



# Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



## Update on USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) Gear Issue

By Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs



USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) is currently playing a critical role in executing the Navy's strategy to fix the combining gear issues associated with the Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ships. LCS 21 is the Navy's test ship to conduct underway maneuvers to validate the technical changes made to the combining gears, a critical component of the ship's propulsion system.



The changes are being made to the design of the gear's bearings in order to resolve a significant reliability defect. Lockheed Martin installed the changes aboard LCS 21, and at-sea testing this fall will ensure the re-vamped propulsion system has been thoroughly "wrung out" during a series of maneuvers at various speeds. The testing will take place on Lake Michigan.



"Land-based testing of the new Combining Gear design was successfully completed this past Spring. The Navy looks forward to completing at-sea testing of the new design on LCS 21 this Fall and resuming deliveries of the Freedom-variant ships," said Capt. Mike Taylor, LCS program manager.

In full cooperation with its industrial partners Lockheed Martin, Fincantieri Marinette Marine, and combining gear manufacturer Renk AG, the Navy is committed to implementing the changes in the most expeditious manner possible. Once the combining gear changes are tested thoroughly on LCS 21, and the Navy is fully satisfied with the technical alterations, other Freedom-variant LCS will enter the pipeline to receive the upgrades.



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# *A Message from the Minnesota Council President*



This has been a busy time for our Navy, Coast Guard, Marine and military members. I know our Navy and Marine Corps families were devastated by the news of the 13 service members killed during the military withdrawal from Afghanistan in August. We lost 11 Marines, one Navy Corpsman and one Army Staff Sergeant to the suicide bombing which occurred. While we grieve these losses, we must also focus on the bravery and sacrifice these young men and women exhibited and recognize the ultimate sacrifice they gave with their lives supporting our withdrawal mission from Kabul.

There is so much to say on the withdrawal and how it has all played out, and we should take a few moments and reflect on the loss of these young lives, but also of the 2,461 lives that were lost during this 20-year conflict as well as the hundreds of thousands of others who suffered wounds, seen and unseen. As Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin said, “As we look back as a nation on two decades of combat and struggle in Afghanistan, I hope that we will do so with as much thoughtfulness and humility as we can muster.”

Focusing stateside, hundreds of Coast Guard families living in and around the New Orleans area were affected by the devastating effects of Hurricane Ida and Nicholas, including flooding, wind damage and power outages. The Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) is working to help Coast Guard families as their loved ones handle the search and rescue operations in the area. If you want to help, you can do so through the [CGMA website](#).

This year also marked the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. It is hard to imagine that 20 years has passed since that horrible day in New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. When I think about it, I realize a whole generation was not even born yet when the attacks occurred in 2001. 9/11 was a life-changing event for most of us. It changed the way our government works, its focus and vigilance in terms of protecting the American people and the way Americans live, think, and operate, here and abroad. 9/11 was a tragically long day with planes striking into both World Trade Centers, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania. It saw unprecedented actions, with all air traffic being grounded, fear of more attacks, and the horror of the collapse of both World Trade Centers.

9/11 also brought out the best in America with public expressions of patriotism, displays of the American flag and more young men and women joining the military. Then, unlike now, we were united as a nation. I hope for those of you who were able to observe the numerous programs commemorating the anniversary or attended an event in your local community. I was privileged to attend the dedication of the new 9/11 Memorial in Wayzata, MN honoring Gordy Aamoth Jr. a Wayzata resident who perished when the South Tower collapsed. It was a moving experience to see his family there and hear how they reflect on the 20 years since the loss of their son and brother. Our Sea Cadet team conducted the flag raising ceremony and did yeoman's work in their whites raising the flag over the Memorial. I'd encourage all of you if you can to visit the Memorial in Wayzata, Minn. It's truly a special and reflective place. We will never forget.

We were also fortunate to have a Navy Week here in Minneapolis September 26 – October 2. Rear Admiral Gene Price, Vice Commander, Naval Information Forces was the flag officer and Naval Air Force Atlantic, Force Master Chief Chris Chelberg were the Navy personnel, along with ten sailors from the USS Minneapolis St Paul. It was a busy week for them, and they did much outreach to the community, including: Interviews with local media; a Navy Week Proclamation with Governor Walz; Navy Band performances at several local schools and the University of Minnesota; Small Business outreach; Boys and Girls Club sharing events; attending a Minnesota Twins Game; Navy Ceremonial Guard appearances at Vikings facility, High School soccer games and with the University of Minnesota ROTC unit; and our own USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Sailors attending various events.

Although we are not having a Navy Ball here in Minnesota this year due to the continuing constraints of the Covid19 pandemic, the Navy History and Heritage Command is heralding the recognition of the 246th birthday on Oct. 16, 2021. This year's theme is “Resilient and Ready.” The Navy demonstrates its resilience every day as it bounces back and fights on in the face of adversity and demonstrates its readiness to go wherever and whenever forces and ships are needed. The Navy-wide birthday celebration affords us enhanced opportunities and shows our Navy heritage, pride, and professionalism of the naval service.

Thanks to each of you for your support of the Minnesota Council along with our Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and Maritime sailors, seaman and their families.

V/r,  
Bill



## USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News



NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla. – Command Senior Chief (CMDCS) Rafael Acevedo, of littoral combat ship Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21), was recently promoted to the rank of Master Chief at a promotion ceremony held on Aug. 30, 2021. Acevedo is currently assigned as the ship's Command Master Chief, and serves as the commanding officer's advisor for all enlisted matters.

Utilizing his years of enlisted service, Acevedo aids the commanding officer in the implementation of command policies that would affect the enlisted service members. He also advises the commanding officer on both Sailor's professional progression and provided insight into Sailor's personal matters. His insights work to both foster camaraderie between officers and enlisted, and to ensure good order and discipline.

