A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

We continue to mourn the tragic loss of ET(ME) Charlie Warrender. However the Ship was able to send 4 sailors back to the UK to attend his funeral. Despite the terrible shock of Charlie’s passing, the Ship has demonstrated remarkable togetherness and tenacity to continue with the mission.

We now approach an important phase of the deployment as we begin to think of returning to the UK in August to visit loved ones. However, we do not take our eye from the ball and continue to perform at the highest levels in demanding conditions during the South West Monsoon.

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:

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

Heading North

HMS RICHMOND has assisted with recent successes against narcotics smuggling in the Indian Ocean and has directly contributed to seizures of heroin with a potential street value of £98m. The intelligence gleaned from the Scaneagle drone and the Boarding Teams led their allies in CTF 150 to discover the hauls.

The Ship has recently transited north from its previous operating area in the Southern Indian Ocean and visited the island paradise of the Seychelles, where HMS RICHMOND directly contributed to Defence Diplomacy, welcoming the President, British High Commissioner and other key personnel to the Queen’s Birthday Party. The Ship’s Company was also given the opportunity to relax from the period of high tempo boarding operations.

Port visits give the Ship’s Company a valuable opportunity to effect repairs on key equipment (Above – Weapon Engineers repair the 30mm cannon), as well as to provide logistical support. HMS RICHMOND transited north along the “Smack Track”, the route of heroin smugglers into East Africa, before arriving for a short port visit in Salalah, Oman.

The Ship’s Company remain focussed on the mission at hand and continue the next phase of the tasking in the Joint Operations Area.

Life on the Ocean Wave

The Boarding Team approach a suspect dhow in the Indian Ocean (left) and refuel from the French tanker FS VAR (right) during a Replenishment At Sea (RAS).