication to supporting the ICBM nuclear mission! It is an absolute honor to be selected for this scholarship. The funds will help me greatly in completing my Master of Public Health in which I’m focusing on homeland security, disaster management and humanitarian relief and will graduate this winter! I commissioned through the University of Oklahoma in 2022 and I am currently serving at F.E Warren as a Missileer. I am so grateful for the Air Force community and the support from the AAFM members. Again, it’s such an honor to receive this scholarship, thank you!”



Capt Joshua Baumer (12 MS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)



Capt Baumer is an Instructor in the 12 MS assigned to the weapons flight. “Defense and Strategic Studies through Missouri State is the premier program in the

Airmen Spotlight

nation regarding nuclear deterrence theory. I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the membership for their support.”

1Lt Noah van Treeck (12 MS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)



Lt van Treeck is a Missile Combat Crew member in the 12 MS. “The academic pursuits of a William & Mary MBA and the ICBM nuclear deterrence mission may seem unrelated on the surface, but they share some surprising connections including leadership and strategic thinking, risk

management, resource allocation, and communications and diplomacy. Thank you for your vote of confidence in my studies. I have been working very hard to do well in my MBA program at William & Mary. I am happy to know I am part of a greater community within the nuclear community and it inspires me to want to do well to carry on the baton. Please extend my thanks to the scholarship team and my congratulations to the other scholarship winners.”

1Lt Cody Swift (320 MS – F. E. Warren AFB, WY)



Lt Swift is a Mission Lead Crew Commander assigned to the 320 MS. “Working on, and finishing my degree in criminal justice with an emphasis in homeland security is the start to understanding the deterrence mission. Being able to understand what threats America faces is key for

understanding what our nation is trying to deter. Not only does homeland security explain what America has to do to protect itself, but allies as well. This degree not only allows me to see the inner workings of deterrence, but be an advocate in the missile

field. I would just like to say how appreciative I am to the Association of Air Force Missileers for the scholarship. I love working in the missile community and am appreciative of all the maintainers, cops, FMs, chefs and fellow missileers I work with that make this job so fun.”

2Lt Leanna Pollicar (12 MS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)



2Lt Pollicar is a Missile Combat Crew member assigned to the 12 MS. “Nuclear deterrence is ensuring our adversaries understand that the consequences of their actions will far outweigh any reward they hope to obtain from escalation towards the US. Our ICBM forces are meant to represent a credible threat of

massive retaliation due to the deadly nature of the weapon system and its powerful nuclear yield. In order to maintain strategic deterrence against adversaries that are growing and evolving their nuclear arsenal, the US must also continue to develop and improve ICBM weapon systems in response. For my higher education, I will be studying Systems Engineering through Embry-Riddle Worldwide which will allow me to develop insight towards the design and management of complex systems over their respective life cycles. By gaining knowledge of how systems develop over time and the general maintenance required to preserve and prolong operational conditions, I can better understand how the Minuteman III or newer weapon systems, such as the LGM-35 Sentinel, can expect to function given time on alert. I was born in the Philippines but moved to the US when I was 2 years old. I lived in a few states but mostly grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. I went to college at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL and studied Computational Mathematics. My goals are to further my learning and obtain a Master's in Systems Engineering. I chose my AFSC, 13N (Missileer) because I was interested in learning more about the nuclear weapons system as well as being part of the nuclear deterrence mission which I feel makes the greatest impact for our national defense. I'm grateful for any opportunity that helps

Airmen Spotlight

me gain more technical skills and experience in my career field and I am especially honored to have received this award.”

Capt James Fair (341 OSS – Malmstrom AFB, MT)

Capt Fair is a Flight Commander assigned to the 341 OSS. “It is a great honor to receive the Chief Master Sergeant Richard Hochheiser Memorial Scholarship from this association. CMSgt Hochheiser led a prominent role in the ICBM community and is someone to admire. His devotion through the three variants of the Minuteman weapon system and unparalleled



efforts in the DoD's most important mission speaks volumes. I couldn't be any prouder to share in the same mission as this distinguished individual. This award will propel me even farther in my academic endeavor and alleviate the financial challenges of achieving my advanced academic degree.”

Notification of the Spring 2024 Scholarship application process will go out to all ICBM locations in April 2024.

A Nuclear Life

SMSgt (ret) Al Hall, AAFM Life Member

August 6th: Today is a special day. It is my birthday (not really) because of an intersection of critical events that occurred during World War II.

My mother (Fukiko Terada), who is Japanese, was born and lived in Yokohama, Japan. It was destroyed by thirty-odd U.S. air raids during World War II. An estimated seven or eight thousand people were killed in a single morning on May 29, 1945 in what is now known as the “Great Yokohama Air Raid”, when B-29s firebombed the city, and in just one hour and nine minutes reduced 42% of it to rubble. During this time during the war, it was decided for her (she was 25 years old) to live with relatives in Hiroshima. The bombing of Tokyo and other cities in Japan during World War II caused widespread destruction and hundreds of

Looking Back

thousands of civilian deaths. There were no such air raids on Hiroshima.

TOP SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

TO: Target Information

FROM: Director, Target Group

SUBJECT: Chief of Staff, Twentieth Air Force

DECLASSIFIED

DATE 28 Apr 1965

BY AUTHORITY: **68000**

GROUP NO.: **73003**

REF ID: **4479**

REF ID: **70793**

1. In connection with contemplated operations using high explosive "fall boom (2000 lb.) bombs detonated above the ground (about 200 feet altitude), it is requested that this Headquarters be furnished suitable target information of targets having the following specifications:

- a. They should be located in a reasonably large urban area but the target itself should not be less than three miles in diameter.
- b. They should lie on the Japanese main island area between Tokyo and Nagasaki.
- c. They should possess high strategic value.

