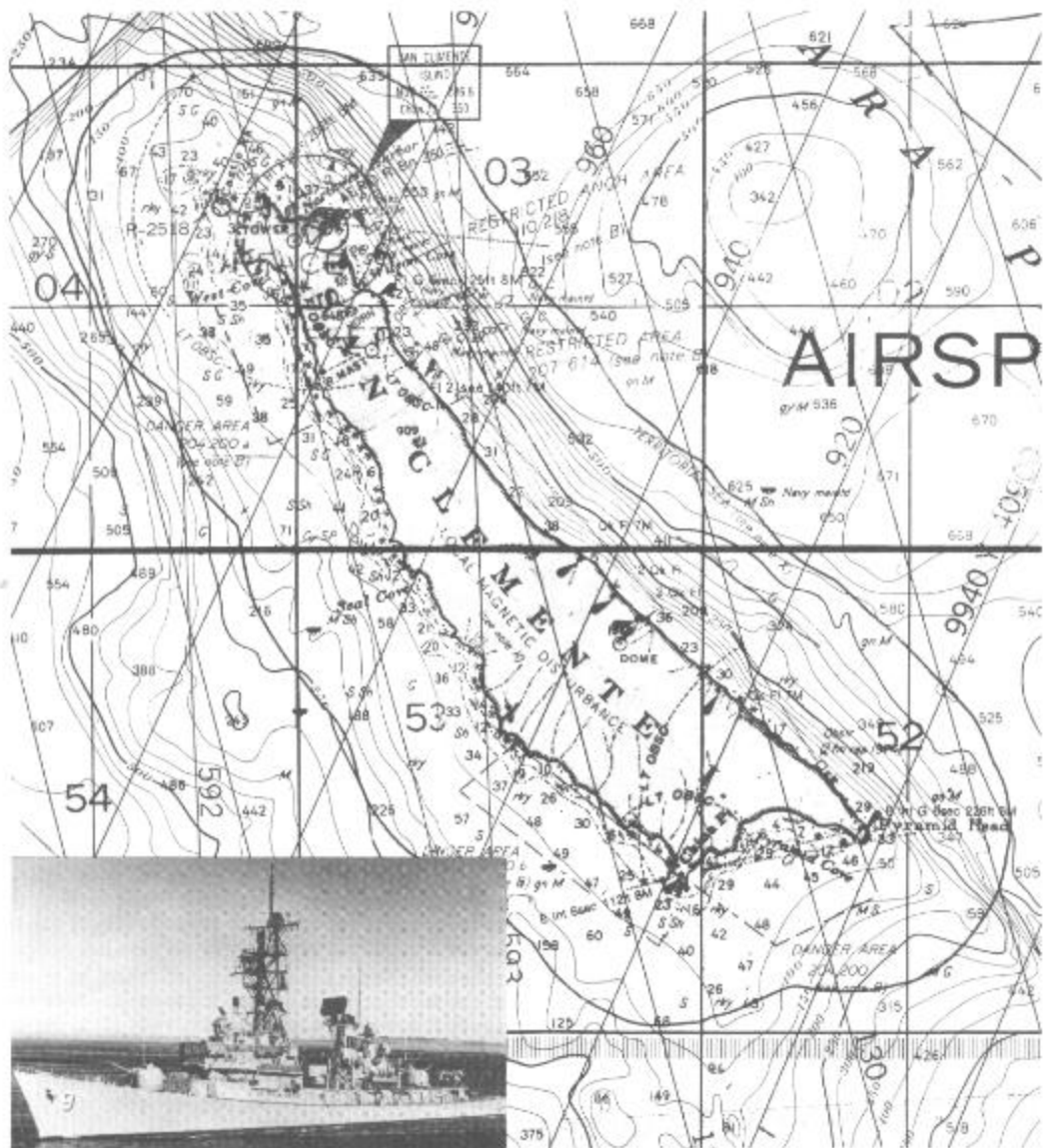


TOWERS GAZETTE

VOL. 2 NO. 1

JANUARY-MARCH 1980



SAILOR OF THE YEAR

Fire Control Technician First Class John King from Missile Division was selected Sailor of the Year for Destroyer Squadron 31. He is also nominated for Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year.

