



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

**New Mexico**  
Council



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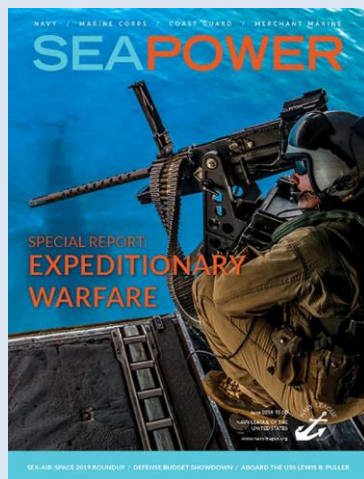
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## Santa Fe High School's JROTC Continues State Championship Streak

By Casey Torres, KOB-TV 4, Published April 2019

SANTA FE, NM -- The junior ROTC team from Santa Fe High School has won more than 400 trophies in the past four years. Last month, they won the state championship for the 4th time in a row.

"It's extremely rare being 4-year state champions. It's never heard of, but it's not just an individual effort. It's a team effort," said Jeremy Gonzalez, Senior.

So that's why the cadets who will soon graduate want other team members to keep working hard.

"I remember just practicing quite literally every single day before and after school. Even during my senior year, if I had a free period, I would come here and practice during the day, during school," said Mateo Romero, Senior.



Another senior, Jason Aragon, said JROTC changes cadets for the better. He said he was shy and quiet until he joined the organization. So before they take off to college, they want their team to know they believe in them to continue their legacy. "This unit became a family, and we just have the same goals. We strive together," said Gonzalez.

**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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## President's Message



Chuck Vaughan

President, New Mexico Council

*(Photo courtesy of Rick Carver)*

### Greetings everyone!

What a busy spring this has been! Every spring the New Mexico Council awards 20+ Theodore Roosevelt Leadership awards to Navy and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC and MCJROTC) students at high schools in New Mexico and west Texas with a NJROTC or MCJROTC unit. I went to two high schools this spring to present the Theodore Roosevelt Leadership award and presented a Marine Corps officer's sword to a member of the Navy ROTC unit at the University of New Mexico during their award ceremony.

The Navy League is one of several organizations to present awards at the NJROTC and MCJROTC annual award ceremonies. I am glad to see youth participating in junior ROTC and the Sea Cadets program; I believe kids learn to be accountable for their actions, are held to high standards, learn to work as a member of a team and acquire other good traits through the ROTC and Sea Cadets programs. Thank you, Ron Olexsak, for coordinating all our junior ROTC awards and arranging presenters for many of the award ceremonies.

Another presentation this spring was to award a \$750 scholarship to Hieu Ngo,

a Navy Reservist who is studying at the University of New Mexico to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Medical Services. Congratulations Hieu!

The Navy League of the U. S. supports a strong Navy which includes several Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs). I read in the June 9th edition of the Albuquerque Journal that the USS Abraham Lincoln CSG is sailing in the Arabian Sea, showing a U. S. presence in that area of the world. The Commander of U. S. Central Command, Marine Corps General Frank McKenzie, commented that he "thinks Iran had been planning some sort of attack on shipping or U. S. forces in Iraq". His assessment was that "if we had not reinforced [with a CSG], it is entirely likely that an attack would have taken place by now". General McKenzie stated "we believe they [the Iranians] are recalculating. They have to take this [the presence of the CSG] into account as they think about various actions that they might take. So we think this is having a very good stabilizing effect". The Lincoln CSG consists of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln with its Carrier Air Wing Seven aircraft consisting of F-18E and F Super Hornets, E-2D Hawkeyes for early warning, EA-18G Growlers for electronic warfare, and Seahawk helicopters for mine warfare; and accompanying destroyers and cruisers and supply ships. There is nothing like the close presence of a CSG to get another country's attention. The men and women of the Lincoln CSG should be in the Arabian Sea for several months; I will be praying for their safe return and I encourage you, if so inclined, to do likewise. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

**Contact me any time at**

[chuck.vaughan@comcast.net](mailto:chuck.vaughan@comcast.net)

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

## NM Nautical Quiz!

Q1: What is the difference between an Air Force pilot and a jet engine?

Q2: What does a mermaid wear to math class?

*(see page 6 for answers)*

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

# Namesake Ships



## USS Santa Fe Returns to Homeport by Shaun Griffin, Commander Submarine Forces Pacific Public Affairs

**PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII** – The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from deployment April 22. "I am exceptionally proud of the crew's efforts to prepare for, sustain, and successfully execute every phase of this deployment," said Cmdr. Chris Hedrick, a native of Glendale, California, and Santa Fe's commanding officer. "As commanding officer, it has been my privilege to lead such a fine group of professional young men in carrying out our nation's most important tasking, and I could not be prouder of their accomplishments."

During the deployment, 22 enlisted Sailors and three officers earned their submarine warfare qualification. "Our purpose is to be ready for battle at any time," said Hedrick. "During our pre-deployment and throughout our deployment preparing and being ready for battle at any time was first and foremost in our mind." Hedrick said the crews' focus and battle mindedness enabled successful operations and led to a high level of achievement from the crew.



"My most memorable achievement during deployment was earning my dolphins," said Electronics Technician (Submarine) 3rd Class Dakota Collison, from Chestertown, Maryland. "The most important thing I will take away from this deployment is never to be afraid to ask for help because we are all a team. We have to depend on each other for even the smallest tasks at sea."

While deployed, Santa Fe executed a port call to Stirling, Western Australia, and hosted submariners from the Royal Australian Navy Submarine Force. They also had the opportunity

to conduct community outreach projects by volunteering at the Perth Zoo and the Native Arc Wildlife Refuge center.

"Having the opportunity to help give back to the country that was hosting us during our port call was a rewarding experience," said Fire Control Technician 2nd class Nicolas Tankersley, from Bradenton, Florida.



Upon returning to Pearl Harbor, Master Chief Sonar Technician (Submarine) James McGarrah, from Newburgh, New York, and Santa Fe's Chief of the Boat, expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication put forth by the crew that made this a successful deployment. Commissioned on Jan. 8, 1994, Santa Fe is the 52nd ship of the Los Angeles-class and is homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

# Namesake Ships



## USS New Mexico Update by Damon Runyan

The crew of the USS NEW MEXICO was scheduled to visit us late April to 3 May. That visit was cancelled. However, many things had already been set in motion. Including a visit to the Isotopes for the CO to throw out the first pitch. Since the Isotopes had already sent Michelle and I our tickets, we went to the game on 30 April. We met the Director of Media Relations, Mr. Dylan Storm. And we also met a retired Navy Veteran who helps seat folks in the section right behind home plate. Her name is YN1 Marilyn Smith. She has also joined our New Mexico Council and is helping Chuck with the upcoming Birthday Ball. Attached is a picture taken by Michelle on the concourse of the Isotopes Park with Dylan Storm, Ms. Marilyn Smith, and some old guy with a 779 ball cap. This was 30 April.



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: The jet engine stops whining when the plane shuts down.
- A2: An algae-bra.

## Sea Service Unit Adoption Award for Which Council? The New Mexico Council! by Mark Schaefer

Congratulations to the New Mexico Council for being awarded the Sea Service Unit Adoption Award for 2018 by the national Navy League organization. This award was presented at the Navy League Annual Convention Awards Luncheon in Norfolk, VA on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

It takes many Navy League members from New Mexico to pull this off, and the council appreciates all of your efforts. Of course, the leadership of Damon Runyan and Ron Oleksak, as our two committee chairs for seagoing units, has been outstanding. Thank you, Damon and Ron. Thank you, also to Rick Carver whose early work in establishing the Santa Fe council led to a great and enduring relationship with the boat.

Damon Runyan said, "It's been a pleasure for 18 years. Dick Brown and I were helped over the years by countless NLUS members, great COBs and amazing COs. I'm very glad our Council was recognized for our efforts, especially given our distance to the nearest submarine bases... Pearl Harbor 3227 miles; Norfolk, VA 1700 miles."

The council was also nominated for Outstanding Council award in the small councils category, and an Honorable Mention was awarded in that category.

## Sea Cadet Opportunity in El Paso by Mark Schaefer

Adrian Rodriguez reached out to President Chuck Vaughan to see what support New Mexico might be able to give to a new Sea Cadet unit he would like to establish in El Paso. If you are interested, curious, or would like to support that effort, then contact Chief at [epnavyseacadets@outlook.com](mailto:epnavyseacadets@outlook.com).

"Good day, I am retired Chief Rodriguez and looking to form a Sea Cadet unit in El Paso. With the nearest Navy League Council being in Austin, I am reaching out to NM for any type of sponsorship/support that you can provide. Looking forward to hear from you and discussing more in detail."

# Local New Mexico News



## Navy League New Mexico Council Presents 2019 Teddy Roosevelt Youth Awards

Here are your 2019 NJROTC and MCJROTC Teddy Roosevelt Youth Award winners from around the State of New Mexico. The Navy League New Mexico Council presents these awards each year.

The national Navy League of the United States established this Youth Medal that is awarded to **outstanding Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) cadets and Naval Sea Cadets**. The award consists of a medal, ribbon bar, certificate, and pamphlet on President Theodore Roosevelt whose visage is on the medal.



Unit	Albuquerque/ North NM	City	Cadet Recipient
Navy	San Elizario HS San Elizario TX	San Elizario, TX	C/LCDR Anthony Rios
MC	La Cueva High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/Lcpl Sarah Harvey
MC	Rio Rancho HS	Rio Rancho, NM	Cadet Nancy Aldana
MC	Shiprock High School	Shiprock, NM	C/ GySgt Kailey Begaye
MC	Rio Grande High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/Sgt Jason Dixon
MC	Atrisco Heritage High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/SSG Christian Alarid
Navy	Los Alamos High School	Los Alamos, NM	C/LtJG Stephen Gully
Navy	Los Alamos High School	Los Alamos, NM	C/Lt Tristan Osburn
Navy	West Mesa High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/ CDR Adonice Silva
MC	Eldorado High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/LCpl Olivia Rodriguez
MC	Laguna Acoma High School	Casa Blanca, NM	C/2LT Jalen Juanico
MC	Grants High School	Grants, NM	Gabriel Lopez
Navy	Manzano High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/LCDR Haylea Mitchell
Navy	Santa Fe High School	Santa Fe, NM	C/CPO Dalen Montoya
Navy	Belen High School	Belen, NM	Cadet Jordan Williams
MC	Cibola High School	Albuquerque, NM	C/ 1LT Elijah KalinskiWaldemar



May 2nd, 2019 Rebecca Vigil and Tom Gutierrez presented the President Teddy Roosevelt Leadership Award to Midshipman Gunnery Sgt. Gabriel Lopez at Grants Marine Corps JROTC unit in Grants, New Mexico at their annual awards presentation.

Unit	Las Cruces/ South NM /Texas	City	Cadet Recipient
Navy	Gadsden H.S.	Anthony, NM	C/CPO Gabriel Sanchez
Navy	Fabens HS Fabens TX	Fabens, TX	C/CDR Joel Amaya
Navy	Santa Teresa High School	Santa Teresa, NM	C/ ENS Nathan Mijarez
Navy	Ocate High School	Las Cruces, NM	Cadet Brooke Duffy
Navy	Pebble Hills HS El Paso	El Paso, TX	C/PO1 David Carpio
Navy	Socorro HS El Paso, TX	El Paso, TX	C/LCDR Dante Hinojos

Gunnery Sgt. George Garcia, MJROTC Instructor is shown on the left. What is not visible in this photo is the 2019 Award for State of New Mexico JROTC Drill Competition – First Place. First Sgt. Barela is the Lead MJROTC Instructor at Grants High School. The evening resulted in about 200 individual awards to the 60 or so MJROTC candidates.

## 2019 United States Naval Academy Appointees from New Mexico



Appointee	School	City	STATUS
Marshall Devin	Hope Christian HS	Albuquerque, NM	USNA
Cameron Mayo	La Cueva HS	Albuquerque, NM	USNA
Marcos Salazar	SW Aeronautics Math/Science Academy	Albuquerque, NM	USNA
Jeremy Stevens	Centennial HS	Las Cruces, NM	USNA
Joshua Valdez	Robertson HS	Las Vegas, NM	USNA
Makayla Fernandez-Sanchez	Belen HS / NAPS	Belen, NM	USNA
Neil Wilkerson	Los Alamos HS / NAPS	Los Alamos, NM	USNA



# Nautical Items of Interest

NEW MEXICO  
Council



## Twelve Ways to Simulate Life in the Navy

1. Buy a dumpster, paint it gray and live in it for 6 months straight.
2. Run all of the piping and wires inside your house on the outside of the walls.
3. Perform a weekly disassembly and inspection of your lawnmower.
4. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays turn your water temperature up to 150 degrees, then on Tuesday and Thursday turn it down to 32 degrees. On Saturdays, and Sundays declare to your entire family that they used too much water during the week, so all showering is secured.
5. Raise your bed to within 6 inches of the ceiling.
6. Have your mother-in-law write down everything she's going to do the following day, then have her make you stand in the back yard at 6am and read it to you.
7. Make your family qualify to operate all the appliances in your home (i.e., Dishwasher Operator, Blender Technician).
8. Empty all the garbage bins in your house, and sweep your driveway 3 times a day, whether they need it or not. (Now sweepers, start your brooms, clean sweep down fore and aft, empty all trashcans over the fantail).
9. Repaint your entire house once a month.
10. Have your 5-year-old cousin give you a haircut with goat shears.
11. Sew back pockets to the front of your pants.
12. Needle gun the aluminum siding on your house after your neighbors have gone to bed.

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.

## Navy Plans to Shoot Nuclear Missile from New Columbia Class Sub by Fox News, May 23, 2019

Almost nobody knows where they are at any given time, yet nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines quietly patrol dark domains of the undersea realm in strategically vital waters around the globe, bringing the prospect of unprecedented destruction upon potential enemies -- all as a way to keep peace.

The Navy is preparing to shoot its Trident II D5 nuclear missile from its emerging new Columbia-class submarine as part of a plan to launch the boat's first patrol ahead of schedule in the late 2020s.



"We will go through the standard strategic weapons testing and eventually do a test shot to prove out the weapons system before it goes on its first patrol," Capt. John Rucker, Program Manager, Columbia-class Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines, said at the Navy League Sea Air Space Symposium. "They are doing all of the qualifications right now and are on track to finish in July," he added.

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

July 8	Board meeting in Albuquerque
August 12	Board meeting in Santa Fe
October 5	Navy-Air Force football game, Annapolis, MD 1:30pm Mountain time
October 13	Navy Birthday
November 10	Marine Corps Birthday
November 16	Navy-Notre Dame football game, South Bend, IN 12:30 pm Mountain time
December 14	Army-Navy football game, Philadelphia, PA 1:00pm Mountain time