



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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
1 November 1982

Dear REEVES Families:

I am writing to you from Dry Dock #5 which is located in Yokosuka, Japan. REEVES is now sitting high and dry as it starts Baseline Overhaul. Before I go on about the overhaul, I would like to share the events of October with you.

On 2 October REEVES, with the USS MIDWAY Battle Group, transited the Tsugaru Straits between the Japanese Islands of Honshu and Hokkaido and entered the Sea of Japan for continued joint battle group operations with the USS ENTERPRISE Battle Group. In the Sea of Japan, REEVES completed nearly two years of continuous association with Task Group 70.1, or Battle Group Alfa, consisting of Yokosuka-based ships and built around USS MIDWAY. REEVES has maintained an outstanding reputation with Commander Task Force 70 because of our professional performance as Anti-Air Warfare Commander with the Battle Group. You can be extra proud of your crewmember, for it is through his diligent effort and dedication that REEVES is able to maintain the high caliber performance for which we have become known. We were scheduled to detach on 5 October but were retained with the battle group an extra day because of our high state of operational readiness and excellent material condition coupled with the high tempo of operations. Upon our detachment, RADM T. F. BROWN III, COMCARGRU FIVE and Commander Task Force Seventy sent REEVES an inspiring message of congratulations and best wishes for a speedy return to the battle group.

On 7 October, REEVES moored to a buoy in Sasebo Harbor to off-load all its weapons in preparation for the overhaul. REEVES crewmembers conducted a safe and swift off-load which took only one and a half days, a truly superior demonstration of professional competence.

While in Sasebo, we were boarded by twenty male dependents who came down from Yokosuka to ride REEVES back to Yokosuka from Sasebo. The "Tiger Cruise" is a traditional event that most Navy ships enjoy when returning to the Continental United States from a major deployment. They aren't very common in West Pac. The following "Tigers" were aboard for the cruise: Thomas J. MILLS, James T. MILLS, Jerome F. SMITH III, Charles F. TUFFLI, Jason D. BLISS, Jeremy D. BLISS, Ronald E. TAYLOR, Aaron J. TAYLOR, Samuel D. SIMBULAN, Dave B. JUCO, Lance G. WAFFLE, Owen W. SEALS III, Brent A. SMITH, Casey T. HAMORY, Jason HARDY, Joshua M. LAY, Bo J. ROSS, Sean E. RAGAN, Eric M. HEASSLER, Zane Z. STRADER II, and Daniel L. LARSON.

A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Mary BARNETTE, REEVES' Ombudsman, who helped organize the Tiger Cruise on the Yokosuka end and to MSI Robert TAYLOR who flew back to Yokosuka in order to escort the Tigers by plane to Sasebo. Without their concerned efforts, the Tiger Cruise would not have been possible.

At the same time the Tigers were boarding REEVES, ten Women In Naval Service (WINS) also came aboard to ride REEVES back to Yokosuka. Female officers and sailors are not assigned to Navy combatants for duty, so this was an excellent opportunity for these women to experience shipboard life on a double-ended guided missile cruiser. While REEVES is in the dry dock, female officers attached to local shore-based commands are offered the opportunity to stand quarterdeck watch in order to provide shipboard training not afforded in their shore command. The

following WINS were aboard for the cruise: LT Amy M. STEVENS, ENS Anne S. JORDAN, ENS Lee H. CAMPBELL, ENS Corinne CYPRANOWSKI, ENS Gail A. EMOW, RM2 Charlene M. RITTNER, RM3 Letitia A. FRANCIS, RMSA Dawn M. HUSSEY, RMSA Milagros DIAZ, and RMSA Leslie A. JONES.

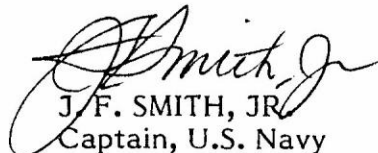
REEVES departed Sasebo on the afternoon of 9 October and headed north to Yokosuka. Our Tigers and the embarked women sailors were treated to a rough trip as REEVES encountered gale force winds and high seas prior to our arrival at Yokosuka on 11 October. This concluded a twenty-seven day underway period for REEVES. Families and friends were present to greet us as the lines went over the side. Mixed emotions filled the air, because for some, this was their last cruise. For others, it meant that husband or father would be home for awhile. Sailors are oriented toward the sea and a yard period strips away the opportunity to steam. The yard period is a necessary element of the ship's cycle of life during which it must be repaired and updated with new systems. REEVES had been pierside for only a few minutes when the first Ship Repair Facility workers came onboard and began overhaul preparations. Within a few days, the radars, missile launchers, fire-control radars, computers, and numerous other pieces of equipment had been removed from the ship. On 26 October REEVES, completely void of power, was pulled to Dry Dock #5 by tugs where she was positioned in exactly the correct place. The caisson (like a large gate) was placed in position at the entrance to the drydock, and the water was pumped out so that REEVES came to rest on the blocks where the ship will remain for eight months.

While undergoing preparation for the overhaul REEVES was honored with a visit on 19 October by Rear Admiral Harry C. SCHRADER, Jr. Commander Naval Surface Forces, Pacific Fleet. We provided him with a briefing of REEVES' operations over the past year and our major overhaul projects. The following day, 20 October, Rear Admiral D.P. ROANE, Commander Naval Surface Group, Western Pacific, came onboard REEVES for a tour and briefing. RADM ROANE has made several visits to REEVES and always makes a point to meet with various crewmembers. Both RADM SCHRADER and RADM ROANE commented on the excellent condition of REEVES which once again reflects the outstanding performance of the crew.

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" is extended to the following men who joined REEVES in October: FTM1 John S. JAROSZEWSKI, BM3 Anthony L. METZ, GMM2 Michael W. JOHNSON, MMC Jerry M. HARDIN, GMT2 Bobby J. BOYER, GMMSN George PILCH, ET2 Philip A. MOLTER, FR Harvey L. HATCHER, MMFA Noel A. MONTIFOLCA, MMFA Rizal F. ALVARADO, MMFA Jeffrey A. WAGNER, GMMSN Robert E. ZELENKA, SKSA Charles A. CHAMBERLAIN, SN David KENDRICK JR, SN Thomas RENDEL, SR Lary J. MITCHELL, SR Eric D. OLIVER, PNSR Dennis E. LALLY, FN Gordon J. ELDER JR, and ET2 Gregory M. OTT.

While in the yards, I plan to give you a monthly update of REEVES progress and of various events and happenings onboard. We may be high and dry, but we stay just as busy with training, planning and hard work. Keep your letters coming. The mail call is a special part of each day.

Sincerely,



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