

Air Force Missileers

Volume 28, Number 1

"Advocates for Missileers"

March 2020

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Association of Air Force Missileers

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Cover Photo - The Official Portrait that Hangs in the Pentagon of Missileer and Former Secretary of the Air Force, Thomas C. Reed, Standing Next to a Minuteman Launch control Console



The Mission of the Association of Air Force Missileers -

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

If I was rating my last self-evaluation as Executive Director, I would barely give myself a passing grade. I have more tasks in the "to-do" stack than I have in the completed stack; while new members on the uptick from last year, the number of members we have lost contact with due to bad addresses continues to grow; and while we are continuing to see a growth in "transfers" to life membership, the number of missileers I personally know (some that I work with in my other life) or consider close friends that aren't members seems to be growing. I just don't know which problem to attack first! On the good side, I'm getting back in control of my email!

IMPORTANT NOTE: This month is Board of Directors election month and I'm already behind schedule (see a theme here?). Many of you have already received a ballot by email but for those who didn't, your ballot is below. What's very encouraging is that in addition to the three of four board members that have indicated a desire to continue on the board, we had five more volunteers that stepped up for nomination. We only need four so if you haven't voted, send your ballot to me using the instructions on the form.

As you noticed at the end of last year, we received some pro bono help from Booz Allen to update our web site. Now, I just have to figure out how to manage the site on a daily basis and correct the problems that you have identified. Hopefully, before this newsletter is published, I will have fixed a couple of the bad links, corrected the numerous misspellings in our Patch King Greg Ogletree's gallery, and figured out how to post this newsletter to the site for those that want an electronic version. Our next target is the data base - our hope is to have something more active for you or at least more responsive to inquiries so when you are looking for someone I can accurately respond in a timely manner.

In the newsletter, I shared a request from the AF Global Srikde Command historian on pictures of blast door art. I might have made the mistake of referring to Minuteman blast door art so I heard from a number of you on how Titan had as much blast door art and probably started it first. I won't get in the middle of that debate but the request has sparked another quest to find the painters of Titan site 570-6. See the request from Doug Rutledge. I'm still wondering who has pictures of door art - no matter what the weapon system. The "We deliver in 30 minutes or less"....can't be the only one out there! Speaking of special request, we have a request from Great Britain - if you worked Ground Launched Cruise Missile at Molesworth, there is a request for help from the Huntingdonshire District Council.

This newsletter highlights two sets of stories - our museum grant program and your Call to Service. A cornerstone of our mission is sharing our heritage through museum displays. To date, we have distributed more than \$290,000 to improve missile displays. A list of this year's awardees is in this issue. At the October 2019 Board meeting, Board member Mike Kenderes proposed that we produce and distribute a brochure on the 33 museums across the country with missile displays. An article from Mike Kenderes tells you all about the brochure program. We finish this section with a couple articles on new things to see related to missile museums. Our Call to Service section is all about those members who left the service and continued to serve in one role or another. From the Wyoming Senator who went from crew commander to advocate for the Q01 Museum to the retired Chief who went from missile maintenance to the Register of Deeds in Taylorsville, NC. We have several articles in this newsletter and may continue this in future editions if we continue to get inputs.

I could write more but then why not just read the newsletter! *Thanks, Jim*

2020 AAFM Board Election Mail In Ballot

Complete the form and send to Association of Air Force Missileers, PO Box 652, Johnstown, CO 80534, or go to afmissileers.com/BoardVote.html to vote on line.

I vote to reelect Maj Gen (Ret) Don Alston, CMSgt (Ret) Mark Silliman and Col (Ret) Tom Cullen _____ and I vote for one of these nominees

_____ Col (Ret) Lambeth Blalock: Served in Minuteman in the 91 SMW, 3901 SMES, SAC and Air Staff.

_____ Monte Watts: Served in Minuteman in the 341 SMW and 20 AF.

_____ Col (Ret) Mike Lehnertz: Served in Minuteman and Peacekeeper in the 90 SMW and 341 SMW, in Space at the 45 SW and at SAC, Air Staff, Joint Staff and AFSPC.

_____ Lt Col (Ret) Tom Cavalli: Served in Minuteman, Peacekeeper and Space, 90 SMW, 321 SMW, 30 SW, 1 STRAD and 2 ACCS.

_____ Maj (Ret) Dave Maas: Served in Mace in the 586 TMG, Titan II in the 390SMW and 395 SMS, Minuteman and Peacekeeper in the 394 SMS and at USAFE.

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RL Hotel



Salt Lake City

AAFM National Meeting in Salt Lake City - 2020 or 2021?? - by Col (Ret) Jim Warner, AAFM Executive Director

Warner, AAFM Executive Director

As we all follow the COVID-19 pandemic, your Board of Directors has had a few on line discussions regarding the sensibility of meeting this year or postponing until next year. Quite frankly, the board is split with the majority favoring a postponement. So, the only decision we have made is to postpone a decision until we know more. As a result, you can't find a registration form on line nor will you find one in this issue. We don't want to collect registration fees only to have to refund them. Just to whet your appetite, here are some details of the meeting whether we go this year or next. If you have an opinion, please email me at director@afmissileers.org or call me at 719-351-3962. On or before 1 June, we'll send out an email, put a post on our web page and publish the newsletter early in June, with either registration information or the new dates in 2021.

Reservations - The RL Hotel is just six blocks from downtown Salt Lake City and we have a block of rooms reserved in their newly renovated tower at a rate of \$99 per night plus tax. Registration for hotel rooms can be made by phone at 1-800-733-5466, by identifying yourself as part of the “Association of Air Force Missileers” or go to afmissileers.org, click on the News tab, and on the right side of the page, the “Next National Meeting is being planned for October 2020?” entry” to take you to the hotel link. Free parking is included and a free shuttle from and to the airport and to other venues around the hotel is also provided. Breakfast and wifi included in the rate. There are a small number of rooms available before and after the meeting if you wish to stay and explore the area or spend time with family and friends in the local area.

Not Staying at the Hotel? - If you are staying in a motor home, 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.

Hospitality Suite - Open every day when no other activities are scheduled, with snacks and refreshments. Registration fee covers suite operation.

Attire - Casual dress for all events. 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 – (Cost of individual events to be determined)

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

1300 - Registration, Hospitality Suite open

1800 - Welcome Reception - Stand up buffet and pay as you go bar.

Thursday, 8 October

0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)

0830 - Depart hotel for tour of Hill AFB

1800 - Dinner at the hotel, Italian Buffet



Ogden Air Logistics Center, Provider of Minuteman Logistics Support

Friday, 9 October

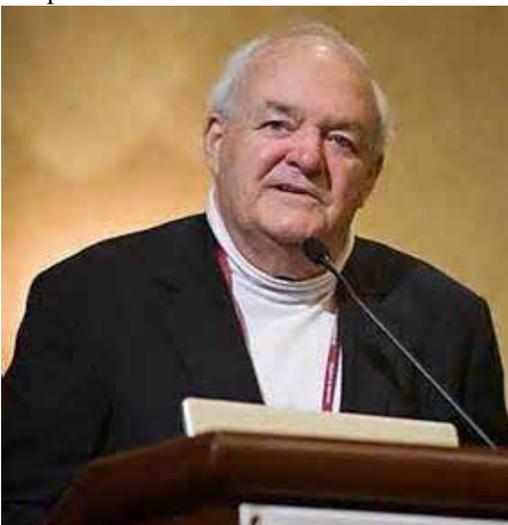
- 0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)
- 0830 - Depart hotel for Tour of Salt Lake area
- 0900 - AAFM Board of Directors Meeting
- 1630 - Return to hotel
- 1800 - Dinner at the hotel - Western Buffet

Saturday, 10 October

- 0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)
- 0900 - General Membership Meeting Lunch on your own.
- 1100 - Board of Directors Meeting open to all AAFM Members
- 1200 - Free Time
- 1800 - AAFM Banquet with featured speaker and special program.

Sunday, 11 October

- 0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)
- 1100 - Depart hotel



Missileer and AAFM Member Tom Reed

About the Cover

As we began putting together this issue, we started looking for an appropriate photograph for the cover. When we changed our format a few issues ago, to begin featuring a single full page color photo in the background on the cover, we usually feature a missile launch or a maintenance activity at a site, something appropriate for the issue. This issue is all about Missileers, but not about missile duty - it is about life after missile duty. Therefore, we wanted to find a picture that represented those missileers who gave back to their community, state or nation through public service, and the official portrait on our cover does that job well.

