



# Imperial Valley Council

Serving all Imperial County communities



## Upcoming Events

### February

- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 5:30 pm  
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 24 Desert Outing 2017 Fundraiser

### March

- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm  
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 10 Food Fest at NAF El Centro Airshow
- 11 NAF El Centro Airshow

### April

- 4 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm  
NAF El Centro Mirage Club

### May

- 2 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm  
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 29 Memorial Day

**Navy League of the United States**  
*Citizens in Support of the Sea Services*



U.S. Navy



U.S. Marine Corps



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S.-flag  
Merchant Marine

## Meet the 2017 Blue Angels

### First Public Appearance of the New Season

It's a bird (sort of), it's a plane (uh-huh), it's...(not Superman), but they are "super" men who fly those death-defying feats in the air. Yes, they're the Blue Angels, and they've been streaking across our local skies in those ultrafast-looking blue and gold F/A-18's for the past month.

It's great to have the Blue Angels back in Imperial Valley, and after only three weeks of training, their practices are looking ever-more tight. From what our eyes are seeing, the March 11th airshow at Naval Air Facility El Centro will prove the Blue Angels team have indeed honed their skills to near perfection. We can hardly wait!

As has been our tradition for these past 50 years that the Blue Angels have been training in El Centro, we'll be hosting "Blue Angels Night" on February 7th. This is your opportunity to come out and meet the pilots and officers of the Blue Angels Ward room. The next time you see them will be out in town, or at the airshow.

Our cooks will be serving our traditional 20-ounce T-bone steaks. Come on out and meet the 2017 team, and we'll hear first-hand Boss Bernacchi's take on how the training season is shaping up.

Commander Ryan Bernacchi is a native of Los Altos, California and graduated from Mountain View High School in 1992, where he lettered in water polo and swimming. He attended the University of California, San Diego, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1996, and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy.

Commander Bernacchi joined the Blue Angels in September 2015. He has accumulated more than 3,500 flight hours and 600 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, one Individual Air Medal with Combat "V" (three Strike Flight), four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, one with Combat "V," and numerous unit, campaign, and service awards.

Joining Boss Bernacchi will be new 2017 team members:

- Blue Angel #2, LT Damon Kroes (Fremont, CA)
- Blue Angel #3, LT Nate Scott (Danville, CA)
- Blue Angel #7, LT Brandon Hempler (Wamego, KS)
- Blue Angel #8, LT Dave Steppe (Birmingham, AL)
- Executive Officer, CDR Matt Kaslik (The Woodlands, TX)
- C-130 Pilot, Capt Kyle Maschner (Scottsdale, AZ)
- Flight Surgeon, LT Juan Guerra (Ocala, FL)
- Supply Officer - LT Bryan Pace (Cambridge, MA)
- Administrative Officer - LTJG Tim Hawkins (Scranton, PA)

Returning Blue Angels from the 2016 season are:

- Blue Angel #4, LT Lance Benson (McPherson, KS)
- Blue Angel #5, CDR Frank Weisser (Atlanta, GA)
- Blue Angel #6, LT Tyler Davies (Kennesaw, GA)
- C-130 Pilot, MAJ Mark Hamilton (Becker, MN)
- C-130 Pilot, MAJ Mark Montgomery (Cartersville, GA)
- Public Affairs Officer, LT Joe Hontz (Longmont, CO)



*CDR Ryan "Boss" Bernacchi*  
*Flight Leader*  
*U.S. Navy Blue Angels*

## Council Adopts Calexico High School NNDCC Unit

### Helping Today's Youth Meet Life's Challenges

Last year, the Calexico High School District took its first steps to stand up the first Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) that Imperial Valley has seen in many, many years. The school (*Continued on Page 2*)

**OUR ADOPTED  
COMMANDS  
AND UNITS**



NAVAL AIR FACILITY  
EL CENTRO



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND  
CONUS WEST DETACHMENT



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



USMC MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON  
VMA-214



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC  
MAINTENANCE UNIT  
EL CENTRO DETACHMENT



DESERT EAGLE SQUADRON  
ESCONDIDO BATTALION &  
TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON  
US NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS



USCGC PETREL  
WPB 87350

# Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility El Centro Arriving

## Captain Doster Retires from Naval Service, Captain Alfonzo Assumes Command

In a ceremony at Naval Air Facility on January 20th, Captain Doster became a civilian after 25 years of Naval service. In that same ceremony, Captain Brent "Fever" Alfonzo assumed command, as the "Navy Mayor" of NAF El Centro.

