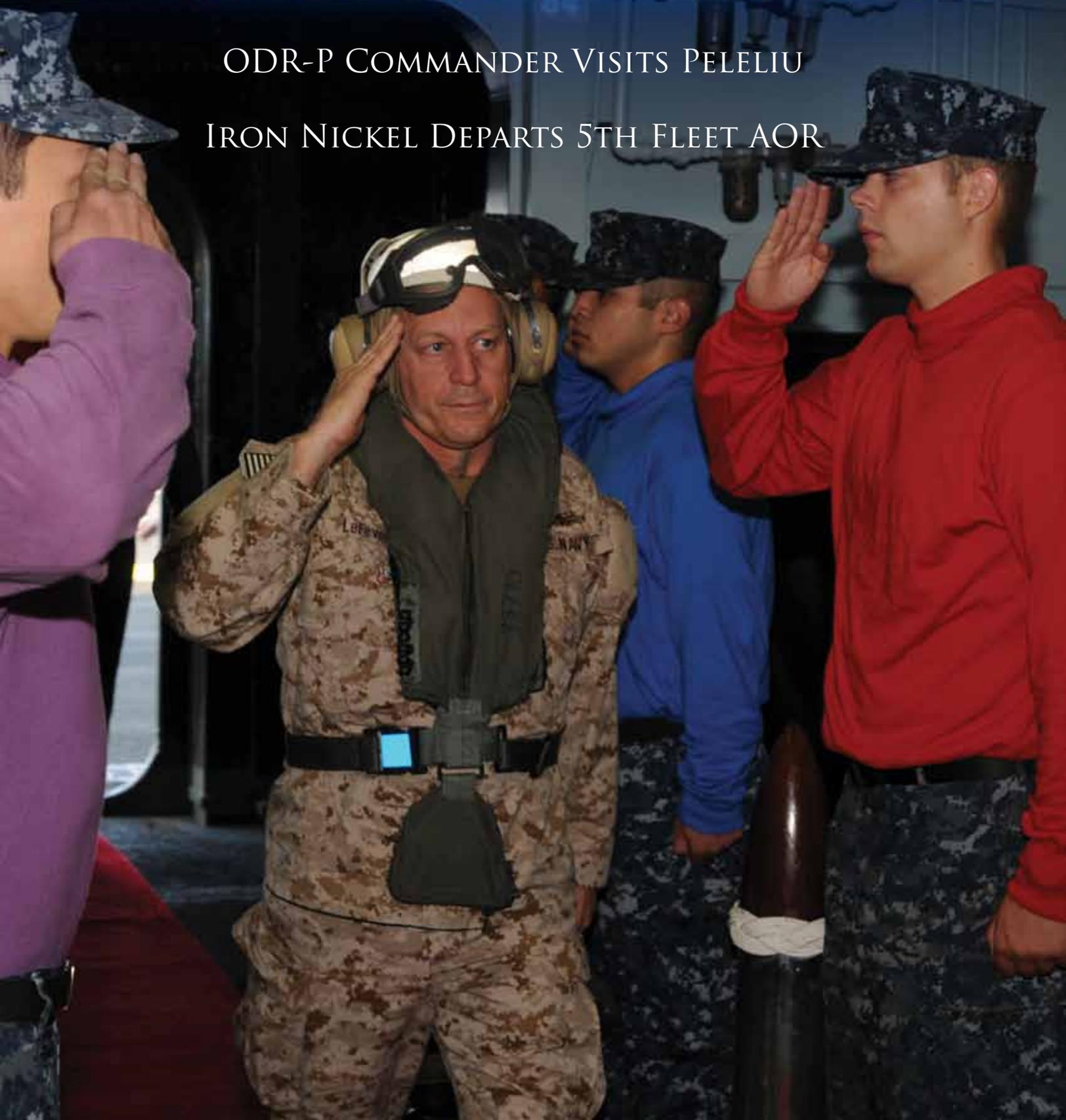


NOVEMBER 7, 2010

# PELELIU NEWS

ODR-P COMMANDER VISITS PELELIU

IRON NICKEL DEPARTS 5TH FLEET AOR



# FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDCM  
(SW/AW/SS)  
Brent Williams

Hello again shipmates, and as you already know, November is upon us and it is going to be busy, productive, and it will go by very fast. I have been out and about the ship and continue to see all the great work that is going on. I also see the hours that many of you are putting in, and understand the fact that all of you are really looking forward to a nice break in the near future and also our return to home port.

We are at a crucial point in the ship's life; the end of the cycle. All that work and time to get the "Iron Nickel" ready for a seven month deployment was no small undertaking. Now, this is above and beyond the other items that needed to be taken care of. Many of you had barracks rooms to move out of, cars to get into storage, bills to pay, etc. So what does all this mean? It means that soon you will find yourself, starting over with a new cycle, not only with your personal lives but with the ship as well.

Many of you have heard me ask the question, "What does it mean to be a Sailor?" I know you have all read the Navy Ethos, we recite the Sailor's Creed and yet many of us have a difficult time conveying what it means to be a Sailor. For our more-seasoned Sailors, you will have your own opinion, but think about it, what if one of your junior Sailors posed that question to you? What would you say? Not so easy, huh?

As this ship - your office and home - transitions from the tip of the spear to liberty port, and on to home port, what really changes? A lot of us could name many things that will change but, as for the ship, nothing will change. She will be in the same condition, the exact same condition as we leave her once we depart on liberty. Sure, there will be a duty section on board to ensure all the vitals are being cared for, but she won't change. We take the PELELIU tens of thousands of miles away from home. We park her for weeks beside the pier, and yet when you think about it she never really changes.

This new cycle the ship is getting ready to begin is no different than the last. Get home, start the leave, and yes begin the work. Soon, after some more work, we'll go and offload tons of ammunition. Then once you're back, you'll start hearing things like 3M assessment, ULTRA-S, ULTRA-E, oh and throw in a couple visit ships in there and some tours for VIP's, etc. ... all the while people are transferring and new shipmates are arriving. Yep, the never ending cycle.

The next month or so, try to sit down and see what is in store for you and your division, including loved ones. You are actually starting the cycle now, this month. We should, by all rights, be at the top of our game. We are fully trained, and should be ready for anything. So as you take on that project, that dreaded PMS check, that monthly report, give it 100 percent. The ship, the Navy needs every one of you to give it your all. Now is the time to be as careful and alert as you can be. Keep your head in the game. Being a Sailor is a very dangerous career. We don't think about it because we are conditioned and trained to

be ready for anything. This ship will only react to us.

The personality of the ship will shift with her crew, which is to be expected. The crew can push her to the limits, and she'll always give it 100%. I guess it all boils down to this: no matter where she goes, no matter how much time we take off, the PELELIU will be the same, our home, our office. So as you get her ready for pulling in, start this week getting the ship ready for the trip home. Take the time now to knock down some rust, lay a few coats of paint down, fix that beat-up door. We're Sailors; this is where we live, why not take care of her? No other career can really say that! Being a Sailor is just that; we are Sailors 24/7 at home or at sea. Everyday you need to be totally aware of what it is that keeps us at sea, or afloat by the pier. In essence it is everything you do and or maintain...

Go Navy, and "Keep Charging PELELIU"

## On the Cover

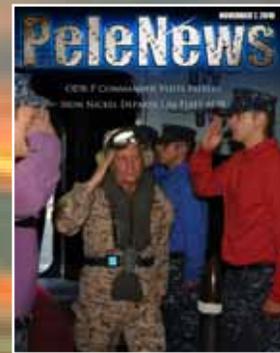


Photo by MC2 (SW) John W. Shepherd II  
Peleliu Sailors salute Vice Admiral Michael A. LeFever, Commander Office of Defense Representative to Pakistan during a visit to the ship.

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# FRG UPDATE

Greetings to all of you out there on the big blue, and everyone back home! Our reunion is getting close and we are focused on welcoming you all back to San Diego!

As we wrap up the last chapter of this deployment, we still have a few events for November. First up is November 10 at Chuck E. Cheese in Mira Mesa from 4-6 p.m. Come out and play with the kiddies, and have some pizza or chicken wings. We will be selling T-shirts and first kiss raffle tickets at the event.

Next, we have our return and reunion brief and the last FRG meeting before homecoming. The meeting is slated for 16 November at the Murphy Canyon Chapel at 6 p.m. We are working out some of the details of babysitting right now, so if you are planning on bringing children, just email us at [peleliufrg@gmail.com](mailto:peleliufrg@gmail.com) and let us know how many children you are bringing, and their ages. This will be your last chance to purchase first kiss raffle tickets. Come early, we will stop selling them once the meeting starts.

On the 23rd we will be going to Knott's Berry Farm for the day.

It is free with a Military I.D. and you can purchase up to 6 additional tickets per I.D.

There is still time to get your T-shirts and sign up for the Thanksgiving Day 5k, the link to sign up is [http://www.thanksgivingrun.org/2010/pdf/Thanksgiving5KRegistration\\_2010.pdf](http://www.thanksgivingrun.org/2010/pdf/Thanksgiving5KRegistration_2010.pdf). We have some interest in doing a Thanksgiving Day potluck later that afternoon, so if you would like to join us, let us know via email.

For those of you coming to San Diego from out of town to greet the Iron Nickel, please let us know. We are planning a night before USS Peleliu family get together. This will be for anyone coming from out of town to greet your Sailor, as well as those of you in San Diego - all are welcome. Please email us at [peleliufrg@gmail.com](mailto:peleliufrg@gmail.com) so we can start to get a head count for our out of town guests.

Remember, if your service member is a Marine and part of ship's company, this night is for you too. Those of you who have a service member that is part of the 15th MEU, please contact the FRO for all of your homecoming details as the MEU will be disembarking the ship the day before the ship actually pulls into San Diego. Here is the contact information for the 15th MEU FRO: <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/external/15thmeu/family/family.jsp>

Have a safe and productive week!



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Those who plan to transfer prior to March 1, 2011 should bring a forwarding address and shipping box (from the post office).

# OJ



*Photos by MC2 (SW) John W. Shepherd II*

# ODR-P

## Commander Visits Peleliu

By USS Peleliu Public Affairs

NORTH ARABIAN SEA – Vice Adm. Michael LeFever, Commander, Office of the Defense Representative, Pakistan (ODR-P), visited amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) Oct. 30 to thank the crew and embarked Marines for their support to the country of Pakistan during relief operations.

Vice Adm. LeFever talked with Peleliu Sailors and Marines assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) during an all-hands formation in the hangar bay.

“This has been an incredible deployment for you,” said LeFever. “You’ve carried out a range of missions, from humanitarian relief to combat operations. You should feel very good about that.”

Vice Adm. LeFever also presented awards to three Marines for their contribution to relief efforts in Pakistan. Lance Cpl. Jhonson Simeon, Capt. Paul Duncan, and Capt. Curtis Lloyd earned the Joint Meritorious Service Medal during an officer, chief petty officer, and staff non-commissioned officer call.

“I want you to know the work you’ve done has made a difference,” said LeFever. “You were the first Navy and Marine Corps assets on station, and you stayed here the longest.”

ODR-P led the coordination of humanitarian relief operations in Pakistan following devastating flooding throughout the country after monsoon rains started July 29. At the request of the Government of Pakistan, Navy and Marine Corps helicopters operated from Ghazi Air Base in northern Pakistan, as well as Pano Aqil Air Base in the southern part of the country. Combined, the Peleliu ARG and 15th MEU assets delivered more than six million pounds of food and supplies, and evacuated nearly 9,000

internally displaced persons.

After 10 weeks of support to relief operations, the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 15th MEU have turned over with Kearsarge ARG and the 26th MEU. Peleliu ARG is completing operations in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility as the theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command, before transiting back to their homeport in San Diego, Calif. later this year.



Vice Adm. Michael LeFever joins U.S. Naval Academy graduates assigned to Peleliu in a “Go Navy, Beat Army” spirit spot.

November 7, 2010

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# IRON NICKEL DE

By MC1 (SW/AW)

Photo by MC3 Omar Dominquez



# PARTS 5TH FLEET

## R. David Valdez

USS PELELIU, At Sea -- San Diego-based amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) departed the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) Nov. 1 after completing a regularly scheduled deployment supporting maritime security, regional stability, and performing humanitarian aid/disaster relief (HA/DR) operations in Pakistan.

