



Newsletter

Navy League of the United States, Orange County Council

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On October 5, 2024, the Orange County Navy League hosted Vistage Group Orange County for an exclusive tour of NAVBASE Coronado. The tour began at the Silver Strand Training Complex, a premier urban warfare training facility essential to military operations. It continued aboard the USS Carl Vinson, famously known as the ship where Osama bin Laden's body was brought after the 2011 raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan. During lunch at the Sea 'N Air Golf Course, Captain Montero, Commanding Officer of NAVBASE Coronado, provided valuable insights into the base's operations, which support over 40,000 military and civilian personnel. The day concluded with a visit to the historic I Bar, a key location in naval aviation history and an inspiration for Top Gun: Maverick. We appreciate your support—check out the experience on Facebook and stay connected with us!



Pictured Below: From left to right, Captain Kasey Toven, Executive Officer Jacob Norgaard, and Past President John Gates. Located at the border of Imperial Beach and Coronado, the Naval Radio Receiving Facility (NRRF) is home to the historic "Wollan Weber" circular antenna, which once facilitated vital Navy submarine communications. Known as the "elephant cage," this 450-acre landmark remains key for urban warfare training, providing strategic access to both the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay.

Honoring a Historic Moment Orange County Navy League Secretary Jay Richardson marked the spot on the USS Carl Vinson where Osama bin Laden's blood fell onto the flight deck just before his burial at sea, a solemn moment in history.



From the editor's desk:

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Orange County Council's newsletter! I am privileged to introduce this new communication platform, designed to keep you informed and engaged with our ongoing efforts to support the Sea Services, the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. This fall has been exciting and eventful for the Council, and I'm pleased to share a few highlights.



Special Experience: Orange County Navy League Tour at NAVBASE CoronadoA memorable day hosted by CAPT Ladislao "Monty" Montero, Commanding Officer of Naval Base Coronado. The tour highlighted the base's vital role in naval aviation and special warfare, its rich history, and the impressive mission of supporting the Fleet, Fighter, and Family. A big thanks to CAPT Montero for his insights and hospitality! Pictured from left to right: Tom Roddel, Chief Executive Vistage Chair for Orange County, CAPT Ladislao "Monty" Montero, Commanding Officer Naval Base Coronado, and Jimmy Suzuki, Chair Program Committee.



Jimmy Suzuki, Program Chair for the Orange County Navy League, at the iconic I-Bar in North Island. The I-Bar, originally built as part of Rockwell Field in the 1930s, has become a significant part of naval aviation history. From its early days as a senior officers' club to its role in inspiring the bar scene in Top Gun, it stands as a symbol of camaraderie and tradition for naval aviators.

E-Sports Program Launch

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our innovative E-Sports initiative. Partnering with the American Legion Post 283, we will set up a gaming tent at San Diego Fleet Week over Veterans Day weekend. This is just the start of an exciting video gaming program to engage and recruit younger generations for service and League memberships.



Miramar Air Show

Jim Bras and I had the honor of attending the 2024 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show as honored guests of the Commanding General of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing, General James Wellons, and Commanding Officer Colonel Erik Herrmann. "America's Air Show" presented a robust and thrilling lineup of both civilian performances and military demonstrations of state-of-the-art fighter, attack, and assault support aircraft. The day culminated with a spectacular performance by the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels.



Thank you for your continued support as we work together to serve our Sea Services and the greater community.

Warm regards,
Joe Greco
President and Editor-in-Chief, Navy League of Orange County
Go Navy, Beat Army!



Visit to Navy SEAL Base

Fifteen Navy League members and distinguished visitors enjoyed an exclusive tour of the Navy SEAL base in San Diego arranged by our Events Committee Chair, Jim Suzuki USN (retired). This included a special luncheon and keynote address by Captain Montero, offering insights into the SEAL community and its vital role in national security.



Essay Contest

Our sponsored-essay contest, hosted by Cal State Fullerton's Veterans Program, is now open! We have invite CSUF student veterans to share memorable moments from their service. This initiative celebrates our veterans and fosters a deeper connection between military service and academic.

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