2. The following are suggested as possible appropriate areas:

→ a. Tokyo Bay

→ b. Nagasaki

→ c. Yokohama

→ d. Nagoya

→ e. Osaka

→ f. Kobe

→ g. Kyoto

→ h. Hiroshima

→ i. Kure

→ j. Yamata

→ k. Kokura

→ l. Shin-osaka

→ m. Yamaguchi

→ n. Kumamoto

→ o. Fukuoka

→ p. Nagasaki

→ q. Sasebo

3. The destruction will primarily be accomplished by the air blast effect and the selection should be made with this thought in mind.

4. It will be appreciated if this information can be furnished to this Headquarters by no later than Saturday 3 May.

APPROVED: **NND 730039**

Authority: **101-421723**

DATE: **101-421723**

MAJOR GENERAL

Brigadier General, U. S. Army

Chief of Staff



Tinian” as a sharpshooter until August 1944. It was during this time my dad would often reminisce on watching the bombers take off. However, some did not return or crash landed from bombing missions in Japan. On July 26, 1945, the USS *Indianapolis* steamed into Tinian to deliver atomic bomb components for "Little Boy," the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

In September of 1945, he departed for Japan as part of the occupation force, and it was during his time there that he met his future bride and my mother. They (pictured above) were married 2 years later. As my mother would fondly say “he wouldn’t leave me alone”. There must have been something there since it lasted over 50+ years until their death.

When I decided to join the Air Force, the career field I selected was “Electronic Intelligence Analyst” but during the security background check during basic training it was discovered my mother was not a born US citizen. That discovery disqualified me from my chosen career but I was offered to train as a “Missile Systems Analyst” which would allow me to work on or around Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) nuclear weapons. Go figure. After I completed almost a year of training and went on to my first duty assignment, I went home on leave. It was there my mom and dad asked me “so what is it you do again in the Air Force” (Strategic Air Command)? Since then, I have spent my entire Air Force career working on or around nuclear weapons. Strange how life works.

As time went on during the war my mother's relatives told her she should go back to Yokohama to be with her family because they were sure the US was planning an invasion. With that in mind, she departed Hiroshima by train. Approximately 4 hours later on Monday, August 6, 1945, at 8:15 a.m., the nuclear weapon "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima from an American Boeing B-29 Superfortress, directly killing at least 70,000 people. By the end of the year, injury and radiation brought the total number of deaths to 90,000–166,000. The population before the bombing was around 345,000. About 70% of the city's buildings were destroyed, and another 7% severely damaged.

Operation Downfall was the proposed Allied plan for the invasion of the Japanese Home Islands near the end of World War II. The planned operation was set to begin in November 1945 but was canceled when Japan surrendered following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Casualty predictions varied widely, but were extremely high. Depending on the degree to which Japanese civilians would have resisted the invasion, estimates ran up into the millions for Allied casualties. My mother said the bomb saved lives on both sides.

My father entered the Army in July 1943. He was sent to the Pacific, and fought on the Mariana Island of Tinian during the "Battle of

The Rudolph Letter - a True Story

Col (ret) H. Larry Elman

Many Christmas Eve's ago, we had just finished putting up the tree and having a good Christmas Eve dinner, when I said to my son Dave, who was about 4 at the time, "Why don't you go put together a plate for Santa and we'll leave it by the fireplace." He disappeared into the kitchen and came back in a few minutes with an unusual plate. It didn't have the cookies I expected, but instead it had carrots and celery and lettuce. He had raided the salad drawer in the refrigerator rather than the cookie jar. He put that plate by the stockings near the fireplace.

I asked him, "Weren't you going to get something for Santa?" Dave replied, "Santa is much too fat. What if he gets stuck in the chimney? And everybody gets stuff for Santa but no one notices the Team, and that's not fair." Dave then launched into an impassioned speech on how Santa just sits there driving the sleigh, while Rudolph and the Team drag that heavy sled all over the world. Dave admitted that Santa did do some work going up and down chimneys, and that stuffing stockings involved some exertion, but he remained stuck on his concept that The Team deserved better rations and that Santa needed a diet. I had serious thoughts of renting Dave out to labor unions in the future!

We finally sent the impassioned young man off to bed, both of us keeping a straight face the entire time. Then we realized what our Christmas Eve snack MUST be! After all, if we put the veggies back, we risked having Dave inventory the refrigerator salad drawer, with many dire consequences.

As we reluctantly chewed away on carrots and the like, I became inspired. I located a dingy sheet of blank paper and a Magic Marker. Working rapidly, I placed Rudolph's personal address and logo at the top, and a thank you letter from Rudolph and all eight of his colleagues below that. Of course, the letter ended in a hoof-print signature. That creation magically appeared in Dave's stocking along with his other Christmas loot. I felt we had survived that problem because the subsequent Christmas morning went well.

Six years later, the problem re-occurred, but in a slightly different form. Dave's kid sister, Liz, was 6 years younger and equally (probably even more) difficult. When she reached

age 4, instead of being the good girl one might expect around Christmas, she was a holy terror. "Hell on Wheels" would be an inadequate understatement. She broke every rule in the book as well as also in books not yet written! We convened a family meeting to review her many problems.

In the meeting I (naturally) raised the specter of the Santa Claus Bad Kid List. I explained the mechanics of that historic LIST. Liz puts her hands on her hips and looks up at me and says, "You have got that wrong. You see, there are lots of bad kids in the world and Santa is a very busy man, especially around now." She then proceeds through an argument not unlike a mathematical dissertation, but concluding that the probability that she will get caught is minutely small. Being the worst bad kid is, in a way, self-protection.

"That thing about being on Santa's Bad Kid List is just rumor. I'm sure that Santa isn't gonna find my name because he isn't gonna read the whole list." Her definition of probability would have been very welcome at the Defense of a Borderline Doctoral Thesis. It might have amazed me except we were an entire household of mathematicians, and she had overheard enough similar concepts.

