

# THE BLAST

Fall 2020 | Volume 51 | Number 7

LEAP FROGS  
Demonstration  
**JUMP**  
on the  
4th of JULY

See pages 20-21

UDT-SEAL ASSOCIATION



UDT/SEAL  
ASSOCIATION  
EVENTS



WE VALUE THE SAFETY & WELL-BEING OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

DUE TO COVID-19, FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH BY THE CDC IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.  
ALL FUTURE EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE WILL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE WITH ANY/ALL EVENT CHANGES.

UDTSEAL.ORG/EVENTS



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THE BLAST

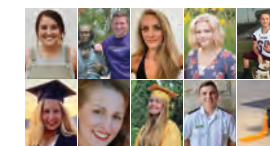
THIRD QUARTER 2020

VOL. 51, NO. 7



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

DAVE MORRISON Executive Director



- Military City Golf Tournament | San Antonio, TX
- Frogs 4 Freedom | Bandera, TX
- The Quarry Golf Tournament | Naples, FL

October 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**ONE OF THE BEST PARTS** of being the Executive Director of the UDT-SEAL Association is awarding scholarships. This year 60 remarkable young women and men received a scholarship. Each and every one of them are making our world a better place.

Last month, Caliber Home Loans donated \$25,000.00 to the SEAL Veterans Foundation for Camp Trident. These funds will help young men from inner cities to rural communities attend next year's program. Camp Trident runs four camps, two in Virginia and two in West Virginia. The camp's goal is to nurture and develop the communication, self-confidence, and teamwork skills teenagers will need to succeed.

Our Ambassador program continues to secure sponsors. Since January, the SEAL Veterans Foundation Ambassadors acquired over 25 new sponsors who donated raffle items totaling \$100,000. These items will be used at next year's reunions. Please take time to review our list of sponsors on page **XX**

The UDT-SEAL Store continues to operate five days a week processing online orders and providing curb-side pick-ups. We would like to thank all those who continue to patronize the store. If you have not visited the online store lately, please check out our patriotic face masks.

To ensure you continue to receive Constant Contact emails, please make sure your email and home address is up-to-date. This will also make it easier for you to access our Members only Facebook page.

As we all continue to cope with the pandemic, please let us know or your Chapter President if you need help. Recently, a member posted on Facebook that they required assistance and we responded. Know that we are here and ready to support you.

Long live the Brotherhood! ■

# SPOTLIGHTS

STAFF: UDT-SEAL Store Director, Cynthia Morrison  
WEST COAST: Volunteer Extraordinaire, Aleta Gee

**"I THINK THE THING THAT LOVE** the most about working here is talking to the different members of our community and helping wherever I can," said Cynthia.

Cynthia took over the store eleven years ago. Before that, she served as the Association's Treasurer for four and a half years.

When she started, the store, along with the rest of the Association, was housed in the Little Creek Amphibious Base's old telephone building located behind the gym. The store was squeezed into the back of the building and Cynthia was the only employee.

"I remember packing up the entire store in a U-Haul trailer and carting everything from one reunion event to another," said Cynthia. "Our inventory back then was nothing like what it is today."

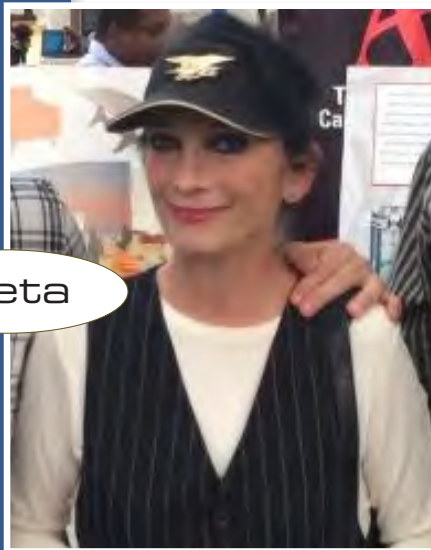
Today, the store is an "actual store front" at the SEAL Heritage Center with over 400 items ranging from t-shirts to jewelry. Two employees, Ashley and Alma, process online orders and help in-store customers. The store generates enough revenue to cover operating costs and last year donated \$100,000 to the SEAL Veterans Foundation.

During the pandemic, the store continued to process orders on a limited schedule. In June, the staff was back in the store, 5 days a week taking care of online orders and began curb side pick-up for local customers.

"It feels good to give back to the community that Dave was a part of for thirty years," said Cynthia. "I look forward to when we can have people visit us in the store again." ■



Cynthia



Aleta

**ALETA** is one of those people who makes things happen. In 2015, when Jerry Moy needed help organizing the west coast reunion, she immediately volunteered. Aleta is one of the key people behind the scenes, working to keep the reunion organized and on track, making sure all the elements come together.

"I love the Association and believe in it," said Aleta. "There is nothing like this group of guys. It's an honor to be around all these retired SEALS. It's very entertaining, I love hearing the stories. They have such great personalities that show-up at different times."

Aleta currently works as the Human Resource Director for SIX Maritime, a water-born security firm launched by Paul Robinson, a retired SEAL. When she is not working or volunteering, Aleta enjoys spending time with her husband Jeff of 42 years and traveling around the country in their motorhome. ■



# LONG LIVE THE BROTHERHOOD.



## MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION: FREE RESOURCES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES

VAntage Point Contributor

**THE SUMMER MONTHS** have always been a productive time to catch up on reading and resources in preparation for the upcoming school year. This year, in particular, when so many of our lives have been upended, using the summer months to reset plans and expectations is vital, particularly for military and Veteran families.

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) has a number of **free-of-charge online tools** that can assist and encourage students, parents and educators. ([www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org))

### SCHOOLQUEST

The new **SchoolQuest interactive tool** supports military and Veteran families' middle and high school students as they navigate the academic school year. The tool tracks academic progress, securely stores student profiles, and hosts checklists, reminders and notifications for each step through graduation. And, if there is a PCS move on the horizon, it also has a search tool to help identify local schools matched to a student's interests and needs.

### FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILD PARENT

**For the Sake of the Child Parent** webinars and podcasts are two easily accessible series. Both address a variety of topics that assist parents in becoming their own children's best advocates. They are educational and entertaining...and have also become popular with educators and other child-serving professionals because of the wide breadth of timely topics.

### COVID-19 SUPPORTIVE RESOURCE AND CONTENT

The **COVID-19 Supportive Resource and Content** (for parents and kids) is a curated list of social, emotional and academic resources for families during this trying time. This site includes links to the Navigating Change webinars that were produced in response to the COVID-19 school closures. Parents and educators have given them high marks for their on-point content.

### TEDED

The **TedEd Lessons, Professional Learning Community – Military Kids: A Constellation of Strengths and Challenges**, designed originally for education professionals to better understand military and Veteran students, provide great information for Veteran-connected parents, as well.

### LEAVING THE MILITARY

And, for students whose families are leaving the military, here's a set of three short videos that speak directly to those challenges, called **"Students Look at their Parents Leaving the Military."** Students will find good transition advice as the child of a Veteran.

### CALL FOR THE ARTS

**Call for the Arts (CFA)** is an annual MCEC program that encourages students to submit artwork that expresses their lives as military/Veteran-connected children. All forms of visual art, creative writing and performance art are welcome! There are cash prizes and the opportunity to have the works highlighted at MCEC events. While the 2020 deadline is approaching (first of July), these summer months are a good time to prepare for the 2021 CFA. (Submission deadlines will be announced at a later date.) ■

We invite you to join the Military Childhood Education Coalition virtually this summer...for the sake of the child!

Joan Patterman Barrett, is an Instructional Systems Designer at Military Child Education Coalition.

The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on part of the VA



# SEAL

## VETERANS FOUNDATION

[SEALVETERANSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://SEALVETERANSFOUNDATION.ORG)



# UDT-SEAL Association Scholarship Recipients

This year 60 scholarships totaling 127,000 dollars were awarded UDT-SEAL Association member dependents. We want to especially thank the SEAL Legacy Foundation generous donation for all named scholarships. The scholarship program provides opportunities for member dependents to pursue a college undergraduate and graduate degree. The scholarships are intended to fill the gaps that other tuition assistance programs fail to cover.

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Name	In Honor Of	Name	In Honor Of
Rachel Ashby	ABH1(SEAL) Neil C. Roberts	Katherine Oshirak	FCC(SEAL) Jaques J. Fontan
Jack Brachmann	SOC Matthew Bourgeois	Erin O'Toole	LCDR Erik S. Kristensen
Lauren Cruickshank	CDR Peter G. Oswald	Kiley Paro	ITCS(SEAL) Daniel R. Healy
Hannah Dillon	IC1(SEAL) Thomas E. Retzer	Hannah Phillips	ET1(SEAL) Jeffrey A. Lucas
Caeden Greene	PH1(SEAL) David M. Tapper	Abigail Pittelkow	GM2(SEAL) Danny P. Dietz, Jr.
Madeline Johnson	HMCS(SEAL) Theodore D. Fitz-Henry	Alexandra Rainey	HM1(SEAL) Jeffrey S. Taylor
Sydney McKenzie	STG2(SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson	Isabelle Reilly	AO2(SEAL) Marc A. Lee
Maguire McMahon	LT Michael M. McGreevy, Jr.	Axa Stevens	SO1 Jason D. Lewis

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Tasea Baldwin	Mary Hawks
Michael Barker	Mitchell Hyder
Makenzie Barker	Ashlie Keogh
Cade Bennett	Rhys Lamb
Dominique Blair	Daniel Marshall
Joseph Bonvie <i>in honor of</i> Had Richards	America Molencupp
Abby Bruno	Lillian Mollo
Scott Campbell	Saylor Naves
Daniel Ethridge	Mia Olthoff
Nicolas Fackenthall	Lily Purdy
McKenzie Farmer	Isabella Rodriguez
Garrett Gartrell	Rachel Schempp <i>in honor of</i> Jack Kennedy
Mia Gibson	Miryam Smith
Max Guerra	Caitlin Webner

**MEGAN WARNER**

“I am planning on attending medical school after I graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno with my Masters and Bachelor’s in Biotechnology and a minor in analytical-organic chemistry.

By awarding me the UDT-SEAL Association Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community.”



## POST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Sarah Argo	Connor Joslin	Jessica Suter
Joshua Bensink	Connor Pettit	Megan Warner
Cathryn Culley	Zachary Philippi	Nathan Wrenn
Melissa Howland	Kendra Russell	Kathleen Young
Michael Howland	Amanda Sanabia	

**JOSHUA BENSINK**

“I am beyond grateful to have received a UDT-SEAL Association scholarship and be recognized for my educational goals, achievements, and pursuits. This award will aid me in continuing my education as I start pursuing my master’s degree at The Ohio State University.

I am looking forward to using this award to start to make a difference in the collegiate recreation community, and broader student affairs field, by studying student development theory, trends in student affairs, and the factors that face the future of students at undergraduate institutions.”



**KENDRA RUSSELL**

“I am happy to share that I have been accepted into Eastern Virginia Medical School’s Masters in Public Health Program and that I will be following the Epidemiology track. I plan to pursue a career in clinical research or environmental health upon graduating from EVMS. Thank you to UDT-SEAL Association for making me one step closer to where I want to be in my career.”



**LAUREN FIELDING**

“As a Biochemistry student with an emphasis in Pre-Med, I have a long road ahead of me. This includes rigorous courses, many expenses, and challenges I can’t yet foresee. Your contribution to my education relieves some of these burdens. When I look into the future the expenses of College and Medical school can be quite daunting, but it is your contribution that makes my life goals more attainable. There are no words to properly express my gratitude.”



**RACHEL ASHBY**

“I am so excited to be able to attend BYU - Hawaii. It was my first-choice school, I’ve wanted to go there since touring the campus when I was 14. I am interested in a career that works towards sustainable solutions to the world’s environmental problems. To that end, I am majoring in Intercultural Peacebuilding and double minoring in Entrepreneurship and Conservation Biology. Thank you for this opportunity.”



**MAKENZIE BAKER**

“I am very blessed to come from a community that is so generous to help support so many students. I can’t express what this scholarship means to my family. This funding will help eliminate some of the financial burdens of college making it less stressful. Knowing that I have this financial help going into my first year makes me feel more prepared and confident.”



**CORBIN EKONIAK**

“I am currently entering my senior year of college and I am seeking to attain a BS in business administration and a minor in public policy. Being awarded this scholarship 3 years in a row in honor of a hero, such as SOC Matthew D. Mason, makes me feel like I’m a part of something bigger and beyond myself.”



**MIDN 3/C AIDAN DILLAN**

“Thank you for this scholarship. I will be a junior this upcoming year in the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, and am also a member of Notre Dame NROTC. I will be commissioned into the Navy upon graduating and plan to serve my country.

The ultimate goal is to attend BUD/S and then become a SEAL after graduation.”





# UDT-SEAL Association Scholarship Recipients

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Name	In Honor Of	Name	In Honor Of
Antoinette Auger	SOC Mark T. Carter	Ethan Peterson	SOC Brett D. Shadle
Jonathan Gajewski	SOC Jason R. Freiwald	Kristin Reed	CWO3 Gary M. Garbers
Charles Hendrickson	SOC Collin T. Thomas	Gabriel Rhinelander	SO1 Brett A. Marihugh
Fiona Jameson	SOC John W. Faas	Paul Sanchez	SO1 Joshua T. Harris
Declan Joslin	SO1 Patrick D. Feeks	Christina Sande	SO1 Tyler S. Stimson
Grace Keeney	CDR Job W. Price	Hayley Sawyer	SO1 Caleb A. Nelson
Chasten Kotlyn	SOC Michael E. Koch	Sophia Shea	SO1 Kevin R. Ebbert
Nathan Kotlyn	SOC David Fegyo	Tyler Short	SO1 Nicolas D. Checque
Lindsey Latman	SOCS John W. Marcum	Nick Sitter	SOC David M. Collins
Brittany Marshall	LT Brendan J. Looney	Patrick Smiley	SOCM Bryan Beiriger
Reagan McGinnis	SOC Kevin A. Houston	Nathan Smith	SO1 Devon Grube
Henry McKinney	SO1 Matthew G. Kantor	Nicholas Spencer	SOCS William "Ryan" Owens
Braden McMahon	SO1 Matthew J. Leathers	Jacob Stevens	SO1 Ryan F. Larkin
Marcus Mefferd	SO1 Seth C. Lewis	Rose Stritzinger	SOCS Kyle Milliken
Leif Mollo	SOCS Thomas J. Valentine	Colby Swanson	SOC William C. Mulder
Phoebe Nguyen	SOC Adam L. Brown	Andrew Williams	LT David Metcalf
Olivia Ortegon	CDR Robert A. Kaminski	Darby Williams	SOCS Chad M. Wilkinson
Isabel Parkins	SOC Christopher G. Campbell		

Yontare Allison	Travis Deal	Caroline Hampton	Seaira Oyer
William Arrowood	Aidan Dillon	Trevor Hardee	Mckenzie Powell <i>in honor of</i> Had Richards
Henry Arteiro	Francis Dillon	Trinity Hardee	Kristen Prichard
Mary Arteiro	Jacob Ehret	Wilson Hardy	Cole Quinlan
Dawson Baber	Corbin Ekoniak	Delaney Harris	Kaila Red Bow
Madelyn Baldwin	Brooke Erickson	Katherine Hawks	Jenna Rondeau
Taylor Barker	Garrett Every	Havolyn Hayes	Kylie Seka
Cameron Barnhill	Lauren Fielding	Christopher Hill	Tamila Setayesh
Sierra Barnhill	Elizabeth Fink	Wilson Hobbs	Madalyn Shelton
Zachary Belen	Megan Fiske	Mitchell Holder	Jacob Sortino
Lauren Belknap	Ty Flynn	Natalie Holder	Michael Stearns
Aaron Bensink	Trevor Franklin	Dominique Holliday	Ivan Torres
Aubrie Brown	Benjmain Furchtenicht	Madison Holmes	Shane Tuschen
Joseph Brown	Samuel Furchtenicht	Mitchel Hunter	Luke Weber
Gage Bruno	Kelli Gajewski	Jarrett Hyder	Michael Weber
Sydney Caplinger	Naomi Garcia	Macy Knesek	Kyle Weiss
Juan Casey	Royce Garcia	Renick Meyer	Kelsey West <i>in honor of</i> Jack Kennedy
William Casey	Brooke Gemmer	Alex Morris	Frank Whitworth
Kayla Grace Chapman	Genevieve Gibson	Nathan Ortegon	Allyse Zimmerman
Channing Connors	Megan Gillette	Avery Owen	
Paul Crampton	Callum Glasier		

# NO ONE LEFT BEHIND NO ONE FORGOTTEN



The SEAL Legacy Foundation has proudly supported U.S. Navy SEALs and their families since 2011. Founded and run by SEALs, our mission is to support the brotherhood, past, present and future.

### PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Home Base Partnership for TBI Treatment
- Honored SEAL Legacy Scholarship program for dependents
- Gold Star & Surviving Family Support
- Grants Program to Offset Financial Difficulties that Arise from Service
- Tutoring and Educational Enrichment through SEAL Kids Partnership
- Veterans Support and Transition through UDT-SEAL Association Partnership



The SEAL Legacy Foundation has been recognized with the prestigious GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition.



**SEAL Legacy Foundation**  
2525 Wallingwood Dr.  
Building 1, Suite 214  
Austin, TX 78746





## DR. FRANK BUTLER, NAVY SEAL AND THE FATHER OF MODERN BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE

From advances in NSW diving techniques to dramatic innovations in battlefield trauma care, today's SEALs have access to some of the most advanced medicine in the U.S. Military, in large part because of the efforts of retired SEAL and Navy Undersea Medical Officer CAPT (Dr.) Frank K. Butler.

Dr. Butler comes from a family with five Navy SEALs. His cousin Harry was the first in the family to become a SEAL, followed by Dr. Butler, then his brother Pat, and his son Jeff. His nephew Sam is slated to finish SEAL Qualification Training in November. Even more remarkable is that the family's record for successfully completing BUDS training is 100% - 5 for 5.

Dr. Butler, who graduated BUD/S Class 64 in 1972 and served at UDT 12 and SEAL Team ONE before attending medical school, has spent the majority of his 26-year career in military medicine supporting special operations forces.

"Without any exaggeration, Navy SEALs are more lethal; military and civilian divers are safer; and thousands of wounded combatants are alive because of his singular efforts," noted colleague Dr. John B. Holcomb in a letter nominating Dr. Butler for his 2017 receipt of the Major Jonathan Letterman Award for excellence in battlefield trauma care.

Following his two tours with Naval Special Warfare, Dr. Butler began his extraordinary medical career at the Medical College of Georgia, which he attended on a Navy Health Professions Scholarship. After an internship in family medicine at Naval Hospital Jacksonville and completion of the Navy Undersea Medical Officer training course, he was assigned to the Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) in Panama City in late 1981.

During his five years at NEDU, he helped to pioneer numerous advances in SEAL diving capabilities and supervised the largest series of experimental closed-circuit oxygen dives in U.S. Navy history. The current US Navy closed-circuit oxygen diving exposure limits used by Navy SEALs are the product of this research. Dr. Butler served not only as a lead investigator, but as an experimental dive subject at NEDU, suffering 3 in-water episodes of central nervous system oxygen toxicity, including 2 convulsions, as well as an episode of decompression sickness as NEDU sought to define the limits of safe NSW-related underwater physiology. Dr. Butler also developed a new purging procedure for the Draeger Lar V/Mark 25 Underwater Breathing Apparatus that makes diving the SEALs primary closed-circuit oxygen UBA far safer than it was previously.



After his time at NEDU, Dr. Butler completed an ophthalmology residency at National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, where he served as Chief Resident his final year. Following his residency, Dr. Butler was assigned to Naval Hospital, Pensacola. Shortly after starting this assignment, he was reconnected with Naval Special Warfare in a unique way.

In a recent interview in the Journal of Special Operations Medicine, CAPT Butler described how the NSW Biomedical Research Program got started and thanked the leadership in the SEAL community for their confidence in establishing and supporting this novel program that enabled the biomedical advances that followed:

"After I completed my ophthalmology residency in 1989 and was working as a staff ophthalmologist at the Naval Hospital Pensacola, I got a call to come up to the office of the hospital's executive officer. The SEAL community was seeking medical officers with NSW experience to enhance the medical support being provided to the SEAL community. After discussions with SEAL Captain Tom Lawson, the commander of the Naval Special Warfare Center, and Rear Admiral George Worthington, the commander at WARCOM, the decision was made to establish a biomedical research effort that was sharply focused on the unique array of medical and physiology issues encountered in NSW operations. I was given the unique

opportunity to continue to work as an eye surgeon while assuming the management of the NSW Biomedical Research Program. This arrangement allowed for long-term continuity in the SEAL biomedical research effort. The program was also strongly supported by subsequent NSW commanders, including Rear Admirals Ray Smith, Tom Richards, Eric Olson, and Bert Calland. This arrangement provided an opportunity for me to make a number of significant contributions to the SEAL and the Special Operations communities, and I am deeply grateful to these senior NSW leaders for their trust and support throughout my 14 years in the SEAL Biomedical Research Program."

During these 14 years, the NSW Biomedical Research Program produced successes such as the NSW decompression computer (now the US Navy standard), laser refractive surgery in the military, the first USSOCOM medical informatics system, the establishment of orthopedic injury rehabilitation clinics at NSW commands, the Navy SEAL Nutrition Guide and the Navy SEAL Physical Fitness Guide.

But it was Dr. Butler's pioneering efforts in developing the first set of Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) Guidelines in 1996 and his subsequent leadership role in establishing the Committee on TCCC that have made the most significant impact on the US military.

*(continued on next page.)*



The TCCC Guidelines are a set of evidence-based, best-practice trauma care guidelines that have been customized for use by combat medics and corpsmen on the battlefield. TCCC is now recognized as a major advance in combat casualty care and has been credited with saving the lives of many hundreds of casualties from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. TCCC has been mandated by the DoD to be the standard for battlefield trauma care throughout the U.S. military. TCCC is now also used by the militaries of most NATO countries and many other allied nations. It is gaining acceptance in civilian prehospital trauma care, and its pioneering advocacy for the use of tourniquets and hemostatic dressings to control external hemorrhage was the cornerstone for both the American College of Surgeons Hartford Consensus effort and the White House-sponsored Stop the Bleed program.

Dr. Butler's influence on battlefield trauma care has been so profound that, upon his retirement as Chair of the Committee on TCCC after 11 years in that role, he was presented by the Joint Trauma System with an award that consisted of a bronzed tourniquet and an inscription that read in part: "CAPT (Ret) Frank Butler, The Father of Modern Battlefield Medicine."

Dr. Butler has over 150 publications in the medical literature. He has been awarded the U.S. Special Operations Command Medal by Admiral Bill McRaven; the 2017 Distinguished Service Award from the US Military Health System for lifetime contributions to combat casualty care; the 2017 Letterman Award for Excellence in Battlefield Medicine; the 2018 Rocco Morando Award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians for contributions to Emergency Medical Services; the 2011 Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences NOGI Award for Distinguished Service to the diving community; the 2010 Auerbach Award for contributions to Wilderness Medicine; the 2007 Norman McSwain Award for leadership in Prehospital Trauma Care; and the first Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care Award for outstanding contributions to battlefield trauma care in 2006, an award that is now given annually and bears his name.

He was recently honored by a Navy Forward Surgical Hospital in Iraq naming the road to the hospital "Frank Butler Boulevard" in honor of his work in developing and advancing TCCC concepts.