Thomas C. Reed is a proud Missileer and a long serving public servant. As an Air Force Lieutenant, he earned his Guided Missile Insignia (the Missile Badge), working for Maj Gen Bernard Schreiber in the Ballistic Missile Division as one of our Intercontinental Ballistic Missile pioneers. As a young Lieutenant, his specialty was nuclear weapon design, working on the original Minuteman I reentry vehicle design. He combined Success in the private sector in the private sector with activity in the political world. He was an organizer for Ronald Reagan's campaigns for governor of California and the presidency in 1968. In 1972, Reed performed as a national operative for the Nixon presidential re-election drive.

Reed joined the Department of Defense as an Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense in 1973. He served as Secretary of the Air Force under Presidents Ford and Carter, and served under President Reagan as a Vice Chairman of the newly created National Commission on Strategic Forces. He has been a longtime friend of both Mr. Reagan and the National Security Advisor, William P. Clark. Mr. Clark, especially, is known to have thought highly of Mr. Reed and asked him to take on several key assignments, including reviews of defense and strategic planning.

The portrait on the cover is the official painting that hangs in the corridor outside the Secretary of the Air Force offices in the Pentagon. Secretary Reed traveled to Vandenberg AFB, CA, to pose for the painting in a launch control center, standing beside a launch control console.

Many of our members have heard him speak at our 2008 National Meeting in Washington, our gathering in Rapid City or at one of the unit reunions he attended. His three books, *At the Abyss, an Insiders History of the Cold War*, *Nuclear Express, A Political History of the Bomb and its Proliferation* and *The Reagan Enigma* are all well worth reading.

When I asked Tom Reed recently if we could use his portrait on the cover, there was no hesitation on his part to say yes - he is very proud to be a Missileer and proud of the story that the portrait tells.



Jay Block with President Trump

Missileers and Public Service – by Col (Ret) Jim Warner, AAFM Executive Director

In my free time I like to mentor Missileers and other service members on the transition from active duty to civilian life. Many that I talk to are thinking about working as a defense contractor because it allows them to serve as subject matter experts on something they know well. I often remind them that the known path may not be the best and that opportunities are endless in the civilian community. Our maintenance technicians have learned and applied skills that can be used all across the county. All of us have learned leadership, followership, working as part of a team, and many other skills that every good hiring manager is looking for. Heck, if you show up on time and with a positive attitude you are already more qualified than many of the other applicants.

This series started one day in Albuquerque last year when I was having lunch with Jay Block and learning more than I cared to about politics in New Mexico. I asked Jay why he put up with that stuff - his reflections and those of other members are here for your enjoyment. The call to service doesn't stop with our time in the military - for many like Charlie Simpson who started our Association of Air Force Missileers more than 27 years ago, it started the day he wondered what he should do next. Thanks for your service now and in the future!

We start the series on public servicewith these personal stories form members. Like our previous series on "How I got to be A Missileer" and "What I did After Missiles," I am sure we will see many other good stories from members. If you served as an elected or appointed official, as a volunteer leading a nonprofit organization, or you spent time giving back to your community in some other way, send us your story, with photos, for use in Part II.

A Call to Service - by Jay Block, AAFM Mbr No L757, Albuquerque, NM

As fellow service members who stood watch and defended our country from the evils and spread of communism and socialism during the Cold War, to the War on Terror we have been engaged in since 2001, we understand

what service means. As veterans, it means being part of something bigger than any of us to accomplish a mission for the betterment of our national security. As Missileers we ensured the world's most lethal weapon system was always ready and always feared. You did your job with pride, perfection and dedication to allow hundreds of millions of Americans to live their lives knowing you provided a vibrant deterrent to defend our nation for decades. And that mission is still as important today and maybe more so with other countries trying to match our capabilities or even surpass them.

For many of us who retired or decided to separate after a certain amount of years, the call to serve never subsides. I would argue that trait stays with us into other fields and I have seen it since my 2016 retirement. After I retired, I ran for political office to serve, because I wanted to make a difference in other ways for my community. During my campaign and after I was sworn into office, I came across many vets, young and old, who still had the fire in their heart to serve. I have seen vets working in various capacities, helping in senior centers serving meals, working jobs programs to help others find employment to support themselves instead of relying on government assistance, going back to school to be a nurse, or volunteer at food banks.

Seeing our vets in action across this great country reminds me of Jackie Robinson, a fellow vet by the way, who served in World War II. Jackie said it best, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." All of us can relate to those words and their powerful meaning. It is a safe bet that all who served met the intent of those words sometime in their military career or in their post-military life. That's the unique thing about you, each of you have such a deep love and affection for your fellow citizens and our country that the vast majority of the population doesn't understand. Why don't they? To me, it's easy, they weren't there. They don't know or understand how someone can lay down their life for their country or the person next to them.

The bottom line, be proud of your service and what you did for our country. I know many of you go out of your way not to talk about your service. You are humble but talking about what you did for the country may inspire others to serve, whether in the military or in other ways to help leave this place better than we found it. I have enjoyed my time (for the most part) while in office and I hope to do more in the near future but I wanted to personally say thank you to you all for your service. As fellow Missileers, we should be very proud to be the victors of the Cold War and even more proud that thankfully we never had to use these weapons because our deterrent was so reliable and lethal thanks to our cops, ops, maintenance and civilians who ensured our day-to-day impressive alert rates.

I am honored to be part of this group and I thank you all for your continued service. May God Bless you and the United States of America.



Chuck Gregory at Veteran's Plaza Dedication

A Public Servant Who Just Wanted to Give Back - *By Col (Ret) Sandra M. (Sandy) Gregory, AAFM Mbr N0 L129, Walton, NY*

My husband (Lt Col (Ret) Charles F. (Chuck) Gregory) served as an elected official in Walton, NY, after our retirement from active duty military service. Walton is a small town in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York (yes, New York is more than just the city). Chuck was a Walton native and just wanted to give back to the community that meant so much to him growing up.

Chuck was a servant leader, not just in the Air Force, but also after his retirement. He retired in 2006 and followed me around until I retired in 2012, at which time we moved back to his hometown. He rejoined the volunteer fire department where he once again experienced the camaraderie and esprit de corps he missed for those six years. Always interested in politics, it didn't take long before Chuck ran for public office, first as a village trustee. I thought he was destined to be mayor, but he wanted to learn the ropes first. He had attended practically every village board meeting since returning home, so he was well versed on the issues. As a village trustee, he worked closely with the code enforcement officer, a thankless position. He also served as the village liaison to the non-profit Walton Theatre Preservation Association, dedicated to restoring and maintaining a wonderful entertainment venue enjoyed by such musical groups as Cherish the Ladies. Wanting to learn as much as possible, he volunteered to be part of the team responsible for renegotiating union contracts.

Dismayed that the village and town were not working together as well as he thought they should, to the detriment of the people of Walton, Chuck next ran for town supervisor, defeating a long-time incumbent. As a member of the county board of supervisors, he fought to keep the new mental health clinic building, as well as the associated jobs and services, here in Walton. He was also handpicked to serve on an additional county committee during the controversial public works department relocation decision-making process. He coordinated with the state to

have parking places established on the main street through the village, contributing to the ease of commerce and to the vitality of the community.

Chuck served as the town supervisor until his death in 2018. The town council wanted to make sure his initiatives continued after his untimely passing, so they appointed someone who would continue Chuck's legacy. That person remains in the position to this day, having been selected by the people of Walton in the next election. He was impressed with how focused and organized Chuck's notes and files were when he took over, skills Chuck honed during his time in the Air Force.

Chuck received a master's level education in psychology, as well as a degree in public administration, during his time in the Air Force, both of which he put to good use as an elected official. From the time Chuck joined the volunteer fire department as a teenager, throughout his Air Force career, and until his death, he remained a dedicated public servant. He fully embraced the Air Force's core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. Chuck was well respected by everyone he worked with - even our congressional representative came to pay his respects after Chuck passed. The people of Walton still miss him and his contributions to our community.

From Bombers-Missiles-People to Elected Official - *by CMSgt Benjamin W. Hines, AAFM Mbr No A1005, Taylorville, NC*

It was a cold, snowy night when I arrived at Minot Air Force Base (AFB), ND, in December 1962. It was then that my endeavors with the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) arena began. Not long after my arrival, I was off to Chanute AFB, IL, for training for my assignment was with the 455th Strategic Missile Wing (SMW), in the Missile Handling Team section. In July 1964, I was assigned to FE Warren AFB, WY, in the 90 SMW, the same job in the Missile Handling section. In August 1965, I was sent to the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, March AFB, CA, and this is where my interaction with people improved and



Ben Hoines and His Son on Election Night

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I learned to make more professional presentations to groups of people.. In April of 1969 I became a proud member of the great and wonderful 3901st Strategic Missile Evaluation Squadron (SMES) At Vandenberg, AFB CA. It was there that I found out what professionalism was all about.

