



Volume 9, Number 1

# ***TAC MISSILEERS***

## **NEWSLETTER**



Spring 2007

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

### **From Mr. Executive Director... Joe Perkins**

Well Missileers, we have finished our 6th reunion and get together. It was a great turn out. We really missed those of you who could not make it to Tucson. Your fellow Missileers who did attend enjoyed re-meeting old friends and recalling the times spent with each other in Europe and Asia.

Nearly all reunion attendees took part in at least one of the tours we had setup and everyone who did go enjoyed visiting the many interesting places in and around Tucson.

It was a blast for me and the crew to make sure all attending members were given the

chance to enjoy the camaraderie and also the good times of the reunion.

We have already started to think about our next one. The members attending the business meeting selected the 2009 reunion site to be Dayton, Ohio. We are hoping to have the 2009 reunion date coincide with the big air show there which is usually held in July. See page 6 in this issue for our first thoughts on the next one and stay tuned as Max and the team start working the details for the 2009 Tac Missileers reunion!

Joe Perkins

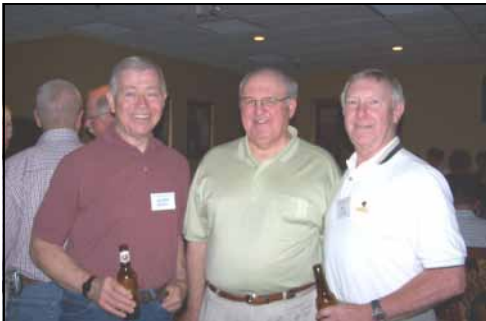
As Joe Perkins so aptly stated during his address to those gathered for the Business meeting, “Mission accomplished!!”

I want send out my congratulations to the 2007 reunion organizers: **Joe Perkins, Max Butler, Julian Esposito** and **Roger Baldner** on a successful effort in organizing and producing an outstanding reunion. And my thanks to **Lois Butler** for her work and dedica-

tion in support of Max and the whole Tac Missileers group. With her sign-in, sign-off and check lists she certainly helped keep everyone and everything on track and in order. It is also very gratifying to see a growing number of our former Launch Officers attending our reunions. I’m already looking forward to the 2009 reunion in Dayton, OH. See you there!

Bob Bolton

**Happy Tucson Reunioneers from the 887th**



**Bill Hayes, Bob Kutulis, Don Clark**

**Max Butler Greeting Some Old Friends**



**Lowell Cook, Jerry Brenner, Max Butler**

## West Coast Tac Missileer Cruise In 2008 ?

Curtis McKee is getting back into action and wants to know who may be interested in a west coast Tac Missileers cruise to take place in June of 2008.

The cruise will leave from Los Angeles, CA and depending on your wishes and final plans will last from 3 to 5 days. Curtis mentioned that with larger groups

the cruise lines sometimes give away comps such as ship-board credits, reduced rates or meeting rooms. Curtis will work with both Carnival and Royal Cruise Lines for the best deal once he has a feel for the number interested in this get-together. Please contact Curtis as soon as possible and let him know of your interest and preferences for the cruise reunion.

**Curtis B. McKee**  
3702 Big Dalton Ave,  
Baldwin Park, Ca 91706  
Ph. 626-960-2414  
Topmckee@juno.com

## Hahn AB Reunion Scheduled For September, 2008

### ALL HAHN AB FOLKS WELCOME

The reunion planner for this event is **Art Brunig**. His email address is [Abrunig@aol.com](mailto:Abrunig@aol.com) and his cell phone is (303) 946-4243. **Art** would love to hear any comments or suggestions you may have and we really hope that Hahn AB Tac Missileers will be interested in participating in this very special reunion we are planning! I look forward to seeing you here with all the others! We want to invite you and your Missileer members to the September 25th-28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 reunion at the Village Green Resort in Cottage Grove (just south of Eugene) OR. Attendees are from the Hahn Air Base, the K-9 unit and the Hahn Brats. We would like to see anyone serving at Hahn and with an interest, come join in on the fun! What an incredible opportunity for all personnel and family members to connect and compare notes on time spent there in Germany! Hope to see you there! Contact Art or Debbie for more details.

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## Rodger Baldner

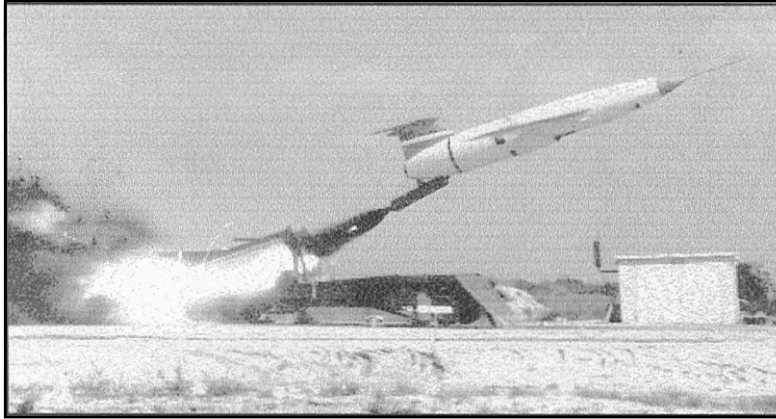
### Thank You For A Job Well Done

Rodger Baldner of Tucson, AZ did a great deal of the early on scene and behind the scenes leg work in helping to get the reunion organized this year in Tucson. Rodger reconnoitered and evaluated the hotels and helped line-up the activities for us to participate in while we were there.

Rodger served on the Mace Weapon System in the 586th Missile Maintenance Squadron at site 5, Hahn, AB Germany from 1961 to 1964. He returned to Orlando AFB, to work in the Training arena there and then was reassigned to Germany, reporting to the Bitburg AB Mace Missile Maintenance Section.

**See page 6 about the 2009 Reunion in Dayton, OH plans.** Because of the date, location and activities envisioned for our next get-together we must start working on the initial attendee forecast and anticipated program almost immediately. Max

**I hope this doesn't make any of us feel too old.** This month, June 20, 2007 to be exact, marked the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first launch of a Matador from Cape Canaveral. It was the first of the 18 so called "Bright Red" Matador B-61s that the Glenn L. Martin Company launched between June 20, 1951 and May 23, 1952. The fledgling Air Force Guided Missile Group assisted in 16 of those launches.



Air Force personnel completed the first successful "all-military" Matador launch on December 7, 1951. Technical delays hindered the program in 1952 and 1953, but the first two operational Matador A squadrons departed Patrick AFB for Germany in March and September 1954.

TAC missile crews continued to launch Mata-

dors to verify enhancements in the Matador weapon system and complete training requirements.

The only public Matador demonstration launch ever staged was held at Patrick AFB on May 20, 1956 during the base's Armed Forces Day celebration.

Matador research and development testing was concluded in 1956, but various Tactical Air Command units continued to launch Matadors at the Cape well into 1961. The last Matador was launched from Cape Canaveral on 1 June 1961. The Matador, with 286 flights to its credit, stood out as the most-launched winged missile of its era.

## Call Signs Revisited

More than a year after I thought that we had put the Call Sign material to bed to the satisfaction of all. It turns out that the subject is not ready to lie down after all.

At Tucson, during an evening's conversation with **Hank Barlow** and several other Grovelers, the 38th Tac Missile Wing and the Mace sites' call signs subject came up and Hank threw a great big verbal monkey wrench into the record I thought was firm. Based on input from other missileers and my own "dim" recollection, the 38th Tactical Missile Wing's call sign was "Cap Gun". But, that was blown out of the water by Hank's comment. When I published the "Final Definitive" report I listed the 38th Tac Missile Wing's call sign as, "Cap Gun", without receiving a negative on that.

In our earlier "research" on the call signs and while asking for your advice and input on the subject I forgot and never listed the 17th AF. But, the moment that Hank questioned me on the it I had a case of the "Oh #%&'s", he is correct, the 17th was in on the communications loop!

No one at the table that evening other than Hank could or would say that they recall 17th being "Cap Gun". That in its self was strange because whenever there are more than two Grovelers together there is usually a good natured argument about most any subject. But that night no one else remembered for sure.

Hank maintains that he recalls that the 17th's call sign was "Cap Gun" and the 38th's was "Yellow Tail". Its been nearly 41 years and I honestly don't remember "Yellow Tail" at all and I stood many, many hours of communications duty in the block-houses at Grünstadt. I'm not saying that because I don't remember it makes Hank wrong.

