

## **San Francisco Fleet Week 2011 Information & Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General Information**

San Francisco Fleet Week is an annual event which occurs each October around the Columbus Day Weekend. Fleet Week originated in 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet" visited our City. Modern Fleet Week was restarted in 1981 by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein to pay tribute to the sailors, Marines and Coasties who serve us so well.

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of San Francisco's Fleet Week and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Naval Aviation, an event which took place in San Francisco Bay on January 18, 1911 when for the first time a plane successfully took off and landed aboard a ship, the *USS Pennsylvania*, in San Francisco Bay.

During Fleet Week 2011, San Francisco will proudly welcome the *USS Carl Vinson*. In the 1980s, then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein and the City and County of San Francisco adopted the *USS Carl Vinson* as its own ship. A plaque was dedicated aboard the ship that reflected this action, and the City gave a set of silver to the ship's wardroom. The plaque is still there, as is the silver set. The ship is fondly known by its nickname *San Francisco's Own*. The *USS Carl Vinson* will be the first ship to come under the Golden Gate Bridge for the Parade of Ships.

It is estimated that 1-million people flock to the San Francisco Bay's waterfronts to visit US Navy and US Coast Guard ships; to pay tribute to the sailors and Marines serving in the military; to watch military demonstrations, band concerts, the Columbus Day Parade and the precision Navy Blue Angels flight demonstration team. While in San Francisco these consumers dine at our restaurants, stay in our hotels and experience our attractions. The benefit from this City-wide event brings in a tremendous economic boom to our region.

Fleet Week is produced by The San Francisco Fleet Week Association a 501 C(3) nonprofit organization, governed by a Board of Directors and with a team of volunteers. The team implements the Association's policies and develops the Association's programs.

Major General J. Michael Myatt, USMC (ret.) is the Chairman of the San Francisco Fleet Week Association; San Francisco Fleet Week Co Chairs are Senator Dianne Feinstein and Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

The mission of the San Francisco Fleet Week Association (SFFWA) is to honor the dedication to duty and sacrifices of the men and women of the U.S. Sea Services, and to showcase the military's proven capabilities for providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) world wide. Fleet Week also presents training for first responders at all levels of government, seeking to better prepare our region and our nation for potential natural disasters.

The Mayor supports the members of the United States Armed Forces and is proud that the City is honoring our troops and their families during San Francisco Fleet Week.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **When is Fleet Week this year?**

Fleet Week 2011 takes place around Columbus Day Weekend, October 5-11, 2011. The first USN vessel, *USS BONHOMME RICHARD* arrives on October 5. The balance of the participating vessels comes under the Golden Gate Bridge on Saturday, October 8 at 11:00 AM to berth along the San Francisco waterfront. Vessels get underway on Tuesday October 11, 2011.

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### **What is important about Fleet Week in 2011?**

In 2011 SFFW will showcase the humanitarian assistance and disaster response capabilities of the US Naval Services, as employed in the relief efforts in Haiti, Somalia, Pakistan, and most recently, with the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. After all, the question is not if, but when San Francisco Bay Area will have its next big earthquake.

A major focus of Fleet Week 2011 is to showcase the Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response capabilities of the US Naval Services. Events include

- A two-day SENIOR LEADER SEMINAR, where local, state and federal agencies learn how to ensure coordination of military capabilities during a local disaster response
- URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING conducted by the SF Fire Department, US Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Small Unit Leaders learn rescue techniques for the urban environment
- COMMUNITY BASED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS: Community volunteers who train through programs such as NERT, CERT and CORE learn about military disaster assistance protocols and capabilities
- A DISPLAY OF CAPABILITIES on the Marina Green, where the public can tour
  - Military Fielded Medical Facilities, including surgical tents
  - Local Government and Military Disaster Relief Command Centers
  - Refugee Feeding centers
  - Photo Displays of our military providing humanitarian relief missions

### **Where is the best place to find out information about the San Francisco Fleet Week 2011 schedule of events?**

The Fleet Week website:

[www.fleetweek.us](http://www.fleetweek.us)

A schedule of Fisherman's Wharf events website:

[www.visitfishermanswharf.com/events/fleetweek.aspx](http://www.visitfishermanswharf.com/events/fleetweek.aspx)

U.S. Navy 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet Public Affairs Office  
(619) 884-2820

### **Where can I find out more about the Blue Angels?**

The Blue Angels website:

[www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil)

### **What ships will visit San Francisco during Fleet Week? Where will they be docked? What days are they open for public ship visits? What are the details about public ship tours?**

The first ship under the Golden Gate Bridge for the Parade of Fleet Week Ships is scheduled to take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 8, 2011.

#### **USS CARL VINSON**

Berthing: at anchor.

Visiting Hours:

No visitation during Fleet Week

#### **USS BONHOMME RICHARD**

Berthing: Pier 30-32

Visiting Hours:

Sat Oct 8, 8am to 4pm

Sun Oct 9, 8am to 4pm

Mon Oct 10, 8am to noon

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### USS ANTIETAM

Berthing: Pier 27  
Visiting Hours:  
Sun Oct 9, 8am to 4pm  
Mon Oct 10, 8am to 4pm

### USCGC ALERT

Berthing: Pier 35  
Visiting Hours:  
Sun Oct 9, 8am to 4pm  
Mon Oct 10, 8am to 4pm

### USS MILIUS

Berthing: Pier 27  
Visiting Hours:  
Sun Oct 9, 8am to 4pm  
Mon Oct 10, 8am to 4pm

### HMCS OTTAWA

Berthing: Pier 35  
Visiting Hours:  
Sun Oct 9, 8am to 4pm  
Mon Oct 10, 8am to 4pm

