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Nauticus to Open *Stewards of the Sea* Exhibit

Norfolk, VA – On March 13, 2014, in partnership with U.S. Fleet Forces Command and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, Nauticus will welcome *Stewards of the Sea: Defending Freedom, Protecting the Environment*. The 1,000 square foot highly-interactive exhibit explores how the Navy protects marine life while fulfilling its mission.

Stewards of the Sea will be exhibited on the 3rd floor of Nauticus. Visitors will learn through immersive scenarios about the science of sonar and whaletagging, as well as how the Navy keeps the seas clean. A section of the exhibit is devoted to Navy careers with an environmental focus.

The Navy wants the public to know that Sailors train to protect our country in a manner that respects and protects the environment. *Stewards of the Sea* highlights the Navy's commitment to protect marine mammals through scientific research and keep our oceans clean with onboard environmental protection systems.

"The Navy has been training and testing off the eastern United States for more than 60 years taking great care to protect the environment," said Mr. Joseph W. Murphy, deputy chief of staff for Fleet installations and Environmental Readiness, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, "Our Sailors have a long history of successful environmental stewardship while conducting safe, effective and sustained operations at sea -- operations that protect American citizens, the American homeland and American commerce around the globe."

"We're thrilled about this partnership and this interactive exhibit. The Battleship *Wisconsin* serves as a reminder of how the Navy protects us every day, and now *Stewards of the Sea* will help our guests better understand how the Navy helps

preserve and protect our waterways and marine life,” said Stephen E. Kirkland, Executive Director of Nauticus.

Elizabeth Poulliot, Director of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, stated “This exhibit demonstrates, in an entertaining, imaginative manner, the highly technical environment in which naval personnel perform their duties. Visiting families, children and adults, will encounter scenarios where they will have to choose the correct action to take, just like actual Sailors do on a daily basis while at sea.”

The exhibit will reside at Nauticus for the next five years. For more information, please call 757-664-1000.

U.S. Fleet Forces Command trains Navy forces to conduct prompt, sustained naval, joint, and combined operations in support of U.S. national interests. Other responsibilities are command and control of Navy forces and shore in support of the Chief of Naval Operations and operational planning and coordination support to Commanders at the U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Element North American Aerospace Defense Command, and U.S. Strategic Command.

Website: <http://www.public.navy.mil/usff/pages/environment.aspx>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/USNavyStewardsoftheSea>

Hampton Roads Naval Museum introduces visitors to more than 237 years of U.S. Naval history in Hampton Roads, Virginia. One of ten officially operated U.S. Navy museums reporting to the Naval History and Heritage Command, the museum houses a rich collection of authentic uniforms, weaponry, underwater artifacts, detailed ship models and artwork. The Hampton Roads Naval Museum is located on the second level of Nauticus. The museum hosts 300,000 visitors annually from around the world and is the site of many regional and community events.

Website: www.hrnm.navy.mil

Nauticus & the Battleship Wisconsin, on the downtown Norfolk waterfront, let visitors explore the economic, naval and natural power of the sea, plus walk the decks of one of the largest and last battleships built by the U.S. Navy. The 120,000-square foot maritime science museum includes hands-on exhibits, aquaria, 3D films, NOAA-related exhibits and more!

Website: <http://www.nauticus.org>

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