



Volume 10, Number 1

TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

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



SPRING 2008

For the Latest Reunion News And Most Current Goings On Visit Our Official Web Site At
<http://www.tacmissileers.com/MISSILEER.html>

IMPORTANT ADDRESS CHANGE

Our Membership Director and Treasurer Has a
New Mailing Address

Max R. Butler

**5625 Pearl Dr. Suite "F" Box 120
Evansville, IN 47712**

A 2009 Preliminary Reunion Question

Max Butler would like to know if you are at this time seriously think about attending the 2009 TAC MISSILEERS reunion in Dayton. He looking to get a ballpark figure to start his planning with. Much more 2009 reunion information in the next newsletter out around mid July. Contact Max via email or through his NEW Mailing Address

Memorial Plaque To Be Dedicated During Our 2009 Reunion

GENTLEMEN, After our return from Dayton last year, Sara and I thought long and hard about what we could do for the organization that is a family to

Plaque dedication In The Museum Memorial Park on 17 July 2009, 3PM before the dinner at the "O" club.

Joe and Sarah Perkins

Because of some disapproving feed back to Joe about the plaque he wanted this statement posted:



us, we have decided to donate a plaque to the TAC Missileers at the Air Force Museum Honor Wall at the time of our reunion next year. We consider it an honor to have been a part of Air Force history that was performed in an outstanding manner with very little recognition. We are scheduled to have the

“Sorry if I offended anyone. It was not I or my wife's intention. I think If I had ask for donations to pay for the plaque, being a small plaque (10"x12") I could not satisfy some of the ones that contributed in the words on or design of the plaque, so to preclude that I took it upon myself to do the work and take the heat. The honor I really wanted to build was a replicate of the monument that Col. Vetter made and dedicated at Bitburg AB which was later destroyed. That would take the Missileer members to build. I talked to the Museum staff about it and they said that there was a hold on large projects at this time. So to have some recognition for the organization I decided on the small one for the reunion of which my wife and I agreed to pay for so as to be ready by the reunion time. I still am thinking about the large one and will work on cost and availability when and if the museum lets us build one.”

And The Winner of this edition's "Editors Award for remembering those little things that might mean a lot to some Missileer somewhere" is:

Russ Hanam

Russ sent in the following via email with the correct answer and a related war story:

"The picture is none other than the disc brake for the translauncher boogie."

"When I was an AGE man at Grünstadt there was an interesting incident with a disc brake on an MM-1. As you may be aware the parking brake for the MM-1 was nothing more than a mechanical disc brake located on the back of the transmission. The handbrake lever was next to the shift lever and was a handy place to rest your hand. It also was adjustable very easily and had a snap over center type mechanism. Most people played with it while sitting in the drivers seat and changed the adjustment. I was called to the gate one day by an AP and he said bring a fire extinguisher as a loaded nose and booster pack was almost on fire.



Someone had adjusted the brake so that it did not hold the MM-1 still so it was not fully engaged. The driver had driven out from Sembach with the brake on. The disc was

red hot and had actually caused some of the paint on the fuel tank of the MM-1 to melt and char. It was close to a fire of 200 gallons of av-gas and the nose and booster. Everyone said we needed to put water on it to cool it off. However, since I had worked on the flight line previously I knew you never do that as it might explode and cause worse damage. I told them to just let it sit and cool off. So we waited and all was well. For being so smart and knowing what to do I got to do a little corrosion control and spot paint the incident out of history.

Although we don't recall meeting each other there, Russ and I communicated about our times with Mace at Grünstadt and he sent us the following interesting personal history below.

" I had two assignments to the Mace missile. The first was 1959 to 1961. I was stationed at an MSQ radar site at Hurtgen (outside Duren) in the 615th AC&W Squadron. All of a sudden it was closed out (little did I know we supported the Matador)and I was transferred to Sembach to the 587 MMS and assigned as Ground Power guy. I was behind the power curve as I was not trained on the power pack or any of the associated equipment. Initially I worked on the two 15 KW generators that were used to power the vans but I caught on quick and soon could work on all the equipment. I remember when the first missile went on alert on the Sembach flight line in an aircraft parking space. I rotated to the states in March of 1961 after four years in Germany. Shortly after being in the states I received my award notice that Mace had received the Outstanding Unit Award. During the next four years I continued to volunteer to go back to the Mace however in my naivety I did not realize that I was on a frozen assignment of four years to the Air defense Command. As my four years came to an end I was selected by Air Force to go back into the Mace. I then had to go Or-

lando to school to learn the RFML equipment. In July 1965 I arrived at Sembach and was assigned to work at Grünstadt on shift work. I worked there until the Mace phased out in September 1966. While at Grünstadt I worked from the dirty little vans just inside the gate. My boss was SMSgt Ronald Ray. Probably one of the best guys I ever worked for. Shortly after I received notice that the Mace had received a second Outstanding Award for the swift closeout far ahead of schedule. Just think two AFOUA for the same unit.

Oh yeah, When Mace came to Germany it was under Operation Tinkle Bell. I don't remember any of the launch crews as they pretty much kept to themselves.

Well all for now. More some time later. Like the time the warheads got boosted during the thunderstorm at C Flight. Or the time the launch officer stabbed himself in the stomach with a pencil at A Flight. Or deicing missiles with a bucket and a mop. Or the fun we maintenance guys had dismantling the sites."

Russ Hanam

Max Says "Regarding the reunion, the date that we wanted for the banquet to be held "Under The Wings" in a Museum hanger, unfortunately is not available. The banquet will be held at the Wright Patterson AFB Officers Club, on 7/17/09. The Air Force Honor Guard and Air Force band will still be in attendance for our banquet. At this time, our plans are to have the memorial plaque presentation at 3:00 PM at the Museum on 7/17/09, and then probably be bussed to the officers club for a cocktail hour, (or Two), and then attend the banquet. Reunion registration will be 7/15/09. Air show will be 7/18/09. As we get further into the year, our schedule will of course, become finalized. Just wanted to keep the membership up to date of what we are working toward, and of what is committed, date wise, at this point.

As I keep saying, this is going to be a most wonderful and memorable reunion, so mark your calendars, and hope to see everyone there. Also the hotel has been reserved and from what Joe says, will start accepting reservations this May. For those that have access to a computer, keep checking our web-site for up-dates. For those that don't have this option, of course pay attention to your newsletters. I will strive to have everything on a set schedule by this summer, so you all can make your plans well ahead of the reunion dates.

Anyone wanting a Missileer jacket, patches, 38th TMW, 585th, 586th 587th TMG, 71st, 17th, 69th, 701st, etc., let me know. Also have the Missileer license plates. See y'all at the reunion."

Our Financial report:

FINANCIAL REPORT Tac Missileers 7/6/07 thru 3/8/08

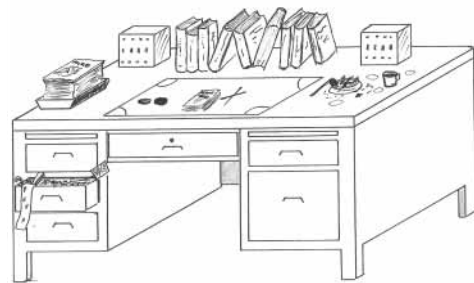
This report is for period after 2007 Tucson reunion, after all bills had been presented and paid..

Checking Account : Starting amount 7/6/07	\$20,217.32
Expenses: Newsletter Printing to Date	\$915.91
Military Graphics (License Plates)	\$201.75
SouthWest Graphics (Hats Jackets)	\$556.38
SouthWest Graphics (Patches)	\$429.30
Web-site Fee	\$99.00
Postage	\$164.00
Total Expense	\$2,366.34

FUNDS TAKEN IN FROM SALES, DUES AND DONATIONS:

Missileer Jacket Sales	\$400.00
Missileer Patch Sales	\$203.00
Missileer License Plate sales	\$12.00
Missileer Dues	\$1,625.00
Donation to Newsletter fund	\$50.00
Total Intake	\$2,290.00
ACCOUNT BALANCE 3/8/08	\$20,140.88