"I joined because I wanted to experience something different," said Acevedo. Technically, I'm the first member of my family to join the military. My twin brother joined shortly thereafter. I wanted to experience traveling and I wasn't quite sure that college was my thing, but here I am 24 years later." Acevedo enlisted in the Navy July 14th, 1997. Acevedo's brother is retiring this year after serving as Logistics Specialist. "This tour on Minneapolis-Saint Paul is one of the most memorable as command [senior enlisted] leader because it established a foundation for where I'd like to go from here."

Acevedo's first duty station was then Pre-Commissioning Unit, USS Bridge (AOE-10), the last oiler the Navy commissioned before converting tankers to Military Sealift Command (MSC). "I still remember my first day. I landed in San Diego and Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Talisan picked me up," said Acevedo. "At first it was a little scary because you never know what you're getting into. But, I felt very welcomed from the very beginning, from the day I met my first Lead Petty Officer (LPO), Boatswain's mate 1st Class John Adams, until the day I transferred. I still remember all the great times. It was probably one of the most memorable moments in the beginning of my career."

CMDCS Acevedo was a Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate prior to entering the Senior Enlisted Leader program. His previous tour before Naval Surface Force Atlantic was on the USS Wasp (LHD 2) as the Deck Department Leading Chief Petty Officer. However he felt that his calling was to lead more Sailors spanning a diversity of rates and backgrounds because he felt he would have more impact as a Command Senior Chief.

"Going the command route allows me to go to a range of different tours," said Acevedo. "I'm going to my first squadron next. I've never been in the aviation community. I know it's going to be something outside of my comfort zone, but I'm going to go out there to succeed and do the very best that I can."

Acevedo's next command will mark his fifth time being away from his family. He has a 19-year-old son, Azai, who is in his second year at Old Dominion University. His daughter, Ayla, recently turned 15 and is a level 10 gymnast in Virginia and has held the title of State Champion for the past five years. His wife, Tanice is a financial management analyst for MSC. Although his next tour will also be away from his family, he is hopeful that the tour after will allow him to come closer to home to be with his family.

Outside of work, Acevedo enjoys working out, working on his car, and reading. He tries to stay busy and focused. "I try to do whatever I can to keep my mind right because I know that a lot of Sailors and people depend on me to be there when they need me," Said Acevedo "So, I try to care of myself as much as possible, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically."

As for reflections on the last 24 years, Acevedo feels like he just joined yesterday.

"It has been a great experience. I'm very excited to be here. I'm at a point now where I'm hoping that I'm an example for people and I'm going to continue to lead them by that example."

CMDCM Acevedo is headed to Airborne Command and Control Squadron 125 "Tigertails" in Iwakuni, Japan.



# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## New Command Senior Chief Selected for USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21)

Senior Chief Pare entered the Navy on January 30, 2002 from Central Falls, Rhode Island. He attended Boot Camp at RTC Great Lakes, Illinois. Upon graduation, he began training at Master at Arms "A" School in Little Creek, Virginia.

He has served in a myriad of assignments including at Naval Station Rota, Spain from July 2002 to July 2005, where he served as a Security Department Patrol Officer and Watch Commander; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine from August 2005 to September 2008 where he served as a Field Training Officer; and as an Individual Augmentee from October 2006 to January 2008 at Joint Special Operations Command Balad, Iraq in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE.

Shortly upon returning from his deployment, he was assigned to Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan from September 2008 to October 2011. During this tour, he led a six-person antiterrorism division and managed the command's antiterrorism program, which was recognized as best in the Pacific Fleet 2010.

He was recognized as the Installation Senior Sailor of the Year 2010 and advanced to Chief Petty Officer in August 2011. Additionally, he was a leading member of the Fleet Activities Yokosuka Incident Management Team during OPERATION PACIFIC PASSAGE following the March 2011 earthquake and Fukushima nuclear meltdown.

From October 2011 to December 2014, he was assigned to Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston, South Carolina, where he led a 50-person Navy Security Force in the protection of nuclear reactors and two Moored Training Ships. In January 2015, he transferred to the staff of Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa. During this assignment he served in both the Current Operations (N33) and Future Operations (N35) directorates as a Staff Action Officer and Senior Enlisted Leader of 50 Marines, Sailors, and civilians. He also completed a temporary additional duty assignment as the Chief Master at Arms aboard USS MOUNT WHITNEY during OPERATION TRIDENT JUNCTURE and OPERATION SILENT RESPONSE. He was advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer in June 2016.

From January 2018 to April 2021 Senior Chief Pare served as Security Department Leading Chief Petty Officer and Security Operations Officer at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA where he led a 200-person Navy Security Force comprised of Sailors, Federal Police Officers, and contractors. In February 2021 he was selected to the Command Senior Chief Program and received orders to LCS Crew 105. He is currently serving as the Command Senior Chief for Pre-Commissioning Unit Minneapolis-Saint Paul.

Senior Chief Pare has earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Political Science from University of Maryland University College and a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Mississippi State University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 205/Brown), CMC/COB Course Class 225, and is a qualified Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and Information Warfare Specialist. His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy Achievement Medal (six awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and various other personal and unit awards.





# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) Sailors participate in Minneapolis Navy Week

As part of NAVY WEEK in the Twin Cities nine sailors from across the country, assigned to USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21), completed a ton of fall yard cleanup work in a short time at Living Well Disability Services in Brooklyn Center on September 29, 2021. Living Well Disability Services currently operates 37 homes in 20 communities. They currently serve over 300 adults and young adults with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities and have over 500 professional staff including direct care providers, occupational therapists, medical and support staff.



