

"DOMINANT IN BATTLE"



ISSUE 9 September 2012

THE DOMINANT NEWSLETTER



Your iron Sailors of MCM Crew DOMINANT have had yet another action-packed month. We are excited to share all of this month's happenings with all of you back home! Per usual, our department heads and Command Master Chief have submitted articles, which place our "high points" since the last newsletter into the spotlight.

Since we last wrote, your Sailors have kept very busy out here in the Arabian Gulf. The weeks have been packed with ship repairs completed during another Continuous Maintenance Availability period, INSURV preparations, survey operations in the Central and South Arabian Gulf, and another Indoctrination Exercise, among many other exciting activities!

We were sad to say goodbye to MNCM (SW) Williamson this month, but know he will be an extremely valuable asset to NMAWC, as he was to us. We'll see you again soon, shipmate! It seems that whenever we say goodbye to one, we welcome several more to the Crew – see all of DOMINANT's newest members on page 5!

If you have not checked us out already, please follow MCM Crew DOMINANT on Facebook! We keep the page updated with pictures of events, along with information and resources to help keep you informed while we are away. We can only fit so many pictures into our monthly newsletter, but many, many more are posted on Facebook!

Mrs. Elicha Moyer has officially taken over as the Ombudsman for our Crew. She is more than eager to help our Sailors' families, and her contact information can be found on our website if you missed it in last month's newsletter. Remember, we would love to hear from you! If you would like to contribute an article from the perspective of a family member of a Sailor or have another idea please forward them along to john.morgan@mcm11.navy.mil.

-John R. Morgan III, First Lieutenant

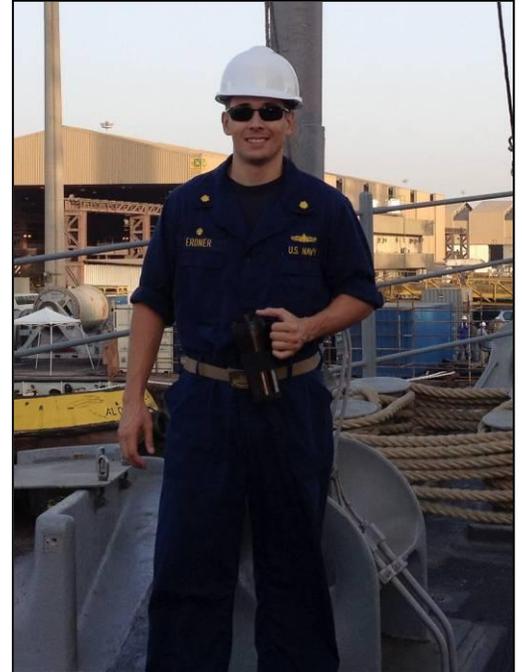


On 14 June 2012 EOD personnel detonate an explosive counter-mine charge as part of the US/UK MCM-Exercise while embarked on USS GLADIATOR. This photograph was taken by members of HM-15 onboard one of their MH53C helicopters participating in the exercise.

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CO's COMMENTS

Greetings, Crew DOMINANT family and friends! I hope that everyone is doing well and that you have smoothly transitioned in a new school year. Over the past two months your Sailors have spent the majority of time operating USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11) at sea conducting Route Surveys, training; we also had a port visit for the second time in Jebel Ali, UAE. The second week of September marked a new phase of the deployment for our Sailors. We began the preparations to make the final preparations to start USS GLADIATOR's Selective Restrictive Availability (SRA). So on September 12th we got GLADIATOR underway and on her own power we moored at the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY) Company in Bahrain. You may remember that this is about the same time as last year when we took USS SCOUT (MCM 8) into a shipyard, but this time we will complete the entire maintenance availability. This will give us the ability to enjoy the fruits of our labor by operating GLADIATOR at sea with a few new toys!



