



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS BOXER (LHD4)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
AP 96661-1663

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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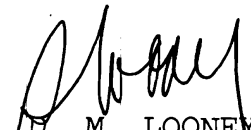
From: Commanding Officer, USS BOXER (LHD 4)  
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1999

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12G  
(b) Chief of Naval Operations Letter of 17 JUL 00, Ser  
09BH/SH/OU505886

Encl: (1) USS BOXER (LHD 4) Command History for 1999

1. Per references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is hereby submitted.

  
D. M. LOONEY  
By direction

**USS BOXER (LHD 4)  
COMMAND HISTORY  
1999**

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Part I Command Composition and Organization

Part II Chronology

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**Part I 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 Officers: Captain Robert C. Massey, USN  
(19 February 1998 - 24 September 1999)  
Captain Stephen D. Doyle, USN
- f. Permanent Duty Station: Naval Station, San Diego, CA

## Part II CHRONOLOGY

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

December 5, 1998: BOXER departed for six-month deployment to WESTPAC/MIDDLE EAST.

December 30, 1998: BOXER arrived in Hong Kong for port visit.

January 2, 1999: Departed Hong Kong.

January 6, 1999: BOXER arrived in Singapore for port visit.

January 11, 1999: Departed Singapore.

January 13, 1999: BOXER arrived in Phuket, Thailand for port visit.

January 18, 1999: Departed Thailand.

January 18 - March 1: Underway

March 1, 1999: BOXER anchored at Bahrain.

March 2, 1999: Departed Bahrain.

March 4, 1999: BOXER anchored at Bahrain.

March 7, 1999: Departed Bahrain.

March 12, 1999: BOXER arrived in Abu Dhabi, UAE for port visit.

March 16, 1999: Departed Abu Dhabi, UAE.

March 27, 1999: BOXER anchored at Kuwait.

April 3, 1999: Departed Kuwait.

April 9, 1999: BOXER arrived in Jebel Ali, UAE for port visit.

April 16, 1999: Departed Jebel Ali, UAE.

April 29, 1999: BOXER arrived in Bali, Indonesia for port visit.

May 4, 1999: Departed Bali, Indonesia.

May 11, 1999: BOXER arrived in Townsville, Australia for port visit.

May 16, 1999: Departed Townsville, Australia.

May 26, 1999: BOXER arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for port visit.

May 28, 1999: Departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Jun 5, 1999: BOXER completed six-month deployment. Returned to homeport, Naval Station, San Diego.

Jun 5, 1999: Beginning of Post-deployment leave and Upkeep.

Jul 19, 1999: BOXER conducted ammo offload.

August 19, 1999: Beginning of nine-week Planned Maintenance Availability (PMA).

September 24, 1999: BOXER Change of Command.

October 7, 1999: BOXER begins Sea Trials, SOCAL.

October 8, 1999: BOXER completes Sea Trial, SOCAL.

October 18, 1999: BOXER Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE flagship in support of All Comers At Sea Training (ACAT).

November 16, 1999: Beginning of CART II.

November 19, 1999: BOXER completes CART II.

November - December 1999: Holiday Leave, Upkeep/Training.

### Part III NARRATIVE

a. The following information describes and explains the events listed in the chronology:

On December 5, 1998, BOXER departed San Diego for her second six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and the Middle East. BOXER Amphibious Ready Group was comprised of USS CLEVELAND (LPD 7), USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 47), Marines from the 13<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit, Helicopter Support Squadron Eleven, Fleet Surgical Team Nine, and various Naval Support elements.

On the way to Pearl Harbor, BOXER conducted amphibious assault in the Hawaiian Islands before setting sail for Hong Kong. During the assault training, Marines performed beach landings at Kaneohe beach in Oahu. On the way to Hong Kong, BOXER steamed past the island of Iwo Jima. There in the vicinity of Mount Suribachi, a memorial service was held for Marines who died in that World War II Battle.

The first foreign port to be visited by BOXER was Hong Kong. This was BOXER's first visit to Hong Kong since its turnover to the People's Republic of China. While in Hong Kong, BOXER hosted ship's tours. BOXER crewmembers participated in Community Relation (COMREL) activities in Hong Kong's New Territories. They repaired buildings at a local orphanage, planted trees and helped beautify the grounds of a local church. BOXER's next port visit was to Singapore, the "Lion City". BOXER received maintenance and logistical support at Sembawang Ship Support Facility. After an eleven-day visit, BOXER headed to Phuket, Thailand. There, BOXER again participated in joint Community Relation activities. The crew delivered health and comfort items.

BOXER departed early from Thailand in support of contingency Non-Combatant Evacuation (NEO) operation during Ethiopia/Eritrean conflict. BOXER remained anchored off the coasts of Bahrain and Kuwait in support of this mission. While operating in the Arabian Gulf, BOXER participated in numerous exercises, to include: EDGE MALLETT, NEON FALCON and EAGER MACE. Upon completion of these exercises, BOXER set out for Abu Dhabi, UAE where she received maintenance and logistic support. While in Abu Dhabi, BOXER's Amphibious Ready Group represented the United States Navy as COMFIFTHFLT host ship during the International Defense Exposition (IDEX). BOXER hosted a highly diplomatic reception and tour for numerous high-ranking military

officials. BOXER also hosted ship's tours. Next, BOXER transited the Strait of Hormuz and visited the port of Jebel Ali in Dubai. BOXER went through short maintenance upkeep and received logistical support. She then arrived in Bali, Indonesia on April 29, 1999 for another well-deserved liberty port visit. After that short port visit BOXER proceeded to Townsville, Australia for another port visit. There, BOXER hosted ship's tours for over 10,000 people from Townsville.

After her port calls in the Seventh Fleet AOR, BOXER headed to Pearl Harbor, HI to set up her "Tiger Cruise". In port Pearl Harbor, thirty BOXER personnel reenlisted on board the USS ARIZONA Memorial and the battle ship USS MISSOURI. She received over 400 "Tigers" and headed to homeport. In transit BOXER guided and showed the "Tigers" the Navy and Marine shipboard life and routines.

BOXER completed her deployment on June 5, 1999 without personnel mishap/death or major casualty and earned the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Following deployment and post deployment leave period, BOXER began a nine-week Preventive maintenance Availability (PMA). After completion of PMA, BOXER conducted an ammo off-load and sea trials. After a successfully sea trial, BOXER was selected as Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group FIVE flagship for COMTHIRDFLT sponsored "All Comers At Sea Training (ACAT).

BOXER held her Change of Command on 24 September 1999 at Naval Station, San Diego where Captain Stephen D. Doyle, the former Executive Officer "fleeted up" to assume command. Captain Robert C. Massey transferred to Commander, Amphibious Group THREE, subsequently retiring.

BOXER successfully completed her two-day Sea Trials on 8 October 1999. BOXER was again underway from 18 October 1999 to 22 October 1999 in support of All Comers At Sea Training (ACAT). CART II was successfully completed from 16 November 1999 to 19 November 1999. The crew used the remainder of the year for Holiday leave periods, upkeep and training.

**Part IV Supporting Documents**

- a. BOXER Welcome Aboard
- b. Battle "E" and Command Excellence Awards Submission Letter
- c. News Releases
- d. Biography and Photograph of Captain Massey
- e. Biography and Photograph of Captain Doyle