



2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Association

271 Shady Oak Drive
New Market, AL 35761



Volume 3

Newsletter 3

October 1999

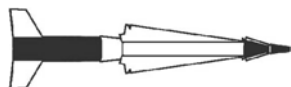
The 1998 Reunion, A Wife's Perspective

By Karen O'Connell

Gosh, it really was fun, wasn't it? I was ready to do it again, right away. I have never met so many wonderful people all at once. There was so much gratitude. So much friendship. So much fellowship. The deep-felt emotions were in abundance.

Many of the wives had experienced the same things: our husbands unable to speak about their adventures; curiosity about what really went on; wondering why they felt the way they did. When we had the opportunity to speak with each other, we discovered these similarities. We had as much in common as the men. And, we all expressed the same relief that there was finally "closure" for them.

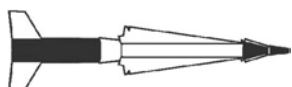
The reunion served to help us all, in the long run. Thank you so much for making it happen. We are deeply indebted to you - all of us.



The Next Reunion

The next reunion is tentatively scheduled for 12-15 October 2000 in St. Charles, MO. St. Charles is a few miles West of the St. Louis Internal Airport. It is a charming river city and the oldest city on the Missouri River. We plan to take in an evening dinner/theater on a Riverboat and tours to the surrounding wine country, as well as free time to visit the local shops and historical sites;

Charlie Trost, Bob Mackintosh and their wives will make a site selection trip to St. Charles 30 Sep. to 2 Oct. 1999. They will be selecting the hotel and activities for the Oct. 2000 reunion. If any of you would like to meet us there and take in the local Oktoberfest on 2 October, send Bob Mackintosh a note, or call (256) 379-3496.



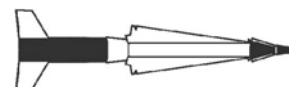
823 Campaign Badge of Honor

Those of you who were not presented this ROC medal can purchase the full size replica or the gold-tone miniature, shown below. (Order form is on the back page.) The 823 Badge of Honor, USA Assn. is trying to get the ROC government to make annual presentations to qualified US Servicemen, but this is work in process. You may want to purchase your own copy before then. The gold-tone miniatures are available now, and the full size medal should be available very soon.



Miniature 823 Campaign Badge of Honor

Courtesy of Dave O'Connell



New Association

In May 1999, we filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Alabama to form a patriotic association. We are now, officially, the "2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn. Inc." 271 Shady Oak Drive, New Market, AL 35761. Membership is open to members of 2/71 who served in Taiwan, as well as our support units, and family members.

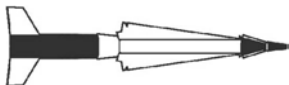
The primary purposes are to commemorate and memorialize the service of the members of the 2nd Missile Battalion

(Nike-Hercules), 71st Artillery, United States Army during its deployment to Taiwan in support of the Republic of China during the period September 1958 to August 1959, to organize periodic reunions of such members, and by its activities to foster and promote patriotism and to recognize patriotic service in the Armed Forces of the United States.”

We had to have two officers to start the Association - a President and a Secretary. They are **Bob Mackintosh**, President, and **Dave O’Connell**, Secretary. The Board of Directors will be adding more officers after they are appointed. There will be seven on the Board of Directors.

We currently have 100 dues paying members. The \$15 annual dues pays for the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, as well as, incidental expenses associated with the Assn., finding new members, following up with DA on our unit history, etc.

If you would be willing to serve on the Board of Directors, please let the Assn. know. Our first priority for selecting Board of Directors will be their willingness to participate. Secondly, but very important, will be their access to e-mail, and also the WWW. The reason for wanting our Directors to have access to the WWW is that we may try to conduct business using “Instant Chat”. This will permit us to communicate in real time over the Internet. This is possible today for AOL members, and it may be possible for non-AOL members using the AOL software.



The Taiwan Trip

We still have tentative plans for a trip to Taiwan in April 2001. To date, fifteen people have indicated that they probably would be interested. Please let us know if you are leaning that way. We know firm commitments can’t be made that far in advance for many reasons including, health, finances, work schedule, etc.; but, if you make tentative plans now, more of you will be motivated to make it happen.

