

# PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

*more than a library...it's an experience*

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## THRILLERS IN THE SKY WITH BEST-SELLING AUTHOR STEPHEN COONTS AT THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

**CHICAGO, IL** – It is a riveting tale of aerial combat that unfolds at supersonic speed, but Stephen Coonts' best-selling novel *Flight of the Intruder* was actually a long time coming. Stories from missions he had flown and sensations he remembered from the cockpit remained with him through years spent driving taxis and slogging through law school. In fact, it would be more than a decade before he wrote his fictional account of a frustrated bomber crew and their unauthorized mission against Hanoi, North Vietnam.

The Pritzker Military Library is proud to welcome Stephen Coonts for an interview with Ed Tracy on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. This program is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a reception for Library members at 5:00 p.m. It will also be recorded for television broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20.

Stephen Coonts grew up in Buckhannon, West Virginia, a coal-mining town on the western slope of the Appalachian Mountains. Upon graduation from college, he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and began flight training in Pensacola, Florida. He received his Navy wings in 1969 and made two combat cruises aboard the USS Enterprise during the final years of the Vietnam War. After the war, he served as a flight instructor on A-6 aircraft for two years. Coonts left active duty in 1977 and earned a law degree, working for an oil company until the runaway success of *Flight of the Intruder* in 1986 allowed him to write full time.

His work is relentlessly current, propelling *Intruder* hero Jake Grafton and other characters through stories fueled by technology and today's headlines. Biological warfare, top-secret spy planes, and political intrigue send Grafton and company on adventures all over the globe, but what sets Coonts apart from other writers of military fiction is his passion for the details of airplanes and his love for aviation and the wonder of flight

Coonts is the author of 14 *New York Times* bestsellers and editor of several anthologies of classic aerial fiction. His latest book, *The Assassin*, will be published by St. Martins Press in the spring of 2008. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email [events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net](mailto:events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net).

For more information, please visit [pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events](http://pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events).

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## About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a private, non-partisan research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 26,000 historical, reference, biographical and rare books on military subjects, over 800 original antique military posters and prints, and other military artifacts from private donors and the collection of COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.). Since opening in October 2003, the Library has produced over 180 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs program on military issues, *Front & Center with John Callaway*. Evening programs in the Library's McHenry Atrium are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, broadcast live on the Internet, and taped for broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available as audio podcasts on the Library website and at iTunes. A complimentary reception for Associate Members with wine and light refreshments precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing at author events by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit [pritzkermilitarylibrary.org](http://pritzkermilitarylibrary.org).

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