

THE COMBAT EDGE

APRIL 1993

The Combat Edge April 1993
Competition





THE COMBAT EDGE

Air Combat Command
Safety Magazine

Gen John M. Loh
Commander

Col Bodie Bodenheim
Chief of Safety

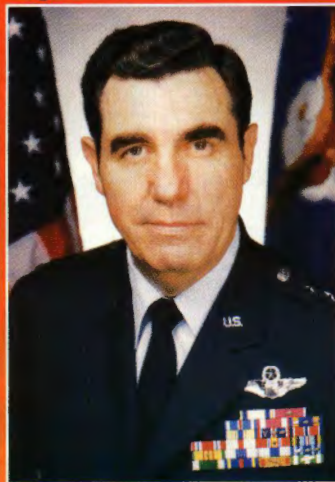
Lt Col "Nellie" Beard
Editor

Ron Smith
Art Director

Barbara Taylor
Awards Administrator

Sgt Mark S. Bailey
Staff Artist

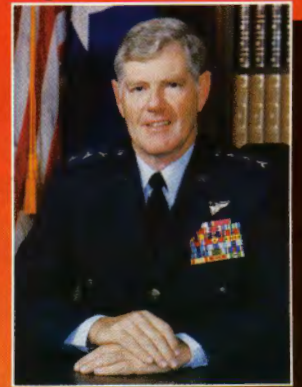
Page 4



Page 5



Page 6



The Combat Edge (ISSN 0494-3880) is published monthly by the Air Combat Command, HQ ACC/SE, 130 Andrews St Ste 301, Langley AFB VA 23665-2786. Second-class postage paid at Hampton VA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Combat Edge*, HQ ACC/SEP, 130 Andrews St Ste 301, Langley AFB VA 23665-2786.

DISTRIBUTION: F(X). OPR: HQ ACC/SEP. Distribution is controlled through the PDO based on a ratio of one copy per ten persons assigned. Air Force units should contact their servicing PDO to establish or change requirements. Other DOD units have no fixed ratio and should submit their requests to the OPR.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Available to non-DOD readers for \$24 (\$30 outside the U.S.) from the Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburg PA 15250-7954. All subscription service correspondence should be directed to the Superintendent, not HQ ACC/SEP.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Articles, comments, and criticisms are welcome. Write: Editor, *The Combat Edge*, HQ ACC/SEP, 130 Andrews St Ste 301, Langley AFB VA 23665-2786, or call DSN 574-3658/commercial (804) 764-3658. The editors reserve the right to edit all manuscripts for readability and good taste.

DISCLAIMER: Viewpoints expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the policy of DOD, DAF, ACC or the author's organization. Information contained in any article may not be construed as incriminating under Article 31, UCMJ.

Features

4

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPETITION

General John M. Loh
Commander

5

A TEAM EFFORT

Maj Gen Lawrence E. Boese
HQ ACC/DO
Langley AFB VA

6

OLYMPIC ARENA '93

Lt Gen Dirk Jameson
Commander, 20 AF
Vandenberg AFB CA

Departments

8

FLEAGLE

9 12 15 20 23 26

OLYMPIC ARENA COMPETITORS

18 29

WEAPONS SAFETY

30

AWARDS

APR 93

ACC SP 127-1 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 11

ACCent on Safety

On 22 April 1993 ACC's six missile wings will meet at Vandenberg AFB CA for the start of Olympic Arena '93 -- ACC's first Missile Combat Competition. This special edition of *The Combat Edge* is dedicated to these outstanding professionals and their continuing quest for improvement through competition.

This year's competition promises to be as exciting as those in the past. The race for the Blanchard Trophy will be determined by combining the scores from each event. All competitors will be on the edge of their seats anticipating their score. Considering the high caliber of professionalism, dedication and esprit de corps our missile community displays, the competition promises to be a cliff hanger.

The competition preparations are demanding for all wing personnel, not just the competitors. However cliché it may sound, make no mistake, winning the coveted Blanchard Trophy is truly a team effort. For the competitors, the pressure of representing their home unit against the best in ACC will be one of the toughest experiences in their lives.

Each competitor can take great pride in being selected to represent his or her wing. The objectives of refining procedures and techniques, promoting an exchange of professional information between units, providing recognition of outstanding units, enhancing esprit de corps and demonstrating the credibility of our ICBM forces are as important today as they were in 1967 when Curtain Raiser was initiated. We will be putting the talents of our missileers on display during seven days in April. The competition will be tough, the world will be watching, but they have the skills, training and leadership to accomplish the task -- and do it safely.

While only one missile wing will be fortunate enough to win the Blanchard Trophy, each wing reaps benefits from the competition. Through increased training, all competitors will improve their knowledge, skills and expertise in weapon system operation and equipment troubleshooting techniques. In addition, competitors will develop and test innovative techniques, procedures and equipment with the expressed goal of "finding a better way." Olympic Arena will serve as a test bed for these innovations to determine if they can be applied force-wide.

Through team interaction, competitors will broaden their knowledge and understanding of the other functional areas and how those areas relate to and impact their own area of expertise. This interaction not only expands knowledge, but also builds spirit and the foundation for a unified, wing team effort in competition.

But it's not only the competitors who realize these benefits. The increased knowledge and understanding gained by competitors is passed on to the rest of the wing's personnel through training programs. In turn, the wings realize benefits as all personnel improve their proficiency, increase their effectiveness and evolve into a cohesive, safe, unified fighting force.

Not all of you can win the silver and only one will carry home the Blanchard Trophy; yet, because you are in the competition, you are all winners. For that reason you can be justifiably proud. I share your pride and wish each of you success at ACC's first Olympic Arena.



Colonel Bodie R. Bodenheim
Chief of Safety

The Importance of Competition

General John M. Loh Commander
*General John M. Loh
Commander*

Since the advent of nuclear weapons, no other single strategic weapon system has had a greater influence on the balance of world power than the ICBM. It is the most prompt, cost effective and powerful retaliatory leg of the Triad and represents the centerpiece of America's strategic deterrent force.

The backbone of the ICBM force is the dedicated professionals who operate, maintain, and protect these key systems. ACC will recognize these experts during Olympic Arena -- ACC's Missile Combat Competition -- on 22 April

1993 at Vandenberg AFB. This competition highlights the best operators, maintainers, communicators, security policeman, and civil engineers of the missile force. For three days, six missile wings will compete for the Blanchard Trophy, the missileer's counterpart to the Creech, Fairchild and James Trophies of the aircraft force.

