



LEAHY GRAM

GO MODERN - GO LEAHY

At Sea
10 March, 1974

Dear LEAHY Family and Friends,

As I write this, the third LEAHYGRAM of our Med cruise '74, the good ship LEAHY is once again enroute a port visit, our sixth port of call in Mediterranean waters and once again an opportunity for rest, recreation, and a touch of adventure among the unknown. The port is Thessaloniki, on the northeast coast of Greece, where we expect to arrive on Wednesday, the 13th of March. There, we will have four and a half days to explore the attractions of a city rich in historical associations, not least of which is the distinction of having been the Greek capital for some hundred years. From there, we will proceed to sea for several days of operations with USS AMERICA before venturing even further North through the Aegean to a port visit at Istanbul, Turkey.

In itself, the month since our last writing has been one of many and varied LEAHY exploits. For eight days we enjoyed the exceptional hospitality of Barcelona, Spain, both hosting Spanish visitors on-board and tasting the variety of Spanish meals, dances, and ski slopes ashore. A last memory of the good life, it seemed, as we plunged into a vigorous at-sea workup for the SIXTH Fleet Exercise National Week XVI. In the exercise itself, 15 - 19 February, LEAHY once again distinguished itself in about every naval warfare endeavor undertaken. Air controllers vigorously controlled aircraft from two carriers and from shore bases. CIC radar operators detected and passed to weapons control a seemingly endless series of exercise hostile surface and air tracks. Electronic warfare operators vigorously prosecuted electronic intercepts to keep us on top of the rapidly evolving tactical situation. The ship vigorously patrolled choppy seas to detect and defend against submarine attack. And, of course, the ship's engineers and service personnel kept us going where we needed to go and kept our own individual vitax signs healthy through long hours of sleepless watches. The byword for LEAHY, and the force as a whole, was vigor. Such, in fact, is the realism of such fleet exercises that we definitely hope the very real threat against which we prepare as professional Navy-men will never materialize. After National Week XVI, we can at least say with a measure of pride that we are ready.

From our fleet exercises in the central Mediterranean, we entered port at Soudha Bay, Crete, for what we expected to be a short training anchorage. In fact, we were already enroute a port visit at Corfu, another Greek island, when we received word that additional aid would be required of LEAHV in preparing missile exercises the following week. Accordingly, we made a very full, very interesting port visit out of our stop at Soudha Bay. Conferences with Greek officials at the NATO, NAMFI missile range there, and with other missile ships, and last minute checks on all the complex systems required occupied our time. In the evenings, nearly everyone continued the excellent liaison with our Greek hosts ashore in Soudha Bay and Chania, a nearby town. In the same period a number of American Navy pilots based nearby exchanged P-3 Orion flights for tours, meals, and hospitality aboard LEAHV. The watchword in National Week XVI had been vigor; in our missileer at NAMFI, it was professionalism and attention to detail. In a highly successful two days of missile firings, LEAHV, COLUMBUS (CG-12) and R. L. PAGE (DEG-5) fired Terrier, Talos, and Tartar missiles at a series of rather elusive pilotless drones launched from the Greek isle.

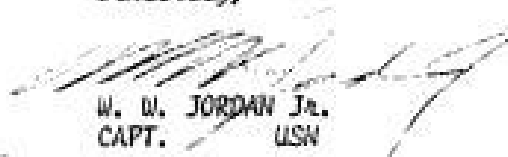
Departing Soudha on the morning of the 2nd, LEAHV rendezvoused with USS AMERICA and other U.S. units for operations at sea. These have included air support for an amphibious exercise off Sardinia and very successful data linking and air defense exercises with the French Navy. After a brief stop at Augusta Bay, Sicily, we are once again steaming easterly, with surprisingly calm seas to a rendezvous with rest, recreation, and upkeep in Thessaloniki and Istanbul.

As evidenced from letters from your LEAHVMAN the schedule has been somewhat confused. At present our visit to Naples is still scheduled for 13 April thru 3 May. I will do everything in my power to keep the Naples visit firm as I know many of you are planning to visit your LEAHVMAN while inport at Naples.

Enclosed with this letter are two special information articles included & provide some variety and items of interest with the LEAHVGRAM. Chaplain FLICK's letter is included & provides some words of wisdom and religion plus miscellaneous information about life aboard LEAHV. The second special article is written by SN Gene SCHOECH and interestingly portrays the operations of LEAHV's own TV and Radio stations.

Remembering throughout the dedication with which you all follow your LEAHVMAN's exploits overseas, and praying that you are supporting him with your love and letters we look forward to receiving many of you in Naples until then I remain

Sincerely,



W. W. JORDAN Jr.
CAPT. USN

10 March 1974

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As I write this our second LEAHYGRAM of our fled deployment I feel that I could be writing to many of you with a valid expression of missing and loving each of you more as the days go by. Days at sea are sometimes routine, but not many on LEAHY, as we spend long hours working to be one of the finest and most prepared ships of the fleet. Each of us are aware of some quiet moments on watch, early in the morning at sunrise or in the late evening at a beautiful Mediterranean sunset when the love of each of you is nearer and dearer to us than ever before - and as each one would say, "Keep the good news and mail coming, we miss you and love you."

Our time does continue to be filled with much to do, for which I try to remind myself and others to be thankful as the time does go faster when we are busy. As the Tours Officer I was very pleased with the response to tours in many of our port visits. The most notable thus far which did provide adequate time was Barcelona, Spain. During our Barcelona stay some men were able to see the beautiful monastery of Montserrat, nestled in a breath taking mountain area of Spain, the home of the world famous Black Madonna and a choir of young boys, famous all over the world. Other tours attended by at least 150 of our LEAHYMEN were a Barcelona city tour, Mine tour, Yacht Club tour and last but certainly not least 25 men were able to take a three day ski tour to the beautiful little country of Andorra located in the best slopes of the Pyrenees mountains. My now some of you may be enjoying beautiful photographic endeavors from these wonderful spots and waiting anxiously for your loved ones to tell you more.

As we have now entered the Lenten season with special Ash Wednesday all faith services here on LEAHY, our thoughts turn toward our preparation for the observance of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and a joyous Easter worship celebration for all. During this time, a very fine group of men are involved in very deep biblical research with a 36 hour course entitled Power For Abundant Living. After completing four - three hour sessions of this study I would evaluate it as a very worthwhile experience for all who are participating and one which should make our observance of Easter on LEAHY an even more meaningful event for all. It has also been our great pleasure and benefit to be able to have Chaplain McCUE the Catholic Chaplain from USS AMERICA aboard for several Sunday services. Chaplain McCUE comes to us by way of the "Holy-Jolo" and his spirit has meant much to all of us on LEAHY.

Finally, I would like to say just a few words of concern and thought to all of you on an all too common subject, "Depression". Many times men come to me who are down or depressed. I know that you know what I am talking about because first of all depression is common to all, sometimes, as an example, we are depressed because we received mail, sometimes because we didn't. The point is, depression is common. What do you do about depression? YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOW!! don't sit, get out of the house, read a good book, or, the very best cure to depression is, DO SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE ELSE! The cure for depression is you and I and by curing our depression we could bring a smile to much of the world.

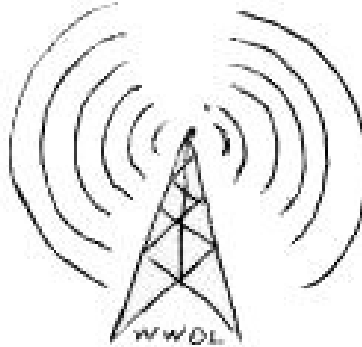
There is also a group of fine LEAHY wives who are trying to help.
said "TRYING" - but "IRYING" - why not join them?

Contact - President, LANCY LIEB at 855-7342
Vice President, SHIRLEY GLESHER at 497-5076.

In Christ,



Chaplain Richard H. LICK
USS LEAHY (LHG-16)



LEAHY'S OWN "WWDL TV/RADIO"

Let me introduce myself; I'm WWDL TV-4 and I'm also WWDL Radio; kind of a split personality you might say. Despite my split personality however, I serve one very important purpose aboard LEAHY - to educate, inform and entertain her crew. And if I do say so myself, I'm not doing too bad for a youngster only two months old. I must admit, I've got more than my share of proud parents, so it's no small wonder I spent very little time crawling before I walked.

My station manager is also the Executive Officer, Commander STRONG, who's responsible for all my actions and those of the men who run me. Chaplain FLICK is my production manager and he oversees my programming and planning. And then there's CWO2 DORAN, who's the electronics maintenance officer, and is responsible for all my very complex electronic equipment.

There's ETN3 Jim STREIT, who's the station engineer, equipment repairman and makes sure I'm mechanically sound at all times. And he does a fine job too, because I've hardly been sick a day in my life. Jim also handles my controls every day and makes sure that every show goes on the air when it should so that the whole crew can enjoy me.

Then there's my broadcast specialist, Seamen Gene SCHOECK, who, besides handling all the many reports and schedules and inter-department coordination necessary to my efficient operation, Gene also writes and broadcasts the daily news, sports and weather. He plans my programming every week and keeps all my other members up-to-date on my utilization.

I'm just like any stateside TV station, with an added extra. Not only do I show programs like All in the Family, M*A*S*H, Gunsmoke and the Tonight Show, but I'm also used to locally produce and broadcast programs like our Port Briefing Series, to let the crew know what each port will be like - before we get there. Or, "2¢ Worth from the Executive Officer" where Commander STRONG answers phoned-in questions right on the air. "Captain's Call" has become one of many most popular local programs, because every week Captain JORDAN speaks with members of the crew and answers any and all questions they might have for him. Every Sunday morning, we broadcast live, from our studio, Worship Services, so that all members of the crew can join with Chaplain FLICK in Sunday Worship.

That's not even half of it. Soon, I'll be used to make a Video tape of the ship's crew in all their activities to send home to you in Norfolk so that you can see the fine job your loved ones are doing here in the Med. We'll also be broadcasting daily interviews with crew members, along with other live shows filmed throughout the ship. Phew! I'll let my other half have his say now.

I'm WWDL Radio, and I've got two personalities myself - channel 1 and channel 2. I've just become a proud member of AFRTS too, with the receipt of the Radio Tape Service provided ships at sea. I'm moving up with WWDL TV now, into larger quieter quarters, where I'll also be used to inform and entertain the crew. Just like my counterpart, my family is the same. But, as with WWDL TV-4 I'm helped out quite a bit by a staff of volunteers who give their off duty hours to me to provide the round the clock music, news and information the crew enjoys.

We're a busy person, WWDL TV and Radio, spending 10 hours a day on the TV screen and about 18 hours a day on the radio. But the crew enjoys us, so to us it's worth the effort that we put out. We're still young and growing and getting better every day and with our fine staff we're exploring new and different ways to be useful. Why, we've even filmed LEAHY'S missile-shoots and that's no small accomplishment!

It was nice to talk to you and we hope we're doing our part to help keep up the morale of your loved ones while we're here in the Med. And maybe in the next LEAHYGRAM we'll have more good news to tell you.

So you see, sometimes a split personality can be a good thing.

WWDL TV-4/RADIO