

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE THE "TOP CATS" OF STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON 213 SPEAK AT COUNCIL'S SPRING LUNCHEON - - -WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2019

GUEST SPEAKERS



CO CDR PATRICK BAKER



XO CDR LESLIE MINTZ 4

The VFA-213 Blacklions are one of sixteen F-18 Super Hornet fleet squadrons at Oceana NAS. There are two types of squadrons, fleet squadrons and fleet support squadrons. Fleet squadrons go to sea in air wings that function as weapons departments of aircraft carriers. Fleet support squadrons stay home. One example at Oceana is VFA-103, which introduces pilots and NFOs to the Super Hornet and oversees their basic training in the aircraft and its systems, as well as their initial carrier landing qualification in that aircraft type. Its instructors enjoy about two years of uninterrupted shore duty. Its students move on to fleet squadrons like VFA-213.

Our Spring Luncheon, on 13 March, will offer a first for The Richmond Navy League. We are honored to have as our guests the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron Two-One-Three, the Blacklions, from Naval Station Oceana, CO CDR Patrick Baker and XO CDR Leslie Mintz will inform us about who they are and what they do at VFA-213. Oceana hosts two types of squadrons, fleet squadrons and fleet support squadrons. VFA-213 is one of sixteen F-18 Super Hornet squadrons at Oceana. Join us for a Super Luncheon.

SCHEDULE

PLACE: Willow Oaks Country Club

6228 Forest Hills Blvd

Richmond, VA 23225

TIME: 11:30 AM - Social

> 12:00 PM - Introductions 12:15-12:45 PM - Lunch

12:45 PM - Speaker, then Q & A

COST: \$ 25.00

RESERVATION DEADLINE	SERVATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2019 (Payment must be received with reservant		be received with reservation form)	tion form)	
PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLO	OWING RESERVATION	S FOR THE SPRI	NG LUNCH	EON: WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2	2019
NAME:	TEL:		Email:		
NAME:	TEL:		Email:		
Total # of Reservations	@ \$25.00 per person	Enclosed: \$		I.L. Office Tel #: (804) 355-7557	
Please make check payable	(and mail to): Richmor	nd Council NLUS	P.O. Box	11201 Richmond, VA 23230	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



NOW HEAR THIS

2019 is well underway. We are now preparing for our Spring Luncheon on 13 March with special guests from Oceana NAS, CDR Patrick Baker and CDR Leslie Mintz, the CO and XO of the Strike Fighter Squadron Two-One-Three (VFA-213) Blacklions. They will be a continuation of the great speakers that we had in 2018. The registration form on page 1 of this issue needs your name and check now! Bring a friend.

We are in the planning stages for other events in 2019, but the most important one is our annual major fundraiser. Our 31st annual golf outing at the Hollows Golf Club will be on 15 May 2019. Please put that on your calendar... and....we must have your help to find sponsors. Start now!

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riarroy C. Edimiora, M.D.

The Lucky Bag is published monthly, except Jan. & Feb. issues, which are combined.

Welcome aboard new members and a continued thank you to the volunteers who work in the office daily to keep this ship afloat! If you are not a volunteer, then **now** is the time. Call us.

NAUTICAL PHRASE OF THE MONTH - "TOUCH AND GO"

It is fitting that an aviation term be discussed this month. Our Spring Luncheon speaker will be from Oceana Naval Air Station. "Touch and Go" is a training exercise intended to prepare a pilot for landing ashore or afloat and with or without the aid of arresting gear. It is not an aborted landing, but a purposeful practice maneuver. A related event on an aircraft carrier, a bolter, is an unplanned. failed landing attempt when an aircraft does not catch the arresting gear. Bolter aircraft abort the landing. accelerate at full throttle and go around to re-attempt the landing.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Lewis W. Brandt

Have you ever been blessed by a gentle breeze? While cutting grass in the "dog days" of August, my wife and I have commented, while wiping the sweat from our faces, "that little breeze really feels good"! Let the breeze increase a little stronger on Sunday morning, and it becomes a nemesis to the ladies' well-cared for hairstyles. When the invisible wind begins to stir the branches and leaves so that they flutter sharply, we say that a storm may be building. Then there are the dark clouds and roaring gales that drive the white caps and storm surges, throwing all things secure into confusion and destruction. When I

consider that last image of the wind and the sea, I get a picture of what James was trying to tell us about the destructive power of doubt, "For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind", James 1:6.

