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NATION'S LARGEST MILITARY TRIBUTE PROVIDES UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR VISITORS TO SAN DIEGO

Month-Long Series of Events Features Air Show, Sea & Air Parade, Navy Ship Tours and More

SAN DIEGO – May 2, 2007 – This fall, visitors to a city known for its beaches, world famous zoo and idyllic weather are in for a unique experience when San Diego – “America’s Finest City” – pays homage to the U.S. military with a month-long celebration called Fleet Week San Diego.

Heralded as the largest military appreciation event in the nation, the 11th-annual Fleet Week San Diego offers civilians a unique opportunity to experience the thrills of fighter jet demonstrations, tour Navy ships and taking part in military traditions – all while showing support for U.S. military personnel.

“Fleet Week provides hundreds of thousands of people with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to interact with our nation’s military, experience history and technology, see exciting demonstrations, and say ‘thank you,’” said Fleet Week Chairman Reo Carr. “San Diego County is home to more Marines and Sailors than any other region in the country, so it is the ideal home for this annual tribute.”

Fleet Week San Diego also honors the men and women of our armed services who “serve America twice,” by defending our nation, and by serving as volunteers and community leaders.

Beginning Sept. 17 and extending to Oct. 28, Fleet Week San Diego will feature a variety of events and activities – many of them free – for families, visitors and military personnel. A full schedule of activities is attached, but highlights include:

- **Port of San Diego Sea & Air Parade presented by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* – Sept. 29.** During this marquis event, approximately 100,000 people turn out along the San Diego Bay shoreline to see aircraft carriers, guided-missile destroyers, frigates and Coast Guard vessels parade through San Diego Bay. A variety of aircraft and Navy SEAL team demonstrations round out this exciting event.

FLEET WEEK SAN DIEGO – 2-2-2-2-2

- **Marine Corp Recruit Depot Bootcamp Challenge – October 6.** Thousands of civilian and military participants will become Marine recruits for a day, as they trek through a 3-mile course across the historic grounds of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Runners will face the drill fields and MCRD's famous obstacle course. Those wishing to compete may contact the MCRD's Semper Fit Division at 619/524-6058 or 619/524-0548.
- **Navy Ship Tours – Sept. 29 & 30, Oct. 6 & 7.** One of the most popular Fleet Week events, the public is invited to experience the inside of Navy ships firsthand with tours at San Diego's Broadway Pier.
- **SRT Coronado Speed Festival – Oct. 6 & Sunday, Oct. 7.** Vintage cars will take over the runways of Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado as priceless antique autos race a 1.6-mile course that whips around military hardware displays and aircraft hangars. The festival will also include car shows, a Vendor Village where you can shop for the latest automotive accessories, and a multi-million dollar display of collectable automobiles.
- **Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show – Oct. 12 through Oct. 14.** The world's best military and civilian pilots will take to the skies of San Diego in this award-winning air show. From vintage biplanes to the latest in aviation technology, attendees will be entertained from the skies and on the ground with more than 200 hands-on displays. A special twilight show Saturday evening will feature music and a fireworks show.

More information about Fleet Week events can be obtained by visiting www.fleetweeksandiego.org.

Fleet Week San Diego is presented by the San Diego Fleet Week Foundation, a nonprofit, public benefit corporation. In addition to honoring the sea services through the annual Fleet Week events, the foundation's goals are to foster awareness of the contributions made by enlisted military personnel and their families, to enhance relationships between the civilian, business and military communities, to provide events that Military personnel and their families can attend at little or no cost, and to raise funds for charitable efforts benefiting enlisted service members and their families. Benefiting organizations include the USO, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the Armed Services YMCA. More information about Fleet Week events can be obtained by calling 619/858-1545 or by visiting www.fleetweeksandiego.org.

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Editor's Note – High-resolution images of various Fleet Week events are available. To obtain, please contact Lauren DiGeronimo at ld@nstpr.com or 619/296-0605.