



## TACAMO Active Duty Crew Energizes, 2013 Reunion in Seattle

The Shadows of VQ-4 brought a MERC 'home' to Boeing Field as part of their scheduled ops stops during a deployment. When the crew arrived, fresh from a mission, and filed into the reunion reception being held atop the airport Double Tree Hotel, the reception was transformed. The quiet discussions of the 'good old days' suddenly became electrified by the enthusiasm generated between the Flight Engineers, Comm Crew, and Flight Deck crewmen, current and veteran, just talking TACAMO stuff. That happy interaction continued throughout the rest of the reunion. When the crew opened the jet on Sunday AM, the pairing of current and veteran TACAMO folks by position was something great to behold.



On Sunday evening at the TCVA banquet, the key note address delivered by Vern Lochausen (TACAMO historian) chronicled the E-6 from initial development right on through the current new stuff on the drawing boards for the jet. With the perspective of having served in NAVAIR during the development, then as the first Merc squadron CO and then later as the Commodore and later still Boeing E-6 program manager, Vern nailed the story and kept the crowd laughing and wondering what he was going to show next in his nearly 100 photos. It was a night to be there, learning, laughing, meeting new TACAMO folks and reuniting with 'old' buds.

The future of TACAMO, demonstrated to the veterans by the talent, spunk, and true professionalism by the Shadow Merc crew, was the highlight for many who attended. On the other hand, TCVA honored new Hall of Famers (page 4), and having some of them and their family members there reminded all of us that dedicated service, back then and today is not forgotten by those we serve with.

All of this is what reunions are all about. In the pages that follow, we think you will experience some of this and understand why the Board of Directors works so hard to set up TACAMO reunions.







Thank you for a wonderful evening banquet. You keep us connected over the years and break down the walls of time by creating such a nice event where great TACAMO people can come together.  
All the Best, Pam Valdez



Great weekend with shipmates new and old. Got to meet plank owners from VQ3 and VQ4 as well as the crews who are currently serving. Looking forward to Marietta, GA next year. Dale Hurt



TCVA Reunion Team, As you can imagine, last night was a pretty special evening for me and my family. The hall of fame recognition will always be cherished. Cheryl, you and Mike out did yourselves. You orchestrated this event for the past year and nailed the activities over the past week. Vern, your slide show covered ground that I heard bits and pieces of, but never in the context you presented. Millard, without your support, I would not have had a crack at E-6 Chief Engineer and program manager. Thank you, Paul Collins



I can't thank you guys enough for putting on another great reunion. I had a blast and am already looking forward to the next one. Trust me, your hard work and dedication towards making these events happens do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.  
Thanks again,  
Bill Reeter



GREAT reunion! It's going to be tough to top this one. Marie and I just loved it.  
Wally and Marie Goss



### 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.**

TACAMO Veterans Community Association (TCVA)

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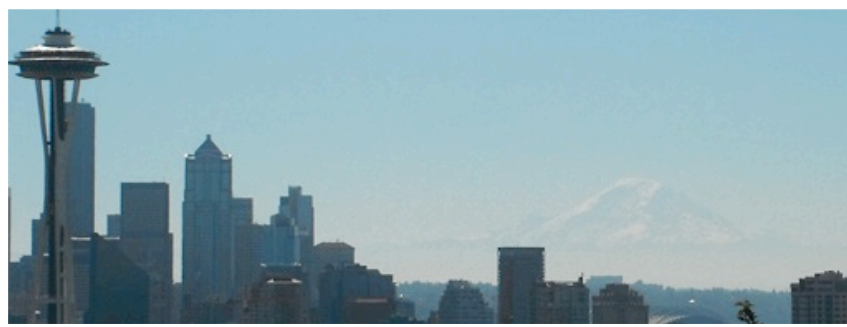
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## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Mike Vos



The TCVA's trip to the Emerald City (Seattle) was a huge success. The notorious "Great Northwest" gave us a break and showed its luster. Mt. Rainier stood tall in the distance and the Space Needle did the same, downtown.

Boeing's sponsorship toured us through the Renton Plant, where current 737's are under construction and our E-6's were built. They also shared with us their terrific "Museum of Flight". It was a perfect blend of aviation history and its future.

We were joined by VQ-4's Crew 6 who decided that their "liberty call" should be with us alumni. It was such a joy to see these young professionals who were shadows (pun intended) of who we were so many years ago. They shared the same spirit and sense of mission that makes me feel secure that our nation's defense and future of our youth is in good hands.

