



The DASHPOT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

In This Issue:

- 2016 Reunion in Review
- Minemen of the Year 2016
- MIW Programs
- Fleet News
- Taps
- Sea Stories
- History

New Dashpot Editor

Our Dashpot Editorship has changed hands and the pen was passed from Don Healer to Ron Swart. An AOM member since 1980, Ron has held a variety of positions in our organization. He has an abiding interest in our Navy's Mine Warfare Forces and the Mineman Rate in particular. Our collective thanks to Don for picking up the task of producing the Dashpot after Bill Fortner's untimely passing.

NOTABLE QUOTABLE

We have lost control of the seas to a nation without a navy, using pre-World War I weapons, laid by vessels that were utilized at the time of the birth of Christ,"

Rear Admiral Allen E. "Hoke" Smith, CTF-95 , Wonsan, Korea, 1950



From The President



Happy 2017!! I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season with your loved ones, and that you haven't been affected too badly by recent weather patterns. Progress is being made for the 2017 reunion in San Diego, and I am excited! Despite the bad weather during the 2016 reunion, we had a great turnout. There were a few new faces, but some "regulars" were unable to attend. We did keep everyone in our thoughts. I'm sure by now you all have learned that our ratings have been restored. I was pleasantly surprised that our voices were heard after all. I would like to think that MCPON Giordano had a hand in it. In any case, I continue to be proud of my rating, and the men and women with whom I have served. We manage to make due with what we are given, and what we are given is often outdated and/or non-functional. We continue to be the jack of all trades as well as the unsung heroes. Mine Warfare is not sexy. Never has been and likely will never be. I meet Sailors that say they didn't know Minemen still existed, and strangely, that makes me proud.

Lay 'em and leave 'em.

Tracey



*"In wine, there is wisdom.
In beer, there is freedom.
In water, there is bacteria."*

Ben Franklin



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

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

Vice President

John Epps (14-17)
231 Silverwood Ct.
Richland, WA 99352
Ph.509-627-0671
mncm@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer

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

Board of Directors

Danny Epperly, (15-17)
123 Yorkshire Dr.
Yorktown, VA 23693
Ph.757-870-1376
depperly1@verizon.net

Eddy Atkins (15-17)
117 Quart Meeting House Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1851
Ph.757-565-3333
weatkins@cox.net

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

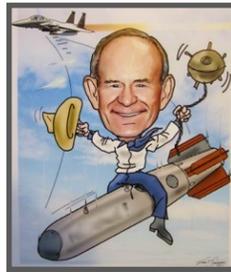
G. Paul Santa Maria (17-18)
228 Kiwi Dr.
Barefoot Bay, FL 32976
Ph.772-584-0037
gpaulsm@juno.com

Dashpot Editor

Ron Swart (16-)
305 Fairview Dr. Canton, GA 30114
Ph.678-880-9008
swartre1@comcast.net

For Dashpot input please send to:
dashpot-editor@comcast.net

From the Editor



Welcome to 2017! It took some time for me to build up enough nerve to take on the Dashpot, given the excellent work of the Editors that preceded me. Our Dashpot newsletter was preceded by a typed letter that included meeting minutes as well as many of the same columns we have today. This was usually written by the Secretary or the President. My thanks to Foxy Fisher, Lyal Stryker, Jim Longway, Toby Horn and perhaps others you may remember, who got this started. Once the newsletter officially became "The Dashpot", it was guided by the very capable talents of Toby Horn, Fred Dane, John Loonam, Bill Fortner and Don Healer who set a very high Editorial bar for me. I'd also like to give a shout out to Derick Hartshorn for his excellent coverage of Mineman News through his web-based newsletter. Those of you who are on-line, may see some article duplication in the Dashpot for the benefit of our members who don't have computer access. One of my first challenges will be finding our audience, given the aging of our core active membership, the expansion of the Mineman rate to include MCM duties, and the relegation of COMOMAG staff to an 'advisory only' capacity, with mine shop management having been subsumed by the Navy Munitions Command (NMC). What do you want to see in The Dashpot of 2017 and beyond? I'll use this first issue under my pen to give it a shot. But, please don't be shy. Let me know what sort of news and information, (or 'constructive' advice) you would like to read about. I'll do my best to get it in print. That is all I have for this issue. Enjoy!

**2017 NAVAL MINE WARFARE
ESSAY CONTEST**

The Challenge:

Address the strategic, operational, and tactical demands for 21st-Century Navy mine warfare—mine counter measures, mining—technologies, systems and platforms, explosive ordnance disposal. Examine the promise of autonomous and unmanned vehicles. Consider the difficulties of delivering capable and affordable solutions to the fleet.

Prizes:

First Prize:

\$1,500

Second Prize:

\$750

Third Prize:

\$500.



Deadline: 28 February 2017
Word Length: 3,000 word max
Submit to: essay@usni.org

Winners will be announced in the May 2017 issue of Naval Institute Proceedings.

**Hey y'all, I no longer need
to repaint the crow on my
Mineman Nutcracker!
It's a Good Day!**



2016 AOM Reunion and Membership Meeting

It was a challenging reunion this year with Hurricane Matthew roaring up the East coast. Many potential attendees stayed home and others had to leave early to protect their homes and property making this reunion one of the lowest in attendees we've had in a long time. To add to the challenges, Mike & Nancy Femrite hit a deer in North Carolina on their way to Williamsburg and were forced to turn around for home. Some of our stalwarts, Toby & Janie Horn couldn't come due to his recent surgery and Curtis Christian couldn't get a release from his physicians to attend. President Tracey Hays called the membership meeting to order, read last year's minutes and the Treasurer's Report as submitted by Mike Femrite:

