

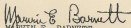
On 8 May we were highly honored by the visit of five admirals and two generals of the Chinese Navy and Air Force. The visiting dignitaries were briefed on antisubmarine warfare by Admiral Macpherson and then watched an air show which demonstrated the capabilities of the BENNINGTON's SH-3A turbojet helicopters, S-2E "Trackers" and A-4B jet interceptors.

Following the demonstration, the guests were given a first hand look at the various aircraft in the hangar bay and toured key shipboard facilities.

When you receive this letter, BENNINGTON's men will have been away from our homeport of Long Beach, California for eight weeks. The ship has travelled approximately 12,400 miles. We are now in Manila Bay anchored in view of the city and Corregidor Island, the fortress of World War II. Today the island is primarily a showplace for visitors. Perhaps your husband or son may visit the island.

All of us in BENNINGTON sincerely hope and pray that all goes well with you at home as it does with us here.

Sincerely,


MARVIN E. BARNETT
Captain, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer