'Take your best shot!'

created in July 1981, based at Tyndall AFB but with a permanent outpost (Detachment 1) at Holloman AFB. On 1 November 1991, the 82nd TATS was renamed 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, (ATRS), now part of the 53rd WEG.

On 20 February 1997 the last shoot-down of a QF-106 took place at Holloman AFB. Long before this date the Phantom had been selected as a successor to the 'Six'. The earliest drone conversions involving Phantom aircraft were undertaken by the US Navy in the early 1970s, and the service continued to make use of the QF-4 until 2004.

In February 1992, Tracor Flight Systems won the Air Force contract to design and develop the conversion of F-4 aircraft into the next generation target drone, the QF-4 FSAT. Ten pre-production aircraft, comprising three RF-4Cs, five F-4Es and a pair of F-4Gs, were completed for the development phase of the project and flown to Tyndall for a two-year testing programme. The first production contract was signed with Tracor in June 1995 to convert the first lot of 36 aircraft, covering the conversion of two RF-4Cs, 17 F-4Es and 17 F-4Gs. Also included were two options to modify an additional 36 and 24 G-models, these options being exercised on April 1996 and October 1997, respectively. The first production aircraft was delivered to the 82nd ATRS at Tyndall on 31 October 1995.

On June 1998 a second production contract was signed to convert 12 F-4Gs, also including five annual options (Lots 5 to 9) covering a total of 66 E-models and the last six G-models. On 11 April 2004, BAE Systems (which had bought Flight Systems) received a third conversion contract, worth $17 million and covering the conversion of at least 13 F-4Es. The contract also included five annual options (Lots 11 to 15), the first of which was exercised in a contract signed on 11 January 2005. The 17 QF-4Es in this lot are to be completed by August 2007.

BAE Systems modifies the standard aircraft to make it an aerial target by the installation of the Command & Telemetry System (CTS), the Vector Doppler Scorer (VDOPS) airborne sensor scoring system and the Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS), among others.

The latter includes the Automatic Flight Control Computer (AFCC) and all sensors and actuators necessary to remotely operate the drone. Having completed the modification, the