A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

We have now completed nearly 5 months of our 9 month deployment and we are all looking forward to seeing loved ones and friends during the Mid Deployment Leave Period in August and September.

The deployment has been a constant challenge and my Ship’s Company have risen admirably to the succession of hurdles in our path.

I ask that you remain patient and wait for the last few weeks until leave. I do hope that you enjoy your time spent together and that your loved one returns refreshed for the final and shorter part of the deployment.

I really feel that RICHMOND has made a huge difference during these 5 months, both in combating narcotics smuggling, but also in furthering British interests in the wider Indian Ocean. You can be rightly proud of my Ship’s Company.

As always I finish by reiterating my thanks and highlighting the important contact numbers below:

- (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

Southwest Monsoon

Upon leaving Salalah, Oman, HMS RICHMOND sailed East and joined Combined Task Force 54 with our American allies. Our work with this Task Group lasted nearly 3 weeks and was very productive. The Ship went into the manning posture of “Defence Watches”, whereby 50% of the Ship’s Company are working at any given moment. This allows the Ship the flexibility to respond to any incidents at a moments notice.

An additional complication has been the onset of the Southwest Monsoon. The weather front that effects the Indian Ocean lasts from Jun-Sep and produces difficult conditions for seafarers, including strong winds and high sea states. This has led to particular challenges when doing Boarding Operations and daily life on board is affected as the Ship rolls in the growing swells. Operating in the vast swaths of the Indian Ocean has battered the Ship and RICHMOND took advantage of a welcome break in Dubai. This stop was not all relaxation with key maintenance work being carried out. This was also a rare occasion where the Ship was not used as a platform for defence diplomacy, as has been a recurring theme during this deployment in order to further British interests around the world.

The 4Ds of dodgeball

Ship’s company stay in shape with a dodgeball tournament on the Flight Deck (left) and a fire fighter gives the thumbs up during a Crash on Deck exercise (right)