

USCGC MIDGETT (WHEC-726)

UNITED
STATES
COAST GUARD



MIDGETT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011



A view of Alaska from Midgett's bridge wing

By: First Class Cadet Ferree

port visits. MIDGETT engineers were instrumental in getting us "up to speed" and ready to respond to any situation we encounter up here.

MIDGETT's mission in the northern waters is to protect our domestic fisheries by enforcing applicable fishing regulations, to be ready for any emergencies in the fishing fleet such as flooding, fire or injury and to provide assistance for any other homeland security issue that may affect the maritime domain. As always, MIDGETT stands ready to respond!

If there are any questions at all, don't hesitate to use the ombudsman to help. The ombudsman has a direct link to the command to assist as necessary.

Enjoy the summer!

W. R. Meese, CO

From the Bridge-

Captain Meese

Family, Friends, Acquaintances of MIDGETT:

Ahoy! It's been awhile since we published a newsletter and we've come a long way since our last correspondence. We have much ground to cover.

First, let me officially welcome all our new shipmates and families to the Seattle area. As you are no doubt discovering, the greater Seattle area has something to offer for just about everyone. I would encourage the families to get out and about to see the area and get this done by the end of September. Starting in the mid to late fall, the weather takes a turn for the worse and might be inhospitable for some folks outdoors.

During the last in port period MIDGETT personnel conducted a tremendous amount of maintenance and training and still found some time to take well earned leave. After four and one half months in port we set sail for the northern latitudes (first time for MIDGETT in over four years) and began testing and stressing our systems. The new crew responded well but alas some of our hardware was a little slow coming out of its rest period and we continued to work on equipment during our first and second



CGC MIDGETT foc's'le with seagull overhead

By: FS1 Van Kampen

Executive Officer Notes

Hello MIDGETT Shipmates, Friends and Family!

As nearly everyone has a two or three year tour onboard the ship, I arrived this summer with roughly half of you. I showed up in May, just in time to experience the wet, soggy remains of spring and a pretty spectacular June—those types of days are why people move to the Pacific Northwest. Since then, I have heard from my family that July has been pretty good as well.

The last month before sailing was pretty exciting. In addition to getting the ship's machinery ready, we said good-bye to and welcomed nearly 70 shipmates in June alone. That has made the first few weeks of the patrol a huge learning experience for everyone—the new folks are learning the ship and procedures, and the 'old salts' are getting used to the new folks. I think everyone is learning something new about themselves.

As the Executive Officer, it's my responsibility to take care of the men and women in the ship, so they can perform their best and accomplish the mission we've been sent out to do. Along with that, I need to take care of the families back home by making sure you have access to the base, and other government facilities like commissaries and exchanges in the area, and medical facilities while we are deployed.



Crewmembers on Barometer Mountain
By: FS1 Van Kampen



CGC MIDGETT at Kodiak, AK

By: LT Sherman

If the crew is wondering and worrying how things are going back home, it could distract them from their duties on board and that could be harmful; at times we do dangerous things at sea. We train and maintain the equipment to mitigate the risks, but a lot of times it comes down to the right people making the right decisions at the right time, and distractions can be dangerous.

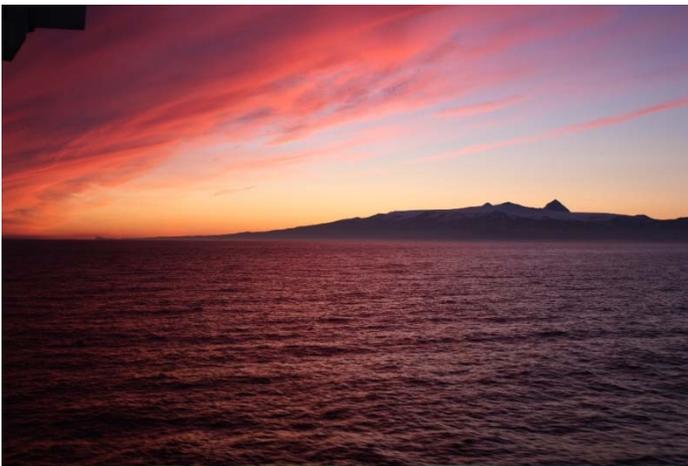
There are a number of ways to seek assistance if you need it. One way is the unit's ombudsman, Ms. Cindy Geelan. She can be reached by e-mail, midgettombudsman02@gmail.com, and her number is (425)968-2105. Remember, Cindy is just a resource to help you get assistance if you need it. She's not a paid employee and has her own home to take care of! We are looking for a second ombudsman. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let Cindy know. You can also touch base with the Work-Life staff at Base Seattle (206)217-6610. They are specialists in family advocacy, employee assistance, health promotion and stress. Finally, if there is a true emergency and you need to get hold of the ship, you can go through the American Red Cross at (877)272-7337, or through a local chapter.

