

Naval War College Museum Opens to the Public on January 4, 2016

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NEWPORT, RI— The Naval War College Museum opens to the public on January 4, 2016. Located in Founders Hall, on the Naval War College campus, the museum closed in July to install a more modern and efficient climate control system in the building.

The new system stabilizes the temperature and maintains close to 55% relative humidity in the building's exhibit galleries throughout the year. This climate helps preserve the priceless art and artifacts that tell the story of *our* United States Navy.

“As a public trust, museums must be good stewards of the artifacts in their care,” said John Pentangelo, the museum's managing director. “The standards require an environment that promotes the long-term preservation of artifact collections so that future generations can benefit from them.” To meet this objective, the museum also completed construction of a climate-controlled artifact storage room at an off-site location in October of 2014. These initiatives are part of the ongoing efforts of the Naval History and Heritage Command, to ensure our Navy's museums remain “second to none” in the twenty-first century.

To mark the grand opening in January, the museum presents *DEEP FREEZE! The Seabees in Antarctica, 1955-1956*. The exhibit features 28 works by Navy artists and other artifacts documenting the remarkable service of our Navy in support of an international scientific and exploration program. The museum is also proud to be one of the few venues in the United States to display the c. 1798 life mask of Admiral Lord Viscount Horatio Nelson (1758-1805). *Do not miss this unique opportunity to catch a glimpse of history's most famous naval hero!*

The museum building, a National Historic Landmark, is the original home of the Naval War College (1884-1889) and the site where Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan delivered his lectures on naval history and tactics. These lectures were later published in 1890 as the epochal book *The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783*.

One of nine official Department of the Navy Museums, the Naval War College Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits artifacts and documents dating from the 1500s to the present day to interpret the naval history of Narragansett Bay and the Naval War College as well as the history of naval strategy. Located in the historic Founders Hall built in 1820, the museum is open to the public although advance reservations are required. For more information, visit www.usnwc.edu/museum or call 401-841-4052.