From SMES to Whiteman, AFB, MO, the 351 SMW, as my duties led me to Missile Management, where leadership was in high demand. From there I was assigned to the Deputy Commander for Maintenance then onto the position of the Wing Senior Enlisted Advisor. I later became the President of the Dining In and Dining Out events. My duties included welcoming arriving Distinguished Visitors at the flight line and many functions of the Wing Staff, all with the highest integrity and the highest professionalism. Leadership was front and center on a daily basis during my years within the United States Air Force. I learned and grew from my 31 year career in the military.

It was a chilly, fall day in 1983 at Whiteman when I retired from the Air Force. I was sad yet excited for the next chapter in my life. I knew that my years in the Air Force gave me the leadership skills that I'd used in the years to come. My 31 year career in the Air Force helped prepare me for life in the private sector as well as later...being an elected government official.

On a Friday afternoon in 1986, a neighbor paid me a visit, asking if I had ever thought about running for an elected office. I hadn't - but I quickly became curious and agreed to run for the Register of Deeds of Alexander County, NC. I had recently earned my Associate Degree in Business Administration using the GI Bill. During my first year of campaigning I reached back to my experience of working in the Strategic Air Command (SAC), with Bombers-Missiles-People. My experience at SAC helped me entirely. My first election was close. I won by 267 votes. My wife, Gwen, was the most excited I had ever seen her. My excitement was on the same level that I experienced with the 1977 Missile Competition at Vandenberg when Whiteman won the Blanchard Trophy. What a grand night it was!

During my 32 years as the Register of Deeds (campaigning every four years and attending Republican Party meetings) I used the conduct and the professionalism that I learned within the military. I later became the President of the Register of Deeds Association. I undertook many leadership roles within community civic clubs and within my church. I was honored in 2015 as the recipient of the Long Leaf Pine Award, the highest civilian award issued by the Governor of the Great State of North Carolina. I was called to serve the Air Force. Within the military I was surrounded by leaders and role models who helped mold me into the person I am today. I will be forever grateful to the United States Air Force.



Anderson During Floor Hearings

Into the National Spotlight? - by Col (Ret) Richard L Anderson, AAFM Mbr No L244, Woodbridge, VA

Like many Association of Air Force Missillers (AAFM) and other veterans, military and public service runs deep in my veins, and that's what I've known for the last 40 years of my life. I served in the US Air Force for 30 years (1979-2009), retiring in Woodbridge, VA, from the Pentagon after eight years on the Air Staff and in Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). During the first half of my career, I served in Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) operational and staff positions in the 308th Strategic Missile Wing (SMW) (line, instructor (DOT), and evaluator (DOV) crews in Titan II at Little Rock Air Force Base (AFB), AR, Headquarters, Strategic Air Command (SAC) in SAC/DOM (Directorate of Missile Operations), and the 351 SMW (squadron ops officer in the 508th Strategic Missile Squadron (SMS) at Whiteman AFB, MO). In the second half of my career, I transitioned into the Political-Military (Pol-Mil) career field at US Atlantic Command (Norfolk, VA), US Pacific Command (Camp Smith, HI), and Secretary of the Air Force/.

Just prior to my 2009 retirement in Northern Virginia, I was recruited by the Virginia House Speaker to run for a seat in the House of Delegates in the Virginia General Assembly (our state legislature). I demurred at first, but the idea of continued public service soon took hold and I agreed to run. I was elected in 2009 to the first of four terms, serving from 2010-2018. For four years, I chaired the House Science and Technology Committee, the Joint Commission on Science and Technology (JCOTS), the Virginia War Memorial Board, the General Assembly Aviation Caucus, and the Virginia Commission on Civics Education. I also sat as a member of the Virginia Board of Veterans Services, the State Crime Commission, and the Virginia Commission on Youth. So, like anyone who has worn the cloth of the country, I decided to immerse myself in service.

Of these areas of activity, however, the most satisfying was serving as chair of the Joint House-Senate Military and Veterans Caucus. The body consisted of members of the House and Senate, and we functioned as the clearing house for bills that affected the lives of 800,000

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Virginia veterans. In this capacity, I carried two bills that were personally important to me. First was a bill to create the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program, by which employers across Virginia were trained and certified on how to attract, employ, and retain military veterans at competitive compensation packages. To date, more than 50,000 Virginia veterans have been hired under the V3 program. The second bill was a capital project to construct the Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center, a full time care facility for veterans requiring close and continuing care. The facility will open in late 2021.

And now that my service in the Virginia General Assembly has concluded, I have decided to continue in public service as a candidate for chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV). Delegates to the RPV State Convention will elect their chairman to a four-year term when they convene in Richmond on 1-2 May 2020.

For me, public service has been as satisfying as military service. From my perspective, serving in the legislature had a familiar feel to military service. In the Air Force, we served in highly-structured organizations with rules, regulations, and procedures and were under the constant presence of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). In the General Assembly, we also served in a highly-structured institution with strict protocols and a body of ethics law. In the Air Force, we served in squadrons and wings, and in the General Assembly, we served in committees and caucuses. In the Air Force, we were led by senior officers, commanders, noncommissioned officers and first sergeants, and in the General Assembly, we were led by the Speaker of the House, the Majority Leader and committee chairs. In the Air Force, we wore uniforms, while in the General Assembly, we were attired in standard business attire. And when the General Assembly was in session, it felt like the constant high-intensity activity of a Major Command headquarters.

In closing, I would recommend elected or appointed public service to any military veteran, whether they served for decades or for a tour or two. It's in the bloodstream of virtually every veteran, and our state, local, and federal governments need more men and women whose lives have been steeped in service.

Director's Note: If you haven't been watching the news Virginia has become this year's Red vs Blue Battleground. While the majority of the state leans conservative, the heavy populated areas around Washington, DC, and Richmond have allowed the Democrat party to control the Governor's race and the House. Richard's candidacy for Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia may put a Missileer in the national spotlight once again. Regardless of the outcome or the party, Missileers continue to make a difference.



Dave Dennis at Work

It Started with the Homeowner's Association – by Col (Ret) Dave Dennis AAFM Mbr No L605, Wichita, KS

I'm certain that every member of the military who transitions to civilian life has some trepidation, especially those who have spent long careers serving our nation. In the military, our lives revolve around jobs, immediate family and our military family. While we have an opportunity to live and play in the communities surrounding the base, we are not fully immersed in the community, due to the transient nature of our military service. In addition, we cannot consider serving in an elected, local, state or national office.

All that changed for me when my wife and I moved back to Kansas, built a home and put down roots. Soon after moving into our new home, my wife and I attended our first homeowner's association meeting, where I was suddenly elected President of the association. Although the other homeowners did not know about military background, leadership positions I had held, or professional military education that preceded my election to that position, they did know that I was willing to take action to support my new community. That confidence came from my military background. Discussion that evening concerned the possibility of a commercial development that was proposed near our neighborhood and the possibility of a five lane road being constructed next to our home. Those two items caused me to speak out that evening. Fighting the proposed commercial development, relocating a major arterial road and a minor position with a homeowner's association were the beginnings of numerous elected and appointed positions over the next 20 years.

The first step in supporting my homeowner's association was to begin working with the local planning department and my city councilman. Soon thereafter, my city councilman, Bob Martz, appointed me to his District Advisory Board, where I served as his Chairman Pro Tem for the next eight years. Following the next local election, my new city councilman and eventual Mayor of the City of Wichita, Jeff Longwell, kept me on his District

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Advisory Board as Chairman and then appointed me to serve on the Wichita/Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission where I served as Vice-Chairman two years, Chairman for two years and nine years total on that Commission.

Those appointments whetted my appetite for elected office. In 2008, I ran for and was elected to the Kansas State Board of Education. I was interested in that office since I had gone back to college and become a high school teacher following my retirement. I served as the Chairman of the Kansas State Board of Education for two of my four years on that board. During that time, I was elected to serve on the Executive Board of the National Association of State Boards of Education and I was appointed to the Executive Board of the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Then, in 2016, I ran for and was elected to the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners. I have served as Chairman the past two years, and I am running for re-election this fall. In my current job as a Commissioner, I currently serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, on the Greater Wichita Partnership Executive Board, the Sedgwick County Zoo Board, the Visit Wichita Board, the Law Enforcement Training Center Board, the K-96 Highway Board, the USS Wichita Commissioning Committee, and the Exploited and Missing Child Unit Board.

My service and leadership positions in the US Air Force gave me the confidence and skills needed to lead in the various elected and appointed positions I have held over the past 20 years. I feel confident in my ability to manage a budget of \$450 million per year and lead an organization of 3000 employees. The talents each of my fellow missileers have honed in the Air Force are vital to our communities. We are constantly recruiting talented people for the vital work we do here in Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas. Quality of life is one of our chief concerns. If you have any interest in becoming part of our community, do not hesitate to contact me. If not here, please get involved in your community. Each of us has skills that can move your community forward.

