



TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 3

“Serving the mace and matador missile crews and support personnel who fought and won the cold war”

Fall 2003

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER
If you have not yet joined the Tac Missileers your amnesty period will run out with this issue. If you want to keep on receiving the quarterly newsletter send you dues to Max Butler now. We don not want to lose you but we need to cut our losses.

What about that 2004 get together in Germany. Joe Perkins needs your commitment ASAP. Details inside.

And Our 2005 Reunion Location is.....

Nashville, Tennessee

Your Board sets reunion location selection process In stone

The board has finally gotten their act together and reset the policy for the selection of all future reunion sties. A few of our long term members still endowed 'with viable gray cells thought they recalled we had set a reunion site selection policy at our very first reunion in Las Vegas. After some scrambling and searching through old messages and email files we confirmed their thought. That policy was established then and we are going to fall back on it immediately after the Nashville 2005 reunion. We will rotate the location geographically in order in the west, east and middle regions. The exact location within those regions will be selected by the members attending the preceding reunion meeting. At the 2005 **Nashville** reunion we will decide on the location of the of the 2007 reunion in the west.

After counting the meager 121 votes received Secretary Larry Emerson announces that by a very slim margin the 2005 reunion location is decided.

Gentlemen, The votes are in. I have counted all votes that I received prior to midnight Sept 1, PDT. I also counted two votes received today that were post marked prior to Sept 1 and one forwarded to me that the sender received back undeliverable and sent through Curtis McKee. All told I received 121 ballots. One of those ballots was for no place because he will go wherever the reunion is held.

The remaining ballots are as follows:

Nashville, TN	53
San Diego, CA	48
Dayton, OH	19

A thanks goes out to all of us. We received as many ballots in the last eight days as we received in the first 26 days. I am sure that is through the efforts of the board in reminding as many people as possible to cast their ballots before the September 1 cut off. Now it's onward to Nashville.....

Larry Emerson, Secretary

WINGED MISSILES OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE TO BE FEATURED

In response to seeing a graphic rendition of a Matador being off-loaded from a Herc in the August 2003 edition of **WINGS** Bob Bolton wrote to Mike Machat, editor and publisher of the **WINGS & AIRPOWER** magazines. Following is the abbreviated email letter from Bob that was published in the October 2003 edition of **WINGS**. Mike also personally answered Bob's email and was very generous in letting him in on a scoop but one that he had to keep under wraps until the news was finally announced in the October **WINGS** publication. Well, the October issue is in circulation and he can tell, here is the story!

Bob's Email MAIL To The Editor

What spurred me to write was the article in the August 2003 Wings "The Golden Age Of Aviation Advertising" and in particular the ad reproduced on page 41. Depicted there is a B-61 Martin Matador being off loaded from a Herc. (see the picture on our last page of this newsletter) "In all of the more that 25 years I have been reading the WINGS & AIRPOWER magazines, to my knowledge, this is only the second time that any of the Martin TAC missiles, be it the early developmental Matador B-61, operational Matador B/TM-61 A&C or the Mace TM-76 A&B, have ever been in the magazine as a center piece for a direct reference. The reason I'm interested in the Matador and Mace is that I was an Air Force launch crew member, Technician #1 on the Mace TM-76A, serving in the blockhouses at the 887th Tac Missile Squadron, Grünstadt, Germany from March 1962 until phase out of the 'A' bird end August 1966. I am now the editor of the Tac Missileers Newsletter, a quarterly publication devoted to keeping the spirit of the Matador and Mace Missiles alive among the 'gray beards' who once proudly served in many capacities with the birds in Europe, Asia and the U.S. We are a now a nonprofit group of ex-missileers who represent the different jobs and time frames of these missiles, comprised of

maintenance, depot black box repair (big, heavy, vacuum tube era), support, launch and logistics. Although the Martin Tac Missiles were by then a very obscure weapon system in the cold war they were the only Air Force missiles remaining in Europe following removal the Thor from Turkey after the Cuban Missile Crisis and until the Pershing was a proven, viable weapon there. Headquartered at Sembach AB, Germany the 38th Tac Missile Wing, consisted of three bases including Hahn AB and Bitburg AB. Each base had two or three squadrons of 12 missiles each. It may surprise your readers to know that the TM-76B soldiered on at Bitburg AB and in Okinawa until 1969.

Do you have plans on publishing an article on these systems any time in the future. I know that it would be a wonderful thing for a group of aging ex-Air Force missile men if a full blown article were to be published.

