

BYE 8705-68  
Copy 5 of 11

12 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6842

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1300 hours, 9 January 1968.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6842
- b. Date Flown: 4 January 1968
- c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: Layton
- f. Aircraft Number: 127
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0110Z  
Actual: 0113Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0510Z  
Actual: 0510Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 4+00  
Actual: 3+57
- k. Departure Base: Kadena AB
- l. Landing Base: Kadena AB
- m. Equipment:

Job # 69B00404R  
Box #1 Folder 3B

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

(2) Spare: Same as primary.

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

OXCART/TRINE  
~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN  
COMINT CONTROL  
CHANNELS JOINTLY

3. Operations:

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

(1) INS Terminal Error: 4.3 NM

(2) INS Spec Error: 10.0 NM

b. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory.

4. Weather:

a. Forecast vs. Actual:

(1) As briefed.

(2) Comments: The target area was cloud free. Total cloud cover from camera "on" to camera "off" was 30 percent.

b. Weather Scout Reporting: Satisfactory.

5. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

(1) 25 of 25 programmed targets covered.

(2) 8 first priority SSM targets of 9 covered.

(3) 18 of 27 first priority NVN COMOR targets covered.

(4) 139 SAM sites, 12 sites occupied, 0 new sites

(5) 14 other priority NVN COMOR targets covered.

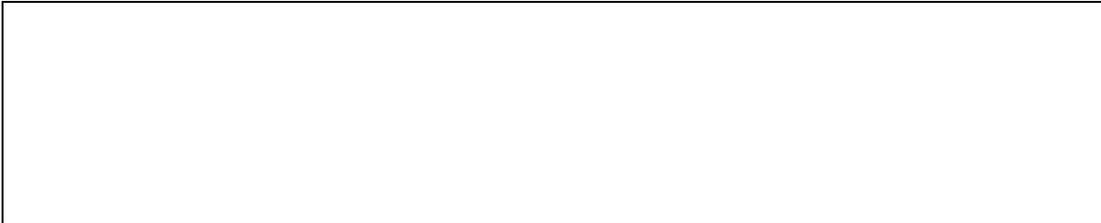
(6) Comments: Excellent coverage with zero percentage of clouds was obtained of the high interest area of North Vietnam. This included the SSM search area, SAM sites, airfields and transportation network.

b. Quality of Take: Satisfactory.

(1) Resolution: Good.

(2) Camera Operation: Satisfactory exposure and contrast good.

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN  
COMINT CONTROL  
CHANNELS JOINTLY



d. Significant Findings: There was considerably less tracking on this mission, possibly due to the late pick-up of the mission aircraft by the tracking stations.

e. EWS Activations: MAD MOTH, PIN PEG and BLUE DOG were all activated.

f. Take Movement:

(1) Photography: Satisfactory.

(2) ELINT: Satisfactory.

6. Materiel:

a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.

(1) Comments: Tankers at A/R #1 and #2 used manual boom latching. Article system checked OK in auto and manual. Tanker system malfunction suspected.

(2) Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory.

7. Communications:

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.

b. BIRDWATCHER: Satisfactory.

c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory.

8. Significant Actions:

In Black Book and on briefing aids, altitude shown over denied will be planned altitude at Mach 3.2.

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN  
COMINT CONTROL  
CHANNELS JOINTLY

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

a. Verify CRIMP report that a missile was observed in flight on mission photography (Intelligence Division).

b. [Redacted]

c. Investigate manual boom latching by both tankers at AR #1 and A/R #2 (Deputy for Materiel).

[Redacted]  
*for* WILLIAM E. SHELTON  
Colonel, USAF  
Deputy for Operations, OSA

OXC/O/OSA/ [Redacted]

Distribution:

- #1 - D/SA
- #2 - D/O/OSA
- #3 - D/M/OSA
- #4 - D/R&D/OSA
- #5 - OXC/O/OSA
- #6 - Intel/O/OSA
- #7 - Wea/O/OSA
- #8 - Commo/O/OSA
- #9 - ADP/O/OSA
- #10 - RB/OSA
- #11 - Chrono

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN  
COMINT CONTROL  
CHANNELS JOINTLY