



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Imperial Valley Council

March Speaker | US Navy Blue Angels Enlisted Leadership



Command Master Chief Eric McDermott, USN Flight Demonstration Squadron, Blue Angels

The Blue Angels' enlisted maintenance and support team is comprised of approximately 100 Sailors and Marines. Alternating crews of about 45 team members travel to each show site. All career-oriented enlisted Sailor or Marine applicants come recommended for Blue Angel duty by their current commanding officer. Applicants go through extensive screening, including interviewing with the members of each of the 15 squadron work centers. The keen selection process secures the squadron's tradition of excellence, ensuring the

Blue Angels are a direct reflection of the professionalism of today's Sailors and Marines. After completing their Blue Angel tour, individuals return to the fleet to continue their naval careers.

Selected enlisted personnel volunteer for a three-year tour with the squadron. These Though every team member brings skills in a distinct job specialty, each is expected to work beyond that specialty, contributing to the overall effectiveness of the Blue Angels. The squadron consists of seven distinct departments, jointly responsible for guaranteeing command readiness. A tribute to this dedicated team is the fact that the Blue Angels have never canceled an air show due to a maintenance problem.

The Blue Angels' Senior Enlisted personnel are affectionately called the "MIBs" or "Men in Black", though the MIBs are comprised of both women and men leaders.

As the squadron's command master chief, Master Chief McDermott functions as the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer on all matters relating to enlisted policy and programs and assists the executive officer in promoting squadron policy and guidance. Command Master Chief Eric McDermott is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He attended Central High School, LA for three years and graduated from Perry High School, GA in 1998. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and completed basic training at Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois in 2000. Eric attended Aviation Structural Mechanic School in Pensacola, Florida in November 2000. He received his promotion to Master Chief in April 2018 Eric joined the Blue Angels in October 2020. His personal awards include one Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals, seven Navy Achievement Medals, and various personal and unit awards.

If You're Not With Us, You're Missing Out

President Ted Gallinat presents Captain
Brian Kesselring with the Imperial Valley

Blue Angels Winter Training T-shirt during Blue Angels Night on February 1st.

"Boss" Kesselring is in his third year of leading the Flight Demonstration Squadron, and transitioned the team from the Legacy Horney to the F/A-18 Super Hornet in 2021.

Presenting Team 2022



Joining us for a T-Bone Dinner? Reservations Required

LET'S MEAT AGAIN



NEXT T-BONE DINNER | MARCH 1ST @ 6:30 PM

We are currently restricted to 50 guests for our dinners. All members and their guests must have their names on our security access list at least three weeks prior to the dinner.

Call us today to ensure your name will be on the list, and that we will have your reservation for a T-bone on the grill.

We appreciate NAF El Centro's command for permission to hold our dinners on Base, and we thank you for helping us meet our compliance obligations to the Base.

The Countdown Begins...3...2...1 Blue Angels & T-Birds

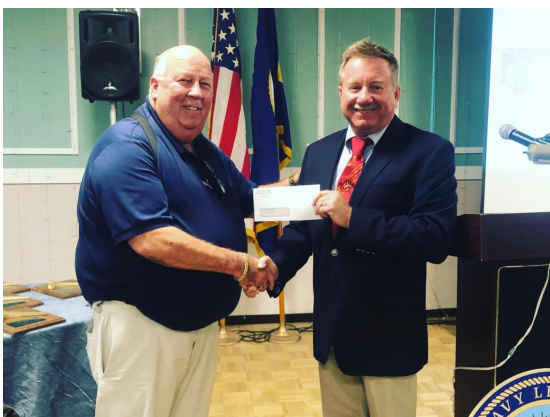


We are very excited to announce that besides hosting the Blue Angels during Desert Outing, but we'll also be hosting the United States Air Force Thunderbirds. Our guests will be in for a real treat.

We are operating under ongoing restrictions with limited seating, but we hope to be at full capacity in 2023. If you weren't able to get a seat this time, we look forward to seeing next year.

Desert Outing is our council's major fundraising event. All proceeds from the event enable us to support our adopted commands and their families.

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Thank you Doug Dahm and [The Dahm Team Real Estate Company](#) for your 2022 Community Table Sponsorship.

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It's always our pleasure to support the families of our adopted commands. As you likely know, the families who live aboard NAF El Centro don't have the community contacts that families in town have. Consequently, their circle of opportunity is smaller. We LOVE Girl Scout cookies, and know that you do too. The Girl Scout Troop aboard NAF El Centro will have a cookie table set up outside the Mirage Club next Tuesday, March 1st before our dinner. Stop by and buy a box (or more) and support our NAF families. Everybody wins!

