



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96677

9 August 1984

USS REEVES (CG-24) FAMILYGRAM

Dear Family and Friends,

When I last wrote, we were underway once again operating with the USS KITTY HAWK CARRIER BATTLE GROUP near Guam. After a few days with the KITTY HAWK we transferred to the USS ENTERPRISE CARRIER BATTLE GROUP, which was enroute to the Indian Ocean, and escorted her as far as the Philippines.

When we operate with a battle group, we conduct exercises almost around the clock that serve to maintain our preparedness in the three phases of warfare: Anti-surface, Anti-air, and Anti-submarine. For example, the carrier will launch 10 or 12 jets which will simulate hostile inbound aircraft. We track them with our radars and develop missile firing solutions that will effectively defend the battle group. Much teamwork and effort is demanded from the whole crew to maintain such intensive operations.

We had a break in operations for one day and were able to put on a "Steel Beach Picnic." On a clear, hot Saturday the MESS SPECIALISTS and FOOD SERVICE ATTENDANTS, headed by MSC ROBERT TAYLOR and MSI TEODORICO LIVERATO, set up the barbecue grills. The crew was soon enjoying fried chicken, "rollers" and "sliders" (hot dogs and hamburgers), some really excellent macaroni and potato salads, and plenty of ice cold sodas to wash it down. Tennis shoes and shorts became the unofficial "uniform of the day," and suntan lotion replaced shirts as the tension of being underway slowly eased.

Even under these relaxed conditions 1st DIVISION proved their worth when a personnel transfer by small boat was needed on short notice. The boat crew performed the evolution quickly and safely. They deserve a special BRAVO ZULU for the fine job.

We arrived in Manila on July 20th, and wasted no time getting into the "Liberty Mode." Manila was a unique experience for most of the crew. The capitol of the Philippines, it had something for everyone, from sightseeing to top notch restaurants and nightclubs. The nice thing about the Philippines is the low prices, and many crewmembers took advantage of the bargains.

Thanks to MR. and MRS. GUILLERMO S. PANGILINAN, parents of PERSONNELMAN GERRY PANGILINAN, several crewmembers got a taste of the real Philippines. Hosting a dinner for N/X DIVISION, they served everything from Lumpia (which is like eggrolls with beef) to king crab with plenty of locally brewed San Miguel beer to top it off. Nothing is appreciated more than local hospitality when we pull into foreign ports.

A July 21st workday at Hospicio De San Jose Orphanage in Manila provided us a chance to help those less fortunate than ourselves. As part of Project Handclasp, REEVES' crewmembers spent a much-appreciated day distributing 50lbs of rice, four bags of children's clothes, a case of toys, and a case of balloons. Arranged by CHAPLAIN JAMES MORGAN, the group included OPERATIONS SPECIALIST SEAMAN APPRENTICE CHRIS DEVINE, BOATSWAIN'S MATE THIRD TERRY HARRIS, GUNNER'S MATE MISSILES THIRD HARRY IRVIN, LT. KEITH REINSCHIEBER, FIRE CONTROL TECHNICIAN MISSILES CHIEF GILBERT SANCHEZ, and DATA SYSTEMS TECNICIAN THIRD JOHN PETERSON.

The orphanage is home to over 200 children from infants to high schoolers, as well as 17 retarded children and 90 indigent elderly. While it is very well kept, its resources are sorely taxed in the present economic climate, with a budget of just five pesos (U.S. 25 cents) per child per day for food. The REEVES visit was much appreciated, and many new friends were made.


We had a typical American picnic (with a real lawn!) on August 3rd in Yokosuka, and spent the afternoon enjoying the beautiful Japanese summer day. In softball, the Engineering department beat Weapons 9 to 6 and Operations beat the First Class Petty Officers 7 to 6. Some sailors played volleyball and horse shoes, while others just enjoyed the food, drink, and sunshine.

YEOMAN SECOND ERIC WENZEL had a nice treat when his mother, ANN M. STEINBURG, and aunt, RUTH E. CURTIS, came to visit Japan. After a tour of the local sights in Japan, they made a side trip to Hong Kong before returning home to Tampa, Fla.

We've gotten a whole lot of new people aboard this last month, and I'd like to take this opportunity to personally welcome them and their families to the Finest Cruiser In The Fleet: GMMSN JOSEPH LOPEZ JR., STGSR BRAD RISTER, STG1 WILLIAM WEBSTER, EW3 KIM McCANN, ICFA ROBERT JACUK, ET3 KEVIN MILLER, ET3 ROBERT STOUTD, IC3 RICHARD OBRIEN, OSSN THOMAS YAWN, OS2 MARVIN SANCHEZ, FTM3 KENNETH McMAHEN, SN CURTIS JONES, SKSA PAUL OPERA, SKSN DAVID BARR, QM3 RICHARD DUDEK, MS3 THOMAS ANDREWS, ENFR JOSEPH ZURENKO, STG3 JOHN KOENIG, and EM2 ANTHONY MANSFIELD.

As I write, we are pierside Yokosuka, completing a maintenance and upkeep period in preparation for getting underway. Although we will soon part with our families and friends, we look forward to casting off our lines and heading out of Tokyo Bay to meet our battle group commitments. After all, that's what the Navy is all about; "To go down to the sea in ships..."

Sincerely,

  
J. G. WEBER  
CAPTAIN, U.S. NAVY