



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 1 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 11 Veterans Day Parade | Holtville
- 17 Joint Operation Turkey

DECEMBER

- 2 NAF El Centro Christmas Parade
- 6 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club

2017

JANUARY

- 3 DARK | No dinner
- 14 Aviation Day | Imperial County Airport

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
- 12 El Centro Airshow

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

Purple Heart and Bronze Star Recipient to Speak

Hometown Hero: Sgt Arturo Ley, USMC

[Credit: Imperial Valley Press]

Marine received Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Sgt. Arturo Ley, 26, of El Centro didn't realize he had been shot in the neck when his squad came under intense enemy fire in Afghanistan on Sept. 6, 2012.

"It felt like a mosquito had bit me on my neck," said Ley.

Ley continued to fight with a bullet lodged in his neck as he led 13 of his Marines until the enemy on the battlefield was silenced and his men were safe.

It wasn't until nearly 30 minutes later one of his Corpsman noticed his neck bleeding and began administering first-aid, said Ley.

Ley was later awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart for his actions during combat. He had served overseas on four different occasions, in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ley said he endured one month of hospitalization at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. He later left the Marines.

Of his time in the service, he said "I feel I have served my country and have accomplished something," He is now employed by NAF El Centro, and he and his wife Diane are working on the next chapter of their life.

This young Marine Corps Veteran and Hero will be telling us about his time in the Corps, and the events leading up to, and following his injury by enemy fire.



Sgt Arturo Ley, USMC

A Message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps

General Robert B. Neller, USMC | Corps Celebrates 241 Years

Each year on or around 10 November, Marines gather in groups large and small to celebrate our history, honor the memory of those who have gone before us, and rekindle the bond that unites all generations of Marines. This year, we mark the 241st anniversary of our Corps—241 years of uncommon valor, innovation, and combat excellence.

Marines, we are part of something bigger than any of could imagine. Whether you fought in the battles of World War I, in the Pacific during World War II, in Korea or Vietnam, in Desert Shield or Desert Storm, or in the streets of Iraq and Afghanistan — or you are just starting out on your Marine Corps journey — we are all part of an elite family of warriors. For the rest of your life, the first term people use to describe you will be "Marine."

When the Continental Congress stood up two battalions of Marines in 1778, a culture of discipline, vigilance, professionalism, and military excellence was born that has characterized our Corps for nearly two and a half centuries. As Marines, we have a profound respect for our traditions and heritage, and for taking care of each other. We know we're strongest when we're together as a team. Wherever you are celebrating our Corps' birthday this year, look around at the Marines beside you and remember the bonds forged in training, in garrison, and in combat. Take this time to reconnect.



**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 PETRAL
WPB 87350

Coast Guard Advances Plans to Build 3 Icebreakers

By Alaska Dispatch News, Erica Martinson

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Coast Guard is moving forward on its log-range plan to build new icebreakers, asking potential builders this week to weigh in on their plans and timeline.

The request shows that the federal government is moving forward on icebreakers despite long-term questions about funding. A single icebreaker is projected to cost about \$1 billion.

Alaska's congressional delegation has been pushing for a new Arctic icebreaker for years. The effort got a nudge forward when President Barack Obama visited Alaska in 2015 and pledged to speed up the acquisition process.

And earlier, this year, Republican Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski scored a \$1 billion appropriations amendment to pay for one of the needed new vessels. Whether the funding will materialize in final appropriations is still unknown but she did manage to maneuver the bill language out of the Appropriations Committee.

In a Request for Information issued this week, the Coast Guard asked for input on its plan to contract out studies on building a heavy-duty polar icebreakers in the first quarter of 2017. Those studies would examine in detail the potential costs, schedules, capabilities and technical trade-offs involved in building the massive ships.

The request detailed the Coast Guard's plans to use a single shipyard to build three icebreakers over the next decade.

The U.S. has only two heavy-duty icebreakers. One, the Polar Sea, is unusable and all but scrapped, while the other, the Polar Star, is dedicated to scientific missions in Antarctica. A third icebreaker, the medium-duty Healy, travels in the Arctic mainly as a research ship.

With growing interest in Arctic shipping routes and Russian military activity in the region, Arctic icebreaker advocates have warned that the U.S. could find itself without the necessary equipment to aid troubled vessels in Arctic waters.

In January, Adm. Paul Zukunft, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, announced that the military was beginning discussions with ship architects and builders to advance early stages of acquiring a new icebreaker, releasing a draft schedule and set of design requirements with questions for industry.

One lawmaker is concerned about the Coast Guard's contract plans. In a letter to the Coast Guard's vice commandant in charge of acquisitions Wednesday, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-California, who heads the House subcommittee in charge of the Coast Guard, lamented that it appeared the military is not considering a "block buy," consolidating the three icebreakers under a single contract.

