



Upcoming Events

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

June

- 6 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 20 Navy League National Convention
Milwaukee, WI

July

- 4 No Meeting Sea Cadet Fundraiser
Happy 4th of July!

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

Blue Angels Maintenance

Pride. Professionalism. Precision. The Unsung Heroes.

Each time you see a Blue Angels blue and gold F/A-18 Hornet or C-130 streak across the sky there will have been a Blue Angels maintenance crew that has put their professional stamp on the air worthiness of that aircraft before takeoff.

From engine tune-ups, instrument checks and pre- and post-flight inspections, the maintenance crew are ensuring the safety of both the pilots and aircraft.

The maintainers are proud of their long history of aircraft safety — that no airshow has been cancelled due to a maintenance issue since the Blue Angels began flying in 1946.

While the F/A-18's are performing rigorous maneuvers in the sky, the maintenance crews are observing the jets with binoculars and later view post-flight video analysis to ensure the jets are performing as expected.

We will be hosting the Blue Angels Chief Mess in March. Our speaker, Maintenance Master Chief (AW) Matthew Heathcoat will be telling us about his career, and how he came to lead the Maintenance department of the Blue Angels. Come meet our unsung heroes of the Blue Angels team.

Master Chief Heathcoat is a native of Bradford, Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in June 1988 and completed basic training at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois.

Matt completed Aviation Machinist's Mate "A" School in Millington, Tennessee, and reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the "Gladiators," at Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida, for F/A-18 power plants and related systems course. Matt then reported to VFA-136, the "Knighthawks," at NAS Cecil Field, Florida in 1989. He completed two deployments onboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 67) in support of Operation Desert Shield.

Matt served with Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department NAS Jacksonville, Florida; Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department NAS Cecil Field; Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department NAS Oceana; and completed one deployment on the USS George Washington (CVN 73). Matt reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 122, the "Golden Eagles," located in Lemoore, California, in February 2002 where he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer in 2004. He then reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 2, the "Bounty Hunters," and completed two deployments onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

He then reported to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit in Lemoore, California, where he was promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer and earned his bachelor's degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2008.

Matt reported to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 22, the "Fighting Redcocks," and deployed onboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in 2012. After the deployment, he was promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer and reported back to VFA-2 to serve as their Maintenance Master Chief. He then reported to Carrier Air Wing 9 in October of 2014 and served as the Carrier Air Group Maintenance Master Chief completing one deployment onboard the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).

Matt joined the Blue Angels in October 2016. His decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various personal and unit awards.



Maintenance Master Chief (AW)
Matthew Heathcoat
U.S. Navy Blue Angels



Quality Assurance Representative
PO1 Goodnight inspects the engine bay.

**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

Legislative Update: Your Voice is needed

Contact your Congressman today to enlist their support on these important issues

The Navy League's legislative grassroots program is the foundation for the Navy League's congressional advocacy efforts. Representatives and Senators need to know what their constituents think on issues to do their job and carefully consider public opinion in their district and state when deciding how to vote. Use our CQENGAGE portal on the national website to send a letter to your representative at <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/home> or contact us (760) 791-7345. We're standing by to assist you.

SUPPORT THE NAVAL SEA CADETS

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps receives a large portion of its funding from the U.S. Navy. The "stay alive" number is \$3M, and we must rely on Congressional champions to add to the budget request every year. As Congress considers the remainder of FY17 funding and before it receives the request for FY18, it is very important that your member of Congress knows how important the Sea Cadet program is to you, so he or she can help us adequately fund training.

This past year over 600 Sea Cadets who graduated out of the program joined the military, from enlisting in a service to joining ROTC, to attending one of the Service Academies. Twelve percent of the Midshipmen at the Naval Academy are former Sea Cadets.

We know how vital this youth program is to the future of our Sea Services and our Country as a whole. The program offers a unique opportunity for young people to learn about the Sea Services and identify their preferred career path, while at the same time developing as positive leaders and good citizens. Your support of this funding request will help ensure the continuation of a training and character development program with a demonstrated track record of being second to none.

The cadets pay a lot in out of pocket expenses, but the units rely on the Navy and Congress to help fund their military training and activities. Because of funding cutbacks in the Navy, Sea Cadets have seen their training costs increase dramatically and simply put cannot operate without congressional adds.

