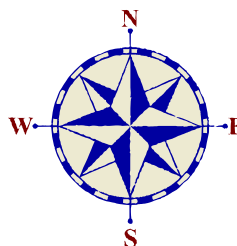


NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



Cleveland Compass



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NOVEMBER 2007

Message from the President

Hello Navy League Members,

I can't believe that summer has gone by, the leaves are falling and the air is crisped and ready for snow.

First of all I want to send a big welcome home to Karen Pallat who is home from her tour in Iraq. I know all of us on the Board and her family and friends are glad she is home safely.

Congratulations to Bill Keller my predecessor who has gone on from State President to being named Liberty Region President.

On a sadder note I want to send my condolences to Charles Martin who lost his wife Eileen this past summer to Cancer

I want to thank Doug Cabarle for the huge collection of comic books he has donated to send to the troops overseas. We also have Christmas cards that the school children from Ridgebrook Elementary School have written out plus, miscellanies donated items that we are getting ready to mail. I am asking for any donations to help with the cost of shipping for all the donated items that have been coming in that we are sending overseas. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please send your check to the following address:

The Navy League of the United States/Cleveland Council
3842 Montevista Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121

I want to thank my board members for all the hard work they have done for the Council this past year.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Cathy Owen, President

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Former Sea Cadet becomes a Golden Knight*
- *Fair Winds and Following Seas to NOSC Cleveland*
- *She's Back!*
- *Local Reservist talks about his experience in Iraq*
- *Neah Bay approaching 30 years of service*
- *Don't forget your service men and women during the upcoming holidays*
- *Cleveland Council is still a charitable organization*

Cleveland Sea Cadets

As many of you have heard, NOSC –Cleveland has now closed. It was announced in 2005 that the Naval Reserve Center (Naval Operational Support Center) Cleveland was on the BRAC list. In March of this year the process was started to formally shut down the facility. September was our final drill at the center and on September 8, 2007 was the closing ceremony. Cleveland Division participated in the ceremony with our color guard.

Fortunately the USCG Marine Safety Unit at the Cleveland Moorings offered to host us for the foreseeable future. The first weekend of October we moved the unit next door to the moorings. Now for the first time we have a permanent office. We also have storage in the MSU and a small storage shed on the property. The training facilities are very good, with a large training room and the latest digital projection equipment. Our new "landlord" has been very accommodating.



We had a very good fund raiser during the Cleveland National Air Show. As always we sold bottled water and ear plugs to people passing the NOSC on their way to the air show. This year the water was donated to us by the Home Depot store in Brunswick. This helped push our profits for the show to over \$4000.00. Earplugs sold very well this year, especially to families with young children.

Our only expenses were for ice and food for all of our workers. We also shared a table with the Naval Recruiting District inside the show to recruit new Cadets. During the Air Show I was able to meet up with one of our former Cadets who is now a Army Golden Knight. The Golden Knights are the Army's elite parachute demonstration team. Staff Sergeant Andrew Starr graduated four years ago and enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division.



During our November drill we sent part of the unit up to Port Huron, Michigan to train on the Grey Fox. The Grey Fox is a privately owned former Navy torpedo retriever that is modified as a training vessel. The Grey Fox runs trips throughout the summer with Sea Cadets on board. Our Cadets went there for a three day training. Unfortunately the ship had engine trouble and the Cadets could not get out into Lake Huron. They did some training on the ship. On Sunday they stopped at the Great Lakes Maritime Museum in Vermillion, Ohio on the way home.

We look forward to our new relationship with the US Coast Guard. This will open up a great many new opportunities for training at the SAR station as well as the Marine Safety Unit and the Neah Bay. It will also better expose the Cadets to the mission of the US Coast Guard.

LCDR Joseph Molter

Ombudsman

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Bob Pallat, Navy Operational Support Center Akron Command Ombudsman. I was appointed as an Ombudsman for this command in September 2007. I was previously NOSC Cleveland's Command Ombudsman from January 2006 through their disestablishment in September 2007. I attended the Ombudsman Basic Training Course in January 2006 in Great Lakes, Illinois. I retired in 2005 with 26 years of service as a Navy Chief Petty Officer.

As many of you probably already know, ombudsmen are here to assist the Navy families. We act as a liaison between the command and the families. We also communicate information about command and community resources to the families. Please call me if I can be of any assistance to you. Your questions, comments, complaints, etc., will all be held in the strictest confidence, within the guidelines defined in OPNAVINST 1750.1D - the Navy Family Ombudsman instruction. My normal phone hours are from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm for non-emergencies. I may not always be available during the daytime. For emergencies call anytime and I will return your call as soon as possible. My home telephone number is: 440.439.3940 and my email is: Robert_Pallat@yahoo.com.

What can an ombudsman do for you?

There are two main roles an ombudsman serves: 1) liaison between command and families, and 2) source of information to Navy families.

Being a liaison means that the ombudsman is a link between the command and families. For instance, when a command is deployed, the ombudsman receives information from the command about the ship's schedule and the latest news about the status of the command. The commanding officer will use the ombudsman to get information back to the families, and families can use the ombudsman to relay their news and concerns. The ombudsman also knows who to get in touch with in family emergency situations and can refer the family to the right people in the Navy for help. If the command has an emergency or crisis, the ombudsman may use phone trees, care lines, or a newsletter in order to communicate news and information to families.

The ombudsman is an information and referral service to command families. This means that a spouse can call the ombudsman to get accurate answers to a variety of questions. For example, "How do I register my car?" "When is Navy Marine Corps Relief open?" "I lost my ID card; how can I get a new one?" The ombudsman is also a resource for pertinent base and local phone numbers. If a spouse calls with a problem or concern, the ombudsman can refer the spouse to the appropriate place. The ombudsman is aware of the resources available in the area and local community.

The Navy Family Ombudsman Program's code of ethics ensures that a person may talk to his or her ombudsman about a problem or a family situation and the conversation will be kept confidential. Because of the high standards of the ombudsman program, a breach of confidentiality is grounds for dismissal from the position. There are, however, instances when a situation MUST be reported to the commanding officer and the appropriate agency. There are five such situations: 1) potential or attempted suicide; 2) suspected and established child abuse and neglect; 3) established spouse abuse; 4) drug and alcohol abuse; 5) potential homicidal behavior - a person who is an immediate danger to others.

Your ombudsman is standing by. Take advantage of the Navy Family Ombudsman Program.

2008 Nominations

Here is your board elect. Please e-mail your yea or nay vote to Bob Pallat at: robert_pallat@roadrunner.com

President	Catherine Owen	Vice-President	Connie Hodge
Secretary	Maria Woyma	Treasurer	Alice Molter

WE NEED YOU!

If you wish to sit on the board and get involved with Navy League, we have many committee openings. Please call any one of our current board members to get information on our monthly meeting times and meeting location.

News from Iraq

I have returned to Baghdad after spending the first half of October traveling with friends in Italy on my "rest and recuperation" (R & R) leave for this year. Our journey took us to Rome, Florence and several other cities and towns in Tuscany, and Venice. I also had the opportunity after my friends returned to the States to visit Naples and Pompeii before making the trek back to Iraq via the Netherlands and Kuwait.

This month's update will be rather abbreviated; as a result of my hiatus from Baghdad, I do not have a great deal of news or observations to offer at this time. A few items of note:

- The overall security situation in Iraq continues to improve slowly but steadily. IED attacks, the metric I follow most closely and the number one killer of troops in theater, have maintained the downward trend begun in the summer, decreasing by over one-third since June. And cooperation at the local level among tribes, Coalition forces, and Iraqi security forces carries on in a positive direction. It remains to be seen whether these advances will translate into meaningful reconciliation at the national level.
- A noticeable change in the weather occurred during my three weeks away. Although the daily forecasts still display high temperatures in the upper 90s, in reality it is about 10 degrees cooler. We have started to receive a few sprinkles, harbingers of the imminent rainy season (and the return of copious amounts of mud), some days have been quite overcast, and the thermometer outside Al Faw Palace read 79 degrees in the late afternoon a couple of days ago.
- The shorter days, earlier sunsets (standard time resumed here in late September), and cooler weather are indicators to most of my team and I that the end of our deployment is approaching. With fewer than 100 days to go, performance evaluations, awards nominations, and demobilization orders are in the works, succession plans are being developed and executed, and hearts and minds are beginning to turn to "what's next." Perhaps the most important part of my job from now through December is to maintain our focus on the still critical mission at hand, provide our office the leadership that will be needed during this transition, and ensure everyone returns safely to his or her family, home, and permanent station or reserve unit. There will be ample time for decompression and readjustment to "normal" life when we all get there.

I hope each of you is enjoying the crisp days of fall and looking forward to the holiday season. Please do keep in touch.

All the best,

LT Michael D. Dovilla, USN

Recycle your cartridges

We are sad to announce that this program has been discontinued. But thank you to all who participated and a big thank you to Bill Keller who got us started on this new venture.

Welcome Home!

Hello, Navy League! I'm very happy to be able to say, "I'm back from Iraq!"

I came home in late August after having spent 16 months on active duty as a mobilized Navy Reserve member, 12 of those months in Iraq, at Camp Bucca. I was a member of Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion TWO, an on-going mission of detainee oversight. We guarded over 19,000 Iraqi detainees at a desert site. My unit was composed of over 420 Sailors, both active duty and reserve, from all over the U.S. and the "Navy world," such as aircraft carriers, submarines, and Navy schools. The Sailors all filled a non-traditional expeditionary combat support or combat service IA (Individual Augmentee) mission. My duty was as the command legal officer. I was responsible for all the legal work of the command—quite a few Captain's Masts (Sailors will be Sailors), investigating humvee accidents (JAGMANs), and my favorite--assisting a few Sailors becoming naturalized American citizens.

Just prior to going over to Iraq, we trained at Fort Bliss, Texas, for three months. There we learned Army combat techniques including convoy operations, self-defense tactics, non-lethal weapon training, urban operations, and I qualified with a .9mm handgun. This training was "just in case," and very valuable, since we were out of our element in sand rather than water. Our storekeepers had a 5-ton truck that they named the Black Pearl, and we called ourselves Sand Pirates. The Army and Air Force didn't quite know what to do with us on that!

I want to take this opportunity to thank Cleveland Council for the letters and packages sent to me and the Battalion. They certainly kept our spirits up so far away from family and friends.

LNCS Karen Pallat

Cleveland/Chicago Navy Operational Support Center

Life Member, Cleveland Council Navy League

Fair winds and Following Seas NOSC Cleveland



Sea Cadets provide Color Guard for the Closing Ceremony
at NOSC Cleveland

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Adopt-A-Ship NEAH BAY News

NEAH BAY's summer was packed with operations, maintenance and training. Beginning in June, the ship departed for a law enforcement patrol in Lake Erie followed by security zone enforcement for the International Freedom Festival in the Detroit River. The crew completed a short maintenance period in July and then departed for a month of operations including the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, law enforcement near Sault Ste Marie, MI and the Ninth Coast Guard Cutter Roundup also in Sault Ste Marie.

During the months of September, October and November the crew completed numerous major repairs and maintenance. With the ship approaching 30 years of service many items needed to be addressed including; a rebuild of one of the ship's service generators, a complete gutting and refurbishing of the crews berthing, an installation of gray water tanks and a hydraulic oil cooler for the steering gear, repairs to the anchor chain, capstans and boat boom. Winter is fast approaching with predictions of a moderate ice year.

Recent crew additions include FN Kenneth Adams (from Ohio), LTJG Jeffery Barnum (from Canada), MK1 Jason Leeper (from California) and BM2 Adam Lorentz (from Florida). LTJG Matthew Walter departed for the Ninth District Command Center, BM2 Timothy Kelley departed for Station Marblehead and FN Jackson Couture departed for Machinery Technician "A" School in Yorktown, VA. June of 2008 will bring the rotation of almost the entire crew including the CO, EMC, BMC, BM1, BM2, MK2, EM2 and several FN's and SN's. The crew of the NEAH BAY appreciates your continued support and wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season.



As you prepare to mail those Holiday care packages keep the following dates in mind to allow time for your packages to arrive to your Sailor overseas:

Parcel Post - December 4

First Class and Priority Mail - December 11

Express Mail - December 18

The USPS can also supply military family members and friends with packaging materials. Call toll-free 800-610-8734 and select option #1, then #1 again, and ask for the "Mil-kit." USPS will send three flat boxes, two cube boxes, nine address labels and 16 customs forms. The materials take about 7-10 days to receive. For more tips on mailing care packages to military members overseas please go to

<http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/>.

Council Newsletter to go Digital

As we have been telling you, this is to be our last "printed" newsletter. In fact everyone will be getting a newsletter. If you are on our e-mail list, your e-mail is listed below. Please check it to make sure it is accurate. If we don't have your e-mail address, please e-mail your e-mail address along with your ID number (see label on your envelope) at: a_molter@ameritech.net. Please say Navy League in subject line.

☐ We have your e-mail listed as: _____

☐ We do not have your e-mail, it is: _____

For those of you who absolutely can not receive your newsletter via e-mail, you must return this notice back to us to keep sending you a paper copy otherwise none will be sent.

☐ Yes, please mail my newsletter to: _____

Help Your Council

As you are probably aware, a non-profit organization like The Navy League of The United States/Cleveland Council relies on the generosity of those who make charitable donations. As such, we are grateful to you, a member of The Navy League of The United States/Cleveland Council, for the donations you have so kindly provided. Year end is upon us and most of us are looking for those last minute tax deductions. Please don't forget your local Navy League Council.

We recently received a donation from a member who sent us forms for their employer to match the donation. It was a great success. So if your employment has such a program, we can accept those donations as well. Thank you for those who have contributed this past year as these donations help support our council and it's effort's to contribute to our men and women in the Sea Services. We will continue to support the Sea Services as long as we can. If you want to help, please send in a small donation. Remember, if every member sent in \$10, we would collect close to \$1,780.00 That is huge to this council. **HUGE**.

If you care to donate, please send your check to the following address:

The Navy League of The United States/Cleveland Council
3842 Montevista Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

New Members Welcomed

We would like to personally welcome our new members to our council and hope they will become more actively involved. Please welcome the following new members:

Michaela Meaney

Navy League of The United States/Cleveland
Council

Email:
a_molter@ameritech.net

*Cleveland Compass
Knowing Where Your
Council is Going*

We're on the Web:

www.geocities.com/clevelandcouncil



Editor's Corner

We are glad that our friend and council member has come home. We thank Karen Pallat for all of her insightful points of view from a soldiers perspective. Please see our new section "Welcome Home" and read Karen's comments. If you know of someone who has or will be returning from the war, we would like to keep this segment going. When sending out your Christmas or Holiday cards, please take a moment to remember a soldier that will not be home this holiday season and send them a card, too.

We have had a rather quiet year which was mainly due to our council funds. We are very mindful that when we do spend our dwindling funds that they are indeed being used towards our men and women in the Maritime Services. So, no we do not do the dinners or cocktail parties that this council was once famous for but instead we support our local Sea Cadet unit, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. That is why we need your help to get on board with our digital newsletter. The cost of printing and mailings derail our efforts to support these services.

We need ways to build up our Council's Treasury. One sure way to do that is to sign up as a Community Affiliate. The rebates to our council are fantastic. With only eight of these, we double our membership rebates from National. If you have a small business, please contact Doug Cabarle for more information.

Alice Molter, Editor

NOSC Akron—Continued



Admiral Smith is the Official Guest Speaker

On September 22, 2007, the closing ceremony for NOSC Cleveland was held with guest speaker RADM Duret Smith. October 1, 2007 Navy Operational Support Center Cleveland was officially closed. The reservists attached to Cleveland along with some Full Time Support Staff members have been transferred to NOSC Akron under Commanding Officer LCDR John R. Sterba and Senior Enlisted Leader is DCC Brad Bracken. NOSC Akron now has over 315