



# TACTICAL MISSILEERS

## MISSILEER NEWS

"SERVING THE MACE/MATADOR MISSILE CREWS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHO FOUGHT AND WON THE COLD WAR"

Volume 3, Issue 2

Apr-May-Jun 2001

### T MINUS 5 AND COUNTING...

The clock is rapidly counting down to the 2nd reunion of the Tactical Missileers from 3 through 6 October 2001. Only five months remain until the largest gathering ever of former Tactical Missileers takes place at the *Delta Orlando Resort*, in Orlando, Florida

Plans are firming up and elsewhere in this issue, you will find an events schedule that should give you a general idea of what will occur. By the time you receive the next issue of the newsletter, all planned events and prices will be locked in stone.

The next issue will also carry a form from which to select the activities you wish to attend, and to register for the reunion.

Interest in attending this reunion is growing, so make your room reservations early .

Those of you with access to the internet can get up-to-the-minute information at a website Joe created specifically for the reunion.

The web address is: <http://orlandoreunion.homestead.com/REUNION.html>

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### MACE HITS BARNES & NOBLE!

We all know that member Greg Ogle-tree is the author of at least two reference books with military subject matter, and now we can add a budding Tom Clancy to the family. Carlo Croce recently had published a fictional novel centered around the TM-76B. The book is titled; *Launch Enable*, and is published by Writer's Showcase.

I'm a big fan of military action novels, so when I heard about it, I immediately ordered a copy from *Barnes & Noble* online. What great fun it was to sit back and enjoy my favorite genre and actually relate to the hardware and many of the situations.

From New York University, to Denver and on to Kadena, Lieutenant Michael Minetti helps us recall what Air Force life was like in the early days of the Vietnam war.

Sights, sounds, and smells of everything from the inevitable status briefings to the

bars of Koza City and the dank, concrete coffins which housed the missiles, are conveyed with skills learned from experience.

Unfortunately the story ended too soon, and if I have a criticism, it's only that the book should have been longer. It's like eating a good steak, but the portion is too small.

If you enjoy military novels, don't miss reading this one. Carlo does a good job developing his characters and creating a feeling for what it was like when the Mace B was standing alert in Okinawa.

Carlo, here's one appreciative reader who is hoping a sequel will soon be on the way.

#### ...AND SPEAKING OF OKINAWA

According to Ed C. Weyn, the missileers in Taiwan were playing James Bond before Sean Connery. Does anyone remember what to do if you hear "The Pepper is Hot" on the local AFN station?

## COMMANDER'S CORNER



Joe Perkins

The reunion is in full swing! Just before this newsletter went to print, I set up transportation for the Cape Canaveral tour. We will have buses to accommodate 150 people and the transportation cost will be \$10 per person. I do not have prices for the Cape tour at this time.

Meal prices at the hotel have not been firmed up yet, but it should be about \$35 per person for the luau and \$30 per person for the dinner.

While we're on the subject of meals, I would like to know your thoughts on which night you would prefer to hold the formal dinner, Friday or Saturday.

If there are any foods you can not or do not eat,

please let me know so we can arrange something.

I'm still checking on a off-shore gambling tour from the Cape, but don't have any information to give you at this time.

I'm getting discount coupons for transportation from and to the airport. They will be sent out with the next newsletter, or in a separate mailing.

We need to update our e-mail addresses, so if you have one, please send a message to me and CC a copy to Gary. Just say hi, with your name and any changes included.

The turnout looks like it will be large, so don't delay making your room reservations!

## EDITORIAL: REUNION AGENDA

It's time to begin considering agenda items for the general membership meeting in Orlando. Our group has grown quickly and we will be forced to involve more people in day to day operations. Properly managing the membership information has become difficult, as has financial accounting and newsletter publishing.

There is also the need to register as a non-profit organization. We have a member who has volunteered to guide us through the forest of paperwork, but there will be IRS rules to comply with and hoops to jump through. I hope we can count on those of you with experience running such an organization to share your expertise.

Along that line, if there is anything about the organization you think is important for the membership to discuss, let us know soon enough to include it in the agenda.

I hope some of you will consider accepting a staff position or becoming a committee member so you can help us make decisions regarding the future of the **TAC Missileers**. This organization will only succeed if

people are willing to get involved.

Once again I had to postpone some articles due to lack of space. Look for the next installment of **History of the Tactical Missile** in a forthcoming issue.

I know there should be no excuses, but my blankety-blank computer troubles continue, so this issue is arriving much later than planned.

