

The DASHPO T

Issue 22

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

SUMMER 1998

FROM

by Warren Savage

Our 24th Annual Reunion will be held in Charleston, S.C., at the host hotel The Town and Country Inn from Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August 9, 1998. This event, chaired by **Toby Horn**, should be a memorable occasion and we will be electing the leadership at will be taking into the new century.

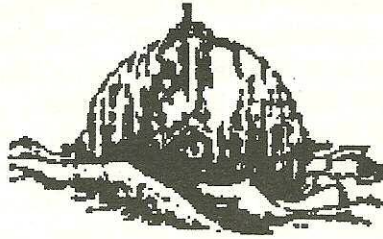
We will have much to do at our 24th Reunion, consisting primarily of the electing of two new officers, as well as two new directors. We will also have up-dated bylaws, as a result of the many hours of effort by **Don DeCrona**, to vote on allowing the AOM to function more smoothly and effectively over the next several years. We have many things occurring in our organization from newsletters, mine museums, scholarships, history book, a Website, membership, bylaws, special projects, and reunions, which all need the help of many **VOLUNTEERS** enabling us to accomplish all we need to do.

I want to **THANK** those officers, directors and others that have volunteered and have been so instrumental in keeping the Association of Minemen (AOM) moving in a positive direction. A partial list of those members who have stepped forward and volunteered are: Vice President **Joe Balderama**;

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AOM

Future of Mine Warfare?

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1000

7 April 1998

The Honorable John H. Dalton
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

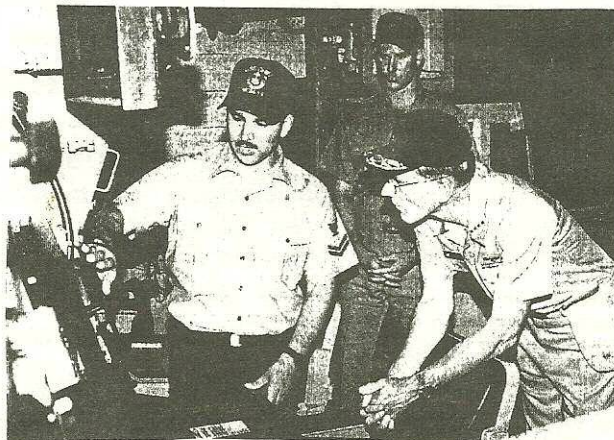
Dear John,

Thank you for the informative FY99 Mine Warfare certification briefing. I both noted and appreciated the presence of the Department of the Navy's Senior Leadership at the table as we reviewed this year's progress towards our goal of achieving an organic MIW capability for the Navy. As I mentioned during our meeting, I remain concerned about the lack of commitment of necessary resources

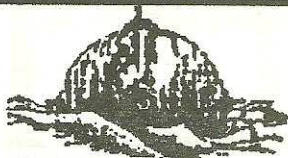
to bring about the desired transformation of mine warfare within the shortest possible time. Over the past several years we have spent a great deal of our resources on RDT&E programs, none of which have resulted in any transition to production. We cannot continue in this manner in the future.

It is time to fully comply with the will and intent of the Congress which has provided clear guidance with regard to the Nation's expectations of the Navy. I ask that you take the following actions with regard to mine warfare: First, that you "fence" the Naval Mine Warfare Programs from further funding reductions until such time as we have crossed the threshold from the dedicated capability we currently have to the organic capability we seek to acquire. Second, that you not use the dedicated MIW Force to "pay the bills" in the transformation process. We will need the current force to respond to the very real threats our forward deployed forces face until we can make the crossover. In other words, the operational readiness of the current force continues to be very important. Third, I would ask that you

(Continued on page 3)



ADM Jay Johnson, CNO is briefed on the capabilities of the AN/SLQ 48 Mine Neutralization System by MN2 Antonio Rodriguez on board USS Chief at Ingleside as LCDR Chris Grady, Chief's CO looks on.



**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)
1417 Sadler Dr #236
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 225-0446

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Lyal M. Stryker (97-98)
8517 Deerwood Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406-9713
(843) 553-1450
FAX 843-569-6913

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William L. Carlsen (95-98)

1925 Pilgrim Ave
Bronx, NY 10461

L. R. (Bob) Forbes (96-99)

1 Newark Ave

Goose Creek, SC 29445

LCDR John Iwaniec (97-00)

PO Box 2745

Seal Beach, CA 90740-1745

John F. Loonam (97-00)

10033 Indian Rd

Gloucester, VA 23061-2830

Horace L. (Buddy) Stewart (96-99)

4628 Yardley Drive

Charleston SC 29405

CDR Ron Swart (95-98)

5125 Cavendish Dr

Corpus Christi, TX 78413

PARLIAMENTARIAN (97-98)

Donald A. DeCrona

2320 Wide Horizon Dr.

Reno, NV 89509-5079

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (97-98)

John Loonam

10033 Indian Rd

Gloucester VA 23061-2830

(804) 693-2094 Phone/FAX

(9AM-11PM eastern)

Email jloonam@ccsine.com

(Continued from page 1)

Secretary/Treasurer **Lyal Stryker**;
Directors **William Carlson**, **Bob Forbes**, **John Iwaniec**, **John Loonam** (also our Dashpot Editor), **Buddy Stewart**, **Ron Swart**, **William Roberts**, and **Ralph Shaw**;
Parliamentarian **Don DeCrona**;
Scholarship Chair **Paul Santa Maria**;
AOM Website Staff **Fred Dane** and **Hal Elston**; Reunions: **Reno - Don DeCrona and Ray Cobis**; **Panama City - Don Costa and Frances Martin**; **San Diego - Jim Miller, Jerry Chipman, Bill Bash**, and many, many others. THANKS AGAIN!!

The AOM needs more VOLUNTEERS to step forward - helping to spread the load which will allow us to better serve our customer Minemen past, present and future in any and all ways possible to accomplish the many jobs we have at hand.

