



May 2011



# Briefing

The Publication of the Navy League of the United States, Jacksonville Council

## Understanding the North Africa Tinderbox

**W**hat an amazing year we have already seen in North Africa: Regime change in Tunisia, the fall of 40-year President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, raging civil war in Libya...and we're only one-third of the way into the year!

his retirement last fall, he was completing nearly three years as Commander Naval Forces Europe, Commander Naval Forces Africa, and Commander Joint Naval Forces Naples. Wearing these three "hats," he was responsible for overall

### *JaxCouncil Luncheon Series*

**Thursday, May 12, 2011**

#### **The River Club**

35<sup>th</sup> Floor, Modis Building

Registration: 11:30 a.m.

Lunch & Program: Noon

RSVP: 425-5691 by May 9



**Adm. Mark P. Fitzgerald**

Recently retired (four-star) Admiral Mark Fitzgerald understands this part of the world and the geopolitical dynamics that have produced the current tinderbox as well as anyone. At the time of

command, operational control, and coordination of U.S. Naval forces in the European and Africa commands and for NATO missions in the Balkans, Iraq and throughout the Mediterranean.

Navy League JaxCouncil members and guests will have a special opportunity to gain first-hand insight into the incredible changes taking place in that volatile region when Adm. Fitzgerald will be our speaker at the next JaxCouncil Luncheon Series meeting, beginning at noon, May 12 at the River Club.

This will be a unique opportunity to hear from one of our Navy's brightest stars throughout his distinguished 37-year career. Don't miss it! RSVP: 425-5691.

## FDR Sea Cadet Promoted to Program's Top Rank

**By Douglas Tillett**  
**Vice President, Youth Programs**

The F. D. Roosevelt Squadron of the U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, which is supported by the Navy League, Jacksonville Council, has

been operating as a squadron since it was established in 1961. During that time, many young people have joined our program, advanced through the ranks, then left after



high school for careers in the military or in the civilian world. When students visit F. D. Roosevelt (FDR) for the first time, they spend the day

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## From the Bridge

By Alan R. Joyce, President

The first quarter of 2011 seems to have flown by, and we move now into the heat of summer. We continue to



build our membership both individually and through community affiliates. Thank you and welcome to all our new members who have recently

joined the Jacksonville Council.

I draw your attention to the events calendar, which is continuing to evolve. A great visit was had by all who attended the tour of the Kings Bay Submarine Base and USS Maryland, which was in Blue/Gold

turnaround maintenance. The young men serving on that boat are a fine group that we can all be very proud of, and I am sure are representative of all our service people.

Our mixers at NAS Jacksonville are a great way to meet fellow Navy Leaguers, active service men and women and find out what is currently going on “behind the fence.”

VP-30 was the host for the P-8A tactical station demonstrator followed by a reunion dinner in early April, which many of our members attended.

Please plan on attending some of the great upcoming JaxCouncil events, and bring a friend. Fly Navy!

## Are You Plugged In to JaxCouncil Online Updates?

Did you know you can access the latest council developments, program information, tour opportunities, and more by regular visits to the council website, [www.nljax.com](http://www.nljax.com). Moreover, you can receive late-breaking event updates through the JaxCouncil e-mail service.

If you are not currently receiving council e-mails, send an e-mail to [Navy.League.JaxCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Navy.League.JaxCouncil@gmail.com) and request to be added to the e-mail list.

## Wanted: Web-savvy Volunteer

JaxCouncil is looking for one or two good members (or prospective members) with a working knowledge of websites to interact with our web provider in upgrading the council site, [www.nljax.com](http://www.nljax.com).

If you have experience in this area and can devote a few hours to making the council's site better, contact V.P. Communication Logan Johnson at (904) 382-8298 or [loganjohnson@ymail.com](mailto:loganjohnson@ymail.com).

*Event Change  
Notice*

## Salute to Veterans

### Dinner and George Linville Memorial Drawing

has been moved to  
November 10, 2011 at 6 p.m.  
Florida Yacht Club

## 2011 Battle of Midway Commemoration Dinner

Tickets are on sale for this year's Battle of Midway Commemoration Dinner, which will be held **Saturday, June 4, 2011** at the Renaissance Resort, World Golf Village. The guest speaker will be General James Amos, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps. Also attending will be Battle of Midway veterans and former Prisoners of War who have heroically answered the call of duty. Come meet these national treasures and hear their adventures first-hand.

The evening promises to be emotional and patriotic, and provides an excellent opportunity to connect with survivors of what historians call one of the U.S. Navy's greatest sea victories and the turning point of World War II in the Pacific.

Ticket costs: Active Duty E-6 and below—\$25; E-7 to O-3—\$35; O-4 to O-5—\$45; O-6 and above, civilians, and retirees—\$55.

The evening includes fine dining and entertainment. Uniform will be: O-4 and above—dinner dress white jacket; O-3 and below—dinner dress white/dinner dress white jacket optional; civilian—black tie or business attire. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30. Reserved seating.

Make checks payable to Navy League Midway Dinner. Tickets may be purchased from Logan Johnson, [loganjohnson@ymail.com](mailto:loganjohnson@ymail.com).