The ROC Minister of National Defense will be approached in the next few months to ask for his support in pulling together some sort of reception for our group. The more people that plan to participate, the more likely we are to get a favorable response.

Charlie L. Garcia, Buena Vista, NM asked if we would ask the Taiwan Consulate to arrange a trip to Taiwan for our group. That is probably asking too much. What do you think?

In Memorium

Mrs Gina Lindenberg sent a note that her husband **Klaus Wilhelm**, Ph.D., died March 9, 1999 in Port Orange, Florida. Klaus was a Pfc in C Battery, 2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery and a recipient of the 823 Campaign Badge of Honor. Klaus was born in Berlin March 31, 1938. He left his wife, Gina, two sons and two daughters.

If any you knew Klaus and would like to send a note to his wife, her address is **Gina Lindenberg**, 3201 Courtland Blvd., Deltona, FL 32738

In March 1999, **Mrs. Gladys Walker** sent a note that our Bn CO, **Col Archie Stanley Walker**, passed away 6 December 1998. Last year, Mrs Walker wrote that he would attend the reunion if his health permitted. Unfortunately, he didn’t make it. Many of us remember LTC Walker from the old 495th AAA Missile Bn at Ft. Bliss, TX. He came to Taiwan as LTC Goldberg’s replacement in June of 1959. His obituary follows:

“Archie Stanley Walker

Funeral Services for Archie Stanley Walker will be conducted at 10 a.m. today at Welch Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Oktibbeha Memorial Gardens park in Starkville (Miss.). The Rev. Prentiss Gordon will officiate.

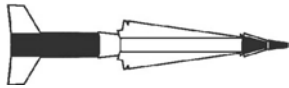
Col. Walker died Sunday, Dec. 6, 1998 at his home in Starkville. He was 82. A native of West Point (Miss.), he was retired from the military and was a member of First United Methodist Church, the Exchange Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. A World War II veteran in Europe and the Pacific, he received five campaign stars and the Bronze Star Medal.

During his military service, Col. Walker was responsible for the installation of the Air Defense System in Taiwan and subsequent training of the Chinese army in weapons use, and he developed and installed the original system for tracking all hardware launched into space for the North American Air Defense Command and the Continental Air Defense Command. Upon retirement in 1965, he had achieved the rank of colonel and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys Walker of Starkville; three sons, Richard Stanley Walker and Kirby Land Walker, both of Austin, Texas, and Robert Edward Walker of Starkville; one brother, Lt. Gen. E.H. “Mickey” Walker of Jackson; four grand-children and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mississippi Sheriff’s Boys and Girls Ranch or to First United Methodist Church.”

It is obvious from this obituary that after a long and distinguished military career, Col. Walker felt that one of his most important assignments was that of Bn. Commander of the 2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery in Taiwan.

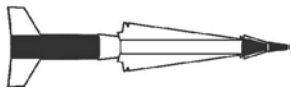


AFEM

We have 5 medal boxes and ribbons for the AFEM that were awarded at Ft. Biss in September. If you did not receive yours and would like to have it, send a note to the Assn.

Almost 160 of you received the AFEM in Sep/Oct 1998; but 140 of you did not indicate a desire to receive the AFEM. If you now would like our Assn. to request the medal for you, we will try and get the necessary proof that you were in Taiwan during the period specified for the medal: 23 Aug 1958 to 31 Dec 1958. We plan to have them for the October 2000 reunion.

As we have mentioned in earlier newsletters, award of the AFEM, and entry of that information on your DD214, is sufficient for membership in the VFW. In the last newsletter, we told you how to get the award on your records.



Cold War Certificate available

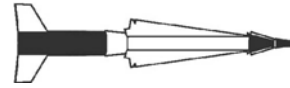
From "Army Echoes" Issue 1, 1999 (The Bulletin for the Army Retiree).

"Veterans and federal government civilian personnel who served during the Cold War era (from Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991) are eligible for a Certificate of Recognition for this service signed by the Secretary of Defense (sample below). If you wish to apply for this certificate, you should submit a copy of any official government or military document with recipient's name, Social Security Number/Military Service Number/Foreign Service Number and the date of service (during the Cold War era) to: Cold War Recognition; 4035 Ridge Top Rd; Ste 400; Fairfax, VA 22030, FAX (703) 275-6749; e-mail (for questions) coldwar@fairfax-emhl.army.mil; help desk (703) 275-6279.

A sample letter will be posted on the website at <http://sdcw.army.mil/coldwar> after April 5. If eligible person is deceased, a survivor may apply but only one certificate will be issued."

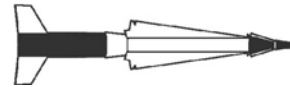
If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of the sample letter mentioned above, send a note to

your Assn. and we will mail you a copy.



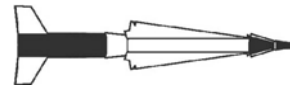
Damaged/Lost Mail

We have been getting back pieces of newsletters that indicate that some of our newsletters are being damaged or lost by the Post Office. If you did not receive Dec. 1998 or Mar 1999, Newsletter, let us know and we will send another copy.



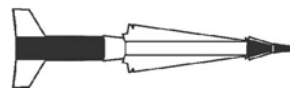
Changes of Address

Keep us apprised of your mailing and e-mail address changes. Several of our group have had newsletters returned because the U.S.P.O. only forwards mail for six months.



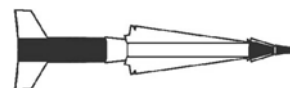
Notes from the troops

Billy G. Baker, 20 Willard Ave., McKenzie, TN 38201
Billy says that he has had colon cancer operation. He will not be able to attend any reunions, but would like to help as much as he can. Billy joined the Association and ordered one of our reunion caps.



Recently Located Troops

Raymond E, Gradick, A Btry, Tyler, TX Thanks to Glen Ramsey.



Republic of China's National Day Reception in Chicago Honors U.S. Veterans Who Assisted Taiwan in 1958 (Press Release - 10/7/1998)

INFORMATION DIVISION, TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN CHICAGO

— Chicago, IL, October 7, 1998, 15:00 CDT —

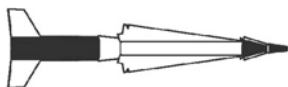
Dignitaries from the Chicago area and across the Midwest will gather tonight in Chicago to celebrate the 87th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (ROC) and to honor U.S. veterans who assisted Taiwan 40 years ago during the Taiwan Strait Crisis, when the Communist Chinese bombarded for 44 days several islands under ROC jurisdiction.

More than 1,500 people, including representatives of state and local governments and leaders from Chicagoland's Chinese-American community, are slated to attend the reception at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, according to Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Chicago Director-General Sheng-tung Yang. The office is the official representation in Chicago of the Republic of China and the sponsor of the event.

"Tonight as we celebrate the Republic of China's National Day, we also honor the valor of the U.S. servicemen who helped my country to successfully prevent the advancement of Chinese Communist troops across the Taiwan Straits beginning August 23, 1958," said Mr. Yang. "We are very grateful to the veterans' commitment to freedom and democracy, for Taiwan has been able to develop into a thriving democracy."

Miss Hsiu Hua Su, a renowned soprano and professor at National Hualien Teacher's College, in Taiwan, will perform several folk songs and an aria from Puccini's "La Boheme". Ms. Marie Yang Lee, of California, will accompany Miss Su on the piano.

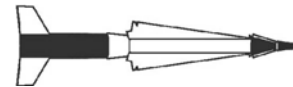
Friends in the media are invited to cover the reception, to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Avenue. Director General Yang and his wife, Mrs. Yang, will begin greeting guests at 6:20 p.m. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening and until the celebration wraps up at 8:45 p.m. For more information, please call TECO Press Officer Ms. Choung-mei Tai (312-616-6716). — END -



Newsletter Input

The last newsletter asked for your inputs. **Chuck Lapsley, Dave O'Connell, and Frank Serpico** responded admirably. (See below) (Dave's and Frank's newspaper articles resulted from their submission of the form letter that Dave prepared for you to submit to your local newspaper.) Many more of you should have something of interest to pass on to our group. Some of you have been to Taiwan since our departure, e.g. **Jack Goldstein, Larry Williams, Hank Weber, Ray Corbin**. How about giving us a description of what's on the old battery, or Bn, sites?

Our Support Troops could let us know where their unit was when it was selected to join 2/71 in Taiwan, how they got there, something about their work in country, and how they got home.



Nike-Hercules models

Chuck Lapsley says he'll bring one of his Nike-Hercules missile models to the next reunion. "If others have made models we may be able to have enough for a battery."

