

Challenge Name: Eyes in the sky

Challenge Description:

You have received a screenshot of an operation "shopping list", find the testing location of this operation.

ORD FY-77 CONTRACT COSTS

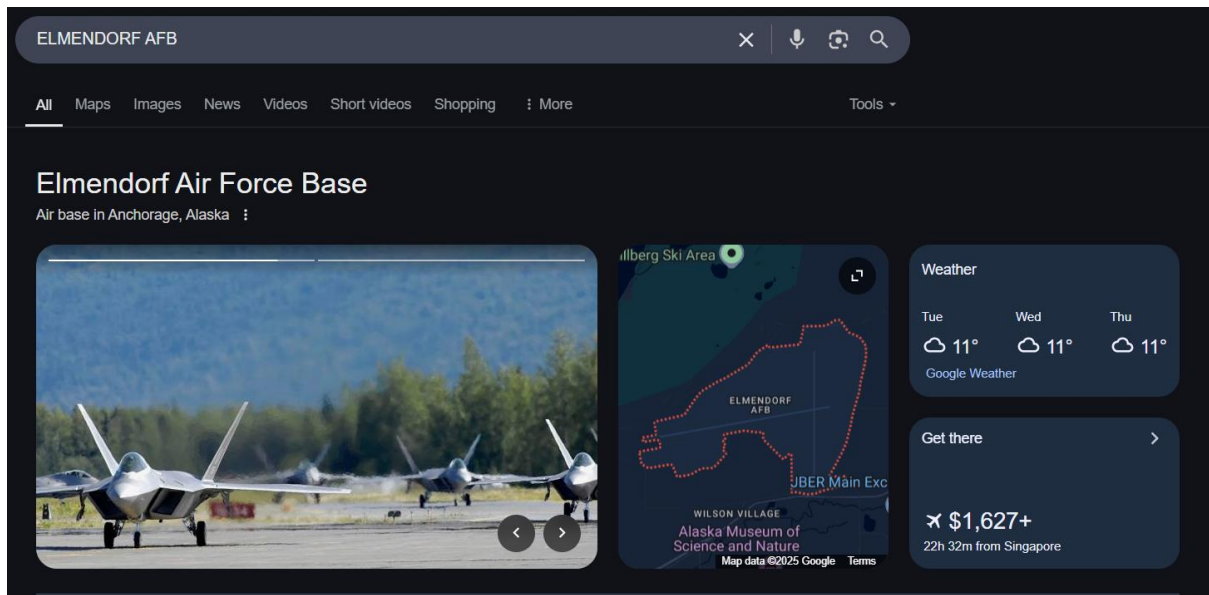
| CONTRACTOR | ITEM COST \$ | SUB TOTAL | RUNNING TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | | |
| Building Supplies | 500 | | |
| Feed | 500 | | |
| Two Bird Handlers | 21,000 | | |
| Transport, Shipping, Misc. | 1,000 | | |
| Labor | 1,000 | | |
| Boat Rental | 1,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| QRC Support | 38,000 | 38,000 | 63,000 |
| | | | |
| ELMENDORF AFB (ALASKA) | | | |
| Building Supplies | 1,000 | | |
| Labor | 4,000 | | |
| Gen. Support | 2,000 | 7,000 | 70,000 |