TREASURER'S REPORT 2016

CASH: \$59,118.65

SCHOLARSHIP FUND : \$16,085.10

SANTA MARIA SCH FUND: \$20,876.93

2016 DUES: \$2,770.00

HISTORY BOOK: \$4,751.55

STORE KEEPER: \$4,657.00

JACKETS (5) \$ 571.78

EXPENSES 2016

SCHOLARSHIPS \$3,000.00

DASHPOT \$647.90

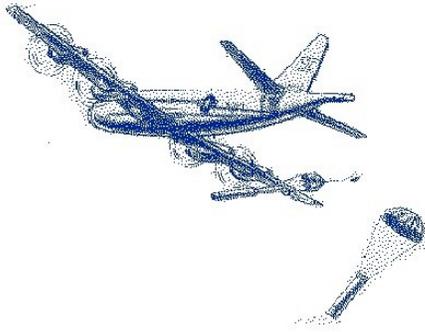
Submitted by: Michael D Femrite, Treasurer

There didn't appear to be any old business recorded by Eddie Atkins, who took the minutes. The Scholarship Committee Report (page 7) was read by Ron Glasen and the Storekeeper Report was read by President Hays (page 19). New business included discussion on replacement of the AOM "Bravo Flag" that was lost in shipment. The 2017 AOM Reunion will be held in San Diego, CA at the renovated Point Loma Holiday Inn. Warren Savage is working the contract and details so keep your eyes peeled for more information as it comes available. Mayport/Jacksonville FL, as homeport to the Atlantic Littoral Combat Ship squadrons, was suggested for the 2018 Reunion. If approved, it would be our first reunion in that location.

With Toby on the "binnacle list" Dick & Sue Schommer handled the auctioneer duties, with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. Bob Hart, our Chaplain for the past many years, is stepping down and we need a replacement. The Chaplain duties, among others, keep us apprised of Minemen and their families that have passed on from this life to the next. Volunteers are needed so if you are so moved, here is an opportunity to serve. The other open position, DASHPOT Editor, has since been filled by Ron Swart. The membership meeting discussion on the Dashpot and other social media brought up several Face Book pages, including USNAVY MINEMEN, COLDWAR MINEMEN and STRAIGHT STICK MINEMEN that invite past and present Minemen to join. The Mineman credential verification process to join these social websites seems to be through other member's verification (rather than service school graduation used by the AOM). *Editor's Note: With such a large gap between our long retired Minemen membership and those who serve in our Navy today, Swart will have to be very creative in order to make the DASHPOT appealing to all.*

Speaking of Minemen, there was a lively discussion regarding the elimination of traditional ratings, which were replaced with letter and number designations. The Mineman Rate was to be identified as Occupational Code C160. Sailors addressed as "Petty Officer" rather than by their former rate. Man-Overboard drills would not be as much fun without the 1MC announcing that IC2 Balls fell overboard... (sigh*). Fortunately the Navy changed its mind. We were fortunate that CDR Lorensen made the trip for this reunion from his home in Denmark, and was happy to stand in as the keynote speaker for the annual dinner. Derick Hartshorn reported that correspondence from members can be posted on his Minemen News website for those who are digitally enabled. The Minemen of the Year selectees for 2016 were announced (see the centerfold and no, the Award will not become known as the C160 of the Year). Finally, it was reported that the AOM has sponsored a plaque on the WWII Memorial in Washington DC.

Naval Mining



There seems to be plenty of interest in Mine Warfare from the Secretary of Defense on down, and that includes research and development funding for sea mines. What is coming down the pipe? Below is a brief summary of how the funding is being applied and what the goals and objectives for mine improvement are at present.

In-service Mine Systems

Submarine Launched Mobile Mine (SLMM) Mk 67
– no upgrades planned

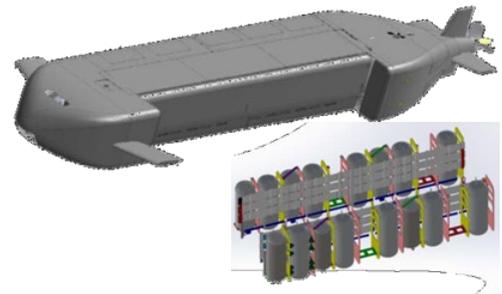
Quickstrike (QS) Mk 62/63/65 Air Delivered Mines

- Target Detecting Device (TDD) upgrades ongoing
- Precision aerial standoff delivery being demonstrated



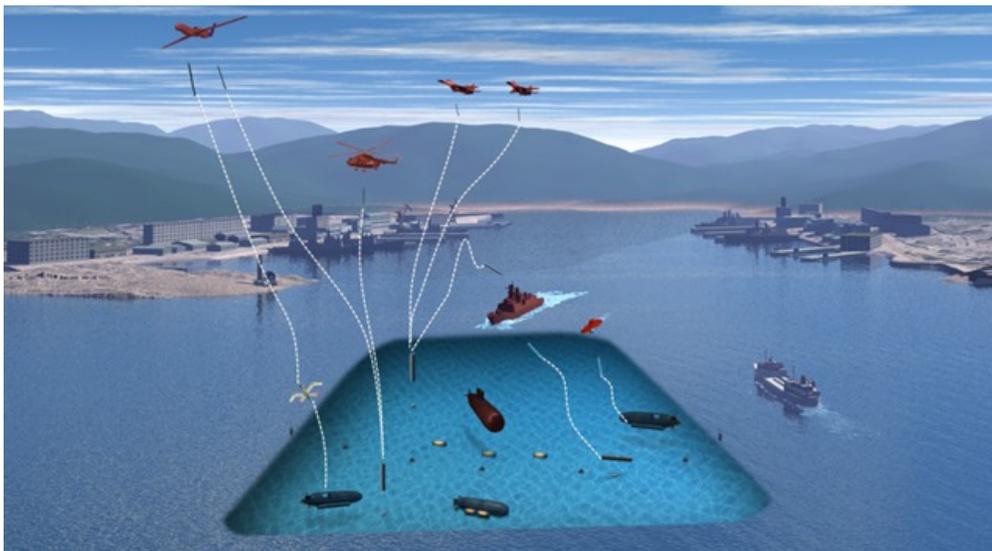
Clandestine Delivered Mine (CDM)

- Repackaged MK 67 SLMM warhead for unmanned vehicle delivery
- Military Utility Assessment scheduled for 4QFY17
- Remote Control is in development and will be integrated on CDM



Advanced mining

- Strong Fleet Demand Signal
- Multiple efforts (ONR Future Naval Capabilities & rapid prototyping) to develop future program of record
- Goal: distributed, integrated network of undersea sensors and effects



Mine Countermeasures Programs

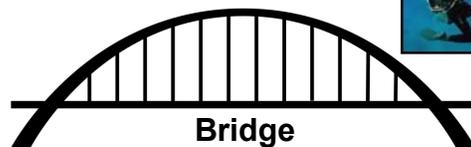
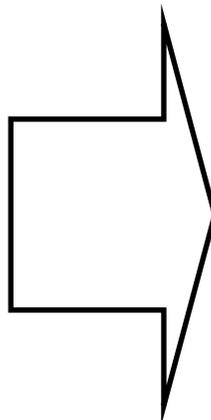


Because thousands of sea mines are in the inventory of just about every country with a waterfront, Mine Countermeasures remains high on the list of capabilities our Navy requires. Speeding up the mine clearance timeline is imperative to allow our naval forces the maneuvering space needed to conduct their operations. The below graphic depicts where we are today and where MCM needs to be in the future.

Current Force Systems



Future Force Systems



- EXMCM Capabilities
- Targeted Sensor Upgrades
- Expanded Force Experimentation
- Operational Assessment of MCM Mission Package
- Initial LCS Deployment with MCM Systems

MCM VISION:

1. *Reduce MCM timelines for Combatant Commanders*
2. *Reduce risk from sea mines to allow Joint Force mission execution*

Mine Warfare Headlines in Brief



President Trump's Military Priorities:

1. End the defense sequester and submit a new budget to Congress outlining a plan to rebuild our military.
2. Develop a state-of-the-art missile defense system to protect against missile-based attacks from states like Iran and North Korea.
3. Make it a priority to develop defensive and offensive cyber capabilities at our U.S. Cyber Command.

The White House post on "America First Foreign Policy":

1. Defeating ISIS and other radical Islamic terror groups will be our highest priority.
2. Rebuild the American military. Our Navy has shrunk from more than 500 ships in 1991 to 275 in 2016. Our Air Force is roughly one third smaller than in 1991.

Message from the Department of Defense : It's good to be back and I'm grateful to serve alongside you as Secretary of Defense. Together with the Intelligence Community we are the sentinels and guardians of our nation. We need only look to you, the uniformed and civilian members of the Department and your families, to see the fundamental unity of our country. You represent an America committed to the common good; an America that is never complacent about defending its freedoms; and an America that remains a steady beacon of hope for all mankind. Every action we take will be designed to ensure our military is ready to fight today and in the future. Recognizing that no nation is secure without friends, we will work with the State Department to strengthen our alliances. Further, we are devoted to gaining full value from every taxpayer dollar spent on defense, thereby earning the trust of Congress and the American people. I am confident you will do your part. I pledge to you I'll do my best as your Secretary.

MATTIS SENDS

Navy leaders have formally approved the creation of a new group organized to oversee the service's mine warfare initiatives, including development of the problem-plagued Littoral Combat Ship mine countermeasures mission package. The "**Mine Warfare Governance Council**" charter was signed out by Rear Adm. Mike Manazir, the deputy chief of naval operations for warfare systems (N9), and Vice Adm. David Johnson, the principal military deputy to the Navy's acquisition chief. Manazir and Johnson will co-chair the council's executive steering group, the highest level of the new council, according to the charter.

Polish Commander Aleksander Urbanowicz assumed command of Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Group Two (SNMCMG2) on 17 January during a ceremony at Naval Base Swinoujscie in Poland. (no...I didn't make up the spelling of these names...Ed.)

Navy declares Initial Operational Capability for New Airborne Anti-Mine Systems: The two systems - the Northrop Grumman Airborne Laser Mine Detection System (ALMDS) and the Raytheon Airborne Mine Neutralization System (AMNS) will be tested aboard the Littoral Combat Ship in 2017 to allow sailors to work with the new capabilities in operational environments.

The Sea Floor May Be Terrain for Future Warfare, A builder of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) is looking at the sea floor a future battlefield of naval warfare according to an article by Richard R. Burgess, in Seapower Magazine, 9 Nov 16 <http://seapowermagazine.org/stories/20161109-seabed.html>. (**ahHEM**...we Minemen have known that for a very long time! If you have ever wondered why most of the news is about Mine Countermeasures, consider that much of the updates on undersea mine development are classified and not available for public release. I'll continue to publish any mine-related news that is allowed. There is a lot going on behind the curtains. Ed.)

2016 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the Scholarship Committee awarded 4 AOM Scholarships. Congratulations to the following students who were selected this year:

Dominic Apugliese	University of South Florida
Ryan Glasen	Purdue University
Allyssa Ostrowski	Clemson University
Gianna Trillo	Suny Oneonta College

Each scholarship was worth \$750 and totaled \$3,000 in awards this year. For comparison, this was 8 fewer applications than last year. We saw increases in scholarship awards in 2013 through 2015. As with most years, all applicants this year were recent high school graduates on their way to higher education or were currently enrolled in college. Of the 9 applications received, four students received scholarships, six applicants were past award recipients, and three were first time applicants. Five of the applications were unfortunately rejected due to a failure to follow the application guidelines. Future applicants are encouraged to closely follow the rules and guidelines available on our Association website to ensure their application is considered. Since 1996 the Association of Minemen has awarded 215 scholarships totaling \$142,000. Your Scholarship Committee, Curtis Christian, Robert Stancik, and myself, want to thank you for your past support and ask for your continued support in 2017 and in future years. Your financial donations will be a welcome shot in the arm, enabling us to continue supporting worthy student applicants. Please help continue the proud tradition of the Association of Minemen Scholarship Awards Program. Thank you!

