



Volume 15, Number 2

TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

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



Summer 2013

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.

A Reunion Memo From Mr Director Joe Perkins

I would like to remind all missileers that our reunion is getting closer and if you intend to come or are thinking about it, you will need to make reservations now because if you wait any longer you may not get a room. The September and October period is the time that a lot of people and other groups show up in San Antonio for vacations and conventions. Thanks Joe

A Reunion Letter From Mr President

Bill Simpson

Greetings to all our Missileers, families and friends. I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. When we last left our 2011 San Diego reunion in October 2011, TAC Missileer 2013 was somewhere off in the distant future. How quick time flies. We are only weeks away from gathering in San Antonio for another great reunion. For many of us we are going back to our Air Force roots. While basic training may not have been the happiest days in our Air Force lives, the place will still bring back many memories.

I'm sure Lackland AFB has changed immensely but just maybe there will be some landmark to recall our initial Air Force introduction.

Our accommodations at the Hyatt Regency are located on the famous San Antonio riverwalk. Boats are the main source of transportation where we will have access to several great eating and shopping facilities. This reunion is set up with a lot of free time to take in the local attractions. But our banquet is located several miles from the hotel and will provide us with some good ole Texas cooking. Don't forget your cowboy hats.

If you haven't done so already please send your registration forms to **Max Butler** before the **July 15th cutoff date**. The forms can be accessed on the TAC Missileer website or inside this newsletter. Getting those forms is very important for our scheduling the transportation for both the Lackland AFB tour and Rio Cibolo Ranch.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again. Have a safe trip and be sure to contact us if there are any questions or problems on the reunion.

Happy 4th of July.

Wednesday, September 4th...

- **Registration Day** — Welcome to San Antonio!
- Relax and reconnect with old friends. No specific activities are planned. Happy Hour will find many attendees in the hotel lobby or bar area.
 - ⇒ *4:00pm until ?*

Thursday, September 5th...

- Enjoy a pleasant day of sightseeing in San Antonio at your leisure. Sightseeing suggestions and discount coupons will be available in the hotel lobby.
- **Rio Cibolo Ranch (optional)** — Dinner & Entertainment
 - ⇒ *Coaches depart hotel at 6:00pm and return approximately 10:00pm.*

Friday, September 6th...

- **Lackland AFB Tour (optional)** — Gateway to the Air Force / Home of Basic Training & OCS School. See how much has changed since the 1950s / 1960s.
 - ⇒ *Coaches depart hotel at 9:00am (& 11am, if required) and return at approximately 11:00am (& 1:00pm, if required).*
- **TAC Missileers Business Meeting & Hors d'Oeuvres Buffet at Pat O'Brien's** Pat O'Brien's is within easy walking distance from our hotel
 - ⇒ *5:00pm to 6:00pm — Business Meeting (members only). A separate hospitality area with a "cash bar" will be available for enjoyment by spouses and guests.*
 - ⇒ *6:00pm until ? — Hors d' Oeuvres Buffet* and "cash bar" (members and spouses / guests).*

Optional Reunion Activities - Rio Cibolo Ranch

Thursday, September 5th, 2013

\$63 / person

Includes round trip coach transportation from / to hotel, meal, entertainment and all taxes & service charges.

A "cash bar" will be available, but is not included.

- Buses will depart the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk at 6:00pm for a short drive to Rio Cibolo Ranch. Upon arrival at the Ranch, guests will enjoy the pleasant sounds of their resident country fiddler.
- Guests can enjoy hay wagon rides, have the chance to experience wide open Texas skies and enjoy the feeding of the resident Longhorns in the Texas-sized R.C.R. Rodeo Arena.
- Later on into the night a special show with stories of the Old West and Texas Revolution including interesting anecdotes of the Battle of the Alamo will be told by their Resident Texan Living Historian and Storyteller around open fire pits as they roast marshmallows. His presentation will truly make the guests feel like they have stepped back in time, create lots of laughter and will be memorable experience that they will soon not forget.
- The following outlines the catering and entertainment services for the group's evening at Rio Cibolo Ranch.

Guests Arrive

- Guests can choose from a variety of drinks from the Longhorn Saloon (cash bar: includes soda, draft beer, Imported can beer, Texas wine, wine coolers, well mixed drinks, call mixed drinks, and their famous Rio Ritas – margaritas on the rocks). Also, guests can relax and enjoy the sounds of the Country Fiddler on the 2,000 square foot deck of the Lazy Lily Rover House with a view of the Cibolo Waterfalls and Gardens.

Dinner

The Western Round Up

- Slow smoked beef brisket and mesquite grilled chicken quarters, served with tangy potato salad, crisp coleslaw, ranch beans with onions and special sauce, all the condiments, barbecue sauce and freshly baked Ranch rolls.
- Iced tea, water, lemonade, and coffee (caffeinated/decaffeinated) will be served.