In 2012, Dr. Butler joined the Board of Directors for the newly formed SEAL Legacy Foundation, a role he continues to hold to this day. Thanks to his expertise and leadership, the Foundation embarked upon its partnership with Home Base, a research-based TBI and PTSD treatment program of the renowned Massachusetts General Hospital. Since the partnership's inception, more than 120 SEALs have been referred and successfully received support.

"Without question, the SEAL Legacy Foundation was able to lead the way in addressing the Achilles heel of special operations – the silent, and sometimes deadly, wounds of brain injuries and post-traumatic stress – because of Captain Butler," said SLF Managing Director Mark McGinnis.

SEAL Legacy Foundation Board of Directors Chairman Dr. Shawn Johnson, also a Navy SEAL turned military doctor, echoed the incredible impact Dr. Butler has had on service men and women in general, and on his own career in particular.

"Captain Frank Butler is an American Hero," he stated. "I don't personally know of any individual during my career who has contributed more to the American serviceman than Dr. Frank Butler. He's done so in various forms—as a Navy SEAL leader, a Navy physician, Undersea Medical Officer, Chairman of the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, and a board member of the Seal Legacy Foundation.

Dr. Butler is grateful to Dr. Shawn Johnson and to Mark McGinnis for the honor of being asked to serve on the SEAL Legacy Foundation Board: "The SLF is a remarkable group of dedicated professionals and close friends who donate their time to raise money on behalf of the SEAL community and then do a tremendous job of identifying the SEAL families that need financial help the most and making that help happen."

Despite the many achievements and accolades, friendships and family are unmistakably the most rewarding aspect of Dr. Butler's career and life.

His parents in Savannah, Ga.—Frank and Elizabeth—had six children. The three boys would all become career Naval officers; all three girls would become nurses, and this large family has remained very close over the years. ■

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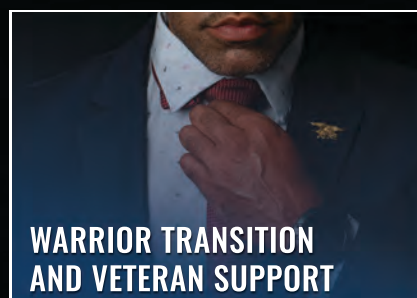
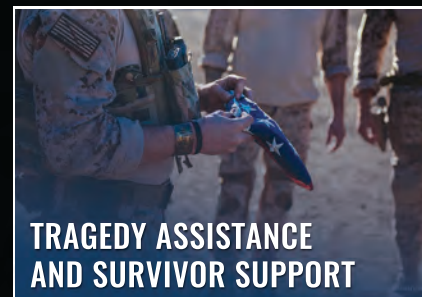
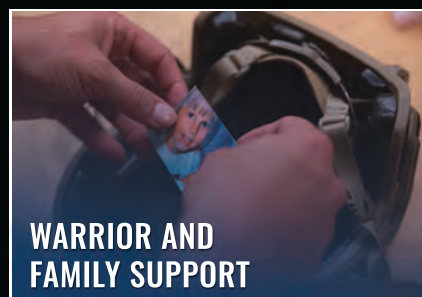
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# NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION



## SUPPORT WITH CONFIDENCE

Like the community it serves, the Navy SEAL Foundation is a high performing organization with a commitment to excellence. NSF has received 4-Star ratings from Charity Navigator every year since 2011. It is one of less than 70 charities, from among more than 9,000, to have earned a perfect score of 100 for our financial health, accountability, and transparency, placing NSF in the top 1% of the rated charities.

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## TBI and bTBI | Help is Out There

Byline: Alison Messick, Director of Programs, Navy SEAL Foundation

**SEALs TBI** and blast-induced traumatic brain injury (bTBI) are major medical concerns for Naval Special Warfare (NSW) operators and their family members. Both of these can produce very similar symptoms in terms of cognitive impairment. Our goal in this brief write up is to share with you some of the symptoms associated with TBI and bTBI, and to encourage our SEAL and SWCC veterans to reach out to the Navy SEAL Foundation if they or a teammate need assistance.

Some symptoms include *(these may be staggered in their onset, fluctuate in severity, and be triggered by life events months or possibly years after injury)*:

- ▶ Retrograde Amnesia
- ▶ Compromised Executive Function
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Confusion
- ▶ Amnesia
- ▶ Difficulty Concentrating
- ▶ Mood Disturbance
- ▶ Alterations in Sleep Patterns
- ▶ Anxiety

Neurotrauma combined with the below additional risk factors for NSW community members can lead to decreased quality of life, depression and suicidal ideation.

- ▶ Fearlessness
- ▶ High Pain Tolerance
- ▶ Lethality Knowledge and Access
- ▶ Heightened Agitation
- ▶ Sleep Disturbances
- ▶ Perceived Burden
- ▶ Thwarted Belongingness
- ▶ Cognitive Inflexibility
- ▶ Emotion Dysregulation

For more information about this subject, we encourage you to visit this link for an informative video:

<https://bit.ly/nsfblastinjury>

The Navy SEAL Foundation is committed to supporting our NSW veterans. If you or your teammate are in need, please contact us, we will ensure that you receive the best options for education and intervention. ■

For additional information please contact: Alison Messick, *Director of Programs* | [amessick@navysealfoundation.org](mailto:amessick@navysealfoundation.org)



## The Story of My Transition

by Bob Newman

When I knew I would be transitioning from the SEAL Teams after the better part of a quarter-century of service, I honestly thought that I had everything all figured out. I believed that as I had helped others grow and transition out of this community as a Command Master Chief, I would apply the same principles to my transition. Boy, was I wrong! And, am I glad The Honor Foundation was there to catch me!

The truth be told, my transition experience isn't unique. Or, maybe it was?

**Here are the Cliff's Notes:** I went through a brutal divorce and won custody of all three of my children; this resulted in me deciding to retire from the Teams. While developing my transition plan, I had some additional setbacks. I tore my bicep and suffered a spontaneous pneumothorax all while completing my undergraduate degree and attending the Tuck School of Business "Next Step" program—all taking place within six months! I felt pretty invincible after navigating this proverbial obstacle course and thought that my transition would be no different...and that is when the universe puts you in a rear-naked chokehold.

I thought I was all set. With my SOCOM Care Coalition advocate's help, I got all of my VA paperwork completed well before the deadline—nearly 120 days before my separation date of May 31, 2019. But here comes the kicker...My last payday in the Navy was May 31 and then on June 3, I was in a horrific bicycling accident. I broke my C7 vertebrae in two places. I was lucky not to be dead or paralyzed. However, the accident's impact left me with damage from my C3 to C7 nerve clusters, and I am very fortunate to be alive and walking.

The good news prognosis was music to my family's ears. However, while I was going through recovery, I was not focused on tracking my VA paperwork or retirement package. The latter had been sitting stagnant on someone's desk at Personnel Support Detachment Norfolk for almost two months. My lack of attentiveness to my paperwork resulted in my pension being delayed by six months! My disability rating nightmare would take eight months to catch up with me. I was prepared to be liquid for a few months after retirement, but six months with no pay was crippling.



Here is the silver lining: I knew that I would be going through The Honor Foundation's (THF) program in the fall of 2019. You see, CAPT (SEAL, ret) Matt Stevens, the CEO of THF, had recommended that I attend the program. Matt and I had worked together a few times over the years, and I have a lot of trust and respect for him. So, of course, I said "Absolutely." I was all set to go through the THF pipeline with Group 27 at the Virginia Beach campus in the fall.

What I hope to illustrate here is that though our stories are different, what we go through during our transition is very similar. Fear, anxiety, uncertainty, loneliness, and hesitation; these are common threads that every transitioning service member will likely go through as they contemplate leaving the military.

It was all a little scary—becoming a single parent, having multiple surgeries, delayed payment of my pension and a near-death experience are things that I couldn't have possibly factored into my transition plan. Even though I secured a position with Victory Strategies before my accident, I couldn't work while I was recovering. As daunting as all of the above was to me, I was never alone. Through it all, I had the steady support of The Honor Foundation as the light on the horizon guiding me through the storm I found myself in.

As the summer relented and it was time to gear up for the THF cohort to commence, I was unsure if I could commit to adding more to my plate.

To say that I had a lot going on during the first six months of my retirement year is an understatement. I was a single father of three, I co-founded two nonprofits that were both in the start-up phase at the time, and I was a Managing Director with Victory Strategies (a boutique leadership consulting firm in start-up mode). (sigh) "Sure! Two nights a week, no dinner with my kids. Which meant they would be eating by themselves. Up to six hours a week of evening class? No problem!" \*

Even though it seemed very daunting, I was in. And just like any good Team guy; if I'm going to go in, I am going "All In"!

So that's what I did (with no hesitation). I spent the next three months devoting time to the program and cohort as best I could. I committed to getting comfortable with being uncomfortable—which is required during the introspective work in the THF's transition curriculum. I found joy in collaborating with others like me (called Fellows in THF's program) during break-out sessions and side projects. I averaged over five "Cups of Coffee" (meeting new people) a week to increase my network and learn from mentors.

Throughout this process, walking through countless challenges, I felt re-invigorated with purpose. I was rediscovering myself, finding my post-retirement "new normal." I viewed the process as sharpening the sword. By telling my stories, and working on my networking through THF events, I got comfortable again with public speaking and advocating for myself. But most of all, helping my fellow teammates through their transition journey, was the biggest reward of all. Though many began the THF program in a much better place than I did (I would assume 90% had more than a year left of active duty service when they applied to THF), we were all experiencing the same transition steps together, and the camaraderie with these Fellows became even stronger.



At the end of the day, things are going great. I am now a partner at Victory Strategies and the acting CEO of the firm. The Honor Foundation inspired me to be bold in what I saw for myself in the future. They exposed and inspired me with ideas and concepts that I wouldn't have contemplated otherwise. In addition, they introduced me to dozens of mentors and coaches that are still there to help me and all program alumni today. I will forever be grateful to The Honor Foundation, which is why I am committed to helping them in any way that I can.

#### Here are some questions that you may have about THF.

##### *When there are so many other great organizations out there, why THF?*

Unquestionably, there are many phenomenal professionals and veteran's service organizations out there. I'm here to tell you that as far as transitions go, The Honor Foundation has laid a fantastic network for both private sector advocates and an alumni network of SOF veterans who have already transitioned and are willing to participate and mentor those going through transition as well. In Special Operations, we expect people to do the groundwork and set things up for success. That is exactly what The Honor Foundation has done. The very first time you show up, you'll be impressed by the organization. The thoughtfulness and the authenticity of the staff are bar none. An A++ organization

##### *How has THF impacted my family and me?*

THF has done a tremendous amount for me personally. Not just while I was going through the program as a fellow, but they have kept me in the loop with events and people they thought would pay off in my business opportunities. THF also hosts regular events that alumni are invited to participate in—fostering camaraderie and mutual respect that pays enormous dividends.

##### *How is THF solving the problem for transitioning SOF? What is it that makes them unique?*

The Honor Foundation addresses the problem of transitioning Special Operations Forces first and foremost by helping us find our "Why" or rediscovering our sense of purpose after the military. This purpose is the foundation from which everything else is built. THF will set you up for success so that when you are looking for jobs, you know whether the organization you're interviewing with is a good fit.

What makes THF unique is that all SOF operators and support personnel are welcome to apply and join the program

With the elite mindset that comes with a SOF background, this amount of diversity sets The Honor Foundation above any transitioning program on the planet.

##### *What has impressed me the most about THF?*

I stated above how professional the organization and the staff are. I would like to stress the amount of work and heart that went into building THF's proprietary transition guide. It is called "Waypoint" which is the term that means reset point while navigating unknown terrain. The Waypoint guide breaks down the three phases that you'll go through during the three months at THF. I'm not going to spill all the details of the program, but it can be simply broken down into the phases of "You," "Your Gear," and "Your Workup." Visit [honor.org/our-program](http://honor.org/our-program) for more information.

