

1969

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET  
NAVAL AIR FORCE  
FLEET COMPOSITE SQUADRON SIX  
Naval Air Station  
Norfolk, Virginia 23511

VC-6/Code 11:ecb  
5750/69  
Ser 58  
25 February 1969

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Composite Squadron SIX  
To : Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1968  
(OPNAV Report 5750-1)

Ref : (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A of 31 October 1968

Encl: (1) Biographies and Photographs of Commanding Officers  
(2) Complement of Officers, Enlisted, Civilian and Flight Personnel  
(3) Deployment Summary  
(4) Detachment Warren Grove Operations  
(5) Detachment Dam Neck Operations  
(6) Statistical Summary of Operations  
(7) Material Quality Control Malfunctions  
(8) ADMAT Inspection Grades  
(9) Photograph of SEPTAR Target Drone  
(10) Open House Route  
(11) Congratulatory Letters/Messages  
(12) "Skeet Beat" Squadron Paper

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1968 is submitted.

2. The outstanding events and highlights of 1968 are listed in the following chronology:

06 January	Commenced first of 29 operational shipboard deployments.
26 February	CNO approved establishment of fifth deploying detachment.
23-26 May	Investigated feasibility of seaborne target drone operations at Palmetto Target Range, North Carolina.
11 July	Administrative/Material Inspection by COMFAIRNORFOLK Enclosure (8).
09 August	Change of Command.
09 August	Open House Display
04 September	Commenced cycle of training for operator and maintenance personnel on MQM-74A jet airborne target drone.
11 September	Received first shipment of new SEPTAR Drone Target Boat (Firefish replacement).

30 September First issue of "Skeet Beat" squadron paper.  
10 December All Hands Christmas Party  
18 December Annual Handicapped Children's Christmas Party

3. The following narrative enlarges upon the events listed in paragraph 2 above and discusses the command organization and relations, operations and topics of a special nature.

A. General

(1) Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, located at U. S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, was commanded by CDR Charles R. JASPER, USN, from 20 July 1967 to 09 August 1968, and by CDR James K. GADDY, USN, from 09 August 1968 to present. Enclosure (1) contains a biography and photograph of each commanding officer. The command is under the operational and administrative control of Commander Fleet Air Norfolk.

(2) MISSION - The mission of FLECOMPRON SIX is that of providing aerial, land and waterborne moving target services for surface-to-air, air-to-surface and surface-to-surface gunnery training in support of fleet training tasks for units of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet. These target services are provided through use of unmanned, radio controlled target drones. During the Calendar Year of 1968, the squadron operationally operated MQM-36A small pilotless aerial target drones, Firefish seaborne target drones and QM-56 mobile land target drones.

B. Composition and Organization

(1) Enclosure (2) enumerates the squadron complement of officer, enlisted, civilian and flight personnel as of 31 December 1968. Included in Enclosure (2) are rosters of officer and enlisted personnel.

(2) Fleet Composite Squadron SIX does not deploy as a unit, but operates on a detachment concept. During the year 1968, the squadron was organized into a parent command, five deploying detachments and two non-deploying detachments permanently based ashore. The fifth deploying detachment was established as a permanent detachment and authorized by CNO ltr OP-100E1/smw10 ser 10926 of 26 February 1968.

(a) The five deploying detachments are composed of one Officer-in-Charge, and from nine to twelve enlisted men and are equipped with both aerial and seaborne target drones. These detachments have the dual capability to provide either waterborne or aerial target services and deploy aboard ships and provide services whenever and wherever requested. Detachments are trained and provisioned to be self-supporting. During 1968, these detachments made 29 individual deployments which range from one day to five months in duration. Enclosure (3) is a summary of 1968 deployments.

(b) Detachment Warren Grove is permanently located at Warren Grove Gunnery Range, New Jersey and consists of a personnel strength of one officer and thirteen enlisted men. This detachment operates the QM-56 Land Mobile Target to provide services in support of air-to-surface gunnery training for aircraft of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Enclosure (4) is a summary of operations conducted by the detachment during 1968.

(c) Detachment Dam Neck is permanently located at Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Dam Neck, Virginia and consists of a personnel strength of one officer and twenty enlisted men. This detachment operates both the MQM-36A pilotless target drone, and Firefish waterborne remote control target drone for the U. S. Atlantic Fleet Gunnery School. As a secondary mission, Detachment Dam Neck provides MQM-36A operational training for all controllers and maintenance personnel assigned to the deploying detachments. Enclosure (5) is a summary of operations conducted by the detachment during 1968. Firefish services became available on 08 November 1968.

(3) Special Topics

a. Operational Statistics

Enclosure (6) is a combined comprehensive statistical summary of all MQM-36A, QM-56 and Firefish operations conducted by the squadron during 1968.

b. Material Performance of Assigned Target Systems

Enclosure (7) is a summary of material performance and target malfunctions which occurred during 1968.

c. Maintenance Problems and New Equipment

The following discussion is a resume of the suitability of new equipment and of maintenance problems encountered during 1968:

(1) Luneberg Lens

During the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 1968, Commander Fleet Air Norfolk directed Fleet Composite Squadron SIX to develop a means of augmenting the Firefish surface target radar image presentation to the APQ-92/APQ-112 radars so that the A-6 aircraft could make a full weapons system delivery to the Firefish. Initial attempts to utilize locally fabricated corner reflectors produced negative results. Naval Missile Center, Point Mugu, when informed of our program, shipped two Luneberg Lens Clusters for evaluation. These lens clusters had been verified in an anechoic chamber, however, further testing to determine elevation angle was required. Through the cooperation of several local A-6 squadrons on May 29, June 5, June 6, June 19 and August 12, an optimum elevation angle of 60 degrees was determined under operational conditions. Fleet Composite Squadron SIX now has a small operational quantity of both "KU" and "X" band Luneberg Lens Clusters available for fleet air-to-surface target operations.

(2) Vega Transponder

Attempts on 06 February 1968 and 07 August 1968 to augment the Firefish for night operations with a Vega 306C "C" band transponder were unsuccessful due to frequency and antenna polarization incompatibility. Vega Precision Laboratories manufactured a new antenna and returned the 306C transponder to the SPS-10 radar frequency and installed the unit in a field at the Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Dam Neck, Virginia for testing. The transponder operated as designed, however, no further testing has been attempted.

### (3) Septar Target Boat Handling System

Commencing 07 June 1968, an extensive investigation was conducted by this command in conjunction with COMCRUDESANT Representatives to find or recommend a suitable device to launch/recover Septar Target Boats from DD, DE, DLG and DDG type ships. The system (portable davit) presently used for Firefish Target Boats is not suitable for the Septar due to improper height, reach and weight capacities. As a result of the findings and recommendations, funds were allocated to Norfolk Naval Shipyard for feasibility studies of the subject equipment. An interim study, by Commander Norfolk Navy Shipyard ltr FS/9200(252) lfl of 27 November 1968, was inconclusive and recommended that a method for handling Septar Drone Target Boats be developed which would be universal for use on all classes of DD type vessels. No suitable method has been developed to date.

### (4) The Septar Target Drone Boat (Encl 9)

In September, the squadron received the first of the new target drone boats. Named "Septar", these are 18 foot radio controlled fiberglass boats capable of operation at 35 to 50 knots in sea state ONE, 20 to 30 knots in sea state TWO, and about 12 knots in sea state THREE. The boat is powered by a 210 H. P. Interceptor gasoline engine, driving through an Eaton Interceptor outboard drive (Volvo Mod 200), and turning a 14 3/8" by 23" propeller. The electronic system is built by Kaman Aircraft Company.

#### d. Communication

U. S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, serves as communications guard for this squadron. During 1968, an average of 600 outgoing and over 3,000 incoming messages were processed by NAS for the squadron. A limited amount of RPS is maintained by the squadron which is designated a local holder under cognizance of USNAS, Norfolk, Virginia.

#### e. Personnel

The following is a resume concerning personnel manning level, advancements, reenlistments and legal matters:

(1) As of 31 December 1968, the squadron was manned at 100% of officer allowance and 99% of enlisted allowance.

(2) The 1968 reenlistment rate was 18.6%. Of the 30 eligible first cruise and career candidates, two first cruise and four career reenlistments were effected.

(3) Promotions from the February/August exams were effected on 78 of the 137 personnel who participated in the exams. Promoted were 37 E-4's, 31 E-5's, 6 E-6's and 4 E-7's.

(4) Ten Commanding Officer's NJP cases were conducted by the parent command and four cases were conducted by detachment O-in-C's during 1968, for an average of 1.16 cases per month. One (1) Summary Court Martial was convened.

(5) On 26 February 1968, CNO ltr OP-100E/smw10 ser 10926 authorized a fifth deploying detachment, Boat Division Officer and an internal realignment of manpower. A subsequent reduction of officer billets was effected by the 31 June ODCR, which eliminated the Safety Officer, Quality Control and Ass't O-in-C, Detachment Dam Neck billets.

(6) On 04 September, the first contingent of maintenance personnel initiated the first of 3 phases of formal maintenance and operator training on the new jet-powered MQM-74A Aerial Target Drone. Training cycle authorized by NAVAIRSYSCOMHQ msg R-022245Z-August 1968. This training will continue through February 1969.

f. Community Relations and Civic Action

The highlights of the squadron's participation in community relations and civic action are listed as follows:

(1) The squadron had three all hands socials and the Annual Christmas Party was held on 10 December at the Fleet Recreation Center, Norfolk.

(2) Open House was held, after the Change of Command, for dependents and visitors. (Encl 10)

(3) The Annual Handicapped Children's Party was held on 18 December, supported by the exclusive efforts of the crew. (Encl 11)

(4) The squadron initiated a newspaper in September named the "Skeet Beat" (Encl 12). Adequate support for squadron news items is provided by the NAS, Norfolk paper "Dope Sheet". Local TV, newspapers and radio provided coverage of Change of Command and Handicapped Children's Party.

g. Projects and Plans for 1969

(1) Plans for 1969 still include the transition to new sea-borne and aerial target drones.

(a) The "Septar" seaborne drone was first used operationally in Springboard '69. This target will eventually phase out the "fire-fish" as remaining "Firefish" assets are consumed.

(b) The MQM-74A aerial target drone has been delayed due to production and test problems. It is anticipated that the MQM-74A will be operational at Dam Neck, Virginia by mid-1969. One operational model has been delivered to this command as of the date of this report.

(2) Projects for 1969 include:

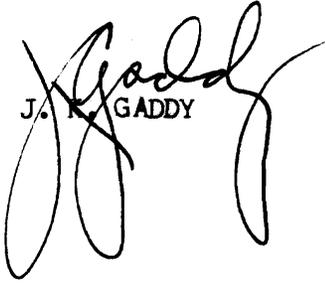
(a) The development of a carry-on tracking and control system for the MQM-74A to provide out-of-sight control.

(b) The development of a satisfactory hoisting system for the heavier Septar target boats to be used by shipboard detachments.

b. Congratulatory Messages/Letters

During the year, seven letters or messages of commendation or appreciation were received. (Encl 11)

Copy to:  
DIRNAVHIST (OP 09B9),  
Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D. C. 20390  
CNAL w/o encl.

  
J. K. GADDY

COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICAL SUMMARY (CY-68)

MQM-36A AERIAL TARGET DRONE

	<u>DET. DAM NECK</u>	<u>DEPLOYING DETS.</u>	<u>COMBINED</u>
LAUNCH ATTEMPTS	642	285	927
SAT. LAUNCHES	627	275	902
SUCCESSFUL FLIGHTS (SERVICES COMPLETED)	484	194	678
OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES	63	55	118
HIT/KILL EXPENDITURES	2	13	15
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	65	68	133
FLIGHTS PER OPERATIONAL EXPEND- ITURES (SAT. LAUNCHES)	9.9	5.0	7.6
SUCCESSFUL FLIGHTS PER OPERA- TIONAL EXPENDITURES	7.7	3.5	5.7
PERCENTAGE SAT. LAUNCHES	97%	96%	96.5%
PERCENTAGE SUCCESSFUL FLIGHTS	75%	70%	74%
NUMBER OF UNITS SERVICED	FAAWTC	265	265

Enclosure (3) to FLECOMPRONSIX ltr  
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FIREFISH SURFACE TARGET DRONE

	<u>DET. DAM NECK</u>	<u>DEPLOYING DETS</u>	<u>COMBINED</u>
LAUNCH ATTEMPTS	10	91	101
SAT. LAUNCH ATTEMPTS (SHIPS)	10	91	101
SORTIES PROVIDED FOR SHIPS	9 (FAAWTC)	45	54
SORTIES PROVIDED FOR AIRCRAFT	1	37	38
SHIPS SERVICED	0	73	73
AIRCRAFT SERVICED	12	224	236
OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES	0	2	2
HIT/KILL EXPENDITURES	1	2	3
SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS PER LAUNCH ATTEMPT	100%	90%	91%

Enclosure (3) to FLECOMPRONSIX ltr  
VC-6 \_\_\_\_\_ Ser \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

# CY DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE

68

JANUARY

	1-10	10-20	20-31
A			
B			
C		CONYNGHAM	SEMME
D			MIDDLESEX
E			

FEBRUARY

	1-10	10-20	20-28
A		CTMO	
B			KEPLER
C			
D			
E		SPRINGBOARD	

MARCH

	1-10	10-20	20-31
A			
B			PUTNAM
C		MEREDITH	
D		LORAIN CTY	WALDRON
E			

APRIL

	1-10	10-20	20-30
A	GLAING	STORMES	
B			
C			
D	PERRY	YORK CTY	
E			

MAY

	1-10	10-20	20-31
A		DODGE CTY	
B			
C		M.C. FOX	
D		BOXER	
E			

JUNE

	1-10	10-20	20-30
A	CHURCHILL CTY		
B		DUPONT	
C		K.D. BAILEY	
D			
E			VOGE

JULY

	1-10	10-20	20-31
A		CHURCHILL CTY	
B			NEWPORT NEWS
C		GOODRICH	
D			
E			VOGE

AUGUST

	1-10	10-20	20-31
A	LASALLE		SAGAMORE
B			
C		WAWAKUM CTY	
D		UNITAS IX	
E			

SEPTEMBER

	1-10	10-20	20-30
A	PLYMOUTH		
B			
C			
D			
E		DYESS	

OCTOBER

	1-10	10-20	20-31
A			
B			PRESERVER
C		SHADWELL	
D			
E		FURER	

NOVEMBER

	1-10	10-20	20-30
A		DEWEY	
B		BORDELON	
C		DUVAL CTY	
D			
E		ARCTURUS	

DECEMBER

	1-10	10-20	20-31
A			
B		AULT	
C			
D			
E			

T  
DETACHMENT WARREN GROVE OPERATIONS  
(QM-56 LAND MOVING TARGET)

1. Type and number aircraft serviced

A4	-----	94
A6	-----	116
F4	-----	29
F8	-----	99
Total	-----	338

2. Squadron type and number aircraft serviced

VF	-----	118
VA	-----	166
Marine	-----	64
Reserve	-----	12
Total	-----	360

3. Number of attack runs

Actual	-----	2187
Practice	-----	1541
Total	-----	3728

4. Number of hits scored

Bomb	-----	8
Rockets	-----	4
Strafe	-----	435

5. Number of direct hits scored

Bomb	-----	4
Rockets	-----	1
Strafe	-----	435

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DETACHMENT DAM NECK OPERATIONS (CY-68)

LAUNCH ATTEMPTS	642
SATISFACTORY LAUNCHES	627
SUCCESSFUL FLIGHTS (SERVICES COMPLETED)	484
FOR GUNNERY FIRING	90
FOR GUNNERY TRACKING	341
FOR UNIT TRAINING (VC-6)	53
EXPENDITURES (OPERATIONAL REASONS)	63
EXPENDITURES (HIT BY GUNFIRE)	2
NUMBER GUNNERY SCHOOL STUDENTS	2454
GUN MOUNT DIRECTOR	495 STUDENTS
OTHER GUN CREW	1959 STUDENTS

Enclosure (5) to FLECOMPRONSIX ltr  
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DEPLOYMENT SUMMARY (CY-68)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTROL SHIPS</u>	<u>EXERCISE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE SERVICES &amp; UNITS SERVICED</u>	
9 JAN-22 APR DET ECHO	USS OPPORTUNE USS WEEKS USS PRESERVER USS CONY USS UTINA USS SALINAN USS PAPAGO	SPRINGBOARD '68	CARIB	MQM FIREFISH	55 SHIPS 5 SHIPS 100 AIRCRAFT
1 JAN-4 FEB DET CHARLIE	USS CONYINGHAM USS SEMMES	NA	ATLANTIC MED TRANSIT	MQM	5 SHIPS
22 JAN-26 JAN DET DELTA	USS MIDDLESSEX CTY.	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	1 SHIP 2 AIRCRAFT 2 AIRCRAFT
30 JAN-19 MAR DET ALPHA	USS PIAUTE USS SPRINGFIELD USS PERRY USS NORRIS USS FOX USS ACCOKEEK USS GLOVER USS CHUCKAWAN	NA	GTMO	MQM FIREFISH	5 SHIPS 5 SHIPS
15 FEB-23 APR DET BRAVO	USS KEPPLER USS PUTNAM	NA	ATLANTIC MED	MQM FIREFISH	24 SHIPS 4 SHIPS
5 MAR-13 MAR DET CHARLIE	USS MEREDITH	NA	CHARLESTON OP AREA	MQM FIREFISH	16 SHIPS 1 SHIP
12 MAR-13 MAR DET DELTA	USS LORAIN COUNTY	NA	VACAPES	MQM	1 SHIP
21 MAR-2 APR DET DELTA	USS WALDRON USS PERRY	NA	JAX	MQM FIREFISH	3 SHIPS 1 SHIP 39 AIRCRAFT
2 APR-23 APR DET ALPHA	USS GEARING USS STORMES	NA	ATLANTIC CONUS/MED/CONUS	MQM	15 SHIPS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTROL SHIPS</u>	<u>EXERCISE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE SERVICES &amp; UNITS SERVICED</u>	
15 APR-19 APR DET DELTA	USS YORK COUNTY	NA	VACAPES	FIREFISH	4 AIRCRAFT
24 APR-30 JUL DET CHARLIE	USS M.C. FOX USS K.D. BAILEY USS GOODRICH	NA	ATLANTIC MED CHARLESTON OP AREA	MQM FIREFISH	12 SHIPS NONE
1 MAY-29 MAY DET DELTA	USS BOXER	NA	CARIB	MQM FIREFISH	6 SHIPS 7 SHIPS
13 MAY-17 MAY DET ALPHA	USS DODGE CTY.	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	3 SHIPS NONE
2 JUN-7 JUN DET ALPHA	USS CHURCHILL CTY.	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	3 SHIPS 8 AIRCRAFT
10 JUN-10 JUL DET BRAVO	USS DUPONT	RACER RUN	VACAPES W. ATLANTIC CARIBBEAN	MQM FIREFISH	12 SHIPS 7 SHIPS
17 JUN-27 JUN DET ECHO	USS VOGUE	NA	NARIBAY	MQM	5 SHIPS
8 JUL-2 NOV DET DELTA	USS DAMATO	UNITAS IX	SO. AMERICA	MQM	54 SHIPS
15 JUL-19 JUL DET ALPHA	USS CHURCHILL CTY.	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	NONE 1 SHIP
10 JUL-4 AUG DET ECHO	USS VOGUE	NA	NARIBAY	MQM FIREFISH	11 SHIPS 14 SHIPS
22 JUL-30 JUL DET BRAVO	USS NEWPORT NEWS	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	4 SHIPS 2 SHIPS
6 AUG-9 AUG DET ALPHA	USS LASALLE USS SAGAMORE USS PLYMOUTH	NA	GTMO	FIREFISH	12 SHIPS
19 AUG-22 AUG DET CHARLIE	USS WAHKIAKUM	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	1 SHIP 2 AIRCRAFT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTROL SHIPS</u>	<u>EXERCISE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE SERVICES &amp; UNITS SERVICED</u>	
31 AUG-21 NOV DET ECHO	USS DYESS USS FURER USS ARCTURUS	NA	ATLANTIC MED	MQM FIREFISH	19 SHIPS 6 SHIPS
7 OCT-19 OCT DET CHARLIE	USS SHADWELL	NA	CARIB	MQM	1 SHIP
21 OCT-25 OCT DET BRAVO	USS PRESERVER	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	1 SHIP 2 SHIPS 32 AIRCRAFT
NOV-16 NOV DET BRAVO	USS BORDELON	NA	CHARLESTON OP AREA	MQM	4 SHIPS
15 NOV-26 NOV DET ALPHA	USS DEWEY	NA	CARIB	MQM	7 SHIPS
18 NOV-22 NOV DET CHARLIE	USS DUVAL COUNTY	NA	VACAPES	MQM FIREFISH	6 SHIPS 2 SHIPS 2 AIRCRAFT
29 NOV-21 DEC DET BRAVO	USS AULT	NA	CARIB	MQM FIREFISH	1 SHIP 3 SHIPS 35 AIRCRAFT