

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)

AROUND THE ISLAND

DECEMBER 30, 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12



MKI WRAPS UP BUSY YEAR

A Look Back at LHD 8's Accomplishments During 2011 (Page 3)

SINGAPORE LIBERTY PORT

Sailors, Marines Spend Holidays in the Lion City (Page 4)

SANTA DELIVERS TO SG KIDS

Sailors, Marines and Santa Bring Gifts to Singapore Children (Page 6)

MONEY TALK

Strategies to Create a Budget for the New Year

By MC1(SW) David McKee, Around The Island Staff



Most people plan their budget around the money they will spend, but I am going to explain a slightly different take on budgeting and encourage you to plan for savings. The difference isn't just a game with words.

When you plan your budget around what you spend, you plan around the people you owe money to and when you get to yourself, you have far less money for yourself.

A budget built around paying yourself first is a budget that begins by focusing on saving money. Of course, you don't neglect your bills and other obligations, but instead determine how much you want to pay yourself. I have read in several places that 10 percent is a good start.

Once you have this figure in mind, write the amount of money you make every month on a piece of paper or on a computer spreadsheet, and remember, don't forget your spouse's income.

Then, list all the things you spend your money on and add their totals for the month too. Include the ten percent you set aside for yourself.

One technique to determine how much money you actually spend is to note every expense down to the penny for a week or a month. We tend to have a skewed view of our expenses and minimize them. So it can be a surprise to discover you spend more than a \$100 a month on energy drinks from the ship's store.

After you add all your expenses, and subtract them from your income, what is left?

You are going to have one of a few results. You will either have more money remaining at the end of the month than you have going out, the same amount (not likely), or you will not have enough money.

Now, it is what you do with this information that determines the kind of plan you are making.

If you have more money at the end of the month than you spent, you can add more to your savings account, or participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) or Saving Deposit Program (SDP).

If you do not have an emergency fund of six to 12 months pay on hand in case of an emergency, you can put it there, or you can apply it to any debts you may have.

On the other hand, if you do not have enough money, you should look at the expenses you can cut. David Bach in his popular book "The Latte Factor" suggests cutting out small expenses like that daily latte and other small expenses to save money. This is sound advice. Small expenses like two-a-day Monster habit could be costing you more than a \$1,000 a year when you add them up.

If you find you cannot save any money, and you are out of money or living paycheck to paycheck, schedule an appointment with a command financial specialist soon.

It's that time of year again when we make our resolutions. Why not make a commitment to build your wealth this year?

AROUND THE ISLAND

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)

COMMANDING OFFICER:

CAPT JIM LANDERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

CAPT CEDRIC E. PRINGLE

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF:

CMDMCM(SW/AW) STEVEN ALT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER:

ENS WILSON TAYLOR

DEPUTY PAO:

MCCS(SW/AW) DONNIE RYAN

PRODUCTION LCPO:

MCC(SW/AW) JOHN LILL

LEAD EDITOR:

MC1(SW) DAVID MCKEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

MC2(SW) ALAN GRAGG

STAFF:

MC1(SW/AW) DOUGLAS BEDFORD

MC1(SW) DAVID MCKEE

MC1(SW) SARAH MURPHY

MC1(AW) ANDREW WISKOW

MC2(SW) STEPHEN D. DOYLE II

MC2(SW) ALAN GRAGG

MCSN KORY ALSBERRY

MCSA ETHAN TRACEY

MCSA DANIEL J. WALLS

ON THE COVER:

USS Makin Island (LHD 8) follows the amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) and the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Rappahannock (T-AO 204) during an underway replenishment. [Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Douglas Bedford]

2011 RECAP

MKI Wraps Up Busy Operational Year

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

USS Makin Island (LHD 8) is wrapping up a busy 2011, while underway on its maiden deployment.

The Navy's newest Wasp-class amphibious assault ship came a long way in 2011 achieving many firsts, as the crew earned certifications for operational assignments, hosted distinguished guests and volunteered everywhere they went.

In January, the Honorable Laurie Hawn, Canadian Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence visited the ship for a tour.

Early in the year, Makin Island took on approximately 1,200 pallets of ordnance during its first full ammunition onload while underway in the Pacific Ocean March 14-18, and assembled the ship's first live bombs during PMINT.

In April, Makin Island hosted U.S. 3rd Fleet's change of command ceremony on the ship's flight deck at Naval Base Coronado.

Prior to the pre-deployment qualification periods, Makin Island hosted former President Bill Clinton, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who were guests at a retirement ceremony on board.

In addition to the ship's ongoing "green" initiatives, Makin Island Sailors participated in recycling competitions to encourage participation in Green Team initiatives. In June and July, the crew recycled 2,211 pounds of recyclable material.

During 2011, the ship also

revamped its indoctrination program (I-Division), which allows newly reporting Sailors of all pay grades to complete administrative requirements and basic watchstanding, damage control and maintenance qualifications before reporting to their assigned divisions.

While getting ready for the work-up phases, Makin Island's Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) successfully passed its first-ever Aviation Maintenance Inspection (AMI) July 28. The three-day inspection by the Commander, Naval Air Forces Aviation Maintenance Management Team included a thorough examination of the ship's maintenance and training programs, support equipment, material condition and safety procedures.

The ship's choir showcased its talent by performing at the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) Leadership, Professional Development and Training Conference in San Diego in August.

The first training phase prior to deployment, was PHIBRON-MEU Integrated Training (PMINT), from Aug. 10-22, where PHIBRON 5 elements and the 11th MEU came together to prepare for future operations.

Later that month while underway for their first work-up period, the crew and embarked Marines commemorated the 69th anniversary of the World War II Marine raid on the ship's namesake

BUSY, continued on Page 7

MKI CORNER

New Year's Fun Day

-Stop by the MWR office to write down your New Year's resolutions to add them to the ball, which will be dropped during MWR day to celebrate 2012.

Featured Events for MWR Day:

-Jingle Bell 5K Run (flight deck, 0800)

-New Year's Ball Drop Party with live shot of NYC ball drop, plus festive sparkling cider and music (hangar bay, 1000--midnight EST)

-New Year's tricycle "Baby Race" (flight deck, after ball drop)

-Tug-O-War (hangar bay, 1400)

-Ping Pong and Arm Wrestling (hangar bay, 1600)

-Cinema at Sea (hangar bay, 2000)



Singapore = Jungle Port

By MC1(SW) David McKee, Around The Island Staff

While there certainly wasn't snow in the forecast for the local climate, Sailors and Marines assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) still showed signs of holiday spirit by celebrating the Christmas holiday in Singapore, Dec. 25.

Most Sailors and Marines on liberty celebrated their holiday in Singapore with shopping, seeing movies, dining at local restaurants and sight seeing.

For Ship's Serviceman 3rd Class Jose Plamarrero, getting out in town afforded him the opportunity to take advantage of technology to keep in touch with his family half a world away through Wi-Fi and Skype.

Those in the ship's duty section had the chance to attend religious services, watch football and Christmas movies, and eat a special turkey dinner prepared by the ship's food service division.

Sailors and Marines not on duty, but who choose to stay on the ship, used the holiday

to relax, spend time with shipmates, do some laundry, and enjoy decorating the berthing where they live, which was the case for Pfc. Robert Mista, assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

"A buddy of mine received some Christmas gifts in the mail, so we are going to decorate our berthing, hang out and watch movies and call home," said Mista.

Newly reporting Seaman Recruit Tania Blanco learned that the Navy's mission does not stop for the holidays when she arrived on the ship Christmas morning at 2 a.m.

There were no decorations to put out. Instead she spent her first Christmas aboard Makin Island putting her clothes away, meeting her shipmates and learning the ship.

Sailors and Marines aboard Makin Island said that holidays away from home are challenging but thanks to email, the postal system and international calling cards, staying connected is possible.



Sailors, Marines and Santa Bring Gifts to Singapore Children During Port Visit

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

Sailors and Marines assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), along with a surprise visitor from the North Pole, brought holiday gifts to children at the "Child at Street 11" care center in Singapore, Dec. 22.

The event was part of a scheduled community service project during the ship's port visit, and Chief Warrant Officer Marc Lefebvre saw the opportunity to bring smiles to children's faces.

He dressed as Santa Claus and presented gifts to the children, along with other Sailors and Marines from Makin Island.

"Even though I don't get to be with my kids, it's nice to still be with kids and celebrate this time of year," said Lefebvre. "Most of the community service projects I've done involve a lot of maintenance and upkeep, but one the unique thing about this one was that you got to see the reaction of what it meant to the people you were helping, and I think the kids really enjoyed it."

Lulu Suresh, an English teacher at the center, said having special visitors is memorable for the children.

"At Street 11, the children basically come from disadvantaged, dysfunctional families," said Suresh. "So when they saw Santa Claus coming, you could really see their excitement, and hear it too."

