



December 2019

IV Navy League Dinner | December 3rd at 6:30 pm

Mirage Club, Naval Air Facility El Centro

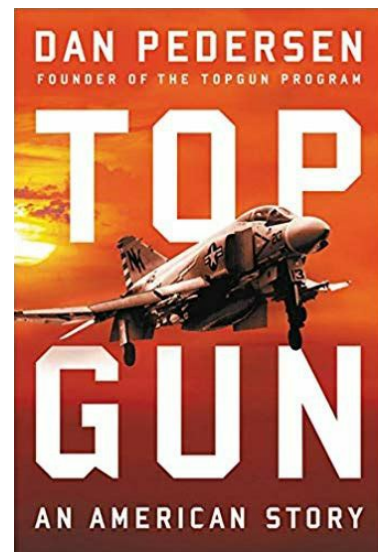
Hang onto your seat, we're headed into the Danger Zone!

Captain Dan Pederson, USN (Retired)
First "Skipper" of Navy's TOP GUN Fighter School

On the 50th anniversary of the creation of the "Topgun" Navy Fighter School in 1969, its founder, Captain Dan Pederson, shares the remarkable inside story of how he and eight other risk-takers revolutionized the art of aerial combat.

When American fighter jets were being downed at an unprecedented rate during the Vietnam War, the United States Navy turned to a then young lieutenant commander, Dan Pedersen, to figure out a way to reverse their dark fortune. On a shoestring budget and with little support, Pedersen picked eight of the finest pilots to help train a new generation to bend jets like the F-4 Phantom to their will and learn how to dogfight all over again.

What resulted was nothing short of a revolution -- one that took young American pilots from the crucible of combat training in the California desert to the blistering skies of Vietnam, in the process raising America's Navy combat kill ratio from two enemy planes downed for every American plane lost to more than 22 to 1.



TOPGUN emerged not only as an icon of America's military dominance immortalized by Hollywood but as a vital institution that would shape the nation's military strategy for generations to come.

In his new book, [*TOPGUN, An American Story*](#) Captain Pederson takes his readers on a colorful and thrilling ride -- from Miramar to Area 51 to the decks of aircraft carriers in war and peace-through a historic moment in air warfare. He helped establish a legacy that was built by him and his "Original Eight" -- the best of the best -- and carried on for six decades by some of America's greatest leaders. *TopGun* is a heartfelt and personal testimony to patriotism, sacrifice, and American innovation and daring.



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.

Captain Pederson is also the co-author of the book "Scream of Eagles" with author, Robert Wilcox, which recounts the formation of TOP GUN. Captain Pederson will have the *TOPGUN* book available for purchase at the dinner.

Joint Operation Give Thanks Completed



Joint Operatoin Give Thanks was executed successfully, with a total of 161 turkeys, and 8 Commissary gift cards distributed to the Sailors at NAF El Centro and Coast Guard personnel stationed about USCGC PETREL.

It is through the very generous donations of individual members, and the funding by DEPCOM G.I.V.E.S. and sponsors of the Crown Craft Beer Invitational who made this event possible.

In addition to the 161 turkeys given to families, the Council donated 10 turkeys for the Base Turkey for the Troops luncheon. Council members and student members of Central Baptist Church were on hand to help serve a Thanksgiving dinner to the Troops.



Congressional Fly-In Update

On Thursday, November 14th, the Imperial Valley Council on behalf of the Pacific Southwest Region participated in Navy League's 4th Biennial 2019 Anchors Aweigh Congressional Fly-in on Capitol Hill. Representing the Region was Council President Ted Gallinat, National Vice President Lisa Gallinat, and Sally Nockold, Newport Beach Council.

A total of 88 Navy Leaguers from around the country met with a total of 250 Congressional meetings. The Region representatives held six meetings with Rep. Juan Vargas (D-51), Rep. Scott Peters (CA-52), Rep. Susan Davis (CA-53), Rep. Nannette Barragan (CA-44), Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42), and Rep. Tom O'Halloran (AZ-01). The meetings were held to amplify the Navy League's support of important legislation to prepare our sea services for the future.

Congressional meeting focus was concentrated on the following Navy League initiatives:

- Support budget stability and avoid continuing resolutions.
- Fund Navy readiness recovery, and shipbuilding, to reach the right mix of ships in the fleet and other priorities.
- Recapitalize aging Marine Corps aircraft.
- Raise the Coast Guard's Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements budget to \$2B/year, and fund operations at 5% per year growth.
- Enforce and protect cargo preference laws, the Jones Act, the Maritime Security program, and training ships.
- Invest in readiness and training for all sea services.

The Navy League uses a grass-roots legislative approach to advocate on behalf of the sea services both in our communities and on Capitol Hill. We strongly need the voices of our members and community to make a difference.

Be a Voice to Congress. It takes only a few "clicks" to send an electronic message to your Representative on important matters affecting our sea services today.



L-R: Lisa Gallinat, Rep. Juan Vargas (CA 51), Ted Gallinat, Sally Nockold, and Eddie Meyer, Legislative Aide to Congressman Vargas



L-R: Rep. Scott Peters (CA 52), Lisa Gallinat, Sally Nockold, Ted Gallinat

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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.



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President's Message

We kicked off this month with Joint Operation Give Thanks. We bought turkeys. We gave turkeys, then we served turkeys. What a great feeling! Now, who's ready for T-Bones? I am!

But most of all, I'm thankful. I'm thankful for those who are wearing our nation's cloth. It's the efforts of our council members that are making the difference. You can never underestimate the power of volunteerism, and the willingness of our members to reach into your wallet or pocketbook for \$20 to make a real difference in a service member's life.

We give turkeys to our Troops not because they're in need, but because we're expressing and extending our gratitude to those who are serving. However, that's not to say that some of our active duty members are need -- and then, it serves as a



blessing to them. I am thankful for those who donated to support this important program.

Our T-Bone dinner next week will be the last one that we get to spend with Captain Alfonzo. He will be retiring from the Navy in January 2020. We are thankful for his service in our community -- and to our nation. Please join us to next week as we bid him farewell.

We were pretty excited that we had scored two hits for our December dinner. Unfortunately "Maverick" will be unable to join us, but I know you won't want to miss hearing from Captain Pederson. His story is what movies are of. Literally.

We will have a limited number of books on hand for your purchase. An autographed copy will make the perfect Christmas gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list.

Still need another gift? How about a membership to the Navy League? It's one-size-fits all! Get your [gift membership here](#) today.

Blink, and it's going to be January, and we'll welcome home our U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron for winter training. I had an opportunity to meet the 2020 Blue Angels team in Pensacola a few weeks ago. They're excited to be coming to El Centro, and meeting you on February 4th.

Until next Tuesday, I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Ted

Ted Gallinat, President
Imperial Valley Council
Navy League of the U.S.
www.ivnavyleague.org
ivnavyleague@yahoo.com

UPCOMING DINNER MEETINGS and EVENTS

Dec 3 | Navy League Dinner | Top Gun Night
Speaker: Capt Dan Pederson, USN (Ret.)

Feb 4 | Navy League Dinner | Blue Angels Night
Meet the 2020 Team!

Feb 28-29 | Desert Outing 2020



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Dec 6 | NAF El Centro Holiday Parade

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 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

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.

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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.

Navy League of the United States
Imperial Valley Council
PO Box 3834, El Centro, CA 92244
(760) 791-7345
www.ivnavyleague.org

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