



HMS CHIDDINGFOLD

'Leading the Hunt'



Monthly Summary - January 2016

January has been a very busy month as we deployed from the UK and took over Command of the 'Cheery CHID' settling back into the routine of operations working alongside UK and US MCMVs.

Crew 5 returns to the 'Cheery CHID'

Leaving a wet and windy Portsmouth behind us, the Command Team departed HMS NELSON on Sat 09 Jan to fly out to the Gulf and take ownership of HMS CHDDINGFOLD, the ship they delivered to the Gulf in late 2014. The remainder of the crew flew out on Wed 13 Jan and completed a handover from Crew 7, and have spent much of the past 3 weeks at sea conducting integration training, engineering checks and our core role of MCM and diving work.



Approximately half the sailors currently onboard were part of the original crew who took CHID out of refit, the first with the new Caterpillar diesel engines, and sailed her to the Gulf in 2014.

CHID 3,200 mile Road to Twickenham!



We are already well underway with our latest physical challenge and after being deployed for 4 weeks, we have already ran, swam, cycled, biked, and rowed approximately 900 miles.



After the success of our LEDBURY to Ledbury charity triathlon challenge last year, we have teamed up with the RNRMC again, and the whole crew have their eyes on achieving the target of 3,157 miles before 29 Apr 16, the distance from our forward deployed base, back to Twickenham.

This weekend put another 78.6 miles on the clock as we ran the Bahrain Marathon with 2 relay teams and an individual entry. Despite having no running machine onboard to train on and not being able to run around the upperdeck, Crew 5 still managed a 'Clean Sweep'. The entire Wardroom of 7 (including 2 YOs) plus our Cox'n got involved in the Bahrain Marathon. The XO, Lt Scott Hamer, came 1st in his age category, and the 'bubblehead' team came 1st in the Relay event – not bad for an MCMV!!



You can sponsor us at:

<http://www.virgingivingmoney.com/chiddingfold>

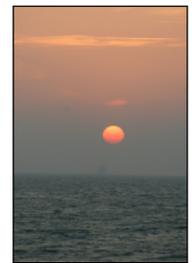


'Leading the Hunt' in UK / US MCM Exercise

Working together and integrating as a group of ships was the key objective of this exercise, therefore training took place at sea and alongside in harbour. Sailing ahead of HMS BANGOR and USS GLADIATOR (a USN Avenger Class MCMV), CHID conducted MCM and diving trials as part of the coalition exercise, then joined forces with other units which included RFA CARDIGAN BAY. Prior to a strong 'Shamal' wind from the north putting the sea state out of limits for operations, CHID managed to co-ordinate the command and control of the remaining diving serials to complete the final objective involving 2 UK and 2 US diving units, prior to returning to port for the post exercise de-brief.



Back at sea for more MCM and diving, we welcomed a Bahraini Coast Guard Officer onboard who embarked for a 3 day sea ride. Witnessing first hand what life is like onboard a RN warship, his local maritime knowledge proved very useful. He celebrated his birthday onboard so in the finest traditions of the RN, the chefs made him a cake which we were all able to enjoy!



New Joiner

'Roar' the Lion joined Crew 5 at the beginning of January and will be remaining onboard throughout the deployment. He will be keeping the children at Portsmouth Grammar School Nursery updated with pictures and stories of his adventures to many exciting countries in the region. Watch out for his antics.



Free Forces Parcels

Remember, it's always great to receive parcels whilst deployed, and Family and Friends can send 2kg parcels from most Royal Mail Post Offices free of charge. These boxes can contain items such as food treats (chocolate may melt!), magazines, books, toiletries, letters etc.



Don't forget the trusted BLUEY and E-BLUEY.

Example Postal Label



L(D) FROG (name)
300456789 (service number)
MCM 2 CREW 5
HMS CHIDDINGFOLD
BFPO 254
OP KIPION

BRAVO ZULU

Many congratulations to our Bosun, CPO(MW) 'Basher' Briggs, who was selected for promotion to WO1; a fantastic achievement and very well deserved.

Finally, well done to AB(MW) Watkinson for winning £400 in the RN Sports Lottery.