FLEET SQUADRONS AND FLEET SUPPORT SQUADRONS

The VFA-213 Blacklions are one of sixteen F-18 Super Hornet fleet squadrons at Oceana NAS. There are two types of squadrons, fleet squadrons and fleet support squadrons. Fleet squadrons go to sea in air wings that function as weapons departments of aircraft carriers. Fleet support squadrons stay home. One example at Oceana is VFA-103, which introduces pilots and NFOs to the Super Hornet and oversees their basic training in the aircraft and its systems. as well as their initial carrier landing qualification in that aircraft type. Its instructors enjoy about two years of uninterrupted shore duty. Its students move on to fleet squadrons like VFA-213.

GO TO SEA OR GO HOME

A recent Navy Times article high-lighted the problem of 11% of military personnel who take up valuable billets coveting by others. They may be non-deployable for many reasons ranging from administrative issues such as legal problems or failing to get vaccinations, or for legitimate medical conditions such as injury or pregnancy. The Defense Dept. wants to clear the cobwebs. "Real" reasons are excused, otherwise personnel will be sent home if they are ineligible for deployment for 12 consecutive months.

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 at your first function.

New Member

David E. Field Jennifer Hairfield George M. Sheer Stephen V. Snyder

Sponsor

Paul C. Heinrich Gary K. Riffle, Sr. Richmond Council NLUS CDR James P. Wilson

USCGC NORTHLAND THANKS COUNCIL

During the recent government shutdown, Navy personnel were paid, but Coast Guard personnel are under TSA and not paid. This posed a double problem for some of the crew of our adopted ship USCGC NORTH-LAND. First, they were getting ready to deploy. Second, their families would not only miss their loved ones, but they would not have the salaries to make ends meet. An SOS went out. Our Council and other sources answered. We contributed \$500 towards grocery gift cards to help ease the crisis. The officers and crew were greatly appreciative of our commitment. Take a close look at the special thank you card that we received from this extraordinary ship and its exceptional crew.

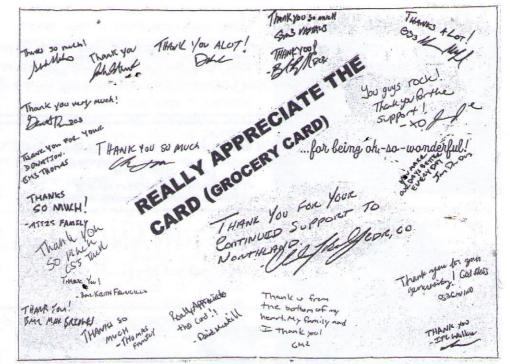
NEW COLUMBIA-CLASS SUBMARINES

Richmond Council Navy League representatives met at Naval Station Norfolk with Submarine Squadron Six. Topics discussed included Richmond Council's support of Norfolk-based submarines. In the next few years Submarine Squadron Six will grow from 9 submarines to 16. The commissioning of the USS DELAWARE (SSN-791) will be next year. Stay tuned for details about a bus trip to Norfolk in summer or fall of 2019.

Meanwhile, the Navy is progressing with initial engineering drawings of the \$122 billion next generation COLUMBIA-class program. Construction of the lead ship is anticipated for 2021 with delivery in 2028. One of the new features of these nuclear–powered subs is a change in propulsion. Reactor heat will no longer go to steam turbines with reduction gears, but instead to steam turbines running generators to power electric motors. Among the advantages are, that without gears, these run quieter. Run Silent - Run Deep.

