



SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK ASSOCIATION | U.S. NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST | CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | OCTOBER 3, 2026 | JOINT MEDIA RELEASE 2026-001

SAN FRANCISCO WELCOMES THE FLEET: 45TH SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK RETURNS OCT. 4-12

California's largest annual civic event brings the world-famous San Francisco Fleet Week Air Show presented by United, Fleet Fest at Fisherman's Wharf, visiting ships and more than 50 military concerts to communities across the city

Watch the Air Show. Experience the Fleet.

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco will once again welcome the men and women of the United States Armed Forces to the Bay as the 45th San Francisco Fleet Week returns Oct. 4-12, bringing nine days of military, civic and community events to the waterfront and neighborhoods throughout the city.

California's largest annual civic event, San Francisco Fleet Week draws more than one million people each year for an experience found nowhere else, combining the world-famous **San Francisco Fleet Week Air Show presented by United**, visiting military ships and free public ship tours, Fleet Fest at Fisherman's Wharf, military bands performing across the city, community service projects and military-civilian emergency preparedness programs.

This year's visiting U.S. Navy fleet will include the **Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71)** and the **Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48)**. The ships and their crews will participate in Fleet Week events and public ship tours along the San Francisco waterfront.

At the center of Fleet Week weekend is a simple invitation:

Watch the Air Show. Experience the Fleet.

From Oct. 9-11, the **San Francisco Fleet Week Air Show presented by United** will fill the skies above San Francisco Bay with four hours of flying each day, headlined by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. The Air Show is the only event of its kind in the United States to feature a fully choreographed commercial airliner demonstration, with a United Boeing 777 performing above the Bay against the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and San Francisco skyline.

On the waterfront below, **Fleet Fest at Fisherman's Wharf** brings the Fleet Week experience together in one of the world's most recognizable visitor destinations.

Centered around the SkyStar Wheel and extending along the waterfront to Piers 27 and 35, Fleet Fest connects live music, food, family activities and military displays with opportunities to board visiting ships and meet the Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and other service members participating in Fleet Week.

At Pier 27, the **Service & Safety Expo presented by PG&E** adds military and first responder equipment, live demonstrations, emergency preparedness and career exploration to the Fleet Fest experience. Nearby, free ship tours at Piers 27 and 35 allow visitors to step aboard visiting vessels, walk the decks and meet the crews who serve aboard them.

Together, the experiences make Fisherman's Wharf the place to not only watch Fleet Week, but to experience the Fleet in person.

"The 45th San Francisco Fleet Week is an opportunity for our city to roll out the red carpet for our service members, honor our veterans and strengthen the bonds between our military and the community. We're excited to welcome the Blue Angels back to our world-famous San Francisco Fleet Week Air Show presented by United and bring people together through Fleet Fest at Fisherman's Wharf, the return of K9 Heroes to Duboce Park and more than 50 performances in our expanded Neighborhood Concert Series. At the heart of it all is our gratitude for those who serve and our commitment to working together to keep our communities prepared and resilient," said **Lewis Loeven, Executive Director of the San Francisco Fleet Week Association**.

SAN FRANCISCO'S ENDURING CONNECTION TO THE ARMED FORCES

While the modern San Francisco Fleet Week was founded in 1981 by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein, the city's military connection reaches back generations, from the Presidio and San Francisco's historic role as a gateway to the Pacific to

decades of naval activity at Treasure Island. The 45th San Francisco Fleet Week carries that relationship forward by once again welcoming today's service members, veterans and military families to the city.

For visiting Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, Fleet Week is also a unique liberty visit. Service members have an opportunity to experience San Francisco while reconnecting with family and friends who travel to the city to spend time with them. Through the Fleet Week Liberty Guide and participation from local hotels, restaurants, attractions and businesses, that welcome extends from the waterfront into communities throughout San Francisco.

"Since 1981, Fleet Week has brought pride to our city. As we kick off San Francisco Fleet Week once again, we are excited to welcome service members, visitors, and the Blue Angels to San Francisco," said **Mayor Daniel Lurie**. "San Francisco shares a deep bond with those who serve, from the earliest days of the Presidio to the great mobilizations of World War II. Thank you to the military personnel joining us and the families who support them. And thank you to our public safety partners, city workers, and Fleet Week organizers and volunteers for making this celebration possible."

SERVICE TO THE CITY THAT WELCOMES THEM

Fleet Week gives San Franciscans an opportunity to meet the people behind the uniforms, while giving visiting service members an opportunity to give back to the communities hosting them.

Throughout the week, service members will participate in community service projects with local organizations, including the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank and St. Anthony's Dining Room. Their work continues a longstanding Fleet Week tradition of serving the city that welcomes them. Military musicians will also fan out across San Francisco as part of an expanded **Neighborhood Concert Series featuring more than 50 performances**, bringing military bands directly into neighborhood commercial corridors, parks, plazas and community gathering places.

Fleet Week also brings military and civilian agencies together to strengthen readiness before an emergency occurs. Military personnel train alongside local, state and federal responders, developing relationships and sharing expertise in disaster response, emergency medicine, urban search and rescue and logistics.

"San Francisco has earned a well-deserved reputation as a legendary port visit, and this Fleet Week is the gold standard of all Fleet Weeks. For 45 years San Francisco has welcomed our Sailors and Marines and made us feel we're part of the family. We can only hope our participation matches your extraordinary efforts to host us. Our ships will bring over a thousand Sailors and Marines into town this year, and throughout the week Navy and Marine Corps bands will perform in neighborhoods throughout the city. Please come down to the waterfront for a tour of our ships and check the neighborhood concert schedule at the Fleet Week website. We look forward to meeting you!" said **U.S. Navy Rear Admiral David J. Faehnle, Commander, Navy Region Southwest**.

THE WATERFRONT AT THE HEART OF FLEET WEEK

From the Golden Gate Bridge to Fisherman's Wharf and along the Embarcadero, the Port of San Francisco provides the stage for many of Fleet Week's most recognizable moments.

On Friday, Oct. 9, the **Parade of Ships** will mark the ceremonial arrival of the Fleet as visiting vessels sail beneath the Golden Gate Bridge and along the waterfront in the largest Parade of Ships on the West Coast.

During Fleet Week weekend, the waterfront becomes an interconnected public experience through **Fleet Fest at Fisherman's Wharf**, bringing together the SkyStar festival area, ship tours at Piers 27 and 35 and the Service & Safety Expo presented by PG&E at Pier 27.

For visiting military personnel and their families, Fisherman's Wharf also provides a gateway to San Francisco, connecting them with restaurants, cafés, hotels, attractions and businesses while giving visitors from around the region another reason to explore the city.

"Fleet Week is a San Francisco tradition, and we're proud to welcome it back to the waterfront," said **Michael Martin, Executive Director of the Port of San Francisco**. "It's an opportunity for residents and visitors to see the ships up close, meet our service members and experience Fleet Week across the waterfront."

A CIVIC EVENT WITH CITYWIDE IMPACT

More than one million people experience San Francisco Fleet Week annually. The San Francisco Fleet Week Association estimates the event generates more than **\$200 million in overall economic benefit and more than \$10 million in annual tax revenue**.

Fleet Week is also a powerful destination-driven event, bringing people to San Francisco specifically to experience the city during one of its most celebrated weeks of the year. Visitors stay in hotels, dine in restaurants and cafés, visit attractions, shop, use local transportation and explore neighborhoods throughout the city, generating meaningful activity for local businesses and the thousands of hospitality and service-industry workers who help welcome them.

The impact reaches far beyond the waterfront.

This year's expanded Neighborhood Concert Series will bring more than 50 military music performances to locations throughout San Francisco. **K9 Heroes** returns to Duboce Park on Oct. 10, showcasing working dogs and their handlers from military, law enforcement, search-and-rescue and service organizations.

The **Honor Our Fallen Concert** on Oct. 8 at Marines' Memorial Theatre will bring together service members, veterans, first responders, civic leaders and the community for an evening of music and remembrance honoring those who gave their lives in service to the nation, while recognizing **Gold Star families, Blue Star families and the loved ones who carry their legacy forward.**

Fleet Week concludes Oct. 12 with the **High School Band Challenge at the Golden Gate Park Bandshell**, where Bay Area student musicians perform and compete for funding for their school music programs. Since 2010, San Francisco Fleet Week has contributed more than \$500,000 to Bay Area high school music programs through the Band Challenge.

Together, these events reflect the larger purpose of San Francisco Fleet Week: honoring those who serve, strengthening the relationship between the military and the community and giving San Franciscans the opportunity to meet the men and women who serve the nation.

MEDIA KICKOFF PRESS CONFERENCE

San Francisco Fleet Week will formally kick off its 45th celebration with a joint media press conference bringing together Fleet Week, City, Port and military leadership.

Monday, Oct. 5, 2026

Pier 30/32, 30 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

Media Staging: 9:30 a.m.

Press Conference: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Media should arrive prior to 9:30 AM to gain access to the Pier. Parking will be available approx. 250 ft from stage. Upon arrival, check in with the PAO on-site for setup location.

2026 SAN FRANCISCO FLEET WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

Neighborhood Concert Series | Oct. 6-12

More than 50 military music performances at locations throughout San Francisco, bringing service members directly into the city's neighborhoods.

Ship Tours | Select days Oct. 7-12

Free public tours at Piers 27 and 35, including USS *Cape St. George* and USS *Ashland*, giving visitors an opportunity to board participating vessels and meet their crews.

Honor Our Fallen Concert | Oct. 8

Marines' Memorial Theatre. An evening of music, remembrance and gratitude honoring fallen service members and recognizing Gold Star and Blue Star families.

Heroes Block Party | Oct. 8

An evening of community celebration in North Beach featuring Navy Band Southwest's Destroyers Rock Band, historic San Francisco fire and police vehicles on display, cornhole tournament and local performers.

Parade of Ships | Oct. 9

The Fleet makes its ceremonial entrance beneath the Golden Gate Bridge and along the San Francisco waterfront.

San Francisco Fleet Week Air Show presented by United | Oct. 9-11

Noon to 4 p.m. over San Francisco Bay, headlined by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and featuring the United Boeing 777.

Fleet Fest at Fisherman's Wharf | Oct. 10-11

The Fleet Week waterfront experience connecting the SkyStar Wheel, visiting ship tours at Piers 27 and 35 and the **Service & Safety Expo presented by PG&E at Pier 27**. Meet service members, board visiting ships, experience military and first responder equipment and demonstrations, enjoy live music, food and family activities, and experience the Fleet in person.

K9 Heroes | Oct. 10

Duboce Park. Working K9 teams demonstrate capabilities including law enforcement, detection, search-and-rescue and service roles.

High School Band Challenge | Oct. 12

Golden Gate Park Bandshell. Bay Area high school musicians compete for funding to support their school music programs.

Schedules, participating military assets and operational details are subject to change. For the latest schedules, public-access information and Fleet Week updates, visit **FleetWeekSF.org**.

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45th San Francisco Fleet Week Press Conference

WHO	Fleet Week, City, Port and military leadership.
WHAT	Joint media press conference formally kicking off the 45th San Francisco Fleet Week.
WHEN	Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. Media staging: 9:30 a.m. Press conference: 10–11:00 a.m.
WHERE	Pier 30/32, San Francisco Waterfront.
VISUALS	Fleet Week, civic and military leadership at the joint media kickoff.
MEDIA ACCESS	Media should arrive prior to 9:30 AM to gain access to the Pier. Parking will be available by entering the Pier closest to the Red's Java House entrance.

Fleet Fest at Fisherman's Wharf at a glance

WHO	Visiting service members, residents and visitors.
WHAT	Live music, food, family activities, ship tours and the Service & Safety Expo presented by PG&E.
WHEN	Oct. 10–11, 2026.
WHERE	Fisherman's Wharf next to the SkyStar Wheel, Service & Safety Expo presented by PG&E at Pier 27, and Ship Tours at Piers 35 and 27.
VISUALS	Visiting ships and crews; military and first responder equipment and demonstrations; waterfront activities.
MEDIA ACCESS	Open to the public, media parking/staging available, coordinate with PAO contacts below.

About the partners

San Francisco Fleet Week Association

San Francisco Fleet Week is produced by a nonprofit association that honors service and connects the military with Bay Area communities through public events, arts, education, and disaster response training.

Commander, Navy Region Southwest

The Navy's Southwest shore installation headquarters coordinates support for operating forces across six states, sustaining fleet readiness and services for Sailors and their families.

Port of San Francisco

The Port of San Francisco manages 7.5 miles of waterfront that is home to popular destinations and attractions, historic districts, small businesses and robust maritime opportunities. The Port works to advance environmentally and financially sustainable maritime, recreational, and economic opportunities for the City, Bay Area, and California.

Media coordination

Fleet Week: David Cruise, Public Affairs Officer, 415-726-5150 PAO@fleetweeksf.org

Navy Region Southwest: Brian O'Rourke, Public Affairs Officer, 619-985-3725 sffw_media@us.navy.mil

Port of San Francisco: Messiah Foster, Public Information Officer, 415-254-9380 messiah.foster@sfport.com

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2026 San Francisco Fleet Week media logo

Authorized full color logo for 2026 news coverage



Artwork San Francisco Fleet Week 2026 color logo with registration mark

Supplied file SFFW_2026_Color_RMark.png

Media use This official 2026 logo is provided for editorial coverage. Television newsrooms are encouraged to use it in Fleet Week reporting, on-air graphics, and weather forecasts throughout the event.

Media inquiries PAO@fleetweeksf.org