2025

Mayport Navy League October Newsletter

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

Calendar of Events

October 1 - El Toro Sinking Remembrance

October 2 - MNL BOD meeting at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:00pm

October 6 - Military Monday- Dinner to Go 3-5pm St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

October 9- Food Farmacy at Fleet Reserve Assoc at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-noon

October 11- 250th Navy Birthday Ball at 117 Ceremonial Hanger, NAS JAX 6-10pm

October 13 - 250th Navy Birthday; Columbus Day

October 25-26 - Blue Angels at Naval Station Mayport for Jacksonville Sea & Air Show 11am-3pm

October 28- Sailor of the Quarter, 4th Quarter at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr at 11:30am-1pm

SAVE THE DATE

MNL 2026 9th Mike McGrath Memorial Golf Tournament on 20 April 2026

Looking for corporate sponsor contacts- see John Strohofer at cjstrohofer@gmail.com

During UNITAS 2025, September 25-October 6, the 25 participating nations' forces will perform at-sea, littoral, and amphibious exercises along the East Coast of the United States in advance of the U.S. Navy's 250th Birthday.

UNITAS, Latin for Unity, focuses on enhanced interoperability, building regional partnerships, and demonstrating U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet as the trusted maritime partner in the Caribbean, Central and South America.
UNITAS is featuring approximately 8,000 personnel from 25 allied and partner nations, including multiple ships, submarines, and aircraft (fixed wing and rotary). Participating nations include Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, and the United States.

UNITAS is a comprehensive multinational exercise that aims at strengthening interoperability, enhancing operational readiness, and fostering enduring partnerships among the participating nations.

“Our combined efforts as a maritime sea service are critical to ensuring free and open seas,” explained RADM Sardiello, Commander U.S. 4th Fleet. “UNITAS is an extraordinary opportunity for us to unite, operate, enhance proficiency, and improve interoperability of participating forces to respond to common threats.”

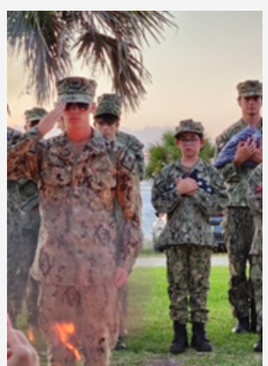
U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet is the trusted maritime partner for Caribbean, Central and South America maritime forces leading to improved unity, security and stability.

(U.S. Navy photo illustration by Mass Communication Specialist Steven Khor/Released UNITAS 2025 opening from onboard USS Arlington (LPD 24) at Naval Station Mayport)

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

Sea Cadets September Drill



On September 6th, the Mayport Sea Cadets had their second drill of the season. The Sea Cadets were administered for their first Physical Readiness Test (PRT) of the season. This included a 1-mile run, push-ups, and a plank. Cadets must meet certain PRT standards to attend training.

The unit then visited Fire Station #2 on base for a tour and engagement activity. Cadets were invited to ride in the truck, operate the water-cannons and sirens, and hear about what types of fires they fight and how they do it. It was a hit!

We finished our drill with chow at the Oasis Galley on base: always good to show our cadets how active-duty personnel are fed on base.

On September 27, 2025, the unit had an afternoon/evening drill giving an opportunity for a proper flag retirement ceremony. Cadets were instructed by their Chief on why and how to properly dispose of or retire our American flags. The Unit provided pizza for chow and cadets made s'mores over the fire pit before the ceremony.

It was a fun and informative drill ending with a meaningful event cadets and families will remember for a long time.

Summary and photos by Ron Harnek

MILITARY MONDAYS-DINNERS TO GO

In the group photo at the center is Nicole Cavallaro, our Chick-Fil-A partner

Photos by George Huchting

On September 8th, the MMDTG was scheduled with a starting time of 3pm; however, with the threatening weather once the team was ready, the food distribution began. The intermittent rain, strong gusts, and dark clouds, it did not deter the military and their families from joining the carline. The carline was very active with families rushing to get their meals before the heavy rain began. With only 17 Chick-Fil-A meals remaining and no one in the carline, the deluge began, the volunteers shared the remaining meals and then quickly and safely returned to their cars.

