DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS BOXER LHD 4
FPO AP 96661-1663

5750
Ser 00/163
28 MAR 03

From: Commanding Officer, USS BOXER (LHD 4)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2002

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G

Encl: (1) USS BOXER (LHD 4) Command History for 2002

1. Per reference (a), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

T. J. CULORA
By direction

USS BOXER (LHD 4)
2002 COMMAND HISTORY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I - COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

PART II - WELCOME ABOARD PAMPHLET

PART III - LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

PART IV - CHRONOLOGY

PART V - DEPARTMENTAL HISTORIES

PART VI - JOURNALISTIC HISTORY

PART VII - PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

USS BOXER (LHD-4) COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION 2002

Command Composition and Organization

A. Command Short Title: USS BOXER

B. Unit Identification Code (UIC): 21808

C. Mission: Embarkation, transport, deployment, command, and full support of a Marine Expeditionary Unit.

D. Immediate Senior Command: Commander, Amphibious Group THREE

E. Commanding Officer: Captain Thomas D. Crowley, USN

F. Permanent Duty Station: Naval Station, San Diego, CA

USS BOXER (LHD 4)
CHRONOLOGY
2002

USS BOXER LHD-4 2002 CHRONOLOGY

The following is a chronological list of significant events relevant to USS BOXER (LHD-4).

November 25, 2001 - April 4, 2002	DPMA Period
May 6, 2002 – May 11, 2002	CART II
May 15, 2002 – May 17, 2002	AAV OPS
May 17, 2002 – May 18, 2002	USS DREXLER Commemoration Ceremony
May 20, 2002 – May 22, 2002	CMS Inspection
June 10, 2002 – June 15, 2002	TSTA A
June 15, 2002 – June 18, 2002	Port Visit to Mazatlan, Mexico
June 18, 2002 – July 4, 2002	TSTA B
July 8, 2002 – July 13, 2002	TSTA
July 24, 2002 – August 3, 2002	Millennium Challenge
August 12, 2002 – August 17, 2002	SMI / 3M Assessment
August 19, 2002 – August 24, 2002	AOT 2002
August 27, 2002 – September 7, 2002	TSTA
September 11, 2002 – September 12, 2002	9/11 Commemoration Ceremony
September 18, 2002 – September 27, 2002	TSTA
September 24, 2002 – September 24, 2002	MISSILEX
October 7, 2002 – October 11, 2002	AMMO Onload
October 12, 2002 – October 15, 2002	San Francisco Fleet Week 2002
October 24, 2002 – October 29, 2002	Medical Contingency Ops
December 9, 2002 – December 10, 2002	Dental Readiness Assist
December 14, 2002 – January 6, 2003	Holiday Stand-down

USS BOXER (LHD 4)
DEPARTMENT HISTORIES
2002

USS BOXER AIMD DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

AIMD began the year with the ship in Dry Dock at National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) next to Naval Station San Diego three months after returning from Western Pacific Deployment 2001 the previous September. Working from a single office on the temporary office/berthing barge with no connectivity to the ship, the ten CPO's and three officers, including a new Department Head, managed the multiple AIMD and ship's projects, training, and personnel issues.

A detachment of 17 sailors from IM4 Division worked from the COMNAVAIRPAC Support Equipment Rework Facility. They disassembled, stripped, painted or powder coated, reassembled, tested and weight tested as applicable all 561 pieces of the Ship's Aviation Ground Support Equipment. Re-loading of the equipment was phased from March through May to complete the rework process and support work up requirements, flight operations, and ship's evolutions. Additionally, the division repaired or reworked and weight tested the 34 forklifts that remained onboard.

The Consolidated Automated Support System, (CASS) was installed as a major modification to AIMD's Avionic repair capabilities. The contractors completely removed the existing workshop and installed two state of the art automatic test benches designed for AV8B Harrier and V22 Osprey support. The new CASS system was designed to alleviate the need for the four Avionics Mobile Maintenance Facility (MMF) Vans. The vans are installed in the Avionics Van trays, which lower to the Hangar Deck. The vans are loaded on the trays and are hoisted into the Hangar overhead to be accessible from the 02 Starboard passageway.

As the Ship's Basic Training Phase began, AIMD trained and prepared for the upcoming deployment. Working with the Marines as we prepared to deploy, we indoctrinated our new personnel to the equipment and started laying the groundwork for an effective team. We groomed our over 4,000 items of Individual Material Readiness Listing (IMRL) equipment and test benches for operability. We also verified that all Aviation Depot Level Repairable assemblies were accounted for, configured correctly, preserved, and all associated documentation was ready for any commitment. All consumable piece parts and HAZMAT requirements for repair of the aircraft assemblies were re-verified to ensure that embarked squadron repair requirements would be met. The 42 required Aviation Maintenance Programs were reviewed for compliance in preparation for TYCOM inspection and Deployment Operations.

In August, AIMD began advance preparation for a possible early deployment with a revised Aircraft configuration. From September through December we were completing dual plans and reporting both to CNAP for January and June deployment dates.

We finished out the year with much uncertainty as to if we were prepared, as the requirements changed so rapidly. By all indications we had met all equipment requirements or identified shortages to TYCOM and had work-around capability for every contingency. The AIMD was self-sufficient and support ready, and prepared to deploy.

USS BOXER AIR DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

During 2002, Air Department's superior materiel condition of readiness, following BOXER's Docked Planned Maintenance Availability (DPMA) period, resulted in a full ASIR (Aeronautical Shipboard Installation Representative) certification. Air Department again led the way in innovation and the pursuit of excellence by setting the standard for readiness, training, and safety. All programs were graded above the fleet average and there were zero safety discrepancies. Because of this, Air Department received an ARQ (Aviation Readiness Qualification) upgrade during the Aviation Assist Visit (AAV). Both ASIR and ARQ qualifications were completed just two months after leaving dry dock, well ahead of schedule.

BOXER added to its established reputation as the waterfront leader through flawless performance during high-tempo operational exercises, deck landing and carrier qualifications, and Joint Air Ship Training evaluation/certification. The ship safely conducted 3,289 launches and recoveries in every conceivable configuration, in addition to over 190 instrument approaches, quickly demonstrating BOXER's multi-mission capabilities. In 2002, BOXER safely transferred over 1,434 passengers; 5 MEDIVACs; 1,159 pallets of ammunition weighing 212 tons; 15.75 tons of miscellaneous cargo; and 2,286 lbs of mail. In July 2002, BOXER embarked members of the Joint Shipboard Helicopter Integration Program (J-SHIP) to conduct testing and evaluation onboard L-class ships for joint forces helicopter operation and integration. After extensive planning, briefing and training by Air Department and Operations personnel, BOXER hosted Navy and Marine Corps pilots as part of the J-SHIP team to conduct at-sea flight evaluations. Additionally, BOXER participated in the first-ever recovery of Army Apache helicopters aboard an L-class ship. During the high-tempo Operation MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE, BOXER's Air Department performed professionally, allowing for the safe launch and recovery of numerous Marine Corps Reserve pilots. In another unique opportunity, BOXER safely recovered and launched several Mexican MD90-2 and MI-17 helicopters during the conduct of a Presidential Protection Mission off Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

USS BOXER C4I DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

The beginning of the year focused on completing our DPMA, in which numerous C4I installations and upgrades took place including enhanced communications capabilities via Local Area Networks and new satellite dishes to support "Challenge Athena" and thus increase our ability to communicate off ship.

In June, a major reorganization took place which brought the previously separate Communications and Combat Systems departments together into what is now the single C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence) department.

July/August gave the newest of the C4I installations a good shake down and test while working with other armed services during Joint Force exercises.

In September, the weapons systems got to show off. In the beginning of the month, a successful CIWS (Close In Weapons System) shoot was performed with Mount 23 hitting the target with multiple rounds. The end of the month was topped of with the firing of two NATO Sea-sparrow missiles during MISSELEX, which destroyed the target.

