



PHIBRON FORWARD NEWSLETTER

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Boxer Celebrate's 118th Year of Hospital Corpsman Rating

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brett Anderson, USS Boxer (LHD 4) Public Affairs (June 17, 2016)

* Boxer Celebrate's 118th Year of Hospital Corpsman Rating

* USS BOXER departs Bahrain after Port Visit

* Boxer Completes MDVR

* Happy Birthday to June Birthdays

* Commodore's Corner & SEL Note

* A Legacy of Service

* New Orleans Welcomes Army Chaplain for Mass

* Commodore's Farewell & Liberty

* Promotion & Awards Congratulations

* Photos of the Month



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Debra Daco

ARABIAN GULF - Sailors and Marines assigned to the Medical department aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) held a celebration in the hangar bay to commemorate the 118th birthday of the Navy Hospital Corpsman, June 17.

The ceremony was hosted by Hospital Corpsmen and officers assigned to Boxer who presented speeches and personal testimonies of their career, describing what it means to be a member of the Hospital Corpsman community.

"Corpsmen are the backbone of Navy medicine," said Lt. Keith Freeman, a nurse embarked with Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 3. "No matter what the job is, or where it needs to be done, there's always a corpsman there ready to help."

Speakers at the birthday ceremony displayed pride in their profession and expertise, with each person expressing their motivation to provide quality care to others.

"When we are awarded our Caduceus, we are tasked with a responsibility to care for those around us," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Nikolas Ross, a ceremony speaker. "We do everything we can to help our patients and our friends when they need us most."

Ross also spoke about the origins of the rating. He said not many people outside the Navy's medical community can tell you when, or how, the Navy Hospital Corps was born, or how the rate of Hospital Corpsman came to exist.

"The Hospital Corps is a bold and storied corps," said Ross. "It was born out of the need for medical personnel in the looming Spanish-American war."

With 22 Medals of Honor, 174 Navy Crosses, 31 Distinguished Service Medals, 946 Silver Stars, and 1,582 Bronze Stars, the Hospital Corpsman enlisted rating is the most decorated rate in the Navy.

"I'm very proud to be a Hospital Corpsman," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Noheapukalani Leckey. "The corpsmen who have gone before me have left a great legacy to follow."

After the ceremony Boxer crewmembers attended a cake cutting ceremony on the mess decks.

"The speeches and stories that the leadership and my fellow corpsmen shared were very inspiring," said Leckey, reflecting on the ceremony. "They made me want to do all I can to better myself and further my career as a corpsman."

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/>.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Debra Daco

USS Boxer Departs Bahrain after Port Visit

Stories by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jose Jaen, USS Boxer Public Affairs (June 11, 2016), (June 30, 2016)

MANAMA, Bahrain - The amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) and embarked units from Commander, Amphibious Squadron One and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) concluded a four-day port visit to Bahrain, June 11.

During their stay, Sailors and Marines experienced the local culture, attended Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sponsored tours, volunteered for community relations projects and took advantage of the services available aboard Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain.

"It was nice to relax and unwind after 75 consecutive days at sea," said Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Vuong Ngo. "Being able to access some Wi-Fi on base and to see my wife through Facetime [video chat] was amazing and refreshing."

Country musician Trace Adkins entertained Sailors and Marines, June 7, during a USO-sponsored concert held aboard NSA Bahrain.

"The Trace Adkins concert was actually great, especially on the first day," said Ngo. "It kept the entire ship together in one spot to unwind and have a great time. I am not a huge country fan, but they played great music."

Sailors and Marines also participated in

tours coordinated by Mr. Brian Rockenbach, Boxer's MWR Afloat Recreation Specialist. These included kayak and stand-up paddle boarding, cultural tours of local mosques and indoor sky diving.

"When Sailors come to port, they want to go out and see what each port has to offer, so I am simply connecting them with these recreational opportunities," said Rockenbach. "The purpose of the tours is also to give the crew a very enriching experience in port."

Boxer crewmembers were able to give back to the local community by participating in community relations projects at the Regional Institute for Active Learning (RIA).

"We were with little kids, ages two to four, and we played with them, got to know them, sang with them and danced with them," said Personnel Specialist Seaman Markel Carter. "I got to know the teachers and what they do on a daily basis. I wanted to volunteer and do something bigger than myself, to give back and play my part."

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Boxer Completes MDVR

U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Operations - The amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), along with embarked Sailors and Marines from Commander, Amphibious Squadron One and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), completed a scheduled mid-deployment voyage repair (MDVR) June 30.

Sailors performed maintenance and preservation throughout the ship to improve the material condition and enhance Boxer's mission readiness as the ship serves as the sole afloat U.S. air platform currently operating in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR).

