

The Maverick's Newsletter

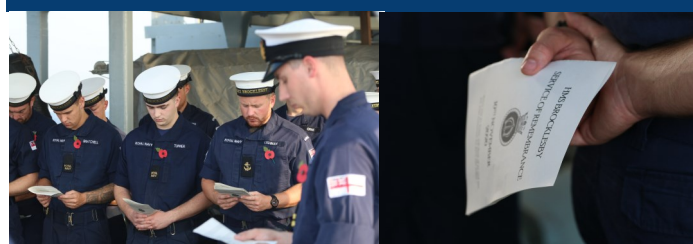


A Message from the Commanding Officer



Hello again from sunny Bahrain. The Crew is now past the half way mark of the deployment with everyone on BROCKLESBY putting it bags of effort as we do our bit to keep the seas in the region safe, look after each other and keep our ship in a good condition in the harsh Arabian heat. Thankfully, the temperatures have started to abate (a balmy 32 degrees today) and perfectly timed for our Operational Stand Down (see more below). It was great for everyone to unwind, briefly escape the work environment and be able to enjoy some of what's on offer 'outside the wire'. The guys on board have been doing really well to keep the miles ticking over for our Phys Yourself Home challenge, especially given most of this month has been spent at sea; keep track of our progress on Twitter and Facebook. It's great to be able to recognise the hard work of our sailors, and I was especially pleased to award Diver Lindsay, ET Stainton and Chef Turner their citations. With Christmas now on the horizon, the Mavericks have prepared a little present for our loved ones back home. This will be in the post shortly and we highly recommend you don't open it until Christmas Day itself! We really appreciate with all the love and support you've given us over the past few months especially during such a difficult time both here and back home; it definitely keeps us going during the long hours on watch. Thank you all and standby for further updates!

REMEMBRANCE



No matter where we are or what we're doing, we should always take time to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of our freedom. With a service at sea, and laying a wreath upon the waves, Crew 6 remembered the fallen from conflicts past. It served as a poignant moment of reflection for all the Crew during a busy and uncertain time.

OPERATION NEPTUNE SCEPTRE

As part of our overall mission of preserving Maritime Security within the Arabian Gulf, one of our enduring commitments is to Operation Neptune Sceptre (OP NS), and over October Crew 6 completed its first period contributing to it. The main purpose of OP NS is to ensure that UK and coalition naval forces maintain a clear picture of what the seabed and underwater conditions are like in areas that would be considered of great importance in the event of heightened tensions or a regional conflict. Such an event would likely encroach into the maritime environment, and there may be an increased likelihood of hostile forces deploying anti-ship mines. As a Hunt Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel (MCMV), BROCKLESBY is highly suited to this task. With her S2193 Sonar (one of the most sophisticated in the world), and the ability to drive at slow speeds, the Ship is able to conduct what is known as Detailed Route Survey (DRTSV). The ship will drive at approximately 3 mph along these important routes with the sonar transmitting. Sonar system's ability is such that it effectively recreates an almost true-to-life of what is below the ship. This allows our skilled operators to scrutinise the seabed, noting any large objects, or 'contacts' as they're known. If not investigated these contacts could be mistaken for, or the disguise the position of a mine. If a contact of interest is come across, the Bridge team will 'hover' the ship in position, whilst the Mine Warfare team deploy a remote operated vehicle known as Seafox. Attached to the ship by a long fibre-optic cable that allows it to be driven and send a live video back to the Ship's Operations Room, the Seafox is sent down to the seabed to inspect the contact. As you may imagine, DRTSV is an intensive and laborious process. It sees the Ship assuming what's known as a State 2 posture, with the Crew working into two 'watches'; whilst one watch works, the other rests, in a 6-hour rotation. This means DRTSV can be constantly maintained, day and night, for sometimes more than a week! But not only do we look at mine like contacts; this type of work means we can contribute to maintaining the safety of navigation for all ships at sea. Crew 6 were able to verify the position of a dangerous wreck that had been incorrectly charted, and we also discovered the wreck of a dhow previously uncharted, which left so would pose a danger to shipping. Well done to everyone for their hard work.

AWARDS

Congratulations to three members of Crew 6 for receiving the Herbert Lott Prize. This award recognises the hard work and contribution of sailors to the improvement of the Ship's efficiency. As well as getting a handsome citation hailing their achievements, Diver James Lindsay, Chef Calum Turner and Engineering Technician Orren Stainton have also been given a cool £100 from the Herbert Lott Fund. Don't spend it all at once gentlemen!



WHO'S THAT SAILOR?



This month we feature Chef Raynel Williams. Hailing from the Caribbean island of St. Vincent.; this is his first time on deployment to the Middle East. Whilst he is missing family, he is proud to be making a difference. Arguably fulfilling one of the most difficult roles onboard, Chef Williams works in a hot and cramped galley to supply Crew 6 with three (sometimes four) high quality meals a day. Good food is essential for ensuring personnel are properly fuelled to carry out the hard work our operations demand, and it provides a much-needed boost in morale after a long day. Though he enjoys his job, he's looking forward to not having to cook so much when he gets home.

OPERATIONAL STAND DOWN



With over half of the deployment complete, the Mavericks have earned a bit of rest and relaxation. Whilst on the decline generally, COVID is still very much prevalent within Bahrain, preventing the hotel leave that veterans of this deployment may have become accustomed to. Nevertheless, a lot of behind-the-scenes work, from Crew members and staff at the UK Naval Support Facility to ensure that Crew 6 had some safe and fun activities to enjoy during the 10 day stand down. With specific times allocated for UK personnel, members of the Ship's Company enjoyed a trip to the Cinema at the adjacent US Base. Meanwhile, the Royal Bahrain Golf Club opened up its course, allowing some keen golfers to get some (much needed) practice on the fairways and putting greens.

But it seems the hands down favourite activity was paddle-boarding on the nearby Amwaj Islands; it seems the Mavericks never stray too far from the water! Based from a hotel beach, would traverse the waves with ease on stand up paddle boards before relaxing on the sand. With daily temperatures now akin to a Mediterranean summer, this day spent at the beach offered many a brief holiday following an intensive programme. After a well deserved rest, the Crew are now refreshed and ready to get on with the task at hand.



PHYS YOURSELF HOME CONTINUES

I'm sure many of you have been following our progress on Twitter as we attempt to recreate the journey by land from the UK Naval Support Facility in Bahrain, back to our home base of Portsmouth by cycling, rowing, running and swimming. Well with just over half the deployment complete, we've racked up a distance equivalent to over half the 6500km journey. All this is in aid of raising money for the **Southern Spinal Injuries Trust**, and appropriately it seems we're just over half way to our fundraising goal of £1500! Please continue to follow our journey on Twitter and, if possible, give whatever you can by visiting:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/crew-6-phys-home

We thank so much for your support so far and we'll continue make sure to be back home in time!



FIRST IN ULTRA FIT

In honour of the birthday of the Royal Marines, the UK Naval Support Facility hosted an Ultra Fit Challenge, a gruelling event in which teams of 8 compete to finish a relayed set of exercises the fastest. In order, this included:

- ◇ An 800m run.
- ◇ 30 reps of overhead shoulder presses with a 30 kg bar.
- ◇ 40 swings a 28kg kettle bell.
- ◇ 40 overhead sit-ups with a 15kg plate.
- ◇ A row on machine that would expend 35 calories.
- ◇ 30 deadlifts with a 60kg bar.
- ◇ 25 goblet squats with a 20kg kettle bell.
- ◇ All topped off with 20 burpees with a 20kg power bag.



Impossible!', I hear you cry. Well not for Crew 6's Phys Bosuns; Petty Officer Diver Halbauer, Leading Seaman Mine Warfare Grayson, Leading Diver Lishman, Able Diver Alexander, Weapons Engineering Technician Bratchell, Able Seaman Specialist Henderson, Diver Morgan, Mine Warfare Rating Orme. The Mavericks were victorious, fending off 5 other teams from ships and the UKNSF, most importantly beating a team from the Army Infantry unit who provide the base's security team. BZ Gentlemen!

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN!

Crew 6 have been advised that, to ensure that all Christmas post reaches the Ship in ample time, friends and family should send everything no later than **Friday 4th December**. Anything posted after this date cannot be guaranteed to arrive on time, and may have to be opened as a New Year's present instead!

