Colonel Edward “Otto” Pernotto, US Air Force Reserve, Retired

The prints are on permanent display thanks to a generous donation by Ohio State graduate and former Ohio State Airport employee, Colonel Edward “Otto” Pernotto, USAFR (Ret.). The Pernotto Historical Collection is a lifelong assemblage of aerospace and military artifacts and prints. Previous donations have been made to aviation, military, and historical museums and foundations.

Edward “Otto” Pernotto was born and raised in Youngstown Ohio. His father Pete Pernotto was a WWII Army Combat Medic and a lifelong steel worker and his mother RoseMarie riveted F-86 fighter aircraft during the Korean War. Pernotto joined Civil Air Patrol at age 1, becoming the top cadet in Ohio. He attended The Ohio State University, receiving an Air Force ROTC scholarship, and participated in ROTC Ranger Force and the Arnold Air Society and worked at the Parts Department of the OSU Airport. He graduated with a degree in history and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Air Force.

After graduating from Air Force navigator training, his active duty career included as flying as a navigator in B-52G bombers, FB-111 fighter-bombers, and HC-130 special operations transports. He served in numerous exercises and operations throughout the US, Asia, Middle East, and Europe. He left active duty and became a Defense Department civilian serving for the US Navy in San Diego, CA. He moved to Arlington, Virginia and worked for various defense companies while serving in the Air Force Reserve on various staff positions including the Joint Staff, US Special Operations Command, and finally on the Air Force staff. His operational experience included service on two US Navy aircraft carriers and two deployments to Iraq. After military retirement, he cofounded Mission Secure Inc., a cyber security company.

Colonel Pernotto is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, and Navy Civilian Superior Service Award. He is a military parachutist and has a Master Navigator Aeronautical Rating with over 2,000 flight hours.