

October 3, 2010

PeleNews



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FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDCM
(SW/AW/SS)
Brent Williams

Hello and welcome and to another edition of the PeleNews. What a week, busy, informative, and very productive! I think we all know where the busy came into play, it seemed that everyday something major was going on, flight quarters, Sailor of the Quarter Boards, drills, and most recently well deck ops. The information coming out of Naval Personnel Command is steady and is affecting many too.

I guess the most interesting and hardest to follow is the merging of Perform to Serve (PTS) and Fleet Ride. Although Sailors will continue to put in requests along with their CCC's they need to be aware of what information is being provided, and continue to stay close to the departmental career counselors as well as the command career counselors. Statistically, the Navy is separating 3,000 Sailors in overmanned ratings with no chance of advancement, but, oddly enough, 5,000 positions go unfilled. The merger is designed to show the CCC's where available openings are and be able to better provide information to the career development team and ultimately the Sailor.

There is that term again, Sailor. The Sailor, in any career-defining decision, needs to ensure that he or she is as informed as possible. As I have said time and time again, at career development boards, command indoctrination, and when approached in the passageways; this is your career, your tour on PELELIU, and your ability to take the information available

and make an opportunity. Consider yourself lucky to be attached to a command that ensure the basics are covered.

One great piece of information that grounded the deck plates, was the NAVADIM 043-08 "Brilliant on the Basics." This covers Career Development Boards, Sponsorship, Mentorship, Sailor Recognition, and Ombudsman Support. In some way, every one of these programs can ensure our Sailors, whether fleet returnees or our newest shipmate, receive the information that will start their tour or career off on the right course.

All too often during a check in of a fleet returnee, I hear that career development boards weren't conducted at the previous command. Then I ask if a sponsor contacted them prior to reporting, and nine out of ten times I hear yes, and how helpful it was. At command indoctrination, our new Sailors hear about the mentorship program and Ombudsman program. So for all you new PELELIU Warriors, you are at the right command and should make it a point to get involved and stay up on all the changes. Your Chief can assist in more ways than you can imagine, the CCC office is the best in the fleet and you can't stray too far without seeing a Sailor that could possibly be your next mentor!!!

Have a great week and remember stay safe and send in those shout outs.

Go Navy, and "Keep Charging PELELIU"

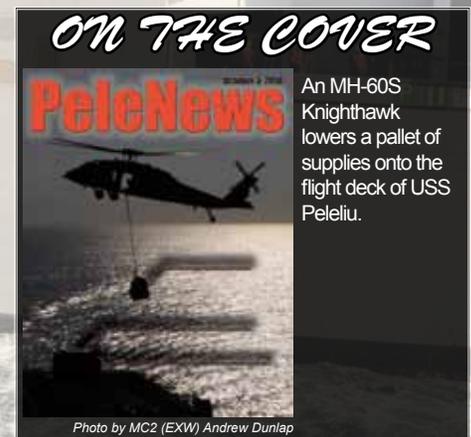


Photo by MC2 (EXW) Andrew Dunlap

ON THE COVER

PeleNews

An MH-60S Knighthawk lowers a pallet of supplies onto the flight deck of USS Peleliu.

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FRG October Update loaded with homecoming plans

Greetings Sailors, Marines, and all on the home front. Welcome to October; feels good to turn another page on the calendar! This month has many exciting events in store for us here at home as we continue to count the days until we are all together once again.

By the time you read this, our half way party will have taken place, if you have access to Facebook, we will be posting pictures from the party on the FRG group page. If you are not a member of the group page, just look it up and request to be added. We will also have pictures up on Snapfish.com so if you would like to see them and don't have access to Facebook, send us an email so we can send you the link. (peleliufrg@gmail.com)

We are thrilled to announce the first of several upcoming fundraisers! (Feel the excitement). At the half way party, we kicked off sales for the 1st Kiss raffle! Here is the deal, if you attend a meeting or an official FRG event, you will receive your first raffle ticket for free, you will then be able to purchase up to 4 more per event at \$2 each or 4 for \$7. At each meeting or event, no one will be permitted to leave with more than 5 tickets and you must be in attendance to buy tickets. For those of you that are not local to the ship's homeport of San Diego, you will have an opportunity to purchase 5 tickets for full price at a later date TBD.

We'd also like to compile a list of all the new babies born since the ship left in May. The new dads will be among the first off the ship and we want to make sure we account for everyone so they get their spot at the front of the line coming off

the ship.

Introducing fundraiser #2... homecoming t-shirts! Yes, I said it, we have cool t-shirts for sale. If you would like to see them, they are up on Facebook and we can also email you what they look like. We will be selling them at all FRG-sponsored events and meetings and if you are not in the San Diego area, send us an email, we can take PayPal and send them out to you. There will be a picture of them in next week's edition of PeleNews.

Lastly, through October and November we will be doing diner's nights throughout San Diego as another quick fundraiser. Locations and dates will be announced on Facebook as well as through an email blast and we will list them in next week's edition. Each week, we will pick a restaurant that will donate 20% of the days profits back to our non-profit organization. If you work, own, or know of someone affiliated with a restaurant in San Diego that may be interested in

participating, let us know.

Out-of-towner's planning on coming to San Diego for homecoming should send us an email so we may include you in the night-before-homecoming festivities.

Event reminders:

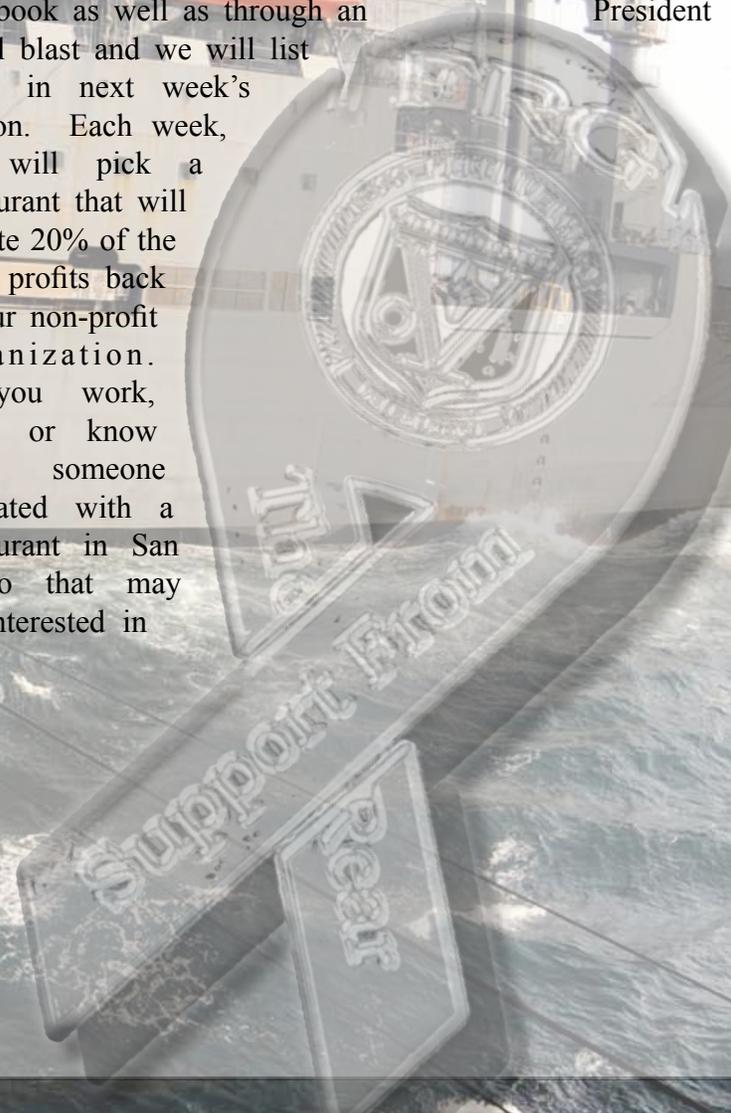
Kids Craft Day 10 October 2 p.m.
(email us for address)

Adults Halloween Party 23 October (email us if you would like to attend, more details to follow)

Kids' Halloween Party 31 October (time and place TBD)

As always, we welcome suggestions and ideas. Have a safe and enjoyable week!

FRG President and Vice-President



Big Guy, Bigger Accomplishment

QMC Smith Earns OOD at Sea

By MCCS(SW) Dan Smithyman

Chief Quartermaster (SW) Doug Smith is physically large. He measures six feet, six inches tall and tips the scale at 250 pounds. He is an imposing figure on the deckplates, and now he's an imposing figure in the pilot house.

Smith, or "Smitty" to his friends, recently earned his Officer of the Deck (OOD) at sea qualification, an accomplishment that is rather unusual for an enlisted Sailor.

For a Surface Warfare Officer, the OOD qualification is the capstone of the job. It's like an engineer earning his Engineering Officer of the Watch letter, or an officer earning Tactical Action Officer qualification. These titles come with responsibility; they verily place the care of a 40,000 ton ship and 2,300 inhabitants into the hands of a single person. Smith is the first enlisted Sailor in recent memory to achieve this distinction aboard Peleliu.

"It's not real uncommon for an enlisted guy to qualify OOD at sea; I qualified as a First Class [petty officer] on my last ship, USS Benfold (DDG 65)," Smith said. "But you really don't see many."

