



Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



USS MINNEAPOLIS SAINT PAUL (LCS 21) CREW VISITS MINNESOTA

Ten crew members of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) visited Minnesota to attend the Duluth Airshow held 26-27 June 2021. The crew included Commanding Officer, Commander Alfonza White, and the Command Master Chief Petty Officer Rafael Acevedo as well as several other crew members.



Sailors for USS Minneapolis Saint Paul on the steps of the Minnesota State Capitol

The crew had a terrific time and enjoyed superior Minnesota weather. They participated in a number of events while in Minnesota, including a Twins game Thursday evening 24 June. On Friday, the crew met with the Duluth Mayor Emily Larson at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Commander White said, "It is my honor to meet with Mayor Larson and learn more about the great city of Duluth. I and my crew are excited to visit the city and see for ourselves

what we have to look forward to when the ship is commissioned in Duluth." Mayor Larson said, "I am excited to host the crew of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul. We are honored to have been chosen as the site of the ships commissioning. We know the crew will love Duluth and all it has to offer."

Following this they toured the pier where the ship will be commissioned with Deb Deluca, Duluth Seaway Port Authority. That evening they dined with Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN 8th District) and the Commanding Officer and the Command Master Chief were featured on Almanac North, a local PBS Station.

On Saturday and Sunday the entire crew attended the Airshow and provided an on-field presence at the Minnesota Navy League Booth. Saturday evening the Navy League Minnesota Council hosted a meet and greet at Bent Paddle Brewing Company where the crew enjoyed meeting local veterans and Duluthians.

The Minnesota Navy League Council was thrilled to host the crew for this visit and we look forward to seeing them again this fall for the Minneapolis Navy Week, September 26 – October 2.



Mayor Emily Larson presents Duluth City Flag to Capt White and Command Master Chief Acevedo



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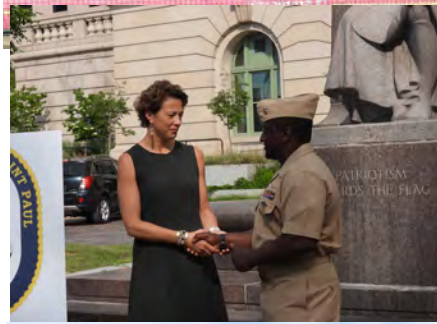
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Photos from Duluth Air Show



A Message from the Minnesota Council President



If you are like me, you probably have been chomping at the bit and looking forward to a more “normal” summer than last year. I am already enjoying taking advantage of my Twins Season’s tickets and seeing in-person games. Nothing beats hearing the swing of a bat, the cheers of the fans and the smell of fresh popcorn, hot dogs and a cold beer to put me in a good frame of mind. I recently made a tour of the Badlands of SD and saw Mt. Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Memorial and Theodore Roosevelt National Park for the first time. What an amazing part of the country to see with noteworthy history.

The Council was pleased to host some of the crew from USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) in conjunction with the Duluth Air Show June 23-26. We were able to spend quality time with the Commanding Officer, Commader Alfonso White and some of his crew and show them the port where his commissioning will take place next year, meet the Blue Angels, Duluth Mayor Emily Larson and have a pint at Bent Paddle Brewery, who will be collaborating with us on a special release for the commissioning. This will be the first of many visits from the crew this year as they want to stay front and center with the citizens of Minnesota as we move towards commissioning at a date still to be determined next year.

Despite the dog days of summer, this one is an important time for us to reflect on the important celebrations that come over the summer months. The 245th celebration of July 4th, Independence Day 2021, should be a tremendous day of celebration this year as we have moved beyond the pandemic, can attend events mask free and show our patriotism as we celebrate our freedom both as a country and individuals. I encourage each of you to attend events in your community and to truly celebrate our freedom with friends and family.

