



USS NASSAU (LHA-4)  
FPO NEW YORK 09557

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
LHA4/00:rgp  
5 August 1981

Dear Families and Friends,

Last Tuesday, the 28th of July 1981, marked Nassau's second birthday. Although our schedule didn't permit a birthday party, the day was highlighted by a visit from a number of Navy and Marine Corps dignitaries all very interested in the lesson learned during our recent Mediterranean exercises with the two squadrons of Marine Corps "Harrier" aircraft. Visitors to Nassau on our birthday included the Secretary of the Navy: The Honorable John G. Lehman; the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet: Admiral Train; the Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet: Vice Admiral Johnson; the Commander, Amphibious Group TWO: Rear Admiral Kearns (my predecessor as CO, Nassau). Also visiting was, Commanding General Fleet Marine Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Lieutenant General Schwenk. The visit went very smoothly and all seemed very impressed with the ship and the record we achieved during our time with the Sixth Fleet.

Late last week we spent 24 hours underway testing machinery and conducting training of Midshipmen off the Virginia' coast. Having been tied up since June 29th while enjoying some well deserved crew rest and ship-board maintenance it was good for the ship to be back at sea, even if only for a day, to sort of blow the cobwebs out. Today we're at anchor off the Naval Base unloading the aviation ordnance that we carried to the Med for our Harrier squadrons.

In my last letter I told you of my hopes for our schedule for these next months. Since then a few adjustments have been made, so let me give you a resume' of NASSAU's schedule for August, September and October.

6-9 August	Inport, Norfolk
10-14 August	At sea for Amphibious Training (return to port about noon on the 14th)
15 August (Saturday)	Family Cruise
16 August (Sunday)	Inport
17-23 August	Underway for Engineering training and a 3 day visit to Boston, Mass.
24 August	Return to Norfolk in the morning
25-31 August	Inport Norfolk, preparing for the Engineering propulsion examination
1-3 September	Underway for Engineering exam.
4-7 September	Inport (Labor Day weekend)
8-11 September	At anchor for ammunition loading (no liberty)
12 Sept - 30 Oct	Inport, Norfolk

You are all invited to sail with us on the Family Cruise on Saturday August 15th. You should come aboard between 8 and 9 a.m.. We'll be sailing at 9:30 a.m. We'll be back alongside the pier by 3:30 p.m. Your Nassau man will have more details as to the schedule that day but there's one aspect I would like to stress. Cruises like this are limited to those 8 years old or older. For those under 8 you'll have to make other arrangements. (I'll be working with the Naval Station and with the Nassau's Wives Club to try to provide free baby sitting service that day. Details will be available shortly.) So put a big "X" on your calendar and plan for a day at sea so that you can see your Nassau man in his ship-board environment.

Although I don't expect any of you to need the services of either of our Ombudsmen during our forthcoming brief periods at sea, let me close by once again publicly praising them for the work they've been doing and repeating for your benefit their names and phone numbers:

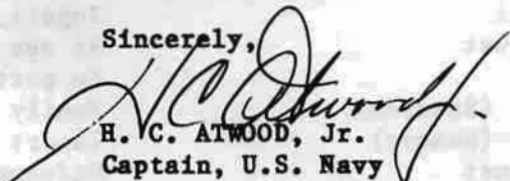
Mrs Anita Williams  
Mrs Lyn Louk

489-1978  
464-3032

Keep in mind, too, that we have our own "ship's information" phone number: 464-1266. Although it was deactivated for a few weeks during our post-deployment leave period, it normally will be your best source of up to date information.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 15th.

Sincerely,



H. C. ATWOOD, Jr.  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer