

Jim Meppelink

Vice President for Fleet Outreach & TACAMO Hall of Fame

Jim Meppelink has been involved with the US Navy's TACAMO Program as a Sailor and contractor from 1974 to present. Enlisting in July 1973, he completed Boot Camp Orlando and Advanced First Term Avionics at NAS Millington, TN before reporting to the VQ4 Shadows in 1974. During his 20-year Navy career, he completed two tours with the Shadows at NAS Patuxent River, MD 1974 – 1979 and 1990 – 1993, and one tour with the VQ3 Ironmen, NAS Barbers Point, HI 1983 - 1987. During these tours he worked as a ground Electronics Technician, Inflight Electronics Technician (IFT), AT Shop Chief, NATOPS IFT Evaluator, Maintenance Control Production Chief and Maintenance Department Master Chief. Jim was also assigned as the Naval Liaison Officer, Rockwell International, Shreveport, LA from 1987 – 1990 where he led the effort to cross-deck the Mission Avionics Suite from the EC-130Q Hercules to the new E-6A Mercury aircraft. In addition to his TACAMO experience, Jim served with the Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels), Pensacola, FL as an Electronics Technician from 1980 – 1983.

After retiring from the Navy in 1993, Jim was hired by Rockwell International as a Mission Avionics Systems (MAS) Field Service Engineer, supporting Commander Strategic Communications Wing ONE and all TACAMO tenant commands at Tinker AFB, OK. In this capacity he assisted with E-6 MAS maintenance planning/execution, depot repairs, aircraft modifications and personnel training, as well as providing logistics support to the Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) Contracting Officer Representative (COR). Significant aircraft modifications directly supported include fielding of the VLF High Power Transmit Set (HPTS), ABNCP transition to the E-6B aircraft, E-6B MDS/ADWS upgrade, VLF Transmit/Receive Replacement Terminals, E-6B Block I/II installations and the HPTS Modernization Program. Jim is currently a Principal Field Service Engineer for Collins Aerospace and continues to support the TACAMO commands at Tinker AFB.

Jim and his wife Annette currently reside in Newalla, OK. They have been blessed with three children, and their greatest joy, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Jim holds a bachelor's degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle University, Daytona Beach, FL. He was inducted into the TCVA Hall of Fame in 2014 and joined the TCVA Board of Directors in 2021.