



# PHIBRON FORWARD NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2016

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## Boxer ARG, 13th MEU Enter U.S. 5th Fleet

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Debra Daco (April 1, 2016)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jesse Monford

INDIAN OCEAN – The Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) concluded operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and entered the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, April 5.

As the ARG enter U.S. 5th Fleet, the Navy and Marine Corps team will provide forward naval presence in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and theater security cooperation efforts.

“I look forward to leading the force as we execute missions and tasking at the pointy end of the spear in the 5th Fleet,” said Capt. Keith Moore, commander of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 1.

“The 5th Fleet area of responsibility is dynamic, ever-evolving, and challenging,” said Col. Anthony Henderson, commanding officer of the 13th MEU. “The Boxer Amphibious Ready Group and 13th MEU are trained and ready for the spectrum of possible missions and operations.”

While in U.S. 7th Fleet, the Boxer ARG and 13th MEU conducted maritime security operations and theater security cooperation. The ARG participated in Exercise Ssang Yong 16 (SY16) and visited Hong Kong and Phuket, Thailand.

SY16 was a bilateral exercise between U.S. Navy and Marine forces and the Republic of Korea in order to strengthen interoperability and working relationships across the range of military operations from disaster relief to complex, expeditionary operations.

“The ARG/MEU’s performance during Exercise Ssang Yong, off the coast of South Korea, could not have been better,” said Moore. “The team executed with speed and precision during this complex Marine expeditionary brigade level exercise. The confidence gained from that success assures us we are ready to ‘answer all bells’ as we enter the dynamic operating environment of 5th fleet.”

The Boxer ARG is composed of the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49).

The 13th MEU is comprised of a ground combat element, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment; an aviation combat element, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 166 (Reinforced); a logistics combat element, Combat Logistics Battalion 13; and a command element.

As an integrated Marine air-ground task force, the 13th MEU is capable of operating in a comprehensive range of conditions, environments and mission sets, from humanitarian assistance efforts to full-scale combat operations with little advance warning.

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations comprises about 2.5 million square miles which includes parts of the Indian Ocean, Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and Gulf of Aden.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jose Jaen



# TACRON 11 Controls Boxer Skies

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jose Jaen, USS Boxer (LHD 4) Public Affairs (April 24, 2016)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael Eckelbecker

RED SEA - Serving as the eyes to the sky, they ensure the safe operation of USS Boxer's (LHD 4) many combat aircraft, and accurate identification of all air contacts in Boxer Amphibious Ready Group airspace.

While out to sea, Tactical Air Control Squadron 11 personnel integrate with USS Boxer air traffic controllers to execute organized maneuvering of all BOXER ARG and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit aircraft.

"Top priorities for TACRON 11 are to train, deploy, and support combat-ready detachments for all amphibious ready groups and amphibious squadron commanders," said Chief Operations Specialist Thomas McCorkle, leading chief petty officer of Detachment Two.

TACRON 11 has several capabilities ranging from expeditionary operations ashore to amphibious air operations.

"We man and operate existing air traffic control facilities ashore and assist with the establishment of remote air control capabilities at landing zones, temporary airfields, forward operating bases, or forward air refueling points said Lt. Cmdr. Ansel Cox, TACRON 11's plans officer.

"We also maintain an air watch to provide situational awareness to the officer in tactical command, manage alert aircraft, assist in the management of the fleet air defense identification zone, and serve as air resource element coordinator and airspace control authority when directed."

TACRON 11 Sailors operate from the Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) on board Boxer. From TACC, air traffic controllers are able to track multiple aircraft in real time, a critical factor to protecting and controlling airspace utilized by Boxer aircraft.

"When embarked, TACC is the primary air control agency for the expeditionary strike group and amphibious task force," said Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Karen Slezak, TACRON 11's Leading Petty Officer. "We're responsible for all air operations supporting the amphibious force while working in the [amphibious operating area]."

Boxer air traffic controllers turn over control of aircraft to TACRON 11 beyond ten nautical miles from the ship. This ensures seamless cooperation between Boxer and TACRON 11.

