



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

IN REPLY REFER TO
4 March 1982

Dear REEVES Family:

Greetings from South Korea! As I write this letter to you, REEVES is pierside at the Korean Naval Base in Chinhae. February may be the shortest month in the year, but it makes no difference as far as REEVES' operations goes. We have been busy again.

The first fourteen days of February included our underway material inspection and the extensive opening and inspecting of machinery and equipment. In order for REEVES to maintain a high level of readiness, it is necessary to have all systems checked and rechecked on a regular basis. This is accomplished primarily by REEVES' crewmembers, with outstanding assistance from Yokosuka's Ship Repair Facility.

While in Yokosuka, a second group of Reserve Personnel assigned to the USS REEVES Reserve Unit in Minneapolis, Minnesota, joined the ship for their annual two weeks of active duty training. As I have stated, they play a significant role in REEVES readiness, and would in time of national emergency stand ready and able to support the ship by providing REEVES with full manning and valuable experience. The reservists were able to spend four of their fourteen days underway before returning to a cold and snowy Minnesota.

An Awards Ceremony was held in the Enlisted Dining Facility on 12 February to recognize many crewmembers for their outstanding performance and service in various capacities onboard REEVES. The ceremony was broadcast live to the crewmembers who could not crowd into the Dining Facility using our closed circuit Television System. The crewmembers recognized included:

- Food Service Attendant of the Month for September, October, November, December, January, and February were: SN Anthony MINTON, MMFN Raymond LOPEZ, BTFR Scott JENO, SR David HENDRICKSON, RMSA Robert RIDGEWAY, and SN Tony BIGGS.

- FTM2 James NEEL and OS2 Scott LOCKE received Letters of Commendation. They had been nominated by USS REEVES to COMNAVSURFGRU WESTPAC as Sailor of the Quarter for the Group.

- MS1 Robert TAYLOR was selected as "Sailor of the Quarter" for the third quarter of 1981 and SH2 Ward MCPHERSON was selected for the first quarter, 1982 (fiscal year of course) and each received a Letter of Commendation.

- MS1 Rodrigo DEJESUS received a Letter of Completion from Regent's External Degree Program for completing the academic requirements for an Associate's Degree from the State of New York.

- FTM2 John PYNE received a Letter of Appreciation from the Commanding Officer of the Navy Recruiting District, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for assistance in the Hometown Recruiting Program.

- EM1 Gerald BELLOWS received his Second Good Conduct Award and SM2 Jace Herrod received his first.

- The following individuals received Navy Achievement Medals: SN Tony BIGGS, MSSN Howard SMITH, BT3 Jay VILLALVA, OS1 John DUFFY, MA1 Zane STRADER, and CWO2 Joseph CONOLLY for their individual activities during the rescue and subsequent treatment and transfer of the Vietnamese refugees encountered in September 1982.

- Finally all the crewmembers of USS REEVES who participated in the September, 1981, rescue of 79 Vietnamese refugees were awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal.

USS REEVES has four hundred hard-working, dedicated crewmembers; and it is always a pleasure for me to single out those men who have given more than that which was required when the need arose.

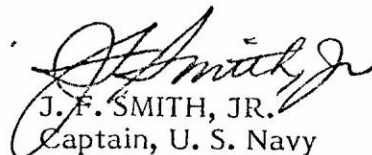
Following the inport period REEVES steamed out of Yokosuka on 15 February for four days of operations including intensive emergency Casualty Control drills conducted by our own Engineering Casualty Control Training Team: CWO2 Joseph CONOLLY, MMC Keith SEWARD, MM3 Michael ATKINSON, MM1 John GARCIA, EM1 Gerald BELLOWS, BTC Thomas SOWELL, BT2 Timothy MORAN, BT1 Dennis KUMM, and BT2 Mark DUMSTORFF. REEVES' engineers conducted intense engineering drills in preparation for the ship's upcoming Operational Propulsion Plant Examination, which is given annually to ensure that REEVES' engineering personnel and systems are performing at the highest level. The ship returned to Yokosuka for three days rest and then steamed around the southern Island of Japan (Kyushu) to Chinhae, South Korea, where we are presently moored. Chinhae is the homeport for the Republic of Korea Navy and their Naval Academy. The base is located on the southeast coast of South Korea approximately forty kilometers from Pusan. The town of Chinhae has about 120,000 people and is famous for its Cherry Blossoms in early April each year.

The second day in Korea, Chaplain Teske, accompanied by the following crewmembers: RP2 Ronnie LAMKIN, JO3 Richard MARTIN, DS3 Fred BUCKLEY, MS1 Robert TAYLOR, SN Joseph LAGATTUTA, SK1 Victor HARINA, SK2 Rodrigo CATACUTAN, GMM2 David DESCOTEAUX, EW3 William JACKSON, DS2 Joel MARSAN, FN John STINER, RMSN Vevakieanand MOSAPHIR, and MS1 Teodoro SIMBULAN, left Chinhae for a two hour bus ride to the Our Home Orphanage located in Pusan. The crewmembers painted three buildings and distributed clothes, toys, linens, food, and good will. They also presented the director of the orphanage with a gift of four hundred dollars. The people-to-people projects have become an integral part of REEVES port visits. They play a significant role, not only filling an important need in these foreign communities, but also in bolstering an often maligned image of the American Sailor abroad.

We also extend a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to the following men who joined the REEVES in February: OSSN Charles IPPOLITO, FR Ronnie CRANE, OSSR Robert STAHL, OSSR William MCADAM, FR David SINGER, HM1 Fred CATCOTT, OSSR Christopher FREEMAN, MS1 Teodoro SIMBULAN, BM3 Kevin LUTZ, MM2 Jose BASILIO, BT2 Authur WALDREP, MS2 Warren POWELL, and MRI Douglas SHANNON.

By the time you read this Familygram, we will be steaming once again. A busy period of operations at sea lies ahead of us. We anticipate only a few brief periods in our homeport prior to returning in September to commence a fifteen month overhaul. We look forward to your letters, so please continue to write. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and thoughts.

Sincerely,


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