



Upcoming Events

November

- 4 Veterans Day Parade | 10:00 am
5th Street, Holtville, CA
- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 17 Joint Operation Give Thanks | 11am
NAF El Centro Commissary

December

- 1 Holiday Parade of Lights | 5:30 pm
NAF El Centro
- 5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 7 Annual Holiday Party | 6:00pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club

January 2018

No Meeting—Dark

February 2018

- 6 Council T-Bone Dinner | 5:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
Blue Angels Night—Early start
- 23-24 Desert Outing 2018

Navy League of the United States

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



U.S. Navy



U.S. Marine Corps



U.S. Coast Guard



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Merchant Marine

Celebrate USMC Birthday with Blacksheep Leadership

New BlackSheep Commanding Officer to speak in November

We are pleased to announce a visit by Marine Attack Squadron 214's command triad at our November dinner. In a change of command ceremony last June, Lieutenant Colonel Duane Rivera passed the leadership of the BlackSheep squadron to Lieutenant Colonel Brett "Nilla" McGregor.

LtCol McGregor will provide us with an update on the squadron, and their current deployment. Joining the commanding officer, will be his Executive Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Jacobs, and Command Sergeant Major Joshua A. MacGillivray.

LtCol McGregor completed Platoon Leaders Course in 1996 while attending the University of Michigan. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1998 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on January 2, 1999.

After completing the Basic School he entered flight training at NAS Pensacola with follow on training at NAS Whiting, Florida. He was winged as a Naval Aviator on April 25, 2002 at NAS Kingsville, Texas. After completion of flight training he reported to Marine Attack Training Squadron 203, Cherry Point, North Carolina, for training in the AV-8B Harrier.

Following qualification in the AV-8B in March 2003, Captain McGregor was assigned to Marine Attack Squadron 211 in Yuma, Arizona. With the Wake Island Avengers he served as Aviation Safety Officer and as Officer in Charge of the Powerline and Quality Assurance divisions. He deployed to the Western Pacific aboard the USS Essex in support of the 31st MEU and to Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, flying combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In November 2006 Captain McGregor was reassigned to the Royal Air Force as an exchange pilot flying the GR.7 and GR.9 Harrier. After conversion training he served with IV(AC) Squadron at RAF Cottesmore, United Kingdom. He completed deployments to Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan, flying combat missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2007 and 2009, as well as training in various NATO countries aboard the HMS Illustrious.

In September 2009 Major McGregor reported back to Marine Attack Squadron 211 as the Operations Officer, assuming the position of Executive Officer in October 2010, and deploying to the Western Pacific in support of the 31st MEU in January 2011.

He reported to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 in July 2011 as an AV-8B instructor, and also served as the Assistant Operations Officer, WTI Action Officer, and TACAIR Department Head.

In July 2014 he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps, Aviation, to work as the transition and plans coordinator for F-35, as well as concept development lead for distributed aviation operations.

LtCol McGregor has accumulated over 1800 hours in tactical jet aircraft. His personal decorations include the Air Medal with numeral "6" Strike device, two Meritorious Service Medals, a Navy Commendation Medal, as well as numerous campaign and service awards.



Lieutenant Colonel Brett McGregor
Commanding Officer, VMA-214

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SQUADRON 214



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The Importance of the Jones Act

In the wake of the devastation in Puerto Rico by Hurricane Maria, we've all heard much about the Jones Act in the news recently. A lot of that information — including that the act prevented foreign ships from bringing much-needed relief supplies to the U.S. territory — was incorrect. These rumors are having a damaging effect on one of the most successful maritime laws in American history, and could cause untold damage to our maritime community. Many people, including some leaders in Congress, are calling to weaken or even get rid of the law altogether. Through we admire their efforts to do everything they can to help the people of Puerto Rico, changing the Jones Act will only cause lasting damage in the long term. The law is a vital part of our homeland security framework and should be protected.

