

# The Cold War Times®

The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum®

Fall/Winter2023



## Letter from the Executive Director

Unfinished business. That can be a great, even obsessive, motivator.

If you look you can see its prominence as a theme throughout literature and in historic events like the Cold War and right now with Russia and Ukraine.

I realized that fact not long before writing this, when I was wondering if there was anything in common between my favorite movie (*Casablanca*) and my favorite book (*The Odyssey*).

On the surface it's hard to imagine any works of fiction that are further apart. The settings (1941-42 Paris and *Casablanca* vs. 12<sup>th</sup> C BC Greece), the characters (a man and a woman, surrounded by Nazis, Vichy officials, and resistance figures vs. a king and queen, surrounded by gods, goddesses, and monsters), and the formats (a movie vs. epic poetry) are extremely different. And of course one is a popular entertainment, although one of the best movies ever made to many critics, while the other is one of the greatest works of world literature, esteemed by many cultures and in many times.

Yet what they have in common actually overrides all of that.

The most important characters in the movie and the book are the loves of each other's lives who are separated by events arising from a war, and who are in emotional agony over that separation. When they suddenly and unexpectedly appear to each other again, in the movie after about a year, and in the book after 20 years of separation, there is a period of shocked amazement, and some false steps that arise from that shock.

But above all, in both the movie and the book, until the end of each, there is a powerful sense of unfinished business between the man and the woman, and intense puzzlement, mystery, and curiosity about what has taken place in the other's life in the interval of their separation. That sense of unfinished business, and of the absolute importance of coming to closure for both the man and the woman, is what drives the plots of both works and the actions of the main characters in each.

The motivational power of a deep sense of unfinished business drove a lot of real events in history as well. In the Cold War there was a constant sense on the Soviet side, at least until near the end of the Cold War period, of the unfinished business of realizing Marx's dream of extending the geographic reach of Communism so that the Worker's Paradise in its fullest form could finally be attained and secured. And just as

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Executive Director, Cont. from page 1

the Soviets sought to make the world safe for autocracy, the West sought the same for democracy. In the end, neither could attain their aim and come to closure.

And now it's clear to most observers that Putin's unfinished business is to re-establish as much of the Soviet empire as possible and for Russia to use those territorial gains to reassume the status of a Great Power. Putin tried and mostly failed to do that in other nearby countries, so he turned to Ukraine, first by de facto eating pieces of its industrial east and Crimea and more recently with attempted regime change and occupation if necessary of the whole country.

In response, Ukraine's unfinished business is not only to take back all the territory most recently lost to Russia but then also to reclaim all its territory previously occupied by, or otherwise under the influence of, Russia. For both Russia and Ukraine, only the accomplishment of these goals will bring closure, but it's a zero-sum game.

Ukraine's desire, now strong even among eastern Ukrainians whose first language is Russian, is the more comprehensible to third parties like the US, but in an authoritarian society, the will of the Leader drives national action, potentially just as strongly as the Ukrainian people's will exemplified by Zelensky.

As in the Cold War, containment must prevail. Putin's unfinished business must stay unfinished.

Remember how Napoleon came back from exile for a second round? Unfinished business can be a strong motivator.

*Jason*

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# The Cold War Times

*The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum*

**Deadline for Spring issue:  
March 15, 2024**

*To discuss article submission, please contact :*

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## Message from the Chairman

*Chuck Wilson*

**Dear Members of the Cold War Museum®, Cold War Veterans, and Friends,**

The 2023 Holidays are approaching, and we hope that you and yours have had a wonderful year thus far! We are finishing a solid performance in 2023 with our work in

preserving Cold War history continuing to be popular!

This past August, filming for part of the documentary “The History of Aerial Photography” took place at The Cold War Museum® for two days. Interviews with Gary Powers Jr and Chuck Wilson, lasting over five hours each, were conducted. David DePerro was also briefly interviewed. See the brief article about it in this newsletter.

In September we also paid a visit to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where Mr. Robert Byer, Director of the CIA Museum, was a most generous host. Both the CIA and CWM® were able to exchange valuable information for the mutual benefit of both museums! The CIA recently celebrated their 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

For the U.S. Air Force 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary our own Chuck Wilson provided the keynote address at the celebration in Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1503 Dale City. Chuck spoke on the many contributions the Air Force has made over the last 76 years along with its vital role *during the Cold War*. Dr. Jason Hall, CWM® Executive Director, also came and engaged with many veterans in attendance. VFW Post 1503 is the largest post in the world with over three thousand (3,000) members.

Of special note, Gary Powers Jr., the CWM® co-founder, is hosting another Cold War Espionage Tour of Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary April 14 to 25, 2024. This is a very exciting tour that you don’t want to miss. Details are in this newsletter!

Our next fundraising event is November 28<sup>th</sup>, Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. #GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. Help us to preserve Cold War History! This coming November 28<sup>th</sup> is #GivingTuesday - a Global Day of Philanthropy. I hope you will join me, as many veterans of the Cold War will, in [supporting The Cold War Museum®](#).

Despite our many successes this year, our work is far from over. Looking ahead for next year, pressure is on to increase our funding, modernize, and expand our space to display all our artifacts. With your help, we will take The Cold War Museum® to the next level of success: to modernize and expand! I cannot THANK YOU ENOUGH for all you do, and, for your continued support of The Cold War Museum®!!

We hope that all of your Christmas wishes come true this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

*Chuck*

[Chuck Wilson](#)

[Donate to the Cold War Museum®](#)



## Museum Staff

Jason Hall, Ph.D., CAE  
Executive Director (Historian)

Paul Schaya, Imagery Intelligence  
Collections/Exhibits  
(Marine veteran and former CIA im-  
age analyst)

John Suter, Imagery Intelligence  
Collections/Exhibits & Museum  
Photographer  
(NRO imagery veteran)

Gene Eisman, Director of  
Public Relations &  
*Cold War Times* contributor

Chris Sturdevant, Chairman  
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(Air Force veteran)

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Technology Specialist

Stan Manvell, Chief Fabricator  
(construction industry)

[Name withheld], Chief Technology  
Officer & Key Tour Guide  
(Vint Hill Army veteran & former FBI  
electronics engineer)

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Museum Staff cont. from page 3

Doug Harsha,  
Collections Chief, Civil Defense Expert,  
and Social Media Lead Staffer

Bryan Zwanzig, Lead Staffer  
Private Tour Arrangements &  
Presentation Series staffing  
(Vint Hill Army veteran)

Karen Zwanzig, *Cold War Times*  
Lead Staffer

John Welch, CWM® Co-Founder &  
Vice-Chair Board of Directors and  
Membership Records

Clayton Vieg, Cold War Veteran

Paul David Smith, Intern

Colin Walker, Intern

## Meet Your Board of Directors



The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors is the governing body of our nonprofit organization. This governance is high level: strategy, oversight, and accountability of the overall activities of the museum. Our Board is made up of thirteen seasoned senior executives of varying professional backgrounds who work pro bono for the benefit of the museum. Our Board members meet, usually each month, to discuss and vote on the affairs of The Cold War Museum®. Meet our Board of Directors at this link: [BOARD OF DIRECTORS CWM®](#). Here are some of the recent topics of Board discussion and actions since our last newsletter:

- ◆ Ambassadors for the Museum at museum engagements
- ◆ Planning for Giving Tuesday fundraiser.
- ◆ Deaccessioning artifacts that are damaged
- ◆ Engaging congressional legislators for continued support of the Cold War Museum®
- ◆ Recruiting board candidates and staff for the Cold War Museum®



<https://www.givelocal piedmont.org/donate/coldwarmuseum>

## 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 these events including the question-and-answer sessions), and a significant source of income for our operations.

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

Since our Summer 2023 issue appeared, we have presented the following:

9/24/23-- Nick Reynolds on his forthcoming book: *Need to Know: World War II and the Rise of American Intelligence*. Nick is the former Historian of the CIA Museum

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

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

There are MANY MORE ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR; as I write this, we have them scheduled to Spring 2024, with more to follow. Please see the Upcoming Events article in this issue for the dates and descriptions of those events.

If you are interested in getting a list of our prior events and/or accessing the digital videos of any of them, please contact Executive Director Jason Hall ([jason@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org)); there is a modest charge for accessing the prior ones, all of which were videoed.

If you'd like your email address to be added to our notification list for coming events, please contact Jason for that as well.



## CWM® Seeking Congressional Designation As The National Cold War Museum

Since late 2021 CWM® has been seeking the support of members of the Virginia Congressional delegation to advance a bill that would designate CWM® as The National Cold War Museum. There can be only one United States museum with this designation. Museums in Nebraska and Arkansas are also seeking this recognition, which does not bring with it any federal funding but does greatly enhance the credibility of an institution seeking funds from large-scale private donors.

We have made considerable progress in this effort, aided by the key positions that Virginia legislators in both the House and Senate occupy on the most important Committees for such an effort: the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, as well as the Senate Intelligence Committee. Since this a nonpartisan topic with no cost going forward for the federal government, it is very attractive for support by both Democrats and Republicans. Neither of the competitive states have anything comparable in terms of representation on the key Committees.

This is normally a slow process, requiring many years of effort to achieve success, but we are well underway with it with the help of our Hill friends on both sides. This effort is aided by the personal relationships of Chairman Chuck Wilson and some other CWM® Board members with key legislators, and that Executive Director Jason Hall was a professional lobbyist for a federal agency and a national trade association for many years.

Representative Jennifer Wexton, the Democrat in whose District the Museum is currently located, and Representative Rob Wittman, the Republican Vice-Chair on the House Armed Services Committee, have been taking the lead for us in this effort.

As reported in the Fall 2022 newsletter, on September 20, 2022, Mr. Wittman introduced H.R. 8929, to designate your Museum "The National Cold War Museum of the United States." He had four initial co-sponsors. Our bill did not get passed in the fall and we are in a new Congress, requiring that the bill be introduced once again in the new Congress. We have been working with Mr. Wittman's and Mrs. Wexton's offices to get that re-introduction and to get co-sponsors again.

Unfortunately Mrs. Wexton announced since our last newsletter that she has learned that she has an incurable, progressive, and fatal neurological disorder. She is a relatively young woman, with a husband and children, so this is particularly tragic. She has announced that she will not be running for Congress again, and I think that she is likely to decide to leave before her term is up, as she has made clear that she would like to spend her final months with her family. In situations like this it is usual for Congressional staff to immediately begin their searches for new employment, and the office becomes focused on the final steps to closing down rather than on legislative work.

