A MESSAGE FROM COMMODORE MORLEY

It gives me great pleasure to write to you from HMS Duncan, the Flagship of one of NATO’s Standing Maritime Task Groups. HMS Duncan is perfect to lead this group until the late summer and will, of course, return to complete the UK’s commitment next year. My team has been drawn from across NATO including Romania, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria and Albanian.

Our Mission is important. It can be broken down into three main tasks. Firstly we are NATO’s maritime reaction force, the immediate responder in the event of crisis. Secondly we are responsible for NATO’s activity to deter illegal migration in the Aegean sea. Finally, we have a busy programme of complex exercises with our NATO Allies and partners, this is linked with engagement visits in these countries to continue our international friendships. I appreciate that this means time apart from your loved ones.

In order to stay in touch, the Ship has its own Twitter account. You can also follow the SNMG2 Taskgroup on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. I thank you for the ongoing support that you offer to your loved ones and I look forward to writing to you again in the future.

THE OFFICIAL HANOVER

On 30 June 2017 HMS DUNCAN officially took over as Flagship of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2). SNMG2 is a multinational maritime force, made up of a number of allied warships from various nations belonging to NATO such as Greece, Germany and Turkey. The Task Group, operating under NATO is tasked to perform a wide range of roles whilst deployed such as training, crisis response and operational missions. The SNMG2 Deployment of 2017 will see HMS DUNCAN conducting exercises, training and force receptions throughout the Black Sea, an area of operation unfamiliar to the Royal Navy. HMS DUNCAN will also be playing a vital role in creating a presence in the area, solidifying our support and relationship with NATO allies.

Farewell

On 22 Jun 17 HMS DUNCAN left Portsmouth to take on the vital role of Flagship of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 sailing through the Mediterranean to the Black Sea and back.

HMS DUNCAN transits through Portsmouth Harbour to begin her 4 month SNMG2 deployment.
Souda Bay, Crete
En-route to the Black Sea HMS DUNCAN spent a period alongside in Souda Bay Crete. During this time the Ship’s Company took the opportunity to take part in Adventurous Training organised by the Leading PTI.

Whilst in Souda Bay the Ship’s Company took the opportunity to make the most of any down time between the ship’s busy schedule by conducting Adventurous Training around the Island of Crete. This saw Ship’s Company taking part in a range of activities such as mountain biking and ocean kayaking.

Exercise Breeze
As Flagship to SNMG2, HMS DUNCAN led the charge throughout the NATO mandated exercise; Exercise Breeze in conjunction with forces from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria.

The exercise saw the Task Group taking part in a number of serials designed to test the Ships’ ability to perform and fight in action. Over the course of the three days, HMS DUNCAN conducted numerous exercises with allied nations throughout the Black Sea, enhancing our presence in the area as well as providing a number of training opportunities for the Ship’s Company. Throughout the exercise young officers training on board HMS DUNCAN were able to engage in an exchange programme with the Romanian Navy, spending a couple of nights on board the Romanian Type 22 Frigate Regele Ferdinand.

FLIGHT DECK SPORTS
HMS DUNCAN’s Ship’s Company enjoys an afternoon of Flight Deck games in the Mediterranean.

During HMS DUNCAN’s transit to Souda Bay, the Ship’s Company took the opportunity to play a tournament of ‘bucket ball’ a Royal Navy favourite sport. Co-ordinated by Leading PTI Stoker, the tournament culminated in a Flight Deck barbeque overlooking the Mediterranean sea.

FIREX
The Ship’s Company of HMS Duncan working hard to maintain the skill set to fight the internal battle on board and ensure the ship remains operational in the event of an incident at sea.
A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN, COMMANDER ELEANOR STACK

HMS DUNCAN’s tasking as Flag Ship to SNMG2 provides an enormous opportunity, not only for my Ship and Ship’s Company but for the Royal Navy as a whole.

The deployment will see us operating in areas unseen by the Royal Navy for over a decade and promises to be as busy as it is fulfilling. We have a crucial role in providing assurance and support to our allies in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, as well as being prepared for any contingent tasking required during our deployment. We are currently working closely with foreign navies as part of SNMG2 in order to conduct a number of complex exercises. These are to ensure that we are in the best state possible to conduct our tasking and to strengthen international partnerships.

My Ship’s Company has worked tirelessly to prepare for this deployment and to ensure that the Ship is in the best position to operate effectively, professionally and safely. As the Flagship to the Task Group HMS DUNCAN sets a shining example of the standards of the Royal Navy.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

On 9 July 2017 HMS DUNCAN arrived alongside the Turkish capital, Istanbul following a transit from Souda Bay.

HMS DUNCAN is the first ship since HMS EXETER in 2008 to visit the Turkish capital where she berthed alongside the cultural hub of the city. On the first night of her arrival HMS DUNCAN hosted a reception on the Flight Deck for local dignitaries in order to project and solidify Britain’s interests in the area, as well as boost relations with Turkish officials. The Ship’s Company was able to enjoy a cultural 3 days in one of the oldest cities in the world, with the opportunity to visit the Topkapi palace, Hagia Sophia and the Grand Bazaars.
Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW)

RNRMW offers a range of services to Naval Personnel and their families across the UK and overseas, which provide accessible, confidential specialist welfare services to individuals and the Divisional system.

Services also include: Community Support, providing activities and events for Service Families; Information Support on various service related topics; and Communication Networks, including the RN Forum and Facebook.

RNRMW can be contacted on 023 9272 8777. For further information including planned events:

Website: www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare
RN Forum: www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums
Facebook: Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare