

# The DASHPOT

Issue 21

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

SPRING 1998



From

## The President

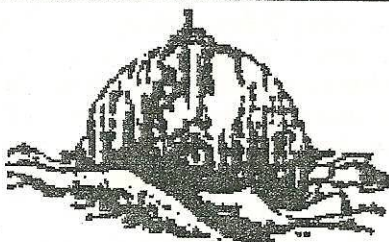
After much layout and design work as well as numerous editing inputs relating to the Minemen Community which comprised over 2,500 photographs, line drawings, cartoons and many other publishable renderings, a final draft has been forwarded to Taylor Publishing. At Taylor Publishing, they are in the process of turning the final blue lines into our long awaited "Minemen's History Book". We in the Association of Minemen owe many thanks to all of those who have contributed articles and pictures as well as a other items but most of all we owe much gratitude to the unselfishness giving of untold hours and expertise to **Toby Horn** and **Lyal Stryker** without whom this effort would never have come to fruition. **Toby** and **Lyal** - we ALL thank you.

The AOM History Book, the Scholarships, the Mine Museums the Website, the Dashpot and the many other activities and events the AOM membership has worked so hard to bring forward for the benefit of us all has been greatly appreciated. We still have much to do and need volunteers to assist. Our officers and Board of Directors have done much during the last year to contribute to the Minemen and Mine Community in maintaining its positive image and to educate us as to current status of the U.S. Navy Mine Force. Special

*(President Continued on page 2)*

## INDEX

Hobson Memorial	3
Committee Reports	5
Charleston Reunion	3
Full Force News	5
Secretary's Mailbag	2
Reunion '98	3
Taps	15



## AOM

## MOMAD Seven Active Mine Site of the Year Again!

## NR MOMAU Seven Reserve Mine Site of the Year

Foc'sle Feb 20 '98

Excerpts from a message from **RADM Dennis R. Conley**, Commander, Mine Warfare Command: As in previous years, nominees for the best Active and Reserve mine ship in the Navy were extremely competitive. All exhibited superb achievements and mission readiness. After careful deliberations, I am pleased to announce the 1997 Active Mine Site Excellence "M" Award winner is **Mobile Mine Assembly Detachment Seven**, Barbers Point Hawaii. (second consecutive award), and the 1997 Naval Reserve Mine Site Excellence "M" Award winner is **NR Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Seven**, Greenville, SC. Congratulations to the men and women on these winning teams for their diligent effort and dedication to excellence throughout the year.

## HISTORY BOOK

by **Toby Horn** Feb 15, '98

Hiya All - Well, it's finally finished. **Lyal** and I have gone through over 2500 photographs, line drawings, cartoons and other renderings and have selected 208 to be integrated/incorporated into the text of the history book. This, of course, is in addition to all the bio photos. Each one had to be carefully captioned, the captions recorded in writing and correlated to the original artwork, and marked in the margins of text as to appropriate place in the text. We marked each for either in-line design or for text wrap-around where we thought appropriate. The process took seven full days. I'm tired, but happy that it's over. We wrapped it up at about 1300 this afternoon. I looked at **Lyal** and said, "It's gonna be a good book, and I'm glad we did it - but I'll never, never, never do one again".

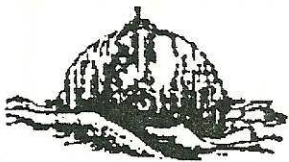
I'm also grateful for the experience of being able to touch a little bit of my shipmates professional lives - all of you are in the book pictorially, of course, but there are so many others that I knew only by sea story and other tall tales. I got to know them better as well. Many of them are gone now, but they will be well remembered. I guess this is what the book was all about in the first place. Well now we have it - at least very soon.

I called Taylor Publishing and told them it was on the way. They are delighted and offered us congratulations. The next step is that **Peggy Kemp** will complete the design of the book (i.e., integrate all the photos, et al) and do a final "blue line". The blue line will be sent back to me for final approval to go to press. According to former schedules we had, this process should be

*(History Book Continued on page 3)*

Charleston Reunion Contact:  
**Toby Horn**  
54 Rivers Point Row  
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address p 2





# 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.

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**President.** Continued from page 1

(Continued from page 1)

thanks to COMINWARCOM, COMOMAG, all the MOMAUs and the many others for their timely inputs of news and current status. A Nominating Committee will be established to present a slate of officers for consideration at our 24th AOM Reunion in Charleston, S.C., being held 7 - 9 August 1998. Four positions will be available, that of President, Vice President and Director, currently held by **Warren Savage, Joe Balderama, CDR Ron Swart** and **William Carlsen**, respectively.

**Toby Horn** has been working with AOM members in the Charleston area to ensure our 24th AOM Reunion will be a memorable and nostalgic event. Anyone available and able to assist, please contact **Toby** at (803) 762-3552 or contact any of the AOM officers in the Charleston area.

We ask you all to recruit new members, those that are active, reserve or retired, as well as invite back former AOM members to join us to assure we continue to keep our programs and networking growing and meaningful.

Respectfully,

**Warren**

## Mine Models

We hear from MNCS **Jerry Williams** at Unit Eight that he is looking into obtaining mine models for display. The Association previously obtained models for sale through the good work of our Minemen at Unit Nine. The Senior Chief will let us know the availability and prices after he makes his connection to the Phillipines.

## NEXT ISSUE

## Article Deadline

## JUNE

10

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

## Mailbag

by Lyal Stryker



**F**ollowing are abbreviated notes received from members when sending in their

dues, orders, etc.

Member **Captain Green**, COMOMAG included a note with his dues thanking the Association of Minemen for what they have done and are doing for the U.S. Navy Minemen.

**MNC Kimberly McGoldrick**, USN thanks all the "old-timers" that started the Association and keep it going.

**Don Costa** in Panama City noted that since **Frank Martin** had his heart attack a while back and retired he is putting on a little extra weight. (Aren't we all!).

**Ed Gard** sent us information about **Bill Cherry** passing on and noted that in 1953 **Bill** and another visited **Ed** and his family for Thanksgiving in Silver Creek and Lockport, New York. **Ed** said that after 1953 he lost touch with **Bill** and didn't relocate him until joining the Association of Minemen and they had been communicating ever since.

Recent article in the Charleston newspaper said the city of North Charleston will take over the COMOMAG Headquarters building located at the ex Naval Station Annex (old USAF Radar site/club). Mayor **Summey** said he guessed they could call it the North Charleston Government Annex. He also said the city would convert a room in the building into a municipal courtroom. Other city offices to move to the building include the police department's traffic division, the code enforcement department, the purchasing department and the administrative office of the city's fire

(Mailbag Continued on page 3)



(Mailbag Continued from page 2)

department. "It will almost become a second city hall" he said.

(Continued from page 1)

about three weeks.

by Toby Horn Mar 14 '98

## Civic News

by Lyal Stryker

**A**gain this year we will participate in the annual USS Hobson (DMS 26) memorial service along with the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 50 and local VFW and American Legion Posts. The service will be on Sunday April 26, 1998, 1:30 p.m. at the Monument at White Point Gardens on the Battery. We are hoping that as many of you as possible will attend to help us pay our respects to the memory of our departed shipmates, one of whom was MN3 **George Swan**. This will be the 46th anniversary to the day when the USS Hobson, DMS 26 was sunk in the North Atlantic with the USS Wasp while acting as plane guard. There were 176 men that lost their lives in this tragic accident in which the ship sank in four minutes. The keel for the USS Hobson DD-464 was laid at Charleston Navy Yard on 14 November, 1940, launched 8 September 1941 and Commissioned 22 January 1942. She served with distinction in the European theatre before returning to Charleston where she was converted to a High Speed Minesweeper and deployed to the Pacific. She participated in the battle for Okinawa and was heavily damaged on 16 April, 1945 where four members lost their lives.

## Where does the money go?

by John Loonam

**W**e hear questions about Association finances and I would like to share one bit of information with all. What does this newsletter cost the AOM? Well I can only fill you in on the part I know about. This 16 page issue cost about 43 cents a copy to the printer. Shipping the lot to Charleston add another 2 cents. In Charleston, there's the labels and postage. We're about 75 cents a copy now. The "Command" copies (about 70) are free making the cost to paying members increase. So, about 40% of dues goes to the newsletter.

At this juncture, I think we are at about 176 pages. I have given the galleys back to **Peggy Kemp** of Taylor. She suggested that since they were so chopped up, that it might be a good idea to go to another galley-proof mode before we went to blue-line. Changes made to the blue-line are expensive. It will also give us a chance to revisit the page count more accurately. I don't want to cut any more than I have already if at all possible. Peggy is also going to look at a new capability - and one that seems to be popular with documentary -type books today - of interweaving photographs into margin

areas. I told her "anything to save space". She will let me know about the necessity of going to another "proof".

Anyhow, there it is for now. We are on the verge of publication of what I consider to be a fascinating book. I have felt all sorts of emotions in taking over the technical aspect of getting this book to press. I've been frustrated, mad, happy, sad, disgruntled, displeased, elated and sometimes felt completely alone and abandoned. It has been a real roller-coaster ride. Never again, folks. As to extra costs, payments and other such things, I am placing all those fiscal matters and facts squarely in the laps of your AOM officers for their decision. If all goes according to plan...(whisper...whisper...whisper...). See ya next issue!

*Shipmates, it looks like **Toby** has literally taken the bull by the horns and rescued this project and is solely setting up the reunion. He sure deserves a big hand. Give him a call or email your thanks. **John Loonam***

## Charleston Reunion

by Toby Horn

**W**ell, folks, you know the saying about the best laid plans? The Island Belle dinner cruise idea just didn't work out. We got terrific response from the last Dashpot survey request, and when I went to make final arrangements, I was hit with a "price increase" and a purported firing of an employee for quoting me prices she shouldn't have. It was reported to the BBB.

Anyhow, I do believe it's for the better, 'cause we now have a wing-ding reunion weekend all planned out for you. Let's start with accommodations, and then I'll weave all the great fun details around that. Our host hotel is the Town and Country Inn located on Route 17S - actual address is 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston SC 29407. Our group room rate is \$69.00 + tax per day/night with your choice of a king or double-queen guest room and use of all the amenities. There are no additional charges for folks who want to share a room (or whatever). Only two other locations gave us this same

(Continued on page 4)



## MK 57 E&T mine comes ashore at Bermuda.

MINEWARNEWS 1/98

An old MK 57 drill mine washed ashore in Bermuda causing a stir among local officials. Turned out to have a "CSS" stencil on it originally thought to be for Coastal Systems Station. The stencil was not of CSS origin. The mine was rendered safe and removed from the beach. Ed. note: Could be one that this editor helped plant off Bermuda in 1962 or so from KWESTEVDET. We put in a warm water one year test field and within a few months they all disappeared. A minehunter found them on the bottom. It was thought that hurricane wave action caused them to scuttle. Didn't recover them to my knowledge.

## Doug Clark Retires

**Doug Clark** In Service Engineering Head and present Head, Mine Warfare Life Cycle Management Division retired at NCSS Panama City. **Doug** says he will work on his golf game.

## Transiting mined waters

Asked if they understood the extent of the mine threat when operating in known mined areas, the skipper of the USS Princeton CG-59 damaged by an Iraqi influence mine in 1991 responded: "Absolutely! Everyone took it seriously, but I'm not sure everyone knew what to do about it. We knew there were floating mines. People were finding floating mines on a regular basis and we found a few ourselves. When we found a "floaters" we would call the appropriate authority, the EOD people would come in and a helicopter would drop EOD divers in the water. The divers would then put an explosive charge on the mine, and then the divers would be extracted. Then we would sit there and watch the mine blow. believe me, there is no better attention getter for a crew of Sailors than to stand off a mile or two away, and feel the shock of a mine and watch that plume."

Some clips from a Virginian Pilot

article: 50 countries own a total of 150 types of mines. From WW 11 types to Chinese and Russian types that rest on the bottom some 300 meters down and when activated by a passing ship are rocket-propelled toward the target. 14 of 18 ships seriously damaged since 1950 were victims of mines. The Navy's mine detection capabilities are improving, they're far from perfect. We have made leaps forward in the past five years. Winning the shallow-water mine threat area is at the top of our list of challenges. We still get a smaller slice of the Navy's budget than just a few years ago.

## Hal Elston's Korea Story

The newsletter also carried an extensive article on AOM member LCDR **Hal Elston**, Ret. recollections

## White Oak Status

Washington Post 2/25/98

The former Naval Surface Warfare Center property may be home to the Food and Drug Administration. A proposal is in the works for consolidating 40 FDA offices in the Washington area to build a campus nestled in a wooded stream valley well behind the existing NSWC building. The next major hurdle is getting GSA approval.

*(Reunion Continued from page 3)*

price. Next was \$129.00 and up.

The rooms are beautiful - handsomely appointed, with marble baths, in-room hair dryers, voice mail phones and data ports for internet access. You'll have the use of the health club facility which has an indoor pool, two racquetball courts, saunas, weight machines, stair steppers, life cycles and a health sports bar. There is also an outdoor pool with gazebo (we'll try to put a claim on that and have some snacks available for poolside), free HBO and coin-operated washing machines and dryers. TCI is also providing us with a courtesy room where we can set up our own drinks, snacks, etc.

We currently have a block of 30 rooms and I think those will go fast. Our lovely (no - she's downright beautiful) hostess for this event is Kellie Billington (I fell in love with her

three times while she was talking to me) and she has really put together a nice package for us. Our group reference number is #992, which you should refer to when calling in for reservations on the 800-334-6660 number., or for that matter, on the local number 803-571-1000. DO IT NOW!!! The cut-off date for this rate and these number of rooms is 15 July. **Did you hear me...yeah...that's right...15 July.**

Our RV and Camper folks can set up at James Island County Park. Here's the scoop. There are 125 sites available in a naturally beautiful park setting. A regular, full hook-up costs \$23.17 per night. There are wheelchair accessible, pull-through, water/electric only, and tent sites available but you need to plan now for those if you want them. Discounts are available for Good Sams Members and Seniors (62+). Call for those rates. Check-in/out time is 12:00 noon and reservations are required at least two weeks prior to arrival (you need to do it now). Payment is due upon arrival - most everything except indian beads will work. Call them at 800-795-7275.

Now for the rest of the story. On Friday evening 7 August, our Early Bird will take on a new aspect. We're going to do something different. We're all going to meet at the Joe Riley Ball Park for a pro baseball game (Riverdogs vs. Cape Fear), all-you-can-eat BBQ Ribs and Chicken, beer (wine will be available extra), a band, and fireworks after the game. We'll have a special group cook-out section reserved for us (depending on the size crowd we have, we'll be up above either the first or third baseline). It's sorta like the sky-rooms they have available, 'cept this is a covered outdoor area. The cost will be \$16.00 per person for everything (sorry, but it's the same cost for kids if they're going to do the BBQ bit - if not, get them a general admission seat and let them sit in the seats below us). We think it'll be a grand time for everyone - and afterwards, there are a few watering holes close by where we can regroup and think of other fun things to do. I AM GOING TO NEED AN EARLY COUNT ON PEOPLE WHO

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Committee Reports

### SCHOLARSHIP

by Lyal Stryker

SCHOLARSHIPS - Grants in the amount of \$500.00 are available to the children and grandchildren of members. The deadline for submitting applications for this year is 1 May 1998. Last year we received seven applications and three were awarded. Unfortunately some of the applications were incomplete. Applicants are advised to carefully review the instructions for completing the application. Requests for an application should be addressed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the address listed inside the front page of this issue of the Dashpot. Telephone/fax requests will also be accepted.

### EDITOR

by John Ioonam

Where's Charlie??? articles used to appear in NMEF Troubleshooter magazines. We are looking into how to incorporate such an article in Dashpot. Those T-Shooter articles were mostly active duty folks who were readily findable with site rosters. Now we are also interested in where they have gone? We will try a "locator" column where you folks can write, call, fax or email a persons name and it will be posted for all to check Christmas card lists etc. and let us or the requester know how to get in touch. Here's an example:

**Earl Roberts** (Taps List) has received questions on the following. Does anyone know the status of:

**A.D. KELLY**

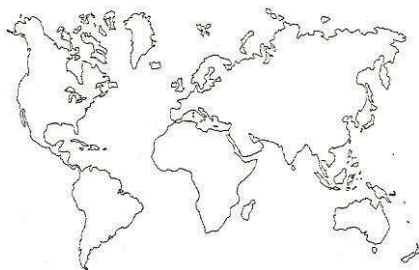
**Bernard KREECH**

Replies to

610 Old Dominion Rd, Yorktown VA  
23692 (757)898-4391 email  
tsrz21@prodigy.com

1997/98 Dues were due in August. Please send your check to AOM Dues notices are not mailed to members

## Full Force News



### COMINEWARCOM

by CDR Ron Swart Jan 98

I've seen no further movement on changing Minemen to Mine Warfare Specialists but there is a Training Requirements Review coming up on 26-29 Jan. OPNAV will be there along with BUPERS and I may have more news on it after that. No converttee to Mineman on the waterfront has complained about his rating name that I've heard of. I hope the initiative has died. As long as I'm at the keyboard, I'll pass along some other news... MNCS **Mike Thanscheidt** has been detailed as the next Mineman Detailer. He is an "ordnance" Mineman with a highly successful tour in mine countermeasures under his belt. **Mike** is currently the leading chief in USS Champion and will be reporting to me at COMINEWARCOM for a couple weeks of TAD prior to reporting to BUPERS (now in Memphis, TN).

The Surface Warfare Training Requirements Review (mentioned above) for Mineman rating and Mine Warfare Officers will take place at the Mine Warfare Training Center at Ingleside, TX. We'll address the quality and quantity of training that Minemen receive when going to sea or to a mine shop. We've received many excellent inputs from shore and sea sailors and hope to continue to improve the schoolhouse. Officer training is a big issue as we try to encourage a foundational level of mine warfare knowledge among the surface, sub and air officer population as well as creating a strong professional mine warfare officer community. "Mainstreaming" it's being called. Wish us luck! I promise a full report of the SWTRR in early

Feb.

There are a number of other things a-brewin' but it is a bit premature to give you a full report: Minefield Planning is a hot topic as the billets were deleted from the staff by budget cuts... we gotta find a new way to keep it alive. We've got a plan!

