A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

It has been a busy period since March 2015, when I took over as the United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander and Deputy Commander Combined Maritime Forces based in Bahrain.

Key events in recent months have included a bi-lateral Mine Counter Measures exercise with our US counterparts, remembrance ceremonies and a visit from the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond.

As Christmas approaches, I want to take the opportunity to thank you, the friends and family back home, for your love, support and patience. I know I speak for everyone out here when I say we all appreciate the phone calls, messages and parcels you make and send us. I know the team is hard working and will remain focused over the next month, but I will make sure that they get the down time they need to recharge their batteries and to celebrate Christmas Bahrain-style.

On 31 October, the Foreign Secretary and the Bahraini Foreign Minister conducted the ground-breaking ceremony for the Mina Salman Support Facility in Bahrain. When it opens, the Support Facility will accommodate the UK personnel based out in Bahrain. Members of the Mine Counter Measures Task Group provided a backdrop with ship’s company attending the ceremony. The proposed facilities will provide a bigger facility for ships on operations and their equipment, as well as providing accommodation for support personnel.

FIT 2 FIGHT

In November, a team from UKMCC and the Forward Support Unit entered the Bahrain Marathon Relay and finished in a very respectable 30th place, out of 178 teams.