

1966

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

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From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Composite Squadron SIX
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05A5G)

Subj: Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1966
(OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 of 8 Nov 1966

Encl: (1) Command History for Calendar Year 1966
(2) Chronological list of Commanding Officers
(3) Officers Roster
(4) Enlisted Roster
(5) Shipboard Drone Operations
(6) Pine Castle/Lake George Land and Water Drone Operations
(7) Warren Grove Drone Operations
(8) Dam Neck Drone Operations
(9) Elizabeth City Drone Operations
(10) Monthly Drone Malfunction Report
(11) Annual Drone Malfunction Report
(12) Naval Aviation News Feature
(13) NAS Norfolk "DOPE SHEET" Feature
(14) Welcome Aboard Booklet
(15) Letters and Messages of Commendation and Congratulation
(16)-(28) Photographs depicting Fleet Composite Squadron SIX

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (28) are submitted herewith.


C. K. O'MEARA

Copy to:
CNO (OP-09B9) (w/encl (1))
COMNAVAIRLANT (w/encl (1))

Fleet Composite Squadron SIX
U. S. Naval Air Station
Norfolk, Virginia 23511

COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1966

CHRONOLOGY

- 15 Feb Temporary detachment at Elizabeth City, N. C. established as a permanent detachment and designated Detachment III.
- 22 Apr Awarded "Excellent" in ADMAT by COMFAIRNORFOLK.
- 25 Apr Conducted training of two Chilean Naval Officers as drone controllers.
- 16 Jun CDR C. K. O'MEARA, USN, relieved CDR H. J. SYLVIA, USN, as Commanding Officer, Fleet Composite Squadron SIX.
- 14 Jul Open House held for dependents.
- 25 Jul Conducted training of two Argentine Naval Officers as drone controllers and four Argentine CPO's as drone maintenance technicians.
- 28 Jul Commenced training operations with QM-56 weapons carrier at Detachment Warren Grove.
- 1 Aug Detachment I redesignated Detachment Warren Grove.
Detachment II redesignated Detachment Dam Neck.
Detachment III redesignated Detachment Elizabeth City.
- 15 Sep BULLPUP Exercise conducted with VA-85 and VA-65 using FIREFISH targets.
- 27 Oct Awarded "High Excellent" in ADMAT by COMFAIRNORFOLK. (Over-all 94.88%)
- 7 Nov Implemented Three Level Maintenance System (3M).

CHRONOLOGY (Con't)

14 Dec Annual All Hands Christmas Dinner Party held at Fleet Recreation Park.

21 Dec Held Christmas Party for 40 Handicapped children of local area.

NARRATIVE

Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, based at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, provides air, land, and sea drone target services to ships and aircraft of the Atlantic Fleet. It is under the administrative and operational control of Commander, Fleet Air Norfolk.

The squadron, commanded by Commander C. K. O'MEARA, USN (see enclosure (2) for listing of previous commanding officers) is composed of 20 officers and 149 enlisted men, enclosures (3) and (4). The squadron does not normally deploy as a unit, but three deploying detachment teams, consisting of an officer and nine to twelve enlisted men with targets and assorted ground support equipment, deploy in ships and land target areas requesting services. Enclosures (5) and (6) indicate the deployments made during 1966.

The squadron also provides a service to train foreign naval officers and men in maintenance and controller training on the MQM-36A Target Pilotless Aircraft.

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 25 April | (2) Chilean Officers | MQM-36A Controller |
| 25 July | (2) Argentine Officers | MQM-36A Controller |
| Course of 1 week duration | (4) Argentine CPO's | MQM-36A Maintenance |

NARRATIVE (Con't)

Additionally, three permanent non-deploying detachments provide specialized target services at the following locations:

Detachment Warren Grove, New Jersey, provides moving ground targets for aircraft of the Fleet. The target vehicles are guided by remote control on an abandoned runway which is utilized as an aircraft bombing range. Enclosure (7). On 2 June NADC Johnsville delivered and introduced the NADC developed QM-56 Remote Controlled Land Moving Target to Det Warren Grove, for use as a primary land target vehicle.

Detachment Dam Neck, located at the Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, Virginia provides aerial target services for Dam Neck Gunnery School students, and operational MQM-36A target drone training for Fleet Composite Squadron SIX personnel. Enclosure (8).

Detachment Elizabeth City, based at the U. S. Coast Guard Air Base, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, provides remote controlled water target services in Albemarle Sound for Atlantic Fleet aircraft. Enclosure (9).

During 1966, forty (40) shipboard deployments were made, providing MQM-36A airborne target services and/or FIREFISH surface drone services, and, in some instances, both types of services to ships and aircraft of the Atlantic Fleet. Enclosure (5) is a listing of the underway deployments and the results of the services provided. Operation

NARRATIVE (Con't)

SPRINGBOARD 66, appearing in enclosure (5), is summarized below:

4 Jan - 1 Apr 1966

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Number of days cruising | 16 |
| Number of operating days | 15 |
| Number of flights | 33 |
| Number of successful flights | 25 |
| Number of ships serviced | 27 |

Since January 1966, VC-6 has made nine cruises in the Virginia Capes Operating Area aboard several LST's. These deployments are scheduled specifically for the purpose of furnishing MQM-36A aerial drone services and FIREFISH surface drone services. These cruises are of a duration of approximately five (5) days. High utilization of the services available is made by the ships requesting services.

Also, detachments are deployed on various types of ships such as Destroyers, Frigates, and Cruisers to provide drone services. A comparison of the services provided on LST cruises, and cruises on various other types of ships, follows:

| | <u>LST</u> | <u>OTHER SHIPS</u> |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Days Cruising | 35 | 253 |
| Days Operating | 20 | 40 |
| Flights | 67 | 93 |
| Successful Flights | 43 | 52 |
| | 4 | Enclosure (1) |

NARRATIVE (Con't)

| | <u>LST</u> | <u>OTHER SHIPS</u> |
|--|------------|--------------------|
| Flights per Cruise Day | 1.9 | 0.4 |
| Flights per Operating Day | 3.35 | 2.3 |
| Number Ships Serviced | 61 | 69 |
| Number Ships serviced per Cruising Day | 1.8 | 0.27 |

In September 1966, the squadron successfully serviced VA-85 and VA-~~65~~ in providing FIREFISH target boats for air to surface BULLPUP operations. The target boats were used with such success that RADM F. E. NUESSELE, Commander Fleet Air Norfolk, commended the squadron for a job "Well Done." Enclosure (15).

On 7 November 1966, Fleet Composite Squadron SIX implemented the Standard Navy Maintenance Material Management System (3M). By analyzing maintenance costs and devising techniques to reduce costs wherever and whenever it is economically feasible, it is believed that many procedural encumbrances and unnecessary actions can be minimized.

Drone malfunctions during 1966 are shown on the monthly and annual Malfunction Reports. Enclosures (10) and (11).

RESEARCH and DEVELOPMENT

During 1966, the adaptation of Infra-Red Augmentation Pods to the MQM-36A was accomplished. The old model Altitude Hold assemblies (PN 67360) were

RESEARCH and DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

modified to work as an igniter switch for the four IR pods. Mounting brackets were made and wiring was adapted to the MQM for the IR pods. The system was redesigned so that the spare channel (Alt. Hold) would ignite the flares upon command, after two safety positions on the switch were passed. The unit was tested at VC-6 Detachment Dam Neck, Va. on 7 December 1966, and proved to work precisely as planned.

A Gates Rectifier was provided to VC-6 for evaluation as a replacement for the standard EAPU. The rectifier was tested aboard ship and found to be highly successful for drone operations. It proved far superior in performance and safety features, as well as being smaller, lighter, and less expensive, than the EAPU.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Feature articles dealing with the squadron's newest target vehicle appeared in two publications this year. The 13 January Dopesheet, which is the Norfolk Naval Air Station Newspaper, and the January Naval Aviation News both mentioned the conversion of salvaged and surplus vehicles into radio controlled mobile land targets. Enclosures (12) and (13). On 21 December the squadron hosted a "Handicapped Children's Party" for 40 local crippled and retarded children which received local TV news coverage.

