

BULLHORN

News from the Pensacola Council of the Navy League

July/August 2011

<http://Pensacola.NavyLeague.US>

Volume 15 Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Harden



Greetings, Navy Leaguers! Did you see where we were mentioned in the Seapower magazine? Due to some hard work in the office and by the Board and you in the field, our retention and recruiting numbers are looking great and we were recognized as one of the top recruiting councils in the country based on recruiting points. In the President's report, we were also in the top 132 councils this year with a retention rate consistently greater than 80% from January to June. Great job to all that are out there telling our story and asking the question: "How about joining the Navy League?" This is good, but not as good as we can do if we really work on it. I strongly encourage you to ask a friend or neighbor to support our Sea Services by joining the Navy League. Contact the office if you need membership tri-folds or information to help someone sign-up.

As many of you realize, the Pensacola Council supports the Independence Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. This year they have received the Unit Commendation from National Headquarters, United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps for service in and support of the local community. We are very proud of their accomplishments and look forward to them continuing to excel. The Sea Cadet Corps is for youth between the ages of 10 and 17 and designed to instill patriotic values, discipline and pride. Bravo Zulu for a job well done!

I was happy to see so many of you turn out for our Social Hour at Seville on July 28th. It was encouraging that some of you brought potential new members with you. I hope to see you at the Annual Chicken BBQ on September 22nd at the Yacht Club. This is always a fun event and the venue couldn't get better. I hear that there may be a couple of surprises this year, including a little music. Don't miss this great event which will surely have numerous outstanding military in attendance to be honored.

Please keep our military in your prayers. The recent Chinook crash in Eastern Afghanistan with a loss of 30 brave defenders is a stark example of the selfless devotion of our troops. God Bless the United States of America and God Bless those brave men and women that defend her!

PROFILES IN EXCELLENCE



Pen Air Federal Credit Union (FCU) was chartered in 1936 to serve Civil Service and Military employees and their immediate families assigned to our military bases in the area. Today, they serve many other employee groups. Pen Air FCU has been an affiliate with the Pensacola Chapter of the Navy League of the United States for over 12 years and has been actively involved in sponsoring numerous and divergent activities of the local chapter.

Pen Air FCU is one of the largest employers in the local area, employing approximately 285 people in Florida and Alabama. Their business address is 1495 East Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, Florida, 32514 and they may be found on their website at www.penair.org.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBER PROFILE
Commander Jeff DeBrine, USN
Commanding Officer
Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN (HT 18)



A native of Rochester, New York, CDR Jeff DeBrine, USN, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering. He completed flight training with VT-2 and HT-18 before being designated a Naval Aviator in July 1994. After completing initial MH-53E fleet replacement training with HMT-302 in Tustin, California, CDR DeBrine reported to the Black Stallions of HC-4 at NAS Sigonella in Sicily. While at HC-4, he deployed numerous times in support of "OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH." He also served as Public Affairs Officer, Temporary Additional Duties Officer, Assistant Operations Officer and Officer in Charge.

In September 1998, CDR DeBrine reported to Naval Postgraduate School. He graduated in September 2000 with a Master of Science degree in Modeling, Virtual Environments and Simulation (MOVES). His next assignment was Air Officer, *USS JUNEAU (LPD-10)*, home-ported in Sasebo, Japan. During his two-year tour onboard, CDR DeBrine earned his Officer of the Deck Underway designation, while also serving as the Senior Watch Officer and Safety Officer. In 2003, he returned to HC-4 and served as Detachment Officer in Charge as well as Safety Officer, Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer while supporting FIFTH and SIXTH Fleets during "OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM." After finishing his Department Head tour, he was assigned to the OPNAV Staff in Washington, D.C. in the Joint Campaign Analysis Branch of the Navy Assessment Division (N81). CDR DeBrine worked on future fleet requirements, joint campaign modeling and also served as Executive Assistant to N81.

He graduated from the National War College in June 2009 with a Masters Degree in National Security Studies and subsequently reported to TRAWING 5 as the Prospective Executive Officer of Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN. He assumed command on June 24th, 2011. CDR DeBrine's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (with gold star), Navy Achievement Medal (with gold star) along with numerous unit and campaign awards.



Bullhorn Newsletter

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Schedule of Events

September 13th
Annual POW/MIA Luncheon
Heritage Hall, Seville Quarter

September 16th
Navy League Golf Tournament

September 22nd
Annual Chicken B-B-Q
Pensacola Yacht Club

December 15th
Navy League Christmas Party
New World Landing

SUBMARINE OPERATIONS AT POLARIS POINT, GUAM



Polaris Point, Guam – On August 9th, 2011, the submarine tender *USS Frank Cable (AS 40)* passes alongside the guided-missile submarine *USS Ohio (SSGN 726)* after returning from a deployment to the Philippines.

Frank Cable conducts maintenance and support of submarines and surface vessels deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Navy photo by MC1 William Tonacchio, USN *"Lewis Bear Company"*



MEDAL OF HONOR
Alvin C. York
Sergeant, United States Army
328th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Division



York enlisted in the United States Army and served in Company G, 328th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Infantry Division at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Deeply troubled by the conflict between his pacifism and his training for war, he spoke at length with his company commander and his battalion commander about violence. They forced York to reconsider the morality of his participation in the war. Granted a 10-day leave to visit home, he returned convinced that God meant for him to fight and would keep him safe, as committed to his new mission as he had been to pacifism.



During an attack by his battalion to secure German positions along the Decauville rail-line north of Chatel-Chéhéry, France, on October 8th, 1918, York's actions earned him the Medal of Honor. He recalled: "The Germans got us, and they got us right smart. They just stopped us dead in our tracks. Their



machine guns were up there on the heights overlooking us and well hidden, and we couldn't tell for certain where the terrible heavy fire was coming from... And I'm telling you they were shooting straight. Our boys just went down like the long grass before the mowing machine at home. Our attack just faded out... And there we were, lying down, about halfway across the valley and those German machine guns and big shells getting us hard."

Under the command of Sergeant Bernard Early, four non-commissioned officers and thirteen privates, including recently promoted Corporal York, were ordered to infiltrate behind the German lines to take out the machine guns. The group worked their way behind the Germans and overran the headquarters of a German unit, capturing a large group of German soldiers who were preparing a counter-attack against the U.S. troops. Early's men were contending with the prisoners when machine gun fire suddenly peppered the area, killing six Americans and wounding three others, including Sergeant Early. The fire came from German machine guns on the ridge. The loss of the nine put Corporal York in charge of the seven remaining privates. As his men remained under cover, and guarded the prisoners, York worked his way into position to silence the German machine guns. York recalled: "The 328th Infantry Regiment of 82nd Division was advancing in preparation to capture Hill 223 on October 7th, 1918. And those machine guns were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me something awful. And the Germans were yelling orders. You never heard such a racket in all of your life. I didn't have time to dodge behind a tree or dive into the brush... As soon as the machine guns opened fire on me, I began to exchange shots with them. There were over thirty of them in continuous action, and all I could do was touch the Germans off just as fast as I could. I was sharp shooting... All the time I kept yelling at them to come down. I didn't want to kill any more than I had to. But it was they or I. And I was giving them the best I had."

During the assault, six German soldiers in a trench near York charged him with fixed bayonets. York had fired all the rounds in his M1917 Enfield rifle, but drew his .45 Colt automatic pistol and shot all six soldiers before they could reach him. German First Lieutenant Paul Jürgen Vollmer, Commander of the First Battalion, 120th Landwehr Infantry, emptied his pistol trying to kill York while he was contending with the machine guns. Failing to injure York, and seeing his mounting losses, he offered in English to surrender the unit to York, who accepted. By the end of the engagement, York and his seven men marched 132 German prisoners back to the American lines. His actions silenced the German machine guns and were responsible for enabling the 328th Infantry to renew its attack to capture the Decauville Railroad.



York was promptly promoted to sergeant and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism. A few months later, following a thorough investigation, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, presented by the Commanding General of the American Expeditionary Force, General John J. Pershing, USA. The French Republic awarded him the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honor. Italy awarded him its Croce di Guerra and Montenegro its War Medal. He eventually received nearly 50 decorations.



York died at the Veterans Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 2nd, 1964, of a cerebral hemorrhage. After a funeral service in his Jamestown church, with GEN Matthew Ridgway, USA (Ret) representing President Lyndon Johnson, York was buried at the Wolf River Cemetery in Pall Mall, Tennessee. York and his wife Grace had eight children, six sons and two daughters, most named after American historical figures: Alvin Cullum, Jr., George Edward Buxton, Woodrow Wilson, Sam Houston, Andrew Jackson, Betsy Ross, Mary Alice, and Thomas Jefferson.

INDEPENDENCE DIVISION OF NAVAL SEA CADETS RECEIVES UNIT COMMENDATION



The Independence Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets received a unit commendation from the National Headquarters of the USNSCC during their July drill weekend. The commendation recognized the unit's participation in three community service projects in the Pensacola area during the last six months. The Independence Division was established in 1963 and this is the first unit commendation. It reflects the staff and cadet's commitment to rebuilding the unit over the last nine months. As stated by the Commanding Officer of Independence, Darrell Harp, "I'm so proud to be in command of the Gulf Coast's most ambitious Sea Cadet Unit!"

In December of 2010, the Cadets took part in the Laying of Wreaths at Barrancas National Cemetery onboard NAS Pensacola. The Cadets were assigned wreaths that had individual requests for specific graves. Each wreath assigned to the unit was laid and saluted. In March of 2011, the unit participated in the downtown Pensacola Grand Mardi Gras Parade. The unit's Color Guard preceded the Cadet's in parade formation. Adult staff handed out information about the USNSCC organization to eager parade watchers. In June of 2011, the Unit provided a public Flag Retirement Ceremony that was conducted at the Veteran's Memorial Park Wall South and included collecting flags throughout the area. The Unit has been asked to provide these community services again in the coming year and plans on doing so.

The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a non-profit youth organization for males and females ages 10-17 years of age. While military bearing, protocol and traditions of sea going services are followed, current military alliance or future commitment is not required. The Independence Division drills out of NAS Pensacola the second weekend of each month. If you would like more information about becoming an adult volunteer or a Cadet, please contact the unit's Executive Officer, James Barrett at 850-637-1384



NIXON'S 'MARINE ONE' HELO AT NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM

The National Museum of Naval Aviation quietly added a new treasure to its collection last weekend — President Richard Nixon's "Marine One" helicopter. The green and white Sikorsky VH-3A Sea King was one of several identical aircraft used to transport Nixon and, later, President Gerald Ford. Marine One is the call sign given to any helicopter with the president onboard. The museum is planning a public dedication ceremony in coming weeks to officially welcome the helicopter into the collection.

13th ANNUAL POW/MIA LUNCHEON



This year the luncheon has been renamed the Prisoner of War (POW) /Missing in Action (MIA) Recognition Luncheon because, in addition to recognizing a former Prisoner of War, an individual declared Missing in Action will also be recognized. The Luncheon, which is sponsored jointly by the Pensacola Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and the Pensacola Council of the Navy League of the U.S., will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Heritage Hall in Seville Quarter. The POW is CAPT Allen C. Brady, USN (Ret) who was shot down January 19th, 1967 and released March 4th, 1973, spending over six years as a POW. The MIA individual is CDR Donald R. Hubbs, USN, who was last seen on March 17th, 1968, when he launched off the *USS Yorktown (CV 10)* on a night surveillance mission over

North Vietnam.

This is one function that everyone should plan on attending. Please mark your calendars for this special occasion and attend this luncheon to show your support and appreciation to individuals who represent the true caliber of our armed forces and who have given much more than is required to protect our freedoms.

Previous recipients of the POW Award

1999	Mr. Dave Jones	2005	CAPT Ross Terry, USN (Ret)
2000	CWO3 Kirby Raines, USN (Ret)	2006	CDR Ralph E. Gaither, USN (Ret)
2001	Mr. Ron Yeakle	2007	LTCOL Thomas S. Pyle, II, USAF (Ret)
2002	CAPT J. B. McKamey, USN (Ret)	2008	CDR Robert Flynn, USN (Ret)
2003	CAPT Fred "Bill" Franke, Jr., USN (Ret)	2009	COL George E. "Bud" Day, USAF (Ret)
2004	LTCOL Norman H. Stutzer, USAF (Ret)	2010	COL Velfort DeArmond, Jr., USAF (Ret)
2004	Judge Joseph Tarbuck	2010	CAPT Collins H. Haines, USN (Ret)
2004	CAPT Charles F. Klusman, USN (Ret)		

TIDBITS Labor Day

The irony behind the holiday

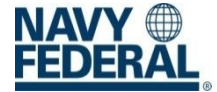
President Grover Cleveland signed a law making Labor Day a national holiday. In creating a holiday honoring workers, he handed organized labor a huge victory. President Cleveland also sent soldiers to battle striking workers in Chicago. In using the Army to violently crush the strike, he handed organized labor a stunning defeat. Now for the amazing part; he did both those things within four days of each other.

In May of 1894, workers at the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike after receiving a 25 percent pay cut. When the company refused to submit to arbitration, fifty thousand railroad workers across the country refused to work on any train with a Pullman car. Rail traffic was slowed to a crawl, and violence was in the air.

By June 28th, one newspaper reported that the strike had “assumed the proportions of the greatest battle between labor and capital that has ever been waged in the United States.” That very same day, President Grover Cleveland signed into law a bill making the first Monday of every September a national holiday: Labor Day. The timing may seem odd, but the bill was intended to calm labor unrest. What the president did four days later was not. In response to reports of violence, the President declared that the strikers were disrupting the U.S. mail, and sent soldiers to establish martial law. Within days, soldiers and strikers clashed and seven men were killed. Union leaders were jailed and the strike was brutally put down. The action crippled the labor movement in America for decades. Yet the holiday endured.

The leader of the American Railway Union, Eugene V. Debs, was jailed for six months for his role in the Pullman strike. Debs read Karl Marx in jail and became a socialist. He ran for president six times on the Socialist Party ticket. Debs was jailed again in 1920. This time it was for making an antiwar speech during World War I. Running from his jail cell, he polled nearly a million votes.

A union leader named Peter McGuire was the first to propose the idea of a holiday to celebrate workers back in 1882. Twenty-three states adopted it as a holiday before President Cleveland made it into a national holiday in 1894.



CARRIER OPERATIONS OFF *USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)*



INDIAN OCEAN - On August 6th, 2011, an F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the Argonauts of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 146 and an E-2C Hawkeye assigned to the Black Eagles of Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113 simultaneously launch from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)*. *Ronald Reagan* is underway in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Shawn J. Stewart, USN

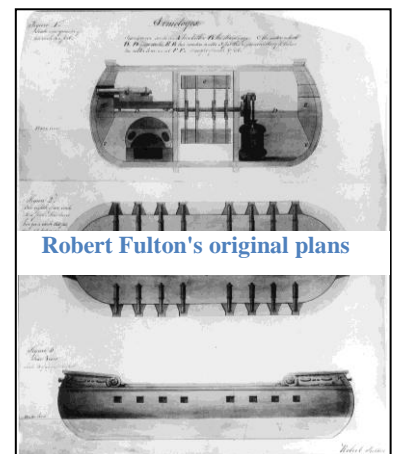
U.S. NAVY HISTORY AND LORE: THE NAVY'S FIRST STEAM WARSHIP

Charlie Turner

The U.S. Navy's first steam warship was the *USS Demologos* (the voice of the people). Designed by Robert Fulton, the keel was laid down while the War of 1812 was still being fought. She was renamed *Fulton* to honor her designer after his death in 1815, but wasn't completed until 1816, well after the Treaty of Ghent ended hostilities.

Displacing 1,450 tons, a length of 153 ft. and a beam of 58 ft., she maintained a steady 5 knots under steam in her trials. *Fulton* was armed with 16, 32-pound long guns and a device that could fire a 100-pound submarine shot at very close range. The ship was actually a catamaran internally, with her two hull sections surrounding the 120-hp steam engine, paddlewheel, and boiler with 5 ft. of solid wood, to protect the machinery during battle. *Fulton* was built to take on British 74-gun line-of-battle ships to break the Royal Navy's blockade of New York. And, undoubtedly, she would have been a formidable weapon in inshore action or in becalmed weather, when her foe's ships couldn't answer their helm to turn out to blue water. And, since the preferred armament for British warships of the time was the 18-pound long gun, she would have easily matched most any ship in metal on target.

However, while initially there had been plans to build others ships of the class to protect other harbors, they were never built. For a time several European Navies showed interest in acquiring the *Fulton*, but with peace that interest disappeared and she became a footnote of history. Her only notable mission was to carry President Monroe on a tour of New York Harbor. Her guns were removed in 1821 and her tour of duty as a floating barracks ended in 1829, when she was destroyed in a gunpowder explosion.



AUSTAL BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON LCS-6

The Navy said recently that it authorized the "first cut" by Austal for the sixth Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), the future *USS Jackson (LCS-6)*, at Austal's Modular Manufacturing facility in Mobile, Alabama. Under the LCS program, Austal is teamed with General Dynamics. As the ship systems integrator, General Dynamics is responsible for the design, integration and testing of the ship's electronic systems including the combat system, networks, and sea frame control. This will be the team's third LCS. Lockheed Martin (LMT) is other manufacturer of LCS. The littoral combat ship is a key part of our future Fleet and demands the very best skill and effort from government and industry teams. The commencement of production of LCS-6 marks another significant milestone in the program and demonstrates the efficiency benefits of the 'block buy' arrangements with the ship builders. These fixed-price contracts ensure cost efficiency in the program and best value for the taxpayer.



DONATIONS

The Pensacola Council of the Navy League of the United States is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible in accordance with Federal Tax Law.

Russell Stewart Memorial Scholarship Fund \$ _____ Naval Sea Cadet Corps \$ _____
Navy League Essay Contest \$ _____ Bullhorn Sponsorship \$ _____
Ship Visit Receptions \$ _____ CAPT Jim Harvey Memorial Award \$ _____

Donations Received

Flora-Bama Mgmt., Inc – Joe Gilchrist
Gulf Power Co.—Gary Sammons

AHOY NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Pensacola Council and express our gratitude to those who are their sponsors. With your help, our council will be able to assist our Sea Services who are dedicated to protecting our homeland and preserving our freedoms.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
CPO and Mrs. Steven Vanderwerff	Pensacola, FL	
Mr. Jack Henderson	Milton, FL	Mark Harden
Ms. Teresa Wiseman	Pensacola FL	Mark Harden
Mr. Phillip Woolley	Gulf Breeze, FL	Tom Pruter
Mr. Ronald Ziembko	Pensacola, FL	Frank Fabre



Admirals Club

CPO and Mrs. Steven Vanderwerff
Mr. Ronald Ziembko

New Community Affiliate

Gulf Power

Total Affiliates - 15

FORMER NHP CO MAY BE NEXT NAVY SURGEON GENERAL

A former commander of Naval Hospital Pensacola (NHP) could be the next Surgeon General of the Navy. RADM Matthew Nathan, USN, served in Pensacola from 2004 to 2006. He's been nominated for the Navy's top medical position. The appointment must still be confirmed by the Senate. **“Northwest FL Professional Baseball, LLC”**

NAVY FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION SQUADRON "BLUE ANGELS"



U.S. Navy F/A-18 aircraft from the Blue Angels, the Navy's flight demonstration squadron, fly in the delta formation during the 62nd annual Seafair Fleet Week in Seattle, Washington August 5th, 2011. Seafair activities allow U.S. and Canadian Sailors and Coast Guardsmen to experience the local community and as well as promote awareness of the maritime forces. DoD photo by MC3 Andrew Johnson, USN



NEW SEAL LEADER TAKES COMMAND AT SOCOM

It was supposed to be a shining moment for the Navy SEALs. ADM Eric T. Olson, USN, the first member of the Navy SEALs ever to run U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), stepped down after nearly four years and handed the reins to ADM William McRaven, USN, also a member of the SEALs. But the ceremony, which was attended by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and other dignitaries, came at a somber time for the SEALs and SOCOM. 22 SEAL commandos died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan that killed 30 U.S. service members. McRaven was head of the Joint Special Operations Command, which oversaw the killing of Osama bin Laden. He assumed command of the Joint Special Operations Command on June 13th, 2008. During his military service, McRaven has commanded at every level within the special operations community, including posts during Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

SOUTHERN SEAS 2011



The guided missile frigate *USS Thach (FFG 43)* departs Callao, Peru, July 18th, 2011, after a weekend in port for crew liberty during their deployment for Southern Seas 2011. Southern Seas is a U.S. Southern Command-directed operation designed to strengthen relationships with regional partner nations and improve operational readiness for all assigned units.

