

August 1, 2010

PELE NEWS



FRG Connection, 4

Navy's Father, 5

Free Helo Rides, 6

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



D.A. SCHNELL, Commanding Officer

Hello to the Sailors and Marines of PELELIU, as well as to all our friends and families ashore!

Well, I'm afraid this past week was much like the week before, which will probably be much like next week... and so on. We call it Groundhog Week, over and over and over again. But if it's any consolation, we know that each day brings us closer to our loved ones back home. It's hard to believe it has been over two months already! This week, we did launch our small personnel boats for man overboard drills and full power runs. We also launched two of our large Utility Landing Craft for a logistics run into a nearby port. It was good training for everyone involved.



Photo by MC2 Edwardo Proano

Captain Schnell enjoys lunch with this week's Sailor of the Week, Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Nolan Kennedy.

The ship is coated with a fine layer of dust and dirty right now from the blowing winds originating from the African continent in the mornings and the Saudi peninsula in the afternoons. I'm looking for a good time to give the ship a freshwater washdown but that is easier said than done. You see, when you are flying as often as we are, no-fly days (which we need for a washdown) are a luxury and we like to reserve them for holiday routine where we can work as little as possible. Giving the "Iron Nickel" a bath takes a full day with a lot of assistance, so we're looking for just the right opportunity...or a major thunderstorm.

One of the highlights of my week is recognizing our "Sailor of the Week." The "Sailor of the Week" is chosen from hundreds of candidates and must embody the core values of the Navy: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Today it was an honor for me to recognize IT3 Nolan Kennedy. Petty Officer Kennedy works as an Interior Technical Specialist in Radio Central. He is invaluable to our ability to communicate via message traffic or voice communications from the ship. And as the Commanding Officer of the flagship for a 4,000-man Amphibious Ready Group, I could not be more pleased with IT3 Kennedy's performance. In addition to a

certificate, a signed photo of the "Iron Nickel," a duty day off chit, and a command coin, he also gets to choose a friend, and the two of them will have lunch with me in the Inport Cabin tomorrow morning. This is really for my benefit of course, as I get to hear first-hand all the latest rumors and questions flying around the ship. Well done, Petty Officer Kennedy!

I also meet every week with Sailors selected by my Safety Officer who go above and beyond the call of duty to discover and correct safety discrepancies. Navy warships are inherently dangerous places, but we practice safety and operational risk management on a daily basis and we are proud of that safety record. This week I was proud to meet Airman Apprentice Cody McLees who found and corrected a safety discrepancy on a CH-53 helicopter. Airman McLees made this ship a safer environment for all of us and for that, I awarded him a safety certificate, a signed photo, a Safety Pro T-shirt, a command coin, a duty day off chit, and last but not least, he and a friend had lunch with me today. Keep up the great work!

Well, it's time to return to the bridge. To our families and friends back home, thank you for your continued support of our deployment. Be safe and have a great week!

FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDMCM
(SW/AW/SS)
Brent Williams

“SUPPORT”

Good Day once again shipmates, and yes, another week has screamed by. I hope many of you took advantage of the week and allowed yourselves to study hard for the upcoming rating exam and have reached a few goals you have set.

I would like to welcome all of our newest shipmates that arrived onboard over the past week as well. We are glad you are aboard and we look forward to having you as shipmates. You are lucky to be aboard a great ship. I wish the best of luck to you all.

With new shipmates, families and spouses now a part of the Iron Nickel family,

it is important that we ensure the proper information is getting passed to all of our

Sailors. At quarters over the next couple of weeks, take a moment and mention the support that is available to our Sailors and Marines. The PELELIU Family Readiness Group is in full swing and is doing some great things. FRGs are command-sponsored units which are part of the Family Readiness Alliance. FRGs plan, coordinate, and conduct social, informational, care-taking, and morale building activities to enhance the deployment; and family readiness.

The instruction that governs the FRG is OPNAVINST 1754.5. I encourage all leadership to cover this as training for your divisions. Please pass on to your families and spouses and contact the FRG at peleliufrg@gmail.com. It is a great way to network and also a way to for the more experienced spouses to assist and support our newest families.

