Imperial Valley Council



NY LEACHT

Volume 2015

Issue 8

August 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

No Meeting Fundraiser
 U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

- 2-4 Miramar Air Show
- 6 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 10 U.S. Navy Ball | 6:00 pm NAF El Centro Hangar 8

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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





U.S. Navy

U.S. Marine Corps





U.S. Coast Guard

U.S.-flag Merchant Marine

The Importance of the Sea Cadet Program

From Desert Eagle Sea Cadet to Air Force Officer Candidate School

They dress in uniforms, stand in formation, drill, conduct physical training tests and learn the military life style, yet they aren't even old enough to vote

More than 30 Sea Cadets from all over Imperial Valley, ages 10 to 17, are currently part of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' Desert Eagle Squadron. The unit was formed by this council in 1990, and has seen many of our local youth pass through its doors.

One of these local standouts, is a native of Calipatria, California. SSgt. David "Drew" Gupton, is currently serving on Active Duty in the United States Air Force with the 57 Adversary Tactics Support Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. As the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) of the Life Support Section that supports the 64th Aggressor Squadron, his primary duty is to ensure that the Air Force's F-16 pilots have safe oxygen equipment for weekly training operations.

At about the age of 14, Gupton began to research the military and available careers. Prior to his junior year at Calipatria High School, he learned about the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and quickly enrolled with the Desert Eagle



Staff Sergeant David Gupton, U.S. Air Force

Squadron. During Gupton's time as a Sea Cadet, he rose to the rank of Petty Officer Third Class, and attended various trainings including: recruit training, sailing, culinary arts, recruit training staff, and petty officer leadership academy.

SSgt Gupton stated "The Sea Cadet program instilled in me the foundations of drill and ceremony, as well as military discipline."

Following graduation from Calipatria High School in 2008, he enrolled in Imperial Valley College and completed 75 units before enlisting in the Air Force Basic at the age of 19.

Gupton went on to say that "Serving in the Sea Cadets and Air Force has provided a wealth of opportunities and benefits." He recently completed his Bachelor's degree through the Tuition Assistance program, and was subsequently accepted to attend the Air Force Officer's Training School with Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training as his follow on assignment. SSgt Gupton stated "I attribute my successes in the Air Force to the guidance received through the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corp."

After completing a two-week boot camp, Cadets are allowed to attend training courses throughout the country to learn about careers in the military such as: air traffic control, culinary arts, medical training, firefighting training, photo journalism, ceremonial guard, marksmanship training, scuba school, submarine seminars, construction battalion training, mine warfare operations training, SEAL training, explosive ordinance disposal training, petty officer leadership academy, amphibious training, master-at-arms training, judge advocate general training, sailing school, seamanship training and shipboard training.

Cadets learn the spirit of volunteerism by participating in local events, and frequently provide color guard service for a number of community and veteran events.

The Imperial Valley Council is proud to support local Sea Cadet programs. We are committed to continuing to provide alternatives to drug, alcohol and gangs in our local community. The importance of providing our local youth opportunities with the Sea Cadets are compelling, life-changing programs that instill the values of teamwork, discipline, camaraderie and service through our passionate all-volunteer force and our partnerships with our nation's armed forces.

The Cadets drill one weekend per month at Naval Air Facility El Centro. The program is open to both males and females from the ages of 11 through 17.

Interested individuals are encouraged to learn more by contacting LT David Gupton, Commanding Officer of the Desert Eagle Squadron, or LTJG Patrick Healey, Commanding Officer of the Escondido Battalion and Training Ship Kit Carson, or visiting the Sea Cadet website at www.seacadets.org

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225 years of Service to Nation: Search and rescue

Aug. 4, 2015 marks the 225th birthday of the United States Coast Guard by William Thiesen, Atlantic Area historian

Those familiar with Coast Guard history know that the Service's development has been shaped in part by the nation's response to natural and man-made disasters. Nowhere is that lesson clearer than the history of the Service's search and rescue, or SAR, mis-

The Revenue Cutter Service, one of the predecessor services to the Coast Guard, assisted mariners at sea beginning in the 1790s; however, this core mission did not receive official sanction until 1837. That year, the bark Mexico came ashore near New York Harbor with the loss of over 100 passengers and crew.

In response to this tragedy, Federal officials recognized the need for government assistance for ships in danger. In December of that year, Congress passed legislation assigning revenue cutters responsibility for aiding vessels requiring assistance. Ironically, that same year saw the construction of the three-masted ship Powhatan, another vessel that played a role in spurring federal lifesaving legisla- Personnel assigned to the U.S. Life Saving Service helped pave the way for the Coast tion.



Guard's modern search and rescue mission, U.S. Coast Guard photo.

In 1854, two major maritime disasters took place in New Jersey.

In April, more than two hundred lives were lost when the Powhatan wrecked on the Jersey Shore. In November, another 220 lives were lost when the ship New Era came ashore in New Jersev.

In response to this horrific loss of life, Congress passed what became known as the Act of Dec. 15, 1854. This proved one of the most sweeping bills in U.S. lifesaving history, greatly expanding the federal government's ability to support lifesaving efforts.

The late summer and early winter of 1870 proved another deadly shipwreck season. The numerous ships wrecking on U.S. shores raised awareness of the nation's inadequate land-based lifesaving capability.

Secretary of the Treasury George Boutwell responded by establishing a superintendent's position to direct the Department's Revenue Marine Division, which oversaw steamboat inspection, marine hospitals and lifesaving stations. In February 1871, Boutwell appointed Superintendent Sumner Kimball, who initiated the rapid expansion of U.S. lifesaving operations and, in 1878, established the U.S. Life-Saving Service.

The late 1800s and early 1900s, saw hundreds of surfmen from the U.S. Life-Saving Service go in harm's way to save the victims of maritime disasters. These heroic individuals included Capt. Joshua James, who served as a lifesaver for sixty years.

During his career, he earned almost every medal available to surfmen for maritime rescues. James's medals included the prestigious Gold Lifesaving Medal, which he received in 1888 for rescuing survivors from five different shipwrecks during a severe two-day winter storm. Kimball believed James to be the most important lifesaver in the history of the Service.

During James' lengthy career, the Life-Saving Service saw the development of improved lifesaving technology, including new rescue devices, improved flares and personal floatation devices, tractor-pulled beach equipment and motorized lifeboats. During this same period, the Revenue Cutter Service saw the technological transition of its cutters from ponderous wooden sailing vessels to fast steel-hulled propeller steamships.

In 1915, Congress passed important lifesaving legislation once again. This time, the bill merged the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service and U.S. Life-Saving Service. In so doing, this act combined the federal government's two agencies responsible for maritime safety on land and at sea into one modern organization with overall jurisdiction: the U.S. Coast Guard.

Not long after formation of the modern-day Coast Guard, rapid advances took place in seaborne aviation technology. The Service soon added an amphibian fixed-wing aircraft capability to the fleet of lifesaving boats and Coast Guard cutters already supporting the SAR mission. These new Coast Guard aircraft provided rapid response assets for over-the horizon rescues and they served in numerous high-profile cases, including Gold Lifesaving Medal rescues in 1929, 1933 and 1937.

During the 1930s, the Service continued to perfect the use of amphibian aircraft for SAR cases. However, in World War II, the Coast Guard developed the helicopter, a new form of aviation technology that has since become synonymous with the Service's SAR mission.

Coast Guard helicopters and their associated rescue hoist devices improved in the decades following the war and rotary-wing assets gradually supplanted fixed-wing amphibian aircraft as the Service's primary aviation asset. In 1983, the tragic loss of the SS Marine Electric and most of her crew, spurred Congress to pass legislation establishing the Coast Guard's rescue swimmer program. This bill added yet another valuable piece to the Service's modern search and rescue system.

