

# Monuments in the Schriever Courtyard of the Space and Missile Systems Center

In 1999, SMC began work on a cost-saving plan for acquiring new office buildings with seismological improvements. Land in the southwest part of the base (on the other side of El Segundo and Aviation Boulevards) was traded to private developers for construction of new office buildings in the northeast part of the base. SMC moved into the new facilities in 2006 and named them the Schriever Space Complex.

There are three major monuments on Los Angeles AFB that commemorate different points in the history of SMC. All of them were commissioned and paid for by the Air Force Association, a non-governmental organization of Air Force supporters.



## The Rock

The first is known as the "WDD Rock," or sometimes just "The Rock." It's a memorial to the Western Development Division, established in 1954 by Gen Schriever. The Rock is a large, granite rock quarried from a Minuteman missile launch site on Vandenberg AFB. A brass plaque attached to it lists the names of the first 18 Air Force members who were assigned to WDD when it was created in August 1954.

Gen Schriever and Gen Jimmy Doolittle (who was an unofficial advisor and a trustee of the Aerospace Corporation, across the street) unveiled the monument in 1964 to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of WDD.

At an Air Force Association Board meeting about 1999, several members were wondering what happened to "The Rock". Ed Peura (last year's AFA Chapter 147 president) volunteered to find it. He had the address and checked with Inglewood Chamber to see if they knew about it. They did not, so he went to the address and walked on the sidewalk in front of what appeared to be an apartment building. This building appeared to be one of the buildings in the old picture of "The Schoolhouse."





Ed looked behind a big cypress bush and lo and behold the rock was there. He reported his findings to Pete Beardsley and several others. After checking with the city of Inglewood, Pete arranged to have it moved to SMC's old Area A.

The Rock was moved from Area A, the old headquarters area across the street, to its present in April 2006. In fact, moving The Rock was considered the official date and event for moving the headquarters to its present location in SMC's Schriever Space Complex.



# The Armillary Sphere



The second monument is called The Armillary Sphere or, sometimes, the Space Motif. It's a steel and aluminum spherical sculpture created in 1978 by an artist in San Pedro named Jack Brogan. It was commissioned by the Air Force Association to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of WDD. The inner rings of the monument represent the Earth, while the outer rings represent the tracks of satellites developed by SMC orbiting around it. The sculpture was unveiled in 1979 by Gen Schriever (then retired), Secretary of the Air Force Hans Mark, and others. It was originally located in front of SMC's old headquarters across the street, but it was moved to its current location in 2006. The sculpture is often used as a symbol of SMC.

# The Schriever Memorial



The third monument in the courtyard is a 9-foot bronze statue of Gen Schriever, known as the father of Air Force space and missile programs. It was commissioned and funded by the Air Force Association's Schriever Chapter 147 and created by the sculpture Eugene Daub of San Pedro. The statue is a tribute to Gen Schriever's vision and leadership during the formative period of U.S. military space programs. It was unveiled in its present location in 2007 and shows Gen Schriever looking upward in the direction of a launch from Vandenberg AFB, representing his visionary spirit. The 60th SMC Anniversary was chosen as the occasion to recognize some of the earliest pioneers who have made tremendous contributions to SMC's space and missile programs by engraving their names to the Schriever Wall of Honor, which stands behind the Schriever Statue. The 2014 Honorees were Mr. Karel Jan Bossart, Dr. Ivan Alexander Getting, Brigadier General William King Jr., Colonel Frederic C.E. Oder, Dr. Simon Ramo, and Major General Osmond Jay Ritland. The 2015 Honorees are Col Clarence L. Battle, Jr., Col Thomas O. Haig, Col Edward N. Hall, Mr. Joseph J. Knopow, Maj Gen Ben I. Funk, and Lt Gen Charles H. Terhune, Jr.