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RALEIGH AND TORPOINT REAFFIRM CLOSE LINKS

Crowds of people were able to witness HMS Raleigh reaffirm its longstanding links with Torpoint over the weekend (Sunday 26 September).

Over 100 sailors marched through the streets of the Cornish town to exercise HMS Raleigh's right to the Freedom of Torpoint.

The parade was led by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Plymouth with the Fisher 21/11 entry forming the Guard of Honour. They are due to complete training this Friday (1 Oct). Other platoons taking part consisted of sailors undertaking the second phase of their training at Raleigh and members of the Ship's Company.

The parade took place at the invitation of the Mayor of Torpoint, Councillor Miss Rachel Evans BEM. Addressing the parade Cllr Evans said: "In 1997 HMS Raleigh was first granted the freedom to march through Torpoint with 'swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying', in recognition of the close social and economic link that had developed in the previous 57 years, since Raleigh was established. As I look before me today it is clear those links, now 81 years on are still there and I'm delighted to be able to stand here and thank Captain (Capt) Suzi Nielsen, the Commanding Officer of HMS Raleigh, and the men and women under her Command, not only for their service, but for their continued support and commitment to Torpoint."

To receive Freedom of entry to a town or city dates back to medieval times and was seen as a symbol of trust. It is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed upon a military unit

Responding to the Mayor, Capt Nielsen said: "After an unprecedented 18 months to see so many people here today is remarkable, and I'm delighted as the Commanding Officer of HMS Raleigh to see us reinvigorate this very special relationship that has been alive since Raleigh was built back in 1939. Thank you to you all for the support that you continue to afford my sailors and staff. The excellent relationship that we continue to forge is clear for everyone to see here today."

ENDS





