



Captain E. L. Alexander  
Commanding Officer

At Sea

8 July 2006

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

As I write this letter, MIDGETT and her crew are making preparations to arrive in San Diego to begin workups with Expeditionary Strike Group Five; but more on that later in the letter. Although only in port for a few days for the change of command, I really enjoyed meeting the spouses, families, parents and friends of some of our crew. I appreciated the warm welcome and I look forward to meeting more of you when we return to homeport in August. I won't spend a lot of time talking about myself or my background except to say that I am privileged to serve aboard this fine cutter with such a great crew.

What I really want to do is to speak to you for a moment about MIDGETT's upcoming deployment. Most of you have heard about it and I know from experience that there are a lot of questions and concerns. This letter will be a broad brush overview of the mission and what to expect. Although planning is still in progress and much of our mission will be classified, I will try my best to share everything I can with you during the deployment.

MIDGETT has been selected by the Coast Guard Commander Pacific Area to deploy with the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) FIVE. ESG FIVE will deploy in September for approximately seven months, and will conduct exercises with allied countries as well as support naval operations in the Arabian and Persian Gulf region. This deployment is not unusual for the Coast Guard as we deploy cutters frequently with the Navy. Even now, there are six Coast Guard patrol boats patrolling in the Persian Gulf helping to protect vital interests to the United States. MIDGETT will provide the ESG with a robust ability to support Maritime Interdiction and Maritime Security Operations. We are uniquely suited for these missions.

These young men and women aboard MIDGETT represent the next great American generation. They serve their nation voluntarily during a complex time in our history and as the nation wages a war on terror. They work tremendously long days under difficult conditions and readily accept the challenges before them. I know you are proud of them. I ask you now to throw all your support behind them. It means so much to each of them and will help carry us through. For my part, I pledge to be with them every step of the way and I will do my best to lead them and bring them back safely, with the satisfaction of serving their nation well.

I will update you on our progress both before and during the deployment through our web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/midgett/commandingOfficer.html> and periodically get letters like this out to you through the crew.

Semper Paratus

/s/

E. L. ALEXANDER