



## TACTICAL MISSILEERS

# MISSILEER NEWS

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

Volume 3, Issue 4

Oct-Nov-Dec 2001

# COLORADO HERE WE COME!

It wasn't only fun and games at the Orlando reunion. On Thursday, October 4th, our general membership put on their working hats and elected a slate of officers, discussed plans for our financial future and selected a region for the 2003 *Tactical Missileers* reunion.

Several cities and areas were suggested for our next reunion site. The first get together was held in Nevada, the second in Texas and the third in Florida, so it seemed only right that we head back west again. The areas voted upon were San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle/Tacoma and Denver/Colorado Springs. To no one's surprise, the membership decided to return to the mile-high beauty of Colorado. Which city will eventually host the

event depends on local hotel availability and prices. Since several of our members live in the vicinity, we already have offers of help to conduct the site search and make arrangements.

Even though it might seem as if reunions are all we talk about, promoting camaraderie is the main purpose of our group and getting together is the best way to accomplish that mission.

With that in mind, it's time to start planning for your Rocky Mountain High in 2003.

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## SUCCESSFUL REUNION FILLS COFFERS

A few folks questioned the reason for the \$20 registration fee assessed each member attending the Orlando reunion. This fee was levied to pay for meeting rooms and setups required from the hotel staff. It was also intended to establish a buffer fund to cover any unexpected reunion expenses and to serve as seed money for the deposits and fees required for the next reunion.

When we receive our Non-profit status, the organizational funds must be kept totally divorced from any personal accounts. Up until now, because there were no dues and not enough contributions to cover such expenses, Joe had been using his personal credit card to cover hotel deposits and other up-front reunion fees. For obvious reasons, that practice could

not continue.

Thanks to the good turnout and the fact that the hotel waived some of their fees as compensation for not having completed their room refurbishment in time, we now have approximately \$4,300 in reserve.

When new Membership Director/Treasurer, Max Butler, finishes setting up the accounts, periodic financial reports will be included in your newsletter.

### You can't fool mom...or the First Sergeant!

I never was any good about writing home like I should. One day the first shirt called me into his office and told me that he had received a letter from my mother. She said she wasn't trying to pry into the military's business, but she was concerned because she had not heard from me in weeks. She said she knew I could possibly be on a secret mission somewhere and just wasn't allowed to write. But if the first shirt could just ease her mind that I was still among the living, she would be most grateful. So the first shirt said: "What I want you to do Airman Butler, is to sit down here in my office and write your mother a letter so she won't be so concerned about you being on a secret mission". Then he said: "After you write it I want you to put the letter in this envelope and I'll seal it and mail it for you". I never, ever again forgot to write.

Max Butler

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Julian Esposito

It is said that laughter is the best medicine, it truly was the laughter surrounding this reunion that helped us overcome, if only for a few days, the tragedy of September 11th.

There were many new faces in Orlando this year, as well as many members and wives who had previously attended one or more of the earlier gatherings.

The area surrounding the swimming pool was the major "hang out" and it was here that the stories, memories, emotions and laughter prevailed. It was also around the pool bar that *gemutlichkeit* was

expressed to the fullest by a group of female voices singing out a collection of German party songs with gusto.

The two dinner sessions not only made it possible for everyone to be closer together but it also gave the members the opportunity to show our appreciation to both Joe Perkins and Gary Sand for all of their hard work and effort in bringing us all together again.

Our Air Force service experience was unique and special, most of all for the friendships we made, we are all forever grateful to be able to renew those

## EDITORIAL: GETTING PERSONAL...ONE LAST TIME

Gary Sand

It's with mixed emotions that I write my last editorial for the *Missileer News*. Without question, I'm going to miss the privilege of serving as your editor, but it's time for a change of perspective and the organization will be better off having someone in the editor's seat who saw our mission from a different vantage point.

Effective with the first issue of 2002, Bob Bolton will assume all editorial duties. Bob lives in Georgia and is recently retired. Any other information I'll leave for him to tell you about.

