

TACAMO Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented by TACAMO Community Veterans Association



Vern Lochausen

TCVA Announces Captain Vern Lochausen as Recipient of the TACAMO Lifetime Achievement Award

2027 Award Presentation

Date: June 16, 2027

Location: Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, Patuxent River, Maryland

The TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) is proud to announce that Captain Vern Lochausen, U.S. Navy (Retired), has been selected as the second recipient of the prestigious TACAMO Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Association.

The TCVA Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals whose extraordinary service, leadership, and contributions have left a lasting impact on the TACAMO mission, the Navy, and our nation. Captain Lochausen's five decades of service embody the very spirit of this award. The Lifetime Achievement Award is reserved for those whose influence extends far beyond their military careers and whose dedication continues to benefit the TACAMO community for generations to come.

Captain Lochausen's distinguished career spans more than five decades of leadership in military service, aerospace and communications innovation, historical preservation, and veteran advocacy. His leadership as the first E-6A Mercury Squadron Commander ensured a safe and unprecedented no-stand-down transition from a turboprop to jet aircraft in just 18 months. As TACAMO readiness officer at Commander Naval Air Force Pacific, his oversight and empowerment of others ensured the relocation and standup of all TACAMO units from previous bases to NAS OKC, aboard Tinker AFB, OK. As Commander of Strategic Communications Wing ONE and Task Force 124, he led one of the Navy's most critical strategic communications organizations, overseeing more than 1,500 personnel and 20 aircraft supporting the nation's strategic deterrence mission. During his tour, the WING won its first OMAHA trophy for Operational Excellence during Strategic Command worldwide exercises, setting the stage for others to follow.

Following his retirement from active duty, Captain Lochausen continued his service to the nation through senior civilian leadership positions in the aerospace industry, including key roles supporting the E-6 Mercury program, leading to the first airborne internet connection and fully digital flight control displays and other strategic aviation initiatives. His efforts helped shape the future of TACAMO aircraft modernization and sustainment.

As an independent consultant to the Wing and TACAMO Program Office in Naval Air Systems Command, Vern coauthored the 10-year technology roadmap that has become a reality in the latest E-6B configuration. With the advent of the Navy's decision to return to the Lockheed C-130 as the TACAMO Mission aircraft, Vern's extensive knowledge of the TACAMO EC-130 operations has been shared in countless lessons learned analyses and tailored briefings. Further, his frank communications with his connections in the aerospace industry were leveraged by NAVAIR leaders to enhance readiness underwriting for the now aging E-6B.



Within the TACAMO community, Captain Lochausen's legacy is unmatched. As a former TCVA President, President Emeritus, Historian, Hall of Fame advocate, author, mentor, and preservationist, he has devoted countless hours to documenting TACAMO history, honoring those who served, preserving artifacts, establishing memorials, supporting scholarships, and ensuring that the stories of TACAMO Sailors are never forgotten. His vision and leadership helped transform TCVA into a thriving organization dedicated to fellowship, heritage, education, and service.

Captain Lochausen also played a key role in developing the framework that led to the establishment of the TACAMO Foundation and continues to serve as its Historian, helping preserve the legacy of one of the Navy's most unique and vital missions.

"CAPT Vern Lochausen's lifelong commitment to the TACAMO mission has left an enduring mark on our community through his exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and steadfast service. His vision has not only strengthened TACAMO's operational legacy but has also ensured that its history, traditions, and the accomplishments of generations of Sailors will be preserved for those who follow. Vern's tireless efforts to build and support the TACAMO Community Veterans Association and the TACAMO Foundation reflect a commitment to our mission that extends far beyond his time in uniform. On behalf of the entire TACAMO community, we thank Vern for his work in support of TACAMO Sailors, past and present, and our critically important mission." said Commodore Dave Gardner, CAPT USN SCW-1.

"When we talk about the history of TACAMO, we are really talking about the story of people who dedicated their lives to a mission bigger than themselves. Vern Lochausen is one of those giants. His leadership during the stand-up of STRATCOMWING ONE and the transition to the E-6A was foundational, setting a standard of excellence that continues to shape our community today. He didn't just build a capability; he forged a legacy of courage and dedication that inspires our Sailors and leaders who carry on this vital strategic mission." CAPT Roger "Raji" Davis, program manager for the Navy's Airborne Strategic Command, Control and Communications Program Office (PMA-271).

"Vern Lochausen represents the very best of TACAMO," said TCVA leadership. "His leadership, vision, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to preserving our heritage have touched every generation of TACAMO Sailors. His contributions to our community, both in and out of uniform, make him exceptionally deserving of the TACAMO Lifetime Achievement Award."

Through his service as a Naval Flight Officer, squadron leader, Wing Commander, aerospace executive, PMA-271 Consultant, TACAMO historian, community leader, and advocate for veterans, Captain Lochausen has demonstrated a lifetime of dedication to service above self. His impact will continue to inspire future generations of TACAMO professionals for years to come.

The TACAMO Community Veterans Association proudly recognizes Captain Vern Lochausen as a recipient of the TACAMO Lifetime Achievement Award and thanks him for a lifetime of extraordinary service to the Navy, the TACAMO mission, and our nation.

About the TACAMO Lifetime Achievement Award

The TCVA Lifetime Achievement Award is the Association's highest honor, recognizing individuals whose exceptional leadership, service, and lifelong contributions have strengthened the TACAMO mission, preserved its heritage, and inspired generations of TACAMO professionals.