



Captain E. L. Alexander
Commanding Officer

At Sea

25 September 2006

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

Our journey's well begun. As I start this letter we are departing the Washington coast enroute to rendezvous with Expeditionary Strike Group FIVE (ESG-5). The turn out for our departure was great. Thanks to all who came. It meant a lot to your loved one and to the rest of the crew. On the way out of Puget Sound we received several calls on the radio of good wishes for our deployment. Hard to believe it will be spring when we return.

As we came out of Puget Sound, our Aviation Detachment, "AVDET" reported aboard along with our HH65C helicopter (CG6597). We welcome the AVDET to the MIDGETT Family. They represent some of the best talent in Coast Guard aviation and are a welcomed enhancement to our capability. They and other new crew members have settled in and working well together. I want to also welcome our new families to the circle. Thanks to the efforts of our Ombudsmen and key volunteers along with the internet and E-Mail we can stay in touch.

Life quickly takes on a familiar pattern at sea. Training, drills and flight ops intermingled with ships work around the clock. The weather was sloppy the first couple days as we maneuvered around developing gales off the Northwest coast. As we entered the "Horse Latitudes" and further on into the trade winds the weather improved along with spirits.

Our first stop in Pearl Harbor Hawaii was short. Coming into the harbor, we passed and rendered honors at the Arizona Memorial. The Battleship Missouri was moored just astern of the Arizona Memorial. It is truly a moving experience to pass these pieces of our history that symbolize the beginning and the end of World War II. While in Pearl there was a lot of ship's work including loading stores, and repairing equipment, but everyone got a chance to get ashore for a little while and take a rest. We also reported for duty to the ESG.

After a couple days in Pearl Harbor we got under way to refuel alongside our oiler and then joined the ESG at sea. It is an awesome sight watching the ESG steam in formation. Standing on the bridge of the ship you are surrounded by something very special; a tremendous capability that can bring war to our enemies, enforce the peace where necessary, and provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. For the present though its more drills, more exercises, more work, all aimed at getting the ship moving as one, both within our life lines and within the ESG. We call it battle rhythm and it is essential to safe effective operations.

You can stay in touch with us on our WEB site (<http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/midgett/index.html>). If you are a family member and our Ombudsmen does not have an updated phone number or e-mail address then you can contact them through the web site. Due to certain operations we will be involved in there are going to be times that we will not be able to send E-Mails or get on to the internet. This is normal and ensures security from our signals being exploited by someone trying to track our movements and operations. So if we drop off-line for awhile don't be overly concerned.

For those wishing to send a letter of encouragement addressed to the crew you can forward it through the Ombudsmen. We will post it so all can see. A little letter of support from back home can mean a lot when you're tired and alone at sea, especially around the holidays. Let this great crew know that they are supported back home. Until next time....

Semper Paratus

/s/

E. L. ALEXANDER

Newly reported Crewmembers

Name

ENS Jason Neiman
EM1 Carlos Magana
ET2 Hotai Hotai
EM3 Brock Mery
OS3 Gerald Singleterry
SN Chase Blackman
SN James Booth
SN Mike Dahir
SN Andrew Delao
SN Techiel Laborce
SN Michael Moore
SN Erin Murphy
SA Christopher Delacruz
SA David Urrutia
SA Michael Lebrun
FN Evan Russell
FA Jonathon Biggins
FA Samantha Skanes

Members Temporarily Assigned

Name

Aviation Detachment:
LCDR Larry Littrell
LT Andrew Behnke
LTJG Justin Hunt
AMTC Scott West
AET2 Eric Bernal
AET2 Jesse Stout
AMT3 Vincent Cendejas
AMT3 Justin Izett

LT Jacob Cass(TAD)
BM1 Gregory Cook(TAD)
BM1 Andrew Daly(TAD)

These MBRs have recently departed:

SN Jeremy Call
SN Kristy Costanzo
SN Todd Murray
SN Casey Palmer
SN Clinton Stone
SA Daniel Bradford
SA Jesse Romero
FN Jacob Lewis