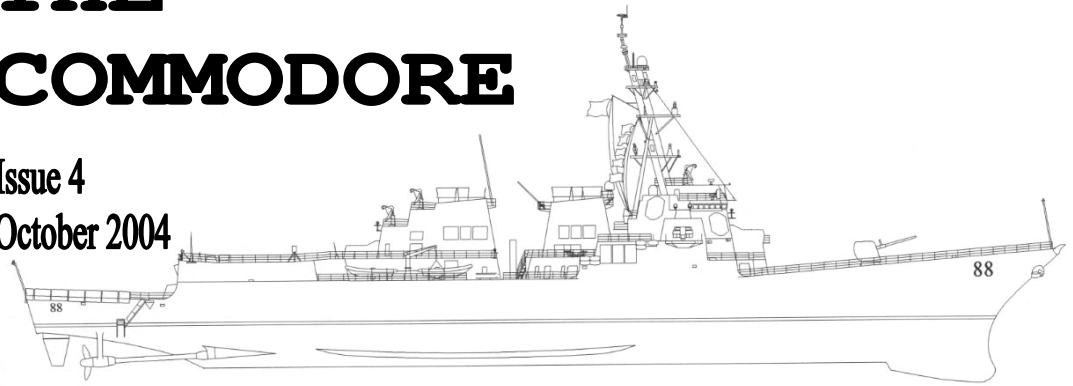




Edward Preble (1761-1807)
USS PREBLE's Namesake

THE COMMODORE

Issue 4
October 2004



Reaching out to the family and friends of USS PREBLE (DDG 88)

The Captain's Corner

CDR Michael J. Slotsky
Commanding Officer

Hello from PREBLE!

October was a demanding yet rewarding month. Following an exciting port visit in Jebel Ali, we continued our mission in the Arabian Gulf with focus and enthusiasm! The days were long and the operations were challenging, but your Sailors carried out their duties with an unyielding positive attitude. From having a great time in port to professional performance at sea, we're succeeding on many levels – both personally and professionally. That being said, we've now left the Northern Arabian Gulf. Each day brings us closer to you, our dear families and friends back home!

Jebel Ali, a seaport in the United Arab Emirates, is a rapidly developing commercial area with plenty to do in town and in the nearby city of Dubai. As you will read in many of the following articles, many of us truly enjoyed the Safari Tours, world class shopping, and the Wild Wadi water park. We spent a full five days in port, completing some vital engineering repairs and taking some time to relax. I'm sure that some of you have already heard about the great time we had!

Although it was wonderful to have a chance to relax in port, we departed Jebel Ali refreshed and ready to get back to work. On October 11, we were honored to host Admiral Vern Clark, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott. This visit was part of a routine trip by the CNO and MCPON to forces in the area, but it was absolutely extraordinary for the PREBLE crew. Hearing firsthand encouragement and words of experience from the Navy's top officer (Sailor # 1) and top enlisted Sailor was a great opportunity. ADM Clark participated in an Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification ceremony, pinning

PREBLE's 100th ESWS qualifier, SN (SW) Lillian Caulker. This visit by the CNO marks his third visit to PREBLE and is an example of his special relationship with the ship. As most of you know, Mrs. Connie Clark, ADM Clark's wife, is our sponsor. She has been deeply involved with us since our christening on June 9, 2001, and ADM Clark expressed many words of encouragement and support on her behalf. It was a remarkable day for all of us!

Before completing our Maritime Security Operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf, PREBLE had the distinct pleasure of hosting all Task Force 58 commanding officers for a luncheon and briefing. Brigadier General Joseph Medina, Commander, Task Force 58, also attended. Our Culinary Specialists and Food Service Attendants orchestrated a five star quality luncheon – it was absolutely fantastic! Once again, PREBLE's professional Sailors hit the ball out of the park!

We're now on our way home, and we're looking forward to visiting some exciting places! We're still training consistently, but we're also having fun. On Halloween, festivities included a pumpkin carving contest, a costume contest, and the now famous "Haunted PREBLE!" We transformed part of the ship into a quite scary haunted house style arrangement – it was a huge hit. More fun activities are being planned for the rest of our transit.

We still have six weeks and thousands of miles left before we're home, but by all accounts this has been a very successful deployment. Thanks again for your support! Keep using the Family Support Group, our Ombudsman, and the Command Master Chief to stay connected in preparation for our homecoming! We miss you more than ever and are looking forward to seeing all of you soon. Keep in touch and continue the outstanding support – it is truly appreciated!

The CMC's Corner

CMDCM (SW/SS) Rick West
Command Master Chief

PREBLE Families,

It's been a great month onboard the "Mighty P." Our port visit in Jebel Ali turned out to be great with quite a few things to do. The big hits were the mall, the Night Safari Tours, and the Wild Wadi water park. During the port stop we not only took some liberty but the Engineering folks took one for the team and did an outstanding job completing some difficult yet vital maintenance – BZ to our Engineering Warriors! Also during our port visit, we donated one pallet of medical and hygiene supplies to Al Ihsan Charity and conducted a community relations project with the Al Noor School for children with special needs. 30 PREBLE Warriors took time out of their off time to visit and work with these young folks. It was an eye opening experience.

