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AROUND THE ISLAND

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Capt. Humberto L. Quintanilla II, commodore of PHIBRON 5, addresses Sailors and Marines during the commemoration ceremony for the 69th anniversary of USS Makin Island's namesake raid in WWII. (Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Douglas Bedford)

LHD 8 COMMEMORATES NAMESAKE RAID

By MC2(SW) Justin Webb, Around The Island Staff

Sailors and Marines assigned to the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) joined on board Makin Island Aug. 17 to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the U.S. Marines' raid on Makin Island during World War II.

Capt. Jim Landers, Makin Island's commanding officer, hosted the event which included a performance by the Makin Island Choir, guest speakers and a cake-cutting ceremony.

"What's especially poignant to me is that we're all sitting here together as a combined team, because 69 years ago, 2nd Raider Battalion was delivered to the Makin Atoll [island] on Navy vessels -- the Argonaut and the Nautilus," said Landers. "On this ship, named after that raid, our two small boats are named Nautilus and Argonaut."

Landers also noted the importance of having both Sailors and Marines on board to mark the anniversary.

"It's especially significant to me to have this time, only the 2nd time we've commemorated this event since this ship was commissioned, our Marine team on board," said Landers.

Capt. Humberto Quintanilla II, commander, Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 5, served as keynote speaker, speaking about the relevance of the battle in relation to the strength of today's combined Navy and Marine Corps combat team.

"The one thing that shines clear in what happened in August of 1942 was that brave men went ashore, some brave men came back, some brave men did not," said Quintanilla. "It was a war fought by [men in their 20s] ...and if our nation calls, as we are at war today, we rise to the occasion, the 20-somethings know what to do."

Col. Michael Hudson,

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AROUND THE ISLAND

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ON THE COVER:

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Patrick Morrison directs an MH-60S Seahawk helicopter, assigned to the Wild Cards of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 23, during flight operations aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8). (Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Douglas Bedford)



Sailors and Marines man the rails aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) as it transits San Diego Bay while getting underway for PMINT. (Photo by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg)

MAKIN ISLAND ARG COMPLETES PMINT

Sailors, Marines Integrate In Prep For Deployment

By MC2(SW) Alan Gragg, Around The Island Staff

Sailors and Marines assigned to Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 5 and 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) returned to San Diego, Aug. 22, following completion of a 12-day PHIBRON-MEU integrated training (PMINT) cycle off the coast of southern California.

During the Aug. 10-22 underway period, amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), the command ship for PHIBRON 5 and the 11th MEU, operated with the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) for the first of a three-phase certification process to test the ARG's mission readiness.

"This is an opportunity for PHIBRON 5, the Makin Island ARG, and the Pride of the Pacific - the 11th MEU - to integrate for the first time as an ARG and practice our amphibious tactics, techniques, and procedures together before we move to the next phase in training," said Capt. Humberto L. Quintanilla II, PHIBRON 5 commander. "We'll move on to the next phase drilled to execute more complicated missions that are going to come to us from the exercise cells."

Quintanilla said while the upcoming deployment will be Makin Island's maiden deployment, PMINT wasn't the first time the Sailors aboard

Makin Island have worked with the Marines.

"One of the keys to our success has been that the ARG-MEU leadership team on Makin Island has been together before," said Quintanilla. "We participated in San Francisco Fleet Week last fall together. It was the first time we had ever come together, and we quickly recognized we could work very well together - we could do this. We're melted together, and that all started last fall."

During PMINT, Sailors and Marines in the ARG trained together to prepare for a wide-spectrum of amphibious

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MAKIN' A DIFFERENCE:

By MC2(SW) Stephen D. Doyle II, Around The Island Staff

The amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) has a group of Sailors called the Green Team who spent time during the ship's last underway period, from 10-22 Aug., spreading the word about ways to reduce the ship's environmental impact.

Representatives from each division on the ship are responsible for informing their shipmates about how turning off lights, recycling metals and plastics can help save taxpayer dollars and the environment.

"The green team is comprised of the First Class Petty Officer Association along with myself and several other divisional representatives that look for ways to recycle, to save energy and to save lighting costs," said Ensign Anna Salvaggio, Green Team supervisor. "They are also responsible for taking out the recycling and coordinating with NAVFAC (Naval Facilities Engineering Command) when we can recycle."

Sailors are attempting to reduce energy costs by maintaining air conditioning boundaries throughout the ship as well as turning off lights in unmanned spaces.

"We make sure that all A/C boundaries are secured," said Salvaggio. "We also secure lights in offices and other spaces that we don't use very often. We watch our electricity usages, little things like that go a long way—especially the lighting."

Another energy saving technique put into place by the Green Team is after evening colors; the duty section will be responsible for turning lights off throughout the ship.

While these methods help reduce energy usage aboard the ship the Green Team is also focused on water conservation.

"One way that we cut back on things currently, is that we don't drain our potable water," said Salvaggio. "We allow our potable water level to go

down to about 20 percent or so, if we know that we're going to be getting underway."

Instead, the ship uses its reverse osmosis system while underway to produce potable water so it doesn't have to take water from San Diego's utility systems, said Salvaggio.

Along with energy and water usage, Makin Island Sailors have participated in recycling competitions to encourage participation in Green Team initiatives. Over a two-month period in June and July, the ship was able to recycle 2,211 pounds of recyclable material.

In addition to the competition, the Green Team has implemented an ongoing recycling program by strategically placing blue recycling containers in workspaces so Sailors can easily separate recyclable cans from the rest of the waste, said Salvaggio.

For the Sailors involved in the program, it is less of a collateral duty and more of a statement of their dedication to the environment.

"It was something that I'm really interested in, trying to do my part to conserve energy, waste, and just do my part to help out the planet," said Logistics Specialist 1st Class Cipriano Ramirez, USS Makin Island Green Team coordinator.

While recycling efforts in port have proven to be instrumental in the campaign, it is the hope of the Green Team to continue the recycling efforts while in foreign ports on the ship's upcoming maiden deployment.

"Another thing I'm excited about implementing on deployment is recycling programs in other countries," said Salvaggio. "Some countries are not capable of recycling things like plastic and aluminum, and other countries are able to do that, so I am currently researching which ports can recycle the cans and things that we have when we pull in."

Employing and following through with procedures to help the Makin Island and the Navy



Engineman Fireman Emmett Brown processes plastic aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8). (Photo by MC1(SW) David McKee)

LHD 8 Sailors Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

reduce its carbon footprint can be extra work for Sailors, however with a vision of the greater good in mind some of the crew feel the extra time is worth it.

"The ship is definitely green; the Captain has a vision of making everything work more efficiently," said Engineman Fireman Emmett Brown, temporarily assigned to the ship's trash room. "He just wants everything to be better for us. He wants our ship to make a statement to everybody, that the Makin Island is a good ship. I know we bust our butts working with the plastics and the metals, but it's for a good cause."

"I don't mind staying at work for a few extra hours to make sure we recycle right," added Brown.

With the future of the environment in mind, Makin Island's Green Team is also looking into new ways for the ship to be more efficient with all of its waste. Some of the ideas range from a pier-side compost pile to refining the ship's cooking oil into biodiesels.

"We're going to have a food waste bin on the pier, at the end of September," said Salvaggio. "The waste that we put into that bin will be turned into mulch so that it's not taking up space in our landfills."

"What we're planning on doing is taking our vegetable oil from the galley and we're going to send it off to NAVFAC," added Salvaggio. "They're going to recycle it and turn it into biodiesel. Then, other companies will be able to use that particular oil."

Another motivating force behind the Green Team is saving tax dollars, because they too are taxpayers, said Salvaggio.

"This will most definitely shape the way the Navy does business in the future, because as we all know our budget is shrinking, the amount of money that the U.S. has to spend on extras is definitely shrinking, so for us to keep operating and operating efficiently, we need to come up with ways to save money and to be more conservative



Engineman Fireman Emmett Brown examines a condensed plastic disc from the plastic waste compactor in the trash room aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8). (Photo by MC2(SW) Stephen D. Doyle II)

with our resources," said Salvaggio.

Commissioned in 2009, Makin Island is the Navy's newest Wasp-class amphibious assault ship capable of utilizing surface and air assets to move Marine forces ashore.

Makin Island is the only U.S. Navy ship with a hybrid electric propulsion system. By using this unique propulsion system, the Navy expects over the course of the ship's lifecycle, to see fuel savings of more than \$250 million, proving the Navy's commitment to energy awareness and conservation.

This initiative is one of many throughout the Navy and Marine Corps which will enable the Department of the Navy to achieve the Secretary Ray Mabus' energy goals to improve our energy security and efficiency afloat and ashore, increase our energy independence, and help lead the nation toward a clean energy economy.

The ship is named in honor of the daring World War II raid carried out by Marine Raider Companies A and B, Second Raider Battalion, on Japanese held Makin Island Aug. 17-18, 1942. LHD 8 is the second ship to bear the name "USS Makin Island."

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commander, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), also spoke during the event and focused his remarks on how the mission of today's amphibious assault ship with embarked Marines is to carry out many different types of raids.

"We are America's 911 force," said Hudson. "No matter what the task is, no matter where we need to go, we're all ready to accomplish it. Whether it's combat operations, disaster relief or to simply do some training with a friend out there; what we do everyday represents why America is the greatest nation on the planet."

Lance Cpl. Stephen Morgenson, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, who attended the ceremony, said he walked away with a better grasp of the legacy that the troops involved in the historic raid left for the Marines and Sailors of today.

"The commodore actually pointed out a lot of history that most of us probably didn't know," said Morgenson. "It was good to know a little bit more about our heritage. It's always nice to look back on where we've been in order to get a grasp on what we should strive to achieve."

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Capt. Jim Landers, commanding officer of USS Makin Island, addresses crew members during the commemoration ceremony for the 69th anniversary of USS Makin Island's namesake raid in WWII. (Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Douglas Bedford)



Col. Michael Hudson, commanding officer of the 11th MEU, addresses crew members during the commemoration ceremony for the 69th anniversary of USS Makin Island's namesake raid in WWII. (Photo by MCC(SW/AW) John Lill)



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Nadezda Coe and Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Aaron Melia tighten the tail assembly of a GBU-38 joint direct attack munitions (JDAM) 500-pound bomb aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8). The bomb assembly evolution marked the first time live ammunition had been assembled aboard Makin Island. Makin Island is the flagship for PHIBRON 5 and the 11th MEU and is underway for PHIBRON-MEU Integrated Training (PMINT) in preparation for the ship's upcoming maiden deployment. (Photo by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg)

PMINT (cont.) from Page 3

warfare operations, including amphibious landings, flight operations, boarding vessels, and humanitarian missions.

"We're the staff that is tasked to put the big plan together with the MEU and ensure that we project power where national command authority wants us to," said Quintanilla. "It's the PHIBRON and MEU team together that goes overseas-or wherever we're needed-to do military missions, and, I'm proud to say, humanitarian missions as well."

"We train for both, we are equipped for both, and our people are ready to execute both when we finish our training cycle," added Quintanilla.

Quintanilla said that one unique challenge the Makin

Island ARG faced during PMINT was dealing with an unusually hazy August sky.

"The team had to really hunker down and make sure our operational risk management was there to support the aviation ops, as well as the surface ops," said Quintanilla. "Whereas we were expecting clear weather, that's not what we got everyday, but we were able to complete the mission by intensifying our planning to ensure that no safety or mission critical steps were missed."

In addition to amphibious warfare operations, Sailors and Marines also worked together to successfully execute basic daily operations such as ship's laundry and preparing meals in the galley.

"When we go into this galley, there's no 'blue' or 'green,' we're all one team," said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Maximino

Salvador, galley watch captain aboard Makin Island. "Working with the Marines is an incredible experience; you see the blue and the green-side work together as a team."

While it may have been the first time working in a joint environment for many young Sailors and Marines, the two sea services demonstrated their professional interoperability.

"All-in-all we get along, follow the same rules and it all works out," said Marine Cpl. David McParland, who worked in Makin Island's galley, but is assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 268. "It's a great experience."

The Makin Island ARG will continue its training cycle over the next few months leading up to regularly scheduled deployment later this fall.



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