



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 2-5 Los Angeles Fleet Week 2016
Port of Los Angeles | San Pedro
- 13 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 16 National POW-MIA Recognition Day

OCTOBER

- 1 NAF El Centro Navy Ball | 6:00 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 4 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- 6 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

Ships arriving to Inaugural Los Angeles Fleet Week

USS America, USS Wayne E. Meyer, US Coast

Guard ship Active, USS Champion

The Navy League is partnering with the Port of Los Angeles to present the inaugural LA Fleet Week 2016.

An amphibious assault ship with a landing deck will lead a group of active-duty Navy vessels arriving on Labor Day weekend for the inaugural LA Fleet Week event at the Port of Los Angeles, the Navy and port officials announced Friday.

The USS America, the nation's newest America-class amphibious assault ship, was commissioned in October 2014 during San Francisco Fleet Week activities.

Joining the USS America will be the Avenger-class mine countermeasures ship the USS Champion, guided missile destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer, and U.S. Coast Guard ship Active, an endurance cutter used mainly for law enforcement missions.

All of the ships will be docked north of the Battleship Iowa on San Pedro's waterfront and will be open for tours throughout the holiday weekend. The ships will arrive on the afternoon of August 30th, with tours offered September 1-5. Online reservations and tickets should be made in advance, although walk-up tours also will offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

An official welcoming party will held from 6-9 p.m. on September 1 during San Pedro's First Thursday event, with entertainment and food in the historic downtown shopping district.

Entertainment will be offered throughout the rest of the weekend on outdoor stages. There also will be land and air demonstrations. At 6:00 p.m. on September 3, Jefferson Starship will perform a military salute concert on board the Battleship Iowa in the Mayor's LA Fleet Week concert, followed by a fireworks show at 9:45 p.m.

The annual Labor Day Conquer the Bridge run-walk over the Vincent Thomas Bridge will be held from 7-10:00 a.m. on September 5, with this year's event including participation by military personnel from the visiting ships. A full schedule of events may be found at www.lafleetweek.com and www.portoflosangeles.org.



Blacksheep Deployment Debrief

Marine Attack Squadron 214, Sergeant Major Willeford, USMC

Joining us as our September speaker will be Sergeant Major James D. Willeford. Willeford assumed the position of Command Sergeant Major for the Blacksheep in November 2015. Since that time, the squadron has been on deployment. We are pleased to welcome him into the Navy League fold, and look forward to an update on the squadron's activities.

Private First Class Willeford enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1991 and attended boot camp at MCRD in San Diego. He was assigned as a Legal Services Specialist, and attended Legal School at Camp Pendleton. His first duty station was the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia.

From 1994-1995, Corporal Willeford served on Okinawa, Japan at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, III Marine Expeditionary Force, deploying with the 37th MEU aboard the USS Belleau Wood as the MEU legal clerk.

Corporal Willeford received follow-on orders to the Joint Law Center, MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he served as the Legal Assistance Chief, Case Review Chief, and clerk to the Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina. *(Story continues on Page 2)*



Sergeant Major James D. Willeford
VMA-214

**OUR ADOPTED
COMMANDS
AND UNITS**



NAVAL AIR FACILITY
EL CENTRO



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



USMC MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON
VMA-214



VFA-122
THE FLYING EAGLES



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



USCGC PETREL
WPB 87350

Blacksheep Deployment Brief

(Continued from Page 1)

In 1997, Sergeant Willeford requested orders to the Drill Field and served as a Drill Instructor/Senior Drill Instructor at Echo Company, 2d Recruit Training Battalion, MCRD, Parris Island, South Carolina until 2000, where he assisted in producing 424 basically trained Marines.

Following Drill Instructor duty, Staff Sergeant Willeford requested orders to instruct at the Legal Services Specialist School, Schools Battalion, Camp Johnson, North Carolina. He taught there for 10 months and then assisted in moving the school from Camp Johnson to the Naval Justice School at Naval Operations Base, Newport, Rhode Island, where he taught until 2004.

Completing instructor duty, Gunnery Sergeant Willeford returned to Okinawa and assisted in establishing the new Legal Services Support Section aboard Camp Foster where he served as the Military Justice Chief, responsible for managing up to 60 courts-martial, concurrently. In 2005, Sergeant Major Willeford deployed to Iraq as the Chief Paralegal, Joint Task Force 134, Detainee Operations, managing 14,500 active detainee case files and supervising a diverse group of joint services attorneys and paralegals.