### USS CHIEF

Berthing: Pier 27  
Visiting Hours:  
Sun Oct 9, 8am to 4pm  
Mon Oct 10, 8am to 4pm

### HMCS BRANDON

Berthing: Pier 80  
Visiting Hours:  
Not available for visiting

### USNS GUADALUPE

Berthing: at anchor  
Visiting Hours:  
Not available for visiting

### HMCS NANAIMO

Berthing: Pier 80  
Visiting Hours:  
Not available for visiting

### USCGC BERTHOLF

Berthing: Pier 35  
Visiting Hours:  
Sun Oct 9, 8am to 4pm  
Mon Oct 10, 8am to 4pm

### HMCS SASKATOON

Berthing: Pier 80  
Visiting Hours:  
Not available for visiting

### SS JEREMIAH O'BRIEN

Berthing: Pier 45  
Visiting Hours: various

For Ship Tour Procedures and to confirm pier locations and tour times, visit the SFFWA Website:  
[www.fleetweek.us](http://www.fleetweek.us)

### **When is the air show (including the Blue Angels demonstration and the Canadian Snowbirds)?**

Thursday, October 6

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Blue Angels Survey Flights

*(weather permitting)*

Friday, October 7

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Air Show Practice (including Blue Angels 3:00-4:00 p.m.)

*(weather permitting)*

Saturday, October 8

Sunday, October 9

1:00 -4:00 p.m.

Air Show (including Blue Angels 3:00-4:00 p.m.)

*(weather permitting)*

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### **Where is the best place to view the Blue Angels performance?**

In San Francisco: Along the waterfront, especially Marina Green, Crissy Field, Aquatic Park, Fisherman's Wharf, and Pier 39, but not the Muni Pier which is closed to the public for safety reasons. In Marin County: Marin Headlands and Fort Baker. The show is not viewed well from the East Bay.

### **Who invited the Blue Angels to fly?**

The Blue Angels are invited by the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco Fleet Week Association. The Fleet Week Association Chairman is MajGen J. Michael Myatt, USMC (Ret.), who is appointed by the Mayor.

### **Who authorizes the Blue Angels flight patterns?**

The Federal Aviation Administration approves the flight paths for the air show and requires that the Blue Angels maintain 1,000 feet above any populated area. The bulk of their demonstrations take place over the waters of the San Francisco Bay.

Noise complaints phone number: 650-599-5057

Note: This is recorded information. Leave a message and a person from the air show staff will follow up with the caller.

The FAA's Mailing Address:  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Oakland Flight Standards Office (FSDO)  
1420 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 280  
Alameda, CA 94502

### **How is their flight path planned, and do they have to fly over the city?**

The Blue Angels only fly one profile. It is the same show in every city; they only modify the orientation of that show to fit the local geography. If you have more questions about their flight path refer to the FAA as they are the authorizing agents for the Blue Angels air show in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### **On average, how many people view the Blue Angels each year?**

An estimated 15 million spectators view the squadron during air shows each year. It is estimated that more than 1-million people view the Blue Angels in San Francisco along the waterfront (this does not include everyone who watches from private parties and other places around the Bay).

### **How do you determine where to hold an air show?**

Each August, the Department of Defense receives hundreds of requests to hold air shows featuring the Navy Blue Angels. After the Department of Defense screens requests for basic eligibility, requests are forwarded to the Blue Angels' Commanding Officer. The squadron officers review each air show request, considering input from the Chief of Naval Information and Navy Recruiting Command. In the fall, the Blue Angels Events Coordinator, along with Navy and Department of Defense officials meet at a scheduling conference for final considerations and approval.

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### **In the event an aircraft were to crash, who would respond?**

In the event that a Navy aircraft were to crash, Command Information Bureau (CIB) Public Affairs Officers will coordinate with all levels of the Navy's chain of command and the Fleet Week Association to keep the public accurately informed with minimum delay. To ensure maximum disclosure with minimum delay, the Incident Command Post will provide incident updates to the CIB promptly. Additionally, each of the cities in the Bay area have an emergency response plan that includes their police departments, fire departments, port authority, and Office of Emergency Services. The Navy CIB will further coordinate with the appropriate municipality.

### **How is Fleet Week funded? What are the benefits?**

The San Francisco Fleet Week Association, a 501 c 3 charitable organization with an education mission is responsible for raising the funds required to produce Fleet Week. The educational aspects will deal with Humanitarian Assistance/ Disaster response. No government funds are provided to defray the costs of the Fleet Week activities. The San Francisco Fleet Week Association pays for the participation of the Blue Angels in the Air Show, which is not funded by government funds.

Funding comes primarily from private businesses, corporate sponsorships, donations from individuals, and from advertisers. The hotel tax fund provides a small grant; the Port of San Francisco also provides in kind, and a grant to support Fleet Week. Fleet Week is enormously popular with tourists and residents—generating significant amounts of revenue for local hotels, restaurants and retail businesses. In turn, the City benefits from the sales and hotel taxes that ultimately support various programs such as General Fund services, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, Grants for the Arts and the Fine Arts and Asian Art Museums.

And key to the success of San Francisco are the countless Bay Area volunteers who give generously of their time and resources to the year round planning of this great San Francisco event.

### **While Fleet Week has taken on an ambitious new mission, to help save lives in the Bay Area and around the world, Fleet Week is also about FUN?**

Fleet Week is still a grand celebration, with air shows, ship tours, band concerts, athletic events, the Italian Heritage Parade, and great exhibits. For a full schedule of all of these great events, be sure to check out the San Francisco Fleet Week website at [fleetweek.us](http://fleetweek.us).