

Strategic Reconnaissance Speakers

Major General Patrick J. Halloran

General Halloran was born in 1928, in Chatfield, MN. He entered the Air Force in August 1949 and earned his pilot wings and commission through the aviation cadet program, graduating at Williams Air Force Base, AZ in September, 1950. During his career in the Air Force, General Halloran flew 100 combat missions in F-84's; flew missions from nearly a dozen forward operating locations overseas and accumulated more than 1,600 flying hours in the U-2, and became one of the first pilots in the SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft. General Halloran was a command pilot with more than 8,000 flying hours, including 600 hours in SR-71's.

Col. Richard Graham

Col. Graham was born August 19, 1942 in New Castle, PA. After receiving his commission from AFROTC he entered pilot training at Craig AFB, Alabama. Col. Graham graduated from pilot training in 1965 and remained at Craig AFB as a T-37 instructor pilot and flight examiner. During his career in the Air Force, Col. Graham flew 145 combat missions over North Vietnam and Laos in the F-4 C/D; flew 60 combat missions, suppressing enemy surface-to-air missile sites in North Vietnam; entered the SR-71 program in 1974 and was further selected to become an instructor pilot. In 1978 he was selected as the Chief, Standardization/Evaluation Division, which included the SR-71, U-2 and T-38 aircraft. Col. Graham was a command pilot with more than 4,600 military flying hours. Upon his retirement from the Air Force, he joined American Airlines, flying with them for 13 years amassing 7,500 hours.

Lt.Col. B.C. Thomas

Now retired after 22 years in the USAF, BC has logged 1,120.7 hours in the Air Zoo, SR-71, s/n 61-7956, more than any other Blackbird pilot, and as an instructor, taught more SR pilots than any other instructor in the program. He is the only person who has flown all three high altitude reconnaissance aircraft—RB-57F, U-2, and SR-71. Thomas was a civilian flight test engineer/test pilot for Northrop Aircraft Corporation working on the B-2 stealth bomber. Later he was a test pilot for United Airlines for all of their fleet of commercial aircraft.

Lt.Col. Blair Bozek

An RSO (Reconnaissance Systems Officer) in Blackbirds for eight years Bozek flew 70 missions in the Blackbird including the 11,000 mile, 10.9 hour long "Giant Scale II" mission in 1988. Earlier he flew as a WSO (Weapons Systems Officer) in F-4 Phantom II's. Bozek is now a senior defense analyst with SAIC and has supported the Director of Air Force Test and evaluation in the Pentagon since May of 2001.

Dr. Robert B. Abernethy

Dr. Robert B. Abernethy is known worldwide for his expertise in jet engine performance, measurement uncertainty analysis and Weibull analysis. "Dr. Bob", as he is affectionately known, has been a renown speaker in Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Germany, Sweden, Israel, and The Netherlands. More than 9,000 students have attended his seminars. More than 17,000 copies of his text The New Weibull Handbook have been distributed.

He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a Navy scholar with a B.Sc.ME and in 1958 received his M Sc in Industrial Management. He served on destroyers during the Korean War and joined Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in 1955. He was the Fulbright Scholar for science and math to Great Britain where he obtained his DIC and PhD degrees in statistics from the Imperial College of Science in 1965. He retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft after 32 years as Manager of Reliability, Safety, Maintainability, and Statistical analysis to teach Weibull analysis.

Dr. Bob holds a patent on a feature of the J58 Pratt & Whitney engine that powers the world's fastest aircraft. The J58 engine powers the supersonic SR-71 "Blackbird" that can travel at 3.5 times the speed of sound and still holds all 17 world speed records even though his patent was submitted in October 1958.

Dr. Abernethy will speak on: "Never Told Tales of Pratt & Whitney."

Col. John Amundson

John is an Air Zoo volunteer and has flown several of the Museum's aircraft. He spoke at a smaller reconnaissance symposium in 2001 and has an amazing story to tell about flying the U-2 in Vietnam. He also flew B-47 Stratojets carrying nuclear bombs and was the pilot to fly the U-2C #680 on its 5000 hour over the Soviet Union. His Power Point program should be very interesting.

Dr. Dwayne A. Day

Dr. Day is a space policy analyst and historian. He worked at the George Washington University Space Policy Institute and Congressional Budget Office. He is the author of Lightning Rod, a book about the Office of the Air Forces Chief Scientist and edited Eye in the Sky, a book about early satellite reconnaissance. He recently served as an investigator for the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

Note: Speakers and Topics may change.