FTMI King, as Mk 152 Guided Missile Fire Control Computer Complex Supervisor contributed significantly to TOWERS winning its third consecutive Missile "E" for Departmental Excellence and was personally responsible for the extraordinary high degree of operational readiness maintained by the computer complex during TOWERS successful participation in CNO project 069 AN/SYS-1 (IADT). Having demonstrated expertise in all facets of the Mk 74 Guided Missile Fire Control System, Petty Officer King was subsequently assigned as Combat Systems Work Center Supervisor, a billet usually assigned to a Chief Petty Officer. In this capacity he coordinates and conducts all combat related testing, controls TOWERS Weapons Direction System (WDS) Mk 13, and performs a major portion of divisional administrative responsibilities. During TOWERS Regular Overhaul at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Petty Officer King effectively monitored and assisted in all shipyard Combat System Division testing, ensuring its timely and successful completion, and ultimately contributing to the two week early completion of the overhaul. Petty Officer King's personal expertise was again indispensable in contributing to TOWERS' highly successful Guided Missile Ship Qualification Trials (SQT) in which two hits were recorded (one a direct hit) in missile firings for the system certification. Petty Officer King was cited specifically for his outstanding performance during SQT by the Naval Ship Weapons System Engineering Station (NSWSES) SQT Officer in Charge in the final SQT report. As an administrator and leader Petty Officer King is equally superior. His work center obtained a 100% confidence factor in the last annual 3-M inspection. Demonstrating his ability to effectively handle a wide variety of responsibilities, Petty Officer King undertook the job of Captain's Cup Coordinator. As Coordinator of this annual TOWERS inter-divisional athletic competition, he scheduled all events, managed the distribution of athletic gear, and refereed the contests. Primarily because of his unselfish dedication, this program succeeded in fostering high morale on board.



EDITORS NOTE

The Towers Gazette is published every three to four months. It is intended to keep wives and parents informed as to what the ship has done, what she is doing now, and a projection of what she will be doing in the future. I hope that it will serve to bring you a little closer to our world of ships and the sea. If you have any suggestions as to the contents or form this publication should take, or if you have a question about TOWERS and our mission, feel free to write me.

Public Affairs Officer
USS TOWERS (DDG-9)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, CA 96679

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Having just completed a very successful Operational Propulsion Plant Examination (OPPE) and thus achieved a major milestone in our post-overhaul/pre-deployment schedule, it seems an appropriate time to reflect back upon our activities since the last familygram and then look ahead to our spring and summer plans.

After spending an enjoyable holiday season with our families and friends, both far and near, TOWERS was underway in early January to continue OPPE preparations and to conduct our last Combat Systems Ship's Qualification Trials (CSSQT) missile firing. Shortly after reaching the sea buoy it was discovered that the ship had suffered structural damage of an unknown extent to the overhead and bulkheads of a fresh water storage tank, necessitating our early return to port, and an extended period of repairs.

Underway once again in middle-February, TOWERS completed CSSQT in a typically outstanding fashion scoring a direct hit on a maneuvering target drone, with a non-warhead telemetry-configured surface-to-air missile. It was a fitting climax and a proud moment for all concerned, particularly for the Weapons and Operations personnel who had spent many long hours maintaining their equipment in a maximum state of readiness for this opportunity. Several weeks of intensive engineering casualty control and general shipboard drills followed, in preparation for OPPE and Refresher Training (Reftra) which were just around the corner.

The beginning of March brought the first of what will turn out to be a series of major shipboard inspections to TOWERS. The Supply Management Inspection was completed in early March. The Supply Department worked long and hard preparing for the inspection, and its successful completion represented their continued outstanding service and support.

The next big hurdle on our agenda was the Training Readiness Evaluation (TRE), the preliminary examination of TOWERS' readiness to begin Reftra. Scores of seasoned inspectors found only a small number of discrepancies and were genuinely impressed by the overall levels of material readiness, administration, and personnel training which they observed. It was very evident to me that many long hours of determined preparation and hard work had been put in by all members of TOWERS' crew.

After being called upon at the last minute to meet an urgent commitment, TOWERS was underway in late March to act as Plane Guard for the USS RANGER (CV-61) during carrier qualification operations. Two nights of close-in support for RANGER resulted in increased training for all hands. During this period the Deck Division was called upon to carry out a wide variety of tasks, ranging from small boat seamanship and pilot rescue drills to underway replenishment and helicopter operations. They responded in a rapid and professional manner in every instance.

As I mentioned in opening, OPPE is the latest trial TOWERS has undergone and is perhaps the one for which the crew prepared the most. After the week-long examination, both inport and underway, it was quite clear that the TOWERS team had once again proven itself a winner. In fact, TOWERS is the first west coast DDG to have passed OPPE this year!

Next month we begin Refresher Training following a Dependents' Cruise scheduled for 3 April. Reftra is a four-week period in which our Typo Commander will certify the ship ready in all respects for FLEET operations. I am wholly confident that the men of TOWERS will meet this challenge with the same enthusiasm they've brought to their previous efforts. Reftra presents an excellent opportunity for the entire ship's company to train and learn together. Of course, there'll be many long hours involved and plenty of hard work, but those are things I know won't discourage this crew. At the conclusion of Reftra I expect the TOWERS team to be a finely honed unit, capable of executing any mission or task assigned her.

But along with all the hard work, everyone deserves a little rest and relaxation. After participating in a major fleet exercise in June, TOWERS will head up the coast for a brief visit to San Francisco. And later on down the road we are planning another port call, this time to Vancouver, Canada in September.

In closing I would like to say a few words on the ship's forthcoming homeport change to Yokosuka, Japan. As you all know TOWERS has been called upon to relieve the USS PARSONS as a forward deployed unit of the Seventh Fleet, in October. I realize that this change-of-homeport period may be a somewhat confusing time for everyone and may also require a few sacrifices to be made. However, I am equally certain that with the proper amount of preparation and planning we can all make this transition with minimal difficulties. An overseas movement conference is scheduled in May to blend crew members' individual desires and preferences with the best interests of the Navy and the two ships involved. And as more information becomes available and as the time for the move grows nearer, I will continue to keep you informed.

TOWERS' new assignment will prove to be a special challenge for her crew and I'm sure a unique adventure for all. I am confident that the TOWERS team will once again *do the JOB!*



SAILOR OF THE QUARTER

Gunnery Mate Third Class Arthur Murphy, from Second Division, was selected as Sailor of the Quarter for the period 1 October through 31 December 1979. Although GMG3 Murphy had only been aboard TOWERS for a relatively short period of time, he had already established an outstanding reputation as a conscientious and hard working petty officer who could be depended upon to produce superior results in a timely fashion. His spirited performance of duty as petty officer-in-charge of the forward powder and projectile magazines attested to his efficient and dedicated professional manner. By graduating first in his class at the recent 5"/54 gunmount operation and maintenance course, he has exhibited outstanding technical competence and a desire to further improve his professional abilities and value to the command. Petty Officer Murphy's administration and performance of gunnery systems related PMS has been accomplished reliably and with the same enthusiasm that is so characteristic of all his work. As petty officer-in-charge of the Color Guard Detail, he again demonstrated high standards of smartness. Through his personal behavior and enthusiastic attitude, he has helped foster excellent morale on board TOWERS.



SAILOR OF THE QUARTER

Fire Control Technician Second Class Alan Goff from Missile Division was selected as Sailor of the Quarter for the period 1 January to 31 March 1980. FTM2 Goff's performance of duty as a Combat Systems and Mk 13 Weapons Direction System Technician has been exemplary.

Petty Officer Goff was called upon to assist CNET in the development of a PQS package for the Mk13 WDS. His efforts were superb, as evident by the thorough and comprehensive final product which has already been implemented by the four DDG-TDS ships and which will ensure high quality personnel training in the future.

Petty Officer Goff is one of only two technicians onboard TOWERS qualified in micro-miniature repair. He capably maintained the 2M station and has proven invaluable at effecting complex repairs to micro-electronic components. During Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT), Petty Officer Goff's performance was again exceptional. He was instrumental in coordinating and managing system PMS and maintaining the WDS at the highest level of operational readiness.

During CSSQT, when problems were experienced in establishing EMCON in the missile fire control radars from the weapons control station, Petty Officer Goff personally wrote a patch to the fire control program solving this problem. This action drew great praise from the SQT Officer in Charge and was later adopted by NWS Dahlgren as an official program change.

As an administrator, Petty Officer Goff's performance has again been noteworthy, as he has managed a large percentage of divisional administrative matters in a highly reliable and effective manner. Through his personal behavior and enthusiastic attitude, he has helped foster excellent morale onboard.

"THE RED STALLIONS"

On 4 February 1980, after serving in Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-ONE for over a year and a half, TOWERS joined Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE. The other ships in our squadron are: USS DOWNES (FF-1070), USS ELLIOT (DD-967), USS GRAY (FE-1054), USS HULL (DD-945), USS ROBISON (DDG-12), USS BROOKE (FFG-1), USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14), and USS LYNDE McCORMICK (DDG-8). The following is a brief history of Squadron THIRTY-ONE's accomplishments.

HISTORY OF DESTROYER SQUADRON THIRTY-ONE

Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE first appeared in the Organization List of the United States Navy in September, 1939. During World War II, the Squadron operated in the Atlantic on Escort and Anti-Submarine duties. Disestablished after World War II, it was reactivated from 1 February 1968 to 1 January 1970 and operated in the waters off South East Asia as a unit of the SEVENTH Fleet.

On 15 June 1971 DESRON THIRTY-ONE was reconstituted for a second time with the following units assigned: USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14), USS ROARK (DE-1053), USS LOCKWOOD (DE-1064), USS MARVIN SHIELDS (DE-1066) and USS HAMNER (DD-718). In February 1972, the Squadron operated with the U. S. SEVENTH Fleet and conducted significant combat operations off South Vietnam.

Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE became the Pacific Fleet "Mod Squad" on 1 January 1973. Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, and Department Heads were one rank junior to those normally assigned. USS ENGLAND (DLG-22) joined the Squadron, and USS LOCKWOOD left. Throughout the first half of 1973, the Squadron participated in fleet exercises and programs designed to improve combat readiness. On 30 June 1973 USS HAMNER was transferred to the Naval Reserve Force and USS BAGLEY (DE-1069) joined the Squadron.

