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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diplomatic Security Service and Marine Security Guard Program to Celebrate Anniversaries at NMMC

Triangle, VA – The Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) will host a ceremony and cake cutting at the National Museum of the Marine Corps tomorrow at 1 p.m. to honor the centennial of the Diplomatic Security Service and the 70th anniversary of the Marine Security Guard (MSG) Program.

In addition to the ceremony, DS will feature a static display of armored vehicles, working dogs and Bull dogs dressed in Marine Corps “uniforms” outside the Museum from noon to 3 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and media are invited to attend.

This year marks a century since Secretary of State Robert Lansing appointed the U.S. Department of State’s first special agents as part of World War I-era security measures. Today, the men and women of the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) continue their work as part of a global force providing a safe and secure environment for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

The modern MSG Program began with the Foreign Service Act of 1946 that authorized the Secretary of the Navy, upon the request of the Secretary of State, to assign enlisted Marines to serve as custodians under the supervision of the senior diplomatic officer at an embassy, legation, or consulate. Using this Act, the Department of State and U.S. Marine Corps entered into negotiations to assign MSGs overseas. These negotiations culminated in the first joint Memorandum of Agreement signed on 15 December 1948.

The MSGs' mission is to protect mission personnel and prevent the compromise of national security information and equipment at designated U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities. MSGs execute plans for the protection of the mission and its personnel as directed by the chief of mission or principal officer through the regional security officer.

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) is the security and law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of State. Operating from a global platform in 31 U.S. cities and more than 160 foreign countries, DS ensures that America can conduct diplomacy safely and securely. DS plays a vital role in protecting 275 U.S. diplomatic missions and their personnel overseas, securing critical information systems, investigating passport and visa fraud, and fighting the war on terror.

Media interested in attending the event may contact Gwenn Adam, National Museum of the Marine Corps public affairs at (703) 499-1893 or gwenn.adams@usmc.mil; or Dayna Rowden, Diplomatic Security public affairs at (571) 345-2507 or ds-press@state.gov.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is located at 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway, Triangle, Va.

The Museum, which opened November 10, 2006, brings to life the U.S. Marine Corps' rich history and honors the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of all Marines. It is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day except Christmas. Parking and admission are free. For more information on the National Museum of the Marine Corps, call 703-784-6107 or visit www.usmcmuseum.com.