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Skunk Works Mailing List

Jammers and F-117

Date: Wed, 25 Aug 1999 15:44:57 -0400
 Subject: Jammers and F-117
 From: "James P. Stevenson"

At 05:20 AM 08/24/1999 -0400, Jim wrote:

> >>
 > >>I have this information from some other source in the Air Force that the
 > >>F-117s definitely had jammer support. Since their comment is an
 > >>admission against interest, I tend to accept it.

> >>>
 In response, Patrick wrote:

> >
 >> I will share this, not that it answers anything....I had lunch recently with
 >> an ex-F-117 pilot who now flies for Delta. He recently met another Delta
 >> pilot who is currently a member of the reserve F-16 squadron that flew the
 >> jamming missions over Yugoslavia the night 806 was downed. The F-16 pilot
 >> told my friend that that all of their F-16 jammers were ordered back to base
 >> unexpectedly just before 806 was lost. Knowing the importance of their
 >> mission, they protested the RTB order but were told to comply immediately.
 >> No reason was ever given to them.

I shared this e-mail with someone who has researched the issue heavily.
 Here is what he wrote me:

> The writer of this e-mail message seems to be suggesting that there were
> no jammers present when the F-117 was shot down. Perhaps it is true that
> the F-16's were ordered back, though this is the first time I have heard
> there were F-16 jamming aircraft on this mission. However, the F-117 was
> not alone in the wilderness. There were two EA-6B Prowlers flying with
> it. In fact, the air force has been saying privately that the F-117 was
> shot down because the Navy Prowlers screwed up. After the aircraft was
> shot down, the air force demanded (and got) that three Prowlers fly on
> every F-117 and B-2 mission.

Jim

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