

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Mary and I are now retired and recently had the opportunity to spend five weeks in Topeka visiting family. It seems as though whenever I had been in town since leaving the 548th, I have, at some time, thought about the 548th missile sites and the people who worked at them.

This visit is no different from those in the past, with one exception. There are many more memories to reflect upon, since the first 548th reunion that was held in Topeka in September 2003. The tours that we took, the reminiscing in the hospitality suite, the excitement of the members and their emotions while touring the sites will never be forgotten.

One day we drove down to site #3 south of Lyndon, then headed up to Burlingame. As we approached town on Hwy 56, we passed the park where we had lunch on the day of our site tours. When I looked at the park I could visualize our members picnicking and sharing the excitement of their visits at sites 2 and 6. It is with these thoughts in mind that I make this suggestion.

Start now to make your plans to attend the next 548th SMS reunion. It will be held in Cheyenne, WY starting on Sept. 27, 2006. This reunion will be held in conjunction with the Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFAM) biennial reunion. Check their web site at www.afmissileers.org

Note! It is **not** necessary to be a member of AAFAM to attend this reunion.

One major benefit of having a joint reunion is that several other missile squadrons may also hold their reunion along with us in Cheyenne. At this time it looks like the 556 SMS Atlas "F" Plattsburgh, NY and possibly the 381SMW Titan II, McConnell AFB, KS will be attending.

This may be a great opportunity to meet up with old friends/classmates who were assigned to other missile units so many years ago. A Hospitality Suite will be open any time there is no other activity and we can have a 548 meeting at a time of our choosing. Also, the 548th members can be seated as a group at all meals.

See the related reunion article on page 3.

Hope to see you in Cheyenne!
Don

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site

Mary and I are in Alaska now. On our way up here in mid May, we stopped at a new site in the National Park System. It is the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site at Cactus Flat, South Dakota

The Delta 09 silo and Delta 01 LCF are now open for tours. We scheduled a tour on the 17th of May and we are happy that we included this stop in our itinerary.

This site is located in Cactus Flat, South Dakota. It was established by the United States Congress in

1999. Its purpose is to preserve Delta-09 launch facility & Delta-01 launch control facility.

See www.nps.gov/mimi

or <http://www.nps.gov/mimi/index.htm>

or send Email to: mimi_information@nps.gov or phone 605-433-5552 for more information. (Note! there is an underscore between mimi & information)

This particular Minuteman site was chosen for several reasons. It is located near a major highway (I-90 exit 131) and an existing National Park Service unit (Badlands NP). It is also the least altered from the original 1961 Minuteman configuration.

We made an appointment for our tour well in advance. We were going to be passing through this area of South Dakota and wanted to be certain a tour slot was available. Tours can only handle 6 people at a time.

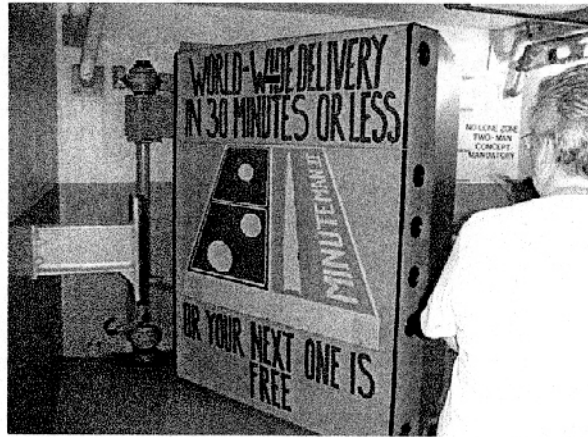
We were fortunate in that our park ranger/tour guide, Kerry Davis was a Minuteman MCCC at Whiteman AFB, MO in the 80's. As may be expected, he was very knowledgeable about the system. Our tour began with a briefing at the Historic Site office at Exit 131. This briefing advised us of some of the history of the minuteman systems. We then drove west to the Launch Control Facility.

Ellsworth's above ground LCFs included security, sleeping, kitchen, exercise and power generation facilities. A short elevator trip down to the capsule brought us face to face with the huge blast door that secured the capsule. After a thorough explanation of the crew's duties and the equipment that they operated we returned topside.