Attendees enjoy touring Snoqualmie Falls, Boehm's Chocolates & Chalet, lunch at the brewhouse and a special behind the scenes brew making tour on Thursday. Friday, after the tour and visit to Boeing plant and museum members enjoyed a Welcome gathering atop the DoubleTree. The next day, was filled with a morning tour of the city via Ride the Ducks and pool side pizza gathering. Sunday, over 100 attendees toured the E-6 in the morning. The afternoon was filled with fun in Tacoma then to bring the four days of fun to a close the TCVA banquet was held in the evening.

The Awards Banquet was MC'd by our own Pam Valdez (TACAMO's first female In-Flight Tech) and our keynote presentation was by our President, Vern Lochausen. We saluted our TACAMO Chiefs, recognized family members of two 2012 TACAMO Hall of Fame winners and inducted five members into the TACAMO Hall of Fame. A Silent Auction held during the banquet brought out the fun in all and it raised over \$1,500.

TCVA now looks forward to 2014 and Marietta, GA. and our memories of the Herc. Cheryl is assembling a crew, there, to lay the groundwork for another successful reunion. Details are forthcoming.

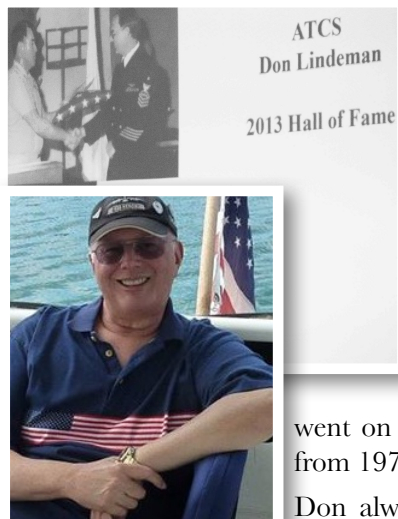
We also announced the reunion for 2016. Please prepare your budget for a "bucket list" trip to Barber's Point, Hawaii, where our theme will be, "Salute to TACAMO Spouses". Cheryl has begun researching the newly formed Pacific Aviation Museum at Barber's Point and locating hotels and attractions for this event on her visit in September.

Thanks to all who attended our Seattle reunion and the team, there, who made it such a success. TCVA is most glad to be a part of your lives and you, a part of ours.



# 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees

Presented by TCVA President, Vern Lochausen & Executive Director, Mike Vos  
at the 2013 Seattle Reunion Banquet



**Don Lindeman** - Don joined TACAMO in December 1967 when TACAMO was in its infancy as VR-1 at Pax River. He served in VR-21 from 1967 to 1971 and became a Plankowner of VQ-4 when the squadron was commissioned and served in VQ-4 until 1976. Don went on to service TACAMO again from 1977 to 1980 in VQ-3.

Don always had "lets get this show on the road attitude". His Technical knowledge contributed to the total success of the TACAMO mission. In the development of TACAMO from its earliest years and his establishment of the role of a 1st Tech were examples to all who followed him. These achievements are exceeded only by his constant positive attitude, warm smile, crazy sense of humor and dedication to his friends and family. His dedication to knowing everything he possibly could learn about the TACAMO mission and sharing his expertise with others which earned him the position of NATOPS Instructor/Evaluator.

Don lived and breathed TACAMO in both his active duty life and when he retired. He was one of the first to join TCVA in 1996, contributed many articles to Sea Stories and providing anecdotes about our history. His last endeavor was locating Posthumous 2012 Hall of Fame family members winners.

Don was inducted into the 2013 Hall of Fame in early 2013. He passed away on 2/14/2013.



**Donald (Donnie) Woods** - Donnie joined TACAMO on July 29, 1966 when TACAMO was in its infancy as VR-1 at Pax River. He served in VR1 from 1966 to 1968 and became a Plankowner of VQ-4 when the squadron was commissioned and served in VQ-4 until 1976.

In 1976, Donnie expanded his TACAMO career by transitioning to the ASW Tech Directorate with TACAMO aircraft BUNO 151891 – as the test team for TACAMO.

Donnie went back to VQ-4 in 1978, then transferred to VQ-3 in July 1979, then back to VQ-4 in August 1983. He retired in Aug 1986 with his last assignment as a NAMTRADET instructor.

Donnie joined Boeing in March 1987 as an E-6 course writer and instructor and taught Navy students during the introduction of the E-6 into both VQ-3 and VQ-4.

Donnie later became one of the best Reliability / Maintainability designers for both commercial and military aircraft in Boeing.

Thousands of TACAMO sailors are better maintainers because of Donnie Woods and millions of commercial mechanics have easier jobs because of Donnie's design influence.



