

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
FLEET COMPOSITE SQUADRON SIX  
NAVAL AIR STATION  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511

1971  
DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
VC-6/Code 20  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~-UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF ENCLOSURE (8)

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, Naval Air Station,  
Norfolk, Virginia 23511

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1971  
(OPNAV REPORT 5750.1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 series

Reg No.  
306376

Encl: (1) Biographies and Photographs of Commanding Officers  
(2) Composite Photo of Target Drones  
(3) Complement of Officers, Enlisted, Civilian and Flight Personnel  
(4) Deployment Summary of Operations  
(5) Detachment Dam Neck Operations  
(6) Statistical Summary of Operations  
(7) Change of Command Pamphlet  
(8) Congratulatory Letters/Messages

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Fleet Composite Squadron SIX  
Command History for Calendar Year 1971 is submitted herewith.

2. The outstanding events and highlights of 1971 are listed in the  
following chronology:

- 5 January - In accordance with CNO message 211545Z DEC 70, VC-6  
Detachment Warren Grove, New Jersey was disestablished.  
Additional details were reported in CY 1970 Command  
History submitted by C. O. FLECOMPRON SIX letter serial  
96 of 4 March 1971.
- 11 January - First shipboard test of the Vega Portable Tracking Package  
took place aboard USS INCHON (LPH 12)
- 1 February - First helicopter recovery of the MQM-74A Aerial Target  
Drone in the Virginia Capes Area by an aircraft of  
Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SIX (HC-6)

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- 8 February - First deployment of an MQM-74A detachment to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for an operational test of the Vega Tracking System.
- 15 March - First Air to Air Missile (AAM) firing exercise using the MQM-74A in the Virginia Capes Operating Area Fighter Squadron 103 recipient of the services.
- 24 March - Demonstration of the Vega Tracking System for representatives of the Royal Navy at FAAWTC Dam Neck, Virginia.
- 19 April - First Air to Surface Missile (ASM) Exercise in the Virginia Capes Operating Area utilizing the MK 33 SEPTAR as a target. Aircraft of Attack Carrier Air Wing SEVEN were the recipients of the service.
- 6 June - First successful control of a MK-33 SEPTAR Target Boat from an S-2 Aircraft.
- 10 June - First deployment of a MQM-74A/SEPTAR Det to Souda Bay Crete in support of Sixth Fleet Operations.
- 17 June - First AAM Exercise using MQM-74A Targets conducted at NATO Allied Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) for the Sixth Fleet Operations.
- 9 July - CDR. T. A. GASSER assumed command of Fleet Composite Squadron SIX.
- 27 July - First squadron participation in a Surface to Air Missile Exercise for the Sixth Fleet at the NAMFI range with launching of MQM-74A Target Drones for USS SAMPSON

3. The following narrative enlarges upon the events listed in paragraph TWO above and discusses the command organization, operations and topics of special interest.

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- a. Throughout 1971 considerable development and evaluation was conducted on the Vega Precision Lab Portable Tracking System, Vega Model 626C. On 11 January the first shipboard test took place with Detachment BRAVO on board USS INCHON (LPH 12). A specially modified T33 aircraft served as the tracking target. Several difficulties were encountered with the Vega System, resulting in incomplete testing and the tracking unit was returned to Vega for corrective action. On 8 February Detachment BRAVO deployed to Roosevelt Roads, P. R. in conjunction with Operation Springboard, for further operational tests of the Vega System. After 3 MQM-74A flights the Vega plotting board failed, terminating further flights. Detachment BRAVO deployed aboard USS PERRY (DD 884) on 1 May 1971 for another evaluation of the tracking system. Again a specially modified T33 aircraft was used for tracking and again difficulties with the system were encountered. By itself the test was incomplete but the results of this evaluation were combined with that of the incomplete evaluation of 11 January and together demonstrated that the unit met all specifications thereby completing the evaluation.

In January Detachment BRAVO deployed to Souda Bay, Crete to provide MQM-74A target service at the NATO Allied Missile Firing Installation (NAMFI) for units of the SIXTH Fleet. This was the first deployment of a VC-6 Detachment to a shore installation in the Mediterranean. On 17 June the first air to air exercise utilizing MQM-74A target was conducted at NAMFI. USS F. D. ROOSEVELT (CVA 42) based aircraft were the recipients of the service. On 27 July MQM-74A drones were first used for surface to air missiles by USS SAMPSON (DDG 10) and USS SELLERS (DDG 11). By July it appeared that the technical difficulties encountered with the Vega system had been resolved and the system was capable of providing effective tracking of MQM-74A drones. However through the end of the year the squadron was hampered in that the required peculiar ground support test equipment for the system had not been received; over a year after initial delivery of the tracking system.

