

Mound Science and Energy Museum Association

Presents

“Dayton – The Birthplace of Aviation: Not Just Airplanes, But Parachutes Too!”

Presented By Andrew Kididis

May 28, 2025 Start time: 7:00 pm

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

Summary: Most people are aware of Dayton’s claim as the Birthplace of Aviation, especially as it relates to the Wright Brothers and aircraft development; but Dayton can also be considered the Birthplace of the Modern Parachute. Development of the first practical parachute for emergency in-flight escape occurred in Dayton at McCook Field. Subsequently, Wright Field became a center for military parachute development. This presentation will provide a brief history of this Air Force parachute technology development. Information will also be presented about the Dave Gold Parachute Museum in Dayton. In addition, a brief parachute demonstration will be conducted, showing the inner workings of an emergency back-style parachute. You could be the one to pull the ripcord!



Speaker Information: Andrew Kididis retired in 2023 from the US Air Force as an engineer with 38 years’ experience relating primarily to parachutes, airdrop systems and escape systems. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering and Masters in Textiles and is the author of “The Art of Drag, A History of US Air Force Parachute Technology Development.” Andrew is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dayton Aviation Trail Inc. (ATI), and member of the ATI Parachute Museum Committee. He currently works part-time developing training courses at Wright-Patterson AFB.

For additional details on this presentation call 937-353-4457. The presentation is free and open to the public and has ample free parking.