COMOMAG may be changed from "Commander" to "Commanding Officer" if it changes to a commander command vice a captain. How the wheel goes 'round; Mining instruction at MWTC may become civilianized... (contractor) because there aren't enough young aviator officers to instruct; One of the toughest things about offensive mining is delivering the mines... big production, a little splash and no boom. Aviators are too busy to get interested and they've lost sight of the payoff. Enter... "stand-off mining". We are actively pushing this concept to the air guys at the battle group and we have a viable piece of hardware to show off. Problem is, our hardware is cheap and it goes head to head with a big, fat, joint stand-off munition (that doesn't do mines...) that is supported by OPNAV staff. Anyway, we have our work cut out for us and with help from common sense, the good Lord and the U.S. Air Force, we might get it in the FY-00 budget. wish us LOTS-o-Luck.

by CDR Ron Swart Mar 98

**T**HE BUDGET LINE: Fiscal Year 99 is shaping up to be another tough year for mines and mining. The MK 67 SLMM goes unfunded and unless there is money in FY-00 there will be no support for this mine and it will be withdrawn from the fleet inventory. As you know, the MK 60 (CAPTOR) and MK 56 are being withdrawn without replacement starting this year. On a happier note, several recent defense studies have shown the advantages to using mines and a strong letter in support of all Mine Warfare was written by the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of the Navy urging action. We are working closely with the Fleet CINCs and OPNAV to mitigate the impact to this important

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

warfare discipline.

**FAIRWELL:** LCDR Donald "Stan" Stanley retired on 27 February after 22 years of Naval service. Stan was the head of minefield planning at COMINSEWARCOM and later COMOMAG for 6 years. He was relieved by LCDR Tim Paton, former CO of MOMAU 8 in Guam. Lt Ron Davis will retire this month from his post as COMOMAG Operations Officer. Lt Matt Koriath, who leaves the Navy next month after a tour as a minefield planner in the COMOMAG N5 Department. Fair winds and good luck to all you guys.

**WELCOME:** LCDR Tim Paton, the new head of minefield planning and mine requirements (N5) at COMOMAG. MAJ (sel) James Auclair, the new USAF minefield planner and liaison officer. James, a B-52 bubba, comes to COMOMAG from a tour at the Air Force Academy. Lt Ken Martin, the perspective Operations Officer, who comes to staff from his tour as CO, MOMAU 14 in Yorktown, VA.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** LT Gary Martin, currently a COMOMAG staff minefield planner, has received orders to relieve CWO4 Bob Reed as CO, MOMAU 5 in Sigonella, IT this summer.

**MINEMEN:** Recently, CNO (N859) held a Surface Warfare Requirements Review (SWTRR or sweater) for the MN rate to determine our fleet training needs and if the Mine Warfare Training Center was meeting those needs. Our school came out at the top of the class and with the many inputs and contributions from fleet and staff Minemen who attended, many improvements and adjustments were approved. Next on the agenda will be a top to bottom study of our rating to determine where and how much training should take place over a Mineman's career. Called the Apprentice, Journeyman, Master initiative (or A/J/M) by CINCLANTFLT N7 (Training) it promises to help us get the most for our training dollar by applying training across a career instead of a huge series of schools at the beginning. One of the primary leaders in this initiative will be Lt Coral MacIntosh, the Mineman Schools

Director.

**COMING UP:** There will be a study soon to determine the status and proper size of the MOMAG since the loss of so many mines from the inventory. Exercise and training mine usage is strong in all fleets so there is still plenty to do. Chief of Naval Education and Training has become the landlord for all bases along the third coast (Gulf of Mexico). Accordingly, there will be a series of meetings and studies to determine our support needs at Panama City, Ingleside and Corpus Christi, since CNET has only supported the Navy's training efforts until now. We are currently working on a way to retain a robust minefield planning capability at COMOMAG, and at the same time, get the fleet more involved with mining and minefield planning. This is an MRCI year for many MOMAUs and with the decommissioning of the Inspection Group... the responsibility for inspecting has passed to COMOMAG. Joining the team will be CWO3 Gary Riggins, OIC, MOMAD 7, HI who will inspect both east and west along with Master Chief Helgerson's team, but he won't get to inspect himself (sorry Gary). I will be filling those duties. (We're running out of Minemen officers.) Good luck to all on your '98 MRCI.

## Hello from Unit One

by LCDR John Iwaniec

Well these last few months have been pretty good for us for the most part. We are very proud to announce that MN3 Alfredo Medina is our Junior SOY and he also won as COMOMAG SOY. MN1 Steven Cicerello was our Senior SOY, YN1 James Telford is our most recent SSOQ and Jennifer Poulsen is our JSOQ representative. I am extremely proud of these superb individuals, they have truly given their best shot for the Command. I also gave out some NAM's to the following list of outstanding individuals, MN2 Joseph Baney, MN1 Stephen Goodman, MN1 Mark Dohman, YN3 Kenyatter Ballard and YN1 James Telford. MNCS Jerry Williams also got his Navy Commendation Medal for the great job he did here throughout his

tour. It was nice to see such a cross section of the Command come away with all that candy.

As you all know, MOMAUD Seven won the coveted Mine Site Excellence Award again, quite an accomplishment, two years running, a big BZ to those guys, I guess we came in a close second and it's nice to know we were in the running. The command has truly come a long ways in the past two years and we are looking for many more great things in the next few months. I guess this month they will actually start putting together all this refurbishment equipment, so they say any way. We have our MRCI coming up in May and our ADMAT is scheduled for the latter part of July. LCDR Ed Simmons was just here a week ago doing some house hunting and trying to convince his daughter to leave Japan and finish her school year here. There is currently no money in the Navy coffers to transfer me so the two of us may be staring at each other for the next few months, either that or we'll just go on Port and Starboard liberty. Sounds good to me...

## AOM 24th Annual Reunion Charleston, SC 7-9 August 1998

Looking for Mines on the Net?

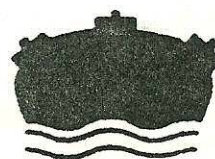
**AOM Homepage** <http://battle.netgate.net> by AOM members Fred Dane and Hal Elston lots of Minemen and ex-MN. listed in email addresses and visitor log.  
**Minewarfare Homepage** <http://www.ae.utexas.edu/~industry/mine/> by Paul Calhoon ex-MN

## Get on the E-mail Log

Log on [www.battle@netgate.net](http://www.battle@netgate.net)  
Name Rate/Rank/status (ret, ex MN)  
City/State

email address

Please keep Fred informed of changes. a great place to find misplaced friends





## MOMAU 8

by MNCS Jerry Williams

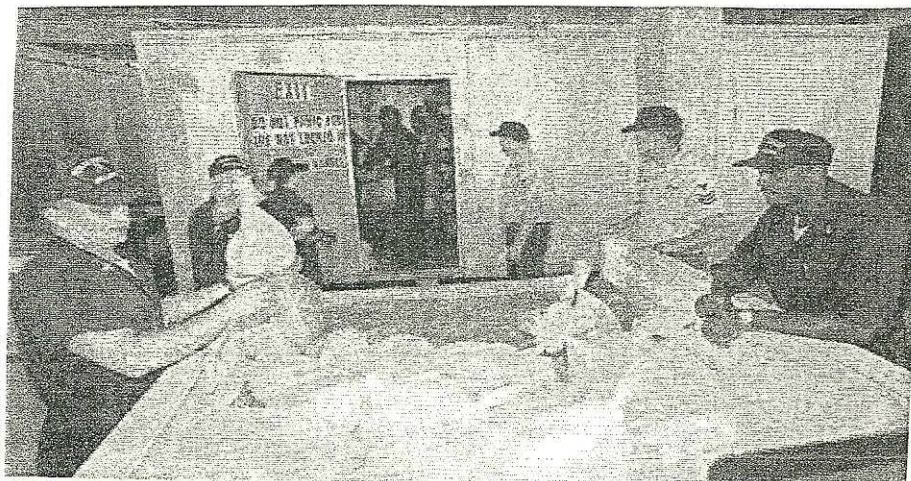
**H**afa Adai shipmates! Things have been really hectic here on Guam the last several months. In case you didn't hear, we had a doosy of a typhoon named "PAKA" come through in December, and she really devastated the island. Winds topped 200 mph and even though Guam gets her share of typhoons, Super typhoon Paka set new records for duration and destruction. Virtually no structure, both on and off-base escaped damage, and the power dis-

Slowly but surely however, things are now getting back to normal, although typhoon debris is still strewn all over the island. The power is almost now fully restored, and cable-TV just returned this past week to some base residents. The crew pulled together through it all, and although several members lost their entire household effects, they were quickly relocated to new quarters and their claims have been settled. Its trying times like these that push people to their mental and physical limits, but it also shows how we all come together as a team

ESI, MRCI, FCA, and ADMAT preparations continue, so 2Q98 will continue to be very, very busy. If you've got what it takes, and you're looking for a rewarding and challenging tour there is no better place for you than MOMAU 8. God Bless and keep you all.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MOMAU FIFTEEN

by YNC KRENE



### MOMAU 8 Super-Typhoon Paka recovery support

tribution system was almost completely destroyed island-wide. MOMAU suffered some roof and water damage, as well as losing most security lighting, and one of our reefers was also totally blown away, leaving a pile of rubbish on its former foundation. The crew jumped right in after the winds died down and got us up and running again in no time. As usual though, the only ice plant on Guam was not operational, so we were called upon to provide. We jam-stowed our mine batteries in the reefers, constructed ice racks, and began producing ice for the Red Cross, galley, PWC power crews, Seabee Battalion, COMNAVMAR, MVWR, and also distributed ice daily to base residents at the Commissary. We produced 3,500 lbs of ice daily for 16 straight days. This was made even more difficult since the typhoon hit on December 16, so recovery efforts had to be carried out during the Christmas season, putting a damper on the usual Christmas mood and festivities.

to address all the problems and overcome all the obstacles. We are all very proud of the tremendous amount of work the crew accomplished in such a devastating situation, and the selfless devotion with which MOMAGers willingly gave their time and energy to "do whatever it took to get the job done".

