



PRESS RELEASE

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Novelist A.C. Frieden Visits Khrushchev's Cuba Missile Crisis Bunker

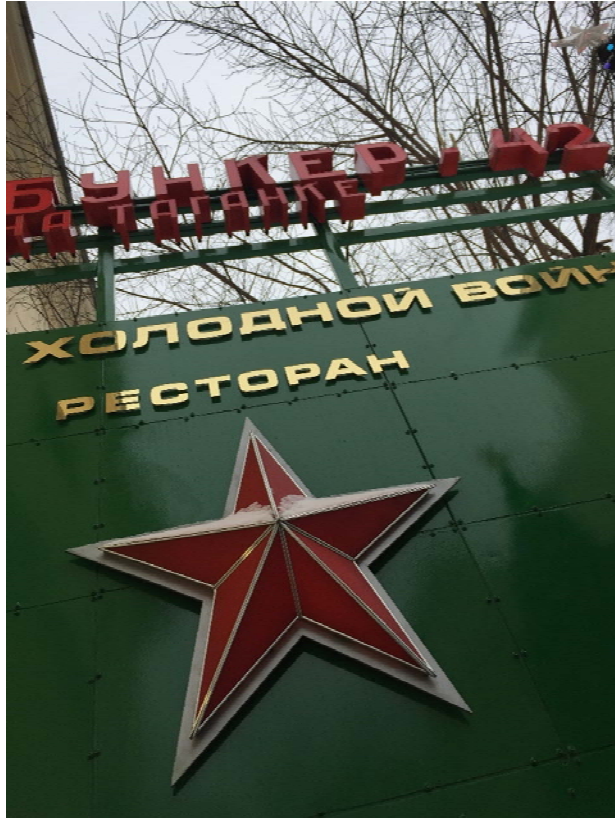
MOSCOW, Russia (Jan. 6, 2017) – Chicago-based espionage novelist A.C. Frieden visited “Bunker 42,” one of the most fascinating Cold War-related sites in Moscow. Frieden’s research on a wide range of Cold War-era conflicts drew him to this venue for his latest trip to Russia. The bunker, also known as the Tagansky Protected Command Point, was built about 60 meters (200 ft) below ground and linked by connecting tunnels to the city’s *Metro* system. Construction was initiated by Joseph Stalin, who intended to have the bunker to protect the USSR’s senior leadership and strategic nuclear forces commanders in case of a nuclear attack by the United States.



(Photo above) A.C. Frieden explores one of Bunker 42's armor-clad underground tunnels.

