

1967

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

**DECLASSIFIED**

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Unclassified upon removal of Enclosures 3, 4, 6 and 8)

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

Subj: Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1967  
(OPNAV Report Symbol 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 of 8 November 1966

- Encl:
- (1) Biographies and Photographs of Commanding Officers
  - (2) Complement of Officer, 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 Malfunction Summary 1967
  - (8) Congratulatory Messages/Letters
  - (9) Photograph of Towed Target Sled

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1967 is submitted.
2. The outstanding events and highlights of 1967 are listed in the following chronology:
  - 14 JAN - Commenced the first of 33 shipboard deployments.
  - 23 MAR - Commenced assistance to Public Works Center, Norfolk in the operational check-out of the QM-56 Land Mobile Target.
  - 1 MAY - Disestablished Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, Detachment Elizabeth City, North Carolina
  - 3 MAY - Established a fourth deploying Detachment
  - 16-18 JUN - Conducted MQM-36A and Firefish operational demonstrations during open house at FAAWTC, Dam Neck in connection with the 25th anniversary celebration of that command.

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GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals; declassified after 12 years

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- 15 JUL - Assumed custody of and responsibility for operating all Firefish Target boats in the U. S. Atlantic Fleet.
- 20 JUL - Change of Command
- 12 DEC - Annual Squadron Christmas Party
- 20 DEC - Annual Christmas party for handicapped children from the Tidewater Area.

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 K. O'MEARA, USN, from 16 June 1966 to 20 July 1967 and by CDR Charles R. JASPER, USN, from 20 July 1967 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 until 15 July 1967, was to provide aerial and land moving target services for surface-to-air and air-to-surface gunnery training for units of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Effective 15 July 1967, this mission was modified by CINCLANTFLT to include the additional task of providing seaborne moving target (Firefish) services for surface-to-surface and air-to-surface fleet gunnery training (note 1). These target services are provided through use of unmanned radio controlled drones. The squadron currently operates MQM-36A small pilotless aerial target drones, Firefish seaborne target drones and QM-56 Land Mobile Target drones.

Note 1: Authority - CINCLANTFLT ltr Ser 0611/312A of 25 APR 66 and

CINCLANTFLT MSG 191700Z JAN 67

b. Composition and Organization.

(1) Enclosure (2) enumerates the squadron complement of officer, enlisted, civilian and flight personnel as of 31 December 1967. 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 period January - May 1967 the squadron was organized into a parent command, three deploying detachments and three non-deploying detachments permanently based ashore. During the first week of May 1967 the permanent detachment at Elizabeth City, N. C. was disestablished (Note 1) and a fourth deploying detachment was established (Note 2).

(a) The four deploying detachments are composed of one officer 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 1967 these detachments made 33 individual deployments which ranged from four days to four months in duration. Enclosure (3) is a summary of 1967 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 twelve 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 1967.

Note 1: Authority - CNO ltr Ser 41P30 of 19 JAN 67.

Note 2: Authority - CNO ltr Ser OP100E Ser 12101 of 3 May 67.

(c) Detachment Dam Neck is permanently located at Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Dam Neck, Virginia and consists of a personnel strength of two officers and fourteen enlisted men. This detachment operates the MQM-36A, pilotless aerial target drone to provide services for the U. S. Atlantic Fleet Gunnery School and, as a secondary mission, 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 1967.

(d) A third permanent detachment, Detachment Elizabeth City, N. C., operated Firefish at Palmetto Point Target, Albemarle Sound, North Carolina for air-to-surface gunnery training until 1 May 1967 when the detachment was disestablished. No operations were conducted by the detachment during 1967.

(e) Due to increase demand for at-sea target services an emergency fifth deploying detachment was formed from support personnel in mid 1967 and has since been deployed on a regular basis. Approval to establish this detachment as a permanent fifth deploying detachment has been requested.

