July 20, 2019
11 AM Lecture

SR-71 Pilot
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During the darkest days of the Cold War, Americans could take some comfort in the knowledge that our technological prowess could help make up for our inferior numbers, in the face of the massive forces arrayed against us. Occasionally, though, some striking event would remind us that our potential adversaries were also striving to develop ways to counter our technological superiority. One such incident was the Soviet downing of the U-2 reconnaissance plane over their territory. Needing some way to monitor developments and activities deep within the vast reaches of the Soviet Union, American engineers did something that many experts would have claimed to be impossible: build an aircraft that could fly so fast, at such a high altitude, that no defensive system could react quickly enough to catch it. This aircraft was the SR-71 Blackbird. With imaginative features that seemed to defy the laws of physics, this technological marvel did its job, and did it extremely well. We are privileged to have someone with intimate knowledge of the Blackbird, who has agreed to share some of its secrets with us. It’s an intriguing and exciting story that you won’t want to miss.

Coming in August:

Briefing by LCDR Chip Lancaster
USN (ret) on U.S. Helicopter Pioneers