



# Cold War Times®

The Internet Newsletter Produced for The  
Cold War Museum and Cold War Veterans

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### About The Cold War Museum

*Founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and John C. Welch, The Cold War Museum is dedicated to preserving Cold War history and honoring Cold War Veterans. For more information, call 703-273-2381, go online to [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org), or write The Cold War Museum, P.O. Box 861526 – Vint Hill, VA 20187. To contact The Cold War Times or to submit articles for future issues, email the editor at [editor@coldwar.org](mailto:editor@coldwar.org) or visit [www.coldwartimes.com](http://www.coldwartimes.com).*

*The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Cold War Times, The Cold War Museum, and/or their respective Boards.*

## **A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR ([www.Spy-Coins.com](http://www.Spy-Coins.com))**

### **OLD SCHOOL SPY GEAR MEETS HIGH TECH STORAGE MEDIA**

New Hollow Spy Coins Will Encapsulate the Micro SD Memory Card. A local firm (Dereu Manufacturing & Design) has brought back the Cold War hollow spy coin with a new twist. Back in the days of the Cold War, hollow coins were used to transfer and hide secret messages and microfilms. While the data holding capacity of a small microfilm was very generous, it holds no candle to micro memory cards available today. A Micro SD Memory card has capacities of up to 16 GB of data. The Dereu Manufacturing Company produces these hollow coins in their own shop in Missouri, one at a time using manual metal working machinery. When assembled, these coins are absolutely indistinguishable from a solid coin to the naked eye. They can be safely handled without danger of separation, and a special tool is included to take them apart. With this marriage of old and new technology, the bearer of one of these hollow coins can conceal in his pocket change enough government, corporate or personal data to fill several hundred volumes, and carry this data unfettered through airports and across International borders. The complete line of these items can be found at [www.Spy-Coins.com](http://www.Spy-Coins.com). (Editors Note: Enter the Code Word "powers" without the quotes and readers of The Cold War Times will receive a 20% discount on any order.)

## **THE COLD WAR MUSEUM**

### **SUMMER UPDATE 2011**

**BY JOHN C. WELCH**

**CHAIRMAN AND CO-FOUNDER**

Greetings from The Cold War Museum!

The Cold War Museum board of directors and Vint Hill-area volunteers had a productive and energizing meeting last month. Thanks to those of you who participated. For those who were unable to participate, please know that we remain eager to involve you to the extent of your ability and interest.

Many, many good ideas were brought to the table. One of the common threads through all the discussions was the need for an experienced volunteer manager to orchestrate our efforts at Vint Hill. We knew this would require a person local to Vint Hill with executive and management experience, a strong relationship with the local community, credentials to productively engage academics, operational experience to get work done, and the confidence and character to accomplish goals with a diverse group of volunteers.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Van Dale Holladay (former Colonel, Military Police Corps, U.S. Army (retired)), as the volunteer Director of Operations for The Cold War Museum. "Doc" Holladay has a distinguished record in the U.S. Army, having served with the Rangers and later as Provost Marshal of the Presidio of San Francisco. Doc also served as Provost Marshal of II Field Force Vietnam. Doc served as the first Project Officer for the Army's Physical Security Equipment program. He supervised the US Army's first Olympic security involvement at the Lake Placid Olympic Games. Doc later earned his Ph.D. at George Mason University and became Professor and Program Head of Criminal Justice, teaching thousands of law enforcement and security officers in the Washington, DC area. Doc is a published author of many articles and papers, and has received many awards and recognitions, including the *Dr. Van Dale Holladay, CPP Scholarship*.

You can reach Doc at: [doc@coldwar.org](mailto:doc@coldwar.org).

The Listening Post is getting its final touches as of this writing. Many details have to be managed between now and that time, and **this is where The Cold War Museum needs YOUR HELP:**

Volunteers are needed for

- Docent duty
- Maintenance
- Fundraising
- Membership Recruitment
- Web site maintenance
- Historical expertise
- Collections management
- Communications/Outreach
- And much, much more...

Funds are needed to pay for rent, insurance and to keep the lights on.

For starters, **become a Member of The Cold War Museum!** Our new [membership program](#) allows you to become a Member for as little as \$25 per year! There is a Corporate Membership program for companies and organizations choosing to associate up to ten named individuals with the corporate membership. **Founding Members** will be recognized as individuals whose membership contributions until the opening of the permanent museum total \$1,000. You can take the next few years to get to Founding Member status, but why wait? Send your tax-deductible membership contribution of \$1,000 today, secure your place as a Founding Member and you won't owe membership dues until the permanent museum opens!

**Spread the word!** You are our best networking resource, so please forward this information to everyone you know who might want to support The Cold War Museum! And remember that your opinion matters. Please write to us at [membership@coldwar.org](mailto:membership@coldwar.org) with your ideas and questions. We look forward to working WITH YOU to make The Cold War Museum a reality!

Sincerely,

John C. Welch  
Chairman and Co-Founder  
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**THE COLD WAR MUSEUM – BERLIN**  
**BY BAERBEL E. SIMON – GERMAN AFFAIRS**

**The Cold War Museum Berlin presents a new Exhibition.**  
**Opening on 30th July 2011 at 11.00 am**

**'The Western Allies' Military Liaison Missions in the Focus of the State Security of the GDR'**  
**Förderverein Rüsterbusch Kunersdorf (Bunker Kunersdorf), 16269 Bliesdorf, OT Kunersdorf,**  
**Waldweg 2.**



Layout Bärbel E. Simon

Foto: BRIXMIS Association Archive, UK

**DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE COLD WAR MUSEUM – BERLIN:**

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The Berlin Branch moved to bunker Kunersdorf, the bunker was a top-secret post of the NVA, and was under command of the telecommunication HQ Strausberg. The bunker is reconstructed as well, and shall be changed into Memorial Site at the end of January.

The Cold War Museum Berlin presented a new Exhibition. Opening on 30th July 2011 at 11.00 am  
'The Western Allies' Military Liaison Missions in the Focus of the State Security of the GDR'  
Förderverein Rüsterbusch Kunersdorf (Bunker Kunersdorf), 16269 Bliesdorf, OT Kunersdorf, Waldweg 2.

In 1946/47 bilateral Soviet and Allied Military Liaison Missions were established. Accredited Personnel could travel in each other's zones of occupation. The GDR authorities, in particular the VOPO (People's Police) and MfS (Ministry of State Security) had frequent confrontations with members of the Allied Military Liaison Missions while they were on tour in East Germany.

The three Western Military Liaison Missions - BRIXMIS (British), MMFL (French) and USMLM (American) - had only one point of entry from West Berlin into the GDR: the Glienicker Bridge (Glienicker Brücke).



In October 1990 Germany was reunited and after operating for more than 40 years the Military Liaisons Missions closed their doors. 'Mission Accomplished'.

Guest speakers:

Sergeant (ret.) John Schniedermeier, US Army, Nebraska (USMLM)

Colonel (ret.) Daniel Pasquier, French Army (FMLM)

Major General (ret.) Peter Williams CMG OBE, Chairman of The BRIXMIS Association

For more information, visit [www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter](http://www.coldwar.org/BerlinChapter), [www.atombunker-16-102.de](http://www.atombunker-16-102.de),  
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## **THE COLD WAR MUSEUM – MIDWEST CHAPTER**

**BY CHRIS STURDEVANT, CHAIRMAN**

**EAA AirVenture 2011:** It was another great week to be in Oshkosh. Packed crowds came to see Werner Juretzko and Chris Sturdevant at the speaking forums at the air show, the largest in North America. Visitors from all over the globe stopped by the booth and shared their many Cold War experiences. Special thanks to our booth volunteers and speakers: Dave Roebke, NORAD veteran; John Hartung, Marine Corps, Black Sheep squadron; Colin Sandell, US Army NIKE veteran, Doug West, Marine Corps (retired), and Ivan Garczynski. Make your plans now to attend EAA AirVenture 2012 as hotel rooms book fast.



**Werner hitches a Zeppelin Ride:** The Farmers Insurance Zeppelin visited EAA AirVenture 2011 in Oshkosh and had a peculiar passenger aboard. The Zeppelin operates out of San Diego, CA and is the only Zeppelin in the United States allowing for passenger travel. Many thanks to the ship's pilot, Lars Pentzak from Berlin, Germany.



**Rotarian Support for Cold War Museum:** Werner Juretzko and John Hecker, Des Plaines Rotary, visited the Oshkosh Rotary weekly lunch meeting on July 27. They have invited us to speak on behalf of the Cold War Museum at a future date. Des Plaines Rotary is a big supporter of the Cold War Museum's educational efforts and we hope to expand support with further chapter involvement.

