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News Release

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Water Skiing Dragon Joins U.S. Army *Seamoor, the dragon, has joined the U.S. Army to increase boating safety awareness*

Through a generous donation by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Water Safety program has gained a unique tool, a robot called "Seamoor."

The robot is designed as a Kawasaki Jet Ski (R) personal watercraft (PWC) operated by a friendly dragon. It was first demonstrated at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in Nashville, Tenn.

The Corps' National Water Safety Committee plans to make Seamoor available to Corps locations for special events through a website calendar for scheduling. The water safety committee is also working up a preventative maintenance schedule for Seamoor and training plan for those wishing to "invite him over."

Accepting the donation on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was Lynda Nutt, chairperson of the USACE National Water Safety Committee.

"We are so excited to be the new home for Seamoor," said Nutt. "He is the first Jet Ski watercraft tool like this to be produced. The Corps is very proud to be chosen to receive the very first model." Designed and built by Robotronics, Inc., of Sandy, Utah, the robot uses an electrically powered, wheeled platform as the basis for Seamoor's movements. Some other well-known models include "Smokey Bear," licensed by the U.S. Forest Service, and "McGruff", the crime-stopping police dog. For a boating safety theme, Robotronics has built approximately 60 "Bobby the Boat" models in the past. Kawasaki commissioned Robotronics to build the first example of this PWC-themed robot with the intention of donating it to a boating safety and education campaign that would make the best use of Seamoor's education and outreach potential.

The Corps of Engineers submitted a proposal to adopt Seamoor for its national boating safety outreach efforts. "The Corps' plan to utilize Seamoor across America in a visible and effective manner in public boating safety education programs was a compelling idea," said Roger Hagie, director of public affairs at Kawasaki.

"Their boating safety and education program will add a new and slightly unusual dimension by using Seamoor," adds Hagie. "Kawasaki is fortunate to be able to provide this type of innovative communication tool to the program selected to receive the donation."

Committee chairperson Nutt indicated Seamoor will soon begin promoting awareness of boating and water safety education throughout the Corps. "Information about boating classes is a key factor in getting people interesting in taking a boating class," she said. "Seamoor's appeal to children helps provide a way to raise this awareness of boating and water safety for both the children and their families."

By Ed Evans, HQ National Water Safety Product Advisory Committee