Peleliu and embarked Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) relieved amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4) in July and served as the command ship for the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). They operated across the 5th Fleet AOR

with amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) and amphibious transport dock ship USS Dubuque (LPD 8).

Peleliu ARG reported to Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 5 (ESG) upon its arrival to 5th Fleet. As the commander of ESG-5, Harris is responsible for all amphibious forces deployed to 5th Fleet, and oversees the planning and execution of contingency operations and disaster relief.

"I visited Peleliu, and I told them to be ready for any number of contingencies," Harris said. "Because of the unique capability of the Navy and Marine Corps team and the amphibious ready group, it makes them the ideal response team for a variety of missions."

Peleliu first operated in the Gulf of Aden, conducting maritime security operations. The ship transited the Indian Ocean after monsoon rains hit the country of Pakistan. Peleliu steamed more than 1,000 miles and arrived off the coast of Karachi as quickly as possible, ready to provide aid if asked by the Government of Pakistan. Peleliu launched eight CH-46E "Sea Knight" and four CH-53E "Sea Stallion" helicopters from Marine Medium

Helicopter Squadron 165 (Reinforced) (HMM-165 (REIN)) and three MH-53E "Sea Dragon" helicopters from Navy Mine Countermeasure Squadron 15 (HM-15).

"The Sailors and Marines performed superbly throughout our time in 5th Fleet," said Capt. Mark Cedrun, Peleliu's commanding officer. "These men and women have worked tirelessly- launching aircraft, getting supplies ready for delivery, and performing to the highest standards of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps."

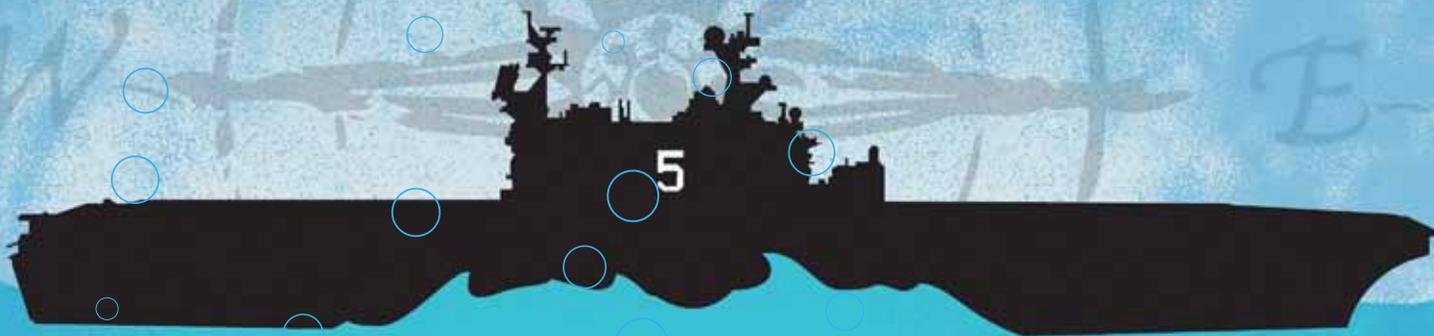
Peleliu remained on station for 10 weeks, and during that time helped evacuate over 9,000 internally displaced persons and deliver more than six million pounds of food and supplies.

Peleliu's operating area in the North Arabian Sea allowed the embarked AV-8B Harriers assigned to Marine Attack Squadron 311 to support Operation Enduring Freedom. The Harrier detachment flew more than 500 hours of close air support missions over Afghanistan.

"Flight operations at any time require precision and attention to detail," said Master Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (AW/AW) Henry Nusi, Peleliu's Air Department Leading Chief Petty Officer. "Simultaneously flying two different missions was an all hands effort, and the crew performed well, even in the extreme heat and long working hours."

Peleliu remained at sea for 98 consecutive days before stopping for a maintenance port call in the 5th Fleet AOR. USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) Amphibious Ready Group and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit relieved the Peleliu ARG and 15th MEU as the theater reserve force for U.S. Central Command.





Don't forget to watch!

# The Iron Nickel News

Every other Monday  
1100 and 1900  
Next episode airs on Monday Nov.8

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