

12 January 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6843

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1530 hours, 10 January 1968.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6843
- b. Date Flown: 5 January 1968
- c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: Weeks
- f. Aircraft Number: 131
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0230Z  
Actual: 0230Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0636Z  
Actual: 0639Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 4+06  
Actual: 4+09
- k. Departure Base: Kadena AB
- l. Landing Base: Kadena AB
- m. Equipment:

Job # 69B 00404R  
Box # 1 Folder 34

(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

3. Operations:

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

- (1) INS Terminal Error: 1.7 NM
- (2) INS Spec Error: 11.1 NM

b. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory.

4. Weather:

a. Forecast vs. Actual:

- (1) As briefed.
- (2) Comments: Both target areas were five percent cloud covered. Overall cloud cover from the camera on-off point was 30 percent.

b. Weather Scout Reporting: Satisfactory.

5. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

- (1) 12 of 12 programmed targets covered.
- (2) 7 first priority SSM targets of 9 covered.
- (3) 20 of 27 first priority NVN COMOR targets covered.
- (4) 182 SAM sites, 16 sites occupied, 1 new site
- (5) 16 other priority NVN COMOR targets covered.
- (6) Comments: Excellent coverage with very small amount of clouds was obtained on this mission over North Vietnam. Included in the coverage were SSM search areas, SAM sites, airfields, and the transportation network.

b. Quality of Take: Satisfactory.

(1) Resolution: Not quite as good as BX6842 due to atmospheric haze and cloud shadow).

(2) Camera Operation: No major discrepancies.

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d. Significant Findings: The mission aircraft was picked up later on the first pass than on previous missions. The remainder of the tracking was similar to previous tracking.

e. EWS Activations: None.

f. Take Movement:

(1) Photography: Satisfactory.

(2) ELINT: Satisfactory.

6. Materiel:

a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.

b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory.

(1) Comments: DTFC summary indicated a 15° heading error near end of mission. Problem found to be an intermittent indicator and repaired. INS was excellent.

7. Communications:

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.

b. BIRDWATCHER: Satisfactory.

(1) Comments: Satisfactory on outbound leg and during operational passes. On return leg as article started descent, the HF transmitter failed, therefore, from start descent to landing, no BW signals were obtained.

c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory.

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8. Significant Actions Taken:

Materiel has requested [redacted] advise regarding probable reason for failure of HF transmitter, and loss of BW signals.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

Investigate loss of altitude in turn exiting denied, first pass, (OXCART Plans Branch).

[redacted]

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

OXC/O/OSA/ [redacted]

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