Ron Glasen, Scholarship Chairman



USS PIONEER MCM 9

Reunion Booklets

The 2015 Reno reunion booklets are available through Storekeeper Tracey Hays for \$20. 34 pages of reunion memories in color laser print.. Orders for the Yorktown/Williamsburg 2016 reunion booklet were taken at portrait time. If interested in that issue, also contact Tracey Hays.



My name is MN2 Marcos Gressette and I am currently serving in the United States Navy Reserves. During my time in the reserves I was given the privilege of being activated to work with COMCMRON7 located in Sasebo, Japan for 10 months. During that time I was assigned to the USS Pioneer (MCM 9) to assist with INSURV preparations. Being aboard Pioneer on its first voyage after being non-operational for so long was an interesting experience and the crew aboard Pioneer were very professional and knowledgeable about their ship systems. I will always be grateful for all of the support I received from COMCMRON7 and the crew aboard Pioneer during the process of obtaining my Surface Warfare Pin especially since not every reserve Mineman gets the same opportunity. During my time with COMCMRON7 I acted as a Mine Warfare Environmental Database Aid Library (MEDAL) operator in South Korea during operation Clear Horizon. Clear Horizon was a multinational joint exercise that worked alongside the Republic of Korea's Minesweepers and our Minesweepers. Through this exercise we were able to pinpoint areas of improvement for our Minesweepers as well as build international relations between our ROK allies. Through my experience dealing with the different nationalities of Minesweepers as well as our very own I have gained a great deal of knowledge and appreciation for what we do as Minemen. I would also like to thank everyone from my reserve unit LCS MCM Mayport for allowing me to take on this mission and supporting me to become a more effective asset to the Littoral Combat Ship Enterprise.



A bit of Mineman History

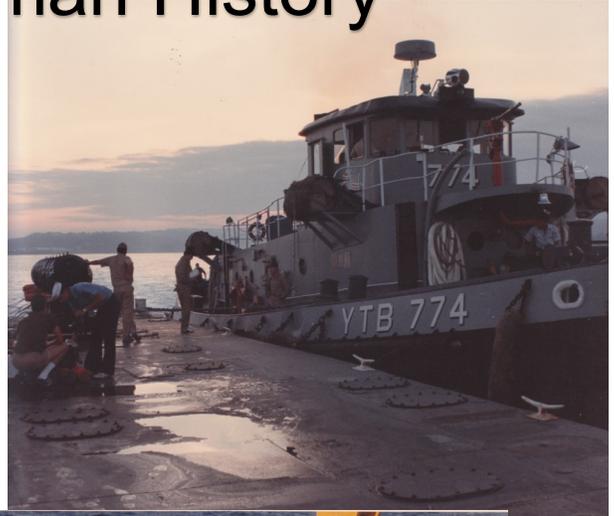
Early September 1987, MOMAG Unit Nine, Subic Bay, Philippines was tasked to build and lay Mk 6 mechanical sweep mine shapes and Mk 52 laying mines in support of COMINEGRU One, Seattle, WA. Three minesweepers: USS Esteem (MSO 438), USS Enhance (MSO 437) and USS Conquest (MSO 488) were steaming under the enhanced tow of USS Barbour County (LST 195) to the Persian Gulf, tasked with conducting mine clearance for our deployed Fifth Fleet forces.

A fueling stop in Subic Bay offered the last opportunity for upkeep and a chance to practice minesweeping and hunting operations before meeting the enemy's mines. The Mk 6 mine shapes were painted black for realism and set to moor shallow (8-15 ft) to represent the expected threat. The Mk 52 laying mines were also painted to represent live rounds (OD).

On 1 October, all mine shapes were loaded on a YC barge fitted with 4X4 lumber rails and angle iron (no WWII mine rails were available), made up to a YTB harbor tug and then steamed to the designated exercise area adjacent to Morong Village outside of the entrance to Subic Bay.

Minelaying at 5 knots reminded the Sailors that Minemen had been laying Mk 6 mines since 1917...70 years at that point in time. Two of the MSO's spent the next three days practicing for their upcoming mission as though their lives depended upon it. (USS Conquest was delayed in Hawaii and did not participate).

This MINEX became a standing requirement for all Pacific MCM forces before final deployment to the Gulf.



It's SEA STORY time !!!

by LCDR Phil Dechene (USN/LDO/MN Ret.)

So hike up your trouser legs and grab a cup o' Joe



1960 Soviet Soldier Rescue

This is not a story about mines or one that directly involved Minemen; however Minemen were ship's company on board the USS Kearsarge CVS-33 and witnessed the rescue of Soviet Soldiers at sea in March of 1960.

CVS-33's Weapons Department was made up of a collection of MN's, TM's and AO's. It's obvious that there would be TM's and AO's on board an Anti-Submarine Aircraft Carrier. However, the Minemen were there because at that time the Navy did not have enough personnel to man the Torpedo and Special Weapons Divisions on the carriers.

I reported to the Kearsarge at her home port in Long Beach, Ca. a week or so before we got underway in September, 1959 for a six month Westpac deployment. I was assigned to the Torpedo Division for a few weeks until my clearance was upgraded and then I was transferred to the Special Weapons Division.

Other than being diverted to Nagoya Japan to provide aid and rescue to the population that had been decimated by a typhoon the deployment was routine. We operated independently, exercised with other USN and foreign fleet units, and visited the usual Westpac Ports. In March of 1960 we were happy that we had departed Yokosuka and were headed home.

