In 1983 Ed Yeilding was selected to fly the SR-71 Blackbird at Beale Air Force Base, California. During his time in the aircraft he flew ninety-three SR-71 overseas reconnaissance missions and became an SR-71 instructor pilot and developmental test pilot.

When the SR-71 fleet was retired in 1990, the Smithsonian Institution requested one for display. Departing California March 6, 1990, SR-71 tail number 61-7972, with pilot Ed Yeilding and RSO (Reconnaissance Systems Officer) J.T. Vida set an official coast-to-coast aircraft speed record which still stands to this day.

Join Cornell AIAA in welcoming LtCol Yeilding as he discusses the SR-71 Blackbird and his record setting flight.