HMS ARGYLL was invited to take part in the Star Spangled Spectacular, a celebration of the bicentenary of the writing of the American national anthem. This famous ballade started life as a poem, written by an American onboard a Royal Navy ship who awoke after the RN had spent the night bombarding Fort McHenry in Baltimore and saw that the American flag continued to fly over the Fort.

In celebration of this battle Baltimore opened her harbour to warships from six different nations, as well as tall ships from across the world. HMS ARGYLL was fortunate enough to be berthed at Fells Point, almost at the centre of the harbour over 10,000 people visited the Ship over the stay. HMS ARGYLL announced her entrance with a 21 gun salute and guard which was so highly thought of they were asked to attend further ceremonies throughout the stay. Ship’s company were warmly received by the city and it remains one of most warmly remembered port visits of the deployment.

Ahoy There!
If you want to send us mail- post it by the 17 November and it will still reach us before we come home!

We are still keen to receive pictures of your loved one as a baby or small child, so we can guess who it is! Please send to HMSARGL-CIS-ISMgr@MOD.UK (Files should ideally be no larger than 1 MB) - please include the full name of your sailor with the photograph.
Flying (and sailing) with Friends

After successful participation in the STAR-SPANGLED-SPECTACULAR in Baltimore, Argyll set sail to work with the Americans. After a very enjoyable period alongside in the States, it was time to get back into the swing of being at sea.

We had some friendly companions to help us achieve this. Not only did we have Naval Officers from Belize embarked with us, but we practised our seamanship and war-fighting skills with some US Navy Ships too. We worked very closely with the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, carrying out various Officer of the Watch manoeuvres, and we also got to send a few members of the Ship’s Company onto the carrier for a look around and to share good practise with our allies. Rumour has it that some of the Marine Engineering (ME) department got very excited by their gas turbine testing equipment! Whilst we were with the aircraft carrier, we tested some of our capabilities. The Officers of the Watch proved that they could keep station on her stern (i.e. follow her closely), which meant that they also proved that they could keep us all awake as the fighter jets flew over the top of us to land. The jets also gave the Weapon Engineers (WEs) the first really good chance of the deployment to test all their kit; they tracked 3 fast jets simultaneously until they were right above us, when they usually only get one to track. The WE trials successful and war-fighting over, we met up with USNS Kanawha to carry out Replenishment at Sea (RAS); we had started running low on fuel after chasing the Americans around! Apparently, the Logistics Department enjoyed the first RAS they ran and helped the MEs towards the total of 2.5 million litres of fuel embarked. Veracruz was our next stop where we had the honour of participating in the Mexican World War One Memorial Parade and relaxing afterwards visiting their Naval Museum.

Argyll has had a busy month but the Ship’s Company has had fun entertaining new foreign friends.

From the Captain
Cdr Paul Hammond RN

September was a special month. The ship was honoured to be the only Royal Navy ship invited to the Star Spangled Spectacular in Baltimore.

I am very proud of how hard my ship’s company worked while we were alongside, making all of our 10,000 visitors welcome. In return our host nation welcomed us with open arms and provided great hospitality. Sailors were warmly greeted where ever they went.

Once back at sea the ship seamlessly switched back to operational mode. The professionalism with which we conducted exercises with the US task group is yet another example of our versatility and capability.

Our stay in Mexico was very successful. We were able to work closely with the Mexican Navy while also offering an opportunity for a number of the crew to go white water rafting.

October looks to be equally as busy as we enter the peak of the hurricane season.

Kind Regards – Paul Hammond

Home Coming will be a fantastic opportunity to welcome your loved ones back. It is a family event with children’s entertainers, hot food and drinks. There will be a Royal Marines band and large heated marquee to protect against the unpredictable British weather that the crew will have to sharply become accustomed to! For further details please contact your representative on HMS ARGYLL

HOME COMING BALL: To celebrate our return from APT(N) and to recognise the support made by our families during this time, we are holding a Homecoming Ball on Thurs 12 February 2014. The nature of the event will mean adults only and tickets will sell quickly so best to plan ahead. With Christmas decorations just pulled down (and Valentines Day around the corner) we want to keep the costs down should expect that tickets will cost no more than £35 per person which will include a 3-course meal, band, and plenty of dancing into the night.
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Navy
Loud
Planes
McHenry
Harbour
Chaplain
Exchange
Banner
Weapon
Kanawha
OOW
RAS

Monkey is helping the ship take fuel from USNS Kanawha.

Monkey helped refuel the ship while she was at sea. Like all good sailors he is wearing his hard hat and life jacket made by LMA Barton. Fuelling ship is not as easy as going to the petrol station but way more fun!

PIGLET’S CORNER

Here’s looking at you, kid!

The gunners un-masked