Dear Friends and Supporters of the Cold War Museum

I am pleased to offer the following report about the activities and developments of the Cold War Museum, Chapter Berlin/Germany.

From 20 August to 18 September, we visited the USA. We met close friends again for hosting, talking, and dinning but we had occasion to present and bring the goals of the Cold War Museum Berlin Chapter advance.

On July 17, 2008

The Berlin Airlift Diamond Jubilee Committee invited me to join the Planning Committee. I accepted the invitation, which was extended by Colonel Gail S. Halvorsen, USAF-Ret, aka “the Candy Bomber,” and Dr. Earl Moore, the President of the Berlin Air Lift Veterans Association, both serving as Co-Chairs of the Planning Committee. Mr. Kirchner, the best co-worker of the Berlin Chapter, created the homepage, the layout of the official letterhead and the ticket for the Berlin Air Lift Remembrance Concert, which will take place in Washington DC on Veterans Day. The Cold War Museum Berlin Chapter is sponsoring the homepage of the Berlin Airlift Diamond Jubilee Committee, with Mr. Kirchner serving as webmaster on the BADJC Planning Committee. The website can be found at: www.berlinairlift-diamondjubilee.org

About the Berlin Airlift Diamond Jubilee Committee

The Berlin Air Lift Diamond Jubilee Committee is a “private-public partnership” which, under the leadership of the Berlin Air Lift Veterans Association (U.S.A.) http://www.konnections.com/airlift/ and the British Berlin Airlift Association (U.K.) http://www.bbbaa-airlift.org.uk brings together U.S., U.K., Commonwealth and Allied Berlin. Airlift Veterans in advance of the veterans’ wish for a Grand Reunion in Berlin in May 2009, in conjunction with the State Ceremonies organized by the Governing Mayor on 12 May 2009, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Air Lift. The Committee enjoys strong Congressional support, with the Honorable Ben Nelson, United States Senator, D-NE, and the Honorable Jeff Fortenberry, United States Representative, R-NE, serving as Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee. It convenes on the initiative of Mrs. Francis S. Drath, (Viola Herms Drath) whom President George W. Bush recently singled out as a leading figure in American-German relations for the past thirty years, pursuant to the exchange of Notes with Dr. Moore and Colonel Halvorsen. (January 31, 2008) With Berlin’s coffers depleted and many veterans on fixed incomes, the BADJC’s primary function is to help raise the funds necessary to enable all willing and capable veterans to take the trip.

September 9, 2008, marked the Committee’s formal launch. It was being observed with a “Tribute to Ernst Reuter, U.S., U.K., Commonwealth and Allied Berlin Air Lift Veterans and the Citizens of Berlin” to mark the 60th anniversary of Reuter’s speech, “Voelker der Welt, Schaut auf diese Stadt!” (“People of world
The tribute took place in the elegant rooms of DACOR Bacon House, an early 19th century mansion, one block East of the White House, which was home to a long list of Washington dignitaries, including two Chief Justices of the United States Supreme Court, and which now houses the elegant Foreign Service Club. Congressman Fortenberry and General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF, the Chief of Staff Air Force, headed a list of distinguished U.S. and Allied speakers. I had the privilege to deliver “Greetings from Berlin.” My husband Horst and I had a most memorable occasion, made the more precious by the presence of more than a dozen Berlin Air Lift Veterans.

Veterans of the World—Mark your Calendars for the

**BERLIN AIR LIFT REMEMBRANCE CONCERT, Saint Matthew’s Cathedral, Washington, DC, Veterans Day, November 11, 2008, 18:00 hours.**

All tickets issue, free of charge, to U.S., U.K., Commonwealth, and Allied Berlin Air Lift Veterans through the major veterans organizations, Uniform Services, Congress and Allied Embassies. For further information, please go in contact Mrs. Viola Drath vdrath@verizon.net Further information will post to the BAJDC webpage.

**Beautiful places to visit and to learn history**

Lexington is a lovely town in the heart of Virginia within the confines of Rockbridge County in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The population was 6,867 at 2000. Lexington is about 55 minutes east of the West Virginia border and is about 50 miles north of Roanoke, Va, Roanoke,. It was first settled in 1777. It is the county seat of Rockbridge County. [http://www.lexingtonvirginia.com/](http://www.lexingtonvirginia.com/)

**National Historic Landmark**

It is home of the Washington & Lee University, the Virginia Military Institute, the VMI Museum, and the George C.Marshall Museum.

Washington & Lee University with Museum and Lee chapel [http://www.wlu.edu/](http://www.wlu.edu/)
[http://chapelapps.wlu.edu/](http://chapelapps.wlu.edu/)

From September 11, until September 14, we were special guests of the Virginia Military Institute Lexington Virginia.

Many thanks go to Professor Malcolm Muir, Jr., Director John A. Adams Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis and Col William J. Stockwell, Ph.D. and Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty, and colleagues, they made this memorable visit possible.

**The Virginia Military Institute**
The Virginia Military Institute was the first state military college in the United States. VMI’s campus occupies 134 acres on Main Street in Lexington, which are designated, as National Historic District.

The institute was founded in November 1839. Initially the college’s site was occupied by the State of Virginia military post following the War in 1812. It was the arms storage point for the western part of the commonwealth for more than 20 years.

In 1842, the first class of cadets was graduated into the ranks of the first alumni. Until 1850, when the cornerstone of a new barracks was laid, the living conditions were poor, and hardship was the keynote of cadet existence.

By 1859, the college had opened its door to students from states outside the commonwealth.

With the outbreak of the Civil War (1861-1865), VMI’s corps of cadets was taken under the command of General Thomas J. Jackson. Union forces, under the command of General David Hunter, shelled and burned the institute in June 1864.

The destruction was nearly total, but VMI reopened its doors in October 1865 and began its climb back from the ruins.

The institute-excluded women from the corps of cadets until 1997, after a court order, required women are granted admission. Four years later, its first female cadets graduated.

Today, the Virginia Military Institute is home to approximately 1,300 cadets from 37 states and nine foreign countries. About 96 percent of the 145 full-time faculty members hold their Ph.D. or terminal degree.

In addition to military programs, the four-year public college awards B.A. and B.S. degrees.

Slightly over 50 percent of VMI graduates cadets took a military commission (May 2008). Others make their marks in a variety of pursuits, including finance, medicine, law, and education.

Popular majors include civil engineering, mathematics, computer science, mechanical engineering, economics and business, modern languages and cultures, electrical and computer engineering, physics and astronomy, English and fine arts, psychology and philosophy, biology, history, chemistry, and international studies.

Since 1839, VMI has had fourteen superintendents. Francis H. Smith was the first and the longest serving filling the position 50 years. Only three of the fourteen superintendents were not graduates of VMI.

2003-present Superindentent: USA four star General retired J.H. Binford Peay III
**Special**

Don't miss a full-dress cadet parade during the school year and good weather at Virginia Military Institute, where living history is at its best to learn about the old traditions. More information: [http://www.vmi.edu/](http://www.vmi.edu/)

On September 11, we have the opportunity to meet Mrs. Peggy Dillard (Marshall Archive) and Mr. Robert B. James (Vice President and Director of Programs). We had a good talk I present the projects of the Berlin Chapter. We will keep in touch maybe it might be we have a presentation in future there. Thank you very much goes to Mrs. Dillard and Mr. James for their readiness to welcome and talk to us, giving us so much of your time.

**The George C. Marshall Foundation**
The George C. Marshall Foundation was organized in 1953 "at the suggestion of President Harry S.. Truman." The George C. Marshall Foundation "and its Board of Trustees, made up of distinguished citizens, share and promote the principles which made Marshall a great leader in his lifetime and a unique example of leadership to succeeding generations. Located in Lexington, Virginia, adjacent to the Virginia Military Institute -- Marshall's alma mater -- and the campus of Washington and Lee University the Foundation draws its inspiration from the life and career of General Marshall, America's premier soldier-statesman.


**On September 15, 2008**
Meeting Cold War Museum Board Member, Fairfax, Va. Thank you very much wonderful to meet you in person and talk with you.
On September 16, 2008
Meeting with Mr. Christian Ostermann, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC, Mr. Ostermann is director of Cold War International History Project, History and Public Policy Program and Director, North Korea International Documentation Project. Thank you very much Dr. Ostermann

The Center serves as a national memorial to President Wilson established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington DC It is a nonpartisan institution supported by public and private funds, engaged in the study of national and world affairs. The Center establishes and maintains a lively, neutral forum for free and informed dialogue. The mission of the Center is to commemorate the ideals and concerns of Woodrow Wilson by providing a link between the world of ideas and the world of policy. The Center also focuses on fostering research, study, discussion, and collaboration among a full spectrum of individuals concerned with policy and scholarship in national and world affairs. Its location in the U.S. capital makes the Center a unique nonpartisan meeting ground where vital current issues and their deep historical background may be explored through research and dialogue. http://www.wilsoncenter.org/

Further information about the Cold War Museum is available on the internet:
www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter
www.atombunker-16-102.de

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