

*The Freedom Committee of Orange County*  
*Neighborhood Community Center*  
*1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627*  
Web Site <http://www.fc-oc.org>

**Minutes of the Meeting of October 14, 2009**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** George Grupe  
**Invocation:** Frank Orzio  
**Binnacle List:** Harold "Bud" Hohl, 1<sup>st</sup> USMC (Ret.)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Walter D. Ehlers, USA. , Congressional Medal of Honor  
Lt.Col. F. Bruce Bauer, USAF. (Ret.)

*A Special Thank You to Pamela Shawkey and Christopher Shawkey for hosting such a wonderful luncheon for our meeting*

**Guests Present:** Bette Bell, Enrico Bottieri, Bob Chermack, Laura Chermack, Robbie Conn, George Davidson, Kay Felix, Marty Flacks, Bette Flick, Shirley Hanson, William Holiday, Hank Hornsveldt, Dick Johnson, Pat O'Brien, Lynn Thomas, James White, Edward Wolfe, and Elizabeth Yee.

**Members Present:** Jim Baker, Howard Bender, Jack Campbell, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Vi Cowden, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, "Eddie" Felix, Francis Flacks, George Grupe, Sid Hallburn, Jack Hammett, Arnold Hanson, Dale Hanson, Bill Hardy, Dick Higgins, Ramona Hill, Art Lambert, David Lester, Syd Lucas, Bill Mall, Ted Marinos, Vern Martin, Bob Meyer, Dick O'Brien, Don Oldis, Frank Orzio, Sherrie Orzio, Gene Pickett, Harry Rawlins, Gladys Refrakes, Tim Richards, Larry Schnitzer, Bob Stoddard, Ted Tanner, and Mike Trerotola.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**



**Major General Bill Mall** treated us to a presentation of The Cuban Missile Crisis as experienced by a Strategic Air Command bomber pilot. Pictures depicting things as they happened in October 1962 supplemented his presentation. He reminded us that this week represents the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Crisis. MajGen Mall was a command pilot in the first jet-powered bomber in the Air Force. The Air Force wanted a high-altitude, medium-range, subsonic bomber.



The B-47 was the first pure jet strategic bomber. Six turbojet engines slung in pods beneath the swept-back wings gave the prototype Stratojet nimble performance.

ICBMs and SLBM missiles did not yet exist. The B 47 crew consisted of a pilot, copilot, and bombardier. It was first designed to fly high and fast in an operational envelope equal to the fighter aircraft of the early 1950's. But progress in the Soviet Union interceptors forced revisions to convert the B-47 from a high to a low altitude penetrator due to the development of Soviet SAMs in the mid 1950's. There were rumors that the pilots requested windshield wipers because they flew so low over water.

When U2 reconnaissance planes flying over Cuba documented Soviet SS4 and later SS5 missiles on launchers aimed at the US, President Kennedy placed the military on Defense Condition 3. The Strategic Air Command (SAC) reacted to DefCon 3 by placing the bombers at civilian airports under heavy guard AND the bombers carried nuclear bombs. **The Commanding General of SAC was Curtis LeMay** of WWII fame. General LeMay had trained SAC to react quickly; 15 planes could be manned and launched in 15 minutes. At first each B-47 carried one MK 1 five-ton Plutonium bomb that was armed in the air. The Mark 1 had a destructive force of 17 to 22 kilotons. The B 47 carried only one bomb.

General Mall explained the probable reason that the Soviets backed down and removed the nuclear missiles from Cuba: **Retaliation**. The USA had 20,000 nuclear weapons and the Soviets had 3900 to 6000 nuclear weapons. The Naval Blockade ended on November 21, 1962 after the removal of the Soviet missiles from Cuba.

**Later the B 47 carried 4 M 28 bombs with an explosive force of 1.7 to 3 mega tons.**



MajGen Mall expressed a personal sidelight. His wedding, long planned and coordinated with SAC, was interrupted when the DefCon 3 alert came two days before the wedding. An exception was granted and the wedding was conducted as scheduled but the honeymoon was postponed for over a year. Bill was able to take his eight-month's pregnant wife on a real honeymoon, introducing her to life as a wife of a SAC pilot. Many questions

followed his very interesting presentation. **LtCol Don Oldis** stated he flew F-84Gs in Korea. His squadron practiced with softball size tactical nuclear weapons. This may have deterred the Soviets from entering the Korean War. Because of the extreme flying requirements, 22 B-47 were lost in 9 years

### **Table Topics**

The meeting then adjourned at 1330 hours.

To view the pictures of the meeting on our web site, go to the Photo Collection page and select the meeting date of October 14<sup>th</sup>.

*(Minutes of the meeting prepared by Tim Richards)*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Hammett". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Chairman