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## Skunk Works Mailing List

# RE: Off-Topic Request

Date: Sat, 11 Sep 1999 08:34:17 -0500  
From: "Robert S. Hopkins, III, PhD"  
Subject: RE: Off-Topic Request

>I just happened to be reading the new book on the B-36 entitled "Convair  
>B-36" by Meyers Jacobsen (large format, thick/huge book, stuffed with  
>pictures). Despite not having an index, I was able to find some information  
>related to this question. In one of the chapters detailing Soviet responses  
>to the B-36, Bill Van Orman (a B-36 tail gunner) detailed a 1956 "border  
>skirting mission". He states:

>  
>"We flew along the Turkish-Russian border for well over 100 miles. I do not  
>know if we intruded on Russian airspace. I do know that we were very close.  
>This was in effect a 'thumb your nose at them' mission. I could see MiGs  
>trying to get up to us, both on radar and visually out of the blisters. They  
>could not reach us."

>  
>This was from a letter dated 8/31/96 to Chuck Hansen.

>  
>Given that some of the superfeatherweight B-36s (e.g., 50-1086) reportedly  
>got up to 59,000, and given the ceilings of the various MiGs of that era  
>(MiG-15bis 51,500; MiG-17 54,450; MiG-19 57,550), this type of mission  
>appears doable, though quite risky. Apparently, the B-36s out of Ramey AFB  
>in Puerto Rico often flew through the Med to Turkey, often landing in either  
>North Africa or Adana, Turkey.

>  
>Regarding the unique paint scheme, I have not yet come across anything like  
>it.

Thanks! You've been a gold mine!

DrBob

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Created: Sat Sep 11 09:42:56 EDT 1999