

USCGC MIDGETT (WHEC-726)

UNITED
STATES
COAST GUARD



MIDGETT MID-PATROL
UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2011

From the Bridge-

Captain Meese

Dear family and friends of MIDGETT:

As I write this, I am happy to report we safely navigated past the mid point of this deployment and are on the down hill slide.

The Bering Sea has been a wonderful change of pace for the ship and crew as the MIDGETT has not been up here in four years. On top of that, not many crew members have had the experience from other cutters either. Consequently, it all has the "new look and feel." We have been conducting safety and fisheries boardings of the American fishing fleet. These vessels bring you the Halibut, Cod, Sole, Flounder and Pollock as well as the King, Dungeness and Snow crab we are so fond of eating in the lower 48. Our job is to ensure they are fishing in a safe manner and that the type and quantity of their catch is legitimate, as this is a highly regulated industry.

The fishing fleet is large and the area they fish is vast. It would take us 3 days to cross from east to west and 2



Midgett moored in Dutch Harbor AK

By: FS1 Van Kampen

days to cross north to south. That is the area we patrol by ourselves with a helicopter.

During the latter part of July and August the weather had been spectacular up here and gave us a taste of the good life!! Recently, however, we've begun to experience the more typical Bering Sea weather and this made many people in the crew happy, because they were clamoring to see high waves. I think we can safely check that box now.

I wish everyone a safe autumn and welcome back to school time. This is one of the best times of the year—the kids are squeamish getting back into the swing of school and most of the parents are smiling (could it have been the long summer?).

Thanks again for your support and your sacrifices.



View of the Bridge
By: FS1 Van Kampen

W. R. Meese
Captain



By: FS1 Van Kampen

Executive Officer Notes

Hello again, MIDGETT Shipmates, Friends and Family!

As the Captain mentioned, we have definitely transitioned from summer to fall here in Alaska. The crew certainly learned the meaning of ‘secure for sea’ over the last couple days as we rode out what folks in Alaska refer to as just another ‘winter storm.’ Elsewhere, in warmer climates, they’re known as tropical storms, hurricanes or typhoons. The ship and crew weathered the storm safely.



Dutch Harbor has been our home away from home while operating here in Alaska. The nation’s leading fishing port and Alaska’s 11th largest city with a population of 3800, Dutch Harbor actually consists of two towns: the village

of Unalaska where most everyone lives, and the port of Dutch Harbor, where the fishing fleet ties up and the commercial seafood processing facilities are.

For a glimpse of some of what we are experiencing, tune into the ‘Deadliest Catch’ (don’t let the little kids watch, however!).

Although the crab season is in the winter, you can get a feeling for what the Bering Sea is like, and they do show Dutch Harbor and the Coast Guard every so often.

Although not very large or populous, the crew has been finding ways to keep busy. There are hiking trails and the morale committee has organized sporting events and tours. There are also two museums, one about life in the Aleutian Islands and another showcasing the Aleutian Island’s role in World War II.

Remember there are a number of resources available back home if you need them, including the ship’s ombudsman, Cindy Geelan (midgettombudsman02@gmail.com) and the Base Seattle Work Life staff (206-217-6610).

I’m sure those with kids are excited for the start of school, although you’re never sure if the parents or the kids are more excited! I know mine are ready to start in their new classes. Take care of yourselves and each other, and we’ll be home before you know it! Thanks to the crew for an outstanding, safe, dedicated effort so far, and to those back home for all the support.

J. F. Neumann, XO



By: BM3 Bernier

Engineering Department *L7 Sherman*



The Engine Room
By: FS1 Van Kampen

As you've probably heard, the engineers have been very busy keeping MIDGETT fully mission capable. Since we left Seattle, the department has worked on over 10 significant mission critical casualties amounting to well over 1,100 hours devoted solely to their repair. In most cases, these repairs were made inport and kept entire divisions and at times the entire department fully engaged, limiting their time to call home and explore the local surroundings - but that is the job of the engineer, to fix the ship so that it can perform its mission. As always, we'll continue our maintenance program underway to reduce these types of casualties. The department as a whole has worked extremely hard keeping the ship running and their impressive efforts continue to demonstrate their pride in their equipment and the ship as a whole. Additional notable numbers to date: Fuel expended: over 150K gallons

Aviation Fuel expended: over 1,550 gallons. Average propulsion fuel burned per day: 3,372 gals/day Daily water consumption: 3000 gals/day Water consumption to date: over 135K gallons Light bulbs changed so far: nearly 300.

