



# TAC MISSILEERS CORP

## MISSILEER NEWS

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

Volume 4 Issue 3  
Jul-Aug-Sep 2002

### Eight Months And Counting To Denver

Joe Perkins.....Executive Director

Take your organizer, PDA or planning calendar right now and schedule these dates, **June 19-21, 2003**, then pick up the phone and call the Embassy Suites hotel at **1-800 654-4810** to make your commitment and reserve your suite. To obtain our special reunion rates be sure to tell them your are with the **TAC Missileers Group**. It will be an enjoyable and entertaining few days, a nice break from the run of the mill, day-to-day life we deal with. Next, call your old friends and Missile mates and get them to join us in Denver. And remember, this reunion is open and intended for anyone ever involved in any way with the Matador and Mace

missile systems regardless of rank, AFSC or location of service. This is your reunion to make of it what you will. We have just organized the place, time and a couple of events. The rest of the occasion is your to enjoy however you may wish. We already know that we will have a contingent of ham radio operators coming. So, put those ole Air Force organizational skills to use and contact your group and encourage them to make up their mind that they should go to the Denver reunion next year as well. The meeting of the old gang again or some entirely different "new folks" at the reunion just might reignite and rejuvenate some of those old acquaintances or trigger an entirely new interest for you in the future. Our group of Missileers encompasses a very broad spectrum of folks from all over the Country so there are sure to be some very interesting encounters waiting for you in Denver.

*The following article was taken from Vol 1, No. 6 Missileer July 1958*

#### **701st Eclipsed by 38th**

#### **USAF's First Missile Wing Redesignated**

The 38th Tac Missile Wing was born at 12:01 hours on June 18, 1958, at Hahn Air Base, Germany. At that same moment, the 701st Tac Missile Wing evaporated and missile men from wing headquarters down through the 585th, 586th and 587th tac missile groups and even those in the field started making the changes which come with redesignation—from printing orders which reassign troops all the way to changing the return address on letters to loved ones at home.

The now defunct 701st finds its brief life supplemented with the colorful and eventful past of a proud unit—the 38th Bombardment Wing.

And the 38th, an organization which has been awarded three unit citations, now proclaims itself as the only combat-ready missile wing stationed outside the United States. Started on January 15, 1941, at Langley Field, Virginia, the 38th Bombardment Group (medium) was composed of the 69th, 70th and 71st squadrons. As war-time reassignments came around, the 38th became composed of the 71st, 405th and 822nd squadrons.

The unit was inactivated in April of 1949, but its war record showed that the men of the 38th had earned unit

**Max Butler.....Membership Director/Treasurer**

Email Addresses....Your response to my request for update email addresses has been great, keep them coming. But, I still get many bounced messages when trying to contact members. Most bounced messages take place because of changing your ISP and afterwards forgetting to forward your new address string to all of your contacts. Be sure to include your snail mail address when sending that email message to me. If you don't have email access please mail me a note with your mailing address. My address is listed in the Officers Box below.

**Art Gust..... Historian**

Fellows, a reminder to those of you who would like to contribute to our Tac Missile history collection. I have already started working on digitizing our collective history that has accumulated so far and the project is going well. I feel that there are several ways to go about gathering, creating, and safe guarding our materials for future generations. I'll present the technical details I employ in an upcoming edition of the newsletter in the meantime:

- Mail all items you feel you can live without to me.
- Items you would like to share but want to keep, mail to me and let me know you want them back, I will copy, scan or take digital pictures of the items and return them to you.
- If you want to share but don't trust the mail, copy, scan or take pictures of the items and forward to me. We are also looking for any 8mm, super 8, or 16mm movies that are out there.
- If none of these options are safe enough for you bring the items to Denver and I'll make copies there.

**Art Gust — RR 3 Box 400 — Jacksonville, TX — 75766**

**abgust@tyler.net**

**Julian Esposito.....President**

**Locate Those Old Buddies**

If you would like to try to locate an old Air Force buddy who retired after a Career in the Air Force, try using the **Air Force Worldwide Locator Service**.

Collect your buddies AF number from some old orders and all the additional information you have, some envelopes, stamps and a check for \$3.50.

1) For the main envelope going to the AF Locator Service:

Address: HQ-AFPC/MSIMDL  
550 C St. W STE. 50  
Randolph AFB. TX. 78150-4752

2) Inside the main envelope include:

A) Check or Money Order for: \$3.50 made out to: DAO-DE Randolph AFB. TX.

B) An open self addressed **stamped** envelope addressed to yourself (for a response from the service).

C) A separate **stamped** envelope with the name of the person you're trying to locate on the front. Inside that envelope include the message you want to send him. (Suggestion, include your own e-mail and Missileer web site address)

D) A letter to the Locator service which includes the full name and AF Service number of the person you're trying to locate and any information known like social security number, last base known and year, last known rank/grade.

E) Mail everything inside the main envelope to the AF Locator Service.

They said that the locator fee (3.50) is waived for Military Personnel but I'm not sure if that includes retired military personnel. Good Luck!

**Newsletter Notes**

Because of a scheduling conflict, vacation, I was unable to get this issue of the Tac Missileer News out to Curtis for printing as quickly as I had intended. A little background on how Curtis and I get the newsletter published each time. Using MS Publisher 2002, I compile and edit the NL from my home in Georgia, when finished I email it to Curtis who lives in California. He then does the hard part of the process, printing, assembling and mailing the more than 700 copies from there.

Several of you enquired why we were using the full first class postage rate for mailing the NL each time. As you can see we are now authorized to use the Non-Profit Org. postage rate for each NL edition we publish.

The **Tac Missileers Corporation** is registered 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 annual 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. Special editions may be published if necessary. 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@fcol.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  
ph. 770-339-6836

**Membership Dir/Treasurer:** Max Butler,  
quincyandnancy@aol.com  
1220 Smith Rd, Mt. Vernon, IN, 47620

**Publisher:** Curtis McKee, topmckee@juno.com



**FLORIDA TODAY Space Online**  
*"Planet Earth's best source for online space news"*

For May 21, 1996

**Memories of when Matador was fired across SR A1A**

By Milt Salamon

FLORIDA TODAY CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - It's been five years since our column celebrated the Air Force's 1956 launch of a 40-foot-long winged missile right across a public highway, State Road A1A! It was 40 years ago yesterday that thousands of folks gathered at Patrick AFB on Armed Forces Day and witnessed the highly improbable event. The event was unique. Matador guided missiles (made by Martin-Baltimore) were fired from Cape Canaveral Air Station from mid-1951 through mid- 1961, for a total of almost 300 launches. But the May 20, 1956, missile firing was the one and only from Patrick. It was a public relations demonstration staged for a curious public. "We decided to let the public see it, since they couldn't get on the Cape," a retired Two-star general told us five years ago. He was Harry "Bud" Sands, who helped build the Eastern Test Range (now organizationally termed the 45th Space Wing) in the '50s. He commanded ETR in the early '60s. Bud was a west-of-Eau Gallie resident before his death. He told us "We brought it (the Matador) to Patrick, blocked traffic for a long ways down the road, and just launched that guy right out in the ocean. We couldn't get away with doing that today!" Matador, one of the earliest cruise-type surface-to-surface missiles, was launched from a mobile trailer by a booster rocket angled downward at the rear. Folks watching that May day 40 (45 Ed.) years ago saw the Matador's booster drop into the ocean less than a mile offshore. The missile itself flew on, landing in the sea near Grand Bahamas Island. FOOTNOTE 1; Cocoa Beacher Dick Beal once told us the Cape-launched Matadors, used to train six-man student launch crews before they were sent overseas, were the Air Force's worst. "Thank God for 500 mile an hour tape!" He said. Olive drab duct tape was used to hold most Matadors together that were fired down range. It held the panels on. FOOTNOTE 2: Cocoa Beacher Jim Scott, an Air Force retiree, said he'd launched many Matadors from the Cape. Jim told the fate of some of the Matadors that had been stationed in Germany: "The older missiles in Europe were sent to Tripoli and fired off into the Libyan desert where they were retrieved by the Arabs, who pounded the surviving metals into plaques, coffee table covers, book-ends, whatever. Then they were sold back to the troops who launched the missiles. I have one on my wall."

I surfed across this archived article on the internet several years ago and had it tucked away on disk. Ed.

**TAC MISSILEER'S FINANCIAL REPORT**  
 As of September 30, 2002

BEGINNING BALANCE as of 5/31/02	\$	9,394.30
Add Error		37.00
Deposit – Donations Received	\$	60.00
Deposit – Dues Paid (30 Members – 6 Paid Dues Through Year 2003)	\$	540.00
Expenses:		
Joe Perkins IRS		(150.00)
Nancy Butler supplies		( 70.54)
Joe Perkins Website expenses		( 57.40)
Curtis McKee (Newsletter)		(577.50)
Curtis McKee (Newsletters)		<u>(598.53)</u>
ENDING BALANCE as of 9/30/02	\$	8,577.33

**New Members** We would like to extend a welcome the newest members of our Tac Missileers organization they are: **Dennis Kammerman, Vernon Noad, Bill Davison, Thomas H. Thompson, J.D. Hamm, Charles Ringer, Homer E. Brooks, Randy Doi, James W. Master, William F. Rinker and Addison L. Smith** . We hope that you all plan to make it to the Denver reunion.

**Our Bylaws**

A Non-Profit Corporation known as "**TAC MISSILEERS**". An Air Force Missile Cold War Veterans Group incorporated in the State of Florida, November 28, 2001.

- 1- This Organization is open to all Air Force personnel that were associated with any part of the Mace and Matador Missile Programs regardless of rank or career field.
- 2- To provide Social and Recreational Activities for its members with get-togethers and reunions at least every 2 years.
- 3- To call a general membership meeting to elect or reelect Officers every 2 years.
- 4- To honor the deceased members by articles in the News Letters and during reunions by the membership
- 5- To provide a Web site to display pictures and articles about our members.
- 6- To provide a News Letter to print articles and provide important and timely information to our members.
- 7- To provide funds to Air Force Charities which will be determined by the membership.
- 8- At the demise of said Corporation any and all funds remaining in treasure shall be donated to Air Force Charities determined by the remaining membership .

This is Cap Gun with Ongoing Communication Checks.....

Greg Hicks checked in with the local names of the sites at Hahn AB, Site 4 Wüscheim, Site 5 Kirchburg and Site 6 Hundheim. Charlie Meade verified Site I was Char Girl. Everyone's help is still needed on compiling the information for all of the Europe and Asia sites. As you can see there are still quite a few gaps, missing call signs, site names, site and squadron numbers. And, by all means, if you see any errors or misinformation here please tell me.

Sembach AB

Site I 882nd Mehlingen  
Char Girl  
Site II 883rd Enkenbach  
Invent  
Site III 887th Grünstadt  
Hacksaw

Hahn AB

Site IV ####th Wüscheim  
Veronica  
Site V 405th Kirchburg  
Pot Fuse  
Site VI ####th Hundheim  
Heroin

Bitburg AB

Site VII 585th Rittersdorf  
Site ??? ####th Steinborn  
Site VIII ####th Idenheim

Osan AB

Site?? 310th

Tainan AB

Site?? 868th

Kedena AB

Site?? 498th

**TAPS**

**Albert 'Bert' 'Swede' Hultquist**

Crew Chief, Mace B, 874th Tactical Missile Squadron  
498th Tactical Missile Wing  
Kadena AFB, Okinawa

**Roger Morrison**

He was stationed at Hahn AB, in the mid 1960s. Worked as a Mace Weapons Specialist (46) also worked in the maintenance area and possible one of the sites. He lived in Kirchberg with his family while stationed at Hahn. He played on the 586th Base

Dave Mass sent out the following message and I thought that it would be of much interest to many of you. Ed.

Hello Gang;  
I will be off line for the next 5 weeks, I will be back after the 10th of November. My past has placed me into the position to be nominated as a UN Weapons Inspector. I was contacted in July by the US State Department that my past credentials placed me as a candidate as a United Nations Missile expert. I leave for Vienna, Austria day after tomorrow for a 5 week basic training course. After that I'll be assigned to a UN Weapons Inspection Team. I guess you can take the Missileer out of missiles, but you can't take missiles out of the Missileer? It's both an honor and a curse, wish me luck.  
Dave Maas

**Anyone Needing An MM1 Transmission?**

Robert wrote, I found a transmission for the MM-1, and would like to find some one who needs one. Let me know. Sam Winer Motors, Inc WinerMotor@aol.com  
3417 E. Waterloo Road Akron, Ohio 44312  
330-628-4881 fax 330-628-0948

**HELP WANTED**

The Valiant Air Command museum, 6600 TICO Rd in Titusville, FL. has a wingless Matador as their "gate guard", what's wrong with this picture? Bob Kison Facilities/Transportation Director ( rkison@cfl.rr.com ) needs volunteers to do something about that! Restoration staff are working to capacity on a TBM, F9F, ME-208, MIG-17, and newest addition a F105. They are 5 miles west of Kennedy, located on the road (SR-405) that goes to Cape Kennedy, and don't have a presentable missile. Address Bob's home phone 321-269-6282, museum's is 321-268-1941 www.vacwarbirds.org

**Mace And Matador In Recent Publications**

The July 2002 edition of the National Geographic magazine has a picture of a Mace on page 8, looks like an A bird just going by the radome nose. The picture was in an article about seeking solutions to the nuclear waste problems the world faces. No direct mention of the Mace was made in the article so I must assume that the picture was used just as a representational fill-in for all missiles types..

Jerry Johnson sent an email with an observation that the August 2002 Air Force Magazine had published a letter from Joseph Traina in which Joe was setting the magazine straight about the early cruise missiles we all know and love. His letter described in a concise, well written three paragraphs the entire history of the development and deployment for the Matador and Mace missiles.

## Hermann Knolle and George Bennett And Their Story of the Mace B

**My friend Hermann Knolle has written this history of the Mace B in Okinawa. With a word or two from me. George Bennett**

The Martin Marietta's "Coffin-Launched Guided Missile" (CGM) Mace TM76B had an inertial guidance system. Different than its predecessor's terrain mapping radar guidance system. The coffin was a hardened launch bay inclined at 17° and protected by a massive blast door. A launch site would have three or four sets of these bays, each set housing four missiles. The individual missiles rested on a zero length launch platform ready to be launched off with the boost of a RATO bottle. The launch crews were on alert below the launch bay, behind another heavily shielded door that protected the LCC. The crews performed regular system checks, and of course were ready to launch the missiles. Their operational checks were in fact system integration checks; the maintenance complex, usually miles away, did not have the ability to check the collective aspects of, for example the guidance and the flight controls systems.

### **Cross-Training at Lowry AFB, Denver, CO**

The initial complement of maintenance personnel were cross-trainees. We all had at least a five level in our old AFCS. George Bennett and I came from Edwards AFB, CA and were joined by Harry Mathis, who was the NCOIC of the Patrick AFB Radio Shop, my first assignment after tech school Airborne Radio Repair at Scott AFB and later the Flight line Radio Shop at Edwards. The cross training introduced us to inertial guidance fundamentals, gyros, accelerometers etc. We also received our initial practical training in Ground Support Equipment (GSE), Guidance System Checkout (GSC) and Guidance Equipment Maintenance (GEMS). We completed the course in 16 weeks, after which we were reassigned to Orlando AFB.

### **Combat Crew Training at Orlando AFB, Florida**

Assigned to the 4504 Missile Training Wing we spent about five months in combat crew training, earning our new 3 level AFSC 31130G and pulled simulated three shift operations. We also trained on the "A" version of the guidance system, got some more FTD instructions and tried to figure out why we were responsible for ground support air conditioners, and the purpose of the suitcase. We discovered that its purpose was to calibrate the air-conditioning system located on the upper shelf in the nose section. At Orlando we found out we were going overseas: For George, Harry and I it was Okinawa! I had volunteered for cross training to get back to Germany. I am from Bremen and my wife is from Rotterdam. We had pushed up our wedding because of the very good chance to get an European assignment. Alas, a 50 50 chance wasn't good enough! *(I volunteered for the program because of the possibility of being assigned back to Germany, had been stationed in Germany in 1954-55. Also my son was born during this training and it was a mad rush to get my mother-in-law to Florida from MO so I wouldn't miss any of the school. George Bennett)*

Some of the more senior people, like Harry Mathis got to

participate in Mace launches from the Cape. A separate launch pad, block house, etc., had been built for Mace development launches and flights.

### **Orlando to Okinawa**

Upon graduating from combat crew training, my wife and I drove from Orlando to Connecticut where my mother resided, and from there on to LA where her parents lived. Quite the trip! Since we could not get concurrent travel she and her parents saw me off at Travis AFR in early September 1961. She joined me in December. The flight, one of the last non-jet charter flights, took 36 hours via Anchorage, the Aleutians, Tachikawa AB, and finally Kadena AB.

### **Quonsets, barracks, typhoons, power and water shortages.**

On Kadena we were first quartered in Quonset Huts. But soon were on the main base in barracks, three stories tall and with every window sporting steel shutters. They were needed too, the first week there we were hit by a 100 MPH typhoon. Besides being ever anxious about typhoon conditions, we were also on the lookout for poisonous Habu snakes, mosquitoes (encephalitis) and careful to only eat in off-base establishments sporting "A" signs. In some off-base housing areas we were also on the lookout for 'stealy boys'.

Electricity to the island was supplied from a US power-generating ship, whose generators sometimes went down. *More on this in the maintenance site segment.* We also experienced some droughts in our 30 months there. These brought about water rationing so that we were doing the diapers for our daughter who was born there (see more on that below ) late in the evening when the water was turned on for a limited time.

A major off base housing development was Kadena Circle, which was home to many of us assigned to the base, sporting fairly modern homes built with concrete blocks. It was about a 15 minute drive to work, an interesting aspect was that the road paralleled the base runway, from which F100s and later F4 Phantoms would launch. Often we would see B47s during temporary deployment Kadena because of typhoons on Guam. *(When ever a Typhoon was approaching the island the loud speakers on base would blare "Typhoon Condition Two" over and over. So the first words my son spoke were not dada, but "Typhoon Condition Two". George Bennett)*

### **Maintenance Site**

The 498<sup>th</sup> missile maintenance site was located near the north gate of the base. The maintenance site was comprised of several buildings. Supply, a separate depot maintenance facility (DMF) and the maintenance building housing the Chief of Maintenance complex which was comprised of various shops such as Guidance Equipment Systems (GEMS), Guidance System Checkout (USC), Flight Controls Test Equipment, and Engine Buildup.

*Thank to Hermann and George for their contribution of the Mace B history from their prospective. It will be serialized here in the next few issues and can be read in its entirety on the Tac Missileer Web site.*

**At Your Request, Officers Bios.....The End**

**Bob Bolton..... Editor**

Enlisted Jan. 1961 in North Carolina, After learning my left foot from my right at Lackland, assigned to Lowry, for Electronics and Missile Guidance and Control Systems Maintenance training, AFSC 31010, converted to Missile Systems Analyst AFSC 31010F. TDY to Orlando, for Tac Combat Crew and RFML Tactical Missile Launch Specialist training, changed to 31433M. Enjoyed the pre Disney fun and sun of Orlando and a few exciting weeks TDY at the cape watching some big birds and one Mace B being launched. PCS Mar. 1962 to Sembach AB. Assigned to the 822nd Tac Missile Sq., Site III, AKA Combat Site III, later 887th, at Grünstadt . On many launch crews as launch / missile mech #1 until the 'A' bird was phased out Sept. 1966. Returning to the ZI I cross trained from that big ego job in missiles into a down to earth radar maintenance guy at Keesler. Subsequently served at the small, little known AC&W radar sites at Mill Valley CA, Makah WA, Antigo WI, Swanton VT and Gibbsboro NJ. Overseas long tour to Clark AB, PI, with a handful of TDYs to some hot spots in SEA and an unaccompanied year to Rockville, Iceland, rounded out my tours of duty. I hung up the blue suit after 20 years and 1 month. Went to work for Philips Electronic Instruments while on terminal leave in 1981 and enjoyed traveling the world for them while working my way up from field engineer to management. In 1989 Philips moved the family to Atlanta for the start up of a new business venture. I retired from Philips in Feb. 2001 after 20 years. Recently elected vice-president to the governing board of the Gwinnett County division of the SeniorNet organization. Instruct in computer operation and application at one of the county's centers. Also Work for the Georgia Secretary-of-State conducting seminars on the new electronic touch screen voting machine and work in my local voting precinct during elections. I volunteered to take on the editing of the newsletter at our Orlando reunion. Ingrid and I have been married for 36 years and have 3 adult children all of whom live in the Atlanta metro

**By Fred Horky**

It was in August 1959, when the Mace (and the MMI and its translauncher) were new to Europe. Grünstadt had not been a Matador site, but had been used for a number of years as a Security Service radio site, but had been abandoned and closed for some time when we were told to make it into Site III ("C" flight, 822nd TMS) launch site for the Mace. Shortly after I arrived at Sembach, I was detailed as project officer to test an alternate route for moving a Mace from Sembach to Grünstadt on the back roads, not the autobahn. Lt "Vee" Vaselenko started the project. His first name escapes me at the moment. I can remember that he had been a football star for Navy at Annapolis, but not his first name! Also that he could drink prodigiously. Vee had done the project planning but since I was a "C" flight L.O. it was handed over to me just as we ran the test and I got to write the report. Therefore, I

wound up with the pictures and negatives of the numerous B&W photos made by the base photographer.

As you can imagine, it was a tight fit in many spots and to my knowledge a missile was moved by this route only the one time, just to prove it could be done.

This picture was taken only a Km or so short of Site III, as we ascended the Grünstadt hill from the secondary road in the valley on the north side of the hill, on the opposite side of the normal route which was the autobahn. The route up the hill went through a little village which sort of clung to the side of the hill, straight up the one and only street. This shot was taken at the end of town just before we got to the fields which covered the top of the hill; the area was so open and flat, like a plateau, that when you got up there it hardly looked like a hilltop.

The Expedia.com map of the Grunstadt area couldn't show the little village\* and therefore its name; somewhere around here I have one of those old USAREur road maps we've all had in those days; maybe it'll have the name.

Although the photographer was documenting the route and not trying for any prizes with picture composition, etc; this one turned out quite well from that viewpoint. One thing that blows my mind every time I see this picture, is the little boy wearing Lederhosen at the left, next to the tree. He looks to be about five years old, which since this picture was taken 43 years ago (Aug '59), makes him now still on the sunny side of FIFTY, but not by much! Does THAT make you feel old?

Just after this photo was taken the street degenerated into a virtual



farm-cart track, with an EXTREMELY tight "S"-turn over some railroad tracks. (Easy for a farmer on his Unimog tractor, tough for a MMI and

Translauncher!) The MMI driver had a bitch of a time getting the missile across the tracks, while receiving a lot of advice from everyone watching who outranked him from 0-6 (587th TMGp Commander) down. It must have taken fifteen minutes of back and forth before it was across, and (you guessed it) not five minutes went by before a train rattled through...

\* Fred and I talked about the little village's name and we think it must have been Merteshein. Ed.

Fred Horky is seeking information for an article he is developing on the T-33 simulated missile operations (Matador) and weapons controllers of the detachments of the 601st Tac Radar guidance Squadron. If you know anything about these obscure parts of the 701st or 38th operations or were a 601st vet., a T-33 crew chief, in ops, etc. and involved please contact either the editor or Fred directly at [horky@bellsouth.net](mailto:horky@bellsouth.net)

**WHICH WAY IS THE WIND BLOWING**

**By Ollie**

My primary job on the NBC team was the decontamination of personnel and equipment should they become contaminated by radioactivity, bacteriological or chemical agents during time of war, accident or let's pretend war games.

Because my reporting NCOIC had attended the formal USAFER / Army training course in Baumholder on the NBC subject it fell to his maintenance crew to hold the status of assistant NBC troops. We did receive comprehensive and in-depth training on the entire suite of NBC warfare and how to combat it. This meant that among other functions we were the lead peons in the messy task of getting to help some unfortunate fellow airmen strip to their skivvies after an umpire had declared them contaminated. The fun part was that we then got to squirt them with a hose, it was usually cold water. We also had to wash imagine nasty bits and pieces from the random MM 1 or generator somewhere on the place. We did all of this decked out in our 1960's version NBC sweat suit, a rubberized, head to ankle garment, chemically saturated with anti-chemical agents, add to that goulashes, helmet, rubber gloves and gas mask. Within minutes of starting our exercise, winter or summer. we would be drenched with sweat. Sometimes our role in the play would last several hours as we ran around the site dragging hoses, hauling buckets, shovels, mops, brushes and radmeters responding to NBC threats and washing things down. It was SOP for the team to start out the exercises in the local Ops center assisting with the plotting of radioactive fallout plumes as they drifted across the German country side. To get all squadrons into the game, A-bombs were usually dropped up wind from the various sites. The command bunker would phone or radio out the coordinates of the bursts, if air or surface, wind speed and direction, etc. so we could calculate the approximate arrive time, duration and intensity of the fallout at our location. We would then get into our NBC getups and stand by for a war games umpire to hand us the envelope with our first cleaning assignment.

During one of the exercises we were dutifully recording the communications and plotting the fallout of the imaginary A-bombs as they detonated around the West German country side. The day and war game wore on and we still hadn't plotted a cloud that was going to threaten the site with fallout. They were bypassing us many Kilometers to the side and one was directly down wind and going away. We peons were enjoying our extended time indoors, working with the elaborate mechanical course plotting calculators and marking up the plotting map. Eventually, the command center requested a report of our radiation level. We responded with a negative on that and they came right back with a response that hinted we didn't know what we were doing. They suggested that we recheck our plots and calculations and report our fallout levels back to them as soon as we had good numbers. With our pucker factor on high we reran all of the data again but, still came up clean. This was re-reported to Center. Nothing was heard from them for a few minutes then they reported a new A-bomb blast directly up wind from us, this time it was unmistakable, soon a fallout plume would be over the site. Just after we had put on the NBC suits the game was terminated. So for once we escaped the agony of running ourselves ragged during an exercise. We never did hear why our site missed out on getting fallout that time. But, our belief was that it had been planned but perhaps the organizers had just plotted a reciprocal heading instead of the true heading of the wind that day. Lucky us!

**Big Ham Radio Contingent At The Denver 2003 Reunion QRV?**

**Bill Russell** sent us the following.

Well, all I can tell you is there is a group of us Amateur Radio Operators coming to the Denver Reunion. They are:

1. Bill Russell WA8RZJ
2. Gerald Johnson WB6HYR
3. Joe Molinaro W2FEJU
4. Ray Lischka W9EC
5. Ron Baird W8AOL
6. Mike Goshay W6WE
7. Tom Baker WAOIYW Who lives in Denver.

There are at least 2 more that we are working on and they are:

- 1 Duane Durst K4EJW
2. Bill Mell W4PB

So you see, we are not dragging our feet. Sure hope we can convince the last two to make it to Denver It would make for more in the large group, but it would also be the first time the nine of us would have been together in 37 Years. Take care and we will see you in Denver.

Bill

*Thanks for the input Bill, I hope this will trigger many others of the membership to make up their minds and commit to going to the reunion in Denver. Ed.*



**Date Line, Hahn 1960,** At the small village of Latzenhausen on the American air base new runways for military jet planes are being built. Robert Neidhardt delivers gravel with his truck for the new runways, on the side he steals a small part of each load to sell on the black market to small enterprises in the area. One day he is warned by his former lover Inge that the cops are on to him. On the run from the police Robert runs over a pair of young lovers, Inge is sitting beside him and is a witness to the terrible accident. *"This is your editors translation from the German text of the review."* So goes the story line from a 42 year old review I came across recently in the internet. According to our Historian Art Gust, and findings

See Schearzer Kies, Page 8

**TAC MISSILEERS CORP  
3133 RAVINES RD  
MIDDLEBURG, FL 32088-5759**

### 701 Eclipsed

citations for action in Patua, Leyte and New Britain. Other battle honors were accorded the 38th for action in New Guinea, Northern Solomon, Bismarck, the Western Pacific, the Southern Philippines, Luzon, and the air offensive on Japan.

Reactivated in December of 1952, the 38th became a Bombardment Wing at Laon Air Base, France, where it became a USAF contribution to the NATO defense force. The 38th remained at Laon, maintaining a degree of combat readiness, until 12:01 hours on June 18, when that number came to Germany and the 38th Tactical Missile Wing came into being, Col Theodore H. Runyon commanding.

Also being redesignated along with the entire wing, are the three tactical missile squadrons located in the three groups of the 38th. The former 1st is now the 71st, the 69th became the 405th, and the 11th changed to the 822nd.

The 585th, 586th and 587th groups, along with their respective C & G, and support squadrons, retain their same designation.

### Schwarzer Kies

from my own research support the fact that many of the scenes from the movie were shot in the Latzenhausen Gasthauses. It is alleged that some of our Matador Missilers were in several of the background scenes. If any of you were in the movie please let us know and tell us about you claim to fame on the silver screen. Does anyone recall seeing the movie when it was shown at Hahn? We would really like to know if you did. Some of the movie particulars are: It was Filmed at Latzenhausen and Hahn-Air-Base, Hunsrück October 3, 1960 through December 1960. Premiered April 13,1961, Stuttgart (EM-Theater), and Hahn-Air-Base, Hunsrück. Sorry but, the



film is not listed as being available in either VHS or DVD format. I also could not determine if it was ever released with English dubbing or sub-titles.