

# THE HELMSMAN

A Publication of the Broward County Council – Navy League of the United States

Glenn Wiltshire, President  
Wayne McLaren, Editor

Q3 2023  
Volume 34 Issue 3

[www.bcnavyleague.org](http://www.bcnavyleague.org)

[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)



## *Sea Cadet Night 2023*



As has been our custom for many years, this September we once again marked the end of our summer hiatus as we joined with the Ft Lauderdale Council and held our annual Sea Cadet Night at the Lauderdale Yacht Club.

During Sea Cadet Night, cadets from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Fort Lauderdale Division make

presentations regarding their training experiences from this past summer.

Beginning on page 3 we will provide a brief glimpse of each of the presenting cadets and what their exploits were over the summer.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Navy Leaguers,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer. Five of our nine adopted USCG units had Changes of Command this summer, and we welcome the new Commanding Officers, Officers-In-Charge, and all of the newly reported crewmembers to our Council. As you will read in this newsletter, the Council was recognized at the National Convention with Donald M. Mackie Awards for our Newsletter, Website, and use of Social Media. This recognition would not have occurred without the hard work of our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster Wayne McLaren and consistent contributions to social media by Board Secretary Shelley Beck. Bravo Zulu to both for their efforts.

You may have also heard about the Navy's decision to move Fleet Week 2024 to Miami. We have been told it had nothing to do with the long-standing commitment made by Broward Navy Days, the Navy League Councils, Veterans organizations, and many other local groups and businesses to support Fleet Week. Rather, it was a decision made by the Navy at the Headquarters level to try a new recruiting market. Broward Navy Days has committed to assist the Navy, and we will do what we can as well. The good thing is that the Navy has indicated their intent to return Fleet Week 2025 to Port Everglades.

## Coming Events

### September 27th, 2023

**Sea Cadet Night** at Lauderdale Yacht Club. Come join us at the Lauderdale Yacht Club as we hear what the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Lauderdale Division have been up to over this past summer.

### Thursday, October 12th, 2023

Graeme Holman, STAR Center Director of Operations will give us a briefing on the Mariner Training Programs presented at STAR Center. In addition he will lead a tour of the Simulator used at STAR Center.

### Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

November Dinner Meeting at Tropical Acres Restaurant. Speaker TBD.

Thanks as well to those members that were able to attend the joint meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council. It is always great to hear directly from the sea cadets about their summer training programs. I also hope to see you at our next Council dinner meeting on Thursday, October 12th at the STAR Center. Council member Graeme Holman, the Operations Director at the STAR Center, always does a great job telling us about their many programs to train merchant mariners. If you haven't seen a ship simulator before, you will be amazed by the technology. Looking ahead, we will be holding our November dinner meeting on Wednesday, November 8th at Tropical Acres. We hope to have one of our new COs as the guest speaker. We will also hold our election of officers for 2024 at that meeting, so if you are interested in joining our Board or moving up to serve as an officer let me know.

Very Respectfully,

Glenn A. Wiltshire  
Capt. USCG Retired  
President, Broward County Council

## 2023 Officers

*Thanks for serving!*

Glenn Wiltshire - President  
Tom Melville - First Vice President  
Bruce Gottsch - Second Vice President  
Tom Carney - Treasurer  
Shelley Beck - Secretary  
Robert Marks - Legislative Affairs  
Julie Carlson - JAG

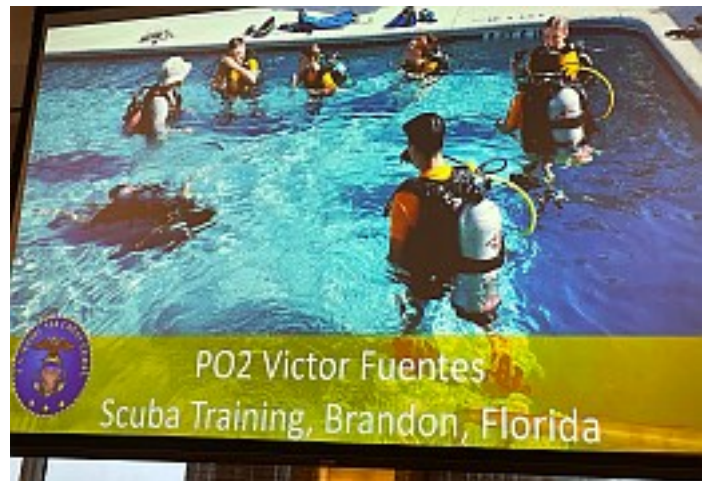
## Bravo Zulu Shelley

*Our thanks go out to Council Secretary Shelley Beck for providing the photos and coverage of Sea Cadet Night*



# Sea Cadet Night 2023

## PO2 Victor Fuentes



Learned basic Scuba Training, conducted two dives, one was using underwater obstacles, and the second was a 50 foot dive near the Blue Heron Bridge in West Palm Beach. This training opens career opportunities for Victor .

## SA Liam Englehardt

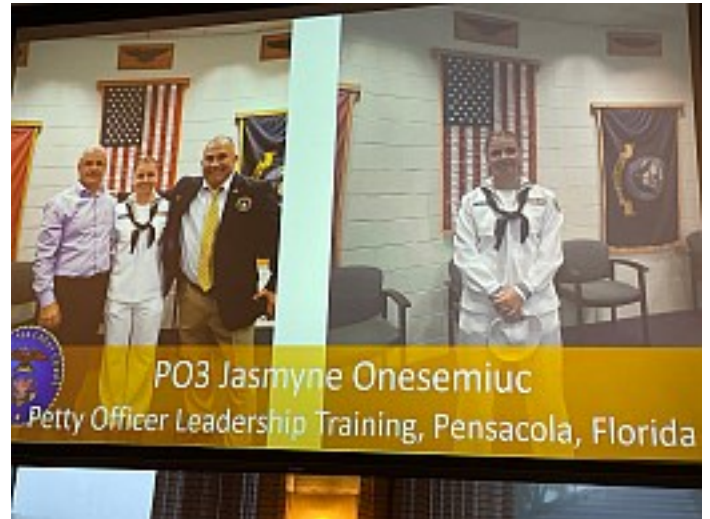


Liam was one of only 14 cadets that attended the Coast Guard boot camp training. There amongst other things they learned Man Overboard training on a 47 foot boat.



# Sea Cadet Night 2023

## PO3 Jasmyne Onesemiuc



Jasmyne attended Petty Officer Leadership Training in Pensacola where she learned respect, and how to create a sense of peace as well as positive relationships with everyone. She is looking towards a career in life-guarding .

## PO3 David Hernandez



David attended Airman, Basic training in Fort Worth TX. While there he toured Lockheed Martin and learned about the F18, the Blackhawk helicopter and Air Traffic Controlling.



# Sea Cadet Night 2023

## CPO Yuvinny Fuentes



Yuvinny worked with the Canadian military. Learned leadership skills and that kindness knows no boundaries. Pictured above is his brother modeling the uniform worn by the Canadian Cadets during the training.

## PO3/LC4 Marko Stankovic



Marko went to Titusville, Florida to learn basic sailing.



# Sea Cadet Night 2023

and some members socializing







# Legislative Affairs



## Advocating on behalf of the Sea Services

Advocacy is a main pillar of the Navy League's mission. As a nonprofit organization, we are able to mobilize our grassroots membership to get to the heart of the issues that matter to the sea services, both on Capitol Hill and in our local communities.

Presently the NLUS has several campaigns underway. You are encouraged to go to their website <https://navyleague.quorum.us/NLUScampaigns/> and provide your support.

### Support Pay Parity for Coast Guard Service Members

The Navy League of the United States is deeply concerned about the impact of a potential Congressional budget impasse on Coast Guard servicemembers. The men and women serving in our armed forces should never be asked to perform dangerous missions without pay. Yet this is exactly what will happen to Coast Guard servicemembers in the event of a budget stalemate in Washington because the Coast Guard is the only branch of the armed forces that falls under the Department of Homeland Security.

