



Volume 12, Number 2

TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

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



June 2010

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We Did IT - Mace Now In Indiana

TAC Missileers Operation Mace Move

A U.S. Air Force Mace missile has been relocated from its long time setting at Wildwood, Florida, to its new home at the Indiana Military Museum in Vincennes, Indiana. The CGM-13B Mace, which was retired from active duty in 1966, was on display in downtown Wildwood, FL in the early 1970's before being relocated to the Wildwood American Legion Post 18 a few years later. The Mace stood in front of the Legion Post on Highway 44 as a gate guard, where it was referred to as the “Jet”, a landmark, used by locals when they would give folks directions on travel in the area.

TM-76B/CGM-13B serial number 59-4871 was manufactured by The Glenn L. Martin Co., Baltimore, MD and gained by the U.S. Air Force in December, 1960. Mace 59-4871 was used at the 4505th Tactical Air Command's Tactical Missile School at Orlando AFB, as a training missile for Air Force Missile Maintenance and Launch Technicians until retirement in 1966. The Mace's trip to Indiana was considerably less than its combat range of 1200 miles, and at a significantly slower pace. Similar inertially-guided CGM-13B Mace missiles stood Victor alert for the 498th Tactical Missile Group in Okinawa, and the 71st Tactical Missile Squadron at Bitburg, Germany, from 1962 until 1969, playing an important role in America's nuclear-capable first response to potential Communist aggression during the Cold War.

This Mace move came about serendipitously, first

because of a request made by TAC Missileers member **Frank Roales** at the July 2009 TAC Missileers reunion in Dayton, OH. On behalf of the Indiana Military Museum, **Roales** asked the membership for help in obtaining “cold war” artifacts. In February, 2010 during a chance conversation in Florida between **John Gibbs** and **Max Butler**, **Butler** became aware of the Wildwood Mace and its need of a new home. **Butler** being an Indiana native and very familiar with the Indiana Military Museum was quick to set things in motion to get the Mace moved from Wildwood to Vincennes. The Wildwood American Legion Post 18 willingly handed over its missile custodial duties to the Military Museum in Indiana as it felt the Post could no longer properly support the aging missile display. The missile still belongs to the Air Force, but officials at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, OK'd a long-term loan to the Indiana Military Museum.

The actual missile move from Wildwood was made possible through the coordination and effort of **Max Butler**, who is the Membership Director/Treasurer of the TAC Missileers and other TAC Missileers volunteers; the directors of American Legion Post 18; the Indiana Military Museum; the National Museum of the US Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio; and a special move team from the Indiana Air National Guard's 181st Intelligence Wing, of Terre Haute, Indiana, lead by Tech. Sgt. **Stacey Snow** and Tech. Sgt. **William Curtis**. The Air Force involve-

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(Continued from page 1)

ment in the move was coordinated by 1st Lt. **Randi Brown**, the 181st IW/CCE Wing Executive Staff Officer.

A preliminary planning and Scope Out meeting was held in March when a small group of TAC Missileers Officers and members met at Wildwood to look things over.

Twelve TAC Missileers volunteers, from as far away as Raleigh, NC, Atlanta, GA and from all over FL, met again at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, April 14th, to remove the 44 foot-long cruise missile from its brick and iron pedestal. A local, commercial crane service provided the lifting power for the project. The wings with their trademark finger spoilers, vertical fin and all-flying tail plane were removed from the missile fuselage after the bird was positioned on sandbags on the ground. The fuselage and appendages were then loaded on an Air Force tractor-trailer for its cross-country trip to its new home. TAC Missileers Master Mace Mover **Max Butler** and **Roger St. Germain** had earlier constructed the special shipping cradles using specifications from 50-year old Air Force manual supplied by TAC Missileers member **George Mindling**.