Bob pleads a certain amount of trepidation, but I have no doubt he will do a fine job, and I know you will all give him the same outstanding support you have given me these past two years.

Though I will no longer be writing and publishing the newsletter, I will stay involved by taking on a special project or two. One of them is a detailed organizational chart broken down to the crew level. Once I get into it with both feet, I will be calling on you to feed me detailed information. Official records are lacking, so whatever you can dredge up from your old orders or razor-sharp memories will be greatly appreciated.

While I have the opportunity, I want to thank all of you who took the time to visit with me in Orlando.

"Effective with the first issue of 2002, Bob Bolton will assume all editorial duties."

Phil, and Jeff, it was good to relive the good times again. Jerry, thanks for inviting me to share breakfast with you and your wife. Carl, I really enjoyed our visit. Ben, Don, Elby, David, Chuck, Carlos, Bob, the Musket-eers and all the rest of you who shared a laugh and a story, I'm looking forward to seeing you all again.

Orlando rapidly is becoming another fond memory and I'm already looking forward to our next gathering in Colorado. Whether it's Denver or Colorado Springs makes no difference to me, since both cities are located in one of the most scenic areas of our country. I recall my time at Lowry with nothing but good thoughts, and it will be fun to get back again.

Finally, but most importantly, I want to thank everyone for the award I was presented at the banquet. It was completely unexpected, and am deeply honored and grateful.

For those who didn't get to see it, it's a silver framed letter of appreciation which includes our Missileers patch and a chrome version of the good old "pocket rocket". It now proudly hangs above my computer desk.

**Tactical Missileers** is a non-profit organization currently applying for official status in the state of Florida. Membership dues have been established in the amount of \$15 per year to run from January through December. Notifications concerning dues will not be mailed to individual members. Announcements in the *Missileer News* will be the only notification given.

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.

### Officers

**Executive Director:** Joe Perkins, perkster@fccl.com  
3133 Ravines Rd, Middleburg, FL 32068 ph. 904-282-9064  
**President:** Julian Esposito, zito55@aol.com  
130 Balsam Lane, Levittown, NY 11756  
**Secretary:** Bob Conrad, rjandlhconrad@msn.com  
2509 Lenox Court, Montgomery, AL 36117  
**Editor:** Bob Bolton, rbolton@charter.net  
2140 Sandown Court, Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
**Membership Dir/Treasurer:** Max Butler, quincyandnancy@aol.com  
1220 Smith Rd, Mt. Vernon, IN, 47620  
**Publisher:** Curtis McKee, topmckee@juno.com  
3702 Big Dalton Ave, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

**Who's on First?**

Due to the realignment of responsibilities and the creation of several officer positions, all correspondence should be directed to the proper individuals. Here is where you should send it:

**Newsletter articles and stories** go to: Bob Bolton, 2140 Sandown Court, Lawrenceville, GA 30043. E-mail: rbolton@charter.net

All **financial transactions** must be sent to: Max Butler, 1220 Smith Rd, Mt Vernon, IN 47620 e-mail: quincey-andnancy@aol.com. Make checks payable to: ***Tactical Missileers***.

**Address changes and new member referrals** also go to Max Butler.

**Questions or comments of a general nature** should be sent to Joe Perkins or Julian Esposito. Their addresses are shown on page two.

**IMPORTANT DUES NOTICE!**

Members attending the Orlando reunion voted to institute annual dues in the amount of \$15. They will be due on 1 January of each year. At this time, we do not have multiple year or lifetime memberships arranged, so any amount you send over \$15 will be deposited in the general fund.

No dues will be charged for 2001, and if you have recently contributed \$15 or more to the newsletter fund, please let Max Butler know if you wish it to be applied to your 2002 dues. It is very important that you do this as soon as possible so accurate financial records can be established while we work towards attaining non-profit status.

Dues will be considered delinquent on 1 February and if not paid, the first quarter newsletter of that year will be your last issue. Your name will then be moved to the inactive list until dues are received.

