

Crew 6 Chronicle

from HMS Middleton

Issue 02 | August 16



MINE HUNTING THE US WAY

Soon after taking over HMS Middleton, Crew 6 hit the ground running and immediately set to work alongside the United States Navy (USN) to exercise both nations, mine-hunting skills.

The USN has been trialling their new Airborne Mine Neutralisation System (AMNS), with HMS Middleton and USN Sea Dragon aircraft working together to prove the capability.

Both nations use an identical system (known as Seafox – an underwater autonomous vehicle) to locate and destroy mines or dangerous underwater obstructions, however on this occasion the vehicle is launched from the air.

Snap Shot

Life at sea, images showing an insight in the MCM2 Crew 6's deployment so far. We aim to be releasing the second instalment of Crew 6 journey on DVD on our return from deployment.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Lt Cdr Simon Cox, has been heading up Crew 6 since Summer 15 and now proudly leads Crew 6 as they deploy on HMS Middleton.

It is with both excitement and trepidation Crew 6 deployed on Op Kipion, leaving family and friends to spend six months operating in the Gulf protecting the nations interest and maintaining sea lanes in the region.

Having settled into our new ship, HMS Middleton and with a successful first couple of months now firmly 'under our belts' the deployment only gets busier.

We all look forward to the next challenge and opportunity and the team continue to deliver at every junction, making family, friends and the UK proud. It won't be long before we return home and as ever, our thoughts often stray there to family and friends, I wish all the very best to everyone supporting us back in the UK and look forward to returning with the team soon.





THE POMS STRIKE AGAIN

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in Bahrain, the Anglo-Australian sporting rivalry was once more played out, though this time with a round ball between HMS Middleton and HMAS Perth.

It was now time for the footballers of the two crews to battle it out in 40 degree heat. Despite the overwhelming odds (the Aussie Frigate boasts a ship's company of more than 170 to Middleton's 45) the 'Poms' came out on top securing a convincing 8-1 victory.

Neither side played particularly aesthetic football, but there was no lack of effort from the players, with particular mention going to AB(Chef) Tom 'Deano' Dean and LS(MW) Eddie Edmondson, who both accomplished hat-tricks. 'Deano' was delighted with the result and remarked that it was just 'a question of which sport to compete at next?' when both crews were next alongside together.

The event, organised by AB(Sea) Chris 'Rocky' Kay and LS(MW) Ashley Stone, was a great success with both ships companies enjoying the facilities at the Bahrain Rugby Club and the chance to unwind after a busy first couple of weeks in theatre. With both units expecting to cross paths again in a few months time, the re-match has already been arranged.

RN FACEBOOK

Keep up-to-date on what we are up to by joining the Crew 6 Facebook Group. Find out what we are doing and where we have been.

We post updates to the page as often as we can so those at home can keep in touch with what we are up to in the Gulf.

You will also have access to information about support and activities for families while we are away. It is run and managed by Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare.

If you wish to join, just search for MCM2 Crew 6 Community and request to join, the administrator will approve your application at the first opportunity.

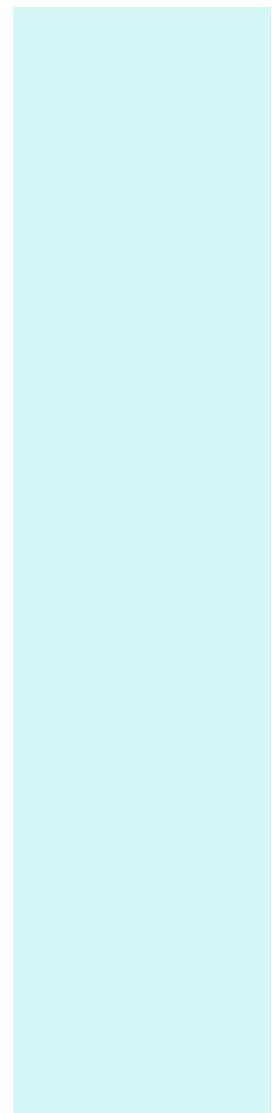
LS(MW) Sean Smith
receiving Sailor of the Month Award from
Capt Roger Readwin, Capt MFP



SAILOR OF THE MONTH

Every month one of the sailors on board is commended for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty. The selected sailor is presented with a set of engraved glasses sponsored by Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity.

June's Sailor of the Month award was presented to LS(MW) Sean Smith who gained the award in recognition of his dedicated and detailed approach in managing maintenance of Middleton's upper deck in the extreme temperatures of the Middle East this time of year. Leading from the front, he had motivated the team in arduous conditions, maintaining momentum on the recent project to ensure it stayed on track. The award was presented by Capt (MFP) Roger Readwin during his visit to HMS Middleton.



MEET A SAILOR

ETWE(CIS) Thomas 'Christmas' Carroll

Age – 19

Date Joined – 21 Sep 15

Born & Raised – Wincanton, Somerset

What do you do on HMS Middleton?

I help to maintain IT equipment and all communications on board, I manage secret tactical signals and ensure the right people get the right information. I am currently working hard on my task book to be promoted to ET1.

How are you finding the Deployment?

It's cool out here. I am busy and doing lots of work for the ship. I think everyone should have an exposure to the military as it gives a huge amount of life experience. It also makes you appreciate what you have at home.

Despite the hard days, I am really grateful to have experienced life in the RN. It is like a family and I have made some great friends since being here.

What do your family think of what you do?

My family have been really supportive and it has been good to be able to speak to them using the wifi on board. The packages they send out have been a real boost to morale.

What are you looking forward to most about going home?

A bath and a glass of wine. Also seeing my family again.



SUCCESS ON THE FRONT LINE

The final stage to make it to Warrant Officer Marine Engineer, is a 3 hour board testing the individual on all aspects of the engineering and naval management, for CPOET(ME) 'Buck' Rogers this is now in the past.

CPOET(ME) 'Buck' Rogers, successfully completed the board making him eligible for promotion to Warrant Officer, the final milestone in any ratings career and the highest non-commissioned rank.

To complete such an assessment whilst also delivering HMS Middleton's engineering department to such a high standard is testament to Bucks enduring drive and professionalism throughout Crew 6s time on various Platforms.



CPOET(ME) 'Buck' Rogers receiving a CAT pen set from Capt Readwin, Capt MFP

ONE STEP AHEAD

AB(D) Mulholland, AB(D) Crane and AB(MW) Andrews have been awarded their AB1's. This award recognises the completion of their AB professional training.

Achieving AB1's is the first qualification after leaving Phase 2 training and consolidates the theory learnt on course. It also marks the individual achieving Operational Performance Standard (OPS). Once OPS AB's can pursue other courses and opportunities.

Capt Readwin made the awards during his first visit to the Gulf after taking over the role as Captain Mine Warfare, Fishery Protection and Patrol Vessels (Capt MFP). Delighted to meet the team, he was full of praise for their efforts so far, commenting on the close-knit camaraderie and 'banter', typical of the Royal Navy.



22 4 22 - #22Kill

You have probably seen on social media and in the news the 22 push up challenging in support of military personnel who have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and to increase awareness of charities, such as Combat Stress.

Twenty-Two of Crew 6's finest sailors got together in 52°C of heat to do their bit on the Boat Deck of HMS Middleton. You can see the full video on the MCM2 Crew 6 Facebook page.

