

Aviation Shapes the History of TACAMO

TRAILING WIRE



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TACAMO.ORG

2025 TACAMO Reunion

Sheraton Suites Galleria-Marietta, GA

Dates: November 6 to 12



Keep updated by going to
<https://www.tacamo.org/2025-tacamo-reunion>



THUR NOV 6:

Tentative Schedule

- 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 with your room rate
- 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. >> Registration outside the Hospitality Room
- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. >> Welcome Gathering & Buffet Dinner with cash bar in the Hospitality Room

Welcome Gathering Buffet Dinner, a Spot for Hungry Attendees

SAT NOV 8:

- Breakfast >> Enjoy a full breakfast provided with your room rate
- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. >> Morning Quarters, TCVA Members Meeting in the Hospitality Room
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. >> Lunch on your own or Meet-up with VQ-3, VQ-4 & VQ-7, locations to be announced
- 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
 - Discounts and parking <https://batteryatl.com/> - <https://www.batteryatl.com/heroes>
 - Park at Battery: Non-event days parking is free for the first 2 hours
 - Walk from the hotel to the Battery is a 15-20 a minute walk.

SUN NOV 9:

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

TUES NOV 11: PLE Day

- Breakfast >> Enjoy a full breakfast provided with your room rate
- TACAMO Attendees may walk or observe the Veterans Day Parade
- PLE Outing Dinner at 57th Fighter Group

Sheraton Suites Galleria-Atlanta TACAMO Reunion 2025



Book your group rate for TACAMO Reunion 2025 by calling Marriott Reservations at 1-888-236-2427 or clicking on [Book Now](#)



- Complimentary Breakfast Buffet
- 72-hour(s) cancellation required prior to arrival, otherwise one night's room and tax will be charged.
- Discounted Self-Parking Rate of \$15.00 per day / per vehicle
- Complimentary In-room WiFi

Start Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2025
 End Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025
 Special Group Rate: 139.00 USD - 149.00 USD per night
Last Day to Book : Wednesday, October 08, 2025



2027

"TACAMOPAC CREW 4"
50 Year Remembrance



2 **Oahu** June 18 to 22
Hawaiian Islands Reunion
Big Island June 22 to 26

Check out the Tentative Schedule
tacamo.org/2027tacamoreunion
 or use the QR code above



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

Hilo Farmer Market

Kilauea Volcano Tour

Sea Turtles

Scenic Island Tour

Hilo & Beyond Tour

Need Transportation or an 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 the 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 an 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**

TACAMO Association

As of November 2024

We recognize our Industry Partners' Support



Collins Aerospace

BONEYARD SAFARI



BOEING



We Thank All Supporters!!

TACAMO Reunions Industry Partners

2013

Southside Seattle with **Boeing** employees who built the Mercs
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 Sponsors: 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
Sponsors: Lockheed & Collins Aerospace

2023

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

2025

Marietta, GA **Lockheed Martin** Tour of where TACAMO's New EC-130J's are built

2027

Oahu, Hawaii TACAMOPAC Crew 4 50th Year Remembrance

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



PICTURE: This was the admin panel for the 2006 Chief Selection Board. I sat on 8 Selection boards, four Chiefs boards, one Senior Chief boards and three Master Chief boards. As a MA...I first sat on the admin panel, and then they moved the MAs to the Spec Ops panel. There are a few out there that I probably sat on your board....

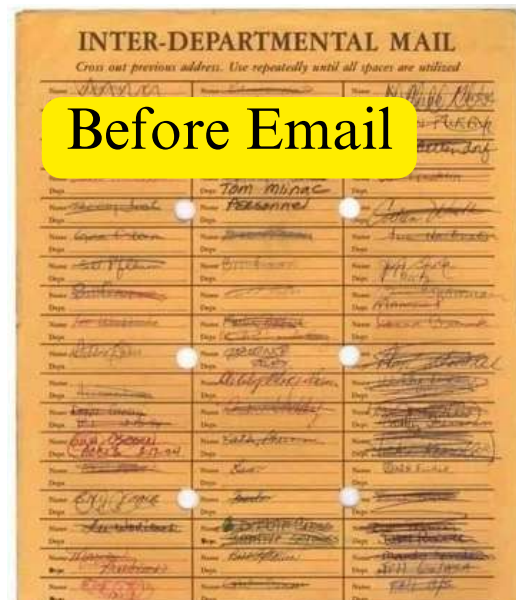
Shared by Peter T Yeschenko

Trivia:

When were the Navy Chief Petty Officer Selection boards established?

ANSWER:

In September 1973, MCPON Whittet announced the establishment of a Chief Petty Officer selection board to convene in June 1974. The board was comprised of 40 officers and senior enlisted Sailors from every skill area in the Navy. The President of the board would be a Captain. The board was expected to convene in June, run for about a month, and report in early August. Board members were expected to review over 20,000 records. MCPON Whittet also announced that in the future, the Chief examination would only be given once a year, in January. There was no requirement for the first selection board to pass the exam. The selection board reviewed the records of the top 50 percent of all who took the January 1974 Chiefs exam. MCPON Walker relieved MCPON Whittet in September 1975. During his tenure, the E-7 selection boards were reorganized to be an equal mix of officers and enlisted as voting members. In 1974, the first Chief selection board selected Duane Bushey, future MCPON, for Chief Petty Officer. He was assigned to Aircraft Ferry Squadron Thirty One (VRF-31) at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va.



TACAMO Chiefs



	SELECTEE NAME	WARFARE	COMMAND
ATC (SEL)	Nicholas D. Teel	AW	CNATT
ATC (SEL)	Darrell O. Mims	AW/SW	CNATT
AMEC (SEL)	Samuel T. Rider	AW	CNATT
ATC (SEL)	Simon E. Bobich	AW	CNATT
YNC (SEL)	Kyle V. Potter	SW/AW	NCTSW
CMC (SEL)	Nolan J. Neumann	SCW	SCW-1
CEC (SEL)	Andre W. Dangerfield	SCW/EXW/IW/SW	SCW-1
OSC (SEL)	Thomas E. Dickenson	AW	SCW-1
AWVC (SEL)	Chase E. Green	NAC/AW	TWS
AWVC (SEL)	Camron M. Pearson	NAC/AW	TWS
AMC (SEL)	Franklin L. Randall	AW	VQ-3
ADC (SEL)	James J. Cook	AW	VQ-3
AEC (SEL)	Derrick M. Parkos	AW	VQ-3
NCC (SEL)	Tony L. Perkins	SW/AW	VQ-3
AMEC (SEL)	Roy E. Johnson	AW/SW	VQ-3
AZC (SEL)	Jeremy R. Hall	AW	VQ-3
ADC (SEL)	Dustin S. Gates	AW	VQ-3
AMEC (SEL)	Christopher C. Simpao	AW	VQ-4
AEC (SEL)	Aimee N. Wojtas	AW/SW	VQ-4
ATC (SEL)	Ryan L. Smith	AW	VQ-4
AWVC (SEL)	Oscar R. Rosales	NAC/AW	VQ-4
AWVC (SEL)	Lynn C. Kauffman	NAC/AW	VQ-4
AWFC (SEL)	Anthony L. Jackson	NAC/AW/SW	VQ-7
AWVC (SEL)	Eric G. Perry	NAC/AW	VQ-7



Strategic Communications Wing 1 Deputy, David Gardner shared: "Another Chief Season complete! The TACAMO Chief's Mess did a great job once again!! The Navy is stronger with these new leaders! Go Navy!!"





Shared by Dennis "Coach" Warren:
Roger Camp celebrates over 50 years of service to our country!! 20+ to Air Force and 35 years to the US Navy!! With a KC135 (Boeing 707 type) aircraft background...

A "G.O.A.T!", that trained Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Engineers for 35 years of faithful and dedicated service to TACAMO Aircrew!!

Many notable Merc drivers owe their qualifications, expertise, and safe flying records to your hours of instruction, guidance and direction. Without your mentoring, the TACAMO long-standing and accident-free flying would not have been possible.



OVER HALF A CENTURY SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Roger Camp Legacy "Cooler than cool"

We all like to fly airplanes,
So everybody climb aboard,
And let's refly almost 60 years,
And revisit some TACAMO aviation records!

But first let's do a touch and go,
To where it all began in 1967,
A recent graduate of Illinois College,
Who was a young Biology major and
his engines were a revin!

The Principal and Athletics Director,
Of Carthage High School,
Hired you to teach Bio and coach Football,
Because they said you were
"cooler than cool"!

But then, three weeks before school started,
The Draft Board results were
on the Principal's desk,
So you raised your right hand and
took an oath,
And swore to serve and do your absolute best.

As you and the Air Force
talked about options,
And you said "dude please let me fly",
So I can soar with American eagles,
In a blue and sometimes hostile sky!

In 1969 your dream came true,
Wings of Silver you soon would wear,
After flying Cessnas and T-37,
And of course that T-38 with its aero brake flare.

How about Castle Air Force Base your first duty,
The Air Force said profoundly to an
energetic young you,
And then Grissom flying KC 135 Tankers,
And into the heavens you boldly flew!

Down to Carswell after 8 years,
To run training for 135 crews,
The Air Force only put their best there,
To train Air Force sticks to fly like you!

You decided to take a break from the air,
Attaché duty next on your slate,
Instead You went to Yokota Japan for two years,
And continued to "go be great"!

You had a great way of relationship building,
HQ USForces Japan said "your my guy",

You even got to COD aboard 7th
Fleet on Midway,
And that was the first time you said
"the Navy is the way to fly"!

Just kiddin...ha

So the Zoomies decided it was time,
To get your butt back in the Air,
So why not Minot in the 135,
And showing those nuggets how to fly,
flight and flare.

As you were binged over the side,
And piped ashore for the last time,
Stan Brubaker called and said get
your butt to Waco,
The Navy needs instructors this is your
time to shine!

And without hesitation you were hired,
McDonnell Douglas and CAG Waples
as Mac Air One,
The Navy Sheriff was Skipper Joe Fish,
And the first IP Joe Carter time to learn
and have some fun!

So in 1989 you got to work,
You built a syllabus and a sim to fly,
Your first students Pud, Troll, Scooby and Irish,
Said you showed them a heavy jet how to fly (well
Pud had already test flown the E-6 and Scooby
and Troll were PEP boys so I
guess you trained Irish)

We will never forget touch the
landing gear handle,
And the times we sped around in the
707 Waco One,
And the debriefs and happy hours at the Hangar,
When our work day was all done.

You built the IQ and Refresher course,
And you wrote the original IGS,
Your reputation as a legend and an Allstar
was gaining fame,
And those from the First Class
expected nothing less,

And for 35 years now in the TACAMO Rag,
You have been a fixture of
professionalism and grit,

Your commitment to excellence
and your toughness,
As an instructor you were legit!

You had a great way of
relationship building,
HQ USForces Japan said "your my guy",
You even got to COD aboard
7th Fleet on Midway,
And that was the first time you said
"the Navy is the way to fly"!

And for 35 years now in the TACAMO Rag,
You have been a fixture of
professionalism and grit,
Your commitment to excellence and
your toughness,
As an instructor you were legit!

Every pilot and engineer crew that your trained,
Every TACAMO crew dog you shared your day,
We all instantly became a better warfighter,
Because we did it the Roger Camp Way.

The halls and classrooms in the RAG,
Are forever etched in the Roger Camp name,
And if there ever was a more deserving warrior,
Who should be in some kind of Hall of Fame.

Certainly you will be a first pick,
Because you truly taught us all to win as
we fly and fight,
And your example ignited
TACAMO warfighters,
To fight with all our might right thru the night.

Roger as you and Sheila look to those 4 boys,
To keep you busy in the years ahead,
Please accept our deepest gratitude,
To teach us to deter a nuclear warhead!

And thank you for your friendship,
And leadership in your own special way,
And please accept three cheers, on this
your retirement day

Hip Hip Hooray
Hip Hip Hooray
Hip Hip Hooray



Ned Miller Induction into the TACAMO Hall of Fame



On November 6, 2024, John “Irish” Keilty, representing the TACAMO Community Veterans Association, had the honor of presenting the prestigious 2024 TACAMO Hall of Fame award to Master Chief Ned Miller at the World famous E6 FST Chili Cook-Off.

"It was a blast. An absolute blast," Keilty expressed with enthusiasm. "There were well over 100 former Sailors there. It was such an honor to talk about Master Chief Ned Miller and share that moment with his family." The event, which had a significant turnout, was a vibrant celebration of the people who helped shape the TACAMO community. "An all-star cast," as Keilty described it, with former service members coming together to reminisce, reconnect, and honor a man who had left a lasting impact. With an overflow crowd in attendance, the recognition of Miller's contributions to the TACAMO mission resonated deeply among those who knew him best.

Keilty noted, "It was so much fun, and so many old-timers from my time in service were there. I served with some of them and even flew with others. It's always a good time when we can all come together like this." Master Chief Miller's legacy as a powerhouse in the TACAMO community was evident in the heartfelt memories shared by his peers. His contributions have had a profound and lasting impact, earning him a place among the elite members of the TACAMO Hall of Fame.

The 2024 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductees will receive their awards at the 2025 TACAMO Reunion in Marietta on November 9th. Ned Miller will be unable to attend the reunion.

The TACAMO Hall of Fame was instituted in 2012. It was long overdue to recognize outstanding and enduring people that helped to develop, execute and sustain the TACAMO mission. TCVA categories of TACAMO Sailor, Industry Partner, Government Support, Posthumous, or Community Service.



TACAMO Hall of Fame - 2024

Ned Miller - TACAMO Sailor



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 - MMPCPO/Homeport Change Coordinator/Manpower
- SCW1 Command Master Chief
- E-6 Boeing Representative to N4 EPM Level Depot
- PMA - Pax River Support - EPM
- PMA - Site Lead - E-6 Depot Requirements
- PMA - Hangar 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



Celebration of the U.S. Navy's 249th Birthday



Shared by Lisa Pohl, spouse of Joe Fish: My first Fall table each year is always a tribute to our Navy. From challenge coins, to pistons, to a model of an E-6 airplane and can't forget those Reef Points, but the piece de resistance...the incredible plates with scenes from around the Academy. Anchors Aweigh!
Oct. 10: Happy Birthday United States Naval Academy
Oct. 13: Happy Birthday United States Navy



Del City NJROTC

Navy Eagles doing what they do best. Wear the uniform and present Colors with great pride. Thank you to the Navy league who invited our cadets to be their guests at the OKC USNavy Birthday Ball. Great honor to present at Volleyball Senior Night.





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PMA-271 Public Affairs Officer
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301-757-1053



TACAMO community announces name for new mission aircraft: E-130J

PRESS RELEASE
Oct. 21, 2024

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – The U.S. Navy’s Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) and Strategic Communications Wing 1 (SCW-1) today announced the name selected for the Navy’s new Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) mission aircraft: E-130J.

The E-130J – previously called the E-XX while awaiting naming – will relieve the Navy’s E-6B Mercury fleet of the TACAMO mission, which connects the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command with naval ballistic missile forces.

E-130J is the aircraft’s mission design series (MDS). The E stands for special electronic installation; 130 is the design number and reflects the aircraft’s origins as the EC-130; and J is the series, demonstrating that it will be modified from a proven C-130J-30 Super Hercules airframe. The common name – e.g., Mercury – has not been selected.

At the request of PMA-271, the U.S. Air Force approved the MDS this month. The Air Force approves all military aircraft names.

PMA-271 is procuring the E-130J through the TACAMO Recapitalization Program. The solicitation, which closed in April 2024, is for a prime contractor to integrate TACAMO mission systems, including the Collins Aerospace Very Low Frequency (VLF) subsystem, into government-furnished C-130J-30 aircraft. Contract award is scheduled for January 2025.

“I am proud to announce that the U.S. Navy’s new TACAMO aircraft will be the E-130J,” said PMA-271 Program Manager Capt. Adam Scott. “This is an important milestone as we work toward delivering the next generation of TACAMO aircraft to the warfighter.”

Those warfighters are the SCW-1 squadrons home based out of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. They include the “Ironmen” of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 3, “Shadows” of VQ-4 and “Roughnecks” of VQ-7.

“I’m excited as SCW-1 continues to work together with PMA-271 to deliver new capabilities and strengthen America’s nuclear deterrence,” said SCW-1 Commander Capt. Britt Windeler. “The E-130J will assure that our nation’s leadership maintains control of its strategic forces as the E-6B gets closer to end of life, and enable it to focus on the performance of other critical missions until sundown.”

The E-6B Mercury is a communications relay and strategic airborne command post aircraft. It provides survivable, reliable, and endurable airborne Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications (NC3) for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command.

PMA-271 is part of Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and headquartered at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. Its mission is to deliver and support survivable, reliable and endurable airborne command, control and communications for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command.

The mission of SCW-1 is to receive, verify and retransmit Emergency Action Messages (EAMs) to U.S. strategic forces.

Simple Flying

**US Navy
E-130J TACAMO**



Full Story Can be Found at

By Dr. Omar Memon

<https://simpleflying.com/5-fast-facts-us-navy-e-130j-tacamo/>

5

An extraordinary communication platform

A wide range of communication frequency

- Very low frequency (VLF)
- Advanced extremely high frequency (AEHF)

The E-130J is capable of electromagnetic pulse (EMP) hardening and cybersecurity hardening, along with an improved...

1

What's in the name? Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) ...

2

Entering production Scheduled for delivery in 2026 The production of the US Navy's first E-130J has begun under the TACAMO program. Last week, the Defense Post ...

3

Replacing the E-6B Mercury The E-6B fleet will remain active into the 2030s The E-130J is designed to replace the aging ...

4

A coordinated mission Multiple offices and commands are involved The aircraft will also be used for the coordination of launch sequences between the ...

Read more at <https://www.navair.navy.mil/.../TACAMO.../Mon-10212024-1046>



Rendering courtesy of Lockheed Martin Corp.

BIG NEWS: The U.S. Navy's new TACAMO platform to succeed the E-6B Mercury will be named ... drumroll, please ... the E-130J! The E-130J is the aircraft's mission design series (MDS):

- E = special electronic installation
- 130 = the design number and reflects the aircraft's origins as the EC-130
- J = the series, demonstrating that it will be modified from a proven C-130J-30 Super Hercules airframe

NAVAIR's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) is procuring the E-130J through the TACAMO Recapitalization Program, with contract award is scheduled for January 2025.

THE AVIATIONIST

Published on:
November 17, 2024

Lockheed Martin has begun construction of the US Navy's first E-130J production aircraft under its Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) program.

The E-130J is based on the company's C-130J-30 Super Hercules military transport plane and will replace the service's older TACAMO system, the E-6B Mercury, once completed.

The new aircraft is scheduled for delivery in 2026, with two more to follow in the coming years.

Upon induction, the E-130J will be used as a "no-fail" airborne command and control center to manage the US military's land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.

It will also be used to coordinate launch sequences of related capabilities between the US President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Strategic Command. Designation of the latest TACAMO aircraft was revealed in October 2024, with Oklahoma-based US Air Force Strategic Communications Wing 1 selected as the fleet's future operator.

The E-130J Aircraft

Considering its base airframe, the E-130J is expected to measure 98 feet (30 meters) long and have a wingspan of 133 feet (41 meters).

It will be powered by four engines with approximately 4,600 horsepower each for speeds up to 362 knots (417 miles/670 kilometers per hour) and a service ceiling of 28,000 feet (8,534 meters).

"The E-130J will assure that our nation's leadership maintains control of its strategic forces as the E-6B gets closer to end of life, and enable it to focus on the performance of other critical missions until sundown," Strategic

Communications Wing 1 Commander Capt. Britt Windeler stated during the E-130J's designation last month.



Lockheed Martin Starts Production of First US Navy E-130J TACAMO Aircraft



Cockpit structure of the first C-130J-30 airframe earmarked for conversion to E-130J standard in production at the Lockheed Martin plant in Marietta, Georgia. (Image credit: David L. Key/Lockheed Martin)

Read the full story go to

<https://thedefensepost.com/2024/11/19/us-first-e130j-tacamo-aircraft/>



An artist's impression of the E-130J as it will appear in service, showing two trailing wire antennas for low frequency communications and a variety of radomes and communications equipment on the fuselage. (Image credit: Lockheed Martin via TWZ)

Navy Awards Contract to Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation to Develop Successor to E-6B Mercury Aircraft



E-130J will take over the no-fail Take Charge and Move Out nuclear deterrence mission.

Photo: The Northrop Grumman-led industry team will deliver the E-130J for the U.S. Navy's TACAMO mission. (Credit: Northrop Grumman)



NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, MD – The U.S. Navy announced today that it has awarded Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation a \$3,459,276,000 contract to conduct the mission-systems integration for the E-130J, which will be the successor to the E-6B Mercury for the Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) mission. Under the contract, Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation of Melbourne, Florida, will serve as the prime contractor to integrate TACAMO mission systems, including the Collins Aerospace Very Low Frequency system, into government-furnished C-130J-30 air vehicles built by Lockheed Martin Corp. The contract is for three Engineering Development Models (EDMs) and options for up to three System Demonstration

Lockheed Martin are directed subcontractors to support the integration and airworthiness. Test Articles (SDTAs) and up to six aircraft in the first lot of production. Collins Aerospace and “Our TACAMO mission is foundational to our nation’s nuclear Triad,” said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. “The E-130J will carry on the proud legacy of Navy TACAMO aircraft and keep our nation safe.”

The acquisition effort is being led by the Navy’s Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271) within the Program Executive Office for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs (PEO (A)).

“Today is a tremendous day for the future of naval aviation’s contribution to our nation’s nuclear deterrence mission,” said Capt. Adam Scott, PMA-271 program manager. “With the selection of Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation as the prime contractor for the TACAMO Recapitalization Program, we are ready to move out with developing this critical asset. In carrying on the legacy of the E-6B Mercury, the E-130J will ensure our nation’s leadership is always connected to its nuclear forces for decades to come.”

Work developing this asset in conjunction with the prime contractor begins today.

The contract award is the result of a competitive source selection that included significant engagement with industry. PMA-271 released the request for proposals on sam.gov on Sept. 21, 2023, with proposals due by April 22, 2024.

The Navy selected the winner based on the proposal that offered the best value to the government, considering the offeror’s technical approach and cost.

The E-130J is a critical part of the United States’ nuclear modernization program, which includes new Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines, new bomber aircraft such as the B-21 Raider, and Sentinel, a new ground-based system to replace the silo-based Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles. The E-130J will ensure that leadership can always communicate with those nuclear forces to order or cancel strikes, even if ground-based communications are unavailable.

The E-6B is a communications relay and strategic airborne command post aircraft. It provides survivable, reliable, and endurable airborne nuclear command, control and communications (NC3) for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command. It is a dual-mission aircraft capable of fulfilling the no-fail TACAMO mission and the Looking Glass mission, which facilitates the launch of U.S. land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles using an airborne launch control

system. The E-130J will relieve the E-6B of the TACAMO mission.

PMA-271 is headquartered at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. Its mission is to deliver and support survivable, reliable and endurable airborne command, control and communications for the president, secretary of defense and U.S. Strategic Command.

