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## The Target is Destroyed: What Really Happened to Flight 007 and What America Knew About It

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Presley, Hugh O'Brien, Richard Chamberlain, Dennis Hopper, and Chad Everett, eventually entered into a substance abuse treatment program, hooked on Valium and traumatized by the war. She re-emerged as a leader in the Vietnam Veterans' movement, an older but still beautiful champion of psychological treatment programs and compensation for Agent Orange victims, and, to be sure, the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Chris wades into the philosophical swamp that engulfs anyone who would champion the Vietnam G.I. without taking a position on the rightness of U.S. involvement in the war itself. She fires several salvos at the gulf between the women's liberation movement and the women who served as nurses and entertainers in Vietnam. She outlines a plausible indictment of Jane Fonda for treason, and a less plausible indictment of American womanhood for not caring adequately about the Vietnam conflict.

Her memoir is uneven, punchy, and unforgettable; a sometimes painful testimony to the plight of a gorgeous woman. She tried to bring American femininity at its best to the troops in Vietnam and she thinks America gave her guys a bum shake.

RUSSELL W. RAMSEY  
USAF Command & Staff College

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Hersh, Seymour M. *The Target is Destroyed: What Really Happened to Flight 007 and What America Knew*

*about It.* New York: Random House, 1986. 288pp. \$17.95

When Korean Air Lines (KAL) flight 007 was shot down, the American intelligence community produced one of the most impressive signals intelligence (SIGINT) coups in memory. Indeed, the average American knew more about the shootdown the next day than did the Soviet Ambassador to the United States. For students of operational intelligence, the language, acronyms, and story are very familiar.

Hersh makes several conclusions encompassing the entire affair. Some are backed by exhaustive research and logic. Others reveal, perhaps, a hidden political agenda the author has regarding the Reagan administration—the emerging awareness of which left this reader with an increasingly sour taste.

Intelligence officers can learn many lessons here. For the junior officer, Hersh provides an enlightening look at what happens to intelligence products at the senior staff level. For senior officers, Hersh explains how military intelligence can quickly become politicized and public.

As thorough as his research is and as plausible as his scenario for what might have actually happened, Hersh's book has several weaknesses. He is quick to point out, for example, that "[t]his is a book whose key allegations hinge on unnamed sources." After making a reasonable plea for his readers to believe him, he sets out to draw conclusions about policymakers and intelligence

## 120 Naval War College Review

officials based on accumulated information from these unnamed sources. A trained intelligence officer could theorize that persons trained to protect intelligence sources, activities, and products could have undermined Hersh's project by volunteering mendacious information. By his own admission, the Soviets allowed Hersh to research the story there so that he would conclude "that [KAL 007] was an intruder." Others may also have been trying to use Hersh for their own personal reasons.

What were Hersh's motives in writing this book? They are revealed to this reader with the subtlety of an artfully crafted subliminal suggestion. The main target of his attack is the Reagan administration. He faults the President, Secretary of State George Shultz, U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, and the American public at large for making up their minds too soon and without careful consideration of what might happen as a result of their enraged rhetoric. He is largely skeptical that anyone in the administration can deal with the Soviets.

He criticizes Secretary of State Shultz for compromising sensitive intelligence sources and methods the day after the shootdown. Yet, he has no compunction about revealing similar information from his unnamed sources and other published material. He even sounds frustrated at one point in his book that information was withheld from him that was so sensitive, even his unnamed sources "would not say anything" about it.

Any trained aircraft accident investigator knows that even when you have an eyewitness to an accident, no matter how good the story is, an eyewitness account is only one person's opinion. In drawing his conclusions about the shootdown, Hersh fails to caution the reader that his is only one possible scenario. He points out in one passage, quite properly, that we may never know what really happened to KAL 007. Yet, he persists in his version of the events. Being the recipient of a Pulitzer prize harms neither credibility nor sales, yet, this book is not without flaws.

JAMES W. SPENCER  
Major, U.S. Air Force

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Woodward, Bob. *VEIL: The Secret War of the CIA 1981-1987*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987. 543pp. \$21.95.

This book has been reviewed, re-reviewed, and dissected by the finest critics in virtually every major magazine and newspaper. Rather than provide, by comparison, a relatively uninformed critique of style and artistic worth, it seems more appropriate to allow the prejudices and concerns of a career military officer to provide another measurement of value (or loss). In *VEIL*, Bob Woodward provides, for the price of one hardback edition, national security secrets that should have been impossible to obtain at any price.

Woodward begins his treatment of this controversial subject early in