



Volume 18, Number 1

TAC MISSILEERS

NEWSLETTER

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



November 2016

Keep in touch with fellow Missileers and stay current with the latest goings-on by visiting your web site often at www.TacMissileers.org.

Our 2017 Reunion Is Scheduled for October 3rd Thru 6th in Las Vegas NV. The Venue Is The Embassy Suites on Swenson Street Near All the Strip Attractions. Details will be released on our web site as developed please keep watching.

Hello Membership, I Sure hope everyone is doing well. **Joe Perkins** and I flew out to Las Vegas October 25th to "scope" out the city for our 2017 reunion. While there we had the good fortune to meet up with **Bill Simpson** who met us at the airport and graciously drove us all around the city and surrounding area every day. Bill's efforts really simplified our trip and we owe him a great amount of gratitude. Of course Joe and I treated him to some libations at the hotel every evening between 5 & 7 pm. Of course this was Happy Hour.

We have contracted with the **Embassy Suites on Swenson Street in Las Vegas**. The hotel is in close proximity of the strip and other attractions.

Also there is a **Holfbrau Haus** German restaurant just a block away of which we visited three times. We were told the beer is shipped over from Germany every week on a ship, as well as a lot of the food. I am in negotiations with them in the possibility that we may have our banquet at their facility. It would be an easy 1 block walk from the hotel. Stay tuned to our web-site for more info in the very near future.

I will be putting a tour together to the **Hoover**

Dam complex which is only about 30 miles away. Also I'm thinking about the possibility of a **Grand Canyon** tour. This would be a full day and I haven't made my mind up on this one. Also Bill, myself and Joe drove out to Nellis AFB to see if the Thunderbirds might be there. They were there, at least their aircraft were. Unfortunately we weren't able to speak with any of the pilots as we wanted to talk with them about the possibility of them putting on a show for our group while we are in Vegas. Bill Simpson is going to do some "follow up" on this issue for us.

As there is so much to do and see in the Las Vegas area, I have decided to add an extra day to this reunion. Instead of beginning on a Wed. and ending on a Friday, the reunion will begin on a Tue. (registration day) and end on Friday. Dates are **October 3rd thru 6th 2017**. Weather should be great during this time period.

For our "golfers" one of our other members who lives in the area, has graciously volunteered to "ramrod" a golf outing. More on this as we get closer to the reunion. His name is **Robbie Robertson**. More on the reunion as we move closer.

Max Butler

A Letter From **Joe Lindsey**

Hi Bob,

First of all, allow me to congratulate and thank you and George for your book on the TAC Missileers.

I feel we had to have crossed paths somewhere along the line. I went into the USAF in 1958, and, after Lackland, I was sent to Lowry to TM-61C school. One of my classmates was **Hal Elliott** who I met up with later in life in a total coincidence (our daughters were friends and teammates on their High School basketball team). My life seems to be full of coincidences such as this. When you hit your seventies, I assume that is one of life's little benefits.

After Tech School, I was kept at Lowry as an instructor and was cross-trained into the TM-76A. I do not remember if I ever instructed on either Bird before I became one of the first groups to go to the Martin Company to train on the TM-76B. I returned to Lowry and started to write course material under a civilian named **Steve Lederer**. I wrote much of the Flight Controls, Inertial Navigation and all of the Solid State Electronics Material. I remember some of my Martin Company classmates were **AJ Logar**, **Lt. "Flak" Williams**, **Sgt "Curly" Kohler**, Airman **George Jones**, Airman **Glen Gillette** and one of my instructors was **Howard Penn**. I was later sent to Kadena AFB (after years of teaching at Lowry) and became the Combat Crew Chief on Crew 7 Site I and Howard Penn was our Martin Tech Rep., **Lt. Holbert** was my MCCC, **Lt Colonel Robert Morris** was the Deputy Chief Of Site Operations and many other names escape me. **Lt. Cassel** replaced Lt Holbert as the MCCC on Crew 7 and they were both terrific officers to work for. I have to admit, I was very proud of the day that Colonel Morris and Howard Penn

asked me to be the Tech Rep for Site 1 in Howard's absence.

When I went through Launch Crew Training at Orlando and Pad 21/22 at the Cape, My crew members were **Lt Serfass** (who recognized me from High School as we both attended Father Judge High School in Philadelphia), **Thomas Richmond**, **Kent Washburn**, **Bob Lutey**, **Gary Bradt** and **Marvin Lane**.

When I returned to the States, I went to Avionics training at Keesler AFB. After graduation, I was assigned to Altus AFB in Oklahoma and worked on B-52s, KC-135s and any other aircraft that landed on our tarmac. Then I took the PME test and almost immediately was off to Lowry again to attend PME school. After graduation, I was assigned back to SAC at Altus to work in the PME Lab, and found out that Altus was being transitioned to a MAC base.

The Air Force then decided they needed a Combat Crew Chief and sent me back to Kadena to work on Site II (I think the LO was **Captain Grossman** and crew 22?).

Maybe in a future newsletter, I will take some time again to recount some of even more coincidences and some amusing stories like blowing the code while accompanying Howard Penn through the doors to the site. I hope you find this interesting enough to include in the newsletter and, again, I appreciate the book and all your hard work on the website.

Best Regards,

Joe Lindsay Former Crew Chief
498th TMG, Kadena AFB, Okinawa

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to the newsletter Joe.

TAC MISSILEER DAYTON MINI-REUNION 2016

It all started last October, 2015 at our reunion in Orlando, FL. There were about 6 of us couples that were together a lot of time during the Reunion. We had a great time going out to eat in the evening and getting together for breakfast.

Early this year, Clark Wormer contacted myself and **Frank Roales** and asked us what we thought about all of us getting together this year in Dayton, OH after the opening of the 4th wing of the museum. Well, I took the idea and ran with it. I told them, if the Southern gang could get together in the off year and have a mini-reunion in Orlando, why can't we have a Mini-reunion in Dayton this year. So, taking the bull by the horns, I sent out a note to all the Tac Missileers to see what kind of response there was. It was rather encouraging and we decided to put all the wheels in motion. Clark, Frank, and I decided to check out the museum to see what there was around the museum in Dayton and paid a visit to the museum itself. We had decided to see if we could have a behind the scene tour of the Restoration area of the museum. I sent an e-mail to the Museum's web site and received a call from **Jane Leach**, the lady in charge of the tours and she was more than helpful to arrange things on their end to make this happen. The only day they did the tours was on Fridays. So, we planned our mini-reunion based on this information. Jane also gave me the lady in charge of the Dayton Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lisa Willis, who would be very instrumental on getting us information on hotels in that area and also take care of preparing our name tags, goodie bags, and a sign to be put in the Hotel to welcome us. In going thru the information, the one that was close was the Hope Hotel and Richard Holbrooke Convention Center. I contacted **Susan White** there and she was more than helpful to accommodate us, including giving us a special rate for the mini-reunion and gave us a room where we could gather and have our meet-and-greet. We also decided to have the mini-reunion in July, the month after the opening of the fourth wing at the museum. I had Russ Reston send out to all Tac Missileers an invitation to this reunion. We ended up with 35 people, members and spouses. After a few glitches, everything was in order. All we needed to do is hire a bus to take us to the Restoration Area as Jane would take care of the escorts as we were going on base.

Lisa Willis sent me an e-mail of the plaque that would go in the Hotel and the name tags and they were fantastic. We discussed how many we needed and I sent her the names of all those that would attend and she took care of getting them all ready, along with nice bags with goodies in them. She had them sent to the Hotel so that they would be there when we arrived. Susan White did an excellent job of arranging everything at the Hotel. The room she had arranged for us to have was at the back of the Hotel and next to the bar and the restaurant, which made it nice and private. **Max Butler**, treasurer of the Tac Missileers, gave us new Tac Missileer hats for us to wear when we went on the tour. Susan also introduced me to the manager of the restaurant as we wanted to reserve an area in the restaurant so we could get together Friday evening for a meal. Everything was all arranged except for having all the information for the museum.