In case you computer geeks are interested, I have reformatted my hard drive twice, replaced my CD ROM drive, replaced memory chips, removed and reloaded software, removed my network card and yet the crashes continue. I've spent countless hours on tech support to no avail. Since I have been unable to determine the cause of my frustrating malfunctions, I'm giving up on my old 400 MHz Gateway and have ordered a new one. Wish me luck!

We're still growing at the rate of about 10 members a month. At last count, we number 555.

**Our group has grown quickly, and we will be forced to involve more people in day to day operations...**

*Mace and Matador Tactical Missileers* is a non-profit organization which is expected to be registered as such following the 2001 reunion. No membership dues are currently being collected and newsletter printing and postage expenses are entirely paid for with donations from members.

The *Missileer News* is published quarterly as time and finances permit. Articles submitted by members are encouraged and welcome. Subject matter can be anything about the Mace or Matador, or mission support organizations and activities. Articles of approximately 500 words fit best, but anything and everything will be considered.

### Volunteer Staff

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**Treasurer:** To be elected

**Membership Director:** To be elected

Don't forget to submit your recollections of the '62 Cuban missile crisis. I still want to do a composite story about how the crisis affected the folks in the tactical missile combat and support units. So far, I have only one response. C'mon guys, I know there are some stories out there!

Thanks to everyone who responded to our latest financial shakedown! The kitty is looking healthy again.  
Joe & Gary

Some of our newer members may not know that we have **Mace/Matador Missileer** patches available in two sizes. The 3" size is perfect for your cap while the 4" version looks great on a jacket or on display in your mementos case. Both sizes are professionally made in 5 colors.

We are asking a donation of \$4 for the 3" and \$5 each for the 4". Please include a SASE with 34 cents postage applied for one patch and 55 cents for two or



**Mail Call!**

The post office has been busy again, as has the e-mail.



Phillip Thomas, a former medic attached to the 887th, sent a packet of clippings and mementos for our newsletter and archives. He wanted to remind us that he never lost a patient. But, what's this about a 7' snow rabbit?

Thanks for everything, Phillip, I always enjoy hearing from guys who got to see the mission from a different perspective.

Glenn Franklin wrote to agree with what Ron Schwartz said in the last issue about having pride in the role played by TAC missileers. "Yes, Gentlemen, we may not have basked in glory like Sac, but we had a job to do and we did it well. We were all pioneers in the missile field and the world is a better place because of it."

Your editor adds his dittos!

Gene Slegel sent a photo of a group of officers from the 1st and 69th PBS getting their PT via a game of softball at Patrick AFB. I posted it on the bulletin board.

Quentin Davis contributed the short story about the unequal wave-guides. Thankfully we were blessed with a few laughs to balance the hard work and long hours.

Preston Chapman wrote a nice letter and included a photo of the Mace "show bird" at Eglin in the late 60's. I sure wish our newsletter was in color so everyone could see how a Mace looks dressed to the 9's! I'll scan and put it on the website, while the original will go into the archives. Meanwhile, here's a black and white version.

Mel and Marlys Jeffris were visiting the Grand Canyon, and discovered the resting place for another one of Martin's finest. Somehow a Matador found it's way to the Grand Canyon Airport Museum. Keep writing, Mel, we need lots of input from the guys who started it all with the TM-61C and it's predecessors.

Speaking of display birds, George Mindling forwarded copies of letters he exchanged with the Command Historian in Europe. George is trying to find out what happened to the Matador display and the marble monument which used to reside at Bitburg. We'll keep you informed of his progress.

Thanks to everyone who wrote, and especially to those who contributed items for our library and archives. We'll have those items all on display at the hotel in Orlando.



## 2ND TACTICAL MISSILEER REUNION

### DELTA ORLANDO RESORT- 3 THRU 6 OCT 2001

**Location:** Delta Orlando resort is located outside the main gate of Universal Studios theme park. In total, there are three major theme parks nearby.

**Registration:** To be announced. Check for the latest info on our website: <http://orlandoreunion.homestead.com/REUNION.html>

**Room rates:** Room rate is \$86 for as many as four people per room. This special rate will apply for up to three days before and three days following the reunion dates.

**Reservations:** Call 1-800-634-4763 and tell them you are with the Tac Missileers Group. Do not register online, as you must speak with a reservations clerk to get the special rates.

**Transportation:** Free transportation is available to all three major theme parks. Transportation from the airport to the resort is not free, but a discount ticket will be included in the next newsletter.

