

# PELELIU NEWS

January 27, 2013

## Anberlin Rocks Iron Nickel



The rock band Anberlin performs for Sailors and Marines during a concert in the hangar bay aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5).

Photo by MC2 Nick Brown

**Story by MC3 Dustin Knight**  
*Peleliu Staff Writer*

Alternative rock band Anberlin performed for Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), Jan. 21. The event was organized by Navy Entertainment in coordination with Peleliu's Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee.

During their day and a half aboard, the band toured the ship and dined in both the wardroom and the mess decks. Anberlin took to the stage, which was created for them using a seven and one-half ton troop truck and a smaller platform, and performed a concert in the ship's hangar bay. The next morning, they held a photo and autograph session for the crew.

"It's one of those things where, otherwise, we never would get this kind of experience," said Joseph Milligan, Anberlin's lead guitarist. "We would never get this chance to be on an active ship and meet everybody. [We] get a

chance to play for everyone and show how much we care about what you guys are doing here."

The band performed their hit songs "Feel Good Drag," "Paperthin Hymn," and "Impossible" in a crowd-packed hangar bay.

"The crowd was really into it. Everyone seemed to be having a really good time and was into the music," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jenna Wilson, of Combat Systems department. "It was good to see that they sound just as good live as they do on their albums."

The Peleliu was Anberlin's last stop in a string of four shows for the military. They performed in Bahrain and Djibouti before flying out to the ship. This was the band's first ever performance on board a Navy ship.

"It was the craziest out of the military shows that we've played," Milligan said. "It was, for sure, the most energetic."

Christian McAlhaney, backup

guitarist, added, "It was awesome. A very unique experience, for sure."

For the crew, it was a much needed break from everyday shipboard life, a reminder of home and a morale boost.

"I think it helped morale of the ship overall. Some people were skeptical because they didn't really know the band, but they heard the music and really let loose and had fun," said Ensign Brooke Besche, one of Peleliu's Operations department division officers. "It's something that we will talk about for a long time and it shows us that people do really care about us being out here."

The members of the band interacted with the crew during their downtime as well as before and after the concert.

"It has been pretty amazing, honestly," said McAlhaney. "We've been talking to a lot of the crew, everywhere we go, and they may or may not know of our band or may not

**Continue Concert on page 5.**

# Peleliu Observes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Yeoman 2nd Class Nicholas Jone and Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Valerie M. Grayson sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" during a Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration aboard USS Peleliu (LHA 5).

**Photo and Story by MC3 Dustin Knight**  
*Peleliu Staff Writer*

Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and birthday with a ceremony presented by the ship's diversity team, Jan. 20.

The Navy deemed this year's theme "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off", which empowers the Sailors and Marines to reflect on King's teachings and his leadership during the Civil Rights Movement through service.

"It's important that USS Peleliu held a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration because a lot of what Peleliu does is encourage teamwork that represents America," said Lt. j.g. Ashlee Houston, ship's assistant training officer. "He was a man that definitely represented what the American dream is all about, equality and fairness for all. I think it's important that we as a military, and as representatives for our country, not lose touch of that."

The ceremony included an a cappella version of James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson's song "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the African-American national anthem, sung by Yeoman 2nd Class Nicholas Jones and Mass

Communication Specialist 3rd Class Valerie Grayson as well as speeches from the diversity team. Additionally, Peleliu's Commanding Officer Capt. John D. Deehr and diversity team president Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Roseann Robles cut a cake in honor of King and his legacy. The night finished with the movie "Remember the Titans."

"I really respect Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Yeoman 3rd Class Jonathan Bennett, a Lexington, N.C.-native and diversity team member. "I really felt like he stood out and wanted to make a difference in everything that he did and I want to incorporate that in everything that I do. I don't really want to be a follower; I want to be a leader. Martin Luther King was a leader."

King accepted leadership of the first African American non-violent demonstration in 1955 and led the bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala. that lasted 382 days. The United States declared the segregation on buses unconstitutional and allowed blacks and whites to ride on buses as equals.

"I think it's important to give everyone fair treatment and treat everybody the same," added Houston. "He was a leader of all his people and as an officer I take that to heart. I probably wouldn't be a commissioned officer and a graduate from the Naval Academy if a man like Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. hadn't existed."

