

# Exercise Tiger Association



## Adopt A Serviceman Brunch & Awards Presentation



*Sunday, September 11, 2005  
Boone Tavern & Restaurant  
Columbia, Missouri*

*The Exercise Tiger Association's recognition programs began with awarding three plaques to veterans of the WWII Battle of Tiger in 1989. Since then, more than 15 separate categories have been established to honor all veterans. The association provides special recognition to active members of our armed forces and to those that provide support for our veterans and our active troops. Since 1989 more than 700 awards have been presented to veterans, elected officials, students, military units, journalists and others. Each recipient must be nominated and must meet the criteria for the award for which they have been nominated.*



## THE EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION'S ADOPT A SERVICEMAN PROGRAM

The "Adopt A Serviceman" Program is an annual event for the state of Missouri. It began in 1999 as the "Adopt An Airman" program and honored 4 airmen and NCOs as well as the Company Grade Officer of the Quarter from the USAF's Air Combat Command's 509th Bomb Wing. The program was met with outstanding support from Columbia and surrounding mid-Missouri communities. In 2000, the program was expanded to honor ALL branches of military service. As long as there is a need for our armed forces to serve, there is a need to honor those who are routinely placed in harm's way. It is truly an honor to recognize the individual efforts of enlisted NCOs and the personnel of the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. The Association began to recognize those who serve and protect us here at home by including police officers and firefighters in 2001. In times of conflict and during peace, our military, police and firefighters are always there serving. The Missouri chapter of the Exercise Tiger Association is proud to sponsor this program.



### ***We Remember The Battle of Exercise Tiger April 28, 1944***

As they walk the beautiful town square of downtown Mexico, Missouri, visitors are surprised to come upon a ship's anchor permanently mounted on display at one corner of the grounds of the Audrain County Courthouse. This anchor is the foundation of the Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Anchor Memorial and serves as a reminder of the sacrifice that more than 200 Missourians, 8 from Mexico, made during World War II as American soldiers and sailors prepared to help liberate France from the Germans.



**Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Anchor Memorial,  
dedicated 1994, at Audrain County Courthouse,  
Mexico, Missouri.**



**LST 289 after the battle of Exercise  
Tiger**

### **Back Cover**

Photos from 2004 Exercise Tiger Adopted Serviceman Recognition Weekend. Beginning at top left corner clockwise - honored guests; induction ceremony during half-time at Faurot Field; sabre arch ritual entry of honored servicemen; breakfast presentations at Country Kitchen restaurant; pre-game wreath ceremony; sabre arch ritual entry of MO Adjutant General, Brig. General Dennis Schull; first presentation of Military Career Achievement award; presentation of flag flown in B-2 Stealth Bomber over Baghdad; and evening banquet.





## The Exercise Tiger Association National Commemorative Foundation

The New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association began in 1989 with two veterans of the battle, Bud Carey, LST 507, and Tom Glynn, LST 289. The executive director, Walter Domanski, Jr., is the son of the late "Tiger" vet Walter "Guns" Domanski, Sr., LST 496, and a former U.S. Navy Midshipman from the University of Missouri's NROTC unit. He was nicknamed "Guns" in 1993 out of respect for his father and because of his efforts on behalf of all Tiger vets. In 1996, with the creation of the Missouri chapter, the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association was renamed The Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation. Since 1995 the national association has grown to include over 300 members as well as select honorary members. Ceremonies to commemorate Exercise Tiger have been conducted on the east coast and in the midwest; five at VFW Post 3729 on Long Beach Island, three at the Philadelphia Naval Base, one at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station, the 1997 Midwest ceremony at VFW Post 280 in Columbia, Missouri. In 1996 the nuclear submarine USS Nebraska, SSBN 739, part of Sub Group 10 based in Kings Bay, Georgia, held the first ceremony by a US sub while underway. The 1998 tribute was held at Crowder Hall on the University of Missouri campus - the first ever ceremony hosted by a Navy ROTC unit at a college - and the USS Maine, SSBN 741, also part of Sub Group 10, held the

first tribute to "Tiger," with veterans of the battle, while at sea. In 1999 the Indiana Tiger Chapter held the first ceremony in Indiana at Indianapolis. Also in 1999, a stretch of US Highway 54 between I-70 and Mexico, Missouri was dedicated "The WWII Battle of Exercise Tiger Expressway" and construction was completed on the Missouri Exercise Tiger Memorial. In 2000, a ceremony dedicating The Missouri Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Anchor Memorial was conducted in Mexico, Missouri, on the lawn of the Audrain County Courthouse. The Exercise Tiger Association is recognized by the Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, Office of the Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs, the US Coast Guard, the Governors of Missouri and New Jersey, and by members of the Congress and Senate. In 1998, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recognized the association. It continues to promote and educate communities, students and citizens about the historic battle of Exercise Tiger. The Association advocates and conducts annual ceremonies in honor of "Tiger" and furthers the cause for awards, by the military branches and by state and local governments, to honor the men and the memory of Exercise Tiger. The Foundation also serves to advocate and lobby for all veterans of the United States. The Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation is a non-profit organization, federal ID number 22-3273160.

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*To join the Association, or to make a financial contribution, write  
c/o The Exercise Tiger Assoc. PO Box 246 Columbia, MO 65201*

## VIGILANCE PREVAILS...

Servicemen and women, government officials, veterans and civilians all across this nation, and in many locations throughout the world, are commemorating the events of September 11, 2001; the day the world stopped turning for thousands of Americans and changed the course of history. The courageous and selfless acts of civilians, firefighters, policemen and our military exemplify the spirit of "Tiger".

It is in the spirit of "Tiger" that we have come here today. to honor and remember true American heroes - our armed forces of today. These men and women are routinely placed in harm's way because they have chosen to protect and defend the rights and freedoms that we enjoy every day as American citizens and place God and country first.

The events of this weekend are only a small way that we, as citizens, can let these vigilant guards of our God-given right to freedom know that we recognize all of the sacrifices that they, as well as their families, make for us each and every day. It was extremely difficult to select just a few to be honored here today. If possible, we would honor all of the members of our armed forces in this manner.

We also honor our elected officials, veterans, journalists, military units, community leaders, students and everyday citizens that have supported our military during times of peace and times of war, and have supported the efforts of the Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation, as it strives to advocate for, and bring recognition to, all veterans of the United States.

To each of you here today, "Thank you" for your service to our country. As we honor these servicemen and women that are here with us today, we also remember those who are here with us in spirit; those who have served, or continue to serve, in both world wars, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, the Gulf War, Iraq, and other places in this world where freedom and basic human rights are in jeopardy.



# EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION AWARDS



## **Captain Gregory G. Faughner Trophy for Excellence**

Named in honor of CPT Gregory G. Faughner, USAF (ret). CPT Faughner began his 28 year military career in 1968 as a US marine serving in the Republic of Vietnam. He received 5 medals including the Bronze Star. In 1970 he moved to the United States Air Force. He taught at the prestigious Air Force Academy and made his final stop as the Missile Launch Officer of the 321<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Wing at Grand Forks. In all, Faughner received more than 18 major medals and decorations, including two unit citations while at the 321<sup>st</sup> for unit readiness. Faughner served as a Senior Aerospace Science Instructor in the Air Force JROTC program.

*Award is presented to outstanding units, enlisted personnel and officers.*

## **Sergeant Rudy Baginski Marine Corps Trophy for Outstanding Enlisted Excellence**

Named in honor of Korean War veteran SGT Rudy Baginski, USMC. In 1943 a 17 year-old boy dreamed of being the best. Too young for the Marines, he made a deal with the Navy to be assigned to the famed 2<sup>nd</sup> Division as a Navy Combat Corpsman beginning a journey that took him from the blood-soaked beaches of Saipan in 1944 to the bloody hills of Korea in 1952. As a corpsman with Marine Assault Group 53, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, Rudy not only treated Marines, but fought as one. On July 7, 1944, history's first Bonzai charge was made with 4,000 Japanese soldiers attacking the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. The marines lost 10,000 men on Saipan. Rudy and his unit received the Presidential Unit Citation. By 1952 Rudy was a US Marine with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. On July 21, 1952, Rudy's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Anti-Tank Company engaged communist Chinese forces less than 60 miles from Seoul during which his unit was virtually destroyed before help could arrive. Wounded, Rudy continued firing with his 75mm gun. For his actions, he received the DSM and Bronze Star. In all, Rudy received more than 22 medals and ribbons.

*Award is presented to Navy Corpsman, enlisted Marines and NCOs.*

## **Petty Officer Walter Domanski, Sr. Memorial Trophy The Naval Petty Officer Achievement Award**

Named in honor of Gunners Mate 3rd Class Walter "Guns" Domanski, Sr. Domanski served in the US Navy during WWII. During the now famous Battle of Exercise Tiger on April 28, 1944, "Guns" and his crew on board LST 496, began firing back at the attacking German Navy "E" boats. On June 11, 1944 (D-Day plus 5), LST 496 struck a mine only hundreds of yard off the Normandy coast. "Guns" was critical with a broken back and lacerations and made AP news as one of the first Navy casualties of D-Day. Petty Officer Domanski also served aboard the DE USS Keith and the Destroyer DeHaven. He saw combat in the North Atlantic, the Pacific and the Mediterranean. He participated in three major amphibious operations and received 10 awards and ribbons, including the Purple Heart.

*Award is presented to Petty Officers and CPOs.*

## **Sergeant Charles Griffey Trophy for Army Achievement**

Named in honor of SGT Charles Griffey, Independence, Missouri. While serving in WWII, SGT Griffey was assigned to the 478<sup>th</sup> US Army combat Truck Company, US 1<sup>st</sup> Div. His first baptism by fire was during the Battle of Exercise Tiger when his LST was attacked. During D-Day, June 6, 1944, Griffey ferried troops from the beaches over the flooded marshes and into the hedge country of France. Griffey and the 478<sup>th</sup> fought German troops all the while transporting 1st Div. Army

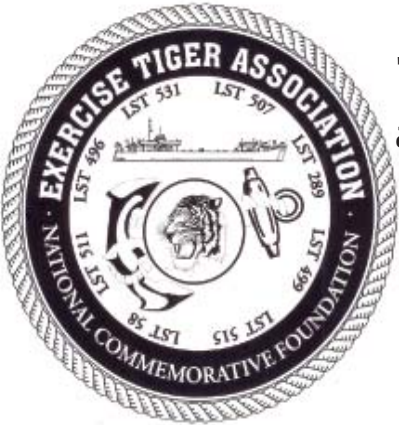


# SPONSORS



Country Kitchen





**Today's brunch and program  
and this weekend's tribute to  
our Adopted Servicemen  
and Women are held in  
association with...**

University of Missouri Athletic Department  
University of Missouri Air Force, Army & Naval ROTC  
Columbia Police Department Association  
The Officers and Staff of the 442nd FW  
Officers and Staff of the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB  
Missouri Army National Guard  
Washington University - Army ROTC  
Super 8 Motel - Lake of the Woods  
Robert and Carol Julian  
Best Western Columbia Inn  
Drury Inn  
Hampton Inn  
Hawthorne Suites



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soldiers and supplies into Northern France. Griffey received more than 8 medals and ribbons, including 3 major battle stars and the Rhenland Campaign and Croix De Guerre with palm medals. *Award is presented to Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserves enlisted, NCOs and officers.*

**Master Sergeant Lee A. Messina Trophy  
for Outstanding Enlisted Achievement**

Named for retired MSGT Lee A. Messina, a 20-year veteran of the United States Air Force. In 1980, MSGT Messina was selected to teach Air Force basic training at Lackland AFB. While there, he received the famed Air Force Blue Rope as Master Military Training Instructor. MSGT Messina has been awarded more than 6 major medals and decorations. MSGT Messina received the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Award for Outstanding Instructor in the Nation in 1983. As an Aerospace Science Instructor with the 931st NJ Air Force JROTC, his drill team was named national champions 3 out of 6 years.

*Award is presented to outstanding airmen and enlisted personnel*

**Major William D. Hobbs Trophy  
for Outstanding Public Affairs**

Named in honor of Missouri's own Bill Hobbs, Major, USAF (ret), who began his career as a Public Affairs Officer in 1954 during which he received numerous medals and decorations. MAJ Hobbs survived a guerilla attack in Africa and has lectured on his experiences and survival tactics. Highlights of his career as a PAO include his work on the TV show *Bold Journey* and on Armed Forces radio and TV. He ended his career in 1992 in service to Missouri at the Ike Skelton Missouri National Guard HQ. A former editor of the Missouri National Guard publication *Bear Facts*, he continues to write articles for *Bear Facts* as well as *The Air Force Times*. He is a member of the Exercise Tiger Association and has served as MC for many of the association's past programs.

