from USS Crucetais Slysstream, June, 1956

Air Group News

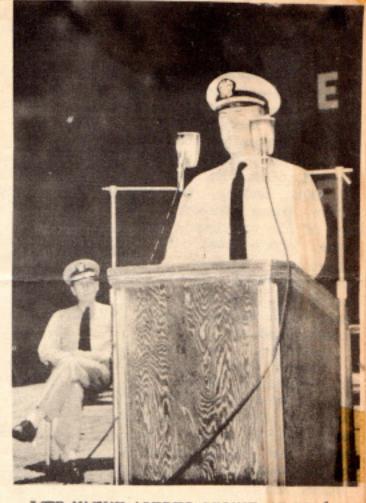
The first of June was a day of birth and of passing away for the Princeton's Air Group. On that date VS-20 ceased to exist, and HS-6 was born. The change was one in name only, the personnel involved simply turning their hats around and getting back to work.

The commissioning of HS-2, Detachment November, the Princeton's helicopter ASW team, as Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Six was unique in that it marked the first time a squadron had been commissioned while embarked aboard a ship operating at sea. All hands who could be spared from watch were turned out to attend the commissioning ceremony held on the hangar deck. Lieutenant Commander Dougal D. Mac-Kay, USN, formerly Officer-in-Charge of Detachment November, assumed command of the new squadron and dedicated it to the principles and objectives of the former Cormanding Officer of HS-2, the late Commander Joseph S. Allen, USN, and to the memory of another HS-2 pilot, the late Lieutenant Commander John R. Widmer, USNR. Both pilots lost their lives in separate helicopter crashes in the U.S. during the past two months while engaged in anti-submarine training exercises. Before reading his orders, Lieutenant Commander MacKay commented on the increased recognition the helicopter is now receiving as a weapon in anti-submarine warfare.

Air Anti-Submarine Squadron 20 passed from the scene on the same day without ceremony. Its pilots and crew members were merged with VS-21 to form one large cohesive unit, with the result that the Princeton now has two full-fledged squadrons, one S2F and one helicopter. On 6 June, Commander L. J. Carr, USN, formerly Commanding Officer of VS-20, relieved Commander A. H. Wellman, USN, as CO of newly enlarged VS-21, and became Senior Squadron Commander. The change-of-command ceremony took place on the hangar deck and was attended by squadron personnel.

The commissioning of HS-6 brings to four the number of helicopter ASW squadrons in the Pacific Fleet. The other three -- HS-2, HS-4 and HS-8 -- are presently training on the West Coast.

The new squadron now operates ten HO4S-3 helicopters but anticipates the as-



LCDR MACKAY ASSUMES COMMAND OF HS-6 signment of the newer and more potent HSS-1 when it returns to its base at Ream Field in August.



"BIRTHDAY" CAKE