Media contact: PMA-271 Public Affairs Officer Kathy Hieatt, kathy.m.hieatt.civ@us.navy.mil, 301-757-1053

Photo: The Northrop Grumman-led industry team will deliver the E-130J for the U.S. Navy's TACAMO mission. (Credit: Northrop Grumman)

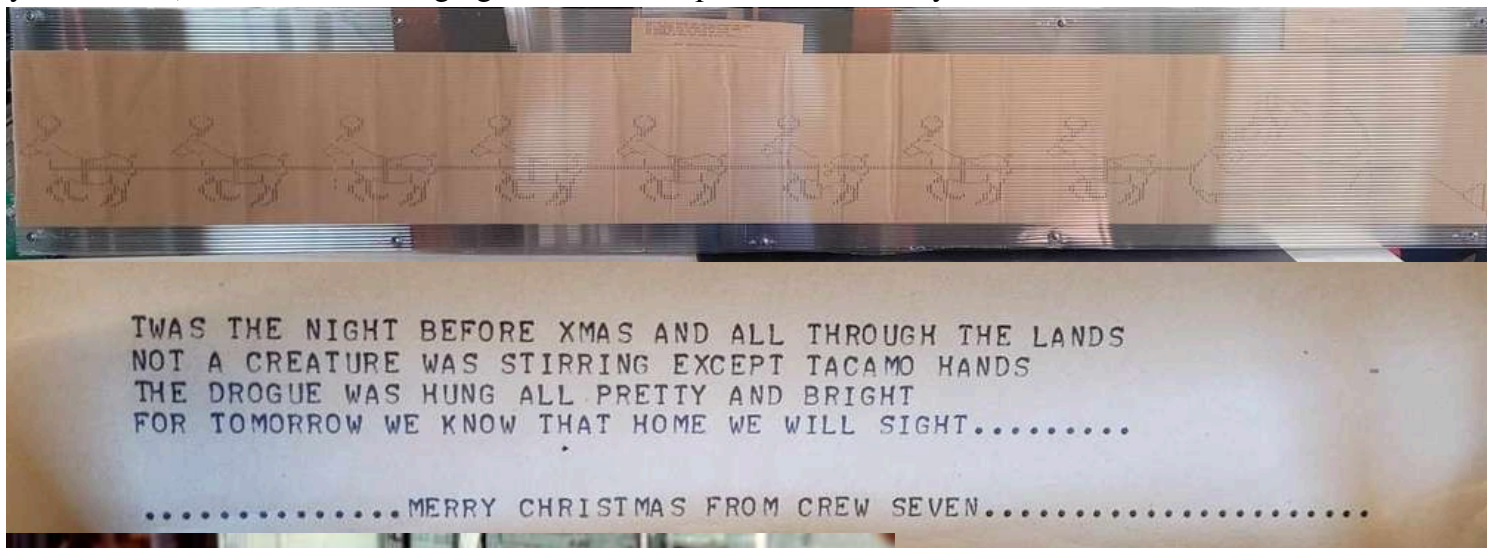


New Display in PaxRiver Museum CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BANNER



TACAMO crews were engaged in around-the-clock flight operations for several decades, maintaining continuous airborne coverage and connections to ground command centers. In 1973, LT Ed Hampshire and TACAMO Atlantic Crew Four were flying from late on Christmas Eve through most of Christmas Day, arriving back home at NAS Patuxent River after 10 days of operations over the Atlantic. Departing from Lajes Airfield in the Portuguese Azores islands, they landed 11 hours later here at their home base.

Using the newsroom-like Teletype electromechanical printer on the aircraft (like the one located just inside the door of this gallery), Ed's crew created these 'scroll greetings' that were transmitted from the aircraft to command centers and other TACAMO aircraft. On the receiving end, the 'message' printed off in the form you see here, is suitable for hanging on the wall as part of the holiday décor.

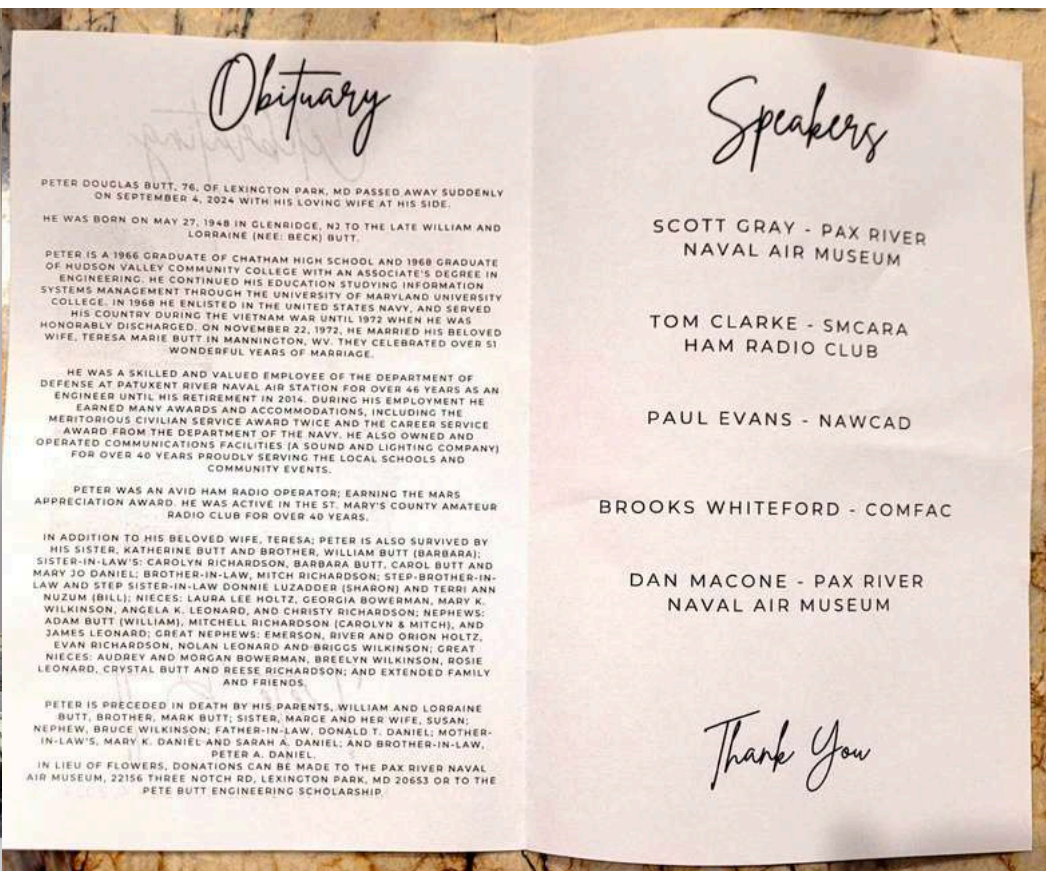
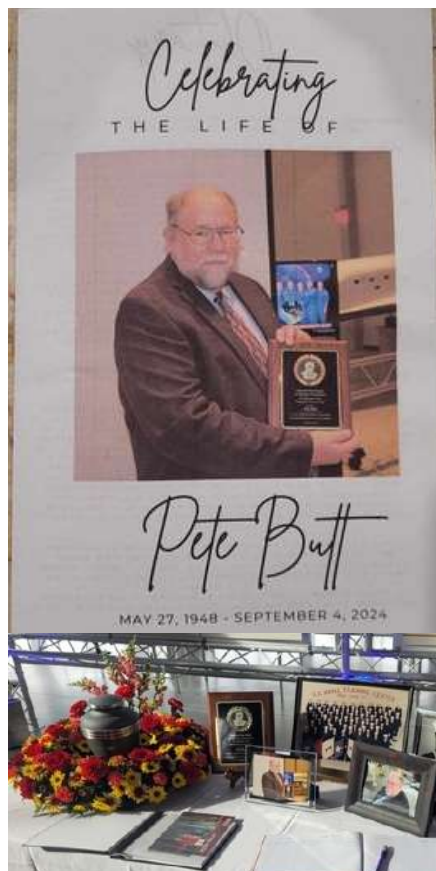


Top Left: Radiomen accepting the teletype message.

Top Right: The teletype that used to receive the message, located in the TACAMO Room of Naval Air Station Patuxent River Museum. Donated by Collins Aerospace.

Bottom Right: Vern Lochausen stands next to the actual CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BANNER now on display in the TACAMO Room of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River. Thank you Ed Hampshire for the donation.





Pete Butt played a pivotal role as a volunteer at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, serving as Vice President and Secretary, where he contributed greatly to the museum's growth and development. His dedication to preserving the history of naval aviation was particularly evident in his work on the museum's TACAMO exhibit.

In 2014 and 2015, Vern Lochausen, a Board of Directors member at the museum, and Pete Butt discussed the possibility of creating a TACAMO (Tactical Air Command and Maritime Operations) Exhibit. This conversation marked the beginning of a long-term collaboration between Pete, Vern, and the museum's staff. Both Pete and Vern were committed to the idea and worked tirelessly to bring it to fruition.

During this time, the museum was focused on finishing its new building and raising funds, but the TACAMO exhibit was also becoming a priority. Vern Lochausen, with the help of the TACAMO Veterans' Community Association (TCVA), began collecting donated items from TACAMO veterans. These donations included nearly 400 artifacts, many of which were stored by Vern himself before being brought to the museum.

Pete Butt was instrumental in turning the idea into a reality. He worked closely with Mike Vos to ensure the display room was both safe and accessible for visitors. Pete's contributions went above and beyond expectations—he took on the responsibility of sourcing display tables and other materials necessary for the exhibit.

After years of hard work and dedication, the TACAMO Room was officially opened to the public in 2022, seven years after that initial lunch meeting between Pete and Vern. The TACAMO Room stands as a testament to Pete's commitment to honoring the legacy of TACAMO veterans and preserving an important piece of naval aviation history.

Right: This poster includes the dedication to Pete by the TCVA, highlighting his significant contribution to educating the public about the TACAMO mission.



Hearing Loss and Tinnitus Update



Mike Vos shared an update:

Several years ago, TCVA provided a helpful package of evidence to assist members in filing Hearing Loss & tinnitus disability claims with the VA. Many succeeded, but others, including myself, were denied. My denial stemmed from the inability to prove a “nexus” between my 40+ year-old service-related exposure and my current hearing loss. After numerous failed attempts and a cease-and-desist letter from the VA, I gave up in frustration. However, after sharing my story with a friend connected to a VA evaluator, I learned that a “nexus” opinion letter from a sympathetic audiologist or physician could be the key. Encouraged, I’ve started seeking out a supportive professional to help strengthen my case. I’m also urging fellow veterans who’ve been denied disability claims—whether for hearing loss, PTSD, or other service-related injuries—not to give up. Keep fighting for your rights, shipmates. It won’t happen on its own. Stay strong and get what you deserve.

SERVICE CONNECTION FOR HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS



For those of you that qualify for VA Healthcare, here’s a link to learn more of how to get hearing aids through that program. Who Is Eligible for Hearing Aids from VA? military.com

Posted 2022: Hearing Loss and Tinnitus, by Mike Vos, TCVA Executive Director

The article in the link below has come to our attention.

<https://shorturl.at/1RdiW>

The article says, “The Department of Veterans Affairs will change its disability ratings criteria for mental health conditions, sleep apnea and tinnitus, part of a major overhaul of the review process to ensure that compensation matches veterans' medical conditions and needs, department officials say.”

Injuries like tinnitus and sleep apnea will lose status and will need to be connected to their cause of disease to be considered a disability. Not only will you have to prove a nexus to your service, ... you will also have to prove the disease that caused it. Was the hazardous noise we were subjected to a disease? How do you prove that?

This is subject to review, but again quoting the article, “Officials say the changes, which would go into effect after a period for the public to comment and a final version is published, likely will result in higher disability ratings for veterans with mental health conditions, but fewer qualifying for disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea.

Veterans already receiving disability for these conditions will not see their ratings downgraded by any changes, officials said.”

The fact that this is being published means the VA is close to closing the door on those injuries as worthy of disability consideration.

So many of our shipmates suffer from tinnitus and hearing loss. And it’s completely arguable that it was caused by our exposure to the hazardous noise (>90db for more than 8 hours a day) generated by the C-130s that we served so many hours on in the defense of our country.

This impending status change is a notice of urgency and a “last call” for any/all of us suffering from hearing loss and tinnitus to make our claims NOW before that ability to claim is systematically ignored.

We cannot express the urgency of this strongly enough. TCVA encourages you to (if you haven’t already) file a claim to the VA through your local VSO (Veteran Service Officer) ASAP, before the status changes.

Hopefully, your claim will be “grandfathered” under the current status.

Update News Article: 23 Feb 2022 Military.com|By Patricia Kime: Thousands of Veterans May See Disability Deadline Waived as Supreme Court Takes Up Case

How to find a VSO (Veteran Service Officer) <https://nvf.org/veteran-service-officers/>

Please contact your VSO and file your claim. TCVA is here to support you in this challenge. TCVA members have helped bring evidence, both anecdotal and objective, to aid in VA disability claims. Once you are registered with the VA and your claim has been filed, please contact us at tacamocommunity@gmail.com to request the evidence package to support your claim.

Several of our members have been successful and are considered disabled from hearing loss and tinnitus.

Others have been denied this status with no real evidence to support the denial.

Stay strong, shipmates! Together we can get the recognition of our common, service-related injury.

Family Members Share Memories



Allison Stampley shared her memories with her dad, Chuck "Chocko" Baker. I grew up in the hangars with my dad, "Chocko". Some of you may know him. I am proud to be a Navy brat. #FlyNavy



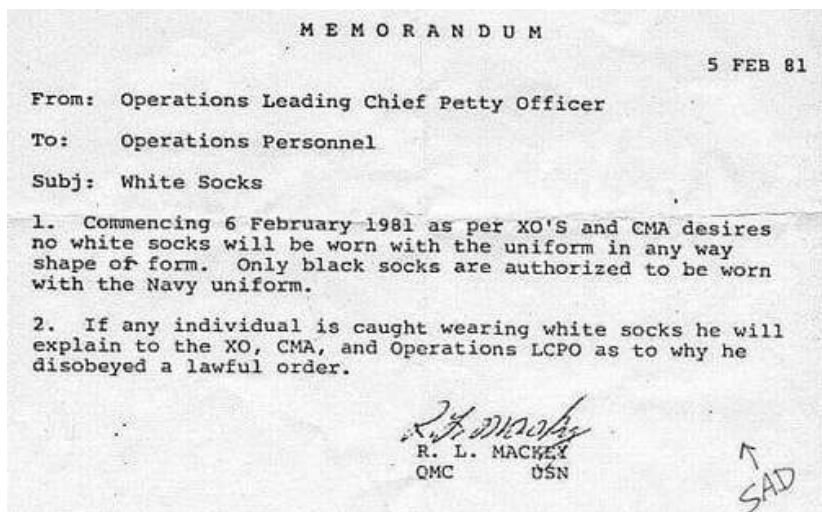
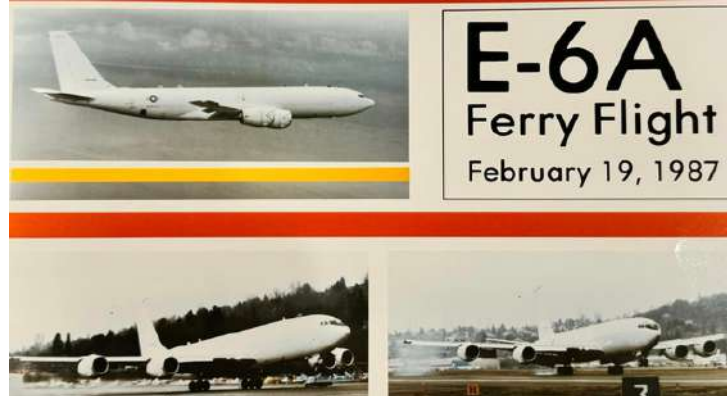
Adam Ciochetto, son of Lewis Ciochetto

Found a few photos from Mom's house of the E-6a rollout. I enjoyed the 80s graphic design of the photos and wanted to share.

Also as a bonus I recently got an E-6a is coming sticker which my dad was pretty proud of back in the day. I put on the back of one of my painting easels.



My dad was a Pilot on the E-6. His name was Lewis Ciochetto and he passed away from cancer about 20 years ago. I like a lot of the community and memories so I wanted to share. Navy, Tacamo. Was in VQ3





On November 22, 2024, a group of former TACAMO Commodores joined forces with representatives from Del City and Midwest City for the 4th Annual Memorial Susan Rogers Giving Fund, an event dedicated to supporting the TACAMO Kids Christmas Party. The generous donation was presented to Commodore Britt Windeler and the First Class Association at NAS Tinker's Wing in Oklahoma City, marking a special occasion and a significant contribution to the holiday celebrations of local military families.

The event, described as a "great Navy Day" at NAS Tinker, was a testament to the community's commitment to supporting its military families. The donation will directly fund the annual TACAMO Kids Christmas Party, a beloved tradition that brings holiday joy to children of military personnel stationed at Tinker Air Force Base.

The event's honorees, the family of Susan Rogers, who passed away in 2020, were present in remembrance of her outstanding contributions to the TACAMO community. Her legacy lives on through the Giving Fund, which continues to benefit local military families in need.

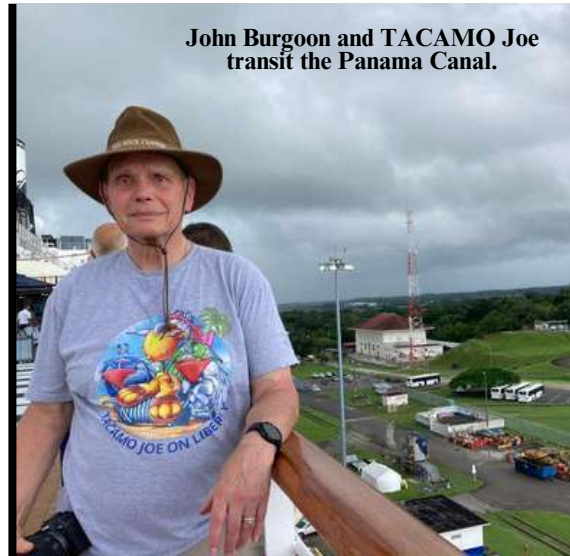
"We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of our community partners and the generosity that continues to make this event possible each year," said Commodore Britt Windeler. "This donation is a wonderful reminder of the strength of the military family and the lasting impact of Susan Rogers' spirit of giving."

The TACAMO Kids Christmas Party will take place in December, with festivities, gifts, and a visit from Santa bringing holiday cheer to the children of military families.

The Susan Rogers Giving Fund was established in honor of the late Susan Rogers, a long-time supporter of military families in the Oklahoma City area. Each year, the Fund helps provide for the TACAMO Kids Christmas Party, ensuring that children of military personnel experience the joy and magic of the holiday season.



Photo above: Captain Irish Keilty, USN (Ret.), Rep. Andy Fugate, Del City, CMCCM Jake Stovall, Wing Protocol Bob Holland, Captain David Gardner, Deputy Wing Commander, AZ1 Stephanie Yang, Commodore Britt Windeler, LS1 Romiro Saldivar, Clay Cascante, Laura Cascante, Carlos Cascante (Family of the late Susan Rogers), and Rep. Robert Manger, Midwest City



John Burgoon and TACAMO Joe transit the Panama Canal.



John Burgoon and Jack "Uncle Rico" Keilty in Virginia Beach



Jennifer M Ruh
6h
Made it to the highest point on the African continent, Mt. Kilimanjaro. 19,341'. (and down again, safely!) Hardest thing I have ever done physically... 🙌🙏

Vern Lochusen shared, VQ3 Flight Surgeon Doc Ruh on to new heights. She was my valued advisor during Herc to Merc transition. Along with CMC Stillwagon, the pulse of Sailors was monitored.



John Keilty and Del City NJROTC with Del City Kiwanis and Wendell Kluge
Del City Kiwanis met at the MWC IHOP to celebrate the wonderful support by their restaurant Team for our recent Annual Pancake Supper. Manager Luis Margos supplied the food and his Team cooked it. DCHS Key Club served it and the Navy JROTC Cadets posted colors and assisted with refills and cleanup.

Our program was provided by retired TACAMO STRATCOM Wing Commander, John Keilty, TACAMO TAFB & current teacher of the Cadets at DCHS Navy JROTC. He shared about the TACAMO critical mission and some of his experiences as a Navy pilot, Wing Commander, and his son being selected to fly with the Navy Blue Angkes.— with John Keilty and Del City NJROTC. All in all it was an outstanding day.



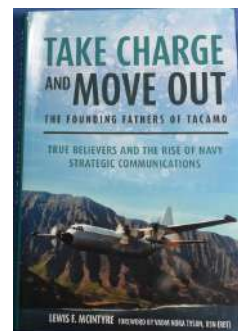
Take Charge and Move Out, the Founding Fathers of TACAMO



Lew McIntyre is one of Southern Maryland's newest authors, specializing for now in historical fiction, having published five books: two historical fiction novels, *The Eagle and the Dragon*, a *Novel of Rome and China*, and its sequel, *A Gathering of Eagles*, a *Novel of Rome and Parthia*; one military history, *Take Charge and Move Out, the Founding Fathers of TACAMO*; one on relativity physics, *Riding on a Light Beam, Visualizing Relativity*; and one novella, *Come, Follow Me, a Story of Pilate and Jesus*.

Lew is a graduate of the US Naval Academy Class of 1970, with a masters in aeronautical engineering. He spent his naval career in aviation, flying "Take Charge and Move Out" TACAMO EC-130s and the National Emergency Airborne Command Post (NEACP) E-4B, a Boeing 747. He retired as a Commander in 1970 to begin his second career supporting TACAMO E-6B Mercury aircraft at Patuxent River, MD as a senior communications systems engineer until retiring in 2020.

Lew lives in La Plata, MD with his wife Karen, who doubles as his editor, literary critic and inspiration, herself an accomplished author. They have two children, Jesse, married to Nicole, parents of their grandson "Bean" Benedict, and Katy, married to Tim Bristow, with grand-dog Penny, now living in the UK. Besides writing and working at Patuxent River, Lewis enjoys biking, running, hunting and amateur radio.



<https://pageturnerawards.com/book-award-2024/take-charge-and-move-out-the-founding-fathers-of-tacamo>

About Page Turner Awards
Page Turner Awards is an inclusive writing and book awards with one goal – to change the lives of as many writers as possible. The team at Page Turner Awards passionately believes that talented writers can be from any background, age, race, religion, or interest.

Irish brings Eagle Navy JROTC Cadets & Zebra Navy JROTC Cadets to Meet then Navy Blue Angels



Your Eagle Navy JROTC Cadets joined up with Zebra Navy JROTC Cadets from Claremore HS as guests of the Navy Blue Angel Flight Demonstration Team at the “Frontiers in Flight” Airshow practice at McConnell AFB in Wichita Kansas on Friday 23 August. The cadets were treated to front row seats at the show center in the “Blue Angels Friends and Family Tent”!



Irish expressed, “It was an awesome day as our cadets witnessed first hand the pride, precision and professionalism of the Blue Angels in Flight and even met the Blues and had their picture taken in front of the Boss’s Number 1 Jet. And all the cadets ended the day with dinner at Old Chicago in Wichita sharing comradery and teamwork and refreshing all the cool stuff they saw during the day. It was a great day to be a cadet in the Navy Junior ROTC Program.”



Thanks to Ms Terry and Mr Arnette for all the pics and Special Thanks to Uncle Rico and the Blue Angels for this amazing once in a lifetime opportunity.

Congrats to Ensign Donna Maria Nolan United States Navy, Medical Corps. Welcome to this elite group of Rocket grads . Proud of you! Welcome aboard Ensign Maria Nolan! After three years of Medical Recruiting for the Navy, I can honestly say I have not seen such pride displayed with a commissioning ceremony. You and your family put together a great event, and I was extremely humbled and proud to be apart of it and your journey into the Navy.

ENS Nolan is a student at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences and was sworn in by U.S. Navy Captain (retired) John Keilty over the weekend. She comes from a long line of illustrious service in different branches of the military and is beginning her own career through the Health Professions Scholarship Program.



PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of PGA REACH, the charitable foundation of the PGA of America. PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans and Active Duty Military to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being.

The program introduces the game of golf through a developmental 6-8 week curriculum, led by PGA Professionals trained in adaptive golf and military cultural competency. All programs are funded by PGA REACH and supplemented by PGA Section Foundations, so the cost of programming is free to all Veterans. PGA HOPE has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which enables direct referrals to the PGA HOPE program as a form of therapy.

Find Open Programs Near You

The beauty of PGA HOPE is you can truly come as you are. Using the link below, you can find a list of PGA HOPE sessions around the country that are currently open for registration.

<https://southcentral.pga.com/foundation/military/>

Serving Those Who Served

Veterans have given everything to be there for our country when we need it most. We need to be there when they come back. PGA HOPE aims to serve more than 17,000 Veterans in 2024 alone at program locations nationwide. Led by PGA of America Golf Professionals, PGA HOPE is introducing and teaching golf through a 6-8 week curriculum while creating a path forward for Veterans and Active Duty Service Members.

PGA HOPE Program



Program Site Selection

PGA REACH works with PGA Sections, PGA Professionals, and VA hospitals to identify golf courses and communities that are willing to host and would benefit from the program



PGA Professional Training

Local PGA of America Golf Professionals are trained to teach golf to Veterans with physical and emotional disabilities as well as important aspects of Veteran rehabilitative culture. [Find a Training](#)



Introductory Clinic

Local VA hospitals, warrior transition units, and other Veteran service organizations recruit Veterans to attend a one-day introductory golf experience



PGA HOPE Program

Six to eight week golf program led by trained PGA Professionals that provides Veterans with golf instruction, course access, and adaptive equipment if needed



PGA HOPE Graduation

A celebration of the completion of the first session. Specifics vary by market but graduation ceremonies include golf, lunch, and an equipment giveaway. A graduation card is issued that affords the Veteran with a range of golf related benefits in their local area



PGA HOPE FACTS

PGA REACH recognizes Veterans Day as the PGA National Day of HOPE. On this day, PGA REACH works in partnership with the golf community to celebrate and honor our nation's heroes as well as spread awareness about the PGA HOPE program.

In 2024, PGA HOPE will impact over 17,000 Veterans and Active Duty Military nationwide, taught by over 3,000 PGA Professionals from around the country.

There are currently more than 500 PGA HOPE programs across the country, hosted in all 50 States.

Veteran suicide is a major issue in the Veteran community, and statistics show 22 Veterans a day commit suicide. PGA HOPE is working to change this statistic by utilizing the game of golf as a form of therapy.

By James Youngblood, assisting TCVA Historian

Approximately 8 hours 16 minutes and 45 seconds into August 6th, 1945, the human species was forcefully projected into the Nuclear Age. The blasts that ended World War II were also the starting pistol for the most consequential and dangerous race in history. The Nuclear Arms Race between the United States and the Soviet Union took us from a total of two atomic weapons in 1945 to an alarming 70,000 just 40 years later at the height of the Cold War. The tensions of that age shaped many of your lives and set the stage for current geopolitical chaos. As I reflect on those facts, I cannot help but ask myself “Why?” So, as I have been doing, I set out to find the decision that took us down this path. Who took the baton from the ashes from Japan and began running us toward our own Armageddon? I submit that General Curtis LeMay, hero of the Army Air Corps and architect of the Tokyo bombardment during the War, started us down this irreversible path.



Early in the development of nuclear weapons, each of the branches made a mad dash to find a way to employ the bomb. The Air Force had long range bombers. The Navy had medium range attack aircraft (USN and USMC) and in a brief period, the ballistic missile submarine. Even the Army employed nuclear artillery shells and tactical hand throw versions of the devastating technology! Decision makers knew that the monster they had just unleashed had to be wrangled under control and quickly, but how? Enter General Curtis “Bombs Away” LeMay with the answer: Give operational control of the nation’s nuclear arsenal to him under the purview of the Strategic Air Command (SAC was the predecessor to today’s US Strategic Command). LeMay’s rationale was simple, in the event of a “general war” (the event that would result in the release of nuclear weapons on Sino-Russo targets) the US response would require a single point of authority. This would reduce “redundancy” as he called it. The idea of a unified command was bawked at by military leadership. This, however, did not deter his ambitious goal.

Under the direction of General Thomas White, Chief of Staff for the Air Force, a Joint Strategic Target planning Staff (JSTPS) was formed to bring all the branches together to planning how they would execute a “general war.” This joint committee was then stationed at SAC headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. This act placed the staff under the 4-star General that was the SAC Commander. This ingenious chess play got LeMay and his successor General Thomas Power precisely what they wanted. They had created a Single Integrated Operations Plan (SIOP) in which all branches would help plan (and some TACAMO alumni did), but SAC would be in control of executing. Under this structure, the SAC HQ began identifying potential targets. Under the influence of Gen. Power, with direction from LeMay, the intelligence branch began building a list. They assessed that the USSR had been stockpiling weapons, partly based on the words of Premier Nikita Khrushchev who had stated “We can make missiles like sausages.” The list was built out with over two hundred targets, committing 2 to 4 weapons per target to ensure its destruction with up to 97% certainty. This demand led to the production of more warheads needed to meet the demand. Leaders were warned of the “Missile Gap,” in that the Soviets had an overwhelming number of weapons that they would not hesitate to use. This fear persisted in the halls of leadership until November of 1960 when photos from the reconnaissance satellite “Discoverer” were recovered and developed. Those photos revealed a devastating missile gap, but not the one we were told about. The USSR in 1960 did not have the two hundred warheads that the USAF Intel had warned, not the fifty that Army Intel had projected, but in fact they had four...total! This fact did not ease leaders like LeMay, instead it emboldened him. He pushed to continue amassing weapons to levels that would ensure enemies would fear attempting a strike on the US. This was a fear that those in the USSR did take heed to, spurring them to devote millions toward rapidly developing their own stockpiles to try to keep pace. The tit for tat mentality in the 1950s and 60s sparked an arms race that defined a majority of the 20th century.

Could the arms race have been averted? That is a question that perhaps only God will know the answer. Was it accelerated by the overeager ambitions of a few men... my assertion is an emphatic yes. Had we had a different man in that seat, perhaps the outcome would have been different. After the Japanese surrender, Gen MacArthur spoke these strangely prophetic words. “Even the lesson of victory itself brings with it profound concerns...The destructiveness of the war potential, through progressive advances in scientific discovery, has in fact reached a point which revises the tradition concepts of war.” He continued in a plea with leaders of the time to find a better way to solve conflict because all methods previously “failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war.” The lesson that I am taking from this is this, be aware of the counsel you heed, and do not yield so easily to the unverified fears presented. I have always heard that hindsight is 20/20, we had the chance to see the results of “Discoverer” and cool the rhetoric down and seek a more peaceful resolution to our differences. Sadly, big personalities prevented that from happening. It would take a bigger man to finally stand up to him, but that is a story for a later date. I sincerely thank you for joining me on this journey through history and I look forward to our next lesson.

TACAMO Sea Stories Episode I When the Cold War Went Hot

TACAMO - Sea Stories

EPISODE 1 GENESIS



<https://www.>



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Arthur Collins was a pioneering American radio engineer and inventor, best known for developing innovative radio equipment and techniques. Early Life and Education Arthur Collins was born in 1909 in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. He demonstrated an early interest in electronics and radio communication. **Career-** Collins founded Collins Radio Company in 1933, producing high-quality radio broadcasting equipment; **Key Achievements-** 1. Developed the Collins S-Line, a modular radio system. 2. Introduced the Collins 51J-4, a widely used amateur radio transmitter. 3. Contributed to the development of single-sideband modulation (SSB); **Legacy-** Arthur Collins' contributions significantly impacted radio technology, earning him numerous awards and recognition within the industry.

View the video to to

https://youtu.be/euBsluswXGA?si=w1irSKsuHk_1xIH6 / https://youtu.be/euBsluswXGA?si=w1irSKsuHk_1xIH6

Possible Future Video Topics

- 24/7 coverage and its logistics
- 707/E-6 decision
- 888 Ed Hampshire experiences; hangar queen and essential AC bus story
- 889 - upgrades test bed; reliable
- 890 - emergency landed on a Pacific island golf course; crashed in a cornfield; Remnants became the training center
- 891 - hero of the story; flew around the world; EMP hardening; ASW test platform; Fat Albert; museum piece; JATO takeoff
- Dave Smith story of French nuke test and golf course landing
- E-6 test & development (broken tail stories)
- E-6 Transition (BA)
- EMP hardening
- French Fry Stories
- G series aircraft (LM)
- Individual aircraft histories
- Gone Fishing event
- Liberty Calls - brief descriptions of places we dropped in on. Maybe an episode each for Atlantic and Pacific.
- Lyle Bercier
- Move to Tinker (practical and political)
- Navy Programs impact on TACAMO – High level intro into HF, FSBS, TAC I to HPTS
- November '79 incident
- Ron Carlson
- Soviet response to TACAMO
- TAC III
- TAC IV
- The 4 G's
- TIP/TIP II
- Why/How VLF



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>

Sports Photos Wanted

Share photographs of various sports played by members of the TACAMO community. Many individuals within TACAMO participate in a wide range of sports, and the goal is to showcase these activities. A collection of images will highlight the diversity of sports enjoyed by service members, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared experience. Whether it's team sports like basketball or volleyball, or individual pursuits like running or weightlifting, the request is for photos that capture the spirit of sport within the TACAMO community.



Memories



TACAMO III TRAINER

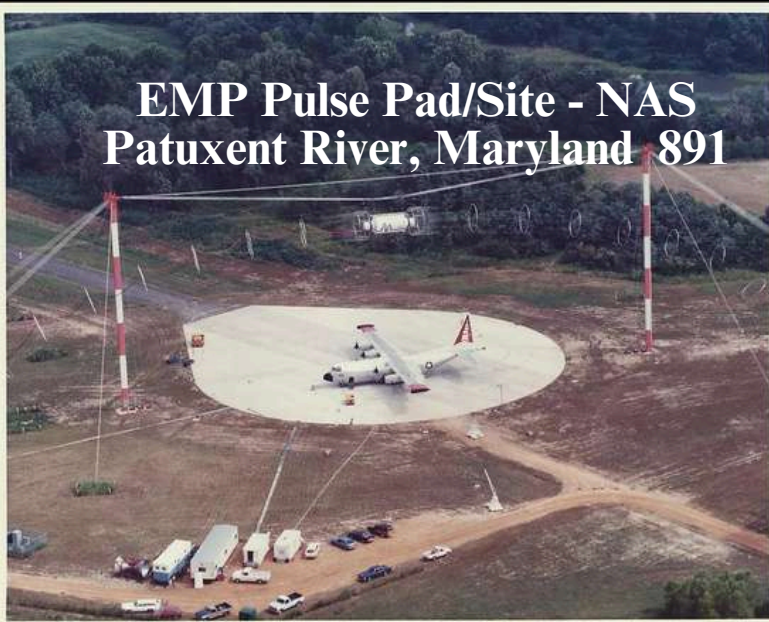


GROUND COMMUNICATION TEST STATION



Kristen Cart

I took this picture near the Mayan volcano in the Philippines, ca. 1986, of Chief Mark Elbert, a VQ-3 veteran. He was unwinding kite string from the prop because we hit a kite on short final. This was in support of the hospital ship SS Mercy. He served in VRC-50 with me ca. 1985-1987. I went from there to VQ-3 in 1987.— with Mark Elbert.



EMP Pulse Pad/Site - NAS Patuxent River, Maryland 891



Ronald N Umai Fox

Anyone recognize this?



Vern Lochausen

Throwback Thursday: 1989- NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii- the first E-6A Mercury arriving at VQ-3.



Jim Perry

Appears to be a TIP-II bird. RAF Leuchers just outside St. Andrews, Scotland. We (Moore, Urban, Perry) got to play the Old Course for about \$17, I think it costs more now. Those were the days!



