



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 4 Freedom Fest
Imperial Valley College | Dusk
- 5 DARK - U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
No Meeting Fundraiser

AUGUST

- 2 DARK - U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
No Meeting Fundraiser
- 4 U.S. Coast Guard 226th Birthday!
- 26 USCGC PETREL Summer BBQ
Coast Guard Station San Diego

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

- 4 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

Blue Angels Return to the Skies

Blue Angels Mourn the Loss of Teammate, Captain Jeffrey Kuss, USMC

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels returned to their 2016 demonstration schedule July 2-4 in Traverse City, Michigan, Commander following a temporary stand down, in which they cancelled three weekend shows following a crash on June 2 during a practice in Smyrna, Tennessee, in which Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss was killed.

Since the crash, the Team has been fly a modified five jet demonstration, along with Fat Albert, the Blue Angels C-130.

The #6 F/A-18C Hornet assigned to the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron crashed during the June 2nd air show practice in Smyrna, Tennessee. The pilot, who did not survive, was identified as Blue Angel #6, Captain Jeffrey Kuss, 32, of Durango, Co. He served as the opposing solo pilot. This was Kuss' second year on the team and his first year as a demonstration pilot.



Captain Jeff Kuss, USMC
Blue Angel #6

"The Navy and Marine Corps aviation team is grieving the loss of one of our own," said Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker, Commander, Naval Air Forces. "Capt. Kuss was an incredible Marine, husband and father, and an inspiration to so many; his loss will be felt across the nation. Being a Naval Aviator is an inherently dangerous profession and our aviators knowingly accept that risk in service to their nation; but it still pains us greatly when we experience the untimely loss of a valued aviator and shipmate. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, fellow Marines, and Blue Angels teammates."

Kuss was taking off to start the afternoon practice when the mishap occurred. The crash occurred approximately two miles from the runway. The other five Blue Angel jets were not involved in the incident and landed safely moments later. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Capt. Kuss. We extend our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to his family, and those he served with.

Blue Angels Announce New Solo Pilot

Commander Frank Weisser Rejoins the Team

The the Blue Angels, announced their selection of a prior Blue Angels pilot to serve as their new Blue Angel #6 Opposing Solo pilot July 11. The team welcomes back Navy Cmdr. Frank Weisser for the remainder of the 2016 and 2017 seasons.

Weisser previously served on the Blue Angels from 2008-2010 and performed duties as the Narrator, Key Influencer and VIP Pilot, Opposing Solo and Lead Solo.

Weisser, is a native of Atlanta. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 2000 and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. Weisser received his wings of gold in November 2002. He has accumulated more than 4,000 flight hours and 400 carrier-arrested landings.

**OUR ADOPTED
COMMANDS
AND UNITS**



Happy to be home: VMA-214 “Black Sheep”

Marines return to MCAS Yuma following deployment

Story by Sgt. Lillian Stephens, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar / 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

Friends, family members and loved ones welcomed home Marines and Sailors with Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 214 “Black Sheep” and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona recently.

Approximately 100 Marines and Sailors completed a seven-month deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and supported missions in the Pacific theater.

According to Sgt. Maj. James Willeford, sergeant major of VMA-214, and an Abilene, Texas, native, the climate of the 31st MEU suited the A/B-8B Harrier well because of its capabilities as an aircraft.

“The Marines of 214 are absolutely fantastic. [They’re] outstanding, every single one of them,” said Willeford. “They’re exactly what the nation requires and I love every one of them. We’re all glad to be home and be back with our families.”



Blue Angels Announce 2017 Officers

U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, announce officers selected for the 2017 air show season

Release Date: 7/16/2016 6:30:00 PM

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The Blue Angels squadron selected three F/A-18 demonstration pilots, events coordinator, C-130 demonstration pilot, flight surgeon, supply officer, and administration officer to join a previously selected executive officer on the 2017 team.

Each officer was recommended for selection by Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Dell Bull, and ultimately approved by Chief of Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker, for final selection to the 2017 Blue Angels team. Many highly qualified Navy and Marine Corps officers submit applications to join the Blue Angels each year.

"It is such a privilege to have so many talented officers apply to be part of the Blue Angels tradition of showcasing the Navy and Marine Corps to the American public," said Cmdr. Ryan Bernacchi, flight leader and commanding officer of the 2016 team. "I am inspired by all of those who applied this year and we have an exceptional group to add to next year's team."

The Blue Angels select "finalists" to interview at the team's home base of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, during the week of the Pensacola Beach Air Show each year. The team makes selections at the conclusion of that week. "We were extremely fortunate to have so many qualified and motivated applicants apply for the team," said Lt. Matt Suyderhoud, right wing pilot and applications officer for the 2017 team selection. "I am excited to see what next year's team will be able to accomplish."