In the middle of this scene, my son Dave suddenly dashes off up the stairs to the second floor, is gone for only a very short time, and comes back down at hyper-sonic speed, clutching THE RUDOLPH LETTER!!!

Dave shoves the letter under Liz's nose, points to the address and logo, and declares, "See! Rudolph and I are PEN PALS! We are very close friends. Rudolph keeps a separate list of bad kids. And Santa DOES READ RUDOLPH'S LIST. If I write to Rudolph about YOU, then you are FINISHED!!" Liz was angelic from then until well after New Years. But the tale does not end there.

Several decades later, near Christmas, Dave is now a married man, happily looking forward to approaching fatherhood. I am on the phone with my daughter-in-law and I begin telling her of the events you have just read. She interrupts me, "Dad, I already know that whole story. Dave still has Rudolph's Letter. He feels that if any of our kids are like Liz, he at least has the needed ammunition."

I suspect the Rudolph Letter will be seen by several generations of my descendants. All of you have a very Merry Christmas and raise your kids as smart as mine turned out to be!

Building ICBM Sites - The Mid-20th Century and Today

Col (ret) Charlie Simpson, AAFM Executive Director Emeritus

Seventy years ago, the U. S. Air Force was in the early stages of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) development, as then Brigadier General (then Major General) Bernard Schriever and his Schoolhouse Gang at Western Development Division (WDD) were working with the nation's defense contractors and major construction firms on a number of new ICBM systems. By the mid-1950s, the Air Force had selected three prime contractors, Convair (later General Dynamics) for the Atlas D, E and F series of ICBMs, the Martin Company (later Lockheed Martin) for Titan I and II systems and Boeing for Minuteman. There were an enormous number of support contractors developing reentry vehicles, silo lift systems, guidance systems, propulsion and much more for the new ICBMs. One of the largest construction projects in United States history began in locations all around our country.

The Air Force now is in the early stages of a program that has many similarities to the original ICBM deployment effort, as work begins on the replacement for Minuteman: the LGM-35 Sentinel ICBM. This time, the Sentinel Systems Directorate of the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center is responsible for the program, and Northrup Grumman is the defense contractor primarily responsible for the effort. As the deployment progresses, a number of defense and construction contractors will be involved. In October 2022, those of us who attended the National Meeting in Salt Lake City were given unprecedented access to this new ICBM program, as we toured the new Northrup Grumman campus in Layton, UT. We saw a full scale mockup for the new missile, guidance system and reentry system, as well as early ideas for the main control center on each ICBM base, the basic idea of displays for missile crew members and ideas for training all specialties that will be involved with the new ICBM.

There is still limited information on some aspects of the Sentinel deployment program, but the Air Force provided us with several publicly available resources to aid us in this article. Over the next few paragraphs, we will compare the massive effort that took place from about 1955 to 1966 deploying more than 1,200 new ICBMs in 27 different locations, to the modernization of 450 ICBMs at three of these same bases.

Geographical Scope of the Two Programs

The Early ICBMs: Atlas D consisted of three missiles to a complex in above ground horizontal storage buildings called coffins. It was deployed at two locations, with two nine-missile squadrons at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base (AFB), WY, and a single squadron at Offutt AFB, NE. Atlas E, with the coffin built with the roof at ground level, was deployed in three missile squadrons, one missile per site, at Warren, Fairchild AFB, WA, and Forbes AFB, KS. The Atlas F was placed in vertical silos, with the missile raised above ground for launch, with twelve missiles at each of the six bases at Plattsburgh AFB, NY, Lincoln AFB, NE, Altus AFB, OK, Dyess AFB, TX, Schilling AFB, KS and Roswell AFB, NM. Training and test facilities were also constructed at Vandenberg AFB, CA, Patrick AFB, FL, and Sheppard AFB, TX. All of the bases that would become home to the new ICBMs were already Strategic Air Command (SAC) bomber bases, except for the two bases that would host ICBM wings, Warren and Lowry. Both had long been Air Training Command (ATC) bases. Warren became a pure missile base, while Lowry hosted the Titan I wing that was activated there while still continuing as a major training location for the Air Force.

Each of the sites involved a significant impact on the local communities, with temporary housing for workers established at most. For example, when I arrived at Mountain Home in February 1962, there were almost no rentals available for incoming military, with long waits for on base housing. Martin Company established a large trailer in the town that was there only through the end of construction. Many base personnel and contractors had to commute from the Boise area, then about an hour drive. The situation was typical of all the new ICBM construction sites.

The Atlas and Titan I deployment was only the beginning. The deployment of Titan II and Minuteman began well before the last Atlas and Titan missiles were operational, adding nine more missile units, this time all missile wings, and 29 more squadrons for the 1,054 new second generation ICBMs.

Sentinel: The new ICBM will require construction or modification of facilities and infrastructure for maintenance, training, storage, testing and support at Warren, Malmstrom AFB, MT, Minot AFB, ND, Hill AFB, UT, the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR), and Camp Guernsey,

WY. Forty-five missile alert facilities (MAFs), including the underground facilities (launch control centers and launch control equipment buildings) will be demolished. A communication support building (CSB) would be constructed at 24 of the existing MAF locations, with a new underground launch center (LC) built at these 24 sites. The remaining 21 MAFs would be decommissioned and demolished. Construction of the CSBs and LCs would be confined to areas within the existing property boundaries. All 450 existing launch facilities in the missile fields will be rebuilt with new underground facilities.

Sentinel updates will involve 4,900 miles of existing utility corridors and easements and establish approximately 3,100 miles of new corridors. Sixty-two communication towers will be constructed with 18 at Warren, 31 at Malmstrom, and 13 at Minot, each occupying about 5 acres. Temporary workforce hubs for up to 2,500–3,000 employees will be established in the vicinity of Great Falls and Lewistown, MT, Kimball, NE, and Minot, ND. These hubs will be in use for 2-5 years.