The LCS crew dug up overgrowth, pulled weeds, raked, swept, cleaned gutters and siding, and trimmed shrubs. Stacey and Dennis from Living Well joined in with them and were lucky to each receive a special Challenge Coin on behalf of the crew's commanding officer.

Crew who attended the Minneapolis Navy Week were:

CMDCS Edward Pare, Lt Jeanelle Seals, LCSC Marina Forde, MM1 Ernesto Calderon, STG1 Kindal Cochran, GSM1 Sammy Downs, IT1 Brandi Jancuk, OS1 Joshua Powers and STG2 Marterius Bennett.

## LCS 21 CS Department Visits Escanaba



Electronics Technicians and Fire Controlmen from MSP's Combat Systems Department arrived in Escanaba, MI in August 2021 for training on some of the ship's communication systems and to witness the installation and testing of the SeaRAM missile defense system.



# Command Updates



## University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion

The University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion had a jam-packed summer of training and is excited to be returning to in-person activities this fall. From the local Naval Station Great Lakes to the waters off southern California and as far as the Panama Canal, the Seafaring Gophers conducted remarkable training with different Navy and Marine Corps units. Their leadership and sea stories are growing with every new experience.



Midshipmen Person on USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72)

The USS MOBILE (LCS-26) welcomed aboard Midshipman First Class Skinner and Midshipmen Second Class Nelson and Erickson in Mobile, Alabama. They took part in a Mardi Gras parade to celebrate the ship's commissioning, followed by the official commissioning ceremony the next day. The maiden voyage to her new homeport of San Diego was wrought with excitement. Highlights of the underway included transiting the Panama Canal, conducting live fire exercises, and training with the Mexican Navy's corvette ARM BENITO JUAREZ.

Midshipmen Second Class Van Zuilen and Bjella were selected to be instructors at Recruit Training Command's New Student Indoctrination (NSI) in Great Lakes, IL. For four weeks the instructors worked with active-duty Recruit Division Commanders and Marine Corps Drill Instructors to educate, train, and prepare the incoming freshmen for integration into the NROTC program this fall. They were fortunate enough to train two of Minnesota's incoming freshmen, Midshipmen Shane and Kraus, and welcomed them into the Battalion the first week of September. While on liberty, Midshipmen Van Zuilen and Bjella explored Chicago and the nearby Six Flags amusement park.

The Nimitz-Class Aircraft Carrier is a pillar of strength for the US Navy and Midshipman First Class Persons had the opportunity to spend two and a half weeks onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) immersing herself in the carrier culture.

She met Marine F-35 pilots, submarine officers who were helping with anti-submarine training, Judge Advocate Generals (JAGs), Surface Warfare Oceanography Officers, and hung out with different pilots and NFOs in squadron ready rooms. Some of her favorite experiences were watching an underway replenishment (UNREP), going on a helo ride, watching night flight operations, participating in general quarters drills, hanging out on the flight deck for a steel beach picnic on Independence Day, and talking to enlisted sailors from all different communities. "Ask questions and ask to participate, and chances are that you will be able to do whatever you asked!" said MIDN Persons.

With the Skipper's short-term goal of 50% increase in NROTC participation at the U of M, recruiting has been a large focus for the Battalion this past summer and will continue to be a focus for the coming year. In July, midshipmen and active-duty staff attended the Duluth and Fargo Airshows to promote the NROTC program and meet airshow goers. Working with the Navy Talent and Acquisition Group Northern Plains, they educated the public on the program and Navy life in general. As a benefit, midshipmen and staff met the Blue Angels in person after watching their world-famous air show.

During welcome week for the University of Minnesota and St. Thomas, the battalion hosted New Student Orientation for the incoming class of 2025. The battalion welcomed 12 new fourth-class midshipmen to the battalion after a full week of physical training, drill, and classes. With the semester now underway, we are incredibly proud of the rapid growth we have seen in the freshman class so far and we are excited to see the impact they will make on the battalion during the next four years.



New Student Orientation physical training with midshipmen from University of Minnesota and St. Thomas.

# Command Updates



## Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Quarterly Update

Greetings again to the Navy League of Minnesota! Well seemingly before we even knew it, we find ourselves back in the fold as we are re-engaging with local schools, planning events, spending time with our communities, and enjoying this beautiful Minnesota fall weather!



NTAG at Duluth Air Show

While we are still operating under COVID restrictions, the entire military has now been mandated to be fully vaccinated by December 1st for active duty and January 1st for the reserve component. My team has been working hard on compliance, spreading the word and scheduling assistance. I am proud to report that we are currently sitting approximately 75 percent of the way there, and pushing closer and closer every day, with plans in place to finish by the deadline with 100 percent compliance.

Compliance with the regulation, while mandatory, has tremendous benefits to us as well. Being vaccinated allows us much more access to meet our recruiting goals, as it is already required in order to visit high schools, to attend professional sporting events, to safely hold large gatherings and more.

To that, we are looking forward to a few events coming up that I know we will all benefit from:

- 27 Sep - 03 Oct | Minneapolis, MN | Minneapolis Navy Week
- February 2022 | Minneapolis, MN | Navy League Submariner Event
- May 2022 (tent.) | Duluth, MN | USS Minneapolis-St. Paul Commissioning

To our mission, we have seen a great boost over the summer and are looking to build off of that momentum. We just finished with three consecutive months where we met goal across the board, earning some great accolades and recognition for our efforts. Helping us achieve this goal was the addition of two new great members to our top-6 team!