Considerable development of the firing range at Fleet Anti Air Warfare Training Center (FAAWTC), Dam Neck, Virginia was made during 1971. Previously the services provided by VC-6 Detachment Dam Neck were almost exclusively for FAAWTC. On 15 March air to air missile firing exercise against an IR flare and smoke augmented MQM-74A targets were commenced at the Dam Neck range. VF 103 was the recipient of the service firing Sidewinder and Sparrow missiles. On 19 April the first air to surface missile exercise on the Dam Neck range was conducted for aircraft of Attack Carrier Air Wing Seven (CAW-7) using Sparrow missiles against a MK 33 Septar boat augmented with a special radar reflector. On 17 April USS KENNEDY (CVA 67) became the first ship to fire a Sea Sparrow against the MQM-74A on the Dam Neck range. Additionally the Dam Neck range was used by ships for conventional surface to air gunnery against MQM-74A and MQM-33A targets. All tracking and control of the MQM-74A, was accomplished utilizing the MSQ-51 Tracking Control Center.

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Use of the MK 33 Septar as an air to surface missile/ordnance target generated the need to provide greater standoff control capability. Since the MK 33 Septar is tracked visually and control is limited to line of sight, maximum standoff distance is limited to about four miles when controlled from the surface. In 1971 helicopters were used periodically to increase the control range. On 6 June an S-2 aircraft from VC-2 was successfully used as an MK 33 Septar control platform. Due to the S-2's improved visibility and speed it proved to be the preferred control platform where airborne control is required.

b. Location/Command

(1) Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, located at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia was commanded by CDR Robert G. Anderson, USN from 13 July 1970 to 9 July 1971; and by CDR Thomas A. Gasser from 9 July 1971 to present. Enclosure (1) contains a biography and photograph of each commanding officer. The command is under the operational and administrative control of COMNAVAIRLANT.

c. Mission Change

(1) With the disestablishment of VC-6 Det Warren Grove the squadron no longer provides QM-56 surface target services.

d. Composition

(1) Enclosure (3) enumerates the squadron complement of officer, enlisted, civilian and flight personnel as of 31 December 1971.

e. Detachment Operations

(1) During 1971 the five deploying detachments made twenty-four individual deployments which ranged from one week to five months in duration. Enclosure (4) is a summary of 1971 deployments.

(2) VC-6 Detachment Dam Neck operates the MQM-33A, and Septar Target Drones for the U. S. Atlantic Fleet Gunnery School and various Fleet units. MQM-74A aerial drone services are provided at Dam Neck by a deployable detachment augmenting the permanently assigned personnel. Enclosure (5) is a summary of operations conducted by the detachment during 1971.

f. Operational Statistics

(1) Enclosure (6) is a combined comprehensive statistical summary of all MQM-36A, MQM-74A, FIREFISH, and SEPTAR operations conducted by the squadron during 1971.

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g. Targets, Maintenance, and New Equipment

- (1) MQM-33A/36A  
As of 31 December 1971 onboard assets of propeller driven drones were reduced to 26 targets thirteen of each type.
- (2) IR Augmentation for the MQM-74A  
Mark 28 Infra Red pyrotechnic flares installed in the MQM-74A drones were utilized in the first AAM exercise conducted in VACAPES Area.
- (3) Vega Tracking System  
The second Vega Tracking Package was received 17 March 1971.
- (4) SEPTAR Handling Davit  
Two portable handling davits with power winches manufactured by Portsmouth Naval Ship Yard were received 15 May 1971.
- (5) Tracking Control Central  
On 24 August 1971, custody of the MK-33 Tracking Control Central was assumed from the decommissioned Drone Anti Submarine Helicopter (DASH) unit at FAAWTC Dam Neck, Virginia.

h. Personnel

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

- (1) As of 31 December the squadron had on board 90% of officers allowance and 90% of enlisted allowance.
- (2) The 1971 reenlistment rate was 17% of the eligible first cruise and career candidates; 3 first cruise and 3 career reenlistments were effected.
- (3) Promotions from February/May/August/November advancement exams were effected on 52 of 151 personnel who participated in the exams.
- (4) Fourteen Commanding Officers Non-Judical Punishment cases were conducted by the parent command during 1971.

i. Community Relations and Civic Action

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

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- (1) Open House was held after the Change of Command, for dependents and visitors.
- (2) Squadron Aerial and Seaborne targets were used at the Azalea Garden Festival Air Show at the Naval Air Station.

