



BARK OF THE **BOXER**

AMERICA'S GOLDEN GATOR



VOLUME: XVI ISSUE:11

LATE AUGUST 2011

Engineers Save Ship's Boilers from Failure

By MCSN(SW) Brian Jeffries

The USS Boxer suffered a major engineering casualty on July 19, that threatened the ship's mission as well the safety of its crew.

Thanks to the readiness of the engineers, very little time was lost from national tasking and Boxer was able to fulfill all operational commitments.

The boilers have a hand in just about every function onboard Boxer.

They are a critical piece in providing propulsion and electrical power throughout the ship. There are only two aboard Boxer, so if a problem develops that puts one out of commission; the ship is completely reliant on the last remaining boiler. If both boilers were to go down, the ship would be dead in the water.

"What started as a minor issue became one of the most serious issues you can have with a boiler," said Machinist Mate 3rd Class Geobany Castillo-Rosales, secondary petty officer in charge on his watch section.

At first, the only thing wrong was the water gauge. The water gauge is used to determine the actual level of water in the boiler and wasn't giving an accurate reading.

If the boiler couldn't get the right amount of water, the boiler wouldn't be able to create steam for the ship, which is used to power the ship.

That problem was quickly assessed and the gauge was replaced. In order to be safe, the engineering crew decided it was best to shutdown the boiler, leaving the ship running off only the



(From the left) MM1(SW) Adam Stewart, MMFN Jacob Trahan, MM3 Dominick Keeley, MMFN Harrison Rodriguez, and MM2(SW) Francisco CejaJimenez after a 12 hour shift. Photo by Machinist's Mate Jacob Soto.

#2 Boiler. After the problem was assessed and fixed, it was time to light off again.

Starting up the boiler did not go as planned.

"The area was flooded almost immediately," said Castillo-Rosales. "Water was getting into places it absolutely shouldn't have been."

The boilers aboard Boxer heats water to 900 degrees fahrenheit at 700 pounds of pressure per square inch. If the leaking was

See 'BOILER' pg 3

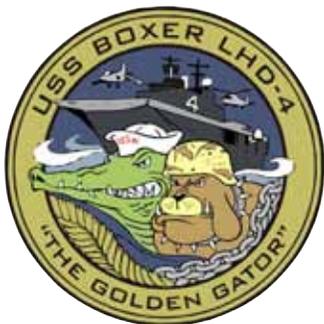


Vertical Replenishment

Cmdr. David Rhone, supply officer of amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), supervises a replenishment at sea from the ship's Primary Flight Control Center as an MH-60 Seahawk from "Wildcards," of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 23 transports pallets of supplies to the flight deck from the USNS Wally Schirra (T-AKE 8).

Photo by MCSN(SW) Brian Jeffries





Bark of the Boxer

Editorial Staff

Public Affairs Officer

MCC(AW/SW) Mike Lorey

Senior Editor

Ens. Kathryn Cox

Editor

MC2(AW) Maebel Tinoko

Media Staff

MC1(SW) Fletcher Gibson

MC2(AW) Oscar Espinoza

MC3 Anna Kiner

MC3(SW/AW) Trevor Welsh

MCSN(SW) Brian Jeffries

This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Boxer (LHD 4). Contents of Bark of the Boxer are not the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

FIND GATOR!



We've hidden GATOR somewhere in this issue. The first three readers who find him and send an e-mail to the editor with the page number and location win a prize from MWR.

Boxer Helps Community Restore School

By MCSN(SW) Brian Jeffries

Sailors from amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) and embarked Marines from 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) participated in a community service project at the Maung Phuket Elementary School during a port visit to Phuket, Thailand August 23-24.

More than 100 Sailors and Marines participated in the event, sponsored by the Boxer's Religious Ministries Department and the Phuket Navy league.

"It felt so good to help," said Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Jorge Sanders.

Volunteers helped paint gates surrounding the school and old buildings.

"The volunteer spirit was infectious," said Electronics Technician 3rd



Machinery Repairman 1st Class Leo Delarosa, from Koronadal City, Philippines, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) paints the gate of Maung Phuket Elementary School during a community service project. Photo by MC2(AW) Maebel Tinoko



Chief (select) Boatswain's Mate Nicholas Broders from Portland, Ore., assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) paints the gate of Maung Phuket Elementary School during a community service project. Photo by MC2(AW) Maebel Tinoko

Class Sergio Suarez.

He added that he would recommend such a project to anyone who has never done one, saying that seeing the children happy made it all worthwhile.

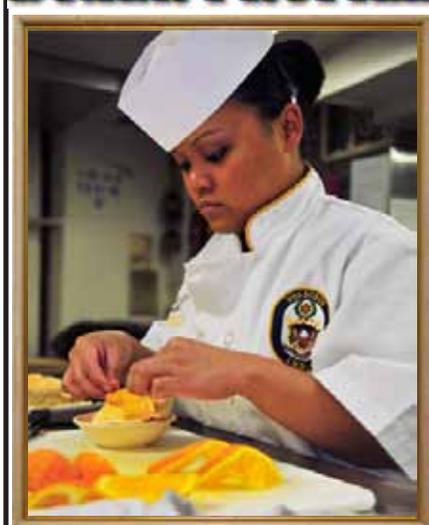
Suarez said his favorite part was the authentic Thai food that was served to them after they finished painting.

"The Thai hot sauce was amazing; I wanted a bottle to take home," he added.

"I had an awesome time," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jyo Singh. "It was nice to be rewarded with smiles for an honest day's work."

