

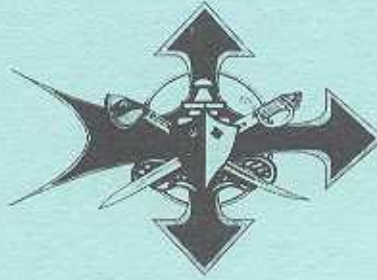
Collins



UNITED STATES SHIP THOMAS C. HART (FF 1092) FAMILYGRAM

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE
JUNE 1988





Dear Family and Friends,

This FAMILYGRAM marks the half way point in our six month deployment, and during the preparation of this FAMILYGRAM, we have all paused for a moment and reflected on what we have accomplished, what we have left to do, and how much we miss the families back home.

In the stories in this FAMILYGRAM I think you will see we have done an awful lot in only three months; the pace has been fast, and the time has gone quickly. We have thoroughly enjoyed the professional aspects of practicing our jobs in a real environment, and we have certainly enjoyed seeing seven cities, five countries, and three continents in a space of two months.

We have written this FAMILYGRAM as a celebration of "Hump Day" and to brag a little about our achievements. After it is in the mail to you, our thoughts and plans will turn toward home and what we have left to do. We miss you all and hope the remaining time passes as quickly for you as it will for us.

Sincerely,

J.D. Stevens
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

WARDROOM

Greetings from the Wardroom, your ambassadors of the Mediterranean. We have all been busy carrying on the cause of good relations with our NATO allies. Much hard work has gone into the tasting of local culinary delights and wetting our whistles with regional wines. In the words of the XO, "It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it". NAVOCFORMED proved to be an exceptional event, during both our various port visits and our underway training. The port visits were helped along by the fact that "official visits" with our British and German friends could be accompanied by a beer (or maybe two beers) in their wardroom. Our underway periods probably went so well because we could not do the same in our own wardroom.

We have had a few hails and farewells since we left Norfolk. A big farewell goes out to Ollie Read, our ex-Ops Boss. He has left us for a vacation in St. Thomas with his wife Janet. We're only a little jealous.... Good luck in your new job as MPA on USS Nimitz out of Seattle! Our Disbursing Officer Steve Newman also leaves us at Palermo for a new shore-base job in Japan. When asked about the potential language barrier, soft-spoken Steve said "No comment".

A hearty "Welcome aboard" goes to our new Ops Boss LT Mark Emmons, who upon arrival received a special "turnover" from Ollie Read in Venice. ENS Paul Dougherty is our new Disbursing Officer and ENS Jim Schreiber joins us as DCA. Ensigns Jim Bowers, Bill Shank, and John Jacobs are finally finished with schools and some short vacations in Rota awaiting air transportation, and are here for good.

The rest of us go on our merry way. Congrats are in order to Marcus and Kim Hannan on the birth of their second baby girl, Heather. Dan Grubbs and wife Susan are expecting soon. Dan's getting a little nervous. Congratulations to Willie Metts for recently receiving his surface warfare pin. Ex-MPA Sean Patton, now a confirmed Ops-type, was recently quoted as saying "I don't even flinch when the lights go out anymore". Welcome topside, Sean. Bill Kordyjak also moves out of the hole to take over as Gunnery Assistant. Chris Weiler is happy to switch places to Engineering. He currently boasts running third in the bicep contest in Snipe country. Speaking of fitness, "Hulkamania" is running wild through officer's country with many of us trying to squeeze in a few workouts a week. This effort is lead by Ron Spiker, who runs to the moon and back each time we hit port. The XO and OPS had fun making plastic purchases in Turkey. SUPPO Gary Collins, who is ready to rotate jobs soon after we get back to Norfolk, says he doesn't care where the Navy sends him next as long as he can bring his video camera. Just kidding, Marilyn. "Ensign Upper Half" Todd Black is looking forward to pinning on those 'JG' bars. Chris and Sean are going on leave to spend time with their wives. Kevin Morrissey, Ed Hopkins, and Gary Collins all plan to do the same in future ports and are looking forward to it. The pilots, Steve Wright, Mike Tooker, Markus Hannan and Grg Cole are leaving us for two weeks while we are in a maintenance period to train on land. They don't know yet that Midshipmen will have their racks when they return.

Until we see you again, take care and keep the letters flowing.

X/N DEPARTMENT

Greetings to all our loved ones back home. Our thoughts are always with you as each day goes by, and we're counting the days 'til we're back home with you.

The past three months have gone by like a whirlwind. There has been lots to do on the ship when underway, and many places to go and things to see when inport. Being part of the combined NATO forces has brought many new friends and experiences which will be remembered for a lifetime.

Welcome aboard to ENS Jim Bowers, who has taken over the X/N helm as Admin Officer and Assistant Navigator. Congratulations to PNC(SW) Junior Derrow and NC1(SW) Dale Horeth on reaching the highest level of personal enlisted qualification possible, that of the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, and to YNSN Michael Brown on his selection as T.C. HART's Sailor of the Month for March and Sailor of the Quarter for January through March. And most recently, Chief Derrow reenlisted for two more years. Welcome back, Chief!

The medical department has been kept pretty busy. HMC Fernando Estrada and HN Mark Gagern have not only been keeping up on HART's biological PMS, but have provided services to some of our fellow sailors on the NATO ships we've been sailing with.

QMC(SW) Eddie Leonard has been keeping his charges busy. It's real tough standing those four-section watches underway! QM3 Rick Shenton has proven himself a capable leader (when he's not busy as reveille PO), while QM's Joe Galloway, Reggie Wingfield, and Chris Kurek all fight to see who gets to go down to the messdecks next when "Sparky" Parks finishes his mess cooking duties. And welcome back to QMSN Traci Vinson, who just spent the past three months on the USS Iwo Jima. He enjoyed living with a couple thousand Marines so much that we had to drag him back to HART kicking and screaming. At least he got an outstanding Turkish vacation along the way.

Chief Derrow, Chief John Macy, PN's Larry Drawhorn & Herb Richardson, and YN's Mikey Brown & Phil Garnes from the Ship's Office haven't had much time to rest. This hard working group has pumped out a tremendous amount of work to meet the Navy's present budget and manning plans. Included have been 15 transfers and 11 receipts, along with approximately 170 officer and enlisted fitness reports and evaluations, and numerous sets of TAD orders and service record entries. And NC1(SW) "Why does he always look busy" Horeth has reenlisted 6 people since the cruise began. Add to that numerous flight quarters and underway replenishments - these guys really pull their weight!

Adding support has been MAC Tom Hale, who always seems to be available when you need something (and when you don't need anything). And let's not forget PC3 Chuck Krohne, who has spent numerous hours either picking up mail or just trying to find it.