**Gary Breeden** - Gary had a distinguished and varied Navy career in Naval Aviation with all types of aircraft. His greatest contribution to TACAMO as his time as first a Herc Flight Engineer in VQ-4 and and at Force Warfare in Pax testing mods to the Herc. That tour was split so that he could attend E-3 AWACS flight engineer training and then jump into the Merc as the FE during flight test. When he joined Boeing in Flight Test in 1989, he led the way for other TACAMO vets. He has been part of the TACAMO reunions ever since and most especially he was instrumental in hosting an E-6 for the Seattle Reunion.



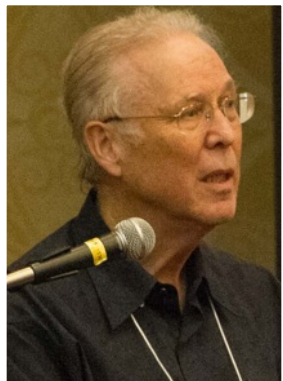


# 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees

Presented by TCVA President, Vern Lochausen & Executive Director, Mike Vos  
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## Industry Partner Category

**Paul Collins** - Boeing E-6 Manager of flight deck avionics during full scale development (1980-1985)



Manager of all air vehicle electrical systems on the E-3 and E-6 (1986-1989) during production and flight test. Chief Engineer, 1990-1992 and Program Manager, 1992-1994.

As Chief Engineer, he was responsible for all activities required to successfully solve the tail flutter problem after two vertical stabilizers had been damaged during flight tests.

Paul reunites Boeing E-6 colleagues for an annual gathering. He was an active committee member of the 2013 TCVA Reunion and brought the Boeing E-6 colleagues together for the reunion.



## Posthumous Category

**Rossie Coleman** - ADCS Rossie Coleman was perhaps the world's most experienced C-130 Flight Engineer. He accumulated over 10,000 hours while in VQ-4, another 10,000 while at Lockheed, and unofficially is believed to have amassed a total of 39,550 total hours in the air, in a C-130. That's 1648 days, or 55 months, over 4 and a half years. Amazing!!

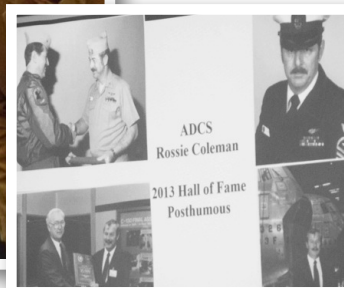
These statistics are reflective of his dedication to his craft. How many other Flight Engineers and Pilots did he school during those hours. How many other crew members came to respect him as the "boss" of the plane. I suspect that several of the readers of this article can claim to be among those.

Rossie received 4 Good Conduct Medals, 2 Navy Achievement Medals, 2 Battle E's, and a VietNam ribbon, during his 20 year Navy career. We recognize him as the Safety/Natops Evaluator and Flight Engineer Extraordinaire.



Those of us that flew with Rossie saw a "no-nonsense" professional that didn't tolerate incompetence. He was also a husband to Ann and father to Kelly who endured his long times away on deployment and working in the Middle East and Africa.

Rossie defined the "old school", hard edged, professional Flight Engineer.



## 2012 Hall of Fame Inductees Family Members in Attendance



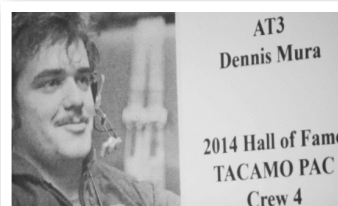
**Shane Mansour** - First Shane was a stellar Antarctic Squadron (VXE-6) Herc flight engineer. When he became a US citizen he came to TACAMO as a Herc FE. Then he became a stellar Merc FE and FE instructor. After he retired, Shane was a Boeing E-6 tech rep here in

OK and was great mentor to many a Sailor.

Mansour's daughter, Noelle Mansour was present to accept his award and a special gift from TCVA's President's Wife, Colleen.



## TACAMO PAC Crew 4



The very first Sailors in our Hall of Fame in 2012 were the 16 members of this crew. They are the originals and the Plankowners and our most revered Hall of Fame members, as witnesses earlier tonight and at the table set in their honor.

Crew Member **AT2 Dennis Mura's** brother, Tim Mura was present to accept his award. Tim also donated Dennis's flight jacket to the museum.





## 2013 Reunion Other Awards

At the 2013 Reunion, Chiefs were recognized for their service. Mike Vos and Vern Lochausen shared their views of a Chief from an enlisted's view and officer's view, then each attending Chief received a special recognition pin.



### CHIEF'S EXAM

The Naval Enlisted Advancement Center at (NETPDTC) Saufley Field used to have one or two Chiefs in each rating write the E-4 through E-9 examinations. The exams are written one year before they are used in the fleet. The Chief writing the exam follows the proposed test through the Education Specialist, the editing, the stats guidelines and the printing of each exam. The person signs his/her name to the galley proof to be actually have the exam printed. On the same day that the fleet takes the exam, a Chief from the rating take the same test and constructs the Master Answer sheet. Any question that has become obsolete is nulled out and does not count. From 1976 through 1978, I was the person that wrote the Chief's exam for the "AT" rating. Looking back at it and thinking what a privilege it was to be in such a position. Every Chief that was advanced in the "AT" rating had taken an examination which I had written. So the Chief's ceremony reminded me of a legacy that relatively few people have been honored to have. The electronics in a TACAMO C-130E/G and EC-130Q aircraft covered such a broad spectrum of equipment that it was invaluable in future assignments such as when we did a "Career Task Analysis" for the CNO's office.

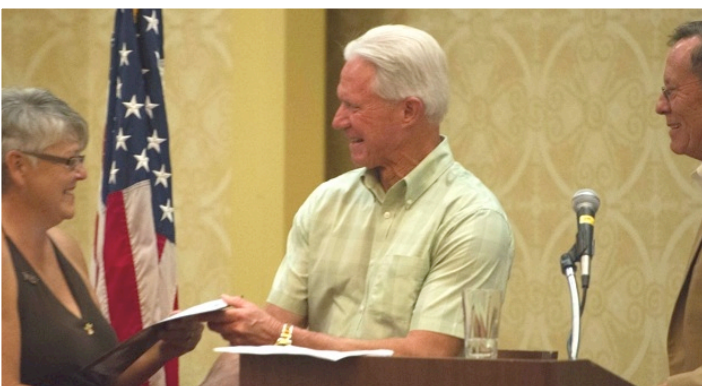
*Submitted by Wally Goss*



(Above) Pam Valdez accepted a Thank you gift for Boeing's sponsorship, a group photo signed by attendees.



(Above) TCVA awarded Pam Valdez a Life Membership for her service to TACAMO and facilitating Boeing's partnership.



(Left) TCVA awarded Cheryl Vos with a Honorary C-130 Flight Engineer for her knowledge and control of the plane that is the reunion.





## WHY REUNIONS?

On August 28, 29, 30 & September 1st present and former TACAMO crew, family members and industry members from all over will gather at the annual TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA) Reunion. Last year it was at NAS OKC. This year, it was be in Seattle. Many brought their spouse, children grand children, niece and some came stag to unite to share TACAMO history. It was be an opportunity to

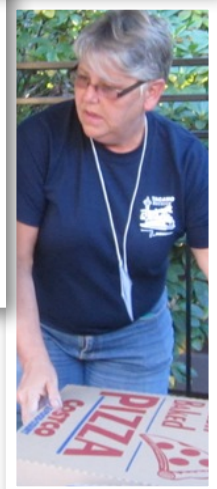
share their history how life was lived in TACAMO. Like past reunions in Pax River & Memphis, crew members and families had great fun sharing what squadron(s) they were in and tracing the steps they took through TACAMO, hang outs, bars, beaches, or gatherings at a friends house. With each step they will recall fond memories, remember old stories, and enliven their imaginations about how life was like in the "OLD DAYS."

TCVA reunions are like that. They are organized to maximize remembering, connecting, and cultivate crew and family values that shaped and sustained "crew relations" over a life time and are at the heart of things remembered that causes former TACAMO crew and families to flock annually to a TCVA Reunion. As one TACAMO crew member said "you can't wash it out of your memory." Just what in the life that was attracts so many—like migrating flocks—to gather to reunite and fly together down memory lane. Many attended more than a few TACAMO Reunions and many faces are repeat attendees at these reunions, whether it's in Seattle or Memphis. It's like a magnet that attracts people like Wally and Marie Goss from as far away as Pensacola, Florida who remembers a TACAMO where crew members from VR-1,

VR-21 & VW-1 formed TACAMO. To Rich Slavik (Pax River, MD) a "One Tour Wonder" and Retired Navy Vet of 27 years remembers a tight community, there is less of me and more of we. Then there is Tim Mura (Nashville, TN & brother of Crew 4 Dennis Mura), who came to be with TACAMO family. Asked why, after all these years, he came to the reunion Tim said he came to the reunion for closure and to meet a family his brother knew. He said he was impressed with the unity and closeness that's still there among the old time TACAMO community members.



