

# MICK L. BLACKLEDGE

Retired NASA and missile-defense scientist · Author of *Dual Mode*, Book One

**Available for lectures:** cruise ships, libraries, clubs, schools, veterans and aerospace groups, and book events.

## ABOUT MICK

Mick L. Blackledge spent forty years helping build America's defenses against ballistic missiles, and he tells the stories the way only someone who was in the room can. He worked on NASA programs for about ten years, through Gemini, Apollo and the early design of the Space Shuttle. In missile defense he wrote real-time radar tracking software on the Kwajalein missile range in the Marshall Islands, ran rocket programs at Edwards Air Force Base, served as an exchange scientist with Britain's Ministry of Defence, and worked in the Pentagon at the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization and the agencies that followed it, where he helped start the Navy's sea-based missile defense program.

At 85, from Fairhope, Alabama, Mick took on a new mission. He told his true stories out loud to an AI assistant and shaped them into *Dual Mode*, Book One, the first of a planned seven-book techno-thriller series. In his working years he gave five or six briefings a day; he knows how to hold a room and keep it simple.

## SIX TALKS

Each talk runs about 45 minutes, plus time for questions.

### 1. Never Too Late: Writing a Novel at 85 by Talking to an AI (signature talk)

How Mick told his true stories out loud to an AI assistant and turned them into a novel, and how guests can do the same with their own memoirs and stories, right up to holding a printed copy in their hands.

### 2. Gemini, Apollo and the Shuttle: An Insider's Years at NASA

The Space Race from the inside, from Gemini through the Moon landings to the early design of the Space Shuttle.

### 3. Cold War Island: Testing Missiles in the Marshall Islands

Life on Kwajalein Atoll in the late 1970s, with planes that landed sideways in the wind and giant radar mounts that “screamed.”

### 4. “Where Is Your Third?”: How the Navy Went to Sea Against Ballistic Missiles

The unclassified, very human story of how the Navy joined missile defense, from an idea sketched on a napkin to a first sea test in 1995.

### 5. Fact or Fiction? The True Stories Behind a Techno-Thriller

Where the real stories end and the novel begins in *Dual Mode*, and why the hero shares the author's initials.

### 6. Ask the Rocket Scientist: Open Q&A and Book Signing

An open conversation about space, missiles, the Cold War and writing with AI, and a chance to meet Mick.

## TWO FORMATS

### Option 1: The same talk on several days

The signature talk, *Never Too Late*, given on several days so people who miss it once can catch it later. It can close with the open Q&A (Talk 6). A single talk for a club, library or school works the same way.

### Option 2: A series of different talks over several days

A different talk each day, chosen from the six. Each one stands on its own. Together they run from the Space Race to the Cold War to writing with AI.

**Equipment:** Mick brings large-print slides on a laptop. He needs a screen or projector and a microphone.

## HOW TO BOOK MICK

**Contact Mick for availability.** Use the contact form at **blackledge.net/contact.html** and choose “Lecture booking.” Please include:

- Your organization
- The date or dates
- The location, or the ship and voyage
- About how many people will attend
- Which talk or talks you would like, or Option 1 or 2

More at **blackledge.net/lectures.html**

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