

# Thule Times

## ORI Edition

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## Remain focused—ORI isn't over yet!

By Col. John Haven  
821 Air Base Group Commander

Greetings Team Thule! Our Operational Readiness Inspection is now in full swing!

Last weekend we met with our inspectors and responded to various exercises incidents. I know it's been a busy few days, but I can assure you, we've only just begun.

Each and every one of you has contributed time and effort to make this inspection successful so far. But we need to remember—it's not over yet.

We are all professionals and together we make up a team that is sure to win! Remain motivated, remain positive and remain focused!

As we continue to shine throughout the week, I ask you to reflect again on a few tips for success.

**Safety First**—Remain vigilant and keep your eyes open for any potential hazards.

**Be Professional**—Show the inspectors the great job we're doing here. Remember your customs and courtesies and always use your checklists and procedures.

Most important, **Be Positive**—we're in this together. Our overall performance is based on how well we work together. Team Thule is nothing

short of exceptional and I guarantee the inspectors can see that!

The inspection isn't over yet. Let's use this time to remain focused and continue to shine. By continuing to work together and following the tips for success, Team Thule will finish strong!



Photos by 1st Lt Jennifer Tribble

Left: Thule's Fire Response unit carries a "victim" after responding to an exercise fire at Bldg. 455 Oct. 9. Below: Senior Airman LaPeachez Clark listens as AFSPC/IG Inspector Tech Sgt. John Henderson reviews Thule's Military Section.

## Space badge to unite space professionals

By Gen. Lance W. Lord  
AFSPC Commander

Air Force Space Command made history this week with the unveiling of a new space badge in front of a standing room only crowd at the Strategic Space 2004 Convention in Omaha, Neb.

The new space badge, part of Air Force Space Command's senior leadership's continuing vision and push to unite the command's missions and specialties, will reign in place of the current Space and Missile functional badge, worn by both space and missile operations professionals, said Air Force Space Command Commander, Gen. Lance W. Lord.

"The new badge will be awarded only

when our people have mastered the skills necessary to help lead and shape our space and missile missions," he said.

The badge qualification process according to the General will be "rigorous."

"Our space badge will be earned, not awarded." Our people must demonstrate performance in addition to completing a required training program.

The new badge also replaces the missile operations occupational badge, more commonly known as "the pocket rocket," currently worn by those in the missile operations career fields.

The 2001 U.S. Space Commission Report, assessing U.S. National Security Space Management and Organization, flagged DoD's need to further train and

develop its space professionals. The report set the stage for an increased emphasis on training our nation's next generation of space professionals.

Air Force Space Command also identified the need to capture the individual talents of its space community - across operations, engineering, scientific research and acquisitions specialties in officer, enlisted and civilian ranks.

There may however, be apprehension by some new badge wearers, particularly those in the missile operations career field, who will have to retire their distinctive "pocket rocket," the missile operations occupational badge.

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The badge, which has existed in some form since the 1950s, has tremendous historical significance and, for some, is just as important to the missile culture as performing the job itself.

"I am proud of our tradition," said Capt. Aaron Greaver, 21st Operations

Support Squadron, whose missile background includes being a missile combat crew commander at the 321st Missile Squadron, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. "If wear of the missile badge were discontinued, it would be unfortunate."

These concerns have not fallen short of the longest serving ICBM officer on active duty - General Lord, who began his Air Force career 35 years ago at Grand Forks AFB, N.D. as a Minuteman II Combat Crewmember.

"Missiles are in my DNA," said General Lord. "I grew up in the missile business."

After serving four years of Minuteman II ICBM alert duty, General Lord's missile experience continued when he served as a MAJCOM evaluation member for two years, missile operations staff officer for three years, commander of the 10th Strategic Missile Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont., vice commander of the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo., and commander of two ICBM wings in North Dakota and Wyoming, respectively.

"There was a tremendous amount of thought given to all aspects of creating this space badge," said General Lord, "including the very rich and proud heritage of the missile badge which remains for all time."

One of the General's top priorities is to build a robust group of space professionals with a strong sense of 'space culture' and, with a number of career development initiatives already underway, General Lord said the command is on its way to fulfilling this goal.

For General Lord, however, a variety of different specialty badges worn by members of the Air Force space community served as a reminder that we are not yet identifiable as one team.

"The timing is right to create a new, lasting symbol that unites all members of both the space and missile career fields. This will prove to be a symbol all can be proud to wear," said General Lord.

The all-inclusive badge follows the historic redesign of the Air Force symbol and implements a new, enduring symbol that communicates the unique role of space in

military operations, said General Lord.

"As the Air Force symbol changed to reflect a more modern, agile and technologically advanced force, so does the new space badge," said Staff

Sgt. Jerome Wesley, 21st Operations Support Squadron, who's been a space operator throughout his nine years in the service.

Some think the new badge design has a more operational feel to it.

After seeing the new badge design, Captain Greaver said, "The new space badge is definitely distinctive and non-traditional. I think the new badge will stand out from the current functional and operational badges and present a more operational flavor."

The new badge maintains the heart of the current functional space and missile badge but has wing like protrusions on both sides, similar to "aviation wings."

"I think there are similarities due to the wings displaying outward, however, there are enough differences in both not to get them confused with one another," said Sergeant Wesley.

"Now more than ever, our Nation's security relies on space dominance. In that spirit, it is indeed time for our Space Professionals to become as recognizable as our other warfighting components," said General Lord.

The new badge is more inclusive and reflective of the entire spectrum of space professionals as it will be awarded to personnel in the following space billets:

Space operations career fields, 13SX (officers) and 1C6XX (enlisted)

Scientific/research, 61XX

Developmental engineering, 62XX

Acquisition, 63XX

"As we continue to move our Space Professionals forward in providing the best possible support to our Air Force mission, we must look for ways to unite the many outstanding men and women within the community of space professionals," said General Lord. "Just as pilots wear the same badge, whether they fly fighters, bombers, tankers or transports, all very distinct and different missions, our space professionals should wear the same badge to reflect the unity of their mission and capabilities."

Rigorous qualifications for earning the new badge are expected to correlate, as a minimum, to the development of the new space professional education courses: Space 100, Space 200 and Space 300.



**Represented is the master level space badge. Like other Air Force badges, it will also include a senior version with no star only and a basic version with no star or wreath. The badge and qualification criteria are pending formal approval and will be announced at a later date.**

"The foundation for space professional development is a continuum of educational courses spread throughout one's career," said Col. James C. Hutto, Jr, AFSPC Chief of Force Development and Readiness. "These courses are designed to bring space professionals together several times during their careers in order to stay current on evolving missions, technologies and capabilities and to prepare the individual for the next level of responsibility."

Now that the badge has been approved, it will be another six to nine months before the badge is actually on the shelf. The badge still needs to be processed through the Air Force uniform board, Institute of Heraldry and be mass-produced by the manufacturers.

No date has been set for mandatory wear. More details are expected within the next 30 days.

**Wednesday Weather**  
Partly to Mostly Cloudy  
**High: 30°F (-1°C)**  
**Low: 20°F (-7°C)**

**Thursday Weather**  
Partly to Mostly Cloudy  
**High: 32°F (0°C)**  
**Low: 22°F (-6°C)**