Also during the month, we had a visit from Admiral Vern Clark, the Chief of Naval Operations, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott. Both spoke to the entire crew on the forecandle and shook hands with every Sailor. The CNO presented the 100th ESWS pin earned since the commissioning of PREBLE to SN (SW) Lillian Caulker. The crew and the ship looked great and both the CNO and MCPON were blown away with our motivating HOO YA yell!

There is no doubt about the heart of every Sailor onboard. Our Warriors are working their "stern cheeks" off on a daily basis and continually coming back for more. For example, a few days ago we conducted several small boat transfers, sped south and received 28 pallets of food and parts via helicopter, and then we sped further south to refuel. All of this was in very low visibility due to the haze and sand in the air. The Sailors on the last event were joking with me saying, "This is it? This is all they can throw at us?" We then headed north to continue operations. So the days are long and hard, but that's making the time pass by very quickly. On a final note, karaoke is becoming one of the big hits onboard. All I can say is that it's good some folks have daytime jobs! Let's have a great quick month. HAPPY HALLOWEEN! HOO YA!

Charlie Mike Charlie

News From The Crew

Engineering Department

The past month has been terrific for Auxiliaries Division. We've successfully met all tasking required and morale is high! We're also doing an exceptional job of balancing scheduled work with unplanned issues and operational demands. One of the advantages of running

so smoothly is that people have begun to find more time to work on personal qualifications like ESWS and damage control. This month we qualified two new boat engineers after they successfully completed their 2nd class swimmer qualification. Congratulations EN3 Ake and EN3 Dunning!

In early October, we visited Jebel Ali and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Besides providing rest and relaxation, this country afforded opportunities like camel riding, off road driving over sand dunes, great food, shopping, and experiencing more of the Arab culture. This port visit was our last before turning East to begin making our way home to you, our families and loved ones.

Electrical division put in many long hours during the port visit to Jebel Ali, and has upheld a high level of intensity throughout the month of October. Once again, Petty Officer Second Class Dash Menkin steals the thunder for the division. He was pinned as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and qualified as Electric Plant Control Console operator. Everyone else is doing well and looking forward to being home for the holidays. E-Division's top two movies of the month were *Starsky and Hutch* and *The Princess Diaries*.

October was a very busy month for MP Division. As many of our shipmates enjoyed beautiful Dubai, United Arab Emirates and its surroundings, we were hard at work ensuring PREBLE's engineering readiness. Putting in over 250 hours of work, we completed a shipyard level repair in just a few short days. Great job! This hard work truly exemplifies PREBLE's Warrior Spirit and can-do attitude. Now back carrying out our mission, we're ready to meet any challenge that lies ahead in the weeks remaining prior to our much-anticipated return to our loved ones. Finally, we would like to welcome aboard three new members of our division: GSEC (SW) Nuttall, GSM3 Rosales, and GSE3 Harris. To you and your families – we wish you a hearty welcome and a joyous stay!

The fourth month of deployment brought R-Division a new shipmate – welcome aboard to DC2 Edwin Lopez! R-Division continues to contribute expertise and hard work throughout the ship, improving the quality of life for everyone. The Hull Technicians have dedicated countless hours to improving and maintaining the sewage system onboard. The Damage Controlmen have been hard at work to ensure all the damage control equipment onboard is maintained at a peak level, and that the ship is ready to respond to any casualty.

While every crewmember is excited for our transit across the Pacific and eventual return home to San Diego, R-Division is looking forward to conducting multiple drills and Damage Control training for the crew in anticipation of the upcoming training cycle. On a special note, congratulations to HT2 Hayes whose hard work was recognized by being named USS PREBLE's Warrior of the Week for 17-23 October.

Uniting Through Reading

An outstanding program onboard PREBLE! We've been talking about it, and it's going great! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact ET1 (SW) Jonathan Nelson at nelsonj@preble.navy.mil or LTJG Ben Baran at pao@preble.navy.mil. More information about the program can be found on the Uniting Through Reading website at www.read2kids.org.

HSL 43: PREBLE's Fearless Air Department!

The last month has been exceptional for the Air Department, filled with outstanding achievements and a great port visit. First we wish a warm welcome to our newest member, AZ2 Hash, and say farewell to AZ2 Strickland. Our prayers go to AZ2 Strickland and his family for the speedy recovery of their new baby boy Morgan.

Jebel Ali was a terrific port visit with much deserved rest and relaxation as well as an opportunity to help the local community. Wadi World and the desert four wheeling adventure were definitely the highlights of the visit. Wadi World is a water park that employs a unique concept – it actually shoots you uphill! As AW2 Antonucci noted, "It was great to ride uphill instead of climbing stairs like the other water parks. It was more than I ever expected!"

The port visit was also a great chance to show our compassion and service as Sailors to the local community. AMCS (AW) Hernandez, AE1 (AW) King, AW1 (AW) Hickey, AW2 (AW) Craig, and AN (AW) McDermott were all part of a visit to the Al Noor Training Center for Children with Special Needs in Dubai. The visit included playing basketball, helping in some of the classes, and spending time with the young children.

As always, packages from back home are a great morale booster. We wish a special thanks to some of our wives including Gourete Brito, Elena Rogers, Kelly Hickey, and Monica Sledge for the outstanding care packages they sent. Some of the guys are trying to get buff by working out, but those Oreo cookies are just getting the better of them!

The Air Department continues the tradition of excellence in aircraft maintenance, keeping both of our helicopters fully operational. This is a direct result of the hard work and diligence that our maintenance personnel have put into these aircraft.

Congratulations to AZ2 (AW) Strickland and AN (AW) McDermott, who recently received their Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist pins, demonstrating their superior knowledge of Aviation Warfare. Furthermore,

three of our maintenance personnel were recently recognized by HSL-43 (our helicopter squadron) for their outstanding performance. All three awards for the third quarter of the 2004 fiscal year went to Detachment Three personnel onboard PREBLE. Congratulations to Senior Sailor of the Quarter AE1 (AW) King, Junior Sailor of the Quarter AD3 (AW) Alexander and Blue Jacket of the Quarter AN (AW) McDermott! Great job!

On a final note, the future holds many exciting challenges and opportunities. We were privileged to have ADM Vern Clark, the Chief of Naval Operations, give us insight into the future of the Navy and some highly positive words of encouragement about our current operations. Finally, we extend our thanks to all our loved ones and friends for all the support from home.

Operations Department

This past month has been packed with various activities. From a motivating visit by the Chief of Naval Operations and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy to a fantastic escape to Jebel Ali, USS PREBLE has not slowed our steady pace. Four months have gone by, and Operations Department is still going strong!

In the beginning of October, PREBLE pulled into Jebel Ali, U.A.E for a five-day visit. Crewmembers enjoyed Dubai, Wild Wadi Water Park and some of the tours offered to the surrounding areas. Dubai, an hour away from Jebel Ali, offered excellent shopping in the world renown gold souk, spice souk, electronics district and modern City Center. Surrounding hotels offered top quality food and drink. Many ventured to Dubai, however, Sailors who wanted to be outdoors flocked to the water park or signed up for the popular sunset safari tour. The Wild Wadi Water Park became a popular spot for relaxation and fun. Whether it be lounging in the inner tubes, slithering down slippery slides, or trying to hang ten in the wave pool, all who went raved about how much fun they had. Those who went on the sunset safari tour enjoyed four-wheel driving through sand dunes, camel rides, henna tattoo's, sand boarding and belly dancing. From shopping in Dubai to experiencing some outdoor excitement, PREBLE's crew rejuvenated itself with the relaxing time off.

On October 11, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vern Clark and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/AW) Terry Scott stopped for a visit aboard PREBLE. Both partook in the Enlisted Surface Warfare Pinning Ceremony, seeing the 100th qualifier, Operation's own SN (SW) Lillian Caulker, get pinned. Admiral Clark is married to PREBLE's sponsor, Mrs. Connie Clark. He relayed to the crew her greetings and also shared his opinions about the future of the Navy. His warm personality and charm captured everyone who was present on the foc'sle. He ended his visit by shaking hands and ensuring all Sailors received his personal coin.

Congratulations to the following for qualifying Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist: From OT: CTM1 (SW) Rose, CTO3 (SW) Hollinger, CTOSN (SW) Herzick, from IS: IT1 (SW) Holliday, from OI: OS2 (SW) Harris, from OD: BM2 (SW) Burton, SN (SW) Caulker, SN (SW) Garrett and PREBLE's sole "black cloud," AG3 (SW/AW) Hance. Excellent job everyone!!

Operations Department welcomes aboard BMC (SW) Corrales, SN Harding, SN Evans, SN Clements and SN Kornegay. It is great to have you aboard and all of us from Operations Department look forward to working with you!

When new people arrive, old shipmates move on. BMC (SW/SCW) O'Meara said goodbye to PREBLE, moving onto his next assignment onboard USS ODGEN. OS2 (SW) Levy and AA Craswell also move onto their prospective billets. You'll be missed!!

From the Operations Officer, LT Duane Lambert: Not a day goes by for me without realizing how much the Department has accomplished in such a short period of time. What used to take days to plan now takes a matter of hours or even minutes. Upon completion of some well-deserved liberty in Jebel Ali, we once again transited back to the Northern Arabian Gulf. This time around we conducted Maritime Interception, Helicopter, and Small Boat Operations simultaneously while continuing to protect the vital oil infrastructure in the area. Although difficult, no one complained about the job being too hard - each mission was executed and the Department prepared for the next. As we continue our trend of Operational Excellence, you all can be justifiably proud of your accomplishments to date.... for a minute. We must continue to focus on the present mission, ensuring we execute each task as safely and efficiently as possible. Keep up the great work!

From LT Erich Fassett, Signals Warfare Officer: OT Division has been churning along and I am very proud of all our warriors who have completed their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification during this deployment. Bravo Zulu to CTM1 (SW) Rose, IS1 (SW/AW) Brown, CTO1 (SW) Boulton, CTT2 (SW) Lesser, CTR2 (SW) Kruse, CTR2 (SW) Kurien, CTM3 (SW) Labotka, CTR3 (SW) Hood, CTO3 (SW) Hollinger and CTOSN (SW) Herzick for achieving this important and distinctive milestone! All the folks in OT have been doing a great job this whole deployment and have been very successful in their efforts to come together as one team in the wake of the Electronic Warfare Technician conversion to Cryptologic Technicians. I am proud of all of you and the skill you have displayed during the many challenges of this very demanding deployment period. On November 17th, I will have the honor of being the administering officer at CTT2 (SW) Lesser's reenlistment. I also want to say a big hello to all our OT Division kids out there...Shantelle, Jessica, Alyshia, Amber, Brianna, Justin Patrick, Matty Sloat, Michaela, Elizabeth, Nathan, Anthony, Alejandra and Johnnie. Your Dads and Moms love you tons, are missing you very much and can't wait to get home to you again.

From ENS Maile Yuen, Communications Officer: IS Division, formerly know as OC, has impressed me to no end during this deployment. Although small, every task is accomplished quickly, efficiently and correctly. They have done extremely well adapting to all the changes that come with being in the Arabian Gulf. All the personalities of IS mix to form a tight bond and we have many memorable stories. I am so proud of everyone who has qualified in watch standing positions within Radio and has achieved their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification. Every IT has made such a huge difference despite their tenuous schedules. Families and friends back home should be proud- your Sailor is truly skilled. IT2 Willis and IT2 (AW) Fox had birthdays in the month of October- Happy Birthday!

From LTJG George Messner, CIC Officer: The Operations Specialists of OI Division have continued to make PREBLE's maiden deployment a success. From tracking contacts on radar, to helping navigate the ship safely, to operating some of the most sophisticated equipment the Navy has to offer, we've been keeping busy! We welcome OS2 (SW) Cynthia Ellis and OS2 (SW) Heather Wixon and bid a fond farewell to two of our shipmates who left us recently: OS2 (SW) Leon Levy, who will be heading east to North Carolina as a recruiter, and AA James Craswell, who will depart for Aerographer's Mate school.

From ENS Eric Atienza, First Lieutenant: There were lots of moving parts during the month of October. As always, 1st Division was ready, willing, and able. Welcome aboard BMC (SW) Corrales (Mrs. Ruth Corrales, Jezrelle, and Wilson), SN Clements (Mr. Adrian Clements, Mackenzie and Melia), SN Evans, SN Harding, and SN Knowles aka Kornegay (Mr. Christopher Knowles) to the 1st Division Family and PREBLE Team. A month aboard and all of you have certainly shown your navy spirit and support! Happy Birthday to SN Sherman and SN Lenahan for September and I am proud to share my birthday month of October with BMC (SW) Corrales, SN Tobon, and SN Zuniga! During the first week of October, SN Dax was singled out as Food Service Attendant of the week! Great job. Congratulations to BM2 (SW) Burton, SN (SW) Caulker, SN (SW) Garrett, and SN (SW) Tobon. They have certainly proven their mettle and are among the newly qualified Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists. Keep charging! 1st Division boasts a written exam average of over 90% and all Boatswains' Mates are either ESWS qualified or board eligible. SN Peebles, SN Rozema, and SN Zuniga are all in the ESWS 90% club. They are ten percent away from taking their written exams and taking their ESWS walkthrough and board. SN Sherman just took her ESWS exam and the word on the deck plates is that she beat the CMC's score! Good job all! All of you back home have much to be proud of. 1st Division is the largest division onboard and we are certainly making things happen. HOO-YA 1st Division! "From Bow to Stern, 1st Division - Best Division."

Combat Systems Department

We're anticipating our return to San Diego but there's still two months to go. Thankfully we got a chance to break the monotony by visiting a great port, Jebel Ali. Another port, another currency, and another adventure!

PREBLE Sailors jumped at the chance to get some liberty time. ETC (SW/AW) Foré and other MWR representatives arranged for many outings and activities. The Sunset Safari Tour was definitely a highlight!

This tour really started when the driver stopped to gas up, drop the air in the tires and then looked at the dunes with a twinkle in his eye. Before we knew it, we were at a forty-degree angle while sand is spraying up the side of the vehicle and most every body is yelling at the top of their lungs. Quite the thrill ride!

Once we got to our destination we realized that the fun wasn't about to stop...it was time for camel rides, sand boarding, temporary henna style tattoos, and a chance to try on traditional Arabian outfits. As the sun began to hide behind the dunes, the enticing aroma of the Arabian food announced that it was time to begin a delicious dinner. The lights dimmed afterwards for the Belly Dancer's performance.

There was also the Wild Wadi water park, which allowed for adrenaline rushes or a relaxing day near a pool. It had everything from high-speed vertical slides, to simulated wave pools, to a slow moving inter tube rides. It was a great getaway for half a day. The other half could have been spent at the Dubai Mall. On top of all the shopping options, there was also a movie theatre, a bowling alley, and several restaurants, not to mention a Seaman Center, which was the last stop on the way back to the ship.

All this fun and there was still time to get all of our work done. CE01 continues to make improvements to their equipment. ET2 (SW) Reed is heading up the project of running cable for our VDDS (Video Data Distribution System) to ensure that the Engineers have a better picture of what's going on outside the ship from deep in the heart of the ship. ET3 Hecker is working diligently along his side to cut the time of installation.

