



# FROM THE QUARTERDECK

## NHHC FACILITY DOG TURNS FOUR!



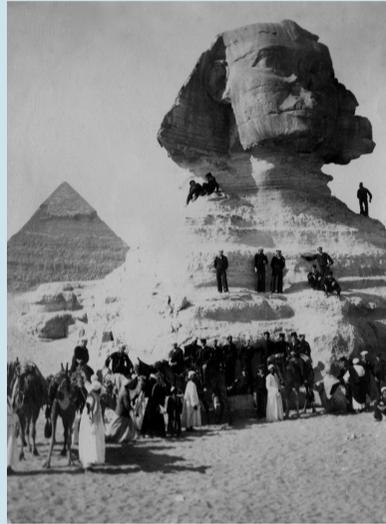
NHHC, photo by PO 2nd Class Maci Sternod

On January 20, NHHC celebrated our facility dog, Commander Bond, turning four years old. You might know Bond as the chocolate lab that went viral, with over 1.4 million views, for saluting Captain Gervy Alota during Fleet Week New York City. Bond is part of America's VetDogs program and serves NHHC by providing K9-assisted intervention and educating the public on the importance of Navy history. America's VetDog program pairs veterans, active-duty personnel, and first responders with service and guide dogs that support individuals with physical injuries, PTSD, hearing and vision loss, and other challenges. Recognizing these benefits, the Navy started the Expeditionary Facility Dog Program, which places service dogs on warships and bases to increase morale, reduce stress, and improve mental health. NHHC is grateful to have Bond and wishes him a very happy birthday!



NHHC, graphic by Jiyoung Han

## HISTORIC DONATION: GREAT WHITE FLEET COLLECTION



NHHC, photo from collection of Richard Wesley Konter

NHHC recently received an impressive donation related to the pre-World War I Navy. From 1907 to 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered 16 battleships and 14,000 sailors to sail around the world to demonstrate America's global influence

in what was known as the [Great White Fleet](#). The donation includes over 500 loose photographs, scrapbooks, photo albums, and stereographs. This collection enables viewers to see the entire story of the voyage and gain a deeper understanding of the sailors who embarked on this journey. One of the donated images shows a large group of sailors visiting the Great Sphinx and Pyramids in Egypt in January 1909. One hundred sailors from each ship were selected to travel from the Suez Canal to the Pyramids. Stops like this gave sailors a once-in-a-lifetime experience! This collection has not yet been digitized. To learn more, please contact [nhhc-photo@us.navy.mil](mailto:nhhc-photo@us.navy.mil).

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER: TELLY AWARD

NHHC is thrilled to announce that the [National Museum of the U.S. Navy](#) received a Telly Award in Branded Content for its interactive display *Sea the World*, a part of the larger *We Have the Watch: Mastering the Ordinary to Accomplish the Extraordinary* exhibit. The display allows visitors to follow the movements and operations of seven historic U.S. vessels, including [Constitution](#), [Essex](#), [Kearsarge](#), [Jeannette](#), [Barb \(SS-220\)](#), [Wainwright \(DD-419\)](#), and [Enterprise \(CVN-65\)](#). The museum unveiled the exhibit in October 2024. Since then, it has traveled to the Sea Air Space Expo and Philadelphia as part of the [Navy 250: The Legacy](#) exhibit for the Navy's 250th birthday celebration.



NHHC, photo by Clifford Davis

## NHHC UNDER THE SEA

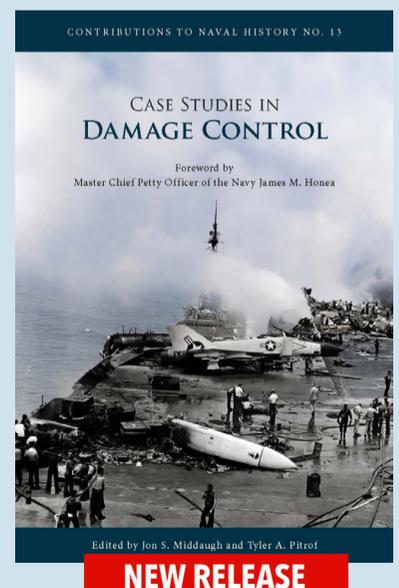


Devastator Project, photo by Air and Sea Heritage Foundation

On [January 30](#), NHHC and its partners, Air/Sea Heritage Foundation, Texas A&M University's Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation, and government officials of the Marshall Islands, announced that they will archaeologically recover and conserve a Douglas TBD-1 Devastator that is submerged off of Jaluit Atoll. Bureau Number 1515 launched from USS [Yorktown \(CV-5\)](#) on [February 1, 1942](#), with its crew conducting an emergency water landing before eventually being captured by Japanese forces. This aircraft will become the first-ever TBD-1 Devastator on display. For 20 years, NHHC's [Underwater Archaeology branch](#) has been involved in managing and researching this wreck site and will continue to play a pivotal role in this undertaking by supporting all future dives and stabilization efforts. Ultimately, the aircraft will be displayed in "as-found" condition at the National Museum of the U.S. Navy. For updates on the project please visit [here](#).

## BOOK RELEASE: CASE STUDIES IN DAMAGE CONTROL

The command is excited to announce the release of our newest publication, [Case Studies in Damage Control](#). Written by NHHC historians and edited by NHHC's Jon Middaugh and Tyler Pitrof, this volume captures the U.S. Navy's damage control efforts from 1937 to 2000, as well as two Royal Navy examples from 1982. This publication recounts the stories of sailors who faced fear and chaos, and overcame them through skill, bravery, and teamwork. Detailed within six chapters are different instructive scenarios, including responses to air attacks, kamikaze strikes, fires, missile attacks, mine strikes, and terrorist bombings. Collectively, the accounts demonstrate how far inspired leadership, intense training, proper equipment, and personal courage can go toward saving a ship.



