

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL



Volume 7, Number 4

TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2005

Visit Us On Line At <http://tacmissileers.homestead.com/MISSILEER.html>

**The 2006 Tac Missileers membership drive is now in progress.
Please send your \$15.00 check to:**

**Max Butler
3270 Bufkin Springfield Rd, Mt. Vernon, IN 47620**

-Tucson 2007 Reunion Update-

A quick note from our Executive Director Joe Perkins:

“Even though I have not found a hotel that can set aside around a 120 + rooms for us, I am still going to press ahead with the destination of Tucson around April 2007 for the next Tac Missileers reunion. I am following the wishes of the majority of Missileers that voted to go there. Will keep everyone posted as to the progress.”

-Tac Missileers Web Site Help Wanted-

Our Web Meister Joe Perkins is looking for someone to assist him in keeping up the Tac Missileers Web Site. If you have an interest in helping him maintain our web site and want the details of the job please contact Joe at perkster@fcol.com.

Joe needs some occasional help entering pictures from the reunions, updating the on line rosters and other housekeeping chores relating to member screening and contact. You should have some Internet experience and enjoy being on line and it would really be helpful to have a broadband connection.

Tac Missileers Corporation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 19 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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Newly Refurbished Mace B at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. See full news release inside.



I've recently found a long lost photo that some of our Hahn AB missileers might find interesting. After talking with my wife, referring to some old military orders and reconstructing some memory pathways in my old brain I've put together the following events leading to the taking of the picture.

I was taking my one free R&R flight out of Iceland in the last week of July 1974 flying into Lindsey Air Station, Wiesbaden, Germany to meet up with Ingrid and the two kids. Objective, a few weeks vacation and family life in Grünstadt before returning to Rockville AS, Iceland for the remainder of my remote, unaccompanied AC&W tour.

I was riding a Navy R6D-1 (C-118) starboard side seat way back behind the wing. I had a wonderful view, out of one of those great picture windows, of the German country side as we were letting down after hitting our IP heading into Lindsey AS. Camera in hand I was snapping shots on that unusually cloudless day. I suddenly spotted the unmistakable layout of a Mace A site. 14 soft shelters, 12 launch and 2 maintenance follow on, facing east. I recall my excitement then and remember taking several shots, I think this must be the sole survivor. The attached picture was lost, hidden all these years until I recently discovered it in a box of old negatives.

Can any Hahn missileer ID the site and give us some details on which site it was? I've tried to determine its location by using Google Earth but have been unable to place it. Probably a farmer's field or even re-forested by now. As an aside, I was able to spot the former Mace A launch site at Grünstadt using Goggle Earth satellite pictures and also spotted the remains of the former Army Nike Hercules site across the valley from Site III at Quernheim.

Ollie.

Following the theme of pictures taken from high up...this one is also from Goggle World...the photo below on the left is of the Mace that sits on Interstate 75, Exit 146, Warner Robins, GA. I've enlarged and enhanced the picture to its limits to get the view of that old bird guarding that exit. Photo on the right is of the same bird but from ground level. The low level photo is credited to our own George Mindling, he aptly named the picture, Mace_on_a_stick.



National Museum of the USAF Public Affairs Division Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-7102 (937) 255-3286

NEWS RELEASE 05-107 October 3, 2005

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ADDS TWO MISSILES TO THE COLD WAR GALLERY DAYTON, Ohio – The Martin TM-61A “Matador,” the Air Force’s first pilotless bomber, and the Martin CGM-13B “Mace,” a similar tactical surface-launched missile, were recently added to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force’s Cold War Gallery. The Matador was a surface-to-surface tactical missile designed to carry a conventional or nuclear warhead. It was launched by a booster rocket from a mobile 40-foot trailer and controlled electronically from the ground during flight.

“We are very excited about the addition of the Matador to the Cold War Gallery,” said Museum Director Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Charles D. Metcalf. “Now the public can get an up close look at one of the first guided tactical missiles.”

Development of the Matador began in August 1945, and it was first launched on January 19, 1949. The missile continued production until 1959, when it was phased out in favor of a more advanced version, the Mace.

The Mace missile, like the Matador, was designed to destroy ground targets. First developed in 1954 and tested in 1956, it could be launched from a mobile trailer or a bomb-proof shelter. Later, these missiles were used as target drones because their size and performance resembled those of manned aircraft.

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The Mace employed a terrain-matching radar guidance system known as ATRAN (Automatic Terrain Recognition And Navigation) which matched the returns from a radar scanning antenna with a series of on board radar terrain maps. The guidance system corrected the flight path if it deviated from the maps.

“The Mace represents another important piece of Cold War history,” said General Metcalf. “It allows visitors to see the type of technology that was developed during that time to protect and defend the United States.”

A second version, the Mace B, developed in 1959, had a jam-proof inertial guidance system and twice the range of the earlier version. The missile remained operational in Europe and the Pacific until the early 1970s.

For more information on the Matador, Mace and other missiles at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, please visit our Web site at: <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum> or call 937-255-3286, ext. 302.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force is located on Springfield Pike, six miles northeast of downtown Dayton. It is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day). Admission and parking are free.