



TAC MISSILEERS CORP

Missileer News

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

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2003

DENVER 2003 REUNION A SUCCESS

By Ollie.....From the first early arrivals to the last late departures it was a great time. Smiles, hugs, hand shakes and more than a few tears were evident during the entire get-together. Many conversations started off just as they were left off in Orlando. A lot of folks that were in attendance in Orlando didn't get to make the good times in Denver but, we certainly had a good showing from men we had not seen before at any of the other gatherings. Thanks to **Terry Akre** for ferreting out the Embassy Suites at the Denver Tech Center, it was an excellent choice for our venue this year. The hotel facilities and staff were fantastic. Tremendously accommodating and supportive of our group and our activities. I haven't received a single complaint about anything relating to the hotel or staff. Of course, the gratis afternoon food and booze and the lavish complimentary breakfast only reinforced the good location, good times and service. Congratulations to **Julian Esposito** for the long and difficult task he undertook in getting the Schuhplattler dance group lined up to entertain us during Friday's Oktoberfest, they were a fun bunch and got a group of the Missileers and their ladies involved in the show before it was over. The Dancers really set the German atmosphere for the whole evening. A number of Missileers were gutsy enough and still slim enough to show up in their lederhosen, many of the ladies wore their dirndl and a few of the other guys added to the overall spirit by wearing their German hats sporting the hiking pin collections from their days in Germany. Capt. **Dick Johnson**, a Grünstadt LO showed up equipped with his regimental Missileer Stein. The authentic German fare was enjoyed, as evident by the plates being piled high with sauerbraten, bratwurst, potato salad and red cabbage. Capping off the fest was a nice selection of deserts and coffee. A cash bar kept things well lubricated through out the late evening. Although not all of the Missileers present served in Germany, accounts were given that everyone got into the spirit and had a good time. During the evening our Oktoberfest King and Queen were named, past Secretary **Bob Conrad** in his authentic lederhosen with all the accoutrements looked the part.

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

After going over various lists from myself, as well as some others, I think I have come to the conclusion, that we had 181 members at the reunion and 143 spouses. This is probably not accurate, but as close as I'm able to come. Would be a total of 324 people. This sounds about right. Learned a lot from this reunion about how we should keep better track of people. Will have necessary paperwork etc. in place for next reunion. Disorganization bugs me!!!! All in all I enjoyed the reunion. Would have liked to have been able to enjoy more with my wife Nancy than we were able to. Mostly this was my fault as I had various members volunteer to take my place for awhile. But, I suppose I felt I needed to keep an eye on things, as I had that responsibility. But, next time we will have committees set up to help relieve some of the pressure.

I would like to know who wants to order the jackets. There were some that were going to e-mail me with their orders, but have not heard from them. I have 4 members that gave me their order at the reunion and I will be getting with the lady that makes them next week to get them made.

A lighter moment that happened during check-in. **Giesla Paine**, Fred's wife, arrived at the hotel and came up to the registration table and told me she was in big trouble. She had lost her car keys and said that Fred was going to do her "bodily" harm when he found out. It seems his keys were home in Alabama. Fred came up about this time and Giesla asked him if he had the keys. Of course he said "nope", you've got'em. Giesla said, "Fred I don't have them", where-upon Fred said, "Giesla, look in your purse". Giesla dug and dug, but no keys. Fred just stood there, calm cool and collected. Giesla said, "FRED, you must have the keys, they are not in my purse". About that time a 'savior' called John Lucas, strolled up to the table and said, "Giesla, its been my past experience to observe that women usually have little extra compartments added to there purses. Are you sure you didn't drop your keys into one of those?" Giesla said, "oh no, I wouldn't have done that". John said, "welllll, it wouldn't hurt to just

See MAX, page 2

OLLIE:

While Hilde Stewart as the perfect Queen in her impressive dirndl. Saturday's formal banquet went off very well also. One and all looked sharp and cleaned up real well for the evening. Everyone enjoy their personal preference of either prime rib roast, chicken or fish with each selection being accompanied by a complementing side assortment. Following the meal raffle tickets were drawn for a number of nice prizes. Each Missileer in attendance received a stainless steel coffee cup, emblazoned with our TAC MISSILEERS badge and the phrase U.S.A.F SERVED WITH PRIDE.

The Grünstadt delegation was in especially high spirits that **Marc Hagan** was able to attend the Saturday evening's festivities. Particularly since Marc has just suffered a mild heart attack only few days before. So with his doctors cautious blessing and Marc's determination he was able to spend a few hours with them Saturday evening. Marc also joined them by cell phone for a few minutes from his hospital room in Colorado Springs on Thursday evening when he was greeted by a rousing cheer from a bunch of the Grovelers.

The bus tours were all packed and enjoyed. Each of the groups take pleasure in the attractions of the Thursday gambling excursion, the Friday Air Force Academy tour and the Saturday Coors brewery tour. Early Saturday a large number of the reunion participants met at the Mace Missile at Belleview Park. Many group and individual pictures were



s h o t

Hahn's Best

standing



Some Of The Sembach Boys

Max:

check, would it?" So she did, and yep, you guessed it. Keys that were a carbon copy of the original ones appeared. So, the bottom line here is, we had a hero at the reunion named John that came to a damsels distress and Fred stayed calm, cool and collected and Giesla didn't suffer any "bodily" harm. Like there would ever, have been any. Keep up the good work John. Fred, I may have stretched it a little bit, but it was funny.

A thanks to the people that helped out at the registration table they were, Ken Knapp, Bill Simpson, Curtis McKee, Bob Bolton, Joe Perkins and my wife Nancy. Ken Knapp pretty well sold most of the raffle tickets. There was someone else, but name escapes me. By the way, the raffle money raised was \$724.00. After paying all the bills, the reunion expense's were, \$19,527.05. Our profit ends up being, \$2,363.50. The checking account now stands at \$6,812.26.

By Joe Perkins.....Executive Director

I wish to thank all the members, their wives and guests for the superb turnout for this reunion and the officers and spouses for the hard work involved to make it such a huge success. I also wish to express my thanks to the Embassy Suites hotel personnel for their outstanding support especially, Jonathan Bryant for his hard work in seeing to it that we all had a room if not in the Embassy Suites at least close by, Debora Bale for all her work, from the preparations of the display room to the dinning rooms setup, for arranging the microphones/speakers and setup of the dance floors for the German dance group. I was really impress with the efficiency of the food prepares and servers. The six serving lines for the Oktoberfest was a great idea and appreciated by all for the speed in which they could get their meal. My hat is off for the people that bought raffle tickets and the people that donated all the items for the raffle. The raffle turned out to be a resounding success. I also wish to thank the Sheraton Hotel (Tech Center) for their room support. Last but not the least, a sincere "Thanks You" to Terry Akre for his help in the local coordination and to Arlene Alward for her photo work. I am sorry more of the members could not attend and enjoy the fine time had by all that did.

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2005 Tac Missileer Reunion

By Joe Perkins

Based on the suggestion and nominations made from the floor at the general business meeting in Denver I recommend we name the following three sites as the candidates for our next, 2005 Tac Missileers Reunion:

- **Dayton (Wright Patterson), OH**
- **Nashville, TN**
- **San Diego, CA**
- **June or July**

We want you the members to vote on your choice of location and date by either returning a post-card with your choice of location and month written in or by an email. We have set a deadline of 1 September 2003 for receiving the ballots. Any ballots received after that cut off date will not be counted. One vote per member please. The site and date receiving the simple majority of the votes shall be announced by our new Secretary **Larry Emerson**.

Please send your electronic ballot to:

lemerson@swbell.net

Or mail your postcard ballot to Larry at:

114 Sunflower Dr, Wichita, KS 67217

Your vote will end the stalemate we left you with when we departed Denver. The board will insure that at the next reunion we will have a resolution before you go home.

Thoughts About Our Next Reunion

By Julian Esposito

First we should first decide on a **month**, and then do some research, checking through the Internet for information on the different locations. It looks like we may have begun to narrow down the choices for the next reunion to one of these locations. However, nothing is set in stone yet by any means. **Dayton, Ohio/Wright Paterson** looks like one, a Western (**San Diego?**) location seems like another. I would like to put up **Nashville, Tenn.** as one of the choices! My thinking after doing some checking; In trying to get an idea of where our members live, I sorted the master roster by home states address. I was trying to get a sense of how to take advantage of our members home location in traveling to the next reunion. I know that a large portion of our members like to drive to the reunions

with their cars or RVs.

The state with the largest population of our members is Florida with 129 members living there. This does not include the members who have a second winter residence in Florida. The second largest state is California with 69 members living there.

Nashville has a somewhat central location as far as home residences of our members, for example, Texas with 44 of our members living there is only one state away (Arkansas) from Tenn. There are eight states that border Tenn., the total member population of those states plus Tenn. is 114. That is 114 plus Florida (129) equals 243 members living nearby. Taking into account all the states that are one state away; IL (9), Oh (21), IN (11), Texas (44), WV (3), SC (8), LA (7), brings the total to 346 members living fairly close within two states away.

The Three Appealing Candidate Cities

Nashville, Tennessee

Accessible southeastern location.

Music City USA.

Home of the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium, Gen. Jackson Riverboat Cruises & The Hermitage: Home of Pres. Andrew Jackson

Dayton, Ohio

Location; Western Ohio

Home of Wright Patterson AFB and the USAF Museum. Over 300 Aircraft & Missiles on display, including a Matador Missile. (Mace is currently in storage, off public display) & Dayton Aviation Heritage Park.

San Diego, California

West Coast Location

Beautiful weather, pristine beaches, Sea World, Adventure World, San Diego Zoo, San Diego Bay (27 miles of waterfront adventure and fun) and of course nearby Tijuana, Mexico.

Our thanks go out to **Walter Fenley** for compiling the data from the newsletter survey. Walter reports that 61 members took the time to give us some valuable input. I will publish a report on the thoughts, ideas and wishes from the survey in the next issue of the newsletter. **Ed.**

FROM MR. PRESIDENT:

The Denver reunion turned out well!

There were trips out to the Air Force Academy, into the mountains for gambling at Blackhawk or a tour & some beer at the Coors brewery. A busload also went out to the Mace Missile located in Belleview Park in Englewood where we broke into groups depending on the bases we were stationed at and took pictures under the Missile. For those of us who haven't been in the Denver area for a while, it has grown tremendously but it's still beautiful.

At the hotel we had our Oktoberfest party with our own Oktoberfest King, Queen and their court, including a court jester! A local Schuhplattler group danced and provided a fun time for everyone. The Saturday evening dinner, though somewhat "formal", still provided us with an evening of fun and laughter.

The Embassy Suites complimentary breakfast was excellent and the evening complimentary cocktails were a great prelude to our fine tasting dinners. Best of all was the opportunity to be with old friends again, reminiscing about old times and listening to those famous "war stories" that become funnier and more interesting as years go by. There were many new, first time attendees at this reunion and hopefully we'll all get to see many new "first-timers" at the next.

BELLEVIEW PARK MACE MISSILE:

Part of our reunion activities consisted of a group visit to the MACE Missile located in Belleview Park, Englewood Colorado.

A full bus plus cars containing members and family were driven out to the park. Many pictures were taken and each missile base was represented. Prior to our reunion, **Bill Hopping** of Littleton Colorado sent us a set of pictures that he took of the Missile. A display with the pictures and some history were exhibited at the hospitality room during the reunion. Bill took some time out and stopped by the hotel to visit with some of our members during the reunion.

The Missile was restored in the mid 1990's and rededicated on July 4th 1997. Bill Hopping

and his dad Russ Hopping of Roswell, Georgia contributed some important input to the Belleview Park Missile Restoration. Russ Martin had worked for Martin Marietta and personally helped develop the drop off booster bottle. All TAC Missileers are extremely grateful to the City of Englewood, its residents and City Administrators for this magnificent restoration and especially grateful to Bill and Russ Hopping for their commitment to preserving the tradition of the Mace Missile.