##### *The Honor Foundation, and you?*

If you are contemplating getting out of the military in the next two years, apply to THF. It's a "no-brainer." The program is an executive-level training course with tons of added value past the three-month commitment! Treat your transition like a mission and put as much effort into it as you did getting into NSW.

Everything that I described showcases THF's phenomenal program. This program is free of charge to all transitioning SOF personnel, however, it does cost money to run. Please consider donating with your CFC campaign contribution if you're active duty. Think of it as paying it forward for yourself and your fellow veterans to transition out of the military one day. Because one day, everyone will inevitably return to civilian life.

If you've already transitioned, please consider getting involved with THF. There are tons of things you can do outside of giving direct contributions. You can donate your time and experience as a coach/mentor or just stop in and tell your story to a cohort.

If you are a THF Alumni, I encourage you to stay engaged. Sit in on a class, have a virtual Cup of Coffee with a Fellow in the program, donate to the Alumni Fund, or reach out to the THF Team for opportunities. Trust me—they're always happy to hear from you. ■

For more information please go to [www.honor.org](http://www.honor.org).



## A TWO-WEEK PROGRAM FOR SEALs IMPACTED BY THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF WAR

In partnership with the SEAL Legacy Foundation, Home Base offers an Intensive Clinical Program (ICP) for Navy SEALs who are dealing with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury or other invisible wounds. In the ICP, SEALs receive close to a year's worth of treatment in two weeks, and follow on complementary care in their home towns.

### Treatment, lodging, transportation and meals are covered at no cost to the SEAL.

#### The ICP Includes:

- Comprehensive Evaluation
- Individual Treatment
- Group Therapy
- Stress Reduction & Resiliency
- Fitness & Nutrition
- Family Support & Education
- Integrative Therapies
- Social Activities

**Eligibility:** All Navy SEALs are considered, regardless of discharge status. Active duty should coordinate with their command.

**Cost:** Treatment, food, lodging and transportation are covered at no cost for the SEAL and one accompanying family member.

**Care Plan:** SEALs and their families work with clinical team to determine an individualized plan.

**Family:** Family members are an integral part of the healing process and are encouraged to participate in treatment coordination and other program offerings. Family members are also provided their own education and support opportunities.

### TO GET STARTED:

Contact Home Base Veteran Outreach Coordinator **Patrick Smith** at [psmith30@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:psmith30@mgh.harvard.edu) or call the Home Base clinic at 617-724-5202.





# NAVY SEALS TO LAUNCH NEW SUBMERSIBLE

FROM BIGGER SUB OFF HAWAII

William Cole

**NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE (NSW)**, operators onboard SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) Mark 11 conduct routine navigation training. (U.S. Navy/Chief Mass Communications Specialist Christopher Perez)

U.S. Special Operations Command will soon conduct a first-of-its-kind test off Hawaii—the launch and recovery of a new SEAL commando minisub from a Virginia-class submarine—as the elite and secretive force retools some of its undersea assets.

Two of the 22-foot SEAL Delivery Vehicle Mark 11s already were delivered to Hawaii for fleet familiarization and two more were undergoing government acceptance, Capt. Kate Dolloff, Special Operations Command's maritime program executive officer, said at a mid-May industry conference. Ten are to be built.

SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1 at Pearl Harbor has operated older Mark 8 delivery vehicles that are challenged “with technology obsolescence” and are slated to be replaced one-for-one by the newer, slightly larger and 4,000-pounds-heavier Mark 11s, the command said.

Each of the “next generation” 10,000-pound, free-flooding vehicles—which still require the use of wetsuits and scuba gear—carry two crew and four passengers and have better navigation and greater payload abilities.

The submersibles are launched from watertight Dry Deck Shelters that are fitted to and connected with larger host submarines.

Mark 11 builder Teledyne Brown Engineering, awarded a \$178 million sole-source contract in October, said the minisub, also known as the Shallow Water Combat Submersible, is “specifically designed to insert and extract Special Operations Forces in high-threat areas.”

“The big takeaway here is we're fielding a much more capable platform to the fleet, and we've got it out there with the operators working on it now,” Dolloff said at the virtual Special Operations Forces Industry Conference co-hosted by the National Defense Industrial Association.

Special Operations Command—like the rest of the U.S. military—is grappling with changing from specializing in low-tech desert conflict to a focus on “great power” competition with China and Russia.

“The National Defense Strategy is clear: We've got to build a more lethal force,” Army Gen. Richard Clarke, who's in charge of Special Operations Command, said at the conference. “We have to continue to foster our allies and grow more partners and we've got to reform ; in the case of SOCOM we've got to reform to meet those threats.”

He added that “we still need guys that can kick down the door, that can shoot well, can jump out of airplanes. But we need coders. We also need leaders who can apply”



Naval Special Warfare said it doesn't talk about its manning in Hawaii for security reasons, but the Defense Department comptroller's office said that as of 2018, the command had 525 personnel at Pearl Harbor.

The defense comptroller's office said the training facility will support Naval Special Warfare Group 3, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1 and the Naval Special Warfare Center Advanced Training Command.

In late 2018, Naval Special Warfare said in a draft environmental assessment that it planned to triple the amount of small-unit intermediate and advanced training conducted by SEALs and other special operations forces on nonfederal lands in Hawaii.

According to the assessment, proposed air-based training would include the use of drones, C-17 cargo carriers, helicopters, MV-22 Ospreys and AC-130 aircraft gunships.

Lt. Matthew Stroup, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Command, said the environmental assessment has not yet been finalized, but added that “as demand for special operations missions increased over the years, it also necessitated an increased need for more frequent training, and therefore, areas where training occurs.”

The broader Special Operations Command said milestones also have been reached for a new 39-foot Dry Combat Submersible that is watertight like most submarines but would be surface-ship launched, and a follow-on dry minisub that would be hosted by Virginia-class mother submarines.

“We are working really hard with the Navy to try to get (a Dry Combat Submersible ) back onto a submarine,” Dolloff said.

The effort follows a 2008 fire that destroyed a much larger 65-foot minisub known as the Advanced SEAL Delivery System as its batteries were charged at the Pearl City Peninsula SEAL compound.

The Northrop Grumman effort was scrapped as too costly. In its wake, Special Operations Command turned to commercial sub builders who partnered with industry leaders.

In April, General Atomics announced that the first of the long-endurance Dry Combat Submersibles—with space for 10—was accepted by Special Operations Command.

“This capability complements our wet submersible fleet by increasing the mission set and protecting the operators in a dry environment,” Dolloff said.

The command in 2016 said several of the dry-interior subs were slated to be stationed at Pearl Harbor, but recently provided updated information and said that is no longer the case.

A modernization effort also is under way to increase the size of Dry Deck Shelters that house SEAL Delivery Vehicles on the top of submarines.

Lt. Cmdr. Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for Special Operations Command, said the upcoming “Shallow Water Combat Submersible testing is scheduled on a Virginian-Class attack submarine with a legacy Dry Deck Shelter.”

The increased size of the shelters would better accommodate stowage for the new Mark 11 vehicles and possibly Dry Combat Submersibles, but Special Operations Command said it is looking at options.

“We're looking at launch and recovery (of a Dry Combat Submersible) from a submarine,” Dolloff said. “Is there submerged towing? Are we launching from a Dry Deck Shelter... We're looking at all those different things.” ■

*This article is written by William Cole from The Honolulu Star-Advertiser and was legally licensed via the Tribune Content Agency through the NewsCred publisher network.*

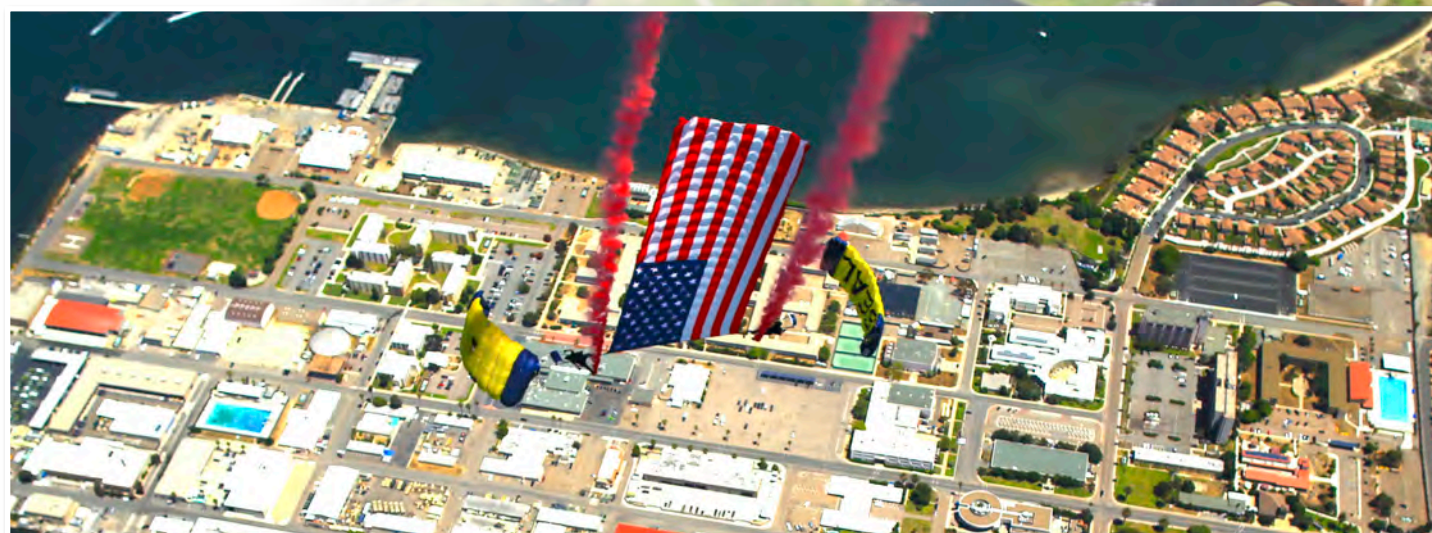




**THE LEAP FROGS** perform a tethered flag with smoke brackets during a demonstration jump on the 4th of July.

SAN DIEGO Members of the U.S. Navy parachute team, the Leap Frogs, perform a tethered flag with smoke brackets during a demonstration jump on the 4th of July. The Leap Frogs are based in San Diego and perform aerial parachute demonstrations around the nation in support of Naval Special Warfare and Navy recruiting. ■

*(U.S. Navy photo by James Woods/Released)*





## THE TOUR—SWCC'S HELL WEEK

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sean Weir  
Naval Special Warfare Command

Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) operators complete demanding tactical training throughout their careers, but before becoming a SWCC operator they must first pass a 72-hour crucible during the fifth week of the SWCC Basic Crewman Selection (BCS) course called the “Tour.”

“On Time, On Target, Never Quit” is the SWCC motto, a valuable maxim the men and women learn at Basic Crewman Selection, take to heart when they embark on the Tour during Basic Crewman Training, and they take with them throughout their careers.

“The Tour is 72 hours of physically and mentally demanding training evolutions designed to replicate harsh environments that SWCC operators may encounter in their carrier as a Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen,” said Chief Warrant Officer Four Joshua Hummel, SWCC school officer in charge.

During 23 hours of running and five miles swimming, the candidates complete grueling team building activities that develop unity, teamwork, character and humility. Pushed by a team of experienced SWCC instructors under demanding environmental conditions, candidates learn to work as a boat team and also to help the person next to them during life threatening situations.

“The hardest part for a student is changing their mentality and habits,” said Hummel. “Anyone can show up to SWCC school for a day. It takes someone with self-discipline and mental perseverance to do it every day. From day one until they graduate the students have to realize becoming an elite operator isn’t something you do one day a week or two weeks a month, it’s something you do every day, it’s a lifestyle.”

