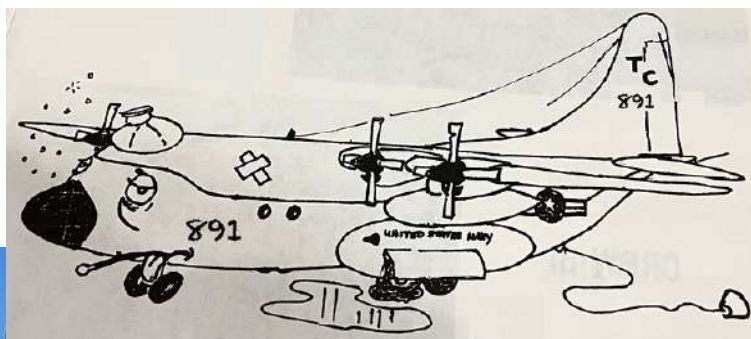




TCVA Newsletter Got PLE'D due to 891's Demise



Fare Winds 151891

Old TACAMO's poster child has always been BUNO 151891's JATO takeoff with Ron Carlson at the controls. 891 is arguably, (hardly) the most significant C-130 in history. Here is a quick resume:

- First C-130 to circumnavigate the planet
- One of the first four strategic communications platforms in history
- Reliable TACAMO warbird
- Pioneer of EMP (Electro-Magnetic Pulse) hardening
- "Test-bed" for several TACAMO variants
- Fat Albert for the Blue Angels
- Museum piece at the National Naval Aviation Museum

A few weeks ago, TCVA discovered that 891 will be "scrapped" starting in November 2022. With the help of the Pima Air Museum in Tucson, we did our level best to save 151891 from becoming beer cans. The Pima Air Museum offered to move the nose section from Pensacola to Tucson and place it on display in their museum. Unfortunately, the contracts had been signed, the scrapper owned the airplane, and could not release it. Going to DEFCON 1, TCVA decided to make a documentary film about 891 and her three sisters, 151888, 889 and 890, "The Four G Sisters". We engaged the services of Ramon Purcell, of Boneyard Safari, who made the Crew 4 Memorial video, to direct and video it. Several TCVA Board members, known as Team 891, met in Pensacola to begin production. Team 891 met at the museum and

brought in a few TACAMO Hall of Famers to be interviewed in 891 before it goes over "The JATO Bridge". Wally Goss recalled those heady mid '60s days of the "Roll-on, Roll-off" modules and the efforts to prove TACAMO's technical viability. John "Irish" Keilty and Gary Breeden recollected their 1,500+ hours on 891 when it was ASW's TACAMO test and development platform. Coach Warren also interviewed Mike Davidson, Mike Neri, and Bill Wheatley, who served on 891 in VQ-4 and then again on 891 when it was the Blue Angels' Fat Albert. More interviews are in the works. This project is to memorialize the only Lockheed C-130G models made exclusively to be that "survivable link" to our deployed nuclear submarines, the essence of our strategic defense. More importantly, it is a testament to the Sailors who made that mission possible.

Your Story:

We encourage you to share your memories about "The Four G Sisters" by emailing your stories to

- tacamocommunity@gmail.com

- post a story on

www.facebook.com/groups/tacamo151891/

The goal is to debut the documentary at next year's reunion. TCVA will be raising funds soon to help support the documentary.

If we couldn't save the plane, or even part of it,
we can preserve its legacy.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Association is to provide fraternal, social and recreational activities for the members and guests and encourage and support the preservation of the history of TACAMO.

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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thanks to ALL

After three years of waiting to have a TACAMO reunion, I'm pleased to report that the 2022 reunion in Pax River, MD was a terrific success.

I'm going to do my best to thank all of the people who made it such a memorable event, and keep it to one page.

The Patuxent River Naval Aviation Museum - for being the host of our museum exhibit and its grand opening, and the all-day event of the three years of Hall of Fame inductions. Special BZs go out to Scott Gray, Pete Butt, Dan and Jane Macone and Pam Bone who made putting the museum exhibit together fun and interesting.

VFW Post 2632 - for hosting our "Meet-&-Greet" and the Sunday picnic. Special BZs go out to Tracy Green and Greg Veit.

Katy, Trish and Trey Crowell - for their sharing of Buff's memory and the dedication of the TCVA Scholarship Program and "Excellence in Service" awards, where 100% of the proceeds go to the fund. Thanks to the generous donations from George and Ramona Davis, Jim and Annette Meppelink and Cheryl and Mike Vos.

Chris Rhodes - for stepping in and running the "Steve Hickle TACAMO Golf Classic" when Greg Veit had to take care of a pressing family issue.

