



Volume 8, Number 1

# ***TAC MISSILEERS***

## **NEWSLETTER**

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



Spring 2006

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

**IT IS OFFICIAL— WE ARE HAVING A REUNION**

**May 2 through May 4, 2007**

**Holiday Inn Palo Verde**

**Tucson, Arizona**



**More Inside**

## PRESS RELEASE April 18, 2006

### 2007 TAC MISSILEERS REUNION HOTEL CHOSEN

Today Joe Perkins, the Executive Director of the Tac Missileers Organization signed a contract with the **Holiday Inn Palo Verde**. The Holiday Inn Palo Verde is located at 4550 Palo Verde Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona. The core reunion dates are set for:

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

We have a block of 105 rooms is set aside for our organization. The Double rooms will be for the price of \$89.00 a night.

Those are all of the details ready for release right now. So please stand-by as more will follow. **Don't call** the hotel to make reservations yet. We'll notify you when to start setting up your reservations.

In the mean time be making your plans to attend the 2007 reunion with us. Talk it up, start spreading the news among your TAC Missileer friend and acquaintances. We want to keep up our tradition by fielding as large a turn-out in Tucson as we have at our other very successful reunion locations. The sooner you get the word out to all Missileers the better the event will be. If you know of a Missileer who doesn't get the newsletter or is not an active member tell them about the 2007 reunion. Stir up some interest, one year will go very fast. Don't delay...mark your calendars...don't make any other commitments for at least those 3 important day next May. Be sure to tell your kids that you will not be available to baby-sit the brats, I mean, those sweet little grand babies during the first part of May 2007.

Hang on until Joe whips the Board into motion and they start turning the gears and pulling the levers to fine tune the reunion particulars. As other important decisions and the real nitty-gritty details are made we will tell you about them. All latest breaking news concerning the 2007 reunion will be found on our TAC Missileers Web Site, check there often or read about it in the quarterly TAC MISSILEERS Newsletter. For those members that have email access you'll receive more frequent TAC MISSILEERS E-Newsletter informing you of important updates.

Some Hotel and Tucson information on page 7 this issue.

Bob Bolton

## Answers To The Hahn Mace A Site Question

Missileers Ray Pillitteri and Ken Knapp both sent in identifying information on the Hahn missile site picture that I put in the last issues of the Quarterly hard copy Newsletter and the E-Newsletter.

First, Ray Pillitteri sent an email with the following information:

“Bob, just got my Winter 2005 edition of the TAC Missileers. The article on page 2 caught my attention right away. I was stationed at Hahn AB in the mid sixties and was involved with the deactivation of the MACE A. In fact, my tour in Europe was cut short (1966) and I was shipped back to Malstrom AFB in Great Falls, MT and cross trained on the Minuteman I. Hahn AB had 3 Mace A sites, 4, 5 and 6. Site 4 had 12 birds and 5 and 6 had 8 each. I believe 4 had the call sign Veronica, 5 (my old site) was Pot fuse but I can't remember the call sign for 6. I don't recall us having maintenance follow on shelters on 5 and I only pulled a couple of shifts at 4 and remember very little of that site. Thanks, Ray Pillitteri Jacksonville, FL”

A few days later Ken Knapp sent this to me:

“Bob, In case no one identified your aerial photo, it is Site 4..... Only one site at Hahn that had 12 birds..... Site 5&6 only had 8. Site 4 originally only had 8 birds,

but 4 were added later. If no one told you about the problems this caused when we did site pack up in 1966, let me know. I was a site 5 mechanic, but a friend was a site 4”

Ken later sent the following interesting tidbit when I ask him to expand on the problems he mentioned in taking down site 4.

“Probably a site 4 person would know it better, but here goes with a 42 years old memory..... Site 4 had 8 birds originally. 4 more were added at a later date. All 12 were there when I arrived at Hahn in 65. When we disassembled the sites in late summer of 66, each site's crews did their own. All power was removed from the site complexes or so we thought..... We used MM-1s to pull the cables out of the troughs. This was accomplished by wrapping a big logging chain around a group of cables and literally ripping them out of the troughs. Didn't matter if they broke apart, they were being sold as scrap. WELL, when the site 4 boys got to the 3rd complex, they did the same as the other complexes. Except when they pulled the cables, there was a huge flash and loud noises as the logging chain was welded into one solid piece of metal. It seemed the Germans had bypassed the main power distribution when the 3rd complex was installed. There were no injuries, thank goodness, just a bunch of guys cleaning out their pants..... ;- ) About a 5 mile radius around the site lost power..... The chain was on display at site 4 for a while..... Maybe someone knows more..... That's all I remember.”

### From Mr. President

It's spring, time to shake off the winter blahs and think about the future. As we know, time does fly, especially when you're thinking about having fun! The dates for the Tucson reunion have been finalized; May 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2007. Around this time next year we

will be getting ready to pack our bags and looking forward to our Reunion get-together, thinking about old times and meeting again with dear friends. Let the planning begin!!

See you soon! Julian "Zito" Esposito



Another ground level Mace picture coupled with a shot of the same bird taken from space. In January of 2003 Missileer **Clyde D. Finner**, SMSgt Ret. sent me the picture of a Mace he shot, **left photo**. He spotted it guarding the VFW Post 4539 in Wakulla County, Fl. The Mace and VFW post sat at the north end of Wakulla County Airport runway. I have been able to locate the same Mace from space, **right photo**, using Google Earth and thought the membership would find it interesting. I've subsequently located several more Mace Missile gate-guards from space and have ground snapshot to match it up with them. I may use them as newsletter space and your interest permit in future editions.

## A NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND PAYMENT OPTION NOW AVAILABLE 3 YEARS FOR THE PRICE OF 2

Based on your many requests our Board of Directors is now offering a new Membership Category. A three year purchase option, the three year membership is \$30.00. The organization will retain the standard one year \$15.00 Annual membership as well. Remember it is still membership drive time if you haven't sent in your money, so please make your choice between the two options and send your dues to:

**Membership Director / Treasurer Max Butler**  
**3270 Bufkin Springfield Road,**

### Missileer Herb Jones Is Seeking Copy Of Old Orders — Can You Help

Hi my name is Herb Jones , I was a member of the 586th from 1959 to 1961 at Hahn Air Base... in the communications center... Could you tell me when the Presidential Citation was awarded to the 586th and if you have a copy of the award .. Could you please send it to me .. My records were lost in a fire .. My email is [handi@tmlp.com](mailto:handi@tmlp.com) My address is 216 Ann St, Raynham, MA 02767. Any information would help. Thanks Herb

## TAPS

**Thomas O. Bowers, Jr.** passed away on December 22 2005, of cancer, at Lewis Gale Medical Center in Roanoke, VA. I have to mention how excited he was when he found the TAC Missileer website several months ago. He spent hours just going through the site and reminiscing. I can tell you it was very valuable to him to find it. He was even able to contact some old buddies. It also made him happy to be able to use a modern medium to be able to show some of the younger family members what he used to be a part of in the military. If anyone has any questions about him, please feel free to contact me directly via phone, or to contact his wife, Doris, via Tom's last contact info. Thanks. Daniel M. Hess 703-568-6832

**Ernie Kuch** passed away. He served in Orlando and with the 498th TMG Maintenance. Sent in by Jeff Schiff

On Thu, 23 Feb 2006 Funeral arrangements for **Leslie Bell** were made. Sunday the 26th was the viewing from 4:00-8:00pm with the rosary held at 7:00pm. Monday the 27th the funeral mass was at 10:00 am with burial at Ft. Sam Houston National cemetery thing. My father enjoyed the what he had read with me



**John Pederson** passed away February since August 6, 2005. As you know last days all he could take about was 64. Submitted by **Art Gust**.

**John Pederson** and buddies  
at The 2005 Nashville Reunion

ary 24, 2006. He had been in the hospital and Life Care Center he was very sick at the reunion, but loved it. His son said his the reunion. He was a 9443nd at Hahn on the Mace about 60-

**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.

**Executive Director:** Joe Perkins, perkster@fcol.com  
3133 Ravines Rd, Middleburg, FL 32068 (904) 282-9064

**President:** Julian Esposito, zito55@aol.com  
130 Balsam Lane, Levittown, NY 11756

**Secretary:** Larry Emerson, lemerson@swbell.net  
114 Sunflower Dr. Wichita, KS 67217 (316) 524-7803

**Membership Dir/Treasurer:** Max Butler  
m.butler11540@sbcglobal.net 3270 Bufkin Springfield Rd, Mt. Vernon, IN 47620 (812) 307-0187

**Publisher:** Curtis McKee, topmckee@juno.com  
3702 Big Dalton Ave, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

**John Poulos** wrote Max Butler to share with us his TAC Missile Mace B jewelry. John said he purchased the silver Maces, a tie clasp and cuff-links for about \$10.00 at the Hahn Christmas bazaar in 1961.



From the Internet — Sunday, April 16, 2006

Sioux City Iowa Journal Online Edition

## Mace Missile to be Part of Ida Grove , IA Vets Memorial

American Legion McNamara Post 61 of Ida Grove Post Commander Sam Sears, who served for 20 years in the

U.S. Air Force and 13 years in the U.S. Army announced that the All Veteran Memorial, located along Highway 175/59 on the west side of Ida Grove honors all veterans who are, or were, residents of Ida County . In addition to a large marble "V" monument and the Avenue of 300 Flags on the site are a cannon and helicopter. According to Sears, the park will add an anchor and chain, as well as a **Mace Missile**. The All Veteran Memorial will

## TIME Magazine Archive Article -- Sep. 17, 1951

### Atomic War Birds

Flashing through the sky over Florida one morning last week, a pair of F-86 Sabre jets headed out to sea, engines shrieking at full power. Their fleeing quarry was a red "bird" that had shot up 35,000 feet from the Air Force's Guided Missile Test Center at Banana River, leveled off, and sped out over the Atlantic. At top speed, the 670-mph. Sabre jets could barely keep up with it. A few minutes later, the strange race was suddenly over. Radio signals bleeped out from Banana River, and the giant bird dived into the ocean.

The Air Force calls its swift missile the "Matador," the airman's latest argument in the debate over close ground support. With it, the U.S. Air Force has the first operational pilotless missile which can plant an atomic bomb in support of U.S. troops in the field.

**Planes versus Missiles.** Ever since the end of World War II, the development of such a weapon has been one of the Air Force's main points in the endless arguments over tactical air power. In an age of jet aircraft and atomic weapons, prop-driven planes like the famed F51 Mustang would prove too slow, too vulnerable to interception by enemy jets unless heavily and expensively escorted. The jets themselves could not maneuver fast enough for accurate low-level support work except in relatively flat terrain. Finally, said the Air Force, any "inhabited" plane, no matter how fast, stood a good chance of being caught in the fiery blast of a tactical atom bomb dropped from low altitude

The Air Force spent its slim appropriations available and

got to work on guided missiles. For six years, behind closely guarded walls at the Glenn L. Martin plant near Baltimore, scientists and technicians worked to solve the mysteries of an accurate ground-to-ground guided missile which could be used tactically on the battlefield. Last week, in the Martin Matador, the Air Force thought it had its first tentative answer.

Standing on its tractor-drawn launching trailer, the Matador looks like an odd crossbreed of a jet plane and a Buck Rogers fantasy. It is long, sleek, round as a cigar, and fitted with a pair of stubby supersonic triangular wings. In its nose, the missile carries a sand-filled dummy warhead. In its tail, the Matador carries a jet engine for endurance and a huge, under-slung rocket motor for take-off power. Inside the Matador, every inch of space is crammed with fuel and the humming electronic navigator that guides it to its target.

Into the Bull's-Eye. How good is the Matador? The Air Force admits that there are bigger & better guided missiles on the drawing boards, huge missiles with longer range and much greater speed. Much more accurate guidance systems are already in the works. But the improved models, says the Air Force, are still years away. At Banana River, enough specimens of the bright red Matador have been hurled into the skies to prove that no jet fighter flying today can catch and destroy it, and that it has enough range to reach any frontline target. The tests have shown that its electronic brain can guide it to the bull's-eye and drop it day or night, under any weather conditions

In a matter of months, the Air Force will put its first

**Some Hotel Holiday Inn Palo Verde and Tucson Facts and information:**

**PALO VERDE** A spiny, nearly leafless, bushy tree of the southwest United States, having showy yellow flowers and blue-green bark. Literal translation: pale green.

