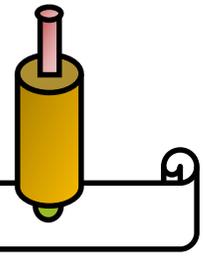




The DASH POT

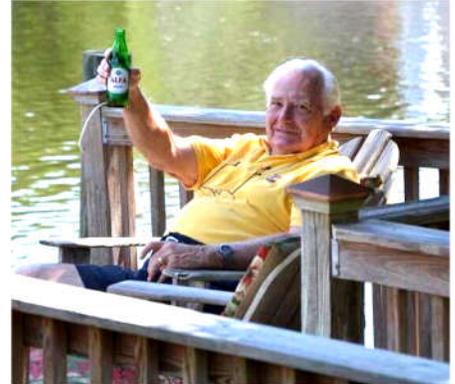


The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

In This Issue:

- Tribute to CDR "Toby" Horn
- 2018 AOM Reunion
- Fleet News and Update
- A MN History Sea Story
- Azuma Island Reunion update
- Pictures and "stuff"

We are saddened by the loss of one of our founding members, husband to his beloved Jane, father to four, grandfather to five, an officer and gentleman, an extraordinary leader, friend, neighbor, mentor to multitudes and a distinguished American patriot. Toby, It has been an honor and a privilege Sir!



Cheers!

From The President

MNEM John Epps, USN (Ret.)



We have lost some very prestigious members of the AOM family this year and I'd like to pass on my condolences to the families of these recently departed shipmates and family members. Know that you and those on the Binnacle List are in our thoughts and prayers.

We still have two vacant positions that need to be filled. Are there any volunteers out there who would like to step in and fill the Chaplin or Historian position?

Just a reminder to the Committee Chairs, your annual reports are due at the Board of Directors meeting in October. If you are unable to attend, please send your report to me and I can present it to the board in your stead.

I'd like to thank Tracey Hayes for her diligence in planning the 44th annual reunion in Jacksonville, FL. The final arrangements should be made shortly and the information passed on to the membership.

Welcome Aboard to our newest member Pat Guarino. Hope to see you at the upcoming Reunion!!

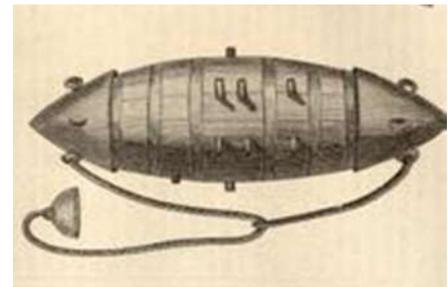
Recruiting new members is everyone's responsibility. If you run into a Mineman, throw in a pitch for the AOM along with your other conversation topics. We need to add new members, old and young to our membership roles. If you have any suggestions for attracting new members, write them down and we can discuss them at our next business meeting.

God bless our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and God bless the USA!

John

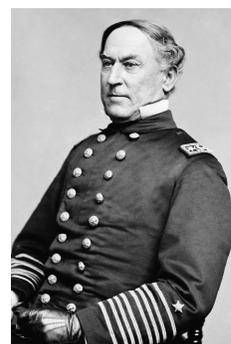


NOTABLE QUOTABLE



"Torpedoes (sea mines) are not so agreeable when used on both sides, therefore I have resultantly brought myself to it. I have always deemed it unworthy of a chivalrous nation, but it does not do to give your enemy such a decided superiority over you."

**ADM. DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT, USN
12 AUGUST 1864**





Association of Minemen

Dedicated to Serving the U. S. Mine Force

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen (AOM), a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina...to perpetuate a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense

OFFICERS

President

John Epps (18-20)
231 Silverwood Ct.
Richland, WA 99352
Ph.509-627-0671
mncm@aol.com

Vice President

Eddy Atkins (18-20)
117 Quaker Meeting House Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1851
Ph.757-565-3333
weatkings@cox.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Femrite (11-)
P.O.Box 510519
Punta Gorda, FL 33951
Ph.850-207-9831
mike_mncm@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Philip DeChene (17-19)
1827 Broadway Dr.
Graham, NC 27253
Ph.336-229-1951
pdechene@triad.rr.com

Warren Savage (17-18)
10331 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
Ph.619-258-1478
chiefskip@aol.com

Tom Hoffman (17-19)
2266 East Hurd Rd.
Monroe, MI 48162
Ph.734-289-2279
mdau0302@sbcglobal.net

G. Paul Santa Maria (17-18)
228 Kiwi Dr.
Barefoot Bay, FL 32976
Ph.772-584-0037
gpaulsm@juno.com

Danny Epperly (18-20)
123 Yorkshire Dr.
Yorktown, VA 23693
Ph. 757-870-1376

Gary Cleland (18-20)
12201 Sunrise Ct
Poway, CA 92064-2865
Cell: 858-848-4030
Home: 858-747-3835
gunnercleland@sbcglobal.net

Past President

Tracey Hays (14-17)
114 Hidden Palms Blvd.
Summerville, SC 29485
Ph.860-559-9724
Tracey.Ann.Hays@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

A.O.M. Historian

Vacant

Scholarship Chair

Ron Glasen (12-)
1114 Fran Lin Pkwy Munster, IN 46321
Ph. 219-838-6425
searchcoil@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Derick Hartshorn (08-)
1204 4th Street Dr., SE
Conover, NC 28613-1827
Ph. 8284644981
derickh@charter.net

Communications Chair

Derick Hartshorn (08-)
1204 4th Street Dr., SE
Conover, NC 28613-1827
Ph. 8284644981
derickh@charter.net

Chaplain

Vacant

Parliamentarian

Warren Savage (17-18)
10331 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
Ph.619-258-1478
chiefskip@aol.com

Reunion Committee 2018 Chairperson

Tracey Hays
114 Hidden Palms Blvd.
Summerville, SC 29485
Ph.860-559-9724
Tracey.Ann.Hays@gmail.com

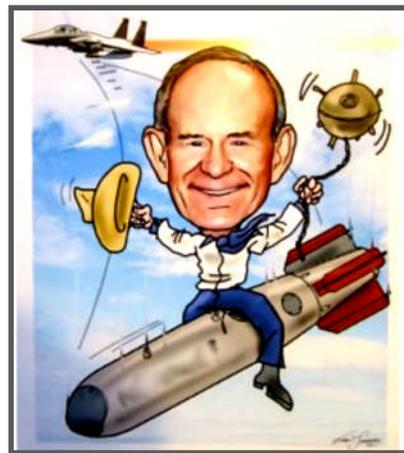
"The DASHPOT" Editor

Ron Swart (16-)
305 Fairview Dr.
Canton, GA 30114
Ph.678-880-9008
dashpot-editor@comcast.net

Please send input to:
dashpot-editor@comcast.net

Input for Summer 2018
Dashpot #96 is due NLT:
July 14, 2018

From the Editor...



We are all deeply saddened when we lose our members or our loved ones. I, for one, never look forward to the news that we print on the "TAPS" page. The passing of so many of our AOM founders, leaders, family members and stalwart supporters has caused me some concern about the future viability of the Association of Minemen. Are we able to continue to support our stated core objectives: "...to perpetuate a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense"? To remain relevant, we would be wise to grow our membership and when possible, increase our involvement and participation. Otherwise our AOM will certainly fade away at some point. Will we embrace and support our active duty Minemen who have missions and skill sets radically more broad than what our own service entailed? Will we continue to support both the Mineman of the Year program and our Scholarship program? If we would rather take a less active approach, perhaps we should decide what we can reliably support and, if necessary, dial back our commitments to meet our budget and level of commitment.

The Dashpot welcomes your feedback, but more importantly, please let our leadership know what your expectations are for the future of our Association. Like it or not, we as an organization, are judged by what we do and how we do it, not by what we say we will do.





It has been a long Winter this year, but you guessed it...**It's that time of year again!** The school year is coming to a close. Trees and flowers are budding, a new life is starting as things are turning to green. This means that students are also thinking of green. Where can they find some green for their upcoming college necessities?

It's AOM Scholarship Time! Your scholarship committee is coming out of hibernation, we are sharpening our pencils, cleaning our bifocals and getting ready for the new applications to start coming in.

If you know of any applicants, let them know that all the rules **must** be followed. If anything is left off of the application, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be considered for a scholarship award. The rules can be found on the AOM web page Mineman.org.

All candidates must complete the application forms S-1 and S-2. Provide a transcript of credits earned from applicable schools. Provide two letters of recommendation. Provide a study plan covering the scholarship term which provides a synopsis of the field of interest/study. Provide the courses he/she plans to complete, and any other pertinent information the candidate feels might enhance their chances of receiving the award. **You do not have to be a Mineman to apply!**

Applications are to be received by the AOM Secretary by June 1, each year.

Good Luck to all applicants. Your scholarship Committee is waiting to start working on all the new applications that will be coming in.

Ron Glasen,

Scholarship Committee Chairman



Association of Minemen



AOM SHIP'S STORE NEWS



THE AOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE AGREED WITH THE SECRETARY -TREASURER'S PROPOSAL TO TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN THE AOM SHIP'S STORE "STOREKEEPER" LINK ON THE AOM WEBSITE MINEMEN.ORG BECAUSE THE INFORMATION ON WHAT ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AND PRICING IS OUT OF DATE. SOME ORDERS WERE DECLINED AND MONEY RETURNED AS THE ITEMS ORDERED WERE NO LONGER IN INVENTORY. THE LINK WILL REMAIN DISABLED UNTIL THE INVENTORY IS REFRESHED AND THE INFORMATION UPDATED AND ACCURATE.

IF YOU HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CARRIED IN THE SHIP'S STORE, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS AT THEIR ADDRESS ON

PAGE 2



From our **Secretary/Treasurer**

I would like to thank all of the members for their kind words while my wife Nancy was in Rehabilitation from a stroke and again after she passed away. It meant a lot to me. Thank You.

Now to current business. The New Year for the AOM began in October. The dues for 2018 are past due. If your dashpot label does not say 2018 or more you are behind in your dues. This will be your last dashpot until you pay your dues.

The AOM membership gets smaller and smaller each year because of members not keeping their dues up to date please don't let your membership lapse.

I have missed the last two reunions, so I am looking forward to this year in Jacksonville Fl. I hope it is a big turn out. Always nice to catch up with old friends and make new friends. See you all there.

Mike Femrite



The "Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers" plaque is awarded in recognition of those Sailors who have served as a Mineman (MN Rating) from the beginning of their Navy service, for a minimum of 25 years Active Duty. To be recognized for this award, the following information must be submitted:

1. Full Name and Rank
2. Active Duty Base Date
3. Your Mailing Address, unless you want the plaque presented to you during the Annual AOM reunion.

Mail requests for recognition to:

R. Schommer, 827 N. Aylesbury Rd, Goose Creek, SC 29445
email to rschommer@bellsouth.net
Please allow 30 to 45 days for the plaque to arrive by mail.





Lexington Hotel & Conference Center - Jacksonville Riverwalk

1515 Prudential Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32207



tioning, central heating, a kitchen and a bathroom. The standard features of most rooms include a balcony. The carpeted accommodation units feature a double bed. Separate bedrooms are also available. There is also a safe. A fridge and a tea/coffee station ensure a comfortable stay. An ironing set is also available for guests' convenience. Other features include internet access, a telephone, a TV, a radio and WiFi. The bathrooms have a shower and a bathtub. A hairdryer is also available. Bathrooms with wheelchair access can also be booked. The accommodation offers family rooms and non-smoking rooms. Sports/Entertainment The establishment features a pool and an outdoor pool. Sun loungers provide a great place to sunbathe. A range of options are available, including tennis, a gym, a spa and a solarium. Meals Travellers can choose options including breakfast, lunch and dinner. Payment The following credit cards are accepted at the hotel: American Express, VISA, Diners Club and MasterCard.



The 17-acre hotel on the southern bank of the St. John's River, in the shadow of I-95, is within 1.5 km of downtown Jacksonville and the Landing, and 3 km from the Convention Center. 20 minutes from Jacksonville Airport, this eclectic area is brimming with quaint boutiques, day spas, sidewalk cafés, wine bars and upscale restaurants. Facilities The hotel was built in 1979. Guests are welcomed at the accommodation, which has a total of 322 rooms. Individual story's are accessible via the lift or stairs. Amenities include a cloakroom, a baggage storage service, a safe and a cash machine. Wireless internet access is available to travelers in the public areas. Various gastronomic options are available, including a restaurant, a dining area, a breakfast room and a bar. Guests can buy daily essentials at the supermarket. Travelers can buy souvenirs at the gift shop. Additional facilities at the establishment include a newspaper stand. Those arriving in their own vehicles can leave them in the car park of the hotel. Additional services include room service and a laundry service. Rooms Each of the rooms is appointed with air condi-

Reunion Chair Tracey Hays reports - "I am waiting for the contract so I can't give you pricing for the dinner and picnic. The hotel has agreed to rooms at \$109 plus tax for the reunion. Dates are still 9-12 October 2018. The location is Lexington Hotel & Conference Center (Riverwalk) on Prudential Drive. I will create a sign-up sheet as soon as I see the

contract, and will ensure it is on the AOM website." "I have a different POC for the picnic. As soon as I get pricing I will send it out. The good news is if we book 40 rooms and spend \$2500 in food/beverage, our meeting rooms and hospitality are free... and parking would be reduced to \$5

Welcome
MINEMEN AND FRIENDS





IT'S A CAMPAIGN...



NOF YOKOSUKA JAPAN "AZUMA ISLAND" REUNION 2020



Calling all Minemen, Sailors and Officers who served a tour of duty (or more) at NOF Yokosuka Azuma Island from the 1940's through the closure of the Mine Shop there in 1970. **The goal :** Join with the year 2020 Association of Minemen Reunion (AOM Member or not) to celebrate the 50th year anniversary of the closing of the "Baka Shima" Mine Shop.

What we need to succeed: Volunteers to form an Azuma Island 2020 Committee. Locate veteran Minemen who served there. Photos from your tour there. Names (and dates if known) of those you know who served but have since passed.

Contact Information: Leading the charge is "Campaign Coordinator" Bill Holloway at william.holloway1010@gmail.com

You may also contact the : Dashpot-editor@comcast.net

Thanks to Bill Holloway for the great idea to make this the theme of the AOM 2020 Reunion, to Derick Hartshorn for the great photo archives and to Al Bauer for the duty roster with names of those who served during that time period !!!

LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!



Azuma Island Mine Shop Reunion 2020





TRANSITIONS



LT. Delton C. Drum (pictured) recently assumed duties as COMOMAG's Executive Officer, relieving LCDR Richard Diaz .

LT Drum hails from Snyder, Texas where he enlisted into the U.S. Navy in 1995. Originally, LT Drum was rated as a Quartermaster and joined Mine Countermeasures Rotational Crew Golf where he served onboard the USS SENTRY (MCM 3), USS PIONEER (MCM 9), USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13), and USS WARRIOR (MCM 10) from 1995 to 1999. After his tour with Crew Golf, he **crossed rate to Mineman** in 2000 and graduated #1 in his class from Mineman "A" School in Ingleside, TX. His first duty station as a Mineman was Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Eleven in Charleston, SC.

From 2002 to 2004, he served onboard the USS RAVEN (MHC 61) during Operation Iraqi Freedom where he spent time clearing Iraq's Khawr Abd Allah (KAA) waterway of live mines. After his tour onboard USS RAVEN (MHC 61) in 2004, he was initiated as a Chief Petty Officer (MNC).

His first duty station as a Chief was Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) Ingleside, TX as the Mine Warfare Environmental Decision Aid Library course manager and Training Department Leading Chief Petty Officer.

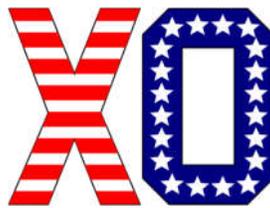
In 2008, LT Drum was selected for commission as Surface Ordnance Limited Duty Officer (616X). After his

commissioning, he reported to Naval Special Warfare Unit Three (NSWU-3) as the Ordnance Officer. He qualified as Tactical Action Officer and Ballistic Missile Defense Officer onboard the USS HIGGINS (DDG 76), where he successfully completed two critical Fifth Fleet Ballistic Missile deployments.

From 2013 to 2015, he was assigned to Naval Mine and Anti-submarine Warfare Command (NMAWC) and served on the Admiral's Mine Warfare Battle Staff.

Prior to joining the COMOMAG team, he served onboard the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) as the G-2 Division Officer, responsible for the custody of the shipboard small arms and overall in charge of the armory. In addition to these responsibilities, he was in charge of weapons ranges used for qualifications and training .

WELCOME ABOARD !



.....
**MNCS (SW) Courtney Haralson
Commissioned to
Chief Warrant Officer CWO-2**



BRAVO ZULU & CONGRATULATIONS GUNNER!



Get well wishes for **Masako Swart** who is recovering from her 5th spine surgery. She is doing well and is active around the house.

Don Jones self-reporting injury: Day before yesterday, I went up to the entrance to my mountain-land to check-out damage to the locked-gate after a dead tree holding one end of the cable fell down. Repairs would take more effort than I wanted to try alone, so I prepared to leave in my pick-up. But I spotted some trash in the ditch alongside the highway and decided to remove it. Removed one soda can without incident. Then I spotted a couple of plastic drink bottles in the bottom of the ditch. The ditch was full of sharp rocks covered by a thick cover of leaves. I planted my left foot on solid ground & swung my right foot over the edge, but the dry leaves gave way & I lost my balance. Not wanting to fall backward on jagged rocks, I spun around but could only see a flat rock to land on, so I put my hands out trying to possibly break my fall. Not wanting to damage my expensive 4-front tooth bridge, I turned my head and landed on my right cheek-bone. I felt my lower jaw pay a visit to my left ear, but it quickly popped back into position. Not wanting passing vehicles full of laughing people to see my plight, I quickly tried to get up. But my possibly damaged brain refused to cooperate, so I laid there for a few seconds before spotting a small bush to grasp & pull myself up out of the thick layer of leaves. I used the rear-view mirror in the pick-up to assess the possible rearrangement of my handsome mug, but only saw a tiny scratch and a slight swelling over my cheek-bone. Not wanting to die alone on the mountainside, I slowly descended the 3-miles to my house. My three cats didn't seem to be interested at all in hearing about my harrowing escape from death's door, so I sat in the swing and wallowed in self-pity until I got hungry.

Be careful out there Master Chief !!!



Tails from the Poopdeck...

Mineman Stories ...

