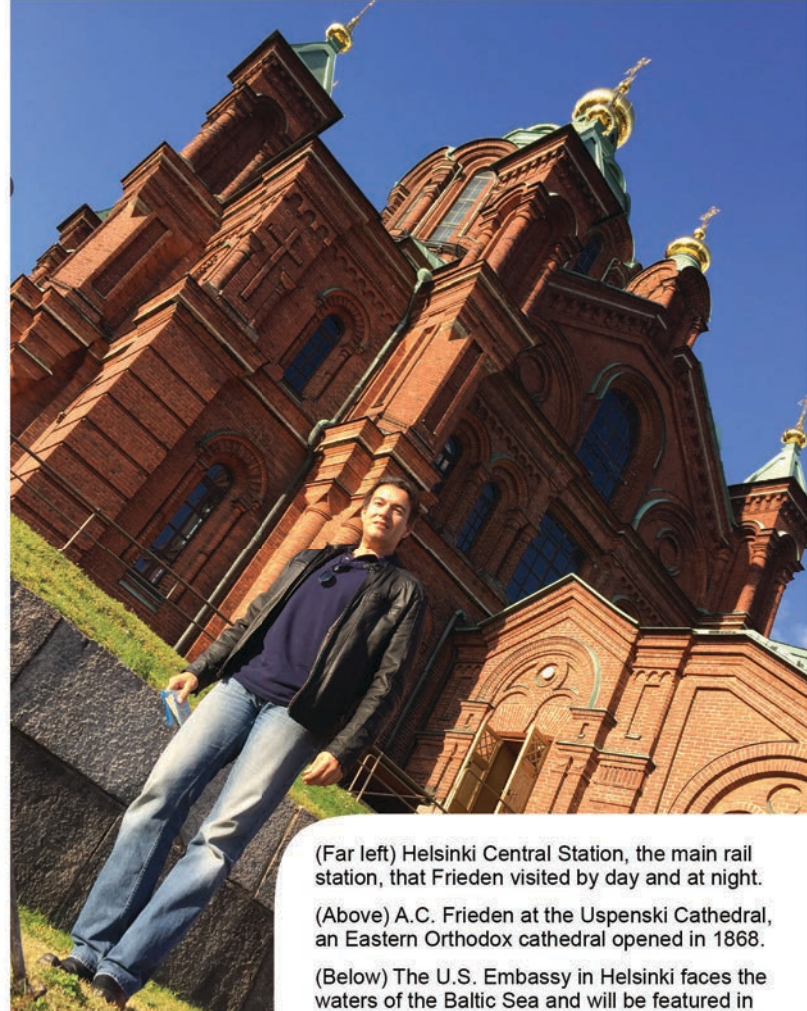




Researching Scenes in Helsinki

*F*inland's capital became one of spy thriller author A.C. Frieden's latest research location. Given the country's strategic proximity to Russia and its political and economic position as a non-Nato Western democracy, Finland—and Helsinki in particular—remains an important area of operations for spies, just as it was during the Cold War. For this reason, it is fitting that Frieden would choose to add scenes from Helsinki to one of his forthcoming espionage thrillers.



(Far left) Helsinki Central Station, the main rail station, that Frieden visited by day and at night.

(Above) A.C. Frieden at the Uspenski Cathedral, an Eastern Orthodox cathedral opened in 1868.

(Below) The U.S. Embassy in Helsinki faces the waters of the Baltic Sea and will be featured in an action scene in Frieden's forthcoming thriller.

(Bottom) One of the Finnish military vehicles on display at the Military Museum, which closed permanently a few months ago.

Novelist A.C. Frieden's first trip to Finland's capital, Helsinki, last year focused on researching sites to feature in a forthcoming spy thriller. "It's an interesting coastal city," said Frieden, "with varied architectural styles, scenic waterfront sites, and a fascinating 20th century history, which together make Helsinki an ideal setting for literary intrigue."

Having already thought out the basics of a chase scene for his book, Frieden headed to the first research location: Helsinki Central Station. It's the city's largest railway station, serving over 200,000 passengers daily. The current building dates back to 1919 and has a minimalist style with art deco influences. Inside the entrance hall, the lighting is dim, both at night and by day, despite the large glass panels, and the pale walls with rounded edges and the wooden benches bring visitors back in time. Frieden also examined more technical details, such as the relative positions of entry/exit points, and line of sight limitations from the portholes of the main entrance doors, among other features.

Frieden's next research site was the U.S. Embassy, a complex that includes a curved 6-story building facing a quiet street and the waters of the Baltic Sea. Parts of that building's top floor and the rooftop of the adjoining structure are believed to house a wide variety of SIGINT sensors and communications equipment. Further, an estimated dozen U.S. intelligence personnel are based at this facility (separate to the CIA's two suspected safehouses), most working under diplomatic cover. These espionage-related capabilities are relevant to the central plot of Frieden's spy thriller, which will feature a complex series of action scenes at this location. Frieden also took a boat ride that passed in front of the complex and went on to navigate past several islands and harbors.

Frieden also researched other sites in the city, including a police station, a Finnish government office and two other embassies. "I look forward to putting all this research together," Frieden said. "Seeing the city's sites in person really does make a difference when writing my scenes." ⊕



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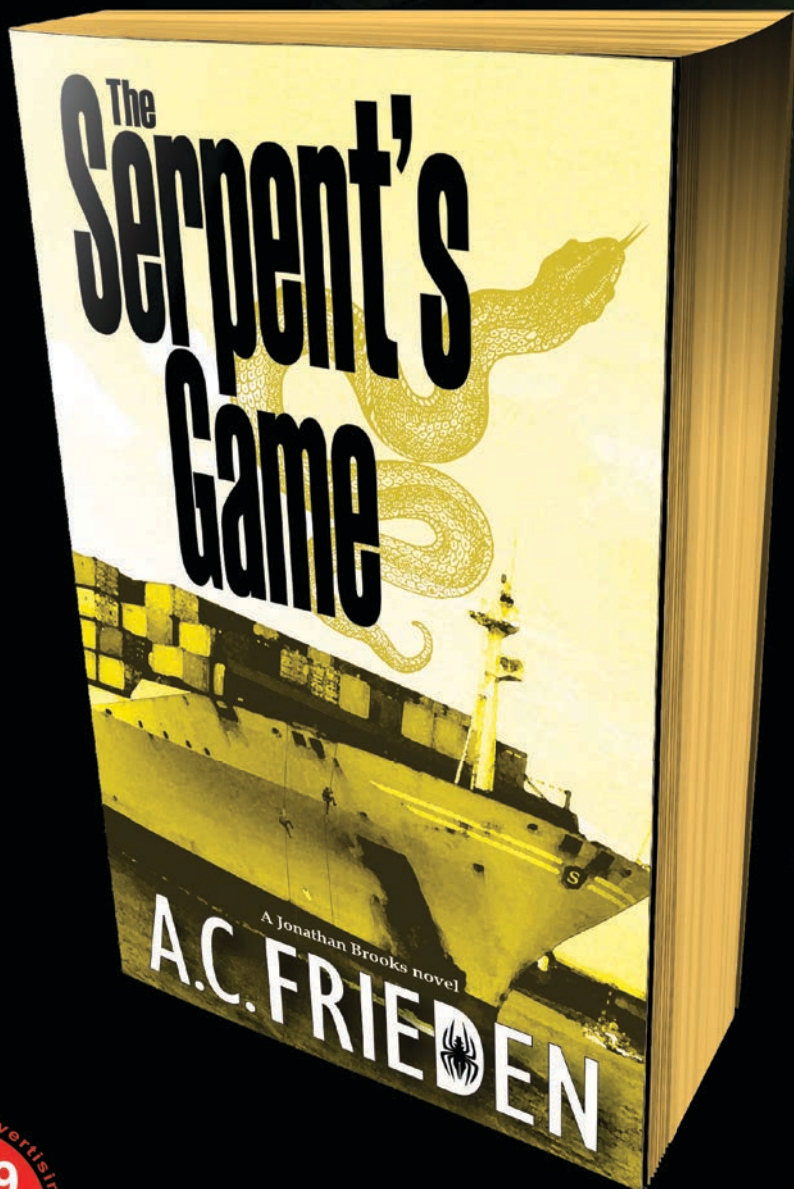
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The Serpent's Game is the second book in the Jonathan Brooks thriller series.



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The Russian Air Force Museum at Monino

One of the world's best collections of military aircraft is at the Central Museum of the Air Forces at Monino, about 25 miles from Moscow. Formerly an active Soviet airbase, the facility houses a large number of bombers, fighters, transporters, reconnaissance planes, helicopters, and historic WWII aircraft from Soviet/Russian design bureaus Tupolev, Ilyushin, Antonov, Mikoyan, and others. Author A.C. Frieden shares his impressions of the museum in this article.

The Myasischev M-50 was an advanced experimental supersonic bomber that first flew in 1959.

On a chilly, overcast December morning in Russia, spy novelist A.C. Frieden headed to the Central Museum of the Air Forces, one of the largest collections of Soviet and Russian military aircraft, located about 25 miles (40 km) east of Moscow. The day's key task was to research some of the most notable aircraft types used during the Cold War as well as those recently deployed in Syria.

Given its importance to Russian aviation, the museum complex sits near the Gagarin Air Force Academy, one of the leading military educational institutions tasked with preparing personnel for service in the Russian Air Force. Cadets and other visitors can walk next to the dozens of snow-covered prototypes and early production versions of Soviet/Russian Air Force fighters and fighter-bombers, types that are still flown by the Russian Air Force after various upgrades. Among these is a pre-production version of the Su-24, a variable-geometry supersonic fighter-bomber, similar to Su-24M shot down by a Turkish F-16 over the Turkish-Syrian border a few days before Frieden's visit to Monino. Many former Soviet Su-24s remain in service with Syria, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, but the majority are modernized versions in the Russian military, which has over 350 serving with the Russian Air Force and several dozen with the Russian Navy. The Russian Air Force is gradually replacing the Su-24 with the state-of-the-art Su-34.

Among some of the most impressive aircraft on display is the Mil V-12 (NATO codename *Homer*), officially given the project number *Izdeliye 65*. The Mil V-12 is the largest helicopter ever built, measured both in terms of lift capacity and size. However, it never entered mass production. The first prototype was manufactured in late 1968 and flew in 1969. That year it flew a record-breaking cargo of 88,636 lb (44 tons) to a height of 7,000 feet. The Soviets needed this huge lift capacity to transport intercontinental ballistic missiles as well as certain medium-range missiles, but by the



A.C. Frieden stands next to a prototype of the Su-24 (NATO codename *Fencer*) supersonic fighter-bomber.



The Mil V-12 is the largest helicopter ever built, although it never entered mass production.



Ilyushin-10M was a Soviet ground-attack plane manufactured towards the end of World War II.



A Tu-95 (NATO name: *Bear*) strategic bomber on display.



The T-4 experimental supersonic bomber (also known as the Su-100) first flew in August 1972.

time a handful of such helicopter prototypes were fully tested, that requirement was no longer a priority.

Several bombers are on display at Monino. The most well-known in the West is the Tupolev Tu-95 (NATO codename *Bear*), a large, four-engine turboprop-powered strategic bomber, which also serves as a missile platform and reconnaissance aircraft. It was first flown in 1952 and entered Soviet Air Force service a few years later. Today, it is still used extensively to project Russia's nuclear deterrence capability. The Tu-95 is roughly com-

patible with the USAF B-52 and B-1 bombers and is powered by four Kuznetsov NK-12 engines with contra-rotating propellers (unique to Soviet aircraft), giving it significant speed and range.

Perhaps the most fascinating aircraft on display at Monino is the Tu-144, one of only two types of commercial supersonic aircraft ever manufactured (the other being the Anglo-French Concorde). The Tu-144 made its first flight on Dec. 31, 1968, two months before its smaller rival, the Concorde. The Tu-144 broke the sound barrier



The Su-17M3 was a Soviet fighter-bomber built in the late 1970s.



The Ilyushin Il-76 (NATO codename *Candid*) is a multi-purpose strategic airlifter that first flew in 1971.

This Soviet T-4 experimental supersonic bomber on display at Monino was flown only ten times before the project was cancelled in 1975.



the following year. It had several features that differentiated it from the Concorde, like its retractable canards, a longer fuselage, a larger wing, and more powerful engines.

The first production version of the aircraft, the Tu-144S, had a three-man cockpit crew and accommodated 140 passengers, though the seating configuration was rather cramped. Unfortunately, on June 9, 1973, the third production Tu-144 crashed during the Paris Air Show, killing all on board. The crash investigation showed that the pilots likely pushed the aircraft beyond its structural limitations, but there are still many conspiracy theories about the incident. The crash was a setback for the program, but the Tu-144's commercial failure was due mainly to the USSR not having a viable need for it, given its high main-

tenance cost and low passenger demand. The Tu-144 at Monino is the seventh example built out of a total production of seventeen aircraft.

Most of the aircraft at the museum are from the Cold War period, but there is a interesting small collection of World War II-era and other vintage aircraft in the hangars. These include an Ilyushin Il-10M, a powerful ground-attack aircraft built near the end of World War II as the Germans were being pushed out of Russia and Poland. There is also a fully restored Ilyushin IL-2 Sturmovik and a Yak-9Y, both also from World War II.

For spy novelist A.C. Frieden, who has been a private pilot since the 1990s, the museum tour was important both for his book research and to satisfy his passion for aviation. ⊕



The huge engine nozzles of a MiG-25 (NATO codename *Foxbat*) interceptor.



A Mil Mi-26 heavy transport helicopter.

“

Perhaps the most fascinating aircraft on display at Monino is the Tu-144, one of only two types of commercial supersonic aircraft ever manufactured.”



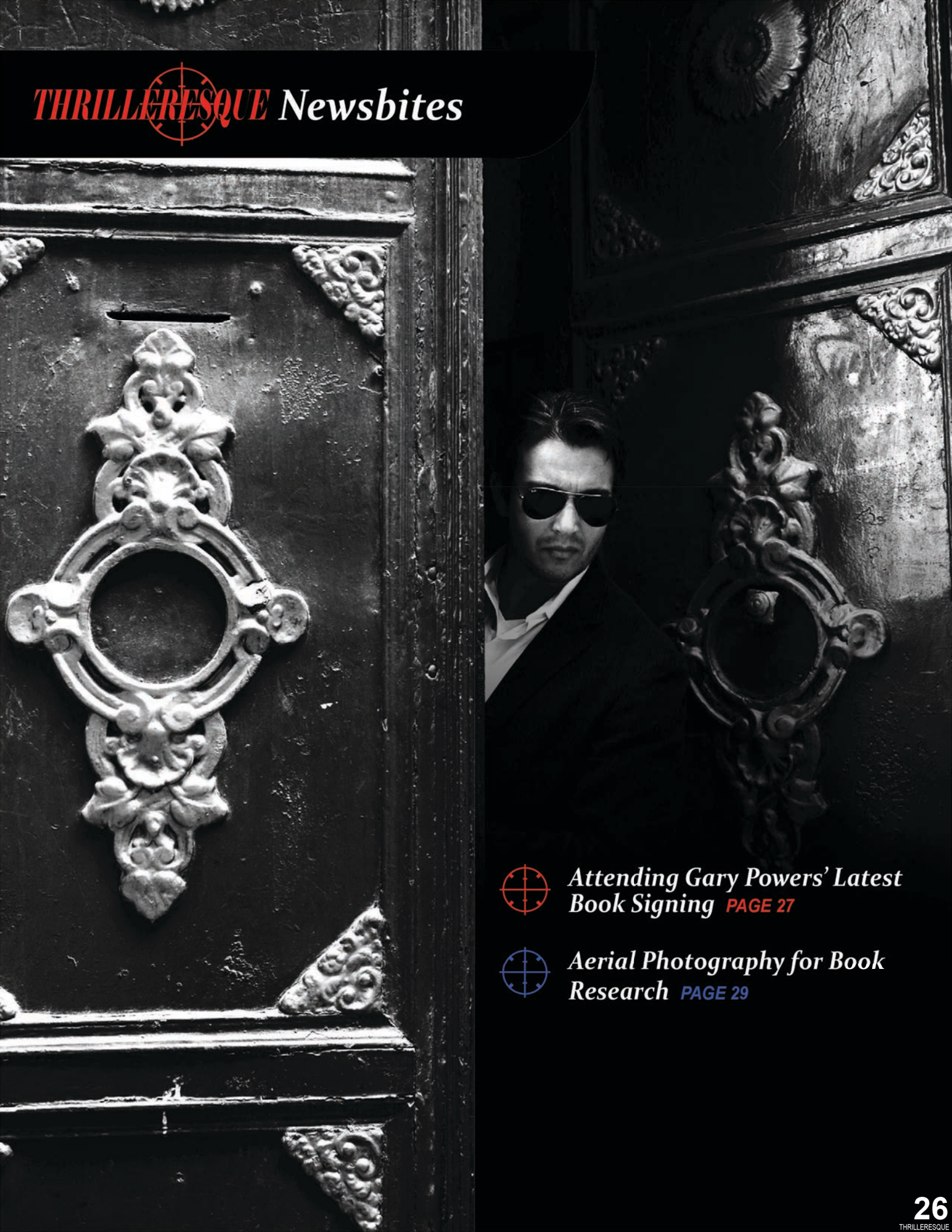
The Tu-144 supersonic airliner sits at Monino surrounded by several prototypes and production versions of the MiG-29.

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Attending Gary Powers' Latest Book Signing **PAGE 27**



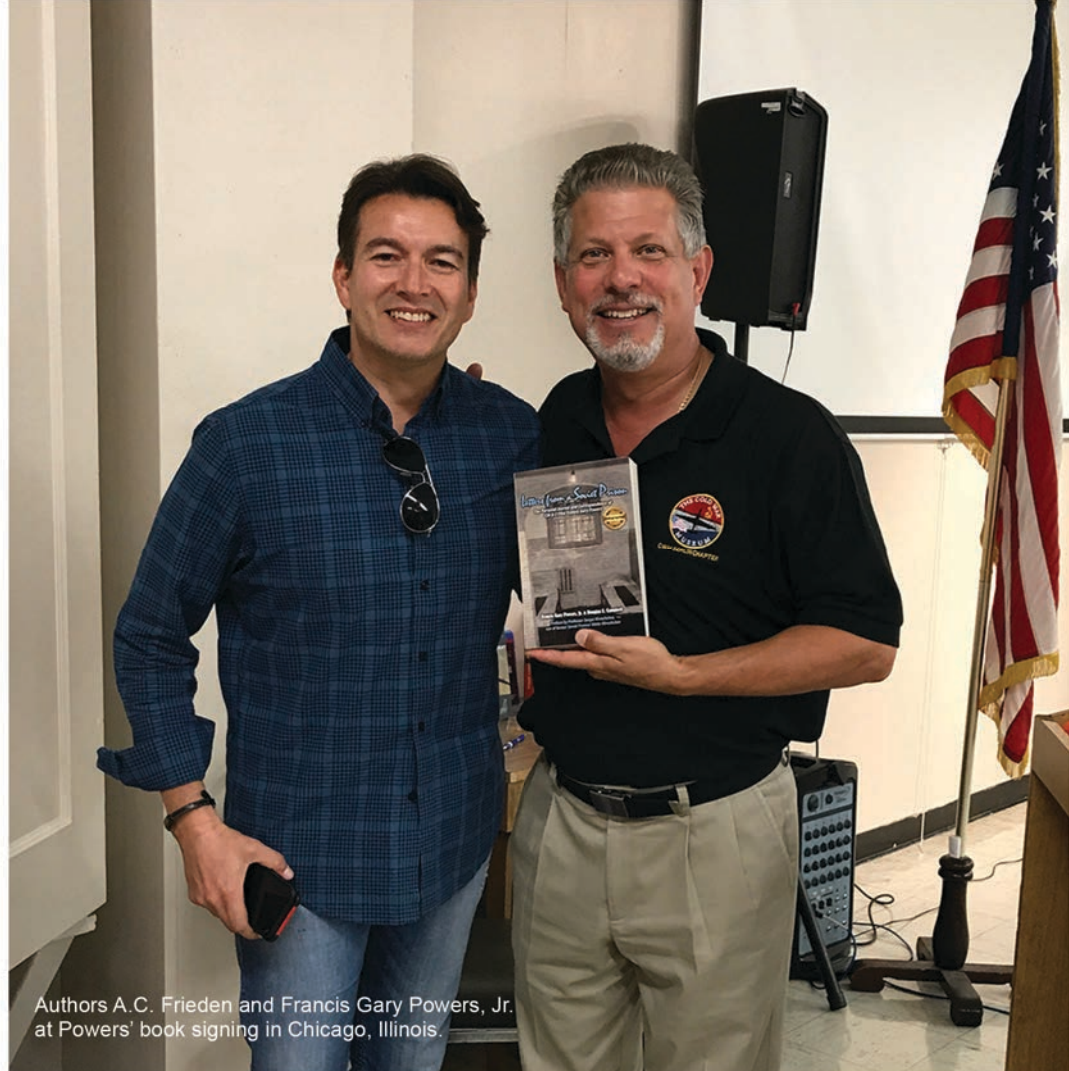
Aerial Photography for Book Research **PAGE 29**

A.C. Frieden Attends Book Signing by Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

Chicago-based novelist A.C. Frieden attended the recent book signing of his friend and fellow writer Francis Gary Powers, Jr., son of the famous American aviator whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russia in 1960, at the height of the Cold War. Gary's latest book is *Letters from a Soviet Prison — The Personal Journal and Correspondence of CIA U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers*. The book is a unique compilation of his father's correspondence during his imprisonment at Vladimir Central Prison, about 150 miles (240 km) east of Moscow, from September 9, 1960 until February 8, 1962. The book also contains many family photos.

For many years Gary has been a steadfast researcher on the Cold War and has worked tirelessly to preserve artifacts and educate others about the U-2 incident and the Cold War in general. In 1996, he founded The Cold War Museum to honor veterans

(Below) Author and former East German prisoner Werner Juretzko, pictured with A.C. Frieden, was also at Gary's book signing.



Authors A.C. Frieden and Francis Gary Powers, Jr. at Powers' book signing in Chicago, Illinois.

of the period and help preserve this historical period that affected so many nations. In order to promote the establishment of new museum, Gary created a mobile exhibit on the U-2 incident (including aircraft artifacts) and has displayed it internationally for the past 20 years.

Gary also has arranged for loans or donations of Cold War artifacts to U.S. Government agencies (CIA, DIA, FBI, NSA, and NRO) and various museums, including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, the U.S. Air Force Museum, the KGB Museum in Moscow, the Diefenbunker Museum, and the Virginia Historical Society. It was during this period that A.C. Frieden met Gary in Washington, D.C., during a spy tour, when Frieden was researching espionage-related sites for his second thriller.

Gary also created *The Cold War Times*, a quarterly email newsletter distributed to over 10,000 subscribers, and implemented a wide range of Cold

War educational programs. In 2009, he negotiated a lease with Vint Hill Economic Development Authority to secure a permanent home for the museum in Fauquier County, Virginia.

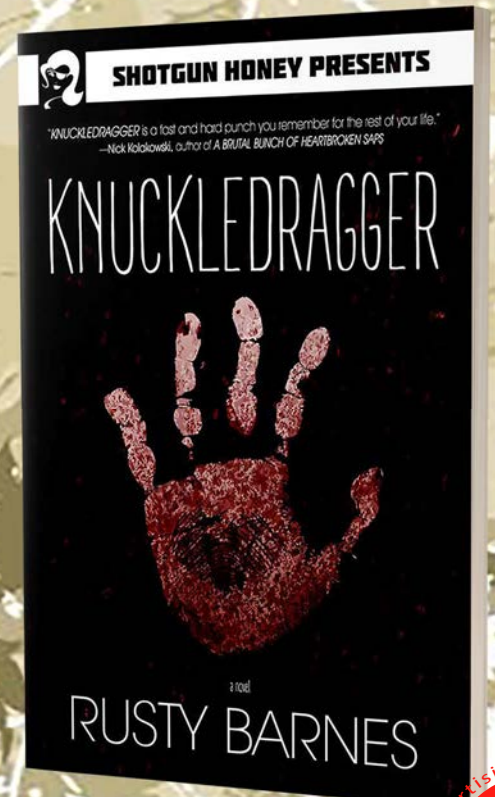
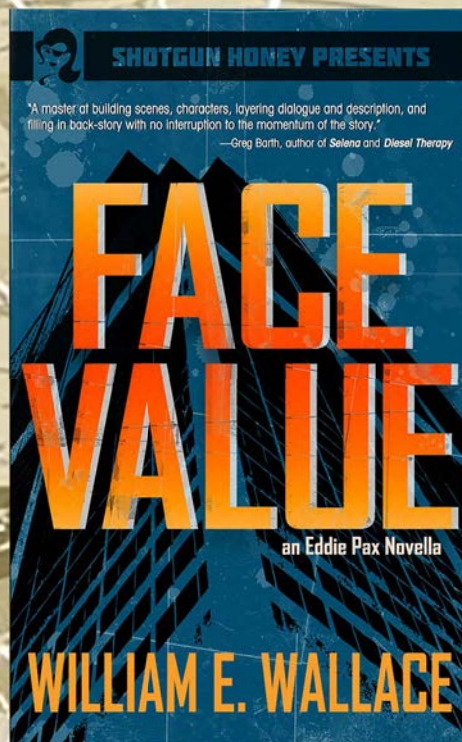
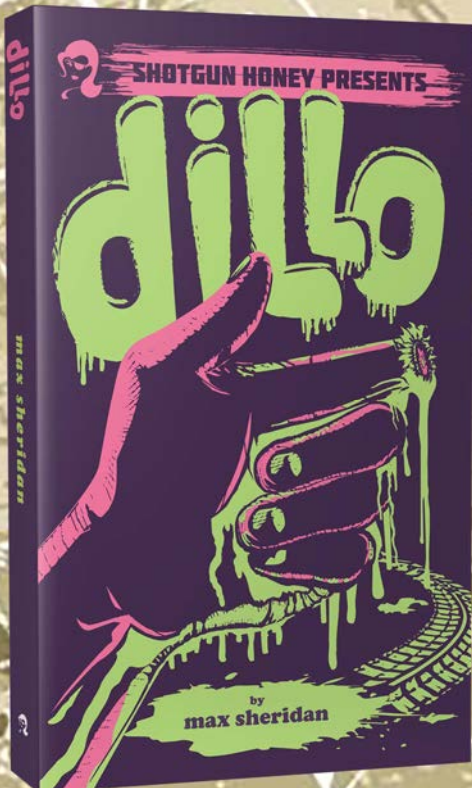
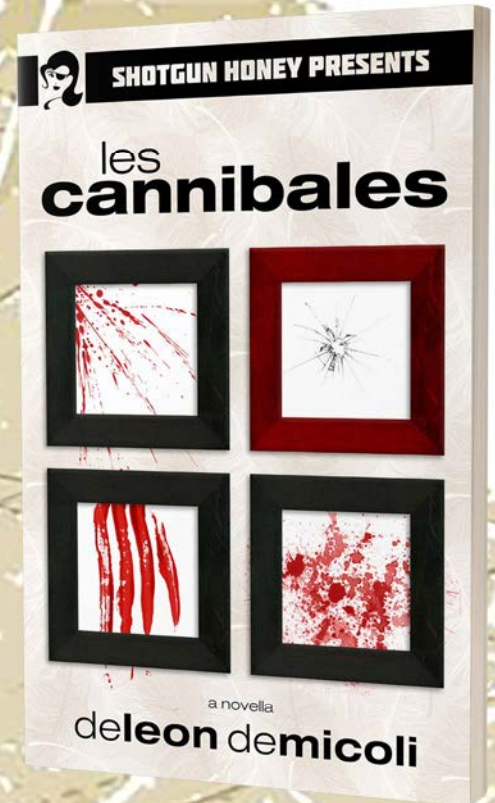
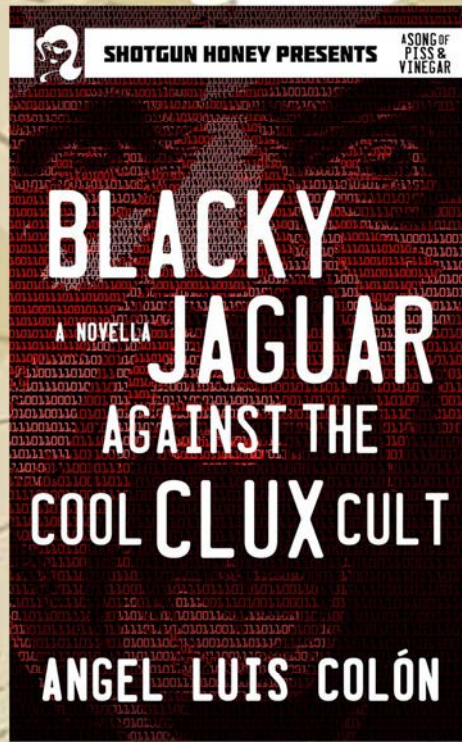
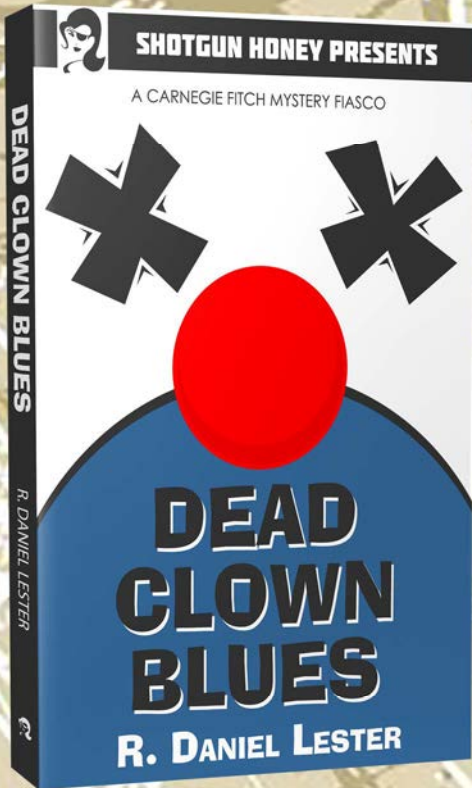
Gary's recent work included being a consultant in the movie "Bridge of Spies," starring Tom Hanks. He also traveled to Moscow in December 2017 to visit numerous sites associated with his father's U-2 shootdown and imprisonment, including a visit to the building in Moscow where his father was put on trial, and in Yakaterinburg where the U-2 was shot down and where a local museum still has on display wreckage of the aircraft.

Letters from a Soviet Prison is available in paperback and is co-authored by Douglas E. Campbell, with a preface from Prof. Sergei Khrushchev, the son of former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. To buy a copy, email gpowersjr@coldwar.org or send a message via Facebook under "Francis Gary Powers, Jr."

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FICTION WITH A KICK



Aerial Photography for Book Research

Chicago-based novelist A.C. Frieden has been piloting small aircraft for over twenty years. But his thirst for an adrenaline rush is not the only reason for taking to the skies. He's often used flying to gather information for his literary pursuits. "Google and other sites can give you aerial and satellite imagery, but very few pictures recent," said Frieden. "Accuracy for certain scenes is important to me, so I'll take the aerial pictures myself."

Frieden obtained his pilot's license in Dallas, Texas, while also completing his graduate studies. He has flown various types of Cessnas, as well as Diamonds, World War II vintage aircraft and several aerobatics planes. He later received his seaplane rating after completing flight training on lakes and rivers in Minnesota and Italy. More recently, he began training for his helicopter rating. He has piloted single-engine aircraft throughout the U.S. and in five other countries and used his aerial photography to research two of his recent spy thrillers.

"I remember flying over the entire length of the Panama Canal, which is a



Novelist A.C. Frieden obtained his seaplane rating after getting his pilot's license, and he used this experience when he wrote scenes in his thriller *The Serpent's Game*.

key setting in my novel *The Serpent's Game*," Frieden said. "In fact, from the air I chose the exact spot where I wanted the action scenes to begin in my story. Using Google Earth would not have been the same."

Frieden also selects the optimal equipment for such research photography. "When flying, you need easy-to-use gear, so you're not distracted from your piloting duties," Frieden said. While he's used a range of cameras and lenses over the years, today he's satisfied with his Sony camera. He

plans to use recent aerial photographs from Nevada, Chile and Switzerland for two forthcoming novels. ⊕

Frieden's aviation gear pictured below includes:

- ① Sony nex-5 high-def point-and-shoot camera
- ② iPad with Foreflight navigation software for flight use (used as backup for cockpit navigation instruments)
- ③ iPhone 6 with Foreflight navigation software, also for backup purposes in case of other systems failure.
- ④ Transceiver for air-to-ground communications
- ⑤ David Clark aviation headset
- ⑥ Touchscreen gloves for flying in winter
- ⑦ Special polarized sunglasses with minimal distortion when viewing cockpit instrumentation and outside.

A.C. Frieden piloting a DA-40 near Chicago.





*North Korea
revealed
like
never
before.*



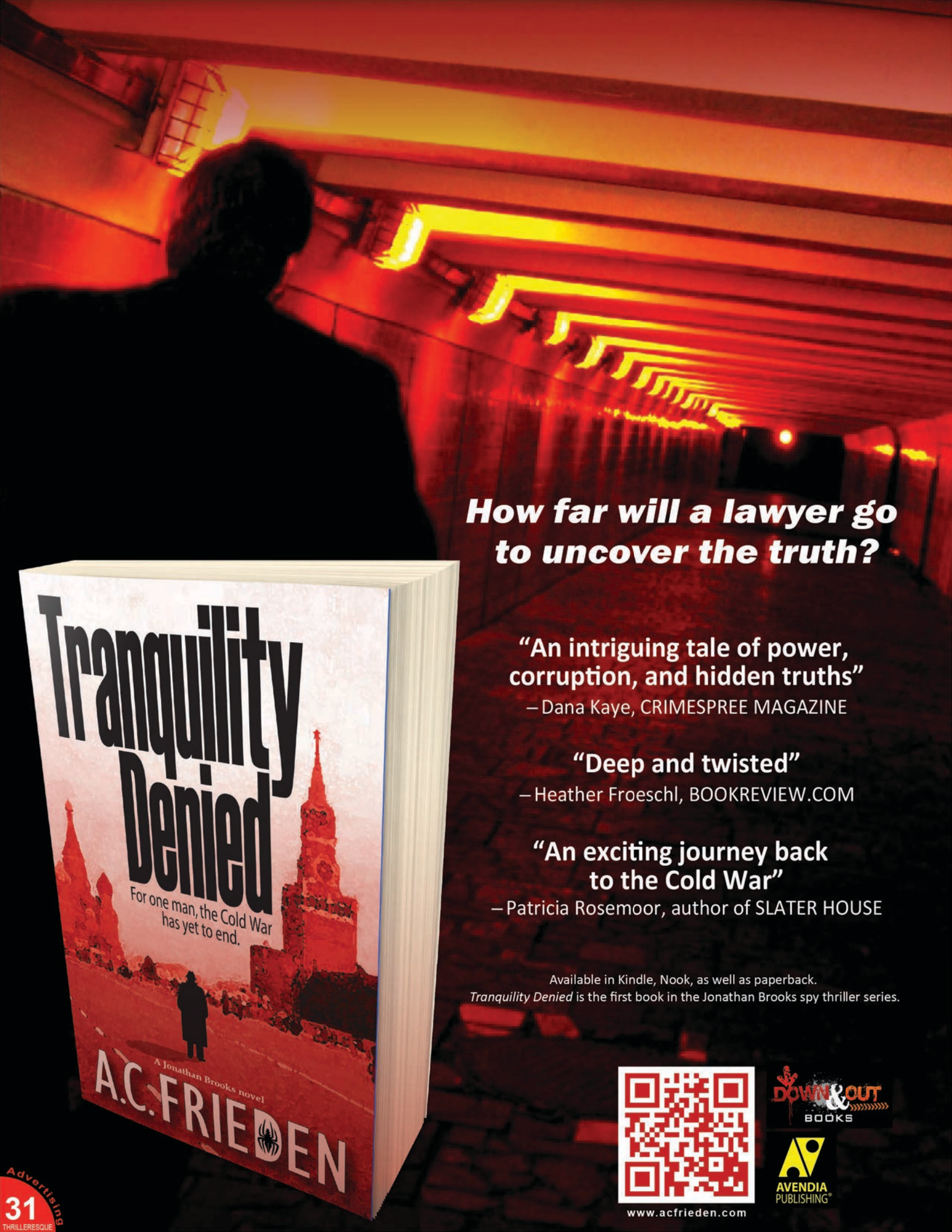
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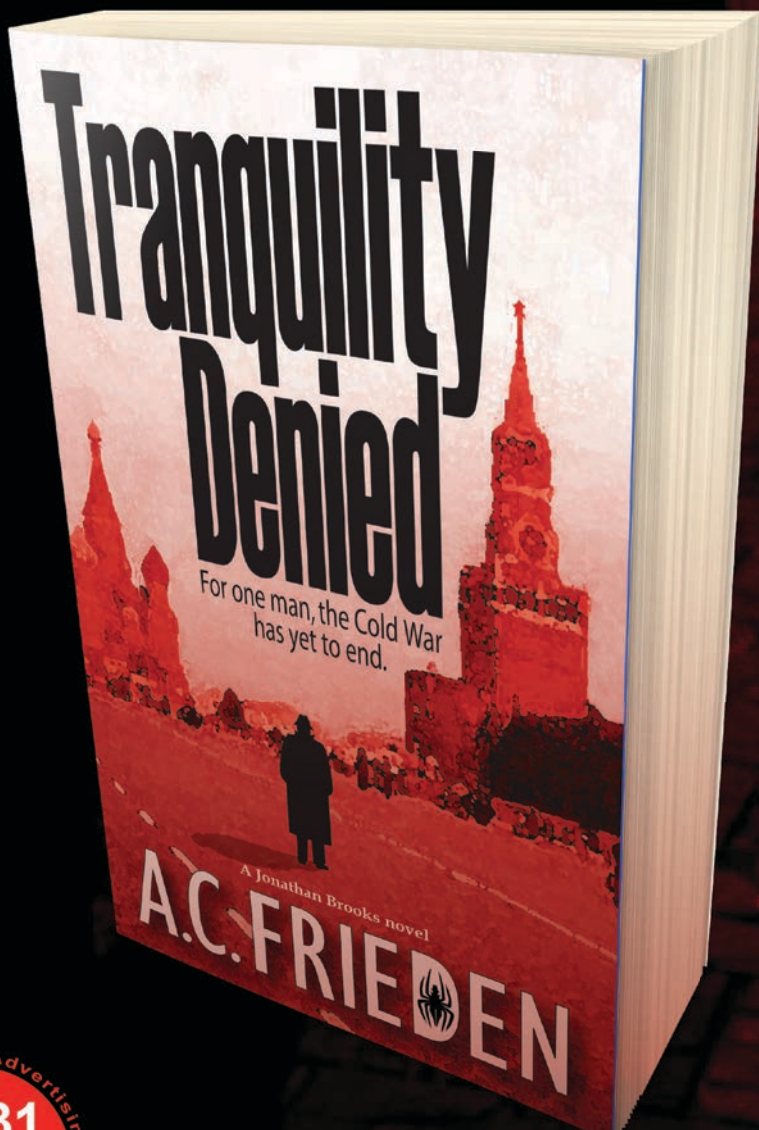
A limited edition photography book from novelist A.C. Frieden,
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North Korea: Is War Inevitable?



U.S.-North Korean relations are experiencing the most volatile crisis since 1968, when the Korean People's Navy attacked and captured the American spy vessel USS *Pueblo* and its crew. According to novelist A.C. Frieden, one of only a handful of Western authors to visit North Korea in recent years, the chance that war will break out on the Korean peninsula in 2018 is higher than fifty percent.

Since taking power after his father's death in 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sped up his country's secretive program to build a viable nuclear weapons arsenal. Under his direction, engineers conducted four nuclear detonations and improved

“
The chance that war will break out on the Korean peninsula is higher than fifty percent.”

the accuracy and range of certain land-based and sea-launched missiles. The North Koreans also built new tunnels, hardened command and control centers, and other infrastructure to increase the survivability of missile storage areas and their limited quantity of transporter-erector-launch-



ers (TELs) that are essential to carry and fire the missiles if launch orders are given. All these actions have been provocative and unsettling to the region and beyond.

On the other side of this dangerous equation is U.S. President Donald Trump, who came to office with negligible experience in international relations or crisis management. Since his election, Trump has taken a confrontational approach to North Korea. Both leaders have now traded countless insults and threats. This deterioration in relations comes has disappointed the international community, especially South Korea, which has everything to lose if the war of words turns into real conflict. Trump's bellicose behavior has only increased tensions and strengthened the hand of North Korean hardliners who point to America's threats as justification to build and maintain nuclear weapons as deterrence. But does this ongoing rhetoric mean war is inevitable?

“The answer is complicated,” says Frieden. “It depends on many variables. But one key factor may be whether Trump believes a so-called ‘pre-emptive war’ is winnable. And by winnable, I mean the following: (1) loss of American life will be minimal and limited to military personnel and



(Top) A.C. Frieden stands next to a Lt. Colonel in the Korean People's Army on the viewing deck of Panmon Hall, the main administrative building on the North Korean side of the Joint Security Area in the DMZ at Panmunjom.

(Above) A sailor patrols the dock next to the USS *Pueblo* (AGER-2), a U.S. Navy spy ship that was attacked and captured by the Korean People's Navy in 1968. The ship has been on display along the Taedong River in Pyongyang since 2003.

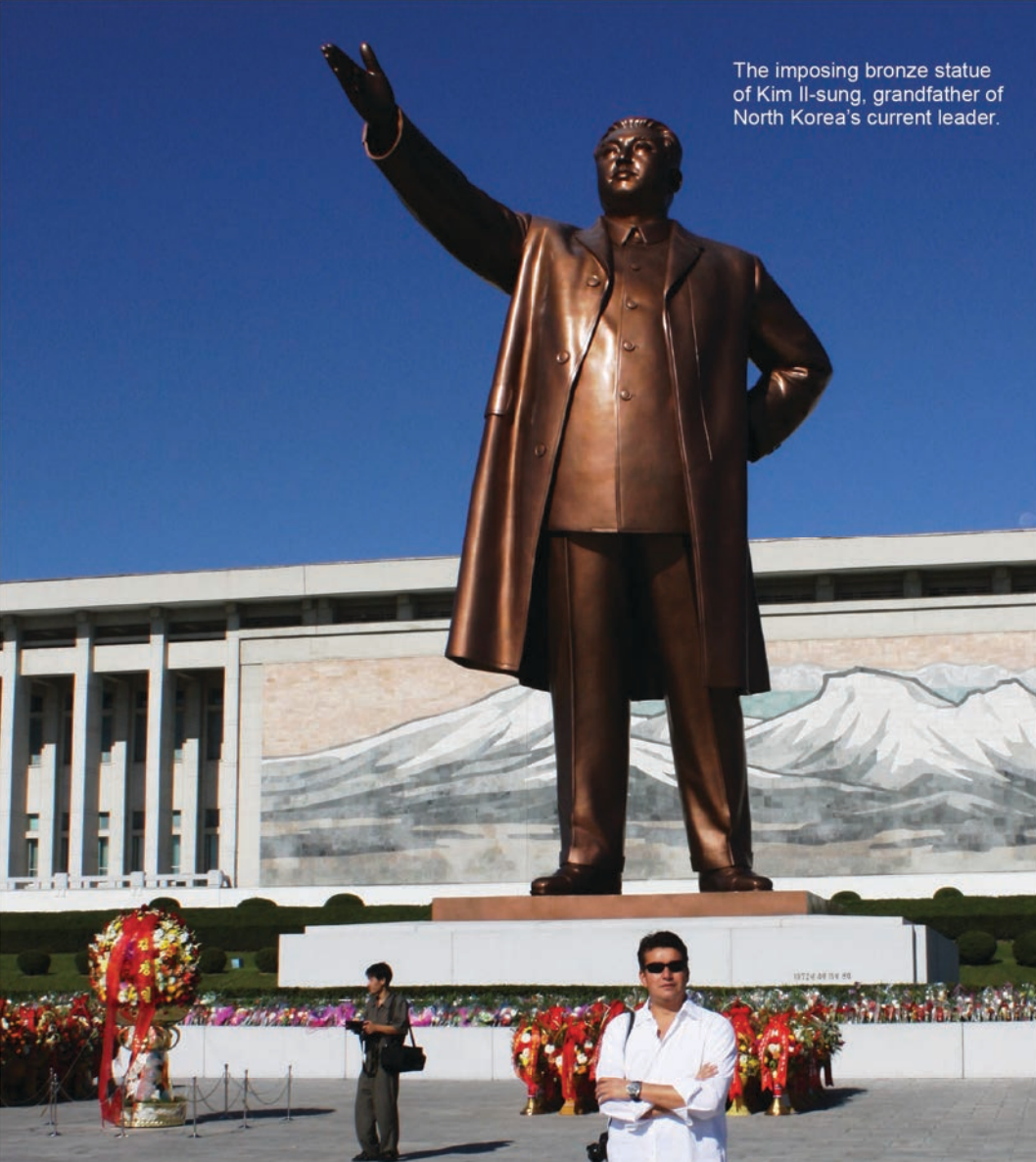
(Far left) Armed guards stand at attention at the line of control (long cement step at center of image), which marks the official border between the two Koreas.





A Lt. Colonel of the Korean People's Army points to the Joint Security Area in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that separates the two Koreas.

The imposing bronze statue of Kim Il-sung, grandfather of North Korea's current leader.



push for war.” Furthermore, senior U.S. military brass will greatly influence his decision, and so far the majority of them have portrayed such a war as a high-casualty scenario.

Recently, however, Trump has hinted that the level of readiness for such a conflict may be optimal. “You would be shocked to see how totally prepared we are if we need to be,” Trump stated, referring to the U.S. military in the region. “Would it be nice not to [go to war]? The answer is yes. Will that happen? Who knows, who knows,” he added.

It is worth emphasizing that despite Trump’s saber-rattling, coupled with the countless joint military exercises the U.S. and South Korea have had over the last half of 2017, there has not been any significant or sustained mobilization of U.S. military aircraft, warships, logistical assets, and command/control elements that would be easily noticed if war were imminent. Even the ten-day period in November when the U.S. Navy deployed simultaneously three aircraft carriers to the region, relatively few Air Force and Army units mobilized.

Also, regardless of whether the U.S. could neutralize North Korea’s nuclear weapons, Kim Jong-un can still inflict extensive damage to infrastructure and cause substantial civilian casualties in South Korea and Japan, at least during the ten days of an all-out war. This destructive power is North Korea’s strongest deterrent to U.S. action—and a far more effective deterrent than its long-range nuclear missile arsenal that remains three to five years from reaching optimal reliability.

As long as U.S. military leaders continue to publicly and privately state the high cost of such a potential war, Trump will likely stop short of initiating military action. Ultimately, it’s anyone’s guess whether such a war will break out. For novelist A.C. Frieden, who has closely followed developments in North Korea since his visit to the reclusive nation, the probability



Traffic police on the capital's quiet streets.

contractors (that is, no North Korean weapon will reach the U.S. mainland), (2) allied civilian losses will be less than catastrophic, and (3) China will be deterred from joining the conflict.”

From the moment Trump reaches this critical assumption, Frieden believes, the likelihood of war will increase substantially, perhaps becoming inevitable. “With such a scenario, the only effective restraint might be the forcefulness by which leaders of South Korea and Japan will resist Trump’s



The Puhung metro station in Pyongyang, North Korea.



A monument at the base of Juche Tower, facing the Taedong river.



One of many patriotic billboards displayed throughout Pyongyang.

of war remains high, particularly after the Winter Olympics conclude.

North Korea's decision to participate in the upcoming Winter Olympics hosted by its southern neighbor may be designed to reduce tensions. It may also be a means to manipulate public opinion. Regardless, this small gesture is unlikely to deter the U.S. from taking military action if Trump has already decided that a war is "winnable" and is eyeing a date to launch a preemptive strike or even a broader campaign for regime change.

"Let's hope reason prevails and war doesn't break out," said Frieden, as he continues to follow developments in the ongoing crisis. His latest thriller *The Pyongyang Option* (published by Down and Out Books), which is scheduled for released later this year, is set partly in the North Korean capital and a rural area north of Anju. The story's plot centers to another type of weapon that North Korea has wielded in recent years: cyberwarfare. ⊕

The USS *Pueblo*, the only U.S. Navy vessel to remain in captivity by a foreign power, is docked along the Taedong river in Pyongyang.



Spy Quiz -- Try it out!

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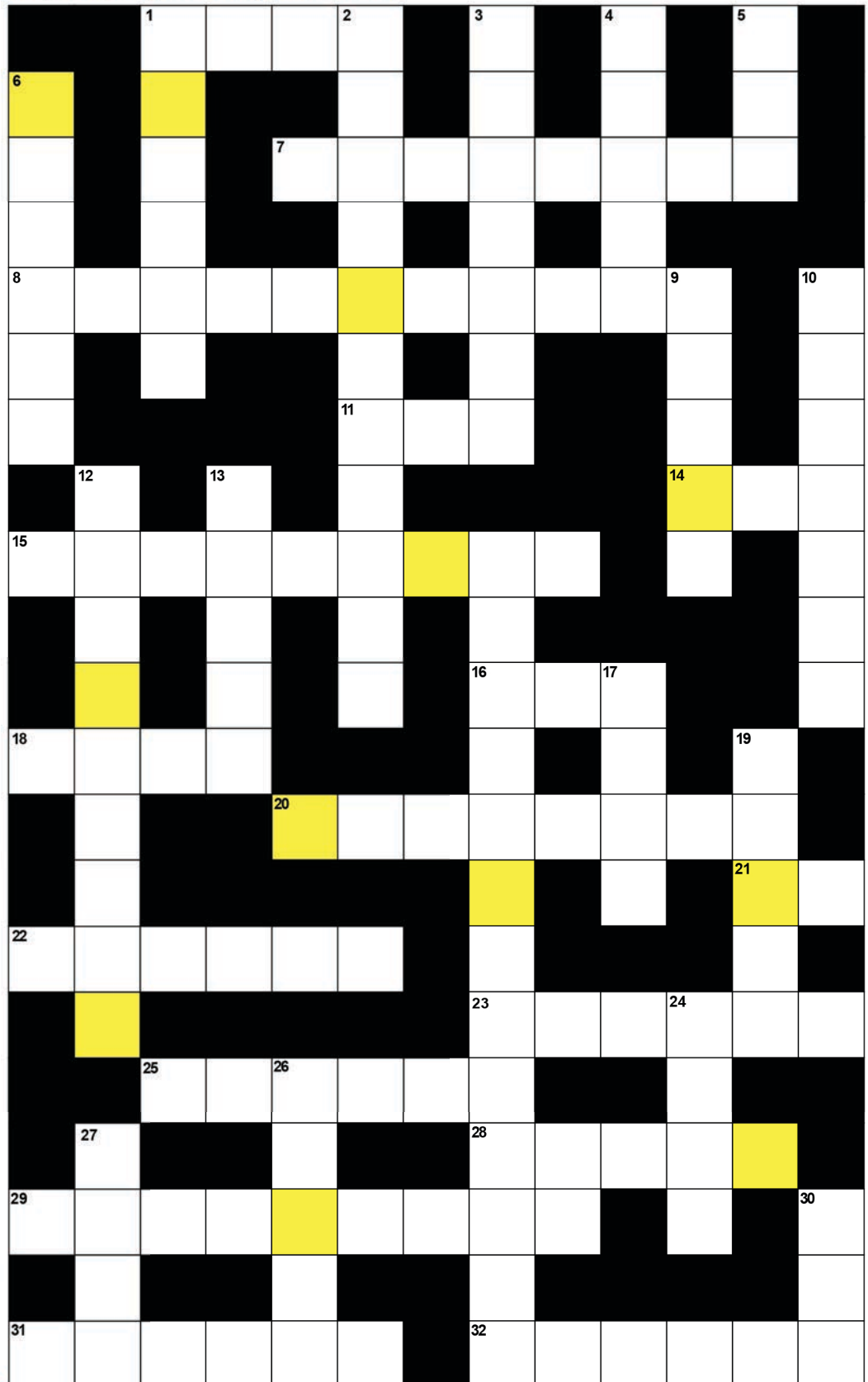
ACROSS

1. Common term for eavesdropping devices
7. Japan's signal intelligence agency
8. Neutral country in WWII that became a hub for espionage
11. Name for the US State Department's intelligence and research group
14. Common abbreviation for "operations"
15. Software used to record typed computer key strokes
16. Abbreviation for Russia's equivalent of the FBI
18. A place where weapons could clandestinely enter a country
20. A position that gives a person legal cover in foreign countries
21. Abbreviation for technology used for predictive data analysis
22. A person or thing being tracked
23. Persons useful for intelligence
25. Abbreviation for human intelligence form of espionage
28. Abbreviation for intelligence
29. A act to distract an adversary
31. Screening data for selected info
32. A marksman

DOWN

1. A European capital that once was a symbol of Cold War rivalries
2. Director of the spy movie Falcon and the Snowman
3. A person who produces fake passports and other documents
4. Russian leader who once served as a KGB officer in East Germany
5. Accronym for Russia's military intelligence department
6. Israeli intelligence agency
9. A thing used to distract an enemy
10. Anti-proliferation efforts try to curb this type of technology
12. Powerful Lebanese-based paramilitary force now very active in Syria
13. Abbreviation for electronic intelligence
17. An explosive device
19. US-Russia treaty to limit development of nuclear warheads
24. US-led group of intelligence sharing countries known as "Five-_____"
26. An early form of communications code
27. Signal that is vulnerable to interception
30. Monitoring device are often put here.

Step 1: Complete the puzzle below



Step 2: Figure out the city...

8 of the 12 yellow letters from the puzzle will form the name of this city:



* Contest ends Mar. 15, 2018. Winners must have a U.S. mailing address to receive the prize. Void where prohibited. Maximum value of all prizes is US\$100.