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Skunk Works Mailing List

Re: THAAD

Date: Thu, 17 Jun 1999 23:14:39 -0700 (PDT)
 From: Wei-Jen Su
 Subject: Re: THAAD

On Fri, 18 Jun 1999 betnal@ns.net wrote:

> On 6/17/99 12:12PM, in message <"376e4868.16366560"@mhuh.corp.jci.com>,
 > georgek@netwrxl.com wrote:

>
 >
 > > FWIW:
 > >
 > > I heard this was test #7...the previous 6 were failures...not exactly
 > > a great kill ratio IMHO.

> > George

> There were also 13 successive Polaris failures before the first one worked.
 > The first F-14 crashed on its second flight. That's why they call it a test
 > program.

Art, you are right. As a experimentalist myself, you need a lot of

failure to finally succeed. After you learn your mistakes, success will continue.

About the F-14 story, I thought it crashed on the first flight test. I heard from guys at Grumman saying that they knew the airplane is going to crash because she has a lot of hydraulic, mechanic, etc. problems, but they flew anyway so they can catch the dateline set by the government. Because if the airplane flew before the dateline, they will get more money and the program will continue. Will you confirm this story? Thanks.

May the Force be with you

Wei-Jen Su
E-mail: wsu@cco.caltech.edu

"Seize the time, Meribor. Live now; make now always the most precious time. Now will never come again"
Capt. Picard (ST:TNG The Inner Light Ep.)

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