Special thanks to the volunteers that braved the weather- Chet Davis, Carol Smith, Cindy Tomlin, Ann Bell, Mike Marchetti, Tom Atkins, Isobel Spink, Pat Kluever, George Huchting, Brian Kennedy, Tim Jenkins, Theresa Trumbull, Erin Sardiello, and Barbara Ives

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

250th Navy Birthday Ball Celebration

WHEN: October 11, 2025
WHERE: 117 Ceremonial Hanger, NAS JAX
TIME: 1800 - 2200

Meal Choices
Shrimp, Crab and Crawfish Seafood Low Country Boil
Savory Beef Melange w/Garden Vegetables Herb Potatoes
Rustic Herb Based Chicken w/Garden Vegetables Herb Potatoes

Civilian / Retired Military Tickets
$65.00

For Additional Details and Reservations
Please Contact Pat Kluever at
patkluever@gmail.com

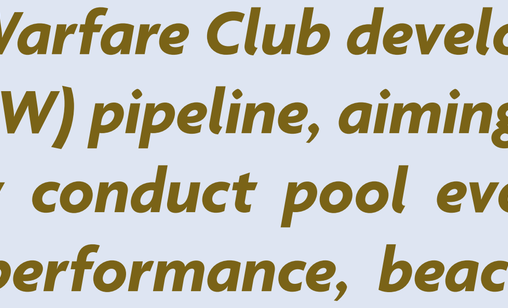
Donation link
https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLG7QQ1K0ZS5S/checkout/FDAGGPXBFBSIUIKINFMNHQ2Z

Jacksonville University NROTC Unit

The Jacksonville University NROTC Special Warfare Club develops midshipmen interested in the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) pipeline, aiming to become U.S. Navy SEALs and EOD operators. They conduct pool evolutions that demand water confidence, track workouts that sharpen performance, beach rucks and runs that build endurance, and weight sessions that harden both body and mind. Their focus is on building both physical and mental strength.

What sets them apart isn't just the training, it's the brotherhood. They push together, suffer together, and grow together. They don't just build athletes; they build leaders who are disciplined, resilient, and committed to serving at the highest level. Their most recent evolution was a 100-mile race, which took 26 hours to complete.

NROTC mission to develop officers with the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment



https://www.facebook.com/JUNROTC/

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Military Issues Committee News

The Military Issues Committee (MIC) meet on September 17th. This meeting was the last for 2025. There is a lot of information that may be of interest to others. Special thanks to a MNL member that shared the information. Happy reading…

For the Army-Navy Big Screen Football game usually held at Jaguars Everbank Field…it will not be held due to stadium construction. The two Naval stations' leadership are researching other options. The rivalry game is sold out at the M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, MD on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Points of interest from the Jacksonville military commands:
NAS Jacksonville
- **New Commanding Officer- Captain Ryan Dexter**
- **Navy Ball on 11 October in the big hanger on base.**
- **MWR concert on October 18th with Jelly Roll and Shaboozey**
- **Naval Hospital vice downgrading to clinic will now service Veterans as a VA Hospital**

NS Mayport
- **UNITAS action group representing 29 Nations is hosting exercises**
- **Jacksonville Air & Sea show is 25/26 October with the Blue Angels**

125th Air Guard
- **13 F35s now assigned with final number 20**

US Marine Corps Blount Island
- **Marine Corps Ball is 21 November**
- **Achieved historic 2025 recruiting goal**

US Coast Guard
- **Achieved 200% on their 2025 recruiting goal**

State Congressional Representatives
- **Service Academy nomination submission process ends in September; Academy packages for nominations are down from previous years**
- **National Defense Authorization Act passed the House**
- **House has introduced a stop gap spending bill to keep the Govt running**

JAXUSA
- **DC fly-in is 4-6 November.**
- **JAXUSA through City Leadership will meet with DC decision makers to push Jax agenda**
- **Preparing for Jags London game**

Mayor's Office
- **October will be Celebration of Valor month**
- **Establishing a Trust Fund to support future projects such as a protection shade over the COJ Memorial Wall and a Veterans & Military Family Community Center – expecting some Federal Money for these projects but corporate donations are needed**
- **Military Appreciation Breakfast at the Hyatt on 10 November at 0800 with guest speaker, RADM Sardiello Commander U.S. 4th Fleet**

Items our Mayport Sea Cadets Need-

If you are downsizing or cleaning out your garage, the Sea Cadets could use these items. All donations are appreciated and MNL can provide no-cash donation forms. POC Jim Young at jyoung2160@comcast.net.

1) Outdoor Screened-in Porch Furniture- such as table & chairs and furniture covers to protect from the weather/dirt
3) Hair clippers
4) Floor lamps
5) Ceiling fans

SEA CADETS

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