MARINER'S MUSEUM TRIP CANCELLED

A lot of effort goes into organizing our trips. It was a disappointment to those who signed up that we did not have enough people to afford the bus. Meanwhile, we want to thank those who donated their checks rather than having them returned. Please support our efforts on future trips!



USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65) IN THE YEAR 2034

While the new USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-80) is in the planning stage, what is happening with the old ENTERPRISE? She was the only ship in its class. Not much has happened. Decommissioned in Norfolk in 2017 after the nuclear fuel was removed and now towed back to Newport News, she has only been partly dismantled. The island is gone, but the work for both civilian and military nuclear reactors is backlogged at Bremerton in Puget Sound, Washington. It is a long tow to there. It is estimated that the tow there, followed but the actual work, may not take place until 2034. The bottleneck gets worse. The NIMITZ class will start retiring, beginning with EISENHOWER and VINSON in 2025.

THE 'BLUE WALL' OF HONOR

You are invited to come by the office and see the new 'Blue Wall of Honor' with five important commemorative plaques and awards. Prominently displayed are some of the credentials of the Richmond Council. These include a plaque with the names of the Charter Members of our Council. Another plaque displays the 1st place Mackie Award for Council newsletters that our Lucky Bag won in 2005. Another plaque credits our Council with the 2014 Meritorious Award. Like the Mackie Award, it is bestowed by the National Navy League. There is also a very special "thank you for your support" from Combat Cargo USS NASSAU. We do what

we do for those that serve and having their thanks is appreciated.

Finally, there is the prestigious Moscoe Huntley Award plaque. It lists 29 of our Council members who have made many of these successes possible.

Thanks to Ed Gibbons for painting the blue wall and proudly displaying our Council's accomplishments.



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 Lecal Navy and Marine JROTC Units



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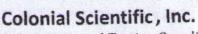


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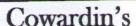


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COUNCIL'S 61ST ANNUAL MEETING

On 16 Jan 2019, the Richmond Council celebrated its 61st Annual Meeting. President John Harler introduced two special guests at the head table. The first was National Navy League's Gerald A. Saunders Jr., SgtMaj USMC (Ret), Senior Vice President of Council Outreach and Member Services. The second introduction was Richmond Council member Mike Denton representing his family and the Vietnam saga of his father, Jeremiah Denton, for whom a new Navy destroyer will be named.

Council Sr. VP Harvey Lankford presented the 2018 events by Power-Point chronicling our mission and activities. Treasurer Bill Butler presented our financial report. The Nominating Committee report was given by Sr. VP Lankford. The new Director-nominee was Doug Reed. The returning Director-nominees names were then read and all came forward to be elected by the membership. All Directors were sworn in by Judge Advocate Tom Hassell. The Officers for 2019 were read and elected by the Directors, then sworn in.

The Sr. VP of the Richmond Council for the last 2 years, Harvey Lankford, was then sworn in as the new president. Harler and Lankford exchanged president's pins. Lankford presented

Harler with a commemorative gavel and plaque. Harler presented Lankford the real gavel, to be used wisely. New President Lankford delivered a short acceptance speech. Instead, in a surprise, he elicited the help of National Navy League VP Saunders and Council's previous Moscoe Huntley Award recipients Milton Owen, Bill McCathern, Ed Gibbons, and Walter Tucker (absent). Tom Hassell became the 29th recipient of Council's highest award, the prestigious Moscoe Hunt-Award. President Lankford thanked Mr. Hassell for his dedicated service to our council over many years. With this honor bestowed, the benediction was given by Chaplain Brandt and the meeting adjourned.



Special Guests: Council member, Mike Denton (at left), and from National Navy League, SgtMaj Gerald A. Saunders, Jr., USMC (Ret).



President Lankford presented Past President, John Harler, with a commemorative gavel and plaque.



President Lankford congratulates Tom Hassell on becoming the 29th recipient of Council's highest award, the Moscoe Huntley Award.

GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS

GOLFERS!!! GET PREPARED FOR A FUN DAY

It's time for all you golfers to pull out the clubs and start practicing for the Council's premier event, our Annual Golf Outing, which will be held on Wednesday May 15th at the Hollows Golf Club in Montpelier. Get your foursomes together and sign up for a fun day of golf. Full details for the outing, registration form and sponsorship form are shown in the 2019 Golf Outing Brochure included as an insert in this edition of *The Lucky Bag*.

The Golf Outing is our premium annual fund-raising event. Last year over \$14,800.00 was raised in cash and just over \$4,700.00 in prizes. This was done *entirely* by the hard work of nineteen Board Members and four Navy League members obtaining sponsors who gave cash and prizes. To achieve this year's goal of \$15,000.00 we will need more sponsors than last year. Therefore, your Board is appealing to ALL Navy League members to participate in soliciting both cash and prize sponsors. During our daily activities we all come into contact with potential sponsors. Examples are the corporations or businesses we work for, the dealerships we purchase our vehicles from, banks and investment advisors, restaurants we frequent, real estate agents and from stores we buy our groceries and make major purchases.

We now have Navy League business cards with our website address which you can hand to prospective sponsors. Call the Navy League office to order your business cards at (804) 355-7557. The 2019 Golf Outing Brochure can be downloaded from the Council's website, navyleague-richmond.com and hard copies are available at the Navy League office.

DIRECTIONS



FROM D. C.: Take L95 South to Rt. 54 West (Ashland). Go approximately 9 miles and take a left on Rt. 671 (Scotchtown Rd.). Go approximately 2.5 miles and take a left on Rt. 657 (Greenwood Church Rd.). Bear left at fork. Club House is on the right.

FROM I-95 / ASHLAND: Take highway 54 west approximately 9 miles. Turn left on Route 671 (Scotchtown Rd.). Go approximately 2.5 miles and turn left on Route 657 (Greenwood Church Rd.). Bear left at fork. Clubhouse is on the right.

FROM RICHMOND: Take Staples Mill Rd. (Route 33) West or take I-295 to Rt. 33 West. Go approximately 5 miles past I-295 and turn right on Rt. 670 (Farrington Rd.). Go approximately 2 miles to stop sign and take a left on Rt.657 (Greenwood Church Rd.). Clubhouse is on the left in 1 mile.

FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE: Take 1-64 East to the 288/Broad St. East exit. Go 1/10 mile to 1-64 West, then 7/10 mile on 1-64 West to the Rt. 623 (Rockville) exit. Go north on 623 to Route 33 (2nd stop light) and turn left. Go approximately 1 mile and turn right on Rt. 670 (Farrington Rd.). Go approximately 2 miles to stop sign and turn left on Rt. 657 (Greenwood Church Rd.). Clubhouse is on the left in 1 mile.

Thank you for your continued Participation and Support

Through your support of this golf outing, you provide the necessary funds for the Richmond Navy League to sponsor the following programs:

SEA CADETS CORPS

LOCAL JROTC UNITS

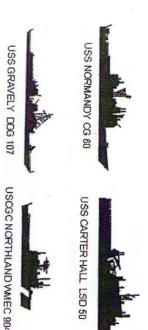
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31st ANNUAL RICHMOND NAVY LEAGUE

OUTING

MAY 15, 2019

RICHMOND NAVY LEAGUE

GOLF OUTING

ited to 128 for this popular event, you should make Golf Club near Montpelier, Virginia on Wednesday May 15 2019. As the number of players will be lim-The Richmond Council NLUS will hold its premier fund raiser, the Annual Golf Outng at the Hollows your reservation early to ensure you do not miss

OUTING INFORMATION

Wednesday May 15, 2019

The Hollows Golf Club WHERE

4501 Greenwood Church Rd.

Montpelier, VA 23192

Captain's Choice, Best Ball FORMAT:

10:30 AM Registration

11:30 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Shot Gun Tee-Off

ENTRY FEE: \$75:00 per golfer

(includes green fees, cart, prizes, lunch, snacks, beer, soft drinks and water) Players 65 and over may play from the gold tees RAIN DATE: June 5 2019. Tee-Off 09:00 AM

PRIZE INFORMATION

Mulligans will be sold for \$5.00 each or two for \$9:00. With a mulligan you can reduce your score and get a chance to win a prize

Team Prizes: First, second and third place team prizes will be awarded.

