

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
(N)

Job # 69B00404R
Box # 1 Folder 1

6 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BSX001

1. Subject mission was critiqued 5 June 1967.
2. Mission Data:
 - a. Mission Number: BSX001
 - b. Date Flown: 31 May 67
 - c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
 - d. Mission Success: Successful
 - e. Pilot Name: Vojvodich
 - f. Aircraft Number: 131
 - g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
 - h. Takeoff Time: Planned: 31 May/0200Z
Actual: 31 May/0154Z
 - i. Landing Time: Planned: 31 May/0543Z
Actual: 31 May/0533Z
 - j. Time Enroute: Planned: 3+43
Actual: 3+39
 - k. Departure Base: Kadena
 - l. Landing Base: Kadena
 - m. Equipment: Type One E, BW, SIP, Pin Peg, Big Blast,
Blue Dog II.
 - n. Comments: None

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2007

OXCART
~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

3. Operations:

a. Route (INS plot vs. planned): Canned route (BSC004) flown as briefed. One pass over NVN.

- (1) INS Terminal Error: 2.0 NM
- (2) INS Spec Error: 9.5 NM

b. Mission Generation: Mission generation progressed uneventfully to H-9 1/2 when DTFC was advised by 313 ADIV that Bangkok Area Control Center would not block Steel Bridge airspace as requested due conflicts with other programmed traffic. Airspace was finally coordinated at H-2 and generation progressed without further incident.

c. Operational Support: Bangkok Area Control indicated they had received msn alert notification from 7th AF too late to coord required Steel Bridge airspace. At H-4 1/2 JCS rcvd confirmation that required A/R airspace was coordinated. At H-2, 7th AF confirmed support to 313 ADIV, however, time block was shorter than requested. Due to compressed time block coordinated for Steel Bridge, second window capability could not be maintained. DTFC advised to utilize spare A/C to best advantage.

4. Weather: amended forecast for Hanoi area accurate. No weather problems.

a. Forecast vs. Actual: Actual weather better than forecast. 417 data very useful.

b. Weather Scout Reporting: satisfactory.

5. Intelligence: Quality of photographs is considered excellent although certain areas were cloud covered or had heavy haze. No missile complexes, other than surface-to-air, were detected.

a. Target Coverage, Actual vs. Planned: Planned COMOR targets were 14 of which 12 were covered. Two bonus COMOR targets, three of the six SSM indicator tgts and 70 SA-2 sites, were covered. No new SA-2 sites were detected.

b. Quality of Take: Resolutions of less than 1' were obtained at Nadir. At 45° obliquity, ground resolutions were approximately 1.1' to 1.2'. Some of the best resolution of the mission was obtained while in a slow climb over Thailand. During low alt portion of the msn (29,700 to 65,100), resolutions as good as 1/2 ft. were detected.

c. Hostile Reaction: None.

d. Significant Findings:

(1) This first msn gave the intell community a look at the BLACK SHIELD (OXCART) product.

(2) The ChiComs and North Vietnamese apparently knew nothing about the overflight.

e. Camera Take Movement:

(1) Camera Take: Satisfactory

(2) ELINT Take: Satisfactory.

6. Materiel:

a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.

b. Aircraft Systems (Include: Camera, INS, EWS, SIP and/or Sys VI, ARC 50/TACAN): ARC-50 ext ADF inop.

7. Communications: During msn generation peirod, coordinated UHF freqs FUW ARC-50 (Sure Hit A/R) were not available in sufficient time for field to construct film strips, etc. Therefore, "bootleg" UHF freqs for Sure Hit A/R were agreed upon in an 11th hour HY-2 telecon btwn Proj Hqs. No other freq problems ensued during the mission.

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.

b. BIRDWATCHER: Signals were poor during the period 0249-0414Z. Freqs were not as good as predicted. Takhli and CARD assisted with B. W. readout so that despite [redacted] poor reception, B. W. continued to be useful to the [redacted] Command Post.

c. HF/UHF Communications: HF Equipment performed normally. ARC-50 (UHF) failed in the external mode.

8. Significant Actions Taken: DTFC/313ADIV and 7th AF contacts discussed airspace coordination problems and resolved same. Coordinated ARC-50 freqs made available immediately to field.

9. Outstanding Actions Required: None.