Flag format: SSMCTF{State_Name}

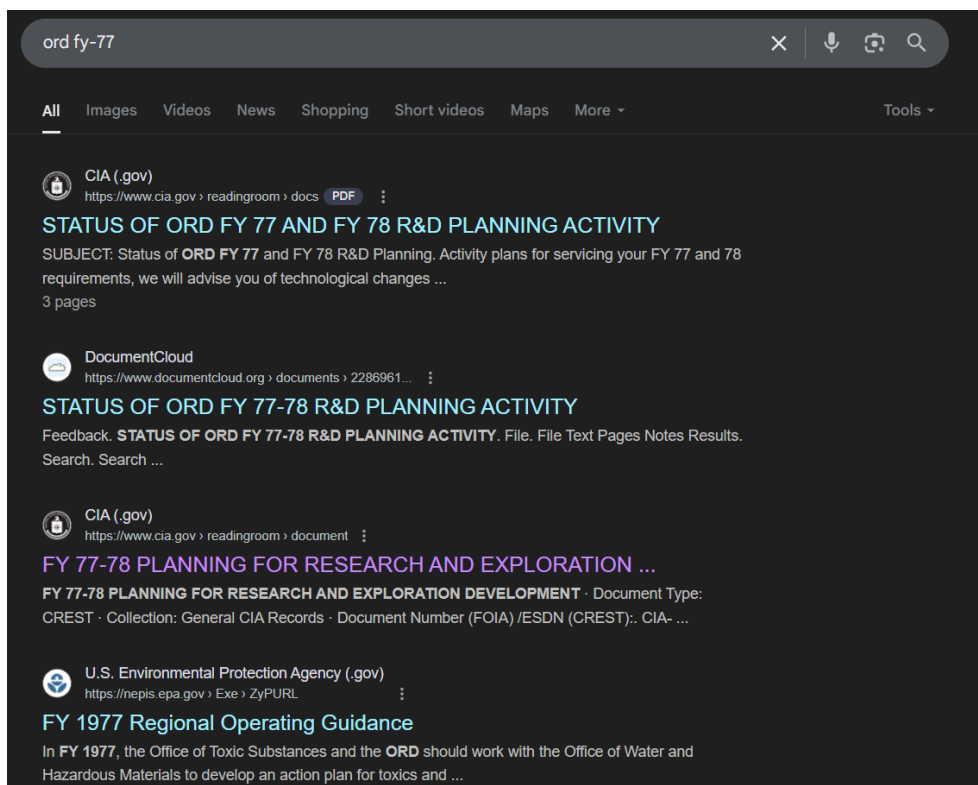
Answer Walkthrough

Step 1:

By searching “ELEMENDORF AFB”



We know that the picture is from America.



If we search the identifier name “ORD fy-77”, we know that it is from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Step 2:

If I search birds handlers and CIA, I will get the result

The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the query 'bird handler cia' in the search bar. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'All', 'Images', 'Videos', 'News', 'Shopping', 'Short videos', 'Maps', and 'More'. The 'All' tab is selected. The search results are displayed in a dark theme. The first result is an 'AI Overview' section. It contains a paragraph: 'The term "bird handler" in the context of the CIA refers to individuals who manage and utilize birds for various intelligence-gathering purposes. The CIA has historically experimented with using animals, including birds, in espionage, particularly during the Cold War.' Below this paragraph, it says 'Here's a more detailed look at the concept:'. Then, there is a section titled 'What "Bird Handler" Means in the CIA:' followed by a sub-section 'Animal Handling Expertise:' which states '"Bird handlers" within the CIA would have specialized skills in handling and training'. A 'Show more' button with a downward arrow is located below this text. At the bottom of the search results, there is a link to a CIA (.gov) page titled 'Natural Spies: Animals in Espionage'. The link text is 'https://www.cia.gov › stories › story › natural-spies-ani...'. Below the link, the title 'Natural Spies: Animals in Espionage' is displayed, followed by the date '22 Apr 2024' and a brief description: 'CIA's Office of Research and Development created a camera so tiny and lightweight that a pigeon could carry it.'

bird handler cia

All Images Videos News Shopping Short videos Maps More

AI Overview

The term "bird handler" in the context of the CIA refers to individuals who manage and utilize birds for various intelligence-gathering purposes. The CIA has historically experimented with using animals, including birds, in espionage, particularly during the Cold War.

Here's a more detailed look at the concept:

What "Bird Handler" Means in the CIA:

Animal Handling Expertise:

"Bird handlers" within the CIA would have specialized skills in handling and training

Show more

CIA (.gov)
https://www.cia.gov › stories › story › natural-spies-ani...

