



TACAMO
Community Veterans Association



TACAMO Hall of Fame – 2023

Donald (Donny) Rachels – TACAMO Sailor/Industry Partner

Service

43+ Years TACAMO Service

- VQ-4 (80 – 83)
- VQ4 Replacement Training Dept (RTD) (83 – 86)
- VQ-4 (86 – 92)
- Fleet Replacement Squadron (VQ7) (92 – 95)
- VQ-4 (95 – 98)
- MTT, PMA Support (98 – 00)
- TITAN, CSCW1 N6 Support (00 – 05)
- DELEX E-6A Training (05 – 10)
- Rockwell Collins/Collins Aerospace (10 – Present)

Key Jobs

Active Duty

- Naval Aircrewmen - "old school RM"/ACS
- Mission Communications/Tactics Analyst
- RM Course/MAS Course Instructor (RTD/VQ7)
- Training Department/NATOPS Evaluator
- Tactics Dept/OPS Department LCPO

Contractor

- PMA Liaison for CNETT DET Tinker Trainers
- CSCW1 TRAT COM Development – SCAMP and Mobile MILSTAR Terminals
- E-6A Air Combat Developmental Training
- Sustainment and Support System (SASS) – Collins Lead FSE, CSCW1 Tinker AFB

Leadership/Contributions

As an ACS and Department Leading Chief

- Respected by peers and senior officers; unsurpassed system knowledge and communications expertise as related to the RM rating/ACS responsibilities.
- Recognized as a mentor to junior sailors, aspiring radiomen and junior officers.
- Key contributor in the EC-130 to E-6A transition; Naval Aircrewmen with 10,000+ combined flight hours.

As SASS Lead Field Service Engineer (FSE)

- Hand picked to lead initial installation/testing and development of standardized operating procedures for this E-6B mission critical facility.
- Created mission systems training materials, reviewed tech manuals and supervised training for cadre of new sailors.
- Coordinated/supervised every major SASS SW update to improve operator proficiency and to ensure compliance with CYBER security requirements.

Peer Recognition

- Former/Current Mission Commanders, Department Heads, COs and Commodores
- Collins Aerospace Leadership
- TACAMO Retired Chief's Mess
- TCVA BOD

