

DEPLOY

DUNCAN IN THE EASTERN MED

Issue 03 | April 2018



HMS DUNCAN proceeds alongside in Mersin, Turkey

HANDS TO ACTION STATIONS

As temperatures increase within the operating area that DUNCAN finds herself in, the tempo of operations has increased in parallel and the Ship and her Company have proven once again that they are ready for anything.

April started with the Easter weekend alongside Trieste in Northern Italy. An opportunity for some to reunite with loved ones at the mid-point of the deployment. After sailing from Trieste, DUNCAN worked to enhance NATO relations with other ships in the Task Group. This involved members of our Ship's Company going to visit an operational Spanish warship whilst we, in turn, hosted them for the day. The exchange proved to be extremely rewarding to those involved, and was a great opportunity to build personal relationships with the people we have been working with as part of SNMG2.

Sailing further east through the Aegean, DUNCAN found herself in Split, the idyllic Croatian city whose surrounding scenery and ruins were used in the filming of *Game of Thrones*. Here the Ship's Company enjoyed the crystal clear waters and beaches that Split had to offer (albeit still quite cold), before embarking a team of dentists to ensure to conduct check ups. Upon leaving Split, DUNCAN took part in an exercise between the NATO units and the Croatia Navy, the first time the Navies have worked together in such a way.

After a fuelling stop in Souda Bay, a familiar fuel stop, political tensions increased in the Eastern Mediterranean following the Chemical Weapons attack in Douma, Syria. Amid the international debate on potential Joint US/French and UK military action in Syria, DUNCAN prepared for

any potential NATO or National tasking that might have been required. Proving herself ready to respond to a developing situation, the professionalism of the Ship's Company and the flexibility to adapt to changing global circumstances shone through. This included taking the Ship to Action and preparing all of the Ship's weapon systems to be fully ready to react to any potential escalation in the region. Following this busy and intense period, DUNCAN ended the month of April with a weekend in Mersin, Turkey, in the East of Turkey and only a few hours from the Syrian border. From there we have made our way back into the Black Sea for the month of May.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

DUNCAN once again came to the forefront of activity this month with short notice operational tasking in the Eastern Med. My Ship's Company reacted incredibly well during an evolving and uncertain political situation. This difficult and busy time required every member of my Ship's Company to pull their weight – Engineers keeping equipment ready for my use, Warfare teams primed for action and the Logistics department keeping everyone going for long periods of time.

I am proud to write to you and let you know that your loved ones continue to deliver everything asked of them and more - performing above expectation day in, day out.

The next few months will be busy for DUNCAN as we return to the Black Sea for further interaction with new NATO Allies and new tasking.

We now have a maintenance period confirmed in early June in Lisbon, Portugal and, although our exact return date is still to be confirmed, we have started looking ahead to Homecoming and I am optimistic it will be earlier than our original August date. My team can't wait to greet you all on the jetty in Portsmouth and it is approaching fast!

HMS DUNCAN EW DEPARTMENT

Since deploying, HMS Duncan's award-winning Electronic Warfare (EW) department has been kept extremely busy and at the forefront of interactions throughout the deployment.

The purpose of an EW Rating is to exploit the Electronic Magnetic Environment through the interception of emitters i.e. detecting and locating a ship, submarine or missile by its radar emissions. EW Ratings are also responsible for the creating and delivering of intelligence products.

During our first time in the Black Sea, HMS Duncan large-scale interaction with Russian fighter jets, which she tracked at long range with her cutting edge air surveillance radar. This allowed the EW team to hone their core skills and collect vital intelligence.

Throughout HMS Duncan's involvement in the Eastern Med, the EW team once again had the opportunity to display its effectiveness and professionalism in a threat environment. They were able to provide vital assessments to help determine activity and movements of potential threats in the area.

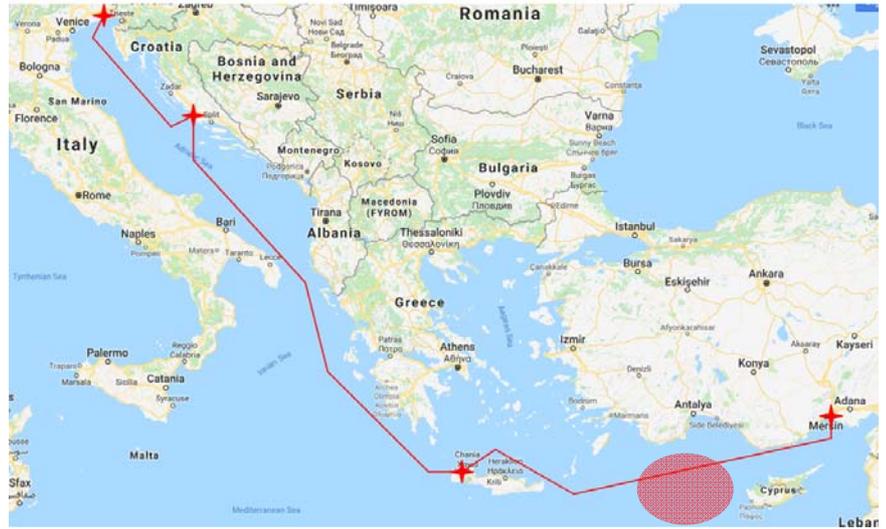
In the build up to the strikes there was also a requirement for HMS Duncan to increase its state of readiness to prepare for any potential hostile acts from other parties. As part of this, the EW team hold the responsibility for ensuring that HMS Duncan is ready to defend against anti-ship missiles through the loading of decoys.



AB ROCKE – An EW Rating hard at work



Follow our Journey ...



VISIT TO ESPS VICTORIA ETWE Katie Manger

"I was looking forward to some time off DUNCAN's busy schedule to visit the Spanish Ship ESPS VICTORIA. As we left, I was unaware of how choppy the sea was going to be and was surprised at how bumpy the ride was. The VICTORIA looked half the size of DUNCAN and, fortunately, it was easier to climb aboard. We were then given a guide to show us around. Unlike our single large hangar, theirs is divided into two smaller ones. One side is a gym and the other a maintenance compartment for the helicopter. We then saw the Operations Room, Mess Quarters, the Logistics department, Machinery spaces, the Bridge, their Torpedo Magazine and Upper Deck Weapons. The majority of equipment is similar to DUNCAN's, however, as VICTORIA was commissioned 23 years before, the Ship is not as modern.

The Spanish Boarding Team showed off their skills by displaying in a shooting competition on their flight deck, which was really interesting to witness. For lunch, they put out a feast of a whole baked fish or Bolognese with a glass of Spanish wine which they enjoy with every meal! We ended our trip by swapping branch badges with some members of the Ship's Company who were collecting them and they gave us ESPS VICTORIA T-Shirts! I really enjoyed seeing another Ship that we have worked so closely with!"

LOGS UPDATE

The Ship's Office have been keeping busy ...

- Distributing approx £138,000 cash so far, including currency exchange for each visit
- Ensure the Ship's Company receive correct pay supplements whilst at sea or alongside
- Dealing with the personnel movements of new joiners and leavers
- Paying of bills for official hospitality
- Managing document security on board
- Whole ship roles include Flight Deck Officer, Incident Board Operator, Ops Room Narrative, First Aid, Entertainment and Welfare committee members. A busy month for the team!



A Greek F-16 Flypast