In October, after a highly successful POTUS security operation, we successfully accomplished the Final Evaluation Problem. November was an intensive maintenance period. We crammed an impressive amount of work into a short availability. The hard work paid off and prepared us well in order to support the upcoming deployment.

USS BOXER COMBAT CARGO FLIGHT DECK/WELL DECK TOTALS FOR 2002

FLIGHT DECK

#PAX	#PALLETS	PALLET WEIGHT
1,443	911	441,100 LBS

WELL DECK

#PAX	#VEH	#PALLETS	PAL & VEH WEIGHT
537	95	466	234,000 LBS

USS BOXER COMMAND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM 2002 HISTORY

The Command Religious Program (CRP) completed significant milestones in its efforts to serve the crew and leadership of USS BOXER. Focusing on major improvements to spaces and thus religious services, the CRP led the way to greater depths of ministry and pastoral care. Under the auspices of LCDR Michael Mueller, CHC, USN and LT Timothy Powell, CHC, USNR, the CRP expanded the spaces available for chapel services, counseling, crew morale and spiritual welfare. BOXER is the only ship in its class that has spaces dedicated to the CRP. This is an impressive achievement.

The main thrust of this came in the form of renovations of the old crew's lounge into the new CRP chapel, workspace, offices and new ship's library. Housing a variety of books, magazines and CDs, the ship's library also contains fourteen computers for general crew use. These assets enable the crew to access e-mail, play video games and surf the Internet. At any given time there can be as many as 36 ship's personnel and/or Marines utilizing this space.

The new chapel, comfortably seating 22 people, makes for a beautiful space. Used for divine services, quiet meditation, Bible studies and fellowship, the chapel has served a tremendous role toward the spiritual, emotional and mental morale of the crew. In addition, it houses a wide array of religious literature that several dozens have taken advantage of.

In all, the CRP has taken on a completely new dynamic. Enhancing the well-being of all, the CRP delivers innovative, life transforming ministry in keeping with the best traditions of America's religious freedom and the United States Navy.

USS BOXER DECK DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

The beginning of the year focused on completing our Dry-Docking Phased Maintenance Availability (DPMA). Numerous installations and upgrades took place including the overhaul of the Captains Gig, Port and Starboard Anchor Chains, Chain Locker, Hawse Pipes and related fittings. We spray painted over 90 ship interior spaces and upgraded 142 MK6 to MK7 Life Rafts and hydrostatic release assemblies. The Well Deck also received a few upgrades, the Relative Wind Indicator and LCAC Fresh Water Wash, all of which greatly increases our condition of readiness.

As the Summer approached, Deck Department overhauled 90 LCAC gripes, preserved 12 Nonskid decks, refurbished three troop berthing spaces in support of Marine on load, and preserved the Well Deck, tie downs, pad eyes, and upper vehicle access ramp. Deck Department also assisted contractors in the overhaul and preservation of three of BOXER's Main Deck passages, which required numerous hours of training in the preparation and application of the Americoat deck covering.

September was an exceptional Month for Deck. In preparation for the September 11th Memorial Ceremony, the Department painted and preserved the ship's sides, six mooring line stations, and numerous platforms. In the weeks following, the Department continued to strive for improved material readiness starting with the removal and reinstallation of the RHIB skid and 10 watertight doors for powder coating and hydrostatic testing all of the department's fire hoses. The 25th marked not only a Change of Command, but an exceptional demonstration of Deck Department's training and skill during a successful man overboard rescue of a BOXER flightdeck crewmember.

October brought about the preparations for San Francisco Fleet Week. The Department spliced and replaced 12- 5" mooring lines, 8 monkey lines for the Captain's Gig, two 10" plaited tug lines, and replaced refueling hoses on RAS stations 3 and 7. The department took advantage of Fleet Week sponsored activities and volunteered for command events, acting as young ambassadors and leading by example. Throughout 2002, the Sail Loft has manufactured over 230 protective covers ranging from the CO's chair, gun mounts, stowage, chairs, dispensers, power cables, plenum doors, flag bags, curtains, wardroom tablecloths, and sewn over 150 uniform items. Deck's Command support is displayed in almost every passage and workspace throughout BOXER.

As the year came to an end, Deck Department had the opportunity to support a Contingency Operation off the coast of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. During the Holiday leave period, with almost 50% of personnel on leave in anticipation of early deployment, Deck Department overhauled the A-Frame RAS Station 1. Our year ended with nothing but overall high reviews for the 3M Assessment, CART, TSTA, FEP, Underway Demonstration and Well Deck Certification.

USS BOXER DENTAL DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

While the USS BOXER continued with its dry dock phased maintenance assessment (DPMA) at NASSCO, the dental department spent time working out of Branch Dental Clinic, Naval Station San Diego, and a mobile dental unit for the first few months of the year. Even though the inconvenience made it difficult to get Boxer sailors in for treatment, we managed to maintain dental readiness above 95% and dental health at 30%. At the completion of DPMA, we renewed our spaces by painting and with some creative planning were able to make a fourth dental operatory functional to improve our dental capabilities. We were back in business and it was great to be back home after many months away.

The workups in the spring and summer allowed us to have port visits in both Mazatlan and San Francisco. We used this opportunity to have junior dental officers ride the ship not only to get the benefit of a port visit but also to have the chance to experience shipboard life. They provided much dental care while onboard which helped us out greatly. In August, the Dental Department Head, LCDR Blakeman, earned the Surface Warfare for Medical Department Officers (SWMDO).

The fall brought numerous short underway periods. This included many general quarters and mass casualty drills that the dental department took part in. We worked hard to prepare for the Dental Readiness Inspection and passed it with a C-1 status. All of the dental technicians did a superb job in order to make the inspection a success. DT2 (SW) Ruliva was selected as BOXER's Sailor of the Quarter, First Quarter 2003, and received a Navy Achievement Medal for her extraordinary efforts during this quarter.

As the holidays approached we realized we would be leaving soon for a long, unscheduled deployment. We also discovered that we would be the only dental care providers on board for 2600 Marines and Sailors - an unprecedented job due to no embarked Marine dental support. However, we had worked hard to get our department ready for deployment and to get the sailors of the USS BOXER ready to deploy. We were prepared for the challenge.

USS BOXER ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

The beginning of the year found us at metro machine shipyard as we got into our Dry-Docking phased maintenance availability (DPMA). In March we had a major fire inside the HT shop. An acetylene bottle blew up and caught the entire space on fire. A majority of the ship was at a ship's picnic, but we were lucky to have two duty sections here completing turnover. LT Barrows, MM1 Crouch and EM2 Allen were first on the scene with firefighting equipment. The speedy response of these three brave sailors kept the fire from spreading and contained it to the HT shop. Damage was estimated at $900,000.

During the well-deserved trip to Mazatlan Mexico, the Number 1 Boiler main steam stop jammed shut and caused ATG training to be delayed. The ship steamed back to San Diego on one boiler. In July, LCDR Alejo was relieved by LCDR Cardoso as Chief Engineer.

The contractor work continued while ship's force honed their skills and entered the basic phase cycle in full swing. There were numerous improvements to the plant, especially in the way of feed water consumption. The average consumption was 900 gallons per plant. After the improvements were put in place, we lowered consumption to less than 300 gallons per plant. This was a remarkable feat.

After Fleet Week in San Francisco, we sailed back home to discover that we had been selected to support a special operation. Schedules were quickly reworked and we sailed to Mexico again. In October, after a highly successful POTUS security operation, we successfully accomplished the Underway Demonstration, followed by the Final Evaluation Problem. November was an intensive maintenance period. We crammed an impressive amount of work into a short availability. The hard work paid off and prepared us well in order to support the upcoming deployment.

USS BOXER EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
2002 COMMAND HISTORY

The year found us in shipyard for our Dry-Docking phased maintenance availability (DPMA). We departed in March 2003 and started what would turn out to be a long, arduous Inter-Deployment Training Cycle. The Executive Department was scattered throughout the ship in Repair Lockers, DC Central, the Bridge, you name it. These fine young men and women were training for future operations and did a spectacular job. During the well-deserved trip to Mazatlan, Mexico, the department enjoyed some well-deserved liberty.

The Executive Department Head, LT Boyd, checked onboard during the 2001 Christmas holiday and took over in January 2002. LTJG Barksdale assumed duties as the Force Protection/Anti-Terrorism Officer. Additionally, we had several other personnel check-in to include MACS Whitson, MAC Cox, EMC Tatunay, MA1 Ehekircher, MA1 Fitzmorris, MA2 Cabrera, MA2 Walker, PN3 Escamilla, PN3 Bautista, YN3 Crawford, YNSN Uecker and MASN Blanco. Several personnel departed, to include CWO3 Smith, MAC Mitchell, MA1 Collup, MA1 Pinkley, MA1 Howard, YN2 Young.

On 25 September 2002, the department prepared for a change of command in which CAPT Michael G. Hlywiak was relieved by CAPT Thomas D. Crowley in a ceremony at sea off the coast of Southern California. The department enjoyed some outstanding liberty in San Francisco for Fleet Week and had the opportunity to share with the San Francisco Giants winning the National League Baseball Pennant.

We departed and sailed back to San Diego in time to find out we had been selected to support a special operation. Schedules were quickly reworked and we sailed to Mexico again. In October, after a highly successful POTUS security operation, we successfully accomplished the Underway Demonstration, followed by the Final Evaluation Problem. November was an intensive maintenance period in preparation of an early deployment. In December, the Executive Department was extremely busy working administrative and personnel support issues, including preparation of wills, Power-of-Attorneys, updates to crewmember personal information, and completion of command awards programs.

USS BOXER MEDICAL DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

BOXER received its Fourth and Fifth consecutive TYCOM Unit Health Promotion Award (Green "H") for CY-00 and 01. BOXER also received its third and fourth consecutive Gold Star Award for Health Promotion from the Naval Environmental Health Center. During its DPMA, BOXER was back-fit with the Collective Protection System (CPS). The CPS will effectively protect BOXER Personnel from chemical or biological contamination in multiple areas throughout the ship. In December 2002, BOXER Medical received the capability to perform definitive testing to rule-out or rule-in contamination from biological and chemical weapons. In December 2002, Medical completed a Medical Readiness Evaluation 4 months ahead of schedule and received a C-1 status.

USS BOXER OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT
2002 COMMAND HISTORY

OT division started the year with several upgrades to their Combat Direction Finding equipment and Global Command and Control System - Maritime (GCCS-M) systems. The Tactical Intelligence Communications System was replaced by the Sensitive Compartmented Intelligence (SCI) Networks system. The systems upgrades required training, and many of the SSES personnel were attending schools. LT Greg Braaten replaced LCDR Michael Howell as OT Division Officer on the first day of CART. The summer brought us the Optimum Manning Experiment and OT Division moved three sailors to the Regional Support Organization as part of the experiment. Most of the summer was spent underway and preparing for the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) of the basic training phase. After passing FEP with flying colors, OT had two Spanish Linguists join us in support of the POTUS/APEC Medical contingency.

OZ Division had a great year. Of note, BOXER's JIC produced force protection briefs each day to ensure our in-port safety, as well as maintained access lists and clearances for all contractors needing access to the ship. The media shop led coordination for the filming of a nationally aired Naval Reserve commercial onboard BOXER, as well as made BOXER's voice heard through photographs and news articles. OZ Division saw many equipment upgrades through 2002, to include a new Digital Photo Lab, a new print shop suite of copying equipment totaling over $100,000, important upgrades to the Joint Services Imagery Processing System, and several new intelligence collection and dissemination systems. OME saw BOXER lose their one Draftsman billet and two Photographers, however OZ maintained proficiency, and actually increased production on both the Intelligence and the Media sides of the division. OZ had attendees at imagery analyst school, Explot team trainers, security manager courses, GCCS-M operator school, and several other courses. Along with our equipment and personnel, our spaces saw improvements, too. All of OZ's spaces were painted, and Boxer's AVN photo print room was completely gutted and stripped, resurfaced, painted, and re-designated as BOXER's new Photo Studio and Digital Photo Lab space.

