



# PHIBRON FORWARD NEWSLETTER

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## Boxer CPO 365 Mentorship Connects Current, Future Leaders

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jesse Monford (May 7, 2016)



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Matthew Jackson

GULF OF ADEN - Chief petty officers (CPO) and first class petty officers (FCPO) aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) held a CPO 365 Phase One speed mentorship event in the ship's Chiefs Mess, May 5.

"I wanted to bring together a diverse group of leadership to ultimately help foster the mentoring environment on board Boxer," said Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Omar Lee, command mentorship program coordinator. "I want to inspire actual action, getting folks more involved in mentoring especially while we're on deployment."

This year, Boxer CPOs and FCPOs were divided into three separate teams known as Unity, Service and Navigation. These teams were designed to challenge one another physically and intellectually, and to hone the basic tenets of teamwork, time management and tenacity throughout the year.

Team Unity's nearly 40 FCPOs were the first group to participate in the hour-long speed-mentoring format. Sailors asked three teams of Chiefs as many questions as possible within a five minute period and then cycled through the remaining teams.

"The engagement was awesome," said Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class Christian Smith. "We had the chance to be in an environment that wasn't so 'professional and uptight.' That allowed us the opportunity to actually get to know the Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs on a more personal and open level rather than an exclusively professional level."

The purpose of the speed mentoring event was to strengthen the mentor-to-protégé relationship while also facilitating and encouraging the active involvement of Sailors and leaders throughout the command who have yet to experience the chance to interact with several chief petty officers one-on-one.

"I did speed-mentoring last deployment when I ran CPO 365 and it was highly successful," said Lee. "I thought it was a good idea to reenergize the first classes and Sailors have been asking for it ever since."

"This was very beneficial. Sailors often tend to cling onto people they're comfortable with or someone who they share similarities with," added Smith. "With speed mentoring, we had the chance to speak with different Chiefs we wouldn't normally speak to on a regular basis."

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Michael Smyder, Air department V-3 division Leading Petty Officer, said he enjoyed the structure of the event, and used it to continue guiding himself on the right path.

"The fast pace helped push the event," said Smyder, "On with the conversation starters, and jump right into the 'meat' with no beating around the bush."

Topics included leadership and management, career progression, how to solve common problems, and advice on how to become well-rounded leaders, all from the perspective of Boxer's most experienced enlisted Sailors.

"It was crazy how well this was presented to the First Class Petty Officers," said Smith. "I would love to do this with our junior Sailors."

Speed mentoring may grow into the beginning of a long-term mentorship/protégé relationship while also inspiring frontline leaders to engage their junior Sailors to pass along advice, experiences and expertise.

The first event will be followed during the next two weeks with team "Navigation" and team "Service" mentorship engagements to ensure every Boxer FCPO has a chance to interact with senior enlisted leadership. The unfettered access to senior enlisted leadership from across the command may also inspire future leaderships to mentor others.

Boxer is the flagship for the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group and, with the embarked 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is deployed in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

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

\* Boxer CPO 365 Mentorship Connects Current, Future Leaders

\* CPR-1 Group photo

\* Commander Task Force 51 Visits USS New Orleans

\* Boxer Enjoys First Steel Beach Picnic During 2016 Deployment

\* SEL Note

\* Commodore's Corner

\* Boxer Celebrates Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

\* Boxer Sailors Complete Marine Corps Corporal's Course

\* Awards & Promotions

\* Photos of the month



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Craig Rodarte



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Jose Jaen

# Commander Task Force 51 Visits USS New Orleans

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Chelsea D. Daily, Navy Public Affairs Support Element West (May 2, 2016)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Eshleman Zachary

GULF OF ADEN - Commander Task Force (CTF) 51, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Carl E. Mundy III, visited Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) on May 2.

While aboard, Mundy held an all hands call with Sailors and Marines from New Orleans and the embarked 13th Marine

Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to discuss the ships mission, outline his future expectations, and applaud the crew for their dedicated service.

Yeoman 1st Class Kerry Mosley said it was a boost to morale to see such high ranking leadership come aboard to commend the crew.

“Maj. Gen. Mundy definitely pushed us to stay motivated and dedicated to the current mission at hand,” said Mosley. “It was inspiring to hear such a high leader recognize all of our hard work.”

Capt. Glenn Jamison, the commanding officer of New Orleans, also commented on the significance of the visit.

“The visit was a great opportunity to demonstrate first-hand to Maj. Gen. Mundy

the tremendous capability NEW ORLEANS brings to the fight – he was highly impressed with both the ship and the crew,” said Jamison. “It also provided a chance for the crew to meet directly with the Task Force Commander, and to hear the context he provided for our current operations in theater.”

USS New Orleans is part of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group and, with the embarked 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is deployed in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the 5th Fleet area of operations.

For more information on USS New Orleans, please visit [www.facebook.com/BigEasy18](http://www.facebook.com/BigEasy18).

# Boxer Enjoys First Steel Beach Picnic During 2016 Deployment

Story by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Brett Anderson (May 14, 2016)

**GULF OF ADEN** – Amphibious assault ship USS Boxer's (LHD 4) Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) hosted a Steel Beach Picnic packed with games, food, and music on the flight deck, May 14.

Sailors and Marines enjoyed a day of down time with barbecued food, sports, dancing and live music, performed by the ship's band, "River City."

"It means so much to them, I heard so many people talk about getting ready for this event," Said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Trenton Hagley, Boxer's MWR President. "I think it shows that the chain of command is very responsive and that they're paying attention to their people. Everybody needs a good reset, to get them back in the game."

Sports and games, such as basketball, soccer, sumo wrestling and corn hole were offered on the flight deck during the picnic to provide the crew with a chance to have some fun and socialize.

"This event is a huge one. This is going to get us over the hill of a long underway period like we just had," said Brian Rockenbach, Boxer's Afloat Recreation Specialist or "Fun Boss". "We have 10 separate events we're hosting today."

The steel beach picnic also offered the crew a chance to relax together outside their routine functions while deployed.

"It's nice to finally have all of our hard work pay off and give us time to relax," said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Stephanie Putman. "Many of us work different shifts so we finally get to see everybody for a change."

The crew's performance for the previous month and a half was recognized by command leadership during the festivities.

Boxer's Command Master Chief Matt Ruane, said "For the last 45 days, Sailors and Marines have performed phenomenally and they deserve this downtime."

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For more information on USS Boxer (LHD 4) visit: <http://www.facebook.com/USSBOXER/>



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Eric Burgett



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Brian Caracci



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Eric Burgett



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Eric Burgett



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Jose Jaen

## SEL Note

Hello to ALL of our families and friends! Happy June and Welcome back! I hope and wish everyone is truly doing well.



First off I want to say Happy Belated Memorial Day! We are honored to take the torch from here and pass it on to the next generation of Sailors and Marines who are called to serve. To stand the watch while we turn-over the Greatness and Heritage that was turn-over to us. Forever Honored, to ALL who have come and gone before me, I surrender a hallowed SALUTE to you my brother my sister and say "Well Done and Thank You for your service!"

So how was your Memorial Day weekend? I hope everyone stayed safe and enjoyed all the festivities a long holiday weekend brings. I'm sure the Sailors and Marines out here would enjoy seeing those pictures and smiles you took during your outings. Out here we enjoyed and also paid our respect to our brothers and sisters who came before us. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Team put together a ruck march and memorial wall on Saturday, 28 May. The ruck march began at 5:30 a.m. and lasted for a couple of hours. Along the ramp from the hangar to the flight deck the memorial wall was constructed. On this wall were storyboards honoring Sailors & Marines who have fallen, especially honoring those Heroes since 911. One of the greatest things I enjoy doing is honoring those who are well deserving of it.

Since we've last met at this page I would say we've had at least two if not three mail calls. Between you and I, your packages are surely arriving and boosting the morale of your Sailor and Marine. We've also had a steel beach picnic. This is where we break out the BBQ pit and throw something on the grill, relax a little bit and enjoy the fun under the sun. We enjoyed Golf Driving Range, soccer, Corn hole Tournament, 5K Run, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, inflatable boxing ring & sumo suits, fishing, softball fast pitch and throw, a DJ to keep the tunes flowing and the best live music from Boxers' own band "River City". This ended up being another great day, haze gray and underway!

So what does June bring us? On June 5th its World Environment Day, June 12th the Philippines' Independence Day is celebrated and June 19th we celebrate our fathers on Father's Day. Did you know that the birth flower for June is the rose? What about this...June is also National Candy Month and National Iced Tea Month. I see more smiles in June for you!

As always it's been great to share with you but the time has come once again. 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!

Very Respectfully,  
MMCS(SW/AW) A.R. Kenebrew II

# Commodore's Corner

# Happy Birthday to May Birthdays

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Debra Daco



## Family and Friends;

Happy Memorial Day. Memorial Day is of special significance to all of us. It helps remind us of who we are, the meaning of sacrifice and why we do what we do. We all have a clear understanding of what it means to serve -- whether in uniform or as one of the strong pillars supporting your active duty service member. It really takes a ONE Team spirit and mindset to fight and win - thank you for being such good teammates.

This Memorial Day also comes in close proximity to a key deployment milestone - Hump Day. That's right, BOXARG recently passed the half-way point for deployment and will be headed home before we know it. There's still some important work to be done and I am fired up by the fantastic things we are able to participate in. Your Sailors and Marines really are making a difference.

NEW ORLEANS enjoyed a few days of respite while visiting Manama, Bahrain, while a few crewmembers of HARPERS FERRY were able to take in some of the historic sites in/around Aqaba, Jordan (but most were confined to the ship/pier because it was a working port). BOXER's port visit to Bahrain will be coming soon, and I hope you get the chance connect with your deployed Sailor/Marine.

We at the CPR1 Staff have recently welcomed 3 new members: Lt. j.g. Taylor Grossman, Operations Specialist 1st Class Anthony Ford and Operations Specialist Seaman Jazmin Sandoval. We also bid fair winds and following seas to Chief Machinist's Mate Michael Camarse who will be commissioned an Ens. under the Limited Duty Officer program.

I ask for your continued support as we navigate the back half of deployment and thank you for all your invaluable contributions.

Sincerely, Commodore Moore

# Boxer Celebrates Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brian P. Caracci, USS Boxer Public Affairs (May 21, 2016)



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Brett Anderson

**GULF OF ADEN** – Sailors and Marines from Asian and Pacific Islander backgrounds entertained and educated the crew aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) during an Asian American and Pacific Islander celebration in the hangar bay, May 21.

Asian and Pacific Island crewmembers shared some of their culture through dancing, singing and acting. Dancers and actors wore costumes and tropical flowers and placed different colored leis around the necks of audience members.

“As I look around on this multi-purpose ship where we have various colored jerseys that represent one unified purpose on the flight deck and throughout the ship, America has one unified purpose,” said Capt. Keith Moore, Commander, Amphibious Squadron One. “As we celebrate a culture that makes us complete and special in the Navy, we also celebrate what makes us whole as a nation and a country.”

This event provided the crew of Boxer an opportunity to take a pause from its high operational tempo, and shift focus from mission to heritage while also learning about several important contributions from Asian American and Pacific Islanders to the U.S. military.

“The Asian American and Pacific Islander ceremony gives everyone an opportunity to learn about our history and experience a sample of our cultures, customs and traditions,” said Lt. Nilbert Ng, Boxer’s administration officer and keynote speaker during the event. “This ceremony not only celebrates the many contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders, but also promotes strength through diversity within the Navy.”

The Boxer Diversity Committee is comprised of approximately 30 Sailors from different ethnic groups and cultures. Together they serve as an organization driven to recognize and embrace the differences among the crew.

“It feels great to celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, and to embrace the power of diversity amongst all Sailors and Marines that make up the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Boxer Amphibious Ready Group team,” said Chief Hospital Corpsman Janmichael Columna. “A perfect example is the diversity committee, because events like these are not created by one individual, but rather by multiple members of the committee from different backgrounds developing ideas towards a common goal.”

Asian and Pacific Islanders have served in the U.S. Navy since the late 19th century where they served aboard naval vessels as stewards. In 1971, Asian and Pacific Islanders were given opportunities to pursue many other rates within the Navy.

“I have family members who retired after serving in the Army’s infantry unit, and six of my cousins served on board multiple ships,” said Columna. “My cousin Ruel definitely influenced my decision to join the Navy. He was a Chief Petty Officer aboard USS Bonhomme Richard [(LHD 6)], who always shared stories about the Navy. Like him, I’m a proud Navy Chief who tells my family stories about serving in the world’s greatest Navy.”

Asian and Pacific Islander cuisine was served both during the ceremony and during lunch. Food items included lechon, red rice, lumpia, pork or chicken adobo, egg drop soup and upside down pineapple cake. The ceremony concluded on the mess decks with a cake cutting and group photograph.

“Today’s ceremony was outstanding and amazing. It surprised me that we have this much diversity on board this ship,” said Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Christopher Amoah. “Everyone came out to represent their culture and to support the event. We are from all walks of life and we come together.”

According to Ng, diversity serves as an important component to enhance the mission of the fleet and create a force of strength.

“The Navy’s most important resource is manpower, the brave Sailors and civilians who serve on our ships, aircrafts, and bases,” said Ng. “The rich history of diverse culture from all over the world provides us with a plethora of skills and talents. We must continue to embrace these differences to build the foundation for a brighter future and a stronger Navy.”

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month observances are celebrated by

the Department of Defense in May every year to highlight and honor both the legacy and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.

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# Boxer Sailors Complete Marine Corps Corporal's Course

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Jackson, USS Boxer Public Affairs (May 6, 2016)

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Justin Webb



**GULF OF ADEN** – Four Boxer Sailors gained a greater understanding of their Marine Corps counterparts by completing a two-week Marine Corps Corporal's Course aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) May 5.

The course, designed to provide junior non-commissioned officers with leadership training dispersed across several areas of study and examination, began April 23 and concluded May 5 with a graduation ceremony.

"The purpose of the course is to grow the young members of the Marine Corps into inspirational leaders of Marines and Sailors in this case," said Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Barker, Staff Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of the Corporal's Course on board Boxer. "The integration of our Marine/Sailor team was excellent. The students quickly put aside any differences and began bonding the first day. Everyone had a voice during the course which allowed students to bring something to the course and also leave with tools they can use once back at their units."

Participating Sailors bore the extra burden of learning background information

that their Marine Corps counterparts had been taught since joining the Corps.

"The most challenging thing for me was learning a whole new set of customs and traditions," said Quartermaster 3rd Class Michael Yale. "We also learned war-fighting and joint operations and we performed a lot of physical training. I had to buckle down and read the books they gave me so I could keep up with all the Marines."

Motivation and confidence are two character traits that were impressed upon students in order to meet the course standards.

"The course ran 14 training days straight with no breaks," said Barker. "This consisted of two comprehensive examinations plus multiple practical examinations that are required to be mastered, including public speaking, sword and guidon manual of arm movements, joint combat operations and career progression."

Barker indicated that the Corporal's Course provided a lot of value for Sailors with little or no experience with the Marine Corps.

"This course is important for Sailors who want to improve and not only better themselves, but better the Navy," said Barker. "These Sailors benefit from the course in many tangible ways. One example is we teach them to be strategic thinkers. They get paid to have an opinion and they must be able to convey that smartly and with tact."

Sprinkled throughout a sea of Marine digital-camouflaged uniforms Boatswain's

Mate 3rd Class Isaiah Brown, Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Michael Canaan, Quartermaster 3rd Class Michael Yale, and Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Colin Contreras-O'Connor sat during the graduation ceremony, awaiting the completion of their latest challenge along with 39 Marine brothers and sisters in arms.

"Corporal's Course has shown me that I can be the motivation that my department needs," said Yale. "By talking to my shipmates about their stress, finding ways I can help, and leading by example. What I'll take away from this course is the value of moral courage and brotherhood."

Barker said graduates take away more from the course than a certificate.

"Each graduate takes with them not just a certificate of completion, but a sense of pride in knowing they have the tools to complete whatever mission they are given," said Barker.

The Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, currently deployed in the 5th Fleet area of operation (AOO), is composed of amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) and amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49).

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



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Justin Webb



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Justin Webb

# Promotion & Awards Congratulations!

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Debra Daco



U.S. Navy photos 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 Michael Eckelbecker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Debra Daco



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Brett Anderson

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



## USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Zachary Eshleman



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brandon Cyr



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



## USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Zachary Eshleman