Kevin McGowan - for representing our co-sponsor, Lockheed Martin at our events.

Carlo Rossi - for representing our co-sponsor, Collins Aerospace at our events.

The TCVA Board of Directors - for their tireless teamwork that pulled the whole weekend together.

And to you, our membership - who sacrificed your time and treasure to attend these events and celebrate our common experience and the community that is TACAMO.

On a personal note, Cheryl and I want to thank our fellow Board members for the kind recognition at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. We are both humbled by the sentiment expressed by our shipmates. We are grateful for being a part of such a terrific team that works to bring and keep our community together.

Aloha and Mahalo nui,
Mike Vos

Buff Scholarship & Award for Excellence in Service

Buff Crowell Scholarship Fund

William "Buff" Crowell II, 1956 - 2021



Buff had a 20 year TACAMO career as a Naval Officer/pilot, Mission Commander, IP, & NATOPS. He completed assignments in VQ-3 & VQ-4, then retired after 20 years of service. After retirement Buff continued to support TACAMO in many ways as a 20+ years as a contractor and a first to volunteer, then ask questions later. Because he held a deep admiration for TACAMO Sailors and their service, Buff assisted in the forming of the TACAMO Survivors/TACAMO Community Veterans Association.

More Scholarship information coming soon!

TACAMO Joe on Liberty T-shirts



100% of the proceeds go to the Buff Crowell Scholarship Fund due to generous donations from George Davis, Mike & Cheryl Vos, Jim Meppelink & TCVA.

Why White? This is the original shirt Buff designed and sold at a reunion many years ago. So, to stay with a Buff tradition, TCVA choose to keep the same design for the reunion.

Want one? Donate \$25 or more to the Buff Crowell Scholarship Fund and TCVA will send you a FREE TACAMO Joe on Liberty t-shirt

Link? tacamo.org/product-page/tacamo-joe-on-liberty

Buff Crowell Scholarship Fund grows to over \$5,600

Your contributions are appreciated!

To donate go to tacamo.org/scholarship or use the QR Code



Award for Excellence in Service in honor of William "Buff" Crowell III

The Award of Excellence is to honor of LCDR William "Buff" Crowell III USN (Ret.), who passed April 2021.

Buff supported the TACAMO Community as an active duty Naval Officer and as a defense contractor. He developed a special admiration throughout his careers for the Navy's Chief Petty Officers, especially those of his beloved TACAMO Community.

Naval careers are recognized in many tangible ways including command, promotions, advancements, awards, tours and degrees, but how do we acknowledge a career like Buff's? Although he departed active duty in 1994, he continued to give his heart, soul and personal resources to the TACAMO community. Buff served the TACAMO mission in various roles over the years, but his greatest accomplishment - his **excellence in service** - was keeping the TACAMO community connected personally and professionally. He spent many hours reaching out to Shipmates in the Wardroom, the Chiefs' Mess, deck-plate Sailors, and most importantly, their families for over twenty-seven years. He sent special emails on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, the CPO's Birthday; and congratulatory messages for advancements and promotions.

The purpose of the **Award of Excellence in Service** is to honor William L. "Buff" Crowell II for the memorable differences he made in so many lives. His positive nature and passion for the Navy and Sailors inspired us to be our best, and to remain determined to keep moving forward when faced with adversities. He helped open eyes and paths for ways to contribute to our community and Shipmates. Recipients of Buff's **Award of Excellence in Service** recipients demonstrate Buff's inspiration to community service that makes a difference in other lives as well as their own.

Active Duty TACAMO



Congratulations to TACAMO's newest Chiefs!



2022 TACAMO Reunion Photos

Wednesday: Active Duty Meet & Greet at VFW Post 2632

TCVA was pleased to gather with many active duty living in Pax River to share stories and adventures.

PMA 271 CAPT Adam Scott, TACAMO program manager and his wife Charlotte also joined us. Captain Scott is a TACAMO Sailor. He served as crew on E-6B ABNCPs & led an E-6B detachment in Iraq that provided convoy comms.

Much thanks to TACAMO Veterans: Tracy Green & Greg Viet for allowing us to host the gathering.



Thursday: Early Bird Meet & Greet



Many gathered to register for the reunion, along with catching-up with each other. "The Early Bird Meet & Greet is held at every reunion for everyone to get reacquainted and make plans to get together when the reunion schedule allows. TCVA builds in free time so everyone can socialize, tour the area, and time to rest before the next event." TCVA builds in free time for everyone to socialize, tour the area, and time to rest before the next event.



TCVA Extends a Huge Thanks to the Co-sponsors of the 2022 TACAMO Reunion



2022 TACAMO EXHIBIT OPENING



Patuxent River TACAMO Gallery Ribbon Cutting

Top: (L) Opening food and drink layout, (R): Patuxent River Naval Air Museum's Executive Director Scott Gray
Middle (L) PMA 271 CAPT Scott, (R) Opening attendees **Bottom** (L to R): John Alger, Dennis Warren (at podium), Mike Vos, CAPT Scott, Cheryl Vos, Scott Gray, Vern Lochausen, Dan & Jane Macone, Pam Bone, John Burgoon

2022 TACAMO EXHIBIT OPENING

Article in NAVAIR PEOA PMA271 Team News TACAMO exhibit ribbon cutting

Last Friday, the PAX Museum hosted a ribbon cutting for its newest exhibit: TACAMO Strategic Communications. The event was a part of the TACAMO Community Veteran's Association (TCVA) Reunion weekend which included a number of gatherings and social activities for the TCVA members, TACAMO veterans, industry partners and local community. CAPT Scott and Vern Lochausen were among the group who cut the ribbon signaling the exhibits official opening.

Make sure your next visit to the PAX Museum includes a stop in the TACAMO exhibit, located in bldg. B.

TCVA is a veteran association consisting of TACAMO active duty, veterans, government civilians, industry partners and their families. The TCVA is a not-for-profit (501c3) organization, originally established in 1997 as TACAMO Survivors Association, also known as TSA. In 2012, the association's name was changed. TCVA's mission is to build a community to share common experiences at reunions, share the history of TACAMO, collect artifacts and memorabilia for display in museums to educate the public and celebrate the service and sacrifice of our members. Source: www.tacamo.org

CAPT Scott and Vern Lochausen join TACAMO Community Veteran's Association (TCVA) members to cut the ribbon for the new TACAMO exhibit at PAX Museum on 2 SEP.

The backstory according to Vern Lochausen: In 2014 and 2015, I was a Board of Directors member at the museum. The focus then was finishing the new building and fundraising. At a lunch meeting, Pete Butt (then museum Vice President) and I discussed the possibility of a TACAMO exhibit. We kept the idea alive and began collecting donations from TACAMO veterans, and working with Dan, Jane, and Pam on adding those to the museum collections. Nearly 100 veterans donated approximately 400 artifacts. Seven years after the lunch meeting, the TACAMO Exhibit is open! We are eternally grateful to the donors and the Board and Staff of the PAX Museum. The artifacts were cataloged by museum volunteers. Mike and Cheryl Vos made six trips from their home in Hawaii and worked over 400 hours creating displays, cases, and artifact QR codes. TCVA relocated a trailer load of TACAMO aircraft artifacts from a C-130 scrap yard in Arizona – some of which are on display. Storyboards were developed by volunteer Phill Allen with help from myself.

PAX Museum's newest exhibit: TACAMO Strategic Communications. Photos courtesy Vern Lochausen



2022 TACAMO Reunion Photos

Friday: Golf Outing



This years golf outing "Steve Hickle Memorial - TACAMO Golf Classic" was organized by Greg Viet & run by Chris Rhodes, both TACAMO Veterans from Pax River. Team Winning Team: John Alger, JR Mathers, Charles Baker & Bill Lyman

Friday: TACAMO Gallery Ribbon cutting



2022 Honorary TACAMO Sailors PRNAM exhibit team lead: Pete Butt & Collections Management Team: Dan & Jane Macone, Pam Bone, and TACAMO History & Graphic Artist: Phill Allen were honored by becoming Honorary TACAMO Sailors



TACAMO Gallery Photos



Order Your
Christmas Gifts Now



Order Your
Christmas Gifts Now



TACAMO Community,

As you may or may not know, a few years ago the Paraloft changed how we do our products. Without getting into a long and possibly complicated explanation, the basics are simple. Previously, we ordered a bunch of merchandise and then hoped all of you order it. Holding an inventory is a rather costly way of doing business. Now, you can place an order (there are a few exceptions) and our vendor, Printful, prints or embroiders the item(s) and ships your order to you. Sometimes there are items that are out of TCVA's control.



You've undoubtedly heard about supply chain issues resulting from the pandemic. They are real and they are affecting us. As a result, sometimes what you order is not available in your desired size or color. When this happens, your order goes into a hold status and we will notify you to find out how you wish to proceed. We also get informed when you ordered something that is only available to be fulfilled overseas. This incurs additional shipping costs, which are not calculated in your original order. Again, we will contact you to ask if you still want that item at the additional shipping cost.