4. 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 1967.

b. Material Performance of Assigned Target Systems. Enclosure (7) is a summary of material performance and target malfunctions which occurred during 1967.

c. Maintenance Problems and New Equipment. The following discussion is a resume of the suitability of new equipment and of maintenance problems encountered during 1967:

(1) Adaptation of the 3M System. A major task during 1967 was to resolve problems encountered with adapting the Naval Maintenance Material Management System (3M) to a target drone squadron such as FLECOMPRON SIX. Work unit codes, an essential ingredient to the system, were not available for application to maintenance functions conducted in connection with target drones and associated equipments. In order to derive information to use as management tools, local codes were initially established. Although these codes temporarily served their purpose, it became evident that representative codes of a more permanent nature were required. Through the efforts of the squadron Maintenance Department, typical work unit codes were developed, approved and published and are now in use throughout the Navy wherever operations of a similar nature are conducted.

(2) The QM-56 Land Mobile Target. During 1967 the QM-56 Land Mobile Target, introduced for fleet use during 1966, has been a highly reliable remote control target vehicle. No significant maintenance problems have occurred during this first full year of its operation. On 23 March 1967, at the request of Commander Naval Air Systems Command (note 1), FLECOMPRON SIX commenced operational check-out of all QM-56 targets, converted from U. S. Army surplus QM-56 90MM Gun Carriers by Public Works Center Norfolk, Va. for use by all land mobile target gunnery ranges throughout the entire Navy.

(3) Ground Station Radio Control Equipment. The T-942 transmitter portion of the AN/ARW-80 control system was introduced in August 1967 for use in control of the MQM-36A aerial drone and Firefish targets. This transmitter is vastly superior to the AN/ARW-55 transmitter which had been a major source of trouble in drone control operations. An electronic power rectifier was also placed in operational use in August 1967 to provide ground electrical power for the control systems. Use of these new equipments has

Note 1: COMNAVAIRSYSCOM ltr AMA 47: BWW of 3 MAR 67

resulted in a significant increase in ground control station reliability.

(4) JATO Carrier Assembly Shortage. A shortage of JATO carrier assemblies, which are used to mount the JATO bottle utilized to provide the initial thrust force for launching the MQM-36A, was a problem area throughout 1967. Normally, one carrier assembly is expended for each launch. During the month of November 1967 a model A7 catapult launcher, which does not require the use of the JATO carrier assembly, was obtained at "no cost" from U. S. Army surplus and installed at Detachment Dam Neck. This action has resolved the problem of providing JATO carrier assemblies and reduced operating costs. A net savings of approximately \$6,350 was realized during November - December 1967 and much greater cost reduction should be realized in 1968.

(5) The Firefish Program. Transfer of all U. S. Atlantic Fleet Firefish seaborne targets assets to FLECOMPRON SIX was completed 15 July 1967. Discharging the additional mission of providing all Firefish target services for surface-to-surface and air-to-surface Fleet gunnery training required the establishment of a 24 man Boat Division within the Maintenance Department. Prior to 15 July 1967, some Firefish operations had been conducted but no regular deployments were made. Although those operations offered some limited Firefish experience, personnel were not adequately trained to maintain or operate this target and no programmed maintenance or standard operating procedures had been established. These problems which were compounded by receipt of non-operable boats, the lack of proper test equipment and a critical shortage of spare parts nearly resulted in an inability to fulfill the newly assigned mission. However, a "crash program" which consisted of formulating standard operating procedures, establishing a new training syllabus,

instituting programmed maintenance and a rebuilding/modification of the entire Firefish Control system has resulted in the capability to successfully conduct Firefish operations on a regular basis.