For the active duty crew, Travis Likes (VQ-4 Crew 4 LCDR) commented "It was the BEST time these crew members have had in a while. He expressed the crew may have expected it to be boring and were pleasantly surprised when they got to talking to everyone. Every event they attended was completely voluntary, we all really enjoyed it. My report to the squadron and commodore will be to send a jet to this function every year. Marie Goss (Wally's spouse) was once asked this question of what powers people to often attend these reunions. To her the magic that attracts people to the reunions is that it takes people back to together for sharing history and explore a new city while enjoying time with others. At reunions people's memories come alive and understand where the life experiences of TACAMO and can let it all out without the fear of being misunderstood. The reunions' power of attraction is in the fact that in the TACAMO days everyone belonged. The reunion offers an opportunity to recapture "that life that made each and



At the 2013 reunion, employees of Boeing E6 program united with TACAMO crew members and went down the path to E6 memories, it was like taking a journey "Back to the Future." Visiting Boeing Renton Plant where the E6 was built, building new friendships, and sharing memories and face the challenges of losing the tail twice. Whether you attended in the past or plan on attending a TCVA reunion, it's all about sharing a lifelong friendship. Lifelong friendships are hard to find and keep but they're all worth the trouble. It means the memories last, even if contact is lost.

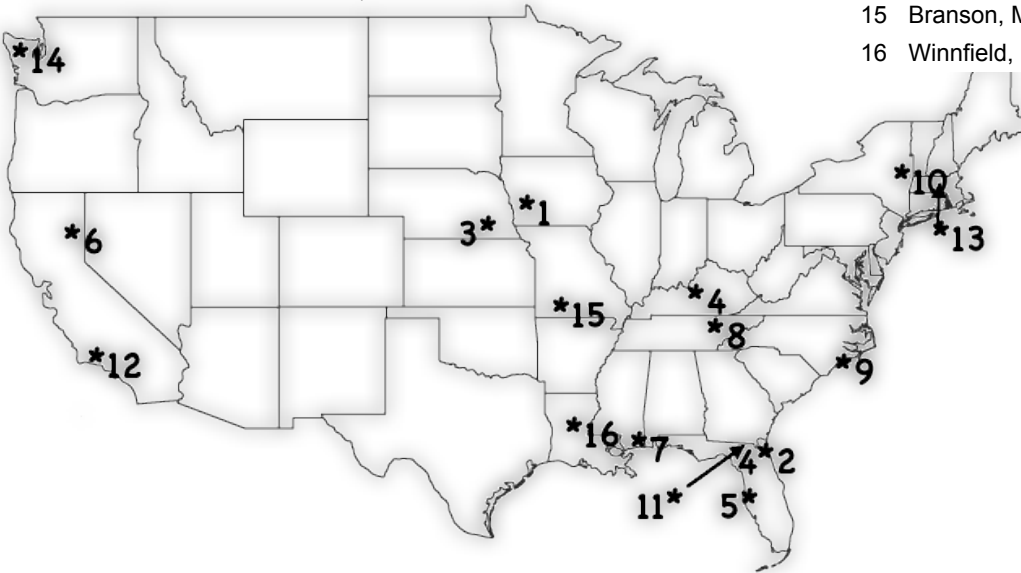


## CREW 4 FAMILY MEMBERS FOUND!

Last summer after the OKC Reunion in June, the Search and Connect Team was formed to find family members of 2012 Posthumous Hall of Fame Inductees & Crew 4 families. The team began with Don Lindeman, Melissa Russell (daughter of RMC Aubrey Russell) and Cheryl Vos. During our search we lost Don to cancer, but shortly after gained Rebecca Flint (sister of AN Andrew Barker).

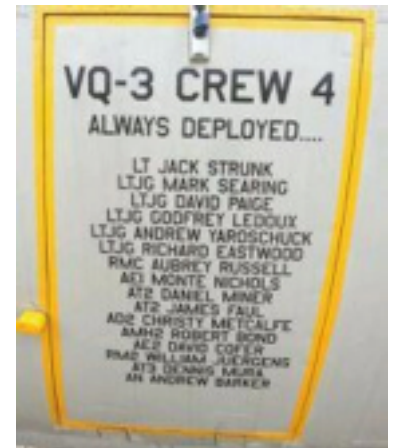
On August 22, Rebecca reported the finding of the last crew members family, Sheila Miner. Rebecca has been a huge asset to our team in finding the location of our TACAMO Families. She worked with a local reporter to find AE1 Monte Nichols family member (*See article below: The Nebraska Signal*). AN Barker and AE1 Nicols, grew-up less than 200 miles from each other and the same for some other crew members.

The team has also found family members of the 2012 Posthumous Hall of Fame Inductees. Only remaining member to be found is Dave Buck's family. The search continues.



