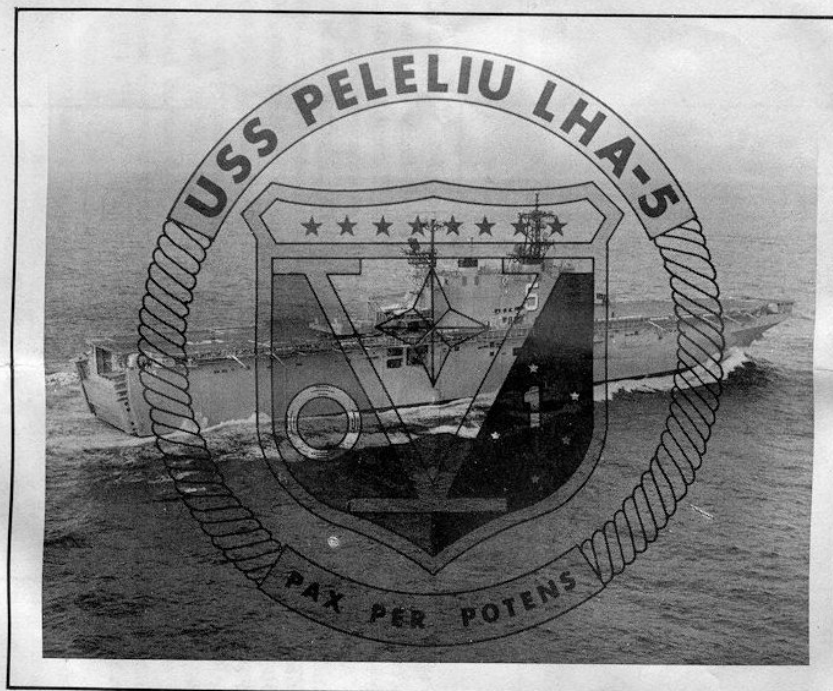


***WELCOME ABOARD***



**USS PELELIU LHA-5**



Captain Thomas P. Scott is a naval aviator and was commanding officer of USS CORONADO (LPD-11) prior to becoming the first commanding officer of USS PELELIU. He flew 230 combat missions in the A-4 and A-7 aircraft during the Vietnam conflict and his awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (23) and the Navy Commendation Medal. Captain Scott, his wife Timmie and their five children, John, Jim, Mary Kay, Mike and Paul reside in Virginia Beach, VA.



COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS PELELIU (LHA-5)

Welcome Aboard

The officers and crew members of USS PELELIU proudly welcome you aboard the most versatile ship in the fleet.

As you tour our ship you will undoubtedly sense a deep feeling of pride held by every member of the crew. This attitude is as much a part of our ship as the guns or the engine rooms.

Relax as you would while visiting good friends. Ask crew members any questions you may have about "Our Ship". We hope your stay will be pleasant and informative.

*T. P. Scott*  
T. P. SCOTT  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Commanding Officer



### **PELELIU'S MISSION**

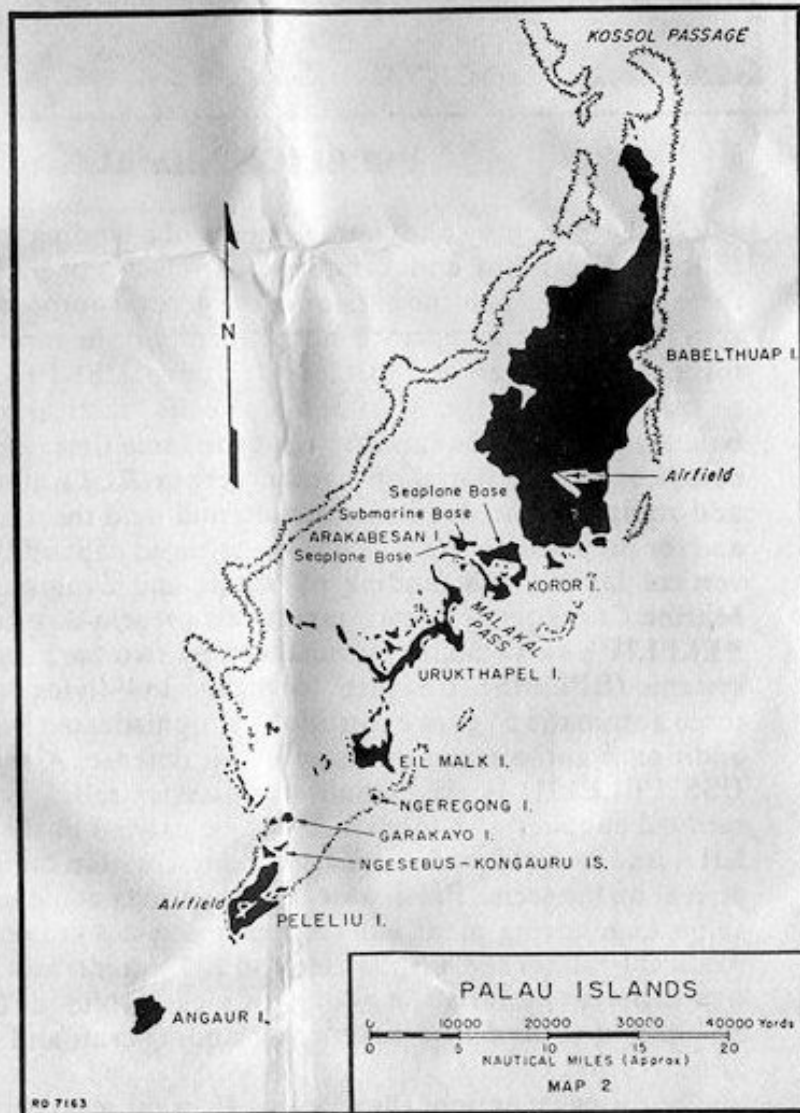
Embark, deploy and land elements of a landing force in an assault by helicopters, landing craft, amphibious vehicles or by a combination of all three methods; this is the mission of the general purpose amphibious assault ship (LHA). It may operate independently or in conjunction with a large force conducting air and surface operations. USS PELELIU was designed to maintain what the Marine Corps calls "tactical integrity" - getting a balanced force to the same point at the same time. PELELIU can carry a complete Marine Battalion Landing Team (BLT), along with the supplies and equipment needed in an assault, and land them ashore by helicopter and/or amphibious craft. This two-pronged capability, with emphasis on vertical launch and landing of troops and equipment, aids the Navy-Marine Corps team in carrying out its present-day amphibious mission. PELELIU's survivability is enhanced by two basic point defense missile systems (BPDMS), designed to engage low-flying hostile aircraft, and three automatic 5" guns controlled by sophisticated fire control radars for additional anti-air and anti-small craft defense. A secondary mission of USS PELELIU is evacuation and disaster relief. Hundreds of tons of medical supplies and foodstuffs can be carried in the cargo holds of the LHA and be delivered to disaster victims within minutes of PELELIU's arrival on the scene. Fresh water and electricity could be provided from the ship's engineering plant until domestic services are restored. PELELIU's medical facilities can hospitalize up to 300 patients and provide out-patient treatment for hundreds of additional sick or injured. 2000 evacuees could be brought aboard by helicopter or landing craft and transported to safe areas.

Without exception, USS PELELIU is the most versatile instrument of peace or war on the seas today.



PELELIU SEPTEMBER 1944

**PALAU ISLAND  
GROUP**





### A BIT OF NAUTICAL LORE

The U.S. Navy is rich in tradition. Part of its heritage stems from the usage of distinctive terms by sailors of the sea. The following is a history of some of the more colorful terms used by PELELIU sailors:

**Crow's Nest.** The crow was an essential part of the early sailor's navigation equipment. These land-lubbing fowl were carried on board the ship to help the navigator determine where the closest land lay when the weather prevented sighting the shore. In cases of poor visibility, a crow was released and the navigator plotted a course that corresponded with the bird's because the crow invariably headed toward land. The crow's nest was situated high in the mainmast where the lookout stood watch. Often, the lookout shared this lofty perch with a crow or two since the crow's cages were kept there; hence the "crow's nest."

**Chit.** One tradition carried on in the Navy is the use of the "chit." It is a carry over from the days when Hindu trappers used slips of paper called "citthi" for money, so they wouldn't have to carry heavy bags of gold and silver. British sailors shortened the word to "chit" and applied it to their mess vouchers. Its most outstanding use in the Navy today is for drawing pay and for a form used for requesting leave and liberty.

**Smoking lamp.** Sea dogs who sailed the wooden ships endured hardships that sailors today never suffer. Cramped quarters, poor unpalatable food, bad lighting and boredom were hard facts of sea life. But perhaps a more frustrating problem was getting fire to kindle a cigar or pipe tobacco after a hard day's work. Matches were scarce and unreliable, yet smoking contributed positively to the morale of the crew - so oil lamps were hung in the fo'c's'le and used as matches. Smoking was restricted to certain times of the day by the Bo's'ns. When it was allowed, the "smoking lamps" were "lighted" and sailors relaxed with their tobacco. Fire was, and still is the great enemy of ships at sea. The smoking lamp was centrally located for the convenience of all and was the only authorized light aboard. It was a practical way of keeping open flame away from the magazines and other stowage areas. In today's Navy the smoking lamp has disappeared but the words "smoking lamp is lighted in all authorized spaces" remains, a carry-over from the past.



## MILESTONES

Keel laid .....	12 November 1976
Launched .....	11 November 1978
Christened .....	6 January 1979
Commissioned .....	3 May 1980

## CHARACTERISTICS

Displacement .....	39,300 Tons
Length .....	820 ft (250 meters)
Beam .....	106 ft
Draft .....	29 ft
Propulsion .....	Steam/70,000 shaft HP
Crew .....	55 Officers and 831 enlisted
Troop Capacity .....	170 officers and 1730 enlisted
Bow Thruster .....	900 HP
Speed .....	20 plus knots
Evaporators (fresh water) .....	80,000 gallons daily
Armament .....	three 5"/54 caliber guns two basic point defense missile systems (BPDMS) six 20 mm guns
Cargo capacity .....	107,000 cubic ft
Vehicle capacity .....	24,416 square ft
Well deck capacity .....	22,000 square ft
Helicopters .....	25 - 35
Longitudinal conveyor .....	392 ft
Monorails .....	11 cars, 1850 ft of track