

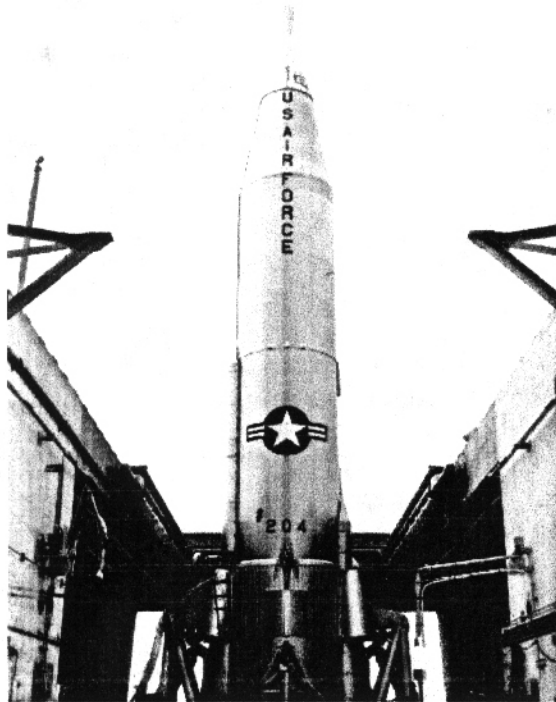
# 548<sup>th</sup> SMS

MISSILE

TIMES

Volume 1, Issue 5

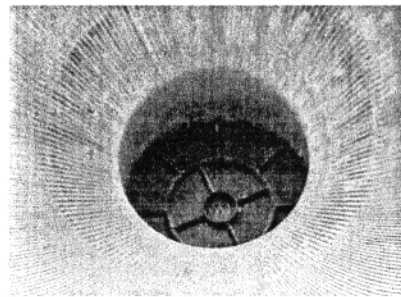
December 2005



## COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Being retired we take full advantage of our ability to travel to warmer climates during the colder weather. This year we have become "Snowbirds" so we will be spending 3 or 4 months in the Orlando and Homestead areas of Florida. While in Orlando with plenty of time to sightsee, we decided to pay a visit to the Kennedy Space Center, we haven't been there since about 1983. Things have really changed in those 22 years; one notable difference is the new Apollo/Saturn V museum building that houses the Saturn V moon rocket. While taking photos of the Saturn V booster engines I noticed a baffle (concentric rings & blades) adjacent to the injector

Plate inside of one of the booster engines. As soon as I saw that booster I had an immediate flashback to the 548<sup>th</sup> SMS MAB. While I was working as an MMT in Maintenance during the Atlas update program, I was working with the engine shop replacing engines on one of the "Birds" with the new updated engines. When I saw that the new engines incorporated a baffle adjacent to the injector plate, I recall the thrill that I experienced, for the following reason.



Prior to entering the Air Force and for about 10 years after leaving the service, I was employed at Princeton University in the Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department. Our research project at the university was experimental research of Instability in Liquid Rocket Engines. The instability phenomenon was a major factor in failures during launch in the early days of rocketry. A large part of our work was designing and installing various configurations of baffles in the experimental rocket engines. We would test fire the engine then break it down and re-install another baffle in another configuration then fire again. This research, along with the resulting baffles, that helped stabilize the initial start of a rocket engine were a huge factor in the increased reliability of liquid rocket launches in the early days and one of the reasons for the new engines on the Atlas. I never did know if any other maintenance people knew of the reason for the peculiar rings inside the engines. It was such a good feeling, knowing that the work that we did applied directly to the Atlas and Saturn V/Apollo projects.

Did you work at the "Cape" or V-Burg? Do you have a story to tell? If anyone has a story that they would like to pass on, feel free to submit it for publication in our newsletter.

## Newsletter editor needed

When I first started searching for 548<sup>th</sup> members it was with the hope of an eventual reunion in Topeka, KS. At that time I felt that it was necessary to keep the recently located squadron members informed as to the progress of the members search and how reunion plans were coming. The result was the birth of our association newsletter "The Missile Times", which I edited until our reunion in September 2003. With our lives about to go through a drastic change during the coming year, (Mary & I retiring and disposing of most of our possessions), I knew that I wouldn't be able to devote the time necessary to edit the newsletter. At that time, Jack Roberts stepped up and took over as the newsletter editor and continued for the last 2 years. Again times have changed and we need a volunteer to come forward to assume the duties as the new Editor of the "Missile Times". If you would like to help out, with assistance from myself and others, contact me at [njpeeps@att.net](mailto:njpeeps@att.net) or 609-462-5644

Thanks, Don

## 2006 Reunion

The next 548<sup>th</sup> reunion will be held in conjunction with the Association of Air Force Missileers meeting in Cheyenne Wyoming, 27 September through 1 October, 2006, at the Little America Hotel and Resort.