I am happy to announce that we have a fantastic addition with Command Master Chief Carter Hollingsworth, who has already re-invigorated the troops with his wealth of experience, excellent mentorship and high levels of trust. We also have a new Director of Personnel Operations (DPO) with the addition of Senior Chief Navy Counselor Benjamin Williams. Senior Williams comes to us from NTAG Rocky Mountain (Denver area) and brings a fresh new perspective and enlightened outlook to the team with some great, creative ideas and experience to back it up.



NTAG at Duluth Air Show

We are very excited to build on this momentum going forward and again look to lean on your experience and expertise to help us cross that finish line month-in and month-out. We are still continuing the push to find the quality recruits and the top prospects, and continue to lead the nation in recruiting for the nuclear field. It is no doubt due to the excellent schools that we have up here and we all know that your efforts aid in that excellent education as well. These high-quality recruits are essential to literally drive our fleet forward and I thank all of you for your assistance in that effort.

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you out amongst the community!

With Respect,  
CDR James Duvall,  
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains

# Command Updates



## NOSC Update

NOSC Minneapolis recently hosted an in-person Deployment Readiness Training (DRT) in August for Reserve Sailors and their families to ensure they are connected to local resources before, during, and after deployments. A variety of topics were discussed ranging from health care, education/training opportunities, and to financial and legal benefits. These resources help to prepare and guide attendees through the hardships of deployment, then enable them to successfully reintegrate back into their families, communities and careers.



Chief Petty Officer Selectees at the USS Ward memorial

Chief Initiation Season is underway! This year NOSC Minneapolis had a combination of 12 staff and Selected Reserve selected to the advancement of Chief Petty Officer, a huge milestone in a Sailor's career. The NOSC's Command Master Chief, CMDCM Graves, said "we've selected the most within the Northwest Region, and I'm excited for what the season has in store. This is a great group of individuals that have been selected"! The season culminates with Final Night on 19 November and a pinning ceremony on 20 November, 2021 at NOSC Minneapolis.

## Marine Safety Unit Duluth - Coast Guard Update

The Coast Guard Cutter ALDER crew will return with the Coast Guard Cutter SPAR sometime in Spring 2022. While the ALDER goes to Drydock in Baltimore, Duluth will have District assets come to break ice, but we are unsure of which specific assets at this time.

## Coast Guard Duluth (Continued)

Maritime Safety Unit (MSU) Duluth this summer completed their 2021 Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP) Functional Exercise (FE) which involved multiple port stakeholders testing their ability to work together and respond to a scenario-based exercise involving a simulated hazard in the Duluth-Superior Harbor. The unit also completed a Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE) and a Maritime Security (MARSEC) Exercise with facilities around MSU Duluth's Area of Responsibility to ensure that the facilities can follow their facility security plan (FSP) in the case of an event or emergency. On September 1, 2021, MSU Duluth had a visit from Senator Baldwin's staff to discuss work life and operations at the unit followed by a tour of the unit and a visit to Fraser Shipyard.

The highlighted operation within MSU Duluth's AOR this past summer, involved an increased Coast Guard presence from Station Duluth up at the Lake of the Woods in early August. This operation resulted in one rescue and several violations of illegal passenger vessel operations which have ongoing investigations.



Senate Staff visit to MSU Duluth



Press Brief during AMSTEP with Cdr Smith



# Command Updates



## Harding High School JROTC

The Harding High School Navy JROTC unit, known as the "Knight Navy" is starting out strong with 113 cadets. We have a new instructor, Chief Petty Officer Geoffrey Taylor, who retired from active duty on June 30 and started at Harding the very next day. Due to COVID and a year of distance learning, both first- and second-year cadets have never had the opportunity to learn to march. It will definitely be a rebuilding year with much less institutional experience and knowledge than other years, but we'll do what we have to do to climb back to the top of the heap. The cadets are eager to start rebuilding the competitive drill, color guard, academic and physical fitness teams to their former glory.



The Leadership developed over those four days was priceless. Congratulations cadets on your achievement. Semper Fidelis- Always Faithful.

## Naval Sea Cadet Update

Sea Cadet Corps Region 9-7 is simple: There were no unit drills in July as cadets go individually to either Recruit Training or Advanced Training primarily during that month (every cadet has to attend one of these trainings per year). There are more 55 training possibilities nationwide which cadets may attend.

## Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Update

The Como Park MCJROTC continues to come alive. As a long pandemic storm cloud clears, it has finally allowed our cadets to bond once again. Completing a rigorous four day Cadet Leadership Camp aboard Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minnesota and Camp Shamineau in Motley, Minnesota; Several toughening events included hiking, Archery, Marksmanship, Obstacle Courses, Leadership Reaction Course, Land Navigation, Close Order Drill, Physical Fitness, Bivouac Procedures, Canoeing Skills, Swimming Skills, Camping, Zip Lining, High & Low Rope Courses, and Core Knowledge.



Membership, like in most youth organizations, is down and referrals from our members would be highly appreciated. As you know we have units in Cambridge (Polaris Bn), Duluth (Twin Ports Div), the Twin Cities (Twin Cities Sqdn), and in Grand Forks (Lake Agassiz Div). All have websites. Contact with these units can also be made through the National website <[seacadets.org](http://seacadets.org)> and inserting the specific location.

# FALL IN AND JOIN US.



Your local Sea Cadet unit is recruiting!

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is recruiting new members between the ages of 10 and 17 who are interested in **adventure**, **making new friends**, and learning how to lead.



# Command Updates



## Polaris Battalion Update

Polaris Battalion and TS Trident have been busy welcoming cadets back from summer Trainings. They have spent time studying water and water craft safety ending with a trip down the Rum River. The cadets participated in auto mechanics, and damage control (sealing off leaks from a pipe). The Unit Lead Petty Officer (LPO), PO Floding gave a presentation on 911, informing the cadets about that day, while building her skills in public speaking and leading a class.

One of the other POs had entered a presentation about the Sea Cadets in the local county fair under the Civics domain. It was elevated to the State Fair where he won a Blue Ribbon. PO Challenger gave a presentation on this too.



Polaris Battalion Rum River Adventure

Polaris Battalion and TS Trident have an exciting drill scheduled for October with a camp out. Additionally, cadets are being issued their parkas this drill (the ones I have purchased so far). The October camp out will have the cadets setting up a base and then doing some culinary, field ops, marksmanship and other things.



Winter Parkas have arrived!!!!!!

## Twin Cities Squadron Update

It has been a great summer for the Twin Cities Squadron. Our growth over the past year meant lots of training opportunities were on the agenda this summer, and the cadets did not disappoint. Overall, cadets from the Twin Cities Squadron attended 3 Recruit, 6 Navy League Orientation, and 8 advanced trainings. These training events spanned 7 states from coast to coast and as far away as Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Not to be outdone, the officers tallied 2 additional escort trainings in Hawaii and Oregon. Bravo Zulu squadron!



TCS participated on 9/11 memorial Dedication in Wayzata August meant a return to drill at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS). The weekend was packed with hands on training evolutions including land navigation, rifle drill and tactical room clearing. While no airmen were lost, we did have a few teams do some extra exploring downrange while attempting to locate a waypoint. The rifle drill and ceremonies focused the cadets on individual performance, but also working together to achieve team precision. The highlight of the weekend was certainly the room clearing evolution. The adrenaline was on high as cadets got into the stack, breached a doorway and cleared a room of opposing forces. Hooyah!



Land Nav at AHATS

# Command Updates

## Twin Cities Squadron (Cont).

The administrative officers were busy catching up on rate promotions, training awards, and the addition of three new recruits, and one officer. We welcomed Instructor Karen Leiter who is billeted as an Admin Officer. Sunday's closing ceremonies concluded with a shipping over ceremony for three league cadets who are entering the sea cadets' program. Welcome aboard Airmen Friermuth, Jirik and Weiland. One of the highlights of the first fall drill are the sea stories from shipmates who attended summer trainings. Cadets have crisscrossed the county, made new friends, and experienced what the Navy has to offer. Along the way, they develop friendships, leadership skills and a strong character. The following are some of the experiences from this past summer.

character. The following are some of the experiences from this past summer. INST Wilson, Field Medical Operations, Camp Rilea, Oregon

*"This was my first experience as an escort officer. Widely considered one of the flagship trainings in the sea cadets' program, Camp Rilea did not disappoint. Over 90 cadets participated in field operations, field medical, and culinary and endured an intense 8-day training on the Oregon coast. The pace of this training was grueling, and sleep was an after-thought. The medical cadets learned how to manage a sick bay, create medical records, and triage injuries in the field. While embedded with the field operations as a corpsman, they carried a full loadout and participated in each evolution. Highlights of the week included completing the obstacle course, land navigation, tactical assault, marksmanship qualifications, and concealment (camouflage) tactics. It was amazing to watch the cadets transform throughout the week and work as a cohesive unit."*

PO2 Weiland, Ceremonial Rifle Drill, Vassar, Michigan

*"I wanted to attend Ceremonial Rifle Drill training because I like color guard and watching the USMC drill team on you tube. Rifle drill was challenging because we had to learn our parade rifles by learning to execute proper commands throughout the week. We learned to move together using silent counts and do aerial tosses to our shipmates. I am proud because me and my shipmates choreographed our own exhibition routine. My favorite part of the training was marching through Frankenmuth, MI and the public performance. My squad were the first leaguers to ever earn the privilege to carry a parade rifle during the march and perform aerials for the public. I am looking forward to going back as a Sea Cadet next year."*



On 9/11, the Twin Cities Squadron participated in a memorial dedication for Gordon Aamoth Jr., a Wayzata native who perished in the World Trade Center attacks. A color team led by color guard captain Petty Officer Connor Howe raised a flag which had been flown in Afghanistan in honor of Mr. Aamoth. Other members of the unit, dressed in summer whites, were on hand in support their shipmates, the local community and the Aamoth family. In a very touching moment after the ceremony, Mr. Aamoth's mother came over to personally thank the cadets for their participation. Looking ahead, drill September will emphasize medical evolutions including CPR, stopping the bleed, and nine-line medivacs.

Finally, a special thanks to the Chick-fil-A restaurant in Roseville, MN for providing the entire squadron with free lunch at drill this month. Chick-fil-A is a strong community partner and proud supporter of the military and youth organizations.



# Command Updates



## Twin Cities Squadron

Instructor Alex J. Duval-Arnould, of Twin Cities Squadron, United States Naval Sea Cadets (USNSCC), served as an Escort Officer this summer aboard the USS Missouri at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



The USNSCC is organized into two cadet groups by age. Cadets aged 13-17 are "Sea Cadets" and are required to participate in a two-week "Recruit Training" (RT) as their introductory boot camp. Younger cadets aged 10-13 are known as "League Cadets" and participate in a one-week Navy League Orientation (NLO) which is similar and adjusted to be age-appropriate.



Instructor Arnold and son aboard USS Missouri

Instructor Arnold was attached to the NLO training which is offered every summer by the local Sea Cadet Division at Pearl Harbor and open to local and national cadets alike. Instructor Arnold's son also participated and both had an unforgettable experience.

They arrived in Honolulu on July 3 and the next day the individuals running the training organized a 4th of July picnic at a park and a viewing of the fireworks over Pearl Harbor from the deck of the USS Missouri.

The next day the training began. They slept in the berths aboard the USS Missouri and, while a little tight, the experience was steeped in such historical significance and it was a privilege that we lived daily. The cadets, and Escort Officers, went on tours of the ship and learned about the Japanese surrender on the "Surrender Deck". They also toured the Aviation Museum and the Bowfin Submarine. It was an incredible history lesson for the group.

They engaged in lots of physical activity against the beautiful backdrop of the ocean and mountains of Hawaii. Cadets did their swim qualifications at Ford Pool, PT, Drill, and played capture the flag under the banyan trees.

They ate at the Silver Dolphin on base, went to the food court at the Navy Exchange (NEX), a highlight for the cadets who could choose their meals and concluded the training with a graduation ceremony on the deck of the USS Missouri with inspiring remarks made by a local member of the Hawaiian legislature.

The experience was one-of-a-kind and Instructor Arnold is grateful to the organizers of the training who were top-notch and made it very fulfilling. As they say in Hawaii, "Mahalo!".



# Command Updates

## Twin Ports Sea Cadet Update



Twin Ports Division mobilized to provide medical support for Grandma's Marathon in Duluth. The annual race draws around 18,000 runners from all over the world. Sailors from the command conducted extensive medical training during five months of work ups which normally takes seven months. This stress was added onto by the pandemic and need for all personnel to receive their Coronavirus vaccines which was difficult to receive in our area in a timely manner.



In addition, the Army Reserve 477th Medical Company would not be present this year due to their training cycle. The 477th makes up most of the race medical personnel along the entire 26-mile course. Short on medical personnel this year, the race relied HIGHLY on Twin Ports Division to cover for the missing 477th along with our own areas of responsibility course wide. Twin Ports Division covered the last 5 miles of the race in the most population-dense locations with five medical stations, a mobile wheeled unit, and two tactical medical response teams. All with only around 16 personnel. The next day, five of them reported to boot camp at Camp Dodge, IA.



Enginemen in Twin Ports conducting survival suit qualifications



Members of Twin Ports Division conducting a damage control drill during their fire Party Training



Twin Ports Division Posts colors for the Duluth Air Show

# Other News

## Outreach North

The Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council, Outreach North has been and continues to be making a very positive impact in the community.

While drive by birthday salutes are on the decline, due to eased Covid restrictions, Outreach North continues to receive requests for birthday greetings for isolated Veteran's. We have visited dozens of Veterans, bringing birthday greetings, including Iver Anderson, a World War II Veteran, who celebrated his 99th birthday on 9/9! Iver Anderson passed away shortly after his 99th birthday and will be interred at Fort Snelling sometime in November.



Outreach North VP Joyce Lacey at Inver Grove Heights parade Outreach delivers flowers to encourage Veteran's going through health issues and continues to bring needed items to Veteran's Homes, Hospitals and the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (who assists homeless Veteran's).

Outreach has been visible in parades every weekend throughout the spring and summer, informing the public about the Navy League of the United States and how to become a member. The Inver Grove Heights Days Parade, the Detroit Lakes Water Carnival Parade, the Stars and Strips Parade at the Fergus Falls Veteran's Home, the Lakeville Parade, Woodbury Days Parade, Columbus Heights Parade, Flekkefest Norwegian Festival Parade in Elbow Lake, Evansville Parade, Edina Parade, St. Louis Park Parktacular Parade and Ashby Appreciation Days Parade are just a few of the many parades Outreach has participated in. Many more parades are planned for this fall including the North St. Paul Fall Roundup Parade Thursday September 23rd at 1830 hours.

In addition, Outreach North has contacted numerous galleries to display the artwork of the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul (LCS-21).

## US Naval Academy Induction Program

The United States Naval Academy Class of 2025 has successfully completed their Plebe Summer professional training, as they transition from a civilian lifestyle to life in the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps. The full Brigade of Midshipmen has returned to USNA and the academic year has begun. While still observing many precautions related to the pandemic, USNA has relaxed many of the pandemic restrictions instituted in the previous year. As a sign of progress toward a return to normal operations, the USNA Yard and many associated areas of interest are once again open to the public.

The return of the Brigade from summer training was greeted by a new Commandant of Midshipmen, Colonel James P. McDonough, USMC. As the new Commandant, Colonel McDonough has stressed to the Midshipmen, the importance of the core principles of character, professionalism and a warrior spirit in striving to accomplish the mission of the Academy.

Candidates for the Naval Academy Class of 2026 are now completing applications and interviews in their efforts to obtain a nomination and ultimately an offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. The application period for appointments to USNA is open until December 31, 2021. Deadlines for Congressional nomination applications vary and are specified on the respective US Representative or US Senator website.

Looking ahead, the traditional "Operation Information" program (OPINFO) is being planned for late this fall. Minnesota has requested 8 upperclass Midshipmen, all hailing from Minnesota, to participate in OPINFO 2021. It is anticipated that 1 Midshipman will be assigned for each of Minnesota's 8 Congressional Districts. These Midshipmen are given extra time off over the week of Thanksgiving, with the intent of making at least 6 presentations on the United States Naval Academy. Each Midshipman is also accompanied by a trained Blue and Gold Officer (BGO) who is available to discuss the nomination and appointment processes and procedures. Interested persons are encouraged to attend these Midshipmen presentations or other service academy information sessions being planned throughout Minnesota.



Outreach North provided Hand Sanitizer to MACV. Matthew Saltz, Statewide Program Director; David Nguyen, Metro Housing Team Leader; Joyce Lacey, Navy League Minnesota Council Outreach and Rebecca Carlson, Financing & Accounting Administrator

# Other News

## Did you Know?

By: Brandon Montanye

Raspberry Island sits between the banks of the Mississippi river near downtown Saint Paul and is part of Harriet Island Regional Park. The western side of the island is home to the Minnesota Boat Club. The oldest athletic club in the state of Minnesota, it has been located on the island since the 1870's. Throughout the summer, the island hosts musical talent at the band shell. It has become a popular location for weddings, celebrations, picnics, and independent musical performances.