Life in the shipyard has been busy. The ship is receiving eight major equipment upgrades, including a new sonar, and the Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) is being replaced with a newer expendable mine neutralization system (EMNS) called SEAFOX. On top of the upgrades, the yard package is full of engineering equipment overhauls and topside preservation. By the time we complete this yard period, GLADIATOR will look and operate like a new ship. Your Sailors are putting in the time and effort to ensure that she will be able to meet any task assigned!

Keep your eye on our Facebook Page. It is being updated regularly by our OMBUDSMAN and Crew editors. Our goal is to maintain weekly updates to help keep our Family Members and Friends up-to-date with what we are doing over here to help everyone stay connected. It is not a one-way street though; if you would like us to add a different type of content or if you would like to see a picture of your Sailor please let us know by leaving us a message on our Facebook page. On the topic of keeping in contact, you can reach our OMBUDSMAN (Mrs. Elicha Moyer) by sending her an e-mail to "dominantfamily@gmail.com".

We've had a few new crewmembers join Crew DOMINANT over the past month that I'd like to welcome: EN2(SW) Garcia, IT2(IDW) Nelson, and MNSN Zimmerman. Welcome to the Crew DOMINANT family! I'd also like to wish fair winds and following seas to a couple of our crewmembers who have departed: MNCM (SW) Williamson, who transferred to NMAWC, ET2(SW) Martire, who transferred to SPECWARCOM in Coronado, and to QM2(SW) Marrero who is transitioning out of the Navy to start the next chapter of his bright future.

Until next month, you have my sincere wishes to the start of a great school year!

M. T. Erdner
Commanding Officer

XO's POST

Greetings from the exciting world of the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard! Well, maybe exciting is a bit of an exaggeration, but it sure is busy around here. September has found its way back to our calendars and Crew DOMINANT has found our way back into another shipyard. For those new to our family, ASRY (the locals pronounce it "as-ree") is the third shipyard we've been in over the past year spread across four different ships. Your favorite Sailors have become almost too familiar with the special kind of craziness that is required to pull off a successful yard period, but we are fortunate enough to be able to see this one through to completion and we're just the right folks for the job. There are lots of brand new systems getting installed on GLADIATOR and lots of long awaited repairs getting accomplished at the same time. We are very much looking forward to getting back to sea and trying all these cool new gadgets out. In fact, I'd say there are nearly twice as many jobs getting done during this yard period and about half the time within which to finish, so hopefully the time between now and the next time we're underway goes by quickly. Luckily we've got some of the best talent in the world

of shipbuilding out here to help us get GLADIATOR back on her feet and raring to go. Although I have to admit I was a bit concerned when I saw the nice gentleman with the chainsaw come aboard!



As always, we are most grateful for all the wonderful support we receive from you folks back home. The letters, emails, thoughts and prayers are constant reminders of why we're working so hard and who it's really for. Stay safe back there and keep your heads above water...we'll do the same out here!

CMC's BLOG

BMCM (SW/AW) Bernard

The End of Ramadan

Muslims throughout the world observe a joyous three-day celebration called *Eid al-Fitr* (the Festival of Fast-Breaking). *Eid al-Fitr* falls on the first day of SHAWWAL, the month which follows Ramadan in the Islamic calendar. It is a time to give in charity to those in need, and celebrate with family and friends the completion of a month of blessings and joy.

Before the day of Eid, during the last few days of Ramadan, each Muslim family gives a determined amount as a donation to the poor. This donation is of actual food -- rice, barley, dates, etc. -- to ensure that the needy can have a holiday meal and participate in the celebration. This donation is known as *sadagah al-fitr* (charity of fast-breaking).

On the day of Eid, Muslims gather early in the morning in outdoor locations or mosques to perform

the Eid prayer. This consists of a sermon followed by a short congregational prayer. After the Eid prayer, Muslims usually scatter to visit various family and friends, give gifts (especially to children), and make phone calls to distant relatives to give well-wishes for the holiday. These activities traditionally continue for three days. In most Muslim countries, the entire 3-day period is an official government/school holiday. Remember to enjoy your day, because you deserve it



CHENG's PIT

The Engineering Department sends our warmest greetings from Bahrain!

