

Newsletter



It has now been over 5 weeks since RFA Fort Rosalie (FTRO) and her crew concluded deployment continuation training (DCT) in Plymouth. In that time she has seen a turbulent crossing of the Atlantic experiencing weather upto force 10, a restful festive period in Mayport, Florida and most recently short visits to Jamaica and Grenada.

Since departing Kingston, Jamaica FTRO has begun fulfilling the commitments as part of her Atlantic Patrol North (APT (N)) Tasking, working in partnership with the US Coastguard in Counter Narcotics trafficking operations. FTRO's presence in the Caribbean region has helped deter and reduce the flow of narcotics from production areas in Southern America to North American and European Countries.

Concurrently the crew of FTRO has been furiously making preparations for an official reception, hosting delegates from the 'Caribbean Forum'. The 'Caribbean Forum' is a high level delegation of representatives from fourteen Independent Caribbean states, the UK Foreign Secretary, three UK Ministers, UK trade & Industry reps plus other UK territories convened periodically to discuss economic, social, political and security issues throughout the region.

This year a 'forum' social evening took place on board FTRO, and all shipboard departments made special arrangements for this prestigious event. Not least of all the Catering and Stewarding department. The catering department, with CPO CKs Etwell and Childs at the helm, and produced hundreds of outstanding canapés for over 150 guests, ranging from sushi to sweets and were a big hit with the guests and crew alike. Despite hot and humid conditions the Stewarding department; under CPO(S) Peter King did a brilliant job setting up the bar and serving all the guests and hosts with drinks and food for the duration of the party.



Costa Mediterranea alongside in Grenada with



Canapés for the evening



CPO Shipwright Billy Ion



L/H SA Leslie Slaney



The Hon Karl Hood, Foreign Minister of Grenada

duration of the party. The Communication department set the stage with an array of signal flags on the bulkheads for what would turn out to be a big success for all involved.

Both the Deck and Comms departments have been hard at work in recent weeks with some serious ships, husbandry, fighting the weather and sea every step of the way. The Deck department is tackling locations all over the ship with equipment ranging from needle guns to bosun's chairs, concentrating on the forecandle and the No. two RAS pocket for last Saturdays, forum. While the comms department are giving the monkey island a serious makeover. The Carpentry department has also been hard at work, creating the stage and lectern for the presentations, as well as making steps for the gangway and reinvigorating the ships workboat for the upcoming Royal visit. The engineers ensuring that all systems are tight and serviceable.

Throughout the RFA and especially on FTRO there has been a big charity fundraising effort for the RFA memorial. Along with private donation FTRO has held a Christmas draw and is currently holding a weekly '100' club. Each week personnel purchase a number from one-100, and at the end of the week a draw is held with a portion of the funds raised going towards the RFA memorial fund.

CO's Dit

It's been a really busy period for many, but fantastically successful. We're settling in to Caribbean like well, ("tough for some" I hear you say) and looking forward to our next challenges, which are every bit as exciting as those talked about here. Well done James & David for re-invigorating this. Do log on again soon & read the next edition.

CDT (X) J THOMPSON
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