

The DASH POT

Issue 16

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

WINTER 1996



FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Warren Savage

I want to thank everyone for their assistance in making 1996 a very good year for the Association of Minemen (AOM). Many activities went well through the efforts of our officers and members; active, reserve, retired and civilian. Again a hearty thanks and well done to one and all.

We say thanks and farewell to RADM Pearson, a supporter of the AOM and wish him well in his retirement.

A hearty welcome aboard to RADM Conley as we look forward to a good working relationship during his tour as COMINEWARCOM.

The scholarship program is alive and doing well. Five recipients were each awarded a \$500.00 scholarship. Our membership is our most important commodity; we happily welcome all new members and also those that have renewed their affiliation. Thank you for your continuous commitment. Our 1996 Reunion in Panama City was well attended and truly a time of camaraderie, renewal and opportunity to have fun.

We look forward to 1997 as a

Please See President Page 2

INDEX

Committee Reports	4
Editor's Column	3
Full Force News	5
e-mail	11
Mailbag	3
Secretary's Report	2
Taps	11



AOM

COMINEWARCOM change of command

The Foc'sle 10/18/96

RADM John D. Pearson was relieved by RADM Dennis R. Conley as Commander Mine Warfare Command. on board USS Inchon MCS 12. RADM Conley past Flag assignments have been Commander Amphibious Force, US seventh Fleet and Commander Amphibious Group One, and as Deputy Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division in the Office of deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessments). RADM Pearson retired. The guest speaker was VADM Douglas J. Katz, Commander Naval Surface Force, US Atlantic Fleet. "You have overseen the restructuring and reorganization of the Mine Warfare Force.", Said Kate, "This Navy and this nation owe you an incredible debt of gratitude for getting mine warfare back on the tip of the spear." RADM Conley said "As a force, we will work together to improve our readiness and expand our capabilities." Conley added that while we can look for new equipment and techniques to improve how the force operates, its the Sailors who make up the team that will make the difference. He said "Teamwork is paramount. Take care of each other. Together, we will have a bright future, and I'm delighted to be on the team."

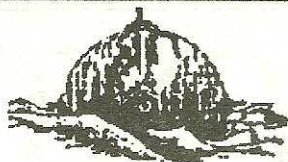
SAN DIEGO AUG 8-10 '97 23rd Annual Reunion

The reunion order blank and planned schedule will be in the Spring and Summer issues. For the you early birds bidding on vacation time or super saver flight reservations here is the outline as we know it from Jim Miller and Jerry Chipman. The Handlery Hotel and Resort located off I-8 in Mission Valley (near Old Town) with a group rate of \$69.00 for single or double. The rates apply 3 days before to 3 days after the event. Rate includes city hotel tax of 10 1/2%, complimentary continental breakfast, airport transportation, and use of swimming and tennis facilities. Reservations 1-800-676-6567 must be made by 7/7/97

LCDR John Iwaniec has reserved use of the golf course at ADM Baker recreation facility on Friday 8 August and picnic area on Sunday.

San Diego is world known as a vacation spot with a host of attractions to entertain you and your family.





**ASSOCIATION OF
MINEMEN
DEDICATED TO SERVING
THE
U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE**

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, 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.

PRESIDENT

Warren Savage (95-98)
10331 Settle Road
Santee, CA 92071
(619) 258-1478
FAX (619) 258-0652

VICE PRESIDENT

Joe A. Balderrama (95-98)
Rt 3, Box 237C Forest Drive
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 261-7222

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Lyal M. Stryker (96-97)
8517 Deerwood Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406-9713
(803) 553-1450
FAX 803-569-6913

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William L. Carlson (95-98)
1925 Pilgrim Ave
Bronx, NY 10461
L. R. (Bob) Forbes (96-99)
1 Newark Ave
Goose Creek, SC 29445
John F. Loonam (94-97)
10033 Indian Rd
Gloucester, VA 23061-2830
William A. Roberts (94-97)
687 Aleida Dr
St Augustine, FL 32086
Horace L. (Buddy) Stewart (96-99)
4628 Yardley Drive
Charleston SC 29405
CDR Ron Swart (95-98)
5125 Cavendish Dr
Corpus Christi, TX 78413

PARLIMENTARIAN (96-97)

Donald A. Decrona
2320 Wide Horizon Dr.
Reno, NV 89509-5079

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (96-97)

John Loonam
10033 Indian Rd
Gloucester VA 23061-2830
(804) 693-2094 Phone/FAX
(9AM-11PM)

President. Continued from page 1

building year as well as looking forward to our 23rd annual reunion that will be held at the Handlery Hotel and Resort in San Diego, CA. This hotel was selected to house our reunion as well as most of our annual function and activities. Located at 950 Hotel Circle North in San Diego just minutes from San Diego International Airport (Linberg Field) in the heart of Mission Valley.

The 23rd AOM Reunion is being planned and operated by a local San Diego nucleus team headed by **Jim Miller, Bill Bash and Jerry Chipman**, along with **LCDR John Iwaniec, CO MOMAU One, Seal Beach**. We are eagerly looking forward to this event as one to be truly remembered. The planned golf endeavor as well as the picnic and auction will be held at Admiral Baker recreational Facility located near the hotel complex. We are looking forward to making this truly a family oriented function that enhances networking and camaraderie.

Initial plans are presently being formulated for the 24th AOM Annual Reunion scheduled for August 8-10 1998 in Charleston, SC. **Lyal Stryker and Toby Horn** have formed a nucleus of the reunion committee and have started preliminary work on this endeavor.

We are using the DASHPOT to keep everyone up to speed on areas of interest such as the reunions, scholarships, mine museums, current events and the history book status as well as the well being and location of our membership.

I extend to one and all the Happiest of Holidays and a New Year of joy and fulfillment. best wishes to all.

Warren

**Have you asked a friend to
join?**

Secretary's Corner

Lyal Stryker



Not too much to report at this time. We still receive an occasional dues from members, unfortunately there are still many who are in arrears.

Please remember that if your address label on this Dashpot does not show a 1997 or higher then our records show you are in arrears. If our records are incorrect then please let us know so that we can correct them. We plan to do the annual purge of our mail list in January and will delete all addresses that have a dues paid date of 1995 or lower. And please remember that our dues year runs from August through the following July which means if your label shows a 1996 it means you were paid up through August 1996 and now owe dues to pay you up through August 1997. This dues year was approved a few years ago to coincide with the annual reunion registration form that also includes a space for sending in your dues.

RUNION BOOK for the Panama City reunion should be mailed out in January. The reunion book committee here in Charleston has received the package from the publisher and are in the process of putting all the pictures in the proper places. Thanks to those of you that sent in photos, especially **Steve and Bonnie Howars** who sent all their negatives. Anyone wanting to order a reunion book can contact Reunions, Inc. at 1-800-327-8010. Their address is: Reunions Inc., 2098 Sprint Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703. Mention Event No. 96-1237, Mineman Association, U.S. Navy.

**Paid your '97 dues yet?
They were due in August
Please Send your check in
today**

Address changes to the
Secretary/Treasurer
Please provide 9 digit ZIP

EDITOR

by John Ioonam

Where's the Minemen??

We wonder why many members are failing to renew their membership and why more active duty personnel don't join?? As the Charter reads, we exist only for Mine Warfare and Minemen. At the Panama City reunion, CDR **Ron Swart** and entourage of staff and representatives of various commands dropped in to say hello at the picnic. A few of the non-Minemen remarked "Wow this is something! A whole community that stays banded together and gathers once a year." Think of it MN everywhere, you belong! one hitch or retired. All are welcome. Some lasting friendships are re-kindled or developed through these annual events. Send in your application or renewal **today**. Your personal participation will be appreciated!

Toby Horn faxed us a few pages of humor for fill in. You will see some as space allows. such as:

Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat, thinking that somewhere, someone out there is having a better time than you are?

There are three kinds of people:
Those that make things happen
Those that watch things happen
Those that wonder what happened.

NOTE

Articles submitted are printed without verification and are as perceived by the author. Editing by the Dashpot (to reduce space) is for length not content. The AOM does not assume responsibility, accuracy or authorship on submitted articles.

Is your activity represented in this issue? We'd print it.

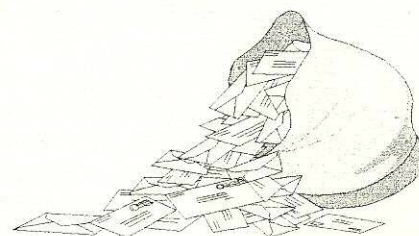
1997 Dues are past due. Send your check for \$10 to the Secretary /Treasurer. Year on your mailing lable indicates dues are paid through August of that year. Dues notices are not mailed to members .

CONGRATULATIONS !!

John (Opie) and Kitty Opocensky, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 14, 1996 at the Oaks Country Club in Goose Creek with 65 people, friends and family. Out of town guests include **Max Chilcott**, best man, from Hawthorne, Nevada; **Mrs. Edna Williams**, mother-of-the-bride, from Petersburg, Virginia; **Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reid** from Louisville, Kentucky; **Mr. and Mrs. W.R.Carter** from Leitchfields, Kentucky; **Ms. Barbara Eckert** from Louisville, Kentucky; **Mr. and Mrs. Les Getchell** from Brunswick, Georgia; and **Mrs. Linda Chamock** and her daughters from Brunswick. The celebration was given by their children, **Cheryl Gillyard** of Ocala, Florida; **Joe Opocensky** of Tucson, Arizona and **Betty Crosby** of Summerville.

And to **Lee and Polly Engberg** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 12, 1996 given by their children. There were 60 friends and relatives to help make it a glorious occasion. After the celebration they took a trip to Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Enjoyed seeing San Juan Islands and Butchart Gardens in the spring. They also wrote to say they were sorry to miss the reunion but were at a family reunion in Virginia for **Polly's** 94 year old mother and two

Contribute your memories to the History Book

Mailbag

Following are abbreviated notes received from members when sending in their dues, orders, etc.:

Lew Dickerson wrote to say that he had talked to **Bob Lattanzi** following the Panama City Reunion and sorry they didn't make it but August is to early for them to return to Florida. Noted he would be celebrating his 84th birthday soon and hoped to receive the Mineman History Book within the next ten years. Next year Lew, honest.

Billy Gates sent in his back dues and regretted it being late. Also noted in the last Dashpot we listed names of "lost members" and requested anyone having their address to forward it to us. **Billy** said his wife **Misuzu** was in Yokosuka Japan last July and talked with **W.C. Holloway**, whose address **Billy** sent us.

Grady and Shirley Teague sent a note with their dues to tell us they wished they could have made the reunion, but with their jobs and their children spread so far and wide it is hard to plan so many trips. They hope to see us next year.

Received a very nice letter from **LCDR Tim Paton**, Commanding Officer of **MOMAG Unit Eight** Guam. Apologized for letting his dues fall so far in arrears and enclosed a generous check to pay his back dues and through August 1998. Tim said he knew he could have just sent in \$15.00 to get up to date but would feel like he cheated the Association out of

Please see **Mailbag** Page 4

Committee Reports

History

Lyal Stryker

Toby Horn and Lyal Stryker have received some inputs describing some of their more memorable experiences as a Mineman. THANKS ! BUT WE NEED MORE now, ESPECIALLY FROM YOU OLD Minemen from WWII. Received a nice two page article from MNM Tom Beasley telling of his trip in 1943 to the Gilbert Islands aboard the USS Terror, CM-5. Tom said they loaded everything on the Terror, mines, test equipment, tents, etc. Watch for the entire story in the History Book due out early next year. We are committed to submitting the last material by March 31, 1997, so please get your memories to us as soon as possible. In the last Dashpot we asked for specific information about some of the antics attributed to Minemen. We did get a reply from Harold "Josh" Keeran concerning the train borrowed in Japan plus one about a fire engine used for transportation returning from liberty. THE TRAIN - credit goes to John Tapscott for this daring deed. Seems that after a rousing liberty in Yokohama, John decided to take (literally) a train back to Yokosuka. After a short debate with the engineer it was decided that he (the engineer) would stay on the platform and John would tend the train. John, being in a gracious mood, decided that since the passengers were on board and had paid, they could go along. After getting up to speed and settling in for the ride, the wiley Tapscott thought it might prove prudent to stop somewhere short of the main rail station in Yokosuka to effect a more agreeable outcome to the trip. After having made a clean get-away there was nothing left to do but bask in the glory of being (temporarily) number one in the never ending contest of who was the craziest inmate of Azuma Island, A.K.A "BAKA SHIMA".

The fire engine rescue story next Dashpot.

Mailbag from Page 3

rightful earnings. THANKS TIM, just wish more members felt that way. Tim also requested a replacement membership card, said it seems he misplaced it or maybe just wore it out using it to obtain free drinks at local drinking establishments around the world. Said he and the family are fine and looking forward to returning to Corpus Christi next summer. Everything in Guam going well with the exception of Typhoon Dale which had just blown through.

Honorary Mineman Jorgen Lorenzen from Denmark wrote to tell us of his continuing battle with the Danish Revenue Service. (Reads like an IRS horror story!). Seems like the courts have ruled in his favor but not awarded and monetary compensation for his legal fees and lost revenue and excess taxes he paid. His efforts have however apparently caused the Danish Government to change the revenue law. Jorgen had called me prior to the reunion in Panama City to let me know he would not be able to make the reunion due to the tax problems he had with the Danish Government plus other problems such as a flight due to our Olympics

in Atlanta. He will spend Christmas with his 40 year old twin boys. Both he and Aase are looking forward to Christmas this year. He and Aase hope to come to the states next year and hopefully for the reunion in San Diego.

Received a Christmasgram from Pate and Cliff Credle in North Carolina. Were going to take a cruise to Alaska but Cliff had to have a gall bladder operation so they canceled and plan to take a cruise to the Caribbean February 1997. Three hurricanes visited them this fall, Bertha and Fran did a lot of damage but the third one was of no significance. They are looking forward to having family home for Christmas.

Also received a Christmasgram from Ron and Masako Swart. Ron said he was sending it out early because they were going north to Minnesota to spend Christmas with family. Also said Masako is nervous about the snow and ice. Daughter Kumi will drive up with them and son David will fly in from Groton where he is stationed on the USS Trepang, a fast attack submarine. Ron has been traveling a lot this year and looks forward to spending the holidays with family.



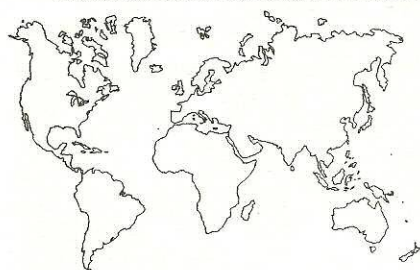
NJROTC Unit Walterboro High School

MNCS Rick Spofford, Ret sent in this photo of his Unit that participated in the USS Yorktown Mine Museum Display field day last summer. Toby Horn described their outstanding efforts in the Fall issue.

Left to right:

C/CPO Rachael Carter - Platoon Mustering Chief, C/ENS Ben Williams, Asst Supply Officer, C/SA Melissa Winningham, C/ENS Mychal Wright - 1st LT, C/LT Gerald Beach, XO, C/PO2 Denise Strickland, Squad Leader, C/CPO Armando Martinez, Platoon Mustering Chief, MNCS Rick Spofford, Associate Naval science Instructor, C/CPO Scott Horsley, Platoon Mustering Chief, C/LTjg Ron Wertz, Operations Officer, C/CPO Raven Siders, Squad Leader

■ FULL FORCE NEWS



COMOMAG

CDR Ron Swart

COMOMAG

CDR Ron Swart

Inspections: Bravo Zulu to MOMAU 3 Colts Neck NJ, MOMAU 5 Sigonella, MOMAU 14 Yorktown VA and MOMAU 15 Kingsville TX on their highly successful Admin-Material Inspections.

A few retirements and Fleet

Reserve transfers:

(I may have missed a few, if so, write to the "Dashpot" and let us know.)

CWO4 John Sandoval, NWS Yorktown VA

MNCM Cliff Bombard, MOMAU 5

MNCS Juan Delgado, MOMAU 15

MN1 Richard Bassak, MOMAU 11

Charleston SC

A few upcoming CY 1997
Retirements: There are a lot more. I'll try to keep this updated each quarter...

CWO4 Joe "Little Joe" Harris, CO MOMAU 15

CWO3 Ray Farraro, XO MOMAU 8 Guam

CWO3 Ben Butler, COMOMAG Corpus Christi TX

CWO3 Mark Scott, SIMA San Diego CA

MNCS Chuck Lewis, COMOMAG

MNC Scott Caswell, MOMAU 14

MNC Roy McGinnis, MOMAU 3

MNC Carlee Meyers, MOMAU 3

MNC Jim Phillips, MOMAU 3

MNC Bob Kessel, MOMAU 5

MN1 Roy Willey, MOMAU 14

MN1 Patrick Rapley, MOMAU 12

Misawa JA

MN1 Randy Coben, MOMAU 3

MN1 Mark Demery, MOMAU 10

Kadena JA

MN2 David Boyd, MOMAU 11 Charleston SC

Upcoming transfers: The list of transfers each quarter is very large, so here are a few:

Captain Craig Sackett, from Chief of Staff, COMINEWARCOM to USDAO Madrid Spain

LT (Sel) Theresa Wright from Operations department COMOMAG staff to XO MOMAU 10

MNCM Ali Fross, from MOMAU 10 to Naval Brig Charleston SC

MNCS John Nahra, from MOMAU 1 Seal Beach CA to COMINEWARCOM N9 Minefield Planning department

MNC Dave Patton from COMINEWARCOM staff to MOMAU 5

MNC Keith Taylor from MOMAU 14 to MOMAU 3

MNC Leeann Baker from NS Orlando to MOMAU 14

MNC J. W. Tandy From MWTC Ingleside to MOMAU 3

MNC Kevin King from MOMAU 5 to Regional Support Group Ingleside

MN1 Ciccarello from MOMAU 5 to MOMAU 1

MN1 King from MOMAU 15 to MOMAU 1

Welcome Aboard: Again there are a lot of transfers, so I'll name a few of those who recently reported aboard...

Captain Brian Dewey, Chief of Staff, COMINEWARCOM

CDR Will Dixon, CINCPACFLT Pearl Harbor HI

MNCS Chuck Lewis, COMOMAG Staff

MNCM "Arnie" Helgersen,

COMOMAG Staff

MNCS Clint Chacanaca, MOMAU 15

MNCS Bruce Howard, MOMAU 5

MNCS Bob Hill, CSS Panama City FL

MN1 Dave Vanetten, MOMAU 14

MN2 Sharlene Walker, MOMAU 12

Advancements and Promotions:

Bravo Zulu !!!

Captain Bill Shannon,

COMINEWARCOM N3

LCDR Tim Patton, CO Unit 8

LCDR (Sel) Mike McAdams, CO Unit 11

LCDR (Sel) Ed Simmons, CO Unit 12

LCDR (Sel) John Iwaniec, CO Unit 1

MN1 James Adams, Unit 12

MN1 Tim Hickman, Unit 15

MN1 Rich Hormann, USS Chief

MCM-14

MN1 Richard Lewis,

MINEWARTRACEN Ingleside

MN1 Steve McLaughlin, USS

Blackhawk MHC 58

MN1 Greg Williams USS Scout

MCM 8

MN2 Keith Jacobson, USS Herron

MHC 52

MN2 Gary Keeney, Unit 14

MN2 James Lanfair, USS

Blackhawk

MN2 Matt O'Connel, USS Sentry

MCM 3

MN2 Maurice Perine, USS

Champion MCM 4

MN2 Sean Potter, USS Devestator

MCM 6

MN2 Jason Reinhart, USS

Maryland SSBN 738

MN2 Rickey Robinson, USS Scout

MN2 Steve Themins, USS Scout

MN3 Mike Anderson, Unit 11

MN3 Don Briggs, Unit 8

MN3 Andrea Dussault, Unit 14

MN3 Gary Fernandez, USS

Gladiator MCM 11

MN3 Karl Garst, USS Scout

MN3 Matt Hatlevig, USS Defender

MCM 2

MN3 Bert Henry, Unit 15

MN3 Daniel James, Unit 12

MN3 Steffan Kichta, Unit 8

MN3 Jerimy Logue, Unit 11

MN3 Brad Potts, USS Sentry

MN3 Amy Powers, NWS Yorktown

MN3 Wendy Sims, Unit 5

Hot Projects at the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence:

At the direction of CINCLANTFLT and COMINEWARCOM, COMOMAG is studying the privatization of MOMAU 15 Kingsville TX. The study will include analysis of future exercise mine requirements in the Corpus Christi-Ingleside OPAREA. What jobs at this unit can be privatized and what must stay military. Movement of the unit from Kingsville to Ingleside,

COMOMAG from Page 5

and the cost effectiveness of all options. The results should prove interesting and will have a long lasting impact on the future of COMOMAG.

The Navy will conduct an efficiency review of COMINEWARCOM, including all subordinate commands (I.E. COMOMAG) to determine if the billets match the mission in the most efficient way.

The drawdown of Mine MK 60 (Captor) and Mine MK 56 inventories starting in FY 98 is in the planning process. Excess quantities of Captor (Quantities above the fleet requirements) will be laid up at Hawthorne starting this coming January.

COMINEWARCOM continues their study for the most efficient reorganization, which may include standing up another MCMRON (3) at Ingleside.

Preparations are underway for the first deployment of the USS Inchon MSC 12 to "EURO-97" this spring, where she will participate in a series of NATO exercises. There will be an AMCM detachment embarked and she will escort and provide support for several Mine Countermeasures ships from Ingleside.

Chief's List July 1996

MN1 John M. Bray, Unit 8 (Wes Keith's son-in law)
 MN1 Kirby A. Brown, COMOMAG
 MN1 Keith Brieno, Unit 12 also
 COMINEWARCOM Sailor of the Year 1996
 MN1 Bruce A. Haway, Readiness Support Group Ingleside

MN1 Kevin B. King, Unit 5
 MN1 Donald Kiper, USS Scout
 MN1 Kimberly A McGoldrick, Unit 10, fourth lady MNC
 MN1 James W. Tandy, Unit 3
 MN1 Thomas Watson, OPTEVFOR

FY97 ACTIVE E-8/9 SELECTION BOARD RESULTS

Bupers internet

(MNCS)

Darnold, Frank.....Dearing, Gregory
 Hosea, Mark M Nahra, John A
 Thanscheidt M

(MNCM)

Reeve, John T

Reserve

(MNCS)

Bays, Jan L Harding, Irvin
 Niemitalo, Gle Stegge, Robert

MOMAU ONE, Seal Beach

by LCDR (sel) John Iwaniec

Things here at Unit One have been going outstanding. We are in the final stages of an aggressive training program implemented to PQS certify all hands on our Exercise and Training mines. Certification is particularly important with exercise shapes since there is no formal training at FMWTC for these systems. MK 52/55 Actuation mines, Mk 67 SLMM, Mk 74 VEMS and the Mk 6 are regularly used in the exercise program and receive high visibility. Without some sort of certified training process, How are we to ensure that those working on these systems know what they're doing in order to produce a quality product? We've all heard the old adage, "a thousand Atta Boys " make you a leader of men but one aw — wipes it clean and you start over again. I'll tell ya, we failed a mine exercise once and it weren't pleasant.

Other than that, we have been doing a lot of neat things with the B1B and B2B Bombers and our folks have enjoyed the interface with their Air Force counterparts. Our exercises with the EOD, SPEC WAR, NRAD and Scripps Institute have been very interesting and we have been involved with some of the latest MCM Tactics and research. We continue to manufacture VSW shapes (Very Shallow Water Mines) and I'm always amazed at the resourcefulness of my young sailors, at scrounging materials and then

constructing a remarkable Foreign Mine look alike.

We are extremely proud of Petty Officer Whitmore's selection of the Mineman of the Year for the Association of Minemen. Whitmore has worked in every department that a Mine Shop has to offer and has performed flawlessly. The only responsibility he has not held, is my position as the C.O. but he plans to submit his package in for the LDO/CWO program next summer (if he passes the CPO test) and we wish him the best of luck.

Our Christmas party this year is scheduled for the 12th of Dec. and it looks like were going to do it at the Navy Marine Golf Course. Additionally our friends at the DSEA (Destroyer Escort Association), that adopted us a few years ago, are providing a big Christmas party for Unit One white hats on the 7th of Dec. Festivities include; huge food baskets for the young sailors and their families, dinner donations for couples and Christmas gifts for the kids including Santa. These are truly some wonderful folks. I asked the DSEA folks why they did this for us and the answer was "Because no one did it for us". How about that? DSEA also wanted me to pass on to LT Coral McIntosh a Howdy do and we miss ya.

Noteworthy personnel news: MN1 Lee Whitmore and wife Ligaya have a new baby girl. MN1 Whitmore received a NAM for his selection as Senior Sailor of the Quarter and his selection as the Mineman of the Year. MN3 Livingston Merzier, received a NAM for outstanding performance of duty, He recently transferred to Unit 8. MN2 Sharlene Walker received a Flag Ltr of COM from RADM Pearson for outstanding performance of duty. I was also able to con Petty Officer Walker into staying in the Navy for a couple more years and she recently transferred to Unit 12.

Please see Unit 1 Page 7

The Mineman on the USS Robin MHC 54

CO, LT M.J. Murphy

USS Robin (MHC 54) commissioned 11 May 96 and has only one MN on board. Our lone Mineman, MN2 **Daniel A. Moxley**, has proven himself a valuable asset and a stellar performer.

Petty Officer Moxley's duties have been numerous and are always met with equal enthusiasm and dedication. He is currently the ship's Automated data Processing (ADP) Officer, responsible for maintaining all computers, related equipment and associated software. As the only AN/SLQ-48 Technician on board, his hands have been full with PMS and maintenance, yet he still manages to train subordinates assigned to him.

When the call for help goes out the MN2's hand goes up. Last summer he volunteered for Morale, Welfare and Recreation Officer aiding crew morale through projects such as the recently implemented MWR geedunk sales.

MN2 **Moxley** has also been a strong leader by setting the example through expediently qualifying in Basic Damage Control through Repair Locker Leader during his first few months onboard. He has also qualified on all sonar systems, several CIC watch stations, Officer of the Deck inport and Junior Officer of the Deck underway. He is currently working on OOD underway, Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and Inport Command Duty Officer.

MN2 **Moxley's** hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed earning him two Navy Achievement Medals, one while onboard, as well as the total respect of the entire crew.

News from MOMAG UNIT TEN

by MNC T.J. Kaiser

Commanding Officer LT **M. R. Ledbetter**

1996 has been a banner year for Unit 10. Major inspections completed this year have included 2 MRCIs (100 % scores in all areas),

Explosive Safety Inspection, Department of defense Explosive Safety Board and Field Calibration Activity recertification. We have been involved in numerous highly successful multi-national fleet exercises with Korea, Japan and Thailand. Additionally, additional service weapons systems have been incorporated. Our men and women have trained well and stand by ready to provide the fleet with quality weapons.

Beginning in 1997, we will have a lengthy turnover of personnel. LT **T. Wright** is reporting from COMOMAG to assume a newly established Executive Officer billet. **MNCM Albert Fross** will transfer to the Consolidated Brig, Naval Weapons station, Charleston. He has spent the last two years here at Unit Ten on an involuntary unaccompanied tour and is excited about returning to the Charleston area and his wife and daughters. Due to the promotion of MNC **Kim Goldrick** to her present rank, no replacement is expected, so, MNC **Alan Hipp** will step in and assume the Senior Enlisted (Mine Assembly Officer) job. MN1 **Mark Demery** is retiring 31 Jan 97 following 20 years, 3 months and 12 days of honorable service. He will be truly missed by both Unit 10 and the Mine Warfare Community. **Mark, Barbara, Cory and Kyle** will be settling down in Hannahan, SC. Other personnel transferring are MN1(SS) **Kurt Stauff** to USS Patriot, MN2 **Cynthia Barber**, who has recently earned a Bachelors degree in Psychology, to Naval Security Activity Sigonella and MNSN **James Bridgeford** to Naval security Activity NWS Seal Beach. Personnel incoming include:

MN3 **M. Perine** from USS Champion, MN3 **S. Kerr** from Unit 11, and SN **T. Reed** from FMWTC "A" school

Although the Gate 2 (Moromi District) restrictions have been extended to February 97, Unit personnel are finding other ways to spend their liberty. We have taken first place in both the summer and

first place in both the summer and fall Captains Cup Golf league and third place in the Captains Cup Bowling league.

Other activities being enjoyed were:

Island tour for service members and families sponsored by MNC **Kim McGoldrick** which included Nago Castle, Nago Cherry Park, Pineapple winery, Habu fights and Orion beer factory. Pig roast/luau at Torri beach organized by MN3 **Justin Socey** which included camping over and some outstanding live music. Also, numerous island wide festivals.

People in the Spotlight:

Senior Sailor 1stQ MN1 **Jody Hill**

Junior Sailor 1stQ MNSN **Gregory Spangler**

Senior 2ndQ SK1 **Carzell Thomas**

Junior 2ndQ MNSN **Jeffery Pate**

Senior 3rdQ MN2 **Patrick Haley**

Junior 3rdQ MN3 **Justin Socey**

Ed note: The above report was sent via EMAIL (MN2 **Bill Ramsey**) and arrived at the Dashpot with a cryptic note saying the message was attached and encoded in MIME BASE64. When I put it in Word 6 I thought I was back in crypto school at Little Creek. It took some help from outside sources and downloading the decryption program from the net but finally got it where I could read it. Hope the translation program didn't scramble any names or events.

Toby sends:

Be nice to your kids...they'll choose your nursing home.

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

There are three kinds of people; those who can count and those who can't

Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?

Madness takes its toll...please have exact change.

Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

Department of Redundancy Department

Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Fourteen

The only Captor shop in the world!
unsigned

We've had a lot going on since our last report. Senior Chief **Chacanaca** transferred to Texas and our expertise in making contributions to the DASHPOT went with him. We will do our best to keep all of DASHPOT's readers updated on a regular basis.

There have been many changes in personnel, but these are the most recent ones.

Taking advantage of early retirement were MN1 **Wiley** who will retire to Scotland, MN1 **Tenney** who is now in Iowa and MNC **Caswell** who retired to Pennsylvania.

Transferring out were LT **Davis**, who is now in Corpus Christi, TX with COMOMAG, MN1 **Barton** went to USS Sentry MCM 3 in Texas, MN2 **Starr** to MCM Rotational Crew Echo and MN1 **Epton** to Mine Warfare Training Center as a student.

These people reported in for duty, MN1 **Rollins** from Unit 8, MN1 **Vanetten** from Unit 5 MN3 **Liu** from Unit 10, MN3 **Velas** and MNSA **Caylor** who both reported in fresh out of MN "A" school and our new Commanding Officer LT **Allen** who came to us from the Inspection Group.

We have had several personnel reenlist and they are MNCS **Campbell**, YN2 **Brangers** and just before he transferred MN1 **Epton**.

Now to bring you up to speed on what's happening. While the Weapons Station was cleaning up area outside the restricted area, some demilled Mk 4 Mod 2 mine cases were discovered along with their anchors and some depth charge cases. We got a hold of them before they could be hauled off to the local landfill and some of the better ones will be on display in Corpus Christi and Charleston in the future.

We were successful in both our ADMAT and MRCI much to the relief of the entire crew. The Assist Visit went a long way in preparing us for

the MRCI.

Here's hoping each and everyone of you and your families have a joyous holiday season.

Best wishes from **UNIT FOURTEEN**

Hot off the Press: What's Happening at MOMAU 15

by MNCS Cliff Chacanaca

Howdy! to all of our shipmates and friends around the world. From MOMAU Fifteen herein the heart of the Mine Warfare center of Excellence. Well its been awhile since I have filled you in on our happenings here in Texas, so I hope I don't miss anything or anyone in this letter. We received our FIAT in September for the MK 74 Mod 1 VEMs by CSS Panama City FL. Though we're still not fully qualified to take over the operations, we're excited about the opportunity to provide the fleet with the newest and greatest in exercise mines. We have just completed our ADMAT inspection and passed with a gold star and flying colors, what a relief!! A big THANK YOU to the team for their concern for excellence and recommendations for improvement. MOAUU FIFTEEN is working on putting together the mines museum onboard the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi. If you have any old memorabilia you would like to donate to the museum, we would be more than happy to put it in for display. CWO4 **Harris** will be retiring after 26 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Mine Force on 1 Sept 1997 and will have his retirement ceremony and change of Command in mid June. His expertise and concern for his people will be sorely missed.

On Personnel:

Retiring: MNCS **Juan L. Delgado** was piped overboard on 4 Oct 1996 and was transferred to the Fleet Reserve on 30 Nov 1996

Arrivals: MNCS **Chacanaca** reported 1 June 1996 from Unit 14

From Mine Warfare Training Center OCT/Nov 1996:

MNSN **Gonzales** MNSR **Angle**
MNSR **Carter** MNSA **Opperman**
MNSA **Rexford** MNSR **Reeves**
MNSR **White**

Future Arrivals:

MN1 **Arcand** from USS **Champion**
MCM 4 Mar 97

MN3 **Grant** From **HELMINERON**
FOURTEEN May 97

MN2 **Farr** from MWTC July 97

MN2 **Smith** from MWTC July 97

YN3 **Martinez** from USS **Saipan** June 97

PCS Transfers:

MN2 **Boyles** to MWTC Sep 96

MN2 **Thetford** MWTC Dec 96

Future PCS Transfers:

MN1 **Cernick** to NAVSCOLEOD
Indian Head MD Jan 97

MN2 **Williams** to Naval Hospital
Corpus Christi Feb 97

MN1 **Godeaux** to Al-Jubayl, Saudi
Arabia Feb 97

MN1 **King** to MWTC FFT Unit 1

MN2 **Slater** to MWTC FFT Unit 5

MN3 **Hinton** to Unit 8 May 97

MN2 **Bostic** MWTC FFT USS
Pelican May 97

Advancements:

MN1(AW) **Hickman** advanced on
Sept 96 exam

Awards:

Navy Achievement Medal:

MN1(AW) **Hickman**

MN2(AW) **East**

Good Conduct:

SK1 **Meeks** (second award)

YN3 **Gagne** (first)

MN2 **Bostic** (third)

Senior Sailor of Third Quarter 96:

MN1 **King**

Junior Sailor of Third Quarter 96:

YN3 **Gagne**

Unit Sailor of the Year:

MN1 **Godeaux**

Well I believe that is it. I sure hope I have not forgotten anyone or anything. Anyway 1996 has been a great year and I know 1997 is going to be even better for all of MOMAG. I wish you all the best for 1997 and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. From the dusty trails and majestic mountains (MOUNTAINS! ???) ahhh endless flat lands of Texas, ADIOS AMIGOS and AMIGAS



RADM Tobin retires

Navy Times 7/8/96

RADM Byron E. Tobin Jr. (past COMINELWARCOM) retired as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan. The Admiral was quoted as saying "I have little patience with those who denigrate our Navy. We have had our ups and downs, but we have always responded to the call and we have always prevailed."

News from Ingleside

MCM Rotational Crew Bravo member MN3 **John Halsey** received a letter on Commendation.

Foc'sle 11/15/96

USS Kingfisher MHC 56 arrived at Ingleside for homeporting
20 Ships are now homeported at Ingleside:

USS Inchon, 12 MCM's and 7 MHC's
Afloat Training Group Ingleside Awards

Gold Star in Lieu second Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to MNCS(SW) MNCS(SW) **John E. Babcock**

Fifth Good Conduct Award to MNCS(SW) **Samuel W. Wysong**

USS Patriot on Japanese TV

The mission and capabilities of the USS Patriot MCM 7, commanded by LCDR **Jonathan Kurtz**, was televised to millions of people across Japan as part of a documentary on the U.S.-Japanese security agreement. A demonstration of the ship's mine neutralization vehicle was conducted by the operations officer LTJG **Eric Manfull**, and the sonar technicians, led by MN2 **Ian Weslek**.