During 2002, OI Division had numerous personnel attend Enlisted Tactical Application Course at FCTCPAC from January to March, covering the threat in various geographical locations as well as foreign platforms and systems. From May to July, OI completed their monthly in port TADIL Exercises to fulfill their Link 11 TSTA requirements. In May, OI completed CART II, certified an Amphibious Boat Control Team, and completed Basic Amphibious Training Phase I (in port). June saw many ITT/CSTT training scenarios in support of TSTA/FEP. From July to August, OI conducted an operational test of Link 11/16 and completed two joint exercises (FBE J and MC02), integrating the Blue/Green Team and Joint Military (Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force). In November, OI

certified a Radar Navigation Team. And December saw OI complete an LCAC Certification and a C4ISR completion (Link 11, Link 16, GCCS-M, and ACDS operation).

During 2002, OC Division increased their state of readiness and enjoyed many successes. Some significant accomplishments for 2002 include: Air Operations Control Center (AOCC) got a facelift during DPMA by incorporating digital status boards and mapping capabilities, and completed over 2,000 mishap-free flight operations. Additionally, the division achieved over 30 air traffic control professional qualifications and received accolades as being "the best AOCC on the waterfront" during bi-annual quality assurance TYCOM Inspection. OC Division was recognized for two of its finest sailors during 2002. AC1 (AW/SW) Jesse Soto was nominated for the Vice Admiral Pirie Air Traffic Controller of the Year Award and AC3 (AW) Sau Duong was awarded BOXER Junior Sailor Of the Quarter for 3rd Quarter 2002. OC Division has excelled at every task and established themselves as the finest AOCC in the fleet.

OA Division provided accurate weather information throughout 2002. After DPMA and during the months of February through December, OA participated in the Work-up Cycle. OA division didn't encounter any weather related incidents or events during this period. One significant weather related event that impacted operations and ships movement occurred during the month of October. BOXER played a major escort and security role for the POTUS while he was attending a "TF APEC" meeting. The USS Boxer was positioned eight to 20 miles off the southern tip of Baja California. Hurricane Kenna began to play a major role in the safety and security of US and Naval assets. Hurricane Kenna was tracking Northwest at eight knots and approximately 280 nm off the western coast of Mexico, with winds 110kts gusting to 145kts. Careful onsite Micro-Analysis of Hurricane Kenna's wind distribution and active coordination with METOC centers allowed repositioning of the Task Force to remain much closer to the mission area, allowing the accomplishment of this important first mission for NORTHCOM.

OW division saw many accomplishments for both personnel and equipment. EW2 Rowin and EW2 Thompson completed their ESWS boards, EW3 McMullen was named Ops Dept Junior Sailor of the Month, CTT3 Porter was named Ops Dept Sailor of the Quarter, and EW1 Williams was named Ops Dept Sailor of the Quarter, BOXER Sailor of the Quarter, and nominated for Sailor of the Year. EW2 Rowin and EW1 Williams successfully repaired the SLQ-32 system after a major casualty. EW2 Brooks successfully repaired the SLQ-25 NIXIE systems after a minor degrading casualty that occurred prior to NIXIE streaming. Many field changes also occurred for the AN/SLQ 32 (V) 3, including the addition of a DDI console. OW Division resurfaced SRBOC platforms and completed both Starboard and Port side AN/SLQ 32 antenna platform refurbishment. The AN/SLQ 32 (V) 3 was certified on the ULM- 4 range. Throughout the year, OW ran several successful NIXIE streams as well as several successful chaff shoots.