Between 1957 and 1968, King spoke more than 2,500 times on injustice, wrote five books and various articles, was arrested nearly 20 times and assaulted at least four. He received five honorary degrees and was named Time magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1963.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man who devoted his life to something that was higher than himself. He was a believer in love, freedom and sacrifice," said Senior Chief Intelligence Specialist Jeremy Heyer, ship's command managed equal opportunity assistant. "He was an individual that gave everything so someone less fortunate than himself could try to have, and would eventually obtain, the same freedoms that we all have today."

Also during this time King headed an immense protest in Birmingham, Ala. that inspired his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," a proposal of the non-violent African American movement. Not long after came King's renowned "I Have a Dream" speech in front of nearly 250,000 people during a peaceful march in Washington, D.C.

On April 4, 1968, King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tenn., where he was to lead a protest for the striking sanitation workers of Memphis.

PeleNews is 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. PeleNews reserves the right to edit submissions. Submission deadline is Thursday by noon to [pao@lha5.navy.mil](mailto:pao@lha5.navy.mil)

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# Recreation's New Face For Fun



Fun Boss Lucas Eckstein

**Photo and Story by MC2 Nick Brown**  
*Peleliu Staff Writer*

About three months ago, in early November, a young man interviewed for a job. This wasn't like every other job interview; this one took place in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Now you may be thinking to yourself, 'so what' or 'that doesn't sound very exceptional,' and that is a completely understandable response. But this interview, in particular, was Lucas Eckstein's first shot at getting his dream job, and it's the start of a long journey.

Eckstein, a twenty-five-year-old from Mount Horeb, Wis., really started the track to his dream job when he started college at Minnesota State University. When he entered college, he was on the track team and majored in Athletic Training. In high school, Eckstein was in athletics so it was an easy transition for him. But, by the time he made it to his sophomore year he was no longer on the track team and realized he wasn't very interested in athletic training.

"So I kind of overhauled my life," said Eckstein. "I was doing some stuff in the summers with some sports leagues and decided 'this is what I want to do.'"

He started asking around and someone recommended a degree in recreation.

The New Oxford American Dictionary defines recreation as an "activity done for enjoyment when one is not working." What

kind of job can one get with a degree in recreation?

Eckstein, after more than a month of waiting, was offered the job.

"I was in training with the Boys and Girls Club when I got the call," said Eckstein. "I was so excited. All of my supervisors were really excited for me."

The problem was that the job he was just offered, Eckstein's dream job, wasn't in Corpus Christi. It wasn't in Texas nor technically even in the United States. It was halfway around the world on the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5). And to further complicate things, he was to report a month later.

He decided to go home for the holidays and drove more than 30 hours from Southern Texas to Southern Wisconsin. Leaving his car with family, he hopped on a plane back to Texas to start what would prove to be an arduous journey to meet the ship.

After a flurry of delayed flights, Eckstein landed in Houston and jumped on a bus to Corpus Christi the next day. Spending a day packing what he might need for his stay on the ship, he hit another delay – from Houston to Germany. He eventually left Houston through Germany with his next leg completely rerouted through Ethiopia before finally landing in Djibouti. Once at Camp Lemonnier, he waited for a chance to catch a ride out to the ship.

Eckstein said he was "dragged back and forth for another day."

Finally, the morning of Jan. 7, Eckstein set foot aboard Peleliu, and the ship has its long-awaited new "Fun Boss," a job for a recreation degree.

"So far it's been good. It's not quite exactly what I was expecting, but I think that's just ship-to-ship," said Eckstein.

The fun boss is the go-to guy for a ship's recreation activities. He runs the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program, plans events for the crew, and make sure there's no shortage of stuff to do. The ship has been without a director for nearly a year.

Eckstein said he was aware of the situation he was stepping into. "The ship has been without a fun boss for quite a while. Coming on board, I thought nothing was going to be happening, but the committees have stepped up to really implement their own programs, which is great. I'm just integrating myself within those programs."

Some of the committees Eckstein referred to include the Second Class Association, the MWR Committee, and the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions.

"They've been doing a great job," said Eckstein. "My biggest philosophy is if 'it's not broke, don't fix it.' So if they're putting on programs that people are enjoying then I'm going to be there to support them, however I need to."

Eckstein acts as an organizer to support the crew as well as the programs already in place.

"I know it's been difficult for them to know what other associations are doing," said Eckstein. He will be able to help prevent double-booked events, while still accommodating the needs of the Sailors and Marines aboard. His role will focus on the larger, command-wide events, while the associations can still plan and assist with the smaller events.

"Everyone else has another job on the ship. They have plenty of other things to do," said Eckstein.

Some of the events that Eckstein is planning include a Mardi Gras party, a possible wiffle ball tournament for the opening day of baseball, Cinco de Mayo, and events for the Tiger Cruise. Eckstein also mentioned he is trying to get better prizes to give out.

However, the first thing Eckstein will do is to reorganize the budget and conducted an accurate inventory of MWR equipment and resources.

"After the budget is done and the inventory is done, I can do a 'needs assessment.' Then I can hit the ground running and really pound out my ideas," said Eckstein.

He went on to say that it's really important to have fun. He feels recreation builds morale and leads to better welfare.

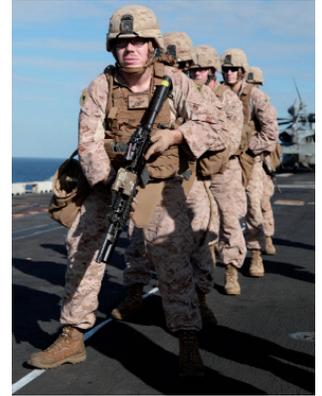
"With the ship in general, if morale is high, people are going to be safer. People are going to be in better moods. People are going to enjoy their jobs more," said Eckstein. "It's a better atmosphere."

After college, working as an intern and a complicated journey to the ship, how does Lucas Eckstein feel about his dream job?

"I'm just so excited to get the job and have the opportunity," said Eckstein. "I'm so impressed [with the military] and want to give back as much as possible. I chose not to enlist myself, but I can help you guys in whatever way possible. People always thank the enlisted military members, and rightfully so .... After a big event, people are like 'that was awesome!' Getting that thanks from the people that I should be thanking for serving the country is amazing."

Eckstein encourages, "If you have an idea, stop by and have a chat [with me]. Send me an email. I'm always open ... The only thing we are limited by is our imagination."

# Kilo 3/5 Marines fire weapons at-sea



Photos and Story by Cpl. John Robbart III  
15th MEU Staff Writer

The sharp pops of weapons firing could be heard throughout the ship as the helicopter-borne rifle company of Battalion Landing Team 3/5, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted a familiarization shoot on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu, Jan. 23.

The shoot allowed more than 100 Marines with Kilo Company to hone the basic skills required of riflemen by providing them an opportunity to fire their weapons without having to leave the ship.

Firing 50 rounds each, the Marines conducted a variety of combat marksmanship drills including shooting while moving and conducting tactical reloads.

The 15th MEU is deployed as part of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group as a U.S. Central Command theater reserve force, providing support for maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

## CMC's Corner



QMCM (SW/AW) Robert Barber  
Command Master Chief, USS Peleliu (LHA 5)

Yo!, What's Up?

Congratulations! We have passed the half way point in our deployment. It is all down hill from here.

A few months ago I talked about goals. How is everyone doing on your deployment goals? We still have an excess of one of our most important resources: Time.

Time is a finite resource, no matter what you do, there are only going to be 24 hours in each day and 168 hours in each week.

I recently saw a post on Facebook from someone on board that made a comment similar to: "This sucks, we are stuck out here and can't do the things we want to do." My first thought is I wonder what they have done with the last four months of their life. What goals did they set and how many have they accomplished? I am willing to bet, none! Or, maybe they have completed all their goals and just have all this extra time on their hands, but I doubt

that is the case.

Now is the time to focus on the things that matter, e.g. studying for the next exam, getting my ESWS and EAWS qualifications. How many of you came in the Navy to get an education? Now is the time to take NCPACE courses. Maybe you always wanted to learn how to play an instrument, now is the time. I could go on and on, but I think you get the point.

So again I am asking every one of you, if you don't have any deployment goals or you do but haven't started them yet, set some now and get started. You should have three to five goals to focus on at any given time. They should be both personal and professional goals that mean something to you. Trust me; focus on your goals and the rest of deployment will flyby.

Until next week – Keep doing all the great things you do everyday!

CMC



**Top:** The rock band Anberlin performs. Photo by MC2(SW) Daniel Viramontes. **Middle:** Anberlin's Drummer Nathan Young. Photo by MC3 Dustin Knight. **Bottom:** Anberlin pose for a photo with Sailors and Marines following their concert. Photo by MC2(SW) Daniel Viramontes. The concert was sponsored by Navy Entertainment and was the band's final military performance for this tour.

### Concert continued from pg. 1.

even like rock music, but they were just happy for some sort of taste of home.”

The performance had a positive influence on the band as well.

“I’ve been thanked a lot by a lot of people, but I’m more thankful for what you guys are doing,” said McAlhaney. “Everyone wants to put the importance on us, and us coming here, but you guys sacrifice a lot to be here, your own lives and your families. We kind of get a taste of that on tour, but it’s a lot different. This has been an amazing experience and I have a new found respect, honestly. I think most people stateside rarely get to see what really goes on and the lives you live.”

Anberlin formed in Central Florida in 2002 and within a year signed with Tooth and Nail Records to release their debut album, “Blueprints for the Black Market”, in May. The band broke through with their third album in 2007, “Cities”, selling 34,000 copies in the first week and reached the top 20 on the Billboard 200 chart. In August 2007, the band signed with their first major label, Universal Republic, and following up in 2008 with “New Surrender”, which topped at number 13 on the Billboard 200 chart. The band is currently on tour in the United Kingdom in support of their sixth studio album, “Vital.”

The band is currently comprised of lead singer Stephen Christian, bass guitarist Deon Rexroat, guitarists Joseph Milligan and Christian McAlhaney and



drummer Nathan Young, who all, have been together for five years.

“We’re all very thankful for this experience. Honestly, it’s one of the best experiences I’ve ever had,” McAlhaney concluded. “The whole thing has been almost overwhelming at times. It’s been a series of life firsts for all of us: flying in on a helicopter, being on a ship at sea, getting the tour and really getting a peek at what goes on, on the ship, meeting with officers to eating in the mess hall. It’s just been an amazing day and a half and I don’t think we’ll ever forget it.”

## Man on the Street

By MC3(AW) Valerie Grayson

As a child, and sometimes as an adult, we fall in love with our favorite cartoon characters.

*So, Peleliu asks if you could marry a cartoon character, who would it be? Why?*

**Interior Communications Electrician  
2nd Class LaBradford T. Eagledeer  
Saint Francis, S.D.**



“I would marry Daffney from Scooby Doo, because marriage will always be a mystery.”

**Cpl. Guadalupe Law  
from Laredo, Texas**



“I would marry Spongebob Squarepants. He has a great sense of humor and there will never be a dull moment.”

**Joseph Milligan,  
Anberlin’s Lead Guitarist from Houston**



“I would marry Betty Rubble. She’s sweet, smart, very supportive, and she’s not scheming like Jessica Rabbit.”

**Chief Navy Counselor Rhonaka Williams  
from Spartanburg, S.C.**



“I would marry Superman. There would never be a day he wouldn’t come to my rescue.”

## Tax Time: Information to Help Ease the Burden

W-2s are now available at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>, as of Jan. 24.

With our expected return date being after the deadline for taxes to Internal Revenue Service (IRS), there are a couple of options:

1. Do your taxes online with a selection of available programs.

2. Request an extension and complete your taxes upon return to home port.

### Deadline for filing taxes:

**April 15**

For additional information related to individuals in the military, go to <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military>.

As employees of the Department of Defense, the IRS identifies taxpayers who are serving in a combat zone so that we may suspend compliance actions, such as audits or enforced collections until 180 days after the taxpayer has left the zone.

Contact the IRS directly to request combat zone relief for extensions of deadlines by sending e-mail

to [combatzone@irs.gov](mailto:combatzone@irs.gov). Provide name, stateside address, date of birth and date of deployment to the combat zone. Do not include social security numbers in an e-mail. This notification may be made by the taxpayer, spouse, authorized agent or representative.

### Frequently Asked Question

**Q:** I have been serving in a combat zone since last November. I understand that the deadline for performing certain actions required by the tax laws is extended as a result of my service. When did these deadline extensions begin for me?

