

# HMS RICHMOND

## Op KIPION newsletter

Issue 06 | Aug 2015



## Over halfway

HMS RICHMOND started August at sea looking actively for drug smugglers operating in the North Indian Ocean / Arabian Sea / Gulf of Oman. The ship used its unmanned aerial vehicle (Scan Eagle) to cover vast swathes of ocean. The Lynx Mark VIII helicopter was also used for this purpose.

In order to remain on task and improve the ship's endurance, HMS RICHMOND completed a Replenishment At Sea (RAS) with the tanker USNS PAXUTENT. This is a complicated and difficult evolution as the 2 ships sail side by side as the fuel is pumped through hoses between them.

The ship then transited the Straits of Hormuz, one of the key maritime choke points in the world.

Upon arrival into Bahrain, the ship started a Deployed Support Period (DSP) and ship's Company were permitted leave. The personnel on board assisted the maintenance package, whilst taking advantage of the Adventurous Training opportunities in the area, including paddle boarding, dune biking and diving.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

I hope that this letter finds you all well and that you partners / family member / friends enjoyed their Mid Deployment Leave period.

The leave had been well earned and eagerly anticipated. I want everyone to return feeling refreshed and looking forward to the challenges ahead.

The next few months are equally important as RICHMOND continues to further British interests in the region and then begins the transit home through the Mediterranean. The homeward journey will also include an Exercise with our international allies so exciting times lie ahead.

As always I finish by reiterating my thanks and highlighting the important contact numbers below:

- (Tel): +44 (0)23 9272 8777
- (Email): [navypers-welfare@mod.uk](mailto:navypers-welfare@mod.uk)
- Northern Area – 01436 674 321
- Eastern Area – 023 9272 3875
- Western Area – 01752 555 220
- RM Stonehouse – 01752 836 395

## Chemical training

Recent training proved how it is vital that the Ship's Company know how to respond in the event of a chemical attack, both internally (right) and externally (left).

