

# FEARLESS FLYER

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## MAINTENANCE IS A MISSION

During the last 30 days MCM CREW FEARLESS has been hard at work preparing USS ARDENT for a high pace operational Deployment and the looming Boarding of Inspection and Survey scheduled in late 2011. During the most recent Continuous Maintenance Availability the crew and outside technicians worked nearly around the clock to improve ARDENT’s Engineering equipment and Combat Systems readiness. Combat endured significant casualties to the Mine Neutralization Vehicle and Engineering worked through a Marine Gas Turbine Generator rebuild. Members of the crew were also able to become a part of the local community by participating in local running events and community service actions. The crew was able to work hand in hand to complete necessary Anti-Terrorism training and Damage Control training, including a DC Olympics event run by the R-Division. On the lighter side, MCM CREW FEARLESS was able to partake in the sunny weather and enjoy an afternoon picnic.

The Enginemen worked diligently to complete 500 hour maintenance on every engine and generator, overhauled air compressors and conducted major repairs to the reefers. Engineers also took the time to look down the road and began preparations to ready the Training and Drilling teams for the next Engineering inspection to be done in conjunction with ULTRA-S upon return to San Diego. Drilling twice a week during the afternoons has allowed the junior engineers to take on a larger role in the department including the addition of ENFN Cox as AMRO (Under Instruction) and EM3 (SW) Albuna preparing for Engineering Officer of the Watch (Under Instruction). The



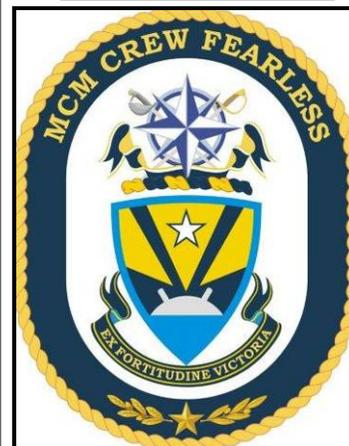
teams are trained during these periods by the senior Engineers including EMC (SW/AW) Lee and ENCS (SW) Peddle. R-Division prepared the crew for damage control evolutions by holding an all hands training event that was similar to a football practice. The ship was divided into five teams rotating from station to station throughout the ship, each time learning and then performing various necessary damage control skills and evolutions. We call the event Damage Control Olympics.

Outside of the engine rooms and down the passageway, the Supply department was busy being the Department In the Spotlight and supplying parts upon parts to the Engineers. Over the course of one week the Supply department had all admin, personnel and spaces inspected while continuing with ship’s work. The logistics side was busy with a record number of requisitions and parts found, ordered, received, canceled and sometimes re-ordered due to the somewhat finicky “Supply System” we use in the Navy. The Culinary Specialists appreciate the assistance of sailors from various MCM’s during the absence of key players in the division.

The Combat team worked well into the night on several occasions conducting a Level Wind rebuild on the Umbilical Cable Handling System for the MNV. During daylight hours they overhauled the Battle Space Profiler system and even gave it a new paint job.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- NOTES FROM THE CO
- FEARLESS FRG
- OMBUDS CORNER



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## *“FROM COURAGE, VICTORY”*

Training days were focused on improving the skills and thought process of those involved in the safety of the ship during Anti-Terrorism events. The drilling teams showed steady improvement throughout the month. The communications team was singled out this month by higher ups across the world for being the first team to make contact with a new communications satellite. Their proficiency and troubleshooting efforts were used as the roadmap for every other ship to follow.

Finally, thanks go out to the MWR representatives for the most recent Command Picnic. As always there was more food than two crews could have handled, but FEARLESS rose to the occasion. After all the BBQ was consumed the traditional Khaki vs. Blue Shirts softball game took place. Over the course of the afternoon there were lowlights and highlights including the catch heard round the world by EN3 Hinterstein who snagged ENS Allen’s centerfield shot. When the dust settled the Blue Shirts were victorious after winning 2 out of 3 games. The Khaki streak has ended and the rivalry is in full swing. Everyone is already looking forward to the next picnic and softball game.

As always, each member of the crew greatly appreciates the love and support of all the friends and family back home so we thank you and look forward to hearing from you soon. Additionally, please remember to post up pictures of the children enjoying their United For Reading moments every month, we appreciate it out here!



