

The Ship's Whistle



July 2020

An occasional e-mail bulletin of newsworthy information for Members of the **Massachusetts Bay Council**, Navy League of the United States and other friends of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including elected officials; and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.



Please observe the ordered and recommended actions for avoiding contact and spread of this terrible virus. [To the best of our knowledge, we are fortunate that no member of our Massachusetts Bay Council has contracted Covid-19.]

COUNCIL PLANS- All events pending

Aug	Coast Guard Birthday event TBD
Oct	Navy Birthday event TBD
Dec	Toys for Tots event TBD



NOTE: Council Board meetings will be held by tele-conference until further notice. If interested in attending, contact this editor for details.

AWARDS

Awards are being presented to outstanding Navy and Coast Guard personnel within their commands based on COVID-19 restrictions. These include USS Constitution Sailor of the Year, swords to Midshipmen at Mass Maritime and Holy Cross Brown U.), and Coast Guard Base Cape Cod, MSST Cape Cod, Sector Boston, USCGC Spencer, and several N&MCJROTCs. Several other awards are pending.

OUR MISSION CAN NOT STOP

Despite the Coro-19 epidemic, Congress still has work to do. There are bills and proposals pending which are vital to the security of our nation. Emails will be sent to Members encouraging communications to congress when specific support is needed. Currently needed is:

Maritime Security Program COVID Support

Without assistance during this COVID-19 pandemic U.S.-flag vessel operators participating in the Maritime Security Program (MSP) will not be able to maintain laid-up vessels in the readiness status needed by the Department of Defense, and the licensed and unlicensed American merchant mariners will be facing protracted unemployment.

Ask congress to help!

[Speak up to support our merchant mariners today!](#)

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The Critical Importance of America's Tanker Fleet



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Tanker Shortage

If the United States needed to engage in aggressive foreign operations, a possibility made all the more likely by our renewed focus on great power competition, our forces would have access to only nine government and commercial tankers capable of conducting such global actions. It is estimated that American forces would require at least 80 such tankers to support any sort of large-scale military engagement. This problem has only gotten worse in recent years and there is little indication that Congress will address this glaring deficiency without your help.

While American forces were able to utilize foreign flagged tankers in the past, the strategic environment has fundamentally changed. China might have been willing to supply Chinese flagged tankers when our conflicts were in the Middle East, but they certainly won't be willing to help when our engagements are in the South China Sea. Bolstering our U.S. flagged tanker fleet would ensure America's continued dominance in global military engagements, and it would create jobs and maintain our essential shipbuilding capacity in the midst of the Coronavirus epidemic. America currently risks falling far behind our primary competitors such as China and Russia. We must ensure that our forward postured forces can be quickly and adequately resupplied via a reinforced tanker fleet, and we must use this opportunity to secure our shipbuilding industrial base.

Ask Congress to Reinforce America's Tanker Fleet

For this reason, and many more, Congress and the White House must work together to establish and fund a fleet of Tanker Security Program ships capable of meeting the needs of a forward postured American naval and Marine presence. Similar to our other U.S. flagged vessels, this program would provide a stipend to tankers in exchange for their commitment to answer the call when America's national security interests demand it. Both the House and Senate National Defense Authorization Act bills include this authorizing language. We hope the president signs it into law. **Urge him to do so!**

Destroyer Preble and Coast Guard detachment seize cocaine worth \$40 million in counter-narcotics deployment. (Diana Stancy Correll)



The guided-missile destroyer Preble (**commissioned in Boston in 2002**) and its embarked U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement detachment take control of a low-profile, go-fast vessel while conducting counter-narcotics operations in the Eastern Pacific June 2. Recovered was more than \$40 million worth of cocaine.

The massive drug bust went down June 2 after a Navy P-8A maritime patrol aircraft spotted a low-profile, go-fast vessel in the Eastern Pacific. The Preble moved in for a long-range intercept and, upon arriving, employed one of its embarked helicopters to provide overwatch while the Coast Guard detachment and small boats gained control of the go-fast vessel.



“The success of this deployment was due to our Sailors and embarked Coast Guardsmen working together daily for a common cause — enhanced counter-narcotics operations,” said Cmdr. Leonardo Giovannelli, Preble’s commanding officer, in a Navy news release. “We thank our Preble families and friends whose unwavering support made it possible for their loved ones, our Sailors, to succeed at sea and complete our mission.”



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In May, **Rear Admiral Thomas G. Allan Jr, USCG**, relieved Rear Adm. Andrew J. Tionson, who served as the First District commander for the past two years, He oversees all Coast Guard missions across eight states in the Northeast including over 2,000 miles of coastline from the U.S.-Canadian border to northern New Jersey and 1300 miles offshore.



Rear Admiral (Ret) Sinclair Harris, National Vice President for Military Affairs, Navy League says he is not eager to get between the White House and Congress in regards to a budget dispute, but he did lay out the **five Navy League priorities** for funding of the Sea Services. **First**, the Navy must maintain a position of dominance in the undersea domain. For this, a second Virginia-class submarine in addition to the Columbia-class submarines are vital. **Second**, sealift capacity is critical in our ability to project power and influence. **Third**, the Marine Corps Commandant’s planning guidance is a strategy that has to be supported going forward in order to meet future challenges. **Fourth**, we need our allies and partners. Their participation in global security is crucial to our national interests and theirs. **Fifth**, the transparency of future plans and force structure creation builds trust. It allows industry to make proper plans for industrial base response to future challenges. Ask congress **to help** the U.S. fleet! **Speak up to support our merchant mariners today!** Navy Budget As China takes advantage of the coronavirus crisis to escalate its bullying of its Vietnamese and Malaysian neighbors in the South China Sea, the U.S. Navy is the best force capable of responding. The Navy is the surest guarantee of freedom of the seas.

USCGC Escanaba participates in drug bust



Photo: A pursuit team from Escanaba on-scene with a drug smuggling vessel after it was hit with disabling fire from a helicopter interdiction tactical squadron in the Caribbean Sea, April 2020.

The Escanaba was deployed in the Caribbean Sea in support of a multinational operation for the detection, monitoring, and interdiction of illegal substances in Central American waters. (Photo Courtesy of Coast Guard Petty Officer Amanda Bednarchik)

Sea Cadet News



With some of the COVID-19 restrictions lifted, Gosnold Division/Patriot State held a Graduation Ceremony at Joint Base Cape Cod. Also, an Agreement was signed for the unit to have a strategic partnership with the Mass. Maritime Academy to ensure the future of a relationship that for years has paid huge dividends for both.

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