



# *Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ*



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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2020

## The Rope Yarn Gazette

### COVID19 CREATES NEW CHALLENGES

2020 has certainly been a challenge, for our active duty, youth leadership programs, and council members alike. Due to pandemic restrictions of all stripes - local training events were postponed, charity fund raising events cancelled, and air station access curtailed. In reflection, it provided us opportunities to reflect, adapt, and overcome. The Marine Corps' Weapons and Tactics Instruction (WTI), initially cancelled this Spring, was reinforced and enlarged this Fall as the "sounds of freedom" overhead attest. Our Air Station's Change of Command, usually a public event, was held in "stealth mode", with most of us learning about it the day after it occurred. Youth, from our Young Marines to Naval Sea Cadets, had to find new locations for training as base access remains locked down. Our own Council, like many others, has seen several fund raisers cancelled due to public restrictions and spiraling liability costs. However... all is not lost.

YUMA RISES TO THE CHALLENGE! As illustrated in the next few pages and on our Facebook page each week, our Council and those we sponsor have adapted and continue to complete the mission. We council members have made the courtesy calls to new Navy and Marine Corps leadership arrivals, supported youth programs needs, provided material support to Single Marine and MCAS school programs, and partnered with several veterans organizations ensuring sea service personnel support continues.

**YOUR NAVY LEAGUE COUNCIL STANDS READY**



**Veteran's  
Day Parade**  
**Presented by  
American Legion  
Post 19**  
Wednesday,  
November 11, 2020 – 9 am

*Remembering  
Their Sacrifice*





SEPT 2020

2020 Council Officers

President

Dean 'doc' Hager

Vice President

Shawn McKeown

Treasurer

Marie Michael

Secretary

Rochelle Holman

Master at Arms

Nancy Ramsey

Membership

Bill Bonsky

Community Liaison Team

Dean Hager (Chair)

Shawn McKeown

Gina Blackwell

Scholarship Committee 2020

Rochelle Holman

Rochelle Thompson

Nancy Ramsey

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Please contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

U.S. NAVY LEAGUE

TIME TO REVIEW OUR LEAGUE MARITIME STRATEGIES

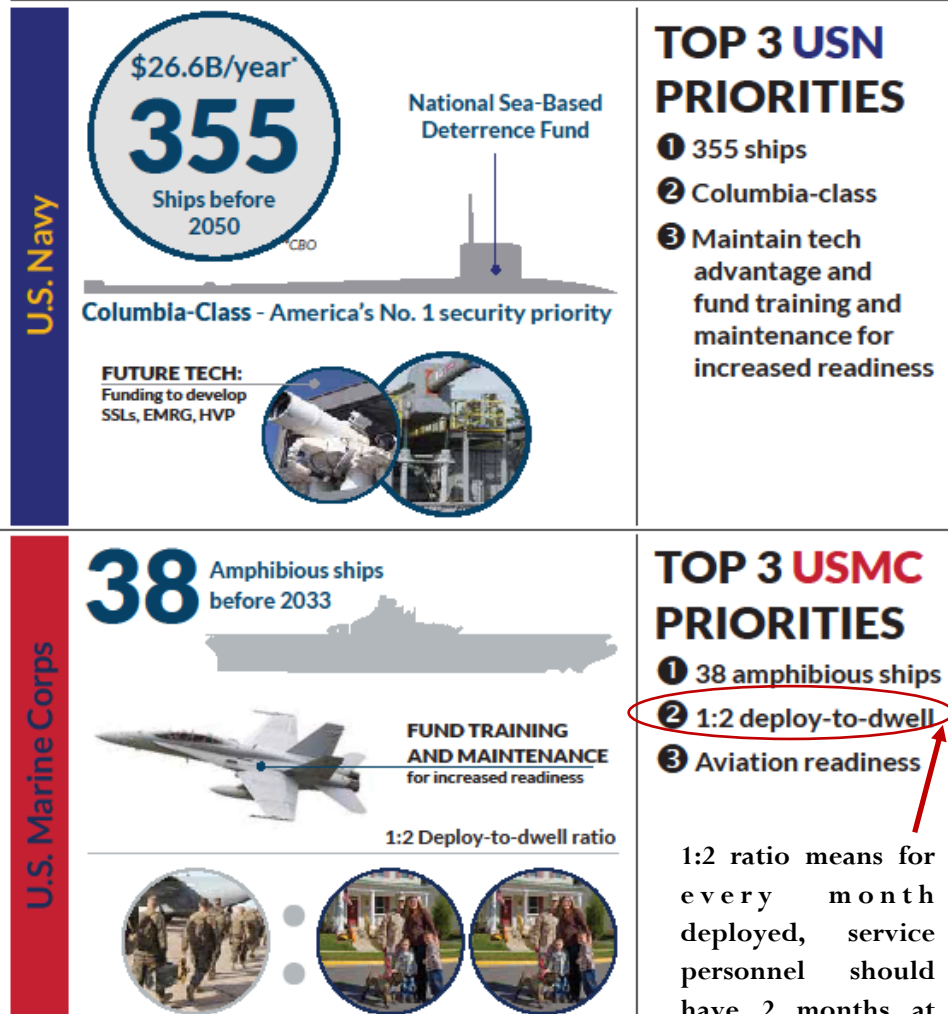
Good day AND WELCOME BACK COUNCIL MEMBERS! As our summer winds down, winter visitors and family members return, there will be times that the discussion may ask “so what’s the Navy League do?”... or, “what do they support?” While our previous newsletter and social media correctly show readers what we do here in Yuma for our active duty and kids, there are national priorities that we members must be aware of. Below are the 2019-2020 Top Sea Service Navy League Strategy items for your review. A big Bravo Zulu to President Trump for highlighting the hugely overdue need for multiple icebreaker vessels for Artic waterway service.

Ed.



2019-2020  
MARITIME STRATEGIES

The United States is a maritime nation – we need to invest in our Sea Services to deter conflict, open seas for commerce and reverse the damage to readiness from years of overuse and underfunding. We must make the right investments for a return to great power competition posited in the “National Defense Strategy” and “National Security Strategy” and begin strengthening our forces. Working toward the following priorities in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress will be our mission towards this call. For more information, visit: [www.navyleague.org/programs/legislative-affairs](http://www.navyleague.org/programs/legislative-affairs).



**ATTENTION MEMBERS!**

**NEED TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP?** Don't let your membership expire. Checking your date is easy. You can log in to National's web page to check - even RENEW right there! If you are more comfortable with paper, see Bill Bonsky at our General Meeting for the renewal form. Fill it out with a check and we'll mail it and follow up to ensure National gets it correct!

**New JOINS:** Email us via CONTACT US at yumanavyleague.com. Current member Renewal Question?: contact Bonsky or 'doc' Hager - we'll figure it out!



**Schedule of Events - APR>AUG MEETINGS CANCELLED.**

**2020 DONATION EVENTS**

SEA CADETS & YOUNG MARINES	MAR 2020 - <b>COMPLETED!</b>
NAVY & MC RELIEF, MCAS YUMA:	APR 2020 - <b>COMPLETED!</b>
YUMA NL SCHOLAR AWARDS:	MAY 2020 - <b>COMPLETED!</b>
SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM:	SEPT 2020 - <b>COMPLETED!</b>

**KEY COUNCIL EVENTS SCHEDULED**

**MARCH > AUGUST EVENTS / ACTIVITIES - CANCELLED (COVID 19)**

<u>17 SEPT</u>	GENERAL MEETING, THE PATIO RESTAURANT, HILL CC (1800-2000), WELCOME BACK DINNER - <b>COMPLETED!</b>
<u>15 OCT</u>	<u>CANCELLED</u> - MCAS YUMA GATE ACCESS RESTRICTIONS FOR NON-ID CARD HOLDERS REQUIRES MTG LOCATION TO REMAIN IN TOWN
<u>11 NOV</u>	<b>VETS DAY PARADE</b> ( 3 NLUS CAR PLACES RESERVED)
<u>19 NOV</u>	GENERAL MEETING, THE PATIO at HILLS CC. WELCOME MED CLINIC OIC TO YUMA, LCDR HOFFMAN, MSC, USN (1800-2000), THE PATIO at HILLS CC
<u>17 DEC</u>	CHRISTMAS DINNER & ORNAMENT GIFT EXCHANGE (1800-2000), THE PATIO at HILLS CC
<u>21 JAN</u>	GENERAL MEETING, THE PATIO at HILLS CC (1800-2000), SPECIAL PRESENTATION - US SUBMARINE SERVICE
<u>18 FEB</u>	GENERAL MEETING, THE PATIO at HILLS CC (1800-2000), SPECIAL PRESENTATION - YUMA'S US NAVY SEA BEES, GUEST SPKR: I&L DIRECTOR, CDR GARETH MONTOMERY, CEC, USN.
<u>13 MAR</u>	<b>MCAS, YUMA AIR SHOW</b>



JUL



### Back to School Support

With the pandemic lockdown underway and most folks sequestered indoors, it's easy to lose focus - that is of course until the phone rings. We received notice that the school supply drive for our young marine and sailor families had a shortfall. One quick teleconference between Board members with funds allotted, our own Nancy Ramsey joined 'doc' and Gloria Hager in delivering the necessary supplies just in time to ensure a successful event on board MCAS.



## ***MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBAL FUND RAISER SUCCESS !***



First - A BIG THANKS to Rochelle T. for coordinating our ticket printing and distribution. As members are aware, our council and participating sponsored groups have the opportunity to earn at least \$1,000 cash by selling NMF books (20 tickets per). For 2020, our council sold our 100 books, as well as the *Territorial Young Marines theirs*. A big **BZ** to all members who assisted in sales or just bought one book for themselves. Our senior marine member, Chuck LeDrew bought 5 books and donated any 2020 winnings to the Sea Cadets. Semper fi, Chuck! Several members also purchased 5 or more books to put us over the top towards the end. Words cannot express our gratitude for their support. \$1,000 dollars to our sponsored *Territorial Young Marines* - they earned it !! Rochelle should report out our success at November's meeting.

SEPT



### **Yuma Council teams up with *American Veterans of Yuma* to resupply SMP**

Another call - another success. With Weapons and Tactics Instruction (WTI) events ramping up, we received word the Single Marine Program (SMP) was short basic hygiene supplies for Marines needing resupply in the field (particularly by week two). *American Veterans of Yuma* member Gary Tomlinson (L) partnered with Yuma's *Navy League* to deliver six case of hygiene supplies to MCAS Single Marine Program (SMP). MCAS community support contact expressed their thanks. As always, Semper fi!

### **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES RESUME THIS FALL - BACK TO WORK WE GO!**

**ACTIVE DUTY RECOGNIZED.** September saw our council partner with American Legion Post 19 and reschedule Yuma's active duty sea service personnel of the Year Awards event. Usually hosted by the Caballeros de Yuma on July 4th, the event was cancelled due to COVID19 concerns, however thanks to the Yuma Chamber of Commerce, our Sailors and Marines received their delayed recognition (and crystal plaques) during the MIL Affairs Committee general meeting. Thank you Post 19 and Chamber for their assistance. Bravo Zulu Awardees!

**SEPTEMBER'S GENERAL MEETING WAS GREAT.** It was a wonderful general meeting at the PATIO Restaurant, Hills CC - seats were full, smiles were wide, and everyone toasted their fellow shipmates and got reacquainted. Our new polo shirts were displayed with everyone in attendance signing up for their shirts - expect they get 'em by October's meeting. *NEW MEMBERS* were on hand - that's always fun. Welcome aboard new members Mike and Rita Swift. Soon, we should have a new transferee from California ... stay tuned!

**NOVEMBER WILL BE FUN!** Kick off November' with Yuma's annual Veterans Day Parade. This year we will see public school entrants trimmed due to COVID restrictions, the majority of entrants are signing up huge! Our council has three autos reserved, of course. Watch for a flyer for how to participate and then run to a local brunch! Our next Gen meeting is also a GO, 19 NOV at PATIO.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS



**NSCC.** This September we celebrate the birthday of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Our award winning Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron and Training Ship Sandburg cadets are enduring the restrictions placed upon them (and our other sponsored youth programs) by max'ing out virtual training and on-line courses. In the process of rebuilding their ranks after a large graduating class of HS seniors departed, we salute those cadets and volunteers taking the reins of leadership for 2020-2021.

**MCJROTC RESUMES TRAINING.** Our Kofa Kings Marine Corps JROTC has started their fall semester with 100 cadets at school and 40 virtual. This has placed a

huge burden on their instructors - having to teach the same course multiple times. Hope springs eternal for Yuma's MCJROTC as they will once again be competing State-wide and nationally for their city.

**TERRITORIAL YOUNG MARINES GETTING BUSY!** While training has been restricted through the summer heat, our Young Marines still found time to participate in local service events and on-line education. Now that the heat has begun to abate, recruitment is up and training has begun anew. A big *Bravo Zulu* is also due our young marines and parents who took advantage of our council's invitation to participate in our Monday Nite Football fund raiser - earning \$1,000 for their efforts.

## LOCAL CADET CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARDEE



Pictured L>R: Council member Gloria Hager, Cadet CPO Garvey Blackwell, Council NSCC Liaison (and proud mom, Gina Blackwell), Council Pres. 'doc' Hager

The Council was pleased to have time with Congressman Gosar to discuss the MCAS Yuma Sailor and Marine Memorial Project and were delighted to hear his support for this endeavor.

Yuma Naval Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Garvy Blackwell was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by Rep. Paul Gosar (R - Arizona) just a few days ago. The medal is one of the highest awards that can be bestowed upon a person in the U.S.

The Congressional Gold Medal is awarded to people who meet a very strict criteria that involves community service, personal development, fitness and exploration. The first medal was awarded in 1776 to General George Washington. Garvey has already been presented with the Bronze and Silver Congressional Medals. The ceremony was set to take place in Washington D.C., but due to the pandemic was cancelled, however Congressman Gosar was kind enough to visit Yuma and present.

*Congratulations Cadet CPO Blackwell*



**Navy Slang for the day: "Goat Locker": Lounge or Galley for the exclusive use of US Navy Chiefs.**





## Colonel Chuck Dudik, USMC

### Commanding Officer, MCAS Yuma AZ

(CONTIN.. FROM Pg 4) Chuck "Dude" Dudik graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in May 1997, completed The Basic School in January 1998, and was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in February 2000.

Upon completion of EA-6B Prowler training with Electronic Attack Squadron 129 (VAQ-129) in Whidbey Island, WA, Colonel Dudik reported to Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4 (VMAQ-4) aboard MCAS Cherry Point, NC, in June 2001. During his time with the Seahawks, he deployed twice to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, in support of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom, and completed one unit deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

Colonel Dudik graduated from the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) in May 2005, performed EA-6B instructor duties at VAQ-129 from June 2005 to June 2008, and graduated from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in June 2009.

In July 2009, Colonel Dudik reported to Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1 (VMAQ-1) aboard MCAS Cherry Point. While with the Banshees, he deployed twice to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and once to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in support of Operation Unified Protector.

Colonel Dudik reported to HQMC Aviation in June 2012 as the Electronic Warfare Requirements Officer in the Aviation Weapons Systems Requirements Branch (APW).

In June 2014, Colonel Dudik assumed command of Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 2 (VMAQ-2), and deployed to Iwakuni, Japan, in January 2015 in support of the Unit Deployment Program. Post-command, he served as the MAG-14 Executive Officer, and subsequently attended the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, at Fort McNair in Washington, DC, from which he graduated in June 2017.

From July 2017 to June 2019, Colonel Dudik served as the Coalition Capability Demonstration and Assessment (Bold Quest) Air Operations Director within the Joint Fires Division in Norfolk, VA. In July 2019, he transferred to I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) aboard Camp Pendleton, CA, where he served as the G-3 Air Officer.

Colonel Dudik holds a Political Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, is a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, and holds two Masters Degrees. He has accumulated nearly 3,000 flight hours, primarily in the EA-6B Prowler, and has held every major NFO flight-leadership and instructor qualification attainable in the Prowler. His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal Strike/Flight with Combat "V", Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Colonel Dudik and his wife, Melanie, have two children (Stella – 4; Ruby – 20 months) and is now currently the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Arizona. Col Dudik took command of the station in July of 2020.

**WELCOME TO YUMA, COLONEL DUDIK & FAMILY !!**

**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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