Program Management

The Early ICBMs: In the 1950s, the Air Force was deep into the “Concurrency” concept, where new systems, both aircraft and missiles, were designed, developed, manufactured and deployed as rapidly as possible, with construction on bases and missile sites started well before design and development was complete. There were several people involved in this effort, including many contractors working with the primary contractor for each system to develop mechanical systems, guidance and reentry systems, communications, command and control systems and much more. For example, while Martin Company was the primary contractor for Titan I, American Machine and Foundry provided the silo elevator system, AVCO the reentry system, Bell Telephone for the ground guidance, Univac for the computers and Aerojet General for the propulsion.

The development, testing and deployment of all these new systems over a relatively short period involved a number of large organizations. Then Major General Schriever’s Western Development Division, which later had several name changes including the Ballistic Systems Division (BSD) and the Ballistic Missile Organization (BMO), was the primary overseer for the projects, as part of Air Research and Development Command (ARDC), which became

Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) in 1961, with General Schriever as commander. An ARDC/AFSC organization at each base, the Site Activation Task Force (SATAF), led by an Air Force Colonel, oversaw the program at each base. Early in the construction program, General Curtis E. LeMay, Commander in Chief (SAC), required each Colonel to report directly to him to keep him advised of progress at each base. When LeMay moved from SAC to become Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, these SATAF Colonels still reported to LeMay. We had a couple of these Colonels as early members of the Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFM) and they told some interesting stories of Gen LeMay’s close involvement with construction activities.

An equally large organization on each base was an office of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps was responsible for all the “real property” construction, which included the silos, launch facilities, launch control facilities, as well as all base missile support buildings and all of the associated infrastructure. In 1960, the Corps activated the Corps of Engineers Ballistic Missile Construction Office (CEBMCO), which grew to over 3,000 people working on 22 locations in 17 states. The office was under the operational control of the Air Force through WDD/BSDB, until deactivated in 1967.

Sentinel: The Sentinel Systems Directorate of the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center is managing the new program. The directorate is at Hill AFB, UT with operating locations at Warren, Malmstrom, Minot and Vandenberg SFB, CA. Unlike the concurrency approach in the 1960s, the Sentinel deployment will take place over several years, with one Minuteman missile removed each week once the construction phase begins. The program is scheduled to take place beginning in the next few months and ending in mid-2029.

The Construction Contractors

The Early ICBMs: Over the course of approximately 10 years, CEBMCO and its predecessor organizations built approximately 1,200 launch facilities, with separate contracts at each of the geographical locations. In some cases, an individual firm, Peter Kiewit and Sons and Morrison-Knudsen won the contract. At some locations, local or regional firms formed partnerships to win the lucrative contracts. Some of the firms involved were Kaiser-Raymond-Macco-

Puget Sound, George A. Fuller Company, Del E. Webb Corporation, Western Contracting Corporation and Malan Construction Company.

Sentinel: A single contractor, Bechtel Corporation, is scheduled to complete the construction of the new Sentinel facilities at each of the locations mentioned above. Each of the workforce hubs could have up to 3,500 workers at any one time, although the sequential schedule probably means the size of the force will vary at each base as the program proceeds.

Funding

The Early ICBMs: The authors of “To Defend and Deter” estimated a unit cost for Atlas ICBM silos at \$3.6 million each, and a Minuteman silo at half a million each, which results in a total of about \$1.3 billion in construction costs in 1962 dollars. Various sources estimate the cost of deployment of Atlas and Titan I ICBMs at about \$1.5 to 3 billion dollars. Adding Titan II and Minuteman probably more than doubles the total cost for our final initial ICBM force of 1,054 Minuteman and Titan II missiles. However, not all the design, development and other costs are included in these numbers, since early ICBM development was spread over almost two decades. In 2023 dollars, the overall cost of these programs was probably between \$15 and \$30 billion for Atlas and Titan and another \$10 to \$20 billion for Minuteman and Titan II, bringing the total in today’s dollars to the \$30-\$50 billion range.

Sentinel: While the overall scope of these two programs are much different since only a single new system is now involved, many factors today make any new construction program much more complex. In the 1950s, there was no Environmental Protection Agency, no requirement for Environmental Impact Statements, no Occupational Safety and Health Administration and less resistance to new defense programs by many in government as well as the public. The total cost to deploy the Sentinel has been estimated at \$96 billion.

The next few years will be an interesting time for Air Force Missileers, as the Sentinel program progresses. AAFM will keep you updated on this significant addition to the mission of nuclear deterrence.

2023 AAFM Heritage Grants

Mike Kenderes, Grant Committee Chair

Each year, AAFM provides grants to museums for their missile exhibits/displays. To date, we have funded more than \$300,000 in projects at 38 museums. We honor members who have passed away in the year the grants are awarded by providing the grants in their memory. To view all our past grants and past honored members you can find the information on our website at: <https://www.afmissileers.org/sys/website/?pageId=18072>.

For our 2023 grants, a committee of four board members, Bob Parker, Jock Dodson, Tony Bales and Mike Kenderes, reviewed three grant applications. We funded 2 of the 3 grants for a total \$4,500. The grants were given to: Hill Aerospace Museum (\$1,500) to assist in developing graphics and interactive displays showing Utah and their ICBM history. The second grant, (\$3,000) was given to the Museum of Aviation at Robins AFB, GA to repair and repaint their historic Matador TM-61A missile (pictured below).



AAFM Museum Grant Program - Hill Aerospace Museum

Robb Alexander, Executive Director Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Utah

Funding received from the Association of Air Force Missileers assisted in the construction of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Exhibit at the Hill Aerospace Museum. Phases one and two of the exhibit have been completed. Phase three, which includes graphics and interactive displays, is underway.

The ICBM program has a long history with the defense of the United States. Hill Air Force Base, the State of Utah and area communities have benefited from this important program since the 1960s. Countless State of Utah residents have worked on this essential operation. The museum's ICBM exhibit provides a lasting legacy to the men and women who helped develop and sustain it. The exhibit also reminds those who immerse themselves in the exhibit's narrative, that our country's resolve of freedom and liberty comes through a commitment to keep its citizens safe from foreign intrusion.

This immersive exhibit (pictured below) allows patrons to get up close and personal with the history of the ICBM and its history at Hill Air Force Base. From its beginnings in the early 1960's, the exhibit follows the operational aspects of the ICBM program through the "Cold War" and START Treaty periods. Hill Air Force Base is one of the leading providers of software, secondary power systems, composites and ICBM rocket motors for the Department of Defense. The base currently provides depot-level maintenance and support to America's land-based ICBM force and the Air Launched Cruise Missile force. It will also house the development and implementation of the United States' new Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, Sentinel, which will take the place of the aging Minuteman III system.



Many people do not know about or understand the importance of ICBMs to our defense, as well as our local connections to these weapon systems. Through this exhibit people will learn that Hill Air Force Base has played a crucial role in this vital element of our nation's defense for more than sixty years. This exhibit helps our patrons learn more about the breadth of impact of the ICBM. From assembling all variants of the Minuteman, to Peacekeeper program management, to depot maintenance and repair, to START Treaty

Honoring Heritage

compliance to Sentinel standup, and much, much more. Our patrons will learn that Hill AFB and Utah's connection to our country's ICBM programs over the history of the Air Force is unparalleled.

The Hill Aerospace Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm and as always is free admission.

AAFM Note: We were there in October 2022 during our National Meeting for the dedication of this new exhibit. A special thanks to members Carlos Rice and Jim Sorenson who spent a lot of volunteer hours not only getting the technical part of the display right but also for donating personal items to add to the display accuracy.

AAFM Museum Grant Program - Minuteman Missile National Historic Site

Jeanne Berry, Acting Chief of Interpretation

Thank you to the AAFM for the grant funds given to Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The funds were used to purchase rocket launchers and create youth-oriented displays and activities that helped us explain the Cold War story to younger generations.

We were able to provide "Launch your Rockets" activities and Jr Missileer booklets to children and their parents on Minuteman Missile NHS Visitor Center's front porch this summer. We also took the rockets and Jr Missileer patches to Badlands National Park's Annual Astro Fest and to the "605 Event" in the nearby town of Wall, SD.

Thanks to your contribution, the park was able to purchase "Bomb Shelter" cardboard blocks and, for the first time ever, offer a "Build Your Own Bomb Shelter" activity for children (pictured below). Some of the funds were also used to purchase a storage shed for Minuteman Missile NHS's Jr Missileer items that provides easier access and program set up.



The items you funded provided us resources to present children-oriented activities that were very well received. These programs helped us provide numerous visitors, young and old alike, a better understanding of the Cold War History and the Minuteman Missile mission. The items purchased with the funds helped us bridge the time gap that currently exists for young visitors born after the end of the Cold War.

Thank you for your generous support of Minuteman Missile National Historic Site.

Charitable Donations

AAFM is a 501 (c)(3) and as such is regarded by the IRS as a “Qualified Charitable Organization”. Why is that important? For our members who must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA), the qualified charitable distribution rule allows traditional IRA holders to deduct their RMDs on their tax returns if they give the money to a qualified charity such as AAFM. Normal IRA distributions are taxed at the ordinary income tax rates and may push you into a higher tax bracket. Donating a portion of your RMD to AAFM may reduce your income taxes by lowering your adjusted gross income. For details on how to donate, please reach out to Jim Warner at Director@afmissileers.org

Upcoming AAFM Board Elections

CMSgt (ret) Mark Silliman, Chair, Nomination Committee

In February 2024, the association’s general membership will be asked to vote to fill two vacant board positions. We have three candidates and two board vacancies as a result of two board members who have faithfully served several terms and are ready to pass their baton on to newly elected members with new ideas and lots of energy.

A ballot will be provided in February 2024 to all members in good standing with AAFM, either by electronic ballot or hard copy (if you currently receive the newsletter hard copy). The ballot will contain a brief background on each candidate and instructions. This year’s election is part of the normal 2-year cycle where 1/3 of the 12 member AAFM board is asked to continue to serve or step down from the board.

Call For Uniforms

In the October AAFM Dispatch, I sent out a call for color copies of missileers in Minuteman alert and dispatch uniforms for our upcoming book on Minuteman Art. Most of what I received so far are pictures of uniforms on hangers or museum dummies. Then I received this one from AAFM member George Sholl who exhibits the best example of California casual that I have seen in years!



What I am hoping to gather is a series of Operators wearing uniforms including the Minuteman I white coveralls, the two-piece blues, the blue flight suit, the green bag, and the OCPs. For the maintainers, I am looking for the original fatigues, the BDUs and the new Maintenance Duty Uniform. Pictures can be individual or group photos. Send what you have to me at Director@afmissileers.org and I’ll select a few for the new book.

Malmstrom Picture Request

Do you remember this sign outside of 341 SMW/DO22? If you have information on who created it and when, please let us know. The wing would like to create a plaque to acknowledge its origin. Send info to Director@afmissileers.org.



