



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1200

IN REPLY REFER TO
OI222:RDE:re
24 Sept. 1987

Emily Shoemaker
158 Bryant Road
Clyde, Texas 79510

Dear Emily:

Slap my wrist and take away my next pay check! How could I have not answered your last letter?

I thought perhaps I had made it clear in the letter that I did write, that I have absolutely nothing to do with who chooses the photos/paintings that hang in the Pentagon; I have nothing to do with how often they are changed; nor do I know who is responsible for either function. I tried four phone numbers in the Pentagon trying to discover how they were chosen or who was responsible for them--all to no avail.

As I also explained in my letter to you, some "phantom" here in the Pentagon receives mail from the public. If the "phantom" can't figure out where it should be properly routed too--he/she sends it to me for action.

I believe (as a tax payer myself) that if you write then you deserve the courtesy of an answer--even if it doesn't make any sense to you.

I can't make any more apologies for my apparent neglect in answering your last letter. I hope you may be able to understand though, that here in the News Photo Branch of the Navy Office of Information, we have been rather busy of late dealing with the USS STARK incident and the events of the Persian Gulf. If it comes to a choice in my daily routine to answering public mail or responding to a request from either national or international accredited news media personnel, I feel it my obligation to service the latter since that is what the U.S. Navy pays me to do.

Hope you take this letter in the spirit that it is written. I'm going to forward a copy to Mrs. Agnes Hoover at Naval History Division because I'm sure I dealt with her before and we have established that there is photography of BENEVOLENCE.

If it will make you feel any better, I'll come in some Sunday and walk the hallowed corridors of the Pentagon and see if I can determine if in fact a photo of BENEVOLENCE is hanging around some place.

Best regards,


Russell D. Egnor
Head News Photo Branch