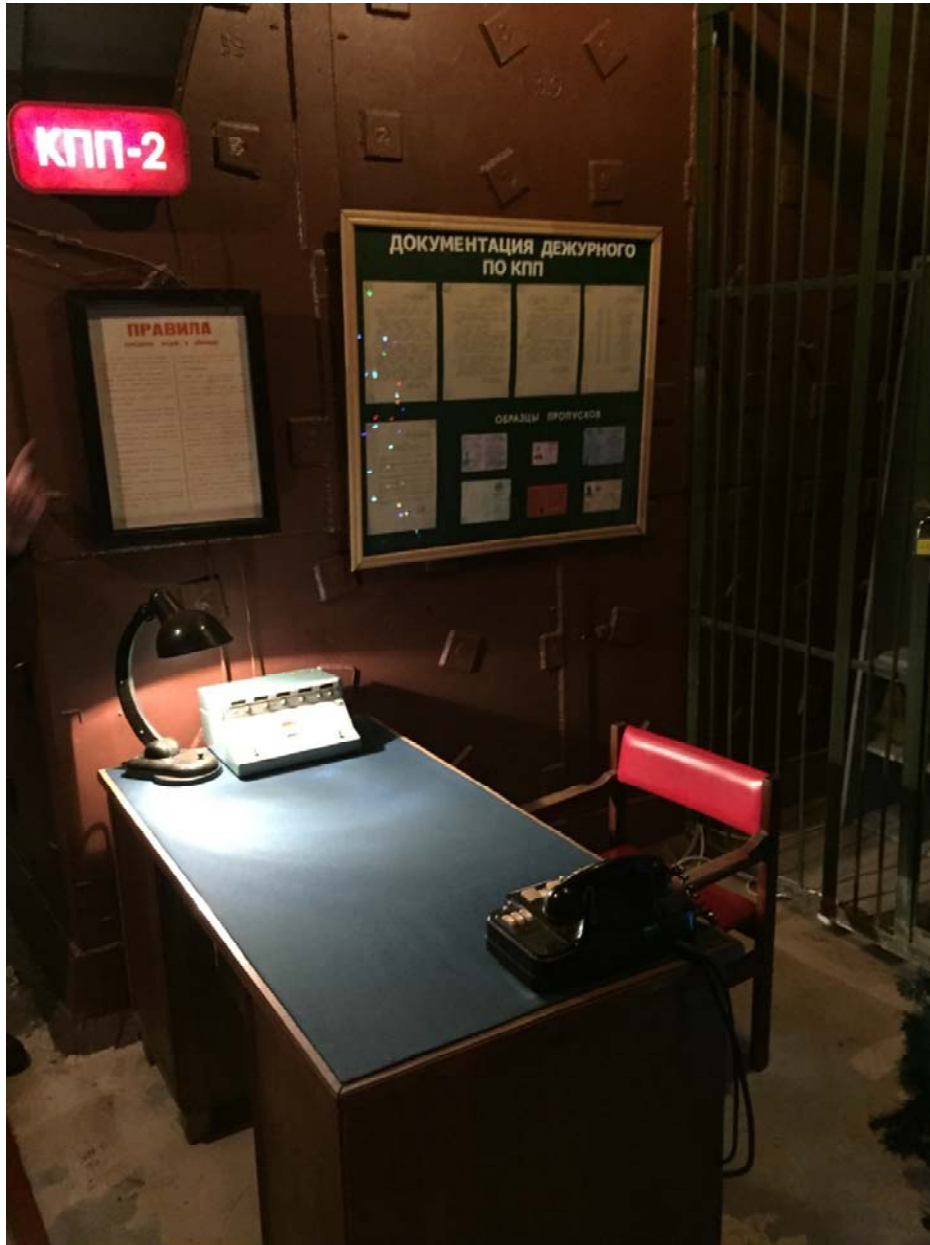
The complex took several years to build until finally completed in 1956. To maintain maximum secrecy during construction, most of the crew disguised themselves as subway workers, and much of the equipment that was brought in was labeled in a way that associated it with a nearby *Taganskaya* station.

Bunker 42 features four large tunnels or “tubes”, along with a network of smaller connecting tunnels and dozens of blast doors. There are also food and water storage spaces, electrical and air purification equipment rooms, security checkpoints, medical treatment rooms, and galleys, among other things, all of which were designed to keep the complex operational for about 3000 personnel for several months in the event that a nuclear attack destroyed the city aboveground.



(Photos above) The street-level entrance to the bunker, and a map of the 75,000 square feet of heavily protected underground space. (Photo below) A.C. Frieden stands next to a prototype of the USSR’s first atomic weapon, which is on display in Bunker 42.





(Photo above) The security desk near the bottom of the entrance stairwell that once served as the main checkpoint for staff entering the command center.

Today, visitors can tour about 30 percent of the underground complex and see many different Soviet military artifacts on display. Most of the remaining areas that are not accessible to visitors are in a state of disrepair and not likely to be renovated or repurposed anytime soon.

Frieden has previously visited numerous underground military installations in the U.S., Latin America, Asia and across Europe. He also stayed in several nuclear-resistant military bunkers in the Alps during his service in the Swiss Army. “The bunker itself is fascinating,” said Frieden while touring the final tunnel in Bunker 42. “But so is the large collection of Soviet-era electronic equipment, propaganda posters, and other relics. I recommend Cold War history buffs—and spy novelists like me—to see this place up-close. It’s a great way to step back in time.”



(Photo above, left) A.C. Frieden in one of the main tunnels or “tubes.” (Photo above, right) A wax figure of Joseph Stalin seated at a desk is seen behind A.C. Frieden as he visits one of the main tunnels in the Bunker 42 complex.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is an international author of mysteries and thrillers, including the acclaimed Jonathan Brooks series. He is also an attorney, private pilot, scuba instructor, martial artist, equestrian and former biologist and military sniper. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com or follow him on Twitter (@acfrieden), Instagram, Facebook or his various blogs.

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