

# Aviation Shapes the History of TACAMO

# TRAILING WIRE

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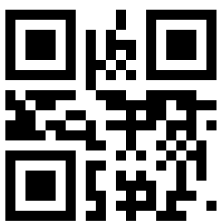
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TACAMO.ORG





**LETTER FROM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
MIKE VOS**

Aloha TCVA members,

Beginning in September and again in March, TCVA will hold a Membership Drive to support our new \$35 annual dues. Your membership allows you to stay current with all we do to support the TACAMO community. We work hard to keep our communications survivable and our charitable endeavors available to our growing membership.

I want to thank all of you who have contributed to our growing Scholarship Programs. The recent addition of the Retired Chiefs Mess Leadership Scholarship, and the “Buff” Crowell and Vern & Colleen Lochausen Scholarship are initially funded but will become exhausted if not supplied regularly. TCVA invites you to financially support these and future scholarship funds so we can continue making a difference in our children’s and grandchildren’s education. You may have seen a “For my Birthday, I am raising funds for the XYZ organization” campaign. This is an excellent way to support the TCVA scholarships.

Because of these expanding charitable programs, TCVA is restructuring to accommodate the creation of a Foundation. The Foundation will be a legal framework registering with the IRS to manage TCVA’s charitable work. Its mission is to keep an open portal for our membership to continue supporting our community through our charitable efforts.

I’d also like to introduce a new community support program. “The Award of Excellence in Service” (AES). This program is focused on active-duty dependents who need financial support for their public service initiatives. Examples of program recipients might be a school teacher who needs art supplies or costumes/set design for a production, a Scout Leader who needs camping gear for their troop, or a student who teaches swimming lessons to youth. Our benefactor has committed \$2,500/year to this program and invites others to enhance their gift.

With this expansion, TCVA is moving into “the Big Leagues” and will need membership and support to keep it sustainable and survivable. Paying your annual dues lets us keep the website up, the Trailing Wire newsletter in your “Inbox,” the Paraloft store filled with your favorite TACAMO swag, and TCVA reunions affordable and fun. Perhaps, including an endowment to the Foundation as part of your estate planning would be a way for you to make a lasting mark on our community’s future.

I’d also like to thank the TCVA Board of Directors and our cadre of volunteers who work tirelessly, without compensation, to make the TCVA the successful Association it has become. This sort of dedication is consistent with their TACAMO and subsequent careers. Your dedication is reflective of yours, too. Thanks for your continuing support.

Stay safe and strong,  
Mike Vos - TCVA Exec. Dir.



**LETTER FROM  
PRESIDENT,  
DENNIS “COACH” WARREN**



All, from the cockpit, it’s been a busy year in the TACAMO Community and some important events have happened since the 2023 reunion.

TCVA inducted exceptional TACAMO warriors “Chocko” Baker, John Jordan, and Ned Miller into the 2024 TACAMO Hall of Fame class, recognizing their indelible mark on the TACAMO Community’s legacy. Recognizing the indelible mark they have made on the TACAMO Community legacy. Their induction ceremony will be conducted in November at the TCVA Reunion being held at the Sheraton Suites Galleria-Atlanta, Cobb County, GA.

TCVA is also proud to announce that we have selected VADM Nora Tyson as the first recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award. We salute her impact on the TACAMO Community, the US Navy, and Naval Aviation! Please join us in Tucson on December 7, 2024, for the induction and celebration dinner. The tentative schedule and hotel information are on page 8 of the Trailing Wire Newsletter.

John Jordan has funded the TACAMO Chiefs Future Leadership Scholarship. It’s TCVA’s third funded scholarship alongside Buff Crowell and Vern & Colleen Lochausen scholarships. Plus, the AES, the “Award of Excellence in Service,” from one of our benefactors, is coming soon. It’s terrific to have this response to our Scholarship Programs. Thank you for all of your support!!

TCVA has long wanted to help sailors, veterans, and TACAMO families attend college or trade schools. This past week, the TCVA Foundation Stand-up Committee met to establish the Education Foundation. We are so grateful to our volunteers who have teamed up to fulfill that dream.

Another fantastic engagement I recently attended was the VQ-3 “mini” reunion at the Sea Fair Air Show in Seattle, WA. Shipmates met for some pizza, drinks, and lots of memories. “Scooter” Schutt put together an excellent slideshow of photos from days past. That feeling of close camaraderie of those you served with is still alive today. A highlight of the evening was a visit by LCDR Jack “Uncle Rico” Keilty (Blue Angel #2), who joined the party. He spoke to the group with admiration, stating, “You all were my role models when I was growing up, my heroes. YOU made a mark on my life that I will never forget!” He touched the hearts of all of those in attendance. Thank you, Rich “Huge” Silva, Steve “Joker” Anderson, and Steve “Scooter” Schutt, for setting up the event! A “Class Act” all the way!! On Saturday, our group went ‘underway’ (YES!, TACAMO Sailors going to Sea!) on Lake Washington for a catered lunch, Blue Angel Airshow, and some more of that camaraderie. For some, it might have been the only sea time they ever had ... a little funny.

Enhancing relationships, sharing experiences from days past, and ‘Paying it Forward’ is what it IS all about! It IS ALL GOOD! Keep Moving Forever Forward!

VR Coach Warren





# TCVA

## IMPORTANT DATES



### 2024

- SEPT TACAMO Documentary Video Release
- 6 SEPT VQ-7 Change of Command
- 15 to 30 SEPT TCVA Membership Drive
- 1st OCT Navy Birthday Ball in OKC
- 11 NOV Veterans Day
- 30 NOV TACAMO Hall of Fame Deadline for next year
- 5 to 8 DEC Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony for Nora Tyson in Tucson
- 1 FEB Scholarship Application Closed

### 2025

- 1 to 4 MAY TACAMO mini-reunion at Blue Angels Show in Corpus Christi
- 21 JUNE TACAMO Memorial Day - TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Life Celebration
- 6 to 12 NOV TCVA Reunion in Cobb County GA
- 8 NOV TCVA Members Meeting in Cobb County GA
- 9 NOV TACAMO Hall of Fame Induction in Cobb County GA

### 2027

- 18 to 26 JUNE Hawaii Reunion







# TACAMO Hall of Fame – 2024

## Charles "Chocko" Baker – TACAMO Sailor



### Service

- VQ-4 – 90-93
- VX-20/Force Warfare – 94-96
- VQ-3 – 96-98
- VQ-4 – 98-00
- BUPERS – 00-02
- VQ-4 – 05-06
- CNO – 06-09
- CSCW1 – 12-13

### Key Jobs

- Force Warfare E-6B Project Test Pilot
- E-6 Transition Instructor Pilot
- VQ-4 Operations Department Head
- BUPERS VQ Detailer
- VQ-4 XO/CO – Battle “E”
- CNO OPNAV E-6 Resource Officer
- SCW1 Deputy/Commodore

### Peer Recognition

- Selected for Test Pilot School as a Junior Officer
- Former Commodores, Skippers, and the TCVA BOD

### Leadership/Contributions

- Attained every pilot qualification possible in JO tour AC/MC/IP/Eval
- E-6 Test Pilot ordered back to the Fleet to train E-6 TACAMO pilots
- As VQ Detailer, “plus up’ed” JO assignments for the E-6B ABNCP mission
- As VQ-4 Skipper, the Shadows won the Battle “E”
- Over three years at the Pentagon working E-6 budgets, including funding for the Mobil Sustainment Program
- A leader from the cockpit and out front as OPSO, Skipper, and Commodore
- In 2012, Commodore Baker’s discussions with the former TSA President and then-current TCVA President initiated the process that produced the TACAMO Hall of Fame
- His greatest contribution to the TACAMO community was his passion and commitment to his Sailors





# TACAMO Hall of Fame – 2024

John Edmund Jordan

TACAMO Sailor – Government Civilian Support



## Service

- VQ-3 – 73-76
- VQ-4 TAD – Jun 74-Sep 74
- TACAMO Test NATC Pax River – 82-85
- VQ-4 – Mar 86-Nov 86
- TACAMO PEP – 86-88
- NTSU Waco – 88-91
- PMA-271 – 98-99, 22-Present

## Key Jobs

- Flew initial TACAMO IVB test flights from remote sites to prove the TAC IV
- VLF coverage
- Command Master Chief and lead E-6A FE instructor at Naval Training Support Unit, Waco
- PMA-271 leader for the TACAMO Mission Aircraft Transition Team
- Evaluates development and support plans for the coming TACAMO Weapons System

## Peer Recognition

- Selected for KC-130 Pilot and Engineer exchange program
- Former Commodores, Skippers, and the TCVA BOD

## Community Service

- Mechanicsville, MD Little League
- Volunteer High School football coach
- CPOA President

## Leadership/Contributions

- Pioneered FE roles and the evaluation of contractor training in E-6 sims and 707 in-flight trainers
- Directed the development of the small, fully-functioning NTSU staff
- Advised the Fleet on how to train E-6 crews, and establish E-6 support
- Consistently demonstrated leadership and initiative in a variety of roles, including FE Instructor, Crew Maintenance Supervisor, Maintenance Control Chief, and Command Master Chief
- Schooled his juniors in maintaining the aircraft and caring for Sailors' needs and training
- TACAMO Herc and operational knowledge sought out by Navy staff to assess future plans





# TACAMO Hall of Fame – 2024



## Ned Miller – TACAMO Sailor



### Service

- VQ-3 – 89-92
- SCW1 – 92-94
- E-6 Boeing – 94-97
- PMA – 97-17
- Key Jobs
- VQ-3 – MMCPO/Homeport Change Coordinator/Manpower
- SCW1 Command Master Chief
- E-6 Boeing Representative to N4EPM Level Depot
- PMA – Pax River Support - EPM
- PMA – Site Lead - E-6 Depot Requirements
- PMA – Hanger 824 Built - Depot Level Maintenance

### Peer Recognition

- Handpicked by the first CSCW1 to be the First Command Master Chief
- Former Commodores, Skippers, and the TCVA BOD

### Community Service

- Extremely active leader in Choctaw church groups

### Leadership/Contributions

- Meshed the Squadron and Wing Chief's messes as one family
- Integrated the Navy enlisted with the Air Force enlisted
- As a Maintenance and Command Master Chief, he knew his people, their issues, their strengths, and their weaknesses
- Coordinated the relocation of 300 VQ-3 Sailors and families from Hawaii to Oklahoma with NO operational stand-down
- Coordinated all maintenance support agreements with Tinker AFB
- Community expert in Enhanced Phase Maintenance
- As Site NAVAIR Leader for a decade, developed Navy ALC EPM agreements to support emerging needs
- Lobbied hard to build a Depot Level Maintenance Hangar which came true in 2017



# Nominate your TACAMO Shipmate



## Catagories

- TACAMO Sailor
- Industry Partner
- Government Support

<https://www.tacamo.org/hall-of-fame>



Application  
Form



## Criteria for Induction

Guidelines for TCVA Hall of Fame induction:

- Minimum 2 tours in TACAMO
- Contributed to the mission/aircraft/morale/good reputation of TACAMO
- Technical/professional/personal leadership - a mentor
- Performed task or event that shaped the TACAMO mission
- Community service
- Generally recognized as deserving of this award



## Search & Connect

James Lawrence "Larry" Rhodes is looking for VQ-3 Shipmates:

- RM1/RMC Bob Misko 1980s
- RM1 Chris Conner 1980s

Any info can be sent to Larry @ [6mm250ai@charter.net](mailto:6mm250ai@charter.net)

Searching for someone? Email Cheryl at [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)





# Painting of RADM Nora Tyson, Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWO

by Bob 'Buzz' Buzzell, CAPT USN (Ret)



I joined the TACAMO community in the early 90's following a tour flying K/C-130'S (F/B models) in Rota Spain; among the group of officers that my wife, Sherry, and I initially became acquainted was VADM Nora Tyson and her husband Wayne. From our first meeting until retirement in 2018 our paths would cross regularly, to include a number of years as neighbors in OK.

In late 2011 when I was the Naval Attache assigned to the US Embassy, Paris France, I was contacted by SIXTH Fleet to see if a 4-day port call could be coordinated for CVN-77 (USS GHWB). In addition to a myriad of opportunities that a CVN port call presents to the US Ambassador and 'Country Team' I saw another opportunity with RADM Nora Tyson aboard as the first woman Commander of a Carrier Strike Group.

During one of my first trips to the French port city of Toulon I had met a US Navy Reserve Commander, Monica Allen Perin. CDR Perin was unlike any Naval Officer that I had met in that she had served a career as a Supply Officer and was now a Reserve Navy Artist attached to the Naval Historical Center.

Seeing an opening I called the then Commander of US SIXTH Fleet, VADM Harry Harris. The US Ambassador, Amb Charles Rivkin, had a personal request for Admiral Harris regarding the GHWB port call, so when calling VADM Harris to relay this request I started giving a pitch; "Admiral, a former neighbor and leader from my community is the Commander of CSG-2. As the first woman Commander of a Carrier Strike Group returning from combat operations in the Gulf, there is a unique opportunity to take advantage of your Reserve Navy Artist in Toulon". I got no farther, Admiral Harris cut my off and said that he loved the idea of capturing a portrait of RADM Tyson as Carrier Strike Group Commander and he would pull in Monica as she was just the person for such a portrait.

The steps to realize the painting happened more aggressively than even I imagined as Monica called me shortly thereafter saying that C6F had already contacted her and she wanted to know if I was flying out to GHWB with her to execute on the portrait. I was surprised at the level of support there was to Monica and her effort as I expected her to just walk aboard GHWB while in Port. A few years later at an event in Paris, I commented to ADM Harris about the effort to do the portrait of Admiral Tyson 'at sea'; he commented that he wanted an 'at sea' portrait as she was a Strike Group Commander. Admiral Harris turned Command of SIXTH Fleet over to VADM Frank Pandolfe shortly before GHWB arrived to Marseille.

My wife, Sherry, and I were fortunate to spend a few days with VADM Tyson in the South of France during the GHWB port call. Unfortunately, Wayne was not able to join during the port call.

Having seen the portrait many times in print, and in person in DC, the outcome appears to have been even greater than expected.



Above: The Painting

Left: Bob "Buzz" Buzzell & Nora Tyson

Right: CAPT Brian "Lex" Luther, CO USS GHWB (CVN-77), a French Government Official, Nora Tyson & Bob "Buzz" Buzzell



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# TACAMO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2024



## Nora Tyson Lifetime Achievement Award



## Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites

Book by:

• 11/16/24

Rate available:

• 12/04/2024 to 12/09/2024

Room Rate: \$105 plus tax

- Suite, 2 Double, Sofa bed
- Suite, 1 King, Sofa bed

Book your Room Today:

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1722991407838&key=GRP>

## Tentative Schedule

### Thursday 12/5:

- Early Bird Gathering in The Glowbal

### Friday 12/6:

- 3 PM to 5 PM TACAMO Sea Stories videos in Canyon Theatre
- 5 PM to 9:30 PM Meet and Greet in The Glowbal in Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites

### Saturday 12/7:

- 9 AM - 11 AM Walk around and climb in a TACAMO Herc with Boneyard Safari
- NOON Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony at Pima Air Museum
- 9 AM – 5 PM Visit Pima Air Museum (*If there is a cost a LINK payment will be posted soon*)
- 6 PM Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner with a cash bar (Business Casual) (*Dinner Reservations LINK payment will be posted soon*)

### Sunday 12/8:

- 10 AM Titan Missile Museum or Golf (*Museum or Golf LINK payment will be posted soon*)
- 5 PM to 9:30 PM Evening gathering in The Glowbal in Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites

Continued from Page 8



Left: The Painting Artist, Monica Allen Perin with Sherry Buzzell

Monica Allen Perin, a painter from her youth, began her fine art studies at the California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, California. She subsequently obtained a Master's degree in the decorative arts (Museum Studies) at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan and consecrated her theses to the garden frescoes found in and around Pompeii.

Teaching art history with the University of Maryland she continued to teach studio art and paint watercolors of the Italian country and seaside.

Following a move with her French husband to the South of France in 1998 she expanded her repertoire to include 'buon fresco' painting on fresh lime plaster in the manner of the Renaissance, and is currently involved in an important project to add fresco work to the façade of the parish church in Le Pradet, France.

Monica is also a US Navy artist attached to the Naval Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C. As a 'combat' artist she has passed numerous weeks in ex-Yugoslavia and more recently with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean documenting daily life in an operational capacity onboard an aircraft carrier and logistics support with a forward deployed unit. Monica has exhibited her watercolors in Italy, the US and in France, in particular in Marseille, Toulon (awarded best in show for watercolors at the Salon des beaux-arts 2002), and most recently in Cannes where she was awarded the silver medal at the salon international des arts and culture.

<https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/art/artists/cdr-monica-allen-perin--usnr--ret-.html>



# The Merc Just Keeps Going, 33 Years and Counting



By Vern Lochausen

The TACAMO Program Office recently celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the first operational E-6A Mercury jets arriving at VQ-4 to begin fleet service. There's a lot not said in that simple story. For those of us who have lived with the Merc all these years, we might pause a remember more.

## Older Than Our Hercs

While our Hercs were built and delivered over a period of 25 years from oldest 151 series to final 161 series, the Mercs were built and delivered over just 4 years. The longest working Hercs performed 25 years in the Fleet while the shortest working ones only 10 years. Several of those 'younger' Hercs went on to second careers with NASA, Royal Netherlands Air Force, and Coulson Air Tankers, those as firebombers. While the Hercs delivered on over 25,000 flight hours and amost that many landings, the Mercs have surpassed those numbers but over 33 years. That is like asking an NFL player to get out there and scramble and take hits well past their prime. And the whole Merc 'team' pretty much started playing in the same first seasons.

## Identity Crisis and Other Problems

From the very start the name was not certain: TACAMO II, ECX, Hermes, and finally Mercury. The latter were appropriate 'messengers of the gods' in mythology, Greek and then Roman. Designed as a digital flight deck, that got axed and installed almost 20 years later. There were tail losses in some very demanding flight tests, causing delays therefore in delivery to the Fleet, trunnion cracks, three wire installation and later removal, later still counterfeit parts, bad paint, and depot maintenance miscues. But the Merc served through all of that, even airborne and doing the mission on 9-11, pulling a brief side hustle in support of convoys in Iraq, and a lot of global exercises, round the world flight, and long flights.

## Continual Improvements

The Mercs have all stayed in service and underwent as many mission upgrades as the Hercs. Orbit Improvement System, glass cockpit, early airborne Internet access, Airborne Command Post, bandwidth extension, radio system upgrades, computer and data upgrades, and additional satellite systems. But all those upgrades didn't give the Merc a true rehab. A service life assessment and extension program were done and the jets have undergone heavy depot maintenance. Still, they are flying with the same wings, engines, power, cooling, and creature comforts developed in the 80s and delivered late in that decade and early 90s. The Merc 'team', smaller than the Herc 'team' by about one-third, played every season, every game, every year for the past 33 years. All experienced some 'bench time' for mods and maintenance and that meant the others had to cover 'the field' when they were out of service.



## League and Management Changes

Initially, the Mercs had one solid job and they did it well. But in their first decade, their excellent great reputation created a vulnerability. The Air Force got a hint that the new team could start playing in their league and give their like birds retirements. And so after 98, Mercs started playing in TWO leagues, out there in the Navy's and Air Force/Joint Service Leagues. Pretty much, that drove a bunch of new gear, new 'plays', and new people getting aboard and getting involved in controlling the demands placed on the 'team' and supporting it. That made life far more complicated for the Mercs and the crews flying, maintaining, and supporting them. It was far more straightforward in the 'old TACAMO' days. Still, through it all, the Mercs and their people DELIVERED.

## How Does It Feel ?

The Mercs, like the veteran NFL players, are feelin' it, Man! The body has aches and pains, and cracks, leaks and stuff just wearing out. You hit the field for that long and that many times, literally, it's gonna hurt. Paint, upholstery, wiring, tubing, and the subsystems all are feeling their age. So, the Navy Program Office folks continually evaluate those things and listen to the Fleet to determine what 'hurts' the most. The pain level is shared with senior leaders trying to help. Priorities are set, funding is moved around, and contracts are being awarded. New technologies are being applied, and new folks are building old parts.

*Continued on Page 11*





## THE E-6B MERCURY

*Continued from Page 10*

### **What's Next ?**

It's no secret that the Merc team is going to be retired. But that's not anytime soon. That fact drives the folks in a lot of places to keep working to help them keep playing. The Super Hercs look like the new team, but it takes development, testing and suitability work before they can hit the field and start playing as an effective team. Some positive factors in this deal include a change of league and some proven experience. Senior leaders are requiring the Mercs to keep playing in both leagues but grooming the new Hercs to play only in the Navy's league. Still all that takes time, money, support in national circles, and crew maintainer training. It is a big job and it is underway. Those of us who operated the TACAMO Herc KNOW in our souls that the Herc can do the job. People who have that experience are sharing gouge with folks trying to develop and field the new Hercs. Several folks have asked me about a Merc museum aircraft and I just look at the sky and tell them I don't know when or if that will happen. Keeping such a soon-to-be dinosaur in presentable shape is a problem, not to mention that Mercs MUST keep on playing until relieved. Maybe it is time to start collecting our pennies, holding bake sales, and car washes to fund putting a Merc at Tinker alongside the Herc. CERTAINLY, the Mercs have earned a place of honor like that.





# Notes on Nuclear War: The First of Us



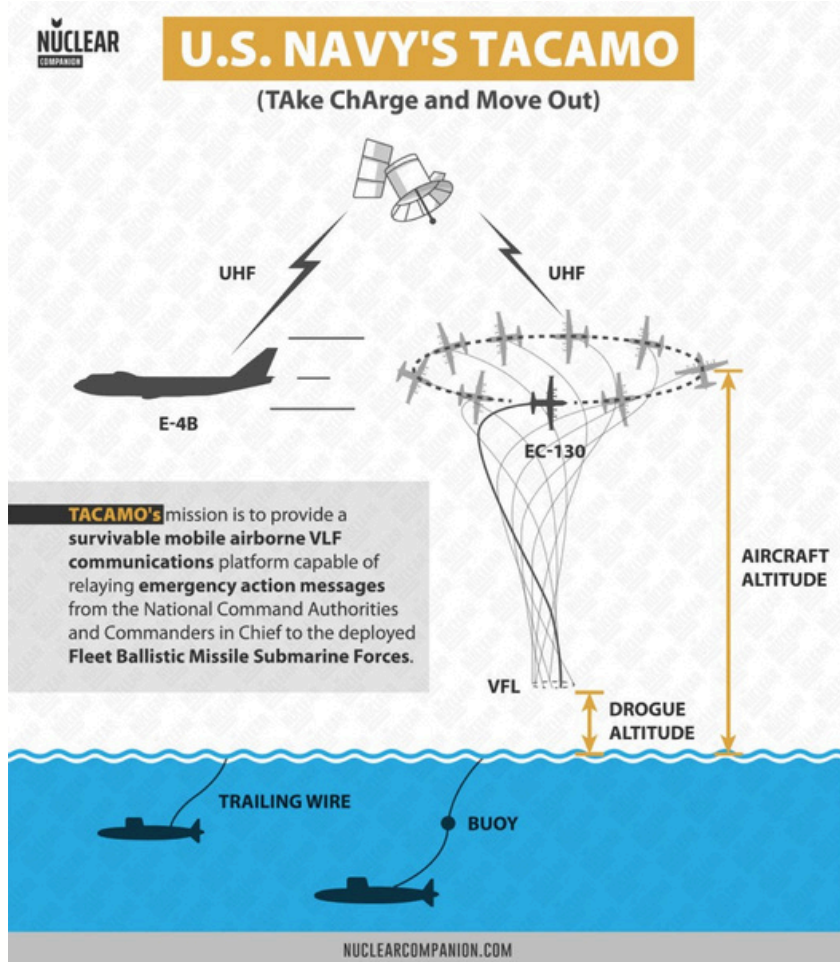
**By James Youngblood, TACAMO active duty member & TCVA historian assistant**

Have any of you ever sat and thought of our place in defense of this nation? We hold a unique duty as the first line of deterrence and the last line of defense. This is a solemn responsibility that we have held for decades, but I have recently wondered who was the first of our kind? We all know that the TACAMO community was created in the 1960s, however, like the civilizations of today, what foundation does the Navy build its airborne nuclear heritage upon? It was with this question I began my journey of research on the topic. My findings were both interesting and unexpected. In a small plot in Arlington National Cemetery, you will find a headstone marked for Rear Admiral William Sterling Parsons. Though history may have forgotten him, it is my assertion that this man was the first “Atomic Aircrewman”.

Born in Chicago in 1901, he was the oldest of three children. He graduated from high school in 1919 and received an appointment to the US Naval Academy. He graduated 48th in his class, ahead of another legend of naval service Hyman Rickover. It was while attending Annapolis he received his nickname “Deak”. He was commissioned as an Ensign and stationed aboard the USS Idaho (a ship that my grandfather would serve on during World War II) as a gunnery officer. This is where he found his calling. He quickly became enamored with gunnery and ordnance. The decision to follow this line of work would put the then Ensign Parsons on a collision course with history. The following years would see “Deak” take assignments with various ships, the Bureau of Ordnance, and the Naval Research Laboratory where he was instrumental in the development of proximity fuses for aerial ordnance. His reputation made him an obvious choice when General Leslie Groves, head of the Top Secret Manhattan Project, was looking for an expert to help develop the first nuclear weapons. By then, Captain Parsons was assigned to Los Alamos as the Associate Director of Project Y. This position placed him as number two in the chain, under only Dr. Oppenheimer himself. Parsons took to work developing the trigger mechanism for the weapon, a duty that he was uniquely qualified to do. He was present at the test of “The Gadget” in July of 1945, observing it from the sky in a B-29. He would again find himself assigned to an aircrew a few weeks later on August 6th, 1945. On that day he was a “Technical Mission Observer” and defacto Mission Commander of the Enola Gay. When the specially designed “silverplate” B-29 made it to the target area, Captain Parsons made his way to the bomb bay where he carefully armed the weapon known as “Little Boy”. At approximately 0816, he ordered the release of the weapon. Forty-five seconds later, the face of the world would be changed forever. With the release of that bomb and its

companion “Fat Man”, Captain Parsons had effectively ended World War II and started the political and economic conflict that was the Cold War. Upon his return he was awarded a Silver Star and assigned to various “special weapons” commands, including Commander, Task Group 1.1. There he would plan and execute many atomic weapons tests like Operations Crossroads. He would continue his service after the war leading the American development of nuclear weapons technology, eventually being promoted Rear Admiral and placed in charge of the Bureau of Ordnance. He passed suddenly on December 5th, 1953, in Bethesda Naval Hospital.

RDML Parsons was, by my approximation, the first in a long line of “Atomic Aircrewmen”. While this is a rather unorthodox choice, he undoubtedly has had an unseen influence in the way of the world since he pressed the button while airborne over Japan. His actions led to the creation of bigger weapons, which led to the need to secure them aboard submarines, which led to a need to communicate the Presidential orders, which led to us. This journey of discovery has led me to realize that our way of life is built on the shoulders of the past. Thank you for joining me on this journey and I look forward to learning with you next time.

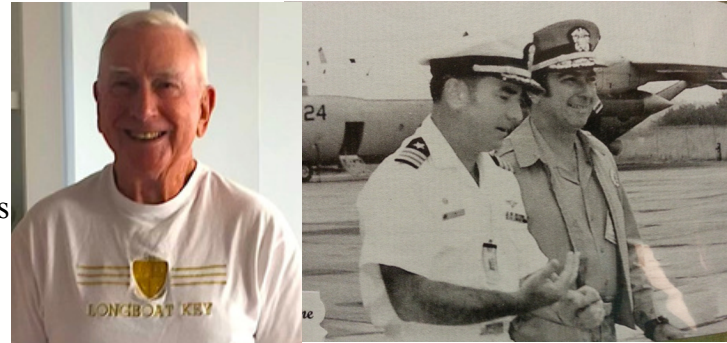


# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## VQ-4 Bermuda Detachment Looking Back 50 Years



The TACAMO Program was in its early formative stage during the period of 1974/1975. There had been few substantive changes made to the aircraft systems, and some movement in personnel qualifications, until, the decision to implement the much more powerful TACAMO IVB (“TACAMO Four B”) (T-IVB) very low frequency transmitter program. The most intriguing and puzzling issue is that even after the conversion program was decided upon, there was the lack of confirmation as to what existing NAVY program or research program would be chosen as the survivable communication link to the SSBN launch capabilities. In addition, there was always the speculation that TACAMO would become an Air Force program.



By Bill Coyne, USN Retired Captain & VQ-4 MO & CO, Restarted 100% airborne coverage & Bermuda Detachment

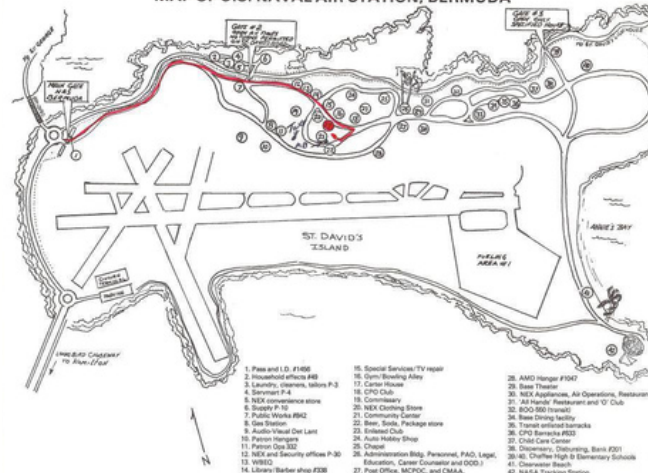
Add now the decision to stand-down the TACAMO III (“TACAMO Three”) (T-III) program from 100% airborne coverage, Naval Flight Officers in the Airborne Communications Officer positions were made eligible for Mission Commander designation, (in my estimation a significant step in the success of the TACAMO Mission), VQ-4 was placed under the administrative command of Fleet Tactical Support Wing One, and rumors that efforts were ongoing to designate TACAMO a Warfare Specialty Program, In my opinion, the most important decision ever made in the TACAMO program. These events can all be grouped into two words, “change apprehension” one of the most difficult personnel issues to address. Now transition to the T-IVB system begins with the mindset already dealing with these changes to be compounded with even more.

In the way of background, TACAMO made a significant advancement into the league of creditable strategic deterrents with the introduction of the T-IVB modified C-130. Coincidentally, it became evident that the ability to launch the ready alert aircraft from PAX River in one hour as had been with the T-III aircraft was outmoded. The launch time was always the hallmark of the 100% airborne goal but it was predicated on relieving the PLE aircraft to allow it to land with safe options. During the period of T-III changes occurred which calls into question the reasonableness of continuing this mode of operation. A few examples, but not inclusive: the previous one hour requirement did not allow for the population growth in the Lexington Park area, the two lane highway, lack of good housing outside of the immediate Base area, communication issues with landline phones etc. and the crowded air corridors on the East Coast. Its greatest weakness however, was failure to address the increased presence of adversary submarines and trawlers off the Atlantic Coast, the improvements in the adversary’s Cruise Missile capability and even more critical, the need to get as many TACAMO aircraft in the air under certain Defense Condition (DEFCON) conditions. My point was we failed to understand the Ready Alert as a survival entity as well as the revered 100% airborne philosophy.

Accordingly, VQ-4 petitioned the Atlantic Fleet Commander (CINCFLANTFLT) to permit the Ready Alert Aircraft to be stationed in Bermuda. In addition, the aircraft and crew would be subject. In addition, the aircraft and crew would be subject to a fifteen minute launch window, which allow the...

*Continued on Page 14*

MAP OF U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION, BERMUDA





# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## VQ-4 Bermuda Detachment Looking Back 50 Years

*Continued from Page 13*



aircraft to be safely launched and out of Cruise Missile range. Multiple unannounced drill alerts were made with the ready alert aircraft in Bermuda, proving the concept to be valid. This step forward for TACAMO placed it in the realm of alert status similar to the early Strategic Air Command, the US Navy Maritime Patrol (VP) ready alert status which required the whole crew to reside on base during their duty status, and I believe the USAF Airborne Command Post (ABNCP) at that time.

Many other important considerations were embedded in the final decision to establish the Bermuda Detachment. The final stages of the transition to the T-IVB aircraft and all crews qualified created challenging scheduling conditions because of mismatched aircraft and crews as well as the necessity to train VQ-3 crews in a timely fashion to meet their incoming T-IVB aircraft, hence, the mid-deployment stand down was a luxury we could not afford.

Of equal importance to the above, was the drain on crews where it related to downtime at PAX River. Training, Deployments, Ready Alerts, and Standby Alerts. I believed there was a better solution to the problem than “continue as before”. Being able to stand the Ready Alert as part of the deployment package meant at least one more uncommitted day at home each cycle.

Secondly, and of great value to the mission, was the fact that the deploying crew flew the first operational leg to Bermuda which allowed them to hone their equipment skills, strengthen their teamwork, and mentally focus on the coming deployment. It also allowed them to stay with their assigned aircraft for the whole deployment. Also in the event of any aircraft malfunctions, they could return to home base or land in Bermuda a few hours away from help. In one instance, an engine failed during pre-flight in Bermuda and within 3.5 hours a substitute deployment aircraft was delivered to the crew to continue their watch and deployment. The crew’s original aircraft was flown back to PAX River for repair.

The Bermuda Detachment decision was not immune to apprehensions. My approach to the issues presented to me was to educate everyone on the reasoning behind it, and most of all prove to the best of my ability the benefits of the approach we were taking. If we learned anything from the reaction of the Squadron members regarding these decisions it was the ability to package the changes so that everything we knew needed to be done was affected in the package to avoid later piecemeal changes and further apprehensions. Perhaps we will be better prepared for the major changes during the E-6 stand-down and C-130 coming online.

The fact that the Bermuda Detachment system was successful until stand-down with the E-6 Mercury introduction, merits consideration that it was the correct assessment to enhance TACAMO Atlantic (TACAMOLANT) survivability during this period.

Bill's leadership and his wisdom in placing people in positions of responsibility, enabled his plans and the squadron to succeed.





# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In 1974 TACAMO  
Squadron VQ4  
began stationing  
crews and aircraft  
in Bermuda.



## Minutes from wheels in the wells

by SN Jody Evans

You're sitting in the bleachers, watching your favorite softball team when suddenly the guys next to you respond to the crackling of a walkie talkie and dash to a gray Navy van. The excitement is followed by flashing the beacons of two other vehicles. They drive around the end of the runway, and stop at the EC-130 aircraft parked just off the runway on the south end of the field. With a flurry of activity, people jump out of the vehicles, check with the Marine sentry and run to the plane. One engine is started immediately and the other three are started simultaneously. The plane taxis to the end of the runway, pauses for a moment, starts its take-off roll and soon disappears as it climbs over the hills. All this has transpired over a very brief period of time.

You have just seen a "ready alert" launch by TACAMO (Take charge and move out) EC-130 from the Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron four (VQ-4) homebased at NAS/NATC Patuxent River, Maryland. VQ-4 is one of two Navy strategic communications squadrons. The other is VQ-3 which is homeported in Barber's Point, Hawaii.

VQ-4's mission (TACAMOLANT) is to maintain continuous airborne coverage around the North Atlantic Basin as a survivable communications command and control relay platform between commander-in-Chief, Atlan-

tic (CINCLANT) and his deployed forces. It is under the direct operational control of CINCLANT, Norfolk, Virginia. The squadron operated specially equipped EC-130 Hercules aircraft on independent two week deployments.

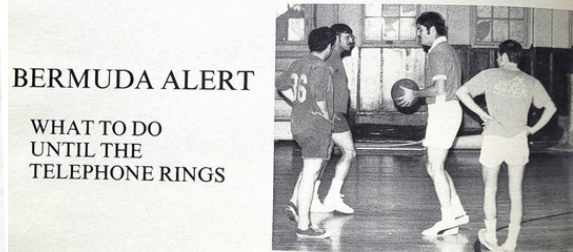
VQ-4 maintains a permanent maintenance and communications detachment that rotates its personnel every two months between Pax River and NAS Bermuda. The officer-in-charge of the Bermuda detachment is a two week rotating billet filled by officers from the squadron's homebase.