In 2006, the Coast Guard's SAR mission saw a different call for help when Hurricane Katrina ravished the Gulf Coast. During the weeks that followed, the Coast Guard responded to the nearly 60,000 people awaiting rescue from rooftops and flooded homes. Of those 60,000, Coast Guard men and women rescued more than 33,500 people.

While marine accidents and changing technology has shaped the Coast Guard's SAR mission from the early 1800s to present day, it remains clear that the Coast Guard stands ready to adapt to the changing environment and needs of the Nation to provide these crucial rescue services.

Rear Admiral Markham Rich takes Command of Navy Region Southwest

Rear Admiral Patrick Lorge retires after 34 years of Naval service

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Rear Adm. Markham K. Rich relieved Rear Adm. Patrick J. Lorge as commander of Navy Region Southwest (NRSW), July 13, during a change of command ceremony aboard the USS Midway Museum in San Diego.

Lorge led Region shore operations to support 325,000 Sailors, Marines, family members and retirees. He initiated an energy strategy that included steam decentralization, Utilities Renewable Energy initiatives, energy security, and micro-grid technology that will lead to savings of 25 percent in consumption and \$12.5 million per year. He collaborated with state and local governments to build a state-of-the-art coastal campus project in support of Naval Special Warfare. He also developed a Base Operations Long-Range Tracker synchronizing planning across all warfare enterprises and installations.

Lorge is retiring after serving 34 years in the Navy. During his speech, he compared the mixed feelings of closing this chapter in his life, to the scene between Clarence and George Baily in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life."

"As I reflected on my life in uniform over these last 34 plus years, I realized that I have been blessed by God in too many ways to count," Lorge said. "He gave me a purpose in life, the woman of my dreams, and five children more precious than gold. And he also gave me the gift to lead, and I, like George Baily, think this is a Wonderful Life."

Vice Admiral Kenneth Floyd, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, presented Lorge with the Distinguished Service Medal for his inspirational leadership of NRSW from July 2013 to July 2015, culminating 34 years of honorable and dedicated service.

Lorge's five children read the "The Watch," a poem typically read during military retirement ceremonies to respectfully relieve a service member of military duties and acknowledge the younger generation's role in carrying the mission forward. Following the poem, Lorge's son, U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Phillip Lorge, gave his father his last active duty salute before being piped ashore.

Rich assumed command of NRSW following a tour in Washington D.C., where he served as the 88th Commandant of Naval District Washington. He previously commanded Naval Air Station Oceana and was chief of staff at Navy Region Southwest.

"To the Navy Region Southwest Team, I'm ready to get to work with you, for the second time in many cases, serving the fleet, fighter and family," Rich stated. "Our reason for being is to ensure the continued mission success of our tenants and mission partners."

was in Washington, D.C.; Rich is finishing his assignment as commandant, Naval District Washing-

The office that Rich will lead oversees 10 Navy installations, including El Centro in a 6-state

Rich is a native of Jacksonville, Fla. and a naval aviator. Like Lorge, his previous assignment Marine 1st Lt. Philip Lorge, who modified the last lines of the Navy ton and deputy commander, Joint Forces Headquarters National Capital Region. has the watch," as his father stood and saluted. area. Navy Region Southwest has an \$800 million budget which is utilized to provide base operating support functions for operating forces throughout the region,



Rear Admiral Markham K. Rich



retirement poem, "The Watch." "Dad, you are relieved. This Marine

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Final West Coast Frigate, USS Gary, Decommissioned

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Trevor Welsh, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Past and current crew, plank owners, former and current commanding officers, namesake relatives and friends and family gathered at Naval Base San Diego July 23 to bid farewell to USS Gary (FFG 51), the last remaining Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate on the West coast after 31 years of service.

During the decommissioning ceremony, guest speaker, Hon. William Albrecht, World War II veteran who served aboard USS Franklin (CV 13) with the frigate's namesake, Cmdr. Donald Gary. He was one of hundreds to be rescued by Gary after Franklin was heavily damaged by aircraft from the Imperial Japanese Navy on March 19, 1945, which subsequently resulted in then Lt. Gary's receiving the Medal of Honor.

"When USS Franklin was struck by two armor-piercing 500-pound bombs dropped by a Japanese bomber, in recognition of his extraordinary efforts to rescue 300 men trapped in the mess compartment, Gary was awarded the Medal of Honor," said Albrecht. "USS Gary's shield, crest and motto were set forth by the many accomplishments of Lt. Gary that fateful day."

The decommissioning ceremony is a time-honored naval tradition which retires a ship from service through various ceremonial observances, including the department heads' final reports, lowering of the ship's commissioning pennant and national ensign and Sailors walking off the ship while a bugler plays "Taps." The ceremony is meant to pay respect to the ship and the Sailors who have served aboard during decades of honorable service.

Sailors aboard the Oliver Hazard-Perry class guided-missile frigate USS Gary (FFG 51) man the rails during the ship's decommissioning ceremony at Naval Base San Diego.

Named after Medal of Honor recipient Cmdr. Donald Gary and commissioned in 1984, the ship was the last remaining West Coast-based frigate in service. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Trevor Welsh/Released)

"Gary was commissioned Nov. 17, 1984," said the ship's Commanding Officer Cmdr.

Steven McDowell. "Although much has changed since then, one thing remains the same; the crew started off strong and has now ended strong. Gary and other frigates have been around for decades serving as the backbone of a Navy that constantly deploys in peace and wartime. Over these years, frigate Sailors have earned a reputation for being tough, dedicated, resourceful and a close-knit family. To the Gary crew, thank you for being the best you could be. It has been an honor to serve as your commanding officer."

Gary's keel was laid down Dec. 18, 1982, at Todd Pacific Shipyards, Los Angeles Division, San Pedro, California; it was launched Nov. 19, 1983, sponsored by Mrs. Donald A. Gary and Mrs. George D. Leamer; and it was then commissioned Nov. 17, 1984 at Naval Station Long Beach with Cmdr. Harlan R. Bankert Jr. in command.

The ship returned from its final deployment in April, following operations in the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet area of responsibility. Gary was part of the counter-transnational organized crime mission Operation Martillo, a joint, combined operation involving the U.S. and 14 European and Western Hemisphere partner nations which targets illicit trafficking routes in the waters off Central America.

National President's Annual Award Recognition

National Vice President Lisa Gallant receives distinguished award

The Navy League President's Award is given each year during the annual conference at the discretion of the National President, to a member who has exemplified the values of the Navy League and its mission. This year, the National President Jim Offutt, was pleased to present this year's award to Lisa Gallinat.

Many factors are taken into consideration when selecting the recipient, including dedication and specific service to the organization, one's role in advancing the interests of the Sea Services, and general commitment to the welfare of the men and women serving.

National President Offutt stated, "I cannot think of another candidate more deserving of recognition for your efforts both on a national and regional level. When I appointed you as a National Vice President, you willingly stepped up to the task. You took on membership and made some headway. I have greatly appreciated your advice."

The annual conference, held this year June 16-20, is an opportunity for regional Navy League councils to share best practices, achievements and recognize individuals who have made key contributions to the sea services throughout the year.

Lisa Gallinat, served as the National Vice President for Membership and Council Resources from February 2014 through

June 2015. She was elected to serve an additional term as National Vice President, and has been appointed to lead the Information Technology and Field Services portfolio for the 2015-2016 term.



Upcoming Events



VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

General Admission is Free ★

For more information and reserved tickets visit: http://miramarairshow.com/



Fleet Week Celebrates 80th Anniversary Throughout 2015

In June of 1935, San Diego hosted the inaugural Fleet Week celebration as part of the California Pacific International Exposition. Under command of U.S. Navy Admiral Joseph M. Reeves, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Fleet, 114 warships and 400 military planes arrived with more than 3,000 commissioned officers and 55,000 enlisted men. Thousands of San Diegans and other exposition -goers were guests on the various ships.

