



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS REEVES (CG-24)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96677

IN REPLY REFER TO
1 June 1982

Dear REEVES Family:

REEVES is currently pierside at Subic Bay, Republic of The Philippines. We arrived in Subic Bay on 28 May for a brief up-keep period. The crewmembers consider Subic Bay to be one of the better ports in the Western Pacific. It is inexpensive and blessed with lovely beaches and tropical weather.

REEVES began the month of May operating with the MIDWAY Battle Group in the Philippine Sea where our primary mission was to serve as the Anti-Air Warfare (AAW) Commander for the Battle Group. During the next few days, REEVES participated in READEX 82 which was a joint operation that brought three aircraft carrier battle groups together in concert (MIDWAY Battle Group, RANGER Battle Group, and CONSTELLATION Battle Group). Also included in the operation were an Amphibious Task Group, U.S. Air Force units and U.S. Marine Corps units. This was the first time in several years that three carrier battle groups had operated together in one large joint operation. Over sixty ships (surface, submarines, aircraft carriers) and over three hundred aircraft were involved in the exercise.

At an Award Ceremony held on the fantail on 12 May 1982, many crewmembers were recognized for their outstanding service in various capacities onboard REEVES. Among them were the following:

- Letters of Appreciation were given to SMSN Richard SAUNDERS and FA Ronnie CRANE in recognition of their selection as Food Service Attendant of the Month for the months of March and April respectively. Each newly reporting non-rated man serves 3 months in the Enlisted Dining Facility, Wardroom or Chief Petty Officers' Mess assisting cooks in serving and cleaning up after meals. It is an important job because everybody likes to eat and somebody has to do the dishes. These lads set a high standard of performance.

- The following members of the REEVES' Harmonizers (Gospel Choir) received Letters of Appreciation from the Navy Detachment at Chinhae, South Korea, for their musical performance at chapel services in Chinhae: MS1 Robert TAYLOR, MM2 Chet YOUNG, PCSN Michael HALL, DS3 Fred BUCKLEY, SHSN Ernest WHITE, HM2 Willie BLANDING, EW3 William JACKSON, ET3 Phillip JACKSON, and GMM3 Ronald BATISTE.

- A Letter of Appreciation was given to SK1 Daniel BATENHORST for being selected as runner up for USS REEVES' Sailor of the Quarter.

- A Letter of Commendation was given to HM2 Willie BLANDING for his role in assisting the Vietnamese refugees rescued by REEVES in September 1981.

- A Letter of Appreciation was given to OS1 Thomas BERRY for professional performance which resulted in his being recognized as USS REEVES' Sailor of the Quarter.

- Letters of Appreciation were given to TM2 George SCHNEIDER and SA Joseph LAGATUTTA for their alert watchstanding which resulted in visual and sonar detection of a submarine during an exercise.

- Good Conduct Medals were awarded to: EM2 Joseph TORCHIA (First Award), BM1 Gerald BARNETT (Third Award), FTM2 James PRUETT (First Award), FTM2 John PAYNE (First Award), FTM2 George POOLE (First Award), FTM2 Ronald Wichmann (First Award), FTM2 Robert DAWES (First Award), and FTM3 Steven GOINS (First Award).

- FTM2 Edward NEEL completed the Personnel Qualifications Standards for, and was designated as, an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.

- GMMC Keith BARNETTE received the Navy Achievement Medal for his role in the rescue of 79 Vietnamese refugees in September 1981.

- LT. John DAGGETT received the Navy Unit Commendation for previous service with the Navy Cargo Handling Group, Damneck, VA.

Following the Award Ceremony, the Mess Management Specialists (Cooks), under the leadership of MS1 Robert TAYLOR, treated the crew to a fantail cookout consisting of steaks, chicken, hamburger and hotdogs, with all the trimmings. The band "Ambush" consisting of STG1 Steven RUSSELL, SM2 Jace HERROD, EN3 Emette MASSEY, STG3 Troy PETERS, STG3 Jeffery EDWARDS, and STG3 Bradely MCADAM, provided entertainment for all while the crew soaked up sun, sodas, and good food. This was a "Ropeyarn Sunday" - following the nautical tradition of occasionally treating a regular workday as a Sunday, since Sundays are frequently too busy for holiday routine.

Following READEX 82 REEVES transited the San Bernadino Straits located between the Philippine Islands of Luzon and Samar on 14 May. A famous World War II naval battle was fought in these straits and off Samar Island between the Imperial Japanese Navy and the United States Navy as U.S. forces returned to the Philippines. After a long day of transiting, REEVES, once again serving as AAW Commander for the MIDWAY Battle Group, headed toward the South China Sea, where we conducted a full range of battle group training operations with USS MIDWAY until 19 May.

We then steamed northwest toward the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, which means "fragrant harbor" in Cantonese. REEVES arrived at Hong Kong on the morning of 21 May and moored to a bouy in Victoria Harbor, which is located between Hong Kong (Victoria Island) and Kowloon (mainland China). Hong Kong is a beautiful city, and as a duty free port, it is famous for shopping, tailoring, fine foods, and night life. The crew had an excellent liberty and looks forward to returning to Hong Kong in the future.

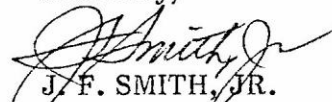
REEVES departed Hong Kong and began a quick two day transit to Subic Bay. We arrived in Subic Bay just in time to begin a long Memorial Day Weekend. It may sound as though we spend a lot of time on liberty, but the crew spends much more time working and training. For example, the crew must be qualified in General Damage Control in case REEVES has a fire or is damaged and experiences flooding. Each man is given a series of lectures and on-location training in fire fighting, first aid, and damage repair by the Repair Division

headed by LT. Mike MATA CZ (Division Officer), LTJG Len LEBLANC (Prospective Division Officer), and HTC Marcus BAKER, and consisting of HT2 Anthony CONNELL, HT3 Timothy CLODWICK, FN Kent BETHEL, HT2 Karl CRAMER, HT3 Charles FINN, HTFN Scotty LANE, FN David SINGER, FN Austin SMOOT, HT1 Dennis STIETZ, and FN John STINER. Following the intense training program, each man is required to pass a written examination on Damage Control topics, pass an oral board conducted by highly qualified Chief Petty Officers and then be examined orally by the Commanding Officer. A good Damage Control response is vital to the safety and survivability of the ship, and you can be sure that REEVES' personnel are trained, qualified, and equipped to handle any emergency situation.

We extend a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to the men who joined REEVES in May: BTFN John RIFFLE, EW1 Steve SCHMIDT, BT3 Jay VILLAVA, BTFN Douglas BECK, BTFA William CLINK, GMSA Shane GILBERT, STG3 Darrell PETERS, BTFR David REYES, STG3 John HOWELL, EWSN David BARTON, FR Richard LEACH, OSSR Christopher DEVINE, BTFA Monte BLAKE, BTFA Anthony BERRY, FTMSN Joe Wetherell, GMM3 Jeffery Proulx, RMSA Steven Lloyd, BTFA Alton EASLEY, SR William JONES, OSSR John ROPPA, ENFN Segundo CRUZ, SR Charles KENNEY, BTFA Jack TOLBERT, and HTFN Scotty LANE.

We look forward to returning to Yokosuka for a reunion with family and friends. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,


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