



Volume 8, Number 2

TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER



Winter 2006

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

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2 - 4 May 2007

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Curtis McKee Update

TAC Missileers Newsletter Publisher Curtis McKee recently had a health setback. He is improving and we hope to see him back in action real soon and at the reunion next year.

If you want to send him a get well note or an email, or talk with Curtis, his contact information can be found in the Officers box on page 5 in this newsletter. We all wish him well and look forward to his healthy return .

Max Butler's Dayton Visit Report

On the 28th of July my spouse and I and another couple traveled to Dayton, Oh. to attend the annual Air Show at Dayton International Air Port. We had made reservations back in Feb. so we could view the Air Show in relative comfort. We had the option to view the show from the general admission area or from an area called the Chalet area. The Chalet area consisted of air conditioned tents with restrooms attached. Rest rooms were as nice as in a home. Outside the tents were patio tables with umbrellas. Of course to view the air show we sat at the patio tables. Each tent and patio area was fenced off to accommodate about 100 people. The price for this Chalet area was \$ 99.00 a person. This included all you could eat and drink from 11:00 AM until the end of the show which was 5:00 PM. Also included free parking and free bus transportation to and from our Chalet. Also free rides to and from the aircraft static display area.

The Air show headliner act was the Navy's Blue Angels. Of course The Air Force Thunderbirds would have been better, but you take what you can get. Just kidding of course. The Blue Angels were awesome, as well as all the other acts. One act that brought tears to a lot of eyes, including yours truly, was a show of the attack on Pearl Harbor. There were about 10 Japanese planes that put on a "bombing" display complete with the bomb concussion and fires and black smoke that absolutely took your breath away. All this while a commentator voiced the unfolding battle over the speaker system. Of course at times it was difficult to hear the commentator. After this show was over you could see the subdued manner in a lot of people for awhile.

Another highlight was a rocket car. This "car" was equipped with an aircraft jet engine. A small prop driven plane doing about 250 miles an hour flew over the runway and the jet car. Just as the plane passed over the car at the end of the runway the car took off, and passed the plane before it reached the halfway point of the runway. What a show!! This show is one of the premier Air Shows in the country and is normally held the 3rd weekend of July annually. Anyone that would attend this show would not go away disappointed, unless the weather intervened of course. The weather was absolutely perfect for this show, although a little warm.

On Sunday and Monday we toured the Wright Pat. Air Force museum. The museum is now known as the National Museum of the United States Air Force. What a treat this was. If you are planning on visiting the museum please plan on 2 days. You can't see it all in 1 day.. I was at Wright Pat. Back in the 70's, and my oh

my, what a change. Of course, I've even changed since then. We won't discuss this matter of course.

There are 3 huge hangers that house all the displays now, all air conditioned and immaculately kept. All the displays have been restored to "new" condition. A couple of planes that really catch people's eyes are the B-52 and the B-36 displays. You can see the amazement in their eyes when they see the size of these planes. Of course being inside of a building compounds the size. Also, in another hanger area across the Air Base is 2 more hangers that you can tour, although you have to present a picture I.D or a passport. You have to sign up when the doors open each morning, 9 AM, and then be bussed to these hangers. It is an hour tour. One hanger, air conditioned, is the Presidential Hanger which houses the planes that Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy used. The 707 is the plane that Johnson brought Kennedy's body back from Texas on. All the planes can be viewed by a walk thru tour, although they have lexan panels on each side of the isles as you walk thru. Also the planes have wax figures of the presidents.

In the other hanger are one of a kind displays, such as the XB-70 bomber. It is not air conditioned. There are about 15 other planes. My wife thought the XB-70 was really 2 planes until she realized it wasn't. She was in awe of the size of it. There are plans in the next couple of years to build 2 more hangers on the main museum side to display all these aircraft.

I would like to add, if you possibly can, plan on touring the Museum, especially if you can take your kids, grandkids and even your friends.

Oh, I almost forgot, yeah, right!. The **Matador** and the **Mace** are also on display there. (*Pictures on page 8*) They are sort of back in a corner behind a KC 97, but really a nice display. Just thought you all might want to know this. Now you really want to tour the museum, huh?

See you all in Tucson next May. Mark your calendars and make your reservations, of which you can now do.

On a different note, dues were due this past Jan. 3 years for 2 years dues is still in effect.

I would also like to ask everyone to keep our newsletter publisher Curtis McKee, in their prayers and thoughts as he continues to go through rehab.

Max

(Continued on page 8)

Tac Missileers Quiz Time	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What event in Mace A history occurred 40 years ago in September 1966? 2. To where was the first Mace A off of the Martin production line shipped. When? 3. To where was the 100th Mace A off the Martin Production line shipped? When? 4. To where was the 200th Mace A off the Martin Production line shipped? When? 5. In which Martin manufacturing plant were the Mace A birds manufactured? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Mace A was deactivated. 2. The first production Mace A went to Orlando AFB, May 11, 1958 as a "training" bird. 3. The 100th Mace A went to Patrick AFB, April, 1959. And yes, some A birds were launched from the Cape. 4. The 200th Mace A went to Lowry AFB as a "training" bird February 1960 5. The Baltimore plant. 6. Late fall of 1959 <p style="text-align: center;">Quiz Answers</p>

Another Mace Being Restored

April, 2006

An F-86L fighter aircraft once flown by the 116th Fighter Interceptor Wing, Georgia Air National Guard is now at Robins AFB for restoration. Air National Guard Col. Ed Wexler, Georgia National Guard Human Resources Officer, volunteered to lead the recovery portion of the project in late April. He was joined in the effort by members of the Army National Guard's 277th Maintenance Co., and the Air National Guard's 165th Maintenance Group, 116th Maintenance Group and the 202nd Engineering Installation Squadron. The nearly three days the group took to disassemble the aircraft -- which had been displayed for nearly 30 years in a grassy field in Calhoun, GA was, said Wexler, not an easy task. The F-86, along with various other aircraft was part of the World Aircraft Museum which not been functional for several years. The "Saber Jet." was first flown by the Wing in the late 1950's and into the 1960's. Deterioration was, the Colonel said, due to "corrosion

of virtually every bolt and fastener the team had to remove" Once the aircraft reached Robins, Wexler continued, the 116th maintenance group would handle the restoration phase. Team members provided the expertise and equipment to disassemble and move the F-86L "Saber Jet" as well as a **TM-76 Mace missile. The Mace, a 44-foot surface-to-surface missile capable of carrying a 1.1 megaton warhead. The missile will be restored and on display in Savannah.** After restoration the "Saber Jet" will become the property of the Historical Society of the Georgia National Guard and will be displayed at Joint Forces State Headquarters at Dobbins ARB.

See another Mace Restoration story on page 4 of this edition



Long a fixture on the east side of I-75 north of Atlanta at Calhoun, GA this Mace was taken down from its pedestal and is on its way to being refurbished for a more fitting display at Savannah, GA.



And Still More Mace Restorations

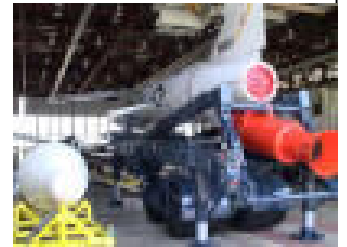
The Mace that sat in the missile garden at the Cape has been completely refurbished. Not only has the missile been completely made over but the translauncher on which it was sitting was brought to like new condition. Go to the American Aero Services web site at Americanaeroservices.com to see the beautiful restoring job they have done. There is also a 9:05 minute movie which shows the major parts of the missile and translauncher being

disassembled and restored to near new condi-



tion. These color photos do justice to the before (left) or the after (right) product, you really

need to go to the web site to see them in their best.



From A February 1963 Sembach Missileer Newspaper **Walking Fever Strikes Missile Crew Members**

"The men will travel by foot from Grünstadt to Eisenberg to Worms and then back to Grünstadt. A time limit of 12 hours has been set." "You're kidding, that's 50 miles." And so there you go - if the Marines can do it in 20 hours the Air Force can do it in 12. At least the personnel of the 887th TM Sq. are going to give it the old college try. A group of volunteers from the 887th TM Sq. have agreed to the fitness test as an answer to President Teddy Roosevelt's much publicized and long forgotten order, "That the Marines must walk 50 miles in no more than three days, with actual walking time of not more than 20 hours and rest stops limited to 20 minutes." The idea which is sweeping the country like wildfire, was started when Gen. David M. Shoup, commandant of the Marine Corps, discovered

the ancient order by Teddy Roosevelt. The "select" group of volunteers from the 887th are scheduled to depart on their 50 mile course at 05:00 on Feb 18. The 50 mile hike idea seems to be catching on with the same speed as the "TWIST". On their return only the hikers can tell which is more tiring.

POST SCRIPT FROM ONE OF THE HIKERS:

None of us made it all the way. Three got as far as Worms by late afternoon with very sore knees and no food since 04:30 that morning. With just enough DM between us to hop on a local train back to Grünstadt we finally gave it up and then still had to force ourselves up that long, long hill to get back home. We were tired and beat...A dance was said to have been held in our honor...none of us attended.

THE NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND PAYMENT OPTION STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2006 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 always 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:

Sent In By Philip Thomas 887th Site Medic

From the Martin Mercury 11 March 1960

As published in the Sembach Missileer

Medics Minister To Missilemen. Sembach, Germany (Special) Two medical corpsman assigned to a remote missile site of the 38th Tactical Missile Wing keep the missilemen hale and hearty in a small aid station. The aid station is manned by two Air Force medics whose responsibilities include everything from making water purification checks, inspections of the dining facility and site barber shop, to diagnosing patients and suturing minor injuries. The aid station consists of a 10-by-12 foot room with an examination table, two medicine cabinets, an administrative desk and a bed for the corpsman on duty. "Our dispensary has come a long way since it opened two years ago," said A1C **Alvin C. Curtis**. "I can remember when

we had to use the pool table in the recreation room as the examination table and the table tennis table to perform sutures." Curtis and A2C **Phillips Thomas** receive an average of 150 outpatient visit a month and perform some 200 immunizations annually. Most of the visits range from colds to minor injuries which require immediate suturing. "By carefully diagnosing each case, we save many unnecessary trips to the 38th Tactical Hospital," Thomas said. "All the site personnel must clear through us before they go to the hospital." Curtis has been in the medical field for 11 years and five of those as a paramedic, also serves as the "Official Interpreter for the site. This is his second tour in Germany and speaks fluent German.



Phillip Thomas Pictured above

"Bird" 175-4 Sets MACE Record

There's a rare bird nesting at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. It's MACE No. 175-4. The 4 indicates that this Air Force surface-to-surface tactical missile has been flown and recovered successfully four times—a record previously unmatched by the MACE. No. 175-4 was flown three times in 1959, and once this year. It is due to be launched again with in a few months by a new MACE training team. The Martin-built missile is being used as a training "bird" by Air Force tactical launching teams undergoing MACE familiarization courses at the Missile Development Center at Holloman.

A successful MACE recovery saves taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars, permits more intensive crew training, and allows examination of the guidance system should it malfunction in flight. MACE No. 175-4 has lived to fly four times because the "bird" packs a parachute recovery kit in place of a warhead.

During a recoverable flight, the MACE is controlled by a radar command system operated by a ground "beeper pilot," who regulates the missile with a small control stick.

(Continued on page 6)

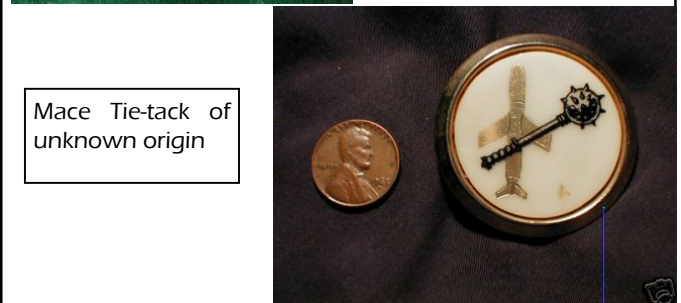
Tack Missiles Corporation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 19 of the IRS code. The Tac Missileer Newsletter is published 4 times a year, special editions as necessary. Membership dues are \$15 per year to run from January through December. Notifications relating to dues will not be mailed to individual members. Announcements in the Tac Missileer Newsletter will be the only notice given.

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Last edition **John Poulos** shared with us a picture of his Tac Missile Mace B silver jewelry. In this edition Ollie shares some of his Matador and Mace memorabilia.