Earlier, I mentioned that there are exceptions. If you were at the reunion, you had the opportunity to purchase items from past inventory. There are more!!! These items are limited to existing stock, some only have 1 of! Get them while you can – when they are gone, they are gone! Link below



I don't want to try to guess what you all want, so if you want to see something in the Paraloft, send me an email with the subject line PARALOFT to mach1@carolina.rr.com

Thanks, John Alger

• tacamo.org/paraloft

• tacamo.org/sale-items





TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductions



**Bill "Buff"
Crowell's
Family**

**Kermit
Ayres**

**Dwight "Shep"
Shepherd**

**Scott Ely's
Family**



**John
"Fish"
Pohl**



Peg Klein



**Jay McCormick's
Family**



**Michael
Camodeo**



Roger Kilgore



**Bill
Okoniewski**



Loren Linde



Dorsey & Deb Martin



Jay Gallamore



**Don
Hutcherson**

TACAMO Day at Pax Museum



TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductees

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2021	1. [Name]
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Buff's Celebration of Life



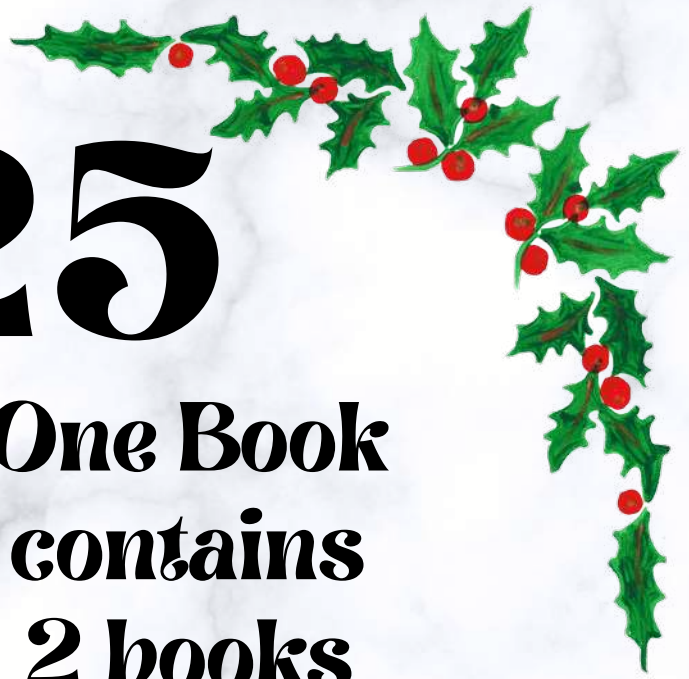
Below: TCVA Dedicated the Solomons Island Pavilion to Buff where he held all the reunion gatherings. The plaque was hung and left in the pavilion



Right: This wood plaque was presented to Buff's wife, Katy, and children, Trey & Trish.

