

Air Capabilities of the U.S. Navy SEALs About the Author Commander Tom Hawkins, USN (SEAL) Retired



Tom Hawkins retired from the U.S. Navy after 24-years active service as a career SEAL and Naval Special Warfare (NSW) officer. Upon college graduation, he entered the Navy in February 1966, and was commissioned in May. He completed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training with Class 38 in Little Creek, Virginia, and was assigned to UDT-21, where he served as a Platoon Commander and Department Head. He was later assigned to SEAL Team TWO and served as a Platoon Commander in Vietnam and also as the Administrative Department Head.

Tom's SEAL career continued with assignments such as: Assistant for Special Units at the Naval Sea Systems Command, Project Engineer at the Navy Experimental Diving Unit; Executive Officer, UDT-21; and, Operational Test Director at the Navy's Operational Test and Evaluation Force. He commanded UDT-22 for 33 months during its reorganization as SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team TWO. After assignment as Deputy Commander and Chief Staff Officer, Naval Special Warfare Group TWO, he served at the NSW Directorate (OP-31) in the Pentagon, and retired as Director, NSW Programs at the Naval Sea Systems Command.

After leaving the Navy, Tom served in various defense contractor positions related to NSW, including assignment as staff requirements analyst and science and technical advisor to the Commander, Naval Special Warfare Group FOUR. He finished his career as an acquisition and requirements analyst within the Combat Development Directorate at the NSW Development Group until his retirement on May 20, 2014.

Tom is past president of the UDT-SEAL Association, where he also served as editor and publisher of their quarterly publication *The BLAST - The Journal of Naval Special Warfare*. He also served as president of the UDT-SEAL Memorial Park Association and on the Board of Directors at the UDT-SEAL Museum Association. Tom conceived the Naval Special Warfare Foundation (now Navy SEAL Foundation), serving as founding President, Chairman of the Board, and Director, History and Heritage.

Tom was featured in and served as an advisor the PBS documentary: *Untold Story of the U.S. Navy SEALs* and on the History Channel's *Navy SEALs: America's Secret Warriors*. He contributed five chapters and numerous photographs to *United States Naval Special Warfare U.S. Navy SEALs* by Greg Mathieson and David Gatley. He is the author of *The History and Heritage of U.S. Navy SEALs* published by the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago. Tom founded Phoca Press to serve as an outlet for the wealth of material of educational and historical importance especially surrounding maritime special operations. Tom's latest book *America's Hidden Heroes: The History and Evolution of U.S. Navy Frogmen and SEALs*, was published in February 2015. With Captain (SEAL) Norman H. Olson, he co-authored the *Air Capabilities of the U.S. Navy SEALs*, which is in current release by Phoca Press. Tom's forthcoming book surrounds the "Sea" capabilities of U.S. Navy SEALs, and will be introduced in early 2018.

