

ALPHA-66

FBI FILE NUMBERS:

<u>ALPHA-66 INC</u>	<u>COMMANDO-L 66</u>	<u>SNFE</u>
HQ 105-122098	HQ 105-117222	HQ
NY 105-57297	NY	
SJ 105-6133	SJ	SJ 105-6123 ?
WFO 105-50870	WFO 105-52201	WFO 105-52191
MM 105-6243	MM 105-7054	MM
CG 105-13655	CG	
LA 105-13351	LA	
NK 105-13300	NK	

ADDRESS: SNFE Offices possibly in Phil, Newark, Bridgeport. [R-759-2-40/41] Chicago, Washington [R-759-2-42]

CARACAS: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

CHICAGO: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

FAIRHOPE, ALA: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

LOS ANGELES: A new headquarters is opened Apr 19, 1963 at 124 Glendale Blvd. Before it was run out of the home of Rene Valdez at 2901 East 8 Street Los Angeles. [R-579-2-161]

MEXICO CITY: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

MIAMI: Alpha-66 Miami Apr 63: 115 SW 12 Ave [R-759-2-24] SNFE Apr 1963: 115 SW 12 Ave, Miami. [R-759-2-20]

MILWAUKEE: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161] SNFE Milwaukee Delegation, 2007 N. 31 Street, Milwaukee, Wisc. Apr 63 [R-759-2-24A]

NEWARK: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

NEW ORLEANS: formed around Feb 1963. [R-759-2-40/41]

NEW YORK: Alpha-66 Nov 62 [R-759-2-93] bef Apr 63: 2689 Broadway [R-759-2-72] Alpha-66 NY, Apr 1963: 103 West 74th Street [R-759-2-4]

PHILADELPHIA: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

SILVER SPRINGS: By Apr 63 office in. [R-759-2-161]

TOPEKA: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

TORONTO: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

UNION CITY: By Apr 63 Alpha-66 office in. [R-759-2-161]

WASHINGTON, DC: Alpha-66 Wash DC Apr 63 to be organized [R-759-2-84]

PUBLICATIONS: Mambi, a newspaper in New York [R-759-2-5]

BACKGROUND: Operation Alpha-66 was named because of the large number of anonymous Cuban exiles who were supporting it. It is centered in Puerto Rico. 66 men in the action group. From Wash Daily News 27 June 1962 [R-759-1-12]

Was named Alpha-66 from the first letter of the Greek alphabet, which means to this group the beginning of the end of Castro. The 66 refers to the original 66 members. [R-759-1-57] The name was chosen by SNFE as a "catchy" name which could be used as an action group to collect money. [R-759-2-22]

The Operation Alpha-66 is divided into two parts, the civil and the action or military. Menoyo handles all the military phases. [R-759-2-23]

Veciana was always the treasurer of the SNFE even prior to the formation of Alpha-66, which name was chosen by SNFE to be used as an action group. [R-759-1-??]

Name change to Commando 66 (30 Oct 1962) [R-759-1-72]; however the FBI reconsiders on 1/2/63 and maintains separate files. [R-759-1-181]

Name change to Alpha-66 Incorporated (A-66 Inc). [R-759-1-90]

Formed in Puerto Rico to plan and develop sabotage operations against the Castro regime. [R-759-1-14]

Headquarters in Puerto Rico in Oct 1962. [R-759-1-57]

After Veciana resigned from Operation Alpha-66 (see Nov 2, 1962), he continued to use the name Alpha-66 (he incorporated on Nov 6), so 63 of the original members changed the name of the original group to Commando-L 66 and ceased all work with Veciana. [R-759-1-122] Name changed to Commando-L [R-759-2-20]

In New York the group calls itself in April 1963 "II Frente-Comite De Guerra-Alpha-66" [R-759-2-5] Vasquez says on Apr 8, 1963 that the organization is now known as SNFE-Alpha-66. [R-759-2-72] In fund solicitation the "Second Front-Alpha-66" designation was used in Jan 1963. [R-759-2-92]

Alpha-66 is registered with the Justice Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act in Mar 63 says Veciana. [R-759-1-180] However in Apr 63 the Justice Dept. says it is not registered. [R-759-1-181]

The [operation committee] deposits a letter containing the details of an operation in a safety deposit box of some bank, to be opened after the operation took place to prove that A-66 had actually conducted the operation. [R-759-1-26]

Alpha-66 is incorporated in Puerto Rico on Nov. 6, 1962 and named Alpha-66, Inc. The corporation is a non-profit organization and its purposes are to help and orient Cuban refugees, promote fraternization and social relations between Cuban citizens who are in refuge in Puerto Rico; to organize social functions and to carry out all operations of a non-profit organization. [R-759-1-108]

On Mar 29, 1963 an individual told the FBI that Alpha-66 and the SNFE are one and the same. [R-759-1-164]

The difference between Alpha-66 and the SNFE is that the SNFE fought against Batista and Alpha-66 had been founded as a resistance movement against Castro. [R-759-1-181]

Secrecy is maintained. Only after the boat has been put to sea are the people on board notified of the mission. (Apr 63) Members in the U.S. do not these plans, or that a raid is to made until after the raid. [R-759-2-25/26]

BASE OF OPERATIONS: British Islands in the Cay Sal Bank. [R-759-1-114] Williams Key, Orange Key, Riding Rock Del Norte Cay, Guinchos Key. [R-759-2-33]

SOURCE OF ARMS: U.S. Customs believes SNFE [Alpha-66] gets its arms from those individuals who were supplied weapons for the BOP but were never used. Instead the weapons were buried after the BOP for future use. [R-759-1-117] Small arms and ammunition and non-automatic weapons are readily available in the U.S. [R-759-1-118]

MEMBERSHIP:

DUANY, Luis Felipe an interpreter for A-66/SNFE [R-759-1-178] Not a registered agent Apr 63 [R-759-1-181]

FLEITES, Armando, Secretary-General of SNFE Apr 1963. [R-759-2-11]

GARCIA GUELME, Rodolfo is the registered agent for A-66 Inc at Georgetti 1395, altos, Santurce, PR in Nov '62 [R-759-1-108]

GARCIA GUELME, Antonio, an accountant, of Georgetti 1395, Santurce, PR (A prof office) was listed as an A-66 incorporator of A-66 in Nov 1962 [R-759-1-108]

GUTIERREZ MENOYO, Eloy. Address Oct 5, 1962 was: 1126 SW 12 Avenue, Miami. [R-759-1-37] He is head of SNFE and has aligned himself with A-66, 4 Feb 63. [R-759-1-92/125] He is described by one informant as a completely unscrupulous individual who has repeatedly demonstrated untrustworthiness in the past, but he is a willing, courageous guerra fighter who takes risks. [R-759-2-152]

SANCHEZ GARCIA, Fernando, an accountant of Los Naranjos 702, apt 3B, Santurce, PR [R-759-1-108]

SHELDON, Craig of Fairhope, Alabama was recruiting for A-66 on Jan 2, 1963. He says he is a member, an ex-marine. [R-759-1-84/85]

VALDEZ, Rene holds a press conference in Los Angeles at the new headquarters of Alpha-66. He calls himself the local cell leader. [R-759-2-161]

VASQUEZ, Cecilio was age 28 in Mar 1963, lives in Miami and was is a rep. of the SNFE. [R-759-1-178] Not a registered agent Apr 63. [R-759-1-181] Director of Public Relations in NY Apr 63. [R-759-2-62]

VECIANA BLANCH, Antonio, member [R-759-1-24] leader [R-759-1-28] Head of Operation Alpha-66 [R-759-1-35/57] Former president of the Cuban Accountants Organization. [R-759-1-34] Address in Nov 1962: Georgetti 1395, Santurce, PR. (Which was atty or acct office address) An accountant. [R-759-1-108] Ae 33 in Mar 63 & lives Miami [R-659-1-178] He was always the treasurer of SNFE. [R-759-1-164] Not a registered agent Apr 63. [R-759-1-181] He called the "coordinator of Alpha-66" in a letter by him Apr 1963. [R-759-2-11] He was former president of the Public Accountants Assoc. in Havana, Cuba. [R-759-2-91]

