

Demilitarized GLCM came Monday to its

Final Resting Place

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A Ground Launched Cruise Missile weapon system, found its way through Gate 1 at Tinker AFB Monday morning, and is now resting in the South 40.

This particular weapon system, managed by Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center since 1979, came complete with Transporter Erector Launcher, Missile and M.A.N. (German Manufactured) Truck. These are primary elements of the GLCM weapon system.

The GLCM, a ground mobile tactical missile with a nuclear warhead capable of high subsonic speed, was designed to increase theater fire power and nuclear capability while improving survivability of the theater nuclear force.

Formerly on alert with the 501st Tactical Missile Wing at RAF Greenham Commons, England, this GLCM with associated equipment, came to Tinker by truck, via the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, Davis Monthon AFB, Ariz. Final destination is Tinker Air Park as a static display.

Cindy Davidson, logistics management specialist, said the weapon system that arrived at Tinker Monday morning is one of eight GLCMs and seven TELs authorized by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty to be eliminated by placing them on static display after demilitarization.

The INF Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union, signed in December 1987, halted all testing and production of the GLCM. The Treaty went into force June 1, 1988 and elimination began in October 1988.

There will only be eight static GLCM displays in the world, Ms. Davidson said. Site requests were reviewed and evaluated by Air Force Museum officials and in October 1988, in accordance with the INF Treaty, the list of eight GLCM units allocated static displays was sent to Headquarters Air Force and approved.

Capt. Mike Mills, acting GLCM program manager, said to qualify for elimination as a static display, the weapon system was disarmed, some parts were removed, some areas were secured by welding and then it was inspected and approved by the Soviets.

The TEL and missile now at Tinker were eliminated, inspected and approved as a static display by the Soviets on Sept. 26, 1990 and Feb. 12, 1991, respectively.

"In the INF treaty elimination message, the Soviets were not only informed of the elimination by static display," Ms. Davidson said. "They were also informed of the location at OC-ALC where the display will be placed."

The GLCM played an integral role in the pages of history by being the first nuclear weapon destroyed since its inception during World War II, she said.

"We, at Tinker are very proud of our part, not only in the development and deployment of the weapon system, but also in the fact that this weapon system is what has made it possible for 1,500 Soviet nuclear warheads to be eliminated."

Captain Mills said that except for tying up a few loose ends his job will probably be over by the end of May.

"When the Treaty went into force in June 1988, there were 445 missiles and 123 launchers deployed between six bases," he said. "Now there are 32 missiles and 8 launchers remaining to be eliminated. They are all at AMARC in Arizona. None are deployed."

Ms. Davidson said before the system can go on display, 2854th Civil Engineering Squadron will prepare a mounting pad and the 2953rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron will prepare the components for static display.



U.S. Air Force Photo by M. Tim Blake

Capt. Michael G. Mills, acting GLCM program manager and Cindy Davidson, logistics management specialist, review paper work for Ground Launched Cruise Missile Weapon System delivered to Tinker AFB for static display. The vehicle on the trailer is a M.A.N. (German manufactured truck) used to tow weapon system.

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