Commonly known as the Jones Act, the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 requires that waterborne cargo moving between any two United States ports be transported on American vessels, using American mariners, on American-built ships. The law does not stop foreign-flag ships from sailing directly to an American port—those reports of foreign-flag ships waiting for permission to dock is simply untrue; the majority of fuel delivered to Puerto Rico comes from foreign-flagged ships. The Jones Act has not interrupted any of those deliveries.

The Jones Act's American-requirements create thousands of American jobs, on ships, in shipyards, and in ports. According to a study by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the domestic maritime industry, fueled by the Jones Act, is responsible for 500,000 jobs and nearly \$100 billion in annual economic output. Payroll alone exceeds \$29 billion a year. In addition to the sheer economic output, this knowledge and skillset provides a huge benefit to the United States military. Shipyard jobs take about five years of training to get to a proficient level; when orders from the U.S. Navy are low, it is important that shipyard workers are able to stay in the industry through commercial work. The potential loss of knowledge of shipyard workers leaving the industry when times are slow would be a significant blow to the Navy.

Additionally, the Jones Act protects our homeland security. Our maritime borders are just as vulnerable as our land borders to attack, and the Jones Act helps ensure our borders are secure. Leading homeland security experts have spoken to the important role the Jones Act and the domestic maritime industry play in protecting our borders, ports, and infrastructure. Foreign-flag ships running up and down our inland waterways would create opportunities for trafficking and would increase the burden on our Coast Guard. Frequently, tugboats are pushing barges full of hazardous materials along internal waterways near American facilities, and it is crucial that those materials are handled as securely as possible by those who prioritize American safety.

Leaders of the Department of Defense, the Navy and the Coast Guard all strongly support the Jones Act and have spoken forcefully in support of it, far beyond its role in shipbuilding, border security, and economic output. Our armed forces rely on a strong American commercial maritime industry to create a pool of mariners and U.S.-flag ships for military sealift during times of war and national emergency. American mariners moved 90% of defense material during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. As those wars have wound down, it is crucial that those American mariners remain certified and in the maritime industry for the next time our military needs that sealift. We cannot risk shipping American defense material on a foreign-flag ship, without any Americans. The security risk is too great. There is also the issue of reliability: we know American mariners will sail into a warzone; they have done it throughout this nation's history. We do not have that same level of dependability with ships sailing under another country's flag.

During a hearing before Congress, General Darren McDew, Commander, United States Transportation Command, testified that "our strategic sealift fleet provides the ability to deliver a decisive force over great distances... Without a healthy and viable U.S. Commercial Sealift Fleet...our Nation's military may not be able to deploy as quickly and efficiently as it can today...the Jones Act provides an additional pool of trained Merchant Mariners and sealift capacity. It does this, and contributes to national defense, by subsidizing a robust, domestic, maritime industry including U.S. industrial shipyard infrastructure for building, repairing, and overhauling U.S. vessels."

(continued on page 4)

Naval Air Facility El Centro

Annual Holiday Parade

Friday, December 1

Gates open 5:30 p.m.

FREE

See the base **LIGHT UP** with holiday cheer!



Are you ready for a mouth-watering T-Bone Steak?
Let us put one on the grill for you. Guaranteed great meal,
interesting speaker, and all-around good friends.
\$25 per person

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Mirage Club, NAF El Centro



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eligible to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions until Dec 15. Tax deductible donations support the Navy League's worthy causes which is to support the men and women in uniform and their families, and youth programs. For more information, visit

www.cfctoday.org Please reference Campaign #58495.

You're invited!

Naval Air Facility El Centro

Annual Holiday Party

at the Mirage Club

White Snow in the Desert

December 7, 2017

6:00pm—Midnight

\$15 per person

Food * Drink * Entertainment

Dress to impress!

(760)604-8428 for Tickets

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Theodore Gallinat, President

Questions or Comments?

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Jones Act (continued from Page 2)

However, even without the Jones Act, our sealift capacity is under threat. General McDew raised the alarm that due to a number of outside factors, our mariner pool is shrinking: according to MARAD, we only have enough capacity to support a war or national emergency at full capacity for six months. We must do whatever we can to ensure we have a healthy pool of mariners ready to deploy and support our troops worldwide.

Any proposal that undermines the Jones Act will have the unintended effects of weakening our U.S.-flag fleet, and thereby our homeland security, shipbuilding industrial base, and defense sealift capability. As a maritime nation with troops deployed worldwide, it is crucial that this capability is preserved. Misinformation in the media is dangerously close to causing us to lose this vital program and the assets it brings to our national security framework. We urge you to speak up for this program by opposing any action from Congress that would change the Jones Act.

DoD to Open Online Exchange Shopping to Veterans on Veterans Day 2017

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

The Defense Department announced this year that veterans will soon be able to shop online at military exchanges.

The policy change will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military, DoD officials said in a news release.

The shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, November 11, 2017.

While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families, the release said. The change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support, officials said in the release.

"We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family," said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"In addition, this initiative represents a low-risk, low-cost opportunity to help fund morale, welfare and recreation programs in support of service members' and their families' quality of life. And it's just the right thing to do," Levine added.

The online benefit will also strengthen the exchanges' online businesses to better serve current patrons. Inclusion of honorably discharged veterans would conservatively double the exchanges' online presence, according to DoD officials, thereby improving the experience for all patrons through improved vendor terms, more competitive merchandise assortments and improved efficiencies.

"As a nation, we are grateful for the contributions of our service members," Levine said. "Offering this lifetime online benefit is one small, tangible way the nation can say, 'Thank you' to those who served with honor."



We are SEW Thankful!

We asked, and you answered! Our call for seamstresses to help us alter the uniform trousers for Calexico High School NJROTC Cadets was overwhelming. Our seamstresses, fitted, cut sewed, and pressed uniforms for over 150 Cadets.

Our most sincere thanks go out to our council members, Angie Nelson, Arlyn Duval, Joe Nell Darr, Diana Steward, Lisa Gallinat and special thanks to USCGC Crewmember MK2 Deana Mangaya for stepping in to ensure these Cadets will be inspection ready. Thank you for sharing your time and talent to this important program!



It's coming...

Save the Date



Desert Outing

February 23-24, 2018



Black Friday Shopping at Amazon? AmazonSmile Gives Back

You can support the Imperial Valley Navy League while shopping — it's not just for Christmas

Designate IMPERIAL VALLEY NAVY LEAGUE to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. Visit smile.amazon.com today to get started!



Meet the BlackSheep's Executive Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Luke Jacobs, Executive Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 214

Lieutenant Colonel Luke "Warren" Jacobs attended the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM, and was part of the NROTC program. Jacobs graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt on May 7, 2000.

2nd Lieutenant Jacobs reported to The Basic School in Quantico, VA as a member of Delta Company, and graduated from Delta Company, at The Basic School, MCB Quantico, VA in December 2000. 2nd Lt Jacobs underwent Naval Aviation training in Pensacola, Florida, and then proceeded to NAS Whiting Field, in Milton Florida. He trained in the T-34C Mentor with VT-3 and was selected for advanced jet training in 2001. He then moved to NAS Kingsville, TX and flew T-45's for VT-22. 1st Lt Jacobs was designated as a Naval Aviator in 2003 and selected the AV-8B Harrier as his primary military occupation specialty. He quickly moved to the Fleet Replacement Squadron VMAT-203 in Cherry Point, North Carolina.

1st Lt Jacobs graduated from the FRS in June of 2004 and arrived in his first Gun Squadron, serving with VMA-513, *The Flying Nightmares*. He served as the Assistant Logistics Officer was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his efforts as the Assistant Logistics Officer. He deployed with VMA-311 Detachment Alpha in support of the 31st MEU in Japan. During this deployment, he served as the Daily Schedule Officer and participated in Joint Air and Sea Exercise and the 31st MEU's annual Philippine Bilateral Exercise.

Upon his return to CONUS, Captain Jacobs moved to VMA-311, *The Tomcats*. There, he served as the Squadron's Logistics and Embark Officer. During this time, he gained his Section Lead and Landing Signal Officer Qualification. He then deployed with VMA-311 Detachment Alpha, serving as the Logistics and Embark Officer for VMA-311 Detachment Alpha, in support of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Captain Jacobs supported OIF for 6 months while attached to the 15th MEU, from Al Assad Air Base. During this deployment, he flew over 400 combat hours, earning his Advanced Landing Signal Officer qualification and his Division Lead qualification. He was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal for his work as Logistics and Embark Officer during his tour with VMA-311.

After returning to CONUS from his deployment, Captain Jacobs attended Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia from August 2007 to May 2008. He returned to MCAS Yuma and became the Operations Officer for Marine Air Training Systems Yuma. During this tour, Capt Jacobs assumed responsibility for the scheduling, maintenance, acquisition, and utilization of two AV-8B simulators. Upon completion of his tour as Operations Officer, Captain Jacobs was sent on an individual deployment in support of the Combined Forces Air Commander in Central Command during the summer of 2009 as the Senior Offensive Duty Officer for all tactical aircraft and unmanned aerial systems supporting OIF and OEF. Captain Jacobs was awarded a Joint Commendation Medal for his efforts in orchestrating over 30,000 hours of close air support and oversaw the successful execution of 350 dynamic targeting sorties.

January of 2010 Major Jacobs returned to MAG-13 from his deployment and was assigned to VMA-513 initially as the Quality Assurance Officer and eventually the Aircraft Maintenance Officer. Major Jacobs oversaw the maintenance of the squadron's 14 AV-8B Harriers and training of 250 Staff Non-commissioned Officers and enlisted Marines during a deployment to Afghanistan supporting II MEF in Helmand province supporting over 3000 combat flight hours, personally flying 350 combat hours. Maj Jacobs returned from this deployment and continued to serve as the AMO and senior instructor pilot for VMA-513 until the summer of 2012, during the tour with VMA-513 Maj Jacobs earned his Training Landing Signal Officer designation while supporting 513's workups for deployment.

Maj Jacobs departed Yuma for Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas late June of 2013. He completed his Army education at CGSC and earned a Masters in Education from Kansas State University. He moved to Pacific Command, Camp Smith, and Oahu. He served as the Current Operations Officer for the Joint Reconnaissance Center, managing all strategic reconnaissance assets in the PACOM area of responsibility. Maj Jacobs earned a Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his effort supporting multiple major collection operations in the PACOM AOR. Maj Jacobs returned to MAG-13 and served as the Operations Officer for MAG-13; planning and executing several major exercises and deployments of subordinate MAG-13 units. LtCol Jacobs is currently serving as the Executive Officer for VMA-214's *BlackSheep*.

LtCol Jacobs' personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with numeral 7, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He currently resides in Yuma, AZ with his wife Amy and two children Holly and Matthew Jacobs.



Meet the BlackSheep's New Command Sergeant Major

Sergeant Major Joshua A. MacGillivray, Sergeant Major, Marine Attack Squadron 214

Sergeant Major Joshua A. MacGillivray attended and graduated Boot Camp at Parris Island, SC in Nov of 1998 and attended School of Infantry in Camp Gieger, NC . He completed this course in Dec of 1998 as an 0311 (Infantry).

Following SOI, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in January 1999. Private MacGillivray served as a Platoon radio operator for Golf Co. 3rd Plt (Helo Co) and was promoted to Private First Class on February 1999. In April 1999 he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal where he continued to conduct numerous training evolutions: Fort Hunter Liget, Bridgeport, 29 palms, Yuma, Corneal Blitz, and USS Jueno.