## PRESERVING THE PAST: USS *CONSTITUTION*

Since 1897, when [USS Constitution](#) returned to Boston for its 100th anniversary, the care, preservation, and history of “Old Ironsides” has been in the hands of first the Boston Navy Yard staff and now [NHHC Detachment Boston](#) ship restorers and historians. NHHC Detachment Boston is the recognized authority on *Constitution’s* history and, through its continuing work on “Old Ironsides”, instills pride in America’s early naval heritage. Every 20 years, *Constitution* is dry-docked and undergoes significant rebuilding, bringing the unique skills of the current shipwrights and riggers to the visitors’ attention. The detachment’s mission is to “as far as practicable, ensure material compliance and documentation with the historic requirements of [*Constitution*], as close to its 1812 configuration as possible.” Preserving *Constitution*, the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and telling the story of the early U.S. Navy through restorations and public outreach is Detachment Boston’s daily work.



NHHC Detachment Boston

## BEYOND THE CANVAS: *SPECIAL BOAT TEAM (SBT) TWELVE AND SEAL TEAM ONE*

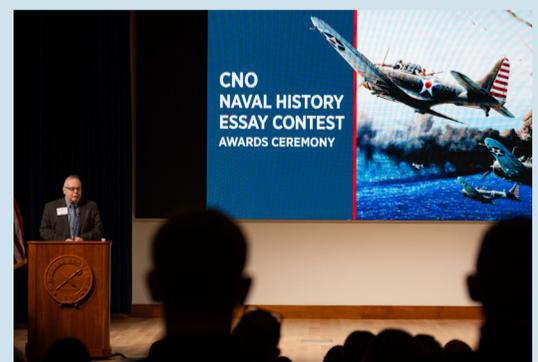


Painting, Oil on Linen, by Douglas Rowe

Did you know that in addition to overseeing 20,000 works of art, [NHHC’s Navy Art](#) team also has combat artists that travel with sailors and marines to visually document their experiences? In this month’s “Beyond the Canvas,” we are highlighting NHHC combat artist Douglas Rowe’s newest painting, *SBT Twelve and SEAL Team One*. Painted with oil-based paint on smooth and stretched linen, Rowe completed the piece after being invited to Naval Amphibious Base Coronado by the [Naval Special Warfare](#) Command. The painting depicts special warfare combat crewmen of SBT Twelve transporting members of SEAL Team One as part of a training exercise. A veteran himself, Rowe was inspired by the speed and precision of the assault boat and the meticulous rehearsal process undertaken by the service to ensure combat readiness in inhospitable conditions.

## CNO NAVAL HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) announced the [2026 CNO Naval History Essay Contest](#). Led by NHHC and supported by the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI), the essay contest’s goal is to leverage the knowledge and creativity of military personnel and civilians to advance the Navy’s warfighting efforts. This year, candidates are asked to apply lessons from naval history to solve the Navy’s current challenges, with a particular emphasis on great power competition, the proliferation of advanced weaponry, and technological shifts in naval warfare. Winners will receive a cash prize, hull copper from the USS [Constitution](#), and recognition on NHHC and USNI’s websites. Essays are due by April 30. For more information, including eligibility, please visit our [website](#).



U.S. Naval Academy, photo by PO 3rd class Hannah Craig

## DINFOS EVENT WITH NHHC

Thirteen students from the Defense Information School (DINFOS) recently traveled to the Washington Navy Yard to meet with NHHC archivists, historians, and a librarian as part of a class project. DINFOS trains active-duty service members, Department of Defense civilian employees, and interagency students in journalism and public affairs-related topics. As part of the program, students must create a multimedia product, which requires them to create a story and interview professionals from outside organizations. During their visit, students asked NHHC professionals how they preserve the Navy's history. The visit also allowed students to practice filming, interviewing, and taking photographs. Many of these students will go on to become communication specialists for the U.S. military and the skills they obtain through this program will prepare them for telling the military's story and interacting with civilians during deployment.



NHHC, photo by Jiyoung Han

## NAVY TRADITIONS: SALUTING PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON



U.S. Navy, photo by PO 3rd class Oliver Serna

George Washington's role in leading the Continental Army against the British and helping to create the nation is well known; however, many do not realize that he also played a pivotal role in establishing the Navy. In September of 1775 General Washington began ordering Continental forces to intercept British naval transports and seize their supplies. Nearly a month later, the [Continental Congress](#) also recognized the benefits of a naval force, and created the Navy on [October 13](#). Acknowledging his importance to both the country and sea service, the Navy began [honoring President Washington](#) with a gun salute on his birthday in 1818. Today, the Navy continues this tradition requiring all vessels to conduct a [21-gun salute](#) at noon on February 22. For more Navy traditions, please visit our [website](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

-  **Society for Military History Annual Meeting:** March 26–29, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia
-  **Commissioning of USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798):** March 28, Boston, Massachusetts
-  **Lowrider Car Show at the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum:** March 28, Port Hueneme, California
-  **Smithsonian's Lowrider Cultural Exhibit at the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum:** January 10 to April 5, Port Hueneme, California
-  **Brick by Brick Lego Shipbuilding:** April 18, Virginia Beach Sports Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia