



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



Disclaimer – this document is by no means intended to be used as an official guide, for navigational purposes, or anything other than fun information from people who have experienced the entertainment value of Fleet Week.

SAFETY FIRST

Fleet Week tends to be several of the busiest days of the year on the San Francisco Bay. People (who don't usually leave the dock) load up their boats with all their friends (who don't usually sail) to go out and catch a front row view of the air shows. While that sounds exciting, please remember that in addition to their lack of experience, most of these people aren't paying attention to you! They are either distracted by the over-abundance of guests on the boat that they aren't used to handling, or they are looking up to see the show. For your safety, the safety of the people aboard, and the other boats around you, have a designated driver! Not just a sober driver, but a designated "don't look up" driver. To be safe and for everyone to enjoy themselves, it's best to have more than one person who you trust to drive the boat during the show.

And while we are in the business of fixing boats, we would rather you skip the trip to the yard and just enjoy the show!

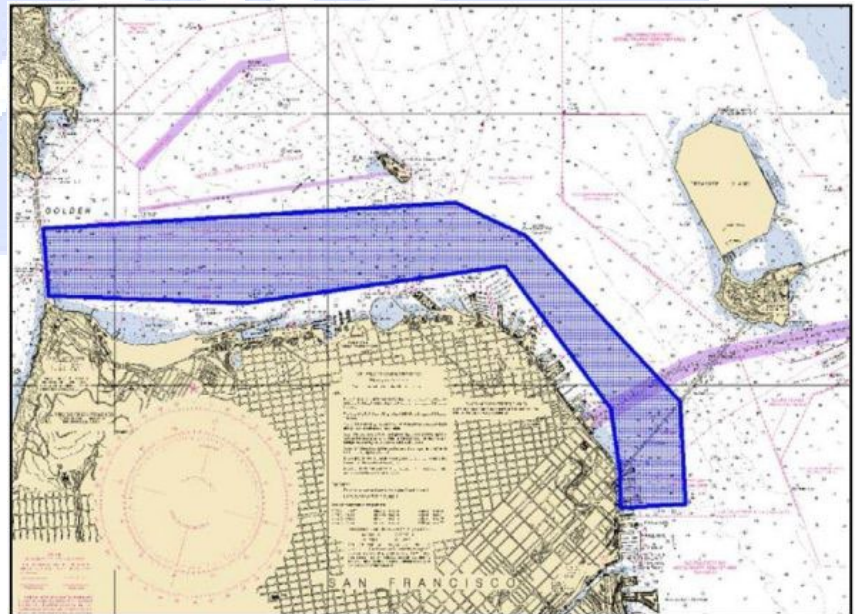
[Click here](#) to learn about safety tips.

PARADE OF SHIPS

Friday, October 6, 2023 starting at 11 am.

A variety of U. S. Navy (and one Canadian Navy) ships sail under the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco Bay, usually including destroyers, missile cruisers and amphibious assault transports.

The "parade" lasts for about one to two hours; you can watch it from anywhere along the waterfront, though try to be where you can see them come under the bridge. It's such a great setting to watch the ships come in. [Learn more.](#)





2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



AIRSHOWS

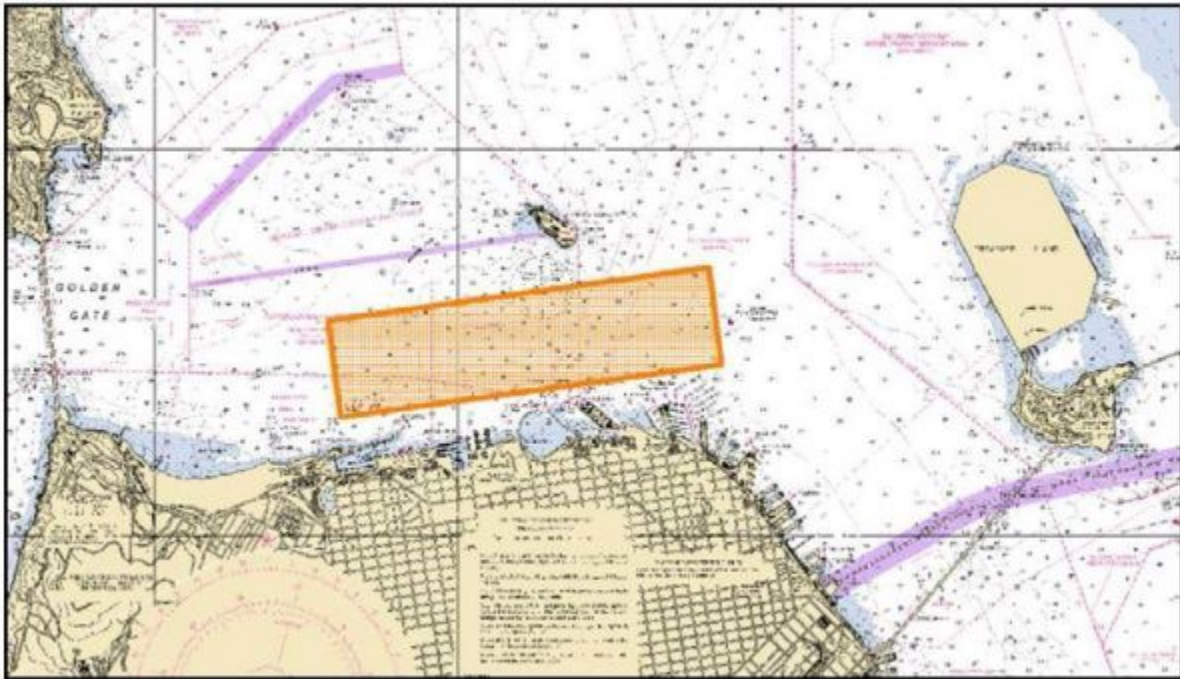
The official airshow runs from 12 pm – 4 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Thursday is considered a practice day, but it boasts some of the best viewing because of the lack of weekend traffic.

The Coast Guard and local authorities will be out in force to let you know where you can and cannot go. The restricted area is basically between Alcatraz and the city front.

Did we mention that people will be looking up while driving boats? Let us repeat... people will be looking up while driving boats in heavily trafficked areas. STAY ALERT!

Here is a map of the restricted area. Law enforcement will be very present making sure you adhere to these guidelines.

There really isn't a bad place to watch the show. Most traffic skirts the perimeter of this area.





2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



At the time of the creation of this document, they hadn't officially released the lineup of who will be performing when. Visit the fleetweek.org website for more up to date information.

USCG M-60

Barring any local distress incidents, the U.S. Coast will demonstrate a simulated rescue mission



The **Sikorsky MH-60T Jayhawk** is a multi-mission, twin-engine, medium-range helicopter operated by the United States Coast Guard for search and rescue, law enforcement, military readiness and marine environmental protection missions. It was originally designated **HH-60J** before being upgraded and redesignated beginning in 2007.

Chosen to replace the HH-3F Pelican, the MH-60T is a member of the Sikorsky S-70 family of helicopters and is based on the United States Navy's SH-60 Seahawk helicopter. The first HH-60J entered USCG service in June 1990. Production ended in 1996 after 42 helicopters were produced; three retired SH-60F Seahawks were also remanufactured to MH-60T specifications beginning in 2010. A total of 42 MH-60Ts are in service with the Coast Guard.

The normal cruising speed of the MH-60T is 135 to 140 kn (155 to 161 mph; 250 to 259 km/h) and the aircraft is capable of reaching 180 kn (207 mph; 333 km/h) for short durations. It can fly at 140 kn (161 mph; 259 km/h) for six to seven hours. With a fuel capacity of 6,460 lb (2,930 kg), the helicopter is designed to fly a crew of four up to 300 mi (483 km) offshore, hoist up to six additional people on board while remaining on-scene for up to 45 minutes and return to base while maintaining an adequate fuel reserve.



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



U.S. Coast Guard C-27 and MH-65 Demo



These real-life heroes are on the ready to keep us safe in the event anything goes terribly awry while cruising the coast. We are thankful they are out there, here's to hoping this is the only time you'll see them up close!

The HC-27J aircraft is intended for USCG missions such as maritime patrol, surveillance, search-and-rescue, drug and migrant interdiction, and disaster response. It is also used to detect, classify and identify maritime targets.

HC-27J aircraft is powered by two Rolls-Royce turboprop engines and two six-blade composite propellers. The engines provide high power-to-weight ratio, while the onboard auxiliary power system ensures autonomous operations in difficult weather conditions.

The aircraft can fly at a cruise speed of 290k and a maximum speed of 317k. It has a range of 2,675nm and an endurance of 12 hours, and can perform 3.0g force maneuvers.

