

HMS MEDWAY - Newsletter

January 2022



Facts

Displacement - 2000T

Length - 90.5m

Pennant - P223

Commissioned

Sep 2019

Battle Honours

Quebec 1759

Ushant 1781

Ship's Company

65 Core

20 Embarked Forces

3 Watch Crew (Red,
White & Blue Watch)



Ship's Company enjoy a trip to the Kennedy Space Centre, Florida.

A Message from the Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Carla Higgins RN

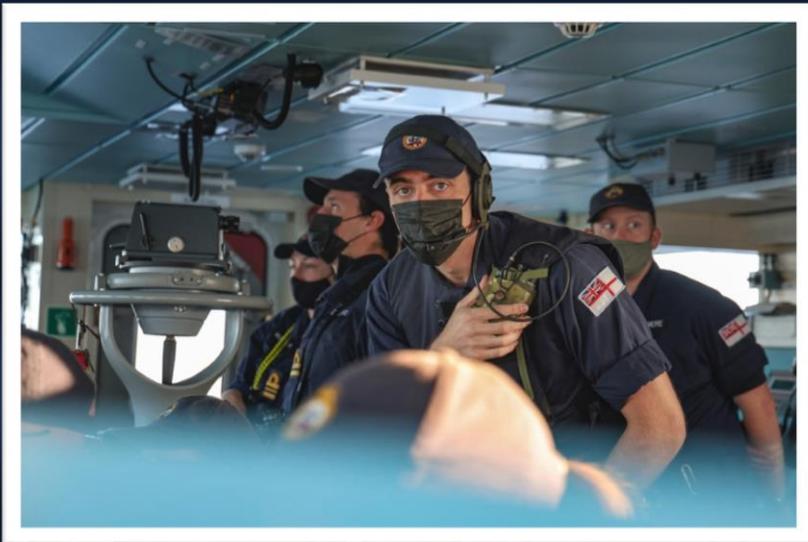


It is always a challenge to be away from loved ones over the festive season, but I am pleased to report that we have made the most of a deployed Christmas. After Red Watch departed back to the UK for leave, Blue & White Watch oversaw the conclusion of the Core Hurricane Season and bade farewell to Commander Task Group and his Staff. At sea we tackled numerous challenges whilst conducting Maritime Security Operations including a high speed transit to the USA, to beat the looming poor weather. Since arriving in Florida we have been exceptionally busy with deep equipment maintenance to ensure we are ready for a demanding year of operations.

As this update will show, we have made the most of our time In the USA! Thank you all for your unstinting support and we very much look forward to keeping you updated on magnificent MEDWAY's adventures in 2022!

End of "The 21 Season" - Bring on "22!"

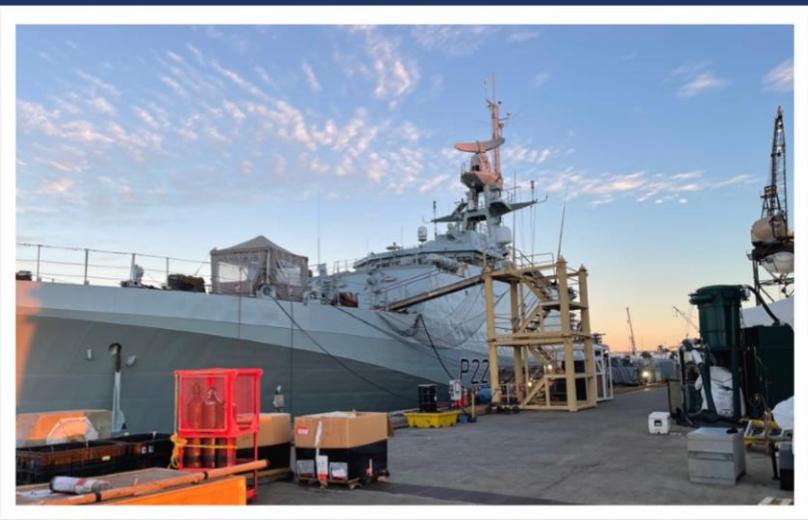
As Core Hurricane Season drew to a close, MEDWAY departed Curacao in the Southern Caribbean (affectionately known as the "Carib") to complete a Maritime Security patrol with United States Coast Guard cutters and the Dutch Navy. These operations are crucial to deterring and disrupting illicit trafficking across the region. Ahead of arriving at the BAE Jacksonville Shipyard, MEDWAY met up with the USCG WILLIAM FLORES off the coast of Miami for some joint training before continuing her journey North to Jacksonville. A rich variety of marine wildlife was seen and we were also lucky enough to witness the spectacular launch of a SPACE-X rocket! After an hour long transit in a strongly flowing St John's River, MEDWAY arrived at the BAE Jacksonville shipyard adjacent to Mayport Naval Base and Naval Air Station and berthed next to our host ship (and long term friend of the Royal Navy) the USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL. The maintenance period quickly began in earnest and the support we have received from the US BAE Staff has been superb. A busy six weeks has seen deep maintenance of machinery in addition to extensive painting of our sun baked ship's superstructure and decks. MEDWAY once again looks the part and is ready to meet the demands of the Atlantic Patrol Task (North) (APT(N)) mission. Finally, we bid farewell to Lt Ross (MEO), CPO (ETME) Marper, LS (Sea) Rusted and ET(WE) Cottrell and wish them all the very best for their onward assignments.



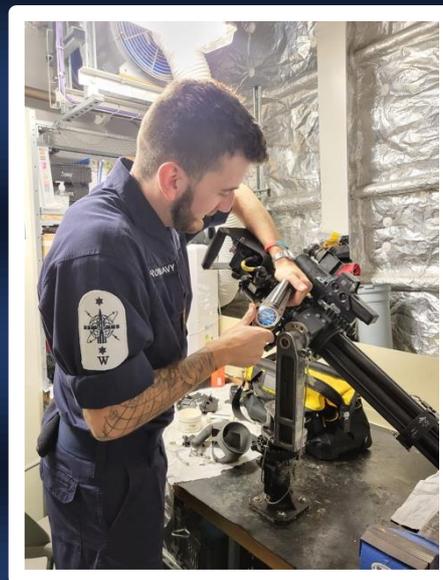
The bridge team during the pilotage along the St John's River to the BAE Shipyard, Jacksonville.



Space X launch from Kennedy Space Centre on the transit North past Miami witnessed at sunset.



HMS MEDWAY alongside in the BAE Jacksonville Shipyard.



LET(WE) Schofield conducting routine maintenance on the Mini Guns.



Ship's Company enjoying a hike in Florida's Hana Country Park as part of the Adventurous Training package.



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Free Forces Parcels

Whilst deployed, families can send parcels up to 2kg from most Royal Mail Post offices for free. Example label below:

Name/Service Number, HMS MEDWAY, BFPO 332

Next Mail Flight 7th Feb

Social Media

Follow us on: Twitter @HMS_MEDWAY

The Ship now has 7,000 followers. Help us get to 10,000 by spreading the word! *FORWARD TOGETHER*

Watch Rotation Awards

Congratulations to the following members of the Ship's Company who were recognised for their efforts over their most recent 6 week watch:

Sailor of the Watch Rotation

ET(ME) Cook

Mentions in MDWY Despatches

WO₁ (ME) Robinson
PO ET (ME) Ranynes
PO ET (ME) Fraser



Ship's Company of White Watch received a surprise chocolate selection box from DMEO's daughters – thank you Amber & Grace!

Sailor of the Watch Rotation

ET(ME) Cook was awarded Sailor of the Watch Rotation for his incredible efforts over the Joint Maintenance Period. Through his selfless dedication and hard work he assisted with completion of routine maintenance and the rectification of a number of long term defects with characteristic enthusiasm and a big smile.

His diligence and dedication has placed MEDWAY in a great position to deliver on operations in 2022. Well done ET Cook and thank you for all your hard work.



Our Affiliates

Worshipful Company of Security Professionals

MEDWAY Council

Gillingham Football Club

The MEDWAY Queen

Copper Rivet Distillery

RNA Chatham

Sir John Hawkins Hospital

Gravesend Sea Cadets



Ship's Company hosted by USS Winston Churchill for presentations to commemorate the atrocities of Pearl Harbour.

USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL

DDG 81 "The Bulldog"

Throughout this maintenance period, MEDWAY was assigned USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL as a 'host Ship'. Over the course of the visit our Ship's Companies have forged a strong bond, starting with crew from the CHURCHILL embarking for our river transit into port. Other activities included MEDWAY personnel being invited to attend a Pearl Harbour Commemoration on board the CHURCHILL, the opportunity (& exceptional honour) for MEDWAY to host a US Re-Enlistment Ceremony, in addition to a number of combined social events with our US Navy colleagues and their families. We are hugely grateful for their generous hospitality. Members of our Ship's Company also took the opportunity for a tour of USS DELBERT D BLACK DDG 119 (see left).



Maintaining the Ship (& Morale!)



Whilst alongside in Jacksonville, the ship underwent an extensive maintenance period. As well as fixing engineering defects and completing routine maintenance inside the Ship a large amount of effort has been expended on repainting the upper deck. Over the 6 weeks alongside, Ship's Company and an army of painters have repainted all of the Ship's hull and superstructure. Additionally, the decks have been repainted with specialist non-slip coating which is particularly important for the flight deck to ensure its viability to support helicopter operations and maintain flight safety standards.

Although a busy period for the Ship's Company, there have been plenty of opportunities to explore and enjoy the United States.

The Royal Navy Adventure Training team flew out to provide a challenging yet highly enjoyable AT package; this included mountain biking, stand-up paddle boarding and hiking! On top of this, personnel from MEDWAY have attended a wide variety of sporting events; including ice hockey, supporting the Jacksonville Icemen and NFL action witnessing the Jacksonville Jaguars play the Houston Texans.



Newly installed Battle Honours Board displayed proudly outside the Captain's Cabin



An early visit from Santa Claus saw Ship's Company open Operational Christmas Boxes in the Wardroom.

Deployed at Christmas

On Friday 17th December 2021, MEDWAY's White & Blue Watch celebrated Christmas in style. The day consisted of a festive stand easy, where the Ship's Company received hot chocolate, mince pies and their Operation Christmas Boxes from Father Christmas (allegedly DME0....) in Santa's Grotto. It was followed with a traditional lunch of succulent Turkey and moist Gammon served by the Officers. The evening then proceeded into a Christmas raffle with themed messes; the Wardroom was turned into a casino (non-profit making!) and the Senior Rates hosted festive Karaoke. Although it was the first Christmas away for many, the day was enjoyed by all and partly made up for not being able to spend it with loved ones. Thank you for all your Christmas wishes!



HMS MEDWAY Battle Honours

It is a tradition for RN warships to commemorate the battle honours of their forebears (ships that have carried the same name). For MEDWAY there are two honours – Quebec (1759) and Ushant (1781). Fittingly the Quebec honour was awarded in the Atlantic Patrol Task (North) operating theatre when MEDWAY assisted British land forces in the capture of Quebec.

'Forward Together'