

Captain E. L. Alexander
Commanding Officer

Seattle, Washington

04 August 2007

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

It seems like only yesterday, but time marches on and MIDGETT is rapidly approaching another deployment. I wanted to get out a quick letter before we get under way so we can welcome aboard all of the new crew members, their families and extended families. Yes mom and dad you are part of the MIDGETT family also. A consolidated listing of all the new crew members on the web site.

It's been a busy in port period. We have made substantial progress on many maintenance items; replacing boilers, overhauling our fire mains, sewage systems, berthing areas and interior decking. We have worked hard at exterior maintenance also and simultaneously prepared for refresher training and our next patrol. Most notable is that within all this we have worked through nearly a 40% turnover in personnel. We are coming out of it looking better then ever and with one of the strongest most talented crews I've ever sailed with, and I am proud to sail with them all.

So with that said MIDGETT is scheduled to depart 13 August. We will proceed to San Diego for naval refresher training followed by a short patrol starting in September. Unlike the last one, this deployment will be shorter and should see us in port for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. I will pass further word on the patrol at a later date.

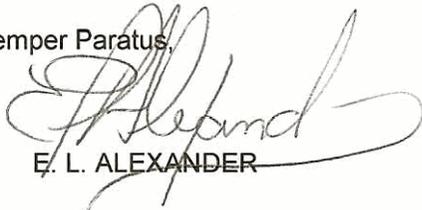
For our new family members (especially those who are going to sea for the first time), beware of rumors and gossip during the deployment. No matter how well we try to get the word out it is inevitable. Some rumors will come from the shore and others may come from well meaning crew members based on less then accurate information (scuttlebutt). Some rumors will be completely false and others will be some variation to what is really happening. It has been going on since we first started going to sea. The best way to guard against it is to stay informed through this web site and listen to the Ombudsmen. Some things we do at sea will be sensitive in nature and we will not be able to pass the word. We will always tell you what we can, when we can, consistent with operational security. When we do pass the word it will officially come through the Ombudsmen and the web site.

No matter how you cut it, separation is hard. It is hard on the service member and hard on the family member. Take solace in the fact that every one of us goes through it. There are many methods of dealing with it. Keep active and don't dwell on the separation 24/7 as that will bring down morale as fast as this in port period went by. Work together as a family on shore, volunteer to become involved with spouse and family activities when the opportunity permits. Take advantage of the support services at ISC Seattle and above all stay in touch with our Ombudsmen. During the patrol I will get letters out periodically to catch everyone up on what we are doing. The letters will be posted on our web site www.uscg.mil/pacarea/midgett/index.html. Keep watching the web site for updates to our schedule and information on what we are doing. Rely on the web site and our Ombudsmen for reliable information.

Like others in the service, we have given an oath to protect and defend this nation. Each time MIDGETT deploys is a promise kept, a pledged redeemed, a legacy continued. You are a key part of that legacy and should be very proud.

Happy 217th Birthday Coast Guard!

Semper Paratus


E. L. ALEXANDER