A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

As in each and every letter that I send to you all, I want to reiterate how grateful my Ship’s Company and I are for your support.

I continue to recommend the Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW) that allows easy access for families and Ship’s Company to a comprehensive welfare service. They are continually organising events, such as the recent trip to Legoland Windsor for families of deployed personnel. The contact details for the RNRMW Portal are:

- (Tel): +44 (0)23 9272 8777
- (Email): navpers-welfare@mod.uk

The RNRMW Portal will operate during office hours from 0800 to 1630. Outside of these hours, you should continue to use the Officer of the Watch, contact details below, where you may be directed to the Out-of-Hours service for any emergency provision.

- Northern Area – 01436 674 321
- Eastern Area – 023 9272 3875
- Western Area – 01752 555 220
- RM Stonehouse – 01752 836 395

As always I want to end by thanking you most sincerely for your support. We all look forward to returning to you soon. I will keep you updated with regular letters such as this one, and most firmly intend to bring HMS RICHMOND safely home at the end of our deployment.

Heading South

It has only been one month since the last letter but a lot can happen in 4 weeks. When we last spoke, HMS RICHMOND was travelling East through the Mediterranean en route to Crete to complete operational preparations. The Ship spent a productive week in Souda Bay, completing operational equipment checks and NATO Boarding Team training. The Ship’s Company took advantage of the Greek springtime to keep in shape through a range of adventurous training activities from cycling, climbing and walking. The Boarding Team spent a productive week with their Hellenic counterparts that involved range packages and boardings on the water.

Due to inclement weather, HMS RICHMOND was delayed in our departure from Crete and this along with defect rectification led to an impromptu stop in Limassol, Cyprus in the far Eastern Mediterranean. This allowed the Ship to store and fuel ahead of the transit through the Suez Canal. The Ship passed through alongside merchant shipping and also allowed Ship’s Company to see the poignant WWI memorial. Once safely through the Suez and the Bitter Lakes, the temperature rose markedly and the Chief’s and Warrant Officer’s mess sponsored the first flight deck BBQ following the inaugural flight deck sports bucketball event. The evening was topped off by the first HMS RICHMOND charity auction with all proceeds going into the RNRMW Ship’s Welfare Fund and Ship’s Raffle. There were fantastic gifts on offer, from framed football shirts to a signed Bonnie Tyler CD.

Ship’s Company enjoying a BBQ and flight deck sports.