

Peleliu News

May 5, 2014

Peleliu Steps Up to Stop Sexual Assault



Capt. Paul C. Spedero, commanding officer, poses with members of the command Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) team on the mess decks during a cake cutting ceremony in observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Photo and Story by MC2 Alex Van'tLeven
Peleliu Staff Writer

In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and to help raise command awareness of prevention and response programs, a cake cutting ceremony was held on the mess decks of amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), April 30.

The Department of Defense (DoD) theme of this year's initiative is: "Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault."

Each year the DoD announces a theme and encourages military-wide involvement to help spread awareness of the consequences of sexual assault, the ways service members can prevent its occurrence and educate them on how to seek help, should it occur.

The Sailors aboard Peleliu who are at the forefront of the battle for a sexual assault-free Navy are the volunteer Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) victim advocates.

A SAPR victim advocate is a volunteer

who completes specialized training to qualify as a designated point of contact for victims.

"My responsibilities are to 'advocate' for the victim of a sexual assault. That includes providing information and support but never making a choice for that person," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Victoria Nelson, command victim advocate. "I should aim to empower a victim to take control of their life again, make informed choices for themselves and help them regain their strength and confidence."

In the event of an incident an advocate will aid the victim in reporting the incident. All reports are voluntary. The victim is given the option of a restricted report and an unrestricted report.

"The process of a restricted report is pretty cut and dry, so long as the chain of command, police, MA's [Master-at-Arms] or other such authorities do not know that a member was sexually assaulted, the ability to select a restricted report is not

taken away. This means that the victim can talk to a family member if they desire but it does risk the information no longer being in control of the victim," said Nelson.

"The member has most likely contacted a victim advocate in this instance, the advocate gathers whatever information the victim is comfortable telling them. Once the data is collected and the form stating the victim wants a restricted report is signed these papers are sent to the SARC [Sexual Assault Response Coordinator] who enters it into a database where the victim is only identified by a case number. This information is only kept for a specific time span to allow a victim to go from restricted to unrestricted if they choose. The commanding officer is informed that an assault occurred in their command but that is it. The victim is still anonymous and can access some of the resources."

Nelson said that if information pertaining to a victim's case is compromised, the

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Peleliu Earns Intelligence Excellence Award

Photo and Story by MC3 Dustin Knight
Peleliu Staff Writer

The amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) was named the recipient of the 2013 Commander, Naval Surface Forces Intelligence Excellence Award, April 14.

The award recognizes surface ships demonstrating superior afloat intelligence readiness and performance in one of three categories. Those categories are: surface ships with afloat intelligence centers, surface ships with independent duty intelligence specialists (IDIS) and surface ships with collateral duty intelligence officers (CDIO). Peleliu earned the award for its excellence in the afloat intelligence centers category.

“Our intelligence division did an outstanding job,” said Lt. j.g. David Lebhar, ship’s intelligence division officer. “They went above and beyond fulfilling the roles of analysis, production and dissemination which is reflected in multiple Ship’s Nautical or Otherwise Photographic Intelligence Exploitation (SNOOPIE) team evolutions, over 30 intelligence information reports that went out to national agencies to continue national analysis of foreign and commercial naval and maritime trends, and also in the production in intelligence briefs to ship and Amphibious Squadron Three leadership and multiple



Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Samantha Fallon photographs a surface contact during a Ship’s Nautical or Otherwise Photographic Intelligence Exploitation (SNOOPIE) team evolution.

amphibious ready group units.”

The ship’s intelligence specialists credit teamwork and creativity as the reason for receiving the award.

“Hard work, dedication, training vigilantly, great leadership, motivation and innovation were all aspects that we emphasized during our 2012-13 deployment,” said Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Daniel Ferri. “We updated a lot of things that other ships on the waterfront weren’t doing. We pushed forward with things that were innovative in the intel community.”

Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Myles McGee added, “We all had to

work together and had to play our role no matter if the role was large or small. We all had a common goal to meet.”

Peleliu’s intelligence and cryptologic technicians, all part of the ship’s afloat intelligence center, brought home the award for the ship by doing what they were trained to do and doing it well.

“It’s a credit upon the group and just shows that a good team can take any situation and get outstanding results,” said Lebhar.

Peleliu deployed in September 2012 and returned in May 2013 as part of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group in the 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility.