TAC Missileers members ably assisting, hands on, in the move at Wildwood, FL were **Max Butler, Joe Perkins, Bruce Hynds, John Gibbs, George Mindling, Russ Reston, David Cooper, Roger St. Germain, Bob Bolton, Dennis Fitzsimmons** and **Phil Veverka**. Those TAC Missileers represented all phases of operation and locations where the Mace and Matador missile were deployed. **John Gibbs** was with the 1st Pilotless Bomber Squadron, the first unit to deploy the Matador to Germany in 1954. Several served on Mace A launch crews in Germany in the 1960s, while others were in Matador launch and missile maintenance on both the Mace A and Mace B in Germany, Okinawa and at the State side Mace school at Orlando AFB. After the missile was safely on its way north the TAC Missileers were given a TAC Missileers Matador

Mace challenge coin and personalized Certificate of Appreciation. As the driving force behind the Mace Move, **Max Butler** received a plaque proclaiming him the Master Mace Mover.

Family members and interested parties in attendance were, **Lois Butler, Sarah Perkins, Irene Veverka, Gerald & Faith Coughlin**, Post 18 Commander **John Dyess, Richard and Lucille Lamb, Phyllis Bethel**, and **Margaret Schuman**. From Graham Trucking, **Billy Graham, Robert Pyne and Lindsey Cosby**. From Ed's Crane's Service, **Dennis Hoffman**.

On the receiving end of the operation and serving as the welcoming committee were **Frank Roales** an active volunteer at the Indiana Military Museum and **Jerry Brenner** both TAC Missileers members. **Roales** was actually stationed with the 4504th Support Squadron at Orlando AFB during the time this particular missile was in service there. **Jerry** was a Nuclear Weapons Specialist on the Mace B.

Mace 59-4871 was welcomed to its new home in Indiana when **Jerry Brenner** picked up the bird as it crossed the Ohio River at Evansville and he served as an escort from there to Vincennes. When the Mace arrived on site at the location of the Indiana Military Museum's planned new facility it was met by **Jim Osborne** director of the museum, TAC Missileer and Museum Project Leader for this acquisition **Frank Roales** and half a dozen other museum volunteers some of who are Air Force Vets. The two hour off-loading, with the help of a local large wrecker service and the Air National Guard's 181st Intelligence Wing personnel went off without a hitch. The missile was off loaded and positioned on the cradles used in the move and placed in storage at the new location until restoration can be started. Indiana Military Museum Director **Jim Osborne** stated that once Mace 59-4871 is refurbished and repainted by volunteers it will be a welcomed center piece and major part of the Cold War display at the Museum.

I confess; I carried and used unauthorized test equipment and used unauthorized procedures.

One late summer night our crew was on night duty at Site IV when I received a call that Block House II had reported the slot three missile had failed RFT with a radar fault. The weather was nice enough to troubleshoot the problem from a MM1 flat bed so Ed Ehrmann was dispatched to bring the flat bed to the pad while Jim Dunnett and I checked in with the launch crew. The Launch crew requested permission from Yellow Tail to drop the bird. Our crew was granted permission to enter the pad and drop the missile for trouble shooting the radar. After lowering the missile and removing the nose cone we requested power be applied to the missile by the launch crew. We ran through the routine check list and every thing seemed to check OK, indicating the system should pass RFT. I always carried an NE51 bulb in my pocket just for this purpose. I took out the NE51 and held it in the scan area of the antenna. On every revolution of the antenna the NE51 would blink indicating that we truly had radar. The problem was in the RFT cable. After securing the missile and replacing the cable, the bird was raised to launch attitude and the crew cleared the pad.

After clearing the block house I heard; ssssst, ssssst. I looked in the direction of the sound and saw one of the AP's walking the perimeter of the site. He motioned for me to come to him so as I walked over to him I ask what I could do for him. He said that he had noticed the blinking light while we were working on the missile and wondered what it was. Never missing a golden opportunity I told him that it was a "radar sniffer" and suggest that it was similar

to the radiation chirper they carried to detect radiation leakage. He said "they must be pretty expensive". I told him "no they only cost a few cents each." I took the NE51 out of my pocket, handed it to him and told him he could have it because I had another one in my tool box.

Not long after returning to the office Ed Ehrmann came in holding his side and laughing so hard that tears were running down his cheeks. I ask him what was so funny and he said, "There is an AP walking the site perimeter staring at a NE51 about six inches from his nose." I guess he was worried about stray Radar.

An unauthorized procedure.

During a Tac aval our Crew was selected to perform a SRP on one of the missiles. We were given the selected missile ID and the ID of the SRP unit to be used. Only one problem, the stepper switch that sequenced the 50 test steps in that particular SRP had hung up on step 49 the last time it had been used on a buildup and had not been replaced. Dunnett ask how we were going to get around this hang up with out being noticed. "We can't just reach out and slap the drawer with the inspector watching". Our unauthorized procedure during the Tac aval was to open the stepper switch drawer while other setup procedures were being performed and leave it open far enough to intentionally stub a toe on it when it was time for the step timer to advance. I was at the right end of the console watching the step count and the timer. On step 49 when it was time for the stepper to advance I nodded to Dunnett. As he moved from near the door asking me what step we were on, he stubbed his toe on the stepper drawer and the tester advanced to step 50. We passed the Tac Aval.

Past TAC Missileers President Receives Plaque

Joe Perkins sent the impressive plaque to Julian Esposito in appreciation of the long service "Zito" gave to our organization. With the following presentation wording.

TAC MISSILEER ORG
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
PRESENTATION TO
Julian Esposito "Zito"

IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND SUPPORT IN THE POSITION OF FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE TAC MISSILEERS ORG.

Your dedication and hard work enabled us to build a great organization for all TAC Missileers and their families. You also helped in renewing old friendships and encouraged camaraderie with former

missileers in both the Mace and Matador Missile programs world wide. You were instrumental in instilling pride in the organization, The Air Force and our country.

WE ARE GRATEFUL AND HONOR YOU
FOR THIS.

FROM YOUR FELLOW TAC MISSILEERS.



They Also Were Missileers

Len Romanczuk wrote and send many photo of his time in Radio Relay on the Donnersberg monolith outside of Sembach AB in support of Matador operations. He worked the relay station between Sembach AB and Hahn AB What was it like on Donnersberg Mtn. and living in Waldhaus Donnersberg? Not bad at all. Our site chief was married so he was not living at the Waldhaus. The remaining four guys shared two rooms, note picture of my room, Dan Shirey and I shared one room and Amaral and ? shared the other one. It worked out fine as Dan and I were,radio repair, and I had opposite shifts so we were not in each others way. The room was a good size and comfortable. Heat came in from a vent off the fireplace chimney. No outhouse but the indoor toilet wasn't heated. Good old honey bucket. Originally, we paid the Hintebergers to buy and prepare food for us, then when we all started to gain weight we said we would buy the food and they would prepare what we purchased. We had a commissary pass so occasionally we drove back to the Sembach for supplies. The weapons carrier we had at our disposal was for

Church services also. The four of us were assigned to this first radio relay site in the Fall of 1956. I was there until late Spring of 1957 as my enlistment was up in July. The other guys remained at that site for some time. Amaral was there over a year from accounts I've heard. Rotation was not a frequent occurrence. Eventually the guys at the site had to find other accommodations as the Hintebergers needed the two rooms we rented for their own family and staff. Our social life was good also. We met a lot of guys at the Army Microwave station, a permanent facility, adjacent to our M109 van, and guys from the Air Force facility on the other end of the mountain. The Holidays were fine also as the Hintebergers set up a table for us GI's. Fasching season was great as the locals included the GI's in the festivities. We met many of the local folks who came to the Waldhaus including young ladies. Occasionally, we made a run in to Ramstein AFB . The Hintebergers treated us well as we did them. Hoping this gives you some insight as to what it was like at the 11th TMS radio relay site on Donnersberg Mtn. and living in Waldhaus Donnersberg.

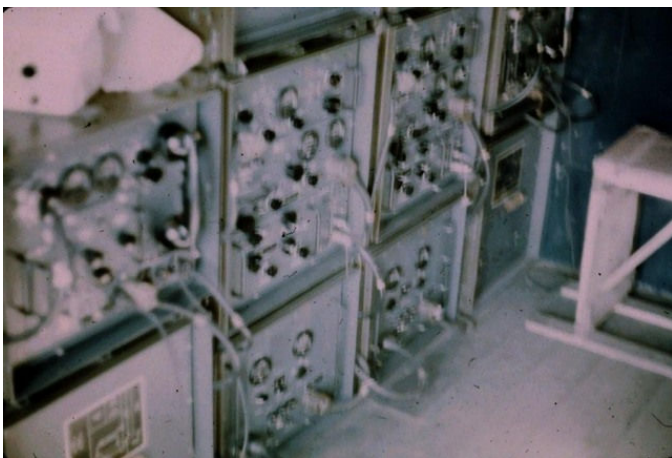
Some of Len's photos are on next page



Len's "Barracks" on Donnersberg



Len on left and Co-workers on Donnersberg



Len's Radio Sets



Sembach's Tiger Stadium under construction

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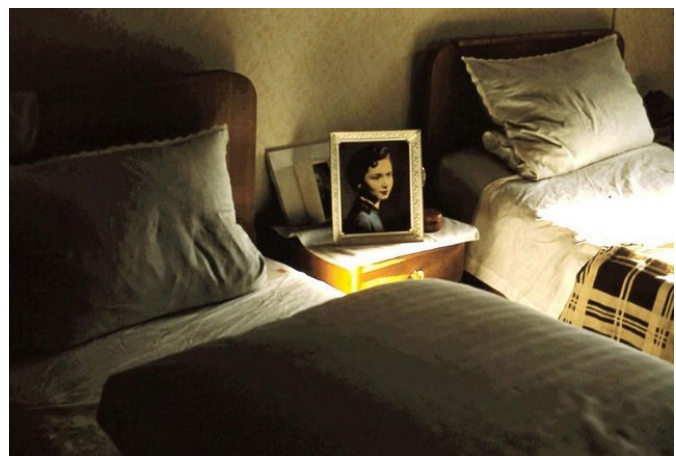
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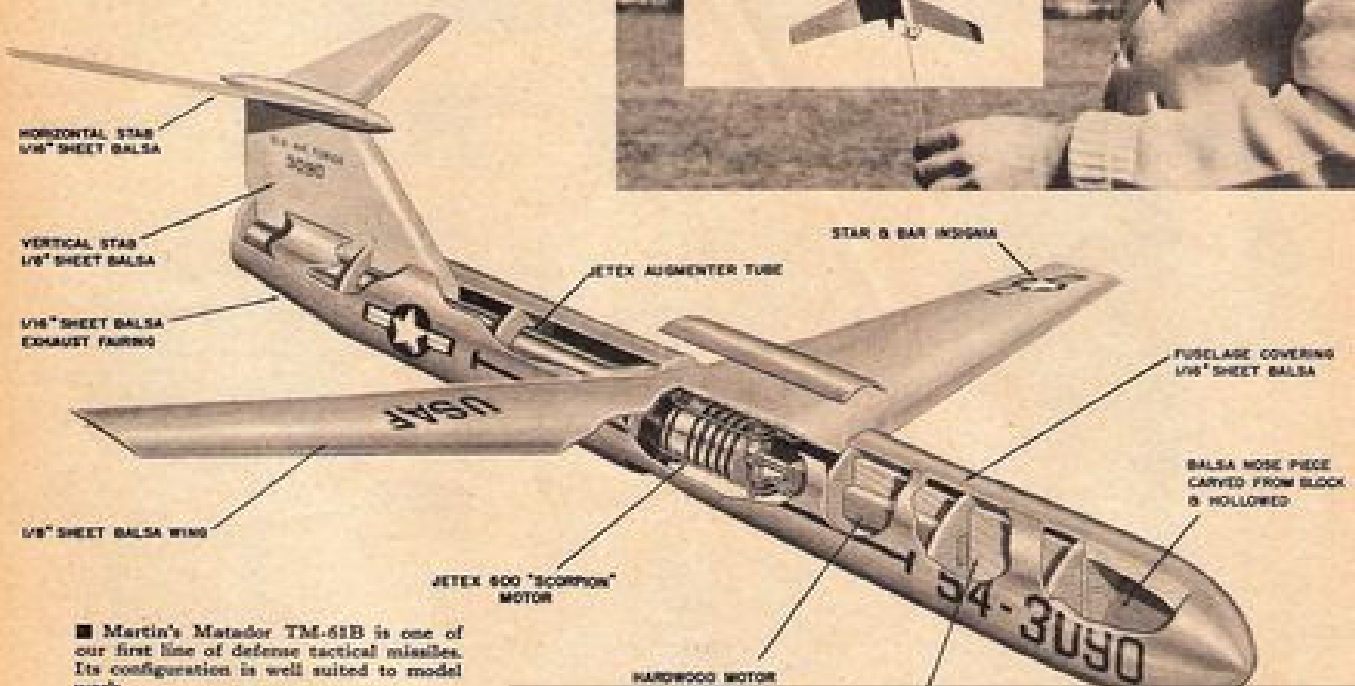
View of Len's "Barracks Room in the Waldhaus on Donnersberg

