



TAC MISSILEERS CORP

Missileer News

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

Special Edition

March 2003

TAC MISSILEERS REUNION

June 19 –21, Denver, Colorado

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Julian (Zito) Esposito

For those of you who have not yet made the final decision to attend the Denver Reunion in June, the time has now come! Believe me, you will not regret being there, especially if you have never attended a Tac Missileer reunion before. The reminiscing, faces, stories, pictures, laughs (and tears) are a part of the reunion happenings that you will remember for a long, long time. Please don't pass up this opportunity!

Mace Missile in Belleview Park, Englewood. There is a Mace Missile, 15 feet high on a pedestal, located in Belleview Park in Englewood, not very far from the reunion hotel. The missile, originally donated to the City by Lowry Air Force Base in 1968, was refurbished by the City of Englewood and rededicated in August of 1997. We would like to make a formal, group visit to the site and hopefully meet there with some town representatives. There are also plaques explaining the Missile's history and listing the people responsible for making the missile a treasured feature at the park. We hope as many reunion members as possible will join us.

Oktoberfest Buffet - Friday evening.

What is becoming a regular feature at our reunions is the Friday evening theme buffet. The theme at the Orlando Reunion was "Hawaiian". For our Denver Reunion, the theme is "Oktoberfest". For those of you stationed in Germany, hopefully the Oktoberfest Buffet with German food, music and "gemutlichkeit" will bring back some memories of years gone by and also give some of the men the opportunity to wear their Lederhosen and women to wear their Dirndl's. For our members who were not stationed in Germany, it will be a great opportunity to be a part of an Oktoberfest festival. We're expecting to have a really fun time, please don't miss this one. Any suggestions for the next reunion's theme ??

**The Embassy Suites - Denver Tech Center Denver South I-25/Arapahoe Road 10250 E. Costilla Avenue
Englewood, Colorado**

Call now to make your reunion reservations at 1-800-654-4810 and state you are with the "Tac Missileers Group" Please include the name of your significant other along with yours when you give your reservation information to the hotel. We want use the data to make up proper name tags for them.

The hotel amenities include a free cooked to order breakfast each day of your stay and 2 hours of complimentary cocktails, other beverages and light hor d' oeuvres in the evenings. This is a suites hotel, the rooms have separate bedrooms and dining, sitting room areas. Each is equipped with a mini food preparation area. Free Parking is a plus. Coming to Denver by RV? Your Recreational vehicles are welcome to be parked in the hotel parking lot.

Special Reunion Suite Rates Are: Single/double (1-2 persons) \$79.00 Triple/quad (3-5 people) \$84.00

Right now you can still book a suite for up to 5 days at these prices. Joe Perkins said "I am sure I can get that 5 days time limit extended if some of you wish to stay longer. However, for the time being I am waiting to get an idea on the total number of suites we will eventually book before pressing for the stay extensions." Suites are running out fast with 100 Missileers having reserved suites so far, so hurry up before it is too late.

Continued

Joe and Terry have arranged for more suites to be available over and above the original 80 set aside last year. Gentlemen, these additional suites are going fast, we are at 100 Tac Missileers who have made confirmed reservations for the reunion. So, if you are on the fence about attending please make your decision soon for it might become really difficult to get a room if you delay in your decision making.

Blue Sky Shuttle at the Denver International airport is offering a special fare for Tactical Missileers during the week of our reunion. Use the discount coupon below for the special fare to The Embassy Suites or for a round trip.



Blue Sky Shuttle

Denver International Airport

TRANSPORTATION DISCOUNT COUPON

Blue Sky Shuttle Welcomes The

TACTICAL MISSILEERS

SPECIAL FARE: \$15 ONE WAY, \$24 ROUND TRIP

PRESENT THIS COUPON AT OUR TICKET COUNTER FOR SHUTTLE SERVICE TO
THE EMBASSY SUITES DENVER TECH CENTER HOTEL
(10250 E. COSTILLA AVE.)

