



NAVY LEAGUE
of the United States
“Citizens in Support of the Sea Services.”

NEW MEXICO
Council



SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

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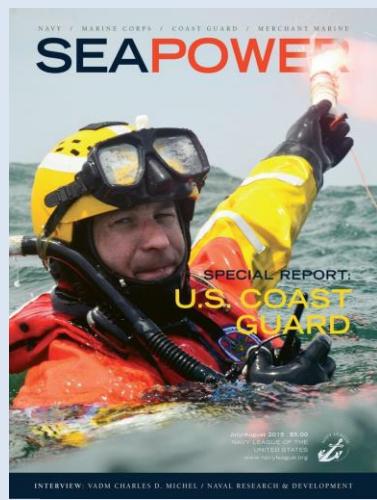
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Did you know that you can get the latest issues of Sea Power magazine in an App? Go to your mobile device App Store and search on "Navy League".



A Busy Summer 2015 for the New Mexico Council



June 14th Flag Day in Santa Fe, NM (Photos courtesy of Rick Carver)

The Navy League New Mexico Council flag and the Don't Tread On Me flag were proudly displayed in a Massing of the Colors celebration sponsored by the Military Order of World Wars in Santa Fe. A total of 40 flags were carried by various groups at the Veteran's Memorial downtown.

Ron Olexsak, member of our USS Santa Fe committee, carried the Navy League New Mexico Council flag. Committee members Peter Mizrahi and Joe White carried the Don't Tread On Me flag (shown behind the USS Santa Fe banner) that was donated by the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) crew and was flown by the submarine while in port.

See highlights of our many other Summer 2015 Council activities inside!

Thank You! When you keep your dues up to date with the Navy League national office, our council receives a small stipend for each active member. This makes a big difference in our ability to support our namesake ships, our youth, and the local active and reserve.

Our New Mexico Council

The United Way campaign and end of year tax giving deadlines are coming up. How can you contribute to our NM Council?

Nautical Quiz!

Where does a person look to find the headlights on a submarine?

(see the answers to these questions on page 7)

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Mark Schaefer

Newsletter Editor

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President's Message



Chuck Vaughan
President, New Mexico Council
(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)

Greetings Everyone! As I write this, summer here is coming to an end. Here in Albuquerque the children are now back in school. For New Mexico Council members, the end of summer means the annual Navy Birthday Ball is just around the corner and "our" three submarines will all soon be returning from deployment. This means the USS Albuquerque is returning from her final deployment after 32 years of service; she was commissioned on May 21, 1983. The ship completed its first operational deployment from February 27 to May 3, 1985. Now 30 years later the USS Albuquerque has just completed its final operational deployment. Thank you to all the men who have taken the USS Albuquerque to sea for 30 years to perform its many missions. **I hope you can attend our annual Navy Birthday Ball on October 17th where we will salute the USS Albuquerque for her many years of service.**

So what has the Albuquerque done for the past 30 years? The USS Albuquerque (SSN-706), the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763), and the USS New Mexico (SSN-779) are all U. S. Navy nuclear-powered fast attack submarines. The U. S. Navy's fast attack submarines are very capable multi-mission platforms that conduct a variety of missions.

Some of their missions include anti-submarine warfare (ASW); intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; search and rescue; the insertion and recovery of special operations forces; indications and warnings; and mine warfare^{1,2}. I'll begin by discussing the ASW mission.

When the USS Albuquerque conducted its first deployment, the Cold War (1945 - 1990) existed between countries led by the Soviet Union and countries led by the United States. ASW was the primary mission of the U. S. Navy's fast attack submarines then and is still a mission of the USS Albuquerque, USS Santa Fe, and USS New Mexico. ASW is defined as using submarines, surface warships and aircraft to find, track and deter, and when necessary damage or destroy enemy submarines; ASW also involves protecting friendly ships, when necessary, from attack³.

