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TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

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



Fall 2012

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.

The 2013 TAC Missileers Reunion

The 2013 TAC Missileers Reunion will be held in San Antonio, Texas ...a really fun place to visit, with LOTS of things to see and do ...and, we will be staying at a Riverwalk / downtown hotel that is in the heart of all the “action.”

Date: **September 4th (Wednesday), 5th (Thursday) and 6th (Friday), 2013.**

Location: **Hyatt Regency San Antonio (\$115 / night – double occupancy, no breakfast or \$125 / night – double occupancy with breakfast)**

We encourage all TAC Missileers to attend. Let’s make this our “most attended” reunion ever...

Note: The Reunion is open to all Air Force and supporting civilian personnel that were associated with any part of the Matador and/or Mace missile programs, regardless of rank or career field. Non-TAC Missileers members will be requested to join our organization by paying one or more years dues.

For more information about things to see and do in San Antonio you may wish to request a copy of the free visitors guide that is made available by the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau.

We are looking forward to seeing you there! This quarterly newsletter and our webpage will be updated as soon more information becomes available. Stay tuned...

In this issue of Your Tac Missileers Newsletter

Part three of *Only 15 Minutes to Atomic Strike* by Germany military history buffs, Stefan Büttner and Klaus Stark.



Miss L” Dedication – Oct. 13, 2012

Dedication for Miss L was held Oct. 13th at the Indiana Military Museum (IMM) Vincennes.

Miss “L” has been completely refurbished and preserved for future generations by members of our TAC Missileers Organization and the museum as well.

The Indiana Military Museum exists to serve the citizens of the community, the state, and the nation with educational programming, archives, displays, and opportunities for intense research related to America’s military history from the American Revolution to the present day. The museum is dedicated to fostering the memory, understanding, and appreciation of U.S. military history. This is accomplished by maintaining, preserving, and displaying artifacts which represent the strength and freedom of our American heritage.

Gisela S. Paines wife of Fred Paines passed away on July 18, 2012 after long bout with cancer.

Gisela was such a fun and uplifting lady. She and Fred were close friends of mine. They along with John & Marion Lucas, Walter & Christel Perdue always came to the TAC Missileers reunion's together and were sort of the "life" of the party. They always got everyone singing German songs, with Gisela leading the way. Those three ladies were all from Germany and were close friends in Germany. I as well as a lot of other people, will always remember this special lady, and most certainly will miss her at our reunions.. God Bless Fred.

Max Butler

Only 15 Minutes to Atomic Strike

Part Three

By the end of the 1950s the Soviet Union possessed a Maritime Air Force of more than five regiments, each with twelve Tu-16KS rocket carriers.

The Kometa was the forerunner of the Meteor. When the Soviet leadership learned about the deployment of the first American Matador missiles in Bitburg, it demanded by Decree No. 864-372 of 11 May 1954, the development of a comparable cruise missile for use against land targets that could carry a nuclear warhead at least 100 kilometers. To meet this demand in the shortest time, Alexander Berjosnak proposed that the OKB-155 Design Bureau Branch 2 use the air launched Kometa as the basis for a new surface-to-surface missile - the later FKR-1. Its introduction to troops in service was in 1957. A total of seven FKR regiments were established, two of them were moved to Cuba during the Cuban missile crisis. Three regiments were based in the Ukraine and another in the Baltic. That two regiments were also stationed in the German Democratic Republic is shown here for the first time in detail.

Around midnight, a loud noise

Reports similar to those from Quedlinburg-Quarumbeck exist for Arnstadt-Rudisleben as well, where the Soviet Army once had an ammunition factory. "There were infantry unit stationed here November / December 1960 that were replaced by a unit of the Air Force in the winter of 1960, heavy equipment was transported to the barracks. (...) identified with

with certainty a 15 meter radio control missile under the covers." was heard in conversations. Other sources of the same period gave these observations, "two aircraft-body on the obstacle course" again. A Bavarian border situation reports from the 1st half of September 1964 summarizes the events: "Local residence said that in this area also a missile launch site had been built up four weeks ago and from this missile base almost every night they expected at around midnight to hear loud noises (similar to the brake-in run of turbine engines) lasting about four minutes." [13]

Seamlessly integrated close observations at the third site, the former army barracks in Ebersdorf in Karl-Marx-Stadt (now Chemnitz), a refugee, who after fleeing East Germany, reported he had worked from January to June 1961 for the 9th Volkspolice Readiness Company. He observed end February 1961 excavation work, "for a new building for an as yet unseen tracked vehicle, with a chassis that was similar to the JS-3 tank. On the chassis, a ramp was mounted. He was told by a Volkspolice Readiness Transport driver, who has been working there for three years, that he had already seen several of these chassis from which rockets are fired in the facility. He further stated that every day, in the mornings, he heard loud jet noises, so strong that the windows vibrated." On file in the BND can be found references to the site Ebersdorf from the mid-1960s with wording about the "jet engine" that one would hear in the mornings for eight to ten minutes from the barracks. The testing of the Meteor cruise missiles seem to have reached certain regularity, the people said. Entry on an Index card: "Most of Tuesday and Friday from 11:00 to 11:15 motor noise similar to that of jet aircraft audible.

Camouflage by anti-aircraft positions

In the immediate vicinity of the four cruise missile organizations were stationed air defense SAM divisions of the type S-75 Dvina (SA-2 Guideline). In that time, almost overnight, about 40 such positions were installed in East Germany, mostly within or in close proximity to garrisons. The existence of an anti-aircraft position was a good camouflage and a deception to disguise a front-line cruise missile unit: In fact no distinction could be made between the officers of the SAM or FKR units on the streets, their blue collar ornaments, weapons badges and caps were the same, indicating only the Air Force. Because of the increased activity at the sites at Techentin and Quarumbeck, however, the local residents thought there might be an impending revival of the old airfields. In fact, the redeployments were the only sporadic movements observed. But Mi-4 helicopters and Yak-12 light liaison aircraft stayed. With some regularity there still appeared Mi-1 and SP-4 over Rudisleben and Ebersdorf. Sometimes there were several takeoffs and landings in a single day.

When significant statements about the fourth Meteor base - the former air base Ludwigslust-Techentin are mentioned in connection with Soviet front-line Cruise Missiles - how could all four sites be missed by Western intelligence services? A comprehensive treatise on "fighting principles of aerodynamic missile units of the Soviet Air Force," notes this in the years to 1966: "The presence of aerodynamic missile units for Front-line Soviet Air Armies has not been confirmed. They are only in the Soviet 24th Front-line Air Army (Soviet zone of occupation) since 1960, evidence suggest that at the sites Ludwigslust, Quedlinburg, Arnstadt, Rudisleben and Chemnitz [sic] such missile units (Battalion themselves? or parts of) may located. (...) The installation of missiles with each unit was probably started in Battalion-strength (1959?), but was either discontinued or was only planned from the start for certain Front-line Air Armies (e.g., Front-line 24th Air Army)."

A final confirmation of the existence of the Meteor missile in East Germany could not be found until many decades later, in Russian sources which still had remained rather hidden on this topic. In addition to the 61st Guard - Fighter Air Corps and the 71st Fighter Corps for the mid-1960s, independent recon regiments, two regiments with Front-line missiles and an Independent Signals Regiment, with indirect subordination to the 24th Air Army was listed. One of the two regiments was identified as the 443rd Front-line Missile regiment, but is lacking location information and field post number.[16] The BND documents list the 449th Front-line Missile regiment, this estimate is so far unconfirmed, however.[17] Such a regiment consisted of two independent Launch groups which could have been stationed in Rudisleben, Ebersdorf, Quarmbeck or Techentin. Where the two locations were remains unclear for the time being - but it is obvious there should have been a regiment in the north and the other regiment stationed in the southern East Germany.

