

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE COLD WAR MUSEUM®

# THE COLD WAR TIMES

## The Dragon and the Bear in the Room



SPRING 2026



COLDWAR.ORG



# ABOUT THE COLD WAR MUSEUM®

**THE COLD WAR MUSEUM** was founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers Jr., son of the famed U-2 Pilot, and John Welch to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about the Cold War and its legacy.

Since 2011, the Museum has been located at Vint Hill, Virginia, on the grounds of the former Vint Hill Farms Station, also known as Monitoring Station No. 1, which was a Top Secret Army signals intelligence base during WWII and the Cold War. The Museum shares a campus with Old Bust Head Brewery, Covert Cafe, and Vint Hill Craft Winery and other businesses.

The museum has a Midwest Chapter near Milwaukee, WI and Francis Gary Powers Jr.'s traveling exhibit on the U-2 Incident of 1960 helps promote the museum internationally. Artifacts from The Cold War Museum are on display in institutions such as the International Spy Museum in Washington D.C., the Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum near Omaha, NE, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Museum on Bolling AFB, and the Atom Muzeum in the Czech Republic.

Our collections are particularly strong in signals intelligence (SIGINT), image intelligence (IMINT), the history of Vint Hill during both WWII and the Cold

War, Cold War Berlin, Civil Defense, atomic weapons, the U-2, USS Liberty and USS Pueblo Incidents, Cold War cultural and Olympic competitions, Strategic Air Command, submarine detection (SOSUS), the Cuban Missile Crisis, the STASI (East German secret police), and Soviet and East German disinformation campaigns. Many of our artifacts are rare one-of-a-kind items while some of our exhibits were created and donated by those who did the work. The Cold War Museum is an all-volunteer organization, drawing upon our staff's extensive Cold War experience as professionals in the military and intelligence communities. *We are the Real People Explaining the Real Things.*

### HOURS

11-4 PM Saturdays

1-4 PM Sundays

Other Hours by Appointment

### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

7172 Lineweaver Rd  
Vint Hill, VA 20187

### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 861526  
Vint Hill, VA 20187

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The Cold War Museum® is an all-volunteer operation. 100 percent of your contributions are applied to fulfilling the Museum's mission. Contributions to the Museum above and beyond membership are also fully deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines for contributions to 501(c)(3) organizations.

**JOIN ONLINE: CWM\_MEMBERSHIP**

# COLD WAR TIMES



## OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE COLD WAR MUSEUM®

Francis Gary Powers, Jr.  
*Founder and Interim Chairman  
Publisher, Cold War Times*

Arman Amini  
*Executive Director*

Jason Hall  
*Executive Director Emeritus*

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The Cold War Museum®

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Front cover photo courtesy of John F. Davies®

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Cold War Museum® is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to education, preservation, and research on the global, ideological, and political confrontations between East and West from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It is a great honor to join the Cold War Museum as Executive Director. I want to begin by thanking Gary Powers, the board, our curators, and the many docents and volunteers who have built and sustained this remarkable institution over the years.

As I step into this role, what has impressed me most is the community behind the museum. Many of you have devoted years to preserving these stories, guiding visitors, sharing personal experiences from the era, and helping ensure this history is not forgotten. I feel grateful to join that effort.

In the months ahead, I am excited to work with many of you to continue growing the museum's reach by welcoming more visitors, expanding awareness of our mission, and strengthening the fundraising needed to support the museum's future.

I will also be hosting informal office hours to get to know members, volunteers, and supporters of the museum. I would welcome the chance to hear your ideas and perspectives.

Please also keep an eye out for our participation in Give Local Piedmont, which will be an important opportunity to support the museum's work.

Thank you again for the warm welcome. I look forward to meeting many of you soon.

## **Arman Amini**

Executive Director  
The Cold War Museum



*Mobilizing Generosity Into Action*

[The Cold War Museum | Give Local Piedmont 2026](#)

# MUSEUM CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The Board of Directors, docents, and volunteers continue to move the mission of The Cold War Museum® forward. I am pleased to provide the following update for the Spring 2026 Cold War Times.

**Save the Date for Give Local Piedmont** is scheduled for May 12, 2026. Early Giving starts April 28. Visit this link starting on April 28 to make a donation: [The Cold War Museum | Give Local Piedmont 2026](#). Once early giving starts on April 28, there will be opportunities to use matching grants and bonuses based on daily totals. I am pleased to let you know that we have received a \$6,000 matching grant from Sue and Al Rivera, to be matched as part of the 2026 Give Local Piedmont campaign. That means that for every dollar you donate to the museum thru Give Local Piedmont during a matching grant cycle your donation will not only be doubled but will also count toward additional cash prizes from Give Local Piedmont. I look forward to having you join me by making a donation to support our efforts. Thank you for your continued support.

**Executive Director Search** – I am pleased to report that The Cold War Museum has appointed Arman Amini as its new Executive Director. Amini will support the Museum's continued preservation and public engagement efforts at its historic home on the grounds of the former Vint Hill Farms Station. He brings experience in nonprofit leadership, education, and organizational management, having helped mission-driven organizations strengthen operations, clarify priorities, and grow responsibly. His appointment reflects the Museum's focus on pairing careful historical stewardship with

steady organizational leadership.

Arman's background in leadership and public service makes him uniquely suited to help steward The Cold War Museum's mission. He understands both the historical weight of what we preserve here and the importance of helping new generations learn what took place at Vint Hill. Amini noted, "It is an honor to support The Cold War Museum as their Executive Director. Vint Hill represents an important part of American history, and I look forward to helping the Museum continue to share these stories with visitors, students, and the broader community."

In this role, Amini will work alongside Museum board members, curator, and volunteers to support operations, partnerships, educational programming, and long-term planning, while maintaining the Museum's close connection to the history of Vint Hill and the individuals who served there.

**Docent and Volunteers Needed** – The Cold War Museum® has a small, dedicated staff of docents who make sure the museum is open on the weekends and for private tours mid-week. If you would like to help support our efforts by volunteering, please let us know.

**Partnership with Likeminded Institutions** – The CWM Board of Directors has authorized me to find a partner institution to help us expand our outreach and better display our multimillion-dollar collection, enabling more people to learn about Cold War history. We are in talks with several different organizations, some in the Northern Virginia region and others in different states or countries. One institution has expressed interest in



partnering with The Cold War Museum in conjunction with their Cold War studies program. If you have a suggestion of an organization that would have an interest in partnering with us, please let me know.

**Archived Cold War Conversation Lectures** – If you are a member of The Cold War Museum and would like to watch one of our previous Cold War Conversation Lectures, we now have an archive of past programs available for viewing.

Every new and renewing member that pays their annual membership dues starting at \$35 per year will get one free program to view of their choice from our archive listed on page 18. This is our way of thanking members for their continued support. As an added bonus, our YouTube Channel [The Cold War Museum - YouTube](#) has 19 older programs available for viewing for FREE. Please contact us if you would like to request an archived program to view.

**FRANCIS GARY POWERS, JR.**  
Founder and Interim Chairman  
The Cold War Museum

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TODAY!**

*The Cold War Museum®  
is a 501 ©(3) charitable organization*

*Donate now via this link:  
[www.zeffy.com](http://www.zeffy.com)*

# FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors is the governing body of our nonprofit organization. This governance is high level: strategy, oversight, and accountability of the overall activities of the museum. Our Board is made up of eight seasoned senior executives of varying professional backgrounds (USAF, CIA, Chamber of Commerce, Real Estate, Nonprofits, Accounting) who work pro bono for the benefit of the museum.

Here are some of the recent topics of Board of Directors discussions and actions since our last newsletter:

- ◆ Appointed an Executive Director
- ◆ Started dialogs with several like-minded institutions about partnering and or merging
- ◆ Secured a \$9000 donation from a DC Cyber Security company and a \$1000 donation from the Lorton VFW
- ◆ Helped to raise over \$20,000 during Giving Tuesday
- ◆ Secured an upcoming article in Inside McLean, Bus Tours Magazine, and other publications
- ◆ Authorized the placement of museum brochures at Virginia Welcome Centers along the I-95 corridor
- ◆ Gave museum and Cold War presentations to multiple organizations around the country and by Zoom



## GOVERNING BOARD

### OFFICERS

Francis Gary Powers Jr., (MPA, MA US History)

**Interim Chairman**

**Biography:** <https://garypowers.com>

John Welch (MPA)

**Vice Chairman**

**Biography:** [www.linkedin.com/in/johncwelch1](http://www.linkedin.com/in/johncwelch1)

Francis Gary Powers Jr., (MPA, MA US History)

**Acting Secretary**

**Biography:** <https://garypowers.com>

Adelbert "Buz" Carpenter (Col. USAF Ret.)

**2019 Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame Inductee**

**Treasurer**

**Biography:** <http://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/col-adelbert-buz-carpenter>

### DIRECTORS

Chad Manske (Brig Gen USAF Ret.)

**Biography:** BRIGADIER GENERAL CHAD T. MANSKE > Air Force > Biography Display

Ambassador Charles Ray

**Past Chairman (2021-2022)**

**Biography:** [Charles A. Ray - Wikipedia](#)

Ms. Pauline Thompson

Founder, President, CEO, Tysons Realty, Inc.

**Biography:** <https://tysonsrealtyinc.com/about-us/>

Charles P. "Chuck" Wilson (Col. USAF, Ret.)

**Past Chairman (2019-2023)**

**Biography:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck\\_Wilson\\_\(pilot\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck_Wilson_(pilot))

Maureen V. Wingfield (Senior Intelligence Service CIA, Ret.)

## MEET OUR BOARD: CWM\_BOARD

# MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## **THE COLD WAR MUSEUM®**

P.O. Box 861526 \* Vint Hill, VA 20187

[www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org) \* (540) 341-2008

PSA For Immediate Release, Please

February 9, 2026

### **Arman Amini Appointed as Executive Director of The Cold War Museum**

Vint Hill, VA—The Cold War Museum is proud to announce the appointment of Arman Amini as its new Executive Director. Amini will support the Museum’s continued preservation and public engagement efforts at its historic home on the grounds of the former Vint Hill Farms Station.

Amini brings experience in nonprofit leadership, education, and organizational management, having helped mission-driven organizations strengthen operations, clarify priorities, and grow responsibly. His appointment reflects the Museum’s focus on pairing careful historical stewardship with steady organizational leadership.

According to Founder and Chairman Francis Gary Powers, Jr., “Arman’s background in leadership and public service makes him uniquely suited to help steward The Cold War Museum’s mission. He understands both the historical weight of what we preserve here and the importance of helping new generations learn what took place at Vint Hill.”

The Cold War Museum preserves and interprets the history, artifacts, and stories connected to the intelligence work carried out at Vint Hill and throughout the Cold War. Located in one of Vint Hill’s original barns once used by the Army Security Agency during World War II, the Museum stands on ground that played a direct role in the development of modern signals intelligence.

Amini noted, “It is an honor to support The Cold War Museum as a volunteer leader. This site represents an important part of American history, and I look forward to helping the Museum continue to share these stories with visitors, students, and the broader community.”

In this role, Amini will work alongside Museum board members, curator, and volunteers to support operations, partnerships, educational programming, and long-term planning, while maintaining the Museum’s close connection to the history of Vint Hill and the individuals who served there.

###

For more than 30 years, The Cold War Museum (CWM) has been the steward of honoring Cold War veterans, preserving Cold War history, and educating future generations about this time period. Headquartered at Vint Hill, the CWM features a wide range of Cold War exhibits that are entertaining and educational for visitors of all ages. The Cold War Museum is a publicly funded non-profit organization that relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations to sustain its operations.

Hours: Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. While admission is free, donations are welcomed. For private mid-week group tour information, call (804) 342-9652. For more information, call (540) 341-2008 or visit [www.ColdWar.org](http://www.ColdWar.org).

In 1996, Francis Gary Powers, Jr., and John C. Welch founded The Cold War Museum to preserve Cold War history, honor Cold War veterans and educate students about this time period. Currently, a mobile exhibition of historical artifacts associated with the U-2 Incident of May 1960 is traveling around the world promoting The Cold War Museum facility at Vint Hill, VA. The mobile display has been exhibited nationally at the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency Cryptologic Museum, the Strategic Air Command Museum, the United States Air Force Museum, the Atomic Testing Museum, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National War College. Internationally the exhibition has been displayed at the Norwegian Aviation Center in Norway and the Allied Museum in Germany. For more information about the Cold War Museum, please visit [www.ColdWar.org](http://www.ColdWar.org).

# THE DRAGON AND BEAR IN THE ROOM



## Chinese and Soviet Involvement in the Vietnam War

By John F. Davies

“Best turn it into a wider war...I’m afraid you really ought to send more troops to the South...Don’t be afraid of US Intervention, at most its no worse than having another Korean War...The Chinese army is prepared, and if America takes the risk of attacking North Vietnam, the Chinese army will march in at once. Our troops want a war now.”<sup>(1)</sup>

Mao Zedong to the North Vietnamese, Beijing, 1964

America’s war in Vietnam has been the subject of countless books, articles, and documentaries. Yet 50 years after war’s end, the role of the two Communist superpowers, China and the Soviet Union, is still little known. With the end of the Cold War and the passage of time, much new and revealing information has come to light showing the breadth and depth of Sino/Soviet support. That commitment often put Chinese and Soviet troops in direct combat against the Americans, something which both sides kept a closely guarded secret during the war and years and afterward. It is only now that the real story can be told.

Beginning in the 1930s, Vietnamese Communist leader Ho Chi Minh maintained contacts with the Chinese Communists and their leader Mao Zedong. With the start of Ho’s war against French Colonial forces in 1946, the ties became even closer.<sup>(2)</sup> After taking power in 1949, the newly established People’s Republic of China ( PRC), worked at establishing diplomatic relations with their Vietnamese counterparts. This culminated with China recognizing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam ( DRV), on 18 January, 1950.<sup>(3)</sup>

Political and military assistance soon followed, with arms and teams of People’s Liberation Army (PLA) advisors integrating themselves into the ranks of the Viet Minh. It can be said that Chinese assistance was essential in contributing to France’s eventual

defeat. The climactic battle of Dien Bien Phu for example, involved extensive Chinese involvement, including China’s supplying all the artillery used during the siege.<sup>(4)</sup>

With the signing of the Geneva Accords in 1954, hostilities in Indochina ended. However, the agreement left Vietnam a divided country, with the Communists under Ho Chi Minh in the North, and a pro Western Government under Ngo Dinh Diem in the South. Economic aid to North Vietnam from China soon followed, greatly helping to rebuild the nations economy and infrastructure.<sup>(5)</sup>

However, in January, 1959 the course of events changed. That year, the Vietnamese Communist party plenum approved “Resolution 15”, calling for



**Viet Minh General Vo Nguyen Giap with his staff being briefed by Chinese PLA advisors during the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, ca 1954 photo courtesy of VNP**

a more active role in supporting the Viet Cong in South Vietnam. Hanoi then prepared to fight Diem’s army, as well as the United States, whose presence in the South was increasing.<sup>(6)</sup> At the same time, relations between Moscow and Beijing were fraying to the breaking point. Concerned that the developing Sino/Soviet split could weaken the reunification effort, Ho Chi Minh appealed to both sides for unity. While his efforts preserved support from both nations, it nevertheless failed to prevent the growing schism between the two Communist

superpowers.<sup>(7)</sup> In 1961, the new Kennedy administration increased US involvement in Southeast Asia. China responded by increasing aid to the Viet Cong, contributing to greater gains in the field. With the deaths Diem and Kennedy, the new American President Lyndon Johnson pursued a more aggressive policy towards Vietnam. He greatly escalated America's involvement the war, and made preparations to directly commit US forces there.<sup>(8)</sup>



Chinese Propaganda Poster in support of the Viet Cong, 1963 , photo courtesy of Pinterest/ chinese posters.net

Then in July of 1964 a “Most Important Meeting” was held in Hanoi. It was here that delegations from China, Laos, and Vietnam mutually agreed to militarily resist the Americans.<sup>(9)</sup> A month later, on 2 August, North Vietnamese PT boats attacked the American destroyer USS Maddox in the Tonkin Gulf. In response, President Johnson ordered airstrikes on North Vietnam. Soon afterward the Gulf of Tonkin resolution was passed by Congress, giving Johnson unprecedented authority to escalate the war in Indochina.<sup>(10)</sup>

China's condemnation was swift and severe, and

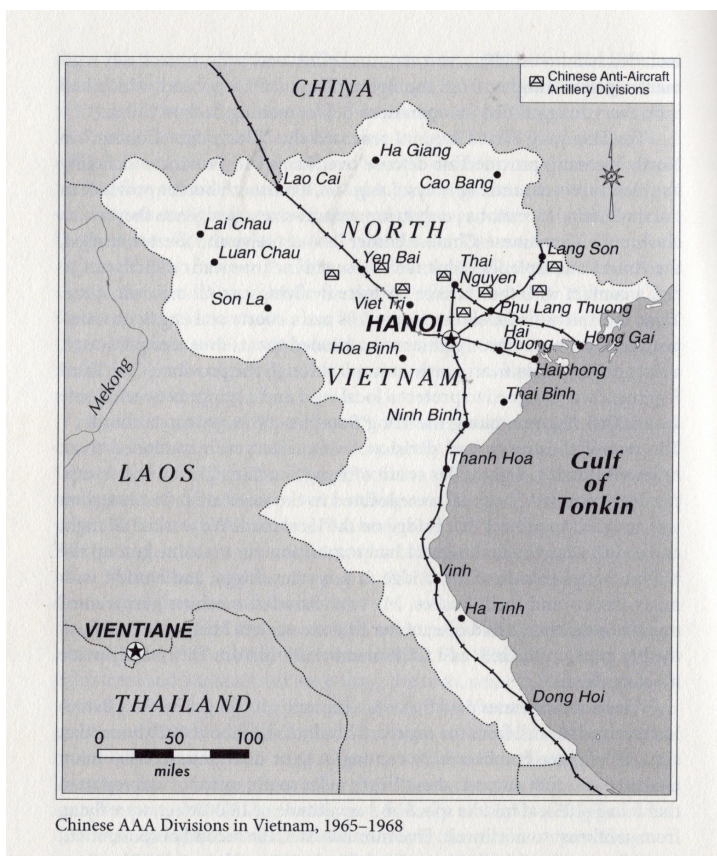
within 24 hours MiG-17 fighters arrived in North Vietnam to form the nucleus of the DRV's new Air Force. Shipments of Anti Aircraft artillery ( AAA), also arrived from China.<sup>(11)</sup> The Soviet Union ( USSR), whose support of the DRV had been moderate, condemned the attacks as well, but their protests were more muted. In a diplomatic note, Premier Nikita Khrushchev advised Johnson to “show composure and restraint”, but the President's curt response, stating that America “will be prompt and firm in its positive reply to acts of aggression”, ended all hope of negotiation.<sup>(12)</sup>

In February of 1965 the die was cast when President Johnson authorized airstrikes against North Vietnam under Operation Rolling Thunder. Then on 8 March, elements from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division landed at Da Nang, making America's commitment irrevocable.<sup>(13)</sup> In response, on 9 June, 1965, the first Chinese troops crossed the border and into North Vietnam. The flood of men and material continued until by the end of the year there were more than 160,000 PLA troops deployed there.<sup>(14)</sup> This then was the beginning of a many year's long commitment which cost China dearly in men and material.

