

Winter 2019

December 1, 2019

In this issue: Strategic Deterrence was the topic of our November monthly meeting.

And: Saying goodbye to one of our members as he is reassigned to another command.

Finally: Congratulations to one of our members for a very prestigious award.

The MOAA Messenger

November Meeting

Rear Admiral Mike Benacchi presented our program on his work as Commander of Submarine Group TEN based at Kings Bay.



Admiral Bernacchi used a series of slides to share with us major changes that are occurring at Submarine Group TEN.

RDML Mike Berchacchi suffers from insomnia. Those things that keep him awake were the subject of this talk which centered on those threats to the peace and stability of the world. The advances of our adversaries in their nuclear weapons program are being matched by the Navy's most important strategic deterrent based at Kings Bay. The Admiral also shared with us the program he initiated at the Recruit Training Command called "Warrior Toughness" that sought to prepare sailor's body, mind and soul for their Navy careers. Our members enjoyed seeing a news story that aired on ABC News Nightline about the work of the USS Florida (SSGN-728). The link to that story is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiuzJODdH8Q>

Mike and Kristin Bernacchi's son is a midshipman at Annapolis and also plays for the Naval Academy football team. Look for number 65 in the Army Navy game! His web page for the football team roster is listed below.

<https://navysports.com/sports/football/roster/nick-bernacchi/15480>

More on the Warrior Toughness program can be found below:

<https://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruitTrainingCommand/videos/1159902070887422/>

NEXT MEETING: December 10, 2019, 5:30 PM Social hour, 6:30 Dinner and Program: George Cressman, 75th Anniversary of D-Day
Location: Morgan's Grill, Osprey Cove



Best Wishes to the Solomon's

Kings Bay MOAA member, LT Perry Solomon is leaving Kings Bay and headed to the Advanced Submarine Officers School. Perry served as the "Flag Lieutenant" for three different CSG-10 Commanders who he helped connect to our MOAA Chapter and the community. His wife Jessie will stay in St Marys for six months before joining Perry at this next assignment in the Summer. This will allow their children to finish the school year. Perry does not know what his next assignment will be after that.



At our December 10th meeting, everyone is encouraged to bring an unwrapped children's gift to place in the Toys for Tots box at the door to the Osprey Cove Clubhouse. Toys for Tots began in 1947 as the brain child of Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks and his wife Diane. The primary goal of Marine Toys for Tots is, through the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children.

Congratualtions Jim Holler - The Okefenokee Natonal Wildlife Refuge Volunteer of the Year



Vivian Dickerson (on the left in the photo) presented the award to Jim. In her presentation she said, “Jim started his volunteer work at the Chesser Island Homestead and from there plowed full steam ahead to do his very best to make sure that everyone within his reach knows about the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. He reaches out to civic groups, environmental groups, church organizations, anyone who will let him come talk to them about the Okefenokee. He brings groups to the refuge, loads them up in a van and takes them on a tour to show them first-hand the amazing place that he has been telling them about. Recently he has been working to create a partnership between the College of Coastal Georgia and the Okefenokee. He has worked to put the right people in touch with each other so that the college benefits from the resources of the Okefenokee and the Okefenokee enjoys a new important link to the community. In addition to all of this, he brings people together and forms relationships by promoting membership in Friends of Okefenokee, even going as far as handing out addressed stamped envelopes to his friends with membership applications inside. Through his efforts membership has significantly increased in the last year. “

- **Upcoming Programs:**
 - **Dec 10 – George Cressman, 75 Anniversary of D-Day**
 - **Jan 21 – Stephanie Rutan, White Oak Conservation Foundation**
 - **Feb 18 – VADM Al Konetzni and Installation of Officers**
 - **Mar 17 – Jessica Warren, Georgia Extension Service**
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Enjoy the Army Navy Game in a grand way at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2019

Time: Gates open at 2:00PM, kickoff at 3:00PM

Parking: Free at lots N, R and P

Cost: \$1 donation at the door

Other: Food and drinks available at stadium