



# TCVA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



TCVA counts its membership by Facebook friends, which we have 3750 plus. We also count our paying membership, who donate \$20/year to help TCVA finance our efforts to preserve and promote TACAMO's history and its significance to U.S. strategic defense. Those paying members accounted for 51, last year (2019).

The museum projects TCVA is working on will require considerable effort by our volunteer Board of Directors and others. We are fortunate to have Southwest Airlines tickets to raffle, from Coach Warren's employee benefit for his volunteer work for TCVA. Please help TCVA Heritage Center by purchasing [raffle tickets \(LINK\)](#).

As you know TCVA holds reunions, these are not money makers. TCVA enjoys keeping them as friend makers, so everyone can afford to attend and reminisce with other TACAMO Active Duty, Veterans, Government civilians, Families, and Industry Partners.

We also encourage our non-paying members to join our paying members by donating \$20/yr. to help us defray the costs of our volunteers as we work towards recognizing TACAMO's significance and our member's contributions to the strategic defense of our country. Every membership strengthens the association's goals. Whether you have the time or not to be personally involved, your membership dues support the actions of TCVA members who work to better the association, reunions, and preserve TACAMO's history. As a member, you make everything we do possible.

**TACAMO Community Veterans Association**

Home | About | Events | Heritage | Trailing Wire: News, Events & Passings

**Join TCVA or renew your Membership**

2020 TACAMO Reunion

Go to [tacamo.org](http://tacamo.org). Click **Join TCVA or renew Membership**

You can pay via PayPal or MAIL a check to: TCVA, PO Box 6126, Ocean View, HI 96737. Membership dues are tax deductible.

**\$20 A YEAR**

TCVA Membership \$20 per year  
Your annual tax deductible contribution of \$20 helps us keep the lights on and the website running.

\*Email Address  
\*First Name  
\*Last Name

Submit to pay \$20.00 **Click Submit and a NEW Tab will Open for you to Pay**

**Current TCVA Members**

As a member you can have your picture posted on this page. If you wish to be added, please email Joe Caruso with a picture and your TACAMO history. No need to crop the picture, Joe will edit it and combine it along with the text in the attached format. Please email it to [Joe.Caruso.Membership@TACAMO.org](mailto:Joe.Caruso.Membership@TACAMO.org)

Joe Caruso, TCVA Treasurer & Membership

**CLICK ON THE PHOTO TO VIEW TACAMO HISTORY**

As an active member, your photo can be added to the TACAMO site. No need to crop the picture, Joe will edit it and combine it along with the text as seen above. If you wish for your photo to be added to the Members page, please email your picture and TACAMO history to Joe Caruso @ [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)

## Contents of Newsletter

- 2020 TACAMO Reunion "2 Locations, Twice as much Fun" DC & Pax River
- 2021 TACAMO mini-Reunion Cruising to Bermuda
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### 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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## From the Executive Director

Aloha TACAMO Shipmates,

### Why Reunions?

I suppose the answer is pretty simple ... 'To reunite with old friends and share the memories of our glory days'. It may be the past that attracts us, but I believe that it's the present that makes us attend reunions.

For me, my memories of deployments, midnight watches, inspections and all the other shared events is more than about the events we shared. It's about the people we shared them with. Occasionally, I lapse into "memory mode" and recall an event during my time in the Navy. The event is merely a backdrop to the scene where my shipmates were suffering through or reveling in that event. It's my shipmates that gave dimension to the events and personalized it for me.

When I see a name from my past show up on the "Attendees" list for a TCVA reunion, I immediately imagine that person during that time that we shared a memory. Will he/she recall that event, too? And if so, will they remember it the same way I do?

Beyond that, we discuss where we are today and also the journey we took to get here. We share the successes and tragedies of that journey and then celebrate that we are able to share them together. As we age, that celebration becomes more valuable.

TCVA makes great effort to make our reunions affordable, safe, comfortable and most of all, enjoyable. We want our attendees to enjoy the moment and look forward to the next one. TCVA prices our events to show "black ink", but only enough to maintain the solvency of the Association. We see reunions as "**friend raisers**", not "fundraisers".

So, when you consider attending the next TCVA reunion, think about those old shipmates that you shared fun memories with, so many years ago. Those memories are the glue that holds friendships together, no matter how long ago. Come celebrate those friendships with us.

I hope to see you in Washington DC and Pax River, this September. Cheryl has planned wonderful events and we'll have a traditional TACAMO picnic at Solomon's Island Rec. Center. We'll also be opening our exhibit at the Patuxent River Naval Aviation Museum. I'm certain it will be memorable.

See you in September,  
 Aloha,  
 Mike



Mike Vos,  
*Executive Director -  
 TACAMO Community  
 Veterans Association*



### REQUEST TO JOIN

Due to the overwhelming hacks of FB pages being stolen, to join the TCVA FB page or group TCVA has set up a few questions to ID who you are from TACAMO. The questions **must** be answered at the time of your request

to join. If the questions are not answered, no access will be given. TCVA has received many friend requests and sends FB messages to individuals. Once the information is obtained, the request will be approved. Thanks for understanding.

TCVA Facebook Page  
 TCVA Facebook



# TACAMO Hall of Fame

## 2020 NOMINATIONS DUE JUNE 1

Presentation of TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductees will be held at the 2020 Reunion TACAMO Hall of Fame Banquet September 5th at the [Hyatt Regency Dulles, VA](#). Nominations can be Submitted Year Round



### Criteria for Induction

Guidelines for TCVA Hall of Fame induction:

- Minimum 2 tours in TACAMO
- Contributed to the mission/aircraft/morale/good reputation of TACAMO
- Technical/professional/personal leadership - a mentor
- Performed task or event that shaped the TACAMO mission
- Community Service
- Generally recognized as deserving of this award

### Categories

- TACAMO Sailor
- Industry Partner
- Government Support
- Posthumous
- Community Service

### SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS

+ [ONLINE CLICK HERE](#)

+ [WORD DOC CLICK HERE](#)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR OKO AND HYJACK TACAMO HALL OF FAME 2020

Posted by Irish John Keilty 1.1.2020

Reflect back to the early 1980's,  
When Bill and Jay burst on the TACAMO scene,  
JO tours looking for a call sign,  
That would maybe be clean ,perhaps mean!

