



Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

55-05 | May 2025

BREAKFAST EVENT

May 2, 2025

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Admiral Baker Clubhouse

GUEST SPEAKER;
CAPT HENRY S. KIM, USN
PROSPECTIVE COMMANDER,
AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON FIVE
)

NAVY HERITAGE



Amphibious Squadron FIVE is a tactical and administrative organization composed of amphibious assault shipping to transport troops and their equipment for an amphibious assault operation. Before the advent of modern helicopter-oriented amphibious warfare, the amphibious squadron was made up differently, depending on the era. During the 1960s, a typical squadron might consist of an Attack Transport (APA/ LPA), a Dock Landing Ship (LSD), an Attack Cargo Ship (AKA/LKA), one or two Landing Ships Tank (LST) and, especially if there were only one LST, a High Speed Transport (APD). The APA carried troops and Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP)s in which to land them, plus a few Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM)s for bigger loads. The AKA carried cargo and an assortment of LCVPs and LCMs with which to land it. The LSD carried boats. The LST carried tanks and other rolling stock, and had the ability to discharge its cargo directly onto the beach. The destroyer-like APD provided limited gunfire support and fast defense of the squadron. It frequently also carried a UDT unit or other similar troops. The Landing Platform Helicopter (LPH) replaced the APA in the late 1960s and provided helicopters to land troops and supplies inland, beyond the beach. In modern times, a U.S. PHIBRON usually consists of three amphibious ships, typically one Landing Helicopter Deck (LHD), a Dock Landing Ship (LSD) and an Amphibious Transport Dock (LPD). When the ships of a PHIBRON are loaded up with the forces of a Marine Expeditionary Unit and some additional Navy units (including a Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) detachment and landing craft from two or more Assault Craft Units or ACU), it is designated as an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). The officer in charge of a PHIBRON is designated COMPHIBRON or Commander Amphibious Squadron and acts as the commodore for all ships in the ARG.

“Leadership is understanding people and involving them to help you do a job.”

—Admiral Arleigh Burke

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Thank you to everyone who joined our April’s Breakfast Event in celebrating the Chief’s 232nd Birthday. A special thank you to our guest speaker, CAPT Kyle Caldwell, Force Air Systems Officer, Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N433) in providing an inspirational and motivational presentation with 80 guests in attendance. It was an honor to recognize his Sailors for their professional excellence. Special guests included; Navy Region Southwest Pacific President; Kevin Button. We sincerely appreciate our Sponsors with their generous donations in supporting our 4th Annual CPO Charity Fundraiser, where all proceeds go towards supporting our Awards Recognition and Youth Programs. Thank you to all our volunteers who continue to contribute towards our mission in serving and honoring our brave servicemembers. I look forward to seeing everyone at our future events —Tracy Owens, President

CONGRATULATIONS & SPECIAL THANK YOU

Congratulations to the Gunfighters Squadron TS Top Gun; Cadet Chief Petty Officer Donald “Kalani” Stone, United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps on your enlistment in the United States Navy! Special Thank You to LC Embroidery for their generous donation of \$5,000.00 in support of the sea services in the community and Navy League Pacific Southwest Regional President; Kevin Button attending April’s Breakfast Event in joining us to celebrate the CPO’s 232nd Birthday.



IN THIS ISSUE

Navy Heritage	Cover
President Message	Cover
Special Thank You	Cover
Breakfast Speaker	2
Breakfast Sponsor	2
Community Involvement.....	2
Recognitions.....	3
Membership	4



CAPT Kim is a native of Los Angeles, California and was commissioned in 1996 from UCLA NROTC program with a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations. Specializing in East Asia, he gained fluency in Korean and Japanese.

His first assignment was onboard USS PORT ROYAL (CG 73), taking part in one of the Navy's first Ballistic Missile Defense capability upgrades and conducting Maritime Interdiction Operations in the Arabian Gulf. He next served onboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63), enforcing the No Fly Zone and supporting UN Sanctions against the Saddam regime. He was then selected as Flag Aide to Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, assisting in six bi-lateral naval exercises with Southeast Asian nations. CAPT Kim was then accepted into the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) where he earned a dual Master's degree in Operations Research from NPS and a Master's Degree in Defense Systems & Technology from the National University of Singapore.

