

The Chronicles Of Crew 4...



Welcome to the brand new edition of
The Chronicles Of Crew 4!



The Crew has been deployed to the Middle East since June as part of the Royal Navy's permanent presence in the region.

HMS Middleton is a mine hunter, capable of detecting and defeating sea mines with the use of high frequency sonar, remote underwater vehicles and mine clearance divers.

Forward deployed to the Gulf, she is held at high readiness to react to any threat.

Here is the first chapter of our story...



A word from the Captain...



Dear friends and family of Crew 4...

As we complete our first month in theatre I would first like to congratulate my crew for the tremendous amount of work they have all put in during this busy period of adjusting to a new ship, new surroundings, new tasking and new temperatures!

Moreover I would like to thank all friends and family of my crew for their support and kind words during this period, it really does mean the world to us out here and is fundamental to our success in the gulf.

I wish everyone the greatest of success over the coming months.

Yours,
Anthony.

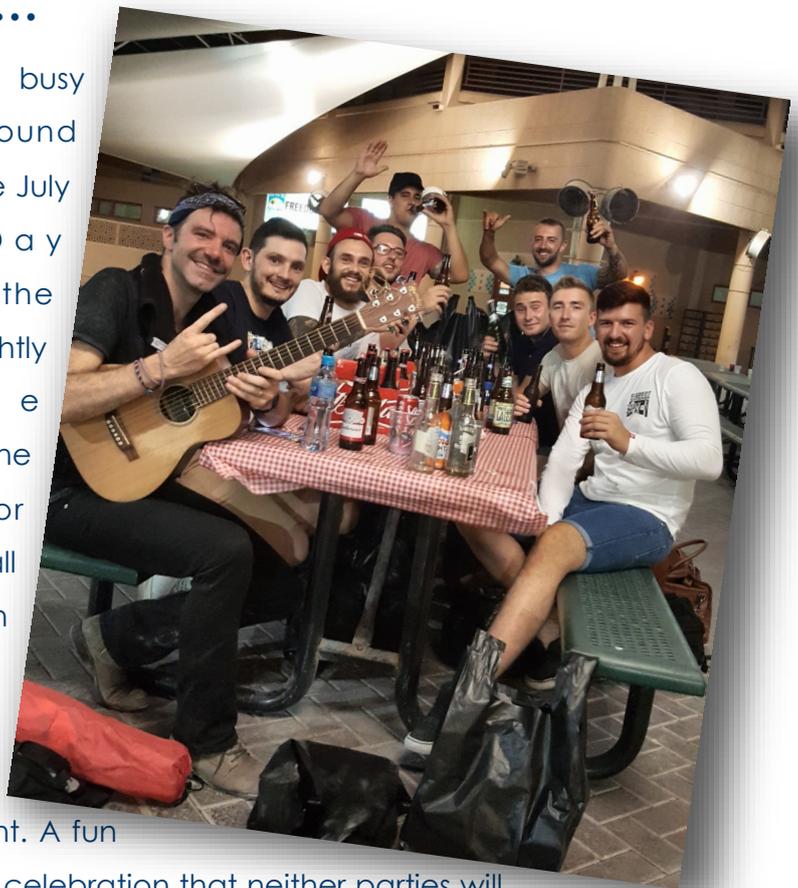
CREW 4 CALL MIDDLETON THEIR HOME AS THEY BEGIN THEIR 7 MONTH DEPLOYMENT...

Lt Cdr Pimm assumed Command of Middleton as the ship's company moved in over a busy but productive 3 days. Kit squared away, handovers complete and briefings received, MIDD and her crew are finally ready to put the training into practice as they begin their Operational Deployment in the Arabian Gulf.



JULY 4TH CELEBRATIONS...

As luck would have it after a busy period at sea, Crew 4 found themselves alongside in Bahrain for the July 4th Independence Day celebrations and so took the opportunity to let their hair down slightly and enjoy the American national holiday at the American PX Base. An outdoor American style BBQ alongside an all playing all singing American Country band fuelled the festivities, with the band sharing a beer (or several) with members of ship's company after their performance on the night. A fun evening was had by all and a July 4th celebration that neither parties will forget in a hurry.



Crew 4 welcomes Qatari Naval Forces on board during a port visit to Hamad, Qatar...

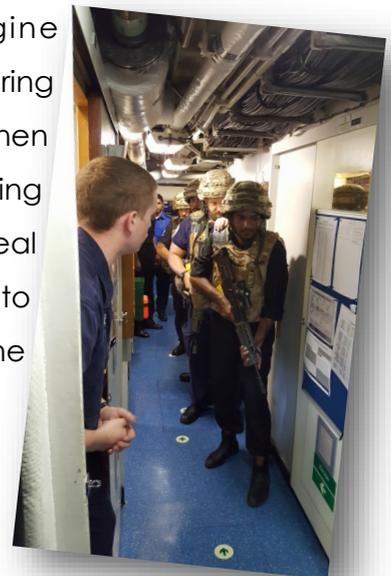
HMS Middleton recently visited Qatar and were joined by two Qatari vessels for the duration, in what proved to be an insightful and action packed 3 day port visit.

HMS Middleton established communications with the two Qatari ships involved in the event and lead the way into the new port (being the first RN warship to ever enter) of Hamad situated just north of Doha, the nations capital. Upon arrival Middleton received a warm welcome from Qatari news teams and senior Qatari Military Officials who were all eager to engage with Lt Cdr Pimm and his crew.



Day two began with HMS Middleton's navigation team being invited on board one of the Qatari vessels for a tour of the ship and a chance to meet their Qatari counterparts on their bridge. During this time, engineers from the Qatari Navy were invited on board Middleton, to take a tour of her engine

spaces and speak shop with the MEO and his team on engineering standards and practices in the Royal Navy. HMS Middleton then played host to several key senior officers in the Qatari Navy having been invited by Middleton's CO for lunch in the Wardroom. The meal was over just in time for Middleton's on board Reaction Force to demonstrate room clearance drills, with several members of the Qatari Navy first observing and then second time round taking part!



Day two ended with a display of fire fighting and damage control capabilities from Middleton's crew with a question and answer session which followed regarding the ships diving capabilities.



The final day saw three members of Ship's Company being invited onto one of the Qatari Vessel for the transit out of the port which provided not only a good insight into how the Qatari Navy's bridge team operates, but also

a perfect viewing platform for what was about to come. As previously organised and planned, Qatari Special Forces approached HMS Middleton and carried out a set of boarding drills for the simulated exercise. After countless photo opportunities, the three RN sailors were safely returned to Middleton on a Qatari Navy sea boat and the day concluded with some Officer of the Watch manoeuvres showing the interoperability of Middleton and her two Qatari Navy counter parts. A Visit that will not be forgotten, Middleton showed the Navy of Qatar that the RN is a capable counterpart and that much can be learned from such partnerships, that will no doubt be planned for the future.



Crew 4 visits Ras Al Khaimah and hosts HH Sheikh Ahmad al Qasimi...

HMS Middleton recently visited Ras Al Khaimah port for two days as part of her 6 month Operational Deployment in the Gulf Region, and welcomed on board His Highness Sheikh Ahmad bin Saqr al Qasimi for a tour of the ship and capability demonstration.

The Hunt Class Mine Counter Measure Vessel was the first RN warship to return to Ras Al-Khaimah in five years and is the first RN Vessel to ever enter the port of RAK Khor...



HMS Middleton, once safely alongside began the preparations required to enable the 650 tonne Warship to host such an event and also welcomed on board several media and press personnel all eager to engage with Lt Cdr Pimm and his crew.

In the late afternoon, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad bin Saqr al Qasimi, Chairman of Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone crossed the gangway along with several other senior m and was warmly welcomed on board by the Commanding Officer.



Once in the Wardroom food was served and gifts exchanged before His Highness and his team were invited around the ship for a tour and demonstration of Middleton's capability in its role of securing the region.

As part of the capability demonstration several stands were set up around the ship with AB (MW) Richardson and AB (Diver) Esson giving talks and showing how the ship detects and defeats sea mines with



the use of high frequency sonar, remote underwater vehicles and mine clearance divers, all of which His Highness found most interesting and particularly commented on how engaging members of ships company were.

A Visit that surely will not be forgotten by both parties in a hurry, Middleton demonstrated to all that the RN is a professional and capable allies of the UAE, with the hope that such partnerships will only continue to grow in the future.



SHIP NOTICE BOARD

Congratulations to the following:

Slt Johnson for his promotion to Lt Johnson

AB(MW) Richardson for his award of AB 1s

AB (MW) Searle for his award of AB 1s

AB (MW) Jones for his award of AB 1s

ET (ME) Whitehead for his award of AB 1s

ET (WE) Smith for his award of AB 1s

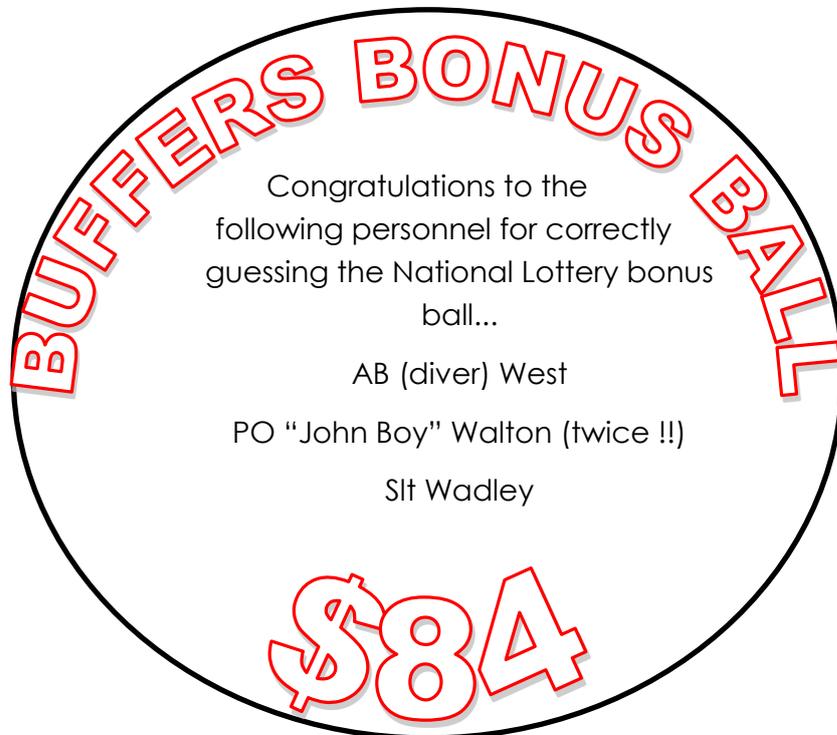
ET (ME) Clarke for his award of first good conduct stripe

Birthday Boys...

Happy Birthday to the following Crew 4 sailors:

ET Dan Wells

AB 'Cass' Caswell



SHIP NOTICE BOARD

Keeping in touch

Don't forget the ways in which you can keep in touch with loved ones! There is now an E-Bluey website and android app which your sailor can sign up to and send letters and emails quick and easily! Visit

www.ebluey.com for more information.

Care Packages

There is nothing better than receiving goodies from loved ones at home! You can fill a shoebox full of exciting things. Anything up to 2kg is free, just wrap it up and take to your nearest post office addressed to:

e.g. AB(MW) Smith

(Service Number)

HMS MIDDLETON

BFPO 335

OP KIPION

Ghost Post Code BF1 4HU



They usually arrive within 2 weeks! Fantastic!

Farewell Walshy...

Crew 4 bids a fond farewell to AB Walsh as he leaves us in a few weeks to begin his promotion course back in the UK as he prepares to become a Leading Hand, good luck and all the best from all on board...



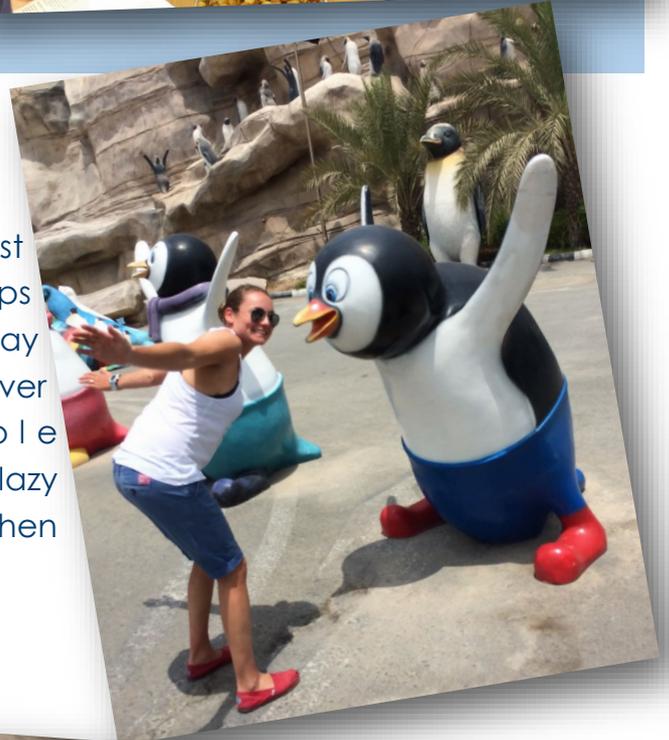
Guns seeks new flock...

Crew 4's very own Gunnery Officer gave his first sermon of the deployment recently with an open invite to ships company to attend the Sunday church service. Despite the lovely reading from AB Brame and fantastic singing from Ops, only 6 persons (and 1 dog) were in attendance... The Gunnery Officer is hoping that his next service (which will inc free tea and biscuits) will attract a higher audience...



Crew 4 visits IceLand...

When IceLand described itself as "The largest water park in the UAE" it was hard for ships company not to resist and so with a day alongside in RAK, Crew 4 made their way over to spend some invaluable downtime riding waterslides, relaxing in the lazy river and trying not to burn their feet when walking between the two !!



The Wardroom hosts a Banyan BBQ...

With a little time alongside in Bahrain, Crew 4's Wardroom decided to host a Sweep deck Banyan BBQ. The event promised 1 free drink, unlimited food, music and a screening of

the Manchester One Love concert using a projector and some bed sheets as a makeshift outdoor cinema (which became a karaoke competition by the end of the evening). The event was a great success with Middleton definitely the envy of everyone else on the jetty.



