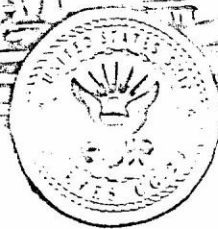


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY



RPO SAN FRANCISCO 33071

USS REEVES (CG-24)

FAMILYGAM

March 10, 1984

Dear REEVES Families and Friends,

ALOHA FROM HAWAII! Now we know why these islands are so revered stateside. Warm waters, lush greenery, and a most agreeable climate awaited REEVES and her crew. However, it has been anything but a vacation for "The Only Cruiser in Town."

The day following my last letter to you, January 23, 1984, we set sail away from record snowstorms in Japan and straight into heavy seas. Eventually we turned south to clear the heavy weather. The 10-day transit smoothed out in the fifth day, settling both stomachs and loose gear.

During the transit, all departments prepared for what has turned out to be our most demanding schedule since pre-overhaul times. Awaiting us was a Combat Systems Qualification Test (CSSQT) and Weapons System Acceptance Test (WSAT), involving both the Weapons and Operations Departments. During the transit, the Engineering Department prepared for the Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) and Refresher Training (REFTRA). This preparation included plenty of casualty control drills, or simulations of propulsion plant casualties that could cripple the movement of the ship. These drills were constantly practiced, and the payoff has been automatic response during real casualties.

Hardly had we arrived in Pearl, greeted warmly by our host ship, USS WORDEN (CG-18), with a huge lei fastened to REEVES' bow, when examiners stepped aboard to begin CSSQT and WSAT. All electronics equipment having anything to do with our combat systems was checked for correct installation and tested for accurate readings in the week-long examination.

With a "thumbs up" from these experts, we again headed to sea, this time to actually fire our missiles -- 14 of them. CSSQT is the first time after overhaul that combat systems equipment and personnel get an exhaustive check-out and training. During WSAT, we also fired two anti-submarine rockets and two torpedoes -- a tremendous opportunity to participate in the actual operation of everything the ship was designed to do. We exercised both our anti-air and anti-submarine warfare capabilities on the Pacific Missile Range Facility off the island of Kauai.

On February 27 we ferried the examiners ashore by launch to Port Allen on Kauai and headed back to sea for "COMPUTEX 84-3," and an Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise involving several ships from Pearl Harbor, plus JDS TAKASHIO, a Japanese submarine. The pace was rigorous during this 4 day, 24-hour-per-day, exercise. Now it was time for the Operations Department to shine, as Operations

Specialists, Electronic Warfare Specialists, and Radiomen backed up by Electronics Technicians, and Data Systems Technicians, combined to "defeat the threat." REEVES simultaneously participated in "Cope Canine," a combined services exercise, during the final day-and-a-half of COMPTUEX.

It would be impossible to thank each member of the crew in this letter, but I can tell you without hesitation that every crewmember did very well during the qualifications trials and especially during the exercises. We received high marks in virtually everything we did, and your crewmember, with his dedication and pride, is the reason why. You can be proud. I know I am.

After a stopover at the Naval Magazine near the entrance to Pearl Harbor to offload weapons, we headed to the "deperming" pier a short distance away. Electrical cables were wrapped around the ship, from bow to stern. When current (a lot of current) was applied, REEVES' magnetic signature was changed.

While "deperming" the ship's Supply Department took its turn at excelling in the preparation of a superb barbecue. It was time for all hands to relax, as Mess Specialists prepared hamburgers, hot dogs, cold potato salad, baked beans, chili, and condiments, plus lots of cold soft drinks to wash it all down. Horseshoe pitching, volleys, frisbee tossing, or just basking in the warm sun was the afternoon's entertainment.

The storekeepers of the Supply Department have also been extremely busy ordering, receiving, and issuing parts. The urgent material requirements and late night break-outs of material have caused a lot of lost sleep, but the operational status of the ship is reflective of their efforts and the time they have put forth. The trip back to Yokosuka will be a welcome relief and will enable the storekeepers to catch up on their work and be ready to see family and friends upon arrival.

#### REEVES has a new way to communicate with our families back in Yokosuka

Two way video communications are here thanks to JOSN Dale SNOWBERGER and RPSA Richard BROWNER. Beginning with an underway fueling replenishment at sea on February 1, these two intrepid sailors video taped a variety of onboard services and operations to show the folks back in Yokosuka what the ship was doing. They wrapped up the tape with twenty personal interviews. It was shown in Yokosuka at a potluck dinner organized by the All Wives Club on February 20.

Through a cooperative effort involving Yokosuka's Chapel of Hope, Family Service Center, and the USS MIDWAY Dependents Assistant Team, a return video tape was made while the potluck was in progress. The tape from the families included singing, breaking a pinata, and personal messages that often included the words "Hi, hon'. I miss you. I love you. Hurry home!" That tape was shown on board the day after we again pulled into Pearl Harbor, upon completion of our highly successful missile shoot, anti-submarine, and air-defense exercises.

All hands were extremely pleased with the effort. Future deployments will include "Video Grams", using this exciting new means of communications with our families.

I congratulate the following crewmembers who were singled out at an awards ceremony February 9 at Pearl Harbor:

\* Sailor of the Quarter letters and plaques to STG2 John A. HOWELL and SHSN Keith GAGE.

\* The Navy Achievement Medal to MM1 John J. GARCIA.

\* Good Conduct Awards to FTML Ruy B. HEIM (second award), GM1 Richard WALLEY (medal), and ET2 Jerry HUNT (medal).

\* Letter of Commendation to SK1 Chris S. DAYRIT.

\* Food Service Attendant of the Month to SR Ramon R. AYALA (Wardroom, December), JOSH Dale R. SNOWBERGER (Galley, December), FA Richard BROWN (Wardroom, January), and ENSN William A. CLACK (Galley, January).

\* Navy Expeditionary Medal to BT3 Steven N. TERRANO.

\* Meritorious Unit Commendation to FTML John S. JAROSZEWSKI.

\* Striker Designation (letter) to HTFN Harvey L. HATCHER and EFN Aaron T. WASHINGTON Jr.

\* Certificates of Appointment to ET1 Gregory M. OPT (16 January) and FTM2 Romiel G. SINGHO (16 January).

\* Expert Pistol Medal and Ribbon to GM1 Richard WALLEY, GM2 James R. PROULX, and QM3 Ronald RILEY.

\* Sharpshooter Ribbon to FTM2 James C. BARTON, OS3 Ronald D. TIEMAN, TM2 John D. REA, and OS3 Richard M. ANTEL.

\* Marksman Ribbon to EM1 Nathaniel E. HARRISON, QM3 Bernhardt V. SMITH, and FTM3 Troy HINDHAM.

\* Engineering Department "E" Award to LCDR Jay W. MARINELLI, LT Keith D. REINSCHREIBER, LTJG Rowley A. MOLINA, ENS Todd M. LARSON, ENS Christopher J. RONAN, BTM John W. ARMSTRONG, BTC Dennis D. KUMM, M/C Terry HARDIN, M/C Aubry L. CLARK, ENC Gary W. SLETTERINK, EMC Benjamin L. LUMALU, HTC George W. ROSS, BT1 Richard M. MANIS, BT1 Augustine MENDOZA, MM1 Jose A. BASILIO, MM1 John J. GARCIA, MM1 Mark A. PLOWMAN, MM1 Michael J. EVERETT, E11 Felix R. NOLASCO, IC1 Mark K. CLARK, HT1 William H. HINSON, MR1 Douglas H. SHANNON, BT2 Michael A. ROCK, BT2 Ricky J. PATRICK, BT2 Don E. STALEY, BT2 David N. ARNOLD, BT2 Jessie L. BROWN, BT2 Jay R. VILLALVA, J. BT2 Kurt L. STUVENGEN, BT2 Gary N. WEBB, MM2 Elroy D. FREEMAN, MM2 John G. TRAVIS, MM2 Richard HUARTSON, IC2 Curtiss KEY, EM2 Herman D. DOCUSIN, BT3 Anthony R. BERRY, BT3 Monte S. BLAKE, BT3 Harris M. ASKEY, BT3 Gordon J. ELDER, Jr., BT3 Thomas J. LAMONICA, BT3 Joseph MATHISON, BT3 Charles J. SUCKOW, BT3 John W. RIFFLE, BT3 Brian W. FITZPATRICK, MM3 Noel A. MONTIFOLCA, MM3 Rizal F. ALVARADO, MM3 Jeffrey WAGNER, MM3 Mark D. JACKSON, MM3 Raymond LOPEZ, MM3 "D" Christopher JENKINS, MM3 Daniel J. ENGLAND, MM3 James R.

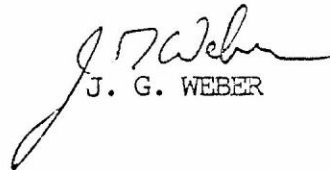
PUCKETT, MM3 James R. ESCANDON, MM3 Jeffery M. GALE, MM3 Florencio P. TINIO, MM3 Garland B. EANKS, MM3 Chet YOUNG, MM3 Dennis J. ORLIKOWSKI, EN3 Segundo Q. CRUZ, IC3 Kenneth FIOLA, EM3 Alex DIMALANTA, EM3 Frank W. JONES, EM3 Clarence MCMILLAN, HT3 Russell M. HACKLER, HT3 Scotty J. LANE, HT3 Sean M. DANAHY, HT3 John D. STINER, HT3 Richard A. NORMAN, HT3 David SINGER, BTFN Alton L. EASLEY, BTFN Victor A. PORTILLO, BTFN William PIQUIET, BTFN Kenneth RUSHING, BTFN William T. CLINK, BTFN Robert W. WHITE, MMFN Robert KRECFISKY, MMFN Bret D. GREANEY, MMFN Joey L. BUSHINE, MMFN Robert D. BETTS, MMFN Guadalupe ALDRIGHETTI, MMFN Jerry M. CARTER, MMFA Laurence E. MCINNIS, MMFA Rex J. LAUGHLIN, MMFA James D. JOHNSON, FN Roddy W. MCRITE, FN Victor HUERTA, FN Ian S. ADAMS, FN Randall S. GONZALVES, FN Harry J. POWELL, FN Ronnie D. CRANE, FN James M. DOBBS, Jr., FN Robert P. CHANDLER, EMFN Aaron T. WASHINGTON, Jr., EMFN John J. WALSH, FN Lonel V. WILLIAMS, HTFN David L. COOPER, HTFN Joseph M. NAGY, HTFN Harvey L. HATCHER.

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" is extended to crewmembers who joined REEVES in February: ETC Stanley K. MCINTOSH, NCC Larry D. BREWER, SKC Billy W. CROOK, GMT1 Thomas R. PIERCE, RML Terry A. FREAD, SK1 Chris S. DAYRIT, MM2 Alvin G. OVERACKER, OS2 Stephen G. LOMICKY, DS3 John T. PETERSON, GM43 Harry S. IRVIN, SK3 Tony L. BROWN, EM3 Jaime M. BANABAN, GMSN Robert R. MELTON, STGSN David S. EMRICK, OSSA Michael T. CASH, OSSA James S. KINGSLAND, MMFR Peter LEOTASAKAS, FR John D. ZINNIKAS.

Our Hawaiian Operations were a challenge and a success for us. And for the first time in four years, REEVES entered a U.S. port, so we saw English signs again, had the chance to drive on the right side of the road, and understood commercials on local television. Yes, these were the little things about America that we were surprised we had missed, along with the melancholy reminder of friends and families in the United States.

Our thoughts turn also to the happy, soon-to-come transit back to our other "home" in Yokosuka, where our wives and children expectantly await our return. We're ready.

Remember us in your thoughts and prayers.

  
J. G. WEBER