

USS BOXER (LHD 4) COMMAND HISTORY 1996

0100 Command Composition and Organization

0200 Chronology

0300 Narrative

0400 Appendix

**USS BOXER (LHD 4)
COMMAND HISTORY
1996**

0100 Command Composition and Organization

A. MISSION: The mission of USS BOXER (LHD 4) is to load, transport and land troops and their equipment.

B. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: USS BOXER (LHD 4) is directly responsible to Commander Amphibious Group THREE. There are no tenant commands under BOXER's administrative or operational control.

C. COMMANDING OFFICER:

**Captain Robert Earl Annis, USN
(Relieved: 2 Oct 96)**

**Captain James Kevin Moran, USN
(Assumed: 2 Oct 96 - present)**

D. CURRENT HOMEPORT: Naval Station, San Diego, California

**USS BOXER (LHD 4)
COMMAND HISTORY
1996**

0200 CHRONOLOGY

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

January 2, 1996: Beginning of Restricted Availability (RAV) in San Diego.

January 12, 1996: Observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January 16, 1996: BOXER begins Light-Off Assessment (LOA).

January 18, 1996: BOXER completes Light-Off Assessment (LOA).

January 22, 1996: Conducted Dock Trials.

January 22, 1996: Reconfiguration of the Ship's Library to accommodate the Learning Resource Center begins.

January 23, 1996: Conducted Fast Cruise.

January 24, 1996: BOXER begins Sea Trial, SOCAL.

January 25, 1996: BOXER completes Sea Trial, SOCAL.

January 26, 1996: BOXER continued Restricted Availability (RAV) in San Diego

Chronology cont'd:

January 31, 1996: Command Religious Ministries sponsored the first Alcoholics Anonymous Program on board BOXER.

February 7, 1996: First Pentecostal Jubilee held on board BOXER.

February 20, 1996: Beginning of CART II.

February 23, 1996: BOXER completes CART II.

March 12, 1996: Beginning of Post Shakedown Availability (PSA) in Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

May 9, 1996: BOXER completes PSA.

May 10, 1996: Returned to homeport, San Diego. Dependent Cruise.

May 13, 1996: Beginning of TSTA II.

May 13, 1996: Implemented SNAP III for Logistic Support.

May 21, 1996: Memorial Services, ADM Boorda.

June 7, 1996: Conclusion of TSTA II.

July 3, 1996: Embarked Operational/Tactical Commander, Amphibious Squadron SEVEN.

July 8, 1996: Beginning of TSTA III, SOCAL.

Chronology cont'd:

July 15, 1996: BOXER begins FEP.

July 19, 1996: Conclusion of TSTA III and FEP.

July 23, 1996: Departed homeport for Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

July 26, 1996: Begin port visit Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

July 27, 1996: Conducted Community Relation in Puerto Vallarta.

July 28, 1996: A diplomatic reception held on board BOXER for the US Ambassador to Mexico, Mayor of the City of Puerto Vallarta and the Commandante of the Mexican Naval Operation.

August 5, 1996: Dental Readiness Technical Assist Visit.

August 5, 1996: Beginning of LMA.

August 9, 1996: Conclusion of LMA.

August 16, 1996: Departed San Diego for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

August 23, 1996: Arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

August 25, 1996: Moored DEPERM Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

August 26, 1996: Begins DEPERM.

August 30, 1996: Concludes DEPERM.

Chronology cont'd:

September 3, 1996: Beginning of MIDPAC COMPTUEX 96-24M.

September 11, 1996: Conclusion of MIDPAC COMPTUEX 96-24M.

October 2, 1996: BOXER Change of Command.

**October 4, 1996: Dedicated the ship's Learning Resource Center.
BOXER Association Annual Reunion held on board.**

October 10, 1996: Beginning of COMPTUEX 96-27T.

**October 12, 1996: Begin FLEET WEEK and Port Visit in San
Francisco.**

October 15, 1996: Concludes FLEET WEEK.

November 6, 1996: Beginning of COMPTUEX 96-18M.

November 15, 1996: Conclusion of COMPTUEX 96-18M.

November 19, 1996: Hosted the Trilateral Forum.

December 5, 1996: Dental Readiness Evaluation.