Navy League National News

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE:

Sanctions Bill Hits Roadblock in Congress

Bipartisan efforts to complete a sanctions bill in preparation for potential Russian invasion of Ukraine hit a major hurdle this week. Both sides are still working diligently toward a solution but with Congress going on recess soon, and with a Russian invasion possible any day, time is of the essence. The primary areas of disagreement seem to center on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline as well as a more philosophical question regarding whether or not preemptive sanctions are justifiable considering they would set a precedent for penalizing nations based on actions that have not yet occurred. Hopefully, Congress will find a compromise and pass this needed legislation before Russia takes any further aggressive action.

House Passes Bill to Extend Current Federal Funding

The House passed a stopgap funding bill that would extend the current federal funding to March 11. While we vocally oppose kicking the can down the road because it delays necessary funding for new programs, this stopgap seems to be anticipating a full budget that can gain approval by Congress in time for that March 11 deadline. We will keep you updated.

CENTER FOR MARITIME STRATEGY

HAVE you checked out the Navy League's webpage for our new think tank, [the Center for Maritime Strategy](#)? Navy League members and the public can catch up on the latest activities and news involving the organization, including blog posts written by Adm. Foggo and podcasts. Please take a look and share with others so we can spread the think tank's important mission nationwide.

Admiral Foggo Joins CBS News to Discuss U.S. Role in Russia-Ukraine Escalation

Dean for the Center for Maritime Strategy Adm. Jamie Foggo appeared on CBS News to share his thoughts on the current situation involving Russia and Ukraine and what U.S.'s role could look like should Russia invade Ukraine. [Watch the interview on the CBS News website.](#)

Admiral Foggo Sees Red Dawn Parallels in Russia-Ukraine Escalation

Could the Russian-Ukraine escalation turn into a real-life Red Dawn? Adm. Foggo contemplates life imitating art [in his latest opinion piece](#) as Russia continues its push on the neighbor country.

Navy League Foundation Scholarships | Accepting Applications

National headquarters is accepting Navy League Foundation scholarship applications! These scholarships are available to children and grandchildren of veterans or active-duty sea service men and women, as well as members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. If you know soon to be college-bound students from sea service backgrounds, please let them know about this scholarship opportunity that is exclusive to them. If you have any questions regarding scholarships, please click the learn more button above or contact us at scholarships@navyleague.org.

President's Message

Fellow Navy Leaguers,

In just a few short weeks Winter Training for our Blue Angels will come to a close, and Imperial Valley will have produced a demonstration squadron second to none.

Before the Blue Angels depart for their 2022 show season, they'll have kicked it off at Naval Air Facility's Festival of Flight on Saturday, March 12th.

I hope you will make plans to attend. We encourage you to visit the [NAFEC Facebook](#) page for more details.

I'm going to brag on our new cooks. They really "hit it out of the ballpark" for Blue Angels Night. Those steaks were some of the best I've ever had. If you're not with us, you are seriously missing out.

Not only do we have great steaks, but we have great speakers. This was Boss Kesselring's last dinner meeting with us in El Centro. We have been fortunate to get to know him over his extended three-year tour with the Blue Angels. Under his leadership, the squadron is looking better every day. They'll be "show ready" on March 12th. Don't miss it!

As an added bonus -- we will have the distinct privilege of having another premier flight demonstration squadron grace our skies. The United States Air Force Thunderbirds will be visting us this week for dual training with the Blue Angels. Look up for what will be some spectacular flight displays in the coming days.

Come out and meet the Enlisted Blue Angels -- the MIBs will be in full force. We missed out welcoming Command Master Chief Eric McDermott last year due to restrictions. Come



on out, and give him the warm welcome he deserves.

We're standing by to take your dinner reservation for next Tuesday's meeting. Unsure if you're on our list? [Contact us](#). We want to see you, and we want to know how important you are to our mission and supporting the men and women of the sea services.

Let's "Meat" again next Tuesday.
Ted

Ted Gallinat, President
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Navy League of the U.S.
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Upcoming T-Bone Dinners and Events

FEB 25-26 | Desert Outing 2022

MAR 1 | Navy League Dinner | 6:30 pm
Meet the Blue Angels Men in Black

MAR 12 | NAF El Centro Festival of Flight

APR 5 | Navy League Dinner | 6:30 pm

MAY 3 | Navy League Dinner | 6:30 pm

JUN 7 | Navy League Dinner | 6:30 pm

JUL | Navy League Dinner | DARK -*No Meeting*

AUG | USCGC PETREL San Diego Padre Baseball | *TBD*



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