Another fantastic support avenue is the ship's Ombudsman Program. PELELIU is lucky to have three fantastic, engaged and loyal Ombudsmen. This program is in place to ensure that the families ashore have someone to call with almost any question dealing with military or life issues that can arise while a ship is deployed.

This September, the Ombudsman Program will be celebrating 40 years of support and invaluable service. The Ombudsman Program was introduced with Z-Gram 24, on September 14, 1970 by

the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt. Today, the program is governed by OPNAVISNT 1750.1F. Our Ombudsmen can be contacted by e-mailing peleliu.ombudsman@gmail.com.

I would like once again to thank both our FRG and Ombudsman Team for the continued outstanding support. Have an exciting and safe week out there.



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Peleliu's FRG Supports Families

By MCCS(SW) Dan Smithyman

While the Navy provides a plethora of support services, perhaps none hit home as well as Peleliu's Family Readiness Group (FRG). Specifically created for Peleliu, the FRG breaks the mold of support by offering something more tangible, personal and long-lasting.

The FRG is comprised of volunteer family members interested in developing a network of spouses, fiancées, or other family members who face similar challenges during deployment. According to CMDCM(SW/AW/SS) Brent Williams, Peleliu's command master chief, many close friendships are borne from the FRG.

"Peleliu's FRG was built from scratch and has since grown to include not only the ombudsman, but about 150 Marine Corps spouses too. And because this group promotes group activities and social events, many strong friendships develop among our families," Williams said. "The networking aspect, especially for a ship on deployment, plays a huge part in the success of Peleliu families."

FRG's mission is a simple one. The FRG plans, coordinates and conducts social, informational, care-taking and morale-building activities to enhance family readiness. They are an all-hands group that promotes friendship and mutual support among its members.

"It's amazing what we do at sea, and I know for a fact that we would not be successful if it wasn't for the support we get from home, whether it be spouse, mom or dad, brother, sister or significant other," Williams said. "When you take what they do as a group, the support we now get is

tremendous."

Williams said the FRG is already planning a "Halfway Dinner" for families in San Diego and will be sending a video of "shout outs" to the ship. Peleliu, in turn will provide a video of shout outs for viewing during their halfway dinner. He said the group will also surprise single Sailors with little gifts and other items.

The group is a time-honored institution of people helping people. According to the FRG, being a member of the Navy family is not very different from being a member of any family in that each day brings challenges that are best met with the support of one another.

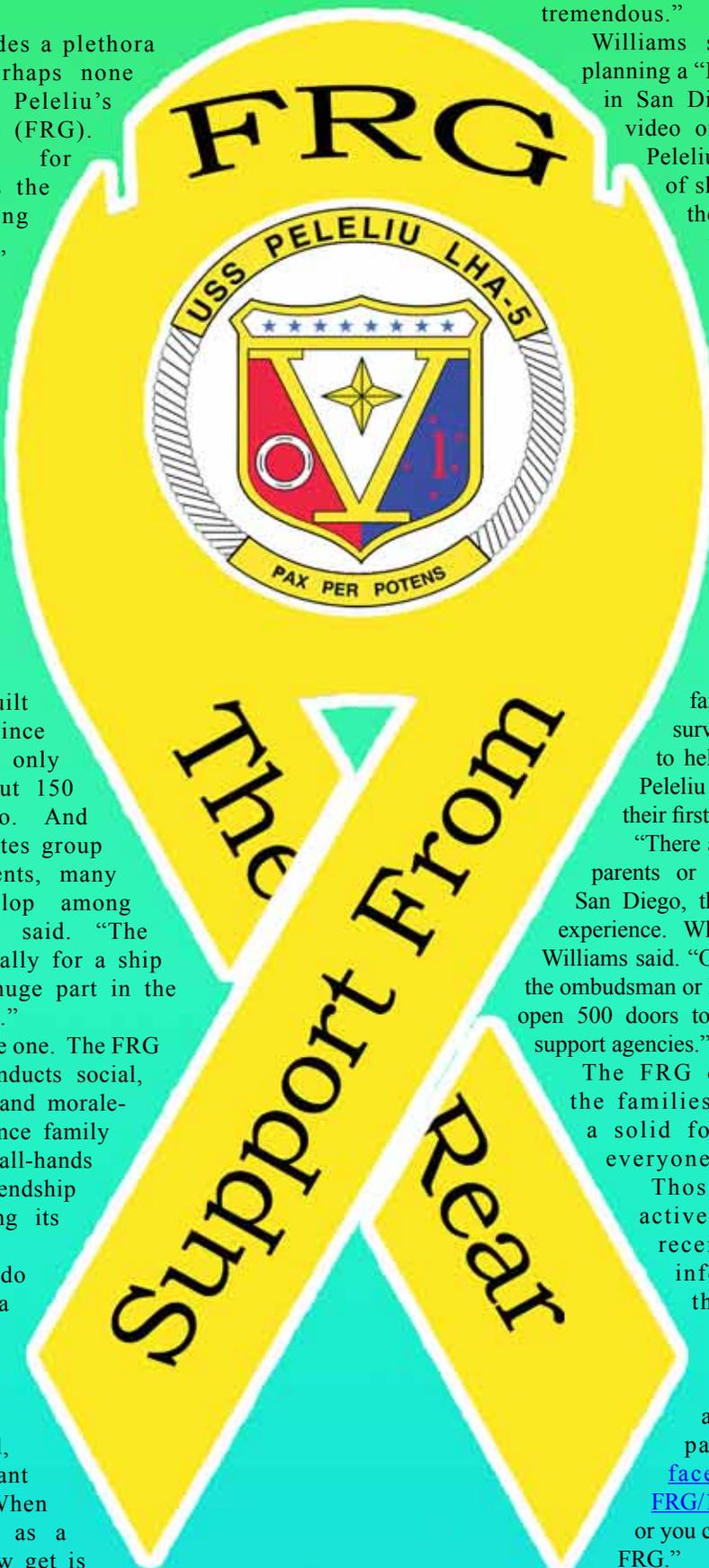
The program allows family members who have survived one or more deployments to help the newest members of the Peleliu family who are experiencing their first separation.