"In order for our traffic control environment to work flawlessly requires integration both from two separate commands to ensure mission success, that means that TACRON integrates with AATCC [Amphibious Air Traffic Control Center] and AATCC integrates with TACRON," said Chief Air Traffic Controller Jeffrey Bruder. "Not only do we operate in the air traffic control environment flawlessly, we also operate in the plans environment flawlessly which ensures our air space is reserved and our areas designated for use."

The squadron also possesses capabilities to support a wide variety of non-combatant missions.

"We support contingency missions such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and defense support to civil authorities," said McCorkle. "We can also deploy expeditionary teams ashore to augment the Marine Expeditionary Unit or other expeditionary naval forces, and provide stand alone air traffic control services in any environment."

TACRON 11 Sailors realize the importance of their contribution to Boxer's deployment missions.

"The most rewarding thing is knowing that at the end of the day all pilots and aircraft make it back to Boxer safely without incident and our overall mission is able to continue," said Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Patrick Burns.

TACRON ELEVEN traces its origin to the Pacific island hopping campaign of World War II where wartime experiences dictated a requirement for organizations trained in the control of air support for amphibious operations. Air Support Control units were formed to advise the Amphibious Commander on all matters involving aircraft employment, including air support for ground troops, combat air patrol and anti-submarine patrol.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jesse Monford



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Eric Burgette



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jesse Monford



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian Caracci

# Boxer Sailors Reflect on Anniversary of Capt. Phillips Rescue

Story by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Craig Z. Rodarte (April 13, 2016)

U.S. Marine photo by Lance Cpl. Megan Sindelar



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Rasmussen



**GULFOF ADEN** – Sailors aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) took time, April 12 to reflect on the anniversary of the rescue of Capt. Richard Phillips from Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden seven years ago.

Capt. Phillips was successfully rescued April 12, 2009 by special operations personnel aboard USS Bainbridge (DDG 69) and transferred to Boxer for medical evaluations and care. Boxer also served as a staging platform for the rescue operation.

“This is a great reminder of the flexibility and warfighting spirit USS Boxer exhibits; always ready to respond, no matter the crisis, operation or mission,” said Capt. Mike Ruth, Boxer’s commanding officer.

“The Capt. Phillips story displays the great teamwork across communities within the U.S. Navy as evidenced by our ships and special operations forces during this well-coordinated and executed rescue mission.”

Boxer was conducting routine operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations (AOO) when the ship was tasked with the counter-piracy mission within the Maritime Security Patrol Area of the Gulf of Aden.

“Once Boxer entered the rescue operation for Capt. Phillips there was a noticeable sense of purpose in the demeanor of the entire crew,” said Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Jackson, current member of Boxer Media division and a former member of the 2009 crew.

Combined Task Force 151, then commanded by Adm. Michelle Howard, embarked aboard Boxer prior to the mission, and had command and control of all Navy assets in the area during the hostage situation.

Cmdr. Frank X. Castellano, former commander of Bainbridge, began negotiations with the suspected pirates, and ultimately gave the order to three Navy SEAL snipers to execute a synchronized shot to incapacitate Phillips’ captors.

“I was excited to see the SEALs come on board and execute the mission of rescuing Capt. Phillips,” said Chief Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Charles Ellis, who was aboard Boxer in 2009 and is currently the leading chief petty officer of the Crash and Salvage division.

“Watching the movie made me realize that I was actually a part of history.”

“Boxer played a critical role in Capt. Phillips rescue,” said Jackson. “The multi-purpose functionality of amphibious assault ships extends potential mission capabilities beyond simply being a floating airport. The Boxer crew took a great deal of pride in being part of the operation.

“It really put the Boxer out there on a level above and beyond other ships,” said Ellis. “The mission gave a great feeling of success to the American public, something more than just war-fighting capabilities.”

The Capt. Phillips mission demonstrated to the crew why Boxer is such a valued U.S. Naval asset.