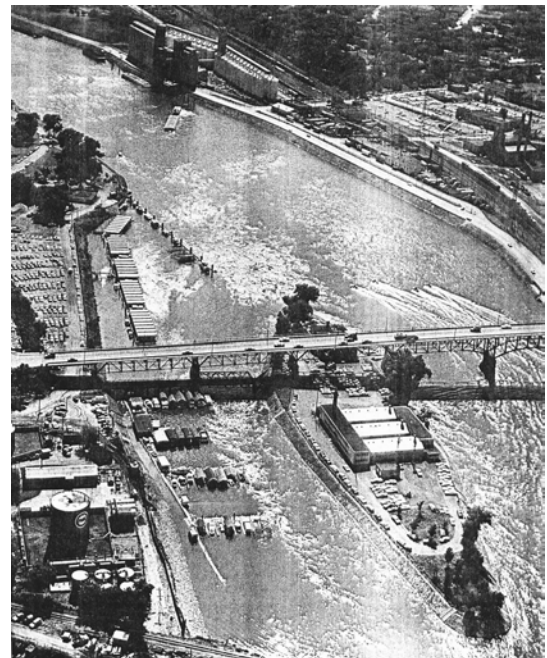
But did you know, in 1948 the U.S. Navy leased the Eastern portion of the Island at \$1 a year, for a 20-year lease? After the lease agreement, in March of 1949, the Saint Paul City Council changed the name from Raspberry Island to Navy Island. However, the name change did not go over well with some of Saint Paul's residents. Many felt that the historical Raspberry Island name should have been kept. Although the island's name had been changed by the city council, the name was never officially changed with the U.S. National Geological Survey or Minnesota's official state geographic name board.

In 1949 the Navy invested \$250,000 to erect a two-story Naval Reserve Training Center on the island. The training center building measured 160' x 176' and was fully staffed, focusing their training for surface craft units. The facilities included office spaces, a drill hall and galley.

In 1965 the facility was one of 149 military installations listed to be shut down by the Department of Defense. The Navy officially left the island in 1968, ending its twenty-year lease. The training center was consolidated with the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center that was located at Naval Air Station Twin Cities. In 1995 it was determined that since the name of the Island was never officially changed outside of the St. Paul City Council, the island's name remains Raspberry Island.

And now you know.

*Photos courtesy of the Ramsey County Historical Society*



# Other News

## *National Defense Authorization Act Update*

Some very important developments related to the National Defense Authorization Act. The House voted and approved the FY22 NDAA and the language of the Senate Armed Services Committee NDAA markup have been published. In both, it looks like the sea services received the bulk of what they requested thanks to an addition of over \$30 billion above the President's Budget. Below is a summary of both Senate and House bills.

### Senate Armed Services Committee: SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Under the leadership of Chairwoman Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Ranking Member Kevin Cramer (R-ND), the subcommittee mark directs a continuation of previous years' efforts to improve the Navy and Marine Corps' ability to implement the national defense strategy. The subcommittee includes a total of \$71.8 billion, including \$56.7 billion in procurement, and \$15.1 billion in Research, Development, Test and Evaluation funding authorizations. The subcommittee authorizes an additional \$2.3 billion in the Seapower jurisdiction for important programs, including all of the Seapower items on the Chief of Naval Operations' and Commandant of the Marine Corps' unfunded requirements lists. The subcommittee also includes several legislative provisions that reinforce best practices in Navy and Marine Corps' acquisition strategies.

### Destroyers

- Authorizes \$3.716 billion for Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, an increase of \$1.7 billion to restore a second guided missile destroyer to the budget.
- Authorizes an increase of \$125.0 million for long lead material for a third FY23 Arleigh Burke-class destroyer.
- Authorizes an increase of \$50.0 million for surface combatant industrial base stability initiatives.
- Expresses support for an acquisition strategy for the next generation destroyer that would feature greater collaboration between industry and the government, taking lessons from early successes in the Columbia-class program, and directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report on the use of such acquisition practices in the next generation destroyer program.
- Expresses support for a new multi-year procurement of destroyers beginning in fiscal year 2023 to support the shipbuilding industrial base and expansion of the Navy battle force to congressionally mandated levels.

### Amphibious Ships

- Extends through fiscal year 2022 an authority granted in last year's NDAA to enter into a multi-ship procurement for amphibious vessels.
- Authorizes \$250 million for LPD Flight II advance procurement, an increase of \$250 million to support a multi-ship procurement or long-lead time material procurement for amphibious warships.
- Expresses continued support for a multi-ship procurement of amphibious warships and directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report on several potential acquisition strategies for such platforms.
- Directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report on various options to improve the lethality and survivability of the San Antonio-class amphibious assault ship.

### Navy Strategy

- Requires the Navy to develop a 15-year acquisition, modernization, and sustainment plan for the entire carrier air wing, building off the FY21 NDAA requirement to produce a fighter force structure acquisition strategy.
- Limits transfer of certain operational test flight events and reduction in operational flight test capacity pending certain certifications.
- Directs the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to provide reports detailing forces that may be appropriate to allocate to SOUTHCOM if additional forces were available, as well as the potential use of platforms that would otherwise be decommissioned for such missions.
- Authorizes \$192.2 million for F/A-18 research and development, including an increase of \$3 million for the incorporation of artificial intelligence on legacy platforms such as the F/A-18.
- Requires updated Navy battle force ship assessment and requirement reporting when DOD updates strategic guidance.
- Expresses support for the replacement of aging training vessels used by the United States Naval Academy and directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report on the options to improve surface warfare officer ship handling training.