Bob Bolton, Editor

TAC MISSILEERS Corp. Newsletter"

Mike Machat's response.....

"Bob, your wish is our command, base on the success of our two-part story on the Navy's Vought Regulus I and II (April and December 2002 WINGS, available in back issue) we are hard at work on a feature coming early next year on all of the great winged missiles of the U.S. Air Force with many previously unpublished photos."

So, fellow missileers the Matador and Mace along with the Snark and Navaho will finally be featured in a nationally know and respected aviation magazine. You can subscribe to WINGS & AIRPOWER on line at WWW.WINGSAIRPOWER.com or phone order (815) 734-5958 Ed.



LAST CHANCE

If You Have not paid your dues this will be Your Last Newsletter

For four years we have sent out this newsletter to every name we added to our contact list. The list has now grown to more than 700 individuals. During the past two years we have come to the realization that less than half of the people on that big list are the core dues paying members of our organization.

For the past year your Tac Missileers Board members have discussed what to do about this dilemma. We had always kept the hope alive that folks had just forgotten to pay and we therefore have posted numerous notices and reminders in previous newsletters to those of you that had not sent in a payment to come forward with your dues or a contribution if you wanted to continue to receive the newsletter. Unfortunately, the notices and reminders did not work. We have decided it is finally time to save the organization's money by stopping what are obviously unwanted mailings to you the non-paying addressee on the mailing list. Truly, this has not been an easy decision for us to take but, we are not being good stewards of the Tac Missileers' money if we continue to send out unwanted editions of the Missileers News to folks that are not interested in receiving it.

For those that have not paid your dues to the Tac Missileers Corp. the amnesty period is over and the newsletter will be stopped after this issue. To restart the newsletter remit your \$15.00 to:

Max Butler
Membership Director
Tac Missileers Corp.
1220 Smith Road
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

quincyandnancy@aol.com

Your Board

This Taunus 12M Could Be Yours



This 1960 Taunus 12M being so longingly eyed by A 3 C Ahmed Mozham will be given away by Personnel Services on the last day of this month. Tickets are on sale now at the TOP HAT office. Proceeds go to the Sembach Athletic fund.

The TOP HAT Club will be giving the Base Personnel Services section a helping hand this month in the sale of tickets on the new 1960 export model Taunus 12M which is to be given away on the last day of September.

Tickets will cost \$1.00 each and will be on sale throughout the month at many places on the base, one of which is the Club Office.

Officials pointed out that they wanted to be sure that someone from Sembach won the car therefore sale of tickets has been limited

to Sembach military personnel, their dependents over 21 years of age and DAF personnel.

Purpose of the raffle is to help support the Sembach Athletic Program. The money will go to buy athletic equipment, individual and team trophies and for other expenses incurred in the operation of the base athletic program.

Even though you can purchase tickets at many locations throughout the base, it would behoove you to check on the special incentive offered by the club. You may decide on several tickets.

Ahmed Mozham sent in this clipping from the TOP HAT NCO OPEN MESS from the September 1960 activities program. Does anyone remember who won

NEW TAC MISSILEERS MEMBERS

- Chandler, Scott T**
- Freeman, Ralph A.**
- Frey, Marvin G.**
- Gay, Richard**
- Guraedy, Richard**
- Hosiner, Robert. L**
- Isaacs, Ray**
- Kennedy, Dellar A.**
- Kral, Charles R. Jr.**
- Lomax, Gilbert E.**
- Oliver, Darrell**
- Padgett, Richard**
- Petty, Norman**
- Smith, Larry N.**
- Weber, Leroy**
- Zimmerman, Harry**
- Isley, Rick**
- Anderson, Terry**
- Lindsay, Joe**
- Riester, Terry**

FROM MARTIN SERVICE NEWS JUNE 1958
BIG BUCKS

A recent review of the opening quarter of this year (1958) revealed the amount of 70 million dollars from the Dept. Of Defense for contracts. Including orders for the **TM-76** and **TM-61** totaling 16 million dollars.

THE TOP HAT

Volume 1

June 1960

Number 4



Jaye P. Morgan

Date line June 18th 1960, Sembach AB, Germany.

Singer - comedian Jaye P. Morgan (later of TV's Gong Show Fame) was on tap to entertain us. Featured bar and menu items for the month of June 1960 on special days included 5¢ and 10¢ beer and 15¢ highballs, a steak dinner on the patio went for \$1.75. Sounded real good until I checked some earning statements for 1960 and found that an A2C made on average about \$1050.00 a year back then. That was before the PRO Pay and a few extras were included. Even so, all-in-all with an exchange rate of 4 DM to the Dollar a single airmen could live a pretty good life then over there.