August was a busy month jammed packed with events. After spending several days underway the Engineers turned their attention to the 2A3 Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV). The work package of over 12 jobs was successfully completed within the allocated time period thanks to the efforts of the ship's force.

During the same week of the CMAV, the Engineers hosted a Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) Readiness Assessment Team onboard. The team looked at the ship's preparations for the upcoming INSURV. Crew DOMINANT's Engineers rose to the challenge and successfully demonstrated numerous equipment items throughout the engineering plant, verifying proper operational settings and performance measurements of nearly every piece of Engineering equipment onboard.



EMC (SW) Moyer and ENS Hansberry observe EN3 Tolleson's plotting efforts during a Main Space casualty drill.

OPS's STAND

It's been a busy month for Crew DOMINANT. Operations would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest Chief, MNC (SW) Simoncic. He is the new CPO for Deck Division. July started with TACDEV, an exercise in tactical development. Crew DOMINANT had over 40 Mine Neutralization Vehicle "Flights" that week, and the exercise was a resounding success! Following a couple days in port, Crew DOMINANT was at it again, this time with an EOD detachment embarked in order to complete their Indoctrination Exercise. The exercise had the entire crew



MN3 Arrand, MN3 Woodson, and MNSN Montgomery putting their heads together in the Combat Information Center.

The Engineers also worked vigorously to improve the cleanliness and material status of the Main Machinery Room for a visit by the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. The Admiral had nothing but good words to state about the condition of our space. Crew DOMINANT would like to congratulate IC1 Simmons and his wife, Kelly Simmons, on their newborn baby, Brody Cole Simmons! Brody was born at 0759 on 27 August and weighed in as a lightweight champion of 6 pounds and 14 ounces.

The Engineers of Crew DOMINANT have been working extremely hard over the past month in preparation for the ship's upcoming shipyard period. The ship will sustain a lengthy period of maintenance until the crew returns home. The Engineering Department would like to say thank you for all of your support. We are extremely grateful for your love and support.

and EOD Det. busy working on mine sweeping, mine hunting, diving and a gunnery exercise. The week ended with a boom, as the EOD team detonated an 80-pound C4 charge just below the surface! Following another brief stop in port, Crew DOMINANT headed out for a week-long surveying exercise. The around-the-clock work mine hunting meant long hours on watch but a lot of valuable training to our crew. Now, after another quick stop in port, Crew DOMINANT is looking forward to heading out for our first port visit to Jebel Ali, UAE. Stay tuned for more exciting updates in the next newsletter!

SUPPO's BIN

The end of August marks another month of deployment down! As September begins, it also



CSSN Garcia and CSSN Ross pause meal preparations for a quick photo opportunity!

brings about another yard period beginning, this time in ASRY. For those crew members who have been onboard since last deployment, this is the fourth yard period on the fourth (different) ship in the past year. Some of the upper chain of command went to ASRY to inspect our new berthing and messing assignments, and while it will be a big change, everything should work out well. An onsite galley is being provided along with a separate messing area for the crew to use while repairs are being made to GLADIATOR's galley. And while not as big as the ship's, the temporary galley will do quite nicely! Of course, we still have our flats out in town, which are still working out well. Having the chance to decompress off of the ship has been a great release and the crew is really enjoying it.

THE PODIUM

AWARDEES

Navy Commendation Medal Recipient:
MNCM (SW) Williamson

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal Recipients:
EN1 (SW/SCW) Morgan, ET2 (SW) Martire

Letter of Commendation Recipient:
QM2 (SW) Marrero

NEW ARRIVALS



IT2 (IDW) Nelson



EN2 (SW)
Garcia



MNSN Zimmerman

FAREWELLS – MNCM(SW) Williamson, ET2(SW) Martire , QM2(SW) Marrero - You will be missed!

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