Several days from Yokosuka we were underway on a calm sea and everything was relaxed with the crew performing the routine duties aboard a ship that was headed for her home port. Then over the 1MC it was announced to begin flight operations. That seemed odd to me as I had been on the flight deck a few hours before and the only aircraft there was a U-controlled model airplane being flown by a couple of sailors. (It was the only plane crash that I ever observed on a carrier.) Then the ship's vibrations increased as we increased speed and she leaned over as we changed course and headed into the wind.

The word came down that we had launched two S2F Tracker aircraft and that a disabled vessel had been spotted on the horizon. I had a second locker in the Torpedo Division spaces where I stored my movie camera. (We were not allowed to bring cameras down in the Special Weapon living spaces.) I got my camera and headed for the 07 level. That's the deck level on the Island Superstructure where, when we had time, we would go to watch flight operations. Some called it "The Goule's Roust" because they claimed that we were there waiting for a crash. Something like NASCAR I guess.

It was not long after I had arrived at the 07 level we had come to a full stop and off our port beam was a rusty LCM bobbing in the ocean. We were at least 1000 miles from the nearest land.

There were people on the LCM and they were waving to us and the two helicopters that had just been launched. (It turned out they were Russian soldiers and the LCM was probably part of the Lend-Lease program of WWII.) Our signalmen began using semi fore signals to try and communicate with the members of the LCM. One of the crewmen on the LCM began to move his arms like he was signaling back, but as it turned out he was just mimicking our signalman.

After a few more unsuccessful attempts to communicate using a couple of different Russian dialects the helicopters went in and picked up the LCM crewmembers.

When they came aboard they needed little assistance getting off of the helicopters and running across the flight deck to the island, and I assume down to sickbay. I remember they were wearing a winter cap with a red star on the front.

We were told later that they were on maneuvers in the Kurile Islands. While going from one island to another they had engine failure and drifted out to sea. They had been at sea for over 40 days and had drifted for more than 1000 miles.

We got underway, recovered all our aircraft and headed east leaving the LCM bobbing in the Pacific where we found it. At least that is as I saw it when I left the "Ghoul's Roust". The next day there was a story going around the ship that shortly after the LCM disappeared over the horizon an S2F, loaded with rockets, was launched. A while later it was recovered missing the rockets. It does make some sense. It would have been more efficient if we had sunk the LCM with one of the 5 inches; however there would have been a lot of photos and movies of us sinking a Soviet vessel. As it is maybe the USS Kearsarge and its air wing was the only US Navy ship that sank a Soviet vessel during the cold war.

Because we had the Russians on board our first port in the USA was changed from our home port of Long Beach to San Francisco. Apparently, because a Russian Embassy was located there.

My story does not end here as an incident that occurred in North Africa in 1943 is relevant.

In March of 1943 a B24 bomber "The Lady Be Good" got lost returning from its first mission over Italy. The bomber flew deep into the desert, ran out of fuel, and crashed. The crew bailed out and all but one found each other and started to walk across the desert.

It was not until the late 1950's members of a British oil company discovered the wreckage of "The Lady Be Good". From that discovery a search began for the remains of the crew and all but one was found. Two of the members had kept diaries and it indicated that they all died a few days after the crash. This all became news about the same time the Kearsarge saved the Russian soldiers. The discovery of the "The Lady Be Good" and the Russian Soldier's rescue were in Life Magazine.

Nikita Khrushchev was the leader of the Soviet Union in 1960 and he sent a thank you letter to the USS Kearsarge; however in the news he took advantage of the discovery of the B24 crew's plight to compare their American survival skills to that of his far superior Soviet Soldiers. I believe that because of the B-24 incident these Russian Soldiers were received in Russia as heroes instead of being ignored or worse. Timing is everything.

The following WEB Site has an article about the rescue of the Soviet Soldiers: <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/uss-kearsarge-rescues-soviet-soldiers-1960.html> Google: "The Lady Be Good" and you will find several WEB Sites on the subject.

Mineman of the Year 2016 (SEA)



MN1 (SW) Adam R. Fleener, USN

Mineman First Class Fleener was born December 20, 1983 at Saint John's Hospital in Oxnard, California. At the time, his father, Adam Fleener, was finishing his Naval enlistment as a Hull Technician Second Class. Over the course of the next 18 years, he moved from Oxnard to Paso Robles CA. He graduated from Paso Robles High School in 2002 where he excelled on the football field, earning all state accolades, as well as a member of the baseball team earning a full scholarship to California State University of Northridge. During his college career Petty Officer Fleener transferred schools to Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN where he finished his college baseball career and earned 125 college credits. After returning home from Nashville, he began working in an oil field in San Ardo, CA. Starting out as a technician, he worked his way up to project management, where he managed over 30 trucks, with 98 personal working directly under his supervision. Petty Officer Fleener met his wife and the two of them moved to Sacramento, CA where he followed in his families footsteps and joined the NAVY, reporting to Great Lakes IL for boot camp in May 2012.



After graduating Basic Military Training, he was ordered to Mineman "A" school where he graduated at the top of his class with a 99% grade average. His stellar performance led to his automatic promotion to Petty Officer Third Class shortly after reporting to his first command, MCM Crew Fearless stationed in San Diego, CA. After completing AN/SLQ-48 operator and Mineman Boatswain mate "C" schools in 2013, he reported onboard the USS DEX-TROUS, forward deployed in Bahrain. During his time with MCM Crew Fearless Petty Officer Fleener received a NAM, various unit citations, and was meritoriously advanced to Second Class Petty Officer under the Command Advancement Program.

MN1 Fleener is currently serving on board USS PIONEER (MCM-9), forward deployed to Sasebo Japan. Proving to be a Sailor willing to take on any responsibility and challenge, he has overhauled the 3M program for ER09/OI01 as Work Center Supervisor, supervises 10 personnel in Combat Division as the LPO, manages 21 work centers as the Command 3MA and is a vital asset to the Combat Systems Training Team, Damage Control Training Team and Anti-Terrorism Training Team.

MN1 Fleener recently finished his Associates of Arts in General Studies from American Military University. His personal awards include the Navy Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal and various other service and campaign awards.

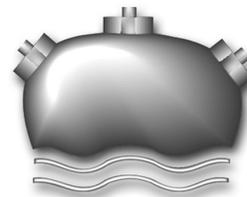
Mineman of the Year 2016 (Shore)



MN1 (SW) Donald L. Moore, USN

Mineman First Class, Donald L. Moore was born October 12, 1987 in Chicago, IL. He graduated from Simeon Career Academy in May 2005. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL for three years and joined the U.S. Navy, attending basic training in Great Lakes, IL in January 2009. Following Basic Training he attended Apprenticeship Technical Training in Great Lakes, IL before moving on to Mineman "A" School in San Diego, CA. His first duty assignment was with MCM Crew Reaper, home-ported at Naval Base San Diego, CA. He served there from October 2009 to March 2014.

After his initial sea duty assignment, Petty Officer Moore transferred to Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division Unit Misawa in April 2014, where he currently serves in a 'Khaki' capacity as the Mine Production Officer. In addition to the fourteen Sailors under his charge, his responsibilities include the maintenance of all mines and assembly level equipment.



His academic achievements include an Associates of Arts from the University of Maryland College, Enlisted Professional Military Education, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Administration from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL.

His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), Good Conduct Medal (two awards), Letter of Commendation form RTC, GW-Terrorism expeditionary and service medal, and the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Insignia.

He is married to the former Jami L. Nolberto of Chicago, Illinois. Together they have two children, Donald Moore III (9) and James Moore (1).

Mineman of the Year 2016 (Reserve)



MN1 Robert Cortez III

NR MOMAU 1

Seal Beach CA.

MN1 Cortez was born in Oxnard, California on 20 April, 1987. His father, Robert, is a construction worker for the city of Simi Valley, CA and his mother, Ronnette, is an insurance agent. He attended Rio Mesa High School in Oxnard and graduated 2005 with overall G.P.A. of 3.6. MN1 Cortez was involved in student government and was Sargent at Arms for the student body on his senior year. He ran varsity cross-country and varsity track throughout his high school career.

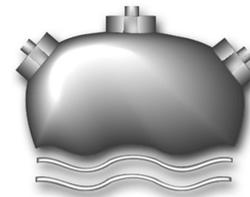
While going to college for sign language interpreting, he felt he want to do something more with his life and decided to join the U.S. Navy in 4 May 2006. He attended the Navy Training Center Command, Great Lakes, for Basic Training, and was assigned to division 242. He was assigned as education petty officer for his unit and ensured that his division passed all their navy knowledge tests. He went to Mineman "A" School in Ingleside, TX in November 2006 and graduated February 2007. After graduating from Mineman "A" school, he went back to California and was discharged to become a reservist, drilling for NR MOMAU 1, Seal Beach, CA. In 2010, MN1 Cortez participated in a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as an Individual Augmentee (IA), where he was assigned to detainee operations. While there he received an Army Accommodation medal for his service.

After his deployment in 2010, MN1 got accepted into the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program at Moorpark College, CA. He graduated in May of 2013 with Associates Degree. To enhance his continuing education MN1 Cortez completed internships in the process of seeking out a career working with marine mammals, while fulfilling his commitment to the naval reserves.

In July of 2014, MN1 Cortez attended career counselor school. He continues to ensure that every member with career progression questions or issues is resolved in a timely manner, while training other MOMAU's from around the U.S. in quarterly builds. He continues to excel and flourish in all that he assignments and tasking's. Currently MN1 Cortez mentors 21 members from NR MOMAU 1. He is in charge of making sure all documentation is completed for multi-unit training evolutions, and commits to an extra three days minimum every quarter to ensure everything is prepared for other NR MOMAU unit training evolutions with NR MOMAU 1. In addition to ensuring proper preparation steps are taken, MN1 Cortez also acts as quality assurance/ safety officer (QA/SO) and instills his knowledge and experience into the training of visiting units.

MN1 Cortez's dedication to his role within NR MOMAU 1 was instrumental when he was the only quality assurance trained inspector during annual training in 2016. During the Mine Readiness Command Inspection (MRCI), he served as the quality assurance inspector for the instillation of tail section as well as the programming and instillation of target detection devices for the MK62, 63 and 65 mine assembly. His actions helped secure a 100% mine readiness evaluation on the MRCI inspection.

MN1 Cortez is successful in his civilian life, as well. He currently works for SAIC as a Marine Mammal Assistant Trainer II where he provides support to the Navy Marine Mammal Program. He also graduated in May of 2016 with Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Southern New Hampshire University.



MN 'A' SCHOOL CLASS PHOTOS



Do you know the Class Numbers and Dates? Recognize any Shipmates ?



AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET



By MN1(AW) Courtney Crank

Greetings from the Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division Unit Seal Beach, Underwater Weapons Department in sunny California! With the winter festivities calling, UWD showed high Esprit de Corps with each other and their families. Here's a look at what we've been up to...



~MISSION UPDATES~

With the single minded determination that Minemen have, NMC Seal Beach has steadfastly maintained mission readiness throughout the fleet, shipping over 500 exercise mine shapes and applicable equipment in support of multiple exercises, and performing maintenance and refurbishment of 66 additional shapes to those shipped.

~UNIT CAMARADERIE~

The holiday spirit soared high throughout the command. UWD sought to include Sailors and their families in the festive cheer. Throwing aside all abandon, NMC Seal Beach hosted a Holiday Extravaganza in the mine production bay, with White Elephant, home cooked meals, Ugly Sweater contest, and sea stories for all...family friendly versions, of course!



~HAIL AND FAREWELL~

MNC Tassej, MN1 Crank, MN1 Dzansi, MN2 Bengé, MN2 Hochmuth, MN3 Perkins, and MNSN Ruiz have found and won their way into the heart of NMC Seal Beach. Welcome Aboard, Shipmates!

