

Media Advisory
For Immediate Release



From: Shelley Ragsdale
National Naval Aviation Museum
(850) 453-2389
sragdale@navalaviationmuseum.org

**SH-60B *Seahawk* Helicopter to Join
the Collection of the National Naval Aviation Museum**
Thursday, July 30, 2009

Pensacola, Fla.—July 28, 2009—The National Naval Aviation Museum will acquire a new aircraft into its collection with the delivery of an SH-60B *Seahawk*, the third example of this helicopter transferred to the Museum, but the first of its type to be displayed in Pensacola. Rear Admiral Gary Jones, Commander, Naval Education and Training Command, will be the guest speaker at a ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 30 in the Blue Angels Atrium at the National Naval Aviation Museum.

Since its Navy Acceptance flight on February 28, 1986, this *Seahawk* has accumulated a total of 8,785 flight hours and more than 28,000 landings. The aircraft was utilized in several deployments aboard USS *Thomas S. Gates* (CG-51), USS *McInerney* (FFG-8) and USS *Boone* (FFG-28), the latter ship known for its interception of the merchant vessel *Caribe Star* in a Counter Narcotics Operation in 1999.

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 48 is the last squadron to be assigned this *Seahawk*. After 4,974 flight hours with the HSL-48 VIPERS, “Venom 500” will take to the skies one last time on Wednesday, July 29 en route to its final resting place at the Museum.

The National Naval Aviation Museum features FREE admission and a full slate of events throughout the year. For a complete list of Museum events, exhibits and attractions, visit NavalAviationMuseum.org or call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (850) 453-2389 or (800) 327-5002.

##

About the National Naval Aviation Museum

The National Naval Aviation Museum features nearly 300,000 square feet of displays and is one of the world’s largest aviation museums. Located aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station, the facility boasts more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation and is Florida’s most-visited museum. Among the countless things to touch, see and experience are thrilling Top Gun Air Combat flight simulators, a variety of special exhibits as well as the drama and power of amazing IMAX® films. The Cubi Bar Café offers a unique dining experience, and the Flight Deck Store is the perfect place to find a memento of the spirit of Naval aviation. Museum admission is free. The National Naval Aviation Museum is open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. For more information, visit NavalAviationMuseum.org.

###