It Started with my Grandfather -

Col (Ret) Gill Goering AAFM Mbr No A0071, Clinton, NY

After retirement in 1993, I served as mayor of my hometown, Clinton, NY, from 1997 to 2010. This was a natural progression because both my grandfathers served as mayors; one in Clinton when my wife, Dawn, and I were in high school and my other grandfather was the mayor of Utica, NY in the 1920s. My Air Force experience in missile operations and maintenance certainly helped with managing public works and sewer and water plants, and Air Force contracting duties were a perfect for budget management. I must say that the most enjoyable part of my Air Force and



Gil Goering, Left

mayoral careers was people management. Almost every day I would walk around the village and the public works guys groaned in a good-humored way that the “mayor is out for his exercise again.” All in all, I enjoyed both my careers of public service.

Crewmember to Senator - by Brian Boner

AAFM Mbr No L714, Douglas, WY.

I am glad to provide a brief reflection on how my time in the Air Force has shaped me as a public servant. I served on active duty from 2007-2013, mostly as a crew member in the 319th Missile Squadron at the 90th Missile Wing at FE Warren Air Force Base, WY. I also had the chance to work as an instructor, evaluator and Emergency War Order planner. I finished my time as the Chief of Weapons Safety at 20th Air Force. I will always cherish my time in uniform, the people I had the chance to serve with and all the learning experiences I had in the field and as a staff officer.

After separating from the service, I returned to the family ranch in Converse County, WY. I have found the ability to do meaningful work without being limited by a cumbersome bureaucracy refreshing. In 2015, my state senator resigned his post to move out of state. My time in the missile field convinced my constituents that I had the necessary experience to serve in a Wyoming Senate where the age of the average member was nearly twice my own.

My experience dealing with the “fiscal cliff” which hit the Department of Defense hard in 2013 gave me the skill set needed to cut budgets as the State of Wyoming faces diminishing revenues. The communication skills I developed as a crew member and an instructor have also come in handy. Ultimately, there are few situations I find



Brian Boner

myself in now which compare to the pressures I faced being responsible for a combat ready nuclear force as a young officer.

It is easy to assume that just because there is little work in the civilian world that utilizes the skill sets we developed in the missile field that our military experience isn't relevant after we leave active duty. I disagree with that assertion. Even though I'll never declare a security situation or pen a site again, my time as a Missileer continues to have a profound effect on how I do business as a rancher and legislator.

Note: Brian Boner has been very involved in the Quebec-01 Peacekeeper Museum project in Wyoming. See other articles in this issue on the museum.



John and Robbie Ellen

From Lieutenant to Councilman – by Col (Ret) John Ellen, AAFM Mbr No L310, Kure Beach, NC

Although at the time (teenage Boy Scout) I did not consider I would fulfill my life's dreams and goals by being in perpetual service to others, I now realize what a wonderful journey it has been. I was blessed to have a faith-based mother and father that taught me and my three brothers how important it was to give back. Our parents were Scout leaders and instilled in us that Scouting is adventure, family, fun, character, leadership and so much more. In Scouting, boys start with their best right-now selves and grow into their very best future selves. It's hands-on learning and achievement that puts you in the middle of the action and prepares you for today – and for life.

Of all the family aunts, uncles and cousins, only one cousin was serving in the Navy and my older brother was in the Air Force. During my tenth grade of high school, as my parents tried to get me focused on my future, I started telling them that I planned to be "a retired Air Force Officer".

Upon completion of a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Operations from North Carolina State University, along with Reserve Officer Training Corps, I was sent to Los Angeles Air Force Station, CA, to help develop and procure communication satellites. I dug right in; joined

the Junior Officer's Council, played on the Base squash team and began my graduate work at the University of Southern California.

Three years later, I hit my stride; the Air Force sent me to the 341st Strategic Missile Wing (SMW), Malmstrom Air Force Base (AFB), MT, where I began as a Missile Combat Crew Commander. For some of you reading this it may sound strange, but I spent four full years as a crew member and only had two deputies and graduated the Vandenberg AFB, CA, training as a Commander. My first Deputy took an early-out. I got a new Deputy from Vandenberg and we even got selected by instructors as "as a crew." I applied for Top Hand, was selected and off to Vandenberg in the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test organization.

While serving in Top Hand (Chief of Development Engineering, 1st Strategic Aerospace Division) a friend invited me to a meeting of the Lompoc, CA Jaycees. The last line of the Jaycee Creed states: "service to humanity is the best work of life." This became my new favorite motto and I have tried to live this creed ever since. Along with joining the Jaycees, I was a Junior Officer Council member, Chair of Trustees at the Lompoc Methodist Church and was the 1976 Lompoc Flower Festival Parade Chairman, this is second only to the Rose Parade in number of flowered floats.

Vandenberg was short lived, as we were there only 26 months. Surprisingly, the Air Force selected me to attend the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, CA. Along with 16 other officers from the Navy, Army, Air Force and Marine Corps, we pursued a Master of Science in Information Technology, a new curriculum just coming into vogue. One off-duty highlight was playing on an NPS softball team.

From NPS I was assigned to Air Force Systems Command Headquarters at Andrews AFB, MD and after 14 months, moved across town to the Pentagon to be the Program Element Monitor for ICBM Modernization. Along with this great opportunity to serve Strategic Deterrence, I began to coach little league soccer and umpire little league baseball.

Following the Pentagon and many hours in traffic, we moved to Whiteman AFB, MO, where I was the Commander of the 508th Strategic Missile Squadron. What a great experience molding young officers and sergeants into Air Force leaders. Some of the highlights included being the Olympic Arena Project Officer, being the base liaison to the town of Warrensburg, and the project lead for acquiring a new missile operations building and getting to work with the Army Corps of Engineers. After only 22 months, we moved to Omaha, NE.

At Strategic Air Command (SAC) Headquarters my team of young missileers were responsible for planning the ICBM targeting requirements as part of the Joint Strategic Targeting Planning Staff. My third year at SAC I was the lead for building the SAC Program Objective Memorandum. Community involvement included assistant soccer coach

and assistant Scoutmaster.

Next, we found ourselves in the 91 SMW, Minot AFB, ND. After four months as the Deputy Commander for Maintenance, I was spirited away from the maintenance folks (something about left-handed wrenches) and I became the Deputy Commander for Operations (DO). After a short time as DO, the 91 SMW was chosen by SAC to run a six-month pilot study regarding Group Commanders. The Deputy Commander for Maintenance and I became de facto group commanders and not only had the day to day administration and operation of our two units, but we now had command authority over our personnel. SAC agreed with our results and the age of Group Commanders was born; I was fortunate to assume Command of the 91st Operations Group, the first-ever Operations Group Commander in SAC. Then it was back to Washington, DC, after 22 months.

Returning to DC near the end of my missile career had its reward because we were near both my wife Robbie's and my families in Virginia and North Carolina. I was now the senior officer in missile modernization. I was even in the same office space with the same phone numbers that I served in as a Major. Knowing that I would retire within several years, I put a lot of effort into the community. I was a Scoutmaster, Chair of the Church Council, little league umpire, soccer coach, and coordinator for church youth mission trips. And to the dismay of my four children, I started working on a Doctorate program in Information Technology at George Mason University.

Upon retiring, I stayed at the Pentagon working for a small, woman-owned consulting firm, Aero Thermo Technology, Inc. I was the continuity person for nuclear command and control (NC3). During my 21 years in this position, I got to support some of the Air Force's brightest young officers. There were 15 officers that filled that position as NC2 program monitor. Of the 15 officers, 9 were eligible for promotion during their assignment at the Pentagon. Of the 9 eligible for promotion, 6 were promoted "early," we were rocking NC2. Once all our children finished college, it was time to leave the Air Force behind. From ROTC, active duty and consulting we had spent 50 years serving strategic deterrence. I had so many opportunities that I had never thought possible 50 years earlier.

Once we arrived in Kure Beach, NC, it was impossible to just lay back and go to the beach every day, although there was a fair amount of sun and surf. I joined the Kure Beach Planning and Zoning Commission and for 2 of the 4 years was the Chair. Also, after meeting our local Congressman, David Rouzer, at a Law Enforcement Event, he asked me to join his Veterans Affairs Council; and I readily accepted. Wanting to try the next step, I ran for Town Councilman in 2017. The political process was amazing and I was able to draw upon my wealth of Air Force experiences

(public speaking, problem solving, issue analysis, dress and bearing, person to person interaction, leadership, team participation, team building, debating issues, creating publications). Following 5 months of campaigning against 5 other candidates, I was elected and sworn in as a Kure Beach Town Commissioner in December 2017 for a 4-year term.

