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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navy Releases USS MAHAN (DDG 72) Investigation

NORFOLK, VA (CNRMA) - The Navy released today the findings of the investigation into the tragic shooting death of Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Petty Officer Mark A. Mayo by an unauthorized civilian aboard USS Mahan (DDG 72) last year.

While performing his duties as chief of the guard for Naval Station Norfolk, Mayo responded to a report of an unauthorized individual on Pier 1. This individual, a non-Department of Defense male civilian, Jeffrey Tyrone Savage, gained access to the pier at approximately 11:30 p.m. on March 24, 2014. Mayo followed Savage up the brow of Mahan while quarterdeck watch standers directed Savage to stop and provide identification. Failing to comply, Savage boarded the ship and attacked and disarmed the Petty Officer of the Watch on the Quarterdeck. Arriving on the ship, Mayo shielded the Petty Officer of the Watch and was fatally wounded by Savage. Savage was then shot by Mahan watch standers and died at the scene. By his courageous and prompt action in the face of great personal risk, Mayo prevented the additional loss of life.

On March 25, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley was appointed to conduct an investigation under the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN). The investigation revealed that individual errors at the gate onto Naval Station Norfolk were the predominant contributing factors. Specifically, the Department of the Navy Civilian Police Officers manning the gate failed to request or confirm the intruder's identification or authorization to enter the installation. They similarly failed to execute established vehicle turn-around procedures, failed to otherwise ensure that the intruder made the U-turn and exited Gate 5, failed to deploy the hardened anti-access control system, failed to pursue the intruder in a timely fashion, failed to radio or otherwise notify the Naval Station security dispatch, and failed to execute any Standard Operating Procedures in response to an unauthorized individual on Naval Station Norfolk.

In the course of this investigation, other individual and institutional shortcomings were discovered that required correction or improvement. Corrective actions were immediately implemented and several are still underway.

The completed JAGMAN was forwarded to Adm. Michelle Howard, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, for final endorsement.

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"This event underscores the importance of watch teams' compliance with processes that were created to keep our bases secure." said Howard. "I am satisfied that the corrective actions underway are sufficient to improve our physical security posture. However, security is guaranteed only when resources are coupled with leadership oversight and diligent watchstanders."

The full redacted copy of the JAGMAN can be found on the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic website at www.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/cnrma/news/media.html along with a comprehensive list of corrective actions already taken by the Navy and the citation for Petty Officer's Mayo's posthumous award of the Navy-Marine Corps Medal is also posted on the website.