Further details were provided by witnesses who knew the locations of the Meteor installations during their military service. The findings show that at least in the first half of the 1960s there were special arsenals for nuclear warheads used in the assembly of the Meteor missile. They were operated by a so-called repair-technical base (RTB). Meanwhile, data on these units and the course of their deployment in the East Germany appear in documents. The RTB in question remained in country after the withdrawal of the cruise missiles and must have taken over the heavily sheltered special weapons storage facilities at the airports Lärz, Brand and Finsterwalde. Therefore, the weapon depots moved from the storing of missile nuclear warheads to storing of free-fall nuclear bombs, which was the primary armament of the newly introduced Front-

line rockets regiments. Indeed, the cuts of deployed front-line missile regiments over the period, coincide with the introduction of nuclear-capable front-line tactical fighter-bombers and bombers.

Modern offensive operations

In contrast to the American Matador and the later Mace missiles the Soviet FKR-1, had a maximum range of only 125 kilometers (77 miles). From their peace time bases they could hardly reach enemy territory. Therefore, we assume that from a certain readiness level they were to have been moved closer, to pre-prepared advanced position on the inner-German border. Nevertheless, they were still compared to U.S. cruise missiles and classified as a tactical weapon, but were more comparable to the contemporary short-range nuclear missiles Luna or the also the tactical R-11 Semlja (Scud-A) with 150 km (93 miles) ranges which were in the 1960s stationed in the GDR. There is no doubt that with the FKR-1's circular error of probability (CEP) of 500 meters this presupposes it using a nuclear warhead. Moreover, application concepts can be speculated about. Interestingly, in the early 1960s, an internal report about the Soviet missile units in the west, detailed information relating to advantages and disadvantages of the weapon system as well as about possible targets. As part of the former Soviet doctrine for a massed tactical nuclear first strike, the missiles seemed particularly suited to "the destruction of stationary point targets". They could be launch regardless of "meteorological and atmospheric conditions," which restricted the use of front-line aviation forces and their accuracy, by one estimation, surpassed both the Soviet horizontal bombing, and the first generation operational-tactical missile the R-11.

According to the Soviet calculations a single cruise missile with a 15 kt warhead was sufficient to destroy a nuclear artillery battery of the enemy in their firing positions - while it would require two ballistic missiles to do the same thing. And again, one flight with a 20-kt warhead is capable of eliminating a Matador or Mace squadron in their firing positions (three by two miles). "This would require a full six operational-tactical missiles with 20-kt warheads or at least two operational-tactical missiles, each with a 100-kt warhead. The conclusion of the Soviet generals: "The ability of front-line missiles to destroy point targets is several times better than operational-tactical ballistic missiles."

Solely from these sentences alone it is clear that in the early 1960s to the Soviet Union, the cruise missiles in East Germany played an extremely valuable role as part of their nuclear exchange planning.

To BE Continued...

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Stay connected with our organization and on top of the very latest TAC Missileers news, happenings, reunion plans and member input by visiting our outstanding website often at:

<http://www.tacmissileers.org/>

The site is a treasure trove of information about our organization, its members, our history and always the latest current events as well.

If you are into Facebook or are just curious about it, the TAC Missileers are there and can be found under the Groups Heading. Join the group while visiting. Among the many interesting items posted; Russ Reston recently uploaded *A GI's Germany* volume one and two , those classic vinyl records containing the sounds, songs and chatter from the 50's and 60's in Germany. The you-are-there sounds will bring back a lot of old memories. You can listen to both records on line.

If you are reading this newsletter on line the following link should take you to our Facebook group.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/217364581628811/>

For those folks without internet access at home, you may go to your local public library and use one of the public computers there, take this newsletter with you and ask the Librarian for assistance getting you to the TAC Missileers on line entities.