

Blackbird Rising

Birth of an Aviation Legend

If you want to know how the SR-71 came about, and who did what to whom, you need to read this book. The Blackbird, the nickname given to the SR-71, was forged from 1950s and 60s components merged with aerodynamics and structural metallurgy from the cutting edge. An aircraft with capabilities like no other, capabilities unequaled even today. *Blackbird Rising* chronicles the political and technical events that molded the SR-71.

Donn A Byrnes enlisted in the Air Force at 19 years of age and served as an aircraft mechanic and crew chief. He graduated from the Aviation Cadet program in 1953 and flew F-84 and F-86 aircraft. Returning from his first overseas tour Donn earned a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas.

Drawn into the 665A program, a feeder for the SR-71, Donn served as a Sensor Development and Integration Engineer during the Blackbird Flight Test program at Edwards from 1964 to 1968. The book **Blackbird Rising** covers those times. *“The best 6 of my 28 years in the USAF.”*

Ken Hurley flew B-29s to Japan in WWII and B-26s in Korea. He earned an MS in Controls Engineering and was assigned to the B-70 Program. He later transferred to the SR-71 becoming Chief Engineer and later Deputy Test Director for the SR-71/YF-12 Test Force. He logged 200+ hours in the SR-71 as a Reconnaissance Systems Officer during the flight test program.

