



Captain E. L. Alexander  
Commanding Officer

At Sea

31 October 2006

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

What a month it has been since I last wrote. Our journey took us across the Pacific, through the Philippines and the South China Sea and into Singapore for a well earned rest. For most of the transit across the Pacific we were conducting storm avoidance. It was nice to finally get into the Philippine Islands and have a couple of calm days. Even on the calm days there would be occasional squalls but these brought us a good fresh water wash down and cooled things down.

Singapore is almost like visiting an American City. It is very modern and you can find almost anything you find in the U.S. Singapore is a blend of many cultures. There is a large Chinatown section adjacent to a Indian section along with a large Moslem section. Each ethnic section with its own distinct look, customs and traditions. Laws are strict in Singapore, where you could be arrested and put in prison just for littering. Most of the crew went on some type of tour around the city or the large wildlife park where they keep a wide variety of South Asian animals.

After Singapore we transited up the Straits of Malacca and into the Indian Ocean. We dipped south of the Equator for a day so every pollywog could be redeemed by Davy Jones, King Neptune and his court; and thereafter become trusty shell backs. We then transited north and met with the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard for the Malabar 2006 exercises. These exercises started several years ago and let US and Indian naval forces conduct joint operations and training. India is an important ally in the region and for the war on terror. The Indian Naval and Coast Guard forces are very professional and we conducted law enforcement, search and rescue exercises, boat drills and helicopter exercises. In the evening members of the MIDGETT would go to the Indian Coast Guard Cutter SAMAR and we played volley ball and had tug of war contests on their flight deck. Good comradery under the sunny Indian Ocean sky.

We are now in the port city of Goa where we are finishing up the Malabar events and giving everyone a well earned break. Goa is a former colony of Portugal. As this is the first trip for everyone to Goa we are still exploring. It is a small port so we are anchored in the harbor and have water taxis to take us ashore to a central landing. From there we have arranged buses to take us around the city. When the ship is in port not everyone is free to go ashore. Our duty sections are fairly large with over 50 people in each. The large duty section is necessary to provide people for all the watch stations to maintain security on the ship and provide shore patrol ashore. Everyone tries to make the most of the time they have off. Many are taking advantage of the time to get a hotel room ashore when they don't have duty. When we depart Goa we will travel west again and report into CENTCOM for duty and the heart of our mission. I expect MIDGETT to be assigned in a variety of area's and missions in support of regional security. It will be a test for the unit but one I am confident we are ready for.

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 sight. 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. Send any messages to the crew through the Ombudsmen. We will post it so all can see. Remember the holidays are coming up. A little letter of support from back home can mean a lot when you're tired and alone at sea. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Until next time....

Semper Paratus

E. L. ALEXANDER