If your schedule permits, please take advantage of some outdoor military events this summer. July 24-25, Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie will host AirExpo2021. It is a wonderful opportunity to see historic aircraft, both on the ground and in the air and meet the pilots who fly them. Later in September, Minneapolis will be the host of Navy Week from September 23rd – October 2nd. Details of this week long event are still being developed, but it is a great opportunity to meet Navy leadership and for us as Navy League members help provide Minnesota citizens with information about the important role the Navy plays around the world. We keep an updated calendar of events on our website for reference.

Finally, please note that September is National Suicide Prevention Month. This is a cause near and dear to my heart. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report (2019), the suicide rate among Veterans is 1.5 times greater than non-Veteran population ages 18+, with over 6,000 Veterans dying by suicide each year. That’s 16 suicides a day, every day. This is one too many veterans!!! It’s up to each of us to help address this important issue.

If you notice any signs of concerning behavior, reach out to them, talk to the individual, reassure them, let them know you care and above all make sure you have them call Veteran’s crisis line at 1(800)-273-8255. Only through these actions can we reduce the suicide rate in our veterans community.

Thanks to each of you and for what you do to support the Minnesota Council along with our Navy, Coast Guard and Maritime sailors, seamen and families!

Bill





USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

Minneapolis-Saint Paul Sailors participate in inaugural Fitness Day Challenge

Story by LT Jeanelle Seals

NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Florida - To kick off the Calendar Year 2021 Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) season, Sailors from Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) competed in friendly individual and divisional competitions during the ship's inaugural Minneapolis-Saint Paul Fitness Day Challenge.



MSP Sailors compete in divisional tug-of-war. OI division WINS!!

Throughout the day, members of Minneapolis-Saint Paul competed in individual events consisting of a plank challenge, pull-ups, sprints, crab-walk and squats. The final event of the day was a divisional tug-of-war challenge. Each event was chosen to reflect and target some of the same muscle groups used while completing the actual components of the PFA which include a 1.5-mile run, push-ups and the new addition of the plank to replace sit-ups.

Although each division showed their grit and determination to win, Sailors from the Operations Information (OI) division dug the deepest to come out on top. While OI division took home the trophy for the tug-of-war, Deck division won the overall competition for the greatest amount of participation throughout each event. Sailors competing in the Fitness Day Challenge were seen cheering each other on throughout the various events. "The twin crews of the ship have really become a family. While preparing to certify our ship to commission, we have all had to support departments that may not overlap on conventional ships due to our minimally-manned construct," said Sonar Technician 2nd Class Kindal Cochran. "The support we show each other through our normal working day is no different out here, and will be vital to continue when we take the ship."

Outside of the physical fitness realm, Minneapolis-Saint Paul Sailors have also continued to support each other and other ships on the waterfront. Members of the Engineering Department held Damage Control training onboard USS Indianapolis (LCS 17) to practice combating casualties such as fires and toxic gas. The training and drills served as a refresher for the crew who certified the ship in Damage Control during last fall's MOB-D events.

Additionally, Weapons Division ran their first gun shoot at Camp Blanding.

Over the course of two days, MSP Sailors served as Range Safety Officers and Line Coaches, to not only qualify several members of both MSP crews, but also crews from PCU Cooperstown and USS Indianapolis.

LCS is a highly maneuverable, lethal and adaptable ship designed to support focused surface warfare, mine countermeasures and anti-submarine warfare. LCS integrates new technology and capability to support current and future mission capability from deep water to the littorals.



MSP Sailor competes in Plank Challenge during recent PFA.

Other News

African American Submarine Experience

The Minnesota Navy League is sponsoring a speaker series entitled “The African American Submarine Experience” during the last week of September at various venues in the Twin cities. This speaker series will explore the accomplishments and personal journeys of six distinguished African American Submariners. The speakers are HMSM (Ret) James Mosely, EMCM (Ret) Early Vincent, VADM (Ret) Bruce Grooms, STCM (Ret) Ronald Ross, CDR Alfonza White, Lt. Nsombi Roberts.



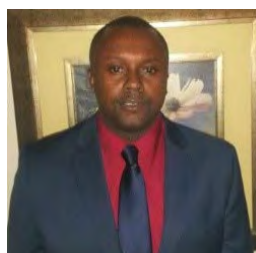
HMSM Mosely



VADM Grooms



Lt. Roberts



STCM Ross



CDR White

Military experience has the distinct foundation of being personal and profound. The physical, academic, and cultural environment of US Navy submarines is an exclusive domain that has no civilian equivalent. It is challenging work that has its rewards hidden by medals that can't be explained and missions that can't be talked about. It takes unusual people to do the job, and exceptional people make a successful career out of it. It has additional challenges to African Americans.

The military is made up of a cross section of America, and it brings with it all the benefits and pitfalls of America, including overt and institutional racism. The recognized birthday of the US Navy is October 13, 1775. However, it took 173 years for the Navy to officially integrate. On July 26, 1948, President Truman signed Executive Order 9981 allowing African Americans to perform any job in the Navy. Prior to this time, African Americans could only be stewards.

The Minnesota Navy League Council we will host a variety of speakers for “The African American Submarine Experience”. The Speakers will talk about their experiences in the Navy and most especially as African Americans in the Navy. Our senior speaker, HMCM (Ret) James Mosely graduated from boot camp one week before Executive Order 9981 was signed. However, simply stating that the military is no longer segregated did not magically make the military inclusive and equitable for African Americans, but it did serve a starting point. It has taken years of cultural change to achieve equity in our Naval Forces. This was led in part by our speakers. Each speaker has had their own “Firsts” as African Americans and they have paved the way for others to follow.

Our submarine speaker's experience span over seventy years, covering conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and various conflicts in the Middle East. The speakers include men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty and retired, from multiple generations. There will be three public events; a Minnesota Navy League event, a speaking engagement at the University of Minnesota, and a public event in Minneapolis in addition to a number of private events.

The Minnesota Navy League will also be coordinating a documentary chronicling the experience of this distinguished group of accomplished African American Submariners. We hope this speakers' series will inspire and illuminate what has been, what has changed, what has been learned from this distinguished groups experiences.

Specific information will be posted on our website and distributed to members as we get closer to the event.

Other News

XCEL Energy Donation provides Custom Pullovers for USS Minnesota Crew

The Minnesota Council of the Navy League is fortunate to have strong corporate sponsors that assist in our efforts to maintain a strong relationship with USS Minnesota SSN 783.



In April 2021, Xcel Energy contributed \$8,500 that covered the cost of providing every member of the crew of USS Minnesota a custom pullover that could be worn underway. During operations, temperature on board the boat is kept at about 65 degrees. The crew wears additional clothing to stay warm while on duty. These pullovers were customized to recognize the 2021 crew and are authorized to be worn while underway.

Vice President, Monticello Nuclear Plant, Tom Conboy, a veteran of the US Navy submarine community, managed the donation and provided the support to accomplish obtaining these pullovers. The Minnesota Navy League is grateful for Mr. Conboy's support of this morale-boosting gift to USS Minnesota.

LCS 21 MWR receives donation

The Minnesota Navy League Council is pleased to announce a donation of \$7,500 to support the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation fund of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul LCS 21. The Commissioning Committee continues to enjoy broad support from the corporate community. These funds will allow the crew to schedule events at Naval Station Mayport and the surrounding community that provides the opportunity to be rewarded for their hard work.



MSP Crew Members attend MWR event at NS Mayport

Outreach North

Vice President of Outreach, Joyce Lacey, has been busy with Drive by birthday salutes in Alexandria, St. Cloud, Moorhead, Fargo, Fergus Falls and Morris. The birthday salutes are requested by family and friends who wish to honor their veteran, but are unable to do so in the usual manner due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Navy League Outreach has once again been permitted to visit with Veterans in Veteran Homes and Hospitals. Also, Outreach is back in action participating in parades throughout the state! We participated in the Memorial Day Parade and St. Louis Park Parktacular Grand Day Parade. Some of the upcoming parades on our schedule include the Northwest Water Carnival Parade in Detroit Lakes July 18th, the Stars and Stripes Parade at the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls July 24th, Ashby Appreciation Days Parade July 17th, Lakeville Parade July 10th, Edina 4th of July Parade July 3rd, the July 4th Parade in Evansville July 4th and the Flekkefest Parade in Elbow Lake August 7th.



Outreach met with board members of Project Got Your Back in Spring Lake Park July 19th to discuss how the Navy League could help support their project.

Command Updates



Big news for USCGC ALDER!!

This July, Coast Guard Cutter Alder will depart Duluth and sail under the Aerial Lift Bridge for the last time after spending over 16 years homeported in the Zenith City.

ALDER and her crew will transit across the Great Lakes, through the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and south along the East Coast to the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland. Once in Baltimore, Alder will undergo a yearlong maintenance period, before transiting to her new homeport of San Francisco, California.

ALDER's current Duluth based crew will return to the Twin Ports to await the completion of maintenance on the Coast Guard Cutter SPAR (WLB-206), another 225' buoy tender which will replace Alder in Duluth in spring 2022.



USCGC SPAR (WLB-206)

SPAR (WLB-206), originally homeported in Kodiak, Alaska, was commissioned in August 2001, she is named after the former U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserves, also known as SPARS. She is the second Coast Guard Cutter by this name, the first was SPAR (WLB-403) and was built here in Duluth in 1943!

SPAR (WLB-206) maintained aids to navigation along the Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea until the fall of 2020, when she departed for the Coast Guard Yard for maintenance.

Upon arriving in Duluth, SPAR (WLB-206) will assume ALDER's current area of responsibility, and continue the missions of maintaining aids to navigation, domestic icebreaking, search and rescue, and law enforcement.

USCGC ALDER update



USCGC ALDER recovers Aids to Navigation during Operation Restore Spring

During the spring of 2021 USCGC ALDER was very busy working Aids to Navigation as a part of Operation Spring Restore, an annual mission to service over 1,000 federal aids to navigation across the Great Lakes.

ALDER serviced over 80 buoys across Lake Superior, Huron, Michigan, and the Saint Mary's River.

Looking forward, ALDER will be having a change of command ceremony on July 2nd. The current commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Justin M. Erdman, will be relieved by Lt. Cmdr. Joel R. Wright, who assumes command following a tour of duty as the executive officer onboard the Coast Guard Cutter Mobile Bay in Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.

Later in July ALDER will be departing Duluth for the last time, as she will be undergoing maintenance in Baltimore, Maryland, before moving to her new homeport of San Francisco, California. The Coast Guard Cutter SPAR, originally homeported in Kodiak, Alaska, will sail to Duluth and replace the ALDER in spring of 2022.

Command Updates



Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Quarterly Update

Greetings again to the Navy League of Minnesota! I hope this finds you in good health while you're enjoying a beautiful Minnesota summer.



We continue to work towards meeting our manning mission goals and are finally able to take advantage of the reduced COVID restrictions in order to get back out and about into the community. I am confident that continued Navy awareness and spreading the word about the great things our Minnesota Sailors are doing and have done around the world will promote the great Navy that we all love.



NTAG's Brand New MEV that will be used for outreach and recruiting



There are some exciting events in the area this year that NTAG will participate in. We are very excited to be out there in the public, increasing Navy awareness and searching for the best recruits possible to join our growing fleet.

NTAG is excited to unveil a revamped event trailer and a brand-new Mobile Engagement Vehicle (MEV), a Ford Transit van that will be outfitted with virtual reality headsets and interactive games. Keep an eye out for both of these as we will use these at several upcoming events. Some of the events that we are planning to attend include:

- 26 – 27 Jun | Duluth, MN | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo
 - 19 – 25 Jul | Fargo, ND | Fargo Navy Week and Fargo AirSho
 - 26 Aug – 06 Sep | Minneapolis, MN | Minnesota State Fair *tentative*
 - 27 Sep - 03 Oct | Minneapolis, MN | Minneapolis Navy Week / Renaissance Festival
- CDR James Duvall,
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains

NOSC Minneapolis 3rd Quarter input

NOSC Minneapolis participated in the Navy Reserve's first Mass Mobilization exercise! The NOSC staff was tasked with activating 54 drilling Sailors, or about 10% the drilling compliment, from 22-24 June.