Individual Prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin on some par 3 holes and longest drive on one par 5 hole

SPONSORSHIP FORM

SPONSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please select an option:

- Option 1 \$1000
 - Option 2 \$600
- Option 3 \$300 0
- Make a Donation \$ **Option 4 \$100**

Option 1: A sign will be placed on a selected hole with the sponsors name and or logo and will be identified with a 1" x 6" listing as a Sponsor in the LUCKY BAG for one year. Option 2: A sign will be placed on a selected hole with the sponsors name and or logo and will be identified with a 1.5" x 3." listing as a Sponsor in the LUCKY BAG for one year. Option 3: A sign will be placed on a selected hole with the sponsors name and or logo and will be identified with a 1" x 3" listing as a Sponsor in the LUCKY BAG or one year. Option 4: A sign will be placed on a selected hole with the sponsors name and or logo and will be identified as a sponsor of the Golf Outing in the LUCKY BAG golf

REGISTRATION FORM

TEAM CAPTAIN

Name:

Address:	Phone:

TEAM PLAYERS

Name:

Individual players are welcome and will be placed into a foursome.

Please mail the completed Entry Form and checks to:

Richmond Council NLUS Richmond, VA 23230 P.O. Box 11201

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent Checks should be made payable to Richmond Council, NLUS provided by law

Thank You Sponsors!

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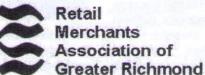
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ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Christopher Stone LCDR Jeremiah N. Petersen CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison AHOY, Richmond Navy League!

NORMANDY and the Harry S. Truman Strike Group have returned from the first ever deployment to utilize our newest strategy called "Dynamic Force Employment"; a pattern that allows us to remain unpredictable to our adversaries. Over the course of eight months, NORMANDY supported air strikes in Syria, strengthened relationships with our NATO allies, and operated north of the Arctic Circle exercising our forward presence and reminding the world that we can operate anywhere at any time. After our return and reconnecting with our loved ones, the mission continues.

NORMANDY finds herself in a period call-

ed the "sustainment phase", a time we utilize for program and equipment upkeep, ensuring that we are always ready to answer the Nation's call, whenever she may need us. The Sailors have been working relentlessly to ensure NORMANDY remains the most capable and battle-ready Cruiser on the waterfront. She shines like new, and every part of that is due to the pride and efforts of this incredible Crew. An even stronger indication of their pride is in the color of our anchor. NORMANDY was awarded the Retention Excellence Award, given to

USS NORMANDY continued on page 7

USS NORMANDY continued from page 6

ships who are able to maintain superior military retention. As a symbol of this honor, we were authorized to paint our anchor gold! Each morning as I walk down the pier, I see our golden anchor, the bright white "60" against the haze gray hull, and I smile. You would think she's been in port her whole life. One could never guess by looking at her that NORMANDY has endured for so long and remained a vital treasure to the Nation's defense for three decades.

I am very proud to announce the incredible accomplishments of two NORMANDY Sailors: Yeoman First Class (SW/IW/AW) Brendan Little and Navy Career Counselor First Class (SW/AW) Brandon Hoover. Petty Officer Little was selected as both NORMANDY and Carrier Strike Group Eight's Sailor of the Year and was a finalist for Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic Sailor of the Year. Petty Officer Hoover was chosen as the U.S. Fleet Forces Command Career Counselor of the Year, the highest level of competition. Each of these awards are enormous achievements and we are bursting with pride to know we have the privilege to serve alongside these fine Sailors.

We hope you were able to enjoy a lovely holiday season with your families and loved ones. Thank you for your continued support and outreach.

