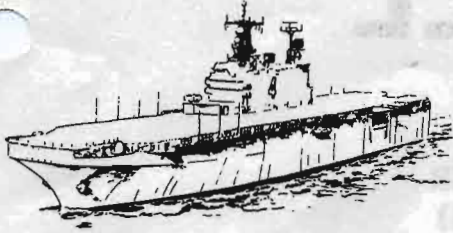


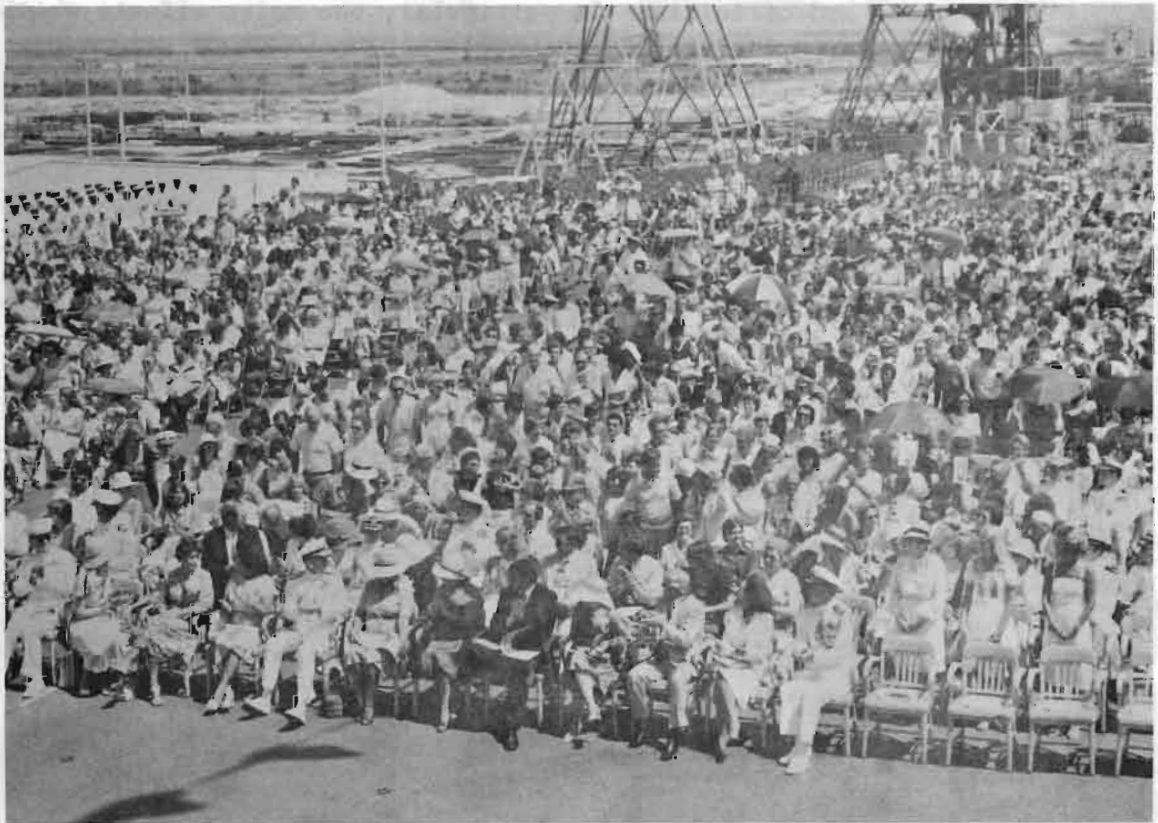
USS NASSAU (LHA-4)



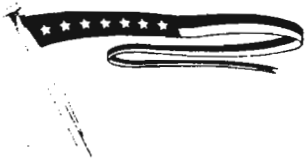
FAMILY GRAM

Vol. 1 Issue 2
Sept. 1, 1979

4000 PEOPLE ATTEND COMMISSIONING



CAPTAIN'S CALL



COMMANDING OFFICER
U.S.S. NASSAU (LHA-4)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501

4 September 1979

Dear Families and Friends of NASSAU,

In the two and one-half months since NASSAU was accepted by the Navy our crew has achieved a number of major milestones including the Commissioning Ceremony, transit from Pascagoula to Norfolk, a Flag Officer's Change of Command Ceremony onboard, a Family/Guest Cruise and a variety of training exercises in all areas of the ship.

