

BULLHORN

News from the Pensacola Council of the Navy League

January/February 2012

<http://Pensacola.NavyLeague.US>

Volume 15 Issue 1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Buck Mitchell



From the Bridge,



Welcome aboard! I like the way that sounds, it has a good US Navy ring to it. I am a simple Pensacola civilian in awe of the hard work all of our Men and Women in uniform do to keep us safe and free in this wonderland we call America. I am very humbled to be the incoming 65th President of the Pensacola Council of the Navy League and I promise to live up to the standards that have been set before me to keep up a high regard for the United States Military and the Navy League.

We begin 2012 with many new faces on our board, each of them eager to help the Pensacola Navy League make a difference in our community. We all have a sense of purpose to help the Navy League achieve a successful mission of support for our troops, advocacy, education and youth programs. This year we will be working to offer sea service members and their families many meaningful and enjoyable events. All of the members of the Pensacola Council Board are making a yearly commitment to lead by example to help promote the organizational growth and be an active participating member of one of the most successful Councils in the United States. We face important challenges such as increasing membership, planning our solid financial future, improving communication with our local members and National Navy League, as well as expanding our informational technology and supporting our Sea Cadet and other youth programs. This is a mission that the board cannot do alone; we need all members of the Navy League to help tell our story. We ask everyone to talk to friends and neighbors about the value of our Sea Service members and the importance of a strong military, in particular, our military superiority at sea. Please continue to seek others in your workplace and community who are potential candidates for Navy League membership. We will also be looking to our Community Affiliates Sponsors to help spread the goals of this year's Pensacola Council.

I want to thank everyone for your kind words and encouragement for such a young Buck. Please help me make 2012 a year to remember and always keep the men and women in the US Military in your prayers. If you are looking for more information about the Pensacola Council of the Navy League go to our Navy League Internet site <http://pensacola.navyleague.us> for breaking news and the Navy League calendar updates.

Thank you and God Bless America.

Buck Mitchell

To learn more about the Navy League, contact us at (850)436-8552 or at <http://pensacola.navyleague.us>

Find applications at www.navyleaguenow.org

Pensacola Mayor Ashton Hayward, On Community and the Military

Article by Mark Harden



[Pensacola Mayor Ashton Hayward](#)

In a recent interview with the Mayor Ashton , he gave his thoughts on the relationship between the Pensacola area community and the military. “It’s incredibly important, personally, as the Chief Executive Officer of the city, that we, the citizens of Pensacola, understand that we are so blessed and fortunate to have people that have given up their lives to serve our country.” The Mayor went on to talk about reaching out to the military community in meaningful ways. “Before becoming Mayor, I felt like City Hall needed to do a better job at creating a more committed relationship, a working relationship where we can talk to each other. I felt like we weren’t doing that...what I’ve tried to do my first year in office is let them know (the military leadership), whatever there is I can do to be a benefit, I want to do that.” Mayor Hayward has worked with many in the community to prepare us for a better future. The Chamber of Commerce launched a program this past year to bring at least 1500 jobs to the area in the next five years. The mayor spoke of a good working relationship with Jim Hizer, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Admiral Bob Kelley, Vice Chairman of the Armed Services Committee and Craig Dalton, Vice President Armed Services Committee of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. Together, this team represents a new era for Pensacola and Northwest Florida. With respect to Admiral Kelly, Mayor Hayward said he considers him a friend and they share discussions about how to best serve our community. When asked the “why live in Pensacola “ question, Mayor Hayward has developed an ‘elevator speech’ he gives about Northwest Florida being the best part of the state but he emphasizes the numerous military installations in the area, the Blue Angels, the National Naval Aviation Museum and the National Flight Academy as prime reasons for living here.

He is also keenly aware of the “intellectual capital” the military brings to our area. He talked about working on joint efforts to capture that intellectual capital and keep it here vice letting our military experienced people go somewhere else when they separate or retire. He felt the City of Pensacola could do a better job of tapping into the military talent pool and said that was going to be a focus in the future. The Mayor was excited about the impact we can make on a local level when we work together.

Although having never served in the military himself, Ashton sited many relatives including his Grandfather who was a pilot in WWII, his first cousin, a pilot stationed in England today, and there was even a General on his Mother’s side of the family that made him proud to be an American and very proud of their service. As for the Navy League, Mayor Hayward wanted to know when we had events scheduled and made a commitment to try and get them on his schedule. In fact, he recently committed to be the speaker at the next Navy League event, the Military Recognition Day Luncheon on 23 February at New World Landing.

The City of Pensacola and the military, living and growing together!

BULLHORN NEWSLETTER

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Pensacola Council
Navy League of the United States
P.O.Box 17486
Pensacola, FL 32522-7484
Tel: (850)436-8552

Email: navyleagueofus@bellsouth.net
Editor: Mark Harden
Email: markharden9@gmail.com
Home: (850)941-0132
Proof Reader: Sammye Long

Leadership Pensacola Selects USO for Class Project - Operation Hope



Leadership Pensacola (LeaP) is a Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored program. Each year 50+ local community leaders are chosen to participate in a balanced combination of retreats, day long seminars and community projects. LeaP has developed an inter-disciplinary approach to focus on the issues currently facing Northwest Florida and to look for potential solutions for the challenges we will face in the future.

This group of leaders from across Escambia County chose to upgrade and refurbish the USO locations at the Pensacola International Airport and at Naval Air Station Pensacola, and "Operation Hope" was the name adopted. Their Initial fundraising goal is \$85,000 with a stretch goal of \$125,000. They have raised \$60,000, thus far. The project intends to upgrade the facilities so that our Service Members have a comfortable, safe, non-alcoholic environment to relax in that feels a "bit like home". After all, Pensacola only has one chance to make a first impression on these defenders of our freedoms.

There are many worthy projects to tackle in our local community. Why choose the USO? David Tuyo says the USO's mission is to provide a home away from home (for our Service Members) and raise their morale. He explained that they risk their lives to defend our freedoms and they deserve to be treated well. A project of this type could take a long time but, according to Tuyo, they are trying to deliver by the 1st of May since May is Military Appreciation Month.

Refurbishment of two fairly large spaces could be cost prohibitive unless planned carefully. LeaP 2012 has a planning committee that is looking at all aspects of the project, especially the fundraising. At the time of the interview, they had raised \$60,000, in a short period of time. When asked how they were so successful, Tuyo responded, "Passion!" "There have been 28 years of fantastic (LeaP) classes before us but I think that the passion we have here and the groundwork that has been laid before us by the alumni of prior classes is the reason we have been so successful. When you walk around and talk about your LeaP project in Pensacola, everybody knows what you are talking about." he said. This recognition makes it much easier for the 2012 class to get their project moving. He explains how calling up a local radio station to get some airtime to talk about Operation Hope was made easy due to the fact that both owners are graduates of the LeaP program and understand the significance of the LeaP class project. Tuyo was very proud of the fact that Operation Hope was the first military project that has been attempted by a LeaP class.

When asked about finding money in a tight economy, Tuyo was quick to point out that many local companies and organizations are happy to support our military. After all, almost a third of the local economy is dependent on the military and their support network. "I can't say enough about the Corporate Sponsors that have come on so far. Pen Air has come in as the major sponsor with \$15,000 and Region's Bank with \$10,000. Greenhut Construction is donating all the general contractor work for the project. Others have helped as well; Navy Federal and Gulf power have donated \$1500 and \$2500 respectively. Ascend Corporation has donated \$5000 and there are many others." said Tuyo.

When asked what had helped him this year to coordinate such an undertaking, Tuyo stated he had attended the Leadership Santa Rosa program last year and felt that it had made things easier for him. However, he was quick to point out that it was a team undertaking and everyone was involved in moving this project forward.

Tuyo has been in Pensacola a little less than 3 years. He is the Interim President and CEO of Pen Air Federal Credit Union. He explained that working with these Leadership programs is helping him learn about our local communities and become a better community leader.

To donate to Operation Hope, go to the website, www.pensacolachamber.com/operationhope or go to the Operation Hope Facebook page.

Community Affiliate- Pen Air Federal Credit Union

We recently talked to Pen Air FCU Interim President and CEO, David Tuyo, about involvement in the community from a corporate perspective. It's not hard to see that Pen Air is committed to community support. Their logo can be seen at numerous parades, festivals, community projects and local happenings. Most times they are involved in a more substantial way than merely displaying banners, they are financially committed as well. When asked if this was a corporate strategy, Tuyo related, "when I arrived 3 years ago, we started some initiatives. It's all about, we want Pen Air to be synonymous with this region. We want people to understand that we are here for the community. What makes us different is that we want to offer the community a corporate shared value proposition. For instance, every time a Pen Air debit card is swiped at the gas station or at a local merchants place of business, Pen Air donates money back to our school system. The same is true with the Pen Air/UWF credit card, part of Pen Air earnings from every transaction are donated back to UWF."



Tuyo talked about a long legacy of community involvement given that Pen Air is the oldest Credit Union in the area with 76 years of history in Pensacola. But what about the future, we asked? What will Pen Air be like 5 years from now? Tuyo was quick to say "we will be twice the size we currently are." But, he continues, "it's not just that when you walk in we will be bigger, not just that we will have products and services, it's that we provide an experience that no one else could possibly compete with and we are going to do that through investing in our employees and making sure they are the best leadership team in the world."

Tuyo is looking forward to a time in the future when their Pen Air's Share Program is able to write a 7 figure annual check for the local educational system. He loves the fact that Pen Air finds meaningful ways to give back to the community every day.

"We want to put the stability back in financial, the personal back in banking, the local back in expert, and put easy back in your life." says Tuyo!

When asked about Pen Air commitment to the local military community and Navy League, Tuyo had plenty to say. "Navy League does so much to support the full mission of what our defenses are about, the families, the spouses." David talks about how Navy League supports the families and understands and recognizes the sacrifices made not only by our Service Members but the spouses and children, as well. He talks about those sacrifices from a personal perspective, having a brother who is a 19 year military veteran. "The better question is, why not support the Navy League? It is a fantastic organization with a fantastic mission," he says. He talked about finding more ways to partner with Navy League in the future.

David Tuyo started as a financial adviser with Edward Jones and was one of their top performers. He also worked at Southeast Corporate Federal Credit Union, where he worked with Credit Unions from all over the country developing financial strategies, Regions Bank, U.S. Community Credit Union, and First Florida in Jacksonville, FL as CFO (one of the fastest growing credit unions in the country).

When asked about how important Pen Air is to the Navy League, Buck Mitchell, our President, said "we couldn't meet our mission without their backing!"

Community Affiliates complete a short application to join the Navy League. For their \$400 annual fee, they get four individual memberships, exposure in our newsletter, the opportunity to be involved in numerous military programs and various other opportunities that aren't available to non-members. If you want more information, contact us at 850-436-8552 or drop us an email at navyleagueofus@bellsouth.net.

USS Independence, LCS-2, Does Operational Testing from NASP



USS Independence has returned to Pensacola with the Gold Crew in charge. The Commanding Officer is CDR Gerald R. Olin and the Command Master Chief is CMDCM(SW) Jack Johnson and we spoke with them on 16 Jan, 2012 about the ship and its crew.