**Satellite Locations:** Fall programming at the New Berlin Public Library Veterans Room is underway. Our two existing Cold War Museum exhibits will be supplemented by a Nike missile display and Berlin Wall exhibit. If you are in the region stop and visit us at 15105 Library Lane, New Berlin, WI.

We will host another Berlin Wall program next month at The German American National Congress, at 4740 North Western Avenue, Chicago, IL. Plans are also underway to visit Michigan and Minnesota in 2012.

If you would like to become involved with the Midwest Chapter or have any suggestions or ideas for the Museum, please let me know.

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**THE COLD WAR MUSEUM – CARRIBEAN**  
**RAUL COLON – DIRECTOR**

If you have any questions or would like to join our chapter, please contact me at:

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**THE COLD WAR MUSEUM – CALIFORNIA**  
**RICHARD NEAULT – DIRECTOR**

If you have any questions or would like to join our chapter, please contact me at:

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**THE COLD WAR MUSEUM – NEWLY INDEPENT STATES (NIS)**  
**JASON SMART – DIRECTOR**

The Cold War Museum - NIS (Chapter of the Countries of the Former Soviet Union) continues to progress.

Anyone with information regarding parties in Russia and the surrounding independent states that may be interested in working with CWM-NIS, should contact Jason at [jasonjaysmart@gmail.com](mailto:jasonjaysmart@gmail.com).

**COLD WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
**CHAIRMAN'S CORNER**

With Vince Milum - Chairman – CWVA

For more information on the Cold War Veterans Association, please visit them online at: [www.coldwarveterans.com](http://www.coldwarveterans.com)

**THE INDOCHINA WARS (1946-1975) REMEMBRANCE ASSOCIATION (IWRA)**

Come join us while we honor our fathers and forefathers who fought Communist aggression, 1946-1975. Visit our website online at: [www.legionetrangere.us/indochina\\_wars\\_remembrance\\_association\\_1946\\_1975.html](http://www.legionetrangere.us/indochina_wars_remembrance_association_1946_1975.html)

Michael W. (Mick) Stewart, IWRA Secretary  
The Indochina Wars (1946-1975) Remembrance Association (IWRA)  
5909 Fairdale Lane, Suite 3 \* Houston TX 77057 \* 713.785.5126

## AMERICAN COLD WAR VETERANS

JERRY TERWILLIGER, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, ACWV

ALBERT J. LEPINE, SECRETARY-TREASURER ACWV

FRANK M. TIMS, PH.D., HISTORIAN, ACWV

S.402 (COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL ACT OF 2011) introduced in US Senate

By Senator Olympia Snowe; Co-sponsors: Senator Susan Collins (Armed Services Committee Member), Senator Jim Webb (Armed Services Committee Member), and Senator John Kerry

It is very important to keep up the pressure. Email or fax all those you can. and Congress.org is a good place to contact your elected officials. Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and most important members of the Personnel subcommittees should be asked to ensure that a provision using the same language as SEC. 566 of the Senate version of the NDAA 2011 be written into the NDAA 2012

### Senators Snowe, Collins, Webb and Kerry Introduce Legislation Honoring Cold War Veterans

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Senators Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Jim Webb (D-Virginia) and John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) today introduced the *Cold War Service Medal Act of 2011*, legislation to authorize the design and award of a service medal to honor America's Cold War veterans. Such a medal does not currently exist.

"The commitment, motivation and fortitude of our Cold War Veterans was second to none," **said Senator Snowe.** "The brave service members who served honorably during the Cold War should be recognized for their service, and this legislation is a long overdue step towards creating the service medal that they deserve."

"This legislation will express our sincere gratitude to all Cold War veterans, including the thousands of those who served in Maine, for putting the comforts of civilian life aside to advance the cause of freedom," **said Senator Collins.**

"The millions of Americans who served in uniform in the armed forces during the Cold War, spanning more than four decades, were the living embodiment of our nation's strategy of deterrence," **said Senator Webb.** "In their efforts to preserve peace, hundreds died during isolated armed confrontations when the Cold War flashed hot at remote locations around the world. This legislation will appropriately honor those who served in an effort that resulted in the largest single expansion in the number of democratically elected governments in world history."

"For almost a half century, more than 20 million soldiers stood on the front lines of our nation's Cold War defenses," **Senator Kerry said.** "At a time when humanity itself hung in the balance, they were ready to spring into action if the Cold War became a shooting war, and they too were separated from their families and loved ones for long, difficult periods. They deserve full recognition for their service and sacrifice, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this important legislation."

