

Vern Lochausen

President & TCVA Historian

Vern Lochausen became the TCVA President in 2012 when TSA was re-chartered. He is also the Association's historian. He had been a lifetime member of TSA since its start in 1997

During his 25 year career in Naval Aviation, Vern served in six operational flying and acquisition roles in the TACAMO community. He started as young EC-130 navigator in 1974 in VQ-4. Three follow-on TACAMO tours were in VQ-3 starting with its return to Barbers Point. His involvement in the E-6 dates from the very beginnings of the program in both Naval Air Systems Command, where he was the deputy program manager focused on bringing the Fleet expertise to the E-6 introduction. He commanded the first E-6 squadron in 1989-1990. When the E-6 squadrons were relocated to Tinker AFB, OK, Vern was the Navy headquarters leader who oversaw the moves, the construction of facilities, and the negotiated support with the US Air Force at Tinker. He was later the E-6 deputy wing commander, wing commander and task force commander in 1996-1998.

Joining Boeing in 1998 as product development manager for the E-6 program office in Seattle, he lead a research team in the development of a 10-year roadmap for the aircraft and which led to winning the contract for the first phase of the roadmap implementation, airborne Internet access, in 1999 as well as the glass cockpit sole source award to Boeing in the same year. He then returned to OKC as senior manager for aircraft field maintenance and modifications programs. In his portfolio, Vern had several programs supporting U. S. military contract maintenance and field modification programs world-wide with 550 employees at 23 sites. This included the Navy Tactical Air Warfare program that provided contract maintenance for the "Top Gun" and adversary programs. He led the successful bid to re-win this 7 year contract in 2000. Later Vern served as the Boeing program manager for the E-6 Mercury program. He had overall responsibility for the execution of all E-6 contracts including same glass cockpit and airborne Internet communications link mods that he helped start, as well as contractor logistics support, service life assessment studies and all new E-6 business pursuits. Vern's last Boeing role was as the Executive Director of Sustainment for the V-22 Osprey program during the aircraft's successful introduction to combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since his retirement from Boeing in 2011, Vern has worked as a consultant to the E-6 TACAMO Air Wing and the NAVAIR TACAMO Program Office.

Among his community service contributions following his Navy retirement, he was a city councilman in Choctaw, OK and led a road repairs bond campaign and the city/volunteer team that successfully developed and built the new Choctaw Library.

Vern holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and master's degree in management from the University of Mississippi and the University of Texas at Austin, respectively.

He is a private pilot and lives on a small horse farm in Rockbridge Baths, Virginia with his wife Colleen, who is an equine sculptor and competing equestrienne. They raise Spanish Arabian Sport horses.

In 2016, at the TACAMO Reunion in OKC, Vern Lochausen received the TACAMO Hall of Fame Award.