

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)  
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, July 9, 2014.  
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.***

***CAPTAIN JAY DIRNBERGER  
THE EVOLUTION OF DRONES***



Captain Jay Dirnberger will speak about unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), more commonly known as “drones”, and how these precision guided, remote controlled pilotless aircraft have taken out some of the U.S.’s worst enemies. The benefits of drones are many including the following features: Inexpensive: A Drone flying for 3 hours uses less than 0.3% of the fuel that a fighter would use. The cost of a drone is a small percentage of a fighter plane. Endurance: Drones can fly for over 24 hours without worrying about fatigue or boredom. Precision: With precision optics, laser guided bombs and a GPS, they can hit a target within a few feet or less. Elusive: They can fly at least at altitudes of 50,000 feet, are very quiet, and have a small radar profile. Layers of Oversight: Since they don’t travel very fast they can provide multiple opportunities to assess and determine targets.

He will describe the evolution of UAV or Drone types. The first were "Target and Decoy" UAVs predominantly used for target practice. Then came reconnaissance UAVs, combat UAVs where armaments were added, up to Civil and Commercial UAVs for border patrol and resource detection. Finally, there are some drawbacks to Drones. These include: airspace limitations, accidents, loss of control, making it too easy to go to war, loss of privacy, and legal issues such as killing Americans without due process. Today there are over 10,000 Drones available replacing up to 2,300 manned fighter planes. We are still in the early stages of Drone progress and many new designs are currently being developed.

Captain Dirnberger served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1970 as an infantry captain. He served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division in a combat assault role, and was the aide-de-camp to the commanding general of the 18th Airborne Corp at Ft. Bragg. He was awarded both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze and Silver Stars. He was familiar with one of the first primitive Drones in 1968, which were launched from and controlled by the USS Mansfield. It contained a video camera and a single bomb. He is currently a member of the Judicial Review Council of Connecticut’s Office of Governmental Accountability.

**Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge, and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558;bgsesq@gmail.com. See our website [greenwichrma.org](http://greenwichrma.org).**