For the most recent updates on American Cold War Veterans, please visit [www.americancoldwarvets.org](http://www.americancoldwarvets.org).



## **COLD WAR MEMORIES**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: SEND US YOUR COLD WAR MEMORY FOR POSTING IN FUTURE ISSUE.)

### Strange Story of F-106A #7

By David D. Roebke (USAF, Retired)

I heard some strange stories during my Air Force career, but this is one of the strangest. Sometimes we hear stories about impossible events that turn out to be true. Active duty Air Force F-106A/B pilots confirmed the impossible event I thought just a story. When I had orders to the 24<sup>th</sup> Air Division, I had already been in the NORAD Air Division system for some time. The 24<sup>th</sup> Air Division was a SAGE or Semi-Automatic Ground Environment ROCC or Region Operations Control Center. It had the IBM Q-7 second-generation computer that was as big as my house generating digital data for display on our SAGE Radarscopes.

I went to William Tell 1982 Weapons Competition with the 120FIG, 186 FIS from Great Falls, MT; Montana Air National Guard (ANG). I had heard the story of the F-106 in the field as almost an urban legend around NORAD. But I figured one of the pilots going to William Tell would know, so I asked.

While working with the pilots in the 120 Fighter Interceptor Group (FIG), I got to know them pretty well. I decided to ask about the story. I told them about I heard that a jet landing in some farmer's field with the engine running and had asked around about it. The pilots mentioned that an F-106 number 7 had landed after the pilot ejected during a flat spin. A flat spin in a delta-winged aircraft is nearly impossible to recover from below 18,000 ft. Well the pilot had pulled his landing chute to try to right the aircraft so he could eject. Apparently, the F-106 righted itself and landed on its belly. About two hours after the ejection, NORAD got a call from a farmer asking them to come and get their jet, and please turn off the engine.

When investigators went out to see, the jet sat on its belly in a line of bushes, engine still running. They turned it off, put it on a flat bed, and took it back to the 120 FIG squadron hangers. They worked on it for weeks, fixed it, and put it back on the line. I personally talked to one of the pilots who flew plane (F-106 #7) after it was repaired. One said, "It sort of flew sideways". I asked what he meant, but I guess it just didn't have the same feel as the other F-106s.

When the 24th Air Division finally shut down in 1983, we were tasked with tearing it apart to recover metal in the computer and cables. The day the Air Division shut down was strange to start. It is a little eerie when equipment that had run 24/7 for 26 years is suddenly turned off, never to run again. I remember it was so quiet in the weapons room that it got on my nerves. We turned over responsibility for our Air Defense Area to the 25<sup>th</sup> Air Division in Washington State. They had a practice intercept mission scheduled at noon with the 120 FIG. We got word three hours after we shut down that the 120th had lost a plane during that mission under the control of 25<sup>th</sup> Air Division. The pilot ejected successfully, but had a broken leg. The lost aircraft was #7.

*Dave Roebke served in NORAD from 1973 – 1993. He can be contacted at [metlman7@hotmail.com](mailto:metlman7@hotmail.com)*

## ***FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BERLIN WALL***

### **A CINDERELLA-STAMP COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE**

Fifty years ago on August 13, 1961, the USSR-supported German Democratic Republic built a wall around the three western sectors of the city of Berlin, condemning generations of Germans to the totalitarian confines of The German Democratic Republic. The issue of this sheet of Cinderella-Stamps commemorates that infamous event. The Wall eventually fell on November 9, 1989, reuniting people who had become strangers.

While a whole generation has grown up since the Fall of the Wall, remembering this odious event will help to keep humanity from making the same mistake twice. History may not repeat itself word for word, but it does rhyme a lot.



The images above and below are displayed twice their actual size. The stamp itself is 1 X 1.75 inches.

The first Cinderella stamp ostensibly commemorates the fiftieth Anniversary of this atrocity, but with an accent on the Fall of the Wall. The left side of the stamp shows the construction of version one of the Berlin Wall, made of small individual cinderblocks. This segment of the Wall is overlaid with the dates for the Fiftieth Anniversary: August 13, 1961-2011. The right side of the stamp shows version four of the Berlin Wall, built of pre-cast concrete segments, but with a prominent hole, surrounded by the zero in the number 50, displaying the date upon which the Wall fell: November 9, 1989. The hole represents the breach of the Wall that

preceded the Reunification of Berlin and Germany.



