

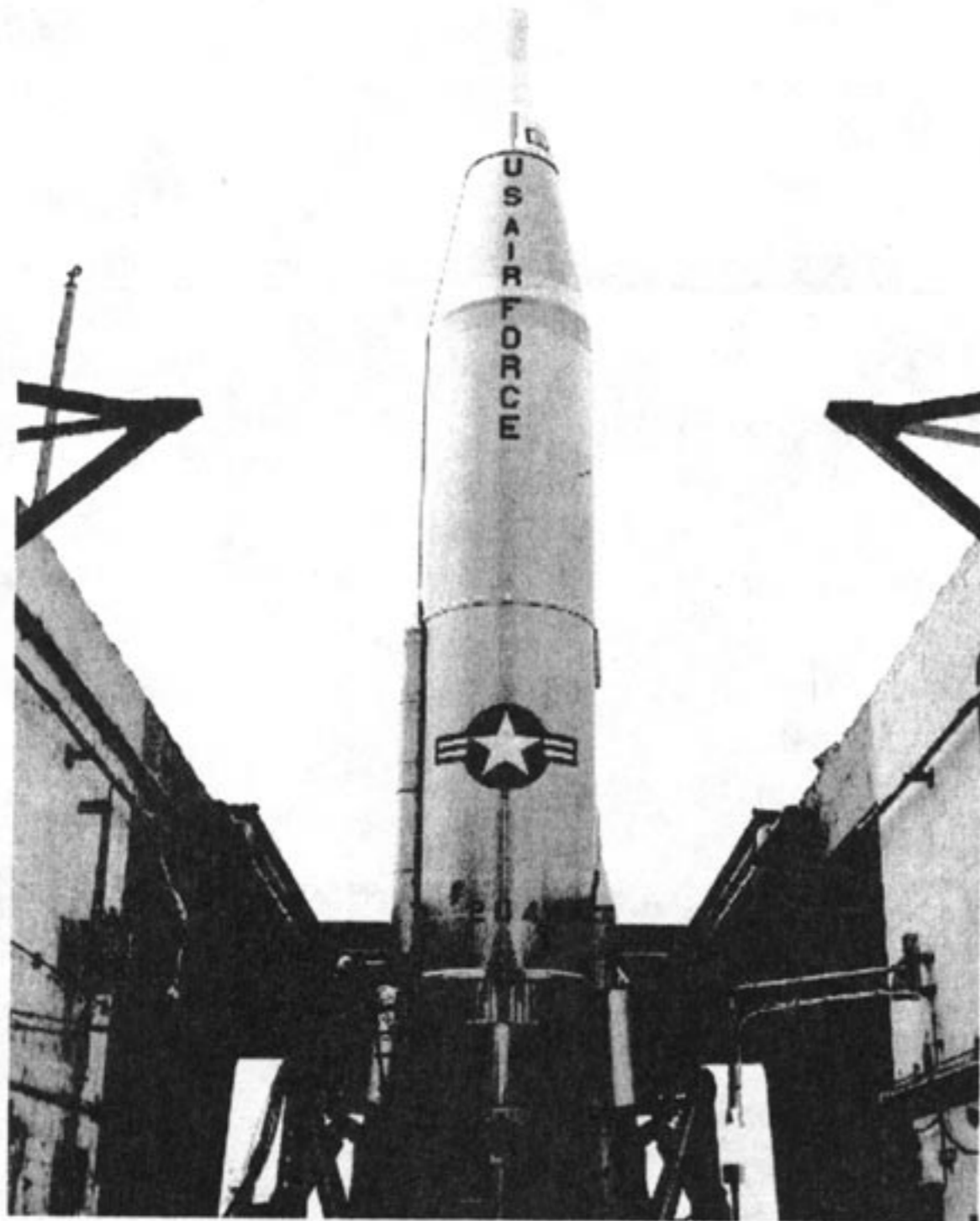
# 548<sup>th</sup> SMS

MISSILE

TIMES

Volume 5, Issue 1

December 2007



## COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

It was back around 2001 when I decided to try to locate as many members of the 548<sup>th</sup> SMS that I could. My long range goal was to put together a memorable reunion that was to take place in Topeka. As you are well aware that goal was reached at our first 548<sup>th</sup> reunion that was held in Sept 2003. It was also my hope to bring our members together as a group through occasional newsletter and e-mail contact plus a reunion every few years. The latter portion of the plan has been more difficult than organizing the first reunion. The second reunion of the 548<sup>th</sup> is also now history. In the last newsletter I asked for feedback about another reunion in a few years. If another reunion is of interest, when and where it should be held are big questions that need to be addressed. I received very little response to the reunion location plea. I had asked whether there would be any interest in a reunion on a cruise ship

