



TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 4

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

Winter 2003

Organization's Past Secretary Bob Conrad Passed Away See Bob's obituary inside

Tac Missileer memorabilia ready for sale
Show off your involvement with our exclusive organization

Jackets and Plates. Max Butler is now ready to take your orders for the Tac Missileers license plates and jackets as seen at the Denver reunion. Although not shown in the image below the plate does have the Master Missileman badge on the right side. The auto license plate is full sized with a background of chrome yellow and the Tac Missileers patch is represented in its familiar colors. The plates are \$12 each. The nylon jackets are available in either AF blue or black with your choice of wording above and below the 10" Tac Missileers patch on the back of the jacket. Your first name will be embroidered on the front. All this for only \$80. Shipping is included in all prices.

enough interest from you he will coordinate the remanufacturing of these and any other old missile unit insignias. Unit patches could be used to replace the standard Tac Missileers patch on the left front of the jacket.

Ordering. Place your order with Max by email, snail mail or phone. Indicate the item and quantity you want. For the jacket, furnish your size and the exact wording, base, site and country you want displayed on the back. Be sure to tell him the name you want embroidered on the front and on which side you want it to be placed. Max's contact information is in the officers address box on page 4.

Unit Patches? If you would like to have some of your old unit patches from the 69th, 586th, 585th or the 71st for example, Max would like to hear from you. If there is



TM-61A Matadors did not fade away, after more modern counterparts were available — they left in a brilliant blaze. Following up on the theme from the last newsletters article on the Mace as a drone is this piece on the Matador being utilized in the same way. From the *Martin Service News September-October 1959*



Old TM-61A missiles are not fading away, now that more modern counterparts are available they are going out in a brilliant blaze. Approximately 24 of the A models have already been launched to serve as drone targets for ground-to-air and air-to-air missiles such as the Army's Nike and Hawk. After frequent run ups and long storage at Martin and Air Force facilities all over the world the early Matador models are performing their last mission with an exceptional record of successful firings.

When the requirement for the Air Force to supply drones was first formed World War II planes controlled by radio were considered. Building special target missiles was also under consideration. Martin's Contractor Maintenance converted five A types which had long since served their usefulness and proved them an ideal target—reliable and inexpensive. Since that time another 120 have been delivered after minor modification and cleanup. Once handled with the care of a fine instrument, the aging models now lie in the open sands of New Mex-

ico until picked up and made ready for launch. Despite the rough-and-ready treatment the first dozen missiles fired without mishap and their reliability record continues to climb. The Matadors are launched at Holloman AF Base. If they elude the killer missile, a destruct button is pressed to destroy them. The operation is performed by AF crews with relative little support of field reps or the plant. Delivery of the target drones was completed in June 1959. Another 30 A models in as-is condition, will be sent to military bases, educational institutions, and similar organizations for either use in experiments or for historical exhibits. The list of places slated to receive one or more of the pioneer missiles includes Aberdeen Proving Ground, Franklin Institute, Orlando AF Base, Korea, and the New Mexico Institute of Minerals and Technology. The Navy will receive 10 of the missile shells, without engines for testing purposes and two will remain at Martin for engine run ups.



The Following piece is based on my translation, with a great deal of corrective input from Ingrid Bolton, of two articles found in Die Rheinpfalz, Kaiserslautern Edition. The clippings were originally sent to member Calvin R. Farrell by a Germany friend. We thank Calvin for sharing with us.

With the symbolic cutting and breaching of the fence, November 1, 2003 became a historic and happy day in the lives of the citizens of Sembach and Mehlingen. After fifty years the inhabitants were once again able to hike unhindered again along the old paths that had been used since ancient times. Before the base existed the paths were a communication and commerce link in the daily lives of the two villages. In 1952 when Sembach AB was constructed it was to cause a long lasting bitterness by the farmers in the area because the airfield took the best level and fertile land in the whole area. The AB flight line would become a conspicuous reminder that keep the resentment festering for 50 years.

As the Cold War ramped up the US took over the AB from the French, making improvement to the flight line and ops area to accommodate the latest jets aircraft. Although the villages were still connected by the local road network they were in effect isolated from each other by the flight line and its security fencing. Over the years the two once intimately associated villages drifted apart. Sembach becoming more associated with the district Donnersberg towns and villages than with its historical neighbor. Mehlingen citizens remarked that they felt like they had been left in a ghetto all these years.

