



THIS IS YOUR UNIT

OCEANOGRAPHIC AIR SURVEY UNIT

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670



There are three basic missions of the OCEANOGRAPHIC AIR SURVEY UNIT. First, to conduct OCEANOGRAPHIC and MAGNETIC research survey flights. This mission encompasses project BIRDSEYE, MAGNET, and ASWEPS, and is under the technical control of the Commander, U. S. Naval Oceanographic Office, Washington, D. C. Second, to provide airborne radio and television to the Republic of Vietnam. This project called JENNY is under the technical control of the Chief of Naval Operations. The third mission is student training for the C-121 type aircraft. OASU is under the administrative control of Commander Fleet Air Patuxent and under the Operational control of Commander Naval Air Forces, ATLANTIC Fleet. OASU is the first U. S. Naval Aviation Unit specifically organized to conduct Oceanographic and Magnetic research survey flights. This mission is to provide a uniform method of co-ordinating the collection of scientific data vital to our operational forces throughout the world.

The accurate collection of polar ice data and the knowledge of the environmental factors that affect the polar ice fields are necessary for ice and topographic charting, ice prediction, and allied military purposes. In fulfilling this need, project BIRDSEYE operates with one NC-121K aircraft, from many far flung bases located in Alaska, Labrador, Newfoundland, Iceland, Greenland, and Norway.

The second of this Unit's three projects is Project MAGNET. As you know, the earth itself acts like a great spherical magnet. In common with other magnets, the earth has the power of attraction, exhibits polarity, and has a field of force. The earth's magnetic field, however, is neither stationary nor completely regular in configuration. Thus, in order to meet the ever increasing requirements for more accurate and detailed geomagnetic data, the Chief of Naval Operations, in 1951, approved the planning, experimental, and initial operational phases of an airborne geomagnetic survey, designated project MAGNET. The Chief of Naval Operations, in 1957, approved the establishment of Project MAGNET on permanent and continuing basis.



The last of the Oceanographic Office's three projects is project ASWEPS. ASWEPS stands for Antisubmarine Warfare Environmental Prediction Services. The ocean depths of the world provide an immense hiding place from which a target in any nation can be attacked. Sonar, the underwater listening device, is greatly affected by sea temperature. Thus a submarine knowing the temperature around him can "hide" in a thermal layer and not be detected. ASWEPS, using our NC-121K aircraft has been investigating ocean temperature, sea surface conditions, and meteorological phenomenon in order to improve our airborne, surface, and sub-surface sensors. This

project will provide environmental prediction services for ASW forces, by improving existing oceanographic forecasting techniques.

It is generally understood that in order to win the war in South Vietnam, the South Vietnamese Government must win the people's support. The Department of Defense, realizing the importance of radio and television, directed the Chief of Naval Operations to assign Project JENNY with its four aircraft to the OCEANOGRAPHIC AIR SURVEY UNIT on 29 July 1965. On January 3, 1966 the establishment of the OCEANOGRAPHIC AIR SURVEY UNIT'S Western Pacific Detachment was accomplished at Tan Son Nhut Airport, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. One of the primary missions of this detachment is to provide radio and television coverage as directed by the operational commander. Operational television broadcasting commenced on February 7, 1966.



The training division provides instruction in all phases of flight and maintenance operations pertinent to the C-121 type aircraft. To accomplish the classroom instruction one officer and eight (8) individually selected enlisted instructors are assigned to the student training division. All lesson plans, visual aids, working mockups, and special devices are designed specifically for instruction in the C-121 aircraft.

Sixteen (16) courses, varying from one (1) to eighteen (18) weeks, are available for pilots, flight engineers, crewmen, electricians, radar technicians, and maintenance ground support personnel.

The training is of such nature and extent that men reporting to these projects can, with minimum training and orientation, deploy aircraft operationally anywhere in the world carrying out their assigned missions. Because of this outstanding school no project is weakened due to transfer or discharge.

The Unit is currently assigned eight (8) Super Constellations and one Skymaster type aircraft for the performance of these missions. Our aircraft have been working in climates that ranged from -41 degrees F over the polar regions to 100+ degree temperatures in tropical areas. As an average, OASU's aircraft are deployed 50% of the time.

OASU is proud of its role as a team member in today's fighting Navy and of its many efforts in helping further sea power through aerial surveys, special airborne broadcasts, and student training.