Well one found a last name shortcut,  
The other becuz of flaps full down,  
But the truth about OKO and HYJACK,  
Is they were household names in TACAMO town.  
They quickly rose to stardom,  
As they became experts on TACAMO ops,  
One as a Tacamo Instructor Pilot,  
The other an MCACO who was tops!

We watched HYJACK become a Pep Boy,  
As OKO took charge of 941,  
And their performance evaluations,  
Usually had a checkmark on Number 1.  
They both became Boss of TACAMO squadrons,  
Leading missions in CENT, LANT and PAC,  
Ensuring a perfect deterrence ,  
Against any adversarial Nuc attack!

Both became leaders in Pax River,  
Leaders in the NAVAIR game,



Careers which are "oh so worthy",  
Of their induction in the Tacamo Hall of Fame.  
These achievements are singularly remarkable,  
But a true measure of their success,  
Was their caring and thoughtful leadership,  
That caused every sailor to be blessed.

Quality of life and sustained teamwork,  
Every shipmate in the squadron family,  
Is a legacy OKO and HYJACK left ,  
In the Shadow and Ironman history.  
True TACAMO Warriors lead by example,  
They place character above all,  
They are tough and compassionate leaders,  
Who are at their best when life will fall.

And at the end of a Sailors day,  
Where the rubber meets the road,  
It is the difference these two sailors made,  
In every aspect of a great career they showed!  
So to our Hall of Famers OKO and HYJACK,  
Your shipmates have one more thing to say,  
**Congrats**, Happy New Year and 3 cheers,  
Hip hip hip hooray!



# TACAMO Heritage Center

## HERITAGE CENTER MISSION

### Mission:

- Collecting and cataloging artifacts donated by members

### History:

- In 2012 a project to build a TACAMO Heritage Center began. Creating a place to house the Hall of Fame Inductees Plaques, the archives and memorabilia of the 50 years (and counting) of TACAMO would be the goal.

The inauguration of the TACAMO Hall of Fame was the first step towards the eventual construction of a Heritage Center where we TACAMO sailors can see and share our "Glory Days" with friends and families. At the 2012 TACAMO Reunion in OKC the inauguration of the TACAMO Hall of Fame came about by Commodore Vern Lochausen, Commodore Chocko Baker and Buff Crowell. The idea for a Hall of Fame was first written as a wing instruction in 1998 by Commodore Vern Lochausen. Commodore Chocko Baker desiring to continue the legacy by adding to Commodore Vern Lochausen's Hall of Fame and Commodore Irish Keilty's completion of foundations for a wall of fame in Herc Park. Bureaucratic issues so far prevent the completion of the vertical parts of the wall and placement of TCVA-provided Hall of Fame tiles.

### Vision:

- Find a space that can be furnished to display artifacts donated by our membership and affiliates

### Funding:

- Direct "tax deductible" money contributions
- Other, yet defined "fund raisers".



Donation to TACAMO Heritage Center a E-6 Tail piece from 782 From Ed Hampshire

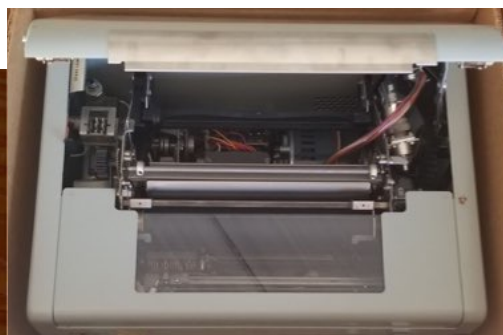
**TACAMO Heritage Center**  
**webpage Click Here**

**Heritage Center Goal:** To fill in the verticals walls in Herc Park completed by Commodore Irish Keilty in 2000 with all TACAMO Hall of Famers. At the present time only 2012 TACAMO Hall of Famers are in



## TCVA ARTIFACTS WANTED

Don't throw them away, throw them our way. If you have TACAMO Artifacts, Please consider donating them to TCVA. Email us



Donation to TACAMO Heritage Center a Teletype Machine from Rockwell Collins  
TACAMOMates: Jim Meppelink, Denise Ramsey & Jerry Sumerday







# TACAMO Children



Kim &amp; Steven Brandon

## SERVING IN TACAMO



Julie &amp; Peter Rourke



Eric &amp; Jim Hallen



William Crouch &amp; Gretchen Fitzpatrick



Dennis &amp; Jarred Ramsey

- William F. Crouch, father and daughter, Gretchen Fitzpatrick
- Roy Spainhower, dad and daughter, Jessica (She served in VQ-4 Det Pax, then transferred to AIMD Norfolk SEAOPDET and was detached to AIMD Bahrain.)
- Kim Brandon, father and son Steven
- Larry Valdez, father and son
- Clifton Head, father and son, Jeff Head
- Sam Smith, son and father
- Paul Blakeslee's, father and son
- Dennis Ramsey, father and son, Jarred Jim Hallen, father and son, Eric. Both reel ops and then Eric went FE. Dad was on the hercs and Mercs.
- Mike Shook, father and son, Deryn - VQ4 02-06, Pax Det 06-09
- Marshall Grose, father and daughter, Victoria - in VQ-3 now (Love you too dad. This was a good move coming here.)
- Patrick J Schamel, father and son, Emory Schamel. (He is a better tech than I ever was though.)

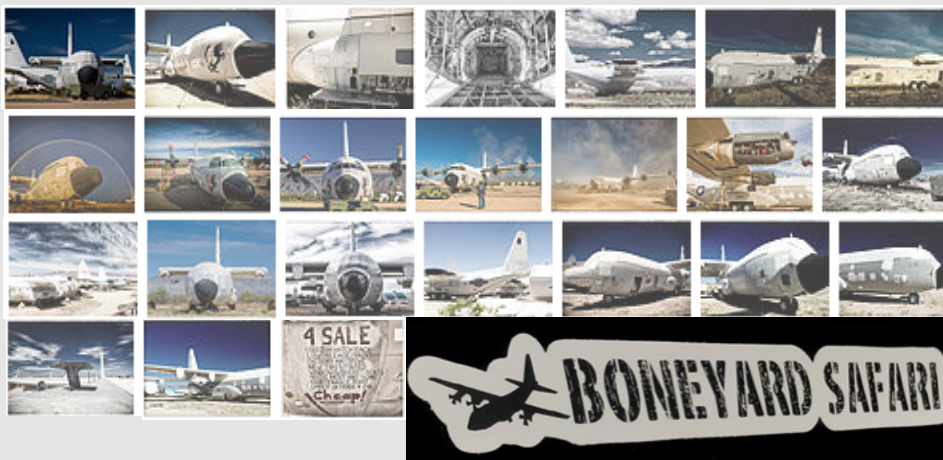
- Scott Corley, father and son, Saxon Reel Op in the 90s and FE in the 2000's. His son is AM1 James Saxon Corley
- Peter Rourke, my daughter Julie Thomas started working for the TACAMO Det in 1998. Still working there as a Supply Logistician issues the parts to VQ-4 crew dogs. She's is well known by Tinker folks.



Emory &amp; Patrick Schamel



Marshall &amp; Victoria Grose



### C-130 Stickers and Other Gear

Ramon Purcell, Honorary TACAMO Sailor & Video Producer for VQ-3 TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Memorial Video has introduced a C-130 Boneyard Safari sticker for \$4. Go to [SHOP](#) to purchase your's today. There are also photos of TACAMO's C-130s for sale on the website. Click on Link: [Purchase Photos](#). Boneyard Safari tours of TACAMO C-130s can be arranged by contacting Ramon @ [Boneyard Safari Tour](#)

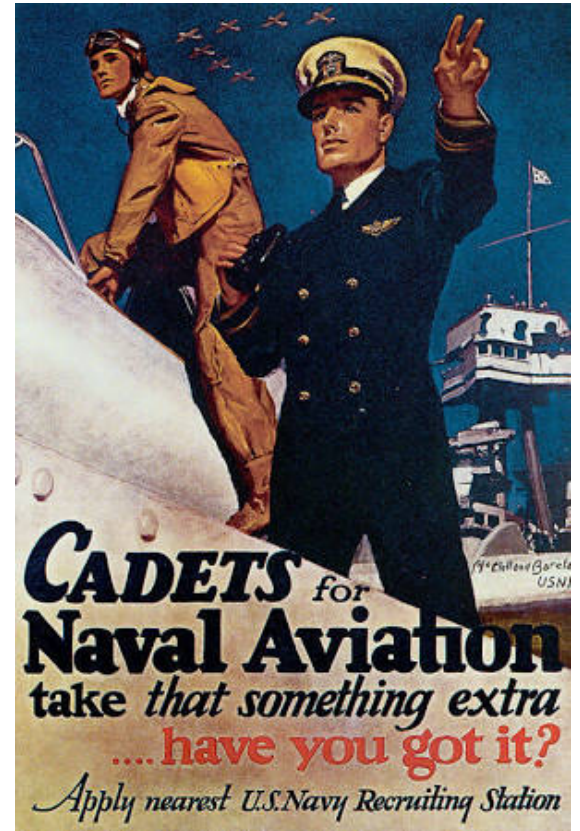


## STILL FLYING?!!! *Written by Vern Lochausen*

*Written by Vern Lochausen*

In my Navy days, I often found myself saying to my flight deck crew over the ICS, “And you know, they are actually PAYING us to fly! I’d probably do it for free.” TCVA asked for help in identifying folks from any crew position that are still doing it. There are hundreds probably of our former pilots flying for the airlines and many already retired from that GIG. There are several NFOs who either became Navy pilots and then airlines or left the Navy and became airline pilots. Most famous in my book is the Alpha on that path, Charlie Bridge who was the NAV on Ron Carlson’s round the world flight of 891 in 1964. Charlie flew for TWA and Nippon Airlines, 747s no less. And Mark Gragg who flies still for Frontier. Then there is Steve Jaffurs IFT turned commuter airlines pilot. And then there are those pilots, NFOs, and aircrew who obtained their own plane and fly that way. Notables are Mike Clemens who has a Mooney and a Grumman American Traveler and lives on a small airport near Dallas. Or just retired SW Captain, Tom Saxon who always makes Oshkosh in his Cessna Cardinal. I am a private pilot myself, earning that ticket at Ole Miss courtesy of the Navy ROTC program but the NAMI Whammy sent me instead to NFO pipeline, and no regrets. Thankfully, Mike Clemens lets me fly his Grumman once in a while. All said, it is truly in THE BLOOD. Got to get some air under your butt to be complete. Here’s an incomplete list of those flying or sim instructing or private flying or some combo thereof.

We are sure that there are other TACAMO Brothers and Sisters flying today that we might have missed. Add your name to TCVA's list by emailing Cheryl Vos @ [tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)



- Coach Warren
  - Luke Caron
  - Sue Harter
  - Mikey Black
  - Brian O'Callaghan
  - Tom Saxon
  - Mark Paylor
  - Mel Parham
  - Mike Allman
  - Chris Frasse
  - Dave Meron
  - Glenn Belson
  - John Alger
  - Mike Davidson
  - Clint Smith
  - Steve Schutt
  - Todd Bailey
  - Steve Anderson
  - Charlie Bridge
  - John Brouillette
  - Bill Osborne
  - Jan Howarth
  - Pete Lee
  - Bob Keperling
  - Adam Hancock
  - Karen Mason Woods
  - George Allie
  - Kraig Hamel
  - Jay Thomas
  - Don Diffenderfer
  - Jim Scanlan
  - Mark Hyten
  - Dan Shore
  - John Pappendick
  - Dorsey Martin
  - Mark Brophy
  - Mark Gragg
  - Mike Clemens
  - Hal Monsees
  - Paul Remington
  - Mark Peterson
  - Trish Beckman
  - Cindy Burgunder
  - Steve Jaffurs
  - John Higgins
  - Jeff Dean
  - Joe Carter
  - Bob Kruse
  - Chester Adamson
  - Tim Pederson
  - "TA Blue Angel One"  
Miller
  - Papa G. Genualdi
  - Ben Fay
  - Mike Jacobson
  - Dave Hulton
  - Carey Freeland
- 
- A photograph of a man in a flight suit and goggles, smiling, sitting in the cockpit of an aircraft. The man is wearing a white flight suit with green accents and has a yellow oxygen mask hanging from his neck. He is looking towards the camera. The cockpit is visible in the background, showing various instruments and controls.