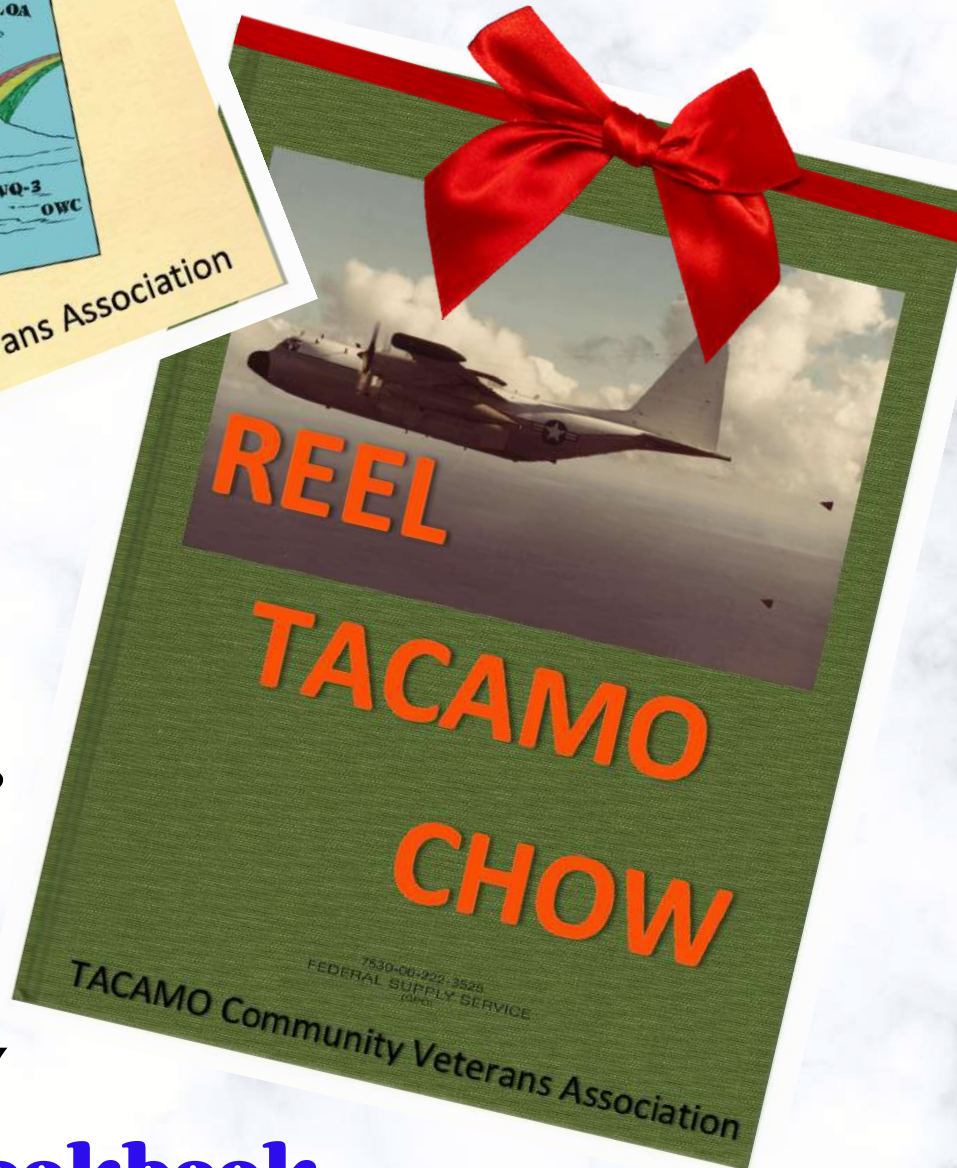
They donated it to TCVA to be hung in the TACAMO Exhibit in the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum.





\$25

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contains
2 books**



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tacamo.org/cookbook

TCVA Board of Directors Recognition



Joe Caruso, TCVA Treasurer, the longest served in TACAMO. Congrats, Joe on your 54 Years!!



Mike Vos "Founder, wise Leader, all-talented, designer, builder, and dedicated Executive Director

Cheryl "The Chief" Vos Heart, soul, & getting things done for the TCVA mission. In grateful appreciation of your dedication.



Missing from photo: Mike Neri

2022 TACAMO Picnic @ VFW Post 2632



Blast From the PAST

The Sunday Star-Bulletin & Advertiser Honolulu, June 20, 1982 A-7

Air unit to link headquarters with Trident sub

By Jim Borg
Advertiser Military Writer

Less than a year ago, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3 was an obscure naval air unit based in Agana, Guam, which the personnel had dubbed "Sleepy Hollow." It had two planes, one used for training.

Today, the squadron, based at Barbers Point Naval Air Station, has grown dramatically and is due to become the key communications link between the national military command and the USS Ohio, the first Trident submarine.

If the president were to order the Trident to fire its long-range strategic missiles, his instructions most likely would be relayed through one of the squadron's C-130 Hercules aircraft, specially equipped with very low frequency (VLF) radio to reach the sub underwater.

To do this, according to published reports, the planes trail an antenna six miles long on a "random walk" flight plan over the ocean to avoid interception. Submarines receive these messages, relayed from shore stations, through a towed antenna while cruising slowly in an assigned patrol area.

Based in Hawaii since August, VQ-3, as the squadron is called, now has five planes, eight "operationally ready" crews, 80 officers and 350 enlisted personnel — up from 25 officers and 250 sailors less than a year ago.

"The first Trident has put to sea and will enter the Pacific within the next 45 days," Cmdr. W. Joseph Gerard said in a speech to the squadron Thursday. "Because of this, within the next 15 months, we must grow to over 100 officers, 500 men and women, seven operational aircraft, and, most significantly, we must form 18 operationally ready crews."

Referring to the Trident communications role as "an uncharted and exciting course," Gerard said VQ-3's planes now are available for flight an average of 66 percent of the time, but that a recently "streamlined" flow of spare parts should improve that.

By 1983, VQ-3 is expected to have at least one Hercules in the air 24 hours a day.

The squadron's former executive officer, Gerard spoke at a change of command ceremony Thursday at which he relieved Cmdr. James L. Bailey.

