



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 4 Freedom Fest
Imperial Valley College | Dusk
- 5 DARK - U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
No Meeting Fundraiser

AUGUST

- 2 DARK - U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
No Meeting Fundraiser
- 4 U.S. Coast Guard 226th Birthday!
- 26 USCGC PETREL Summer BBQ
Coast Guard Station San Diego

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

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 Return to the Skies

Blue Angels Mourn the Loss of Teammate, Captain Jeffrey Kuss, USMC

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels returned to their 2016 demonstration schedule July 2-4 in Traverse City, Michigan, Commander following a temporary stand down, in which they cancelled three weekend shows following a crash on June 2 during a practice in Smyrna, Tennessee, in which Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss was killed.

Since the crash, the Team has been fly a modified five jet demonstration, along with Fat Albert, the Blue Angels C-130.

The #6 F/A-18C Hornet assigned to the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron crashed during the June 2nd air show practice in Smyrna, Tennessee. The pilot, who did not survive, was identified as Blue Angel #6, Captain Jeffrey Kuss, 32, of Durango, Co. He served as the opposing solo pilot. This was Kuss' second year on the team and his first year as a demonstration pilot.

"The Navy and Marine Corps aviation team is grieving the loss of one of our own," said Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker, Commander, Naval Air Forces. "Capt. Kuss was an incredible Marine, husband and father, and an inspiration to so many; his loss will be felt across the nation. Being a Naval Aviator is an inherently dangerous profession and our aviators knowingly accept that risk in service to their nation; but it still pains us greatly when we experience the untimely loss of a valued aviator and shipmate. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, fellow Marines, and Blue Angels teammates."

Kuss was taking off to start the afternoon practice when the mishap occurred. The crash occurred approximately two miles from the runway. The other five Blue Angel jets were not involved in the incident and landed safely moments later. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Capt. Kuss. We extend our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to his family, and those he served with.



Captain Jeff Kuss, USMC
Blue Angel #6

Blue Angels Announce New Solo Pilot

Commander Frank Weisser Rejoins the Team

The the Blue Angels, announced their selection of a prior Blue Angels pilot to serve as their new Blue Angel #6 Opposing Solo pilot July 11. The team welcomes back Navy Cmdr. Frank Weisser for the remainder of the 2016 and 2017 seasons.

Weisser previously served on the Blue Angels from 2008-2010 and performed duties as the Narrator, Key Influencer and VIP Pilot, Opposing Solo and Lead Solo.

Weisser, is a native of Atlanta. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 2000 and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. Weisser received his wings of gold in November 2002. He has accumulated more than 4,000 flight hours and 400 carrier-arrested landings.

**OUR ADOPTED
COMMANDS
AND UNITS**



Happy to be home: VMA-214 “Black Sheep”

Marines return to MCAS Yuma following deployment

Story by Sgt. Lillian Stephens, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar / 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

Friends, family members and loved ones welcomed home Marines and Sailors with Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 214 “Black Sheep” and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona recently.

Approximately 100 Marines and Sailors completed a seven-month deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and supported missions in the Pacific theater.

According to Sgt. Maj. James Willeford, sergeant major of VMA-214, and an Abilene, Texas, native, the climate of the 31st MEU suited the A/B-8B Harrier well because of its capabilities as an aircraft.

“The Marines of 214 are absolutely fantastic. [They’re] outstanding, every single one of them,” said Willeford. “They’re exactly what the nation requires and I love every one of them. We’re all glad to be home and be back with our families.”



Blue Angels Announce 2017 Officers

U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, announce officers selected for the 2017 air show season

Release Date: 7/16/2016 6:30:00 PM

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The Blue Angels squadron selected three F/A-18 demonstration pilots, events coordinator, C-130 demonstration pilot, flight surgeon, supply officer, and administration officer to join a previously selected executive officer on the 2017 team.

Each officer was recommended for selection by Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Dell Bull, and ultimately approved by Chief of Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker, for final selection to the 2017 Blue Angels team. Many highly qualified Navy and Marine Corps officers submit applications to join the Blue Angels each year.

"It is such a privilege to have so many talented officers apply to be part of the Blue Angels tradition of showcasing the Navy and Marine Corps to the American public," said Cmdr. Ryan Bernacchi, flight leader and commanding officer of the 2016 team. "I am inspired by all of those who applied this year and we have an exceptional group to add to next year's team."

The Blue Angels select "finalists" to interview at the team's home base of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, during the week of the Pensacola Beach Air Show each year. The team makes selections at the conclusion of that week. "We were extremely fortunate to have so many qualified and motivated applicants apply for the team," said Lt. Matt Suyderhoud, right wing pilot and applications officer for the 2017 team selection. "I am excited to see what next year's team will be able to accomplish."

The newly selected 2017 officers include:

F/A-18 Demonstration Pilots:

Navy Lt. Brandon Hempler, 32, of Wamego, Kansas, is an F/A-18 Super Hornet pilot currently assigned to Training Squadron (VT) 22, the "Golden Eagles," at NAS Kingsville, Texas. He is a 2007 graduate of Kansas State University, Salina, Kansas.

