

DEPLOY

DUNCAN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

#JustSendDuncan

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CAPTAIN'S WELCOME

Hello again, to all our family and friends and welcome to the second edition of *Deploy*, HMS DUNCAN's newsletter. This month has been very busy for the Ship's Company – supporting carrier strike operations with, not one but, three aircraft carriers. After a successful period with the French Carrier Strike group, DUNCAN sailed west to complete some crucial trials to ensure she was ready for the tasks ahead in her current tour of the Mediterranean.

I am immensely proud of my Ship's Company and what they continue to achieve and I am pleased we can share our successes with you here. We continue to contribute to operations in the Mediterranean whilst also taking any opportunity for training, wholesome activities and R&R; not too much though – we are all quite envious of the great weather you enjoyed last bank holiday.

I want to again take the time to thank you all for the support over this period. I hope you enjoy reading this second edition of *Deploy* and I wish you all the best for the month ahead.

FACT OF THE MONTH

The NIMITZ class carrier is the largest warship ever built. It can house up to 6,012 people, is nuclear powered and can operate for 20 years without refuelling. DUNCAN operated with two of these colossal ships, this month.

FLIGHT DEPARTMENT

After 7 weeks at sea 202 Flight of 815 Naval Air Squadron are settling into life aboard Duncan. This month saw over 26 hours of flying with Duncan's Wildcat (callsign "Vantage") conducting Maritime Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance flights or "MISR". This helped to ensure the safety and security of the French Carrier Strike group during operations, in Syria. The flight deck saw some use by French aircraft; some personnel being winched on and off. Having already achieved over 26 hours of flying, this month promises to see plenty more with the flight ready to support operations alongside our NATO partners in the Mediterranean.

LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT

Now well versed in providing support to the ship during a busy period of operations with the French task group, the logistics department found time outside supporting operations with a perfectly cooked, Caribbean style BBQ. After an afternoon of flight deck sports, this was well received by the ship's company and set the tone for a night of entertainment from our in-house rock band, *Duncan Disorderly*.

As the department bid a final fair well to Lt Cdr Ellen Laird at a round of 'sundowners', a warm welcome was given to the new logistics officer – Lt Cdr Donbavand at the ship's next port visit-Soudha Bay, Greece. One of his first roles was to oversee the Supply Chain section take receipt of nearly £1,000,000 worth of essential engineering stores and the return of £500,000 worth of stores through the reverse supply chain. Additionally, 10 days worth of food provisions was also taken on by the Catering department. This included 1,250 kilo grams worth of potatoes and other essential goods – a small quantity top up is expected to last the ship's company for the entire upcoming period at sea.



THE JOURNEY SO FAR...



WEAPONS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

April has been another successful month for the WE department, conducting trials and assurance checks in Crete to ensure high readiness and confidence in our equipment for operations. We conducted testing of our electronic warfare, sonar and radar systems to provide the best possible tactical picture to the warfare team. Furthermore, the department was hard at work in challenging conditions to put right the navigation radar in less than 12 hours, allowing the ship to safely sail on the high seas. The "Duncan's Den" team held a meeting to discuss innovative ideas that could be implemented onboard or across the fleet. Several of these ideas will now be presented to the "Duncan Dragons". The ideas include: LED lighting onboard which will save energy and enhance efficiency as well as PO Richard Green's idea of a 3D printing sharepoint hub accessible for all.

ADVENTURE AND SPORT

The ship's football team have been kept busy this month, facing stiff competition against the Championship Winners Cypriot National Guard. Team DUNCAN played to their advantages, defending well against an experienced opposition; the players piling on the pressure to bring the score to 1-1 through a hard earned penalty late in the second the half.

HMS DUNCAN carried on its sporting efforts with the newly formed ladies Netball team facing a practised opposition who trained and play every week. The team, including LET Shakeshaft and AB Mckie, brought about their fighting spirit to bring the final score 34-12 – a brilliant result for DUNCAN who had never even played together before that day.

At sea we don't stop with keeping fit, seeing the ships company take part in the Montague Cup Fleet Competition which involved 50 personnel rowing 1km as fast as they possibly could. This doesn't sound like a huge task; however it very quickly becomes miserable when you give it your all – as many of the ships company soon found out! Some impressive times ranging from 3-4 minutes were recorded, however, the fastest time was an impressive 2 minutes 59 seconds, by PO Heffernan. The total time taken by DUNCAN to complete this task was 2 hours 52 minutes and 48 seconds.



MARINE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

It's business as usual for the ME Department of HMS Duncan. This month has seen us working alongside some very impressive bits of kit; the French Aircraft Carrier FS Charles De Gaulle and two American Carrier Strike Groups (CSG) Abraham Lincoln and CSG John C. Stennis. Whilst the ship's company admires the sights of the floating cities, the stokers continue to work hard down below to maintain power to the ship. Whilst in Cyprus some of our own Engineers had the pleasure of being given a tour around the FS Charles De Gaulle. A highlight was the French's newly upgraded Rafale jets and the fact that the Captain's chair on the bridge was taken out from a previous Captain's car. Their onboard bakeries also make one baguette, per person, per day. This week we welcomed Staff Marine Engineer Officer Cdr Mike Goodall Royal Navy onboard, a familiar face from base port Portsmouth Flotilla. He joined us to put our Deputy Marine Engineer Officer Lt Oldridge Royal Navy through her paces for her Marine Charge Qualification – and she passed. A huge well done to her!

STAY CONNECTED...

The News Letter, Deploy, is published each month during the deployment. The letter is uploaded to the Forum homepage at <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums>

Families can access basic information here however, you will need to register to be able to access the HMS Duncan page which is at <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums/f301.aspx>



WARFARE DEPARTMENT

April has been another busy month for the warfare department. HMS DUNCAN has been operating closely with the FS Charles De Gaulle aircraft carrier, providing crucial air defence capability enabling them to conduct strike operations against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Executed with flying colours, the French Admiral in charge of the task group expressed his appreciation at how well DUNCAN integrated into the carrier task group. Leaving the carrier in our wake, we bid farewell to the FS Charles de Gaulle for our onward tasking but not before the carrier provided a demonstration of her air power by allowing us to watch her jets launch whilst we watched from the 'admiration station' just a few hundred yards away. A familiar scene now; we have worked with not one, but two US Nimitz Class super carriers, who weigh a combined weight of almost 16,000 London double-decker buses. This was an awesome sight after a hard week of trials in Crete that saw the team help fire 66 shells from the 4.5" gun, hitting the target accurately and successfully.

When time has permitted the warfare department has stretched its legs in Cyprus and Crete, enjoying paintballing and off road quad biking, as well as honing their golfing and rugby skills. Congratulations also to the team who were promoted this month: AB Hammond, AB Cole, AB Pritchard, AB Evans, AB Miller and LS Catlin.

