



Karamursel 60-61 UPDATE

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CLOSING IN ON THE 2017TH REUNION

In my last up-date I gave you all the info about the upcoming reunion and how to sign up and get there. Hopefully you still have it and have signed up or are planning to sign up soon. Don't forget the Beach Cove resort is only holding so many rooms for our group and they have a cutoff date.

Pete ask me to mention that the reunion registration form he sent out had an incorrect fee listed for the Friday evening dinner. Instead of \$22 person, it's \$23 per person

So if you've already sent in \$22 to Mark you can give him another dollar when you see him at the reunion. And if you are getting ready to send in your fee, make it \$23 for the Friday evening dinner if you're planning to attend.

We're pleased to announce that we'll have Gary Powers Jr. as our banquet

Speaker at this year's reunion. I'm sure you're all aware, but just to catch up anyone who may not know (or remember...we're getting older you know!), Gary's father, Francis Gary Powers, was the U-2 pilot whose plane was brought down over the Soviet Union on May 1, 1960. Gary Jr. was instrumental in the forming and continuation of the Cold War Museum; wrote "Operation Over flight," a chronology of the U-2 incident and the parallel international situation; and now has a new book out titled "Letters from a Soviet Prison" which is a compilation of the never-before released personal journal and correspondence of his father's time in confinement.

Gary has been our banquet speaker in the past, outlining the status and future plans for the Cold War Museum. This year he will provide further updates on the museum, on his personal status, and of course detailed information about his current book. Following the banquet, Gary will have a book signing, so bring along some extra bucks. I'm confident the book will be very interesting and one you'll want to have in your library.

MORE ON THE U-2



"Now that we're on the subject, here's some info about the U-2 that will be interesting to all of you."

The U.S. Air Force is preparing to extend the service life of the U-2S Dragon Lady for several more years. Under previous budget plans, the evergreen spyplane was due to be retired in 2019-20, leaving only the unmanned RQ-4B Global Hawk to perform the high-altitude reconnaissance mission. Managers at the Lockheed Martin (LM) Skunk Works in Palmdale, California, are preparing upgrade proposals for the U-2's sensors and communications fit.

Gen. "Hawk" Carlisle, who retired last week as commander of Air Combat Command, told AIN last November that "we're trying to find the money" to retain the U-2. Now a senior Air Force official has told the Skunk Works that the 27-strong fleet will be retained until at least the mid-2020s. "There's a lot more runway in this jet yet," said Kyle Franklin, the new U-2 program manager for LM. "We could offer a quantum leap in capability," he told AIN last week.

Two upgrades for the U-2 are already being developed. A Celestial Object Sighting System (COSS, or "star

tracker") has been designed by Draper Laboratories as an alternative means of navigation. The U-2 flies daily around the borders of North Korea, which has frequently jammed GPS signals. Raytheon has designed an active electronically scanned array (AESA) for the U-2's advanced synthetic aperture radar system (ASARS) that would be redesignated ASARS-2B. Both systems are nearing flight test. The aircraft's alternative electro-optical imaging system, designated SYERS-2C, has recently been upgraded by UT Aerospace Systems to offer 10-band multispectral capability. The U-2's legacy SIGINT system has been replaced with the Northrop Grumman Airborne Signals Intelligence Payload (ASIP).

Meanwhile, flight tests of the U-2 with an [Open Mission System \(OMS\)](#) have continued at Palmdale. Three different defensive systems, an electronic attack payload and several classified payloads have now been integrated. Communications systems that allow the U-2 to act as a gateway between fifth- and fourth-generation combat aircraft have also been tested.

A quick reminder...Dick Casseri has asked everyone to get their reunion shirt orders in by July 15th. THAT'S JUST FOUR DAYS FROM TODAY!

You should also know that we won't have as many shirts at the reunion up

for sale as we've had in the past. We're only bringing 5 extras this time, so don't count on picking up one at the reunion.

Note*** Looks like you'll be a little late considering the July 15th cutoff date. Maybe if you call him he'll be able to sneak your order in. Dicks phone number is 716 549 4975

JUSTIN REECE UP DATE

The Reece family along with Fran and Jake are ecstatic about the news they received that Justin has finished 1st in his class of 50 flight students and as a result got first choice as to the airframe he wants to fly in his Army career. All choices are based on the number of slots open for each helicopter available.

Initially, Justin wanted to fly the Apache, but as time went on he thought he might want to fly the Blackhawk. Over the course of the last three months he realized he may have a shot at the Chinook. The Chinook is limited in numbers as compared to other helicopters and works more closely with the special ops guys. So the Chinook turned out to be the more coveted airframe to fly. The problem was, there was only one available slot open for his class of 50. All flight students knew this and Justin said the academic competition was furious. It

was announced this morning at Fort Rucker that Justin had been selected to be awarded the one slot open for the Chinook. He will spend the next seven months learning to fly it.

Supposedly, he will also earn his first choice of deployment. We will see? After all he is in the military. :)

The family is so excited for this young man who has worked so hard to accomplish his Army goals.

LITTLE HUMOR

A delightful angelic little boy was waiting for his mother outside the ladies room of the gas station.

As he stood there, he was approached by a man who asked, "Sonny, can you tell me where the Post Office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street two blocks and turn to your right. It's on the left."

The man thanked the boy kindly, complimented him on how bright he was and said, "I'm the new pastor in town. If you and your mommy come to church on Sunday, I'll show you how to get to Heaven."

The little boy replied with a chuckle; "You're kidding me, right? You can't even find the Post Office."

Bubba was carrying a big bag and met up on the street with his old buddy, Earl. Earl asked, "What's you got in the bag old buddy?" "Chickens, why do you ask??" Bubba responded. Earl said, "if I can guess how many chickens you have in the bag cud I have me one?" Bubba, not being the quickest thinker in the world or within ten feet of anything either, replied, "Earl old buddy, I dun't think you would have a clue how many chickens I have in this here bag and i'll tell you whut, if you can guess how many chickens I have in this here bag, I will give you all three!!"

That's it for now; hope to see you at the reunion in September.



Randy