



USS REEVES (CG-24) FAMILY-GRAM
1 January 1986

FROM THE CAPTAIN . . .

Dear REEVES Family,

Let me state up front how proud I am to join REEVES. During the short time I have been in command, the performance of the men in REEVES has been truly impressive. This high level of dedication to duty speaks well for the support you are providing on the home front, Well Done! Keep up the good work.

Along that line for our REEVES families in Japan, we are planning a briefing on the 7th of January to provide information that will be of benefit during REEVES's next 2½ months underway. I encourage you to attend.

A Ship's Party is scheduled for the 10th of January at the Club Alliance. I hope to see you there. REEVES's Welfare and Recreation Committee has invested a substantial amount of money and planning. It's your party, come and enjoy yourself!

Looking at REEVES's schedule, we are doing maintenance and upkeep over the holiday period in preparation for the next at sea period.

I know time in homeport is important to crew and families, since there has been much talk of operating tempo. Although I do not have any solid figures to give you, I believe REEVES will be in homeport more in '86 than in '85. Additionally, we should hear soon what the underway percentage will be.

In closing, my best to you and yours during this holiday period. You can take pride in the job your man is doing in the Pacific Fleet's Finest Cruiser, I know we are proud of you.

Sincerely,

G. C. CHAPPELL
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Chaplain Mark Tidd

Greetings to you in this Holiday Season! It's been a busy season for all of us, what with holiday preparations, ship's work, and preparations for the normal routine of getting underway. In spite of that, I hope you've been able to find the time somehow to reflect on what it is we're really celebrating in these holidays

Hanukkah was celebrated in the Jewish community 8-15 December this year. Hanukkah celebrates the Jews' victory over the Syrians 2,150 years ago. It's sometimes called "the Festival of Lights" because one candle is lighted each night and added to the Menorah (an eight-armed candle holder) to recall the time when the sacred lamp in the Temple of Jerusalem burned for eight days on one day's supply of sacred oil. The Jews' rebellion against the Syrians was the first fight for religious freedom--a freedom which our country's founders also fought to guarantee.

Advent is celebrated in most Christian churches for the four Sundays prior to, and in preparation for, the holiday of Christmas. During Advent services, one new candle is lighted each Sunday to symbolize some of the things celebrated during this season: faith, hope, love, joy. Advent prepares for both the birth (the "first advent" or "appearance") of Jesus Christ, whom Christians believe is their savior, and it prepares for the time when it is believed that he will somehow return (his "second advent").

Whatever your faith may be, this season offers many rich opportunities to rediscover its special significance as well as its unique resources for strength and spiritual growth.

May God richly bless you and your loved ones during this holiday season!

FROM THE MASTER CHIEF . . .

Mushi Mushi! I'm MACM Hof, the new Command Master Chief. I recently reported aboard from Naval District Washington, D.C. I'm married, with my wife and son currently stationed in Misawa.

The month is rapidly ending and the New Year approaching. On 10 January there will be a Ship's Party at the Club Alliance. It's really shaping up, with a reception, buffet dinner, and dancing. There will be door prizes such as dinners for two, gift certificates, and a weekend for two at the New Sanno Hotel with \$100.00 "mad money". I'm looking forward to meeting each of you there.

Til the next Family-Gram, I wish all of you--the REEVES Family--a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A WORD FROM THE OMBUDSMAN

My name is Linda Lay, and I'm a REEVES wife just like many of you. The term "Ombudsman" may be new to some of you because you haven't had need of one before now, or maybe you never knew exactly what it was that an ombudsman did. I'm here as a link between you and the ship. An ombudsman is your Command's representative when the ship is not in port.

Admiral Zumwalt initiated the Navy Family Ombudsman Program in 1970 as a means for military families to express their views to their unit's Commanding Officer and to Base Commanders. The program is designed to benefit the relationship between the Navy family and the Navy; the Ombudsman will not address problems between the Navy member and his command, nor between a wife and husband.

When you have a complaint or suggestion--maybe about the medical system, the Exchange, the Commissary, Child Care Center, etc.--it's best to do the following:

1. **DOCUMENTATION:** Note the date, time, place, names of personnel and write down an exact account of the episode leading to the problem.
2. **SELF RELIANCE:** State your grievance or suggestion to the manager of the department, supervisor, duty Chief or Officer, etc.; or call the "Hot Line" at the particular facility. Use their suggestion boxes.
3. **FAMILY OMBUDSMAN:** Report the situation to your Ombudsman (that's me) when you have a legitimate grievance or suggestion for which you have been unable to obtain satisfactory results.

Remember: I can't help you with a problem if I don't know about it!

There will be many situations you'll have to learn to handle as a Navy wife. Believe me, it does get easier over the years; not better, just easier. As military families, we have unique problems. When you're at an overseas duty station, you can't go to your family or best friend for help when your husband is on a cruise. You've got to make good friends here and help each other out. We're all going to have times when we need help, and it's a lot easier if we know there's somewhere to turn to.

Basically, what I'm saying is I'm here to help you if I can. If I don't have the answer, I'll refer you to someone who does.

I have had a few people ask me about a "Phone Tree". I'd like to set one up if there is enough interest in doing so. A Phone Tree is a means of notifying you when important information is passed to me from DAT or the Ship. It could be about approaching typhoons, contaminated food, demonstrations, or news of the Ship's arrival time. You wouldn't be contacted for any other reason. Your phone number will be given to nobody except the person assigned to call you. If you're interested, give me a call. My phone number is x4388.

I hope I've given you some useful information. If you have any questions, or would like to pass some information along to me, please do so.

--Linda Lay, USS REEVES Ombudsman, Telephone 4388

WE'RE GOING TO SEA AGAIN!

Maybe you've heard that saying: "Sailors are meant to be on ships, and ships are meant to be at sea." Well, our relatively long time at home is nearing an end, and we're getting ready to do what we're trained to do: go to sea.

For a few folks, this is the umpteenth cruise they've been through, and they feel like they pretty much know what to expect. For quite a number of people, this will be the first one--first time separated from each other and from their kids; and for single sailors as well as married it'll be the first time facing the prospect of living for days and weeks in a home that tends to rock a little.

Whether it's your first cruise or your fifteenth, there are lots of things to think about in preparing as a family for being separated for a few months. Things like making sure allotments are adequate . . . I.D. cards won't expire . . . the car is running fine (or as well as can be expected) . . . an appropriate power of attorney is on hand . . . bills get paid . . . the phone numbers of the ship's Ombudsman and the NAVSURFPAC Dependents Assistance Team are handy . . . and so on . . . and so on

How can you possibly remember to do everything you need to do before that big gray ship pulls out? We're enclosing an excellent article to help you prepare for some of the emotional ups and downs of deployment. It's called "Deployment: Survival of the Fittest," by Chaplain Susan Garment. We're also preparing for the cruise with--

What? A FAMILY PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEFING!

When? Tuesday, 7 January 1986, 0900-1200

Where? At the Fleet Theater

Children? If they're not in school, bring 'em along!

We'll be bringing together a number of experts and resource people who can help you find out how you can make your deployment go as smoothly as possible. Very important information will be passed on at this briefing, so be sure that both of you--husband and wife--are there. It will be a good chance to meet other people who can be real helpful while we're gone--Linda Lay, our Ombudsman; people from DAT and the Family Service Center; and others.

Don't miss out. If you need more info, call our Ombudsman, Linda Lay, at x4388; or have your husband contact Chaplain Tidd on the ship.

See you at the briefing!

KOBO COTTAGE KIDS VISIT REEVES

By LT Rob Raine

The sound of "little people" and the patter of excited feet filled the messdecks aboard USS REEVES Saturday, December 14. Fifty children from the Kobo Cottage Japanese Orphanage in Hayama were aboard to celebrate two annual traditions, Christmas and a Christmas Party on the "Only Cruiser in Town."

This year a new tradition was started. Individual sailors were paired up with children.

Sailors were signing up as far back as September when the ship was in Australia. That really made it a people-to-people program. The children ranged in age from two to 16 years old.

As the last lunch trays were being returned to the scullery, eight bells sounded over the General Announcing System.

"Santa Claus, Arriving," the OOD announced, as the "Jolly Old Elf" himself strolled up the brow.

Santa, played by Sonar Technician Third Class Keith Fisher, was welcomed aboard by REEVES Commanding Officer, Captain George C. Chappell.

Santa is known for the presents he brings and his visit to REEVES was no exception. Each child received a gift from their crewmember.

After Santa's bag ran out, the children and crewmembers sang carols. They sang Silent Night in Japanese and we sang it in English. We couldn't understand what the other was saying, but we knew what each other meant.

As with most good things, the end comes all too soon. The smiles on the Kobo Kids' faces made this end a little more fun.

"This really made the Christmas season for me," one REEVES sailor smiled as the children were leaving the ship.

Soon the only thing left on the mess decks was the crew's Christmas tree. But just because the party's over doesn't mean the fun has ended. Sailors are still smiling on the "Only Cruiser in Town."

REEVES'S KIDS MEET SANTA CLAUS!

After a week's respite, Santa was back aboard "The Only Cruiser in Town" on Saturday, 21 December. This time he met the children of our own REEVES families.

Lots of delicious cookies--provided by the All-REEVES Wives Club--greeted Santa. In fact, the aroma of the cookies seemed to attract a number of "older kids" as well . . . who just happened to be wearing uniforms!

Santa (STG3 Keith Fisher) heard Christmas wishes from children of all ages, and gave out stockings of Christmas candies to whet appetites for Christmas Day. There were also a few infants who asked Santa for things which only Santa could understand. And he's not telling what the Command Master Chief asked him for. Or maybe it should be what Santa asked the Master Chief for!

A WORD TO THE WIVES

You are invited to come to the ALL REEVES WIVES CLUB meeting on the second Monday of each month. The meetings are held on the third deck of the Community Center at 5:30 p.m. and usually last about an hour. Children are welcome or you may use the Child Care Center located in the same building. We go on tours, have parties, plan homecoming, etc. We really would like you to come join us next month. If you have any questions feel free to write Mrs. Fisher, DMS box 1771, FPO 98762 and I will answer as soon as I can.

Bytha Fisher
President, All-REEVES Wives Club