

Mound Science and Energy Museum Association

presents

“SA-2 and U-2: The Rest of the Story”

by John Schell

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

7:00 pm

Mound Cold War Discovery Center, 1075 Mound Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342

Summary: The shutdown of Gary Powers in a U-2 over the USSR was a Cold War milestone. Incomplete and often misleading information masks the reality of “The U-2 Incident” to this day. The Soviet Army classified and placed all records in military archives, preventing disclosure. In 2002, the records were retrieved and declassified. Several articles have since been published in Russian, some by shutdown participants. New information from Russia had been gathered to fill in the gaps. “The SA-2 and U-2 : The Rest of the Story” provides a comprehensive examination of The U-2 Incident and how it became an Air War in the Skies.

Speaker: John Schell graduated in April 1970 with a BSEE and MSEE from Penn State and a reserve commission in the USAF. His first assignment took him to Wright-Patterson AFB Avionics Laboratory as a research engineer. As a radar project engineer, he led the development of a spotlight mode synthetic aperture imaging radar testbed which resulted in an approach for high quality and high performance imaging radar. John was transferred to the SR-71 and U-2 Project Office at WPAFB in 1976 as the lead radar engineer. He led concurrent development of two high performance prototypes: ASARS-1 for the SR-71 and ASARS-2 for the U-2.



In 1980 he separated from the Air Force and continued work at Wright Patterson AFB as a support engineer on intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems. His final program was the RQ-4 Global Hawk. After retirement in 2016, John became a volunteer and docent at the National Museum of the USAF. He conducts research, writes papers, and gives presentations related to U-2 and SR-71 use during the Cold War.