But with every new face, we must say farewell to another. Fair winds and following seas to our brethren, MN1 Dashek and MN2 Hasse. Your next command is lucky to have you!

AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division, Unit Misawa, Japan



Comanding Officer
LCDR Jeffrey A. Motichka



Executive Officer
CWO3 George O. Cumings



NMC Unit Misawa



First Class Mess

From left to right:
PO1(AW) Kaela Diaz,
PO1 (SW) David Boulier,
PO1(SW) Daniel Chaboya,
PO1(SW) Lemuel Holston,
PO1(AW/SW) Willie Brigman,
PO1(AW) Austin Bordon,
PO1(SW) Douglas Reynolds,
PO1(SW) Eric Pierre,
PO1(SW) Donald Moore.



CPO Miguel Torres presented with Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his service as NMC EAD Unit Misawa's Senior Enlisted Leader and MAO.



MN1(SW) Donald Moore
NMC SOQ 4th Quarter FY16, SOY
and **2016 Mineman of the Year.**



PO2(AW/SW) Nathelie Sanon
NMC's Junior SOQ 4th Quarter FY-16

This was submitted before ratings came back and I was not sure who were MN so I didn't change captions from PO. Ed.



The Binnacle List



Tom Hoffman sends:

To all my friends and those interested:

February 5th, at The University of Michigan Hospital, I spent about seven hours on the operating table for cancer. I was sent home after three days. On May 16th I returned for my first 6 month check up. The results were no cancer cells located.

I was scheduled again for my next 6 month check up on Monday, November 14th, a couple days ago. I spent a full day having test given to me. The doctor, Alon Weizer, checked me out physically and said I was in great shape BP 114/68 Pulse 79 Temp 98.1. My blood work was all normal except for Glucose that was a little high. Damn those Whoppers and Hershey Bars I have been eating daily. He said as soon as my results came back from radiologist he'd send me the results.

Needless to say I was nervous waiting. At 8:45am this morning I received an email on my U of M Portal from Doctor Weizer. NO CANCER OR CANCER CELLS LOCATED. This doctor is fabulous and I would recommend him to anyone. I thank God for Dr. Weizer.



I had the pleasure to speak with **Curtis Christian** recently. He wanted to pass along that he is "still kicking" and misses everyone. He was in good spirits and said he hopes to hang on long enough to "retire at 20 years". I have no doubt that he will. He has two hospice nurses visiting daily, so I'm betting that Mary is keeping a close watch on Curtis, if for no other reason. Please keep Curtis and Mary in your thoughts and prayers as they fight this battle. He welcomes your cards and calls. You may send greetings to:

9071 Delancey Circle, North Charleston, SC 29406

Or give him a short call: 843-818-1169





Taps



James "Jim" Donald Cernick

Jim, our AOM Historian for many years, passed away at his home in Prospect, OR from a heart attack. Jim retired as a Mineman First Class Petty Officer, after serving 22 years with the United States Navy. He was a submarine-launched mobile mine technician, as well as a mine hunting sonar set maintenance technician. Jim was a small arms and marksmanship instructor and received other achievements and awards. Jim was a very talented Mineman and served a tour at the EOD School house as the resident mine expert.

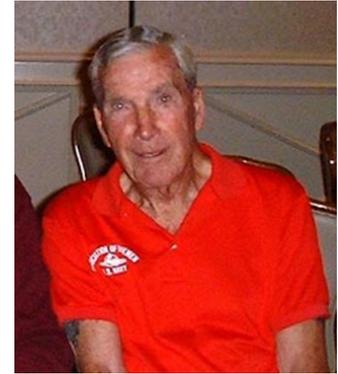
Jim leaves behind his parents, Carl and Valrae Siebiecht, his wife, Fiona Macleod; their son, Lewis Cernick; four brothers and two sisters, John Cernick, Dean Cernick, Stewart Cernick, Steven Cernick, Carla Brancato, and Camille Siebiecht. and many nieces and nephews. Services were held October 9, 2016 at the Eagle Point National Cemetery, Eagle Point, OR.

*Remembering Mineman #1
Forrest "Foxy" Fisher
First USN Mineman*



CWO-4 John D. Bartleson Jr

Virginia Beach - Known by his friends, neighbors, fellow Lodge brothers, and servicemen as "Bart" CWO-4 John Douglas Bartleson Jr, USN Retired, age 80 passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 12th. He is survived by his wife Kay, daughter's Ann, Pat and Lori, son's John and Mike, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Born in Ft. Myers, FL. John was an avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout in his youth. Preferring fishing, swimming, and camping to book work, he enlisted in the Navy in 1954 as a diver and Mineman before transferring to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). During his 30 year career, Bart made several contributions to the EOD community, authoring a 60 Series Civil Ordnance EOD publication, participating in the clearance of ordnance from the Suez Canal, serving as the first Navy EOD Exchange Office to the British EOD Scholl, and obtaining recognition as Navy's Master Blaster for having the longest consecutive EOD service. He is a Plank Owner of EODGRP 2, Ft. Story, VA where he retired in December 1984. He will be greatly missed by his family, neighbors, community, lodge brothers and service members. His memorial service was held Sat., Oct. 29th at 3p.m. at Willis Fentress Lodge, VA. Beach, VA 23464



MNCM Fredrick A. Reid

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of one our most senior members, Fredrick A. "Freddy" REID, 90, of Louisville, died Tuesday September 27, 2016, at Baptist Health, after a brief illness. His immediate family and close friends were at his bedside. Born in New Haven, KY, he was a Master Chief Mineman, U.S. Navy, retired, having served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He was also a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church. Fred was preceded in death by his wife, Millicent "Millie" Spanyer Reid, who passed away in April of 2015; and a son, Stephen Reid. He is survived by his daughter, Linda Knox (William); his son, Commander James "Jim" Reid (Joy); daughter-in-law, Melissa Reid; sisters, Louise Dant, Catherine Sheckarski, and Roberta Brinker; his brother, Edmund Reid; grandchildren, Robert Knox, Christopher Lindfors, and Shannon, John, Jennifer, Peter, and Michael Reid; and great-grandchildren, Sophia, Rhys, Abigail, Hunter, and Audrey. His funeral Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 1, 2016 at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, Louisville, KY. Expressions of condolence may be sent to Fred's son, Jim at: **Jim Reid, 209 Esperanza Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601**



Taps



Jeanie Bell McGlamery Whitener, 77, of Goose Creek, SC, died Friday, December 9, 2016. Her funeral service was held Tuesday, December 13, 2016 in the J. Henry Stuhr, Inc., Northwoods Chapel. Jeanie was born April 23, 1939 in Bainbridge, GA, daughter of the late Paul Alonzo McGlamery and the late Rose Lee Hunt McGlamery. She was a life insurance agent for Gulf Life.

She is survived by her husband, Sr. Chief Mine- man Michael Whitener, USN (Ret.); children: Glen- na Bush of Goose Creek, SC, Richard Godbey (Christina Kennedy) of Bryceville, FL and Jennifer Stiles (Steve) of Las Vegas, NV; stepdaughters: Christy Smith, Elaine Whitener and Donna Whiten- er all of Goose Creek, SC; grandchildren: Shane Bush, Jessie Gesmond, Larken Godbey, Sterling Godbey, Styles Carter, Jordyn Godbey, Morgan Berluti, Michael Whitener, Krai Treadway, Dalton and Dylan Martin; great-grandchildren: Paige God- bey, Paxton Godbey, Jade Bell Godbey, Zach Carter, Devlin and Michael Thomas Whitener; sis- ters, Alma Hart of Bainbridge, GA and Ann Smith (Bill) of Ocala, FL.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Jimmy McGlamery and Paul McGlamery.



MNCM Otto George Smith, USN (Retired), 80, of Summerville, SC, died October 26, 2016. His memorial service was held Saturday, Octo- ber 29, 2016 in the J. Henry Stuhr, Inc., North- woods Chapel. Otto was born March 23, 1936 in Alliance, NE, son of the late Otto John Smith and Belle Green Smith.

Otto was a retired Master Chief in the US Navy with 27 1/2 years. His last duty station was Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center. Charleston, SC. He is survived by two daugh- ters, Sherri Smith Tahaei of Summerville, SC and Amy Louise Smith Morton of Merritt Island, FL; four sons: Ricky Lee Smith of Summerville, SC, Mark (Elana) Smith of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Scott Duane Smith of L'Anse, MI; Drs. Alan Wayne and Rebecca Smith of Greenville, SC; 18 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Evert W. (Judy) Smith of Alliance, NE; two sisters, Della Mae Smith Sanchez of Alli- ance, NE and Genevive Smith Wyatt of Lincoln, NE.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Pamela Smith and his daughter, Cynthia Marie Smith.



Editor's Note: We're looking for a replacement **Association Chaplain** for Bob Hart who has served us all as our Chaplain for many years. If the Spirit moves you and you'd like to serve in this capacity, you would help us all keep track of our members who have passed or are currently ill and in need of our support. To volunteer, please email President MNCM Tracey Hays at: Tracey.Ann.Hays@gmail.com. Thank you.

AOM Miscellany

Name that Mineman

We're trying to identify the Mineman who was selected from the audience to be a Price is Right TV Game Show contestant... The selected Chief Petty Officer was asked by host, Drew Cary (twice) what he did in the Navy and the Chief stated that he was a Minemen. We don't know his last name, but his first name was Justin according to his name tag, and he is married with two children.



One of our most distinguished AOM members (and an honorary member at that), CDR Jorgen Strange Lorenzen, RDN (Ret.), attended our 2016 Reunion at Williamsburg. He keeps in touch with us on a frequent basis, keeping us informed about his activities in Denmark. One the few remaining Danish Resistance fighters, he attends nearly all World War II memorial ceremonies and is recognized as one of Denmark's most distinguished WWII veterans. CDR Lorenzen asked that his letters to me be shared with the membership. The first letter contains some of the photos he took during the reunion. This letter has been placed on its own [web page](#). Another letter illustrates the memorials he recently attended. Since the text is in Danish, you might want to try your skills at "Google Translate."

The **MSDS** for the Anti-Fouling Compound used in Anchor Mk 1 and Mk 2 for mines Mk 56 and Mk 57 is digitally available for anyone needing it. Please contact the Dashpot Editor at: Dashpot-Editor@comcast.net



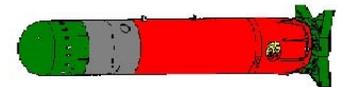
The "Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers" plaque is awarded in recognition of those Sailors who have served as a Mineman (MN Rating) from the beginning of their Navy service, for a minimum of 25 years Active Duty.

To be recognized for this award, the following information must be submitted:

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

Mail requests for recognition to:
R. Schommer, 827 N. Aylesbury Rd,
Goose Creek, SC 29445
-or- email to rschommer@bellsouth.net.

Please allow 30 to 45 days for the plaque to arrive by mail.



Name This Mineman



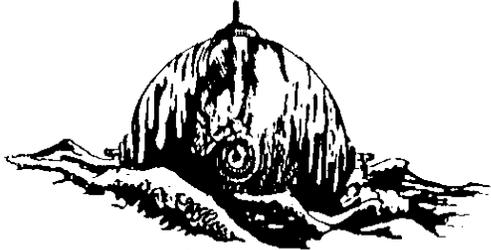
Former mine magazine tunnels in Sasebo Japan are still being used today



**DASHPOT SPRING 2017
ISSUE #91 DEADLINE
Please submit your input by
April 14, 2017**

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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Punta Gorda, FL
NO. 270
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Association of Minemen
1974 - 2017

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

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