

Mace



Developed in 1954, the Mace, like its predecessor, the Matador, was a tactical surface-launched missile designed to destroy ground targets. The Mace could be launched from a mobile trailer or bomb-proof shelter. It was propelled by a solid-fuel booster rocket that fell away following takeoff and was then powered up to speeds of 650 mph by a J33 engine. The first version created, known as Mace

A, used a terrain identification system, called ATRAN (Automatic Terrain Recognition And Navigation), to correct the missile flight path if deviation was detected. It was first deployed to USAF forces in Europe in 1959 and remained in service until the mid-1960s. The As then became target drones, due to their resemblance to manned aircraft. The second version, Mace B (above), was developed in 1964 and

employed an inertial guidance system. It had twice the range of the A. The Mace B remained operational in Europe and the Pacific until the early 1970s.