"The community and school needed us, and to see so many Sailors answer the call for help was awesome," said Sanders. ■

BOXER PROFILE



My nick name: LEPHE / CAKE EGG
 childhood ambition: TO BE THE FIRST LADY
 fondest memory: WON HONORROLLING QUEEN
 hit play on your iPod: SUPERHERO / @ / CHRE BROWN
 hobby: DANCE, DRAWING & MAKING CARDS
 wildest dream: TO BE A LIFE/LIAID... LOL!
 proudest BOXER moment: WHEN I MADE 3RD CLASS & CHANGE OF COMMAND 2011 CAKE
 largest BOXER challenge: RIGHT NOW IS TO GET MY BOUS PIN
 alarm clock: IPHONE SET AT 0645
 perfect day: A DAY OF SHOPPING & EATING OUT WITH FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES
 first job: US NAVY
 favorite movie: "TRANSFORMERS"
 last purchase: VICTORIA SECRET LINGERIE
 inspiration: SENIOR CHIEF DAKES
 favorite snack: ANYTHING CHOCOLATE
 My life: OKIE-DOKIE

CS3 Shayne Kathlene Lopez x



Message From Your Fitboss

Hello Golden Gator! Your Fit Boss Ryan here. I just wanted to let the crew know about the programs that are still available through MWR Fitness.

With two months left on our WESTPAC, if you haven't already started, now is the time take advantage of some great MWR health and fitness opportunities available. I am still offering 1-on-1 fitness consultations that cover nutrition, workout plans, and outlines tailored to reach your specific goals. Let me put my Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education and 15 years of fitness, personal training and competition experience to work helping you reach peak health and fitness.

The Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP) is still doing an amazing job with help from command fitness leaders, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) Michael Zarate and Chief (Select) Aviation Ordnanceman Jayson Callorina. We have combined efforts to help FEP numbers drop from 32 people down to a record low of 11. Fitness classes have also been an outstanding part of MWR. Classes have been amazing and some are still being conducted including: a full-body workout, cycling, ab-lab, yoga, Pilates, grappling and boot camp. Keep your eyes and ears open for updates as we push through to the end of deployment.

MWR fitness has hosted fun and exciting competitions with great prizes including the Biggest Loser competition which had more than 60 participants, with the top five losing at least 10 percent of their body weight and as much as 40-pounds. We also hosted a tug-of-war contest and a push-up contest. Events to take place in the next month will be a grappling and takedown tournament and a pull-up contest with great prizes.

As a final note, I would like to especially thank all the instructors who teach a multitude of classes. A very special thanks to Senior Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Lenny Avent for running the show during my emergency leave and Lt. Brian Johnson for all his help as well.

For more information contact me at guffyrp@lhd4.navy.mil



Photo by: MC3 Anna Kiner

'BOILER' cont. from pg 1

not contained, the water soon would have become steam and made conditions in the space extremely dangerous.

"The only thing worse than a major steam leak, like this almost was, is an actual boiler explosion," said Castillo-Rosales.

In order to fix the issue, the boiler was shut down and the pit crew completely took apart the boiler to investigate the reason for the leak.

Once the boiler was opened up, somebody had to go inside the 3 foot by 12 foot space and search through 2080 tubes which feed water to and from the boiler.

The hours turned into days, as two alternating teams of five engineers worked nonstop 12-hour shifts over the next four days.

The main goal of both teams was to conduct vacuum checks on each tube to find any ruptures that led to the leak. Using a tool constructed on board, the crew found 10 ruptures. After the ruptures were accounted for and patched up using carbon steel plugs made by the machinery repairmen, it was time for an operations check to see if the #1 Boiler was back up and running. The check failed, and the crew had to go back work.

"The worst feeling in the world," Castillo-Rosales said. "For all of us involved to think that the job was done and to find out that we had to pretty much start all over again and it was devastating."

Now all 2080 tubes had to be inspected. It was beginning to look like the job was going to be too great to be fixed by those aboard. Then they found it: the 11th ruptured tube. The engineers worked tirelessly to put the boiler back together and test it.

"The happiest light off ever," Castillo-Rosales said.

A job of this magnitude is usually not handled by ship's crew.

"This type of emergent repair is normally accomplished by shipyard contractors pier side or a repair fly away team in-port if a ship is overseas, due to ship's force not having the special tools and test equipment required for this type of repair," said Senior Chief Machinist's Mate (SW/AW) Shelley Fisher, the senior plant inspector.

The two rotating teams went above and beyond the call of duty to fix the issue that they faced.

Team one consisted of Petty Officer in Charge MM1 Adam Stewart, MM2 Francisco CejaJimenez, MM3 Robert Rukavina, MMFN Dominick Keeley, MMFN Harrison Rodriguez and MMFN Jacob Trahan. Team two consisted of Petty Officer in Charge MM2 Jacob Soto, MM3 Geobany Castillo-Rosales, MM1 Nickolay Varfolomeyer, MMFN Zachary Kennedy, MM3 Eivan Cuarteros, and FN Jon Herig

On August 10, Rear Adm. Margret Klein Commander of Expeditionary Strike Group 5, presented several Sailors involved with the repair, with Navy Achievement Medals for their exemplary efforts.

"Everyone in the Aft MMR deserves an award, not only for this significant boiler repair, but for many other mission critical repairs that are not publicized throughout the ship," said Fisher. The personnel that did not receive an award this time will, without a doubt, be recognized for their hard work and perseverance either at the end of deployment or at the end of their successful tour on-board USS Boxer." ■

Got Stories?

The Bark of the Boxer is your newspaper, if you have any story ideas, photo submissions, or want to submit a story of your own, feel free to email me your suggestions. We are always looking for new ways to improve our paper.

Very Respectfully,
MC2(AW) Maebel Tinoko

Thailand Times

MCS2(AW) Maebel Thiroko



MCS3 Anna Kiner



MCSN(SW) Brian Jeffries



MCSN(SW) Brian Jeffries



MCS(SW/AW) Donald Walton