Remember the "Commander's Coloring Book"



Jim Plowden emailed us several pages from that favorite block house distraction of yester-year:

This is the **LCC's Desk**...it serves as a foot rest for all crew members. A bed for the Crew Chief and a business desk for the Launch Officer when Wheels are about. It also serves as pencil and shoe polish storage along with other miscellaneous items.....**COLOR IT MESSY.**

For the detailed history of how the coloring book came into being see Russ Reston's Sembach Missileers web site at: www.sembachmissileers.org/sembach

Following two Items were up for bid on eBay in February. Look at the prices they got the sellers!! Your editor was in the bidding wars on these until the prices go too high.

A bundle of Mace training material sold for \$305.00.

The mystery seller (is he a Tac Missileer?) wrote: "Many years ago (1963) I was an instructor in the TM-76A/B Missile Maintenance School at Lowry AFB, CO. This is a stack of my training materials from the ABR 44330L course containing an assortment of "Student Handouts, Student Study Guides, Student Workbooks, Lesson Plans, and Teaching Guides". The stack is 3" high. Some materials are duplicated, and all are in very fine condition. They cover a variety of subjects such as the missile systems, launch equipment, support equipment, and procedures (for both the A and B models)."

The Topping Model of the Mace B sold for \$385.00



Jim Plowden, 822nd RFML Launch and later Missile Maintenance emailed the following. "What an incredible week this has been (3/3/2008). I have managed to contact everyone in my original missile launch crew 1-9 plus a number of other friends. Hopefully, we can all make the reunion next year in Dayton. Attached is a crew picture you may enjoy. Ray Lischka was a lot of the brains, design and construction of the (Sembach) training site. It was unbelievable, to me, how Ray was able to scrounge parts for the construction from the MARS station and the scrap yards. I believe there was very little actual funding for the site. As I recall, Ray did most of the work on his off-duty time and he managed to volunteer Bob and me to help on our off-duty time too.



Germany 1-9 crew pictured at the A Flight training pad during construction L to R: Jim Plowden...Tech #2, Bob Simms...Tech #1, Ray Lischka...Crew Chief, Bill Hughes Launch Officer.
Photo sent by **Jim Plowden**

Welcome New Tac Missileers Members!

Walt "Russ" Reston, 823rd TMS, Sembach AB. Russ was a launch Technician. He has published a new web site dedicated to the Sembach Missileers. He is seeking pictures and stories from missileers at any of the three Sembach Mace A Sites. Web site address is: www.sembachmissileers.org/sembach/

Steve Snyder, was a Mace, 44370 Technician, at Eglin AFB 67-73. Retired 1986 as MSGT.

Ralph Skrobacs, at Patrick AFB 59-60. Took part in the launching of the Mace B pictured to the right.

Gary V. Grutkowski - John F. Marasi
Jean P. Fugal



Third Mace B launched from the Cape — 11 Feb, 1960. Using a translauncher, just before the Cape's Mace B hard sites 21 & 22 were ready for use. Photo sent in by **Ralph Skrobacs**

MEMBERSHIPS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Get 3 YEARS FOR THE PRICE OF 2

A three year membership is \$30.00, What A Deal! We still offer the one year \$15.00 annual membership option as well. It is always membership drive time. If you haven't sent in your membership dues for 2008 yet, please choose between either of the two options, make your check out to Tac Missileers Corp., and

send your membership request to:

Membership Director / Treasurer

Max R. Butler

5625 Pearl Dr. Suite "F" Box 120

Evansville, IN 47712

*** Notice Max's New Address**

Corrections and Questions

Many a sharp-eyed Missileer caught typos that were in the "TEST QUESTIONS FOR NOSE MISSILE REPLACEMENT CREW" in the winter edition of the Newsletter. Everyone, give yourselves credit for Question #6 & #8. With the two freebees added to your score you all should be recertified **OR** for the next 6 months.

Fred Horky wrote to correct the caption with the picture of A2C Williams spotting the Nose and Booster Pack in last edition: Fred wrote "Your comment was "Notice the typical German summer weather attire worn by the spotter". Actually this picture was taken not in Germany, but in Orlando, FL in early 1959!"

