



U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER MIDGETT (WHEC 726)  
"DEDICATION · SERVICE · EXCELLENCE"

Captain E. L. Alexander  
Commanding Officer

North Atlantic Ocean

18 February 2007

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

As I start this letter we have just left Rota Spain steaming south past the Canary Islands to pick up the northeast trade winds to come across the Atlantic into the Caribbean. From there one more port call, then through the Panama Canal and north to the States. The trip through the Mediterranean was uneventful; however the weather was cool and rainy the entire time. Spain was probably our best weather port call but for sheer sight seeing I think the crew liked Italy the best.

We are primarily engaged now in transit operations, training and catching up on all the required reports. Our new crew members arrived safely and are quickly getting acclimated to the ship's routine. We are proud to have them aboard. Now the heartbeat of the cutter becomes the never ending cycle of watches. The crew is counting the days before return to home port. I'm sure you are also.

Right now it still looks like a 16 March arrival, sometime in the early afternoon. We are hoping for good weather, but Seattle in March is not easy to predict so I would recommend dressing warm and be prepared in case it rains. We are working to reserve one of the large meeting rooms on base for families to gather prior to our arrival should the weather be bad. At this time it appears that the USO will be there and will have refreshments available prior to our arrival but as the pier space is limited it will be easy to find once you are there.

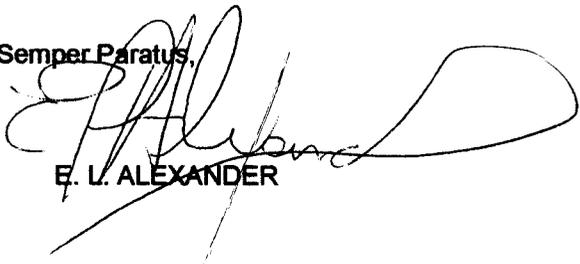
We are still working out the schedule of events for our arrival and do not know who the dignitaries will be. I would anticipate a very brief arrival ceremony after we secure the ship to the pier to recognize the unit accomplishments. I also anticipate there will be media present from the local area who are interested in running a positive story about the MIDGETT and the Coast Guard's contribution to the nation's security.

There has been much pressure on everyone both here on board and at home since the work ups began last July. The most anticipated and last test is coming up. Those of you who attended the pre-deployment seminar will remember my stories of homecoming and ways to handle the stress. Take time to get adjusted and reacquainted with each other. It normally takes a few weeks but every situation and family is different. Keep expectations in balance. Best to keep the first few days relatively free and work slowly back into a routine.

This will be my last letter for this deployment. I want to thank all those who have supported us throughout the patrol. Your words of encouragement and mailings have done a tremendous amount to sustain us during this period and contributed greatly to our success. Of equal importance is your steadfastness and endurance in keeping the home fires burning. The Coast Guard is a great organization both for the quality of its members and the quality of its families.

Continue to check our web site and Ombudsmen notices for details and updates to our arrival. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Semper Paratus,



E. L. ALEXANDER