That so much was accomplished in so short a time (and so well at that) is a tribute to the collective efforts of all hand and the cooperative and professional spirit of the crew.

There has been a lot of hard work which has not gone unnoticed and I have received many fine comments concerning the ship and crew from both Senior Naval Officers and civilian guests and officials. In particular, the major efforts which resulted in an outstanding Commissioning Ceremony were most favorably commented on.

I know you will enjoy the attached pictures of NASSAU's first month in commission.

Sincerely,

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

P.S. Our Enlisted Wives Club will be meeting on the 21st of this month. I strongly encourage your participation in their many worthwhile and enjoyable projects.

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"I will read my orders."

NASSAU Joins Fleet
4000 People Attend

The USS NASSAU (LHA 4) was commissioned in front of over 4000 people during a ceremony held on her flight deck at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi on Saturday 28 July 1979.



"Captain the watch is set."

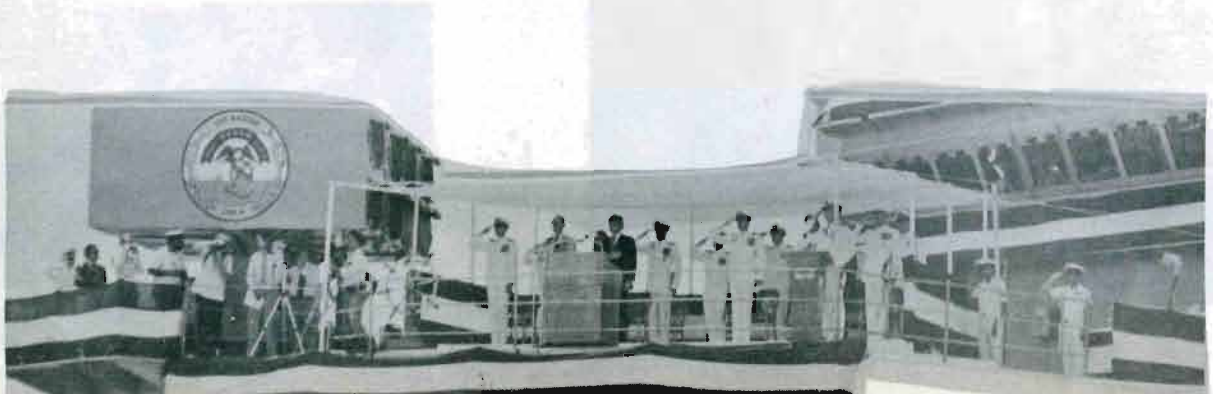
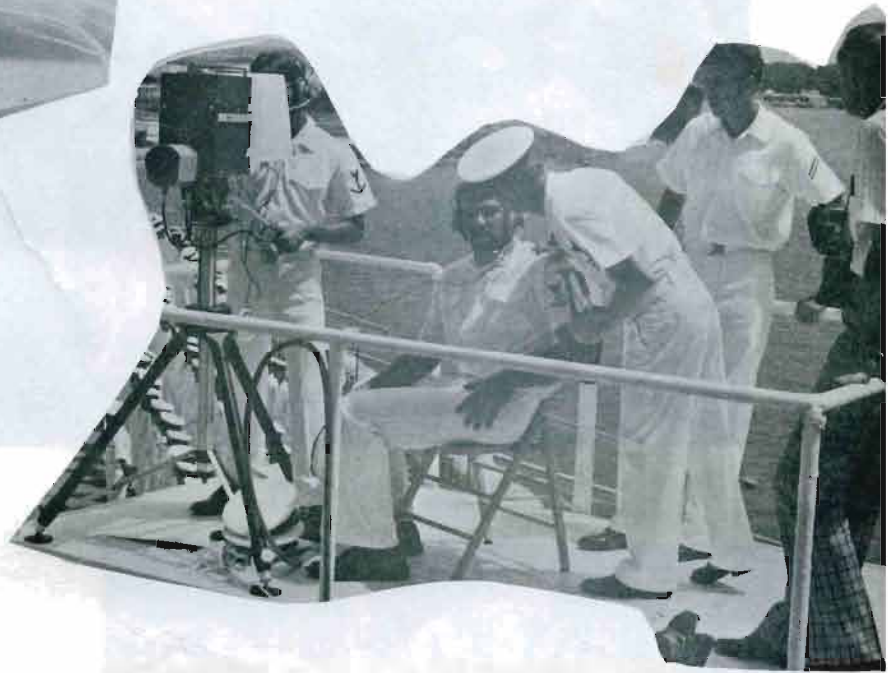
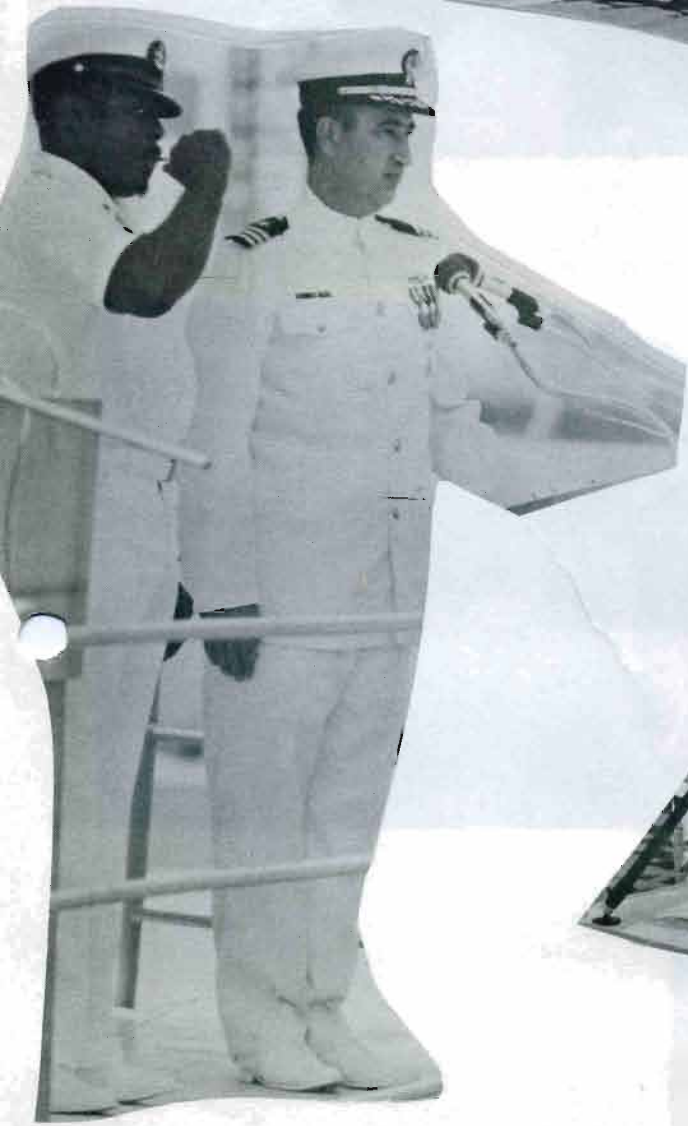
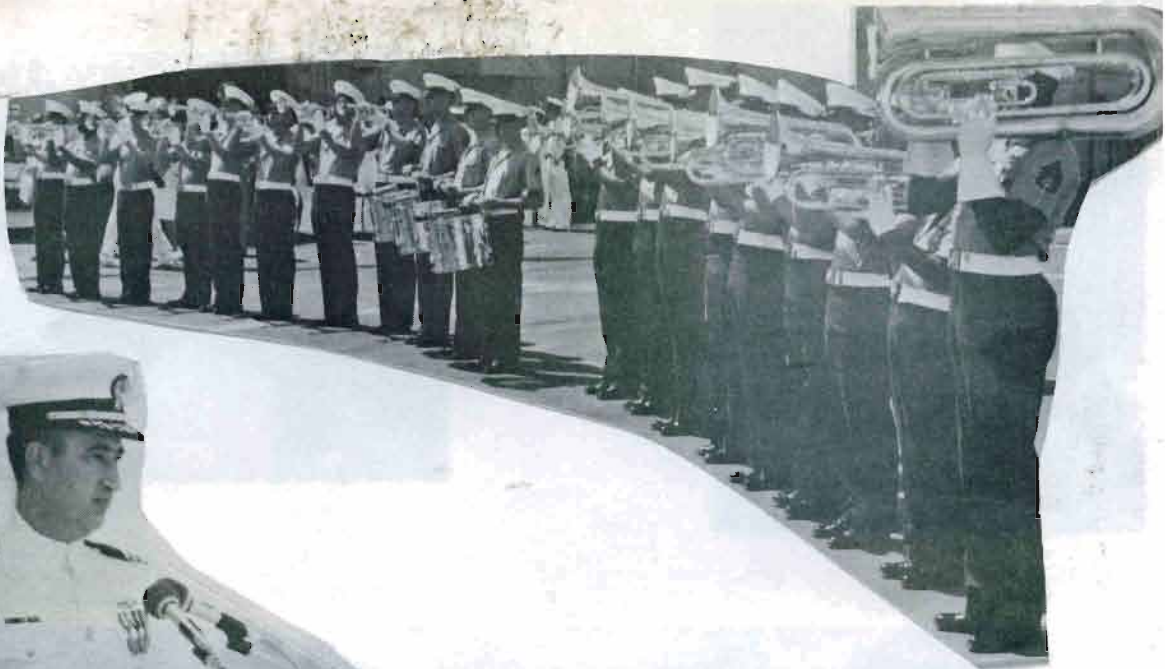
The principal speaker was U.S. Senator from Virginia, the Honorable John W. Warner. He was introduced by the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable W. Graham Claytor, Jr..

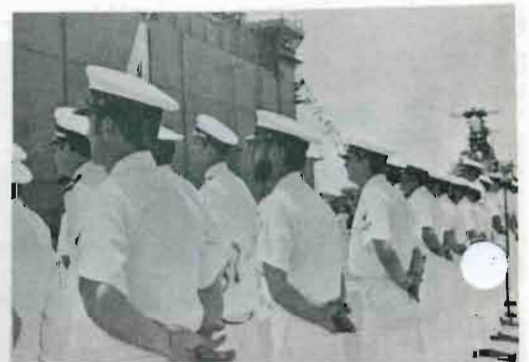
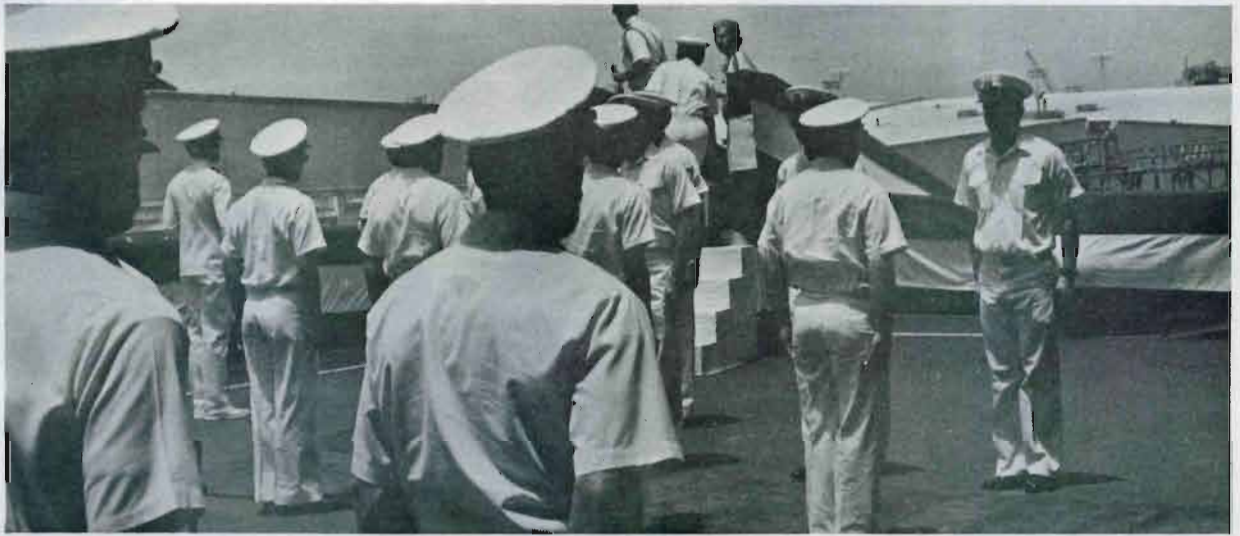
Also present were: Marine Corps General Kenneth McLennan, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; Ship's Sponsor, Mrs. Louis H. Wilson, wife of the former Commandant of the Marine Corps; Vice Admiral J.D. Johnson, Jr. Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic Fleet; Rear Admiral Donald P. Hall, Commandant Sixth Naval District; Rear Admiral Karl J. Christoph, Jr., Commander Amphibious Group Two.