Help us out here folks, I would like a confirming yes, that the 17th AF was "Cap Gun" from someone else that remembers and agrees with Hank. If I get that "yes it was" I'll re-print and correct our list and give Hank the credit for the correction.

So let's hear it guys...the question is, was the 17th "Cap Gun" and the 38th "Yellow Tail"?

## First 'Select Missile Crew'

The first 'Select Missile Crew' in the history of the U. S. Air Force has been designated by USAFE's 38th Tactical Missile Wing. This is the Air Force's pioneer tactical missile organization. Announcement of this achievement was made by Colonel Fred W. Vetter Jr., Commander of the 585th Tactical Missile Group, in ceremonies at Bitburg Air Base, Germany on January 20, 1961.

By this selection, the Air Force has taken another significant step toward elevating missiles to a place of growing importance with manned aircraft. The action highlighted the increasing role of the missile in the Air Force aerospace mission. Missile units can now boast of "select crews" just as SAC is proud of its select bomber crews. Crew B-5 of the 71st Tactical Missile Squadron won the unique and commendable "select" designation only after satisfying requirements of an extensive and detailed evaluation which lasted several months. An

excellent example of their professionalism and outstanding proficiency was the skill and accuracy with which they fired a live Matador missile down range at Cape Canaveral, Florida. During the ceremonies, Colonel Vetter was high in his praise of Captain **Ira D. Hale Jr.**, Crew B-5 Launch Officer and all the members of the crew. They are S/Sgt. **Raymond L. Adams**, S/Sgt. **Ramon Cuen**, S/Sgt. **Harold D. Elliott**, S/Sgt. **Byran J. Haddix**, S/Sgt. **John E. Lewis**, S/Sgt. **Paul E. Roach**, A/2C **James H. Grim**, A/2C **Michael J. Keller**, A/2C **Gary L. Littrell**, A/2C **Paul A. Mains**, A/2C **Raymond J. Metheny Jr.**, A/3C **Frederick T. Crase**.

"I'm extremely proud of these men," said Colonel Vetter. "They have an esprit de corps higher than any I've seen in my years in the Air Force. They are dedicated men, the stuff of which an around-the-clock combat ready unit is made."



Adams

Cuen

Elliott

Haddix

Lewis

Roach

Grim



Keller

Littrell

Mains

Metheny

Crase

Article and pictures from the  
Martin Mercury Newspaper  
Vol. 18 No. 15 February  
24, 1961  
Ollie

### MEMBERSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2007 AND BEYOND

#### Get 3 YEARS FOR THE PRICE OF 2

A three year membership is \$30.00, What A Deal! We still offer the one year \$15.00 annual membership option as well. It is always membership drive time. If

you haven't sent in your membership dues for 2007 yet, please choose between either of the two options, make your check out to Tac Missileers Corp., and send your membership request to:

Membership Director / Treasurer Max Butler





Art Gust Says "HELLO!"



Don Clark, Dick Johnson showing his prize, Bill Hayes



Gill Richards just relaxing

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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### Found This on a Buddhists Web Site

#### Chinese Friendship Delegation Visits Soka Gakkai's Okinawa Training Center

On April 10, 2006 a delegation from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, led by President Chen Haosu, visited Soka Gakkai's Okinawa Training Center and were welcomed by local members. There, the Chinese delegates toured the **Okinawa World Peace Monument**, which was built upon the site of a dismantled U.S. **MACE B missile base**. The colossal concrete mass measuring 100 meters by 9 meters, and with a wall 1.5 meters thick, was used as a **launch pad** for nuclear missiles targeted at China. Mr. Chen expressed admiration for Mr. Ikeda's idea to leave the site untouched as a perpetual reminder of the horrors of war and for the fact that many youth come to the center to study about peace.

In what has now become a reunion tradition for some of the 887th Grovelers, on Thursday, May 3rd, SAM Moore, Ski Wiatrowski, Ed Johnson, Mike Brashear, George Glaush and Bob Bolton participated in the Third biennial Albert Griesse Memorial Flight. Several flights of an RC model were flown in the large parking area behind the Holiday Inn. These memorial flight are conducted in honor of our modeler friend and Missileer Albert who took his last flight several years ago. Ollie



Ski, SAM, Mike, George, Bette and Carol



Hahn AB Missileers

How about some Pop and Rock music memories! Whether on duty in the blockhouse on a quiet day shift or even quieter night shift or laying in the rack in the barracks...seems like there was always a radio tuned to either AFN on the AM band or Radio Luxembourg on medium wave. The following list is of the number 1 top played 45 RPM singles from each year 1955 till 1969, "**our era**". Do you remember any, some or all of these?

- 1955 Maybellene
- 1956 Hound Dog
- 1957 Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On
- 1958 Jonny B. Goode
- 1959 What'd I Say
- 1960 Georgia On My Mind
- 1961 Crying
- 1962 The Loco-Motion
- 1963 Be My Baby
- 1964 I want To Hold Your Hand
- 1965 (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction
- 1966 Reach out I'll Be There
- 1967 Penny Lane
- 1968 Hey Jude
- 1969 Bad Moon Rising

Now I know that we weren't all Rock and Rollers. Lots of Missileers, and particularly **Mike Brashear** loved Country & Western...so next time I'll see if I can get a Stick Buddy Jamboree list for the same period put together.

## We Must Start Planning Our 2009 Dayton Reunion NOW!

Our 2009 meeting will be in Dayton, OH. and we want to take full advantage of the facilities and events available at the near-by Wright-Patterson AFB and National Museum of the United States Air Force.

With good, early planning we hope to reserve a great hotel in Dayton and choice spots in the Chalet area to watch the Big Annual Air Show. If enough of us commit we can get several full tents and patio areas all to ourselves. The Chalet Tents and Patios are the first-class, viewing area for the air show. The tents are air conditioned with attached rest-rooms and shaded patios. Tent and Patio area are private with food and drinks service all day. Free parking and bus transport between the parking lot and Chalet area plus free shuttles between the Chalet and static display area.

To put this together we need early, detailed planning and an advanced solid commitment from you.

**We know it is very early but, for planning, please let Max Butler know if you are going to the 2009 Reunion in Dayton and if you will commit to the exclusive - all day - pampered time at the air show. Write, call or email Max and let him know of your intentions. Max's contact Information is on page 5 of this issue.**

### Welcome To Our Newest Tac Missileers Members

**Ted C. Ebbinga - Gordon E. Fisk**  
**Robert Garside - Walter A. Gronkoski**  
**Eric L. Hasse - Dean Hamilton**  
**Michael Hogan - John Maschler**  
**Edward C. Wyen - Daniel Wilder**  
**David Wren**

### TAPS - Honor Roll

- Edward Garld
- Harold (Lucky) Loe
- Scott Chandler
- Robert Eastbum Jr.
- Edward Jones
- Floyd (Pinkie) Pinkerton
- Floyd Womble
- Jimmy Goudeau

## 2007 Tac Missileers Reunion Report - We Had Another Good One.

Max Butler reports that Lois' official tally-sheets from the Gray Line bus tours and banquet, show that 54 went on the Air Museum tour, 33 went on the Tubac tour, 40 took the Old Tucson city tour, 13 went on Behind the blast doors tour. One-hundred-thirty-three of the guys and gals attended and enjoyed the Banquet. Joe reported that the hotel showed 111 rooms reserved daily by the Tac Missileers. Three duos went on their own for a tour of the Karchner Caverns State Park and sev-

eral other couples toured the Sequaro National Park East & West sections. A number of couples spent the week before the reunion sight-seeing the canyons, mountains and deserts of AZ. A bunch of the wives loaded up the Glaush's van and spent an afternoon shopping and enjoying time in Tubac. A couple of Missileers lingered for a few days more, hanging out around the pool, soaking up the sun and some suds before heading back to the still cold north-east.

The 2007 Tucson, AZ Tac Missileers reunion attendees roll below lists the 101 missileers and their 64 guests as we now have it. If you were in attendance and

your name, for what ever reason, is not on the list or is incorrect, please let Max Butler know so can be added to or corrected in the data base.

