

USS MULLINNIX (DD944)
FPO New York 09501

11 May 1972

Familygram Number 72-4

Dear MULLINNIX Families,

Now that we are in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, I am authorized to communicate with you concerning our employment. During the evening of 8 April we received a message to report on the time required to be ready for an extended deployment. The ship at this time was undergoing upkeep and we had alot of machinery, electronics, ordnance and communications equipments down for routine repairs. Nevertheless, I stated that we would be ready to sail in two days. I then initiated a recall of everyone on leave to return to make preparations for the deployment. The response from all hands was overwhelming. Our Supply Department had the lions' share in arranging for all the food and spares necessary for a long self-supporting deployment. Everyone made it back and we were ready in all respects for sea in plenty of time for our departure. As it turned out we had until 12 April and we made good use of this extra time.

Since our departure from Norfolk we have been conducting training in virtually every phase of shipboard operations, concentrating mainly on gunnery. The guns are performing very reliably at this time as is the engineering plant, communications and all areas necessary to meet any contingency. This performance is a direct reflection of each man in MUX doing his job in a truly professional way. We have developed into an unbeatable team and everyone is ready for our forthcoming operations. These

missions will involve primarily naval gun fire off the coast of Vietnam. Please be assured that while conducting gun fire support in hostile areas I will take advantage of our 13 mile gun range so as to minimize exposure of the ship to hostile fire.

Since our guns are needed in Vietnam our trip out here has been anything but a good will cruise. Our stops have included 5 hours in Rodman for fuel after the interesting Panama Canal transit, Pearl Harbor for 20 hours, and Midway and Guam for about 7 hours each. It is a tribute to the Engineers that we have been able to sustain this 12,000 miles of steaming (half-way around the world) without anymore than short stops for fuel. We did have a chance however to let off a little steam in Honolulu with almost everyone taking pictures of the beautiful island and seeing some of the downtown night spots.

I know that each of you are most anxious to know when we will return home. So many ships were deployed and extended on station that the dust really hasn't settled to sort out just what our force level requirements in South East Asia will be for the long haul. Decisions on our return home must necessarily depend on the reaction to our blockade and the outcome of the North Vietnamese invasion. Hopefully the pressure on North Vietnam will force a cease fire. If a cease fire materializes then force levels will be reduced quickly thereafter and Mighty MUX will come steaming home in style. I am deeply proud and grateful to every shipmate in MUX. They are tops and you can be sure that whatever our assignment, each man will respond to the challenge just as they have done in training. We are ready. Thank you for your wonderful

support and your patience in the face of this disruption in plans.

Since my last familygram we have added the following newcomers to the MUX family:

MMC Jackie HUTCHINS
HT3 Jerry HUNDERTMARK
RD3 Fred PARKER
RMSA Michael DORSEY
BTFN Robert SMOGOR
MMFA Steven PEGRAM
YN1 Lonnie HINTON
HT2 George JOHNSON
MMFN Michael GESSMAN
BT3 Charles WOOD
RM3 Mark ADAMS
EMFN Kurt CAMM
MMCS James SCHOOLEY

GMGSA William BUTTERWORTH
CSSA Steven PETERSEN
SN Robert KUZMAUL
BTFA Kenneth GLOVER
FN Larry GOUDEAU
BT2 Jimmy BEGLEY
SN Douglas TATCHELL
SA Cleoms COLEMAN
BTC Dillmus ORLEY
EM3 James YODER
QMSA Dennis SCHMIDT
RM2 Lance AUGUSTIN
RM3 Steven PHILLIPS

In addition we conducted ceremonies to recognize recent advancements in rating and Good Conduct Awards which I believe is the most significant indication of our progress. Those honored are as follows:

GOOD CONDUCT AWARDS

GMGC Charles HENDRIX (FIFTH)
SK2 Richard HEFNER (FOURTH)
BM3 William CECIL (FIRST)
MM2 Danny HILL (FIRST)
PN1 Andy FREEMAN (SECOND)
ETC William MORAN (FIFTH)
SKC James REESE (THIRD)
FTG2 Thomas DEMKO (FIRST)


ADVANCEMENTS

SM2 Jesse LEAR
HT3 Larry GOUDEAU
SN Dallas PLUMB
FN Matthew BRIGGS
MMFN Burle LEDSO ME

ADVANCEMENTS

RD3 Dennis BUSH
SH3 Richard CHASE
BM3 Robert CREECH
CS3 Robert DINARO
SM3 Bernard GAUTHIER
GMG3 Daniel PERRINE
RM3 Roger ROTHWEILER
SM3 Stanley STOCKHAM
IC3 Robert TOTH
GMG2 Robert TYNG
QM3 Daryl WRIGHT
SM3 Terence MAHONEY
MM2 Danny HILL
SN Joseph PAGLIA
HTFN Michael PATTISON

My warmest regards,


Jim CANNON