CE02, now known as CSE1, greatly appreciates the service that is provided by the Desert Ducks, or supply Helicopters. Their deliveries not only allow the flow of supplies, mail, and food, but also the delivery of the equipment that we've ordered. ET1 (SW) Nelson and his crew, ET2 Herring, ET2 (SW) Sutherland, ET3 Vaughan and ET3 Pierce, continue to knock out any and all projects as the parts arrive. Many thanks go to the Desert Ducks...thanks to them CSE1's equipment remains ready for communication.

Preventative Maintenance and maintenance on the IMC circuit has kept CE03 busy. IC1 (SW) Steinbrugge, IC1 (SW) Henry, IC2 (SW) Painter, and ICFN Wyckoff have been working harder than ever to

keep up with their equipment. CE03's continued efforts with the Shipboard Information, Television, and Entertainment (SITE TV) continually improve crew morale.

The needs of the computer users are never ending. Something always needs to be installed, adjusted, moved, repaired, you name it...it happens. ET2 Robson maintained the work center while ET3 (SW) Eden spent 30 days helping out in the mess decks. ET3 (SW) Eden's return to the work center and division is more than welcome. Welcome back, "Metro"!

CE survived Division In The Spotlight (DITS) this month. In fact, we passed with flying colors. Our Division Officer, LTJG Flores, ensured our readiness for this annual inspection and scheduled our training. Additionally her efforts as the Ship's Educational Services Officer (ESO) guaranteed that Sailors could make progress towards a college degree. LTJG Mike Johnson, the Electronics Materials Officer, has been instrumental in the equipment readiness of CE division's equipment.

Another month of deployment has flown by in CF Division. We continue to make good things happen, pressing forward and ever improving ourselves and PREBLE's ability to project power and leadership among its coalition partners.

In addition to having fun in Jebel Ali like our friends in CE Division, CF Division also found time to dedicate its efforts in helping a local school. FC3 Correa and FC3 Cruz spent time with mentally and physically challenged school children, helping them to learn that Americans, especially Navy service members, were concerned and helpful. The experience was truly humbling and something that PREBLE will never forget.

Congratulations to the Navy on yet another Birthday, celebrated on October 13. A special ceremony with the youngest and oldest crewmembers onboard was conducted over cake cutting and ice cream. CF Division's oldest member is FC1 Freeman and it's youngest is ENS McBride. A special congratulation goes to FC1 Eric Morrow and FC3 Jennifer Bjorkman for qualifying as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists. Additionally, CF Division welcomes onboard its newest member and chief, FCC John Miller. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience and the division looks forward in having him enhance the PREBLE fire control team. CF division sends home its love to those back home; we will see you all soon!

Navigation Department

Congratulations to SM3 (SW) Knight and AG3 (SW/AW) Hance on qualifying Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists. This is a great achievement and will help you in your future naval careers. The Division is proud of your accomplishments and looks forward to sharing in your many successes to come.

Welcome aboard to QMSN Timothy Haydon! You are now part of the best division on the ship, the Fighting Quartermasters. Dividers are your sword; the compass, your shield. "Safe Navigation of the Ship" is now your battle cry. You have joined the ranks of an elite Navigation Team dedicated to the defense of the ship against shoal water and unmarked hazards to navigation. You have already shown yourself to be up to the challenge of this mighty task – continue to do so. We are very glad to have you.

The Weapons Department Warriors

As deployment continues, our daily tasks have become routine. From topside preservation on the missile deck, to cleaning quarters, to SCAT watches we are all kept busy in Weapons department. However, we are maintaining high morale and quality of work through every passing day.

Our recent port visit to Jebel Ali and Dubai was a nice break for the entire crew. Many members of Weapons, like STG3 Jessica Zacha and GM3 Michael Casavant took advantage of the water park and the shopping centers. CA division added a number of goods to the pile they started in Bahrain. FC1 (SW) Emmanuel Edu, GM1 (SW) Rod Bailey, STG2 (SW) Jessica Rygiel, GM2 Joshua Shrum and FC3 Karen Harper went on the Sunset Safari tour. The adventure included: a four hour off-road sand dune trek, sand-boarding down 40-foot dunes, a delicious Arabic buffet, and an interesting belly-dance. LTJG Reid McCoy showed off his belly dancing skills on the Safari to the delight of onlookers LT Nicole Shue, ENS Alyson Miller, ENS Joshua Lindsey, FCCS (SW) Chad Lunsford, GMC (SW) Joseph Langone, and STGC (SW) Joseph Stewart.

We picked up a new shipmate in Jebel Ali. GM1 (SW) Paul Rezendes joined CM division on October 3, 2004. He came to us from USS PRINCETON (CG-59) where he served as CO02 division Leading Petty Officer. This is GM1's fifth ship during his thirteen-year career in the Navy, and we are happy to welcome him.

Another addition to Weapons department is STGSA Zach Owens. He recently reported from MK116 Training School. CA is excited to add yet another fresh face to their exceptional team.

CG division is always busy with its members supporting SCAT, VBSS and boat ops. GM2 Armando Lizarraga contributes greatly to every evolution by providing the weapons and ammunition.

CG division also successfully completed their first Vertical Replenishment for small arms ammunition during an underway replenishment this month.

The Visit Boarding Search and Seizure teams completed seven boardings this month in conjunction with Maritime Interception Operations (MIO). During MIOs, the VBSS teams board ships in search of terrorists

and/or contraband onboard vessels transiting the Northern Arabian Gulf.

Many members of the Weapons and Supply Departments protect PREBLE as part of the Small Craft Assault Team (SCAT). Recently completing a successful "Killer Tomato" exercise, PREBLE was the second ship of four to take aim on the large balloon floating in the ocean. "That tomato was hurting when we got through," exclaimed GMC (SW) Joseph Langone.

Our Tomahawk team has been very busy. Challenging and exciting scenarios are conducted weekly to bi-weekly. These scenarios are essential practice for the Tomahawk technicians to show and improve their skills.

GMC (SW) Jonathon Herbin has taken over as departmental 3-M Coordinator. Organizing and planning of all departmental maintenance is routed through him for revision and supervision for smooth sailing.

Thanks to FC1 (SW) Emmanuel Edu for taking the reigns as CM division's Leading Petty Officer.

Happy Birthday to CA's STG2 (SW) (IUSS) Howard Maddox. He is the oldest member of the Mighty P's crew.

Thanks to CA Division Officer LTJG McCoy for his efforts as MWR officer. It helps CA division get involved in the morale-building activities such as Karaoke, Pie in the Eye Night, and Bingo.

Weapons department is excited for the arrival of their new Weapons Officer next month, LT Tallon. GMC (SW) Joseph Langone wants to wish LT Nicole Shue (WEPS) even more success as Combat Systems Officer.

And last, but definitely not least, congratulations to GM3 (SW) Morgan Beavers! Petty Officer Beavers is PREBLE's new Junior Sailor of the Quarter. He is CM02's Repair Parts Petty Officer, and a member of SCAT, VBSS, and Launch Control Unit teams. He also contributes as a Search and Rescue (SAR) swimmer.

Weapons department has a lot to look forward to in the upcoming months. We eagerly await the advancement exam results and the arrival of our new Weapons Officer. And of course, we join the entire ship in expectation and excitement for our return home.

Supply Department - Striving for and Achieving Excellence During Deployment

We're over two thirds of the way through the deployment and Supply Department continues their outstanding performance. PREBLE is in a very busy environment and faces many challenges. The Supply Department along with all of the PREBLE crew has answered this challenge with the "Warrior Spirit" – HOOYA!

October Supply Quick Facts

During October, PREBLE and her Supply Department

- Received and processed 100 pallets of stores
- Sold over \$12,000 worth of phone cards
- Processed over 1500 lbs of mail
- Drank over 540 gallons of milk

Supply Department has met and overcome many specific challenges in recent weeks. The intense efforts of the storekeepers ensured that all of the many parts needed for maintenance and repair were ordered and received expeditiously. These efforts were critical to ensuring PREBLE could maintain the highest level of readiness. In addition to parts and supplies, the Culinary Specialists on board have answered the challenge of the Meals on Keels mission. Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, remotely located Sailors and civilians have been receiving hot meals from PREBLE in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The entire department continues to contribute to the overall mission of PREBLE by not only doing their day-to-day tasks, but also taking on collateral duties such as flight deck duty, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) activities and Small Craft Attack Team (SCAT) watches.

S-1 Division (Supply Support) has done a great job keeping PREBLE's supplies stocked and ready for use. Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific Fleet recently recognized their efforts in achieving zero charges for off ship repairable items during the entire year. Outstanding! SK2 (SW) Scott earned his ESWS pin in the month of October. S-1 division is on its way to 100% ESWS qualified personnel. Congratulations to SKSN Valladares for earning the Junior Sailor of the Quarter. Well done! SK2 (SW) Sanford deserves a thank you for keeping the Air Department stocked with replacement parts. His efforts help make sure the helicopters are always ready for the mission. Last but not least for S-1 division, thank you to PC1 (SW) Avila. He has done an outstanding job coordinating the receipt and delivery of mail. Mail call on the ship is always anticipated and appreciated.

S-2 Division (Food Service) has been busy with many special meals in the last month. The Culinary Specialists supported Hispanic Heritage month with a great ethnic meal. Shipmates from every division pitched in and the crew loved it. Additionally, a special meal of shrimp and prime rib was made in honor the Navy's 229th birthday. A beautiful cake was made and served with ice cream for the crew to enjoy. Congratulations to CS3 Palafox for making Culinary Specialist of the Quarter. SN Dax, ET3 (SW) Eden, FC3 (SW) Mandeville were each selected as the FSA of the week during October. Great job! Please welcome aboard CSSN Rios. We're happy to have her with us. Finally, a special thanks to the FSAs that help make every meal possible.

S-3 Division (Sales and Service) continues to provide ships services including the ship's store, laundry, and vending machines. SH2 (SW) Gutierrez does a great

job of keeping morale high by stocking the vending machines with a smile on her face. A special thanks to SH2 Fitzpatrick (SW) and SHSN Starcevic, whose dedication to customer service has kept the crew looking sharp with clean and pressed uniforms. SHSN Celestin, SHSN Montesdeoca and SHSN Starcevic are hard at work studying for their ESWS pin. Good luck and thanks for your determination.

S-4 Division (Disbursing) would like to say fair winds and following seas to LTJG Dillon. Her relief, ENS Jacobs, arrived early in October. He has taken over as Division Officer over S-3 and S-4. Welcome aboard. Congratulations to DKSN (SW) Onyejiaka for completing his ESWS training. He received his pin from LTJG Dillon before she left earlier this month. DK3 (SW) Melanson was named Warrior of the Week in October. Keep up the good work.

PREBLE will be back home soon. Thank you for the continued support from the family and friends of PREBLE's crew. Much of our success depends on support from you!

Family Support News

From the Ombudsman

Hello Family and Friends of USS PREBLE!

Can you believe it is October already? The homecoming is just a couple of months away! I encourage you to stay involved in the Family Support Group activities and meetings. This is the best way to keep in the know about what is happening in regards to homecoming details. Remember, for safety and security reasons I cannot give any direct information over the phone or via email. Information will be freely discussed at the Family Support Group meetings.

As homecoming is approaching you might experience many mixed emotions and feelings. I too have found many questions arise concerning the reunion between my spouse and myself. After many months of separation, the feelings and emotions associated with homecoming can be overwhelming. With so many positive feelings surrounding the anticipated reunion, what is there to learn that could possibly make this event even better? Below is an excerpt from the Fleet and Family Support Centers website (from the Norfolk, VA location).

The experienced staff at the Fleet and Family Support Center has capitalized upon many homecoming experiences and offer a few observations and common questions that family members usually experience.

Anticipation of homecoming:

1. You may wonder whether your partner has changed over the long separation.

2. You now remember all those decisions you had to make on your own and whether they were the "right" ones - now with the benefit of hindsight.
3. Even though you really want him/her back, will you miss the freedom and independence that you enjoyed during the deployment?
4. Will the kids adjust easily to the other parent?
5. You've not done all the things you wanted to do over these many months.

If you can relate to the above-mentioned statements, know that you are not alone. Because of this we have decided to highlight these issues at our November Family Support Group meeting. For details on November's meeting check out our Ombudsman and FSG website at <http://ddg88-jrombuds.tripod.com>. The address must be entered exactly as previously stated to make sure that you are able to access the website.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement to your Sailor. I look forward to seeing you on the pier in the near future. As always, I am here to help you in any way that I can!

Sincerely,
Stacy Besserud

Resources Just For You!

Navy One Source: One stop shopping for support services!

Online: www.navyonesource.com
Phone: 1-800-540-4123

Life Lines Services Network

Online: www.lifelines.navy.mil.

Navy Knowledge Online

Online: www.nko.navy.mil

PREBLE Support – Points of Contact

Mrs. Stacy Besserud, Ombudsman
Mrs. Keziah Sanchez, Assistant Ombudsman
Cell Phone: 858-449-6534
Care Line: 1-866-PREBLE8
Online: <http://ddg88-jrombuds.tripod.com>

Command Master Chief Rick West
Email: cmc@preble.navy.mil
Public Affairs Officer / Newsletter Editor
LTJG Ben Baran
Email: pao@preble.navy.mil

Official USS PREBLE (DDG 88) Website

Online: www.preble.navy.mil

From the Family Support Group Coordinator

I would like to say thank you again to all our friends and family of USS PREBLE that have been attending our Family Support Group meetings and events.

October was great for the Family Support Group. At our October 14 meeting, we discussed our next meeting and upcoming events. For our 4th Month celebration on October 17th we went bowling! Now, I am not going to give the details of who ruled the lanes that day, but let's just say there was a bit of friendly competition. We all had a great time!

Our next meeting is scheduled to be on Thursday, November 4th at 6:00pm and will be held at the Fleet and Family Support Center, 32nd street (Bldg. 263, Classroom 3). We will be having a speaker at the next meeting to assist with homecoming transitions. The speaker will begin promptly at 6:00pm and be followed by a question and answer session. Details for the next month celebration will be sent out shortly. Don't forget for every FSG meeting or event you attend you get a free First Kiss Ticket. You can also obtain tickets for a donation of one dollar each. Email me for details.

Thanks again for your continued support, and I hope to see you at our next event. For more information on the events or meetings please contact me via email at Aklaa29@msn.com.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Robson

Shout Outs

Messages To And From The Homefront...

SKSN Valladares would like to shout out: "Happy Late Birthday to my awesome brother Ricardo, I love you and I keep you all in my prayers. Saludos to all my family. Thanks mom, dad & friends for your support through my hard times. Can't wait to be back, and let the games begin ;) HUGS."

GSM1 (SW) Diazdelcampo says, "To my wife Patricia & my son Adrian, I love you guys! I'm almost home. To my nephew Oscar, (Semper Fi) Get the Corona's ready! A special shout out to all my familia from El Chuco."

GSM2 (SW) Lewis says, "To Tamera, Takela, Tiyana, and Jerome Jr. I love you! I miss you, be home soon."

EN3 Dunigan says, "To Melissa and Ashton, I love you and miss you both. I'll be home soon!"

LTJG Ben Baran sends, "To Mom, Dad, and Elizabeth – this too shall pass. To Lindsay – time is ticking away!"