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Commanding Officer

Capt. Paul C. Spedero

Executive Officer

Cmdr. Scott Hudson

Command Master Chief

CMDCM(SW/AW/EXW)

TyRon Flynn

Managing Editor

MCC(SW/AW) Michael Wagoner

Leading Petty Officer

MC2(SW) Daniel Viramontes

Designer/Editor

MCSN Michael Duran

Staff

MC2 Alex Van'tLeven

MC3 Dustin Knight

MCSN(SW) Michael Duran

MCSN Ryan Batchelder

Peleliu Ramps-Up Energy Conservation



USS Peleliu (LHA 5) flies the SECNAV Energy flag while in port.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Viramontes

Story by MCSN Michael Duran
Peleliu Staff Writer

Five years after Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus introduced his ambitious energy goals, the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) continues its energy conservation practices in time for Earth Day, April 22.

In October 2009, Mabus encouraged all commands, both afloat and ashore, to pave the way in improving energy efficiency and security by establishing conservation programs and fostering an energy-conscious environment.

Peleliu has since put in place measures and implemented methods of conserving natural resources, reducing emissions, and minimizing the use of fossil fuels. In 2013, Peleliu was able to burn 24 percent less fuel and use 11 percent less energy, on average, compared to other amphibious assault class ships.

“The more efficiently we run our plants, the more water we conserve, that’s less fuel that we have to use to make steam,” said Senior Chief Machinist’s Mate Edwin Sanchez, the ship’s oil king on board Peleliu. “If we keep our boilers and our plants tight and reintroduce the steam back into the basic steam cycle, we can continue to [conserve] energy.”

Peleliu’s engineering department plays a major role in the efficiency of the steam-powered ship ensuring main space equipment is working in a continuously economical configuration. A 24-hour log is maintained with each system and is used to help identify and correct possible problems, such as steam leaks.

“Maintenance is the cornerstone of efficiency for our boilers and our plants,” said Sanchez. “We have to be thorough in our inspections when we are aligning systems and make sure all our equipment is working properly.”

Peleliu’s crew is able to help the

steam plant by ensuring sculleries and laundry services are used in moderation to save water and that air conditioning boundaries are constantly maintained. The navigation department and the bridge watch teams select optimum routes during underway transits in order to preserve fuel for mission-critical operations.

“It’s important that energy conservation practices become habits, part of the planning and execution of our daily operations,” said, Cmdr. Jamie Burts, Peleliu’s operations officer, in a recent interview with *Currents*, the Navy’s energy and environmental magazine.

“Conserving energy will not only help us save money, which can then be used by our senior leaders to invest in other critical programs, but it will also allow us to spend valuable time and savings on more important combat capabilities, such as supporting the warfighter.”

Burts was recognized by *Currents* for his initiative in promoting energy conservation in the planning process of ship operations as well as encouraging junior personnel to develop effective efficiency habits.

It was this culmination of team effort that led to Peleliu receiving the SECNAV 2013 Energy Conservation Award for the large ship category awarded Oct. 29, 2013.

The crew of Peleliu was also thanked by Secretary Mabus in a Navy-wide message announcing the 2013 energy conservation award winners, for executing comprehensive efficiency programs with senior-level command involvement, well-staffed and trained energy teams, aggressive awareness campaigns, innovative energy efficiency measures, and consistent reduction in energy consumption.

With the award, Peleliu is authorized to fly the SECNAV Energy flag for one year and was awarded \$30,000 to continue implementing new energy saving measures and work towards the goal of a more efficient Navy.

CMC’s Corner



CMDCM (SW/AW/EXW) TyRon Flynn
Command Master Chief, USS Peleliu (LHA 5)

Hooyah, Iron Nickel!

Another issue of the PELENEWS and another CMC’s Corner coming your way! Shipmates, as we close out this month of April and head into May, I want to take some time to highlight some of the month’s observances.

Sexual Assault Awareness was observed and stressed this month in an effort to keep in the forefront of our minds that we as Sailors need to be ever vigilant in looking out for each other and stomping out this horrible crime. I know we as PELELIU Sailors have been trained in the past on what to look out for, what type of behavior is acceptable and how to report all cases of Sexual Assault. This is a year-round focus, so as we prepare to deploy and as we take our POM leave, I want you all to remember what you have been taught about being an active bystander. Remember, be a shipmate and look out for each other out there!

