



Volume 12, Number 3

TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

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



December 2010

Keep in touch with the Organization and stay on top of the latest goings-on by visiting your web site often at www.TacMissileers.org.

Our 2011 Reunion

2011 TAC Missileers Reunion

Plans for the 2011 TAC Missileers Reunion are starting to take shape! The reunion dates and hotel have been chosen and we are hoping for a great turnout. As usual, a good time is in store for all attendees. Please put these dates on your calendar and contact the hotel as soon as convenient, to make your room reservations. We are looking forward to seeing you in San Diego!

“California here we come in 2011. I want to see all you guys out West get ready to come to San Diego in October 2011 for the 6th reunion. I fought hard to get it out to the West coast, so don't disappoint me with a low turnout. Let's make this a big one.” —
TAC Missileers Executive Director – Joe Perkins

When:

October 12th, 13th & 14th, 2011

Where:

Holiday Inn Mission Valley Stadium
3805 Murphy Canyon Rd.
San Diego, CA 92123
858-278-9300
800-666-6996 (Toll-Free)

The TAC Missileers room rate is \$89 per night (or \$99 per night with breakfast) – this rate is also applicable for up to 3 days before / after the reunion.

- Complimentary hotel parking is provided.
- Complimentary area shuttle service is available within 5.0 mile radius of the hotel (i.e., service does not extend to San Diego International Airport / Lindberg Field). See Miscellaneous Info below for airport shuttle information.

- Additional information about the hotel can be found on their website:
<http://www.hisandiegohotel.com/>

- Reservations may be made starting immediately.

- When contacting the hotel, be sure to mention that you are a member of TAC Missileers. This will insure that you are offered their special room rates.

- \$89 Per night reservations (i.e., breakfast is not included) for Oct. 12th, 13th and 14th, 2011 must be made by calling the hotel.

- \$99 Per night reservations (i.e., breakfast is included for all room guests) must be made by calling the hotel.

- Suites are \$139 per night (breakfast is not included). Reservations must be made by calling the hotel.

- Reservations for nights prior to Oct. 12th or after Oct. 14th must be made by calling the hotel.

- Reservations must be secured using a credit card, but, if necessary, may be canceled, without charge, anytime before 6:00pm on the first day of the reservation.

Schedule of Reunion Activities

- Wed., Oct. 12th – To be determined.

(Continued on page 2)

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- Thurs., Oct. 13th – To be determined.
- Fri., Oct 14th – To be determined.
(An **Oktoberfest** is tentatively planned for Friday evening.)

Some Helpful Info

Shuttle Service between San Diego Airport / Lindberg Field and the hotel

- **SuperShuttle** (\$17 per person / each way)
- **EZ Ride Shuttle** (\$17 per person / each way)

Some things you may wish to do / see while in San Diego

- [San Diego Zoo](#)
- [San Diego Tours](#)
- [Vizit San Diego Tours](#)
- [Old Towne Trolley Tours](#)
- [Sea World San Diego](#)
- [Harbor Tours on San Diego Bay](#)

Opportunity To Save A TERACRUZER

1-2-2011 For Immediate Release

By George Mindling

The TAC Missileers Association, with assistance from the National Museum of the Air Force and the 181st IW/CCE, Indiana Air National Guard, saved and moved a CGM-13B Mace Missile from Wildwood, Florida, to the Indiana Military Museum in Vincennes, Indiana, in May, 2010. Our Association again has the opportunity to save a unique piece of TAC Missile history. We have located an operating an FWD MM-1 Teracruzer, some 44 years after it was retired from active duty from the USAF Tactical Missile program.

This particular FWD MM-1, the incredibly unique tractor/truck that the entire MGM-13A (TM-76A) Mace missile program was based on, is still in service! This 52 year old vehicle is be-

ing used on a daily basis in Alaska, where its unique Goodyear Balloon tires and unique all-terrain configuration are ideal for off-road conditions. It has been modified only slightly to keep it operating under conditions far more extreme than even active combat duty conditions. The TAC Missileer Association is actively laying the groundwork

not only to save this last remaining unit, but also to restore it to Air Force blue and proudly display this U.S.



Air Force veteran of the Cold War in the National Museum of the Air Force.

Steve Lankford, the current MM-1 owner, pictured here with his wife Patricia, wrote: "I bought it from a friend of mine who had bought it in Fairbanks from a guy who had been using it hauling freight on the north slope for oil exploration contractors. I have no idea how he acquired it or who he was, to try to track the original motor. He had removed the Packette engine and replaced it with a V-8 Duetz and a 740 Allison trans which I think is the same as the original. So, there have been some modifications to this machine and I have no Idea where the Packette engine went. I personally have made some adaptations to the MM-1 but the majority of these changes are totally removable for restoration purposes. I have had a feeling that this might be the last of its kind, and for a long time have wondered what I would do when the tires finish rotting away. An interesting side note that some of your members might recall...I remember as a kid seeing an article in Popular Mechanics about a terra tired machine that could run over a man and not hurt him.. I think it was in 1958 and I remember seeing the MM-1 in that photo. " The MM-1 is currently in use near Montana River, Alaska, in gold mining operations.

We have many, many issues to resolve as we undertake this project, not the

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Frank Roales Reports Progress On The Indiana Military Museum Expansion And Plans For Mace Restoration

We have now officially taken possession of the new location and some of our "storage" vehicles are being moved to it. There is one brick building that is in fair shape and that will be the main building at the new facility for awhile (Phase 2) till the new larger building is funded and built (Phase 3). We received a grant to put a new metal roof on this building and after that it needs some brick-work before we can start to flush out the interior so we can move most of what is now at the present building. We hope to be operating from this site this year.

Another large building at this site will be used for storage and restoration, that is where the stuff we are moving is now going. There is one large area that was a "cooler room" that will get a coat of white paint, some better lighting and will become our main restoration area. I have already talked with **Jim Osborne**, Museum Curator, and gave him the dope that I wanted to get the Mace in and started ASAP when it is ready. I talked with Jerry Brenner and **Max Butler** this past fall and they are chomping at the bit to go when we can, there won't be much need for more than them, myself and other museum volunteers till re-assembly and mounting time comes, but if anyone is in the area and wants to get dirty hopefully that can be arranged.

The plan in place is to do the restoration in sections with each section being completely done, i.e., repaired, cleaned, painted and marked before going to the next section. The first section to be done is the tail assembly followed by the wings then the nose sections, tail sections and finally the main fuselage. When this is all completed and the mount is in position I'll put out a call to Missileers to come and help "get er done" and mounted.

Visit the Indians Military Museum's web site at <http://www.indianamilitarymuseum.org/> and click on New Arrivals in the left hand section to see other pictures of our Mace at the museum.



A Message From Our President Bill Simpson

Happy New Year to all our TAC Missileer families. I wish you all a prosperous and healthy 2011. On New Year's Eve the Las Vegas temperature dipped to a chilly 29 which was good enough reason for me to enjoy the celebration from my living room. Now that 2011 has arrived we start our San Diego reunion countdown to October. As a side note I'll be celebrating my 71st birthday on 13 October and I can't think of a better group to be with on that special day. Joe Perkins has made arrangements for our reunion hotel and is also making plans for a great Oktoberfest party. I'm getting hungry already. All the information is on our website so please make your plans now to attend. The hotel reservation office has all or information so be sure to tell them you are with the TAC Missileers when you register. I will be in San Diego later this month to visit the hotel and surrounding area. If anyone has a question or special interest let me know and I'll check it out while there. As with all our other reunions I expect this to be a great time. I just don't know how many times we can tell all those old stories but somehow they get exaggerated every time. Makes for good entertainment along with the memories we shared during our Matador/Mace days. Both my email and telephone information are on the TAC Missileer website so please don't hesitate to contact me at anytime. See you in San Diego.

New Members

Welcome To The TAC Missileers

Max Butler reports we have gained the following new members in the past year:

WALTER BABCOCK, BILL HORN, RONALD GILBREATH. Ronald is the Missileer Max met in an Oregon campground, **ROGER JONES, CLIFF KUNKEL, ROBERT ROBINSON, BOB SCHNIEDER, VICTOR SHOEPE, ROBERT WILLIAMS, JOHN WOOD LEONARD J. ANCES and Ellis J. GOSSERAND.**

Air Force Bases Volume II Air Bases Outside the United States of America

by Harry R. Fletcher, United States Air Force Historical Research Agency, printed in 1993 (Public Domain). The volume is an extensive report of all overseas AF bases and includes 209 pages of information about US Bases, listing each base's off-base and detached locations down to every water source, detached housing annex, transformer, ancillary unmanned support facilities, small electronic or radio communications and landing instrumentation sites, and facilities.

Filtered information for our European and Asian bases resulted in the following list for the Matador and Mace eras and includes those sites that have the word MISSILE in the designation except for BGM-109 Gryphon GLCM Tactical Missile sites from the 1980s which I omitted.

Not only are our well known missile sites listed, but also many unfamiliar one. **The Asian bases list is very disappointing as no specific missile site locations are noted.** The book does give the numerical designations of our Groups and Squadrons as being assigned to the Osan and Kadena Air Bases and a statement that four hardened eight-bay Mace missile launch sites were at Kadena, but nothing more.

The spelling and other data is presented as found in the book. Don't hate me, all you TAC Missileer nuclear weapons guys, for I omitted the numerous weapons storage facilities listed, as it was too difficult and daunting a task to try to determine to which eras these weapons storage sites belonged.

If you are familiar with the missile sites indicated in the larger **Italicized Bold** font and *, whether Matador, Mace or guidance and control sites, dates, etc., please send the information to either Newsletter Editor Bob Bolton or Secretary Russ Reston. We will publish your input on our Website and in the next Newsletter.

Bitburg Air Base Off-Base and Detached Missile Installations:

- Idenheim Missile Anx redesignated Idenheim Missile Site; Idenheim
- Oberweis Missile Anx (redesignated Oberweis Missile Site; Oberweis Anx), Oberweis
- **Sulm Missile Anx (redesignated Sulm Missile Site; Sulm Anx), Sulm ***
- Rittersdorf Missile Site (redesignated Rittersdorf Anx), Rittersdorf

Hahn Air Base Off-Base and Detached Missile Installations:

- **Koeterberg Missile Site, Fuerstenau, ***
- Wueschheim Missile Site #1, Hundheim,
- Wueschheim Missile Site #2, Wueschheim
- Wueschheim Missile Site #4, Kappel
- Wueschheim Missile Site #5, Kappel
- Wueschheim Missile Site #2; Kappel

- Wueschheim Missile Site #6, Kappel
- Wueschheim Missile Site #1
- **Marsburg Missile Site, Marsburg ***
- **Emstek Missile Site, Halen***
- **Oldenburg Missile Site, Loy***
- **Ilmspan Missile Site, Ilmspan***
- Hecken Missile Site; Hecken Anx, Hecken
- **Tellig Missile Site, Moritzheim ***
- **Zell Missile Site (redesignated Idarkopf Missile Site), Stiphausen***
- **Langenbrand Missile Site, Langenbrand***
- **Ludwigsturm Missile Site, Rhodt ***
- **Diepholz Missile Site, Daume ***
- Wueschheim Missile Anx (redesignated Wueschheim Missile Site #3)
- **Driedorf AC & W Stn (redesignated Driedorf Missile Site), Driedorf ***
- **Gelchsheim Missile Site, Gelchsheim***
- Hundheim Missile Site, Hundheim

Sembach Air Base Off-Base and Detached Missile Installations:

- **Reisenbach Comms Anx (Reisenbach Missile Site), 4 mi E of Ederbach***
- Mehlingen Missile Site
- Fischbach Missile Anx, Fischbach
- Gruenstadt Missile Site, Gruenstadt
- **Hochspeyer Missile Anx***
- **Diepholz Missile Site, Damme***
- **Driedorf Missile Site, Driedorf***
- **Gelchsheim Missile Site, Gelchsheim***
- **Ilmspan Missile Site, Ilmspan***
- **Koeterberg Missile Site, Fuerstenau***
- **Marsberg Missile Site, Madfeld***
- **Reisenbach Missile Site, Reisenbach***
- **Sackenbach Missile Site, Sackenbach***

You may read or down load the book at this web address: <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-070227-068.pdf>

Bob Bolton

* Denotes those Missile Sites we would like information on, please send whatever you may know about them to Russ Reston at russ@tacmissileers.org or Bob Bolton at olliesnapper@gmail.com.

Is A Spring 2011 Mimi-reunion In Florida In The Offing

Max Butler would like to have a "mini" reunion down in warm Florida for the sun-tanned members that live in the area. Just a "get together" maybe for a day around the Cape Canaveral area.

He is thinking of having a group meal at some restaurant that could accommodate a possible large gathering. Max said that, of course, the mini reunion would be open to anyone outside of Florida that would care to come on down and join in, every Tac Missile is most welcome.

Members interested please call Max at **812 307-0187** or e-mail him at **thebutler@live.com**. He needs to do this by the middle of April, as he will be leaving Florida the 1st of May. Might even consider the possibility that he would incorporate 2 days into the get together if lodging is available. **Any suggestions, let Max know ASAP.**

Tac Missileers Corporation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 19 of the IRS code. The **Tac Missileer Newsletter** is published several 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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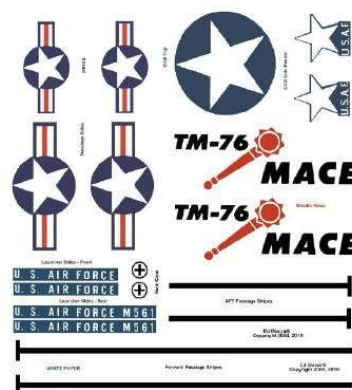
Historian: **Art Gust**, abgust@ckswireless.com
RR3 Box 400, Jacksonville, TX 75766 (903) 589-9701

New decal Sets Available For Old Mace and Matador Models

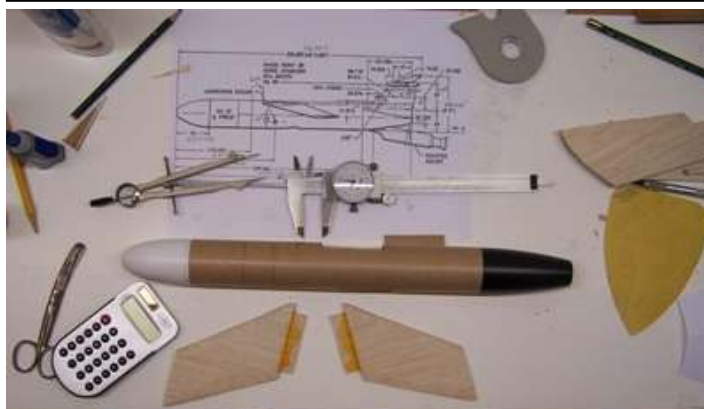
Offering newly digitized decal sets, available for all the various scales, makes and models of your favorite Matador and Mace missiles models.

These are top quality, newly remastered, digitized and complete copy of the original decal as first issued with the old Renwal, Hawk, Revell, Aurora and Topping models. And, since the sets are available in both 1:48 and 1:32 scale they are ideal for those scratch model builders among us to finish off their missile handy-work.

Please contact **Ed Bisconti**, 112 Harding Court, Glendale Heights, IL 60139-1816. His email address is scifi77@aol.com. He will be happy to help you with your order.



Example of one of Ed's decal offerings for the Mace.



Ollie is scratch building a Mace. Fuselage, nose and aft shapes are sourced from Estes BT-60 rocket kits, which happen to be perfect matches for the 1/32 scale Mace profile. Wings and tail assemblies are from bass wood. Ed Bisconti's decals will be used when detailing this model.

Membership recruitment, dues, aging membership and missile memorabilia

This edition of the TAC Missileers Newsletter is being sent to our entire active and inactive mailing list. We are doing this in hopes of regenerating interest among our past members as well as others we are sending this edition to. Do you know of some old missile friends that are not members, those that have never been members, those that may not even know about our organization and those that were active members at one time and have let their membership lapse? We are trying to widen the scope of our membership beyond those core loyal individuals that have stuck with us through the years. We are asking everyone to follow up and get the word out to your old buddies and suggest that they join the group. Poke those former members that may have lost interest or just plain forgot and get them fired up about joining the group once again.

Are you in the know about our Membership dues? For the time being, dues are continuing at the \$15.00 level for one year and the very special \$30.00 level for a 3 years membership, what a deal!