Several individual missile squadron associations will be having their meetings during this event. The 548<sup>th</sup> SMS will be included. The times for these meetings will be announced at a later date. See the enclosed AAFM Meeting Schedule and Registration form for the schedule of events.

The hotel rate of \$87 includes a buffet breakfast for two on Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun mornings

The Registration form allows selection of each event that you would like to attend with cost for each, people will have the opportunity to select the events that they would prefer to attend.

This info can also be found on the AAFM web site [www.afmissileers.org](http://www.afmissileers.org)

Another web site that might be of interest to you is [www.stlucas.com/jslstuff/atlas2.txt](http://www.stlucas.com/jslstuff/atlas2.txt) This is a list of that gives an Atlas launch history.

**Membership dues:** During the organizational meeting at which the 548<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron Association was formed, a decision was made to set the dues structure at \$10.00 per member per year. These funds will go for the usual things such as postage, web site maintenance, etc. Some funds will be kept in reserve for assistance in organizing the next reunion.

The membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31. This year, dues paid will be good thru December 31, 2006.

As of the date of this newsletter, we have 90 paid-up members. A list of members should be available soon on the web site. [www.548sms.com](http://www.548sms.com)

**Remember, to receive future issues of this newsletter, you will need to be a paid-up member.**

Make your checks payable to: 548<sup>th</sup> SMS Association Send checks to:  
Warren L. Shane, 1809 Clarks Creek Rd, Junction City, Kansas 66441

## New Member Password for 2006

Those that have already paid their dues for 2006 will see the 7 character password on your address label. You will need this password to access the member's only section of the 548<sup>th</sup> SMS web site in 2006.

Sign in data is:

USER ID= 548SMS

PASSWORD= #####

Domain: Leave Blank

## FROM SUPPLY

### 548<sup>th</sup> SMS Association Items for sale:

Patches ----- \$ 4.00 ea.  
Pins----- \$ 4.00 ea.  
White Visor with a pin attached----- \$10.00 ea.  
CD # 1 \*\*-----\$7.00 ea.  
CD # 2 \*\*\*----- \$7.00 ea.  
Bio Booklet -----\$ 7.00 ea.  
T Shirt ...  
only 5 left, 1 S, 3 Med, 1 XXXL-----\$12.00ea.

**All prices include shipping.**

**All receipts from sales go to the association treasury.**

\*\* CD # 1 = Approx. 140 photos of site construction through de-activation, including base and squadron member pictures.

\*\*\*CD # 2 = This CD is comprised of all the photos taken during the 2003 reunion activities. Those folks that couldn't make it to the reunion may want to purchase this CD to get filled in on what we did and who was there.

The pin is a miniature 548<sup>th</sup> patch about 1" Diameter. If you would like to purchase a hat for \$10.00, (white hat with a 548<sup>th</sup> patch on the front) I will have more hats made if there is enough interest, let me know if you would like to order one.

Make your checks to: 548<sup>th</sup> SMS Association  
Send your orders for these items to:  
Stan Bieleski, Jr.  
104 Teakwood Ct.  
Clinton, TN 37716

## TAPS FOR 548<sup>TH</sup> MISSILEERS

Since the first list of former 548<sup>th</sup> SMS members was compiled, we have found that some have passed on. Of course, others will follow. This space will be dedicated to listing those who have become deceased as we learn of their passing.

*We need your help in remembering these men. You can help by notifying one of the 548<sup>th</sup> SMS Association officers if you learn of the passing of one of our members so that their names can be posted here. Please try to provide us with as much information as possible in each case.*

## EDITOR'S BRIEFING

I have been told that in show business there is a principle that suggests that you should always end the show before you are out of material and leave the audience wanting more. I have also heard that it is a sound business practice to quit while you are ahead.

I do not know if I am out of material or if I am ahead, but I do know that I am out of time to devote to this newsletter! Family and business interests and commitments have made a mockery of my free time, so I have informed the officers of the 548<sup>th</sup> SMS Association that this will have to be the last newsletter that I put together.