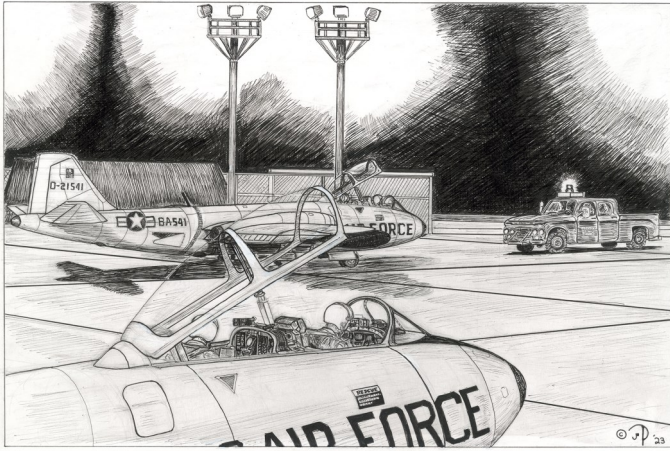
Thus we will need to begin again with whoever is selected to fill her seat, whenever that person comes on the Hill and assembles their own staff.

We will keep you informed of our progress in this area in coming editions of *The Cold War Times*. If you have connections to any of the Congressional offices noted above and would like to help in this effort, please contact Jason at [ja-son@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org).

NOTE: if you would like to follow the progress of **any** federal legislation, including this bill, it's actually extremely easy and free to do that online. Just go to [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) and type the bill number or key words into the search box at the top and you can get the bill text and every legislative action and Congressional report associated with it. Executive Director Hall was a professional lobbyist for the American Association of Museums for many years and used the predecessor version of this Library of Congress service, then called THOMAS (as in Thomas Jefferson), all the time, as did everyone on the Hill and others following Congressional actions. These days it is remarkably easy to be a highly informed citizen if you know where to look for reliable information.

# A Day the World Mourned, And Nearly Went To War

## The Military Response to the Assassination of John F. Kennedy



**Open Gate at Kunsan, 23 November, 1963”**  
**Artwork by the Author**

“A chill November wind blew from the Yellow Sea and across the runway at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea. Nearby parked on an alert pad were a detachment of US Air Force B-57 Canberra bombers, each with a live nuclear weapon in their bomb bay and ready to fly at a moment’s notice. On deployment from their home base at Yokota Japan, crews from the 8<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Medium Bomb Wing were sleeping soundly in their alert facility when at 0400 klaxon horns aroused them from their slumber.

As the crews rushed to their waiting aircraft, they likely thought this was just one more drill, where they would strap themselves in, start engines, stand down, secure, and return to bed for some much needed shut eye.

But this morning was different.

As the pilots strapped themselves into their cockpits, they awaited the arrival of their navigators with the latest weather and target reports.

When the navigators arrived, to their shock the pilots were told not to start engines but instead stand by for further orders. Then to the amazement of all, a gate next to the runway rolled back. A blue Air Force pickup then drove in and parked itself just inside. The pilots were told that if the truck pulled out, they were to immediately fly their war mission. An air of foreboding then settled on both the air and ground crews there on the ramp. With targets in North Korea, China, and the Soviet Far East, the air crews instinctively knew they would be flying one way missions. But they had no idea as to why they were facing potential oblivion.

As dawn broke, many sitting in their cockpits and standing around the ramp felt that this would be the last sunrise they would ever see. It was not until 1000 that the stand down order was finally issued. Exhausted and sore, the crews secured and returned to the alert shack. It was then and there that they were told the reason for their ordeal.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, had been shot and killed in Dallas, Texas.<sup>1</sup>

The afternoon of 22 November, 1963 found America’s National Security leadership literally scattered about. In the Pentagon, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara was in his office with National Security advisor McGeorge Bundy working on a draft of the new defense budget.<sup>2</sup>

At the same time, the Joint Chiefs of Staff were in the Pentagon Gold Room, meeting with the staff of the West German Bundeswehr.<sup>3</sup>

Air Force Chief of Staff General Curtis Lemay was absent from the meeting, himself away on a hunting trip in northern Michigan.<sup>4</sup>

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and the rest of the cabinet had departed Hawaii and were in flight over the Pacific en route to a conference in Japan.<sup>5</sup>

With the Presidential party in Dallas were military aides Army Brigadier General Chester Clifton and Air Force Brigadier General Godfrey McHugh.

*Cont. on page 8*

In the White House Situation Room, and at the National Military Command Center, staff were performing their normal watch duties.

At 1330 Central time, shots rang out at the Presidential motorcade as it passed through Dallas's Daley Plaza. Both the President and Texas Governor John Connolly, were hit, and the motorcade rushed to nearby Parkland hospital. Shortly afterward, at 1334, the White House situation room received a flash bulletin from United Press International that the President had been shot. Word was immediately sent out to the Pentagon and White House staff.<sup>6</sup>

Upon hearing the shocking news, Secretary of Defense McNamara immediately adjourned his meeting, with Bundy departing for the White House. McNamara then conferred with the Joint Chiefs, and a flash message was quickly sent out to all US military commands.

1. "Press reports President Kennedy and Governor Connolly of Texas shot and critically injured. Both in hospital in Dallas Texas. No information yet, will keep you informed."
2. "This is the time to be especially on the alert."<sup>7</sup>

The Chiefs then returned to their meeting with the Germans.

At Parkland Hospital, General McHugh kept both the Pentagon and the NMCC apprised of the situation via commercial phone and not through official channels.<sup>8</sup>

At 1400, it was officially confirmed that the President was dead.

Upon receiving confirmation of Kennedy's death, McNamara and the Joint Chiefs once again conferred, and at 1450 the alert level of all US Military commands was immediately increased one step to DEFCON 4.

This was the lowest level of readiness, with increased security measures implemented, and the level of intelligence monitoring increased.<sup>9</sup>

General Taylor then issued a special order to the Military District of Washington. However, no troops were mobilized, nor were security levels increased.<sup>10</sup> A C-140 Jetstar transport was immediately dispatched from Andrews Air Force Base to pick up General Lemay and return him to Washington.



**Lockheed C-140 Jetstar USAF Photo**



**Admiral Harry D. Felt USN, Commander in Chief, Pacific (CINCPAC) 1963 – Official US Navy Photo**

The Chiefs then returned to their meeting with the Bundeswehr officers.

JCS Chief Taylor felt that this action was essential for continuity and stability. When the conference concluded at 1630, Taylor informed his guests of the sad news. By his account, the horrified Germans literally "collapsed in their seats."<sup>11</sup>



*A Day the World Mourned, cont. from page 8*

At this moment in time, it should be noted that the command and control network appeared to experience to a sudden slowdown. The response appeared disjointed and uneven. Procedures such as communication checks were not followed, nor was effort made to alert overseas commands, nor was contact made with Air Force One at Love Field in Dallas. Within the Pentagon itself, an air of tension reigned. Indeed, contingency plans had considered a Presidential assassination as the prelude to a decapitation strike. Some even thought of this as the start of a possible coup. However, the Pentagon appeared to follow the Joint Chief's example by keeping a low-keyed response.<sup>12</sup>

At Love Field in Dallas, the Presidential Party returned to Air Force One. The late President's body was placed aboard, and after being sworn in aboard the aircraft, President Johnson gave the order to depart for Washington, with AF1 leaving the ground at 1447.<sup>13</sup>

Above the Pacific, Secretary of State Dean Rusk informed the rest of the cabinet of the sad news, he then contacted Commander in Chief Pacific (CINCPAC), Admiral Harry D. Felt. Their plane immediately turned around and headed back to Hickam, AFB, Hawaii.<sup>14</sup>

The strongest reaction occurred in the Pacific and the Far East. On hearing the news of the assassination, CINCPAC commander Admiral Felt immediately sent a flash message to all units under his command.

"This is the time to be especially on the alert.

Do not desire any actions which would indicate heightened tensions such as recall of personnel on leave. But take actions that would definitely be consistent with DEFCON 3."<sup>15</sup>

Throughout the Pacific warships immediately went to general quarters.

Special weapons were loaded and courses changed, with task forces deploying towards positions off the Soviet Pacific Coast.<sup>16</sup> In Yokosuka Japan, crews of warships were suddenly awakened, called to general quarters, special sea details set, and all haste made to leave the harbor.<sup>17</sup> At nearby Yokota Air Base, alerts were sounded, the base locked down, and crews ordered to report to the flight line and stand by their aircraft.<sup>18</sup> American forces in Korea were in what could be described as a hair trigger state of readiness.<sup>19</sup>

US NATO forces in Europe also quickly responded. In Germany, soldiers who were expecting a relaxing weekend received a rude awakening when American ground units were immediately mobilized and sent to positions on the East German border.<sup>20</sup> At Zaragoza Air Base Spain, as well as other US air bases, personnel were recalled, security tightened, and aircraft placed on runway alert.<sup>21</sup> In the words of one soldier, "Everyone thought the Commies were coming."

However, the response of America's nuclear strike force was more subdued. Unlike the Cuban crisis the year before, SAC commander General Thomas S. Power didn't elevate the alert level above DEFCON 4. And in spite of the tense atmosphere, bombers on their alert pads stood ready,<sup>22</sup> and missiles remained on standby in their launch silos.<sup>23</sup>

Indeed, the record shows that almost all domestic US commands didn't much alter their daily routine that afternoon.

NAVAL MESSAGE SECRET NAVY DEPARTMENT

| PRECEDENCE | ACTION | RELEASED BY | DRAFTED BY | EXT. NO. |
|------------|--------|-------------|------------|----------|
| FLASH      |        |             |            |          |
| FLASH      | INFO   |             |            |          |

Z 222013Z  
FM CINCPAC

READDRESSSED FLASH 222153Z  
FM CINCPAC  
INFO JCS

TO RUEHHS/CINCSARPAC  
RUEHLH/CINCPACFLT  
RUEHKN/PACAF  
RUMSMA/COMUSJACV  
RUEHMC/COMUSKOREA

INFO RUMGZL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
RUAUAZ/5AF  
RUMALC/13AF  
RUAQFL/COMUSTDC

SECRET

1. THIS IS THE TIME TO BE ESPECIALLY ON THE ALERT. DO NOT DESIRE ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD INDICATE HEIGHTENED TENSIONS SUCH AS RECALL OF PERSONNEL ON LEAVE, BUT TAKE OTHER ACTIONS THAT WOULD BE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH DEFCON 3. GP-4

22 NOV 1963

### DEFCON 3 Flash Message CINCPAC, 22 November, 1963

In the US 2nd Fleet for example, at bases such as the Brooklyn Navy Yard and at Norfolk Virginia, ensigns were lowered to half staff and gun salutes fired, the atmosphere being more of mourning than fear.<sup>24</sup>

The one exception was at Fort Bliss, Texas. There the alert battalion from the Second Armored Division received orders to mount out and deploy to Dallas in anticipation of potential domestic disorder. Battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel George S. Patton junior (Son of the famous WW II General.), immediately oversaw the involved and complicated process of mounting armored vehicles on rail

*Cont. on page 10*

~~TOP SECRET DINAR~~

REPRODUCTION/FURTHER DISSEMINATION PROHIBITED  
WITHOUT PRIOR DIRNSA CONCURRENCE

3/0/QOY/R26-63  
23 Nov 63 2103Z  
DIST: O/ZK  
ST 022, 052, 072, 102,  
141, 221

SIGINT DAILY SUMMARY NUMBER TWENTY

Information in this report is that available to NSA as of 1900Z, 23 November 1963, unless otherwise stated.

SIGINT DAILY SUMMARY - PART ONE

WORLD HIGHLIGHTS

1. CUBAN MILITARY UNITS PUT ON ALERT BECAUSE OF THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

At 2043Z 22 Nov 63 the message "a state of alert is ordered for all personnel. Be ready to repel aggression." (2/LRL/[redacted] R11-63). U/I military units were alerted at 2320Z on VHF voice communications which normally link First Army Hq, Santiago with Guantanamo City with the following message "Inform the Chief that by orders of [redacted] (unit commander) here, all of them, all of the points, were put on alert. (2/LRL/[redacted] R187-63).

At 2031Z, 22 November, Eastern Naval Headquarters Banes instructed Headquarters, Southern Sector, Santiago to recall all units. A later message from Banes to Naval Headquarters, Havana reported all units have been recalled due to the death of President KENNEDY. (2/QS/[redacted] R665-63).

Operator chatter indicated that the death of President KENNEDY had been announced in Cuba. One Cuban operator remarked "There will be some happy people here."

44USC2107(5)(g)(2)(D) 2(ii)

Other special instructions from the Cuban Government included:

- 1) A [redacted] message dated 23 November apparently sent to all the Cuban [redacted] in which the Cuban [redacted] instructed the [redacted] to make no statements. (3/0/[redacted] T1380-63).
- 2) The Cuban Government ordered the [redacted] to stay open all night an unprecedented move, and
- 3) The Cuban [redacted] was asked by [redacted] to forward immediately all possible data concerning President JOHNSON. He was told to look in Who's Who and was also informed that Prensa Latina had biographical data of this type. (3/0/[redacted] T1381-63, 3/0/[redacted] T1382-63). ~~(TOP SECRET DINAR)~~



Page 1 of 10 Page(s)

~~TOP SECRET DINAR~~

NSA intercept reporting on Cuban Military Alert  
23 November, 1963

road flat cars. However, at approximately 2200 hours Lt. Col. Patton received the order to secure and stand down.<sup>25</sup> However, this again was the exception. The mood at all other domestic military installations appeared to mirror the shock and disbelief that the rest of America was experiencing.

At this point in time Air Force Chief of Staff General Curtis Lemay was airborne and en route back to Washington. On multiple occasions Lemay's military aide Colonel Dorman attempted to get in contact with the General. However, at times this proved nearly impossible due to the massive amount of traffic from various individuals and agencies asking for updates on the situation. At certain times, the entire command net appeared to have broken down due to the overload of message traffic. As Lemay's Jetstar approached DC airspace, Colonel Dorman announced on the net that the General's flight was being diverted to land at National Airport rather than at Andrews.<sup>26</sup> The best explanation for this sudden change would be that with the uncertain atmosphere around Washington, as well as the elevated military posture, General Lemay would likely have needed to return to the Pentagon as expeditiously as possible. The close proximity of National Airport to the Pentagon does indeed support the logic of this decision.

On the other side of the Iron Curtain, the reaction of the Communist world mirrored the shock that spread across the West. In the Soviet Union, the news of Kennedy's death hit the Communist leadership in Moscow very hard. The tense atmosphere in the Kremlin in many ways mirrored that of the Pentagon. At the time many in the leadership had a great fear that "extremist elements in the US Military would use this as a justification to start an attack against the USSR".<sup>27</sup> Yet in spite of this, with one exception, the Warsaw Pact and other Communist nations did not elevate their military forces to a higher alert level.

That one exception was Cuba.<sup>28</sup>

Upon receiving word of President Kennedy's death, Cuban Premier Fidel Castro immediately ordered a complete mobilization of the Cuban Armed Forces. His message stated: "A state of alert is ordered for all military personnel. Be pre

pared to repel aggression”.<sup>29</sup> Ground, air and naval units were deployed around the island, with special emphasis being put on the region known as the “Eastern Naval District”, which included the US Naval Station at Guantanamo.<sup>30</sup> Further messages called for “continued vigilance”, and to “watch for suspicious aircraft”.<sup>31</sup>

For the rest of the day and into the evening, all of Cuba appeared to be in a state of tension that mirrored the Missile Crisis of a year before.

At 1805 Eastern time Air Force One finally touched down at Andrews AFB.

With the Presidential Staff and the Media in attendance, the late President’s body was taken off and transferred to a Navy ambulance.

The Presidential party then headed on their way to Bethesda Naval Hospital. A visibly bereaved President Johnson made a brief speech, then departed for the White House aboard the Presidential helicopter, Marine One. [CORRECTION BY AUTHOR: ARMY ONE]

At the announcement of Kennedy’s death, the Military District of Washington immediately put itself at the disposal of the White House.

By order of the District’s commander, Major Phillip C. Wehle, a funeral center in the District’s headquarters at McNair.<sup>32</sup> Detailed personnel began for reserve Secret Metro Police.<sup>33</sup> Personnel prepared for the funeral activities.



**Major General Phillip C. Wehle, Commander, Military District of Washington 1963. Official US Army Photo**

For example, a battery of saluting howitzers was emplaced in a park next to Union Station, with firing of salutes coordinated by radio operators.<sup>34</sup>

The cabinet’s plane touched down at Andrews at 0031 Eastern time after a non stop flight from Hawaii.<sup>35</sup>

The morning of 23 November, 1963 broke upon a tense and grieving world. As the day wore on, the crisis atmosphere began to subside. By mid day both Cuba<sup>36</sup> and US overseas commands had relaxed their alert level.<sup>37</sup> In spite of this, both sides nonetheless kept up a degree of vigilance. On 24 November, at 1230 Eastern time, the Pentagon ordered the alert level lowered back to DEFCON 5.<sup>38</sup> By the next day, Cuba’s military alert was stood down as well.<sup>39</sup>

The sudden death of America’s 35th President plunged America’s National Security apparatus into an immediate crisis. Information on the situation in Dallas was incomplete and sketchy, with many in the Pentagon suspecting the worst of possibilities. Indeed, the potential for an accidental war starting was apparently on the mind of many that day. What is most noticeable about this time is the near breakdown of command and control procedures, especially regarding communications. The most glaring example being that much of the situation updates came from commercial sources and not official ones. There was indeed such a rush for information from so many agencies in Washington that the entire command and control network at times ground to a halt. That there was not a total breakdown is a tribute to the perseverance of those at the NMCC, The White House Situation Room, and the Pentagon.

General Maxwell Taylor’s effort to keep the atmosphere at the Joint Chiefs calm and stable was apparently mirrored by most US domestic military commands. The strong reaction seems to have only occurred with overseas commands. The unilateral elevation of the alert level to DEFCON 3 was completely consistent with their command responsibility, and were meant as more of a precaution than a confrontation. And even while on alert, CINCPAC and US NATO forces made an effort not to draw much attention to their activities. Yet there were moments such as at Kunsan Airbase in Korea, as well as with Cuba, when it seemed like Armageddon was indeed near. That said, in the end a great effort was made by those on both sides to keep tensions down and events from spinning out of control.

Thus ended a Cold War crisis that almost was.

On 25 November, 1963, the Military District of Washington commenced in carrying out one of the largest and most dignified memorials ever given for a President of the Unit



ed States. The funeral parties worked with near clockwork precision, and carried out their duties with great respect and dignity. At the same time, at military installations around the world, memorial services were held and gunfire salutes rendered.<sup>40</sup>

And above all else, it was John Fitzgerald Kennedy who had the distinction of being the first American President to be buried with full military honors.

A fitting tribute to a fallen Commander in Chief.



**Generals Curtis Lemay and Maxwell Taylor lead the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Presidential Military Aides at the funeral of President John F Kennedy, 25 November, 1963.**

**Photo- John F. Kennedy Library**

**NOTES:**

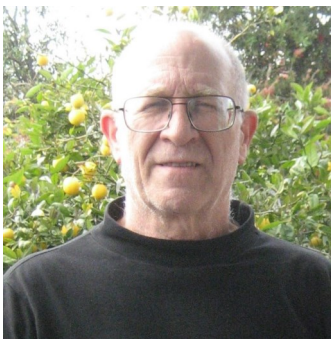
<sup>1</sup> "The Open Gate", Oral History of Colonel James Mugavero, USAF ret., Edwards Park. Article - *Air and Space Magazine*, January 1994.

<sup>2</sup> "Death of a President", William Manchester, Harper and Row, 1967, P. 142.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, P. 144.

- 4 "Lemay", Warren Kozak, Regnery, 2009, P. 356.  
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6 "Surprise Attack", Larry Hancock, Counterpoint Press 2015, P. 225.  
7 Manchester, PP. 192-1938.  
8 Hancock, P. 225.  
9 *Ibid.*, P. 226.  
10 *Ibid.*, P. 228.  
11 Manchester, P. 253.  
12 Hancock, PP. 227-231.  
13 Manchester, PP. 324-326.  
14 Salinger, PP. 6-8.  
15 Navy Flash Message, CINCPAC, 22 Nov 1963, Z222013Z, Online source - Michael Beschloss.  
16 Conversation with author and George J. Retired Boatswains' Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class USN, Crewman on FRAM-type Destroyer, 2003.  
17 Conversation with author and former crewman, of aircraft carrier USS Hornet, (CVS-12), 2017.  
18 Oral History of SSgt Bob Baxter, USAF, "Together We Served" Online Forum, 28 February, 2017.  
19 "The Open Gate", Article -*Air and Space Magazine*, January, 1994.  
20 U.S. Militaria Online Forum, 24 November, 2012.  
21 Oral History of A1C Stephen S. Marston, USAF, Website of 3973<sup>rd</sup> Combat Defense Squadron.  
22 Online conversation with author and Colonel Earl McGill, USAF ret., Former B-52 Aircraft Commander, 2021.  
23 Online conversation with author and Colonel Jim Warner, USAF ret., Historian, Air Force Missileers Association, 2022.  
24 Navy Deck Logs of USS Albany (GG-10), USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA -42), and USS Forrestal (CVA-59). National Archives Online Library.  
25 Larry Hancock, Online Education Forum, 27 January, 2017.  
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27 FBI Memo of 1 December, 1966 Article - *USA Today*, 28 October, 2017.  
28 NSA Message SC # 12420/63, 25 November, 1963 Mary Farrell Foundation.  
29 NSA Message # 3/0/QOY/R26-63, Page # 1, 2103Z, 23 November, 1963.  
30 *Ibid.*  
31 NSA Message # 3/0/QOY/R-26-63, Page # 2, ref # 2X/0/Blank/R01-63.  
32 "The Last Salute" CMH Online, 2005.  
33 Manchester, P. 487.  
34 *Ibid.*, P. 514.  
35 Salinger, P. 10.  
36 NSA Message, SC # 12149/63 24, November 1963, Mary Farrell Foundation.  
37 "The Open Gate" Article - *Air and Space Magazine* January, 1994.  
38 Hancock, P. 226.  
39 NSA Message # 144-10001-10061, 25 November, 1963, Mary Farrell Foundation.  
40 U.S. Navy Deck Logs, National Archives Online.

*Article by John F. Davies, USMC 1977—1985, Cold War Veteran*



*John Davies is a 1978 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in history. Immediately afterward, he served as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps during the Cold War, doing tours in both active service and active reserve duty with specialties in Infantry, and later Armor. A significant part of his career involved Intelligence-related duties and work with Special Weapons.*

*Following his retirement, he decided to begin doing historical research into the Cold War era. He especially wanted to investigate the military events of that period which are not well known to the public at large. He believes that these historic moments have had an important impact on our present time and therefore need to be told. He has also studied classical drawing and painting, and intends to add illustration to these moments in Cold War history as many of them happened in secret and had no pictorial record.*



## CIA Celebrates 76th Anniversary

On July 26, 1947 the Central Intelligence Agency was born when President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 into law and created not just the clandestine agency we know today, but also several other organizations we count on for protection.

The Act spelled out how to “centralize” all the intelligence that was vital to keeping peace in the aftermath of World War II. Until then, the War Department, the State with the remains of the recently disbanded Office of Strategic Services — the OSS, and Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Post Office were competing with the remains of the recently disbanded Office of Strategic Services — the OSS, a combination of intelligence-gathering and covert actions agency which had operated during WWII.



*L to R: CWM® Board Member Maureen Whitfield, CWM® Chairman Chuck Wilson, Key Staff Member John Suter, CWM® Executive Director Jason Hall, CWM® Collections Chief Doug Harsha, and John's wife Linda, a former CW intelligence professional*

On September 16, 2023, several members of The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors and staff visited the Central Intelligence Agency where Mr. Robert Byer, Director of the CIA Museum, provided a thorough orientation and tour of the museum's artifacts and facilities at Langley, Virginia.

The CIA Museum exhibits over 600 artifacts that were chosen to provide a deep understanding of the Agency's history from the end of World War II through the Cold War to the post-9/11 era. Some of CIA's most daring innovations and operations are exhibited, including never-before-seen artifacts from Project AZORIAN, CIA's daring efforts to retrieve the wreckage of a K-129 Soviet submarine, a briefcase used during the Argo operation to exfiltrate six State Department officers out of Iran in 1980, and many other artifacts.

When the group visited the CIA Museum section on the U-2 and the Cold War, Chuck Wilson, a former U-2 pilot and CWM® Board Chairman, provided a detailed presentation on the U-2, its varying clandestine missions, and how the U-2 pilot would use the pressure suits on display. The visit provided a valuable exchange of information, with both museums discussing future collaborations of value.

# The 76th Birthday of the U.S. Air Force



Happy 76th Birthday U.S. Air Force! Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1503 celebrated the 76th birthday of the United States Air Force this past September. The 76th anniversary of the Air Force was September 18.

During the event, Past VFW Virginia District 10 Commander Chuck



Wilson, a retired Air Force Colonel, U-2 pilot, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Cold War Museum®. was the keynote speaker who spoke about how the Air Force has evolved to the fighting Air Force we have today.

Wilson's remarks included how the Air Force as we know it today evolved from the U.S. Army Balloon Corps, then the Air Service of the U.S. Army Signal Corps including BG Billy Mitchell who many consider as the "Father of the Air Force." Then to the Air Force contributions in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War and The Cold War.



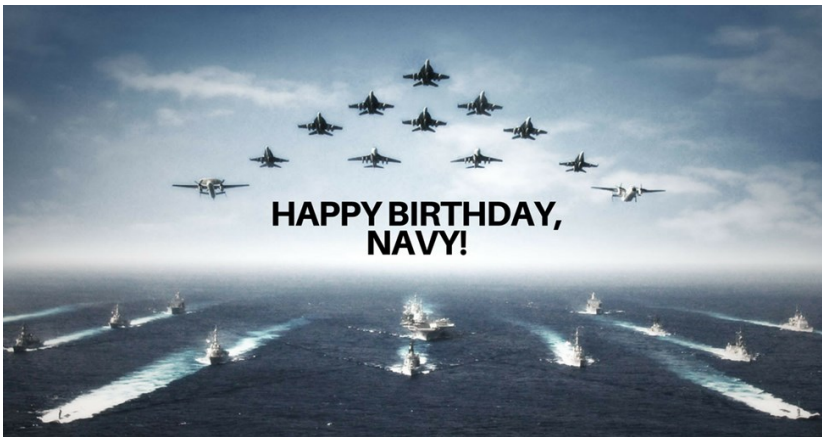
Cutting the Air Force Anniversary Cake are, on left the oldest Air Force Veteran, and on the right is the youngest Air Force Veteran, present at the Veterans of Foreign Wars. All are VFW Life Members.

Dr. Jason Hall, Executive Director of the Cold War Museum® came and engaged with the many veterans coming out for the celebration.



Located in Dale City Virginia, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1503 is the world's largest VFW Post with over three thousand members and a part of VFW District 10, the State of Virginia's largest District.

## Other Military Service Anniversaries



On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress established a naval fleet of "privateers" to attack British commerce and offset the British Royal Navy's overwhelming sea power. It was disbanded after the 1785 Treaty of Paris with England and reestablished in 1794 by President Thomas Jefferson to eliminate Barbary Pirates.

The Marine Corps Birthday, also known as the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday, marks the anniversary of the founding of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps was established on November 10, 1775, during the American Revolutionary War. On this day, the Second Continental Congress, a gathering of American leaders, authorized the formation of two battalions of Marines to serve as a naval infantry force. Since then, the Marine Corps has played a vital role in defending the nation's interests, both at home and abroad.



The Coast Guard is one of America's six armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790. That's when the first Congress authorized construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years include humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress. The service received its current name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.



## U-2 Flame Out Over Cuba During the Cuban Missile Crisis



**Pat Halloran**  
**Maj Gen USAF Ret.**

The Cuban missile crisis started for the Air Force on 14 October 1962 when Steve Heyser passed over Cuba on the first operational flight of the 4080<sup>th</sup> in a search for strategic missiles installed by the Soviet Union. The CIA had been searching for months with their U-2's but only found defensive SA2 sites. At that time our U-2's were scattered all over the world conducting the high-altitude nuclear sampling mission. We had planes operating out of Australia, Guam, Alaska and England. I was TDY to Upper Heyford in the UK with 3 other pilots and 3 aircraft. We were flying the first nuclear sampling missions out of the UK, on long routes to the north. We were unaware of the extent of the AF U-2 involvement in the fast-building Cuban crisis until the 27th of October when Rudy Anderson was killed on a flight over Cuba, and it became national news.

Our detachment was immediately closed, and the airplanes flown back to Laughlin AFB to participate in the Cuba flights as required. By the time we were ready to fly missions the real crisis had passed, and negotiations were underway to resolve the situation. It was critical, however, that U-2 overflight missions continued to observe compliance by the Soviets and Cubans in keeping with the agreement to withdraw the missiles from the island. These were the flights that those of us who returned from detachments would be participating in. A few missions were flown from Laughlin, but most were from a new detachment set up at Barksdale AFB, LA where the flights would be shorter and where a photo processing facility was already in place.

On one of my missions over Cuba in the late November '62 timeframe I experienced a flameout. I was on my return leg enroute to the coastal entry point near New Orleans and then to our operating station at Barksdale when without warning the engine suddenly quit. I was at about 68,000 feet and was over broken cloud conditions. I was also about halfway across the Gulf of Mexico. I looked at my map for the closest probable emergency field and the Eglin area appeared to be the best as I could see the weather clearing in that distant direction. It also looked a very long way away.

As I turned north, my cabin pressure was bleeding off and my pressure suit began to inflate. This was followed closely by an obvious drop in cockpit temperature and the beginning of fogging of the canopy and windshield. I made one emergency radio call and then shut off the battery to conserve electrical power as I knew I had a long, slow hand-flown glide ahead of me. I assumed a glide speed of a little over 100 knots IAW the check list. I could keep a pretty good horizon view outside by scraping the canopy and using the "rag on a stick" device that the old A models used for cleaning oil mist from the windshield. I had no idea how far I really was from land but continued to glide at a proper speed. For a moment I thought of dropping down to 30,000 to try an air start but realized that I might need every foot of altitude for glide distance. After what seemed like an eternity of silent isolation, the cloud cover began to go scattered and I got my first peek at the coast. It looked a VERY long distance away, but I put my trust in the glide capability of the U-2.

As I got below 30,000 feet, I felt I had enough altitude remaining to attempt an air start. I turned on the battery, pushed over slightly, picked up a little airspeed and tried two quick starts to no avail so quickly returned to my best range airspeed. As I got lower the pressure suit had begun to deflate, the canopy was clearing, and I now had a good view of my situation. I turned on my battery for a quick heading check to the Eglin VOR and then turned it off again. As I got still lower, I had the impression that the coast wasn't getting any closer, but the altimeter was still unwinding

*Cont. on page 18*

*U-2 Flame Out, Con't. from page 17*

so I began to have serious doubts that I was going to make it. I envisioned a bailout or ditching just short of the coast but then, as I came even closer, it became obvious that the Dragon Lady was going to live up to its reputation.

I turned on the battery, called Eglin, and informed them of my situation. I actually crossed the field at about 800 ft and entered a tight dead stick landing pattern . . . only in the U-2. I couldn't make a taxiway turnoff, so it was kind of a circus getting the plane off the runway with untrained maintenance folks and no pogos. I spent the next 2 hours in a hot shower!

In a post-mission review we determined that I was probably well over 150 miles out when the engine flamed out. The futile air start attempt cost me some critical range. It was also determined that it was a mechanical failure in the engine fuel pump and there was no way it could be started.





## Aerial Photography History Documentary Filmed at Cold War Museum

Alice Matter Media and HistoricAerials.com, from Tucson Arizona, traveled to The Cold War Museum® (CWM) at Vint Hill Virginia, to conduct two days of interviews to produce the documentary on The History of Aerial Photography going back to when that first photo was taken from a hot air balloon back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



*Interview with Francis Gary Powers, Jr.*



*Interview with Chuck Wilson*

Melissa Edwards, director and producer of the documentary, stated that we are focusing on the military reconnaissance side, and she thought that the Cold War Museum® would be a good venue for part of the documentary.

Since part of the documentary focuses on the Cold War, the media team interviewed military reconnaissance experts from The Cold War Museum®. Gary Powers Jr., son of the famous U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers Sr., along with Chuck Wilson, a retired Cold War U-2 Pilot and Chairman of the CWM Board of Directors, spent five hours each being interviewed.

CWM® Docent David DePerro was also briefly interviewed.

The interviews were quite extensive, covering the use of aerial photography during the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and the Cold War including Korea and Vietnam.

The film crew came in early on August 23 and set up the interview area with part of The Cold War Museum® first floor display area as a backdrop. Dr. Jason Hall, Executive Director of the Cold War Museum®, arranged the artifacts for the filming.

Both Gary Powers Jr., and Chuck Wilson have been previously featured on the Smithsonian Channel and the History Channel.

## Federal Government Shutdowns During the Cold War

With all the recent attention given to Federal government shutdowns, we thought we'd look back and see whether there were government shutdowns during the Cold War and, if so, to what extent they affected military operations and other strategic options.

- ◆ Until 1976, the Federal fiscal year ran from July 1 to June 30. In that year it switched to the current October—September cycle. There are no records of Federal funding gaps before 1976. Before 1980 agencies could continue operating during funding gaps while the gaps were negotiated and resolved.
- ◆ During Jimmy Carter's term in office (1977-1981) there were six funding gaps but only one shutdown (for one day, for one specific agency). That, however, was a special situation where the same party controlled both Houses of Congress as well as the White House during Carter's entire term.
- ◆ In 1980 and 1981, Carter's Attorney General (Benjamin Civiletti) reinterpreted a 1880s-era law regarding Congress's control of Federal spending. As a result agencies shut down all but necessary operations when a funding gap occurred.
- ◆ There were eight (8) shutdowns during Ronald Reagan's term in office (1981-1989), plus one under George H.W. Bush (1989-1993), with the longest lasting five days (1990).
- ◆ There are no records of appreciable impacts to military operations during these gaps, in large part because the resulting shutdowns were limited to a few days. In addition, some of these shutdowns occurred over Federal holiday periods which mitigated some of negative effects.

*Article by CWM Key Staff Member and Cold War Veteran Clayton Vieg*

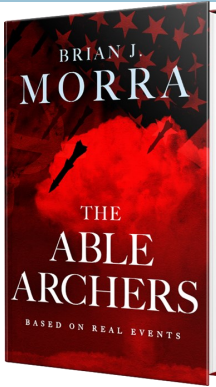
## The Museum Gets Two New Exterior Signs

Thanks to the generous financial contribution of CWM® Board Member Pauline Thompson, and the production work of CWM® Board Member Dieter Stenger, as of October 7 the Museum has an excellent exterior sign in place that is considerably larger than our previous one and with a much more striking design. CWM® staff enthusiasm for this sign was such that Dieter has ordered a second, identical one, so we will have them now both in the front and back of our building. Here is how they look:



**THANK YOU PAULINE! THANK YOU DIETER!**

## Events of Interest



Hi everyone and happy fall!

This fall is the 40th anniversary of the Soviet nuclear war scare of 1983 that forms the basis for my book *The Able Archers*. It was a terrifying time in history and there is renewed interest in it given the war in Ukraine, the rise of China as a nuclear peer, and the potential for a regional war in the Middle East. Below is a list of upcoming speaking engagements. The event at [George Washington University](#) in Washington, D.C. on 16 October will be a special opportunity to meet with me and with Nate Jones, the *Washington Post* reporter who is an expert on the 1983 crisis. Nate and I will provide a joint presentation

**October 16, 12:30-2:00 p.m.**

**Able Archer 83: The Forgotten Nuclear Crisis**

Hosted by Leadership, Ethics and Practice (LEAP) Initiative, The GW National Security Studies Program

The George Washington University

Lindner Family Commons, Room 602

1957 E St NW

Washington, DC

[Learn more & sign up](#)

**October 18, 4:00 p.m. PDT**

**Halloween Thriller, Suspense, and Mystery Picks Book Bingo**

Virtual (Zoom) Event

featuring bestselling and fan-favorite authors Jeanne

McWilliams Blasberg, Greta Kelly, Brian J. Morra, Kaira Rouda,

Deborah Goodrich Royce, and Katherine St. John.

[Learn more & sign up](#)

**October 19, 5:30 p.m.**

**A Talk by Brian Morra**

Sponsored by the Russian and Post-Soviet Studies Program

William & Mary

Ewell Hall 151

221 Jamestown Rd

Williamsburg, VA

**October 30, 7:00 p.m. ET**

**Remembering the “Able Archer” Nuclear War Crisis of 1983**

Veterans Breakfast Club Happy Hour

Virtual Event on Zoom, Facebook & YouTube

[Learn more & sign up](#)

**November 8, 6-8 p.m.**

Veterans Day Book Talk with Brian Morra

Speaking on *The Able Archers*

William & Mary

Swem Library

400 Landrum Dr.

**November 15**

Fairleigh Dickinson University

**December 6-7**

Grand Bahama Island

**December 8, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.**

**Harvard Club of Sarasota Luncheon with Brian Morra**

Speaking on *The Able Archers*

Michaels on East

1212 S East Ave

Sarasota, FL

[Learn more & buy tickets](#)

**December 13, 1:00 p.m.**

**Book Talk & Signing**

Selby Public Library

Geldbart Auditorium

1331 First Street

Sarasota, FL

Author Brian J. Morra

brianjmorra.com

c/o xuni.com

PO Box 18714

Golden, CO 80420

[Visit my website](#)

Cont. on page 23



“ Events of Interest, Con’t. from page 22

**from:** Liza Mundy <lizamundy@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 2:27 PM

**To:** undisclosed-recipients:

**Subject:** Announcing my new book, The Sisterhood

Hello! If you are receiving this email, it means that at some time you and I have corresponded about my book *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II*. In the six years since *Code Girls* was published, I've been moved and amazed by the number of readers who have sent kind missives, often to share memories of mothers and grandmothers who served during World War II. I have enjoyed them all.

I'm happy to report that my new book, *The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA*, will be published in October by Crown. In many ways, it's a successor volume--or complement--to *Code Girls*. *The Sisterhood* is a non-fiction narrative that offers (I hope) a fresh perspective on American espionage and intelligence history, showcasing how resourceful female officers at the world's foremost spy agency persevered, over decades, to build a powerful clandestine network; advance spycraft; and usher in the modern age of espionage. Their work entailed running operations against adversaries—and sometimes, against the institution they worked for. During the research, I enjoyed fascinating interviews with women who had never before spoken about their work. (Their tradecraft training in discreet outdoor meetings and walk-and-talk conversations proved useful when interviewing during a pandemic.)

The book also shows how women's institutional silencing, at times, made the world a more dangerous place. *The Sisterhood* is a testament to the power—and ferocity—of female operatives and analysts, proving that no challenge is insurmountable when driven by determination and a tireless talent for scouring databases. They proved that women bring special gifts and grit to espionage.

You can pre-order *The Sisterhood* now on my website ([www.lizamundy.com](http://www.lizamundy.com)) or find it at your favorite bookstore starting Tuesday, October 17, 2023. Also on the website, you can sign up for a Substack newsletter. I'll be writing dispatches monthly—give or take—sharing thoughts, conversations, documentary materials, arresting images, thrilling archival moments, chance encounters, and possibly the result of a clandestine meeting or two. I believe that we are in a golden era of enlarging our understanding of history—including intelligence work, spycraft, and national security—and expanding our grasp of the people and teams who have helped shape our world, whose stories often have gone untold up to now. I look forward to sharing all of this with all of you.

All my best regards, and thanks--Liza

P.S. If you have written to me and not received a response; I apologize; there were a few times during writing when I got behind in correspondence. Any questions you asked may be answered here. For those of you curious to know what your mom or grandmom who claimed she was a secretary *really* did during the war (or anybody who wants confirmation of service), here are instructions for obtaining World War II personnel records: <http://www.lizamundy.com/code-girls/resources-for-codebreakers-and-families/>. A number of readers have written because they believe their mother or grandmother was one of the women on the *Code Girls* cover. For the record, those women were cabinmates in Dayton, Ohio, where they helped build the bombe machines that broke the Enigma cipher. Their names are: Dorothy Hall Buck (Bucky), Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.; Dorothy Juanita Storment (Stormy), Plainview, Arkansas; Sara Sue Montgomery (Sue), Guy, Arkansas; Lorraine Mace (Mace), Eldorado, Arkansas; Retha Treadway (Treadway), Friendship, Arkansas. They were roommates in "Cabin" 35 at Sugar Camp.

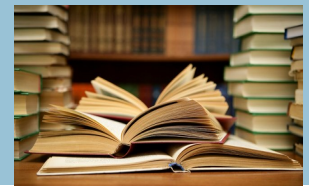
Liza Mundy

Author of *The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA* (forthcoming; October 2023)

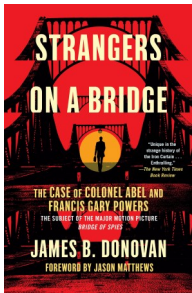
[lizamundy@gmail.com](mailto:lizamundy@gmail.com)



# Book Reviews



Books reviewed by Chad Manske



## **Strangers on a Bridge: The Case of Colonel Abel and Francis Gary Powers by James B. Donovan**

It was amazing. This is a superbly captivating and definitive exploration of espionage, diplomacy,

and the human connection in the midst of Cold War tensions. With meticulous research and masterful storytelling, Donovan delves into the intricacies of the titular case, providing readers with a gripping narrative that spans continents and ideologies, and serves as the cinematography grist for the movie *Bridge of Spies*.

At the heart of the book is the tale of two men, seemingly polar opposites, brought together by fate on a bridge in Berlin. Colonel Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy captured by American authorities, and Francis Gary Powers, a U-2 pilot held captive by the Soviets after his plane was shot down, serve as the focal points for Donovan's examination of the art of negotiation and diplomacy during a time of intense hostility. Donovan, who played a pivotal role in the exchange of these two prisoners, brings his firsthand experience and legal acumen to the fore. His ability to dissect the intricate negotiations, legal maneuvering, and high-stakes decision-making gives readers a behind-the-scenes look into the delicate dance between the superpowers.

Furthermore, Donovan skillfully weaves in the personal stories of Abel and Powers, giving a human face to the larger geopolitical struggle. The book's greatest strength lies in its portrayal of Donovan's unwaver-

ing commitment to upholding the principles of justice and the rule of law in the face of immense pressure. His determination to ensure fair treatment for both Abel and Powers highlights the ethical dilemmas that often arise in times of conflict and the importance of maintaining one's integrity.

*Strangers on a Bridge* goes beyond being a mere historical account; it delves into the complexities of human relationships, shedding light on the unexpected connections that can develop even in the most adversarial circumstances. This book is a riveting narrative offering a unique perspective on Cold War history. Its blend of espionage, legal drama, and human compassion make it a must-read for those interested in understanding the nuances of diplomacy during one of the tensest periods in modern history.

## **Need to Know: World War II and the Rise of American Intelligence by Nicholas E. Reynolds**

Really liked it. Many followers of Cold War history know of the connections and spycraft that took place during the four decades of bipolar competition, yet the in-depth story of how the Office of Strategic Services originated was less well-known until recently. Nicholas E. Reynolds' book *Need to Know: World War II and the Rise of American Intelligence* is a gripping and meticulously-researched account of the crucial role played by American intelligence agencies during World War II. In this 400-page tome, Reynolds, a former intelligence professional and former historian for the CIA Museum, masterfully weaves together the complex threads of espionage, codebreaking, and clandestine operations that were instrumental in shaping the out-

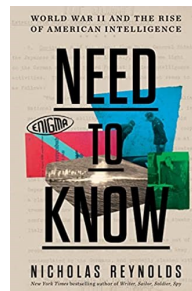
come of the war.

One of the most commendable aspects of Reynolds' work is his ability to bring the characters of this era to life. He provides readers with intimate portraits of key figures such as William J. Donovan, the head of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and the brilliant codebreaker William F. Friedman. These character-driven narratives make the history come alive and give readers a deep appreciation for the individuals who dedicated their lives to protecting the United States during a time of great peril.

Reynolds also excels in elucidating the intricate world of intelligence operations. He details the birth and evolution of agencies like the OSS and the Signal Intelligence Service, shedding light on their successes and failures. Particularly fascinating is the examination of codebreaking efforts, including the cracking of the Enigma code and the Japanese PURPLE cipher. These chapters provide a behind-the-scenes look at the ingenious methods employed by American cryptanalysts and their impact on the course of the war.

The book is not limited to the technical aspects of intelligence; it also delves into the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by those involved in espionage. Reynolds explores the difficult decisions made by intelligence officers, often involving life-and-death situations and the moral ambiguity of wartime actions. This adds depth to the narrative, making it not just a history of events but a reflection on the human dimension of intelligence operations.

Reynolds has a gift for conveying complex concepts in a clear and engaging manner, making this book suitable for both history enthusiasts and those new to the subject. He strikes a balance between providing detailed information and keeping the narrative flowing, ensuring that readers re-

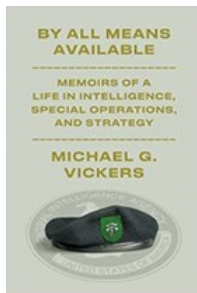


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main captivated throughout.

However, some readers may find the sheer volume of information overwhelming at times. The numerous names, acronyms, and events can be challenging to keep track of, especially for those not well-versed in World War II history. A more comprehensive glossary or character list could have been beneficial in this regard.

In conclusion, this work is an outstanding contribution to the field of intelligence history. It combines meticulous research, vivid storytelling, and thought-provoking analysis to create a compelling narrative. Whether you are a history buff or simply interested in the covert world of espionage, this book is a must-read, shedding light on the unsung heroes who played a pivotal role in the Allied victory during World War II.



***By All Means Available: Memoirs of a Life in Intelligence, Special Operations, and Strategy***, by Michael G. Vickers

It was amazing. I am a HUGE fan of Michael

Vickers' new memoir *By All Means Available: Memoirs of a Life in Intelligence, Special Operations, and Strategy*. It is an enthralling and candid account of a distinguished career spent at the forefront of intelligence and strategic operations. From the clandestine world of espionage to the high-stakes realm of special operations, Vickers' memoir offers readers a rare glimpse into the complex and elusive world of intelligence gathering, counterterrorism, and strategic decision-making.

In this 500-page book, Vickers chronicles his extensive experience spanning over four decades, holding key roles in both the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Department of Defense (DoD). As a seasoned intelligence officer, he played

pivotal roles in some of the most critical moments in recent history, from the Soviet-Afghan War to the hunt for Osama bin Laden.

One of the most compelling aspects of "By All Means Available" is Vickers' unfiltered narrative. He lays bare the challenges and triumphs of intelligence work, providing readers with a realistic and authentic portrayal of life in the shadows. From the inherent dangers and ethical dilemmas to the pressures of decision-making in high-stress environments, Vickers does not shy away from sharing the emotional toll of his experiences. His honesty and self-reflection make this memoir all the more compelling, allowing readers to empathize with the weighty decisions faced by intelligence professionals.

Throughout the book, Vickers weaves together personal anecdotes, historical context, and strategic analysis, offering a comprehensive perspective on the evolution of intelligence and counterterrorism practices. From the CIA's covert operations during the Cold War to the post-9/11 era of counterterrorism, Vickers provides invaluable insights into the inner workings of the intelligence community and its interactions with policymakers.

The narrative is both balanced and partisan-neutral despite myriad controversial topics. Vickers navigates sensitive issues such as enhanced interrogation techniques and drone warfare with nuance, acknowledging the complexities and trade-offs involved in these operations. His willingness to engage with these difficult topics without resorting to oversimplification is commendable and serves as a testament to his integrity as an intelligence professional.

Moreover, *By All Means Available* is not just a collection of thrilling spy stories; it also delves into the intricacies of strategic thinking and policymaking. Vickers' experiences as an advisor to top-level officials and his role in shaping national security strategies provide a unique perspective

on the intersection of intelligence and policy. This aspect of the memoir makes it a must-read for anyone interested in the inner workings of the U.S. government and its approach to global challenges.

While the book delves into complex topics, Vickers presents them in a way that is easy to follow, avoiding unnecessary jargon and explaining technical terms when needed. The engaging storytelling and riveting accounts of real-life operations keep readers captivated throughout the journey. If there is one minor drawback, it is that some sections may feel too dense with information for those unfamiliar with intelligence and military jargon. However, Vickers' compelling storytelling more than compensates for this occasional challenge, and the book ultimately succeeds in enlightening and entertaining readers. One other negative in my opinion is that Vickers often describes the poor outcomes of some mission decisions that were outside his purview and under someone else's watch. In many cases, he has the benefit of hindsight in making those judgments, something not available in real time to the actual decision-makers who had to the best of less complete information.

But the excellence of this book overall and in so many ways explains why, as I noted above, I am a huge fan. Highly recommended.

*Brig. General Chad Manske (USAF, Ret.) was until recently the Commandant of the National War College. He was a National Defense Fellow at Harvard and has earned a Distinguished Service Medal, a Legion of Merit, and many other awards. He serves as Board Member of the Cold War Museum.*

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## Books Reviewed by Chuck Wilson

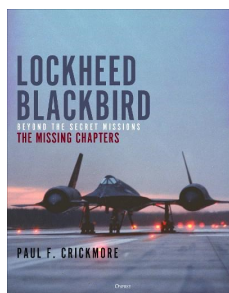


### **Lockheed Blackbird: Beyond the Secret Missions – The Missing Chapters** by Paul Crickmore.

Powerful! Informative! Rich in technical detail and illustrations! Paul Crickmore's latest book *Lockheed Blackbird: Beyond the Secret Missions – The Missing Chapters* is perhaps the finest and most comprehensive book on the A-12 Blackbird ever written. Crickmore is a world-renowned aviation expert who has written over 22 books on legendary aircraft such as the A-12, SR-71, YF-12A, the F-117, the F-15 and many more.

Paul Crickmore spent over 13 years as a controller at the London Air Traffic Control Center, earned his license to pilot general aviation aircraft, with his research taking him to fly in various refueling, bomber and fighter aircraft including the RAF Lightning, DAC with the F-16s, F-4s low over the Nevada desert, the British Red Arrows Team and many more! In October 1981 Crickmore was granted special access to fly a KC-135Q Stratotanker on an operational air refueling mission of the SR-71 Blackbird from RAF Mildenhall, UK. From then he was "hooked" on writing about the Lockheed Blackbird.

In this edition, Crickmore builds on his classic *Lockheed Blackbird: Beyond the Secret Missions* (published in 2016) using 850 pages of recently declassified documentation and images that describe and illustrate the Central Intelligence Agency's



A-12 Oxcart program. This is a phenomenal work that takes the reader on a deep dive into high-flying aerial reconnaissance history, not previously seen by the public, that led up through the Archangel "A-series" aircraft to the production of the A-12 by Kelly Johnson and Lockheed's Skunkworks. The aircraft was designated A-12 because it was the 12th in a series of aircraft design efforts for "Archangel," the aircraft's internal code name.

This heavy "brute" of a volume describes the enormous political challenges that this high-flying Top-Secret program experienced, the huge amount of engineering and technological innovation that took place at each stage, and the operational deployment of the A-12 for 29 missions overflying Vietnam, before the SR-71.

And there is more. The story of the Blackbird is so much more than the legendary SR-71; it is the story of the Blackbird family of aircraft and the thousands of people who were on the Blackbird team-Team Recce! In this volume, Crickmore takes the reader on a journey through and beyond the comprehensive technical specifications and scientific data of the Blackbird—you travel to the distant often clandestine operating locations and see aspects of the many tough, challenging, and sometimes "hair-raising" missions with breath-taking views.

Along the way, the reader will discover many of the experiences and first-hand accounts not only of the pilots and reconnaissance systems operators but also of the mission planners who spent countless hours thinking through and preparing each mission, the Physiological Support Division (PSD) technicians who maintained the pressure suits, the aircraft maintenance wizards who made sure the Blackbird was ready, and of the little known but significant operations of the specialized KC-135Q Stratotanker crews (w/some KC-10s) who were always on time for precision Blackbird refuelings. With over 26,000 air refueling contacts over three-plus decades,

that is impressive! In addition, the related programs Oxcart, Black Shield, Kedlock, Tagboard, Senior Bowl and NASA are all in this volume.

In all, Paul Crickmore's *Lockheed Blackbird: Beyond the Secret Missions – The Missing Chapters* is the most comprehensive, illustrated, "Go To" reference book on the Blackbird program and its "missing chapters." Highly recommended for your reference library.

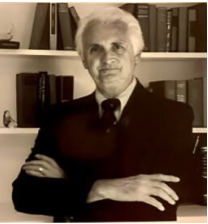
**Note:** Mark your calendars. Paul Crickmore is tentatively scheduled to be at the National Air and Space Museum Dulles Saturday November 25 for a book signing.

*Colonel Chuck Wilson (USAF, Ret.) was a U-2 Squadron Commander and Flight Instructor during the Cold War, later an AF Group and Center Commander and was a senior executive in the defense industry. He currently works as a consultant to the Pentagon on defense strategy and serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Cold War Museum.*



# IN MEMORIAM

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



**Alexander, Edward.** Edward Alexander of Bethesda, Maryland, passed away on October 5, 2023, at the age of 103. He was a career diplomat in the Foreign Service during the Cold

War where he served as a Public Affairs Officer in West Berlin; Budapest, Hungary; Athens, Greece; and East Berlin, GDR. He played a key role in the visits of President Kennedy to Berlin in 1963 and Richard Nixon to Bucharest in 1969. During his tour as Deputy Director for the Soviet Union and East Europe, Alexander traveled throughout the Soviet bloc supervising American press and cultural affairs, at which time he was the most senior Armenian-American official in the U.S. government.

**Ayers, Richard "Dick",** 68, of Pittsburgh, PA, passed away on August 31, 2023, in Asheville, NC. He was born on October 16, 1954.



Dick was an intelligent and sarcastic individual with a great sense of humor. He was known for his religious devotion and held strong beliefs throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by his loved ones.

Dick is survived by his beloved spouse, Betsy Ayres, their sons Stephen and Joel Ayres, and their daughter Mattie Porter, as well as four cherished grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Sue Baillie and Ginny Sedlacek.

Dick received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh, before dedicating 28 years of his life to the

Air Force. He served as a career intelligence officer and excelled in his field. Throughout his service, he earned master's degrees at the Naval Postgraduate School and the Marine War College. Dick retired as a colonel and received a Bronze Star for his leadership and actions during the Kosovo War. He was recognized as an expert in nuclear and Middle Eastern affairs, and some of his favorite assignments included his time at SHAPE Belgium, leading the Joint Analysis Center at Molesworth, and as the Wing Commander of the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow AFB, TX.

Outside of his military career, Dick had various hobbies that brought him joy. He enjoyed reading, off-roading in his Jeep, playing with his dogs, and target shooting.

A private graveside service will be held in the Mountain Home National Cemetery in Johnson City, TN, to honor Dick's life.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, a cause Dick held dear to his heart.

We extend our deepest condolences to the Ayres family during this difficult time. May Dick's memory be a source of comfort and strength to all those who knew and loved him.

**Baldwin, Sr., Jesse Ray,** 96, May 24, 1927 - October 6, 2023, passed at home in Woodbridge, VA, surrounded by all four of his children. A proud Army veteran of WWII and the Korean War, he is both a Founder and Past Commander of VFW Post 7916. He and three others put in \$3K each in the early '70s to buy the old firehouse in Occoquan that still



serves as the home of Post 7916. With his leadership, the Post was instrumental in the establishment of Quantico National Cemetery in 1983.



**Boyd, Robert.** Cold War Aerial Spy Robert N. Boyd, of Hilton Head Island, SC dies at 97 on September 2, 2023. Bob was Chief of the Branch at the National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) that

discovered the Soviet missiles deployed in Cuba from U-2 photography, October 1962. Mr. Boyd received a citation from President John F. Kennedy and the CIA Intelligence Medal of Merit for his performance during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Mr. Boyd received a second CIA Intelligence Medal of Merit for his 25 years of outstanding service. October 2023, he will be inducted into the Geospatial Intelligence Hall of Fame.

**Fleck, Mike.** It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Colonel Michael Francis Buch Fleck, age 58, on September 12, 2023 after a lengthy battle with osteosar-



coma. Mike started his Air Force career at the Air Force Academy. After serving with Air Mobility Command for over seven years, he was assigned to Beale AFB where he continued his pilot career flying both the U2 and T-38. Mike also served as the Mission Support Group Commander at Tyndall AFB and was the Chief of Strategy and Plans Division for the Secretary of the Air Force/International Affairs, flying around the world with some of our highest elected officials. Mike ended

*Cont. on page 28*



*In Memoriam, Con't. from page 29*

his distinguished Air Force career as the Air Force Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon. After retirement from the Air Force, Mike took an executive position with Textron Weapon and Sensor Systems and later was an executive with Honeywell.



**Csongos, Frank.** Veteran UPI journalist Frank T. Csongos, who lived the early part of the Cold War, witnessed some of its tensest moments and later reported its end and aftermath, has died at 77.

Born in Hungary shortly after the end of World War II and Nazi occupation of that country, the 10-year-old Csongos witnessed Soviet tanks rolling into Hungary's capital city of Budapest in November 1956. He traveled widely in Europe and the Middle East for UPI with then-Secretary of State James A. Baker III. Csongos was there as Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced the end of the USSR, which was collapsing after the loss of its Iron Curtain European satellites (including Hungary) and an aborted coup against its last leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, who let those satellites out of the Soviet orbit.

Csongos left UPI in 1993 and later joined another reminder of his Budapest past, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He spent a dozen years with RFE/RL, much it reporting on or editing news of the post-Soviet world for countries that had been a part of it. "The world's three oldest professions are prostitution, espionage and journalism," he liked to quip. "The third one uses elements of the first two but is not as well paid."

**Koveleskie, Robert Thomas:** [Robert Koveleskie](#)



After high school, Robert enlisted in the United States Air Force, becoming an airplane mechanic. He was stationed in Michigan when he volunteered for a secret mission, thinking that he would be sent to Korea. Instead, he spent two years at Ernest Harmon AFB in Newfoundland. Since it was

the time of the cold war, this base was always on alert for a possible attack by the USSR, as they were on the route from Moscow to New York.

**Odom, James.** James Hugh Odom, 84, passed away on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at his home on Lookout Mountain. Hugh was born in the small town of Gilbertown in Choctaw



County, AL on November 9, 1938 to William Eugene and Ollie McIlwain Odom. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted in the US Air Force where he was trained in the Russian language at Syracuse, New York and stationed for several years on a tiny Aleutian Island during the Cold War to listen to Russian radio transmissions. He and his wife relocated to Dade County, Georgia, and he went to work as a ranger at the Chickamauga Battlefield, a job and a place that he loved. He retired from the park after more than 20 years of service.



**Smith, Charles.** Charlie grew up in York, South Carolina. Upon graduating as valedictorian, Charlie attended Erskine College, where he studied chemistry. While doing graduate work at East Tennessee

State University, he met Susan Preston, who he wed on November 28, 1970. They settled in Kingsport, TN. During this time, Charlie also began his 40-year career at Holston Army Ammunition Plant, where he developed explosives for military use during the Vietnam War, the Cold War, Operation Desert Storm, and the War On Terror. At Holston, Charlie was known for his calm demeanor and his fairness to those he supervised

**Sonnhalter, James "Sonny",** 74, of Newnan, GA, died peacefully at home on Sunday, August 13, 2023. Sonny was born in Portland, OR and grew up in Arcadia, CA. After



college, he joined the United States Air Force where he was an officer and a pilot, serving his country for more than 24 years. He flew many aircraft during his career to include the prestigious Lockheed U-2 "Dragon Lady." He transitioned to the U.S. Air Force Reserves where he deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield. As a civilian pilot, he flew for Pan Am Airlines and retired from Delta Airlines. In retirement he was an avid golfer, enjoyed time with his golf friends, and traveling with his wife.

Survivors include his wife, Peggy Sonnhalter, and his daughter, Samantha Geiser. Sonny supported many charitable organizations and, in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to any of the following charitable organizations: Wounded Warrior Project, V Foundation (Cancer Research), USO, [St. Jude's](#), [Alzheimer's Association](#), or The Humane Society of US.

**Thisius, Dennis (Denny)**

**Leroy,** 82, passed away at home on September 3, 2023, in Marysville, California. Denny was born in St. Peter, Minnesota, to Kenneth and Adeline Thisius. He attended



Mankato State College and earned a Bachelor of Science in Math and Physics. He had a distinguished career of over twenty years in the military. He was a Vietnam Veteran and a proud member of the 99 SRS/9 SRW as a U-2 pilot and instructor. He loved nice cars, fast motorcycles, and flying planes. He also enjoyed snow skiing, water skiing, and duck hunting. He was an avid football and basketball fan and never missed watching his teams play.

Denny is survived by his wife, Maria-Estela Thisius; daughters Chris (Eddie) Powell, Nicholle Henning (Jim Lindemuth) and Val (Matt) Morrisette; sister Peggy Hill; grandchildren Samantha (Bryant) Goebel; Grace (Austin) Kraack; Nathan Henning; Greta Henning and Wagner Morrisette; and his great-grandson, Dawson Kraack. The family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the team at Freedom Hospice and Interim Health, who provided excellent care and support to all of us. [Dennis Thisius](#)

## In the News



Recent Cold War articles gathered by *U.S. News*: [https://www.usnews.com/topics/subjects/cold\\_war](https://www.usnews.com/topics/subjects/cold_war)

Recent Cold War articles gathered by *Politico*: <https://www.politico.com/news/cold-war>

Articles that appeared in *Foreign Affairs* on the Cold War: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/tags/cold-war>

Recent Cold War articles in *Foreign Policy*: <https://foreignpolicy.com/tag/cold-war/>

Recent archival postings on the Cold War from *The Guardian*: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/cold-war>

Recent articles on the Cold War at AP's Cold War hub: <https://apnews.com/hub/cold-war>

Cold War documentaries and media: <https://ccws.history.ucsb.edu/resources/media>

CNN article on a new Cold War: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/10/politics/russia-ukraine-us-proxy-war-what-matters/index.html>



### The Cold War Times

*The official newsletter of The Cold War Museum*

*Karen Zwanzig, Lead Newsletter Staffer*



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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, 2024**

*To request publication guidelines, please contact the editor (Jason Hall, [jason@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org))*



## Upcoming Events

NOTE: New lectures will be added from time to time. Keep up with us on Facebook! All lectures in the Zoom Presentation Series start at 2:00 p.m. Participants arrive in the Zoom room online between 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tickets to all events are available at Eventbrite; for the specific link to the most near-term of the upcoming events listed below, please click on this link to the Events page on our website: <https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=16883>.

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

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

12/03/23 — Art Downey on the role of lawyers in the Cold War, in negotiating international agreements with Soviets, NATO partners, and others; in espionage cases; and in Presidential war powers.

01/07/24 – Don Heckert on his two direct encounters with UAPs while flying at high altitude for the military.

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

02/18/23 – Michael Rich, former CEO of RAND and son of Skunk Works legendary Ben Rich, on the history of RAND and its key role in developing and supporting U.S. Cold War defense strategy.

## 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 is 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. With things mostly back to normal we are back to booking tours in the normal way.

Here are some of the private tours and outreach via off-site presentations conducted by museum staff since the last newsletter:

- ◆ 8/25/23 – INSCOM group of 50.
- ◆ 9/1/23 – Russian film crew films Gary Powers at CWM®.
- ◆ 9/15/23 – CWM® Board and staff visit to the CIA Museum at Langley.
- ◆ 9/16/23 – CWM® Board Chairman Chuck Wilson delivers a speech on the history of Cold War aerial surveillance before and during the Cold War at the Dale City VFW post, the largest VFW post in the nation.
- ◆ 9/18/23 – 50 visitors from the State Dept for a tour.
- ◆ 10/06/23 – Gary Powers presented at Lansdowne Woods of Virginia and the Fauquier Historical Society
- ◆ 10/07/23 – Mike Washvill and Doug Harsha man the Museum's booth for the annual Vint Hill Day event



### 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](mailto: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!



Private Tours, cont. from page 30

- ◆ 10/25/23 – Lansdowne Woods of Virginia group of 20



- ◆ 11/02/23 – Gary Powers presented at the Rotary Club of Williamsburg, Virginia



- ◆
- ◆ 11/07/23 – Gary Powers – Keynote speaker for the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation’s annual remembrance ceremony



- ◆ 11-/10/23- Gary Powers speaks at Rotary Club of Georgetown, Texas



**Donate to the Cold War Museum®**

<https://www.givelocalpiedmont.org/donate/coldwarmuseum>



# Travel Opportunity

Gary Powers is excited to partner with CHA Educational Tours to offer this exciting 12-day Cold War Espionage Tour of Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary from April 14 to 25, 2024.

For the past 30 years, he has lectured internationally on the need to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period. As a result of his many interests, he is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Cold War Museum® in Virginia, an Honorary Board Member of the International Spy Museum, and a past Board Member of the SAC & Aerospace Museum. He has also organized Spy Tours of Washington DC for over 20 years.

On this trip, we will tour various museums and Cold War / espionage related sites in the historic Central European capitals of Vienna, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest as well as other important places along the way. He is looking forward to meeting you and accompanying you on this adventure-filled educational tour!

Click [2024 Gary Powers Cold War Espionage Tour](#) to get started.

Space is still available for this exciting tour!

## Gary Powers' Cold War Espionage Tour of Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary

Travel Dates: April 14 to 25, 2024

12 days/10 nights



### What's Included:

- Round-trip air transportation from Washington, DC
- 10 nights in centrally located, four-star hotels
- Full-time CHA Tour Director
- Valuable insight & informative commentary by Gary Powers Jr.
- On-tour transportation by private motorcoach
- Breakfast & dinner (or lunch) daily
- Sightseeing tours & visits shown in itinerary (subject to change based on availability)

### Tour Prices:

Full Tour Price: \$5,695 per person

Land Tour Price: \$4,645 per person (does not include round-trip airfare and airport transfers)

Repeat Gary Powers travelers will receive a \$200 discount!

Price based on double occupancy. A \$600 single room fee will apply for travelers without roommates.

The deadline to enroll is 11/30/23 with a required deposit of \$495. Final payment is due 12/30/23.

Questions? Call 1-800-323-4466 or email [info@cha-tours.com](mailto:info@cha-tours.com).

### Enroll Online at:

[www.cha-tours.com/GaryPowers](http://www.cha-tours.com/GaryPowers)



Join author & historian Gary Powers Jr. on this 12-day tour of Cold War and espionage related sites in Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary

#### Day 1: Departure from the USA

**Day 2: Arrival Vienna** Welcome to Vienna, "Spy Capital of Europe." Meet your CHA Tour Director at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Begin your exploration of Vienna on a walking tour. Later, check into your hotel. Tonight, get to know your fellow travelers at our Welcome Dinner.

**Day 3: Vienna** This morning, enjoy an espionage themed sightseeing tour of Vienna. Learn more about the history of postwar Vienna and secrets of the Cold War. Explore sites where the 1949 film noir classic, "The Third Man," starring Orson Welles, was filmed. See Harry Lime's apartment, the Hotel Sacher and Café Mozart, and hear stories about the film's production. Included is a visit to *The Third Man* Museum. Later, visit Vienna's Prater Park, where you can ride the grand ferris wheel featured in one of the film's most famous scenes. You will also have the opportunity to attend a screening of "The Third Man" at Burg Kino, one of the world's oldest cinemas.

**Day 4: Vienna-Misov-Rokycany-Prague** Journey across the Austrian border to the Czech Republic. Stop in Misov to visit the *Atom Museum*, the world's only nuclear weaponry open to the public. Lunch at a nearby restaurant is included. Continue to Rokycany to visit the *Museum on the Demarkation Line*, the largest non-state military museum in the country. Proceed to Prague, the Czech Republic's historic capital, where you spend the next three nights.

**Day 5: Prague** Learn more about Cold War politics and espionage during your sightseeing tour of Prague. Visit the *Prague Museum of Communism* and explore *Bezovka Nuclear Bunker*, one of Prague's largest fallout shelters hidden beneath Parukarka Hill. Later, enjoy a walking tour of Prague to see the 500-year-old astronomical clock.

**Day 6: Prague-Rozvadov-Pilsen-Prague** Enjoy a full-day excursion from Prague. Travel to Rozvadov to experience what life was like in the former Czechoslovakia in the days of Communism as you visit the *Iron Curtain Museum*. Stop in Pilsen to tour the famous *Pilsner Urquell Brewery*. Enjoy a brewery lunch before returning to Prague.

**Day 7: Prague-Brno-Bratislava** Journey to Brno, the Czech Republic's second largest city, to tour the *T0-Z Bunker*, a highly classified Communist era nuclear fallout shelter, originally built as a shelter during the Nazi Occupation during World War II. Continue to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, located along the Danube, where the Austrian, Slovak and Hungarian borders meet. Check into your hotel where you spend the next two nights.

**Day 8: Bratislava** This morning's sightseeing tour of Bratislava highlights the city's Communist era past. Included is a visit to the *B5-8 Bunker* and a tour of the remnants of a pre-WWII Czechoslovak fortification system and the border with Austria, known as the "Iron Curtain."

**Day 9: Bratislava-Budapest** Travel across the Slovak border into Hungary as you make your way to the capital city, Budapest. Upon arrival, get acquainted with Budapest on a leisurely cruise along the *Danube River*. Later, check into your hotel where you spend the next two nights.

**Day 10: Budapest** Learn more about Cold War and Communist history on your morning sightseeing tour of Budapest. Included today are visits to the *Museum of Terror* housing exhibits related to Fascist and Communist regimes in 20th-century Hungary, and *Memento Park*, a striking collection of statues from Hungary's past as part of the Soviet Bloc.

**Day 11: Budapest-Sopron-Vienna** This morning, journey to Sopron to visit the *Pan-European Picnic site* where a peaceful meeting of Hungarians and Austrians took place on August 19, 1989. This history-making demonstration at the border of the two nations caused a chain reaction in the region, leading to the collapse of the Iron Curtain, the Berlin Wall, and the eventual reunification of Germany. Return to Vienna to enjoy some free time in the Austrian capital. This evening, celebrate the last night of your tour at our Farewell Dinner.

**Day 12: Departure for the USA** This morning, you will transfer to Vienna Airport to board your return flight.

The Museum's Challenge Coin is available for \$15. The coin pays homage to Vint Hill Farms Station as an active listening post from 1942—1997 and features the Cold War Museum® on the reverse side.





### 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.

## 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.

## Museum Membership

### Individual Membership

\$25/year

### Member Benefits

- Access to The Cold War Times *(including all prior issues)*
- Listed as a “Founding Member”
- Priority access to the executive director

### Sponsorship Circles

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|-------------|------------|
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| Benefactor: | \$300/year |
| Guardian:   | \$600/year |

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## Donate to the Cold War Museum®



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