

Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



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



THE ROPE YARN GAZETTE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2017

Scheduled Meetings:

The Patio Restaurant,
Ave A Yuma, AZ

APR 20 General Mtg 6 pm

MAY18: General Mtg 6 pm

JUN 15: General Mtg 6pm

Upcoming Events:

APR 15 USS AZ Display & Sea Cadets
Taco Festival, Yuma Civic CTR

May 12 Change of Command, Branch
Medical Clinic, MCAS Yuma
2pm, Sonoran Club, MCAS

Council & Sponsors bid Fond Farewell to Naval Sea Cadets'

After two short years, the Yuma community witnessed the first formal change of command for our local naval sea cadets. Attendees numbered over 150; representing parents, guests, and several major sponsors including members of our council. The Sea Eagles' inaugural CO, LTjg Tim Riley was bid a fond Farwell as the program's reigns were taken by LTjg John Bacon. City officials praised the event and noted the proper military bearing of all our cadets.

More page 4



Council members get a treat when "The Commandant's Own" visits MCAS Yuma



More page 3



ANOTHER MILESTONE

Feb. 7 (UPI) -- The U.S. Navy reports that the future USNS Yuma, an Expeditionary Fast Transport, has successfully completed acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico. The ship, constructed by Austal USA / Alabama demonstrated the readiness of its systems and equipment operations in the trials for the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey.



APRIL 2017

PRESIDENT

Bob Nidiffer

VP

Valerie Millsum

VP MEMBERSHIP

Bill Bonsky

Treasurer

Patti Michael

Secretary

Liz Almond

Master at Arms

Nancy Ramsey

Public Affairs

Dean Hager

Military Affairs

Barney Baraka, MAC

Larry Mallory, MCAS

Youth Programs

Gary Tomlinson, NSCC

Chuck LeDrew, JROTC

Neptune Council

Chair: Henry Chavez

Media—Facebook, Rope Yarn,

Website: Dean Hager

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

nlusyuma@nlusyumacouncil.org

YUMA NL MEMBERS SUPPORT NEEDED FOR OUR U.S. COAST GUARD

Navy League Statement on Proposed Cuts to the U.S. Coast Guard:



The Navy League of the United States staunchly opposes the proposed gutting of the Coast Guard in the fiscal 2018 budget. If the rumors about the proposed 14% cut, as first reported by Politico and The Washington Post, are true, this would have a devastating impact on the service and undermine our national security and potentially cost American lives.

“The outstanding men and women of the Coast Guard do incredible work on a shoestring budget, and to force them to carry out the same 11 statutory missions—which are

mandated by law — with such a sharp reduction in funds would be an enormous mistake,” said Navy League National President Skip Witunski. “On a typical day, the Coast Guard conducts 45 search-and-rescue missions, saving 10 lives. To put more than 3,000 American lives at risk is a gross abdication of government responsibility. The men and women of the Coast Guard put their own lives at risk every day to save others. This type of cut, which would drastically shrink the force as units are decommissioned, demonstrates an astonishing lack of gratitude and appreciation for the sacrifice borne by servicemen and women and their families.”

President Trump made inspiring promises to strengthen our military. The Coast Guard, a military branch, does not deserve to have those promises broken. With only 42,000 service members and a budget of \$9.1 billion, it is already the leanest service, doing far more to safeguard our security than its size would suggest. The Coast Guard also provides the strongest American presence in the Arctic, against a backdrop of increasing Russian aggression in the region. By gutting the Coast Guard, the administration would be breaking its promise to our military.

Additionally, the cuts to the Coast Guard would undermine the administration’s stated goals of reducing illegal trafficking of people and drugs into the United States. As the dominant maritime force in the Western Hemisphere, the Coast Guard is the primary military service responsible for all aspects of Western security, including combatting terror and drug/human traffic networks, securing maritime borders and safeguarding commerce. It is the only service that is both a military agency and law enforcement authority. This unique capability must be strengthened, not weakened.

The Coast Guard in 2016 interdicted more than 6,300 undocumented migrants, 201 metric tons of cocaine and 52,613 pounds of marijuana. One of the ships on the chopping block, a National Security Cutter, is especially valuable; another ship in this class conducted 12 drug interdictions, confiscated more than 33,000 pounds of cocaine and detained 32 suspected smugglers in a single month.

If the current administration is looking to strengthen border security, invest in our military and safeguard American lives, the right choice would be to invest more in the Coast Guard, not less.

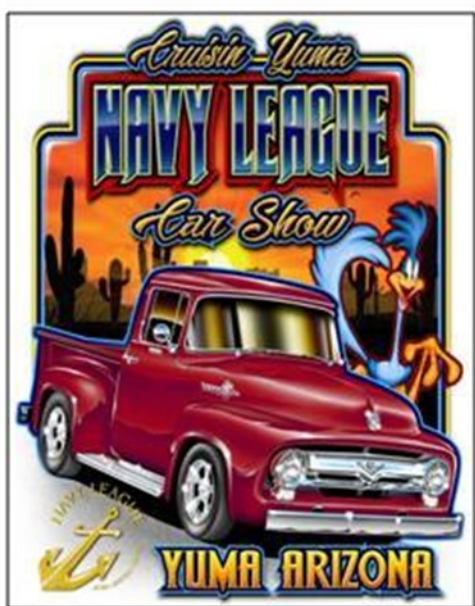
Published on NLUS congressional page (March 2017)



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ~ JAN—MAR 2017

Our first quarter sure has been busy throughout the community!

JAN 2017: Our new Board was sworn in on schedule and commenced to work on several fronts for our membership. Valerie a VP and coordinating the Scholarship Program again this year. Bill B. is a VP for Membership. ‘doc’ H. is building us a new website and merging activities into Public Affairs. Patti M. takes over as Treasurer (again, lol), and Liz is handling Secretary duties. Nancy R. is working on our By Laws while Henry continues as Neptune Council chair. Bob Nidiffer is back as President and working on our Budget which should be completed by this April.



MAR 2017: Between meetings, NL members found time to support our sea cadet unit and the Yuma ballet all at the same time. Volunteering for usher duty, the NL again showed it's up to the challenge!

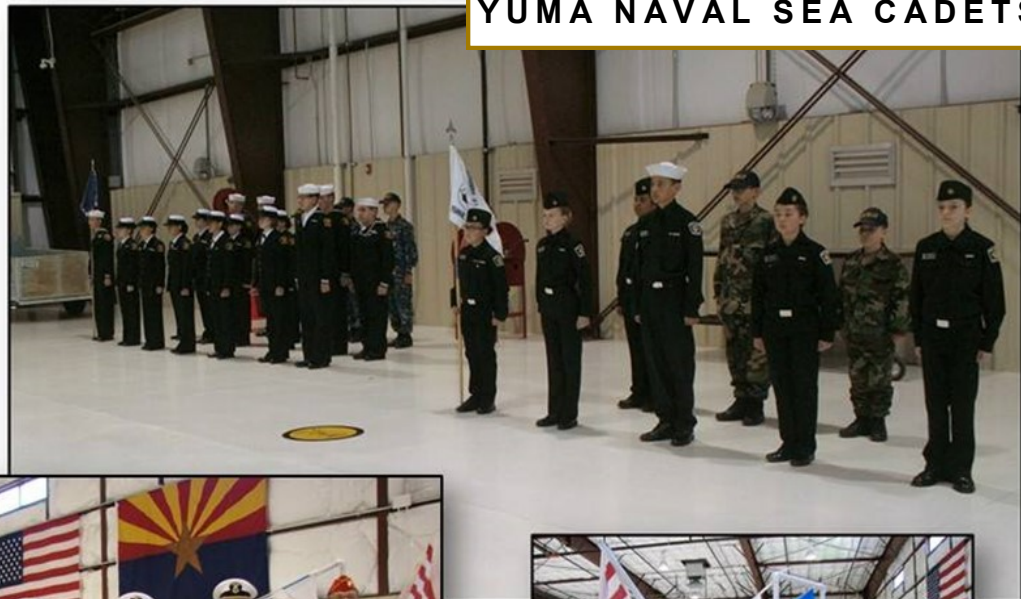


Thanks to all our volunteers and the steady hand of show Chair Larry Mallory, the “Cruisin’ Yuma” car show kicked off our council’s spring fund raising activity with a bang. Between the show and our sponsor outreach, looks like our Scholarship Budget made it once again! Thanks to everyone’s hard work, the car owners had nothing but praise for your efforts!



MCAS fm Pg 1: With drums beating and brass horns sounding, the DC Marine Barracks’ Drum and Bugle Corps provided attendees a great show. A co-participant was the USMC Silent Drill team which wowed the crowd with new routines. Innovations involved added rifle acrobatics and expert formation marching. It’s always great to see some Navy League members in attendance at events such as these. MCAS is our oldest (and first) adopted military command and goes out of there way to accommodate NL guests. If it’s been a while since attending, make it a point to attend. See you there next year!

Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron



Sea Cadets + sponsors pictured L>R: Dean Hager (NLUS), Larry Lord (AM Legion Post 19), LCDR Terry Turner (NSCC Region 8-8), LTjg John Bacon CO Sea Eagles, LTjg Riley (departing CO), and Jason (AL Post 19).



Chg of Cmd fm pg 1:

Ceremony attendees were treated to an excellent blend of tradition—from the whistle of the Bosun's pipe to ringing of the ships' bell announcing ceremony VIPs.

LCDR Terry Turner represented NSCC Region 8-8 and spoke to the audience of the rapid rise and excellent performance of our Yuma cadets. Our own 'doc' Hager, Yuma program founder and representing the NLUS, spoke of the community's support for youth leadership programs. Both outgoing and incoming COs then addressed the audience as their orders were read aloud.

Council members in attendance included the Evans, Tomlinsons, Hagers and Gardner's. Thanks for attending—the cadets appreciated it!

Oh yes, and there was cake! lol



FOR MORE PHOTOS, CLICK ON
<https://www.facebook.com/navyseacadetsyuma/>

Naval History Slice

FEB 2017

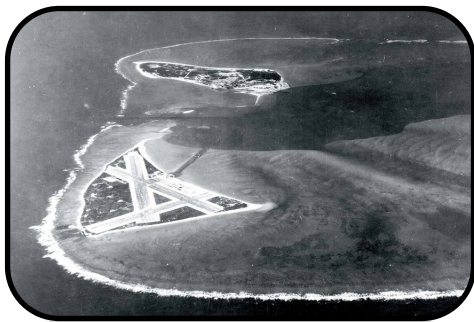
Surrounded by friends, family and peers, Adm. Michelle J. Howard was promoted to her new rank at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She'll take over as the vice chief of naval operations, the No. 2 officer in the service. She is not only the first woman to hold the job, but the first African-American. It's the latest achievement for Howard, who previously was the first African-American woman to serve as a three-star officer in the U.S. military and command a U.S. Navy ship. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said her promotion is a "representation of how far we have come, and how far she has helped bring us."



March 2017

USS Gerald Ford (CVN 78) departs Newport News for her first Sea Trials.

Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) is the lead ship of her class of United States Navy supercarriers. It is currently a pre-commissioning unit (PCU) expected to be commissioned into the Navy in 2017. The ship is named after the 38th President of the United States Gerald R. Ford, whose World War II naval service included combat duty aboard the light aircraft carrier *Monterey* in the Pacific Theater. The keel of *Gerald R. Ford* was laid down on 13 November 2009. Construction began on 11 August 2005, when Northrop Grumman held a ceremonial steel cut for a 15-ton plate that forms part of a side shell unit of the carrier. She was christened on 9 November 2013. The schedule called for the ship to join the U.S. Navy's fleet in March 2016 with the first deployment in 2019. *Gerald R. Ford* will enter the fleet replacing the inactive USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65), which ended her 51 years of service this past December.



March 13, 1942

In early 1942, naval intelligence centers are working tirelessly to break the Japanese Navy's general purpose JN-25 code in order to gain advance notice of Japanese intentions and operations in the Pacific. On March 13, American cryptanalysts finally break the code. They also determine that the designator "AF"(which had been appearing in intercepted Japanese messages) is code for ... Midway Island.

NLUS YUMA COUNCIL

PO Box 393
Yuma, AZ 85366

E-mail:
nlusyuma@
nlusyumacouncil.org

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

We're on the web!
www.nlus-
yumacouncil.org

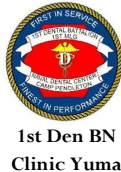
"LIKE US" on Face Book
www.facebook.com/
navyleagueyuma

ADDRESS HERE

Your YUMA NL COUNCIL

In 1963, the Yuma Council adopted its first command, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma. Since that time, several base reorganizations have occurred. Currently, in-garrison adoptees include both MCAS Headquarters Staff and the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS). H&HS is responsible to the Base CO for the day-to-day operations aboard the air station to keep it running as a small "community within the community". Approximately 600 Marines and Sailors are assigned to H&HS. With assistance from roughly 1,200 civilians who work aboard MCAS Yuma, they work to keep the station operational through the efforts of a variety of units and sections. Adopted sections include air traffic control, airfield operations, administration, logistics, range management, explosive ordnance disposal, communications, combat camera, aircraft rescue and firefighting, military police, postal, legal, public affairs, search and rescue, financial operations, and the dining facility.

Other adopted units include the USNS YUMA (EPF8), MCAS Yuma's Navy Branch Health Clinic, MCAS Branch Dental Clinic, US Navy Sea Cadet Corps' Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, and US Navy League Cadet Training Ship Sandburg. Supported units include Yuma Young Marines and Yuma MCJROTC.





Our national security depends on our ability to rapidly respond to crisis



Our Mission: Inform the American public about the importance of our maritime forces to our national security and economic prosperity, and to enhance the morale of active-duty personnel and their families.

Navy League of the United States
Citizens in Support of the Sea Services

TO BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBERS AND PUBLIC AT LARGE,
OUR OLD YUMA NAVY LEAGUE WEBSITE IS GONE.

ANTICIPATE A NEW YUMA NLUS COUNCIL WEBSITE TO OPEN THIS MAY!

ATTENTION, ALL NAVY LEAGUE MEMBERS:

Your Yuma Navy League Council website is currently under renovation.

Our old ("really old") site has been torn down and is in the process of being rebuilt.

A few neat items that we are working on for you that should make life easier are:

- TABLET FRIENDLY screen & menus
- UPDATED PHOTOS
- PAGE FOR PUBLIC INFO –
 - NEWSLETTERS (pdf)
 - BOARD MINUTES (pdf)
 - ANNOUNCEMENTS (pdf)
- DONATION BUTTON (via Paypal)
- One click LINK TO NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES & OTHER HQ SITES