BOATS: It is the custom of the SNFE to anchor their boats in the vicinity of the 17th street bridge in Miami, according to U.S. Customs in April 1963. [R-759-2-17]

MARJIN is a yacht with welded tanks capable of holding 5,000 gallons of liquid and pumping equip. None of the filler pipes is visible from the outside. [R-759-1-36]

SHIRLEY ANN is moored at the Ocean Ranch Hotel in Miami on 2/26/63. It has large fuel tanks and two high powered engines. [R-759-1-102]

SAN FRANCISCO possible boat used. [R-759-1-163]

MOLINA a 35 foot boat. [R-759-1-165]

PIRATA [R-759-2-116]

"SIGMA-TYPE" (**SIGMA** and **SIGMA-II** [R-759-2-116] a 32-foot diesel-powered fishing boat capable of only seven knots is used as a mother ship Mar 63. It resembles a Cuban fishing boat so it can get close to the coast. [R-759-2-26] Another "sigma-type" boat is used as a food supply boat, operating between the base and Miami. [R-759-2-27] By Apr 1963 one of the Sigma had sunk and the other in need of repair. [R-759-2-44]

OLGITA [R-759-2-116]

HAZEL [R-759-2-116]

LORETA [R-759-2-116]

SANTA ELENA 32-35 feet motor vessel used as a supply ship. [R-759-2-34/114/116] Gray inboard with a small cabin [R-759-2-117]

LA GOYITA or **LA GOLLITA** used as a supply ship. [R-759-2-34]

CHRONOLOGY:

1962 MAY Started collecting funds. [R-759-1-33]

1962 JUL ALPHA-66 to carry out first action. [R-759-1-7]

1962 SEP 10 "Operation Ponce" strikes Cuban shipping [R-759-1-33] at the port of Caibarien [R-759-1-42].

1962 SEP 12 Veciana gives a fund-raising speech at Casa de Cuba in Isla Verde. [R-759-1-26/28] Neutral ships shipping goods to Cuba would be attacked. [R-759-1-28]

1962 SEP 13 In the San Juan Star Antonio Veciana says they have 300 men in small units and backing from all major exile groups. Now has \$100,000 in cash and materials. Puerto Rico is not the headquarters of A-66. [R-759-1-24]

1962 SEP 14 From the San Juan Star: A-66 may be operating out of Puerto Rico or Dominican Republic. A-66 had been repeatedly denied support by agents of the CIA in Miami and NY says Veciana. [R-759-1-25]

Veciana says they will make two more attacks in Cuba in October called "Accion Antonieta" and "Accion Carmen". [R-759-1-28/33]

1962 SEP 15 Raid on Cuba [R-759-2-114] First operation Caibarien (Francis Key) [R-759-2-117]

1962 SEP -- Veciana is interviewed by FBI at his request and states, that he knows the Neutrality Law, that only fund-raising activities were done in U.S. and PR, etc. [R-759-1-25/6]

1962 SEP 30 The boat "Marjin" is inspected by Customs. [R-759-1-36]

1962 OCT -- Information was known to the leaders of Alpha-66 that Antonio Veciana had, without agreement of other members, joined operations with the SNFE. [R-759-1-122/3] Veciana had made a secret agreement with Gutierrez Menoyo. Veciana was put out of Alpha-66 after he first abandoned it and took Alpha-66 funds and the majority of the arms. Veciana did not take the organization with him. Alpha-66's name is changed to Commando-L. [R-759-1-164] Veciana made a secret agreement with Menoyo, abandoned Alpha-66, took arms and money with him. [R-759-2-20] The secret agreement called for SNFE and A-66 to work jointly; Veciana was to make the funds available and Menoyo was supply the manpower. [R-759-2-24B] Veciana took \$12,000 with him when he left. [R-759-2-143]

