

September 2011

Palau News



CO and CMC Updates - Pg. 2 - 3

Surface Line Week Story and Results - Pg. 4 - 5

Photos of CPO Selectees - Pg. 6 - 7

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



By Capt. James T. Cox

August 2011 marked yet another banner month for the crew of the mighty "Iron Nickel." Turning out in full force and putting forth their best effort, the crew brought home an impressive array of

trophies from the 2011 Surface Line Week competition and won "first place" in the Large Command category. It was an absolutely fantastic showing and something for which each and every member aboard can be rightly proud. Well done Peleliu. Swaggering is authorized!

The ship also earned the "Gold Level" of the 2011 Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Award. This prestigious award is given to ships and shore commands that demonstrate superior energy efficiency programs. Your efforts saved precious defense dollars

that can in turn now be better spent in ways that make our Navy even stronger. This could not have been achieved without the conscientious support from each and every Sailor doing the right thing and saving energy wherever and however they can. Not only are Peleliu Sailors "Blue and Gold – they are also "Green!"

Lastly, I want to personally thank our crew for their patience and positive attitudes as we all cope with the hard work and many personal inconveniences that come along with shipboard life during a major maintenance period. Our Sailors have been inspirational in their commitment to preparing our warship to better answer the call of duty and accomplish any and all future missions we may be tasked to perform. The industrial shipyard environment is a challenging place to work, but our Sailors have consistently proven themselves to be more than a match for the task.

Keep it up Peleliu. You are the best and brightest of our great nation and I could not be more proud of you!

On the Cover



Lt. j.g. Emrys Darrell shoots bearings during the shiphandling competition. Darrell went on to win first place.



FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDCM
(SW/AW)
David Dearie

September marks the 66th Anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu. It was early morning on September 15, 1944, when Marines and Sailors set foot on the island chain called Peleliu, present day Palau. What was expected to be a soft battle lasting upwards to three days could not have been further from the truth. Aerial intelligence reports stated the island appeared to possess soft soil and lush vegetation. Upon impact the Marines and Sailors learned neither to be true. Peleliu grew upon a hard coral surface with little vegetation to protect against a blazing sun and humid environment.

After just a few days of battle, the food and water supplies became exhausted. Injured and deceased could not be moved back to the ships. Japanese strongholds proved to be fortified by rocks and high upon cliffs. It took persistent timed attacks from several fronts to make small amounts of headway. Some day's advancement of less than 20 feet was counted as success. Eventually, days turned into weeks and within two months, the island of Peleliu came under the control of the United States of America.

Visit the ship and walk through the "Hall of Heroes" and see weapons used during the battle. Eight photos hang prominently in celebration of the eight men who acted beyond the call of duty and were awarded

the Congressional Medal of Honor, six of whom received the award posthumously. Also along the Hall of Heroes is a map of the island identifying the various battles as well as a brief synopsis of the battle.

We celebrate the namesake of our ship and remember the more than 9500 servicemen who gave their lives during this battle, both American and Japanese. We take the time to reflect upon what it means to serve aboard a ship named after something bigger than ourselves. In the same fashion the battle was fought and won, our crew responds in like manner. Whether we prepare and execute the plan for inspections and exercises, or conduct maintenance and repairs, we do this with the same pride and dedication as those who fought so bravely 66 years ago.

On September 15, take a few moments to mediate on our crew, those who paved the way 66 years ago, and the countless number of men and women "on watch" throughout the world protecting our freedoms today.



Family Readiness Group

The FRG plans, coordinates and conducts social, informational, care-taking and morale-building activities to enhance preparedness and command mission readiness through friendship and mutual support.

The FRG strives to increase the resiliency and the well-being of Sailors and their families. The ship's FRG has undergone a change in leadership since the middle of the summer and your new leadership team is working on putting together some great fundraisers to help us sponsor some social activities to get us through this ship's repair activity. Our general membership meetings will be held quarterly until 3 months prior to deployments when meetings will be once a month, notice of supplemental meetings will be announced as needed. The first meeting is scheduled to be on the first Tuesday in October, stay tuned for time and place. All ages will be welcome to attend.

Your newly appointed board is also currently looking for new members to join the FRG email distribution list and our FACEBOOK group page. If you are not currently on our list and would like to be, contact us by sending an email to peleliufrg@gmail.com with the subject line of "add me." And, if you also have a FACEBOOK account you could find our page and request to join The USS PELELIU FRG group. It's a great place to find updates, events, and other information regarding the FRG and great resources available for you and your family.

Members of the group are encouraged to stop by to share thoughts and ideas, ask a question or even offer to volunteer your time for upcoming events! We look forward to spending time with all of you and building some great friendships.

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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Surface Line Week

By ITSA Lance Leach

Our fellow shipmates won Surface Line Week, held in different locations in San Diego from August 16-21.

Surface Line Week is a competition that allows sailors to compete against one another for their commands in professional and athletic events. USS Peleliu competed in the Large Command group, which is any command with more than 500 personnel. Peleliu Sailors destroyed the competition, winning 15 events, and placing number one overall in their category.

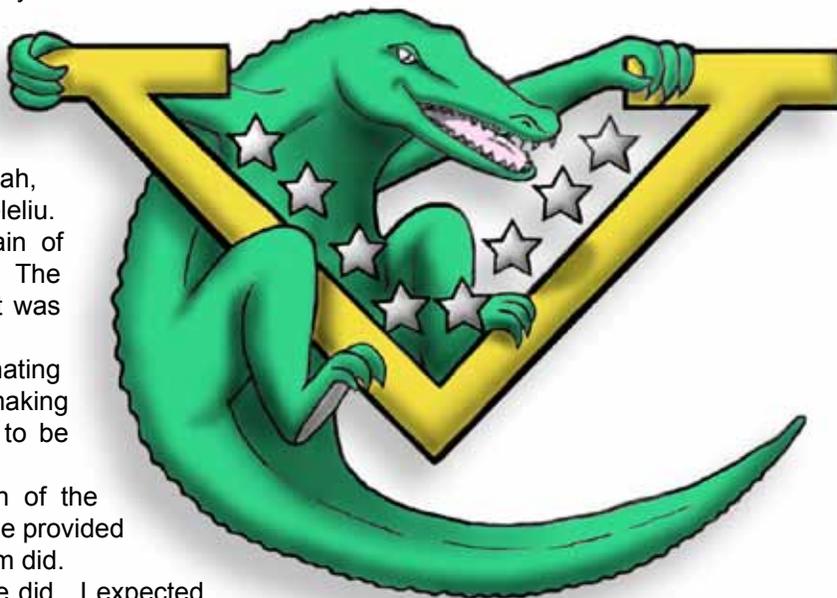
"The Peleliu was very enthusiastic!" said LTJG Joseph Abdullah, Surface Line Week coordinator for the Peleliu. "There was great support from the chain of command to get our Sailors participating. The Sailors were in high spirits and overall it was fun to watch."

Abdullah was in charge of coordinating the event for the Peleliu. He took care of making sure everyone was where they needed to be when they needed to be there.

IT1 David Smith was the coach of the softball team that finished in first place. He provided a little insight on how well our softball team did.

"I didn't expect to win the way we did. I expected a much closer game. The defense was on, and the offense was better. We ended up speaking with our bats," Smith said.

Capt. James Cox held an All Hands Call the following week to display the many trophies and congratulate the crew for showing the San Diego water front which ship is the best.



VADM Hunt, CNSF, poses with Capt. Cox and all the Peleliu winners during the awards presentation ceremony.

Surface Line Week 2011!

Below are the final results of the professional and athletic events.

