



HMS CHIDDINGFOLD  
OP KIPION  
BFPO 254

Email: HMSCHID-  
CommandingOfficer@mod.uk

29 March 2021

TCA – Ton Class Association

Peter,

It is my privilege to write to you as HMS CHIDDINGFOLD's/MCM2 Crew 3's Commanding Officer. MCM2 Crew 3 has recently moved back onboard CHIDDINGFOLD after four months back in the UK. This letter is to update all of our affiliates and friends back home on the tasking and progress of your Ship whilst she conducts vital work abroad, protecting the nation's interests during this difficult time for all.

CHIDDINGFOLD is currently deployed in support of Operation KIPION in the Gulf. She is based out of the United Kingdom Naval Support Facility in Bahrain and comes under the United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander (UKMCC) influence. The ship is one of four MCMVs (Mine Counter Measures Vessels) forward deployed in Bahrain on Operation KIPION, where the Ship's Company is working a four months on, four months off rotation over a combined 24 month period; this includes the Crew training at home, back in the UK, as well as taking some well deserved leave before returning to Bahrain to relieve our sister crew (MCM2 Crew 1) in theatre for a further four months of operations.

Operation KIPION is the United Kingdom's commitment to maintaining peace and security and to deter threats to UK interests in the region. The impact of the recent blocking of the Suez Canal by the mechanical failure in the MV EVER GREEN has arguably underlined the importance of ensuring global chokepoints are kept free and open for trade. The Royal Navy's permanent presence in the Middle East, a region which includes three of the world's six maritime chokepoints, helps keep maritime trade flowing. Ensuring the region's strategic shipping lanes, remain open for business is essential to UK security and trade. The MCMVs operating in the Arabian Gulf are an important asset working in support of this aim by maintaining presence and deterring any aggressors. The UK imports 39 million tonnes of oil, most of which passes through our area of responsibility. When at sea, CHIDDINGFOLD will seek out and, if necessary, destroy unexploded sea mines using our highly trained Mine Clearance Divers and the Seafox unmanned mine disposal system.

CHIDDINGFOLD has recently undergone Theatre Integration Weapons Training (TIWT). This is an intensive week of training overseen by staff from CHIDDINGFOLD's squadron. This included gunnery serials using our 30mm cannon, as well as smaller arms such as our heavy machine

gun. It also involved testing our state of the art minehunting equipment, firefighting abilities and reactions to machinery breakdowns. Overall, I am happy to report, we were assessed to be ready in all respects to be deployed on operations.

CHIDDINGFOLD is currently alongside in a maintenance period for a few weeks. Your ship is one of the oldest ships in the fleet (37 years old), but also one of the hardest working ships. Our highly trained and hard-working engineers ensure that CHIDDINGFOLD is in good shape and is ready to fight another day.

If you wish to be kept informed of our activities whilst deployed please follow us on Twitter @HMSChiddingfold.

*Yours sincerely,*

S J Reeves  
Lt Cdr RN  
Commanding Officer