Ship’s Painting

Whilst deployed on the recent 7 month Asia-Pacific deployment HMS SUTHERLAND announced her arrival into Sydney by sailing past the world-famous Sydney Opera House and under the Harbour Bridge. To mark such a momentous occasion the Wardroom commissioned a bespoke painting from a local artist mirroring the now famous picture which was used as the cover for the Navy News April 2018 edition. This is a truly stunning piece and the artist went to great lengths to ensure its accuracy for those who were present on the upper deck. The Wardroom was very keen that this painting was for the whole ship, as such, a limited run of numbered prints were made available to purchase, so that sailors could have a memento of the Ship’s deployment.

Charity Challenge

This year has seen the start of HMS SUTHERLAND’s Charity Challenge where the Ship will aim to raise £1000 for the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity by the end of Spring 2019. First was a cake morning hosted by Leading Physical Trainer (LPT) Roach and our new Young Officers. The Ship’s Company munched their way through a mountain of cake and baked goodies raising £160, and both the Wardroom and Petty Officer's mess have raised money through meat raffles. To combat this gluttony there are plans afoot to enter a team of runners in the Plymouth Half Marathon – training starts now!
Burns Night

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face!!!! On a day which combines haggis, whisky and poetry, the Wardroom celebrated Burns Night on 24th January 2019 to celebrate the life and works of Scottish poet Robert Burns. On completion of the meal the Officers played traditional Wardroom ‘games’ and toasted his memory.

Sutherland Chooses New Flag

More than 3,000 people turned out to vote during a month long competition to select a new county flag from a shortlist of four designs. The winning design depicts a white flag overlaid with Saltire and Nordic crosses to denote Sutherland’s unique Viking history, with a golden sun constructed from the arms of the crosses symbolising the sun raised high in the south for the county’s origin name South Land. The historic moment was marked by a poignant flag raising ceremony with members of HMS SUTHERLAND leading proceedings during a ceremony at the Highland Council’s offices in Drummuie, Golspie. In addition to the flag unveiling ceremony, the sailors were also able to visit Dunrobin Castle and meet the local community before returning to Devonport.

Merlin takes over Wildcat

It’s goodbye Wildcat and hello ‘flying frigate’, the Merlin Mk2 which has now embarked onboard HMS SUTHERLAND from Naval Air Squadron 814, based at the Royal Navy Air Station Culdrose, Cornwall. Marking a switch in focus from the Ship’s recent deployment to hunting submarines, the Merlin brings what has been described as a ‘second Operations Room’ to the mission, with the helicopter’s observer and aircrewman using sono-buoys (expendable buoys which are dropped to listen for the presence of a submarine) or dipping her sonar to locate and track the underwater target. Allied with the Ship’s sonar systems, the Merlin and Type 23 Frigate working in partnership are formidable underwater hunters. The Merlin and members from 814 Squadron, Kingfisher Flight will remain with us whilst we undertake UK National Tasking.
A Close Encounter on the High Seas

Whilst HMS SUTHERLAND was in the UK South Coast Exercise Areas the Ship took the opportunity to conduct a Replenishment At Sea (RAS) with one of the Royal Navy’s latest refuelling tankers, the 37,000 tonne RFA TIDERACE. This is complex and challenging seamanship evolution which is one of the most hazardous serials a warship can conduct in peacetime and requires skilled ship handling to keep station on the tanker and quick reactions from those working the hoseline. The Ship took up station 40 metres from the ‘mobile petrol station’ which then passed the fuelling hose and once connected the Ship took enough fuel to ensure it could remain at sea for a prolonged period.

Catering Team Awarded For Outstanding Service

HMS SUTHERLAND’s Catering Team has been recognised for their outstanding contribution to the Ship’s Defence Engagement efforts during the Asia-Pacific deployment in 2018. They supported almost 100 VIP visits and Defence Industry Days which helped secure Australian Government investment in the winning BAe T26 future frigate bid (SEA 5000). The team were awarded a commendation by Commodore Robert Bellfield, Commodore of the Devonport Flotilla (COMDEVFLOT).

Our Future Programme

HMS SUTHERLAND is now employed as the UK’s high-readiness Frigate to react to any threat to national maritime security. To prepare for this task, the Ship has conducted Anti-Submarine, Anti-Surface and Anti-Air Warfare training both at sea with other Royal Navy units and within the Royal Navy’s high tech simulator at Maritime Composite Training System in Devonport. We hope that as well as protecting our national interests, our UK-based programme will provide us opportunities to receive families onboard and visit our affiliates.