He said one of the challenges of qualifying is the need to have plenty of support up and down the chain of command.

"First, you need to have the opportunity, and of course the support of a good chain of command," said Smith. "I would like to thank the CMC, Navigator, Capt Cox, and Capt Cedrun for their support during my hunt for my OOD qualification."

OOD at sea involves ship handling, knowing the ship's capabilities in varying weather

conditions, performance during special evolutions such as underway replenishments, well deck and flight deck operations, knowledge of the rules of the road, safety considerations, CO's standing orders, and the list continues.

Qualifying OOD at sea was a logical step for Smith. He said around 60 percent or more of the OOD qualification is navigation, and as a Quartermaster, that is something with which Smith is familiar. He was helping the junior officers with their OOD qualification, so it was natural for him to go for it too. He said it lends even more credibility to his position.

Despite his gargantuan stature, he's a baby by many standards. Smith has been in the Navy only nine years, and was advanced to Chief Petty Officer after only seven blazing years. He's only 28 years old with the wisdom of someone much longer in the tooth and with more experience. He does, however, retain much of his youthful exuberance commensurate with

his age.

"I'm in a band at home," Smith beamed. "It's called 'Quor,' pronounced 'core' as in hard-core heavy metal."

Smith hammers the bass guitar. He began his musical prowess at the tender age of 15 with a guitar, but as he grew, the bass became more user friendly - particularly for a guy with hands the size of catcher's mitts.

He and a few other musicians on board Peleliu get together and jam from time to time. There are whispers on the deckplates that they may even play to the Peleliu audience, or perhaps they'll just continue jamming on their own. Smith's focus is not so much on the Peleliu band, or Quor for that matter.

He is focused on steering the ship safely where it needs to go, ultimately home to San Diego where his wife, Becca, awaits. And inside Becca grows another little "Smitty" although Big Smitty calls him "Megatron." Becca calls him Logan.

She's due in early January.



Gator Shop Wins Excellence Award

By MC3 Foster Bamford

The ship's store recently won the Navy Exchange Ship Store Retail and Service Excellence Award. The award is a testament to the solid customer service and bookkeeping skills of Peleliu's S-3 division.

Chief Ship's Serviceman (SW) Lovejoy Aquino attributes the award to the hard work of the entire division.

"The best way to build a winning team is to make sure that everyone is doing their part," said Aquino.

That team includes Ship's Serviceman 1st Class (SW/AW) Daniel Sutton who is the division leading petty officer.

"It was really a team effort. For this type of award, everyone has to work well together," said Sutton, "and we can't do anything without the customer, so this award was won because of everyone."

According to Aquino, a Sailor who has

already left the ship played a big role in winning the award.

"SH1 Resurreccion Pichay was pretty much on her own as a record keeper," said Aquino. "The key to winning the award was good record keeping."

To qualify for the award, the ship store had to prove themselves in two areas: accountability and sustainability. They had to be able to prove, by numbers, that they were capable of maintaining accurate books, and keeping up with inventory and money in a responsible way. Additionally, they had to sell enough items to replace those items and still provide MWR with a generous cut of the profits.

"We have made over a million dollars in sales since the beginning of deployment," said Aquino, "and we are planning on giving \$120,000 of it to MWR this month."

With profits like that, the S-3 division is clearly getting something right.

"This is the first time that we have gone up for this award, with this specific crew, and it was nice to win," said Sutton.

The criteria set forth for the competition was judged during SMC (Supply Management Certification) in March. Since the store scored high enough and met all the criteria for the contest, it was automatically entered. By winning this award, the ship's store is now eligible to compete for the best of class award, which is even bigger, said Aquino.

The S-3 division has found a winning recipe and according to Aquino and Sutton they aren't changing it in preparation for the next contest.

"We try to keep the store inspection ready at all times," said Aquino. "I think that's what sets us apart."



SHSN Anil Jnawali checks out a customer in the ship store.

Photo by MC3 Foster Bamford

The Gatekeepers

By MC1 (SW/AW) R. David Valdez

Karl Marx wrote that religion is the opiate of the masses. Berkeley Breathed, creator of Bloom County, hinted that Karl Marx had never seen a television. Neither Marx nor Philo Farnsworth, the inventor of the television, ever imagined the amount of power in a personal computer. At this moment, every book in the Library of Congress could easily fit into the hard drives of most of the computers available on the market today, and there would still be room for some of the latest and most advanced games available on the market.

Today, computers are used for everything from calculating the tensile strength of mooring lines to drawing fantastic works of art, and it's the Sailors in the Automated Data Processing (ADP) division who ensure the computers on the Iron Nickel provide us with information from the Internet, personal and work-related e-mail capability, applications which allow us to do our jobs, and the means of keeping track of all of the training

we do while we're on board.

The keepers of these gateways of information are Information Systems Technicians (IT), who are kind of like Department of Transportation workers on the information superhighway, except ITs work 24-hours a day in an air-conditioned space, to keep things moving along,

"ADP customer service is our priority and we're committed to providing value-added service between ADP and all our customers in a timely manner," said ITC (SW/AW) Karvarees Herman, ADP's leading chief petty officer.

However, managing a massive computer network with hundreds of computers, dozens of programs per computer, and over two thousand users is no easy task. As we're firmly in the Computer Age, many people on board believe they are experts at managing computer networks.

"If users need a certain program to do their job," said IT1 (SW/AW) Daron Brown, "we'll try to help them out, but if we let everybody load whatever they wanted on the network, we

could get viruses which would compromise the system for everyone."

Because the ITs are required to maintain the security and integrity of the ship's network, they do occasionally check personal folders and e-mails.

"People need to remember that these computers aren't their personal property, and we let people store personal material on their profiles as a courtesy," said IT3 Homar Sanchez. "If people are storing inappropriate material on their profiles, they need to remove it before we find it."

Computer technology has grown so fast and so complex in the last 20 years that today's computer technicians are constantly learning new things about what is arguably the world's most prolific communications tool. It's the Iron Nickel gatekeepers that ensure the information highway runs fast and clean, day and night. As long as users don't compromise the integrity of the highway, there will continue to be free flow of information.



Aerographer's Mate Airman Noah Ball releases an 800-gram weather balloon from the aft end of amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) at sea. The balloon has a radiosonde attached to it, which takes atmospheric readings and transmits them back to the ship for aerographers to use when forecasting weather.



THE UNITED STATES NAVY

CORE VALUES



THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, THE NAVY HAS SUCCESSFULLY MET ALL ITS CHALLENGES. AMERICA'S NAVAL SERVICE BEGAN DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, OCT. 13, 1775. THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AUTHORIZED A FEW SMALL SHIPS. CREATING THE CONTINENTAL NAVY, ESEK HOPKINS WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND 22 OFFICERS WERE COMMISSIONED, INCLUDING JOHN PAUL JONES. FROM THOSE EARLY DAYS OF NAVAL SERVICE, CERTAIN BEDROCK PRINCIPLES OR CORE VALUES HAVE CARRIED ON TO TODAY. THEY CONSIST OF THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES.

HONOR

"I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE..." ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL: CONDUCT OURSELVES IN THE HIGHEST ETHICAL MANNER IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS, SUPERIORS AND SUBORDINATES; BE HONEST AND TRUTHFUL IN OUR DEALINGS WITH EACH OTHER, AND WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE NAVY; BE WILLING TO MAKE HONEST RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACCEPT THOSE OF JUNIOR PERSONNEL; ENCOURAGE NEW IDEAS AND DELIVER THE BAD NEWS, EVEN WHEN IT IS UNPOPULAR; ABIDE BY AN UNCOMPROMISING CODE OF INTEGRITY, TAKING RESPONSIBILITIES IN OUR PUBLIC AND PERSONAL LIVES TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY. ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER BEHAVIOR OR EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF SUCH BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL BEHAVIOR. WE WILL BE MINDFUL OF THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE OUR FELLOW AMERICANS.

COURAGE

"I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND..." ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL HAVE: COURAGE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF OUR PROFESSION AND THE MISSION WHEN IT IS HAZARDOUS, DEMANDING, OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT; MAKE DECISIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE NAVY AND THE NATION, WITHOUT REGARD TO PERSONAL CONSEQUENCE; MEET THESE CHALLENGES WHILE ADHERING TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF PERSONAL CONDUCT AND DECENCY; BE LOYAL TO OUR NATION, ENSURING THE RESOURCES ENTRUSTED TO US ARE USED IN A HONEST, CAREFUL, AND EFFICIENT WAY. COURAGE IS THE VALUE THAT GIVES US THE MORAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, EVEN IN THE FACE OF PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL ADVERSITY.

COMMITMENT

"I WILL OBEY THE ORDERS..." ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL: DEMAND RESPECT UP AND DOWN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND; CARE FOR THE SAFETY, PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLE; SHOW RESPECT TOWARD ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, RELIGION OR GENDER; TREAT EACH INDIVIDUAL WITH HUMAN DIGNITY; BE COMMITTED TO POSITIVE CHANGE AND CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT; EXHIBIT THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF MORAL CHARACTER, TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE, QUALITY AND COMPETENCE IN WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO DO. THE DAY-TO-DAY DUTY OF EVERY NAVY MAN AND WOMAN IS TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR WORK, OUR PEOPLE AND OURSELVES.