

Author A.C. Frieden Tours Former Soviet Missile Base

PERVOMAYSK, Ukraine (May 17, 2013) – Novelist A.C. Frieden took a private tour of the former Soviet intercontinental ballistic missile base near Pervomaysk, about 300 km south of Kiev, Ukraine. Frieden explored almost the entire complex, including the underground Unified Launch Control Center that was once capable of launching SS-18 “Satan” ICBMs, each with multiple nuclear warheads designed to reach the United States. The network of sites built in Ukraine also was upgraded to accommodate the more modern SS-19 and SS-24 missiles. All but one of the silos located at Pervomaysk were dismantled in the period 1996-2001, but much of the remaining structures and weapons systems remain as a museum.



(Above) Author A.C. Frieden stands in front of the last remaining missile silo.

(Below) An SS-18 “Satan” ICBM on display at the Pervomaysk launch complex.





(Above) A.C. Frieden goes through one of the deep underground tunnels connecting the launch command bunker with the main living quarters and training facility.



(Above) Deep underground, in the 11th section of the launch command center, A.C. Frieden sits at the launch operator's chair, with the missile launch key and button activated. The monitors, communications gear and launch code vault to his left comprise the secure launch order verification system that would have been crucial had a missile strike been ordered from Moscow.



(Above) Heavy trucks that were used to transport missiles and support equipment.

(Below) A path through two armored doors leading to a small elevator in the launch command bunker.





(Above) The complex's main guard tower and the electrified security fence.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is an international author and lawyer based in Chicago. His works include the Jonathan Brooks series, 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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