<b>Akre</b> , Terry & Darline	<b>Evans</b> , Dale and Linda	<b>Marasi</b> , John & Christine	<b>Scott</b> , Robert & Linda
<b>Armbruster</b> , Robert & Claire	<b>Fisher</b> , John	<b>Margeson</b> , Chuck & Janet	<b>Sheldon</b> , Jack
<b>Armstrong</b> , Bruce & Magda	<b>Fuelling</b> , Robert & Dorothy	<b>Martin</b> , Charles	<b>Simpson</b> , William & wife
<b>Baldner</b> , Roger	<b>Glaush</b> , George & Carol	<b>McBride</b> , Bill	<b>Smiley</b> , Robert & Joanne
<b>Barlow</b> , Henry & Donna	<b>Gust</b> , Arthur	<b>McBride</b> , James	<b>Snell</b> , Waymond
<b>Bayliss</b> , Warren	<b>Haase</b> , Eric "Ric" & Pat Smith	<b>Metzker</b> , Darrel & Marian	<b>Steadman</b> , James "Jim" & Ellen
<b>Bennett</b> , Ewing	<b>Haehnel</b> , Kenneth	<b>Moore</b> , Steven	<b>Sullins</b> , Lynn & Judy
<b>Bolton</b> , Robert & Ingrid	<b>Hagan</b> , Marc & Shirley	<b>Morley</b> , Al & Dorothy Larson	<b>Tracy</b> , Henry & Kathy Heideck
<b>Brashear</b> , Michael & Bette	<b>Hamerski</b> , Michael	<b>Nicholson</b> , Nick	<b>Valenti</b> , Robert & Barbara
<b>Brenner</b> , Jerry	<b>Hanam</b> , Russ	<b>Nozolino</b> , John	<b>Valovich</b> , Tony & Linda
<b>Bryan</b> , James & Francis	<b>Hansen</b> , Arnie & Jacqueline	<b>Oliver</b> , Jack	<b>Walker</b> , Elby
<b>Butler</b> , Max & Lois	<b>Hayes</b> , William	<b>Parkhurst</b> , Wayne	<b>Wiatrowski</b> , Ron "Ski"
<b>Cagle</b> , Jim & Susan	<b>Hedberg</b> , Ernest & Margie Visser	<b>Parnell</b> , Bill & Irene	<b>Wiese</b> , Duane & Jane
<b>Carpenter</b> , Billie & Gaynelle	<b>Hosiner</b> , Robert & Linda	<b>Perdue</b> , Walter & Christel	<b>Wilczynski</b> , Michael & Carolyn
<b>Chappell</b> , Charles & Jean	<b>Johnson</b> , "Johnny" Gerald	<b>Perkins</b> , Joe & Sarah	<b>Williams</b> , Ray
<b>Clark</b> , Don	<b>Johnson</b> , Bruce	<b>Putnam</b> , Frederic & Christine	<b>Williams</b> , Samuel
<b>Clark</b> , Joe	<b>Johnson</b> , Dick	<b>Quatrochi</b> , Carmen & Natalie	<b>Wormer</b> , Clark
<b>Cook</b> , Lowell	<b>Johnson</b> , Ed & Rita	<b>Rea</b> , Joe & Lupe	<b>Wren</b> , David & Kathy
<b>Corl</b> , Ken & Pat	<b>Kellum</b> , Elvin & Inell	<b>Richards</b> , Gil	
<b>Dahl</b> , Pete & Sheila	<b>Kizer</b> , Don	<b>Roberts</b> , Ken & Gertrud	
<b>Davenport</b> , Clarence & Ruth	<b>Kutulis</b> , Robert & Carol	<b>Robertson</b> , Robbie & Ginger	
<b>DeRain</b> , David & Claudia	<b>Lacey</b> , John & Karla	<b>Robertson</b> , Robert	
<b>Devoy</b> , Charles	<b>Langner</b> , Rich	<b>Rodd</b> , William & Ingrid	
<b>Doi</b> , Randy & Mary Gen	<b>Lishka</b> , Ray & Caroline	<b>Ross</b> , Kenneth	
<b>Ebbinga</b> , Ted & Sandy	<b>Lucas</b> , John & Marion	<b>Ruiz</b> , Elias & Lucy McHugh	
<b>Edholm</b> , Merwin & Montserrat	<b>Lyscik</b> , Ron & Susan	<b>Russell</b> , William & Jan	
<b>Emerson</b> , Larry & Jan	<b>Maas</b> , David	<b>Schroeder</b> , Marv & Pat	
<b>Esposito</b> , Julian		<b>Schuller</b> , William & Nancy	

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**Hansen, Rodd, Johnson**



**Julian, Chico, John, Marty, Dave**



**Wiatrowski, Moore, Hagan, Bolton**



**Bill Simpson, Joe Clark**