On 19 June 1987, I joined an EOD unit in Bahrain. A local newspaper reported that a fourth oil tanker had been damaged by a naval mine near Kuwait. When we learned that the SS PRIMROSE, damaged by a mine about a month earlier, was at the Arab Ship Repair Yard in Bahrain, we obtained permission to visit the huge vessel. *Photograph #1 showing the bow and name of the vessel.*



The mine-damaged side of the PRIMROSE was next to the pier so we had an excellent opportunity to examine and make pictures of the smaller than expected hole in the hull. When the in-bound/empty Soviet oil tanker Marshal Chuykov struck a mine near the entrance to the deep-water channel to the Mina al Ahmadi oil facility in Kuwait, the size of the air-backed hole was reported to be 8 by 5 meters. If the same type mine had been struck by the PRIMROSE then the fact that the vessel was fully loaded had caused the fluid-backed hole to be much smaller. We estimated the size of the hole to be about 1-meter long and half a meter wide. However, a painted outline on the hull-plating to be replaced was



estimated to be 60 tons or more. Since the hole was located about 100 meters aft of the bow, we theorized that the bow-wave temporarily pushed the mine aside then the mine swung back into the port side of the ship. *Photographs #2 and 3# showing the hole caused by the mine blast and the hull plating to be replaced.*

Seeking to obtain more information we boarded the vessel. The ladder going up to the main-deck had 99-steps. Inside a small office, the ship's master a former South Korean Navy minesweeper sailor named Kim provided some interesting details about the incident. He said the vessel was doing 14 knots when the mine strike occurred. The ship lost power for 30-minutes. When propulsion was regained he reversed course and went back through the minefield to Mina al Ahmadi in order to get a patch put over the hole. The ship's master was called away, so the Lloyds of London insurance representative provided some additional information. He said the mine blast caused internal damage to a depth of 5-meters. A fire was started, but the in-rushing seawater quickly doused the flames. Examination of a small section of hull-plating had a granular look to it. Didn't look like high-quality steel to me.

We returned to base and awaited a 2-week visa to Kuwait. While we were in Bahrain, the newspaper stated that two young boys had been killed by the explosion of a beached mine on Bahrain.

**Don Jones, MNCM, Navy & Federal Service Retiree
Sherwood, TN - I'm on facebook.**



BACKGROUND:
IRANIAN MINING DURING THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

MINA AL AHMADI

17 MAY 1987: SOVIET TANKER **MARSHAL CHUYKOV** STRUCK A MINE IN THE DEEP-WATER APPROACH TO KUWAIT'S MAIN OIL TERMINAL.

27 MAY 1987: LIBERIAN TANKER **PRIMROSE** STRUCK A MINE.

9 JUNE 1987: GREEK TANKER **ETHNIC** STRUCK A MINE.

19 JUNE 1987: LIBERIAN TANKER **STENA EXPLORER** STRUCK A MINE.

30 JUNE 1987: PENTAGON ANNOUNCED THAT AT LEAST 10 MINES HAD BEEN FOUND IN MINA AL AHMADI CHANNEL.





Commander Maurice Darnell Horn, Jr., USN, (Ret),

affectionately known as “Toby” to friends and family, passed peacefully from our world into the Lord’s loving hands while surrounded by loved ones on 12 March 2018. He is survived by his wife, Jane Ayers Horn; his four children, Steven, Edith, Wade and Matt; five grandchildren, Shannon, Garrett, Stacy, Insley, and Rush; and two great grandchildren, Madison and Maraleigh. Born in Baltimore, MD, 6 January 1935, he has two surviving siblings (his sister, Susanne H. Duckworth and brother, George K. Horn).

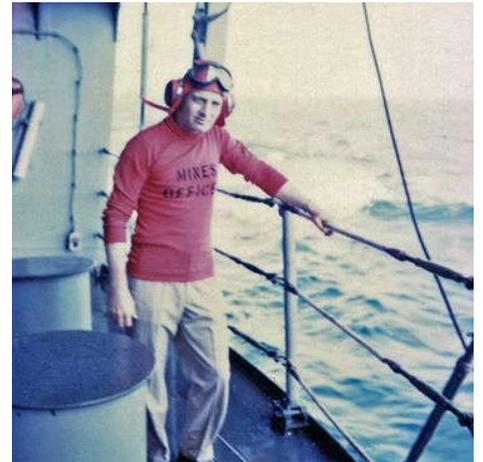
Toby enlisted in the US Navy in May 1953 and worked his way up through the ranks before retiring in 1980 as a “mustang” Commander. During his term of service he was instrumental in the development and implementation of new naval mine warfare systems. He served overseas in Japan, Taiwan, Guam, Norway, Malta, Crete, the UK, Sicily, Sweden, Germany, Scotland, with three deployments in Vietnam. In the US, he served in San Diego, CA, Whidbey Island, WA, Key West, FL, Newport, RI, Charleston, SC, Yorktown, VA, and Washington, DC. He was one of the **founders of the Association of Minemen** and before he retired in Charleston, SC, was the **Senior Mineman of the Navy**.

These are only a few of the highlighted places he has been and served his country faithfully, but more importantly the people, family and friends of whose lives he touched wherever he went. Toby was an undeniable force of nature. He aspired to perfection in all he did often inspiring others to excel around him with an encouraging word or a gentle push if needed. He would give a stranger the shirt off his back and brush it off by saying, he was too hot anyway. There was no place he went that he didn’t leave a friend....special friendships from around the world that followed him all the days of his life. A true renaissance man, there was nothing he couldn’t do once he set his mind to it. He was an officer and a gentleman, a mechanical engineer, quilter, bee-keeper and gifted artist. As a painter and a wood carver, he created decoys so lifelike, you expected them to take wing the second he finished carving in the last little feather. He loved his country with the heart of a lion, was fiercely protective of loved ones and friends when called upon, but underneath it all was the kind and gentle heart we all loved. Someone has written that in the end, **“a man’s worth isn’t measured by how much he loved, but by how much he was loved by others,”** and he was loved very deeply by all. A Celebration of Life was held for Commander Horn at 2:00PM, Saturday, 17 March, at Grace Church Cathedral, 98 Wentworth Street, Charleston. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



FAREWELL AND FOLLOWING SEAS...a

Tribute to CDR Maurice, Darnell Horn, USN (Retired)



In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be given to the following organizations:

- Association of Minemen, PO Box 510519, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0519;
- Samaritan’s Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607;
- The Fisher House, www.fisherhousecharleston.org; Gary Senise Foundation, PO Box 50008, Studio City, CA 91614-5001;
- St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105;
- Water Mission, PO. Box 71489, N. Charleston, SC 29415.

Letter: American Mentor Mar 18, 2018

Though well-educated when we arrived in Charleston in January 1977, we had little insight into American customs, holidays and the way of life. We did not experience much Southern hospitality. We were able to afford our first small home in Lenavar in July 1977. After a few months, we noted that we had new neighbors. A strapping blond Navy officer introduced himself, his wife and son. We became close friends and then I was asked to become his family's doctor. I did night calls to soothe their crying son and helped his mother find long-term care. He inspired me, after becoming a legal immigrant seven years later, to join the Navy. Now we had become "shipmates" too. But more than this, his family showed us what it means to be American. We had never experienced July Fourth or Thanksgiving; they showed us what it meant.

Even though we are Jewish, we became involved in their family Christmas celebrations and I was introduced to that old Navy favorite, cream chipped beef on toast, given an unmentionable name by the Navy, but close enough to S.O.S. He regaled me with stories of Vietnam where, as a mine warfare officer, he was involved in the mining of the rivers and the harbor at Haiphong.

We have remained fast friends with this family since 1977. We have been to weddings and bat mitzvahs together. He and his family have shown their generosity and kindness and enabled us to become truly involved in the customs of our country of choice. How I wish all immigrants could have had a family like this one to mentor and guide them to fully understand citizenship and participation in the American way of life.

This man, my dearest friend, was always there for us as was his extended family. The decency and kindness he showed us will never be forgotten. He passed away on March 12. In Yiddish, this was a real "Mensch" — kind, modest and honorable. To my dear shipmate, my "brother," Cmdr. Maurice Toby Horn, U.S. Navy (Retired), until we meet again, fair winds and following seas.

Walter Leventhal, M.D.

Summerville, SC





AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

Rear Admiral Wade Departs Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center

Carl Prine Contact Reporter April 27, 2018

Despite a tumultuous year for the Navy's surface warfare fleet — dogged by a slew of Pacific Ocean collisions that damaged four ships and killed 17 sailors — the service's "Top Gun" school for destroyer and cruiser officers has been a beacon.

Helmed by Rear Adm. John F. G. Wade for the past 2 ½ years, the San Diego-based Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center graduated 146 warfare tactics instructors under his watch.

Called "Witties" by their fellow sailors and marked with a bright red patch when they're aboard ship, they're shock troops charged with sparking broad cultural changes in the surface fleet — from minesweepers to guided-missile cruisers — in order to tactically challenge rising maritime powers such as China and Russia.

The brainchild of retired Adm. Bill Gortney, a career strike fighter pilot, San Diego's "Top Gun" for sailors is modeled on the "Top Gun" for aviators — which was once at Miramar but is now at the Naval Fighter Weapons School at Fallon Naval Air Station in Nevada.

Wade's surface warfare program is so tough that 80 percent of the Navy's eligible officers — mostly lieutenants — can't qualify for it. Staffers screen out nearly a third of the applicants and 15 percent of those sailors wash out during the six-month course.

Those who make it out of the academy salt warship crews worldwide, making everyone onboard better with weapons and tactics.

"(Gortney) asked, 'Are we really that good? Are we really prepared for the higher end fight?'" Wade told The San Diego Union-Tribune during a telephone interview on Friday.

It's a bicoastal classroom. Sea-combat and mine-warfare courses occur in California, while integrated-air, missile-defense and amphibious-operations classes take place in Virginia.

On May 8, Wade, 49, turns over the entire program to Rear Adm. David Welch, the former commander of the destroyer Chung-Hoon and the Surface Warfare Officers School Command in Rhode Island.



The former commander of the patrol ship Firebolt, destroyer Preble and Destroyer Squadron 28, Wade, a Port Washington, N.Y. Native, will then report to Norfolk, where he'll take command of the powerful Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.

THIS REMOTE CONTROLLED 'NAVAL MINE'
ATTACHES TO SHIPS, EXPLODES ON COMMAND
By: Burak Ege Bekdil

ANKARA, Turkey — A leading Turkish manufacturer says it developed a "mobile naval mine" that can blow up warships of all types. The Wattozz program has been jointly undertaken by Albayrak Savunma, a drone maker, and Karadeniz Technical University in Turkey's Black Sea region. Wattozz is named after "vatoz," which translates to 'stingray'. The Wattozz features the shape of a stingray and is made of titanium and aluminum. It has two cameras fitted into the eye sockets of the "stingray" and can cruise at a maximum speed of 5.5 knots for up to 12 hours. The drone features three integrated engines. Mustafa Adnan Albayrak, chairman of Albayrak Savunma, said the company has been working on the Wattozz program for the past two years. He said the company will officially launch Turkey's first indigenous armed underwater drone within three months.

Drone Mines??? What will they think of next???

CONGRATULATIONS

Master Chief Mineman (Select)

MNCS (SW) Favian Garcia



Rear Adm. John Wade, right, Commander of Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, and Republic of Korea (ROK) Rear Adm.

Kim, Jong-Sam, left, commander of ROK Navy's Component Flotilla 5, participate in the **34th Annual Mine Warfare Staff Talks**. The staff talks were held to provide a venue for U.S. and ROK Navy personnel to review areas of interoperability and identify opportunities for increased cooperation.





AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

By MN1(SW) Jonathan Wampler

Greetings from Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG). The COMOMAG team is off to a great start to the year and we are excited for the upcoming summer months. The COMOMAG team takes pride in celebrating special observances and awareness months throughout the year. In February we took a trip to view the Legacy in Black and Part of the Patchwork exhibits presented by the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park. Legacy in Black displayed fine art from African American Artists who have made significant historical/cultural contributions to San Diego and beyond. The exhibit even featured art from former San Diego Chargers football player Ernest Eugene Barnes Jr. In April the COMOMAG team led by MNC(SW) Jamnis R. Lacy and MN1(SW) Tyler G. Cowen hosted a volleyball tournament in observance of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. We had a great turn out and congratulations to the Mine Warfare Training Center team for claiming victory!



(Diversity Trip to Balboa Park)

Pictured above from left to right: LT Drum, IT2 Hollingworth, LT Rogers, MN1 Cowen, MNCM Dorbandt, LS1 Reyes, MN1 Wampler, CDR Schine, MN1 Schmid, CWO2 Montero, MNC Lacy, LCDR Diaz)

While at Balboa Park we took the opportunity to recognize some outstanding individuals whose hard work and dedication have contributed to the continued success of COMOMAG: LS1(SW) Maricel A. Reyes, awarded COMOMAG Sailor of the Year for 2017! MN1(SW) Jonathan D. Wampler, awarded COMOMAG Sailor of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of 2017, and Mr. David Epton, awarded Naval Munitions Command Atlantic Civilian of the Quarter for the 4th quarter of 2017. Bravo Zulu Shipmates!

The N31 Service Mine Division has had their hands full lately with many visits to Naval Munitions Commands (NMC) around the world. The N31 team consisting of CDR Nichol M. Schine, LT Rodney N. Rogers, MNCM(SW) Samuel B. Dorbandt, MNC(SW) Jamnis R. Lacy, and Mr. Dave M. Epton traveled to NMC Charleston and Seal Beach to conduct their Mine Readiness Assist Visit (MRAV). The MRAV is an essential part in the Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) process, where the team spends one week at each NMC, conducting training on publications, procedures, programs, and many other areas in the Mine Readiness Certification. The team also visited NMC Okinawa to conduct their biannual MRCI in which they passed with flying colors! Congratulations!

CDR Nichol M. Schine, LT Rodney N. Rogers, MNCM(SW) Samuel B. Dorbandt, and Mr. Dave M. Epton visited Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Florida to attend the Perilous Depths workshop. The topics of minefield planning tactics and theory with regard to designing, targeting, and mission execution of naval minefields were covered with the objective to improve Mine Warfare Readiness. It was a great opportunity for minefield planners, weapons instructors, and scientists to all interact with each other in the minefield planning and mission execution processes. Along with COMOMAG many other parties were represented at the workshop to include the U.S. Air Force, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division, Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center and the Naval Oceanographic Office. The Perilous Depths conference was vital in enhancing joint operations effectiveness throughout the mining process.

We hit the promotion jackpot for the Reserve Mineman community; of the nine Sailors selected for advancement four are currently serving the active duty Navy in ADSW billets providing much needed stability and knowledge in critical niche areas. Master Chiefs Blessing and Ward serving NMCPAC EAD in Misawa and Okinawa, Senior Chief Stratford serving NAVSUP in Mechanicsburg, PA and Senior Chief Alford serving COMOMAG in San Diego, CA. Others who advanced to Senior Chief are Kevin Landers, Ryan Long, James Imoehl, Andrea Krouse, and Dan Paskweitz. Congratulations and job well done!

Happy Spring from everyone here at COMOMAG! Stay safe in pursuit of those warmer weather activities!

See you next quarter.



AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

By MN1(AW) Courtney Crank

Greetings from the Navy Munitions Command Pacific CONUS West Division Unit Seal Beach, Underwater Weapons Department (UWD) in sunny California!

~MISSION UPDATES~

Unit Seal Beach hit the new year running, going from weekly mine build trainings to an early Mine Readiness Assist Visit (MRAV).



Production Division preparing MK 62 shapes for the next exercise.

Operating fully under the adage "Train as you fight," UWD built over 250 Quick Strike mines, ensuring our full comprehension of each procedure in the assembly of the different Operating Assemblies (OA). Of course, with these builds, we also trained and qualified each member for their next level in certifications, continuing the legacy of well-developed Mineman for the years to come.

In light of the Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) later this year, UWD underwent a full MRAV assessment, making certain that we were fully prepared for the ride. We conducted a series of in-depth program and building inspections with the System Matter Experts from COMOMAG, and were rewarded with a positive training event from the experts. Bravo Zulu, Sailors!

Amidst this highly charged atmosphere, we continued on with the missions at hand, as well. Over the Quarter, UWD shipped over 70 shapes and their applicable components in support of multiple exercises. UWD also received over 2,050 items from various other commands for refurbishment needs, and performed maintenance and refurbishment of nearly 475 additional shapes and equipment to those that were earlier shipped.

~UNIT CAMARADERIE~

We welcomed two new members into the UWD extended family: MN1 Crank and MNSN Ruiz returned from their maternity leave early this quarter with two baby girls ready to steal their love back at home.

Welcome to the world, Lilli Crank and Maya Ruiz!



MN2 Blake and Director Miller

~HAIL AND FAREWELL~

Unit Seal Beach would like to welcome aboard LT Klassy, who will be taking over as Department Head for UWD.



Fare thee well, GM2 Grey

UWD's First Class Petty Officers also took to 2018 with a fresh new outlook on the CPO-365 program, rejuvenating the training with the rest of the Weapons Station's leadership. MNC Tassey and MN1 Schilz worked with the base Chief and First Class Petty Officer Associations to tackle the training of our future Mess, developing a schedule that incorporated four separate commands, and in a fresh style that promotes discussion and interactions between all hands.

It is the community that supports the base, so we showed our appreciation for the city in a plethora of ways. Working with the We Love Our Beach members, UWD went out and helped the community clean both Seal Beach and Barney's Beach; making the area safer for children and patrons to play on, and lessening the human impact on the surrounding environment. UWD didn't stop there, though. We also went participated in a variety of events hosted by McGaugh Elementary, such as their Fit-a-Thon, Military Child Luncheon and a Flag Ceremony.



We also wish fair winds and following seas to our brethren: LT Nystrom, GMC Troy, MN2 Blake, and GM2 Grey. Your next command is lucky to have you!



AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

Provided by [Julio Gutierrez](#)

Portsmouth-based Raytheon

has been awarded an \$83.3 million cost-plus-incentive-fee contract for the design, test and deployment of the **Barracuda mine neutralization system**.

The Barracuda mine neutralization system is a mission module within the US Navy's Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) **Mine Countermeasure (MCM) Mission Package (MP)**. The system will be used to neutralize mines that have been previously located by other mine countermeasure assets. Specifically, it is an expendable, autonomous unmanned underwater vehicle intended to identify and neutralize bottom, near surface and drifting sea mines.

The Barracuda mine neutralizer will field a shallow water capability and be an expendable modular neutralizer consisting of a kill mechanism, propulsion, sensors, and communications buoy that enables wireless communication to the deployment platform.