**Activities:** Final decisions have not yet been made, but a tour of Cape Canaveral is planned. Prices and transportation arrangements are being determined. Other activities are still in the planning stage.

**Meals:** Group meals on Friday and Saturday evening will be included in the registration fee. All other meals are the responsibility of individual members.

**Tentative Schedule:** Wednesday, 3 Oct-registration and get acquainted.

Thursday, 4 Oct-morning open, afternoon all-hands meeting, evening dinner

Friday, 5 Oct-morning-cape tour, evening Hawaiian Luau

Saturday, 6 Oct-open for visiting and other activities

**Misc:** If you are attending with an RV, you may park for free in the resort parking lot, but there are no hookups.

## HAIL...

We are pleased to welcome the following members who have joined recently.

Alderman	Orba	332 Highland St	Hillsville	VA	24343
Anderson	Harry	932 Brentwood Dr	Apopka	FL	32712
Black	Charles L.	10 San Julia Lane	Hot Springs Village	AR	71909
Clark	Don	21151 Lincoln Ave	Anaconda	MT	59711
Corbin	Carl L.	3124 Hoadly St	Olympia	WA	98501
Denington	Michael R.	4383 Garner Place	Bartlett	TN	38135
Fanelli	Joel G.	2 Norgate Dr	Sayville	NY	11782
Fluster	Arnold	10449 Westchester Ave	San Diego	CA	92126
Gaucher	Edward	6725 Lasso Ct	Citrus Heights	CA	95621
Giangiacomo	Romeo M.	102 Rushmore Ave	Providence	RI	02909
Glidden	Jim	152 Gumtree Dr	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
Gross	Richard	6468 Safford Terrace	North Port	FL	34287
Hess	Donald R.	1448 W Maplewood Ave	Littleton	CO	80120
Koehn	Richard	274 W. Hiltn Dr	Boulder Creek	CO	95006
Larue	Jerald	3592 W Locust	Fresno	CA	93711
McNabb	Clayton	423 W. North St.	Mankato	KS	66956
Mollert	John K	621 Monroe S.E.	Albuquerque	NM	87108
Moody	Jack	P.O. Box 180433	Austin	TX	78718
Paul	Joe	737 Olympia St	Orlando	FL	34442
Pressburg	Ray	9516 W. Powers Dr	Littleton	CO	80123
Regula	Ronald L	3957 Durette Dr	Richmond	VA	23237
Shoepe	Victor G.	9920 SW 55th	Portland	OR	97219
Smith	Robert E. Jr.	2886 High Acres East Dr	New Palestine	IN	46163
Trimble	Eric G. Jr	207 Waverly Dr	Fern Park	FL	32730
Warlick	Larry E.	415 Trindale Rd	Archdale	NC	27263

## ...AND FAREWELL

I received a call from Gary Beckner's wife informing us that Gary passed away in January. The Beckners attended our first reunion in Las Vegas and only his illness prevented them from being in Texas. It was touching to hear that his Air Force friends were on his mind near the end. The day he died, he received his Missileer patch in the mail and was able to see and acknowledge it before he slipped away. His family buried the patch with him.

Heard from Bob Bolton that Jerry McBride died on 20 Mar 01. No further information is available at this time.

Our sympathies go out to friends and families of both members.

# TARGET DATA SELECTION

BY VIC HAAS

The target data section of the 1<sup>st</sup> PBS (585<sup>th</sup> TMG) was comprised of 2 branches. One branch consisted of the Officer-In-Charge and 5 enlisted computer personnel. Capt DeBaker was the Target Data Officer, assisted by Capt. McCormick and the NCOIC.

The Survey Branch was responsible for surveying possible launch sites and the MSQ-1 (also called "Miscue") radar sites, all within our area of responsibility. This became very difficult at times due to the absence of survey control points, both horizontal and vertical. During WWII, most of the survey control stations were destroyed, either by the war itself, or in some instances, deliberately to preclude anyone from using this control against the German military.

In addition to having to determine the horizontal position of the MSQ-1 radar sites, they also had to observe horizon profiles in order to ascertain line-of-sight from the radar to the Matador. This required observing with the survey instrument, the highest mountains visible from the radar in a complete 360-degree circle.

After WWII ended, instead of trying to re-establish the control, which was destroyed, they utilized very distinct objects instead. They used church steeples, towers and any other highly visible objects to establish horizontal control on. This required the surveyors to not only be knowledgeable of where control was needed for our launch sites, etc., but it also required knowledge in mathematics as the control had to be established by using "computed three point" procedures. In other words, they observed horizontal and vertical angles from the instrument location to three church steeples (which we had survey data on) and calculated the position at the instrument. After the survey data was obtained by the surveyors, the data was turned in to the Computer Branch to be checked, validated and filed for further use.

The computer Branch maintained a complete set of "Trig Lists and Quadrangle Maps", both in the office and in the A3A van in the event of an actual deployment. We also had calculators and tables mounted in the A3A van as well. The calculators used were Friden and Monroe which had the most current accuracy capability. The Trig Lists contained "horizontal control" throughout our area. The Quadrangle maps also covered our entire area of responsi-

bility. These maps were made to scale, reflecting Latitude and Longitude, coordinates (northing and easting), buildings, roads and contours, which reflect the elevation. These are essential in the event of actual deployment of the Matador during which time we would not have time to do the actual survey. The positions and elevations could be scaled from these maps quite accurately.

Since radars were sited on lonely mountain tops between the missile bases and the WARPAC bloc borders and located so that the weapons controllers could acquire the Matador on radar and direct it to its target. Course changes were one of the many computations accomplished by the Computer Personnel. They constantly received weather updates from the Missile Operations Center (MOC). They had the accurate locations of launch, radar site and the target. Using this updated weather information, they performed computations, using the weather information and locations as previously stated and computed "Target Data Sheets". These computations were done with the aid of a "Computer, Air Navigation, Dead Reckoning" computer aide (aka E6B). The computer Personnel would compute calibrated airspeed and pressure alt. Along with other factors to compute "True Airspeed". Also, "Drift and Variation had to be calculated.

After all this data was computed, the information was given to Communications at the MOC for dissemination to the appropriate personnel on standby at all times.

The task of the Target Data Section of the 868<sup>th</sup> TMS, Tainan, Taiwan was totally different from that of the 585<sup>th</sup> TMG. We had no Survey Branch, however, we did have limited equipment and experienced personnel who could perform surveys as needed. The Computer Personnel did perform limited computations during practice alerts. Not having the mobility capability as in Germany and range necessary to potential targets meant that weather was not as great a concern. During practice alerts, Capt. Givens flew a T-33 as a simulator. We only had one radar site, other than Tainan, and that was on a small island off the coast of Tainan. On request, we would go to the site and check horizon profiles, etc.

We went to this radar sited aboard a CAT C-46 aircraft, which was primarily for the local people to commute to and from the island. Usually only 2 of us went to the island due to limited space as the local people transported chickens, ducks, pigs, etc. on the aircraft with them. This did not make for a pleasant flight!

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

BY QUENTIN DAVIS

Orlando, 1959: Late one Friday, following some irrelevant off-pad meeting, the launch team hastened back to the pad for one last countdown. The assigned MM1 operator was delayed at the meeting so the team chief jumped into the vehicle and powered up. However, the vehicle was still in gear and lurched forward. The short test cables between the missile and van pulled free from the missile but the two

coiled-wire, rubber coated wave-guides stayed hooked. One stretched about a foot and the other about two. After the incident report had been filled out and the sightseers had departed the pad, turn-in slips were made up for the damaged wave-guides. When the items were presented to the two-striper in supply, he took one look at the wave-guides and told the still chagrined team chief; "Sarge, you can't turn in these two wave-guides under one part number, anybody can see they are not the same length".

TACTICAL MISSILEERS  
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## EXIT SMILING

### It Sa'dam Shame

- Q. What do Sadaam Hussein and General Custer have in common?  
A. They both want to know where the hell those Tomahawks are coming from!
- Q: What is the best Iraqi job?  
A: Foreign Ambassador
- Q. How many Iraqis does it take to screw in a light bulb?  
A. None. They can't switch them on anyway.
- Q. How many Americans does it take to screw in a light bulb?  
A. Only one, but he does it from 30 miles away using laser targeting, and at a cost of \$800,000.
- Q. Did you hear that it is twice as easy to train Iraqi fighter pilots?  
A. ...you only have to teach them to take off.
- Q. How do you play Iraqi bingo?  
A. B-1...F-16...B-52
- Q: What is Iraq's national bird?  
A: Duck
- Q: What's the difference between Aeroflot and the Scud Missile?  
A: Aeroflot has killed more people.
- Q: How is Saddam like Fred Flintstone?  
A: Both may look out their windows and see Rubble.
- Q: Why do all Iraqi soldiers carry a piece of sandpaper?  
A: They need a map....
- Q: Why does the Iraqi Navy have glass bottom boats?  
A: So they can see their Air Force.