

Author A.C. Frieden Visits German Aviation Museum

OBERSCHLOSSHEIM, Germany (Dec. 8, 2012) – Novelist A.C. Frieden traveled to Munich, Germany, for Cold War research for a new book. One of the first sites he toured was the Oberschleissheim Airfield a few miles north of Munich, near an old Bavarian palace complex. Built during the period 1912-1919, the airfield has endured a long, interesting history, both in wartime and peacetime. “It’s a historical site of great interest to authors and pilots like me,” said Frieden, “especially because of its pristine collection of combat aircraft, including some of the most important Warsaw Pact and NATO fighters of the Cold War.”



(Above) Author A.C. Frieden stands next to a former East German Air Force MiG-21 fighter aircraft on display at the aviation museum in Oberschlossheim, Germany.

During the Cold War, the U.S. Army stationed a helicopter unit at the base and later expanded the facilities to allow training by West German military units. Flight operations ended in 1988, at which time the airfield’s buildings were left in disrepair. After a period of restoration, the base was turned into a museum and opened to the public in 1992. It has since become one of Germany’s most important site dedicated to the restoration of historical aircraft, such as the recently restored Dornier Do 31, the world’s only VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) fixed-wing jet-powered transport aircraft. It houses an impressive collection of aircraft from all periods of aviation. Of special interest to Frieden, are the museum’s displays of Cold War-era fighter aircraft, including the MiG-21, MiG-23, F-4E *Phantom*, F-104F *Starfighter*, and Panavia *Tornado* IDS. The hangars also feature a number of experimental aircraft, such as the EADS/Boeing X-31, and helicopters, like the American-built Sikorsky S-58.



(Above) The MiG-23 (MiG-23BN version on display) is a Soviet-built swing-wing combat aircraft that was widely used in the 1980s with Warsaw Pact and Arab air forces. The former East German aircraft on display had been stationed in Drewitz, Germany, with the Jagdbombenfliegergeschwader 37 (Fighter Bomber Squadron 37). The East German air force had 77 aircraft of the type in operation during the Cold War.



(Above) In the foreground is the North American F-86 Sabre, the first U.S.-built swept-wing fighter jet, which served during the early part of the Cold War, including with the West German Luftwaffe. In the background is the U.S.-built Lockheed T-33A jet trainer, also used by Germany's air force between 1956 and 1959.



(Above, left) Author A.C. Frieden stands next to a Sikorsky S-58 (military version known as the H-34), a U.S. piston-engine multipurpose helicopter built and used mainly in the 1950s and 1960s. The version on display is a military search and rescue variant used by the West German military.



(Above, left) The Eurofighter EF-2000 DA1 (DA=Development Aircraft) on display at the museum is the first prototype of this aircraft to fly. It is one of the most modern high-powered military aircrafts and replaces the old jet fighter type F-4F Phantom and most of the Tornado fleet of the German Air Force. The Eurofighter is also in service with the air forces of three other European nations.



(Above) One of only two prototypes of the Dornier Do 31, the world's only VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) fixed-wing jet-powered transport aircraft, which was originally designed to carry up to a 3-ton vehicle in the cargo bay. It never entered production but remains an example of a highly innovative design.



(Above) On the left are the historic command station and maintenance hangar, and on the right, the Advanced Technologies Testing Aircraft System plane (ATTAS), which served as a research aircraft for the German Aerospace Center until 2012. The ATTAS was a specialized variant of the VFW 614 transport aircraft, the first passenger jet developed and built in West Germany in the 1960s.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is an international author, pilot and lawyer based in Chicago. His works include the Jonathan Brooks series thrillers *Tranquility Denied* and soon to be released *The Serpent's Game*, as well as other fiction and non-fiction books. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his blogs.

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