*Left: The Alpha NAV turned pilot, Charlie Bridge.*



## The Roughnecks Celebrate 20 Years

By Mass Communication Specialist 1<sup>st</sup> Class Leslie Long, Strategic Communications Wing ONE Public Affairs

TINKER AFB (February 11, 2020) – Sailors assigned to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron SEVEN (VQ-7) gathered today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their command.

Established on February 11, 2000, VQ-7 provides a constant flow of aircrew to TACAMO's operational squadrons, VQ-3 and VQ-4. Students complete up to 12 months of rigorous training and upon passing final evaluations, serve as qualified aircrew on the E-6B Mercury.



In order to mark the special occasion for the Roughnecks, Captain Anthony Barnes, Commodore, Strategic

Communications Wing One addressed the assembly and presented a commemorative plaque to VQ-7's commanding officer, Commander Hector Laus.



"If you stop and reflect back on where we started and where we are today, it is truly impressive. We have expanded our mission set to cover the entire communications spectrum of Nuclear Command and Control and we have built VQ-7 into a cadre of the best of the best instructors to ensure the standards are met," said Commodore Barnes.

Prior to February 11, 2000, training for TACAMO aircrew was run by the Naval Training Support Unit, whose training pipelines were spread across multiple geographical locations. The creation of VQ-7 consolidated all aspects of training for the E-6B Mercury.

Captain Barnes concluded, "As we experience the challenges of an aging aircraft, head into BLOCK II, and continue the discussions on RECAP for the new aircraft of tomorrow, the importance of VQ-7 has never been higher."

## TACAMO Active Duty UPCOMING EVENTS

- **4Mar20** Navy Birthday Ball Meeting, 1500, with Greater OKC Chamber
- **5Mar20** SEABEE Ball, 1800, Bryant Center, 2200 N. Bryant Ave, OKC 73121, POC: CM3 Ruiz hanzel.ruiz@navy.mil or 739-4254
- **13Mar20** AWFCs Schafer Retirement Ceremony, 1000, CNATT HiBay
- **19Mar20** Deployed Spouses Dinner (DSD), 1800-2000, Tinker Chapel, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1st-quarter-deployedspouses-dinner-tickets-89801870813> to Rsvp: 12Mar 20
- **20Mar20** ATC Mormon Retirement Ceremony, 1000, CNATT HiBay
- **11Apr20** TACAMO Easter Party, 1200-1400, Herc Park/ Gazebo (Inclement Weather Location CNATT HiDay, POC: VQ-3 MWR, AMC Jaramia and AM1 Eddy Swagger
- **24Apr20** Honorary Commander Program Luncheon CNATT HiBay, CNATT Tour, Brief and Aircraft Static Display
- **25Apr20** Kids Understanding Deployment Operations

(KUDOS) 72AWB event, Aircraft Static Display with aircrew, 2 Stairs, Electric and A/C Carts for walk through (Approx. 300 children)

- **1May20** AWFCs Parker Retirement Ceremony, 1000, CNATT HiBay, Participants Full Dress White
- **26May20** 15th Annual OKC Navy Days Reading of the OKC Navy Days Proclamation, 0830, City Hall, City Council Chambers, Third Floor, 200 Walker Ave, OKC
- **30May20** Operation Homefront's 10th Annual Freedom Golf Tournament
- **8Jun20** Gardner Tanenbaum Holdings OKC Navy Golf Tournament, TBD, The Greens Country Club, 13100 Green Valley Dr, OKC, OK 73120
- **12Jun20** ACE Kid's Academy Tour, 0900-1200, Static Aircraft Display, Sim Flight, CNATT Space Tour (Approx. 30 people)
- **17-27Sep20** Oklahoma State Fair, Complimentary Admission Passes for Sailor's Children, Sponsored by Navy Days OKC, State Fair Park, 3001 General Pershing Blvd,
- **22Nov20** OKC Holiday Festival on the River, Navy Families Guests of Navy Days OKC, Boathouse District, 725 S. Lincoln, OKC, OK 73129

**Contact Bob Holland, Wing Protocol with questions about attending. 405-739-3457.**



# TACAMO 2020 REUNION

## 2 Locations, Twice as much FUN

LOCATION	DATE	DAY	EVENING
DC - DULLAS AREA	Wednesday 9/2	Pre-reunion arrivals	Pre-reunion arrivals
	Thursday 9/3	On your own touring - Early Arrivals	Evening Registration & Welcome Meet & Greet Reception
	Friday 9/4	Pentagon Visit - Pentagon 9/11 memorial - Arlington Cemetery Tomb of Unknown Solder, WWII, Vietnam & Koran War Memorials on Bus	Evening with TACAMO
	Saturday 9/5	Morning Docent tours of National Air and Space Museum near Dulles Airport	TACAMO Hall of Fame Banquet — Recognizing 2019 & 2020 Inductees
Lexington Park	Sunday 9/6	Breakfast & Check-out of Hotel — Depart for Pax River	Tentative Time: 3pm Pax River Museum Ribbon Cutting and Reception - TACAMO Dedication (Flight Suite Liberty & Reception)
	Monday 9/7 Labor Day	Tentative: <b>NEW Event</b> • 9AM Tour of the Patuxent River TACAMO VQ-4 Alert Facility. TCVA is hoping for an Aircraft Tour	11AM TACAMO Picnic for TACAMO: • Veterans • Government Civilians • Industry Partners • Active Duty “Hall of Fame Recognition Picnic”
	Tuesday 9/8	Visit friends or a winery, herb farm, go golf, fishing or river cruise, or drive around Southern Maryland on your own and reminisce.	

## Why Stay at Official Reunion Hotel?

The official reunion hotel is the center of reunion activities. It provides opportunities for networking with reunion attendees and it makes it easy to return to your room. That's obvious. But there are other reasons that you need to consider before you look at another hotel. In return for the use of the hotel's meeting facilities, the reunion guarantees the hotel that a certain percentage of attendees will stay in that hotel. The hotel generally discounts the rate for reunion attendees from their normal charges.

If the reunion attendance does not meet the contracted sleeping room commitment, the hotel gets paid anyway.

**Unfilled rooms can cost TCVA thousands of dollars.** Not only do these financial penalties hurt the current year's reunion, but the next reunion cannot negotiate as beneficial a hotel contract. In both cases the registration fee is then under pressure to increase unreasonably.

What if we don't contract for sleeping rooms? Attendees will pay more to stay at the reunion hotel. The reunion will incur additional expenses for meeting room rental fees, which can be quite costly. The hotel will not hold a block of rooms for attendees, which may leave some people quite a distance from the conference venue. In short, the reunion ends up with higher expenses; many of those attending will pay a higher price for their hotel rooms, future conference registration fees will be pushed higher. Please support the reunion and TCVA by staying at the reunion hotel.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TACAMO REUNION AND MINI-REUNION?

### Reunion

At a Reunion, TCVA presents the TACAMO Hall of Fame inductees with recognition and thanks for their contributions to TACAMO.

### mini-Reunion

At a mini-Reunion TCVA host a Banquet but no TACAMO Hall of Fame awards are presented.

# TACAMO 2020 REUNION

**DC /Dulles  
Hotel  
Information &  
Reservations**

HYATT  
REGENCY

[\*\*Click Here\*\*](#)

**\$99** +taxes

**Hotel  
Reservation  
Links**

**Pax River Hotels  
Information and  
Reservation**

FAIRFIELD  
INN  
Marriott

**\$96** +taxes

[\*\*Click Here\*\*](#)

[\*\*Click Here\*\*](#)

**Attendees**

**List**

»»»»»

**LINK**

**2020 REUNION WEBSITE – [CLICK HERE](#)**

**DC Area Tours &  
Tourist Info**



[\*\*Click Here\*\*](#)

**Area  
Informaion  
Links**





# TACAMO SEA-STORIES

## CPO STANDARDS

*Never forget this, a Chief can become an Officer, but an Officer can never become a Chief. Chiefs have their standards!*

### RECOLLECTIONS OF A WHITE HAT

"One thing we weren't aware of at the time, but became evident as life wore on, was that we learned true leadership from the finest examples any lad was ever given, Chief Petty Officers. They were crusty old bastards who had done it all and had been forged into men who had been time tested over more years than a lot of us had time on the planet. The ones I remember wore hydraulic oil stained hats with scratched and dinged-up insignia, faded shirts, some with a Bull Durham tag dangling out of their right-hand pocket or a pipe and tobacco reloads in a worn leather pouch in their hip pockets, and a Zippo that had been everywhere. Some of them came with tattoos on their forearms that would force them to keep their cuffs buttoned at a Methodist picnic.

Most of them were as tough as a boarding house steak. A quality required to survive the life they lived. They were, and always will be, a breed apart from all other residents of Mother Earth. They took eighteen year old idiots and hammered the stupid bastards into sailors.

You knew instinctively it had to be hell on earth to have been born a Chief's kid. God should have given all sons born to Chiefs a return option.

A Chief didn't have to command respect. He got it because there was nothing else you could give them. They were God's designated hitters on earth.

We had Chiefs with fully loaded Submarine Combat Patrol Pins, and combat air crew wings in my day...hard-core bastards who remembered lost mates, and still cursed the cause of their loss...and they were expert at choosing descriptive adjectives and nouns, none of which their mothers would have endorsed.

At the rare times you saw a Chief topside in dress canvas, you saw rows of hard-earned, worn and faded ribbons over his pocket. "Hey Chief, what's that one and that one?" "Oh hell kid, I can't remember. There was a war on. They gave them to us to keep track of the campaigns." "We didn't get a lot of news out where we were. To be honest, we just took their word for it. Hell

son, you couldn't pronounce most of the names of the places we went. They're all depth charge survival geedunk." "Listen kid, ribbons don't make you a Sailor." We knew who the heroes were, and in the final analysis that's all that matters.

Many nights, we sat in the after mess deck wrapping ourselves around cups of coffee and listening to their stories. They were light-hearted stories about warm beer shared with their running mates in corrugated metal sheds at resupply depots where the only furniture was a few packing crates and a couple of Coleman lamps. Standing in line at a Honolulu cathouse or spending three hours soaking in a tub in Freemantle, smoking cigars, and getting loaded. It was our history. And we dreamed of being just like them because they were our heroes. When they accepted you as their shipmate, it was the highest honor you would ever receive in your life. At least it was clearly that for me. They were not men given to the prerogatives of their position.

You would find them with their sleeves rolled up, shoulder-to-shoulder with you in a stores loading party. "Hey Chief, no need for you to be out here tossin' crates in the rain, we can get all this crap aboard."

"Son, the term 'All hands' means all hands."

"Yeah Chief, but you're no damn kid anymore, you old coot."

"Horsefly, when I'm eighty-five parked in the stove up old bastards' home, I'll still be able to kick your worthless butt from here to fifty feet past the screw guards along with six of your closest friends." And he probably wasn't bullshitting.

They trained us. Not only us, but hundreds more just like us. If it wasn't for Chief Petty Officers, there wouldn't be any U.S. Navy. There wasn't any fairy godmother who lived in a hollow tree in the enchanted forest who could wave her magic wand and create a Chief Petty Officer.

They were born as hot-sacking seamen, and matured like good whiskey in steel hulls over many years. Nothing a nineteen year-old jay-bird could cook up was original to these

old saltwater owls. They had seen E-3 jerks come and go for so many years; they could read you like a book. "Son, I know what you are thinking. Just one word of advice. DON'T. It won't be worth it."

"Aye, Chief."

Chiefs aren't the kind of guys you thank. Monkeys at the zoo don't spend a lot of time thanking the guy who makes them do tricks for peanuts.

Appreciation of what they did, and who they were, comes with long distance retrospect. No young lad takes time to recognize the worth of his leadership. That comes later when you have experienced poor leadership or let's say, when you have the maturity to recognize what leaders should be, you find that Chiefs are the standard by which you measure all others.