The genesis of Olympic Arena, nicknamed Curtain Raiser, began twenty-six years ago when representatives from operations and maintenance gathered at Vandenberg AFB to determine who among the relatively young group of missileers was the best.

This initial competition has evolved into a world class competition involving the entire missile community. The reasons for Olympic Arena competitions are many but several deserve special comment.

First, they help build team spirit and promote

an exchange of professional information between competitors. The long hours of practice and preparation needed to successfully compete add to the cohesiveness and high esprit de corps of our missile units. In addition, the entire command benefits from the continuous improvement in training that takes place as each wing tries to build a winning team.

Olympic Arena demonstrates to allies and foes alike the professional training and skills of the men and women responsible for this awesome nuclear force. Although the world's nuclear club may increase each passing year, they will never match the dedication, initiative, and spirit of the people in ACC. No other team could maintain at such high alert rates, so vast and complex a weapon system, as our Minuteman and Peacekeeper force. Everyone involved in ACC's ICBM operation can take great pride in the knowledge that they are doing the most important job their country could ask of them -- providing the readiness and responsiveness necessary for our nation's security -- and they are doing it better than it has ever been done.

Those of you selected by your wings to compete in Olympic Arena 1993 represent the very best of the professional corps of missileers. As in last year's competition, evaluators will be thoroughly testing the skills and abilities of not only the launch crews and maintenance teams, but also security police, communications, and civil engineering. The excellence displayed by the competitors is reflective of the thousands of talented people they represent and the true capability of our overall ICBM force.

For the competitors, a tough and challenging competition awaits. I wish each of you good luck and the best performance possible. ■



OLYMPIC ARENA 93

A Team Effort

Olympic Arena '93, ACC's missile competition, will once again bring together the finest missile crews, maintainers, communicators, civil engineers, and security police from all six missile wings to compete for top awards as the elite in their profession. Olympic Arena, as in all ACC competitions, is the catalyst for a program to measure the professional ability competitors have obtained through dedicated study and intense training.

Although stimulating and unnerving, Olympic Arena is but the "Tip of the Iceberg," the culmination of hours of studying and training, and a tremendous amount of hard work by many people working behind the scenes to prepare for the competition. While it is the competitor who captures the limelight, those in a support role can be justly proud of their participation and of the benefits derived from this competition. In a very real sense the missile competition is for everyone.

Olympic Arena provides the headquarters an opportunity to accentuate command interest in maintaining a professional missile force. Over the years many new hardware and procedural improvements have been realized through competition. This year we will again be looking for innovations and techniques that can be applied across the force. We will never be satisfied with the status quo; rather, we will continue to pursue better ways to do our job.

Olympic Arena is a challenge to wing personnel as they help prepare their crews and teams for the rigors of the competition. Constructing

a good training program involves a thorough analysis of procedures to find more efficient and effective ways to perform required tasks. Olympic Arena challenges their instructional abilities and their training program. How well personnel perform during the competition is a measure of each wing's capability to produce a challenging training program.

Olympic Arena is the pinnacle of intense training by each competitor. Each competitor represents their wing and demonstrates not only outstanding job knowledge, but the ability to apply this knowledge under the demands and pressures of intense competition. Regardless of who wins, each competitor can take pride in being the best representative their wing could select which, in itself, is a noteworthy achievement.

History has proven that Olympic Arena achieves results. The professional ability that competitors have gained through dedicated study and intense training, and the pride and spirit derived from missile wings competing against each other have contributed to enhancing and improving our missile force. Olympic Arena '93 will join an already impressive list of past missile competitions, truly symbolizing twenty-six years of excellence. ■



OLYMPIC ARENA

Lt Gen Dirk Jameson
Commander, 20 AF
Vandenberg AFB CA



On behalf of America's ICBM Team, I'm delighted to welcome all the participants, staff and distinguished visitors to Olympic Arena 1993. This year marks the first Air Combat Command Missile Combat Competition and the 26th renewal of this classic event. I'm proud of the outstanding reputation that has developed over the years. As anybody who's ever attended can attest, the spirit, enthusiasm and the thirst for victory is absolutely electrifying. Without a doubt, Olympic Arena is the highlight of the year for missileers and the premier competition in the Air Force.

Since Olympic Arena is new to many readers of *The Combat Edge*, let me tell you what it's all about. Imagine over 1,300 competitors and visitors converging on Vandenberg AFB for a week of hard-charging, head-to-head competition between all six operational missile wings. Participants in virtually every discipline -- operations crews, maintenance teams, security police, communications and civil engineering -- all vying to be named the "Best in the Command."

To the competitors, it means the end of a dream: the result of months or years of hard training all boiling down to a few short hours under the gun. It's their chance to prove themselves in the "arena." The pressure is incredible; each and every one of them competes not only for themselves, but also for their crew, their team and their wing. The tension and anxiety mounts for weeks, to climax in a fevered pitch at Vandenberg. Put yourself in their shoes and you can sense their thoughts: "Will I be up to the challenge?" "Can I handle the pressure?" "Can I capture the silver?" I'm sure all those thoughts cross their minds. I admire every competitor here and salute each one of them. They are all winners in my book, but only the top team can call themselves the "Best of the Best."

To the wing staff, the competition also marks the end of a long road of preparation and hard work. They've watched their participants give their hearts and souls for one common mission -- to bring back the Blanchard Trophy, signifying the best missile wing in the world. They work nearly year-round laying the ground work and inspiring the teamwork necessary to emerge as champions. Their challenge during Olympic Arena is to arrive in peak shape as a team and to sustain the drive throughout the competition. Their role as coaches, cheerleaders

VANDENBERG '93



and strategists is a key element to ultimate victory.

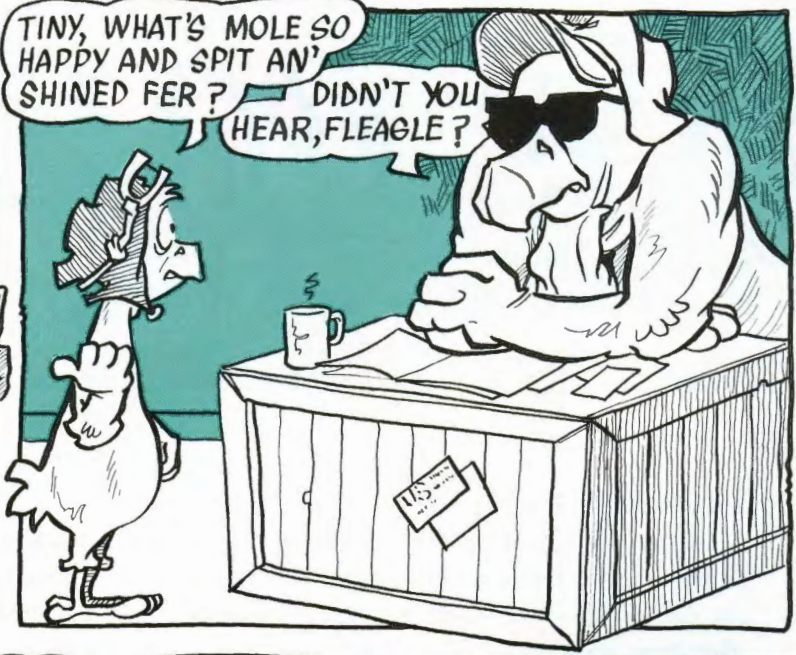
To the missile wings, Olympic Arena means a chance to showcase their talent and spirit to the world. For every competitor, co-workers back at the base have worked extra hard to help give them the winning edge. They helped prepare their teams, and they picked up the load to allow their team to train and compete. They can proudly claim to be a part of their team, knowing the result produced at Vandenberg is a direct reflection on their support.

To Vandenberg, the competition culminates months of dedicated work by hundreds of volunteers working thousands of hours. Think about the competition, the related festivities, the distinguished visitors, and the protocol involved in hosting over 1,000 guests, and you'll begin to understand what the competition means to the Vandenberg community. Year after year, the Vandenberg Team comes through, putting on a first-class show for the wings and the Air Force. They are the unsung heroes in the event as their teamwork and attention to detail pay off in a smooth, fun competition for all. Their satisfaction is knowing that they made the competition a success.

To the missile community, the spirited competition clearly expresses the dedication and professionalism that make us the best missile force in the world. It's rich in the pride that keeps the alert rate high and our nuclear deterrent capabilities on the leading edge day-after-day; and it's rich in our heritage as Cold War warriors and victors! The missile community as a whole is the one that benefits the most from the competition. The intense training brings new and improved procedures and refined techniques that directly impact daily operations; it builds pride and enthusiasm for the critical ICBM mission, and it allows us all to celebrate the values that keep America free from nuclear threat.

So there you have it; the stage is set and the gauntlet is thrown. The Vandenberg Team of Twentieth Air Force, the 310th Training and Test Wing, the 3901st Missile Evaluation Squadron, and the 30th Space Wing are proud to host the ACC Missile Competition. I can assure you that Vandenberg is ready and anxiously awaiting the arrival of the competitors and their wings. I wish them all the best of luck in the competition. I'm looking forward to carrying on the finest tradition of the ICBM profession!

Fleagle



HARRISON



44 MISSILE WING

Col Roscoe E. Moulthrop, Commander
44 Missile Wing, Ellsworth AFB SD



OPERATIONS CREW S-251

1Lt Todd C. Ellison
1Lt Michael W. Stern

OPERATIONS CREW S-252

1Lt Vincent R. Cassara
1Lt Scott M. Costin



OPERATIONS CREW S-253

1Lt Robin D. Athey
2Lt Richard L. Closser, Jr



OPERATIONS CREW S-254

1Lt Mark E. Bowen
1Lt Aaron L. Smith



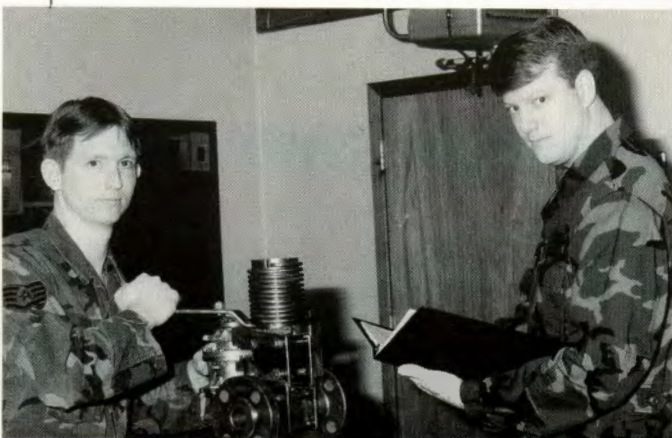
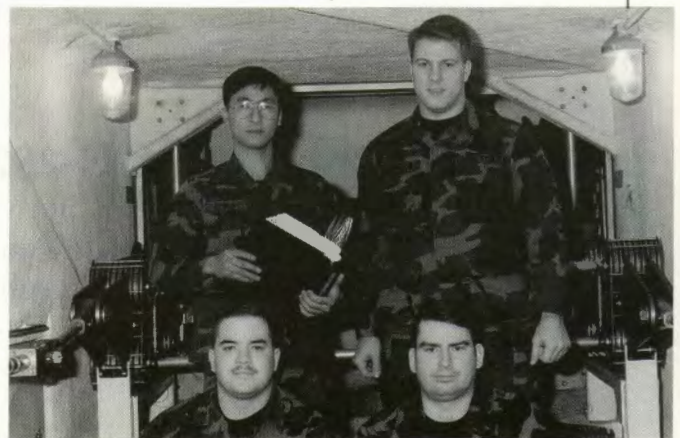
SECURITY POLICE TEAM

2Lt Clyde E. Harris
TSgt Kenneth T. Hardy
SSgt Lawrence Lewis
SSgt John E. King
Sgt Anthony Rhodes
SrA Larry D. Hudson

SrA Robert A. Carlson
SrA Robert A. Miller
SrA Shane T. Lunsford
A1C Darin Striepe
Amn Marc D. Crockett
Amn Patrick R. Dawn

MISSILE HANDLING TEAM

SSgt George J. Lyons
SSgt Michael E. Rose
SrA John D. Rhodes
SrA Eric D. Graham



CIVIL ENGINEERING TEAM

SSgt Cecil D. Daw, Jr
Sgt Brian D. Collins

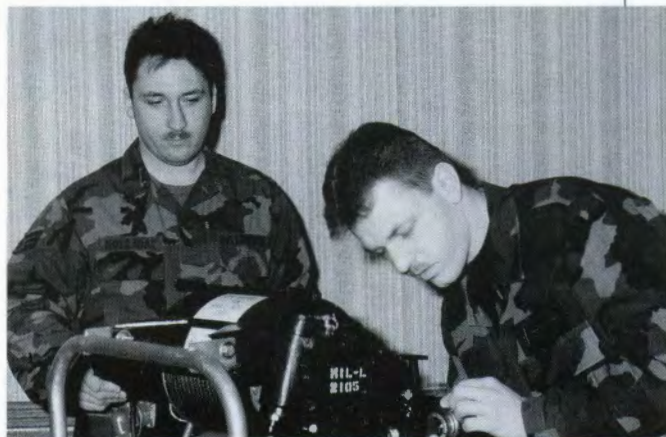


FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

TSgt Gary A. Holtgard
SSgt Ross D. Reed

MECHANICAL SHOP TEAM

Sgt Jeff S. Holliday
SrA Michael S. Harris



ELECTRONICS LABORATORY TEAM

Sgt Mark A. Macy
SrA Mark A. Snider

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

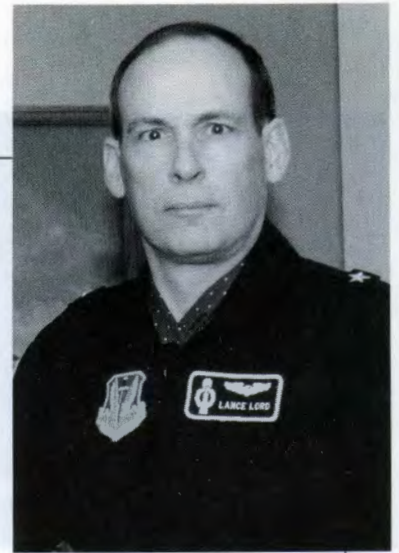
Sgt Joel R. Todd
SrA Stephen M. Dick





90 MISSILE WING

Brig Gen Lance W. Lord, Commander
90 Missile Wing, F.E. Warren AFB WY



OPERATIONS CREW S-321

1Lt Timothy M. House
2Lt Daniel J. Belden

OPERATIONS CREW S-400

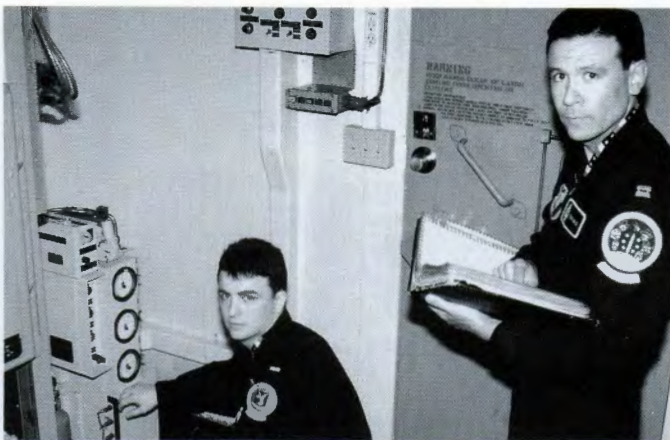
1Lt Wayne R. Monteith
2Lt Steven B. Buryanek



OPERATIONS CREW S-319

Capt Eric E. Hoihjelle
2Lt John M. Vela





OPERATIONS CREW S-320

Capt Donald M. Hale, Jr
2Lt Michael J. Sowa

SECURITY POLICE TEAM

2Lt Andrew M. Sasseville
SSgt Michael R. Van Eck
SSgt Brian S. Brown
SrA Terry J. Meadows
SrA Gregg M. Tenbroeck
SrA Tammy J. Sudigala
SrA Michael P. Strickland



MISSILE HANDLING TEAM

SSgt Harrall L. Martin
Sgt Darren J. Chapman
Sgt Mark J. Conrad
A1C Craig M. Duclos

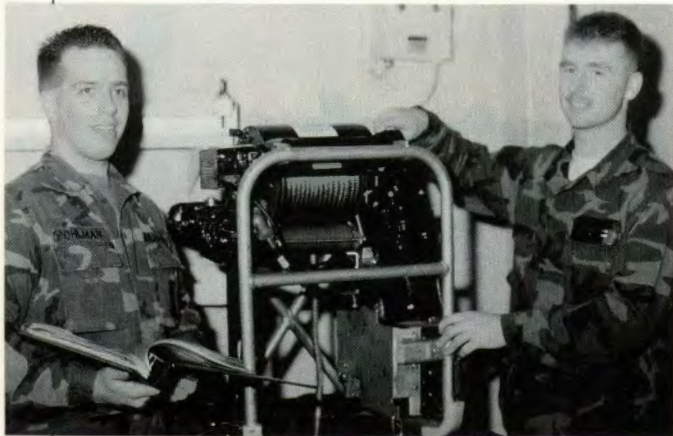
CIVIL ENGINEERING TEAM

Mr Virgil L. Bailey
SrA David S. Randolph



FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

SSgt Gregory J. Laganosky
SrA Troy S. Tallabas

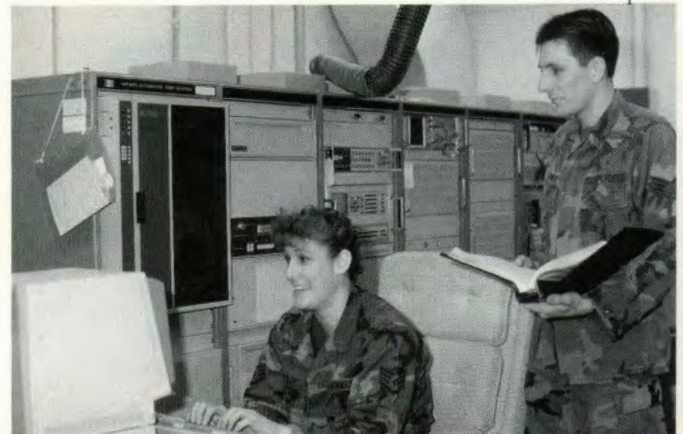


MECHANICAL SHOP TEAM

SrA Daniel J. Pohlman, Jr
A1C Aubrey W. Beaver

ELECTRONICS LABORATORY TEAM

SSgt Valerie A. Irsik
SrA Douglas E. Crider



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

SSgt Daniel A. Nagel
Sgt Jasen W. Ammons



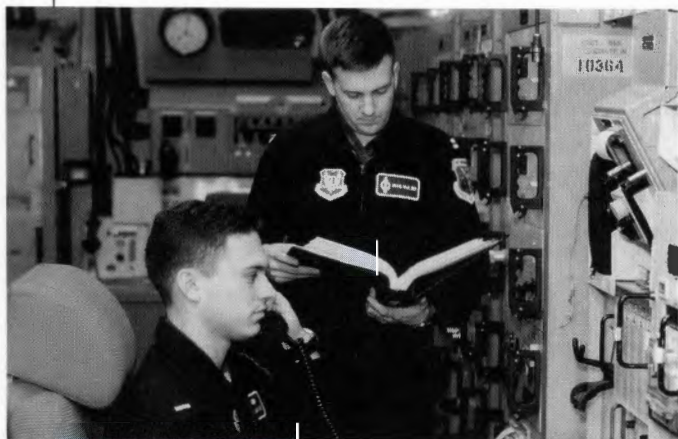
91 MISSILE WING

Col Howard G. DeWolf, Commander
91 Missile Wing, Minot AFB ND



OPERATIONS CREW S-911

1Lt Brian D. Conant
1Lt Michael E. Adderly



OPERATIONS CREW S-912

Capt Kraig M. Paulsen
2Lt Robert J. Vercher

OPERATIONS CREW S-913

Capt Peter E. Mance
2Lt Kurt P. Bauer II



OPERATIONS CREW S-914

Capt Mohammed A. Khan, Jr
2Lt Andrew S. Kovich



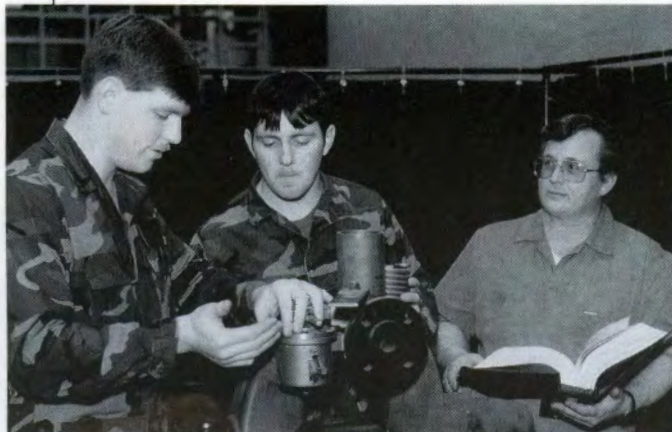
SECURITY POLICE TEAM

2Lt Richard S. Peeke
TSgt Donald J. Hall, Jr
SSgt James A. Lewis
Sgt Patrick L. Wilson
SrA Carlos A. Nunez, Jr
SrA Eugene R. Davis

SrA Lawrence R. Castro
SrA Timothy E. Dimon
A1C Thomas J. Demeo
Amn Aaron Williams
Amn David B. White
Amn Harold E. Faust II

MISSILE HANDLING TEAM

MSgt Glenn S. Goy
SSgt Steven A. Gregory
Sgt Michael N. Holle
A1C Brian S. Yamamoto
A1C Christopher P. Forsti



CIVIL ENGINEERING TEAM

SSgt Robert W. Brown
SrA Chad L. Marten
Marcus M. Eman

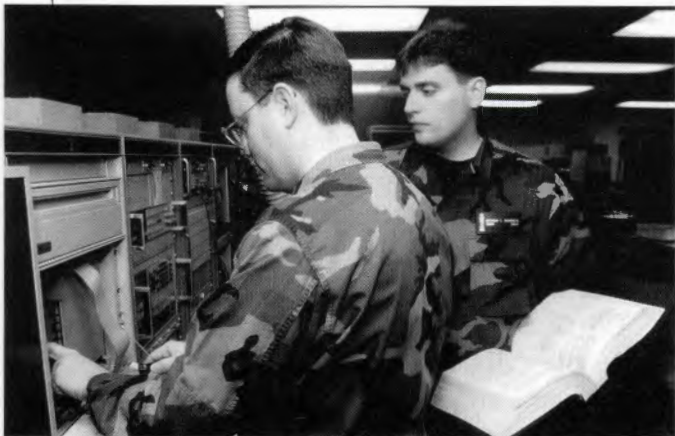


FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

SSgt Carol M. Cook
Sgt John E. Sutton

MECHANICAL SHOP TEAM

SrA Ronald L. Miller
Amn Brett C. Field



ELECTRONICS LABORATORY TEAM

SSgt Steven D. Christensen
SSgt Steven T. Sanders

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

SrA Gene L. Lingle
SrA Jeffery R. Brooks



SAFE, SECURE &

The Presidential Order of 28 Sep 91 to safe all Minuteman II missiles marked the end of the Cold War and the conclusion of more than 25 years of deterrence for the 44th Missile Wing. Launch control facilities, launch facilities, shops and offices -- homes to more than 1400 combat crew members, maintenance technicians, security police and staff personnel -- were suddenly thrust to the leading edge of the unprecedented deactivation of the Minuteman II ICBM weapon system. Overnight, many traditional procedures no longer applied and new ones had to be created as the mission of nuclear deterrence, constantly poised to wield massive destruction upon an adversary, became a chapter in history. Since then, new tasks have been refined into a system of safe and secure procedures no less important than what had been done for over 2 decades. Today, the security, maintenance and operations functions are markedly different; challenging tasks, often as critical as nuclear surety, are conducted each day as the wing moves closer to completing its final mission.

SECURITY

In deactivating a missile wing, security requirements are quite different; but the level of intensity with which they are conducted remains the same. The new mission, from a security standpoint, is to protect non-nuclear resources and the personnel who work with them. As always, vigilance throughout the process avoids the inevitable mishaps that spring

from a complacent approach. For example, patrols must remain ready for any situation that they may face, whether it be an emergency launch facility check for a power problem or assistance at an accident or fire. A case in point, on 23 Jan 93, during a routine launch facility check, an Alarm Response Team (ART) noticed a fire in a civilian building. Ascertaining that a nearby mobile home was in immediate danger from the fire, the ART evacuated 3 children and called for local fire fighters. Their awareness in this case saved property and lives and reinforced the credible reputation all missile people have nurtured throughout their missile fields. More directly mission related, security personnel must remain particularly vigilant since the partially deactivated system still represents a viable weapon system to most people. As responsible agents, they must never be lulled into believing that adverse elements will not try to make "statements" as long as USAF assets present an inviting target. Such people will be discouraged in trying their luck with an alert and highly trained security force that has worked so well for so very long.

MAINTENANCE

As the 44 MW "Knucklebusters" have now removed over half of the wing's 150 missiles, it's important to reflect on the challenges, accomplishments and lessons learned from a maintenance point of view.

Accelerating missile pulls from the originally programmed 4 per month to 6, while adhering to all the legal and technical requirements, has

STANDING DOWN

*Capt Richard B. Cross, 44 OG\DOV
2Lt Vincent R. Fisher, 44 MLSS/SPM
1Lt John S. Stewart, 44 MAG/MBLMM
Ellsworth AFB SD*

been an interesting challenge. It required a methodical approach to procedural modifications and balanced workloads, coupled with additional training to sustain team operations. The most significant challenge, however, has been to repeatedly perform the same tasks while maintaining a strong focus on personnel and environmental safety.

Amazingly, the maintainers have accomplished over 1,000 deactivation maintenance work orders per month and driven over 500,000 miles -- including 150 accident/incident-free "Bandit Express" warhead convoys and over 75 missile convoys. Over 3,600 "save list" assets (valued at \$26 million) and 150 missile guidance sets (valued at \$62.5 million) have been removed to date, along with the proper disposal of 15,000 pounds of hazardous materials per site. The premier lesson learned is that there is simply no substitute for thorough planning, while flexibility remains the key to successful long-term execution. Furthermore, the greatest danger of the "routine" is a casual attitude towards technical order cautions and normal safety practices. As is true in the security arena, vigilance remains paramount as the last half of this grand old system is drawn down.

OPERATIONS

Within operations, no one can deny that many mission tasks have changed; but there was never a doubt that missile combat crew members would remain alert to their remaining duties. Just as evidenced in security and maintenance, there are still 75 airframes, countless resources

and multiple teams in a flight's area that still count on the Missile Combat Crew for control, support and supervision. Today, a crew's responsibility is to remain vigilant, standing ready to respond to any contingency situation that may threaten the very lives and property missileers protected for so long. The reassignment of crew members is a significant challenge that has been met head-on by operations leadership. The crew force has adapted to the challenge of new horizons -- readily adjusting to the anxieties of change and evolving as pacesetters into a myriad of career opportunities and weapons systems...except, of course, the Minuteman II system they kept mission ready until the day the Cold War was won.

As the "Bandit" steps away from the limelight, the wing prides itself on an old axiom, "If it is worth doing, do it right" until the last missile is shipped, gate locked and key turned in. So when the "Bandit" pulls out of the Dakota territory and leaves others to winter it out a few years more, a simple note will be left scratched on the last launch facilities door:

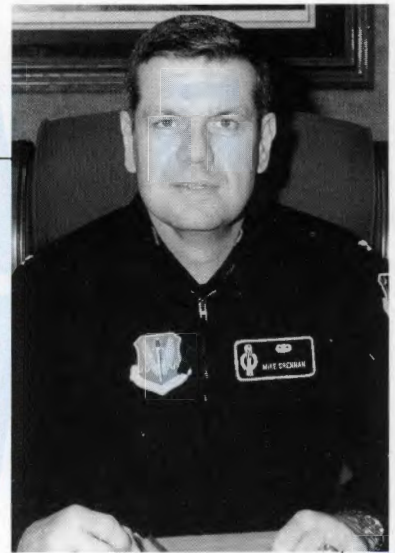
*"Think it through,
Keep it simple.
Don't be foolish,
Ask the question, before...
Then you too can proudly close your doors."*

Bandit



321 MISSILE WING

Col Jerry M. Drennan, Commander
321 Missile Wing, Grand Forks AFB ND

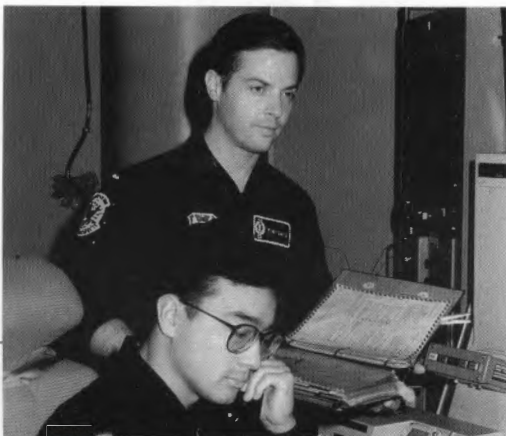


OPERATIONS CREW S-291

1Lt (Capt Sel) William "Bud" Robey
1Lt Jeffery L. Harlan

OPERATIONS CREW S-292

1Lt (Capt Sel) Carl A. Struck
1Lt Gary K. Wheeler



OPERATION CREW S-293

1Lt (Capt Sel) Phillip M. Byrd
2Lt Anthony J. Davis



OPERATIONS CREW S-294

Capt Jeffery L. Schaff
2Lt James A. Leinart

SECURITY POLICE TEAM

2Lt Brian T. Weir
SSgt Charles C. Daenzer
SSgt James E. Gove
SrA David S. Hunt
SrA Dean L. Hardwick
A1C Stephen A. Arbona
Amn Joel A. Karzok



MISSILE HANDLING TEAM

Sgt Steven D. Sears
Sgt John P. Gillian
A1C Melvin T. Shelton
A1C Daniel W. Stevenson

CIVIL ENGINEERING TEAM

SSgt Richard P. Sarno
Sgt Ronnie P. Ennis



FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

TSgt Robert Olmsted
SSgt John Dunigan

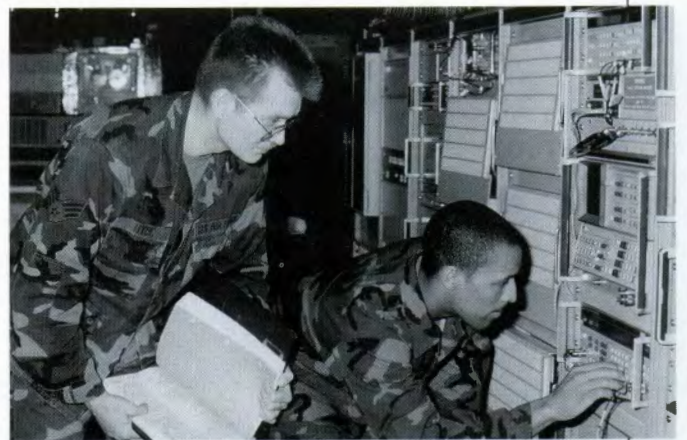


MECHANICAL SHOP TEAM

SrA Matthew J. Meindl
SrA Steven S. Weggeland

ELECTRONICS LABORATORY TEAM

Sgt (SSgt Sel) Johnny Hyde
Sgt (SSgt Sel) Herman E. Moyer



COMMUNICATION TEAM

SSgt Trois D. Tenney
A1C Alex M. Barbour



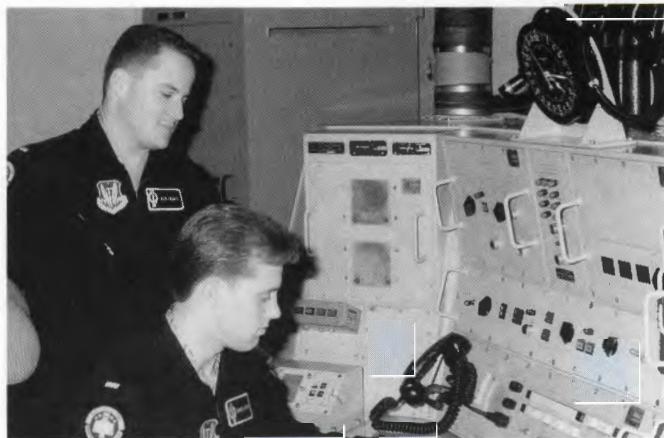
341 MISSILE WING

Col (Brig Gen Sel) Thomas H. Neary, Commander
341 Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB MT



OPERATIONS CREW

1Lt Ron Yenko
1Lt Shawn Jansen



OPERATIONS CREW

Capt Kent Dalton
1Lt Jeff Englert

OPERATIONS CREW

1Lt Pat Letts
1Lt John deAndrade



OPERATIONS CREW

1Lt Kevin Rhoades
1Lt Tom Griep



SECURITY POLICE TEAM

1Lt Joseph A. Milner
SSgt Troy D. Leck
Sgt Anthony D. Martin
Sgt Derek J. Privette
Sgt Valarie Ramirez
SrA Douglas L. Otto
A1C Gregg M. Tyler

MISSILE HANDLING TEAM

Sgt Billy R. Shirley
SrA Stuart G. Ragas
SrA Michael J. Labonte
A1C Robert T. Hagler



CIVIL ENGINEERING TEAM

TSgt Steve Jolin
A1C William Harrell
A1C Johnathan Wood



FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

SSgt Robert M. Payne
SrA Shannon L. McCaleb

MECHANICAL SHOP TEAM

Sgt De V. Mobbs
SrA Johnnie P. Wheeler

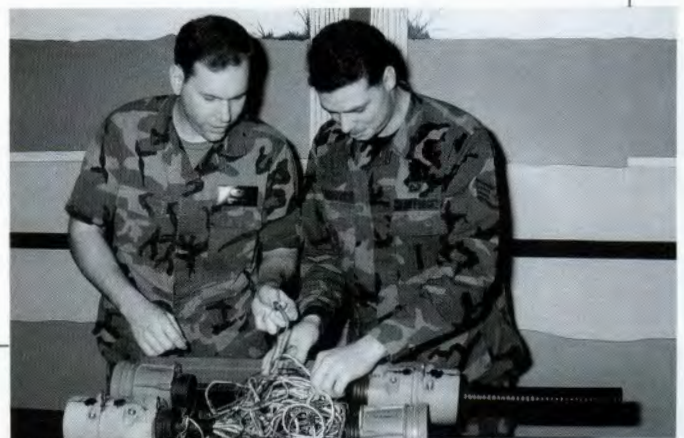


ELECTRONICS LABORATORY TEAM

Sgt Daniel S. Brown
Sgt Ellis P. Kimble

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

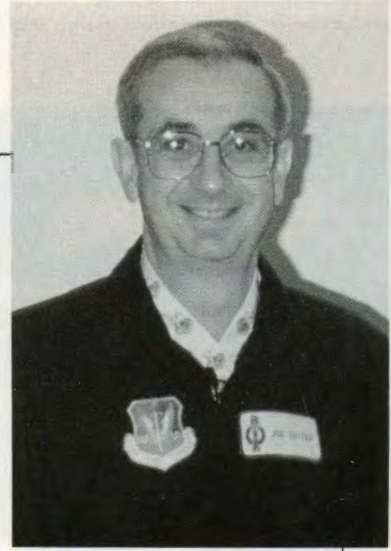
SSgt Dennis L. Largent
SSgt Randall A. Scalf





351 MISSILE WING

Col Joseph E. Sutter, Commander
351 Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB MO



OPERATIONS CREW S-210

1Lt Steve Hamilton
1Lt Don Duralia

OPERATIONS CREW S-211

Capt Rob Redwine
2Lt Rich Petty



OPERATION CREW S-212

1Lt Steve Miller
2Lt Mark Greer





OPERATIONS CREW S-213

1Lt Tom Shelton
2Lt Paul Burdulis

SECURITY POLICE TEAM

TSgt Don Hicks
SSgt Dwane Tawney
SSgt John Harvey
SrA Isaac Lopez
A1C Gary Rousseau
A1C Jeremy Thompson
A1C Neal Negron



MISSILE HANDLING TEAM

SSgt Ed Palacios
SSgt Frank Shultz
Sgt Bryan Stewart
SrA Tim White

CIVIL ENGINEERING TEAM

Sgt David Sizemore
SrA Christian Pugh



FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEAM

SrA Matt Barkley
A1C Leslie Pike



MECHANICAL SHOP TEAM

SSgt Monty Reeder
Sgt Andre Hope

ELECTRONICS LABORATORY TEAM

TSgt Jim Wakeman
SSgt Ken Amo



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

SSgt Craig Cisna
Sgt Henry McConnell

RESTRUCTURING

*Major Ed Robison
HQ ACC/SEW
Langley AFB VA*

D
A
N
G
E
R

Air Force restructuring, including base closures, organizational changes, and manning reductions, has created many personnel problems. These people problems are causing concern for our leadership and weapons safety staffs. When people have other things on their minds such as shortened careers, early transition to civilian life, reduced promotion opportunities, short PCS notices, and mid-life career changes, their ability to think straight is affected and turmoil is created in workcenters and in the lives of Air Force families. From a safety standpoint these changes can lead to disastrous events.

Recently, a base received a shipment of explosives in a hazardous condition along with several documentation discrepancies. The individual responsible for packing was contacted about the incident while on terminal leave and could not remember improperly packing the shipment and offered no excuse. Interviews with other maintenance and transportation personnel who knew the packer stated that the individual was highly motivated and could be trusted fully. Supervisors and co-workers also indicated that around that timeframe the individual was extremely disappointed because of some recent personal choices. It seems the individual had elected the special separation benefit (SSB) even though not vulnerable for RIF action. After making the selection he was selected for promotion. Upon hearing of the promotion, the individual tried to withdraw the SSB election but was denied. This example could have turned ugly if it had not been for the alert receiving inspection personnel at the receiving unit.

This example should remind us all that during these times of uncertainty within a downsizing Air Force, we all need to stay alert to the danger signals that are manifested by personnel in this window of vulnerability. Our people need to be reminded that their situation is not the end of the world. The Air Force has many programs designed to help individuals transition. As a munitions community, let's all help one another to make it through these uncertain times. We do not need an explosive accident to make us realize these dangers exist. ■

S
I
G
N
A
L
S



ICBM Safety Award of Distinction

Lithium batteries offer 25 times as much energy per pound as conventional lead acid batteries and were the survival emergency power source at 285 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launch facilities. This advantage also results in the potential for catastrophic failure or explosion, which could result in the release of several highly toxic and severely corrosive fumes. Needless to say, working with and around lithium batteries is always done with care. The Technical Engineering Flight at the 341st Missile Wing became increasingly aware that things were not working as advertised with the batteries. We began to see reports of unexplained corrosion and bulging cases and no one knew why these things suddenly started occurring. As concern over the safety of these batteries increased, we were directed to do a 100 percent inspection of the 600 batteries at our unit. We inspected 50 LFs, 28 of them twice, as inspection criteria changed. We found significant amounts of corrosion on hazardous chemical neutralizing units (scrubbers), bulges in steel

cases and epoxy coatings, and battery venting indicators that were inoperative. We became experts for safe operations around lithium batteries. Our original survey data became the standard by which each launch facility was judged. Maintenance teams were required to evacuate any launch facility where conditions had changed. When evacuation was necessary, an engineer would dispatch immediately with protective equipment and gas detectors to evaluate the new situation. Because of the danger factor involved whenever the scrubber unit

was corroded or damaged, Tech Engineering was first into the area on those LFs. We made the evaluation, passed our recommendations to 20 AF, and the decision was made to continue or cancel maintenance. Because of the hard work of the Technical Engineering Flight, a potentially disastrous situation was reduced to a manageable problem. The engineers and technicians of the flight went far beyond what was required and became an integral part of the solution--remove the batteries from service, for the safety of the missiles and personnel.

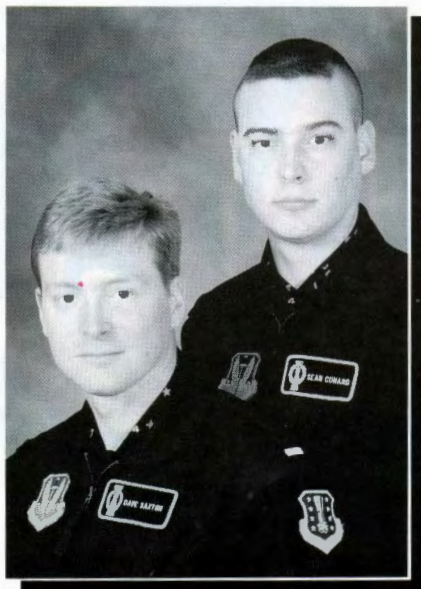


*Capt Joe M. Dunwoody, Jr., Capt Jean P. Vail, 1Lt David Jensen
2Lt Allen R. Toso, MSgt Dennis R. Bennett, TSgt Gary W. Cook
TSgt Robert N. Radabaugh, SSgt David B. Laplant
341 MSPTS, Malmstrom AFB MT*

ICBM Crew Safety Award of Distinction



1Lts David Saxton and Sean Conard had assumed alert responsibilities at E01 Launch Control Center when maintenance trip 15-39 arrived at one of their launch facilities to repair the outer security alarm system. Shortly after the crew coordinated the maintenance team's arrival, the team chief notified them the A-circuit door had closed down on a maintenance member's arm and the member appeared to be going into shock. Lt Saxton responded immediately to the situation by gathering information from the team chief while Lt Conard notified Wing Command Post of the injury. Lt Conard then coordinated with the facility manager to prepare the necessary emergency first aid equipment. Once Lt Saxton had received all of the pertinent information, Lt Conard dispatched the security police Alert Response Team from E01 with an air cast and other first aid equipment. Lt Saxton requested at telephone patch to the hospital emergency room. The Wing Command Post duty controller informed Lt Saxton a serious



1Lt David L. Saxton
1Lt Sean R. Conard
44 OG
Ellsworth AFB SD

in-flight emergency had been declared and patched him through to the emergency room where a flight surgeon was waiting to direct first aid. Lt Conard monitored the call as first aid instructions were given. Lt Saxton contacted chopper operations to transport the injured airman back to base. Two helicopters with medical technicians aboard were already airborne for a routine exercise. Chopper operations diverted one of the helicopters to the accident site. The helicopter arrived at the launch facility within 30 minutes of the call; however, on approach to the launch facility, the helicopter crew lost contact with chopper operations. Lts Saxton and Conard relayed all necessary communications between the two until contact was reestablished. Twelve minutes later the injured member was aboard the helicopter and headed for the base hospital, less than an hour after the injury occurred. The swift reaction and crew coordination of Lieutenants Saxton and Conard saved the young airman's arm.

