



An open letter to the city of Jacksonville

All of us in the Navy here in Jacksonville would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the city. In the aftermath of the USS Stark tragedy, the outpouring of sympathy and support for the families and friends of those crew members lost in the ship has been overwhelming. Offers of help have come from every strata of city life; from Mayor Godbold's office, from a very generous business community and from countless private citizens.

We in the Navy have been exceptionally proud of the special partnership we share with the people of Jacksonville. This past week has once again been a time of partnership and sharing, but sadly during days of sorrow and grief for us all.

I would like all of the marvelous people of Jacksonville who have been involved to know that their help and support have gone a long way to help us ease the burden of sorrow for the families and friends of the USS Stark. We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful neighbors.

With the greatest respect,
L.G. Perry,
Rear Admiral,
U.S. Navy