### Crew 4 Family Members

1	Woodbine IA	AN ANDREW BARKER
2	Jacksonville FL	AD2 CHRISTY METCALFE
3	Geneva NE	AE1 MONTE NICHOLS
4	Orange Park, FL	AE2 DAVID LEE COFER
4	Vine Groove, KY	AE2 DAVID LEE COFER
5	Richey, FL	AMH2 ROBERT BOND
6	Susanville, CA	AT2 DANIEL MINER
7	Gulfport, MS	AT2 JAMES FAUL
8	Riddleton, TN	AT3 DENNIS MURA
9	Jacksonville, NC	LT JACK STRUNK
10	Selkirk, NY	LTJG ANDREW YAROSCHUCK
11	Sanderson, FL	LTJG DAVID Earl PAIGE
12	Los Angeles, CA	LTJG GODFREY LEDOUX
13	Farmington, CT	LTJG RICHARD EASTWOOD
14	Vernon, WA	LTJG SEARING
15	Branson, MO	RM2 WILLIAM JUERGENS
16	Winnfield, LA	RMC AUBREY RUSSELL



### Local Navy hero who died during active duty honored

*Published on Friday, 09 August 2013; Written by I.A. Admin*

A Facebook page has been started, along with efforts to find family histories in order to remember and honor the 16 Navy servicemen who perished on June 21, 1977, when the EC130Q Guam-based communications plane assigned to VQ-3 Squadron crashed shortly after take-off and plunged into the North Pacific Ocean. Official Navy reports into the tragedy indicate the plane was found by a deep submergence vehicle in about 1,600-feet of water less than one mile from the end of the Wake Island runway. Only one body was recovered immediately after the crash and all seamen on board died.

A Navy helicopter serviceman with Geneva and Thayer County roots was on board the EC130Q this fateful day. AE1 Monte C. Nichols, who enlisted in the Navy at the age 18 soon after graduating from Bruning High School with the Class of 1968, was one of the 16 seamen who died in the crash. Nichols completed basic training in San Diego, Calif., and earned a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam. His wife, Eve, and son Steven were living in San Diego at the time of his death.

He was only 27 at the time of his passing and was planning to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Nichols of Geneva, when he had leave in September. A June 30, 1977, story in *The Nebraska Signal* details the events of this tragedy.

Nichols graduated from grade school in Carleton, where his parents formerly lived, before attending high school in Bruning, where he lettered in both football and basketball.

*Continued on page 9 "The Nebraska Signal"*





Continued from page 7 "The Nebraska Signal"

The Nichols family was informed in Geneva of their son's death by an official telegram from the U.S. Navy. The reason for the crash was listed as a loss of power, according to the telegram report.

Several historians have actively been pursuing Monte Nichols' roots because the seaman and his 15 other shipmates have been recently honored as the inaugural class of the TACAMO Hall of Fame. TACAMO stands for "Take Charge and Move Out" and the newly-created hall of fame is located in Herc Park on the Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Okla.

In June of 2012, U.S. Navy personnel announced the 16 members of TACAMO PAC Crew 4 would be the original hall of fame inductees. Since this time, researchers have been working on locating the family history of Nichols and two other Crew 4 members, RM2 William Juergens of Montana and AT2 Daniel Miner of California. With the help of Signal publisher John Edgecombe, himself a former Navy serviceman, researchers were able to contact a niece of Nichols and her mother, which would be Monte's sister. Nichols' mom also remains living in this area.

On June 7, of this year, the TACAMO Hall of Fame was unveiled in front of the nose wheel of the plane that went down carrying Nichols, which is on permanent static display in Herc Park in Oklahoma. At the first-ever hall of fame ceremony, Vern Lochausen, president of the TACAMO Community Veterans Association (TCVA), noted the largest group of hall of fame members are "those fine gents of TACAMO Pacific Crew 4, who had the intention to assume the guard and fly another mission linking national leaders to the submarine forces. They are remembered today for their dedication for they gave all to the mission. By their actions, they made sure TACAMO thereafter operated and trained to be sure no crew was ever lost again."

The TACAMO Hall of Fame has long been a vision of Lochausen and Captain Charles "Chocko" Baker. "This ceremony is about the vision that several of us had for recognizing those folks associated with the TACAMO mission—who had a vision that they turned into intentions and acted those out well in dedicated service and lasting value," said Lochausen at the hall of fame ceremony in June.

Pavers were placed into the TACAMO Walk of Fame to honor its inaugural members, which included the 16 members of TACAMO PAC Crew 4. Efforts to show these men respect and show their families appreciation for their loss. Google "TACAMO Crew 4" for more information on the hall of fame induction or the general history of this tragic event.



Thank you **Rebecca Olive Barker Flint** (sister of AN Andrew Barker) for reaching out to the nation to find those families of Crew 4.

## Joint Reunion - TACAMO & VR-21

2016

Barbars Point, Hawaii



REUNION

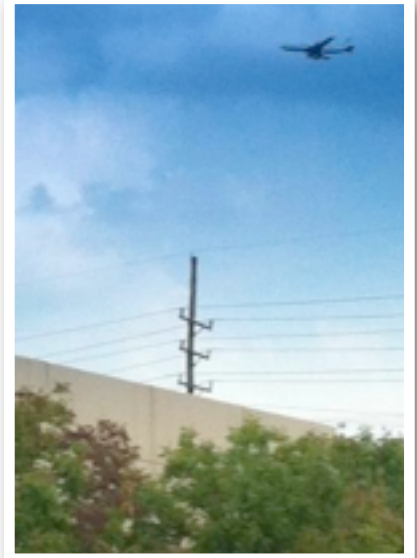


## STRANGE PLANE ENTERS ST. LOUIS AIR SPACE

Posted on: 2:56 pm, August 20, 2013, by [Joe Lamic](#) and [Betsey Bruce](#), ST. LOUIS, MO (KTVI) - A mysterious white plane drew plenty of attention Tuesday afternoon near Lambert Airport and nearby

Maryland Heights. The low flying four engine plane came low over ranch style homes in Edmundson and prompted some to take photographs. Janice Marienau of the 43-hundred block of Beauty in Edmundson started to photograph the plane after it flew over her family's home three times. Then she called FOX 2 News when calls to Lambert Airport and Scott Air Force Base in Illinois turned up no explanation. "We thought it was unusual because we thought why not Scott Air Force base, why not Mid America where they don't have a lot of traffic," Marienau said. The low flying plane raised even more questions when some military jets took off at Lambert. "I was telling my mom and my brother they were so low I think if somebody jumped out of it with a parachute they wouldn't have had time to open," she said. One of her photos, when enlarged, showed a U.S. Navy white star in a navy circle and the word Navy on the virtually all white

plane. Navy Commander Ed McCabe cleared up the mystery. "It's a strategic communications plane we use like a radio in the sky." Pilots from Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma were taking advantage of the good weather to do some training in the Mercury E6. Commercial as well as military airports serve as practice points for low approaches and touch and go, Cmdr. McCabe explained. "They need to see a variety of airports; the more fields a pilot sees, the better prepared he'll be," said McCabe. It's routine training for new or experienced pilots that is all done with the permission of air traffic controllers at the airports.



FOX 2 receptionist Natasha Rohlfling took this photo of the airplane as it circled above the Fox 2/KPLR studios in Maryland Heights

# TACAMO STICKERS/DECALS?



A recent post by Chris McMahan on Facebook got me to asking what stickers displayed the TACAMO Pride?

Chris McMahan: "I saw an VQ-3 Ironman sticker in the window of a Jeep at the Cincinnati Navy Reserve Center on 18 August."

Here are a few found while searching the web.



## TACAMO Decals available in the Paraloft

Decals below can be found by clicking on [Paraloft](#) or going to [tacamo.org](#). The newest one "U.S. Navy TACAMO Veteran" was given out as a gift at the 2013 Reunion.





# VR-21 DETACHMENT + VW-1 DETACHMENT = VQ-3 TACAMO DETACHMENT

Starting as a detachment of VR-21 at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii in 1946, a small group of Sailors operated two EC-130G aircraft with the TACAMO II, vans configuration. It was a roll on/roll off operation that required '5 hours of work by 5 good men, if all went well.' This allowed the two Hercs, 891 and 890 to operate as transports supporting the mission of VR-21. Connectivity to the submarine fleet from this new airborne VLF system demonstrated that the operations needed to be further east in the Pacific.

Plankowner, Wally Goss, went through the C-130 schools at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia and was part of the Detachment. He shares this cover from Naval Aviation News, Wally said the photo was staged so as not to show the drogues. EC-130G 151891 looks very new in this photo. She wears the tail markings of VR-21, RZ.

The Detachment moved in January 1966 to become part of VW-1 at NAS Agana, Guam. The two Hercs operated alongside the EC-121 Super Constellation early warning and radar aircraft of VW-1.

LCDR Ron Carlson picked up the first EC-130 from Lockheed Martin in Marietta, GA. On July 1, 1968, the TACAMO Detachment became Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron THREE, VQ-3.



Wally Goss recalls:

In December 1963, I arrived in Hawaii after several months of training on the C-130E and KC-130F's electronics and aircraft systems.

So from December 1963 through December 31, 1965, we were officially: "VR-21 TACAMO Component", then from January 1, 1966 until July 1, 1968, we were officially: VW-1 TACAMO Component".

