

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE

PEACEKEEPER

JAN 2021



Staff Sgt. Amber Alderman, 90 MSOS, tries on the new improved outer tactical vest in the 90 LRS Individual Personal Equipment section Dec. 11, 2020 on F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. The armor was created as a collaboration between several Air Force organizations to ensure a more comfortable fit for female defenders to increase lethality. (U. S. Air Force photo by Glenn S. Robertson)

Airmen from the 90th Security Forces Group were among the first to try on the new female body armor at Logistics Readiness Squadron's Individual Personal Equipment Section, Dec. 11, 2020 on F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

The equipment differs from the standard tactical to F. E. Warren.

New female body armor arrives at F.E. Warren

Story and photos by Glenn S. Robertson

"Outfitting the security forces members who protect the ICBM mission is a priority," said Murphy. "We are conducting a test run by giving female troops the Improved Outer Tactical Vest to ensure it meets mission standards, then outfit all security forces troops on base."

The IOTV is going through a test run and at three other Air Force bases: Malmstrom AFB, Mont., Minot AFB, N.D., and Moody AFB, Ga.

The first Airmen to try on the IOTV noted its benefits over the standard body armor produced with the male frame in mind.

The first Airman to try it on, Staff Sgt. Amber Alderman from the 90th Missile Security Operations Squadron, acknowledged that trying it on was not the same as wearing the armor operationally; however, she was hopeful that it would be beneficial to female defenders to better execute the mission.

"It's a bit difficult to get a good gauge on how it feels without everything on it," said Alderman. "I'm hopeful that since it's geared toward females it will be more comfortable."

The expectation of the body armor is that it will better fit the female frame, countering a common problem of ill-

fitting armor that can cause discomfort or even injury.

"On any given day, Defenders wear required gear for 12-13 hours, and when the gear doesn't fit properly, it takes a toll on the body," said Chief Master Sgt. Mary Trent, Security Forces Manager for the 90th Security Forces Squadron. "This new equipment is going to provide female Defenders needed relief and not be a distraction from being able to focus on the mission."

Female Defenders will now be able to choose armor made with their frame as the standard, keeping them from having to select a size that was the next closest size available.

"Typically women are forced to go up a size to accommodate the armor fitting their chest and the gear ends up being too loose, leaving unevenly distributed weight; or, we are forced to downsize leaving our mid-sections exposed," said MSgt Alana Lynn, of the 90th Security Forces Squadron. "As Defenders, we are often plagued with back and knee issues due to our gear and the way it is worn, but with better fitting gear, lighter and designed to fit our body, there is a potential for fewer injuries while allowing females to be more focused on their job rather than constantly being uncomfortable."

In addition to the overall readiness benefit, there is also a tactical benefit while firing a weapon.

"Firing from a prone position is difficult with improper fitting gear and being able to find that sweet spot for the butt of your weapon to sit is often times difficult," said Lynn. "However, new body armor designed for women will increase our lethality and allow for a more comfortable and controlled shot."

The rollout across the Air Force will consist of several phases, with the last bases expected to receive the armor in fiscal year 2022. The 536 vests received by the wing will be disseminated to the female defenders across the six security forces squadrons, according to Murphy, which will in turn create a more capable, lethal defender force ensuring nuclear surety.

The creation and procurement of the female IOTV was a collaboration between The Human Systems Division of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, the Air Force Materiel Command's Combat Ready Airmen office and the Air Force Security Forces Center.

ICBM Airmen receive phone calls from CSAF over the holidays

Story and photos by Capt. Ieva Bytautaite

U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, General Charles Q. Brown, made calls to missileers on alert over the holidays to discuss their mission and thank them for standing watch during COVID-19.

During the calls, Gen. Brown discussed the important role missile alert force Airmen play in the vital intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) mission and their incredible response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Gen. Brown was very personable," said Capt. Zachary Todd, 741st Missile Squadron instructor, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. "He asked about my family and home life, specifically with regards to how COVID operations have affected the holidays."

