

Media Advisory
For Immediate Release



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Second “Discovery Saturday” Event To Highlight Famous Doolittle Raid of WWII

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Pensacola, Fla.—Apr. 21, 2009—The new “Discovery Saturday” series continues with a second event at the National Naval Aviation Museum, giving attendees a rare insider’s view of the famous “Doolittle Raid.” As part of its mission to inspire and educate, the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation will present “Discovery Saturday—The Doolittle Raid” at 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2009 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Retired Chief Aviation Ordnance Officer Chuck Wheeler, a long-time Museum volunteer, will be on hand to share his experiences onboard the USS *Enterprise* (CV-6) during preparations for the Doolittle Raid upon Japan during World War II.

Lt. Col. James "Jimmy" Doolittle led the legendary air raid on April 18, 1942, as 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers rocketed off the deck of the USS *Hornet*, officially signaling the first U.S. air raid to strike Japanese territory. Although all 16 aircraft were lost and 11 crewmen were either killed or captured, the raid demonstrated Japan’s vulnerability to air attacks. It also provided a useful means for the United States’ retaliation for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Wheeler will give his eye-witness account of the Doolittle Raiders’ takeoff from his vantage point onboard the USS *Enterprise*. The Museum’s own B-25 aircraft will be on display outside the Atrium for the public to see. While it is not the same plane that flew in the Doolittle Raid, it is the same type of aircraft that Doolittle and his crew commanded en route to Tokyo nearly 67 years ago.

“Discovery Saturday” is FREE and open to the public. 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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