The critical timing of the alert requires crews to remain together at all times with immediate access to transportation. Two vehicles are assigned to the VQ-4 Bermuda det for transporting the crews to the aircraft for launches, to the Commissary for groceries (long flight hours mean in-flight meals), to the clubs for meals and the gymnasium for a physical break in tense routine. Due to the length of the alert cycle, the crews are authorized to use the vehicles to support these functions, to provide some release from the confines of their quarters, yet still enabling them to respond to a launch immediately and become airborne with efficiency.

So, when you see a gray Navy van with yellow TACAMO ready alert license plates at the Commissary store, it's probably a VQ-4 alert crew picking up groceries, yet with the crackling from their walkie talkie, they're just minutes away from "wheels in the wells".

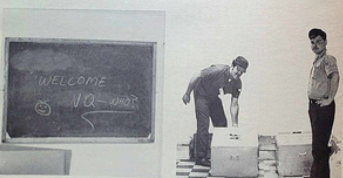
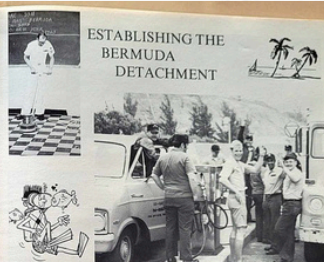
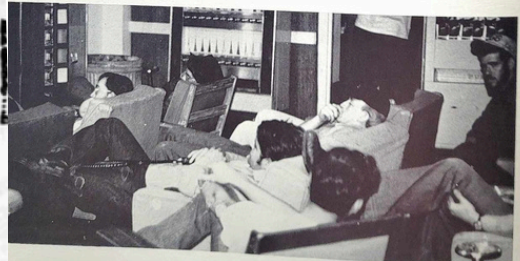


A DASH  
TO THE BUS  
FOR...



BERMUDA ALERT

WHAT TO DO  
UNTIL THE  
TELEPHONE RINGS





# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In 1974 TACAMO Squadron VQ4 began stationing crews and aircraft in Bermuda.



38 NAVY TIMES MARCH 18, 1976

## With a Little Help From His Friends

By Lt. (jg) VERN C. LOCKHAUSEN  
And YN2 MICHAEL L. McCOSH

NORFOLK — During his address to the annual Retention Conference held here in September, Adm. Isaac C. Kidd, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, stressed the Atlantic Fleet theme of making "a turn inward" to solve its own problems.

"In our efforts to meet this challenge," he said, "let us be guided by the answers to two questions: What have I done for the Fleet today? and What have I done for a shipmate today?"

The spirit of helping ourselves by helping each other, as expressed by the admiral, has new meaning for the 600 officers and men of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4 as the result of their experiences with an injured member of that squadron during August and September of last year.

It all began at about 9 p.m. on Aug. 11, 1975, at NAS Bermuda while one of VQ-4's EC-130 aircraft was taxiing toward a parking spot near the squadron's detachment hangar.

The line vehicle, which had been dispatched to assist the taxiing aircraft, darted between two EC-130's parked on the line. Near the nose of one of these parked aircraft, four VQ-4 flight crewmembers were awaiting transportation to their quarters.

In the darkness, the line craft driver did not see them in time. One man escaped the path of the skidding truck, but three others were not so fortunate.

Lt. (jg) Jim Scott and Aviation Electronics Technician Third Pete Kohlberger took glancing blows and were rolled backwards in opposite directions. Aviation Electronics Technician First Luke Smith was hit head-on by the truck and sustained grave injuries.

Maintenance Detachment Chief Alton Hope went to the aid of Smith and attempted to stop the profuse bleeding from his face. Hope's actions probably saved



ON HIS return to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4 to attend Bicentennial ceremonies, Aviation Electronics Technician First Luke Smith (seated) stops to see some friends.

Smith's life. Ens. Jim Klepper, a former Navy corpsman, was on board the taxiing aircraft, and he and Lt. (jg) Herb Hess rushed to the scene to administer first aid to Scott and Kohlberger, who were both in a state of shock.

WITHIN A matter of minutes, an ambulance was on the scene and Navy corpsmen administered first aid while rushing Smith to the NAS Bermuda dispensary. Off-duty dispensary personnel came in to help when they heard of the accident.

The original prognosis was bleak. Smith was semi-comatose with multiple fractures of the skull, face, ribs and leg. He was later taken to the best equipped medical facility available — King Edward Memorial Hospital in Hamilton, Bermuda. The other two injured men were in better condition and remained at the dispensary for treatment

and observation.

By the next morning, plans had been made to aid Mrs. Linda Smith in obtaining transportation to Bermuda, and to enable Mrs. Scott to talk to her husband. The Red Cross and the Navy Relief Society were prepared to help Mrs. Smith pay for her trip. Later that morning, it was determined that Smith's condition was even more serious than had been estimated originally and that Mrs. Smith should be flown to Bermuda as soon as possible.

Emergency funds were issued by the Navy Relief to buy an airline ticket for Mrs. Smith, and airlines were contacted in Baltimore and Washington and reservations made in the event that military transportation might not be available.

However, due to the very guarded prognosis in the case of Smith, it was determined that normal commercial air transportation might not be timely enough, so permission was obtained to fly Mrs. Smith to Bermuda aboard one of the squadron's EC-130 aircraft.

THE SMITHS next-door neighbors, Aviation Electronics Technician First Clint and Betty Wolford, volunteered to care for the three Smith children — Troy (13), Michael (11) and Brian (8) — even though the Smiths and Wolfords had been neighbors less than two months and the Wolfords have six daughters of their own.

Meanwhile, Smith was in the intensive care unit and under heavy sedation. Although in a civilian hospital, he was attended to by Capt. James W. Brough, head of the NAS Bermuda dispensary, and Cmdr.

Cathryn Davis, senior nurse and medical administration officer at the dispensary.

Through the Bermuda Enlisted Wives' Club, Mrs. Smith met Storekeeper First Mike and Julie Urban upon arriving at Bermuda. The Urbans obtained a bed from the NAS Bermuda Public Works Department and set up their spare bedroom as a home-away-from-home for Mrs. Smith.

By the end of that first day, nearly \$300 in contributions had been collected from the officers and men of the squadron to help the Smith family meet the expenses of his convalescence. Also, the word spread quickly about the Wolford family, which now had 11 people at their table instead of eight. The officers and enlisted wives' clubs of VQ-4 set up a program to help the Wolfords feed the increased "family." By taking alternating days, the two clubs provided a steady flow of hot meals and desserts.

On August 14, Scott and Kohlberger were transferred to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Scott suffered abrasions, contusions and knee injuries. Kohlberger sustained back injuries consisting of several cracked vertebrae. After treatment at Bethesda and NAS Patuxent River (Md.) Hospital, they were released and soon were back on the job.

SMITH WAS TO recover slowly, however. After extended periods of heavy sedation for pain, respirator-assisted breathing and several resettings of his broken bones, he returned to full consciousness.

Smith continued to make progress, and on September 10, he and his wife boarded an Air Force C-141 for a Medevac flight to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. After about 2½ weeks of treatment and tests, Luke was transferred to Patuxent River and continued treatment as an out-patient at the Naval hospital there.

Smith was welcomed back to VQ-4 on October 28 when he and Linda attended ceremonies conducted in celebration of the Navy's Bicentennial birthday. His return was the highlight of the day's activities.

Even though he was on convalescent leave, the Smiths returned to the squadron on November 14, when they attended a special ceremony honoring their neighbors — the Wolfords. The Wolfords were presented a VQ-4 plaque and a letter of commendation making them honorary VQ-4 "Shadows."

In his address on the occasion, Cmdr. Laurel C. Peterson, commanding officer of VQ-4, said none of the ceremonies honoring the Navy's birthday could better capture the essence of the Bicentennial theme "building on a proud tradition" than the actions of the Wolfords on behalf of the Smith family.



THE COMMANDER of Tactical Support Wing 1, Capt. G.R. Olson, chats with Mr. and Mrs. Smith.



AT CEREMONIES held for the Bicentennial, Aviation Electronics Technician First Clint and Betty Wolford are made honorary VQ-4 "Shadows" by Capt. G.R. Olson.



**NEW**

# Up to **Three** \$1,000 Scholarships

**TCVA now has three scholarships!**

## John Jordan has funded the TACAMO Chiefs Future Leaders Scholarship



John Jordan

# TCVA SCHOLARSHIPS

Mission Statement: The TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) will award annual scholarships to students in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) related curriculum or technical certification (example: HVAC, Automotive Technician, Sous Chef, etc.).

### Applications Deadlines:

- Accepted June 1st to January 31st
- Closed February 1st
- Selection Time Frame February to April 30
- Scholarship Announcement in May



**ACTIVE DUTY, VETERANS, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN (INCLUDING "STEP" CHILDREN/ GRANDCHILDREN) OF TCVA MEMBERS (IN GOOD STANDING: DUES PAYING TCVA MEMBERS) MAY APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP BY SUBMITTING AN [APPLICATION LINK](#)**

<https://shorturl.at/Eua7p>

**DONATE** ❤️



William "Buff" Crowell II Scholarship Fund dedicated to a Founding Member of TSA/TCVA



TACAMO Chiefs Future Leaders Scholarship

**DONATE** ❤️

**DONATE** ❤️



Vern and Colleen Lohausen Scholarship "Excellence in Technology & Arts" dedicated to a Founding Member of TCVA



# TACAMO Scholarships Ceremonies



## TCVA awards the William “Buff” Crowell Scholarship to Jacob Allen Estes, Son of David Estes ATCS (Ret)

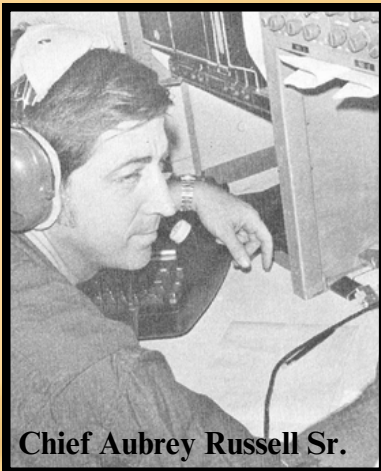


**Top Left:** Tony Barnes, Jacob Estes, Jim Meppelink

**Top Right:** Tony Barnes, Jacob Estes

**Bottom:** Jim Meppelink, Jacob Estes, Tony Barnes, and David Estes

## TCVA awards the Vern and Colleen Lochausen Technology & Arts Scholarship to Aubrey Russell III, Grandson of TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Crewmember, Chief Aubrey D Russell Sr.



**Chief Aubrey Russell Sr.**



**Top Left:** Vern Lochausen, Aubrey Russell III & Mike Vos

**Middle Right:** Vern Lochausen, Aubrey Russell II, Jean Russell, Avery Russell, Aubrey Russell III & Mike Vos.

**Bottom:** All attendees



# Letter from Chief Russell's Son TACAMO Family...



Dear TACAMO Community,

This year was the 47 year of the remembrance of Crew 4, it's easy for me to remember because that's how old I am. But I don't need to tell the TACAMO Association or TACAMO Community this because like family, neither has ever forgotten the 16 that perished on that June Day.

What most of the TACAMO Community may not know is that I was only a month old at the time of that tragic event, so I never knew my father personally. For most of my life all I knew of him was that photo that hung on the wall of our house, because my family never really spoke of him as it was hard on my mother. All that changed several years ago when my twin sister Melissa and Cheryl began to speak and the TACAMO association stepped up in an amazing way. The TACAMO Association connected my sister and I with numerous Sailors that served with him and told amazing stories of his quiet demeanor and strength of leadership. They have also told some pretty funny stories of him and others on liberty. Over the years Cheryl, Vern, and the Association have also invited my family to several remembrances, and to tour the VQ3 and VQ4 facilities as well as the TACAMO museum.

The Sailors and the Association may never know the impact they had on my family and mom. The kindness and incredible professionalism of the Navy was on full display during one of these trips. My mother's favorite story to retell was her visit to Tinker Air Force base when she was walking the tarmac and her sandal broke, leaving her shoeless. We boarded an aircraft with a borrowed shoe from my son and continued the tour. The amazing part came when we left the aircraft and a Sailor was standing there with a brand new pair of sandals. She couldn't believe that anyone had taken the time to go shopping and find her new sandals.