Martin Co. Matador Money Clip



Mace Tie-tack of unknown origin

Remains of the Sembach AB, Mace A sites as seen on Google Earth. The 822nd, 823rd and the 887th still leave their imprint on the German country side many years later. There is no way to determine the actual photographs date but, they appear to be very much as they were when last seen by your editor two years ago. Can anyone ID the site pictured bottom row, right side? It is near the villages of Hecken and Kirchberg east of Hahn AB.



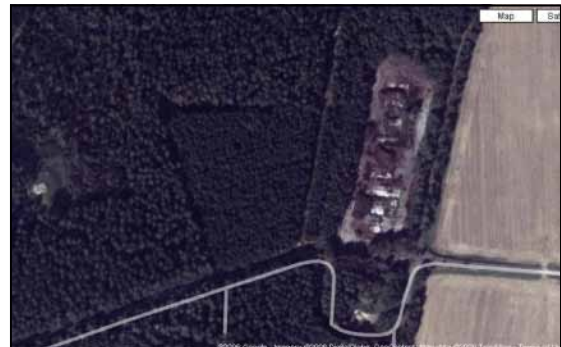
822nd looks like a sports complex is being built near-



823rd nothing much changed except buildings and shelters gone



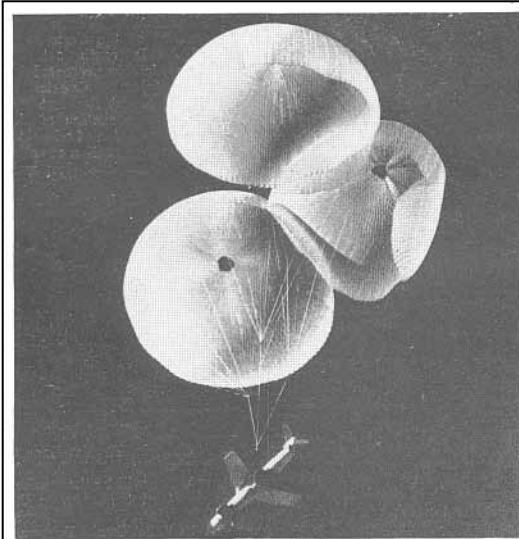
887th the Crown Jewel — All structures gone, area to the lower left was the POL depot area and is now a paint ball arena. Further to the left and just outside the picture was the barracks and Admin area and a bit further on the Grünstadt RC Flying Model Club



Which Site Was I?

(Continued from page 5)

When the “beeper pilot” decides to down the MACE, he punches a button which throttles back the missile’s jet engine to 60 per cent power and sets controls to bring the “bird” to a 2500 foot altitude, the power setting then is adjusted to maintain the desired speed as the “beeper pilot” positions the MACE over the recovery area. When another button is pressed three 100 cargo chutes open and suspend the MACE in a harness. The canister containing the chutes falls away as the 10,000- pound Mace floats to earth. The missile’s landing is cushioned by large air bags of rubberized fabric. MACE No. 175-4 is an “A” version of the tactical missile. It uses ATRAN (Automatic Terrain Recognition and Navigation) guidance developed by Goodyear Aircraft Corp., as do all “A” models.



The self contained ATRAN system scans the terrain with radar, compares the landscape with a previously prepared film strip in the missile’s nose and makes the appropriate adjustments as the “bird” flies to its target. The improved “B” version now being tested at the Air Force Missile Test Center, Cape Canaveral, Fla., has a range of 1200 nautical miles, about twice as far and the “A” model now operational with tactical units in Germany.

The self contained inertial system – which is completely impervious to electronic jamming countermeasures – is a form of memory navigation which enables the missile to “Know” the direction and the distance it must fly to the target.

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 - Taxi Fee: \$95.00 Time by taxi: 2 hours

OPPS!! 162 TAC MISSILEERS MEMBERS have forgotten to send in their dues for 2006.

If your name is listed below and you want to stay on the mailing list please send in your DUES to Treasurer / Membership Director Max Butler. Max's contact information is in the OFFICERS BOX on page 5 of this newsletter. Membership payment options for the 1 and 3 year memberships categories are spelled out on page 4.

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Max Butler went to Dayton, Wright Patterson AFB and the National Museum of the United States Air Force. He found the newly refurbished Mator and Mace B there. They look real good.

Read Max's visit report on page 2.



Just Curious

It is a Mace B... so why did they paint a dummy radome on it so it looks like a Mace A?