The newly selected 2017 officers include:

F/A-18 Demonstration Pilots:

Navy Lt. Brandon Hempler, 32, of Wamego, Kansas, is an F/A-18 Super Hornet pilot currently assigned to Training Squadron (VT) 22, the "Golden Eagles," at NAS Kingsville, Texas. He is a 2007 graduate of Kansas State University, Salina, Kansas.

Navy Lt. Damon Kroes, 34, of Fremont, California, is an F/A-18 Hornet instructor pilot currently assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 101, the "Sharpshooters," at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California. He is a 2006 graduate of San Diego State University, San Diego.

Navy Lt. Nate Scott, 31, of Danville, California, is an F/A-18 Hornet instructor pilot currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the "Gladiators," at NAS Oceana, Virginia. He is a 2007 graduate of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Events Coordinator: Navy Lt. Dave Steppe, 31, of Birmingham, Alabama, is an EA-18G Growler naval flight officer currently assigned to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 129, the "Vikings," at NAS Whidbey Island, Washington. He is a 2008 graduate of Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.

C-130 Demonstration Pilot: Marine Capt. Kyle Maschner, 33, of Scottsdale, Arizona, is a KC-130 Hercules pilot currently assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan. He is a 2006 graduate of Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona.

Flight Surgeon: Navy Lt. Juan Guerra, 31, of Ocala, Florida, is a flight surgeon currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106, the "Gladiators," at NAS Oceana, Virginia. He is a 2011 graduate of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland.

Supply Officer: Navy Lt. Bryan Pace, 32, of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, is a supply officer currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101, the "Grim Reapers," at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. He is a 2010 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Administration Officer: Navy Lt. j.g. Timothy Hawkins, 37, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is an administrative officer currently assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143, the "Pukin' Dogs," at NAS Oceana, Virginia. He was commissioned through the Limited Duty Officer Program in 2013.

Executive Officer Pre-selected to join the 2017 team: Navy Cmdr. Matt Kaslik, 43, of The Woodlands, Texas.

Expected to return for the 2017 season are: Commanding Officer, Flight Leader: Navy Cmdr. Ryan Bernacchi, 43, of Los Altos, California.

F/A-18 Demonstration Pilots: Navy Lt. Lance Benson, 33, of McPherson, Kansas, Navy Lt. Tyler Davies, 34, of Kennesaw, Georgia, Navy Cmdr. Frank Weisser, 38, of Atlanta.

C-130 Demonstration Pilots: Marine Maj. Mark Hamilton, 38, of Becker, Minnesota, Marine Maj. Mark Montgomery, 37, of Cartersville, Georgia,

Maintenance Officer: Navy Lt. Samuel Rose, 36, of Whitehouse, Texas.

Public Affairs Officer: Navy Lt. Joe Hontz, 38, of Longmont, Colorado.

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www.deserteaglesquadron.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.org

Mail: P O Box 3834

El Centro, CA 92244-3834

We'll be chillin' and a grillin'

Help us celebrate the
U.S. Coast Guard's 226th Birthday!

Join us for a cookout on the
waterfront with the
Coast Guard Cutter PETREL
crew and their families

Friday, August 26th

11:30 am

USCGC Petrel
U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego

RSVP by August 20th

760.791.7345

ivnavyleague@yahoo.com





Dear Members,

There will be no meeting in July or August. As has become our tradition these past few years, we'll be conducting our annual "No Meeting Fundraiser" to help sponsor our Sea Cadets units.

Here's how it works: In lieu of attending the monthly dinner meeting in July and August, we would ask you to send an amount equal to the dinner (or any amount you choose) as your tax-deductible donation to the Council for this fundraiser.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a federally chartered nonprofit civilian youth organization for ages 11 to 17.

The program is sponsored by the Navy League of the United States and supported by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. It conducts training programs designed to develop an interest and ability in seamanship and seagoing skills, instill good citizenship and strong moral principles, and expose cadets to the value of public service and a variety of career paths. They also focus on developing an appreciation for the country's rich naval history, customs and traditions.

So fall in and join us in investing in our youth. *Thank you for your support!*

Ted Gallinat

Theodore R. Gallinat, President

Help us invest in our youth

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Email:

Yes, I would like to donate \$_____ to the Sea Cadets!

Please mail your donation to:

I.V. Navy League
P.O. Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244-3834

Your tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more is appreciated.

Navy League of the United States Imperial Valley Council is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation under the laws of the State of California. Federal ID #33-0367596



Spotlight on Escondido Battalion and Training Ship Kit Carson

Sea Cadet unit adopted in 2014

One of our core missions is to support youth through programs that expose young people to the values of our sea services. This series of photos will give provide you with insight into the valuable opportunities these youth have been provided, and the importance of engaging them as they become young adults.

On June 4, 2016, the Escondido Battalion met at the American Legion Post 149 in Escondido to celebrate the completion of another year in their schedule. In addition to recognizing individual achievements and the rating of outstanding Cadets at the annual regional inspection, the unit celebrated the success of their CyberPatriot and SeaPerch teams. The Escondido Battalion's CyberPatriot team earned 3rd place in the nation, and their SeaPerch team swept the awards at the national competition.

In attendance at the recognition ceremony were two World War II veterans, both 91 years young. Andre Chappaz, wore his original Army uniform, and Gil Nadeau wore his Navy Cracker Jack uniform. Both Veterans served in the Pacific Theater. The Battalion recognized their graduating seniors, and these two Veterans solemnly rose to their feet and conveyed a smart hand salute to the cadets.

Bravo Zulu Escondido Battalion!






Membership Application

The Navy League was founded in 1902 with a clear three-pronged mission: to support the members of the sea services and their families; to educate the American people and their elected leaders about the critical importance of sea power for their economic prosperity and national security; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs like the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Whether you ever served in uniform or not, we invite you to join us today. Our mission, "Citizens in Support of the Sea Services," reflects both our commitment and our broad appeal to everyone concerned with support for our men and women in uniform. Join us in supporting the men and women of our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

YES! PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A NAVY LEAGUER.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

- \$55** 1-YEAR PREMIUM INDIVIDUAL/INTERNATIONAL *includes print editions of SEAPOWER Magazine and Almanac*
- \$100** 2-YEAR PREMIUM *Save \$10**
- \$130** 3-YEAR PREMIUM *Save \$35**
- \$180** 4-YEAR PREMIUM *Save \$40**
- \$225** 5-YEAR PREMIUM *Save \$50**
- \$1,000** LIFE MEMBERSHIP *[to age 55]*
- \$750** LIFE MEMBERSHIP *[age 56 -75]*
- \$500** LIFE MEMBERSHIP *[age 76+]*
- \$25**  **e-membership** *includes electronic edition of SEAPOWER and Almanac*

* Over 1-year rate

DONATION \$ _____

The Navy League is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations you make to the navy league are tax-deductible and support programs like sea cadets, youth scholarships and sea services awards.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS LINE 1 _____

ADDRESS LINE 2 _____

CITY / STATE _____

ZIP / POSTAL CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

EMAIL (REQUIRED FOR E-MEMBERSHIP) _____

PHONE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

SPONSOR LAST NAME _____ SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP # _____

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NAME ON CARD _____

CARD NUMBER _____ CVV2 _____ EXP _____

SIGNATURE _____

SEND COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO

MEMBERSHIP
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S.
P.O. Box 660122
DALLAS, TX 75266-9782

FAX TO
703-528-2333

CALL
800-356-5760

JOIN ONLINE
JOIN.NAVYLEAGUE.ORG



Blue Angels Memorial Project at Naval Air Facility El Centro

As summer temps rise, so does our thermometer. Make a tax-deductible donation today!

We've reached another notch on our fundraising thermometer! To date, we've received \$6,996 toward our \$175,000 goal to construct our memorial to fallen Blue Angels.

Council President Ted Gallinat attended Navy League's premier event, Sea-Air-Space Exposition in Washington, D.C. last month. The Expo to gain national attention to the memorial fundraising effort. The SAS Expo is designed to bring the U.S. defense industrial base, private-sector U.S. companies and key military decision makers together for an annual innovative, educational, professional and maritime based event.



\$2300 Donation received from Blue Angels Tribute Page and Aviator Down Foundation

In concert with Ray Congdon and the Blue Angels Tribute Page on Facebook, the Aviator Down Foundation just signed over \$2300 to the Blue Angel Memorial project. Many Blue Angels fans from across the nation purchased Blue Angels Tribute Page (BATP) stickers honoring Blue Angels #6, Capt. Jeff "Kooch" Kuss, USMC.

Donate today

Your donations to fund this important project are tax-deductible, and are much-needed to meet our deadline. Make checks payable to: Imperial Valley Navy League, or donate online through the website: www.blueangelsmemorial.org

Upcoming Events

August 26

USCGC PETREL Friends and Family Summer BBQ

Get out of the heat, and join us as we celebrate the United States Coast Guard's 226th Birthday on the waterfront in San Diego with PETREL's crew members and their families. See insert for more details. Dctions will be provided to you when you register to attend.

RSVP by August 20th!



September 2-5

Port of Los Angeles to Host Inaugural LA Fleet Week 2016

LA Fleet Week 2016 is a celebration of our U.S. armed forces at our nation's #1 port, the Port of Los Angeles. The four-day festival will host active military ships along the LA Waterfront and feature public ship tours, military equipment demos, live entertainment, educational activities and more.

www.lafleetweek.com



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

SEPTEMBER 13

6:30 PM