All of these events were just the start of changes in my mother's life. Sailors and Navy Families would continue to reach out to my mother and she began to open up about my father. She experienced a lot of emotions in the beginning from anger to sadness. But the constant interaction with the TACAMO Community led her to reconcile the death of my father and give her peace. In the last few years, she told stories of him and we all shared in remembering my father. After 40 years, I now have more of an idea of who he was because of the kindness of this association.

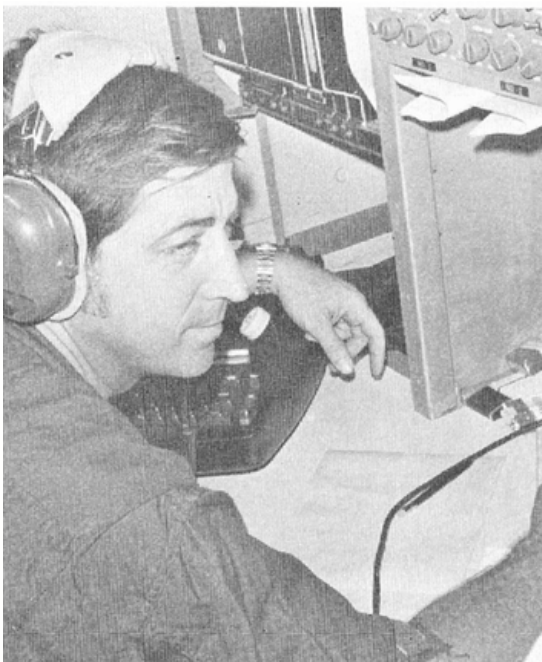
Recently the kindness of the TACAMO association continued when they gave my son, Aubrey Russell III, a scholarship for college. In doing so you have further connected my family to my father and helped us greatly.

I really hope the Sailors, Families and members of the TACAMO Community understand that your efforts have changed the life of my family dramatically. Thank you.

**Aubrey Russell Jr**  
CSM (R)  
US ARMY

**Below Left:** RMC Aubrey Russell, crew member of TACAMOPAC Crew 4

**Below Right:** Russell Joe Bacarella (left) and Jim Dumas (right) attended the presentation of the first Lochausen's scholarship to the grandson of RMC Russell. They took time to share their adventures of Chief Russell with Russell's son, Aubrey Russell Jr. (middle).





# TCVA Donors

Thank you to the following individuals, businesses, and organizations that support the TACAMO Community Veterans Association. Your generosity helps us provide scholarships, reunite at reunions, and mini-reunions to share memories and accomplish several projects. With your continued investment, TACAMO Community Veterans Association can continue to provide education on TACAMO's history to active duty, Veterans and others across the country.

To make a donation go to

- Scholarships Gifts [tacamo.org/scholarships](http://tacamo.org/scholarships)
- Other Gifts [tacamo.org/donate](http://tacamo.org/donate)



## SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS

Gifts specifically designated to a named scholarship fund.

### TACAMO Chiefs Future Leaders Scholarship Fund

- John Jordan

### William “Buff” Crowell Scholarship Fund

- George Davis
- William Crouch
- TCVA Donors who purchase Buff TACAMO Joe T-shirts

### Vern & Colleen Lochausen Scholarship Fund

- Bill & Phyllis Coyne
- Jim Meppelink
- William Crouch
- Carolyn Evans
- Ken Russell
- John & Joan Alger

## OTHER GIFTS

### 2023 Reunion

- Collins Rockwell
- Lockheed Martin
- Northrop Grumman
- Navy League, Oklahoma City Council
- Longwire
- V2X
- Mike & Cheryl Vos

### Birthday to Honor

- John Alger

### In memory of TACAMOPAC Crew 4

- Anonymous

### Special Projects

TACAMO Documentaries

- Cheryl Vos
- Mike Davidson

# Membership Drive September 15 to 30, 2024

## TACAMO MEMBERSHIP \$35 ANNUALLY



### Members Incentives

- ≈ Discount in Paraloft
- ≈ One Raffle Ticket to win a Southwest Airline Ticket

**JOIN NOW**

[TACAMO.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](https://TACAMO.ORG/MEMBERSHIP)

### Membership Categories:

**Active Duty Members:** Free for active duty members with full access to the entire site for as long as you remain on active duty. Cost: FREE (Renewal is due 12 months after joining. \$35 if no longer active duty.)

**Associate Member (TACAMO: Veterans, Industry Partners, Government Partners, and Family Members:** Cost: \$35 (Renewal is due 12 months after joining, \$35.)

### Achievements Through the Years

- **1995**
  - Website is established as tacamo.org
- **1997**
  - TSA (TACAMO Survivors Association) founded
- **2005**
  - Paraloft online store established
- **2010**
  - First “destination reunion” at NAS Millington/Memphis, TN
- **2011**
  - “Back to Pax” reunion, where a broader vision for TSA was developed
- **2012**
  - NAS Oklahoma Reunions hosted by Former Commodore of Strategic Communications Wing 1 Chocko Baker
  - TACAMO Hall of Fame established, Inductees are selected on annually and awarded at reunions
  - Crew 4 recognized and honored
  - TSA is renamed TCVA with Vern Lochausen as President and became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization
- **2013**
  - “Hail to the Chiefs”, Seattle reunion united TACAMO Veterans & Active Duty with Boeing members who worked on the E6. Boeing sponsored reunion
- **2014**
  - “Salute to the Herc” reunion with TACAMO Active Duty & Veterans in Marietta, GA. Sponsored by Lockheed-Martin
- **2015**
  - Mini-reunion in Pensacola, to dress the props of 891, a last request from TACAMO Hall of Inductee, Don Lindemann
  - Boneyard Safari Gathering in Tucson assisted TCVA with obtaining TACAMO Herc plane parts from the boneyard
  - Destination reunions celebrating TACAMO History
  - Community-building activities facilitated:
    - Crew 4 Quest - Connecting with TACAMOPAC Crew 4 family and friends and recognition to TACAMOPAC Crew 4 with memorials and ceremony
    - Boneyard Safari assisted with the production of TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Memorial Ceremony at The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and continues to assist TCVA
    - TCVA assisted with the fundraiser for a plaque to recognize Dave Dick for his extraordinary accomplishments in support of the TACAMO and E-6 Airborne Command Post missions.
    - TACAMO Vets Assist to Find Manuals for Tacamo-III PA, S/N005, which is now back up and working great!
    - Recognition to Personnel Support Detachment now Customer Support Detachment (CSD), Established 25 years ago
- **2015 Community-building activities facilitated continued:**
  - Founding Members of TACAMO Survivors Association Recognition
  - LinkedIn, connecting former TACAMO veterans and retirees with active duty job seekers
- **2016**
  - Hawaii reunion at Barbers Point and Hale Koa hotel
  - VQ-3 History Board - TCVA Ribbon Cutting for the FIRST Museum Display at Naval Air Museum Barbers Point
  - Crew 4 funeral at the Punchbowl with full military honors; Memorial stone placed on the Punchbowl Cemetery Memorial. Video produced by Boneyard Safari
- **2017**
  - “Celebrating TACAMO Heritage” reunion at NAS OKC hosted by TCVA
  - TACAMOPAC VQ-3 Crew 4 ceremony celebrating the life of Crew 4 members video presentation
  - Crew 4 - Connected with families, friends and John Nelson. “Full military honors tribute to 16 Navy TACAMO Aircrewmembers lost in a C-130 off Wake Island!” where a video was filmed to record the ceremony and a Crew 4 plaque placed in Wake Island Terminal history display
  - Trailing Wire Newsletter changed to paperless distribution and added a blog for news alerts
- **2018**
  - “50 Years of TACAMO” reunion in Charleston, SC and retirement of Jim Gallager, Vice President
- **2019**
  - Mini reunion at NAS Pensacola celebrating BUNO 151891 with Hall of Inductee, Ron Carlson
  - Historic documents and presentation are now viewable on the TCVA website
- **2020/2021 Covid Years**
  - Reunions on hold, due to COVID-19
  - VQ-3 Display is re-located to the Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point outside the Hideaway Club
  - TCVA expands its Board of Directors to nine
- **2022**
  - Pax River Reunion. Grand opening of the TACAMO Gallery at the Patuxent River Naval Aviation Museum
  - TACAMO documentary begins at Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum with the decommissioning of 151891
- **2023**
  - “TACAMO Community Reunion” at NAS OKC
  - Initiated Active Duty Representative on TCVA Board of Directors
- **2024**
  - TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee meetings
  - Lifetime Achievement Award Established
  - TCVA presents TACAMO History Documentaries in videos
  - Semi-annual Membership Campaigns



# TACAMO Documentaries!

TCVA is proud to announce our partnership with Boneyard Safari and the production of short documentaries celebrating the mission, history, and personnel of TACAMO. Designed to fit the YouTube platform, the documentaries will run about 5-10 minutes with an associated “Short” that links to the longer form.

Collins Aerospace has committed to underwrite the first 3+ episodes. We invite our other industry partners to support this project, as well.

You may recall the 30 minute production of the Crew 4 Memorial video at the Punchbowl Cemetery on Oahu. This was our first partnership with Boneyard Safari. We're excited to continue telling TACAMO's story with Boneyard Safari's production skills.

The first episode “The Mission” is in production now. We will announce its debut via email and Facebook.

The second episode will focus on “Collins Radio”, its impact on HF communications during WWII and its adaptation of a VLF transmission system to “roll-on/roll-off” a C-130, the genesis of the TACAMO program. Episode 3 will focus on “Why VLF?”. A basic explanation of “How” VLF works to send EAM's to the submerged submarines. These introductory videos will set up a more freeform expression of TACAMO milestones, incidents, notable shipmates, and fun “Sea Stories”.

TCVA invites you to suggest future topics that you would find interesting to share and provoke memories from the community. Tell us your (OPSEC considered) story ... it may end up on YouTube.

Remember ... A fairy tale begins with, “Once upon a time” and a Sea Story begins with, “This ain't no sh&#t”.



## Collins Aerospace



## BONEYARD SAFARI

# TAKE CHARGE AND MOVE OUT

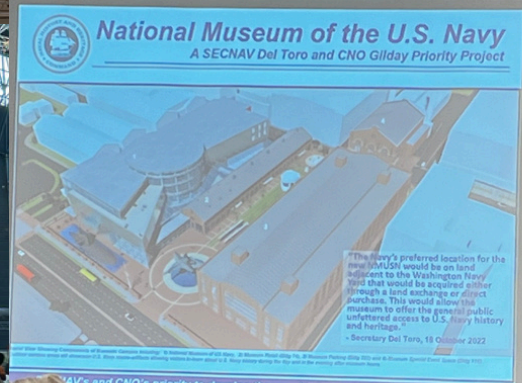
## *Episode 1 - The Mission*



# HOW WWII WAS PREVENTED!



# TCVA Attends & Presents at Military Reunion Summit



## INDUSTRY

STAFFING/EXPERIENCE/TRAINING  
INCREASED COSTS  
MORE SELECTIVE ABOUT BUSINESS  
SELLERS MARKET

## MILITARY REUNIONS

INTERMISSION  
LESS REUNIONS DUE TO MERGING AND  
DISBANDING  
CONCLUSION  
ATTENDANCE  
INCREASED COSTS

TCVA Board members attend and present at the Military Reunion Summit in Fairfax, VA. This was John “Mom” Burgoon’s first, so he attended Basic Training for Planners. Cheryl and Mike were educational track presenters. Mike and another Veteran planner presented “How and Why to Become an Official Association”. Cheryl and Mike presented a track on “Why Have a Website and Be on Social Media”. The Educational Summit: A three-day conference for the new and seasoned reunion planners with destination and hotel representatives. Veterans will leave with new connections and planning tools.

Touring the Fairfax, VA area involved visits to the US Army Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, and The United States Navy Memorial.

The other two days everyone was updated on the Hospitality Industry and how it affects reunion planners. Educational tracks featured reunion budgets, working with convention visitor bureaus, grants and sponsorships, contracts, social media, and more. The Keynote Speaker Emmy Award Winner Producer Kyle Olson presented “The Last Signal” at dinner. A video about Two World War II Veterans reuniting for the first time in 70 years. We were inspired to begin gathering Sea Stories and making videos to present to our members.



