

● THE SAND PAPER



Official NEWSLETTER OF MCM CREW CONFLICT

"Peace always follows Conflict!"

February-March 2010

CAPN'S CORNER



Conflict Family,
I would like to extend a warm hello from Bahrain. This is our official 1st deployment 2010 family newsletter. Crew CONFLICT has been extremely busy in the shipyard repairing and preparing USS ARDENT for sea operations. During the busy month of March 2010, the crew managed to maintain our training readiness. Many of our sailors got underway on other MCMs in support of training initiatives. We also completed a very successful Community Relations Project (COMREL) with the citizens of Bahrain headed by NAVCENT Chaplain, LCDR Nordan. The crew did a remarkable job at the Bahrain Mobility International. The purpose of this facility is to provide physical rehabilitation treatment for the disabled. I am proud of my sailors for making this event a very successful one. Reminder, the Crew CONFLICT command website is active on the world wide web and also posted on Facebook. Thank you for all the support you are providing the crew.

Most Best,
LCDR Roman
Commanding Officer
MCM Crew CONFLICT

CROSS DECKING

Story by: MN3 Watson

Just because MCM CREW CONFLICT has been stuck in the dry docks doesn't mean sailors can't keep their sea legs. Recently we've had several sailors get underway with the DEXTROUS and the GLADIATOR to either refine skills they have already attained or to gain a better understanding of how other ships do it. MN3 Goddard has had the special privilege of getting underway with the British Minesweeper "HMS GRIMSBY." Where he studied how our counter parts in Europe approach mine hunting and mine neutralization. Not only did he discover new ways to improve our methods

but for the British Navy as well. Below is a picture of MN3 piloting the British MNV underway in the Arabian Gulf.



Photo provided by: MN3 Goddard

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

By: MN3 Watson



Anytime in your naval career that you get a chance to participate in a charitable event you should always try to take it. Not only is this a chance to better your eval, raise your sense of self pride, and truly make a difference in other parts of the world. In San Diego the crew adopted an entire beach line to clean and maintain. With such a positive turn out and a great impact on the sandy beaches of so-cal the chain of command decided to try and help out while in 5th fleet. Recently at least 17 of our sailors had a chance to participate in a wheelchair basketball game and clean up at the Bahrain Mobility International Center in Isa Town which is a non-profit organization that provides social rehabilitation and services to the disabled in Bahrain. All sailors that participated found the project very rewarding and extremely fun. MN1 Mayer stated "Having the opportunity to help in a community other than in the states was different and interesting. Not only did we have a chance to make a difference in a group of people's lives, but we also experienced a chance to peak into the lives of the people of Bahrain, and they play awesome basketball!" So, an overall success for this community relations project and hopefully

with our in port time we'll have more chances and get more sailors to participate next time.



Photo's provided by: HM1 Fechner

COMMODORE O'REGAN VISITS BASREC!

By: MN3 Watson

Recently, Commodore O'Regan (Commander Mine Countermeasure Squadron 5) visited Basrec shipyard to check on the status of USS ARDENT. The commodore was extremely impressed with the progress we've made and is eager to see more as time goes on here in the yards. From the Keel all the way to combat the Commodore and Master Chief Sneed inspected every part of Ardent finding even the smallest of discrepancies and discovering the true material condition of Ardent. Overall a highly anticipated visit from the commodore and as always the crew was ready to receive him as he toured the ship. Four of our own sailors got a few minutes with "The Old Man" and received a coveted commander's coin, so all in all a very positive turn out on behalf of the Crew and the ARDENT.

Commodore O'Regan and the CO inspecting the anchor chain



Photo provided: MN3 Watson

UNITED THROUGH READING

A new program the command is trying this deployment is United Through Reading. For 200 years now the Navy and the military in general has been deploying. With each new generation of families finding new ways to communicate it's

finally come to the digital age. With just 30 minutes of your time you can video yourself reading to your children, talking to your wife, or relaying stories to family back home. I personally spoke to Senior Chief Ruiz recently and he stated that no sailors have utilized this service just talk to family, only to read to their children. So sailors or family members that are interested please contact Senior Chief Ruiz, families are encouraged to talk with their sailor's about this program and from there once a week video's can be made. Remember that this is personal time for you and your loved ones not just sailors with kids.