“The medical department is huge, the vertical takeoff and landing ability of Harrier aircraft is a game changer, the deck department Sailors on amphibious ships are the best I’ve seen in seven deployments, and flexible mentality of the crew solidify that foundation,” said Jackson. “The reason I came back to the gator Navy is because Boxer has shown me this ship can go anywhere and do anything.”

The Boxer is currently deployed in the 5th Fleet AOO in support of maritime security and theater security cooperation efforts.

For more news from USS Boxer (LHD 4), visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/lhd4/>.



## SEL Note

Happy May to ALL of our families and friends! I hope and wish everyone is doing well.



We are doing just fine out here. Sailors and Marines continue to expand their horizon by doing good things for freedom and our country. There’s nothing like being home but out here there’s nothing more gratifying than looking out and seeing the sun’s reflection and sparkle off of the beautiful blue rippled sea and it’s wavy body of calmness. Although we have not been to a port recently this allows us time to work on our qualifications, get out to gym on a regular basis, and start and read a good book of choice... just to mention a few things.

Another activity while we are underway, we are also afforded the opportunity to take college level courses onboard our ships through a special program. We call this program the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education; for short NCPACE or shorter PACE courses. You will hear most Sailors and Marines say “I’m taking a PACE course”, whether it be distance learning (online) or in the classroom (instructor led).

The instructors usually spend a few months onboard very rarely the entire deployment and then a different instructor arrives to offer possibly a different course. So since we recently had an instructor onboard for an English class I decided to take advantage of this opportunity and was able to squeeze this into my already busy schedule but willing to sacrifice and manage my time to make this piece of the puzzle fit just right.

What’s fantastic about May? May is considered to some the most beautiful month of the year. In May we celebrate Cinco De Mayo, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day and don’t forget our favorite Armed Forces Day!

During these times, we our talented Sailors and Marines come together and put on a very entertaining program for us to also celebrate, smile and show our appreciation for each of these special days. Most of our programs consist of speeches, power point slides, music, and sometimes a very decorative cake to top things off. We also like to celebrate our birthdays on the first Sunday of every month. We know this nothing like you would do for your Sailor or Marine but we come to together to celebrate them on this special day with some cake and ice cream. Fun times!

So it’s time for me to get back to your Sailors and Marines. Take care out there, be safe and I look forward to us meeting here again next month. Safe Travels....HOOYAH!

MMCS(SW/AW) A.R. Kenebrew II

# Commodore's Corner

# Happy Birthday to April Birthdays

U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Craig Rodarte

Family and Friends;

I hope things are going well for you. For the warriors of CPRI/BOXARG, we are well. Your Marines and Sailors continue to perform at the very highest level.

You are probably aware that, with the exception of HARPERS FERRY, most of have not had a port visit since we left Seventh Fleet over a month ago. That's because we have been very busy executing some real world mission here in Fifth Fleet. BOXER, NEW ORLEANS and HARPERS FERRY have been on station doing just what we trained to do last Fall and Winter. It is truly gratifying to see how seamlessly we have operated and integrated with other forces here.

The crew of HARPERS FERRY got to enjoy a few days in Seychelles in the early part of April. Everyone had a fantastic time in a place not many of us get the opportunity to visit. I'm so envious - wish I could have joined them. Hopefully by the next newsletter, I'll be able to give you the rundown on other ports we will have visited.

Though it's been a while since we've hit a port, we have had some high profile visitors. The U.S. Ambassador from Djibouti spent a few hours on BOXER getting briefed on our capabilities and meeting some of the crew. Needless to say, he was enormously impressed, especially with the crewmembers he interacted with.

We have also had the opportunity to host our boss while we are in Fifth Fleet, Major General Mundy (Commander, Task Force Fifty One) while he and some of his staff has been embarked on BOXER for a few days. The General also visited HARPERS FERRY and NEW ORLEANS where he briefed the crews on the importance of their mission and answered some questions.

I wish those to whom it applies a very Happy Mother's Day. I also thank you all for your support - it really makes a big difference.

Sincerely, Commodore Moore



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jose Jaen



# USS Boxer Chiefs Celebrate their 123rd Birthday on Deployment

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brian P. Caracci, USS Boxer Public Affairs (April 1, 2016)

INDIAN OCEAN – The chief petty officers aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) led more than 1,000 Sailors and Marines (LHD 4) during Boxer's celebration of the 123rd birthday of the Navy chief petty officer, April 1.

