

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "Not Applicable" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

## **A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Fred M. Midgette
2. Position to which nominated: Deputy Commandant for Operations, Vice Admiral (O9)
3. Date of Nomination: November 16, 2015
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses): RESIDENCE:
5. Date and Place of Birth: 18 August, 1960. Norfolk, VA
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage). Spouse: Mary M. Midgette, Homemaker; Matthew C. Midgette (19);
7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.  
Coast Guard Academy, MS, Civil Engineering, 1982  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, MS, Management, 1991  
US Naval War College, MA, National Security and Strategic Studies, 1997
8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated. I have been in the Coast Guard since graduation from high school at age 17. See attached resume.
9. Attach a copy of your resume. My official Coast Guard resume is attached.
10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last five years. Member of the Anti Terrorism Advisory Council headed by the US Attorney

for the Western District of Michigan (2008-2010); Member of the State of Michigan Emergency Management Committee(2008-2010); Member of Detroit JTTF Executive Advisory Board (2008-2010). Member of The Greater Cleveland Partnership (nonvoting, government position. 2013-2015); Vice Chair of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board (2013-2014); Chairman of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board (2014-2015).

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last five years. None
12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religious organization, private club, or other membership organization. Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. I have not been a member of any club outside of those required by my duties in the Coast Guard (Area Committees, Area Maritime Security Committee, Harbor Safety Committees, etc). None of these committees discriminate in any manner on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.
13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt. I have never been a candidate for public office.
14. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years. Also list all offices you have held with, and services rendered to, a state or national political party or election committee during the same period. None.
15. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements. I have been awarded the following military medals: Legion of Merit (4), Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal (3), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), Coast Guard Commendation Medal (5), Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and various other unit awards. See attached resume.
16. Please list each book, article, column, or publication you have authored, individually or with others. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed. I authored one magazine article for "*Great Lakes Seaway Review*" for the Jan-Mar 2014 issue. The article was titled: A Challenging Season – Historic severe winter presents challenging spring breakout.

17. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony. None.
  
18. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position? Over the course of my 33-year career, I have had the honor and privilege to serve as Commanding Officer of four Coast Guard Cutters, a major shore command, Chief of Staff of a Coast Guard District, Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Commander of a Coast Guard District. I have served in Cutters on both coasts and in the Great Lakes, and that has provided me with a solid operational background so that I can better understand how to best serve the men and women of the Coast Guard as we carry out our missions to the public. In addition to that, I have served in several liaison jobs with the Department of Defense and other interagency partners such as: the former U.S. Customs Service, the Joint Staff (Pentagon), as an exchange officer onboard a Navy warship, and at a combatant command (US Northern Command) in the Department of Defense. The combined effect of those tours of duty has provided me with an excellent foundation and understanding, not only of the Coast Guard, but also of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense and the Interagency. An additional benefit to these assignments is that they helped me better understand how both DHS and the Coast Guard fit in the big picture and what we offer that is unique from other government agencies. I believe it has provided a learning experience that allows me to operate seamlessly in the Coast Guard, with the Department of Defense and with our DHS and Interagency partners. I desire to continue to serve because I simply love the Coast Guard – its people and its mission, and the opportunity to help others. As a more senior officer, I look forward to being able to use the experience I have gained over the years to ensure we remain the world's best Coast Guard, providing the highest quality of service to the public, and being an employer of choice for the great men and women that carry out Coast Guard missions every day.
  
19. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization? I believe that proper stewardship of the public's funds is a fundamental responsibility of all military officers, and that the responsibility increases commensurate with seniority. The American people expect government officials to account for and spend public funds as if they were their own. As a senior leader in the Coast Guard, I am accountable for ensuring that the organization in my sphere of influence is aware of, and abiding by, the rules that govern the accounting and expenditure of precious resources. Throughout my career, I have been entrusted with accounting for and properly spending unit budgets to include a \$2.5M budget as Sector Commander and a \$32M budget as District Commander and District Chief of Staff. While assigned as the Secretary's Military Advisor, I was DHS's chief negotiator with DOD on National

Guard support on the Southwest Border which totaled approximately \$68M (FY13) and \$120M (FY12). I worked closely with US Customs and Border Protection and the National Guard Bureau to ensure DHS monitored spend down rates appropriately.

20. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why? I believe the most pressing issue facing the Coast Guard today is how to strategically operate the Service in a decremental budget environment. This issue is vitally important to the Service as it will drive resource and personnel decisions for years to come, if not decades, and ultimately shape the Coast Guard's culture and capability. The elimination of sexual assault is also a critical area that demands the attention of every Coast Guard member - especially senior leaders. We must continue to support and improve programs and initiatives that build and sustain a culture of professionalism and respect where every man and woman can serve with honor to the best of their ability, free from fear for their personal safety and security. Finally, the Coast Guard is challenged to recapitalize the Nation's offshore fleet of major cutters. Failure to recapitalize our cutter fleet results in ships that are increasingly less able to meet mission due to unexpected casualties, while the cost to operate those same ships increases. The net result is higher operating costs and fewer patrol days. The impacts to America are seen in increased drug smuggling on the high seas, a reduction in protection of fish stocks and other marine natural resources, and greater instability/corruption of Central and South American governments which in turn fuels illegal immigration.

## **B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts. Please see my nominee PFDR.
2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. None.
3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. None.
4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. None.
5. Describe any activity during the past ten years in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy. None.
6. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items. I will obtain advice from a Coast Guard ethics official and follow that advice.

### C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics by, or been the subject of a complaint to any court, administrative agency, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, please explain. No.
2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.
3. Have you or any business of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding or civil litigation? If so, please explain. No.
4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.
5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

I have been advised that an officer who was assigned to one of my subordinate Sector commands filed complaints with the DHS IG and Coast Guard Civil Rights alleging discrimination and retaliation based in part on removal from primary duties directed by me on November 5, 2014, and a related Special Officer Evaluation Report for which I served as Reviewer. I understand that the IG concluded its investigation on June 25, 2015, and concluded the complaint was unfounded and a Coast Guard Civil Rights Final Agency Decision on September 10, 2015, found that legitimate, nondiscriminatory reasons were provided for the actions complained of.

After Coast Guard Civil Rights reported on October 6, 2014, that the officer initiated the informal Civil Rights complaint process, alleging a hostile work environment based on discrimination by her sector commander due to gender and sexual orientation, my staff at the Ninth Coast Guard District initiated an investigation which concluded on October 28, 2014, that there had been no discrimination and the officer committed multiple disciplinary violations. On November 5, 2014, in response to the finding of misconduct, and with the advice of legal counsel, I directed that the officer be removed from primary duties. The officer filed a formal civil rights complaint claiming the removal was reprisal for the claim against the sector. This elevated the matter to Atlantic Area in Norfolk, VA. I understand the officer initiated the IG complaint during this period. Atlantic Area conducted its own investigation which found on January 20, 2015, that the removal from primary duties was based on misconduct and was not reprisal. Coast Guard Civil Rights initiated its own investigation, resulting in the September 10, 2015, Final Agency Decision.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. None.
  
7. If you ever served as a general court-martial convening authority involving an offense involving sexual misconduct or assault, have you ever disapproved the findings of a court-martial related to the offense(s) or reduced the sentence adjudged by a court-martial, other than in connection with a pre-trial agreement? No

#### **D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE**

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees? Yes.
2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.
3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes.
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

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(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

**F. AFFIDAVIT**

FRED M. MIOGETTE being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

Fred M. Miogette

Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 10th day of November, 2015.

R. Sumitria White

Notary Public

R. SUMITRIA WHITE  
NOTARY PUBLIC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
My Commission Expires January 14, 2018





**REAR ADMIRAL FRED M. MIDGETTE  
SPECIAL FLAG ASSISTANT TO THE  
VICE COMMANDANT**



Rear Admiral Fred Midgette reported to Coast Guard Headquarters in June, 2015 and serves as special flag assistant to the Vice Commandant. Prior to this he served as the 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander, an area that encompasses eight states, a 1,500 mile international border, and a workforce of over 6,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary men and women. From 2011 – 2013, he served as the Senior Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security where he supported the Secretary in affairs relating to the coordination and execution of policy and operations between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense.

Rear Admiral Midgette has served afloat on both coasts and the Great Lakes earning designation as a Coast Guard Cutterman and a U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer. He has commanded four Coast Guard Cutters and served afloat in USCGC TANEY (Portsmouth, VA); USS FIFE (San Diego, CA); USCGC POINT LEDGE (Fort Bragg, CA); USCGC POINT WINSLOW (Eureka & Morro Bay, CA); USCGC KATMAI BAY (Sault Ste. Marie, MI); USCGC HARRIET LANE (Portsmouth, VA); USCGC FORWARD (Portsmouth, VA); and America's Tall Ship - the Coast Guard Barque EAGLE (New London, CT).

Rear Admiral Midgette is the 14<sup>th</sup> Gold Ancient Mariner of the Coast Guard – an honorary position held by an officer with over ten years of cumulative sea duty who has held the qualification as a Cutterman longer than any other officer.

He has served ashore in various assignments including: Chief of Staff of the Ninth Coast Guard District; Sector Commander and Captain of the Port of Detroit; Liaison Officer to U.S. Northern Command, Colorado Springs; Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commandant for Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters, Wash DC; Liaison Officer to the legacy U.S. Customs Service in Wash, DC; and at the Pentagon on the Joint Staff (J-7). He also served as a Company Officer at the Coast Guard Academy, and on the Training Infrastructure Study and Streamlining Implementation Team at Coast Guard Headquarters.

Rear Admiral Midgette is a native of Virginia Beach, VA and he holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (U.S. Coast Guard Academy '82), a Master of Science in Management (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute '91), and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies (U.S. Naval War College '97).

**Rear Admiral Fred M. Midgette, USCG**

**Current Assignment**

June 2015 – Present                      Special Flag Assistant to the Vice Commandant

**Assignment History**

June 2013 – June 2015                      Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District  
May 2011 – May 2013                      Military Advisor for the Secretary of Homeland Security  
April 2010 – May 2011                      Chief of Staff, Ninth Coast Guard District  
Jun 2008 – May 2010                      Captain of the Port & Commander of Coast Guard Sector Detroit Michigan  
Aug 2006 – Jun 2008                      Coast Guard Liaison Officer to U.S. Northern Command  
May 2004 – Aug 2008                      Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commandant for Operations  
Jun 2002 – May 2004                      Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter FORWARD  
Sep 2000 – Jun 2002                      Liaison Officer to US Customs Service; and  
   Deputy Executive Director of The Interdiction Committee (TIC)  
Jul 1999 – Sep 2000                      Joint Chiefs of Staff (J-7), Pentagon  
Oct 1997 – Jul 1999                      Executive Officer, Coast Guard Cutter HARRIET LANE  
Jul 1996 – Oct 1997                      Student, US Naval War College  
Aug 1995 – Jul 1996                      Coast Guard Streamlining Implementation Team  
Jun 1994 – Aug 1995                      Coast Guard Training Infrastructure Study  
Jul 1992 – Jun 1994                      Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter KATMAI BAY  
Jul 1988 – Jul 1992                      Company Officer, Coast Guard Academy  
Aug 1986 – Jul 1988                      Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter POINT WINSLOW  
Mar 1986 – Aug 1986                      Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Cutter POINT LEDGE  
Aug 1984 – Feb 1986                      Navigator & Navy Exchange Officer, USS FIFE  
Jun 1982 – Aug 1984                      Deck Watch Officer, Coast Guard Cutter TANEY

**Educational Summary**

1996 – 1997                      US Naval War College; MA - National Security & Strategic Studies  
1989 – 1991                      Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; MS in Management  
1978 – 1982                      US Coast Guard Academy; MS in Civil Engineering

**Military Personal Awards and Significant National Recognition or Achievement**

2015                      Legion of Merit  
2013                      Legion of Merit  
2011                      Legion of Merit  
2010                      Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal  
2008                      Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
2006                      Legion of Merit  
2004                      Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal  
2002                      Coast Guard Commendation Medal  
2000                      Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
1999                      Coast Guard Commendation Medal  
1996                      Coast Guard Commendation Medal  
1995                      Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal  
1994                      Coast Guard Commendation Medal  
1992                      Coast Guard Commendation Medal  
1991                      Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon  
1988                      Coast Guard Achievement Medal  
1986                      Navy Achievement Medal

**Significant Current Professional Credentials or Recent Activities**

2008 – 2010                      Captain of the Port, Federal On Scene Coordinator, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator,  
   Officer In Charge of Marine Inspection, SAR Mission Coordinator  
2013 – 2015                      Vice Chairman, then Chairman of the Northern Ohio Federal Executive Board