



## COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

During our travels this spring, Mary and I were staying near San Antonio, TX. While there we drove to Johnson City to pay a visit to the LBJ National Historic Park. We took a nice bus tour of the LBJ ranch (Texas White house) which is now a State/National Park plus it is still the home of "Lady Bird". We were surprised to learn that "Lady Bird" still lives in the home on the ranch. Also quite interesting is the fact that LBJ's ranch foreman was given a house on the property which will remain his or his families,

his widow still lives there. We went by the reconstructed Home where LBJ was born and lived until he was 5 years old. We also went to the Johnson family cemetery where LBJ is buried. A few other points of interest to us (that affected our lives in the 60's) was the long runway where Air Force One would fly the President in and out of his Texas ranch. The other, behind the house was what appeared to be a "Mobile Home" painted "Olive Drab", it was pointed out to us that this was the Texas "Command Post" where LBJ, the Joint Chiefs & Robert McNamara would plan strategies in conducting the Vietnam War.

On to more current affairs! The 2<sup>nd</sup> 548<sup>th</sup> SMS reunion is fast approaching; by the time you receive this newsletter our gathering will be less than 90 days away. As you know the reunion will be held Sept. 27 to Oct 1, in conjunction with The Association of Air Force Missileers biennial meeting in Cheyenne, WY. Everyone is welcome; you Do Not need to be a Missileer member to attend our reunion. The 556 SMS Atlas "F" from Plattsburgh will also be attending. Those of you who missed our memorable 1<sup>st</sup> reunion don't want to miss this one.

We will have an opportunity to see today's missileers at work, in operations, maintenance and support as well as to learn about the history of Cheyenne. For those who have never had an opportunity to visit an Atlas "E" site since the 1960's will have their chance when we visit an "E" site near Greeley, CO.

Start now to make your plans to attend this reunion. A registration form is enclosed in this newsletter. Make your hotel reservations directly with The Little America Hotel and Resort at 800-235-6383

Check the AAFM web site at [www.afmissileers.org](http://www.afmissileers.org)

This could 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 548th meeting at a time of our choosing. Also, the 548<sup>th</sup> members can be seated as a group at all meals.

**Hope to see you in Cheyenne!**

Don

## REMAINING IN CONTACT

It has been almost 3 years since the last reunion; it was a few years before that when I first started locating and contacting *squadron members*. In that period of time some addresses have changed. After all that extensive research work I would hate to loose contact with any of our found members. If you receive this newsletter with a yellow tag on it from the post office it's a sign that the address that I have is not up to date. Anyone who has changed mailing address, e-mail or phone number during the last few years, please send me any changes so our files can be up dated.

## Minuteman Missile National Historic Site

If you happen to be in the South Dakota area, make this part of your plans. The site is located in Cactus Flat, South Dakota. The park was established by the United States Congress in 1999. It's purpose is to preserve Delta-09 launch facility & Delta-01 launch control facility.

See [www.nps.gov/mimi](http://www.nps.gov/mimi)

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

or send an Email to:

[mimi\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:mimi_information@nps.gov) or phone 605-433-5552 for more information. (Note! there is an underscore between mimi & information)

Reservations are a must since only 6 people can be accommodated on each tour. In my opinion this tour is well worth the stop if you are ever in the Rapid City area.

Another point of historical interest is the **Titan Missile Museum** 1580 West Duval Mine Rd. Green Valley AZ. 85614 520-625-7736  
Email [tmuseum@qwest.net](mailto:tmuseum@qwest.net)

## 2006 REUNION INFO

Plans for the Sept 2006 reunion are underway the 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 (AAFM) 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.

## 548<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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 Treasurers Report from Dec 12, 2005 Thru June 28, 2006.

Beginning Balance Dec 12, 2005 2932.32

### Income:

Sale of Merchandise	53.00
Interest	8.62
Membership Dues	490.00
Total Income:	551.62

### Expenses:

Postage	137.87
Printing	55.61
Total Expenses	190.48

Ending Balance June 28, 2006 3293.46

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

## 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 pictures 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 Bielecki, Jr.

104 Teakwood Ct.

Clinton, TN 37716

## ROLL CALL

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 78 paid-up members. A list of members should be available soon on the web site. [www.548sms.com](http://www.548sms.com)

Make your checks to: 548<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## THE EDITOR'S BRIEFING

"Listen UP! I need additional stuff for this newsletter! If you don't start providing me with something printable, I am going to start filling the space with trivia and recipes!" You don't really want that do you?

OK, PEOPLE! Jack Roberts first made this request when he was writing the Missile Times. Jack has gotten too busy and had to pass up as editor, I am doing the newsletter again. I DO NEED HELP though! *I need something to write about* and all of you can help with that. Send me a story funny or serious about life or duties in the 548<sup>th</sup>. Do you have a story to tell about one of your "boring" alert tours or a maintenance project at a site? How about it DON CRAVEN or JOHN KERSHAW you must have something that you can talk about now.

## Cold War Museum

On occasion I receive correspondence from Gary Powers Jr. He is the son of U-2 Pilot Gary Powers and the founder of the COLD WAR MUSEUM. It is scheduled to be opened at the Lorton, Nike Missile site in Fairfax, VA in the fall. If you can volunteer, write a written history, record an oral history, take a Spy Tour, arrange a lecture, send an artifact, or make a donation, these can be made through a secure online website at

[www.guidestar.org/partners/networkforgood/donate.jsp?ein=54-1819817](http://www.guidestar.org/partners/networkforgood/donate.jsp?ein=54-1819817) or

[www.justgive.org/giving/donate.jsp?charityId=18894](http://www.justgive.org/giving/donate.jsp?charityId=18894)

In addition, you can help support the Cold War Museum by doing online searches through

[www.goodsearch.com/Default.aspx](http://www.goodsearch.com/Default.aspx). For every search done in this medium, the Cold War Museum will receive a small donation.

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### Greetings from your Treasurer!

I have enjoyed getting the \$10 checks in the mail for the last three years for your membership dues. Some of you just send the check marked dues and for the year. Some of you send me a nice greeting note. I enjoy reading all of those notes. I hope to see many of you at the reunion in Cheyenne, WY. We have 73 listed as paid 548<sup>th</sup> Association members at this time. I have also received some copies of orders and miscellaneous pictures from a few individuals. The people that I have received information from are Michael Piekarski, John B. Hoinski, John O. Embich, Mervin G. Walker, Jerry Ford, and Bruce Casper. Among all of the Missile Launch Crews I have three pictures of the five member crew, standing in their white coveralls. If there is any more of those pictures that anyone has and would like to share them, please send

me a copy of it. I would like to put together a display of as many of the launch crews as I can for the reunion in Wyoming. Send a jpeg file of the picture to my e-mail address of [dncr1809@earthlink.net](mailto:dncr1809@earthlink.net). My snail mail address is 1809 Clarks Creek Rd., Junction City, KS 66441 if you have anymore copies of orders or pertinent documents of interest. I hope to create a display for this information at the reunion.

### Membership dues

Please pay the \$10.00 dues at your earliest convenience. Send them to Warren Shane, the 548<sup>th</sup> 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.

548<sup>th</sup> Association Treasurer

Warren Shane

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

Since the first list of former 548<sup>th</sup> SMS members was compiled, some have passed on. Of course, others will follow. This space will be dedicated to listing those who have become deceased since the last communication.

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.

Notification of another deceased member was received in May of 2006.

Gerald S. Scherer 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.