*Award is presented in recognition of outstanding public relations to military officers or units or to civilians.*

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## 2005 Award Honorees

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**Petty Officer SK1 Keith Gilligan**

US Navy

~ Supported USS SPRUANCE's command and control teams engaged in interrogation and boarding of over 30 vessels suspected of harboring terrorists or engaged in smuggling; engaged in security patrols to ensure safekeeping of Iranian off-shore oil rigs; instrumental in helping over 200 sailors quality as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists ~

**SMSGT Jerry D. Goehring**

442<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, US Air Force Reserves

~ Assigned to 1058<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Forces Transportation Company, Tikrit, Iraq where he directed 148 airmen performing over 500 missions, escorting 4,000 government-contracted and military supply vehicles in excess of 350,000 miles; awarded prestigious Army Bronze Star for outstanding leadership; spearheaded the 232<sup>nd</sup> Corps Support Battalion's humanitarian efforts in Iraq directing assessment of school reconstruction work ~

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## 2005 Award Honorees *(continued)*

### SGM William E. Green

#### 135th Support Detachment (ROC), MO Army National Guard

~ While deployed to Kuwait/Iraq in support of OIF, personally coordinated efforts that defeated enemy attacks on US service members and installations; functioned as Battalion Command Sergeant Major in addition to official role as Operations Sergeant; constantly mentors junior NCOs and junior enlisted soldiers on job performance and career goals ~

### CPT Jason J. Maeder

#### 205th Area Support Battalion Medical

~ As company executive officer in combat zone, primary conduit from battalion headquarters to soldiers spread out in four locations in three countries helping to alleviate much of the stress and anxiety of our soldiers; has exceeded all expectations of his commanding officer ~

### SGT Micheal K. McGuire

#### US Marine Corps

~ During his tour with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, awarded a Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon for his combat operations during his division's assault into Iraq; selected for LAR Crew Evaluation Team which established 23mm cannon ranges and evaluated gunnery/combat skills of LAR vehicle crews in preparation for deployments to Iraq ~

### SMSGT Timothy L. Storms

#### 442nd Fighter Wing, US Air Force Reserves

~ During deployment to Kirkuk Air Base, ensured emembers activited in suppor tof OIF were cognizant of all entitlements and benefits, utilized expertise in finance to ensure all deployed personnel completed required paperwork for pay and other benefits ensuring successful deployment of over 300 people and execution of unfunded requirements acquiring mission essential equipment/facilities upgrades ~

### SSGT Mitchell L. Swindell

#### 509th Bomb Wing, US Air Force

~ As NCOIC, Force Protection Security Escort, Kirkuk Air Base, single-handedly managed over 50 day-shift escorts; took control of main entry control point are during several rocket attacks/evacuated personnel established defensive fighting perimeter and ensured overall safety ~

### SSGT Alexander L. Young

#### 509th Bomb Wing, US Air Force

~ In support of OIF, marshaled over 30K OIF flights, 200% increase since last OIF AEF; issued precise instructions to arriving pilots during 10 base attacks, fully protecting assets with zero casualties; safely recovered \$2.2B aircraft ~

### SGT Kevin Zimmerman

#### 1140th Engineer Combat Battalion Corps (Whl), MO Army National Guard

~ Acted as convoy commander on more than 150 missions, including patrols, escorts, and convoys throughout the Iraqi theatre, with no combat related injuries or fatalities; maintained his sections equipment at a 95% operational rate, nearly impossible to achieve in the arduous road and weather conditions of Iraq; under his leadership, his section soldiers safely made it through an ambush by anti-Iraqi forces saving two lives as a result of quick thinking and training ~

## The Battle of Exercise Tiger



What began as a top secret naval operation, to prepare US Army and Naval forces for the June 6 D-Day invasion, would end with one of the highest losses ever suffered in combat by the US Army and Navy in WWII.

At 0135 on the morning of April 28, 1944, eight Tank Landing Ships (LSTs) and their lone escort, the British corvette HMS AZALEA, were en route to the landing area. Slapton Sands was selected because its beach looked every bit like the beaches at Normandy that would be code named Utah and Omaha by the allies.

The eight LSTs of LST Group 32 formed convoy T-4. They were the support group for elements of the 4th and 29th Infantry, 82nd Airborne and 188th Field Artillery Group already ashore at Slapton Sands.

The LSTs were carrying the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, the 3206th Quartermaster Company from Missouri, the 3207th Company and 462nd combat truck support companies as well as other elements of the US Army's engineer, signal, medical and chemical corps, and some infantry.

Miles south in the mouth of Lyme bay, lay the bulk of the Tiger naval force. This portion of the force was protected by the cruiser USSAUGUSTA and the new British "O" class destroyers HMS ONSLOW and HMS OBEDIENT, as well as

the Tribal Class destroyer HMS ASHANTI, and a covering force of motor torpedo boats. Anchored along with LSTs 55 and 382, they would be of no help to the ambushed LST force of T-4.

Attacking in the pitch black night, 9 German Navy "E" boats (torpedo) struck quickly and decisively without warning. LST 507 was torpedoed first. Explosions and flames lit the night. At 0217 LST 531 was torpedoed; it sank in six minutes and 424 of the 496 soldiers and sailors on her died. It was on this ship that the state of Missouri lost some 201 of its boys of the 3206th.

LST 289 tried to evade the fast German "E" boats but was hit in the stern. LSTs 496, 515, and 511 all began firing at their attackers. LST 289 joined in, returning fire while lowering landing craft to pull it out of harm's way.

At 0225 LST 499 radioed for help. Minutes later the lead ship, LST 515, sent out an urgent and chilling message: " 'E' boat attack." Radio stations along the coast picked up the dramatic calls for help; unaware of the top secret operation underway, the calls go unanswered. Only after an alert radio operator heard the words "T-4" did the Naval Command realize that the calls were from "Tiger" and sent help.

By 0240, the horror was slowly realized - two LSTs sunk, a third lay crippled. Of the 4,000 man force, nearly a quarter were

missing or killed. Official Dept. of Defense records confirmed 749 dead; 551 US Army and 198 US Navy. The death toll made "Tiger" the costliest battle to US forces at that point in the war, after Pearl Harbor.

On April 28, 1944, the LSTs darkest, yet finest, hour occurred. For one hour, the men and ships of Convoy T-4 fought the greatest naval battle ever faced by an LST force in history. Against superior enemy warships, the Tiger amphibious force held its own.

The German attack did not stop Exercise Tiger. Landing operations resumed later on the 28th. To the credit of the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved in Exercise Tiger, the D-Day invasion at Normandy occurred as planned.

The events surrounding Exercise Tiger were officially declassified in early August, 1944; two months after the Normandy Invasion. On April 28, 1996, Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton, stated in his remarks "Tiger. . . was the LSTs' finest hour."



This history was assembled by the NJ/MO Tiger Assoc. and based on Navy reports, DOD reports, and eye witness accounts.

# Adopt A Serviceman 2005 Award Presentations



~ SGT Charles Griffey Trophy  
for Army Achievement

SGT Kevin Zimmerman, MOARNG  
*1140<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion*

SGM William E. Green, MOARNG  
*135<sup>th</sup> Support Detachment (ROC)*

~ SGT Rudy Baginski Marine Corps  
Trophy

SGT Michael K. McGuire, USMC

~ Walter Domanski, Sr. Memorial Trophy

Petty Officer SK1 Keith Gilligan, USNR

~ Officer of the Quarter

CPT Jason J. Maeder, MOARNG  
*205<sup>th</sup> Area Support Battalion Medical*

~ MSGT Lee A. Messina Trophy

SSGT Alexander L. Young, USAF  
*509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing*

SMSGT Timothy L. Storms, USAFR  
*442<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing*

~ CPT Gregory Faughner Trophy

SMSGT Jerry D. Goehring, USAFR  
*442<sup>nd</sup> LRS/LRST*

SSGT Mitchell L. Swindell, USAF  
*509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing*

~ MAJ William D. Hobbs Trophy for  
Outstanding Public Affairs

1LT James L. Vaughn, MOARNG  
*203<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy)*