The observance honored the contributions Navy chiefs have made throughout the years in leading, mentoring and training Sailors under their charge, and paid tribute to two recently deceased former Master Chief Petty Officers of the Navy (MCPON) - Robert J. Walker Sr. and William H. Plackett.

"Three things are indicative of what chief petty officers are: pride, professionalism, and paying it forward," said Commander, Amphibious Squadron One Capt. Keith Moore. "You are the teachers, the mentors and role models for every single Sailor who joins the Navy, E-1 to O-10."

Col. Anthony Henderson, commanding officer of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit shared his perspective on the impact chiefs have in crafting leaders.

"You're the nexus. You're making chiefs, you're making ship's captains," Henderson said. "Ensigns don't make ships captains. It is the chief. That is the difference between us and other corps. You are the nexus and I ask you to never forget that in the most chaotic moment and in the most fun of times."

During the ceremony Chief Navy Counselor Sarah Morales and Chief Electronics Technician Mary Williams gave remarks about the contributions MCPON Walker and MCPON Plackett made to the Navy.

"Both of them were MCPON during times of change not only in our nation but also in the military," said Morales. "MCPON Walker was appointed at the end of the Vietnam era when many people viewed the military in a negative light. So, the way that he was able to inspire Sailors during that time was critical to our success."

"MCPON Plackett had to form and shape the Navy during the mid 80s. He was big on training, professionalism and moving the Navy forward. He created the Command Master Chief training course and leadership courses that are required for advancement. He also changed the dynamic of what women were able to do in the military, creating more billets at sea and opening more jobs for them," Williams added.

Boxer's Command Master Chief Matt Ruane spoke of the timeless quality of the leadership attributes exemplified by the chief petty officer.

"One hundred and twenty three years ago today the Navy created the chief petty officer rank with a sole purpose of providing deckplate leadership for the junior Sailors," said Ruane. "Today that still applies even though times change it still applies. As I take time and reflect about what this day is about I come back to one thought and that's the sacrifice that all the Sailors and Marines make, and the sacrifice that their families make, I'm very appreciative and thank you very much for that."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the youngest and oldest chiefs performed a traditional cake cutting on the mess decks,

followed by a group photo of chiefs in the ship's forecastle.

Before April 1, 1893, chief was a title assigned by a commanding officer to the most senior first class petty officer in each rate. President Benjamin Harrison established the rank of chief petty officer Feb. 23, 1893 through General Order 409, which came into effect April 1, 1893.

The Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit team is conducting operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations during a scheduled deployment in support of security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Jesse Monford

# SAPR Advocates Bring Awareness to Boxer Crew

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Jackson, USS Boxer Public Affairs (April 12, 2016)

GULF OF ADEN - Ten teams wrapped up the first week of competition as part of USS Boxer's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month Commander's Cup Fitness Challenge, April 10.

The team-based fitness challenge is a month-long series of physical fitness events that Boxer's sexual assault prevention and response victim advocates planned throughout April to bring awareness of SAAPM to Sailors and Marines.

"The enthusiasm and level of participation in SAAPM events have been great so far," said Chief Intelligence Specialist William Barnard, Boxer's SAPR point of contact. "I like this year's slogan 'Know your part, do your part', so what better way to infuse that concept than with team events? Each member has to know and do their part for the team to win."

Cumulative totals for each team count as points for push ups, sit ups, squats, flight-deck ramp runs, and a flight deck 5K run.

"Events like Commander's Cup raise the crew's awareness of the SAPR program on board Boxer," said Hospitalman Hailey Johnson. "People become more knowledgeable about the ways to report and the people to report to through conversation, and it's a fun way to boost morale."

Boxer's SAPR VAs have worked alongside the ship's Diversity Committee and Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions to schedule other events throughout the month to include teal bracelet creation for crewmembers, Denim Day Sunday brunch served by victim advocates wearing blue jeans, and formal training during CPO 365.