"Once he sat down, they were trying to figure out if he was the real Santa, taking his hat off and having lots of fun," she added.



Sailors, Marines and Santa delivered Christmas gifts to kids at the "Child at Street 11" care center while Makin Island was in Singapore. The center provides quality early years for children of disadvantaged families. [Photos by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg]

One Makin Island Sailor, who speaks Chinese-Mandarin, interacted with a group of girls using two languages during the event.

"In Chinese, we did a simple introduction-'What's your name? Where are you from? and how old are you?' but they wanted to practice their English too," said Logistics Specialist Seaman Danni Li.

"They also told me they were so surprised to see us, and they said they were so happy to get lots of gifts this Christmas," Li added.

After Santa gave each child a present, the children opened their gifts with help from the Sailors and Marines and spent the rest of the time playing together.

"We basically made the children a little bit happier, for one day at least," said Sgt. Jared Buell, assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). "Coming here and

just seeing their facial expressions, receiving the gifts, it was a good thing."

Buell shared a photo of his own children with the Street 11 kids and said he was happy to see some youthful smiles this time of year.

"I wanted to help out and be around children," said Buell. "Not being around mine, I felt like this was a good thing to do, since I'm missing some big seasons being away from home."

For their appreciation of the gifts, the children presented the most senior military member in attendance, Capt. Humberto L. Quintanilla II, commander of Amphibious Squadron 5, with a photo plaque.

Child at Street 11 is a multi-racial, secular, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to helping low-income and dysfunctional families provide quality early years for their children.

BUSY (cont.) from Page 3

Makin Island.

The next work-up phase, a composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX) from Sept. 1-16, ramped up the team's proficiency.

Additionally, the command launched a mentorship accountability program called the Legacy Program, which helps Sailors meet both personal and professional goals. The objective of the new program is to provide a mentor for all E-6 and below personnel to encourage team building, knowledge of heritage and self-improvement.

During a final work-up period, from Oct. 1-13, the ARG worked at becoming officially certified for deployment during its certification exercise (CERTEX).

During CERTEX, Makin Island hosted 12 personnel from the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), who earned flight deck qualifications

and familiarized themselves with air operations aboard Makin Island. While Peleliu was undergoing a planned maintenance availability at Naval Base San Diego, Makin Island provided Peleliu's new air department personnel a way to qualify for their upcoming sea trials.

After CERTEX, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Environment Donald Schregardus toured Makin Island Oct. 18 and observed some of the ship's innovative "Green Team" environmental programs during a visit to San Diego.

Shortly before deployment began, more than 30 Makin Island

and PHIBRON 5 Sailors participated in a Habitat for Humanity project in National City, Calif. The group of Sailors spent nearly 16 hours, over two consecutive Wednesdays, completing landscaping, irrigation and tile installation projects for the Habitat for Humanity program, a nonprofit organization that builds homes for people in need throughout the U.S.

Makin Island deployed Nov. 14, marking the ship's first operational deployment.

Makin Island deployed with



Makin Island departs San Diego as the ship gets underway on its maiden deployment Nov. 14 [Photo by MCC(SW/AW) John Lill]

USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52), as part of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG).

The first major event of deployment was the ARG's port visit to Hawaii Nov. 21-23, where Sailors and Marines enjoyed liberty and volunteered at Pearl City Elementary School in Pearl City, Hawaii.

After visiting Hawaii, Sailors and Marines working in the galley served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for more than 2,000 of their shipmates, preparing 80 turkeys, 600 pounds of ham, 2,000 pounds of beef and 5,000 dinner rolls.

In the later half of 2011, the

ship's galley crew was named a finalist for the 2012 Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial Awards for Food Service Excellence. Makin Island, representing the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the large afloat category, will compete against the Norfolk-based USS Bataan (LHD 5), representing the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, for the overall title in 2012.

The Makin Island ARG entered the second phase of its scheduled deployment Nov. 27, when the group crossed the International Date Line and entered the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR).

While in the area, Makin Island played a major role in supporting theater security cooperation missions in the Asia-Pacific region by serving as the at-sea launching platform for U.S. Marine Corps forces participating in Exercise Kilat Eagle, Dec. 14.

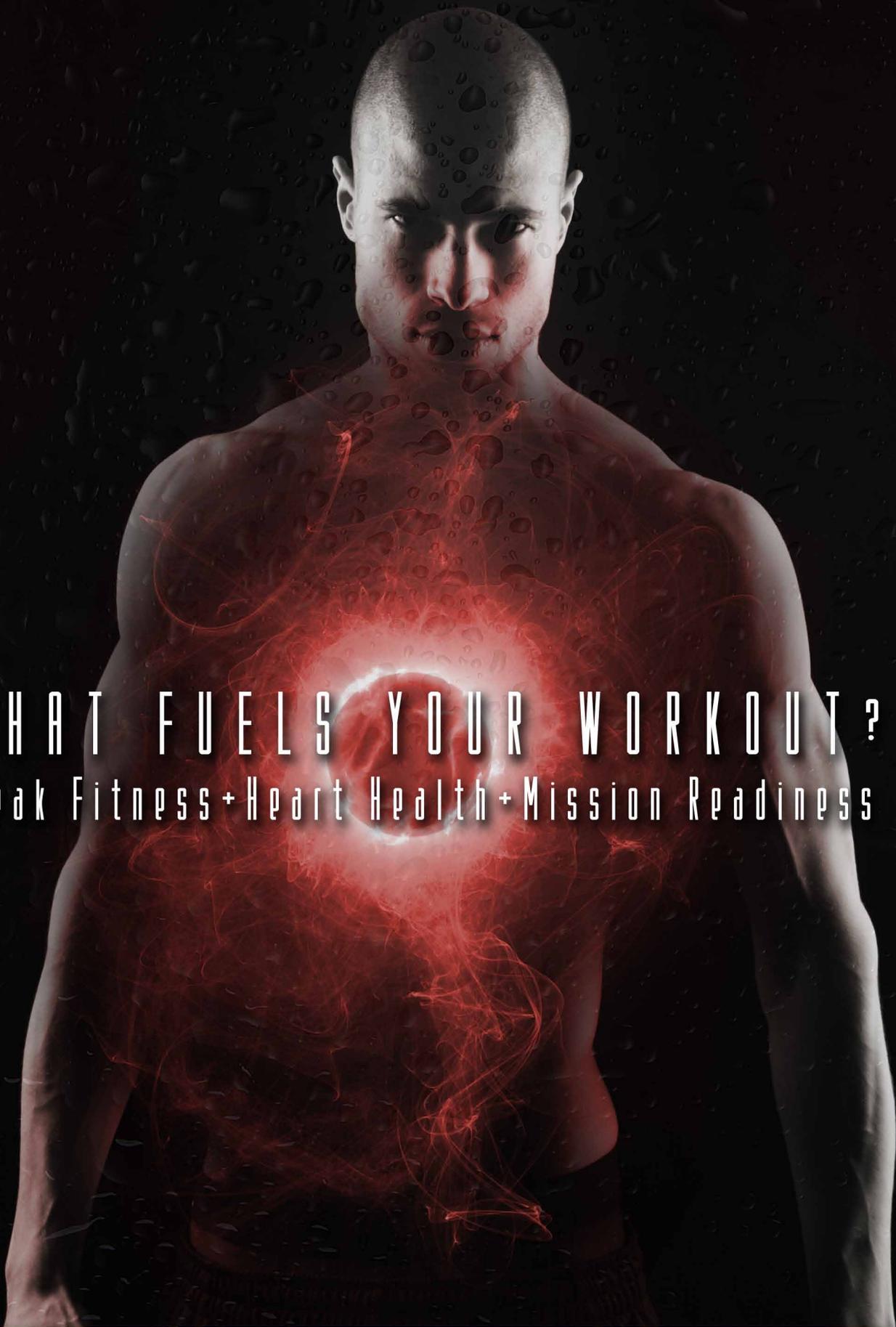
For the holidays, the ARG pulled into

Singapore Dec. 21 for a port visit.

During the visit, Sailors and Marines experienced the Singapore culture and took part in a variety of Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sponsored events. Dozens of Sailors and Marines also participated in community service projects in the area.

In one example of their goodwill, Sailors and Marines assigned to Makin Island--one of whom dressed as Santa Claus--brought holiday gifts to children at the "Child at Street 11" care center in Singapore, Dec. 22.

Makin Island is on a scheduled deployment in support of the nation's maritime strategy.

A man's torso is shown from the chest up, with a glowing red heart and energy field emanating from his chest. The background is dark with water droplets.

WHAT FUELS YOUR WORKOUT?
Peak Fitness + Heart Health + Mission Readiness



TEAM RAIDER | FITNESS

AMERICA'S
NAVY

NAVY.COM | 1.800.U.S.A.NAVY