Boatswain's Mate Training during recent June Drill.

The goal of the exercise was to assess the Distributed Mobilization infrastructure that's currently in place and to accurately measure how effective and efficient it is to provide mobilization ready Sailors to Combatant Commanders worldwide with short notice notifications. The NOSC staff was able to activate the vast majority of their Sailors on the first day, setting the gold standard across Navy Region Northwest. "There were some valuable lessons learned" said CDR John Stump, the NOSC CO, "It was great to see the IT systems and the procedures that the NOSC MOB team built come together and be successful in this first step toward meeting CNR's goal."

In the Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions, the Chief of Navy Reserve (CNR) has tasked the force to be able to activate the entire SELRES population of 50,000 Sailors within 30 days of notification, this will require each NOSC to mobilize their own Sailors instead of using Navy Mobilization Processing Sites which have been the only option since 9/11.

Command Updates

The NROTC Golden Gopher Battalion Send COVID Packing!

It was a challenge to adjust back to in-person events after a year of virtual, but the Midshipmen were motivated and ready to tackle the challenge. The Gopher Battalion picked up the tempo and found ways to safely conduct in-person events such as field training exercises, leadership labs, and the Joint Service Review; all culminating in the commissioning of the fleet's newest Ensigns and Second Lieutenants.



MN ROTC graduated Six Navy Ensigns and four Marine Corps Second Lieutenants

The Marine Option Midshipmen conducted two Field Training Exercises (FTX) at the Arden Hills Army Training Site. Midshipmen camped out under the stars and focused on learning new skills they will need in the fleet like Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and land navigation.

The week before finals, the Navy Options joined their Marine counterparts at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin for the Battalion FTX. Over the 3-day event Marine Option Midshipmen further refined their skills with night land navigation while the Navy Options focused on learning Celestial Navigation. Midshipmen fire teams simulated Urban Combat Operations in Fort McCoy's realistic training city. They also had to solve complex situations using teamwork and ingenuity. The FTX concluded with a challenging Obstacle Course run with friendly competition between the Blue and Green teams.

Shortly after Battalion FTX the Midshipmen conducted the annual Joint Service Review. All ROTC branches at the University of Minnesota came together for a ceremony that honored specific Cadets and Midshipmen on their achievements over the past year. Cadets and Midshipmen conducted an award ceremony and a pass-in-review of Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy Reserve Officers Training Units providing a joint training opportunity and a chance to recognize deserving individuals.

On May 21, UMN NROTC hosted its annual Eagle & Anchor 5K fundraiser, with over 100 participants. The first Battalion community event in over a year, the Midshipmen-organized race brought together friends, family, and other University of Minnesota students for a competitive morning race. From one of the racers, "Thank you for bringing this back!" The Battalion plans on hosting more running events in the future.



The Gopher Battalion instituted their first-ever PQS (Personnel Qualification Standards) board during spring finals. Third- and Fourth-class Midshipmen participated in the event where they were tested on general military knowledge, drill movements, and knowledge specific to their selective service. The Third- and Fourth-class Midshipmen relied heavily on their peers and upperclassmen to help them prepare. All of them passed and were able to advance to Second- and Third-Class Midshipmen!

NROTC Gopher Battalions competes in Joint Military Athletic Competition

Command Updates



NROTC Update (Continued)

The culmination of the spring semester was the commissioning of six Navy Ensigns and four Marine Corps Second Lieutenants! We wish them fair winds and following seas as the Second Lieutenants depart for The Basic School in Virginia and the Ensigns disperse to Pensacola for flight school, Charleston for Nuclear Power School, or report for duty in San Diego and Okinawa.



The 2020-2021 school year proved to be the most challenging in recent memory.

Currently, our Midshipmen are at summer training throughout the United States. After they spend their summer driving ships and learning to fly Naval Aircraft they will return for the fall semester as we welcome 17 new Midshipmen to our ranks.



Joint Service Review at the University of Minnesota



Washington Tech JROTC Update

JROTC Cadets from Washington NAVY JROTC and Como Park MARINE CORPS JROTC are learning the joys of sailing this summer.



Based at the Phalen Lakeside Activity Center, the Saint Paul Public School JROTC Sail Academy trains cadets to rig and sail a variety of sailboats ranging from 14-17 feet in length.

JROTC Sail Academy trains cadets to rig and sail a variety of sailboats

Washington Tech JROTC (Continued)

In June we train a cadre of cadet instructors who will go on to teach others during a two-week period in August. Washington NJROTC has 10 sailboats, all of which were donated by Twin Cities residents through the assistance of Angie and Jason Brown of White Bear Boat Works.

Como MCJROTC Update

Several cadets from the MCJROTC took pride and showed teamwork to improve the Como school grounds. During class curriculum and physical fitness, they worked diligently to rip, weed, and dig up overgrowth in several of the concrete planters located on school grounds. They will go onto to compete amongst each other to grow and landscape the same concrete planters by school's end.



Como MCJROTC cadets clean planters on the grounds of Como HS

A small award ceremony was held to recognize Como Park Marine JROTC cadets for their many accomplishments, leadership, and college scholarships. It was an opportunity to bid farewell to the departing seniors graduating this school year. And finally, the new MCJROTC Chain of Command was put into place as Aliser Paw was appointed the new Commanding Officer and Isaiah Cooper was appointed the new Cadet Sergeant Major for SY21-22.

Additionally, four cadets have been selected for JROTC camps. Our Junior Leadership Academic Bowl (JLAB Team) travels to Nationals in Washington DC in July. We are also supporting the Back to the Fifties event at the State Fair Grounds. In August we will conduct a large scale cadet leadership camp on Camp Ripley and Camp Shamineau. And lastly before the new school year starts, we will work the state fair grounds picking up trash as a fund raiser for our program.

Command Updates



Twin Cities Sea Cadets Squadron

The Twin Cities Squadron is continuing to get our sea legs as we emerge from COVID restrictions. Our recruitment efforts remain strong, and the unit has grown by an additional 4 cadets, bringing our total ranks to 33 (15 – NLCC, 18 – NSCC).

In recent months, our cadets have participated in training evolutions focused on the heritage of firearms and safety, culminating with marksmanship qualifications. In March cadets qualified using the M4/M16 simulator which included general range safety. In May, the cadets used this knowledge and skill to earn marksmanship awards during a live fire exercise at Osseo Gun Club. The cadets qualified using a Glock 44, a .22lr caliber handgun. For many this was their first experience with a firearm. They proved quick studies, and several qualified as marksmen.



Cadets earn marksmanship awards at Osseo Gun Club

Airman Houge, a fifth-year cadet, organized an aviation training evolution designed to use virtual reality technology. After learning basic flight rules, landing and departure procedures cadets used VR technology to fly a variety of military aircraft. Bravo zulu Airman Houge on a great hand-on learning practical for your shipmates.

The Division and Logistics Officers are issuing sea bags, dress whites and additional working uniforms to cadets. During May drill weekend, cadets updated their ribbon racks to include new awards earned.

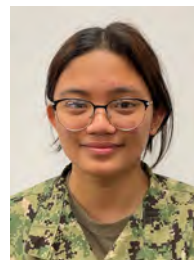
The upcoming June drill will be focused on preparation and celebration. Our new recruits are anxious to attend various Leaguer Orientation and Recruit Training opportunities this summer.

More senior cadets are enrolling in advanced training throughout the region and country, ranging from Field Ops to Ceremonial Rifle Drill.

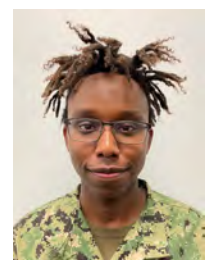
The return to drill, also meant a return to physical training and outdoor activity. Cadets participated in the physical readiness training (PRT) this month in preparation for summer trainings. For nearly half of the unit, this was their first PRT. The cadets encouraged each other to push themselves, even on a hot and humid day. We have a long way to go, but the cadets demonstrated leadership and resilience through adversity. June will also see the graduation of 2 cadets. We wish fair winds and following seas to PO3 Angela Mallari and AA Andrew Kuria. PO3 Mallari will be attending college in fall, and AA Kuria received his appointment to the US Naval Academy.

Newly minted Training Officer, INST Duval will be escorting Leaguer Orientation in Pearl Harbor this summer. He is setting the bar high, and sure to represent the unit proudly. Lt. Col Uhlig will be hosting the cadre of Officers June 25-27 at Camp Ripley for Officer Professional Development (OPD 101) training.

As parade season approaches, our Color Guard team has resumed drill and ceremonial exercises. This team has several new faces, eager and motivated to carry on the tradition of colors. Outgoing color guard captain PO3 Mallari has been working with them on marching cadence and smart command execution.



PO3 Angela Mallari will attend college this fall



AA Andrew Kuria will attend Naval Academy this fall

Overall, the unit morale is high, and the command staff excited for the future of the Squadron.

Command Updates



Twin Ports Sea Cadets

Our command continued its scientific survey work from Roughrider on Lake Superior. To date, our sailors have conducted 4 survey patrols. Our last one set a record after being underway for 5.5 hours and covered 23 miles of distance. Future patrols will be conducted in the near future.



Roughrider training continues on Lake Superior

Due to Coronavirus severely hampering our normal work up cycles, this quarter saw the rapid tempo to complete work ups in time for our mobilization in June. Our command is mobilizing to provide medical support operations for a large, annual running Marathon. All hands, both officer and enlisted, completed 5 months of medical work ups and inspections to hit the target deadline. It normally takes 7 months to complete our annual certifications/refresher schooling.

Despite coronavirus, we were able to pull long hours and complete them 2 months sooner. Training our sailors was greatly improved with the acquisition of "Airway Larry" This anatomically correct mannequin head has teeth, tongue, nasal cavities and upper airway for adjunct insertion, O2 therapy, and suctioning skills practice.



Medical training being conducted on Airway Larry

We have two more of our sailors transferring to active duty in June. BM3 Donovan Lowney is staying Navy, and is also staying in deck department upon transfer. Instructor Jessica McMahan, who is currently our medical officer is also staying Navy and medical.



Instructor Jessica McMahan, is currently Twin Ports medical officer is staying Navy and in medical

Other News

Did You Know...

By Brandon Montanye

Minneapolis International Airport, Wold-Chamberlain field, is currently the seventeenth busiest airport in the U.S. for passenger transportation and twelfth for aircraft operations. It's also a base for Sun Country Airlines and the second largest hub for Delta Air Lines.

But did you know from November 1928 to June of 1970 Minneapolis's Wold-Chamberlain field was home to a Naval Air Station (NAS)? Over the years NAS Minneapolis, later NAS Twin Cities, operated several different types of aircraft by Naval and Marine Corps Reserves, including the F6F Hellcat, F4U Corsair, TBM Avenger, F9 Panther/Cougar, FH-1 Phantom, F-2H Banshee, P2V Neptune, A-4 Skyhawk and various models of helicopters.



P2V-6 Minneapolis Naval Air Station 1969

There were two additional airfields under the NAS command. In 1942, the Navy purchased McInnis Field located in South St. Paul. Later renamed Fleming Field in 1944 after Captain Richard E. Fleming, USMCR. He was a native of St. Paul who died June 5, 1942 in the Battle of Midway. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions. The airfield was designated a Naval Auxiliary Air Facility (NAAF) for the NAS. Training Squadron 1B was based there during the war. The wooden hangars remain and are still in use today.

The second airfield was Outlying Field (OLF) Bemidji. It was municipally owned and operated by the city of Bemidji. The facilities were erected by the city for Navy air operations under a use-lease agreement. Commercial air businesses also operated from the airfield, as they still do today.

