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**USS Midway Museum Launches New Naval Intelligence Exhibit**

*Guests will enter the ship’s top-secret Carrier Intelligence Center where combat missions were planned during Operation Desert Storm*

The USS Midway Museum will open one of its most intriguingly engaging and immersive exhibits on June 27, 2025. Celebrating the unsung efforts of the naval intelligence community, **“Top Secret: Inside the High-Stakes World of Naval Intelligence,”** will take museum visitors into the classified and high-stakes world of the Navy’s secret service.

This is the launch of the museum’s second major exhibit in the last two years. In 2024, Midway opened “Midway's Engineers: Service, Sacrifice and Everyday Life” honoring ship’s engineering crew.

The new exhibit will use Midway’s own critical involvement in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 to frame this carrier-intelligence experience. Through actual displays and various interactive activities, guests will not only learn about the important role played by the naval intelligence service, but get to test their own aptitude for collecting, analyzing and interpreting information critical for successfully planning a combat mission during the Gulf War.

“Naval intelligence professionals are an underappreciated group,” said Terry Kraft, USS Midway’s president and CEO, who flew 40 combat mission from Midway during the Gulf War. “Our desire is to transport visitors to Desert Storm in 1991, Midway’s final deployment and last combat mission. It is an immersive experience that will leave guests with a deep understanding of how a carrier goes to war.”

This once highly-classified space served as the nerve center for intelligence gathering and analysis, mission planning, and strategic decision-making aboard Midway. The new exhibit offers a rare glimpse into the life-and-death world of naval intelligence. Museum guests will go behind the curtain and discover the secrets that helped shape naval aviation combat operations during the liberation of Kuwait in 1991.

By creating an interactive exhibit in this previously restricted area, the public will, for the first time, step inside Midway’s completely restored Carrier Intelligence Center where real air-combat missions were planned during the Gulf war.

“Intelligence work has historically been done behind the green door,” said Stanley Kowalsky, a retired naval intelligence specialist who assisted in the planning of the new exhibit. “Our families and friends rarely get a chance to see the spaces we worked in and stories behind our work. Midway's new intelligence exhibit will be the first Navy intelligence museum that will allow the public to gain an appreciation for the work our sailors did in support of the defense of our country.”

Spanning more than 1,500 square feet and located immediately beneath Midway’s flight deck, the exhibit is organized into multiple thematic galleries choreographed to encourage free exploration, spark curiosity, and leave guests with an emotional understanding of the highly-skilled crew who worked in these spaces. The exhibit spaces include:

* + Entry Experience
  + Time Portal to 1990-1991
  + What is Naval Intelligence
  + Meet the Intelligence Team
  + Mission Planning and Gaming Experience
  + In Tribute

To tell this fascinating story, Midway once again turned to the talented design team at Art Processors, an award-winning global creative technology company. Art Processors, who has an applauded reputation for enhancing visitor experiences, was the creative force behind Midway’s new engineering exhibit which opened in 2024.

"We were thrilled to partner again with Midway to create an exciting experience spotlighting the top-secret world of naval intelligence,” said Julie Flechoux, Art Processor’s creative director. “Inspired by real events, visitors will step into the rooms where history was made, surrounded by immersive visuals and sound, authentic tools and objects used in mission planning. They will also be able to put their skills to the test with thrilling, timed interactive games.”

The exhibit’s design employs a multi-sensory approach that crafts an authentic visitor experience highlighting the critical work on the ship’s intelligence team. By using a creative combination of sound, light and visual effects, guests will be taken back in time to when Midway was the flagship for all U.S. naval aviation combat operations in the Persian Gulf.

**About the USS Midway Museum**

The aircraft carrier USS Midway was commissioned in 1945 and served for 47 years supporting U.S. military and humanitarian efforts around the world. The carrier was decommissioned (retired) in 1992. The ship opened as the USS Midway Museum in San Diego in June 2004 and today is the world’s most visited and popular naval ship museum. Midway, dedicated to providing engaging, inspiring, educational and entertaining experiences, attracts more than 1 million guests each year. Its mission is to preserve the legacy of Midway and those who serve, as well as share stories of sacrifice, service and freedom.

**About Art Processors**

Art Processors is a leading experience design company creating the world’s most meaningful and memorable cultural destinations. Art Processors specializes in creating deeply resonant and immersive visitor experiences for museums, heritage sites, galleries, and attractions worldwide. Their integrated approach spans everything required to plan, design, build, and sustain award-winning cultural destinations of every scale.