VALID BETWEEN JUNE 10 and JUNE 27, 2003

TO FIND OUR TICKET COUNTER: Turn left when you come up the escalator from the underground train into the main terminal. Look for the **black & gold sign** that says **Boulder Express & Blue Sky Shuttle**. (The counter is to the left of the Alamo Rental Car desk.)

Note: Please call our office once you are in the hotel to schedule a time for your return pick-up.

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A Letter From Max Butler

Dear Fellow Tac Missileer,

As membership director and treasurer for the Tac Missileers Corporation, I wanted to send a letter to each one of you to be sure all of our members were aware of the reunion that is being held this June 19th through 21st, in Denver, Co.

From time to time I get an e-mail or letter informing me that someone had just seen a notice in a Legion or VFW magazine about a reunion for former Matador and Mace airman. What concerns me is that there are former missile men that don't belong to the Legion or VFW organizations and have never see these notices. Therefore, I think it prudent to send a notice to each and everyone of our members.

Since I became membership director and treasurer for this great organization at the reunion in Orlando, Fl. In Oct. 2001, there are members on our roster that I have never ever had any correspondence with. This is due in part because some of you do not have access to computers and do no have an e-mail address. However, I further suspect that some of you have e-mail addresses and are not aware that the organization has been requesting that you email me so that the Tac Missileer organization can communicate with you in a more real time process than just by the quarterly news letter.

If you are one of our members who does not have access to a computer, I feel that I should try to correspond by mail or by phone. Since phoning all those on the list would be cost prohibitive, there are over 700 contact names on the list, this letter is the next best avenue.

The main goal of this letter is to make sure that all of you are informed of the up coming reunion this June, so that you all get the chance to attend if you so desire.

As I write this we have over 100 members signed up to attend the Denver reunion. A certain number of rooms have been reserved at the price of \$79.00 per night. Frequently updated reunion information is on the Tac Missileer web site, for those of you that have computers.

You will need to call the Embassy Suites at 1-800-654-4810 for reservations. Tell them you will be with the Tac Missileer Group. *This is Very important.* Ask for one of the contact personnel there, Jonathan Bryant, Deborah Bale or Shannan Gossman. It is also very important that you make the reservation as soon as possible if you plan on attending.

You may or may not be aware but, the Tac Missileer organization sends out a newsletter approximately every quarter as well as the occasional special edition. The newsletter is of course all about the organizations members and their memories and experiences, the one's they feel safe in telling of course. Makes for some very interesting reading.

Because of the Publisher's and Editor's volunteered hours and the actual hard dollar cost involved to print, prepare and mail the over 700 copies of the newsletter it has become the major expensive for the organization.

If you are not aware, the membership voted unanimously in open session at the Orlando reunion to assess members an annual dues of \$15.00 payable each January. These dues are used in part to help defray the cost of publishing and mailing, as well as other expenses such as a variety of costs associated with putting on our reunions.

It is becoming increasingly cost ineffective to mail everyone on the roster the newsletter every quarter. This is because only a small percentage of the ones on the mailing list are sending in their dues. I'm sure that if you haven't sent in your dues for 2003 this is just an oversight on your part. I further understand that it is very easy to forget this small payment each year. But, to be fair to everyone and to be able to continue to mail the quarterly newsletters, it is very important that all members that want to continue to receive the newsletters to please send your dues checks in now while it is fresh on your minds.

Continued on next page

So, let's make those checks out to Tac Missileers Corporation for the amount of \$15.00 and send them to me:

Max R. Butler, 1220 Smith Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

About Membership Cards — Paid up members have rightfully asked about membership cards for the organization. These cards are in the process of being printed and will be mailed out by me as I receive your dues check. Of course, those members that have already paid their 2003 dues will receive their membership cards in the very near future also.

On a lighter note, if you have any articles or stories that you would like to share with everyone send them to our Newsletter Editor Bob Bolton, he would be most appreciative if you would contact him. After all, the newsletters are for and about our members and their activities. Bob's address is Robert L. Bolton, 2140 Sandown Ct., Lawrenceville, Ga. 30043, email him at rbolton@charter.net

Hope to see you all at the reunion. Its going to be a great one.
Max

Recreation vehicles

RVs are allowed and welcomed to park in the Embassy Suites parking lot

Mile High Surprises

Denver is a city of surprises. Because of the mile high altitude, water boils at 202 degrees instead of 212. That means that it takes four minutes to soft boil a three-minute egg... Golf balls travel 10 percent faster in the rarefied air, as do baseballs and footballs. This makes Coors Field "Home Run Alley" and Mile High Stadium the site of the longest field goal in NFL history — 63 yards. Here are some other surprising facts about the mile high city where we will meet in June.

