

August 2011

PELENEWS



*PMA in Full Swing
CHT Happens
CPO Selection Results*

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



By Capt. James T. Cox

The month of July was a time of significant change for the crew of Peleliu. We shifted our routine from frequent underway periods to our new temporary home at Pier 13 while we undergo a cycle of maintenance and materiel improvements. We are now in the third week of our Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA) and well on our way to accomplishing numerous projects that will make our great warship even more capable of performing its

critical mission. Change inevitably poses many new challenges, but I have great confidence in the character and resiliency of our Sailors to carry Peleliu through to a timely and successful completion of our current task.

July also marked the naturalization of 18 Peleliu Sailors in a moving ceremony aboard USS Midway. It was a great honor for me to be present and observe these modern-day patriots take an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution and become the newest citizens of our great nation. Their willingness to sacrifice and to faithfully serve their new country provides a poignant reminder to us all of the great

privilege and blessing it is to be an

American.

I also recently had the great pleasure of announcing the selection of nine of Peleliu's finest for advancement to Chief Petty Officer. Their selection not only represents a significant milestone in their naval careers, it is also a testament to their hard work and dedication to our service and our ship. Their mettle as leaders will no doubt be tested, but they have all earned the right to prove their fitness to stand among the best. I congratulate them all on their tremendous accomplishment and personally wish them the best of luck in the weeks to come.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to once again address the issue of summer safety. The "Critical Days of Summer" is the timeframe from Memorial Day to Labor Day that statistically marks a period of increased risk for our Sailors. It's been a while now since I mentioned this so I feel compelled to remind everyone to actively practice Operational Risk Management (ORM) to avoid preventable mishaps, and by so doing keep ourselves, our families and our shipmates out of harm's way. Our people are our most valuable asset and our country needs each and every one of you to successfully accomplish our mission of defending the nation. A little prior planning combined with a good dose of common sense can prevent a needless tragedy, and make the goal of a safe and sane summer a reality for all Peleliu Sailors. Choose greatness!

On the Cover



PeleNews

OSSN Javin Resendez paints the portside of the island super structure.
Photo by MC1 Kenneth Hunter



FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDCM
(SW/AW)
David Dearie

The past month I worked at Naval Personnel Command (NPC) in Millington, Tennessee, serving as a member of the Chief Petty Officer selection board. Throughout the year, our Navy hosts various officer and enlisted promotion boards in Millington. Serving as a member on the boards is voluntary and confidential. Selection and participation is not known until after the commencement of the board and the Precepts are published with the membership names. I have participated in two previous

boards over the years but this was my first Chief selection board. Of my 26 years of service, this selection board places close to the top of my career highlights. I can think of no more honorable and humbling service than to select future Chief Petty Officers. To enlisted Sailors achieving the rank of Chief happens to about five percent of those who make First Class Petty Officer. To have a hand in recommending the best most fully qualified to the rank of Chief is not something to be taken lightly.

Before my return, PELELIU began her four-month upkeep period. During this time, hundreds of repairs, system upgrades, and habitability work will be completed. "Yard periods" as they are commonly referred to, are not glamorous and work often extends beyond the normal workday. Civilians work alongside the Sailors to

accomplish work, inspect spaces, and conduct training. All ships undergo this period and all come out the other end better than they began. I expect nothing less from our Sailors. They are the finest on the waterfront and prove as much every day.

Our next Command Family Indoctrination is scheduled for 30 August at Murphy Canyon Chapel. If you are new to the command or new to the Navy or have been a part of PELELIU and would like to hear about the ship, our future schedule, and meet some of the key command members, the Ombudsman, and the Family Readiness Group, please attend. Drop me an email to sign up (cmc@lha5.navy.mil) or send a note to Melissa Hodle at our Facebook USS Peleliu FRG page. And if you have any questions, feel free to drop me a line.

Congratulations FY12 Chief Selectees



HMC(sel) Hazel Velasquez MMC(sel) Noel Garcia MMC(sel) Anthony Boley HMC(sel) Fred Calagaus ABFC(sel) BenValenza
EMC(sel) Jose Hernandez MMC(sel) Mike Myers MMC(sel) Nicholas Zapiain GMC(sel) Darsay Barnwell

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With the help of a man-lift, ABH3 Andres Lozada hits the island with a roller in some of the hard-to-reach spots.



Making the Five Come Alive du

Story by MC1 Kenneth Hunter

Despite all of the chipping, grinding, and sparks around the ship, the Island Tiger Team on board Peleliu has begun its painting evolution during the ship's PMA (Planned Maintenance Availability).

During this busy, three-month period while the ship takes on a construction-site look, a 19-person team comprised of Air, Operations, and Combat Systems departments assembled and gathered rollers, buckets and paint brushes. They used 150 gallons of haze gray for painting the ship's island structure which is estimated at 25,500 square feet.

ABH1 (AW/SW) Jeremy Fairman from Air Department's V-1 Division is the Tiger Team's petty officer in charge and saw this as an opportunity to take charge since it was a big-ticket item on the ship's PMA "to do" list.

"My prime objective for this evolution is to get the island structure looking good while we are in PMA mode," said Fairman.

The painting process started on July 25 on the port side of the island. The team

Painted what they could reach with just rollers. The team has since completed the port side of the structure and is now working on the starboard side of the structure.

To Fairman, managing this Tiger Team was a challenge. "They know how to paint with little supervision and get the job done in a few days work" to get it done, even if it means working overtime.

"The team likes doing their part and is willing to volunteer to work overtime to get it done," said Fairman.

"The prime objective for this project was to get it done in the amount of time, and that cost was a secondary concern," said Lozada.

"Starting out with just rollers and buckets, and using man-lifts, it will make getting to all areas of the island structure for this project done in time," said Lozada.



Photo by MC1 Kenneth Hunter

uring PMA

t rollers until they obtained man lifts. They
the island and have worked aft then toward

n is not really hard to deal with at all because
vision. He said they put forth effort "all in a
ns staying after hours to complete a section.
in keeping their ship looking good, and
done is all the motivation they need," said

is to make their ship look good and get this
completion date is August 12," ABH3 Andres

ushes was slow, but now that we have man
the island structure much easier and will get



Photo by MCCS(SW/AW) Dan Smithyman

CHT HAPPENS

Story by MC2(SW) John Shepherd

Peleliu's collection, holding, and transfer (CHT) system began limited capability July 27 due to scheduled hydro blasting.

The CHT system is the ship's sewer and dirty water, drainage system. Hydro blasting began on the aft CHT tank, and the forward tank will follow suit to finish the rest of its CHT system.

"Hydro blasting is done to remove built up calcium encrustments that occur inside the piping due to human waste mixing with salt water," HT1(SW) Joshua Obermueller said.

The effect on the crew could be significant to some personnel that live on board. Most heads are secured. Crew members who live on board and duty section personnel will use a berthing barge to meet sleeping and bathroom needs.

"I like that there will be a berthing barge for junior personnel that live on board," said AS2(AW) James Claypool.

There are also 15 port-o-potties and two wash basins on the flight deck for the crew to use. Dining facilities along with the ship's laundry are secured. While the ship's dining facilities are closed, enlisted crew members will receive commuted ratios to buy meals off ship. Members will see that subsistence amount in the regular mid-August paychecks.

Medical and Dental will also be effected by the hydro blasting. Dental services will be provided on the pier with the use of the branch clinic dental trailer. Medical services will be temporarily limited with loss of potable water.

The expected completion date is no later than Sept. 28.



Command Advancements



LS2 Manuel Estrada



AS3 Brett Nary



AO3 Jacob Williford



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August 20, 2011

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W4-W5, O3-O4, G\$ 11-12: \$65

O5-O6, G\$ 13-15: \$70

O7-O10, \$E\$: \$75

Uniform:

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E7-O3: Dinner Dress; White (choker)

E1-E6: Dinner Dress; White (white jumper)

Miniature medals

No gloves or covers required

Active duty females may wear civilian dresses