We are an aging group, even the youngest among us will be reaching that magical age of 70 within a few years. The TAC missileers leadership has been pondering this fact and thinking about what our legacy and history will be in the next ten to 20 years. Many of us have bits and pieces from our Missileer days stored away in boxes or adorning our man caves. It would be a noble gesture to specify in your will that when the time comes, your Matador and Mace memorabilia be bequeathed to the TAC Mis-

sileers. Better yet, send that treasured stuff in to the TAC Missileers historian now. Any bequests you may make will be given the utmost care and donated to our growing collection at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Our historian **Art Gust** has already forwarded many donated items to National Museum of the United States Air Force and the museum wants to see all of our items, with some restrictions of course. The museum has very little in the way of the Tactical Missile Groups or Squadron history or of the men involved with the Matador and Mace. What the museum concentrates on is preserving material directly related to the period of service, i.e., photos, uniforms in good condition, diaries, documents, unit keepsake histories, and equipment from a particular Air Force place/time/event. The museum is not looking for newspaper clippings, reunion newsletters, or reunion photos. No digitized or photocopied photographs need be donated. Please consider donating your treasures to help build our place in history. Since we now have a place for our history, please start looking through your things and sending them to Art Gust now or please insure your family understands that you want to donate the Tactical missile related items to the TAC Missileers Group, which will then insure your items are forwarded to the museum in Dayton in your name.

TAC Missileers Corp. Historian:

Art Gust

P.O. Box 1015

Jacksonville, TX 75766

(903) 589-9701

abgust@ckswireless.com

least of which is displaying this piece of Air Force missile history. We are actively soliciting support for this project and welcome any assistance available. Letters have been sent to several companies involved with originally building the MM-1 asking for assistance, and we are awaiting responses.

If you would like to help make Steve's MM-1 look as fit for duty as this 4504th MTW unit at Orlando Air Force Base, (Thanks to Dave Maas for the photo), contact George Mindling at (941) 204-0096, or myakka@embarqmail.com. We are looking for photos, manuals, or documentation of any kind. Possibly a move team if that is required! Ever been to Alaska? We'll keep everyone posted as the project moves forward



Another Matador found is at a small military museum at Stammheim, about 70 miles East of Frankfurt, Germany.



The Mace first reported on several years ago in Newsletter 8-1 has finally been installed at the Ida Grove, Iowa Veterans Memorial Park.



More Matador and Mace Gate Guards Located

Several more Matador and a Mace gate guards have been discovered via the internet. The strangest location is this Matador guarding a church parking lot in eastern North Carolina near Goldsboro.



The Mildred, PA VFW shows off this Mace.



And finally a Baltimore, MD VFW has this Matador in their front yard.



All pictures are from the internet and unaccredited.

**TAC MISSILEERS CORP
MAX BUTLER
5625 Pearl Dr.
Suite "F" Box 120
Evansville, IN 47712**

San Diego Reunion Reservations Going Slowly

Joe Perkins is scratching his head wondering why as of the latest tally only 18 missileers have reserved a room for the reunion. It may seem like a long time until the reunion date, but October will be here quicker than we realize. Joe is asking that everyone please go ahead, even if you are not 100% sure at this moment, to commit and reserve a room, get that reservation on the hotels books. If you later find that you really can't attend as first planned you may cancel your reservation, without penalty of course. Joe wants to emphasize to the membership that by reserving our rooms as early as possible, if we do use up the originally agreed to number of rooms the hotel is holding back for our group, it will be far easier for him to negotiate for more space earlier in the game than if he would have to try to at the last minute. By reserving now, with as many missileers as possible, we will also have a clearer understanding of the true number of participants and will be better able to coordinate the schedule of events. Furthermore, if you delay until the last minute in reserving a room you may find you will be unable to get a room at all and if you do get a room late, you may not be able to get one for an extended period before and after the reunion.

Please call the hotel right now and make that reservation!

Emphasizing San Diego Reunion Reservation Process

Please make your hotel reservations for our reunion only by telephone, 800-666-6996 (Toll-Free). When you contact the hotel to make your reunion reservation, if you should encounter any problem with the process, place a call to this number, 858-278-9300 and ask to speak to **Krystal Chavez** (Holiday Inn Mission Valley Stadium – Sales Coordinator). She will help you through the process of making a reservation.