



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS REEVES (CG-24)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96677

IN REPLY REFER TO
5 October 1981

Dear REEVES Family,

As I write this family gram, REEVES is transiting back to Yokosuka, Japan, after a one month deployment during which REEVES conducted operations with the USS MIDWAY (CV-41) Battle Group in the Philippine Sea, South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, and visited Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, and Pattaya Beach, Thailand. At sea, training exercises and drills were conducted by the crew to maintain REEVES' readiness to carry out her mission. Both port visits provided the crew with a respite from the rigors at sea. As usual, we all are eager to return to our families and friends in Yokosuka, Japan.

During this deployment REEVES acted as Flag Ship for Captain P. J. Doerr, commander of the USS MIDWAY (CV-41) Battle Group. On 8 September 1981, REEVES had the privilege of a visit from Admiral Thomas B. Hayward, Chief of Naval Operations. During his visit he addressed the crew on the fantail and entertained questions from the crewmembers.

Since this is my first opportunity to address you as the Commanding Officer of REEVES, a few words of introduction are in order. I am a native San Diegan and the son of a Navy doctor. I attended public schools in San Diego and graduated from the Naval Academy in June 1961. After duty at sea I attended Stanford University for graduate studies in Electrical Engineering under U.S. Navy sponsorship. I have previously commanded a Pacific Fleet ship - USS MARVIN SHIELDS (FF-1066) - from June 1974 to June 1976. I reported to REEVES after duty in the Office of the Chief Of Naval Operations. I consider it a privilege and an honor to be commanding the "Only Cruiser in Town" and look forward to working with the proud professional men of REEVES. Captain Egerton was relieved on 29 August 1981 and has now assumed duties as Assistant Chief of Staff for Material (N-4) for Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. We wish him every continued success.

REEVES departed Yokosuka, Japan, on 2 September 1981 and after eight days of operations with the MIDWAY Battle Group, REEVES spent five days in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. While in Subic Bay, many opportunities were afforded the crew to have time off to enjoy the port visit.

Chaplain Paul Teske teamed up with the Reverend Len Dale of the Lutheran Christian Center of Olongapo City for a community project at the Kings PHILAM (Philippine-American) Orphanage Home, and to take a rural tour of the local hillside and visit the native Negrito people. MSCS Toms and a number of REEVES crewmembers spent a day applying a fresh coat of paint to the kitchen of the orphanage, playing with the children and enjoying fellowship with songs and refreshments donated by the ship. A day earlier, a hike was made into the rural hillsides where ET2 Paul Kiser, SH2 Ward Mcpherson, MMFN Dennis Orlikowski, RMSN Eddie Turner, LTJG Derk Johnson, and LT Paul Teske were able to get a little exercise, learn first hand how the original natives of the Philippines (the Negrito people) live, and to see the vocational schools and village where these traditional hunters and gatherers, who are finding it increasingly difficult to live on dwindling food sources, are taught skills and are introduced to the ways of conventional Philippino society.

REEVES departed Subic Bay on 15 September 1981 enroute to Pattaya Beach, Thailand. On 19 September 1981, REEVES rescued 79 Vietnamese refugees after their boat was sighted about 75 nautical miles southeast of Vietnam. The sharp-eyed lookouts who first sighted the small craft were LT Troy Caffey and SN Reuben Brown. Sixty-seven adults (including one pregnant woman) and twelve children were embarked. They had been out at sea three days cramped into their 40 foot boat, but were in good health overall. A makeshift tent was rigged on the fantail by LTJG Yoshihara's Deck Force led by BM1 Barnette. Medical needs were attended to by REEVES' Hospital Corpsmen, HM1 William Toelkes, HM2 Blanding, and SN Biggs. REEVES' Food Service Team prepared nutritious meals consisting of rice and soup for the refugees. The Ship's Store provided REEVES T-shirts, gym shorts and shower shoes as replacement clothing, and all crewmembers responded with characteristic REEVES hospitality. The refugees didn't sleep much that first night, for they were busy celebrating their freedom. The refugees were then transferred on 24 September 1981 to a refugee camp in Thailand to await further transfer to Singapore, and from there either to the U.S. or to join family members in other parts of the world. For this life saving act, the crew of REEVES has been recommended for the Humanitarian Service Medal by Commander Task Force SEVEN ZERO and Commander SEVENTH Fleet.

REEVES dropped anchor at Pattaya Beach, Thailand, on 21 September 1981 for five days of liberty. Most crewmembers remained in the rapidly evolving and increasingly popular seaside resort of Pattaya, while others branched out to Bangkok to sightsee, take advantage of good shopping bargains such as silk, tailoring, gems, and gold, and to experience the warmth of the Thai people. A good time was had by all.

A hearty welcome is extended to the following men who have joined the ship since the last REEVES Family Gram: FTMSA Elias Ringrose, MM1 John Garcia, GMMSN David Phlieger, BT3 David Arnold, MM1 Danilo Garduno, and YNSN Eric Wenzel. With these new personnel, plus the embarked Battle Group staff and cryptologic personnel, every bunk onboard is filled.

At an Awards Ceremony held on the fantail on 27 August 1981, many crewmembers were recognized, individually or as a group, for their outstanding performance and service in various capacities in which they serve onboard REEVES. Among them were the following:

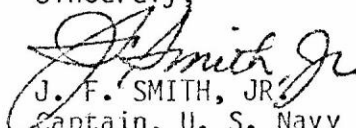
- Food Service Attendent of the Month for the months of May, June, July, and August were SN Delarosa, ICFN Roberts, MMFN Atkinson, and OSSN Knapp, respectively.
- RMCS Seals, FTMC Dawson, and EN2 Warner completed the Personnel Qualifications Standards for, and were designated as, Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists.
- A Letter of Appreciation was presented to HT1 Baker.
- The 1980 Fleet Athletic Competition Award was accepted by LTJG Yoshihara on behalf of REEVES' 1980 Flag Football Team.
- A Superior Academic Achievement Letter was presented to OS2 Kenny.
- A Student Professionalism Letter was accepted by LT Hickman on behalf of his Quartermasters.
- FTMC Bryant received his fourth Good Conduct Award, along with RM1 Waffle who received his fifth and GMM2 Verostek, his first.
- QMC Hand accepted Letters of Commendation on behalf of REEVES' Drug Education and Control Team.
- SK1 Battenhorst and SK3 Catacutan received Letters of Commendation from Commander Carrier Group One.
- Letters of Commendation and Appreciation were accepted by LCDR Patch,

LCDR Doyle, LCDR Sherry, and LT Daggett on behalf of many of their respective departmental personnel for their outstanding performance in various shipboard inspections.

A 1981 Cruise Book encompassing the people, places and events which made up REEVES' first full year as a permanently forward deployed cruiser in the Western Pacific homeported in Yokouka, Japan, is now being organized. Parents relatives and friends of REEVES crewmembers desiring a cruise book (scheduled for delivery in April 1982) should send \$15.00 to the USS REEVES Welfare and Recreation Fund not later than 31 December 1981.

By the time you read this REEVES Family Gram, we will be back home in Yokosuka again. We look forward to being reunited with our friends and loved ones. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,


J. F. SMITH, JR.
Captain, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer