



Navy League of the United States St. Augustine - Palm Coast Council

BOSUN'S LOCKER

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Fellow Navy Leaguers,

Our Council is moving ahead with another year focusing on SOQ / SOY support for our adopted units, speakers for our meetings, and other planned activities. We continue to reach out for new members and feel confident under the leadership of our VP of membership, Claude Caviness, we will reach our stated goal of 200 members by years end.

Those of you who attended our February meeting were fortunate to hear CDR. Selena Hernandez-Haines, USN (ret) speak to our Council. CDR. Hernandez-Haines is the new Director of Military Recruitment at Flagler College. The Commander enlightened us with the opportunities for veterans in enrollment and financial assistance at Flagler College. She also shared her vision for her department for future growth. We are fortunate to have someone with CDR. Hernandez-Haines experience on staff at Flagler to help and assist our veterans who are pursuing a college education.

We also had an excellent speaker at our March meeting. BM1 Evan Ward, formerly of the USCGC Valiant and USCG 2015 Enlisted Person of the Year, was one of our guest speakers. BM1 Ward is now stationed at Ponce Inlet Coast Guard Station. He is one of the sharpest Coasties I have ever met. We enjoyed hearing him speak about his time in service and how he was selected as EPOY. Also in attendance was the Valliant's Commanding Officer, CDR Tim Cronin. CDR Cronin gave a slide presentation of Valiant's recent activities.

Our Florida Region meeting was held in Ft. Lauderdale on 18 March 2017. Nomination for new National Officers was conducted during the meeting. Those in attendance had an opportunity to hear a report from our National President, Skip Witunski and to share some best practices with other Council members.

Our May meeting will be held at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home on 10 May 2017 at 11 am. We will be honoring the SGT of the Year from the USMC BIC. After the awards ceremony, lunch will be served by the Lassen Nursing Home. This is a good opportunity to also meet and interact with some of the nursing home veterans. The meal cost will be \$10.

Our June meeting will be held in the Solarium at Flagler College. We will be honoring our USCG EPOQ / EPOY as we have done for the past several years. This is a great venue and excellent opportunity to meet and socialize with our Coasties and their families. A date has not been set, but we will put out an announcement in the next few weeks.

Thanks for all you do to support our men and women of the Sea Services and remember to keep inviting your friends and neighbors to join us and help us in our mission as we continue to support our Sailors and Marines.

Bill Dudley

President

SA-PC Council

Navy League of the United States

USCG HELICOPTER INTERDICTION TACTICAL SQUADRON (HITRON)



At an "All Hands" meeting in February, CAPT Gavin and members of HITRON celebrated yet another record year for interdiction of total weight and street value of drugs destined for the streets of the USA. America owes this unit a great deal for the skills they display and the risk they take daily as they train and deploy unit personnel on Coast Guard and Navy Cutters both in the Atlantic and Pacific. Their dedication and bravery is on display 52 weeks a year as they deploy a number of helicopters East and West every day.

At the All Hands meeting, HITRON took the opportunity to catch-up on various awards including 3rd and 4th quarter EPOQ'S, EPOY for 2016 and the semi-annual Perchard award presentation. As is often the case, award ceremonies are delayed due to the continuous deployment of personnel. Among awards for crew certifications, safety and individual mission accomplishments, the SA-PC Navy League presented plaques and traditional awards for the following honorees, who are pictured from L to R below:

3Q EPOQ - AET1 Angel Serrano was recognized for being key to HITRON's success for training a significant number of AMT and AET P.O.'s seeking post flight qualifications. He was also noted to be a successful fitness coordinator for the unit.

4Q EPOQ - DC2 Alexandra Dey distinguished herself as being a "Jack of all Trades" by completing and directing major projects which enhanced and sustained unit ops. She was also noted to make major contributions to unit safety and redoing the many security locks at HITRON facilities.

Perchard award - AMT2 Robert Lancaster, precision marksman. His many exploits as a crew member including "flawlessly executing use of disarming fire" were mentioned in his citation. In all, he was instrumental in detaining 8 suspected NARCO dealers and interdicting over 1700 kilos of cocaine!

EPOY - AET1 Stephen Williams was honored as HITRON's Enlisted person of 2016. Along with commendations from senators, the Coast Guard Commandant and the unit CC, the Navy League presented him with its packet of a free weekend in St Augustine including meals and lodging and other amenities as well as a monetary gift to help him and his wife enjoy the weekend. While his many accomplishments throughout 2016 are too numerous to list here, he was especially noted as being a key player to the over all success of a 57 day deployment for not only directing the effort that enabled an 89% fully mission capable rate but also recognized by the Cutter commander for his superior performance and being pivotal in the overall success of the deployment. His citation included the following statement, "AET1 Williams is one of the Coast Guard's most technically competent, strategically innovative and administratively savvy Petty Officers. He is the consummate professional"



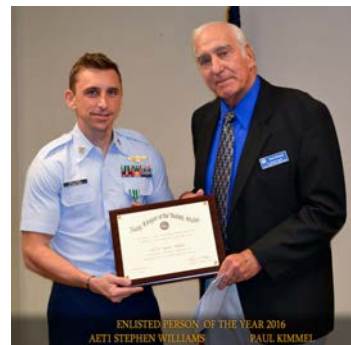
ENLISTED PERSON - 3RD QUARTER 2016
AET1 ANGEL SERRANO PAUL KIMMEL



ENLISTED PERSON - 4TH QUARTER 2016
DC2 ALEXANDRA DEY PAUL KIMMEL



PERCHARD AWARD 2016
AMT2 ROBERT D. LANCASTER PAUL KIMMEL



ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR 2016
AET1 STEPHEN WILLIAMS PAUL KIMMEL

Congratulations to the men and women of HITRON for their continuous pursuit of excellence and superior mission accomplishment.

Paul Kimmel - USCG HITRON Liaison

FLEET LOGISTICS SUPPORT SQUADRON 58 (VR-58)

On January 21, VR-58 presented their 2016 SOY awards and Fiscal Year 2017 SOQ awards. These awards were presented as follows:

SOY AM1 Thomas M. Gribben
JrSOY AE2 Dennis L. Buchanan
JrSOY AME2 Jake A. Lewis



SOQ AM1 Christopher S. Buckley
SOQ AT1 Heidi L. Thaw
JrSOQ AE2 Karl N. Grantham
BJOQ AWFAN Priscilla E. Perez



SOY - AM1 Thomas M. Gribben



JrSOY - AE2 Dennis L. Buchanan



JrSOY - AME2 Jake A. Lewis

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC-621)



We conducted a brief business session during our March council meeting and then dedicated the remainder of the evening to the USCGC Valiant.

The Valiant C.O., CDR Timothy Cronin was invited to the meeting to give us an update of Valiant's exploits during their recent deployment and to accept the VALIANT SOY 2016 awards package for SN Gregory Jacquet, who is no longer with the unit. He was also presented with the fitness equipment that was purchased for the ship by the generous donations of our members.

CDR Cronin, gave an interesting slide presentation of the ships activities during the past year:

Jan-March 2016: Valiant transited the Panama Canal to the Eastern Pacific where they intercepted eight go-fast vessels, caught 23 drug smugglers and seized 4.7 tons of cocaine valued at \$141 million dollars. During that deployment they were notified that BM2 Evan Ward was selected USCG EPOY for 2015.

May-June 2016: Their mission was to deter Haitian migration and respond to a surge in Cuban migration. They picked up 200 Cuban and Haitian migrants and repatriated 12 Haitian migrants.

August-October 2016: While on patrol in the Central Caribbean (Dominican Republic/Puerto Rico doing drug interdiction), they rescued 4 Nigerians seeking asylum while evading Hurricane Matthew.

Dec. 2016-Jan. 2017: VALIANT had 3 weeks of Readiness Training. Traveled off of Cuba and interdicted 398 Cuban Migrants. The Wet Foot/Dry Foot Policy ended which has slowed the number of migrants. They also participated in a 3 day Ship/Helo training event. They were notified that the VALIANT SOY 2016 was chosen EPOY 2016 for Seventh District.

At the end of his presentation CDR Cronin showed slides of his crew members working hard and playing hard.

On March 20th CDR Cronin was notified that another Valiant crew member had been awarded EPOY 2016 for the entire Coast Guard. VALIANT has now had back-to-back winners of that award which is very impressive. CDR Cronin thanked the Navy League for legislative support for the Coast Guard budget as well as always being involved with their awards ceremonies, and attendance at the Family and Friends BBQ. The entire ship is appreciative of all of Navy League's efforts.

At the conclusion of CDR Cronin's remarks, **BM1 Evan M. Ward**, (who was featured in the 4Q2016 Bosuns Locker) as the Enlisted Person of the Year 2015 for the United States Coast Guard, addressed our meeting. He spoke of his experience with Navy League and expressed his appreciation for the plaques and photos he has received. He was especially grateful for the memorable weekend in St Augustine during the Night of Lights with his girlfriend, Natalie, compliments of Navy League.

He wanted to assure us that our efforts don't go unnoticed. He said he didn't know much about the Navy League in the beginning, but over time he realized it wasn't just here in Florida. He recently heard an Admiral speak and when giving thanks to various people and organizations, Navy League was one of the first groups the Admiral thanked. Petty Officer Ward then realized how big our organization is and how valuable Navy League is to the sea services.

Petty Officer Ward spoke of the selection process that led to him winning EPOY 2015. He said his fifteen minutes of fame was a great ride, but he was proud to be handing it over to another member of the VALIANT. The VALIANT has the honor and distinction of their Sailors of the Year for 2015 and 2016 to be named the USCG Enlisted Person of the Year for two years in a row.

VALIANT's 2016 SOY 2016 Seaman Gregory W. Jacquet, Jr. was selected as the USCG Enlisted Person of the Year 2016.

VALIANT SOY 2016 is **Seaman Gregory W. Jaquet, Jr.** SN Jacquet is currently at "A" school training to be an Aviation Electronics Technician. In his absence, CDR Tim Cronin accepted the award for him. Upon winning SOY 2016 for VALIANT, he went on to win Enlisted Person of the Year 2016 for the Coast Guard Seventh District and on March 20, 2017, SN Jacquet was notified that he had been awarded Enlisted Person of the Year 2016 for the entire United States Coast Guard. SN Jacquet is 21 years old and the youngest to ever receive this honor.

CDR Cronin stated that fitting to his nomination, SN Jacquet voluntarily departed VALIANT in early December for a temporary duty assignment aboard the Dutch warship *HNLMS Holland* prior to AET "A" school convening on January 30, 2017.

SN Jacquet served as Leading Seaman in the Valiant's deck department and qualified in positions normally reserved for experienced petty officers while directly overseeing the training of 20 Helm/Lookout and Boatswain's Mate of the Watch watch-standers. He voluntarily took on additional leadership duties to include spearheading preparations for Boat and Helicopter Standardization Assessment and the bi-annual Command Assessment of Readiness for Training. SN Jacquet's attention to detail and work ethic contributed to the Valiant receiving near-perfect scores during each assessment. His efforts also helped interdict eight drug-smuggling vessels laden with 4,300 kg of cocaine and interdict and/or embark 221 distressed migrants.

SN Jacquet also contributed to his community by volunteering countless hours to Jacksonville food banks and reading to school aged children. SN Jacquet is from Riverside, CA., but grew up in Louisiana. His goal is to become a pilot in the USCG. The best piece of advice he received is "life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you deal with it". He enjoys videography, filmmaking, making music and enjoying the outdoors. He said he was taught "God, family, country". His father served in the Marines and Coast Guard.

Sally Watson - USCGC Valiant Liaison

USCGC VALIANT - Fitness Gear Fund

As Liaison to the USCGC VALIANT, a huge thank you to all who donated to the VALIANT fitness gear fund. They were in desperate need of new and additional fitness equipment. When asked if members would like to donate and help us fulfill their "wish list", they came forward and generously donated \$860 which included a \$100 contribution from our SA-PC Navy League Council. Ian Pollitt took on the task of purchasing the equipment and with his negotiating skills, purchased close to \$1500 worth of merchandise. This exceeded their wish list. The items were presented to VALIANT'S CDR Tim Cronin at our March meeting. CDR Cronin said the crew was ecstatic and extremely appreciative of Navy League's generosity. VALIANT is getting underway on April 4 to the Eastern Pacific for Drug Interdiction.

- STAMINA Air Rower (1)
- Rawlings Resistance Band Kit (2)
- BCG 3/4" Horse Stall Mats, 4ft x 6ft (4)
- Perfect Ab Carver Pro (3)
- Perfect Ab Carver Sport (3)
- Fitness Gear Pro Series 1000lb barbell (1)
- Fitness Gear Power Band Kit (2)
- Cutter Weightlifting Gloves (1)
- Trigger Point Hard-core foam roller (3)
- Black Mountain Products Resistance Band Kit (2)
- FOCUS Resistance Band Kit (1)
- Fitness Gear Olympic Weightlifting Bench (1)

Sally Watson - USCGC Valiant Liaison

Cpl. Duane Dewey USMC (Ret.)



Close friend of the SA-PCNL, Cpl. Duane Dewey USMC (Ret.) invited Navy Leaguers Harland Trofholz and Claude Caviness to be his guests for the Road Renaming Ceremony in Cross Creek, FL on Friday, February 10, 2017.

Duane Dewey, one of 79 living Medal of Honor Recipients, has been a resident of SE 174 Place in Cross Creek for 30 years.

The Alachua County Commission renamed the road *Cpl. Duane E. Dewey PL*, in Duane's honor at the Saturday ceremony led by County Manager, Dr. Lee Niblock and Commission Chair, Ken Cornell.



Claude Caviness - VP Membership

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Junior ROTC

The following are the dates for the respective JROTC Award ceremonies:

St. Augustine HS Army JROTC...April 13 at 1800 hours @FCTC in C Bldg.
Instructor: Major Brent Reynolds, US Army (Ret.)



Flagler-Palm Coast HS ...April 25 at 2000 hours in auditorium
Instructor: LtCol. Tom Snodgrass, US Air Force (Ret.)



Matanzas HS Army JROTC...May 4 at 1800 hours in auditorium
Instructor...Major Timothy Hall, US Army (Ret.)



Nease HS Naval JROTC ... May 9 at 1900 hours in auditorium
Instructor: Captain Scott LaRochelle, USCG (Ret.)



REGIONAL DRILL MEET

Trophies were awarded at the Nease HS Regional Drill Meet on Jan. 14. Fifteen schools participated in the competition for which our council contributed towards the purchase of trophies.

ST. AUGUSTINE NAVAL SEA CADET BATTALION

On January 7 our Battalion underwent its annual inspection and fared very well. LCDR June Tillett performed the inspection and rated us high in all aspects.



The battalion was hosted by HITRON on Jan.4. The day was filled with many demonstrations. The cadets found the armory and helicopter displays Especially interesting..

The Washington D.C. Bus tour on Feb. 16-20 included two other local units with 55 cadets and 18 adult instructors. The cadets toured the monuments, Capital and museums. A good history lesson for all.



Bill Hamm - VP Youth Programs

Sea Cadets working to earn trip to Washington

By Danielle Anderson, Correspondent

Sea Cadets from Region 6-2 converged on the Princess Place Preserve recently for a weekend retreat. The exhibition and competition were part of a fundraising effort by the cadets who are planning a four-day trip to Washington D.C. in February to witness the legislative process, said Eric Johnson, commander for the Sea Cadet Corps, St. Augustine Battalion.



The Sea Cadet program is funded by Congress and supported by local Navy League organizations comprised mostly of retired military members.

"We work closely with our Navy League. They do a lot for us, we couldn't do it without them," said Lt. Sharon Welch, commander of the Daytona Division US Naval Sea Corps. "Because they work so closely with the Navy, they get us on to do ship tours, things that we would not normally be able to do. The cadets then walk away with leadership and life skills they may not get anywhere else.

"It's a privilege to be in this program," Welch said. "They want to aspire to be better."

Palm Coast Matanzas High School junior Darya Loguntsova, who joined the Sea Cadet program's St. Augustine Battalion six months ago after moving with her family from California, said she is making new friends while learning valuable life skills that she hopes will lead her to the Naval Academy after graduation.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "We do drill meets, a lot of rappelling, scuba diving, we are trying to start up shooting, which will be a lot of fun. We meet with other divisions or battalions and practice being a team working with others, not just people we know.

"It's a good experience. I love it."

The rigorous requirements to be part of the Sea Cadet program, and exercises that are incorporated help build teamwork while teaching responsibility and accountability, are some things Kimberly Spain appreciates about the program.

"It has given total accountability, not only between peers but in leadership," Spain said about her son, Terry Spain Jr.'s, participation in the Sea Cadet program. "Being led by others who are his peers and the Sea Cadet organization, it teaches him leadership and respect for others, camaraderie, teamwork, there is so much they have to do to work together."

Kirill Smolik, a ninth-grader at Matanzas High School hasn't decided on his future plans but knows the time he has spent in the program since 2015 is preparing him for what lies ahead.

"I like this program very much," Kirill said. "We are practicing our skills and trying to learn something new. My grandfather was in the military for 25 years and this gives me more experience in life. That's one of the main things: this is basic life experience. If I go in the military, there will be things I already know how to do."

Stringent standards and high expectations teach the cadets from an early age, some as young as ten years old, what is expected of them, Johnson said.



DRILL, DRILL, DRILL



Cadet Kirill Smolik with his mother, Alena and brother Maksim



PHYSICAL TRAINING



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MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Augustine - Palm Coast Council of the Navy League of the of the United States is a civilian organization whose mission is to: Support the objectives of the National Navy League of the United States and selected active duty Maritime Military units within our reach in the St. Augustine area and to support local High School JROTC programs

