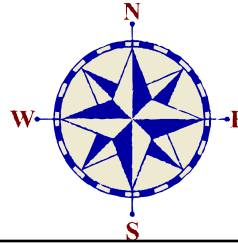


NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



Cleveland Compass On Line



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2008

Message from the President

Hello Navy League Members,

Wow! I can't believe the snowfall we just had. I don't know about you, but I am ready for Spring. Thanks again to the children and teachers from Ridgebrook Elementary School, the Cleveland Sea Cadet Corps, the Carbarle's, and everyone else that helped with the donation process and shipping costs for supporting the troops overseas over the past holidays.

With the many items that were donated, the Christmas cards, and comic books we mailed out over a couple of dozen huge boxes to the troops. I am still asking for any donations to help with the cost of shipping, and any amount would be greatly appreciated. We are sending items overseas all year round and I know that the packages that are sent are greatly appreciated from the troops.

Please send your check to the following address:

The Navy League of the United States/Cleveland Council
3842 Montevista Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121

If you have a loved one that is Serving and you would like to mention it in our newsletter please send us a write up and we would be honored to post it. The email address to send it too is: a_molter@ameritech.net or kikinavysk@aol.com

I want to thank everyone that emailed in your response for the voting process for the 2008 Board Members.

The 2008 Board members are:

President: Catherine Owen
Vice-President: Connie Hodge
Secretary: Maria Woyma
Treasurer: Alice Molter

Enjoy Spring when it decides to get here.

Catherine Owen, President

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Navy Reservist tells of her call to duty and the honor of serving her country*
- *Help children of deployed Reservists through Military Kids*
- *Navy League Member back from Iraq*
- *2007 Finances Released*
- *Cleveland Council is still a charitable organization*

One Reservist's Story

I had been in the Navy Reserve for several years, during the Cold War and Desert Shield/Desert Storm. I had never been called to mobilization, and had to stand by while others were going to serve our country. Following 9-11, in September 2001, again, I wasn't called, so I volunteered to serve, at least locally, by doing two six-month tours in the legal department at the Great Lakes Naval Base, north of Chicago. Then--Finally! In March of 2006, I was mobilized in support of an American operation, Operation Iraqi Freedom. I almost didn't make it—by that time I had over 17 years in the service.

The job I was called to was as the legal officer of Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion TWO. The Navy detainee battalion is comprised of over 400 Sailors from both active duty and reserve components. The Sailors are trained to be essentially prison guards. This training is new to most of the Sailors, whose jobs are normally on ships or with air squadrons, but the Army, Army National Guard, and Marine Corps have been spread way too thin in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Both the Navy and Air Force are assisting in many ways, and one of them is by taking over the guarding of insurgent detainees.

We began our training for the mission at an Army base in Texas—Fort Bliss. There, and at Camp McGregor in New Mexico, we learned how to be soldiers. For three months we performed convoy operations, qualified on many weapons including the M-16, M203 grenade launchers, 9mm Beretta, and larger caliber weapons. We learned to perform building clearing techniques, hand-to-hand combat, and crawling through desert obstacle courses with our weapons. Even though we weren't slated to perform these missions once in Iraq, we had to know how to perform in the event those jobs were needed. In fact, the only way in or out of Camp Bucca is by helicopter or convoy, so we had to be prepared.

Also in Texas we learned the most essential part of our mission—the guarding of the detainees. Detainees are persons taken in custody by the coalition forces because they have either been caught performing insurgent acts, or are suspected of being an insurgent. We had to learn the differences between the various Muslim sects, Arabic customs, and the ways to handle routine tasks such as dinner time and visitation, and also how to respond to riots or fires. This training was invaluable, because as you may know if you deal with jails or prisons here in the U.S., those locked up will find many ways to get out or to cause havoc while they're inside. We had several large fires in the compounds and quite a few escape tries. I can say that the Sailors were always vigilant and thwarted the escapes. Sorry to say, the only ones who got out while we were there were from the Air Force compounds!