The second stamp shows the crests of West and East Berlin, facing each other across a barbed wire fence. This represents how the wall forcibly separated friends and family. This stamp expressly lacks the "Happy Ending" of the first, to recall the suffering that the Wall caused. The bears are displayed against the background of the German flag, because though they were separated, they were still one people. The anniversary dates about the barbed wire. This stamp expressly lacks the "Happy Ending" of the first, to recall

the suffering that the Wall caused.

The *Fiftieth Anniversary of the Construction of the Berlin Wall* Cinderella Stamps come in a sheet of 15, with fine (7 perforations/cm) and correctly perforated stamp corners on high-quality glossy, water-activated gummed paper. Cinderella Stamps are not valid for postage.

YourStamps is the Cinderella-Stamp printer for this project. They are located in Berlin. The artist is T.H.E. Hill, the author of a number of novels about Berlin. For more information about the stamps, please visit: <http://voicesunderberlin.com/Stamps4.html>

## **MEETINGS, REUNIONS, AND UPDATES**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: ORGANIZING A REUNION? LOOKING FOR SQUADRON OR UNIT MEMBERS? SEND US YOUR COLD WAR REUNION OR UNIT INFO FOR POSTING IN FUTURE ISSUE.)

### **MEETINGS AND REUNIONS**

Buddies/Reunion (USAFSS) - [www.raymack.com/usaf/buddies.html](http://www.raymack.com/usaf/buddies.html)

### **REUNION WEBSITES**

Visit these following websites for additional reunion information:

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

[www.vets.org/airforce.htm](http://www.vets.org/airforce.htm)

[www.thewall-usa.com/reunion](http://www.thewall-usa.com/reunion)

[www.uasf.com/reunions.htm](http://www.uasf.com/reunions.htm)

[www.reunionmag.com/military\\_reunions.html](http://www.reunionmag.com/military_reunions.html)

[www.military.com/Resources/ReunionList](http://www.military.com/Resources/ReunionList)

[www.navweaps.com/index\\_reunions/reunion\\_index.htm](http://www.navweaps.com/index_reunions/reunion_index.htm)

[www.usaf.com/reunions.htm](http://www.usaf.com/reunions.htm)

[www.leatherneck.com/links/browselinks.php?c=23](http://www.leatherneck.com/links/browselinks.php?c=23)

[www.jacksjoint.com/cgreunion.htm](http://www.jacksjoint.com/cgreunion.htm)

## **COLD WAR ARTICLES**

(Please send article submissions for review to: <mailto:editor@coldwar.org>)

### ***'We were just doing our jobs'***

***Navy veteran spent much of career serving aboard submarines***

***By Jeremy P. Amick***

During the Cold War, many a young person volunteered to serve in the military despite persistent threats to the nation's security. Such a spirit of dedication and volunteerism is demonstrated through the extensive naval service of submarine veteran Ed Irwin.

Born in Russellville, Mo., Irwin's family eventually settled in Jefferson City, Mo., where he graduated from high school in 1962.

But a mixture of what the veteran describes as "wanderlust" and a desire to help his mother became the invigorating mixture that quickly convinced the graduate to pursue a career in the Navy.



During his 20 years of service in the U.S. Navy, veteran Ed Irwin spent several years working on and around submarines. *Photo Courtesy Shawn C. Johnson*

"I had two uncles that had served in the Navy during World War II and grew up listening to them speak about their experiences," shared Irwin.

"Also, my mother had raised six kids on her own...so finding my own way meant one less mouth to feed at home, too" he humbly added.

In June 1962, the aspiring sailor arrived at Great Lakes, Ill., to begin his basic training. Following the completing of his initial training requirements, he remained at Great Lakes for advanced instruction as a machinist mate.

During training, Irwin states he learned the basics of "pumps, valves, turbines and basic vessel mechanics."

Graduating in December 1962, he returned home for a brief period of leave and reported to his basic submarine school in New London, Conn., just after Christmas.

"I'm not really sure where I got the idea from (to become a submariner)...probably from some of the movies I watched," Irwin quipped. "But I scored well on the classification test they gave us when I enlisted."

During the eight weeks of sub training that ensued, Irwin and his fellow naval students learned the fundamentals of virtually all the systems on the submarine.

"We went through a lot of classroom training and some rudimentary simulators," he noted. "By the time we were finished, you knew the basic operations and function of every system."