We recently said hello to our new arrival, MNSA Barrett from MWTC, but unfortunately, also had to say good-bye to MN2 Cowart. She accomplished a lot during her tour here, a real shipmate who will sorely be missed by all of us as she moves on to Recruiting Duty in Texas. We also commend our most recent awardees for their accomplishments as follows: NAM-MNC Cantrell; SSOY-MN2 Cowart; JSOY-MNSA Waters; SSOQ-MN1(SW) Sullivan; JSOQ-MNSA Waters; and ADM LOC-MN3 Kichta & MNSN Ancil for their ASF work with the KAL Flt 800 crash recovery back in September.

Well folks, that's about it for now, the

**H**ow Ya'll shipmates and friends from around the world doing? Well it looks like El Nino is taking it's toll, we have gone from cold to hot and wet to dry. The crew is still charging, we are getting ready for the Mirem-2 exercise to take place in March, along with a few others coming down the road. Our MRCI is now going to take place in March, we are ready to strut our stuff. As far as personnel, MNSN Gregory Reeves just recently took the big plunge of marriage. He married Ms. Brandy Davis who is from Kingsville, we wish them both the best. There must be something in the water because MN3 Jack Angle's wife (Jill) is expecting another child. MN2 Raymond (Bubba) Parr, MN3 Abel (Gonzalo) Gonzalez and MN2 April Morehouse recently returned from VEMs school out at Ingleside, Texas. MN2 April Morehouse and MNSN Irving Flores just checked onboard MOMAU Fifteen. Lieutenant Oliver and her Family Just recently got a new toy to play with in the water, a nice size ski and fishing boat. Living in Texas you have to have a boat. They will probably enjoy it a lot better once her husband learns to back it up to the garage. In March we will have two new members on the MOMAU Fifteen Team, YN1 Richard Bentanacourt (My relief) and MNSN Leonel Gonazales, yes another Gonazales, but he spells his name with an s vice a z at the end. This will be my last DASHPOT input, I will be tuning it over to MNCM John Nolen. I retire 12 June 1998 and then right behind me will be MN1(SW) Theodore Arcand. It has been a pleasure keeping you

(MOMAU 15 Continued on page 8)



(MOMAU 15 Continued from page 7)

informed on what's happening here in southern Texas and I am sure the MNCM will continue to do so. Have a great summer wherever you are and be safe.

## Florida News

by Leon "Smitty" Smith, MNCM Ret

Well I guess it's about time I jotted down a line or two. You may have already got the word, but **Takako Fair** (wife of MNC **Rodney Fair**) passed away on 1 January. She had an aneurysm I believe and has been in a comatose or semi-comatose state for the last six or seven months. We went to Virginia last month to see the grandchildren at Christmas and we made a trip to Gettysburg while we there. **Takako** had movement in her head, eyes, and according to the wife a really tight grip. Since there was very little chance of recovery she is probably much happier being with Rodney then in a hospital bed.

There was a golf tournament on Veterans Day sponsored by the FRA. I saw **Frank Martin** and **Don Costa** there and **Zoc Chuay** stopped by the Fleet afterwards for the awards presentation. Now that bowling season has started I see **Zoc** weekly, but **Frank** and **Don** are hard to find. I usually run into **Chuck Hadden** on the golf course on Sundays and **Ken Waringa** is usually out and about on base. Everyone says there doing fine. The Home Page **Fred Dane** set up is fantastic. I finally got off my butt and signed in the Dream Book and have gotten 4 or 5 E-mails right off the bat from people I haven't heard from in years.

Well, enough for now. If anything happens in the Panama City Retired (MN) Community I'll let you know.

**Paid your '98-'99 dues yet?**  
**They are due in August**  
**Please Send your check**  
**payable to AOM address**  
**on back page**

## NEWS FROM MOMAU 12 MISAWA JAPAN

BY: MNC JL Holt

**C**onichiwa! Hey, it's in the 40's already! The smell of BBQ pits and Hawaiian Tropic are beginning to fill the air! We've hit the 130 inch mark (that's snow) for the year with a few more weeks of winter to go.

Been a mild winter so far and the snow is slowly fading away! We would like to take the opportunity to recognize our CO, LCDR **Ed Simmons**. Under his leadership and visions for the future we have accomplished much and continue to strive for excellence. He is a Sailors CO who fully supports his Chiefs mess and genuinely cares for the personal and professional welfare of his crew. We've learned much from him and wish him, Yoshi, and family much happiness and success in the future. He will be sorely missed. SKIPPER, BZ from a grateful crew.

ADVANCEMENTS: None to report this issue. We are eagerly awaiting the CPO and March advancement test results. Good Luck to all!

HAILS & FAREWELL. A very hearty welcome to MNSA "**Kotch**" **Kotschenreuther** and MNSA **Amy Greene** both joining our crew from MWTC. RECOGNITION. MOMAU 12 is proud to announce MN1 "**Joe**" **Miller's** selection as SSOY and MN3 **Dan James**, currently stationed at NAVSTA Everett WA, as JSOY!

Both were honored at the SOY banquet sponsored by the Misawa Chief Petty Officers Association. Runner's up include MN2 **Kyle Franklin** and MN3 **Lance Douglas**. MN2 **Kyle Franklin** and MNSA **Ricardo Munoz** earned selection as SSOQ and JSOQ respectively. MN1 **Joe Miller**, MN2 **Sharlene Walker**, and MN2 **Kyle Franklin** earned NAMs for their efforts in preparation for our TAV.

WHAT'S GOING ON. MOMAU 12 placed a very respectable overall 3rd in the small commands division during the first annual base wide winter sports event. MNCM "**talk to me**" **Benton** finished an amazing 2nd in the "Simon Says" competition!

Against all odds and extremely aggressive adversaries, MNCM **Benton** resorted to his 29 1/2 years Naval service (paying attention to detail) and crushed the competition! MN2(SW) "**gyro man**" **Gutierrez** amazed the crowd and advanced to the finals in the hula hoop battle! He also placed 2nd in the pull up contest. A special thanks to MN3 **Jai Dykes** for coordinating this event. That's all for now, take care and stay safe.

## Hello from MOMAU Ten.

by MNC McGoldrick

**T**he holidays have come and gone but the spirit still lives on. We at MOMAU Ten would like to extend a congratulations to the men and women of MOMAD Seven for their receiving the M-Award for the second consecutive year. Bravo Zulu and good luck next year.

We at Ten are designating this as "the year of the inspections", beginning with mid-March and running until mid-July we will have completed an ESI, MRCI, DDESB, AMHAZ, FCA and ADMAT; just to name a few. Our FIAT for the VEMS is in August with MIRAM and Foal Eagle to follow shortly after. 1JA-98 was just successfully completed in the bay of Kure and 2JA-98 is due to go off sometime in July. As they say happy but busy. Serving PACRIM to the best of our abilities.

Like to take this opportunity to recognize MN2 **Perine** as MOMAU Ten SSOQ for 4Q97 and MN3 **Spangler** as the JSOQ for 4Q97. These individuals, as always, displayed the true meaning of "sailor" by giving 110% a day to their shipmates and the command. Congratulations and keep up the outstanding work. With the arrival of March we also saw the arrival of 3 new faces, Ten welcomes aboard MNSR **Gunn**, MNSR **Spindler** and MNSA **Stanley**. All three young men join us from those hallowed halls of the Mine Warfare Training Site of Excellence in Ingleside, Texas. The quality of these three individuals

(Unit 10 Continued on page 9)



stands as a testimony to the dedication and professionalism of the instructing staff at the schoolhouse. Bravo Zulu to the instructors and staff at MWTC Ingleside.

The beginning of April through the end of October will see a number of individuals departing us here at MOMAU Ten. MN3 **Thompson** will be departing in April for a sea billet on the *Champion*. MN2 **Banks** will be departing in June for orders to MOMAU 11 in "good ole" Charleston. MN3 **Olenlager** will be departing in early August to MOMAU Three. MNC **McGoldrick** will also be departing in early August to take up residence at COMOMAG. The command yeoman, YN1 **Bell**, will hopefully be leaving in September but has yet to receive hard copy orders; as well as, MN1 **Lauderdale** due to depart in October to an intermediate station of the schoolhouse with follow-on orders to an MCM. As everyone can see there will be some billets opening up here at MOMAU Ten, call the Detailer and maybe you too can become part of the MOMAU Ten history.

That's all for now. This article was written solely from the head and hands of MNC **McGoldrick** in grateful appreciation of a captive audience. Fair winds and following seas and may the wind be ever at your back.

## Mine Warfare Training Center

by LT Coral Mac Intosh

**H**ello again from MWTC! Here's an update on things happening at the school.

I want to welcome MN1 **K. Frunz** to the Mining Division, she arrived from CMWC. She will be working with the MN "A" students, VEMS instruction, and divisional administrative matters. We are getting ready to say good-bye to MN1 **Kirker** who will be executing PCS orders sometime this spring or early summer and MN1 **Lewis** and MNCS **Healer** who will be retiring after 20+ years of service in the Mine Force.

As far as curriculum changes, the Mineman Occupational Standards/ Training Task Analysis was conducted

at Pensacola last November. Major changes included the deletion of 197 standards that were not rating specific; all changes were approved at the Mineman SWTRR in late January. Also approved from the SWTRR was the cancellation of both the ORD Core and Combat Systems Core "C" schools that "A" students attended immediately after "A" school graduation. Elements from both courses were added to the MN "A" course. Although this changed "A" school from 11 to 15 weeks, all students now receive "hands-on" training for both mine assembly and combat systems equipment familiarization and still get out to the fleet or the MOMAUs several weeks sooner. MN "A" students also receive basic training in electronics theory and the use of general purpose electronic test equipment.

The CAPTOR course was also cancelled due to the weapon's planned removal from service and lack of course attendance. Limited introduction to the mine has been incorporated into the "A" school curriculum to meet basic needs while the weapon is still in the fleet.

The Underwater Mine Test Set Maintenance course will soon be cut from 12 weeks to approximately 6 weeks. A new course will be developed that will cover both basic and digital electronic theory. This course will become a prerequisite for the TSM course, and the SLQ-48 and SQQ-32 Maintenance courses.

That's all for now. See you in the next issue.

## ISEA/CSS PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

by MNCS R. K. Bainbridge

**G**'Day to ya all from wet and kool northern Florida. I just finished reading the latest copy of Dashpot Fall 97 and I certainly agree with Mr. **Loonam** on the near non-existent submission of articles from all activities and individuals that one time did participate. Here at CSS we are just as much at fault at not communicating with our fellow Mineman through this newsletter and I thank you **John** for the Wake-up and

Blast. Most recent news from ISEA/CSS is we just recently welcomed aboard LTJG **Ted Cooper** as the new Fleet Liaison Officer. Mr. **Cooper** reported aboard from Naval Activities Guam and I'm in the process of converting him to the Mineman way of things. He has already noted the difference between The Navy and The Mineman's Navy. LT **Downing-Oliver** has transferred to wild and woolly Kingsville, Texas and has assumed the reigns as Commanding Officer of MOMAU 15. Congratulations LT and good mining. We also want to welcome STGCS (SW) **Dale Garwood** who will report aboard on 15 Nov. 97. He is transferring from Naval Station Ingleside, TX and is not a stranger to CSS. He has many a CSSQT under his belt and STG1 (SW) **Kelley** is ready to turn over the reigns to him. Petty Officer **Kelley** is under orders to FLEASWTRACENPAC for school on the SQQ-89 System. MNCS **"BUBBA" Hill** will also be transferring in the next few months to the Fleet Reserve. His jump off date to the Civilian World will be 30 April 98. Fair Winds and Following Seas to these shipmates as they will be truly missed by all here at the ISEA. This upcoming week brings another INSERVICE MINES REVIEW and I am only one of many looking forward to hear that our Mine community will continue to grow with new projects and also that we will be able to continue to improve on what already exists in our stock pile. I did find LCDR **Iwaniec's** note humorous on the sacrifice he made in keeping those LT bars on one extra week. BZ on ya MR. **Hutsell** in keeping him waiting a bit longer. I'm sure waiting an extra week for that oakleaf to be pinned on by MR. **ED** was well worth the wait. By the way LCDR **Iwaniec** I will remember to trim this mustache prior to the next time we meet. G'DAY to ya all and stay safe out there on the SHIPS and in the SHOPS!!!

Received an email from MNCS **Lee Ostrander** after retiring from Unit One in 1990 he went to Diluth, MN. He found the MN winters colder than he remembered, now resides in Lakewood, CA. I'll put more in the next issue as I am plum out of room.



## "P" MINE

By Lt Richard E. Martin USN (Ret)

**W**ith this article, it is my intention to give you a little insight to a mine that was short lived and not too many Mineman knew much about it.

During the Vietnam Conflict, a new type of mine was designed and it was called the "P" mine, named after the designer, CDR Planke. It was a contact mine and was capable of being fabricated and assembled in the field. The mine consisted of an anchor, counterweight, ballast weights and the case, which consisted of either a 55 Gal or a 30 gallon drum, which contained cast TNT Explosive. The mine was designed to be moored just under the surface of the water, mainly in the rivers of Vietnam. The Firing Mechanism was a contact type, using mercury or contact switches, which would fire the mine if it was struck by a boat or the mooring cable was cut and the drum inverted, it was called a Demolition Initiator (DI). The DI, was a unique construction, in that it used "D" cell batteries for the firing source. The delay arming feature was provided by a device called a "Chemical Pencil", which was nothing more than a vial of acid with a wire running through it and the wire held a compressed spring loaded plunger. The Chemical Pencil's came in different colors which gave a different delay arming. When the mine was to be planted an eccentric on top of the DI was turned to break the vial of acid and then the acid would eat away the wire, which in turn would release the spring loaded plunger. When the plunger operated it closed switches in the arming circuit and once the mine was armed it could not be disarmed. I understand that the Chemical Pencils were used in land mines as a delay arming feature. Another unique feature about the DI, was that the booster's were threaded and were screwed together, four for the 55 gal. drum and two for the 30 gal., then the booster assembly was screwed to the DI over the detonator. The DI was threaded into the large bung hole in the barrel and the boosters were inserted into a cavity drilled into the explosive. The DI also had an alternate use, it could be used as a

"Booby Trap", by initiating the delay to made of brass) made for that action and then propping it against a purpose. After one day of drilling it door. If the door was opened and the was determined that the auger's were DI fell the mercury switch feature not made of brass after all, they were would take over and set off the made of steel. All Stop! We had the boosters. The "Anchor" was made of ship yard at the NAVSTA make us the concrete and was designed to be right thing.

We even designed launching chutes made in the jungle, with a make shift form, it had a small recessed section to be hung over the side of LST's or on top to house a wire rope cradle. other small craft. The chutes had a The "Cradle" was a short piece of wire trap door on the bottom, so when the rope used to connect the launch order was given, a trip lever "Counterweight" (CW) to the anchor, was released and the mine fell away. thus preventing the mine from floating There was one major problem with away. The CW, was also made of this mine, the bridle could be cut by a concrete and was also designed to be swimmer and the mine moved into the made in the jungle, with a make shift path of friendly river traffic and I form. The CW also had a recessed understand this actually happened. section in it to accept "Ballast The one other positive experience Weights" (BW). The BW, were that I received while working on this approximately 8" wide 18" long and mine, was that I had the pleasure of approximately 2" thick. and were made of concrete. The Mooring cable was working for LT Ireland, who has since predetermined and then wound passed away.

*(Reunion Continued from page 4)*

**PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.  
WE HAVE TO MAKE A  
PROPORTIONAL DEPOSIT AND  
MUST DECIDE ON WHAT (SIZE)  
AREA WE NEED.**

In order to plant the mine the planting depth had to be determined, usually by the old lead line method. After the planting depth had been determined, a formula was used to determine the positive buoyancy of the mine verses the negative buoyancy of the Counterweight, then the CW had to be adjusted using BW's. to give the mooring system a neutral buoyancy. The formula even took into consideration the density of salt water verses fresh water, the length of the mooring cable and bridle. The "P" Mine eventually was redesignated Mine MK 59

While I was stationed at NAVMAG, Guam in the early 60', I was fortunate to work on the only service stock pile of these mines. This mine was to be so secret that all of the materials, including tool boxes had a covert marking system using colored dots on all packages. There were no markings that said "Made in the USA" Under the leadership of Lt(jg) J.J. Ireland, MNSN Mosso, MNSN Wayne Bradfield, four civilian's and myself, made several hundred Anchor's, Counterweights and Ballast Blocks. We also inspected the drums for drilled booster cavities and when none existed we had to drill one, using a specially designed auger (suppose

On Saturday morning, we'll have our golf outing. I plan on four back-to-back foursomes beginning with an approximate 0800 first flight tee time. We'll play at the City of Charleston Golf Course (Muni) which is convenient to both the hotel and JI Park. Cost per golfer is \$25.00 which includes cart and green fees. Format will be "Best Ball" and open to both ladies and you guys. The winning team will be awarded our coveted Dead Red Rooster trophy. I'm herewith asking **Mac McCarthy** to take the lead on putting the teams together on Friday evening at the Early Bird when I expect to have all golfer's names available. Please, anyone who is interested in golfing, let me know ASAP. Ladies please sign up with the guys. You can putt better than they do and the game will go faster. As for the ladies, and you guys without golfing aspirations, there are a million and one things to do in the Charleston area. The hotel can arrange all kinds of tours out to the plantation and garden sites, and it's only a five minute drive to downtown

*(Continued on page 13)*



## MOMAU Five

by MNCS Bruce Howard

**H**ello from Sunny Sigonella, here is a short note to let all of you know what's going on in the shadow of Mr. Etna.

First "Fair winds and following seas" to two of our crew MN1 **John Boden** will be transferring to MWTC for school and SK1 **Keyin Dodd** transferring to Commander, Special Boat Unit 20, Little Creek, VA. We will miss both of them.

As for new arrivals, we welcome MN2 **Andtea Bdwards** and her son from MOMAU FOURTEEN and MNSR Paul Bufano from ~A" school at MWTC. We are mighty glad to have them here.

Future Mineman! MNC **David Patton** and his lovely wife, Jenny have celebrated the birth of their son Gavin Alexander, I think both of them gave birth. Also, MNSA **Cameron Carlisle** and his lovely wife, Tracy have rejoiced over the arrival of their first son, Tyler.

Awards and recognition go to MN1 **David Morrow** and MN3 **Laura Arthur**, both received Letter of Appreciation's.

Operations continue to keep us moving. We have upcoming trips to the Netherlands, Spain and Romania. The summer promises to be even better, with all of us scattered from Israel to Portugal and north to Germany. Our best to all and ciao for now.

## FROM MOMAU FOURTEEN

**G**reetings shipmates! We recently completed our Technical Assist Visit and we are preparing for our upcoming MRCI. The crew continues to lay-up the MK 60 CAPTOR. Here is the latest regarding our crew:

MN3 **Wanda D. Pitts** reported from Unit Eleven Charleston, SC, MN3 **Michael R. Gibson** and MNSA **Benjamin M. Tyo** reported from Mineman "A" school.

Departures: MN1 **Timothy D. Lowder** to MINEWARTRACEN Ingleside, TX (Feb 98), MN2 **Michael J. Burks** departs for security at NAS

Sigonella, IT (Mar 98) MN3 **Robert J. Powers** departs for Mineman "C" school (Mar 98)

Separation, MN3 **Andrea S. Grice** (Jan 98), Terminal Leave MN3 **Jason C. Tollison** (Apr. 98)

Reenlistments: MN1 **Julie J. Porter** 6 years (Mar 98) MN2 **Michael J. Burks** 4 years (Feb 98) MN3 **Robert J. Powers** 4 years (Feb 98)

Awards: Navy Achievement Medals: MN1 **John A. Pendleton** (Senior Sailor of the Year), MN2 **Joseph K. Kirker**, III (Meritorious Achievement), MN3 **Michael E. Nagle** (Junior Sailor of the Year)

## COMOMAG

Ombudsman Kathlen Nahra

Incoming:

MN3 **Susan Lowder**, from Naval Weapons Station, MNSA **Letroy Jackson**, from Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside.

CAPT **James Auclair** (USAF), reports from Instructor duty at the USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. LCDR **Timothy Patton**, from MOMAU EIGHT, CO CWO **Gary Riggins** from MOMAD Seven, OiC

Outgoing:

LCDR **Donald Stanley** retired on 27 Feb 98, LT **Ronald Davis** retires on 30 April 98 LT **Matthew Koriath**, separates on 30 April 98 MN2 **Lonell White** transferred to VFA 37, Cecil Field, FL MN1 **Jennifer Lauffenburger**, due to transfer in March to MOMAU THREE, Earle, NJ MNC **James Kirsch** will transfer this spring to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, to become a company commander MNC **Kirby Brown**, leaves in June to work as a recruiter in the Houston, TX area.

## Jorgen Strange Lorenzen, CDR Danish Navy Ret

Mineman Extraordinary

**A**fter getting back in Denmark from the Reunion in San Diego, I had problems with my American Express Card. The Card was used during my stay at Handlery hotel. It was never out of my sight during my stay - but the Card number is on my hotel bill. With that on hand the hotel was carrying out transactions

with my Card up to 6 weeks after I left the hotel. At the same time, my bank made a failure - I informed them - in writing to stop the paying the transactions from American Express - but they failed and accepted the claims - so the next 3 months went on with Fax - letters (total of 36) and lots of phone calls.

I was pretty much upset and frustrated. I was having about \$1000. out "swimming". I think now the case has been solved. I have returned my American Express Card - cut in two. I have now a Master Card.

Next year - 1998 - will be the 50 year anniversary of my first trip to your country - and to the country that I consider as my second home.

I have and have had so many friends there - and will - by all means consider them as my good friends.

My first trip to U.S. was back in 1948 to New Orleans. In 1951 to Yorktown - and from there on a long constant list of trips to U.S.

So that thinking it over - I might take the trip over next year with Aase - I guess.

The temperature in Denmark is cold but with little snow. Snow is not good for me as it means that I have to be out shoveling snow. That's not good for my old back.

I have again started working on my Life history - but first my old computer broke down - the new is so advanced that I need children age 10 to help me. They know how!

I have this year had one of my most expensive years of my life, everything that can break in a house or equipment belonging to the house broke down.

Again thanks for our time together in San Diego during the Reunion. I'm worried about the membership of our Association - it decreases constantly - I feel we belong to a dying race? We discussed this by the swimming pool late one evening. Will it be that the last member closes the door? That must not be so. More than new thinking should be adopted.

## Binnacle

We hear that Dale "Moose" Wheelock and Bob Benentende are on the road to recovery from hospitalization and surgery.



## Early History of U.S. Naval Magazine, Subic Bay

By Don DeCrona

**T**he Magazine was located in the Providence of Bataan at Camayan Point. It was bounded on the northeast by the U.S. Naval Air Station, Cubi Point and the Triboa River. On the east and south by a line which terminates in the Binauga Bay and to the west and northwest by the China Sea. The City of Olongapo was approximately eight miles to the northeast.

NAVMAG Subic consisted of approximately 12,480 acres of triple canopy jungle and hilly terrain, cut by a number of small rivers and streams. The area is rugged and consisted of valleys and rough, steep ridges rising to an elevation 1,200 feet. The climate is tropical. Only about one-third was developed or utilized for safety distances.

In 1951, plans were made for a naval base at Subic Bay. The installation at that time consisted of a small naval station with limited supply and ship repair facilities. New plans included an ammunition storage facility and various activities to support a medium sized base.

Construction of a J3C advance base component (5,000 ton ammunition depot) and a modified J11D component (mine assembly with J5E capabilities for one mobile mine MK 27 Mod 0) was begun in 1953 with permanent construction for a storage capacity of 19,000 tons planned for a later date.

By October 1954, approximately 30 temporary magazines, an ammunition wharf, and other functions had been constructed. The temporary magazines collapsed during the rainy season and plans were made to replace all temporary structures with permanent types.

The NAVMAG, Subic Bay was commissioned on 1 July 1955. From 1957 until the Tonkin Gulf incident in August 1964 and the increased involvement in Southeast Asia, the NAVMAG was at a relatively routine schedule. Between 1967 - 1968 the large build-up in Southeast Asia caused it to become necessary to

increase the number of magazines and facilities. By then NAVMAG was supporting the entire Seventh Fleet and many other friendly forces operating in the South China Seas area. During this period that the requirement to service deep-draft vessels became evident and Nabasan pier was constructed.

## Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, Japan

By Don DeCrona

**T**he facility of about 794 acres had three major and one minor storage and operating areas, three of which were located several miles from the main base of Yokosuka; the Urago (Taura) Magazine area of about 44 acres was five miles northwest of Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, the Ikego Magazine area of about 706 acres was five miles to the north of Yokosuka, the Azuma Magazine area of about 39 acres (Azuma Island) lies three miles northwest of Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, and the "J" Area containing five acres, which was located within the physical boundaries of the main gate.

During the period 1945 through 1948, there was no Naval Ordnance Facility (NOF), as such, in the Yokosuka area, but an Ordnance Department was established within U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka. The Department had a limited staff and magazines in the "J" Area on the Yokosuka Base, with a mission for emergency resupply of U.S. Fleet units.

On 5 January 1949, the U.S. Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, was established as a separate command. At this time the mission of the facility was extended to include responsibility for storage, overhaul, repair, and issue of mines.

With the NOF as a separate command, an advanced base mine unit was ordered from Saipan to Yokosuka. A portion of Azuma Island in Yokosuka Harbor was assigned to the facility for carrying out its responsibilities in the field on mines. Existing Japanese surface and underground magazines on Azuma

Island were used for mine storage, but new facilities were constructed by the U.S. Navy for the production, assembly, and overhaul of mines.

The outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950, found NOF unable to handle the tremendous logistic requirements for an active wartime fleet. Early efforts to find more stowage space led to the acquisition of Urago (Taura), Kinugasa, and Kurihama magazine stowage areas, all located several miles from the main base of Yokosuka. Additional office and shop spaces were constructed in the magazine areas as required. Principal construction was in the Urago (Taura) area where an administration building, transportation shops, and maintenance shops were built.

Movement of ammunition stocks, equipment, and personnel into the new magazine areas was made during 1951 and 1953, and the command headquarters was moved from Yokosuka Base to the Urago (Taura) Magazine Area in early 1953.

On 11 August 1945, the secretary of the Navy transferred management control of the NOF from CNO to BUORD and designated the facility as part of the Ordnance Shore Establishment. At this time, the mission of the facility was extended to include the storage, overhaul, repair, and issue of acoustic torpedoes. This function, which previously had been the responsibility of the Ship Repair Facility, Yokosuka, was assigned to the NOF's Underwater Ordnance Division located on Azuma Island.

On 1 July 1958, BUORD delegated administrative control over funds and personnel for NOF Yokosuka to COMSERVPAC. Except for this relatively minor change, the mission and physical plant of the facility remained essentially the same in 1959 as they were in 1954.