"There are a lot of families – spouses, parents or significant others – new to San Diego, the Navy and the deployment experience. What are they going to do?" Williams said. "One phone call or one email to the ombudsman or Family Readiness Group could open 500 doors to other resources, families or support agencies."

The FRG offers the command and the families an opportunity to build a solid foundation of support for everyone.

Those who do not wish to actively participate can still receive ship and group information by getting on the email distribution list.

To contact the FRG, send an email to peleliufrg@gmail.com. The group also has a Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Peleliu-FRG/124772890895455?ref=search> or you can just do a search for "Peleliu FRG."



The Father of our Navy

By MC1(SW/AW) R. David Valdez

It wouldn't be difficult to give John Paul Jones the title 'Father of the US Navy.' After all, he's one of the only heroes out of the Continental Navy, and he's entombed beneath the dome of the chapel at the US Naval Academy, but how much did he really contribute?

The Navy's uniforms, rating system, quite a few of our symbolic traditions, and John Paul Jones all came from England.

However, the man who brought the Continental Congress kicking and screaming to purchase a pair of war ships was born in Massachusetts and never served a day in the military.

He wasn't part of a militia, and he didn't even have any maritime experience, other than as a passenger.

Our second president, John Adams, was a lawyer, statesman, diplomat, and an advocate of a strong Navy before he helped Thomas Jefferson draft the Declaration of Independence.

The resolution creating the Continental Navy was introduced by the delegate from Rhode Island, Stephen Hopkins.

When he argued in favor of creating the Continental Navy, the resolution was debated with passion on both sides. Samuel Chase, the delegate from the home of the future United States Naval Academy, called it "the maddest idea in the world."

John Adams recalled the ferocity of the opposition, which seemed to be afraid of angering the British even further.

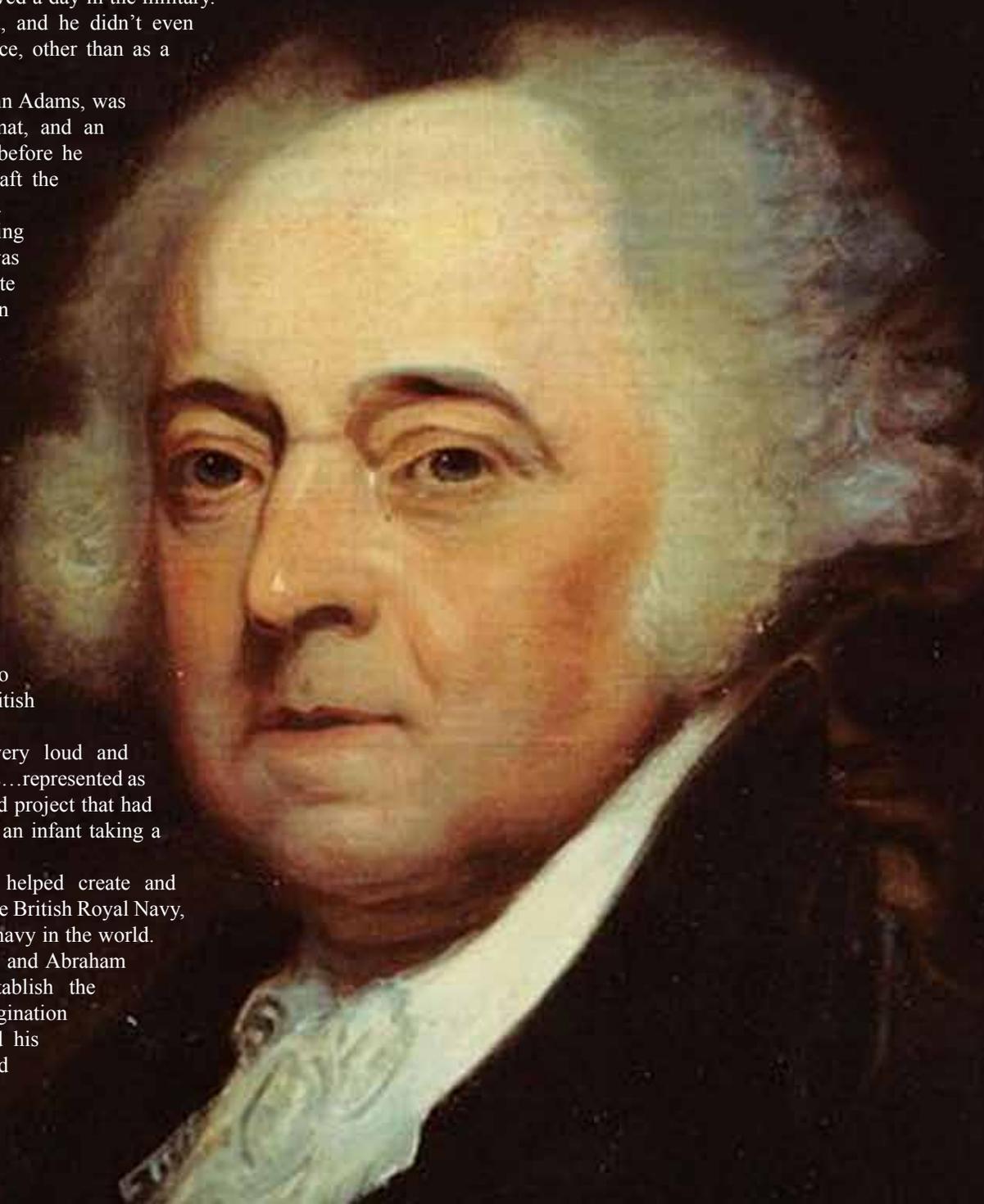
"The opposition...was very loud and vehement," he wrote. "It was...represented as the most wild, visionary, mad project that had ever been imagined. It was an infant taking a mad bull by the horns."

The navy John Adams helped create and finance pitted itself against the British Royal Navy, arguably the most powerful navy in the world. Heroes like John Paul Jones and Abraham Whipple were able to establish the traditions of tenacity and imagination because John Adams rallied his political support and showed the Continental Congress that without a Navy of our

own, the British couldn't be stopped.

John Adams also strengthened the Navy during his administration. He made the Navy Department part of the presidential cabinet, and he employed the Navy against the French during the "Quasi-War," which further strengthened the importance of the Navy to the American public.

The extra status of the Navy Department and the new funding for the building of ships and naval weapons set the stage for the new U.S. Navy, which would be capable of successfully engaging the world's most powerful navy again during the war of 1812.



AWAY

By MC3 Omar Dominquez

AND

UP

UP,

What if you had the chance to do something unique? Well here is your chance. The Search and Rescue Detachment assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-23, the "Wildcards," have given Sailors and Marines aboard the Iron Nickel the opportunity to go up on a helicopter joy ride.

SAR DET rides have been around on the Peleliu since the 2008 deployment and have continued through the 2010 deployment work-ups and now out here in the gulf.

"These helicopter rides are for that Sailor that might need a break from the ship to get out and get some fresh air," said Chief Air Warfare System Operator (NAC/AW), Ben Evers Leading Chief Petty Officer of SAR DET. "We have expanded from just Sailors to Marines as well, and recently have been getting a lot of requests from Marines to go up and enjoy one of our flights."

According to Evers, a lot of Sailors don't ever get a chance to fly in a helicopter because they are down in their shops working, and it's a good way to let that Sailor or Marine view a different part of the Navy.

"It's a great idea," said Evers. "It's also a great morale booster for everyone."

In order to be able to go up in a SAR DET ride, that Sailor or Marine has to put in a special request chit through their chain of command.

"All it takes to start the process is a request chit that gets routed through the department head," said Evers.

Evers also added once the chit gets approved by the department head, the chit returns to the det and that person is placed on the list to go up.

"We also conduct reenlistments during SAR DET rides," said Evers. "But these take a little more planning, because we have to take the reenlisting officer and the reenlistment package."

According to Evers, the SAR DET rides are for everyone but prefer those servicemembers who have never been up before.

"I think it would be a great experience for that Sailor or Marine that has never been up before to get to fly," said Evers. "I remember my first experience in a helicopter was an ear to ear grin."

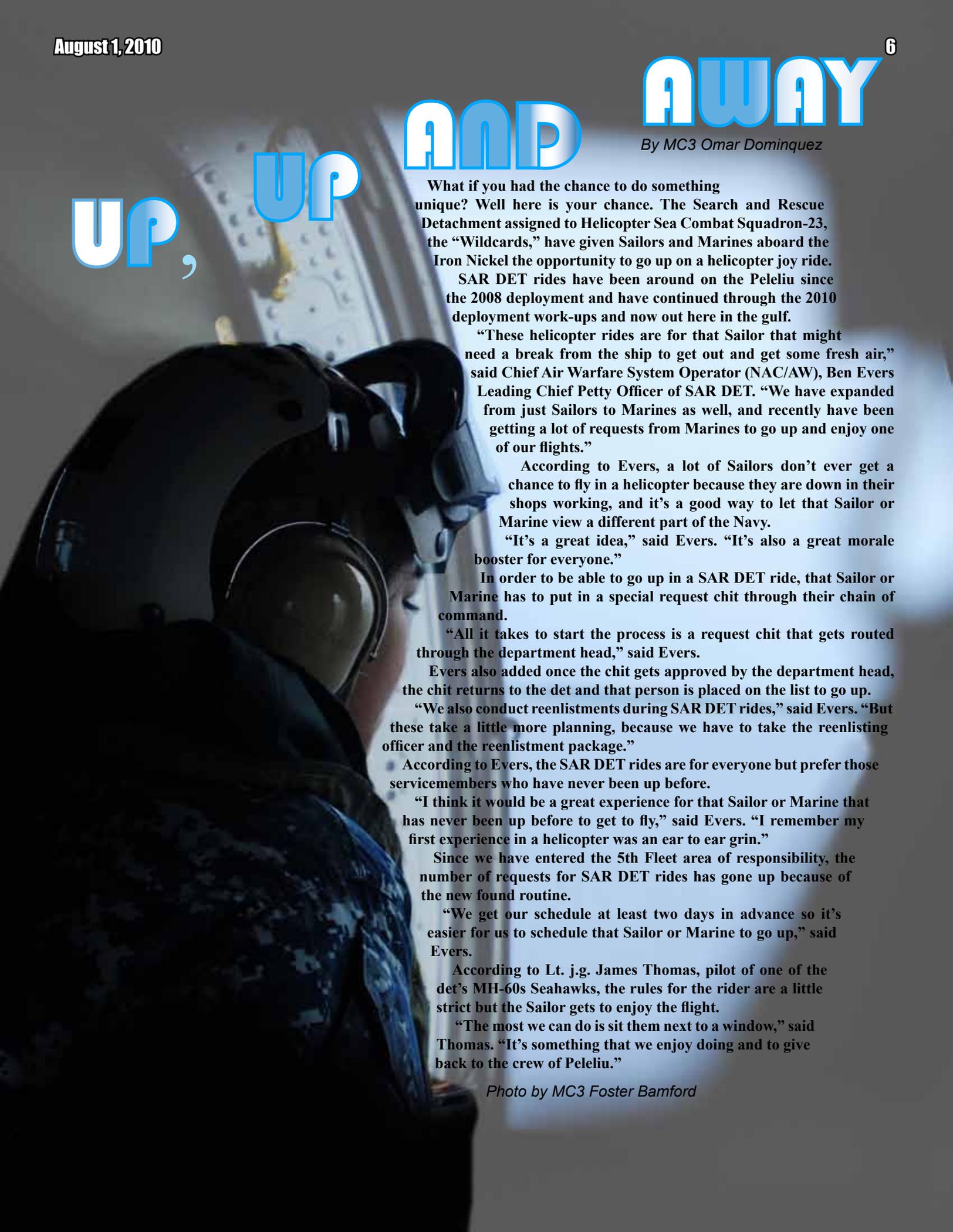
Since we have entered the 5th Fleet area of responsibility, the number of requests for SAR DET rides has gone up because of the new found routine.