Very Respectfully, CO CAPT Christopher D. Stone



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR Bruce W. Golden
XO: CDR Matthew R. Shellock
CMC: CMDCM Donavon Gray

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

After 12 months of shipyard work, CARTER HALL has finally completed the Chief of Naval Operations maintenance availability and returned to sea! As you can imagine, this led to a very busy December and January for the crew. Thankfully, the crew was allowed to take a holiday leave block ensuring sailors had the opportunity to spend the holidays with their families and friends. Upon return, the ship quickly got to work to finish the remaining maintenance jobs to enter into the Light-Off Assessment (LOA). LOA is required for the

ship's Engineering Department to show the inspectors that the crew is capable of starting, running, and maintaining the engineering plant. LOA kicked off on 22 January and was concluded on 28 January with the Engineering Department "hitting a home run" as the ship was certified to be able to return to sea. On 26 January, the entire ship participated in a Fast Cruise, which is a simulated underway period allowing the crew to practice and show proficiency in procedures to safely operate the ship. Once all of the above was completed. the CARTER HALL departed JEB Little Creek for KTR Sea Trials, an evolution designed to test the equipment and the crew. Once again, CARTER HALL knocked it out of the park.

Now, the work continues as the ship enters the Basic Phase of operations. The basic phase focuses on team training, unit level exercises, unit inspections, assessments and qualifications. This is required for CARTER HALL to begin more complex integrated training events leading to an eventual deployment.

Also, CARTER HALL would like to thank Richmond Navy League for donating a new TV for the Gator Chapel. We were fortunate to have received the TV prior to our underway and were able to use it to show the Super Bowl raising the morale of the ship's crew! Thank you for your generous contribution!

As we enter into February, CARTER HALL will be continuing to head out to sea to continue our training! We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War!

Very Respectfully, PAO LT Patrick D. Williams Command Chaplain



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Justin R. Hodges
XO: CDR Michael T. O'Reilly
CMC: MCPO (SW/AW) Larae Baker

Alan Palmer, Liaison

Greetings from USS GRAVELY!

January was a busy and productive month, marking the completion of the first month of our 2019 deployment. The transit across the Atlantic Ocean was uneventful, marked by some predictably rough weather that gave everyone a chance to get their "sea legs" under them. We left Norfolk with an embarked detachment from HSM 70, including two SH-60R helicopters, and the U.S. members of the

Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1 staff, to include Rear Admiral Edward Cash man

Our first stop was in Copenhagen, Denmark in mid-January. We embarked the remaining members of the SNMG1 staff, comprised o Officers from Belgium, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, and Canada. The first several days of the port visit were dedicated to turn-over with the outgoing SNMG1 staff followed by a formal change of command cer emony in which RDML Cashman took command of SNMG1 and GRAVELY assumed duties as the SNMG1 flagship.

While the turnover and change of command kept the crew busy, there was also ample time for everyone to enjoy the beautiful city of Copenhagen. We departed ready to begin exercises and training in the Sixth Fleet area of operations, building readiness and enhancing interoperability with our NATO allies.

Very Respectfully, XO CDR Michael T. O'Reilly



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Charles L. Banks
XO: LCDR Jeremy M. Greenwood
COB: ETC Joseph W. Leu

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Cutter NORTHLAND is currently underway in the Caribbean on counter drug and migrant operations. The crew is using this short underway period to work on qualifications and prepare for our Aviation Standardization Inspection that occurs in the middle of February.

We currently have a few temporary duty shipmates that have joined us for patrol. One of whom is a direct commission lawyer who is having his first underway experience with us. They have all quickly adjusted to underway life and are proving to be helpful to the mission. Everyone is looking forward to what the rest of patrol has to offer.

We are so thankful for all of the support that the Navy League gave us during the government shutdown. Many of the crew members were at a loss of words for your generosity and kindness. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you do.

Very Respectfully, XO LCDR Jeremy M. Greenwood



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