DoD photo by MC1 Steve Smith, USN



NAVY'S FIRST FEMALE MASTER CHIEF PASSES AWAY

The U.S. Navy's first female Master Chief died August 4th at the age of 90 while residing at Vinson Hall Retirement Community, in McLean, Virginia. Master Chief Yeoman, USN (Ret) Anna Der-Vartanian began her military career in 1943 when she enlisted in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program. In 1946, she transitioned to the Navy and 13 years later she became the first woman in any of the armed services to advance to E-9, the highest enlisted pay grade. "We are saddened by the loss of Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick D. West. "She was an inspirational pioneer in our Navy, and a role model for courage and commitment to every Sailor in uniform during the last 50 years. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family."

NAVY LEAGUE BAR-B-Q

It's that time again – the annual Navy League Chicken Bar-B-Q at the Pensacola Yacht Club on September 22nd. Please make plans to attend this very successful and well-attended event. This occasion is also the Pensacola Council's membership drive - bring a friend, couple, business associate or relative. Local commanding officers, command master chiefs, and elected officials will also be invited to this function. It will give our membership the opportunity to mingle and meet with some of our local military and civilian leaders in the area. This gathering professes to be one of the local council's best events of the year.

JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74)



Pacific Ocean – On August 7th, 2011, the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74)* transits the Pacific Ocean during a replenishment at sea. The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Walter M. Wayman, USN

US TRANSFERS SECURITY AT BASRA TO IRAQ

Iraqi forces on July 26th took charge of security from U.S. troops at the oil export terminals at the southern port of Basra. State-run Al-Iraqiya TV reported that U.S. forces had ended their security presence at the port. A Navy official said that "75 percent of the American troops who were at the port left the facility, and the rest have stayed to train Iraqi forces. They will also withdraw gradually," the official added. He did not give their numbers for security reasons. The move comes as the remaining 47 thousand U.S. troops in Iraq are packing to leave Iraq at the end of this year. Basra is Iraq's third-largest city and a strategic oil hub. It had been under British command since 2003, but the province and its airport was returned to Iraqi control in 2009. Nearly 80 percent of Iraqi oil is exported through the south.

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON (HMM) 265 OPERATIONS



Philippine Sea – On June 29th, 2011, an AH-1 Cobra helicopter assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 265 lands aboard the forward deployed amphibious assault ship *USS Essex (LHD 2)*. HMM-265 is conducting an air qualification exercise in order to provide air support to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by LCpl Steve Acuff, USMC “*Hobbs Automotive Marketing*”

NAVY TO DISESTABLISH 29 NJROTC UNITS

The Navy announced that it will disestablish 29 Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) units, effective June 30th, 2012. The 29 units are currently on probationary status for failure to meet statutory and regulatory minimum student enrollment standards. "Our goal is to maintain a high-quality program that ensures the full range of NJROTC activities are available for participating students across the nation and overseas," said RADM David F. Steindl, USN, Commander, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), which oversees more than 600 NJROTC units at accredited high schools across the nation. Some of the specific units to be disestablished include West High School (Knoxville, Tennessee); Richard King High School (Corpus Christi, Texas); Escambia County High School (Atmore, Alabama); Opelousas (Louisiana) High School; and Grenada (Mississippi) High School.

62ND ANNUAL SEATTLE SEAFAIR FLEET WEEK



Seattle, Washington – On August 3rd, 2011, the amphibious assault ship *USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6)* and the guided-missile destroyer *USS Sampson (DDG 102)* participated in the Parade of Ships during the 62nd annual Seattle Seafair Fleet Week. Seafair activities allow U.S. and Canadian sailors and Coast Guard personnel to experience the local community and to promote awareness of the maritime forces.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Joan E. Jennings, USN

FRIGATES, AMPHIB TO LEAVE FLEET IN 2012

Three frigates and an amphibious transport dock are slated for inactivation in fiscal 2012, according to a Navy message outlining when the four ships will leave the fleet. Frigates *USS Boone (FFG 28)*, *USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29)* and *USS John L. Hall (FFG 32)* will be sold to foreign militaries when decommissioned, according to the NAVADMIN released last Friday. *Boone* and *Stephen W. Groves* are slated for inactivation on February 24th and *John L. Hall* will leave the fleet soon after, on March 9th. Amphibious transport dock *USS Ponce (LPF 15)* will be decommissioned March 30th and kept in the Navy's out-of-commission reserve, according to the message. *Boone*, *Stephen W. Groves* and *John L. Hall* were commissioned in 1982 as part of the Oliver Hazard Perry class of guided missile frigates. *Ponce*, an Austin-class amphibious transport dock, was commissioned in 1971.

BLACK KNIGHTS OF HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON (HS) 4



South China Sea – On August 9th, 2011, Sailors assigned to the Black Knights of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4 perform maintenance on MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopters aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)*. *Ronald Reagan* is underway in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility. U.S. Navy photo by SN Nolan Kahn, USN

FEMALE NAVY SEALS?

The top commander of U.S. special operations says he thinks it's time for women to go into combat as Navy SEALs. A Navy SEAL himself, ADM Eric T. Olson, USN, said at the opening session of the 2011 Aspen Security Forum that he would like to see female SEALs in combat roles. "As soon as policy permits it, we'll be ready to go down that road," said Olson. "Being a SEAL is not just about physical strength," he added. "I don't think the idea is to select G.I. Jane and put her through SEAL training. I don't think it's as important that they can do a lot of push-ups. I think it's much more important what they're made of and whether or not they have the courage and the intellectual agility to do that." While women serve in the U.S. special forces community as information specialists and civil affairs specialists, there are currently no female SEALs, Green Berets, Rangers or Marine special operators as a result of the 1994 combat exclusion policy that precludes women from being assigned to ground combat units. But given the unique access females can secure with local women "Cultural Support Teams," made up of two to four women were created last year to be attached to SEAL teams are already at work. Olson said that 56 more women graduated last week, "all of whom will be in Afghanistan by the end of August. We don't have nearly enough," said Olson, "and we're too late bringing them into what it is we have them doing." Last March, the Military Leadership Diversity Commission recommended DoD eliminate combat exclusion policies for women.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS ONBOARD *USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)*



U.S. Navy Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Lfetayo Bruns signals an F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 213 as it lands on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier *USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77)* in the Arabian Sea July 20, 2011. *George H.W. Bush* was deployed in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility on its first operational deployment.

DoD photo by MC2 Jeffrey Richardson, USN

DOD PANEL CALLS FOR RADICAL RETIREMENT OVERHAUL FOR MILITARY

A sweeping new plan to overhaul the Pentagon's retirement system would give some benefits to all troops and phase out the 20-year cliff vesting system that has defined military careers for generations. In a massive change that could affect today's troops, the plan calls for a corporate-style benefits program that would contribute money to troops' retirement savings account rather than the promise of a future monthly pension, according to a new proposal from an influential Pentagon advisory board. All troops would receive the yearly retirement contributions, regardless of whether they stay for 20 years. Those contributions might amount to about 16.5 percent of a member's annual pay and would be deposited into a mandatory version of the Thrift Savings Plan, the military's existing 401(k)-style account that now does not include government matching contributions.

A critical new feature would adjust those contributions to give more money to troops who deploy frequently, accept hardship assignments or serve in high-demand jobs. It would also give the services a new lever to incentivize some troops to leave or stay on active duty longer. The new proposal was unveiled July 21st by the Defense Business Board. The new retirement plan would mark the biggest change in military retirement in more than 60 years and require approval from Congress. The proposed change would have no effect on current retirees or disabled veterans.



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GULF OF ADEN OPERATIONS



Gulf of Aden – On August 3rd, 2011, the guided-missile destroyer *USS Mitscher (DDG 57)* transits the Gulf of Aden.

The *Mitscher*, which was commissioned here in Pensacola on December 10th, 1994, is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations and support missions as part of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Deven B. King, USN



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