

PELELIU NEWS

Oct. 25, 2013

Peleliu Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Pride, Honor



Master Chief Machinist's Mate Jesus Silva shares his pride as a guest speaker at the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Mariners Park Oct. 10. Photos by MC3 Dustin Knight.

Story by MC2 (SW) Daniel Viramontes
Peleliu Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO -- Sailors from amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with pride and honor during a fiesta hosted by the Multicultural Committee at Mariners Park, Oct. 10.

This year's theme, "Serving and Leading Our Nation with Pride and Honor," recognizes the many Hispanic and Latino Americans who serve our nation in various roles and highlight the significant contributions they have made in all sectors of society.

The festivities at Mariners Park included presentations on Hispanic-American Celebration History and guest speaker Master Chief Machinist's Mate Jesus Silva sharing his pride and reflection.

"Where does the pride come from? As a Mexican-American, I'm a first-generation American; my parents came from Mexico. They came across the border from Chihuahua and Texas in a border town called Juarez and El Paso," shared Silva to fellow shipmates at the park's outdoor amphitheater.

"That pride comes from your family and your parents. That's where my pride comes from, but it also translated over in the Navy," said the Engineering departmental leading

chief petty officer. "As I was growing up, my dad would always say, 'You're a Silva. You've got to be proud of that!' So, I joined the Navy, that value and that importance of having pride ... I also saw that as being important in Navy."

The celebration continued with Aviation Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Liz Camacho-Gonzalez performing the traditional song "Sin El" (Without Him), followed later by Fireman Ana Parada's original spoken word "En Tu Honor" (In Your Honor). A salsa dance demonstration by Operations Specialist 2nd Class Erica Pizano and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class George Busto wrapped up the main portion of the fiesta.

Following the presentations, the committee invited guests to some authentic Latin cuisine. A moment later, a Mexican Mariachi band surprised the crowd, as they ate food and cake.

"We had a great turnout for this year's Hispanic Heritage month celebration; I could see that everyone enjoyed the presentation, food and music," said Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Ana Nuñez, president of the Peleliu Multicultural Committee.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and expanded later by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day

period. Starting Sept. 15, in connection with the anniversary of Independence of Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, the month includes Mexico's and Chile's celebrations of Independence Day on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

Hispanic-Americans have displayed courage and valor in our Navy and Marine Corps, serving in virtually every at-sea and shore conflict in American history, from 1812 to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



OS2 Erica Pizano and HM2 George Busto perform a salsa dance during the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

Sailors, Marines Encouraged to Make a Difference

Department of the Navy launches new sexual assault survey

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Peggy Trujillo, Defense Media Activity - Navy

WASHINGTON -- The Secretary of the Navy has announced a new Department of the Navy sexual assault survey for 2013, which started Oct. 15, and can be taken online via any device that can access the internet.

The Department of the Navy Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (DoN SAPRO), which answers directly to Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, created the survey to assess the Department's progress, and learn what more Sailors and Marines think should be done to fight sexual assault.

"We can't help them if we don't know what the issues are, and we don't know if our training is working," said Jill Loftus, director of DoN SAPRO. "If they think our training is horrible, then we'd like to know that, so that we can switch gears. We'd also like to know if they think that it is worthwhile and if they're learning stuff because then we can continue in that vein."

From previous surveys, DoN SAPRO has learned that the majority of sexual assaults in the Navy and Marine Corps happen to 18 - 24 year-olds in social settings involving alcohol, and that the assaults usually occur at A-schools right after boot camp, or at the first duty station.

"We've used that information to set up pilot programs," said Loftus. "Our Great Lakes experiment that we've been very successful with came from information we learned from our surveys."

The experiment targeted Training Support Center Great Lakes, mainly the Sailors who have recently graduated boot camp. The program brought together the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), local hotels, commanding officers, and others to put an end to the risky situations Sailors may encounter.

The program also incorporated bystander intervention training, "No Zebras, No Excuses" training, Sex Signals training, a large group presentation on sexual assault and two small-group presentations with discussion groups.

Referring to Great Lakes, Loftus said, "Using anonymous surveys, we have seen a 60 percent reduction in sexual assaults over the past 34 months."

This year's survey incorporates questions from previous surveys, Department of Defense surveys and academic surveys. Pulling from the surveys and lessons learned, DoN SAPRO made the survey more concise to pinpoint the information they're trying to find, while taking less time from Sailors and Marines.

"The 10-minute survey that's online focuses directly on the issues surrounding sexual assault, and addresses issues such as perceptions, attitudes of Sailors and Marines about the issue of sexual assault," said Cmdr. David McKay, a research psychologist at DoN SAPRO. "We're also interested in understanding reporting behaviors and attitudes about reporting."

"Sexual assault is one of the top priorities

of the Secretary, and should be a top priority for all Sailors and Marines, to try to figure out how to combat sexual assault. The survey is important because it does a couple things. One, it helps us gauge progress on the different interventions we're implementing. Secondly, it provides an opportunity for Sailors and Marines to speak directly to the Secretary about their experiences about sexual assault."

The 21st Century Sailor and Marine Office (N-17) lists combating sexual assault as one of its main priorities. Rear Adm. Sean S. Buck, the director of N-17, spends time with Sailors to get feedback.

"When I visit with Sailors, I am constantly asked - 'what else can I do to make a difference?' Besides looking out for your shipmates and actively intervening when necessary, surveys like this are your chance to do something, to make your voice heard," Buck said.

Although the survey is a chance for Sailors and Marines to be heard, it is completely anonymous. No one will get a reminder to complete the survey because no one is tracking the individuals who take the survey.

"We won't know if you haven't filled out the survey," said Loftus. "There's no fingerprint. There's no electronic tag to our survey. It can be taken from a smart phone; it can be taken from a tablet; it can be taken at the Apple store; it can be taken at your desktop or at home. We have no idea who you are and so you won't get that email reminding you to take it."

Loftus said that some of the initiatives

Survey Continued Pg. 5



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Newest Watch Standers Take On NSFS Course



Quartermaster Seaman Recruit John Menichino performs baton strikes against Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Nik Krause after being hit with oleoresin capsicum spray

Story and photos by MC3 Dustin Knight
Peleliu Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO – Watch standing comes second nature to veteran Sailors who have been in for many years, though they had to learn the proper standards at some point. For those junior Sailors just joining the fleet, Naval Security Force Sentry course adds to the basic fundamentals and experiences learned from Boot Camp.

More than 30 Sailors participated in the five-day course, learning different aspects of standing watch that included communication skills, unarmed and armed self-defense, tactical maneuvers and anti-terrorism force-protection procedures. The course concluded with participants running through a hands-on gauntlet of combat stations after exposure to oleoresin capsicum, or pepper, spray.

“Everyone that comes on this ship has a different training background, has a different job and does different things,” said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Mark Bailey, Peleliu’s NSFS course coordinator. “When I teach this course I try to familiarize everyone with my job and with ATPF [anti-terrorism force protection] in a short amount of time.”

During the last six months, Bailey’s classes averages 30-40 people per month.

“With class sizes this large I try to stay loud and bring life to everything I’m saying,” said Bailey. He uses personal experiences and anecdotal information to help students understand some of the technical aspects of the training. “I try to make it as interesting as possible to keep them engaged in the topic at hand.”

One of the course’s students, Quartermaster Seaman Recruit John Menichino, repeated the course from the month prior, due an incident with the spray.

“The OC course got me,” Menichino recalled. “They tell us during the course to breathe and not to panic. It was easier said than done. There’s really no way to prepare for it. I panicked and the OC got the best of me,” he added matter-of-factly.

Oleoresin capsicum is a non-lethal weapon used in police and sentry responsibilities such as riot control and close-quarters combat situations. Sailors exposed to OC will experience involuntary eye closure, difficulty breathing, pain to soft tissue, massive tearing of the eyes and may panic due to these symptoms.

Completion of the OC portion is a requirement for Sailors to pass the NSFS course.

“This time I was definitely more [mentally] prepared,” Menichino said. “I knew how it would feel and how to react to it. It wasn’t any easier to deal with but I pushed through it. I know that if I ever have to use the spray that it will do the job and stop someone from doing what they’re doing.”

A lot of the attention the NSFS course receives is because of the OC spray portion but there’s a lot being taught prior to being sprayed that’s equally important.

“Strikes with the baton, mechanical advantage control hold [MACH] moves, open-handed strikes and blocks are all crucial for protecting yourself while standing watch,” said Menichino. “These techniques may have to be used against someone who tries to harm the ship.”

Menichino overcame adversity, fear of failing again, and became one of the Peleliu’s newest watch standers, protecting the ship.

“I want to instill in my students that even if they don’t have a great feeling about the Navy or the ship that they’re protecting if they care about a friend or someone on board then we will all be protecting the ship in one way or another. I want to instill in them the importance of protecting our own. To make them outstanding watch standers is all I’m trying to achieve.”



Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Bridgett Perdue sprays Fire Controlman 3rd Class Joshua Miller with oleoresin capsicum.

CMC’s Corner



CMDCM (SW/AW/EXW) TyRon Flynn
Command Master Chief, USS Peleliu (LHA 5)

Hooyah, Iron Nickel!

Shipmates, we roll into the autumn months with this issue of PeleNews. With another summer in the books, we are steaming full-ahead into the holiday season. This is a great time of year.

I want to talk in this issue about military bearing. Specifically, why it’s important for us as United States Sailors to be always mindful of how we carry ourselves in and out of uniform. Remember that while we are on active duty, we represent not only ourselves, but the Sailors that have gone before us to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

As Sailors aboard Peleliu, we represent the ship. Our smartness with regards to military bearing puts the reputation of shipmates and the command into the public eye.

Peleliu Sailors wear their uniforms with pride and maintain proper grooming standards at all times. These Sailors render salutes with pride and professionalism and address each other with dignity and respect. With their heads up and maintaining situational awareness at all times, they recognize seniors, standards and honors. These are the standards that we will uphold aboard USS Peleliu.

So I’m asking you to police each other. Be shipmates and correct deficiencies when you see them. Set the example for every Sailor on the waterfront to emulate.

When you see an officer approach, in or out of uniform, render a salute with pride. When a designated government vehicle with its lights on or a golf cart with a senior officer in it drives by, you come to attention and render a salute as it passes. When in the passageways or the hanger bay on the ship, and the commanding officer comes over the 1-MC, stand fast and pay attention.

Do the right thing and be a squared away Sailor.

Until next time Peleliu, remember: **Be Polite, Be Professional and Be Prepared!** CMC Out!

Peleliu Receives SECNAV Energy Award

Story by MC3 Alex Van'tLeven
Peleliu Staff Writer

Amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) received the fiscal year 2013 Secretary of the Navy's Energy and Water Management Award, Large Ship category, through All Navy message 063/13, Sept. 20.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announces the ships and shore installations that showed strides in energy reduction and conservation based on a four-part energy conservation criterion - total energy saved, cold-iron energy saved, awareness and training, and innovation.

Peleliu was selected as the large deck recipient after scoring high marks in all four areas.

"Energy conservation is an all hands effort. It takes every Sailor on board to be aware of our energy usage and to do their part to ensure we're using only what is absolutely necessary to complete the mission," said Capt. John D. Deehr, Peleliu's commanding officer.

Along with the award the ship receives \$30,000 for the commanding officer to spend at his discretion. The ship is also allowed to fly the SECNAV energy flag for one year.

"These commands executed comprehensive efficiency programs with senior-level command involvement, well-staffed and trained energy teams, aggressive awareness campaigns, innovative energy efficiency measures, and consistent reduction in energy consumption," said Mabus in his award announcement.

Peleliu received the award based on the ships FY 2012 energy achievements, which include being 24 percent under the class average for energy consumption and 11 percent under all large deck amphibious ships in-port in San Diego.

Although graded, energy conservation is not only a criterion; it is a culture that a com-

mand and its personnel must embrace. Energy conservation habits vary, but every small step taken helps reduce waste.

"It takes total cooperation from the ship's blue and green team to maintain air-conditioning boundaries, limit potable water usage, turn off lights, computers and other electrical/electronic energy scavenging systems, and to successfully plan and execute missions with energy considerations," listed Lt. Cmdr. Terrence Patterson, chief engineer onboard Peleliu. "One thing is for sure, fuel is expensive and we have limited sustainment capability. We must ensure we maximize our fuel resource during all phases of planning."

Some efforts involve small daily habits, while other energy-saving practices can be more complex, requiring more coordination.

"There are multiple things we do operationally to save energy. The navigator chooses routes that the ship is going to take that require less energy. Those more efficient routes allow us to avoid tailwinds, pick up currents, and avoid swells. The DCA [Damage Control Assistant] plays his part by making sure our draft is ideal for moving through the water. Also, in the main spaces, we make sure the boiler is working at maximum efficiency," said Chief Machinist's Mate Jeffery A. Martin, the Oil Lab leading chief petty officer. "We don't go faster than we have to and that's a big one. If we don't have to be somewhere fast, we don't operate at fast speeds for no reason."

The ship's crew tackles energy efficiency through proper equipment maintenance, as well.

"For our ship to be as old as it is and for our equipment to be running better than every other large deck ship in the Navy really speaks to the work being done by the maintenance peo-

ple and to the Sailors on this ship keeping the equipment up and running at the highest level possible," said Martin.

Age plays a particular obstacle for a platform that is the last of its class.

"It's absolutely a challenge to maintain aging machinery and electrical equipment to technical standards," said Patterson. "Our task is to maintain and operate a 33-year-old steam ship to new ship standards."

Energy conservation practices aids in reduction of unnecessary waste. Ensuring command involvement with current Navy programs and trends is important.

"[Navy Energy Conservation Program] ... tracks all the energy used throughout all the ships in the Navy and they have seminars at different spots throughout the country annually. Peleliu was one of the only ships that had the commanding officer, executive officer and the chief engineer all in attendance," added Martin. "The commanding officer on down the chain of command, their dedication to energy conservation played a big part in getting this award."

Although the ship has been recognized for its efforts, energy conservation continues to be an on-going mission. The ship will officially receive its authority to fly the SECNAV Energy flag for one year and will be recognized at a SECNAV Energy Training session, Oct. 28, hosted in San Diego.

"Given our current budget situation, our work has just begun. Those that have been on board and understand the importance of energy conservation need to continue to do all they can to conserve energy and train our new Sailors on the importance of energy conservation," concluded Deehr.

Source: Secretary of the Navy

1. Energy Efficient Acquisition

Evaluation of energy factors will be mandatory when awarding contracts for systems and buildings.

2. Sail the "Great Green Fleet"

DON will demonstrate a Green Strike Group in local operations by 2012 and sail it by 2016.

3. Reduce Non-Tactical Petroleum Use

By 2015, DON will reduce petroleum use in the commercial vehicle fleet by 50%.

4. Increase Alternative Energy Ashore

By 2020, DON will produce at least 50% of shore based energy requirements from alternative sources; 50% of DON installations will be net-zero.

5. Increase Alternative Energy Use DON-Wide

By 2020, 50% of total DON energy consumption will come from alternative sources.

Around the Peleliu



(Left) Seaman Molly Leighty needle guns old paint from the padeyes in the well deck. (Top Right) Airman Kade Prince uses a disk sander to remove rust from the forward safety nets on the flight deck on Oct 18. (Bottom Right) AO2 Ana Nunez and Capt. John D. Deehr cuts a Navy's 238th Birthday cake during the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at Mariners Park Oct 10.

New Sexual Assault Survey Launches

Survey continued from pg. 2

that Mabus has instituted, based on previous survey results, included doubling the number of sexual assault investigators at NCIS, increasing the number of sexual assault response coordinators, 66 full-time victim advocates that are civilians trained as counselors, who will help victim support. The JAG is also instituting a victim's legal counsel who will help victims through the process and the Navy is deploying civilian resiliency counselors, who are also certified SARCs, on every big deck.

"I think that the Navy and the Marine Corps are really spending the resources and putting the attention on prevention, victim care and support," said Loftus. "We think that if Sailors and Marines are honest and forthright in taking this survey, and we get enough of them, that we'll be able to show the nation and other service people that we're really taking this seriously, that we care, and that we don't want victims. We want to prevent sexual assault. This is a way for every member of the service to help us do that."

The survey is available at www.donsapro.navy.mil/donsas.html.

The password for all military participants is 2013Survey and the survey will be available through Jan. 6, 2014.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS & HEALTH FAIR

A breast cancer awareness and health fair will be held in main medical, Oct. 25 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, to support National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This is to promote awareness of the disease and the importance of screening to detect early breast cancer. Naval Medical Center San Diego representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

All are invited to attend.

Man on the Street

By MCSN Michael Duran

The pale full moon rests on the horizon as a lone wolf cries into the night. The stench of rotted flesh engorges the nostrils as a strange mist descends upon the Iron Nickel. All Hallow's Eve approaches! Time for the dead to rise again, for ghouls and ghosts to run amok, and time to... enjoy some scary movies!

Peleliu asked, "What is your favorite scary/Halloween movie?"

ABH3 William Barber, Lehi, Utah



"It would probably be 'Nightmare Before Christmas' or 'Corpse Bride'. Tim Burton is something else. They break the genre and it's something that everyone can watch."

LSSN Rose Ann Sheena Anzures, Westfield, Ind.



"'The Conjuring'! I don't know it's scary! I saw it in theatres and I was hiding the whole time. Like, I had to close my eyes!"

GMC Darsay Barnwell, Los Angeles



"I loved 'Nightmare on Elm Street' as a kid. It was the scariest thing I had seen in my life. But growing up and seeing it as an adult, it's now the funniest thing I've probably seen."

Cmdr. Jamie Burts, Montrose, Penn.



"I don't watch a lot of horror movies. The first one that sticks to mind was when I was young with the covers over my head and I was watching the original 'Friday the 13th'. After that I just stopped watching horror. I don't think I've seen one since."