



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

16 October 1981

Dear members of the HART family,

Based on the many written returns from our August Familygram, we know that (1) you're out there and (2) liked what you read so... here's the October edition, bringing you up to date with HART's recent activities. My last letter to you was written in mid - August, just after we had commenced "Refresher Training" down south in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I'm happy to report that we survived that vigorous evolution intact and were, in fact, able to depart Cuba and arrive home two days ahead of schedule, primarily due to the herculean efforts of our engineering department. As it evolved, Refresher Training developed into exclusively engineering-oriented training, designed to successfully pass a stiff, propulsion examination which comes about every eighteen months. The two and a half weeks at GITMO routinely saw:

- Reveille at 4:30 AM
- Underway Monday thru Saturday about 6 AM
- Continuous engineering casualty control drills from 8 AM - 6 PM
- Returning to port after dark
- Getting ready for the next day's drills
- and then it was...
- ~-4:30 AM, Again!

Needless to say, we all got a bit ragged around the edges but fortunately were able to complete all of the required drills satisfactorily, while avoiding any equipment casualties which might have delayed our final exam. And, at the end of their training, the engineers had come through with flying colors, with all three of our ship's watch sections passing the exam successfully - a rare achievement of which they can be most proud. We steamed out of Guantanamo late on the night of August 29th right after the examination to the soft tones of "going home" music on our ship's loudspeaker system and with broad grins all round. And, if it hadn't been for Secretary Bancroft forbidding alcoholic beverages on Navy ships decades ago, I know we would have looked like your Miller's Lite beer commercial, save for the engineers who were, unless on watch, sound asleep. After a fairly choppy transit north, we arrived back in Norfolk on September 2nd to enjoy warm reunions with families and friends over the Labor Day weekend - with one notable exception - the Supply Department, as I'll explain.

I remember once counting up all the inspections the Navy would have a ship undergo each year and it turned out to be something like needing to begin a new one every three days. Our bosses have been working to reduce the frequency of these inspections over the years but we in HART didn't think so during September! No sooner had Labor Day arrived than the Supply Department found themselves "Labor-ing" for the comprehensive Supply Management Inspection, or "SMI", received September 8-9. Even

though they had just come through a most busy Caribbean adventure, nevertheless, the "pork chops" achieved a satisfactory mark on their exam, including laudatory inspector comments regarding shipwide cleanliness. Our dining facility and food service programs were evaluated especially "outstanding" and the Supply folks really did themselves proud.

Believe it or not, it got worse before it got better for, on September 20th, an "INSURV" team of some 30 expert inspectors arrived for a one-week, in-depth examination of HART, from the bow to the stern. This triennial event is nightmarish for any ship, and HART's INSURV was no exception. We are now the proud owners of a 3 inch book of things to keep us busy in coming months, most of which we were fortunately aware. While this one was no fun, it was a much needed inspection to gauge the condition of ship's equipment as being either FIT or UNFIT for further service - and, we were found FIT! We are still in the INSURV "recovery" period, reassembling the many pieces of machinery examined by the inspectors, while also preparing for our next major underway period beginning October 19th. Before concluding this inspection summary, I want to express my personal pride in the professionalism, dedication and tremendous efforts expended by each HART sailor during the past two months. I can assure you on the home front that this crew is giving taxpaying Americans much more than just their money's worth!

Before continuing with a new addition to our familygram, namely, a divisional news section, let me review our upcoming schedule for you. Once again, it's always tentative, but looks like this:

OCT 19	Depart Norfolk
22	Inport Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico
23 - 26	Gunnery Shore bombardment exercises, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico
27 -	Visit Antigua Island, as U.S. Representative to
NOV 01	Antigua's Independence celebration
NOV 02 - 08	Operations as carrier escort
09 - 10	Enroute next port
11 - 14	Visit Savannah, Georgia in support of Navy Recruiting
16 - 17	Serve as Anti-Submarine school ship in the Bahamas area
18 - 19	Enroute Norfolk
20	Arrive home (afternoon)

We remain particularly excited about our port visits into Antigua and Savannah and are preparing by gussying up the ship with a new coat of paint, while adding some of the traditional "fancy - work" here and there. We are also eager to join up with the carrier J. F. KENNEDY in the Caribbean, after completing our annual gunnery qualifications in Puerto Rico, and I'll give you a full account of our operations in the next Gram. Gazing at the ol' crystal ball, it appears we'll have a major 3 week fleet exercise beginning in mid - January, prior to departing for operations with the U.S. SIXTH FLEET in the Mediterranean on March 17th for a four - plus month deployment. Some exciting things are shaping up for Med operations and I'll keep you advised as things solidify. On a bright note, HART expects to be home for the next two Christmas seasons - let's keep our fingers crossed that world events let that come to pass!

Turning to reports from the divisions, here's what's been happening around the ship:

.....CREW'S NEWS.....

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

FOOD SERVICE - The Food Service Division operates the Enlisted Dining Facility ("The Clipper's HAVEN"), the Chief Petty Officer's Mess and the Officer's Wardroom Mess. MS1 Dominar MIRANDA, Leading Petty Officer for food service, provides the overall expertise for this complex operation, assisted by the port and starboard watch captains, MS1 Grant WILEY and MS1 Wayne MURRAY. MSSN Derrick GIBEL has continued to put out a super product from his night baking. Recent personnel changes have been implemented to allow flexibility and training. The new MS picture looks as follows:

MS1 Dominar MIRANDA - LPO
MS1 Carlos CAYABA - Subsistence SK
MS2 James BRODEN - Recordskeeper
MS1 Apolina ALTAREZ - Wardroom Supervisor
MSSN Derrick GIBEL - Night Baker
BM1 Willie E. RUSH - Enlisted Dining Facility MAA

PORT WATCH

MS1 Grant WILEY
MS3 Eddie FIGUEROA
MSSN Richard EDENS

STBD WATCH

MS1 Wayne MURRAY
MS3 Charles PLUMMER
MSSN Jeffrey BROUILLETTE

The Food Service Division continues to do well as evidenced by the excellent grades received on the recent Supply Management Inspection.

STOREKEEPER - The Storekeepers onboard are continuing to keep their heads above water in providing the Supply support for the ship, despite the serious Fleet-wide shortage of Storekeepers. SKSN MOORE, who has just completed SK "A" School, is working his way into the division while SK2 SELLEK will be leaving in December 1981, converting to the MS rating. Relief is in sight with SK1 R. MARCELINO ordered to report in January 1982.

DISBURSING - The Disbursing Division is HART's miniature bank. Disbursing is the single source of government negotiable instruments onboard, from postage stamps to payday. DK1 RYAN, the ship's disbursing clerk does it all, assisted by DK3 DOYLE. DK3 DOYLE is due to transfer ashore this month.

RETAIL OPERATIONS - The Ship's Servicemen aboard provide a variety of services to the crew. The Retail Operations facilities have reached the end of another Fiscal Year and personnel have been rotated in job assignments to allow all members adequate training and flexibility. SH2 Lorenzo BROWN is the ship's barber and Bulk Storeroom Custodian; SHSN Kevin KELLY (an old-timer onboard since 1977) is now the Ship's Store operator; SHSR HURLEBUSCH is the vending machine operator and the primary laundryman; SA Seth KRASSNER, also a laundryman, is the video Game Machine operator; FN Randall WEEDE and FN Joseph A. SMITH make up the rest of the charging laundry force providing one day in/one day out service. SH2 Cary SCOTT supervises all services and outlets records, ordering, merchandising and planning.

