



Dear Families and Friends of BENNINGTON:

On April 13, Rear Admiral Robert A. Macpherson, Commander, Antisubmarine Warfare Group FIVE, embarked in BENNINGTON, hosted a luncheon for the Honolulu Rotary Club on the ship's hangar deck. Approximately 300 Rotary members were present including many Mainlanders and foreign visitors. Rotarians came from as far as Connecticut and Australia. Shortly after departing Hawaii, Admiral Macpherson received a letter from Rear Admiral Henry S. Persons, the Commandant of the Fourteenth Naval District, which said in part:

"Captain Barnett and the officers and men of BENNINGTON, by their imagination, planning and hard work, provided the ideal setting for the Rotary Luncheon. . . Please accept for yourself, Captain Barnett and his officers and crew, my sincere thanks for a job well done; an effort which should pay dividends in good will for the Navy in Hawaii in the future."

The foregoing comments illustrate the outstanding job the officers and men in BENNINGTON continue to perform in all endeavors. I am justly proud of each one and I know that you are too.

Time moves quickly for all in BENNINGTON. Ten days after leaving Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the ship arrived in Yokosuka, Japan, which is a large Naval Base just inside Tokyo Bay. The primary purpose of going to Japan was to report to the Commander of the Seventh Fleet for duty as his Antisubmarine Task Group.