



Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



1st quarter 2021

Minnesota Navy League Council Establishes LCS Store



Countdown has started for the commissioning of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) in Duluth next spring.

In order to support this auspicious event, the Minnesota Navy League recently restructured the LCS 21 Commissioning page on our website at [LCS 21 — Navy League of Minnesota \(navyleaguemn.org\)](http://LCS 21 — Navy League of Minnesota (navyleaguemn.org)). The restructured site includes easier

navigation and specific information on Commissioning and Ticketing, LCS Ship Facts, Our Sponsors, and a newly established Store for you to purchase LCS memorabilia.

At the Store, you can purchase USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) artwork from Duluth native and professional artist, John Salminen. This one-of-a-kind, limited-edition artwork is available in both signed/numbered and unsigned options and features the ship and Duluth's iconic lift bridge. The giclee print will not be framed allowing you to customize your own framing. Prices include shipping and handling.

Sizes and Prices:

- Small: 13-inch x 18-inch unsigned giclee print: \$ 75.00
- Large: 21-inch x 29-inch unsigned giclee print: \$160.00
- Large: 21-inch x 29-inch Signed giclee print: \$225.00

For those interested in something smaller, we have both LCS Commemorative coins as well as ballcaps. The USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Commissioning Coin features the official Ships Crest, an image of the ship on the opposite side, and a reference to the Port of Duluth where the ship will be commissioned. A unique feature of this coin honors our namesake ships. On the edge of the coin, we show the hull numbers of USS Minneapolis (CA 36), USS St Paul (CA 73) and USS Minneapolis-St Paul (SSN 783). Coins cost is \$15.00 each and includes shipping and handling. Ballcaps sell for \$25.00 and feature the ship's name as well as crest and are a wonderful way to show your support for this upcoming event.

You can also request your tickets on the website as well as learn all the most up-to-date information on the ship and crew. Let us know what you think of the redesigned site through our "Contact Us" button and get all your LCS 21 memorabilia so you can show your support when the commissioning happens next year.

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A Message from the Minnesota Council President



This year will certainly be one to remember, not only for our nation and the Navy League of the United States, but one that has affected all our men and woman serving on the front lines as well as the challenges we have all endured with the Covid pandemic. As we look back, we had a year with many challenges but also a year of triumphs. The impacts of early lockdowns in the Spring, ongoing social distancing and wearing of masks, changed our daily tempo and how we approach navigating through a sea of epic events.

While this change has been hard, it has afforded us the opportunity to learn new skills and be nimble in how we approach our lives. With the Navy League being a 118-year-old institution, we have adapted to new norms, from adjusting our family, work and personal schedules, to sheltering in place and learning how to connect differently whether by Facetime, Zoom or just via a phone conference. We've forged new ways to interact while protecting each other.

In the following columns you will read of all the hard work our team has accomplished this year, from social outreach to veterans celebrating birthdays involving drive by celebrations, to our efforts supporting our Navy commands and Sea Cadet units in Minnesota. Additionally, the plans we have been working on for commissioning of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS-21) later next year have been at the forefront of our efforts. Working together with our team and our Navy League members we can have an unwavering commitment to carry forward our missions in the face of great adversity.

As you read the enclosed articles on our wide ranging Navy League engagement efforts, please take a moment to reflect on how you too can be involved in supporting future opportunities. We have great momentum underway, but like any ship, we need to replenish our efforts and help where possible. Two areas of immediate need are helping our Sea Cadets source much needed warm weather gear as well as involving yourself with our LCS-21 Commissioning efforts, whether by a donation or offer to help us to move the chains forward towards commissioning.

My final ask is to share this newsletter with someone who is not a Navy League member and encourage them to join us in our efforts. Better yet, you can provide them with an on-line membership for a small investment and enroll them in our family. New member acquisition drives our success. Anyone who has a desire in their heart to support the men and women of our sea and maritime services should covet a membership to the Navy League.

In closing, it is my personal wish to you and your family for a safe, fruitful and fulfilling Holiday season. I am humbled and honored for the privilege to serve the NLUS Minnesota Council and gratefully welcome your positive encouragement and continued support.





Naval Sea Cadets Need Winter Parkas!!!

Brrr!!!! When it is cold outside, we all reach for our warm jacket or parka to keep us warm. Minnesota's Naval Sea Cadets don't have those warm parkas, so the Minnesota Navy League Council is issuing an urgent all hands-on deck to our Minnesota Council members to help them out.

The Minnesota Navy League supports four United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps units across the state of Minnesota, Twin Ports Division – Duluth; Polaris Battalion – Cambridge; Twin Cities Squadron – Arden Hills, and Lake Agassiz Division – Grand Forks.



The Naval Sea Cadets is a national youth leadership development program that promotes interest and skill in naval disciplines while instilling strong moral character and life skills through leadership and technical programs modeled after the Navy's professional development system. USNSCC is comprised of two programs. The Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) program is for young people ages 13 through the completion of high school. Also included under the USNSCC umbrella is our junior program the Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC), for young people ages 10 through 13.

