



NAVAL ENLISTED
RESERVE ASSOCIATION
WINDY CITY CHAPTER



JAN-FEB 2016 Edition
P.O. Box 4562 Rockford, IL 61110
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From the President's desk...

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Hello Windy City Chapter,

We have had a busy few months.

I'd like to start by thanking our Treasurer, Geno Koelker for his fantastic report at the December meeting about the National Conference. It was wonderful that they were able to open hospitality room to some Corpsmen who were returning from active duty. This is one of the small things that mean so much to people.

It was great to see everyone who made it to the Christmas/New Year/Holiday party. I know Marsha and I had a fantastic time.

I'd like to thank John and Darlene for hosting the party. They always help to make our gatherings immensely successful and they certainly lived up to expectations again.

I would also like to thank Steve for publishing this newsletter. It takes a lot of effort and he's been doing a fine job.

I look forward to seeing everyone on February 9 for our next meeting.

We are still meeting at the Northlake American Legion at 241 E. North Ave. in Northlake.

Thank you,
Edward Whiteside
President, NERA Windy City Chapter

Mark Your Calendar:

Meetings are conducted at 2000 hours on the second Tuesday of even numbered months:
At the American Legion Post in Northlake, IL

List of Attendees:

Ed Whiteside	Andy Anderson	Gene Koelker
Paul Smurawski	Vicki Koehnke	Mike Brock
Connie Koehnke	Alan Koehnke	John Nickelson
Darlene Nickelson	Dennis Devitt	Steve Devereaux
	Larry Monroe	

Windy City Chapter meeting minutes-December 1, 2015

Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 20:20. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Council and Secretary present. A quorum exists.

August 2015 newsletter was accepted as stated. MX-Mike Brock, 2X-Steve Devereaux.

Treasurer's Report: Accept the Treasure report as stated- MX-Andy Anderson, 2X- John Nickelson.

Sunshine Fund: No activity to report.

Executive Council: No activity to report.

Old Business:

-Annual Picnic-was a success.

-NERA National Conference-was successful. Steve Sandy is NERA's National President; Mike Hughes is the new NERA Executive Director. During our conference, there was a several military personal staying at the hotel, who we had invited to join us in our hospitality room for some rest and relaxing. Great time by all, by sharing sea stories, etc.

-Windy City Chapter member Jim Premeske health condition still on the road to recovery. Keep Jim in your thoughts and prayers.

New Business:

-Joe Wasson member, Jerry Padour is schedule for surgery. Keep Jerry in your thoughts and prayers.

-Army Vietnam Veteran, Mike Brook, join NERA as a new member.

-Andy Anderson will present a list of 2016 American Legion Post event so NERA Windy City Chapter members can come out and take part in their event.

-American Legion post is having their annual Children Christmas party and 31 days, 31 ways Raffle. There was a motion on the floor to make a donation of \$100.00 to the Children's Party, MX- Steve Devereaux, 2X-Mike Brock.

Another Motion was made to buy \$100.00 in raffle tickets. MX-John Nickelson, 2X-Mike Brock.

-Windy City Chapter's Annual Holiday Party is schedule for Saturday, January 9, 2016. Cost is \$5.00 per person, Location: John & Darlene Nickelson's House start at 4:00 pm. bring an appetizer, dessert to share.

Good of the Chapter-

-NERA anniversary coin still available for purchase-cost \$10.

-Andy Anderson won 50/50 raffle.

-Motion to adjourn @ 21:30 MX-Mike Brock, 2X Paul Smurawski.

CNO Releases 'A Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority'

From Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson released 'A Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority,' Jan. 5, a document that addresses how the Navy will adapt to changes in the security environment and continue to fulfill its mission. The term 'design' refers to the document's built-in flexibility, recognizing the rapid rate of change occurring in both technology and the maritime domain.

"This guidance frames the problem and a way forward, while acknowledging that there is inherent and fundamental uncertainty in both the problem definition and the proposed solution," said Richardson.

"As we move forward, we'll respect that we won't get it all right, and so we'll monitor and assess ourselves and our surroundings as we go. We'll learn and adapt, always getting better, striving to the limits of performance."

The CNO's design reaffirms the Navy's mission, describes the strategic environment and identifies four lines of effort, each with corresponding objectives to guide the actions of the Navy and its leaders.

The four lines of effort are the following:

- Strengthen Naval Power at and from Sea
- Achieve High Velocity Learning at Every Level
- Strengthen our Navy Team for the Future
- Expand and Strengthen our Network of Partners

The document also details four 'Core Attributes' that serve as guiding criteria for command decisions in decentralized operations: integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness.



151018-N-OT964-178 BAHRAIN (Oct. 18, 2015) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens answer Sailors' questions during an all-hands call as part of their visit to Naval Support Activity Bahrain. Stevens and Richardson are in Bahrain as part of their round-the-world tour, visiting Sailors in Hawaii, South Korea and Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Martin L. Carey/Released) October 19, 2015

USS Jackson (LCS 6) Commissioned

Story Number: NNS151207-02Release Date: 12/7/2015 9:10:00 AM

By MC2 Kathleen L. Church

GULFPORT, Miss. (NNS) -- The crew of USS Jackson (LCS 6) ushered in a new era in naval warfare, Dec. 5, as the ship was brought to life before a crowd of nearly 10,000.

