



HMS CHIDDINGFOLD

'Leading the Hunt'



Monthly Summary - April 2016

After our planned maintenance period alongside in March carrying out some essential work, repairs and general TLC on the ship, April represented a real change of pace with a month at sea conducting a large multi-national exercise in the Gulf of Oman.

International Mine Counter Measures Exercise (IMCMEX 16)

Conducted annually, this exercise is one of the largest exercises in the region and is used to illustrate the commitment that over 30 Nations place in maintaining the freedom of navigation and free flow of maritime commerce throughout the globe.



Rafting with the towering RFA CARDIGAN BAY.



CHIDDINGFOLD (foreground), USS GLADIATOR (middle) and PENZANCE (background).

CHIDDINGFOLD sailed to the Gulf of Oman along with other specialist MCMVs, our sister ship PENZANCE and USS GLADIATOR in order to test their core skills against exercise mine shapes. During this period, we worked with other warships and air assets and had to protect the larger ships such as HMS DEFENDER and lead her through an area of mined water.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship CARDIGAN BAY provided us with fuel, water, food and stores to enable us to remain on task for longer periods, and we received these by berthing next to her at sea, a difficult evolution given her size. Once we found the exercise mines using our sonar and divers, we brought them back on board which was a good test of our seamanship skills.



BACK - CPO BRIGGS, LT STONE-WARD, AB BROWN, AB TAYLOR, AB BARNHUST
FRONT - LH KINDRED, AB DORE

It was good to get away from our deployed base port and work closely with our coalition partners.



CHIDDINGFOLD working with USCG MAUI & USS HURRICANE.



CHID 3,200 mile Road to Twickenham!



Now into month 4 of our deployment and we are well over half way to our target distance of 3,200 miles by swimming, cycling, rowing and running the distance from Bahrain back to Twickenham.



We have already passed the 2,000 mile mark, a huge achievement for a crew of 45 sailors of various ages and abilities. We held a completion onboard to get the fastest 20 rowers over 1km distance and their combined times have been forwarded to compete in a fleet wide rowing completion. Please sponsor us generously at:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/Crew-5-Bahrain-2-Twickenham

Well done to the Navy Rugby 1st XV who won the Inter Services Cup this weekend showing huge grit and determination to fight back from a 26-7 deficit to draw with the Army 29-29 in a thrilling match at Twickenham. Included in the squad were an AB(MW) and a AB(D) that some of the crew know.

Other news

In between finding mines, we also found time to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday with a freshly baked cake, whilst Lt Beau Henrickson (the Navigating Officer) and SLt Beardmore and SLt Holt (Young Officers under training) went ashore to find giant navigational instruments!



BRAVO ZULU

Good luck to ET(ME)1 Dave Maddocks who leaves the crew to commence his Leading Rates Command Course and welcome to his replacement, ET(ME)1 Jonathan Davies.

Finally, BZ to LET(ME) Richards for reaching Operational Performance Standard (OPS) and to PO ET(WE) Spalding for passing his 2 hour OPS Board.

We look forward to seeing all the families and friends who will be visiting us next month during our stand down period, make sure you bring lots of sun screen!!