Until more Tridents arrive, the Ohio, to be homeported in Bangor, Wash., will be the only ballistic missile submarine in the Pacific.

The last of the Polaris missile subs was converted to a ship-killer last year, and the fleet of Poseidon ballistic submarines is assigned to the Atlantic Fleet, where they are linked with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 4, VQ-3's sister squadron, based at Patuxent River, Md.

As a strategic submarine, unlike the ship-killing kind, the Ohio is assumed to carry nuclear-tipped missiles aimed at targets in the Soviet Union. Because they hide underwater,

submarines are considered the least vulnerable leg of the strategic "triad," the others being land-based ICBMs and B-52 bombers.

The tricky part is talking to them. Except for satellite messages, which require a submarine to come to periscope depth, the only way to contact the submarine at sea is by low-frequency broadcasts that penetrate water.

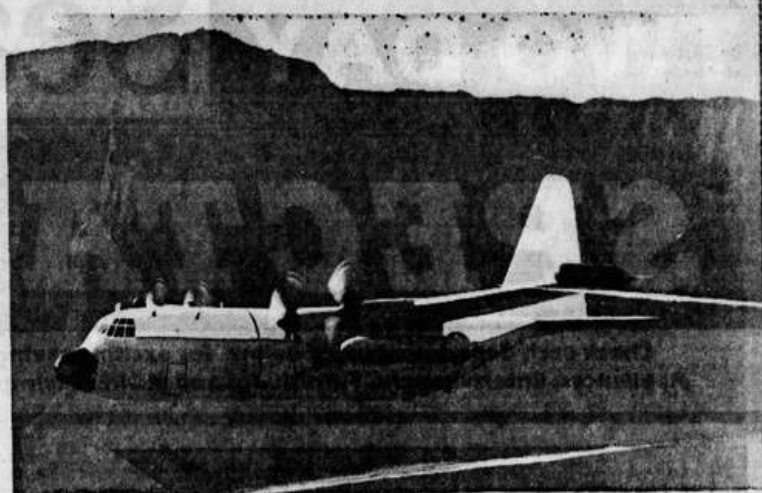
It was in 1962 that the Navy began looking into placing VLF radio communications aboard planes. The program was given the name Tacamo, for its inaugural order, "Take charge and move out."

VQ-3 was established on Guam in 1968.

With the phasing out of older strategic submarines in the Pacific, VQ-3's Tacamo role dwindled, but was revived with the deployment of the Trident.

One disadvantage of the Tacamo system, some analysts say, is that the submarine's towed antenna leaves it susceptible to detection. As alternatives, the Navy wants to try laser-beam transmissions from satellites and extremely low frequency (ELF) broadcasts from antenna farms in Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

A modified C-130 Hercules, part of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3 at Barbers Point, is equipped with special very low frequency radio that allows it to relay messages to submarines, including the Trident.



Bremerton Sun Wednesday, May 4, 1983 Page 9

Boeing wins \$1.6 billion pact for Navy communications jet

SEATTLE (AP) — The Navy has awarded Boeing Aerospace Co. a contract that could be worth \$1.6 billion for an airborne communications system, the company said Tuesday.

The communications plane, known as the E-6, would relay orders for launching missiles from Trident submarines in a nuclear war, company spokesman Don Brannon said.

The E-6 will use the Boeing 707 airframe, produced at Renton, and continue the line now used to produce AWACS, Airborne Warning and Control System, planes, Brannon said.

A total of \$34 million has been obligated for the E-6, Brannon said. Lead funds for the first plane are requested in the 1984 budget.

The Navy wants 15 E-6 systems by 1991, which will make the contract worth \$1.6 billion, Brannon said. In addition to the aircraft, Boeing will provide crew training and system support.

The Navy requested competitive bids last summer. Brannon said Lockheed "came up with an alternate plan and the Navy didn't want to go that route."

Because there were no other bids, Boeing figured the contract into its planning. Thus there will be no change in the projection of an employment reduction of 8,900 jobs this year, Brannon said. The E-6 program will employ about 1,300 at it peak in 1985. Those workers already are at Boeing.

"It'll be one of the major programs that the Boeing Aerospace Co. will have over the next decade," Brannon said. "It will have an immediate affect on stabilizing the work force. It is of significance."

Each E-6 will use four new fuel-efficient General Electric-Snecma engines. The engines also are being used in a new "stretch" version of the 737 passenger jetliner and in KC-135 tankers, Brannon said.

Currently there are two systems used to communicate with submarines. The primary system is land-based and vulnerable to nuclear attack. The current airborne system, called the

Take Charge and Move Out or TACAMO mission, uses C-130 turboprop planes. The E-6 system will be equipped similar to the TACAMO system.

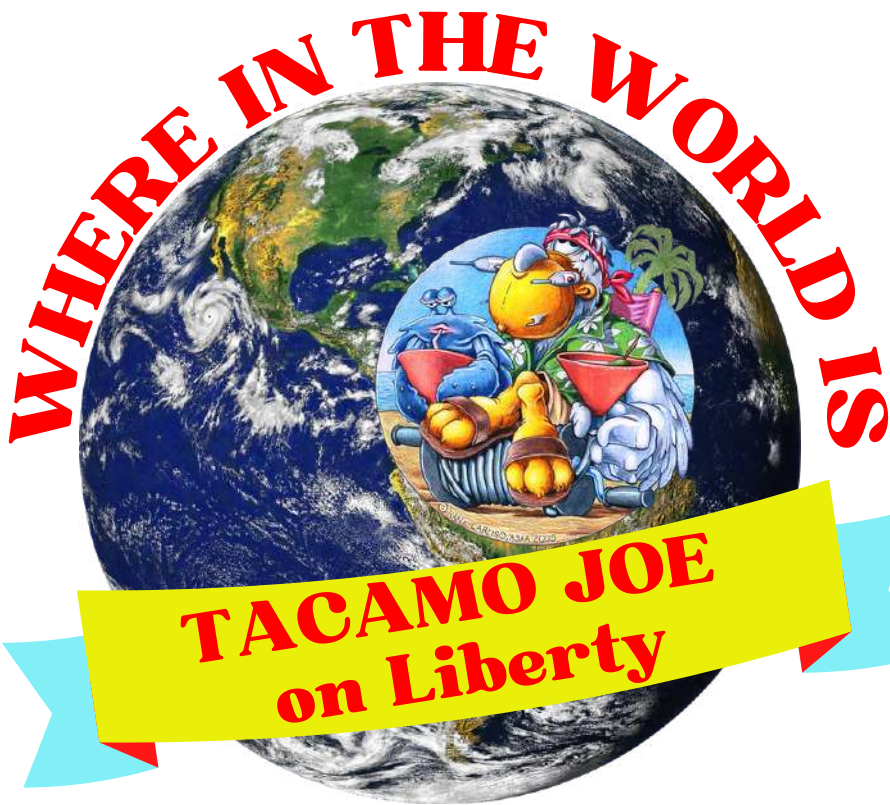
Trident submarines have greater range than earlier classes of nuclear subs and the E-6 system is needed to stretch the range of the communications system to match that, Brannon said.



Don't take it so hard, Chief

891 Documentary Filming





Take
"TACAMO Joe on Liberty"
On the Road with you!!!

*Share
Your
Photos*

Wear your
"TACAMO JOE on Liberty"
t-shirt, then share photos of you
adventure, outing, road-trip with TCVA!

Please include photos, names & location

- Email tacamocommunity@gmail.com
- Post on FB
- #tacamojoe



TACAMO Joe on Liberty was spotted in a remote dive site, Misool eco resort in Raja Ampat, Indonesia. Shared by Meg & Randy Keith, both former TACAMO



**All \$\$ goes to
Buff Scholarship
Fund**

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Choose VA

VA Health Care Eligibility Myth Busters

MYTH: I didn't serve in combat and I wasn't injured during my military service, so I won't be eligible for VA health care.

FACT: You don't have to be a combat Veteran, or have been injured during your military service, to be eligible for VA health care. This is why we encourage all Veterans to apply for VA health care.



MYTH: I already have my own health insurance and a community provider, so there's no reason for me to apply for VA health care.

FACT: You don't have to give up your health insurance or current providers when you apply for VA health care. VA and community providers frequently work together to ensure a Veteran's health and wellbeing. This is called Co-Managed Care. VA health care can also provide an important safety net later in life. Why not apply now, so you don't have to worry about it later?



MYTH: I'm a woman, and the VA is for men. They won't "get" me.

FACT: Many women who have served don't self-identify as a Veteran. If you served, you are a Veteran. And the VA is here to serve you, with a Women Veterans Health Program designed to meet your unique needs, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health.

MYTH: I don't need VA health care—I'm healthy and I feel fine.

FACT: You don't have to be sick, been injured during military service or have a chronic condition to apply for VA health care. In addition to providing a full range of health care services, the VA specializes in providing the primary care that is important for any age. **In the future, should you have an accident, develop a condition or suffer something debilitating, like a stroke, you and your family will have peace of mind knowing that you are already enrolled for VA health care.**

MYTH: There are other Veterans out there who need help more than I do. I should leave my spot open for them.