MH-65

The HH-65 Dolphin is used for homeland security patrols, cargo, drug interdiction, ice breaking, military readiness, pollution control, and search and rescue missions. The HH-65 is known for its Fenestron tail rotor and its autopilot capabilities. A unique feature of the Dolphin is its computerized flight management system, which integrates state-of-the-art communications and navigation equipment. This system provides automatic flight control. At the pilot's direction, the system will bring the aircraft to a stable hover 50 feet (15 m) above a selected object. This is an important safety feature in darkness or inclement weather. Selected search patterns can be flown automatically, freeing the pilot and copilot to concentrate on sighting & searching the object.

The Dolphin is primarily a Short Range Recovery (SRR) aircraft. There are now a total of 102 Dolphins in the Coast Guard Fleet. The fleet has home ports in 17 cities on the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii, and the Great Lakes region.[\[1\]](#)

The Dolphin is usually deployed from shore but it can be deployed from medium and high endurance Coast Guard Cutters, as well as the Polar Icebreakers.



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



Greg Colyer Ace Maker T-33

A native Californian, Gregory "Wired" Colyer took his first flight at age 7 in a Cessna 172 in Sonoma, California. Hooked ever since, Greg has been flying for almost 3 decades after earning his license in 1982 while serving in the US Army from 1982-1987. After leaving the service he served 27 years as an Air Traffic Controller at Oakland. His passion for the cockpit never left him as he continued to fly as a hobby and an occasional airshow. After flying a Lockheed T-33s in airshow in 2007, Greg acquired a T-33 in 2008 and named it Ace Maker. He then founded the nonprofit T-33 Heritage Foundation to help in the preservation of the type.

The **Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star** (or **T-Bird**) is an American subsonic jet trainer. It made its first flight in 1948. It was developed from the Lockheed P-80/F-80 by lengthening the fuselage by slightly more than 3 feet (1 m) and adding a second seat, instrumentation, and flight controls.

Originally designated the TF-80C, the T-33 made its first flight on 22 March 1948 with Lockheed test pilot Tony LeVier at the controls. Production at Lockheed ran from 1948 to 1959. The US Navy used the T-33 as a land-based trainer starting in 1949. A total of 6,557 T-33s were produced: 5,691 of them by Lockheed, 210 by Kawasaki, and 656 by Canadair.

It has a **maximum speed of** 600 mph (970 km/h, 520 kn) at sea level. Its cruising speed is 455 mph (732 km/h, 395 kn). Its range is 1,275 mi (2,052 km, 1,108 nmi), a service ceiling of 48,000 ft (15,000 m) and can climb at the rate of



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



THE PATRIOT JET TEAM

The Patriots Jet Team is the civilian aerobatic display team flying six L-39 Albatross aircraft and based in Byron, California. The team leader is Dean "Wilbur" Wright, who was a former USAF Thunderbirds Solo pilot. The right wing is flown by Rob "Stache" Hutchison, a 747 Captain and active Alaskan bush pilot.

The team began flying demonstrations in 2003 with two L-39 aircraft. In the 2004 airshow season, a third L-39 was added. With the success of the 2005 season, the Patriots added a fourth jet for the 2006 season. In 2010, the Patriots Jet Team expanded to a six-ship aerobatic formation team.

The team is owned by Randy Howell, a former United Airlines pilot. It is sponsored by companies including Hot Line Construction, Inc. and supported by a ground crew of more than 25 volunteers.



Lead #1
Dean "Wilbur"
Wright

Right Wing #2
Rob "Stache"
Hutchison

Left Wing #3
John "Bordz"
Posson

Slot #4
Paul "Sticky"
Strickland

Outer Left Wing #5
Scott "Intake"
Kartvedt

Outer Right Wing #6
Scott "Banker"
Ind

The Aero L-39 aircraft is a low-wing, all metal, turbofan powered, aircraft designed as a light attack and fighter trainer, including weapon delivery systems. Aero not only builds the L-39, but currently produces subassemblies for the Boeing-Sikorski S-76 Shadow and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters as well as assemblies for Airbus Industries, the Boeing 767 and F-18 Super Hornet. The entire L-39 fleet, consisting of more than 2,800 aircraft delivered worldwide, has accumulated over 4,000,000 flying hours. The Patriots Jet Team owns and operates eight L-39 aircraft.



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



The U.S. Navy Parachute Team began in 1969 when Navy SEALs and Underwater Demolition Team members volunteered to perform at weekend air shows. The team was officially commissioned "The Leap Frogs" in 1974 by the Chief of Naval Operations with the mission to demonstrate Navy excellence throughout the United States. Each team member has conducted real-world operations before volunteering to join this elite unit known as the Leap Frogs. Following a three-year commitment with the Navy Parachute Team, they will return to their operational units.