Together we can make the future beneficial to all AOM members and supporters. It has been a distinct honor and privilege to have had the opportunity to serve for the past three years as President of this fine organization that has done so much and has so much to offer to the Minemen Community at large. Thank you all for allowing me to serve. See you in Charleston.

1998/99 Dues are due in August. Please send your check to AOM address on cover Dues notices are not mailed to members

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. addresses, master taps list, Dashpot, Sea & Shore stories etc.

Where's Charlie??

William Bannon would like to know where **Edgar (Ed) McMillen** lives. info to: **Fred Dane** at AOM Home Page or Dashpot.

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

JAG NEEDS OLD-TIMER HELP

by Toby Horn

It seems some fisherman was dragging his nets in very deep water in an area that was clearly marked on the chart as a hazardous/disposal area. The nets snagged and brought up what was later identified as a MK 13 mine. The story gets longer, but the short of it is that the Navy is involved in long-term litigation regarding this matter and they need to clear the books.

LT **Tierney Carlos** of the Judge Advocate General's Office called on the AOM re our document archives to see if we had any documentation regarding the disposal of ammunition and ordnance by dumping at sea. In particular, he is looking for any data/info regarding such disposal circa late 1940s, just after WWII.

If any of you old-timers were involved in any of these disposal ops or if you can otherwise provide any information regarding such disposal, please contact LT Tierney at JAG (Code 31), 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-2400; or by phone at (703) 325-9744; or at <carlostm@jag.navy.mil> by email. Thanks, Toby

Sickness

I found out from **Ray Etheridge** that **John Koerber** had a heart attack a couple of weeks ago. I called his wife, **Shirley**, this afternoon. John had triple bypass surgery and is now at home. He is doing well and goes back to the doctor on the 9th, after that he will start physical therapy.

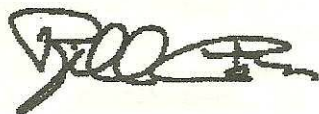
**AOM 24th Annual
Reunion Charleston,
SC 7-9 August 1998**

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develop a "POM" for mine warfare which balances requirements and resources. Our conversation indicated that presently we are not in balance in that requirements exceed resources allocated. You may find he Mine Warfare Front End Assessment, currently being conducted by PA&E, to be helpful in this effort. I would appreciate a follow on brief when this is done. My goal is to be of assistance to you in this effort. Lastly, I would appreciate hearing more with regard to your plans to "mainstream" mine warfare into the consciousness of the fleet. I would imagine that you are giving thought to the educational requirements as well as to the operational imperatives associated with this important effort. Our Marines and Sailors must be mine warriors in addition to everything else we expect of them.

This is an exciting time for the Navy as it moves to full implementation of the congressional will and our vision for Naval Mine Warfare. By your dedication and ultimate success, you will send a clear message to those who would engage our forces asymmetrically, and that message will be one which convinces them of the futility of their purpose.

I appreciate your leadership and support in this important undertaking.



Copy Furnished:

Admiral J.L. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations

General Charles C. Krulak,
Commandant of the Marine Corps

**Charleston Reunion
Contact:**

Toby Horn

54 Rivers Point Row
Charleston, SC 29412
(803) 762-3552

Correction:

Our apologies to LT **Ken Allen** new COMOMAG Operations Officer. We called him Ken Martin in DP 21.

INSIDE THE NAVY 30 MAR 98

sub by CDR Ron Swart

NEW CAUCUS ON MINE WARFARE MEETS WITH REPS FROM NAVY, INDUSTRY

The House National Security Committee is crafting legislative language that, if adopted, would protect the money allocated for Navy mine warfare efforts from internal reprogramming moves carried out by the Navy's budget office, according to a congressional source. The legislation is expected to be included in the fiscal year 1999 defense authorization bill and would, in principle, guarantee adequate funding for these programs for the upcoming fiscal year.

Congressional supporters of the mine warfare programs have been frustrated that funds for these projects are sometimes siphoned off to pay the bills of other, more high-profile Navy programs, one congressional source noted. The source said that many mine warfare programs are now operating at funding levels below what Congress approved for FY-98 as a result of internal reprogramming actions. The language would also require the service to continue certifying to Congress its annual mine warfare plan, something Navy officials have been trying to end. Senior defense officials and industry representatives met with House members last week to discuss mine warfare plans under the umbrella of a new mine warfare congressional caucus, a bipartisan initiative started to support mine warfare programs. The group, co-chaired by Reps. **Solomon Ortiz** (D-TX) and **Dana Rohrabacher** (R-CA), formed months after Defense Secretary **William Cohen** sent on Nov. 12, 1997, a sharply-worded letter to Navy Secretary **John Dalton** that pointed out what **Cohen** saw as the Navy's waning support for mine warfare programs. "Any collective failure to recognize and implement the urgent imperatives of the mine warfare program could have serious consequences for our

Navy," **Cohen** wrote. Caucus and other House members met on March 24 with defense industry representatives and some of the Navy's top mine warfare officials.

The aim of the mine warfare caucus is to "put teeth into an effort to strengthen naval mine warfare," according to caucus spokesman **Todd Skipper**. To date, caucus members include **Ortiz**, **Rohrabacher**, and Reps. **Herb Bateman** (R-VA), **F. Allen Boyd** (D-FL), **Tillie Fowler** (R-FL), **Sam Gejdenson** (D-CT), **John Hostettler** (R-IN), **Steny Hoyer** (D-MD), **Patrick Kennedy** (D-RI), **Howard McKeon** (R-CA), **Joe Scarborough** (R-FL), and Del. **Robert Underwood** (D-GU).

Glen Troutman says:

Please keep me informed of plans & activities for August reunion will be looking for a travel park acct pulling trailer or camping grounds also please check on dues misplaced my records contact me at smokey39@ptd.net.