CAPT Kim returned to sea as Chief Engineer onboard USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG 48), forward deployed to SEVENTH Fleet participating in regional maritime defense operations with the Korean & Japanese navies. He was then assigned as Executive Officer of MCM CREW CONSTANT, completing two deployments to the Arabian Gulf and supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. His follow-on assignment was to the staff of the Commander, Naval Forces Central Command and FIFTH Fleet as part of the Theater Security Cooperation effort coordinating anti-piracy operations with over 20 nations to include Pakistan, India, China, and Russia.

CAPT Kim was next assigned to Commander, U.S. Forces Central Command (CENTCOM) as part of the J8 Resources & Analysis Branch before being selected as the Assistant Executive Officer for the Deputy Commander supporting antiterrorism efforts in Iran, Afghanistan, and Yemen as well as anti-piracy efforts in the Horn of Africa.

CAPT Kim then served as Commanding Officer of USS FORT WORTH (LCS 3) where he hosted the Chief of Naval Operations of the Peoples Liberation Army Navy, ADM Wu Sheng Li, and developed tactics for the Surface Warfare Mission Module. He then became the first N8/9 Branch Head for the Naval Surface & Mine Warfighting Development Center, or SWO "Top Gun," responsible for all Surface Warfare Tactics and Doctrine development. He then went to serve as the Chief of Staff for US Naval Forces Korea, overseeing the first co-location of US and ROK Naval Headquarters in Busan, South Korea. CAPT Kim was then selected for the Federal Executive Fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, MA where he focused on Great Power Competition.

He then went to serve as Commander, LCS Mine Division TWELVE, overseeing 4 LCSs, 3 MCMs, and the development of the first fully autonomous mine warfare system. He continued to Commander, Amphibious Squadron THREE, in charge of the USS MAKIN ISLAND & USS TRIPOLI Amphibious Ready Groups as well as Mission Commander for PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 22, the largest HADR mission in INDO-PACOM. CAPT Kim then served as the Executive Assistant and Acting Deputy to Director, Expeditionary Warfare (OPNAV N95) at OPNAV N95.

He is currently the Prospective Commodore for Amphibious Squadron FIVE.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense and Navy Meritorious Service Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal.

BREAKFAST SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Lockheed Martin Corporation is an American aerospace, arms, defense, information security, and technology corporation with worldwide interests. It was formed by the merger of Lockheed Corporation with Martin Marietta in March 1995. It is headquartered in North Bethesda, Maryland, in the Washington, D.C. area. Lockheed Martin employs approximately 115,000 employees worldwide, including about 60,000 engineers and scientists as of January 2022. Lockheed Martin is one of the largest companies in the aerospace, military support, security, and technologies industry. It is the world's largest defense contractor by revenue for fiscal year 2014. In 2013, 78% of Lockheed Martin's revenues came from military sales; it topped the list of US federal government contractors and received nearly 10% of the funds paid out by the Pentagon. In 2009, US government contracts accounted for \$38.4 billion (85%), foreign government contracts for \$5.8 billion (13%), and commercial and other contracts for \$900 million (2%). Half of the corporation's annual sales are to the U.S. Department of Defense. Lockheed Martin is also a contractor for the Department of Energy and NASA. Lockheed Martin operates in four business segments: Aeronautics, Missiles and Fire Control, Rotary and Mission Systems, and Space. The company has received the Collier Trophy Award six times, including in 2001 for being part of developing the X-35/F-35B LiftFan Propulsion System and most recently in 2018 for the Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System. Lockheed Martin leads the development for the F-35 Lightning II and leads the international supply chain and for the implementation of technology solutions for the new USAF Space Fence, and the Orion command module. The company also invests in healthcare systems, renewable energy systems, intelligent energy distribution, and compact nuclear fusion. Lockheed Martin has a long history as a San Diego Council Community Partner in supporting it's Maritime Forces and their families in the community

