Letter from the Executive Director

We’re back! No, not back to normal, any more than any individual, family, or institution in this country and around the world is back to normal, with COVID-19 in resurgence as I write this. But a good part of the way back, with your help and the help of others who want to keep Cold War history alive:

♦ In-person visitation to the Museum is gradually returning to normal levels, both with walk-in visitors and private tours.

♦ People with very interesting Cold War artifacts and stories continue to approach us, both when visiting the Museum and via email, to see if we are interested in donations of their artifacts and stories to the Museum, and of course we almost always are, since virtually all of our many rare and one-of-a-kind artifacts and the personal stories behind them have come to us in this way. Every one of those allows us to tell new or improved stories at the Museum about key Cold War events and activities, so if you have things like this that you are willing to donate, those artifacts can probably anchor and enliven the history for many people. That includes both young people who have no personal experience of Cold War days and even Cold War professionals whose own experience didn’t allow them to know much about the side of the Cold War you know.

♦ Our Presentation Series is alive and well in 100% virtual conditions for now. More details on that inside, and on how you can stay current on our offerings if these kinds of topics interest you and you’d like to ask your own questions of eyewitnesses to, and other experts on, key Cold War events and activities.

♦ We continue to seek grant opportunities, many of which have arisen a result of the current situation. More on that inside, including on how you can help us identify more possibilities.

♦ We’ve been enhancing our ability to affect people at a distance, both to be more visible and to increase our distance education. Like many other museums and other kinds of educational institutions, we were forced by physical closure to rethink, and think further about, how we can attract people’s attention to our core subject matter (Cold War history) and hold that attention while give them resources to teach the history to themselves, with our help. For example: Our new website (https://coldwar.org) has a vastly improved look and functionality, thanks to excellent guidance and strong in-kind financial support from our new web-hosting company, DrivePath, which also provides web hosting for the national and local Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations among others. The new site supports broader visibility, better fundraising capacity, AND enhanced direct distance learning opportunities via the content we expect to continue to load on it. We’ll be building it out further in the coming months. Have a look and tell us what you think if you’d like to comment.

♦ Possible designation by the National Park Service of Vint Hill as a Virginia World War II Community. More on that inside. That could help us attract more visitors to the Museum.

♦ Possible grants specific to enhancing distance learning capacity.
Our Lecture Series

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 of these events including the question-and-answer sessions), and a significant source of income for our operations. With the support of Museum Members, we were able to present following four Presentation Series events in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of our venue, Old Bust Head Brewery:

♦ 1/12/20 – FBI Historian John Fox surveyed Cold War counterintelligence activities by the US, including mistakes we made, with lessons learned, as well as successes we had.

♦ 1/26/20 – Buz Carpenter repeated his Flying the SR-71 presentation, which we had had originally about two years previous. This extremely popular event drew more than 100 people, allowing the Museum to net more than $2,000.

♦ 2/9/20 – Greg Nedved and Laura Murray, NSA China Experts and Historians, presented with Ken Allen, former USAF attaché in Beijing during Tiananmen, on Tiananmen Square events (30th anniversary) and their relationship to recent Hong Kong events.

♦ 2/23/20 – Steve Vogel gave highlights of 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.

At this point the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to interrupt the series, since our venue had to close to the public. At that point we already had five additional events on the schedule for the dates noted below. All had to be postponed. The Museum now has its own Zoom Room, for virtual presentations by eyewitnesses to, and other experts on, key Cold War events and activities who can now be from anywhere in the world, for an audience that can now also be from anywhere in the world. We’ve resumed a full slate of Presentation Series events in the Zoom format.

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The Cold War Times
The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum

Deadline for Spring issue:
March 15, 2021

To request publication guidelines, please contact the editor:

Joseph Felice
newsletter-editor@coldwar.org
Message from the Chairman

Chuck Wilson

Greetings Cold War Veterans and friends of The Cold War Museum® (CWM)! We hope that you and yours continue to be safe and well. As you may know, COVID-19 has had a disastrous effect to museums across the United States. Late this summer NPR reported the results of their survey of museums that about 33% may not survive 2020. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, our wonderful museum is fine and will persevere.