During World War II NAS Minneapolis was used as a flight training facility. In 1943 President George H.W. Bush was a student Naval Aviator there, flying the Boeing N2S-1 Stearman. One of the Stearman he flew is still operational and located at the Wings of the North Museum in Eden Prairie, MN.

The Naval Air Station was decommissioned in June 1970, but the Navy maintained a presence there as the Naval Air Reserve Center Minneapolis. The facilities were eventually turned over to the Air Force and became the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Joint Air Reserve Station. The base is home to the Minnesota National Guard 133rd Airlift Wing and the Navy Operational Support Center.

Did you also know that the original logo for NAS Minneapolis was designed by the Disney Studio during WWII? And now you know.



Disney Naval Air Station Minneapolis Logo

Photos are courtesy of the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame, Noel Allard collection.

Other News

USNAIP Update

The candidate cycle for the United States Naval Academy Class of 2025 has now closed. The new appointees will report for Induction Day on either Tuesday, June 29 or Wednesday, June 30, 2021. All 1200 newly reporting Midshipmen will participate in the Oath of Office Ceremony on June 30. Although somewhat relaxed, COVID-19 restrictions continue to limit activities on the yard at USNA. Fortunately, parents will be allowed to attend several Induction events such as the Oath of Office ceremony and a parent briefing. This year, Minnesota has 13 appointees reporting directly to USNA and 2 additional Minnesotans reporting to the U. S. Naval Preparatory School at Newport, Rhode Island. Appointees have been given contact information for the USNA Parents Association of Minnesota. Many of these appointees and parents attended a welcome aboard orientation and picnic held earlier in June.



Summer STEM camps and the Naval Academy Summer Seminar were held virtually this year due to concerns and restrictions regarding COVID-19. Minnesota was again represented at the Academy's summer programs. The Naval Academy Information Program (NAIP) is working in cooperation with the Navy Talent Acquisition Group, to provide Navy and Marine Corps Officer Programs information to interested persons. Current plans include an NAIP presence in Duluth, Minnesota throughout the Duluth Airshow June 26-27 and the Fargo, North Dakota Airshow July 24-25. The Navy's Blue Angels will be performing at both airshows.

As we look ahead to the next USNA class cycle, we expect that the names and contact information for applicants to the USNA Class of 2026 will be posted within the next few weeks. Once posted, Blue and Gold Officers will be notified of their assigned students. In the interim, applicants may contact the NAIP Area Coordinator for Minnesota, Captain Mark Salmen at mark.salmen@1973.usna.com. He will answer questions or address concerns regarding the USNA application process.

We are seeking additional Blue and Gold Officers in Minnesota. Particular needs exist in areas outside the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Twin Cities Area, but all interested persons are encouraged to apply to become Blue and Gold Officers. For Information on becoming a Blue and Gold Officer, please contact Captain Mark Salmen at mark.salmen@1973.usna.com or Captain Brad Gawboy at bradgawboy@comcast.net



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Minnesota Council
2021 Officers*

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July

Independence Day
AirExpo 2021 Flying Cloud Airport
National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
National Buffalo Soldiers Day
Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary

July 4
July 24-25
July 27
July 28
July 2



August

Anti-Terrorism Awareness Month
Air Force Day
Coast Guard Day
Purple Heart Day
U.S. Department of Defense Birthday
Navajo Code Talkers Day
National Airborne Day
Minnesota State Fair
Marine Corps Reserve Birthday
AUSA Vessey Golf Tournament- Mendakota Golf Club

Entire Month
August 1
August 4
August 7
August 10
August 14
August 16
August 26 – September 6
August 29
August 30



September

National Suicide Prevention Month
V-J Day
Labor Day
Patriot Day
Constitution Week
Constitution Day/Citizenship Day
National POW Recognition Day
Air Force Birthday
Air National Guard Birthday
Minneapolis Navy Week
Gold Star Mother's Day
VFW Day

Entire Month
September 2
September 6
September 11
September 17-23
September 17
September 17
September 18
September 18
September 26 - October 2
September 26
September 29

