



TACTICAL MISSILEERS

MISSILEER NEWS

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

Volume 3, Issue 3

Jul-Aug-Sep 2001

LAST CALL GENTLEMEN!

We hope you weren't one of the procrastinators, because the time is here. By the time you read this, the Orlando reunion will be less than a month away, and you have very little time left to make your room reservations at the *Delta Orlando Resort*. The cutoff date for reserving your room at the reduced rate is 2 September. The cutoff date for registration is 15 September.

Inside the newsletter you will find a form which will be used to register you for the reunion. It shows all the prices for meals

and activities. It also shows a schedule of events and additional information to make your visit to the resort and surrounding area a pleasant one.

From all the interest shown, this reunion is going to be well attended. As of the middle of August, nearly 100 rooms have already been reserved and there are many former Missileers living in the Orlando area who will be attending the activities.

Inside this issue:

Commander's Corner	2
Editorial	2
Bulletin Board	3
Mail Call	3
Reunion Info	insert
Features	4
Hail and Farewell	5
Exit Smiling	6

SO WHAT DO YOU DO AT A REUNION?

I've been asked this question several times, and I honestly don't know what some groups do, but I'll relate what has transpired at our two previous Tactical Missileer get-togethers.

We discovered that no matter what sort of activities are scheduled, they eventually evolve into gab sessions, and I think that's the way it should be.

With that in mind, we purposely minimized the number of organized activities to allow everyone as much free time as possible to be with their friends. If old buddies want to sit by the pool and drink a cold beer, that should be their prerogative.

If a bunch of guys get the itch to chase a little white ball around the fairways, have at it!...but my bet it there will be more talk about Tac-Evals and 5 A.M. alerts than Tiger Woods or sweet spots.

Even the guys who tour the Cape will likely be looking for a Mace on a pedestal, or where the Matador crews lived during a launch. The Saturn launch site will take a back seat to the old Martin birds.

Another frequently asked question is what to wear. The answer is easy. Wear anything you want! The only thing we suggest is that the men wear a jacket and tie for the Friday night formal dinner and that the ladies wear a dress. No tuxes will be required and the dinner is the only event where any dress code is suggested. If you threw out your last tie when you retired, don't worry; we'd rather you show up without a tie, than not show up at all.

While we would much prefer to see you in person, we do understand there are some folks who just can't make the trip to Florida. If you can't make it, please consider writing a letter to all your friends. Tell us what's happening in your life now and what you have done since you left the Matador or Mace programs. We will post the letters were everyone can read and enjoy them.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

We are getting closer to the great event (2nd Missileer Reunion). I wish to thank all the people who will honor us with their presence. By all indications, we should have an outstanding attendance record, both Matador and Mace Missileers.

A fair amount of work has gone into this endeavor for the benefit of all the Missileers, and I know everyone will enjoy it.

I have tried to keep the costs to a minimum, so everyone can come and have a good time.

I will need some volunteers to help in setting



Joe Perkins

up and registering members, so if you are coming early and wish to help me, please notate the questionnaire as to that fact.

I also need someone to assist in writing an agenda for the business meeting on Thursday. You may e-mail me at: perkster@fcol.com, or phone 904-282-9064 with ideas.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Orlando.

Joe

EDITORIAL: IS IT WORTH THE TRIP?

Prior to the first Missileer reunion which was held in Las Vegas two years ago, I was unsure I would make the trip. My parents were both seriously ill, and I had made several trips from Texas to Montana to visit and care for them. The thought of making yet another trip to Nevada was not something I was looking forward to with enthusiasm. Yes, I really wanted to see some of the guys with whom I'd spent 3 years babysitting missiles and waiting for WWII to break out, but the years were taking a toll on the old bod' and I was concerned that another trip to bury my dad was not far off. My energy level was barely registering, and my enthusiasm was about the same.

Thank goodness things worked out so I was able to make the trip! Seeing so many faces from the past revitalized me far beyond what I ever expected. I had almost forgotten how infectious laughter can become. Events long forgotten and recalled among friends can sometimes accomplish what medicine can not. Recollections of youthful fun and foolishness can make the aches and pains of age retreat for awhile. Memories of hard work and long duty tours rekindle pride in service and love of country. Just sitting back and watching others relive the past was a joy in itself.

"I had almost forgotten how infectious laughter can become. Events long forgotten and recalled among friends can sometimes accomplish what medicine can not."

Had I not attended that reunion, I wouldn't have had the pleasure of meeting dozens of Missileers from other bases and duty sections; people I now count among my friends. I would not have had the opportunity to be your newsletter editor. While I sometimes tear my hair, the job has given me the wonderful reward of realizing that I help bring back fond memories to others.

I know there are some who will be unable to make the trip due to health reasons. I've talked to some of them and as much as I would enjoy seeing them in person, I understand that some situations are too difficult to circumvent.

Those of you who are able to travel, and who harbor good memories of your time with the Matador or Mace are the ones I want to encourage. Make the trip. Don't miss out on the medicine of laughter. It's not the fountain of youth, but it's about as close to it as you're going to get. I can't guarantee you'll have the time of your life, but I'd bet it ranks right up there.

See you in Orlando!

Watch us grow! This newsletter is going out to 630 members, up from 555 last quarter.

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

Chairman: Joe Perkins, perkster@fcol.com
3133 Ravines Rd, FL 32068
ph. 904-282-9064

Editor: Gary Sand, gsand@quik.com
1486 Rolling Acres Dr, Argyle, TX 76226
ph. 940-464-0490

Treasurer: To be elected
Membership Director: To be elected

Just a reminder 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 a few responses. C'mon guys, I know there are some more stories out there!

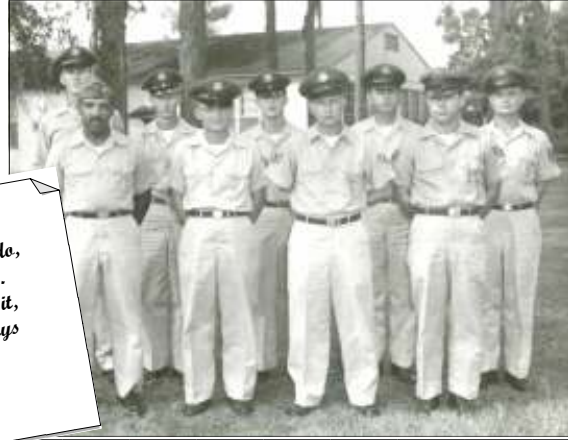
Don't forget to bring your mementos to the reunion. A display area will be provided for photos, documents, uniform items and maybe even a holdback bolt or two!
(Bob, I'll never tell!)

Ken Alward and Phil Veverka will be in Orlando, and others are probables. George, you better make it, since you know these guys need close supervision!

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 three. Send all patch orders to Joe Perkins. His mailing address is shown on page 2.

Patches will be on available at the reunion, but supplies are limited.



Mail Call!



Had a good supply of Matador photos show up recently. Daniel Barker sent several of a Matador launch in North Africa.

Leslie Bell, Art Gust, and Glenn Franklin also came through with letters via the USPS. I always appreciate the e-mail too, so keep it coming guys!

Mike Lannon sent a series of photos of his trip to Africa, and several more showing his work site and the area around Donnersburg, Germany. Many of these photos will be posted on the website if Joe can talk find the room.

Speaking of Mike Lannon, we have had a couple of nice visits on the phone in the past few weeks. He has helped me better understand the Matador system through his photos, letters and recollections.

Mike regrets that health issues will not allow him to attend the reunion, but he sends his best to everyone and has written a letter which will be posted for his friends to read.

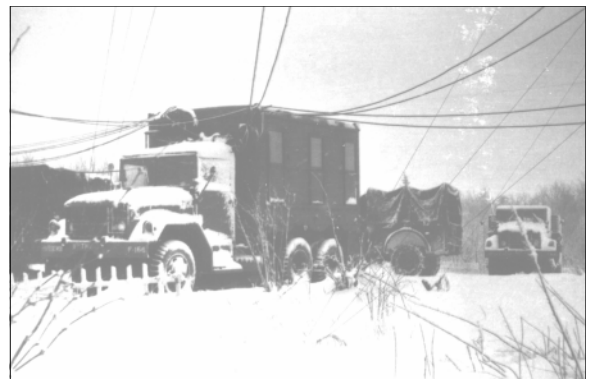
Vic Haas and Don Rowland came through with their accounts of the Cuban Missile crisis. Don mentioned he spent 8 years on Okinawa, so if anyone needs to translate something from Japanese, I'm guessing he picked up more than the average Joe. 8 years...whew!

Doug Jones reported in, but expressed the concern that we didn't seem to have many Matador

folks who had served in the Pacific theater. I'm glad to say that we have been getting lots of Matador people, and several of them noted Asian duty stations in their resume'. As a matter of fact, I've received far more mail this month from the TM61 Missileers, than the Mace bunch.

Now if I could coax a few more B-bird articles from you guys, I could produce a more balanced newsletter!

There has been a large number of new members signed up in the last couple of weeks, and not all are listed in this issue. If I missed you, it's only because I ran out of room, but I'll get you next time.



C&G Site near Donnersburg photo: Mike Lannon

HISTORY OF THE TACTICAL MISSILE....PART 4

This is the fourth in a series of articles condensed from the two-part feature in the Spring and Summer issues of International Plastic Modelers Society/United States Branch, Quarterly. The authors were our own Fred Horky and a Dr. Griffen T. Murphey. Each author had submitted his own manuscripts, but the magazine editor combined them. Fred wants us to know that he does not agree with some statements in the combined story, but is sharing them "as is".

During the late 1950s, the Mace missile was entering its development phase, and by 1958 the first operational launch crews were in training at Orlando AFB, FL-now the Navy's Orlando Naval Training Center. Early in 1959 they traveled west to the White Sands Desert Proving Ground of the USAF's Missile Test Center at Holloman AFB, NM. Here they prepared and launched test missiles in joint USN/USAF acceptance testing/crew training. These first crews were soon deployed overseas to Sembach AB, Germany, where the TM-76A Mace replaced the TM-61C version of the earlier Matador missile.



The USAF missiles in Germany were organized into the 38th Tactical Missile Wing, headquartered at Sembach AB. The wing was further divided into three tactical groups: the 587th TacMslGp at Sembach, while 585th and 586th were tenants on the USAF's F-100 fighter bases at Bitburg and Hahn Air Bases respectively. Each group had an operational squadron as well as maintenance and support squadrons. While missile maintenance support activities were concentrated on the home bases, operational or "alert" missiles were located at satellite sites up to twenty miles away. Only the 586th and 587th converted to the Mace, while the 585th at Bitburg retained its Matador

The original conception of Mace deployment, which resulted in the unusual and expensive ground equipment of the Mace Teracruzer system, was for tactical deployed units of single missiles. These would operate independently, going cross-country to individual launch sites where they would be assembled, checked out and launched by a nine-man crew. Each launch crew could have a single missile on its translauncher pulled by the MM-1 Prime Mover equipped with refueling equipment and fifth wheel, plus two other specially equipped MM-1 trucks.

This procedure for independent launch had a standard "countdown" time of 43 minutes, if nothing went wrong-and it frequently did in those "olden days" of vacuum tube electronics and mechanical stepper switches! This was bad enough for a missile using its independent "hide" as in the original concept. But if the missiles were constrained by peacetime limitations to fixed, multiple missile sites-as they were-the countdowns were agonizingly slow. To put it into perspective, none of the bases equipped with these missiles were more than about fifteen min-

utes flying time from the East German border, or less than half the time necessary to launch the Mace after the countdown began.

After only a year or so of operations under this system, a major modification called "Rapid Fire Multiple Launch" (RFML) was brought into effect. Essentially this only shuffled all the major pieces of the system, with as little internal modification as possible. Four missiles, kept on alert in the elevated "launch" position on the same launchers, were, closely grouped with two on either side of a central blockhouse launch facility, from which all four would be launched. To provide power, an MM1-1 engine and Power Pack innards were pallet-mounted near the blockhouse, with a canvas-covered frame which instantly gave it the nickname "African Queen" from the riverboat in the famous Bogart movie. A form-fitting aluminized blanket covered the distinctive black missile radome to help retain heat of the modified electronics in the guidance system, which now required only a very simplified prelaunch test. With these changes, a single crew of only four men could launch all four missiles in considerably less time than the single-missile countdown of the original concept.

All of this still left eight closely grouped missiles-two sets of four each-above ground at each fixed site and very vulnerable to all forms of attack. No doubt as the result of that vulnerability, the Mace/Teracruzer was to have on of the shortest operational careers of any U.S. missile system. It seems the problem was not that the missile had failed, but that the entire original concept was flawed.

When the Mace system was changed to the Rapid Fire Multiple Launch concept, large numbers of MM-1s became surplus to requirements. Since they were no longer used in launch operations, their only function had become merely moving missiles back and forth from maintenance areas. Only a few years later in 1966, the entire the entire weapon system-missile and support equipment, including MM-1s-was surplus. The eventual disposal of these vehicles is unknown. Rumors at the time indicated that at least some had gone to Antarctica for use by the U.S. Navy. The authors would be glad to correspond with anyone having further information on these unique vehicles.



Several Mace missiles still survive, including examples in the Robins AFB, Georgia Air Museum, the U.S. Air Force Museum, and the Kennedy Space Center Museum at Cape Canaveral. One lonely Mace also stands guard on a pole on private property alongside I-75 near Warner Robins Georgia.

HAIL...

Coffin	Jerry	3217 Forestridge Dr	Enid	OK	73701
Scott	Robert L.	210 Calle Palenque	Rio Rico	AZ	85648
Segler	Sid	1007 Pineapple Avenue NE	Palm Bay	FL	32905
Jones	Warren L.	1220 Otter Rd #10	Sturgis	SD	57785
Moore	Raymond	4319 Casstown Clark Road	Casstown	OH	45312
Ogden	John	900 Henderson St	Hamlet	NC	28345
Carpenter	Bill	1024 Lakeshore DR	Belmont	NC	28012
Gray	Harold R.	1617 East Willham Drive	Stillwater	OK	74075
Harper	Joseph N	1208 Georgene Dr NE	Albuquerque	NM	87112
Jones	Milton B	25808 215th Pl SE	Maple Valley	WA	98038
Butler	Max R.	1220 Smith Rd	Mt Vernon	IN	47620
DeBacker	T. Albert	P.O. Box 9463	McLean	VA	22102
Hunt	Gerald F.	7706 50th Pl. E.	Bradenton	FL	34203
Lake	Dale F.	20315 Reaza Place	Woodland Hills	CA	91364
Oltmann	Wayne	1041 Lovell Lane S.	Roseville	MN	55113
Rowland	Donald L.	1401 Pershing Place, B3	Rolla	MO	65401
Stayton	William H.	600 E. Medical Ctr Blvd#1713	Webster	TX	77598
Vivenzio	Ken	P.O. Box 533	Seabrook	NH	03874
Camacho	Abel G.	1076 Rock Church Rd	Dickson	TN	37055
Richardson	W.R.	3101 1st Ave N	Great Falls	MT	59401
StGermain	Roger	25 Ironworks Hill Rd	Brookfield	CT	06804
Lombard	Jack	255 W. Stonewall Ave, Apt 3-4	Fayetteville	GA	30214
Corino	Carl	P.O. Box 728	Crystal Beach	FL	34681
Hildebraud	James	722 W. Swift	Fresno	CA	93705
Kennett	Stewart	1719 McArthur St	Fernandina Beach	FL	32034
Lewis	Jerry	9 N. Mill	North East	PA	16428
Lindberg	Ronald A.	5935 91st St NE	Perth	ND	58363
Zumbrunnen	Jim	6640 Mt. Vernon Rd. SE	Cedar Rapids	IA	52403
Danial	Carrol	P.O. Box 2, 403 Mkt St.	Centertown	KY	42328
Downs	John O	5433 Honeyleaf Way	Dayton	OH	45424
Jones	Edward C	12339 Jolette Ave	Granada Hills	CA	91344
Kelley	Ronald L.	122 Twp Rd 1213	Chesapeake	OH	45619
LaFavor	Paul G.	2868 Blue Jay Way	Lafayette	CO	80026
Metzker	Darrel L.	21032 O'Conner Rd SE	Centralia	WA	98531
Ridenour	Franklin M.	2471 Westmont St NW	Roanoke	VA	24012
Williams	Phillip E.	2794 Wagon Wheel Circle	Orlando	FL	32822
Lawler	John	2500 Masonic Drive	San Jose	CA	95125
Stillens	Robert	105 Cussie Lane	Seguin	TX	78155
Taubman	F.R.	6476 Tilden Dr	East Syracuse	NY	13057
Asik	Ray	4112 Ford Lane	Vermillion	OH	44089
Johnson	Bruce W.	12216 Gray Birch Circle	Orlando	FL	32832
Milner	Marvin A	518 South Wheatly Dr	Ridgeland	MS	39157
Gust	Art	RR3 Box 400	Jacksonville	TX	75766

...And farewell

G. Mindling sent word that Tom Edwards died. He was in MEMS, B-bird, Bitburg, but was not signed up as a member of our group

Guy Chaney reported that Robert Rafferty passed away in 2000. The exact date is unknown. He was at Sembach '60-'63.

TACTICAL MISSILEERS
GARY SAND, NEWSLETTER EDITOR
1486 ROLLING ACRES DR
ARGYLE, TX 76226

**Postmaster Please Forward
If Undeliverable, Return to
Sender**

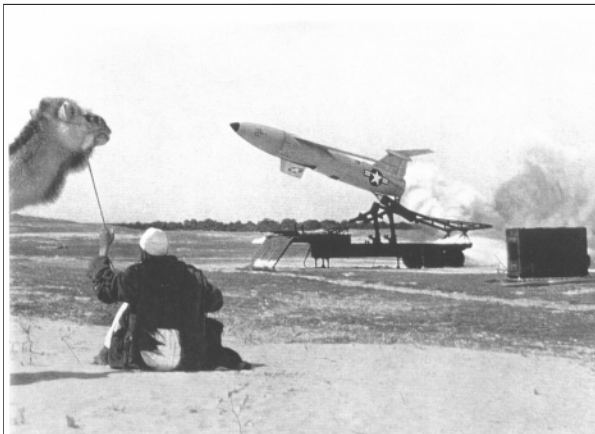


Photo courtesy of Daniel Barker

“Clyde, when that booster bottle lands it’s ours
baby, all ours!”

EXIT SMILING

Since we will soon be sweetening the coffers of Florida hotels and merchants, it seems appropriate to have a chuckle or two at the expense of that great state.

FLORIDA: Home of electile dysfunction.

FLORIDA: We count more than you do.

FLORIDA: If you don't like the way we count then take I-95 and visit one of the other 56 states.

FLORIDA: We've been Gored by the bull of politics and we're Bushed.

FLORIDA: Relax...Retire...ReVote.

FLORIDA: Viagra voters do it again! ...and again...and again...

FLORIDA: What comes after 17,311?

FLORIDA: Where your vote counts...and counts... and counts...

FLORIDA: This is what you get for taking Elian away from us.

FLORIDA: We don't just cheat in football.

FLORIDA: We're number one! Wait! Recount!

Palm Beach County: So nice, we let you vote twice.

Palm Beach County: We put the "duh" in Florida.