From Mr. President Julian "Zito" Esposito Well, the numbers are in, the votes have been counted and the 2005 reunion will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. Is it too early to start thinking about it? Probably not! At this very moment, a team of inspectors is being formed with the expressed purpose of going out into the Tennessee countryside seeking an ideal location for our next reunion. Already the decision has been made concerning the title of the 2005, reunion "theme" dinner. If we're all meeting in Nashville, then what else could the theme be but:

"Country and Western!"

So you may think that it's a bit early partner but it just may be time to start thinking about where those old cowboy boots and ten gallon hats are located, how you are going to get the rust off those old spurs, how to tune up the old guitar and whether your going to be able to slide into those old Levis.

Until next time, Hasta LaVista baby!

The **Tac Missileers Corporation** is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the IRS code. The **Tac Missileer Newsletter** is published 4 times a year, special editions as necessary. Membership dues are \$15 per year to run from January through December. Notifications relating to dues will not be mailed to individual members. Announcements in the **Tac Missileer Newsletter** will be the only notice given. Members are encouraged and welcome to submit articles. Subject matter can be anything about the Mace, Matador, or any mission support organization and activities. Articles of approximately 500 words fit best, but anything and everything will be appreciated.

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The Conclusion Of Hermann Knolle's and George Bennett's Story Of The B Bird In Okinawa

Preventing Guidance System Problems at the Launch Sites:

To dispatch or not to dispatch maintenance specialists to launch site became a question early on: It was costly, time consuming, and detrimental to operational readiness to return nose sections from a launch site to the maintenance area to verify apparent malfunctions. (I believe Okinawa had three launch sites, all at least ten miles distant from the maintenance area.) So for a while we dispatched specialists to the sites to determine whether the apparent fault was in the guidance system or the site's checkout equipment. We learned that if we could rule out faults within the sites' checkout equipment there was precious little we could do to fix anything within the guidance system onsite. So the nose sections continued to be returned to the maintenance area.

A frequent concern was the Guidance System and Flight Controls Interface – Signals from the guidance system were fed to the flight control system, i.e., azimuth (yaw), track and altitude deviations. One of the critical components in this process was the yaw resolver, mounted at the bottom of the GSP. If it was faulty in any way, the GSC procedures would not catch it and neither would the independently conducted Flight Controls checks. We determined that we could monitor the yaw resolver's behavior during the early GSC checks, simply by watching a voltmeter while changing azimuth settings on the GSC console. This discovery enabled us to get the GSP fixed more quickly (either in GEMS or the DMF) and saved us numerous wasted GSC runs as well.

Operationally Readiness Push for 1962

Late 1961 the 498th worked hard to make the first launch site operational; for us it meant to check out and calibrate many guidance systems. Fortunately the training and hard work paid off. Every and regardless of shop or AFSC contributed. We were proud to participate later in a parade when the wing received its first Outstanding Unit Award.

Emergency Power Snafus

As mentioned above the Island received its electrical power from a US ship anchored off-shore.

Sometimes there were power failures, so the maintenance complex had a huge emergency generator for backup. The generators were next to the GSC shop, which made us responsible to start them and bring them on line to protect the GSP's with their critical gyros and accelerometers. We were therefore trained in the proper startup, run and power switching procedures. Move the switching gear the wrong way and our generator's output would feed the island instead of the inertial guidance components. As I recall, that only happened once, fortunately repairs were completed before the next power failure occurred.

The Cuban Missile Crisis

In October 1962 the Cuban missile crisis caused all of the US Forces to go on alert. It so happened that on that day our oldest daughter was born. She arrived at 12:35 AM October 23rd Okinawa time — on the other side of the international date line. I returned from the hospital at approximately 2:00 AM. Barely asleep, I was awoken by shouts of "RECALL" all through the housing area. I joined the rush to the base. My wife didn't find out until later in the day.

Reassignment to Orlando

In March of 1964 several of us were reassigned to be instructors at Orlando AFB. We received instructor training, revamped the training curriculum, revised lesson plans and prepared to share all we had learned overseas. We made sure that the FTD trainer understood how things really worked! With the insight and experience we gained over two and a half years, we believed we were delivering the best possible training. In fact the powers that be had reassigned the previous instructor crew so that future trainees would get the real story. We were also thorough with our student evaluation, washing out a few trainees who we did not think had the aptitude to troubleshoot and maintain something so complex as an inertial guidance system. Unfortunately, the course improvement efforts took some time consequently, several of our friends were extended at Okinawa until our graduates were in place. **THE END**



You'll never know where the old girl will show up. It's the missile not the model I'm referring to in this 1960 photo montage. Our own Mr. President, Zito Esposito came across this picture in the Fashion and Style Section of the NY Times Sunday, September 21st, 2003 edition. The photo is from a collection of the "KING OF KINK" Helmut Newton. According to some of his critics and admirers Helmut "can see at least two views of a woman or a society at one time, he loves to be outrageous and ambiguous" Does anyone have any ideas as to what that Mace may represent in the photo? After reading some about Mr. Newton I do but, since we want to keep this newsletter on a higher level I'll leave it to your mind's eye to figure out.

Have you visited our Tac Missileers Web Site lately or at all? Joe Perkins is doing a real good job with it. It contains many pages of text and old photos from members of our organization. It is also the place to catch the latest news and Tac Missileers happenings. Check it out at.

<http://tacmissileers.homestead.com/MISSILEER.html>

TAPS FOR MISSILEERS

George Carter of Clermont, FL passed away in August.

Erwin H. Eckert passed away November 3, 2002

Tim Brady - Ed Johnson reported that Tim died July 29th. He had been very ill for some time and made the decision himself to stop dialysis about a week earlier. His family is fine as they know how unpleasant his life had been for the last couple of years--the last in particular



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. He is working on three different river cruises in trying to get the appropriate mixture for you to select from. For the time being Joe is collecting a list of those interested members to see if we have enough curiosity in a river cruise trip to continue his 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 by luxurious river boat. 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



CGM-13A Mace Serial Number 58-2467 Shown here going into the Ocean at the end of it's flight Speed App. 525 Alt. 3,000 Ft.

DENNIS E. KEASLING SGT U.S.A.F., 498th Tactical Missile Group Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, The "B" Bird on Okinawa, Mace "B" Tactical Missile Launch and Maintenance Sites The Martin Marietta TM-76B Mace was later known as the CGM-13C, finally as the CGM-13B It was known by all who worked with it as the "B" Bird. I entered the service in July 7, 1966 at that time many young men were drafted into the military. Two week before I got out of school I was move to 1-A status. One week after I got out of High school I got a notice from the army for a physical on July 7, 1966. I chose to enter the Air Force instead, inducted on July 6, 1966. I later found out the army would have draft me on August 1st 1966. Four of my class mates where killed in Vietnam of a class that had 174 people. After basic training I was sent to Denver CO for Missile school for 6 months then to Elgin AFB, FL in January 1967. I was assigned to the TAWC and worked on Santa Rosa Island. I saw over 90 launches of the Mace from January 1967 to February 1969. The missiles at Eglin where Drones for target practice and research. Some of those launches went wrong. One Missile went over Cuba ...OOPS. Four nosed dived into the ocean. One blew up on the pad, all of us were about a mile away and running the other direction. The

gross weight of the drone Mace at life-off was 17,500 pounds. It was launched at 17 degrees with the J33 jet engine running at 104.5% over speed, putting out 5,200 pounds of thrust. The solid rocket booster put out 110,000 pounds for 2.65 sec. (13DB above the level to kill you from the sound alone) Yes, but in that time it would lift the missile off the pad to about 500 feet and a speed of 250 MPH. In Feb of 1969 I was shipped to Okinawa, Kadena AFB, to the 498th Sq. There I was on the nose crew that replaced the bad Guidance nose's if they had trouble at a site. There where 4 sites on Okinawa, in Oct. 1969 the sites where closed and I stayed on as part of the close out crew until March of 1970 and was shipped home for discharge, which nearly broke my heart to get out early (grin).



Site A-15 On Santa Rosa Island. The Site's Motto was "Run or Burn" The Site Mascot was "The Phantom"

Our Thanks to **Dennis** for his permission to use this Mace information, it was taken in its entirety from his web site and it's a real find to finally see some information on the use of the Mace as a drone. It's one of the areas we have little information on:

<http://keasl5227.tripod.com/throwawaythekeys/id9.html>
ED.

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As seen in the August 2003 Wings magazine article "The golden Age of Aviation advertising" master artist Carl Evers depicts a hypothetical battle scene where a USAF C-130 Herc unloads its lethal cargo of a Martin B-61 Matador.