"Here's a little article about my adventures in acquiring plastic models of the Nike Hercules Missile from eBay."

A Model Experience

Walter (Chuck) Lapsley, May 20, 1999

Over the years I have worked frequently on engineering or construction projects that took me away from home for extended periods of time. Winter evenings often left me with spare time that I sometimes used building plastic models of ships and airplanes. On one project (two years in Las Vegas) I managed to build several 1/32 and 1/48 scale models of World War II war planes including a B-25, B-24, B29, P-38, P-40, P-61 Black Widow and a Japanese Zero. Due to shipping problems I left them with the children of some of my colleagues in Las Vegas.

Following our September reunion, my interest was stimulated to build a plastic model of the Nike Hercules Missile. The challenge was finding a model, as the kits were apparently long out of production. I had checked with several hobby shops and ran into a block wall.

I had been working on the Internet, and stumbled across the eBay auction on the Internet. Someone had told me that

you could find almost anything on eBay, so I signed on and started searching for the model under the category of Collectable/Toys/ Plastic. I entered the key word “Hercules Missile” and found three listed models. My research showed that the models were originally issued in 1956 by the Revell Company. The model kit was reissued in 1958 and then issued again in 1984 under the title of History Makers. Both models were at a scale of 1 inch equals 40 feet and included both the missile and the launcher. The military fatigue uniforms were consistent with the period of the 1950’s.

I acquired two models from eBay, one dated 1984 and the other dated 1958. The 1958 model had been partially assembled by an earlier modeler. The detail on the earlier model appears to be a little sharper than the later model and the color of the earlier model is white, rather than the darker brown material of the 1984 model.

Both models made up quite nicely, however the decals had become a bit brittle and needed very special care.

I later bid and won another model with a copyright date of 1956, but haven’t assembled it as yet. I guess I’ll need another rainy winter to get the urge to assemble the third missile.

At present I’m looking for a copy of the Nike Ajax model at the same scale to make up a set. There have been a few Ajax models on the eBay auction, but they have been a little more expensive than I wanted to pay.

These two models of an earlier time have made interesting decorative artifacts for my office. If anyone is interested in recapturing a feeling from that exciting period, and has an interest in model building, I’d recommend searching one out.

Article about Dave O’Connell, and his Taiwan service, in his local newspaper.

Hot time in cold war

By GEORGE W. RHODES / SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

ATTLEBORO — He manned the thin green line that divided Taiwan from communist China and the world from the catastrophe of a third major war.

He endured suffocating heat, constant rain, biting cold, legions of mosquitoes and the dense tension of a looming firestorm which was thick as the ever present mountain fog that blinded friends to friends and cut off the world.

He’s city resident **Dave O’Connell** and he was recently recognized for his participation in a U.S. military operation which blocked an invasion of Taiwan by communist China in

1958.

He was 20 at the time and a corporal in the U.S. Army.

O’Connell and his comrades guarded the “green line,” also known as the “Davis Line,” on the radar scopes of the 2nd Missile Battalion, 71st Army Artillery. The line was electronic and appeared as a green glowing thread in the gloomy missile posts on the mountainous north end of Formosa at the height of the Cold War.

A million communist Chinese were massed on the mainland 75 miles away and their war planes constantly probed the invisible, but explosive demarcation at Mach I speed, only to veer off leaving the tiny, but determined contingent of American defenders with their hearts in their throats and fingers hovering resolutely above the red capped toggle switches that would send Nike Hercules missiles hurtling on their fiery paths toward likely start of World War III.

O’Connell was finally recognized along with hundreds of his comrades for service on the front lines of the Cold War after being ignored for 40 years by the military establishment.

He’s not sure why recognition was never given, but noted that “the Cold War was a “silent time.”

At a ceremony at Fort Bliss in Texas, he was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal which acknowledges his overseas service under combat conditions.

In addition, the Taiwanese government awarded its own and American troops with the “823 Campaign Badge of Honor,” to commemorate the event which they regard as the moment their independence was won.

Lack of recognition has pained O’Connell and other veterans of the silent battle of nerves for decades.

“For years I couldn’t join the VFW because I didn’t have that medal O’Connell said the U.S. award. “We were fully engaged and we didn’t get any recognition. It really bothered me. It made me feel like my service was second class.”