You can always learn from both good and bad leaders but I thank God for blessing me with many great missile leaders and mentors: General Jack Chain, General Lance Lord, General James McCarthy, Lt Gen Steve Croker, Maj Gen Bob Parker, Maj Gen Bob Lindhart, Col Jim Warner, Col Mike Jackson, Colonel Jim Posey, Col Dan Clark, Col John Politi, Col Charley Pugsley, Col Ed Battle, Col Charles Simpson, Col Larry Shafer. Thank you, gentlemen, for all your wisdom.

What I learned serving in the Air Force:

Have a vision

Do what's right for the Nation

Integrity, don't leave home without it

If the rules don't work, change the rules

Never lose sight of your tactical objective

Build the briefing so your mother can understand it

Control the electron process and you will control the issue

Falling on your sword over an issue usually just creates a lot of blood

Most action officers process no suspense before its time

It's not the ninth inning until you say it's the ninth inning

Once a good idea is on the table, it never goes away

Models never do capture reality

Practice good government, and Service to humanity is the best work of life!!

An Excellent Way to "Adjust" to Civilian Life – by Maj (Ret) Don Glenn, AAFM Mbr No A3052, Bellevue, NE

I worked as a paid accountant for Special Olympics Nebraska for two years, then for Building Bright Futures, a local non-profit dedicated to raising high school graduation rates in the inner city area of Omaha.

I was the treasurer for Habitat for Humanity of Sarpy County (where Headquarters, US Strategic Command is located) for six years. The corporate bylaws term limited the treasurer. Last November, I was asked to serve as the interim executive director as the organization was going through a tough time.

I have been an active member of Kiwanis International after my Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps assignment commander, a full Colonel, said we "needed to be involved in the community. I am the Rotarian, find a service club." After returning to Strategic Air Command Headquarters, I found another Kiwanis club and served for about 12 years as Treasurer of the district foundation and as district governor for a year. I remain active in my local club as well as the district. By the way, I think belonging to a service club is an excellent way to "adjust" to civilian life.



The 20th Air Force Page



Brig Gen Erich Novak, Mobilization Assistant (MA) to the 20 AF commander, poses for a photo in the 20 AF Headquarters, FE

Warren AFB, WY.

20th Air Force Bids Farewell to Brig Gen Novak - A 20 AF Release

After three years of serving as the Mobilization Assistant (MA) to the 20th Air Force (20 AF) commander, Brig Gen Erich Novak is leaving 20 AF. As a Citizen Airman and a Sentinel Warrior, Novak made it his priority support the commander, accomplish the mission, and to serve other reservists.

“When I first joined 20 AF as the MA to the commander, the position had been vacant for a while. We had a huge gap in opportunities for reservists in the nuclear enterprise,” Novak said. “There was little career development, they were not able to pull alerts, and weren’t doing missile operations (13N) duties.”

Gen. Robin Rand, then the Air Force Global Strike Command (AFSGC) commander, identified the gap in total force support for 20 AF and to grow missile operators, missile maintainers and security forces. Novak set out to change that, first by learning the ins and outs of the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) mission. Then, he developed a career development plan, which outlined the schooling, courses and career progression for 13N reservists. He also started seeking new billets at various ICBM bases to expand opportunities for reservists.

Novak’s big picture goal was to have reservists supporting the nuclear deterrence mission in a sustainable and a mission relevant manner, which included pulling 24-hour alerts and augmenting the Active Component force as requested by the Operations Group commanders starting with Col Bob Ewers, 90th Missile Wing Operations Group Commander. In the very near future, this change will be especially vital during the transition from the Minuteman III weapon system to Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD). How-

ever, the road to success was not easy, because it was never done before.

“This is truly an example of Total Force,” said Col. Steven Priest, Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) to the vice commander of 20 AF. “With the addition of qualified Reservists to augment the Active Component, the USAF Reserve is truly fulfilling its key role to support AFGSC’s critical mission sets and enhance its capability to project power.”

With the help of other Missileer reservists, Lt. Col Jacqueline Hotz, Lt Col Kellie Picinni, Col Robert Jackson, Lt Col Conn McKelvey and Col Steven Priest, the hard work came to fruition. In October 2019, Capt Ben Shea, from Minot Air Force Base, (AFB) ND, became the first reservist to complete a 24 hour alert at a Missile Alert Facility. He was followed by Capt. Javon Quarles from FE Warren AFB, WY, and Capt Spencer Huyck from Malmstrom AFB, MT.

“Gen. Novak’s energy, initiative and commitment to incorporate the Reserve Component into missile operations is unmatched,” said Maj Gen Fred Stoss, 20 AF Commander. “20th AF will reap the benefits of his hard work for years to come.” Novak’s departure from 20th Air Force is bittersweet, for him and the staff.

“Brig Gen Novak made lasting impacts to the operations, maintenance and security forces career fields” said Col Robert Jackson, MA to the 20 AF Director of Operations and Communications. “He basically doubled the number of Reservists serving within 20 AF in less than three years. I think the best thing about Gen Novak is that he is extremely humble and approachable as a General Officer. He always makes time for everyone even though he has an extremely busy and difficult civilian job. I learned so much from him and we are going to miss him greatly.”

Besides learning about the nuclear mission and its importance, serving and learning from his fellow Airmen is what Novak will miss the most.

“I love learning about new missions. Any day where I don’t learn something new, is not a good day,” Novak said. “The men and women of 20th Air Force have amazed me with their dedication, service and professionalism, and it



Maj Gen Fred Stoss, 20 AF commander, Presents a Legion of Merit to Brig Gen Erich Novak.

was an honor to serve alongside every single one of them.” Gen Novak’s next assignment takes him to Barksdale AFB, LA, where he will serve the MA to the commander of 8 AFB.



Maj Gen Fred Stoss, 20 AF Commander; Retired Maj Gens Roger Burg, Tim McMahon, Don Alston, Retired Brig Gen Mike Carrey and CMSgt. Charles Orf, 20 AF Command Chief.

Former Commanders Receive Updates, Provide Leadership Lessons - *By Dr. Jeremy Prichard, 20th Air Force Historian*

On 23 January 2020, four former Twentieth Air Force (AF) commanders joined current commander Maj Gen Fred Stoss for a Commander’s Roundtable. Held in the recently-dedicated Maj Gen Thomas H. Neary Conference Room - himself a former commander -this marked the largest ever official gathering of 20 AF commanders. Combined, those present amassed 166 years of service to the US Air Force, much of that time with the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) mission and various levels of command.

The four former commanders in attendance were Maj Gen (Ret) Timothy J. McMahon, Maj Gen (Ret) Roger W. Burg, Maj Gen (Ret) C. Donald Alston and Brig Gen (Ret) Michael J. Carey.

During the morning session, Gen Stoss provided an update on the state of the command. He and his staff briefed a range of topics related to the ICBM mission, including operations, maintenance, security, nuclear surety, leadership challenges, cultural and organizational changes, and more. Those present also received information on future developments to include Air Force Global Strike Command’s (AFGSC) acquisition of the MH-139 “Grey Wolf” helicopter.

After lunch, Gen Stoss opened up the venue for discussion, hoping to absorb some of the collective wisdom from individuals who’ve previously occupied his seat.

“These awesome former commanders, along with my other predecessors who were unable to attend, made foundational decisions that positively shaped the ICBM

mission,” said Gen Stoss. “I’m humbled by their willingness to return to 20 AF to ask thoughtful questions and share their insights on the future of our vital mission. Their enthusiasm and dedication to this command and ICBMs is just as strong as the day they relinquished command.”

Gen Stoss envisioned holding similar gatherings annually for former retired commanders eager to remain engaged with the command while maintaining lines of mentorship for future 20 AF commanders.

Molesworth Request

Nick Armour is a Conservation Officer working for Huntingdonshire District Council in the United Kingdom. Part of his job is to identify and protect historic sites and buildings in his District. He is currently looking at ways of recording and acknowledging the contribution of Missileers who served with the 303rd Tactical Missile Wing at the RAF Molesworth GAMA (Ground Launched Cruise Missile Alert and Maintenance Area) facility with a view to building a case for the preservation of the site for future generations. He has read some of the articles involving RAF Molesworth from our newsletter but would be grateful for any more information our members could provide.

He is particularly interested in how the structures on site functioned and how they interrelated including defending the site against a ground attack. He’d also love to hear any stories (funny or otherwise) about the day to day experience of working on the site (and maybe dealing with the local residents) and how it felt to be on the sharp end of international diplomacy with the Soviet Union.

