

BYE 8910-68  
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15 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6858

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1500 hours, 10 May 1968.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6858
- b. Date Flown: 6 May 1968
- c. Area of Operation: North Korea
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: Layton
- f. Aircraft Number: 127
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0100Z  
Actual: 0100Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0428Z  
Actual: 0430Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 3+28  
Actual: 3+30
- k. Departure Base: Kadena AB
- l. Landing Base: Kadena AB
- m. Equipment:

Job # 69B0040R  
Box #1 Folder #17

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

(2) Spare: Same as primary.

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3. Operations:

- a. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory
- b. Plans: Route (Actual vs. Planned): Satisfactory
  - (1) Total INS Nav Time: 4+06 Hours
  - (2) INS Terminal Error: 9.7 Nautical Miles
  - (3) INS Spec. Error: 8.9 Nautical Miles
- c. Tactics (Planned vs. Actual): As briefed.

4. Weather:

- a. Forecast vs. Actual: Worse than briefed.
- b. Observed Cloud Condition:
  - (1) Pilot reported CAT I conditions on both passes with heavy haze over entire area.
  - (2) Photography:  reported 20% cloud on first pass and 30% on second pass. Overall degradation was 50% due to clouds and haze.
- c. Comments: Weather was worse than briefed due to haze condition which may have been intensified by thin cirrus clouds.

5. Materiel:

- a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory
  - (1) Comments: Left windshield glazed inflight. Windshield has been replaced. During first B.I.T., RUSTRAC, SYSTEM VI, and BIRDWATCHER indicated a failure of the MAD MOTH system. Subsequent tests were normal. System is being investigated.

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b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory

(1) Comments: INS had excessive terminal error. System has been replaced.

(2) Resolution: Poor on photography effected by atmospheric. Estimated 18 to 20 inch resolution on non-effected photos.

(3) Camera Operation: Normal. SC & DM indicated camera in caged position during second pass over denied. Indication was false and wiring between camera and SC & DM recorder is being investigated to determine signal source.

6. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

(1) 66 of 77 programmed targets covered.

(2) 3 SSM targets covered.

(3) 68 of 125 COMIREX targets covered.

(4) 15 SAM sites, 3 occupied, 1 unoccupied, 11 ID only.

(5) 30 bonus targets.

(6) Comments: The mission obtained poor to fair quality photography of the southern two-fifths of North Korea. Scattered clouds and haze affected approximately 50% of the photography.



c. Significant Findings: None

d. EWS Activation: None

e. Take Movement:

(1) Photography: Satisfactory

(2) ELINT: Satisfactory

(3) Comments: The original negative was delayed at Andrews AFB in the movement to [ ] due to maintenance on the Headquarters C-118. The film was rescheduled on a commercial flight and delivered to [ ] 8 May 1968 at 2250Z.

7. Communications:

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory

b. BIRDWATCHER: Satisfactory

c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory

8. Significant Actions Taken:

Confidence flight accomplished on aircraft 127, 15 May 1968, to verify INS, camera caging and B. I. T. systems operation. All systems operated normally except SC&DM tape - continued to reflect a false camera caged condition. Camera and SC&DM systems are being investigated to determine signal source.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

b. Establish procedure whereby DTFC may request a repeat EWS system B. I. T. if BIRDWATCHER indications are not normal. (OXC Operations/Communications).

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Chief, OXCART Division, OSA

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