Cost to charter a plane from Anchorage, AK to Dutch Harbor, AK (for part delivery); Over \$10,000 one way Longest distance a repair part has traveled to meet MIDGETT: 5288 miles (from Baltimore, MD) Most expensive casualty so far: \$106,000 for the #2 Main Diesel Engine Blower replacement.

Congrats to our MK1 Eribal and MK1 Light (Main Propulsion Division) who've successfully screened for EPO afloat/ashore. This is a VERY significant achievement and will enable them to take on roles of great responsibility, in charge of the engineering department for an afloat or ashore unit. BZ to them and their families for this significant accomplishment!



MKCS Hales, EM1 Schaadt, and EO
In Main Control
By: FS1 Van Kampen

Electrical Technician Division

The Electrician's Mate rating is a fast pace and dynamic engineering rate. The electrical division is responsible for a great deal of the electrical equipment onboard GCG Midgett.

The EMs receive a wide spectrum of training which includes generators, propulsion controls, gyrocompasses, lighting, controllers, and analog and digital electronics. The Chief Electrician's Mate is the electrical safety officer who is responsible for electrical safety of the crew and functionality of electrical equipment.



~ Chief Electrician's Mate Eric Hamilton



EM3 Tulowizki, EM1 Schaadt, EM3 Wright
EMC Hamilton, & EM3 Karjala
In the EM Shop

Midgett's EM Division Includes

**ENS Carter
EMC Hamilton
EM1 Schaadt
EM2 Hampton
EM3 Ibarra
EM3 Karjala
EM3 Tulowizki
EM3 Wright**

Navigation Division



SN McKenzie standing JOOD bridge watch
By: FS1 Van Kampen

The Navigational Division is a small but important team that falls under the Operations Department.

Our division oversees the initial preparation of nautical charts, maintenance of navigational equipment, and assists the Officer of the Deck in all navigational matters underway. Whether using the latest in navigational equipment such as Global Positioning System (GPS), RADAR, and Electronic Charting systems to the older navigational techniques of Celestial Navigation, the Navigational Division ensures the safe guidance of the ship anywhere in the world. We are also charged with the responsibility of Visual Communications, Record Keeping, and Honors and Ceremonies. With Visual communications, the navigational division communicates with other ships using techniques that include international flag hoisting and Morse code with signal lights. Official records, which include the daily log, weather observation reports, and navigational data, are kept and archived by the navigational division. During special evolutions such as pulling in and out of port, anchoring, or transiting through hazardous areas, our team pulls together to ensure the safety of our ship and its crew.

~ Chief Boatswain's Mate Benjamin Gamad

Midgett's NAV Division Includes

ENS Williams

BMC Gamad

BM1 Bradley

BM2 Bullard

BM3 Arnold

SN Sorensen

SN McKenzie

Weapons Department

L719 Rice

Since before getting underway the Weapons Department has been servicing equipment and gearing up for a successful patrol. Hopefully you've heard already about some of the great accomplishments...(thanks to the ITs who keep our server up and running so we can get email and Newsletters!)

This month the ETs and ITs have told us a bit about their responsibilities and technical expertise. So far this patrol, they have encountered many situations that required extensive troubleshooting to fix equipment--they have solved many problems and have kept us safe at sea.

The COMMS/NAV ETs and ITs have kept electronic navigation and communications running smoothly. Expending over 48 hours working on one project alone, they worked with divers and our Damage Control division, to install a new deepwater fathometer allowing the ship to operate in coastal waters not often transited or surveyed. They have spent over 25 hours aloft in the masts to repair/replace antennas vital to the safe navigation of the ship. The ETs have also kept us entertained with the ship's local TV network that includes movies, news and sports games. The ITs stand readily available all hours of the day to keep our local server, phones, and computers operating at optimal performance. Over the course of this patrol, they have closed an amazing 145 work request tickets, giving operators the resources necessary to perform their jobs.



Midgett's Gunnery Exercise

By: FS1 Van Kampen

The Fire Control ETs have kept their weapons systems maintenance up to date, daily. If something didn't work properly during testing, they trouble shot and replaced parts until it worked again so the ship could perform to its max capabilities. They got to see their hard work in action during their flawless gun shoot of the Close In Weapons System. The crew had fun watching the gun be trained and shoot rounds faster than you can count! The Fire Control ETs have also been essential to operations as they stood radar watch during low visibility and high op-tempo operations.