On 10 August 1973, the Red Stallion Squadron again departed for the Western Pacific and SEVENTH Fleet Operations. During that challenging deployment, the Squadron carried out missions from the Northern Pacific to the Indian Ocean and the coast of Africa, returning to San Diego on 8 March 1974. Shipyard overhaul, refresher training and EastPac operations occupied the remainder of 1974 and early 1975. The "Mod Squad" concept was discontinued as of 1 October 1974. On 1 April 1975 USS ENGLAND (DLG-22) left the Squadron the USS BROOKE (FFG-1) joined DESRON THIRTY-ONE.

In early August 1975, Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE again deployed to the Western Pacific to join the SEVENTH Fleet. During that deployment, COMDESRON 31 participated in several U. S. and combined exercises (MISSILEX 1, 2-76, READIEX 1-76, SHARKHUNT XIV, SEA SIAM IV, and MULTIPLEX 1-76). The Squadron returned to San Diego on 3 March 1976. EastPac operations included participation in FLEETEX 1-71, READIEX 1-77 and RIMPAC 77.

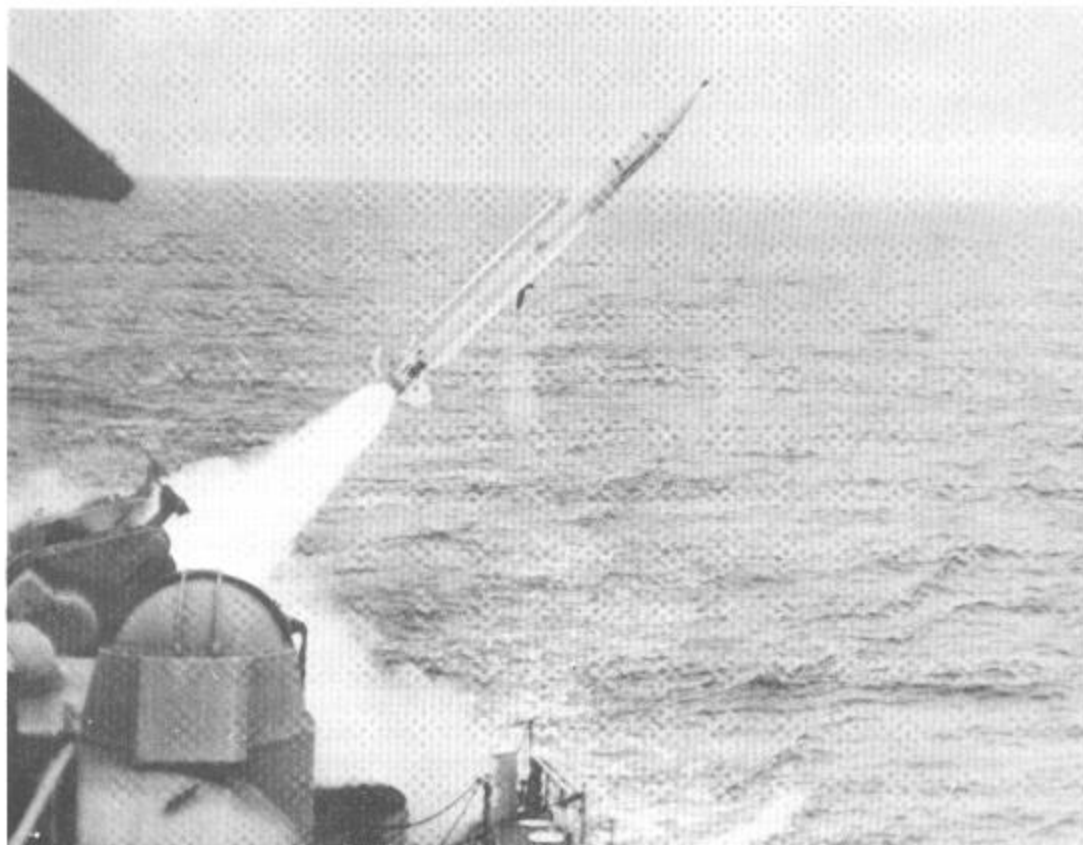
Commencing 12 April 1977 Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE accompanied USS CONSTELLATION to WestPac in an ASW oriented transit. Squadron units, which included four LAMPS equipped ships, participated in exercises from Singapore to Japan. COMDESRON 31 played a major role in a number of U. S. and combined exercises during the course of deployment, including: ASWEX 6-77; MULTIPLEX 5-77; JAPANESE ASWEX J1-78; SHARKHUNT XXII and XXIII; SEA SIAM VI and BAYANIHAN IV/FORTRESS LIGHTING. After seven months of SEVENTH Fleet operations, USS BAGLEY (FF-1069), USS BROOKE (FFG-1), USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14) and USS MARVIN SHIELDS (FF-1066) escorted USS CONSTELLATION back to San Diego, arriving on 21 November 1977. USS ROARK (FF-1053) returned a few days earlier, having escorted an amphibious group.