The "Mighty X/N" has contributed their share to the ship's sporting efforts, with "Air Jordan" Garnes leading the basketball team to a so-far undefeated season. And let's not forget the T.C. HART Wrestling Federation, where "Sting" Horeth, along with inter-departmental partner Brad "Texas Dream" Mudbone, have successfully defended their Tag-Team belts against all comers. The "Dream Warriors" will not fall, not even to "Cornpone Kid" Drawhorn!

Until next time, we all love and miss you dearly, and we're looking forward to that day.

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PNC(SW) Darrow: Babes: I love you and miss you very much. See you soon. Love, Babes.

QMC(SW) Leonard: Karen: Hi - Love you and miss you. Give the boys a hug and kiss for me. Will be home soon.

NC1(SW) Horeth: Delia: Hello, love. I miss you alot and think of you always. I'm yours forever. (Is Honky Tonk Man still the champion?)
John, Mikey, Ricky and Spaz: Don't tear the house down. I love and miss you knuele-heads. (Don't throw Mama from t' train!)
Mom, Dad, and rest: You're always in my thoughts. Love you all. I'll miss you, Grandpa.

PC3 Krohne: Susan - love and miss ya; be back soon. Send more baseball cards. Tell Kathy and Jennifer I said Hi.
Mom, Dad, and Brent - Well, it's almost half over, send more cookies (the last ones were great)! Brent, I hope you haven't wrecked my truck by now!

QM3 Shenton: Brenda: Hi, I love you and miss you. Tell Dani, Chris and Jordan that I love and miss them. See you all soon.

PNSN Drawhorn: Amy: Hello to my love. I miss you alot and dream of that day we will be back together again. Give Katie plenty of hugs and kisses for daddy. I love you both.
Mama and Papa-Joe: Mom, I miss your great cooking!
Papa-Joe, I miss hearing the growl from them "bear". And thanks for being such great parents. See you soon. Love, Larry.

YNSN Brown: Hello, mother and father. I wish I could be home instead of over here in the Med. Little Sis (Michele), I hope you haven't got married yet.

PNSA Richardson: Shawn: Hi, baby. I love you and miss you so much. Tell Chuckie I said "Yea boy!" I love you. Keep smiling!



SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

From the SUPPO (Supply Officer):

Since our departure from Norfolk, your men of the Supply Department have been working very hard to ensure the crew receives the best possible service in all areas! The task has not been easy in view of recent Navy personnel policies. Since leaving Norfolk, the department has lost 20% of our regularly assigned personnel. MS3 Rudy Hernandez, SK3 Dave Traber, SH2 Tony Ayers, and DK2 Lemar Cook have all left us early for civilian life. Though we regret the loss of their talents and skills, we wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors. SK3 Frank Kelley has just recently joined the HART Supply team and we welcome his arrival. My assistant, LTJG Steve Newman (officer with the longest time onboard) is finally getting the chance to leave the ship. He is being punished! The Navy is sending him to Japan for two years of glorious shore duty. It's a rough life, but somebody has to do the dirty work! I want to wish him the best and thank him for his assistance during my two years as Supply Officer. Steve's relief, ENS Paul Dougherty, just met us in Alexandria, Egypt. Paul will be very busy during the relief process with inventories, money counting, and all other details involved in assuming financially accountable positions. We welcome him aboard and hope his first sea tour is very successful!

The Stores Division (Repair parts/accounting) has earned the slogan "HART's Parts Provides" for their "superstar" status for having not only the parts we need, but having the parts the whole battle group needs!

The Food Service Division is always on the job - holidays, Sundays, liberty days, you name it! They are there, providing quality food on a very tight budget! It's a tough job trying to please 200 people, everyday! On top of daily service, the cooks have been called upon to host three onboard receptions, which were all tremendous successes! Well done!

You can't say enough about our 3-man Sales Division. That's right, only 3 men to provide barber, laundry, ship's store, and soda machine service to the entire crew! 20-25 haircuts, 500 lbs of laundry, and thirty cases of soda per day, plus ship's store sales in excess of \$20,000 per month keeps these three guys hopping! Pretty impressive, if you ask me. Think about it a second and you'll realize that these folks don't have a heck of a lot of time for themselves. I know the crew appreciates their monumental efforts and I am certainly proud of their performance!

Our 1-man Disbursing (paymaster) Division is certainly underrated. Think about how tough it is to balance your one checkbook. Well, DK3 Gordon has 280 pay records to balance every pay period!

In closing, let me apologize for any lack of letters from these guys. I'm sure it's not because they don't care! They have been, and will continue to be, very busy, as little relief is expected in the manpower area. Please bear with them, give them your continued love and support, and keep your letters coming! We need them! On behalf of the entire department, I want to extend my personal thanks to you, the loved ones at home, who contribute so much to the morale of the men whose responsibility it is to boost the morale of the entire crew! Your support serves to benefit everyone!

S-1 DIVISION

S-1 Division would like to welcome aboard SK3(SW) Kelley. SKC (Bulldog) McGourn has been making sure that HART is keeping its required parts onboard. The only thing SKC ran out of was his cigars! SK1 Cevallos and SK3 Farmer helped S-1 Division to be recognized as MATCONOFF Superstars for supplying readily needed parts to the rest of the battlegroup. S-1's motto is "HART's Parts Provides"!

SK1 Cevallos has also been a star player on HART's soccer team. In addition, he played a big role as translator during our Italian port visits. During his off-duty hours, SKC has been organizing community service projects in order to give a little to the ports we visit in return for their generous hospitality. SK3 Farmer has also been collecting contributions from Supply for the construction of a new USO in Naples, Italy. Everyone misses SK1 Tuttle and hopes he will return soon.

Melva: Hello, I am fine. I love you.

S-2 DIVISION

MSC(SW) George Callanta has been making sure the MS's are staying busy preparing good meals and providing the best service possible. MS1 Cedric Davis, LPO for S-2, ensures that the galley is operating smoothly. MS1 Dahuya (Wardroom Supervisor) has helped in the preparation of HART's official receptions. Another one of the S-2 highlights is the monthly birthday dinner, featuring "Surf and Turf". Since the HART has seen a lot of Italian ports, all the MS's have had their taste of authentic Italian pizza, but MS2 Anderson's homemade pizza is still the best!

MSSA "Punch" Jackson has been a big scorer on HART's basketball team, but he had to sit on the bench a few days after losing a wrestling match with a fender. MSSA May, a new member of Supply, has been giving his best as Night Baker. Our Watch Captains, MS3 Chappell and MS3 Burgess, have been giving their all to satisfy the palates of T.C. HART's crew. MS3 Mack, OS2 Brown (MDMAA), and all the Food Service Attendants (FSA's) are continuing to give the best service to the crew.