On 7 October 1959, the title of Officer-in-Charge, U.S. Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, was changed to Commanding Officer. On 3 August 1970, the Ikego Magazine and stowage area was acquired from the U.S. Army.

On 1 July 1971, the NOF was disestablished. Most military and

*(Yokosuka Continued on page 13)*



(Yokosuka Continued from page 12)

civilian employees were transferred to other facilities or released and the activity became the Ordnance Division of CFAY Operations Department.

On 1 January 1972, the Ordnance Division became the Ordnance Department. In March of the same year, the Kinugasa and Kurihama magazine areas were vacated and given back to Japanese control. Also, the Ikego administration area was turned over to the Japanese on 20 December of the same year.

The Urago (Taura) area of 44 acres with 23 magazines was negotiated with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force that allowed the U.S. portion to remain approximately 23 acres with ten magazines, plus administrative and maintenance facilities. All pier facilities remained under U.S. control.

The Azuma area of 39 acres had five magazines with the capability for storage of mines, electric torpedoes and warheads for steam and electric torpedoes. In addition, there were several buildings previously used for overhaul and assembly. Other facilities included block houses and caves constructed by the Japanese and temporary Butler-type buildings. Many of the magazines were rehabilitated air raid structures. There were also two docks and a LCU ramp capable of handling small craft.

## Mines and Minemen in the News

Foc'sle 12/19/97

**MN1 Rita J Nicely** MWTC recently earned her Associates degree from St Leo College.

Foc'sle 1/8/98

Countermeasures Rotational Crew Charlie crewmember **MN1(SW) Thomas M Vail** received his Enlisted Surface Warfare qualification and **MN3 Andre E Graham** was awarded a letter of Appreciation.

A Mineman study group meets weekly in the BEQ to cover navigation, mine sweeping and associated equipment, combat systems, mine neutralization vehicle, maneuvering boards, deck seamanship, explosive cutters, small arms and more. **MN2(SW) Terry Hoekman**

Foc'sle 1/22/98

**MNC(SW) Matthew Prager** MCM Rotational Crew Bravo and **MN2 Gregory Wisniewski** Rotational Crew Foxtrot are volunteers in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Foc'sle 2/20/98

**MNC Kevin King** Regional Support Group, Ingleside volunteered to participate in the Vietnam Veterans "Moving Wall" visit at Ingleside. The volunteers cleared the area, set up the wall and served as ceremonial guards during the 24 hour a day availability Feb 4-11.

Sailor of the Quarter **MCM Rotational Crew Hotel MN2 (SW) Dean M Carr**, and **MN2 Steven Pierce**, USS Falcon

Coastal Courier 1/16/98

Coastal Systems Station held a contest to help design the logo for the new Remote Minehunting System. It will be deployed forward of the task group and send back mine target information to the remote operator on the lead ship. Its being called the "Wild One"

Letter of Appreciation to **MNCM Robert Bainbridge** for command briefing on VEMS ITEM from COMOMAG

(Reunion Continued from page 10)

Charleston where you can take bicycle, carriage, trolley or walking tours of historical sites.

On Saturday afternoon we will have our general business meeting at 1500 (that's 3:00PM, Jose) at a conference room **Kellie Billington** will have set up for us at the hotel. We plan to square off promptly and move quickly through the agenda. Remember, we have a President, Vice-President and two BOD members to elect into office. Please have your nominations handy. All those with some political agenda to satisfy, please stay home.

On Saturday evening, we will partake of the Town and Country Inn's famous (and I do mean famous) all-you-can-eat Seafood and Prime Rib Buffet. You'll wonder how they do it, folks? We'll have prime rib, steamed shrimp, oysters on the half shell, oyster Rockefeller, fried shrimp, linguini with clam sauce, mussels marinara, grecian dolphin, deviled crab, soup, salad bar, fresh veggies,

rice or roasted potatoes, rolls & butter, a dessert table with mouth-watering selections, and iced tea or coffee to drink. Cost will be \$25.00 per adult and \$15.00 per little person 8 to 10 years, and this includes all tax and gratuities. We'll plan on meeting and standing around gabbing starting around 1800 (that's 6:00PM, Jose) in our private dining area. Plan on hitting the buffet about an hour later (watch for the red rocket signal). We don't have confirmation on the guest speaker just yet. We will have awards, scholarship info, and Mineman of the Year awards to hear about. Your association is hard at work.

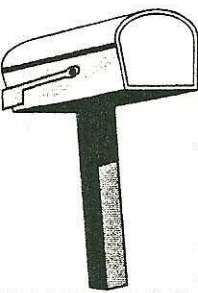
On Sunday, we will have our Great American Picnic at James Island County Park. Our RV gang will already be there. Plan to keep the usual cost about \$8.00 P/P for the big guys, and about half that for little folks. Our committee of one will firm this up by next issue. We will have a nice pavilion reserved for us which is adjacent to a fantastic playground area. Near by is the swim area with the water-slide and lazy river fun spot. Then we have the Climbing Wall where **Grace Dougherty** and **Joyce Bright** will have a "shoot-out" to see who is awarded the "Rappel Queen" title. There are nature trails to walk, miles of roller skate, bike paths, ki yaks, paddle boats (rent 'em all) and fishing. Of course we'll have our usual hot dogs, hamburgers and fixings, beer to drink, games (a new one added this year) to play. And our famous auction. Please don't forget to bring along a nice auction item. This is where our hearts are put into our organization, gang. The generosity in the giving of an item for auction is directly proportional to the generosity of the person who bids and buys the article. It's an axiom we can live with, and the proceeds do so much good.

I will, of course, have more to add in next Dashpot. Directions - that sort of stuff. For people coming in early on Thursday, 6th, please let me know. I'll try to arrange a little social (translated, that means cocktail party) if I can just get all this other stuff organized. I'm planning on having my sons on tap for transportation actions as

(Continued on page 14)



## Letters



**B.E. Swenson, MNC, Ret.** I am writing in regard to a couple of items. If it cut cost to the AOM by reducing postage I would be more than willing to check out the website and download the

**DASHPOT.** I think it is an outstanding website. A friend of mine **John Olbert**, sent in his application to join the AOM awhile back and to date he has not heard anything from the AOM. He was stationed in Charleston in the early seventies. Your membership column woke me up, I have taken the AOM for granted. I would like to see the organization to continue, so if I can be of any assistance please contact me.

**LCDR Tim Paton** says:

My family and I finally made it out of Guam but not before we got knocked around by typhoon Paka. When it hit we were four days short of leaving the island, and on the eleventh floor of the Hyatt Hotel. I have to tell you I was a little more than scared when those 230 plus mph wind gust were laying into us. Of course with Louise and the kids right there I had to give the impression of Rock of Gibraltar courage, in reality I was shaking like a leaf and I believe they knew it. It was quite the experience. It is my understanding that during the typhoon the strongest wind gust ever recorded on the face of the planet was registered at 236 mph. Anyway, we safely made it off the island and spent a wonderful Christmas Holiday in Hawaii before traveling on to Texas. I'm currently attached to COMOMAG. Please update the mailing list so I don't miss any editions of my favorite periodical the "DASHPOT". Take care and God bless.

**Blas P "Joe" Hernandez** says: Ditto the president about you doing a good job. My open letter to my scientific son, Daniel, was intended to tell the world how one who mined the rivers to and from Cambodia felt. Enclosed is a copy of the Naval Minewarfare Association's newsletter *The Silent Defender*. This one has three pages of "Letters to the Editor".

maybe you can sell this concept instead of reducing inputs so much. Also can someone (active) like CDR Ron Swart provide some guidance to us "retireds" on what to do in case of chemical or biological attack?

**Gary Hickenbottom** says:

I talked to **Ralph Shaw** last week he is doing real good and we heard that **Dale (Moose) Wheelock** is doing fine. **Mike Chvilicek** is working at our local paper mill. Old **Richard (RF) Smith** is OK I ran into him at the Elks. Heard that **Mike Ledbetter** came through Bremerton recently but I did not get a chance to talk to him. The weather is getting better. And I am looking forward to the summer. Hope your healthy and happy.

**Gary**

**Bob Bentende** writes: 7 Jan 98

I would like to say thanks (via The Dashpot) and acknowledge all the support that I received in cards, letters and phone calls during my previous hospitalization and recuperation. The correspondence and calls were a great morale booster for me.

I currently attend cardiac re-hab three times a week and usually walk for an hour each day. I am feeling better and gaining strength with each passing day. John keep up the good work with Dashpot. I, like many others look forward to receiving our own quarterly copies. Warmest regards wishing all good health. I finally contacted Capt. **Bob Adams**, MSC USN Ret. that a lot of friends were trying to track down for me.

"**Joe**" Hernandez called in about **Bill Cherry's** passing and started an email rush to pass the word. He also sent in a letter adding to the information in the Taps Column. "Bill informed me about the mines in WESTPAC before and after the start of Vietnam and about his participation in MRCI's. LT Cherry was a Mines Officer! A gentleman with the highest sense of personal honor and I loved him."

**Charles A Nicklin** writes: In trying to remember Minemen that have passed on, I had two MN who worked for me in Trinidad BWI that died while riding a motorcycle. They crashed one night while riding a friends motorcycle in 1954. One was MN3

Joseph "**Joe**" Tipps, the other MN2 Boaz. I can't remember his first name and talking to shipmates we can't come up with his first name. Can anyone out there put a first name to MN2 Boaz? Chuck at 1428 Worrall Dr Bremerton WA 98310.

**Art Malecki**, retired pub writer NMEF writes:

I guess you are surprised to hear from me. We retired down here in Winter Park FL about seven years ago. The first few years were great but my wife **Mary** became seriously ill from her diabetes. She had several years of doctors, hospitals and many operations. Well, a few months ago she died from a massive stroke and heart attack at the same time. It was a rough situation but I will live out my life right here in sunny Florida. And, I want you to know I enjoy reading the Dashpot. You do a very good job on it. I only spent 14 years with the Mine Force but it certainly was a part of my life. For several years, I volunteered my services at the Orlando NTC. Since it closed, I don't go there anymore. At one time, CDR **Ken Martin** (from COMOMAG) was number 3 man on base. I visited him often in his office. He is now retired and living in Charleston. Good Luck!

CWO-4 **Joe Sapien** USN Ret says:

Thanks a million to all who responded with calls, cards, visits and attendance at Billie's funeral. He also thanks the AOM for the memorial gift.

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*(Reunion Continued from page 13)*

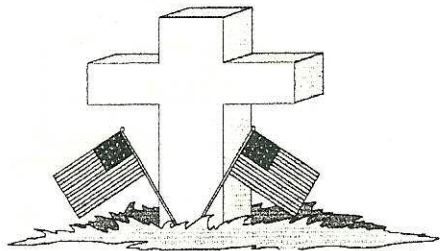
necessary if both they and my old van hold up. Also, if you think of anything I've missed, let me know. Cyberspace has me listed as tobyone@ix.netcom.com and the phone company bills me at 803-762-3552. Don't be bashful. Oh!...if you don't get an answer, try me at TCI...ask for **Kellie**...tell her I'm the one with eye strain???

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## Taps



by Lyal Stryker

**S**ince 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.

**Billie Sapien** - December 18, 1997, Surry, Virginia. Wife of CWO4 Joe Sapien, USN Ret. Without warning, a sudden heart attack and immediate hospitalization failed to prevent a second and fatal attack. Memorials may be sent to the Surry Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 188, Surry, Virginia 23883.

**LT William Glenn "Bill" Cherry**, USN Ret - January 23, 1998, Plymouth, Washington at home from an apparent heart attack. He was born July 31, 1930 at Barton, N.D. and enlisted in the Navy in 1947 after graduating from high school in Hermiston, WA. Served much of his time in Japan, Southeast Asia and the Pacific and served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was a Chief Mineman prior to his commissioning as a Limited Duty Officer (LDO) and retired at NAD Bangor in 1970 after 22 1/2 years service. **Bill** is survived by sons **Glenn, John** and **Dean**, daughters **Anne** and **Lynn** and nine grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of choice directly or through Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, OR 97838. **Bill** was buried January 30, 1998 in Hermiston Cemetery with full military honors by VFW Post 4750. Thanks to **Ed Gard** who sent us a copy of the obituary and funeral service program. **Ed** and **Bill** went to Mineman "B" School in Yorktown the fall of 1953.

**MNC Earl "Red" Merrill**, USN (RET) January 16, 1998, Bryant Pond, Maine. He had four bypasses in September and was back in the hospital when he died. **Red** had served in Charleston and at some time in EOD. His cremains will be buried April 19, 1998 in Hanover Cemetery, Hanover Maine. Full military honors will be provided by the American Legion Post, Locke Mills, Maine. Thanks to **Frank** and **Carol Strunk** and **Red's** wife **Fern** for this information.

**MNCM Billy Clark Owen** USN Ret - February 17, 1998 peacefully at home in Atlanta, Texas. He was born December 12, 1931 in Cass County Texas. Retired from the Red River Army Depot, life member of the DAV and Northwest Arkansas Archaeology Society and a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. He is survived by his wife of 46 years the former **Dorothy M. Adams** of Linden TX, three children, **Janet L. Kringen-Owen**, TSGT USAF Ret, **Rose M. Casey**, MSGT USAF and husband **Bill Casey**, SMSGT USAF Ret, **Joseph C. Owen** and wife **Janniece**. Also four grandchildren.

**Billy C.**, as he was known to his many shipmates had served at most of the mine sites during his career and included Subic Bay in the Philippines, Souda Bay, Crete, Scotland, Yorktown, Charleston. Much of the time he was deployed with the MOMATs and later MOMAG. He is also remembered for the extensive Indian arrowhead collection that he had collected over the years. Thanks to **Ray Green**, **Steve Howard**, **Cecil Martin**, **Joe Hernandez**, and others for reporting the death to us and to his daughter **Janet** for the obituary information. **Ray Green** and **Steve Howard** attended the services and folded the American Flag and presented it to Mrs. **Owen**.

**MNC Fred J. Cline** - no details, reported in the March 1998 issue of Naval Affairs.

**CDR Tom Fallon** USN Ret. 11 March 1998 in Grafton, VA. **CDR Fallon** was Ordnance Officer and XO NWS Yorktown over several

consecutive years in the 70s  
NOTE: We have learned that Captain **Christensen** will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery May 22, 1998 with full military honors. His daughter, Army Ltcol. **Connie Connolly** has arranged accommodations in Crystal City and she can be reached at (954) 463-5057 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

## Master Taps List

The following are additions, corrections and additions to the taps list published in the fall 1997 Dashpot.

### DELETIONS

**ROBLE, John** MNC - Correct name Wroble, already on list.

### CHANGES

**RINES, Bob** was a LCDR not LT.

**WOMACK'S** name was **Jack Pershing**

### ADDITIONS

**ARMOND, M.J.** MN1, 3 May 1945 (KIA, USS Aaron Ward DM 34)

**ASHING, Darrell W.** MNC, Richmond, VA early 1980's

**BAILEY, Delos** MNCS, ca. 1959/60 NAS Quanset Pt. RI

**BOAZ, MN3**, 1954, Trinidad, BWI

**CHERRY, Bill** LT, 23 Jan 1998, Hermiston, OR

**COLLIER, Dan** MN3, ca. 1982/3, Hawthorne, NV

**FALLETT, R.R.** MN2, 3 May 1945 (KIA, USS Aaron Ward DM 34)

**HAMM, MN3**, 1973/4 Motorcycle, Subic Bay

**HERWER, John** MNC, early 1990's

**HONNICKER, "Suds"** MN1 buried in Yokohama Japan no date

**HOUGHTON, George** MNC, 24 Dec 1960 Port Townsend, WA

**MONTGOMERY, John** MN1, KWESTEVDET 1965/6

**OFFINS, Jack** LT (LDO Mineman)

**OWEN, Billy C.** MNCM, 17 Feb 1998, Atlanta, TX

**PHELPS, Percy** MNC, early 1960's

**REDNER, Fred** MNC, 20 Sep 1997

**RIDDLE Roy**, MNC, NAD Oahu 1960's

**ROME, Bob** MN1 Key West no date

**STANCIL, George "Uncle Louie"** MN1 in 1980's

**THORSEN, Robert E. (Bob)** 1977

**TIPPS, Joe** MN2, 1954, Trinidad, BWI

**ZOLOGA, J.E.** MN2, 3 May 1945 (KIA USS Aaron Ward DM 34)



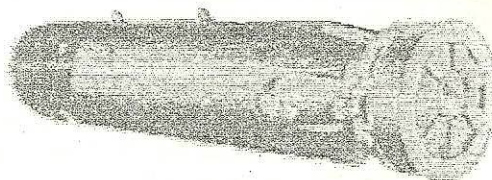
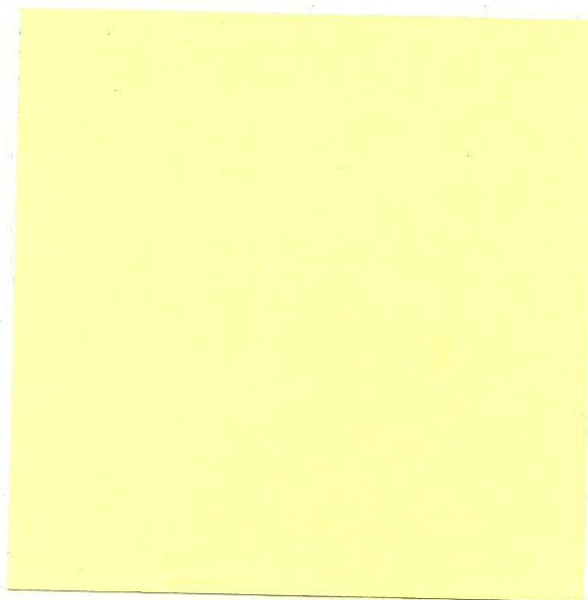
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## U.S. Navy Mines

Description: Mines are used as an anti-ship or anti-submarine, subsurface weapon

Background: The MK56 ASW mine (the oldest still in use, pictured) was developed in 1966. Since that time, more advances in technology have "given way" to the development of the MK60 CAPTOR (short for "encapsulated torpedo"), the MK62 and MK63 Quickstrike and the MK67 SLMM (Submarine Launched Mobile Mine). Most mines in today's arsenal are aircraft delivered to target.