Letters to the Editor

Donut Run: After receiving complaints that relief crews were delaying change over because they were stopping at a very good, small-town bakery to enjoy a coffee and donuts, direction came down that there would be NO more stopping at the bakery. The seasoned MCCCs complied with the exact letter of the direction. They slowed the crew vehicles to a crawl in front of the bakery. The DMCCCs hopped out to buy a bag of donuts while the crew vehicles made a slow trip around the block arriving to retrieve the bags of donuts (and the DMCCCs). Problem solved. **Col (ret) Bill Goetz, AAFM member**

Foil Pack Stew: While foil pack meals never earned a James Beard nomination, our site's aerospace chef made the perfect winter meal. On arriving on site, he had everyone sign in indicating everyone ate all of their allotted foil pack. He then skillfully combined those foil packs into a hearty stew that was available on the stove all afternoon and evening. **Col (ret) Bill Goetz, AAFM member**

Vandenberg poem: There was a building in Vandenberg where we had a classified briefing and there was a poem on the wall. The first line began, "I think that I shall never see a Bomarc rise above a tree . . ." I seem to recall hearing that the Navy had been doing test launches from Point Mugu NAS and was having issues. I've never been able to find a copy of that poem, but it was rather amusing. **Capt Ken Wright, AAFM member**

Telephone pole: I just read Greg's article in the latest Missileer about the telephone pole near M09 where departing members would nail their uniform to the pole. I was in the 490th SMS from 1973-1977 and we were doing the same thing. I don't recall if it was in-place in 1973 but am sure it was by 1975. I think it started with nailing our yellow bib scarf and then I recall one day when someone put their entire uniform up there - it sure got everyone's notice! Nice to hear where the pole ended up. Great story! Thanks. **Col (ret) Rich McKinney, AAFM Life member**

AAFM T-shirt: The AAFM T-shirt brought back many great memories. I was stationed at the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron where I was NCOIC, Missile Site Survey. I also worked on Thor and Matador! Thank you to all the members of AAFM. I

am 93 years old and will never forget the privilege of serving as a missileer! **MSgt (ret) Victor J Haas, AAFM member**

SRV Commander Medvedev visit to Grand Forks: In support of ongoing treaty negotiations for New START which expires in 2026, DTRA is seeking information on a visit to Grand Forks by the SRF Commander Medvedev during negotiations in the runup to the original START Treaty. Specifics on the date and who was involved would be appreciated as well as any additional information. I vividly remember one anecdote: while driving the General around the base, he asked "what are those buildings?" A: Enlisted troops dormitories. "Can we go inside?" A: Yes. Upon going up to the 2nd floor, the General looked out the window and asked: "who do all those cars in the parking lot belong to?" A: To the enlisted troops who live here. "You let them have cars!?" A: Yes. "You let them drive off base!?" A: Yes. "And they come back!?" It was immediately obvious that General Medvedev knew Russia was doomed in its attempt to regain the Soviet Empire. **Lt Col (ret) Robert Stevens, AAFM member**

(Note from the Ex Dir: If you have information to share with the DTRA team, send them to me at Director@AFMissileers.org)

Weapon system picture identified: It's for the MIM-23 HAWK (air defense) launcher. My first clue was the console shows 3 missiles. Plus, as I said earlier, with azimuth & elevation, it could only be a ground-launched system. Only launcher I know of that carries 3 is HAWK. It seems to simulate a target so the launcher azimuth, elevation, and lead angle can be tested. I guess the operator had to stand well clear of the launcher! Anyway, it's NSN 4935-00-786-4095, NIIN 00-736-4095. NSN was originally assigned January 1, 1962, standardized November 3, 1968, and canceled December 27, 2001. It would have been used on the MIM-23A (Basic HAWK), but possibly the 23B as well. I'm guessing the item was out of the inventory earlier than 2001, but cannot prove that. I have not found a photo to confirm, but



that's it. The manual is TM 9-4935-1475-12&P. The Army Publishing Directorate has it but you must be DoD or a DoD contractor to access it. Pretty sure you need a CAC, the server does not like my connection. There is a very good chance the box and manual are export-controlled and possibly FOUO, since HAWK is still in the inventory (and being used in Ukraine today).

Major (ret) Julius Sanks, AAFM member

Enlisted Pay: Regarding your October Dispatch on enlisted pay: I was one of the original enlisted airmen that volunteered for Minot Air Force Base in 1964. Being 19, I was proud of having the opportunity of protecting my country and family. I thought the Air Force would provide me with the opportunity for promotion along with something like pro pay, boy was I mistaken. By the time I was 20 years old, I was working target and alignment and MMT certified. Soon, after turning 21, I was driving class A explosives (I was good with the tractor trailer) and oh by the way, I was still an E3. When I was dispatched for a site being down, I didn't know if I was going out for a day or 5 (no food, sleep or water). I did notice on my way out the gate some medics who were already E5s and wearing clean uniforms! At the end of my 4 years, the DCM offered me \$10k and E5 along with my own MMT team, I had just turned 23. I had to turn him down. Univac hired me for \$109 a week plus overtime. Now back to retaining our young airmen, I notice promotions are on hold, no pro pay and you can't make E8 typically until you have 22 years in at the soonest. IF our leaders don't understand why they can't recruit and retain, they should start here!

Sgt Roger Lippold, AAFM member

AFA magazine continues to disappoint! It would be nice to know the reason AFA chooses not to recognize the ICBM force on a regular basis. ICBM operations, maintenance, security forces and services personnel are on nuclear alert 24/7/365 protecting the nation and the world through safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrence. Since the nuclear deterrence mission is purported to be the number one priority in DoD, it seems odd AFA makes the choice to not recognize their contribution to the overall AF and Joint mission. During the September 2023 AFA Air Space and Cyber Conference, the only event, and it was the last event, that addressed the ICBM force was the last seminar. Yet there is literally nothing in AFA magazine regarding the ICBM mission. You've written about the bomber force, yet you don't

address any aspect of the current ICBM force or the oncoming Sentinel program. It is not clear if you even have anyone on your staff with "deep" ICBM credentials...perhaps having someone who has a deep understanding of the ICBM mission would allow you to attempt to provide some type of coverage. Thanks for considering my observations.
Col (ret) Tom Cullen, AAFM Life member and AAFM Board of Directors

Holiday dinners: "Didn't mention the complete family dinners we used to have in the late 60s and early 70s--Christmas, New Years, Easter, Thanksgiving. Wives would get together and prepare meals and bring them out to the sites, we would all eat together with the wives." Anonymous

Seeking McConnell BMAT information: If you were in the Titan system at McConnell AFB from 1963 – 1970 and knew Sgt Robert C. Larsen who served as a BMAT, his son is looking for information on his service especially around an event that happened on February 11, 1964. Please contact me at Director@AFMissileers.org and I'll make the connection.

