

COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPTAIN

R. E. SHEETS



*By the time you receive and read this cruise book, the seven and one-half months of your life that were spent aboard **WICHITA** in the Western Pacific will have already begun to fade into a surprisingly few memories. Cruise book committees, much like our memories, are kind to us, for they tend to emphasize the good times and block out the many long, hard hours of work that made this deployment one in which we may all take pride. Everytime we were needed, **WICHITA** was there; fully ready to do the job. That is a record that no one can surpass, and few (if any) can equal. It was accomplished through the solid teamwork of each and everyone of you, and when the final count was made we came up with 154 wins and no defeats; and that's not too shabby.*

*The **WICHITA** "Linemen" proved that they had a heart just a little bit bigger than anyone else. When the call for contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign was made, you responded with the largest man-for-man donation of any ship in the Pacific Fleet, and double the dollar contribution of our nearest competitor in Service Group ONE.*

*Each of us will remember this cruise in a different manner, and each will take something different with us when we leave **WICHITA**. For me it is the pleasure in knowing that no matter where our respective paths may lead, for a brief period in the span of a lifetime we went the same way together.*

*Roger E. Sheets
Captain, U.S. Navy*