My wonderful wife, Jonna, and I went up a day early to make sure all arrangements were taken care of. Thursday arrived and everyone started showing up. Jonna and several other ladies, **Loretta Roales**, **Becky Wormer**, and **Carolyn Wilczynski** took care of getting all the snack foods out and ready for all those arriving. Meet-and-greet was from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and everyone had a great time. I welcomed all to the mini-reunion and explained the agenda for Thursday evening and Friday. After 6:00pm, we all went our merry way to get something to eat. After everyone checked in, I sent all the details of those going on the tour to Jane Leach at the Museum so she could have it for when we got there on Friday Morning.

Friday morning came and we all showed up at the museum to be greeted by a green bus to transport us to the Restoration Area. Our escorts met us at the bus and verified the information I had e-mailed to Jane with their identification and we were off to the Restoration Area. As we were going to the area, the escort was very knowledgeable of the Wright Patterson Air Force Base and it was very informative on what is at the base and what is done there. We were met with 6 tour guides at the Restoration area. They were excited to have us there and treated us special as we are all veterans and what we did when we served in the Air Force. There was so much to see in the area and it was exciting to see how they restore aircraft and other interesting aerospace items. Among those aircraft that they are restoring or will restore is the B-17 Swoose and the more knowadgable B-17, Memphis Belle. According to the tour guide, it will be put on display in the museum in 2018. It was such a rush to be able to touch a major part of history. When you stood in front of the Memphis Belle, you were spell bound. We could have spent hours there but we were limited on time and we had to leave after an hour. The bus took us to the museum where everyone was ready for some lunch and tour the fourth building. **Larry Johnson** and I headed out to tour the museum and of course we had to go see the Matador and the Mace-B that are in the museum and Larry was excited as the Mace-B on display was stationed in Okinawa. One good thing about the Restoration area tour is that they took care of the accommodations of those that needed help in getting around.

When you walk into the fourth building, to the right is the XB-70, Valkyrie, which was formerly over on the other side of the runway. It is an awesome aircraft and the only one in existence but in the new wing, it's just a toy. It was great looking all over the wing and seeing all the experimental aircraft that we saw on the other side in 2009. We were exhausted by the time we saw what we could and then went back to the hotel to relax and recover from a great morning at the museum.

In the evening, we got together for some leftover snacks and then went to dinner at the restaurant and had a great last meal together. Everyone felt that this mini-reunion was great as we could spend time together and it was more intimate and we could spend more time with a small group instead of trying to get to see everyone at the regular reunion, which is really great. One of those at the mini-reunion said that even though no one as this mini-reunion was from the base he was stationed at, he felt like one of the gang as he was totally accepted into

the rest of us. Also, one thing about these mini- reunions is that some people who were there may not be able to make the one in Las Vegas and they were glad to be in Dayton and enjoyed themselves. We left Friday morning, tired but had a great time, visiting with all those that attended.

Those that attended were: **Larry and Sandy Johnston, Robert and Carol Murley, Alfred and Elsie Sobloeski, Norman and Dana Tramra, Michael and Carolyn Wilczynski, Felix and son, Fred Wylezik, Art and Sheila Donahue, Frank and Loretta Roales, Clark and Becky Wormer, Bill Whisler and Rita Larson, George and Dee Beaumont, Jerry and Jonna Brenner, James and Susan Cagle, Jack Calloway, Glen J Curl and son Joseph A Curl, John Downs, Robert H and Dorothy A Schneider-Fuelling, James Garner, and Frank Jr and Leslie S Hall.**

We are all looking forward to all of us getting together in Las Vegas in 2017. See you all there.