Todd, a Navarre, Florida native and a United States Air Force Academy graduate, likes to bring simple comforts from home, like board games, a cozy bathrobe and lots of books, to help pass time and make being on alert more enjoyable.

Missile alert crews from all three missile wings, located at F. E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, Malmstrom AFB,

Montana and Minot AFB, N.D., made drastic changes to alert schedules to ensure the force stayed healthy, without any degradation in readiness. These changes were historic - for the first time in ICBM history, alert crews were pulling two to one week alert tours.

Extended alert tours mean that the Airmen are spending more time in the missile field, but also limit the amount of changeover a Missile Alert Facility (MAF) experiences, greatly reducing the chances of transmitting the virus. Additionally, longer alert tours increased schedule predictability, allowed for more recovery time and increased integration with Defenders and MAF facility managers.

"Meeting people from all sorts of different backgrounds is definitely the best part of being a missileer," said Todd.

Lastly, Brown thanked the Airmen for their dedication to the mission, even during the holidays, when others are spending time with family or enjoying time off.

First deployed in 1970, with an expected 10 year service life, Minuteman III (MMIII) ICBMs have been operating for 50 years from bases deep in the American heartland. Having undergone multiple life extensions, the Minuteman

III will be replaced by a new, more survivable, and more cost-effective weapon system: the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD).

The Air Force maintains 400 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles in the Department of Defense's nuclear triad. These ICBMs are deployed in hundreds of silos and can be launched and reach targets within minutes, creating a nearly insurmountable targeting problem for adversaries.

U.S. ICBMs are the most responsive leg of the Triad, on day-to-day alert 24/7/365, and controlled by iron-clad nuclear command, control, and communications (NC3). The hardened and dispersed nature of U.S. ICBMs requires a potential adversary to commit to a massive attack on the U.S. homeland to even have a chance of disabling all U.S. ICBMs – thus enhancing deterrence of an attack.

20th Air Force, the missile numbered air force for Air Force Global Strike Command, oversees three ICBM wings and one nuclear operations support wing, 377th Air Base Wing, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, and is responsible for operating, maintaining, securing and supporting the U.S. ICBM force.

CROW CREEK CHALLENGE 2020



Minuteman III test launch demonstrates safe, reliable deterrent

Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs

A team of Air Force Global Strike Command Airmen launched an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with a test reentry vehicle at 12:27 a.m. Pacific Time Oct. 29 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

The test demonstrates that the United States' nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, reliable and effective to deter twenty-first century threats and reassure our allies.

"Like previous test launches, this event demonstrated the Air Force's commitment to the Nation's nuclear enterprise while ensuring the United States' nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, and effective to deter our adversaries while reassuring our allies and partners," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. "We must continue to invest in this viable deterrent, and the Airmen who support this mission, as part of the most responsive leg of our nuclear triad."

The ICBM's reentry vehicle traveled approximately 4,200 miles to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. These test launches verify the accuracy and reliability of the ICBM weapon system, providing valuable data to ensure a continued safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent.

"We have had a busy test launch schedule the last few months, and our team has worked very hard to successfully execute each mission," said Col. Omar Colbert, 576th Flight Test Squadron Commander. "Today's launch sends a visible message of deterrence to the world, and I couldn't be more proud of the dedication and professionalism of our team."

The test launch demonstrates that even during the pandemic, AFGSC maintains this capability. The missile came from the 91st Missile Wing, with men and women supporting the launch from all three AFGSC missile wings as well as the 576th Flight Test Squadron.

"This test took a missile and an incredible team of maintainers and launch crews, all pulled from active missile wings, and that really demonstrates the continued readiness and reliability of both the Minuteman III and the professional men and women who support it," said Lt. Col. Brock Sargent, Task Force Commander. "Together we make up a weapon system that stands on continuous alert, defending the United States and our allies 24/7, just as we have for the last 50 years."

The ICBM community, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and U.S. Strategic Command, uses data collected from test launches for continuing force development evaluation. The ICBM test launch program demonstrates the operational capability of the Minuteman III and ensures the United States' ability to maintain a strong, credible nuclear deterrent as a key element of U.S. national security and the security of U.S. allies and partners.