Gunnery Sergeant Willeford received orders to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, II Marine Expeditionary Force and served as the II MEF Legal Chief from 2007-2008, managing legal cases from all units on the eastern seaboard. During this time, he also volunteered to deploy with 24 MEU to Kandahar, Afghanistan as the MEU Legal Chief.

In 2008, First Sergeant Willeford was assigned to Company A, Marine Special Operations Advisory Group (MSOAG). When MSOAG became 3d Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, First Sergeant Willeford served as the Headquarters Company First Sergeant, and then as the 3d MSOB Sergeant Major.

In June 2010, First Sergeant Willeford returned to Okinawa where he served as First Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 12th Marine Regiment., and in 2011, he deployed to Afghanistan as the SNCOIC, Counter-Insurgency Advisory and Assistance Team (CAAT), RC South.

In December 2012, he was selected and frocked to Sergeant Major, and received orders to 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion and transferred from Okinawa in March, 2013 to accept this posting. He was promoted to his current rank on 1 September 2013. He deployed in January 2014 with Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) 81.3 as the Special Operations Task Force Sergeant Major to assist in the U.S. exit strategy out of Afghanistan.

In July 2015, Sergeant Major Willeford reported for duty at Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona. In November 2015 he was hand-selected to post as the Marine Attack Squadron 214 Sergeant Major and deployed with 31 MEU. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2d award), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (7th award).

September is Naval Sea Cadet Month

Are you looking for a youth organization to share your time, talent and resources? For over 50 years, Navy League councils having been sponsoring Sea Cadet units across the nation. The Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Navy Leaguer Cadet Corps need you!

- Led by unpaid volunteers
- Help young men and women develop into productive, well rounded citizens
- Instructors provide supervision, guidance, leadership, administrative and logistical support
- Connect with us to see how you can become involved

We are very proud of the service that the Naval Sea Cadet Corps provides to our country and to our Navy and Coast Guard, but the true merit of our program is seen in the success stories of our cadets, who go on to seize the limitless opportunities that are available to them.

USCGC PETREL Summer BBQ

Petrel celebrates 14th Birthday and Crew Recognition

On Saturday, August 26th, council members came together to spend time with the Petrel crew and their families for a day in cool San Diego. The council provided a BBQ lunch of Pollo Asada and fixings, while Petrel's crew provided the birthday cake.

Joining the festivities was Coast Guard Sector San Diego's Commander, Captain Joseph Buzzella, Sector Deputy Commander, Commander Eric Cooper, and other command leadership.

We were able to recognize Petrel's Enlisted Person of the Quarter, Food Service Specialist Second Class Petty Officer Brittany Warner, who Master Chief Bowen states, "is an outstanding cook, shipmate and leader to the men and women onboard." Petty Officer Warner was recognized for increasing the morale and well-being of the entire crew with her excellent culinary skills, healthy meal options and charismatic attitude. In addition to her food service duties, she also serves as PETREL's investigator. We extend our congratulations to FS2 Warner for a job well done!

We wish to also thank our member volunteers who made preparation for the BBQ, cooked, cleaned: Ted Gallinat, Betty Tucker, Dean Currie, Danielle Ingoglia, Gayla Finnell and Lisa Gallinat.



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SEMPER FI  AMERICA

MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTENNIAL

ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.

United States Marine Corps Reserve Celebrates 100 Years

This year marks the centennial of the Marine Corps Reserves. The USMC Reserves are comprised of more than 109,000 men and women, and have deployed more than 85,000 Reserve Marines and Sailors across the globe within the past 5 years. The men and women who serve in our Reserves are dedicated to the Marine Corps while also serving and excelling in their communities and civilian jobs. Reservists are battle-tested and embody the ethos of "Always Faithful." A special tribute at the MCAS Miramar Airshow will honor Reservists. Visit www.miramarairshow.com for more information.

Upcoming Events

September 2-5 Port of Los Angeles Inaugural LA Fleet Week 2016
www.lafleetweek.com

Sept 3 - Oct 1 Fleet Week San Diego 2016
Join us in thanking our brave service men and women for their service to our country by participating in Fleet Week San Diego events. www.fleetweeksandiego.org

October 1 United States Navy's 241st Birthday Ball | NAF El Centro
Tickets on sale now. Contact Janie at (760) 604-8428

We Have a New Website

Check out our new website, and let us know what you think of our new look! www.ivnavyleague.com



Navy League of the U.S.

Imperial Valley Council
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El Centro, CA 92244-3834

NEXT DINNER

SEPTEMBER 13

6:30 PM