

# Peleliu News



November 25, 2012

## Peleliu Celebrates Thanksgiving Day



Chief Petty Officers volunteer to serve the crew during a Thanksgiving Day meal.

Photo by MC2 (SW) Daniel Viramontes

Story by MCSN Alex Van'tLeven  
Peleliu Staff Writer

Sailors and Marines aboard amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) spent their Thanksgiving Day with a replenishment-at-sea (RAS), a 5 km run and a special meal Nov. 22.

The day began aboard Peleliu with early morning replenishment-at-sea with Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Patuxent (T-AO 201).

Deck department Sailors rigged the two ships together for refueling and connected cargo lines for Supply department to send off material, mail and waste.

After refueling, the flight deck opened for a 5 Km "Turkey Trot" run, coordinated by the ship's Second Class Association (SCA). More than 100 participants took the opportunity to burn some calories prior to the Thanksgiving Day feast.

"We took it by the horns, put everything together and it turned out great. A huge turn out of volunteers stepped up to the plate and contributed so much to the event.

I couldn't have done it without them," said SCA president, Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Juan A. Diaz, from Bronson, N.Y. "There was a huge turn out of participants and it was great."

As the crew reflected on the holiday, the command chaplains combined to conduct an inter-faith Thanksgiving service in the chapel.

"We have a lot of people whose families' traditionally go to a house of worship for Thanksgiving," said Cmdr. Shaun Brown, Peleliu's command chaplain. "Since we can't be with our family physically, we can at least offer a token of joining them in spirit."

Volunteer readers participated by leading the congregation in scripture and prayer.

"I think it's important for us to give thanks because it keeps our morale up. [It] reminds us why we are here and [it helps us to] understand we all have the support of each other through the challenges we face while deployed," said Cpl. Aysia C. Acfalle,

assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. "It gets the Navy and Marine Corps to bond and stay high-spirited."

While the holiday tributes commenced, preparations for a special Thanksgiving Day meal transpired in the main galley. Culinary specialists, food service attendants and volunteer help from senior leadership collaborated and served more than 2,400 crew members.

"It's important to come out and help because the meal is for all of us. We, as leaders, have an obligation to take care of the junior enlisted. It's about them," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Marcos A. Ortiz, from Newark, N.J., and meal volunteer. "We're all a long way from home. We're one big happy family, so we need to come together and pitch in so we can make this the best Thanksgiving that we can."

The galleys prepared approximately 1,040 pounds of turkey and 765 pounds of ham and garnishments for the deployed Sailors and Marines.

The culinary specialists, who works full-time in the galley, appreciated the help.

"We are very grateful for the volunteers," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Jonaz H. Taduran, a Republic of the Philippines native, raised in Las Vegas. "At first, it was hectic with a lot of people in one place, but as soon as things started to pick up. It started to flow and there was cohesion and teamwork."

Despite the undertaking of the large feast, crew satisfaction was some of the food service personnel's driving force.

"It feels great to help with the meal. A lot of hard work was put into it. Getting to see everyone enjoying their meal, sitting back and giving thanks makes the hard work pay off," added Taduran.

Although, many Americans celebrated Thanksgiving Day as time spent with family and friends, the Sailors and Marines aboard Peleliu spent it with an extended family of service members who understand the concept of mission first.

# Forward-Deployed Small Unit Leaders Graduate Professional Military Education

## 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  
Lt. j.g. Andrea Goldstein  
HMC Jody Lacefield  
AO1 Jennifer Martin  
AO1 Benjamin Callen  
LS1 Vermita Foster  
AE1 Jeffrey Ritchie  
ABH2 Donell Viree  
HM2 Janice Sapaden  
OS2 Canon Deimerly  
PR2 Cassandra Cox

### What Can I Do To Help Reduce My Risk Of Sexual Assault?

#### General Safety:

**Trust your instincts and be yourself.** If you feel unsafe, or even uncomfortable, in any situation, go with your gut; don't worry about what others think; your safety comes first. Use your cell phone as a tool. Make sure it's fully charged before going out, and if you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, shoot a quick text for a "friend-assist." Make a plan before you go out just in case your phone dies or loses signal, plan to meet up with your friends at a specific location and time.

