“20th Air Force is sending people to Malmstrom. They are requesting commanders with instructor experience and you fit the description. Would you be willing to go?”

I thought for five seconds and said “yes.”

“Really? Do you want to think about it some more? We don’t know when you are leaving, when you’d come back, what exactly you’ll be doing, or how long you would be there. Think it over and give me a call back.”

“It’s okay, I’ll go.”

“Thanks we’ll let know when we find out more.”

I was sitting in the common area of Lima Missile Alert Facility (MAF) working on some long overdue computer based training. Getting up I walked to the Field Security Controller’s (FSC) office where Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander 2d Lt Smith was sitting. I told him that I had volunteered to go to Malmstrom at a undetermined time for an undetermined amount of time and asked if he would be okay “if dad left to go to the store for milk and cigarettes.” He laughed, and said he’d be fine and that it was crazy they were actually sending people to another Missile Wing.

We had heard the rumors that they might be sending people to another Missile Wing for a couple weeks. Ever since the news got out and rumors started flying of the “cheating scandal” and mass decertification of missileers at Malmstrom a month prior. Not many believed it would happen, unfortunately rumors of sending missileers to another base had happened before. In the fall of 2012 Minot “purposefully” tanked their Nuclear Security Inspection (NSI) in attempt to challenge their abrasive Wing Commander, our former Group Commander. A number of missileers at Minot were decertified and many were moved to different squadrons, but no missileers from other wings were sent to assist their minor decrease in manning, despite the persistent rumors that it would happen.

In the winter of 2013 when the rumors started flying again those of us that remembered the Minot rumors did our best to quell the suspicion that missileers from F.E. Warren or Minot would go to assist their manning. The rumors started to gain weight when every missileer was called in to take a “non-retributional” surprise 20th Air Force Emergency War Order test proctored by squadron commanders and DOs.