

**Rear Admiral DeLoach Remarks at the Opening of the
Covert Submarine Operations Exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Navy**

18 June 2011

Distinguished Guests, Admirals, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to one of the Navy's finest treasures – the National Museum of the United States Navy. I am thrilled to be here today not only as the Director of the Naval History & Heritage Command, but also as a submariner as we open the new “Covert Submarine Operations Exhibit” here in the Cold War Gallery.

As you have heard from our previous speakers, many of you played a key role in creation, funding, or telling its many stories as a docent of this Submarine Exhibit when it resided at the Smithsonian and now brought back to life in this Gallery. The partnership between Naval Historical Foundation, Naval Submarine League and Naval History & Heritage Command to recreate this exhibit is an example of how important the partnerships between the government and non-profit organizations are for this museum and the ten other Navy museums, as appropriated funds become even more scarce. I would also like to recognize the exceptional level of support from NAVSEA PMS 392 and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard who assisted my Curator Branch in acquiring the artifacts for the exhibit. Also, the assistance of the Strategic Systems Program Office in not only the acquisition of artifacts, but also in providing valuable contacts with other commands was key to exhibit planning. To all of you, I say simply say - thank you, thank you, thank you.

The completion of this submarine exhibit continues the NHF and NHHC partnership that has been important for the Navy's flagship museum for three decades. This new “Covert Submarine Operations” exhibit along with the additional North and South Gallery exhibits that will follow, will provide 21st century interactive and immersive experiences for future visitors. The importance of telling this and other Navy heritage stories from the War of 1812 to the Cold War and to the present day, largely unheralded Navy roles in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lastly, the development of a STEM educational component, building on the science and math inherent in underwater operations, will provide another important dimension to the Navy Museum's outreach, and fulfill an important Navy goal. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you again for your gracious support and please enjoy this new underwater experience at the National Museum of the United States Navy.