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2015 REUNION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

TAC Missileers Reunion Orlando FL October 28, 2015

The 2015 business meeting was called to order by **Dave DeRain** (TAC Missileers Secretary) at 1905 hours. **John Marasi** gave the invocation and **Joe Perkins** led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Dave welcomed the attendees to Orlando, explained that president **Bill Simpson** could not attend the reunion and has resigned as president, therefore Dave would run the meeting. Dave then introduced the TAC Missileers Officers: Joe Perkins Executive Director, **Max Butler** Treasurer / Membership Director, **Bob Bolton** Newsletter Editor, **Art Gust** Historian who was unable to attend. Dave read the 2013 Business Meeting Minutes. A motion to approve was made, seconded and approved. Dave then gave an explanation of why the 2015 Reunion was moved from Boston to Orlando. The change was agreed to by the officers after much discussion due to the expense in the Boston area. It was felt that because of the cost of hotels and parking we would have a very low turnout and maximum turn out is the goal of these reunions. Dave apologized to everyone who disagreed with this decision, but it was made with the best interests of the organization in mind.

Max Butler (Treasurer) gave an overview of the organization's financial status, advising that there is a current balance of approximately \$36,000 before paying for the banquet. (\$7,000)

Joe Perkins (Executive Director) Thanked the group ("We are a family", Joe said) for all the support he received due to the recent loss of his wife and long time Missileer Reunion participant Sara. Max explained the canceled Cape tour due to a new base commander and security concerns. Max explained that thanks to **Jim Hale** and **Tom Hillard** we were offered an opportunity to view an Atlas V launch from the press area. The bus will leave at 0730 and a box lunch will be provided. Note: late the night before the launch, the launch was postponed by a day so we missed it, but a cape tour was offered instead.

Old Business: New Business:

Newsletter: Bob Bolton (Newsletter Editor) stated that he is getting little to no input for the newsletter. There was much discussion about weather or not to have a newsletter. Some members do not have internet access and printing and mailing 60 to 70 copies of the newsletter cost money. A motion was made to publish a newsletter once a year and send it out by email and by US mail to those that do not have the internet. Motion seconded and approved. Send newsletter input to Bob Bolton.

Election of Officers: Nominations were opened to fill the vacant office of president: **Dave DeRain** was nominated and excepted. **Max Butler** was nominated and declined. Nominations were closed and **Dave DeRain** will be the new president. Nominations were then required to fill the now vacant secretary position. Max nominated **Jerry Brenner**. Nominations were then closed and Jerry Brenner will be the new secretary.

2017 Reunion: The suggestion was made that the reunion should be held in the mid US, a city with hotels that can accommodate our group, a cost that will generate the maximum number of attendees. The following cities were suggested:

	1st vote	2nd vote
Las Vegas	27	42
New Orleans	29	31

Indianapolis 8, Colorado Springs 6, Denver 5

Nominations were closed and a show of hands gave the above results. It was then suggested that a final vote be taken between the top two cities. A reminder was made that only Missileer members can vote. The result of the final vote showed that Las Vegas will be our 2017 reunion city. There was a discussion about how to pick future reunion cities resulting in no changes to the current system. Joe passed out some new membership cards. Max reminded us about the pictures for the Year Book which will be available for \$25.00. A drawing was held for some Missileer Plaques. John Marasi gave the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 2010 hours.

Respectfully submitted, Dave DeRain TAC Missileers Secretary

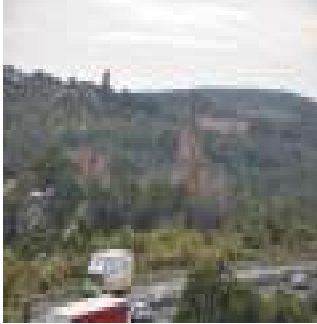
By Jim Dutcher

Tip Of The Spear

Driving through Germany on this beautiful June day in 2016 was a relief. Since arriving a couple weeks ago harsh rains flooded parts of Europe. Flash floods devastated villages in a hopscotch fashion, leaving destruction in Bavaria, Paris and even here, the Rheinland-Pfalz. Today, however, the sun shines bright and the small brooks watering the green countryside run full and fast. It was a perfect day for this drive... a drive into the past. I left Gensingen, near Bingen on the Rhine, in a rented diesel Skoda early in the morning on a mission. Without a map or programming my GPS, I was driving by

instinct, following backroads through villages and around wooded hills to a destination in my past. It's amazing how quickly the mind recalls places and events, even events from 50 years ago, when jogged by a familiar village, a familiar stretch of road, a silhouette of an old castle or even the smell of the damp German forest. I wasn't watching the time, but after a couple hours of driving, I spotted a sign pointing the way to Bad Dürkheim, the home of the world's largest Wine Fest. My instincts were correct, I was on course! But, today, it wasn't the beautiful German Weinstraße calling me: it was a place that isn't there anymore.

Turning north, away from Bad Dürkheim, I drove up a road so narrow I had to pull to the side to allow the occasional oncoming car to pass. My guiding landmark was the silhouette of an



old castle in ruins within the ancient walled city of Neuleiningen, prominently visible from the Autobahn, yet so difficult to drive to. I hardly noticed the ancient town and the magnificent castle ruins. I was looking for a small road on my right that would take me under the autobahn and to my destination, the place

Americans once called Site III, C Flight or Grünstadt. I was heading for what was once the tip of the spear.

If I would have approached as if driving from Sembach, I would have come from the other side of the mountain; through a valley filled with the sprawling industrial town of Grünstadt. Even though Site III is called Grünstadt, it is not in that town. It sits alone at the top of an eroded mountain overlooking the Rhine Valley. German glider pilots trained there prior to WW II, and in the Cold War it was one of the 38th Tactical Missile Wings' Mace A Missile sites. Technically, it was not the tip of a single spear: it was the tip of several spears, which were America's tactical missiles, a critical weapons system that helped keep the Soviet Union in check.

After driving through vineyards, past the hotel and winery, Weingut Sonnenberg, I reached the hill top. I continued on the old narrow blacktop road, dodging large potholes along the way, driving much farther than I remembered. Finally, there it was! Not even a ghost of its former self. It was a large rash of brambles, weeds, trees and occasional trash marking with vine covered, rusted and torn chainlink fences, bracketed by a few decaying light posts. I had found Site III.

I drove as far as possible around the overgrown vegetation hiding what was once a missile site. Looking for a way through the brambles, but there was none I could spot. I drove back to where I thought the entrance should be and spotted a rusted double gate – the old entrance to the pad! I stopped the car on the road and walked to the main entrance and began searching for a way in. It was crazy quiet. In my head I could still hear the whine of the Nose Temperature Cooling Units running day and night, keeping the missile electronics in their comfort zone. Once the NTCUs could be heard miles away. As I approached the gate I remembered how the Headquarters building and flag pole was on the left, the firehouse and chow hall was on the right. The amazing MM I Terracruizers were

parked outside the double fenced area awaiting AGE drivers to return them and their cargo back to Sembach.

I found where the chainlink gate had been cut and repaired with rusted wire. In a few seconds I removed the patch and slipped onto the old blacktopped missile pads. They were smaller, less level and less impressive than I remembered. Large trees now ripped through the paving and stood tall where once missiles stood, blockhouses had been eradicated and all indications of where they once stood now camouflaged by shoulder-high weeds, brush and mature trees. Yet, some double yellow line markings can be seen clearly in various places, marking the “No Lone Zone” boundaries. I paused, remembering the signs once posted on the fence saying “Deadly Force Authorized”, and the lonely Airmen carrying their M16s on patrol there to enforce those rules. They and their dog handlers also guarded the site. The security troops along with the crews that maned, maintained and supported the Mace were on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as long as the missiles stood guard.