George Mindling, Bitburg B Bird Maintenance guy, asked about question #5, the **M76 Mod-I Detonators**. He wants to know where it was mounted and what

was it used for on the Mace A? Does anyone remember? If so let us know and I will pass it on to George.

Jerry Strong served as a CGM-13B Launch Mechanic #5 at Site IV on Okinawa 62-64. He called the editor to talk about the smelly rice starch that the Okinawa laundries used in the fatigues. He wanted to know if anyone else remembered the awful smell emitted by the **rice starch** when you sweated in your fatigues. **Jerry** also gave us the name for Site #4 as **Mount Ishikawa** and he also mailed in the picture of his Mace B crew below:

Front L-R, A1C **Duffy** Mech #3, A1C **Pope** Mech #1, SSgt **Smoot** CC. Back L-R, A2C **Schultz** Mech #4, A2C **Orcutt** Mech #2, A1C **Strong** Mech #5 and Capt **Jones** LO

TAPS Theodore A. DeBacker, Captain USAFR (Ret), passed away in Florida March 3, 2008 He was assigned to the Matador missile program while stationed at Patrick Air Force Base. He served in the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron, later, in 1954, he was stationed at Bitburg AB Germany.

James Mercer T/Sgt Bitburg '58-'61 Maintenance. Jim died about 11 yrs ago and it was just reported to Joe this quarter.



Reunion Planning

Please notify **Max Butler** (see his new address) if you are planning to attend the **2009 TAC MISSILEERS Reunion in Dayton**. **Max** wants to get a ballpark figure to start planning with. At this time your notice to **Max** about attending will not commit you to going.

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.

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498th History Sought

George Mindling and Bob Bolton would like to get in touch with any Tac Missileer who may have a copy of the 498th History? Their book "US Air Force Tactical Missiles © 2007" is well on its way to final draft. Thus far they have compiled a very comprehensive history and story line on the Matador and Mace, from 1946 through 1969, but, unfortunately, the sections on the Asian deployment of those two missiles are very slim. If you or someone you know has historical records on the 498th and would like to have that information considered for the book please contact either:

George Mindling at myakka@embarqmail.com

or

Bob Bolton at Olliesnapper@gmail.com

Osan Matador Call Signs Remembered

James Daman emailed the following "I received my newsletter today, (*Winter edition, Ed.*) and there is a question about call signs in Korea. I can answer that. In Korea we had on base and off base sites for the Matador. The ones on base were all on what was called A Diamond. You can still see the diamond arrangement at Osan (on Global Earth- see picture). The one clear to the left of the picture is "A Diamond" The sites on A Diamond had call signs of Foster 1, Foster 2, Foster 3 and Foster 4. What was known as the Pea Patch was in the center of the diamond That was the backup area for Missiles that was not on alert or ready status. each site had 4 missiles one on the launcher, and 3 backups all



the rest were in the Pea patch. The off base Site had 2 pads, Foster 5 and Foster 6. To get there we had to drive up and over hill 180, and about 10 miles out in the countryside. Hill 180 was very famous during the war, it is said that a United Nations soldier died for every square foot of that Hill. I hope this helps, Jim."

See Call Sign List Is On Page 8

Captain Richard S. Becker First "C" Flight Com- mander And More

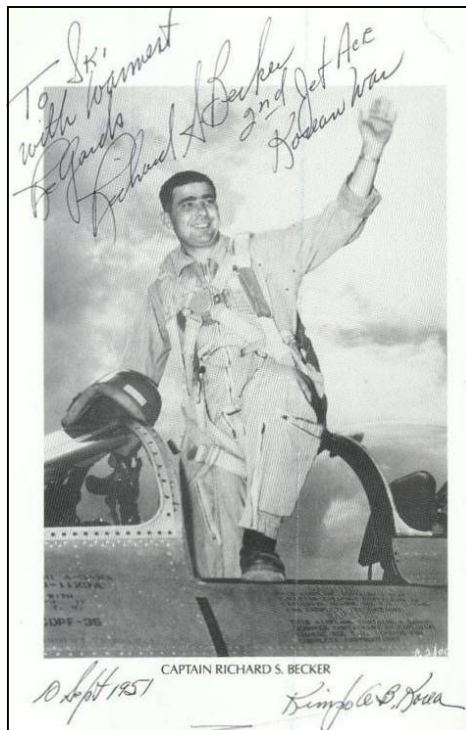
Pictures and content contributed by Ski Wiatrowski and Fred Horkey

