

Coast Guard's Newest National Security Cutter Arrives in Hawaii



The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Midgett cruises past Diamond Head on Oahu on Aug. 16. Midgett is the second national security cutter to be homeported in Hawaii after Cutter Kimball. U.S. Coast Guard/Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew West

HONOLULU –

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Midgett (WMSL-757) arrived Aug. 16 at its new homeport in Honolulu, the Coast Guard Pacific Area said in a statement.

The

Midgett is the eighth of the Coast Guard's national security cutters and the second to be homeported in Hawaii. Its sister ship, the Cutter Kimball (WMSL-756) arrived on Dec. 22. Both cutters are scheduled to be commissioned Aug. 24 during a ceremony presided over by Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz.

"The

U.S. Coast Guard has an enduring role in the Indo-Pacific Region, going back over 150 years, and our commitment today is as strong as ever," Schultz said.

"The national security cutters are the flagships of the fleet, and the homeporting of the Kimball and Midgett in Hawaii and their future deployments throughout the Indo-Pacific demonstrate the U.S. Coast Guard's

dedication to safeguarding the nation's maritime safety, security and economic interests throughout the region."



An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew flies over the U.S. Coast Guard Cutters Midgett and Kimball off Oahu on Aug. 16. U.S. Coast Guard/Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew West

Advanced

command-and-control capabilities and an unmatched combination of range, speed and ability to operate in extreme weather enable national security cutters to deploy globally to confront national security threats, to strengthen maritime governance, to support economic prosperity and to promote individual sovereignty.

Known as

the Legend class, national security cutters are capable of executing the most challenging national security missions, including support to U.S. combatant

commanders. They are 418 feet in length, 54 feet in beam and 4,600 long tons in displacement. They have a top speed of more than 28 knots, a range of 12,000

nautical miles, an endurance of up to 90 days and can hold a crew of up to 150.

These new cutters are replacing the high endurance Hamilton-class cutters (378 feet) that have been in service since the 1960s.



Kahu Dr. Kaleo Patterson blesses the Midgett after it sailed

into its homeport of Honolulu for the first time on Aug. 16.
U.S. Coast Guard/Chief Petty Officer Sherri Eng

While

national security cutters possess advanced capabilities, more than 70% of the

Coast Guard's offshore presence exists in the service's aging fleet of medium-endurance

cutters. Many of these ships are more than 50 years old and are approaching the

end of their service life. Replacing the fleet with new offshore patrol cutters

is one of the Coast Guard's top priorities.

Midgett is named to honor all members of the Midgett family who served in the Coast Guard and its predecessor services. At least 10 members of the family earned high honors for their heroic lifesaving efforts. Among them, the Coast Guard awarded various family members seven gold lifesaving medals – the service's highest award for saving a life – and three silver lifesaving medals.

The Midgett's transit to Hawaii was punctuated by two interdictions of suspected low-profile go-fast vessels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the first July 25 and a second July 31. The boardings resulted in a combined seizure of over 6,700 pounds of cocaine, estimated to be worth over \$89 million.