



NAVY COMMAND

**HMS ENTERPRISE
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Sir~

I write to update you on the latest news from HMS Enterprise as the ship reaches the half way stage of its current deployment East of Suez. 5 months has now passed since Enterprise sailed from Falmouth and the ship has conducted military data gathering operations in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Arabian Gulf and also in Port Rashid Harbour in Dubai.

Early November saw the ship make the long passage East to Dubai where she spent two weeks alongside in Port Rashid Harbour. This period enabled essential maintenance to be conducted that will ensure that HMS Enterprise is materially capable of remaining deployed from the UK right through to the end of May 2013. Whilst alongside it wasn't only those involved in maintenance that were busy with the survey department onboard conducting a harbour training survey. It was during this training survey that two uncharted wrecks were discovered - both were reported and have now been added to the harbour charts. As mentioned previously the ship's new Survey Motor Boat, which is now fully integrated, detected the vessels and produced outstanding imagery of the obstructions that can be viewed at: <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/News-and-Events/Latest-News/2012/November/29/121129-Enterprise-Discovery>.

It wasn't all work though and the Ship's Company managed to enjoy the opportunity for some rest whilst also sampling the delights that a modern city like Dubai has to offer including sailing, diving, waterparks and also visiting the world's tallest building (the Burj Khalifa), Jameirah Palm and also the famous Burj Dubai.

Once the maintenance work in Dubai was completed the ship sailed straight to Bahrain in order to conduct some short notice essential survey work within the harbour - a full survey was conducted and depths along a" of the berths within the harbour were obtained. This information was passed on to the harbour authorities and again Enterprise proved herself in terms of producing top level survey products at short notice.

The ship then passed back to her main area of military data gathering operations conducting oceanographic observations whilst on passage and acting as an effective deterrent to would-be pirates protecting merchant shipping and helping to keep open the vital trade routes through the region.

The ship remained deployed throughout the Christmas period although she did manage to spend the four days around Christmas alongside in Djibouti providing the opportunity for a wholiship Christmas Dinner and church service whilst alongside. Despite being away from home morale remained high - mail was received on Christmas Eve and in any event Secret Santa onboard kept everyone entertained!

Having just conducted a further period alongside in order to conduct a crew rotation the ship will now proceed back to sea for another 30 day period of military data gathering - there are huge swathes of poorly charted waters in the region and only through days of concerted effort can significant progress be made in improving the quality of charting in the area.

Unfortunately as we're deployed until May 2013 it will not be possible to arrange a visit onboard in the immediate future; however, once we return to the UK later in year I will look to identify an opportunity for you to come and visit us. Whilst we are deployed, due to our crew rotation system, we always have personnel in the UK and as always should you require personnel from HMS ENTEPRISE to support any events you may be undertaking please let me know and we will do all that we can to assist.

In the meantime I hope you enjoyed the festive period and I wish you all the best for the New Year. Please pass on my regards to all at the Survey Ships Association and I will look to keep you updated with the latest activities of HMS ENTEPRISE over the coming months.

PJ KELLY
Lieutenant Royal Navy
Navigating Officer 2