The launch calendars are built three to five years in advance, and planning for each individual launch begins six months to a year prior to launch. Test launches are not a response or reaction to world events or regional tensions.

Air Force Global Strike Command is comprised of more than 33,700 Airmen and civilians assigned to two numbered air forces, 11 wings, two geographically-separated squadrons and one detachment in the continental United States, and deployed to locations around the globe. The command oversees all bomber and Intercontinental Ballistic Missile operations for the U.S. Department of Defense.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Memorial to Buffalo Soldiers relocated to place of honor

Story and Photos by Glenn S. Robertson

Airmen of the 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron relocated a memorial honoring the Buffalo Soldiers to a place of honor at the Base Cemetery, Oct. 6, 2020 on F. E. Warren Air Force Base.

The memorial had stood near the main gate on base since 1993, until a decision was made to place the three-ton stone and marker in a more prominent position on base.

"We felt it was important to honor the sacrifice of these soldiers by moving the stone closer to the cemetery," said Col. Deane Konowicz, 90th Missile Wing Vice Commander. "Seeing as there are Buffalo Soldiers buried in that hallowed ground, it seemed fitting that the stone should be moved closer to their resting place."

There was also a sense of maintaining a long tradition started in the early years of the installation, with Airmen sharing some of the same living and work spaces as those Buffalo Soldiers who came before.

"The men and women of the 90th Missile Wing serve this great nation on the foundation of service and sacrifice that the Buffalo Soldiers established at the turn of the last century on these same parade grounds, dorms, homes, and training areas," said Konowicz. "We are proud to be part of that tradition and grateful to be able to recognize them in a more prominent way."

From 1887 – 1916, hundreds of soldiers from the 9th and 10th Cavalry as well as the 24th Infantry, were stationed on Fort D. A. Russell, the Army post that would become F. E. Warren Air Force Base.

Those units comprised three of the four considered Buffalo Soldiers, and several of those soldiers are buried in the base cemetery.



Senior Airman Jacob Cabana loads the Buffalo Soldier memorial stone onto a forklift while Master Sgt. Ronald Barnett guides him during the stone's relocation Oct. 6, 2020 to the base cemetery on F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. The memorial stone was relocated to a location of greater prominence in honor of the sacrifice of the Buffalo Soldier units who served at Fort D. A. Russell from 1877 to 1916. Three of the four Buffalo Soldier units served at various times at the U.S. Army post that would become F. E. Warren AFB. (U. S. Air Force photo by Glenn S. Robertson)

"There are 19 Buffalo Soldiers interred in the base cemetery," said Kyle Brislan, Historian for the 90th Missile Wing. "those soldiers intermittently supported the mission at Fort Russell, protecting the people of Cheyenne and its neighboring regions for three decades."

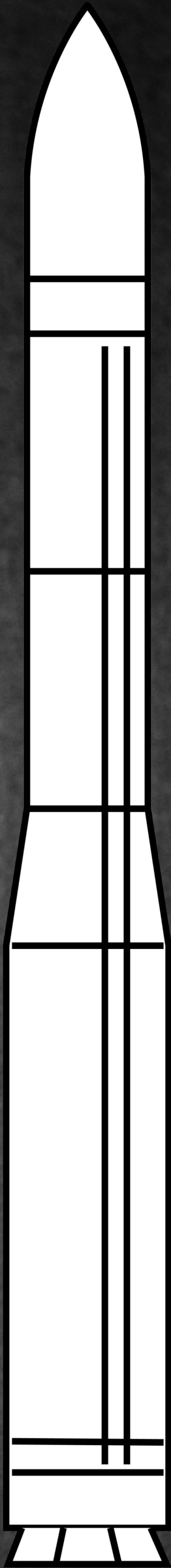
The stone and plaque memorialize the efforts of those soldiers who served the United States, even in an era of segregation and hostility.



F. E. WARREN
AIR FORCE
BASE
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90TH
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