Following a post deployment leave and upkeep period, the Squadron began to prepare for Western Pacific deployment by successfully completing several required examinations and participating in various THIRD Fleet exercises. USS ROBISON (DDG-12) joined the Squadron on 1 April 1978 and completed a three month cruise to the South Pacific from July-October 1978.

During 1978 several other changes occurred in Squadron composition. USS BAGLEY (FF-1069) and USS MARVIN SHIELDS (FF-1066) left DESRON 31 on 1 June 1978, shortly after commencing overhauls. USS ELLIOT (DD-967), the first Squadron Spruance class ship, and USS DOWNES (FF-1070) joined the Squadron on 1 August and 1 October respectively. Both of these ships are equipped with HARPOON.

The Squadron deployed for the Western Pacific on 21 February 1979 with the exception of USS ROARK (FF-1053) which deployed to the South Pacific on 17 January 1979 and returned to San Diego on 5 June 1979.

USS ELLIOT, USS DOWNES and USS BUCHANAN have just recently completed a Western Pacific deployment and are now transitting back to San Diego via the Southern Pacific Ocean.



JOHN HENRY TOWERS . . . THE MAN

He was born in Rome, Georgia on January 20th, 1885, son of William Magee and Mary (Norton) Towers. He graduated with credit from the U. S. Naval Academy on 12 February 1906. After serving two years at sea he was appointed to the rank of Ensign. By subsequent promotions he attained the rank of Rear Admiral, to date from 1 June 1939. He was promoted to Vice Admiral effective 6 October 1942; and Admiral from 7 November 1945. He retired from active duty in 1947 after serving 45 years in the USN.

He was the Navy's first test pilot and was appointed the Navy's third Naval aviator. He commanded the first aviation group to attempt to fly the Atlantic Ocean. Sixty-eight destroyers and four battleships were stationed along the historic route. For this successful accomplishment he was awarded the Navy Cross.

Other duty in his career includes Executive Officer of the USS AROOSTOOK; command of the USS MUGFORD; Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola; Assistant Naval Attache to England, France, Italy, and the Hague; Executive Officer of the USS LANGLEY and then command of this Navy's first aircraft carrier. He then commanded Naval Air Station San Diego; the USS SARATOGA; was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics; was appointed Commander Air Forces, U. S. Pacific Fleet; and then Commander Fifth Fleet followed by Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

In addition to the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, and Legion of Merit, Admiral Towers won the WWI Victory Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Military Order of the Tower and Sword. He was appointed to the rank of Commander in the Portuguese Navy. He was awarded the Royal Air Force Cross and the Order of the British Empire from Great Britain.

He is considered to be the father of modern carrier offensive strategy as well as one of the founders of the U. S. Navy Aviation. A most distinguished man for a most distinguished ship.



CDR TOWERS



ADM TOWERS

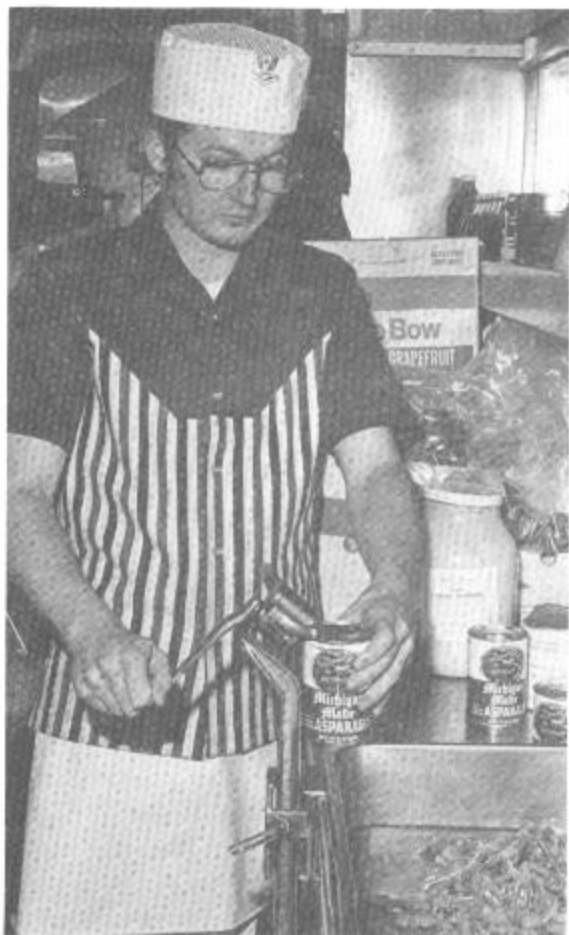
CCTV

In January, a SITE II (shipboard information training entertainment) system was installed aboard the TOWERS. This system enables Navy men to watch closed circuit TV from the ship. This system is only operating while underway and shows various shows and movies. JOSN Gregg Travers and IC2 Mike Bartholomew operate the system onboard. The system is extremely versatile and almost anything can be done with it.

The system can broadcast two stations at once but this is rarely done. Channel two is used for entertainment and channel four is for training. This system is equipped with portable cameras that enable the operators to do a nightly newscast (which is done onboard) or do a "remote" from another location on the ship. This way a sailor can keep up on what's happening on the mainland.

Other things that can be done are Captains Call, talent shows, reenlistments, almost anything your imagination can come up with. Part of the operators' jobs is to think up things to put out. JOSN Travers is a graduate of the journalist "A" school and has over 200 hours behind a camera. He also has experience in various other fields in TV production including writing, editing, lighting, direction and announcing. IC2 Bartholomew was a standout at the closed circuit maintenance school that lasted a grueling 18 weeks long. With both men devoting full time on the system, it has become a very productive asset.

This system was not only new to the TOWERS, but it is also new to the Navy. This system is the new SITE II which the TOWERS was the first ship to receive in the San Diego area.



SECOND DIVISION

Greetings from Second Division. A great amount of improvements have been made since our last report and we're beginning to look like a brand new division. Foremost among these recent changes is the increase in the manning level. FTGC Green reported aboard in January and assumed duties and responsibilities of division Chief Petty Officer. The Chief immediately got everyone "turning to" in preparation for Reftra which begins in early April. Chief Green's previous duty station was Fleet Training Group, San Diego.

GMGC Waller reported aboard in February from the USS HOEL and heads up the maintenance and operation of both 5"/54 Gun Mounts. His right hand man, GMG1 Richard Boston, also reported aboard in February. Both Gun Mounts are in tip top shape and the Gunners Mates are eagerly awaiting the approaching Naval Gunfire Support Exercises at San Clemente.

The division would also like to welcome aboard FTG1 Clifford Nicholson, who is on a temporary assignment from the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS. Nicholson will be the acting Leading Petty Officer in gun plot for the duration of his assignment. FTG2 Herb Cross, who reported in January, rounds out gun plots overall expertise in fire control.

FTG2 Peter Shoemaker and FTG3 David Callaway were transferred to Balboa Hospital in January following their motorcycle accident. Both men have been making fine recoveries and we hope to see them back soon. Philip Cordial was frocked to Petty Officer Third Class on 16 February. Congrats Phil.

FTG2 Roger Cook will be leaving us in April after 2 years of outstanding service. His next duty station is Service School Command Great Lakes, where he'll fill a maintenance billet. We all wish him and his family the best of luck.

And a special congratulations goes out to Ben and Becky Sizemore on the occasion of their daughter's birth. In the weeks ahead, Second Division will have the opportunity to greatly improve its overall combat readiness during Reftra.

With manning at normal operating levels and our equipment in excellent condition, we anticipate having no trouble meeting the fast paced fleet operations of the upcoming deployment.

B DIVISION

B division has been and continues to train in preparation for MTT Phase II, OPPE and Reftra. A few men were advanced in rate during the recent months. They are BT2 Plaisance, BT3 Van Borum, BT3 Palstring, BT3 Smith and BT3 Small. We also have men who were advanced to the Fireman rate.

They are BTFN Johnson, BTFN Mangan, BTFN Shattuck and BTFN Young.

The division gained four new men during this period. We would like to welcome BT3 Van Borum, BTFA Stevenson, FA Perry and FA Palmer to our division. We had to say goodbye to BT3 Rex, who went to shore duty, and BT2 Sandstrom who went to school.

B Division has been carrying the highest re-enlistment percentage on board. During the last few months we have re-enlisted BT3 Small, BT3 Palstring, BTFN Rieman, BTFN Miko, BTFN Johnson and BTFN Mangan for a total of \$72,000 in bonuses.

A hardy congratulations goes out to the three new fathers in the division. Congrats to BT1 Williams, BT2 Plaisance and BT3 Small.

FIRST DIVISION

First Division has been busy since the last Family-gram. During this period, the division has been involved with anchoring and running the liberty boats in Monterey on our port visit there. During the recent Captains personnel inspection, First Division received an outstanding.

During this time, there have been several new men report in the division. They include BM1 David Mangin, who came to us from the USS CLEVELAND, SR Isidio McNeal, SR Richard Beckner, SR Nicanor Reyes and SN Anthony Dupré. Also during this period several men have been advanced in rate. They are BM2 Cantrell, BM2 Brainard, BM3 Aiello, SN Maldonado, SA Blackman and SA Ellison. Congrats to all.

Recently the division held a party to let off some steam. It was a rousing success. One of the big events of the day was a softball game between the PO's and and Non-PO's. The PO's won the first game but the second game was called because of the inability to finish it. The next party is planned for after Reftra which will again prove to be a confrontation on the softball diamond.

One of the most welcome events recently was the installation of CCTV. This provides entertainment while out to sea. Of course, this system is utilized after working hours.

Recently, Donald Gonsalves and his wife, Cheri, had an addition to the family. Donald J. Gonsalves, Jr., made his appearance on Feb. 1, 1980. Both mother and son are doing fine. On behalf of all of us—congratulations to the Gonsalves family.

Coming up after Reftra is a port visit to Mexico. First Division is ready for these evolutions and will pass with flying colors.

M DIVISION

M Division has been recently joined by MM1 Retzak, coming to us from A Division; MM2 Ruiz, coming from shore duty in Great Lakes; MM3 Sim and MM3 Zuniga both came to us after leaving the Navy for a period, then returning to the better life. SA Sellers reported board TOWERS from "C" school. Last but not least, MMFA Mercado joins us from the Long Beach Reserve Center. M Division extends a warm welcome to all of you. We are now preparing for OPPE and Reftra, under our Fearless Leader, ENS Moses.

OI DIVISION

A lot has changed since our last Familygram on OI Division. We are beginning to resemble a specialized team in its day to day operational effort. We have received a new division officer, LTJG Wells, and veteran OS1 Watson has assumed duties of CPO in the recent departure of OSC Jerry Buchanan.

Currently we are manned evenly in three sections preparing for Reftra and a Fleet Readix in June. Old veterans in the lineup include OS2 Franklin, who is currently divisional LPO, OS2 Dave Kapusik, who recently came off the watchbill after four and a half years of sea duty, OS3 Benjamin and OS3 Reed.

On the professional side, OS3 Zajac continues to demonstrate increasing proficiency in radar navigation and OS2 Werndli has added new experience in the critical area of Air Intercept Controller.

OI Division proudly sent nine personnel to the advancement block with Ed Zajac, Bill Healy, and Roger Garcia being advanced to Third Class Petty Officers and Phil Werndli being advanced to Second Class Petty Officer. Mike Miller, Robert Colantonio, Jon Underwood and James Reed participated in the recent advancement test for Third and Second class Petty Officer.

New arrivals include OSSN Cochran and OSSN Crilley, who both came to us from "A" school. SN Cochran was recently advanced to E-4 because of his initiative and effort. SN Crilley will be advanced this month after many noteworthy accomplishments while watchstanding underway. In addition, OS2 Trimmer arrived from the USS CHICAGO and has quickly assumed the duties of a section leader during our underway schedule.

On the personal side, OS3 Zajac is planning to get married. OS2 Werndli is working out for the TOWERS softball team and OSSN Underwood is shaping up for another trip to the Sierra's for a skiing weekend.

So there is a mixture of work and play for OI Division. We have a lot of new people, and we are proud of them as with all of the guys here in OI Division.

SUPPLY DIVISION

Supply Department welcomes aboard Ensign Startt who relieved LTJG Steffy as disbursing and sales officer. ENS Startt hails from Easton Maryland and attended the University of Maryland. LTJG Steffy moved on to Philadelphia where he will work in Naval Aviation Supply.

The past few months have been a demanding time for the men of Supply Department. Preparations for the Supply Management Inspection (SMI), which was held on the 3rd and 4th of March, demanded a 100% effort from everyone. But with the work, there was also time to play. We had an after SMI party at Chief Turnages home. Everyone had a great time.

In preparation for SMI, SKC Domingos had his storekeepers, SK1 Dix, SK2 Snyder, SK2 Dawley, SK3 Rose, SK3 Luvaul, SKSN Dobbins and SKSN Alane, right behind him to show that a handful of professionals can do the impossible. We'll be missing SK2 Dawley soon as he is getting out to further his education in college.

The Mess Management Specialists lead by MSC Turnage did an outstanding job also. Putting out three square meals a day is top priority for MS1 Miller, MS2 Corpus, MS2 Holland, MSSN Schreifels, MSSN Paul, MSSN Byrd, MSSN Williams, SN Pawlawski, MSSA Wallace and MSSR Redlow. MS3 Lynch was busy in the storerooms and reefers receiving and issuing food to the wardroom, CPO mess and the enlisted dining facility. MS2 Kirk was busy at the records ensuring all items were properly accounted for and reordered when supplies got low. MS1 Francisco made sure the wardroom area was in tip top shape.

Our ship's Servicemen lead by SH2 Mathias continued to give the best service possible. SHSA Cshia, who runs the ship store, was kept on the go receiving stock for the weeks at sea. SHSN Woolridge, who runs the barber shop, deserves a well done at his job of cutting our hair. SHSR Morin and SHSN Taylor operate the ship's laundry night and day to ensure that all hands have clean uniforms. We have to say goodbye to SH2 Mathias who will be leaving soon for a tour of recruiting duty in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Last but not least, our Disbursing Clerks, DK3 Aylward has had pay day on time despite the demanding operational schedule of the ship. Helping him in

the disbursing office is SN Baker who is doing a competent job.

That's all for now, see you next quarter.

AE&R DIVISION

AE&R Division would like to say hello to all TOWERS families wherever they may be. We are known to our shipmates as the service division.

There are a few new faces in our division. We would like to welcome aboard MMCS Hibbard, EN1 Manda, MM1 Shannon, HT1 Elwood and FA Davis. We all extend a warm welcome to you all. In April, the division, as well as the rest of the ship, will be going through Reftra. It will be a trying time for all of us but with ICC Hayes on the phones, MMCS Hibbard providing the steam, and HTC Wedell keeping the ship together, we are confident that we'll make it through.

Congratulations go out to EM2 Flege for being picked, runner up for Sailor of the Quarter, and EN2 Daniel for consistently maintaining his work center at peak efficiency.

In the very near future, the ship will be taking a trip to Mexico. A good time is in store for all. Until next quarter, so long.

OC DIVISION

The holidays quickly passed and the upcoming underway schedule became the primary focus of all our energies. Reftra looms as the major evolution to prepare for. So needless to say, training is becoming the task at hand.

Soon we will be saying farewell to a man who has been a driving force, not only within the division, but also the entire ship. RMC George Bowman will be retiring the beginning of April to try his hand at somewhat less nautical work. His vast knowledge as well as his special humor and perspective on things will be missed. Our senior man on the signal bridge is also on the move. SM2 Isherwood is getting ready for his shore duty at NAS Brunswick, Maine. No doubt the climate will take some getting used to.

Even though our expertise is moving on, our new personnel are quickly learning what is needed to fill in. We extend a warm welcome aboard to RM1 Charles Keller, RM2 Frank Oquim, RM3 John York and RMSN Dave Wallen.

During this last quarter, OC Division collaborated with Navigation and three one great division party, held at NC1 Charland's home. One wonders if this is in any way connected to RM1 Wohleb's outstanding orders to NTCC Whidbey Island, Washington?

That's about all the news for now. Reftra is ahead and so is much hard work. Yet, a port visit to Mazatlan may be on the other side. Till then....so long.

ASW DIVISION

Greetings from the big ears. It's been a long time since we last talked, and a lot of changes have taken place within the division. There are a lot of new faces from a lot of places, such as STG3 Davis and STGSA Kennedy from FLTASWTRACENPAC. Our new gunner, GMTSN Koehler, came to us from the USS MERRILL. The USS CHICAGO contributed to our gang with STG3 Clinkenbeard. Last but not least, our new division officer, Ensign McCaffrey, has come to us from FLTASWTRACENPAC, division officer training.

We've had quite a few advancements since our last report. They are STG2 Williams, STG2 Minar, STG2 Story, STG3 Turner and STGSA Kennedy.

We regret the losses of LT Hoffman, who will be instructing in Saudi Arabia, and STG2 Williams, who is going to attend a maintenance course at FLTASWTRACENPAC. We do wish them well in their careers and hope to see them again.

That's all the news for now. Enjoy your summer and we'll see you before the upcoming deployment.

NAVIGATION DIVISION

The Navigation Division has been busy the last three months. We said goodbye to some old friends and said hello to new shipmates. We had to say goodbye to PN2 Ronnie Shields who was discharged out of the Navy after many fine years in the ship's office. We also said farewell to NCC Bob Edwards, who was transferred to COMDESRON 21, and PC3 Mike Kjoonas who also got a discharge out of the Navy. To take Mike's place in the post office is YNSN John Perfili. He is doing an excellent job in getting the mail to us. YN3 Reggie Johnson is currently TAD to the Naval Station but we're expecting him back soon. LTJG Thomas Bosse has left us for Norfolk, VA., and LT Paul Duke has taken over as our division officer.

We would like to welcome NC1 Mike Charland who took NCC Edwards place. IC2 Mike Bartholomew, who after five months of schooling, is back to help operate the closed circuit television system.

New personnel also include PNSN Gregg Morgan from First Division, HM3 Joel Shelton, to help run things in sick bay, SN Ernest Boyd, who is striking for Yeoman from First Division, PNSA Dennis Blanché, who came to us from "A" school, and PNC Ronald

Hardin, who was a welcome sight in the ship's office.

As you can see, Navigation Division has gone through many changes in personnel, although some of the regulars are still there. YNC Melvin Johnston and PN2 Charles Baca are still keeping the ship's office in good order, HMI John Wilson and SN Taylor Ward are still healing people in sick bay, QM1 Lamont Carson, QM3 Ron Miller, and QMSN Bernard Harrell are keeping the ship on its intended track, and JOSN Gregg Travers is keeping the crew entertained on Closed Circuit Television.

In late January, the division had a party over at Mike Charland's house. Everyone had a good time to say the least. We shared the party with OC Division because we wone the softball tourney together last spring in which we won a free keg of beer. I don't have to tell you that it didn't last very long.

We are now preparing for Reftra and for our homeport change to Japan in the Fall.