



Captain E. L. Alexander
Commanding Officer

At Sea

31 July 2006

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

As I write this letter, MIDGETT is concluding 3 rigorous weeks of training with Expeditionary Strike Group FIVE (ESG-5). After a solid week of training in Anti Terrorism Force Protection in San Diego, we proceeded to join up with ESG-5, already at sea. Upon reporting in, it has been a continual stream of drills and exercises around the clock.

We have practiced Maritime Interception Operations (boarding other vessels at sea). Since we spend much of our time conducting boardings in our Law Enforcement mission, this job is perfectly suited to the MIDGETT. We've also conducted Maritime Security Operations in which we protect a high value asset from attack. Maritime Security is another Coast Guard mission and once again we are perfectly suited for it. There are many other exercises and drills including Fueling At Sea (FAS), gun shoots and helicopter exercises. The exercises require a total team effort. The engineers are doing wonders keeping the plant at a high state of readiness. The Combat Information Center team has really jelled and is keeping pace now with their counterparts on the much larger staffed Navy combatants. The cooks are making sure everyone is fed no matter what time of day it is. Everyone is working hard to get MIDGETT battle ready.

Through it all I think we have done well. I received an E-Mail from Rear Admiral Balmert (ESG Commander) giving the crew a well done for integrating so well into the Navy Strike Group. Also a recent message from the ESG cited MIDGETT for her excellent tactical abilities during the exercises.

We continue preparations for our over seas deployment with a joint exercise beginning 10 Aug. Back at home our Ombudsmen have been busy updating phone lists and other info vital to keeping the MIDGETT family informed during the deployment. The XO and I will communicate frequently to our Ombudsmen. They are your best conduit to find out what is going on. The volunteer Ombudsmen we have are dedicated and committed. Please take the time to thank them for their efforts and support them however you can.

We plan to have a **pre-sail dependents night on August 22nd at the VFW Sky-Way**. More information will be provided shortly but I hope everyone will attend if they are in the area. We will have a number of speakers with tips, advice and review of services that will help everyone during the deployment. This Dependents night is for crew, family and loved ones. I hope to see you there and look forward to talking with you. Mean time, wish us continued luck as we complete training and prepare to sail to the far side of the world.

I want to take an opportunity to welcome our newly reported shipmates and their families to our circle. Master Chief Petty reporting in as the units new Command Master Chief. HSC Joling, ET3 McCoy, MKCS Menze, SA Castro, and SA Pallandino have also joined our crew. We also say farewell to shipmates departing; ET2 Campbell, BM3 Allen, BMCS Booth, IT3 Orlowski, SN Ghannoum, CWO Crabtree. Fair Winds.....

We will be returning proudly to Seattle on or about 22 August. Come meet us at the pier to show support and plan to join us at the dependents night. It will mean a lot to all of us. Take a look at our WEB sight to see the latest pictures of operations and of the MIDGETT Crew.

Semper Paratus

/s/

E. L. ALEXANDER