

Preview of the Photographs Illustrating
Air Capabilities of the U.S. Navy SEALs



The “Dirty Dozen plus Three” were the first class of frogmen to graduate from the Army’s Airborne school in Fort Benning, Georgia.



A UDT jumper wearing a football helmet, reserve and main parachute, and inflatable boat secured to his chest, briefed in 1966 to Admiral D.L. MacDonnell, Chief of Naval Operations, by LCDR Norm Olson, Commanding Officer, UDT-11.



The original U.S. Navy Parachute Demonstration Team, the Leap Frogs, circa 1963.



The Fulton Skyhook plucked frogmen from the sea and took them airborne in seconds.



A SEAL operator jumps with a Special Atomic Demolition Munition (SADM), a man-portable nuclear weapon in the early 1960s. If actually deployed, SEALs knew they were on a suicide mission.



Naval Special Warfare not only can deliver operators by air, but also all of their equipment. This SEAL Delivery Vehicle is being transported by helicopter.



When the Air Force needed to set standards for selecting astronauts who could withstand the physiological and psychological stress of space travel in 1958, they turned to Navy frogmen as the most physically fit in the U.S. Armed Forces. The first group to be tested included (l-r): Tom McAllister, Lenny Waugh, Bill Bruhmuller, and Harvey "Rip" Collins. (Courtesy The National Navy SEAL-UDT Museum).



Frogman Clancey Hatleberg greets the first men to walk on the moon from the Apollo 11 command capsule. The recovery team members also included Wes Chesser, Mike Mallory, and John Wolfram. They can be seen wearing Biological Isolation Garments (BIG suits), because NASA was concerned about contamination by lunar microbes.



The team battled 10-foot-high waves and 28-mph winds to attach a 200-pound inflatable flotation ring around the Apollo 11 capsule. Frogman Mike Mallory snapped this picture of teammates Wes Chesser and John Wolfram after the successful operation to recover the command capsule from Apollo 11-just another day at the office. (Photo Courtesy Mike Mallory)



Captain Olson was Founding Director of the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, putting it together from scratch and opening its doors in 1983. He continues to serve as Director Emeritus.



Author Captain Norman Olson, aka “The Sky Fossil,” continued to jump into his 80’s.



Captain Norman Olson on active duty.



Co-Author and Phoca Press Founder Commander Tom Hawkins.