



"THE HELM"

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL

Volume 2015 Issue 1

January 2015

Cyber head to speak Mar 19th:

Inside this issue:

SEA Cadet news	2
USS Churchill news	4
Membership	4
Bethel Military Ball	5
SEAL RDAC news	5
Council officer list	5

Our Council is pleased and excited to announce that the Commander, U.S. Naval Cyber Command and U.S. 10th Fleet, Vice Admiral Jan Tighe, will speak at our re-scheduled annual dinner on March 19th.

Admiral Tighe is the third head of Cyber Command, having been promoted in April 2014. She is the first woman commander of a numbered Navy fleet in history.

10th Fleet was first activated during WWII to coordinate all anti-submarine warfare. It was reactivated in January 2010 at Fort Meade Maryland to provide computer, electronic warfare, and space operations

(Continued on page 2)



Vice Admiral Jan Tighe, USN.

President's Letter

Greetings to all in the cold arctic North.

As I write this letter the snow is flying outside the window as part of yet another epic "historical" Nor'easter. Why do we live so far north? It was 70 degrees today in Key West...

On a brighter note, in only seven weeks we will convene at the Rivers Yacht Club for our delayed Holiday Dinner. We are extremely fortunate to have Vice Admiral Jan Tighe joining us as our guest speaker. VADM Tighe is the Commander of US Fleet Cyber Command, which is the Navy's 10th Fleet. We all hear about internet and network security, but cyber warfare is and will be critical to our nation's safety in the future.

VADM Tighe is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and was commissioned as an ensign (special duty cryptology) in 1984. She attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA where she studied Russian. She also attended the Naval Postgraduate School, and in 2001 was awarded a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and a M.S. in Applied Mathematics.

Although we share the same last name (tighe means "house" in Gaelic), I have never met her in person, but I look forward to doing that on March 19th.

So please mark your calendars, and join me at our next Navy League event. Bring a friend or three, but make your reservations soon after getting your invitation as this event is a likely sell out.

Thank you for your donations in 2014. Our Sea Cadet and SEAL candidate programs are thriving, thanks in part to your contributions. Tax deduction letters will be sent shortly to those who made donations.

Finally, our best wishes go out to Pete Dixon, who has moved to Maine, for his many years of productive service on our Board. Thank you, Pete.

All the best,

CAPT Gerry Tighe, USN retired.
President, Western Connecticut Council

Upcoming dates of interest:

- **Speaker and dinner:** March 19th; see page 1 story.
- **Bethel annual Military Ball:** March 1st. See page 5.

Mar 19th dinner (con't.):

(Continued from page 1)

support to Navy operational commanders worldwide. The Command also heads the Navy's cryptology efforts, and reports to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).

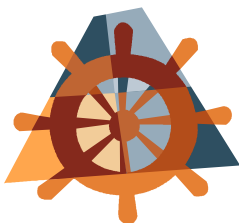
Admiral Tighe's prior tours included duty with Naval security group activities in Florida, Virginia, and Japan, and with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 1 (VQ-1) as an airborne special evaluator during Operations Desert Shield/Storm. She was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and raised in Plantation, Florida.

With cyber attacks and computer security in the daily headlines, this will be a timely and highly informative evening. Mark your calendars now for this event to be held at the Riverside Yacht Club. Full details, with an RSVP form, will be separately sent to all members.

The event will also include our annual election of Council officers.



Vice Admiral Jan Tighe, USN.



Sea Cadet news:

Dealey Cadet Marksmanship Champion:

Dealey SN Kaitlyn Kutz is a nationally ranked junior marksman. Kaitlyn joined the Sea Cadet program as a recruit of her younger brother Kyle. Learning of the Youth Program at the Cos Cob Gun Club through flyers distributed at Dealey, she joined and has excelled. She began in the Summer of 2013 and by November had earned Pro Marksman, Marksman 1st class, and NRA Sharpshooter classifications. She qualified to compete with the Cos Cob junior team and in the summer of 2014 she competed in the Nutmeg Games, winning first place in her age group for the prone category and third place for positions category. Her scores steadily improved qualifying as Expert Marksman and earning the Distinguished Expert Qualification which is the highest award given to a junior shooter.

In December she competed in the Junior Olympics at the Coast Guard Academy and tied for first in the State for women's air (tie breaker resulted in 2nd place). Kaitlyn has started off the year competing in a number of events, most recently a national competition in Palmyra, PA where she scored her personal best in both small bore and air rifle.

Kaitlyn is also on the Master at Arms force at Dealey Division.



Cadet Kaitlyn Kutz, above with Distinguished Expert award.



Sea Cadet news (con't) :

Holiday Party:

The Sea Cadets and League Cadets celebrated the holidays with a party in December for the unit, Navy League members, local veterans, cadet alums, cadet families and friends of the unit. An annual tradition, this year we moved the celebration to the Stamford Government Center which provided needed space for our growing cadet population. Cadet families provided the food and a grand smorgasbord was the result.



Pre-Holiday Party Cadet formation.

Pray Achievement Center:

Training Ship Macintyre, our League Cadets, attended the Pray Achievement Center for an afternoon devoted to values and virtues that lead one to achieve excellence. NL Board member Pete Kenyon first introduced the unit to Mr. Malcolm Pray. This unique program was the 'brain child' of Mr. Pray, Greenwich businessman and benefactor. The center utilizes Mr. Pray's unique classic car collection to capture the interest and imagination of young people, teaching about positive qualities and work ethics along the way. Mr. Pray passed away in August of 2013 but the program continues under the direction of Executive Director Marikay Satryano, CAPT US Army Reserves. All attendees (cadets and adults) were impressed with the program and, immensely enjoyed the cars! We are looking forward to a repeat with the Sea Cadets.



League Cadets at the Pray Center.

Staff Additions:

The unit staff has grown with the addition of parents who are holding billets in the Admin and Personnel areas. Tara Burns, Kevin & Maria McDonald and Rob O'Brien have joined the existing staff of LCDR Stannard and Instructor John Davidson. Mr. McDonald and Mrs. Burns attended the NSCC Officer Development program on a chilly Saturday in November at the Plainfield USN Reserve Center to get up to speed. CDR Steve Gravereaux, always a supporter, has again taken over instruction of the Seamanship class. We welcome all aboard and look forward to a good training year!

USN Reservists Support Cadets:

At last year's Council SEAL Picnic in July, PO1 Miguel Amadiz, Leading Petty Officer, Navy Recruiting District, NY introduced himself to LCDR Stannard as a former Sea Cadet from NY and offered to support the Dealey program. PO1 Amadiz, along with PO1 Siobhan Kelley from the Recruiting Station, have stepped in to help train the cadets. Amadiz is instructing the Basic Military Requirements course and PO1 Kelley is working with the League Cadet class. We salute these excellent role models as they fill their Recruiting billets by day and, on Monday nights, make the trip to Stamford to train the cadets. Bravo Zulu to the Petty Officers; and having Active Duty sailors aboard is a *great* boon to cadet training!

Additional Support Needed- the cadets need **YOU!** We are still looking for an Instructor for the League Cadet program (age 11 – 13) teaching basic military nomenclature, customs and courtesies, rates and ranks for the upcoming training year. We teach through April, two Mondays a month from 7 – 8. All course materials provided. If you can assist, please contact LCDR Jennifer Stannard at: jenniferstannard@hotmail.com.

Vineyard Vines donation:

Coworkers at Vineyard Vines donated \$325 to the Sea Cadets in memory of Naval Aviator Anthony Marciano. Mr. Marciano's daughter, Joanne, is a Vice President at Vineyard Vines and her associates wanted to recognize a program associated with the Navy. The Navy was a big part of his life and his daughter recalled often his experiences, proud of his service to our country. Lynette Fitzpatrick of Vineyard Vines made the presentation to the cadets at the units' Opening Quarters in October. The funds will be used for training costs.

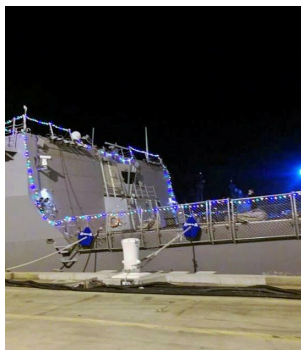
USS Churchill news:



Our Council-adopted ship, the Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG-81), was underway in late January from her Norfolk homeport. The ship was conducting Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) with the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group in preparation for an upcoming overseas deployment.

In some other ship news since our last newsletter:

- Churchill participated in the 2 week multi-national at sea amphibious exercise "Bold Alligator" in November, along with 3 amphibious task forces;
- The ship won the Norfolk ship holiday lights display competition in December;
- Our Council Board voted to donate \$500 to the ship's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Fund. We had previously given token monetary awards to the ship's selected Sailors of the Quarter and of the Year, but a recent JAG ruling limited those. So the MWR donation was selected as an alternative to demonstrate our continuing support to the officers and crew of our adopted ship, as they prepare for deployment.



Some of Churchill's holiday light display.



An SH-60R Seahawk helicopter lands aboard USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) during recent exercises with the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group.



Landing craft air cushion (LCAC) vehicles approach the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) during the 2014 Bold Alligator exercise.

See our Council's award-winning website for special features and timely updates that occur between the quarterly editions of this newsletter at: www.navyleaguewestct.org

Help recruit new League members:

The Navy League was founded in 1902 with a clear mission: to support the members of the sea services; to educate the American people and their elected leaders about the critical importance of sea power; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs. 270 Councils around the world continue to carry out this mission. Membership is open to all interested citizens, whether they ever served in uniform or not. There is strength in numbers in accomplishing our important mission.

Please renew your membership and help recruit new members. Invite potential new members to attend Council events. Membership sign-up and renewal forms are available online at our Council website, www.navyleaguewestct.org then click "join/renew". Or ask any Council Board member for a form. Thank you.

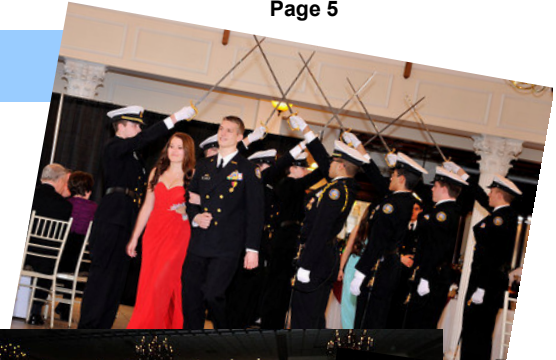
**Our Western
Connecticut
Council has 121
active members.**

Bethel NJROTC Military Ball:

The Bethel High School Naval Junior ROTC will hold its 12th annual Military Ball on Sunday March 1st at the Aqua Turf Club in Plainville. This is a formal event and Council members who have attended past Balls attest that it is time extremely well spent. Last year, over 600 cadets, parents, elected officials, veterans, and VIP's attended at an event that rivals formal balls held in our nation's capital. This year, Mr. Theodore Roosevelt IV will be an honored guest.

The ball is an evening of time-honored traditions, which start with a sword-arch honor guard, parading the colors, historic reenactments, parading the beef, ceremonial toasts, ceremonial cake cutting, and the final formality, the Commanders' Waltz which is followed by social dancing for all guests.

Council members and their guests are welcome to attend. Further details and a formal invitation are available from Bethel's senior naval science instructor, LCDR Mark Dwinells, USN (Ret) at: markdwinells@gmail.com



SEAL RDAC news:

Our local, highly regarded SEAL RDAC candidate mentoring program held its annual holiday party with 200 attendees on December 27th - see nearby photos.

The program made three \$1,000 contributions recently to: (1) Lt Michael Murphy Memorial Scholarship Foundation; (2) Brian Bill Memorial Scholarship at Norwich University; and (3) Josh and Nate Hardy Memorial Fund. These causes honor SEALs lost in action.



Four new SEAL candidates swearing in.

SEAL RDAC instructors and staff.



"American Bombshells" singers Rayna Bertan & Katie Hicks provided entertainment.



2015 proposed Council Officers and Board:

OFFICERS

President.....Gerard Tighe
Treasurer.....open *
VP Sea Services.....Andrew Bisset
VP Membership.....Robert Kenyon III
VP Youth Programs...Stephen Gravereaux
Chaplain.....Deacon Louis Howe
Judge Advocate.....Douglas Brown
Secretary.....Peter Brown

* S. Gravereaux is acting Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Adams
Michael Case
Louis DiGiusto
Edward Fitzgerald
William Grep
Joseph Latwin
Don Logan
David Martin
Robert Perkin
Jennifer Stannard
John Weigold



Dealey Sea Cadets manning the rail at 2014 NYC Fleet Week, aboard USS Oak Hill (LSD 51).

**Western Connecticut Council
Navy League of the United States**

c/o E. Fitzgerald
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Ridgefield, CT 06877



**Rainbow at sea: USS
Winston S. Churchill
(DDG-81) underway in
Atlantic Jan 23, 2015.**