2024
Mayport Navy League November Newsletter

President – Bob Whitkop (904) 900-8934 http://www.mayportnlus.org

Calendar of Events

November 5 - Election Day

November 7 - MNL Speaker event at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr. 6pm cocktail hour; dinner at 7pm Key note Speaker - RDML Hewitt

November 10- US Marine Corps Birthday

November 11 - Veterans Day and Jacksonville Parade

November 14 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-Noon

November 14 - MNL BOD meeting, Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm

November 28 - Thanksgiving

November 29 - Native American Hertiage Day

Commander, Navy Region SOUTHEAST
Rear Admiral John W. Hewitt

A native of Smithtown, New York, Rear Adm. Hewitt enlisted in the United States Navy in 1987 and deployed aboard USS Independence (CV 62) and USS Forrestal (CV 59) as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Launch & Recovery). He received his commission in 1995 through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program and was designated an E-2 Hawkeye Naval Flight Officer in 1997. Hewitt graduated with distinction from New York Maritime College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Business and Commerce and earned a U.S. Merchant Marine Third Officer's License. He is a graduate of both the United States Naval War College, where he earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, and the Joint Forces Staff College.

Marine Corps 249th Birthday

The following will be read to the command on the 10th of November, 1921, and hereafter on the 10th of November of every year. Should the order not be received by the 10th of November, 1921, it will be read upon receipt.

1.On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name "Marine". In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

2. The record of our corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres and in every corner of the seven seas, that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

3.In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

4.This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we have also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps.

General John A. LeJeune

Happy Birthday Marine Corps! OORAH!

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

Sea Cadets are Commended

On Saturday October 19th, the Mayport Sea Cadets departed to assist in hurricane clean up, in response to a request for assistance from Cedar Key citizens caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton storm surge.

The Sea Cadets, chaperones, and parents worked hard and cleaned up a large part of the city. The Cadets used over 250 contractor bags to clean up yard debris, sweep sidewalks, and assist in reestablishing a sense of normalcy to the community. The Cedar Key Mayor and the County Commissioners commended the Sea Cadets for their diligent and dedicated work, and most importantly, their thanks for responding to the Cedar Key call for help.

Petty Officer Henderson, Mayport Division Commanding Officer

Navy Demonstrates First At-sea Reloading of Vertical Launching System

The U.S. Navy achieved a breakthrough in combat readiness on October 15th as it successfully demonstrated the Transferrable Reload At-sea Method (TRAM) on an underway warship in open ocean for the first time.

Sailors aboard the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) used the hydraulically-powered TRAM device to load an empty missile canister into the ship's MK 41 vertical launching system (VLS) while off the coast of San Diego on Oct. 11.

The successful demonstration marks a critical step in the capability to rearm warships at sea—a top priority outlined by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro.

"Today, we proved just how game-changing TRAM truly is—and what a powerful deterrent it will be to our competitors," said Del Toro, who witnessed the demonstration. "This demonstration marks a key milestone on the path to perfecting this capability and fielding it for sustained operations at sea."

Engineers at NSWC PHD developed the TRAM prototype as a way to rearm warships during the underway replenishment (UNREP) process—when a supply ship connects to a combatant at sea to transfer vital material such as fuel and food.

"The combatant can stay near the fight to be rearmed, refueled and resupplied all at the same time," said Rich Hadley, UNREP division manager at NSWC PHD. "As Capt. Arleigh Burke said, 'All time spent in replenishing was time lost in combat.' TRAM improves operational effectiveness by reducing the amount of time the warfighter must spend away from the fight replenishing."

For the at-sea demonstration, Chosin connected to USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11), a Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship, which transferred the missile canister across cables to the cruiser. The sailors then used TRAM to move the missile canister along rails attached to the cruiser's VLS modules, tilt it into a vertical position, and lower it into a VLS cell with TRAM's built-in cable and pulley system.

Deploying TRAM into the Military Sealift Command logistics fleet," said Tim Barnard, director of the NAVSEA technology office (05T), "would enable combatants to remain in theater while reloading their VLS missile launchers instead of having to travel long distances to a port, greatly expanding the volume and tempo of long-range fires—and the U.S. Navy's advantage over adversaries."

MK 41 VLS provides rapid-fire missile launch capability for the U.S. Navy's destroyers, cruisers and future Constellation-class frigates. Del Toro said the Navy is on track to begin fielding TRAM in two to three years.

Submitted by: Thomas McMahon, Oct. 15, 2024

Are you interested in becoming a MNL Board Member? If so, contact Bob Whitkop for more information.

Feeding Northeast Florida Truck - Barbara Ives, Pat Kluever, Joy Miller - Volunteers sorting food

First Car Today - A typical line to receive food - 5 blocks of waiting families in cars

History of the Food Farmacy

s USO was ramping down to closure, the Commanding Officer of Naval Station Mayport recognized a significant need for food assistance for military families still existed. He reached out to the City of Jacksonville's (COJ) Military Affairs and Veteran's Department (MAVD) to see what could be done to help service members regain support in their fight against food insecurity. COJ/MAVD pulled together a team, consisting of Catholic Charities, BEAM, and Humana Military under Feeding Northeast Florida to start Food Farmacy events in the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) parking lot on Mayport Road. Starting in early 2024, these events are held every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. MOAA Foundation supported Historic Mayport Chapter with a $5,000 grant in 2024, and Vystar supported Mayport Navy League with a $12,000 grant in 2024 for Food Farmacy. Using grant funds and donations, these two organizations coordinate to provide $25 commissary gift cards to young enlisted families at each Food Farmacy event to help buy supplies needed to prepare and serve the food that is provided by the Feeding Northeast Florida team Fleet Landing residents and MOAA Chapter member also donate generously to Food Farmacy through Historic Mayport Chapter and Mayport Navy League.

In coordination with Naval Station Mayport and COJ/MAVD, MOAA and Mayport Navy League will provide at least twenty $25 Commissary gift cards ($500) at each event during 2024 and early 2025. The team doubled up during back to school (August 2024 and will double up during the holidays (November-December 2024), and also during back to school in January 2025. Even when we are able to double up to 40 cards, we run out of gift cards well before the typical line of cars with 150 families are served. We will continue to look for grant funds from businesses and organizations, and we appreciate all the donations .

VOLUNTEERS are needed to sort and hand out food. To sign up online to "feedingnefl.org" - scroll down and select "volunteer", then on the next page select "Volunteer Now" - next page, on left select "Dashboard" - next page select "Mobile Food Distribution for Mayport Military Families" - select a shift to volunteer.

Article and photos submitted by MNL BOD Member CDR (Ret) Pat Kluever

Navy Announces Site for New Navy Museum

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro highlighted a site selection ceremony for the future of the National Museum of the United States Navy on Oct. 18.

"This is a moment of immense pride and anticipation for the Navy, for our nation, and for all who cherish maritime heritage," Del Toro said, standing near two dilapidated buildings that will be part of the new museum campus.

The site is adjacent to the Navy Yard in Washington and a short walk from the current Navy museum, housed in an aging facility largely off-limits to the general public. The new museum is intended to be a state-of-the-art look at the U.S. Navy, will be open to the public and is near a vibrant neighborhood that also boasts the stadiums for the Washington Nationals baseball team and the DC United, DC Power FC and Washington Spirit soccer teams. It's expected to attract up to two million visitors annually, well over the 100,000 annual attendance of the current museum, most of whom are already in the Navy.

Del Toro said he is well aware of the draw of Nationals Stadium, and said "I want half of them over here before the game and after the game."

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, the district's congressional representative, highlighted the city's historic ties to the Navy. She said 30,000 city residents are veterans and "deserve the full equality of statehood," as district residents don't have voting rights in Congress.