but a decision on a reunion location could not be made with so few replies. Undoubtedly the easiest way to have a gathering is in conjunction with AAFM but that too has its drawbacks. Although other groups do join with the Missileers our small number could get lost in the crowd. Would there be any interest in another reunion in Topeka? Talk up a reunion with people that you would like to see again. Would anyone like to organize the next reunion? Let us hear your thoughts about another reunion.

On another note! The Newsletter! I have been publishing this newsletter since early in the search for members, except for a short period when Jack Roberts took over the task. I have about exhausted my material plus the articles a few members have submitted (see related article). I think it may be time for someone with new ideas to take over as newsletter editor. I HAVE MADE THE CALL! Please come forward so we can maintain our connection with each other.

Call Don, send an Email or snail mail to:  
Don Peoples 411 N 6<sup>th</sup> St # 1115 Emery, SD 57332  
609-462-5644 [njpeeps@att.net](mailto:njpeeps@att.net)

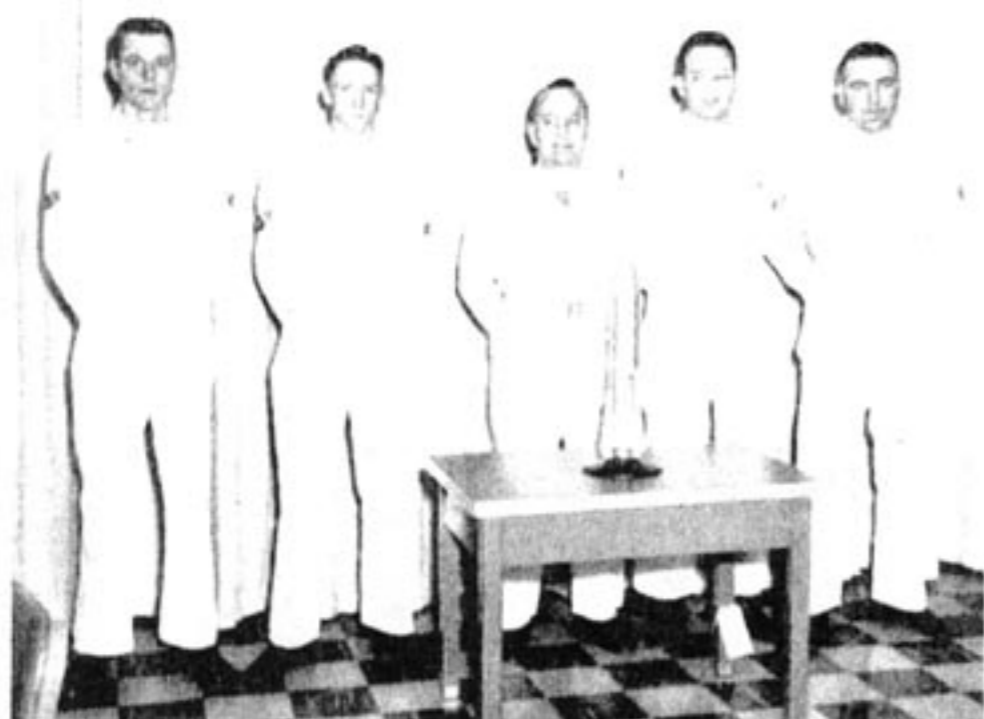
## HELP!

### An appeal for a Missileer's Memories!

*Member Help Requested! Material is needed for the newsletter. Try to think back to your time in the 548<sup>th</sup> and come up with a memory that you would like to share with the rest of us. Share your recollection of an event that took place while on "Alert" or while performing maintenance at a site. Don't be concerned about your literary skills we can massage the content of your contribution to make it grammatically correct. Lester Elyea has submitted a few short stories, following is the second of his memories. Feel free to submit your story to be published at a later date. We need your contributions to keep this newsletter interesting. Call Don, send an Email or snail mail.*

I was in the 548<sup>th</sup> for almost 3 years as an EPPT assigned to crew R-02. The crew members L-R were, MMT Garrett Grim, Me, MCCC Maj. Alan Linville, DMCCC Lt. George Whittington and BMAT SSgt. Louie Johnson.