SWCC operators work closely with Navy SEALs by providing clandestine insertion capabilities in coastal areas while operating specialized craft used to deliver operators and provide heavy weapons and other critical support. They conduct special reconnaissance, patrol, as well as Visit, Board, Search and Seizure on suspected maritime craft. The Tour is the end of the initial training and where candidates get selected to become SWCC operators, and proceeds the 14-week long Crewman Qualification Training which is just a portion of the six-month A-school.

BCS is administered by Basic Training Command, a component of Navy Special Warfare (NSW) Center, in Coronado, CA. NSW Center provides initial and advanced training to the Sailors who make-up the Navy’s SEAL and Special Boat Teams. For more information on SWCC and how to become part of it, visit [www.SEALSWCC.com](http://www.SEALSWCC.com). ■



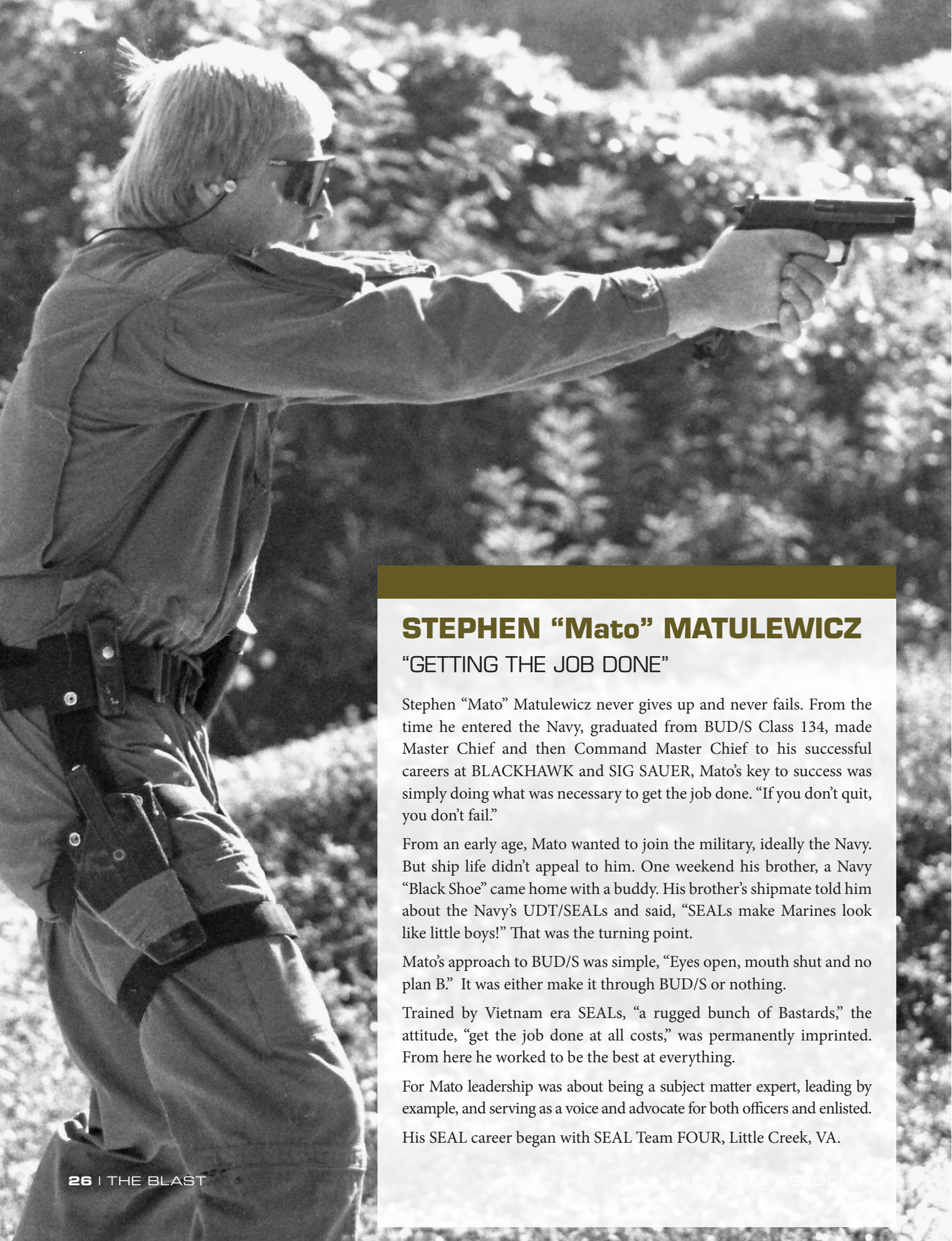
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## STEPHEN “Mato” MATULEWICZ

### “GETTING THE JOB DONE”

Stephen “Mato” Matulewicz never gives up and never fails. From the time he entered the Navy, graduated from BUD/S Class 134, made Master Chief and then Command Master Chief to his successful careers at BLACKHAWK and SIG SAUER, Mato’s key to success was simply doing what was necessary to get the job done. “If you don’t quit, you don’t fail.”

From an early age, Mato wanted to join the military, ideally the Navy. But ship life didn’t appeal to him. One weekend his brother, a Navy “Black Shoe” came home with a buddy. His brother’s shipmate told him about the Navy’s UDT/SEALs and said, “SEALs make Marines look like little boys!” That was the turning point.

Mato’s approach to BUD/S was simple, “Eyes open, mouth shut and no plan B.” It was either make it through BUD/S or nothing.

Trained by Vietnam era SEALs, “a rugged bunch of Bastards,” the attitude, “get the job done at all costs,” was permanently imprinted. From here he worked to be the best at everything.

For Mato leadership was about being a subject matter expert, leading by example, and serving as a voice and advocate for both officers and enlisted.

His SEAL career began with SEAL Team FOUR, Little Creek, VA.

For over 13 years, Mato served as a Team Chief/Squadron Command Master Chief at Naval Special Warfare Development Group for one of the Tactical Research and Development Teams supporting missions. Next he served as the Command Master Chief for Naval Special Warfare Center Detachment Little Creek where he was responsible for all SEAL Advanced Training and was the Senior Master Training Specialist and Curriculum Instructional Standards Officer (CISO). He retired in 2006 as the Ninth Command Master Chief of SEAL Team TWO following deployments to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Along the way, Mato earned a Bachelor of Science Degree graduating with Honors, attended the US Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and Command Master Chief School. At Old Dominion University, he also completed a Six Sigma Lean Manufacturing Course certification program.

Following retirement Mato was hired by his SEAL “Shootin Partner” Mike Noell, Founder and President of BLACKHAWK. Climbing the corporate ladder, he became part of BLACKHAWK’s Executive Committee. He served as Executive Director of Operations, Vice President of Sales and after BLACKHAWK was acquired by ATK (Alliant

Tech Systems), Mato served as the Executive Director, Special Operations Division. There he played a major role in promoting and building a billion-dollar tactical equipment business.

“Mato is by far the most squared away person I know. There is no one close,” said Mike Noell, BLACKHAWK founder and current Sentry, Chief Executive Officer. “There is nothing that gets put on the back-burner. It all gets done immediately.”

After BLACKHAWK/ATK Mato was recruited by SIG SAUER to become the Executive Director, Global Defense Division. This involved managing SIG SAUER German and Swiss manufacturing facilities and leading the effort to provide firearms solutions to NATO Counter Terrorism Units.

After 4 years, Mato was promoted and became the Vice President of SIG SAUER Academy. Here he led a team that trained over 15,000 students a year, raising revenue, awareness and promoting firearms training and safety.

Recently, Mato decided to slow down...just a bit. He left SIG SAUER and is now enjoying semi-retirement. Currently, he is on the Board of Directors for Sentry Products Group and the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum.







IN JULY, THE BLAST INTERVIEWED MATO ABOUT HIS SEAL AND CIVILIAN CAREER.

**The Blast:** What are your leadership principles?

**Mato:** Lead by example—in different minds that means different things. But when I look at a Master Chief or a Command Master Chief, I expect that person to be the best example, the “badest” dude there is. He is the guy you want to be and whose standards are so high that you can only dream to attain them. They are always on, always available and they are in a sense, unwavering. When you think of the Rudy Boesch of the world, he was relentless—always fit, always sharp. Rudy knew everything tactically and strategically at the executive level. If he didn’t know the answer, he knew where to find it. I tried to be like that.



**The Blast:** How did you manage the work-life balance?

**Mato:** Very little sleep...I would say my wife, Sharon, was a huge advocate. Supporting everything I did. I just think it is controlled chaos. I don’t think there is a secret recipe or formula. It could go back to BUD/S. You are not going to quit. You are just going to keep going and going.

**The Blast:** What were the challenges transitioning to the private sector?

**Mato:** The greatest challenge was trust. We have such a high level of trust when we are in the military, especially in the SEAL Teams. If a guy gives me a jump master personnel inspection and says you are good to go, I am good to go. Unfortunately, this was not always true in the business world. Trust would be that one thing that was my biggest challenge in transitioning to the civilian sector.

**The Blast:** How did you adapt?

**Mato:** I was very cautious after getting burned a couple of times. Mike Noell, approached me to come to B. I said, “why me Mike,” and he said, “because I trust you.” He had me take a survey called the Workplace FIVE Survey for Executives. The Workplace FIVE identifies where you will succeed. For example, if the survey reveals you are an introvert, they will recommend you not go into sales. After taking the survey, the facilitator said I was off the charts on leadership and teamwork, but I had one problem. He said I scored too high in the trust category to go into the business world. I was flabbergasted. He told me that I have to be very cautious in business because people will tell you one thing and do another. It could be your peers or your superiors. I put that into the grey matter.

When ATK acquired BLACKHAWK, they told us we are great, the best thing in the world. They love Mato, they love other BLACKHAWK executives. They can’t say enough nice things about us. We wake up 18 months later and there is a RIF and we are all canned. Two days before they told us how they couldn’t live without us. That really escalated my non-trust at the corporate level.

**The Blast:** How did you become part of SIG SAUER?  
How was that experience different from BLACKHAWK and ATK?

**Mato:** I was contacted by SIG SAUER, they were looking for a former SOF guy who had business experience at an upper management/executive level. SIG wasn’t much different from BLACKHAWK/ATK. What set it aside was the European side of the company, it was only one-third USA. I grew the business the same way I did at BLACKHAWK/ATK.



**The Blast:** What was your approach to growing business at BLACKHAWK and SIG SAUER?

**Mato:** I would start out crawl, walk, run. I took risks. You are not going to win every time. You may not get the full deal but you may get a portion.

I would also say be responsive. Answer the phone and follow-up, it is really so simple. Finally, do what you say. If you say you are going to check on something and get back to them in 24 hours get back to them. Even if you don’t have the answer they are looking for, get back to them. It is also understanding who you are talking to. It is about credibility and networking. In the end, it is as simple as doing what you say you will do.

It’s all about providing great customer support, hiring the right people, trust and sincerity. Extremely easy to accomplish if you have a personal Ethos.

**The Blast:** What was the key to your success at SIG SAUER Academy?

**Mato:** The key to success was never giving up-never- and making sure the right people were in the right positions. It is easier said than done. I enjoyed seeing all the different organizations from around the world come through the SIG SAUER Academy and watching the person who never handled a firearm in their life leave after one day of training with a new-found love and respect for firearms.

**The Blast:** What prompted you to into semi-retirement?

**Mato:** What prompted me? After 31 years of marriage, the travel had not let up. I still loved the job, but it was simply time to let my foot off the gas a little so I could still do the things I enjoy and be with my family.

