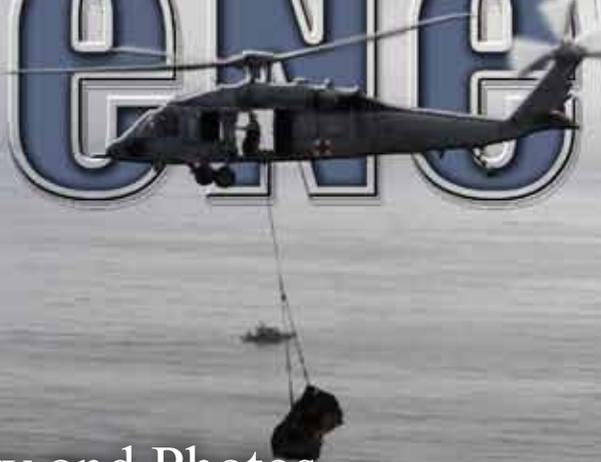


April 2011

# PELENEWS



- FRG Update
- Burial At Sea Story and Photos
- Ammo Off-load Photos



# VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



By Capt. James T. Cox

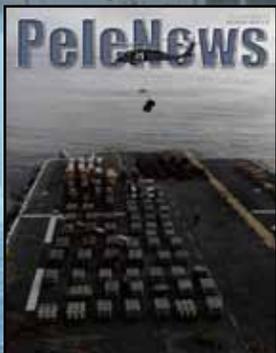
It's only been a month since our last edition of PeleNews but true to form the crew of the "Iron Nickel" accomplished a tremendous amount in a very short time. The first week of March we successfully completed our Maintenance and Material Management (3M) Certification. This challenging inspection is conducted only

once every two years and involves every department on the ship. In the weeks that followed, we completed our Force Protection certification and got the ship underway three more times, conducting flight and well deck operations, a ceremonial Burial at Sea, as well as a tremendous amount of training in preparation for our Type Commander Readiness Assessment (TRA).

Throughout the entire month the crew

performed superbly in the face of many challenges. We learned a great deal in the process and I'm confident that it will serve to make our team even stronger and more ready to accomplish our mission in the future.

In the weeks to come, we welcome the opportunity to spend a little more time at home with our loved ones while continuing to work hard to improve the material condition of our ship and train the crew to perform our mission even better than before. As we transition from winter to spring we all become more active outdoors so I ask that all hands exercise caution and sound judgment to ensure that we remain safe, sound, and able to perform our duty when called upon. While our challenges (like the seasons) may change, our dedication to our service core values remains steadfast. PELELIU Sailors not only "do things right," they "do the right thing." I could not be more proud of you! Well done PELELIU!



## On the Cover

An MH-60S Seahawk transports ammunition from USS Peleliu to USS Makin Island during Peleliu's ammo-offload off the coast of Camp Pendleton.

Photo by MC2(EXW) Andre Dunlap

# FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDM  
(SW/AW)  
David Dearie

Every family and friend reading this edition of the PeleNews should be immensely proud of your Sailor. Over the past several weeks, PELELIU's reputation as a result of the crew's outstanding performance goes unmatched. Along with the required familiarization training that occurred in March, PELELIU also hosted the waterfront Military Saves Campaign, provided a five-star food spread at the Surface Forces Ombudsman Assembly, and gave tours to over five tour groups. We also completed some challenging certifications the Navy requires to guarantee the crew knows how to maintain the ship in any situation. Now we are entering a period of in-port time for us to perform some preservation, repairs, and school house training, as

well as enjoy some quality time with friends and family.

Along with the good times PELELIU enjoys, our focus shifts to our shipmates in Japan affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Japan and our shipmates affected by this disaster.

Some residual affect this has on us is impending transfer of Sailors going to Japan. The Navy has halted all Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves going to Japan until further notice. If your PELELIU Sailor has orders to Japan and has not yet transferred, they will remain onboard until such time that the PCS halt order is lifted. If your PELELIU Sailor has transferred, they will either remain at their intermediate activity if at a school or report to the nearest Transient Personnel Unit until the halt order is lifted.

I hope you enjoy the contents of this issue. We continue to strive for excellence and work tirelessly to defend our country and make you proud.

## FRG UPDATE!

We had our first get together of the year in March and it was fun reconnecting with friends we made during deployment. There will be more activities in the coming months, so join us! Everyone is always welcome to attend the events and activities; children are always welcome as well.

The events are a great way to connect with other spouses and share resources that can come in handy during underway periods, as well make some new friends. All of us on the home front have one big thing in common, our spouses/significant others are Sailors and they go to sea. We have to support their mission, and in doing so, it can be hard at times. That is where the FRG and the connections you make through the group come in. It is not easy to manage the house, kids, work, school, etc. alone, but through the common bond we have, we can help each other and have fun too!

The FRG is still looking for board members; if your spouse is interested in becoming a FRG board member please contact us at [peleliufrg@gmail.com](mailto:peleliufrg@gmail.com).

Join us on Facebook. We have a group page so for those of you that have an account, log in and request to be part of the USS PELELIU FRG page. There you will find updates, events, and other information regarding the FRG, and the events and activities we are coordinating.

We are looking to plan some activities for May, so if you have ideas, or would like to help plan, contact us through Facebook or send us an email.

Have a great month and we look forward to seeing you at the command picnic!

This magazine was published and printed on board by the USS PELELIU (LHA 5) media division. This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. Government. The media division reserves the right to edit submissions.

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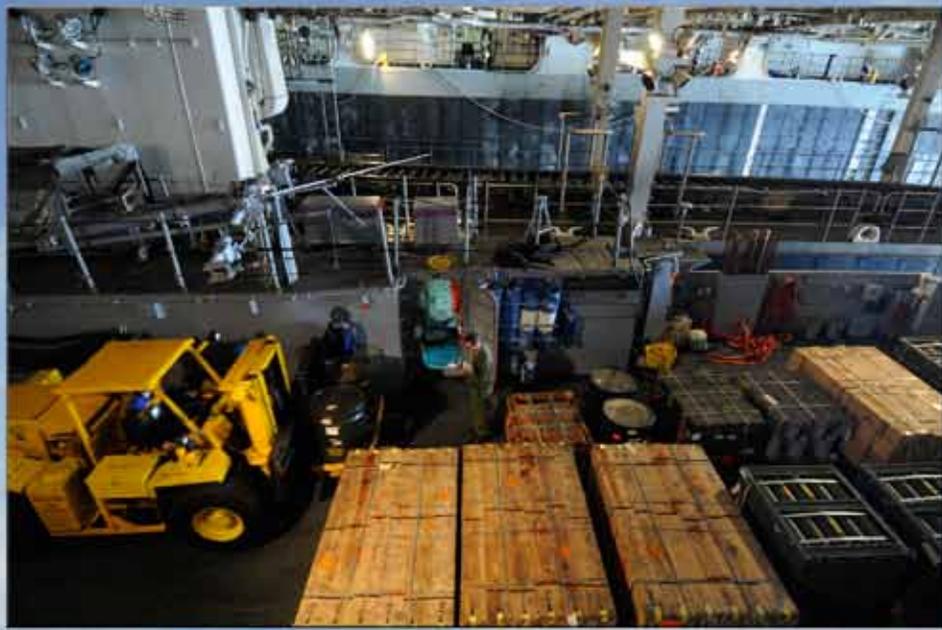
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## Peleliu's Ammo Off-load

Peleliu transferred ammunition from her 2010 WESTPAC deployment to the USS Makin Island for her scheduled deployment. Due to delays from weather, the last transfer of ammunition will be completed at the end of May. Sailors from both amphibious assault ships worked long hours to ensure the transfer was handled safely and efficiently.





# Peleliu Conducts Burial at Sea

Peleliu Public Affairs

The crew of USS Peleliu (LHA 5) committed the remains of 21 veterans and spouses March 24 off the coast of southern California.

One casket and 20 cremains were committed to the Pacific Ocean during a sunrise ceremony.

“There exists no clearer reminder in a Burial at Sea ceremony that we engage in a very special operation that renders honor as a last request of those who have served their country and make this last request,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Clore, Peleliu’s command chaplain. “We go to the extreme measure of fidelity to give respect and honor to those who have served our nation faithfully.”

Among the dead were two officers, seven chief petty officers, 10 junior enlisted and two wives of veterans.

Burials at sea are not uncommon. The Department of the Navy provides burial benefits to military veterans and their dependent family members.

The primary next of kin of the deceased is sent a video DVD of the ceremony along with a

photo CD, three shell casings from the gun salute, a copy of the nautical chart marking the position of the ship at the time of committal, a copy of the ship’s deck log annotating the burial at sea, and an American flag. Peleliu’s commanding officer also provides a personal letter to each family describing the ceremony.

“We understand that families who know this person very well shall gain a certain confirmation of the Navy that cares for servants of the nation, and that these loved ones may gain a sense of inner peace,” Clore said. “When it is all said and done, we move on with our lives with a renewed sense of commitment and hopefully with a greater realization of the brevity and sacredness of life.”

Participants in the ceremony find the event very solemn but an important tradition that honors those who have gone before them in service to our nation.

“It was a great honor to be given the opportunity to participate in the ceremony,” said Fire Controlman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class(SW) Michelle Blackwell, a cremated remains bearer. “Those men and women dedicated a part of their lives to the military - whether they were in the service or married to one that was; and each and every one of them deserved to be laid to rest peacefully.”

“It was more than just a funeral; I felt as if I was doing an honor to my country, and I personally felt a great responsibility bestowed upon me as the honor bos’n mate [to perform well],” said BMSN(SW) Mark Silberstein. “The ceremony was beautiful and every Sailor involved did a great job.”







WSEN

- 118 Years Strong -  
Happy Birthday to the rank of  
Chief Petty Officer  
April 1, 1893