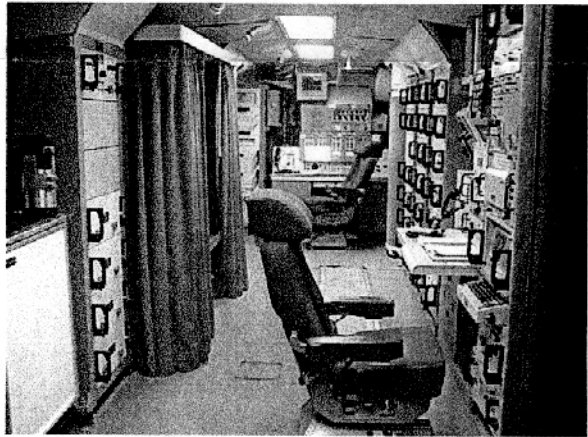
Now back into our cars we caravanned to Delta-09 at exit 166. The topside of the missile silo appears original with the exception of the overhead door. The enclosure is now glass to allow viewing of the Minuteman from directly above.

In my opinion this tour is well worth the stop if your ever in the Rapid City area.

Don



Entry door to the launch capsule. Love the message!



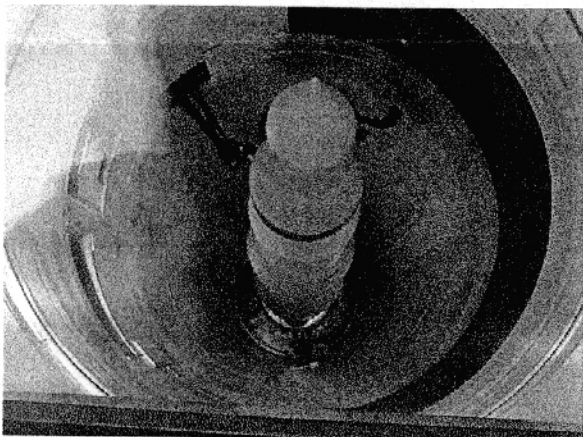
Launch control capsule.



Above ground facility. The launch crews and security forces lived here for several days at a time.



Above ground lounge for the crews.



View down the tube.

2006 REUNION

Plans for the Sept 2006 reunion are in the earliest stages but following is the tentative schedule for the event.

Wednesday, 27 Sept, Registration beginning at 1300
 Wednesday evening 1800 Welcome buffet
 Thursday, Tour of Warren AFB
 Thursday evening, dinner at a location to be determined
 Friday, local area tours or golf tournament for the golfers
 Friday evening, dinner at hotel or other location
 Saturday 0900 general Membership (AAFMM) meeting with briefings
 Saturday 1100 Board of directors meeting open to all
 Saturday afternoon, tour Atlas E/D facilities
 Saturday evening, banquet

The hotel rate of \$89 includes a buffet breakfast for two on Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun mornings

A Registration form will allow selection of each event with cost for each – people will have the opportunity to select the events that they would prefer to attend.

Membership dues: Please pay the \$10.00 dues at your earliest convenience. Send them to Warren Shane, the 548th treasurer, at 1809 Clarks Creek Rd., Junction City, Kansas 66441.

They are due by the end of December each year. It is these dues and a lot of work by a few members that bring these newsletters to you. Any monies left after the annual printing and mailing costs will be used as a cushion for the next reunion startup funds.

548th Legacy: We are still looking for ideas for something to do with some of the association funds. At the last reunion in 2003, while visiting the Jackson Heights High School (our Site #9 north of Holton), several people made a suggestion that the association make some presentation to the school in the name of the members of the 548th 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 possibility 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.

Perhaps this would be an item of interest to be discussed at the 2006 meeting.

FROM ACCOUNTING

Following is the Treasurer's Report from Nov 9,2004 Thru June 9,2005.

Beginning Balance Nov 9,2004	2098.45
<u>Income:</u>	
Sale of Merchandise	98.00
Interest	5.65
Membership Dues	810.00
Next Reunion Reservation	40.00
Total Income:	953.65
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Postage	140.06
Printing	134.96
Total Expenses	275.02

Ending Balance June 9,2005 2771.11

Warren Shane 548th SMS Association Treasurer

FROM SUPPLY

548th 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 548th patch about 1" Diameter. If you would like to purchase a hat for \$10.00, (white hat with a 548th 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: 548th SMS Association
Send your orders for these items to:
Stan Bieleski, Jr.
104 Teakwood Ct.
Clinton, TN 37716

ROLL CALL

During the organizational meeting at which the 548th 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, 2005.

