



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96677

USS REEVES (CG-24) FAMILYGRAM

26 March 1986

FROM THE CAPTAIN

Dear REEVES Family,

Greetings once again from the "REEVES IRONMEN" off the coast of Japan. Our deployment has continued at a fast pace, broken up by two fascinating port visits.

Late in February we visited the beach community of Pattaya, Thailand, for a well-deserved break in the cruise. Those of you who were able to join us for those few days know that the weather was delightful; while our winter has been busy, it has not been cold! Many crew members took advantage of the water sports available in Pattaya; others shopped for good deals on gems and clothing; still others spent their time on tours seeing exotic sights such as elephant farms, alligator shows, snake farms, and some of the many beautiful Buddhist temples located in Thailand. It was a memorable visit.

Then it was back to sea. For a few days we faced some fairly heavy seas. Where ten days earlier the water was like glass, now it was more like moving mountains! Some of our newer crew members wondered if it was always this rough. They were reassured that it wasn't by our "saltier" members--who were also a little green around the gills! While the heavy seas soon passed, more than one sailor was heard to remark, "better than an E ticket ride at Disneyland!"

As we made our way through various seas and straits, the normal routines of shipboard life were quickly re-established: training, cleaning, maintenance, replenishment at sea--and more training. The men of Fox division in particular accomplished a great deal during this period, as did the rest of the crew. Along the way we left behind our tropical weather and gradually entered cooler weather. Off of Korea and Japan, it's downright cold! That may be it for our "STEEL BEACH" picnics!

We pulled into Pusan, Republic of Korea, for a brief visit in March. The Korean people are extremely friendly. They're also good bargainers, as many found out while taking advantage of the excellent shopping there. Several members also found time to join USS KNOX in a visit to a local orphanage to paint and spend some time with the children.

Back at sea, we participated in "Team Spirit '86", an exciting exercise between all elements of the Armed Forces of the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. REEVES was impressive in her role as anti-air warfare commander. We made hundreds of intercepts during this exercise. In particular, the Combat Systems teams and Weapons people did an outstanding job.

That's all for now. You're all in our thoughts. Be assured that your men are pressing on in fine fashion, and that we continue that way thanks to your fine support.

Sincerely,



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

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

by Chaplain Mark Tidd

This is a very special time of the year in both Jewish and Christian traditions. Many of you will be celebrating at home at the same time our Jewish and Christian congregations are celebrating aboard REEVES.

According to the Jewish calendar, "Purim" is celebrated this year on 24 March. Purim is a joyful holiday that celebrates the rescue of the Jews in ancient Persia (modern day Iran)

from a plot to destroy them. Purim is also known as "The Feast of Lots" because the king's advisor, the evil Haman, cast lots to choose the particular day for carrying out his plans. Esther, the Jewish queen, discovered the plot and persuaded the king to spare the Jews. Some of the customs observed on Purim included reading "Megillat Esther", or the scroll of Esther (which is the same as the book of Esther in the Christian Old Testament); giving gifts to the poor and to family members and friends; eating "Hamantashen", special pastries in the triangle shape of Haman's hat with prune or sesame seed filling. A special Purim service will be conducted aboard REEVES by our Jewish Lay Reader, FC3 Stuart Greenberg.

Near the end of April Jewish communities all over the world will be celebrating the Feast of Passover, or "Pesach", commemorating the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt and the beginning of Jewish independence. The name of this feast refers to God's "passing over" the homes of Jews where He sent plagues to convince the Egyptian Pharaoh to let them leave. The "Seder meal" is a very important part of the observance. During this meal the story of Exodus is read from a book called the "Haggadah", and special Passover prayers are said. Special foods recall various aspects of the Exodus experience: "matzot" (flat, crisp, unleavened bread) recalls that the Jews left Egypt in such a hurry that their bread didn't have time to rise; "maror" (bitter herbs) and salt water symbolize the Jews' suffering in Egypt; "charoseth" (chopped apples, nuts, and wine) recalls the mortar Jewish slaves mixed for Pharaoh's monuments; "karpas" (greens) stand for the new spring. "Elijah's cup", containing Passover wine, is set aside and a door opened to welcome the prophet Elijah, whose spirit visits every Seder.

The period that includes Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is the holiest time of the year for Christians, and is often called "Holy Week". The season of Lent is completed. Final spiritual preparations are made for Easter, when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Sunday before Easter is called "Palm Sunday" in memory of Jesus's triumphant entry in Jerusalem, where many hailed him as king and waved palm branches in the air. Many churches hand out palm fronds or crosses made from palm fronds to recall this event. In many traditions, this Sunday is also known as "Passion Sunday", and portions of the gospel that recount Christ's "passion"--his suffering and death--are read in addition to the passages about the triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Thursday in Holy Week is called "Maundy Thursday"; a communion service recalls Jesus's Last Supper with his disciples (which may have followed a Passover Seder meal), at which the sacrament of communion was instituted. On "Good Friday" time is taken to reflect on the sufferings and crucifixion of Jesus. All of this leads up to the celebration of Easter Sunday, when Christians proclaim that the power of death was ultimately shattered, and Jesus was raised to life. We will have services each of these days to celebrate Holy Week. On Easter, if the seas and weather permit, we'll be holding a Sunrise Easter Worship Service in addition to the Easter services at our usual times.

Know that as we celebrate these holy times out here, we're praying that they are times of special blessing for you as well.

**MASTER CHIEF'S CORNER**  
by Master Chief Hof

Well, our port visit in Pusan was great. The wives will be mildly surprised at all the bargains their sailors have picked up. It was an enjoyable stay and all of the crew had a good liberty. We are now underway, doing what we do best, taking care of the Grey Lady.

As mentioned in the last Family Gram, the Tiger Cruise is close at hand. To find out the specific dates, you should go to DAT and speak with Chief Gruhlke. The ship is looking forward to the Tiger Cruise and we hope that the children are also.

As stated before the child must be at least eight years old and male. We expect that we will have available 40 bunks. It is recommended that children bring an air mattress, futon or sleeping bag. The command has inquired into the children receiving credit from Kinnick and Sullivan schools and also about the children bringing study materials. The ship expects to have study hall several hours a day to allow the children to stay up with their classmates. Messing will be the only cost accrued by the children. What they are charged is based on their age. The average charge should not exceed \$6.00 per day. While in Kagoshima daily expenses should run around \$20-\$30 per day, for sight-seeing and tours, etc. Inport the Tigers are allowed to continue to reside and mess on the ship.

It is hoped that you the wives take advantage of this port visit also. Kagoshima is lovely and well worth seeing. Also it is the home of Satsuma Pottery consisting of two types, Shiro (white) and Kuro (black). Kagoshima is also renowned for its high quality tinware and bamboo products.

In any case let your sponsor know as soon as possible so the ship can make plans for messing and berthing.

Well, that's about it for this news letter. Oh yes, this month's Japanese phrase: San gatsu wa sakura no jikan desu ne! Til the next news letter.

**"HOMECOMING HINTS"**  
by Chaplain Mark Tidd

You know how it is. After a long winter apart--the ship finally comes into sight. She cruises slowly through Sagami Wan, then up Tokyo Bay. She passes Leahy Rock, then Monkey Island, and you can see her from the Navy Lodge. She rounds the bend, makes her way to the pier . . . and you can see him at last. Finally the lines are across, and then the brow. It's reunion time . . . and everybody lives happily ever after.

Well, that's not quite how it works for most people. Homecoming can be as stressful as separations, especially on marriages. Excitement, high expectations, and the normal anxieties surrounding a reunion can create tremendous pressures. But if you have an idea how to cope with some of the inevitable pressures of homecoming, you can do a lot to make the transition from separation to reunion a relatively smooth one. Below are some "Helpful Homecoming Hints" from several resources to help you make your reunion the best it can be. In addition, be aware of other resources available. Read the "Homecoming" article on the Post Office bulletin board, from which most of this information is taken. Talk to a chaplain. Take advantage of the services offered by the Family Service Center and the Family Advocacy Department in Yokosuka. And enjoy your time back together!

(1) **GO SLOW:** It's important for Dad to re-enter the family picture, at least at first, as an "honored guest." Let him gradually re-establish his role as husband and father. It's best not to disturb a family set-up that's been working well for a while.

(2) **CHILDREN:** Expect some readjustment difficulties for your children. It's hard for children (especially the younger ones) to understand why Dad's been away, so they may feel angry and they may withdraw from him at first. Take it easy, especially where discipline is concerned. It's best for kids to have a constant routine, so let Mom's rules stand. It doesn't help for him to barge in as the "heavy".

(3) **KIDS AND "THE HONEYMOON":** It's usually not a good idea to send the kids off to a neighbor's for a few days (even if you could find such a willing neighbor!) so that the two of you can have your own intimate reunion. It's vital to reaffirm his bond with the children and help them readjust to his presence. Later, the two of you can slip away for a "second honeymoon."



(4) SEX: It may be awkward at first, and that's okay. Sex is part of intimacy in a relationship, and after a long separation it may take time to get reacquainted by sharing needs with each other. Talk about it. And it's best not to grill each other about infidelity. In addition, if anything has happened during the cruise that may call for a confession, consider carefully whether a confession would be helpful or hurtful. Blurting something out to relieve one's own guilt, or a punishing attitude on the other hand, does nothing to build a relationship. Building trust takes time and work in a relationship.

(5) FINANCES: It's best not to try to alter financial affairs. Chances are, you've been handling them just fine while he was gone. Prices inevitably have gone up--especially with the fluctuations in the yen rate.

(6) TRAVEL: Since we spent most of the winter in the tropics while the family froze in Yoko, you may be a little envious of his foreign travels, especially if you weren't able to travel yourself. Realize it wasn't all sun and fun, by any means; those port visits were brief breaks from never-ending watches, drills, maintenance, cleaning, cramped and noisy living conditions.

(7) NEW ROLES: The main adjustment problem for families after a long separation is the reversal of roles when the man returns. The wife has learned to cope by herself; she's managed the finances and made other major decisions. The husband returns and expects to resume his previous role as head of the house. But roles don't switch back so easily. It's natural for you to grow, to become more competent and assertive with each separation. Expect him to be surprised that you've survived so well without him. Enjoy your new-found self-confidence, and reassure him that the fact that you can cope without him doesn't mean that you want to.

(8) TALK ABOUT IT: The best advice for reducing reunion strains may be this: talk to each other. If you feel awkward or unsure of yourself around each other, say so--gently. Give each other space for a little while. Remember that the two of you adjusted to being single while you were apart; now you must readjust to being married again. This is another "honeymoon" period for you, and it should be spent getting back to your normal relationship.

Homecoming means renegotiating roles, relationships, and rules for children--and that takes a lot of listening as well as sharing of personal preferences. It can seem like a lot of work, but it's always worthwhile. The stresses and strains of a cruise, handled well, can be used to build strong individuals and stronger marriages. And if things start to get out of hand, remember your resources: Chaplain TIDD, the Family Service Center, Family Advocacy, and other friends who've been through the same things. We'll see you soon!