

Mini Briefing

June 2011



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

Navy Leaguers & Guests to Tour Blount Island Command June 23

When the Marines go to war, they take a shipload of supplies and equipment with them. If they go to war in a hurry, that essential materiel needs to be close by and ready for action in hours or days, not weeks or months.

When the balloon goes up in places like Iraq (Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom), the Marines arrive by airlift; their warfighting gear arrives on strategically prepositioned Military Sealift Command

ships, laden with tanks, ammunition, food, water, cargo, hospital equipment, petroleum products and spare parts. Each four-ship MPS squadron carries sufficient equipment and supplies to sustain more than 16,000 Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Navy personnel for up to 30 days.

The Blount Island Command in Jacksonville is the hub of the Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) program and a vital U.S. strategic asset, regularly receiving MPS ships for offloading, maintenance, upgrading and reloading of their critical cargo.

Navy League members and their guests will have a rare opportunity to see this unique logistics operation first-hand at the Jacksonville Council's summer Hands-on Tour, June 23. The visit will include a



Maritime Prepositioning Ship

base tour, no-host lunch, and tour of a MPS ship in the process of reloading.

The turnoff to Blount Island is off Hecksher Drive, 7.3 miles east of I-95 and 1.5 miles east of the Dames Point Bridge.

Due to security considerations, advance sign-up by June 16 is essential.

Call 904-425-5691 or send an e-mail to secretary@vosjax.com with the names of attending members and guests.



Hands-on Tour

Blount Island Command

5880 Channel View Dr. 32226

Thursday, June 23

10:15 am - Check-in

10:30 am - Base tour

11:30 am - Lunch

12 noon - MPS ship tour

1:15 pm - Depart

RSVP (by June 16):

– Phone 904-425-5691 or

– E-mail: secretary@vosjax.com

Reminder

New Member Orientation To Precede June 16 Mixer

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Navy League will be presented at a special membership orientation beginning at 4 p.m., June 16 at Mulligan's Restaurant at the NAS Jacksonville Golf Course.

While new Navy Leaguers are particularly encouraged to attend, ALL JaxCouncil members and their guests are welcome. The orientation will precede the bimonthly Meet the Fleet Mixer at 5 p.m., also at Mulligan's, which will feature special guest Capt. D. Pen Hoopen, Commodore Maritime Strike Wing Atlantic. Because the council will provide refreshments for the orientation, please RSVP by phone, 904-425-5691 or e-mail, secretary@vosjax.com.

If you need a base visitor pass for your vehicle, notify VP Programs Chuck Tamblyn at cktamblyn@comcast.net no later than June 10.

**Navy League, Jacksonville Council
1560 Grove Park, Blvd., Suite A-131
Jacksonville, FL 32216**

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2011 Calendar

June 16: New Member Orientation, 4 p.m., Mulligan's, NASJax

June 16: Meet the Fleet Mixer, 5 p.m., Mulligan's NASJax

June 23: Blount Island Command Hands-on Tour, 10:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Aug. 16: Luncheon meeting – Speaker: Author Richard Lowry - “New Dawn – The Battle for Fallujah,” noon, NAS Conference Center.

Nov. 5-6: Centennial of Naval Aviation Blue Angels Air Show / Navy League VIP Chalet, NAS Jacksonville

Nov. 10: Salute to Veterans Dinner & George Linville Memorial Drawing, 6 p.m., Florida Yacht Club

Visit the JaxCouncil website: www.nljax.com