Merc from Inside Herc 174 as Herc left the squadron. Help! Looking to find the person that took this photo.





First Hercules Arrives Here

WESPAC's first EC-130Q Hercules aircraft arrived at NAS Agaña, Guam, Thursday morning for service with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Three, Piloted by Commander E. H. Preston, VQ-3's Commanding

Officer, the aircraft passed over Mt. Lamlam at 0743 a.m. arriving from Dallas, Texas. The Q Model C-130, designed to replace the G Model transport currently in use, is totally dedicated to its communications

mission provides for crew comfort on extended flights. The aircraft is built by Lockheed-Georgia Company with communications systems developed by Collins Radio Company.



The crew of WESTPAC's first Queen is shown in front of the new aircraft after arriving from Hawaii.

SELECT TACAMO CREW SETS ENDURANCE MARK



EC-130G Buno 151888

The Record Books were rewritten after a select crew of 21 persons from Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Four (VQ-4) remained airborne for two consecutive days, thus doubling the squadron's previous goal. VQ-4, based onboard the NAS Patuxent River, MD is tasked with maintaining an aircraft airborne for 24 hours in support of USMCINCLANT's deployed forces. Shown above is the aircraft in flight enroute to the record. Although exhausted at the completion of the flight, the crew was thankful for the on time relief. Said one pilot, "We still had 14 hours of gas in the tanks for PLE." The squadron's next task - - - a complete deployment in the new maximum endurance EC-130, TACAMO



TRIPLE EIGHT - "Triple Eight," the C-130 in the background was the first and last VQ-4 aircraft to carry a TACAMO II airborne communications system. The men are among the last eight at VQ-4 who were attached to the TACAMO component of the VR-1 when "Triple Eight" arrived in 1964. (From left) AMH1 Robert Stark Jr., ADJ1 Tom Forrest, ADJ2 William Oschenhirt, Lt. Dutton Wyatt, AT1 Alfred Ostrander and ADJ2 Paul Trazavich. Not shown are AT1 William Fiehr and ATN2 William Ross.

'Triple Eight' Departure Ends Long Era At VQ-4

VQ-4 at Pax River launched its last aircraft to fly with a TACAMO II communications system aboard, March 26. "Triple Eight" (nickname for aircraft 151888) was flown to the Lockheed plant at Marietta, Ga., to be refitted with the all new TACAMO III system.



'Triple Eight'

(Continued From Page 1)

turned to the training command, becoming a pilot in early 1966. Chief William Oschenhirt started out in the old TACAMO component as an ADJ2. ADJ1 Tom Forrest advanced from ADJ3, and AT1 William Fiehr, AT1 Alfred Ostrander and AMH1 Robert Starke Jr., were all second class petty officers. ATN2 William Ross was an ATN3 and ADJ2 Paul Trazavich began with the TACAMO component as an airman.

"Triple Eight" began operations with the TACAMO II system in July 1964. At that time, the old TACAMO component of VR-1 was composed of approximately 60 officers and men, with two aircraft aboard. TACAMO communications have come along way since then. By the end of this year, VQ-4 will have approximately 400 officers and men aboard, and will be operating eight TACAMO III-equipped EC-130Q aircraft. Of the men who were with VR-1 TACAMO when "Triple Eight" began operations, only eight are still with VQ-4. They too have come a long way in the last five years. Lt Dutton Wyatt was an ensign at that time. He first flew aboard "Triple Eight" as a Naval Flight Officer, and then re-

(See TRIPLE EIGHT page 4)

888 Today



E-6 Crews



Vern Lochausen

Seems like just last year. VQ-3 Skipper had the chance to share a flight on the big white whisper jet named Mercury. Almost 30 years later and I shared time with most of these fine gents. Three retired to Florida, **Ern Lewis**, Ed Hampshire, and **Tom Rinicker**. Shared time with Jay Gallamore and Brett Sylvia in Pax. FB and TCVA friends with Bill Crouch, Corky Walker, and Chris McMahon. Sadly, the late Billy Bicher, Ern's right hand man in Merc testing and deliver did not last long after this flight.

E-6A SEATING CHART

CALLSIGN RAZE 21 DATE 1998

EMER EVAC	DITCH ING	RAFT ASSIGN	SMOKE EVAC.	IN-FLT EMER.	SEAT NO.	NAME
1		2			1	P
		1			2	CP
		1			3	N
		2			4	FE
		2			5	T
		2			6	SP
		1			7	T
		2	7		8	FT-T
		1			9	FT-T
		1			10	T
		2			11	RO-T
		1			12	T
		1	7		13	ACO
		4			14	ACS
		4	1		15	ACOF
		5	2		16	FT
		5	2		17	FT-T
		2	2		18	RD
					19	

Crash Land. or. Ditch: Announcement over PA and illumination of CRASH LANDING signs - "Prepare for crash landing" or "Prepare for ditching".

Ground Evacuation: Announcement over PA "Evacuate the aircraft" - Evacuate upon illumination of CRASH LANDING Signs.

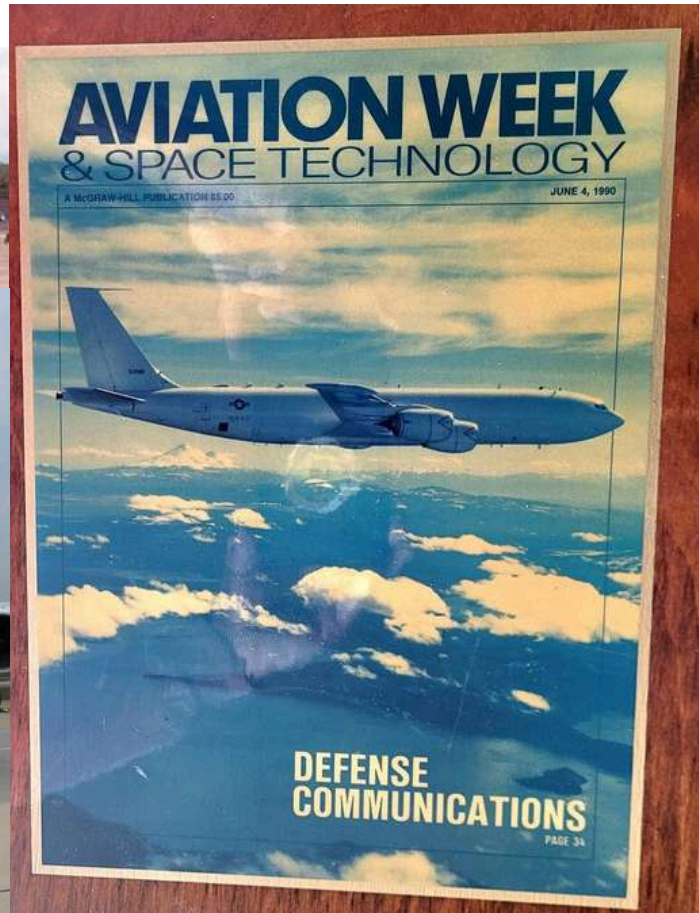
RAFT ASSIGNMENTS: (1) LH RAFT (2) RH RAFT

- 1) Open Fwd. Main Entry Door and inflate slide during ground evacuation.
- 2) Open Aft. Main Entry Door and inflate slide during ground evacuation.
- 3) Open Ball Out Door (if req.) Attach, Deploy, and inflate slide during ground evac.
- 4) Open LH Over Wing Hatch and attach escape strap to Wingfitting and deploy and inflate Raft (1) per A/C CDR instructions during ditching.
- 5) Open RH Over Wing Hatch, attach escape strap to Wingfitting and deploy and inflate Raft (2) per A/C CDR instructions during ditching.
- 6) Lower Cargo Compartment Emergency Duties.
- 7) Open LH Over Wing Hatch per A/C CDR instructions.

FOD WALKDOWN TIME: 0915
 ENGINE START TIME: 0930
 DEBRIEF TIME: +90 AFTER LAND (2500)
 SPECIAL REMARKS: ADDITIONAL DUTIES ON FIRE BILL AND DITCHING - LESS THAN FULL CREW



Below: Vern Lochausen shared: When we made the cover. Good day to be the Skipper.





Jim Burrill shared: Damn failing memory! My crew, but what number??? 1983-86 time frame. I am second row, far right. How many are still with us?



Skylar Russell shared the above photos of her with Zachery Davis, Joseph Edwards and Chris Bellafato

Great time celebrating Chris Bellafato retirement! I can't believe they let a prior AO and MA in the flight deck of an E6 at the same time, but they did! Congrats Chris and thanks for letting my kids wreak havoc in your house. #IBNFE



What is the crew number from 1983-87?



John Jordan shared: Found this going thru some old files. Not sure what crew. I was taking an instructor check ride. Circa 1986/97



AVAILABLE IN ALL TACAMO & ALL SQUADRONS

Search on: polo wings

**You requested is now granted!
Check out the new items in Paraloft Marketplace!!**



Search on: one together

**Also available now:
One Together T-shirts!**

Thank you Kim Kielty for purchasing the TACAMO Jacket/ Take Charge And Move Out



Search on: jacket

Paraloft Market Place LINK



Carl Couch

My office got a TACAMO Reel Op Breakfast this morning.



Ryan Dill

Eagle Bar, Cambridge, UK — at The RAF Bar at The Eagle, Corpus Christi College.



TACAMO Community Veterans Assn

Vern Lochausen

Sentimental Saturday: An honor to show off an early operational Merc to the guys who led the teams in NAVAIR that worked with Boeing to create and deliver it. Left to right- The lucky Skipper, Ernie Lewis, Billy Bicher, and Ed Hampshire. Both Ernie and Ed were the Program Managers and Billy worked for them as THE guy, practically living at either the Radisson or Boeing's offices. When the first one was cleared for delivery, he sent me a note saying :Merry early Christmas.



Jay Gallamore

Billy Bicher led me through taking delivery of one of the E-6s then got me out of Boeing jail after our hijack attempt.





TACAMO Reunion in New York
 Photo above: From left to right, Lonnie Fields, Eric Hamilton, Virgil Whitlow, Dennis Drummond, Lloyd Mack, and Shawn Bentley.
 Photo below, everyone with their spouses.



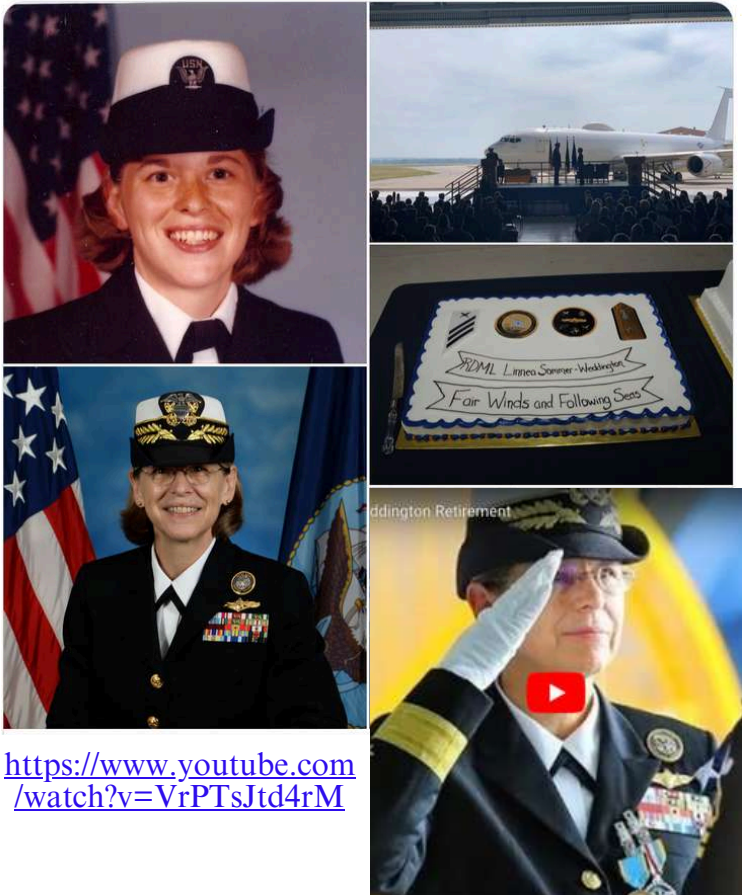
Mike Wilkinson

Khaki Ball was a blast!