# STRATCOM WING One Events & News



## 249th Navy Birthday Ball RSVP

R.S.V.P. by 24 September 2024  
Doors will open at 1800.

Tickets are valid for ONE beer, cocktail, or soft drink of choice.

Contact Bob Holland to purchase tickets, 405.739.3457 or 360.320.467 or [robert.holland16.ctr@us.navy.mi](mailto:robert.holland16.ctr@us.navy.mi)



Strategic Communications Wing ONE,  
The United States Navy League Oklahoma City Council  
and The Midwest City Chamber of Commerce

Request the pleasure of your company at the

### 249th Navy Birthday Ball

Tuesday, the First of October  
two thousand and twenty four

Registration and Cocktail Hour  
Six o'clock in the evening  
Program Starts at Seven o'clock

Reed Conference Center  
5800 Will Rogers Road  
Midwest City, OK 73110

**Tickets - \$80**

#### Dinner Menu Choices:

- Braised Short Ribs
- Pecan Crusted Chicken
- Fennel Parmesan Risotto (Vegetarian)

**VQ-7 Change of Command**  
**Friday, the 6th of September**  
at ten o'clock in the morning  
Building 820, VQ-4 Hangar Bay Three

To view your invitation, please click the link below.

If you are unable to click on the link, please copy and paste the address into your web browser.

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/index.cfm?i=900214&k=0B61420B7A53>



## STRATCOM WING One Host Drug Education for Youth

Sailors assigned to Strategic Communications Wing One and tenant commands volunteered to host the 2024 Navy DEFY: Drug Education for Youth (Tinker AFB DEFY) summer camp, from 8 to 12 July. The week-long event encompassed various activities to empower military youth dependents to build positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free, successful citizens. DEFY gives youth between ages 9 and 12 skills that equip them to lead a positive, healthy, and drug-free lifestyle.







# 2025 TACAMO Reunion

## Sheraton Suites Galleria-Cobb County, GA

### Dates: November 6 to 12



## Tentative Schedule



### THUR NOV 6:

- Early Bird Check-in
- Gather in the Hotel bar for Happy Hour 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

### FRI NOV 7:

- Breakfast: Enjoy a full breakfast provided by the hotel with your room rate
- 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. >>Registration outside Hospitality Room
- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. >>Welcome Gathering & Buffet Dinner with cash bar in Hospitality Room

### Welcome Gathering Buffett Dinner, a Spot for Hungry Attendees

### SAT NOV 8:

- Breakfast: Enjoy a full breakfast provided by the hotel with your room rate
- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. >>Morning Quarters, TCVA Members Meeting in Hospitality Room
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. >> in the Hospitality Room or On-your-own adventures
- Lunch on your own C-130 peeps meet up
- Afternoon (Time to be determined) Tour of Truist Field Ballpark and a presentation plus Q&A with Braves Historian on the history of Braves and the military. Archives Collection: Braves Hall of Fame player, Warren Spahn's Army Jacket and Purple Heart, Piece of the Pentagon from 9/11, Fort Bragg game used jersey, photos.
- Evening at the Battery: Shop, Play, and Dine Out <https://batteryatl.com/> <https://www.batteryatl.com/heroes/>
- Discounts and parking Parking: Non-event days parking is free for the first 2 hours or 15-minute walk

### SUN NOV 9:

- Breakfast: Enjoy a full breakfast provided by the hotel with your room rate
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. >> Lunch with Cash Bar & Open mic for Hall of Fame members to share stories
- **TACAMO Hall of Fame Reception Buffett Lunch: Italy in Georgia**
- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. >> Hospitality Room Social time or On-your-own adventures
- 4 p.m. >>Flight Suit Liberty in Hotel Bar

### MON NOV 10:

- Breakfast: Enjoy a full breakfast provided by the hotel with your room rate
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. >>Lockheed-Martin Tour & possible Time in Herc Simulator
- Evening Gatherings in the hotel bar, happy hour from 5PM to 7PM.

### TUES NOV 11: PLE Day

- TACAMO Attendees may walk or observe the Veterans Day Parade
- PLE Outing Dinner at 57th Fighter Group

**Reservation Link to Sheraton Suites Galleria-Cobb County, GA coming in DEC**





# Need Transportation or Escort to a TACAMO Reunion?



- Sometimes life situations do not provide us the opportunity to attend a TACAMO reunion. So, ask a family member for the gift of escorting you to a reunion. Your family members will enjoy hearing new stories and learning about TACAMO. TCVA will waive your escort's registration cost.

*At 2023 reunion, Ralph Carlson was given the gift of attending the reunion by his son, Scott. He was unable to drive, so his son escorted him. Scott and Ralph were joined at the reunion other family members: TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee, Gerry Greer and wife LaDonia Carlson and many other family members. While Ralph shared stories about his time in TACAMO, family members enjoyed hearing new stories and meeting other TACAMO attendees.*

## TACAMO Elder Escort Gift Certificate

*Good for one (1) escort to attend a TACAMO Reunion with their TACAMO family elderly in need of assistance*

To: TACAMO Reunion Attendee

This certificate is good for one (1) person providing transportation for a you to attend a TACAMO Reunion.  
Value: Reunion Registration Fee

From:  
*TACAMO Reunion Committee*



**NEXT**  **TACAMO REUNION!**

**MARIETTA, GA  
NOVEMBER 7 TO 12, 2025**





# 2024 HOMETOWN HEROES

## Captain John "Irish" Keilty U.S. Navy (Ret)

Captain John "Irish" Keilty was honored to serve in the United States Navy as a Pilot for almost 26 years. He has been honored to be a teacher and coach for the last 19 years.

Captain Keilty accumulated over 5000 flight hours in 50 different types of rotary, fixed wing (Carrier based and land based and glider aircraft. He is a qualified parachutist. He was the Commanding Officer of a Navy squadron at Tinker, the Navy Air Wing at Tinker and the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School. Captain Keilty participated in the first Navy Test Pilot Technical Exchange Program just after the Cold War and flew the MIG-29 fighter in Russia. During his tour as Commodore of the Navy Air Wing at Tinker in 1999-2001, his Wing was awarded the Omaha Trophy as the best Air wing in the United States Strategic Command.

After Captain Keilty's naval career he was Athletic Director, Head Baseball Coach Assistant Football Coach and Physics/Math teacher at Mount St. Mary High School in OKC.



**John "Irish" Keilty**

He was also a summer adjunct Physics and Math teacher at Rose State College. Captain Keilty conducts summer aerospace workshops for middle school kids at Rose State College. Coach Keilty achieved over 200 career victories as Mount St. Mary Baseball Coach from 2004-2017.

Captain Keilty has been awarded the Tinker and the Primes "Patriot Award", the Archdiocese of Oklahoma "Educator of the Year" and was recognized by the American Association of Physics Teachers, Oklahoma-Kansas - Kansas Chapter

for an Excellence in Physics Education Award. In 2018 Captain Keilty was inducted into the US Navy TACAMIO Hall of Fame.

Presently Captain Keilty is the Senior Navy JROTC instructor at Del City High School. He announces play by play live stream on the Oklahoma Sports Network for all Del City football games and is the Announcer for basketball and wrestling events. He is on the Del City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Proud to be an eagle!

Captain Keilty's wife Kim, a former Navy Air Traffic Controller, works at the Tinker Air Force Base Clinic. They have 3 children. Jack, is a Navy Fighter Pilot, deployed aboard the USS Nimitz, Kelly is a Navy Medic deployed with Special Operations to Djibouti Africa and Katie is a Valdosta University professor and a swim coach, and is married to an Air Force Combat Rescue Officer, Commander of a Para rescue Squadron, deployed to Afghanistan... So proud of our kids!

Kate Keilty Morgans (Midwest City High School Class of 2001) is married to Colonel Nick Morgans, Combat Rescue Officer USAF) stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Kelly Keilty (Midwest City High School Class of 2002) is a Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman assigned to Special Operations Riverine Expeditionary Group stationed in Little Creek, Virginia.

Jack Keilty (Jarman Middle School 2000, Mount St Mary Class of 2005) is a Navy Lieutenant Commander married to Mekele DeNegri Keilty (Mount St Mary HS 2005) and assigned to Navy Flight Demonstration Team as a Blue Angel Pilot stationed in Pensacola, Florida.



**Kate Keilty Morgans & Nick Morgans**



**Kelly Keilty**



**Jack Keilty**





# TACAMO Family



OKC Grubbing with the Goats outing at The Hall's Pizza Kitchen

This year the retiree dinner will be held at the Santa Fe Cattle Company. Below is the information for the dinner.

- Date:** 27 August 2024
- Time:** 1700-1900
- Location:** Santa Fe Cattle Company  
7101 SE 29th St  
Midwest City, OK 73110
- Occupancy:** 70 people

Please let me know if there is any other information that you need.  
Thank you!

AWVC Micheal Wilkinson, VQ-4 Safety Dept LCPO  
(W) 405-739-4074 (C) 850-543-7529





## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAVE A GREAT FOURTH OF JULY

**THIS POEM IS DEDICATED TO FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENTLY SERVING  
IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND IS A REPOST FROM YEARS AGO**

by John Keilty "Irish"

- Son -in -Law Colonel Nick ( and daughter Kate)Morgans is an Air Force Combat Rescue Officer stationed in Keesler AFB Miss.
- Daughter Hospital Corpsman Chief Kelly Keilty USN assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron at Norfolk Virginia.
- Nephew LT Casey "Screech" Keilty a Navy C-130 Pilot stationed at Andrews AFB Md
- LT Eddy Desch (and my niece Caitlin ) a Navy C-130 pilot stationed at Andrews AFB Ms.
- Son CDR ( s)Jack "Uncle Rico" Keilty (and Mekele) is a USN F-18 Pilot stationed in Pensacola Florida with the Navy Blue Angels.
- 2nd Lt. US Army Danny Keilty in Ft Rucker Alabama in Army Helicopter Pilot Training



## OVER HERE-OVER THERE

(OVER HERE)

A whispering and babbling Brook,  
Runs thru a rural town public domain,

(OVER THERE)

A rugged and cliffy jungle valley,  
Cuts thru a treacherous mountain terrain!

(OVER HERE)

Stars and Stripes wave proudly and gently,  
From a family cottage on an ocean beach,

(OVER THERE)

A war torn Old Glory flying over a U.S. camp,  
As the enemy remains well within their reach!

(OVER HERE)

A Weber grill will provide the back drop,  
For a steak and chicken barbecue today,

(OVER THERE)

An MRE accompanies a fighting Marine,  
And is tonight's menu of a Green Beret!

(OVER HERE)

A concert stage and band is the center piece,  
Where American families will gather and collect,

(OVER THERE)

An enemy plans with an ideology ,  
To destroy American values we so protect!

(OVER HERE)

A fireworks display over a white capped river,  
With a smell of smoke on a cool summer's night,

(OVER THERE)

The red chilling glow of an enemies explosive,  
Seen for miles all thru the night in the fight!

(OVER HERE)

So that all of us on American shores,  
Are free of any homeland warfare!

(OVER THERE)

American sons and daughters ,  
Keeping the battle over there,

(OVER THERE)

An Air Force Combat Rescue Officer on an  
Afghan mountaintop,  
A Combat Navy Medic on a turbulent Red sea,  
An F-18 Pilot waving jets on the Nimitz,  
A United States Marine with unbridled esprit!  
A Reservist called to active duty,  
National Guard and Coast Guardsmen in a  
foreign land,

American sons and daughters ,

Protecting our God given rights —American!

(OVER HERE)

A 95 year old World War 2 vet,  
Recalled battle stories to his great grandkids,

(OVER THERE)

A tough 18 year old on a desert lookout perch,  
Life,happiness and liberty will never skid!

There is a proud Dad up there in Baltimore,  
His son flew choppers on hostile Gulf seas,

His daughter and 2 kids in Seattle,

Their Daddy flew Navy jets in combat with  
expertise!

(OVER HERE)

A Veteran sits on a flag covered front porch,  
Painful memories of wars gone by,

Reflecting on the great American Dream,  
The Founding Father's values he did personify.

REFLECTION

(OVER HERE)

So for some 400 million Americans,  
Who will excitedly celebrate Freedom Day,

(OVER THERE)

And those deployed American war fighters,  
Who are fighting to keep the American way!