320th Missile Squadron Makes Change to Emblem

Glenn S. Robertson, 90th Missile Wing Public Affairs



Earlier this year, the 320th Missile Squadron changed their patch emblem to better support the effort of diversity and inclusivity, moving from the "Thunder Chief" logo approved in 1965 to the "Moby Dick" imagery of the squadron's World War II heritage.

Though the original image was intended to honor the Native American warrior spirit while also highlighting the shared history and heritage of Native American and U.S. military forces in the area, according to Jeremiah Foster, 90th Missile

Wing Historian, squadron leadership believed that a change was appropriate to better reflect the history and heritage of the 320 MS while eliminating the possibility for the logo to cause offense.

The new patch hearkens back to the squadron's World War II history and shows deference to their roots with a large whale on a blue background.

"The whale pays homage to the 320th Missile Squadron heritage from World War II, when the squadron was known as the 320th Bombardment Squadron with the nickname 'Moby Dick'," said Lt. Col. Aaron Linton, 320 MS commander. "The redesign of the original squadron emblem from World War II also contains a blast from the whale's blowhole to allow us to utilize the color red, representing our current squadron nickname of 'Big Red'."

AAFM National Meeting in Buellton, CA 23-27 October 2024

Registration: Online at www.afmissileers.org or complete the form on the last page of this newsletter. Closeout date is 23 September 2024.

Hotel Reservations: We will be using the [Santa Ynez Valley Marriott](#).



Rate is \$189/night with an increase on Saturday night. There is no airport shuttle.

Not Staying at the Hotel? - If you are staying in an RV, other hotel or with friends, or live in the area, you

can attend any or all of the events. Complete the reservation form for the events you would like to attend. Check with the front desk for parking permits.

Hospitality Suite - Open every day when no other activities are scheduled, with snacks and refreshments and some items from the AAFM store. Registration fee covers suite operation.

Attire - Casual dress for all events except for the Banquet: business casual (open collar shirts, coats optional, no jeans)

Special Needs - Let us know of any special diet needs, handicapped access, etc.

Schedule of Events –

Wednesday, 23 October 2024

1300 - Registration, Hospitality Suite open – Early Bird \$35 until August 15th; then \$40

1800 - Welcome Reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and pay as you go bar - \$28 per person.

Dinner on your own

Thursday, 24 October 2024

0700 - Breakfast \$22

1230 - Depart hotel for Fess Parker Winery tour- bus, lunch, and wine tasting \$85 per person (limit 100)

1800 - Dinner at the hotel with pay as you go bar - \$48 per person.

Friday, 25 October 2024

0700 - Breakfast \$22

0815 - Depart hotel for Vandenberg tour- bus and lunch \$70

1630 - Return to hotel

1800 - Dinner at the hotel w/speaker and pay as you go bar - \$50 per person

Saturday, 26 October 2024

0700 - Breakfast \$22

0730 - 0830 - AAFM Board of Directors Meeting

0900 - General Membership Meeting

1200 - Lunch \$45

1800 - Hall of Fame AAFM Banquet w/ speaker - \$60 per person, choice of Steak, Chicken, or Vegetarian and pay as you go bar

Sunday, 27 October 2024

0700 - Breakfast \$22

NLT 1100 - Depart hotel

Taps for Missileers:

Maj (ret) Danny E Cochran, an AAFM member, served in GLCM, Minuteman II and III operations, and HQ SAC, and lived in O'Fallon, MO.

CMSgt (ret) Michael M. Edson, an AAFM Member, served in Atlas F, Matador, Mace, Minuteman I, II, and III, Peacekeeper, SAMSO, 1 Strad, and 3901st at the 551st, 868th, 310th, 351st, and 390th and lived in Redlands, CA.

Maj (ret) Paul J Freeman, an AAFM member, served in Minuteman I and II operations at the 341st and 351st SMW and lived in Colorado Springs, CO.

Col (ret) Joseph C. Friedman, an AAFM member, served in Minuteman II, Titan II, and Peacekeeper at the 44th, 308th, 90th SMW, 3901 SMES and the Western Range and lived in Santa Maria, CA.

Capt James H. Gill, an AAFM member, served in contracting for Minuteman, Peacekeeper, and REACT and worked in BMO, SAMSO, and SMC and lived in Manhattan Beach, CA.

Col (ret) Robert W. Ginn, an AAFM member, served in Titan II ops at the 308th SMW and lived in Tucson, AZ.

Major William Harting, served in the Technical Engineering Division at the 341 SMW and AEDC and lived in Estill Springs, TN.

Col (ret) Harold C. Helt Jr, an AAFM member, served in Titan II ops at the 308th, 381st, and 390th and lived in Tucson, AZ.

Major (ret) Craig C. Henschen, an AAFM member, served in Titan II ops at the 381 SMW and lived in Alliance, OH.

Lt Col (ret) Jack Kappeler, an AAFM member, served in MM I ops at the 90 SMW and lived in Cheyenne, WY.

Maj (ret) Joseph L. Langston, an AAFM Life member, served in Atlas F and Minuteman II ops at the 550th, 44th, and 321st, and at 2 ACCS, ALCS and HQ SAC and lived in Austin, TX.

Sgt Donald E. Luther, an AAFM member, served in Atlas F and Titan II at the 551st and 395th and lived in Plymouth, IN.

SMSgt (ret) Jerry L. Marler Sr, an AAFM member, served in AGM and Hound Dog at the 2 and 100 AMMS, in Thor and Titan at the 4300th, 390th, and 392nd and lived in Mustang, OK.

Major (ret) Malcolm McCown, an AAFM Life member, served in Minuteman III ops at the 90 SMW and lived in Colorado Springs, CO.

