



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Navy SEAL Museum Receives Portion of The Berlin Wall**

**Fort Pierce, Fla. – September 13, 2018** – The Navy SEAL Museum is pleased to announce the acquisition of a portion of the Berlin Wall. The historic artifact will become part of the permanent collection in the Museum’s recently renovated Cold War Gallery and unveiled in a public ceremony on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, coinciding with German Unification Day.

This particular portion of the Berlin Wall was secured by the elite German tactical unit, the GSG 9 (Grenzschutzgruppe 9 or Border Protection Group 9). Taken from a larger section of wall given to the GSG 9’s counterpart in Virginia Beach, the piece dedicated for the Museum’s purposes will include a certification of its original location and robust history.

“The Navy SEAL Museum is truly honored to receive a portion of the Berlin Wall and have the opportunity to share it with our guests,” said Rick Kaiser, Executive Director of the Navy SEAL Museum. “Many U.S. Military personnel to include Navy SEALs have given their lives defending this great country during the Cold War era. The fall of the Berlin Wall symbolizes our victory over communism and proves that they did not give their lives in vain.”

For 28 years, communist-controlled East Germany was divided from the capitalist enclave of West Berlin by the concrete barrier. After thousands of daring successful escapes, hundreds of failed attempts, and more than 140 related casualties, the fall of the Berlin Wall began on November 9 of 1989 and continued for several weeks. The majority of the historic barrier was ground down during its demolition, but several pieces were preserved and given to educational and governmental institutions around the world. The Museum’s newest artifact weighs more than 300 pounds; it measures roughly three-and-a-half feet long by one-and-a half-feet tall.

“U.S. Navy SEALs have a longstanding relationship with our German counterparts that include the GSG 9 and the KSK. We count ourselves fortunate to have these ties and to receive this unique piece of history as a result,” said Kaiser.

The special ceremony on October 3 will begin at 11:00 AM. Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands Annette Klein will be in attendance to support the event. All are invited to be part of this historic addition. Admission to the Museum is \$15 for guests 13 and over, \$12 for veterans, seniors 65 and older, and first responders; \$7 for children 6-12; free for visitors under five and Museum members.

### **About The Navy SEAL Museum**

The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the U.S. Navy SEALs and their predecessors. Located in Fort Pierce, Florida, the Museum resides on

the training grounds of the original Navy combat divers, the Frogmen. Built to honor the men who served with fortitude and ingenuity, the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum first opened its doors on Veterans Day in 1985. From humble beginnings, the facility has experienced tremendous growth, achieving national stature in 2007. The main objective of the Museum remains the promotion of public education by providing the opportunity to explore the history of the Navy SEALs through interactive exhibits, while honoring the fallen at the SEAL Memorial and caring for those warriors' families through Trident House Charities.

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