Sunshine — Denver has 300 days of sunshine a year — more hours of annual sun than San Diego or Miami Beach. June climate Max 88.2 Min 58.6 F. Precipitation 1.91" 71% sunshine

Parks — Denver has the Nation's largest city park system with 200 parks within city limits and 200,000 acres in the nearby mountains.

Population — One out of three people living in the metro area have moved there in the past decade. The city has more than doubled in population since 1960

Thin City — Denver is the thinnest city in the U.S. with the nation's smallest percentage of overweight adults.

Thirsty — Denver brews more beer than any other city. Coors brewery is the largest brewing site in the world. May be the site of one of our tours.

Mile High Events while we are there — Hot Sounds in the City, on Fridays a free concert series. Renaissance Festival. Greek Festival. Qwest International street performers of the world on the 16th street pedestrian mall.

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.

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Important Reunion Questionnaire

In order to allow the reunion committee to make estimates of the participation in the banquets, day trips, special activities and special needs, please complete the questionnaire and mail to Joe Perkins at the following address as soon as possible:

After filling in your information - detach this page, fold, seal with tape affix postage and mail to address in other side.

Missileers NAME: _____

Significant Other's NAME: _____ Total in your Party: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

If your party has a special need, indicate requirement is below.

Do you plan on attending the Banquets? Please circle your preference.

Both

Oktoberfest \$22.95

Formal \$26.95

choice of Prime Rib Chicken Franchise ... Seared Trout
Cocktails and beer extra

Please circle the day trips that you would be interested in joining:

1. Gambling Trip (Thursday afternoon) 2. Air Force Academy Trip

3. Participate in the group picture taking at the Mace Park 4. Golf Outing

5. Shopping Trip to a Mall 6. Coors Brewery Tour 7. Old Lowery AFB Tour

Do you want an band or special music at the banquets? Yes / No (circle one)

Check box if you are attending the reunion and live in the Denver Metro area.

We welcome your input. Your comments or suggestions may enhance our reunion, here is your opportunity for some personal input for the Reunion Committee.