USS BOXER SAFETY DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

During 2002, BOXER's Safety Department ensured a mishap-free Dry-Docking Phased Maintenance Availability (DPMA) period through a program of in-depth planning/briefing and on-scene supervision. Assuming responsibility for BOXER's Zone Inspection program, the Safety Department reinvigorated the process through inspector training, on-line discrepancy tracking, and space realignment to maximize inspection efficiency. Two major Safety Standdowns were conducted emphasizing Motor Vehicle Safety and Holiday Safety, directly contributing to a zero Class "A" mishap-rate for the year.

USS BOXER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

The year 2002 had been challenging and rewarding for the Supply Department. Earlier in year, the new R-SUPPLY Force Level & NALCOMIS Optimize System replaced the legacy SNAP II System. With the system installed, countless hours of training provided by ATG were conducted in order maximize effectiveness and efficiency within the department.

After Dry-Docking Phase Maintenance Availability (DPMA), Supply Department concentrated on space preservation/renovation and conditioning food service equipment. Within the department, 40 tiled spaces were converted to PRC deck including the Officer's Country passageways and the Enlisted General Mess Dining Facility. In addition, the Wardroom was fully renovated with new round tables, new chairs, recessed lighting, and a large screen plasma television. The Flag Mess also received new tables and new lighting installation. On the housekeeping side, 114 staterooms were cleaned and restored in preparation for the upcoming deployment. In the food service divisions, new equipment was installed. S-2 division received new dishwashers in the Port and Starboard Scullery, 16 Combi-Oven in the galley, 6 new refrigerators in the bakeshop, & 2 small fridges in the CPO Mess. S-5 received a new mixer for baking products.

Supply Department sponsored several functions onboard, which included San Francisco Fleet Week 2002 with over 800 recorded attendees, USS Drexler Commemoration, POW display visit, 9/11 Ceremony, Chief of the Supply Corps (Admiral McCarthy), & Water Front Junior Supply Corps Reception.

Back in August, Supply Department had the Supply Management Inspection (SMI), which is typically conducted every 18 months. As a result, the department received an outstanding overall score of 96.81 percent. Thus, SMI was upgraded to SMA. This supply score ultimately led to the USS BOXER Blue "E" Award, which has not been achieved in the last 5 year onboard.

For continuous outstanding customer service, a couple of programs were implemented and revived. First, CDR Walker (SUPPO) started the Storeroom of the Month program in order to enhance and maintain the proper condition of many supply storerooms. Once the nominated storerooms are identified, the owner of the storeroom will ensure and prepare for space cleanliness, preservation, & neatness of the space. The Commanding Officer awards the winner with a Winning Storeroom Citation, 72 hours special liberty, and a storeroom trophy. Another program that has been revived is the Quality Assurance (QA) Program. This program focuses on validity of receipt processing and inventory.

By the end of the year, USS BOXER started receiving embarking units in preparation for a possible early deployment. January 17, 2003, USS BOXER deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in support of the War on Terrorism & Enduring Freedom.

USS BOXER WEAPONS DEPARTMENT 2002 COMMAND HISTORY

Weapons Department has had a pretty productive year. All started when we were in the yards for DPMA. We first painted out all of the cargo hold magazines. This entailed a great amount of work from the guys in the department; they chipped and grinded everything to bring it to bare metal before priming and painting out the spaces. We also had our sprinkler system overhauled, rebuilding our 8" clay valves and other portions of our sprinkler systems. The division spent a lot of time and energy performing major corrosion prevention and treatment on the jettison lockers. They painted and had the sun shields powder coated so they would last longer and withstand the adverse weather conditions out at sea.

October brought about another event that the Weapons Department excelled at; The Ammo Onload. They worked three days straight onloading 1200 pallets of air-to-air and air-to-ground ordnance off the coast of Cal Site 20. They did this in a safe and timely manner, stowing all ordnance below decks and having it secured for sea in record time.