All of Len's photo will be available on our TAC Missillers Web site. Look for the rest of them there.

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**GENE THOMAS'
ROCKET-POWERED
SCALE-LIKE**

MARTIN MATADOR



■ Martin's Matador TM-61B is one of our first line of defense tactical missiles. Its configuration is well suited to model work.

While not a high speed-high altitude copy, the young modeler can have a missile that will fly. Seeing many fail time and again with more difficult "missile" projects, this job should restore confidence among failure-ridden "Missileers."

Cost of the model, excluding paint and power accessories, is about one dollar. The power plant is a Jetex 600. If lighter materials are used, the less expensive Jetex 150 unit should do. While constructing the two models involved in this project, I wondered about the possibilities of the Cox Pee Wee .025 as a ducted fan. (This might be an interesting project for the more experienced.) Construction is simple; the builder should have no trouble if the following procedure is followed . . .

Assemble the Jetex Augmenter Tube. By folding the lip prior to assembly, the two halves slide together easily. Pinch the lip across the entire length of the tube using blunt nose pliers (do not attach the Bell Mouth Nozzle at this time).

Construction of the fuselage: Cut a 1/16" x 3" x 16" balsa sheet in half. Draw former positions on the two sheets. Number these. F-1 and F-2 should be

1957 Jet-X "Matador"

If you are interested in getting the complete plans for the "Matador" shown in the background I'll be happy to email them to you. The semi-scale model is designed to be flown, powered by a Jet-X engine, available again, but not easily acquired. Even if you don't fly it, it will still scale out to a rather good looking rendition of the "Matador". Notice that it is the really a Mace missile, but this article was published while the TM-61B was still being called the Matador and had not yet undergone the transition to the TM-76A Mace. The 4 pages of plans I have available are very basic, but any good model maker can easily reproduce the Matador as shown with them. I'm working on my version now.

If you would like a free copy of the plans contact Bob Bolton at: olliesnapper@gmail.com and ask for the Matador plans.

The following briefing is taken from the 38th Tactical Wing Historical Records microfilm of

January—June 1961

Launch control complex briefing For VIP Visitors

Gentlemen, I am _____ and am presently assigned duty as Launch Officer in the 822nd Tactical missiles squadron. This is the Launch Control Center which controls the operation and launch of the four missiles in this complex. In order to understand events which will occur inside the control center, I will explain very briefly some of the items here on the outside.

Missile pads here behind the LCC we have the four missiles with their support equipment consisting primarily of the Tranlauncher which the missile is launch from and a nose temperature control unit and one hydraulic cycling unit for each pad.

PE 200: this is the PE 200 or “African Queen” which supplies primary power to the control center and the four missiles. During a countdown, Mechanic #1 starts this unit and adjust the power up puts to the launch control center.

Please enter the control center: (MOC else crew members assume position) at this time I will brief you on the functions of the control center.

Film: This safe contains a target film which is used in the missiles.

Communications: At this console we have direct contact by radio and land line with the 17th Air Force CCC and 38 Tactical missile wing MOC. Communications checks are made each hour of all on each system. The wall chart depicted above displays the various communications channels which are available to the Launch Officer.

Remote diesel transfer switch: Mechanic #2 remotely starts the standby diesel at the start of a countdown. The complex operates on commercial power until we transfer over to diesel power.

