

(U) Operation Fish Hawk



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~~(S//NF)~~ **Operation Fish Hawk** was a carrier-based U-2 mission to collect baseline photography of a French nuclear test site in 1964. After following French nuclear program developments for many months, the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR) apprised the United States Intelligence Board of the necessity to collect intelligence on probable French testing facilities in the South Pacific. When France announced its intention to detonate a hydrogen device, the Intelligence Community sought to gather information about the status of the nuclear test area in the Mururoa Atoll. The Navy selected *Ranger* for the mission, which carried National Photographic Interpretation Center photo interpreter, [redacted] was able to process and analyze the U-2-collected imagery in a specially developed shipborne photography lab aboard the *Ranger* for rapid study and turn around to other intelligence officials. The U-2G launched successfully, but cloud cover during the initial May 19, 1964 mission obscured a number of the targets, prompting authorization of a second mission for May 23. The second mission succeeded brilliantly, capturing high-quality photographs of all targets.^[1]

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References

- ↑ Gregory W. Pedlow and Donald E. Welzenbach, *The CIA and the U2 Program* (Central Intelligence Agency, 1998)

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