They had no Academy rings to get scratched up. They butchered the King's English. They had become educated at the other end of an anchor chain from Copenhagen to Singapore. They had given their entire lives to the U.S. Navy. In the progression of the nobility of employment, Chief Petty Officer heads the list. So, when we ultimately get our final duty station assignments and we get to wherever the big Chief of Naval Operations in the sky assigns us, if we are lucky, Marines will be guarding the streets, and there will be an old Chief in an oil-stained hat and a cigar stub clenched in his teeth standing at the brow to assign us our bunks and tell us where to stow our gear... and we will all be young again, and the damn coffee will float a rock.

Life fixes it so that by the time a stupid kid grows old enough and smart enough to recognize who he should have thanked along the way, he no longer can. If I could, I would thank my old Chiefs. If you only knew what you succeeded in pounding in this thick skull, you would be amazed. So, thanks you old casehardened unsalvageable son-of-a-bitches. Save me a rack in the berthing compartment."

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

**Submitted by Jack Bowers**

**Contributed by: Mike McCaffrey,  
Admiral (retired USN)**

# 2021 TACAMO MINI-REUNION



## Cruise to Bermuda



St. George Port is across from St David's Island, prior home to



**Pricing Per Person prices are Cruise Only w/Gov't Taxes and Fees included.**

**Insurance based on Cruise Total and/or Gratuities are Additional and due at Final Payment. These cabin rates are good through Jan 31, 2021, unless Royal Caribbean Cruise line (RCCL) pulls the cabins from our hold if RCCL see the cabins are not being sold. Final payments w/be due 3/2/2021**



**7 Days Cruise with 2 Port Stops**  
**Ship: Empress of the Seas**  
**Departing Port: Cape Liberty, NJ**

Day 1	Mon	May 31	Bayonne/Cape Liberty: EMBARK	4:00 pm
Day 2	Tues	June 1	Cruising: CRUISING	
Day 3	Wed	June 2	St. George/Bermuda: DOCKED	2:00 pm
Day 4	Thur	June 3	St. George/Bermuda: DOCKED	
Day 5	Fri	June 4	St. George/Bermuda: Depart	6:00 am
Day 5	Fri	June 4	Hamilton: DOCKED Arrive	7:30 am
Day 6	Sat	June 5	Hamilton: Depart	2:00 pm
Day 7	Sun	June 6	Cruising: CRUISING	
Day 8	Mon	June 7	Bayonne/Cape Liberty: Arrive & DEBARK	8:00 am

**Interior (4V)**  
**\$795.87 per person in cabin for 2**

**Ocean View (4N) \$925.87 per person in cabin for 2**

**Attendees List Link**

**Link with More Information**



# 2021 TACAMO MINI-REUNION

*Join us for TCVA's 2021 mini-Reunion on a board the Royal Caribbean, Empress Of The Seas. Bring back your memories of the old base, NASA Beach, St. George, Hamilton and the Swizzle Inn.*



**TCVA is holding 30 Cabins**  
**Interior 4V & Ocean View 4N**  
 (Partially Obstructed View)

**Deposit:** \$250 Per person to reserve & select your Cabin  
**Cancellation:** \$50 per person

\$795.87 Interior Cabin Category 4V (Decks 7,8, & 9)

\$925.87 Ocean View Cabin Category 4N (Decks 3,4,7,8, & 9)

*Deluxe Suite - Contact Lisa for pricing*

**LINK TO RESERVATION FORM - EMAIL FORM TO CHERYL**

TCVA Cruise Group Organizer: Cheryl  
 Vos Email [tcva.reunions@gmail.com](mailto:tcva.reunions@gmail.com)

Lisa Coleman ~ Independent Leisure Travel  
 Consultant DIRECT (757) 342-1903  
 ~ [lcoleman@ciazumano.com](mailto:lcoleman@ciazumano.com)

**NOTE: THIS IS MEMORIAL  
 DAY WEEKEND CRUISE  
 AND IT FILLS UP FAST**

**For Best Cabin  
 BOOK NOW!**

**JUMP ON BOARD  
AND CRUISE TO  
BERMUDA  
(LINK)**

# Veterans Benefits

Someone has gone to a lot of trouble. If this helps one person, then it was worthwhile. Below are websites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all veterans.

Appeals [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21\\_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch05.doc)  
 Board of Veteran's Appeals <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>  
 CARES Commission <http://www.va.gov/vbs/bva/>  
 CARES Draft National Plan <http://www1.va.gov/cares/page.cfm?pg=105>  
 Center for Minority Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans/>  
 Center for Veterans Enterprise <http://www.vetbiz.gov/default2.htm>  
 Center for Women Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>  
 Clarification on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans <http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html>  
 Classified Records - American Gulf War Veterans Assoc <http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum18/HTML/000011.html>  
 Compensation for Disabilities Associated with the Gulf War Service [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21\\_1/part6%20/ch07.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/part6%20/ch07.doc)  
 Compensation Rate Tables, 12-1-03 <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/comp01.htm>  
 Department of Veterans Affairs Home Page <http://www.va.gov/>  
 Directory of Veterans Service Organizations <http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>  
 Disability Examination Worksheets Index, Comp <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/exams/index.htm>  
 Due Process [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21\\_1/mr/part1/ch02.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch02.doc)  
 Duty to Assist [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21\\_1/mr/part1/ch01.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch01.doc)  
 Electronic Code of Federal Regulations <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr/>  
 Emergency, Non-emergency, and Fee Basis Care <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>  
 Environmental Agents <http://www1.va.gov/environagents/>  
 Environmental Agents M10 [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1002](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1002)  
 Establishing Combat Veteran Eligibility [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=315](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=315)  
 EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR GULF WAR AND IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303122304.DOC> and [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1158](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1158)  
 See also, Depleted Uranium Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DepletedUraniumFAQSheet.doc>  
 EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR NON-GULF WAR VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHANDBOOKNONGW130340304.DOC>  
 Fee Basis, PRIORITY FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERVICES AND INPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=206](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=206)  
 Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2005 <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>  
 OR, [http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current\\_benefits.htm](http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.htm)  
 Forms and Records Request <http://www1.va.gov/vaforms/>  
 General Compensation Provisions <http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii chapter11 subchapteri .html>  
 Geriatrics and Extended Care <http://www1.va.gov/geriatricsshg/>

