



## New Space Badge To Replace “Pocket Rocket”

Air Force Space Command has decided to replace the existing space and missile functional badge and the “pocket rocket” missile operator’s badge with a single, new badge.

“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,” said Gen. Lance W. Lord, AFSPC commander.

The new badge will be worn by enlisted and officer space and missile operators, as well as space-field scientists, engineers, and acquisition officials.

Lord, a former ICBM operator, said the various badges currently worn in the command are a reminder that the space community is not yet identifiable as a coherent team. He said that the qualification process will be “rigorous.” Award will require performance in addition to completion of training.

Officials on the planning team that created the new insignia said that previous AFSPC leaders had noted the discrepancy with separate space and missile insignia, but there was resistance to giving up the missileer’s badge. Lord’s status as a missileer gives the change more credibility, officials said.

The new badge was unveiled Oct. 7 at the Strategic Space 2004 Convention in Omaha, Neb., the home of US Strategic Command.

SSgt. Colin Loring, the badge designer, later told *Air Force Magazine* that he submitted several preliminary ideas to Lord, including one very similar to the final design but with the “thrusters” on one side only. This gave the badge the appearance of a comet.

Lord liked that basic concept, Loring said, but the comet shape was deemed “too radical” and was modified to add thrusters on the other side as well.

The AFSPC commander said the basic badge design has been approved by the Air Force’s top leadership, but it will be several months before it becomes available for wear.