As such, they are still awaiting Congressional action to safeguard their pay during lapses in government funding. During the government shutdown in 2019, over 40,000 active Coast Guard members worked without pay. According to Admiral Karl Schultz (USCG, Ret.), "This marks the first time in our Nation's history that service members in a U.S. Armed Force have not been paid during a lapse in government appropriations."

Luckily, a bipartisan coalition of Senators has just introduced the "Pay Our Coast Guard Act" as companion legislation to an active bill in the House under the same name. It is time to get Congress to pass this important legislation! The Coast Guard is essential to national security operations, which include search-and-rescue missions, securing American ports and borders, interdicting drug and human smuggling, and protecting our maritime environment.

Coast Guard servicemembers should not have to worry about the well-being of themselves and their families while sacrificing in service to our nation.



## News from National



*See you in sunny San Diego!*

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024



## Member's corner



*On September 11, Cdr. Tom Melville, USN-ret, and Council director, delivered a speech to NJROTC Cadets at Cooper City High School.*

*Here is that speech.*

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you, Cdr. Testa, for inviting me to speak today. Let us remember 9-11-01 and the 2,977 victims of the terrorist attacks that day. 40 of those casualties were in Shanksville, PA Somerset County. 184 casualties were at the Pentagon in Arlington County, VA. 2,753 were inside the World Trade Center Twin Towers when they collapsed in a heap of rubble, and twisted steel. First Responders accounted for 403 of those casualties. New York City Fire Department lost 343, New York City Police Department lost 23, and the Port Authority Police Department of New York and New Jersey lost 37.

I was given this coin in 2014 when I and others rode the USS New York from Mayport, FL to Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale. The bow of the New York has 7 ½ tons of steel from the Twin Towers forged into it. Cargo ships transported 24 tons of steel recovered from the World Trade Center to Avondale, LA near New Orleans where the ship was made by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding. They then melted it to liquid molten steel and transformed it into the bow of the USS New York.

The hull number of the New York is LPD 21, Amphibious Transport Dock. LPD 24, USS Arlington, and LPD 25, USS Somerset are also named after the 9-11 attacks. These ships are used to transport and land marines and their equipment and supplies.

When we rode the ship from Mayport, the ship's Chaplain read the biography at night of 2 first responders who both died that day. They were father and son, Joseph Angelini Sr., and Joseph Angelini Jr. ages 63 and 38. The father had 40 years on the job and the son 7 years.

Finally, in the motto of the USS New York are the words "Strength Forged through Sacrifice, Never Forget." Thank you for attending today. God bless you, your families, our country, and God bless our First Responders.

*Council Director Charles E. Schmidt M.D. had an interesting encounter with a Vietnam Vet at his gym recently.*

*Here Charlie relates that encounter*

I first met John at our local fitness center. Like many vets John wore a cap indicating he was a Vietnam veteran. I introduced myself as a USAF vet stationed in Japan and Korea during the war. John was a soldier in Nam in 1965. As we talked I could sense that he had had a very difficult experience. I asked if he was with Lt Col Moore. He admitted he was at the battle depicted in the movie "We were Soldiers". For three days he had little sleep. The Battle of Ia Drang was the first major battle between the US army and the People's Army of Viet Nam. John was at LZ X-Ray with the 1st Air Cavalry under Lt Col Harold Moore from November 14-16, 1965. If you have seen the movie or read the book on this battle, you can appreciate the trauma our men suffered.

In May, 2023, the Veterans Coalition of Coral Springs Florida sponsored the Visiting Wall to be displayed in Coral Springs. This is a half-size replica of the wall in Washington, D.C. and has the names of all the men and women we lost in that war. I let John know the details of when and where. There would be speeches and presentations but John was uninterested in those. He visited the wall after church on Sunday with his granddaughter. He had one mission: to find the name of a young radioman. This soldier was positioned in front of John during the Battle of Ia Drang and, tragically, the soldier was shot and killed. John has some survivor's guilt that the bullet could have ended his life instead.

Later I saw John. He did find the name on the wall and tried to explain to his granddaughter why that young radioman was memorized on the wall. This is just one of the many stories of the courageous soldiers listed on the Wall.



# Chief of Naval Operations

## Franchetti Takes the Helm After Gilday's Relinquishment of Office



Adm. Mike Gilday relinquished the office of the Chief of Naval Operations after successfully concluding his four-year tenure as the Navy's top military leader in a ceremony at the United States Naval Academy, Aug. 14.

Gilday became the 32nd CNO in August 2019. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CNO acts as an advisor to the President of the United States, the National Security Council, the Homeland Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. Under direction of the Secretary of the Navy, the CNO is responsible for the command, utilization of resources, and operating efficiency of naval forces and shore activities.

## Admiral Lisa M. Franchetti New acting CNO



Adm. Lisa Franchetti is a native of Rochester, New York. She received her commission in 1985 through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Northwestern University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism. She holds a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

Her operational tours include auxiliaries officer and first division officer on USS Shenandoah (AD 44); navigator and jumboization coordinator onboard USS Monongahela (AO 178); operations officer on USS Moosbrugger (DD 980); combat systems officer and chief staff officer for Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 2; executive officer of USS Stout (DDG 55); and assistant surface operations officer on USS George Washington Strike Group. She commanded USS Ross (DDG 71) and DESRON-21, embarked on USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). She also served as commander of Pacific Partnership 2010, embarked on USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

Ashore, Franchetti's assignments include commander, Naval Reserve Center Central Point, Oregon; aide to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations; protocol officer for the commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; 4th Battalion officer at the U.S. Naval Academy; division chief, Joint Concept Development and Experimentation, on the Joint Staff, J7; deputy director of International Engagement and executive assistant to N3/N5 on the Navy staff; and military assistant to the Secretary of the Navy.

Her flag assignments include commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea; commander, Carrier Strike Group 9; commander, Carrier Strike Group 15; chief of staff, Strategy, Plans and Policy (J-5) Joint Staff; commander, U.S. 6th Fleet/commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO/deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa; deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Development, N7; and director for Strategy, Plans and Policy (J-5), Joint Staff. Franchetti assumed the duties as Vice Chief of Naval Operations Sept. 2, 2022.

# odds & ends...

## USS Canberra (LCS-30) Commissions in Rare Overseas Ceremony



*USS Canberra sails into Sydney Harbour prior to her commissioning. Royal Australian Navy Photo*

*From USNI News*

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – Leaders of the U.S. Navy joined their Australian counterparts on a windy winter day at the ancestral home of the Royal Australian Navy to welcome USS Canberra (LCS-30) to the American fleet.

Moored at the RAN naval base HMAS Kuttabul in the middle of Sydney harbor, Littoral Combat Ship Canberra (LCS-30), was commissioned in a rare overseas ceremony on Saturday.

The LCS' commissioning was a "celebration" and demonstration of the alliance between Australia and the United States, Australia Governor-General David Hurley said at the ceremony. It is a "very very visible example of our nations' shared history, contemporary partnership and commitment to the future... [all] which is now honored in the name Canberra," he said.

Canberra is the second Navy ship to bear the name of Australia's capital city. The ship's namesake, HMAS Canberra (D33), sunk while fighting alongside U.S. forces during the Battle of Savo Island in World War II. As a result of Canberra's actions during the battle, Marines of the 1st Marine Division were able to continue the fight on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. In recognition of HMAS Canberra's sacrifice to protect U.S. Forces, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ordered the under-construction cruiser USS Pittsburgh to be renamed USS Canberra (CA-41).



*Adm. Michael Gilday, 32nd Chief of Naval Operations, and Australian Vice Adm. Chief of Navy Mark Hammond applaud while U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Aiyannah Cruz and Australia Navy Able Seaman Matilda Brown unveil a kangaroo-shaped funnel emblem that will be mounted aboard USS Canberra (LCS-30) during the ship's commissioning ceremony in Sydney, Australia July 22, 2023. DoD Photo*

Wherever Canberra operates it will carry a little bit of Australia wherever it goes. During the ceremony, Vice Adm. Mark Hammond, chief of the Royal Australian Navy, said that he had given permission for Canberra to sail with a modified version of the Red Kangaroo which adorns all Australian warships as a funnel emblem. He also confirmed that, for as long as Canberra is in service, at least one Australian officer or sailor will be aboard due to a permanent exchange program.