SUPPLY CORPS NEWEST SWSCO!



Photo taken by: MN3 Watson

You may have noticed around the boat a newly qualified warfare officer. Our very own LTJG Huttenmaier has earned his Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer Pin (SWSCO). This is a major milestone in a supply officer's career. Congratulations to him all around! For those of you working on ESWS pins or SWO pins, a piece of Naval Heritage for you, the SWO pin was first recognized in 1975 and the ESWS pin was later in 1979, now the question for you is, there was another pin before both of these that was recognized, what is that pin?

A "FEW" WORDS FROM THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



Hello to all our families. I hope this finds each of you doing well and in good spirits. It's hard to believe we've already been here for two months! I wanted to take a couple of minutes to share with you some of the good work your Sailors are doing out here:

USS ARDENT (MCM 12) is undergoing some major work in the shipyard here in Bahrain, and

while we're spending some time giving her and her equipment some badly needed overhaul and upgrades, the crew is staying busy training every day and keeping our battle effectiveness skills sharp. To offset some of the time the guys spend onboard working, we have offered a couple of off-duty activities to help them stay connected with their families and the community:

MCM CREW CONFLICT hosts the “United Through Reading” Campaign every week, giving your Sailors time to read children’s books & stories, all recorded on a DVD, then sent home so your kids get the opportunity to have Daddy read to them before they go to sleep at night. In March, nine Sailors read over 32 books, sending home 14 DVDs. What a great way to keep Dad and the kids connected while we’re deployed halfway around the world!

Seventeen CONFLICT Sailors also had the opportunity to spend an afternoon at the Bahrain Mobility Institute, as mentioned in this newsletter. There will be more opportunities for our Sailors to give back to the local community here in Bahrain. There is not a better feeling or reward for someone to have than to volunteer time and work to help those less fortunate than us, and your Sailors are doing that!

The command’s basketball team is up and running in the NSA Bahrain’s Basketball League. In addition, several of our Sailors have been underway with other units here in the FIFTH Fleet, offering their services to the ships that need them as well as keeping their own skills finely-tuned.

Also, a few “congratulations” are in order: first, to HM1 Jason Fechner, QM1 Jesus Guerrero, YN1 Aaron Brown, IT1 Michael Merritt, MM1 Russell Jacob, EM1 Rogel Tolentino and MN1 Shane Senseney, who are all eligible for this year’s advancement selection board for Chief Petty Officer, to be held this summer. Second, to LTJG Paul Huttenmaier, who recently qualified as a Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer. Third, to MCM CREW CONFLICT, who was awarded the Battle Effectiveness Award for 2009, selected by our type commander, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific and being recognized as the Minesweeping community’s best trained and operational crew!

As you can see, your Sailors are doing exceptional work out here! Thank you for the love and support you give your guys. Remember that you can keep up with what we’re doing on both our website, www.conflict.surfor.navy.mil as well as the “Crew Conflict Families” page on Facebook. Remember, if there are any problems or concerns that arise and need our attention, please contact CREW CONFLICT’s Ombudsman, Mrs. Amy Chidester, at amykc@live.com or by phone at 619-249-8252.

Take care of yourselves and your #1s! I look forward to talking with you all again soon in future newsletters!

All the best,
NCCS(SW/AW) Toby Ruiz

And in closing from your new Public Affairs Officer...

To friends, shipmates, and family first I would like to thank you for taking the time to read through our newsletter. Please bear in mind this is my first newsletter...ever! So please any feedback would be greatly appreciated. Even if it’s something you would like to see different or something you would like to see change. I can only improve upon feedback that I get. Also, a congratulations goes to all who made the newsletter this month. Please don’t be discouraged if your sailor didn’t get in this one, I’m trying out a few new programs next month and taking tons more pictures. Always here for questions, comments, and concerns at watsonj@mcm12.navy.mil

Your new Public Affairs Officer,
MN3 Jason A. Watson