# Sea Cadets Have a New Chief

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drilling with our cadets, giving them an idea if our program is right for them. When they decide to join, they are initially ranked as airman recruit. From that point, they begin their advancement in the Sea Cadets.

For a Sea Cadet to move up in rank, there is course work that must be accomplished, training iterations that must be attended, and time-in-grade to pass. Each recruit has to complete the Basic Military Requirements and attend recruit training (sometimes called boot camp) to become an airman apprentice, or E2, and earn two stripes.

After at least six months, completion of an advanced training and finishing the course work, the cadet earns the rank of airman, or E3, and has three stripes. Beyond that, after a minimum of six months at each rank, another advanced training for each rank and more course work for each rank, the cadet advances to PO3, then to PO2, and finally to PO1 with three stripes on their sleeve under a crow with crossed anchors.

There is only one rank attainable beyond PO1, chief petty officer. It takes a lot to become a chief in the Sea Cadets, and few cadets ever make it. Some have said making chief is on par with the Eagle rank in Boy Scouts, but Lieutenant Commander June Tillett, regional director of the Sea Cadets from Savannah to Winter Park, would argue that chief is much more demanding of an accomplishment. Indeed, at any particular time, there are only 100 or fewer chief petty officers in the Sea Cadet program nationwide.

Rebecca Corley is one of those few cadets. She was promoted to chief petty officer in a ceremony closing the FDR drill on March 19 with her proud family in attendance. Chief Corley has been in the Sea Cadets since age 13. Now 18, she is a senior at Wolfson High School and will be graduate in June. She plans to attend the University of North Florida and major in psychology. Chief Corley plans to continue working with the FDR Sea Cadets and will transition from chief to midshipman later this year.

In recent memory, we have had only two other chief petty officers at FDR, both of whom were

promoted to chief at the same time, three years ago. Kimberly McSweeney, who moved on to college at the University of Central Florida, and Katie Castro, now a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, kept an even pace to make chief all during their Sea Cadet lives.

Next on deck is PO1 Jon Michael Borzeka, on track to make chief in June.



**LCDR June Tillett promotes Sea Cadet Rebecca Corley to chief petty officer.**

## Save the dates!

## *'Meet the Fleet' Mixers*

**June 16 • August 25 • October 20**

**Each begins at 5 p.m. at the T-Bar, NAS Jax**

The Jacksonville Council Board has adopted the T-Bar at NAS Jax as our primary site for "Meet the Fleet" mixers. The attendance has grown substantially since our first T-Bar gathering on the base back in February. If you have not attended as yet, try to come! If you wish, bring your spouse, a friend, a former active military veteran or a potential new member. This is a great opportunity to meet others with similar backgrounds and interests. Numerous active duty personnel drop in to enjoy the event also.

The T-Bar is an excellent venue with the extensive decks overlooking the St. Johns River. What a great place to enjoy the camaraderie and conversation and be aboard this great Navy base...and the chicken wings are free!

Hope to see you at the next "Meet the Fleet" mixer!

If you need a base pass, contact Vice President, Programs, Chuck Tambyn at [cktambyn@comcast.net](mailto:cktambyn@comcast.net) at least a week in advance.

# Briefing

The publication of the  
Jacksonville Council  
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## A Great Day for a Sub Base Tour

**Right: Members of Navy League Jacksonville pause for a Kodak moment after their March 3 "hands-on" tour of the Trident Training Facility and the USS Maryland at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga. The group not only was fortunate to experience one of the area's unparalleled spring days but also to witness a Trident ballistic submarine in the process of a Blue/Gold crew turnover...in drydock.**



## 2011 Calendar

**May 12:** Luncheon Meeting -  
Speaker: Adm. Mark Fitzgerald –  
Understanding the North African  
Tinderbox, noon, the River Club

**June 4:** Battle of Midway Dinner,  
6 p.m., Renaissance Hotel, World  
Golf Village

**June 16:** "Meet the Fleet" Mixer,  
5-7 p.m., T-Bar, NAS Jacksonville

**Aug. 16:** Luncheon Meeting -  
Speaker: Richard Lowry, author of  
"New Dawn - The Battle for Fallujah,"  
noon, the River Club

**Aug. 25:** "Meet the Fleet" Mixer,  
5-7 p.m., T-Bar, NAS Jacksonville

**Oct. 20:** "Meet the Fleet" Mixer,  
5-7 p.m., T-Bar, NAS Jacksonville

**Nov. 5-6:** Centennial of Naval  
Aviation Blue Angels Air Show, NAS  
Jacksonville

## Welcome Aboard!

Sunoptic Technologies, a Jacksonville-based global supplier of fiberoptic cables, high intensity light sources, dental curing probes, and digital recording and imaging devices, is the newest Community Affiliate member of the Jacksonville Council. Community Affiliate is the small business membership level of Navy League and includes four individual memberships, which are being filled by company President Chris Black and executives Dave



Mutch, Larry Flahardy and Eric VanDenhende.

Other new JaxCouncil members include Bob Buehn, chief of the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs, Veterans and Disabled Services Division, and

Chris and Sherill Christopher  
Elizabeth Curtis  
Howard Emerick  
Dave Marble  
Sam Salem  
Brad Smith  
Dan and Carol Weisenburger