## *“EX FORTITUDINE VICTORIA”*

## NOTES FROM THE CO

As October ends and November begins the Crew is in full swing. We are past the energy sucking heat of the first month of Deployment as well as a much milder month 2. Nothing excites us more than seeing another month fall off the calendar. The only thing that comes close is another care package from home, so keep those coming too! October was a difficult month as Engineering casualties and setbacks confronted us at every turn. Luckily, we have the Sailors with the skills necessary to overcome even the most stressful casualties. I'm happy to report that all of the frustrations were a result of previous issues and not because of a misalignment or improper operation of the gear by FEARLESS. Now it's up to us to get it all fixed and get ARDENT ready for the increased operational requirements of November. We are ready for the task.

We had little personnel changes in October with no gains and no losses. CS1 Caballero and MNC Baker



have returned to San Diego for increased medical attention due to old injuries they had re-aggravated here in Bahrain. As of now I'm not sure if they are returning this Deployment, but our thoughts are with both families. I'm sure they are happy to have their loved ones home, but not so happy they are limping around.

We took a little time off from the CMAV to gather at NSA Bahrain for another FEARLESS Command Picnic and as has always been the case, the food was great! CS1 Toews and ENCS Peddle, along with many others, provided some great BBQ as well as burgers and hot dogs. I've heard many different stories about the

Softball game, but for now we'll stick to the story that the Khaki were defeated 2 to 1. The day was Sunny and mild and it was perfect weather for a break from the ship. In addition to the picnic there has been a serious increase in Physical Fitness activity onboard. In this month alone, FEARLESS Sailors have competed in 3K's, 5K's, 8K's, a Biathlon, and the Bahrain Marathon Relay. In the PRT we held last week not a single Sailor failed, continuing a tradition that goes back to last years Deployment in Bahrain. Your Sailors have set goals for increasing personal fitness and they are realizing those goals already. The Bahrain Marathon had over 30 participants. Go Team!

This month the spotlight of our most Senior Leaders in the Navy was firmly on the four MCM's forward deployed to Mina Salman. The Commanders Conference was held at NAVCENT and the Commander of Naval Surface Forces Command, VADM D. C. Curtis, took the time to visit every MCM, including ARDENT, who he visited on the 29<sup>th</sup>. In addition to his visit, he ensured that his most senior Staff members also visited the ship to find out what limitations we are facing. The Senior Engineer, Supply Officer, and Chaplain of the Surface Force spent several hours each walking the deck plates, inspecting equipment, and looking at our berthing areas. VADM Curtis is very interested in rotational crews and would like to one day permanently crew the ships in Bahrain. However, he knows it has to be done correctly and in a way that doesn't disadvantage any one crew. So, if you've heard rumors that FEARLESS will be the Crew that is selected during this Deployment, please stop worrying. The decision to permanently man MCM's is several years away and the Crews that will permanently man these ships will be identified well in advance so that families can plan



*“FROM COURAGE, VICTORY”*

for the eventual move to Bahrain. I believe we are still several years away from the decision on manning on these ships.

In order to meet some of the Yearly Awards boards, we selected our Sailors of the Quarter for Quarter 4 early. Congratulations to ET1 Castellano for Senior Sailor of the Quarter, IC3 Peperis for Junior Sailor of the Quarter, and QMSN West as Blue Jacket of the Quarter. These 3 Sailors have done an outstanding job all year and I was proud to recognize all three for this quarter. In addition, it was a great honor to have Commodore O'Regan onboard the day that we finally were able to frock EN1 Miller to First Class. EN1 has fought hard for this promotion. When he was called to the front of the mess decks everyone began to cheer prompting the Commodore to say to the crew, “You all just gave me chills with the support you just gave EN1.”

Facebook has been a great tool to keep the Families updated on the daily life of the crew, but if there are still other things you'd like to see, please let me know and we'll attempt to get those into the rotation. We are now into the heart of Deployment and I wanted to pass along how proud I am of the Crew. Everyone is doing their best to make ARDENT a better ship, but they couldn't give me their best efforts without the support they are getting from you at home. Please remember that your Sailors are under a tremendous amount of stress here in Bahrain on a daily basis and a kind word from home does more to raise their spirits than anything I can say as their Commanding Officer. Thank you for your continued efforts in keeping your Sailor happy and healthy. Stay Safe!

All the best,  
Spencer



*“EX FORTITUDINE VICTORIA”*

## FAMILY READINESS GROUP

Happy Fall to our FEARLESS families! Thank you to all who came out for Bowling in October. We had a blast bowling together, as well as filling and boxing 85 bags of Halloween candy for our sailors. All of our guys enjoyed and appreciated the yummy snacks. Thank you for the candy donations that made this possible.