Linnea Sommer-Weddington
 17 hours ago

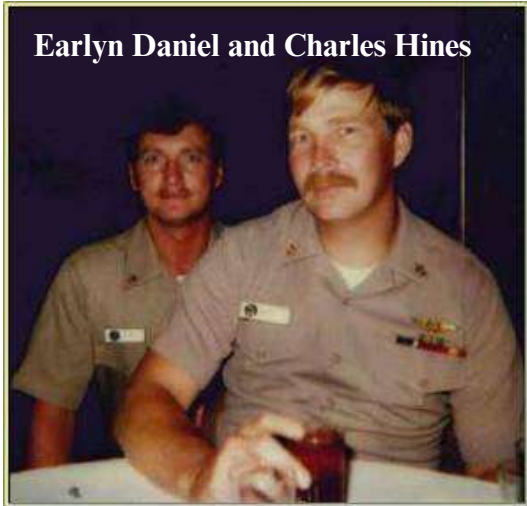
Five years ago ... remain grateful and blessed 🇺🇸 ⚓ 🇺🇸



Charlotte Scott shared: Quick trip to see Emma graduate from Top Gun!! So proud to be her mom!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrPTsJtd4rM>





Earlyn Daniel and Charles Hines



Carl Hinchey (Left)
16 Sep 86. VQ-3, NAS
Barbers Point, Hi. The
"happiest day of my life."



(Right) Steve Olexa
45 years ago today
16 September 1979
I was proudly promoted
to Navy Chief Petty
Officer.... Once a Chief.....
Always a Chief.....
Anchors Aweigh



Brenda Lewis shared, VQ-4 deployment back in the 80's. My only deployment with the Man the Myth the Legend, Red Summerday



Sue Davies



50 years ago today AUG 30, also a Friday, I earned my "wings of gold" at NAS Chase Field 1943-1993 Beeville, Texas. CAPT Pat O'Gara, TRAWING 3, on the left and Joan. Just a couple of kids! The following day I reported to VT-24, from which I had just graduated, as an instructor. VietNam was basically over and the Navy suddenly had more pilots than it could find cockpits in the fleet for. John Alger



(Right) Joseph D Flynn shared, have been looking for this photo for a while. September 1991, VQ4 crew to VQ3 Change of Command as I recall. Top of Diamond Head.



(Left) Brad Spencer shared, awesome night last night! Welcoming so new Navy Chief Petty Officers! Bonus was catching up with an OUTSTANDING Naval Officer, Ed McCabe "TICK"! Sir, we appreciate you making the trip to back to OKC to be the guest speaker at the pinning ceremony.



Shared by Becky Condon
 Bad day at Griffiss AFB. The nose gear door had been misrigged at SDLM and while it had been scraping the underbelly for weeks (invisible on preflight because the door covered the belly), this day it got stuck. We spent hours trying to get it down but no dice. I had to land it like that. The bent door provided a bit of cushion so the rest of the airplane was undamaged. All in all day's work.

Below: Becky Condon being promoted to LTJG. The Skipper was shorter of stature, so he elevated to the job.



Becky Condon
 tun - 6
 Happy Birthday, Navy! It was never a dull moment for my Navy years. I didn't get to stay but it did make me who I am today, and turned over to a long and satisfying airline career. Semper Fortis. 🇺🇸



Left: Becky Condon shared: Happy Hour and my usual posture. I never wanted to over-imbibe at those, but it seemed frowned upon to attend without a beverage in hand. Early, I took a turn buying a pitcher to share with my fellows, and found it convenient to walk around refreshing drinks. When I did get thirsty, a small sip from the pitcher made me instantly into a party girl. I let everyone think what they wanted and rarely drank as much as a full glass. Problem solved.
 I let everyone think what they wanted and rarely drank as much as a full glass. Problem solved.



John Alger
 403
 TACAMO history from another group..

From Skipper Baca's scrapbook.

To match Jeff Delano's sunrise, here's a sunset Merc on approach. Golden Merc?



Jim Fulmer

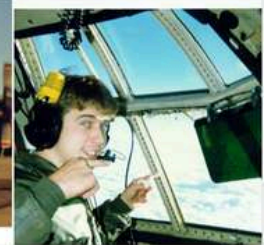
Stole the pic:

Happy Birthday to beloved Navy. Thank you for the big team making it happen, day in and day out!



Scott Sumpter

couple shots of Bermuda...VQ-4 alert site...608 in Goose Bay Canada in 1988...and me in Pilots seat (look ma...no hands...)



Left: shared by Vern Lohausen, The Day the Wing was commissioned MANY past, current and future Skippers came. Bob Young, Tom Trotter, Vern, Mike Davidson, Chuck Fitchet, Barry Coyle, Jim Bailey, Andy, Paul Fletcher, Ed Hampshire, P. A. Moore and Paul Jackson. May 1992. NAS OKC!

FLASHBACK FRIDAY: OLD TACAMO FOR SURE favored a stop at Lajes, Azores. On the way home, it was open 24/7/365 for essential services like the airfield and the clubs on base. Portuguese hard rolls and local butter, Mateus Rose wine, rattan furniture, fine local linens, concierge like support to do all your laundry and shine your flight boots, great base exchange, tours of WWII lookout pillboxes and the underground river, and of COURSE the bowling alley. Some will know what a 'w... See more

Lajes: Last Stop Before Home

Class 6 for Mateus, Peter Rabbit's for Rattan, Praia for linen and more



Step aboard history! 🇺🇸 The USS Recruit, affectionately known as the "USS Neversail," is open every Saturday and Sunday from 12pm - 4pm for free entry. Explore this unique landlocked training ship at Liberty Station, where over 50,000 recruits learned the ropes of naval life each year. Don't miss your chance to visit the Navy's only commissioned ship that never touched the water!



2024 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
- Other Gifts tacamo.org/donate



SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS

Gifts specifically designated to a named scholarship fund.

Nora Tyson Scholarship Fund

- Dr Randy Mahoney on behalf of Hall-Halliburton Foundation

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 Lohausen Scholarship Fund

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

OTHER GIFTS

Special Projects

TACAMO Video Documentaries

- Collins Aeospace
- Mike Davidson
- Boneyard Safari

Membership Drive Donors

- Loren Linde
- Ed Hampshir
- Gene Grisby

Honor of a Birthday

- John Alger
- Cheryl Vos

Lifetime Achievement Event Donors

- Sue Davies & Mark Thomas
- Mark & Cindy Feuerstein
- John & Louise Brouillette
- John & Joan Alger
- John & Linda Burgoon
- Mike & Cheryl Vos
- Tom & Alice Trotter
- Trish Beckman
- Chris Sachs
- Scott & Brandy Owen

In Memory of

- TACAMOPAC Crew 4
- Anonymous

Lifetime Achievement Awarded to Vice Admiral Nora W. Tyson



NORA TYSON
Lifetime Achievement Award



On Saturday, December 7, 2024 in Tucson, AZ, Vice Admiral Nora W. Tyson was presented with the TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her exceptional leadership and decades of service to the United States Navy. The award, presented during a special ceremony in Tucson, celebrates Vice Admiral Tyson's remarkable contributions to the nation's defense, her mentorship of service members across the military services, and her lifelong dedication to the TACAMO mission.

A Legacy of Leadership and Professional Excellence

Vice Admiral Tyson's illustrious career spanned multiple decades, during which she built an extraordinary reputation for professionalism, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to her country. From her early days as a rising star in the TACAMO (Strategic Communications) community to her trailblazing leadership as the first woman to command a U.S. Navy Fleet, Vice Admiral Tyson's career set the standard for excellence.

Her biography includes key milestones such as serving with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4 (VQ-4), where she commanded one of the Navy's premier TACAMO units. She also served as the navigator aboard the USS Enterprise and commanded the amphibious assault ship USS BATAAN. Her leadership extended beyond sea duty as she worked on numerous Navy staffs, shaping the future of the Navy and mentoring generations of officers. In 2015, she was appointed Commander of the 3rd Fleet, becoming the first woman to lead a U.S. Navy ship Fleet. In 2017, she retired from active duty with the rank of Vice Admiral. Throughout her career, Vice Admiral Tyson exemplified servant leadership, building exceptional teams and inspiring those around her. Her focus on teamwork, integrity, and excellence left an indelible mark on both the Navy and the broader military community.

Vice Admiral Tyson's Remarks

Reflecting on her career, Vice Admiral Tyson spoke fondly of the dedication and teamwork she witnessed in the TACAMO community. "Back in the TACAMO C-130 days, when we were doing 100% airborne coverage, what incredible teamwork it took to make that happen," Tyson said. "It was the crews on the road who did everything in their power to keep those planes

flying. Whether it was three-engine takeoffs or robbing parts, the dedication to getting the mission done was unmatched."

Tyson also shared a humorous anecdote about the resourcefulness and determination of TACAMO crews: "I remember Captain Jane O'Dea telling me how TACAMO crews would requisition parts from other aircraft to get their planes airborne using the Joint Staff priority one letter carried by crew leaders. That level of dedication speaks volumes about the people in this community."

Expressing her gratitude, Vice Admiral Tyson added, "I am incredibly honored and humbled to receive this award. Thank you to everyone here, and especially to the TACAMO Community Veterans Association."

Launch of The TACAMO Foundation

During the ceremony, TCVA Vice President and President of The TACAMO Foundation, Tony Barnes announced the creation of the TACAMO Foundation, a non-profit organization launched in November 2024 to preserve and promote the history of the Navy's Strategic Deterrence Mission. The Foundation aims to educate the public about the vital role TACAMO plays in national security and provide support through educational programs, public outreach, and scholarships for students connected to the TACAMO community. The Foundation received a generous initial donation of \$200,000 from the Hall-Halliburton Foundation, thanks to the philanthropy of Dr. Randy Mahoney. This donation will fund the creation of the VADM Nora W. Tyson Scholarship, which will support future generations of students and honor Vice Admiral Tyson's legacy.

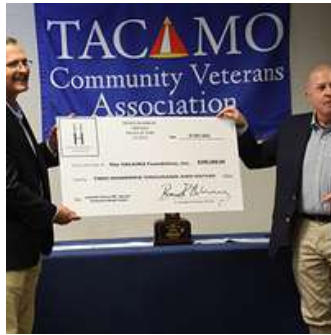
"Donations to the TACAMO Foundation are tax-deductible and will help fund scholarships for deserving students as well as support our ongoing educational efforts," Barnes said. "We are incredibly grateful to all those who contribute to preserving the history of TACAMO and ensuring its continued impact on our nation's defense."

To Learn More and Contribute

To learn more about the TACAMO Foundation or to contribute to the VADM Nora W. Tyson Scholarship, please visit the Foundation's website:

<https://www.tacamo.org/scholarships/awards>





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.).

Vice Adm. Nora Tyson is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and a graduate of Vanderbilt University. She received her commission through Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and earned her naval aviation wings in 1983. She is a 1995 graduate of the U.S. Naval War College with a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Affairs.

Tyson reported to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Four in 1983, where she ultimately served three tours at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, including one as commanding officer.

Tyson's operational assignments include assistant operations officer aboard the training aircraft carrier, USS Lexington (AVT 16), navigator aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65), commander, amphibious assault ship, USS Bataan (LHD 5), leading the Navy's contributions to disaster relief efforts on the U.S. Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and deploying twice to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, commander, Task Force 73, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific based in Singapore, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Two, where she led the USS George H.W. Bush Strike Group on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Her shore assignments include political-military planner in the Asia-Pacific Division of Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), executive assistant for the assistant to the chairman of JCS; director of staff for Commander, Naval Forces Europe/Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet; executive assistant for the Chief of Naval Operations; and vice director, JCS, deputy commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Tyson served her last assignment as commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet from July 2015 to September 2017.



