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IT'S SMOOTH SAILING AS FLEET WEEK USA® PRESENTED BY McDONALD'S® GETS UNDERWAY ON APRIL 30, 2007

Public can partake in the nation's largest salute to America's heroes



EDITORS NOTE: Early background checks are required for all media who wish to board Navy ships to cover Fleet Week USA. Please contact our public relations contact listed above for more details.



FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (April 12, 2007) – As part of the McDonald's® National Salute to America's HeroesSM, Fleet Week USA® presented by McDonald's® will begin on Mon., April 30 welcoming thousands of sailors to our community. A week-long celebration will include open-to-the public parties, community service projects by the sailors and local top chef demonstrations, plus sports and other exciting competitions.



"This event offers a special time for us to support our troops," said Mickey Markoff, executive producer of the McDonald's National Salute to America's Heroes. "It is a great opportunity to welcome these incredible men and women who serve our country to our community and to highlight their hard work overseas."



More than 3,000 U.S. Navy sailors, Marines and Coast Guard personnel will arrive at Port Everglades. This year's line-up will include:



- USS Kearsarge (LHD 3)
- USS Ponce (LPD 15)
- USS San Jacinto (CG 56)
- USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98)
- USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44)
- USCGC Gannet (WPB 87334)
- USCGC Farallon (WPB 1301)



- USCGC Blue Fin (WPB 87318)
- USCGC Cormorant (WPB 87313)
- Los Angeles Class Fast Attack Submarine

While here, military personnel will engage themselves in many community-oriented projects, including building homes with Habitat for Humanity, hospital visits and school visits. The public is invited to partake in some of the festivities with these heroes:

- **All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party (April 30)** – The public is invited to welcome visiting sailors at the “All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party,” hosted by participating restaurants in Seminole Paradise at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino from 6 to 10 p.m.
- **Fleet Week USA Golf Classic (May 1)** – The Fleet Week USA Golf Classic pairs one Coast Guard, Navy or Marine personnel with members of the local business community to engage in a fun-filled golf tournament. The event serves as a great opportunity for the sea-going personnel to interact with the general public. This event will take place at the Ft. Lauderdale Country Club, 415 Country Club Circle in Plantation from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Foursomes are available, please call David Esposito at 954-467-3555.
- **Liberty Call Party (May 1)** – Join the U.S. Navy as they celebrate their number one ranked port, South Florida’s own Liberty Port, at this year’s Liberty Call Party. The festivities take place at the Ugly Tuna Saloona in Riverfront at 300 S.W. 1st Ave. in Ft. Lauderdale from 6 to 10 p.m.
- **Morale, Welfare & Recreation Intramural Athletic Tournaments (May 2-4)** – The public is invited to come out and cheer on their favorite ship as U.S. Navy, Marine and Coast Guard personnel compete in organized basketball, softball and golf tournaments. The winner will receive a Fleet Week USA commemorative plaque. Competitions take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. For a full listing of tournament locations, visit www.nationalsalute.com.
- **Anchors Aweigh Party (May 2)** – The public is invited to participate in the send-off for the ships as they prepare to pull up their anchors and go out to sea. The Anchors Aweigh Party will take place at Tarpon Bend, 200 S.W. 2nd St. in Ft. Lauderdale, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Due to security at Port Everglades, visitation on Fleet Week ships will be limited to school groups, Junior ROTC and similar organizations with pre-clearance and background checks. The Broward Sheriff’s Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy are working with national security agencies to ensure that this year’s Fleet Week USA presented by McDonald’s is a success.

Fleet Week USA presented by McDonald's sponsors include: Broward County Transit, Florida Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Florida Lottery, Hostway Corporation, Humana Military Healthcare Services, Miller Brewing Company, Nova Southeastern University, Port Everglades, Port Everglades Pilots, Resolve Marine Group, Inc., Saab Automobile USA, Seabulk Towing, Inc., Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, South Florida Ford Dealers and Volvic Natural Spring Water.

Media sponsors include: 99.9 KISS Country, CBS 4, MY33, Comcast Spotlight, The Happy Times Newspaper, The Miami Herald, Power 96, Sports Radio 560 WQAM, Van Wagner Aerial Media and WFTL 850 AM.

Check out WFTL 850 AM for live event coverage on May 5-6, beginning at 10 a.m., and view live streaming video at www.850WFTL.com.

The McDonald's® Air & Sea Show®, May 5-6, 2007, and Fleet Week USA® presented by McDonald's®, April 30 – May 6, 2007, as part of the McDonald's® National Salute to America's HeroesSM, pay tribute to the brave men and women who serve in all five branches of our armed forces. Since its inception in 1995, the show's goals have been to encourage patriotism, assist the U.S. military in recruiting efforts, generate national exposure and revenue for sponsors and showcase South Florida with a world class event. The show is the official kick-off to National Military Appreciation Month held each May.

For more information about all of the scheduled events, please visit www.nationalsalute.com.

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