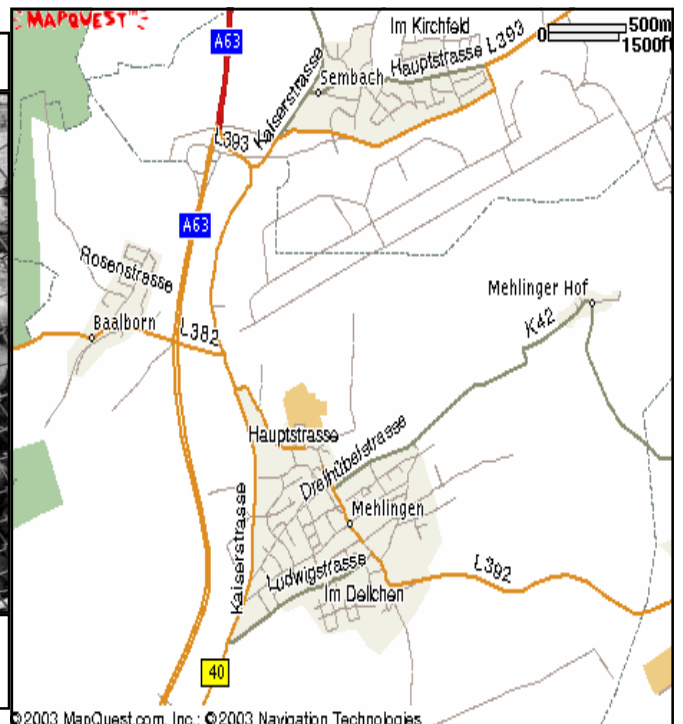
In 1995 the US returned the flight line and operations area to the Federal German Republic (FDR). Because of the economic downturn initiatives by the FDR to develop the old AB into an industrial park have been less than stellar. Recently some small companies have moved into the complex sparking hopes that more local jobs will result.

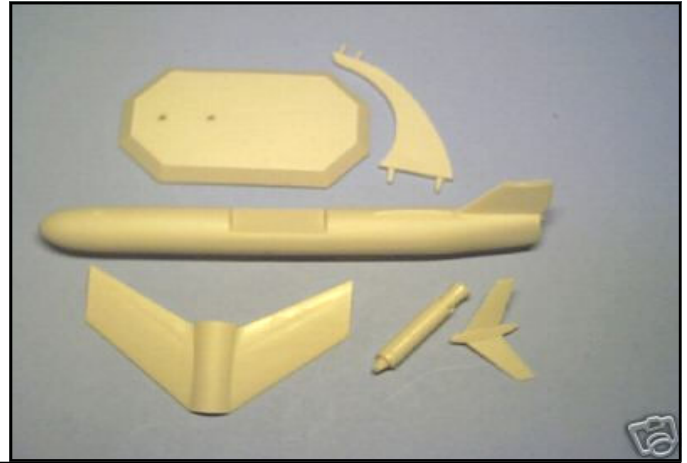
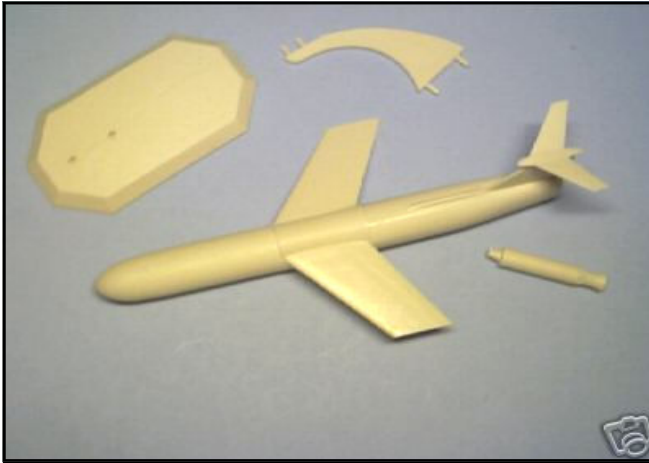
Following the downing of the fence by the citizens of the two villages the old pathways were re-opened but the old 3 corners boundary marker between the junction of Sembach, Mehlingen and Baalborn could not be located and will be resurveyed to reestablish their legal borders.

Air Base Fence Comes Down



The fence falls and the way between Sembach and Mehlingen is free again.





Larry Johnson has his rendition of the Mace TM-76 in production and it is ready to be ordered. Rendered in resin this 1/48 model scales out to a near perfect 5 1/2" wing span and 11" in length. This is the ideal mate to his already available 1/48 scale Matador. Larry's other models can be seen frequently on eBay. Bid on them there or contact Larry directly at:

*The only *new* Mace and Matadors models available anywhere and at reasonable prices!*

Larry W. Johnson
720 Rummage Road
Coxs Creek, KY 40013
USA (502) 543-9282

2004 membership DUES time again. Please send your \$15.00 to Max Butler to continue your membership.

Visited your Tac Missileers Web Site. It contains many pages of text and old photos from members of our organization. It is also the place to catch late breaking news and Tac Missileers happenings. Check it out at.

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

Tac Missileers' year end 2003 Financial Report	
As of December 16 th , 2003	
Beginning Balance as of 8/1/03	\$ 12,101.46
Deposit -Donations Received	55.00
Deposit -Dues Paid (85 members-	1,275.00
Expenses:	
United Postal Service (Bulk Fee)—Ck. # 1037	150.00
Mckee Printing Service Ck. # 1039	456.13
Mckee Printing Service Ck # 1040	470.28
Nancy Butler (Missileer I.D. Card laminates) Ck # 1041	54.41
Military Graphics (Missileer License Plates) Ck. # 1042	61.50
Reunion Reimbursement (J. Marney) Ck # 1038	53.90
Ending balance as of 12/16/03	\$ 12,699.24

Newsletter input requested!!! OLLIE is about out of stories. He tells me he has only a few left. 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.

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.

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He Never Said a Word

At the start of a typical 13 hour RFML night shift, the MCCCs and CCCs would accept the cards and launch enable keys from their day shift crew counterparts while Launch Techs 1 & 2 would accomplish the missile walk around inspection and AGE equipment checks. After these formalities were taken care of the settling in for the evening began. Card games were started, University of Maryland course material or AF OJT manuals were being studied. Later in the evening the Air Police would deliver the midnight meal we had earlier ordered. I can still smell the aroma of the SOS and toast, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs and fried potatoes as we opened the insulated delivery canisters. We really appreciated the Air Police for putting up with the added duty of being the delivery men of the meals to the captive launch crews.

Late evening would see the last trips to the out-house being made. Soon the crew was dozing off. Because I was the only unmarried crew member on 3-4 it usually fell on me to pull communications watch while the rest of the crew nodded or slept. I would do all of the night shift phone watches unless the next day was the start of our long off duty break. On that last night the married guys, all senior to me, would let me sleep so I could start running Germany hard early the next day.

AFN TV was off the air, in the background the Grundig was tuned to AFN, playing the ubiquitous Country and Western music or to the VOA on the short wave band. The overhead lights would be dimmed and a reading lamp on at the desk. Reading became a passion for me then, lasting until this day. I burned through hundreds of Special Services Pocket Books during those long quiet nights. The only interruption to the reading came from the frequent communications and authentication checks from the CC. I can almost hear all of the sites and blockhouses responding, in our cryptic vernacular, to the Centers challenge, with the CAC reply and our phonetic initials.

The Capt. of crew 3-4, was a first-class guy and seldom gave us a tough time. We joked around and naturally pulled pranks on each other but when the time came to get serious we were all Yes Sir! and No Sir! We were a professional launch crew. The only negative thing about the Capt. were his terrible looking jump boots. They must have been the most scuffed up boots on the site and possible in the entire 38th. I don't think that they had ever seen a smidgen of Kiwi polish since he had put them on the

first time. Ordinarily many of the launch crew members took pride in their appearance and informally competed with the Air Police to see who could keep the most highly shined boots and best looking uniforms. Honestly, seeing the Capt. dirty boots standing there bothered me in some deep way when he would take them off to snooze the night away.

One night the devil was sitting on my shoulder and whispered a bit of mischievousness into my ear. Being really bored and without anything new in the library to read I decided to spit shine the Capt. jump boots just to see his reaction the next morning. After much hard work and plenty of elbow grease the first boot was looking nice with a shine anyone would brag about. It was then that that little devil on my shoulder really started to work on me. Following the tempter's lead I didn't do the second boot. I just put the "ready for inspection" one back beside its ugly scuffed up mate.

