



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Imperial Valley

January-February 2020

#1 | CDR Brian C. Kesselring, USN Flight Leader, Commanding Officer, Blue Angels

It's our pleasure to introduce you to the Blue Angels Flight Leader, Commander Brian C. Kesselring who lead the 2020 Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron. Commander Kesselring will be our February dinner speaker.

Brian is a native of Fargo, North Dakota. He graduated from Concordia College, MN, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts undergraduate degree with majors in Physics, Mathematics, and Business while also competing in basketball and track & field. Upon graduation, Brian attended Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, where he earned his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in March 2001.



Brian was designated a Naval Aviator in August 2003, and received orders to the "Gladiators" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, Virginia, for F/A-18C Hornet training. His first fleet assignment was as a member of the "Gunslingers" of VFA-105, where he flew the F/A-18C and F/A-18E and completed two combat deployments aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was then selected to attend the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), where he remained as a staff instructor from 2008-2011.

Upon completing his tour at TOPGUN, Brian reported to the "Tophatters" of VFA-14 at NAS Lemoore, California, where he served as the Training Officer and deployed aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) in support of Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. Following his Training Officer tour, Brian reported to the "Tomcatters" of VFA-31 as a Department Head, where he deployed aboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve. During his tour with the "Tomcatters," he was honored to receive the "LCDR Michael Longhardt" award for superior leadership.

Brian then received orders to Carrier Air Wing One as Assistant Operations Officer where

he deployed aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Following this tour, Brian reported to the Naval War College earning a Master of Arts in National Security Strategy, while participating in the Halsey Advanced Research Program.

Brian was then assigned as the Executive Officer of the "Sunliners" of VFA-81 in March 2017, subsequently assuming Command in June 2018 and deploying aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. While serving as Commanding Officer, the "Sunliners" were honored to receive the Navy's coveted "Battle Effectiveness" award.

Brian joined the Blue Angels in September 2019. He has accumulated more than 3,900 flight hours and has 812 carrier-arrested landings. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, six Strike/Flight Air Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various personal, unit and service awards.

We look forward to having you join us as we host the Blue Angels officers next Tuesday, February 4, 2020. We'll have an early start time of 5:30 p.m.

For members and guests without DBIDS security access, a courtesy shuttle will be available to transport guests to the Mirage Club. Guests are asked to park outside the gate, and the shuttle will run continuously until start time. Shuttles will begin at 5:00pm.

Blue Angels Arrive for Winter Training



You've likely heard the roar of F/A-18's Hornets flying overhead our Valley. The Blue Angels arrived from Pensacola, Florida on Thursday, January 3rd to begin their 74th year of entertaining airshow spectators, and inspiring our youth to Naval and Marine Corps aviation.

For the next 10 weeks, the 130 members of the flight demonstration squadron will call the Imperial Valley "home" as they perfect their program for their upcoming airshow season. This will be the final season where the Blue Angels will showcase the F/A-18C Hornet before they transition to the newer F/A-18E/F Super Hornet for the 2021 season.

Modifications to the Super Hornet are underway for the long-awaited transition, and the

Blue Angels' 2020 show season has been shortened to enable ample time for the transition to a new platform.

The Blue Angels are scheduled to received 11 Super Hornets -- 9 of which are aircraft that have spent their lives as test aircraft or were in storage after returning from the fleet; and two two-seater jets.

Both the Blue Angels and Naval Air Facility have preliminarily announced their 2021 airshow schedule to which will begin on April 10, 2021 in Jacksonville instead of El Centro.

NAF El Centro is set to rebrand their 2021 airshow as a "Festival of Flight" which will feature a Blue Angels practice demonstration in the Super Hornet.

Desert Outing 2020 | Sold Out!



*Thank you to those who
have registered.*

**WE ARE
SOLD OUT!**

Let us Introduce You | NAF El Centro's Newest Commanding Officer



At a change of command ceremony on Friday, January 24, 2020, Captain Brent Alfonzo was relieved of command in a retirement ceremony, and Captain Derrick Kinsley assumed command as the 38th commanding officer of the facility since its inception in 1946.

Captain Kingsley is a native of Granite City, Illinois and a 1996 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Designated a Naval Aviator in 1998, he reported to the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron FIVE "Night Dippers" in September 1999, flying the SH-60F and HH-60H out of NAS Jacksonville, FL. During this tour, he deployed with Carrier Air Wing

SEVEN aboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) in support of OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH, as well as USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67) in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

In January 2003, Captain Kingsley reported for shore duty to the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron TEN "War Hawks" aboard NAS North Island. At HS-10, he became

qualified Instructor Pilot in all mission areas. During the time, he also earned a Master of Science Degree from the University of San Diego.

Captain Kingsley reported to USS BOXER (LHD 4) aboard Naval Station San Diego in June 2005, serving as the Safety Officer and Officer of the Deck.

In July 2007, Captain Kingsley reported for a department head assignment with HS-5 "Night Dippers", serving as Administrative Officer, Operations Officer, and Maintenance Officer. During this tour, he again deployed with Carrier Air Wing SEVEN aboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

Following this tour, Captain Kingsley reported as the Assistant Officer in Charge of Commander Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic Daetachment Jacksonville. In January 2010, he detached onboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) in support of OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE in the Bay of Haiti. Captain Kingsley reported to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron THREE aboard NAS North Island in July 2010, qualifying as an MH-60S Instructor Pilot. Following his transition to the MH-60S, Captain Kingsley served with distinction as the HSC-3 Executive Officer from May 2011 until June 2012. In June 2012, he became the Executive Officer for the HSC-8 "Eightballers" and completed an eight-month deployment with the USS JOHN C. STENNIS Strike Group in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. From September 2013, to December 2014, Captain Kingsley commanded the "Eightballers"- leading them through 11 highly successful detachments and various inspections. Following his operational Command at Sea tour, CAPT Kingsley worked as the Chief of Naval Operations Plans and Policy Deputy Branch Head and lead Action Officer for the Strategic Laydown and Dispersal portfolio from January 2015 – January 2018. CAPT Kingsley reported to the Joint Staff (J35) in January 2018 where he served as the Chief of Operations for the National Military Command Center. From September 2018, until December 2019, CAPT Kingsley served as the Chief of Staff for the Director of Operations (J3).

2020 Scholarship Application is Open | Submissions due Feb.14

Navy League Foundation scholarships are available to descendants of sea service members and veterans, as well as members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The final date to turn in applications is Feb. 14. The Navy League gave nearly \$40,000 in scholarship in 2019, and we're hoping to do that again! For more information or to apply, visit the [Scholarship page of the Navy League site](#).

President's Message

Did you notice? We have a new look!

During our November national board meeting, it was determined that we would return to our "roots" and adopt a new national logo.

National President William Stevenson said, "*...the Navy League has predominantly used two logos, the straight anchor and, for the 100th anniversary of the Navy League, we adopted what we now know as the slanted*

anchor. Since the founding of the Navy League in 1902 by Teddy Roosevelt, there has been one constant — the Navy League seal. Many of you have seen this seal on awards and recognition documents and our coins... there is no better time than now to embrace our roots by using the Navy League seal not only as our seal but as our logo."

It's our birthday!

We're celebrating our 71st anniversary. Happy Birthday Imperial Valley Council! We're planning to celebrate our birthday at our next dinner. Join us!

Youth Programs and Scholarships

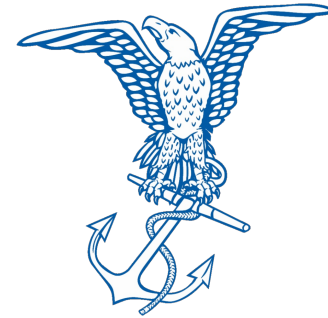
At every opportunity we are encouraging our council sponsored youth, and promoting opportunities to expose them to life skills through leadership and technical programs.

Recently, our Desert Eagle Squadron, along with Camp Pendleton's Michael Monsoor Battalion, participated in the Imperial County Aviation Day activities. The Cadets provided important support on the flight line by marshalling aircraft, and providing safety and security watch on the tarmac. The Aviation Day chairman was both appreciative, and impressed with your young Cadets and their commitment.

Last weekend, our Escondido Battalion and Training Ship Kit Carson held a successful Parent-Cadet competition. A total of 18 parents took up the challenge, and lived the life of a Sea Cadet for a few hours. We're still waiting word to see if the parents had the right stuff.

Our support to our youth doesn't end with high school. The Navy League Foundation provides [scholarships](#) to descendants of sea service members, veteran dependents, and Sea Cadets. We encourage you to help us spread the word for these individuals wishing to continue their education to apply for one of our scholarships. The deadline to apply is February 14.

NAVY LEAGUE



IMPERIAL VALLEY
1949-2020



We Want Y-O-U!

Look around. It's no secret. Our membership is declining. Attendance at our monthly dinners has significantly dropped off. For as successful as we are with our programs operating with a small crew, imagine what we could do with a larger number of member volunteers. **WE WANT YOU** to join the Navy League!



Joining, or renewing your membership is easy. Call us, we'll take your membership over the phone, or you can join/renew online. It takes only a few moments, and membership is as low as \$25 per year. Don't wait. [Join today.](#)

As always, we'll have those delicious Brandt Beef T-Bone steaks on the grill, and our Navy and Marine Corps team's finest -- the Blue Angels in their first public appearance.

I'll see you next Tuesday.
Ted

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

Upcoming dinner Meetings and Events

Feb 4 | Navy League Dinner | Blue Angels Night

5:30 PM

Meet the 2020 Blue Angels!

Feb 28-29 | Desert Outing 2020 - *Sold Out!*

Reservations required

Mar 3 | Navy League Dinner | Blue Angels MIB Night

6:30 PM

Meet the Blue Angels Men in Black!



Looking for Something To Do?

Mar 13 | NAF El Centro Food Festival

Gates open at 5:00 PM

Mar 14 | NAF El Centro Airshow

Gates open 8:00 AM

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.

For members and guests without DBIDS security access, a courtesy shuttle will be available to transport guests to the Mirage Club on Tuesday, February 4th only. Guests are asked to park outside the gate, and the shuttle will begin at 5:00 pm, and run continuously until meeting start time.

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.

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

DOD ID Holders are exempt from this policy.

[Besides being a part of a great organization that serves others.](#)

[You receive benefits too!](#)

Become A Member

Our Supported Units



NAVAL AIR FACILITY
EL CENTRO



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS
FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION
SQUADRON



USMC MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON VMA-
214



USCGC PETREL
WPB 87350



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND
CONUS WEST DETACHMENT



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC
MAINTENANCE UNIT EL CENTRO



NAVAL BRANCH MEDICAL
EL CENTRO



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



DESERT EAGLE SQUADRON
ESCONDIDO BATTALION
TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON



CALEXICO HIGH SCHOOL

Sailor Award Sponsors

We Need Sailor Sponsors!
Become one today

USCGC PETREL
VMA-214
Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit
Weapons Detachment El Centro

Table Sponsors

[PREMIER TOWING](#)
[CASTILLO CONSTRUCTION](#)
[THE DAHM TEAM REAL ESTATE CO](#)
[USAA](#)
[BRANDT BEEF - The True Natural](#)

Become a Sponsor today!
Contact us to find how you can support our programs

[Website](#) | [Contact Us](#)

SEAPOW^{ER}

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