



## NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES NEWS RELEASE

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### **Navy League to present Navy, Marine Corps Safety Awards at Sea-Air-Space Exposition**

Arlington, VA – The Navy League of the United States will present its Navy and Marine Corps 2008 safety awards on the Wednesday, May 6, at its annual Sea-Air-Space Exposition at Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, in National Harbor, Maryland. [Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research Development and Acquisition Sean J. Stackley](#) will present the awards at the Secretary of the Navy Luncheon on the final day of the Exposition. The awards are named in honor of former Chief of Navy Operations Admiral Vern Clark and former Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James Jones, and recognize individuals and service units that best exemplified and advanced a culture of safety during the previous calendar year.

This year's individual Navy award winner is Chief Damage Controlman Ramir Saygan Pulido stationed at Fleet Activities Chinhae in Korea. As the command's fire and safety officer, Pulido is cited for spearheading an extensive firefighting training program and mutual aid agreement with the Republic of Korea Navy's base fire department that saved the command more than \$50,000 annually in training costs. His outstanding leadership and resource management resulted in zero motor vehicle mishaps, a reduction in the number of workdays lost due to accidents, and no fires on base.

The Navy unit award goes to the safety department of USS Wasp (LHD-1) for innovative safety practices that improved the shipboard safety culture and resulted in zero Class A or B mishaps in 2008. The department also instituted a comprehensive motorcycle safety program that was recognized by the Naval Safety Center as a "Best Practice" and that provides critical safety recommendations that are being implemented Navy-wide this year as new training procedures.

Marine Captain Joseph Elseroad of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 will receive the individual award. As the Naval Air Training and Standardization Procedures (NATOPS) and aviation safety officer, he managed an outstanding NATOPS program and directly contributed to the squadron's 14-year record of zero Class A aviation mishaps.

The Marine unit award will go to Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 for developing and improving organizational safety procedures that were validated in a combat environment. The squadron transported 19,500 tons of equipment and 18,300 personnel over a total of 215,000 miles throughout Iraq without incident.

"Our Marines and Sailors operate in inherently dangerous environments and it is important that they develop and maintain safe work and life habits," said Navy League National President J. Michael McGrath. "This competition shows just how focused and committed our great people are in carrying out their missions successfully and safely. We are extremely proud of these individuals and commands and their contributions to safety in the Department of the Navy."

Then Navy Secretary Gordon R. England and his wife Dorothy endowed these awards to honor the commitment to safety throughout the Navy and Marine Corps evident under Clark and Jones during their tenure. The awards are intended to stimulate safety ideas, suggestions and programs to reduce mishaps, injuries and fatalities within the Department of the Navy. Three Navy League corporate members – Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. contributed to the endowment. Chief Petty Officer Pulido and Gunnery Sgt. Bergmann will each receive \$1,000.

The Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 and is a civilian organization with more than 60,000 members dedicated to educating American citizens and elected officials about the importance of sea power to the United States. Every year the Navy League presents the largest maritime exposition in the world featuring the latest technologies in the defense industry. This year's exposition will be held May 4-6 at the Gaylord National location. For more information, go to [www.seaairspace.org](http://www.seaairspace.org).

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**NOTE TO EDITORS: Media registration is complimentary; however, media credentials are REQUIRED for admittance. Cameras are not allowed in any exhibit area without advance approval by the Navy League.**