"We get our schedule at least two days in advance so it's easier for us to schedule that Sailor or Marine to go up," said Evers.

According to Lt. j.g. James Thomas, pilot of one of the det's MH-60s Seahawks, the rules for the rider are a little strict but the Sailor gets to enjoy the flight.

"The most we can do is sit them next to a window," said Thomas. "It's something that we enjoy doing and to give back to the crew of Peleliu."

Photo by MC3 Foster Bamford



TALKIN TRASH

Photo and Story by MCSA Destiny Cheek



It's self explanatory. The Pulper Room is the trash room and it's definitely not one of the cleanest places on board the Iron Nickel. No one wants to do the job there, but someone has to.

The sour-bitter smell of old trash throughout the p-ways leads directly to the Pulper Room, located near RAS station Three.

The sign outside the door reads: **'WE ONLY TAKE THE FOLLOWING TRASH: WET TRASH (FOOD FROM THE MESS DECKS), PAPER, CARDBOARD, AND METAL. ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC!'**

"We're responsible for the disposal of the entire ship's waste," said Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Scott Springstead, TAD to the Pulper Room.

Trash disposal is announced over the IMC every morning at 0800 and secured by 0900.

All trash throughout the ship, everything from food on the mess decks to trash in the berthings, goes to the Pulper Room.

"The majority of the trash we receive is food and cardboard," said Boatswain's Mate Third Class Nathaniel Teague, also TAD to the Pulper Room.

The trash is then sorted inside the Pulper Room where there are two cages. One cage is for wet trash, and one is for metal.

"We sort out all of the trash we receive to make sure there is no plastic or metal that needs to be placed somewhere else," explained Teague. "If metal is put through the large pulper, it can mess up the machine."

On the subject of sorting trash, imagine going through bag after bag of trash all day long. Anything and everything will pop up, like snotty tissues from the berthing, old rotten apples from the galley, and even wigs.

"I was separating trash like any other day in the Pulper Room and I noticed a tangled up wig," said Teague. "I laughed and immediately took it out of the bag because a wig cannot be put through the pulper machine, some of the things we get are too funny."

All biodegradable trash gets mashed down into pieces through the pulper machine and goes directly in the ocean or thrown over the side.

Plastic items are taken down the p-way to the plastic processor room.

"The plastic goes to the processor room, near the ship's bakery, where it's melted down into discs," said Teague.

Garbage can't be thrown overboard during flight quarters because it creates a hazard for the pilots.

"Because of flight operations trash can only be dumped at certain times," said Springstead. "It's no joke and they're starting to crack down on it."

Separating trash, putting it through the pulper machine, and throwing it over the side sums up what the people in the Pulper Room do everyday, but the people bringing trash to that space can make it a little easier on the guys.

"To make the job easier on us, the Sailors and Marines can make sure the trash is separated," said Teague. "If it's not separated, we tell them to take it back because it makes more work on us that we don't need."

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