



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

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From: Commanding Officer, USS REEVES (CG-24)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C

Encl: (1) Command Organization
(2) Summary of Operations
(3) Narrative of Major Events

1. The ship's history for the period 01 January - 31 December 1981 is contained in enclosures (1), (2) and (3) and is submitted in accordance with reference (a).


J. H. SMITH, JR.

COMMAND ORGANIZATION OF USS REEVES (CG-24)

CAPT WYNNE A. STEVENS, JR.	MAY 64 - JUL 65
CAPT RALPH S. WENTWORTH, JR.	JUL 65 - AUG 66
CAPT GORDON R. HOPWOOD	AUG 66 - FEB 68
CAPT WILTON L. ATKINSON	FEB 68 - APR 69
CAPT WILLIAM S. MAYER	AUG 70 - MAY 72
CAPT LEE BAGGETT, JR.	MAY 72 - NOV 73
CAPT RICHARD K. FONTAINE	NOV 73 - JUN 75
CAPT JERRY A. DICKMAN	JUN 75 - APR 77
CAPT MING E. CHANG	APR 77 - JUN 79
CAPT JAMES W. EGERTON	JUN 79 - AUG 81
CAPT JEROME F. SMITH, JR.	AUG 81 - PRESENT

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

01 JAN - 04 JAN	INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (LEAVE AND UPKEEP)
05 JAN - 15 JAN	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE CHINHAE, KOREA (BRIEF STOP YOKOSUKA, 11 JAN)
16 JAN - 21 JAN	ANCHORED, CHINHAE, KOREA (DEFENSE NUCLEAR SURETY INSPECTION 16 - 17 JAN)
22 JAN - 25 JAN	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
26 JAN - 03 FEB	INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (UPKEEP) (SUPPLY MANAGEMENT INSPECTION 26 - 27 JAN)
04 FEB - 12 FEB	UNDERWAY, ESCORT USS MIDWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
13 FEB - 22 FEB	INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (UPKEEP) (UNDERWAY FOR OPRE 17 - 18 FEB)
23 FEB - 02 MAR	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP WITH USS MIDWAY BATTLE GROUP (USS KIRK, USS TOWERS)
03 MAR - 06 MAR	INPORT, SUBIC BAY, RP (UPKEEP)
07 MAR - 11 MAR	UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SINGAPORE (EXERCISE MERLION 81-2 WITH VARIOUS UNITS OF THE ROYAL SINGAPORE NAVY AND AIR FORCE)
12 MAR - 16 MAR	INPORT, SINGAPORE
17 MAR	DEPART FOR INDIAN OCEAN
18 MAR	NIGHT RESCUE OF 27 CREWMEMBERS FROM THE MS GOLDENROD FOLLOWING HER COLLISION WITH THE TANKER MS NICOLA PROSPERITY IN THE MALACCA STRAIT
22 MAR - 24 MAR	EXERCISE GONZO 81-2 (TG70.1 (MIDWAY BATTLE GROUP) AND TG70.9 (INDEPENDENCE BATTLE GROUP))
24 MAR - 26 MAR	ENROUTE, PERSIAN GULF (DETACH FROM TG70.1)
27 MAR - 10 APR	PERSIAN GULF RADAR PICKET SHIP (INCHOP TG70.8) (1 - 11 APR EMBARKED CTG70.8 - COMMIDEASTFOR)
11 APR - 12 APR	ENROUTE, ARABIAN SEA
13 APR	REJOIN MIDWAY BATTLE GROUP (COMMENCE TURNOVER WITH USS INDEPENDENCE BATTLE GROUP CRUISER, USS BAINBRIDGE)
14 APR - 18 APR	EXERCISE GONZO 81-3 (TG70.1 AND TG70.9)

Enclosure (2)

18 APR - 05 MAY ENROUTE, FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA (25 APR - MISSILE EXERCISE OFF DIEGO GARCIA) (4 - 5 MAY - EXERCISE BEACON SOUTH 81-2 WITH UNITS FROM THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVIES)

06 MAY - 10 MAY INPORT, FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

11 MAY - 24 MAY UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP (11 - 18 MAY - BEACON COMPASS WITH UNITS FROM THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVIES)

25 MAY - 30 MAY INPORT, SUBIC BAY, RP (UPKEEP)

31 MAY - 04 JUN UNDERWAY, ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN

05 JUN - 22 JUL INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (15 JUN - 22 JUL - PLANNED RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY)

23 JUL - 26 JUL UNDERWAY FOR SEA TRIALS

27 JUL - 05 AUG INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (UPKEEP) (27 JUL - DEPENDENTS CRUISE)

06 AUG - 12 AUG UNDERWAY WITH MIDWAY BATTLE GROUP

13 AUG - 01 SEP INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (UPKEEP) (25 AUG UNDERWAY FOR PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER) (29 AUG CHANGE OF COMMAND - CAPT JAMES W. EGERTON IS RELIEVED BY CAPT JEROME F. SMITH, JR.)

02 SEP - 09 SEP UNDERWAY, ENROUTE SUBIC BAY, RP

10 SEP - 14 SEP INPORT, SUBIC BAY, RP (COMDESRON-15 EMBARKED 11 SEP - 25 OCT)

15 SEP - 20 SEP UNDERWAY, ENROUTE PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND (18 SEP - RESCUE OF 79 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES)

21 SEP - 25 SEP ANCHORED, PATTAYA BEACH, THAILAND

26 SEP - 05 OCT UNDERWAY, ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (01 OCT - BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL - SUBIC BAY)

06 OCT - 28 OCT INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (14 - 28 OCT - PRE-OVERHAUL TESTING AND INSPECTION: 27 - 28 OCT - UNDERWAY PORTION)

29 OCT - 11 NOV UNDERWAY WITH MIDWAY BATTLE GROUP, ENROUTE PUSAN, KOREA (31 OCT - BRIEF STOP, YOKOSUKA) (3 NOV - MISSILE EXERCISE OFF OKINAWA) (6 NOV - BRIEF STOP FOR FUEL, BUCKNER BAY, OKINAWA) (COMDESRON-15 EMBARKED 29 OCT - 05 NOV)

Enclosure (2)

12 NOV - 16 NOV	INPORT, PUSAN, KOREA
17 NOV - 22 NOV	UNDERWAYMIDWAY BATTLE GROUP PRESENCE AND OPERATIONS IN THE SEA OF JAPAN, FOLLOWED BY TRANSIT TO YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
23 NOV - 02 DEC	INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (30 NOV - 02 DEC COMMAND INSPECTION) (COMDESRON-15 EMBARKED 23 NOV - 02 DEC)
03 DEC - 11 DEC	UNDERWAY, ESCORT USS MIDWAY, ENROUTE SASEBO, JAPAN
12 DEC - 19 DEC	INPORT, SASEBO, JAPAN
20 DEC - 22 DEC	UNDERWAY, KOREAN CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS, ENROUTE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN
23 DEC - 31 DEC	INPORT, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN (LEAVE AND UPKEEP)

NARRATIVE OF MAJOR EVENTS

USS REEVES (CG -24) commenced 1981 with continued preparations for three major inspections and an Indian Ocean Deployment. Having won the Battle Efficiency E for the competitive cycle of January 1979 through June of 1980, REEVES set her sights on a second consecutive award for the period ending in December 1981. Pride and professionalism were to mark every footstep. 5 January 1982 saw REEVES underway for a successful Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection in Chinhae, Korea. This inspection was followed by an equally successful Supply management Inspection upon arrival back in Yokosuka, Japan. The last in this group of three was an Operational Propulsion Plant Readiness Examination (OPPRE), which REEVES' Engineers passed with a mark of "satisfactory with no limiting discrepancies" or in other words, passed with flying colors. Immediately after her successful OPBRE, REEVES departed on a 102 day deployment to the Indian Ocean (in company with the USS MIDWAY Battle Group) - REEVES departed Yokosuka, Japan on 23 February enroute to Subic Bay, Philippines where she conducted final preparations for her deployment. REEVES participated in Exercise Merlion 81-2 with units of the Royal Singapore Navy and Air Force as she transited to the Beautiful City-State of Singapore and some well deserved liberty. Enroute to Singapore, REEVES assisted the USS MIDWAY in her efforts at rescuing the pilot and passengers of a downed helicopter belonging to a privately owned oil platform in the South China Sea. The night following her departure from Singapore, 18 March, REEVES successfully responded to the distress (SOS) signal being flashed from the MS GOLDENROD despite the inherent dangers of even normal navigation through the Malacca Strait. The GOLDENROD had suffered a collision with the tanker MS NICOLA PROSPERITY, and REEVES rescued the GOLDENROD's 27 crewmen. From 22 to 24 March, REEVES participated in Exercise Gonzo 81-2 which pitted the MIDWAY Battle Group against the INDEPENDENCE Battle Group. Immediately following, REEVES detached and proceeded to join forces with TG70.8 as Persian Gulf Cruiser and Radar Picket Ship. Utilizing her Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS) capabilities to share real time tactical data with Air Force and other naval units, REEVES spent two weeks supplying the big picture in this area of the world. Relieved by USS TOWERS on 11 April, another Link-capable (NTDS) Ship, REEVES departed the Persian Gulf to rejoin the MIDWAY Battle Group in the Arabian Sea. During her period of service in the Persian Gulf, REEVES was privileged to embark the Commander, Middle East Forces Rear Admiral R. W. Chewning. REEVES also participated in a USN/USAF Exchange program with personnel from the USAF ELF ONE command in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Rejoining the MIDWAY Battle Group in the Persian Gulf, REEVES participated in Exercise GONZO 81-3 which again exercised the MIDWAY Battle Group versus the INDEPENDENCE Battle Group. After having turned over her duties as Force Anti-Air Warfare Coordinator to the USS BAINBRIDGE, REEVES departed the Arabian Sea with the USS MIDWAY, to Australia. While enroute, REEVES weaponers fired a successful SM-1 Surface to Air missile exercise against drone targets. Prior to her arrival in Fremantle, Australia, REEVES participated in Exercise BEACON SOUTH 81-2 with units from the Royal Australian and Royal New Zealand Navies. A well deserved five days of liberty in ever popular Australia was followed by a transit to Subic Bay, Philippines. While enroute, REEVES participated in Exercise BEACON COMPASS, again with units from the Royal Australian and Royal New Zealand Navies. REEVES arrived in Subic Bay 25 May for six days of rest and material upkeep, and got underway 31 May on the final leg to her homeport of Yokosuka, Japan. Her arrival 5 June included bands, cheering and large numbers of tearful family reunions.

REEVES spent five weeks in a Planned Restricted Availability (15 June - 22 July) which allowed for maintenance and repair work normally not possible. Forward deployed units must always have an ability to get underway with short notice. Following the conclusion of this availability, REEVES got underway for a four day period of sea trials to test the repairs and improvements made to her engineering plant.

27 July was REEVES' dependent's cruise, a day eagerly awaited by families and friends of REEVES' crewmembers. A fun day was had by all as REEVES proud and professional crew

demonstrated their capabilities.

6 August saw REEVES once again underway with the USS MIDWAY and her battle group for seven days of local operations. This was followed by REEVES next inport period (13 August - 1 September) which entailed a Change of Command, 29 August. Captain James W. Egerton was relieved by Captain Jerome F. Smith, Jr. as REEVES Commanding Officer. "The Change of Command of a Naval ship is nearly unique in the world today: it is a transfer of total authority, responsibility and accountability from one individual to another."

Under new and very capable leadership, REEVES wasted no time in once again getting back into her usual busy operating tempo. 2 September, REEVES got underway for Subic Bay, Philippines, followed by a transit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand. Enroute to Thailand, REEVES rescued 79 Vietnamese refugees from their severely overcrowded boat off the coast of Vietnam. For this effort, the ship received the Humanitarian Service Medal. After an enjoyable five days anchored off Pattaya Beach, REEVES returned to Yokosuka, Japan for three weeks of upkeep and conduct of the Pre-Overhaul Tests and Inspection in preparation for the FY-83 Baseline Overhaul. On 29 October, REEVES got underway with the MIDWAY Battle Group for local operations and a transit to Pusan, Korea. During her underway period, REEVES successfully fired three Terrier SM-1 Surface to Air missiles off the island of Okinawa and scored hits with all three against evasive drone targets. REEVES spent five days in Pusan before returning to Yokosuka to make final preparations for her last inspection of the competitive cycle, the Command Inspection.

The Command Inspection is a comprehensive inspection of a ship's overall administrative and material readiness, and was concluded with a personnel inspection conducted by REEVES' immediate administrative superior: Commander, Naval Surface Group, Western Pacific.

Leaving little time to celebrate a successful command inspection, REEVES got underway the next day and escorted the USS MIDWAY on her transit to Sasebo, Japan. Following an eight day stay in Sasebo, REEVES got underway for Contingency Operations off Korea, facing REEVES with a delay in her expected arrival for home for the holidays. Everything worked out well, for in Yokosuka, happy families already filled with the gladness of the season felt even more thankful for the early 23 December Christmas gift of the return of the men of the REEVES. A joyous holiday season ensued as REEVES crew, proud of their accomplishments in 1981, looked forward to yet another year as "The Only Cruiser in Town."