



MEDICAL CENTRE HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH



16 Dec 2021

Since I last wrote, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH has completed her 7 and a half month deployment to the Far East and returned safely to Portsmouth.

In so doing she conducted over 2000 fixed wing sorties, 3000 deck landings and 4000 flying hours; by day and night, in weather fair and foul. She sailed 48000 miles over three Oceans, delivering over 1.1M meals along the way.

Her new Commanding Officer (Captain Feasey) confronted and challenged the Russian and Chinese militaries in multiple environments and facilitated the BBC being onboard to capture the highlights for a 6 part documentary. This should be broadcast towards the end of 2022.



Captain Feasey Royal Navy with his Heads of Departments.

The ship was struck by lightning, encountered three volcanic clouds, typhoons, monsoons and King Neptune's bears, at scale; she has inducted 898 members of the UK and US Armed Forces into the Kingdom of Neptune. On the day that the new Commanding Officer joined, the Ship's Company completed a deployed support period, conducted a Captain's supersession, recalled and sailed at 4 hours' notice to avoid being damaged alongside by gales.



HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH conducts crossing the line ceremony.

Captain Feasey's time in Command commenced with the ship's return passage through the South China Sea. We sailed from Guam in company with vessels from the New Zealand Navy before meeting with partners from the US and Japanese Navies as well as a frigate from the Australian Navy. The southbound journey through the South China Sea was characterised by a heightened state of vigilance, although our interactions with Chinese forces were again safe and professional.

Our passage back across the Indian Ocean then led us towards a most rewarding period of interaction and engagement with the Indian Navy. Against the backdrop of complex exercises at sea, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH hosted the British Foreign Secretary on board along with key members of the Indian business community, promoting Global Britain and demonstrating the importance of the living bridge between these great nations. The ship also had the opportunity to engage with key leaders from the Indian Navy, showcasing the fifth-generation Carrier Strike capability in order to inform the future development of their own similar vessels.



HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH operating with the Indian Navy.



HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH working with the Royal Navy of Oman.

On departure from Indian waters, we proceeded directly to the coast of Oman, where we had the privilege of working with our close allies from the Royal Navy of Oman. We also hosted the outgoing Chief of Defence Staff for his final meeting with the Chiefs of Defence from the Gulf Cooperation Council, before the ship's company was able to enjoy a brief port visit to the Port of Duqm. Who knew that Duqm Fried Chicken was a thing?



HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH transiting home through the Suez Canal.

The ship then made passage through the Suez Canal and across the Mediterranean, which included a most enjoyable visit to the island of Majorca. HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH's return to Portsmouth just over a week ago allowed crew to be reunited with families prior to Christmas.



HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH Christmas Carol Concert (including the Twelve Days of FORTIS) and below entering Portsmouth harbour on 9th Dec 2021.



With every best wish for a Happy Christmas and a Fun-packed and Healthy 2022.