DONATE ❤️

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**
<https://shorturl.at/Eua7p>

Applications Deadlines:

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

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

Foundation Leadership and Key Contributions

The TACAMO Foundation is led by a distinguished Board of Directors, which includes Tony Barnes, President; Dr. Randy Mahoney, Vice President; John Alger, Secretary; George Davis, Treasurer, and Vern Lochausen, Historian. Their combined efforts have quickly established the foundation, ensuring its smooth launch and mission to honor the TACAMO community.



THE TACAMO FOUNDATION



L to R: George Davis, Vern Lochausen, Dr. Randy Mahoney, Tony Barnes, and John Alger

The Foundation's History and Development

The TACAMO Foundation formation is the culmination of years of work, beginning in 2011, with conversations between Mike and Cheryl Vos and Bill Coyne, a retired Captain and 2015 TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductee. His accomplishments: VQ-4 MO, XO, and CO during work up to and restart of 100% airborne coverage, AIRLANT Comptroller during full-blown TACAMO IV 100% airborne period, CINCLANT staff supporting TACAMO ops and improving support for the mission, Warfare Specialty genesis and support for TACAMO community in larger Navy, and pro bono legal advice during Hall of Fame and Foundation standup. He shared his insights and vision for a foundation with Mike and Cheryl, leading to ongoing discussions and revisions of the foundation's framework over the years. In 2022, Vern Lochausen presented the Foundation's framework to the TCVA Board of Directors, solidifying the foundation's future direction.

Launch of The TACAMO Foundation

On December 6, 2024, during the Lifetime Achievement Ceremony, the creation of The TACAMO Foundation was officially announced. This new non-profit organization, launched in November 2024, is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of the U.S. Navy's TACAMO (Take Charge and Move Out) mission, a critical part of the nation's strategic deterrence capabilities. The Foundation aims to educate the public about the essential role TACAMO plays in national security while offering support through various educational programs, public outreach initiatives, and scholarships for students from the TACAMO community.

Foundation's Goals and Early Support

The TACAMO Foundation will focus on raising awareness of the mission's history and contributions, fostering educational opportunities, and ensuring future generations can access resources to support their academic pursuits. One of the highlights of the Foundation's early efforts is the VADM Nora W. Tyson Scholarship, created with an initial generous donation of \$200,000 from the Hall-Halliburton Foundation, thanks to the philanthropy of Dr. Randy Mahoney. This scholarship aims to support students and honor Vice Admiral Tyson's enduring legacy in the Navy.

A Bright Future for the TACAMO Community

The TACAMO Foundation's launch marks a new chapter in honoring and preserving the history of this critical mission. With a clear focus on education, outreach, and scholarships, the Foundation is poised to have a lasting impact on the TACAMO community and beyond. As Tony Barnes emphasized, the collective efforts will ensure that the legacy of TACAMO continues to be recognized and appreciated by future generations.



TCVA

IMPORTANT DATES



2025

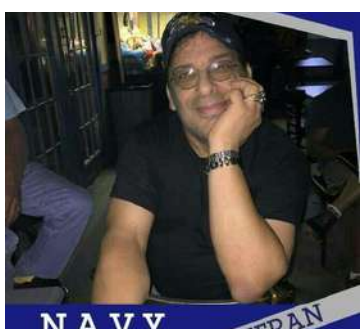
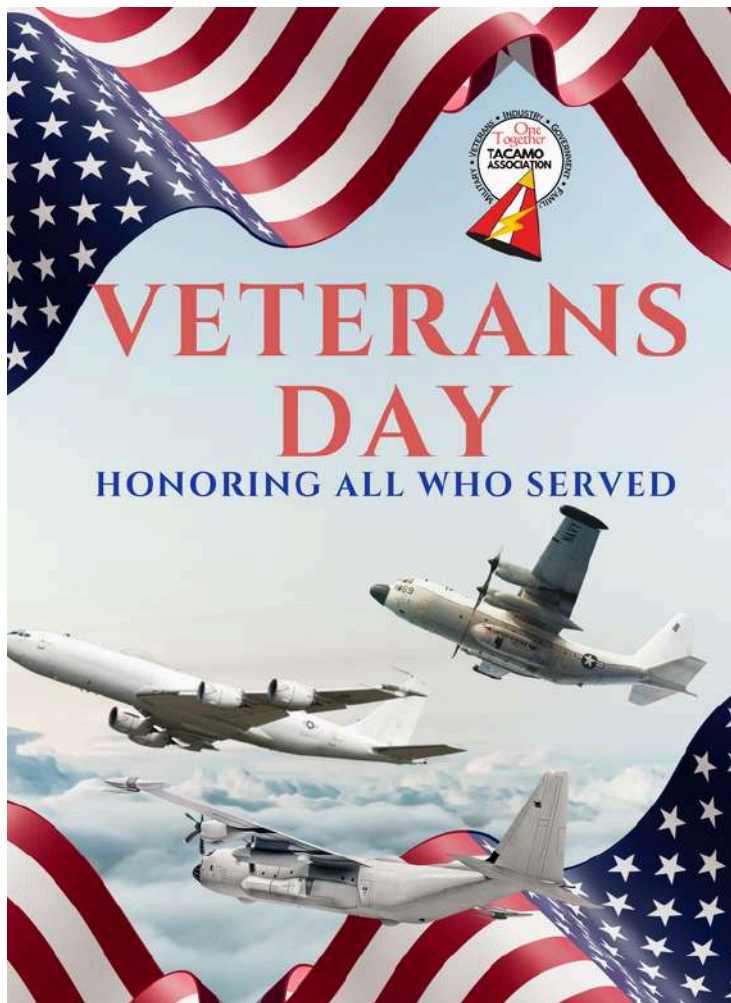
- **FEB 1st**
 - Scholarship Application Closed
- **APRIL 5 & 6**
 - **EVENT:** TACAMO gathering for the Blue Angels Show in Lakeland, FL at Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo
- **APR 30th**
 - Scholarship applications are screened & awardees are selected
- **MAY**
 - Hall of Fame inductees are notified of their selection
 - Scholarship Announcement of Winners
- **JUNE 21st**
 - TACAMO Memorial Day - TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Life Celebration
- **JULY 4th**
 - TCVA announces current year Hall of Fame inductees
- **NOV 6 to 12**
 - **EVENT:** TCVA Reunion in Marietta, GA Tentative Schedule on page 3

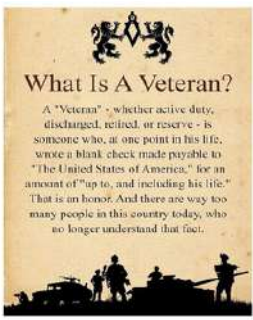


Future Events

2027

- **June 18 to 26**
 - **EVENT:** Hawaii Reunion Oahu & the Big Island Information on page 3



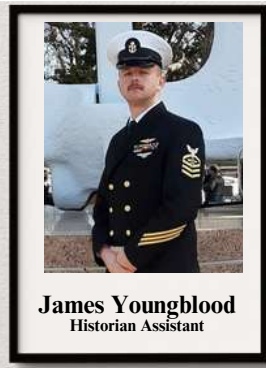
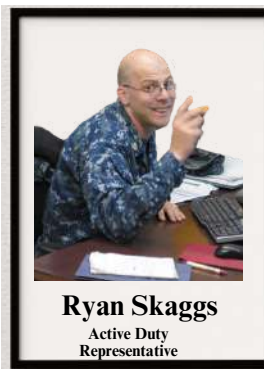
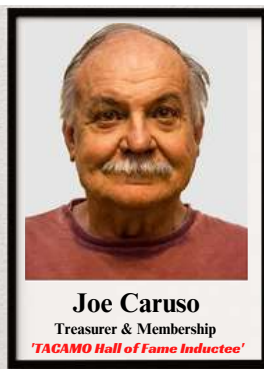
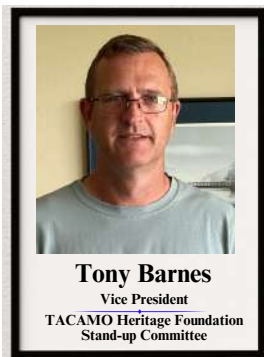






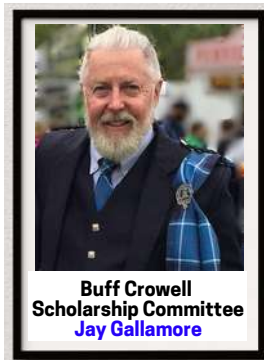


TCVA Board of Directors & Committee Members



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



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



**LETTER FROM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MIKE VOS**



2024 ... What an incredible year!

TCVA awarded two \$1000 scholarships to students from the Buff Crowell and the Vern and Colleen scholarship funds. Then, in the name of the Retired Chiefs Mess, John Jordan added another scholarship fund for 2025. We invite our membership to tell your student children and grandchildren of these education funding opportunities. The application deadline is January 31, 2024.

Another incredible opportunity came to us in the form of initial benefactors who offered donations of a magnitude that required TCVA to rethink the concept of a Foundation. Long considered, but lacking the funds and personnel, we deferred until NOW. TCVA is excited to announce “The TACAMO Foundation”. The standup committee and its first Board of Directors consist of Tony Barnes, Vern Lochausen, John Alger, George Davis, and Randy Mahoney. The puzzle pieces are coming together, and more details are explained in another article. Thanks to the benefactors and the Foundation’s Board of Directors for their diligent work to make The TACAMO Foundation a reality.

Our documentary project, “TACAMO Sea Stories” was launched in October with Episode 1 ... “Genesis.” A seven-minute video that explains how the Cuban Missile Crisis showed the need for a survivable communication platform ... that became TACAMO. Episode 2 is currently in production, explaining VLF technology and the challenges that Collins Aerospace overcame to develop a workable model and evolve it to the platform. I’d like to thank Collins Aerospace for sponsoring this project and for Ramon Purcell’s hard work as the video project’s director. We hope to educate people on the technology and personnel that make this part of the U.S.’s strategic defense viable and effective.

Then, TCVA’s presentation of our first “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Nora Tyson. This award will be presented occasionally to TACAMO sailors who had a distinguished impact on our community and the other communities they served. Congratulations to Nora for the many “glass ceilings” she broke through, with her diligence, persistence, and leadership to achieve the rank and responsibilities of Vice Admiral.

And, thanks to YOU ... for your continued interest and support of the TCVA and its projects. We make a difference through scholarships and awards, recognition excellence and sharing our history and culture with the world. BZ’s to all y’all. There’s more to come in 2025, so stay engaged with us. Together, we will “TAke Charge And Move Out”.

Stay strong and be safe,
Mike Vos

Happy Holidays!
MIKE VOS

Happy Holidays!
DENNIS WARREN

Happy Holidays!
JOHN BURGOON

Happy Holidays!
MIKE NERI

Happy Holidays!
CHERYL VOS

Happy Holidays!
RYAN SKAGGS

Happy Holidays!
JOAN ALGER

Happy Holidays!
JOE CARUSO

Happy Holidays!
JIM MEPELINK

Happy Holidays!
JAMES YOUNGBLOOD

Happy Holidays!
CATHY NERI

Happy Holidays!
VERN LOCHAUSEN

Happy Holidays!
JOHN ALGER

Happy Holidays!
DR RANDY MAHONEY

Happy Holidays!
TONY BARNES

Happy Holidays!
GEORGE DAVIS

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

One Together
TACAMO ASSOCIATION
VETERANS • INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCE

TF
THE TACAMO FOUNDATION



Navy came out on top in the 125th meeting of the Army-Navy Game on Saturday at Northwest Stadium in Landover, Maryland. With the win, the Midshipmen reclaimed the coveted Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for the 17th time.



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