Make checks payable to: ***Tactical Missileers***, and please make a note on the check stating that it is for your 2002 dues.

**New Members...Welcome!**

Tracy, Henry J.	684 N.W. 183rd Way	Pembroke Pines	FL	33029	4-Sep-01
Zimmerman, Reginald V.	3214 20th St SE	Auburn	WA	98092	4-Sep-01
Mueller, Lloyd L.	4145 Alta Vista Dr	Center Point	IA	52213	10-Sep-01
Bavuso Joseph	2518 E. Compton Ave	Orlando	FL	32806	24-Sep-01
Frankenhauser, Wayne	17862 Belle Pine Dr	Little Falls	MN	56345	24-Sep-01
Gardner, Harry	307 Meadow Rd	Goldsboro	NC	27534	24-Sep-01
Hover, Ronald	170 Treadwell Rd	Windsor	NY	13865	24-Sep-01
Maratas, Alford	5230 Lake Underhill Dr	Orlando	FL	32807	24-Sep-01
Arbuckle, Jim	510 Paris Dr	Franklin	IN	46131	1-Oct-01
Brown, James J.	637 Ridge Dr	Biloxi	MS	39532	1-Oct-01
Cameron, Tom	2944 Banchory Rd	Winter Park	FL	32792	1-Oct-01
Champy, Harry D.	4320 Brabham Dr.	Dalzell	SC	29040	1-Oct-01
Cobb, George W.	961 Lormann Circle	Longwood	FL	32750	1-Oct-01
Hedburg, Ernie	450 T.I. Causeway #367	Treasure Island	FL	33706	1-Oct-01
Warren, Johnny W.	155 Stonebrook Dr	Galax	VA	24333	1-Oct-01
Boothe, Wayne L.	2131 S. Calle Yucatan	Tucson	AZ	85710	19-Oct-01
Clark, Joseph L.	3040 Patrick Circle	Tucson	AZ	85730	19-Oct-01
Moss, Timothy	2550 Sharpes Hill Rd	Gaston	SC	29053	19-Oct-01
Rea, Joe	100 Raeanne Lane	Folsom	CA	95630	19-Oct-01
Regtuyt, Elebert	3137 S.E. 10th Ave	Cape Coral	FL	33904	19-Oct-01
Romanczuk, L.E.	167 Park Ridge Circle	Winchester	TN	37398	19-Oct-01
Smith, James	337 W. Seminole Ave	Eustis	FL	32726	19-Oct-01
Essex, Donald	14 Essex Place	Clyde	NC	28721	28-Oct-01

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

BOB CONRAD/SECRETARY- rjandlhcon-

The MACE/MATADOR Missileers reunion was held at the Delta Orlando Resort outside the main gate of Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, October 3-6, 2001. There were 162 Missileers in attendance with family members and guests. A total of 272 enjoyed several days of socializing with old friends, many not seen for 35 to 40 years, and meeting many new friends.

The Luau on Wednesday night and the Banquet Thursday were both packed. Many of the attendees took the tour to Cape Canaveral on Friday, while others took advantage of the location to visit Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios and the other attractions in Central Florida.

The most popular past time seemed to be meeting around the pool and the pool bar to reminisce long into the night!

A general meeting was held, chaired by Joe Perkins and the following issues were discussed and agreed upon:

1. The name will be TAC MISSILEERS and will be set up and chartered in the State of Florida as a Non-Profit Organization. An Endowment Fund will be established to benefit Air Force Personnel and Families. Details to be worked out at a later date.
2. Dues for membership will be \$15.00 per calendar year payable after October 1<sup>st</sup> each year.
3. There will be six officers.
  - a. Executive Director – Handle Day-to-Day Operations, Coordinates Reunions and presides over all Officers. Serves as focal point for all organizational activities.
  - b. President – Presides over Meetings and Elections, Assigns Members to Committees. Performs Duties as Requested by the Executive Director.
  - c. Membership Director/Treasurer – Maintains Membership Roster and Maintains Current List of Active Members. Collects Dues and Contributions, Maintains Bank Account and Keeps our Financial Status.
  - d. Newsletter Publisher – Prints and Mails Newsletter to all Members as Provided By the Membership Director. Have Additional Copies Available for New Members.
  - e. Newsletter Editor – Design and Produce Newsletter in Microsoft Publisher Format. Provide Copy of Newsletter on CD to Newsletter Publisher on or Before the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of the Middle Month of Each Quarter.

Secretary – Recording Secretary for Reunions and Meetings. Maintains Records of Minutes, Elections and Other Pertinent Data.

4. The Following Officers were Elected:

Executive Director.....Joe Perkins, Middleburg, FL  
 President.....Julian P. Esposito, Levittown, NY  
 Membership Director/  
 Treasurer.....Max R. Butler, Mt Vernon, IN  
 Newsletter Publisher.....Curtis P. McKee, Baldwin Park, CA  
 Newsletter Editor.....Gary Sand, Argyle, TX (Bob Bolton, Lawrenceville, GA, beginning in  
 2002)  
 Secretary.....Bob Conrad, Montgomery, AL

5. Reunions will be held every two years. After much discussion the location for the reunion in 2003 will be Colorado, to be held somewhere in the Denver-Colorado Springs area. Probably a long the I-25 Corridor.

6. The newsletter will be published Quarterly.

A Fund Raising Raffle was held and more than \$600.00 was raised during the Luau and Banquet. Thanks to Art Heister who built and donated a scale model MACE B Bird, Harold Renninger who donated a Hand Made Knife and Bob Cook and Walter Fenley who donated tickets to Disney World. Additional thanks go to those who went through the audience hustling tickets to make our Fund Raiser a success. All winners were pleased with their prizes. A big thanks to all who participated.

A short meeting of the new officers was held Saturday morning. Terry Akre who lives in the Denver area agreed to be chairman/coordinator of the 2003 reunion. Jerry Mears who also resides in the Denver Area has also volunteered to work on the reunion. Our current Roster shows over 40 members living in Colorado with the biggest majority living in the Denver-Colorado Springs area. There should be lots of help available to make our next reunion even bigger and better.

## REUNION PHOTOS



You nominated me for  
WHAT!!

Let's do this  
in Denver  
next time.



Where's the  
luau?

If she doesn't get  
here with the  
drinks soon, the  
old guys are  
gonna' fall  
asleep..



A few of  
the photos  
and items  
on display.

Several B-bird  
folks were  
among those  
in attendance.



Here are few more of the over 500 snapshots taken at the Delta Orlando Resort. All will be available for viewing on the internet in the future. Thanks to Arlene Alward for once again recording our meet for posterity.





## HISTORY OF THE TACTICAL MISSILE...PART 5

This is the fifth 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 submitted his own manuscript, but the magazine editor combined them. Fred wants us to know that he does not agree with some of the statements in the combined story, but is sharing them "as is".

The Teracruz truck was perhaps the most fascinating part of the entire Mace missile weapon system. Unique to the Mace missile program, it was built by the Four Wheel Drive Corporation of Clintonville, Wisconsin, a company well known for their specialist off-road industrial and emergency vehicles. The Teracruz was never given a military standard M-series designation, being known throughout its career by its manufacturer's designation derived from, their "Military Model-Number 1" identification. The truck was built in limited quantity, only 189 being delivered to the USAF, with a further two similar vehicles sold to Standard-Vacuum Oil for oil exploration work in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and two more to Kennecott Mining in Utah, used to plow under mine tailings. The USAF vehicles were all delivered by mid-1959 at a unit cost of \$35,366.



FWD built their first Teracruz prototype with a friction roller drive on each of the wheels, but all production vehicles had more conventional axle drive on all wheels. Technically classed a "cab over engine" flat bed truck, it was really closer to an "engine in cab" design because the huge engine box dominated so much of the cab space. The cab featured tandem seats on either side of the central engine box cover. The vehicle was 30 feet long, with an 18-foot clear flat bed length, while the height was 9-1/2 feet (reducible to 8'-5") and the width was 9 feet. The truck weighed a remarkably light 15,000 lbs., while being rated to carry 16,000 lbs.

An air transportability requirement in the specifications dictated extensive use of light alloys throughout the truck, as well as an aircraft-type air cooled engine. This requirement also dictated reducible height by means of a removable cab top. Despite the considerable cost this specification added to the cost of the truck, both in acquisition and total life-cycle maintenance and reliability considerations, the writers know of no instance where the air-transportable capability was ever used other than during initial compatibility tests.

All MM-1s had factory-installed mounts for antennas and provisions for tactical radio, although we never saw either actually installed, either in Stateside training or operations in Germany.

The air-cooled engine was a Continental eight-cylinder, horizontally opposed engine which had many

features similar to Packard PE200 aircraft engines, including dual spark plug magneto ignition. It could deliver 250 bhp at 2800 rpms. The specification called for a maximum speed of 15 mph, but the 250 bhp could easily push an empty truck (or loaded, for that matter) to a considerably higher speed!

The engine ran on 115/145 octane aviation gasoline which was stored in a 200 gallon square tank, originally mounted at the right rear of the cab as seen in some of the photos in this article. The truck's original exhaust pipe ended at the level of the cab bottom, but a modification installed a tall "18-wheeler"-type exhaust stack at the left rear cab corner. This change included a switch of the fuel tank and spare tire positions, putting the tank on the left.

After some fuel mix-up problems a local procedure prominently marked the fuel tank with bold 6-inch stenciled red lettering on a large white rectangle, indicating servicing to be with "115/145 AVGAS ONLY". This was an attempt to prevent problems which could be caused by servicing the truck with either the JP-4 jet fuel used in the missile, or the MOGAS (regular gasoline) intended for the conventional vehicles also used in the launch complexes. These included commercial-type Ford and Chevy pick-up trucks, "Step-Vans", and even Air Force-blue Volkswagen station wagons, pickups, and Opel trucks which were locally purchased vehicles in extensive use by US forces during the 1950s and early 1960s.

Oil and hydraulic fluid coolers were installed in the normal radiator position at the front of the cab. Early versions of the MM-1 had a louvered grill, but the insufficient cooling air flow of this design caused production trucks to use a wire mesh grill. In addition, an external air filter was added in front of the windshield.

The engine cooling air was drawn by a large engine-driven fan, which exhausted downwards in front of the front bogie. One interesting use of this airflow was evident when the truck was being used as a stationary powerplant alongside the missile during maintenance on those cold German winter nights. Unlucky crew members, whose duties required them to monitor equipment outside the test equipment van, could usually be found huddled in their parkas under the engine, where the blast of hot air from the engine kept the ground beneath the truck warm and dry even during the heaviest snowstorm.



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

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



**Happy Holidays!**

## **EXIT SMILING**

### **Murphy's Laws of Combat:**

Friendly fire - isn't.  
You are not Superman; Marines and fighter pilots take note.  
A sucking chest wound is Nature's way of telling you to slow down.  
If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.  
Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.  
Teamwork is essential; it gives the enemy other people to shoot at.  
Never draw fire; it irritates everyone around you.  
Incoming fire has the right of way.  
If the enemy is within range, so are you.  
Tracers work both ways.  
Professional soldiers are predictable; the world is full of dangerous amateurs.  
Military Intelligence is a contradiction.  
Weather ain't neutral.  
B-52s are the ultimate close support weapon.  
The one item you need is always in short supply.  
Interchangeable parts aren't.  
It's not the one with your name on it; it's the one addressed "to whom it may concern" you've got to think about.  
If you really need an officer in a hurry, take a nap.  
Experience is something you don't get until after you need it.