Guideline for Chronic Pain and Fatigue MUS-CPG [http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus\\_base.htm](http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/cpgn/mus/mus_base.htm)  
 Guide to Gulf War Veteran's Health <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/VHlgulfwar.pdf>  
 Gulf War Subject Index <http://www1.va.gov/GulfWar/page.cfm?pg=7&template=main&letter=A>  
 Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses Q& As <http://www1.va.gov/gulfwar/docs/GWIllnessesQandAsIB1041.pdf>  
 Hearings [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21\\_1/mr/part1/ch04.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch04.doc)  
 Homeless Veterans <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/>  
 HSR&D Home <http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/>  
 Index to Disability Examination Worksheets C&P exams <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/exams/index.htm>  
 Ionizing Radiation <http://www1.va.gov/irad/>  
 Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom Veterans VBA <http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/>  
 M 10 for spouses and children < [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1007](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1007)  
 M10 Part III Change 1 [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1008](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1008)  
 M21-1 Table of Contents [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21\\_1.html](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/M21_1.html)  
 Mental Disorders, Schedule of Ratings [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38CFR/BOOKC/PART4/S4\\_130..DOC](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38CFR/BOOKC/PART4/S4_130..DOC)  
 Mental Health Program Guidelines [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1094](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1094)  
 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers <http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov/>  
 MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Centers of Excellence <http://www.va.gov/MS/about.asp>  
 My Health e Vet <http://www.myhealth.va.gov/>  
 NASDVA.COM <http://nasdva.com/>  
 National Association of State Directors <http://www.nasdva.com/>  
 National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention <http://www.nchpdp.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp>  
 Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders, Schedule of Ratings <http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/regs/38cfr/bookc/part4/s4%5F124a.doc>  
 OMI (Office of Medical Inspector) <http://www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/>  
 Online VA Form 10-10EZ <https://www1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>  
 Parkinson's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders <http://www1.va.gov/resdev/funding/solicitations/docs/parkinsons.pdf>  
 and, <http://www1.va.gov/padrecc/>  
 Peacetime Disability Compensation [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse\\_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1131](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1131)  
 Pension for Non-Service-Connected Disability or Death <http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii chapter15 subchapteri .html> & <http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii chapter15 subchapterii .html> & <http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partii chapter15 subchapteriii .html>  
 Persian Gulf Registry [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1003](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1003)  
 This program is now referred to as Gulf War Registry Program (to include Operation Iraqi Freedom) as of March 7, 2005: [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1232](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1232)  
 Persian Gulf Registry Referral Centers [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1006](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1006)  
 Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 1999, Annual Report To Congress [http://www1.va.gov/resdev/1999\\_Gulf\\_War\\_Veterans'\\_Illnesses\\_Appendices.doc](http://www1.va.gov/resdev/1999_Gulf_War_Veterans'_Illnesses_Appendices.doc)



# Veterans Benefits

Someone has gone to a lot of trouble. If this helps one person, then it was worthwhile. Below are websites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all veterans.

## *Continued from page 17*

Persian Gulf Veterans' Illnesses Research 2002, Annual Report To Congress [http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf\\_war\\_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf](http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/gulf_war_2002/GulfWarRpt02.pdf)

Phase I PGR [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1004](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1004)

Phase II PGR [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1005](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1005)

Policy Manual Index <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/eds/edsmps.htm>

Power of Attorney [http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21\\_1/mr/part1/ch03.doc](http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/mr/part1/ch03.doc) Project 112 (Including Project SHAD) <http://www1.va.gov/shad/>

Prosthetics Eligibility [http://www1.vagov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=337](http://www1.vagov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=337)

Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home Page <http://www.vethealth.cio.med.va.gov/>

Public Health/SARS <http://www1.vagov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?Pub=4>

Publications and Reports [http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs\\_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf\\_war.htm](http://www1.va.gov/resdev/prt/pubs_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf_war.htm)

Records Center and Vault Homepage <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/default.html>

Records Center and Vault Site Map <http://www.aac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html>

REQUEST FOR AND CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM CLAIMANT'S RECORDS <http://www.forms.va.gov/va/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3288-form.xft>

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses April 11, 2002 [http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes\\_April112002.doc](http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/Minutes_April112002.doc)

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses [http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations\\_2004.pdf](http://www1.va.gov/rac-gwvi/docs/ReportandRecommendations_2004.pdf)

Research and Development [http://wwwappc1.va.gov/resdev/programs/all\\_programs.cfm](http://wwwappc1.va.gov/resdev/programs/all_programs.cfm)

Survivor's and Dependents' Educational Assistance [http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partiii\\_chapter35\\_.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title38/partiii_chapter35_.html)

Title 38 Index Parts 0-17 [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv1\\_02.tpl](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv1_02.tpl)

Part 18 [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv2\\_02.tpl](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfrv2_02.tpl)

Title 38 Part 3 Adjudication Subpart Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl)

Title 38 Pensions, Bonuses & Veterans Relief (also § 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses found here) [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title38/38cfr3_main_02.tpl) Title 38 PART 4--SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES Subpart B--DISABILITY RATINGS <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=ab7641afd195c84a49a2067dbbfc95c0&rgn=div6&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.2&idno=38>

Title 38 § 4.16 Total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of the individual. PART 4 SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES Subpart General Policy in Rating <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=1b0c269b510d3157fbf8f8801bc9b3dc&rgn=div8&view=ext&node=38:1.0.1.1.5.1.96.11&idno=38>

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims [http://www.vetapp.gov/VA\\_Best\\_Practice\\_Manual\\_for\\_Posttraumatic\\_Stress\\_Disorder\\_\(PTSD\)\\_http://www.avapl.org/pub/PTSD%20Manual%20final%206.pdf](http://www.vetapp.gov/VA_Best_Practice_Manual_for_Posttraumatic_Stress_Disorder_(PTSD)_http://www.avapl.org/pub/PTSD%20Manual%20final%206.pdf)