After we land we love answering questions about what it's like to be a Navy SEAL or SWCC. Before every demonstration we first do a "streamer pass" to help us gauge wind speed and direction. Sometimes we'll activate a smoke canister attached to one of our foot brackets and perform what's known as an "early burn." When you see the "early burn" smoke it means we're ready to go. The smoke canisters attached to our feet make it easier for you to see us. Sometimes we're more than two miles up!

The United States Navy Parachute Team "The Leap Frogs" is the official parachute demonstration team of the United States Navy. Part of the United States Naval Special Warfare Command. The Leap Frogs Navy Parachute Team is made up of active-duty Navy SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) and support personnel. The team is sanctioned by the Department of Defense and recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration.



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



Marine F-35B Demo



Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin

Service: USMC

Armament: 2x AIM-120C air-to-air missiles; 2x 1,000-pound GBU-32 JDAM guided bombs

Propulsion: F135-PW-600

Speed: Mach 1.6 (1,200 mph)

Range: 900 nm

The F-35B Lightning II is the Marine Corps variant of the Joint Strike Fighter and features a vertical lift fan and pivoting engine nozzle to deliver vertical landing and short takeoff capability to expeditionary airfields. The F-35 will replace AV-8B Harrier IIs in the Marine Corps inventory.

Designed to operate from austere bases and a range of air-capable ships with its short takeoff/vertical landing capability, the F-35B can also takeoff and land conventionally from longer runways on major bases. F-35B aircraft have been delivered to the U.S. Marines and the U.K., whose forces are training together at the Integrated Training Center at Eglin Air Force Base. STOVL aircraft are also stationed at the first operational F-35 base, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., and are completing flight test at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. The Italian Air Force will also operate the B-variant. The F-35B has a Lift Fan just behind the cockpit and an engine that can swivel 90 degrees when in short takeoff/vertical landing mode. Because of the Lift Fan, the STOVL variant has smaller internal weapon bay and less internal fuel capacity than the F-35A. It uses the probe and drogue method of aerial refueling.

The F-35's low observable stealth allows it to safely enter areas without being seen by radars that 4th generation fighters cannot evade. The combination of the stealth features, the F-35's active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar technology, and the aircraft's ability to carry weapons internally means the F-35 can engage ground targets at long ranges without detection and use precision weapons to successfully complete air-to-ground missions.

Integrated sensors, information and weapons systems—combined with speed and maneuverability—are critical to the F-35's air superiority. In air combat, 4th generation aircraft have a higher radar cross-section, which means they can more easily be seen by enemy fighters. A 5th generation fighter has a lower radar cross-section to allow the F-35 pilot to see the other aircraft first and take action.



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



United 777 - When you see this freighter of the sky, you'll be amazed at how huge and fast it is.

The Boeing 777, commonly referred to as the Triple Seven, is an American long-range wide-body airliner developed and manufactured by Boeing Commercial Airplanes. It is the world's largest twinjet. It was designed to bridge the gap between Boeing's other wide body airplanes, and to replace older models. Developed in consultation with eight major airlines. The prototype was rolled out in April 1994, and first flew in June. The 777 entered service with the launch customer, United Airlines, in June 1995. Longer range variants were launched in 2000 and were first delivered in 2004.

It can accommodate a ten-abreast seating layout and has a typical 3-class capacity of 301 to 368 passengers, with a range of 5,240 to 8,555 nautical miles (9,700 to 15,840 km). It is recognizable for its large-diameter turbofan engines, six wheels on each main landing gear, fully circular fuselage cross-section, and a blade-shaped tail cone. It is the first Boeing aircraft with fly-by-wire controls



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



When you see this guy show up – the Blue Angels aren't far behind!

FAT ALBERT - Consisting of eight crew members: three pilots, two flight engineers, a navigator, a flight mechanic, and a loadmaster. C-130, Fat Albert Airlines is critical to the overall mission of the Blue Angels team. The C-130 joined the team in 1970 as the support aircraft. In addition to being the opening attraction for the Blue Angels demonstration, Fat Albert's primary mission is to transport 35,000 pounds of cargo and roughly 60 Blue Angels team members to every show site throughout the country.

There were 4 other types of support aircraft prior to the C-130 Hercules. They were the R4D Sky Train, R5C Commando, R5D Skymaster, and the C-121 Super Constellation. Fat Albert was named after the children's cartoon because of its size and shape. Fat Albert flies more than 100,000 miles every show season!