**A:** The deadline extension provisions apply to most tax actions required to be performed on or after the beginning date for your combat zone, or the date you began serving in that combat zone, whichever is later. In your case, the deadline extensions began the day you started serving in the combat zone last November.

State taxes can be extended by contacting the revenue service particular to that state.

For those who are ready to prepare taxes now, there are a variety of services available online. Military One Source, free to all military, uses a military version of H&R Block, [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

Other tax preparation services which may be free if you qualify are out there such as TurboTax, Jackson Hewitt, and H&R Block.

Check the service to see if it has a military version. If it does, it will probably be free or reduced and will be specifically related to military needs.

*Editor's Note: The ship currently does not have the ability to provide the volunteer income tax assistance on board.*



## # LOOSE LIPS

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class (SG) T. Grout, PeleNews contributor

Part 18

Patricia gloated. Men are such easy targets.

Over the years Patricia changed her tactics from alcohol to food. After drinking even a single beer men shifted the conversation and immediately assumed the aggressor role. Subtle as some may be, the desired outcome remained consistently the same. No job is worth that level of compromise. With food, the sex angle seldom came in to play. Incredibly, no man ever refuses a free meal. Regardless their race or the ethnicity of food, so long as it's free, men accept it.

Rus wore a wedding band but visited that Rubio's multiple times a month for the past several months. To the casual observer no one would notice. To a spy, that clearly spells marriage problems. After collecting all the business cards left by Rus in the fishbowl and turned over to an unnamed source for profiling, a picture began to unfold. The business cards identified him as a naval officer assigned to a senior staff. His Facebook page profile and photos provided the framework of a married man to a local Mexican girl and father of three children. Raised himself in Spring Valley, his parents both dead, and no siblings. A fan of Mexican food and an occasional drink. Living in Temecula.

Patricia received the assignment the usual way, a Facebook friend request from LCDR Rus Stevens. Not a difficult task for a computer hack of any grade with Facebook security all but non-existent. The request and phone number and she knew what to do. To this point things could not have gone simpler.

Rus entered Rubio's at 7:30 p.m. Patricia greeted

**SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**  
**PELELIU SAPR POC:**  
**NCCS SUSAN GARROW Ext 7567**  
 If you have been sexually assaulted, call the 24 hour crisis hotline at 877-995-5247, text your location to 55247 (INCONUS), or contact any of the following personnel BEFORE you speak to anyone else:

Any Chaplain; Victim Advocates (VA):  
 Lt. Nicole Schwegman HMC Jody Lacefield  
 AO1 Jennifer Martin LS1 Vernita Foster  
 AE1 Jeffrey Ritchie ABH2 Donnell Viree  
 HM2 Janice Sapaden OS2 Canon Deimerly  
 PR2 Cassandra Cox

**VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS**  
 Sexual Assault is crime. Victims of this crime are accorded the following rights:

- Be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
- Be protected from the accused offender.
- Be notified of court proceedings.
- Be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the court determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other testimony at trial.
- Confer with the attorney for the government in the case.
- Receive available restitution.
- Be provided information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender.

Sexual Assault Affects Us All - it is an attack on a Sailor and/or Marine - it hurts personal and family readiness. Equal Opportunity is a fundamental element of the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Every Sailor has the right to live and work in a safe environment, free from discrimination, harassment and assault. Creating a climate of inclusion is a leadership issue and every Sailor's responsibility. The DoD holds the entire Military responsible for protecting its own; therefore, prevention is everyone's duty.

him cheerfully, apologizing once again for the chip fiasco earlier. Waiving it aside he asked, "What time do you get off? Maybe we can go somewhere else to eat?"

"This may be easier than I thought! "My shift ends at nine. Ok, so long as you let me treat. I asked you to dinner, remember?"

"Fine. Have you been to Rockin' Baja Lobster in Old Town? They have the best street tacos. And happy hour begins at nine."

"That's pretty late." Glancing down at his wedding band, "Are you sure you're good with a late night dinner?"

Rus hadn't thought about that. Embarrassed he replies, "I live in Temecula but a few days a week I stay at my parents house. It's ok though. I told my wife about lunch and your offer to buy dinner to make up for it. She was fine with it."

She knew he just lied. "Great! Hang out if you like. Maybe I can get off early." She slipped to the out of sight and sent a text, "Rockin Baja 9pm."