VA Fact Sheet <http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/gwfs.html>

VA Health Care Eligibility <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/home/hecmmain.asp>

VA INSTITUTING GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTION (GAF) <http://www.avapl.org/gaf/gaf.html>

VA Life Insurance Handbook Chapter 3 <http://www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/GLIhandbook/glibookletch3.htm#310>

VA Loan Lending Limits and Jumbo Loans [http://valoans.com/va\\_facts\\_limits.cfm](http://valoans.com/va_facts_limits.cfm)

VA MS Research <http://www.va.gov/ms/about.asp>

VA National Hepatitis C Program <http://www.hepatitis.va.gov/>

VA Office of Research and Development <http://www1.va.gov/resdev/>

VA Trainee Pocket Card on Gulf War <http://www.va.gov/OAA/pocketcard/gulfwar.asp>

VA WMD EMSG <http://www1.va.gov/emshg/>

VA WRIISC-DC <http://www.va.gov/WRIISC-DC/>

VAOIG Hotline Telephone Number and Address [http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3\\_.htm](http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/hotline3_.htm)

Vet Center Eligibility - Readjustment Counseling Service <http://www.va.gov/rcs/Eligibility.htm>

Veterans Benefits Administration Main Web Page <http://www.vba.va.gov/>

Veterans Legal and Benefits Information <http://valaw.org/>

VHA Forms, Publications, Manuals <http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/>

VHA Programs - Clinical Programs & Initiatives [http://www1.va.gov/health\\_benefits/page.cfm?pg=13](http://www1.va.gov/health_benefits/page.cfm?pg=13) <http://webmaila.juno.com/webmail/new/UrlBlockedError.aspx>

VHA Public Health Strategic Health Care Group Home Page <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/>

VHI Guide to Gulf War Veterans Health [http://www1.va.gov/vhi\\_ind\\_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp](http://www1.va.gov/vhi_ind_study/gulfwar/istudy/index.asp)

Vocational Rehabilitation <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>

Vocational Rehabilitation Subsistence <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/InterSubsistencefy04.doc>

VONAPP online <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

WARMS - 38 CFR Book C <http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/bookc.html>

War-time Disability Compensation [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse\\_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1110](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=browse_usc&docid=Cite:+38USC1110)

War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center - New Jersey <http://www.wri.med.va.gov/>

Welcome to the GI Bill Web Site <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

What VA Social Workers Do <http://www1.va.gov/socialwork/page.cfm?pg=3>

WRIISC Patient Eligibility <http://www.illegion.org/va1.html>

**Print this and save it in your VA files. There may be a need for its use in the future.**



# TACAMO Fallen

## EC-130 161496 & Crew

### Three firefighters dead after Large Air Tanker crashes while fighting bushfires in southern NSW, Australia

By Kevin Nguyen and Matthew Doran

Early **January 22nd**, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) said it had "lost contact" with a Lockheed C-130 Hercules being used in water bombing operations in the Snowy Monaro area.

Firefighters, emergency services and military personnel launched a search and rescue operation and located the wreckage.

However, RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said all the crew members were "tragically" killed.

"[The aircraft] impacted heavily with the ground and initial reports are that there was a large fireball associated with the impact of the plane as it hit the ground," he said.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said there was no indication on what caused the accident, but the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) was working to determine what happened.

The C-130 was contracted through North American aerial firefighting company Coulson Aviation (USA).

Continue reading the story [Click Here](#)

### LATEST FROM COULSON

With the requirement for more aerial tankers to combat increasing fires in North America, the Canadian company of Coulson has added a new Hercules to its fleet, **reports Jim Dunn**. The aircraft is former US Navy Lockheed EC-130Q BuNo 161496. With engines removed, this aircraft sat for a number of years in one of the Tucson scrap yards surrounding Davis-Monthan AFB and its future looked grim. However, with the need for new air tankers nearing the critical stage, Coulson purchased the plane, got it airworthy, and then highly-modified the aircraft with internal tanks. As Tanker 134, it is now the fourth Hercules in the Coulson fleet which includes two former EC-130Qs.

**Thank you Loren Linde for the Coulson Photos and information from Coulson**

### COULSON HERCULES LOST

Readers are aware of the uncontrolled fires that have been sweeping through parts of Australia. Perhaps less well-known is the fact a number of fire-bombers from North America have made the long trek south to combat the blazes. Unfortunately, one of those aircraft has been lost. On 22 January, Lockheed Hercules N134CG operated by Coulson Aviation was lost while operating in the Snowy Monaro area of New South Wales. All three crewmen were killed. As of yet, there is no firm reason for the crash.

The Lockheed Hercules that was lost along with three crewmen in New South Wales. (Roger Cain)

*TCVA extends its sympathy and prayer for peace to the family and friends of the crew during this time of the passing. (Left to right) Capt. Ian H. McBeth, 44, of Great Falls, Montana; First Officer Paul Clyde Hudson, 42, of Buckeye, Arizona; and Flight Engineer Rick A. DeMorgan Jr., 43, of Navarre, Florida, died in the crash.*



EC-130Q BuNo 161496 in the Tucson scrap yard on 1 March 2010. (J. Dunn)



**Photo taken by Chris Sachs of TACAMO Here 161496 at the Boneyard Safari with TCVA & Ramon Purcell, 4/25/15.**



# TACAMO FALLEN

## ***Fallen Shipmates***

*Passings received after last Newsletter*

### **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!

## ***Fallen TACAMO Shipmates***

*Presented in no particular order.*

### **FALLEN LINK**

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



**TACAMO**  
Active Duty, Veterans,  
Government civilians, Families,  
and Industry Partners

# COVID 19

CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE

## What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

### Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in China, and limited spread among close contacts has been detected in some countries outside China, including the United States. At this time, however, this virus is NOT currently spreading in communities in the United States. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. Risk of infection is dependent on exposure. Close contacts of people who are infected are at greater risk of exposure, for example health care workers and close contacts of people who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

### Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

### How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now it seems to be spreading from person to person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some diseases are highly contagious (like measles), while other diseases are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

### What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

### What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

### How can I help protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

## COVID 19

CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE

## STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

### Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.