



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS REEVES (CG-24)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96077

IN REPLY REFER TO
1 April 1982

Dear REEVES Family:

As I write this Familygram to you, REEVES is steaming with the MIDWAY Battle Group in the Sea of Japan. REEVES is participating in exercise Team Spirit, a combined/joint operation involving Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine units from the United States of America and the Republic of Korea (ROK). Team Spirit 1982 has approximately 100,000 ROK, and 57,600 U.S. military personnel participating. The purpose of Team Spirit 1982 is to exercise ROK/US Commanders, staffs and forces in the planning, execution and evaluation of combined/joint air, sea and ground operations for defense of the Republic of Korea.

REEVES concluded the annual weapons handling and training evaluation on 3 March. Under the leadership of the Weapons Department Head, LCDR Kevin SHERRY, and with the concentrated, diligent effort of both Weapons personnel and the entire ship's crew, REEVES was rated "Excellent" in the evaluation. This training evaluation was conducted in preparation for a near term Weapons handling and training inspection. It involves checking our capability to transfer, store and prepare ammunition for employment. To do this safely means considerable fire fighting and damage control preparedness plus security guard force demonstrated competence. Naturally, detailed record and file checks are conducted as well. A readiness posture is very important to REEVES' overall mission, and I can assure you that REEVES' crewmembers totally understand and support this premise.

REEVES departed Chinhae, Republic of Korea, on 4 March and steamed south, then east to Yokosuka. We arrived home on 6 March and spent a quick weekend with friends and families. Then 9 March, REEVES said farewell and departed Yokosuka with the MIDWAY Battle Group for 12 days of refresher training operations in the Pacific Ocean (just south of Japan). Following this operational period, REEVES steamed southwest toward Japan's Island of Kyushu for a port visit to Sasebo.


Sasebo is a lovely city located eighty kilometers north of Nagasaki. The area is famous for Imari (hand painted glassware) and quality Japanese china. Several REEVES' wives came down from Yokosuka by train to visit with their husbands and to shop (naturally). Once again, REEVES' crewmembers demonstrated their outstanding ability to represent our country with dignity anywhere in the world.

After a relaxing but short two-day visit to Sasebo, REEVES once again departed with the MIDWAY Battle Group. After an at sea ammunition transfer with the USS HALEAKALA, we headed north to the Sea of Japan and Team Spirit 1982. Our participation in this major exercise has been an excellent test of our combat readiness and a golden opportunity for training junior personnel. Of particular note this month, is the tremendous job done by REEVES' radio gang. While under around the clock pressure to maintain numerous voice circuits and respond to changing simulated wartime requirements, they have handled a tremendous volume of teletype message traffic. This superb job has been a team effort by everyone assigned to radio, in particular RMCS Owen SEALS, RMC Garry WAFFLE, RM1 Bradley GABLER, and the Radio gang: RM2 David WILSON, RM2 Robert DAVIDSON, RM2 Dorin MATNEY, RM2 Michael CALLOWAY, RM3 Boyd MARTIN, RM3 Thomas VOGENTZ, RMSN Travis CLYBURN, RMSN Steven COHEN, RMSN Robert RIDGEWAY, and RMSN Eddie TURNER. The team that has kept the equipment operating consists of ET1 Bryan HAGEBUSCH, ET2 Steven MEADE, ET2 Guy HUDSON, ET3 Philip JACKSON, ET3 Stephen MIKUSEK, ET3 Kevin IRLA, and ET3 Terrance ANDRADA.

We extend a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to the following men who joined the REEVES in March: OSSR Alford HARP, FN Robert BALLEW, FA Randall GONSLAVE, ETSN Mark WILLIAMS, SHSN Tim FARLEY, ENS Raoul BRUCE (new Engineering Admin Officer), and ENS Kenneth SPIRO (new First Lieutenant).

Each of us carry with us warm thoughts of home and look forward to the time when we are reunited. In the meantime, continue to support us with your letters and prayers. I trust that you will have a Happy Easter or a Blessed Passover.

Sincerely,



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