

August 15, 2010

# PeleNews

*15th MEU assists with humanitarian efforts in Pakistan*

*BLT: The MAXAM Marines*

*A letter from the Consul General to Peleliu*



# VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



D.A. SCHNELL, Commanding Officer

Hello to the Sailors and Marines of PELELIU, as well as to all our friends and families ashore!

This has been a busy week for the Sailors and Marines of the 'Iron Nickel'! As you may have recently seen or read in the news media, we were ordered last week to proceed across the North Arabian Sea to the coast of Pakistan to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in response to the devastating floods affecting that country. Our main effort is to provide heavy-lift helicopters capable of delivering large quantities of humanitarian supplies. Working hand-in-hand with the Pakistani government, we are ensuring food, water, and other basic necessities are finding their way to disaster-affected regions. This is the start of the Monsoon season in Pakistan and hundreds of bridges, roads, and villages have been washed away by the torrential downpour and overflowing rivers. Over 1,600 persons have perished so far and it is estimated over 14 million Pakistanis are directly affected by the tragedy. While I don't know how long we will be performing this mission, I do know it is vitally important to saving lives. The government of Pakistan is a crucial ally of the United States in the War on Terrorism and our efforts during this unprecedented flooding will have enormous impact.

Today we flew on 20 members of the international media as well as William J. Martin, Consul General of the U.S. Consulate in Karachi. For most of our guests, it was the first time they had

embarked in a U.S. Navy ship and they were all quite amazed at the capability of Peleliu to conduct humanitarian assistance operations. They especially enjoyed observing flight operations and posing in front of our helicopters and jet aircraft.

While here in the North Arabian Sea, we will continue to receive regular shipments of fuel, supplies, food, and most importantly, mail! On behalf of the crew, please keep those care packages coming! They mean an awful lot out here.

Before closing, I'd like to congratulate

the following First Class Petty Officers who learned this morning they have been selected for promotion to the rank of Chief Petty Officers! They represent the future of the Navy and we could not be prouder of them. Congratulations to: AO1 Gummerus, IT1 Herman, IT1 Hill, FC1 Jacobs, IT1 Loggins, BM1 May, BM1 McQuown, CS1 Melendez, AZ1 Miller, IT1 Nixon, ABF1 Vento, and EN1 Yarrington!

Thank you for your continued support of our deployment. Be safe and have a great week!

## Congratulations FY 2011 PEL ARG Chief Petty Officer Selectees



From left:

AZ1 Carol Miller  
IT1 Karvarees Herman  
IT1 William Loggins  
EN1 Timothy Yarrington  
FC1 Michael Jacobs  
AO1 Donovan Gummerus

IT1 Steven Hill  
BM1 Jed May  
IT1 Anthony Nixon  
BM1 Nathan McQuown  
ABF1 Crisanto Vento  
CS1 Jonathan Melendez

# FROM THE DECK PLATES



By CMDM  
(SW/AW/SS)  
Brent Williams

## “SAILORS”

Good Day once again shipmates, and I can't believe that August is almost over. I would like to start off this week by, once again, congratulating our newest Chief Petty Officers. This is a major milestone in any enlisted naval career, if not the most noteworthy.

I will be the first to say that they did not achieve this by themselves. I have asked all of our newest Chiefs, why they think they were selected. All of their answers centered around the support of the Sailors that worked for them, the support from the chain of command, and yes, the support from the home front.

Another factor that was discussed at a recent leadership roundtable with

Admiral Harris, the ESG-5 Commander, was that of support in the form of mentorship. I was glad to hear that mentorship was a factor in the development of these outstanding leaders. I know, throughout my career, mentorship had been a key element.

Onboard PELELIU, the mentorship program is working well and is in full swing. Our goal is for our Sailors to have the freedom to choose who they would like to have as a mentor. More times than not, the best mentor-protégée relationships are built over time and no contract or letter of appointment is ever signed. I have always thought that assigning a mentor for a Sailor goes against the core purpose of the program. That portion of Sailor development comes from the Sponsorship program, ensuring that our newest shipmates have someone to contact and ask questions prior to and during their first month onboard the ship. That's a separate, yet vital part, of the transition to arriving to a new command. The Mentorship program provides a more enduring, more personal relationship as it relates to personal and professional development.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Mentorship program, please contact LSC Claudio or your Chief, and they can explain more about the program.

I also want to remind all our prospective Petty Officers that the advancement exams are quickly approaching, so make sure you are getting the time you need to hit the books. The First Classes are holding Professional Military Knowledge classes

in the evenings, so make time to join in. Keep up the spectacular work and stay motivated.



### Commanding Officer

*Capt. David A. Schnell*

### Executive Officer

*Capt. James T. Cox*

### Command Master Chief

*CMDCM(SW/AW/SS)*

*Brent Williams*

### Public Affairs Officer

*MCCS(SW) Dan Smithyman*

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*MCSA Destiny Cheek*

## 15th MEU assists with humanitarian efforts in Paki-

By Capt Paul Duncan  
15th MEU PAO

Ghazi, Pakistan – Marine and Navy pilots from HMM-165 Reinforced (REIN), and HM-15 DET 2, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)

received a welcome tasker while serving with the MEU during its Western Pacific deployment.

“When you are assigned as an aviator to a MEU, you never know what to expect,” said Capt Clark Noble, a CH-53E pilot and current operations officer for HMM-165(REIN). You could spend a good portion of your time just trying to maintain qualifications and flight hours or, as in this case, helping local civilians in a foreign country during natural disasters,” explained the 28-year-old native of Gainesville, GA.

MEU experiences can be very diverse during a deployment. It is for this reason alone many Sailors and Marines desire to be attached to a MEU in the first place.

“Every Marine wants to be a part of a MEU because the MEU usually represents the tip of the spear during real world operations said, Cpl Donovan Day, an airframes mechanic for HMM-165(REIN). But sometimes when your unit is tasked with being the theater reserve, ground hog day can set in pretty quickly,” says the 22-year-old Hawaii native.

The Marine Corps has garnered a reputation for being the world’s 911-force-in-readiness. And it’s a job Marines take seriously. The tasks they perform each day are done with pride and professionalism but there are few jobs a Marine will do during his career more satisfying than performing humanitarian assistance operations (HAO)

“We are here to help in anyway we can,” said LtCol Todd Oneto, commanding officer of HMM-165 (REIN). The Pakistani military has the lead on all operations so whatever they say goes. We are just glad to be here and feel honored to be a part of the team. It doesn’t matter to my Marines if they are performing refugee extraction missions, building up supply depots, or carrying crates of meals ready to eat (MRE) from one location to the next, we just want to do what we can to assist,” said the 47-year-old Wallingford, Connecticut native.

The duration of support provided by the Marines in the area is uncertain. They could be here for a month or longer depending on how long the crisis continues and how long the Pakistani government requires and requests U.S. assistance. One thing is for sure, the Marines are excited to be a part of a growing multi-national community of volunteers working hard to alleviate the suffering in Pakistan.

“I am just glad to be here,” said Cpl Kirenja Dejarnatt, an airframes mechanic with HMM-165(REIN). “The people here are very friendly and have expressed nothing but gratitude and appreciation for us being here. I really feel like I am making a positive difference in the world because of

*“Pharmacy” continues on next page*



what we are doing,” explained the 23-year-old Miami, Fl. native.

Working in adverse weather conditions is nothing new to Marines. The training they received in preparation for their current mission has provided them with the confidence necessary to perform under stressful conditions.

“We are here during Pakistan’s monsoon season. And from what I have been told, it is particularly bad this year, said” Capt Ben Clayton, aviation safety officer for HMM-165(REIN). Many of the Pakistani pilots I have spoken with have told me the flying can be particularly challenging but I am confident we will be able to accomplish any mission we are assigned,” explained the 28-year-old native of Canby, Oregon.

As concerns regarding pending weather conditions grow, more assistance will likely be needed. Where that assistance will come from is yet to be determined. One thing is for sure, the Sailors and Marines of the 15th MEU are ready to help whenever and where ever they are called.

The 15th MEU is currently deployed with the Peleliu Amphibious Readiness Group performing training and real world missions as part of their routine deployment across the Western Pacific.



# A letter from the Consul General to Peleliu

August 12, 2010

I want to thank Colonel Osborn, Captain Fuller and Captain Schnell and the men and women of the PELELIU for their warm welcome. Their presence speaks to the commitment of President Obama, and the American people, to provide assistance to the people of Pakistan during this terrible catastrophe. It is easy to talk about numbers: numbers of victims, quantity of aid, but when we see men, women and children, huddled, cold, hungry, wet, it touches our common humanity and makes us see how petty our differences can be. As President Obama noted in his Ramadan greeting to all Muslims, Ramadan is, among other things, a time to reflect upon the responsibility that human beings have to one another. This is a value that the United States holds deeply and it is reflected here today.