The Sea Cadets recently changed their Naval Working Uniform to align with the Navy Type III green digital uniform. The Navy authorized and paid for two sets of Type III uniforms for each cadet, but did not include the cold weather parka which as you know is a must in Minnesota winters.

The Sea Cadets need 89 parkas at a cost of \$190 each for a total of \$16,910. The Minnesota Navy League Council is looking to fill this need by asking for monetary donations from all our members. Lets all help our Sea Cadets stay warm this winter by giving a small to donation to help Minnesota Navy League raise the funds necessary to outfit our local Sea Cadets!!!!

Please send your tax-free donation, in any amount to our Minnesota Navy League Treasurer Mark Stange at 655 Evergreen Circle, Shoreview, MN 55126, so we can help our young men and women stay warm this winter!!!!





USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

PCU Minneapolis-Saint Paul successfully completes both MOB-D and AT certifications



MSP Crewmembers set up a RAM Fan for de-smoking operations onboard LCS-19.

To the Minnesota Navy League and our sponsor, the honorable Jodi. J Greene, the crew of PCU Minneapolis St. Paul wishes you Happy Holidays!

The littoral combat ship Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) successfully completed its Mobility Damage Control Warfare (MOB-D) assessment Nov. 13.

MOB-D is an assessment of a crew's ability to respond quickly and efficiently to a variety of training situations where the ship has taken structural or engineering damage.

“Passing MOB-D and completing it successfully is just the first stepping stone for the crew,” said Lt.j.g. Pelan, electronic materials officer and repair locker officer aboard Minneapolis-Saint Paul. “The motivation seen during these drills, by all the Sailors, will carry us through all of our follow-on events.”

Minneapolis-Saint Paul's MOB-D was divided into two training stages and a culminating assessment. In the first stage, the COMLCSRON 2 training team providing classroom instruction on basic damage control fundamentals, such as fire hose handling, pipe patching and erecting structural damage supports. During the second stage, the COMLCSRON 2 training team guided Minneapolis-Saint Paul's Damage Control Training Team (DCTT) through a series of drills designed to test their ability to provide rapid response to simulated at-sea emergencies.

“Damage Control is the responsibility of all hands,” said Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) 2nd Class Dipalma, one of the DCTT leaders. “The Ship's motto, I will find a way or make one', applies to damage control in every aspect because by learning how to fight the ship we gain the ability to keep the crew and the ship safe during the worst possible circumstances.”

Everything learned throughout MOB-D culminated in a final assessment where COMLCSRON 2 assessors observed the ship's DCTT's through 11 drills which tested their ability to combat fires, flooding, and structural damage.



MSP Crewmembers prepare to fight a fire onboard LCS 19.



USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

PCU Minneapolis-Saint Paul successfully completes both MOB-D and AT certifications (Continued)



Minneapolis Saint Paul crew members participate in AT/FP training

Now certified, those watchstanders are fully trained to work as a team to ensure the safety of the ship.

The certification event culminated in an 11 drill, two-day event, where two watchteams were assessed on their proficiency in countering waterborne, airborne, vehicular, and pedestrian threats which might arise on the pier, aboard the ship, or in the water.

“Every single Sailor came together and trusted each other with our lives because at the end of the day when we’re all downrange, we’re all each other is going to have out there,” said Gunner’s Mate (SW) 1st Class Aguilar, a leading member of the ship’s AT/FP team. “There’s no doubt this crew is very capable of finding a way or making one to exceed mission demands, regardless of the field!”



Minneapolis Saint Paul crew members participate in AT/FP training



Minneapolis Saint Paul crew members participate in AT/FP training



USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

LCS 21 Commissioning Committee Update by Brian Skon

I'd want like to recap the great momentum we've got going despite our challenges in a COVID-19 year:

- We raised \$25,000 in the last two months; we still have a long way to go to get to \$300,000.
- Official watercolor process is set up with a Duluth vendor thanks to Vice Chair Lynn Wegner. I have received five copies that are being framed for key donors and they are spectacular!!!!
- Website updates complete, including set-up for ordering swag/collectibles
- I have 500 coins in hand and ordering is brisk on the website
- Over 150 fundraising letters have been sent out to Minnesota companies. Truly amazing how many fabulous companies there are in our state and the wide variety of industries there are in the state.
- Kevin Olson is working on Cargill corporate as a potential key donor, as well as a couple key grant opportunities
- Mike Nelson is working on a key potential donor in Hudson, WI
- We have ballcaps available for purchase and I'm getting a quote on 50 additional ballcaps for purchase on the website.

USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Commissioning Committee Readies to Release To Release Honorary Chairperson Video Spot



Kevin Olson, working with Hubbard Broadcasting and Greg Coleman, has produced a fabulous video spot for release in the near future.

The video spot will show off the Navy to the people of Minnesota and create a wide awareness of

LCS 21 and the role the ship in guaranteeing all American's freedom. The extraordinary Sailors who will serve on USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) exemplify the hope, compassion, excellence and valor that all Americans strive to achieve.

