



# United States Defense Information School

## SSG Paul D. Savanuck

### Memorial Library Newsletter

#### Featured Book Review



### *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough

*Review and Note by Mike Gannon*

This is a fascinating book. David McCullough is one of this country's greatest history writers, (other books include *John Adams*, *Truman*, *The Johnston Flood*, and *1776*), and I think *The Wright Brothers* is one of his best works.

In it, he carefully documents the life and works of the two brothers from Dayton, Wilbur and Orville Wright. He credits those whose work inspired them and details how the brothers studied those materials, the flight of birds, and ended up inventing the wind tunnel to get accurate data. He explains the reluctance of the press and governments around the world to believe that manned flight had been achieved by these men. And then, more importantly, he shows how that all changed with the world becoming aware of these accomplishments.

It is a book that has been impeccably researched, but reads like a good novel. It offers a rare view into the turn-of-the-century in America, but more than that, it helps us understand ourselves as Americans. His focus on the perseverance of the Wright Brothers is key to their wonderful story and demonstrates their fortitude in the context of a family which made them possible. It's a great combination of comfortable and exciting, familiar and yet often, thrilling.

Even those who don't have an interest in aviation or history will find this is a story of life-changing historical achievements, and I think will enjoy this book. I have found that David McCullough's books are always interesting no matter what the topic. In this story the extensive use of primary sources, such as letters and diaries, gives it a very "in the now" feeling. The book could be classified as a biography, as the bulk of the text is devoted to the years when the Wrights worked on developing the first machine capable of powered flight, but relatively little attention is paid to brothers in their childhoods or to the time after they became the preeminent builders of flying machines. This latter period actually featured some very trying times for Orville Wright that also had profound consequences for the advancement of aircraft technology in the United States.

It is a fast-paced story that is informative and enjoyable, and the more well-known details of Kitty Hawk are well represented and focused, and had me wanting more of the same as the story continued. The story is a good one, and one that should be read as this was a turning point in history, not only ours but world history. The impact aviation has had on many people, events and world outcomes, too numerous to list, but McCullough's work is certainly a testament to these two brothers, and their dream at a very early age, to soar like the birds.

**NOTE:** If you find this book interesting, you are in luck as the Washington D.C. area has a close connection to the Wright Brothers and the early days of flight and those interested in further study of this important part of American History can visit:

**The Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington DC.** The 1909 Wright Military Flyer is on exhibit and was the world's first military airplane. In 1908, the U.S. Army Signal Corps ordered a two-seat observation aircraft-- one that was relatively simple to operate, could reach a speed of at least 40 miles (64 kilometers) per hour in still air, and could remain in the air for at least one hour without landing. The Army also required that the aircraft be easy to assemble and disassemble and be able to land safely and take off quickly. In the fall of 1909, Orville Wright successfully met the Signal Corps's specifications with this airplane, and the military gained its wings.

**The College Park Aviation Museum.** The College Park Aviation Museum opened in 1998 and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. The museum is a 27,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility located on the grounds of the world's oldest continuously operating airport in College Park, MD. The airport was founded in 1909 when Wilbur Wright came here to give flight instruction to the first military aviators. The Wright Model B reproduction that currently stands in the gallery of the College Park Aviation Museum was constructed by Ken Hyde and others at the Virginia Aviation and Machine Company of Warrenton, Virginia. It was built to the standards of the original, using the same materials, construction techniques, and finishes as those employed by Orville and Wilbur Wright. The only exceptions are a non-operating engine and the covering of a balloon cotton fabric as opposed to the original rubberized fabric.

**Joint Base Meyer – Henderson Hall.** The first military test flight of an aircraft was made from the Fort Myer parade ground on Sept. 9, 1908, when Orville Wright kept one of his planes in the air for a minute and 11 seconds. The second test flight ended in tragedy when, after four minutes aloft, the aircraft crashed. Wright was severely cut and bruised, and a passenger, Lt. Thomas Selfridge, became the first powered aviation fatality. The site of the crash is marked along the wall that separates the Post from Arlington cemetery.

# New eBooks in the Library!

The following eBooks have been added to the Library's SAGE Knowledge subscription and are available 24/7 to students, staff, faculty and DINFOS alums.

[The SAGE Guide to Key Issues in Mass Media Ethics and Law](#) William A. Babcock & William H. Freivogel, eds. (2015)

[The SAGE Handbook of Family Communication](#) Lynn H. Turner & Richard West, eds. (2015)

[The SAGE Handbook of Popular Music](#) Andy Bennett & Steve Waksman, eds. (2015)

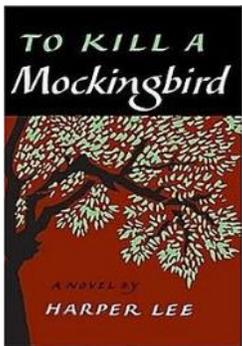
[The SAGE Handbook of Risk Communication](#) Hyunyi Cho, Torsten Reimer, Katherine A. McComas, eds. (2014)

[The SAGE Handbook of Television Studies](#) Manuel Alvarado, et al., eds. (2015)

## LIBRARY HOURS

Day	Date	Hours
Mon	7/13	0700-1700
Tue	7/14	0700-1700
Wed	7/15	0700-1700
Thu	7/16	0700-1700
Fri	7/17	0700-1700
Mon	7/20	0700-1600
Tue	7/21	0700-1600
Wed	7/22	0700-1600
Thu	7/23	0700-1600
Fri	7/24	0700-1200 1300-1600
Mon	7/27	0700-1700
Tue	7/28	0700-1700
Wed	7/29	0700-1700
Thu	7/30	0700-1700
Fri	7/31	0700-1700

Library: Room 1107-A  
Computer/Study: Room 2110



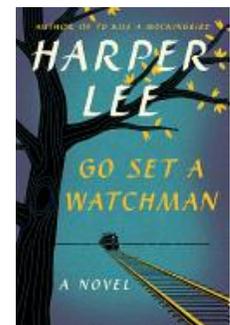
## Take a *To Kill a Mockingbird* Quiz

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960 and is still a popular classic in American literature.

Can you answer these questions about the Pulitzer Prize winning novel?

- Scout's real name is:** a. Sarah Jean b. Stephanie Maud  
c. Jean Louise d. Sarah Louise
- Tim Johnson is:** a. the prosecuting attorney b. a cousin of Atticus  
c. a neighbor of Tom Robinson, d. a mad dog
- What is Boo's real name?** a. Arthur b. Joseph c. Buddy d. Randall
- Who is the character Dill based on?** a. Norman Mailer b. Ernest Hemingway  
c. Truman Capote d. Gore Vidal
- Who said it? "I think there's just one kind of folks. Folks."** a. Atticus b. Jem c. Dill  
d. Scout
- How did Tom Robinson injure his left hand?** a. in a cotton gin b. beating by bullies  
c. car accident d. caught in a mangle
- What is Scout dressed up as when she and Jem are attacked?** a. princess  
b. scarecrow c. ham d. tree
- What is the sheriff's name?** a. Tom Cunningham b. Judge Taylor c. Darryl Finch  
d. Heck Tate
- What Southern staple does Walter Cunningham Jr. drown his meat and vegetables in--much to Scout's chagrin?** a. apple cider vinegar b. molasses c. maple syrup d. gravy

Answers: 1-c 2-d 3-a 4-c 5-d 6-a 7-c 8-d 9-b



### Newly Published Book by Harper Lee in the Library!

Twenty years after the trial of Tom Robinson, Scout returns home to Maycomb to visit her father and struggles with personal and political issues as her small Alabama town adjusts to the turbulent events beginning to transform the United States in the mid-1950s.

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*The Library Newsletter is produced by library staff. We will consider articles and photos submitted by DINFOS students and staff for inclusion in the newsletter.*