



UDT-SEAL MUSEUM
BIRTHPLACE OF THE NAVY FROGMEN

August 21, 1985

Mr. Robert Hass
Smith & Wesson, Inc.

Dear Mr. Hass:

Approximately one (1) year ago, St. Lucie County, Florida acquired from the State a former treasure museum located on several acres of beachfront property. Their purpose is to establish a Museum to honor the Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams (UDTs) and Sea, Air, Land Teams (SEALs). On February 1st, of this year, I commenced employment as the Director.

The significance of the location is that this is where the UDTs did all their basic training in World War II. In fact, the Museum is located on the exact training site that was used. Additionally, this will be the first and only Museum of its kind in the country, and perhaps the world. We are scheduled to open on November 10, 1985.

My purpose in writing is two-fold. First, to determine the feasibility of acquiring certain vintage and current model S & W weapons that have been used over the years by the UDT and SEAL Teams. And second, to request a corporate financial donation.

Like any small non-profit organization starting out at ground zero, we are tremendously undercapitalized in terms of funding, artifacts and personal services. It is a classic case of what comes first, the chicken or the egg. You can't get started without support and you can't get support without getting started.

That notwithstanding, we are moving along reasonably well considering our short lifespan, but the backing of an organization of your caliber (no pun intended) would provide a significant boost toward meeting our goals.

As you are well aware, our organizations have performed admirably in three wars, as well as the intervening periods and the present. However, during these four decades, our accomplishments have oftentimes been overlooked or overdramatized, neither of which has been in our best interests. Our purpose will be to portray a true image of what the UDT and SEAL Teams are all about by fostering and perpetuating the Museum as a medium of informing and educating the public on the important role that these Teams have played in our Nation's history.