If you are interested in helping Nick, you can contact him at Nick.Armour@huntingdonshire.gov.uk. If you copy us on your emails at aafm@afmissileers.org we can also capture your stories for future editions of the newsletter.

A New Titan Museum Site:

The new owners of Titan II site 570-6 in Marana, AZ have reopened the site and are in the process of renovation. They are seeking information on those responsible for painting the Launch Control Center blast door. According to the museum records, the artwork at this site was painted by Capt Harold Wright, and Sgts. Michael Sonnier and Jerry Shurr. The owners would love to get in touch with them to see if it were possible to return to the site and replace the artwork - painting it again on the same door they painted as Airmen stationed here. The owners believe it would be the perfect tribute to the men and women who served here. Our database doesn’t have any record of Capt Wright and Sgts Sonnier and Shurr but maybe you do.

The site is nicknamed “Ole Blood” after a famous B-17 of the 570th Bombardment Squadron. If you have any information on these individuals, you can reach out to Doug Rutledge by email at Doug@sw-air.com or by cell phone 602-390-9990 (leave a message).

AAFM Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 1

March 2020

AAFM Brochure Program

At the October 2019 Board of Directors meeting, the board approved funds to create an AAFM brochure highlighting the 30 plus museums that have displays focusing on the ICBM mission. The board approved a program that would print and distribute a brochure for museum visitors to learn about other locations they could visit. The main purpose of the brochure is to disseminate missile museum information to museum visitors across America thus enhancing our heritage exposure via increased number of museum visitors. The brochure was developed by fellow board member Bob Kelchner, Mike Kenderes and Michael Kenderes (Mike's son). It is two-sided; side one is a map of US pin pointing the location of these museums and side 2 is a directory with museum telephone number, website and location. A copy of the brochure can be downloaded at our website, www.afmissileers.org Copies of the brochure were distributed to each museum in February with a promise to replenish as needed. If you visit one of these museums, look for our brochure and if you don't see it, ask the museum personnel about it.

Missile Museums of America Directory

(T) - Tours Available, call ahead for information.

- 1 AF Space and Missile Museum
www.afspacemuseum.org/visit
Tele: 321-853-9171 Cape Canaveral, FL
- 2 Altus Museum of the Western Prairie
www.okhistory.org/sites/westernprairie
Tele: 580-482-1044 Altus, OK
- 3 Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum
www.evergreenmuseum.org
Tele: 503-434-4180 McMinnville, OR
- 4 Hill Aerospace Museum
www.aerospaceutah.org
Tele: 801-825-5817 Hill AFB, UT
- 5 Indiana Military Museum
www.indymilitary.com
Tele: 812-882-1941 Vincennes, IN
- 6 Jacksonville Museum of Military History
www.jaxmilitarymuseum.org
Tele: 501-241-1943 Jacksonville, AR
- 7 Jimmy Doolittle Air & Space Museum
www.travisheritagecenter.org/visiting
Tele: 707-424-5883 Travis AFB, CA
- 8 Malmstrom Museum
www.malmstrom.af.mil/About-Us/Malmstrom-Museum
Tele: 406-731-2705 Malmstrom AFB, MT
- 9 March Field Air Museum
www.marchfield.org
Tele: 951-902-5949 Riverside, CA
- 10 Mighty 8th AF Heritage Center
www.mightyeighth.org
Tele: 912-748-8888 Pooler, GA
- 11 Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (T)
www.nps.gov/mimi/planyourvisit/index.htm
Tele: 605-433-5552 Philip, SD
- 12 Museum of Aviation
www.museumofaviation.org
Tele: 478-926-6870 Robins AFB, GA
- 13 National Atomic Testing Museum
www.Nationalatomictestingmuseum.org
Tele: 702-794-5151 Las Vegas, NV
- 14 National Museum of the Air Force
www.Nationalmuseum.af.mil
Tele: 937-255-3286 Wright-Patterson, OH (Dayton)
- 15 National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
www.nuclearmuseum.org
Tele: 505-245-2137 Albuquerque, NM
- 16 New Mexico Museum of Space History
www.nmspacemuseum.org
Tele: 575-437-2840 Alamogordo, NM
- 17 Peterson Air and Space Museum
www.petmuseum.org
Tele: 719-556-4915 Peterson AFB, CO
- 18 Plattsburgh AFB Museum
www.facebook.com/Plattsburgh-Air-Force-Base-Museum-524430474285464
Tele: 518-566-1814 Plattsburgh, NY
- 19 Quebec 01 Missile Alert Facility State Historic Site
www.wyoparks.gov/index.php/places-tp-go/Quebec-01
Tele: 307-422-3425 Cheyenne, WY
- 20 Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site (T)
www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/minutemanmissile
Tele: 701-797-3691 Cooperstown, ND
- 21 San Diego Air and Space Museum
www.sandiegoairandspace.org
Tele: 619-234-8291 San Diego, CA
- 22 South Dakota Air and Space Museum (T)
www.sdairandspacemuseum.com
Tele: 605-385-5189 Ellsworth AFB, SD
- 23 Space and Missile Center Heritage Center
www.smcenterheritagefoundation.org
Tele: 310-653-3009 Los Angeles AFB, El Segundo, CA
- 24 Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum (T)
www.sacmuseum.org
Tele: 402-944-3100 Ashland, NE
- 25 Titan II Missile Museum
www.titanmissilemuseum.org
Tele: 520-625-7736 Sahuarita, AZ
- 26 US Space and Rocket Center
www.rocketcenter.com
Tele: 800-637-7223 Huntsville, AL
- 27 Vandenberg AFB Museum (T)
www.vandenberg.af.mil
Tele: 805-606-3595 Vandenberg AFB, CA
Space Launch Complex 10 tours
- 28 Vermont National Guard Military Library & Museum
vt.public.ng.mil/About-US/History/Museum
Tele: 802-338-3360 Colchester, VT
- 29 Walker AFB Museum
www.wafbmuseum.org
Tele: 575-347-2464 Roswell, NM
- 30 Warren ICBM and Heritage Museum
www.warrenmuseum.com
Tele: 307-773-2980 Warren AFB, WY
- 31 Whiteman AFB Museum (T)
www.whiteman.af.mil/Community/Tours
Tele: 660-687-6560 Whiteman AFB, MO
- 32 Wings Over the Rockies Museum (T)
www.wingsoverrockies.org
Tele: 303-360-5360 Denver, CO

Missile Museums of America



This directory was donated by the
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These pieces continue to deepen the rich history of the site and its mission of nuclear deterrence.

Reservations can be made in advance at spcrtourreservations@wyo.gov or calling 307-422-3425. The site is open in the winter Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 pm, weather dependent and in the summer Tuesday through Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. Please like us on Facebook at Q01 to find updates.

Q01 and National Park Status - by Tom Simmons, Historian, Front Range Research Associates, Inc.

Have you spent any time at Quebec-01 (Q01) in any of its three configurations (Minuteman I and III, and/or Peacekeeper)? Front Range Research Associates is preparing a National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination for Q01 for the National Parks Service and Wyoming Parks. This nomination will recognize the site as a nationally significant historic place that played an important role in the Cold War by serving as a launch control facility for three generations of ICBMs -Minuteman I, Minuteman III, and Peacekeeper. Q01 is unique as the only surviving Missile Alert Facility (MAF) that controlled all three missiles. NHL designation would be comparable to the recognition afforded the Minuteman National Historic Site in South Dakota (associated with Minuteman II).

The team visited Q01 site last October and conducted fieldwork and photography. They have watched the well-made video on Q01 produced by Wyoming Parks, in which several missileers appear. In addition, they examined websites of former Missileer groups, books on the missile program, articles, and other videos about specific missiles and programs. As part of our research, the research team feels it will be useful to talk with former Missileers and others with specific knowledge of Q01 in particular and the missile program in general. The team has reached out to several missileers that the Wyoming Parks have been dealing with but they would like to cast a wider net.

Areas of interest for the nomination in which you might be able to assist include how the facility changed over time, as it transitioned from Minuteman I to II to Peacekeeper. It would be interesting and helpful to talk with an individual who spanned all three eras, if such a person exists. The recollections of women missileers would provide additional perspectives. In one section of the nomination, the team will describe the facility of layout, function, and architecture, so there may have specific questions about how things worked and when changes were made above and below ground. Quite helpful (but challenging due to camera restrictions on site) would be photos of the topside from different eras. Were there any events where official photos were taken, perhaps in connection with visits of VIPs to the facility? How often did distinguished visitors come to Q01? Given its location adjacent to I-25 and proximity to Cheyenne, the team understands it was one of the easier MAFs to access.

While we have toured Q01 with Christina Bird from



Interior of the Recently Opened Q-01 Peacekeeper Museum

Peacekeeper MAF Open! - By Christina Bird, Superintendent, Quebec 01 Missile Alert Facility

What a ride! The Quebec 01 (Q01) Missile Alert Facility (MAF), after many years of planning and restoration work, opened to the public on 13 August 2019. This was made possible by the hard work of the US Air Force, the Wyoming Legislature, Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources and the generosity of retired Air Force personnel who helped with planning, interpretation and objects for the site.

The site was officially transferred to the State of Wyoming in June, 2019, thanks in part to the National Defense Authorization Act that was signed by President Donald Trump in December 2017. This site is significant as the only accessible Peacekeeper Missile Alert Facility left in the world and will strive to preserve and interpret the Cold War history of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, fostering an understanding of the mission and duties of the personnel and crews assigned to work there.

The Quebec 01 Missile Alert Facility State Historic Site offers the visitor the opportunity to see a military installation that was “hidden in plain sight” and controlled one of the most destructive nuclear weapons ever built by the United States. The site delves into the daily lives of missileers, topside personnel, missile technology, the Cold War and the deactivation of this missile system. Q01 features a self-guided exterior walking tour, a self-guided topside tour and full guided tours of the launch control capsule.

In October 2019, the site was dedicated by Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources as the newest State Historic Site in Wyoming. Over eighty people joined the festivities with food, tours and opportunities to meet peers with deep connections to Q01. We were honored to have members of the Air Force, Wyoming State Legislature and many partners join us for this event. The Boeing Corporation was also in attendance to view their loaned Peacekeeper guidance computer as well as an Inertial Measurement Unit that was installed at the site just in time for the celebration.

Letters to AAFM

Wyoming Parks, it would be quite helpful to walk through the site with some former missileers to understand it from your perspective and experience. This would provide additional insights into what it was like during a typical duty cycle.

If you are interested in providing information, please contact the team via email or phone if you would be willing to assist in any of the above topics. This is not a short-term project, so their timeframe is flexible and can accommodate your schedule. You reach Tom in Denver at: 303-477-7597, fraden@msn.com, www.frhistory.com

Charitable Donations

This quarter we received \$658.25 in charitable donations to AAFM. One was in direct support of our recognition program and the other was anonymous through America's Charities - most likely a corporate matching program. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are a 501c(3) non profit so these type of donations help keep the lights on and are tax deductible. I never thought about asking my employer for a matching donation but if you need our tax ID for your company, please let me know at director@afmissileers.org

Missile Heritage Grants

Each year, AAFM provides about \$10,000 to museums to update or enhance missile displays. To date, we have funded more than \$290,000 in projects to more than 30 museums. We honor members who have passed away in the year the grants are awarded by providing the grants in their memory. A committee of three board members, Bob Parker, Jock Dodson and Mike Kenderes, reviewed eight applications for 2019 grants. We funded 5 of the 8 grants for a total \$10,520. They were: \$540 to the Jacksonville Museum of Military History for motion-activated audio players for Rocket Fuel Handler's Coverall Outfit (RFHCO) displays, \$3,000 to the National Museum of Nuclear Science for Minuteman I Restoration and Erection, \$3,480 to the SAC and Aerospace Museum for a new title banner and new mannequin display cases, \$2,000 to Museum of the Western Prairie for an interactive console for an Atlas F display and \$1,500 to Vermont National Guard Military Library and Museum an exhibit of 556 SMS (Atlas F). I bet you didn't know we had two Atlas F missile sites in Vermont 1962-1965!

We provided grants to honor these members: Col William Albro, Lt Col Roland Anthony, Lt Col David Bates, Maj Steven Brooks, CMSgt David Cashman, Maj William Christians, SSgt George Kovach, Dan Lawrence, TSgt Harold Leonard, Lt Col James Luetkemeier, SMSgt Ben McAnsh, Col Howard McWilliams, Lt Col Tom Resha Jr., MSgt Pablo Sanchez Jr, Lt Col Chaplain James Sheerin, Maj Robert Thompson, Kevin Welsh, Lt Col Edward Westwood and SMSgt John Yuhas.

Address letters to AAFM, Box 652, Johnstown, CO 80534, or send by e-mail to aafmmail@afmissileers.info Letters may be edited, content/meaning will not be changed.

Santa Maria Barbecue Thanks - The Global Strike Challenge Booster Club would like to thank AAFM for your generous and continued support of the Global Strike Challenge Pre-score Posting BBQ. Your 2019 financial gift enables us to host over one hundred competitors and provide a custom competition coin to them. Already these coins are a hot item and are considered prestigious. We hope your organization gained some new members from your efforts and the advertisement at this year's dinner. Thanks you for ensuring we could host the Santa Maria BBQ. It's a highlight for our warriors. *Lt Col Michelle Gill, GSC Booster Club Outreach Coordinator.*

Atlas Photo - The caption on the photo on page 3 of the September newsletter is titled "Emplacing an Atlas D at Vandenberg.". The three Atlas D launch pads at Vandenberg had a heavy roof that rolled forward and back via cables on a superstructure. I know, because I was stationed there from November 1962 to March 1966. This photo shows a roof that slides sideways. *Eric Meislahn.*

Your Editor should have paid attention to the file name for the photo we used, since it clearly marked "Warren Atlas D Being Emplaced."

Genealogy Research - The Mormon Family History Library is in Salt Lake City, so some members might want to do some research while at the National Meeting. I checked and the library will be open on Columbus Day. *CMSgt (Ret) Richard Hartman, AAFM Mbr No L626, Fullerton, CA.*

Missing milestones - 17 Dec 1957, the first group of airmen qualified on the Snark cruise missile graduated at the Northrop assembly plant in Hawthorne, CA. 15 Sep 1959, first launch of a Minuteman at the AF Rocket Propulsion Lab, Area 1-100. 3 seconds of propellant and tethered. 1 Feb 1961, first Minuteman free flight launch at the Cape. *Maj (Ret) Julius F. Sanks, AAFM Mbr No A3134, Ashburn, VA.*

Since the original source documents for our list in the September issue was a Strategic Air Command Milestone list, a lot of events were not included. The original authors also obviously were somewhat limited in the amount of space available within the publication, since they tended to only include what they determined to be significant "firsts." Since we could continue adding other events if we set no limits, we will end the updates with this letter.

Dues are free for active duty enlisted and \$20 per year (\$5 for active duty officers and students), \$50 for three years (\$14 for active duty officers and students) and \$300 for a lifetime membership. Life membership donations can be made in up to 12 monthly installments. Dues can be paid by mail with a check or on our web page using PayPal. Our benefits and programs:

- Quarterly newsletter at the end of March, June, September and December, by mail or electronically.
- Email updates to every missileer on our contact list.
- AAFM's web page, at afmissileers.org.
- Member Directory every three years, available free electronically and for \$10, a mailed print copy.
- National Meetings every two years, always near a base with a missile-related mission.
- Missile Heritage Grants to museums for missile and missile-related displays.
- Participation in Air Force events, including the Bomb and Missile Competitions.
- A large library of publications, videos and CDs about missile history and missile programs.
- A Donations/Store area with logo items, lapel pins and badges, CDs and DVDs, models, books and much more.

New Members since 31 December 2019 - Markus Bahnemann, John Bergin, Michael Bishop, Ed Brault, Thomas Crowley, William Curtis, Matt Dixon, Steven Geigle, Philip Goodge, Bill Gray, Robert Green, Robert Harris, Robert Jager, Haley James Donald Madtes, Mike Norcross, William Plowden Jr, Rick Rutowicz, Jesse Smith, James Sorenson, Michael Spehar, Tony Sukla, Scott Tomlinson, Matt Dixon,

New Life Members - Greg Boyette, Robert Bridges, Joe Conlon, Brian Crawford, James Hastings, Frank Holden, Reynald Laps, Hunter Parisian, John Stewart, Lok Ming Tam, Woody Tircuit, David Tondreau.

Taps for Missileers

SSgt (Ret) Ron Barrett-Smith, an AAFM member, served in Maintenance in maintainer who worked Thor and Minuteman I. and lived in Glendale, AZ.

Col (Ret) Howard Brubaker served in Minuteman operations at the 90 SMW, 91 SMW, and 341 SMW, and lived in Pitsboro, NC.

Maj Daneker served as a missile crew member in the 321 SMW.

Col (Ret) Al Davy, an AAFM member, served in Operations and Maintenance in Titan II at the 381 SMW and Minuteman II at the 44 SMW and at 15 AF, and lived in Derby, KS.

Major Donald Finn, an AAFM member, served in Operations in Mace, Atlas D in the 389 SMW, in Minuteman in the 90 SMW and the 341 SMW, and at SAC and PACAF and lived in Carmichael, CA.