The attitude of the of the Soviets had changed as well. After Khrushchev was deposed on October of 1964, a new regime under Leonid Brezhnev came to power in the Kremlin. Moscow soon began mending fences with Hanoi. The new Soviet ambassador, Iliia S. Scherbakov, had already established close contacts with the DRV leadership.<sup>(15)</sup> Then on 6 February, 1965, Premier Alexei Kosygin paid a state visit to Hanoi, where he received a tumultuous welcome. During the visit, American aircraft struck North Vietnam in retaliation to a Viet Cong attack on the US base at Pleiku. This caused the Soviets to take a more militant stance, and by Spring large quantities of arms, including SA-2 surface to air missiles ( SAMs) were shipped into North Vietnam. Where it was once a bystander, the USSR was now an active belligerent.<sup>(16)</sup>

In the meantime Mao had increased Chinese participation in the war, and by 1967, a total of 181,000 PLA troops had been deployed to Vietnam. This huge force consisted of 21 AAA regiments, as well as railroad, highway, and combat engineering units. They were organized into an extensive

command structure under the leadership of General



**Deployment of Chinese AAA assets in North Vietnam, photo courtesy of iaobing Li**

Luo Ruiqing. <sup>(17)</sup>

The AAA regiments were deployed North of Hanoi, covering the border region, the strategic rail junction at Yen Bai, and the Thai Nguyen steelworks, making up about 35 percent of total anti aircraft assets. <sup>(18)</sup> All units served six month tours, the reason being to give anti aircraft troops needed combat experience. Their armament was made up of 100mm, 76mm, 57mm, and 37mm artillery pieces, which were of Korean War vintage and therefore outmoded. In spite of this, PLA troops used innovative methods of deception and camouflage to lure US aircraft into range. However, as the air offensive continued, Chinese AAA became somewhat less effective. This was due to the increased number of US airstrikes, and the influence of Mao's Cultural Revolution, which emphasized political instruction over technical matters. <sup>(20)</sup> In spite of this, PLA anti aircraft troops made the best with what they had, accounting for 1,707 US Aircraft shot down. <sup>(21)</sup>

Chinese engineering troops also contributed as well, repairing North Vietnam's railroads, building new highway networks, setting up coast defenses, and performing emergency repairs on bomb damage. Altogether a total of seven engineering divisions were deployed, <sup>(22)</sup> their efforts being vital in keeping North Vietnam's infrastructure functioning during the American aerial offensive.

Unlike the Korean War, the Chinese military presence in North Vietnam was low-keyed and covert. PLA troops selected for deployment were transported to the border region, where they received orientation on the country itself and the current tactical situation. Interestingly, all Chinese personnel were required to change into North Vietnamese army (NVA) uniforms as a cover for their mission. <sup>(23)</sup> Once in Vietnam, the Chinese received a genuinely warm welcome, however, they also experienced a great deal of hardship. Besides the dangers of combat, the oppressive heat, monsoon rains, and thriving insects were a constant plague to the Chinese soldiers. Illness was also epidemic, and at any time at least 30 percent of PLA formations were afflicted, in some cases approaching 60 percent. <sup>(24)</sup>

Along with troops, China provided North Vietnam with vast quantities of economic and material aid. During the course of the war, the PRC sent : 214 million small arms, 1.2 million rounds of ammunition, 70,000 artillery pieces, and 18.1 million artillery shells. Assistance also included: trucks, naval vessels, armored vehicles, aircraft, medical supplies and equipment, as well as 11.2 million sets of uniforms. All totaling at the equivalent of \$ 20 billion US Dollars. <sup>(25)</sup>

However, this commitment was not without cost. By the end of China's involvement, the PLA suffered a total of 8,115 casualties, with 1,715 killed in action. Sadly, their bodies were not transported home but instead buried in Vietnamese cemeteries. Something which until recent times greatly distressed the families of the fallen. <sup>(26)</sup>



**Chinese PLA Soldier in North Vietnam, wearing NVA uniform with Mao button above left breast pocket, Photo courtesy of Enemy Militaria**



**Soviet missile instructors with trainees at a hidden site in North Vietnam, 1965, photo courtesy of Inter-Regional Public organization of veterans of the Vietnam War**

Soviet involvement was also increasing.

In March of 1965, the first Soviet shipments of SA-2 SAMs arrived in North Vietnam. With them came teams of Soviet troops to instruct in the operation of the missiles. In order to gain breathing space to train the Vietnamese, the Soviet commanders, with Moscow's approval, committed their missile troops into combat against the Americans. On 24 July, 1965 Soviet manned SA-2 sites engaged US Aircraft for the first time. This came as a sudden shock to the Americans, with SAMs downing a sizable number of US aircraft, forcing them to radically change tactics.<sup>(27)</sup>

While the missile troops were battling the air strikes, the Soviet advisors took to training the Vietnamese on the complexities of operating the SA-2. This was usually done in camouflaged and concealed sites, with translators assisting in the instruction. A number of the Vietnamese were also sent to the Soviet Union for nine months of missile training. Upon their return, and with time and experience, the North Vietnamese SAM crews proved themselves to be adept at engaging with and shooting down American aircraft.<sup>(28)</sup>

Soviet aviation units were also heavily involved, including the introduction of the MiG-21 fighter to North Vietnam's Air Force. This gave North Vietnamese airmen an equalizer against the more technologically advanced American aircraft. Many Vietnamese were also sent to the USSR for instruction on the MiG-21, as well as other technical systems. Radar and air defense centers were set up, and aircraft were dispersed and husbanded for the opportune moment to intercept US formations.



**Vietnamese student pilots being instructed on the MiG-21 fighter in the Soviet Union, ca 1966, photo courtesy of Vietnamwarpics**

The Soviet aviation advisors came from front line squadrons, acting as instructors and evaluators. A detachment of advisors were billeted at every active airfield, where they briefed Vietnamese airmen on flying techniques, new aircraft systems, and worked with them in perfecting countermeasures against US tactics. They also

assisted with repair and trouble shooting of maintenance issues. Along with countering manned aircraft, the Soviets helped the Vietnamese in dealing with American reconnaissance drones, which were making increasing overflights of North Vietnam. <sup>(29)</sup> Unlike during the Korean war, there is at this point little hard evidence that Soviet pilots actually flew against US aircraft. However, based on the experience of Soviet missile troops being in combat, as well as anecdotal accounts from US Airmen, there exists the possibility (Most likely during the early part of the air war), that Soviet pilots may have flown in action against the Americans. <sup>(30)</sup>

The third and least known element of Soviet assistance involved intelligence, both military and technical. Beginning in the mid 1950s, the Soviet KGB worked with the DRV on signals intelligence (SIGINT) operations against the South. Over time, a secure communications network was set up, providing contact with forces throughout the DRV as well as in South Vietnam. Soviet military intelligence (GRU) was also involved, their teams gathering information on US tactics and equipment. The air campaign indeed supplied the Soviets with an intelligence bonanza. For example, the recovery of a complete escape capsule from an F-111 tactical fighter. GRU teams were involved in the interrogation of downed US airmen, as well as providing specialists to counter American electronic warfare (ECM) operations. Soviet intelligence trawlers and submarines also monitored US naval and air operations, providing early warning to the DRV of impending airstrikes. <sup>(31)</sup>

Like China, the USSR made great efforts to keep its involvement covert. All Soviet personnel went through a thorough vetting process before deployment, and were given the cover of "Technical Specialist". Once in Vietnam, Soviet advisors were always in the company of an interpreter. To prevent being mistaken for an American, they carried an official document identifying them as Soviet military. And like the Chinese, Soviet personnel also suffered from heat, rain, insects, and disease. <sup>(32)</sup>

Material aid from the Soviets was also generous, including: 2000 tanks, 1700 Armored vehicles, 7000 Artillery pieces, 5000 Anti aircraft guns, 158 Surface

to air missile launchers, and 120 helicopters. Annual arms shipments totaled at \$ 450 million US Dollars. <sup>(33)</sup>



**Soviet intelligence trawler shadowing the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea in the Gulf of Tonkin, ca 1969, photo courtesy Public Domain**

From the beginning to war's end, a total of 11,000 Soviet troops served in North Vietnam, with the loss of 16 dead from combat or other causes. <sup>(34)</sup>

From the very beginning of America's direct involvement in Vietnam, consideration of Chinese and Soviet reaction was always on the minds of decision makers in Washington. President Johnson constantly spoke about his fear of provoking China and the Soviets into a full scale war. <sup>(35)</sup> Proposals from Saigon and the Pentagon which made military sense but could have expanded the war were immediately shot down by Johnson for this reason <sup>(36)</sup> The US policy of gradualism, with its restrictive rules of engagement, was implemented so as not to be deliberately provocative, thus giving the initiative to the Communist side. <sup>(37)</sup> Declassified documents also show that the CIA had detailed knowledge of the vast Communist forces deployed in North Vietnam. <sup>(38)</sup> However, the existence of Chinese and Soviet involvement was deliberately kept from the public, likely from fear of causing a potential superpower confrontation.

The year 1968 marked a turning point in the war. The Communist Tet offensive caused grievous losses to NVA and Viet Cong Forces, but also turned US domestic opinion against the war and forced President Johnson to halt the bombing campaign above the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel. That year also began the first round of peace negotiations in Paris,

something the Soviets had covertly supported while the Chinese had vehemently opposed it.<sup>(39)</sup>

Other forces also came into play. In China, the Cultural Revolution created a huge turmoil within the country which filtered down and degraded the effectiveness of Chinese troops in Vietnam.<sup>(40)</sup> After the death of Ho Chi Minh in 1969, tensions between China and the Soviets reached a point to where a shooting war appeared imminent. As a result, in March, China withdrew its anti aircraft troops from North Vietnam, while at the same time deploying some of its engineering units to Laos.<sup>(41)</sup> The level of aid from Beijing also lessened, and as a result, the Soviet presence increased, making them the dominant arms supplier to the DRV.

In Washington, the incoming Nixon administration made ending the Vietnam War its top priority. In the Fall of 1969, as a way to force an end to the fighting, President Richard Nixon engineered a near confrontation with the Soviets under the code name of Operation Duck Hook.<sup>(42)</sup> However, with the thaw of relations with China in 1971, Nixon and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger took the opportunity for back channel diplomacy to influence the peace talks in Paris.<sup>(43)</sup> It was also during this period that Nixon began the withdrawal and draw down of American forces in Southeast Asia. However, this did not stop the flow of Communist aid, in this case coming mostly from the USSR.

On 30 March, 1972, the North Vietnamese began what has been called the Easter offensive, occupying huge swaths of South Vietnam. However, this invasion was met with a fierce response from South Vietnamese forces, backed by massive American air power. By fall, the offensive had been blunted, and there appeared to be progress at the Paris Peace talks.

When the North Vietnamese delegation walked out of the talks in December, 1972, American B-52 bombers commenced an aerial assault on North Vietnam. This marked the final chapter of America's war, where massive flights of bombers encountered hundreds of SAMs fired against them, so many that in time the NVA literally ran out of missiles.<sup>(44)</sup>

With the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in



**Soviet technical specialists inspecting wreckage from a downed B-52, 1972, photo courtesy of Inter-Regional Public Organization of Veterans of the Vietnam War**

January, 1973, hostilities in Vietnam finally ended. However, for all intents and purposes, aid from China and the Soviets continued until the fall of Saigon in 1975. In time however, China turned to supporting the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and their leader Pol Pot. After the death of Mao in 1976, the new regime in Beijing continued the relationship between their two countries. Territorial disputes over maritime issues and offshore islands also occurred. This created much animosity between China and Vietnam, causing their later border war in 1979. The previous fraternal relationship of the two countries had in a short time soured to the point of alienation.<sup>(45)</sup>

Moscow, on the other hand, gained much from its newly established relationship with Hanoi. Because the fighting between America and North Vietnam threatened to strain relations with the West, the Soviets played their diplomatic cards carefully. They pursued a dual track policy, aiding the DRV while at the same time working behind the scenes for a diplomatic solution. With the fall of Saigon, relations between the USSR and the newly reunited Vietnam became closer, with Soviet military forces later using Vietnam as a base for their own operations. However, the victory in Vietnam also emboldened the Soviets to overtly involve themselves in other parts of the world. This included military assistance and/ or direct operations in Africa, the Middle East, and eventually Afghanistan, in time causing the eventual collapse of the Soviet Empire.<sup>(46)</sup>

The presence of the two Communist Superpowers in Vietnam had a profound effect on the course of the war. They acted as an unspoken deterrent to America's escalating the conflict, and were able to effectively counter all military moves from the West. In particular, the over 100,000 Chinese troops in North Vietnam acted as a trip wire to prevent the US from invading North Vietnam proper. They also freed up additional North Vietnamese manpower for operations in South Vietnam. In spite of their technical limitations, the PLA anti aircraft troops contributed significantly to countering the US air offensive. The work of Chinese engineering troops was also essential in the repair of bomb damage and keeping the DRV infrastructure functioning.

While newcomers, the Soviets quickly established themselves with the North Vietnamese, and over time developed a close relationship with them. Their more advanced weaponry was another critical factor, giving North Vietnam state of the art armament as a countermeasure to the weapons used by the Western forces.

However, the growing schism between the two Communist powers hindered cooperation and coordination of the two forces. Indeed, the Sino/Soviet disdain threatened to damage the entire Communist war effort. And unlike the Korean War, both China and the Soviets made a great effort to keep their involvement as covert as possible, for the likely reason of not creating an incident which could cause a confrontation with the West. Indeed, the existence of Chinese and Soviet forces in Indochina was well known to US Intelligence agencies, yet knowledge of this was never disclosed to the public, and was one of the best kept secrets of the Vietnam War, with both sides being complicit.

But it can indeed be said that North Vietnam could have never achieved its goal of reunifying the country without the assistance of the two Communist superpowers.

Like their American counterparts, both Chinese and Soviet Vietnam Veterans received no homecoming parade. Upon returning back to their home countries they were, under severe penalty, ordered to never speak of their experiences to anyone. And for many decades, thousands of Sino/ Soviet

Vietnam veterans were forced to keep their own counsel. After the fall of the Soviet Union, information on its involvement in Vietnam slowly began to filter out, and in the last ten years, a clearer story of Chinese involvement has also come to light.

Today the Vietnam veterans of China and Russia are finally being recognized for their sacrifices. In Russia the Inter-regional Public Organization of Veterans of the Vietnam War actively maintains ties between Soviet veterans and their Vietnamese counterparts. And in December of 2024, Vietnam for the first time formally acknowledged the contribution of Chinese veterans with a gathering of former PLA troops in Hanoi, meeting with fellow Vietnamese veterans and reviving long forgotten memories.<sup>(47)</sup>

A fitting conclusion to a little known, yet important chapter in the history of the Vietnam war.

The author would like to express his sincere thanks to Dr. Xiaobing Li, Mr. Larry Hancock, and the National Security Archive for their advice and assistance during my research for this article.

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(30) Conversations ca 1998-2000 between author and Boyd A., former Captain, USAF 336th TFW, Ubon AB, Thailand, 1972

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National Security Archive Vietnam Project: <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/project/vietnam-project>



John F. Davies is a 1978 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in history. He later served as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps during the Cold War, doing tours on both active and reserve duty with specialties in Infantry and Armor.

A significant part of his career involved Intelligence-related duties and work with Special Weapons. Following his retirement, he began conducting historical research into the Cold War era. He is especially interested in military events of that period that are not well known. John believes that these historic moments have had an important impact on our present time and therefore need to be told. He has also studied classical drawing and painting and intends to add illustration to these moments in Cold War history as many of them happened in secret and had no pictorial record.

At present, John is conducting research for a book covering the military's response to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.



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**VISIT THE MUSEUM'S LECTURE SCHEDULE: CWM\_LECTURE SERIES**

# COLD WAR CONVERSATIONS



The Cold War Museum's® Presentation Series, where we present eyewitnesses to, and expert accounts of, key Cold War events, has been a key method by which the Museum educates about the Cold War for our audience (which normally averages about 40-50 people), a resource for future scholars (since we film all these events including the question-and-answer sessions), and a significant source of income for our operations.

AS YOU KNOW, WE BEGAN this Series well before COVID and originally did all of them in-person. When COVID forced the closing of our doors and suspension of all of our activities, we had to rethink many things. Since people could no longer gather in large groups, we got a Zoom license and converted to 100% online. This has been highly successful for us, since it allows both audience and speaker to be from anywhere in the world, so we will continue with Zoom streaming but eventually also return to the in-person option where the speaker is local; we'll do that when COVID conditions allow, although not in our prior venue of the Old Bust Head production floor since that is no longer available. Because of the popularity and scope of the Zoom format, we've expanded to doing these about every 3 or 4 weeks.

## UPCOMING LECTURES

**April 26, 2026 – 7 pm EST: *My Father's Secrets*: Author Marilyn Johansen** will share stories from her unique upbringing as the daughter of an Air Force fighter pilot during the Cold War as recounted in her book, *My Father's Secrets*. Experience history through her eyes as she reveals the personal and untold stories of a military family navigating the realities of war, intelligence gathering, and the fight for freedom. Her father had been in WWII as a P-38 pilot and then a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III. He would continue his military career in the Air Force as an F-84 fighter pilot in the Korean War, Cold War events in Europe and North Africa and Vietnam.

World events would come to dictate her life. She never knew where she would live next. She was the "kid from nowhere and everywhere", always aware that the quality of their lives came second to the importance of protecting the United States.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) (NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own amount which could also be zero).

**May 17, 2026 – 7 pm EST (ZOOM only): Berlin: A Spy's Guide to its Cold War History in Story and Image:** According to author, **James Stejskal**, many cities have laid claim to the title City of Spies—Vienna, London, Moscow, even Miami. But no city has earned it more than Berlin. From the rubble of World War II to the razor's edge of the Cold War, Berlin became the epicenter of a secret war fought in the shadows. Divided, occupied, and deeply contested, the city was home to the world's most elite intelligence operatives. American, Soviet, British, French, East and West German services—and even terrorist and revolutionary factions like the Red Army Faction and the PLO—turned Berlin into a vast chessboard of espionage, deception, and covert operations. In *Berlin: A Spy's Guide to its Cold War History in Story and Image*, former Green Beret and intelligence officer James Stejskal delivers a gripping, photo-rich guide to the key players, locations, missions, and betrayals that defined Cold War Berlin. Part travelogue, part historical dossier, this book is your gateway to understanding how the Cold War was really fought—and why Berlin remains the most spy-saturated city on

Earth. History. Intrigue. Secrets. Welcome to Berlin, the City of Spies.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) (NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own amount which could also be zero).

June 28, 2026 – 7 pm EST (ZOOM only): ***The Righteous Arrows***: Speaker Brian J. Morra will talk about his latest book, *The Righteous Arrows*, that tells a very important story about how the Soviet War in Afghanistan laid the groundwork for the rise of militant Islam, including the Taliban and al Qaeda. It's a tale of a war with unintended consequences for all the parties to the conflict. The Afghan War helped to topple the teetering Soviet Union, it created a founding myth for modern, radical Islam, and it imbued Washington with a sense of invincibility in the region. There are also parallels between the Soviet adventure in Afghanistan and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Both countries were invaded when they began to lean away from Moscow. Both countries are considered by Moscow to be important buffer states. Subduing both countries proved far more difficult than leaders in Moscow predicted. Foreshadowing the global war on terror, former Air Force Intelligence officer Brian Morra illuminates the stubbornly persistent rivalry between the US and Russia in this heart-stopping story of international espionage and war.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) (NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own amount which could also be zero).

**July 19, 2026 - 7 pm EST (ZOOM only): Constant Shotgun: A Cold War Memoir:** During decades of Cold War tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, American and Soviet air crews regularly interacted with one another in an unsung, unusual, and - until now - unknown program called Constant Shotgun. In this groundbreaking memoir, retired Air Force Colonel Glenn R. Whicker recalls sitting side-by-side with the Soviets through unbelievable and life-threatening stunts, tender heart-to-hearts, and behind-the-scenes moments from some of the most important turning points of the Cold War. Come, fly along with him in Soviet transports, including the world's largest aircraft, the Antonov 225. Travel through Siberia, Cuba, Newfoundland and Alaska as he and other escort pilots ensure safety in America's skies.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) (NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own amount which could also be zero).

**August 23, 2026 – 7 pm EST (ZOOM only): Dreamland: The Secret History of Area 51:** Speaker: Aerospace historian Peter W. Merlin will talk about his book, the first ever scholarly history of the National Classified Test Facility at Groom Lake, Nevada. Better known as Area 51, this top-secret installation hidden in a remote desert valley northwest of Las Vegas, has been shrouded in mystery since 1955. Decades of Cold War secrecy spawned rumors and conspiracy theories, and catapulted Area 51 into popular culture. Now, after more than 30 years of painstaking research, Merlin cuts through the myths to reveal the true story of one of the nation's premier flight-test and evaluation facilities, where evolving global threats are met with unprecedented technological innovations.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) (NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own

amount which could also be zero).

**September 27, 2026 – 5 pm EST (ZOOM only): SHADOW FLYER: The Life of Bob Ericson, CIA and NASA U-2 Pilot:** Speaker: Chris Pocock will talk about his new book, Shadow Flyer, about Bob Ericson who was one of the select group of pilots recruited in 1956 by the CIA to fly the U-2 over the Soviet Union. He subsequently flew this extraordinary spyplane for 30 years, 16 years with The Agency followed by another 15 years with NASA. This book tells the story of how a small-town boy grew up to serve his country with distinction, how he survived a crash in this most difficult-to-fly airplane, and how he was nearly shot down over the USSR. It also describes Bob's flight over Cuba in 1962 that set off the Cuba Missile Crisis; his missions over Tibet, China and North Vietnam; and his remarkable save of a crippled U-2 for NASA. Bob Ericson's sons, Arne and Myles, will join the program for the Q&A session.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own amount which could also be zero).

**October 25, 2026 – 7 pm EST (ZOOM only): All Eternity Lies Before Me: Hope, Faith, & Love After the Loss of Navy Alfa Foxtrot 586:** Speaker: Loreen Gibbons interweaves a dual narrative account about her memories as a Navy pilot's wife with a tale of what happened to her husband's crew after the ditching of the crippled plane in the frigid, stormy North Pacific waters off the coast of the Soviet Union in 1978. A propeller malfunction causing four engine fires which burned dangerously close to a wing fuel tank forced the ditching, and left the crew in life rafts for twelve hours before being rescued by Russian fishermen and taken to the Soviet Union. After an extensive search, Loreen would not know the fate of her husband for three days. *All Eternity Lies Before Me* is a suspense filled, real-life drama that reads like an action movie. This story is more than a tale of military

heroism; it is also a story of faith, hope, love, and resilience with a deeply spiritual core. It is likely that several of the eight living survivors will plan to join in the Zoom program as well as members from the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard SAR crews.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) (NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own amount which could also be zero).

**November 15, 2026 - 7 pm EST (ZOOM only): The Wireless Operator:** Speaker: David Tuch, in this riveting debut, recounts the astonishing true story of his cousin, Harold Derber: a British Merchant Navy radio operator who carried his wartime training into the clandestine networks of the Cold War. He worked with Fidel Castro to smuggle Cuban refugees off the island, while tangling with Cuban intelligence, the Miami Mafia, and the CIA. Attorney James Donovan features heavily in his book because his cousin's ship, *The Empress of Bahamas*, was selected to return the Bay of Pigs prisoners after Donovan's successful negotiation. The Red Cross reneged on the deal but his cousin went ahead anyway, which brought the full weight of the CIA and State Department crashing down on him, eventually leading to his deportation as a national security risk. By the 1970s, Derber had become the largest marijuana trafficker in American history, pioneering the use of "drug motherships" and running a guns-for-drugs trade to arm Marxist guerrillas in Latin America. Drawing on declassified files, an unpublished memoir, and accounts from the undercover investigators who pursued him, *The Wireless Operator* uncovers how one man's secret life at the crossroads of espionage, organized crime, and revolution during the Cold War helped ignite the modern war on drugs.

[Click HERE for tickets](#) (NOTE: To avoid paying the suggested Service Fee of 17%, click on the drop-down menu and select "Other" to enter your own amount which could also be zero).

# COLD WAR CONVERSATIONS

## ARCHIVE



If you are a member of The Cold War Museum and would like to watch one of our previous Cold War Conversation Lectures, we now have an archive of past programs available for viewing.

Every new and renewing member that pays their annual membership dues starting at \$35 per year will get one free program to view of their choice from our archive. This is our way of thanking members for their continued support. Below is a list of programs available (current as of March 10, 2026) for viewing. As an added bonus, our YouTube Channel [The Cold War Museum - YouTube](#) has 19 older programs available for viewing for FREE. Please contact us if you would like to request an archived program to view.

11/06/16 – Former Military Attaché at the Moscow Embassy Bruce Slawter, on being an eyewitness to the 1991 coup attempt against Gorbachev.

01/22/17– Former U-2 pilot Chuck Wilson on flying the U-2.

03/19/17 – Former NSA and CIA Director Mike Hayden on the view from the top at both agencies.

05/07/17 – Former STASI prisoner Werner Juretzko, and Francis Gary Powers, Jr., the son of former KGB prisoner Francis Gary Powers, on being an East Bloc prisoner; with Chris Sturdevant.

07/23/17 – Former SR-71 Blackbird pilot Buz Carpenter on flying the SR-71.

09/24/17 – Former FBI and DIA interrogator Cal Carnes, on his personal knowledge of key US spies Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames, and his debriefing of many Soviet defectors.

01/14/18 – Former Special Forces Berlin member James Stejskal on his book *Special Forces Berlin*; he went on to be a field operator for CIA for 25 years.

03/18/18 – Former intelligence analyst for State and CIA and former chief historian for the Spy Museum Mark Stout, on his new book *Spy Chiefs*, about the Cold War leaders of the US and British intelligence agencies.

04/15/18 – Former *New York Times* reporter Howard Blum on his new book *In the Enemy's House*, about how an unorthodox FBI agent teamed with a genius codebreaker at Arlington Hall to out and bring down the Rosenbergs and their network.

05/06/18 – Former *Washington Post* reporter Liza Mundy on her new book *Code Girls*. US use of women in this area was a direct outgrowth of use of women for substantive code work at Bletchley Park.

05/20/18 – Ohio State University historian Mitch Lerner, a Cold War Korea expert, on his book *The Pueblo Incident: A Spy Ship and the Failure of American Foreign Policy*. Lerner argues that the North Koreans were operating with a domestic agenda rather than serving a global Communist conspiracy, and that the U.S. misunderstanding of this amplified the crisis.

06/17/18 – Gettysburg College historian David Hadley, an expert on the CIA's relations with the U.S. media during the Cold War, on his forthcoming book (mid-2019) on this subject.

07/22/18 – Former Deputy Chief Scientist at NSA Dr. John O'Hara on NSA's technological innovations and their effects in the non-secret world.

09/02/18 – Dr. Julia Bailey, a Curator of the Victoria and Albert Museum and expert on Cold War propaganda art, presents on *Art of the Cold War: Diplomacy, Propaganda and Resistance*.

09/16/18 – Col. Barry Colassard (USMC, Ret.) on being an eyewitness to the Cuban Missile Crisis as a Marine officer sent in mid-Crisis with his men to face down the Russians and Cubans while guarding the perimeter at Guantanamo.

11/04/18 – Col. Jeff Caton (USAF, Ret.) on Inside Cheyenne Mountain—what it's like and serving there just after the Cold War.

01/20/19 – Former Deputy Chief Scientist at NSA Dr. John O'Hara on The Intelligence Community's Presence in Space during the Cold War.

02/10/19 – Former CIA analyst Aris Pappas, who debriefed Col. Ryszard Kuklinski after we extracted him and his family, on Kuklinski's career as our greatest Warsaw Pact spy during the Cold War and what he was like as a person.

03/03/19 – Chris Sturdevant, head of the Museum's Midwest Affiliate, on his new book about the effects of the Cold War in one midwestern state (Wisconsin). He is joined by Gene Eisman, the Museum's expert on Soviet and US Cold War aircraft and author of *Epic Rivalry: Inside the Soviet and American Space Race*, on the US Space program.

03/24/19 – Capt. Jim Donovan, USN (Ret.) does a presentation on SOSUS, on which he worked. (As noted in Wikipedia, **SOSUS**, an acronym for sound surveillance system, is a chain of underwater listening posts located around the world in places such as the Atlantic Ocean near Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom—the GIUK gap—and at various locations in the Pacific Ocean.)

04/14/19 – Col. Charlie Simpson, USAF (Ret.) presents on what it was like to be part of the US missile command when US intercontinental missiles went on high alert during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

05/12/10 – Former U-2 Squadron Commander and Flight Instructor Chuck Wilson on flying the U-2. (This a revised, updated version of his 1/22/17 presentation, including information on how the U-2 is used in the present day for surveillance missions.)

06/09/19 – Gary Powers, Jr. does a presentation on his new book *Spy Pilot*, about his dad, famous U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

07/14/19 – Bruce Slawter repeats his Gorbachev coup presentation—see item 1.

09/08/19 – Rick Estberg on Berlin *Daze*, his memoir of life in military intelligence and then as a civilian NSA employee in Cold War Berlin.

10/20/19 – Lonnie Long and Gary Blackburn on *Unlikely Warriors*, their history of the Army Security Agency during the Cold War. (Lonnie was ASA, and Gary was Air Force Security Service.)

11/03/19 – Dr. Martin Nekola, a Czech historian of the early Cold War, on what life looked like for Cold War refugees from Eastern Europe who lived in Displaced Persons camps in the West.

11/10/19 – Jack Manclark on the Red Eagles, the Air Force pilots who flew MiG 21s as an opposition force against our pilots, using Soviet tactics. This was Operation Constant Peg, a Top Secret—Special Access program out of Tonopah Test Range near Area 51, and Jack was their Squadron Commander. [Tent. title: Being the Bad Guys: The Top Secret Red Eagles vs. US Pilots]

12/08/19 – Dave Bena, former navigator/bombardier on a A-6A Intruder who was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for his bombing work in Laos and N. and S. Vietnam, will describe that experience. He's now a retired Anglican Bishop.

01/12/20 – FBI Historian John Fox on Cold War counterintelligence by the US.

01/26/20 – Buz Carpenter repeats his Flying the SR-71 presentation—see item 5.

02/9/20 – Greg Nedved and Laura Murray, NSA China Experts and Historians, with Ken Allen, former USAF attaché in Beijing during Tiananmen, on Tiananmen Square events (30th anniversary) and their relationship to recent Hong Kong events.

02/23/20 – Steve Vogel presents on his recent book *Betrayal in Berlin*, about the Berlin Tunnel under the Soviet Embassy that tapped into Embassy communications and how it was betrayed even before its use by a mole in MI6.

08/30/20 – Ambassador Charles Ray on how Ambassadors work with their station chiefs and other intel professionals to provide accurate information at the local level and for State to inform U.S. diplomacy. POSTPONED; occurred on 8/30/20 in 100% virtual format on Zoom.

09/27/20 – Col. Hork Dimon (USAF, ret.) on the preparations for a secret second Berlin Airlift during the 1961 Berlin Crisis. POSTPONED; occurred 9/27/20 in 100% virtual format on Zoom.

10/21/20 – Prof. Kevin Riehle of the National Intelligence University on Soviet defectors in WWII and the early Cold War, with a focus on the Cold War and discussion of what they were able to do for us. Zoom presentation.

11/15/20 – Prof. Volker Benkert of Arizona State University on Youth Behind the Wall: Socialization of East German Youth During the Cold War. What life was like growing up in the East Bloc. Zoom presentation.

12/06/20 – Jonna Mendez on her career at CIA with her husband Tony; disguise in intelligence work during the Cold War. Zoom presentation.

01/17/21 – NSA Historian David Hatch on VENONA—origins during WWII, critical importance in the early Cold War with respect to the Rosenbergs, the Cambridge Five, and others.

02/07/21 – FBI Historian John Fox on Robert Hanssen, one of the damaging Soviet spies in U.S. history, including on how he was caught and what we learned from that.

02/28/21 – General Bob Parker (USAF, ret.) on what he saw as Director of Site Inspections for many of our Cold War Arms Control treaties and being in charge of all U.S. ICBMs.

03/21/21 – CIA Chief Historian David Robarge on CIA covert actions during the Cold War.

04/11/21 – Dr. Boria Sax on *Stealing Fire*, his book on a Cold War childhood in the U.S. where his father was an atomic spy for the Soviets who was NOT caught, and how he learned the truth as result of his documentary research much later.

05/16/21 – Buz Carpenter on his most important Cold War SR-71 mission—a faster-than-a-speeding-bullet flight over the Middle East during a crisis that was ordered and monitored directly by the President.

06/06/21 – Chris Pocock, the world authority on the history of the U-2, from its Cold War origins to present day continuing operations—the story of one of the successful and adaptable airborne intelligence platforms ever created.

06/27/21 – Dori Jones Yang, former *Business Week* Hong Kong bureau chief for eight years in the

1980's, on the effects of Deng's radical economic changes in the 80's that created the modern Chinese economic powerhouse. Fluent in Mandarin, she witnessed those changes on the ground in Hong Kong, Beijing, and elsewhere on the mainland.

07/18/21 – Olga Sheymov on *Tower of Secrets*, the story of how her husband, Victor Sheymov, a high-ranking KGB officer, became disenchanted with the Soviet system and started working for the West, with the two of them being exfiltrated as the KGB closed in.

08/08/21 – Col. Bud Traynor (USAF, Ret.), the pilot of the C-5A that crashed in South Vietnam during Operation Babylift, on that mission. Half the hydraulics and all controls to the tail surfaces failed at 23,000 ft.—with hundreds of Vietnamese orphans onboard. Astonishing courage, ingenuity, and teamwork saved most from certain death.

08/29/21 – Former USAF Generals David Deptula and Al Mink on the air war during Desert Storm, the last major conflict of the Cold War period—they oversaw the strategic and the operational sides respectively.

09/19/21 – TD Barnes on his new book on Area 51 as a CIA station. TD served with the Agency on special projects at Area 51.

10/10/21 – John Schell on his *Air Power History* article presenting and commenting on Soviet source information never published in English on the shoot-down of Francis Gary Powers on May 1, 1960.

10/24/21 – Marvin Kalb on his time as a major Cold War Moscow correspondent for network TV, drawing from his recent book *Assignment Moscow*.

11/07/21 – Naval aviator and Vietnam veteran Don Stanton on how we got into and got out of the Vietnam War—an event he has researched, taught, and lived.

11/21/21 – Pulitzer Prize-winning author Louis Menand on *The Free World*, his new book on the art and thought of the first part of the Cold War.

12/12/21– Jim Goodall on the history of Lockheed's Skunk Works in the Cold War.

01/16/22 – Don Smith on a neighborhood in Cold War Berlin that was caught between East and West,

from his book *Steinstuecken: A Little Pocket of Freedom*.

02/06/22 – Aden Magee on his book on the history of the U.S. and Soviet Military Liaison Missions.

02/27/22 – Tom Scott on the Law and the Glomar Explorer—what the Glomar was, and what it did for CIA, then the legal case around it and the ongoing issue of getting a just result on the merits in a legal case when much of what's at stake is classified.

03/20/22 – Brian Morra on the key facts about Able Archer, a Western military exercise that inadvertently almost led to nuclear war with the Soviets; how he as a historical novelist (and Able Archer participant) learned those facts for his recent novel *The Able Archers*; and how he crafted characters and a story that could engage while remaining true to those historical circumstances.

04/10/22 – John Ramirez, former CIA, on contacting intel agencies about UFOs during the Cold War.

05/01/22– Chris Pocock, world authority on the U-2, on the Black Bats (Wikipedia: “Black Bat Squadron, formally the 34th Squadron, was a squadron of CIA reconnaissance planes, pilots, and crew based in Taiwan during the Cold War. Citizens of the Republic of China flew missions over mainland China controlled by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) to drop agents and gather military signal intelligence around military sites.”)

