

Air Force Space Command

December 17, 2008

F.E. WARREN NSI INSPECTION RESPONSE TO QUERY

A combined Nuclear Surety Inspection (NSI) and Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) was conducted at the 90th Missile Wing, F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., from 2 December to 17 December 2008 by inspectors from the Air Force Space Command Inspector General (AFSPC/IG), with oversight provided by representatives from the Air Force Inspection Agency and Air Force Safety Center. The Department of Defense's (DoD) Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) also performed a Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection of the wing that ran concurrent to Air Force Space Command's inspection activities. Representatives from the United States Strategic Command's Inspector General observed all inspection activities of both AFSPC/IG and DTRA.

An NSI is designed to evaluate a unit's readiness to execute nuclear operations and takes place at least every 18 months. The last NSI of the 90th Missile Wing took place from 6-12 September, 2007. UCIs are conducted at least every five years and are designed to assess areas mandated by law as well as mission areas identified by senior Air Force and MAJCOM leadership as critical or important to assess/assure the health and performance of organizations. The last UCI of the 90th Missile Wing occurred in May 2004.

Areas evaluated during the NSI included operations, maintenance, security and support activities needed to ensure the wing is performing its mission in a safe, secure and reliable manner.

As a matter of policy the DoD does not release or confirm ratings or discuss specific findings from these inspections. This inspection involved more than 100 inspectors, across all inspection activities, conducting a very rigorous and comprehensive inspection. These demanding evaluations of the wing's mission are a thorough test touching every facet of the base's wide reaching responsibilities.

The wing remains certified to perform its strategic mission. However, inspectors did identify deficiencies in several areas. HQ AFSPC is ensuring experienced instructors augment the wing's personnel to quickly address the root causes of these deficiencies. The HQ AFSPC/IG will return to inspect appropriate aspects of the 90th Missile Wing within 90 days in accordance with established DoD and Air Force guidance.

This inspection highlights AFSPC's and DoD's commitment to correcting deficiencies identified in previous reports. With the added emphasis and focus placed on the nuclear enterprise, AFSPC has increased the intensity, depth and rigor of all inspection activities to ensure that every aspect of a unit's mission is thoroughly examined. NSIs/UCIs are extremely detailed and demand the absolute highest standards of compliance and accountability. There is no margin for error in nuclear operations. The benefits of this careful examination are paramount to continued reliability and confidence in our nuclear enterprise.

AFSPC leadership feels the right leadership is in place at the 90th MW to put essential corrective actions in place.