The Cold War started in 1945 when Joseph Stalin, the dictator of the Soviet Union, announced his intention to spread Soviet communism throughout the world. To do this he needed two things; to control the oceans and destroy our strategic bombers carrying nuclear weapons². Shortly after the Cold War began, the U. S. Navy found it necessary to conduct ASW missions to find, track and deter Soviet submarines to prevent the Soviet Union from controlling the oceans and spreading Soviet communism. The U. S. Navy has been conducting ASW missions ever since.

(to be continued in the next issue)

1. U. S. Navy. *Fast Attack Submarines*. http://www.navy.mil/navydata/cno/n87/images/ssns_new.pdf. Accessed 8/16/2015.

2. D. R. Hinkle, H. H. Caldwell, and A. C. Johnson, editors. *United States Submarines*. Naval Submarine League, 2013.

3. Wikipedia. *Antisubmarine warfare*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/anti-submarine_warfare. Accessed 8/16/2015.

Contact me any time at
chuck.vaughan@comcast.net
or by mail at the New Mexico Council's P.O. box address.

Namesake Ships



USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) Change of Command

USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) recently returned home to Naval Station Point Loma in San Diego after her final deployment. Thirty-two years of service were completed by one of the Navy's finest submarines.

CDR Trent Hesslink was relieved by CDR Donald Tenney on August 28, 2015. CDR Tenney, the USS Albuquerque's 14th and final skipper, will take the boat on her final voyage to Bremerton, Washington later this year as the Inactivation Commanding Officer.

Our New Mexico Council is pursuing, and has first dibs on, the 50-ton sail which should become available in the 2018-2020 period. A possible USS Albuquerque Memorial might look something like the artist rendering at right. (*by Dick Brown*)

The Next USS Albuquerque could be a Surface Ship

Hold on just a second... Weren't the USS Omaha, USS Indianapolis, and USS Cincinnati all fast attack submarines? Yes, they were. But if you need to get a bit up to date, these namesake ships are all now in some state of construction to become part of our country's fleet of 52 Littoral Combat Ships (LCS).

Imagine serving on a 40 knot+ fast maneuverable combat ship that operates in shallow waters where other ships cannot. Imagine serving with about 75 shipmates and delivering small assault forces to places where needed in the Middle East or Asia while carrying a helicopter, delivering small boats, or autonomous air, surface, or underwater vehicles. Imagine serving on a ship that might have a trimaran hull.

The next USS Albuquerque could possibly be one of these ships. Our Council is in the very early stages of seeing if we can follow the path of the Omaha, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati to replace our combat veteran USS Albuquerque submarine with an exciting fighting force LCS.

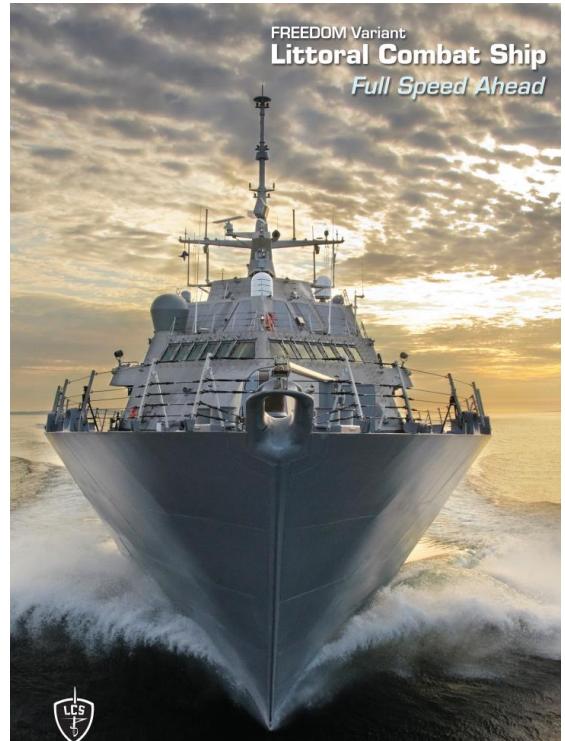
How about a USS Los Alamos??

The first USS Los Alamos (AFDB-7) was an auxiliary floating dry dock that played a key role on several military fronts. Originally built in 1945 at Mare Island Shipyard in Vallejo, CA, she eventually went on to serve as an important floating dry dock in Holy Loch, Scotland, providing services to FBM submarines. She became a floating power plant for the Army in Kwajalein. In the end, she was sunk off of Guam in a SinkEx in 2001.

A new USS Los Alamos might be a Littoral Combat Ship or possibly even an LPD, whose class is also being named after cities. The Navy League New Mexico council's Rick Carver and Frances Fernandes are gathering a possible USS Los Alamos committee now. Interested parties include the Los Alamos Chamber and Los Alamos lab members. Contact Rick if you want to join!



Possible USS Albuquerque Memorial



(Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin web site)



USS LOS ALAMOS (AFDB-7)

USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) and USS New Mexico (SSN-779) on Deployment

The New Mexico Council is keeping the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) and USS New Mexico (SSN-779) crews in our thoughts and prayers while they are on deployment and we are eagerly awaiting their safe return. Even while gone, the submarine crews are making a difference here at home in New Mexico. Here are some photos of the flag that was donated and signed by the crew of the USS Santa Fe. The flag was prominently displayed at the Memorial Day celebrations at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.



(Photos courtesy of Rick Carver)

New Mexico Flags Flown at the North Pole by the USS New Mexico (SSN-779)

While the USS New Mexico (SSN-779) is underway, the committee continues to promote the submarine and its mission and accomplishments in the community. Committee member Dick Brown presented State of New Mexico flags (flown at the geographic North Pole during the submarine's visit in ICEX 2014) to submarine supporters in the State.

In the Summer issue, we showed photos of the flag presentations to honor the former Commanding Officer of SSN-779, CAPT George Perez, and to recognize the hard work of the La Posta De La Mesilla restaurant in Las Cruces, owned by retired Navy CAPT Tom Hutchinson and his wife Jerean.

In this issue, we are happy to show photos of the North Pole flags that were presented to plank owner skipper, CAPT Rob Dain (shown with his father, Dave, and USS New Mexico chair Damon Runyan), and Hiroshi Miyamura. See a very nice article about Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi Miyamura in the Local New Mexico News section.



Dave Dain, Damon Runyan, and CAPT Rob Dain in Tijeras, NM
(Photo courtesy of Deborah Schaefer)

If you would like to learn more about our **Namesake Ships** named after New Mexico Cities, Counties, Tribes, Rivers, and Regions, then go to

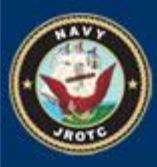
NMNAVYLEAGUE.COM

and click on the link at the top left of that page.

Two former USS New Mexico skippers are receiving new commands on the same day - August 7th. At Naval Station Guam, Capt. Mark Prokopius will assume command of the submarine tender USS Emory S Land (AS-39) and at Kings Bay, Georgia, Capt. George Perez Jr will assume command of the Trident Training Facility. Both new COs will be displaying New Mexico state flags flown at the North Pole, plus accompanying certificates, in their respective offices.



Local New Mexico News



Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council Announces 2015 Continuing Education Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the two recipients of the \$1000 Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council Further Education Scholarship Awards for JROTC / Sea Cadet graduating seniors. This program is open to ALL graduating senior cadets who intend to continue with their education past high school graduation. With 21 NJROTC, MCJROTC and Sea Cadet Programs around New Mexico, we expect the number of applicants to grow and be competitive each year. Unit commanders are notified every year in February and student essays are due by April 30 of same year.



Scholarship recipient Nicholas Trimmer with, left to right, Chuck Vaughan (New Mexico Council President), Nicholas Trimmer, 1st Sgt Alberto Griego (La Cueva MCJROTC Senior Military Instructor), Paula West and Mark Trimmer of La Cueva High School. (*Photo courtesy of John L. Jones*)



Scholarship recipient Jonathan Schueler with, left to right, Chuck Vaughan (New Mexico Council President), Jonathan Schueler, Bill Schueler, Elizabeth Schueler, Tina Schueler and Senior Naval Science Instructor, LCDR Wes Shumaker of Los Alamos High School. (*Photo courtesy of John L. Jones*)

Navy Band Southwest Visits New Mexico

In a somewhat unexpected but truly enjoyable visit, the brass band from the Navy Band Southwest joined us for some nice Navy promotion and entertainment. Their recent appearances at Albuquerque's Old Town gazebo on June 24th and at the Military Appreciation Day at Rodeo Santa Fe on June 25th were very well received.



(*Photo courtesy of Damon Runyan*)



The band, led by MU1 Roberts, performed in Gallup, Truth or Consequences, and Albuquerque before heading to Santa Fe for the rodeo. Displaying the flag were Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council USS Santa Fe Committee members Buck Rackley and Peter Ives who is also the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Santa Fe. (*Photo courtesy of Rick Carver*)

Sea Cadet News – Triton Battalion by Damon Runyan (*Photo courtesy of Damon Runyan*)



The Sea Cadet Battalion celebrated their 1st anniversary under the new name Triton Battalion, named after nuclear submarine USS Triton that was decommissioned on 3 May 1969. The submarine's motto was "Second to None", a goal the Triton Battalion maintains in its quest to be among the very best NSCC Battalions in the U.S. The Battalion conducted a very stirring ceremony, where a bell was tolled as the name of the vessel, date of sinking, and number of lives lost for every U.S. Navy submarine lost at sea since the late 1800's to 1968. They recognized 63 submarines carrying over 2,300 sailors.



Naval Sea Cadet Triton Battalion held its Annual Award Ceremony at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on July 4, 2015. Congratulations to the NLUS Theodore Roosevelt award winner, Cadet Petty Officer Second Class Yvonne Varela, who was singled out as the top cadet in the Battalion. Cadet Varela will be a junior at Manzano High School this next school year and is also a member of their Navy Junior ROTC unit. Cadet Varela will be the Battalion Cadet Commander this coming year for the Triton Battalion. She is from Albuquerque and is working toward gaining an appointment to one of the military academies; her first choice is the **U.S. Naval Academy**.

North Pole Flag for Hiroshi Miyamura by Dick Brown - photo shows Hiroshi Miyamura and Dick Brown

On June 27th, the Navy League's USS New Mexico Committee presented a New Mexico state flag to Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura of Gallup, NM. The flag, accompanied by a certificate, is very special as it was flown from USS New Mexico (SSN-779) when she surfaced at the geographic North Pole last year. The certificate was signed by the submarine's Commanding Officer, CDR Todd Moore, USN.



Hershey attended New Mexico's naming ceremony on December 6, 2004 where he was presented an Admiral ballcap by Secretary of the Navy Gordon England. Hershey was born in Gallup, has lived there all his life, lost his wife Terry of 66 years last year, and is still going strong. He is a WWII and Korean War veteran and a huge hometown hero.

During the Korean War, a fierce attack by Chinese forces threatened to overrun the position of Hershey's Army unit. American forces were grossly outnumbered. As squad leader, Corporal Miyamura shouted, "You guys get out of here. I'll hold them off for as long as I can."

(Photo courtesy of Donna Brown)

Severely wounded, Hershey continued fighting until he ran out of ammunition and was taken prisoner. He was a POW for over two years and news of his pending MOH award remained top secret until he was finally released. If the enemy knew he was destined for our nation's highest honor, he would have been killed without mercy.

That Korean winter of 1950-1951 saw subzero temperatures, icy winds and deep snow. It seems fitting then that Hershey be presented with a flag that had flown under similar frigid conditions. That flag and certificate will be part of a permanent exhibit at Hiroshi Miyamura High School in Gallup.

The courage, leadership, patriotism and sacrifice that Hershey displayed in the Korean War were way above and beyond the call of duty. After the war, President Dwight Eisenhower presented the Medal of Honor to Hershey in a White House ceremony. The President said, "I'm a little nervous, I have not done this before." Hershey responded, "This is my first time too!" Last year he received the Korean Medal of Honor! What a great American!

Side note: Hershey and many other MOH recipients as well as Navajo Code Talkers share a place of honor in the lobby of Gallup's Comfort Suites. The motel, under the management of Air Force veteran Ken Riege, is a 4-time winner of the company's platinum award for excellence and is part of the reason Gallup was named the most patriotic city in America. Ken often accompanies Hershey on out-of-state events and continues to be of great assistance to Hershey, who turns 90 in October.

Nautical Items of Interest



Rocky Mountain Region News - A Piece of Colorado Floats up New York City's East River



Surprising a few of New York's residents who were not too busy to notice, the bow section of the future USS Colorado made its way from Newport News, VA up the East River on its journey to be assembled with the rest of the submarine in Groton, CT's Electric Boat shipyard. The Navy told the New York Post that the submarine would not be based in New York "in any way, shape, or form". I'm sure that put those less-military minded folks more at ease! The USS Colorado will join the USS New Mexico (SSN-779) as a sister Virginia-class fast attack submarine protecting our country, ships, and sea lanes in early 2017.

(Photo courtesy of the New York Post, July 25, 2015 news story)

Santa Fe's Kitchen Angels

Why are these volunteers at the Santa Fe Kitchen Angels smiling? They love volunteering for sure, and it's also partly the donated check they are holding that came from the crew of the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) in the amount of \$1500. This check, combined with previous donations to the Kitchen Angels, makes the total donated by the crew to be \$5000. The Kitchen Angels provide meals for homebound patients, many of whom are veterans. Another great show of support between the submarine crew and the City of Santa Fe. (Photos courtesy Rick Carver)



USS New Mexico Pen Pals Are Going Strong!

Thank you for your service. You are amazing. Thank you for keeping our country free. Please tell other mates that they are amazing to and thank the captain or if you are the captain.

See some North Star Elementary and Southwest Learning Center 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade Pen Pal letters at ussnewmexico.net

Quiz answers from page 1 →

Our New Mexico Council

For United Way end of year contributions to our Council, use:

United Way EIN 850275454

To send contributions by check or on-line,

- by mail, use the P.O. box shown below
- to donate on-line, use the web page at www.nmnavyleague.com

Nautical Quiz!

The headlights on a submarine are found in the "heads" (toilets). Of course!

Have you purchased your USS New Mexico (SSN-779) baseballs?

It's approaching MLB playoffs time, and what better gift is there than a baseball made especially to commemorate the USS New Mexico? Buy one for friends and family at our Navy League events or contact Mark Schaefer at usnamn@comcast.net. Balls sell for \$7 and we have hard clear plastic display cases for an addition \$3. Limit of 12!



(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)

Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council, P O Box 91554, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199-1554. The Navy League is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
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The New Mexico Council is one of six Councils in the four-state Rocky Mountain Region of the Navy League of the United States. In our region, we serve alongside other Navy League Councils from Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.

2015 Fall and Winter Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council

Aug 28	USS Albuquerque Change of Command Ceremony
Sep 19-10	USS New Mexico merchandise sales at the Game and Fish convention (sign up to volunteer with Damon Runyan)
Oct 3	Air Force @ Navy football – Annapolis, MD – 1:30 pm Mountain time
Oct 16	USS Albuquerque (SSN-706) Inactivation
Oct 17	Navy Birthday Ball in Albuquerque
Oct 20	USS New Mexico merchandise sales at the Albuquerque Tea Party convention (sign up to volunteer with Damon Runyan)
Oct 29	USS Santa Fe committee meet and greet
Nov 1	USS Santa Fe Change of Command Ceremony
Nov 11	Veterans Day Celebrations
Dec (tbd)	Annual Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council Meeting
Dec 12	Army-Navy football – Philadelphia, PA – 1 pm Mountain time