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OXCART/TRINE

BYE 2753-67  
Copy 5 of 11

27 December 1967

Job # 69B 00404R  
Box #1 Folder 31

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6740

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1400 hours, 21 December 1967.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6740
- b. Date Flown: 16 December 1967
- c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: Layton
- f. Aircraft Number: 131
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0120Z  
Actual: 0120Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0522Z  
Actual: 0516Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 4+02  
Actual: 3+56
- k. Departure Base: Kadena AB
- l. Landing Base: Kadena AB
- m. Equipment:

(1) Primary: Type I, BW, PIN PEG, MAD MOTH, BLUE DOG II, SYSTEM VI.

(2) Spare: Same as primary.

3. Operations:

- a. Route (INS Plot vs Planned): Satisfactory.

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(1) INS Terminal Error: 4.5NM

(2) INS Spec Error: 10.3NM

b. Mission Generation & Operation Support:  
Satisfactory.

4. Weather:

a. Forecast vs. Actual:

(1) As briefed.

(2) Comments: Weather slightly better than  
briefed 17 - 19<sup>0</sup> north.

5. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

(1) 9 of 12 programmed targets covered.

(2) 0 first priority SSM targets of 9 covered.

(3) 6 of 27 first priority NVN COMOR targets  
covered.

(4) 110 SAM sites, 2 sites occupied, 1 new  
site.

(5) 8 other priority NVN COMOR targets covered.

(6) Comments: Broad, excellent coverage with  
a low percentage of clouds was obtained on the  
high interest areas of NV. This included high  
priorities SSMs search areas. Significant new  
information was collected on a wide variety of  
targets such as SAM sites airfields, posts, bridges  
and communications centers.

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- b. Quality of Take: Satisfactory.
- (1) Resolution: Good
  - (2) Camera Operation: Normal



- e. EWS Activations: None
- f. Take Movement:
- (1) Photography: Satisfactory
  - (2) ELINT: Satisfactory

6. Materiel:

- a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.
- (1) Fuel gage erratic after first A/R for remainder of mission.
  - (2) Drage chute was slow deploying.
- b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory
- (1) System VI recorder capstan belt broke prior to second pass over denied.
  - (2) Spurious signals recorded on System VI tape (first pass).

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7. Communications: Satisfactory
- a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory
  - b. Birdwatcher: Satisfactory
  - c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory

8. Significant Actions Taken:

Reference paragraph 6a:

- (1) Fuel gage error caused by corrosion and has been repaired.
- (2) Drag chute was damp due to moisture and deploy action was normal under existing conditions.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

- a. Investigate above normal ground speed recorded during first penetration leg. (OXC/PLANS)
- b. Determine thru COMINT if North Vietnamese Air Defense System was engaged in activities against theater aircraft during BX overflight. (INTEL/OSA)
- c. Investigate spurious signals recorded on System VI tape. (Office of ELINT; D/M/AVD).
- d. Research reason for and probability of additional failure to system VI capstan belt. (D/M/AVD)

  
WILLIAM E. SHELTON  
Colonel, USAF  
Deputy for Operations, OSA

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OXC/OSA/ [redacted] (27 Dec 67)  
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