Some of the over 4000 people who attended the ceremony.







Commissioning - Thank Heaven It's Over

"Well it's finally over!". Maybe not the most memorable comment made on the day of the USS NASSAU's commissioning, but probably the one voiced most often.

Saturday 28 July was the end of a long and difficult period for the men of the USS NASSAU. While some of us only saw the last few weeks of the activities leading up to commissioning, all were affected from the moment we first became members of "Pre-Com Unit NASSAU".

For those who were here from the very beginning in early December 1978, commissioning meant fulfillment of a destiny which once looked so very far away. Eight long months of hard work and planning, finally bearing fruit.

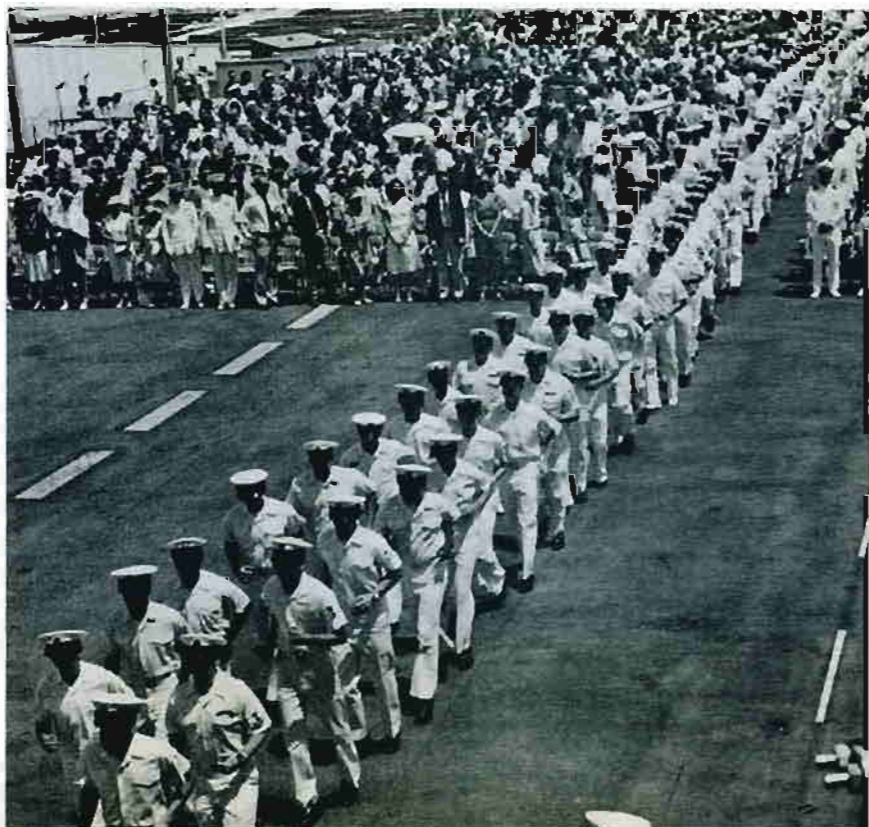
Those of us who arrived during the last few months and weeks were able to appreciate the work done by our new shipmates because we were there for the final, most hectic phase of commissioning when the Navy accepted the ship and we moved onboard.

As the days wore down, the already hectic pace accelerated even more, as commissioning drew closer. The last week was a period of rehearsals and general clean-up as the ship prepared for the guests who would soon be onboard.

Saturday 28 July - The crew turns out early to make final preparations and checks before the guests begin to trickle in; then it is time for the commissioning ceremony. No longer Pre-Com NASSAU, she is now United States Ship NASSAU, the newest ship in the Navy and probably the proudest as crewmembers show-off "their" ship to family, friends and about 4000 guests. Later during the day, a party is held at Lakeside Manor and those who can, attend and celebrate, while members of a tired duty section get some extra sleep in preparation for their celebrations the next day.

The final forty days were a period of adjustment and becoming familiar with the ship and her equipment. A great deal of training took place during this time because much of the ship's equipment is different from the gear on other Navy ships.

Commissioning now over, the crew of the NASSAU begins their next task; learning how to handle the ship and finding ways to improve her. This task, although never-ending, consistently recognizes all levels of proficiency. Her crew constantly strives to improve her combat effectiveness and readiness.





NASSAU Comes Home!



"All hands to quarters for entering port." said the voice over the IMC and as we went to man the rails we could see Norfolk in the distance and we were more than ready to enter our homeport.

Up ahead in the distance we could see a plane trailing a long banner behind it and as our eyes strained to read it, the plane came closer until it finally began circling the ship.

As we steamed closer we received a greeting from the "tugs" streaming colored water from their fire hoses. Their gentle touch told us we were ready to pull into pier twelve.

"You look terrific NASSAU!", said the banner, a greeting from the NASSAU Wives. Not only did we look terrific, we felt it. After so many months away, we were finally coming home.

Approaching pier twelve we could see all of you who had come to greet us, and as the ship pulled in the band began playing. All that was left was for the brow to go over.

For most of us it was our first chance to show-off our ship to our friends and loved ones and also our first time together since we left for Pascagoula to begin the pre-commissioning phase of NASSAU's life.



WELCOME ABOARD
USS NASSAU DEPENDENT

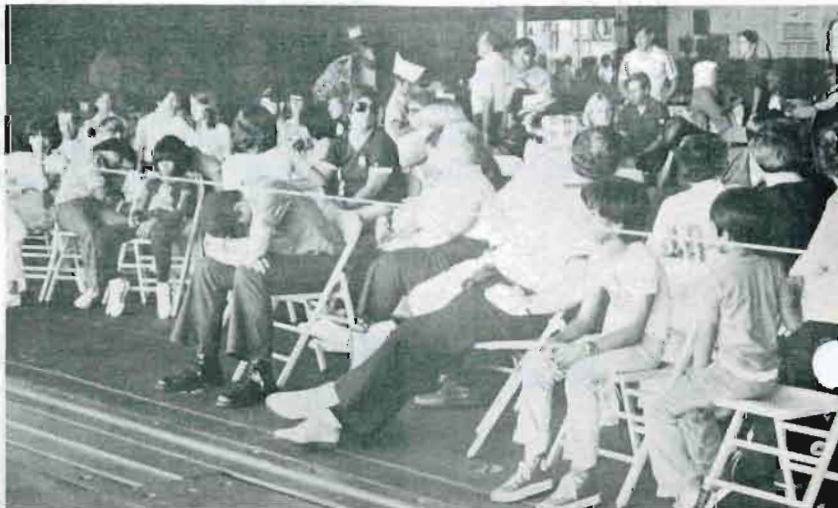


One-thousand and fifty dependents and guests participated in a guests cruise held off the Virginia coast by the USS NASSAU on 24 August.

The cruise, which lasted from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. was intended to acquaint the guests with the ship and duties of their sponsors.

Displays were set-up and demonstrations of various shipboard equipment were given. NASSAU also went to flight quarters and launched her own UH-1N (Huey) helicopter.

During the cruise a videotape of the ship's commissioning was broadcast over NASSAU's Closed Circuit Television Station (CCTV) and a film on the LHA class of ships was shown on the hangar deck.



Thanks to the Operations Officer we are able to print our upcoming schedule in this issue of the Familygram. This schedule is expected to be the one NASSAU follows the next few months, but is subject to change to meet the needs of the Navy.

04 SEPT 79 - 07 SEPT 79	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPERATIONS
08 SEPT 79 - 09 SEPT 79	IN PORT NORFOLK
10 SEPT 79 - 14 SEPT 79	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
15 SEPT 79 - 30 SEPT 79	IN PORT NORFOLK
01 OCT 79 - 05 OCT 79	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
06 OCT 79 - 08 OCT 79	IN PORT NORFOLK
09 OCT 79 - 11 OCT 79	UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL OPERATIONS
12 OCT 79 - 21 OCT 79	IN PORT NORFOLK
22 OCT 79 - 26 OCT 79	UNDERWAY LOCAL OPERATIONS
27 OCT 79 - 28 OCT 79	IN PORT NORFOLK
29 OCT 79 - 02 NOV 79	UNDERWAY
03 NOV 79 - 04 NOV 79	IN PORT NORFOLK
05 NOV 79 - 07 NOV 79	UNDERWAY - DEPART NORFOLK
08 NOV 79 - 11 NOV 79	VISIT PORT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA
12 NOV 79 - 17 NOV 79	UNDERWAY
18 NOV 79 - 07 DEC 79	GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA (SHAKEDOWN TRAINING)
08 DEC 79 - 11 DEC 79	UNDERWAY
12 DEC 79 - 08 JAN 80	IN PORT NORFOLK



Congratulations and well done to the NASSAU crewmen who were advanced to the rates indicated:

Lieutenant Junior Grade Phillip I. Russell
Hull Technician Petty Officer First Class George W. Gerhart
Yeoman Petty Officer Third Class Joseph T. Donovan
Electrician's Mate Petty Officer Third Class Joe D. Creasy
Engineman Petty Officer Third Class Kristian C. Greisen
Fire Control Technician Missiles Petty Officer Third Class
Robert Wagner
Photographer's Mate Petty Officer Third Class Charles P. Smith
Yeoman Petty Officer Third Class Danial C. Owens
Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer Third Class Mark A. Neiman
Yeoman Petty Officer Third Class Shawn P. Mullen
Intelligence Specialist Petty Officer Third Class Bradley M. Morgan
Operations Specialist Petty Officer Third Class Donald L. Miller
Electrician's Mate Petty Officer Third Class Billie J. McKinney, Jr.
Hull Technician Petty Officer Third Class Donald B. Jones
Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer Third Class Andrew E. Hoyt
Mess Management Specialist Petty Officer Third Class Steve Houston
Aviation Boatswain's Mate Petty Officer Third Class Robert Dolata
Boiler Technician Petty Officer Third Class Donald P. D'Andrea
Personnelman Petty Officer Third Class Taylor C. Cockerham
Hull Technician Petty Officer Third Class John Cherry
Electrician's Mate Petty Officer Third Class Kenneth L. Bretz, Jr.
Electrician's Mate Petty Officer Third Class Marshall A. Boughton
Signalman Petty Officer Third Class Lynn A. Baxter
Gunner's Mate Guns Petty Officer Third Class James A. Anderson

Acting Ship's Mascot. Harvey Barr takes a break from his duties.



HARVEY'S A HIT AS MASCOT!

On our transit from Pascagoula, Mississippi to Norfolk, Virginia, NASSAU carried a number of temporarily assigned civilian and military riders and one dog.

The dog, whose name is Harvey, belongs to the Ship's Secretary, Chief Warrant Officer (2) Luther G. Barr. Harvey is a six-month-old puppy of unclear lineage.

During his stay on-board NASSAU Harvey was berthed in the Print Shop where he was cared for by LI1 Tom Morey and LI3 Dave Harris.

Harvey was assigned to duty as acting ship's mascot during the transit, however upon arrival in Norfolk he began his full-time duties as a housepet.



Harvey frolics with LI3 Dave Harris.



LI1 Tom Morey takes a break from his duties as print shop supervisor to play with Harvey.



Members of the USS NASSAU Wives Club during the Dependents Cruise.

NASSAU Wives Group Schedules Elections

The newly formed NASSAU Enlisted Wives Club will hold a meeting to elect officers on the 21st of September at the Norfolk Naval Base Hobby Shop.

Anyone interested in joining the club can do so at this meeting or can call Brenda Brown at (804) 486-5165 after 6 p.m.

While the club is located in the Norfolk area, wives from other areas should keep in touch with the club, especially when the ship is deployed. They can help you with problems while your husband is away.



IS YOUR HOUSE LOSING ITS COOL?



**INSULATE...
Save Your Money
And the Nation's
Energy**

Veteran's note

WASHINGTON (NES)... More than \$161 billion in credit has been extended to armed forces veterans for

home buying since 1944 under the Veterans Administration GI Bill loan guarantee program.



From the Familygram Editor:

Just like many other programs on the NASSAU the Familygram is new and still in a development stage.

The Familygram staff would like to hear how you have enjoyed our first two issues. Tell us what you've liked and disliked. If you feel we've left something out please tell us that too.

The purpose of the Familygram is to keep you, the dependents and friends of the crew informed and to provide you with things you need to know.

Please address your comments to:

Familygram Editor
Public Affairs Office
USS NASSAU
F.P.O. N.Y. 09501

All comments are appreciated.



The Familygram Staff would like to gratefully acknowledge the skills and contributions of the following people:

PH1 Jerry Pritchett
PH2 Kevin Davis
PH3 Chuck Smith
PHAA Ed Shoup

LI3 Dave Harris
YN3 Joe Donovan