

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS REEVES (CG-24)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96677

IN REPLY REFER TO
02 May 1983

Dear REEVES Families:

Greetings from the Far East! The Cherry Blossoms have come and gone leaving behind warm days and, for the most part, sunny skies. April was a full and productive month for REEVES.

On 26 April REEVES achieved a major milestone toward overhaul completion. At 0930 the flooding valves of the caisson (large gate) to dry dock #5 were opened and, at approximately 1337 hours (six months and one day after entering dry dock), REEVES floated. I can assure you that the entire crew, having labored long and hard, were exuberant. Every single crewmember has played a significant role in bringing REEVES this far and you can be proud of your crewmember for his contribution.

One group of men from the Engineering department made a particularly significant contribution to the successful undocking of REEVES. This was the gang in the Valve Shop consisting of ENS Rowley MOLINA (Shop Supervisor), BT1 Augustine MENDOZA, MM1 Gregory SHUGART, BT2 Don STALEY, BT2 Dennis HELMERS, MM3 Raymond LOPEZ, BT3 Wesley HILL, MMFN Dennis ORLIKOWSKI and MMFN Ronald BARTHOLOMEW. During the first six months of the overhaul, this shop performed maintenance, preservation, repair and overhaul on over two-thousand of the ship's forty-five hundred valves. At times they were called to work day and night to ensure valve readiness for the undocking. They not only completed the task, but they finished ahead of schedule; and following the undocking engineering check, none of the two-thousand valves which they overhauled leaked. This is another fine example of REEVES' crewmembers making pride and professionalism a part of their daily routine.

On 2 May REEVES was moved via tugs and pusher-boats to pier six where it will remain for several more months while the check-out and testing portions of the overhaul are accomplished. "The Only Cruiser in Town" still has scaffolding up on the masts, but at least we are haze gray again and not yellow and orange.

On 6 April, RADM Peter M. HEKMAN, Commander Surface Combatant Force Seventh Fleet (CTF-75), toured REEVES and was briefed on the ship's overhaul status. RADM HEKMAN, who has extensive engineering experience, stated that REEVES was making remarkable progress. This should be attributed to the fine leadership on the deck plates and the hard work of the entire crew. REEVES' outstanding reputation is a reflection of your crewmembers commitment to the Navy, and I hope it is a source of pride for all our families as well.

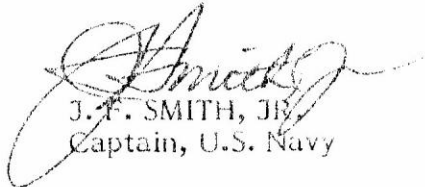
On 10 April the Yokosuka Navy Base hosted a Cherry Blossom Festival. Aside from the carnival style games and snack bars, an area wide softball tournament was held. REEVES entered two teams in the event and both teams made it to the semi-finals where they were barely defeated. Both REEVES' teams are in the Yokosuka Navy Base League and have a twenty game season scheduled for this summer. REEVES' "A" team consists of GMM1 James GUTIERREZ (Coach), GMSN John MASON, ET3 Russell COLETTI, DS3 Greg THIELEN, OSSN John ROPPA, MMFN Jeffery WALKER, EWC Dennis SAUNDERS, PTMC John EBEY, BT3 LAMONICA, MMFN Bert GREANEY, MMFN Guadalupe ALDRICHETTI, FTMI John JAROSZEWSKI, BTFN William CLINK, SN Roger DRAKE, OS3 Carter FRANCIS and OSSN Richard SLUBAR. REEVES' "B" team consists of QM1 Rick CONWAY (Coach), BT1 Augustine MENDOZA (Coach), LT Paul TESKE, GMA1 Marty VEROSTEK, FTMI George POOLE, SHSN Keith GAGE, ICFN Kenneth FIOLA, ET3 Randall SANDOVAL, RMSN Enoch SAVIOR, STG2 Paul CHISM, PN2 Rusty BOMGARNER, BT3 Michael ROCK and PNSA

Dennis LALLY (Manager). Physical fitness is a high priority item in the Navy and REEVES' athletic programs are an important aspect of this training.

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" is extended to the men who joined REEVES in April: LT Pedro RAVAGO, MM1 Aubry CLARK, FTM2 James BARTON, MM2 Michael EVERETT, SM2 Richard MOORE, ET3 Russell COLETTI, and OSSA Michael SWENEY.

I hope that this familygram finds you healthy and in good spirits. Keep your letters and calls coming.

Sincerely,



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