

## ***Battle of Midway: Six Minutes that Changed History***

### Exhibit Narrative

From all areas of the hangar bay, the large **Mural Wall Façade** and **Blast Hole** create a strong visual attraction, drawing guests to the **Battle of Midway Experience**. The mural graphic is a historic image depicting a scene from the Battle of Midway. The Blast Hole is a fabricated metal depiction of the hull of the USS *Yorktown* that has just been blown out by an exploding torpedo. It appears that the interior of the ship is on fire and that guests will have the opportunity to go inside.

As guests approach the exhibition, they encounter three **Vertical Display Panels** situated near two ceiling-suspended aircraft. These panels include programs that provide background information about the Battle of Midway. Each panel includes a large monitor and an etched photo that familiarizes guests about the on-screen content.

1. **Prelude to Battle** includes two video programs: **Code Breakers** is the story of the team whose work deciphered Japanese military code to correctly identify Midway Atoll as the target of an upcoming battle, and **Order of Battle** takes guests behind the numbers of men and machines to show the incredible odds working against the U.S. forces in this imbalanced conflict.
2. **Location of Midway** is a video where guests come to understand how geography played a pivotal role in the battle and why the location of Midway Atoll made it such a coveted prize for both sides of the war.
3. **Heroes of Midway** is an interactive program highlighting the outstanding achievements of nine of the brave servicemen who helped the U.S. to win the Battle of Midway.

The **Timeline** is a horizontal display that chronologically presents historic images and text. Here, visitors gain an understanding of World War II events prior to the Battle of Midway, the pivotal six minutes during, as well as the aftermath of the battle. They can also explore the 47-year odyssey of the USS *Midway* including its opening as a public museum to become the living symbol of American freedom.

The **Queue Area**, located behind the **Timeline** and leading into the theater is where guests wind past a tall exhibit showcasing names of donors who financially supported the Battle of Midway Experience. Here, exhibitry also includes two large monitors that play a looping program of brief text and moving images to help visitors better understand the story inside the theater and enrich their overall museum visit.

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While in the Queue Area, guests pass the **Mural Wall Façade** where they learn that the mural image is an authentic Battle of Midway photograph depicting Dauntless dive bombers attacking the Japanese fleet. Guests are thrilled to learn that the two aircraft hanging within the exhibition are genuine Dauntless and Wildcat aircraft.

At this time, hearing-impaired guests receive special glasses that allow them to see closed captions of the video content, helping them to fully enjoy the theater presentation.

Next, guests approach the **Blast Hole**. A lifesaver from the USS *Yorktown* indicates that this is a piece of hull from that sunken aircraft carrier. A barrier, created from broken pipes, adds to the visual drama of the Blast Hole experience and also provides guests outside the area with an outstanding photo opportunity where they may pose in front of a strewn and scattered disaster scene that reconstructs the anguished hours of the *Yorktown* during attack.

Guests move further into the Blast Hole where they experience the sensation that a torpedo has recently exploded, igniting fires and distorting metal in its wake. Severed electrical wires appear to be shorting and sparking against metal bulkheads. Flame is seen from below and a sensation of heat rises from the open grating next to the guest pathway. This horrifying scene is enhanced by urgent *Damage Control Central* orders being broadcast from a loudspeaker above and shouts of sailors and officers coming from below deck as they report to each other and fight to put out fires and control floods.

Next, guests enter the **Theater** filled with appropriate knowledge and eager anticipation. Here, a 14-minute movie, *Voices of Midway*, is presented. The theater experience is enhanced with holographic technology and special audio and lighting effects.

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