April was also Alcohol Awareness month. Through our Sexual Assault training we learned that one of the major contributors to that crime is abuse and over indulgence in alcohol. We also learned that being drunk is not an excuse for committing that or any crime. If you plan on using alcohol, please do so responsibly. Drink in a social setting, not to get drunk. Have a plan for who is going to be the sober person in the group. Who will be the designated driver? Make sure you have a plan! Remember, we can not afford to lose any of our shipmates to alcohol related accidents. Be smart.

And lastly and most definitely not least, we took time out in April to recognize Holocaust remembrance. The remembering of the atrocities committed by Germany’s Nazi Party during World War II is important and needs to continue so that we never allow this to happen again. It’s good to know that through awareness and remembrance, we are creating a world more tolerant and accepting of the differences we may have.

And that is it from the CMC’s Corner! As always shipmates, be polite, be professional and be prepared! Hooyah, Iron Nickel! CMC out!

HAZE GRAY AND UNDERWAY



Photo by MC2 Daniel Viramontes



Photo by MC3 Dustin Knight



Photo by MC3 Dustin Knight



Photo by MCSN Michael Duran



Photo by MC3 Dustin Knight



Photo by MC2 Daniel Viramontes

Top left: Aviation Boatswain's Mates (Handling) paint aviation boatswain's mate wings on a hangar bay door with yellow, blue, red, and purple feathers symbolizing the colored jerseys of the flight deck's aviation rates. **Top right:** Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Nicholas McCurry, a landing signal enlisted (LSE), lands an Army CH-47 Chinook from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR), Alpha Company Four. **Right:** Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Dalzie Muwwakkil grades a target during a small-arms gun shoot. **Bottom:** Machinist's Mate 1st Class Kenneth Lashure climbs down a rope ladder to board a rigid-hull inflatable boat during a small boat transfer. **Left:** Damage Controlman 2nd Class Sarah Spangle has her Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) strap checked by Damage Controlman Fireman Zachary Moore, bottom left, during a main space fire drill. **Center:** Chief Warrant Officer Robert Gonzales, center, and Ensign Ray Sammons, right, participate in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sponsored dodge ball tournament.

SAAM, continued from page 1.

report can become unrestricted, even if it is not the victims wish. Although, a victim can always choose an unrestricted report at anytime, if a case becomes unrestricted it cannot be changed back or to a restricted report.

"An unrestricted report follows the same as a restricted report, except the commanding officer is given all the information available by official sources, not the victim advocate or SARC," said Nelson. "The process follows as any investigation would but many more resources are opened to the victim."

Despite either report being made, all correspondence between the victim and their victim advocate is keep between them. The advocate cannot be forced, coerced, or obligated to divulge anything that transpires between them and the victim, added Nelson.

Victimadvocatesnotonlyhandlecasereporting and victim support. Many help coordinate and administer command training and education.

"We have to give training on what they can and can't do as Sailors. Not just watching

videos, but getting them involved in scenarios," said Hospital Corpsmen 1st Class Janice Sapaden, who serves as a command victim advocate. She also spoke on the importance of training both senior and junior leadership and ensuring all Sailors are aware of the legal consequences of improper conduct.

Much can be asked of those who volunteer to become advocates, but it can also be rewarding for some that do.

"It's a good chance to help people that don't always have the means of getting help," said Aviation Ordnancemen 2nd Class Brandon Wideman, another command victim advocate. "It's getting better, I would like anyone who's not into it, or are just scared to come forward and say, 'Oh, you know what, I want to join that too,' to not be and help with the task."

The charge to end sexual assault from our ranks continues as well as the support for those who have been victimized. For more information regarding the DoD SAPR program please visit www.sapr.mil or speak to a command SAPR Coordinator.

Man on the Street

By MC2 (SW) Daniel Viramontes

"If you could live anywhere in the world, where would that be and why?"

ABF2 Lyndon Natividad from Baguio City, Philippines



"To me it doesn't matter where I live, as long as I'm with my wife. This is the time when she needs me the most because we're about to become parents of our first born. I want to take care of her and give her the

love and support she needs especially at this time of her pregnancy. I'd want her to feel how special and beautiful she is inside and out."

CS2 Joshua Hernandez from Chicago



"I would like to live in Brazil, Rio de Janeiro. It's a beautiful country, lively people and I love the warm weather to go with my favorite part, the beaches."

MM1 Cristal McTieghe from Colorado Springs, Colo.



"Ireland, but just for a short time. All the pictures and videos I've seen are very pretty."

ADC Royce Margist from Abbeville, La.



"I think Alaska. I like the snow and wilderness."