



APRIL 2021



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) Providing a Hot-In Flight (HIFR) to CG MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter.

SEMPER PARATUS

In **NORTHLAND's** ship report in this issue of *The Lucky Bag* on page 4, the XO speaks of the critical role played by the helicopter in the execution of their mission.

The MH-65 helicopter is a short-range recovery helicopter typically crewed by two pilots, a flight mechanic and a rescue swimmer and is the primary aircraft for Coast Guard shipboard operations. The MH-65 is certified for operation in all weather, except for icing conditions and at night. Roles include maritime patrol, drug and migrant interdiction, disaster response, search and rescue, law enforcement and environmental protection. The MH-65 is configurable to enable armed missions, with a door-mounted machine gun and precision-fire rifles.

The MH-65D features improved GPS/inertial navigation and flight management systems. The MH-65E features an all-glass cockpit with advanced navigation capabilities – including new radar. The MH-65E will share avionics with the MH-60T, providing common cockpit instrumentation, improving standardization throughout the Coast Guard rotary-wing fleet. The MH-65E will also include two life extension programs that will allow the fleet to remain in service into the late 2030's. Three helicopters have been upgraded and used in operational test and evaluation activities. Full-rate production began in 2020. There are 98 H-65's in the inventory. **Semper Paratus:** Latin, "Always Prepared". Logo for U.S. Coast Guard.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Adam J. "Jay" Fiedler, M.D.



AHOY EVERYONE

In spite of COVID, your board has been working to keep afloat and plan meetings and outings. Golf is on for 22 September with no cancellations except rain delay. A virtual auction study is underway. Thought of virtual guest speakers is being considered. James River Transportation is functioning, but only half capacity due to spacing. Patriot Rover (excursion boat) is operational for harbor tours and / or tall ships. We could participate if we can handle ½ capacity busses financially. Any suggestions by the membership would be appreciated.

Many members have received at least one shot. You are encouraged to get yours, as the more that are vaccinated, the safer gatherings will be. ✍

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

Unimaginable Power –

You would not be wrong if you said that your tiny iPhone which you carry in your pocket every day is far more powerful than the computers which guided the Apollo spacecraft to the moon and back. The Apollo computers were considered supercomputers that guided earthlings across 240,000 miles of space to the dangerous experience of a human's first step on the surface of a celestial body and yet my phone is more powerful.

Comparing all the great imaginations, thoughts, and inventions that have changed the course of men and nations, none is as unimaginable as the words of the Apostle Paul when he said, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can imagine, think or ask, according to His power that is at work within us".

While our abundance of words has made the world a better place, the Bible's few words of God have overcome the world. Therefore, let us give thanks to the One who enables us to achieve that which is beyond our wildest dreams. ✍

THE NORMANDY INSTITUTE

At our recent outing, my wife Sally and I met a gentleman wearing a mask that said "Army Navy". We had a brief chat, and he gave me his card which said he is a member of "The Normandy Institute". Now I was really intrigued!! They recruit high schoolers and have them research a serviceman who was lost on D-Day. They also have to read and discuss 9- - - that's right NINE selected books on D-Day. The students and their teachers are flown to France - bussed to Normandy where they were sent to the beach to trace the steps of their serviceman.

Following that, they were taken to the

WELCOME ABOARD !

The Richmond Council Navy League is proud to welcome you as a member. In the weeks ahead, when you attend one of our Navy League events, please let the person at the registration desk know that you are a new member attending.

NEW MEMBER

Father William J. Bartz, CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret)

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John A. Harler, M.D.

cemetery to present a personal eulogy to the lost one: and to place US and French flags at the site. What a way to learn history! I said "can I sign up now"? He said it was a life changing moment for the students (and teachers).

Sally and I needed a Kleenex because there must have been something in the air that irritated our eyes.

The gentleman had several stories: one student did not want to read a eulogy; she read the last letter he sent to his Mom/ another said "this is not his gravesite"! - - It's 100 yards over there - the custodian checked it out, and same last names, THEY WERE BROTHERS! Ultimately their sites were moved side by side so they could be together forever! Any dry eyes now?

The Institute is currently under COVID restrictions, so no candidates the year. Learn more by visiting website Normandy Institute:

<https://normandyinstitute.org>

(submitted by Council's President, Jay Fiedler, M.D.)

WWII WARBIRO SHOWCASES

I'm Dwight Kibler, a Richmond Council member and a member of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF). The CAF is dedicated to preserving the aviation history of WWII and honoring those who served. Our local unit, the Capital Wing based in Culpeper, VA, will be holding several warbird showcases around the state this year. We'll have several WWII-era aircraft and other items on display, and we'll be selling rides in some of our aircraft. For several of the shows we'll be teaming with the Delaware Aviation Museum Foundation to bring in their B-25. The closest show to Richmond will be on July 17 & 18 at the Hanover County Municipal Airport in Ashland.

Here's a link to our website with details about the aircraft, show dates and locations. ✍

<https://www.capitalwingwarbirdrides.org/>

CHANGE OF COMMAND OF BLACKLIONS



CDR Bryan "STAG" Pinckney, a native of Richmond, VA, graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA followed by Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in Political Science. He was commissioned through NROTC in May 2002.

CDR Pinckney was designated a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in Pensacola, FL in March 2004. After advanced training at VFA-122 at NAS Lemoore, CA, he was qualified as an F/A-18F Super Hornet Weapons System Officer (WSO). In January 2005, CDR Pinckney reported to the "Black Aces" of VFA-41. He completed two Western Pacific deployments aboard the **USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)** in support of both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He also earned his Strike-Fighter Weapon Training and Tactics Level IV and FAC(A) qualifications and served as Line Division and Air-To-Surface Weapons Trainings Officer.

In January 2008, he reported to the "Gladiators" of VFA-106 at NAS Oceana, VA and qualified as an F/A-18D-F Instructor WSO. At VFA-106, he served as 1st LT, Operation Administration, Demonstration Team Lead, and Strike Phase Head. While a member of the 2009 Super Hornet Tactical Demonstration Team, he performed at the Sakhir Airbase for the 2010 Bahrain International Airshow.

In December 2010, CDR Pinckney reported to C5F/USNAVCENT HQ in Manama, Bahrain where he served as the Aide to the Commander, VADM

Mark Fox. Following his Aide tour, he attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI where he graduated with distinction.

CDR Pinckney then reported to the "Swordsmen" of VFA-32 in NAS Oceana, VA. While with the "Swordsmen", he served as the Administration Officer, Maintenance Officer, and Operations Officer. He deployed to the CENTCOM AOR aboard **USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)** from Sept 2013 – April 2014 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During his tour, he earned his CDO (underway), Air Wing Mission Commander, and Air Wing Rescue Mission Commander qualifications.

In December 2015, CDR Pinckney reported to US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany where he was assigned to the J4 Directorate. He served as the Directorate's Integrated Priority List manager, Annual Joint Assessment lead, and was a member of the Director's Command Action Group to spearhead USEUCOM's Mobility Strategy. In November 2019, he joined the VFA-213 "Blacklions" as the Executive Officer.

CDR Pinckney has accumulated over 2600 flight hours, including over 2100 hours in the F/A-18D-F and more than 500 carrier arrested landings. He is the recipient of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike Flight Air Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards) and various campaign and unit medals. ✍

(Photo & article provided by Blacklions PAO LTjg Mikaela Sakach)

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

(note: these reports may be edited to fit space available)



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Charles Hampton
XO: CDR Theresa L. Kaylor
CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison
George L. Feitig, Jr., Ass't Liaison

XO CDR Theresa Kaylor and PAO LT Brian Weingart are leaving the ship. ✍



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson
XO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

There is no better way than underway! The **CARTER HALL** and crew have enjoyed being back on the open water, training, preparing, and executing. That has been our goal and aim for quite some time now. In the year that has passed, the **CARTER HALL** performed at a sustained superior level, and for such we were privileged to be selected as the winner of the 2020 Battle Effectiveness and Command Excellence Award, the Battle E, for Amphibious Squadron 4. As the CAPT notes, "Every Sailor's decisions and behavior create the culture in which we all live and work". Attributing the success of the **CARTER HALL** to her crew, would be accurate, but shortsighted. Without present, engaged leadership, even the most well-meaning Sailor can underperform. Thankfully, we have been outfitted not only with able bodied crew but diligent leaders who take the time necessary to instill the discipline required in the crew of a warship. Truly, it takes all hands-on deck to perform, but it takes focused effort to perform optimally.

Not only does it take committed leadership, but it demands staunch support, and that's where the Richmond Navy League stands tall. Our "Deployment Dollars" program should be up and running soon, and once we get it rolling, you can be sure the recipients will be grateful to the men and women of the RNL for your continued support. Again, quoting the CAPT, "Relationships build trust and trust is the foundation of high functioning teams". The relationship between the Fightin' 5-0 and RNL goes back a good ways. The tenure of this relationship itself is proof that relation-

USS CARTER HALL cont. on page 4

**USS CARTER HALL continued
from page 3**

ships that build trust matter. I for one am looking forward to the days when we can gather together and celebrate that bond in person. Until that time, know that we have the watch and that your efforts are appreciated and making a difference for many.

We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War! ✍

Very Respectfully,
Chaplain Block
LT, CHC, USN



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Corey Odom
XO: CDR Hunter Washburn
CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison
Alan Palmer, Consultant

No Report.



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett
XO: LCDR Joshua DiPietro
COB: GMC Robert Boyer

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison
Vaughan F. Dize, Assistant Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND!**

Our current patrol is focused on the Coast Guard fisheries mission, while often serving as the Coast Guard's Offshore search and rescue asset. We've conducted daily boardings of domestic fishing boats to ensure fair and safe practices are being conducted by fisherman. In addition, we diligently patrolled the Maritime Boundary Line (MBL) deterring illegal fishing in U.S. waters. Finally, **NORTHLAND** has been on the lookout for illegal and irresponsible fishing gear lost or left behind by fisherman who cross the MBL. Our aggressive presence in the area has already resulted in the interdiction of one illegal Mexican fishing vessel poaching Red Snapper in US waters. More importantly, we believe

that our presence has deterred many other vessels from illegally crossing the maritime boundary line to poach US fish stocks.

Included with our usual **NORTHLAND** crew is an aviation detachment from Air Station Corpus Christi. The crew, flying a Eurocopter MH-65 Dolphin, is making at least one flight a day, with hopes to direct **NORTHLAND** specifically where to look for fishing vessels. The daily flight operations conducted are great training for our crew and great training for the air crew, as landing on a moving cutter is a little different than landing at an airport!

In addition to conducting the mission daily, **NORTHLAND's** crew worked hard to gain new personal qualifications. With transfer season looming and crew members that are departing already beginning to learn where they are going next, training the people that will remain on **NORTHLAND** through the summer is becoming more important than ever. The crew remains industrious as they work hard to get qualified and ready to train new members when they arrive.

As usual, our engineers continue to impress with their repairs and knowledge of the onboard engineering equipment. In February, we were dealt what seemingly could be a catastrophic equipment failure to our #2 Main Diesel Engine's Reduction Gear Cooler. Without this piece of equipment, the #2 Main Diesel Engine could not run properly, which would severely affect our mission, our effectiveness, and our safety. However, our engineers made remarkable on the spot overhauls and masterfully used our scheduled refuel and provision time at port of calls to get **NORTHLAND** back to operating at full capacity.

As we enter the second half of our patrol, the crew remains enthusiastic and excited about the mission. They look forward to finishing patrol on a high note and returning home to see family and loved ones.

As always, thank you for the support! Fair Winds and Following Seas!

✍

Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro



When on deployment, NORTHLAND's crew is augmented by a MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter along with its entire support unit.

Thank You Sponsors!

Your Financial contribution to the Richmond Navy League provides Funds for programs supporting those serving in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Council's Youth Programs; The Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Local Navy and Marine JROTC Units.



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Thanks for jumping on board !!!

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