The launching USS Archerfish on January 17, 1971. Ed Irwin served a two-year stint onboard the submarine and was on board during the launch.  
*Courtesy/Ed Irwin*

Toward the end of the training, all of the students were required to go out on a one-day familiarization exercise on board the USS Requin—a submarine from the Second World War.

The class was also required to make an underwater escape from the 50-foot level of the Escape Training Tank.

Completing the training in February 1963, Irwin received his first duty assignment onboard the USS Barbel- a diesel-powered

submarine of which there were only three of its class.

According to Irwin, in addition to its regular patrol cycles, the Barbel was used as a test platform for new equipment used by the Navy.

During Irwin’s Cold War service on the vessel, he participated in one patrol run that lasted about sixty days. The sub would have to “snorkel” (raise a tubular mast to the surface) every night to draw air for the diesel engines and to vent the exhaust, as the diesel

generators were operated to recharge batteries.

In September 1963, the young sailor was designated as “qualified in Submarines” having demonstrated his knowledge and ability to operate the vessel’s systems.

However, his assignment was short-lived when—in December 1963—he transferred to the Navy’s nuclear power school at Mare Island, Calif.

The six-month school proved to be a very involved course of study for the veteran as students spent several hours in a classroom and studying in the evenings learning the basics of such subjects as metallurgy, calculus, and physics.”

The intense course would not be his final level of accelerated college-level education, as Irwin was then required to attend the six-month operating nuclear plant prototype training at Idaho Falls, Idaho.

“We continued our studies in nuclear plant principles and qualified to operate the plant,” Irwin said.

The power plant the students worked with during their training was housed in a large building and similar in operation and structure to those they would soon be working with onboard submarines.



After completing a year of nuclear-intensive studies, Irwin was selected to attend additional training and reported to welding school in San Diego in early 1965.

“Every sub carried two emergency welders,” noted Irwin, “and we had to become certified to perform repairs on nuclear piping systems or steam piping systems,” he added.

In June 1965, the sailor returned to submarine duty when he reported to the shipyard in Quincy, Mass., for duty onboard the USS Gato—a nuclear fast-attack submarine.

“The submarine had already been launched and was a couple of years old,” stated Irwin, “but it was in the shipyard going through a safety retrofit, to incorporate lessons learned from the loss of the USS Thresher”

Irwin’s responsibilities consisted of working alongside the shipyard crew who were building and testing various shipboard systems.

With the upgrades completed, the sub was launched in early 1968 and Irwin remained with the crew until February 1970.

“Those were the Cold War years and the subs spent most of their time going out on back-to-back missions and we didn’t make it home very often.”

During the ensuing years, Irwin went on to serve on the USS Archerfish, the USS Glenard P Lipscomb, an additional stint onboard the USS Gato, and as a nuclear field advisor at the Naval Propulsion Engineering School in Great Lakes Illinois. He also served as part of a trend analysis and data gathering team in Holy Loch, Scotland, where he met Susan, his wife of 36 years.

In 1982, he retired from the Navy with 20 years of service. He then completed a second career at Ameren’s Callaway Plant and retired in 2008 after 24 years of employment.

Evaluating his time in service to the nation, Irwin stated, “The Navy provided me with my initial training. Many people don’t realize that the military is one of the biggest and best vocational schools in our country.”

And Irwin humbly noted that most choose to pursue a career in the service without any expectation of gratitude.

“Most guys I know aren’t looking for a pat on the back—we were just doing our jobs,” he remarked. “Sometimes when people thank us for our service, we just don’t know how to take it...but we do appreciate it.”

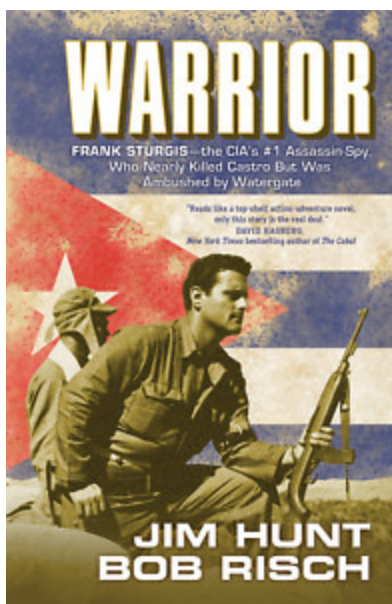
*Jeremy Amick is the public affairs officer for the Silver Star Families of America.*

## COLD WAR BOOKS, DVDS, BOOK REVIEWS, AND RELATED ITEMS

(Editor's Note- Authors and Publishers – Send your book announcement to [editor@coldwar.org](mailto:editor@coldwar.org) for consideration. If you would like to send an advanced copy for review, let me know.)

