



# HMS DUNCAN



## Link Letter February 15

Welcome to the February edition of Link Letter, the Ship's Company of DUNCAN would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy 2015 and we hope your festive period was an enjoyable one for all. On returning from our Christmas holidays DUNCAN has been busy with our final pre-deployment preparations. The last two weeks have seen the ship complete her final pre-deployment training known as Directed Continuation Training (DCT). This has seen the Ship's Company tested with fires, floods and even preparations for an evacuation of UK personnel from the port of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania (otherwise known as a jetty in Plymouth!). We have had a lot of new people welcomed to the ship since January and a warm welcome is extended to you if you are a first time reader of Link Letter. During the deployment Link Letter will be keeping you regularly up to date with what the Ship's Company have been doing and giving you an insight into life onboard DUNCAN.

### Congratulations to.....



POWtr David Scott on the award of his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presented on 9 Feb 15 by Captain Pearson RN.



LS Scott Eddon on the award of his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presented on 9 Feb 15 by Captain Pearson RN.

CPOCS Neil Young on his wedding on Valentine's Day.

### Deployment departure

For those that would like to bring their children to wave off DUNCAN on her maiden deployment; the ship has a letter available which can be given to schools asking them to permit requests for absence. Please ask your next of kin to pick up a letter from the RPO onboard. Please note that absence requests are at the discretion of individual schools.

### A night out on the 'Toon'

Our final port stop in the UK prior to deployment was the fantastic city of Newcastle. After conducting a period of training in the North Sea we arrived to take up position on the River Tyne. This was an ideal opportunity for those with families in the North to get them onboard and take a look around DUNCAN and many did so. Some of the highlights of the stop included a trip to see the Newcastle vs Stoke Premier League match, shopping, watching the Six Nations and catching up with friends and family all enjoyed in cold but sunny weather.





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### Exercise

DUNCAN recently took part in Exercise Blue Panther with the Royal Air Force and United States Air Force. It involved a number of aircraft, primarily RAF Eurofighter Typhoons and USAF F15 Eagles, being controlled by DUNCAN's Fighter Controllers in both air-to-air and air-to-sea serials throughout the week. It was a fantastic opportunity for DUNCAN to work with state of the art aircraft and work together with these air forces. The exercise was a successful test to both prove DUNCAN's readiness for operations in the Arabian Gulf and as a platform to build cooperation and understanding for all participants.

### Blue Panther

#### Preparing for Deployment

A fantastic way of keeping up to date with the latest information is to join the HMS DUNCAN Facebook page (please let your DUNCAN next of kin know so we can approve your friend request).

Also available are The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) Deployment Packs which contain a wealth of information about up and coming events for the families of deploying personnel, giving you all the opportunity to get together, to advice on how to help with absent family members, more information can be found on the Facebook page or contact 02392722151. Don't forget you can also get lots of helpful information from the Royal Navy Website [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare).

#### Post

Once the ship leaves the UK, families and friends will be able to send parcels for free of up to 2kg (no bigger than shoe box sized) through the Post Office using the British Force Post Office service (BFPO). A HM Revenue and Customs form will need to be completed (form CN22, available from the Post Office) and please do not send any of the restricted items below:

- aerosols: prohibited by the BFPO mail network, eg hairspray, deodorant
- perishable goods: foods like fruit and meat
- fragile Items: glass
- magazines containing images that might offend the cultural values of host nations, even if they are widely available in the UK, eg 'top shelf' magazines

Please use the address format below:

**Name**  
**Service number**  
**HMS DUNCAN**  
**OP KIPION**  
**BFPO 269**



Also did you know you can also send 'Blueys' which are blue airmail letters that can be found at Post Offices.