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Council's Homecoming & Field Operations Chairman; Jay Rindler participated in the three day Sea-Air-Space Convention that was held in National Harbor, Maryland, April 7-9, 2025. It's the Navy League's largest Global Maritime Exposition, that attracts Top Navy officials as guest speakers in providing informative educational sessions, important policy discussions and numerous military stakeholders from around the world that includes, 400 exhibitors displaying their newest innovations designed to improve and streamline Navy ships, submarines and other equipment. Well done Jay in volunteering to attend this annual event and connecting with the Navy League New York Council, National Navy League CEO & 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Retired MCPON Mike Stevens and Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet Vice Admiral Daniel L. Cheever in providing awareness on our Council's role in the San Diego metro area.

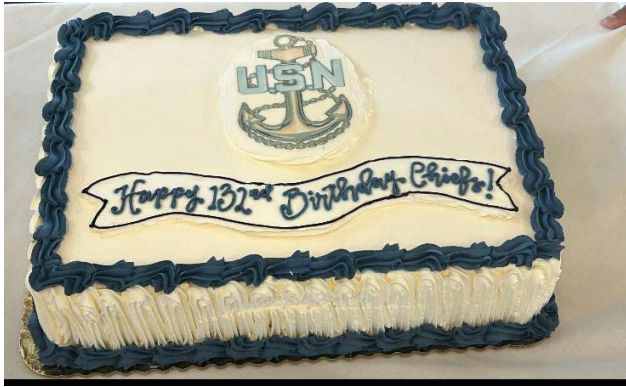


President Tracy Owens & CFO Sheldon Margolis attended the 4th Annual Women's History Tribute at Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial on March 20th, where 125 guests honored Women of the U.S. Armed Forces past and present, and recognized LtCol Evelyn Jean Wright, USAF(Ret) for her outstanding service and pioneer in Military Nursing.



RECOGNITIONS

San Diego Council recognized Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet's Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year Award Winners during its April's Breakfast Event. Congratulations; JSOQ (1st Qtr - FY25); PS2 Gabriel Garcia, SOQ (1st Qtr-FY25; STG1 Charles Peoples, SOQ (4th Qtr-FY24); Nikki Benak, and SOY FY24; AWR1 Michael Aardsma. Additional recognition was presented to YN2 Rashiel-Angelique Coronado and AD2 Tina Hariston for their outstanding volunteering support with the CPO Birthday Cake. Special thank you to CAPT Kyle Caldwell, in serving as guest speaker and RPCS Cecil Collins as Chaplain in providing the invocation. Awards sponsored by First Command.



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MEMBERSHIP

Happy Birthday Chiefs & Congrats to the door prize winners. Special thanks to ALL Sponsors!

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Nathanael Bothwell
Kenneth Flonnoy
HM2 Kalon Moore



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2025 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES
AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE
JUNE 6, 2025

DOORS OPEN FOR SOCIAL NETWORK
& REGISTRATION FROM 7:00-7:30AM

LTCOL NICK "BEAST" ASTACIO, USMC
COMMANDING OFFICER,
MARINE AIR CONTROL SQUADRON 1

2025 DATES

- Jul 11 - USN Independence
- Aug 8 - USCG Sector San Diego
- Sep 5 - CNSF
- Oct 3 - CHSCWPAC
- Nov 7 - C3F USMC Component
- Dec 5 - USS SOMERSET (LPD 25)

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<https://members.navyleague.org/become-a-member/individual-membership/join>

BREAKFAST MEMBERSHIP PROMO

- \$40 - Includes Breakfast, 1 YR Membership and an additional complimentary breakfast.
- Breakfast for Non-Members; \$30
- Breakfast for Members; \$25

ASK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AFFILIATE, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, AND CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP.

Community Partnership includes; Business Advertisement, Awards Sponsorship, Social Media Marketing, numerous Complimentary Breakfast, Youth Programs Contribution Complimentary or Discounted tickets to Miramar Air Show, Navy Birthday Ball, Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon, and End of the Year Appreciation.

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