



NAVY COMMAND

Royal Navy Media and Communications
Mail Point 1-4, Leach Building
Whale Island
Portsmouth PO2 8BY

T 023 9262 5256

F 023 9262 5700

E craig.mowat100@mod.uk

NEWS RELEASE

1 APR 2014

Royal Marines yacht set to arrive in Stavanger tomorrow: First leg of anniversary challenge complete

Portsmouth, United Kingdom --- To mark the occasion of the 350th birthday of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, HMSTC ENDEAVOUR will visit Stavanger from 2-7 April.

The 67ft yacht will be arriving into berth number OO5V at Skagenkaien in Stavanger Marina tomorrow at **1200** local time.

The yacht, HMSTC ENDEAVOUR, has been delivered by Royal Navy, Army and Royal Marine colleagues from Portsmouth, England. The novice crew tested their teamwork, endurance and sense of humour with a challenging crossing of the North Sea last week.

On 2 April, their journey will conclude when they arrive in Stavanger at **1200** with the bagpipes playing from the yacht in Stavanger Harbour.

They will be busy repairing, cleaning and preparing the vessel ready for her onward journey, but not before a visit from the United Kingdom's Ambassador and Defence Attaché to Norway, who will meet the main event participants and wish them well **this Friday at 1500**.

SCHEDULE IN STAVANGER:

2 APRIL

1200 ARRIVAL

1245 Bagpiper Cadet Angus Lapslie will play a tribute to the Royal Marines, in front of Stavanger Cathedral.

Members of the public and media wishing to mark the Royal Marines anniversary celebration are invited to Skagenkaien at **1200** local time.

4 APRIL

1500 VISIT United Kingdom's Ambassador and Defence Attaché to Norway
PRESS POINT with the crew

BACKGROUND:

As part of the gruelling challenge, a team of skiers from the Royal Marines have skied 1,664 kms from Porsangermoen, in Northern Norway, down to the southern port city of Stavanger, completing the distance in less than two months, with conditions ranging from blizzards to bright sunshine and temperatures of between -20c and +10c.

Following their arrival in Stavanger, the team will get straight into the next phase – a 1,664 nautical mile sail from Norway down to Cadiz, in Spain.

Dubbed the “1664 Challenge”, the event covers roughly 4,136 miles (6,656 kms) by ski, sail, cycle, canoe and then by foot. By the time the Royal Marines’ 1664 Challenge concludes with a marathon around London in July, more than 4,200 commandos will have taken part.

More information about the Challenge can be found at www.1664challenge.co.uk with regular updates being posted at www.facebook.com/rm1664challenge as well as their Twitter feed @RM1664challenge

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Profiles of the six core participants:

Officer Commanding - Captain Sam Moreton, 26, based at 42 Cdo, Plymouth.

Comes from Exmouth and attended school in Exeter. His father was a Colour Sergeant in the Corps. Joined the Corps in 2011, passing out in 2012. He spent a year as a Troop Commander with M Coy at 42 Cdo and took part in Cougar 13. He will join the Commando Logistics Corps at the end of the Challenge.

Second in Command – Colour Sergeant Richie Hayden, 33, based at 40 Cdo, Taunton.

Comes from Peterborough, but has moved to Taunton where his wife and two children are at home monitoring his progress. Served three tours of Afghanistan and two tours of Iraq. This is the eighth time he has undertaken Cold Weather Training in Norway.

Corporal Tom Rounding, 35, based at 30 Cdo, Plymouth.

Comes from Kingston upon Hull and originally joined the Army in 1996, deploying to Northern Ireland, Kenya, Canada, Belize. Moved into the Royal Navy and served as a submariner from 2001 to 2004. Joined the Royal Marines in 2004, taking part in Herricks 4 and 5 with J Company 42 Cdo and Herrick 14 with K Coy 42 Cdo. Now lives in Plymouth with his family to be closer to 30 Cdo.

Corporal Anthony Fairclough, 25, based at Commando Logistics Regiment, North Devon

From Bootle, Liverpool, and is one of twin brothers, both of whom are in the Corps.

Joined the Corps in 2009, passed out 2010, and went on to join 43 Cdo.

Joined CLR as a signaller in 2011 where he deployed on Cougar 11 for five months, took part in a Cold Weather exercise (Cetus 13) last year and also worked on Op Olympics.

Was on the winning team in the 2013 Lympstone to Poole race and attempted the world record speed march marathon (40lb +weapon) but missed out by 2 minutes.

Lance Corporal Matt Robb, 27, based at 43 Cdo in Faslane, Scotland.

From Birstal, West Yorkshire, he joined the Corps in 2009, passing out nine months later.

He went straight to 45 Cdo and worked in Nadi Ali during Herrick 14.

Took part in exercise Black Alligator with 43 Cdo in 2013 as well as Cougar 13.

A keen ice climber and general mountaineer in his spare time, he has aspirations of joining the Mountain Leader branch.

Marine Tom Barker, 19, based at 45 Cdo in Arbroath, Scotland.

From Carlisle where he attended Moreton School.

He joined Corps at 16, passed out at 17 and went straight to Y Company, 45 Cdo.

In his brief career he has passed his Mountain Leader 3 course and taken part in Cougar 12 as well as Cetus 13 (Cold Weather exercise).

He is the unit cross country ski champion and still calls Carlisle home.

Additional information in RM 1664 Challenge and the Royal Marines Corps

- The Royal Marines Corps was established in 1664 and 2014 marks its 350th anniversary.
- The 1664 Challenge is divided into five phases: across 1,664 kilometres (1,034 miles) isn't enough for the crack troops - so they are planning on five challenges: A 1,664 km ski, 1,664 mile sail, 1,664 km cycle, 193 km canoe and finally a 1,664 km run.
- The Royal Marines form an integral part of the Royal Navy's ability to deter, defend and defeat any potential threats to the United Kingdom.
- The role of the Royal Marines within the Royal Navy is to protect our nation's interests worldwide, with much of this work hidden from the public eye.
- Today the Corps numbers approximately 7,200 personnel, which whilst only accounting for a small proportion of Britain's Armed Forces, it is worth noting that approximately 40% of Britain's Special Forces originate from within the Royal Marines.

For further information please contact the Royal Navy Press Office on 02392 625256 or email craig.mowat100@mod.uk