0300 NARRATIVE

A. The following information describe and explain the events listed in the chronology:

BOXER began the year with a Restricted Availability (RAV) in San Diego with over 200 scheduled jobs. Following the observation of Martin Luther King's Day, BOXER successfully completed her first Light-Off Assessment (LOA) with the Engineering Department receiving a grade of outstanding.

In preparation for sea trials, BOXER successfully conducted her first dock trials and fast cruise. Following an extremely successful sea trial, BOXER returned to homeport to complete its Restricted Availability.

Despite BOXER's high tempo of operations, the first Alcoholics Anonymous Program was established and the Command Religious Ministries held its first Pentecostal Jubilee in an attempt to care for the crew's spiritual needs.

BOXER continued to undergo Command Assessment and Readiness Training (CART). Following CART II, BOXER moved to Long Beach Naval Shipyard for a Post Shakedown Availability (PSA). There BOXER received major systems, and equipment upgrades as well as space alterations to accommodate Women at Sea. Additionally, the ship renovated the messdecks, library, barber shop, personnel and ship's office, medical spaces, magazines and weapons sponsons for the 25mm chain gun. BOXER completed PSA in 44 days and headed for San Diego. The ship conducted a dependent's day cruise enroute.

Immediately upon the ship's return to San Diego, she began her Tailored Ship's and Training Availability (TSTA II). The ship conducted Damage Control Training in combating main space fire, improving and maintaining ship's watertight integrity, battle problems, medical

casualty drills, flying squad reaction drills and man overboard drills. BOXER passed TSTA II with an overall mark of satisfactory.

Following that training, BOXER was selected to host the waterfront memorial service for Admiral Boorda. Military personnel from various afloat units and shore commands participated in the ceremony to mourn the loss of the CNO.

The ship then began TSTA III. Commander Amphibious Squadron SEVEN embarked BOXER to oversee the ARG's overall training in preparation for deployment. BOXER successfully completed TSTA III and did so well the ship validated the Final Evaluation Problem. The first ship on the west coast to so validate.

Immediately following the completion of TSTA III, BOXER was selected to host the U. S. Ambassador to Mexico's reception in Puerto Vallarta. BOXER with embarked Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit held a diplomatic reception for the US Ambassador to Mexico, Mayor of the City of Puerto Vallarta, the Commandante of the Mexican Naval Operations and several members of the Mexican Navy in the ship's hangar bay. Additionally, BOXER crew members conducted Community Relation (COMREL) activities in the city of Puerto Vallarta. We passed out dry goods and clothings and helped repair the buildings at a local orphanage.

After the short port visit, BOXER completed the Dental Readiness Technical Assist Visit with an overall score of C-1 and C-2 in equipment management. Later that same week, BOXER underwent a Logistic and Material Assessment (LMA). The Supply Department received an "excellent" grade in the General Stores, with an overall score of 95.09 %; an "excellent" in Food Service, with an overall score of 97.78% and "good" in Retail Operations, with an overall score 90.56%. The overall score received in stock control management was 95.93%, and 100% inventory and location accuracy for surface DLRs, AVDLRs, MAMS.

In addition, the organization of the DLR storerooms was graded "outstanding."

Following the conclusion of the LMA, BOXER sailed for Hawaii in order to conduct a DEPERM. In DEPERM, over thirteen miles of cables were wrapped around the ship by over 700 personnel utilizing over 30,500 manhours.

BOXER completed DEPERM ahead of schedule. While in port Pearl Harbor, on 7 September 1996, 34 years after the erection of the USS Arizona Memorial, Captain Robert E. Annis, BOXER's Commanding Officer and 90 other Sailors revisited the site and took part in the largest reenlistment ceremony ever held on the memorial. Additionally, it was the largest reenlistment held at one time by a commissioned officer.

Following that significant and historical event, BOXER deployed to conduct COMPTUEX 96-24M. This was an exercise with the Marines Helo Squadrons assigned to Wahiawa, HI.

After the MIDPAC deployment, BOXER held her first Change of Command on 2 October 1996 at Naval Station, San Diego where Captain James Kevin Moran, the former Executive Officer "flected up" to assume command. Captain Robert Earl Annis transferred to Commander, Amphibious Group THREE as Chief of Staff.

At that same time in San Diego, the BOXER Association, consisting of more than 2,000 members held their annual reunion. The Association graciously donated \$2000 annually to BOXER's Learning Resource Center which was dedicated in their honor.