MSgt (Ret) Bobby Grant served in missile maintenance in the 91 SMW, and lived in Pittsburgh, PA. Lt Col (Ret) Edward Westwood served as a missile maintenance officer in the 394 SMS and 1 STRAD.

TSgt (Ret) Austin Johnson, an AAFM member, served in the Mace in the 71 TMG in MACE and in Minuteman in the 351 SMW, the 394 SMS and 1 STRAD, and lived in Cincinnati, OH.

Col (Ret) Howard McWilliams, an AAFM member, served in Minuteman operations in the 44 SMW and 4 ACCS, and lived in Xenia, OH.

Former Sgt Harvey Pyle, an AAFM member, served in Minuteman maintenance in the 341 SMW, and lived in Casa Grande, AZ.

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, PO Box 652, Johnstown, CO 80534.

Available for Members

2018 Membership Directory - 90 pages with information on current, past and deceased members. Free electronically or \$10 for a mailed copy. Email aafm@afmissileers.org or send a check to AAFM, PO Box 652, Johnstown, CO 80534.

AAFM Email List - addresses for all members with email, email aafm@afmissileers.org for a copy.

Dues Status - check the address block on your mailed copy of the newsletter - the number above your name (919 means dues expire in September 2019) or email aafm@afmissileers.org if you receive the electronic newsletter.

Donate to AAFM Missile Heritage and Enlisted Recognition Funds

Use the Form Below for Mail or go On-line to afmissileers.org

Lapel Pins

AAFM Brief Case, \$15 each Quantity ____ Total\$ ____

Missile Badge - Silver, 1 1/4 inch, Indicate quantity of each - Basic Badge ____ Basic with Ops Designator ____

Senior Badge ____ Senior with Ops Designator ____ Master Badge ____ Master with Ops Designator ____

Space Badge - Silver, 1 1/4 inch, - Basic ____ Senior ____ Master ____

Other Lapel Pins - Indicate quantity for each AAFM - ____ SAC - ____ Cuban Crisis - ____

Minuteman II Alerts - 100 - ____ 200 - ____ Master Technician - ____

Any Two Pins - \$10. Any 6 pins - \$25. Any 15 Pins, \$50. Total Amount for Lapel Pins \$ ____

Full Size Reproduction Missile and Combat Crew Badges Finish, styles and sizes - NS Non-shiny, CF chrome finish, FS full size, SS, smaller size for shirt outer wear. Mark quantity below. Not all versions available

Basic, No Ops Designator - NS FS ____ SS ____ Senior, No Ops Designator - NS FS ____ SS ____

Master, No Ops Designator - NS FS ____ SS ____ Basic, Ops Designator - NS FS ____ CF SS ____

Master, Ops Designator - CF SS ____ Combat Crew Badge NS FS ____

\$10 each - Total Amount for Badges Ordered \$ ____

Official Chrome Finish badges, any of the six in either full size or shirt size available by special order, prices vary.

Challenge Coins

AAFM - \$10 each ____ 3 for \$25 ____ 3901 SMES Mission Complete \$10 each ____ 25th Anniversary of AAFM ____

Missile Competition Coins - Any \$3 for \$15.

Guardian Challenge Coins (AF Space Command Competitions) 2006 ____ 2008 ____

Global Strike Challenge (AF Global Strike Command Comp) 2010 ____ 2011 ____

2012 (Cuban Missile Crisis) ____ 2014 ____ 2019 (\$10, limited numbers) ____ Total for Coins \$ ____

Patches

AAFM Golf Cap, \$15 Each Quantity ____ Total \$ ____

AAFM - 2 for \$10 ____ 5 for \$25 ____ Subterranean Sentinels - \$10 each ____ 3 for \$25 ____

Cuban Missile Crisis 2012 Commemorative - \$10 ____ 3 for \$25 ____

Reproduction Patches - Made for reunions and donated to AAFM - \$10 each

341 MIMS ____ 321 OSS ____ 6555 ATW ____ SAC with Stripe ____ 50 Years Deterrence ____

AAFM CD and DVD Collections -

CD sets - AAFM and Historical Data ____ Early and Airlaunched Missiles ____ Atlas D, E, F ____

Titan I and II ____ Minuteman I, II and III ____ Competitions and Peacekeeper ____ GLCM ____

Matador and Mace ____ All Eight CD sets - \$50 - ____

DVD Sets - AAFM and Historic Videos ____ Atlas D, E, F and Titan I and II ____ GLCM ____

Minuteman I, II, III and Peacekeeper ____ Early Airlaunched Missiles ____ Air Force Space Videos ____

SAC ____ Competitions ____ All 8 DVD sets - \$50 ____

SAC Memorial DVD - Dedication at Dayton ____ AAFM 2012 National Meeting at Malmstrom ____

The Groobers Missile Music CD ____ Total Amount for CDs/DVDs \$ ____

Publications - Greg Ogletree's "History of the Missile Badge" - \$10 ____ Bill McKee's Cartoon Book,

"Missile Business" - \$10 ____ AAFM Poetry Collection - \$15 ____

AAFM 2012 Book "Missileers and the Cuban Missile Crisis" - \$15 ____

Prints - Signed/numbered Print "Countdown - 5,4,3,2,1" - \$15 each - Quantity ____

Randy Mayse signed print for Malmstrom 25th Anniversary - TE on site - \$25 each Quantity ____

Cuban Missile Crisis Painting of Malmstrom's A-06- \$15 each - Quantity ____

Joe Andrew's painting, "The Guardians" - \$10 each Quantity ____ Total Amount for Publications \$ ____

Bob Wyckoff's Collection of Poems - plus AAFM's "We are Missileers"

All Poems printed on Photo Paper for Framing - \$15 ____

Minuteman I, II and III 14 inch Desk Models - in white or real colors. Delivery time about four months - \$220 each - call AAFM for details and to order or go to our web page. Limited number of MMIII in current real colors - \$175.

Order and Pay on-line at the Donations/Store area on our web page, afmissileers.org with a credit card. Books and Special Collectibles (pins, patches, prints, and more) also shown there. Or complete the form and send your payment (checks only) to Association of Air Force Missileers, PO Box 652, Johnstown, CO 80534. Shipping included - Note that the minimum order amount is \$10 due to increased cost of shipping.

Order Information -complete the form and send your payment (checks only) to Association of Air Force Missileers, PO Box 652, Johnstown, CO 80534.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Total Amount of Order _____

Association of Air Force Missileers - Membership Application

Complete and mail to AAFM PO Box 652 Johnstown, CO 80534 or log on to afmissileers.org

Membership Categories - Free for Active Duty Enlisted

Annual (\$20) ___ Active Duty/Student (\$5) ___ Three Years (\$50) ___ Active Duty/Student (\$14) ___

Lifetime (\$300) ___ (Payable in up to 12 installments) **Member Number** _____

Name	Phone
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Address	Email
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City	State	Zip	Rank/Grade
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Signature	Active Duty ___ Retired ___ Discharged/Separated ___ Guard/Reserve ___ Civilian ___
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Awarded Missile Badge - Yes ___ No ___

Can AAFM release this information - only to members and missile organizations? Yes ___ No ___

List your Missile Experience including Systems and Units - e.g. - Minuteman, 90 MW, Atlas 556 SMS, Hound-Dog 319 BW, etc. Include all higher headquarters, training, test, evaluation or other special assignments.

Specialties - Operations ___ Maintenance ___ Munitions ___ Comm ___ Facility Mgr ___ Safety ___ Civil Eng ___ Support ___
Research/Devel/Test ___ Instrumentation ___ Security ___ Contractor ___ () Other _____

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Reunions and Meetings

390th SMW Memorial Association - 23-27 September 2020 in Tucson, AZ. For more information: Contact: John Lasher, 520-886-3430; Dick Kampa, 520-747-7592; Joe Brown, 520-886-2379 or redsnooty@comcast.net.

485th TMW - 18-21 June 2020, Plymouth Massachusetts , Contact Joe O'Brien, Phone 508-265-6619,
Email mojo1119@yahoo.com

Association of Air Force Missileers 2020 National Meeting - 7-11 October 2020 at the RL Hotel in the Salt Lake City/UT. Hotel registration information and details on page 1 - watch the AFM Web Page at afmissileers.org and the @AFMissileers Facebook page for further information on event registration and final decision on meeting this year by 1 June.

Plan your unit reunion in conjunction with our National Meetings and let AAFM take care of all the details. Get your reunion notices in early so we can help spread the word. Keep in mind that a significant number of our members do not use Facebook or email, so include a telephone contact number in your announcement.

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, PO Box 652, Johnstown, CO 80534

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