

MULLINIX FAMILYGRAM

USS MULLINIX DD-944 FPO NEW YORK 09501



3 October 1973

Dear MUX Families and MUX Friends

For seven and one half months, I drove through the Portsmouth tunnel to the Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth where the MULLINIX was undergoing an overhaul. One morning in August, I saw the light at the end of that long tunnel. It gives me great satisfaction and great joy to be able to write this familygram by the light of a beautiful Norfolk day. It is wonderful to be back home at the D and S Piers. During our absence, the ship and crew have changed somewhat. Our ship is not only more capable of completing its mission successfully, but more importantly, the MULLINIX is now in a much better material condition. During the overhaul, we have seen many new faces report on board and many familiar faces cross the brow for the last time. So, it is with this revitalized, better ship and with many new crew members that we look forward to doing our job as a destroyer in the United States Navy.

The first part of our job is to prepare for our refresher training at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Cuba which is scheduled for the month of November. Our preparation has already begun. In fact, it began in the yards where all the work that was performed was checked to make sure it met all the operational and safety specifications set by the fleet and required at GTMO. We will continue to get ready for GTMO during the first couple of weeks in October by spending approximately eight days in local operations. Toward the middle of the month, we will leave Norfolk and head South stopping in Port Everglades, Florida and steaming in the vicinity of the Bahamas for alignment and calibration of our weapons systems. During the last few days of October, we will be enroute to Cuba and start our refresher training at GTMO on arrival.

Although our training in GTMO will be rigorous and extensive, you will all be in our thoughts day in and day out. We may not have as much free time to write as much as we would like, but we certainly hope to spend a lot of our time reading our mail from home. We all look forward to Mail Call. Every letter or post card raises morale. So, keep those cards and letters coming in, folks.

After completing our training at GTMO, we will be heading homeward stopping on the way for shore bombardment exercises at Vieques Island. We will continue our way North and expect to be arriving home around the eighth of December. I am sure that tradition will forgive us if we start to celebrate the Holiday season as soon as we pull in to the D and S Piers.

We will usher in 1974 with plans and preparations for our Middle East Cruise scheduled for 1 March. This deployment should take us to some very interesting and intriguing ports. We will be steaming along both the East and West Coast of Africa, up into the Persian Gulf, and down into the Indian Ocean. As the details of this cruise crystalize, I will include them in future Familygrams to keep you all informed.

A well-deserved congratulations goes to the following men who have met the requirements for advancement and have been advanced in their rate:

ADVANCEMENTS SINCE 1 JANUARY 1973

HT2 GYNES	STG3 BRIGGS
MM3 LEDSONE	BM3 GROSSKURTH
GMG3 PAGLIA	EM2 YODER
QM3 WALL	BM3 BROPHY
BT3 WONCH	IC3 HALLBERG
BT2 WYRICK	RM3 DORSEY
OS3 RENCHER	FTG3 JOHNSTON
EM3 MOLAND	GMG3 TOTH
FTG3 WOOD	BT3 WADE
GMG3 ARNOLD	FTG2 BAKER
RM3 BLANKENBAKER	YN3 BREWBAKER
BT3 BOHMERT	GMG3 CHABALA
FTG3 BROCK	BT1 COLBURN
BM3 BRODIE	CS3 WILLIAMS
BM2 BROWN	FTG1 KNOWLES
OS3 BRUNELLE	MM1 SLYDER
EM3 CANN	BM3 WOODALL
PC3 ERNST	BT3 BABCOCK
BT3 GREEN	OS3 RENFER
OS2 LORENZ	BM3 SAUNDERS
EM3 MOLL	RM2 SMITH
MM3 PEGRAM	SD3 DAVID
GMG3 RESETAR	ETR2 MELLOTT
BT3 RYER	ETR2 CLAUSE
BM3 BRASSART	FTG3 BERRY

We are also very happy to have had the following men re-enlist to continue their service to the Navy and our country:

MA1 CORREA	EN1 WOIDA	BTC JACKSON
BM1 GORDEN	SDSN ADRIANO	PN1 RYGH
EM3 ATIENZA	STG3 MOFFAT	MMC HUTCHINS
EM3 GARNETT	STG2 MCKINNEY	ETR2 CLAUSE
SD2 RACINEZ	ST1 VANTASSEL	EN3 SIMON

Special recognition goes to now MA1 CORREA and now NC1 LAGRECA. Both men have been selected for new ratings just instituted in the Navy. Petty Officer CORREA was a First Class Radioman but is now a First Class Master-at-Arms (MA). NC1 LAGRECA was a First Class Ship's Serviceman but is now a First Class Navy Counselor (NC). Congratulations to both of you on your selection and achievement.

Finally, our task as MUXMEN is not an easy one. We have spent an unusually long period of time in overhaul. Some of us will have to find our sea legs once again while others of us will be learning to walk on water for the first time. Some of us will have to retrain while others of us will be learning the very basics. We all will need the support and help of our terrific MUX families and MUX friends during these next few months. Your understanding and encouragement have always made our job easier. I know we can count on you again.

Warm regards

ALEX J. VIESSMANN