As informed, the contract includes options which, if exercised, would bring the cumulative value of this contract to \$362.7 million. Work will be performed in Portsmouth, Rhode Island and DeLeon Springs, Florida and is expected to be completed by November 2022.



Navy Reestablishes U.S. 2nd Fleet in Norfolk

By: [Sam LaGrone](#)
Updated: May 4, 2018



Faced with a more active Russian fleet and increasing military competition across the world, the Navy has elected to reestablish U.S. 2nd Fleet to manage assets closer to the homeland, according to a memo announcing the command obtained by USNI News. The memo, signed by Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer earlier this week, approved reestablishing the command in Norfolk, Va., based on a recommendation of outgoing U.S. Fleet Forces Command commander Adm. Phil Davidson and endorsed by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson.

"As previously briefed to you by the CNO, the re-establishment of SECOND Fleet was directed to better respond to the changing security environment," reads the memo. "Commander, SECOND Fleet will exercise training and operational authorities over assigned ships, aircraft, and landing forces in conducting maritime, joint and combined operations in support of designated Unified and Allied Commanders." The command will stand up July 1 and will have an initial manning of 11 officers and four enlisted personnel. The staff will eventually grow to 85 officers, 164 enlisted and seven civilians. "Our national defense strategy makes clear that we're back in an era of great power competition as the security environment continues to grow more challenging and complex," Richardson said Friday during the Fleet Forces change of command ceremony in Norfolk. "That's why today, we're standing up 2nd Fleet to address these changes, particularly in the North Atlantic." While the command now exists on paper, the service still needs to work through specifics such as the rank of the commander and how the command and control relationships will work with the joint combatant commands. In its last iteration, a three-star oversaw 2nd Fleet before the command merged with U.S. Fleet Forces in 2011. USNI News understands specifics of the plan will be worked through Fleet Forces and its new commander Adm. Christopher Grady, with details to be finalized this summer. While a change in the command and control relationships for warships throughout the Navy was included in the recommendations in the two Navy reviews conducted after a series of fatal collisions in the Western Pacific, the move to stand the fleet back up is rooted in increasing threats in the Atlantic from Russia, several officials familiar with the decision told USNI News. Before the 2014 seizure of Crimea by Russian forces, the role

of U.S. warships operating on the American side of the Atlantic was largely in support of humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions (HA/DR) missions and drug interdiction work in U.S. Southern Command's U.S. 4th Fleet. 2nd Fleet was shuttered alongside U.S. Joint Forces Command in 2011, and just years later the Navy and Congress began a push to reestablish 2nd Fleet as Russia grew more aggressive over, on and under the Atlantic. In 2016, now-Naval Forces Europe commander Adm. James Foggo III put the conflict in stark terms when he declared the U.S. and Russia were engaged in the "Fourth Battle of the Atlantic." "Russian submarines are prowling the Atlantic, testing our defenses, confronting our command of the seas, and preparing the complex underwater battlespace to give them an edge in any future conflict," Foggo wrote in U.S. Naval Institute's *Proceedings*. "Not only have Russia's actions and capabilities increased in alarming and confrontational ways, its national-security policy is aimed at challenging the United States and its NATO allies and partners." Moving ahead, it's unclear what the future will be for U.S. 4th Fleet, the naval arm of Southern Command that was established by the George W. Bush administration in 2008. The role of warships 4th Fleet was largely to play host to Coast Guard law enforcement detachments that had the legal authority to interdict traffickers on the high seas and in countries with law enforcement agreements with the U.S. The role for the Navy was diminished in the last several years, however, as the last of the Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates retired from service in 2015 and as the Pentagon has oriented its efforts towards high-end warfighting. Before the establishment of 4th Fleet, the commander of 2nd Fleet was responsible for the central and South American operations. In addition to standing up 2nd Fleet, the Pentagon announced it had offered Norfolk as a potential location for the proposed NATO Joint Force Command for the Atlantic. "The new JFC-Norfolk will ensure that NATO can successfully conduct operations across the full spectrum of Alliance missions in the trans-Atlantic region in the northern Atlantic," read the statement. "The future Atlantic-oriented JFC represents part of the ongoing NATO effort to adapt its command structure to ensure that the Alliance can meet the challenges in today's security environment. It will strengthen NATO's deterrence and defense posture, and its ability to project stability beyond its borders." The decision for the final location of the command will be made this summer.



Nancy Jane Femrite, 75, of Punta Gorda, Florida. It is with great sadness that the family announces her passing on March 2, 2018, after suffering a stroke and then a brief illness. She was born in Plainfield, N.J., on September 17, 1942 to William and Rose Mercier. Nancy worked as an accountant and advanced to management before her retirement.

She loved painting, jewelry making, crafts and enjoyed traveling the world with her second husband, MNCM Michael Femrite, USN (Ret.) (*Our AOM Sec/Treas*). Nancy was also an avid fan of any casino featuring slot machines and was known for her technique of *'talking to the machines.'*

Nancy will be lovingly remembered and tremendously missed by Michael, her husband of 29 years, and her children, sons, David Ferguson (wife Diane), Ronald Ferguson (wife Robin), Mark Ferguson (wife Cheryll), step-son Keith Femrite, daughters, Robin Selvaggi (husband Leonardo), and Donna Ferguson, 10 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and her brother, Robert Mercier (wife Joanne) and her nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Nancy Femrite's name to the Animal Welfare League, 3519 Drance St., Port Charlotte, FL 33980 www.awlshelter.org

Cards of condolence may be sent to the family at: 25533 Prada Dr. Punta Gorda, FL 33955-4315
Phone calls may be made to:
941-505-1396

Messages may be sent via e-mail to: mike_mncm@yahoo.com



Josephine Alexandrina Roberts, 74, passed away at her home in Elkton with her family by her side April 26, 2018. She was the wife of Commander William A. Roberts USN (Ret.) sharing 37 years of marriage together. Born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland, she was the daughter of Peter and Mary Ann McLernan. Her siblings include Frank, Margaret, Mary, Helen, Ann and Peter. A life-long Catholic, Josephine attended both St. Anastasia and Corpus Christi Catholic Churches. Having enjoyed working in several retail stores for many years Josephine eventually retired as a Customer Service Manager at Walmart in St Augustine.

