



TAC MISSILEERS

E-NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2005

“Serving the mace and matador missile crews and all support personnel who fought and won the cold war”

Visit our web site On Line At <http://tacmissileers.homestead.com/MISSILEER.html>

- The 2006 Tac Missileers membership drive is now in progress. Please send your \$15.00 check to [Max Butler](#).

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

I've recently found a long lost photo that some of our Hahn AB missileers might find interesting. After talking with my wife, referring to some old military orders and reconstructing some memory pathways in my old brain I've put together the following events leading to the taking of the picture below.

I was taking my one free R&R flight out of Iceland in the last week of July 1974 flying into Lindsey Air Station, Wiesbaden, Germany to meet up with Ingrid and the two kids. Objective, a few weeks vacation and family life in Grünstadt before returning to Rockville AS, Iceland for the remainder of my remote, unaccompanied AC&W tour.



I was riding a Navy R6D-1 (C-118) starboard side seat way back behind the wing. I had a wonderful view, out of one of those great picture windows, of the German country side as we were letting down after hitting our IP heading into Lindsey AS. Camera in hand I was snapping shots on that unusually cloudless day. I suddenly spotted the unmistakable layout of a Mace A site. 14 soft shelters, 12 launch and 2 maintenance follow on, facing east. I recall my excitement then and remember taking several shots, I think this must be the sole survivor. The attached picture was lost, hidden all these years until I recently discovered it in a box of old

negatives. Can any Hahn missileer ID the site and give us some details on which site it was? I've tried to determine its location by using Google Earth but have been unable to place it. Probably a farmer's field or even re-forested by now. As an aside, I was able to spot the former Mace A launch site at Grünstadt using Goggle Earth satellite pictures and also spotted the remains of the former Army Nike Hercules site across the valley from Site III at Quernheim. Ollie.

Following the theme of pictures taken from high up...this one is also from Goggle World...the photo below on the left is of the Mace that sits on Interstate 75, Exit 146, Warner Robins, GA. I've enlarged and enhanced the picture to its limits to get the view of that old bird guarding that exit. Photo on the right is of the same bird but from ground level. The low level photo is credited to our own George Mindling, he aptly named the picture, Mace_on_a_stick.



**National Museum of the USAF
Public Affairs Division
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-7102
(937) 255-3286
NEWS RELEASE 05-107 October 3, 2005**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ADDS TWO MISSILES TO THE COLD WAR GALLERY

DAYTON, Ohio – The Martin TM-61A “Matador,” the Air Force’s first pilotless bomber, and the Martin CGM-13B “Mace,” a similar tactical surface-launched missile, were recently added to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force’s Cold War Gallery. The Matador was a surface-to-surface tactical missile designed to carry a conventional or nuclear warhead. It was launched by a booster rocket from a mobile 40-foot trailer and controlled electronically from the ground during flight.

“We are very excited about the addition of the Matador to the Cold War Gallery,” said Museum Director Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Charles D. Metcalf. “Now the public can get an up close look at one of the first guided tactical missiles.”



Development of the Matador began in August 1945, and it was first launched on January 19, 1949. The missile continued production until 1959, when it was phased out in favor of a more advanced version, the Mace.

The Mace missile, like the Matador, was designed to destroy ground targets. First developed in 1954 and tested in 1956, it could be launched from a mobile trailer or a bomb-proof shelter. Later, these missiles were used as target drones because their size and performance resembled those of manned aircraft.

The Mace employed a terrain-matching radar guidance system known as ATRAN (Automatic Terrain Recognition And Navigation) which matched the returns from a radar scanning antenna with a series of on board radar terrain maps. The guidance system corrected the flight path if it deviated from the maps.

“The Mace represents another important piece of Cold War history,” said General Metcalf. “It allows visitors to see the type of technology that was developed during that time to protect and defend the United States.”

A second version, the Mace B, developed in 1959, had a jam-proof inertial guidance system and twice the range of the earlier version. The missile remained operational in Europe and the Pacific until the early 1970s.

For more information on the Matador, Mace and other missiles at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, please visit our Web site at: <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum> or call 937-255-3286, ext. 302.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force is located on Springfield Pike, six miles northeast of downtown Dayton. It is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day). Admission and parking are free.

-Not Ready For Prime Time -



Photo by Phil Callihan

Awaiting refurbishment, this sad Matador is in storage at the growing Carolinas Aviation Museum at Charlotte, NC. The Matador with its wings was the one formally on display at the now defunct Florence Air and Missile museum at Florence, SC.

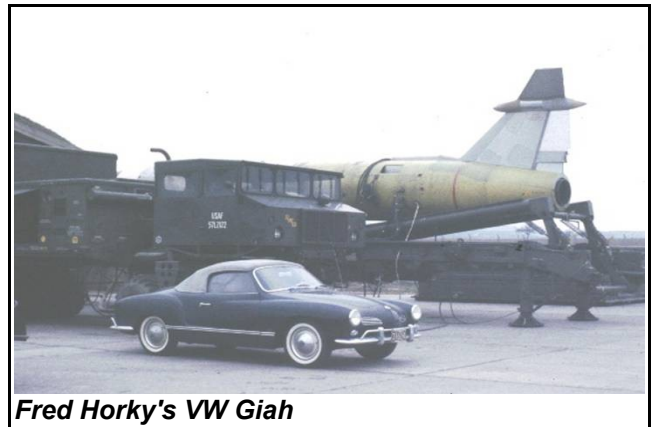
<http://www.carolinasaviation.org/collections/missiles/tm-61c.html>

-Some of Grünstadt's Hot 1960's cars-



- Fred's MG and Grünstadt Mess Hall & BX background

Ted Holling's MG



Fred Horky's VW Giah



Tom Bowers, Grünstadt Germany 1961

Tom Bowers' Renault



Ollie's VW 1500S



Mike Brashear's Corvair....That's Not Mike



Ski Wiatrowski's Backup Ride....His main ride was an older Chevy

-Reindeer Games-

Nothing says Christmas quite like that great old holiday song “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” Another great hit along those same irreverent lines and known only to a few missileers was an off beat rendition of the poem originally written by Clement Clarke Moore, “Twas The Night Before Christmas” AKA “A Visit From St. Nicholas”.

The following rendition of the poem was written by Donald “Johnny” Johnson one of the early Communications Technician on the Hill. Johnny wrote it 1963 and read it that year on the site and again at the Haus Sonnenberg Christmas party that year. Ski Wiatrowski presented it again at the 1964 Haus Sonnenberg Christmas party and SAM Moore had the honors at the 887th mini-reunion held in Bolivar, NY in 1985. To our knowledge this is the first time it has been published outside the circle of Missileers from the Hill.

Twas the night before Christmas and the site was a mess. Everyone was loaded included 1st Sergeant Tess. Moore back from Sonnenberg; He rode back with the Neater, had just settled down for another half liter When through the gate there came such a clatter George jumped through the window to see what was the matter He cried "Oh here's Santa with his reindeer called dancer. But, everyone knew that it was just the blau panzer. It tore thru the site with such fury and fuss and slid to a halt just one foot from Gus. The car door swung open and from behind the wheel slid a weird looking chap..I said, "Man is it real?" He twirled his mustache and with a sly grin said "Where's that damn Hagemes? He has two fifths of Gin." With a wink and a point towards the NCO barracks....Bolton took off running like he had hysterics. He was running so fast and shouting with glee that he tripped over the weird one, the one we called Ski Then....from out of the sky like the old ghost rider crashed Ole St. Nick bringing George a typewriter Santa had crashed into two Volkswagen one was Ballard's...The other was Hagan's Amid the excitement...shouting with fury stood a man with a Schlitz his name was Murray, he said to Santa, "now I don't want to fight, but if you've no typewriter for me then get off of the site." Then everyone sang out in one drunken chorus "Yeah you fink, what did you bring for us" Santa just stood there a blank look on his face, thinking why-oh-why did I stop at this place He said "now dear fellows don't you think it's much better to give than receive?" We all turned around and looked at each other; each one was thinking what's wrong with this Mother. Then through the crowd staggered our 1st Sergeant Tessier. He said "Hey there fat man clean up this mess here."