Over time, community and business leaders who understood the great depth of public support for our military cultivated Fleet Week San Diego. They shared a vision to recognize the contributions made by the armed services to the many communities of the greater San Diego region.

To fulfill its mission, Fleet Week San Diego honors the men and women of the military through public events and alliances that support and thank these heroes throughout the year. Events such as the Coronado Speed Festival, Enlisted Golf Tournament, Enlisted Recognition Luncheon and Miramar Air Show are sell-outs year after year, and provide a way for the San Diego community to interact with the military in otherwise restricted ways.

Flagship Events

Coronado Speed Festival September 19-20 Naval Station North Island



Join thousands of race enthusiasts and fans at NAS North Island for this premier motorsports event saluting our nation's military. Navy Open House & Ship Tours September 19-20, 2015 Naval Air Station North Island



Climb aboard and tour an active Navy ship berthed at NAS North Island, and view military displays of current Navy jets and helicopters, special boats and hovercraft, as well as vintage aircraft.

MCRD Boot Camp Challenge September 26 Marine Corps Recruit Depot



This unique race features obstacles used only by Marine Recruits, plus over 60 USMC Drill Instructors "staff" the course providing direction and encouragement for participants.

Miramar Air Show October 2-4 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar



See the largest military air show in the United States at MCAS Miramar. Highlights include the Blue Angels, static displays, and tactical demonstrations.



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☐ \$25 STUDENT

☐ \$117 JOINT HUSBAND/WIFE 1-YEAR (SAVE \$13)*

■ \$117 INDIVIDUAL 2-YEAR (SAVE \$13)*

☐ \$175 INDIVIDUAL 3-YEAR (SAVE \$20)*

□ \$500 LIFE (AGE 76 AND ABOVE)□ \$750 LIFE (AGES 56-75)

□ \$1,000 LIFE (AGE 55 AND BELOW)

■ DONATION \$

Your Dollars at work! Donations you make to the Navy League are tax-deductible and support programs like Sea Cadets, youth scholarships and Sea Services awards. The Navy League is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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SPONSOR'S LAST NAME

SPONSOR'S MEMBERSHIP #

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CARD NUMBER

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SIGNATURE

The Navy League was 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 served in uniform or not, we invite you to join us today. reflects both our commitment and our broad appeal to everyone concerned with support for our men and women in uniform. Every day, 43,000 members in 245 councils around the world continue to carry our message to the public and support the men and women of our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO:

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^{*} OVER REGULAR 1-YEAR RATE

^{*}If you request a specific Council, they will be notified of your request to join them, and will contact you soon.

There will be no meeting in 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!



Steve Benton, President

Dear Members,

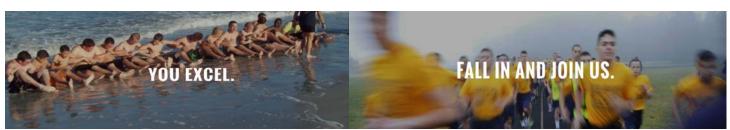
Navy League of the U.S., Imperial Valley Council

Help us invest in our youth

Yes, I would like to donate \$	to the Sea Cadets!	Your tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more is
appreciated. Please mail your donation to:		
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P.O. Box 3834		
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Celebrate the Navy's 240th Birthday

Saturday October 10, 2015

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Cocktails 7:00-8:00 p.m. Ceremonies 8:00 Dinner, Dancing and Entertainment

NAF El Centro Mirage Club

Early Bird tickets on sale Aug 1st, Civilian rate \$35 Regular tickets on sale Sep 1st, Civilian rate \$45

For more information Contact (760) 339-2656



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER
SEPTEMBER 1st

6:30 PM