The ship bears the name of two incredible cities, and the video will show how Minnesotans can engage with the LCS 21 Commissioning committee and participate in the commissioning next year.

We will update you when the video will be released



Command Updates



NOSC Minneapolis Hosts Change of Command September 1, 2020

Commander John Stump relieved Commander Hunter Thompson as Commanding Officer of Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Minneapolis during a combined change-of-command and retirement ceremony, September 19, 2020.



Captain Frank Pietrusiewicz, Deputy Commander Navy Region Northwest Reserve Component Command, and Rear Admiral Mike Steffen, Deputy Commander 2nd Fleet, served as the presiding officer and keynote speaker respectively. Both appeared remotely due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.



Commander Thompson assumed command of NOSC Minneapolis in July 2018 and is retiring after 20 years of honorable service.



Commander Stump, a native of New Hampshire, arrives from his most recent assignment at the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Navy Reserve.



NOSC Minneapolis is committed to its

mission of generating mobilization readiness by providing administrative services, training support, and outstanding customer service to Selected Reserve personnel in support of surge and operational requirements for the Navy and Marine Corps team and Joint Forces. In 2020, this included mobilizing over 40 Sailors in support of COVID response to both support our nation's hospitals and our Navy Shipyards.



NOSC Change of Command

USCG Station Duluth Update



USCGC Alder inbound to Duluth with iconic Lift Bridge

As winter descends upon the Great Lakes, units within the Ninth Coast Guard District are participating in Operation Fall Retrieve, removing over 1,000 navigational aids protecting over 6,000 miles of coastline.

These aids are removed for the winter to prevent the damage the ice and harsh winter weather would inflict. This year USCGC ALDER, homeported in Duluth Minnesota, has removed over 70 aids to navigation in Lake Superior, Huron, and Erie.



USCGC Alder doing nighttime Buoy recovery

Command Updates



Sea Cadet Update

The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) has four units in Minnesota/North Dakota.



They are Polaris Battalion in Cambridge with about 50 cadets (Seabee oriented). Polaris Battalion also has a "training ship" which has at least 15 League Cadets [age 10 thru 12]. Twin Cities Squadron in Arden Hills has about 45 cadets (aviation oriented), while Twin Ports Division in Duluth has about 25 cadets (blue water oriented). They also are heavily involved in medical support activities. Finally, we have Lake Agassiz Division in Grand Forks which has about 6 cadets (blue water oriented).



The USNSCC divides the United States into several Regions which are further subdivided into subregions. Minnesota/North Dakota fall in Region 9-7. All region 9-7 battalions conducted in-person drills in October and November. However, because of the current increase in COVID-19 cases, all in-person drills for December and January have been canceled. The units will continue using on-line drills during this period.



Twin Ports Cadet practices Rifle Training during fall drills

University of Minnesota ROTC Update

Amidst the pandemic, the UMN NROTC Battalion has continued to train and prepare our future Naval and Marine Corps Officers while maintaining all local, state, and federal safety regulations and proper social distancing procedures. As the pandemic is continually changing, the Battalion continues to adapt and view COVID as the challenge, not the excuse. Physical training and drill for Midshipman has continued in-person in small groups while our staff continues to deliver all Naval Science Courses over OOM in a distance-learning setting.



Captain Blake Torga with Capt Nicholie Bufkin during change of command ceremony.

As previously mentioned in our last newsletter, the Battalion change of command ceremony took place on October 2nd where CAPT Blake Torga relieved CAPT Nicholie Bufkin as the Commanding Officer of UMN NROTC. The ceremony was conducted with the immediate families of CAPT Bufkin and CAPT Torga and was live-streamed via the Battalion Facebook page. The Unit will also be conducting a virtual retirement ceremony for CAPT Bufkin during the spring semester to celebrate her full and distinguished career of naval service.

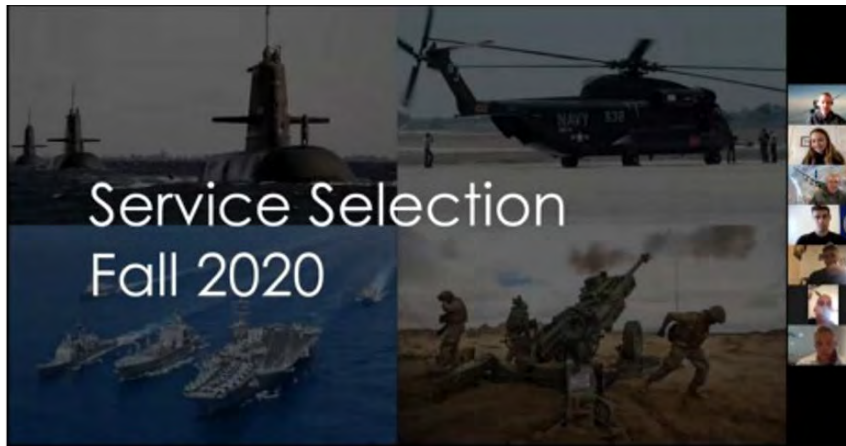
Service selection took place for our eleven 1st Class Midshipmen on October 19th and we are proud to announce each midshipman received their top choice of designator.

Command Updates

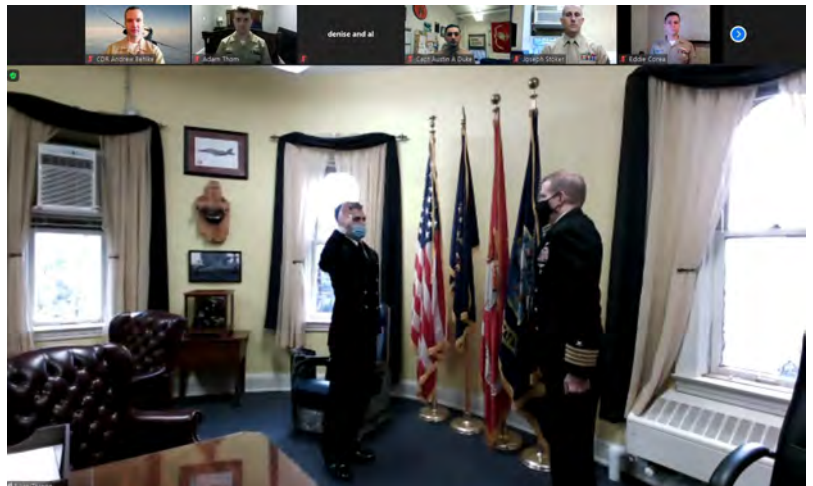
University of Minnesota ROTC Update (Continued)

We have four future Naval Aviators, one Surface Warfare Officer - Intel, one Submarine Officer, and one Nurse. The remaining four are Marine options and will receive their Marine Occupational Specialty after completing the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. The Battalion could not be prouder of our graduating 1st Class Midshipmen and we are so excited to see them begin their careers as Naval and Marine Corps Officers in just a few short months.

Commissioning is a very prestigious time for the Midshipmen as they transition from a student to a Naval Officer. CAPT Tornnga had the distinct pleasure of swearing in Ensign Michael Luppi into Naval service on Friday 18 December. Ensign Luppi will be transferring to Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola, Florida where he will start flight school to become a Naval Aviator.



Virtual Service Selection for University of Minnesota Midshipmen.



Ensign Michael Luppi Virtual Commissioning. Ensign Luppi will be transitioning to Naval Aviation Schools Command to start flight training as a Naval Aviator.

Command Updates

Naval Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Update



NTAG Change of Command at historic Fort Snelling

Greetings to the great Navy League of Minnesota!

What a year we've had! This year, as you all know, has been one for the records.

Let me first start by introducing myself, I am Cmdr. James Duvall, the recently appointed commanding officer of NTAG Northern Plains.

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, our change of command was a bit less ceremonial than normal, however, we did our best to send off CDR Darkenwald in traditional Navy fashion and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas on their next tour.

In a traditional change of command ceremony, as most of you know, guests can usually expect to see a ceremonial band, sideboys, leadership from the next echelon, an exceptionally large ceremonial flag, boatswain's pipes and guest speakers.

In this ceremony, we had a very small gathering outdoors, distanced and masked, in front of the Historic Fort Snelling. We didn't have cake or a huge flag, but we did conduct a passing of the command guidon and it was a nice, intimate setting with a few family members and essential Sailors. It is definitely something I will remember for years to come.

As you know, due to COVID-19 safety precautions, we have modified our recruiting strategy to respond in the most socially appropriate and safe manner possible, including a shift earlier this year to 100 percent virtual prospecting, and now to more of a hybrid of virtual and in-person prospecting, while maintaining distance with proper personal protective equipment.

There are definitely still some challenges with the virtual prospecting and not being able to give classroom presentations, but the Navy nationwide made their recruiting goal for 2020 and we are confident in our ability to continue to man the fleet as we offer our prospects the opportunity of a lifetime.

Although there is a COVID-19 vaccine on the horizon that will hopefully allow us all to return back to a somewhat normal life, we will still have our work cut out for us in 2021. Next year we will be observing the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks – which will likely result in a larger than normal increase of Navy service members transitioning to retirement and therefore placing a higher demand on our mission of manning the fleet.

Due to that expectation, our recruiting efforts and upcoming events are more important now than ever before! We are hopeful that the USS Minneapolis St. Paul commissioning will still be able to take place in Duluth and we are also starting the planning stages for three appearances

Command Updates

Naval Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Update (Continued)



by the Blue Angels in our territory next summer – they are planning to be the featured performers at the La Crosse, Duluth, and Fargo air shows and have already committed to Eau Claire for 2022. In addition to that, we are working with NAVCO to identify opportunities for Navy Weeks in the coming year. That meeting is planned for January.



Internal to our command, we received our chief select results just before Thanksgiving this year and we are very excited to have five selectees. They are currently going through modified chief initiation season, with much of their trainings and events being held virtually. It is a unique experience, to say the least, but here in the final month of 2020, it's become commonplace to adapt and modify much of the way we operate. We are looking to have their pinning ceremony toward the end of January.



Alongside the change of command, we also welcomed Cmdr. John Allen into the seat as our new executive officer. Cmdr. Allen is an exceptional officer, a USNA graduate and career aviator - we are very excited to have him aboard!



In the coming months, I am hoping that we will have a clearer view of what 2021 will bring us, but I know that we are up for the challenge and by working together and combining resources as much as possible, we will succeed. I look forward to working with you all and I wish you and yours the best this holiday season.

CDR James Duvall,
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains



NTAG Change of Command at historic Fort Snelling

Other News

Gov. Walz Announces New Milestone In Ending Veteran Homelessness In MN [Reprint from WCCO](#)

By Esme Murphy November 11, 2020 at 3:05 pm



MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) — Gov. Tim Walz is marking Veterans Day by announcing a new milestone in ending veteran homelessness in the state of Minnesota. The federal designation for ending veteran homelessness was given to the Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care (SMAC) and includes five counties: Anoka, Carver, Scott, Dakota, and Washington.

Since 2014, when SMAC’s initiative began, more than 2,100 previously homeless veterans have been housed. In 2019, more than 500 veterans were housed through the program, a record number. The funding for the initiative comes from federal grants.

The governor described it as not a bandage-type fix, but a permanent solution. “This is not about placing someone for an evening. This is not about us not believing that more veterans will come into the system and potentially fall upon this. But it’s creating a deep and broad safety net that is there to lift them up,” said Walz.

Since 2014, the Minnesota agency Suburban Metro Area Continuum of Care — with the help of federal vouchers — has housed more than 2,100 homeless Minnesota veterans. In 2019, a record 500 homeless vets got help finding and paying for a home. Among them was veteran Deborah Spencer.

“My story is I broke my leg about a year ago, went through my savings, went back to work, COVID hit, and I am homeless,” Spencer said.

The agency found her a home in Carver County.

The governor and some officials said there’s still a ways to go. Some of the counties which have not been able to eliminate homelessness for veterans include Ramsey, Hennepin, and St. Louis counties. Currently there are about 308 veterans on the waiting list for homes.

The COVID pandemic, with its enormous job losses, has left more veterans homeless. The goal of this announcement is to let them know there are resources out there where they can get help.

Anyone who knows a veteran experiencing homelessness can go to 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838) or minnesotaveteran.org.

Other News

SECNAV Names Two Future Virginia-class Submarines Tang, Wahoo

18 November 2020



USS Tang (SS-306)



USS Wahoo (SS-238)

Secretary of the Navy announced that two future Virginia-class attack submarines will be named USS Tang and USS Wahoo.

Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite announced Nov. 17 that two future Virginia-class attack submarines will be named USS Tang and USS Wahoo.

USS Tang (SSN 805) and USS Wahoo (SSN 806) will carry the names of two storied World War II submarines.

“The success in battle both previous namesakes endured will undoubtedly bring great pride to the future crews of USS Tang and USS Wahoo,” said Braithwaite. “Along with the previously named USS Barb (SSN 804), these boats will honor the strong traditions and heritage of the silent service.”

This will be the third time that the name Tang and Wahoo will be used for U.S. Navy submarines.

USS Tang (SS-306) was a Balao-class submarine and the first U.S. Navy ship to bear the name Tang, a surgeon fish popular in the waters of the Pacific Ocean. She was built and launched in 1943, and under the command of Lt. Cmdr. Richard H. O’Kane, she was credited with sinking five enemy ships during the boat’s first war patrol. In her five patrols, Tang is credited with sinking 31 ships, totaling 227,800 tons and damaging two for 4,100 tons. Tang received four battle stars and two Presidential Unit Citations for her service during WWII, and O’Kane received the Medal of Honor for Tang’s final, heroic actions.

A second USS Tang (SS-563), the first ship in the Navy’s Tang-class of Diesel submarines, was commissioned in October 1951. She was among the first post-WWII submarines designed under the Greater Underwater Propulsion Power Program (GUPPY). She went on to complete multiple patrols supporting the Vietnam War, and later became a training vessel in Groton, Connecticut, before decommissioning in February 1980. Tang earned four battle stars for service in Vietnamese waters.

USS Wahoo (SS-238) was a Gato-class submarine and the first U.S. Navy ship to be named for the wahoo fish, a scombrid fish found worldwide in tropical and subtropical seas. Construction on the submarine started before the U.S. entered WWII, and commissioned after the U.S. entered the war. On October 11, 1943, Wahoo, under the command of the renowned Lt. Cmdr. Dudley Walker “Mush” Morton, was sunk with all 79 hands onboard by air and surface attack as she was attempting to exit the Sea of Japan via La Perouse Strait.

Other News

SECNAV Names Two Future Virginia-class Submarines Tang, Wahoo (Continued) 18 November 2020

At the time of her loss, Wahoo was the most storied boat in the fleet. In her seven war patrols, she earned six battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation. The boat would be credited with sinking 20 Japanese ships, 19 of them during her last five war patrols. Morton was later awarded the Navy Cross and the destroyer USS Morton (DD-948) was named in his honor.

The second USS Wahoo (SS-565), a Tang-class submarine, was commissioned on Memorial Day in 1952. After training exercises in the waters off the Hawaiian Islands, Wahoo embarked on tours of duty in the western Pacific as part of Seventh Fleet. She then completed two tours of duty in support of the Vietnam War and was decommissioned in June 1980. Wahoo was also recognized for her actions in Vietnamese waters.

Rules for giving certain types of names to certain types of Navy ships have evolved over time. Attack submarines, for example, were once named for fish, then later for cities and states. However, Braithwaite supports naming future submarines after past vessels with historic naval legacies.

“Naming Virginia class submarines is a unique opportunity to reclaim submarine names that carry inspirational records of achievement,” Braithwaite added.

Attack submarines are designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; project power ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and Special Operation Forces (SOF); carry out Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions; support battle group operations; and engage in mine warfare. For more information about attack submarines, visit <https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2169558/attack-submarines-ssn/>



USS Tang (SS-563)



USS Wahoo (SS-565)

Other News

US Naval Academy Information Program Update

It has been a very busy quarter for the United States Naval Academy and the Blue and Gold Officers working throughout Minnesota.

The COVID-19 restrictions remain in place with Midshipmen academics being conducted in a hybrid environment. Many of the usual fall activities were curtailed this year in the interest of personal safety.

The usual Thanksgiving week Operation Information was canceled this year, with several virtual information sessions replacing the traditional in-person presentations made by Midshipmen. In fact, all off-yard liberty over the extended Thanksgiving weekend was canceled this year. At the end of the semester, Midshipmen will be granted a Five-week winter break in order to return home, enjoy family and return to USNA safely.

As the fall set of Midshipmen leaders come to the conclusion of their term in office, the Commandant of Midshipmen, Captain Thomas R. Buchanan, USN, announced the spring semester Midshipmen leadership team. This includes Midshipman First Class Sydney Barber, who becomes the United States Naval Academy's first African American woman to serve as Brigade Commander. She will hold the rank of Midshipman Captain and lead the Brigade throughout the spring semester.

The nomination process for Congressional nominations is winding down, with most Congressional offices having now completed service academy nomination interviews for the year. Minnesota's Blue and Gold Officers actively aided both Senate and Representative offices by participating as members of nomination interview teams. The final nominations will be announced by the Congressional offices by January 31, 2021. Each member of Congress can have five constituents attending the Naval Academy at any given time. When a constituent leaves the academy, a vacancy is created. Each member of Congress may nominate up to ten candidates for each of their vacancies. These nominees then compete via the Academy admissions board to fill the vacancy.

Thanks to the interested persons who have inquired about becoming United States Naval Academy Information Officers or Blue and gold Officers. We are now processing the most recent applications and assigning areas of responsibility. A need continues to exist for new Blue and gold Officers in southern and Western Minnesota. The primary requirements for a Blue and Gold Officer are to have an interest and desire to both provide counseling and information to candidates and applicants. They encourage and guide exceptional individuals to seek a Naval career through the United States Naval Academy. Persons seeking more information on the training and responsibilities of a Blue and Gold Officer are asked to contact Minnesota's Area Coordinator, Captain Mark Salmen, via e-mail at mark.salmen@1973.usna.com



Midshipmen arrive at Annapolis to check in for fall semester

Other News

Minnesota Naval League Scholarships Awarded to University of Minnesota Midshipmen



USS Minnesota Scholarship Recipient
MIDN 3/C Max Nelson

This fall, two Midshipmen (MIDN) from the University of Minnesota Reserve Officer Training Corps were awarded USS Minnesota Scholarships, on behalf of the Minnesota Navy League. This award is presented to Sailors of the USS Minnesota and their family members that attend the University of Minnesota or are top performing Midshipmen in the Battalion. This year, the two scholarship winners were MIDN 3rd Class Max Nelson and MIDN 3rd Class Garret Hintze.

MIDN Max Nelson is from Eden Prairie, Minnesota and is currently studying finance at the Carlson School of Management. The Carlson School of Management is the business school at the University of Minnesota and offers undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees, as well as an executive education program.

MIDN Nelson was the previous Public Affairs Officer for the battalion and managed all public outreach and social media. His extracurriculars include playing intramural hockey and soccer through the University and he was recently elected president of his fraternity. He hopes to commission as a Naval Aviator.

MIDN Hintze is from Shakopee, Minnesota and is also studying finance at Carlson School of Management. He served as Squad Leader and hopes to commission into a Marine ground Marine Occupational Specialty. MIDN Hintze's extracurriculars include playing for the University of Minnesota club lacrosse team and he had a very successful hunting season this fall.

MIDN Nelson and MIDN Hintze would like to express their gratitude to the Navy League for the scholarship during these financially trying times brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic.



USS Minnesota Scholarship Recipient
MIDN 3/C Garrett Hintze

Other News

Twin Ports Division/Enduring the Pandemic



Ensign James Sumstad died unexpectedly in his sleep on September 14th. He was the Executive Officer/Supply officer for Twin Ports Division of the USNCC.

During the final quarter of 2020, Twin Ports Division has been busy dealing with the ever-changing conditions pertaining to the Coronavirus. Recruiting and retention is still up despite the pandemic.

Since March, the command has been unable to actively conduct recruiting operations. Yet, to date, we have had nine new recruits enlist, with another one to two scheduled to join in January. Due to an uptick in cases nation-wide, November and December drill were the units first virtual drill weekends in the command's 18-year history.

Twin Ports Division has not made it through this pandemic unscathed. While some sailors within the command have experienced the death of loved ones both friends and family over the course of 2020, statistically, we knew we would most likely suffer casualties within our own ranks.

Since the last quarterly newsletter, we have lost one of our personnel. Ensign James Sumstad, the Executive Officer of Twin Ports Division due to possible Coronavirus complications. Having a heart history involving corrective surgery years ago, he contracted the virus late summer at work near the Twin Cities. Over his recovery period, his heart symptoms returned and he underwent surgery again. Things went back to normal, to the point where he returned to work. However, one day he failed to come in. Ensign James Sumstad served in Twin Ports Division for almost 2 1/2 years, his duties included: serving as an instructor, Supply Officer, and most recently as the Executive Officer. Notable achievements include him medically treating runners during Grandma's Marathon, Safety Officer on-board during the historic S.S. William A. Irvin move and instructing Navy Culinary Specialist services. Working hard to pin on Lieutenant Junior Grade before his untimely demise, a request was submitted up the chain of command for a posthumous promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. This request was recently granted. A command memorial service will be held sometime in 2021. His obituary can be found at: [JAMES "JIM" ARNOLD SUMSTAD – The Tribune Press Reporter \(dewittmedia.com\)](#)

On the medical front, one of our sailors that transferred to the Army as a combat medic, returned home on leave to train the newer members of Twin Ports Division in basic combat lifesaving. This included classroom sessions and practicals. It has been a unique year for Twin Ports Division on the medical front.

Other News

Twin Ports Division/Enduring the Pandemic (Continued)

From March-August, Twin Ports Division augmented the American Red Cross during regional blood drives. Already having a great working relationship with the Red Cross, our unit was notified that they were in need of extra volunteers to screen donors for blood donations. As most of their staff were in the "At risk" age demographics, many of their volunteers were staying home. With the country at a critical blood shortage, members of the command volunteered on their own accord to aid in any way possible to fill the Red Cross manning needs. Some members of Twin Ports Division even donated themselves. One member that donated has a rare blood type that only two percent of the U.S. population has. That donation was sent to a University Hospital in Philadelphia to a patient in need there.



Doc conducting CLS Training with Twin Port Cadets

Polaris Battalion works to keep Cadets Engaged

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, Polaris Battalion has been working many new initiatives to keep our cadets engaged during this period.

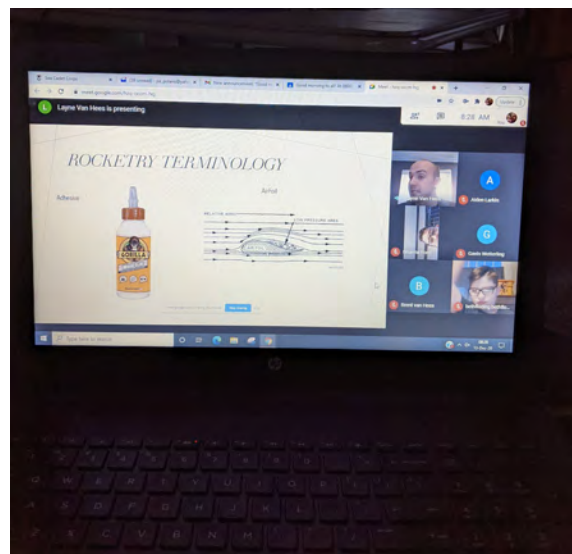
Polaris held four small group welding sessions with our Operations officer and cadets from the battalion.

The cadets created a welding cart and a welding table. Over the four sessions, 12 cadets participated.

Also, during this period, Polaris started a model rocket session with the League cadets from Training Ship Trident. We have four sessions planned with the launches taking place in late February/early March. HC Layne van Hees is teaching the sessions virtually from his base in Norfolk Virginia. He was the unit STEM officer before enlisting. Cadets are doing their builds in December and January. They will go over the physics of launching a rocket and in February they will be going over meteorology covering how the weather can affect rocket flight.

FC3 Eric Madsen, also a former unit staff member before enlisting, is teaching two classes, one on Communications and another on the Close in Weapon System (CIWS). He is also teaching the sessions from his base in Norfolk Virginia.

Cadets that are all home based have been tasked with working on virtual academy sessions on the United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) website. These included virtual tours of the USS Constitution, Pearl Harbor and the HMS Victory. They also watched age-appropriate military movies and wrote a 1/2-page reports on the movies and what was significant about the film and its place in military history.



