

# NIKON d200 Checklist

TX442 Hitt Draft dated 10/23/08

## PRE-MISSION INVENTORY

1. NIKON D200 Camera with battery and memory card inserted
2. GPS
3. Camera bag containing:
  - A. Nikon Guide (NG)
  - B. Camera to Computer USB cable
  - C. Camera spare battery (if provided)
  - D. Camera Battery Charger
  - E. GPS to Camera cable(s)
  - F. GPS spare batteries

## PRE-MISSION PREPARATION

1. Clarify Customer Needs (Target, Shooting Technique, Area of interest, Resolution, Weather, Data delivery, etc.)
2. Charge/replace Camera and GPS batteries as needed
3. Sigma Lens – Set Auto Focus (AF) and Unlock
4. Camera – ON

**2.1** Press the mode-dial lock release (①) while turning the mode dial (②) to S (single frame). At this setting, the camera will take one photograph each time the shutter-release button is pressed.



**2.2** Rotate the AF-area mode selector until it clicks into place pointing to [••] (single-area AF). At this setting, the camera will focus on the subject in the focus area selected by the user.





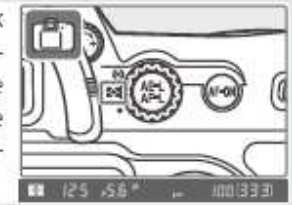
**2.3** Rotate the focus-mode selector until it clicks into place pointing to S (single-servo auto-focus). At this setting, the camera will focus automatically when the shutter-release button is pressed halfway. Pictures can only be taken when the camera is in focus.



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**2.4** Rotate the metering selector to  (matrix metering). Matrix metering uses information from all areas of the frame to determine exposure, producing optimal results for the entire frame. A  icon appears in the viewfinder.



- A. Delete (Format) all photos from the camera. Select: Setup Menu > Format > Yes > **Enter OK**; (NG p116)
- B. Set Nikon D200 Menus
  - 1) Select: Shooting Menu
    - a. > Menu Reset > Yes > OK; Restores default to shooting menu options. (NG p127)
    - b. > Optimize Image > Custom > Image Sharpening > Auto or +1; > Tone Compensation (Contrast) > Auto or + More Contrast (if misty, hazy or overcast); > Color\_Mode > III; > Saturation > Auto; > Hue > 0; > Done > OK; (NG pp45-48)
    - c. > Image Quality > JPEG Fine > OK (NG pp28-32)
    - d. > JPEG Compression > Optimal Quality > OK (NG p30)
  - 2) Select: Custom Settings Menu
    - a. > Menu Reset > Yes > OK; (NG p147)  
Restores default to custom shooting menu options.
    - b. > "a" Autofocus > "a3" Focus Area Frame > Wide Frame (7 areas) > OK; (NG p148.)
    - c. > "b" Metering/Exposure > "b1" ISO Auto (Use Auto if low light conditions warrant) > ON / Sensitivity 800 / Shutter Speed 1/250s (NG p152)
  - 3) Select: Shutter or Aperture - Priority Auto (NG p64)
    - a. Press the mode button (back view – upper right top) and rotate the main command dial until "S" or "A" is displayed in the view finder and control panel.
    - b. Release the mode button and rotate the main command dial to choose the desired shutter speed (1/500s minimum) or rotate the sub-command dial to choose the desired aperture (5.0 maximum).
- C. Camera - OFF

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5. Note communication frequencies, air/ground contacts, etc.
6. Plan the sortie
7. Take Camera, GPS and peripherals to the aircraft.

## PRE-LAUNCH SYSTEMS SET-UP and OPS CHECK

1. Camera - OFF
2. Connect GPS cable to Camera
3. Test GPS/Camera connection and check camera settings
  - A. GPS - ON
  - B. Camera - ON
  - C. Check Camera Control Panel & Viewfinder for:
    - 1) "GPS" – connected to GPS (not blinking)
    - 2) "S" – Shutter-priority or "A" – Aperture-priority Auto
    - 3) "L" - Large image size
    - 4) "FINE" - Highest jpeg image quality
    - 5) "A" - White Balance (WB) Auto
    - 6) ISO – 100 or ISO 100 – 800 if ISO Auto selected
    - 7) Focus area centered
    - 8) Correct number of exposures remaining
  - D. GPS – OFF

## AERIAL PICTURE TAKING

1. Camera Strap – Around neck
2. Lens Cap – Remove
3. Sigma Lens – Set to AF, Unlock and attach Lens Hood
4. Camera – ON
5. GPS – ON [GPS (not blinking) shows in Camera Control Panel]
6. Recheck Camera Control Panel & Viewfinder for proper settings.
7. Take pictures as required
  - A. Use pillows if necessary to comfortably maintain a 45° look down angle
  - B. Avoid projecting camera lens into windstream
  - C. Avoid touching aircraft with the camera or any part of your body (except the seat of your pants)
  - D. Hold camera securely against brow and cheek with elbows in and pressed against rib cage

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- E. Keep a running dialogue with pilot to ensure altitude and offset are acceptable (Typically 1000-1500ft alt & 1000-1500ft offset for 45° oblique imaging)
- F. Avoid shooting horizon, wing, wing strut and landing gear
- G. Use "zoom" judiciously
- H. Press the Shutter Release button halfway to focus and fully to take the picture

## QUICK REVIEW OF IMAGES ON MEMORY CARD

1. Press Playback button (upper left of monitor)
2. Scroll through pictures using Multi-Selector (upper right of monitor) left-right
3. Press Playback button again to extinguish monitor

## POST MISSION ACTIVITIES

1. Charge Camera batteries as necessary
2. Inspect equipment
3. Inventory Equipment
  - A. This checklist
  - B. NIKON D200 Camera with battery and memory card inserted
  - C. GPS
  - D. Camera bag containing:
    - 1) Nikon Guide (if provided)
    - 2) Camera to Computer USB cable
    - 3) Camera spare battery (if provided)
    - 4) Camera Battery Charger
    - 5) GPS to Camera cable(s)
    - 6) GPS spare batteries

## Notes:

1. Referenced pages in the Nikon Guide (NG) should be read and understood before attempting to use the Nikon D200 in flight.
2. Nikon Guide in no print form can be found on the web at: [http://www.nikonusa.com/pdf/manuals/noprint/D200\\_en\\_noprint.pdf](http://www.nikonusa.com/pdf/manuals/noprint/D200_en_noprint.pdf)
3. If you need assistance contact Lt Col John Hitt at [jmarhitt@mac.com](mailto:jmarhitt@mac.com)