05/22/22– John Pomfret, on a key incident in the late Cold War period when help from Polish intelligence was critical during a Gulf War situation in the Middle East—drawing from his recent book *From Warsaw With Love*.

06/12/22 – Ned Cummings on Briefing the Leaders—doing Top Secret briefings for heads of state, U.S. and otherwise. (CANCELLED)

07/10/22 – Don Stanton on sub-chasing as a P-3 pilot in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

09/11/22– Andrew Krepinevich on Andrew Marshall, the first Director of the Office of Net Assessment at DoD, and the principal architect of the U.S.’s defense strategy for nuclear weapons under eight Presidents. He draws from *The Last Warrior*, his book on Marshall.

10/09/22 – U.S. Army LTC (Ret.) Dewey Browder on the crisis around the Soviet murder of Arthur Nicholson, the last casualty of the Cold War. Dewey was the Assistant POLAD [foreign policy advisor to senior military] at HQ USAREUR [US Army—Europe] (1982-1986) and “worked the crisis day and night for a few weeks,” confronting the Soviets about Nicholson’s death.

10/30/22 – Former Special Forces Berlin member James Stejskal on his book *Special Forces Berlin*; he went on to be a field operator for CIA for 25 years.

11/20/22 – U.S. Army LTC (Ret.) Dewey Browder on the Euromissiles (the Pershing II and the Ground Launched Cruise Missiles) and their role in the ending of the Cold War.

12/11/22 – The Appearance and the Reality of the Tet Offensive. Greg Nedved (NSA Historian) and a panel of experts assess how things looked and how they were during a turning point event of the Vietnam War.

01/15/23 – The Background of the Fall of the Berlin Wall (June 1987-9 Nov 89). Bill Halpin draws on his personal experience in a key role at the time as well as on other sources to describe longer-term and near-term reasons for the fall of the Wall.

02/12/23 – Tom Spink on sub chasing as a P-3 pilot against the Soviets in the Pacific.

03/05/23 – Justin Sherman on Russia’s views on and use of information (propaganda, disinformation, and espionage) from Czarist times to the present day, with special attention to how they use the internet.

03/26/23 – Rosanna Minchew on the training and necessary aptitudes of Agency case officers, with illustrations from her 15-year career as a case officer in South Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Afghanistan.

05/14/23 – Don Smith on the 1946 Berlin City elections.

06/25/23— Mack McKinney on our air battle plans for Central Europe 1975-1983—our planning vs. what might have really happened.

07/16/23 – John Schell on additional new facts surrounding the Russian attacks on the Powers U-2

during the shutdown.

09/10/23 – Wayne Whitten on his book *Without a Warning-Maj. Anderson's U-2 shutdown in C. M. Crisis*

09/24/23 – Nick Reynolds on his forthcoming book: *Need to Know: World War II and the Rise of American Intelligence*. Nick is the former Historian of the CIA Museum

10/15/23 – Andrew Krepinevich on his book *The Origins of Victory*, about victory going to the Great Powers military forces who are first to recognize the military applications of new technologies and adopt them.

11/12/23 – Mike Vickers on his book *By All Means Available*, focusing on his career organizing, arming, and running the mujahadin forces in the latter part of the Soviet-Afghan War and later running DoD Spec. Ops. and intelligence during the Cold War and after. He was portrayed by an actor in the Tom Hanks/Julia Roberts film *Charlie Wilson's War*.

01/28/24 – Rory Cormac, drawing from his *Disrupt and Deny*, on British intel and covert action in the Cold War in the context of similar activities by others in that period.

02/18/24 – Don Heckert on his two direct encounters with UAPs while flying at high altitude for the military.

03/10/24 – Art Downey on the role of lawyers in the Cold War, in negotiating international agreements with Soviets, NATO partners, and others; in espionage cases; and in Presidential war powers. He worked for Henry Kissinger from 1969-72.

04/07/24 – Michael Rich, former CEO of RAND and son of Skunk Works legendary Ben Rich, on the history of RAND and its key role in developing and supporting U.S. Cold War defense strategy.

04/21/24 – Liza Mundy on her recent book *The Sisterhood*, on the history of women at the CIA.

06/02/24 – Gordon Jefferson on the development of the early U-2 cameras—all the tech problems they had to resolve to make it work and do so reliably in these unusual conditions. He was part of the team that built them.

11/24/24 – Michelle Evans on the history of the X-15

rocket plane.

12/19/24 – Robert Gilliland and Keith Dunnivant, on their book *Speed: The Life of a Test Pilot and Birth of an American Icon*, covering Robert's father Bob Gilliland, the chief test pilot for the SR-71 Blackbird at Lockheed's Skunk Works under Kelly Johnson.

01/26/25 – Gary Powers and Chris Sturdevant on their new book on Cold War sites, personalities, and spies associated with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

02/23/25 – Dale Graff on the STAR GATE psychic experiments from 1997-1995 at Ft. Meade, a US Army and DIA program.

03/23/25 – Chris Pocock, U-2 expert, on the CIA's Black Cats, AKA the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron (5RS), and their extremely dangerous reconnaissance missions over China that pierced the "Bamboo Curtain" and supplied information on the Chinese atomic bomb project, among other intelligence gains.

04/27/25 – John Bronson on how the US during the Cold War planned to defend against air, submarine, and missile attacks by the Soviet Union. Bronson looks at how these defenses grew from fledging stop-gaps into a complex fabric of interconnected combinations of high-tech equipment over 40 years.

05/18/25 – Capt. (Ret.) Neil Hansen on his time as a pilot for Air America and what it was like to be the pilot for the last plane out of Cambodia prior to 1.7 million Cambodians being slaughtered.

06/22/25 – Jim Clash on his Cold War experiences as a *Forbes* Adventure journalist including but not limited to supersonic rides in Cold War era aircraft, a U-2 flight to the edge of space, and two visits to the North Pole via the Russian military.

07/13/25 – Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ed Yeilding covers his time in the USAF and as an SR-71 pilot including his Coast-to-Coast SR-71 speed record, 67 min 54 sec, Mach 3.3 cruise, 2,190 mph, 83,000 ft with RSO JT Vida as they delivered an SR-71 to the Smithsonian where it is displayed at the Udvar-Hazy Center.

08/17/25 – Jeff Colvin on his book *Avoiding Apocalypse: How Science and Scientists Ended the Cold War*.

09/22/25 – Bob Wallace, former CIA Station Chief and Office of Technical Service Director on the history of intelligence in Alaska from the Civil War to the Cold War and its impacts on modern day Arctic geopolitics.

10/26/25 – Urban Planner Tom Christoffel on the Cold War origins of suburbs and modern urban planning.

11/23/25 – László Nagy discusses his involvement with the August 1989 Paneuropean Picnic that opened the border gate between Austria and Hungary. The opening of this border gate at the Pan-European Picnic was an event in the chain reaction which resulted in the fall of the Berlin Wall.

12/28/25 – Svetlana Tumanov, wife of KGB Operative Oleg Tumanov, about her husband, KGB operative Oleg Tumanov and her book, *The True Fate of a Resident: The Long Journey Home*.

01/25/26 – Ricky Deutsch, spy satellite expert, on the HEXAGON satellite platform and the wider

evolution of US reconnaissance technology, from film to today's real-time video capabilities.

02/22/26 – David S. Maurer on his book which explores how the application of project management and crisis leadership principles led to the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis



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# COLD WAR LINKS OF INTEREST



**Cold War Museum:** [https://familydestinationsguide.com/unusual-museums-virginia-wondrous/?utm\\_source=virginia\\_family\\_destinations&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=fc&fbclid=IwdGRjcAQb0i5jbGNrBBvR22V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHmV-OentKtJR5KqA1fTM1ES3ZHVZuQQosesBT9FU6WONT19nJsXTPcqf0FGk\\_aem\\_jZSBZfN-6tNq6W5xF9JVzQ](https://familydestinationsguide.com/unusual-museums-virginia-wondrous/?utm_source=virginia_family_destinations&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fc&fbclid=IwdGRjcAQb0i5jbGNrBBvR22V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2IkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHmV-OentKtJR5KqA1fTM1ES3ZHVZuQQosesBT9FU6WONT19nJsXTPcqf0FGk_aem_jZSBZfN-6tNq6W5xF9JVzQ)

**Documents reveal Gerald Ford's effort to block report on CIA assassination plots, November 20, 2025, *The Guardian*:** <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/20/senate-report-cia...>

**CIA Assassination Plots: The Church Committee Report 50 Years Later November 20, 2025, NSA Archive:** <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/intelligence/2025-11-20/cia...>

**USS Pueblo article:** <arngmuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Vol-15-No-2-Summer-2021.pdf>

**Cold War Conversations:** [Cold War Conversations Podcast](#)

**The Forgotten Veterans: Honoring Cold War Heroes - Warrior Allegiance : Are you VA Rated 90% or less? Let's talk:** <https://warroriallegiance.com/the-forgotten-veterans-honoring-cold-war-heroes/>

**When a CIA pilot fell 7,000 feet into the Soviet Union:** <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/when-a-cia-pilot-fell-70-000-feet-into-the-soviet-union/vi-AA1RC8zU>

**Vint Hill Farms Station Reunion – April 11, 2026:** <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/vinhillfarmsstationreunion>

**Cold War Recognition Certificate:** <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Cold%20War%20Recognition%20Certificate%20Program>

**USSS Cold War History dates can be found at this link:** <https://www.secretservice.gov/about/history>

**Pauline Thompson, Member, Board of Directors:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BnboPioYd/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**Aldrich Ames:** [Aldrich Ames, CIA agent who sold secrets to the Soviets, dies aged 84](#)

**The Distinguished Flying Cross Society:** [www.dfcsociety.org](http://www.dfcsociety.org)

**River Rats:** [www.river-rats.org/](http://www.river-rats.org/)

**A History of Satellite Reconnaissance (Perry Histories):** <https://www.nro.gov/foia-home/foia-declassified-nro-programs-and-projects/>

**Jumpseat:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Aj2zQo1mu/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**After 70 Years, A Grek U-2 Pilot Surfaces!:** [dragonladyhistory.com/2026/01/27/after-70-years-a-greek-u-2-pilot-surfaces/](http://dragonladyhistory.com/2026/01/27/after-70-years-a-greek-u-2-pilot-surfaces/)

**Bay of Pigs Memorial, April 20, 2026:** [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid03473GUGCNjAsNsQFhCVhu8MKx9Fd9qfqaHStEiiHKA57YXEwvvcvUY7Z4vFhx4Ttgl&id=61587082438019&mibextid=wwXlfr](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid03473GUGCNjAsNsQFhCVhu8MKx9Fd9qfqaHStEiiHKA57YXEwvvcvUY7Z4vFhx4Ttgl&id=61587082438019&mibextid=wwXlfr)

**A wild ride: 92-year-old recalls being recruited from Greece to fly U.S. spy planes:** [Local 92-year-old recalls his time as a U2 pilot for the CIA | Lifestyles | princewilliamtimes.com](#)

**International Remote Viewing Association's Annual Conference:** <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1299326865300334>

**1955 American-Canadian Civil Defense movie“:** <http://bit.ly/FrontlinesOfFreedom1955>

**First Air Force One:** <https://www.firstairforceone.org/>

**How the CIA used jazz greats as cover for a 1961 coup in Africa, February 12, 2025, *Los Angeles Times*:** <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/awards/story/2025-02-12...>

**Teufelsberg:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14WzqApzmv8/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**For Spy Museum Member Only:** <https://www.spymuseum.org/calendar/member-outing-the-cold-war-museum/2026-05-08/>

Life has its challenges.  
**As a Veteran,  
you don't  
have to solve  
them alone.**



Visit [VA.gov/REACH](https://va.gov/REACH) for resources  
or Dial **988** then Press 1 to reach  
the Veterans Crisis Line.

*Don't wait.* **Reach out.**

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

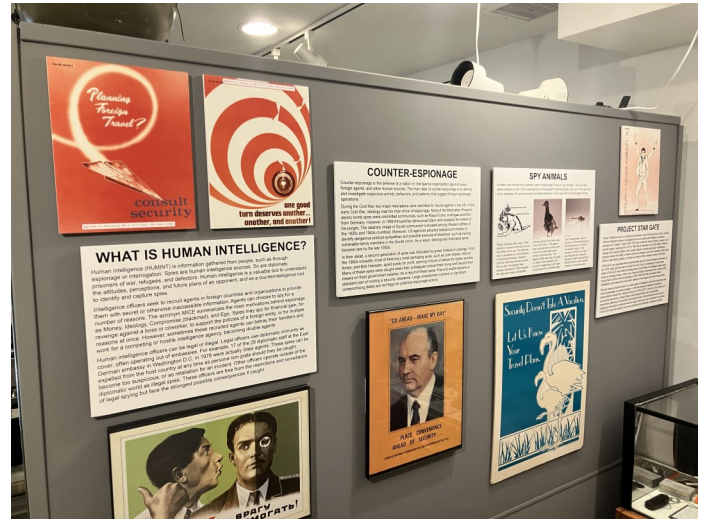
# MUSEUM EXHIBIT UPDATES



## NEW HUMINT EXHIBIT

Building off our success with the November opening of *Field of Secrets*, our latest exhibit on the history of Vint Hill Farms Station, the collections team is putting the finishing touches on our latest project, an overhaul of the human intelligence (HUMINT) section of the downstairs exhibits. The new HUMINT exhibit examines spies, espionage, counterespionage, and some of the more unusual products of espionage like spy animals. A main display cabinet shows some of the tools of the trade: On one side, Minox spy cameras and covert equipment like a reproduction of the famous Hollow Nickel, and on the other side surveillance radios, earpieces, and a camera from the FBI's Washington Field Office.

The joy of developing a new exhibit on the human side of the 24-7 intelligence battles of the Cold War is that the stories are inherently rich and biographical. We cover the reasons behind spying, like ideology or simple greed, and the mistakes made by spies that got them caught – or the wits that let them succeed or escape. We've used this exhibit to highlight both some of the most notorious spies of the Cold War, such as Aldrich Ames, Kim Philby, and Oleg Kalugin, and also to shed some light on some of the lesser known spies who deserve more recognition, for good or for bad, such as Ryszard Kukliński, Bill Weisband, and Edward Lee Howard. Also included is information on [Remote Sensing](#), a controversial psychic operation, and a discussion of counterespionage, including a selection of wonderful 1950s-1970s security posters from the NSA. (My personal favorite is the disco one.) The model of Chairman Mao's left ear, a unique intelligence artifact from the CIA, has been moved to a more prominent location in the IMINT exhibit.



Here are some pictures from the new exhibit.

## COLLECTIONS TEAM

It's been an eventful and productive period for the Museum's collections team, the volunteers who are working behind the scenes to develop new exhibits and preserve our collections. The collections team grew rapidly over the past year and a half, and now measures eight people: Curator Doug Harsha, Assistant Curator Jeff Proehl, Exhibits Curator Kenzie Hool, Steve Bumber, Alex Lichty, Alexis Lwin, James Liang, and Katie Nitz. Over the past year the team has developed new exhibits on the history of Vint Hill Farms Station and chemical warfare in the Cold War, and we are putting the finishing touches on our latest exhibit on human intelligence in the Cold War. Currently, the team is working to catalog the CWM Library at the Midland Training Center in preparation for opening it to researchers and Cold War Historians. In just one weekend we processed 939 books and publications!

Our main focus for the year will be laying the groundwork for a complete overhaul of the upstairs exhibit area. Why? The public's desire to understand the Cold War period has rapidly increased over the last four years. The invasion of Ukraine, the rise of China, and the global reshaping of the post-Cold War international order has focused new attention on the lessons of the Cold War, and we are seeing the results of that in increased visitors and scholarly inquiries. Domestically, current headlines on surveillance, disinformation, and the role of the US on the international stage all have Cold War origins that students and the public are seeking to study. We want to serve these groups as best we can and help them better understand the world they live in.

We have applied for a Community Assistance Grant from the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation to help support this effort. We envision the new upstairs as an area where visitors, students, and veterans can confront the Cold War as a whole. Down the left side wall, visitors would walk down a

timeline of the Cold War's major events from the 1948 Berlin Airlift to the Cuban Missile Crisis, through the 1960s and 1970s with artifacts from the USS Liberty and Pueblo, and finish with the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, among other sections. On the right wall there would be a comparison of East and West, starting at the physical division of Europe through the Iron Curtain and stepping back from the border to understand how each side of the Cold War viewed itself and its enemy. Center displays would cover the major conflicts of the Cold War, including Korea, Vietnam, and the Soviet-Afghan war, as well as other dimensions of non-military Cold War conflict such as the Space Race, defectors, humanitarian aid, and propaganda. Some key artifacts would include a North Korean prison uniform worn by a crew member of the USS Pueblo, components of missiles destroyed as part of arms-limitation agreements, uniforms of the Soviet military and the East German secret police, the Stasi, and concrete and barbed wire sections from the physical Iron Curtain.

Of course, I want to thank all the members of the collections team for their efforts in preserving and telling the stories of the Cold War. Without their continual assistance and support, these new exhibits and future plans would be impossible. We are always looking for new volunteers who are interested in museum work and the mission of the Cold War Museum. Please reach out through our website, [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org), if you'd like to help.

# SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA



## Southeastern Pennsylvania Cold War Historical Society

*Preserving history through the memories of those who created it.*



a 501(c)(3) organization

[www.ColdWarHistory.org](http://www.ColdWarHistory.org)

[mail@ColdWarHistory.org](mailto:mail@ColdWarHistory.org)

*Find us on Facebook and YouTube!*

**View our Veterans Wall of Honor Project: [www.SEPAVeterans.com](http://www.SEPAVeterans.com)**

Founded in 2010, we are an organization dedicated to preserving the contributions that current/former residents of southeastern Pennsylvania (and nearby regions) made toward protecting the United States during the Cold War. Our initial work focused on the collection of oral histories.

We are also the historian for the Johnsville Centrifuge, which was operated for nearly 50 years (1950 to 1996) by the Navy at the Aviation Medical Acceleration Laboratory at the former Naval Air Development Center (later Naval Air Warfare Center) in Warminster, Pennsylvania. During its operational lifespan, the centrifuge was the world's largest and most powerful research tool for studying the mysterious acceleration, or "G" forces, encountered by pilots or astronauts during flight. Much of our modern understanding of these G forces was elucidated by researchers at this facility. X-15 pilots and astronauts from Projects Mercury, Gemini and Apollo trained at the facility.

More recently, we have begun to expand our remit to celebrate the aerospace heritage of the greater Philadelphia Region. Check out our Facebook page for monthly posts celebrating that history!

Since 2012, we have hosted an ongoing educational outreach lecture/webinar program entitled "**History in Our Backyard**". Live lectures are held at the Fuge, an events facility where the Johnsville Centrifuge is located.

In 2020, we had the opportunity to expand our programming to a monthly offering. Our 2026 lecture/webinar series. Is listed on the following page.

**JOIN ONLINE: CWM\_MEMBERSHIP**



The Southeastern Pennsylvania Cold War Historical Society  
**proudly announces its**  
 2026 "History in Our Backyard" Webinar/Live Lecture Series



January 8 (Live)	Gary Campbell	A History of the A-10 Warthog
February 12	Buz Carpenter	The Ageless SR-71 Blackbird
March 12	David Stumpf	Sounding Rockets and Re-Entry Vehicles
April 9 (Live)	Roger Mola	Operation Skyshield: Grounding the National Airspace System
May 14	Mark Polmar	Cold War Radio
June 11 (Live)	Dan Basta	Among Honest Communists: Yugoslavia and Slovenia 1973-1975
July 9 (Live)	John Coyne	A Cold War Sailor: From Vietnam to the War on Terrorism
August 13	Matt Polner	B.F. Goodrich Pressure Suits and Space Suits
September 10 (Live)	Arthur Llese	The Fleetwings Seabird
October 8	Don Stanton	Cold War Atlantic and Pacific Airborne Radar and ASW Patrols
November 12 (Live)	SPECIAL EVENT! 16 <sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Tribute	
November 19 (Live)	Bryan Leese	At Sea Against the Soviet Fleet: The Evolution of U.S. Navy Operational Intelligence in the Cold War
December 10	John Lemza	The UFO Experience During the Cold War

Events (webinar/live lecture) begin promptly at 7:30pm EDT/EST  
 Live events held at The Fuge/780 Falcon Circle/Warminster, PA 18974 (most livestreamed)  
 Zoom link shared via email distribution list *only* on the day of the program  
 Inquiries/add to email list: [mail@ColdWarHistory.org](mailto:mail@ColdWarHistory.org)

If you would like to join us in Warminster, PA for the live programs, the address for the Fuge is: 780 Falcon Circle, Warminster, PA 18974. To participate in our webinars, please email us at [mail@ColdWarHistory.org](mailto:mail@ColdWarHistory.org) to be placed on our email distribution list in order to receipt the Zoom link on the day of the program. We archive our programming on our YouTube Channel: [Southeastern Pennsylvania Cold War Historical Society - YouTube](#)



**What else have we been up to?**

The President of our organization, Eleanor O'Rangers, was interviewed on PA local PBS Channel 39 to discuss our organization, Philadelphia regional aerospace heritage, and our long-term goal to establish a

**Philadelphia Aerospace Hall of Fame.** This link will take you to the recording: [PCN Select Video - Aerospace Hall of Fame, History & Culture](#)

As a preface to the Hall of Fame, we plan to debut a new website, **Philly Aerospace Trail** [Philly Aerospace Trail](#), in the upcoming months (hopefully to coincide with America250 celebrations!) The site will include a map of the greater Philadelphia region highlighting various current and historical aerospace sites and people along with descriptions of their contributions or historical importance.

Finally, our organization's President, Eleanor O'Rangers, had the honor of advising and being interviewed by documentary filmmaker, Jason Sherman, for a new documentary entitled, **Before the Moon Before The Moon – Documentary Film**, which will debut sometime in 2026 (we are hoping to host one of the premiers at The Fuge.)

**Before The Moon** is a feature-length documentary that uncovers the hidden story of how America reached the stars — beginning not in Houston or Cape Canaveral, but in a quiet research base in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Long before rockets roared skyward, Bucks County's inventors, engineers, and test pilots were laying the technological groundwork for the Space Age.

We are excited because the documentary will feature the former Naval Air Development Center (NADC), a Cold War research hub where flight systems, guidance technologies, life-support innovations, and the world's largest and most powerful human centrifuge—the Johnsville Centrifuge-- reshaped our understanding of human endurance. Here, future astronauts like Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, and Buzz Aldrin pushed their bodies to the limit while NADC's laboratories pioneered many of the tools and techniques that made crewed spaceflight possible.



[The Cold War Museum | Give Local Piedmont](#)



# PACT ACT: VIETNAM ERA VETERANS COLD WAR ERA VETERANS



The **PACT Act**, signed into law August 10, 2022, expands health care and benefits for Vietnam era Veterans.



### PACT Act Health Care Eligibility

Veterans who served in these countries during specific time periods are eligible to enroll in VA health care **effective August 10, 2022**.

**Republic of Vietnam**  
January 9, 1962 - May 7, 1975

**Guam or American Samoa**  
(or in their territorial waters)  
January 9, 1962 - July 31, 1980

**Cambodia**  
at Mimot or Krek,  
Kampong Cham Province  
April 16, 1969 - April 30, 1969

**Thailand**  
Any U.S. or Royal Thai base  
January 9, 1962 - June 30, 1976

**Laos**  
December 1, 1965 -  
September 30, 1969

**Johnston Atoll**  
(or on a ship that called there)  
January 1, 1972 - September 30, 1977



The law **expands eligibility for health care and benefits** for Veterans who participated in **certain nuclear response or cleanup activities**.

**Enewetak Atoll**  
January 1, 1977 -  
December 31, 1980

**Palomares, Spain**  
January 17, 1966 -  
March 31, 1967

**Thule, Greenland**  
January 21, 1968 -  
September 25, 1968



### Toxic Exposure Screenings

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- Air Pollutants
- Chemicals
- Radiation
- Warfare Agents
- Occupational Hazards

**ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022:** VA will begin incorporating toxic exposure screenings. Every Veteran enrolled for VA health care will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Eligible Veterans not enrolled will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



### PACT Act Benefits

The PACT Acts adds two new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- **Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)**
- **High blood pressure (hypertension)**

**Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may** qualify for various VA benefits due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. More information for survivors is available online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).

#### 4 EASY WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE



Apply online at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits [VA Form 10-10EZ](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



Call the toll-free hotline 877-222-8387 Mon – Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET



Bring a completed, signed [VA Form 10-10EZ](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction) to the nearest VA Medical Center or clinic.

#### 4 EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED WITH CLAIMS



Learn more at [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/)



Call the Benefits hotline (for specific questions) at 1-800-827-1000



Visit a VBA Regional Office [VA.gov/benefits/offices.asp](https://www.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp)



Work with an accredited VSO [VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp)



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)  
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Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)

# BOOK REVIEWS BY MANSKE



The Cold War Museum's® book reviews are written by Brigadier General Chad Manske, USAF (Ret.), 30th Commandant of the National War College at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

## *The Secret History of the Five Eyes: The Untold Story of the International Spy Network*

**Richard Kerbaj**

Published by Union Square & Co., 448 pages, 2025

Richard Kerbaj's "The Secret History of the Five Eyes" reads like an official history smuggled out of a secure archive and rewritten as a political thriller. It is both a sweeping chronicle of power and a surprisingly intimate study of the people who inhabit the shadows. Kerbaj traces the evolution of the Five Eyes alliance—US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—from its improvised beginnings in wartime code-sharing to its present role as the world's most consequential intelligence club. Rather than offer a dry institutional history, he structures the book around operations and crises, using episodes from the Second World War through the Cold War and the War on Terror to show how this informal pact hardened into a central pillar of Western statecraft. The book is at its most fascinating when it opens doors usually closed to the public, drawing on extensive interviews with former spies, senior officials, and political leaders. These first-person accounts expose the mix of trust, rivalry, ego, and loyalty that underpins intelligence cooperation, revealing an alliance built as much on personal relationships as on formal agreements. Kerbaj refuses to romanticize the Five Eyes, detailing both its triumphs against terrorism and hostile states and its failures, blind spots, and petty turf wars. Chapters on controversies like the Snowden revelations and botched strategies in past conflicts probe the moral ambiguity of mass surveillance and clandestine power without lapsing into

polemic. His prose is brisk and accessible, compressing complex technical systems and bureaucratic structures into crisp, scene-driven storytelling that should engage general readers and specialists alike. Some critics note factual slips and a reliance on already public material, arguing that the "secret" history occasionally feels less revelatory than advertised, but even they acknowledge the breadth of synthesis and the vividness of the reporting. For anyone curious about how an invisible alliance shapes wars, diplomacy, and domestic politics, this book offers an engrossing, often unsettling guided tour. It may not blow the lid off every mystery, but it illuminates a world that usually prefers to remain just out of sight—and makes clear why what happens there matters to everyone else.



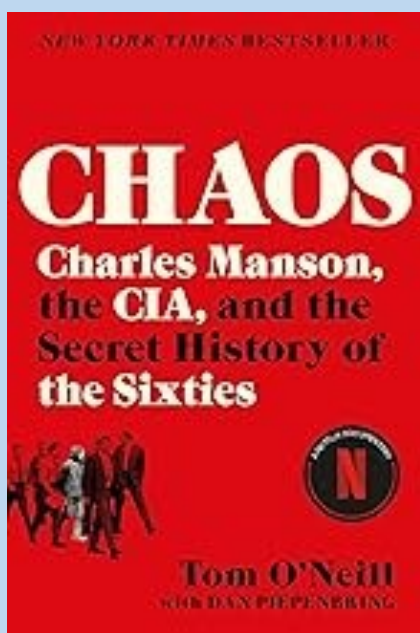
**VISIT THE MUSEUM'S LECTURE SCHEDULE: CWM\_LECTURE SERIES**

## ***Chaos: Charles Manson, the CIA, and the Secret History of the Sixties***

**Tom O'Neill**

Published by Back Bay Books, 528 pages, 2020

Tom O'Neill's "Chaos: Charles Manson, the CIA, and the Secret History of the Sixties" is less a true-crime book than a 20-year nervous breakdown in print, and that is exactly what makes it so mesmerizing. It is a work of obsessive doubt that turns one of America's most familiar murder stories into a hall of mirrors. O'Neill begins with what was supposed to be a routine magazine assignment on the Tate-LaBianca murders and slowly realizes that the neat "Helter Skelter" motive, enshrined



by prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi, simply does not fit the available facts. Instead of proposing a clean alternative theory, he methodically picks at inconsistencies in testimony, odd gaps in records, and long-ignored leads until the accepted narrative feels shockingly fragile. The book's most gripping character is O'Neill himself, consumed by a case that repeatedly refuses to resolve. Archive trips, FOIA battles, and hundreds of interviews pile up into a 500-plus-page dossier that feels less like a polished argument than a sprawling evidence room, dense with tantalizing fragments. That messiness is deliberate: the reader experiences, almost physically, what it means to live inside an investigation that may never quite cohere. What makes "Chaos" fascinating rather than merely paranoid is the way it braids the Manson saga into the darker currents of the 1960s: COINTELPRO, Operation CHAOS, MKUltra-style mind control research, and the porous boundary between the counterculture and the security state. O'Neill sketches unnerving overlaps between Manson's world and intelligence-linked psychiatrists, drug experiments, and permissive law-enforcement handling that defies any simple bureaucratic explanation. "Chaos" is not for

readers who need every question answered; it is for those willing to sit with ambiguity and moral grime. It leaves you less certain about what happened in 1969 but far more attuned to how power, narrative, and secrecy intertwine, making even "closed" cases feel disturbingly open. Far from a niche true crime curiosity, O'Neill's book reads like a requiem for the comforting stories a society tells itself about its own nightmares.

"The Main Enemy" by Milton Bearden and James Risen is a riveting account of the CIA-KGB spy wars that defined the latter years of the Cold War. This gripping narrative offers readers an unprecedented glimpse into the clandestine world of espionage, told through the eyes of those who lived it. Bearden, a 30-year CIA veteran, and Risen, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, have crafted a masterful blend of firsthand

## ***The Main Enemy***

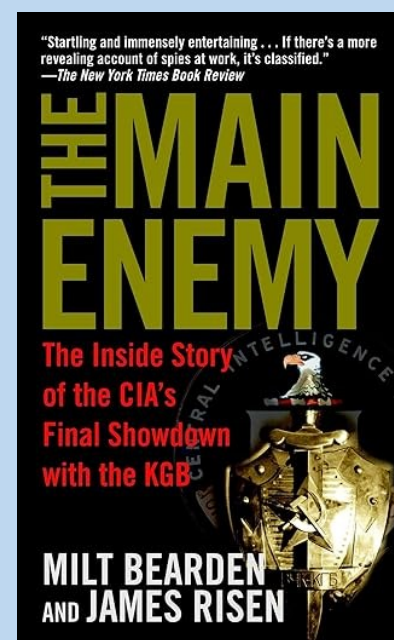
**Milton Bearden**

Published by Presidio Press, 592 pages, 2004

experience and investigative reporting. Their collaboration results in a book that is both deeply informative and intensely thrilling. The authors take us on a global journey, from the sewers of Moscow to the back streets of Baghdad, Cairo, Havana, Prague, and Berlin. However, the heart of the action lies in Washington D.C., beginning with the infamous "Year of the Spy" when CIA agents in Moscow were systematically eliminated. One of the book's most compelling aspects is its focus on the human element of espionage. Readers are granted access to the thoughts and motivations of CIA

In *Constant Shotgun: A Cold War Memoir*, Colonel Glenn R. Whicker USAF, Ret., reveals his personal experience with a little-known Cold War initiative that feels as improbable as it is compelling: American and Soviet airmen flying together under a mutual escort agreement during a time of intense geopolitical rivalry.

While most Cold War narratives focus on espionage, nuclear brinkmanship, or



officers as they navigate dangerous missions, dodge surveillance, and face violent ambushes in hostile territory. Bearden's firsthand account of leading America's covert operations in Afghanistan against the Soviets is particularly fascinating. For the first time, he reveals the strategies employed and the rationale behind America's choices of allies in this secret war. The book is replete with startling revelations, including details about top-secret back channels between the CIA and KGB, the intricate world of double and triple agents, and covert operations in various European cities.

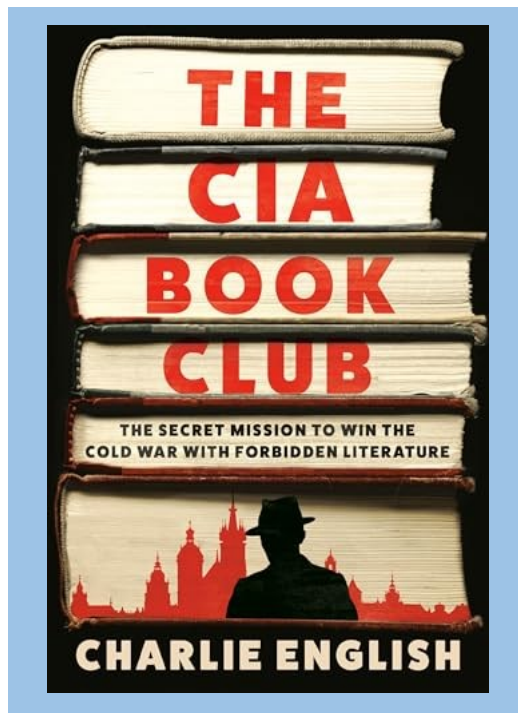
The authors' account of the fateful autumn of 1989, which saw the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, is especially gripping. "The Main Enemy" is more than just a spy thriller; it's a meticulously researched historical document. Based on hundreds of interviews with operatives from both sides, it offers a balanced and nuanced view of this shadowy world. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in Cold War history, espionage, or simply those who enjoy a well-crafted, action-packed narrative. Bearden and Risen have succeeded in creating a work that is both enlightening and entertaining, offering readers a front-row seat to one of the most fascinating periods in modern history.

## ***The CIA Book Club: The Secret Mission to Win the Cold War With Forbidden Literature***

**By Charlie English**

Published by Random House, 384 pages, 2025

Charlie English's "The CIA Book Club: The Secret Mission to Win the Cold War with Forbidden Literature" excavates a thrilling and little-known chapter of Cold War history and transforms it into a riveting and insightful narrative. Avoiding the clichés of gun-toting spies in trench coats, English focuses instead on the subversive power of books as covert weapons—particularly in 1980s Poland, where literature became the lifeblood of resistance against Soviet censorship and oppression. English's journalistic prowess shines in his meticulously researched account, weaving together the stories of conspiratorial book smugglers, underground publishers, and intellectual dissidents. The centerpiece is George Minden, a Romanian aristocrat turned CIA operative, who believed that "a book in the right hands could dismantle totalitarian ideologies." Rather than distribute obvious propaganda, the CIA's program surreptitiously supplied banned titles like Orwell's



"1984" and Solzhenitsyn's "The Gulag Archipelago," allowing Poles to experience uncensored thought and literary dissent firsthand. These books crossed borders hidden in false covers, tucked inside sheet music or even packed into food tins, illustrating the ingenuity and daring of those behind the operation. English brings heart and immediacy to the narrative with portraits of figures like Miroslaw Chojecki, who risked beatings and exile to distribute forbidden books, and Helena Łuczywo, editor of an underground newspaper that reassured a battered public of their solidarity and hope. The book's pace thrives on episodes that read like classic thrillers—a violent crackdown after the Gdańsk shipyard protests, the tense networks of activists, and the heartbreak and renewal of those clinging to literature as "a reservoir of freedom." Critics praise English's ability to humanize history, though some note a longing for even deeper emotional storytelling in every chapter; nonetheless, the book's educational value and gripping style are undeniable. "The CIA Book Club" doesn't just recount a covert mission—it illuminates how the simple act of reading can shake empires and reminds us, poignantly, that words are often the most powerful weapons of all.



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# BOOK REVIEWS BY WILSON



Colonel Charles P “Chuck” Wilson, USAF Ret., Past-Chairman of the Board- The Cold War Museum®; KC-135Q Pilot & Flight Commander; Cold War U-2 Pilot, U-2 Instructor & 2-time U-2 Squadron Commander; also, AF Group and C2 Center (became 505 C2 Wing) Commander; Pentagon Bureaucrat; State Department Diplomat; later Corporate Business Development executive; NASM DOCENT

## ***Constant Shotgun: A Cold War Memoir***

by Col Glenn Whicker USAF, Ret.

