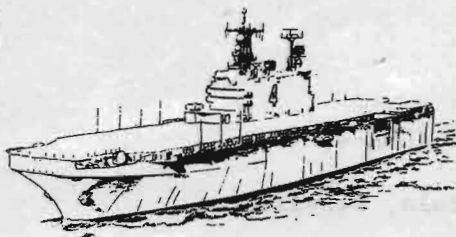


USS NASSAU (LHA-4)



FAMILY GRAM



Dear Family and Friends of NASSAU,

As you know, the UNITED STATES SHIP NASSAU (LHA-4) will be commissioned on 28 July 1979 at Pascagoula, Mississippi. This very important event, which we have all been anticipating for the past many months, will not only mark NASSAU's official entry into the U.S. Atlantic Fleet but also is a milestone of significance in the achievements and teamwork of her crew.

Preparing a major ship for commissioning is a tremendous task and I would like you all to know what a superb job your husbands, sons and friends have done and are doing with respect to pre-commissioning training, outfitting of the ship and the myriad of organizational details necessary in this great effort. I am indeed proud of our crew and have never before been shipmates with a more enthusiastic and professional group of men.

In many cases NASSAU is the first duty station for your navyman, therefore I extend a special welcome to the Navy as well as the NASSAU. I also can assure you that our ship has superior facilities with respect to providing for the needs of the crew in the areas of food service, medical and dental care, and personal services. We have a Ship's Store, Soda Fountain, Post Office, Barber Shops, Laundry and Recreation Areas including Library, Closed Circuit TV System for TV and movies, Gymnasium and Hobby Shops. We are also most fortunate to have a ship's chaplain to care for the spiritual needs of our men. In short

NASSAU is a large, modern ship which has been designed not only to carry out her mission with the most modern and sophisticated equipment but also with the crew in mind as well.

There are many important dates associated with our ship's schedule and several events you will be interested in:

28 July	Commissioning (in Pascagoula)
3 August	Sail from Pascagoula
9 August	Arrive Homeport (Norfolk, Va.)
24 August (tentative)	Family and guests cruise (age limit 8 years or older)

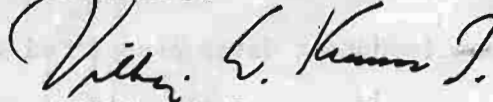
I will keep you informed as to the family and guests cruise which will be one day in length departing from Norfolk in the morning and returning in the afternoon.

~~The first year or so of a new ship's life is devoted to~~ shakedown training, therefore I anticipate that NASSAU will be operating in and out of Norfolk for that purpose in the months to come on cruises of short duration.

Good communications are not only important between Captain and crew but also between Captain and families. I will endeavor to keep you advised as to NASSAU's activities through Familygrams and Newsletters such as this. In that regard I am enclosing an information sheet containing important items for your use. Please do not hesitate to call upon me or our chain of command for assistance at any time. I personally would welcome your letters or calls.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the commissioning ceremony or on the family and guests cruise. Welcome Aboard!

Sincerely,



William A. Kearns, Jr.
Captain, U.S. Navy

P.S. You are most welcome to visit the ship at any opportunity and particularly when NASSAU arrives at the U.S. Naval Station, Norfolk for the first time August 9th. We anticipate a red letter day. The USS SAIPAN (LHA-2) has been designated as host ship for our arrival at pier



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