



## Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Robert L. Hite was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement in an aerial flight on 18 April 1942. On that day, the then Lieutenant Robert L. Hite, the Co-Pilot of Crew-16, took off from the deck of the *USS Hornet* at 09:19 on the Doolittle Raid of Japan in World War II. It was headed for its target, the industrial complex at Nagoya, Japan. After striking their target, Crew-16 bailed out over China but were quickly captured by Japanese troops. Then Lt. Hite was imprisoned by the Japanese for forty months. The Pilot, Lt. William G. Farrow and the Engineer/Gunner, Sgt Harold A. Spatz, were executed by the Japanese on 15 October 1942. The Co-Pilot, Lt. Robert Hite, the Navigator, Lt. George Barr and the Bombardier, Cpl. Jacob D. DeShazer were liberated by American troops on 20 August 1945. Among Lt. Colonel Hite's decorations were Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster and the Chinese Breast Order of Pau Ting. Lt. Hite was accepted into the Distinguished Flying Cross Society in May 2007.

Branch of Service: U. S. Army Air Corps \* Theatre for DFC: WW II, Korea \* Aircraft: B25