SH1 Sanchez sends, "Sweetheart, I love you and miss you very much, Michelle, Jeanette and Joyce. I'll be home soon."

From SH3 Davis, "Great job FSAs, keep up the good work. To my wife Maria, I love you."

From Ronnie, "The thought of you warms my heart; see you soon, Ronnie..."

ENS Jacobs sends, "To my family, I love you all and miss you very much."

STG2 (SW) Jessica Rygiel: "To Kristen, from Jessica and Jessica, Kim, Tracy, Amber, and Coley: The ladies of WA miss you and we can't wait to see you again when we get back!!! The circle is not complete without you!! To Katie, Renee, Julie, Meghan and Marisa: Get the goods ready and reserve a table at Fibber's. Tell the guys who wear the skirts and that Irish band to be there. Yes, it's premature, but if I think it will be there waiting for me I might not go into convulsions...I love and miss you guys!!! To my family: Mom and Christa, thank you as always for everything you write and send that keeps my spirits up. Dad, "peep-sheeze" will be home soon. I love you guys."

STGSN Coley Hill: "Once again, to my incredible family: I love you all SO much and can't wait to see you. Thanks for being yourselves. Until I see you again, stay..... interesting. Charlotte and Nana: Happy belated birthday. Nana, you are my heartbeats..... ALL of them. Your Highness: Te amo, y me haces falta. Cree' lo."

LTJG Reid McCoy: "Dear Katherine Anne - I love you. You're always on my mind..."

STG3 Jessica Zacha: "I would like to tell my grandma and grandpa Happy Anniversary, and I love them very much. Also, Happy Birthday to my grandma."

STG3 Kim Ditzel: "To everyone back home: I love and miss you all very much and can't wait to be back. There better be lots of snow; I don't think you are going to be able to get me off my snowboard this time. Mitchell: I can't wait to see you and take you ice-skating and sledding. To Amie and Duane: congrats on finding out you're having a baby boy. I can't wait to see everyone. Happy B-day to Mr. Newton on the 15th... I didn't forget about you. Happy B-day to Mrs. Newton, and a big Congrats for your 21st to Beth."

To STG3 Kim Ditzel - Happy 21st Birthday on Nov 1st. I guess it's becoming a family tradition to celebrate 21 birthday's at sea. First Mike now you. We will have a big celebration when you get home. We are proud of you. Love & Miss you much - Mom & Dad.

STG1 (SW) Patrick Connelly: "To my wife Beth: I hope you and Emma and Mitch are all feeling better; I think of you often and pray that you are well. We'll be home before you know it. All my love to you and Emma and Mitch. - Pat"

STG2 (SW) Jody Barnes: "To my wonderful wife: Thank you for all the support baby! I really appreciate it. I will be home soon to take care of you again. I really miss you! I am glad all is going fine. Tell Kaddy I said hi. You are my world Tiffane!"

STG2 (SW/IUSS) Howard Maddox says, "To Anne: I love and miss you, baby. I'll be home soon."

FCCS (SW) Chad Lunsford: "To Raegan, I LOVE YOU! See you soon."

FC1 (SW) Emmanuel Edu: "Hello to everyone back home. Miss you all and see you soon."

SN Youngblood would like to tell his girlfriend, "I love you and I'll be back soon."

CTR2 Kurien says to the "fam" back in New York, "I'll be back soon."

To Linda, "I love you!!! April 23rd is just around the corner hun!!!"

To Rosa from Sean, "Love you snookems, won't be long now!"

LTJG Shenk tells Keri, "Two cigars left!"

From BMC O'Meara to the crew of PREBLE: "Thank you all for making my time so easy and fun. OD stay focused, see you when you return. Stay safe and God's speed."

From BMC O'Meara to the CPO Mess: "You are my Mentors, Leaders and Friends. I will always remember the laughs we had and the time we shared."

AG3 (AW/SW) Hance (soon to be Wilhite) says, "To my honey bear, I will be home shortly. Can't wait to spend our first Christmas together. I love you with all my heart." To her Mom, "I am so proud of you. I miss you so much. I can't wait to share Christmas with our new family."

MAC Smith: "Hi sweetie, I love and miss you. Patrick, Daddy loves you and is so proud of you, keep up the good work. Angel, I love and believe in you. Hello to my family in NJ! God bless!"

QMC Conaway: "Elba, Sasha, and Christian miss you guys, can't wait to get back!"

ENS Sorg: "The Quartermasters are feverishly working on preps to bring us home safely and doing an outstanding job as usual. QM2 West leads this Herculean effort backed by QM3 Medina, QMSN Haydon, and, don't forget, OS2 Wilkinson down in CIC. I thank them for all their hard work thus far and ask them to keep it up as we inch ever eastward."

ENS Richard sends, "To my wife Desiree. I miss you and I love you very much. Root on the Pats for me and I'll be home soon. Love, Sean."

To PC1 Avila from his wife Cynthia, "Happy Birthday, we love you and miss you! Love Sindie, Alyssa, little Freddie, and December baby Avila."

Mailing List

The Commodore is edited by LTJG Ben Baran. Feel free to forward any suggestions or comments to him at pao@preble.navy.mil. Also send any address changes or to be taken off the mailing list.