

THE CAPTAIN



Commander Donald Lee GURKE, ninth commanding officer of **CHARLES F. ADAMS**, graduated from the California Maritime Academy in 1957 and sailed in the U.S. Merchant Marine prior to entering the Naval service in 1958. After a two-year tour as Chief Engineer of **USS PEACOCK (MSC-198)** he completed the COMCRUDESPAC Engineer Officer School and served as Chief Engineer of **USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS (DD-950)**. In December 1961 he commenced a two-year tour as Chief Engineer of **USS PREBLE (DLG-15)**. Following this assignment he spent two years as a senior ship rider at the Fleet Training Group, Pearl Harbor. From July 1965 to June 1967 he commanded **USS GENESSE (AOG-8)**. While under his command, **GENESSE** was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for operations in support of the U.S. effort in Vietnam. The Captain received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1969. He then served as Executive Officer of **USS WILLIAM V. PRATT (DLG-13)** from August 1969 through March 1971. In 1970 **PRATT** was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for operations in the Middle East. For the year prior to assuming command of **ADAMS** in September 1972, he was assigned to OPNAV and worked in the New Destroyer Construction Program. His primary work has been in the area of combat systems integration for **DD-963** and **DLGN-38** class ships.

The Captain has orders to the 1200 PSI Propulsion Examining Board in San Diego. We wish him a most rewarding tour.