The Squadron has published a Welcome Aboard booklet which is distributed to all personnel when they check into the squadron. Enclosure (14).

SPORTS

The squadron touch football team placed second in the COMFAIRNORFOLK Tournament and the basketball team is currently pacing the league with a 14-0 record.

SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE and MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

A problem area in maintenance of the drones has been the ARW-55 transmitter. It is outdated and unreliable. Maintenance of the transmitter is very difficult and time consuming. The ARW-55 requires the use of EAPU's for its 28 volt D.C. power source, which are also old, unreliable, and require frequent maintenance.

The URW-14 transmitter, which uses standard 115 volt ships power, has been used with great success in place of the ARW-55 whenever possible, but its size, weight and bulky antenna make it impractical for most shipboard deployments.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Transmitter and APU problems should be reduced by the ARW-80 transmitter that is due to replace the ARW-55 and URW-14 sometime in the near future. It is strongly recommended that the ARW-80 be procured soon as possible.

COMMENDATIONS

During the year, seven letters and messages of commendation and congratulation

COMMENDATIONS (Con't)

were received from other commands. Enclosure (15). LCDR [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], Operations Officer, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, Republic of Vietnam Commendation Medal, and the Navy Unit Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving as Maintenance Control Officer attached to Attack Squadron EIGHTY-FIVE embarked in USS KITTY HAWK (CVA63) from 26 November 1965 to 23 May 1966. During this period, Lieutenant Commander [REDACTED] was in large measure responsible for organization and control of Maintenance Operations in support of over 1000 combat sorties into North and South Vietnam.

PERSONNEL

The reenlistment rate for 1966 was 18 percent overall, six (6) first cruise and four (4) career re-ups out of 56 possible.

Disciplinary statistics show an average of 2.5 Commanding Officer's NJP per month. Total disciplinary cases were: CO's NJP - 28, and Special Court Martial - one (1).

Promotions were slow in the upper enlisted pay grades with 3 advancements to E8 (1) and E6 (2) out of 20 passing exams. E4 and E5 did much better with 34 advancements out of 60 passing exams.

Enclosures (5) through (9) and (15) through (28) attest to the flexibility, efficiency, and reliability of Fleet Composite Squadron SIX. VC-6

is continuing its tradition of service, to provide more and better
"Skeet" to the gunners and bombers of the Atlantic Fleet.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF COMMANDING OFFICERS
OF FLEET COMPOSITE SQUADRON SIX

| | | | | |
|-------|------|------|--------------------|-----|
| MARCH | 1952 | LCDR | R. W. SAYLOR | USN |
| JUNE | 1953 | CDR | J. V. LANCASTER | USN |
| SEPT | 1954 | CDR | T. L. WOOD | USN |
| OCT | 1956 | CDR | J. A. HOLMES | USN |
| MARCH | 1958 | CDR | E. F. WILLIAMSON | USN |
| APRIL | 1959 | CDR | J. M. REIGHER | USN |
| JUNE | 1960 | CDR | V. W. LYDSON | USN |
| MAY | 1961 | CDR | G. M. BELL | USN |
| JULY | 1962 | CDR | J. E. GRAY | USN |
| JULY | 1963 | CDR | R. M. BOLLENBACHER | USN |
| OCT | 1964 | CDR | W. D. WILSON | USN |
| JULY | 1965 | CDR | H. J. SYLVIA | USN |
| JUNE | 1966 | CDR | C. K. O'MEARA | USN |

SHIPBOARD DRONE OPERATIONS

| SHIP | DATE | NO. DAYS | NO. DAYS OPERATING | NO. FLTS | NO. SUCCESSFUL FLTS | HRS | NO. SHIPS SERVICED | FF OPS | FF HRS | FF SHIPS | FF A/C |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|-----|--------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| USS THOMAS | 7-8 JAN | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1.4 | 3 | | | | |
| USS BYRD | 7 JAN - 1 FEB | 26 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | | | | |
| USS WALLER | 11-12 JAN | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1.4 | 2 | | | | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS WITEK | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | | | | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS COURTNEY | SPGBD | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2.7 | 3 | | | | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS GARCIA | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2.1 | 3 | | | | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS AULT | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2.9 | 4 | | | | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS POWER | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 1 | | | | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS SUFFOLK COUNTY | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3.2 | 4 | | | | |
| USS DUVAL COUNTY | 14-18 FEB | 4 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 3.4 | 2 | 3 | 4.5 | 3 | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS KEYWADIN | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| USS WARE | 6-8 MAR | 3 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5.3 | 6 | | | | |

| SHIP | DATE | NO. DAYS | NO. DAYS OPERATING | NO. FLTS | NO. SUCCESSFUL FLTS | HRS | NO. SHIPS SERVICED | FF OPS | FF HRS | FF SHIPS | FF A/C |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------|--------------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS ESCAPE | SPGBD | 5 | 4 | 12 | 8 | 8.2 | 6 | | | | |
| (SPRINGBOARD) USS SAGAMORE | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1.1 | 1 | | | | |
| USS DUVAL COUNTY | 14-18 MAR | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2.0 | 1 | 3 | 0.5 | 0 | |
| USS ATAKAPA | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2.1 | 3 | | | | |
| USS WILSON | SPGBD | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.1 | 1 | | | | |
| USS COLUMBUS | 21-30 MAR | 10 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 2.4 | 6 | | | | |
| USS K.D. BAILEY | 12-28 APR | 16 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 5.6 | 4 | | | | |
| USS LORAIN COUNTY | 17-22 APR | 5 | 4 | 19 | 11 | 11.4 | 20 | 3 | 1.8 | 2 | |
| USS WALDO COUNTY | 2-5 MAY | 3 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 17.2 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| USS HAWKINS | 8-13 MAY | 5 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3.9 | 5 | | | | |
| USS TALBOT COUNTY | 1-2 JUN | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2.6 | 5 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | |
| USS PRATT USS POWER | 16 MAY - 11 JUN | 26 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1.2 | 2 | | | | |
| USS OWENS USS LEAHY | 5-16 JUN | 11 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0.9 | 3 | | | | |
| USS RALEIGH | 14-15 JUN | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.0 | 3 | | | | |

| SHIP | DATE | NO. DAYS | NO. DAYS OPERATING | NO. FLTS | NO. SUCCESSFUL FLTS | HRS | NO. SHIPS SERVICED | FF OPS | FF HRS | FF SHIPS | FF A/C |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| USS ROBERTS | 15-30 JUN | 15 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1.1 | 4 | | | | |
| USS BELKNAP | 5 AUG - 4 SEP | 31 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 3.2 | 4 | | | | |
| USS STRONG | 24-29 JUN | 6 | NO FLTS | | | | | | | | |
| USS SUFFOLK COUNTY | 11-14 JUL | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4.1 | 4 | 3 | 2.2 | 0 | |
| USS CHEBOYGAN COUNTY | 16-17 AUG | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2.2 | 2 | | | | |
| USS BYRD | 12-27 SEP | 16 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3.8 | 4 | | | | |
| USS TALBOT COUNTY | 19-23 SEP | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2.9 | 3 | | | | |
| USS BELKNAP USS FARRAGUT | 27 SEP - 24 OCT | 28 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | | | | |
| USS BORDELON | 28 SEP - 14 OCT | 17 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2.7 | 6 | | | | |
| USS ROBERTS | 3-7 OCT | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1.4 | 2 | | | | |
| USS POWER | 14-20 OCT | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4.9 | 5 | | | | |
| USS BACHE | 15-16 SEP | 2 | 1 | | | | | 2 | 4.0 | | 2 SQD. |
| USS DUVAL COUNTY | 24-28 OCT | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4.5 | 13 | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | |
| USS J. DANIALS | 28 NOV - 20 DEC | 23 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 3.4 | 7 | | | | |

PINE CASTLE/LAKE GEORGE LAND & WATER DRONE OPERATIONS

| <u>DATES</u> | <u>DAYS</u> | <u>OP. HRS. PINE CASTLE LAND DRONE</u> | <u>OP. HRS. LAKE GEORGE WATER DRONE</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|--|---|
| 24 JAN - 6 FEB | 14 | 8.25 | 9.5 |
| 26 MAR - 4 APR | 10 | 0 | 3.5 |
| 23 MAY - 4 JUN | 13 | 18.4 | 21.69 |
| 25 JUL - 4 AUG | 11 | 10.0 | 10.9 |
| 10 SEP - 24 SEP | 15 | 0 | 10.0 |
| 31 OCT - 7 NOV | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | <u>71</u> | <u>33.65</u> | <u>55.59</u> |

WARREN GROVE DRONE OPERATIONS

(AIR TO SURFACE)

| | <u>DAYS OF OPERATIONS</u> | <u>ATTACKS</u> | <u>HOURS OF OPERATIONS</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| JANUARY | 1 | 18 | 1 |
| FEBRUARY | 8 | 131 | 9.16 |
| MARCH | 5 | 10 | 3.50 |
| APRIL | 1 | 43 | 1.50 |
| MAY | 9 | 117 | 15.83 |
| JUNE | 2 | 22 | 2.00 |
| JULY | 3 | 42 | 2.00 |
| AUGUST | 2 | 20 | 0.83 |
| SEPTEMBER | 1 | 9 | 0.83 |
| OCTOBER NOVEMBER | NO OPERATIONS | | |
| DECEMBER | 6 | All hours of drone operation used for train- ing procedure | 7.2 |
| TOTAL | 38 | 412 | 47.2 |

Enclosure (7)

DAM NECK DRONE OPERATIONS

(SURFACE TO AIR)

| | <u>DAYS OF OPERATIONS</u> | <u>FLIGHTS</u> | <u>SUCCESSFUL FLIGHTS</u> | <u>TOTAL TIME (Min.)</u> |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| JANUARY | 19 | 26 | 25 | 1665 |
| FEBRUARY | 16 | 30 | 26 | 1672 |
| MARCH | 13 | 37 | 34 | 1990 |
| APRIL | 9 | 29 | 26 | 1580 |
| MAY | 14 | 75 | 63 | 4013 |
| JUNE | 14 | 47 | 42 | 2449 |
| JULY | 10 | 28 | 24 | 1236 |
| AUGUST | 17 | 58 | 43 | 2274 |
| SEPTEMBER | 12 | 14 | 14 | 723 |
| OCTOBER | 16 | 46 | 39 | 2250 |
| NOVEMBER | 14 | 45 | 39 | 2237 |
| DECEMBER | 11 | 38 | 29 | 1690 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| TOTAL | 184 | 473 | 404 | 23779 Min. 396.31 Hrs. |

ELIZABETH CITY DRONE OPERATIONS

(AIR TO SEA)

| | <u>DAYS OF OPERATIONS</u> | <u>ATTACKS</u> | <u>TOTAL TIME</u> |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| JANUARY | 2 | - | 3 + 51 |
| FEBRUARY | 0 | - | - |
| MARCH | 0 | - | - |
| APRIL | 0 | - | - |
| MAY | 0 | - | - |
| JUNE | 0 | - | - |
| JULY | 3 | - | 2 + 24 |
| AUGUST | 2 | - | 2 + 54 |
| SEPTEMBER | 2 | - | 5 + 06 |
| OCTOBER | 4 | - | 5 + 40 |
| NOVEMBER | 3 | 116 | 5 + 35 |
| DECEMBER | 1 | 44 | 1 + 35 |
| | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> |
| TOTAL | 15 | 160 | 25Hrs. + 25Min. |

Enclosure (9)