(6) Firefish Conversion Program. The older Firefish (designated Mark I) autopilot control system is considered unsatisfactory for operational use due to extremely poor reliability and high maintenance requirements. The design deficiencies and problem areas were identified which cleared the way for production of a Firefish Mark II as an evolution target vehicle which has proven to be satisfactory. However, since the small number of Firefish II in the FLECOMPRON SIX inventory was insufficient to meet operational commitments, FLECOMPRON SIX has designed and undertaken an approved program to convert the old Firefish Mark I boats to the Firefish Mark II configuration. This program is well within squadron capabilities and will place unusable target boats back in the operating inventory at approximately one-tenth the cost of a new replacement boat. More importantly, it will enable the squadron to meet all operational commitments.

d. Communication. U. S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va. serves as communications guard for the squadron. During 1967 a total of 572 outgoing and 3,168 incoming messages were processed by that command for the squadron. A limited amount of registered publications is maintained by the squadron which is designated a local holder under cognizance of U. S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

e. Personnel. The following is a resume concerning personnel manning level, reenlistment rates and legal matters:

(1) As of 31 December 1967 the squadron was manned at 92% of officer allowance and 74% of enlisted allowance.

(2) The 1967 reenlistment rate was 18.72%. Among the forty-eight eligible first cruise and career candidates, two first cruise and seven career reenlistments were effected.

(3) Promotions in pay grades E-4 and E-5 were effected on 66 of the 75 personnel who passed the examination and on two personnel each in pay grade E-6, E-7 and E-8 of the eleven personnel who passed the respective examinations.

(4) Thirteen Commanding Officer's Non-Judicial Punishment cases were conducted by the parent command and three cases were conducted by Officers-in-Charge of detachments during 1967 for an average of 1.3 cases per month. There were no courts martials convened in 1967.

f. Community Relations and Civic Action. The highlights of the squadrons participation in community relations and civic action are listed below:

(1) In June 1967 the Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Dam Neck, Va. held a 25th Anniversary celebration. FLECOMPRON SIX Detachment Dam Neck participated in an open house and provided static displays along with operational demonstrations of Firefish and MQM-36A drone capabilities.

(2) On 12 December 1967 the squadron held its Annual All Hands Christmas Party at the NCO Club, Fort Story.

(3) On 20 December 1967 the officers and men of the squadron hosted 40 crippled or retarded children, of the local community, at the squadron's Annual Handicapped Childrens Party. (Enclosure (8) )

(4) The squadron received indirect local television and press coverage through Detachment Dam Neck participation in the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center. The U. S. Naval Air Station paper the "Dope Sheet" provides excellent support to the squadron for news items about advancements, sports and other topics of local military interest.

g. A notable "first" for this squadron was the participation of FLECOMPRON SIX detachment in the South American Navy Exercise UNITAS VIII. The success of these drone operations is evidenced by the congratulatory message and letter of commendation received from COMSOLANT. (Enclosure 8)

h. Congratulatory Messages/Letters. During the year eight (8) letters or messages of commendation or congratulations were received. (Enclosure 8)

i. Projects and Plans for 1968.

(1) Plans for the forthcoming year include transition to a new seaborne target drone and aerial target drone.

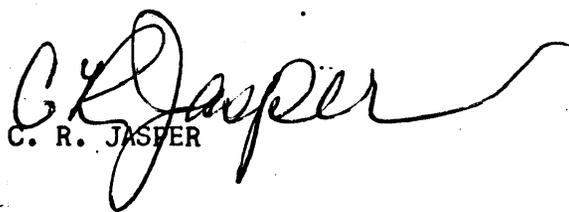
(a) Naval Ships Systems Command developed plans and designed an 18 foot boat as a replacement for the Firefish target boat. It is expected this squadron will commence operations of this new boat by mid 1968.

(b) The MQM-74A Aerial Target Drone is scheduled to replace the MQM-36A drone during 1968. Initial training of squadron key personnel is scheduled for June through September 1968. It is expected that initial operations of the new drone in support of fleet gunnery training exercises will take place during November 1968.

(2) Projects. Known projects for 1968 include:

(a) Evaluation of radar transponder and a passive radar reflector for use in non-visual tracking of the Firefish target boats.

(b) Evaluation of a Firefish towed target sled for use when the desired ordnance would result in an unacceptable high probability of target boat destruction. (See enclosure 9)

  
C. R. JASPER

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