Challenges do remain. but we continue to recover and are on the rise! We have reopened our doors to visitors on weekends following the COVID 19 guidelines. We re-started our Presentation Series, currently in a virtual meeting format in the Museum’s new Zoom room, with exciting speakers such as Ambassador Charlie Ray, who spoke on “Ambassadors and Spies” and the legendary Colonel G.H. “Hork” Dimon (USAF Ret & USNA’52) on the then-very-secret “In the Shadows: The Secret, Intense Struggle to Mount a Second Berlin Airlift in 1961.” Our Presentation Series often features the real people who performed in the actual Cold War events discussed. We plan to have a Cold War Presentation each month. Our CWM Presentation Series in the past has been both an important way to increase understanding of key Cold War events and a prime source of revenue, and now that we have added a virtual capacity, we can host audience members and speakers from around the country and the world for the first time.

We have also constructed a new Cold War Museum® website and launched it this month! You can explore a colorful, interactive, and informative site (https://coldwar.org) that includes not only the “Who, What, When, Where, and Why” of our Museum but also Cold War News and links to our CWM presentation series!

In the last newsletter, I reported that a developer, Laurel Hill Sports, has plans for a national sports facility on 35 acres near Lorton, VA, and has asked The Cold War Museum® to establish a presence in the 1950s era NIKE Missile complex there when and if they build. We understand that investor revenue is beginning to come into Laurel Hill Sports with the possibility of project start early next year. Hoping for the best there.

Again, A BIG Thank-You goes to AFA Gabriel Chapter for their continued support for our CWM events and with our fundraising! Mark your calendars: December 1st is “Giving Tuesday” and a significant fundraising event for us. We will be putting out information on that soon.

As you know, our vision is “To inform the present and influence the future through an understanding the past, with exhibitions of artifacts, documents and events related to the Cold War Era.” To do that we will need your continued support. Do visit our wonderful museum frequently; do attend our Presentation Series events of Cold War speakers, which you can now do from your home: and do continue to donate to this worthy endeavor to preserve the history of the Cold War!

Thank you so much for all that you do for us!
A Week as Pavlov’s Dog: Life on a Strategic Air Command Alert Tour: It’s the last day of this alert tour. For over a hundred Airmen, tomorrow will be change-over and we’ll get to leave the alert facility at the end of the runway. We’ve been here for six days; it’s our second time in the last 35 days. Our routine is predictable: the first day we come on duty, attend a formal assumption-of-alert brief, check out our airplane and all our mission paperwork, move into our rooms, and begin the routine for the next seven days. Each morning we get up, eat, attend a brief, and head out to run checks on our plane. Today it’s a grey New England day and a damp chill penetrates everything. While the pilot and crew chief walk around the outside, the other crew members check out their crew stations to make sure we’re ready to take our aircraft out and fly our wartime mission.

Some days everything is in perfect order and back to the alert facility we go. On others, we stay with the plane and maintenance comes out to fix our problem. Aircraft on alert have the priority for repairs. For the rest of the day there are hearty meals for us fixed by the cooks assigned at the alert facility. If you’re not careful you can gain a lot of weight during an alert tour. Between meals there are ground training events for us or squadron additional duties to perform. No matter where you go on base, you’ll be carrying a radio so you can respond back to the airplane in your crew’s alert pick-up. While on alert you have traffic and parking priority all over the base. There are even special routes to get from wherever you are to return to the plane as quickly as possible. Sometimes you’re restricted...
Daedalian Lunch Program

After eight months of virtual National Capital Flight Order of Daedalian presentations we went live today with a lunch program in Arlington, VA at the Army/Navy Country Club with 35 members and guests, the maximum allowed by their social distancing protocols. Our guest speaker was Gary Powers Jr., son of Francis Gary Powers. Powers was shot down in a U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union on May 1, 1960 at an altitude of over 70,000 feet! He successfully ejected and was taken prisoner. The movie Bridge of Spies accurately depicts his return to the US via exchange on Glienicke Bridge in Berlin for a Soviet spy we had in custody, and Gary gave an absolutely compelling presentation!

Additionally, Gary Powers Jr. spoke on the Cold War Museum® and the education and history it brings to the nation. Powers is the co-founder of The Cold War Museum®, whose vision is “To inform the present and influence the future through an understanding the past, with exhibitions of artifacts, documents and events related to the Cold War Era.” Also in attendance were Chuck Wilson, CWM Board of Directors Chairman; and CWM Board Directors Chad Manske (Brig. Gen. USAF Ret.), Buz Carpenter, and Stu Archer. The Daedalians is the national order of military pilots that was founded by WWI military aviators. Visit the Gary Powers website at http://garypowers.com.

The U-2S: 25th Anniversary of Becoming Operational

The "Black Cats" achieve another milestone in aviation history. October 20, 1995, Osan AB, South Korea. Twenty Five years ago, "The Black Cats," AKA the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron (5RS), took the "new" S-Model U-2 Operational. "Operational" is often associated with a sensitive reconnaissance and/or wartime mission. The Cold War came to Korea. From 1945-1950, Korea seemed to become entwined with the power struggles between the Western nations of Europe and the United States with the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union). Kim il-Sung, veteran of the Soviet Army, became North Korea's first Supreme Leader. Kim il-Sung led the invasion of South Korea and the Korean War erupted (1950-53). This was the first military action of the Cold War. Containment of Communism was a prime concern to the U.S. and its allies. The Soviets backed the North; the U.S. and its allies backed the South. In 1951, President Truman began peace talks with the North, but a peace agreement did not occur. A cease-fire was sought, and with the cease-fire of the Korean War in 1953, a Korean Armistice was agreed upon. Technically with the armistice a state of war continued and still exists. All along, tensions between the North and South continued with (Kim il-Sung descendants ruling North Korea to this day).

In 1995, Eternal Leader Generalissimo Kim Jong-il (father of current Kim Jong-un) enhanced his saber-rattling and tensions rose. This being their 20th year, the 5RS U-2 Black Cats were responsible for surveillance and reconnaissance of sensitive areas in East Asia and had to stay on watch 24/7. It was time to change to a new model aircraft, the U-2S.

Since they were six thousand miles from the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, their supporting parent Wing at Beale AFB CA, transitioning to a different aircraft was no easy task, especially when a high day-and-night ops tempo was required seven days a week. The Black Cats of 5RS, had to train up their maintenance teams, from aircraft mechanics to avionics technicians, and their pilots, who now had to be proficient on both types of aircraft, all while maintaining that tough day-and-night ops tempo. Security was heightened and significant necessary upgrades made to the logistics and supply chain. Even so, no missions were missed and the 5RS Black Cat mission effectiveness rate was near perfect!

Cont. p. 8
Our Lecture Series

Our Lecture Series, cont. from p. 2

◆ 8/30/20 - 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. Rescheduled from 3/29/20.


◆ 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.

If you think you might want to attend one or more of our forthcoming events, please click on this link to the Events page on our new website: [https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=16883](https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=16883). Click on the Eventbrite links for the ones that interest you and you’ll get details and ticketing information.

*Cold War Times* will occasionally provide information about aspects of the Cold War that are reflected in the written materials and digital photos in our collections. This selection is about Civil Defense in the Cold War.

From Our Archives

The Museum has an unusually good collection of Cold War Civil Defense artifacts and photos because of a lucky accident. The DC Civil Defense Headquarters was located in Lorton, VA, on the site of a former Nike missile base and then Lorton prison. When they decommissioned, we were sked if we would like any of their materials which was going to be discarded. We obtained all of their written records, photographs, office equipment, and even a blueprint of the office layout. While most of this is necessarily in our storage facility, we have a number of exhibits detailing various aspects of Civil Defense, such as fallout shelters, radiation detection equipment, supplies, and films running continuously, such as the famous *Duck and Cover* training film aimed at elementary school children. Since the DC Headquarters was probably the most important Civil Defense facility in the U.S., it’s not surprising the most important Civil Defense training facility was in nearby Olney, MD. Our archives contain quite a few photos of how that facility looked and operated. Here is a selection of some of them.