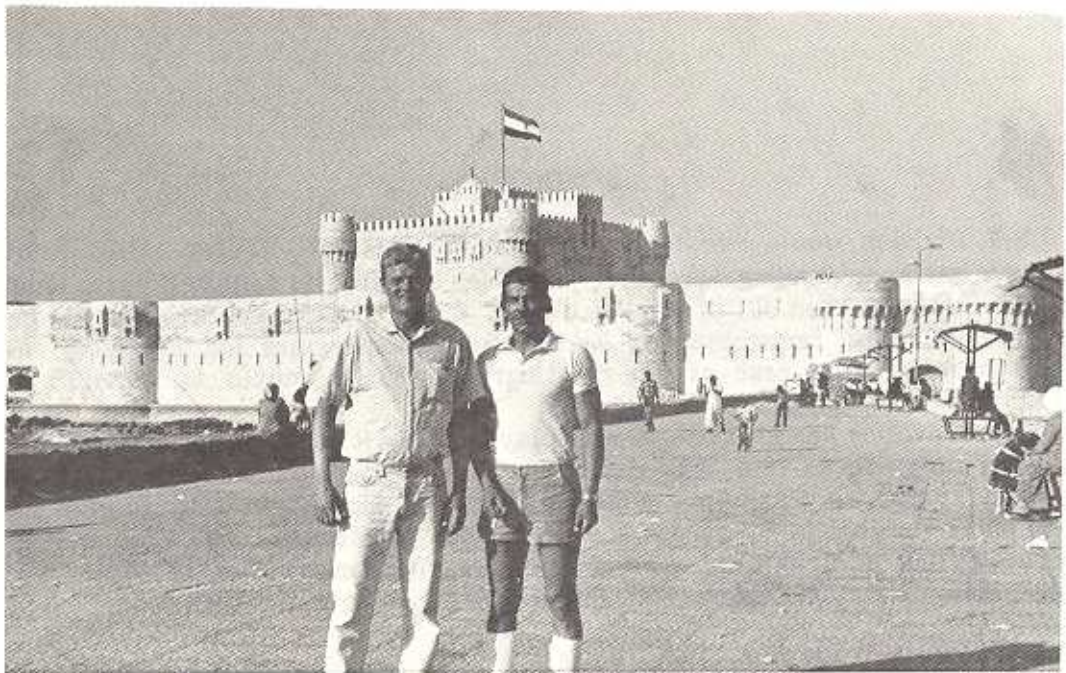
Hello, Mom and Dad. I'll see you August 30. MSSA May.

I love you, Tera.

Hello Mom, Sheila, and Sherry. Love you, miss you very much.

Hello Tonya and Rayshon. I love you and miss you, and by the time you receive this FAMILYGRAM, I hope to be home.

To Marylyn and Cher: I'm looking forward to the Riviera visit. Cher, have a nice visit back home. Love you and miss you both.



S-3/S-4 DIVISION

Supply Department would like to say farewell to SH2 Anthony Ayers and DK2 Lemar (Crocodile) Cook. DK3 Jerry Gordon has taken over as leading DK and cashier agent. In addition, he's taken the big step with a two year reenlistment.

The SH's are keeping busy receiving stores and making sure the store remains stocked. SH1 Castaneda, as leading SH, has been keeping busy as Ship's Barber, along with his usual recordskeeping duties. SH2 Flores has been working extra hours as our new Ship's Store Operator. SH3 King, our new Ship's Laundryman, has been keeping busy lifting weights, lifting sodas, and holding two ships together. (Ha Ha!)

Hi, Mom and Dad, from SH3 Jeffrey King.

Lois - Love you, miss you, and see you soon.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

OE DIVISION

Hello to all the OE Division wives and families:

Well, "Hump Day" has come and gone, and it's time to catch you up on all of the news within the division. Most of all, we just want to let you know that we think about you and talk of you constantly.

Our transit to the Med was relatively smooth, considering the time of year, so very little sea-sickness was suffered. That is, in our division! Our personal transition from inport Norfolk to a deployment mode took some time, but we weathered that storm as well.

If OE Division had a Hard-charger Award (which we don't), it would be presented to Jerry Larkin and Rick Simmons for their outstanding work on major equipment casualties. These guys really "busted their butts" to make sure that HART was ready to meet it's commitments. Runner-up would be a toss up between Dave Hubbard and Bob Main. That's not to say that the rest of us have not been doing anything; it takes the whole division to make sure that the jobs get done.

Some special personal accomplishments have just got to be mentioned. Jeff Byrd and Bob Main were qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists, and Jeff was selected as the T.C. HART's "Petty Officer of the Month" for February. Congrats, guys!

The ship is having an eventful and satisfying time with our comrades-in-arms of the NATO On Call Forces Mediterranean (NAVOCFORMED), and many new friendships have developed. All of us are interacting with our brother sailors, and many have made very lasting impressions. Notably, Dave Hubbard and Randy Funkhouser have become very well-known on the German Fregatte "BREMEN", with Dave raising international relations to a new high, and Randy dropping them to a new low.

All in all, each of us, like you, are coping with this separation in our own way. But all of us miss you (individually, of course), and look forward to the time of our reunion. Continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers, as we keep all of you in ours. We love you, and we'll be together again soon!

OC DIVISION

Hello to all the loved ones.

From the RM's (Raving Maniacs): This comes to you "live" from "Naval Communications Station, USS Thomas C. Hart".

We have been busting our rumps as usual, and enjoying so far what the cruise has to offer. We haven't had the most liberty, but that's the way the Med is for RM's. Don't worry though, because we are still crazy and still in love with you all.

Here are the happenings to date: Inhopped to the Med 12 March in glorious fashion, acting like our mascot "Sparky" the octopus (see the side of the NAVCAMS building in Norfolk -- you'll see what we mean); drinking coffee, sodas and tea, processing incoming and outgoing messages, sending messages via teletype, playing with the morse code key, tuning radios, fixing teletypes, eating chow and, finally, resting our weary bodies by sleeping with the "Rack Monster" (nothing to worry or get jealous about, ladies). By the way, we have processed over 6,000 incoming messages and 1,400 outgoing messages since leaving Norfolk. Not bad communications!

On 18 April, we became part of the NATO force called "Naval On Call Forces Med", or "NAVOCFORMED". We have made new friends from West Germany, Great Britain, Turkey, and Italy. We have had port visits that the "sandcrabs" back home have to pay for, and we get paid to come here! Visited exotic places such as Venice and Taranto, Italy, and Antalya, Turkey during NAVOCFORMED. Visited some other ports before that, too. Venice was the prime choice of the "Sparks Gang".

RMC Lambert has led us in great fashion, keeping his division officer, LTJG Grubbs, out of trouble. RM1 Altwies has pulled out all his hair in frustration with high-frequency transmissions instead of the usual satellite. RM1 Hanner has done a good job of keeping the teletypes up, considering the extensive use they've received. RM2 Barnes, RM3 Byerly, and RMSN Rab became another year older in April (RM3 Byerly and RMSN Rab became full-fledged adults - 21 years old). RM3 Moynihan has been a real workhorse, taking care of supplies and those Class "E" telegrams some of you have received. RMSA Verdi is learning alot about communicating as our newest member of the team. RM2 McCreery departed a little earlier than expected for the civilian world, sometimes called "CIVLANT".

From the SM's (Scivie Waivers): SM1 Nelson had another birthday. We think he must be 65 by now, since "Happy Birthday" is sung to him about once a month. SM2 Gallo is really "enjoying" his Master-at-Arms duties when rowdy sailors return to the ship around midnight. SM3 Strack's doing a good job keeping up with his damage control maintenance in between watches and special evolutions, such as UNREP's, when all signalmen are on the signal bridge. The SM's have set up for full dress ship more times during NAVOCFORMED than in any one year at home, due to various national holidays of NAVOCFORMED units. A fine signalman team they are indeed, continuing to "Communicate at the speed of light", as it says over the door to the signal shack.

Upcoming events: RM1 Altwies becomes the ripe old age of 38 on 14 June. LTJG Grubbs will become a father (Da-Da) in June (he has more gray hair now after helping RM1 Altwies pull out his hair). Well, there are more exotic ports coming, and who knows what else?

In closing, your support of us by your mail and care packages has been great, and we love you for it. Keep it coming! This comes to you at a good time - we're sure, as school is out, the kids are running rampant around the neighborhood, and temperatures are rising. This is our over-the-hump letter to you, as 31 May marks the half way point. God bless you all. Remember, communication is our best asset!

OI DIVISION

"WE'RE HAVING SOME FUN NOW!!

Hey, folks, we thought we'd take some time out from our busy, yet hungry schedule to let you all know how those "Scope Heads" in the dark world of CIC are holding up and over. Guess what, OSCS E.L. "Big Roy" Crow is still cracking the whip these days, leading us in cadence on our never-ending task of "marking the bug". Asked how this OS Gang compared to the last Med crew, all he could say was "Ranch style beans, where??!!" ENS Black is still in the dark about where all these magazine subscriptions keep coming from, and where we hid those crazy panda bears. Let's hope that he doesn't look who is taking joy rides on the radar antennae.

OS1 "Fast Eddie, THUUCRUUSHHAA" Smith, OS1 Mark "Chunky Sup" Schofield, and OS1 Dave "Now where can I put my golf clubs" Banks are all trying hard to figure out how OS3 Chris "Big Money" Hammerquist makes all those moves on the dance floor!! Speaking of moves, OSSN Mark "Dribbles" Cordell can't stop moving on the B-ball court. Already his reputation is known by what's his name. OS3 Robert "No really, she's my sister" Arnold finally made it back to the ship after being away at ASAC school. Now we have to figure out how he gets the helos to fly upside-down. Speaking of ASAC's, OS2 Kevin "AJ" Staten is busy supplying the division with enough exercise equipment to open a studio in Antalya, Turkey. He plans to call it "Kevin's Twist and Fit", and let OS3 Larry "Sorry, no discounts or specials here" Depriest manage it.

OS3 Stanley "Well, uh" Best keeps surprising the mid-watch by providing products from Hickory Farms (there has to be a connection somewhere). OSSN Tim "The Weed-eater??!!" Lemoine keeps us all entertained with tales from down South Louisiana. Did you see "Angel Heart"?! OS2 Tony "Alright, who's got my..." Adamson is convinced a ribeye steak is looking at him through his rack curtains at night. OS2 Tom "We're going back to Cally" Brown is taking his new duties as Mess Decks Master-at-Arms in stride. He has even got the utensils wearing Georgio Brutinis. OSSN John "White High Tops" McNeeley has written a few new songs lately. He almost invested stock in a chess store he found in Venice, Italy, but he was stopped only after he realized that he would have to live in a small stone room behind the shop.

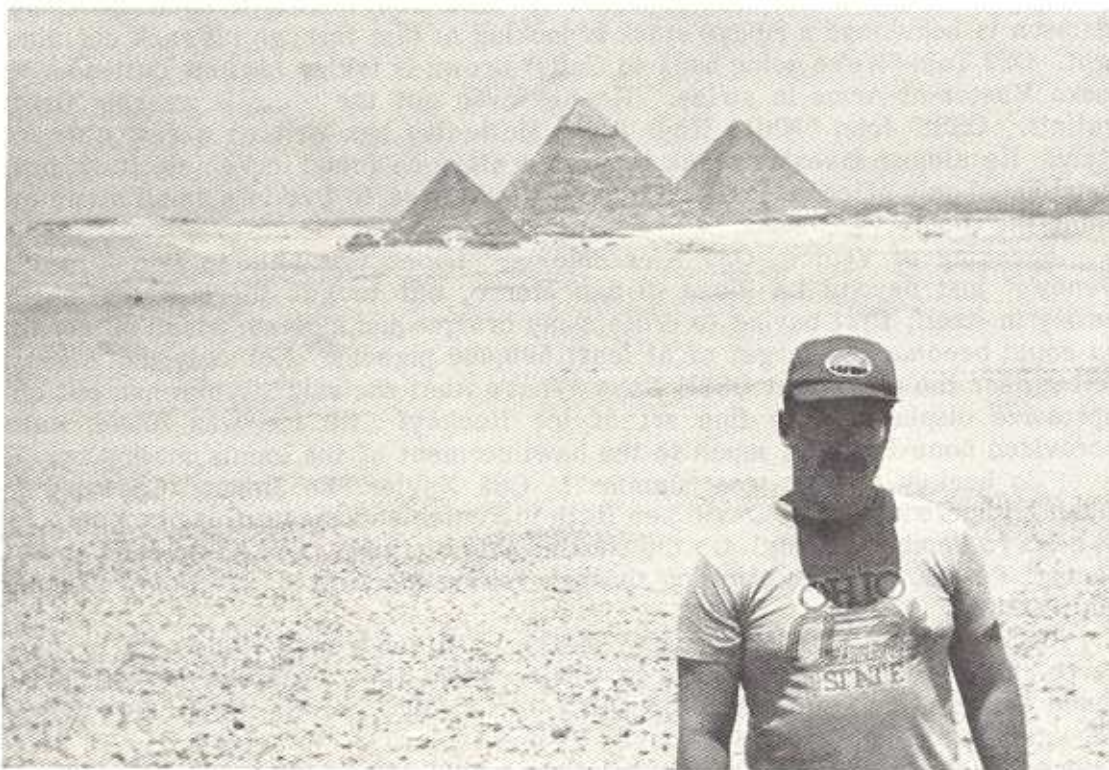
Speaking of Venice, OS3 Alex "Momar" Lopez was able to find a real-live "Wendy's" just beyond La Plaza di San Marco, but to get there was a perilous journey in itself, first having to cross many bridges and a plaza, which at any time, you could become the target of at least 500,000 pigeons. Not only did Alex find shelter near the plaza, but OSSN Dave "That's what she said" Cymerman put on an impressive display of the fine art of Ice Hockey! No ice was found, but he improvised none-the-less, much to the bewilderment of the locals passing by. Hey Dave, do hockey players wear Jamms?! OS2 Xavier "Le Shmoo" Castro did an amazing impersonation of David Lee Roth in Venice and the berthing compartment, but can't remember a thing! On the shorter side of things, OS3 Charles "Can't stop dancing" Foster was seen strolling through Venice sporting the latest in fashionable manly attire.

OSSN Harold "The Mercenary" McCoy still can't understand why he had to pay to ride a ferry to get places in Venice when that was the only way to get around anyway (It's a conspiracy!). OSSN Jeff "Holy Cow" Smith got lost over and over again, and then he got lost out in Venice too! OS3 Emmett "Patty T" Patrick could not believe the availability of such an abundance of wine, and at such a reasonable price too. The things one can do in the Mediterranean. "Patty T" thinks he should make a musical with Gene Kelley.

OSSN Monty "Wake up. Wake up! Monty, wake up!!!!" Nickell still hasn't developed the intestinal fortitude to try many of the foreign delicacies yet, but swears that someday, when they sell it in Food Lion, he will; the World Traveler! OSSN Leo "Wait a minute" Wright has recently returned to the division from his stint as an FSA, and is quickly catching up to the fast-paced world of CIC and Never-dull. His only statement was "Is this in my contract?" We are still waiting for OSSN Brandon "Mr. Upside-down Pyramid" Johnson to return from his temporary duties as FSA. We heard that the Remiggio family in Palermo, Sicily, has approached him concerning a job in the future as a bouncer at a nice establishment back in the States.

OSSN Tim "ID Card?" Elliott recently went down to the mess decks to do a temporary tour as FSA (service to the fleet)! We recently received two new OS's onboard: OSSN Willie "Welcome aboard haircut" Boldt, who hails from Phoenix, Arizona (now Monty can talk shop with someone from his neck of the galaxy), and OSSN Jerry "All my Ex's live in Texas" Downey from Big D, Texas. Now Big Roy and Le Shmoo have a third for the Texas trio. Don't worry, Gwen, Roy doesn't have his sights set on Wrestlemania IV yet! OS2 Sean "Don't rain on my parade" Keller will soon be leaving the HART for a future in college. His time is up and he is moving on to a new horizon. Good luck in the future, do your homework, and stay away from the frat parties.

Well, this brings to a close a chapter of the OI Division chronicles. Don't worry, more stories and adventures are sure to follow in the near future. Until then, keep us in your prayers, thoughts, and deeds, and we will be sure to have a safe, enjoyable, and fast cruise. Take care, we love you, and we will see you all in August. Don't forget to pay the bills and feed the goldfish!



OW DIVISION

Hello to everyone back home, from the guys of OW Division.

OW Division, considered T.C. HART's finest, continues to gain that leading edge in the world of Electronic Warfare. Recently, results of the Battle Efficiency training cycle marked OW Division as proud recipients of yet another "EW" Battle Efficiency Award. This award is added to our growing collection, making it our sixth consecutive award.

Welcome aboard to EW3 Warren Koch. Warren hails from Canton, Ohio, and is proud to be a member of an elite team of electronic warriors.

During our Taranto, Italy port visit, HART's crew participated in several athletic events with our NATO friends. Our own EWC was a member of the "Knock-down" team, which took part in several sporting events. With the help of Chief Robinson, HART took a second place finish. Not bad for an old, bald-headed fat guy!!!

Venice was beautiful!! It was everything you ever thought it was, and more. Palermo? Well..

Congratulations to EW2(SW) Gene Barner on his ESWS qualification. Way to show up the chief, Gene!

Happy birthday, Dennis, Jack and Craig. Getting Older!
Keep those care packages coming!!

BON JOURNO, having a great time, be glad that you're not here. Warren

Hi, folks. Will need a loan to get the film developed; lots of stories to tell. Craig

Hi, Grace. Thanks for the packages; tell Linda and Willie "Hi". Love ya. Kelly Hi everyone. You would have a ball in Europe; keep writing. Miss ya. Love, Tommy.

Hi Cindy, T.J., and Jennifer. Thinking of you every day. See you in sunny Cal in September. Love, Clem.

You guys ain't right!! Jack

WEAPONS DEPARTMENT

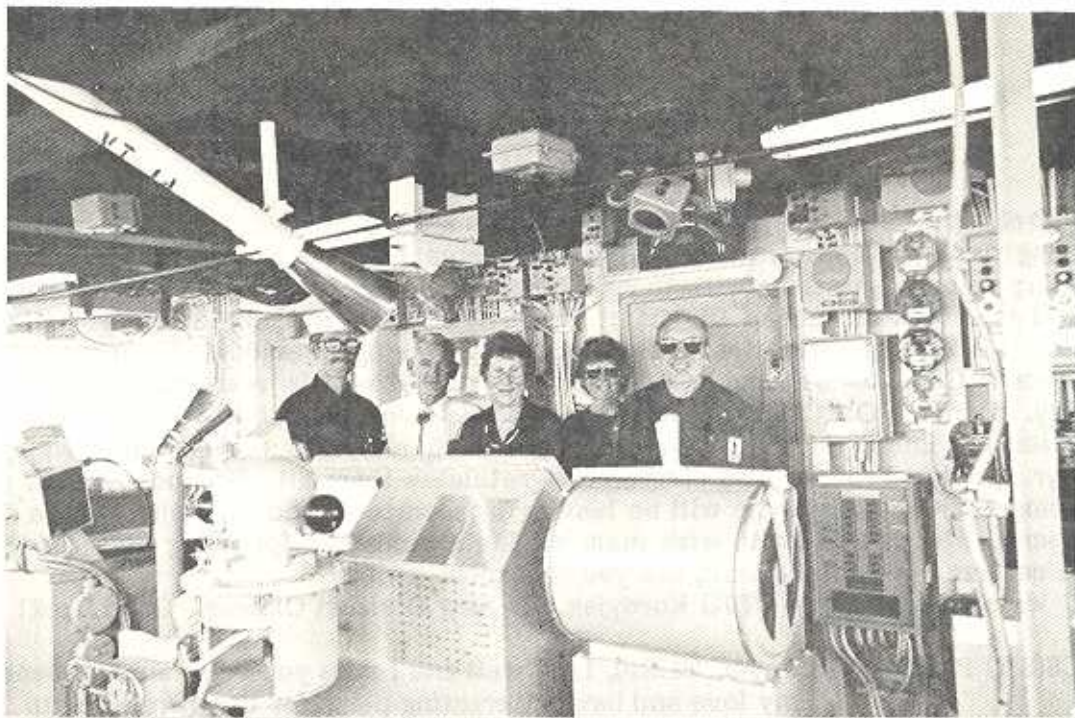
FIRST DIVISION

Dear family, friends and loved ones: A sincere "We miss you" from First Division!! The first half of this Mediterranean deployment has been a rigorous one. Yet, it has also been spectacular in some respects. The ports of call in France, Italy, Spain and Turkey are some of the best that any member of our glorious fraternity of anchor clankers has yet to frequent. It has been these brief reprieves in our hectic schedule of underway replenishments and seemingly endless hours at flight quarters that has kept our fraternity in top form.

First Division wishes to issue a hearty welcome aboard to BM3 Lowe and SN Cobey. BM3 Lowe joined us while we were in Palermo, while SN Cobey joined us in Venice. We would also like to congratulate BM3 Randall, BM3 Upchurch and BM3 Vega for converting their three year reserve obligation into an additional two years of active duty aboard USS Thomas C. Hart.

It is the wish of every member of First Division that all of our family and friends keep sending those little things from home that mean so much to us and that all of our loved ones keep those scented notes of passion flowing!!!

BMC(SW) Pryor: Yolanda, Donald and Brandi - I love you and miss you! - Don
BM3 Vazquez: Hello Toyonna, Bobby, Frankie and Carlos. Dad loves you.
Robert.
BM3 Vega: Hello, I miss and love you very much, Mom and family members.
Send Dorritos! - Dave
BM3 Upchurch: Hi family, I love and miss you all!!! - Curt
BM3 Redman: Hey Gayle and Marc Anthony; I love you both and miss you both
very much. See you soon. - Michael
SN Cobey: Howdy Mom, Joy, and Macee!! Love and miss you very much!
Gene
SN Hudson: Hi Folks, I'll write soon. Miss you guys. Love, Lek
SN Hunt: Hi everyone, been very busy. Love and miss you all. Having fun
and wish you were here. - Jim
SN Patton: Hi ya'll! The Dino's and I miss you all a bunch. Send cookies and
bubble gum. - Don
SN Rubery: Hi gang! Having fun, working hard. I love and miss you. See you
in another three. - Scott
SN Sawyer: Hi Mom, Dad, Lance and Travis. I love and miss you. Be home
soon. - Al
SN Whidbee: The Navy's not all that bad!!! - Eric



SECOND DIVISION

Welcome back to Second Division. All of us in Second Division have been enjoying ourselves. We've had several enjoyable port visits so far and are now finishing up our operations with the NATO Forces. We would like to congratulate several members of Second Division: FC2(SW) Adams for completing his Enlisted Surface Warfare qualifications; secondly, the following individuals have reenlisted underway: GMG1 Ocean and FC3 Long. FC2(SW) Mikolaitis reenlisted on the 25th of May. Our LCPO FCC(SW) Pillow has had two things to be happy about; first he qualified for Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, and then he reenlisted while in St. Cyr Sur Mer, France. The division congratulates them all. Second Division will be losing FC3 Taylor, for he will be leaving us soon to attend "C" School and a new command. We would like to wish them all "Fair winds and following seas" in their naval careers. We miss you all, see you real soon.

Welcome aboard to LTJG Kordyjak, our new Division Officer. Good Luck!

GMCS(SW) Phillips: To Faye: Hi Kid, I am well and I miss you very much. I send all my love and have interesting plans for us when I return.
Love, Bob.

FCC(SW) Shepherd: To Pam, Cindy and Jon: Miss you all very much and love you all very much. Be home before you know it. Don't soak up all the rays, I want some to!

FCC(SW) Pillow: To Donna, Amy, Jennifer and Jason: Love you all very much and miss you too. Keep those cards and letters coming and so will I. See you before too long, it's almost downhill.

GMG1(SW) Szelag: Val, let's see your legs! Miss everyone.

GMG1 Ocean: I miss you, see you soon.

GMG2 Knaust: I miss you all and will be with you before you know it.

FC2(SW) Adams: The sights! The sounds! The filth! Europe at its best. Miss you.

FC2(SW) Mikolaitis: To Louise, Lauren and Steven: I love you and miss you very much. See you soon. Always and forever.

FC2 Howell: I miss you all and will see you real soon.

FC3 Cullum: To Tracey, kids and family: I love you all and miss you.

FC3 Ferry: To my family and friends: Wish you were here. I'll be back before we know it. Miss you.

FC3 Lange: To family and friends: Hope to see you in Norfolk when we return. Miss you (truck too).

GMGSN Wright: Miss you and love you and the kids.

GMGSN Long: Mom, Dad, I will appear on your couch when you least expect it.

Mail service is slow, so keep the cards and letters coming!

FOX DIVISION

Greetings from Fox Division:

The STG's, GMM's, and TM's have once again demonstrated the true meaning of teamwork during Naval On Call Forces Mediterranean '88, a semiannual exercise consisting of various foreign navies involving many exercises and very flexible hours. During NAVOCFORMED three ports were visited. Warm receptions and goodbyes from the local people really brought out the true colors of pride and dedication of the division. While in port Venice and Taranto, Italy, and Antalya, Turkey, many new friends were made between the different navies with exchanges of hats, zippo lighters, and invitations to each other's ships for dinner. Venice, Italy was unanimously voted as the best port-of-call.

Welcome aboard to GMM2 Joiner who joined us in Port Mahon, Spain. STG1 Mullenix, STG3 Young, STG1 Young, STG3 Resling, STG2 Gleaves, STGSA Villalta, STG3 Stephens, STG3 McRae, STG1 Barrett, STGC Graham, and LTJG Metts (Fox Division's DIVO) have made contributions to the ship's sports teams during many inter-country games. The division is ready to celebrate Hump Day towards the end of May, signifying the halfway mark of the cruise. Soon we'll be home with loved ones. So until next time, we miss you and are waiting for that treasured arrival time!!!!

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A DIVISION

The men of A-Gang send their hello's and best wishes to family and friends back home.

The newest member of the team is MM2 A.J. Scott, who joined us after attending Air Conditioning and Refrigeration School upon his departure from the USS Constellation. He wishes everyone in Texas a warm "Howdy!" Next on the line-up is MM2 Doherty, the ace Auxiliaryman for A-Gang, who is anxiously awaiting news of a new addition to his family. Best wishes to the new mom! MM1 Johnson continues to lead A Division in his cool and collected manner. EN2 Thornton is recovering well since his midnight two-step with a pneumatic pump. He wishes to tell his family that he is doing well and nothing is broken. EN2 Broadbent continues to look after his one true love, "16V-71". "Slow" Williams carries on a fine tradition of "Work hard, play hard" with a few minor slip-ups. MM3 Fulcher and MMFN Ferguson continue to be top performers and send warmest regards to family and friends back home. FN Franklin, the backbone of Auxiliary, says hello to all back in Oregon.

From A Division to the families back home, "We're almost home".

B DIVISION

Since leaving home, we have been busy as usual. On our way to the Med, we completed a new record for a T.C. HART full-power run. While inport, the usual day-on day-off routine still exists, but we all have been given an opportunity to go on all the tours in the various ports, which have been fun.

BT3 Black, BT3 Barnes, and BT3 Giles have all participated in the E-5 exam. BT2 Figuereo is awaiting possible E-6. PO1's Holden and Shook are eagerly awaiting the results from the CPO Selection Board in late June. BTFN Cruikshank, BTFN Ebata, BTFN Emerick, and BTFN Tovar are trying for that first chevron so they can start collecting that sea pay. Everyone is waiting to see their family and friends on the pier in Norfolk. We're almost half way there.

The following people have a special message:

Mom and Dad: I miss you. I wish you could have seen some of the ports I've seen.
Love, Keith.

Mom, Jodi, Ernie, and Dad: I miss all of you very much. Did I get my package?
Happy Birthday Jodi and Dad. Love, Paul.

Jalayne and Kids: I miss you, see ya soon. Love, Brian.

Donna and girls: I miss you all very much and love you dearly. All my love, Robin.

Kerri: I miss you very much. I love you, I'll be home soon. Mom: I miss you guys.
See you on the pier. Love, Scott.

Joanne and Jennifer: I love you and miss you. Lou/Dad.

Millie: Love you, miss you very much, be home soon. John.

Mom: Happy Mother's Day. Sorry it's late. Love, Robert.

Hi. I miss you, be home before you know it. Love, Russ.

Norma and Yvette: The immensity of this ocean cannot be compared with the
immensity of my love for you. Joel.

Terry, Misty, and Lisa: I'm counting the days until we can be together again. Love
forever, Jerry.

Hi Dad, Mom, Shane, and Joe. I'm having a great time. Love you and miss you.
J.T. Deskin.

Hi Mom. Write now and then, from Brad.

Mom, Dad, Ella Faye, Tomiko, Juanna, Shannon, Mike, Little Mike, and Little One:
Miss you all and wish I was there. Love, Andre.

Solaris, Darien, Saharis, Sahiris, and my wife Luchy: I hope you are all doing well.
Los Quiero a Todos! Fig.

To Cakes: Another summer without me, but it won't be long until we'll spend all
our time together. I love you all and miss you very much. J.W., the lonely
sailor.

I miss you all, I'm doing fine. Plan a party! Ed.

Pam: I love you and miss you very much. See ya on the pier. Love, Chuck.

Sam and Jenny: Miss you very much and love you both always. I'll be home soon.
Love, Todd(Daddy).

Dad and Tom: Keep up the work making that first million! Tom, stay single until I
get my \$100 back. Love, Ace.

Kathy Giles: I miss you very much and love you always. Mina mahal kita asawa-
ko. Give my love to Nikita. Eric.

E DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH-HART POWER/LIGHTING & COMMUNICATION

A ship is a small city. We have stores, fine restaurants, sunny steel beaches, an airport, and even a high bridge in the center of town. Like in every city, the utilities commission plays a vital role. The life-blood is pumped through our town by the team of Commonwealth-HART, Power/Lighting and Telephone men.

Leading off at bat is our pitcher, EMC R. Schilling, picked up as a free agent late in January. He is looking forward to the close of the season to do some fishing with his wife and daughters.

Next up is our catcher, EM1 R. Clemente. Known as the teams gourmet cook, Raffy sends his love to his wife and children. He says he misses them and is going to hit his next homerun for them. Ralph is also one of our Co. Captains.

Batting third in our All-Star lineup is IC1 R. Higgins. Rich is our veteran, but before he hangs up his glove, he wants to try his hand at pitching. He has been working hard at it and may take the mound in the next game or two.

Hitting clean-up is IC2 B. Feeney. Bob is the team's leading authority on movie trivia. He has seen them all. In the off season, he runs the town TV station. Bob says he is going to trade all this for a nice, quiet parts business.

Next up is our "Big Stick", EM3 S. Hines. Scott is our vacuum glove at short-stop. Any hard hit problem coming in his direction is always handled with no mercy. "To loving Ma" in Knoxville, Tenn.

Over at 3rd is EM3 B. Webb. Bill loves to play the line. We never know if it's foul or fair, that's how quickly he jumps on the ball. Mr. & Mrs. Webb, Bill says he is doing OK!

Left field is home to EM3 B. Goodman, known as "Flash". Mark is a real fleet-foot. Our infielders don't look over their shoulders with him behind them. Lately, Mark has been bugging everyone about baby names. We think he may be pregnant or something.

On center stage in center field is IC3 M. May. Mario is a second season rookie. He snatched a spot in the starting lineup early. This guy can tell you anything you would ever want to know, even the "revolutions" of the ball.

Right field is where you will find one of the newest members of our lineup, IC3 D. Brown. Don is starting off in right for now, but we don't think he will stay there. Things come easily to him, as he can play any position. He and Mark are swapping baby name books. He sends his love to Connie and misses her.

Our oldest rookie in the bullpen is FN J. Brack. Jeff worked his way up from the minor leagues. He is working very hard and dares one of the starters to slow down.

Rookie EMFN D. Rogers was recently recalled from waivers. He has spent the last few months playing for our farm team. We expect good things from this young man. "I love you, Mom. Send more money" (Ha! Ha!)

Rookie ICFA M. Panella came to us a month ago, fresh out of school. The management has sent him to the farm for some extra training, but he'll be back by the end of the season. "Hi, Mom, having a great time. See you in September."

Well, there they are, ladies and gentlemen, the USS Thomas C. Hart "Chess Team".

M DIVISION

Hello from the "Hole Snipes". A lot has happened since our departure. New friends have been made, even though language barriers had to be overcome. Chances to see places others dream about have become a reality. We have seen Turkey and Egypt and are looking forward to France and Spain, but with lockers bulging from a combination of uniforms and souvenirs, there isn't much room. I suppose we'll have to mail the uniforms home so we have more room for souvenirs. After all, we have to sacrifice something, don't we?

A lot of long hours have been spent keeping the spaces clean. They seem to be an attraction everyone wants to see. Still, we have a damn good bunch of engineers, and the pride shows in us winning the Engineering "E". This shows that we're number one. It was justly earned, "We did good", and it was a long hard road for all. "Well done".

Well, we'll see you in August. All our thoughts and love are there with you. Don't worry, we'll bring us home safe and sound, you can depend on it!

Crash: Have the venison and real mashed potatoes ready, honey.
Luv Ya...

Jeff: Dear Mom - See you in two months. Love you.

Mojo: Keep it warm.

Kenni: Love you, miss you, always thinking about you. See you in September.

Joseph Jr: To my dear beloved family, whom I love and miss very much.

MMFN Scheck: Happy Birthday, Mom. Miss you.

MMFN Sexton: Miss ya'll, love you, see ya soon.

MM3 Hipple: 10 more months to go!

Ben: Kathy - I love you.

Boss: Dearest loved ones, I can't wait to get home.

MMFN O'Donnell: I haven't forgotten you, have you forgotten me? Your orphan son.

MM3 Wilson: Honey, they wouldn't print what I really wanted to say.

MM3 Dungan: Hi, Mom. Send some tapes. Be home soon.

MMFN McRae: To my dearest and most precious loved ones. See you all in August.



R DIVISION

Repair Division would like to start out by wishing a big "Hello" and "Howdy-do" to all our loved ones and friends back in the states. "R" Division is happy to welcome our newest member, the new DCA, ENS James Schreiber. We also welcomed another new member, HTC Dean Ashman, only to lose him due to illness. He made a lasting impression on us all and he will be sorely missed. The division has proudly gained four new 3rd Class Petty Officers: HT3 Thomas Conyers, HT3 Frank Anderson, HT3 Keith Wilson, and DC3 Ed Parker. We have also had a member recently qualify in the ESWS Program - Congratulations to HT2(SW) Stephen Holliday. Way to go, Steve!

We have all enjoyed ourselves in our liberty ports, and have seen much of the world that we most often only read about. We have seen such things as the Pyramids, the Sphinx, and the King Tut exhibit. We have sampled many different types of foreign delicacies, and have gotten many souvenirs. We have participated in sporting events against foreign navies, and have gotten to tour many different foreign navy ships during our NATO cruise, often staggering off after touring the bars onboard their ships. All in all, we are all doing well and can't wait to return home to the good old USA. A few notes to a few special people follow.

HT2(SW) Holliday: Says hello to his family and friends, and also to keep the letters coming. I miss you all.

HT3 Wilson: Says hello. miss you, looking forward to coming home, "12".

HTFN Frank: Says to Mr.& Mrs. Frank - Hello, how are you. This is your loving son. I miss ya and love ya guys. Keep the mail coming.

HT3 Anderson: Says hello to my family. I'm doing fine so far. See you when we get home.

HT2 McIntyre: Says 143 Lisa, be home soon, looking forward to some of your good home cooking. Can't wait to get started...! Looking forward to pulling into Norfolk one last time. Pet Valerie for me!

HT2 Hutchinson: Hi, babe, missing you and Adam and Austin lots! But it's all downhill from here on out. I love you Michele. Les can't wait til August -Yum, Yum.

MR2 Sweet: Hey! I'm still alive. Crack a bottle of Jack in three months. Later.



HSL-32 DET 7

Hello to all from the Air Detachment. Yes, it seems that our European vacation is just about half over. Only a few short months left and it will be back to our friends and family. Are we looking forward to it? You bet! The cruise so far has been very interesting, and productive too. With the numerous inport days scheduled, we tried to maximize our flying whenever possible, as well as work in a reasonable amount of training to spice up a rigorous maintenance schedule that ensures a one-hundred percent fully mission capable aircraft. We've met with success.

AWAN Oliver, AEAN Roberson, AX3 Wagus, and AT2 Wilson all took advancement exams for their prospective future rates, with results to be forthcoming any day now. Petty Officer First Class Burns scored so well on his Chief's Exam that he has been selected as board-eligible for Chief. Congratulations. Congratulations as well to AT2 Wilson for the Navy Achievement Medal awarded him for his heroic actions on his last cruise.

Well, OIC LT Wright, MO LTJG Tooker, AT2 Kowalski, AZAA Wicker, and AMS1 Burns all celebrated birthdays in the first half of the cruise, with the celebrations being postponed until the detachment's shorebasing period upcoming in Sigonella, Sicily in June. LTJG Hannan is the proud father (for the second time) of a bouncing baby girl, Heather June, born in May. Both the mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations, Markus and Kim.

Chief Floyd was greeted by his wife, Kristen, in both Venice and Taranto, Italy, and was able to spend quality time seeing the sights with the best companion ever. In the first two ports, LTJG Tooker's wife, RoseMarie, was also able to meet him, first in Port Mahon, Spain, and again in St. Cyr, France. What lucky couples, both of them!

As most of you know by now, we had the opportunity to ski the French Alps at Oscierre-Merlette on Easter Sunday. Great fun, even for the beginners! AMSAN Tanner and AMSAA Elliott are both fast becoming expert structural mechanics under the talented watchful eye of AMS1 Burns. AD1 Landry and AD3 Bredbenner are both doing excellent jobs keeping the aircraft mechanically sound on the night and day shifts. AW2 Curran is lending his experience and instruction as a skilled aircrewman to AWAN Oliver, who is rapidly developing the polish of a seasoned veteran. LTJG Cole is flying as much as possible and trying to regain some long-forgotten writing skills for these newsletters. The food, drink, and tourist attractions at all of the ports have been interesting at the very least, but nothing compares to what we have back home in the United States. We're looking forward to a pleasant finish to the cruise, with more Italian, French, and Spanish ports, but have our sights set on home, where our hearts remain. Thanks again for keeping you in your thoughts and prayers. See you in a few months.