The Red Kangaroo, Hammond said, was originally adopted by the Royal Australian Navy to distinguish it from the Royal Navy. Gifting the symbol to Canberra, was Australia's way of making an "indelible mark" on the historic commissioning ceremony.

"An Australian Navy lieutenant is part of the ship's company today and all of you, when you look to the superstructure you will see your own special Australian kangaroo."



## odds & ends...

### Coast Guard Concludes 21 Years of Maritime Security Detachments to Gitmo



*GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba (Feb. 4)—Patrolling the waters of Guantanamo Bay are members of Port Security Unit 305 from Fort Eustis, Va. PSU 305 deployed to the Cuba in late January in support of the global war on terrorism. USCG photo by PA3 Krystyna Johnson*

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Coast Guard has closed its maritime security detachment in Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo), Cuba, concluding a 21-year presence of port security units that provided security to the naval base, the longest continuous deployment of the Coast Guard Reserve in its history.

As noted in a June 13 message from the Coast Guard commandant, the Maritime Security Detachment cased its colors that date.

“Since 2002, the Coast Guard has safeguarded critical assets and infrastructure for Joint Task Force Guantanamo in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM,” the message said. “Through countless hours of rigorous training, relentless vigilance, and steadfast resilience, Coast Guard Port Security Units and Maritime Safety and Security Teams have upheld the highest standards of professionalism while executing this vital mission.”

With the closure of the detachment. Responsibility for maritime anti-terrorism/force protection of Gitmo was transferred to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, the message said.

### Navy Secretary Names Fourth Frigate After Revolutionary Hero Marquis de Lafayette



*Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced that a future Constellation-class guided-missile frigate will be named USS Lafayette (FFG-65) while in Paris. US Navy Photo*

The Navy is naming its fourth Constellation-class frigate in honor of Marquis de Lafayette, a Frenchman who helped the United States win the Revolutionary War against the British.

The fourth frigate will bear the name USS Lafayette (FFG-65), Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced while in Paris, according to a news release.

“A member of the French nobility, the young Lafayette took a fervent interest in the cause of the American revolutionaries, and in December 1776, was contracted into service as a major general in the Continental Army. In 1779, he returned briefly to France, where he successfully advocated for military aid for the Americans,” the Navy news release reads.

“He was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine, where British soldiers shot him in the leg. After his recovery, Lafayette joined Gen. George Washington as a member of his personal staff, forming a bond that has been characterized as the one shared between a father and his son.”

Lafayette was made an honorary citizen, posthumously, in 2002. The frigate will be the fourth ship named in honor of Lafayette.

*From USNI News*

## odds & ends...

### USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD28) holds first change of command



NORFOLK – In a time-honored tradition, Capt. James A. Quaresimo, the first commanding officer of USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28), was relieved by Capt. Gill McCarthy during a change of command ceremony attended by Navy leadership, family, friends and the crew aboard the ship while in port Naval Station Norfolk, Friday, July 7.

Quaresimo, a native of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, became Fort Lauderdale's first commanding officer after assuming command in September 2020. He led USS Fort Lauderdale through the ship's delivery, commissioning, and post-delivery tests and trials.

"It has been an absolute honor and privilege to be the first commanding officer of the Mighty USS Fort Lauderdale." Quaresimo said.

During the ceremony, Quaresimo thanked the crew for their hard work, dedication and service to their country during his time as commanding officer.

"Made of saltwater and excellence, the Sailors and Marines aboard Fort Lauderdale represent the best our nation has to offer and I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve with them." said Quaresimo.

Also during Quaresimo's tenure, he led members of the crew on visits to the ship's namesake city on many occasions, working with the civilian commissioning committee to build strong bonds in with the city and its citizens.

"We cannot overstate just how much that means to us to know that we are associated with all of the great citizens of the city of Fort Lauderdale," Quaresimo said. "The commissioning was amazing due to the hard work of the commissioning committee. Thank you for your dedication to our great Navy and Nation. We truly are forever bonded to all of you."

The Honorable Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment) and Fort Lauderdale's ship sponsor, served as the ceremony's key note speaker and spoke highly of the ship, its crew and Capt. Quaresimo.

*From DVIDS*

Also...

*Council Secretary Shelley Beck, Commissioning Chair Pat DuMont, the Mayor of Ft Lauderdale, the City Manager and several others traveled to Norfolk to represent the City at the Change of Command Ceremony.*



# News from our Adopted Units

## USCG Air Station Miami



*Pictured (L-R) are USCG Air Station Miami Command Master Chief Salazar, EPOQ recipient AMT1 Thomas Gill, Glenn and Station CO CAPT Smith*

Last quarter Council President Glenn Wiltshire traveled to US Coast Guard Air Station Miami to present AMT1 Thomas Gill an Enlisted Person of the Quarter award.

## USCG Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Ft Lauderdale



*On the right BMC Casandra McGuigan relieved CWO2 Ray Coleman as Officer-In-Charge. In the middle is CAPT Chris Cederholm, USCG Sector Miami Commander.*

## Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale



*MKC Gagnon, Station CO Lt Dadlani, MK3 Keita Shintaku, ME3 Katlyn Drake*

Glenn had the pleasure of visiting Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale to make a couple of Enlisted Person of the Quarter presentations. Recognized was ME3 Katlyn Drake for her performance doing law enforcement boarding's as well as coordinating the unit's Partnership in Education Program with a local school.

MK3 Shintaku was recognized for his performance maintaining equipment at the Station as well as training other unit personnel in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.



*AT1 Joel Millen, Glenn, Air Station CO Capt Smith and Senior Chief Maclean*

This quarter's AIRSTA Enlisted Person of the Quarter presentation was AET1 Joel Milian. AET1 Joel Milan was recognized for his leadership of his shop and training other staff, and for being a foster parent for three children.

# News from our Adopted Units

## TACLET SOUTH



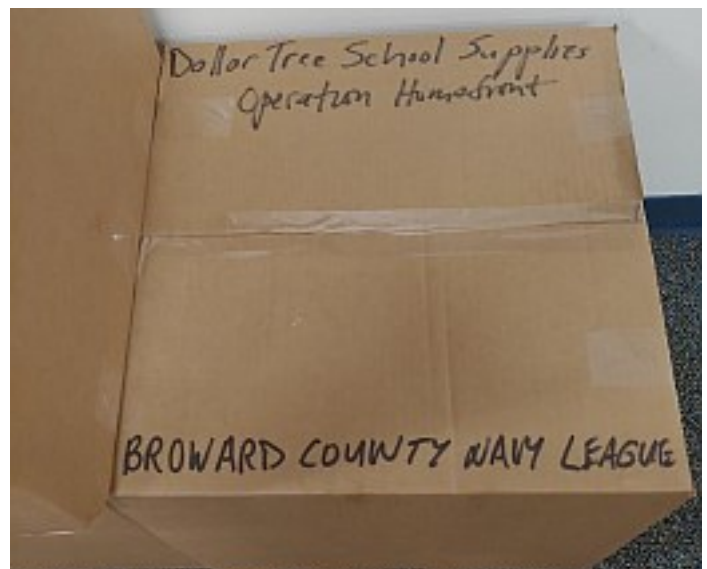
About 2,200 school supply items donated through Operation Homefront by customers at seven Dollar Tree Stores were distributed on behalf of our Council to Air Station Miami/TACLET, Base Miami Beach for distribution to units there, Station/ANT Fort Lauderdale, and Navy Talent Acquisition Group (aka Navy Recruiting District) Miami.



Back in July Glenn traveled to TACLET South to present EPOQ awards. Pictured here is MK2 Kevin Sullivan the current winner.



The previous quarter's recipients HS1 Monica Sanchez and GM1 Christopher Guillan were presented their awards belatedly because they were unavailable during past visits.





and in closing...

## BCNL does it again!



Thanks!!

*Many thanks to all who contributed to our communication efforts.*

*Without your efforts we would have never realized these honors..*