It has four Rolls-Royce turbo-prop engines with more than 18,000 pounds of thrust each. It has a wingspan of 132 feet, 7 inches. It is 99 feet and 5 inches long and 38 feet, 4 inches tall. It flies 370 miles per hour at 35,000 feet. It's range is 2,400 miles. It's capable of taking off with up to 155,000 pounds. It costs \$44.1 million to make.



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



BLUE ANGELS!

The United States Navy's Blue Angels will be gracing the clouds of the San Francisco Bay. If you haven't experienced seeing the Blue Angels perform their magic across the skies, you are truly missing out! Other than the amazing maneuvers demonstrated by the pilots, the mission of the Blue Angels as stated in their own words is *"to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demonstrations and community outreach."*

Fun facts about the Blue Angels:

- The first air show was performed at Craig Field, Jacksonville, Florida, on June 15, 1946.
- They have had 251 demonstration pilots, and 35 Flight Leaders/Commanding Officers.
- The average age of a pilot is around 33 years old.
- The closest the diamond will fly to each other is 18 inches during the Diamond 360 maneuver.
- The fastest speed the Blue Angels travel at is 700 mph.
- The slowest speed is 120 mph.
- The cost of a single F/A-18 A Hornet is approximately \$21 million.
- They do not fly under any structures during an air show.



2023 Fleet Week Airshow Fun Facts



Some less common but interesting facts:

- They Got Their Name From A Bar – they were originally called the *Navy Flight Exhibition Team*. Luckily, one of the original pilots read about the Blue Angel Nightclub in New York City and the name stuck.
- Grueling practice schedule - That makes sense. Their regular season runs from March to November. They perform about 70 shows during the year, 34 of them in different locations around the United States. Their practices then, take place during the winter. The team trains at NAF El Centro, California. For four months, they have two practice sessions a day, six days a week. In addition, they train during their regular season as well. They do so on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Scary Proximity Between Planes - At times, it looks like the planes are actually on top of each other, but sometimes that's an optical illusion which they do on purpose to make it look more exciting. It's all about vantage points and such. To pull off those "illusions", they need to be painfully close to each other anyway. Like, 18 inches apart at times!
- No G-Suits For These Guys - although they routinely pull 7.5 Gs and sometimes more, they cannot wear G-suits. Since the Hornet's stick is between the pilot's legs and they fly so close to each other, a constantly inflating and deflating suit would interfere with their delicate stick movements. Instead, they use muscle contractions to remain conscious.
 - As an extra fact, their control sticks have a spring tensioned with 40 pounds to further restrict any unwanted movement.
- Combat Readiness - The Blue Angels are a part of the Navy and they are after fighter pilots. The current squadron operates 10 F/A-18C Hornets and 2 F/A-18D Hornets. Four of the aircraft are spares. Since these birds are part of the USN's inventory, they can be reverted back to combat readiness in under 72 hours if need be. Maintainers would have to reinstall the gatling gun which has been replaced with a canister which produces the smoke you see at airshows and make some minor cockpit adjustments such as removing the control's tension spring and so on. After that, they're combat ready.
- Some Were Killed In Combat - The Blue Angels might be a demonstration team, but they are naval aviators first. That means that they have been, and are, fighter pilots. Over the years, two former Blue Angels were killed in action. On March 8th, 1951, LCDR Johnny Magda was shot down and killed in Korea. On January 27th, 1973, CDR Harley Hall was shot down over Vietnam. His body was never recovered, and he was listed as MIA.
- The Average Male Gamer Is Almost The Same Age - This one's a bit weird, but the average age of a Blue Angel is 33. By this age, you've done so much work and training that you've become one of the most elite aviators in the world. Interestingly enough, the average age of a video gamer is not 12 or 15 like you'd think. According to a recent study, the average gamer is a 31 year old male. Not making a judgement...just...sayin.'
- A Good Joke Is Part Of Selection - As you may imagine, becoming a Blue Angel is a grueling process. One does not simply get a pilot's license, do some flying and fill out an application. In order to be even considered, you need to go through the training to become a Navy or Marine pilot. The applicants need to have a minimum of 1,250 tactical jet hours and be carrier-qualified. The current team members average about 250 carrier arrested landings. After that, it's application time. To be considered, they need to "rush" the Blue Angels during an air show or other event and submit the application. They are then asked to "tell a joke prior to the brief and are graded by the team as part of the...process." Not sure when the tradition started, but that's something you'd never expect from a team that is viewed as one of the most disciplined groups in the world.