

Dear Shipmate,

Welcome aboard, and we are very excited to have you join the FORWARD family as the newest member of the finest crew in the fleet! As a FORWARD crewmember, you can expect to be busy and challenged in many aspects of your job, but you will learn a tremendous amount and be part of something bigger as we serve our Nation. You can be assured that as a FORWARD crewmember, we all look out for each other and help each other to succeed. We hope this guide will help you to start off strong, so that you and your family can more easily feel at home and among shipmates who are glad you are now part of the FORWARD family. The goal is to ensure you and your family are ready to thrive throughout what I hope will be one of your favorite tours of duty!

Connect with your sponsor and the Ombudsman early, and work through this guide together to make sure you are doing all that can be done to start off strong. Invest time and effort in the "onboarding" process; it will pay dividends throughout your tour. Do everything you can to make sure you and your family are ready. We perform important missions aboard Cutter FORWARD, often under challenging conditions. We work hard to be prepared so we can always accomplish the mission, no matter what difficulties we face. It all starts here, with your thorough preparation to serve.

I'm glad you will be joining us. We all look forward to serving with you wherever we may go, from the coast of South America, throughout the Caribbean to the fishing grounds off George's Bank. Enjoy your time aboard FORWARD as part of her excellent crew!

Fair winds,
Commander Joseph Sundland
Commanding Officer
USCGC FORWARD (WMEC 911)