Officially known as the “1958 Queymoy-Matsu Crisis,” the deployment of U.S. missile units to mountains of Taiwan and the Seventh Fleet to Taiwan Straits is credited with staving off an invasion by communist China which could have overrun the tiny, brave bastion of democracy.

The missiles used to guard the gate were key to deterring the war, O’Connell said.

The Nike Hercules was capable of carrying nuclear

warheads with the destructive force of the bomb which leveled Hiroshima during World War II. He, along with the Chinese communists didn't know for sure if the missiles were armed with nuclear weapons, but suspected some of them were.

Ultimately the enemy did not want to take the chance, especially with President Dwight Eisenhower commanding on the other side, O'Connell said.

"It was the nuclear deterrent and the resolve of President Eisenhower to defend that island that did it," O'Connell said. "The Chinese didn't come because they didn't want to get nuked. Eisenhower wasn't a bluffer."

The soldiers of 2nd Missile Battalion were on alert 24-hours a day. Half the unit spent 12 hours at the missile firing outpost dug into mountain heights near the village of Young Mei, while the rest of the unit manned ground defenses around the site.

The duty was demanding and the stakes were high.

"We were the tripwire," O'Connell said. "If they came across (the green line) we were at complete war with China."

During missile duty O'Connell was responsible for maintaining the high tech radar equipment that tracked enemy forays and guided the Nike Hercules, forerunner of today's Patriot missiles, to its target.

While on ground defense, O'Connell carried a bazooka and there was no respite from the watch. An invasion seemed imminent.

"The fear was always there," O'Connell remembered. "When you are on red alert, your adrenaline is always rushing. We were sitting there waiting to be attacked, it was as if the Chinese were looking into our eyeballs."

The environment didn't help. The hilly stockades were constantly shrouded in fog, lights weren't allowed and generators drowned out normal noises, creating a surreal environment for a surreal task.

"The scary part was the anticipation, everyday we went up that hill but we never knew if we were coming down," O'Connell said.

O'Connell is proud of the mission to turn back communism, which he described as a silent, but successful battle.

"It was a cold war and a silent thing, but because the U.S. and Eisenhower went to their aid, (Taiwan) is still there today," O'Connell said. "Our operation was probably the most successful military operation of the Cold War because it stopped the communist Chinese dead in their tracks."

Article about Frank Serpico and his Taiwan Service in his local newspaper.

(This has been edited for space reasons. You will miss Frank's duty in Germany during the Berlin Crisis, and exploits during two tours as an Artilleryman in Viet Nam.)

Chino Observer

Long Beach, WA, June 2, 1999

Frank Serpico: A warm hero in the Cold War

By Stan Thompson

Ocean Park—A high school dropout at 16, Frank Serpico determined to make something of himself in the Army.

But, once enlisted for a career, he realized that an education stood between him and high rank. Determinedly, he earned three college degrees including a master's, and a diploma in business administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania — and retired a full colonel.

In the meantime, he distinguished himself as a soldier by serving on a highly classified mission early in the Cold War helping Taiwan fight a Communist takeover, being poised for action in Germany during the Berlin crisis that threatened to become World War III, serving two stress-filled tours in Vietnam and preparing for a third as the war ended, and helping NATO in Germany keep borders intact. For much of his career he was responsible for field and air artillery, including nuclear-capable missiles.

Until recently, Serpico's military exploits and contributions remained mostly hidden behind his reserved and unpretentious persona. But recently, some 40 years later, previously hush-hush classified wrappings have been removed from little-known but critical action in the Taiwan Straits in 1958. The newly public documents revealed that Serpico and others of the second Missile Battalion 71st Artillery Regiment, on a secret mission named the Quemoy/Matsu Crisis, helped Taiwan forces turn back a communist takeover.

At long last the U.S. Army could publicly honor Serpico and his fellow servicemen. Recently, at Fort Bliss, Texas, Serpico was presented with the coveted Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. In addition, a thankful Republic of China has also presented Serpico with a Badge of Honor medal struck especially for the occasion.

The medals were fitting for a man whose dream was to become a professional soldier and serve his country.

As a New Jersey native growing into adulthood with no resources to attend college, Serpico sensed a bleak future as a factory worker. At 16, he dropped out of high school to enlist in the Army. Military service wasn't foreign to his family. His father had immigrated from Italy and earned U.S. citizenship serving in the Marines.

Serpico saw a future in the Army and made up his mind to become a professional soldier. "I found out early," he says, "that without an education, there wasn't much chance of becoming an officer."

Once his enlistment ended, and backed by the G.I. Bill, Serpico earned college eligibility through prep school. While there he displayed a prowess on the football field that earned him a scholarship at the University of Delaware.

While there, Serpico made the Fraternity All-American Team, and set what he considers to be a collegiate football record for the most points scored by one player in the shortest time—13 points in 10 playing-time seconds. Playing as an end, "I caught a pass and scored," he explains, his eyes lighted as though it had just happened. "I kicked and missed the extra point. When I kicked off and ran down field, they let the ball bounce into the end zone and I covered it for a TD. And I kicked the extra point."

At college Serpico entered the Army's ROTC program and graduated an officer. When marriage beckoned, he made it clear to his fiancé that she would be an Army wife, he says, or she should find someone else. He moved 22 times within three years, often used as a "trouble-shooter," he explains, "sent to straighten out problem units."

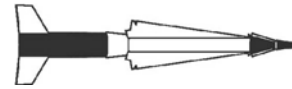
Assigned to an air defense missile program, much of his career was of a classified nature. There were times when he would be required to drop whatever he was doing and unexplainably leave on extended assignments, sometimes picked up at work and whisked away. "I'd get word to my wife," he says, "to pack her clothes, take the baby and go home."

In the late '50s, with the Cold War heating up, his unit was alerted to help Taiwan fight a communist takeover. When asked if he would join a "classified mission" there, "I told them, 'Yes,'" he says. "'That's my chosen profession.' You can learn just so much in school."

Keeping the Chinese communists in line

Serpico's artillery was positioned to "intercept anything coming over," he says. "And we were the first air defense with nuclear capability for ground targets. That scared the hell out of the Chinese." So much so that the communists tried everything—including sending frogmen—to infiltrate his missile base defense.

After the crisis quieted, "we trained the Chinese to operate the equipment themselves," Serpico says, "turned it over to them and left." He recently received a "Thank you" medal from the Chinese Nationals. "They never forgot that we helped preserve their island." Serpico says, "for which they are grateful."



Some stuff from the 1998 Reunion

Many of you would like the current addresses of your buddies. If you did not go to the reunion in El Paso, you may be interested in the "Memories of Our Tour in Taiwan" (132 pages). The following outline will give you an idea of what is included in the book. If you are interested, fill in the Order Form on the back page and send a check to the Assn.

- Introduction
- Lineage
- History
 - Quemoy & Matsu Chronology
 - The Breckenridge
 - Operation Hurry Up!
 - B Btry Unit History
 - McGranahan History
 - 2/71 Deployment
 - News Clippings (Sep 58-Aug 59) (21 pages)
- Letters of Appreciation
 - Legislative Yuan
 - Control Yuan
 - LTC Greenberg, Bn CO
 - MG Cavin, CG, Ft. Bliss
- Troop Stories (9)
- Troops
 - Known addresses
 - Troops We're Looking For
 - Deceased Members
- Photos
 - Greenberg & Walker
 - Unit photos (Hqs, A, B, C, D)

Name: _____
E-mail address : _____
Address (If changed recently): _____
Telephone Number: _____

I would like to join the 2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan)
Association

Enclosed is \$15 for annual dues. _____

I would like to order:

Taiwan Medal (823 Campaign Badge of Honor)

exact replica* \$20 ea. _____

Taiwan Medal Lapel Pin* \$10 ea. _____

* *We will order these for you*

Memory Book \$15 ea. _____

2/71 After Action Report \$20 ea. _____

Reunion Baseball Cap \$7 ea. _____

ADA Magazine w/2/71 article \$1 ea. _____

VFW Mag. Cold War article \$1 ea. _____

Total enclosed (Dues and stuff above): _____

Are you interested in a **trip to Taiwan** in 2001?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, how many would participate. _____

Names of ROC military you would like to see in Taipei and
the battery to which they were assigned:

2nd Missile Bn, 71st Artillery (Taiwan) Assn.
271 Shady Oak Drive
New Market, AL 35761

TO: