CREW 1 BACK IN THE GULF

BACK TO BUSINESS

Having arrived in Bahrain and taken over HMS PENZANCE, the Crew got to sea to dust off the cobwebs. The first week at sea was called Theatre Integration Weapon Training. This included testing the ship’s ability to protect itself, testing all of our equipment and proving that we can find and dispose of mines. This is something the crew are already well drilled in but on a new ship there are always subtle differences, so it was important to practice and rebuild that muscle memory. We also practiced replenishment at sea by radting with the support ship RFA Lyme Bay, which keeps us topped up with food and fuel. Crew 1 are back in the Gulf and good to go.

SLt Vyrnwy Rainbird

UP AND AWAY

During training, PENZANCE operated with a Royal Navy Merlin helicopter from HMS OCEAN. The Merlin hovered above the ship, lowering a Royal Navy Aircrewman. A great opportunity for the Crew to practice with a helicopter and good to prove our ability to conduct the transfer at sea.

Photo by CPO Styles

HMS PENZANCE

‘Diligenter Pensa’ – Diligent Thought
We have just finished our first exercise of the deployment. Mine Counter Measures Exercise 17-2. It was difficult to get into a rhythm, with some pretty rough Gulf weather, but we managed to find some targets on the sonar and then identify them with our seafax unmanned vehicle (so no need for divers there). It’s good to be back in Bahrain, although the prices ashore have gone up a lot since we were last here! AB(MW) Clarke

The deployment has started with a resounding bang for Crew 1’s clearance divers. Week 1 saw the successful simultaneous demolition of a diver placed charge on the seabed and the surface disposal of some smoke markers. With core explosives skills refreshed and the promise of increasing water temperatures, the diving team are looking forward to what the next few weeks and months will bring. AB(D) Bottoms

Welcome to the first edition of the Crew 1 Chronicle. We’ve settled in to our new home and have been getting to grips with the ship; practicing what we do best – finding and destroying mines. It’s been a bit colder than expected in what has been Bahrain’s coldest winter for 50 years, but not quite like the pictures of frost and snow from home. I will try and keep you as up to date as I can throughout our deployment and available with this newsletter is a short article on ‘The Royal Navy in the Gulf’ which explains our role and what we do out here. Thank you for the continued support. The mailbags have been pretty full so far and it really does make a difference.

There were 2 winners of the January Sailor of the Month prize. AB(D) Bottoms for his diligent work in managing the ship’s medical equipment and to ET(WE) Kennedy for his hard work in maintaining the ship’s weapons.

Very many congratulations from the whole Crew to Petty Officer Mark Titman and his partner Laura on the arrival of their daughter Ava, born on the 31st December 2016.

Well done to AB2(MW) Rzepecki for promotion to AB1. BZ!

The ship’s football team kicked off the deployment in fine style last weekend with a 7-1 victory over HMS BANGOR. The match was played at Bahrain Rugby Club and a hat trick from ET Thompson helped PENZANCE in to a 5-0 lead at half time. AB Rawson put in a great shift, getting himself 2 goals.
COLOURING COMPETITION

Colour in the ship’s crest and send a photo or scan of your crest to HMSPENZ-war-gunneryoffr@mod.uk the best one gets a prize!

USEFUL INFORMATION AND LINKS


www.littletroopers.net   A charity supporting the children of British Armed Forces to help deal with separation.