"I hereby place United States Ship Jackson in commission. May God bless and guide this warship and all who sail in it," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, who helped name the ship in 2011. "This certainly ranks right up there with great days that I've had." Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran's daughter, Dr. Kate Cochran, was the ship's sponsor. It's the first ship to bear the name of Mississippi's capital city. The name held a special meaning for many of those at the commissioning.

"For it to be named after the city, the capital of the state in which you were born, is even more of a phenomenal feeling," said Command Senior Chief Ken Ballard. Ballard and 52 other crewmembers will man missions aboard the Jackson, one of the fastest and most technologically advanced warships in the world.

"They're providing incredible presence. They're providing lethality. They're providing a lot of things that the United States Navy needs today and is going to need for years in the future," said Mabus.

For the crew, the commissioning was the culmination of three years of hard work.

A fast, agile, and high-technology surface combatant, Jackson will act as a platform for launch and recovery of manned and unmanned vehicles. Its modular design will support interchangeable mission packages, allowing the ship to be reconfigured for antisubmarine warfare, mine warfare, or surface warfare missions on an as-needed basis.

The littoral combat ship (LCS) will be able to swap out mission packages, adapting as the tactical situation demands. These ships will also feature advanced networking capability to share tactical information with other Navy aircraft, ships, submarines and joint units.

The brand new 417 foot ship weighs in at 3,100 tons. It can travel at speeds in excess of 40 knots. The USS Jackson will be home ported at Naval Base San Diego.



151205-N-AC887-003 GULFPORT, Miss. (Dec 5 , 2015) Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus delivers remarks during the christening ceremony for the Navy's newest Independence-variant littoral combat ship, USS Jackson (LCS 6), in Gulfport, Miss. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Sam Shavers/Released)

Marine Corps Ordered to Make Boot Camp Coed, and Remove 'Man' from Titles

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has given [Marine Corps](#) brass two weeks to submit a plan to train male and female recruits together at boot camp and fully integrate officer candidate school.

He's also calling for the Marines to make all job titles gender-neutral as the service opens currently closed ground combat jobs to women.



In a Jan. 1 memo obtained by Military.com and first reported by [Marine Corps Times](#), Mabus ordered the Corps to send him a detailed plan by Jan. 15 for making boot camp and officer training coed. He also requested that the Marines provide him with a "subject matter expert" on the issue. The plan should identify where training is already integrated by gender, where it is separate, and how the Marines will work to fully integrate all training, Mabus said.

"Colocation does not meet the requirement for gender integrated training," Mabus wrote. "This plan will complete [the Department of the Navy's] implementation plan and ensure full integration of female sailors and Marines within the DON in accordance with [Defense Secretary Ashton Carter's] guidance."

A Marine Corps spokesman, Capt. Philip Kulczewski, confirmed that the Corps had received the memo but offered no further comment.

Mabus also included a memo for Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller requesting that he review Marine Corps job titles and remove "man" from applicable job titles to make them "gender-integrated." This means military occupational specialties ranging from 0311, infantryman, to 0321, reconnaissance man, could soon get new names. Mabus demanded this be done and a report submitted to him no later than April 1, 2016, the services' final deadline for opening all jobs to women.

IRS Form 1095 available on myPay

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information, / Published January 11, 2016

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- All active-duty, Guard, Reserve, retiree and civilian Airmen will need proof of health care coverage when filing their federal tax returns for 2015.

"This is the first year that Affordable Care Act requires health care validation for filing their taxes and Airmen need this information," said Robert W. Burke, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office director, finance division.

Under the ACA, U.S. citizens and legal residents are required to obtain and maintain a minimum standard of health care insurance, called minimum essential coverage. The proof of minimum essential coverage will be provided by the Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Form 1095. TRICARE is one of many health providers qualifying for this coverage.

In January 2016, Defense Finance and Accounting Service is required to provide each employee with the IRS Form 1095 for employment during 2015. A hard copy form is scheduled to be mailed to each employee and the form will also be available electronically through myPay under the taxes section.

Our 2015 Christmas Party @ the Nickelson's was another huge Success. There were approximately 33 members and Guests that attended the January 9th, 2016 dinner. Everyone had a good time, hopefully, and sea stories were being told by all. One thing for sure, if anybody left the party hungry, it was their own fault. There was sure enough food and beer to go around!

Once again we all Thank John and Darlene for offering up there home for another great party experience.

Chapter Wellness Updates:

Jim Premeske received a liver transplant.

Hello All,

I just saw a Facebook post from Candace Premeske Monzingo (Jim's daughter). The good news- Jim received a liver transplant on Monday. Today he is awake and alert. They removed the breathing tube last night. He still has a lot of pain but hopefully they will be able to manage it. Please keep him in your prayers.

2-5-16 Hello All,

New Facebook post from Candace.

Great news! Mr P is out of ICU, no catheter, eating solid food, sitting up in the chair, and handling the anti rejection meds well.

The Drs. are impressed with his progress.

If you want children to keep their feet on the ground put some responsibility on their shoulders"