Dessert

- Guests will gather around their large open fire pits as they enjoy assorted cobblers and vanilla ice cream, while their Resident Living Texan Historian and Storyteller tells amusing tales of the Alamo and Texas Revolution, or life as a cowboy on the range.

A Country and Western Band will be on hand for music and dancing.

Optional Reunion Activates - Lackland AFB Tour
Friday September 6, 2013 \$20 per person (Includes Transportation)

Coaches will depart the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk at 9:00am (& 11:00am, if required) for a short drive to USAF Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland (formerly known as Lackland Air Force Base).

Tour itinerary is: “Windshield Tour” of the base followed by a visit to the Airman Heritage Museum.

Coaches will return to the hotel at approximately 11:00am (& 1:00pm, if required).

Lackland AFB Tour Ground Rules (Community Relations, Public Affairs; JBSA - Lackland)

- **All** visitors must submit the full name, date of birth, and driver license number and issuing state for everyone on the trip (including bus drivers and chaperones) to our office no later than 14 days before your trip. **Absolutely** no names are allowed to be added once we pass the 14-day window.
- Your group must provide your own transportation (bus, car, etc.) in **two vehicles or less**. Transportation will not be provided by the base. You may need to limit the size of your group to meet the vehicle number requirement.
- Your group will stay together on base the entire time under the supervision of a Public Affairs escort, with the exception of groups staying overnight in lodging.
- All groups will meet their Public Affairs escort at the Gateway East Gate. Take the Military Dr. exit off Highway 90, it will be the second gate on the left.
- No pets, no exceptions.
- All tours are ALWAYS considered tentative pending mission requirements.
- Attendees/chaperones/instructors will not be permitted to make convenience stops during the visit (ex. Stopping at the BX before/during/after the tour while your group is still on base). All groups will be escorted off base at the end of the tour. Personal arrangements not including the entire group should be made for ID cardholders after the group has departed the base. Thanks for your understanding.

Please note: JBSA—Lackland Ground Rules limit us to two vehicles or less, and we expect tour interest will likely exceed the capacity of two motor coaches. To accommodate everyone, the tour may need to be done in two shifts.

⇒ 9:00am to 11:00am (up to 100 people)

⇒ 11:00am to 1:00pm (up to 50 people)

The first 100 people that register for this tour will be assigned the 9:00am to 11:00am tour. The 11:00am to 1:00pm tour will operate **only** if more than 100 people participate.

Optional Reunion Activates - Lackland AFB Tour
Friday September 6, 3013 \$20 per person (Includes Transportation)

Please complete the following information if you are taking the Lackland AFB Tour.
You will not be able to take the tour unless you provide this information.

Lackland Tour Ground Rules (Community Relations, Public Affairs; JBSA - Lackland)

All visitors must submit the full name, date of birth, and driver license number and issuing state for everyone on the trip (including bus drivers and chaperones) to our office no later than 14 days before your trip. **Absolutely** no names are allowed to be added once we pass the 14-day window.

Please print legibly

Your Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Driver License Number: _____

Issuing State: _____

Your Spouse's (or Guest's) Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Driver License Number: _____

Issuing State: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I will be attending the Reunion with: _____ (spouse / guest)

I have made hotel reservations at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk: Yes No

I will be staying elsewhere in San Antonio: Yes No

Dinner & Tour Selection / Reunion Fees

Per Person Quantity Total

Dinner / Entertainment - Thursday, Sept. 5th

Rio Cibolo Ranch \$ 63 X _____ = \$ _____

Includes round trip coach transportation from / to hotel, meal, entertainment, and all taxes & service charges.

A "cash bar" will be available, but is not included.

Tours — Friday, Sept. 6th

Lackland AFB \$ 20 X _____ = \$ _____

Reunion Registration Fee (per TAC Missileers member) \$ **10.00** _____

Dues Renewal (if applicable—\$15 for 1 year; \$30 for 3 years)..... \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

TAC Missileers Corp.

Send checks and completed Registration form to:

Mr. Max R. Butler

5625 Pearl Dr., Suite "F" Box 120

Evansville, IN 47712

Please complete and send this registration form, along with your payment, to Max as soon as possible.

— Your registration and payment must be received no later than July 15th, 2013. —

Based on commitments with the dinner/entertainment provider, regretfully, no refunds can be given after Aug. 1st.

Thanks for your understanding!

Questions? Please call Max Butler at (812) 307-0187.

Only 15 Minutes to Atomic Strike..... Continued

Part Six

Again the philosophy changed: Despite the potential plan of action in using the mighty MM-1 Teracruzer, the condition was now to keep as many Mace as possible at a limited number of fixed pre-developed launch positions and hold them ready to be launched as quickly as possible.

The Matador had been distributed across the country side. The launch positions were at least 800 meters away from each other and often they were not even fenced. They were not allowed within a radius of 1600 meters of an inhabited place. Somewhere nearby was their technical area. Each facility was usually hidden in the deep woods, if possible in the highlands. With the new Mace this changed completely.

Adding the later Mace B launch complexes (see below), by 1963 a total of 80 Mace missiles were concentrated in eight compact positions: To the south and southeast of Sembach Air Base were Mehlingen (Site I), Enkenbach (Site II) and Grünstadt (Site III), east of Hahn Air Base were Wüschheim (Site IV), Hecken (Site V) and Kastellaun (Site VI) and to the west and south of Bitburg Air Base Rittersdorf (Site VII) and Idenheim (Site VIII). Site VI was created right next to a U.S. Army Nike-Hercules-position. Site VII and VIII were underground, hardened positions and were equipped with the Mace B. In addition, the Tactical Missile squadrons at Bitburg had a Missile Support Area for maintenance and repair at Oberweis. In the 1980s the BGM-109G Gryphon, moved in the same place under in the NATO-retrofitting program.

Protection Against Rain

At each launch site a squadron of eight, and later at several of these same sites, 12 cruise missiles stood at the ready in launch position with up noses, extended side by side inside a secured double fence with flood-lighting. In between each flight of 4 missiles stood a small launch control block house, more shelters were held one or 2 standby or follow up missiles.

The launch sites were normally connected to the public power grid and had emergency back-up generators for use during times of alert. Now reliable launch speed was what mattered. In 1962 the launch sites were further improved and expanded and the missiles each got a weather protection launch shelter so that the sensitive missile systems did not deteriorate because of the many rainy days. In contrast to the Matador, the Mace position infrastructure were not only financed by U.S., but was also funded by NATO. This brought a lot of advantages in addition to disadvantages – such as coordination problems between the German Engineering Administration, which awarded the local construction contracts. For example, on 16 December 1960 a follow-up inspection almost become a serious incident at launch site Hecken. Financial representatives of the responsible construction office appeared on site with the supervisor of the construction office, the project engineer and a

representative from another construction company. What happened then, was the subject of a complaint by the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Finance, to the Head of the U.S. liaison staff: "After Mr. R. of the office of military police had informed the visitors that they had to show their passes, which were then compared with a list of authorized names and positions. The gate guard indicating with gestures, that all the men should back away from the gate at which time the guard pulled his loaded service pistol and told the visitors to put their hands up. This order was obeyed. The visitors had to remain in this position for five minutes, until an American officer came and freed them from this undignified posture. Mr. T. the project supervisor then objected and ask that from then on a normal inspection to be conducted and for the assurance of a normal handling of names and other security provisions."

It can be assumed that the position was back in service by this time. After all, there were on the premises eight ready to launch missiles, each loaded with a thermonuclear warhead of 1.1 megatons.

3400 nuclear weapons in 28 hours

The Mace stood at the forefront. What their possible role might have been only requires a look into the Single Integrated Operational Plan 62 (SIOP), the nuclear operation plan of the day, which the newly elected President John F. Kennedy pulled out of the drawer in the face of the second Berlin crisis. Different from the later graduated NATO deterrence strategy of Flexible Response, instead, SIOP 62 even out weighed the full massive retaliation of the old Eisenhower era. The U.S. nuclear strike was designed in response to a Soviet attack and oversaw the entire potential available. There were no grades, only 16 types of responses depending on the timing of the warning. So for each possible scenario a set response was outlined, for example, if the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China attacked at the same time, details down to striking a mixture of military and civilian targets were given. Details of the plan are still secret, but allowing is a rough estimate from the sparse information and publications available. If there should be a warning time of an hour, the (Victor Alert) bombers and other armed forces could take 1500 warheads to their targets. Within 28 hours - if so much time remained – there could be launched from 2300 aircraft and missiles for a total of 3400 nuclear weapons. According to U.S. estimates, these attacks would hit 54 per cent of the Soviet population, including 71 per cent of the urban population. In addition to the Strategic Air Command's 769, B-47 and B-52 and other machines, an astonishing number of tactical combat aircraft, would carry the brunt of the attack. There were 221, F-100 Super Sabres and more than 200 aircraft carrier-based fighter bombers of the U.S. Navy programmed. Also 54 Mace and 76 Matador missile launches are listed in SLOP 1962.

TO BE CONTINUED

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The Museum of Aviation and the City of Warner Robins, GA removed this landmark Mace from its pedestal by I-75, exit 146, in late 2011. As reported in the Robins AFB Rev-Up newspaper of December 2, 2011 this Mace B had been in place there since 1964. Possibly one of the most recognized gate guards anywhere along the entire 1,786 mile, I-75 interstate, it will be most missed by missileer travelers going through the mid- Georgia region.