Captain Richard Becker was the first Flight Commander of Sembach Air Base's C-flight located at Grünstadt. He organized and commanded the flight through its training at Orlando AFB then TDY to Holloman AFB where the flight live fired several single-count Mace A missiles. Becker and his C-Flight then deployed to Sembach AB in late summer 1959. After training with their Mace Missiles on the Sembach AB flight-line, C-flight moved to the recently abandoned AFSS listening post near Grünstadt. It is said that their move to "The Hill" was a complete Do-It-Yourself project for Captain Becker and his C-Flight. To get it operational they received little help from the 38th TMW HQs other than the orders to get it done. Get it done they did!

C-Flight Launch Officer, Fredrick Horkey, had this to say about Captain Becker, "Dick was wearing pilot wings when I reported to him at Orlando, so naturally I asked him "what", "where", etc.. He indicated that he was no longer flying, but not much more. In fact, he didn't talk about his flying experiences at all. Few people knew it then, but, I later learned that Dick Becker had flown Sabres in combat during the Korean War, and he was an Ace, in fact the second "Jet Ace" in world history, after the famed James Jabara. By the way, with the end of the Cold War and opening of Soviet archives with the accounts of Russian pilots who are finally able to acknowledge that they were even there, and flying Migs in combat, there is greatly increased interest in the Korean War, especially the F-86 vs. Migs. There has been some revisionism and re-counting with folks now claiming that Captain Becker was actually the FIRST JET ACE IN HISTORY."



F86A-5 49-1184 "Miss Behaving" of Capt Richard Becker 334th FS, Suwon, AB Spring 1951.



Autographed picture Richard Becker sent to Ski Wiatrowski a Grünstadt RFML Mech #2.

Becker would like to hear from any missileer, his contact info:
**Richard S Becker, 269 Woodlake Wynde, Oldsmar, FL 34677-2185
Tele 727 771 1726.**

Mace And Matador Call Signs

I don't play judge here, just report what is sent to me as input; with the last edition's addition of the call signs for Rittersdorf and Idenheim we really generated some heat. Looks like we have a difference of opinion as to what names those two sites were called. Finally, we received some movement from our Tac Missileers who served in Korea and Okinawa. The list is now on page 8: Read On.

George F. Kovach emailed the following: "I hate to dispute the fine gentlemen. But the call sign was Bolivia for Rittersdorf...I know I am right. I was a Tech-1 from July 1967 till April 1969. I was the one who answered the phone for nearly Two years as Bolivia - 1. Which was 7-1 Rittersdorf. That was Captain Hank Thrash's crew. I remember answering the phone as "HANK'S MULE BARN" He was a good old boy from Louisiana. I hope that cleat's thing's up."

And in an email from **Vern Bode**. "Idenhiem (Site 8) was "Revenge-I" and "Revenge-II"... when we got to Germany our crew was reformed with Capt. **Richard Nix** as the honcho. We were assigned to 7-1 (Had the training bay)...Nix was transferred to Frankfort,...Captain **Robert Parrot** took over our crew, and we moved to Revenge-II, where I was on duty when the message to shut them down was received.

Jerry Brenner emailed to add: "Interesting story on the call signs of the sites, especially the B birds at Idenheim and Rittersdorf. I can't recall what they were as I was the Tech 5 Nuke specialist but I do remember the call sign from USAF when we went on alert "**GANGBUSTERS, THIS IS ACTIVE MOUNTAIN**". See if this rings any bells with the missileers. I have also written another B member to see if he can remember. Keep up the good work and I really enjoy the newsletter. Looking forward to the reunion next year.