For more information about how Civil Defense worked at the national level, you may want to visit the Wikipedia site on Civil Defense as a starting point: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_civil_defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_civil_defense).
Private Tours – An Important Source of Museum Income

The increasing number of private tours we arrange provides a significant percentage of the Museum’s operating income, so it’s an important part of our many income streams, helping to stabilize our operating income from month to month.

As with every other museum in this country and around the world, our ability to hold such tours was necessarily eliminated for several months by COVID health concerns, and we are still much constrained now that we can do them again, needing to keep to 50% visitor capacity, 100% masks, and social distancing at the time I’m writing this. Operating within those rules, we have still been able to go ahead with some tours.

Here are some examples of the private tours conducted by museum docents since the last newsletter:

♦ 8/27 – 24 foreign Defense Attaches, brought by US liaisons from the Pentagon.
♦ 10/20 — 12 people from Lansdowne Woods
♦ 10/23 – 15 NATO AF attaches and their DoD Handlers – some pictured here.

100 challenge coins were donated to the museum as a fundraiser. The coin is available for $15. The coin pays homage to Vint Hill as an active listening post from 1942—1997 and features the Cold War Museum on the reverse side.

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

Bryan A. Zwanzig
703-408-2039  |  bryan.z@coldwar.org

Cost:  $20/person for groups of 10 or fewer
       $15/person for larger groups
No cost for active duty military personnel ever!
The U-2S, cont. from p. 5

That first operational mission of the S-Model U-2 Dragon Lady was piloted by Colonel (then LtCol) CHUCK WILSON, who was also the Commander 5th Reconnaissance Squadron. They called him “Oscar 01”. Oscar was the name of the 15-pound black cat mascot of the organization. The number “1” denoted that Wilson led the organization. Osan Air Base Mig Alley Flyer was there to report on the event. Upon mission completion, the photo here was taken by Airman James Hart for the Mig Alley Flyer.

The Lockheed U-2, nicknamed "Dragon Lady", is an American single-jet engine, high altitude reconnaissance aircraft operated by the United States Air Force and previously flown by the Central Intelligence Agency. It provides day- and night high-altitude (above 70,000 feet) all-weather intelligence collection. Although the U-2 program is more than 65 years old, the airplane is not. Over the decades, the U-2 has been rebuilt (R-model), receiving many modifications, and continues to be upgraded. Today’s U-2S features a GE F118 Engine and Glass Cockpit (digital) displays, and has a vast array of the latest Imagery and SIGINT sensors. The service life may well last past 2040 – good for the nation, good for the taxpayer.

See more Black Cats at 5RS Black Cats

See this link, courtesy of LOCKHEED MARTIN Page

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, in part 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.

John Edward Bonwell: John was born Sept. 28, 1930, in Vallejo to parents John Edgar and Gladys Ellen (Patrick) Bonwell Jr. He was known for being honorable and loving to those closest to him and a genuine patriot...During the Korean conflict he joined the Air Force. As this was during the Cold War, his group was handpicked to carry the atomic bomb if it had been needed. John fondly remembers those years with a license plate on his old Mercedes B36GUNR. https://alamedasun.com/obituaries?page=7


Barry Colassard: Barry served almost his entire 30-year career as a Marine Corps infantry officer, following his Cuban Missile Crisis service with two tours in Vietnam (1965 and 1969-70). Later staff service in the Marines included as an intelligence officer, in an assignment in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and service aboard the National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP) as a War Plans briefer to the President when embarked during a National Emergency. Upon the opening of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in 2006, Barry devoted countless hours as a docent. https://www.legendary.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=barry-colassard&pid=194705242&fhid=17017

Thomas Connery, AKA Sean Connery (Royal Navy in C War): Sean Connery, the irascible Scot from the slums of Edinburgh who found international fame as Hollywood’s original James Bond, dismayed his fans by walking away from the Bond franchise and went on to have a long and fruitful career as a respected actor and an always bankable star, has died in Nassau, the Bahamas. He was 90. At the age of 13, Thomas Connery [later known as Sean Connery] became a full-time milkman. Britain had been at war for four years, and any able-bodied boy could get a job. Three years later, with the soldiers coming home and work scarcer, he joined the Royal Navy. He signed up for 12 years, but was discharged at 19 after acquiring an ulcer. He had also acquired two tattoos on his right arm — “Mum and Dad” and “Scotland Forever” — and a small disability grant, which he used to learn furniture polishing. Then he went to work putting the finish on coffins. In his off hours he took up soccer (he played semi-professionally) and bodybuilding. [He did pretty well after that.] https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/31/movies/sean-connery-dead.html

Cont. p. 13
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.

Executive Director Jason Hall delivers many of these presentations to local groups and organizations. But many others of our key staff also do this work.

♦ Mike Washvill, our lead staffer for current and historical Cold War technology, is an electronics engineer who served at Vint Hill when it was an operational Top-Secret Army SIGINT base. Mike tends to take the lead on our presentations to technically-qualified groups, since as local Ham radio groups, and on doing STEM presentations for local school groups.

♦ John DePerro, our Chief Curator, and a consultant on children’s book on the Berlin Wall, has been especially good at outreach for CWM to the local Scouts and other youth groups.

Executive Director Jason Hall works continually to connect with other local museums, institutions, and organizations to improve cooperation and exchange of ideas.

♦ Bryan Zwanzig, also a veteran of Army service at Vint Hill, represents us at the Tank Farm and other events, is our chief staffer for organizing private tours, and is also a highly-trained docent at the Marine Corps Museum

♦ Many others of the staff team help with this outreach to the local community.

♦ Our Board is also active in this effort, especially Chairman Chuck Wilson, who, as a former U-2 Instructor and U-2 Squadron Commander, and an active leader in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) community, is especially effective in community outreach to veterans’ groups.

♦ We’ve been very constrained in this representation function into the community because of COVID restrictions on group meetings.

◊ Chuck and Jason virtually attended the Virginia State AFA Missileer Gathering 2020 on September 15. One of our Board members, Gary Bottoff, was an Air Force Missileer, and Chuck and Jason were invited to attend this meeting by Joe Burke of the Gabriel chapter of the Air Force Association—they are friends and strong supporters of the Museum.)
Artifact Donations to the Museum

Like almost all U.S. museums, CWM® has no funds for acquiring new artifacts for its collections, so we rely on artifact donations, often from the private collections of former Cold War professionals who served in the military, the intelligence community, or both. Some of these are what you might expect, such as additions to our excellent collections of Soviet and East Bloc military uniforms. Others are literally one-of-a-kind artifacts, such as Mao’s Ear, made by the CIA’s technical staff for the Agency’s image analyst staff to solve some difficult photo interpretation problems. And others are simply very rare, such as our U-2 camera that was adapted for use in the SKYLAB satellite. People around the world, including from Russia and other countries, who are interested in, and often veterans of, Cold War activities contact us frequently to see if we might be interested in the often-remarkable artifacts they’ve acquired over the years, often related to former official duties.

If readers of the Cold War Times have artifacts you might consider donating to the Museum, we would welcome contact about that, to Executive Director Jason Hall (jason@coldwar.org). Museums normally need historic artifacts—the real thing, artifacts from the time that exemplify some event or activity—in order to anchor the stories of those events or activities, so your artifact donation could literally make it possible for the first time for us to educate visitors about that aspect of the Cold War.