It has been fun because I have had the opportunity to initiate contact with several ex 548<sup>th</sup> SMS members who were not on the original membership list. It has also been sad, because, unfortunately, I have had to add some names to the list of deceased members. But, all in all, it has been a good run.

Now, I would encourage some worthy individual to step up to the plate and assume the responsibility of editing this rag! I know there is someone out there who can do a better job than I have done, so please get with Don and the gang and have a go at it.

Just remember to keep me on the mailing.

## Roll Call

Do you have any copies of your old orders? These documents or other 548<sup>th</sup> memorabilia you may have saved could aid us in identifying and locating former 548<sup>th</sup> members. If you can share copies of these documents, please send them to Warren Shane at the above address.

## 548<sup>th</sup> Legacy

At the last reunion in 2003, while visiting the Jackson Heights School, several people made a suggestion that the association make some presentation to the school in the name of the members of the 548<sup>th</sup> SMS. This could be in the form of an annual or biennial donation to purchase an item that the school would put to use. (We did see that their gym displays a number of pennants donated by different groups). Another future possibility (if funds are available) would be to establish some type of small recurring scholarship for a high school student. The criteria could be developed at a later date if such an endeavor should be voted in.

We will make a decision on this at the 2006 meeting, Give Us Your Thoughts

## FROM ACCOUNTING

Following is the Treasurer's Report from June 9, 2005 thru Dec. 12, 2005.

Beginning Balance June 9, 2005 2777.11

Income:

Sale of Merchandise	10.00	
Interest	2.85	
Membership Dues	330.00	
Donation		15.00
Total Income:		357.85

Expenses:

Postage	129.50	
Printing	73.14	
Total Expenses:		202.64

Ending Balance Dec. 12, 2005 2932.32

Warren Shane 548<sup>th</sup> SMS Association Treasurer

## Atlas "E" Facts

Total produced	=	78
Launched From VAFB	=	13
Launched from CCAFS	=	18
Scrapped at Norton	=	14
Museum Articles	=	2
Salvage/tests	=	4
Not launched	=	20

## 548th ATLAS "E" Disposition

23 E	**	Unknown
44 E	**	Severely damaged at 548 SMS site 2 in March 1962
33 E	**	Unknown
38 E	**	Unknown
45 E	**	Launched 24 Mar 1995 DMSP USA 109 The Last "E" Launched
49 E	**	Unknown
50 E	**	Launched 14 May 1991 NOAA 12
54 E	**	Launched 2 Feb 1988 DMSP USA 29
59 E	**	Launched 20 June 1987 USA 1987
63 E	**	Launched 24 Sept 1988 NOAA 11
75 E	**	Launched 14 Jul 1983 Navstar 8/GPS 8

DMSP = Defense Meteorological Satellite  
GPS = Global Positioning System  
CCAFS = Cape Canaveral Air Force Station

## Help Identifying Members

On the last page is a photo that was taken at the 2003 reunion in Topeka. We need help identifying some of the people in the photo. If you can identify yourself & the people on either side contact Don @ [njpeeps@att.net](mailto:njpeeps@att.net) or 609-462-5644

## Cold War Museum

The Cold War Museum Founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers Jr., (son of U-2 Pilot Gary Powers). and John C. Welch, the Cold War Museum is dedicated to preserving Cold War history and honoring Cold War Veterans. For more information, call 703-273-2381, go online to [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org) or write Cold War Museum, P.O. Box 178, Fairfax, VA 22038. The November 1 issue of the Cold War Times is now ready for viewing online at [www.coldwartimes.com](http://www.coldwartimes.com)

## COLD WAR RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE

The Cold War Recognition Certificate is available to persons who served in the DOD, Navy or War Dept between Sept 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991, honoring them for their roll in winning the cold war.

FAX to 1-800-723-9262 or

Mail to:

CDR, AHRC

Cold War Recognition, Hoffman II

Attn: TAPC-CWRS, 3N45

200 Stovall Street

Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Applicants must present proof of service  
Applicants must use FAX or US Mail to submit supporting documents. Each mailed or FAXed request must have official documents verifying their service. Acceptable documents include any government form that includes the applicant's name, Social Security or service or Foreign Service number and the date of service. DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty); WD AGO Form 53-55

## Take Note!

If you will be making hotel reservations in Cheyenne, contact the hotel as soon as possible to be sure you get a room. Tell them you are with Air Force Missileers.