Warrior: Frank Sturgis—the CIA's #1 Assassin Spy, Who Nearly Killed Castro but Was Ambushed by Watergate. By Jim Hunt and Bob Risch. 336 pages, with illustrations.

Reviewed by Frank DeBenedictis



Days after President Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, the FBI questioned a Miami man who trained both anti-Castro Cuban exiles in Miami, and Cuban nationals in pre-Castro Cuba. This Miami man was also an ex-Marine who fought hand-to-hand in the Pacific during World War II, and participated in intelligence operations in post-war Europe. The FBI agent told Miami resident Frank Sturgis that he was a suspect in Kennedy's murder, stating, "Frank, you are one of the few people in this country who could pull off something like this."

Authors Jim Hunt and Bob Risch [Hunt a nephew of Sturgis] wrote ***Warrior: Frank Sturgis—The CIA's #1 Assassin-Spy, Who Nearly Killed Castro but Was Ambushed by Watergate.*** Sturgis's public image in 1972 was as a Watergate burglar, caught in the break-in of Democratic National Headquarters. The FBI, CIA and Fidel Castro knew there was much more to Sturgis than his participation in a third rate burglary. Hunt and Risch show Sturgis as a young Marine with the famed Edson's Raiders, engaging in deadly guerilla warfare against the Japanese. After the war, Sturgis joined the army, serving in Europe under General Lucius Clay. When his younger cousin died while fighting in the Korean War, an already patriotic Frank Sturgis became rabidly anti-Communist.

The Norfolk born warrior went to Miami after his discharge. An uncle with Cuba ties stimulated Sturgis's interest, and he traveling to Cuba in the 1950s meeting Fidel Castro. His fighting skills impressed the fiery Cuban, but the two had a falling out because of Castro's embrace of Communism. Back in Miami, Sturgis served the anti-Castro cause. He met John F. Kennedy, and liked him before the Bay of Pigs failure. Disgusted with Kennedy after the failed invasion,

and remained undaunted in his anti-communist crusade against Castro. Sturgis participated in CIA linked operations related to Cuba and Castro including Angola, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and a plan to seize a Cuban or Soviet ship in order to exchange it for the Pueblo that had been captured by North Korea.

Watergate is not given short shrift in this biographical effort, nor is the testimony of Sturgis before the several 1970s committees investigating US intelligence operations. Sturgis, essentially caught in the act by the Watergate arrest, told of his career, and Watergate associates. His narrative in three different investigations also included members of both the Cuban and American underworld—long before Watergate. Sturgis died in 1993, but up to his death operated an anti-Castro training camp in Florida's Everglades, where he once told TV reporters that he and the combat clad exiles "were a bunch of boy scouts" training to liberate Cuba.

Thus, Warrior is a book that looks beyond the historic presidential scandal. Frank Sturgis and his co-conspirators had long histories of fighting on the side of anti-Castro Cuban exiles going back at least a decade before the burglary. Richard Nixon may have had it right when he described the burglars as "overzealous" patriots. As Frank Sturgis told me when I interviewed him in 1993, "We could have taken Cuba back at the Bay of Pigs, but now it has the second largest military in the Western Hemisphere." Later national security documentary declassifications showed that Castro's power consolidation would have made it very difficult for the exiles to win in April 1961, much less in 1993. Frank Sturgis knew this, and it wouldn't be a stretch to say Fidel Castro respected him for both his knowledge and passion. What Castro knew, and what the famous Watergate burglar always said, was that his wide-ranged spying and assassination activity were always about Cuba.

## **COLD WAR EVENTS, REQUESTS, AND RELATED ITEMS**

Request for Proposals

National Air and Space Museum

Smithsonian Institution

Washington, DC

We are very pleased to announce that the 2012 Mutual Concerns Conference will be held at the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. We are currently working on the logistics for the meeting and aiming for dates at the end of March or early April. Pencil in on your calendar. We will confirm shortly.

This note should also remind you that we are seeking proposals on topics or issue relevant to our community of museums and aerospace education centers. Submitting session proposals is an important means for sharing and exploring our common interests. The thoughtful and well-rounded proposals we've received over the past have led to very strong agendas that our participants have found educational and valuable in their work. We appreciate the time and effort you spend in making submissions.

