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James “Jim” Smith Named Executive Director of Navy SEAL Foundation

(Virginia Beach, Va., Aug. 2, 2011) – James “Jim” Smith is executive director of the [Navy SEAL Foundation](#) according to its board of directors. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the foundation provides support in times of adversity and achievement to [U.S. Navy SEALs](#), Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen, Naval Special Warfare support personnel and their families.

“A retired U.S. Navy SEAL, Jim is uniquely qualified to lead the Navy SEAL Foundation,” said retired Vice Adm. Albert “Bert” Calland, III, USN, chairman of the Navy SEAL Foundation. “He knows, first-hand, how the Naval Special Warfare community benefits from the work of the foundation through tragedy assistance, family events, scholarship programs and preservation projects that honor our warriors. We are excited to have Jim on board.”

Smith brings 29 years of operational and leadership experience in Special Operations to the Navy SEAL Foundation. He graduated Basic Underwater / SEAL (BUD/S) training in December 1983 with class 125.

Some of his unique qualifications include 15 enlisted years promoting through the ranks from seaman to chief petty officer and 14 years of commissioned service promoting from ensign through lieutenant commander. He has achieved and mastered the vast majority of qualifications that personify a SEAL, from operational to technical to linguistic. He is a qualified combatant crew commander and has deployed to the majority of the operational theaters in the capacity of team member, team leader, alone and in teams for long periods of time, often in austere hostile environments. Smith also

has acted as an ambassador to Naval Special Warfare with multiple government agencies and several foreign nations. He has led intelligence efforts, operational initiatives and humanitarian assistance.

Smith grew up in Cresskill, N.J., and graduated from Cresskill High School. His mother, Marguerite Smith, still lives in the area. His father, Warren Smith, deceased, was the Cresskill chief of police. Smith is married to the daughter of a 28-year SEAL veteran, and they have four children. She understands the sacrifice and commitment embraced by the warrior wife.

Throughout his career, he has received numerous honors and awards including the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star both with combat "V" for valor, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, among many citations from other government agencies.

Smith will work out of the [SEAL Heritage Center](#), a facility where families receive support services, take part in recreational and social events and attend Naval Special Warfare functions and memorial services. The 18,000 square-foot center, which also houses a library, archive and memorial roll call to fallen teammates, opened last year.

"I have been extremely fortunate to have served alongside warriors elite who may very well be our nation's next greatest generation. I understand their commitment and have insight into their family sacrifice," said Smith. "It is an honor to continue serving the Naval Special Warfare community in this unique capacity. The board of directors and our staff pledge to be efficient and agile in our execution while we honor our warriors and support their families."

About the Navy SEAL Foundation

The Navy SEAL Foundation provides support in times of adversity and achievement to U.S. Navy SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen, Naval Special Warfare support personnel and their families. The foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was formed Jan. 1, 2011 when The SEAL-Naval Special Warfare Foundation and the Navy SEAL Warrior Fund combined their organizations. The mission of the Navy SEAL Foundation is to provide assistance to the Naval Special Warfare community during times of tragedy, as well as to provide special events, educational opportunities and projects that honor warriors. The merger makes it easier for families to come to one place for assistance and support, while enabling the Foundation to respond rapidly to their needs. The Navy SEAL Foundation is headquartered in Virginia Beach, Va., at the SEAL Heritage Center, Joint Expeditionary

Base, Little Creek. Information is available at www.navysealfoundation.org and on Facebook.

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