# The Association of Air Force Missileers Seventh National Meeting

## Cheyenne, Wyoming, 27 September - 1 October 2006

**AAFMs Seventh National Meeting** - The members of the Association of Air Force Missileers will gather at the Little America Hotel and Resort, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 27 Sept to 1 Oct 2006, the home of the 20th Air Force and the 90th Space Wing.

**Little America Hotel and Resort** - Located on the west side of Cheyenne, near the intersection of Interstates 25 and 80.

**Reservations** - Make your hotel reservations directly with the Little America Hotel, ensuring you say you are attending the AF Missileers meeting. Convention rate is \$87 per room, including breakfast for two each morning. You must make reservations before 27 August 2006. Call 800-235-6383 or write Little America Hotel and Resort, 2800 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY 82009.

**If You Are 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 scheduled. Complete the reservation form for the events you would like to attend. Note that you can attend the breakfasts for \$11 per day - see the note on the registration form.

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

**Attire** - Casual dress for all events. Dress appropriately for missile site tours - remember the steep stairs.

**Refunds** - Registration fees can only be refunded normally if you cancel by 27 August 2006. Some fees may be refunded with shorter notice. Please inform us immediately if you have to cancel.

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

### Schedule of Events -

#### Wednesday, 27 September

1300 - Registration, Hospitality Suite open      1800 - Welcome Reception - Stand up buffet and pay as you go bar, \$20 per person.

#### Thursday, 28 September

0700 - Breakfast (included in room rate)  
0830 - Depart hotel for tour at Warren AFB Minuteman briefings and facilities - \$25 per person including charter bus and lunch at the Warren Club. Return to hotel at 1630.

1800 - Dinner at the hotel - \$25 per person

#### Friday, 29 September

0730 - Breakfast (included in room rate)  
**For Golfers** - 0900 - Golf Tournament at the Warren AFB course - shotgun start at 0900, so be there by 0830. \$43 for non members, \$23 for members, including green fees, cart, prizes and lunch

#### For Non-Golfers

0900 - Depart Hotel for Cheyenne historic tour - \$30 per person including charter bus, lunch and attractions. Return to hotel at 1600.  
1800 - Depart hotel for Dinner at Museum of the West - \$30 per person including charter bus, dinner and museum fee.

#### Saturday, 30 September

0800 - Breakfast      0930 - General Membership Meeting  
1100 - Board of Directors meeting - open to all.      1230 - Depart to tour Atlas site - \$15 per person includes charter bus  
1800 - AAFM Banquet with featured speaker - \$27 (chicken), \$30 (beef) per person

#### Sunday, 1 October

0800 - Breakfast (included in room rate)

**548 SMS**

**Registration Form - 2006 National Meeting**

**ATLAS**

Mail with check to AAFM, PO Box 5603, Breckenridge, CO 80424

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____      Number Attending _____</p> <p>Spouse/Guest Name _____</p> <p>Arrive _____      Depart _____</p> <p>Special Requirements _____</p> <p>(Enter names as preferred on name tags)</p> <p>Banquet choices - Beef _____ Chicken _____</p> <p>Breakfast for non-hotel attendees - \$11 each - nuber for each day</p> <p>Thur _____ Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Registration fee - \$15 each</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reception Buffett - \$20 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warren Tour - \$25 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday dinner - \$25 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golf Tournament - \$43 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$23 for Warren members</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cheyenne Tour - \$30 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday Dinner, Museum, Bus</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>\$30 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atlas Tour - \$15 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Banquet - \$27 or \$30 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Chicken _____ Beef _____)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total Amount</td> <td style="text-align: right;">_____</td> </tr> </table>	Registration fee - \$15 each	_____	Reception Buffett - \$20 each	_____	Warren Tour - \$25 each	_____	Thursday dinner - \$25 each	_____	Golf Tournament - \$43 each	_____	\$23 for Warren members	_____	Cheyenne Tour - \$30 each	_____	Friday Dinner, Museum, Bus	_____	\$30 each	_____	Atlas Tour - \$15 each	_____	Banquet - \$27 or \$30 each	_____	(Chicken _____ Beef _____)	_____	Total Amount	_____
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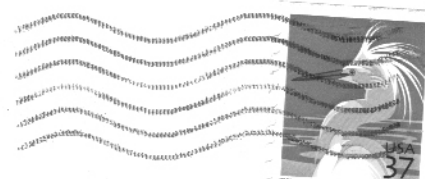
Can you name these reunion attendees?



*Support our Troops*

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