Let there be no doubt that President Obama is very concerned about the plight of the Pakistani people. He has directed the American government to help Pakistan, during this crisis, by providing a wide range of assistance to the people of Pakistani in close coordination with its government and with NGOs (non-government organizations). I want to assure the people of Pakistan that the American people will stand by them as this tragedy unfolds. Nothing speaks to that more than these brave men and women, these brave American Marines and American Sailors, who are about to risk their lives to rescue and feed thousands upon thousands of Pakistanis.

Just yesterday, United States Army helicopters in the North of Pakistan rescued over 750 Pakistanis and delivered 108,000 pounds of desperately needed food and relief supplies. Without this dedication, without this courage, of the soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the United States, many more Pakistanis would have died or been without food and shelter in the harshest of conditions.

So far, the United States has committed 55 million dollars to those Pakistanis affected by the disaster. This money is being provided to international organizations and Pakistani NGOs to provide food, health care, and shelter for

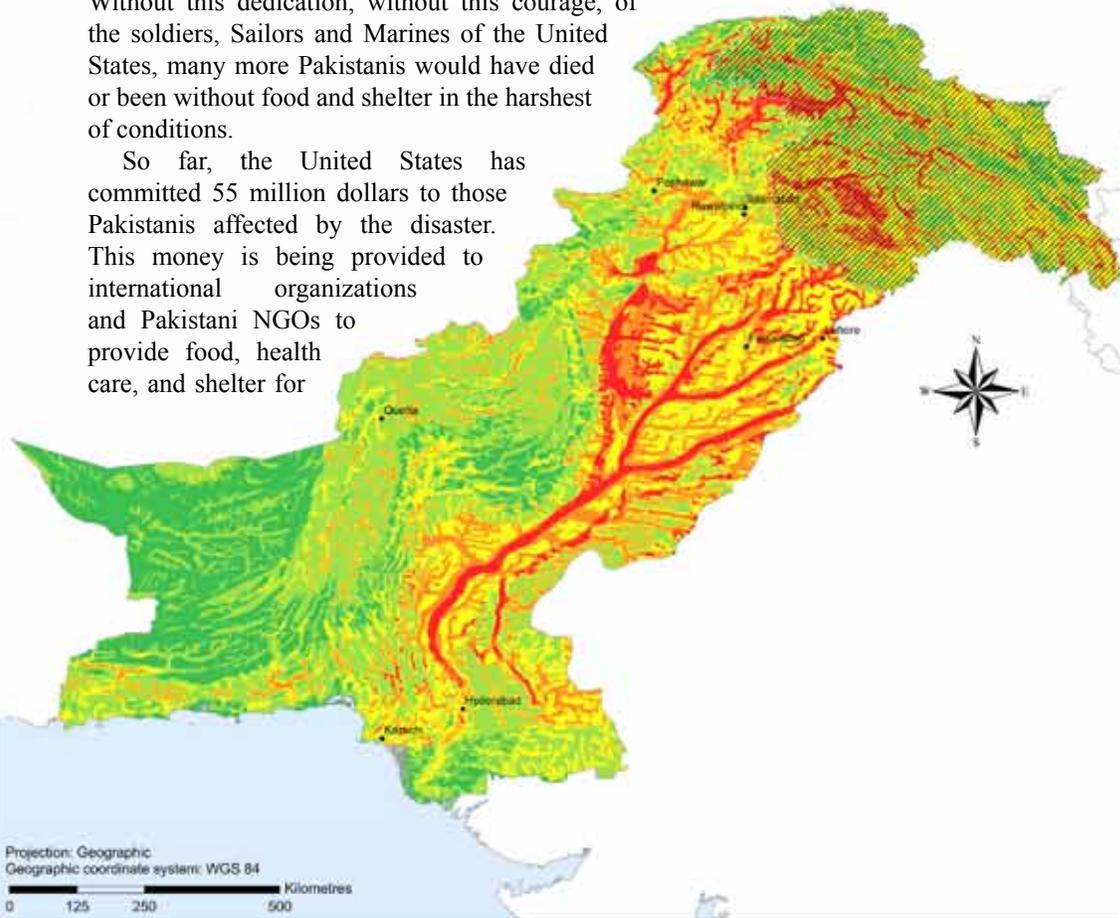
those displaced by the floods. Bridges, boats and heavy equipment have also been given to assist in rescues and to open relief routes.

The United States responded from a deep commitment to Pakistan and an unwavering belief in our humanitarian values. Let me assure the people of Pakistani, the United States will also be here as you rebuild.

Colonel Osborn and Captain Fuller, again, my heartfelt gratitude and admiration to you and your extraordinary team. Your courage and compassion make every American proud.

Thank you.

William Martin  
Consul General



**Legend**

**Intensity level (WHO, 2007)**

- Very low
- Low
- Medium
- High
- Very high
- No data

**Disputed area**

**International boundaries (UN, 2007)**

**Major cities (DCW, 1993)**

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**Disclaimer**

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the status of any country, territory, city, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

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# BLT: The MAXAM Marines

By MC1 Kenneth Hunter  
Staff Writer

The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is comprised of several Marine Corps combat elements, but perhaps none more dynamic or versatile as the Battalion Landing Team (BLT) of the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.

The BLT is a rifle battalion, with its own organic administrative, communications, maintenance and logistics elements called Headquarters and Services. The BLT is augmented by a tank platoon, engineers, artillery, and other amphibious assault components spread across all three ships in the Peleliu Amphibious Read Group. Based out of Camp Pendleton, the BLT incorporates Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) capabilities, and a steadfast mission to support the MEU. The BLT stands 1200-plus strong and works closely with its Marine brothers and sisters of the Aviation Combat Element (ACE).

The role of "The China Marines" is to locate, close on, and destroy the enemy using a fire and maneuver tactic, and to repel the enemy's assault by fire and close combat.

"The BLT is comprised of many components that support the MEU. Typically a traditional BLT Team has three rifle companies with additional components with it," said Capt. Philip Flambert, BLT Assistant Operations Officer.

The three rifle companies included in the BLT are a Motorized Company, which is comprised of assorted rolling stock like Humvees, trucks and other vehicles, and a Mechanized Company which is made up of Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) currently on USS Dubuque (LPD 8), and Helo Company aboard Peleliu that specializes in heliborne operations including raids and quick reaction force.

Weapons Company is supplemented with Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) which is made up of four light armored vehicles with an addition of a Light armored "L" vehicle (logistics vehicle). Artillery such as howitzers on board USS Pearl Harbor

(LSD 52) augment Weapons Company's firing capability.

"Since we are a light infantry that does not contain any aircraft, the ACE comes equipped with CH-53 (Super Stallion), CH-46 (Sea Knight), and AV-8B Harriers, in our missions," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Tommy Vigil, BLT Operations Chief.

Training is an important part of the BLT way of life.

Their training program consists of martial arts, weapons training and fast roping, to name a few of the different forms of instruction.

The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), is one of the more visible programs on board Peleliu in which Marine participants work to achieve their belts denoting proficiency.

"The first belt that is earned - never given - is the tan belt, then gray, then green, then brown, and finally black with different levels of black belts signified by little red tabs on the black belt. Currently, all Marine Corps Infantry units must be qualified up to green belt," said Vigil.

BLT has run two martial arts training courses. The martial arts instructors teach a three-week course, and the instructors encourage the Navy side of the house to participate.

"The MCMAP training is definitely a great system of blue-green integration," said Flambert.

Combat training goes beyond hand-to-hand combat. Getting on the ground from a helo insertion requires specific training too.

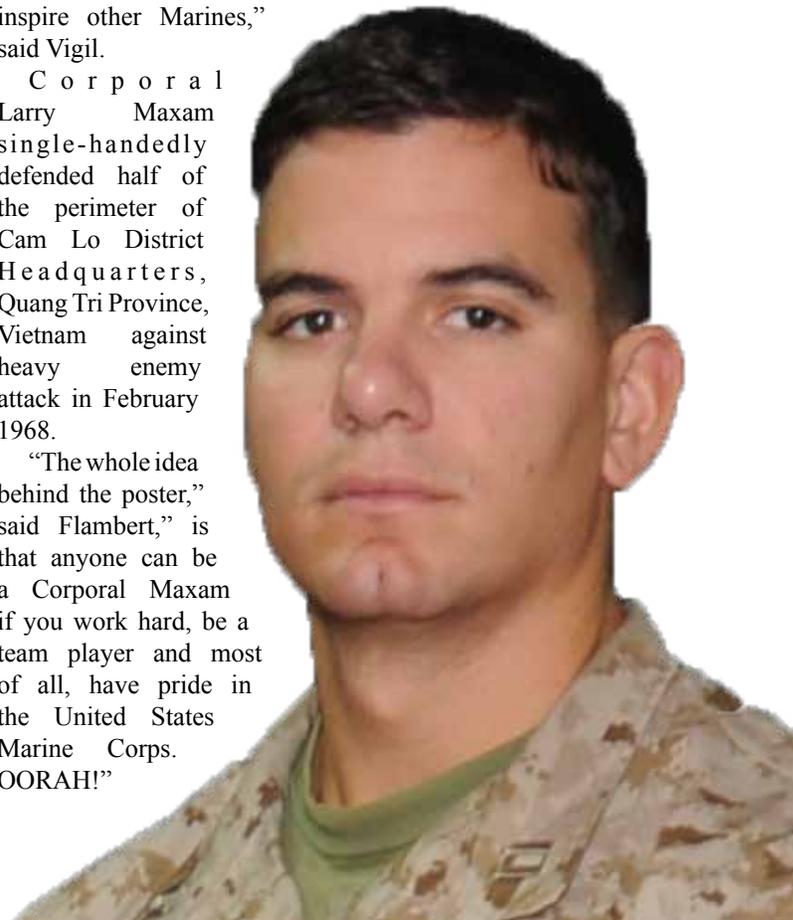
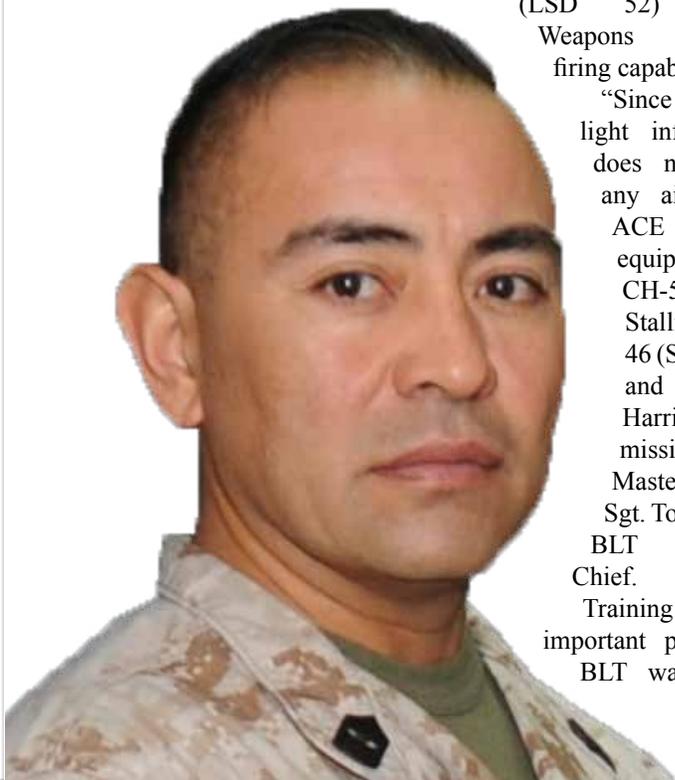
"A big facet of training is static and dynamic fast roping. Static fast roping is from a CH-46 parked on the flight deck and Marines jump out and rappel down the rope. Dynamic is when you have the bird just flying overhead doing the same thing from 20-30 feet onto the deck," said Flambert.

Many of the training and actual combat evolutions are inherently dangerous, but that's the job BLT Marines have chosen to perform. These actions are consistent with the BLT's logo, and its meaning. Every Marine battalion logo represents Marine pride and valor, and Vigil describes the meaning of the "MAXAM" namesake and silhouette logo as a part of the BLT heritage.

"Corporal Maxam earned the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions in Operation Kentucky during the Vietnam War. He is a role model to Marines and someone whose example we use to inspire other Marines," said Vigil.

Corporal Larry Maxam single-handedly defended half of the perimeter of Cam Lo District Headquarters, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam against heavy enemy attack in February 1968.

"The whole idea behind the poster," said Flambert, "is that anyone can be a Corporal Maxam if you work hard, be a team player and most of all, have pride in the United States Marine Corps. OORAH!"



# BATTALION LANDING TEAM 1/4



THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS THE WARRIOR,  
THE STRENGTH OF THE WARRIOR IS THE TEAM.

荣誉 勇气 责任