



## November 2019

IV Navy League Dinner | November 5 at 6:30 pm

Mirage Club, Naval Air Facility El Centro

### Pilot and Plane -- John Collver and War Dog| November Speaker

We are pleased to introduce John Collver and “War Dog” a 1944 Marine SNJ-5 Texan who together have been thrilling audiences with their aerial tribute to the military for 36 years.

John’s father’s WWII military service influenced John’s choice to fly the T-6 Texan. The Texan is a WWII trainer celebrating its 80th year of service; known as the pilot maker because it trained more military pilots than any other airplane in history.



John’s flying career began over 50 years ago, at the age of 13, and at the age of 16, he soloed 5 different types of airplanes. At this time, he has logged more than 15,000 hours flying time and has been entertaining audiences across the west, with more than 1200 air show performances at major military and civilian air shows. His aerobatic career started with competition in 1974 in the International Aerobatic Club, where he achieved high rankings in their Gold Cup Championships.

Simultaneously, he was flying as a corporate pilot for Northrop/ Grumman, where he flew everything from turbo-props to jets. At Northrop/ Grumman he became a captain who flew such notables as, Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger, State Senators Diane Feinstein, and Barbara Boxer, and Brigadier General Chuck Yeager. Among the more than 50 different types of aircraft John has flown are

the Goodyear Blimp “Columbia” and television’s “Airwolf” helicopter. And in “War Dog”, John flew Louis Zamperini, made known to many through the book and movie “Unbroken.

When John acquired “War Dog”, he chose to restore her to her original paint scheme, from her El Toro days. The green stripes on her wings designate her as an instrument trainer. In 1946, after serving at El Toro, she was reassigned to serve at Marine Corp Air Station Miramar. Later, she was assigned to the Naval Training Command where she was used for carrier qualifications aboard the USS Cabot off the coast of Pensacola, Florida. In the 1950’s “War Dog” was retired from the Navy and was sent to Japan to serve in the Japanese Self Defense Force. After several years of service with the Japanese, “War Dog” was retired and was due to be scrapped. Instead, she was saved along with several other T-6 Texans when they were purchased by civilians in the US. John helped with her restoration and eventually became her sole owner.

A measure of the respect John carries in the field of aerobatics is his designation as one of the air show industry’s Aerobatic Competency Examiners, entrusted with ensuring the competency of other aerobatic performers. John and “War Dog” have been featured in film and numerous national and international publications. He even performed for Vice President George H. Bush.

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Join us in supporting Joint Operation Give Thanks 2019, and help us “Give Thanks” to our service members and their families for their sacrifice to our nation. Your donations to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys to active duty service members and their families are tax deductible, and may be made [online](#), or by downloading the [form](#) and submitting by check.

We'll be handing out turkeys on November 21st at the NAF El Centro Commissary from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help us handout turkeys, please [contact us](#).

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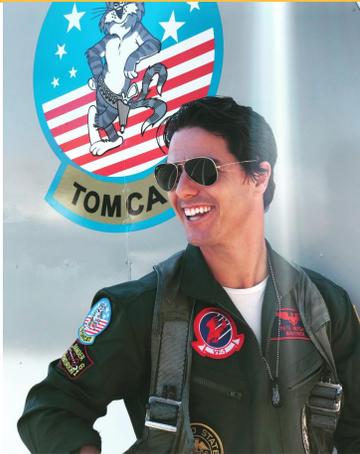
## Notice: Mirage Club Parking Lot Resurfacing



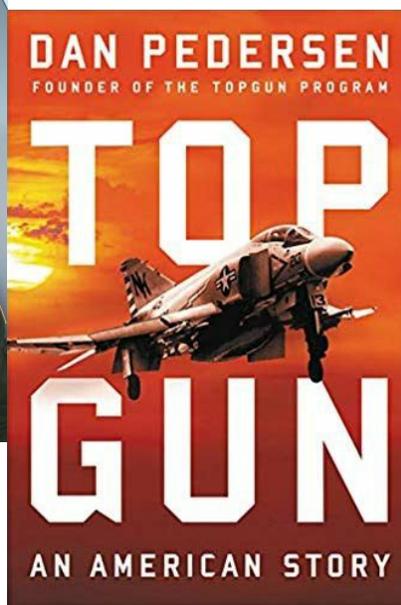
When you come see us next week, you'll notice the parking lot at the Mirage Club is currently under repair and being resurfaced. All Mirage Club patrons are requested to utilize other adjacent parking areas:

- Across the street at Child & Youth Programs; or
- Behind the Club at Building 4015 under the ramadas

## Head Into the Danger Zone | TOP GUN Night - December 3rd



Special Guest  
Maverick!



Captain Dan Pederson,  
USN (Ret.)

Don't even think about missing it! We have two special guests lined up for you next month. Join us for an evening with Captain Dan Pederson, the first Officer in Charge of TOPGUN school who will also be signing his new book *TOP GUN an American Story* -- and California Tom Cruise aka "Maverick" for a very special evening.

## On the 11th Hour. Of the 11th Day. Of the 11th Month



we might live in peace.

On Monday, November 11th remember and honor our American patriot Veterans who have carried the banner of Liberty forward since the first shots at Lexington and Concord.

We offer our thanks and gratitude to all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who have, and continue to stand in harm's way that

# SAVE THE DATE



28-29 FEBRUARY 2020

## Invite an Active Duty Spouse for Free Membership

### For All our Military Spouses... Let Us Give Back to You

Spouses of those currently serving in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard are eligible for a complimentary electronic membership with the Navy League of the United States.

The Navy League is your partner supporting those currently serving and their families, advocating for the sea services and educating the public and government officials about the importance of a strong sea services. Offering a complimentary e-membership is just one more way we are here for you.



### #1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

**amazonsmile**

### Support

Navy League Imperial Valley  
when you shop for the holidays!  
Use our Amazon Smile link



JOIN THE 2019  
GIVING  
CAMPAIGN

**NAVY LEAGUE**  
**CFC# 58495**

Solicitation Period

## President's Message

Let me begin by wishing the United States Marine Corps a happy 244th Birthday! They'll be celebrating their birthday on November 10th.



November is full. Full of gratitude, and full of opportunities to express our thanks for those who serve, and who have served as we celebrate Veterans Day, and endeavor to undertake Joint Operation Give Thanks.

In my humble opinion, [Joint Operation Give Thanks](#) is where our council shines. For more than 30 years the council has provided Thanksgiving turkeys to active duty families at NAF El Centro, and most recently, USCGC PETREL. We'll know more soon, but we're expecting to feed visiting Soldiers a Thanksgiving meal later this month. I'll be reaching out to you for your support of food items for this meal. I cannot begin to thank you for the overwhelming response you gave last year when we needed to feed Marines and National Guardsmen at a moment's notice. You all never cease to amaze me with your generosity.

The City of Holtville will be celebrating Veterans Day with a parade on Monday, November 11th. Details are below. You won't be disappointed if you attend, and I know you don't want to miss an opportunity to honor our local Veterans. Last month we had an excellent program by local author Bill Gay who spoke about his recent book, [Unseen Body Blows](#). We were pleasantly surprised, and most grateful for Bill and Sue Gay's generous donation of \$5 from every book sale they made that evening back to the Navy League. Thank you, Bill and Sue!

The holiday "season" is upon us -- I noted a cool 47 degrees this morning when I stepped outside. Halloween is this week, with Thanksgiving and Christmas short behind. If you're like me, and the summer heat is barely shaken off, Christmas shopping hasn't entered my mind, though my wife is already planning. So, if you're gearing up for Black Friday or Cyber Monday, or tempted by the holiday decorations at our local retailers, remember Imperial Valley Navy League when you do your Amazon shopping through [AmazonSmile](#). The council benefits from your Amazon shopping experiences!

Last week we were excited to learn last that we have been given the "green light" to hold Desert Outing 2020! Save the date for a one-of-a-kind experience that you won't want to miss. This event is our major fundraiser that allows us to support all of our adopted commands. We are most thankful to NAF El Centro and Navy Region Southwest for permitting us to hold this event at NAF El Centro.

And finally, we've scored a BIG hit for the December dinner. This will be one for the record

books. Mark your calendars because we have only two more steak dinners left in 2019 - and they're both going to be jam packed. Dean and Bob are already placing our steak orders, and they'll make sure one is on the Bar-B just for you.

See you next week, and Happy Thanksgiving!

*Ted*

Ted Gallinat, President  
Imperial Valley Council  
Navy League of the U.S.  
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## UPCOMING DINNER MEETINGS and EVENTS

**Nov 5** | Navy League Dinner | Speaker: John Collver, War Dog Air Shows

**Dec 3** | Navy League Dinner | Top Gun Night  
Speaker: Capt Dan Pederson, USN (Ret), and *Special Guest - Top Gun's Maverick!*

**Dec 6** | NAF El Centro Holiday Parade

**Feb 28-29** | Desert Outing 2020



## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

**Nov 2** | [2nd Annual Heroes Honor 5k Run/Walk](#)  
Brawley Cattle Call Rotary Park | 6:30 am

**Nov 11** | [6th Annual Imperial County Veterans Day Parade](#) | Holtville  
7:30AM - 9:00 AM Free Breakfast for all Veterans  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Parade  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Farmers Market & Street Fair

**Nov 15-16** | [Yuma Golf Classic, Yuma Council of the Navy League](#)

**Nov 14** | [Anchors Aweigh, Congressional Fly-in](#)  
Washington, DC

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## NAFEC Security Access | Don't have yours? Bringing a Guest?

If you haven't done so, NAF El Centro's Base Security Office is standing by to help process your application for your DBIDS access card which will authorize you



to to drive your vehicle on base for Navy League events.

To apply for your card, download and submit your application with this information:

### **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

- [Download SECNAV 5512 form](#)
- Steps to submit SECNAV 5512 form
- Steps to receive DBIDS card

### **QUESTIONS?**

Call: (760) 339-2524

Email: [W\\_ELCN\\_BASE\\_ACCESS\\_GS@navy.mil](mailto:W_ELCN_BASE_ACCESS_GS@navy.mil)

### **NAFEC OFFICE HOURS:**

- Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Closed for lunch 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
- *Pass Office is closed on holidays and weekends*

### **NO CARD? NEW MEMBER? BRINGING A GUEST?**

No problem! Let us know in advance and we'll make arrangements to sponsor you, or your guest on Base for the evening, and begin the paperwork for future visits.

We're a phone call away. **Call us at (760) 791-7345.**

DOD ID Holders are exempt from this policy.

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**Besides being a part of a great organization that serves others.**  
**You receive benefits too!**

**Become A Member**

**OUR ADOPTED UNITS**



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EL CENTRO



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FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION  
SQUADRON



USMC MARINE ATTACK  
SQUADRON VMA-214



USCGC PETRAL  
WPB 87350



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND  
CONUS WEST DETACHMENT



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC  
MAINTENANCE UNIT EL CENTRO DETACHMENT



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



DESERT EAGLE SQUADRON  
ESCONDIDO BATTALION  
TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON



CALEXICO HIGH SCHOOL

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**VMA-214**

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**Weapons Detachment El Centro**

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# SEAPOW<sup>ER</sup>

## The Official Publication of the Navy League

In print since 1902, Seapower provides Navy League members, sea service chiefs and members of Congress with the most relevant news affecting the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

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