Mineman of the Year credentials

Highlights of the winning recommendation

Junior or senior sailor of the quarter 7 times, of year 3 times; at 5 different commands.

MNSN to MN1 in 11 years

Navy Achievement Medal (4), Good Conduct (2), National defense Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon (10)

CO's Ltr of Commendation (3)

Volunteers for off duty projects

Participates in numerous Captain's Cup sports

Community letters of appreciation, youth baseball coach, Active in U.S. Historical Society, PTA

Submitted recommendations and solutions for command procedures improvement. strong leader and qualified instructor of Total Quality Leadership. Developed SOP's increasing the Unit's production efficiency.

Billets held this command (some simultaneous) mine production department, deck supervisor, operations and admin.

Developed a database to enhance efficiency of reoccurring reports

Takes time for one on one training of subordinates including preparation for rating exams. Scored 80 out of 80 on his E-6 exam.

Collateral duties SOP program manager, command career counselor, ADP security staff officer, command professional development board member, command retention team member and coffee mess custodian.

Associate in Arts degree and 117 credit hours toward BS. Recipient of prestigious Presidential Scholarship award.

Cornerstone of the Unit, tasked with more duties and collateral duties than any other member of the command. Manages to perform them all with exceptional results. A rare blend of sincerity and desire to help his shipmates. A front runner at every command he has served.

White Oak Remembered

Washington Post 10/96

Fifty years ago the cornerstone was laid for the administration building at White Oak Navy base in Silver Spring MD (Naval Ordnance Lab where new mines were developed along with other tasks). The Naval Surface Warfare Center's Dahlgren Division White Oak Laboratory celebrated memories and marked an end to the Navy's presence there (closed by BRAC). The ceremony held during the local community (Hillandale) annual Octoberfest united the facility and people of the town. As one attendee stated " This is the last reunion that all the employees of White Oak will ever have." The mission now resides at NCCS Panama City.

Reserve Master Chief Retires

September 21, 1996 MNCM **Sherman H. Buetsch** USNR retired after 30 years service.

Retirement ceremonies were conducted at Naval station Great Lakes where MNCM **Buetsch** was serving with NR Assault Craft Unit One det 1813. After completing Active duty as a nuclear submarine qualified electrician's mate he joined NR MOMAG Det 713 at Great Lakes. The Det changed to MOMAG 1813 and **Buetsch** cross rated to MN1. After numerous deployments to MOMAG Unit 9 he was transferred to NR ACU 1 Det 1813 then to Det 310 Houston making several deployments to MOMAG Unit 5. MNCM **Buetsch** was CO when MOMAG 1813 was disestablished. He is a Professor of technology at Rockland College in his hometown of Rockford, IL.

Continued articles do not appear in this issue. Duties of Officers discontinued due to lack of interest. Available from Secretary.

Navy Mine Expert Finds Naval Weapons Station Yorktown the "Tie that Binds"

Dave Buswell

Past AOM President **Jack Smoot's** profile was released by the Navy Public Affairs Center Norfolk

Yorktown, Va - The observations that "you can't go home again" certainly doesn't apply to the USN Reserve's CWO **Jack Smoot**.

"I never really left the weapons station since I was born there" says **Smoot** For even closer ties, his wife (deceased) was the former **June Wilkins** (retired as the CO's secretary) also born and raised on the station. Both were children of station employees living on base. **Jack** and **June** finished their careers with the Government at Yorktown and settled into retirement in their home in Yorktown.

Jack enlisted in the Navy upon graduation from Poquoson and did electrician mate's duty on the amphibious repair ship *Krishna*. Mustering out in 1948, **Jack** joined the Reserves and started his career as a civilian at the Mine Depot (now NWS Yorktown). **Jack** rose to head the station's quality assurance department management division as a GS13.

The naval reserve saw him advance through the MN enlisted grades to the officer rank of CWO4 and CO of the first MOMAG reserve Det., 1006. "I was on active duty at the Mine Warfare School in Charleston in 1971" recalls **Smoot**, "and became aware of the need for continued Navy reserve readiness in this highly specialized and technical field of Mine warfare. He wrote a memorandum to appropriate authorities in Washington and outlined what he thought such a unit could accomplish.

"Not only did they like my idea," said **Smoot**, "but they asked me to set one up here at NWS and ordered me to be its first Commanding Officer." **Jack** did numerous tours as CO of the Det.

"Our task as a unit is to have every man up-to-date in every respect of the technical aspects of mines and mine warfare and be ready to integrate with the regular Navy should a contingency arise. I can say categorically that we are ready"

Praising NCCS Employees

Coastal Courier 9/20/96

RADM Richard D Williams III, Program Executive Officer for Mine Warfare took time out for a photo op at NCCS Panama City with representatives from the AN/SLQ-48 Mission Package development efforts. The Admiral presented 23 employees letters of commendation for their outstanding contributions to the Surface Mine Countermeasures Program. The MP-3 provides the fleet with the capability to neutralize moored contact and influence mines in place. The program proceeded from preliminary engineering studies to fleet introduction in less than 4 years.

Gender Neutral (men's style) Navy Blue Garrison Cap for all hands.

Washington (NWSA)

The black garrison cap may be worn with Winter Blue and some Service Dress Uniforms. It may not be worn with Service Dress Blue Coat or Service Dress Blue Jumper. Women's winter uniform use is also permitted.

Does fuzzy logic tickle?
Cannot find REALITY.SYS. Universe halted.

Do witches run spell checkers?

Equal opportunity advisor is MN

Foc'sle 9/6/96

MN1(AW) Darrien Ward is the new equal opportunity advisor at Ingleside. Her duties include advisor, trainer and educator, assessor, and change agent. The foundation of the Navy's EO program is education and training.

MWTC sailors recognized

Ltr of Commendation

MN1 William Delaporte

MN1 Craig Born

MN1 John Carman

MN1 David Kirker

MN2 William Nelson

Good Conduct Medal

MNCS Donald Healer

Foc'sle 9/20/96

More MWTC

Navy Achievement Medal

MN2 Richard Lewis

MN2 William Nelson

Letter of Commendation

MN1 David Kirker

Letter of appreciation

MN2 Eric Barlo

MN2 David Lindley

MN1 Craig Born

MN1 John Carman

MN1 Richard Delaporte

MN1 Ray Pendergrass

MN1(SW) Steve Rodgers

MN1 Rita Nicely

MNCS Donald Healer

Foc'sle 10/4/96

MN3 Brad Pettit of the USS *Pioneer* MCM 9 won the Search and Rescue swimming competition with a time of 4:40 for the more than 300-yard swim.

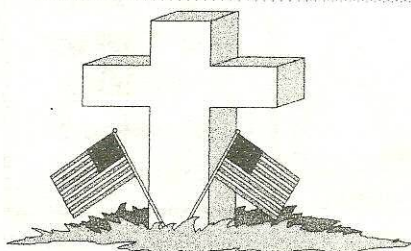
Coastal mine hunter ship *Raven* MHC 61 was christened at Savannah GA is the 11th of 12 Osprey Class ships. Following commissioning in 1997 she will be home ported at Ingleside.

Foc'sle 11/1/96

USS *Osprey* MHC 51 arrived at Ingleside for homeporting.

**Order your Association of Minemen History Book
by contacting the Secretary / Treasurer**

TAPS



Since our last newsletter we have learned of the following members and friends that have passed away. The membership of the Association of Minemen wish to express their sympathy to the families of those departed loved ones who now reside with our Most Supreme Commander:

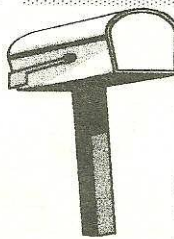
John Kelly, September 2, 1996, Floral City, Florida. John's wife **Doris** wrote to tell us that John was sick for about six months with lung cancer. He had hoped to get to Panama City for the reunion to see some of his old shipmates. **Doris** said he thought of everyone during the reunion. John was buried at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida with full military honors.

MNC Ralph A. Gallatin. Listed in the FRA Naval Affairs magazine October 1996 issue. He was a member of FRA Branch 67.

Frederick R. Brosnahan, October 27, 1996, Emlenton, PA. Reported by **Bill Roberts** who attended MN A School with him. He was an old Hawthorne Mineman. His last duty station was FASRON 110 in San Diego where he was discharged after his first enlistment.

The NAVAL MINE WARFARE ASSOCIATION seeking members. Open to all who served in Mine Warfare-- ships, schools, stations, depots and commands. Sixteenth annual National Convention, Sept 28-Oct 2 '97 The Sands at Reno. contact Jim Minor, Naval Minewarfare Association, 224 Angelus Dr, Salinas, Ca 93906 (408) 449-5352 fax (408)449-5352

LETTERS



AOM everywhere, Forty six years ago this "chicano" from Whittier left his brothers pad on Mulholland Drive to join the Navy and see the world. Some

experiences were good and some not so good. The Southeast Asia conflict and unrest in the US during the early 70's made for some difficult times. But today as I sit on my porch smelling green chilies roasting and watching the balloons of Albuquerque passing in the air, I am proud of my participation and involvement with the Mine Force. As I read in the Dashpot the Mine Force can do their job..

Hernandez Enterprises "Joe", AOM

Gentlemen,

I am enclosing my check for two years dues and a News Release on one of our senior Reserve Minemen. My best wishes to CDR **R. Swart**. I and all the Minemen from the former MOMAG Det 1813 at Great Lakes enjoyed our years deploying to Unit 9 especially during his tenure there.

R.L. Sinnokrak

Phone call from retired reserve Chief **Mathews** out in California saying he worked with **Moose Wheelock** at Unit 9 in '66 and '67 regarding the story in the Summer issue. He also noted the article in the last issue on NCCS buying back MK 6 mines from a disposal contractor. Said he bought 2 of them some time back and has them in his front yard in CA. He said the junk dealer didn't know what they were. He also spoke highly of members of his last reserve assignment: Gunner Cleland, MN CM Bruce Chapman and an MN named Gildersleve.

Phone call from **George Dewey Hogge** telling me that **Don Gadd** retired and **Herb Griffin** was at NCCS. This was in response to dropped members in the last issue.

Association Logo

Paraphernalia (shirts, hats, tie tac, sweat shirts, jackets etc) available. For order blank & prices
Contact **Lyal Stryker** (address P2)

AOM Goes On Line

The e-mail address for The Dashpot (me) is **jloonam@ccsinc.com**

You can send your inputs directly to cyberspace and I'll see if I can catch them on the net. This is a local server and it has to go through some hoops getting back and forth. I have traded messages to att.net and aol.com sometimes they go and sometimes they are returned. ??

Here are a list of sites I know of
AOM President **Warren Savage**
chiefskip@aol.com

William (Bill) Roberts
warjar@@1x.netcom.com

Toby Horn tobyone@ix.netcom.com

Hal Elston haroldelst@aol.com

MN2 Bill Ramsey Unit 10
ramseyb@emh.kadena.af.mil

Earl Roberts tsrz21a@progridy.com

Fred Dane battle@negate.net
mineman web site in Texas
[http://www.ae.utexas.edu/-](http://www.ae.utexas.edu/-industry/mine)

Mineman detailer at bupers MNCS
Rice p406EM@bupers.navy.mil

Naval Historical center homepage:
<http://www.history.navy.mil>

Lots of good stuff on our Navy
Ed. note- We will print your e-mail address one time only, repeats for corrections/changes. Cyberspace jockeys interested in addresses should maintain their own address book.

**NEXT
ARTICLE DUE
DATE
MARCH 10
1997**

Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 71835
Charleston, SC 29415-1835

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charleston SC
NO. 270

ASSOCIATION of MINEMEN
1975--21 YEARS--1996

CHARLESTON SC

San Diego, California
AUG 8-10 '97
Make plans now!



ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P.O. BOX 71835, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29415



I wish to join the Association of Minemen and include payment of \$10.00 membership fee (plus \$5.00 initiation fee).

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/CIV. TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ TELEPHONE # _____

ELIGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

NOTICE !!! To maintain membership, dues of \$10.00 must be paid annually by the month of August.