



USS BENNINGTON (CVS - 20) 19 APRIL 1965

Dear Families and Friends of BENNINGTON:

I would like to take this opportunity to familiarize you with our recent activities, as our three week stay in Hawaiian waters comes to a close.

The BENNINGTON departed from Long Beach on 22 March and went directly to San Diego to pick up Carrier Anti-Submarine Air Group - Fifty Nine and left the same afternoon for Hawaii. Thirteen distinguished civilian guests of the Secretary of the Navy accompanied us to Hawaii. The officers and men enjoyed their presence tremendously.

Upon our arrival at Pearl Harbor on 27 March we immediately began preparations for the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet Change of Command Ceremony.

We were highly honored to be chosen as the host ship for the ceremony at which Admiral T. H. Moorer was relieved of his command by Admiral R. L. Johnson at 1000, Tuesday, the thirtieth.

For the occasion the hangar bay (the deck immediately below the flight deck) was draped overhead by signal flags and the number one elevator at the forward end of the deck served as the stage. A 48 foot long American flag provided an impressive back-drop for the speakers platform which was draped with red, white and blue bunting. The all-hands project was not only colorful, but most impressive. The ceremony was a great success.

The following message was received from Admiral Johnson, the new Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet:

"The excellent appearance of the USS BENNINGTON and the superb performance of her crew in making preparations for and during the Change of Command Ceremony were a credit to your ship, the Naval Air Force and the Pacific Fleet. Please convey my personal appreciation to all concerned."