



Australia ICOMOS Secretariat
 Ph: +61 3 9251 7131
 austicomos@deakin.edu.au
 www.icomos.org/australia

CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Robert S. Neyland, Ph.D.
TITLE OF PAPER:	Naval Underwater Archaeology in the 21st Century: Threats and Promises
THEME:	<i>Specific Session 1: Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p>Underwater cultural heritage is under threat in the Pacific from a variety of human and environmental impacts. How many sites can be preserved and protected contrasted with those that will be lost is unknown. If “threats” are one side of the coin, the reverse is “promises.” Threatened ship and aircraft wreck sites also hold the promise of future scientific, historical and recreational benefits. These sites also represent the promise of “not forgetting,” memorializing the tragedy and change wrought by World War II and preserving the sanctity of the graves of those who sacrificed their lives in this conflict. This paper explores those threats and promises as they relate to the management, preservation, and research of U.S Navy ship and aircraft wrecks, and the promise of recent developments of ocean exploration, discovery, and preserving our naval heritage.</p>	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:	
<p>Dr. Robert S. Neyland is the Head of the Underwater Archaeology Branch for the Department of the Navy, Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC), Department of the Navy. Dr. Neyland received his Anthropology degrees from Texas A&M University, his Masters in 1990 and Doctorate in 1994. He was Project Director for the raising and conservation of the Confederate submarine <i>H.L. Hunley</i>. During his career he has worked on a variety of shipwreck sites including a Bronze Age shipwreck in the Mediterranean, post-medieval wrecks in the Netherlands, and shipwrecks in the Caribbean and North America. As Underwater Archaeologist with the US Navy he and his team surveyed USS Housatonic (the sloop sunk by Hunley), Civil War shipwrecks USS Cumberland, CSS Florida, Revolutionary War shipwrecks lost in Maine, WWII wrecks lost off Normandy, France, and War of 1812 fleet scuttled in Maryland. He continues to be involved in a variety of projects including the survey for Capt. John Paul Jones, <i>Bonhomme Richard</i> that sunk 1779 in the North Sea. He is the author of professional papers, articles, and other publications on underwater archaeology research and the management of Navy ship and aircraft wrecks. Dr. Neyland and the NHHC are increasingly focused on the research, preservation, and management of U.S. Navy shipwrecks in the Pacific region.</p>	