Natural Spies: Animals in Espionage

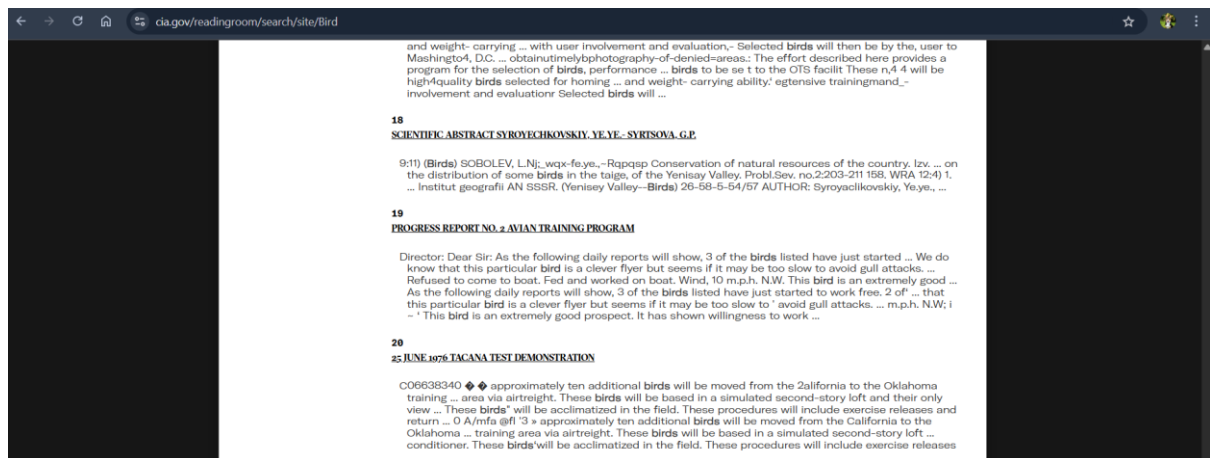
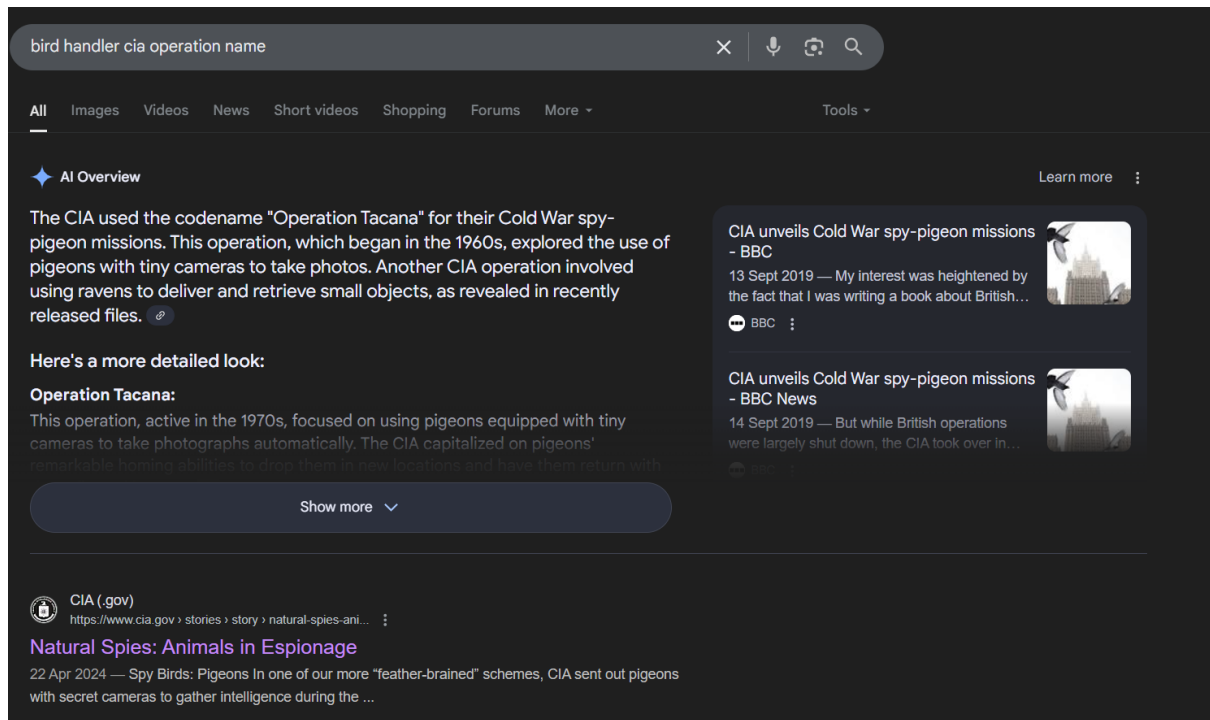
22 Apr 2024 — CIA's Office of Research and Development created a camera so tiny and lightweight that a pigeon could carry it.