The FRG would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Stephanie Seevers, who has stepped down as Vice President of the FRG. Stephanie, we appreciate the hard work you put into helping create and lead our FRG, and we look forward to still seeing you at functions. Thank you for all you have done!

The next FRG meeting will be November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm at the Murphy Canyon Chapel. We will be creating the United Through Reading backdrop to send to the ship and discussing fundraising activities and our holiday/halfway celebration. Also, our new Fiscal Year has begun, which means it is time to collect

dues again. Annual fees are \$10/family for sailors E-5 and below, and \$20/family for sailors E-6 and above. These dues help us fund all of our activities for the year and the costs of sending packages to our deployed sailors.

Finally, we would like to remind you of the importance of following the rules of OPSEC. We have seen several sailors and family members posting sensitive information regarding the Crew, ship, and travel dates. Specific information that should NOT be posted online include:

- Exact deployment dates or return dates
- Dates or location of a ship's upcoming ports of call
- Detailed information about a mission
- References to trends in crew's morale or an individual's personal problems

Details concerning security procedures, response times or tactics

Information about equipment readiness

Speculations about future operations

More information can be found on the Commander of Navy Installations website at:

[http://www.cnic.navy.mil/CNIC\\_HQ\\_Site/WhatWeDo/FleetandFamilyReadiness/FamilyReadiness/FleetAndFamilySupportProgram/CNICD\\_A065894](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/CNIC_HQ_Site/WhatWeDo/FleetandFamilyReadiness/FamilyReadiness/FleetAndFamilySupportProgram/CNICD_A065894)

We hope to see everyone at our next meeting. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email us at [CrewFearlessFRG@gmail.com](mailto:CrewFearlessFRG@gmail.com).

## OMBUDSMAN'S CORNER

We are so lucky that this deployment our Crew was given the opportunity to participate in the United through Reading program. Because of this, our sailors are able to read stories to their loved ones through the help of a video camera!

All they have to do is sign up for a slot and read a story aloud, then the DVD will be sent back to the family at home where the child can watch and read along. We suggest that you capture your children's reaction through either a

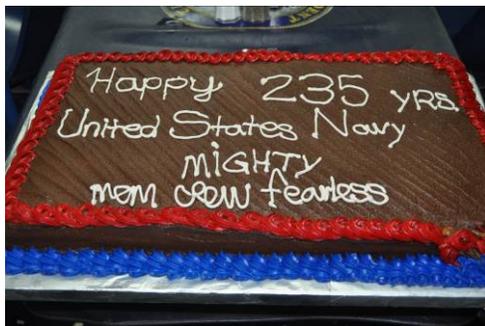
picture or a small recording of your own then send it back to the sailor. This process allows everyone to stay bonded as well as lifting moral, not only here at home, but on the ship as well!

With the holidays coming up it may be fun to turn the tables and have the kids read and send it to our sailors as a present, which in turn would encourage the sailor to read more for the kids.

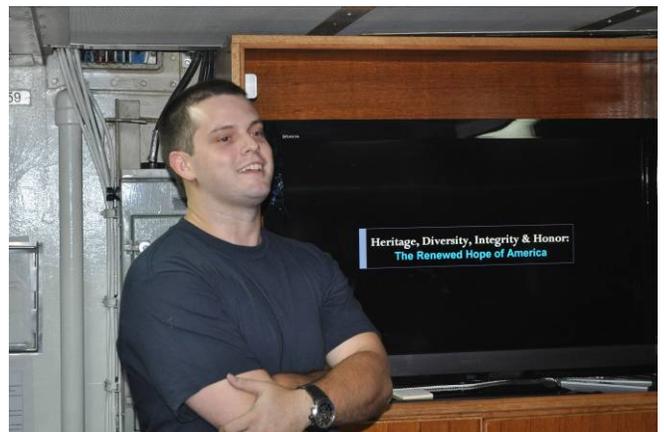
We are already two months down, before we know it the halfway party will be here. I hope everyone has had a great month and as always please let Tanya and I know if you need anything!

PHOTO CORNER

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*"EX FORTITUDINE VICTORIA"*

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PLEASE CHECK THE CREW FEARLESS PAGE  
ON FACEBOOK FOR REGULAR PHOTO UPDATES!

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