In January 2000, he deployed to Okinawa, Japan for a period of about 6 months. During this time he was part of the 31st MEU SOC. SPMAG-TAF. Lance Corporal MacGillivray also deployed on the USS Essex to East Timor, Philippines, and Australia. In September 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and awarded the billet of Squad Leader, and also held the billet as Platoon Sergeant due to the changing of personnel in the Company.

Corporal MacGillivray deployed in July 2001 as part of the Maritime Special Purpose Forces with the 31st MEU. Upon completion of this deployment he received orders to Marine Security Guard School Quantico, Virginia. In March 2002 Corporal MacGillivray was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and executed orders to MSG School. Upon graduation, he was assigned to MSG Detachment Karachi, Pakistan (B Company), MSG Detachment Moscow, Russia (A Company). Where he held the Billet as Squad Leader and was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Staff Sergeant MacGillivray was then selected to help open the Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq as the Assistant Detachment Commander and was later put up for Marine Security Guard of the Year.

In January of 2005 Staff Sergeant MacGillivray received orders to 3rd Battalion 1st Marines as a Section Leader for Weapons Company. After a short work-up he deployed to Hidithda, Iraq on September 2005. After this deployment he held the billet as Platoon Sergeant in Lima Company, attended Career Course, Infantry Unit Leaders Course, and the received orders to Recruiters School in 2006.

Upon graduation, Staff Sergeant MacGillivray recruited out of National City and Chula Vista, San Diego and took over as a field commander for the recruiting station in Poway, CA. He was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant on October 2008 and attended Advanced Course late 2009. In December of 2009, he executed orders to 1st Battalion 5th Marines, where he served as the Wpns Company Operations Chief and Alpha Company Gunnery Sergeant. In March 2011, he deployed to Sangin Afghanistan. After his return, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant and was assigned as the Headquarters and Service Company First Sergeant for a short period. In June of 2012, First Sergeant MacGillivray executed orders to Marine Corps Embassy Security Group as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Region 7, Frankfurt, Germany. During his tour he traveled to Embassies and Consulates in North and West Africa. In June 2015, he executed orders to the School of Infantry, Infantry Training Battalion-West, where he was assigned as the Alpha Company First Sergeant. Sergeant Major MacGillivray was selected to his current rank in Nov 2016 and received orders to Marine Attack Fighter Squadron 214, Yuma, AZ.

Sergeant Major MacGillivray's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd award), Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4th award), and Combat Action Ribbon.



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Naval Air Facility El Centro Celebrates US Navy's 242nd Birthday

We consider it a privilege to financially support NAF El Centro's birthday celebration each year. A number of Navy League members attended the Ball, and enjoyed an evening of elegance and camaraderie. We wish to extend our thanks to Council Table Sponsor, USAA, and council members Dennis James, Gaylla Finnell, and Lisa Gallinat for their additional support of the Ball.

The Keynote speaker was NAF El Centro's Commanding Officer, Captain Brent Alfonzo. Toasts were made, and the ceremony concluded with a cake cutting ceremony.

As tradition mandates, the cake was cut by the oldest and youngest Sailors on board. The first slice was offered to Bradford and the second was passed from the oldest Sailor to the youngest to symbolize the passing of knowledge.



L-R: Imperial Valley Council Members Lisa Gallinat, President Ted Gallinat, Benino Martinez, David Dearie, and Betty Tucker enjoy the festivities.



L-R: The youngest and oldest Sailors were selected to cut the birthday cake.

Council Recognitions

LCDR Howard Fichtel served as NAF El Centro's Security Officer from September 2015 through July 2017 and was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding support of the Council during his tenure at NAF.



LCDR Fichtel was instrumental in ensuring our guests were admitted to NAF for council dinners, and coordinating security detail for our Desert Outing fundraiser. Thank you, LCDR Fichtel, and congratulations on your retirement!



President Ted Gallinat presents NAF El Centro's Commanding Officer, Captain Brent Alfonzo with the Council's T-Bone Award for being the October speaker.