As of the date of this newsletter, we have 81 paid-up members. A list of members should be available soon on the web site. www.548sms.com

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

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

Do you have any copies of your old orders? These documents or other 548th memorabilia you

may have saved could aid us in identifying and locating former 548th members. If you can share copies of these documents, please send them to Warren Shane at the above address.

EDITOR'S BRIEFING

We have been contacted by Charles Bounds. His father, Sgt. M.L. "Red" Bounds, was the first sergeant of the 548th for most of its existence.

If you recall, Sgt. Bounds was a big guy with ruddy complexion and red hair. I was always impressed with the medals and badges that he proudly wore. I did not know it at the time, but among those medals were the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. Among the badges were the Combat Infantryman's badge and the Paratrooper's badge.

You see, "Red" Bounds joined the Army in 1940 and was involved in most of the major European battles as a Ranger. He was wounded in Holland after a night jump into that country. In another action, he and three other Rangers rescued the son of General Terry Allen who had been captured by the Germans.

Sgt. Bounds was my idea of the consummate military man; sharp, squared away, and dedicated. He also scared me to death!

The last thing an enlisted man wanted to hear was that he was to report to the first sergeant. This usually meant that you had really messed up and that the first sergeant would meet out your punishment.

I only had to report to Sgt. Bounds one time; and that occasion was for re-enlistment counseling. I guess being scared of him is one thing that kept me from committing more serious infractions!

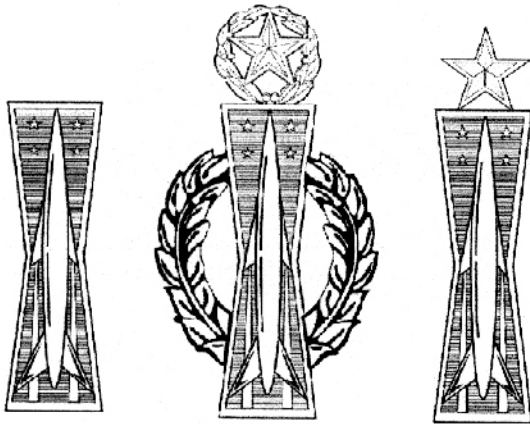
Sgt. Bounds was an avid softball pitcher and coach. He had three Air Force championships under his belt and numerous trophies on his shelves.

Sgt. Bounds retired in February, 1963. He passed away in April, 1991, and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Ft. Worth, Texas.

His son, Charles, is requesting that anyone who has any additional information about Sgt. Bounds or any stories to share, please contact him at goat67400@aol.com. Perhaps someone who was on the softball team remembers Charles (known as Chuck). He would have been about 10 at the time and often served as batboy for the team.

Let's help him out if we can.

+++++



The venerable "Pocket Rocket" that we all once wore with pride has evolved over time. It is scheduled to undergo even more changes in the not too distant future. In fact, the new regulations that govern the wearing of the badges may be in effect by the time you get this newsletter.

While the new regulations are still undergoing some fine-tuning, the following is a general summary.

1. The familiar basic missile badge (above, left) is to be worn by maintenance personnel who have completed missile training and a short assignment with a missile unit.
2. Maintenance personnel who have advanced to the 7 skill level will be authorized to wear the Senior badge. (above, right)
3. Maintenance personnel who have attained the 7 level and who have 5 years of experience at that level are authorized to wear the Master badge which consists of a basic badge but with a star circled by a wreath, both mounted on the top of the badge. (above, center)
4. Presently, operations personnel are authorized to wear the appropriate badge depicting skill level and longevity, but with an additional wreath affixed to the center of the badge. (above, center)



"Space" badge

The new "space" badge is for operations personnel serving in certain space/missile oriented career fields. It will come in three varieties. The basic badge will not have a star and wreath mounted above the stylized rocket in the center. The star and wreath, when added, will denote advanced skill levels, longevity, and professional certification in the various designated career fields. At this time, we area assuming it is to be worn above the left pocket.

The old Airman First Class (E4) is now called Senior Airman but the stripe did not change. Master, Senior and Chief stripes have changed as shown below.



TAPS FOR 548TH MISSILEERS

Since the first list of former 548th 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 548th 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.

1st Sgt. M.L. (Red) Bounds passed away in April 1991. See additional information in the Editor's Briefing section.
Chester P. Laraby passed away in 1986. No other information is available.