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Skunk Works Mailing List

Re: Another book review (kinda)

From: "Cleverson Borges Sutil"
Subject: Re: Another book review (kinda)
Date: Tue, 7 Sep 1999 22:42:50 -0300

>
> Another book that I would love to see a review for, is: "Have Blue and the
> F-117A -- Evolution of the 'Stealth Fighter'" by David C. Aronstein, Albert
> C. Piccirillo, published by the American Institute of Aeronautics, ISBN:
> 1-5634-7245-7, (\$54.95). If it is any good, I guess I will finally order it,
> as a nice little birthday present to myself. :)
>
> -- Andreas
>

I have this book but I didn't read it yet, but I can make a little resume about its structure:

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Introduction of RCS, studies made by DARPA in 70's, military interest in RCS due to vulnerability of airplanes in Vietnam.

Chapter 2 - Have Blue

It's about Have Blue with drawings showing Hopeless Diamond, Have Blue and an intermediate configuration between them. It seems to me that ECHO 1 program is cited first in this chapter. XST's phases I and II are shown in this chapter.

Chapter 3 - Advanced Tactical Aircraft Genesis

It has only six pages.

Chapter 4 - Full-Scale Development

Senior Trend cited with drawings of an F-117 and a Have Blue shown here, characteristics like propulsion, dimensions, payload of both are compared. Development, flight tests, IRADS.

Chapter 5 - Production Planning and Implementation

Many tables about planned buys, costs, production.

Chapter 6 - IOC and Beyond

Preparations, PGM development, Navy Evaluation and others.

Chapter 7 - Senior Trend: Lessons Learned

Probably a summary of all chapters from 1 to 6 and appendices A and B.

Chapter 8 - Covert Program: Favorable and Unfavorable Impacts

The advantages of a covert program like the possibility the program survives technical difficulties that normally could cancel it.

Chapter 9 - Could It Happen Today? Changes in the Acquisition Environment
Appendix A - Early Efforts to Develop Low RCS Vehicles
A few lines about Horten IX Flying Wing; Lockheed Gusto-2, A-12, D-21 and U-2 with its RCS reduction attempts; Boeing AGM-69A; McDonnell Quiet Attack Aircraft; Teledyne Ryan BQM-34A, Mini-RPV, AQM-91A Compass Arrow and others aircrafts.

Appendix B - Development of RCS Prediction Methods
Contains mathematical equations and figures about reflection, refraction, diffraction and etc.

Appendix C - The "Skunk Works" Approach
Probably they explain why Skunk Works succeeded, instead of other division. Photos of XF-90, XP-80, A-12, A-12 with D-21, U-2 and others.

Appendix D - Contemporary Reports on Early Low Observables Development
Appendix E - Senior Trend Acquisition Plan, July 1980
Appendix F - Pilot's Report on F-117A First Flight
Appendix G - Summary of Costs and Contracts
Appendix H - Have Blue and Senior Trend Time Table
Chronological events related with stealth technology. Begins in the 19th century with Maxwell's equations and goes to July 1997.

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Imperial Tie fighters spying at the wall.

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