If that is the case, Hunter said, he is "very much concerned about the lost opportunity and additional costs that are likely to be incurred over time." Purchasing three icebreakers in a single contract could save \$100 million and speed the process, Hunter said.



The Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star is hove-to in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, fast ice near the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Station, Feb. 2, 2016. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Grant DeVuyst)



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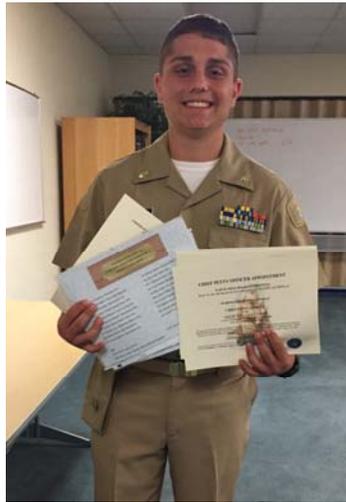
Desert Eagles Promotes first CPO

Newly pinned Chief Petty Officer Connor Phillips is the first Sea Cadet with the Desert Eagle Squadron that has achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

CPO Phillips promotion ceremony was on October 8, 2016 drilling a monthly drill weekend at Naval Air Facility El Centro.

Phillips joined the Desert Eagle Squadron of the Sea Cadets when he was in the 7th grade. He is currently a Junior at Holtville High School.

In addition to Sea Cadets, Connor is a member of Varsity Football team, and a member of the Holtville Fire Explorers, as well as an Honor Student.



Escondido's Joshua Tree Bivouac

The Escondido Battalion of our Sea Cadets has a very robust drill schedule. The Battalion recently deployed to Joshua Tree National Forest for a weekend of rock climbing and rappelling instruction in October.



Fair Winds and Following Seas

ARTHUR ABRAHAM WILLIS, JR.

1930 - 2016

Life member and friend, Arthur Abraham Willis Jr. of El Centro passed away on Sunday, September 18, 2016. Art was born on January 17, 1930 in Stinnett, TX. Art was an Eagle Scout, a retired Navy CDR, P2V POC and an Instructor. He was the owner of San Diego Aviation and also an Aircraft Recovery Expert for Mexico. He was a Grandfather, Husband, Dad and a phenomenal raconteur. He is survived by his wife, Bertha; and sons, Kip Willis, Mark Willis, Jerry Rubin and Carl Rubin; and daughters, Cathy Willis, Shirley Willis, Leslie Ortego and Elizabeth Lopez.



CYP Celebrates Fall Festival

This week, our military families stationed at NAF El Centro will celebrate Halloween with a Fall Festival. The Child and Youth Programs at NAF are hosting game booths and a cake walk. We reached out to our members for 200 cupcakes for the event, and you answered our call!

We rely heavily on our volunteers to do the work involved for our council's programs. We would like to extend a very special thank you to Angie Nelson, Betty Tucker and Gaylla Finnell who stepped forward to make sure that cupcakes were provided, and arrangements were made to get the goodies to the Base on time for the festivities.

Thank you Angie, Betty and Gaylla!

We couldn't have done it without you!

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www.desertheaglesquadron.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.com

Mail: P O Box 3834

El Centro, CA 92244-3834



GIVING THANKS TO OUR TROOPS



We all have our nation's brave service members to be thankful for this, and every year. Joint Operation Give Thanks is just one of the many ways Navy League gives its thanks to the courageous men and women who wear our nation's cloth.

For more than 25 years, the Imperial Valley Council of the Navy League has provided Thanksgiving turkeys to the active-duty servicemen and women whose families are stationed at Naval Air Facility El Centro.

This year, the Council will extend its circle of giving to include the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter PETREL (WPB 87350). We are seeking your partnership to help us fund this important program we're designating "Joint Operation Give Thanks 2016."

With your help, we will be able to show our appreciation to our service members and their families and "Give Thanks" for their sacrifice to our nation.

Please join us in supporting Joint Operation Give Thanks 2016. Your sponsorships are tax-deductible.

_____ YES! I want to be a part of Joint Operation Give Thanks 2016!

I want like to sponsor _____ turkeys at \$20 per turkey, for a total of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to IMPERIAL VALLEY NAVY LEAGUE, and mail to:

**Imperial Valley Navy League
P O Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244-3834**

*The True heroes of this world are the brave
men and women who choose to stand for something
greater than themselves.*

**We celebrate you on Veterans Day for your courage, sacrifice,
and commitment to our country.**

You are an inspiration to so many.

Save the Date



*Desert
Outing*

February 24-25, 2017



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

NOVEMBER 1

6:30 PM