



HMS MANCHESTER

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

'Ready to Fight, Ready to Win'



MESSAGE FROM THE CO

It has been a bumper packed month for the "Mighty Manch" since we left the Azores behind us and started our Atlantic crossing. Team Manchester has been extremely busy throughout a series of working visits to UK Overseas Territories, in preparation for assisting in the event of a Hurricane. Many important relationships have been established and training has been conducted with the local Marine Units, as well as the Ship's Company finding time to explore some of the Island treasures of the Caribbean. Our first drugs bust netted £1.5 Million of marijuana and we are now firmly into our Counter Drugs patrols. Our younger readers will note that Buzzy Bee has been making the most of the deployment and is very much enjoying receiving your e-mails and requests to pass on Birthday Greetings to your loved ones. The end of July will see us commencing our Pre-Hurricane Season Maintenance Period in Barbados, where we are looking forward to many of our families joining us. My very best wishes to all our Families and Affiliates.

HMS MANCHESTER SUCESSFULLY COMPLETES HER FIRST DRUGS BUST OF APT(N)

After less than a month of our APT(N) deployment we have already successfully seized over 300Kgs of Marijuana which was being illegally transported between the leeward Islands of the Caribbean.

Whilst at anchor off the coast of Montserrat we provided our Lynx Helicopter, Sting, to support the Royal Montserrat Police (RMP) in conducting a counter-narcotics reconnaissance flight over the island in search of illegal marijuana plantations.



HMS MANCHESTER Stands Guard as the suspected 'Go Fast' vessel is towed back into port by the RMP Launch.

During this flight a suspect vessel was spotted off the coast of the island and Sting was directed by the Ship to investigate. Following the aerial observation of the vessel it was decided that it should be further investigated and as such Sting helped to vector in a RMP launch. Sting then spotted a number of bails floating in the water which began to wash up on the coastline. Once the RMPF had full

control of the suspect vessel Sting headed off to investigate the bails.



Lt Luke Edwards, Flight Pilot of HMS MANCHESTER, lands with over 300Kgs of Marijuana to be handed over to the RMPF.

Sting's Winchman, AET Hargreaves, was lowered down from the helicopter onto a beach where the bails had begun to wash up and he loaded them one by one to be winched up into the helicopter. Sting then flew to an area of the Island where the bails could be transferred to the RMP, who confirmed that they contained marijuana with an estimated street value of £1.5 million. The suspect vessel, her crew and the haul of marijuana are now in the safe hands of the RMP.



The huge haul is loaded into a waiting RMPF car.

In response to the huge narcotics haul the CO stated "I am delighted that cooperation between the Royal Montserrat Police and HMS MANCHESTER has resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of narcotics".

MANCHESTER INTEGRATES WITH US ALLIES IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

Whilst alongside in Key West, the Ship's Command Team attended briefings organised by the Joint Inter Agency Task Force (South) (JIATF(S)), who are the lead agency in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific region for counter-narcotics operations. The briefings were aimed at further preparing the Ship for her Counter Narcotics role in the Caribbean and, in particular, stemming the flow of illegal narcotics through the Caribbean into both the USA and Europe. It also offered an ideal opportunity to meet other members of the



HMS MANCHESTER

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

'Ready to Fight, Ready to Win'



Multinational Task Force already present in the region.



Members of HMS MANCHESTER's newly embarked LEDET conducting Sea Boat training in one of HMS Manchester's RIBs.

Towards the end of our time in Key West we saw the arrival of a 9-man US Coastguard Law Enforcement Detachment Team (LEDET) who will be embarked in HMS Manchester throughout the APT(N) deployment. They will be working closely with our Lynx helicopter, the Royal Marine Maritime Sniper Team and the Ship's Boarding Team as part of the Counter Narcotics operations.

A regular addition to RN warships deployed to the Caribbean Basin we are very much looking forward to working closely with them over the next 6 months in our fight against drugs.

MANCHESTER PREPARES FOR DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS WITH BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

During the initial stages of our APT(N) Deployment the Ship's Command team have been conducting numerous meetings with disaster relief officials from the British Overseas Territories (OTs). A key part of this disaster relief preparation was achieved whilst the Ship was alongside in Key West, when 3 members of the Command Team travelled to Miami to attend a disaster relief conference.



A Member of HMS MANCHESTER's Ship's Company Conducting Disaster Relief Training

Whilst in the Caribbean, one of our primary roles will be to provide initial relief to any

OTs following a natural disaster. The conference was hugely beneficial as it allowed the chance to engage with key members of the OTs disaster relief organisations, who we may have to work closely with in the event of a natural disaster such as a hurricane.

MANCHESTER CONDUCTS SECURITY TRAINING WITH BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Throughout the past month we have visited numerous OTs including the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla. During the time spent at each of the OTs the Ship's Boarding Team and Embarked LEDET have been able to provide valuable training to their Maritime Security Forces. The aim of this training has been to ensure that the security organisations of the OTs are in the best possible position to deal with illicit activity, including narcotics trafficking, which takes place within their territorial waters.



Two vessels from the Royal Cayman Police Force intercept a simulated suspect vessel as part of a training exercise led by HMS Manchester

The training has included simulated Maritime Interdiction Exercises and instruction on boarding and searching procedures and has, on numerous occasions been supported by our Lynx Helicopter. To date this training has been a great success allowing the embarked US Coastguard LEDET and the Ship's Boarding Team the opportunity to share some of their expert knowledge with the OTs.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER LT CDR DEL McKNIGHT RETURNS

Following a recent spell of illness and a full recovery, it was with great pleasure that we were able to welcome back our Executive Officer, Lt Cdr Del McKnight, in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Despite missing the first 3 weeks of the deployment, (during which time Lt Cdr Curry, HMS DAUNTLESS's Executive Officer stepped in to assist, as well as enjoy a couple of weeks of Caribbean sun!), he quickly settled back into life in HMS Manchester and was a welcome returnee to the Ship.



HMS MANCHESTER

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

'Ready to Fight, Ready to Win'



'THE BISH' CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN THE CLOTH

HMS Manchester's Chaplain, the Revd Mike Wagstaff, reached a milestone on June 29 when he celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest. Mike was ordained in the Diocese of Southwell and worked in parishes in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, in rural Leicestershire and in inner-city Leicester. At an age when most of his friends were talking about slowing down and retiring Mike looked for a new start and a new challenge and joined the Navy in 2008. He joined HMS Manchester from the pulpit of Manchester Cathedral during the Ship's visit there in 2008 before deploying to the Falklands. He is also chaplain to HMS Lancaster and HMS Gloucester.



'The Bish' celebrates with 20 years as an ordained Priest with Buzzy Bee.

Reflecting on his time as a priest over a celebratory drink with Buzzy Bee and against the backdrop of a Caribbean sunset Mike said, "These past two years in the Royal Navy have been very special and very rewarding. The experiences I've had, and the chance to be a priest amongst such a friendly and interesting group of people makes mine probably the best job in the world."

SPORTS REPORTS

HMS Manchester's football, rugby and cricket teams have all been in action this month competing against some very strong Caribbean teams.

The rugby team played a 7s match against a local Key West team narrowly losing 7 tries to 5 in a hotly contested encounter in one of the hottest afternoons in Key West. The rugby team moved on to the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and played their first 15-a-side game of the deployment. The game started in a fast and furious manner with Manchester dominating and keeping the play in BVI's half. BVI's defence was strong and despite some exceptionally hard work from the forwards, working the ball amongst themselves well, Manchester were unable to put any points on the board, leading to a 0-0 score at half-time. BVI proved to be much more of an attacking squad in the second half and through

constant pressure provided by their forwards were able to cross the line for the first try of the match. As the second half progressed the Ship's squad started to tire and despite much hard work BVI went on to score a further two tries winning the game 15 – 0.



MANCHESTER win a hard fought scrum against the British Virgin Islands

The cricket team played a local Cayman side and after losing the toss were put into bat. The Ship's team went onto rack up 129, Lt Cdr 'Dickie' Underwood top scoring with 40. Despite some tight bowling and some excellent wicket keeping from man of the match Std 'Bulzey' Bulze, Cayman chipped away at the score resulting in a HMS Manchester loss by 5 wickets with an over to spare.



Lt Cdr 'Dickie' Underwood batting against the Cayman Islands

The football team kicked off their deployment with a 2-0 victory over Key West. 2 goals from AB Remond in sweltering heat proved to be the difference between the teams. In their next game the Cayman Islands national side (a FIFA ranked squad) proved to be a challenge too far despite an exceptional performance from the Ship's Squad went down 4-0. However Cayman fielded 11 fresh players at half time! Manager CPO 'Arthur' Askey said on completion, 'In my 15 years of being involved with and running Ship's teams that was without doubt one of the best displays I have seen.' A frustrating game in BVI followed with the first XI losing by a solitary goal.

The mountainous and volcanic island of Montserrat was the Squads next port of call with another FIFA ranked team waiting in the wings.



HMS MANCHESTER

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

'Ready to Fight, Ready to Win'



MANCHESTER's football first team before playing a British Virgin Islands XI

Montserrat took a half time lead however HMS Manchester responded early into the second half with SLt Andy Ramage calmly slotting the ball home after an excellent run from AB Remond. The Ship's Team went behind again after a mistake in the defence let through a Montserrat striker. HMS Manchester pressed on again and their hard work was rewarded when SLt Ramage scored the equaliser and his second goal, chipping the keeper from 25 yards to finish the game 2-2!

HMS MANCHESTER ROWS THE ATLANTIC

As MANCHESTER departed from the Azores, her Ship's Company undertook the gruelling challenge of rowing the Atlantic, all 5500km of it! 120 people took part in the week long event in which 4 rowing machines were used 24 hours a day with each person rowing in 30 minute slots.



Lt Cdr Thomson winning the 'row off' of the top 4 rowers in the final few kilometres.

The row included a spare hour (when the clocks went back) that had 16 rowers rowing for 10 minutes each in a 'burnout' fitness session. The rowing machines were placed on the bridge wing under the close supervision of the Officer of the Watch. Poor weather resulted in the suspension of some of the overnight slots but in the end the hard work and determination of the Ship's Company

allowed the challenge to be completed, as planned. The overall winner of the organised 'row offs' was Lt Cdr 'Jim' Thomson, albeit having a slightly unfair advantage of being 6' 6"!

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Everyone on MANCHESTER would like to congratulate PO Curzon on the arrival of his new baby boy Ray Scott, 9lb 1oz, born on 29 Jun at 1140 and congratulations also to LET Williams on the arrival of his new daughter Ruby Elizabeth May, born on 4 Jun weighing 10lb 2oz.

BUZZY BEE VISITS A VOLCANO IN MONTSERRAT

Buzzy Bee has a very busy month since the Ship left the UK. Buzzy has visited Key West in the USA, the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and the volcanic Island of Montserrat. At each of these port stops Buzzy has found plenty of things to do with his friends from HMS Manchester. However his friends like to stay up very late when in port to ensure they see as much as possible and Buzzy is now in need of a rest whilst the Ship is at sea.



Buzzy Bee takes a rest on a friend's head as he explores the volcanic island of Montserrat.

Whilst in Montserrat Buzzy managed to find the energy to fly right to the centre of the Island to visit an active volcano. The volcano in Montserrat had, many years ago, erupted and destroyed a whole town and as such Buzzy was a little frightened as he flew over its top. Following his flight over the volcano Buzzy had become very hot indeed and to cool down he decided to fly to the beach and have a dip in the water.

Buzzy met some of his friends from the Ship at the beach and they insisted that Buzzy stay for a while so that he could calm down following his scary flight over the volcano. Buzzy stayed on the beach with his friends until far past his bed time and became so tired that he could hardly remember getting back to the Ship. Although very tiring Buzzy did say that he had a fantastic day visiting Montserrat and has decided that he should keep well clear of volcanoes in the future.

If any of our younger readers wish to write to Buzzy, you can contact him at 331-buzzybee@a.dii.mod.uk.