Navy Lt. Damon Kroes, 34, of Fremont, California, is an F/A-18 Hornet instructor pilot currently assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 101, the "Sharpshooters," at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California. He is a 2006 graduate of San Diego State University, San Diego.

Navy Lt. Nate Scott, 31, of Danville, California, is an F/A-18 Hornet instructor pilot currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the "Gladiators," at NAS Oceana, Virginia. He is a 2007 graduate of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Events Coordinator: Navy Lt. Dave Steppe, 31, of Birmingham, Alabama, is an EA-18G Growler naval flight officer currently assigned to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 129, the "Vikings," at NAS Whidbey Island, Washington. He is a 2008 graduate of Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.

C-130 Demonstration Pilot: Marine Capt. Kyle Maschner, 33, of Scottsdale, Arizona, is a KC-130 Hercules pilot currently assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan. He is a 2006 graduate of Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Flight Surgeon: Navy Lt. Juan Guerra, 31, of Ocala, Florida, is a flight surgeon currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the "Gladiators," at NAS Oceana, Virginia. He is a 2011 graduate of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland.

Supply Officer: Navy Lt. Bryan Pace, 32, of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, is a supply officer currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101, the "Grim Reapers," at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. He is a 2010 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Administration Officer: Navy Lt. j.g. Timothy Hawkins, 37, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is an administrative officer currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143, the "Pukin' Dogs," at NAS Oceana, Virginia. He was commissioned through the Limited Duty Officer Program in 2013.

Executive Officer Pre-selected to join the 2017 team: Navy Cmdr. Matt Kaslik, 43, of The Woodlands, Texas.

Expected to return for the 2017 season are: Commanding Officer, Flight Leader: Navy Cmdr. Ryan Bernacchi, 43, of Los Altos, California.

F/A-18 Demonstration Pilots: Navy Lt. Lance Benson, 33, of McPherson, Kansas, Navy Lt. Tyler Davies, 34, of Kennesaw, Georgia, Navy Cmdr. Frank Weisser, 38, of Atlanta.

C-130 Demonstration Pilots: Marine Maj. Mark Hamilton, 38, of Becker, Minnesota, Marine Maj. Mark Montgomery, 37, of Cartersville, Georgia,

Maintenance Officer: Navy Lt. Samuel Rose, 36, of Whitehouse, Texas.

Public Affairs Officer: Navy Lt. Joe Hontz, 38, of Longmont, Colorado.

find us on facebook

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

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

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

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

TABLE SPONSORS

PREMIER TOWING

CASTILLO CONSTRUCTION

ENTRAVISION COMMUNICATIONS

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES

TOWNE PLACES SUITES

THE DAHM TEAM REAL ESTATE COMPANY

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

Desert Eagle Squadron

Instructor Brian Phillips

(760) 356-4570

www.deserteaglesquadron.org

Escondido Battalion & Training Ship Kit Carson

LTJG Patrick Healey

(315) 254-7598

www.escondidobattalion.org

Theodore Gallinat, President

Questions or Comments?

Contact us at: (760) 791-7345

Email: ivnavyleague@yahoo.com

Website: www.ivnavyleague.org

Mail: P O Box 3834

El Centro, CA 92244-3834

Blue Angels Memorial Project at Naval Air Facility El Centro

As summer temps rise, so does our thermometer. Make a tax-deductible donation today!

We've reached another notch on our fundraising thermometer! To date, we've received \$6,996 toward our \$175,000 goal to construct our memorial to fallen Blue Angels.

Council President Ted Gallinat attended Navy League's premier event, Sea-Air-Space Exposition in Washington, D.C. last month. The Expo to gain national attention to the memorial fundraising effort. The SAS Expo is designed to bring the U.S. defense industrial base, private-sector U.S. companies and key military decision makers together for an annual innovative, educational, professional and maritime based event.



\$2300 Donation received from Blue Angels Tribute Page and Aviator Down Foundation

In concert with Ray Congdon and the Blue Angels Tribute Page on Facebook, the Aviator Down Foundation just signed over \$2300 to the Blue Angel Memorial project. Many Blue Angels fans from across the nation purchased Blue Angels Tribute Page (BATP) stickers honoring Blue Angels #6, Capt. Jeff "Kooch" Kuss, USMC.

Donate today

Your donations to fund this important project are tax-deductible, and are much-needed to meet our deadline. Make checks payable to: Imperial Valley Navy League, or donate online through the website: www.blueangelsmemorial.org

Upcoming Events

August 26

USCGC PETREL Friends and Family Summer BBQ

Get out of the heat, and join us as we celebrate the United States Coast Guard's 226th Birthday on the waterfront in San Diego with PETREL's crew members and their families. See insert for more details. Dctions will be provided to you when you register to attend.

RSVP by August 20th!



September 2-5

Port of Los Angeles to Host Inaugural LA Fleet Week 2016

LA Fleet Week 2016 is a celebration of our U.S. armed forces at our nation's #1 port, the Port of Los Angeles. The four-day festival will host active military ships along the LA Waterfront and feature public ship tours, military equipment demos, live entertainment, educational activities and more.

www.lafleetweek.com



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

SEPTEMBER 13

6:30 PM