As morning came I started to think I may have overstepped my bounds but it was too late to get the other boot in shape. The crew was already coming alive as they smelled the aroma of the freshly brewed coffee I had made. We then got into the routine and prepared the blockhouse for the arrival of the relieving crew and the formalities that went along with crew change. As the Capt. donned his boots I started to sweat bullets, the whole time waiting for the axe to fall. But, nothing. Several days passed and still zilch from him about my prank. By then the rest of the crew was holding their collective breath for me also but, they had told me that it was my prank and I would take the whole blame without their support. I nearly had heart failure on several occasions when the Capt. would address me unexpectedly out of the blue. I was particularly worried when we were soon after pulling squadron duty. Seeing him working with the Squadron Commander and Ops Officer with that one good looking still shinny boot and one bad looking scuffed up boot kept me on the fine edge of panic the whole day.

For several weeks I tiptoed around him as I watched with growing relief as the one standout boot slowly revert to its original condition. Until the last day I ever saw him he never said a word about the one shinny boot. For the rest of my tour I never did go over board with a prank again. More pranks, absolutely yes, many of them but, all were well thought out for any consequences before they were committed.

By Ollie

Conrad, Robert Joseph, 76, of Montgomery, passed away Wednesday November 26th at home. He was born February 5, 1927 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to Regis Joseph Conrad and Catherine Margaret Meyers. His father was an engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad, and Bob grew up in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York.

Bob served in the Merchant Marine in WWII July 1944-December 1945 in the Atlantic and the Pacific. After graduating from Sewanhaka Central High School, Nassau County, NY, in 1947, he worked for Royal Electric Co. in New York for 5 years. He then enlisted in the Air Force in 1952, and served as an engineer on crash boats in Florida and the Azores. He reenlisted in 1956 and became an instructor for Flight Traffic Specialist School in West Palm Beach, Florida, then served as a flight specialist at Charleston Air Force Station in South Carolina and then from 1959-65 at Fort Maguire, NJ. In 1965 he attended missile school and became a First Sergeant with a Mace missile unit at Bitburg, Germany 1966-70, and finished his career with a SAC unit in Ohio. He retired from the Air Force in 1972. Bob then moved to Hawaii, where he worked in the food and beverage industry for hotels and restaurants, and then for Conway Import Company. He retired from Conway in 1994 and moved to Montgomery, where he worked for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and the Auto Auction of Montgomery.

Bob was very active in patriotic organizations. He served as National Executive Committeeman of the American Legion from Hawaii for 10 years, and also belonged to the 40 & 8, the VFW, and the DAV. He was a member of the Masons, the Shiners, and the Elks. He was recently inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

He is survived by his wife, Lena H. Conrad, daughters Celeste M. Sly of Venus, FL, Laura B. Ryals (Mitch) of Wetumpka, AL, Sandi L. Bona of Lafayette, LA, sons Joseph R. Conrad (Joan) of Floral Park, NY and Robert K. Conrad (Leslie) of San Diego, CA, and Lawrence J. Bona (Terry) of Tickfaw, LA, brothers Joseph H. Conrad (Pat) of Kent, WA, John F. Conrad (Norma) of Sacramento, CA, and Donald W. Conrad (Jean), of Wilmington, DE, and fourteen grandchildren.

Bob was a gregarious, loyal, friendly man with a booming voice who greatly enjoyed the visits and calls from his family and many friends from all over the world during his final weeks. Visitation will be at Leak Memory Funeral Home, Montgomery, Alabama on Friday November 28th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Funeral Services will be at Leak Memory Chapel, Montgomery, Alabama on Saturday November 29th at 11 a.m. Fr. Charles Troncale, Pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church will officiate. Burial will be at Arlington National Memorial Cemetery December 10th at 10 a.m. eastern time.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Montgomery Cancer Wellness Foundation, Attn: Paige Connell, 4145 Carmichael Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36106-2801 or

TAPS FOR MISSILEERS

Robert J. Conrad — Past Tac Missileers Secretary passed away Nov. 26

Fred Owens, was at Kadena 1967 - 1969 he was in the airframe and engine branch and after the shutdown of the 498th he went to Hurlburt Field and worked on the Okaloosa island launch site, he retired in 1982 as a SMSGT and went to work for Raytheon. He reportedly died on October 14 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, he was a field engineer on the Patriot Missile with Raytheon. Cause of death was not noted, A memorial service was held at Ft Walton, FL.

Joseph "Joe" Calder, member of the 69th PBS/TMS and first Commander of the 586th Communications and Guidance Squadron at Hahn Air Base Germany died on 16 July 2003 in Los Altos CA.

Jack Flynn, died on Oct 10th from a lung disease. Jack was an NCO out at Hahn's Site VI during the mid-nineteen-sixties,

WELCOME NEW TAC MISSILEERS MEMBERS

Richard A. Berdin
Waylon Quigley
John G. Poulos
Richard Owens

INTERESTED IN A 2004 GERMANY GET TOGETHER ? Want see what remains or what changes have occurred 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 of your desire. He is working on river cruises trying to get the appropriate mix for you to select from. For the time being Joe is compiling a list of those members interested 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. Contact Joe Perkins for information

Congratulations To One Of Our Own. David Summarell was named the August Veteran of the month from Rapid City, SD. Article below is from the Rapid City Web site.



Veteran of the Month August 2003 Congratulations to David K. Summarell!

In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, I am pleased to present the August 2003 Veteran of the Month – David K. Summarell. Dave Summarell joined the Air Force in 1949 and after Technical School was sent to Asaha, Japan and soon began training as a Flight Engineer on C-54 Cargo Aircraft, flying combat cargo missions to Korea. In 1952, Dave returned to the United States and was assigned to special Air Missions in Washington, DC where he was assigned to Bolling Force Base and spent five years flying missions with the “VIP’s” of the nation including the Secretary of Army and Secretary of Defense.

In 1960, Dave was cross-trained into the Tactical Missiles, serving a tour in Germany as the Launch Combat Crew Chief on Mace Missiles. When he returned again to the United States, he became an instructor teaching combat crew training for both officers and enlisted crews. In 1967, Dave became a Launch Crew Chief Evaluator, determining the combat readiness of the 498 Tac Missile Group. Dave arrived at Ellsworth Air Force Base in 1968 and was assigned to the 44th Strategic Missile Wing. Shortly after his arri-

val, he became the Maintenance Superintendent of Munitions Maintenance. In the three years he was assigned to that position, the 28th Munitions Maintenance Squadron was named the Best Munitions Squadron for three years in a row. Dave retired on October 1, 1976 after 27 years and 6 months in the military with the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

During his military career, Dave acquired many awards including: the Air Crew Members Badge, Master Missile Badge, Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with 5 Battle Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Presidents Unit Citation, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Outstanding Unit Award with 2 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Force Commendation Award and others too numerous to mention. Dave lives in Rapid City and is married to the former Ernestine Zimmerman since June 19, 1954. They have two daughters with 3 grand children and they all live in Rapid City. Dave is Vice Chairman of the Veterans Coordination Commission and a Life Member of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Retired Enlisted Association of Rapid City. Staying active and helping other Veterans makes Dave Summarell an excellent example for the Veteran of the Month Program

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Win a Free Membership

Your editor's inkwell is running low and the Tac Missileers Organization needs your input to keep the quarterly edition of the Newsletter interesting for **all** members. Take an active part in your organization and share a story or anecdote from our glory days with your fellow members. I know you have them because I've heard you filling the air them at our reunions. Send your yarn to the newsletter editor, make it at least 500 words in length but, the longer the better! Up to two feature articles a quarter will be selected and printed. The member who's input is printed will receive the next year's membership free. Prolific members are not eligible for two consecutive years free memberships. Additionally, we would like to print items about the on-going accomplishments our Tac Missileers members. For example, have you bowled a 300 or caught that local legend fish or bagged a trophy deer, hit a landmark birthday or won a dancing contest, let us know about it. Send your contribution by snail mail or email or phone. Join in and help keep **your** newsletter stimulating and informative for everyone. **ED.**

**From Mr. President and the Officers of
the Tac Missileers Corporation**

**We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy,
Safe and Enjoyable New Year 2004.**

Please keep in mind to occasionally check in on our Tac Missileer web site for updated information and news and remember to review the guest book for comments from current or newly located friends. The web site is the best way to keep up with any late breaking news or happenings within the organization. Webmaster Joe Perkins does an outstanding job with it and keeps it updated with frequent changes and additions. Log on at,

**[http://tacmissileers.homestead.com/
MISSILEER.html](http://tacmissileers.homestead.com/MISSILEER.html)**