A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Dear Duncan Family,

This is our final newsletter before our Mid-Deployment Leave package and ideal an opportunity for the Ship’s Company of HMS DUNCAN to take a well deserved rest. I would like to take this opportunity as we near the half way point to thank you for your continued support, it is invaluable to the work we do and I do not underestimate the hardship that you may go through in order to support your loved ones.

It has been a successful and busy first half of the deployment; we have visited 7 different ports, taken part in national and contingent tasking and completed 2 patrols in support of the USS Theodore Roosevelt. In addition we have completed 4 Fleet physical challenges, held a camel racing night, celebrated Independence Day and raised over £2000 for various charities.

I hope that you enjoy the time spent with loved ones over the summer periods.

Cdr Rich Atkinson
Commanding Officer HMS DUNCAN

A view from the Bridge

The Bridge team have been busy this month with coordinating Assurance Visits with local dhows, protecting the USS Theodore Roosevelt from fast moving craft, as well as carrying out our normal continuation training of breakdown drills, gunnery and flying with our own Lynx as well as the Roosevelt’s aircraft. Two Seaman Specialists joined from HMS DIAMOND for their first time at sea to be trained up in the roles of Quartermaster, qualifying them to drive the ship under the direction of the Officer of the Watch. A highlight this last week was the sail past of the USS Theodore Roosevelt for Independence Day with a 5.4 inch gun salute.

Did you know we have our very own meteorological team onboard?

AB Snook and Lt Keens are the embarked Met team onboard for the deployment. They make daily observations of the met conditions, including launching balloons to monitor the atmosphere. They forecast for the embarked flight and for many other operations including seaboats, sensors and engines.

AB Snook releases the Met Balloon from the Flight Deck
Visiting the USN Theodore Roosevelt

We have been running a very successful exchange of USN personnel visiting DUNCAN and vice versa over the last month. I had the opportunity to visit USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (TR) for their 4th July celebrations this weekend and had a truly wonderful time. Seeing the jets launch and recover for their missions over Iraq and Syria made me realise once again why DUNCAN is deployed out here and what this is all about.

TR is of course an awesomely impressive ship. She has two nuclear reactors, 80 aircraft and 5000 crew. The visit made me excited for the upcoming launch and trials our own aircraft carrier, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH. It will be a hugely significant upgrade in capability for the Royal Navy.

I was hosted by Sean, an Officer of the Deck, which is the American equivalent of what I do as an Officer of the Watch. It was surprising how similar the bridge of TR was to our own bridge on DUNCAN.

The TR’s officers and enlisted men and women were very hospitable throughout. All of them were both interested in DUNCAN and appreciative of our contribution to the task force. As DUNCAN sailed past firing her 4½ inch gun for the 4th July sail past, everyone on the TR’s flight deck shouted and cheered!

Lt Andrew Ward

DUNCANs Monthly Challenge

We are now on our fourth fleet competition as part of our Healthy Lifestyle Trial. This month’s challenge was the Mike Till trophy which is a 1 mile relay with the 50 fastest times going forward for the trophy. Mne John Hall had the fastest time with an astonishing 5:11 minute mile.

DUNCAN watches on as the TR celebrates Independence Day (above and left)

DUNCAN competitors competing in the Montague Cup (above and left)

The opening of HMS JUFFAIR

DUNCAN was pride of place at the opening of the new UKMCC headquarters in Bahrain this month. We were honoured to the host onboard distinguished guests following the opening ceremony for a buffet lunch in the Hangar including Armed Forces Minister Penny Mordaunt, First Sea Lord Admiral Sir George Zambellas and Vice Admiral John Miller USN. The First Sea Lord spent additional time onboard talking to our Ship’s Company and also took the opportunity to present CPO Roberts with his clasp to his Long Service and Good Conduct medal.

DUNCAN Sailors involved in the opening of HMS Juffair
WE Department

The Weapons Engineering Department onboard HMS DUNCAN play a vital part in ensuring the smooth operation of the warfare and electronic equipment that the ship uses. Ensuring that all of the weapons, sensors, communications and all of the other equipment are fully functioning 24-7, the department is split into 4 different sections to make this happen.

W1/CIS is the section that keeps the ships communications running whilst at sea and alongside. Anything from radios all the way up to antennas and satellites, W1/CIS will use their vast knowledge to keep the ships communications working and having to deal with a wide range of methods of communications that are used onboard, internally and externally.

W2 section is in charge of keeping our sensors working. Anything from Navigation radars all the way to sonar, the W2 section works hard to make sure that everything is maintained and running correctly. They are also there to make sure that all of the OPS room consoles are functioning correctly.

W3 section covers the ordnance onboard and they maintain and assist with weapon preps and firings. They are the sole reason that our 4.5 gun, 30 mm guns, Phalanx and mini guns are operational and they are constantly maintaining the standards to ensure that the guns will do the job. Alongside maintaining the weapons, they are also responsible for the ammunition and are there to run the show for any shots that happen. They also work along with the flight department for maintenance in the hangar and the prepping of torpedoes and air launched weapons.

W4 section is in charge of the Sea Viper missile system. Critical to the ships anti-air warfare role, W4 keep up the maintenance so the ship has the ability to carry out its main purpose. They also maintain the recently fitted Harpoon missiles and the 1045 and 1046 radars which also enables the ship to carry out its duties whilst we are deployed.

These 4 sections all together make up the WE department and this is what keeps HMS DUNCANS warfare equipment functioning whilst we are at sea.
Hi Everyone!

Well I am very excited as I am coming home soon for a few weeks to rest. It has been a busy four months onboard the big ship DUNCAN but I have been having a lot of fun!

I thought I would send you a picture this week of me and my friend Hatch. He is from the Mary Rose, a very old ship that is in Portsmouth, but he wanted to come to sea with DUNCAN. We have lots of fun on DUNCAN exploring all the different areas. He can be quite naughty sometimes though as he likes to steal biscuits! He has his own website http://www.maryrose.org/hatchatsea/ if you want to see what he has been up to.

This week I got to travel to another ship, a big American ship that had a party onboard on their flight deck. We had a party onboard too and the dining halls were decorated with lots of red, white and blue stars and we had yummy burgers!

Then I got to see the gun on the front of DUNCAN being fired to help celebrate Independence Day which made a very loud bang!

I have also been helping the engineers this week in their workshop and helping the Ship's Office book everyone’s travel so they can come home and see you all!

I hope you have lots of fun with your loved ones,

Bye for now,

DUNCAN

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