PAULANER BEER

The TAC Missileer officers and membership would like to publicly thank Dennis Keller and the Paulaner North America organization based in Englewood Colorado for their contribution of Oktoberfest banners, coasters and pennants that we used to decorate the hotel dining area during our Oktoberfest festivities. The folks at Paulaner North America also donated 2 huge Beer Mugs, beer glasses, Tee shirts and decorative bottle openers for our annual raffle. With these and other gifts from our membership, **Ken Knapp** along with his Raffle team collected record raffle donations at the reunion

OKTOBERFEST-SCHUHPLATTLERS

On Friday, June 20th we were joined at our Oktoberfest Buffet by a wonderful group of German-American Schuhplattlers from Colorado. **Bobby Lane** brought his dad, sisters and friends from their organization, **T.E.V. Edelweiss**, to perform for us at the Embassy Suites. This beautifully outfitted group of exceptional dancers enhanced the party with an example of German folk dancing and customs. They also included an evening of fun and laughter in the Oktoberfest tradition. The group was a great hit at the reunion! The Trachten Erhaltungs Verein Edelweiss Schuhplattlers (Customs Preservation Society Edelweiss) have performed throughout the United States and Germany winning many awards and making new friends.

A special "thank-you" goes out to all the members of the group for bringing their great talent to our reunion. **Cindy Dozsak** is their Secretary

TERRY AKRE RECOGNIZED AT REUNION

For those of you who are unaware, **Terry Akre** was a very important component contributing to our reunion's success. He scouted many hotels and locations for the reunion in the Denver area. He spent many hours of volunteer time and hard work visiting and contacting the various hotels until settling on the Embassy Suites as the best selection for our reunion. For his hard work and dedication to the mission, Julian Esposito presented Terry with a plaque during the reunion business meeting?

The words on the plaque were:

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR TIRELESS CONTRIBUTION IN ORGANIZING AND REUNITING FORMER MATADOR and MACE TACTICAL MISSILEERS FOR OUR 3RD. TAC MISSILEER REUNION IN DENVER COLORADO, JUNE 2003.

A special THANK YOU goes out to **Frank Roales** who donated a beautifully framed and matted print of a Matador for the raffle. Many other Missileer related items such as the Tac Missileers license plates, medals and plaques along with the Paulaner Beer contributions were available for selection by the lucky ticket holders,

Hermann Knolle and George Bennett Their Story Of The B Bird In Okinawa Continues

GEMS – This shop provided field-level maintenance for guidance system black boxes and the Gyro Stabilized Platform (GSP). The platform housed three gyros, each about the size of a bread box, and two accelerometers. These components contained “viscous” fluid and therefore had to be heated to maintain a prescribed level of viscosity. It was therefore critical to have power to the GSP at all times. During checkout, repair, or calibration the various checkers, both in the GEMS and GSC areas, provided appropriate power; however, when the GSP was transported it was attached to a “Module B”. The Mod B could convert power from 115 V AC or supply it from a built-in generator.

Many of us have experienced certain planes, systems, components, etc. that turn out to be “hangar queens”. We experienced a rash of black boxes that were returned time after time to the GEMS shop from the GSC area. Finally, Captain Cameron, our Maintenance officer, directed that these boxes be connected to breakout boxes and be fixed once and for all. And they were!

GSC – This shop provided organizational-level maintenance for the guidance and the air-conditioning systems. We started initial assembly, checkout and calibration soon after arriving in Oki. A couple of AC Spark Plug tech reps had arrived before us and helped us to get started. As for the technical aspects to help us get started, they were invaluable. One of my more vivid recollections is that whenever we ran into problems, they would spread schematics (huge 3'x 8' blueprints) all over the floor. We learned a lot from them, which later helped those of

us being reassigned to Orlando to train replacements. The Guidance System Checker (GSC) unit was a four-bay console, to which a nose section would be connected. An external additional unit, the Azimuth Alignment Unit (AAU), was also connected to the GSC. The AAU shone a signal through a window in the lower portion of the GSP to provide a yaw reference for the guidance system during checkout. There were four GSC consoles in the GSC area, so four guidance systems could be checked out simultaneously.

Major Checkout Steps:

Self-Verification: 100 series steps - (Basic Power-On checks for the console's check and calibration functions)

Erection and Alignment: 200 series steps – (Gimbals Erection and Azimuth Alignment, Target settings for Track and Altitude deviations)

Coarse Memory: 300 series steps – (coarse checks on memory using GSC meter indications)

Drift Run: 400 series steps – Upon satisfying 300 series criteria, the guidance system was put into a 90 minute simulated flight A tape printout was created to check on all critical parameters, especially the “drift” of the system over time. If slightly out of specs, we tried to re-memorize, and run the test again.

