



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navy SEAL Museum to Host Commander of Naval Special Warfare Command, Royal Thai Fleet

Fort Pierce, Fla. – March 6, 2019 – The Navy SEAL Museum will host the Commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command, Royal Thai Fleet—commonly known as the Royal Thai Navy SEALs. Rear Admiral Apakorn Yuukongkaew oversaw the Thai Navy SEAL diving team, which helped successfully rescue twelve boys and their soccer coach from the flooded Tham Luang Nang Non cave system in Thailand last summer. RADM Apakorn Yuukongkaew will tour the Museum Sunday, March 10th.

Members of the Wild Boars soccer team had entered the cave system on June 23rd in dry weather during a recreational excursion with their coach. The group was trapped inside after heavy rains flooded the cave complex, blocking the only exit out. The boys and their coach were found nine days later when two British divers entered the cave.

Thai Navy SEALs responded to a request for assistance to search for the young soccer team in the flooded cave complex. On July 8, 2018, SEALs coordinated a high-risk rescue with assistance from international cave and support divers. 127 current and former Navy SEALs participated in the rescue, saving the lives of the trapped boys (ages 11 to 16) and their 25-year-old coach in a dramatic three-day operation, which captivated the world.

“Regardless of origin, Navy SEALs all live and train in similar environments,” said Rick Kaiser, Executive Director of the Navy SEAL Museum. “As allies, we share similar ideas, techniques, gear, and experiences. It is always an honor to host fellow SEALs, especially those who are visiting the original training grounds of the first Frogmen for the first time.”

After 17 days underground, the boys were fitted with full-face breathing masks and sedated before being strapped to expert rescue divers. Once through flooded sections, the boys were placed on stretchers and carried or winched along ropes through the cave system, each trip taking several hours to and from the cave entrance.

Rear Admiral Apakorn Yuukongkaew was quoted as telling the young athletes to “Make the most of your lives. Be good people, be a force for good for your country.” upon their rescue from the harrowing ordeal that lasted more than two weeks.

The Commander will arrive at the Museum with his staff at 1:00 PM. The widow and sister of the Thai Navy SEAL who perished in the cave rescue, LCDR Saman Gunan, will accompany them, as well.

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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The Navy SEAL Museum
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