

the Bridge

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The Importance of Maintaining Secure Seas

By Lin Graf, Navy League of the United States, Santa Barbara Council President

"Even before our Nation declared independence, our forebears recognized the importance of merchant ships and seafarers to our economic and national security. Since 1775, America's maritime fleet has risen to the challenges before them and worked to meet our country's needs in times of peace and war alike. On National Maritime Day, we recognize the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine for their contributions to America's leadership in the global marketplace, and to our security."

— *President Barack Obama*

A "strong world economy enhances our national security by advancing prosperity and freedom in the rest of the world. Economic growth supported by free trade and free markets creates new jobs and higher incomes. It allows people to lift their lives out of poverty, spurs economic and legal reform, and the fight against corruption, and it reinforces the habits of liberty."


— *President George W. Bush*

These words, from a 2010 Presidential Proclamation recognizing May 22 as "National Maritime Day" and from a 2006 report on the role of the U.S. Navy in supporting maritime security, respectively, illustrate the importance of secure seas in today's world. So as part of our educational mission, we are very pleased to announce our participation in the Navy League's **Community Service Outreach Program (CSOP)**, an engaging and informative initiative. The first presentation titled "Protecting the Sea Lanes and America's Commerce" could not be timelier. To arrange for your organization to receive a CSOP presentation from a Navy

League board member or for information on how you can get trained to give CSOP presentations in your community, please call the SBNL at (805) 879-1598.

Ultimately, the remarkable selflessness of the men and women of the sea services—as well as the many service members represented by the SBNL's adopted Coast Guard, Army, Marine and Air Force units—**defend not only our lives, but also our livelihoods.** They face the same challenges brought about by the global economic turmoil that we all face, but they do so while engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan and, when called upon, while confronting other deadly threats to freedom and supporting humanitarian relief efforts around the world.

Your membership and participation in and support of the SBNL are one way we can give back to these extraordinary men and women. And it has never been easier to show your support, to spread the word, and to get involved. Visit us on Facebook or at our regular on-line home at www.SBNL.org. You can easily become a member of the Navy League, make a secure on-line donation, or discover other unique and extraordinary opportunities to contribute through our Support & Serve sustainability campaign.

As our current Commander-in-Chief and his most recent predecessor plainly recognize, we owe them. Thank you for everything you do to show them. 

On the Cover

Cody Roberts, SBNL Naval Sea Cadet of the Year. Photo courtesy of Devon Mark-Edward Carr, Santa Barbara, California

Chief of Naval Operations Visits Santa Barbara

By Patricia A. Westberg, SBNL Public Affairs Officer

Amid nautical artifacts at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Rear Adm. Brian Prindle, director, assessment division for the office of the chief of naval operations, shared his insights on the Navy's budget allocation with members of the Navy League's Santa Barbara Council.

"The U.S. Navy is the only force that can provide a huge global reach to other nations without the need for forward bases," Rear Adm. Prindle said. "Its mission is vital to our national security and will be the force of choice for the future based upon its flexibility, adaptability and readiness."

That adaptability and dedication to international commitments explains why 35-40 percent of the Navy's ships are deployed at any given time, he added. When training and other operations are included, the ships underway can reach 50 percent.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has directed the services to review policies and streamline costs to support war fighting capabilities much more effectively. According to Rear Adm. Prindle, the Navy is analyzing how they do what they do, particularly in this current economic climate, to work more efficiently and cost-effectively during this resource-constrained environment. The Department of the Navy's 2011 budget submission includes allocations for research and development, aircraft, submarines, and ships, including reviving the improved and technological-

ly-enhanced Arleigh Burke class destroyers.

While enhancing war fighting capabilities and improving acquisition processes are critical, taking care of Navy personnel tops the list of the Navy's budgetary objectives for 2011. The challenges that face the Navy include maintain-

ing current manpower levels and providing pay raises and quality health care. The Navy also wants to improve work-life balance while sustaining its global reach. Despite these broad and difficult challenges, the Navy remains staunchly committed to meeting and overcoming them through ingenuity and efficiency.

It was an honor to welcome Rear Adm. Prindle to Santa Barbara and to gain his insight into the challenges ahead. For its part, your SBNL remains committed to helping improve the lives of US Navy personnel aboard the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN76) and the USS *Stockdale* (DDG106) and the members of its 13 other adopted units across all services and their families. **LB**



Rear Adm. Brian Prindle

U.S. Navy Photo

Cody Roberts, SBNL Naval Sea Cadet of the Year

By Patricia A. Westberg, SBNL Public Affairs Officer

The Navy League is pleased to announce that Chief Cody Roberts, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, has been recognized as the Santa Barbara Council's National Naval Sea Cadet of the year. Chief Roberts is a member of AIRPAC Squadron, Region 11, Santa Barbara, California and has served in the unit since November 2005.

According to AIRPAC Squadron Commanding Officer LTJG Dawn Rademacher, Roberts personifies the attributes of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC). He has excelled at rate requirements for advancement to the point where he was eligible for the rate of Chief months before he was able to wear the rating on his uniform.

"Chief Roberts is a driven, self-motivated young man who serves as an inspirational role model for all our Sea Cadets, plus he truly is a gentleman," Rademacher said.

At Bishop Garcia Diego High School in Santa Barbara,

Roberts was on the Dean's Honor Roll and earned Academic Scholar Ribbons each semester. He will attend Texas A&M University this fall and join the Corps of Cadets there. Upon graduating, he plans to serve in the military.

The NSCC was established in 1958 when the Department of the Navy requested the Navy League of the United States develop a maritime program for American youth ages 13-17 that would embody the attributes of leadership, patriotism, courage, and self-reliance within a safe environment. Sea Cadets drill weekly or monthly at their local unit with a focus on teamwork and knowledge of the military command structure. Training courses are rigorous and can include shipboard training as well as locally planned programs.

Congratulations to Chief Roberts, LTJG Rademacher, and to all the Cadets of AIRPAC Squadron, Region 11. **LB**

