



Upcoming Events

NEW DINNER START TIME

Beginning in the month of April, we will shorten our Social, and begin our program at 7:00 pm, with dinner served at 7:15 pm. You must arrive prior to 7:00 pm to ensure we have your steak on the grill.

April

- 4 Council T-Bone Dinner | Mirage Club
6:30 pm Social
7:00 pm Program Start
7:15 pm Dinner

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

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

Turnin' and Burnin' in the Danger Zone

Captain Dan Pederson, USN (Retired), first "Skipper" of Navy's TOPGUN Fighter School to Speak

On March 3, 1969 the United States Navy established an elite school for the top one percent of its pilots. Its purpose was to teach the lost art of aerial combat and to insure that the handful of men who graduated were the best fighter pilots in the world. They succeeded.

Today, the Navy calls it Fighter Weapons School. The flyers call it...



It was in 1968 after heavy aircraft losses over North Vietnam that the Chief of Naval Operations sought to have research conducted to determine the cause. The Navy's conclusions, published in the "Ault Report" determined that the problem stemmed from inadequate aircrew training in air combat maneuvering, and recommended the establishment of an advanced fighter weapons school.

Our April speaker, Captain Dan Pederson, United States Navy (retired), was the first Officer in Charge



The Original TOPGUN Instructor Staff 1969

of TOPGUN. Captain Pederson led the initial formation of the graduate course which has survived 45 years while attaining international fame and respect as the acknowledged very "Best in Fighter Weaponry."

As a Naval Aviator, and combat veteran, Captain Pederson accumulated 6100 flight hours in 31 aircraft types and survived 1014 arrested carrier landings.

He served as the Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier USS RANGER CV-61, the

super tanker USS Wichita AOR-1, Carrier Air Wing 15 deployed aboard the USS Coral Sea CV-43, Fighter Squadron 143 onboard the USS Enterprise CVN-65. and also served as the Deputy Commander for Operations in the US Pacific Fleet.

Captain Pederson has extensive experience in flight testing, aircraft maintenance, logistics and aircraft performance analysis.

He co-authored the book "Scream of Eagles" with author, Robert Wilcox, which recounts the formation of TOPGUN.

Following Captain Pederson's naval service, he went on serve as the Western Region Operations Manager for Comtek Research, a high tech software and systems integration firm before becoming the Director of Business Alliances and Industry Relations for Pacific Telesis-PacTel Spectrum Services. He is now the principal of Yankee Development Company, LLC in the creation of a private destination resorts in Colorado.

Captain Pederson holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Rhode Island, and is a graduate of the Naval War College, and holds Aviation Safety Post Graduate Certification, USC at USNPGS, Monterey, California.

Captain Pederson and his wife, Mary Beth are the parents of six children.

**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



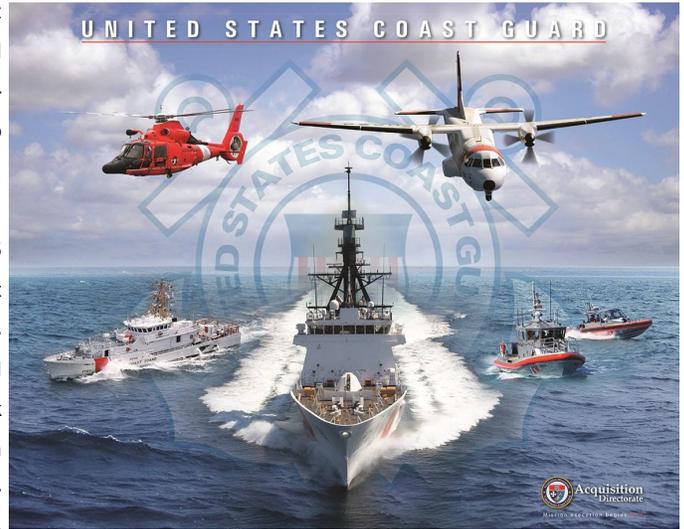
USCGC PETRAL
WPB 87350

Navy League Statement on Proposed Cuts to the U.S. Coast Guard

The Navy League of the United States staunchly opposes the proposed gutting of the Coast Guard in the fiscal 2018 budget. If the rumors about the proposed 14% cut, as first reported by Politico and The Washington Post, are true, this would have a devastating impact on the service and undermine our national security and potentially cost American lives.

The outstanding men and women of the Coast Guard do incredible work on a shoestring budget, and to force them to carry out the same 11 statutory missions which are mandated by law with such a sharp reduction in funds would be an enormous mistake, said Navy League National President Skip Witunski.

On a typical day, the Coast Guard conducts 45 search-and-rescue missions, saving 10 lives. To put more than 3,000 American lives at risk is a gross abdication of government responsibility. The men and women of the Coast Guard put their own lives at risk every day to save others. This type of cut, which would drastically shrink the force as units are decommissioned, demonstrates an astonishing lack of gratitude and appreciation for the sacrifice borne by servicemen and women and their families.



President Trump made inspiring promises to strengthen our military. The Coast Guard, a military branch, does not deserve to have those promises broken. With only 42,000 service members and a budget of \$9.1 billion, it is already the leanest service, doing far more to safeguard our security than its size would suggest. The Coast Guard also provides the strongest American presence in the Arctic, against a backdrop of increasing Russian aggression in the region. By gutting the Coast Guard, the administration would be breaking its promise to our military.

Additionally, the cuts to the Coast Guard would undermine the administration's stated goals of reducing illegal trafficking of people and drugs into the United States. As the dominant maritime force in the Western Hemisphere, the Coast Guard is the primary military service responsible for all aspects of Western security, including combatting terror and drug/human traffic networks, securing maritime borders and safeguarding commerce. It is the only service that is both a military agency and law enforcement authority. This unique capability must be strengthened, not weakened.

The Coast Guard in 2016 interdicted more than 6,300 undocumented migrants, 201 metric tons of cocaine and 52,613 pounds of marijuana. One of the ships on the chopping block, a National Security Cutter, is especially valuable; another ship in this class conducted 12 drug interdictions, confiscated more than 33,000 pounds of cocaine and detained 32 suspected smugglers in a single month.

If the Trump administration is looking to strengthen border security, invest in our military and safeguard American lives, the right choice would be to invest more in the Coast Guard, not less.

Blue Angels to Sponsor Great Lakes Recruits

Council Donates \$1000 to Blue Angels

For the past few years the Blue Angels have been sponsoring a Recruit division at U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL.

This Great Lakes sponsorship program allows Navy commands to interact with recruits throughout their training and take part in the "Sailorization" process of turning a civilian into a well-rounded Sailor.

To raise funds, the Blue Angels fundraise during their training season in El Centro. We are proud to be a part of this program that encourages our Navy recruits as they make their transition to United States Sailors!



Looking back at March

Blues conclude winter training in El Centro, Student RIM Awards, First Quarter Sailor Awards

The Blue Angels successfully completed another training session in El Centro, and with the conclusion of the El Centro Airshow, the Team has kicked off their 2017 airshow season. NAF El Centro sparkled as they showcased the Base to their guests at Food Fest and the Airshow. BZ NAFEC!

At our last dinner we were honored to host the Blue Angels "Men in Black", and hear Maintenance Master Chief Heathcoat tell how us how his career path brought him to the Blue Angels. We also presented a check to the Blue Angels in support of their sponsorship for Recruit Training command at Great Lakes.

As we have done for the past two years, we have partnered with a number of other local service clubs such as Holtville Rotary, Optimist Club of El Centro, and Brawley Chamber of Commerce, to help us to Reward, Inform and Motivate (RIM) the Valley's best and brightest from our local high schools. We hosted the top achievers from Brawley High School and Imperial High School. These students GPAs are impressive to say the least. We look forward to following them as they continue their educations. We are confident they'll be making meaningful contributions wherever their paths take them.

It is always a privilege and honor to recognize our active duty members of our adopted units for the excellence they display in defending our freedoms. We recognized first quarter awardees from NAF El Centro, Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit, and Navy Munitions Command, CO-NUS West detachment at El Centro. Congratulations to all our recipients on a job well done, and to both our unit sponsors and table sponsors who help in underwriting the cost of the awards and dinners for our guests.



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
www.desertheaglesquadron.org	www.escondidobattalion.org

Theodore Gallinat, President

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



Thank You, Wymore, Inc.

Our Sea Cadets had a blast!

Our Desert Eagle Squadron of the Sea Cadets had a display booth at the Naval Air Facility El Centro Airshow two weeks ago to promote their excellent program. We hope you stopped by to visit them.

David Byrum, Wymore Incorporated generously lent the Cadets his 1970 M35A2 "Deuce and a half" to use as a static display.

The Wymore family has been a long-time supporter of our sponsored Coast Guard ships. Thank you David for carrying on your Grandfather's legacy of giving.

Welcome Aboard New Members!

Julia Cameron
Velma Pacrem

Michael Holehan
Robert Visser

Join or Renew your Membership online today
join.navyleague.org

DON'T MISS IT:

The Navy's first Skipper of
TOP GUN School to speak April 4th

Our Newsletter has gone digital. Email addresses needed.

Rising publishing and postage costs are to blame. April edition is last printed Newsletter delivered by US Mail.

The publication and mailing of our Newsletter has pushed 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.



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

APRIL 4

6:30 PM Social

7:00 PM Dinner