

USCGC MIDGETT (WHEC-726)

UNITED
STATES
COAST
GUARD



MIDGETT NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2010

Letter from the Captain

Greetings Families and Friends;

I hope this edition of the newsletter finds everyone healthy, happy and enjoying the summer weather! Speaking of weather, we obviously stumbled into the rainy season and are lucky to see the sun once per week—I haven't seen anything like it before!! But, at least we aren't suffocating in stifling heat.

To say we are busy would be an understatement. The crew is doing an outstanding job getting all the new folks trained in their assignments and improving our overall readiness posture. We've had a number of interesting cases including tracking a very large log, which we thought was a semi-submersible for awhile (until the birds flew away from it!). We all got a kick out of our embarrassment that day! The crew is also working hard to prepare the ship for the beginning of our training cycle, which starts in San Diego mid-September. The training cycle requires an increase in maintenance to ensure we are prepared to train.

Congratulations to OS1 Satovich and OS1 Sweet-Burks for their advancements as of 1 July, and FS2 Rogers who advanced on 1 August. I'd also like to congratulate EM2 Guss, EM2 Ralston, and OS2 Zack for their advancement as of 1 September, our Sailor of the Quarter—OS2 Zack, and our four mid-patrol coin winners who are listed in a separate article herein! Great work—it is a pleasure to see determination and diligence rewarded!



The Advancement of EM2 Ralston

Soon we will turn the bow in the northerly direction and another chapter in MIDGETT's history will have been written. We look forward to our homecoming. We can't wait to meet again!

Thank you for your support,

W. R. Meese

Captain

PHOTO BY: EM3 Karjala



Executive Officer Notes



PHOTO BY: OS3 Cox

Greetings from the North Pacific Ocean. We have already passed the mid-point of our patrol, and things are going really well. We have been keeping extremely busy with operations and training, but as I hope you can see by this newsletter that we have also found time to have some fun.

Operations: I can't go into much detail because we are still on patrol, but I can say that we have had some success. We have had a couple of go-fast chases and a couple of boardings of various vessels. So far we have seized or disrupted over 100kg of illegal drug shipments. Not bad, if I do say so myself.

Training: In between Law Enforcement (LE) operations, we have been busily engaged in training. Many of the new personnel are getting qualified in basic damage control and their primary watchstations. We are conducting shipboard drills every week and lots specialized drills and training in each division and specialty. Towards the end of September we will be going to San

Diego for a review by Navy and CG personnel for our annual Cutter Assessment for Readiness and Training (CART). With all the work and effort that has been put forth by the crew, I know we will do great.

The entire crew has been working hard, but a special congratulations goes out to our four command coin recipients. Out of a crew of 164, their performance has stood out as an example to all of us.

Despite all the work that we have been doing, the morale is still high. We have had the opportunity to take a break occasionally, enjoy life at sea and explore some foreign ports. With our new weekly photo contest, we are now getting many more great photos capturing our experiences. I hope you enjoy them.

Thanks for being supportive, and keeping the home fires burning. We miss you and look forward to coming home.



Command Coin Recipients



PHOTO BY: SN Waite

Command coins are issued by senior leadership to informally recognize crew members for their superior performance.



Patrol Photo Contest Winners



PHOTO BY: FN McCarty



Underway Morale Events

PHOTO BY: SK1 Martin



Fish Call

PHOTO BY: YN3 Sisenstein



Swim Call



PHOTO BY: FN McCarty

PHOTO BY: OS3 Cox



PHOTO BY: OS2 Pelham

Panama Port Calls

Panama City, Panama - The crew visited Panama twice. First for liberty while anchored near Panama City, and second Pier-side in Balboa for a law enforcement evolution.



PHOTO BY: SN Kopp

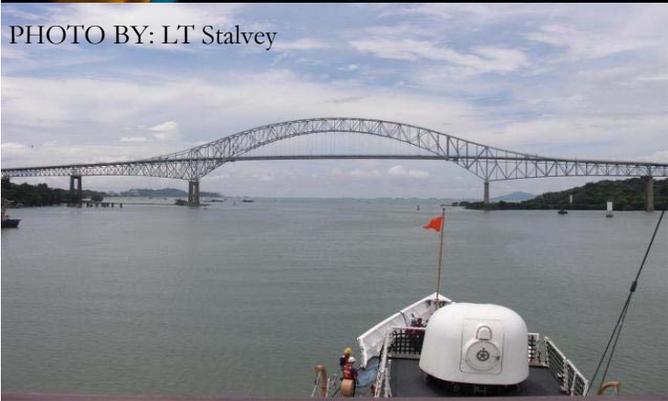


PHOTO BY: LT Stalvey

The Bridge of the Americas crosses over the Panama Canal and connects the continents of North and South America.



Left to Right: SN Hamre, SN Ellis, IT1 Tynes
On a liberty ferry to Panama City



Panama City is the capital and the largest city of the Rep. of Panama

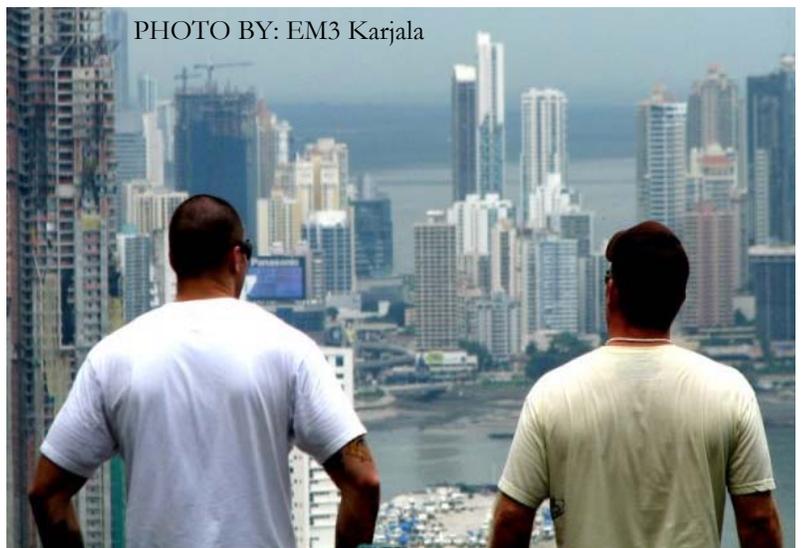


PHOTO BY: EM3 Karjala

EM2 Ralston and MK1 Palmisano

Golfito, CR– The crew had a relaxing two day port call in this quiet coastal town, late August. Crewmembers were able to enjoy the tropical landscape by zip-lining, horseback riding, hiking tours, and kayaking.



PHOTO BY: SK1 Martin



PHOTO BY: FN McCarty

Costa Rica Port Call