Launch Command Control Console: This console is used by the Launch Officer and Crew Chief to start and launch the missiles. We're basically concerned with three panels: **Engine Start Panel:** The Crew Chief operates the engine start panel as soon as he receives a “Ready Light” on the Selector Control Panel which indicates that an engine is ready for starting.

Selector Control Panel: Here we select the missile engine to be started. The missile engine is started on the engine start panel, carrying up to 60% RPM and transferred to the Remote Launch Control Panel.

Remote Launch Control Panel: Here, the actual launch is accomplished by the Launch Officer. All other systems having checked out the Launch Officer advances the missile engine to 103.4% RPM and launches.

Rapid Fire Testers: these are the Rapid Fire Testers which indicate if the missile guidance system is operating properly prior to actual launch.

Malfunction Indicator Panel: this is a Malfunction Indicator panel that monitors the temperature of the nose and also monitors hydraulic pressure of each missile.

Launch enabling unit: Must be engaged and cranked by the Mechanic # 2 at the time of launch - allowing 28 volts be applied to the RATO bottle.

Power Monitor and Distribution Control Panel: this control panel monitors and distributes the power used in the Control Center and to the missiles. We receive on this panel, from the power pack, 28 Volts DC, 115 volts 400 cycles, 120 volts 60 cycles.

To obtain a better understanding of all functions of the control center I will describe procedures use in a count-down.

The countdown starts when the alert message is received from the 38th Tactical missile wing MOC or 17th Air Force COC:

Mechanic #1 starts the PE 200 outside the block house.

Mechanic #2 starts the diesel generator on the remote panel, which transfers us from commercial power to diesel power.

After **Mechanic #1** and **Mechanic #2** have completed their duties on the power units, they remove the missile dust covers, returning inside as soon as they have finished. The **Launch Officer** or **Crew Chief** applies power to the power monitor and distribution control panel. External power is applied to the engine start panel and the missile power switches on the selector control panel are turned on. At this time external power applied to the missiles. At the time external power is applied, the gyros start erecting in each missile and a 4 minute timer starts functioning in the RFTs nothing more can be accomplished until this 4 minute time period has elapsed. After this 4 minute period has expired the RFT's are ready to test. There is one RFT (rapid fire tester) for each missile which checks the missile guidance system against the flight control system. If the system in each missile checks out a ready light on the engine start panel flashes on for that missile. The **Crew Chief** then will select the missile engine to be started. The **Launch Officer** breaks the seals on the launch control panel and inserts the keys in the launch arming circuitry. The **Crew Chief** energizes the activate squib switch which disconnects all squib activated cables. The engine is started and stabilized at 60% RPM, at which time the launch officer assumes control on the remote launch control panel. The **Launch Officer** selects the ready missile as the **Crew Chief** proceeds to start the second missile. The **Launch Officer** energizes the open throttle switch, at which time the start fuel line disconnects and the nose thermal hood is removed. He then turns the appropriate arming key; energizing the arming circuit switch and the RATO booster bottle is now armed. **Mechanic #2** engages and turns the launch enabling unit which causes the ready to launch light to come on. At this time 28 bolts DC is available at the launch switches. The **Launch Officer** energizes both the launch switches and the missile is launched.

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TAPS

Lt. Col. **Richard "Dick" Thayne Johnson**, USAF (Ret.), 77, of Mount Airy, NC, husband of Charmaine Golding Johnson, passed away Monday, May 3, 2010, at the Joan and Howard Woltz Hospice Home in Dobson, NC. He was born Dec. 14 1932, in Lafayette, Ind., to the late Thomas Howard and Ruby Hagen Johnson. Lt. Col. Johnson was a 21-year veteran of the United States Air Force, having retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel. He served in Vietnam and with the United Nations in the Congo War. He was a career Air Force pilot and also served as chief of police in Thailand and at Pope Air Force Base and as an RFML Mace Missile Launch Office at the 887th Tactical Missile Squadron, Sembach Air Base, Germany. Lt. Col. Johnson was a JROTC instructor at Surry Central High School in Dobson. Lt. Col. Johnson returned to serve his country as a civilian in GSA, United States Army, and the United States Navy, completing over 42 years of honorable and selfless service to his country.

**SERVICES AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WILL BE HELD ON:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010 AT 3PM**