I paused again, remembering why we had been here. After WW II, National Socialism was defeated, but International Socialism remained, stronger than ever. International Socialism, or Communism, had identical goals and tactics of National Socialism; world dominance through force. The Soviet Union had fielded approximately 800 brigades by the end of WW II, while the US had only 200. With their stationing of



the world's largest concentration of troops and tanks on the West German border, supported by a short supply line, the Soviet Union knew they could win a conventional war in Europe easily. It was the power of America's nuclear arsenal that kept the Soviets from executing their European conquest plans. Then, the USSR thought they saw a political weakness in the US plans. If they attacked

Europe, we could not stop them without using nuclear weapons, which were exclusively stationed in America at that time. So, if we used those weapons, the USSR would be free to attack US cities with their nuclear weapons. The Russians along with the French argued the US would never trade New York to save Berlin or any other European city. Thus, they believed if they launched a conventional first strike under some pretense, the US would lack the political will to use US based nuclear weapons. However, when the Air Force deployed nuclear tipped tactical missiles overseas, that argument collapsed.

The Mace was a credible, viable counter to the Soviet's world dominance plans. They maintained an in-commission rate of approximately 92% - 97%, higher than any other weapon system, had the greatest accuracy

(750 foot cep), had the lowest operational cost of any missile system and were proven. Some inert missiles at Site I's training pad had been launched and recovered multiple times and were still flyable. The Mace A was so effective Radio Moscow declared all 38th Tactical Missile Wing personnel to be war criminals and would be shot on sight if war erupted. But war never came.

My pilgrimage was nearing its end. I made another slow walk around Grünstadt's old pad, picking up a rusted ring from the concrete cover to a cable run then photographing a rusted jerry can. By the gate and near the old POL barrel stand, I paused one last time to survey my old home. I slipped through the opening in the main gate, replaced the wire patch and walked toward my car. Echoes of the past grew louder as I passed the where the Headquarters building once stood and I stopped. Fifty years ago this September the Mace A stood down. All was now silent, yet in my mind I could hear the whine of the NTCUs and the snap of the American flag that flew in the stout German wind, I could see the young men in their starched fatigues who once served, and I thought of all those who stood the watch. I took a last look, faced where the flag pole once stood and executed a final salute.

50th Anniversary of 38th Tactical Missile Wing Stand-Down

August 31, 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the stand down of the 38th Tactical Missile Wing (TMW) from its Quick Reaction Alert responsibility. The 38th TMW was headquartered at Sembach Air Base (AB), Federal Republic of Germany, it consisted of 5 tactical missile squadrons: the 822nd, 823rd and 887th out of Sembach AB and 2 squadrons, the 89th and 701st out of Hahn AB.

In December 1964, the 38th TMW had received a secret (at that time) message from Head Quarters, 17th Air Force, Ramstein AB. The message from the 17th, phrased in typical Air Force jargon, read;

Subject: Change in strike force availability.

1. The following information is provided for your planning and guidance.

2. The entire 38 TMW's Mace Alpha (MGM-13A) weapon system will not, repeat, will not be available for strike force tasking commencing 1 April 1966. Effective on that date, complete phase-out of this strike force will take place at all missile Sites thereby obviating the residual strike force capability. However, in the interim, the total Mace Alfa missile force consisting of a 64 QRA and 10 follow-on vehicles, will continue to provide target

coverage as now planned in both the 1 Jan and 1 Jul 65 target programs up to and including 1200Z, 1 Apr 66.

However, that original stand down date of 1 April 1966 would eventually be cancelled and reset twice to later dates. The 38th TMW strike force would remain on 15 minute quick reaction alert until 31 August 1966.

And so it happened, at 2400 hours Zulu, 31 August 1966, the operational end came for the Mace, MGM-13A tactical missile weapon system. I was off duty that night but went to the 887th Tactical Missile Squadron's, Grunstadt launch site. I had invested four and one-half years of my life to that site and the Mace weapon system and wanted to be a witness to its finale, first hand, if not in one of the Launch Control Centers at least there in an informal capacity to witness the end.

In that mid-night darkness I and other off-duty missileers gathered outside the double security fences that surrounded the launch complex as the hour struck and the stand down order was commenced. In the three Launch Control Centers, the last alert duty crews at Grünstadt shut down the systems and the Mace missiles were removed from their alert posture forever. There were more than a few tears in the eyes of those off-duty missileers watching as one-by-one the missiles were taken out of commission, the ancillary equipment for each missile was shut down and the missiles lowered from their launch attitude.

Soon, a quiet settled over the Grunstadt Hill and the five other 38th TMW squadron's launch sites. A quiet which had not intentionally occurred since the first missiles went on Alert in 1959. It was the quiet from the constant, deep throated hum of the Nose Temperature Control Units. The sound that had been a constant on the Grunstadt Hill and the other launch sites all of the time. So constant and so ingrained in the launch and maintenance men of the 38th TMW sites that on the rare occasion when a sudden power outage did occur, when the noise stopped, even for a moment, if at night, it woke up those sleeping. But, now the drone was gone for ever. The missiles were off Victor Alert and within the next few weeks the missile would be disassembled for return to the States.

On paper the 38th TMW remained operational until late September 1966 but, by then only a very small hand full of officers and men remained to make the last entries into the records and turn off the final switches to close out the front line operational history of the Martin MGM-13-A Mace weapon system.

Parts of this report were extracted from our book, *U.S. Air Force Tactical Missiles 1949 – 1969 The Pioneers.*

Robert Bolton

586th MMS New Orleans Adventure

After the Orlando Reunion some dozen or so 586th MMS guys that either worked together in the maintenance area or at one of the sites, or lived in the barracks together, decided to meet up in New Orleans this year for a few days to enjoy the food and attractions there. Of course we also enjoyed the camaraderie and the telling of lies and even some new stories. I knew that the stories were real war stories and not fairy tails because they didn't start out with "Once upon a time" they started out with "Now this is no shit".



Thanks to the great work done by **John Marasi** assisted by **Charley Martin** (Marty), we stayed in a great location at an Embassy Suites just a few blocks from the French Quarter.

We went on a couple of very nice tours, but the highlight was the WWII museum. The I-Max show was an unbelievable adventure and the personal stories by the guys that were there (both in Europe & the pacific theaters) were quite moving.

Some of the group spent time in the casino that was less than a mile from the hotel, to practice their skills for Las Vegas next October. We are all looking forward to meeting up again there.

Dave DeRain

TACMissileers

This is the first edition of our annual TAC Missileers Newsletter. Why publish only once a year now? It was unanimously agreed to by the membership present at our 2015 Orlando reunion that we would have an annual publication. In this digital age we are better able to quickly reach most members via our TAC Missileers web site notification system with any information that needs to be disseminated.

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T3E3 3000 Pound Blast Warhead For the Matador TM-61

Recently while browsing through some of the microfilm rolls I have on the history of the 38th Tactical Missile Wing I came across a very cryptic entry as follows from the 71st Tactical Missile Squadron historical report covering Jan to Jun 1959:

July 23, All T3E3 warheads and approximately 30 JATO units were turned in, thus lessening the storage and maintenance problems.

Do any of you know of or recall an explosive or blast warhead that was available for installation in the Matador? Does anyone know of any armament types who once worked on the Matador that we might contact for further information about this blast warhead?

I have researched the T3E3 blast warhead and found very little on line that referenced it. Evidently it was an alternate warhead to the nuclear warhead that the Matador was armed with. The T3E3 warhead was a large 3000 pound device.

Only other reference I have found is in the: Engineering Design Workbook Warheads General Army Material Command Alexandria, VA July 1964. Table 4-10 Characteristics of existing service warheads: Designed for use in surface to surface missile against light structures and material. 3000-lb total weight, 72" x 30". Active on inventory 1964. Designated T3E3 for the Missile Matador. The explosive tritonal is use in the blast warhead for the Matador

There was once a ten page booklet titled Warhead, Blast, 3000-lb., T3E3: For the Madador TM-61 Pilotless Bomber by Richard Joss. Mr. Joss worked for the Samuel Feltman ammunition laboratories, Picatinny Arsenal. Can not find any further information on the book or any more information on the T3E3 blast warhead. **Does anyone recall having these big blast warheads around? Please let the Newsletter Editor Bob Bolton know if you have any information on this device to share with the membership.**
Bob Bolton