The next significant exercise BOXER participated was the COMPTUEX 96-27T, which culminated in a port visit to San Francisco for the Fleet Week '96. During Fleet Week, BOXER conducted tours for over 12,000

visitors. At the conclusion of the Fleet Week, BOXER conducted DLQ's prior to her return to homeport.

Our next at sea period was COMPTUEX 96-18M, where BOXER completed joint exercise with the Amphibious Ready Group. The training varied from small arms qualifications, Damage Control and battle problems to SAR training, and DLQ's.

In December 1996, BOXER was selected to host the Trilateral Forum, which included the Under secretaries of Defense for procurement from Australia, Canada and the United States.

Finally in 1996, BOXER completed her final Dental Readiness Evaluation with an overall score of C-1 in all categories.

The following figures are significant accomplishment in BOXER during 1996.

MISHAP HISTORY:

Personnel mishap/death: Zero
Material property damage: Zero
FOD incident: Zero

EXPOSURE:

Number of days underway: 162
Total Helo flight hours (day/night): 4354/1187
Total Fixed Wing flight hours (day/night): 398/178
Total Helo landings (day/night/NVD): 6138/1256/579
Total Fixed Wing landings (day/night): 619/215
Total aircraft moved: 1077
Fuel transferred:
Total Underway Replenishment evolutions: 18
Fuel received: 678,000 gallons of JP-5
Flight Deck fueling evolutions: 876
Fuel delivered: 298,890 gallons
Vertical Replenishment evolutions: 2,556 pallets
Combat Cargo:
Personnel and Troops movement: 3839
Tons of cargo: 5,541
Vehicles movement: 563, Tons: 1800
Ordnance and munitions: 286 tons
Carrier Controlled Approaches: 310
Total personnel reenlisted at once: 71

SAFETY PROGRAM HISTORY:

Total Safety Stand Downs: 4

HAZMAT PROGRAM HISTORY:

Total HAZMAT issued: 11,254

HAZMAT and WASTE Disposed:

Miscellaneous solids: 40%

Paint Debris: 21%

Oily rags: 39%

Total HAZMAT off-loaded: 79,500 lbs

LOGISTIC HISTORY:

L-Class AVCAL installed. BOXER was the first SURFPAC L-Class ship to be outfitted with the new repairable/consumable standard L-Class AVCAL consisting of 11,704 line items. The AVCAL supports 12 CH-46E, 4 CH-53E, 2 HH-46D, 6 AH-1W, 3 UH-1N and 6 AV-8B.

Implemented for Logistic Support:

SNAP III

Fleet Communication Package (FCP)

The following major systems and alterations were configured and completed on board BOXER in 1996:

New Oil Analysis Spectrometer

AV8 Van Power Modification

107 Test Bench Inventory (TBI) items

Engine Canning High Hat Area

COMSEC Security Area added for AN/ARC-210, KY-58

and KIT-1a/1c Security Systems

Installed GAU-12, 20MM and 25MM Gun Pod Storage

Created AN/ALQ-164 Mission Pod Storage

NICAD Battery Locker

Lead Acid Battery Locker
Installed Major Communication Suites including SHF,
EHF, BGIXS, SINCGARS, BF Email.
Activated Satellite Link 11 and Shipboard Information
Transfer System
POTS System
Stack Gas Analyzers
Eight TV Cameras
Overspeed governors for all six-cargo weapons elevators
70/30 Coppers Nickel replaced for salt water piping

AWARDS RECEIVED:

Battle "E"
Blue "E"
Ney Award (First Runner Up - CNSP)
Golden Anchor Award (First Runner Up - CNSP)
CNO Environmental and Safety Award (CPG-3)

DIGNITARIES VISITED BOXER, 1996:

US Ambassador to Mexico
Commandant of Mexican Naval Operation
Mayor of City of Puerto Vallarta
Mayor of San Francisco
Vice Admiral Lautenbacher (COMTHIRDFLT)
Vice Admiral Krekich (COMNAVSURFPAC)
Rear Admiral Saffell (COMPHIBGRU THREE)
Rear Admiral Walker (COMNAVBASE)
Vice Admiral Davis (SPACE and ELECTRONIC, OPNAV 46)
Senator Barbara Boxer
Under Secretary of Manpower Management