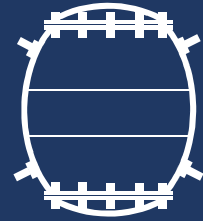


# The Squashed Beetle



The Newsletter of the Mine Warfare Battle Staff (white watch)

Issue 01 | Q1 2019

**Welcome** - To the quarterly newsletter that will provide updates on the Mine Warfare Battle Staff as we transition from Formation, Generation, Validation and ultimately Deploy. The Mine Warfare Battle Staff are the UK's expeditionary MCM force which have been permanently deployed at immediate readiness for over a decade. We lead in Task Group Operations delivering Command, Control and Support to both UK and Coalition Forces, ready to react to any incident. This is a capability that we as a nation and you as friends, family and colleagues should all be immensely proud of. This quarterly newsletter will follow the journey of the latest team of determined men and women (White Watch) who stand on the shoulders of giants.



**Mine Warfare branch badge** - As special recognition of the unique role the Mine Warfare community play within the Royal Navy, a new (or re-incarnation of an old) Mine Warfare Branch badge has been issued. Personnel will be able to order theirs from the end of February and all personnel should have transferred by September. More information can be found within RNTM 04-003/19.



**War Games** - Last week saw the staff conduct Mission rehearsal and war gaming at the NATO Mine Warfare Centre of Excellence (EGUERMIN), in Oostende, Belgium (Pictures above). This provided an excellent opportunity for the staff to develop their skills as a newly formed team whilst preparing them for the major International Exercise - Joint Warrior, later in the year. This provided an excellent opportunity for the staff to grow individually and as a team, honing their Warfare skills.

**Friends and Family Noticeboard** - As the Mine Warfare Battle Staff move closer to deployment, a friends and family Facebook page will go live. This will be the central hub of all information from the Battle Staff, giving updates on what we have been up to and will provide a space for friends and family to communicate to one another. Watch this space for further information. To see what the currently deployed Battle Staff (Red Watch) are up to, follow them on twitter @COMUKMCMFOR.



**New Joiners** - The formation of the Battle Staff saw a number of new joiners and leavers over the recent weeks. Most notably is our new Coxswain, CPO(WS(AWT)) Joseph Banks and our new Communications specialist LET(CIS) Vicky Stewart. LET Stewart can be seen (Right) receiving her "hooks" as she was promoted from ET(CIS) to LET(CIS). This forms the first in hopefully a long line of promotions for her; congratulations from all the staff!



**Final word from the Commander** – 2019 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> year of continuous UK MCM Force presence in the Middle - East. It is likely to be busy, challenging and require dynamism. It is an honour to lead such a diverse team of dedicated, committed and professional men and women. Together *"Aut Viam Inveniam Aut Faciam - We will either find a way or make one"* - Hannibal