(OVER HERE)

As we gather at the beach and pavilions,  
And at the local decorated town square,

(OVER THERE)

Be mindful of our great American Military,  
Who are keeping the fight way over there!

(ONE NATION UNDER GOD)

And say a special prayer today,  
And thank God for this great land,

Where we will fight for the right of liberty,  
And fly our great flag we call so grand!

Thank God for brave Americans who take up  
arms,

Who take an oath to defend and protect,  
And when you hear our National Anthem,

Always stand tall, be proud and respect!

Happy Birthday America. Long may our Stars  
and Stripes wave!!





**Did you know the NAS Corpus Christi Blue Angels Air Show is being held on May 3 & 4, 2025?**



**Want to tour the Lady Lex and join Blues #2 & Family?**

**Suggest Schedule:**

- Thursday: arrive
- Friday: Morning tour of USS Lexington, afternoon Blue Angles Practice Air Show & Group Steak Dinner
- Saturday: Padre Island all day
- Sunday: depart

**Possible Hotel:** Omni Corpus Christi Hotel in downtown Corpus Christi. Explore the Texas State Aquarium & USS Lexington from our hotel near the beach.



Joining us? Take time to fill out the form, so TCVA can provide enough hotel rooms and Irish knows who will be attending?

<https://forms.gle/hvXBiAZ6Ffm73CpHA>



# TACAMO Family

## Gatherings @ Blue Angels Show



Everyone loves the Blue Angels! Now, there is even more excitement, with U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jack Keilty, son of John "Irish" and Kim Keilty, flying the Number 2 aircraft.

TACAMO Veterans are getting together to enjoy the air shows. TCVA met with different Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) representatives at the recent Military Reunion Planners Summit. Go to the link below to get more information and help to plan a gathering:

<https://www.tacamo.org/bluesairshows>

Below, highlighted in **RED**, are CVB representatives to help you with reduced hotel room rates for out-of-town guests and provide recommendations for a meal together. The **BLUE** are organized mini-reunion. Go to

<https://www.tacamo.org/bluesairshows> to get more information



## 2024

### September

- 1 · 2 | Cleveland, OH | Cleveland National Air Show
- 14 · 15 | Owensboro, KY | Owensboro Air Show
- 21 · 22 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show**
- 28 · 29 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show

### October

- 5 · 6 | Reno, NV | National Championship Air Races & Air Show
- 12 · 13 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week
- 19 · 20 | NAS Jacksonville, FL | NAS Jacksonville Air Show**
- 26 · 27 | Houston, TX | Wings Over Houston Air Show

### November

- 1 · 2 | NAS Pensacola, FL | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show**

## 2025

### March

- 15 NAF El Centro, CA | NAF El Centro Festival of Flight
- 22 · 23 | Sacramento, CA | California Capitol Air Show
- 29 · 30 | NAS Key West, FL | NAS Key West Southernmost Air Spectacular

### April

- 5 · 6 | Lakeland, FL | Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo
- 12 · 13 | MCAS Beaufort, SC | MCAS Beaufort Air Show
- 26 · 27 | Augusta, GA | Augusta Air Show

### May

- 3 · 4 | NAS Corpus Christi, TX | NAS Corpus Christi Air Show**
- 10 · 11 | Fort Lauderdale Beach, FL | Fort Lauderdale Air Show
- 17 · 18 | Martinsburg, WV | West Virginia's Greatest Air Show
- 21 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show**
- 23 | U.S. Naval Academy Graduation Flyover**
- 24 · 25 | Middletown, PA | Middletown Air Show

### June

- 7 · 8 | Smyrna, TN | The Great Tennessee Air Show
- 14 · 15 | Ocean City, MD | O.C. Air Show
- 21 · 22 | Belleville, MI | Belleville Air Show
- 28 · 29 | Eau Claire, WI | Chippewa Valley Air Show

### July

- 5 · 6 | Duluth, MN | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo
- 12 | Pensacola Beach, FL | Pensacola Beach Air Show**
- 19 · 20 | Milwaukee, WI | Milwaukee Air and Water Show

### August

- 2 · 3 | Seattle, WA | Boeing Seafair Air Show
- 9 · 10 | MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI | Kaneohe Bay Air Show**
- 16 · 17 | Twin Falls, ID | Twin Falls Air Show
- 23 · 24 | Columbus, OH | Columbus Air Show
- 30 · 31 | Branson, MO | Branson Wings of Pride Air Show**

### September

- 6 · 7 | Portsmouth, NH | Thunder Over New Hampshire Air Show
- 20 · 21 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show**
- 27 · 28 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show

### October

- 4 · 5 | Salinas, CA | California International Airshow
- 11 · 12 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week
- 18 · 19 | Rome, GA | Wings Over North Georgia
- 25 · 26 | Lake Charles, LA | Chennault International Air Show

### November

- 1 · 2 | Punta Gorda, FL | Florida International Air Show
- 7 · 8 | NAS Pensacola, FL | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show**



# Seattle Seafare mini-Reunion



Well the Seattle TACAMO Mini Reunion is in the books. What a great time. Many great memories and friendships rekindled.

Son Jack said “ you all have something real special going on”. Don’t ever lose that “. And I thought to myself that is what TCVA is all about.

Have a great Navy Day. Keep your knots up!  
“Irish” John Keilty





# Seattle Seafare mini-Reunion



1989

LTJG Tony Williams, VQ-3 NFO, being promoted to LT in 1989. Call sign Stretch, he asked his Skipper Vern Lochausen to recreate the photo. "I'd be happy to Stretch but what do we use for the papers?" We are standing in bar of the Seattle Sheraton Grand and he reaches over and pulls bar napkin. And so we look at the original and recreate it. Just one of many great encounters during the weekend mini-reunion of VQ-3 Wardroom and gathering for Blue Angel #2 LCDR Jack Keilty's honor. He flew with his fellow Blues twice during our gathering.



2023



# TACAMO Memories



**John Estill shared:**

The picture shows TACAMO hanger at the south end of the Addison Airport, during one of the first TACAMO programs and has a number of the early EC-130 aircraft on the ramp by the hanger.



**Above:** Rachel Spivey, Jamie L Pritchard and Kim Christy, all VQ-4 DET Sisters



**Above:** Susan Holman Jordan (left) with Admiral Jerry O. Tuttle Modeling for All Hands paper, the new Cracker Jack Uniform for Women in the Navy.

**Above, Neil R. Jordan shared:**

Tacamo Community Veterans Association Susan Holman Jordan is on the Left...We were both at Space Surveillance, and Space Command was looking for someone to go TAD to Space System in the Pentagon... She was selected and worked for Retired Astronaut CAPT Rick Hauch. In the meantime, Vice Admiral Tuttle was just a couple of doors away, and Susan an E-5 became very good acquaintance with him. He asked her to do the Uniform model along with the other woman.



**Above John W Snyder III (VQ-4 1978-1982) shared:** A nod to my squadron and my current ham radio hobby for my birthday.  
**Remell Spencer (VQ-3 1969-1971) shared:** KA6doy Remell Spencer, 3916 khz

**Join us for Trivia every night at 9pm CST.**



## 156176 TACAMOPAC Model Found



**Left:** TACAMO Folks..... Figure these odds. Two former Ironman One dudes are in OKC for VQ-3 change of command May, 2011. We decided to look for military stuff in a few antique stores. I came across this model that the store owner said he picked it up in Dallas. Oko (Bill and I decided on the spot...buy it and ask the new Ironman One to accept it as part of the squadron's tribute to TACAMOPAC Crew 4 who was lost in 156176 in 1977. **Submitted by Vern Lochausen**



**Above:** Refurbished model plane (176), in the cabinet of the TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Hallway. Below sits a glass block filled with sand from the end of Runway 10 from Wake Island & memorabilia left by Crew 4 family members.

**SHIPMATES!** by Peter T Yeschenko, OLD NAVY! We are of the old Navy. We call each other shipmates. Even if we haven't seen each other in years, we are always shipmates. When you have gone to sea on ships with other Sailors and depended on one another through thick and thin, you have a connection that remains unbroken by time or distance, you know what it is to be a shipmate. Treasured memories of adventures in faraway places are eagerly reminisced time and again. Recollection of difficult passages and lost friends are mutually shared. We sailed on ships of steam and teakwood decks, with multi-barreled turrets of heavy caliber. The ship was called a "she". We all loved her and would defend her against all threats that would be an enemy at sea or some disrespectful touts in a bar ashore. We wore our dungarees and white hats with pride until we were judged worthy of donning the wash khaki. When that day came, we happily presented ourselves to our new peers for the privilege of being INITIATED as a CHIEF. We endured the friendly indignities visited upon us with good cheer. When it was complete, "We put on the hat". When we crossed the equator for the first time, we entered the realm of King Neptune and felt the sting of the shillelagh. After successfully passing the INITIATION, we became shellbacks. We did these things because the Sailors who became before us did the same and that was a good enough reason for us. Heritage and tradition was not just words in a book. We lived it. We held each other to high standards and would not tolerate a slacker among us. A Sailors reputation rested on his skills of his rating. We were taught by hard Sailors who has been in harms way. They turned us into Sailors and we never doubted them. We yearned for the sight of our next liberty port. Places like Subic Bay, Pattaya Beach, Pusan, Keelung, Hong Kong, Sasebo, Yokosuka, Sydney, Naples, Rota, and Souda Bay to name a few. After being at sea, we were more than ready to enjoy the delights of these places and headed to our own favorite haunts. There we found what we treasured the most, cold beer and female companionship. We indulged ourselves with abandon only stopping when we ran out of money or when the ship was getting underway. This was the life of a Sailor and we loved it!



**Above, David Vinson shared:** I wanted to share something with the group that a friend in Texas gifted me last year. I sent her all my, been there done that, Tshirts to include VQ-4 shirt. I worked in Deployed Skeds 1998-2001 and made Chief in 2001. Cool quilt she made. 30 years of shirts the flip side has more memories.



# TACAMO Memories



**Blake Wehrenberg**



**Jeffrey Taylor**



**Lori A. Glynn**  
Oh to be so young again!  
Navy days. VQ-3 1984-88



**Reel Operators**  
L-R...Roger Robins, Keith Sandefur,  
Dickie Bishop If you know these 3  
Amigos, you might be a legacy  
RO...Dick Bishop.



**Above:** Adam Sylvester and Rachel Sylvester. From our June 30 Offutt FCPOA sponsored all Navy private viewing of Top Gun. The Tacamites representing of course.



**Left:** Michael Cheaney, Victor Tutt and Rodrick Kennedy. VQ 4 BDA DET 1981 Thur 1987. My Navy Brothers, we met in the summer of 1981!

**Below:** Jaybird (Jay Thomas) in Paris doing his Olympics Swimming competition judge thing.





# TACAMO Memories



Above: Last VQ-4 C-130 Deployment in 1992. Skipper let us go to Europe and party for 10 days!!!



Above, Steve Freitag shares: 1st E-6 around-the-world trip back in the mid 90's



Above, Matt Hindi shares some of his crew and himself with The Ironman at the Andrews, AFB in May 2009. How fitting to take a photo of Ironman next to our jet the E6B Mercury

Lewis Reyna posted this VQ-3 Crew 1 photo from 1983-1984



IRON 01 (E-6B TACAMO) flies in formation with PAPA KILO 231 (P-8A) over USS Normandy (CG 60) and the U.S. Navy Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine, USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) in the Norwegian Sea June 23rd. 😎



Above, Chuck Bishop shared: Boot Camp Orlando, Florida Mar 1969, the beginning of my 30 years in the United States Navy.



Left, Jeffrey Polczynski shared, 40 years ago 8/8/84, US Navy boot camp



Paraloft News

To quote a famous movie: “What we have here is failure to communicate!” Did you know that anyone can purchase from the Paraloft Marketplace? It’s TRUE! Membership is not required. However, we have a bigger problem. We don’t get very many sales. This has caused me to begin to think that we are not offering what you want.

One of the advantages of our current provider, Printful, is that anything you order is produced on demand. That means that we don’t have to buy a bunch of stuff, find a place to store it, and hope it sells. When you order, your item is made and shipped directly to you. Printful offers a lot of items, and over the past few years, we have selected some that we thought would be good sellers, but with very few exceptions, not so much. Bottom line, we have a lot of stuff in the paraloft that is not selling. We need to fix that.

