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Spy Hunter: Inside the FBI Investigation of the Walker Espionage Case

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(not all for peaceful purposes), have made DSP data a high-demand commodity. Richelson points out that DSP has observed ballistic missile attacks on Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Saudi Arabia in the 1990s alone.

This is, however, a cautionary tale. Richelson's arguments are convincing that the threat of missile attack continues to grow and along with it the demand for quicker and more certain warning. He notes the irony that DSP has itself become a significant programmatic "rice bowl" and that consequently the development of a successor has been muddled by numerous false starts. Richardson makes a clear case that the community of DSP users and stakeholders has grown to almost unmanageable size and that therefore consensus on performance and cost is elusive. He points out the lingering support for an upgraded DSP, but he argues that DSP is past being optimized and that a more capable system is needed, and soon. He lists the sordid histories of numerous failed contenders; the current one, the Space-Based Infra-red System (SBIRS), appears to be on a path to success.

There is no shortage of detail in this work, which can be problematic. It interferes with the flow of the story. Flight-by-flight chronologies of every satellite, and each position of every satellite, are provided; such detail would have been better relegated to the appendices. On the plus side, there are extensive appendices on system design and operation.

In sum, Richelson has written a winning book that is strongly recommended to the student of the military space age. It also provides lasting lessons to the military force planner.

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Hunter, Robert W., with Lynn Dean Hunter, eds. *Spy Hunter: Inside the FBI Investigation of the Walker Espionage Case*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1999. 250pp. $27.95

Herrington, Stuart A. *Traitors among Us: Inside the Spy Catcher's World.* Novato, Calif.: Presidio, 1999. 409pp. $27.95

The enormity of the actual and potential losses to the United States due to the undiscovered treason by John A. Walker, Jr., Clyde Conrad, James Hall, and their colleagues is deftly told in these two exciting and disturbing books. Detecting treason in the United States is a daunting and unending task. The urgent message of both books is that of the need for constant vigilance by all with access to U.S. secrets. Nowhere is that message more critical than in our military, where, the authors state, it had been tragically ignored for too long.

Robert Hunter, a now-retired FBI foreign counterintelligence agent who at the time was assigned to the Norfolk, Virginia, field office, was the lead investigator for the Walker spy case. He is a talented storyteller. He begins his fascinating narrative in late 1984, when John Walker's former wife telephoned the Boston office to reveal that her divorced husband had been selling secrets to the Soviets for nearly nineteen years. The FBI followed up on that call with an investigation into Walker's naval career, from his days as a radioman in 1955 through his promotion to chief warrant officer and his subsequent retirement from the Navy in 1976. Hunter takes the reader on the arduous and urgent hunt, which led across the nation and overseas. The result was the identification of an espionage ring that probably included John A. Walker, Jr.; his son, Seaman Michael Walker; his brother, retired lieutenant commander Arthur James Walker; and his "best friend," Jerry Whitworth, a retired senior chief petty officer.

Early in the investigation, a preliminary assessment of the damage done by Walker was made by the National Security Agency. It concluded that "if these people gave the Soviets the information they had access to, the damage will be not only grave, it will be catastrophic."

The FBI's exhaustive telephone and "eyeball" surveillance of John Walker resulted in its discovery of highly classified documents taken by Walker's son Michael from his ship for delivery to his father's Soviet contact at an isolated drop site in the Maryland countryside. Once the FBI had evidence of his treachery, Walker's career as a spy was finally about to come to an end. Walker's arrest was the result of an exhaustive search of his home, where a "mother lode" of espionage paraphernalia, given to him by his handlers over many years, was found, as well as copies of classified Navy documents that had already been delivered to his contacts. Examination of the seized documents finally led to the arrests also of Whitworth, Arthur and Michael Walker—all the members of the Walker ring. During the lengthy preparations for their trials, John Walker and his son entered guilty pleas. John and his brother were each sentenced to life imprisonment, Jerry Whitworth was sentenced to a total of 365 years, and Michael Walker was given a sentence of twenty-five years.

The enormous damage to the security of the United States by these four men was highlighted in John Walker's sentencing affidavit, composed by Rear Admiral William Studeman, then Director of Naval Intelligence, who bluntly stated: "The KGB considered the Walker-Whitworth operation to be the most important operation in the KGB's history. This certainly ranks this Soviet intelligence operation as one of the greatest espionage successes in intelligence history. We have little confidence that we understand the full extent and scope of the Walker conspiracy and the damage they have done."

Stuart Herrington, for thirty years an Army intelligence officer, treats the reader to a truly remarkable look at the "silent war" waged by Army counterintelligence against the Soviets and their surrogates and allies in Western Europe. He describes the divided city of Berlin as it was in 1985, "the world's undisputed capital of espionage," filled with military and civilian intelligence-collection personnel from both sides of the Iron Curtain. Herrington's unit's mission was to "detect and foil the attempts of our communist adversaries to turn American soldiers into traitors." The scope of that challenge and the difficulties fulfilling his mission are richly told.

The book rivals the best Cold War espionage fiction. It is a fast-paced story of "teamwork and cooperation between counterintelligence agents of the United States Army, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation," who "collaborated closely with German, Swedish, Austrian, and Italian security officials to unmask traitors among us who were selling top secret plans for the defense of Europe." Herrington asserts that the enormous scope of the treasonable thefts and disclosures of highly classified documents "was so voluminous, so sensitive, and so strategically advantageous to Moscow that, had war broken out in Central Europe, America and her NATO allies would have been forced to choose between capitulation or the desperate use of nuclear weapons on German soil."

The reader is first introduced to Soviet penetration efforts directed against an American signals intelligence site in West Berlin that was then the KGB's top-priority Berlin target. Herrington describes how a Soviet effort to recruit an American sergeant was foiled. The sergeant, who was having financial problems, had been approached by Soviets offering an "attractive business proposition," which he immediately reported to his superiors. Herrington's group then baited the Soviets for six months until they were finally trapped in a meeting with the courageous sergeant. Although the KGB officers were quickly released to their superiors, their apprehension was a significant victory in the "silent war" in Berlin.

In August 1987, Herrington assumed command of the Army's elite Foreign Counterintelligence Activity (FCA), based at Fort Meade, Maryland. Its task was to control extremely sensitive counterintelligence operations worldwide. Those daunting investigations are the major focus of his book.

In the late 1970s, Moscow sources informed the CIA that an American with access to U.S. war plans was regularly delivering information to the Hungarian military intelligence service, which in turn was sharing the documents with the Soviets. The sources further advised that "the Hungarian penetration was regarded as the most lucrative espionage success in Europe since the end of World War II." The identity of the spy, whose operation reportedly had lasted for many years, was unknown to the informants, but if they were correct, "NATO's ability to defend Western Europe against the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies was in jeopardy." The disclosures "led to what would ultimately become the longest running, most sensitive, most tightly compartmented, and costliest counterintelligence investigation in history."

The quest to uncover the identity of the American spy was stymied for several years by a paucity of investigating agents and by the need to protect the investigation and the identities of sources. The investigation was revived in March 1985 with the appointment by CIA director William Casey of a new head for the agency's counterintelligence staff, Gus Hathaway, former chief of station in both Bonn and Moscow. He and the Army's senior intelligence officer, Lieutenant General William E. Odom, breathed new life and urgency into the critical investigation. The CIA and the FCA refocused their efforts. Herrington details the painstaking process by which both organizations constructed a "profile" of potential suspects and winnowed countless Army assignment lists for those with access to the war plans. They were finally led to Germany and a retired sergeant first class, Clyde Lee Conrad.

Herrington traces the challenges Hathaway faced in bringing Conrad to trial before a German court, where Conrad was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. In passing sentence, the German judge stated in part that "the espionage of the accused must be assessed as the most significant, and for the West the most crippling, since the Second World War. The accused stands at the top of the worldwide list of all known spies."

Herrington also skillfully details the equally disturbing six-year-long espionage career of a U.S. Army warrant officer, James W. Hall. Both authors question how the United States could have allowed treachery of such magnitude to go undetected for so many years.

While the sharp conflicts of the Cold War may have passed into the history books, espionage directed at the United States continues unabated. Both books ably discuss painful lessons. Whether those lessons will be heeded remains to be seen.

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Christman, Al. *Target Hiroshima: Deak Parsons and the Creation of the Atomic Bomb*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1998. 305pp. $32

The roles of J. Robert Oppenheimer, Leo Szilard, Leslie Groves, Paul Tibbets, and other participants in the creation and use of the atomic bomb have been well documented in a host of articles and books concerning the Manhattan Project. Even relatively minor players (such as Louis Slotin, who died of a radiation overdose in a criticality accident) are known to us through fictionalized versions of the popular movie *Fat Man and Little Boy.* In these and other accounts, a uniformed naval officer appears briefly, and we have wondered, who was that man? Al Christman, who was the historian for the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake and for the Navy Laboratories of the Naval Material Command, presents an in-depth biography of that man—Captain William "Deak" Parsons. Deak Parsons, ordnance expert and associate director of Los Alamos, provided the practicality that turned the physicists' creation into a deliverable weapon.

Christman portrays Parsons as the complete naval officer, subordinating his personal aspirations for more glamorous operational assignments in order to do what his country required. Deak Parsons was rare: a scientist, engineer, and military man who combined detailed technical expertise with the leadership abilities of a seafaring line officer. He exemplified the close professional partnership that existed during World War II between the nation's scientists and its military.

Al Christman believes that Parsons was uniquely qualified to bridge these two cultures. He had been involved in the development of radar and the proximity fuse, and he had been crucial in making them operationally useful. He was the "atomic admiral" who provided technical direction to Operation CROSSROADS, the postwar series of nuclear weapons tests that changed the atomic bomb from a test bed into a weapon.

Parsons's last shipboard assignment prior to America's entry into the war was in 1939, as gunnery officer on board the USS *Detroit,* flagship of the commander of destroyers of the Pacific battle force. Shore duty came next, at the Naval Proving Grounds, Dahlgren, Virginia, and at the Applied Physics Laboratory in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he made possible the introduction of the proximity fuse