

# Barry Coyle

## Former TSA President

### President Emeritus

Upon completion of initial flight training, LT(jg) Coyle reported to VQ-3 at NAS Agana, Guam in December 1970. He served in VQ-3 through June 1973 as First Lieutenant, Material Control Officer, and Schedules Officer. In the EC-130Q, he qualified as Navigator, Instructor Navigator, Aircraft Commander (AC) and Instructor Pilot (IP).

After a tour as an NROTC Instructor, LT Coyle returned to TACAMO at VQ-4, NAS Patuxent River, in October 1976, where he served through August 1979 as Avionics Division Officer, Flight Officer, and Safety/NATOPS Department Head. In the EC-130Q, he qualified as AC/MC, IP, and NATOPS Instructor for the Model Manager Squadron.

From August 1979 until June 1981, LCDR Coyle was assigned to the Systems Analysis Division (OP-96) on the staff of the CNO in the Pentagon. Among other duties, he was the Navy Study Director for the Airborne VLF Replacement Study, which ultimately recommended that the Navy procure the Boeing E-6A as the replacement for the aging EC-130G/Q aircraft. He prepared briefing materials and budget justification documents to support this recommendation and personally briefed the CNO, who made the final decision to buy the E-6A. He then worked in coordination with other officers on the SECNAV and NAVAIR staffs to initiate the acquisition process.

In September 1981, LCDR Coyle returned to VQ-3, now at NAS Barbers Pt., HI. He served first as Training Department Head where he developed and managed complex training plans that permitted the rapid and safe training of the large influx of personnel required for the squadron to assimilate 6 new EC-130Q aircraft required to stand-up to 100% airborne operations. He subsequently served as Operations Officer, developing and implementing the operational plans and schedules required to achieve 100% airborne operations ahead of schedule. In the EC-130Q, he qualified as AC/MC and IP.

After his promotion to CDR in April 1984, he served a brief tour on the staff of Commander, Patrol Wing 2. CDR Coyle returned to VQ-3 in August 1984, where he served as Executive Officer until November 1985, then as Commanding Officer until February 1987. During this time, VQ-3 maintained unbroken 100% airborne operations during some of the tensest years of the Cold War. VQ-3 became one of the Navy's most decorated squadrons in these years, earning a Navy Unit Commendation, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, 3 consecutive Battle 'E' awards and various other commendations and awards. CDR Coyle was the 1986 PACFLT winner of the James Bond Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership. During his command tour, CDR Coyle participated in many activities necessary for the community to transition to the E-6A aircraft. He was the USCINCPAC representative on the Site Survey Team that ultimately recommended a new Navy facility at Tinker AFB, OK as the home base for the E-6A community. VQ-3 was designated as the Fleet Introduction Team for the E-6A, and the squadron participated in a variety of activities with NAVFAC, NAVAIR, PMA-271, and Boeing to refine plans for delivery of the aircraft and construction of facilities at Tinker. CDR Coyle personally

developed the administrative command structure for the future E-6A TACAMO community, which included the Wing Commander plus two operational squadrons concept still in use.

After his VQ-3 command tour, CDR Coyle attended Naval War College and then served on the SACLANTREPEUR staff at NATO HQ in Brussels, BE. Upon promotion to CAPT in 1991, he was assigned as Director of Resources and Evaluation on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition). In this position he was responsible for program oversight and budgetary recommendations related to the E-6B program. During his final Navy tour as Commanding Officer, NATTC Millington, TN from 1993 – 1995, CAPT Coyle served as the TACAMO Community Representative on the 1994 Aviation Command Screen Board.

After retiring from the Navy in July 1995, and beginning a second career as a Dept of Defense support contractor, CAPT Coyle retained close ties to many members of the active and retired TACAMO community. He attended several reunions, then assisted with the organization of the TACAMO Survivors Association (TSA), serving as the first President of the Board of Directors, until its transition to the current TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA). He continues to support various community activities and attend reunions. He was inducted into the TCVA Hall of Fame, class of 2014.

CAPT Coyle retired from his second career in 2014 and currently resides happily in Wilmington, NC.