Right now the Blue and Gold crews swap out every 4 months. However, in the future, the LCS class ships will operate under the 3-2-1 concept with three crews for every two ships (scheduled to begin late 2013). Two of the crews will operate the two same class ships and the third crew will be in a training cycle ashore. An example would be Crew 'A' will have 4 months on the Independence, 4 months on the Coronado, and then 4 months ashore in a training phase. The Commanding Officer says "there are plans to have 55 LCS class ships". The LCS-2 is the first of its class. The crew gets different training for different "mission packages" that come onboard. Each new mission comes with mission experts. If it is a mine warfare package, they may bring 15 mission experts along. You might also have the Air Detachment come onboard with another 23 personnel. The "core crew", those that operate and maintain the ships underway, consists of 40 personnel. Engineering Department complement is a mere 10 personnel. CDR Olin said "the spaces are comparable to what you would have on a cruiser or destroyer with 4 main engines, 4 diesel generators for electricity, bow thrusters, and auxiliary support systems." Here, 10 people do what 60-70 do on a cruiser or destroyer. "The way we do that is we have a support plan with contractors." said CDR Olin. When the ship pulls into port, they will have a "planned maintenance availability". A group of contractors come onboard and they perform some of the planned and preventative maintenance. CDR Olin said it was a "great honor" to get the Commanding Officer assignment to a "first of class" ship. It is challenging because, as someone familiar with Destroyers and Cruisers, he finds himself commanding a totally new type of ship, with a variety of different missions and ship capabilities. Another challenge is being the 'first of its kind'. The Independence crew is learning how to adapt a new ship to its missions and how to adapt themselves to the ship, operationally. The lessons they learn will be passed on to later crews. The skipper said they are "forging a lot of new ground for the Navy".

Right now, with the mine mission personnel aboard, there are only 55 people to keep the ship operational and clean. That means that everyone pitches in. CMC Johnson says, "the Captain on down perform 'sweepers', take out their own trash and assist in the galley with cleanup". "I'm the CO with 29 years in the Navy and I shine bright-work just like my most junior Sailor. I don't mind, it's just a different reality from other ships." said Olin. It seems there are few complaints and good morale despite the added duties. The CO says the crew has a good attitude about it and cleaning up becomes just part of what you have to do on a ship with a small crew. CMC Johnson says he has learned a lot about how a small crew operates and is planning on taking some of the "lessons learned" to the USS Port Royal when he reports there as the Command Master Chief, later this year.

The USS Independence was built in Mobile, Al. and they have fond memories of the U.S. Navy League from their time there and recognize how important local councils can be to crew morale and support.

At the time of the interview the crew had not had a chance to go ashore except for haircuts and exchange runs but there were a couple of ashore possibilities coming in February. If you bump into 'Indy' Sailors in town, give them a warm Pensacola welcome and thank them for their service! For some pictures and specs, see the next page.



The LCS-2 hit 43 knots at “less than full speed” during sea trials!

Specifications - LCS Littoral Combat Ship - Variant 2 (Flight 0, first generation):

Hull Type: Stabilized Trimaran Monohull
Displacement: 2176 tons (light), 2784 tons (full)
Dead Weight: 608 tons
Length: 418' (oa)
Beam: 93.2' (extreme)
Draft: 13' (Maximum Navigational Draft)
Propulsion: Two gas turbine engines, two propulsion diesels, two waterjets
Speed: 47 kts (sprint), 50+ kts (top speed)
Armament: Bofors 57mm naval gun; Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) launcher; 4 - .50 caliber machine gun mounts
Combat Management System: Northrup Grumman ICMS
Electronics: Ericsson Sea Giraffe (air / surface surveillance, weapon assignment);
Decoy System: 3 - Super RBOC; 2 - Nulka Decoy launchers
Complement: 26

Independence (LCS 2) Building and Operational Data:

- 14 October 2005: Contract Awarded to General Dynamics Corp.
- 19 January 2006: Laid down at Austal USA, Mobile, Ala.
- 29 April 2008: Launched
- 4 October 2008: Christened, sponsored by Mrs. Doreen Scott, wife of Terry D. Scott, 10th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
- 18 October 2009: Completed builder's trials in the Gulf of Mexico
- 18 December 2009: Delivered to, and accepted by, the U.S. Navy
- 16 January 2010: Commissioned at Mobile, Ala., Cdr Kurt A. Renshaw (CO Blue) and Cdr Michael B. Riley (CO Gold) in command



Drive LCS-2 with a game-like controller



Jessica Lee – Navy League Affiliate (Kia Autosports) at the helm



US Naval Sea Cadets Provide Community Support and Pride



Pensacola, Fla. (January 18, 2012) - In today's society of media domination, "what's in it for me", and pressure to conform, its inspiring to see young men and women willing to defy popular notions of what's important and dedicate themselves to something larger than themselves. The US Naval Sea Cadets of the Independence Division represent much of what is good about today's youth. Independence Division wrapped up a busy 2011 and is hitting the ground running in 2012.

The end of 2011 was dedicated to providing community service to worthy causes in the Pensacola area. On Nov. 4, 2011, the Sea Cadets participated in a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project at an Ice Flyer Hockey game sponsored by the Fishin' Chix organization. They also provided Color Guard for the opening ceremonies. The following morning the Color Guard unit provided colors at a fundraiser for a local fallen sailor, a murder victim whose assailant still has not been captured. Later that same day, the cadets were given a private tour of the National Flight Academy scheduled to open in May 2012 and learned how the national Navy League is working with the national USNSCC to develop training specifically for Sea Cadets. The next weekend, the cadets attended the Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show on Nov. 12. In addition to having time to enjoy the shows, take in the static displays and recruit new members, the cadets also assisted the Blue Angel pilots during the post-show autograph session. The unit was photographed with all the Blue Angel pilots as a thank you. For the second year, the Independence Division participated in Wreathes Across America at Barrancas National Cemetery aboard NAS Pensacola on Dec. 10. The unit was again asked to assist with laying wreathes on specific graves where a family member or friend was not able to lay the wreath themselves. Each wreath received full honors from the cadets and they were featured in a local TV news report and local newspapers.

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>
CAPT and Mrs. Kevin Miller	Pensacola, Fl	Tom Pruter
Mr. Daniel T. Bishop	Pensacola, Fl	Roy Bertram

National Members- 497 / Local Membership – 219 / Admirals Club Membership - 75

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

FORCM Bob Anderson Mrs. Ilene Barney Robert Bowman Mrs. Stacy J. Brown

Mr. Charles Carlan CAPT and Mrs. Albert Gallardo CAPT C. Flack Logan CAPT Daniel McCort

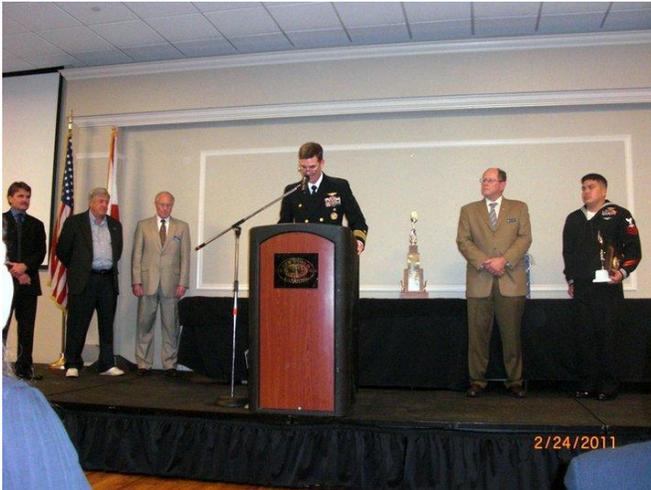
Mr. W. C. Merrill Tom O'Niell, Jr. Dr. Thomas Roberts CAPT William Thompson CDR John Wrynn

CDR Susan Cramer RADM and Mrs. Carmen Ciardello Mr. John Clark Mr. Dixon Moseley

CAPT R.E. Mitchell CAPT Michael Vuksta

Military Recognition Day Luncheon and Margaret Flowers Civic Award Ceremony, 23 February 2012

Every February, the Pensacola Council of the Navy League of the United States recognizes the outstanding local military volunteers who have given so much back to the Northwest Florida community. Military Commanding



Officers from commands across Escambia and Santa Rosa counties nominate one junior enlisted member from their command who has made a significant volunteer impact during the previous year. The Pensacola Council then coordinates with local government officials to establish an annual Military Recognition Day to honor each of the nominees and then selects one overall winner to receive its Margaret Flower's Civic Award. This year, Thursday, February 23, 2012 is designated Military Recognition Day and the luncheon/award ceremony will be held at the New World Landing, at 600 S. Palafox street starting at 11:00am.