SMSgt (ret) Max L. Meyer, an AAFM member, served in Atlas D and Thor at the 10 AD, 392nd, and 6510th and lived in San Diego, CA.

Lt Col (ret) Norman H. Monson, served in Atlas at the 556 SMS, and Minuteman II at the 341 SMW, and SAMSO and lived in Yucaipa, CA.

Lt Col (ret) David E. Ridenour, an AAFM Life member, served in Minuteman III operations at the 91 SMW and lived in Arvada, CO.

Col (ret) Ralph D. Scott, an AAFM member, served in Minuteman I, II, and III operations at the 455th and 341 SMW, 15 AF, 4315 CCTS, 3901 SMES, and HQ SAC and lived in Yakima, WA.

Maj (ret) Dwight P. Stevenson, an AAFM member, served in Atlas F, Minuteman I and II at the 341 SMW and lived in Great Falls, MT.

1SG Ken Suffridge, an AAFM member, served in Thor and Atlas D at the 549th and 566th SMS, and lived in Rockmart, GA.

Maj (ret) Robert A. Wyckoff, an AAFM member, served in MM II ops at the 341 SMW, 1 STRAD, Titan IV, and STS and lived in Lompoc, CA.

New Members

We continue to welcome new members to our Association, as well as longtime members who decided to convert from annual memberships to lifetime memberships. New members can learn more about member benefits by visiting AAFM's website at www.afmissileers.org.

New Life Members since August 2023:

Leslie Day	Elizabeth Keller
Marc Keller	Wes Klett
Mak Teodosio	

Upgraded to Life Membership since August 2023:

Souder Andrews	Carli Frasier
Michael Landon	Geoffrey Mann
Michael Vaughn	

New Annual Members since August 2023:

Holly Ahearn	Thomas Allen
Stephen Baxter	David Berndt
Barry Black	Kelly Bryan
Eddie Carmichael	Andrew Carroll
Jorge Castro Lemus	Greg Coleman
Lloyd Culbertson	Jed Davis
Keith Davis	Peter Dering
Peter deKam	Philip Fleury
Allen Fonken	Ryan Fannesbeck
Alyssa Ford	Andy Franklin
Stacey Glass	Gerald Gude
Michael Gutto	Nicholas Gydesen
Don Harvell	David Hays
William Intihar	Robert King
John Krumm	Thomas McGuiggan
David Miller	William Morris
Justin Nebel	Steven O'Dell
Michael O'Hara	Emanuel Roth
Scott Richard	Tyler Sabo
Rayda Santrach	Donald Shields
Ken Stanford	Kyle Walker
Wade Ward	Alejandro Zelaya

Registration Form – 2024 AAFM National Meeting

On line registration at AFMissileers.org or send this form with check to AAFM, 6128 Highwood Park Lane, Naples, FL 34110

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Number Attending _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____

Arrive _____ Depart _____

Special Requirements _____

(Enter names as preferred on name tags) _____

	Number	Amount
Registration fee-\$35 each	_____	_____
Late registration (16 Aug) \$40	_____	_____
Wednesday Reception- \$28 each	_____	_____
Thursday Breakfast \$22 each	_____	_____
Thursday Tour \$85 each	_____	_____
Thursday Dinner \$48 each	_____	_____
Friday Breakfast \$22 each	_____	_____
Friday Tour \$65 each	_____	_____
Friday Dinner \$50 each	_____	_____
Saturday Breakfast \$22 each	_____	_____
Saturday lunch \$45 each	_____	_____
Banquet \$60 each	_____	_____
Circle one per person: Steak Chicken Vegetarian		
Sunday Breakfast \$22 each	_____	_____

Total Amount _____

Vandenberg Base Tour info:

For DoD ID cardholders: Active/Retired Military or spouse with Mil ID card or CAC holders please provide full name (Last, First, MI) as it appears on your ID and type of card:

Member: _____ **Active/Retired/CAC** _____

Guest: _____ **Active/Retired** _____

For those without active/retired or CAC ID cards, Full Name (Last, First, MI), State Driver's License or passport number and last four digits of SSN:

Member: _____ **DL/passport No:** _____ **DL State:** _____ **SSN Last four:** _____

Guest: _____ **DL/passport No:** _____ **DL State:** _____ **SSN Last four:** _____

Association of Air Force Missileers

P.O. Box 1767

Monument, CO 80132

Change Service Requested

**NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE**

PAID

Permit

Announcements

****Association of Air Force Missileers 2024 National Meeting
Buellton, CA - October 23-27, 2024****

Visit the AAFM Missile Heritage Store online at <https://www.afmissileers.org>



Keep your mailing address, email address and dues current with AAFM. Email us at aafm@afmissileers.org, call 719-351-3962, or mail to AAFM, P.O. Box 1767, Monument, CO 80132

AAFM is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code.
The AAFM Newsletter is published triannually, printed by Minuteman Printing, Torrance, CA.

Board of Directors

**President - Gen (ret) Lance Lord, Aurora, CO
Secretary - Col (ret) Tom Cullen, C. Springs, CO
Col (ret) Linda Aldrich, Estes Park, CO
CMSgt (ret) Tony Bales, Cheyenne, WY
CMSgt (ret) Bob Kelchner, Torrance, CA
Maj Gen (ret) Bob Parker, San Antonio, TX**

**Vice President - CMSgt (ret) Mark Silliman, London, OH
Treasurer - CMSgt (ret) Shane Finders, Bossier City, LA
Maj Gen (ret) Don Alston, Glendale, AZ
CMSgt (ret) John Baker, Melbourne, FL
CMSgt (ret) Mike Kenderes, Santa Maria, CA
Monte Watts, Monument, CO**

**Executive Director - Col (ret) Jim Warner, Naples, FL
Newsletter Editor - Lt Col (ret) Mark Nemish, Rio Rancho, NM**

**Website: <https://www.afmissileers.org>
Email: aafm@afmissileers.org or director@afmissileers.org**