"MDVR is our mid-deployment voyage repair availability," said Lt. Kenneth Pennington, the Ship's Maintenance Management Officer (SMMO). "It entailed seven days of work regarding ships force and government contractors to coordinate effective repairs of the ship to sustain mission readiness."

Boxer is scheduled to go into the Chief of Naval Operations' phased maintenance availability (PMA) soon after it returns to homeport. However, this MDVR was an important evolution to the ship's readiness.

"This ship is going into dry dock once we return to homeport," said Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Carl Bethea. "But in the meantime, why not take advantage of the opportunity to repair items that we have the manpower to complete. Looking at the bigger picture, that can also save the ship time and money during the dry dock period by doing several jobs ourselves."

Due to the unforgiving nature of the elements while underway, Navy vessels require constant preservation and maintenance to ensure operability, survivability and service life expectancy.

"There are a lot of things that need to happen when we get into homeport," said Pennington. "MDVR is important because it allows the ship force to complete essential repairs, conduct preventive maintenance that we can't do while underway operating and it allows us to provide some preservation, paint the ship and make sure we are ready to go."

The planning for MDVR began well before the start of deployment, but once Boxer left San Diego and began operating, new maintenance requirements arose and the ship was able to add jobs to this MDVR.

"Coordinated efforts between the forward deployed regional maintenance center, government contractors, and ship's force was required so that we could properly identify what we would need to have happen," said Pennington. "Then as we operated and necessary repairs arose, we had to add jobs."



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Eric Burgett



U.S. Navy photos by MCSN Eric Burgett



U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Jesse Monford

Happy Birthday to June Birthdays



Commodore's Corner



Team ONE Family and Friends,

I hope you had a safe and relaxing Independence Day holiday and were able to reflect on what makes America such a special country. A large part of the country's success is the folks you see when you look in the mirror. Without you and the hard work you put in 24/7/365, the operating forces on BOXER, NEW ORLEANS and HARPERS FERRY would be incapable of executing assigned missions in defense of our cherished freedoms - THANK YOU!

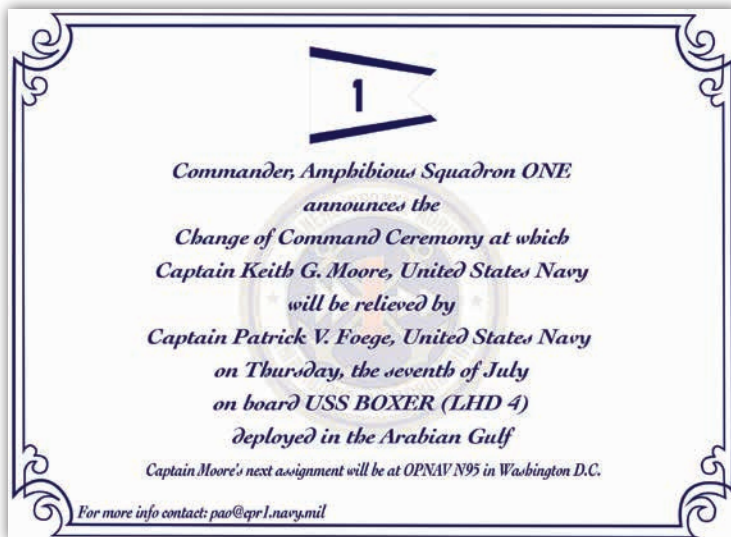
This is my final note as the Commodore in advance of change of command on July 7th. My time as Deputy and Commodore has been the most fulfilling that I've had in 30+ years of service. I have been constantly inspired by the incredible things your Sailors and Marines have been able to accomplish over the past three years. I will forever reflect fondly on my time at CPR1.

BOXER has enjoyed 2 port visits over the last month. The Team was able to relax for a bit and see the sites in Bahrain and Dubai. HARPERS FERRY was also able to spend some time in Dubai. Each ship will get another port visit in Fifth Fleet before we start our return voyage home.

The PHIBRON Staff bid farewell to LT Whitney Alvarado who departed to go be a Department Head on a ship working up for deployment - no rest for the weary. We also welcomed the new Deputy Commodore, CAPT Gerald (Jerry) Olin as well PS1 Adrian Falucho coming to us from Military Sealift Command in San Diego.

I cannot thank you enough for the staunch support you've provided all of us throughout my tenure, especially while we have been deployed. It really makes a tremendous difference when everyone is committed to the Team. Farewell and my very best wishes to all of you. Fair Winds and Following Seas.

With Utmost Appreciation and Reverence,
Commodore Keith Moore



SEL Note



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

First off I want to say Happy Belated Father's Day to all our Fathers out there! I proudly surrender an honorable SALUTE to you all.

Since we last met here, we have had two port visits. I'm super happy to say yes, we were able to enjoy some much needed liberty and down time to recharge our batteries. Some of you I know appreciated this time because you were able to actually see your Sailor or Marine via one of the many apps or sites allowing video and voice communication. Here we also reset by experiencing some of the cultural aspects; significant sites and tours within these countries we were visiting.

It's Ramadan which is highly recognized in the Middle East. Considered the Holy Month and acknowledge by Muslims worldwide; spent by Muslims fasting during the daylight hours from dawn to sunset. Can you imagine being out in the middle of the day and temperature is upward of 100 degrees or so. Guess what? You will not be able to grab that cold bottle of water for a small sip of thirst quenching H2O. No worries, we respect the

culture here and adjusted ourselves in respect in this very holy period.

So what's your plans for Independence Day (4th of July)? One of our country's proud and honored major holidays. The thing I will truly miss is the fabulous firework showcases that are presented during this time of the year. The deep thunderous bangs and flashy colors, WOW! Love our tradition here. So if you do plan to do something I ask that you keep safety at the forefront in all that you partake in. And one last favor, make sure you smile a lot while having a whole bunch of fun!

Here are some goodies the month of July also brings us..... Parent's Day is the last Sunday in July, Ice Cream Sundae Day is the third Sunday in July, Ride to Work Day is the third Wednesday in July.

JULY IS NATIONAL MONTH OF:
American Independence Month/ National Anti Boredom Month/ National Hay Month/ National Recreation and Park Month/ National Purposeful Parenting Month/ National Doghouse Repairs Month/ National Foreign Language Month/ Cell Phone Courtesy Month/ Fireworks Safety Month/ Eye Exam Month/ Red, White, and Blue Month/ Wild About Wildlife Month/ National Culinary Arts Month/ National Tennis Month/ Read a Almanac Month/ National Outdoor Month/ National Bison Month/ California Salmon Month/ National Mobility Month/ Sandwich Generation Month/ National Picnic Month.

As always it's great to share with you but that time has come once more. Time for me to get back to your Sailors and Marines out here. 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



A Legacy of Service

Human Interest Feature

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Douglas Bedford, USS Boxer Public Affairs (June 30, 2016)

Military Service ranges from two, four or even 20 plus years and can impact a family for an entire generation. Perhaps out of respect, a sense of obligation or even a requirement, some families maintain a cycle of service through multiple generations.

Eric Forman, an Information Systems Technician 2nd Class, from Los Angeles, has traced his military lineage from current operations, to the Revolutionary War and he is currently serving in the U. S. Navy, aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4).

On Boxer, Forman serves as the Work center Supervisor for radio division and his responsibilities include managing the maintenance of shipboard antennas and satellite communications, which have enabled him to have an analytical and detailed ability to search and identify information. These skills have proven invaluable for his inherited the role as subject matter expert on his family's lineage. Throughout his ongoing research, his findings have uncovered a trend within his own bloodline - military service.

"I've been doing genealogy for about ten year's now," said Forman when asked how long he has been involved in researching his family history. His great-grandmother Frances M. Reddish began laying the foundation of writing the family history earlier in the 1970's while his grandmother Louella May Samuelson would continue Frances research and eventually inspiring Forman to continue. He would later transcribe much of the information already collected by Frances, combining her research with his to build upon more facts and dates.

At a young age, Forman was unaware he would inherit the role as family historian, but he had a close bond with his grandparents. He often admired his grandmother's and great-grandmother's efforts at researching family history and he would spend many hours talking with them and listening to them describing the lives and events of his ancestors.

"My great-grandmother [Frances Reddish] would spend months at a time in hopes of [finding] a small clue, by writing or emailing some library, or genealogical society, just to get a snippet of information," said Forman.

The ongoing comments and statements made by his grandparents increased his curiosity leaving him wanting to learn more. "In high school, one of my favorite subjects was history," said Forman, which helps account for his fascination with genealogy now.

Knowing the foundation had been laid for initial research of the family, Forman would learn to adjust his focus from searching out specific birth and death dates, and instead fill in the blanks of what happened 'in-between' those dates. He also collected many artifacts which were gathered or saved by past generations, but continues asking the ongoing question, "What do these artifacts actually mean?"

Looking Back

As Louella and Frances conducted research, their findings would lead to an individual living in the late 1700's by the name of Alpheus Chapman, who served in the Revolutionary War. Finding this link to the past allowed them to reach out to the Daughters of the Revolutionary War (DAR) to find further information and, after verification, they were able to register and become part of the organization. As research and study went on in the 1970's, the two women gathered more information traversing into the 1800's finding Frances' paternal grandparents, Emily Mary Lighthall and Allen Chauncey Reddish, who served in the 9th New York Calvary division during the Civil War and later served in World War I. Allen Reddish would provide one of the 'artifacts' now possessed by Forman, a copy of the April 5, 1865 edition of "New York Herald Extra" with headlines discussing the assassination and death of President Abraham Lincoln. Allen Reddish would pass at the age of 78 in 1917, and Emily Reddish would join him at the age of 92 in 1928 in Seattle, leaving a legacy of service from the American Civil War.

Continued research would find the maternal grandparents of Frances Reddish. Marry Ann Healey, born in Montreal, and William Garland, who would travel at a young age from England to migrate to the U.S. The two would eventually marry in Wisconsin in 1869. Marry Ann, had ties to the early U.S. Army through her brother Thomas A. Healy who served in the M Company of the 1st Wisconsin Calvary.

The family history showed the progression of the early American families of the 1700 and 1800's, developing in towns and cities in the heartland of America. As Forman continues to research and expand the transcripts of the Reddish legacy, other individuals with relation to Frances can be identified with military service.

The Here and Now

"Data research is a whole lot different than in the 1940's and 1950's," said Forman when describing the amount of effort and time his great-grandmother put in searching for family ties. "It's one thing to have little bits and puzzle pieces of your family but I've learned to ask, what's the big picture? I've tracked my ancestors coming across on the Mayflower, and various other ancestors coming in at different times during early America."

A sense of pride is very apparent in Forman when discussing aspects of his genealogy and early travels of the Reddish family throughout early America. "Some families traveled by covered wagon, into Nebraska and branched out after the Civil war over the years to Denver, Washington, Oregon and California mostly. Always moving west," said Forman. According to Forman he recently uncovered an ancestor which died in 1951 and was buried only two blocks away from his current home in Oceanside, Calif.

"It's not about what you're researching, but the 'who' and 'how'" said Forman regarding genealogical research. "I can look up Alpheus Chapman all day and hit a road block, but then ask, well... what's related to him? The 9th New York Calvary!"

The Future

When asked how it feels to serve today, knowing the history of military service in his family, Forman states "I'm not going to lie, it feels pretty darn good." While not having any children at the moment, he is ready to pass the role of family historian when the next generation is ready. When asked how he would be able to affect those who come after him, Forman said "With children, keeping the legacy going, whether through military service and just in general, keeping the genealogy as well is what's important."

In the middle of his Navy career, Forman values his service and the future military endeavors of his children and grandchildren. "It's like the Olympics you know, right now I have the baton, my father had the baton, his father had the baton and goes back from there," said Forman. "It's more of a passing of the baton, and for now I'm holding it, until I pass it on to my children to maintain that legacy."

While serving aboard Boxer, Forman's service continues to expand his family's military legacy as the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group serves in the U.S. 5th Fleet in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts.

New Orleans Welcomes Army Chaplain for Mass

Story and Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brandon Cyr, USS New Orleans Public Affairs (June 30, 2016)



ARABIAN GULF - Catholic Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) were given the opportunity to participate in Mass and confession June 30, when the crew was visited by Army Chaplain Maj. John Gabriel.

New Orleans does not have a Catholic priest permanently assigned to its command religious ministries, so Army Chaplain Maj. John Gabriel was offered the opportunity to serve the Sailors and Marines aboard.

"Having an Army priest take time out of his deployment to come offer Mass for the Roman Catholic Sailors and Marines onboard was incredible," said Lt. Jason Hart, New Orleans command chaplain. "It is a big encouragement to our service members and exactly what they needed on this long deployment."

Gabriel traveled from Camp Buehring, Kuwait to provide service to New Orleans, and enjoyed his first ride on a landing craft air cushion (LCAC) as he was welcomed aboard.

"This is my second ship that I have visited to offer Mass and confession," said Gabriel.

Gabriel also visited the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) during their cooperation in Operation Eager Lion 2016.

"The crew of New Orleans and the Sailors and Marines that attended Mass welcomed me and were very appreciative of my service," said Gabriel. "Having the ability to increase the interoperability of faith between the branches by serving aboard ships provides a unique experience for all involved."

Many crewmembers thanked Gabriel for

taking the time to provide Catholic services.

"Practicing faith can be difficult when we are so removed from home," said Ensign John Swain, one of the Sailors in attendance at Mass. "Having a priest come from so far away to offer us his services is so special and we all value his time."

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 U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

For more news from Commander, Amphibious Squadron 1 or USS New Orleans (LPD 18), visit: www.navy.mil/local/phibron1; <https://www.facebook.com/BigEasy18>.



Promotion & Awards Congratulations!

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Debra Daco, MC2 Jose Jaen



BOXER AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 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



Navy photo by MC1 Brian Caracci



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 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 Chelsea Daily



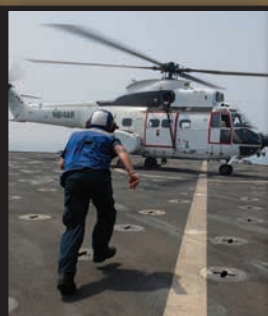
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Daily



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Zachary Eshleman



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Zachary Eshleman



USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49)