Of course few things are "cut and dried". I have seen some TAD orders that used VR-21 TACAMO Detachment and VW-1 TACAMO Detachment. The setup was that VR-21 and VW-1 were just our "cover" to hide the mission.

So we were attached to them only "administratively". Both squadrons always had many people and aircraft deployed to various places so the TACAMO people were easily thought of as just another "detachment".

Two tidbits:

1. Scuttlebutt has it, a few cases, that people with orders to VR-21 TACAMO were late getting to Hawaii because they went to "Tacoma", Washington.
2. For a few months, in Hawaii, whenever we received crates of parts/material, the stenciling would have "TACAMO" and the rest of the address. Since the word "TACAMO" was considered a secret, we were instructed to take black paint and cover over just the word "TACAMO".

*Contributor: Wally Goss,  
TACAMO Plankowner*



(Top Left) The squadron remained in Guam until the Trident submarines came to the Pacific in the early 1980s.

(Top Right) LCDR Carlson at TACAMO Det Welcome to VW-1, NAS Agana, Guam 1966

(Below) VQ-3 tail markings were TC and they originally had 4 EC-130Gs. Here they are in their original configuration as TACAMO III birds, lined up at Guam in order, 1 to 4.

**Next Newsletter: VQ-4**

## Comparisons Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Have never seen you cry.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Have cried with you.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Know a few things about you.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Will stand by you no matter what the crowd does.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Are for a while.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Are for life.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Have shared a few experiences...

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, 'You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!' Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Will ignore this.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Will forward this.

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, served one hitch, or reserve is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Government of the United States of America ' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

## Newest Three Star, Vice Adm. Nora Tyson, Named Deputy USFF



NORFOLK, Va. (July 15, 2013) Vice Adm. Nora W. Tyson (right) and Adm. Bill Gortney, commander U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) hold a letter authorizing her to put on a third star during a promotion ceremony held at USFF headquarters on board Naval Support Activity Norfolk

Story Number: NNS130716-01

Release Date: 7/16/2013

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Adm. Bill Gortney, commander U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) command, promoted Nora W. Tyson to vice admiral in a ceremony held at USFF

headquarters aboard Naval Support Activity Norfolk July 15.

Tyson assumes the position of deputy commander USFF and also is Director of the Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Center of Excellence (CJOS COE). CJOS, the only NATO COE in the U.S., provides a focus for the sponsoring nations and NATO in improving allied ability to conduct combined joint operations from the sea in order to ensure that current and emerging global security challenges can be successfully solved.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Tyson graduated from Vanderbilt University and received her commission from Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. She earned her wings as a naval flight officer in 1983 and reported to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 4, where she ultimately served three tours at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Md., and Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., including one as commanding officer.

Tyson also commanded the amphibious assault ship, USS Bataan (LHD 5), leading the Navy's contributions to disaster relief efforts on the U.S. Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and deployed twice to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Her other commands include commander, Task Force 73, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific based in Singapore and commander, Carrier Strike Group Two, where she led USS George H.W. Bush Strike Group on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both 6th and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Tyson completed a tour as vice director, Joint Staff prior to reporting to USFF.

CONGRATULATIONS  Vice Admiral Tyson from  
ALL your TACAMO shipmates



## Fallen Shipmates



**Nothing to report since  
TCVA Summer Newsletter**

**STAY SAFE**

## A SALUTE TO ALL OF OUR VETERANS ON "VETERANS DAY"



## Realize About Veterans

When a Veteran leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and others, who may have already retired, wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

1. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.
2. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.
3. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing. Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known !



## Display of TACAMO Pride



Send your license  
plate photos to  
[tacamocommunity@  
gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)



## 2014 Reunion

## Marietta, GA

Home of  
Lockheed Martin

TACAMO's mission began in 1964 with the EC-130G aircraft made by Lockheed Martin and continued for nearly 3 decades in 29 different Hercs. Last herc was retired in 1992.

Join TCVA in a celebration of the first aircraft TACAMO flew. Bringing together the Plankowners and first crews of VQ-3 & VQ-4.

Reunion is being planned for Fall of 2014.



## Tour Of The Pentagon

Any Crew Members from VQ-4/3 Give Me A Shout When In The D.C. Area, You Are Welcome To A Tour Of The Pentagon....JCS Special Flights!.....It Would Be An Honor ;o)

**Raymond Hart**

Remember to provide your written instructions to family members about final distributions of TACAMO memorabilia so it will end up in the TACAMO Heritage Center



**Join Now**

\$20 gives you access to the following list on tacamo.org website & MORE Go to <http://tacamo.org/TCVA/join.html>

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