Thank you have a nice day. **Glenn C Troutman** 384 Ben Salem Rd Lehighton PA 18235.

MNC Robert (Willie) Wilson Ret

John, you probably remember me as "Willie" **Wilson** (from West Loch days) even though my real name is **Robert W. Wilson**. I was in the Mine Force from 1952 till 1972 when I retired as Chief Mineman. I live here in Port Monmouth, N.J. I retired from United Parcel Service 4 years ago and opened up a Embroidery business with my son **Chet** till last year. I sold it to him and I am now on the board of trustees for the New Jersey Naval Museum in Hackensack, N.J. My son and I gave a tour of our complex today to Naval Reserve Unit MOMAD 104. And Gunner **Ivan Lopez** gave me a copy of Dashpot. I did a tour in Vietnam on PBR's and just had one delivered to our Museum and is on display. Our Web site is NJNM.COM

**Charleston and all coastal
(two Counties wide) SC new
area code is 843**

Committee Reports

NOW HEAR THIS !!!

A Message From Your Immediate Past President, Mine Museum Coordinator, History Book Coolie, IRS Status Applicant, and Reunion Committee of One

For the past year I have worked many, many hours - some of them long into the night - on your behalf. I have spent a lot of my own personal money, and put aside things that I needed to do for both myself and my family. I have not had one person come forward to genuinely offer their help - other than a few of those far away and unable to assist me in matters close to Charleston. My continuing plea for such help in succeeding Dashpot issues have gone unanswered. The time and money doesn't hurt - the lack of response does.

All this notwithstanding, some progress has been made. The inventory of our materials and holdings in our museum aboard the USS Yorktown is essentially complete (except for separate documents and papers). I have completed an action list of things that must be done to bring our museum to high class standards. I am sorry to report that I have not been able to perform any actual maintenance of cases or display exhibits, get identification plaques made, or have photographs produce and installed on available bulkhead space. I doubt that I will be able to accomplish any of this prior to our reunion in Charleston. You'll just have to envision the possibilities when you visit.

The application for IRS 501 (3)(c) status is just about complete and will have been mailed by the time you read this (or shortly thereafter). I will be providing the \$150.00 application fee on a "loan" basis. The planning for the Charleston Reunion

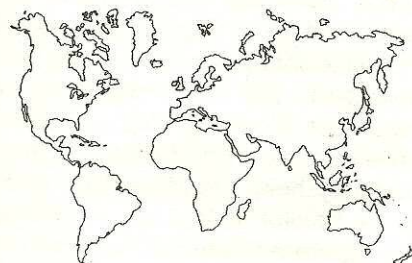
going to have to eat a few of my words here - the crew at our Charleston Unit 11 has volunteered to help us with the picnic set-up for our Sunday picnic and auction. I have provided the \$250.00 Earlybird and the \$200.00 dinner/banquet deposit - also on a "loan" basis. The AOM did have enough money in our coffers for the picnic pavilion deposit.

I received the blueline copies of our history book this morning. The publisher estimates that it will take me five or six days to finish the proofing, get the shipping labels marked, and type the list of books to be personalized. This will have been accomplished by the time you read this. I have not even looked at the blueline yet, but I can tell you it's going to be a good book - not a great book, mind you, 'cause we didn't have enough space for all the great stuff you sent in - but it will be a good book to have and cherish in remembrance of you, your shipmates, and your profession. However, the funding in the account for the books is low, based on less than expected pre-sale. We also thought we had an arrangement with Taylor Publishing that we could take partial inventory based on sales, and residual inventory based on post-publication sales. Come to find out, we didn't, so we need money in the account to get our books shipped. I can promise you the after-publication sale will boom, even at the increased cost. I will be purchasing a book for each of my children to have as their own - maybe my grandchildren too, so they can remember their "Pop-Pop".

OK - now here is what you can do. You members out there who have not paid your dues - get off your duff and send them in. The rest of us are carrying you. You're part of the reason our operating capital is low. Unless you are pre-paid, your new dues are also due with your submission of the reservation form for the reunion in Charleston. Send 'em in!

I also want each member to make a concentrated effort to come to the

FULL FORCE NEWS



COMINEWARCOM

by CDR Ron Swart

It has been a smoky spring with the fires down in Mexico causing smoke and haze across south Texas. We've had health warnings all spring long. Makes some of us wonder why we gave up cigarettes...

● The drawdown of the CAPTOR stockpile has reached its first anniversary and MOMAU 14 has been working hard to keep the trucks rolling toward Hawthorne. The MK 56 stockpile lay-up will begin this next fiscal year (Oct 98). Many wonder what is to become of our beloved naval mine force and I must admit it gets a little discouraging at times. Thanks to RADM Conley, we have begun a serious effort to brief our plight to key senior leaders in the Navy and DOD. Admiral Conley's style is not just to brief the problem, but to recommend solutions and direction. It has kept me and Captain Mike Green and his COMOMAG staff plenty busy helping chart the future of naval mining. The CNO, ADM Jay Johnson himself, visited the Mine Warfare Command recently to receive a comprehensive brief on Mine Warfare, both MCM and mining. It is a little early to determine how well we'll do in the fiscal year 2000 budget, but I can assure you all that the fleet CINCs are concerned and have made their priorities known to the resource sponsor in the Pentagon. I'd like to encourage all members to read about where we're going across the

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latest issue of Surface Warfare Magazine. I'll get a copies of these articles on our AOM Homepage for those of you who can't get a copy.

● Manning is tough all over the Navy these days. There are shortages everywhere and it gets noticed real fast aboard our MOMAUs and MOMADs. The Navy is pushing all eligible rollers into recruiting (sounds like deja vu all over again, huh?). Master Chief **Helgerson**, COMOMAG Command Master Chief, MNCS **Mike Thanscheidt** the new Mineman Detailer are working hard to identify key positions at our Units and Dets to ensure we don't suffer unfairly.

