2025 Mayport Navy League July Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

July 4- Independence Day, Freedom Festival NS Mayport

July 10 - NS Mayport Change of Command at Fitness Center 10am, no RSVP needed; Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-noon; MNL Board Meeting Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr at 6:30pm

July 17 - MNL Social, location TBD

July 28 - World War I began in 1914

July 29- SOQ Q3 Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr at 11:30am

August 7 - No MNL BOD Meeting

Mayport Navy League Council was awarded the Outstanding Council and the Donald M. Mackie Awards at the Annual Convention in Jacksonville on June 7th.

See page 3 of our newsletter.

Naval Station Mayport Ships Returning or Departing in June

USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109)

The USS Jason Dunham returned home on June 8, 2025, after a 9-month deployment, operating in U.S. 5th and 6th Fleets (Middle East and Europe). The missions included ballistic missile defense, freedom of navigation patrols, and multinational exercises.

The ship is equipped with the Aegis combat system and is capable of a variety of missions, including anti-air, anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare.

The ship's motto is "Semper Fidelis, Semper Fortis" (Always faithful, always strong).

The ship has a complement of over 300 Sailors and was welcomed home by over 700 family members with waving American flags.

USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81)

The ship departed Naval Station Mayport on June 21st embarking on a regularly scheduled deployment as part of the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group. It has been confirmed that the ship will be assigned to U.S. European Command (EUCOM) waters with for a 9-month deployment. The ship will serve as the air defense commander for the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group.

As part of Carrier Strike Group 12, USS Winston S. Churchill will serve as the air and missile defense commander. This is significant because it's the first Flight IIA destroyer to deploy in this flagship capacity — a role usually reserved for cruisers. To support the added command responsibilities, its Combat Information Center (CIC) was enhanced

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

Mayport Sea Cadets Summer Training

On June 21st, the Mayport Sea Cadets, under the leadership of Commanding Officer Ronald Harnek, traveled to Starke, Florida for summer training at Camp Blanding. Upon arrival at the training camp, the new cadets completed personnel and medical check-ins and a seabag check. Afterwards, the cadets were transported by bus to their assigned barracks. Once settled, the cadets were grouped into their respective training companies and marched to the chow hall for noon chow.

Training Group Southeast 01 is located at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke, Florida and facilitates Sea Cadet trainings across Florida. The training group instills the values of discipline, accountability, and teamwork in a safe environment.

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO

With the upcoming hot summer months, June through August, MNL will postpone MMDTG until September. The concerns were keeping the food fresh, getting the volunteer support, getting the military family turnout with schools out, command transfers, and vacations. The next MMDTG is scheduled for September 9th.

Naval Station Mayport Change of Command Program

The Naval Station Mayport Change of Command ceremony will take place on July 10, 2025 at 10am in the Base Fitness Center when Captain Michael Trumbell will relieve Captain Brian Binder as commanding officer.

The Naval Station Mayport Change of Command Program ceremony will include:
Navy Band Music
Arrival of the official party
Presentation of colors, national anthem & invocation
Remarks by keynote speaker
Remarks by Captain Binder and reading of his orders
Reading of his orders by Captain Trumbell
Changing of Command
Remarks by Captain Trumbell.

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

BAE Systems launches $250 million state-of-the-art shiplift and land level ship repair facility in Jacksonville

June 2nd marks a significant milestone in the $250 million investment to transform its ship repair capabilities and solidify its role as a key partner to the U.S. Navy and commercial maritime industry.

The ceremony brought together approximately 500 attendees, including BAE Systems employees, subcontractors, Navy personnel, shipyard neighbors, local community members, and other distinguished guests, including Acting Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jim Kilby and BAE Systems, Inc. President and CEO Tom Arseneault.

“Today marks an important milestone as we celebrate the completion of a world-class ship repair facility upgrade here in Florida. The introduction of our new shiplift and land level repair facility represents more than just progress for BAE Systems Ship Repair—it reflects a shared commitment to innovation, growth and collaboration,” Arseneault said. “Together with the United States Navy, and other key industry partners that depend on this port, we are building a stronger foundation for the future, to help maintain our maritime superiority.”

The shiplift and land level repair complex will support the maintenance and repair of Mayport-based Navy vessels and commercial ships sailing into the Port of Jacksonville. With the capacity to lift ships displacing up to 25,000 tons and accommodate multiple vessels for maintenance simultaneously ashore, the new complex expands the shipyard’s capabilities threefold.

BAE Systems’ new facility will significantly enhance production efficiency, strengthen regional maritime capabilities, and advance environmental stewardship. Its completion represents the company’s long-term initiative to bolster support for the U.S. Navy while also accommodating a broader range of commercial vessels at competitive scales.

Navy League National Convention in Jacksonville
June 5 – 7

The highlighted results from the 2025 Navy League National Convention held in Jacksonville at the Hyatt include:

Leadership Election

Larry G. Salter, Captain, USN (Ret.), was elected as the 53rd National President on a two-year term

Major Awards & Recognitions

Council Performance, Mackie Awards, and Sea Service Adoption Excellence Awards were presented

Mayport Navy League was awarded the Outstanding Council (Top Award) and the Donald M. Mackie Award for our Newsletter.

The Council Performance Award recognizes local Navy League councils that excel in achieving the League’s mission—advocating for sea services, engaging the public, supporting youth programs, and strengthening community ties. This honor spotlights councils demonstrating exceptional commitment, activity, and impact within the previous year.

The Donald M. Mackie Award recognize excellence and innovation in council communications—spanning newsletters, websites, and social media—encouraging councils to effectively inform communities about sea-service missions navyleague.org.