Last month the GMs told us about some of their day-to-day duties and guns that they service. This past month they got to put some of those guns in action. We had a very successful training GUNNEX (Gunnery Exercise) that included shooting the 50 cal Browning machine gun and the 25mm chain machine gun. We couldn't have asked for better weather. The sun was out and the seas were calm--this allowed for ample time to train a lot of new crew members. You don't have to be a GM to shoot the guns; the gun crews represent a wide demographic of rates and ranks. The GMs also conducted Pyrotechnics Training for the crew. This allowed personnel to learn about and shoot different types of flares. Flares are essential in Search and Rescue missions and help us find and alert others of distress. The GMs' training has kept us ready for anything we might face in the Bering Sea.

The Law Enforcement division has been busy boarding fishing boats—they examine the fishing boats to ensure they have all the appropriate safety gear and make sure they are fishing according to the rules. The LE division has also provided drills and training to ensure our readiness for defense or offense. CGC MIDGETT is always ready and it is evident in the department's hard work and pride in our missions. Thank you for the support from home; we are proud to do our job!



ET3 Anderson working Aloft
By ET3 Rasmussen

Midgett's COMMS/NAV Division Includes

- EMO-CWO2 Darren Davenport**
- ETC Michael Geelan**
- IT1 Robert Tynes**
- IT2 Reed**
- ET1 Robert Fullerton**
- ET1 James Butler**
- ET2 Adam Reed**
- ET3 Jay Ossiander**
- ET3 Michael Anderson**
- ET3 Chelsea Rasmussen**
- ET3 Nathan Reyes**



ET3 Rasmussen working Aloft

COMMS/NAV Division



The COMMS/NAV Electronics Technicians on board Midgett are responsible for the installation, maintenance, repair and management of over 25 sophisticated CG and Navy electronic systems including shipboard command and control systems, communications receivers and transmitters, data and voice encryption equipment, navigational and air search radars, small boat electronics, internal security systems, small boat electronics, electronic-detection systems and integrated electronic navigational equipment.

The Information Systems Technicians are also part of the COMMS/NAV division. They are responsible for maintaining the Midgett's local area network encompassing 90 standard workstations (serving over 150 Midgett crew members), the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, (a system of interconnected computer networks used by the U.S. Department of Defense to transmit classified information in a completely secure environment), the digital telephone system, shipboard internal communications and the computer satellite communication connection with land.



~ Chief Electronics Technician Michael Geelan



Firing CIWS
By: ETC Buono

Midgett's Weapons ET Division Includes

- ENS Subramanian
- ETC Buono
- Mk-92:
- ET1 Harris
- ET3 Williams
- ET3 Light
- CIWS:
- ET3 Zanze
- ET3 Allen



Fire Control Division

The Electronic Technicians in the Fire Control Division maintain and operate the Mk-92 Fire Control System and the Phalanx Close-In Weapons System. Each system is a complex combination of sensors, radars, and computers requiring extensive training in addition to the basic electronic training provided in "A" school. A Fire Control ET will typically specialize in only one of the two systems during their career.

The Mk-92 FCS is designed to provide medium-range surface and air defense. It calculates target movement, environmental conditions, and ballistics information and then directs the Mk-75/76mm auto-cannon (maintained by the Gunners Mates) where (and when) to fire.

Aircraft and anti-ship missiles that make it through our outer defenses will find the CIWS waiting with baited breath to finish the job. Technicians trained on this short-range defensive system maintain not only the electronics but the 6 barrel M61 Vulcan Gatling Gun as well.

~ Chief Electronics Technician Frank Buono

Crew Recognition

Welcome Aboard

- Name
- SNFS Kennedy
- FN Rohrberg
- SN Milliorn
- SN McDonald

Fair Winds Following Seas

- Name
- SK1 Martin
- SN Cox
- SN Thigpen
- SN Hamre
- SN Forrey



Awards

Name	Type
SK1 Martin	Achievement Medal
SN Hamre	Letter of Commendation
FS1 Van Kampen	Permanent Cutterman
ET3 Anderson	Sea Service Ribbon
FN McDonnell	Sea Service Ribbon

Patrol Photo Contest

Week 1 Winner FN McCarty



**Week 2 Winner FS1
Van Kampen**



Week 3 Winner SN Froning

