



**NAVY LEAGUE**  
of the United States  
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services."

**New Mexico**  
Council



April, 2019

[www.nmnavyleague.com](http://www.nmnavyleague.com)

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April 2019

## SECNAV Names New Class of Towing, Salvage and Rescue Ship "Navajo" By Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer has announced the new class of Towing, Salvage, and Rescue ship will be named Navajo in honor of the major contributions the Navajo people have made to the armed forces.

The new class of vessels will be based on existing commercial towing offshore vessel designs and will replace the current T-ATF 166 and T-ARS 50 class ships. The first ship of this class will be named USNS Navajo and designated T-ATS 6.

"The Navajo people have fought and served our armed forces with honor and valor in nearly every major conflict since the birth of our nation, so it is fitting and right to name a new class of ship in their honor," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. "The Navajo class of Towing, Salvage, and Rescue ships will serve our nation and continue the legacy of the Navajo people, and all Native Americans." The contract includes options for potentially seven additional vessels, and each additional ship will be named in honor of prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes.

The T-ATS will serve as open ocean towing vessels and will additionally support salvage operations and submarine rescue missions. The first ship in the class will be built at the company's shipyard in Houma, Louisiana, and is expected to be completed in March 2021.



**Thank You!** *When you keep your dues up to date with the Navy League national office, our New Mexico council receives a stipend for each active member. This makes a big difference in our ability to support our namesake ships, our youth, our Sea Cadets, and the local active and reserve. Joint or renew at*

<https://www.navyleague.org/membership>

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## NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: Why does the Iraqi Navy have glass bottom boats?

Q2: Why couldn't the sailors play cards?

(see page 6 for answers)

To contact the editor, write to Mark Schaefer at [usnam@comcast.net](mailto:usnam@comcast.net).



## President's Message



Chuck Vaughan  
President, New Mexico Council  
(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)

### Greetings everyone!

I recently sent a letter to all our members seeking donations to enable the Council to award two scholarships, present 20+ Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC awards to deserving Junior ROTC students, support our local Sea Cadet unit, maintain our website, and carry-on the month-to-month activities of the New Mexico Council. I was overwhelmed by the response to my mailing, receiving donations from fourteen members. Thank you, W. C. Bennett, Dick Brown, Victor D'Andrea, Randall Eakin, Michael D. Hamilton, MaryAnn Hendrickson, John Jones, Duane Karjala, Stuart Kendrick, Damon Runyan, Margaret Schmidt, Cash Smithwick, Gary Williams and Joseph Zanetti for your donations to the New Mexico Council! With your donations the Council approved our 2019 budget and should have sufficient funds to make it through 2019.

We are in the Junior ROTC awards cycle which unofficially started at the beginning of March and lasts through mid-May. Ron Oleksak is again leading up our JROTC awards program. Last year we gave out awards at 16 New Mexico high schools and six Texas high schools with Navy or Marine Corps

JROTC programs. Ron contacts each school to get the name of the student receiving the award; prints the student's name on the award, mails the award to the school, and recruits volunteers to present the awards at the various schools. If you are interested in being a presenter please contact me at the email address below, and I'll pass along your name to Ron Oleksak as a possible presenter. The New Mexico Council, along with several other organizations, presents the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to recognize one of the cadets at each high school and encourage the younger cadets to continue in the JROTC program which, I believe, not only helps to prepare them for possible military service but also helps to prepare them for life (skills like discipline, being accountable, etc.).

Damon Runyan of the USS New Mexico Committee is busy planning a visit by some crew members of the USS New Mexico sometime in late April or early May. I will try to let you know when they will be here; I believe Damon is planning a dinner with Council members and the crew somewhere here in the Albuquerque area. Please consider joining us and getting a chance to meet some of the crew members of the USS New Mexico!

By the time you read this the Council should be close to awarding our second \$750 scholarship to a post-high school student who is an active duty or reserve member of the sea services or a dependent of an active duty or reserve member of the sea services. Lori Harris heads up our scholarship program with the goal to award two \$750 scholarships each year. We should have a picture and some information in the next newsletter about the recipient of our latest scholarship award.

Contact me any time at  
[chuck.vaughan@comcast.net](mailto:chuck.vaughan@comcast.net)

or by mail at the Council's P.O. box.

# Namesake Ships



## USS Santa Fe Update – February to April 2019 by Ron Oleksak and Mark Schaefer

The Santa Fe Express is a newsletter published by the Ombudsman of the USS Santa Fe (SSN-763). An Ombudsman is a valuable asset in facilitating communication between the Commanding Officer of a Navy ship and the family of crew members. The Ombudsman is particularly important to the families when the ship or submarine is at sea.

In the below letter, a mid-deployment update was sent to USS Santa Fe members from the Commanding Officer to the family members. An extract from that letter is shown below.

USS Santa Fe will soon be returning from its Western Pacific Deployment. Preparations are being made for a homecoming in mid to late April. This is the last Homecoming for a while - after this current sailing, the boat will be re-directed to the East Coast where she will undergo several years of in-port maintenance up in New England.

# SANTA FE EXPRESS

February 2019



## Letter from our Commanding Officer

SANTA FE Families,

Things have been busy over the last month as we completed our final deployment certifications and then departed on 22 January. We've just completed our first stop in Guam and will be heading out soon. While I can't tell you what we're going to be doing, I can tell you that we've already made a great impact in the Western Pacific. The hard work that your sailor has put in over the last year and one-half in order to get the ship to this point wasn't wasted.

While in Guam we hosted Admiral Frank Caldwell, the head of Naval Reactors, on the ship for an inspection. While here in Guam, we also conducted a torpedo weapons load. The ship was in great material condition and looked excellent for the Admiral's tour. The Engineering Department has done a great job at keeping the ship in top shape and it showed during the tour. The Weapons Department did outstanding during their weapons load. Their proficiency at handling weapons allowed us to finish up early in Guam and head back out to support operations. I've been told that our Weapons Department loaded weapons faster than any other weapons team has in many years. The SANTA FE Weapons Department is now the standard setter for deployed weapons loading operations. Every individual in the Weapons Department helped to support this operation, so please let your sailor know he did a great job if he's a Torpedoman, Fire Controlman, or Sonar Technician.

## USS New Mexico Update by Damon Runyan

With the submarine in the yards, I have almost nothing to report this quarter. However, with a crew visit coming up 29 April to 3 May, I'll have plenty to report next time. Including throwing out the first pitch at an Isotopes game on April 30th.



# Namesake Ships



## USS Santa Fe (SSN-763) trains with four Australian submarines in Indian Ocean

by Stars and Stripes, February 19, 2019

The USS Santa Fe (foreground) sailed in formation with four Royal Australian Navy submarines during Exercise Ocean Explorer off Australia's western coast, the Australian Fleet commander said in a tweet Tuesday.

Rear Adm. Jonathan Mead wrote it was "great to have our American partner and friend [down under]" during the exercise.

The Santa Fe, homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, is a fast-attack, nuclear-powered submarine with 12 vertical launch tubes for Tomahawk cruise missiles, according to the Navy.

This is the third year for Ocean Explorer, in which the British and New Zealand navies also participate. The three-week exercise began Sunday, according to the Royal Australian Navy. Participants are practicing maritime security, humanitarian and disaster relief and war-fighting.



## USS New Mexico (SSN-779) Crew Thanks the New Mexico Pinon Coffee Company!



New Mexico Pinon Coffee made a generous Christmas gift to U.S Navy sailors serving aboard USS NEW MEXICO. Here is a photo of several of the crew men displaying their gifts. This photo was sent to us by the senior enlisted man on the crew, Chief of the Boat Ross McClellan.

The Navy League of New Mexico thanks New Mexico Pinon Coffee for their incredible generosity of these many years.





## NM Council's Damon Runyan Receives NM Council's Prestigious Leo Davis Award

by Charles Vaughan, President, NM Council

At the New Mexico Council's annual meeting on 1 December 2018, Council President Chuck Vaughan awarded the Leo Davis award to Damon Runyan, chairman of The USS New Mexico (SSN 779) Committee. The Leo Davis award is not presented to a Council member every year; it is presented to recognize outstanding volunteerism of a New Mexico Council member or members at the discretion of the Council President. Damon Runyan, in his work as chairman of the USS New Mexico Committee, exhibited a spirit of volunteerism and dedication to the New Mexico Council rarely seen and was consequently presented with the Leo Davis Award at the December 2018 annual meeting.



The award is named after Leo Davis; Leo (1922-2013) was a WWII combat submariner who made seven war patrols on the USS Cod (SS-224). He was very active in the local submarine veterans' group and was a charter member of the Council's USS New Mexico commissioning committee. Leo volunteered for everything, from manning sales booths to informing the public about the importance of our Submarine Service to offering storage space for our USS New Mexico merchandise and two large model submarines on trailers that the Submarine Veterans group pulled in Veterans Day and Memorial Day parades. Council President Angie McKinstry created the Leo Davis award (not long after Leo's death) to recognize outstanding volunteerism of a New Mexico Council member or members.

To honor Leo for his service to our nation and our local New Mexico Council of the Navy League, members of the Council arranged for his cremains to be shot from New Mexico's torpedo tube #1 at the North Pole on March 30, 2014. As our top volunteer, Leo's service was beyond self, and now he rests in peace at the top of the world.

## NM Council's Dick Brown Receives 2018 Naval Submarine League Literary Award

Dick Brown submitted this photo of what he calls "an old enlisted submariner" receiving a 2018 Literary Award from the Naval Submarine League (NSL). Of course, this photo shows Dick Brown (center), VADM Jay Donnelley, USN-Ret (left), who was the commissioning officer for **USS New Mexico**, and ADM Kirk Donald, USN-Ret (right), previous director of Naval Reactors, an ADM Rickover successor.

Dick Brown was recognized for an article he wrote about Teddy Roosevelt going to sea on our second submarine, USS Plunger (SS-2) in 1905. The article, which was published in September, was an expanded article that was previously published in our council newsletter, the *NM Nautical News*, Spring 2018 issue. VADM Donnelley is currently the NSL's President and ADM Donald is the Chairman of the NSL Board.



## **We're Going to Start Emailing our Newsletter** *by Charles Vaughan, President, NM Council*

In an effort to reduce the New Mexico Council's expenses, the Council will soon begin emailing our newsletters to the majority of our members. In an effort to control our expenses the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Council voted in March to reduce our newsletter costs by emailing the newsletter to as many members as possible. Emailing each newsletter will save the Council approximately \$1.86 in printing costs, \$0.71 in postage, and \$0.08 in labels and mailing seals, for a total savings of \$2.65 per newsletter. The Council hopes to email, instead of mail, 100 newsletters four times a year which will save the Council about \$1,060 a year.



You may be wondering why is this necessary? It is necessary because we don't have the finances necessary to continue to print and mail all of the newsletters. A few years ago, the Council had sufficient funds in the bank, but those funds have been drawn down. I pulled up our bank statement from early 2014 that shows a Council balance of \$8,695.29 on 3/1/2014. On 2/11/2019, the Council's balance of funds on hand was \$784.97. Thanks to donations from many of you over the past month, the Council now has approximately \$3,000 in our checking account to support our budget of \$2,820 for 2019 based, in part, on email replacing the mailing of newsletters to many of you beginning with the Summer 2019 issue. To stay within our budget, we would like to email our quarterly newsletter to as many of you as possible.

How did this happen? We had a good balance on hand in early 2014 but we spent \$1,500 to \$2,000 more per year for the last five years than we took in. During the last five years, we received some donations each year and generated some revenue through Network Navy events and the selling of some Navy or New Mexico Council ball caps and other memorabilia. Unfortunately, at the same time we also lost the annual \$20 dues from our members which equated to \$2,800 to \$3,000 in lost revenue for each of the past five years. As a result, we drew down the \$8,695.29 to the \$784.97 we had on hand in early February of this year.

So, what are we doing about it? The Board of Directors of the New Mexico Council took a good look at our budget this past month and cut back expenses where we could. We received donations from several of our members (see my President's message) and we are working to increase corporate donations. We will continue to examine our expenses in an effort to keep them under control.

Some of you, I am sure, have enjoyed receiving the quarterly newsletter by mail every quarter. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, please contact our membership chairperson, Lisa Childress, by email (chilidawg@q.com) or send her a note at our P. O. Box (P. O. Box 91554, Albuquerque, NM 87199-1554). The Board of Directors will make every effort to continue to mail you the quarterly newsletter. I'm sorry I have to be the bearer of this bad news and I thank you, in advance, for working with us on this matter.

**Past issues of the NM Nautical News can be found at**  
[www.nmnavyleague.com/newsletters.html](http://www.nmnavyleague.com/newsletters.html)

**Answers to NM Nautical Quiz** (from page 2)

A1: So they can see their Air Force.

A2: The captain was sitting on the deck.

# Nautical Items of Interest

NEW MEXICO  
Council



## Navy Requests \$205.9 Billion Fiscal 2020 Budget *by Richard Burgess, Extracts from SeaPower Magazine*

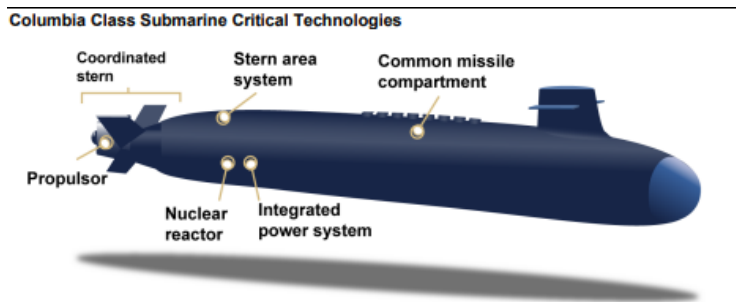
The Department of the Navy (DoN) is requesting \$205.6 billion for fiscal 2020 — \$159.7 billion for the Navy and \$45.9 billion for the Marine Corps. The 2020 request represents a significant increase over the fiscal 2019 budget of \$196.1 billion.

The Navy's base 2020 request is 29 percent of the overall Defense Department base request of \$545 billion. The Navy has budgeted \$23.8 billion for shipbuilding and conversion, the largest amount requested in 20 years, although, because in 2019 Congress added three ships in the 2019 budget, the 2019 total was larger at \$24.2 billion.

The 2020 budget requests funds for 12 ships: the third Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier, the future USS Enterprise; three Virginia-class SSNs, two of which will be equipped with the Virginia Payload Module; three Flight III Arleigh Burke-class DDGs; one FFG(X) frigate, the lead ship of its class; two John Lewis-class fleet replenishment oilers (T-AO); and two towing, salvage and rescue ships.

For the Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarine, the Navy has requested \$533 million in RDT&E funds. Construction of the first Columbia-class hull is planned for 2021.

The Navy plans to fund two large unmanned surface vessels (LUSVs) with \$373 million in RDT&E funds and begin experimenting with them to develop such vessels with an offensive missile capability. Transition to procurement is expected to begin in 2021.



The Navy requests \$18.6 billion in 2020 for 148 aircraft for the Navy and Marine Corps. The fixed-wing aircraft include 10 F-35B and 10 F-35C Lightning II strike fighters for the Marine Corps and 10 F-35Cs for the Navy; 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet strike fighters; four E-2D Advanced Hawkeye early warning aircraft; six P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft; three KC-130J Super Hercules for the Marine Corps; and 22 ex-Swiss Air Force F-5 adversary aircraft, 11 each for the Navy and Marine Corps to recapitalize the older F-5 inventory.

Rotary-wing and tiltrotor aircraft requested in the budget include six CH-53K King Stallion heavy-lift helicopters and six VH-92A presidential transport helicopters for the Marine Corps; 38 helicopters of a design yet to be selected to replace TH-57 training helicopters; and 10 CMV-22B Osprey carrier-onboard-delivery aircraft for the Navy. Deliveries of more MV-22B Ospreys for the Marine Corps is gapped for 2020.

**Interested in Supporting the New Mexico Council of the Navy League of the United States?** We recognize top ranked cadets at 22 Navy & Marine Corps JROTC units; we recognize top Midshipmen at the UNM Navy ROTC unit, we provide support to the Triton Battalion, New Mexico's only Sea Cadet program; we support the crews of our Namesake Ships.

**Your tax-deductible contributions can be sent to our P.O. Box. Please make checks payable to "Navy League of the U.S., New Mexico Council". We appreciate you and your support of our Navy!**

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
 NEW MEXICO COUNCIL  
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Return Service Requested



Navy League of the United States New Mexico Council, P.O. Box 91554, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199-1554. The Navy League is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

**2019 Upcoming Events for Navy League, New Mexico Council**

Apr 8	Board meeting in Santa Fe
Apr 29–May 3	Select USS New Mexico crew members to visit the State of New Mexico
Apr 30	USS New Mexico throws first pitch at Albuquerque Isotopes game (6 pm; game time 6:35 pm)
May 13	Board meeting in Albuquerque
June 10	Board meeting in Santa Fe
July 8	Board meeting in Albuquerque
August 12	Board meeting in Santa Fe