Approximately 200 local military members will attend the luncheon as guests of the Navy League, including area senior military VIPs, Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, Senior Enlisted Leaders, Command Ombudsman and award nominees and their spouses from 20 plus local commands. The Navy League's goal is to fill another 200 luncheon seats with its own members and members of the community that want to say "thank you" to these local military heroes.

Members of the Pensacola Council of the Navy League will receive individual invitations to the luncheon and be given the opportunity to sponsor additional meals for military guests. Individual seats are \$15.00. Members can also purchase additional seats for use by military guests or can sponsor an entire table for only \$150.00. Table sponsorship pays for five military guests and five personal guests. RSVP's are requested to be returned by 17 February 2012.

Military service personnel assigned to commands throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties have long been integral members and volunteers for many local community and civic organizations. These military members have come to Northwest Florida on assignment in their service to our nation and have chosen to serve our community as well. Local schools, churches, food banks, shelters, civic, fraternal, and other service organizations have benefited greatly from countless, unselfish volunteer hours that these military members contribute. The Pensacola Council of the Navy League's sponsorship of Military Recognition Day allows the Northwest Florida community to say thank you with one voice.

U.S. Navy League Set 2012 National Convention Date/Location

The 2012 Navy League National Convention is in Honolulu, HI from 20-24 June. Get your reservations early!

<http://www.navyleagueconvention.org/>

**2012 OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PENSACOLA COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**

OFFICERS	NAME
President	Mr. Buck Mitchell
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2nd Vice President	Mr. Tom Furr
3rd Vice President	CDR Roy Bertram, USN (Ret)
Judge Advocate	Mr. Tom Gonzalez
Chaplain	Rev. Jack Gray
Treasurer	Mr. Russell Lentz *
Secretary	Mrs. Betty Williams
Past President	CNOCM Mark Harden, USN (Ret)

Upcoming Events

23 Feb 2012

Military Recognition Day
New World Landing

May 2012

Enlisted Breakfast

May 2012

Military Spouse Appreciation Luncheon

- Mrs. Stacy Blankenbeck Brown
- Rev. Jack Gray
- Mrs. Betty Williams
- CITCM Walter "Butch" Wallace, USN (Ret)
- Dr. P.C. Wu
- CMDCM Jerry Kindle, USN (Ret)
- CAPT John Pritchard, USN (Ret)
- RADM Paul Tobin, USN (Ret)
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- Mrs. Michele Wilson*
- CAPT Ron Ziembko, USN (Ret)*



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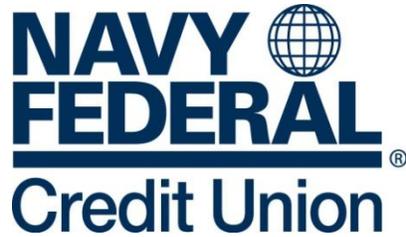
- Sea Cadets** ENS J.D. Barrett, NSCC
- Military Liaison** Mr. Harry White
- Military Liaison** CMDCM Michel Dollen, USN
- Admirals Club Rep.** Mr. Bobby Riggs and Ms. Jeri Blankenbeck
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- USCG Representative** Mr. Gerry McGill

* indicates new Board Members

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Ask about membership. Active Duty or retired military and their immediate families, current or retired federal civil service employees and their immediate families, employees of a select employee group (SEG), immediate family members of an eligible member or residents of the same household of an eligible member, may join. Depending on employer, other conditions may be required for membership.

Pensacola Council, Navy League U.S.
P.O. Box 17486
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