



Billy Mitchell Chapter #247 Quarterly Newsletter

Mitchell Mutterings

January, February, March 2016 Newsletter

In Side This Issue:

Chapter News
Activities

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VP/ Leadership Development:

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VP/ Membership:

Don Adams

VP/ Veterans Affairs:

Don Adams

ROTC News

Billy Mitchell Chapter granted Arnold Air Society Charles Scharf Squadron \$300, to help defray expenses to attend the NATCON in Dallas.

Civil Air Patrol News

CAP Waukesha - C/2nd Lt Cassandra Jehly Congratulations on being named Outstanding Cadet of the Year. Cadet Jehly has done an outstanding job with service to her unit, Memorial Day Parade, and other volunteering.

So nothing else happened on this quarter, included two articles from National.

The Cyber Key —WILL SKOWRONSKI

The key to a capable cyber force is "good people," Defense Secretary Ash Carter told the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday. The Pentagon [requested](#) a department-wide \$7 billion increase in cyber capabilities in Fiscal 2017 and \$35 billion over the next five years. "We're spending more money on [cyber]. We're making big investments," he told lawmakers. "But that's not the key. The key is are we able to get the good people to flesh out our 133 cyber mission force teams." In response to a question from Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), Carter said US personnel are training Ukrainian forces for what he described as the "here-to-stay brand of hybrid warfare that we've seen in eastern Ukraine." Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said five conventional Ukrainian battalions and one Ukrainian special operations unit are scheduled to complete training in September. "Much of that training is informed by Russian behavior over the last few years and lessons learned—in terms of integrating unconventional warfare, information operations, cyber capabilities, [and] conventional capability," he said.

Meeting schedule for 2016:

5 January, 2016

5 April, 2016

6 September, 2016

6 December, 2016 -

Christmas Party

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Air Force fielding all-female ICBM crews and B-52 aircrews



Jenn Rowell, jrowell@greatfalltribune.com

5:55 p.m. MDT March 21, 2016

Look for her articles



(Photo: Air Force photo/Airman Collin Schmidt)

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On Tuesday, all of the missile alert crews at all three U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile

When you are at the Mitchell Airport, please take time to see this wonderful exhibit!



See the Air Force Association on:



bases will consist of women.

The female missile officers at Malmstrom, Minot and F.E. Warren Air Force Bases will be joined in the field by all-female B-52 aircrews from Minot and Barksdale AFBs.

Female operators from the 625th Strategic Operations Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska are also participating. The 625th provides secondary Minuteman III launch capability through the Airborne Launch Control System, which is housed aboard the Navy's E-6B aircraft and a backup to Minuteman launch control centers.

It's a first for the Air Force.

The Malmstrom officers will be wearing special patches that have a likeness of Rosie the Riveter and read "We put the 'miss' in missileer."

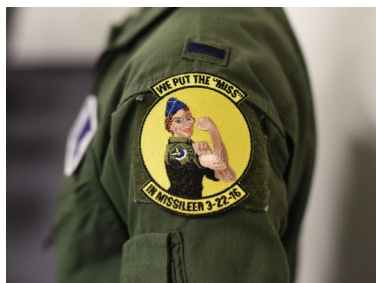
Second Lt. Alexandra Rea, deputy crew commander, and 1st Lt. Elizabeth Guidara, crew commander, will be in the missile field Tuesday.

"I'm really excited," Rea said. "It's awesome to think about how far we've come as an Air Force and a country."

"We're continuing on what other women have done," Guidara said.

It's also a reminder "not to be afraid to take risks," Guidara said. She was working as a paralegal before she decided to join the Air Force and was commissioned through the Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

"The fact that we can look across our pre-departure briefing room and see a woman sitting in every seat, for every combat crew going out on nuclear alert, is in itself significant, not because Team Malmstrom is fielding an all-women alert force, but because we have enough women filling combat leadership roles to take alert for the entire wing," said Col. Tom Wilcox, 341st Missile Wing commander. "It wasn't always this way, and we have further to go, but the Air Force has made great strides to build a force representative of the nation we serve."



The patch female missileers are wearing as the Air Force mans the missile fields with all-female crews Tuesday. (Photo: Air Force photo/Airman Collin Schmidt)

In the 1970s, women were assigned to missile wings, but largely in support functions. In 1978, women were becoming missile maintenance officers and training as missile crew officers on the Titan missile system.

Retired Col. Patricia Fornes and Airman 1st Class Tina Ponzer were the first enlisted and officer women to perform Titan II alerts at the 381st Strategic Missile Wing at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas, according to the Air Force and press reports.

Titan missiles had four-person crews in large, three-level underground bunkers. There crews included two officers and two enlisted airmen. The Minuteman capsules are 125 square feet with a shared bathroom on one end and a small bed on the other.

At the time, the Minuteman missile crews were two male officers. Strategic Air Command, which then controlled all ICBM units, worried about privacy, morality, spouse objections and crew morale, according to Air Force documents.

In 1980, Strategic Air Command conducted a survey of 475 male Minuteman crewmembers and 281 of their wives.

The results found that 40 percent of the missile crewmen and 67 percent of their wives opposed women as part of the Minuteman crew force.

One of the first women to graduate from missile crew training was Deborah Jermunson of Brady.

She was later selected as a team member for the 1985 Strategic Air Command study examining women on missile launch crews. Jermunson "brought her Titan missile experience and airborne command and control expertise and was the first operationally ready female Titan crew commander," according to the 1985 document.

The study found that spouses had concerns about male-female crews, and the Air Force study team concluded "that introducing additional stress into an already demanding missile crew environment was not considered prudent."



Second Lt. Alexandra Rea, left, and 1st Lt. Elizabeth Guidara in the missile procedures trainer at Malmstrom Air Force Base on Monday. (Photo: Air Force photo/Airman Collin Schmidt)

That study recommended introducing all-female missile crews for Minuteman and Peacekeeper missile systems, which was implemented later that year.

The Air Force study team also worried about the flow of female officers into the missile crew career field and wasn't confident that enough female officers would volunteer to be missileers, which would affect the ability to field all-female missile crew teams.

In 1988, the Air Force started a trial of mixed crews on alert with one male and one female at Whiteman AFB in Missouri and Malmstrom.

According to a New York Times report, there were no reports of sexual misconduct among the mixed crews and in late 1988, the Air Force made the mixed missile crews permanent.

First Lt. Dominique Gray and 1st Lt. Jennifer Bishop are glad to be part of the all-female missile crews manning ICBMs on Tuesday. "It's very exciting to be part of history," Bishop said. She marked her second year at Malmstrom and 15th year in the Air Force on Monday. She was previously an enlisted airman.

Gray said finding out that the all-female effort included bombers and other parts of Air Force Global Strike Command was "that much more exciting. It's cool to be a part of history."

Bishop said that in the early missile days, women weren't allowed to serve as operators. Fast-forward to today when there's enough female missile operators and bomber aircrews to have those in the field be all women for an alert shift.

"I don't personally think about it until moments like this," Gray said. "We have come a long way." Lt. Col. Kristen Nemish is the 10th Missile Squadron commander and will be in the field as a missile crew commander on Tuesday.

She's been in the Air Force for 17 years.

"When I think back to when I was a second lieutenant, we didn't even have the ability to do this, there weren't enough of us," Nemish said. "I'm honored to do this."

From:
Air Force Association
Billy Mitchell Chapter #247
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Racine, WI 53406

To:

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