4. Congratulatory Messages/Letters

Letters or messages of commendations or appreciation received are included as enclosure (8).



T. A. GASSER

Copy to:  
COMNAVAIRLANT (Code 13) (WO enclosures)  
Director of NAVAL HISTORY (OP-09B9)

DEPLOYMENT SUMMARY (CY 71)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTROLL SHIPS</u>	<u>REQUESTING COMMAND</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE SERVICE &amp; UNITS SERVICED</u>
13 JAN-23 FEB DET ALPHA	USS RECOVERY	CINCLANTFLT (COMCARIBSEAFRON)	ROOS RDS (SPRING BOARD)	SEPTAR USS CRONE USS JOHNSON LO ACFT FROM CW-6 USS WOOP USS LAWE HMES ASSINIBONE HMES MARGAREE HMES ST LAURET USS RECOVERY
8 FEB-23 FEB DET BRAVO	USS RECOVERY	COMCARIBSEAFRON	ROOS RDS (SPRING BOARD)	MQM-71A
16 FEB 25 FEB DET ECHO	CASTILHO AUGUSTO	CINCLANTFLT (COMIBERLANT)	LISBON/PORTUGAL SUNNY SEAS	SEPTAR 3 SHIPS
24 FEB 16 MAR	NA	COMFAIRJAX	PINE CASTLE LAKE GEORGE	SEPTAR 196 ACFT/VA-37,105,82, 86,171,66.
28 MAR 6 APR DET BRAVO	NA	COMMANDING OFFICER SECOND MAW	CAMP LEJUNE (HAWK FIREX)	MQM-71A 3rd LAAM BN
5 APR 8 APR DET ALPHA	LORAIN COUNTY	COMPBIBRON FOUR	VACAPES	SEPTAR 5 SHIPS
13 APR 22 APR DET DELTA	USS NEWPORT NEWS	COMCARDIV TWO	VACAPES	SEPTAR 5 SHIPS/3 ACFT SQDS
19 APR 23 APR DET ALPHA	USS ATAKAPA	VF-32	VACAPES	SEPTAR VF - 32 ACFT

Enclosure (1)

DEPLOYMENT SUMMARY (CY 71)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTROLL SHIPS</u>	<u>REQUESTING COMMAND</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE SERVICE &amp; UNITS SERVICED</u>
1 MAY 7 MAY DET ALPHA	USS CATAWBA	CARDIV SIX	JAX OPAREA	SEPTAR CVW-3
1 MAY 7 MAY DET BRAVO	USS PERRY	CARDIV SIX	JAX OPAREA	MQM-74A 0
7 JUN 8 JUN DET DELTA	USS ATAKAPA	VF-32	VACAPES	SEPTAR VF-32 ACFT
10 JUN 15 SEP	USS NEWPORT/15 JUL USS MCCARD/30 JUL	COMSIXTHFLT	SOUDA BAY	SEPTAR
14 JUN 18 JUN DET ALPHA	USS LEARY	COMDESRON TWO	VACAPES	MQM-36A USS VOGELGESANG USS LEARY
16 JUN 5 AUG DET DELTA	USS RALEIGH	COMPHIBRON EIGHT	NORTH ATLANTIC	SEPTAR USS RALIGH USS SHREVEPORT
21 JUN 25 JUN DET ECHO	USS FT. SNELLING	COMPHIBRON TEN	VACAPES	SEPTAR USS FRANCIS-MARION USS FORT SNELLING USS YORK COUNTY USS CHARLESTON
28 JUN 29 JUN	USS ATAKAPA	VF-14	VACAPES	SEPTAR VF-14 ACFT
23 JUL 15 DEC	USS BORDELON	COMSOLANT	SOUTH AMERICA (UNITAS XII)	MQM-36A SEPTAR 22 SHIPS

Enclosure (1)



DEPLOYMENT SUMMARY (CY 71)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CONTROL SHIPS</u>	<u>REQUESTING COMMAND</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE SERVICE &amp; UNITS SERVICED</u>	
16 - 20 AUG 71 DET DELTA	FT MONROE		27 of W-72	SEPTAR	
30 - 03 SEP 71 DET ECHO	USS J.F. KENNEDY	COMCARDIV FOUR	VACAPES AREA	SEPTAR	2 SQUADRONS VF 14, 46
09-23 SEP 71	USS YORK COUNTY	COMPHIPRON	ATLANTIC(ROSS RDS)	SEPTAR	HEMITAGE, CHARLESTON
15 - 17 OCT 71 DET X-RAY	USS KIOWA	FITWING ONE	VACAPES AREA	FIREFISH/ SEPTAR	VF 41, 84, 75, 4 SHIPS
8 - 13 NOV 71 DET CHARLIE	NA	COMFAIRJAX	LK GEORGE	SEPTAR	8 VA SQUADRONS
09 - 13 NOV 71 DET DELTA	USS MILWAUKEE	COMCRUDESFLT 8	ROSS RDS	SEPTAR	NONE
1 - 7 DEC 71  DET DELTA	NA	COMFAIRJAX	JAX OPS AREA	SEPTAR	NO OPS  YORK COUNTY, FRANCIS MARION

Enclosure (4)

DETACHMENT DAM NECK OPERATIONS

	MQM-33A	MQM-36A	MQM-74A
Launch Attempts	174	7	186
Satisfactory Launches	172	7	184
Successful Flight (SVCS completed)	88	3	99
For Gunnery Firing	109	0	3
For Gunnery Tracking	63	7	8
For Unit Training (VC-6)	0	7	16
Expenditures (Operational Reasons)	33	1	55
Expenditures (Hit by Gunfire)(Missiles)	3	0	20

MQM-36A AERIAL TGT DRONE CY 71

	Dam Neck	Deploying Dets	Combined
Launch Attempts	7	32	39
Sat Launches	7	27	34
Successful Flights (Services Completed)			
Operational Expenditures	1	7	8
Hit/Kill Expenditures	0	3	3
Total Expenditures	1	10	11
Flights Per Operational Expenditure (Sat Launches)	7.0	4.0	5.5
Successful Flights per Operational Expenditure	3	3	6
Percentage Sat Launches	100%	84%	87%
Percentage Successful Flights	43%	81%	74%
Number of Units Serviced	FAAWTC	23	23

Enclosure (6)

MQM-74A AERIAL TGT DRONE OPS

	<u>Dam Neck</u>	<u>Deploying Dets</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Launch Attempts	186	42	228
Sat Launches	184	38	222
Sat Flights	99	15	114
Operational Expenditures	43	16	59
Hit/Kill Expenditures	14	8	22
Total Expenditures	57	25	82
Flights Per Operational Expenditure (Sat Launches)	4.3	2.0	3.8
Successful Flights per Operational Expenditure	2.3	.9	1.9
Percentage Sat Launch	99%	90%	97%
Percentage Successful Flights	54%	39%	51%
Number of Units Serviced	20	23	43

Enclosure (6)

FIREFISH/SEPTAR SURFACE TGT DRONE CY 71

	Dam Neck	Deploying Det	Combined
Launch Attempts	180	86	266
Sat Launch Attempts	180	82	262
Sorties provided for Ships	0	32	32
Sorties provided for Aircraft	71	52	123
Ships Serviced	0	32	32
Aircraft Serviced	210	364	574
Operational Expenditures	0	2	2
Hit/Kill Expenditures	1	5	6
Successful Operations per Launch Attempt	100%	95%	99%

Enclosure (6)

## MQM-33A AERIAL TGT DRONE CY 71

	Dam Neck	Deploying Dets	Combined
Launch Attempts	174	0	174
Sat Launches	172	0	172
Successful Flights (Services Completed)	88	0	88
Operational Expenditures	33	0	33
Hit/Kill Expenditures	3	0	3
Total Expenditures	36	0	36
Flights Per Operational Expenditure (Sat Launches)	4.7	0	4.7
Successful Flights per Operational Expenditure	2.4	0	2.4
Percentage Sat Launch	98%	0	98%
Percentage Successful Flights	51%	0	51%
Number of Units Serviced	FAAWTC	0	FAAWTC

Enclosure (6)