

THE CESSNA O-1E BIRD DOG



The Cessna O-1 Bird Dog is a liaison and observation aircraft.

It received the name Bird Dog because its role was to find the enemy and orbit overhead until artillery (or attack aircraft) could be brought to bear.

While flying low and close to the battlefield, the pilot would observe the exploding shells and adjust the fire via his radios, in the manner of a bird dog (gun dog) used by game hunters



During the Vietnam War, the Bird Dog was used for reconnaissance, target acquisition, artillery adjustment, radio relay, convoy escort, and forward air control.

Empty Weight 1,614 lbs

Max Speed Sea Level: 151 mph, 131 kts
Cruise Speed, 5,000 ft: 104 mph, 90 kts

Service Ceiling: 18,500 ft
Range: 530 miles.

Bird Dogs served in Vietnam from 1964 until phased out in 1967-68 in favor of the Cessna O-2s and North American OV-10s

THE COCKPIT



A Nose-cross can be superimposed on the cockpit graphic, by use of the HUD controls, to aid in orientation.

AA mode=No Cross

AG mode= Cross depressed for Rockets

CAGED mode= Cross centred

On reaching Approach Waypoint,
CAGED mode=Flight Path Marker

TAKE-OFF PROCEDURE

Set flaps as required between 0° to 10° . Holding the stick fully aft, smoothly apply full throttle to commence the take-off roll, releasing the brakes as the throttle is advanced.

Gently relax aft pressure on the control column to allow the tail to lift slightly off the ground.

Lift off speed is 50-60 mph, 44-52 Kts
Do not allow the aircraft to climb out of ground effect until safe flying speed of 60 mph, 52 Kts is achieved.

Raise FLAPS

CLIMB 2300 rpm, 80 mph, 70 Kts

Cruise 2100 rpm, 80 mph, 70 Kts

LANDING PROCEDURE

**NOTE: There are no airbrakes.
To slow, you can switch off the engine
and glide, restarting engine as required.**

Normal approaches are flown at 70 mph, 61 Kts, with $0-40^{\circ}$ of flap.

As the aircraft is flared for landing, smoothly reduce power to idle and pitch the nose up gently to achieve level flight just above the runway.

A three point landing involves landing the aircraft in such a manner that the main wheels and tail wheel touchdown simultaneously.

Apply brakes gradually

MISSIONS

We have scoured the authentic YAP Missions to locate the ones where the BIRD DOG is one of the cast of characters. We have then reconfigured those missions to make the BIRD DOG the Main Lead. In other words, you can fly it.

Nearly all these Missions begin with you in the air, requiring you to locate targets, and mark or kill them with your rockets, until the main CAS package arrives.

The Missions are labelled as RECON, so in each case, as long as you pass a specific Waypoint on your way to the airfield, you will get a Mission Accomplished message.

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