● I will relieve Captain **Green** as COMOMAG on 7 August 1998 at the staff headquarters here in Corpus Christi.

● Welcome aboard to Lt. **Kevin Lilek**, the latest addition to the COMOMAG wardroom. **Kevin** is an LDO (Surface Ordnance) and will be trained as a minefield planner. He comes to us from Seattle and a tour on the USS Carl Vinson.

● Congratulations to LCDR **Donna Joyal**, COMOMAG's Admin Officer, on her promotion to her present rank.

● Fairwell: to Captain **Bill Shannon**, COMINELWARCOM Assistant Chief of Staff for Readiness, Requirements and Tactics. Captain **Shannon** is one of the truly gifted officers in Mine Warfare (and a champion for sea mines), having an AMCM background (including a tour as CO, HM-15) and significant tours as a mine warfare requirements officer in OPNAV. Captain **Shannon** is headed to PAX River, MD for a tour in NAVAIR.

to MNC **Kirby Brown**, who will depart COMOMAG staff before the next Dashpot issue. He's headed for Houston and a tour in recruiting. Chief **Brown** has worked in Operations Department and is currently on the MRCI Team swinging through the East Coast sites.

to LT **Mike McAdams**, CO, MOMAU Eleven. Mike retires on 24 July in Charleston. As some of you remember, **Mike** was the first Chief Petty Officer to go through and complete Mineman 'A' School. He has

had numerous successful tours as a say...

Chief and an Officer; most notably his tour at MOMAU Twelve, Misawa, where he and his crew won the 'M' Award two years in a row. He will be relieved by his XO, Lt **John Lyman**.

● MISC: I have found a presentation including the organizational structure of the mine force dating back to the 1950's. I will ask to have it published on our AOM web page. Thanks to **MNCM John Nolen** and his crew of Minemen at MOMAU 15 Kingsville, for their hard work on the mine display on the USS Lexington Maritime Museum. By the way, the Lady Lex's newest employee is none other than our own

Ron Davis, now retired from active duty. Congratulations on what should

● COMOMAG: LCDR **Terry Auberry** is transferring to WPNSTA Crane, In for duty this June. He'll be sorely missed, but hopefully this will be the right job to help him pick up Commander. Good Luck, **Terry!**

● Captain **Green** and myself, along with other key staff members, including LT **Coral MacIntosh** from Mine Warfare Training Center, traveled to Dallas to attend a CO's conference for the Naval Reserve MOMAG community. Discussions included future Mineman rating expansion for the reserve Minemen into sea billets in NRF MCM and MHC class ships at Ingleside.

Hope to see y'all in Charleston... we'll be there if nothing gets in our way.

MOMAU One

By LCDR John Iwaniec

Well for some news at Unit One, we passed our MRCI with the same gusto as our AV, another 100% in all areas. I am extremely proud of my crew and everything they have accomplished, not to many folks out there have aced both inspections in a row.

We are busy right now preparing for our RIMPAC exercise and there will be some lucky folks who will get a few days in Hawaii. We are finally going to see some progress with our new Refurbishment equipment, the contractors will start next week and everything is supposed to be completed by August 11, So they

Not much else happening but we do hear the numbers from the last exam are going to be better than we have thought it was something like 30 first classes 40 E-5 and 25 thirds, sure hope that turns out to be true, we have so many excellent people out there who deserve a break not to mention how many are getting close to that high tenure mark. I would also like to say Congratulations to all those other Sites out there who did so well on their inspections, way to go folks. That's it for now, Good luck to all those hard working Sailors who will be putting on those new chevrons.

MOMAU Three

by LT Mathison & MNC Butterhof

Hello from MOMAU Three in the garden state of NEW JERSEY. By the time you read this, we will have successfully completed our MRCI- This year we have the privilege of having the Reserve Units MOMAU FOUR (Albany, NY) and MOMAU THREE (Kearny, NJ). They are a great addition for us and bring us all of their collective experience whenever they are onboard.

We also had had the pleasure of working with reserve unit MOMAU Seven (Greenville, SC) this past April. They were a group of outstanding and motivated sailors. We saw why they earned the Mineman M award. A hearty thanks for a job well done goes out to them!

MOMAU THREE has had some new additions this spring, MN3 **Lanpheare** and his wife **Christine** had a baby boy named **Ezekiel** and MN3 **Hire** and his wife **Toby** had a baby girl named **Madeline**. In addition to the increase in the size of some of our sailors families MNSN **Burba** checked on board from A school and MN1 **Laufenburger** arrived from COMOMAG.

We have had some Reenlistments in the last several months. SK2 **Santiago** reenlisted on the observation deck at the Empire State Building (no reported cases of nose

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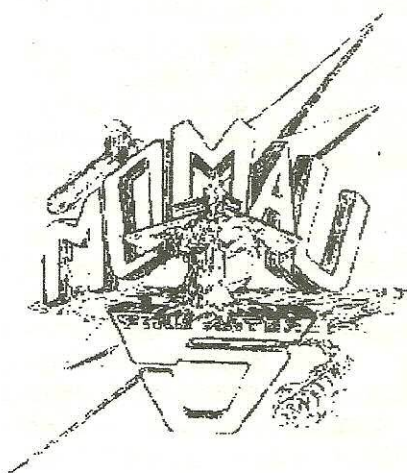
bleed). MN1(SW) **Havens** and MN1 **Weller** also reenlisted in small ceremonies.

Our SOY and JSOY were MN1 **Michael Stultz** and MN3 **Clark Salinas** respectively. The Navy League had a dinner and a award ceremony for all the Jersey area sailors of the year. It proved to be an evening of sea stories and great food for those who attended.

