



USS REEVES (CG-24) FAMILYGRAM

20 February 1986

FROM THE CAPTAIN . . .

Dear REEVES Family,

Hello from all of us in the South China Sea to all of you back home in Yokosuka and the States and elsewhere. Our deployment has been both busy and very successful. The transit down to Subic Bay was fairly quiet, however, the seas outside Japan are always a little choppy, and that made the first day at sea something to remember for a number of brand-new sailors. By the second day everybody's "sea legs" were back in shape. During those first days at sea the Japanese winter made life tough for anyone working outside. The lookouts were the most thankful for the warm weather we found after heading south!

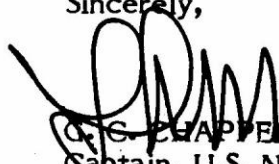
We accomplished a lot of good hard work and took some time off for recreation in Subic. One of the major evolutions was getting our flight decks recertified following the SRA. That means we can receive helos--which means mail! Incidentally the mail service has been very good. A group of REEVES men spent a day working at the Shepherd of the Hills Children's Home near San Miguel, and had a great time. The home provided a wonderful lunch that included grilled squid--a new experience for most! Before leaving Subic, a large number of REEVES men were advanced or frocked to their next higher paygrade. Several letters of commendation and awards were also presented to outstanding sailors.

The pace picked up again as soon as we went back to sea. We conducted a number of very successful evolutions in which the entire crew can take pride. We fired a missile, a torpedo, and an ASROC--all were successful. Recently we had what amounted to a "Deck Division Olympics" with helo ops, a towing exercise, underway replenishment, and an astern refueling exercise all in one day. "REEVES IRON MEN" has become the ship's new motto, and 1st Division demonstrated that.

But all work (even when we're having fun doing it) and no play makes for dull sailors, so recent Sunday afternoons have been declared "Steel Beach Picnic" times. On one Sunday the Supply Department put on a great cookout with hamburgers and hotdogs and barbecued ribs; the Chiefs' Mess supplied the cooks; the crew provided the appetites--a great combination that made a great day. On another Sunday afternoon we enjoyed a steak and lobster cookout (this time with the First Class Mess doing the cooking), listened to the ship's band "Steel Beach", and even flew some kites off the fantail. Third Division had the most success with their kite, but everyone showed real creativity (if not success!) in finding appropriate kite-flying materials!

That's all for now. From mess cooks to missile operators, from boiler techs to "ship drivers", your Iron Men are charging ahead. Your support on the home front is appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
C. C. CHAPPELL  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**  
**by Chaplain Mark Tidd**

Ask your average sailor on deployment who he misses most. If he's single, he may say his parents, or maybe a sweetheart back home, or it might be that new girlfriend he met in Yoko. But if he's married, he'll tell you it's his wife and kids; and if you give him half a chance, he'll have a wallet full of pictures open to show you just who he's talking about!

We all know so well that deployments are a challenge for everybody. There are lots of new things to do and often interesting places to see for the man aboard ship; but even so, it's tough being away from loved ones. Wives and parents and girlfriends have their own challenges to overcome as they learn to get along--for a little while, at least--without that special man. But get along they do, because as adults most of us have picked up or are in the process of learning the coping skills we need to make the best of the challenges we face.

Deployment may be a little tougher on kids, though. They may not fully understand exactly what Dad is doing and why he has to leave in order to do it. You know how wonderfully imaginative children can be. Sometimes that capacity for imagination can work against a child who gets the idea that "Dad left because I did something wrong and it's all my fault!" Children naturally feel sad when someone they love leaves, but they may not know how to handle those feelings emotionally.

In an article entitled "Military Daddy: Now You See Him; Now You Don't" (in Lady Com), Katherine Kersey and Janet Schwenke had some suggestions for mothers who are trying to ease their children's anxieties and also trying to keep fathers as much a part of the family as possible in spite of the miles. Try some of these and see which ones work for you.

1. Be honest about your feelings. Children respect and respond to honesty, and are often sensitive to feelings we think we're hiding. We don't need to overwhelm them with what we feel, but acknowledging the fact that we feel sad and lonely at times helps them see that it's okay if they have those feelings, too--which they do.