As the conference will be hosted at the Hazy Center, it just seems appropriate that the theme should focus on elements related to the new restoration facility. This year's theme is:

## **Preservation and Restoration of Air and Space Collections:**

### **Consolidating Knowledge and Know-how for the Greater Good**

Although the conference will still cover a selection of topics of interest to the whole community, the Program Committee, comprised of individuals from the community who have special training or experience with restoration in a museum environment, will especially be looking for proposals to emphasize or focus on the restoration topic. Hands on experiences are encouraged in support of topics related to preservation, conservation, and restoration.

Proposals should be submitted by **Monday, September 19, 2011**. Please use the attached form for submitting proposals. Emailing the form is preferred. See form for complete details.

The Mutual Concerns Program Committee will review proposals. Committee members for 2012 are listed in the second attachment. Feel free to get in touch with them or Jean or Dik to discuss a session idea. As an added incentive this year, we are making plans to publish the ten top rated papers that are submitted in support of the conference theme. The program committee will select these and those selected will be announced approximately one month after the conference has concluded. Details on submissions and format will be forthcoming.

In the fall, the committee begins reviewing proposals and evaluating which will work best for the 2012 meeting. In response to previous feedback sheets, we are planning to hold a few more plenary sessions and few less multi-panel sessions, so there will be a few less total sessions overall than in previous years. Some proposals are accepted outright; other times the committee may suggest alternative approaches and speakers to a session in order to better meet a requested topic. In some cases, you may be contacted directly for assistance in putting together or chairing a panel that the committee feels might be a good fit for the conference theme. In any case, you should expect a committee member to contact you regarding your proposal(s) during later fall to early winter. The agenda for the seminar will be finalized by the end of this year.

In honor of the centennial of US Marine Corps aviation, we are also looking to plan a special afternoon session focusing on that topic. More to follow as it develops.

More details about the conference will be emailed to you and on our website shortly

We are looking forward to our first conference at the Hazy Center and hope to see you all there next spring. Send us your proposals and enjoy the rest of your summer. Thanks.

Dik Daso, Chair, Program Committee

Curator of Modern Military Aircraft

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## **NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE UPDATE, AUGUST 1, 2011**

National Security Archive Update, August 1, 2011

### **CIA FORCED TO RELEASE LONG SECRET OFFICIAL HISTORY OF BAY OF PIGS INVASION**

National Security Archive lawsuit yields never-before-seen volumes of  
Massive Study; Agency continues to withhold Volume 5

For more information contact:  
Peter Kornbluh - 202/994-7000

<http://www.nsarchive.org>

Washington, D.C., August 1, 2011 - Pursuant to a FOIA lawsuit filed by the National Security Archive on the 50th anniversary of the infamous CIA-led invasion of Cuba, the CIA has released four volumes of its Official History of the Bay of Pigs Operation. The Archive today posted volume 2, "Participation in the Conduct of Foreign Policy" which contains detailed information on the CIA's negotiations with Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and Great Britain on support for the invasion.

"These are the last remaining secret records of U.S. aggression against Cuba," noted Peter Kornbluh, who directs the Cuba Documentation Project at the Archive. "The CIA has finally seen the wisdom of letting the public scrutinize this major debacle in the covert history of U.S. foreign policy." Kornbluh noted that the agency was "still refusing to release volume 5 of its official history." Volume 5 is a rebuttal to the stinging CIA's Inspector General's report, done in the immediate aftermath of the paramilitary assault, which held CIA officials accountable for a wide variety of mistakes, miscalculations and deceptions that characterized the failed invasion. The National Security Archive obtained the declassification of the ultra-secret Inspector General's report in 1998.

Volume 2 provides new details on the negotiations and tensions with other countries, including Great Britain, which the CIA needed to provide logistical and infrastructure support for the invasion preparations. The volume describes Kennedy Administration efforts to sustain the cooperation of Guatemala, where the main CIA-led exile brigade force was trained, as well as the deals made with Anastacio Somoza to gain Nicaragua's support for the invasion.

Volume 3 of the Official History was previously declassified under the Kennedy Assassination Record Act. The Archive will post a detailed assessment of the declassified history, along with two other volumes tomorrow.

<http://www.nsarchive.org>

THE NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE is an independent non-governmental research institute and library located at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. The Archive collects and publishes declassified documents acquired through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). A tax-exempt public charity, the Archive receives no U.S. government funding; its budget is supported by publication royalties and donations from foundations and individuals.