HC Layne van Hees is teaching virtual Rocket sessions from his base in Norfolk Virginia.

Other News

Minnesota Navy League Supports Navy Birthday with local Bridge Lightings



On October 9, 2020 William L. James, President of the Minnesota Council of the Navy League spoke at the lighting of the I35W bridge in honor of the Navy's 245th birthday. Mr. James said "We are doing various tributes around the city to highlight the men and women and sailors who stand at the forefront of protecting our country." The bridge was lit the traditional Navy Blue and Gold.

Additionally, on October 13, 2020, the Highway 7 and Louisiana Avenue bridge in St. Louis Park shined blue to mark the 245th anniversary of the Navy which was established on October 13, 1775, by the Continental Congress. The City of St. Louis Park issued a proclamation recognizing the birthday of the United States Navy. The St. Louis Park City Council also recognized the role of the Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council for their role in supporting the United States Navy, the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marine Services through national and local programs.



Minnesota Navy League Outreach North Update



Joyce Lacey, United States Navy League Minnesota Council Vice President of Outreach North has been very busy these past months.

Joyce has continued grocery and necessities delivery to veterans and their families, in conjunction with the

June Lynne Lacey Foundation. She also was able to provide Thanksgiving meals to Veterans and will also do this for Christmas. In addition, presents were provided.

She delivered poinsettias to nursing homes, Veteran's Hospitals, and to those veterans confined to their homes and Veteran's Homes.

Joyce recently attended the Minnesota Council on Disability Annual Legislative Forum December 17th and had the opportunity to express Veterans concerns at the Forum. Speakers included Governor Tim Walz, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, the Minnesota Commissioner of the Department of Human Services Jodi Harpstead, the Minnesota Commissioner of the Department of Health Jan Malcolm, Senator Abeler, Representative Liebling and Representative Schultz. Serious matters such a suicide prevention, funding for veterans and homelessness were discussed.

Joyce wishes everyone a blessed holiday season and joyous New Year!

Other News

Minnesota Navy League Sponsors Drive By Birthday Celebrations

If you know of a veteran, who has an upcoming birthday and is in seclusion, due to the pandemic, please let us know. We will organize a Drive by Birthday Salute and hopefully make their day very special! Please contact Vice President of Outreach North, Joyce Lacey at usnavyleague.mn.outreach@gmail.com.



The Minnesota Navy League would be honored to put together a drive-by celebration to honor and pay tribute to any family who requests this. It is our honor and privilege to pay tribute to those who have served our country.

Did You Know? By Brandon Montanye

On April 18, 1942, sixteen North American B-25 Mitchell bombers, led by Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, launched from the pitching flight deck of the USS HORNET (CV-8). Their mission was to bomb Tokyo, Japan. This mission would serve as a retaliatory strike for the attack at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. The operation also provided a much needed boost to the moral of the American people and had a huge impact psychologically on Japan. This would be the first time this type of operation had been attempted.

The B-25s were craned aboard HORNET at Naval Air Station Alameda. The ship got underway as part of Task Force 18 (TF18) on April 2, 1942. They steamed toward their intended launch point East of Japan. On the morning of April 18, ships of TF18 were spotted by a Japanese patrol craft. The decision was made to immediately launch the B-25s. The launch was 10 hours early and 170 nautical miles farther than the bombers intended point of departure. The damage that was inflicted by the bombers was minimal. However, the strategic victory it provided was immense.

Did you know the B-25 bombers launched from the USS HORNET for that famed raid on Tokyo were modified in Minneapolis, specifically for that mission? On February 10, 1942 at Mid-Continental Airlines based at Wold-Chamberlain field (the current Minneapolis St. Paul International airport), Lieutenant Colonel Doolittle informed the Supervisor of Maintenance, Benjamin F. Krause, that he needed twenty-four aircraft modified with long range fuel tanks by March 3rd. Mid-Continental Airlines took on the task and soon the B-25s arrived at the airfield. Prior to this there were no blueprints for the tanks or the modifications. Plans and all the hardware for the fuel tanks were fabricated on location at the airline. They completed the task and the last modified B-25 flew out on the February 28th.

If it were not for the fabrication and installation of the long-range fuel tanks on such a compressed timeline by this Minnesota company, the success of the Tokyo Raid would not have been possible.



B-25 bombers at Wold-Chamberlain Field



B-25 Bombers on deck of USS Hornet



USS Hornet departing San Francisco



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther Kings Birthday	January 18
Inauguration Day	January 20



February

Black History Month	Entire Month
Ground Hog Day	February 2
Four Chaplains Day	February 3
USO Birthday	February 4
National Salute to Veterans Patients	Week of 14 February
Valentine's Day	February 14
President's Day	February 15
Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	February 19



March

Women's History	Entire Month
Navy Reserve Birthday	March 3
Mardi Gras	March 5
SeaBee Birthday	March 5
K9 Veterans Day	March 13
Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 14
American Legion Birthday	March 15
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Rosie the Riveter Day	March 21
Medal of Honor Day	March 25
Passover	March 27 – April 4
National Vietnam War Veterans Day	March 29