### Shipbuilding

- Prohibits the early retirement of naval vessels unless the Secretary of the Navy makes certain certifications to Congress.
- Requires the Navy to establish a position of Deputy Commander for the Naval Sea Systems Command for the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, conversion and Repair.
- • Authorizes \$418.6 million for the LHA replacement, an increase of \$350 million to gain efficiencies by accelerating construction of LHA-9.
- • Authorizes \$270.0 million for Expeditionary fast Transport vessels.
- • Reduces \$299.9 million requested to purchase used sealift vehicles.
- • Directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report on further risk reduction efforts for the Constellation-class frigate (FFG-62) program.



# Other News

## *National Defense Authorization Act Update (Cont)*

- Requires the inclusion of naval vessel expected service lives in the annual naval vessel construction plan.
- Requires continued reporting on Littoral Combat Ship mission package development and fielding.
- Requires a comparative assessment of shipbuilding purchasing power in the United States, China, and Russia.
- Authorizes \$3.1 billion for the Columbia-class submarine program, an increase of \$130 million, for industrial base development and expansion in support of the Virginia and Columbia shipbuilding programs.

### Aircraft

- Authorizes \$535 million to purchase an additional five F-35C aircraft.
- Authorizes \$191 million to purchase an additional E-2D aircraft.
- Authorizes \$305.8 million to purchase two additional C-130J aircraft.
- Authorizes \$191.9 million to purchase an additional KC-130J tanker aircraft.
- Authorizes \$250.0 million to purchase two additional CH-53K helicopters.
- Authorizes \$323.0 million to purchase two MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial systems.
- Authorizes \$246.6 million to purchase additional F-35B spares and ground support equipment

### Sensors

- Extends a prohibition on availability of funds for certain Navy waterborne security equipment pending improvements to program management.
- Requires the Office Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation to conduct a review of three similar radar systems used for air and missile defense by the Navy and Missile Defense Agency.
- Authorizes \$303.52 million for sonobuoy procurement, an increase of \$54.4 million.
- Authorizes \$264.4 million for Joint Tactical Radio System research and development, including an additional \$30 million for an advanced resilient Link-16 like waveform that does not require any changes to the host aircraft operational flight programs, and supports the Navy's unfunded request for this program.
- Authorizes \$59.1 million for Naval Integrated Fire Control – Counter Air Systems Engineering, including an increase of \$13 million to support testing and evaluation activities for stratospheric balloon research.
- Authorizes \$15 million to restore a proposed Navy reduction to an Advanced Sensors Application Program.
- Authorizes \$304 million to purchase eight additional G/ATOR systems for the Marine Corps.

### House NDAA:

#### SEAPOW AND PROJECTION FORCES:

Restores funding for two additional Arleigh Burke class destroyers.

§ Funds the procurement of thirteen battle force ships including two Virginia-class submarines; three (DDG 51) Arleigh Burke destroyers; one guided missile Frigate (FFG); two John Lewis class (T-AO) fleet oilers; one (T-AGOS(X)) surveillance ship; two Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) ships; and one (T-ATS) towing, salvage, and rescue ships.

§ Full funds the B-21 Raider program.

§ Includes a provision that will help ensure ship designs are adequately mature at the start of construction.

§ Maintains a statutory floor that the Air Force is required to retain for tactical airlift aircraft.

§ Funds five additional CMV-22 Osprey aircraft for the Navy. § Funds two P-8 aircraft for the Navy.

§ Funds two C-130Js for the Navy and two KC-130Js for the Marine Corps.

§ Funds one E-2D Hawkeye for the Navy. § Funds one MQ-4 Triton for the Navy.

§ Funds two additional ship to shore connectors. § Authorizes a fifteen ship multi-year procurement contract for DDG-51 destroyers beginning in fiscal year 2023.

§ Mandates a cost and schedule baseline for the B-52 commercial re-engine program.

§ Requires the Navy to make sustainment a Key Performance Parameter (KPP) during the solicitation.

§ Funds supplier development for the submarine industrial base. Adds additional components to the continuous production authority within the National Sea Based Deterrence Fund (NSBDF).

§ Funds the 5th National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV) for the State Maritime Academies.

§ Funds the propulsion and propeller upgrades of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve C-130H airlift aircraft.

§ Requires the Navy to implement a land-based test program for the DDG(X) destroyer program.

§ Restricts funds associated with the VC-25B program until an updated schedule is provided.

§ Requires the Navy to include an advanced degaussing system in the next multi-year contract for DDG-51 destroyers.

§ Fully funds the Tanker Security Fleet at the authorized level of \$60M.



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Minnesota Council  
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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

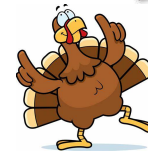
**October**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Entire Month
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday	October 13
Minnesota Navy League Council Meeting	October 16
Day of the Deployed	October 26
Navy Day	October 27
Halloween	October 31



**November**

National Veterans & Military Family Month	Entire Month
Warrior Care Month	Entire Month
National Family Caregivers Month	Entire Month
Daylight Savings Time Ends	November 7
Marine Corps Day/Birthday	November 10
Veterans Day	November 11
Minnesota Navy League Council Meeting	November 20
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November



**December**

Giving Tuesday	Tuesday after Thanksgiving
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7
Army Navy Game	December 11
U.S. National Guard Birthday	December 13
National Wreaths Across America	December 18
Hanukkah Begins	November 28 – December 6
Minnesota Navy League Council Meeting	December 18
Christmas Day	December 25
Kwanzaa	December 26 – January 1
New Year's Eve	Tuesday, December 31

