

Adviser and Honorary Member of the Cold War Museum - Berlin

John A. Fahey USN Commander retired

Commander John Fahey retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service. Due to his extraordinary foreign language skills, he has helped the White House on several occasions, for example, in arranging Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States in September 1959.

From May 1960 until June 1962, Fahey served as a Liaison Officer with the Soviet Army in Germany. His accreditation to the U.S. Military Liaison Mission in Potsdam (GDR) gave him a "license to spy." The unarmed team were given dangerous assignments on their way between Potsdam and West Berlin, via the Glienicke Bridge. Whereas the Headquarters of the three Western Allies were in West Berlin, the US Military Liaison Mission's office was in Neu Fahrland, Am Lehnitzsee 8/9 (GDR). They engaged in daily reconnaissance of Soviet forces in East Germany.

John Fahey came to the post with excellent qualifications, which in fact exceeded those of others stationed there. He graduated with Bachelors in Military Science from the University of Maryland, an M.Ed. from the University of William and Mary and in addition, he successfully completed several courses at the US Naval Intelligence School. Most importantly, he could read, write, and speak Russian fluently and enough German to communicate and get around the country. While most of his colleagues spoke only a little German or a bit of Russian, he was one of two USMLM officers who could interpret at high level meetings and translate Russian. In his book "Licensed To Spy" John Fahey recounts his mission in East Germany at an intense phase of the Cold War, during the Berlin Crises of 1958-1963 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. "Licensed to Spy" is an excellent publication by a contemporary witness which is of interest not only to historians.

At the end of his active duty in the navy, his title changed from Commander Fahey to Associate Prof. Fahey. Up until his retirement in 1988, he taught foreign languages and literature at Old Dominion University in the state of Virginia. Professor Fahey has led more than ten study tours to the USSR. He has served as a President of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia and President of the Virginia chapter of the Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. He has received several distinctions for his excellent work. John Fahey is the author of five books and has written many articles published in The Russian Review, The Russian Language, U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, Officer Review, and The Torch, among others. He lives with his wife Barbara in Maryland, USA.

2009: Veteran named to Muliphen Wall of Honor

Retired Navy Cmdr. John A. Fahey has been named to the amphibious cargo ship Muliphen's Wall of Honor. Fahey was the ship's operations officer during the 1950s.

http://www.ussmuliphen.com/wall_of_honor.htm