"All paygrades are affected by sexual assault, so we need everyone to be involved in prevention," said Barnard. "Many people assume that they will not be affected, but what about your friends and junior Sailors? They may need you to know your role in getting them help."

SAPR advocates are leaders throughout a command chosen from a diverse pool of Sailors and Marines who serve in a support role, and are a direct point of contact for a possible victim.

"As a SAPR advocate my duty is to assist survivors of sexual assault and to help them successfully navigate through a difficult time in their lives," said Yeoman 1st Class Jonathan Alston. "Being a survivor of sexual assault can be overwhelming, especially when going through the reporting process, so it's my duty to be that support system for my shipmate or Marine."

Every event is different, but the common link is the participation of SAPR

advocates in all events and consistent promotion of the program.

"Our planned events are a success so far. An airman stopped me in the passageway and asked me how to become a SAPR victim advocate and how he could help with the SAPR program," said Alston. "Observing the enthusiasm of the Boxer SAPR team and the shared passion we have for assisting survivors inspired me to become an advocate."

Intervention is the focal point of this year's theme "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know your part and do your part". Sailors and Marines are encouraged to exercise the courage to step up and do the right thing when necessary.

The program operates year round at every command throughout the fleet, however, every April the U.S. Navy highlights the importance of SAPR awareness. The purpose of the SAPR program is to prevent and respond to sexual assault, eliminate it from the Navy ranks through education, comprehensive response, precise advocacy and just adjudication to further promote a culture of professionalism, respect and trust within the Navy.

U.S. Navy Illustration photo by MC2 Debra Daco

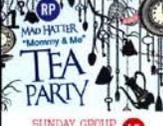


NAVY  
RECREATION

# May 2016

## NBSD Community Recreation Events

LS = Leisure Skills Class TO = Trips/Outing RP = Recreation Programs SP = Special Programs \* = Metro Event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>1 SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS</p>	<p>2</p>	 <p>3 Asian Flair Cooking Class LS</p>	<p>4</p>	 <p>5 Cinco de Mayo Party RP</p>	<p>6 Be the Stars – Salsa Dancing Lessons LS</p>	 <p>7 Be the Stars – Dance Competition LS</p>
<p>8 SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS</p>	 <p>9 8-Ball Pool Tournament RP</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	 <p>14 Balboa Park Largest Zoo Roar* TO</p> <p>Iron Mountain Hike TO</p>
<p>15 SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS</p>	 <p>16 Learn about LEGOLAND LS</p>	<p>17</p>	 <p>18 PaintN'Vineyard Night LS</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 • Archery TO • BINGO RP</p> <p>MOVIE Under the STARS FAMILY SUMMER KICKOFF RP</p>
<p>22 SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS</p>	 <p>23 LOU Comedy Movie Marathon RP</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	 <p>26 Movie Trivia Day RP</p>	<p>27</p>	 <p>28 SeaWorld Seven Seas Food Festival TO</p>
<p>29 SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES LS</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	 FOLLOW us on Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/comrecsd/">www.facebook.com/comrecsd/</a>		<p>SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES Admiral Robinson Recreation Center, Bldg. 3223. (different dance styles every month). Register at <a href="http://www.navalifesw.com">www.navalifesw.com</a> or call 619-556-7486 for info. \$5 per person/per class</p>	



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For calendar details see back side.  
All Programs, Events & Pricing are subject to change.

SUNDAY GROUP DANCE CLASSES  
Admiral Robinson Recreation Center, Bldg. 3223.  
(different dance styles every month). Register at  
[www.navalifesw.com](http://www.navalifesw.com) or call 619-556-7486  
for info. \$5 per person/per class



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Craig Rodarte



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jesse Monford



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Craig Rodarte



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jesse Monford

# BOXER AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Craig Rodarte



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Eric Burgett



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jose Jaen



## USS BOXER (LHD 4)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Debra Daco



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jesse Monford



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian Caracci

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



## USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Zachary Eshleman



## USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brandon Cyr



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brandon Cyr



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Zachary Eshleman