If significantly out of specs, we needed to troubleshoot, replace black boxes, and start all over again.

If we were lucky, a complete calibration and checkout could be accomplished on one shift. Often we ended up cycling through the steps several times, so that it could take several shifts or even days to produce a good nose section. There was competition amongst the shifts to produce a good checkout the first time through. However, sometimes the day shift blamed additional duties, administrative activities, etc., when it took longer, and the night shift was sometimes accused of taking shortcuts, when it's faster throughput seemed produce poorer drift run results. Fun!

In order for the guidance system to function properly, its environment had to be maintained within a narrow temperature range. For that purpose a ground air conditioning unit provided both high and low temperature air during guidance system checkout. (Upon launch the missile would use outside ambient air and mix it with engine bleed air to maintain the required environment). We had to calibrate the air conditioning controls on the top shelf of the nose section during checkout, something we were unaware of during our initial training in Denver or Orlando. Fortunately some of us returned to Orlando as instructors where we incorporated this additional training into our lesson plans. *(I spent 4 years as Grave Shift Supervisor of the GSC section, George Bennett)*

Hermann's and George's story will continue next Issue

Introducing our New TAC Missileer Corp. Secretary

My name is **Larry Emerson**. I am 60 years old. I joined the Air Force 13 days after I graduated from Lew Wallace High School in Gary, Indiana in 1960. I had hopes of becoming an Air Force photographer but, of course, the Air Force had a different idea. I left San Antonio to attend Tech School at Lowry AFB in July of 1960 and then waited in the PATS Squadron until September to start school and to finish basic training. I went to Orlando for crew training and departed for Bitburg in January 1962. I was assigned to the Guidance System Checker (GSC) shop on the Mace B. In June of 1964 I was reassigned to Orlando AFB as a GSC maintenance technician and soon after was sent to Instructor school. I met and married Janis Touchton while stationed at Orlando and our first child, Phillip, was born at the base hospital. When the training was shut down I was assigned to Job Control until being transferred to Bitburg for a second tour. Upon arrival at Bitburg in January 1967 I was assigned to Job Control where I spent the rest of my tour until the Mace B was phased out. Our second child, Timothy, was born at the Bitburg AB Hospital. I was reassigned to McConnell AFB to become a launch crew member on the Titan II missile system. Our daughter, Shelley, was born at the base hospital. I spent 10 years at McConnell as a Ballistic Missile Analyst Technician (aka Brooms Mops and Trash) Instructor and my final year until retirement as NCOIC of the Wing Scheduling Division. Retired 1 July 1980 at the rank of TSGT having been selected for promotion to MSGT. After retirement I went to work in a full service professional photo lab and after ten years I purchased a One Hour Mini Photo lab. After 7 years of trying to compete with the likes of WalMart, drug and grocery stores I closed the lab and went back to work in another full service professional photo lab as Customer Service Manager where I am still employed. I also was a professional wedding photographer from 1971 to 2001. I retired from the wedding photography business to pursue some of my other interests and hobbies. In 1985 I was elected to our small town city council and served for 13 years. My hobbies include photography, genealogy, golf, motor home camping, computing and grandchildren (we have 11 with a 12th on the way) not necessarily in that order. I collect statues of eagles as well as photographs, photos of American flags, photos and statues of Statue of Liberty and am a great fan of Abraham Lincoln (collection of Lincoln busts as well as photos) and read anything available about the American Civil War as well as visit Civil War Battlefields during our motor home travels. I have been a member of the Tac Missileers for many years and have attended the Orlando and Denver reunions (you may remember seeing me wearing one of my many American flag shirts). My naturally white full beard allows me the opportunity to wear a red suit during the months of November and December when I am hired by photo studios around Kansas.

TAPS FOR MISSILEERS

Allan L. Toelle July 18, 2001

Melvin Jefferis, July 2002

James E. Fredericks Nov 7 2002

Les Rudolph, April 4 2003

Ralph Musick, March 21 2003

Larry Edmund, June 10, 2003



The Tac Missileers Royal family at the Oktoberfest.
Pictured L to R. **Jennings O. Raff** Court Member, **Bob Conrad** King, **Hilde Stewart** Queen, **Crystal Perdue** Lady-in-waiting and court jester **Charles "Marty" Martin**. Prime Minister and court elector **Julian "Zito" Esposito**

INTERESTED IN A 2004 GERMANY GET TOGETHER ?
Want see what remains or what changes have occurred to our stomping grounds around Bitburg, Hahn and Sembach in the last 37 years or longer.

If you would like to attend the get together next year in Germany let **Joe Perkins** know about your desire. For the time being Joe is collecting a list of those interested members to see if we have enough interest in a trip to start some serious planning. When this comes off it will not be a full blown reunion but, just a trip to Germany, either as a group or meeting over there to visit the country side and the areas where we lived and worked. Joe has started a list of names on the TAC MISSILEERS Web Site, see the list at http://tacmissileers.homestead.com/Germany_in_04.htm

Ed.

By Bob Conrad.....Secretary
Minutes of Business Meeting from 3rd reunion of the TAC
Missileers held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Denver Tech
Center, Denver, CO on June 20, 2003

Meeting opened at 9:10 AM by Executive Director **Joe Perkins**.

First order of business was the election of officers for the ensuing two-year period. **Joe Perkins** stated he was running for re-election. No other nominations from the floor, Joe Perkins re-elected as Executive Director. The Secretary conducted the balance of the elections. **Julian Esposito** spoke about how he had enjoyed his term as President and would serve again if called upon. No other nominations for President, Julian re-elected as President. **Max Butler** said he would continue to serve and with no other nominations, Max Butler was re-elected as Membership Director/Treasurer.

Curtis McKee agreed to continue as Publisher of the newsletter. No other nominations, Curtis continues as Publisher.

Bob Bolton will continue as Newsletter Editor since there was no opposition or nominations. **Bob Conrad** announced that he had enjoyed his term as Secretary, but was resigning that position at the conclusion of this reunion. He would still do the minutes and the write-up for the newsletter about the reunion. He then offered the name of **Larry Emerson** to be elected Secretary as his replacement. Larry's election was unanimous. Election was over and a round of applause was given for all officers.

Max Butler then gave a report that as of this date we had 748 members on the roster, but 457 had not paid their dues. He requested that everyone pay his dues. Forty (40)% of the membership should not be carrying the load for the whole organization.

There was a large "Get Well Card" for Edgar Singleton and everyone was asked to please sign the card before leaving the meeting.

It was requested that everyone with an E-mail address please send it in – It would save postage.

Life Membership was discussed but no action was taken.

Financial statement will be posted in the next newsletter.

Raffle with several nice prizes available will be conducted.

Tickets are for sale and will be available at the Oktoberfest and Banquet.

Location of the next reunion was discussed with the following locations suggested:

Biloxi, MS	San Antonio, TX	San Diego, CA
Las Vegas, NV	Atlanta, GA	Cruise ship out of CA
Nashville, TN	Colorado Springs, CO	Omaha, NE

Joe Perkins said a tour of Germany would be nice and should be given consideration. The location will be discussed and the decision will be given at the Oktoberfest.

Curtis McKee discussed non-profit mailing. The problem with that is nothing is returned or forwarded.

Group pictures will be Saturday morning at Bellevue Park at

the Mace Missile Site. Buses will be available prior to the Coors Brewery tour.

Everyone is requested to fill out the Survey form.

USAF Academy tour will leave after the meeting.

A large thanks to Terry Akre and a rousing round of applause for all his efforts for the leg work and setting up for this reunion.

Respectively Submitted

To the Officers and Members of the TAC Missileers.

For personal reasons I am resigning as Secretary at the conclusion of this reunion. Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past two years. Any help I can offer in the future, Please call on me.

Bob Conrad Secretary



Some Of The Tac Missileer Wives



A good looking gang seen in the side banquet room.

TAC MISSILEERS CORP
CURTIS MCKEE
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**Postmaster Please Forward
If Undeliverable, Return to
Sender**



Some Denver Reunion Photos



Show Me The Money!!



Missile Maintenance, What A Crew.