She is survived by her husband William, her daughter Carol-Anne Taylor (Iain), her grandchildren Justin Taylor (Ashlyn), Emilie Lewis, Ashlie Lewis and great grand-daughter Madelyn Taylor. She was preceded in death by her son Justin Roberts. In addition she is survived by her step-son, William (Amy) and step-grandchildren Ethan Roberts, Crystal Gaxiola, Brittany Nielson and Gracie Roberts. She has several nieces and nephews in the USA and Scotland. One of which is Denise Crossan, who was with Josephine when she passed.

Craig Funeral Home Crematory Memorial Park is assisting the family. Cards of condolence may be set to the family at:

4441 Eagle Creek Ct.
Elkton, FL 32033-2063

Bill would enjoy hearing from his friends at: 904-825-1594



Lt. Deck Harrell
Tomball, TX |
1946 - 2017

Minemen stationed at MOMAG Unit Nine, Subic Bay, Philippines in the mid-70's not long after the Unit stood up, will likely remember the second CO, LT Deck Harrell, USN. April 3, 2017—Deck Eugene Harrell died peacefully, surrounded by his family, on 3 April 2017 in Tomball, TX.

Designated a Surface Warfare Officer, he served as Damage Control Assistant and then was re-toured as Engineer Officer on USS Everett F. Larson (DD-830). He graduated from Naval Destroyer School and reported to USS Buchanan (DDG-14) where he served as Operations and Engineer Officer. In subsequent tours, he served as **Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit 9 Subic Bay, Philippines (Oct 1975 - Nov 1977)** and as Operations Officer on USS Pyro (AE -24).



Joseph D. Sportelli

September 4, 1983 ~ April 8, 2018
(age 34)

... of West Warwick, RI, passed away suddenly on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at home. Born in Wahiawa, Oahu, Hawaii, he was the son of Terry L. (Sawyer) Sportelli of Cranston and the late (**former MN1 and LDO LT**) **Michael P. Sportelli**. He was a graduate of Point Pleasant Beach High School and was a student at CCRI.

Besides his mother he is survived by one sister Leanne Sportelli and one brother Nicholus C. Sportelli, both of Cranston. Joseph was the maternal grandson of Neanie Sawyer of Levant, Maine and the late Carl Sawyer, and his late paternal grandfather Dominic Sportelli. He also leaves his fiancée Jenna Connelly of Bristol, CT.

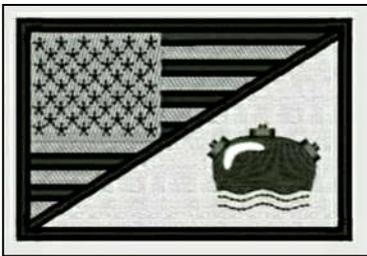
Relatives and friends were invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial in St. George Maronite Church, Cranston, RI. Burial was in Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517.



A.O.M. Mineman Miscellany



Efforts to locate (or at least ID) the Minemen who were stationed at **NOF Yokosuka's Azuma Island Mine Shop** has picked up steam and the names of those who served there is growing. The 2020 AOM Reunion has been targeted as the desired venue to reunite these shipmates **50 years after it closed**. If you served on "BakaShima" contact : william.holloway1010@gmail.com
 –or– Dashpot-editor@comcast.net



Mineman Flag Patch – Black

<http://navymtrtraining.com/product/mineman-flag-patch-black/>
\$6.00ea

Custom made **Mineman Flag patch**. Velcro backed!! Show your pride on your hat, backpack, jacket, etc.! The patch is black and gray and the size is 2.25" x 3.5" . Ordering 4 or more? Enter the code **FREESHIP** if ordering 4 or more and receive free shipping!



Old COMOMAG Staff
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 TO EXCEL

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 I'M TELLIN' YA

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 MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY GROUP
 2536 FOURTH ST. NAVSTA ANNEX
 N. CHARLESTON, SC 29418-6171



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

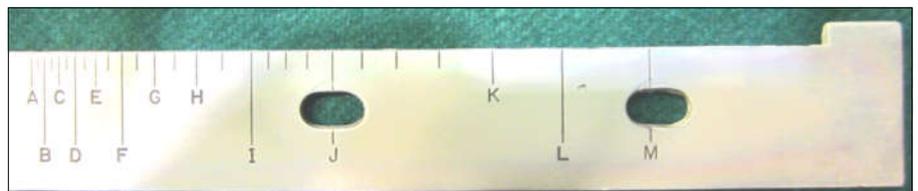
USNR MNCM
Master Chief Mineman
 Ward Daniel R 001
 Blessing Bria 002
USNR MNCS
Senior Chief Mineman
 Landers Kevin 001
 Stratford Rus 002
 Long Ryan Rus 003
 Imoehl James 004
 Krouse Andrea 005
 Paskwietz Dan 006
 Alford Christ 007



Reading the Dashpot article on the 50 year closing stimulated my memory. After we closed down the mine facilities, those of us that were left went to main-side to finish out the closure. There were only a handful of us MN left at NOF by then. Something was left on Azuma that needed to be retrieved. So on to the Mike boat for a ride out four of us went: Mike Meyers, Steve Monroe, myself and a fourth I can't remember (maybe Al Bauer). So we four were the last MN standing to leave Azuma.

Bob Defrees, U. S Navy, Retired

**DON'T Forget to pay your
 AOM dues . ONLY \$15 . and
 Keep getting your DASHPOT**



All retirees, The following message is sent on behalf of **Arlington National Cemetery**.



As a military retiree, your input is requested to help determine the future of Arlington National Cemetery. Military and civilian leaders are facing difficult decisions as they work to preserve Arlington National Cemetery as the shrine to the nation's heroes and history. With limited space for expansion, eligibility rules are being considered to extend the site's role as an active military cemetery for decades to come.

Your input is important and can help shape the future of Arlington National Cemetery. The eligibility survey is available now at:

www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey.

You can learn more about Arlington National Cemetery by visiting www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.



**Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 510519
Punta Gorda, FL 33951**

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Association of Minemen

1974 - 2018

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____

DATE _____ EMAIL _____

TEL _____ SIGNATURE _____

ELEGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

Application Fee: \$5.00 - Annual Dues: \$15.00 - NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues must be paid annually by the month of October. The dues expiration date is printed on the mailing label above your name. Mail checks to the Association of Minemen, P.O. Box 510519, Punta Gorda, FL 33951