WEAPONS DAPARTMENT

FIRST DIVISION - Returning from six months of temporary duty at Little Creek, BM2 Lewis MORGAN hit the decks running, assisting First Division in many long hours of preparations for INSURV. The hard work put in by the division paid

off as INSURV Inspection results showed no mission-degrading discrepancies in the Deck/Seamanship area. New additions to the Deck Force include Seamen MADDEN, SARECKY, KNIGHT, and VASSALLUZZO, who have already made their mark on the division and have transitioned well into the daily routine of the ship. The big project for the division now is to prepare the ship for our trip South. All efforts are devoted to the preservation and painting of every exterior surface of the ship. With pride as its hallmark, HART will be the sharpest looking Man o' War in the Caribbean, come the end of October.

SECOND DIVISION - On the Gunnery side of the house, Petty Officers BLYTH, WILSON and PETTY chose to leave the Navy in search of greener pastures and fewer duty days and will be greatly missed by their shipmates. The rest of the division is carrying on in their usual "superstar" style. We will have a chance to prove ourselves in the weeks ahead when we take on the Naval Gunfire Support Range at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. We are hoping to come away with a high score and qualify for the Surface Gunnery "E". The division also has had some new blood injected into it with the arrival of GMGSN Michael FRYBERGER from school in Great Lakes, Il., SN Jeffrey RECOB from First Division and ENS Doug CLARK from Basic Surface Warfare Officers School, Newport, R.I. They are a welcome addition and have already shown signs of being able to take over where their predecessors left off. So sleep well America, 2nd division is ready to protect your freedom and country.

FOX DIVISION - Petty Officer Dale KOSIER recently reported for duty from USS PUGET SOUND while Seaman Robert HEATH reported in from Sonarman School and Seaman Mark MUNSON just arrived from GMT "A" School. Petty Officer James C. SNEARY reenlisted for five years to continue his career and will remain on board until eligible for shore duty. Petty Officer Mark G. DAMMER departed for greener pastures ashore at Great Lakes, Ill.

The recent INSURV inspection reinforced HART's standing as the top ASW ship in the Fleet. In all areas of ASW related functions, Fox Division proudly displayed the fine capabilities of our ship. The division's enthusiasm and confidence brought many compliments from the INSURV inspectors. As we say in Fox, when you're the best, it's hard to be modest. Upcoming events include some very exciting ASW exercises off the Virginia Capes and Caribbean that will once again provide another opportunity for the division to do what it does so well: EXCELL.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

OC DIVISION - Congratulations to Petty Officer and Mrs. Curt FAIRBANKS on the birth of their daughter, Dana Dionne, who was born on 24 September 1981. The ship's communicators (radiomen and signalmen) have just completed this year's competitive communications exercise and are eagerly awaiting their grade, while preparing for our upcoming underway operations.

XN DEPARTMENT - In the XN spotlight, QM3 Gerrald R. "Bud" BURNS: A dedicated member of HART's navigation team, a hard working young man who spends long hours to keep HART in center channel. His hard work and dedication were most important while HART was in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he typically put in eighteen hours a day. He maintained HART's charts and publications, prepared tracks for sea details and helped with the sweeping and swabbing. Without his many hours and professional dedication, HART's short-handed navigation division would have sailed a much rougher sea. Well done to Bud!

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

E DIVISION - Congratulations to EM1 Eddie SHARRETT who reenlisted in August and received orders to Danville, Virginia Recruiting Station. Congratulations also to EM3 Dave NICHOLS who just reenlisted and will be attending Electrician's Mate "C" School.

R DIVISION - Congratulations are in order for the following personnel in "R" Division who were promoted to Petty Officer Third Class: HT3 Timothy L. BASH, HT3 Dennis A. BEMENT and HT3 Douglas D. HANEY. HT3 HANEY will soon be attending General Welding School. HT3 BEMENT will attend firefighting Foam Generation School. Also, welcome aboard to HTFN Larry A. PERRO who reported onboard 3 September 1981 from HT "A" School.

"A" GANG - The following personnel in "A" GANG were recently promoted to FN (E3): ENFN Derek JACKSON, ENFN Michael PODOLIAK, ENFN Russell KVISTAD, and ENFN Charles STEELEY. EN1 Harold SLIKER reenlisted onboard in October and will transfer in November to New London, Conn. MM3 Randy COMEAUX is attending Air Conditioning and Refrigeration School. MMC William PORTER recently qualified as Engineer Officer of the watch underway, a most significant accomplishment.

M DIVISION - MMC Thomas MERVICKER successfully completed 3M System Supply/Coordination Training and has been assigned as Department 3M coordinator. Welcome aboard to the following new members of M Division: MM1 Paul COEYMAN who reported from SIMA Little Creek, Va.; MMFA Michael KUST from MM "A" School; MMFA Paul FLICK from MM "A" School; MMFA James SUITS From MM "A" School; and MM3 Philip KAHN from Service Schools Command, Great Lakes, Il.

Congratulations to MM2 Mike RUTH who has just completed gauge calibration school, and to the following personnel who completed SEACOR Evaporator School:

MM3 William COX, FN Jerald HUFFMAN, FN Eric RHYMER, FA David SAPP,
FN Craig SHERA and FN Jeffery SCHULTZ.

B DIVISION - B Division has been extremely busy getting the fireroom put back together after INSURV inspection and preparing for underway operations.

Welcome aboard to the following Boiler Technicians who recently reported to HART:

BTCM Richard CORCORAN who reported onboard from Naval Recruiting District Buffalo, NY. BTCM CORCORAN will soon be the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Command;

BT1 Arthur DAVIS who reported from USS BLANDY and

BT3 Emilio GARCIA who reported from Service Schools Command.

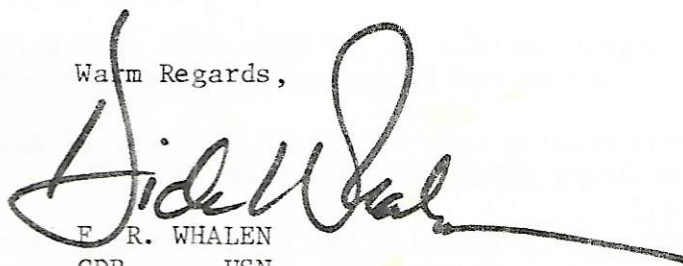
Farewell to BTC Lawrence PITT who will be transferring to the Fleet Reserve on 30 November after 20 years of Naval service. Our congratulations to BT1 Douglas BERGSNEV who was HART's Sailor of the Quarter for the last quarter.

OMDUBSMAN'S CORNER

October 6th saw the first organizational meeting of HART's Enlisted Wives Club with many gals in attendance, both "old hands" and new arrivals alike. After a slide presentation on HART's mission and capabilities, the ship's Career Counselor briefed attendance on HART's retention effort. Religious and Medical representatives from Destroyer Squadron TEN, of which HART is a unit, provided valuable insights into the many ways that they may assist dependents when HART is out of homeport. The evening was rounded out with planning for the annual HART Children's Christmas Party and upcoming functions within the Wives Club. It was a most rewarding evening and, for those wives who were unable to attend, please contact either Judy LAWLOR (at 804-497-4151) or Barbara SEIGLE (at 804-464-3982) to get news on club activities. Also, don't forget the "HARTLINE" tape recorded message service which you may call at 804-499-4845 for up to the minute information on the ship's location, schedule and other valuable information for HART families.

In closing, let me wish each of you a most happy Fall season. Your husbands and sons remain the best of the best here on the Norfolk water front and you can be proud of their recent accomplishments. Based on increasing reenlistments of HART sailors during recent weeks, I think each HART crewman feels justified satisfaction in a job well done (not to mention the healthy bonus of \$12 - 16,000 that accompanies "re-ups" for many these days). You can be sure that we'll be thinking of you during our stint in the Caribbean and Atlantic and that, come October 31st, a big, ol' Jack O'Lantern will be at our Quarterdeck out in Antigua.

Warm Regards,


E. R. WHALEN
CDR USN
Commanding Officer

Remember,

YOU GOTTA HAVE