1962 OCT 02 Menoyo leaves U.S. for island base in Atlantic. [R-759-2-20]

1962 OCT 06 Raid on Cuba [R-759-2-114] Second Operation Isabela de Sagua [R-759-2-1127]

1962 OCT 08 Raiding group exchanged gun fire in Cuba [R-759-1-41] at 12:21 am at the port of Isabela de Sagua [R-759-1-42]

1962 OCT 21 A group departed Miami for Cuba but lost their boat and equipment and returned to Cay Sal. [R-759-1-53]

1962 OCT 28 USCG returns group on Cay Sal to Key West. [R-759-1-53]

1962 OCT 30 Rolando Masferrer told the FBI that he was opposed to Alpha-66 and thought the raids by A-66 were being made for publicity and propaganda. He said deleted [from] the Second National Front of Escambray (SNFE) was directing the military operations of A-66. [R-759-1-58]

1962 OCT 31 Ten members of the SNFE were arrested on the Miami River in a small Cuban shrimp boat, with arms, food, and radio equipment. The matter goes before the grand jury on Apr 11, 1963. Additional material available from USCG. [R-759-2-18]

1962 NOV 02 Antonio Veciana's resignation is formally accepted. [R-759-1-122]

1962 NOV 06 Alpha-66 is incorporated in Puerto Rico [R-759-1-108]

1962 NOV 10 Alpha-66 and SNFE had a joint public meeting in New York according to La Tribuna. [R-759-1-74]

1962 NOV 22 Sigma arr in Fla [R-759-2-118]

1962 DEC 04 SNFE raid cancelled off the coast of Cuba due to difficulties. [R-759-2-26/114] Third operation Juan Francisco [R-759-2-118]

1962 DEC 12 Pirata's departure is cancelled by authorities [R-759-2-119]

1962 DEC 19 Sigma is rescued by an American boat [R-759-2-121]

1962 DEC 22 British begin search for the Sigma-II [R-759-2-119]

1963 JAN 02 An article appears in Fairhope, Ala. stating that Craig Sheldon, an ex-Marine, says he is a member. [R-759-1-84/5]

1963 JAN 09 Elizabeth T. Babcock of Woodbury Long Island NY receives a letter dated this day from Alpha-66 signed by Veciana, and sends it to Atty. General Robert Kennedy. The letter contained a four page pamphlet consisting of a political cartoon on communism. It also contained a map of Cuba indicating past raids by A-66. Babcock sent the material because she believed that this type of action was against the policies of the U.S. [R-759-2-91/2]

1963 JAN 31 As of this date at least, A-66 and SNFE are using a joint training base. [R-759-1-97]

1963 FEB 04 Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, head of the SNFE has aligned himself with A-66. [R-759-1-92]

1963 FEB 10 The Hazel runs aground [R-759-2-119]

1963 FEB 18 A confiscated letter with this date, lays out the efforts of money collection; there is no help from any American at this time. [R-759-2-39/40] Sigma is released by Customs [R-759-2-119]

1963 FEB 24 Raid was cancelled off the Cuban coast do to problems. [R-759-2-26]

1963 MAR -- A SNFE food supply boat from Miami is stopped in the Miami River by U.S. Customs, and ammunition seized. [R-759-2-21]

1963 MAR 10 A Sigma boat of SNFE was stopped by Customs and 1445 rounds of ammunition was confiscated. This was a civil seizure [see federal dockets for case number] [R-759-2-39]

1963 MAR 17/18 A raid at Isabel de Sagua firing at a Russian Technical Camp located on shore and a Russian ship which was at sea. Two 20-foot boats with two movable 20 mm cannons were used along with BAR's and M-1's. Each boat held 12-15 men. [R-759-1-

