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MEDIA ADVISORY

Race at the Base -- Coronado Speed Festival

NAVAL BASE CORONADO, Calif. -- Wings will take a back seat to wheels on Navy's runways when the Coronado Speed Festival returns to Naval Air Station North Island, September 24-25.

The annual "race at the base" is one of the most anticipated events of San Diego's Fleet Week. Since the first competition in 1997, the race has become one of the most successful fundraisers for military quality of life programs in the area.

This year, the race appropriately celebrates the Centennial of Naval Aviation at the place where it all began, North Island. To commemorate the history of Navy air power, vintage and contemporary jets and helicopters, special boats and hovercraft, and other military hardware will be on display at the entrance to the "speedway" through the weekend. Pilots will be on hand to answer questions and show visitors their aircraft.

The races will be accentuated by military aircraft flyovers and a precision jump by the Navy's parachute team, the Leap Frogs. Ships will also be open for tours throughout the weekend.

Once inside the event venue, it's all about cars. The Car Club Corral is the place to see vintage autos of all shapes, sizes, makes and models from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Car enthusiasts will also want to check out hundreds of Southern California's finest muscle cars, hotrods and sports cars in the Speed Fest car show, with judging at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

One of the most popular draws to Speed Fest each year is the opportunity for fans to walk through the garage area and watch as race cars are put through final inspections before hitting the track. You can tour the pits on your own or take a guided tour led by drivers. Unlike many race events, the owners and drivers at Speed Fest encourage spectators to take a look.

Admission is FREE for all active duty and active reserve members and their direct dependents. Admission is also free for children 12 and under, both military and non-military. Half-price tickets are available through MWR ticket offices for other military ID holders: \$12.50 for one day and \$17.50 for two days.

Tickets are available online at <http://www.fleetweeksandiego.org>. In advance, single-day tickets cost \$25, or \$35 for both days. Tickets will also be available at the venue (\$35 one day and \$45 for both days).

The military hardware at the entrance to the "speedway" and the ship tours are FREE admission to all.

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Join thousands of race enthusiasts and fans at this premier motorsports event which salutes our military men and women.

For more information, visit www.fleetweeksandiego.org/events/speed-fest.html

About Fleet Week San Diego

The San Diego Fleet Week Foundation is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation. In addition to honoring the military 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.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS:

Media Credentials are available, visit www.fleetweeksandiego.org/events/sf-press.html