A native of Poway, California, CAPT Brent Alfonzo joined the Navy in August 1988, reporting to the Naval Academy Preparatory School. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the United States Naval Academy, and was commissioned as an ensign upon his graduation with the class of 1993. He reported to NAS Pensacola, Fla. for primary and helicopter flight training, and was winged as a naval aviator in November 1995. He earned a Master's Degree in Global Leadership from the University of San Diego in April 2001.

Alfonzo's numerous operational assignments include Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 4 "Black Knights" with an embark aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72); Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 as Helicopter Operations Officer and Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor; a return to HS-4 as operations department head, and HS-6 "Indians" as executive officer with follow on assignment as commanding officer. During this tour, the Indians completed a successful deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and transitioned from HS-6 to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 6, upgrading the squadron to the highly capable MH-60S Seahawk helicopter. He has accumulated 4,400 flight hours in his flying career.

Alfonzo's shore and staff assignments include HS-10 "Warhawks" as fleet replacement squadron instructor, and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff Operations Directorate in the National Military Command Center. In addition, he served as Rotary Wing Weapons School Department Head at Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, NAS Fallon, Nevada, and as WTI Program Director at Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command and Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (second award), Air Medal (three Strike/Flight awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (fourth award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (fourth award), and various individual, unit and campaign awards.



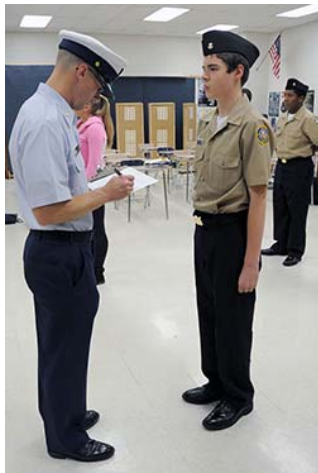
Captain Brent Alfonzo

## NNDCC *(Continued from Page 1)*

has hired Naval Science Instructor, Command Master Chief Ted Gallinat, USN (Retired), to formulate the Cadet program under the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program until it is certified by the U.S. Navy as an NJROTC program.

The NNDCC program provides schools that do not qualify for a NJROTC unit an opportunity to provide a similar program designed to expand students' opportunities to gain the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.

The NNDCC program is modeled on the NJROTC program except it is primarily funded by host schools. The NNDCC units use the NJROTC curriculum.



Some of the benefits of an NJROTC program are a substantial percentage of the NJROTC cadets who are graduating seniors continue to higher education; it is motivational in encouraging cadets to graduate from high school and continue to higher education offering free ACT/SAT preparation; cadets have higher attendance, are role models for the avoidance of substance abuse, have higher self-esteem, develop positive life skills, on average have higher grade point averages and graduate at a higher rate. Cadets learn the value of teamwork and individual accomplishments from belonging to NJROTC. The program enhances the image of the military in the eyes of the community by providing a chance for success to the nation's youth.

While the training is along military lines, it is conducted so as to encourage initiative and individuality to develop natural gifts, to teach self-control, develop personal character, responsibility and qualities of integrity, loyalty, and dedication.

It is an honor for the Imperial Valley Council to take this important step to continue to fulfill its core mission to expose young people to the values of our sea services.



# Navy League's 2017-2018 Maritime Policy Statement:

"Ensuring Strong Sea Services for a Maritime Nation"

The Navy League's biennial [Maritime Policy Statement](#) is produced by our Maritime Policy and Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The analyses and recommendations in the Maritime Policy Statement are derived from multiple sources, including the expertise and decades of experience of our members themselves, open source materials, and public information from the seagoing services. The views expressed are those of the Navy League of the United States, and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Maritime Administration. You'll find the Policy Statement on our national website at <http://navyleague.org/legislativeaffairs/maritime-policy.html>

## Welcome Aboard

### New and Renewing Members!

Benino Martinez	DJ Shipman	Brian Peterson
Bill Van Trump	Grant Matthews	David Peterson
Robert Nething	Rebecca Nething	Bob Ramsay
Robert Threshie	Robert Donovan	Tammy Doster

CAPT William Doster, USN (Ret.)

Join or renew your membership today at

[Join.navyleague.org](http://Join.navyleague.org)

## Welcome Aboard New Table Sponsor

Providing Insurance and Banking Services  
for Military Families since 1922.



[www.USAA.com](http://www.USAA.com)



## SAILOR AWARD SPONSORS

IMPERIAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
**AERO-SQUADRON**  
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON VFA-122

**WYMORE, INC.**  
Dick Wymore and Marla Wymore  
USCGC SHERMAN WHEC-720

## find us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ImperialValleyNavyLeague>  
<https://www.facebook.com/NavyLeagueUS>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SeapowerMagazine>

## TABLE SPONSORS

PREMIER TOWING  
CASTILLO CONSTRUCTION  
FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES  
TOWNE PLACES SUITES  
THE DAHM TEAM REAL ESTATE COMPANY  
USAA

Become a Table Sponsor today!  
Contact Gaylla Finnell to find out how you can support our programs.

## U.S. Naval Sea Cadet and Navy Leaguer Cadet Corps

Desert Eagle Squadron	Escondido Battalion & Training Ship Kit Carson
Instructor Brian Phillips	LTJG Patrick Healey
(760) 356-4570	(315) 254-7598
<a href="http://www.deserteaglesquadron.org">www.deserteaglesquadron.org</a>	<a href="http://www.escondidobattalion.org">www.escondidobattalion.org</a>

## Theodore Gallinat, President

Questions or Comments?	Website: <a href="http://www.ivnavyleague.com">www.ivnavyleague.com</a>
Contact us at: (760) 791-7345	Mail: P O Box 3834
Email: <a href="mailto:ivnavyleague@yahoo.com">ivnavyleague@yahoo.com</a>	El Centro, CA 92244-3834
Newsletter Editor: Lisa Gallinat	



# REMINDER: NAFEC Base Access, Privileges and Requirements

## New Signs and Security Requirements Required for Guests

We've all been there—it's that moment, the moment that many will face as you drive up to the main gate at the Base: You think to yourself, "Will I be allowed on base?" To ensure that you are not turned away by the gate guard, let us help you eliminate the fear of rejection by being aware of our local installation's policies.

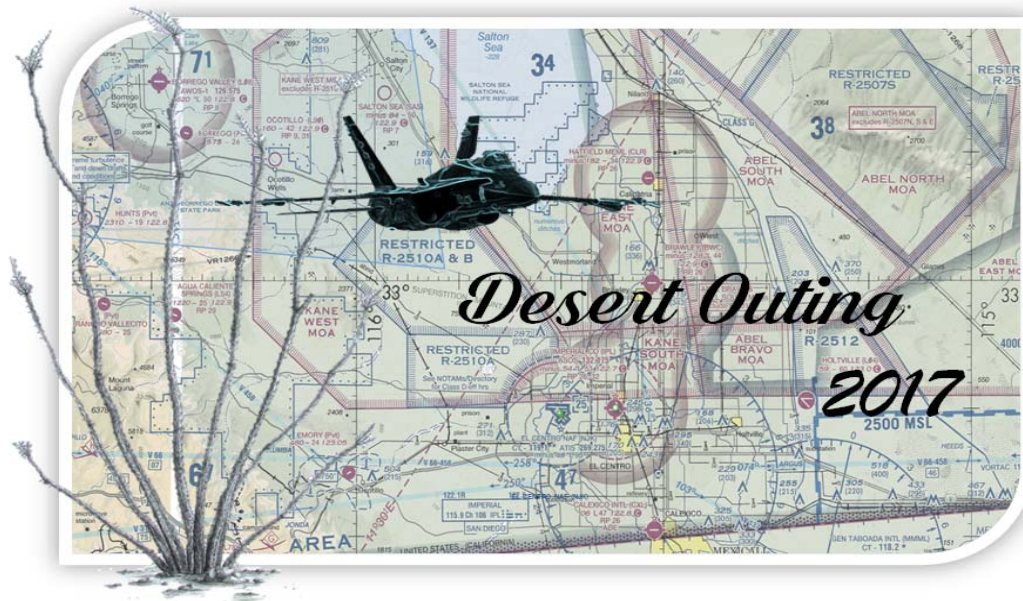
I.D. requirements can be frustrating at times, especially if you are unaware of the policies. We must all remember that the rules are there to ensure safety and accountability for everyone associated with the military.

As you approach NAF El Centro, please be mindful of new signage posted outside the outermost gate. The sign signals you to stop outside the gate, and wait for the sentry to motion you to approach the gate house. You are also directed to dim your headlights before approaching the gate. This ensures the sentry is able to get a good visual on your vehicle and occupants. It is important not to obstruct their vision by bright vehicle headlights.

All members and guests will be required to submit the Department of the Navy Local Population ID Card/Base Access Pass Registration form. The form is available for download from our website at [www.ivnavyleague.com](http://www.ivnavyleague.com); or contact us at (760) 791-7345 to receive a form by email.



**ONLY PROCEED  
WHEN DIRECTED  
BY SENTRY**



**GOING...GOING...  
ALMOST GONE!**

**Don't miss out on this  
unique experience.**

**February 24-25, 2017**

**Naval Air Facility  
El Centro**

**Register and Pay Online  
[www.ivnavyleague.com](http://www.ivnavyleague.com)**



**Navy League of the U.S.**

Imperial Valley Council  
P.O. Box 3834  
El Centro, CA 92244-3834

**NEXT DINNER**

**FEBRUARY 7**

**5:30 PM**