



# Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S MARINES, SAILORS, COASTGUARDSMEN,  
US MERCHANT MARINERS & THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1963

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MARCH, 2023

## The Rope Yarn Gazette

### USN BLUE ANGELS BACK FOR 2023

**YUMA COUNCIL** welcomes the Navy's Blue Angels w/**BIG STEAK NIGHT**  
*Our thanks to the Imperial CANLUS Council – a great host!*



See p4

### USNS YUMA RECEIVES AWARD



See p2



YUMA

MAR 2023

**2023 Council Officers**

*President*

Dean 'doc' Hager

*Vice President*

Nancy Ramsey

*Treasurer*

Rochelle Thompson

*Secretary*

Open

*Judge Advocate*

Bob Engelhardt

*Membership*

'doc' Hager

*Community Liaison Team*

Dean Hager (Chair)

Arlyn Duval

Mike Swift Jr. & Sr.

*Scholarship Committee 2023*

N. Ramsey

R. Thompson

Winnie Moir

**Questions / Comments?**

**Letters to the Editor?**

**Please contact us at:**

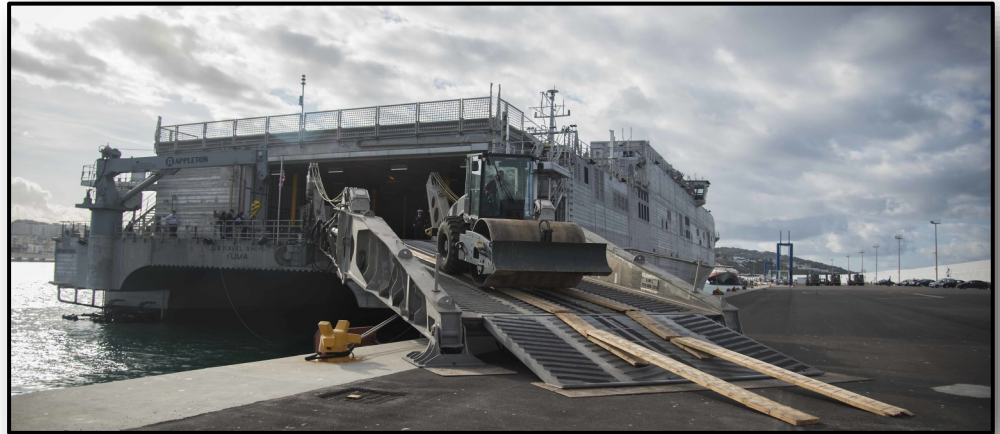
**NLUS Yuma Council**

**PO Box 393**

**Yuma, AZ 85366**

**U.S. NAVY LEAGUE**

**USNS YUMA award contin..**



Last year, U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport vessel **USNS YUMA (T-EPF)** supported U.S. Army Southern European Task Force - Africa for the movement of cargo and equipment between Livorno, Italy, and Morocco in support of Exercise African Lion 22.

In the Mediterranean, Yuma supported Commander, Task Force Six Eight (CTF 68), Naval Construction Forces or "Seabees," in the movement of cargo and equipment between multiple Mediterranean locations to include Cyprus, Israel, and Spain. In September 2022, YUMA responded to a migrant vessel in distress in the Central Mediterranean. The ship worked with partner-nation assets from Italy and Malta to locate the vessel and rescue 93 individuals, including 33 who were transferred to the YUMA for medical and humanitarian assistance.

**As a result of this humanitarian effort, USNS Yuma was awarded the United Seamen's Service Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) Award.**

**March 29th**

**National Vietnam War Veterans Day**



On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, your Yuma Navy League Council honors all those who bravely served in the Vietnam War and who sacrificed, as did their families and caregivers, on behalf of our Nation.

Throughout the years of the Vietnam War, 9 million Americans earned the title of United States veteran. Today and every day, we honor their bravery and commitment and give thanks to a generation of Americans who valiantly fought in service of the country they love while recognizing the continuing impact on so many veterans of the Vietnam conflict, along with their families, caregivers, and survivors. We will always remember those we lost and honor those who came home.



## **ATTENTION MEMBERS!**

**NEED TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP?** Don't let your membership expire. Checking your date is easy. You can log in to NL National's web page to check. ...even RENEW on-line right there!

**QUESTIONS?:** Email us via [yumanavyleague.com](mailto:yumanavyleague.com) or even attend a general meeting, they're open to the public. Meetings are always advertised on our Facebook page.  
Current member renewal question?: contact 'doc' Hager.



### **2023 DONATION EVENTS**

NAVY & MC RELIEF, MCAS YUMA:	MAR 2023 - <b>COMPLETED!</b>
YOUTH PROGRAMS (3):	MAY 2023 - <b>ON SCHEDULE!</b>
SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM:	SEPT 2023 - <b>ON SCHEDULE!</b>

### **KEY COUNCIL EVENTS**

15 MAR	GENERAL MEETING, 1800-2000, WEST WIND RV RESORT GUEST TOPIC: YUMA'S VETERANS FUND
19 APR	GENERAL MEETING, 1800-2000, WEST WIND RV RESORT GUEST TOPIC: SEA CADET & YOUNG MARINE UPDATE
17 MAY	GENERAL MEETING, 1800-2000, WEST WIND RV RESORT YUMA NL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER
03 JUN	WELCOME SUMMER BBQ SOCIAL, 1300-1800
04 JUL	JULY 4th FLAG RAISING & SERVICE PERSONNEL OF YEAR AWARDS YUMA CITY ARMED FORCES PARK, 0700-0800
JULY	NO GENERAL MEETING

## **YOUR NAVY LEAGUE**

With a network of more than 200 councils representing more than 37,000 members around the globe, the Navy League is the foremost citizens' organization to serve, support and stand with all U.S. sea services - the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S. flagged Merchant Marine. Decade after decade, the Navy League has demonstrated its leadership in advocating superior sea power to safeguard U.S. national security, protect American economic interests and ensure freedom of the seas.

The Navy League has three missions: to enhance the morale of active-duty personnel and their families; to inform Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services; and to support youth through programs such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC and Young Marines that expose young people to the core values of our sea services.

Yuma Council members always ask for Marine Corps C-130 pilots at their table. Semper fit!



**BLUE ANGELS** contin..

This February, two tables of council members traveled to Imperial, CA to greet the 2023 Blue Angels and enjoy a great "big steak" dinner. A big thanks to the NL Imperial council for the hosted event.

A total of 16 officers voluntarily serve with the Blue Angels. Each year the team typically selects three tactical (fighter or fighter/attack) jet pilots, two support officers and one Marine Corps C-130 pilot to relieve departing members.

The Chief of Naval Air Training selects the "Boss," the Blue Angels Commanding Officer. Boss must have at least 3,000 tactical jet flight-hours and have commanded a tactical jet squadron. The Commanding Officer flies the Number 1 jet.

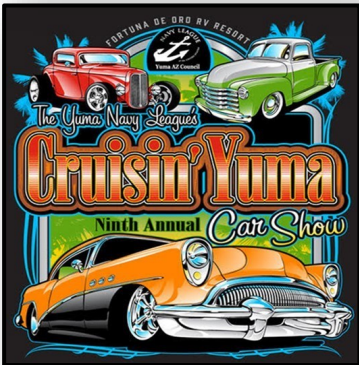
Career-oriented Navy and Marine Corps jet pilots with an aircraft carrier qualification and a minimum of 1,250 tactical jet flight-hours are eligible for positions flying jets Number 2 through 7. The Marine Corps pilots flying the C-130J Hercules aircraft, affectionately known as "Fat Albert," must be aircraft commander qualified with at least 1,200 flight hours. **BZ, Blue Angels!**

Our 2023 Blues Angels – OoooRah!



**JAN NL CAR SHOW SUCCESS!**

Thanks to our show volunteers and host Fortuna de Oro RV Resort, our "Cruisin' Yuma" show/fund raiser was an unqualified success. We max'd out our spaces at 118 cars and sold out all merchandise! The live band, burgers, and crowds were exceptional. A shout out to our MC JROTC cadets from Kofa HS for a great color guard and anthem solo!







Pictured L>R: Judy & Bill Gresser, Council VP Nancy Ramsey



Bill is always a great speaker

Our March meeting was well attended and featured Bill and Judy Gresser who spoke to members about the Yuma Veterans Fund (YVF). Set up as a backstop for one time loans for Vets that may be just over the limits for other assistance, the YVF serves as a great local resource for our veterans in-need.



### APRIL GENERAL MEETING TO FOCUS ON YOUTH

Once a year it is great to receive a general summary from sponsored youth leadership programs. Our newest adopted programs - the Naval Sea Cadets' Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron and Territorial Young Marines help council members fulfill the League's mission by supporting sea service-based youth leadership programs both financially and materially, as needed.

Both have relatively new leadership and are have upped their training opportunities since COVID restrictions were relaxed.

The Young Marines have excelled in community service over the past several months w/Kudos from event sponsors - and our sea cadets were singled out recently for their volunteer community assistance out of state in California.

So, plan on attending. April should be a great time for members to talk with cadets who are the recipients of council support and fully understand how Navy League members make a difference. **OooRah!**



### YOUR NAVAL TERM OF THE DAY: Semper Gumby

A play on the Marine Corps motto of "Semper Fidelis (Latin for "Always Faithful"), Semper Gumby for Marines means "Always Flexible." This phrase is often used when you are told to do one thing, then told a different thing, then told to just stand by, then told to go back to doing the original thing. Also used to describe the response to last minute changes to an order. "Semper Gumby, bro."



Pictured L>R: Col Dudik (CO, MCAS Yuma), Council Pres. ‘doc’ Hager, Council VP Nancy Ramsey, Program Director N&MC Relief Mr. Butch Clem , CMD SgtMaj Jason Davey

**DONATIONS & BATTLE COLORS**

Council tasks for 2023 began on schedule with the focus on supporting our active duty sea service personnel. We were pleased once again to award \$1,000 to MCAS Yuma’s Navy and Marine Corps Relief Fund.

The council’s Board and membership-at-large acknowledge that Funds such as these are essential to provide direct assistance to our active duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel and families during times of financial hardships.

U.S. Marine Corps photo (left) by Lance Cpl. Gideon M. Schippers

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma hosted the USMC’s Battle Color Detachment again this year.



The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon, and the Marine Corps Color Guard annually conduct spring training at MCAS Yuma prior to their nationwide tour.

The Yuma Navy League Council was again invited as VIPs to their first show onboard MCAS and they did not disappoint. Our thanks to MCAS Yuma for the invite!

A second show for the Yuma general public was held the following day at the Veteran Memorial Stadium, Gila Ridge High School.



**YUMA JROTC SCHOLAR OSBORNE JONES AWARD**

Named after State Senator, publisher, and long term Yuma Navy League member, our Council Awards Team headed by VP Nancy Ramsey is ready to review applications for our council’s two NL Scholar grants of \$1,500 each.

Students must be members of a Yuma sea service-based JROTC program, and compete in performance metrics such as academic, athletic, and community service.

Thanks to Rochelle and Winnie for also volunteering their time for this endeavor. Awards announced 15 April 2023.





## Yuma's WTI

As a NLUS council member, we are occasionally asked why we have all that aviation noise overhead twice a year. To understand Yuma's central position as host to the US Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, read on...

Much like the Air Force Weapons School and the Navy's Top Gun Fighter Weapons School, the United States Marine Corps has developed a training program designed to produce subject matter experts in the area of cross-domain warfighting. The **Weapons and Tactics Instructor course**, also known as WTI, is held biannually at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma.

During WTI, students receive in-depth, detailed training which is employed and practiced during exercises on the many nearby ranges in Arizona and California. The syllabus includes mission planning and briefing, TTPs, and ultimately the live employment of weapons in multiple scenarios.

In addition, WTI provides instruction and training stressing integrated air-to-air and air-ground combat operations. Intended for experienced Marines, the WTI course is an advanced, graduate-level course for select fixed-wing, rotary-wing and tiltrotor pilots and enlisted aircrew from the Marine Corps aviation community.

Course candidates also include officers and enlisted Marines from Artillery, Forward Air Controllers, Aviation Ground Support, Air Traffic Control, as well as Command and Control assets organic to the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

The intent is to produce subject matter experts – qualified and experienced instructors who can disseminate weapons and tactics training and information as it relates to aviation within each Marine Corps unit. The WTI course was developed from conventional and special weapons delivery training that was originally provided to Marine Corps attack squadrons by Special Weapons Training Units during the 1950s. Today's course is a result of the consolidation of the WTI courses in 1977. It is held twice each year, exclusively at MCAS Yuma, and produces over 300 graduates annually.

It All Starts With Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1). MAWTS-1 was commissioned on 1 June 1978 and has been based at MCAS Yuma since inception. This command is responsible for running WTI, creating and updating the training syllabi, and organizing and managing the training exercises. Outside of WTI, MAWTS-1 instructors travel approximately 90 days per year during multiple fleet support windows.

During those windows, the instructors conduct supplementary training and course qualifications and certifications (some of which are prerequisite to attend WTI) with fleet units at their home locations. MAWTS-1 instructors also attend conferences and exercises to observe and to exchange thoughts, ideas and tactics with allied nations and with the US Army, the US Air Force and the US Navy.

Finally, the Marines of MAWTS-1 are sponsors for training and readiness manuals and training syllabi throughout the fleet. They author the tactical publications for each Marine Corps aviation community. This is all accomplished with 90 -100 instructors and approximately 100 support staff. Ground forces participating in WTI are often a full Marine Expeditionary Brigade's worth of personnel, involving over 100 aircraft and 4,500 personnel. **Bavo Zulu, MAWTS-1 !!**

**NLUS YUMA  
COUNCIL**

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**American liberty is built on a  
strong national sea service.**

"Speak softly and carry a big stick;  
you will go far"  
*US Pres. T. Roosevelt*

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**COMING THIS OCTOBER 2023**

*In partnership with the city of Yuma and our Yuma  
Firefighters & First Responders, our Council  
is pleased to present the*

**9/11 MEMORIAL MOBILE EXHIBIT**

