

Media Advisory
For Immediate Release



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New “Discovery Saturday” Event at the National Naval Aviation Museum *Saturday, April 11, 2009*

Pensacola, Fla.—Mar. 24, 2009—As part of its mission to educate the public and inspire students, the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation will present “Discovery Saturday” from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 11, 2009 at the National Naval Aviation Museum. This meet-and-greet event will feature Pensacola residents Captain JJ Coonan, USN (Ret) and Rear Admiral Pete Booth, USN (Ret), who will speak about their experiences as former Commanding Officers of an aircraft carrier.

Captain Coonan served as Commanding Officer of USS *America* (CV-66). He was a career naval officer spending 30 years associated with carrier aviation as a single-seat jet pilot. During this time he accumulated in excess of 5,000 flight hours (including more than 3,000 in the A-7 aircraft) and 1,000 carrier-arrested landings. His assignments included six commands, among which were squadron, Carrier Air Wing and “deep draft” ship command. While commanding VA-15, Captain Coonan was selected as the first East Coast recipient of the VADM James Stockdale Award for inspirational leadership. He retired from active duty in 1996 and is currently the Vice President of Education and the Chief Operating Officer for the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.

Rear Admiral Booth served as Commanding Officer of USS *Forrestal* (CV-59). He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was assigned to a Pacific Fleet destroyer before checking into flight training. Rear Admiral Booth served as a fighter pilot aboard numerous aircraft carriers before his assignment as Commanding Officer. Upon retiring from active duty in the 1980s, Rear Admiral Booth served as second mate on the SS *Constitution* and then as master of several ocean-going research ships, as well as president of two publicly owned maritime cruise ship companies. He is the author of two published works: “Humble in Victory,” a fictional tale of young American heroes in combat at sea during the year 2010, and “True Faith and Allegiance,” a journals of his Navy life which chronicles three decades of the Cold War.

“Discovery Saturday” is FREE and open to the public. To reserve your seat, call the Foundation at (850) 453-2389.

The National Naval Aviation Museum features FREE admission and a full slate of events throughout the year. For a complete list of events, exhibits and attractions at the Museum, visit www.NavalAviationMuseum.org or call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (850) 453-2389 or (800) 327-5002.

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Media Note: For more information about the National Naval Aviation Museum, contact Shelley Ragsdale, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. at (850) 453-2389 or sragdale@navalaviationmuseum.org.

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About the National Naval Aviation Museum

The National Naval Aviation Museum features nearly 300,000 square feet of displays and is one of the world’s largest aviation museums. Located aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station, the facility boasts more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation and is Florida’s most-visited museum. Among the countless things to touch, see and experience are thrilling Top Gun Air Combat flight simulators, a variety of special exhibits as well as the drama and power of amazing IMAX® films. The Cubi Bar Café offers a unique dining experience, and the Flight Deck Store is the perfect place to find a memento of the spirit of Naval aviation. Museum admission is free. The National Naval Aviation Museum is open daily from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. For more information, visit NavalAviationMuseum.org.

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