

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS COLLETT (DD-730)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California 96601

At Sea
With the SEVENTH Fleet
7 February 1968

Dear Families and Friends of COLLETT,

This "Family-gram" is the first of 1968, which thus far promises to be a busy and eventful year for all of us aboard the USS COLLETT.

Even though my last "Family-gram" was sent as recently as December 9th, I am writing another this time for two reasons. First, to honor my own personal New Year's resolution to keep you better informed this year than I did in 1967. Secondly, because I know you are all concerned about the activities of the COLLETT - - and particularly of your Navy man aboard her - - since the "PUEBLO" incident of 23 January.

COLLETT was at sea when the North Koreans seized the PUEBLO, and has been at sea ever since. Although the details of our movements cannot be discussed in this letter, they have been made in answer to the urgent and immediate military needs of the SEVENTH Fleet. Our assignments have demanded many long, strenuous hours of hard work on the part of all hands, leaving little free time for letter writing. This, plus the fast moving that COLLETT has done lately, has caused mail service to be a bit slower than usual. We expect the mail situation to improve soon. Until then, be assured your COLLETT sailor is doing a man's work and doing it well, as his ship performs jobs demanding the most of the men who man her.

This letter should reach you around Valentine's Day, on which day your Navy man's thoughts naturally turn to home and his loved ones. Although you can depend on him to do his duty willingly and with high resolve, your support and understanding is vital to his sense of purpose and well-being. Your letters help!

Sincerely yours,

John R. Kearney

John R. Kearney
Commander
U. S. Navy

P. S. - COLLETT's recent fast footwork has caused a temporary shortage in our supply of the new 10 cent airmail stamps and the smaller denominations. Although we expect a postage resupply soon, a stamp or two in your next letter to your COLLETT crewman would help him through this brief stampless period.