Over the next couple of months, I will be removing some items and creating some new ones, but I need help. I need you to tell me, as specifically as possible, what YOU would like to see us offer. Send me an email with the subject line “Paraloft Suggestion” to bobcat403@charter.net. Photos are helpful. Water bottles, laptop sleeves, duffle bags, we’ve already got them! I’ll give each one consideration, especially those that I get multiple requests for. If you request something that Printful does not offer, I’ll let you know.

All the above does not pertain to the Sale Items you see on the right when you click on Paraloft Marketplace. These are mostly those items (<https://www.tacamo.org/stock>) that are leftovers from when we bought stuff hoping to sell it. Mostly patches and stickers, but a few other items, such as yoke plaques as well. This stuff is upstairs in boxes, and I ship them to you from here in FL when you order. Some are in very limited quantities – when they’re gone, they’re gone. We would really like to get rid of these items! Some are newer offerings, like the auto magnets, challenge coins, and One Together patches, so we will never be completely out of the inventory business, since Printful does not do these types of items.

Again, let me know what you want, because guessing has not worked out well for us!

# Hey Look!

New stuff in Paraloft Marketplace!!  
More to come,  
keep checking back!



Wine Tumbler  
(great for poolside!)



12oz Can Coozie







TACAMO.ORG



# Would you like to "Peel the TACAMO Cookbook Onion"?

Advertised as two cookbooks in one, it contains five cookbooks: VQ-4 O' Wives, VQ-4 All Wives Teas, VQ-3 O' Wives, Family recipes from around the TACAMO world, and Reel TACAMO Chow. Here is your chance to see some of its many layers.

Don't cry! You can see the other layers for just \$25  
Which includes shipping when ordered online!



Scan the QR  
Code to order

or go to <https://shorturl.at/5egk4>







HALE KOA HOTEL



TACAMO REUNION

2027



"TACAMOPAC CREW 4" 50 Year Remembrance



2

June 18 to 22 Oahu

Hawaiian Islands Reunion

June 22 to 26 Big Island

Check out the Tentative Schedule [tacamo.org/2027tacamoreunion](http://tacamo.org/2027tacamoreunion) or use the QR code above



Hilo Farmer Market



2027

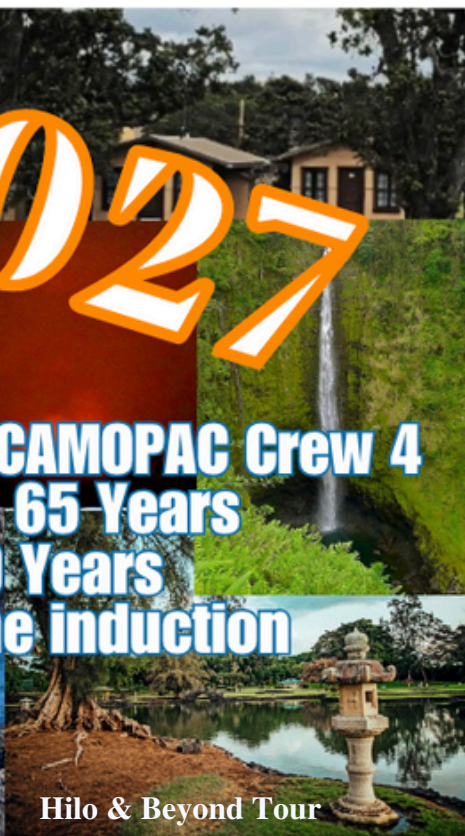
Kilauea Volcano Tour



- Celebrating
  - The lives of TACAMOPAC Crew 4
  - TACAMO Began 65 Years
  - TCVA Began 30 Years
- TACAMO Hall of Fame induction



Scenic Island Tour



Hilo & Beyond Tour



**TACAMO Association**  
**INDUSTRY PARTNERS**  
*As of November 2023*

**We recognize our Industry Partners Support**



**We Thank All Supporters!!**

**TACAMO Reunions Industry Partners**

**2013**

Southside Seattle with Boeing employees who built the Merce  
 Sponsor: Boeing

**2014**

Marietta, GA with Lockheed to celebrate 50th anniversary since the delivery of first Hercs  
 Sponsor: Lockheed

**2015**

Tucson, AZ with Boneyard Safari to visit the TACAMO Hercs and collect TACAMO Herc artifacts  
 Sponsor: Boneyard Safari

**2017**

OKC with active duty Sponsor: Boeing, Collins Aerospace LongWave, OKC Navy League Council, Midwest City Chamber of Commerce and Marcum's Nursery and Tree Farm

**2022**

Patuxent River, MD TACAMO Gallery Grand Opening  
 Sponsor: Lockheed & Collins Aerospace

**2023**

OKC with active Duty Sponsor: Lockheed & Collins Aerospace, Northrop, Navy League OKC Council, LongWave & V2X

**2025**

Marietta, GA Sponsor: Lockheed

**2027**

Oahu, Hawaii TACAMOPAC Crew 4 50th Year Remembrance




TACAMO Association welcomes our Industry Partners to sponsor and host TACAMO Reunions




# TCVA Board of Directors & Committee Members




**Mike Vos**  
Executive Director & TSA/TCVA Founding Member  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee



**Dennis Warren**  
"Coach"  
President




**Tony Barnes**  
Vice President  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee



**Cheryl Vos**  
Vice President Administration & Reunion/Event Planner  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee



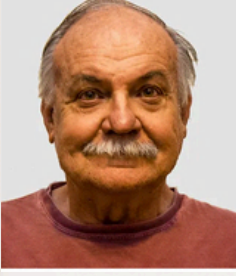
**Jim Meppelink**  
Vice President Awards & Recognition & TACAMO Hall of Fame/Life Member  
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'



**John Alger**  
Vice President Merchandising & Scholarship Committee  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee




**Mike Neri**  
Vice President Membership




**Joe Caruso**  
Treasurer & Membership  
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'



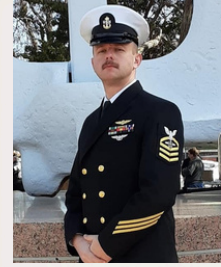
**John Burgoon "Mom"**  
Secretary & Scholarship Committee



**Ryan Skaggs**  
Active Duty Representative



**Vern Lochausen**  
President Emeritus /Historian/ Life Member  
TACAMO Heritage Foundation Stand-up Committee  
'TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee'



**James Youngblood**  
Historian Assistant





**Cathy Neri**  
Database Builder




**Joan Alger**  
Reunion Planner Assistant

## TSA Founding Members

- President Emeritus - Barry Coyle
  - TACAMO Hall of Fame inductee in 2014
- Vice President Emeritus - Bill "Buff" Crowell
  - 2021 TACAMO Hall of Fame inductee
- Executive Director - Mike Vos
  - Founding member of TSA and TCVA
- Sue Davies
- Franklin Forrest
- Lynwood Zepik
- John Cotter

**Buff Crowell**  
Scholarship Committee  
Trish Crowell



**Buff Crowell**  
Scholarship Committee  
Jay Gallamore

## Former TSA/TCVA Board of Directors Members

- Jim Gallagher Vice President 2005-18
  - 2018 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee
- President Emeritus - Vern Lochausen
  - 2017 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee



# Military Updates



By TRICARE Communications

If you've recently gotten a suspicious text message about your TRICARE coverage, don't respond. Instead, report it to TRICARE.

Some beneficiaries have gotten a text message from 888-763-0248. The sender claims to be Wisconsin Physicians Service, the TRICARE For Life contractor. But the text message is really part of a phishing scam targeting TRICARE For Life beneficiaries. The message says the recipient's TRICARE coverage will expire due to nonpayment. It tells the recipient to call a toll-free number

"The Defense Health Agency has recently learned of this phishing scam," said Anne Breslin, TRICARE For Life program manager at the Defense Health Agency. "While it seems to be aimed at TFL beneficiaries, scammers may try to target anyone who has a TRICARE plan. You should stay aware and report any suspicious messages or calls that say they're from TRICARE."

It's important to know that WPS doesn't collect payments. Also, WPS won't try to contact you via text message.

TRICARE will never text or call you asking for:

- Payment
- Personal identifying information

Keep these tips in mind when it comes to your personal information:

- Never share personal or financial information with someone you don't know.
- Don't open unsolicited, unexpected text messages or emails.
- Don't open links from unknown numbers or emails. Instead, contact your TRICARE contractor using a phone number or website you know is real to verify that they're trying to reach you.

## Reporting scams

Have you or someone you know gotten this scam text message? You should report any suspected fraud or abuse related to your TRICARE benefits.

There are two ways to make a report:

- Option 1: Contact your TRICARE contractor.
  - TFL beneficiaries: Contact WPS.
  - Others: Contact the appropriate TRICARE contractor. This may be your regional contractor, the pharmacy contractor, or the Dental Program contractor.
- Option 2: Contact the DHA Office of the Inspector General.
  - Give as much information as possible when you make your report. This may include names, dates, and details. Investigations are confidential. You can choose to remain anonymous.

Protect your personal information. Treat it like a credit card. If someone contacts you by phone, email, or text message asking for this information, don't provide it. Instead, report it to your TRICARE contractor right away.

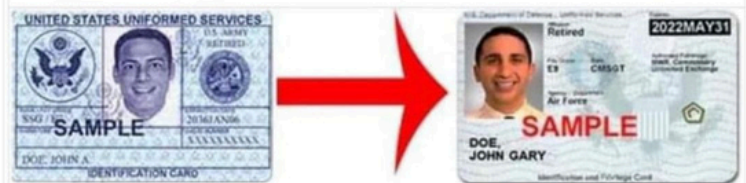
There are many types of phishing scams targeted toward the military community. For more information, check out Military OneSource.

Preventing TRICARE fraud and abuse is everyone's responsibility. To learn more about how to spot scams, check out the FBI's tips on catching healthcare fraud.

**ATTENTION RETIRED MILITARY MEMBERS:**  
Beginning in 2026, the old-style, blue ID cards will no longer be accepted, regardless of the printed expiration date. In order to maintain base access, please visit your nearest DEERS/ID card office to obtain a new ID. If you're unable to make it to a military installation, you can also request a new card through the RAPIDS ID Card Office Online:  
<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

UPDATE: This policy applies to ID cards of all colors (except the new white ones). They should all be updated in order to maintain base access.

#RetiredMilitary #veteransbenefits #kchawgs





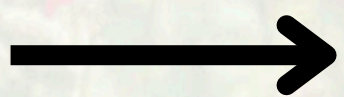


# BELLS ACROSS AMERICA FOR FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

## Tolling in Remembrance of Our Nation's Fallen

Join us as we pay tribute to the brave men and women who died in service to our nation and recognize the sacrifices of those who have been left behind.



Local Information:  
Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland  
24 September 2024 at 1300  
Center Stage Theater



[www.NavyGoldStar.com](http://www.NavyGoldStar.com) • 1-888-509-8759 • [Facebook.com/NavyGoldStar](https://www.facebook.com/NavyGoldStar)

No Navy endorsement implied.



## *Fallen Shipmates*

### **I FLEW**

by *Brad Baker*

When the last checklist's run and the bag drag is done,  
I'll reminisce on the days I once knew,  
I won't remember the oh-three-hundred alerts,  
But only that I flew!

I will not remember the crew rest in tents,  
Nor recall how cold Arctic winds blew,  
And I'll try not to remember the times I got sick,  
But only that I flew!

I will never forget when nature became angry,  
To challenge my intrepid crew,  
I'll always remember the fear I felt,  
And the pride in knowing I flew.

I'll remember the sights my mortal eyes saw,  
All colored in multiple hues,  
Those beautiful lights on cold winter lights,  
Seen only by those who flew.



God was extremely good to me,  
He let me touch his face,  
He saw my crew through war and peace,  
And blessed us with His grace.

So when I stand at St. Peter's Gate,  
And tell him that I'm new,  
I know he'll smile and welcome me,  
Because he knows  
I FLEW!

**[LINK: TACAMO FALLEN LIST](#)**



# TACAMO

Active Duty, Veterans,  
Government Civilians, Families,  
and Industry Partners