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Del. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) recently formed the Congressional Military Youth Programs Caucus in support of military youth organizations like the Sea Cadet Corps. The caucus will educate its members about Sea Cadet programs, advocate for continued congressional support, and ensure that Sea Cadet programs thrive well into the future. Encourage your congressman to consider joining this caucus, and advocating for increased funding and congressional adds to the Sea Cadets.



THE NAVY NEEDS A BIGGER FLEET

The Pentagon is forcing the U.S. Navy to incorporate \$17 billion in cuts. The Navy is rightly refusing to absorb these cuts, as the need to rebuild the fleet is at a crucial crossroads. Cutting ships would be difficult to reverse, and the Navy's newest Force Structure Assessment shows a need for a fleet as large as 355 ships. Shifting the costs to operations and maintenance money, badly needed to deploy and repair ships and train sailors, is also unacceptable. The Pentagon erroneously believes that investments in new missile technology will cover any gaps in ship presence. Though those investments are valuable, it is crucial that the Navy continues to build its fleet.

Operational demands have continued to grow regardless of arbitrary budget restrictions. Consistently working the fleet harder, with fewer resources, is insupportable over time. The Pentagon is preventing the Navy from devoting money to buying enough ships and airplanes to allow sailors enough time at home to train, conduct maintenance, and be with their families. Shrinking the fleet just means each ship and crew works harder, because deployment requirements remain demanding and constant.

Contact your congressmen to request their support of the Navy and overturn budget restrictions. As it is imperative our congressional representatives prioritize the Navy and its needs and reject the \$17 billion in cuts forced by the Pentagon.



Desert Outing 2017

Event draws largest crowd in 34-year history

The success of Desert Outing 2017 rests not just on our invaluable volunteers, but on our repeat guests who continue to support our event each year. We drew our largest crowd yet in event history — a record 375 guests, including Sea Cadets and Boy Scouts and Leaders from three Scouting troops.

We wish to extend our most sincere appreciation and thanks to our guests who attended Outing, but most importantly the entire command and civilian staff at Naval Air Facility El Centro, and the Blue Angels who without their coordination, this event would not have been possible.

Finally, it is our Board of Directors, Cooks and other volunteers who commit many hours of their personal time to ensure the event runs smoothly. It is important to recognize these individuals whose contributions are unmatched:

Ted Gallinat	Gaylla Finnell	Betty Tucker	Lee Hindman	David Hindman
Shelli Kirchner	Dean Currie	Bob Shank	David Hilfiker	Dennis James
Eddie Lutz	Brian Phillips	Lisa Gallinat	Don & Cheryl Brock, Brock Asparagus	
Carl Smith	Mary Smith	Bliss Home•Garden•Gifts		



Welcome Aboard New and Renewing Members!

Jon W Bemis	David J Bragalone
Wayne T Grau	Robert F Donovan
Kevin Keating	John Henebry Jr.
Carl Sessions	Roger A Johnson
Robert Nething	Rebecca Nething
Jeremy R Teepen	Jacqueline Teepen
James B Pepper	Grant R Matthews
David T Peterson	Brian D Peterson
Robert C Ramsay	Robert Threshie
David M Wilkinson	Don C Wood III
Patrick Healey	Benino Martinez

Join or renew your membership
Join.navyleague.org

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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
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Theodore Gallinat, President

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Newsletter Editor: Lisa Gallinat	

We need your email address. Our Newsletter is going digital.

Rising publishing and postage costs are to blame. Last printed edition will be the April newsletter.

The publication and mailing of our Newsletter is pushing us to the point that we are no longer able to incur the high cost of publishing our newsletter. We have been trimming our newsletter distribution list down substantially these past two years, but find we must trim it further.

We have been posting our newsletter on our website for a number of years, and will continue to provide you with an electronic version via email and on the website. For those members who are still receiving a printed edition through U.S. Mail, we will be reaching out to you to acquire your email address. We want to continue to provide you with the latest Council news and event opportunities.

We appreciate your willingness to help us be efficient, and use our financial resources as responsibly as possible. Please contact us by phone at (760) 791-7345 or email at ivnavyleague@yahoo.com with your email address. Thank you for help and understanding.

NAF El Centro Security Access Forms now Required

SECNAV 5512 Required for Members

Our members are reminded to submit your SECNAV 5512 Security Access Forms to ensure you are admitted to NAF El Centro for dinner meetings. Call us if you need a form, or download it from our website here: <https://www.ivnavyleague.com/copy-of-events-1>



Navy League of the U.S.

Imperial Valley Council
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NEXT DINNER

MARCH 7

6:30 PM