Some members of the crew were a little disappointed in that we had a severe lack of snowfall this past winter(a small segment), while the rest were pleased with the lack of shoveling required though out the winter. It did however, rain for three Straight weeks!

We held a best ball golf tournament on Friday the 29th of May. I don't think a golf course has had that much laughter and mis-directed golf balls in quite a while. The winners were LT **Mathison** and MN2 **Cassidy** (both experienced Golfers) and taking second place were MN1 "Tiger" **Stultz** and MN3 "Caddy Shack" **Hire**.

Well, we will try to get better at sending updates out on the goings on up here for the next Dashpot. Take care and remember, 'A Mine is a terrible thing to waste'.



MOMAU FIVE

by MNCS B. A. HOWARD

Boun goirno from sunny Sigonella, here is what going on this summer.

We just completed our Explosive Safety Inspection and we are preparing for the Change of Command scheduled for 22 July. LT **Gary D. Martin** will be relieving CWO4 **Robert J. Reed** as Commanding Officer for MOMAU FIVE. Congratulations to the following Sailors for advancement: MN1 **Michael Slater**, MN1 **James Doudna**, MN1 **Andrea Edwards**, MN2 **Catherine Traynor**, MN2 **Eric Hubble**, MN2 **Erik McKnight**, and MN3 **Russell Fels**.

Hail to YN2 **Derrick Francis** from Defense Intelligence Agency. Sailors coming in this summer include: MN2 **Brian Kopp** from MCM 3 (USS Sentry), LT **Gary D. Martin** from COMINWARCOM, MNCM **Mark Zinnel** from MOMAU ONE, MN2 **Manuel Jiminez** from Rotational Crew Delta, SKI **Victoria Meadows** from USS Simon Lake, MNSA **Brian Plazola**, MNSR **Mario Barrientos** and MNSR **Michael Wilkins** from MWTC, and MN1 **Julie Porter** from MOMAU FOURTEEN.

Farewells go out to CWO4 **Robert Reed** to MOMAU ELEVEN, MNCS **Bruce Howard** to MOMAU FOURTEEN, MN1 **Edward Moriarty** to MOMAU ELEVEN, MN1 **David Morrow** to Navy Recruiting District New England, MN2 **Jeffrey Wirth** to MOMAU ELEVEN, MN1 **William White** to MOMAU ELEVEN, MN3 **Laura Arthur** to MOMAU ONE, MN3 **Russell Fels** to Rotational Crew Bravo, MNSA **Timothy Digeronimo** to the USS Avenger, and MN1 **Doudna** to Navy Recruiting District Minneapolis. We will miss thin all!

Awards and recognition go to MN3 **Demetrius O'Halloran** who received a Letter of Commendation for his selection as MOMAU FIVE's Junior Sailor of the Quarter for 1 Q98.

MOMAU Eight

by MNCS Williams

Hafa Day Shipmates, Duty at MOMAU Eight is great and things are rolling right along here in the heart of the

Pacific. The Department of defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB), Ammunition Materials Hazards (AMHAZ) inspections and Field Calibration (FCA) . certification came and went with no discrepancies. Our MRCI was exceptional, and by all accounts, it was the best MRCI MOMAU Eight has ever had! The crew's hard work really paid off. We send our congratulations out to all the other MOMAU's/MOMAD's for their successful inspections as well. We stand ready for the upcoming ADMAT in July. Following that, we'll have 4 to 6 months before the Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI), whew!

Several self-help projects are nearing completion, and we just finished Historical Tours for the local Elementary Schools of landmarks here on the Naval Magazine. The kids really enjoyed running around in the jungle and we had quite a time keeping up! An El-Nino induced drought is well underway here on Guam, but we're hoping that the delayed rainy season will kick-in any day now. Our Spouse Appreciation Dinner was a great success. Everyone enjoyed Mongolian Bar-b-que at Top-of-the Mar, and we also recognized the children who helped make ice at the command after Super Typhoon Paka. They like their Certificates of Appreciation, but they really went wild for the McDonald's Gift Certificates.

Recent awardees were: SSOQ - MN1 **J.D. Sullivan**, JSOQ - MNSN **Ancil**; Humanitarian Medals for KAL-Flt 800 - MN2 **Connors**, MNSN **Ancil**, MN3 **Dominguez**, MN3 **Kichta**, MNSN **Betz**, MN3 **Herbig**; LOA - MNSN **Betz**; COA - Mrs. **Connors**. Also recognized were the winners from a recent MOMAU Golf Tournament - 1st MNC **Cantrell/MNC Thornton**, 2nd MN1 **Nelson/MN2 Connors**, Longest Drive - MNC **Thornton**, Closest to the Pin MNSN **Ancil**. Departures: We had to say good-bye to MN3 **Kichta**, who headed back home after 4 years of service, a good worker and we wish

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Charleston Reunion

by Toby Horn

All is "GO" for the reunion in Charleston. Contracts are in place and prices are firm. Elsewhere in this edition, you'll find your reservation form with the prices for events. I urge, suggest, badger, prompt, and otherwise plead for you to fill out your reservation form, write your check, and send it in soon after you read this. I especially need early counts on Earlybird attendance, golf outing, and those who plan to visit the USS Yorktown so that I can get a list over to Patriots Point and you can get in free. Gimme some help on this!!!

Let's update things sequentially as best I can. First, I'm pleased to announce that I will be hosting our long-term Danish Navy member, **Jorgen Lorenzen** for our reunion events. For those of you who are extra early in town, I am planning an open-house style cocktail party at my home on Thursday evening beginning about 6:30 PM. We'll go six or seven days or until the booze and food (horse things) run out. Please RSVP this invitation (803-762-3552) when you get into town (or if you live here in the Charleston area and plan to attend). I can then plan a little as well as provide directions (it will be like going to JICP and RV Center with slight modification - so have you directions handy when you call). If I'm not at home, leave a message/number and I'll call you back.