Jerry Brenner-retired and having the time of my life jerrbrenn@hotmail.com

Jeff Schiff of the 498th TMG - Jan 66 - Jul 68 email to add another call sign "I was NCOIC of a Nose Replacement Team and the Maintenance Area call sign was "**Rendezvous**". Site 3 at Camp Hansen was "**Nightlong**". I can't remember the other sites, which is amazing, because I never thought I would forget them after hearing them over and over and over again. **Jeff Schiff** CMSgt, USAF (Ret) Melbourne, FL"

Ronald A. Lindberg, a Matador Launcher Tech emailed his recall about the Osan AB

Matador sites. "I was on Launch 2 Crew at Osan AB, Korea. I was not involved with the COM CHECK but as I remember we had **Foster 1,2,3,4 or 5**. Maybe someone else will correct me on this matter (*see page #6*). Our launchers were semi permanent & sand bagged so that we did not move them. The generator was located nearby with sand bags around it. Block Houses were of different designs, modified by us & we made up the consoles. Some of the pads were on the parking ramp on the runway. The maintenance area was nearby. The off-base site was newer and more permanent with a concrete block house. Maintenance area nearby. I don't remember how many launch pads we had at Osan AB. We worked at all of the pads at some time. There was a winding, hilly, paved road between our base and the off-base site. It was about 4 miles long and some Koreans and animals slept on it. We helped dismantle some Matadors in May-June of 1961 at the off-base site. ROK soldiers (Republic of Korea), in sand bagged bunkers guarded Osan AB.

Ronald"

George Deuce Demko emailed, he was assigned to Launch team B in Taiwan. George wrote, "My memory is not great but I remember using **Pin Point Kilo** as our call sign. I was stationed in Taiwan from Aug 1958 to Dec 1959 as a missile control mechanic. Keep up the good work."

Your **editor** Bob and his whipping boy **Ollie**, the writer and bottle washer, are still calling on all missileers to help fill in the remaining call sign gaps. As you can see, the list on page 8 is finally complete for the RFML 'A' Bird Sites at Sembach and Hahn. The Hardened 'B' Bird sites at Bitburg may still have issues, but, we'll get it correct in the end.

If you recall any type of communication jargon that you or other may have used while working on the Matador or Mace send it in to Bob. We're still missing a lot of information from the early Matador and single launch Mace days.

Thank You...This edition of the newsletter contains a lot of enjoyable and fascinating input from our fellow missileers and I really appreciate getting the emails and messages. Feed back we got this last quarter year makes us realize that we do reach a lot of Missilemen with our little irregular newsletter.

Bob Bolton and Ollie

TAC MISSILEERS CORP
MAX BUTLER
730 EAST 5TH STREET
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Matador and Mace Site Call Sign List

17th AF - *Cap Gun*
38th TMW Command Post - *Yellow Tail*
Sembach AB Mace A (RFML)
Site I 822nd Mehlingen - *Char Girl*
Site II 823rd Enkenbach - *Invent*
Site III 887th Grünstadt - *Hacksaw*
Hahn AB Mace A (RFML)
Site IV 89th Wüschheim - *Veronica*
Site V 405th Kirchburg - *Pot Fuse*
Site VI 405th Hundheim - *Heroin*
Bitburg AB Mace B
Site VII 71st Rittersdorf - ***Bolivia***
Site VIII 71st Idenheim - ***Revenge***

Bitburg Matador Pads ???
Hahn Matador Pads ???
Sembach Matador Pads ???

Kadena AB

498th TMG
Missile Maintenance - **Rendezvous**
873rd TMS,
Site 1 Bolo Point 1 flight (8 missiles)
Site 2 White Beach 1 flight (8 missiles)
874th TMS,
Site 3 Camp Hansen - **Nightlong**
Site 4 **Mt. Ishikawa** 1 flight (8 missiles)

Korea TM-61C 314th Air Division,
58th TMG (588TMG until 1958)

Osan AB - Foster 1,2,3,4,5 & 6
Kimpo AB - Flight 2 (20 missiles)
Chichon Ni - Flight 3 (20 missiles)

Taiwan TM-61A 17th TMS ???

Pin Point Kilo