

September 12, 2010

# PALANews

USS Dubuque Fights Piracy

Peleliu Sends Supplies to Pakistan

FRG Update



# FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDCM  
(SW/AW/SS)  
Brent Williams

Another very busy and productive week, and once again it went by fast!! I hope all of you are continuing to make everyday the best it can be. The upcoming week is going to be very busy and will be filled with a lot of moving parts. We will be completing the exam cycle on Thursday, pinning our newest Chiefs, and commencing Command Indoctrination for our newest Sailors. To all of our newest shipmates, again, welcome aboard.

A recent update to the OPNAV 1414.8, which establishes requirements and the timeframe for initial qualifications of all enlisted Sailors assigned to warfare qualifying commands; will greatly assist our newest shipmates in mapping out their tours on PELELIU and their careers. The new requirement of all Sailors E4 and below is the requirement to achieve their primary warfare qualification within 30 months of reporting aboard. I am actually glad this new rule has been put into place. Now if you are reporting to your first afloat command as an E5 or above, then the 18 month rule still applies.

Now is the time to get this requirement out of the way; underway is the best time to complete all of your in-rate qualifications, and warfare requirements. Once the ship returns to home port, it is really difficult to find the time or the truly commit to getting all that is required completed.

As many of you get

settled in and have completed your first Career Development Board, you will hear more on this change and will be able to truly understand the importance of taking charge of your tour and your careers. Understanding what you need to have for next rank, pay issues, or career choices are a wide spread responsibility that spans across the chain of command, yet you are also responsible. You should feel lucky to be on a ship that has a great track record and truly deals with the issues at hand.

Every time I sit a career development board, I am amazed at the level of information that is available to all of our Sailors. What you do with it is the key. If you have questions, ask. If you need to research a pay issue, or even want to look into another rate, we have the talent available. As always, you need to understand the rules before you can win the game, and success and upward mobility are just a few of the prizes.

Have a great week and keep the suggestions and the shout outs coming.

Go Navy, and "Keep Charging PELELIU"



Photo by MC2 Andrew Dunlap  
CMDCM Williams congratulates this week's Sailor of the Week, HM2(FMF) Jai Velasco assigned to Assault Craft Unit One.

Cover: Marines assigned to Battalion Landing Team 14 fast rope from a Navy MH-60 Seahawk helicopter onto the flight deck of Peleliu.

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**Executive Officer**  
Capt. James T. Cox  
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# USS Peleliu Family Readiness Group Update

## “Somewhere beyond the sea...”

Greetings to those on the home front as well as our Sailors and Marines on the big blue. Another week behind us, Halloween stores are starting to pop up, the promise of fall on the horizon, and another week closer to reuniting with each other.

The Labor Day beach party was a blast for all, there were new faces as well as familiar ones and of course the kids all wore themselves out in the sand. Check the FRG fan page for pictures and please join us for the next one. Fundraising results for the garage sale will be forthcoming in the next issue, as well as on the FRG fan page, thank you to all who donated and especially to those who spent their Saturday selling all of our junk!

Our next meeting is going to be 19 September at 11a.m. at Highland Park in Poway, for directions email us at [peleliufrg@gmail.com](mailto:peleliufrg@gmail.com). The wheels are turning and we need your help with all the fall activities.

We could still use somebody for the open position of co-chair for treasurer, there are also many committees that will be dedicated to planning more fun events for the fall as well as the most important event of all, homecoming! Join us at the meeting to get involved or just to connect with others, as always, the meeting is family friendly so bring the kiddies, we will have some activities and crafts set up to keep them busy.

That brings us to the halfway party, the evite went out this week and all details are posted in the events tab on the Facebook FRG fan page, as well as in last week's edition. If you missed it or have any questions or suggestions, feel free to email the FRG co-chairs at [peleliufrg@gmail.com](mailto:peleliufrg@gmail.com). Here is our chance for another shameless plug for our big party:

October 2 at 2p.m., cost is \$20 per adult, we will have food, games, and activities for the kids, including Wii, pool table challenge, swimming, crafts, tie dying t-shirts, putting together single Sailor packages, and best of all, watching the video the ship made for us. We have also secured a spa gift card, a Hooters gift card, and a Mary Kay gift basket. The wheels keep turning and there will be more fun stuff for the raffle soon. If you would like to donate anything for the raffle, email us at [peleliufrg@gmail.com](mailto:peleliufrg@gmail.com).

If cost is an issue, please let us know through the email address so we can help.

Have a safe and wonderful week!

-FRG Co-Chairs



# Maritime Raid Force Recaptures Ship from Pirates



Photo by MC1 David McKee

Marines assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Maritime Raid Force, occupy a Naval Special Warfare RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) en route to the motor vessel Magellan Star Thursday, Sept. 9 to recover it from suspected pirates.

From U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain (NNS) -- At approximately 5 a.m. local time, Sept. 9, 24 U.S. Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force (MRF) aboard USS Dubuque (LPD 8) operating under Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151), boarded and seized control of Antigua-Barbuda-flagged, German-owned vessel M/V Magellan Star from pirates who attacked and boarded the vessel early Sept. 8.

This successful mission by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) secured the safety of the ship's crew and returned control of the ship to the civilian mariners. Nine pirates are currently under control of CTF 151, pending further disposition. This ship's crew has not reported any injuries or casualties. There were no reported injuries from the U.S. Maritime Raid Force.

The CTF-151 flagship, TCG Gökçeada, a Turkish frigate, was the first ship on scene, responding to a distress call received from Magellan Star,



Photo by Cmdr. Christopher Nodine

A pair of Marine Maritime Raid Force teams board the motor vessel M/V Magellan Star during a board and seizure operation. The Marines took nine suspected pirates into custody and transferred them to the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59).



Photo by CTT1 Gregory Tate

U.S. Marine Corps snipers provide cover and observation Thursday, Sept. 9 during a boarding and seizure operation to retake the motor vessel Magellan Star from pirates.



The U.S. Navy amphibious transport dock ship USS Dubuque (LPD 8), center, dep



Sept. 8. Two additional warships assigned to CTF-151, USS Dubuque (LPD 8) and USS Princeton (CG 59) arrived in the vicinity of the attack to provide support to Gökçeada. Turkish Navy Rear Adm. Sinan Ertugrul, commander, CTF-151 said, "units from the multinational maritime force, under Combined Task Force 151, are actively engaged in anti-piracy operations. This regional problem, truly, has global impact and we are completely committed to bringing the disruptive acts of piracy to an end. We have full support of the international community and will continue to do everything possible to bring security to the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin."

CTF-151 is one of three task forces operated by the 25 nation Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). CTF-151 was established in January 2009 in order to deter, disrupt, and suppress piracy, protecting maritime vessels of all nationalities and securing international freedom of navigation.



*Photo by Cmdr. Christopher Nodine*

The USS Princeton (CG 59) provides cover as a Marine Maritime Raid Force team boards the motor vessel M/V Magellan Star during a board and seizure operation. The Marines captured nine suspected pirates and liberated the ship's crew.



*Photo by CTT2 William Farmerie*

loys a pair of Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters to provide aerial protective coverage while a Maritime Raid Force captures pirates aboard the M/V Magellan Star.

# Peleliu Sends Relief Supplies Ashore in Pakistan

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Story by MC1 (SW/AW) R. David Valdez  
Photos by MC3 Ian Campbell

Helicopters from USS Peleliu (LHA 5) and the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) began delivering humanitarian aid supplies to the government of Pakistan Sept. 6, as part of ongoing American support to provide relief to flood victims.

CH-46E "Sea Knight" and MH-60S "Sea Hawk" helicopters will move 90 pallets of relief supplies to Sharea Faisal Air Base during the course of several days.

The pallets include supplies for purifying and storing water, insect repellent, tarps, items to help control the spread of disease, as well as health and comfort packages to alleviate human suffering in the rain-soaked conditions. They will be transferred to the Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority for distribution to the people affected by the severe flooding throughout Pakistan.

"I've seen great coordination between the U.S. and Pakistani military since relief operations began almost a month ago," said Capt. Dale Fuller, commander of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group. "Delivering much-needed supplies is another way we can help our

friends in need."

Since their arrival in the area, Navy and Marine Corps helicopters have worked in support of the government of Pakistan to evacuate thousands of people in flooded areas in the north, as well as deliver food and supplies with their heavy airlift capability. As of Sept. 5, U.S. military operations in support of flood relief has delivered more than 3 million pounds of relief supplies and evacuated more than 11,000 internally displaced persons.

The Navy and Marine Corps team has a unique capacity to help save lives and give the government of Pakistan support to recover from this natural disaster. The sea-based and self-sustaining nature of the amphibious assault ship is ideal to deliver relief items ashore and replenish as needed.

"Helicopters have the ability to move supplies to and from hard to reach places," said Lt. Chris McDonald, a pilot assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23. "Whether that is between two ship's decks or into a remote landing zone, we're glad to be part of the process."

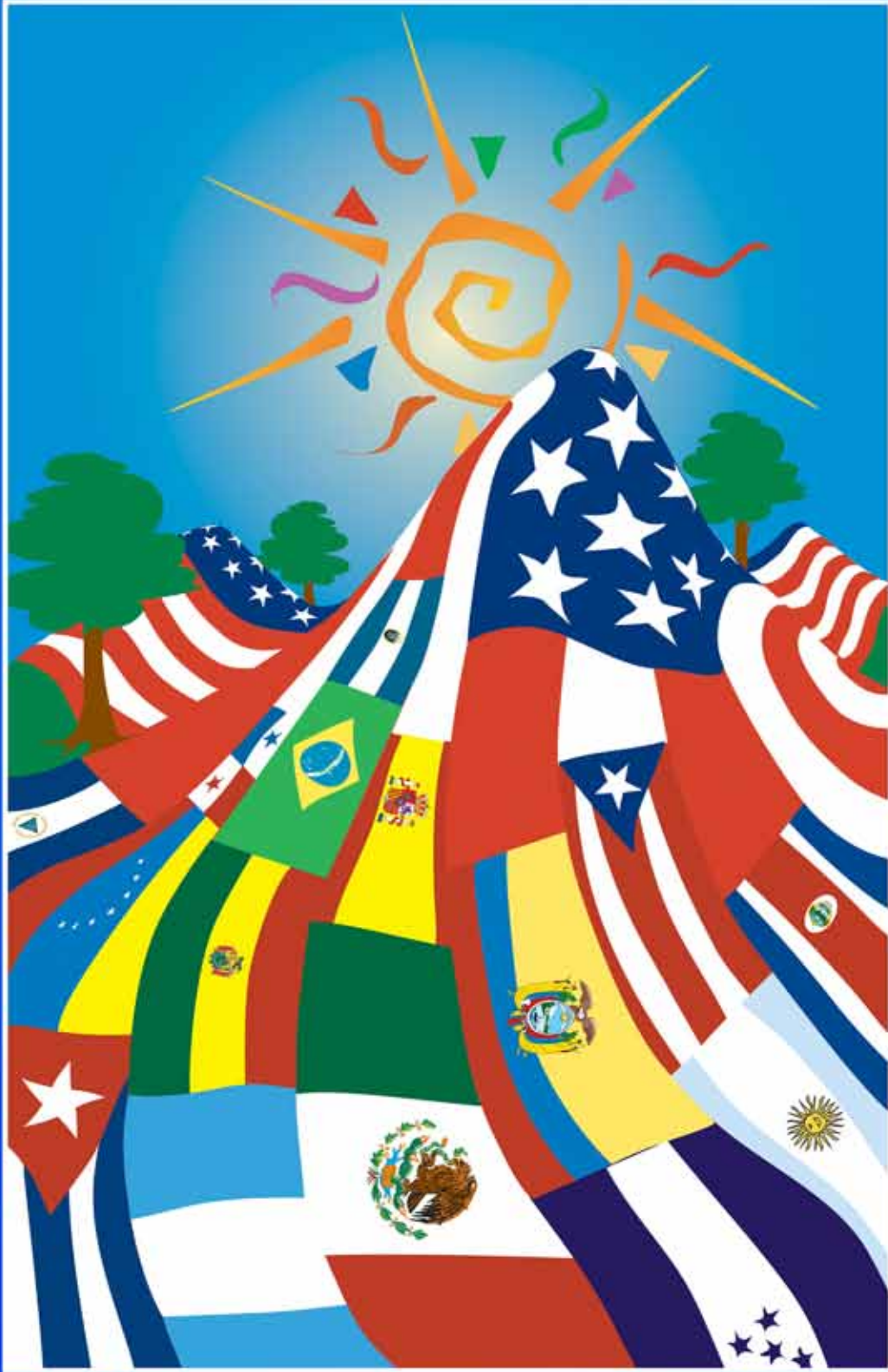








# ***Celebrando la Hérencia Hispanoamericana (Celebrating Hispanic American Month)***



Hispanic Americans: Enhancing the National Tapestry