J. F. Neumann, XO

Summer ALPAT (Alaska Patrol)

For the first time since November 2007, Coast Guard Cutter Midgett sailed north to guard the coasts of Alaska. With this change in direction has come a change in mission and in crew.

Instead of a mission focus on maritime security through counter narcotic law enforcement, the northern mission is one of maritime stewardship



Sunset at Unimak Pass
By: IT2 Reed

where the primary goal of law enforcement efforts are to ensure that healthy stocks of fish and other marine resources are maintained.

Having set sail after a major transfer season there have been many new additions to the crew, from our Executive Officer (XO) to new firemen straight from boot camp.



The Bridge
By: FS1 Van Kampen

In this newsletter, in order to introduce our new chain of command to everyone, we've included bios on our XO and our department leaders.

For a more in-depth view of the ship's divisions, our lead chiefs and petty officers of the damage control, deck, gunnery, and food service divisions have written about their rates and their roles underway.

Lastly, we have an insider look at our Kodiak port call, crew recognition and as many pictures as we could squeeze between the lines.

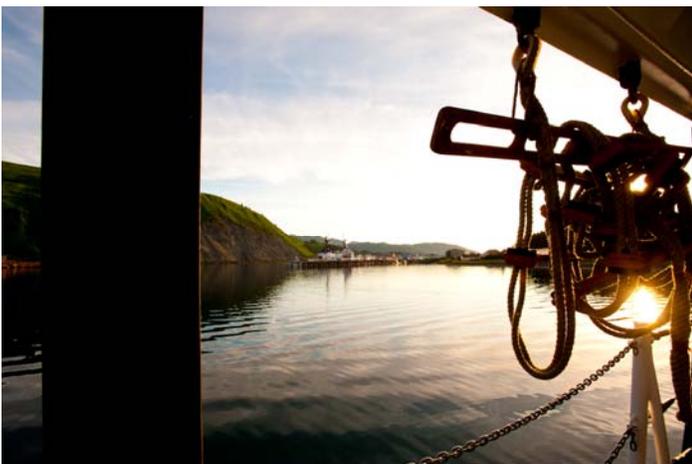


By: FS1 Van Kampen

XO - Executive Officer CDR Neumann

Commander Jeff Neumann reported aboard Midgett as the Executive Officer in May, 2011. Prior to Midgett, he served as the Atlantic Area's Chief of Contingency Planning and Chief of Incident Management; overseeing the five LANT District's responses to Search and Rescue, Environmental Response, and Living Marine Resources cases, including the 2010 Haiti earthquake and the Deep-water Horizon oil spill.

Commander Neumann has served afloat on a variety of cutters and locations including: Deck Watch Officer in CGC STORIS, Kodiak, AK, Commanding Officer in CGC POINT MONROE, Gulfport, MS, Pre commissioning Executive Officer in CGC ELM, Atlantic Beach,



By: FS1 Van Kampen

NC, pre-commissioning Commanding Officer in CGC GEORGE COBB, San Pedro, CA, and Commanding Officer in CGC SEQUOIA, Apra Harbor, Guam.



CGC MIDGETT moored at Kodiak AK.
By: FS1 Van Kampen

Commander Neumann has served ashore at the US Coast Guard Academy as a Company Officer where he also coached JV soccer and sailed in CGC EAGLE, and served as the WLB/WLM Facility Manager and Operational Sponsor's Representative to the Buoy Tender Replacement Project in Coast Guard Headquarters.

A Navy brat who grew up mostly in Northern Florida, Commander Neumann and his wife, Tess, have two daughters, 9-year-old Samantha and 7-year-old Megan.





View from Kodiak's Barometer Mountain
By: FS1 Van Kampen

Port Call
Kodiak Alaska

Kodiak: where rubber boots and bearded men were as common as fishing lures and tall tales. Though a small, quaint town, Kodiak proved to be an enjoyable port call for Midgett's crew. The Coast Guard base, like the town, provided plenty of options for entertainment.



Top of Barometer Mountain
By: SN To

Several crewmembers hiked the different trails in the area including: Pyramid Mountain, Barometer Mountain, and Old

Women's Mountain. Outdoor activities in Kodiak are limitless, but, beware of bears! For those who were less interested in fighting off bugs and bears, downtown kept us busy. A single-screened movie theater allowed us the viewing of "Harry Potter." We restocked at Walmart and unwound at the local restaurants/pubs.



Atop of Old Women's Ridge
By: SN To

The base had a movie theater as well, along with a bowling alley, pizza parlor and gym. The gym had a rock climbing wall and swimming pool. The Golden Anchor pub had foosball, shuffle board and darts. Between the Walmart and two-story Exchange on base, we found plenty of items we forgot to pack and then some.

~ Seaman Melissa McKenzie



Engineering Department

Midgett's Damage Controlmen (DCs), electricians mates (EMs), and Machinery Technicians (MKs) make up the Engineering Department.

As a department, this hardworking team ensures that all of Midgett's damage control, electrical, auxiliary, and propulsion equipment are maintained and repaired. Even though this patrol has just started they have already made several major repairs to important pieces of equipment.

EO- Engineer Officer LT Sherman

Lieutenant Brook Sherman reported to MIDGETT from Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he was assigned as Naval Engineering Lead of the design and construction of the SENTINEL Class Patrol Craft.

In 2001, Sherman earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the Coast Guard Academy and received his commission.

He has served in several sea tours including an exchange tour with the US Navy as Navigator in USS STOUT (DDG-55) and Damage Control Assistant and Assistant Engineer Officer in USCGC HARRIET LANE (WMEC 903).

In 2007, Sherman received two Master of Science degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Ocean Engineering and Systems Engineering.



Broken Oily Waste Separator Bearing
By: LT Sherman

Sherman, a native of Sun Prairie, WI, is married to Stephanie, of Richlands, Virginia. They have two children, Addison and Cade, and make their home in Lynnwood, WA.



Hull Steel Replacement Project
By: LTjg Valadez

Damage Control Division

Damage Controlman is one of the engineering rates onboard Coast Guard Cutters. Damage Controlmen have received formal training in welding, plumbing; metal fabrication, pipefitting/brazing, carpentry and housing maintenance and shipboard damage control. DC's are responsible for



training of the crew in the proper response to shipboard fires, flooding and structural damage.

The lead Damage Controlman is also the Fire Marshal for the ship. The Fire Marshal is responsible for daily rounds to ensure fire hazards are kept to a minimum, and that all spaces are certified as "Gas Free" prior to personnel entry.



~ Chief Damage Controlman Jonathan Lusk



Midgett's DC Division Includes

- DCA-ENS Rebecca Gentile**
- DCC Jonathan Lusk**
- DC2 Arthur Latham**
- DC2 William McMeekin**
- DC3 Nicholas Greenwell**

OPS-Operations Officer LT Stalvey

Lieutenant Grayson Stalvey reported to MIDGETT as Operations Officer in May 2010 from the Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team in San Diego, California where he was assigned as the Officer in Charge of Law Enforcement Detachment 103.

In 2005, Stalvey earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Government from the Coast Guard Academy and received his commission.

His previous sea tour was as Deck Watch Officer in USCGC ALEX HALEY (WMEC 39), Kodiak, AK.

Stalvey, a native of Savannah, GA, is married to the former Tamar Rice, of Johnson City, TN. They currently reside Kent, WA.



Midgett fantail on the transit to Kodiak
 By: FS1 Van Kampen

Deck Division

BMC Morseburg

Deck Force is many things on cutter Midgett: hard-working, fun-loving, a team; but only one word can sum up one of the biggest divisions on board: character. By definition, character is the combination of qualities or features that distinguishes one person, group or thing from another.

There are many facets to Deck Force. Their many jobs can range from sanding and painting the exterior and interior of the ship to standing a vigilant helm and lookout watch or putting over the mooring lines whenever Midgett pulls into a port.

Underway, someone new to Deck Force would expect to learn the basic fundamentals of fire fighting and the ship's systems, how to steer the ship and stand a lookout watch, how to handle lines whenever the ship pulls in and out of port and how to properly maintain the ship's weather decks and interior spaces. First impressions of MIDGETT can be attributed to the hard work of Deck Force.

Once a member has a patrol or two under their belt they may move onto Boat-swain's Mate of the Watch or Junior Officer of the Deck.



Midgett's Deck Division Includes

Currently there are several seamen breaking in these watch stations, which require a stronger knowledge of the ship and it's functions, such as anchoring and navigation.

On a Counter narcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific, Deck Force helps lower the small boats and launch the helicopter on a daily basis, a critical part of Midgett's mission to catch drug runners in the Pacific Ocean. Our mission includes fisheries' boardings as far north as the Arctic Circle. Many members of Deck have to endure rain and cold temperatures as they ensure the safety of personnel being launched in the small boats to perform law enforcement. Currently, several of the "Deckies" are a part of the ship's law enforcement boarding teams and have been assisting in fisheries' boardings, which include querying vessels and checking the fishing and trawling equipment.



By: FS1 Van Kampen

Another part of the Alpat includes a towing exercise in the Arctic Circle. Midgett will cross into the Arctic Circle and tow the CGC Spar, a 225' buoy tender and be the first CG Cutter to test the Alaskan Emergency Tow System above the Arctic Circle. Crossing into the Arctic Circle will also enable most of Midgett's crew to get their Bluenose certificates. Sailors go through a line crossing ceremony and earn the title of Bluenose for crossing into the Arctic and Shellback for crossing the Equator.

Deck department contributes a lot to the ship from the way it looks to many of its evolutions underway and in port. All of these things and more give deck force its character and make its hardworking members stand out onboard Midgett.

~ Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Sarah Bernier

CWO2 Latham
 BMC Morseburg
 BM1 Allen Birt
 BM2 Levi Harding
 BM3 Sarah Bernier
 BM3 Jacob Iverson
 BM3 Jordan Kuehl
 SN Anthony Hamre
 SN Anthony Forrey
 SN Erik Hensley
 SN Hung To

SN Lydia Pinkham
 SN Michael Gabanyic
 SN Devyn Connor
 SN Brent Alexander
 SN Samuel Hovey
 SN Jonathan Daley
 SN Marcus Jones
 SN Niel England
 SN Andrew Wright
 SN Matthew Chilese
 SN Kevin Baza
 SN Cameche Baker
 SA Josef Henthorn
 SN Nicholas Maguire
 SN Dave Cheng
 SN Tucker Wilkins
 SN Brett Doherty
 SN Ryota Jinnai
 SN Logan Thompson
 SN Douglass MacDonald
 SN David Froning
Departing for "A" School
 SN Thigpen – Aviation Survival Technician
 SN Hamre – Marine Science Technician
 SN Forrey – Aviation Electronics Technician
 SN Maguire – Aviation Electronics Technician
 SN Cox – Operations



ENS Kesting and watchstanders on the bridge
 By: First Class Cadet Ferree



By: FS1 Van Kampen

SUPPO - Support Officer CWO2 Boehme

CWO Holly Boehme arrived as the new Supply Officer on board Cutter Midgett at the end of July from CGC Morgenthau where she served as the Supply Officer for two years.

Holly has served over 20 years in the Coast Guard and is experienced in budget, procurement and purchasing policies. A logistic specialist she is great at working in changing environments and networking logistics to meet the cutter's needs.

Holly Boehme has a BA in Business from American Military University and has been a Contracting Officer over 3 years. She is an expert at securing extra funding for the Cutter.

Holly is committed to supporting Midgett's crew and mission while improving life and morale on board. The SKs have already purchased a new TV for the Mess Deck.

Holly has been married to Gary Boehme for 11 years and they live on 5 acres in Lake Stevens, Washington with their 3 horses, 2 dogs, 8 chickens and 2 cats.

It's great to be back in Seattle.

Food Service Division

FS1 Boyd

The FS (Food Service Specialist) rate is demanding, challenging and can be exceptionally rewarding.

As an FS, you will interact with virtually every individual at your unit, often several times a day. The Dining Facility often



serves as the primary focal point for the command,

FS team preparing breakfast In Midgett's Main Galley
By: FS1 Van Kampen



visitors and shipmates.

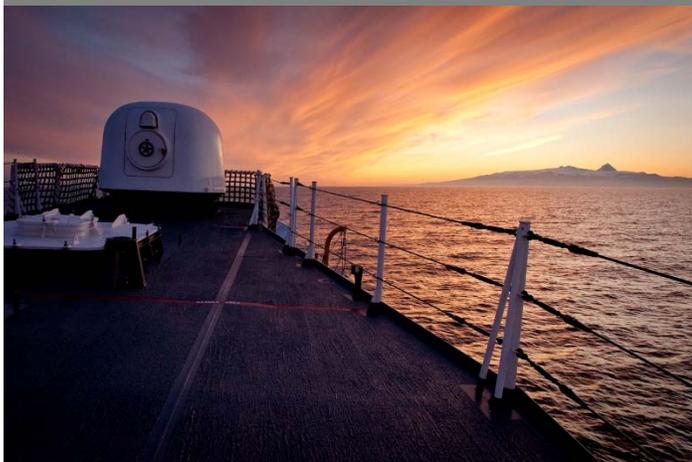
As a FS your efforts directly affect the morale of the unit. The Dining Facilities provide good morale, nutritional requirements, and ensures the unit has attained Mission Readiness and fulfilled Mission Execution.

On CGC Midgett we serve 180 members. We serve breakfast, lunch, dinner, and mid-rats. We have two FS1's, two FS2's and five FS3's. On CGC Midgett there is a CO's cook, Ward-room cook, and four Galley cooks.

**~ Food Service Specialist First Class Jonathan Boyd
Midgett's FS Division Includes**

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| FS1 Boyd | FS1 Van Kampen |
| FS2 Rogers | FS2 Evans |
| FS3 Sanders | FS3 Irish |
| FS3 Rodriguez | FS3 King |
| FS3 Doty | |

Weapons Department



By: FS1 Van Kampen

The Weapons Departments consists of 4 rates: Electronics Technicians (ETs), Information Technicians (ITs), Gunners Mates (GMs) and Maritime Enforcement (MEs). Those four rates comprise four divisions: Communication/ Navigation ETs and ITs Division, Fire Control Weapons ET Division, Gunnery Division (GMs) and Law Enforcement Division (MEs).

Together the Weapons Department is the backbone to providing navigational and communications equipment as well as continuous weapons posture and law enforcement.

Stay tuned to learn more of what each division does on patrol!

WEPS - Weapons Officer LTJg Rice

Lieutenant Junior Grade Andrea Seay Rice reported to CGC MIDGETT from CGC MORGENTHAU where she was assigned as a Deck Watch Officer. She joins us here as the Weapons Officer.

In 2004, LTJg Rice received her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the University of Alabama.

She subsequently worked at Central Texas College as an Academic Advisor for International

Students and then at the University of California, San Diego as a Coordinator of Student Activities.

She has also studied at the University of San Diego pursuing Master of Science in Global Business Leadership.

In 2009, Rice received her commission from Officer Candidate School where she chose to start her adventurous career in the Coast Guard by going afloat, enabling her to learn up-close the missions of the Coast Guard, travel the world and help protect our borders.

Rice calls San Diego, CA home, where her husband, Jeffrey Rice resides. They look forward to starting a new life in Seattle, WA.

Amory Division

GM Feik



Gunner's Mates are one of the oldest ratings in the Coast Guard. Carrying on a rating that was first formally established in 1797, GMs work with everything from small arms to major weapon systems.

Some of the small arms that GMs work on are Sig Sauer 40 cal, M-16, Shotgun and 50 cal Browning machine gun. GMs also work on three weapon systems the Super Rapid Blooming Off-board Chaff (SRBOC), 25mm chain machine gun, and 76mm. GMs are responsible for training personnel in proper handling of weapons, ammunition, and pyrotechnics.

Additionally, GMs have received intensive training in and develop skills in maintaining electronics, mechanical systems, and hydraulics. GMs also perform maintenance on magazine, magazine sprinkler system and account for ammunition inside the magazine.

~ Chief Gunner's Mate Thomas Feik

Midgett's GM Division Includes

- ENS Daniel Alley**
- GMC Thomas Feik**
- GM1 Andrew Jones**
- GM3 Darrell Melara**
- GM3 Bettina Rogers**
- GM3 Scott Greene**



SN Doherty and SN Wilkens
 Descending Barometer Mountain
 By: SN To

Crew Recognition

Welcome Aboard

Name
 FS3 King

Fair Winds Following Seas

Name
 YN2 Johnson
 FS2 Evans
 FN Block
 SN Clark
 SN Persing



Awards

Name	Type
SN Persing:	LOA
OS3 Lieu:	SOQ
ET1 Fullerton:	Cutterman's Pin
OCS KOZISEK:	Good Conduct
BM3 Bernier:	Good Conduct
MK3 Healy:	Good Conduct
SA PORTERA:	Sea Service Ribbon

Advancements

FA to FN Foust
 MK3 to MK2 Lake



Special Thanks to Newsletter Contributors

- MIDGETT's Command
- BMC Morseburg
- GMC Feik
- DDC Lusk
- FS1 Boyd
- FS1 Van Kampen
- YN2 Goettle
- IT2 Reed
- BM3 Bernier
- SN McKenzie
- SN To
- First Class Cadet Ferree



By: First Class Cadet Ferree