FACT: You can actually benefit your fellow Veterans by using VA health care. An increase in the number of Veterans served will result in increased funding for important VA programs and services that benefit all Veterans.



Choose VA: Apply Today!
Scan with a QR Code
Reader to learn more.

You can also visit va.gov or call 1-855-976-9618.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Maryland Health Care System

Other News



TACAMO Memorial Visitors
Located in the Honolulu, Hawaii in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl. In 2017, TCVA dedicated the monument honoring the TACAMO fallen and remembering TACAMOPAC Crew 4 who perished off of Wake Island, June 21, 1977.

Etched on Memorial:

DEDICATED TO ALL WHO SERVED THE TACAMO MISSION

In memory of VQ-3 TACAMO Crew 4 who perished off the coast of Wake Island during a TACAMOPAC mission in EC-130Q BUNO 156176 at 2230 hours local on June 21, 1977

Photo: Neil Jordan

tacamo.org/memorial

Submit your TACAMO Career

If you would like to be featured in our Trailing Wire newsletter, please submit your career information by answering the following questions. Then, send your Questions & Answers to tacamcommunity@gmail.com

- What influenced your decision to join the military?
- What was your service career path?
- Of the medals, awards, and qualification badges or devices you received, what is the most meaningful to you? Why?
- Did you participate in combat operations? If so, could you describe those which were significant to you?
- Of the TACAMO squadrons you were assigned to, which one evokes the fondest memories? Why?
- What particular memory stands out from your entire service career? Why?
- Which individual from your TACAMO service stands out as the one who had the biggest impact on you? Why?
- How has military service influenced the way you have approached your life and career?
- In what ways has TCVA helped you maintain a bond with your service and those you served with?



Track your claim:
<https://www.va.gov/resources/how-to-check-your-va-claim-appeal-or-decision-review-status-online/>

We would appreciate anyone who has found success in the claims process to share their success story and the evidence they presented to get there. Please send an email or post your story on our Facebook page. Together, we will find the key that unlocks this door.

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

TCVA is here to support you in this challenge. 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 tacamcommunity@gmail.com to request the evidence package to support your claim.

TCVA is looking for License Plates for the next newsletter
Email photos to:
tacamcommunity@gmail.com



Docents Needed

Patuxent River Naval Air Museum (PRNAM) is looking for docents. Backgrounds in any and all aspects of Naval and TACAMO aviation, engineering are a plus!!! Interested, click on the link and fill out the form <https://www.tacamo.org/docents-pax>





Life is full of challenges and rewards. Everyday life events such as working, family relationships, and finances, can all be overwhelming at times. When you feel overwhelmed, remember that you are not alone. You do not have to go through life's challenges by yourself. It is okay to take a moment, reach out and ask for help.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) empowers Veterans to connect with resources you may need now to better respond to challenges you may face later. Veterans are driven and resilient, but everyone needs help sometimes. It is not always easy to ask for help, but there are people who want to listen.

If you are having a difficult time, VA encourages you to reach out for peer-to-peer support, clinical care, or counseling.

Finding Support

If you are looking for peer-to-peer support, clinical care, counseling or something else, you can reach out in the following ways:

- Call, text, or email a friend or family member to ask for support through a tough time. Veterans can find ways to get started on REACH OUT.
- Connect with a fellow Veteran to talk about what they are going through.
- Use these resources to find support through life challenges:
- VA Solid Start: Qualified Solid Start representatives will call Veterans three times in their first year of separation to walk through the benefits available to them.
- MyVA411: Veterans, their families, and caregivers can call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) to easily access information on VA benefits and services.
- Make the Connection: More than 600 Veterans and family members from across the country have shared their stories of strength and recovery. It only takes a few seconds to find a story to which Veterans can relate.
- SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services: This tool, which is confidential and anonymous, allows people to search by ZIP code for local treatment facilities that focus on substance use/addiction and/or mental health issues.
- Self-Check Assessment: People cope with stressful situations in different ways. This confidential, anonymous risk assessment can show if stress and depression are affecting Veterans.
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness can get free, confidential support through the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans. Call or chat online 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you know a Veteran who is in crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

If you find yourself in crisis, do not hesitate to reach out for immediate help. Emergency care is available by calling 911 or going to your nearest emergency department. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 and can be reached by calling 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1 if you are a Veteran) or chat online here or text 838255.

<https://www.va.gov/REACH/default.asp>

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
Community Veterans Association
Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary

TACAMO Community Veterans Association
PO Box 6126
Ocean View, HI 96736



TACAMO

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