We normally pulled "Alert" at Site # 3 in Waverly, KS south of Lyndon.

On this particular day, our commander, Major Linville assigned us the task of missile corrosion control. This task consisted of saturating rags with WD-40 and wiping down the entire missile.

(Unlike the WD-40 spray cans on the store shelves today, Remember in those days WD-40 came in bulk quantities). Off we went to the missile bay to carry out the assigned duty. I was extremely excited since this would be my first opportunity to climb up on this monster. As I recall it took some time to get this job completed. All was going well until I got the brilliant idea to straddle the RV. Wouldn't you know, while I was performing this "stunt", in walked the commander, (at least I think it was the commander). I guess I was so shaken by the chewing out that I got that I'm not positive who chewed me out but the Lieutenant was too green to scold anyone. As a result of this episode I sometimes tell people that I sat on top of a "Hydrogen Bomb", I really did! They usually reply "Sure you did"

By Lester Elyea

## FROM ACCOUNTING

Following is the Treasurer's Report from Dec 10, 2006. Thru Nov 5, 2007

Beginning Balance Dec , 2006 \$ 3293.46

Income:

Interest income	15.50
Sale of Merchandise	78.00
Membership Dues	<u>600.00</u>
Total Income:	693.50

Expenses:

Scholarship Awarded	700.00
Postage	135.68
Printing	145.49
Labels	<u>8.12</u>
Total Expenses:	989.29

Ending Balance Nov. 30, 2007 \$ 2934.92

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

## FROM SUPPLY

As you can see from the 2007 income, we are still selling items from our supply store. Keep up the buying!

### 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 Bielecki, Jr.

104 Teakwood Ct.

Clinton, TN 37716

## ROLL CALL

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 548<sup>th</sup> members. If you can share copies of these documents, please send them to Warren Shane at his address under membership dues.

**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, 2008.



As of the date of this newsletter, we have 58 paid-up members. A list of members is available on the web site. [www.548sms.com](http://www.548sms.com) 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 2008

Those that have already paid their dues for 2008 will see the 9 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 the 2008. Sign in is:

USER ID= 548SMS

PASSWORD= ##### (all lower case)

Domain Leave Blank

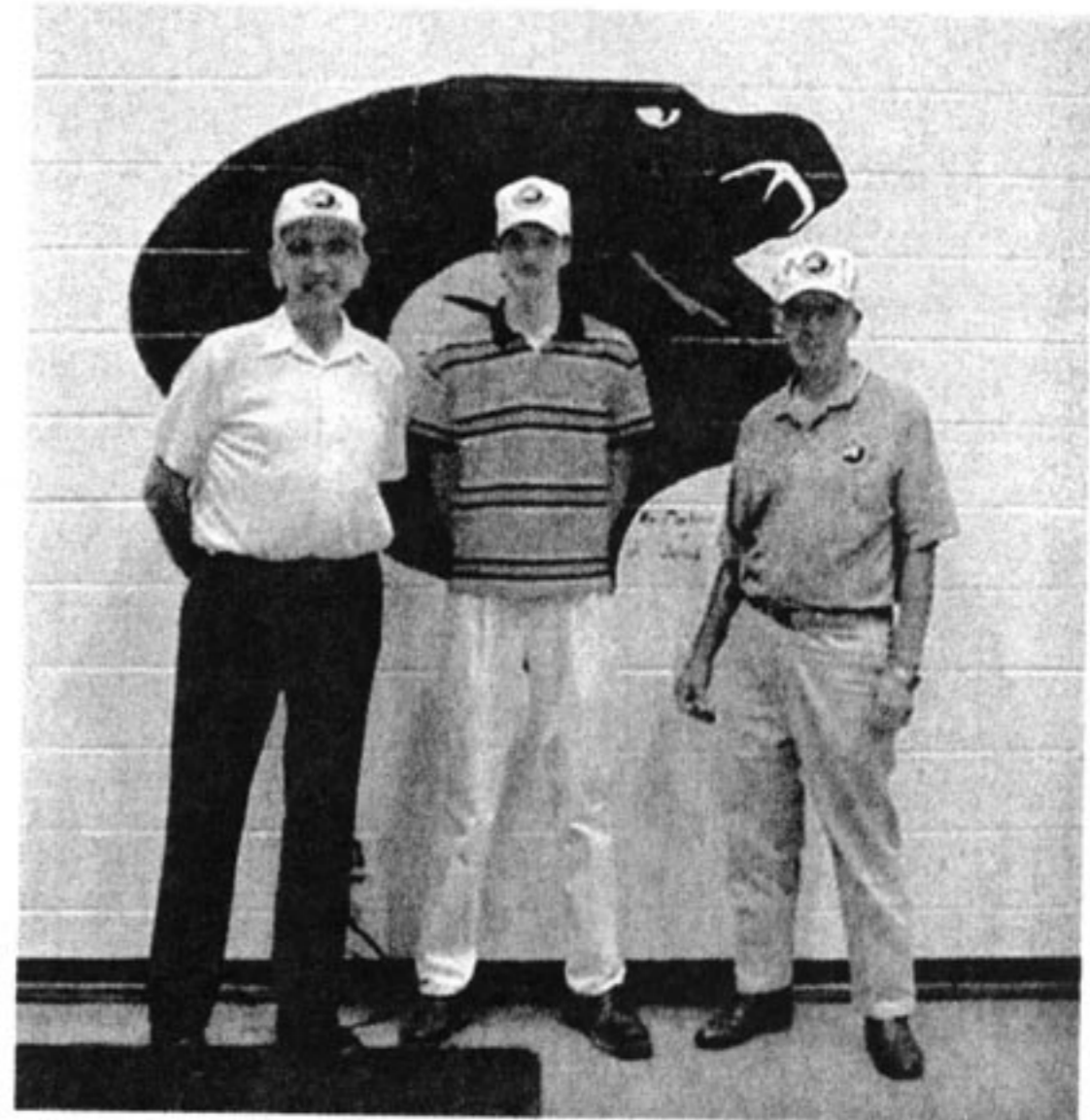


## 548<sup>th</sup> Legacy:

While visiting the Jackson Heights High School (our Site #9 north of Holton), at our first reunion in 2003, 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. At our 2006 reunion it was decided that we will make a monetary donation for a scholarship to a deserving student.

The Jackson Heights high school administration gave us the opportunity to be involved in the scholarship selection process. We presented our basic criteria to the school administration. The administration then forwarded us the applications of the top three candidates that most matched our criteria. We made our selection from the final three applications. Warren and I were invited to attend the awards banquet on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Jackson Heights High School. (Just by coincidence I was due in Topeka on May 6<sup>th</sup>, so we were able to attend). We had the honor of awarding a \$700.00

scholarship to Douglas J. Grollmes. The school will have a plaque made for the 548<sup>th</sup> SMS that will include the name of the 2007 and each subsequent recipient; it will be on display in the school awards display cabinet.



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

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. Unfortunately, since our last newsletter, I have been notified that we have lost two more members that I am aware of. Maj. Bill Fein who had attended the reunion at F. E. Warren in Sept 2006 passed away earlier this year. Capt. Larry Tice who was an airmen in the 548<sup>th</sup> (engine shop I think), left the Air Force went



to school and re entered the AF as an officer, retiring as a Capt.

**Here are a few interesting web sites to visit.**

The Titan missile museum

<http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/>

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/attract/AZGREtitan.html>

Once in the Cold War Museum site scroll down and open the Cold War Times. The site below is a list of article, relating to the cold war

<http://www.coldwar.org/articles/60s/links.asp>

The Cold War Museum

[http://www.coldwar.org/education/coldwar\\_magazine.asp](http://www.coldwar.org/education/coldwar_magazine.asp)

AAFAM web site

[www.afmissileers.org](http://www.afmissileers.org)

This is a list of that gives an Atlas launch history.

[www.stlucas.com/jslstuff/atlas2.txt](http://www.stlucas.com/jslstuff/atlas2.txt)

## **Another Reminder! Newsletter editor needed**

Would anyone like to volunteer to take on the duties of our newsletter editor? A new editor would more than likely have new ideas to bring to the table. If you would like to help out, with assistance from me and others, contact me at [njpeeps@att.net](mailto:njpeeps@att.net) or 609-462-5644

Thanks, Don

MCALLEN TX 785

17 DEC 2007 PM 1 L



*Happy Holidays!*