Roulston stepped forward saying "St. Nick is right, let's take him with us *give* him booze till he's tight. A shout of approval arose from us all, "Yeah, let's get him drunk, he'll have a ball" Two guys stepped forward and grabbed the old fellow; one was McBride, the other Padilla

After two frozen screw drivers in Lundein's pad, Santa looked better, he even looked glad.

After a few more drinks everyone was plowed, even Santa ...He had joined in the crowd.

At four in the morning 'most all were passed out' Then someone jumped up with a point and a shout. Santa's wig had come off; Gus sang out in barmony, "that isn't Santa...That's Sgt Carmany

Just then through the door who might appear but one drunken Santa and eight drunken reindeer...Rudolph was outside doing the cha-cha.....See the real Santa Clause is really (PER-KA- HA). THE END

PER-KA-HA you ask? So did we then and we still do to this day because I'm sorry to say folks, in keeping with the mysteries that surrounds Ole St. Nick and the rest of the Christmas story there was only one person in this whole wide world that knew who or what Per-Ka-Ha was and he never told anyone.

-Tucson 2007 Reunion Update-

A quick note from our Executive Director Joe Perkins:

"Even though I have not found a hotel that can set aside around a 120 + rooms for us, I am still going to press ahead with the destination of Tucson around April 2007 for the next Tac Missileers reunion. I am following the wishes of the majority of Missileers that voted to go there. Will keep everyone posted as to the progress."

-Tac Missileers Web Site Help Wanted-

Our Web Meister Joe Perkins is looking for someone to assist him in keeping up the Tac Missileers Web Site. If you have an interest in helping him maintain our web site and want the details of the job please contact Joe at perkster@fcol.com.

Joe need some occasional help entering pictures from the reunions, updating the on line rosters and other housekeeping chores relating to member screening and contact. You should have some Internet experience and enjoy being on line and it would really be helpful to have a broadband connection.

-Lowry Air Force Base History-

Lowry Air Force Base has been an integral part of the history of the US Air Force and the city of Denver for over 60 years. The base was named after Denver native, US Army Lt. Francis B. Lowry, who was killed in action during World War I. Lowry was an observer in an aircraft that was shot down over enemy lines near Crepion, France on September, 1918. Lowry Field was originally located near East 38th Avenue and Dahlia Street. This airfield hosted both US Army Air Corp and Colorado (Air) National Guard units. This site is now occupied by Park Hill Municipal Golf Course.

1934-1938: The Denver Chamber of Commerce petitions Congress to locate the Air Corps Tech School in Denver. Sanitarium is converted and donated to the federal government.

In 1937, President Roosevelt authorized funds to relocate Lowry field to its final site near East 6th Avenue and Quebec Street. The base started its training mission in earnest the following year. World War II caused Lowry to greatly expand it facilities in order to train bomber air crews along with a large number of other technical specialists.

1938: First troops arrive in Denver. Denver branch of the Air Corps Tech School becomes Lowry field.

After the war, Lowry continued to train technicians for all branches of the US military. On June 7, 1951, Lowry's 3415th Technical Training Wing formed a Guided Missiles Department. It taught courses in guidance, control, and propulsion for such systems as *Matador*, *Mace*, Falcon, Rascal, Snark, and Navaho. By 1962, the Department of Missile Training was providing the Air Force with over 1,000 trained missile specialists per year.

From 1953 to 1955, Lowry became President Dwight D. Eisenhower's "Summer White House" from which he conducted affairs of state while Mamie Eisenhower, a Denver native, visited with family. 1953 also turned Lowry into a movie star with the filming of *The Glenn Miller Story* starring Jimmy Stewart, June Allyson, and Harry Morgan. Several scenes were shot in and around the hangar that now houses the Museum. In 1955, the United States Air Force Academy was established at Lowry AFB pending construction of its facilities in Colorado Springs. On 11 July 1955 the first class (of 306 cadets) was sworn in at the Air Force Academy's temporary location at Lowry AFB. The USAFA remained in operation at Lowry from 1955 to 1958.

Due to the close proximity of the residential area around Lowry and the increase in the number of high performance jet aircraft accidents at the base, flight operations at Lowry ceased in 1966. In 1976 the US Air Force Accounting and Finance Center moved from its old location near East 40th Avenue and York Street to newly built facilities at the southwest corner of the base.

April 1991: Lowry closure announced.

February 1992: Lowry economic recovery project is established by cities of Denver and Aurora.

In 1993 it was announced that Lowry AFB, at the east edge of the City of Denver, Colorado, would be closed as part of cost reduction measures being taken by the US military. On 12 April 1993 the Air Staff approved moving small missile maintenance training facility from Lowry AFB to Vandenberg AFB, California, where it would be consolidated with large missile maintenance training.

Lowry AFB closed on 01 October 1994. November 1993: Community Reuse Plan submitted to the Air Force.

August 1994: Lowry Redevelopment Authority (LRA) formed.

September 1994: Lowry Air Force Base Closes

The Air Reserve Personnel Center is an active-duty FOA located on the grounds of the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. Its workforce is charged with providing essential services and administration for the nearly half million women and men of the Air Reserve components in support of the Air Force mission. The center also maintains the master personnel records of all Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members. The Defense Finance Accounting Service - Denver Center (DFAS-DE) is located on Lowry Air Force Base (AFB).

Tac Missileers Corporation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 19 of the IRS code. The **Tac Missileer Newsletter** is published 4 times a year, special editions as necessary. Membership dues are \$15 per year to run from January through December. Notifications relating to dues will not be mailed to individual members. Announcements in the **Tac Missileer Newsletter** will be the only notice given.

Executive Director: Joe Perkins, perkster@fcol.com

3133 Ravines Rd, Middleburg, FL 32068 (904) 282-9064

President: Julian Esposito, zito55@aol.com

130 Balsam Lane, Levittown, NY 11756

Secretary: Larry Emerson, lemerson@swbell.net

114 Sunflower Dr. Wichita, KS 67217 (316) 524-7803

Membership Dir/Treasurer: Max Butler maxbutler11540@sbcglobal.net

3270 Bufkin Springfield Rd, Mt. Vernon, IN47620 (812) 307-0187

Publisher: Curtis McKee, topmckee@juno.com

3702 Big Dalton Ave, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Editor: Bob Bolton, rbolton@charter.net

2140 Sandown Court, Lawrenceville, GA 30043 (770) 339-6836

Historian: Art Gust, abgust@tyler.net or abgir37@yahoo.com

RR3 Box 400, Jacksonville, TX 75766 (903) 589-9701

Some notes on this PDF formatted newsletter.

If your mouse pointer changes from the standard PDF Hand Tool to a pointy finger Hand Tool while scrolling around a page you can click on that underlined hyper link under the pointy hand and be taken to some other location, a site somewhere on the Internet if the pointy hand has a little "W" on it. If the pointy hand is without a "W" then the link will take you to a point somewhere else in the document.. For Example, click on Max Butlers Underlined Name on the first page and you will be taken to the Officers box for Max's Address so you can mail him your 2006 membership dues.

The email links in the Officers Data Box on the left are active, just click on the email address and you will be taken to your email program to write to your favorite Tac Missileers Officer

You may also resize the document for easy of reading by using the various Tool Bar Icons or Menu Bar Options.

You can also print out all or part of the document if you want to save a copy. Enjoy the newsletter and play around with the features.