115/125] One boat was a wooden 25-foot speedboat, fiberglass covered, with a 95 horsepower Mercury inboard engine, and the other was a 21 foot boat with two inboard engines capable of doing bet. 30 and 40 mph. [R-759-2-24C] Six Russians were wounded. Damage on the island was slight. [R-759-1-125] An informant confirms the Miami Herald account printed on Mar 19. [R-759-2-20] The Herald reports some Russians killed. [R-759-2-24C] The New York Standard reports that the raiding party entered the harbor, stopped a Russian freighter and exchanged gunfire. Two raiders were wounded. [R-759-2-65]

1963 MAR 19 A press conference was held at the Roger Smith Hotel in Washington, DC by Veciana and Cecilio J. Vasquez, the SNFE rep. in the U.S., to give details of the Mar 18th raid. [R-759-1-150] Two hours earlier one was held in Miami. Dr. Herminio Portell-Vila introduced Veciana and Vasquez and the interpreter Luis Felipe Duany. [R-759-1-178] One of the latter said that the actions of the U.S. in Oct 62 constituted another Munich. [R-759-1-180]

1963 MAR 21 Veciana is interviewed by the FBI in NY and stated the raid on Mar 17/18 was a joint operation of Alpha-66 and SNFE headed by Major Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo. Accounts of the raid were intentionally exaggerated to newspapermen in order to create propaganda and that could help fund raising. [R-759-1-125/2-27]

1963 MAR 23/25 Life magazine people to arrive at Alpha-66 camp [R-759-2-120/1]

1963 MAR 27 The boat Santa Elena came to Miami. [R-759-2-114]

1963 MAR 28 An informant tells the FBI that A-66 Inc has five bases located on small islands off of Cuba, and that the U.S. Govt. must know of their location since overflights of Cuba to locate missiles would have detected the bases. [R-759-1-134/5]

1963 APR 02 Menoyo has a camp established at Riding Rocks del Norte Cay, 30 miles from Cat Cay where he has been with 14 of his men for the past 5 months. A USCG plane observes 12-15 Cubans wearing fatigues on Williams Island, 50 miles south of Cat Cay and had the boat Molina with them. [R-759-1-165]

1963 APR 05 British authorities captured about nine Cubans believed to be Menoyo's men at Williams Island [R-759-2-8] These nine men in jail in Nassau are members of SNFE [R-759-2-55] The nine were arrested on Andros Island [R-759-2-122]

Armando Fleites and Veciana publish a letter in the Newark newspaper La Tribuna de New Jersey titled "Alpha-66 and the Second Front continue the fight". They tell of a meeting of their organizations and make certain pronouncements. [R-759-2-11/12/13/14]

A dance is sponsored at the Spanish Community Center, 355 Lafayette St., Newark to raise money. [R-759-2-13]

1963 APR 05/06 USCG captures Eloy Gutierrez and four of his men and

returned to Miami and taken to the INS detention center at Opa Locka. They were captured after a sea chase using USCG boats and planes. [R-759-2-7/8] Arms found at Williams and Andros Islands along with two lists of names and being confiscated by British. One list was "personnel in camp Nov 14, 1962"; the other lists personnel with duties at "La Esperanza". [R-759-2-21] The boat was a speedboat. A complete organizational chart of the structure of SNFE, captioned "National Directorate" was seized by Customs. [R-759-2-23]

1963 APR 07 The Miami Herald prints "Coast Guard Nabs Anti-Castro Group After Ocean Chase" relating the capture of Menoyo and his men yesterday. [R-759-2-29]

About 200 Cubans, led by Cecilio Vasquez, held a "March of Silence" Russian delegation to the U.N. in NY, at 136 East 67 St at 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., protest the restrictions placed upon them by the U.S. A Russian flag was set afire and thrown into the street. [R-759-2-70/71] NYT carries story on Apr 8. The sponsors of the protest were SNFE, Alpha-66, and the MDC (Christian Democratic Movement in Exile) [R-759-2-73]

1963 APR 08 Cecilio J. Vasquez is interviewed by Miami FBI and told them he was the representative of the combined organization now known as SNFE-Alpha-66. [R-759-2-24/72]

1963 APR 10 Miami Herald prints an interview with Menoyo. He says his base is called "La Esperanza". [R-759-2-33]