Published by Stories from the Hearth Publisher, 290 pages, 2025

ideological conflict, Whicker's account introduces readers to a softer—yet no less dangerous—facet of the East-West struggle: *military-to-military cooperation in the skies*. This program, dubbed "Constant Shotgun," tasked U.S. aircrews

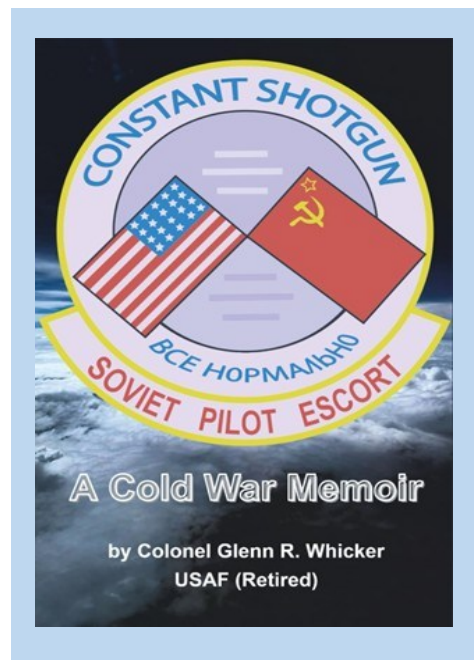
political terrain traversed by the Constant Shotgun program. *Constant Shotgun* is a refreshingly original Cold War memoir—one that tells a lesser-known but deeply meaningful story. It avoids the well-trodden spy-versus-spy narrative in favor of mutual respect, duty, and quiet courage. For readers interested in aviation, military diplomacy, or Cold War history from an unexpected angle, this is a must-read.

sitting side by side on Soviet transports including the world's largest aircraft, the Antonov An-225 Mriya, traveling through Siberia, Cuba, Newfoundland, Alaska, and more.

In this memoir, Whicker peels back the curtain on a Cold War subplot that most Americans (and Soviets) never knew existed. These interactions—often tense, occasionally warm—highlight the deeply human moments that unfolded between supposed enemies. Constant Shotgun was built on a paradox—cooperation between military aviators who had been trained to see each other as enemies. Whicker captures the quiet heroism in this mutual professionalism.

The memoir shines brightly when it's deeply personal. Whicker's descriptions of riding aboard Soviet aircraft—including the *Antonov An-225 Mriya*, the world's largest plane—offer a visceral, sometimes surreal sense of shared risk and mutual dependence between former Cold War adversaries. Perhaps most surprising are the warm relationships that emerge between American and Soviet aircrews—formed over shared meals, flight preparations, or tense hours at cruising altitude.

From the icy runways of Siberia to the subtropical airfields of Cuba, and across the remote corridors of Newfoundland and Alaska, Whicker captures the expansive geographic and



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# BOOK REVIEW BY TUCH



David Tuch, PhD, is a technology entrepreneur and author. His writing uncovers overlooked stories at the intersection of organized crime and espionage. Originally from New York, he has lived in England and France and now makes his home in Brookline, Massachusetts, with his wife and four children. *The Wireless Operator* is his first book.

Tuch, a tech entrepreneur, debuts with a propulsive and illuminating biography of his cousin Harold Derber (1926–1976), a covert operative turned criminal mastermind who innovated the modern trafficking trade. After an indifferent upbringing (he was independent and enrolled in college by age 16), Derber joined the British navy as a wireless operator. Postwar, he became a member of Gideonim, a secret group for illegally smuggling Jewish refugees from Europe into Palestine. Partly due to Derber’s leadership, the group began running illegal arms through the British/Arab/American blockade of Zionist militants. After a few stints living in the U.S. (illegally, and hounded by immigration services) and Brazil (where he prospected for diamonds), he played a pivotal role in the 1959 Cuban refugee crisis: he was

## *The Wireless Operator: The Untold Story of the British Sailor Who Invented the Modern Drug Trade*

**David Tuch**

Published by Icon, 228 pages, 2025

contracted by the U.S. to transport refugees, but when the government reneged on the contract, he struck a deal with Castro himself to do it. This led to Derber’s arrest and deportation from the U.S. Settling in Colombia, Derber pioneered the drug-trafficking innovation that would make him his millions: the deployment of a “mothership”—a cargo ship docked in international waters, where it could store marijuana with impunity, while small speedboats made risky runs to shore. According to the author, Derber became the chief supplier of marijuana to America until he was assassinated in Miami. Tuch’s deep dive is suspenseful and well researched, shedding fascinating light on a shadowy 20th-century figure.



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# BOOK PRESS RELEASES



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North American Contact: Robin Wane, Publicist

[robin.wane@bloomsbury.com](mailto:robin.wane@bloomsbury.com)

## AMERICAN MiG PILOT

**Inside the Top Secret USAF  
“Red Eagles” MiG Squadron**

**by Rob “Z-Man” Zettel, Lt Col. USAF (Ret.)**

(Osprey Publishing | \$30.00 | Hardcover | 9781472808554 | 368 pages | February 10, 2026)

After being outflown over Vietnam, the US launched a top secret operation to acquire Soviet aircraft, train pilots to fly them, and pitch them against American planes in training scenarios.

Get inside the head of one of America's most experienced MiG pilots, Lt Col Zettel, as he tells the thrilling tale of Constant Peg, a top secret US operation that wouldn't feel out of place in the plot of Top Gun.

At the height of the Cold War, America illicitly obtained Russian Fighters, transported them to the Tonopah Test Range, and pitted them against star US fighter pilots in simulated combat exercises. With controls labelled in Russian and the only spare parts being the ones they could salvage, the pilots who climbed into the MiGs accepted all of the risks associated with operating these aircraft. Vivid accounts of training engagements put the reader right there in the cockpit, flying alongside the "Red Eagles" as they trained the best pilots America had to offer. Historical photographs help paint the picture of an operation that took the US Air Force from its dismal performance in the Vietnam War to an unprecedented air-to-air kill ratio in Operation Desert Storm.

### About the Author:

Lt Col Rob 'Z-Man' Zettel, USAF (ret.) is a veteran of the 4477th Test & Evaluation Squadron. Flying MiG-21 and MiG-23 fighters as an Instructor Pilot and Functional Check Flight pilot from 1983-86, he was a key member of the squadron during its most prolific years. In his 37-year career he has flown extensively, logging more than 17,000 flight hours in everything from Stearman biplanes to frontline fighters in the USAF and at the controls of both Boeing and Airbus' most advanced airliners.

**AMERICAN MiG PILOT: Inside the Top Secret USAF “Red Eagles”  
MiG Squadron** by Rob “Z-Man” Zettel, Lt Col. USAF (Ret.) will be published,  
as a hardcover, by Osprey Publishing on February 10, 2026.  
(ISBN: 9781472808554 | \$30.00 | 368 Pages)

For more information or to request an interview with the author  
please contact Robin Wane: [robin.wane@bloomsbury.com](mailto:robin.wane@bloomsbury.com) (212) 419-5361

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## The Cambridge Spy Ring

The Treachery of the Five Who Got Away

Author: Shawna Morris

### Highlights

- **The Cambridge Spy Ring brings together the adventures of all five Cambridge Spies who were intimately involved in the most important historical events of the midtwentieth century.**
- **Their story has captivated the public's imagination for over seven decades, since the defections of Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean.**
- **The Cambridge Spy Ring provides an engaging portrait of five charming, brilliant, and treacherous spies whom the reader will simultaneously love and hate.**

In a history once thought too big for one book, the individual lives and careers of the Cambridge Five are now woven together in a single action-packed saga.

The Cambridge Spy Ring: The Treachery of the Five Who Got Away tells the incredible true story of the five most damaging spies in British history, from their recruitment at Cambridge University to their infiltration of the highest levels of government, all while successfully eluding prosecution.

When legendary KGB spymaster Arnold Deutsch began cultivating his network of agents, he didn't try to entice established bureaucrats. He instead sought out young rising stars with elite educations and promising futures, enlisted them as spies, and sent them into government careers where they would gain access to the most coveted state secrets in an increasingly polarised world. Beginning with the recruitment of the audacious Kim Philby, who would become the de facto ringleader, we follow the exploits of Donald Maclean, Guy Burgess, Anthony Blunt, and John Cairncross as they funnel a deluge of confidential documents and privileged information to the Soviet KGB.

Their espionage adventures spanned nearly two decades, from the Spanish Civil War and Stalin's Great Purge, through the Second World War, to the early Cold War. Their antics would not be complete without binge drinking, fist fights, car wrecks, romantic liaisons, and the heartless betrayal of friends and country alike.

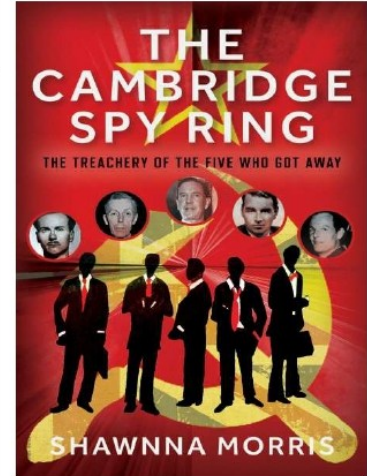
The Cambridge Spy Ring finally pieces together the full account of all five Cambridge Spies in one compelling history.

### About the Author

Shawna Morris is the author and administrator of the Cold War History Blog ([coldwarhistoryblog.com](http://coldwarhistoryblog.com)), an educational website for Cold War enthusiasts. She also reviews new books related to Cold War topics at [coldwarbookreviews.wordpress.com](http://coldwarbookreviews.wordpress.com), and has had articles published at FEE.org. Shawna is a delivery courier by day and lives in Colorado with her family. This is her first book.



PEN & SWORD  
HISTORY



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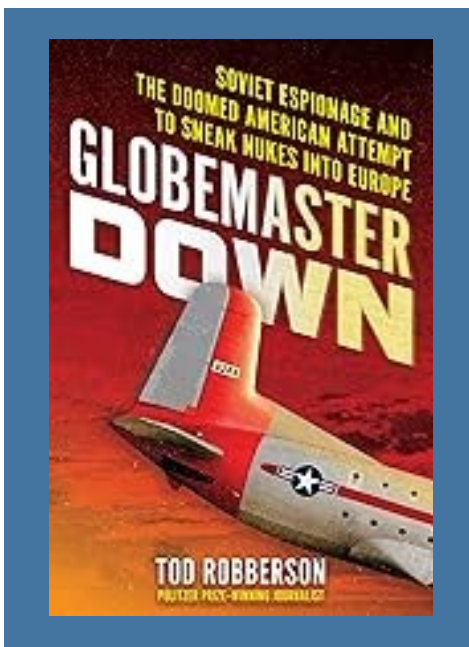
#### ABOUT GLOBEMASTER DOWN:

Just in time for the 75th anniversary comes the first book-length investigation into one of the great unsolved mysteries from the early days of the Cold War, when an American cargo plane allegedly carrying an atomic bomb over the Atlantic Ocean disappeared,

along with the U.S. military and nuclear specialists on board. Pulitzer Prize-winning war reporter Tod Robberson examines this shocking true story from the early days of the Cold War and the origins of the ongoing, icy relationship between the United States and Russia.

1951. The Cold War is heating up. With Soviet troops amassing across Eastern Europe and the arrests of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for spilling nuclear secrets, President Harry Truman assigned General Curtis LeMay the task of installing nuclear forces in Britain. On March 22, a massive C-124 Globemaster cargo plane-possibly carrying a "Fat Man" bomb-was dispatched to Britain with 53 passengers and crew including elite specialists in atomic warfare. Then tragedy struck.

The Globemaster never reached its destination. After radio communications ceased over the Atlantic, the plane took a sudden turn, flew hundreds of miles, and was ditched. Survivors disappeared before they could be rescued. The 144,000-square-mile search zone in the North Atlantic was about the size of Montana. During the search, an SOS call was intercepted, and aircraft reported four separate sightings of survivors.



It was during this era when the United States began to understand the deadly extent of Moscow's treachery, while Moscow was exploiting the naïve assumptions of the United States and Britain that a wartime ally would not stoop to unbridled espionage in anticipation of a future standoff, if not outright war. The Globemaster's disappearance also explores the extent to which the U.S. military was willing to lie to the American people to protect itself from embarrassment.

Over the years, in the absence of information, conspiracy theories have developed about this mysterious flight. Robberson's unparalleled research seeks to dispel some of the myths while providing crucial historical context that surrounded the Globemaster mission. With his seasoned investigator's eye, Robberson reviews:

- Globemaster down. Why the plane experienced a catastrophic series of communication and mechanical failures that caused it to go down on its own - unlikely, but possible.
- Possible sabotage. Investigators spent an inordinate amount of time looking at possible Soviet involvement in the disaster. The Soviets were overtly shooting down US military plans over international territory, disguising their pilots as Korean and painting MiG fighters with North Korean flags to engage US planes in combat. Soviet naval vessels were believed by the Pentagon to be stations in the area where Globemaster went down.
- The nuclear cargo. The Truman administration, at the highest levels, had approved the transfer of atomic components for preplacement in Britain with the objective of using them immediately upon the start of hostilities should Russia invade Europe.
- The Stalin factor. Stalin wanted the Americans to know his spies could infiltrate the most top-secret U.S. and British missions with ease. His forces were capable of sophisticated forms of sabotage. He was not above capturing American military men for interrogation and imprisonment. Stalin's message was that there was no such thing as American military supremacy.

Compromised? Globemaster 49-244's final flight could have been infiltrated and sabotaged, if indeed that's what caused the diversion and ditching. Robberson reveals the most bizarre aspects of the Globemaster story: that Brigadier General Paul T. Cullen was married to two women at the same time and might have compromised the very atomic mission he was chosen to command.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Tod Robberson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who spent four decades as a reporter, bureau chief, correspondent, and editor for various news organizations including The Washington Post, The Dallas Morning News, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, ESPN, and Reuters. As a foreign correspondent, Robberson was kidnapped by Shiite militiamen in Lebanon in 1984 and captured during an invasion of a guerrilla stronghold by the Salvadoran military in 1986. He was the last Washington Post correspondent in Baghdad before the bombs started falling in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. He has lived in London, Panama, Mexico, Cyprus, El Salvador, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia, and holds a master's degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He has covered wars throughout Latin America, the Middle East, and Afghanistan, and has provided guest commentary for CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio, Sky News, and Telemundo.

GLOBEMASTER DOWN

On Sale: March 31, 2026  
Hardcover, \$29.00 (\$39.00 CAN)  
ISBN 978-0-8065-4460-1

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**Press Release:** Established at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944, the World Bank soon emerged as a central pillar of the postwar order, and the world's leading development institution. This book provides a comprehensive exploration of the World Bank's pivotal role in the Cold War in Latin America through an examination of its interactions with Argentina—one of Latin America's largest economies, and a heavy borrower of the World Bank. In doing so, it unveils the surprisingly complex interplay between the World Bank's bureaucratic goals, US administrations, and Argentina's efforts to serve its own national interests. Drawing on a multi-archival corpus of primary sources, including newly declassified documents from the World Bank archives, the author examines the Bank's often-counterintuitive responses to major economic and political challenges posed by Argentina, including populism, developmentalism, economic nationalism, authoritarianism, human rights violations, and the "Lost Decade" of the 1980s. Showing how the World Bank ranged from full alignment with US interests to neutrality and subtle dissent, the book reveals the

integral influence of the Bank as a Cold War actor. Raising vital questions about the role of international organizations in developing countries, this book reframes our understanding of the economic Cold War in Latin America and beyond.



**DEADLINE FOR  
SUMMER ISSUE  
IS JULY 8, 2026**

# ASSISTANCE NEEDED



Looking for information on a Major Richard N. McGuinn USAF (1919 - 1999) who may have supported Francis Gary Powers U-2 flights? Major McGuinn may have worked out of Norway supporting those missions. Appreciate any information or pictures if available. I was researching Major McGuinn and I saw a note saying that he supported those missions. I may do more digging on him or I may stumble on to something. Major McGuinn owned a collectible firearm that I now own. I was looking for some background information on him. This picture must be early in his military career as a young man way before he was an Air Force Major. This is the same picture that is on Ancestry and his find a grave memorial: [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27805174/richard\\_n-mcguinn](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27805174/richard_n-mcguinn).

Paul Thomas  
E-Mail: [ab4ud@netzero.com](mailto:ab4ud@netzero.com)  
Telephone: (570) 865-1117

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I am former Marine and scholar of Cold War history who is doing research for a book about the military response to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

I'm currently searching for the stories of veterans who were on active duty that day. If you were serving at the time of the JFK assassination, I would be grateful if you could contact me and relate your experiences.

Your stories of what happened on that tragic day would be a great help in telling a little known but important part of Cold War history that now needs to be told.

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USMC 1977-1985  
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As many of you are aware, the National Army Security Agency Association is sponsoring Cecil Carver's efforts

to place an ASA/RR monument/memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The effort began several years ago, and, after Cecil made two presentations before the ANC committee that decides such things, the request was denied. Since the request was denied, the only alternative to achieve Cecil's goal is to introduce a Congressional bill in the House of Representatives asking for a vote on the effort.

The latest news: Cecil has been working closely with North Carolina Representative Dr. Alma Adams, who has agreed to introduce an ASA Memorial at ANC at the beginning of the New Year. The bill will be sent to the House Armed Services Committee who will be responsible for considering the bill and eventually bringing it to the House floor for a vote.

Here's how you can help: If your Representative is a member of the Armed Services Committee please consider writing a letter to them asking that they not only consider the bill, but also agree to be a co-sponsor. If your Representative is not a member of the committee, please consider writing them a letter anyway.

Here is a list of the members of the House Armed Forces Committee:

<https://veterans.house.gov/about/members.htm>

Here is a link to the list of all Representatives by state:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_current\\_United\\_States\\_representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_current_United_States_representatives)

Here is a link to sample letters that you may use to create a letter to your Representative. You may have to do some editing to update the letter. There is more information in the "files" section of the NASAA FB group that may help.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Bzwheu8gw/?>

If you are a member of the Army Security Agency Memorial at Arlington Nation Cemetery FB group, there is quite a bit of information in the "files" section there also. If you are not a member of the ASA at ANC group, please drop by and ask to join. Be sure to say "Jake sent me" and I'll add you as soon as your request "pops up."



# 2026 PRINCE WILLIAM HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

**January 22**

**Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries**

Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne S. LaPierre  
Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas

**March 26**

**Shipwreck on the Potomac: Disaster in Pursuit  
of Lincoln's Killer**

Karen E. Stone  
Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas

**May 28**

**'Better Known than Acknowledged':  
The Lees of Stratford and the Cause of Liberty**

Dr. Gordon Blaine Steffey  
Williams Ordinary, 17674 Main St, Dumfries

**July 23**

**Opening Manassas: The Iron Brigade, Stonewall  
Jackson, and the Battle on Brawner's Farm,  
August 28, 1862**

Bill Backus  
Pat White Center at Ben Lomond  
10501 Copeland Dr, Manassas

**September 24**

**Cold War Virginia**

Francis Gary Powers Jr. and Christopher Sturdevant  
Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas

**November 19**

**True Crime Prince William County in the 1950s**

Zachary G. Ford  
Occoquan Town Hall, 314 Mill St, Occoquan  
703-792-1731

Each program is free and will begin at 7 pm

**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
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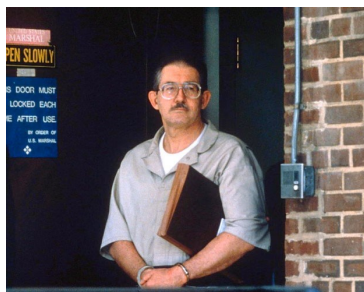
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# IN MEMORIAM



Here are the stories of a few of the many Cold Warriors who have passed on recently. Some you may have heard of, some not. All are worthy of our remembrance and respect, most because of what they did to protect the rest of us during the Cold War. In many cases they were ordinary people who were called upon to do extraordinary things, and who were then happy to step back from any spotlight, knowing that they'd done their duty. We also include other notable Cold War figures, including some from the East and some who are historically important because of their treachery.

## AMES, Aldrich



Aldrich Ames, who has died in prison aged 84, was the

most senior CIA officer ever to be exposed as a Russian spy. Ames betrayed more than 30 allied agents, at least 10 of whom were executed by the classic KGB punishment of a bullet in the back of the head, and more than 100 clandestine US and British espionage operations.

The US and British agents betrayed by Ames included Maj Gen Dmitri Polyakov, a senior member of the GRU, Soviet military intelligence, who supplied top level information to the CIA, the US foreign intelligence agency, for more than a quarter of a century, and **Oleg Gordievsky**, an MI6 agent inside the KGB, who, when he was outed by Ames, was the KGB *resident* or head of station, in London.

Ames, whose father had also been a CIA officer, was recruited in 1967. His first overseas posting was to Ankara in Turkey in the late 1960s along with his then wife, Nancy Segebarth, a fellow CIA officer, whom he had married in 1969. It was not a success and he was recalled to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, sent on a Russian course and given a post supporting operations against Soviet officials in Washington and New York.

In 1981, he was sent to Mexico to recruit Soviet officials as agents. With his marriage

falling apart, and in a clear breach of protocol, he began an affair with a CIA agent inside the Colombian embassy, María del Rosario Casas Dupuy. Yet again, he had little success recruiting agents of his own and was recalled to Langley, where he was put in charge of ensuring the security of all the CIA's Soviet agents.

Two months after his return to the US, he was joined by Rosario, who became his wife, and her mother, both of whom had a taste for high living. Ames was soon in debt and in April 1985 devised what he thought "a clever plan" to sell the KGB some limited information for \$50,000 to pay off his debts.

He placed it in an envelope addressed to the KGB *resident* at the Soviet embassy in Washington and delivered it himself. A month later, in May 1984, he met the deputy *resident* Victor Cherkashin, who told him that the information was not enough to be paid. He obviously had more names – who were they?

At that point, Ames told him as much as he knew about a top MI6 agent inside the KGB. He did not know his name, but what he did know pointed the finger towards Gordievsky, who two days later was recalled to Moscow, where he was suspended, drugged, interrogated and accused of being a spy. Crucially he admitted nothing, and was never arrested. When Moscow Centre eventually began to close in on him, Gordievsky activated an exfiltration plan and was smuggled across the border to Finland by MI6 in the boot of a car.

Ames tried to stick to the original plan of providing limited information, telling Cherkashin that CIA agents inside the KGB might find out about him, but Cherkashin told him they had no way of protecting him

if they did not know who those agents were.

Ames later told his CIA and FBI interrogators that he realised then that having "crossed a line, I could never step back". He barely hesitated before taking out a notebook and writing down a list of names, Cherkashin said. "He tore out the page and handed it to me. I was shocked. It was a catalogue of virtually every CIA asset within the Soviet Union." Ames simply told the KGB officer: "Just make sure these people don't find out anything about me."

Over the next 18 months, every major source the CIA and the FBI had inside the Soviet Union disappeared. At least 10 of those whose names were handed over by Ames, in what would become known as "the big dump", were subsequently shot dead. The killings were spaced out over a drawn-out period to make it more difficult to identify a single reason as to how each of the agents had been blown.

Polyakov, the most important of the CIA agents to be executed, was not arrested until 7 July 1986. He was executed in March 1988, shot like all the others with a single bullet to the back of the head.

Ames was by then in Rome, where he spent some of the £10,000 a month the KGB were paying him on a second-hand Jaguar. Wary of depositing the money in his Italian bank he opened a separate account at Credit Suisse in Zurich, later telling his CIA and FBI debriefers, without any apparent sense of irony, that as he drove the Jaguar over the Alps into Switzerland, with his wife by his side, he pictured himself as the new James Bond.

Ames was born in River Falls, Wisconsin, the eldest of three children of Carleton Ames, a professor of European and Asian history at a

local college, and his wife, Rachel (nee Aldrich), an English teacher. He studied drama at the University of Chicago before dropping out and taking a job as a clerk-typist at CIA headquarters, eventually being selected to train as a case officer.

He was eventually caught when [Sandra Grimes](#) – a CIA officer who had worked with Polyakov and was determined to track down the person who had betrayed him – found evidence that Ames had met a Soviet official, under the pretence of trying to recruit him, three times over the summer of 1985. After each of the meetings, Ames had made bank deposits of up to \$9,000.

Ames was placed under surveillance by the FBI and, on 21 February 1994, he and Rosario were arrested at their home in Arlington, Virginia. He pleaded guilty two months later to providing highly classified information to the KGB and its successor, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, in return for a lenient sentence for his wife, and was sentenced to life imprisonment with no possibility of parole.

Rosario was sentenced to 63 months in jail, but served only four years before being released in 1998, and returning to Colombia, where their young son, Paul, was being cared for by his grandmother.

## ARMSTRONG, LTGEN, Spence McFall



Lieutenant General (Retired) Spence McFall Armstrong, 91, of Fort Belvoir, Va., went to be with our Savior on November 15, 2025.

Known fondly as “Mac” in childhood and “Sam” throughout his adult life, he was born in Columbia, Tenn., on March 13, 1934, to Willis Frierson Armstrong and Annie Barton Armstrong (McFall). The second of five children, he grew up on a farm where he loved working the fields, exploring the woods, and hunting. After graduating from Hay Long High School in 1951 and spending a year at Vanderbilt University, he received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

He graduated with the 6th Company in 1956 and accepted a commission in the United States Air Force through a voluntary cross-commission program helping to build the new service. He earned his pilot wings at Greenville Air Force Base, Miss., one year later.

Sam’s first assignment took him to Myrtle Beach AFB, S.C., where he met Elizabeth “Beth” Arnold Webb. After a whirlwind romance, they married on October 8, 1960, beginning a 65-year partnership and welcoming two children: daughter, Elizabeth “Lisa” Barton Armstrong, and son, Edward Livingston Armstrong III.

During his distinguished 34-year Air Force career, Sam logged more than 4,500 flying hours in 50 different aircraft and held command assignments at five levels. Selected for the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School in 1964, he later served as a flight commander at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, where he flew 100 combat missions in the F-105 during the Vietnam War. He returned to Edwards AFB, Calif., as a flight instructor at Test Pilot School before attending Air War College in 1971.

Sam went on to hold multiple training commands in Texas, including at Randolph AFB and Sheppard AFB, where, as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Air Training Command, he oversaw pilot, navigator, and survival training for the entire Air Force. During this period, the first instrument simulators were introduced and the first classes of women entered flight training. He later served at USAF headquarters in Washington, D.C., as a Deputy Director before returning to Texas to command the Air Force Military Training Center in San Antonio, responsible for training more than 75,000 new Air Force recruits each year.

In 1983, during the Iran–Iraq War, Sam became Chief of the Joint U.S. Military Training Mission in Saudi Arabia, advising Saudi forces and overseeing more than 400 U.S. personnel across seven sites—the largest American mission of its kind at the time. Following this assignment, he was promoted to lieutenant general and served as vice commander of Air Force Systems Command at Andrews AFB, Md., where he

culminated his Air Force career before retiring in April 1990.

For the next 12 years, Sam continued his service to his country at NASA as a senior executive, proudly directing the agency’s efforts to expand partnerships with universities and the industry.

Sam was a lifelong learner, returning to academia throughout his career. He earned master’s degrees in aeronautical engineering and instrumentation engineering from the University of Michigan in 1963, completed the Advanced Management Program at Columbia University and the Senior Managers in Government Program at Harvard University, and received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Akron in 1987.

In retirement, Sam filled his days gardening, tinkering, golfing, reading, and traveling throughout Europe with Beth and his U.S. Naval Academy classmates. He was a devoted member and leader at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Alexandria and a faithful Navy Football fan who never missed a home tailgate. His most cherished role of all, however, was being “Papa” to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, for whom he remained an active, loving presence until his very last days. His wit, wisdom, captivating storytelling, and gentle spirit will be forever treasured. He lived a full life defined by courage, love of country, deep devotion to family, and an unwavering faith in Jesus—which assures us we will see him again.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Edward Livingston Armstrong II, and his sister Mary Huston Armstrong McLendon. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth “Beth” Webb Armstrong; daughter Lisa Blessing (Jeffrey); son Edward Armstrong (Tracey); grandchildren Anne Blessing Tenney (Aaron), Catherine Blessing, James Blessing (Erin), Niki Armstrong, and Reagan Armstrong; and great-grandchildren Will, Walker, Cecelia, and Carabeth Tenney. He also leaves behind his loving siblings Shine Armstrong and Adaline Pasour (Zeke), along with a large extended family, dear friends, and devoted caregivers at The Fairfax of Belvoir Woods.

## BRAGG, Bobby Orris



Bobby Orris Bragg, 83, died peacefully on January 18, 2026, with his two daughters by his side and worship music playing in the background. He was born in Warrenton, VA, on

October 18, 1942, and lived much of his life there.

Bobby served in the U.S. Army with pride during the Vietnam War. After ending his military service, Bobby made a career with Atlantic Research as a supervisor in the shipping and receiving department and then later with Lincare as a medical supply delivery driver. He retired from both companies.

He loved his family first and thought about himself last. He took joy in the simple moments of life, such as family dinners, family vacations at the beach, and talking about his old cars, especially his vintage Mustang. He enjoyed time spent with his children and his greats and grands. He was gentle, generous, faithful, and kind. By the way he lived his life, Bobby taught precious life lessons about family, faith, love, and respect. Bobby encouraged his children to have a close personal relationship with our heavenly father and in his later years enjoyed watching church on line. Bobby's favorite pastimes were spending time with family, going on long drives, watching old movies, listening to country music, especially bluegrass and gospel tunes. His quiet strength will be missed and carried on.

Bobby is survived by his 2 daughters and their husbands, Rhonda and John Morgan and Robin and Richard Cantrell; a daughter-in-law Andrea Kilby and son-in-law, Timothy Darrow. His legacy includes his grandchildren Sarah Showers (John), Michael Darrow, Kelly Kronfeld (Nicole), Jack Morgan (Mari), Savannah Copeland (Justin), Ben Morgan (Lauren) Rick Cantrell (Brandi), Ryley Cantrell (Amber), Rachel Cantrell, Bobby Bragg III, Maston Bragg, and Sierra Shamburg (Wesley). His extended legacy includes great grandchildren Camden, Chase, Sully, McKinley, Arlo, Sutton, and Ryder. He also is survived by his dear brother and sister, Thomas Bragg, and Kathleen Beaver (Don), numerous nephews and nieces. He also leaves behind his ex wife and good friend Senie Bragg and his faithful buddy and assistant Zaynah

Hildenbrand.

Bobby was predeceased by his parents, Griffith William Bragg and Kathleen Estelle Bragg; sisters, Ellen Robinson and Kitty Bragg Payne; and his son, Bobby Bragg II.

Services will be held at the Moser Funeral Home on Saturday, January 24. The family will hold a viewing at 10 a.m. and the service will begin at 11 a.m. Bobby will be laid to rest immediately after at Warrenton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, family requests donations to Lifepoint Church Culpeper.

## EISENHARD, LEE



Mr. Lee R. Eisenhard, 72, of Mont Alto, PA, passed away Monday, November 3, 2025, in Chambersburg hospital.

Born November 9, 1952, in North Hampton, PA, he was the son of the late Eugene M. and Winnifred R. (Locher) Eisenhard.

He graduated Woodmore High School, Ohio with the class of 1969.

Mr. Eisenhard served his country honorably in the United States Army serving from 1969 until his formal retirement in 1989.

He and his wife, Sandra G. "Sandy" (Smith) Eisenhard were married September 14, 1974, in Higginsport, OH.

Mr. Eisenhard was a business owner, having owned Sunrise Computers, Chambersburg, PA.

He was a faithful member of the Waynesboro Lions Club, Waynesboro, PA often helping out with their train shows. He was also a member of the Army Security Agency Union. A faithful man by heart, he attended church services at Grace Baptist Church, Waynesboro.

A jack of all trades, Mr. Eisenhard enjoyed wood working where he made different pieces, including those to help his wife with her hobby of weaving. He also enjoyed old cars and model trains.

In addition to his beloved wife of 51 years, he is survived by his two daughters, Becky Bryant of Mont Alto, and Kristina Snider and her husband Michael of Chambersburg; five grandchildren, Randy, Brandon, Virginia, Braxton, and Brody; three great-grandchildren, Jaxon, Myah, and Willow;

and one sister, Tina Luebbers of CO; as well as an extended host of family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles Eisenhard, and Eugene "Butch" Eisenhard, Jr.

Details regarding a Celebration of Lee's life will be forthcoming.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Mr. Eisenhard's honor can be made to the [Daisy Fund online here](#).

## GRAVES, James "Jimmy" Charlton



James "Jimmy" Charlton Graves of Syria, Virginia passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on

Sunday, October 26, 2025. Jimmy is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Rachel Norman Graves; his sons James "Lucky" Graves, Jr (Missy), Lynn Graves (Tricia); his grandchildren James Graves III (fiancé Olivia), Zoe Herring (Miles), Amelia Adams (Logan), William Graves (fiancé Lane), Cole Graves; his great-grandchildren Jacqueline Herring and Roslyn Herring. Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents Elvin "Mr. Jack" and Etta Kate Graves; and brother Elvin "Jackie" Graves, Jr.

Jimmy was born on June 22, 1936, and raised in Syria, Virginia. He graduated from Madison County High School then attended a postgraduate year at Woodberry Forest.

After receiving his BS degree in agricultural economics at Virginia Tech and *two years in the armed forces in Germany*, he came back home to the farm to carry on the family tradition of hospitality and farming.

Jimmy was quite an accomplished athlete playing baseball for Madison County High School, the Valley League, at Virginia Tech, and while in Germany. He announced for Madison County Football games during Eddie Dean's tenure.

Jimmy and Rachel met while they were involved in 4H and married in 1964. Thereafter, they began to raise their two boys, passing on their love of family, tradition, home and values.

One of Jimmy's greatest accomplishments was when he and Rachel started Graves

Mountain Lodge in the spring of 1965, which continues to be a very successful business, operating as Graves Mountain Farm and Lodges.

Jimmy spent many hours on his tractor, not only reading, but envisioning future concepts for the Lodge.

Jimmy and Rachel shared a love for sports - baseball, basketball, and football. They proudly supported and shared their love for the Hoo's and Hokies.

Jimmy had a passion for Madison County and served on many local and state boards and committees. Because of his involvement and kindness, Jimmy had friends spread far and wide.

The funeral service will be held at Hebron Lutheran Church, Madison, Virginia on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 11:00 am with The Rev. James Kniceley officiating. Committal will follow at the church cemetery. The Graves Family invites everyone to join them in celebrating Jimmy's life at a reception at the Lodge after the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Jimmy's name, to Hebron Lutheran Church Foundation, P.O. Box 1009, Madison, VA 22727, or 4H Program of Madison County, checks made to Virginia Tech Foundation, 902 Prices Fork Road, Attn: Gift Accounting, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

## HAMEL, Roger A.



On January 16, 2026, Roger A. Hamel passed peacefully at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, surrounded and held by his wife and two daughters. He faced lymphoma with courage and determination, embodying the same quiet strength and resolve that defined his life. Above all else, Roger was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, patriot, and man of faith.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Armand and Arlene Hamel, and his younger brother, David Hamel.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Donna; his daughter Renee and her husband Scott, and their son; and his daughter Lauren and her husband Cory, and their two daughters. He is also survived by

his sister, Rita, and brothers Denis, Norman, and Andrew, along with their families, all of whom he held close to his heart.

Roger enlisted in the United States Navy Seabees in July 1971 and proudly served his country for 22 years. His distinguished career took him around the world. He was stationed in Gulfport, Mississippi, with deployments as part of Naval Mobile Construction Battalions, followed by a three-year tour in Sigonella, Sicily. He later served in Port Hueneme, California, as a Chief Petty Officer with NMCB 5, deploying to Rota, Spain; the island of Yap; and Okinawa, Japan. Roger went on to serve as Assistant Officer in Charge of CBU-422, a newly commissioned construction battalion unit in Washington, D.C. Promoted to Master Chief, he returned to Port Hueneme as an instructor at the Civil Engineer Corps Officer and Seabee training facility (CECOS). He retired from the U.S. Navy Seabees in 1993, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, integrity, and unwavering dedication to those he served alongside.

Following his military retirement, Roger began a second career with AECOM, where he managed major renovation and expansion projects at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia. He played a key role in overseeing work on the historically significant main terminal, as well as the airport's rail stations and parking facilities. After the completion of the Dulles projects, Roger joined NXL Engineering, where he oversaw and inspected construction of the Metro rail expansion to Dulles Airport, including several new stations extending westward into Loudoun County. Upon completion of the Metro rail project, Roger retired for a second time in 2022 and embraced the joy of unhurried days with his family.

Outside of his professional accomplishments, Roger lived fully and purposefully. An avid runner, he took pride in completing the Marine Corps Marathon, a testament to his discipline and perseverance. He delighted in simple pleasures, especially spending weekends with his grandchildren cheering them on at their sporting events and in his yard, carefully tending the lawn and taking deep satisfaction in the sight of green, healthy grass. Travel was another great joy in his life, and he treasured family vacations to Arizona, the Carolina coast, New England, Ireland, and Caribbean cruises, creating memories and epic tales that will be cherished for generations.

Roger's life was marked by service, faith, and love—love for his family, his country, and the many people whose lives he touched along the way. He will be remembered for his steady presence, his sharp wit and humor, his pride in a job well done, and the example he set for those who had the honor of knowing him.

Visitation for Roger will be held at Moser Funeral Home in Warrenton, VA, from 5-7pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Church service will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church in Warrenton, Virginia, at 11am on Thursday, February 12, 2026, with reception following. Roger will be laid to rest with full military honors at Quantico National Cemetery in the presence of his family.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of Roger's passion for helping others, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Blood Cancer United to support families walking similar journeys. Any flowers received will be donated to St. John the Evangelist Church.

## HOUSE, Lt. Col., Dan



On Friday January 23, family and friends gathered at the Twin Cities Church to pay their final respects to Lt. Col. Dan

House, who passed away on December 6 2025.

House spent his military career flying the SR71, U2, T38 and KC135.

After retiring from the military, House flew as a pilot for American Airlines.

In 1989 Lt. Col. Dan House and Lt. Col. Blair Borek flew a mission over the South China Sea, when they experienced engine failure, what resulted in both pilots ejecting from the plane and being rescued by local fishermen.

Those at the memorial recalled a lighthearted story that came of the situation. It was said that the fishermen who rescued the pair wanted to be reimbursed for their time and gas. Normally pilots in a pressure suit do not really have

much room for a wallet, etc, but Dan pulled a \$100 bill out of his flight suit and told the fishermen to “keep the change”.

The fog at Beale AFB on Saturday prevented the U2 fly over at the ceremony, but those that knew him claim that if Lt. Col. Dan House was the pilot, he probably would have taken off regardless.

The Honor Guard gave a gun salute and presented the American Flag to Dan’s widow Laura House who resides in Lake Wildwood.

## HOWELL, Stephen Christopher



Stephen Christopher Howell, 52, of Warrenton, died on February 9, 2026, at Fauquier Hospital. Son. Brother. Husband. Sailor. Farmer. MARINE.

Those are the six words Stephen used to describe himself. Friends and family would describe him as witty, adventurous, sentimental, loving, compassionate, faithful, and stubborn, with an unwavering love for his God, Family, Friends, Country, and Marines.

Born in Kansas City, KS, on November 13, 1973, Stephen's journey took him from Overland Park, KS, to Manhattan, KS, and Bartlesville, OK, before settling in Lake Jackson, TX, where he graduated from Brazosport HS. His service in the US Marines, guarding top-secret installations from Panama to Okinawa, and later as a Navy corpsman traveling the world for 13 years and visiting six of the seven continents exemplified his dedication to country, with a visit to Antarctica remaining a cherished regret.

Stephen's passions included genealogy, history, Civil War reenacting, music, cooking, travel, and politics. He found joy in farming, serving others, caring for the land blessed by God, and feeding the community. One of his greatest joys was sitting with Sarah in the garden, watching the sunset over the Blue Ridge Mountains

and their farm, sharing moments of peace and gratitude.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Ross and Doris Howell, and Harold and Maribelle Kissick, as well as his mother, Terri Howell. He leaves behind his wife, Sarah; his beloved Roe; his father and his wife, Jerald and Marie Howell (Houston, Tx); his sister and brother-in-law, Laura and Stephen Trout; his nephew, Gavin Trout, and niece, Megan Trout (League City, Tx); along with his in-laws, Fred and Judy Butcher, and his sister-in-law, Jill Butcher (Hardwick, NJ); last, his adopted military family, Shelby and Jeanie Ming (Shuqualak, MS).

He had great faith in his heavenly father and would not want to be mourned with sadness, but joy. He truly believed he would be greeted by family and friends who had previously departed. He was ready with a list of people he wanted to talk to with questions in hand.

Services will be private with a public celebration of Stephen's life at a later date.

## KEYS, William H.

William M. Keys, LtGen USMC, Ret a graduate of the U.S Naval Academy, a highly decorated Marine Corps leader and revered veteran of the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm, passed away on January 24, 2026,

after a lifetime of distinguished service to his country and community.

Born on March 29, 1937, in Fredericktown, Pennsylvania, William Morgan Keys was raised in a close-knit, working-class family deeply rooted in the values of hard work and patriotism. The son of World War I veteran Charles Keys and Elizabeth Morgan Keys grew up alongside his late brothers, David Lee Keys and Charles Dennis Keys, in a community shaped by Pennsylvania’s coal mining heritage. His upbringing instilled in him a sense of discipline and service that would define his life’s path.

Appointed to the United States Naval Academy, Keys graduated in 1960 with a

Bachelor of Science degree and in 2008 was inducted as a Naval Academy Distinguished Graduate. Upon his graduation he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He completed The Basic School at Quantico, Virginia, and was designated an infantry officer, beginning a 34-year career that would see him rise from platoon leader to commanding general of major Marine forces.

During his early career, Keys served as a rifle platoon leader with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, and later as company commander with the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines in Vietnam. His valor in combat was legendary; he was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism during Operation Prairie II in 1967, where he led his company against numerically superior North Vietnamese forces, personally engaging the enemy and orchestrating a decisive victory. He also received the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Combat “V,” and numerous other decorations for his gallantry and leadership.

Keys returned to Vietnam for a second tour as a major and advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Brigade, playing a pivotal role in the recapture and defense of Quang Tri Province. His innovative tactics and steadfast leadership contributed significantly to the success of allied operations during a critical period of the conflict.

After returning from Vietnam, Keys attended Amphibious Warfare School, and later the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. As a lieutenant colonel, Keys was selected to attend the National War College in Washington, D.C.

Throughout his career, Keys held a series of key command and staff positions, including Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines; Regimental Commander of the 6th Marines; and Commanding General of the 2nd Marine Division. During Operation Desert Storm, he led the 2nd Marine Division as a major component of a brilliant two-pronged assault by the two Marine Divisions that breached Iraqi defenses and liberated Kuwait—a maneuver lauded by General Norman Schwarzkopf as “simply brilliant.” He later served as Commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, and other joint commands until his retirement in 1994.

His military decorations include the Navy Cross, two Distinguished Service Medals, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Combat "V," Bronze Star with Combat "V," Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars, and numerous foreign honors, including the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He was also among the select few chosen to wear Colonel Merritt A. "Red Mike" Edson's rank insignia, a rare honor in the Marine Corps.

After retiring from active duty, Keys continued his legacy of leadership as President and CEO of Colt Defense LLC and Colt's Manufacturing Company, where he guided the companies through financial recovery and revitalization. He remained active in military education, philanthropy, and veteran affairs, serving as a director of the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation and as a mentor to young officers and Naval Academy midshipmen. He was also a dedicated member of the Scottish Rite Freemasons and was honored as a 33rd Degree Mason, reflecting his commitment to service and fraternity beyond his military career. In recognition of his service, a bridge in western Pennsylvania was named in his honor.

After Keys retired from Colt, he spent the remainder of his distinguished days on his farm in Virginia surrounded by his horses and dogs while he watched his daughter grow up into an exceptional young woman. Lieutenant General William M. Keys is remembered as a Marine's Marine—an inspirational leader, a devoted patriot, and a man of unwavering loyalty to his country, his Corps and his Marines. His legacy endures in the countless Marines he led, the institutions he strengthened, and the nation he served with valor and distinction. He is survived by his beloved daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) Keys; nieces, friends, and the generations of Marines who carry forward his example of courage, commitment, and honor. He is preceded in death by his brothers David Lee Keys and Charles Dennis Keys.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend a viewing in honor of Lieutenant General William M. Keys to be held on Saturday, February 7 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Moser Funeral Home, 233 Broadview Ave, Warrenton, Virginia. Memorial remarks

by Major General Randy West USMC, (Ret.) at 4:00 p.m. that day. A Service followed by Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in his memory to organizations that were deeply meaningful to him: U.S. Naval Academy Foundation – supporting midshipmen and the Academy he cherished or The Salvation Army – continuing his lifelong commitment to serving others.

## OHS, Don



Cold War Veteran Donald "Don" Richard Ohs passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family, on January 16, 2026. He

was born in the fall of 1936 in Little Falls, Minnesota, the youngest of six children of Merle and Emma Ohs.

In 1973, Don met the love of his life, Sarah "Lib" Shackelford, in Alexandria, VA. Their journey together began shortly after their marriage, and over the next 52 years, they built a loving family, welcoming two children—Jason in 1977 and Donna in 1981.

Don dedicated 20 years to a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, where he served in a select group as a crew member on the E-4 Advanced Airborne Command Post. This critical role provided a survivable command post for the National Command Authority, including the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense. He proudly retired in 1975, continuing his service by working as a local agent with State Farm Insurance in Woodbridge, Virginia, where he became well-known for his approachable nature and commitment to his clients.

A community-oriented individual, Don could often be found around Occoquan, engaging with friends and staying involved in local happenings. He prioritized family time throughout his life, creating cherished memories with his children during RV trips across the country. As they grew older, these adventures turned into visits to the

various places they called home.

Don possessed a lifelong passion for working on vehicles, a skill he honed from a young age. He enjoyed spending hours in his garage, repairing and rebuilding cars, often inviting friends to gather around the wood stove to share stories and enjoy a drink or two. He looked forward to deer season each year, relishing the camaraderie of hunt camp alongside his son, where laughter and friendship flourished.

A proud veteran, Don enlisted in the Army right after high school, serving for three years before pursuing a college education and re-enlisting in the Air Force. He was a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and served as the esteemed House Committee Chairman of VFW Post 7916. His unwavering commitment to the VFW highlighted his legacy as a dedicated member of the veteran and Occoquan communities.

Don is survived by his beloved wife, Sarah "Libby" Ohs; his son, Jason Ohs, and daughter-in-law, Sarah; his daughter, Donna Nelson, and son-in-law, Greg; as well as his four cherished grandchildren, Shea, Wyatt, Bryce Nelson, and Brandon Ohs; and numerous nieces and nephews whom he adored.

Don's legacy of love, friendship, and service will continue to inspire all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

## SMITH, JR., Ernest Lee



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ernest Lee Smith, Jr. who departed this life peacefully on January 15, 2026, at the age of 91.

Born on August 4, 1934, in Nashville, Tennessee, Ernest Lee Smith, Jr., was the eldest child of Ernest Lee Smith, Sr. and Joyce Smith. He grew up in Nashville where he attended public school. He received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Vanderbilt University in 1958. In 1960, following a two-year tour in the U.S. Army,

where he participated in the study of nuclear effects, Ernest became a staff member of the Defense Atomic Support Agency at the Pentagon. He held several different high-level positions during his career ending in retirement in June of 1990 as the Special Assistant to the Acting Director/JDSSC.

Also in 1960, Ernest married the love of his life the former Barbara Shannon. Ernest and Barbara settled in Fairfax, Virginia and raised two children. Ernest and Barbara were founding members of the Fairfax Church of Christ and later long-time members of Warrenton Church of Christ. Ernest served as an elder for many years at both churches. His faith and his family were everything. He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Barbara Smith, children, Catherine Greer (David), Kenneth Smith (Dianne), grandchildren, Michelle Hall (Randy), Kirk Smith, Thomas Zimmerman (Robert), Jeffrey Greer, Shannon Loeb (Zack), James Smith, great-grandson, Shawn McCain, and sister, Annette Everett. Ernest was preceded in death by his parents,

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in his memory to organizations that were deeply meaningful to him: U.S. Naval Academy Foundation – supporting midshipmen and the Academy he cherished or The Salvation Army – continuing his lifelong commitment to serving others.

## STORRIE, MajGen, John



Major General John H. Storrie passed away Jan 9, 2026. He was 94 and lived in Arlington, Virginia. He was in the very first group of SR-71 Pilots

selected in 1965.

General Storrie was born in 1931 in Corsicana, Texas. He attended Denton High School and graduated from Texas A&M University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science in engineering. He earned a master's degree from Auburn (Ala.) University in 1972 and completed the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.,

also in 1972.

After receiving his commission in August 1953, he graduated from pilot training in December 1954. For the next five years, he flew F-86s at Perrin Air Force Base, Texas; George Air Force Base, Calif.; and Clark Air Base, Philippines.

In 1959, he transferred to the Strategic Air Command and served as an aircraft commander and instructor pilot in B-47s at Chennault Air Force Base, La., and in B-58s at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. During this period, he also served as operations officer of the 656th Bombardment Squadron.

In March 1965, the general moved to Beale Air Force Base, Calif., as part of the initial SR-71 cadre. He was one of the first instructor pilots in the SR-71. He was an SR-71 aircraft commander for more than five years, logging nearly 900 hours in the Mach 3 aircraft. From 1968 to 1971, he had extensive operational duty in Southeast Asia. In August 1971, General Storrie left Beale to attend the Air War College and, in August 1972, was assigned to Air Force headquarters as chief of the Drone Management Group, Directorate of Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare.

He returned to Beale Air Force Base in May 1974 as vice commander of the 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing and took command of the wing in June 1975. General Storrie returned to Air Force headquarters in September 1977 to serve as director of reconnaissance and electronic warfare. He held that position until July 1978, when the organization moved to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., where he served as assistant deputy chief of staff, systems for armament and defense suppression, Headquarters Air Force Systems Command. General Storrie became the command's inspector general in July 1979. In 1981 Maj Gen was the Director of Space, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

The general is a command pilot with more than 5,000 flying hours. His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.

## WAGGONER, Wallace



Wallace Reed Waggoner, Jr., 79 of Warrenton, VA passed away on Feb. 15, 2026 at Poet's Walk-Warrenton.

He was born on

September 6, 1946 in Fauquier County, VA a son of the late Wallace Reed Waggoner and Dorothy Rider Waggoner.

A graduate of Fauquier High School, he entered the U. S. Army serving in Vietnam and was honorably discharged in March 1970. He was employed at Vint Hill Farms Station until his retirement just before Vint Hill closed. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by his wife, Debra Reed Waggoner with whom he has been together for 48 years; his sister and her husband, Cheryl and Bill Polk; and his nephew, Eli Polk.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026 at 2:00 PM at the Warrenton Cemetery. A buffet reception will follow at the American Legion Post #72 in Warrenton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Dementia Society of America, P. O. Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901 or to the charity of the donor's choice.



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# PRIVATE TOURS OF THE MUSEUM

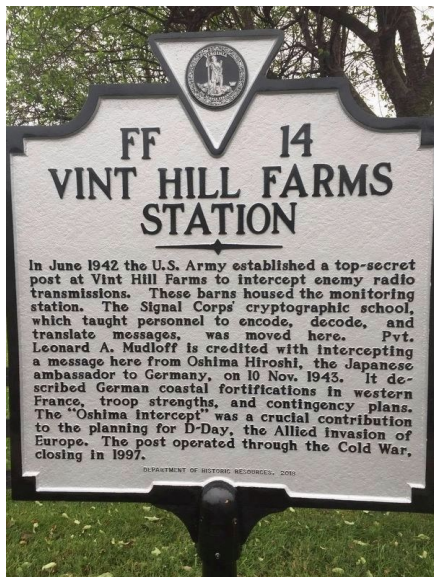


One of the ways the Cold War Museum fulfills its key mission of educating about the Cold War is via presentations to local community groups. We are receiving more and more of these invitations as the museum gets better known locally. The purpose of such events is of course to attract people to the museum, encouraging them to visit either during public hours on the weekend when admission is free, or to arrange for private group tours during the week, for which there is a per-person fee, depending on the size of the group.

## ***PRIVATE TOURS Are An Important Source of Museum Income***

THE INCREASING NUMBER of private tours we arrange provides a significant percentage of the Museum's yearly operating income, so it's an important part of our many income streams, helping to stabilize our operating income from month to month.

November 16, 2025 – LtCol. Donald W. Heckert USAF Ret. and Pat Pearsall visited the Cold War Museum and donated a copy of his book *The Life of a Radioactive U-2 Pilot*.



To arrange a private tour led by one of the museum docents, please contact

**Bryan A. Zwanzig**  
**703-408-2039**  
[bryan.z@coldwar.org](mailto:bryan.z@coldwar.org)

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# GROUP VISITS TO THE MUSEUM



Dan Schmidt and group, November 28, 2025, *photo courtesy of the Cold War Museum®*



NGA Alumni Group, December 4, 2025, *photo courtesy of the Cold War Museum®*



Joe Alexander and his Veteran's Group, December 11, 2025, photo courtesy of The Cold War Museum®



Lisa Kowalski and her group, March 5, 2026, photo courtesy of The Cold War Museum®



James Grove and his group, March 11, 2026, photo courtesy of The Cold War Museum®



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# CARRYING THE MESSAGE



## Three Main Goals of the Museum

- ◆ To keep knowledge of the Cold War and its significance alive for coming generations.
- ◆ To honor the service of those who had professional Cold War roles.
- ◆ To use the Museum's extensive collection of rare and, in some cases, unique artifacts in Cold War signals intelligence (SIGINT) and image intelligence (IMINT) to show how intelligence collection and analysis supports our policy, diplomacy, and military action. CARRYING THE MESSAGE Home of The Cold War Museum®: Vint Hill Farms, Virginia.

One of the ways the Cold War Museum fulfills its key mission of educating about the Cold War is via presentations to local community groups. We are receiving more and more of these invitations as the museum gets better known locally. The purpose of such events is of course to attract people to the museum, encouraging them to visit either during public hours on the weekend when admission is

free, or to arrange for private group tours during the week, for which there is a per-person fee, depending on the size of the group.



Mike Washvill and Clayton Vieg were at West Springfield High School in Springfield, VA on Saturday, March 7, 2026, for the National History Day competition. Approximately 270 participants attended the event. They talked to attendees about the Museum and its mission and purpose and handed out rack cards. Before the event began, we were handed a roll of tickets to hand out to students visiting our display. Those tickets would be drawn in a raffle to determine the winner of our gift basket containing the items donated to the event. All in attendance were encouraged to visit the Museum.

## THE COLD WAR MUSEUM® MEMORIAL CHALLENGE COIN!

**The Museum's Challenge Coin is available for \$15 per coin plus \$10 shipping if mailed.**

**The coin pays homage to Vint Hill Farms as an active listening post from 1942—1997 and features the Cold War Museum® on the reverse side.**



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