**Be careful when leaving status or away messages online and when using the "check-in" feature on Facebook.** Leaving information about your whereabouts reveals details that are accessible to everyone. Use common sense so that someone can't track your every move. If you wouldn't give the information to a stranger, then don't put it on your online profile. Wait to let your guard down until people earn your trust. Working and/or living on a military base can foster a false sense of security. Don't assume people you've just met will look out for your best interests; remember that they are essentially strangers.

**When you date someone, communicate clearly about limits.** By communicating openly with each other, you ensure that you are both aware of each other's limits from the beginning. Both verbal and nonverbal (body language) communication can be used to ensure the message is understood.



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

Throughout Marine Corps history, corporals and sergeants, commonly referred to as non-commissioned officers, have been known as the backbone of the Marine Corps for their ability to accomplish their assigned mission, leadership and dedication to duty.

Sixteen corporals with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit completed Corporals' Course 314-12 aboard the USS Peleliu, Nov. 9. This was the first course held since the unit deployed on Sept. 17.

"Corporals' Course is designed to develop newly promoted corporals' leadership skills that will carry on to future ranks," said Gunnery Sgt. Jason E. Barnes, chief instructor and supply chief, Command Element, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. "The corporals who graduated should feel a strong sense of pride from accomplishing something to better themselves," added the 33-year-old native of Baton Rouge, La.

Corporals' Course is a professional military education for enlisted Marines designed to give them the tools to become more effective small unit leaders. According to Marine Administrative Message 375/09, the course is a requirement to be promoted to sergeant.

The course covered a variety of topics to

include Marine Corps planning, mentoring subordinates, leading by example, physical training, close order drill, improvised explosive devices, operations, operational risk management and public speaking.

"Corporals' Course was a great experience for me," said Cpl. Steve Nelson, utilities chief, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. "I really learned a lot from each of the different instructors and from my peers," added the 23-year-old native of Eagan, Minn.

The 11-day course brought together Marines from each of the 15th MEU's subordinate elements and provided them with the unique opportunity to learn about each other's specialties.

"The classes that were taught often had open discussions for the students, which enabled them to give feedback based off their previous experiences," said Sgt. Emmanuel T. Martinez, radio supervisor, Command Element, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. "For example, the infantrymen were able to assist the other corporals during infantry-related classes," added the Houston native.

Throughout the course of the deployment, the MEU plans to hold at least six more courses to provide their corporals the opportunity to meet their PME requirement and help them become better leaders.

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## Peleliu Celebrates National American Indian, Alaskan Native Heritage Month



Native descents and diversity team members cut a cake in celebration of National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month.

**Photos and Story by MCSN Alex Van'tLeven**  
*Peleliu Staff Writer*

Sailors and Marines aboard amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) celebrated National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage month, Nov. 17.

Hosted by the ship's diversity team, service members came together for a ceremony to honor the contributions Native Americans and Alaskan natives have made in the military.

"[The celebration] opens up ways to communicate with other cultures," said Fireman Apprentice Ana Y. Parada, a diversity team member from San Diego. "The Navy is a big melting pot as far as being able to work with one another, and to know more about one another. It gives us a sense of pride."

The event featured a cake cutting ceremony, speeches by diversity team members and the movie "Wind Talkers" playing in the hangar bay. The celebration highlighted the various walks of life American Indian and Alaskan natives originate.

"There are certain things that I didn't know about, but when I researched it, it opened a thought pattern," said Parada. "It made me realize that there are so many different tribes that I previously didn't know about."

Several Native American - descent crew members received recognition and acknowledgement for the sacrifices their ancestors have made to military and to the nation.

One of those service members was Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class LaBradford T. Eagledeer, of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, from St. Frances, S.D. He said it was humbling to realize the appreciation the military and the nation has for the various contributions that Native Americans have made.

"I've never really been recognized for being a Native American before," said Eagledeer.

According to the Naval History and Heritage Command, various Native American cultures have aided the military in different ways for the 200 years. The command attributes the Native American military service to deeply rooted morals and values.

"Out of all other ethnicities, Native Americans have the highest volunteer rate," said Eagledeer. "We volunteer the most; we have the most people in the Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard per capita."

By holding such events, the diversity team encourages those who attended to be more open minded.

"It gave me a lot more respect for the Navajo language," said Cpl. Tia L. Taylor, from Tempe, Fla., attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 (REIN). "My parents both speak it fluently, and they've always stressed for us to learn. Watching the movie and seeing how the language helped during the war lead me to have a lot more respect for it, and made me want to learn more."



Sailors and Marines watch the movie "Wind Talkers" in a tribute to National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month.

## CMC's Corner



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

Yo! What's Up?

First, I want to say congratulations to everyone that advanced off the last test cycle. Peleliu's advancement percentage was 43 percent. As I said last week, "You Rock!"

This week I want to talk about goals. I hope that someone in your chain of command talked to you about having goals for deployment. Right now we have an excess of one of our most important resources: Time.

Time is a finite resource, no matter what you do there is only going to be 24 hours in each day and 168 hours in each week. Some of us see deployment as a bad thing, thinking such things as: "This sucks, we are stuck out here and can't do the things we want to do." I see it differently. I see it as I now have all this time to do the things I have wanted to do but didn't have enough time to do.

Now is the time to focus on the things that matter, e.g. studying for the next exam, getting 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 I am asking every one of you, if you don't have deployment goals, set some now.

I want you to have three to five goals to focus on. They should be both personal and professional goals; goals that mean something to you. Trust me, focus on your goals and deployment will fly by. Most importantly, you will be able to look back and say: "I accomplished something. And you know what? Deployment wasn't that bad at all!"

Until next week, keep doing all the great things you do everyday!

-CMC

# Peleliu's Junior Sailor of the Year 2012



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 3rd Class Noel Reid conducts a clean, clear and bright test on a fuel sample.

**Photo and Story by MCSN Jasmine Sheard**  
*Peleliu Staff Writer*

Born and raised in Race Course, Clarendon, Jamaica, Noel Reid had a busy life running his own business and working for a private school. But the recession hit his business hard. It was this event that led to Reid taking a new path.

He wanted job security. Reid knew a little bit about the Navy from his brother who served four years as a machinist's mate, so he made the decision to join.

Now as an aviation boatswain's mate (fuel) 3rd class aboard amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), Reid has achieved several goals since reporting in February 2011.

"During my career on board, the first thing I wrote down on my paper for goals was I wanted to be Sailor of the year," said Reid. "I also wanted my surface and air [warfare] pins and all of my qualifications."

He added "Right now, I have maxed out all of the qualifications in my department, I have both of my pins and received a few awards."

Reid was announced Peleliu's Junior Sailor of the Year (JSOY) 2012, Oct. 22.

The JSOY is awarded aboard Peleliu to a Sailor at the pay grade E-4, who demonstrated initiative in performance, exemplary personal conduct and military bearing and outstanding achievements.

"Reid is an outstanding mentor with great military bearing and superb work ethics," said Senior Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) Trumpus Thomas, Reid's leading chief petty officer. "He is first in the work center and last to leave."

He competed against three other Sailors who boarded on the ship's mission, chain of

command, military bearing, basic military knowledge and current events.

"Reid is always taking care of his peers," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 2nd Class Juan Gonzalez, Reid's leading petty officer. "He helps them with their qualifications and gives them advice whenever they need it."

His current responsibilities include active pump room supervisor, V-4 below decks assistant leading petty officer, work center supervisor, and repair parts petty officer.

Apart from his responsibilities in the shop, Reid is the Air department operational security representative, former-captain of Peleliu's soccer team, and volunteers in his community as a mentor when he is home.

"I don't believe in mediocrity," said Reid. "I believe in setting the highest standard and holding myself accountable to the highest standard and highest expectation. I settle for nothing less, absolutely nothing less than the highest."

According to Reid, should he decide to stay in the Navy, he plans on applying to the Officer Candidate School program. Thomas has high regards for his success in the future.

"The sky is the limit for this outstanding Sailor. He has accomplished so much in a short period of time and I strongly believe his best is yet to come," said Thomas.

In 1972, the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Whittet established the Sailor of the Year Program to recognize the Sailors who best represent their individual commands in the Navy from the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet. 10 years later, the program was expanded to include the shore base commands and reserve Sailors.

## #LOOSE LIPS

Story by Petty Officer 2nd Class *Part 10*  
(SG) T. Grout, *PeleNews contributor*

Sometimes the best answer is to not answer. After several minutes considering his plight, Blake chose to remain silent. She signed the message "Steph." Perhaps she's trying to convince herself that she doesn't want a relationship but deep down, she does.

"I'll call her bluff," thought Blake. He threw back another shot and put the bottle up for the evening. His pocket vibrated. Pulling his phone, he read the text from Anna. "What are you going to do?" His short reply puzzled his sister. "Wait."

Stephanie stared at her screen.

Nothing.

She wondered if he was still online and received the message. Over an hour elapsed and still nothing. She checked her chat window to see if the green dot next to his name gave away his online status - nothing.

Either he's online with chat shut off or he's not.

Stephanie grabbed a bowl of frozen yogurt, a book, and went to bed. It took longer than usual to fall asleep. Her mind swam with thoughts. "Why didn't he answer? Did he see the message? What if he shows up and I didn't? Will he contact me? Will he wait for me?" It felt more like minutes than hours when the alarm interrupted her restless night.

After quarters, she and Jenny met in berthing for compartment cleaners.

"He never responded?" Jenny said with exasperation, more a comment than a question. "I don't know. The way you talk about him, I don't see the big deal meeting him. I mean, I see where you're coming from, but honestly, we're gone for half a year. What 'relationship' will do you think you'll have? It'll be 'Facebook Love,' nothing more."

"I don't know. I don't need the distraction. He used to be married. He has a kid!"

"He's also smart, going to school, and has a job."

As time dragged on Stephanie found herself thinking of nothing but the afternoon coffee. Four times she went topside with her iPhone to check Facebook - nothing.

Unlike most days, today she brought a change of clothes. The entire time while changing, driving, parking, and walking, she could here Jenny's voice convincing her that meeting for coffee is not a proposition to marriage. Stephanie stopped in front of the Rubio's next to the Barnes and Noble. "What if he doesn't show up?" Her heart sank.

She closed her eyes, took a breath, and walked the final ten feet to the door.

# MR1 Terry Giles: Navy Machine Repairman, Citizen Machinist



Photo by MC2 (SW) Daniel Viramontes  
Machinery Repairman 1st Class Terry Giles from Summertown, Tenn., faces a flow meter for a collection, holding and transfer piping system.

**Story by MC3 Derek Stroop**  
*Peleliu Staff Writer*

Walking through the doors of a sweet smelling coffee shop in central Tennessee, a father and daughter stand in the corner. He plays his guitar, and she sings vibrant country melodies that echo throughout the shop. Patrons sit at their tables sipping on the bold and medium textures of their coffee while the pungent aroma of Arabica beans fill the air, along with the sounds of country music rising from the corner.

The father, Machinery Repairman 1st Class Terry Giles, from Summertown, Tenn. prefers Southern rock, but he is happy just to be sitting next to his daughter, enjoying the moment.

Giles leads a dual life of service. He not only works at his civilian job at a local Lawrenceburg, Tenn. machine shop, he also works as a machinery repairman (MR) in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Giles has managed to juggle a technical specialty in both facets of his career.

He joined the Navy on active duty status in 1985 and worked with the Navy's construction battalions, or Seabees, as a steelworker. Giles said that he likes how the Navy provides a steady work environment without constant fear of getting laid off, which is why he joined.

After serving for seven years, he got out of the Navy to work a civilian job. Several years later he came back to the Navy as a reservist.

"I missed being at sea. I missed everything about it," said Giles, who is now the leading petty officer of the machine shop aboard amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5). "After doing a couple Mediterranean and [Western Pacific] cruises, it's just something you can't get out of you; it's in your blood."

Giles previously served on the submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40), multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1), guided-missile cruisers USS Bunker Hill (CG

52) and USS Princeton (CG 59). He joined the reserves because he likes the flexibility of picking and choosing assignments.