Going to the first result, we can find this link

<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/collection/animal-partners>

Step 3:

If we use the following searches:



At those images, we can see this operation which is known as Operation Tacana.

At that link, we look for any mention of this operation which is known as Operation Tacana.

We can look through the list of declassified documents with anything related to testing.

TACANA PROGRAM

Document Number: 06527512

| Pages: 3 | Attachment | Size |
|----------|---|----------|
| |  TACANA PROGRAM[15687537].pdf | 190.2 KB |

ACCLIMATIZATION RESTRICTIONS

Document Number: 06527453

| Pages: 2 | Attachment | Size |
|----------|--|-----------|
| |  ACCLIMATIZATION RESTRICTI[15687592].pdf | 348.49 KB |

25 JUNE 1976 TACANA TEST DEMONSTRATION

Document Number: 06638340

| Pages: 3 | Attachment | Size |
|----------|--|-----------|
| |  25 JUNE 1976 TACANA TEST [15687588].pdf | 106.58 KB |

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Document Number: 06638341

| Pages: 2 | Attachment | Size |
|----------|---|----------|
| |  SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT[15687566].pdf | 59.93 KB |


1. WORK ON THIS PROJECT HAS, TO DATE, DEMONSTRATED THE FOLLOWING:

Document Number: 06527330

| Pages: 10 | Attachment | Size |
|-----------|---|----------|
| |  1. WORK ON THIS PROJECT [15687549].pdf | 289.3 KB |

TACANA PROJECT

Document Number: 06527450

| Pages: 1 | Attachment | Size |
|----------|---|----------|
| |  TACANA PROJECT[15687597].pdf | 41.92 KB |


TACANA TCT REPORT, 4 JUNE 1976

Document Number: 06637658

| Pages: 7 | Attachment | Size |
|----------|--|-----------|
| |  TACANA TCT REPORT, 4 JUNE[15687577].pdf | 329.53 KB |

COVERAGE REQUIREMENT

Document Number: 06527444

| Pages: 3 | Attachment | Size |
|----------|---|----------|
| |  COVERAGE REQUIREMENT[15687538].pdf | 62.74 KB |

Clicking the pdf documents will allow us to view the report

1. In response to OTS/SDB memo 154-76 issued by the TACANA/TCT Chairman, the TACANA program test to be completed on 25 June will exercise the following Avian capabilities:

- a. Clandestine acclimatization.
- b. A-B-C flight behavior with search from A to B and clandestine release at A.

Two other program tasks will be accomplished subsequent to the test to be completed on 25 June. These tasks involve investigating several retention times for the A-B-C behavior and the impact of a major location change (2500 miles) on operational behavior.

2. The procedures listed below will be followed in preparation for the 25 June test.

a. Present Avian training of A-B-C flight behavior, including clandestine release at A and search behavior at A for B, will continue. The training will include clandestine release at point A, which will be located two to three miles from target B, search-oriented flight to target B (in a direction that is opposite from the return flight to the home loft) landing on the target and obtaining pictures of the target and the target area, and, finally, returning 50 miles to the home loft located in [redacted] Oklahoma.

b. On approximately 28 May 1976, a collateral effort will be undertaken in [redacted] Oklahoma, to determine if the Avian assets can be acclimatized to a new geographical location on a clandestine basis. To accomplish this task,

In the report, we can see that the testing location is in Oklahoma

Answer is SSMCTF{Oklahoma}