



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS REEVES (CG-24)

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96677

IN REPLY REFER TO
1 January 1983

Dear REEVES Families:

Happy New Year! I am writing to inform you of REEVES' activities during the final month of 1982. The Baseline Overhaul (BOH) is progressing nicely. The weather has worked in our favor this past month by keeping the rain away and providing numerous days with plenty of sunshine and clear skies. The exterior gray surface of REEVES is slowly being transformed to yellow and orange primer paint as the entire "skin" (exterior) of the ship is chipped and sanded down to bare metal. The aluminum superstructure (most of the structure above the maindeck) is receiving a coat of yellow zinc chromate paint and the steel surfaces are being coated with red-lead (steel primer) paint which serves as a rust resistant undercoat. The entire steel hull will be sand-blasted during January and then coated with red-lead. By the end of this month, REEVES will be every color but traditional "Haze Gray." When the winter weather turns too cold and damp for outdoor work, the crew will concentrate its effort on the interior spaces. Slowly but surely, the entire ship will receive a new coat of paint both inside and out.

December is a month that is traditionally associated with giving, and REEVES started off by doing just that. The REEVES Harmonizers, a sixteen voice Gospel choir, travelled to the Japanese prison at Kurihama to give a concert to the inmates. Aside from the opportunity to bring a lot of joy to the inmates, the choir made a significant and positive impact on the Japanese personnel who operate the prison. The Harmonizers also sang at the Third Annual REEVES' Orphans Christmas Party on 21 December. This month they are scheduled to sing at the Fleet Activities Yokosuka Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service on 14 January and at the Naval Air Facilities Chapel in Atsugi on 30 January. The choir sings under the auspices of LT Paul TESKE, REEVES Chaplain, and consists of MS1 Robert TAYLOR (director), SHSA Ernest WHITE (piano), IC2 Curtiss KEY (guitar), HM2 Willie BLANDING, ET2 Philip JACKSON, EW2 William JACKSON, PC3 Michael HALL, DS3 Fred BUCKLEY, GMM2 Ronald BATISTE, RMSN Henry CHARLES, ETSN Michael BETTS, TMSA Richard SCOTT, RMSN Travis CLYBURN, SN Eric OLIVER, HTFN John STINER and SHSN Keith GAGE. Through their performances, these men give a dynamic testimony to their faith and reflect a positive image of the American Serviceman abroad.

REEVES crewmembers continued to give in December by reaching deep into their pockets to contribute over \$650.00 to be used to host the Third Annual REEVES' Orphans' Party in the Ship Repair Facility Party Room (located near the Dry Dock) on 21 December. The crew's donation plus \$200.00 allotted by Seventh Fleet Community Relations Funds provided the assets for a wonderful party for 54 orphans from the KOFU KODOMOEN which is located in Yokohama. Each child (2-17 age) received a nice gift which was presented by none other than Santa Claus himself (our very own GMMSN Shane GILBERT). The children were treated to ice cream layer cake, juice, music by the Harmonizers and the warmth and love of many crewmembers who were in attendance. The children gave, too, by singing several Christmas songs in English and Japanese for the crew. All in all, it was a wonderful party which captured the true Spirit of the Season.

Our sister ships, JMS TAKATSUKI and JMS ASAKAZE (two Japanese Self-Defense Force Destroyers homeported at the Japanese Naval Base in Yokosuka), presented REEVES with a traditional Japanese New Years' gift called KADOMATSU. This gift consists of three bamboo posts which signify the straight, unbending, ever-renewing Japanese spirit. The green pine boughs represent the family - always growing, yet flowing back to the central core or starting point. The two KADOMATSU stand on the after quarter deck where the brow comes aboard - the closest we can come to the Japanese custom of displaying them at the entry to their house. To understand these centuries old symbols is to

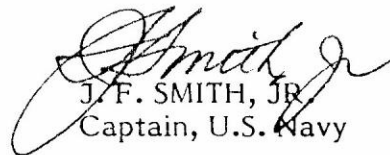
understand the Japanese heart and the tremendous importance of the family in Japanese life. Our sister ship crewmembers have allowed us to share in their culture, and we have truly enjoyed the beauty and meaning of the KADOMATSU.

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" is extended to the men who joined REEVES in December:

LT Chris KIBLER(Supply Officer)	BM2 Anthony COUTO	OS2 Lee COLLINS
MM3 Jeffrey GALE	QM3 Peter WHEAT	MM3 Brent KIRKLAND
OS3 Michael MCRAE	MM3 Elwood HAMILTON	FN James DOBBS
MMFN Ronald BARTHOLOMEW	MMFN Keith STROTHERS	QMSN Ronald RILEY
OSSA Richard SLUBAR	OSSA Richard STONE	OSSA Richard ANTEL
SA Sei HATHORN II	SR Bruce STOKELY	SR Danilo DOMINGO
FA Aaron WASHINGTON	SR Harold MAGNUSON	SR Wesley GARNETT
SMSR Doran SWARTWOOD	OSSR Michael MCLASEN	

Christmas is now behind us and we are looking ahead to 1983 with great optimism for a successful and productive year. The duty section on Christmas Day was treated to a turkey dinner, but it certainly does not replace the warmth of home. Your letters and cards are very important to each and everyone of us, so please keep them flowing. I hope that 1983 is a happy and prosperous year for each of you - and a great year for the USS REEVES as she emerges from this important overhaul.

Sincerely,



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