Check Box if you are willing to help at welcoming desk or in set up of functions

You may also email your full reply to Joe at perkster@fcol.com

Tac Missileers Corp
3133 Ravines Road
Middleburg, FL 32068-5759

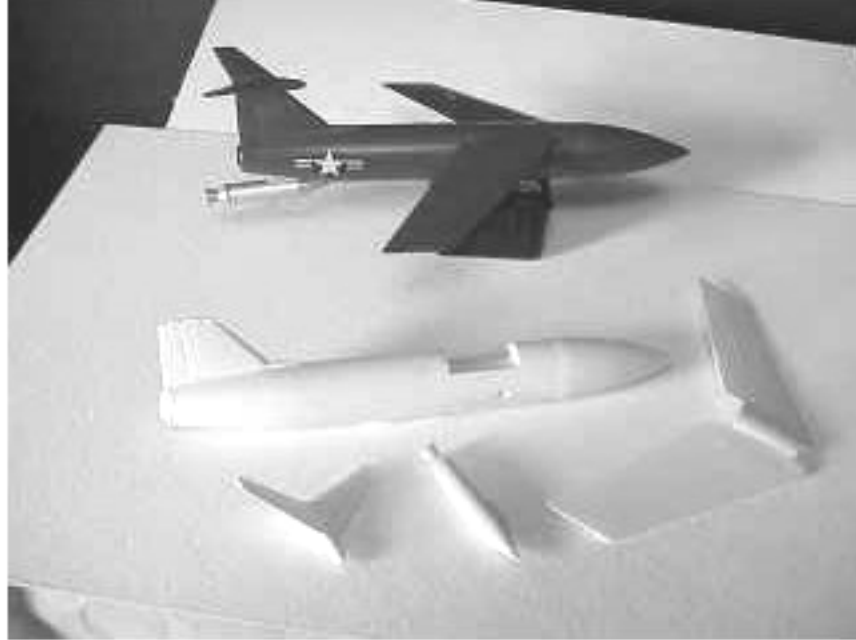
Place Postage Here

Mr. Joe Perkins
3133 Ravines Road
Middleburg, FL 32068



Harry Bruno sent in this photo of the Matador and Mace on display outside the museum at Robins AFB, GA. Harry said that he sees this exhibit about 10 times a week going to and returning from work. Your editor has visited the museum several times and can say that if you are ever driving through central Georgia on I-75 and are looking for an interesting side trip the Museum of Aviation at Robins AFB in Warner Robins Ga. is top notch and well worth a half day visit. Entry is free of charge. Museum consists of ninety-three aircraft and missiles on display, including the recently refurbished Matador and Mace B, and has many excellent exhibits spread out over the 180,000 square feet of space in four buildings and outdoor displays. The fourth largest aviation museum in the Nation is worthy of your visit. Their web site at www.museumofaviation.org is first-class also, give it a surf and see.

I recently made contact with Larry Johnson, who besides being a 27 year, career police officer is also a gifted model maker. His expertise is in resin cast models. Over the years his modeling focus has been on monster and animal figures as well as space and X-plane models. He has made many special order and mass release models for folks in Hollywood and other high profile end users and buyers through out the world. On a recent visit to a



MATADOR TM-61 RESIN MODEL SOURCE LOCATED. MACE AVAILABLE SOON

model show in Chicago he purchased a replica of a strange looking missile. Like most persons, he had been unaware of the existence of the Matador or Mace before then. After doing some background study on the model he decided to use the Matador as a model for his resin reproductions. I stumbled across his rendition of the Matador in January and purchased one of his first rendering of the Matador as cast from the mold made from that original model he found in Chicago. Since we established contact I have been giving him technical information about the Matador and Mace as well as enlightening him on our deployment with them in Europe and Asia and about our Tac Missileers organization as well. He is now in the process of gearing up to produce a copy of the Mace missile using a 1/48 scale Mace model that I'm letting Larry use for the project. The resin Mace will be ready for release around April or May. Larry is also in the planning stage of producing a replica of the development model of the Matador, YB-61. Sometime in the future he hopes to offer a translauncher for the Mace and launch trailer for the Matadors. After receiving my Matador I found it to be an excellent model. A 1/48 scale representation of the Matador C, on par with any one of the best special edition, limited production models you see on occasion on the market. Larry's models are intended for the experienced modeler builder and do require assemble, finishing and sourcing decals for it on your own. In the photo above you see the four parts that comprise his offering as well as the finished prototype model. I plan on bringing my Matador model to the reunion in Denver for everyone to examine if you are interested. So, if you are a latent or active modeler and have been yearning for a replica from your Missileer past, Larry is your source, he is selling them for \$29.95 plus \$5.00 shipping. That price includes an in flight base for display. Larry prefers that you contact him by mail. When you write include your phone number and he will call you with details on purchasing one of the models.

Write to: **Larry Johnson 720 Rummage Road Cox's Creek, KY 40013**

Bob Bolton

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CURTIS MCKEE
3702 BIG DALTON AVE
BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706

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Sender

Fred Horky writes. " This was in the 1960-61 period with the old (Mace) "large crew" who not only stood alert for the "long" countdowns, but assembled and disassembled the missiles. The picture was taken in front of the alert crew "bread truck" at Grünstadt. Kneeling in front (wish I could do that now!) are myself and crew chief S/Sgt **Crittendon** (also wish I could remember first names better, or names in general for that matter). Standing behind us (left to right) are **Knutson** (he was killed in a car accident during the Wine Festival a short time later), **Cousins, Saunders, Carlton**, _____, _____, **Butler, and Savage**. Standing on the bumper is **Jerry Hightower**. The two unnamed were only with us a short week or two and haven't left a name impression."