**Holiday Inn Palo Verde-Tucson Airport  
4550 South Palo Verde Boulevard  
Tucson, Arizona 85714**

The hotel's convenient location and long list of amenities has made **Holiday Inn Palo Verde Tucson Airport** the preferred location for the downtown Tucson and South Tucson areas. It is only minutes away from Tucson Int'l Airport, Tucson Electric Park for baseball spring training, Davis-Monthan AFB, and many of Tucson's largest businesses, including Southwest Gas, Raytheon, Intuit, IBM and Texas Instruments to name only a few. Only blocks away, the Aviation Parkway offers a fast hassle-free route to downtown. The hotel staff speaks English, German, Japanese, Croatian, French, Russian and Spanish

**HOTEL AMENITIES INCLUDE**

- Bathtub Shower -- Cable / Satellite TV
- Coffee Maker -- Color TV
- Complimentary Use of Meeting Room
- Double Glazed Windows
- Free Morning Newspaper Delivered to Room
- In Room Video Check-out
- Individually Controlled Air Conditioning
- Phone with Voice Mail
- Private Bathroom -- Rollaway Bed/Cot
- Separate Hanging Closet
- Sofa-bed -- Windows Open by Guest
- Pets Allowed — Outside Pool
- High-Speed Internet Access
- Whirlpool — On site Guest self-laundry
- Kids eat free — Dedicated 24 hour lounge
- Iron/ironing board — Coffee maker
- Health fitness center — Hairdryer
- Air Conditioned public area
- 301 Guest Rooms — 53 Suites

- 270 Non-Smoking Rooms
- 107 Double-Bedded Rooms
- 192 Single-Bedded Rooms
- **2005 Last Renovation Date**
- 6 Floors — Cocktail Lounge
- 1 Restaurant — A/C Public Areas
- ATM/Cash Machine — Concierge Services
- Dry Cleaning Pickup/Laundry — Gift Shop
- Ice Machine — Newsstand
- On-site Guest Self-Laundry Facilities (washer/dryer)
- Porter/Bellman — Room Service
- Safety Deposit Box available at Front Desk
- 534 Car Complimentary Parking

**Downtown Information**

- TUCSON 8 MI
- Complimentary Area Shuttle within 5 MI radius of the hotel.

**Area Airport Information**

- **Tucson International Airport (TUS)**
  - Distance: 4 MI Complimentary Airport Shuttle
  - Taxi Fee: \$12.00 Time by taxi: 8 minutes
- **Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX)**
  - Distance: 125 MI
  - Taxi Fee: \$95.00 Time by taxi: 2 hours

**Local Information**

- Golf within 3 MI Shopping within 4 MI

**Attractions**

- Tucson Electric Park/Kino Sport Complex 1 MI
- High Corbett Field 3 MI
- Reid Park and Zoo 3 MI
- Pima Air and Space Museum 3 MI
- Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum 8 MI
- Randolph Park Golf 3 MI
- Tombstone, AZ 70 MI
- Bisbee Copper Queen Mine 65 MI
- Karchner Caverns 45 MI
- Sabino Canyon Mt. Lemmon 11 MI
- Saguaro National Monument 12 MI
- Tubac Artisan Community 30 MI

TAC MISSILEERS CORP  
3133 RAVINES RD  
MIDDLEBURG, FL 32088-5759



Don McDermott wrote to Max with the following request. "I was deployed at Kimpo AB, Korea (1960-1962) with a Matador guidance system (AN/MSQ-1A). I have been trying to find pictures of the system without any luck. I was wondering if you might have some. I have to admit that in the time I spent with the Matador, I never actually saw one. Regards, Don McDermott"

I found these two pictures of an MSQ guidance set / site on the internet. I hope you enjoy them Don.

Bob Bolton