**The Blast:** What do you enjoy about being on the Board of Directors for Sentry Products and the UDT/SEAL Museum?

**Mato:** Sentry is like putting the band back together. Sentry Executives and Board are all former BLACKHAWK personnel, it’s the “Secret Sauce” and they make some cool stuff. ■

*UDT/SEAL Museum, I simply want to give back any way I can. The SEAL Teams have given me so much. The Teams have made me the man I am today. If I can give back in some small way, then I’m going to help carry the load for these great organizations that support our Community.*





## FROM NAVY SEAL TO MASTER GEMOLOGIST

by Gary Kirchner



In the world there are only 38 Master Gemologist Appraiser of American Society of Appraisers. These individuals must possess an encyclopedic knowledge of gems; fancy colored diamonds, diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires. The journey involves years of training, testing and travel. Mentally, it requires determination, perseverance, attention to detail, and the ability to get up when knocked down. Qualities that anyone who graduates BUD/S understands. Elisha “Lish” Ralph Morgan, former SEAL and now Master Gemologist, is such a person.

In 1971, when Lish was 17, he followed his family’s history of military service and enlisted in the Navy. The following year he graduated from BUD/S, Class 66 and was assigned to SEAL Team One. For the next three years, Lish was involved in a number of Southeast Asia missions and in 1975 was honorably discharged. He then enrolled in the Brooks Institute of Photography to pursue a photojournalism career. While studying, he briefly affiliated with reserves in San Diego until he moved back to New England.

“I worked as a freelance journalist, cut firewood in Vermont, built stone walls with my Uncle, was a framing carpenter and then a bartender in the original Hogs Breath Saloon where my two old friends and Team mates, Mike Thornton and Mike Fitzgerald, assisted me on my entry back into the Teams,” said Lish.



In February 1984, he re-entered the Navy and went through BUD/S a second time graduating Class 129. At the age of 30, he was assigned to SEAL Team 4.

After three years, he retired and in Palo Alto, CA started “The Whistling Tree Man” tree trimming and removal business. Through a small ad in the local paper and referrals, his business quickly grew. One of his clients, John Gellman, a retired jeweler, told Lish, he would make a good gemologist based on his attention to detail, determination, and work ethic. Intrigued, Lish attended Gemological Institute of America’s (GIA) Residence Gem Identification seminar. That was the turning point. From here he continued his studies at the GIA and worked for one year in the Institute’s colored stone department. There he worked in a dark room grading 60 gemstones a day for gemology students around the world.

“I didn’t want to be a jeweler,” said Lish. “I wanted to be a gemologist traveling the earth and doing what I pleased.”

Over the years, he traveled to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Venezuela searching for precious gems. His clients were “cutters,” investors, and mining operations.

“You have to have deep pockets and a thick skin to roll with the punches because nobody wants to admit how many dollars they lost in the learning curve. There are no schools in buying rough gems. You have to experience that. You also have to have a good relationship with a cutter, who is going to sell the quality stones he sent you to get.”

Gems can be irradiated or chemically treated to increase their value. To detect gems that are altered requires a great deal of knowledge and skill. For Lish, this ability took years acquire.

Using a portable lab kit, Lish can test stones in remote locations, offices or someone’s home. Lish stressed that every time you go into the field for rough gems, like diamonds, you need to be prepared for something different. Consequently, each situation often requires a different lab equipment combination. Knowing what to use also depends on where you are going and who you are dealing with. Again, this is where experience makes a difference.

“While I have my toolkit, there is no substitute for knowledge,” said Lish. “Each gem species has a specific characteristic. Based on this, you then know what instruments you need.”

Today, Lish performs estate evaluations for attorneys and private individuals, acts as an expert witness, obtains wedding stones of significance (over one carat), and is a subject matter consultant to collectors or investors. His gemological network

circles the globe. He is known for his expertise in rare pearls, rubies, jades, sapphires, and emeralds.

“Your biggest asset is your reputation. The public has to have faith in you,” said Lish. “You need to have accreditation and certifications. You have to keep learning.”

For someone interested in becoming a gemologist, Lish recommends reading, “Gemstones of the World” by Walter Schumann. He also recommends taking seminars and focusing on a specific gem species.

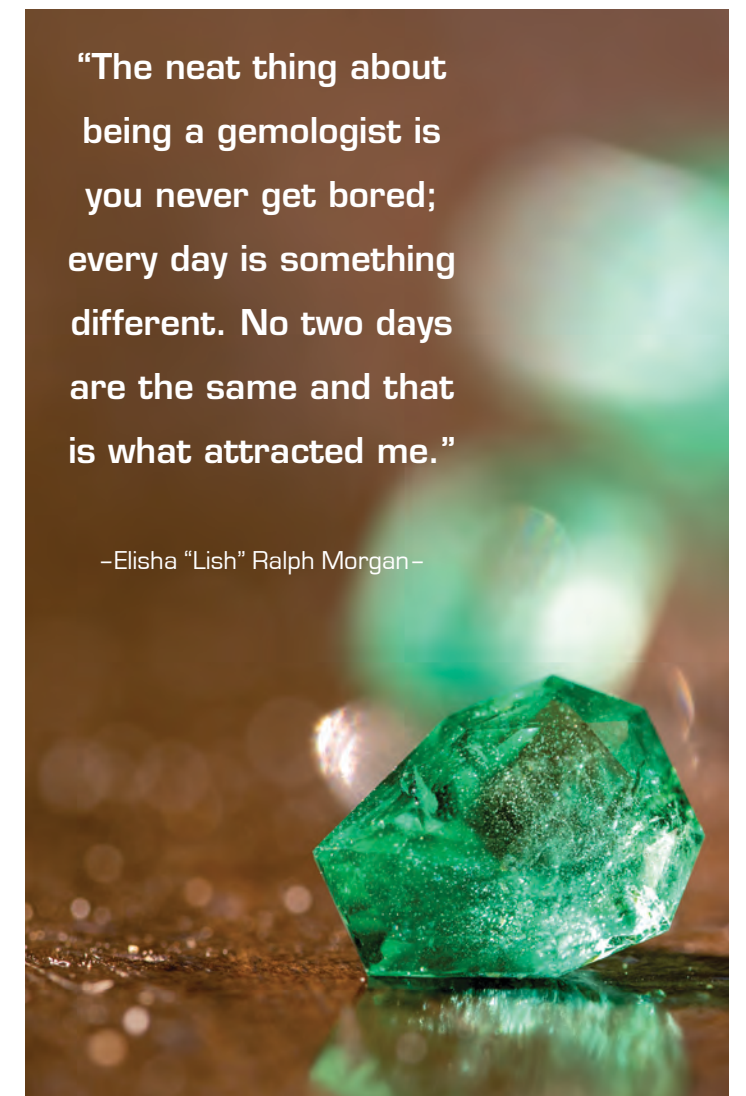
“There are short seminars on pearl and diamond grading if you are interested in getting started,” said Lish. “The best thing to focus on now is gold and silver. It doesn’t take that much training.”

For Lish choosing to become a Master Gemologist was a natural fit.

If you want to reach out to Lish with a gem question, his email is [greenfrog270@gmail.com](mailto:greenfrog270@gmail.com). ■

**“The neat thing about being a gemologist is you never get bored; every day is something different. No two days are the same and that is what attracted me.”**

–Elisha “Lish” Ralph Morgan–







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## BOAT GUYS

By Tom Hawkins

### THE TERM "NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE"

was adopted in 1967 to characterize the emerging Unconventional and Psychological Warfare operations being adopted by the U.S. Navy; then, almost exclusively for the on-going war in South Vietnam. Such NSW operations were strongly vested in the SEAL Teams, Underwater Demolition Teams, Beach Jumper Units, and Boat Support Units (BSUs).

These front-line operational units were congregated under newly formed staffs in November 1963 called Naval Operations Support Groups, Atlantic and Pacific (forerunners of today's NSW Groups). BSU-1 in the Pacific and its Mobile Support Teams (MSTs) began the evolution of a doctrinally organized combatant-craft capability within the framework of NSW. BSU-2 in the Atlantic, while not involved in Vietnam, also played a significant role.

Today, NSW's Boat Guys, all enlisted, have become an indispensable component of the NSW operational community, and now possess their own Navy warfare area specialty qualification – Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC), SWCC breast device(s); and, since 2007 their own Navy rating, Special Warfare Boat Operator (SB). A SWCC Warrant Officer program was also established. This didn't just happen.



The LSB was a squad-sized boat with water-jet propulsion and an exceedingly small draft that could get into very shallow-water regions.

### World War II Units

Many hold the belief that the legacy capabilities of the SB-SWCC began with the BSUs and MSTs during the Vietnam period; and, while this is largely where the most visible and tangible momentum happened, the genesis are much deeper rooted; stretching back to the early days of World War II where small-craft capabilities played significant roles in the conduct of tactical maritime operations. Such activities almost exclusively involved the clandestine ship-to-shore movement of men, who would perform a task of some tactical significance. Generally, these units were established to perform some kind of intelligence collection, demolition mission, or sabotage operation ashore. The first men trained were in the Amphibious Scouts and Raiders (S&Rs) and the Office of Strategic Services Maritime Unit (OSS MU).

### Amphibious Scouts and Raiders

The navy began early efforts with a group of Chief Petty Officers that were combined with men from the Army to form the S&Rs. These men began intense preparation for a focused mission in Operation Torch, the amphibious assault of North Africa during November 1942. Navy men were not given nor expected to perform duties ashore. Those tasks went to army personnel, while Navy men were strictly "scout boat" crewmen. Together, they accomplished near-shore reconnaissance missions and transported army men and their inflatable boats safely and clandestinely to targeted beach areas.

Afloat or ashore, S&R men were trained to operate at night and tasked to identify and reconnoiter prospective landing beaches and, using lights or other means, to accurately guide assault waves to the appropriate landing beach. After the African operation the S&R capability became all naval. Navy S&R men went on to support landings in Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Normandy, and Southern France using everything from kayaks to their host ship's family of landing craft.



### OSS Maritime Unit

While not under the domain of the U.S. Navy during World War II, special-boat capabilities were a primary focus of OSS MU. Its responsibilities included planning and coordinating the clandestine infiltration of agents, supplying resistance groups, engaging in maritime sabotage, and developing special equipment for operations from the sea. It was OSS MU men that pioneered U.S. maritime capabilities through use of small-boat infiltration operations.

OSS MU detachments operated in the South East Asian Command’s China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater, where they used U.S. Army provided Patrol Torpedo Boats (PTs) to conduct stealthy forays against enemy-held beaches and harbors. In the Eastern Mediterranean they accomplished extensive and highly successful ferrying operations in the Aegean Sea. Personnel and supplies were clandestinely transported into German occupied territory in support of resistance groups and guerrilla forces. In the European Theater they conducted or supported ferrying operations across the English Channel to occupied France. The MU endeavored to obtain PT boats under the MU’s unilateral control, but instead they were provided three PTs under U.S. Navy command.

### Pacific UDTs

In the Pacific, the UDTs operated their own boats for training and combat operations. They used LCPRs launched from Amphibious Personnel Destroyers. LCPRs transported UDT men to the beach area, where swimmers with or without demolitions would be dropped off to reconnoiter beaches or demolish natural or man-made obstacles. The post-war UDTs maintained the practice of owning, operating, and maintaining their own boats.

### Korea to Vietnam

There were no significant boat activities for the UDTs during the 1950’s and into the early 1960’s. Korea boat operations were like those of WWII, where the UDTs would embark and APD and use LCPLs and inflatable boats to complete missions ashore. After Korea, there was a period of prolonged peace until Vietnam; overseas deployments continued with the Amphibious Ready Groups. The U.S. Navy’s Mk 4 steel LCPLs had been supplemented by the newer fiberglass Mk 11 LCPL.

### Vietnam - Operation Plan 34A

For special boats, intended or unintended, Vietnam was an epoch, where dedicated boats became mission essential to the operational capability of the SEALs and deployment of Boat Support Unit ONE’s Mobile Support Teams.

A little-known part of the special-boat story involved operations conducted in support of OPLAN 34A with the CIA and later under Military Assistance Command, Vietnam-Studies and Observation Group (MACV-SOG). MACV-SOG was a joint service unconventional-warfare task force operating out of Da Nang. "SOG" was a cover.

In 1962, the CIA escalated covert maritime operations against North Vietnam with assigned U.S. Navy support. SEAL training detachments were detailed to the CIA. BSU-1 provided personnel and logistics to support boat operations through establishment of MST-1. In 1964, CIA responsibilities were transferred MACV-SOG.

SOG operations were designed to: “Execute an intensified program of harassment, diversion, political pressure, capture of prisoners, physical destruction, acquisition of intelligence, generation of propaganda, and diversion of resources against...North Vietnam.” Other operations included delivery of Psychological Warfare materials, capture of North Vietnam citizens—primarily fisherman (for information gathering), insertion of pseudo-agents into the north from the sea, and collection of coastal intelligence.

The MACV-SOG story is important, because it established a foundation for many future NSW operations and, in large measure, future capabilities of special boats.

### Project ZULU

SEAL Team ONE began sending direct-action platoons to Vietnam in January 1966, and two things became apparent: SEAL operators needed boats with speed, shallow draft, firepower, and armor; and, their boats needed to be dedicated and driven by men familiar with the tactics that were being developed. Initially, the SEALs had to make do with a scrounged collection of small boats. This resulted in Project ZULU. Vietnam special boat veteran Bob Stoner described Project ZULU:

“Volunteers from Boat Support Unit ONE trained with members of SEAL Team ONE for six months before deployment to Vietnam. The experiment was the support of UDT and SEAL operators under wartime conditions. They began a six-month trial (March to August 1967) with a modified LCM-6, a modified Mark IV LCPL, a 14-foot Boston Whaler (with silenced outboard), and an Inflatable Boat, Small. The LCPL and LCM-6 (dubbed “Mighty Mo”), were modified to accommodate numerous gun positions, and had armor added to protect vulnerable spaces.

The heavily modified LCPLs and LCMs were subsequently based at Can Tho, My Tho, and later Nah Be. It was in the swamps of the river deltas of Southeast Asia that the SEALs, UDTs, and Boat Support Unit ONE/Mobile Support Team ONE Sailors learned the trade craft of Unconventional Warfare. [Additional] MST detachments [were added] ... to support UDT and SEAL operations along the Bassac, Mekong, and Saigon Rivers.”

When SEAL Platoons and BSU-MSTs began deploying together, Project ZULU was transitioned as MST-2 for in-country support. From mid-1968 until the end of 1971, seven MST detachments supported SEAL platoons.

### Maritime Mobility—Vietnam

Early in the Vietnam war, SEALs had no dedicated boat support and were substantially hampered by what little navy support that existed. They employed small Boston Whaler “skimmers” and were supported with Navy Patrol Boat, Riverine or PBRs. SEAL Team TWO adapted commercial, high speed fiber-glass craft with out-board motors and gun mounts. They were called SEAL Team Assault Boats (STABs) by the men.

### Post-Vietnam Activities

After Vietnam, the BSUs were reorganized as Coastal River Squadrons (COSRIVRONs) with subordinate Coastal River Divisions (COSRIVDIV). The COSRIVDIVs were made up of a combination of active and naval reserve personnel and largely with Vietnam veterans. Active-duty Sailors continued to be assigned by the source-rating detailers.

The boat commands continued to operate LCPLs and PBRs. Other craft were eventually added that included the Landing Craft, Swimmer, Reconnaissance (LCSR); MK 3 Patrol Boat (PB MK 3) or Sea Specter; Seafox, also known as the Special Warfare Craft, Light (SWCL); and, the River Raider Class Mini-Armored Troop Carrier (MATC).

The LCSR, PB Mk 3, and Mini-ATC were new to the inventory, and represented for the first modern-day combatant craft in NSW that could not be launched and recovered from ships. This would be accomplished by the Seafox, which replaced the LCPLs.

Other than the MSSC and LSSC in Vietnam, Seafox was the first boat in the NSW inventory built exclusively to accommodate SEAL capabilities. As a result, the boat was designed with what today would be considered primitive stealth technology. Its paint was non-metallic, it incorporated infrared reduction features, the interior of the engine compartment was shielded against radar, the radar and communication mast were covered with radar absorbent material, and the exhaust was muffled and discharged under water.



SEAL Team Assault Boat engineered at SEAL Team TWO.



Modified Mark 4 LCPL delivering SEALs and crewed by MST men.



A Navy LCM-6, nicknamed the “Mighty Mo,” eventually called the Heavy SEAL Support Craft; an excellent fire-support platform for SEALs ashore.



Boat Guys 1980s

Approaching the year 1980, the men needed to operate and maintain the growing inventory of NSW boats came directly from the Fleet. They were assigned following navy established rate and rating billet structure by source-rating detailers. There was no “special boat” schoolhouse. The men were trained once they arrived at the assigned boat command. As the men gained the essential boat skills and knowledge to support UDT and SEAL operations; however, they were destined to return to Fleet assignments upon conclusion of their tour of duty. Valuable experience was continuously going out the door.

Coastal River Squadrons

In 1979, the Coastal River Squadrons and Divisions were reorganized as Special Boat Squadrons and Units (SPECBOATRON and SBUs). SPECBOATRON ONE was located at NAB, Coronado, California and SPECBOATRON TWO was at NAB, Little Creek, Virginia. SBU-12 was at NAB, Coronado, SBU-13 at Vallejo, California, SBU-20 and SBU-24 at NAB, Little Creek, and SBU-22 at Naval Station, New Orleans. The NSW boat community was quickly growing.

Special Boat Unit 26 was established in Panama in 1987 when NSW subsumed the former Harbor Patrol Unit (HPU). Located at Rodman Naval Station Panama, its continuing mission was defense of the Panama Canal Zone and deployment of Mobile Training Teams to Central and South American Countries. SBU-26 was the only Special Boat Unit located outside the U.S. It was disestablished in 1999. In August 2002, SBU-22 was moved to its present home at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi operating with the Special Operations Craft Riverine (SOCR).

U.S. Special Operations Command

The U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) was established in Tampa, Florida in 1987 and, since its formation, their Maritime Program Office assisted in procurement of a continuing inventory of special boats. These include the MK V Special Operations Craft (MK V SOC), 11-meter NSW Rigid Inflatable Boat (NSW RIB), and Special Operations Craft, Riverine or SOCR. NSW also had for a few years coastal Patrol Craft (PCs) ships, but these were manned by fleet Sailors and officers, and today are worthy of only honorable mention regarding NSW.

In 2002, NSW was reorganized into a standard family of Groups, (overseas) Units, and Teams. Special Boat Teams were organized under NSW Group FOUR, where planning continues to acquire a modernized inventor of boats with advanced technology capabilities. NSW’s boat guys will always continue SEAL support, but also conduct information gathering and reconnaissance missions. I assisted on developing requirements surrounding some of these boats; however, my rule of thumb is that I don’t discuss anything surrounding NSW beyond 1999; thus, I’ll leave the characterization the newer boats to others. Suffice to say, it will require the professional community of SWCC to operate and maintain these boats.



The MSSC was a platoon-sized boat with a shallow draft and propelled by water jets. It had a top speed of over 35 knots.



The 52’ Landing Craft, Swimmer, Reconnaissance.



The 65’ Patrol Boat Mark 3 “Sea Specter.”



The 36’ “Seafox,” Special Warfare Craft, Light.



The River Raider Mini-Armored Troop Carrier.



SEALs fast roping aboard a MK V Special Operations Craft.



Fully loaded 11-meter NSW Rigid Inflatable Boat underway.



Special Operations Craft, Riverine or SOCR.



SWCC at the helm of an 11-meter NSW RIB.



SWCC Gunner

Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen

NSW’s SWCC make up a community of the most elite maritime special operations forces within any military organization worldwide. Equally important is the fact that the current and next generation of special operations craft are being designed and developed with the assistance and expertise the professional community of the SWCC themselves.



Individually and collectively, SWCC are volunteers, who go through specialized training programs that emphasize the specialty skills needed for the men to conduct grueling and hazardous maritime special operations. These men are trained extensively in craft and weapons tactics, techniques, and procedures. And, as with all NSW operators, they must be physically fit, highly motivated, and responsive in high-stress situations.

On 1 October 2006 the SB or “Special Warfare Boat Operator” rating was established by the Navy. The new rating replaced previous Navy classification-source ratings. This evolution took over five decades to happen, i.e., since establishment of the Boat Support Units in 1964.

The SB rating created a professional SWCC career path and established the rating’s "A School" at the Naval Special Warfare Center. Upon completion of basic and advanced training, all SWCC are qualified in combatant craft operations, parachuting, craft weapons, and many other skills. These men are superbly trained to operate night and day and in all weather environments.

SWCC have demonstrated the ability to operate across the spectrum of conflict and in operations other than war in a controlled, distinguished, and professional manner. Their ability to provide SEAL support and to perform special operations in the high seas and littorals provide immediate and virtually unlimited contingency options globally. They are the unsurpassed Master of Special operations in the maritime environment. ■



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### REMEMBERING GMGC (SEAL) "Big" Dave Billings

GMC (SEAL) David Earl Billings was born in Cresson, Pennsylvania on June 20, 1950. At the age of five he moved to Melbourne, Florida where he grew up. He graduated from Eaugallie High School in 1968 and enlisted in the Navy on December 28, 1976.

Upon graduation from Recruit Training Center in Orlando, Florida in March 1977, Chief Billings was assigned to Gunner's Mate "A" School, graduating first in his class in July 1977.

Chief Billings' first duty station was Naval Special Warfare Group ONE, Coronado, California. On August 10th, 1981 he began the grueling six months of Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training. He completed BUDS training and graduated with class 116 on February 26, 1982. Following U.S. Army Airborne Training in FT. Benning, Georgia, he reported to SEAL Team ONE. His desire to excel coupled with a friendly demeanor quickly earned him a reputation as a hard-working and natural leader among his teammates.

Chief Billings transferred to the newly commissioned SEAL Team THREE on May 31, 1983 where he became a plank owner of the new command. During his tenure at SEAL Team THREE, GMC Billings made numerous and lasting contributions to Naval Special Warfare. He was solely responsible for establishing the diving department at SEAL Team THREE. Although at the time Chief Billings was only an E-5, he had direct and positive impact on SEAL Team THREE's ability to deploy two fully operational platoons only seven months after starting the new diving department from ground zero. It was during these early days of SEAL Team THREE that Chief Billings also developed a curriculum for a Combat Swimmer Course.

During the next eight years Chief Billings spearheaded many advancements in combat diver tactics while conducting over 45 combat swimmer courses. Renowned for his expertise as a combat diver, he held a position of high respect throughout the Teams for his knowledge and skill in this area. He wrote numerous FXP-6 training lesson guides and assisted the Naval Special Warfare Center in writing Tacmemos on Combat Swimmers Operations and Submarine Operations. He was also the

UDT-SEAL ASSOCIATION



leading Naval Special Warfare Authority in assisting NAVSEA in developing and improving the closed circuit underwater breathing apparatus, attack board, diving chronometer, and underwater explosive package.

The consummate professional SEAL, he set a high standard for all SEALs to emulate. In addition to his vast contributions to Naval Special Warfare Community in the area of combat diving, he also made three deployments to the Western Pacific, including a six month deployment to the Persian Gulf during Operation Earnest Will in 1988.

"As a Platoon Chief Dave would never tell someone to do something, he would not do himself. He would teach and lead by providing the example himself. Whether in an immediate action drill in land warfare or doing a free swimmer ascent from a shaft of a Navy ship, Dave would always be leading. This had a tremendous effect on our groups' morale and ability. The platoon had the swagger that we could tackle any problem. This was not an inflated ego, but a quiet capability. With Dave around we could solve anything," said Master Chief (Ret) Mark Campton. "We all wanted to be like "Big Dave Billings."

Early in November 1991, Dave died during a weekend dive event. SEAL Team THREE mobilized and found Dave's body.

"We had a memorial for Dave on 15 November 1991," said Mark. "I still miss Big Dave Billings. He was my friend and Brother in Arms." ■





## BROTHERHOOD NEWS & UPDATES



### Tim Jones, BUDS/S Class E32

At home recovering after a five month stay at two hospitals. My neurologist said I made a fantastic recovery.

### Kevin Monear, BUD/S Class 50E

For the past several years, I had the honor of providing golf instruction for veterans attending a program known as G.I.V.E. which stands for Golf for Injured Veterans Everywhere. The program began near my home in Iowa and has expanded to other states. The instruction is Free to all veterans and their spouses. For more information, contact me at (319) 431-1936.



### Jim "Spaceman" O'Neill, BUD/S Class 6

Enjoying time with my grandson Tiller and daughter Shanner.



### Rich Pfeiffer, BUD/S Class 67

I have been representing Leslie Van Houten (one of the Manson Family members) at her last four parole suitability hearings and court proceedings, including the California Supreme Court. Leslie had been granted parole at all four hearings I participated in the latest being July 23, 2020. The governors keep reversing the grants of parole. The supreme court is currently dealing with the 3rd parole grant reversal. The attorney general asked me when I was going to give up. Apparently, he doesn't have a clue about the brotherhood.



### Ivan Trent, BUD/S Class 104

Still keeping fit and busy! Enjoying the big surf at Makaha



### Jack James, BUD/S Class 70

Even with all the restrictions and social distancing, we still had a good 4th of July here in good old Bremerton, WA.

Every year with the help of family and friends, we put together our own fireworks barge. Last year it was a "Pirate ship"; this year we did a "Viking ship". I use stuff called "Magic Whip" to fuse it all together and of course when it comes to the fireworks, "When in doubt -overload! Right!!!

### Class 110



### Glen M Holder, BUD/S Class 128

Retired 2018 from San Diego Fire Department as a Battalion Chief. I am currently, working at Barona Fire Department as a medic, going back to my HM/PM roots. Hanging out in San Diego with Brent Davis and Sean Molloy working on various projects.

### Darrin Landry, BUD/S Class 199

I recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Technical Studies/Training Specialist. I will complete my master's degree in Instructional Design this August.

### Tim Wood, BUD/S Class 212

Working with a small technology firm to help businesses get customers back in the door after COVID and protect themselves from litigation.

### Russel Bisgaard

I am still alive and working as an accountant for medical groups in the "interesting state of California". Changed my vacations from cruises to purchasing a motorhome.



### James D. Davy

The PBR was returned to the Vietnam Unit Memorial at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado. We had the Special Warfare Combat-Craft Crewman Graduation Ceremony for Class 110 on July 16th, 2020. The Principal Speaker was Commander Keith Marinics, USN Commanding Officer Naval Special Warfare Basic Training Command.

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DANTE S.  
STEPHENSON

IN MEMORIAM

NOVEMBER 17, 1935-JULY 26, 2020

**Dante Stephensen** was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 17, 1935. He passed away in Atlanta on July 26, 2020. Dante was the founder and majority owner of two Atlanta landmark restaurants, Dante’s Down the Hatch in Underground Atlanta and Dante’s Down the Hatch in Buckhead. During his 43-year tenure as a restaurateur, Dante created a magical world of jazz, fondue, and romance for his patrons, many of whom credit Dante for providing a backdrop for milestone events—graduations, engagements, proms, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special celebrations. His restaurant provided seating on a wharf and on a ship that included live crocodiles in the moat surrounding the ship. Dante was known as the “Mayor of Underground Atlanta.” His restaurant was the last to leave when Underground closed in 1982 and was one of the cornerstone venues when Underground reopened in 1989. Dante was an expert in wines from around the world, and his wine cellar at Dante’s Down the Hatch won numerous awards. He was adored and cherished by his employees—who became an extension of his family—and he was admired and respected by his Board of Directors.



Dante had a significant career as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy. He was a member of the elite Underwater Demolition Team, and later became a member of the first SEAL Team. He was a “Plank Owner” of SEAL Team TWO where he led numerous missions in Cuba and Vietnam. Passionate about preserving the history and honor of Navy SEALs and their predecessors, Dante was one of the founding members of the Navy SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida and served as Board Chairman Emeritus. One of Dante’s numerous hobbies was railroads of all kinds. During the summers as a young man, he worked as a “gandy dancer” wielding a heavy mallet as part of a crew replacing and repairing defective railroad tracks, living and traveling with the repair crew in the caboose. Dante purchased and rebuilt a private railroad car, renamed Survivor, which was built by the Woolworth family in 1926. Dante was a member of the American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners, Inc., and took numerous trips around the United States and Canada in his train car. When not traveling, the railroad car was parked in a siding in Buckhead and served as Dante’s private residence where he enjoyed the mournful sounds of freight trains passing by. ■

**Daniel Lewis Rowley**

March 10, 2020  
UDT-21

**David Morse**

June 19, 2020  
UDT-12, UDT-11, ST-1

**Winslow Hincks Duke**

July 19, 2020  
UDT-22

UDT-21 **James D. Redmond**

May 07, 2020  
UDT-21 and ST-2

**Matthew Stark**

June 20, 2020  
SDVT-1

**Dante Stephensen**

July 25, 2020  
UDT-21, Plankowner of ST-2

**Raymond Howard Taylor**

May 18, 2020  
UDT-11, ST-6, CNSWDG

**Robert Critchell Judd**

July 9, 2020  
UDT-4, UDT-10

*For I am ready to be offered,  
and the time of my departure is at hand.  
I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished my course,  
I have kept the faith.*

II Timothy 4:6-7

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Burial Allowance <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>  
For more information and assistance please contact Kim Powell [kpowell@udtseal.org](mailto:kpowell@udtseal.org)



# Veteran Tributes

## Honoring Those Who Served

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VETERAN OF:

- U.S. Navy 1989-2008
- Cold War 1989-1991
- Persian Gulf War 1991
- Somalia 1993
- War on Terrorism 2001-2008
- Afghanistan 2001-2005 (Multiple Deployments)
- Persian Gulf War 1991
- Iraqi 2004-2008 (Multiple Deployments)



### THOMAS J. VALENTINE

#### Senior Chief Petty Officer E-8, U.S. Navy

TRIBUTE:

Thomas Valentine was born on December 28, 1970, in International Falls, Minnesota. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on August 10, 1989, and graduated from basic training at NTC Great Lakes, Illinois, in October 1989. After completing Hull Technician School, he entered Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training at NAB Coronado, California, in January 1990, and joined SEAL Team TWO at NAB Little Creek, Virginia, in November 1990. After serving in Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Operations Restore Hope and Continue Hope in Somalia in 1993, and Kosovo in 1999, SCPO Valentine joined Naval Special Warfare Development Group (DEVGRU) at Dam Neck, Virginia, in October 2000. He deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom multiple times. SCPO Valentine was killed during a parachute training accident in Casa Grande, Arizona, on February 13, 2008, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

HIS 3RD BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/VALOR CITATION READS:

For heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy as Assault Team Leader for the Joint Task Force in direct support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM from 10 October 2004 to 12 January 2005 and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM from 31 August to 15 October 2005. Senior Chief Valentine led his team through four high-risk direct action missions capturing three terrorist cell leaders. His decisive action during the assaults ensured mission success and provided a windfall of intelligence for the Joint Task Force. Additionally, Senior Chief Valentine led his five-man team in a complex and daring hostage rescue mission. Following a night, combat equipment, high-altitude, high-opening, military freefall insertion into an unfamiliar, treacherous, drop zone, his team successfully penetrated enemy territory and recovered the body of a hostage. He helped return the hostage's remains to the family and denied the terrorists a significant propaganda opportunity. By his extraordinary guidance, zealous initiative, and total dedication to duty, Senior Chief Valentine reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized. ■

### SEAL Veterans Foundation Ambassador Program

The Ambassador program is comprised of volunteers that solicit monetary and in-kind donations from a wide variety of resources. Our Ambassadors live in Virginia, North Carolina, Los Angeles, San Diego, New Jersey, Colorado, Maryland, North Dakota, San Antonio and Bandera, Texas.

“We are all volunteers because we believe whole-heartedly in the mission and we have the means and knowledge to support the cause,” said Janice Sadler, Ambassador Program Lead.

Since the program’s inception in late 2018, the Ambassadors collected cash and raffle items totaling over \$100,000.

During the pandemic, the Ambassadors continue to reach out to potential sponsors.

“We are incredibly sensitive to the economic impact the virus is taking on so many businesses,” said Janice. “But we are out there, every day, thinking about what we can do next to raise additional funds to support the financial needs of the UDT-SEAL Association and its members.”

Last year, raffle and silent auction items the Ambassadors secured, collectively raised over \$10,000 at last year’s East and West Coast Reunions.

Due to the cancellation of this year’s Reunions, Monster Mash, and fundraising events, the Ambassador program is stock piling some impressive items for next year. But there is always room for more.

If you want to volunteer as an Ambassador to support the SEAL Veterans Foundation fundraising efforts, [please send an email to svfinfo@sealveteransfoundation.org](mailto:svfinfo@sealveteransfoundation.org).



### UDT-SEAL Association Chapters

<b>Arizona</b> Scott Snyder <a href="mailto:scottsnyder@gmail.com">scottsnyder@gmail.com</a>	<b>Los Angeles *</b> <b>Vacant</b>	<b>North Texas Dallas/Ft Worth</b> Roger Guerra <a href="mailto:rogerseal48@yahoo.com">rogerseal48@yahoo.com</a>	<b>San Diego</b> Jerry Moy <a href="mailto:gerald.moy@socom.mil">gerald.moy@socom.mil</a>
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LONG LIVE THE BROTHERHOOD.

## VA Teams Up with Nonprofit to Provide COVID-19 Quarantine Kits to Veterans

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the use of digital screening at VA health care facilities and increased telehealth has enabled the department to dramatically increase the rate of COVID-19 testing for Veterans and employees.

To date, VA has tested more than 576,000 Veterans and employees for COVID-19, one of many aggressive steps used to prevent transmission of the virus.

The Veterans Health Administration's COVID-19 employee infection rate is less than 1% of its workforce—much lower than other health care systems. Employees testing positive for coronavirus could be due to exposure in the community and not related to any potential workplace exposure.

“Testing is a critical piece of VA's public health response to protect and care for Veterans, their families, health care providers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Our testing policies and procedures have helped to significantly limit the spread of the virus within our medical facilities, while universal COVID-19 testing for patients and staff as well as other safeguards at VA's community living centers and spinal cord injury units, has minimized the COVID-19 exposure risk for some of our most vulnerable patient populations.”

In March, VA tested an average of 631 people a day for COVID-19. As of Aug. 24, VA is currently testing an average of 6,300 people daily, approximately a 900% increase, and has diagnosed 43,276 Veterans with COVID-19. Among its 9.2 million patients enrolled in VA health care, 3,195 are active COVID-19 cases, 413 of which are inpatient. A total of 37,293 VA COVID-19 patients have reached convalescence, meaning they have been discharged from care or are 14 days past their last positive test, whichever comes later.

Veterans can request a COVID-19 test by sending a secure message to their provider via **My HealtheVet**, scheduling an appointment online or calling their provider by phone.

Veterans must be enrolled in VA health care to receive a COVID-19 test through VA. There is no copay. Results typically take two to four days and the medical provider will contact the Veteran with results. Veterans who test positive should monitor their symptoms, stay in touch with their medical provider and avoid contact with anyone else.



Visit VA's public health response webpage for more information on ways to protect against COVID-19.

For a real-time look at the status of COVID-19 patients who have been tested or treated at VA facilities visit VA's COVID-19 National Summary webpage. ■





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