CWM® Seeking Grants

Like virtually every other U.S. museum, the CWM® must try to diversify its income streams by seeking grants. While our main sources of income are from direct donations from individuals and some groups, and from ticket sales to our Presentation Series, we’ve needed to be more aggressive in recent months in seeking formal grants from various entities. This is because of the dire situation of having to close our doors completely for several months due to the COVID health emergency, and now still being able to accommodate not more than 50% capacity at the Museum. Here are some examples of grants received and grants being sought since our last newsletter:

♦ Received: an emergency grant for $2,000 from Virginia Humanities. (These funds were for general operations, with the funds coming from the Federal government’s stimulus money).

♦ In process: an application to the Missleers for funds to mount additional exhibits detailing Missleer contributions to Cold War defenses. (We welcome both funds and in-kind contributions, such as exhibits, from former Cold War professionals and their organizations, to enhance our ability to tell their Cold War stories.)

♦ In process: exploration of various currently available grant funds for distance learning, an especially hot area given COVID constraints on in-person teaching. We are very fortunate to have a Fairfax County high school history teacher as part of our extended staff; he can both counsel us on shaping our plans and grant applications to conform with VA Standards of Learning (SOLs) and take the lead on grant implementation for us if and when we get grants in this area.

SAC Alert Facility—cont. from p. 4

to the alert facility due to the weather. It snows here and driving gets very tough. During the tour there will be a no-notice exercise. You’ll get a notification and have to respond. Just like Pavlov’s dog you respond no matter where you are or what you’re doing. Think about that: you’re in the shower or at the gym, you drop everything and head out. There has been more than one person on a cold winter day who’s still wet as he or she climbs the ladder responding. It’s just another part of what you’re expected to do while you’re sitting alert. The next “big day” on alert is Sunday Family Day. There’s a special part of the facility where the family can come and see Mom or Dad. In the summer, there are lots of picnics with kids running around everywhere and great home-cooked food to eat. If you’re single you hope that you’ll be invited to eat with a family. Finally on change-over day it’s time for another crew to take your place and you can get home and get away for a while. In some cases you get to go home to your parents’ house. You have two-and-a-half days off. Your parents welcome you with open arms and let you sleep and eat. Thanks, Mom for your great cooking! The following Monday, life in the squadron begins again—mission planning, flying, additional duties etc. In the back of your mind you know that in ten more days you’ll be going back on alert. That’s the way it was.
The Cuban Missile Crisis

The “Missiles of October,” 16-28 October 1962

October 20, following those discussions, President Kennedy decided that instead of a “quarantine” be created to prevent Soviet ships from entering Cuban waters, thereby isolating Cuba.

On the evening of October 22, Kennedy presented a nationwide television address informing the populace of the discovery of the Soviet missiles. Kennedy’s statement included, “It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.”

Further, Kennedy described the administration’s plan: “To halt this offensive buildup, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba, from whatever nation or port, will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back. This quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers. We are not at this time, however, denying the necessities of life as the Soviets attempted to do in their Berlin blockade of 1948.”

At the time as the address a directive went out to all US forces worldwide placing them on Defense Condition 3 (DEFCON 3) placing the US military on full alert as U.S. naval forces implemented the quarantine of Cuba.

On October 24, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev denounced the quarantine and stated that the U.S. “blockade” was an “act of aggression” and that Soviet ships would be ordered to proceed. Even so, on October 24 and 25, several Soviet ships turned away from the quarantine line. Secretary of State Dean Rusk said, “the other side blinked,” resulting from the Soviet ships changing course.


By October 26, the U.S. went to DEFCON 2 and was prepared for an all-out war. But during these days there were some unusual secret negotiations. ABC News correspondent John A. Scali had lunch with Aleksandr Fomin (cover name of Aleksandr Feklisov) who was the Washington Embassy station chief (rezident) for the KGB. Fomin asked Scali to connect with his “high level friends” friends at the State Department with a message for a potential diplomatic solution. Fomin put forth a proposal to be passed to Scali’s diplomatic contacts that “Soviet bases would be dismantled under UN supervision and Castro would pledge to not accept offensive weapons of any kind in return for a pledge not to invade Cuba.”

Scali delivered the message to his “high level” contacts at State who were skeptical. Late in the day on the State Department received a message that appeared to be from Khrushchev himself. This message resembled what Scali reported earlier that day. This was delivered to the White House. The thought was that the message from Scali might have been a “set up” for the Khrushchev message. That said, careful and skeptical backchannel communications ensued.

On Saturday October 27, known as “Black Saturday”, Khrushchev in a second message, offered to withdraw the missiles if Kennedy promised not to...
The Cuban Missile Crisis, cont. from p. 11

invade Cuba, and to remove U.S. Jupiter missiles from Turkey but that same day, a U-2 was shot down over Cuba killing U-2 pilot Major Rudolf Anderson.

The United States ignored the second message and responded to the first and more personal one by Khrushchev. In the evening, US Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin reached an agreement that could deescalate the conflict. At 8:05 PM that day, a State Department telegram to the Embassy of the Soviet Union indicating that, “You (USSR) would agree to remove these weapons systems from Cuba under appropriate United Nations observation and supervision; and undertake, with suitable safeguards, to halt the further introduction of such weapons systems into Cuba.”

Further, “We (US), on our part, would agree—upon the establishment of adequate arrangements through the United Nations to ensure the carrying out and continuation of these commitments—(a) to remove promptly the quarantine measures now in effect and (b) to give assurances against an invasion of Cuba. I am confident that other nations of the Western Hemisphere would be prepared to do likewise.”

On October 28, the Soviets agreed to publicly remove the missiles in Cuba for a promise not to invade Cuba. They did not mention the agreement to remove the missiles from Turkey. Radio Moscow broadcast that the Soviet Union accepted the proposed solution.

In early November, the missiles were shipped back to the Soviet Union followed by the cessation of the US embargo on Cuba. By the Spring of the next year, the U.S. removed the Jupiter missiles from Turkey. The Cuban Missile Crisis was hailed as a great victory for the United States.

In the News

We occasionally run across media articles that relate to the Cold War and may be of interest to our Members. Here are some, for your information; none is intended to reflect an official opinion of the Museum. We will provide these from time to time.


◆ New Thresher documents released, Novichok a Cold War relic, etc. at AP Cold War hub: https://apnews.com/hub/cold-war

◆ Israel and the Cold War: https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/joshua-muravchik/how-israel-helped-win-the-cold-war/

The Cold War Times
The official newsletter of The Cold War Museum

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The editorial opinions and reviews expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual writer(s). The museum and its newsletter editor(s) cannot be held responsible for errors of fact or opinion. Proven errors of fact will be corrected.

Deadline for Spring issue: March 15, 2021

To request publication guidelines, please contact the editor.
In Memoriam, cont. from p. 8

Lloyd A Cox, age 78, of Dayton, Ohio, was called home by God on February 25, 2020 following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. A graduate of Xenia High School, Lloyd began his career alongside his father, owner of Cox’s Drug Store in Dayton, OH. He joined Monsanto Dayton Lab in 1965 as a chemical engineer and spent over 20 years engaged in the research and development of many products that remain in wide use today including artificial sweeteners and cancer fighting drugs. Lloyd transferred to the Mound Plant in Miamisburg, OH in 1988 where his research focus shifted to atomic energy and defense. During the Cold War, Lloyd was involved in the enrichment of radioactive materials and development of explosives used to strengthen U.S. military defense capability and protect American soil. During the Gulf War era, his work was critical to the successful detonation of air defense missiles used to protect U.S. troops. After facilitating the transfer of this technology to the Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico, He returned to Mound until he retired in 2014 and supported the promotion of science education within Dayton Public Schools and one of his most treasured activities was volunteering to judge the annual science fair. He also enjoyed watching auto races on television having been an award-winning drag race car driver in his youth. https://www.newcomerdayton.com/Obituary/181799

John H. Hackett, 80, of West Terre Haute, passed away on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at Union Hospital...John was born to the greatest generation and served honorably as a retired veteran of the United States Marine Corps and Air Force, having retired in 1977. His various tours of duty across the globe allowed him to serve as an early warning signal communication specialist in Turkey during the Cold War. His civil service with the United States Navy included working as a cryptographer and his duty to his country spanned 40 plus years. He was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in West Terre Haute. His passion was shooting, boar hunting, military history, genealogy research and he loved the Turkish culture.

James H. Johnson, a retired nursing home owner and longtime resident of Conway, died September 19, 2020, after an extended illness. Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, he and several other buddies from Conway enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. After basic training in San Antonio, Texas, his first duty station was in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he met his wife. He was later deployed with his family to Istanbul, Turkey. This was at the peak of the Cold War, and he and his unit manned a listening post on the Black Sea to monitor Russian radio activity. After his tour in Turkey, he returned to the states and was assigned to set up civilian Ground Observer Corps in Arkansas and Missouri, again a portion of Cold War defense preparations. He was in the military for eight years.

Werner Juretzko (American agent imprisoned by STASI): At the end of World War II he was forced by the Third Reich into the last-ditch defense lines. He became a prisoner of War and was held captive for several months in the Soviet-Czech POW camp in Czechoslovakia. Atrocities committed by the Soviet soldiers to members of his family created a resolve in Werner to revenge his family’s honor. In 1948, while serving his apprenticeship in West Germany as a tool and die maker, Werner was approached by the Gehlen Organization. Werner was asked to infiltrate the Communist Party in the state of Hessa. His service led to his recruitment by the G-2 Intelligence Service of the United States Army. During his service he conducted authorized undercover espionage missions behind the Iron Curtain. Werner represented the finest that America has to offer. He understood the price of freedom. Werner went on to be a successful business owner and accomplished writer and cold war historian. He was the author of “Years Without Hope: Rise and Fall of an American Spy.” He was devoted and loved the United States of America, he had a passion for travel and was very active Rotarian in the Des Plaines Rotary Club. He was a proud American, devoted husband, father and grandfather who will be greatly missed by all who knew him. https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyherald/obituary.aspx?n=werner-juretzko&pid=190493936&fhid=16227

Brent Scowcroft was national security advisor to two presidents, Gerald Ford (1913 – 2006) and George H.W. Bush (1924 – 2018). A U.S. Air Force veteran, Scowcroft was working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff when he was tapped by Henry Kissinger to become deputy national security advisor in 1973. Two years later, when Ford drastically reorganized his cabinet in the 1975 “Halloween Massacre,” Scowcroft took Kissinger’s place as national security advisor. While serving under Ford, Scowcroft helped organize the removal of U.S. military personnel from Saigon. As President Jimmy Carter took office in 1977, Scowcroft was replaced as national security advisor but continued to serve on the president’s General Advisory Committee on Arms Control. Scowcroft returned as national security advisor under Bush, serving for the president’s entire term from 1989 to 1993.

Richard Wagner (red eagles): After graduation, in 1973, Rick enlisted in the United States Air Force. While serving in Oklahoma, he met and married Denise L. Pelequin, and in 1983, they had a son, Jonathan. Rick was proud of his service in the Air Force and while stationed in Las Vegas, served on a top-secret military operation which was the core for the U.S. Air Force Cold War Training Program. Rick was featured among other Air Force veterans in the book, “Red Eagles America’s Secret MIGs” written by Steve Davies. After 15 years with the Air Force, Rick moved his family to Saudi Arabia, where he worked for Boeing. Six years later, Rick and his family returned to the United States and settled in Poland. https://www.tribtoday.com/obituaries/2020/08/richard-d-wagner-1954-2020/

TO OUR READERS: If you have friends or family members who have passed in in recent times and whose Cold War service should be remembered via In Memoriam, please contact Executive Director Jason Hall (jason@coldwar.org).
The 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.

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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