MSGT William E. Jackson Memorial Trophy  
for Military Career Achievement  
COL Roger Disrud  
US Air Force (Ret)



## Spirit of Patriotism Award

~ Bennett Packaging  
~ Tammy Bagley, Columbia CVB  
~ Pastor Philip C. Dooley  
~ Best Western Columbia Inn  
~ Super 8 Motel - Lake of the Woods  
~ Hawthorn Suites  
~ Hampton Inn  
~ Drury Inn

## Spirit of Tiger Award

~ Andrew G. Grinch, UMC Athletics Dept.  
~ MSGT Bill Huntington  
~ John McClane, Country Kitchen

## Tiger Unit Awards

~ Washington University Army ROTC  
~ University of Missouri Air Force ROTC  
~ University of Missouri Army ROTC  
~ University of Missouri Navy ROTC

## Military Community Relations Award

~ Pat Kerr, Missouri Veterans Commission

## Outstanding MO Educator in Aviation

~ Heidi Barnhouse  
West Jr. High School, Columbia, MO

## Cadet Leadership Award

## Journalism Award

~ Joe Knotek, *Scuttlebutt*

## 1LT James L. Vaughn

203rd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), MO Army National Guard

~ OIF completed the construction of Camp Sapper II - a 600-soldier base camp; as Unit PAO, sets the standard in news articles published throughout Missouri; has been instrumental in bringing the local National Guard units into the living rooms of the general public ~



## MSgt William E. Jackson Memorial Trophy for Military Career Achievement

William E. Jackson began his career of service to his country by joining the United States Army in 1943 where his first tour of duty included an unfortunate stint as a POW in Germany during 1945. Following his rescue from the POW camp by GEN Patton, he remained in the European theater until 1949. His second tour of duty during the Korean War took him to Korea from 1950 to 1956. He retired from the Army in 1964, but continued to serve his country as a civilian working for the department of defense in Vietnam. During his military career, Jackson was awarded many medals including 7 Army Good Conduct medals. His volunteer duties included hand-to-hand combat military training instructor, military advisor - Saudi Arabia - instructed infantry tactics, ROTC instructor at Indiana University where he trained officers in military education and as in Integrated Armored Infantry instructor. He later decided to serve God by becoming a Baptist preacher. Four of Jackson's sons and two grandsons have continued the tradition of serving their country.



## 2005 Honoree for Military Career Achievement Colonel Roger G. Disrud USAF(Ret)

Colonel (Ret) Roger G. Disrud served for nearly 36 years in military aviation. He graduated from North Dakota State University in 1967 and received a commission through Air Force ROTC. Then in 1969, he graduated with honors from Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training at Reese AFB, TX and was assigned to Luke AFB, AZ for training in the F-100 Super Sabre.

After being deployed to Southeast Asia, Disrud successfully flew 185 combat missions in the F-100 with only a few close calls (1969-1970). Following his combat tour, he was assigned to England AFB, LA where he flew the F-100 for another year and was assigned the duty of A-37 Dragonfly instructor. Disrud's combat experience proved to be invaluable in training pilots both at home and abroad. Two years later, he joined the Air Force Reserve as an A-37 Instructor Pilot and Air Reserve Technician at Barksdale AFB, LA.

From 1973 until 1981, Disrud continued flying the A-37 and instructing pilots at three Air Force Reserve locations. He then transitioned to the A-10 Thunderbolt II (Warthog) until he retired in 2003.

In 1982 Disrud transferred to Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO where he and other A-10 instructor pilots managed the conversion of the 442 Tactical Airlift Wing to the 442 Tactical Fighter Wing and he took the served in the leadership positions of Wing Safety Officer, Fighter Squadron Operations Officer, Operations Group Commander, Vice Wing Commander and Wing Commander, one of the Air Force's premier fighter wings.

Disrud mobilized and deployed twelve combat ready A-10's and three hundred citizen airman in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (2003), where they flew nearly 1200 combat sorties in just over seven months.

A significant achievement for Disrud is winning the individual Air Force Top Gun Award during the 1991 Gunsmoke competition at Nellis AFB, NV.

Disrud continues to be a devoted general aviation enthusiast and volunteer.