Camp Bucca, where NPDB is stationed in the southern Iraq desert, is an on-going mission of detainee operations. While there, we began guarding around 6,000, but by the time we left a year later, that number was up to 19,000, and news reports say the number will increase upwards of 24,000. Some are Sunni, some Shiite, but many just motivated by money. The vast majority of detainees aren't inspired by jihad or hate for governments. They are angry men who don't have jobs, overwhelmingly illiterate. The extremists have been very successful at spreading their ideologies to economically strapped Iraqis with little to no formal education. One of the programs at Camp Bucca is teaching these detainees to read and write Arabic; another is having non-violent Muslim imams show them other interpretations of the Koran once they can read for themselves.

My job was not to actually be in the compounds as either a guard or guard supervisor. I was the legal officer, which meant I handled all rule and UCMJ infractions, conducted all the investigations of accidents, assisted the Sailors with personal legal problems like pending divorces, old auto accidents that happened prior to coming to Iraq, and things like that. I would go into the compounds when conducting an investigation or interviewing Sailors regarding matters, but I didn't have any day-to-day interaction with the detainees themselves like our other Sailors did.

I would like to say that the cards, letters, emails and packages that we received while we were over there, whether individual or large packages for the whole battalion to share, meant so very much. We had limited email access, could watch AFN TV at the gym, and being 8 hours time difference, meant that little things like a Buckeye flag or Cavaliers coffee cup were proudly displayed in compound command posts. Inter-service rivalries were pretty much downplayed, even the Army-Navy game. Most of us joined together in following our favorite college and pro teams. It was a link to home—to the States.

Please remember all those who are still over there by sending cards or something. Local VFW's, AmVets, and the USO can all help to send things, or give you addresses. My replacements at Camp Bucca--Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion THREE, and FOUR in training, would appreciate the contact, and I have their address.

Now with my 20 years in and retirement a few months away, I can say I'm very, very happy that I had the experience of serving America during my career—finally!

LNCS Karen Pallat USN

NAVY RESERVE FAMILY INFORMATION



ART/ESSAY CONTEST

The Armed Services YMCA has launched its annual art contest, sponsored by GEICO, and its essay contest, sponsored by Lockheed Martin. This year's theme is "My Military Family" and "My Military Hero." Winners will be announced at the Armed Services YMCA luncheon in Washington in May 2008. For more information go to <http://www.asymca.org> and look under 2008 Art & Essay Contest in the middle of the home page.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE EXPANDS CUSTOMER SUPPORT HOURS

Employer Support the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) has extended its Customer Service Center hours to 8am to 8pm (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday (Except holidays). ESGR has added two Customer Service Agents to more effectively answer and resolve Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) related matters. The Customer Service Center can be reached via the following methods: Telephone: 1-800-336-4590, select option 1. email: USERRA@osd.mil for general USERRA questions. Website: <http://www.esgr.mil>, select USERRA Complaint Form to file a case online or the USERRA link for general USERRA information. ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service members by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through informal mediation. More information on ESGR can be found at <http://www.esgr.mil>.



Military OneSource- Telephone Counseling Sessions

Military OneSource now offers short-term telephone counseling. This new expanded service provides a telephone counseling option for those who are unable to attend face-to-face counseling.

Counseling may help individual with many issues such as dealing with stress, communication, decision making, grief, loss and parenting.

Telephone counseling provides up to six sessions of consultation per person, per issue.

Military OneSource is available anytime worldwide to all active duty, reserve, National Guard, as well as deployed civilians and their families.

To find out more visit www.militaryonesource.com or call Stateside: 800-342-9647 or Collect from overseas 1-877-888-0727.

Continued on page 4

NAVY RESERVE FAMILY INFORMATION—continued

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED

Effective January 31, 2008, all adult travelers will be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and proof of identity, such as driver's license, when entering the United States through land and sea ports of entry.

Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers may accept oral declarations of citizenship from U.S. and Canadian citizens seeking entry into the United States through a land or sea border. However, as of January 31, 2008 oral declarations of citizenship alone will no longer be acceptable. U.S. and Canadian citizens ages 19 and older will need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate. Children ages 18 and under will be required to present proof of citizenship only, such as a birth certificate or passport.

The turnaround time for a passport is four to six weeks, so you want to plan in advance. For information on obtaining a U.S. passport visit <http://www.travel.state.gov> or call 1-877-487-2778.

Military Kids

The goal of the Our Military Kids program is to:

- Help children and families of deployed and injured Guardsmen and Reservists maintain as normal a life as possible.
- The loss of the daily presence of a parent in the home is a huge stress. The worry about the deployed parent's safety and the disappointment that the missing parent cannot participate in family/school activities is significant.
- Art, music, and drama are wonderful outlets for a creative mind. Kids can lose themselves in the creative process, giving themselves a respite from their daily routine and stressful family concerns.
- For the sports-minded child, group sports are a wonderful way to balance the mind and spirit and often help a child through difficult times and situational stress.
- Provide assistance so children can more easily cope with the challenges and difficulties surrounding a severely injured parent.
- Recognize children of service members for the personal sacrifices they have made, and acknowledge them with a congratulatory letter, Our Military Kids certificate, and patch.
- Allow families to select an activity in their local area by providing the grant to the service provider of their choice.

If your child, or the child of someone you know, is eligible and could benefit from this grant program, please consider completing a simple one page application, and sending it along with a copy of the parent's deployment orders, documentation showing the child is a dependent of the service member (Form 1172 or copy of dependent ID card or equivalent), and documentation from the service provider outlining the program and fees associated with the activity the child has selected to Our Military Kids. Additional grant program information and the application can be found on the Our Military Kids web site (ourmilitarykids.org) or can be obtained by contacting Our Military Kids at 703-734-6654 or toll free 866-691-6654

Welcome Home!

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and greetings from the shores of Lake Erie in beautiful (but cold) Cleveland, Ohio ! For those who have not already received the news through the various civic, political, fraternal, or other grapevines, I am pleased to announce that I arrived back at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport on January 16 after about ten days of "decompression" and travel (via Kuwait, Germany, and Maryland) and demobilization processing (in Norfolk and Washington, D.C.).

Although I have had no shortage of long-winded observations in these monthly e-mail updates and on my blog during the past year, let me simply say a few things at this point as I acclimate to civilian life once again:

First, it is great to be home. I am typing this message on the same laptop I had with me in Baghdad, but today it is back on the desk in my home office and my 80-pound yellow Labrador Retriever, Halsey, is in his rightful place under the desk...blocking the much-needed heat from register, as is his wont.

Second, I appreciate the messages so many of you have left on voicemail or e-mail during the past few days. Please indulge me with your patience as I work to get back to each of you. I will remain on active duty, burning accumulated leave until February 5. And while you know I am never one to let grass grow under my feet, there are moments each day that I want nothing more than to relax and enjoy not being in Iraq. No phone calls, no e-mails, no knocks at the front door. (Yes, random people have dropped by in response to the big "Welcome Home" banner my family placed in the front yard.) Just Halsey, me, and some much needed tranquility as I unpack and get organized from the past year away (not to mention the 2006 Congressional campaign, the remnants of which still fill half of my two-car garage).

Third, several of you have asked, "What's next?". At the moment, I am planning to resume operations of The Dovilla Group LLC, my consulting practice. There are a number of directions in which this could develop, from human resources to national defense and homeland security to governmental affairs to grassroots advocacy and lobbying. I am also interested in giving back to the Greater Cleveland community by teaching in the areas of political science, international affairs, or public policy at one or more local colleges, and I will be pursuing options in that arena as well. With the Navy, I am reaffiliating with the Chief of Naval Operations reserve intelligence unit in Washington, D.C., where I will serve as the new ADMIN Officer. I am just shy of six years into what I have always planned to be a 20-year reserve career, so I have quite a few more drill weekends and deployments to go! And, of course, I will be assisting around the area with several campaigns for public office, volunteering with my fraternity chapter at Baldwin-Wallace College and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, and perhaps even turning some of these musings into a book on my experience. For me, the watchwords for 2008 are opportunity, flexibility, and freedom – commodities that were in considerably rarer supply last year.

Finally, thank you, again, for all of your support during the past year. The opportunity to write these updates was initially designed to serve as a series of front line observations to help balance the mainstream media's almost exclusively negative coverage on Iraq. (And if I may make one editorial comment, have you noticed how the media's attention has turned from the war as the situation there improves each month to whipping everyone into a panic about the bad economy they are successfully turning into a self-fulfilling prophecy?) But these updates turned out to be personally cathartic, a real outlet for my thoughts as I attempted to memorialize the twelve months I served in Baghdad. So, I appreciate you lending a listening ear, keeping in touch with e-mails and letters, sending care packages, and maintaining friendships across the many miles during 2007. As I begin this third new adventure in as many years, I hope you'll continue to keep in touch.

My warmest wishes to you and yours for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2008.

All the best,

Michael D. Dovilla, Lieutenant, United States Navy



USNL Recognitions

It is once again time to recognize our men and women who are serving their country. To date we have the following Sailors of the Year to honor:

MK2 Michael K. Madden of the Neah Bay
MST1 Vivian Eddy of MSU



Presentations to both were made by Board Member, Robert Pallat.

Congratulations to all.

Help Your Council

As you are probably aware, a non-profit organization like The Navy League of The United States/Cleveland Council relies on the generosity of those who make charitable donations. As such, we are grateful to you, a member of The Navy League of The United States/Cleveland Council, for the donations you have so kindly provided.

Congratulations to all who made donations last year. Our member donations for the year 2007 amounted to \$410.00 vs. \$40.00 in 2006. That's a generous increase and one we hope will be a tradition. That amounted to more than our Fund Raisers for the year. We will still strive to support the Sea Services as long as we can. If you want to help, please send in a small donation. Remember, if every member sent in \$10, we would collect close to 1,690.00 That is huge to this council. **HUGE.**

If you care to donate, please send your check to the following address:

The Navy League of The United States/Cleveland Council
3842 Montevista Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

New Members Welcomed

We would like to personally welcome our new members to our council and hope they will become more actively involved. Please welcome the following new members:

Charles J. Hipp

Edward Blind

Robert Connally

Leon Stalder

Please send me your e-mail address so you will continue to get our quarterly newsletter.

Navy League of The United States/Cleveland Council

Email:
a_molter@ameritech.net

*Cleveland Compass
Knowing Where Your
Council is Going*



Editor's Corner

We are glad that another council member has come home. Michael Dovilla has surely kept us up to date of the events going on over in Iraq. If you know of someone who has or will be returning from the war, we would like to keep this segment going.

We are very mindful of our dwindling funds, that when we do spend anything, that they are indeed being used towards our men and women in the Maritime Services. Hence why we have disbanded the newsletter via mail. We hope everyone on the council can get the newsletter via e-mail. That alone will put \$500.00 back into the council. So, no we do not do the dinners or cocktail parties that this council was once famous for but instead we support our local Sea Cadet unit, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines.

Below you will find last year's P&L along with our cash flow. We are always looking for ways to build up our Council's Treasury. One sure way to do that is to sign up as a Community Affiliate. The rebates to our council are fantastic. With only eight of these, we double our membership rebates from National. If you have a small business, please contact Doug Cabarle for more information.

Alice Molter, Editor

Treasurer's Report—FYE 2007

INCOME	
Fund Raisers	\$387.50
Member Rebates	\$1,191.00
Member Donations	\$410.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,988.50
EXPENSES	
Awards	\$171.75
Contributions	\$ 650.00
Fund Raising Costs	\$78.00
Gifts	\$323.06
Insurance	\$120.00
Misc	\$187.97
Newsletter	\$175.68
Postage	\$367.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,074.17
Profit/(Loss)	\$(85.67)
<hr/>	
Beginning Bank Balance	\$967.40
Deposits	\$1,988.50
Checks	\$(2,074.17)
Ending Bank Balance	\$881.73