Professional Events:

DC Marathon: 1st Place
 Lathe Competition: (MR2 Smith) 3rd Place
 Mboard Competition: 2nd Place
 Stretcher Race: 2nd Place
 Shiphandling: (LTJG Darrell) 1st Place
 Rescue Swimmer: (SN Mallow) 2nd Place
 Seamanship: 2nd Place
 Valve Packing: 2nd Place
 VISCOMM: 2nd Place
 Chili Cook-Off: (CS1 Vitug) 3rd Place
 Cake Decorating: 3rd Place

Athletic Events:

5K: 1st Place
 Basketball: 1st and 2nd Place
 Bowling: 1st Place
 Dodgeball: 1st Place
 Flag Football: 1st and 2nd Place
 Golf: 3rd Place
 Soccer: 2nd Place
 Softball: 1st and 2nd Place
 Swimming(Team): 1st Place
 Swimming (Male): (LTJG Tacl) 1st Place
 Swimming (Female): (LTJG Hemker) 1st Place
 Volleyball: 3rd Place
 PRT: 2nd Place
 Billiards: (ENFN Palomino) 1st Place
 Call of Duty: 1st and 3rd Place
 Madden Football: (LSSN McKnight) 1st Place
 Tennis: (LTJG Griffin) 1st Place
 Weight Lifting: (AMAN Newman) 1st Place



LT Jeffrey Whitsett and FC2 Eric Miramontes prepare for the 5k race.



Peleliu's Medical Response Team talks and prepares for their event.



CTTCM Todd Branstetter putts for birdie as YNC Harold O'Neal and BMCM Baird look on.

Chief Selectee



es Prepare for Pinning



THE UNITED STATES NAVY

CORE VALUES



THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, THE NAVY HAS SUCCESSFULLY MET ALL ITS CHALLENGES. AMERICA'S NAVAL SERVICE BEGAN DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, OCT. 13, 1775. THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS AUTHORIZED A FEW SMALL SHIPS. CREATING THE CONTINENTAL NAVY, ESEK HOPKINS WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND 22 OFFICERS WERE COMMISSIONED, INCLUDING JOHN PAUL JONES. FROM THOSE EARLY DAYS OF NAVAL SERVICE, CERTAIN BEDROCK PRINCIPLES OR CORE VALUES HAVE CARRIED ON TO TODAY. THEY CONSIST OF THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES.

HONOR

"I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE..." ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL: CONDUCT OURSELVES IN THE HIGHEST ETHICAL MANNER IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS, SUPERIORS AND SUBORDINATES; BE HONEST AND TRUTHFUL IN OUR DEALINGS WITH EACH OTHER, AND WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE NAVY; BE WILLING TO MAKE HONEST RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACCEPT THOSE OF JUNIOR PERSONNEL; ENCOURAGE NEW IDEAS AND DELIVER THE BAD NEWS, EVEN WHEN IT IS UNPOPULAR; ABIDE BY AN UNCOMPROMISING CODE OF INTEGRITY, TAKING RESPONSIBILITIES IN OUR PUBLIC AND PERSONAL LIVES TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY. ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER BEHAVIOR OR EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF SUCH BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL BEHAVIOR. WE WILL BE MINDFUL OF THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE OUR FELLOW AMERICANS.

COURAGE

"I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND..." ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL HAVE: COURAGE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF OUR PROFESSION AND THE MISSION WHEN IT IS HAZARDOUS, DEMANDING, OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT; MAKE DECISIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE NAVY AND THE NATION, WITHOUT REGARD TO PERSONAL CONSEQUENCE; MEET THESE CHALLENGES WHILE ADHERING TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF PERSONAL CONDUCT AND DECENCY; BE LOYAL TO OUR NATION, ENSURING THE RESOURCES ENTRUSTED TO US ARE USED IN A HONEST, CAREFUL, AND EFFICIENT WAY. COURAGE IS THE VALUE THAT GIVES US THE MORAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, EVEN IN THE FACE OF PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL ADVERSITY.

COMMITMENT

"I WILL OBEY THE ORDERS..." ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL: DEMAND RESPECT UP AND DOWN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND; CARE FOR THE SAFETY, PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLE; SHOW RESPECT TOWARD ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, RELIGION OR GENDER; TREAT EACH INDIVIDUAL WITH HUMAN DIGNITY; BE COMMITTED TO POSITIVE CHANGE AND CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT; EXHIBIT THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF MORAL CHARACTER, TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE, QUALITY AND COMPETENCE IN WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO DO. THE DAY-TO-DAY DUTY OF EVERY NAVY MAN AND WOMAN IS TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR WORK, OUR PEOPLE AND OURSELVES.