2. Keep in touch about "everyday" things. From the moment the last lines are cast off from the pier, everybody begins building an idealized picture of the people they'll be missing. Thinking positive is always a good idea, but a periodic "reality check" helps keep things in perspective. Candid snapshots rather than posed pictures help, as do cassette recordings of simple things like dinner conversations and bedtime prayers.

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3. Give children a concrete method of measuring the passage of time. When I was a child, the best possible definition of "eternity" was the time it took for Christmas to get here--forever! Children need a way to see time pass. Some families tear a link off a paper chain that has the same number of links as days or weeks that Dad will be gone. Others mark off each day on a centrally located calendar. (I can't tell you how many calendars get the same treatment on the ship, but mine sure does!)

4. Stay involved in many activities. It's true both on the ship and at home: the busier you are, the faster the time seems to go. Choose what's right for you, as long as it keeps you happy, busy, and supported by family and/or friends. Maybe it's getting involved in the Wives Club, or taking a new class, or participating in chapel activities, or visiting friends more often.

5. Make sure Father stays well-informed. Holiday Inn (I think) used to run a series of commercials that stressed the uniformity of their motels by saying, "No surprise is a good surprise." That's true in some ways for the family. While Dad can't get involved in every little detail, it's best to be forewarned about major events in the family's life. He'll be better able to adapt and less likely to aggravate the natural chaos of homecoming.

6. Encourage children to communicate directly with their father. Letters are a good way, but not the only way. Younger children can talk on a cassette tape, draw pictures, pick out cards; older children can write their own letters, send school papers, take and send their own pictures. Cards and letters directly from Dad to each child also help the child feel confident of his relationship with his father, and makes him feel valued.

7. Be responsible for all disciplining. Using the threat, "Just wait til your father gets home!" doesn't exactly make for a pleasant reunion for either father or child. At the same time, discipline that is separated from the offense by a long period of time is usually

not very effective. As much as possible, it's best to "wipe the slates clean" prior to reunion by dealing with misbehavior appropriately as it happens. Otherwise, Dad immediately starts off as the bad guy.

8. Tailor your reponse to your child's need. Each person reacts to the experiences of deployment separation in different ways. That's as true for children as it is for adults. Some misbehavior may be inevitable. Be as understanding as you can; ensure limits are firmly but lovingly maintained. And homecoming may be as much a trauma for children as separation was. Parental sensitivity can go far towards easing these anxieties.

Hope these prove to be helpful ideas. Deployments are a challenge for everyone, but they can also be opportunities for growth . . . for children as well as their parents.

### FROM THE MASTER CHIEF

Master Chief Hof Kara, Konnichi wa. Anatatchi sama wa mina genki deshoo ka.

The ship's party in January was a huge success. There was a great time had by one and all, with lots of great prizes.

The ship's next special event is a Tiger Cruise for all male dependents eight years and older. The cruise is designed to give the dependent a first hand look at what dad does and what Navy life is about. The crew is looking forward to hosting the Tigers. Information letters will be sent out at a later date giving all of the details.

Other events are also in the planning stages. Included are a dependents' cruise, a summer picnic, and the Welfare and Recreation Committee is working on one day and overnight tours to cities throughout Japan.

On the ship the crew is hard at work. One of the big events involving the majority will be the advancement exams during the first part of March. So let's all keep our fingers crossed and wish them the best.

As you may have noticed, my column begins and ends with Japanese phrases. In the future I will attempt to always include a phrase. It is a good way to learn the language and will always be of some help in your contact with the public. So keep your Japanese phrasebooks handy!

Well, that's about it for this column. Ja mata atode mooicido hanashiimashou.

## A WORD FROM THE OMBUDSMAN

My name is Linda Lay, and I'm a REEVES wife just like many of you. The term "Ombudsman" may be new to some of you because you haven't had need of one before now, or maybe you never knew exactly what it was that an ombudsman did. I'm here as a link between you and the ship. An ombudsman is your Command's representative when the ship is not in port.

Admiral Zumwalt initiated the Navy Family Ombudsman Program in 1970 as a means for military families to express their views to their unit's Commanding Officer and to Base Commanders. The program is designed to benefit the relationship between the Navy family and the Navy; the Ombudsman will not address problems between the Navy member and his command, nor between a wife and husband.

When you have a complaint or suggestion--maybe about the medical system, the Exchange, the Commissary, Child Care Center, etc.--it's best to do the following:

1. **DOCUMENTATION:** Note the date, time, place, names of personnel and write down an exact account of the episode leading to the problem.
2. **SELF RELIANCE:** State your grievance or suggestion to the manager of the department, supervisor, duty Chief or Officer, etc.; or call the "Hot Line" at the particular facility. Use their suggestion boxes.
3. **FAMILY OMBUDSMAN:** Report the situation to your Ombudsman (that's me) when you have a legitimate grievance or suggestion for which you have been unable to obtain satisfactory results.

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**Remember:** I can't help you with a problem if I don't know about it!

There will be many situations you'll have to learn to handle as a Navy wife. Believe me, it does get easier over the years; not better, just easier. As military families, we have unique problems. When you're at an overseas duty station, you can't go to your family or best friend for help when your husband is on a cruise. You've got to make good friends here and help each other out. We're all going to have times when we need help, and it's a lot easier if we know there's somewhere to turn to.

Basically, what I'm saying is I'm here to help you if I can. If I don't have the answer, I'll refer you to someone who does.

I have had a few people ask me about a "Phone Tree". I'd like to set one up if there is enough interest in doing so. A Phone Tree is a means of notifying you when important information is passed to me from DAT or the Ship. It could be about approaching typhoons, contaminated food, demonstrations, or news of the Ship's arrival time. You wouldn't be contacted for any other reason. Your phone number will be given to nobody except the person assigned to call you. If you're interested, give me a call. My phone number is x4388.

I hope I've given you some useful information. If you have any questions, or would like to pass some information along to me, please do so.

--Linda Lay, USS REEVES Ombudsman, Telephone 4388

## AWARDS AND ADVANCEMENTS

By JOSA Anthony L. Bussard

On 24 January 1986, the ship's fantail was the site of CAPT George C. Chappell's first awards ceremony since taking command of REEVES last December.

The ceremony opened with the presentation of personal awards. Among the honors given was the Navy Commendation Medal to LT Robert D. Raine, REEVES' Ordnance and Public Affairs Officer, for meritorious service as PAO onboard the aircraft carrier USS CONSTELLATION (CV-61) from March 1982 to August 1985.

BTC Teddy D. Canterbury earned the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin following final qualification by CAPT Chappell and successful completion of an oral board. BTC Canterbury had to demonstrate knowledge of REEVES' combat systems, engineering plant, and deck equipment in order to become a "Surface Warrior".

Named Sailors of the Quarter for the Fourth Quarter 1985 were GMM2 Wesley A. Tibbs for the "Senior Division" and Seaman Charles D. Battle for "Junior Division".

The following individuals were either advanced or frocked to their present rate:

PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS: SK1 Charles P. Dupray, MS1 Roy F. W. Lunde, FC1 Kenneth McLean, BM1 Randall R. Savage, and STG1 Kevin Schoppenhorst.

PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS: EM2 Jamie M. Banaban, SK2 Tony L. Brown, SH2 Victor E. Bueno, TMO2 Stacey J. Forges, SH2 Keith Gage, STG2 Thomas L. Guile, BT2 Ricky L. Gilbert, GMM2 Cid A. Harbin, MM2 Victor M. Huerta, RM2 Darryl A. Lambright, MS2 H. G. Magnuson, GMM2 Robert R. Melton, MS2 Larry J. Mitchell, SK2 Paul G. Opera, OS2 John E. Richardson, OS2 Terry Shiflett, SM2 Chester Smotherman, EM2 A. T. Washington, BM2 Daniel S. West, and GMM2 Mark E. Wilson.

PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS: EM3 Andrew Bird, EM3 Benjamin S. Brown, MM3 Daniel J. Clark, STG3 Rocko R. Deckard, OS3 Everett Dehart, FC3 Dennis L. Dibala, RM3 Nathan B. Fisher, EN3 Glenn N. Hill, HT3 Christopher J. Hoffman, MM3 Henry Hultberg, QM3 Wilbur W. Jacobs, IC3 Robert S. Jacuk, MR3 Keith Jantz, OS3 Jon D. Jones, BT3 Vester Jones, BM3 Gerald Knappenburger, HT3 Jess D. Ollila, BT3 Aaron E. Pope, FC3 Timothy Pudleiner, SM3 Randy Richnow, STG3 Bradley Rister, OS3 Richard M. Robinson, SK3 Wilbur Rodriguez, EM3 Marciano S. Sango, FC3 Donald G. Self, FC3 Gregory H. Stratos, OS3 Thomas Yawn, and EN3 Joseph Zurenko.



CAPT Chappell applauded the efforts of those advanced, saying, "You are advancing through the Navy because you've shown the Navy you wanted to get ahead, and the Navy has promoted you. Congratulations!"

He also lauded the efforts of those who won awards: "For those persons who won awards, that's a step beyond what is required for normal performance."

More recently, MMI Mark O. Brinkerhoff also earned the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin. In a note published to all hands, CDR Wylie congratulated MMI Brinkerhoff at his flawless performance during his oral boards.

REEVES "Iron Men" keep on charging!

**"MAIL CALL"**  
by Chaplain Mark Tidd

About a month ago we pulled away from Pier 6, headed out into Tokyo Bay and then into Sagami Wan. Seems like all that happened a long time ago, doesn't it? Or maybe you're asking yourself, "Where has the time gone?!" It has certainly been a busy time for all of us, which helps the time go by.

At this point in the cruise, it might be a good idea to remember a couple of pointers about a subject near and dear to everyone's heart: Mail. No, there's no magic wand that makes mail call happen more often. But there are some things we can all do to help keep the communication lines as open as possible. Whether you're writing to a husband or boyfriend or son on the ship, try some of these ideas if you haven't already (and yes--the same applies to us as well!):

--Write often. They don't have to be long letters and they don't have to be masterpieces of English literature. A page or two is great; more is gravy. If even that much is a challenge, send postcards or funny greeting cards. Or buy smaller stationery!

--With our mail situation the way it is, it can often take nearly a month to get a reply to a particular letter. That makes giving advice and answering questions a slow process. That doesn't mean don't do it, but be aware of the limitations. At the same time it does help to refer to letters you've received. It shows how important it is to you to get those letters . . . which hopefully keeps 'em rolling in!

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--Talk about what you're doing, about your job, about the rest of the family. "Newsy" letters bring a little bit of home across the seas. What was the major project of the day? How is Uncle Bob or Cousin Suzie doing? What did the kids do today? Read any good books lately? The main thing folks want to hear about is what's happening in your life. It doesn't matter how trivial or important you may think those things are.

--Arguments by mail usually aren't too successful because it takes so long for replies to go back and forth. If you feel you have to send an angry letter, go ahead and write it. Then sleep on it before putting it in the mail. Then . . . don't mail it. Talk to a chaplain instead.

--Exchange cassettes. If you send mail via MPS, you can send one voice-recorded cassette per envelope for free. If you don't have access to MPS, it doesn't cost that much. If you get shy in front of a microphone, it helps to write down a list of topics you'd like to talk about. This is also a good way for children to communicate with Dad/Older Brother.

Mail is a real highlight of the week for most people. That's as true aboard ship as it is back home--maybe more so. Whether it's a marriage or a friendship or a relationship with a son, communication is the key--so keep those cards and letters flowing!

And we'll try to do the same!

#### A WORD TO THE WIVES

You are invited to come to the ALL REEVES WIVES CLUB meeting on the second Monday of each month. The meetings are held on the third deck of the Community Center at 5:30 p.m. and usually last about an hour. Children are welcome or you may use the Child Care Center located in the same building. We go on tours, have parties, plan homecoming, etc. We really would like you to come join us next month. If you have any questions feel free to write Mrs. Fisher, DMS box 1771, FPO 98762 and I will answer as soon as I can.

Bytha Fisher  
President, All-REEVES Wives Club