"[The reserves] give you that flexibility to choose an assignment or volunteer for duty," said Giles. "I volunteered for an assignment called Surge Main, which is a new program where we report to shipyards and perform maintenance. It gave me the opportunity to ask individual commands if they needed any extra help on their deployments."

According to Giles, that was one of the reasons why he chose and was able to report to Peleliu, Sept. 16. He said that he found his niche here and really likes the command.

"The command is absolutely awesome," continued Giles. "I like everything about it. I have not seen anything I don't like. The commanding officer, executive officer and the command master chief have been with us on everything we are doing and are supporting our needs."

Giles added that as a machinery repairman, he manufactures repair parts for many pieces of equipment on board. Most of the time, the parts are made from scratch.

"In a little over two months, we have already saved the Navy approximately \$40,000 in parts and equipment costs," said Giles. "I was able to manufacture two pieces for a \$30,000 piece of equipment that was out of commission. Now it's back online, so the Navy doesn't have to buy a new one."

The machine shop is gaining the skills and various traits through experience.

"Right now we are currently working on a piece for the Marines for one of their weapons," said Giles. "We are gunsmiths, 'metalsmiths' and blacksmiths; we do it all."

Giles said the Peleliu is the current Amphibious Repair Group Intermediate Maintenance Activity unit for the entire 5th

Fleet area of responsibility, so the shop on board takes care of any machinery repair work that needs to be done throughout the area.

Giles enjoys sharing knowledge and skills of the MR rating to his Sailors in the shop.

"I enjoy teaching junior Sailors," said Giles. "I like to go and show them new ways to approach things and they would say, 'Wow that really works.'"

Sailors in his shop are receptive to his training and are eager to learn more from him.

"I have learned a lot from him since he got here," said Machinery Repairman 3rd Class Krystle Donato, "I'm still learning from him now."

His leadership and work ethic is also recognized and respected from his juniors.

"MR1 Giles is a great leader," said Machinery Repairman 3rd Class Robert Adair, "He has the right direction in lifestyle and in work. He brings so much insightful knowledge and wisdom to everyone."

Giles has a lot of respect for the Sailors he works with and he learns from their experiences as well.

"I could not go out and hand pick a better set of guys and girls to work with than who I have in the shop right now," said Giles. "I am learning a lot from them too. We put our heads together, and have been able to knock some stuff out."

Giles' Naval and civilian careers directly affect each other because he does the same job in both situations. The more jobs he completes as a reservist will make him better when he goes back to Tennessee to work on other machinery.

In his civilian career, he works at 3D Pro Parts in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. as a computer numeral controller (CNC). A CNC uses a computer software system to manufacture machinery parts from their blueprint and makes them into a real product, said Giles.

"We do a lot of automotive parts, but it's mainly prototype parts," he said. "If someone has an idea [for a part] or wants to make a part work better, they give it to us and we make it happen."

These experiences can then be applied as a reservist and on board.

"I'm doing the exact same thing here as I do at work back in Tennessee," he added. "It benefits me by making me a better machinist, coming out here on a ship and then taking what I've learned and apply it [at 3D Pro Parts]."

Giles concluded that his biggest advice for Sailors who plan to go in the reserves is to follow through on it. It gives the opportunity to go to school and still reap the benefits of being in the military.



# Man on the Street

By MCSN Alex Van'tLeven

With the high stress, high tempo, high heat environment, some people turn to snacking to take a break and cool off. So, for this week's Man on the Street question, we want to know: "What would you do for a Klondike Bar®?"

**Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling)**  
3rd Class Ryan G. Feddon, of Tallahassee, Fla.



"It might be a bit risky but I'm all about trying to work smarter not harder, so I would have to say I might just take a trip up to the Chief's Mess and get one."

**Senior Chief Intelligence Specialist**  
Jeremy G. Hyer, from Iowa City, Iowa



"I would probably watch someone who's willing to do something dangerous or toxic to themselves, wait for them to get sick or injured and then take the Klondike Bar® from their hands."

**Lance Cpl. Ashton M. Tyler,**  
from Charleston S.C., with the 15th MEU



"I would do the robot on the mess decks while singing techno music during afternoon chow in front of the crew for a Klondike Bar®."