



The University of Texas at San Antonio
Office of University Communications
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249-0619
(210) 458-4550
www.utsa.edu/today

DATE: September 13, 2006
MEDIA CONTACT: Ashley Harris (ashley.harris1@utsa.edu)
(210) 458-5181, office or (210) 410-1305, cell

TWO MEMBERS OF DOOLITTLE'S TOKYO RAIDERS TO SPEAK AT UTSA
World War II heroes to address campus community and Air Force ROTC cadets

(San Antonio) - Retired Brigadier General David Jones and Retired Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders will be at the UTSA 1604 Campus on Thursday, September 14 to speak to the campus community and Air Force ROTC cadets. The event will be held in the Main Building, Room 0.104 at 3:30 p.m. and is open to all UTSA students, faculty, staff and area residents.

The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders flew into history on April 18, 1942 after launching 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers from the deck of the Navy carrier Hornet. The air attack, which was led by then Lt. Colonel James Doolittle, was intended to serve as the American response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The attack was significant as it represented the first time in aviation history that a bomber was launched from the deck of a carrier, a feat believed to be impossible at the time.

Due to an early sighting by a Japanese picket boat, the raiders were forced to launch the B-25's a day early and more than 600 miles out from their original designated location. The bombers arrived at their targeted destinations: Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka and Nagoya, at high noon on April 18th. Although the Raiders encountered enemy aircraft over Japan, none of the bombers were shot down.

However, unforeseen excessive fuel consumption, poor weather and the premature launch of the attack, forced the bombers to crash land on Chinese and Russian soil short of their intended landing bases. As a result of the crash landings, three of the 80 volunteer crew members died and eight were taken as prisoners of war.

The result of the campaign was an immediate boost to low American morale and is credited by many military personnel as the turning point in the battle of the Pacific. All of the Raiders who survived were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and those who were killed, wounded, or injured as a result of the raid also received the Purple Heart.

Of the original 80 Raiders, 16 are alive today. The Doolittle Raid was the subject of two 1944 feature films "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo" and "The Purple Heart."

About The University of Texas at San Antonio

The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the premier institutions of higher education in South Texas and one of the fastest growing universities in the state. One of nine academic universities and six health institutions that comprise the UT System, UTSA is the second largest institution in the system. Celebrating its 36th anniversary, UTSA serves more than 28,000 students enrolled in 62 bachelors, 43 masters and 19 doctoral degree programs.

Programs are offered through the colleges of Architecture, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Honors, Liberal and Fine Arts, Public Policy, and Sciences, and the Graduate School. A Top 100 Hispanic-serving institution, UTSA is ranked among the top 10. A university of access and excellence, UTSA is committed to research and discovery, teaching and learning, and public service.

###