Directions are provided in this issue and on the AOM internet home page for where you need to go. Our Earlybird adventure will be at the picnic area along and above the first base line at Joe Riley Ball Park. Your tickets will be available at a special desk at the main entrance to the ball park. Look for the AOM sign. It's all-you-can-eat BBQ Ribs and Chicken from 1800-2000 (6:00-8:00 PM), cold beer, the pro baseball game, and band and fireworks as well. It'll be a fun evening, folks - but, of necessity, this is a prepaid event so the cooks will know how many to cook for. So, sign up now on your reservation form and send in your check. I have to have a final count by

4 August. After that, you're on your own with general admission and buy your own beer at \$4.00 per large cup. It'll cost you more that way, and you'll miss out on the Riverdogs BBQ cooking.

We now have a new hotel representative/hostess - **Tammy Pancoski**. Our **Kelli Billington** moved on to another job with a national chain. Sob! Sob! Now, you'll never know. As of this writing, **Tammy** reports that 21 of our 30 rooms (blocked) are taken. She is prepared to provide more at our group rate, but the cut-off is 15 July. By the time you read this, the time will be short. **Joe** and **Claire Balderrama** came for a recent visit and were undecided as to RV Park or the hotel. They fell in love with the RV Park which I showed them first, but the hotel was their undoing and they signed up immediately (I think he got poolside with a kitchenette). Remember, our group number is #992. Refer to it when making res at 800-334-6660.

DON'T PROCRASTINATE! DO IT NOW!!!

The golf outing on Saturday morning is planned around several back-to-back tee times starting about 0730. Plan to arrive about 0700. Players will pay their own green/cart fee and join the group made up by **Bill Roberts** and **Mac McCarthy** at the Earlybird. So far, I only have a few takers on golf, and there will be no DEAD RED ROOSTER trophy for just a couple of golfers. It ain't worth running down a chicken, seeing to it's demise, and dyeing it red. Don't assume I know you want to play golf. Do assume I forgot that you told me. Sign up for the event on the res form and send it in NOW!!! Do not send in the \$25.00 green/cart fee - pay at the course.

The hotel will host our business meeting on Saturday afternoon at 1500 (3:00 PM). Come prepared to elect a new President, VP, and two BOD members. The hotel will also host our fantabulous all-you-can-eat Seafood and Prime Rib Buffet. Like I said, folks, you ain't seen nothing like it. Check the board in the front foyer for the business meeting location as

well as our designated banquet room where we'll seat ourselves after running the buffet line. For the din-din event, we'll meet in the banquet-room starting at 1800 (6:00 PM) and plan to attack the chow line an hour or so later. At this writing, I'm not sure about a guest speaker, but we have awards and announcements to make, new officers to recognize, et al. Happy - happy - happy tiimeeee - do dee - do dee- doooo (from South Pacific). Sing along now!

On Sunday, our AOM Best Picnic Ever will be held at the James Island County Park. There's so much to do at this park, folks - the Climbing Wall for you adventurous and younger types - bike and skate paths - fishing - the Splash Zone and the Lazy River - paddleboats - kayaks. Plus we have our usual fare of eats and cold beer and soft drinks. And please, don't forget our auction. Our auctioneer this year will be a very attractive young lady who will be topless so that we get your complete attention and are able to sneak in an increased bid here and there (just kidding, folks). Please bring nice items for auction and please have them labeled with the minimum bid. Bring your wallets, too and help some of "our" kids to an education.

A last plea! Anyone out there in the Charleston area who wants to help???

Jorgen Strange Lorenzen. CDR Royal Danish Navy Ret.

I have a few comments to the last "DASHPOT" First about the time I was active writing to the "Troubleshooter" magazine - many years back. If I'm correct - I wrote app. 200 material reports and articles and raised other questions about our new mines - they were new also in the U.S.N. - that was not because I wished to see my name in the "Troubleshooter". A few times the editor used my correct name, but mostly I got other names and ranks under my inputs - why - as the editor told me - its frustrating that you are the major supporter to the

(Continued on page 8)

CHARLESTON REUNION DIRECTIONS

by Toby Horn

To The Hotel

From the airport, take the airport exit to I-526 and go right toward Savannah. Go to end where it joins RT 17 and go left on RT 17 (N) and **TCI** will be three blocks on the left (across from Ruby Tuesday).

Coming from I-95 N/S points North and West, take I-26 E toward Charleston. As you approach Charleston, look for Aviation Avenue exits. Just past these exits keep to right and take I-526 toward Savannah. Go to end where it joins RT 17 and go left on RT 17 (N) and **TCI** will be three blocks on the left (across from Ruby Tuesday).

Coming from I-95 N/S points South, take I-95N to RT 17N (Charleston). Approx one hour drive time, you will pass through Ravenel, pass RT 20 (Main Road - Limehouse Bridge) and divided highway will end as you enter commercial area. From the end of the divided highway (you go to 6 lanes), **TCI** is 1.6 miles on left.

Coming from RT 17N proceeding South from Myrtle Beach, you will pass through Pawleys Island, Georgetown, and (40 minutes later) as you come to outskirts of Mt. Pleasant, take right on I-526W toward Savannah. Go to end where it joins RT 17 and go left on RT 17N and **TCI** will be three blocks on the left (across from Ruby Tuesday).

From the RV Park at James Island County Park (JICP), come out of park and take left onto Riverland Drive. Go 1.6 miles to traffic light at Maybank Hwy (see golf course). Go right at light and go 1.5 miles (3rd traffic light) to Folly Road (see Nations Bank on right). Go left and cross over the Wappoo Bridge (Inland Waterway) and stay left as you pass Windemere Shopping Center on left. Stay left on RT 171 as road splits, two blocks to traffic light at RT 17 (see Exxon station). Go left on RT 17 and go 3.2 miles to **TCI** on right (you will pass "Auto Dealers Row" - see the #00 flag - Nissan Dealer sign - Capt D's - Seels Outboard and Ruby

Tuesday on left).

To And From The Ballpark

From hotel, take left on RT 17N and go 4.25 miles to Lockwood Blvd. Approaching Lockwood, you will go over small overpass and then come to merging traffic (merge right) at the round Holiday Inn. Ease immediately to the center-right lane as you cross the bridge. Center-right lane exits straight ahead to light at Lockwood Blvd. Take left on Lockwood Blvd, under the RT 17 overpass, through the traffic light, pass Sheraton on right, straight ahead to the Joe Riley Ball Park. Coming from the Ball Park, come back to traffic light and make right onto RT 17S and go 4.25 miles to **TCI**.

From James Island County Park (RV), come out of park and take right onto Riverland Drive, then immediate left onto Camp Road and go to light at Folly Road. Go left on Folly, pass 2 traffic lights (see Harris Teeter on left) and take right onto RT 30 (Downtown). This is the new James Island connector. Go past RT 61 (Summerville) exit and then past first Lockwood Blvd exit. Take 2nd Lockwood Blvd exit which will wrap around to the right onto Lockwood Blvd. Go straight ahead, through 1st light, under the RT 17 overpass, through the 2nd light, pass Sheraton on the right, straight ahead to Joe Riley Ball Park. Coming from the Ball Park, go through 1st light, under the RT 17 overpass, through the 2nd light and merge left onto the RT 30 ramp (Folly Beach), across connector to dead-end. Left, then to 3rd light, make right on Camp, to end, make right and then immediate left into **TCI**.

To The Picnic And Golf

From the hotel, take RT 17N for 3.2 miles to RT 171 (see Exxon station on left). Go right, pass Windemere Shopping Center on right, across Wappoo Bridge, go right onto RT 700 (keep Nations Bank to your left), pass two traffic lights (golf course entrance is about 0.2 miles on left) to 3rd traffic light at Riverland Drive (10th hole is to right - 18th hole is to left as you approach the light. Make left onto

Riverland and go 1.6 miles to James Island County Park entrance. Enter and follow signs for Wappoo Shelter.

SEE YA THERE!!!

(Continued from page 4)

Charleston Reunion. Our reunion is held in the same time-slot every year and there are those of you have continually provide the excuse that "this was planned, or that was planned and you couldn't be here". Hogwash! You're part of this organization. Participate! At least every once in awhile?

Bring a nice auction item to the reunion and open your hearts and your wallets when you bid.

Buy a history book! Buy several! In some cases, some of our members are providing "loans" to the account. Bless them one and all. We're gonna get through this thing and **WE'RE GONNA DO IT TOGETHER!!!**

I don't care what you do - but doing something. The only thing about doing nothing is you never know when you're finished. I'll see you at the reunion - won't I?

Love ya all (well, almost all). Toby

(Continued from page 7)

"Troubleshooter" in reports and writings - so I have to put incorrect names under your inputs.

A little about the "P" mine in the last Dashpot. The "Chemical Pencil" was used as arming delays, in the mine. In my time as active saboteur and other illegal activities in Denmark during the last 18 months of the war against the Germans, we used the "Pencil Time Fuse" as delay arming for our bombs against railroad tracks, factories and what ever were our targets. There is very little differences between the two "Pencils" - but the time delay for the "Pencils" is very much depending on the surrounding temperature. We learned that the hard way.

Ed note: CDR **Lorenzen** went on describing his association with our mine force and travels to the USA

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ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P.O. BOX 71835
CHARLESTON, SC 29415

TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL MINEMEN REUNION (CHARLESTON, SC)

PLEASE RETURN THIS RESERVATION FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS TO EXPEDITE YOUR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION EVENTS. YOUR TICKETS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE EARLY BIRD, GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, DINNER AND PICNIC. Make payable to the "Association of Minemen"

NAME: _____ MEMBER# _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NO. () _____ - _____ (FOR LAST MINUTE NOTIFICATION)

Put me on visitor list USS YORKTOWN: Yes [] No. in Party _____ No []

Sign me up for Golf Saturday Morning: Yes [] NO []

Early Bird (BBQ and Ballgame) \$16.00 each _____ X \$16.00 \$ _____

DINNER TICKETS (13 and up) \$25.00 EACH _____ X \$25.00 \$ _____

DINNER TICKETS (Child) (8-10) \$15.00 EACH _____ x 15.00 \$ _____

DINNER TICKETS (CHILD) (5-7) \$11.00 EACH _____ X 11.00 \$ _____

PICNIC TICKETS (13 and Up) @\$10.00 EACH _____ X \$10.00 \$ _____

PICNIC TICKETS (8-12) @\$5.00 EACH _____ X \$5.00 \$ _____

Under 8 are free.

ANNUAL DUES (\$10.00 AS APPLICABLE TO UPDATE) \$ _____

Note: Annual dues are payable in Aug. of each year

USS YORKTOWN Mine Museum Donation \$ _____

USS LEXINGTON Mine Museum Donation \$ _____

AOM SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (Please make check payable to AOM) \$ _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN 7 OR UNDER FOR PICNIC _____
(PLEASE INDICATE NUMBER OF CHILDREN 7 OR UNDER SO WE CAN PLAN PICNIC DETAILS)
WE MUST GUARANTEE NUMBERS FOR DINNER NO LATER THAN THEN 4 AUGUST.
NO REFUNDS AFTER 4 AUGUST 1998.

Advancements (Mar 1998 exams)

MN1 (30)

Andrzejewski, W. Becker, Arthur
B Burkhart, Terrel Carr, Dean
M Chabot, Ronald A Dixon,
Keith D Doudna, James S
Edwards, Andrea Estes, William
F Evanoff, David E Franklin,
Willia Harrison, Raymon
Kirker, Joseph K Link, Jeffrey A
Pascoe, Richard Rickaby,
Patrick Robinson, Darvin
Rodriguez, Anton Slater,
Michael Sullivan, James
Thetford, Larry Thomas, Richard
Turner, Wallace Vetter, Corey L

MN2 (40)

Angle, Jack D. Brooks, Jason C
Busch, Michael E Clebowicz,
Marti Dominguez, John
Dykes, Jamie S Faill, Natasha L
Fernandes, Gary Geisler, Mark M
Gonzalez, Abel Graham, Andre E
Harmon, David M Hatlevig,
Matthe Hinton, Wayne
Hubble, Eric W Jackson, Timothy
Jenkins, Denny L Kazmaier, Cary
W Kwekel, Aaron J Liu, Martha
Lowder, Susan M Marquez,
Anthony McKnight Erik C
Medina, Alfredo Miller, Ammie A
Morgan, Robert N Moyers, Phil
Nagle Michael E Nason, Kecia R
Packer, Scott W Payne, Chad Q
Pierson, Keith J Poulsen,
Jennife Ramon, Mathias H

MN3 (25)

Apple, Travis D Armstrong, Zacha
Beggs, Irving L Betz, Corey J
Bradshaw, Jermai Fels, Russell J
Flores, Irving R Greene, Mark L
Guerrero, Henry Gump, Lawrence J
Hancock, Lorne C Jamison, John A
Johnson, Timothy Kearney, David I
Marroquin, Joe M Martinez, Ramses
McMillian, Steve Patton, Ryan K
Reeves, Gregory Rojas, Jose A
Samilton, Willia Simmons, Daniel
Watkins, Casey A White, Traci Lyn

Bupers announces MNCM & MNCS Advancements

FY98
MNCM John Babcock
MNCS Thomas Meglen
Thomas Meyers
MNC Bert J Harris
John D. Monn

Reserve Promotions

MNCM Brend Bazzell
Jan L Bays
MNCS Jose Lopez
Lisa M Moyer
Alan Rainier
MNC Gil Bourgouin
MN1 None
MN2 Kenneth Miller

MNC (SW) Matthew S. Prager

Hi, I'm CIC Officer on USS Pioneer MCM-9 and I'll be sending an input for the DASHPOT covering the activities of the ship and crew. Also, I read in the spring 98 DASHPOT that MNCS Jerry Williams of Unit 8 is trying to obtain display models of mines. I scratchbuild museum quality models as a sideline, I just finished restoring a display model for the Mine Warfare Training Center. If MNCS Williams needs someone to make these models, or any other members would like keep-sake models of previous ships they've served on they are welcome to contact me.

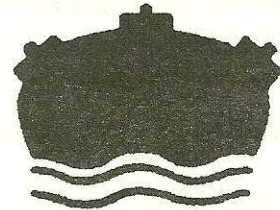
MNC(SW) Matthew S. Prager
2524 Live Oak St
Ingleside, TX 78362
email: mprager@juno.com

(Continued from page 8)

and AOM Reunions. He looks forward to the August Reunion and challenges all Minemen to belong and support the AOM. The entire package with photos will appear on the AOM Home Page shortly.

Home Page looks great!!

We should all thank Fred Dane and Hal Elston for their time, effort and money in maintaining such a great web site on mine warfare.



Heard from Ed Oyer that the Mariners Museum, Newport News, VA will in put a mine display. Ed has been working on this for a few years now. Anyone have models they want to donate?? He sent in an article to the local paper complaining about our Congressmen getting health care at Bethesda Naval Hospital when retirees are told "sorry your not welcome anymore". Lyal Stryker also sent in his response from Senator Strong Thurmand telling Lyal he introduced the Military Health Care Fairness Act allowing retirees over 65 to sign up for the Federal Employees Health Benefits program.

Frank Whipple called saying he had been asked if the government life insurance dividend was real? Not unless your a pre 1950 service member paying premiums.

Bob Hart says he was frocked as MNC with Fred Kline at Subic LT Joe Hernandez was Dept Head. He and Connie are coming to the reunion.

Bob Benentende called to tell us the May Issue of The retired Officer Magazine says "The Army added warrant officers to its rank structure in 1918 when Congress authorized this grade for assistant engineers of the Army Mine Planter Service".

Joe Hernandez sent in his to the editor columns in the Minewarasn newsletter. He observed that anti-missile shot that failed. He is concerned about chemical/biological terrorist He sent in a letter to the newspaper disagreeing with their editorial to terminate Ken Star's probe.

Reunions;
Naval EOD & WW II Bomb and Mine disposal 15-18 Oct Virginia Beach, VA (757) 499-9043 USS Gwinn DM 33 8-13 Oct Ft. Mitchell, KY (818)549-9439 USS Hovey DMS 11 9-13 Sept. St. Louis,MO (619)278-0965 USS Harding DMS 28 Sept. (410)745-9725

(Continued from page 6)

him all the best. Next month on the 7th of July, **MNC Thornton** will be retiring after 20 years of faithful service. He's been a real shipmate to everyone throughout his assignments, and he'll be greatly missed. He and his family will be settling down in the cold, cold, state of Michigan.

Well shipmates, that about wraps it up here at Unit Eight Remember, that warm, wet, and tropical lifestyle is waiting for each of you right here on Guam, so update that Duty Preference Sheet and request orders to MOMAU Eight.

MOMAU Ten

by MNC MCGOLDRICK

Q uack, Quack, Quack, we here at MOMAU Ten are starting to produce web feet these days. Yes, folks El Nino has finally hit the beautiful isle of Okinawa. The rain has not stopped(only on those rare occasions when we see a faint yellow glow in the sky) for almost 3 weeks now. I know some of you out there wish that a little rain would come your way, believe us we do too. Hopefully we'll be able to bail out the water in time for the ADMAT(13-14 July), we are all looking forward to hosting COMOMAG for this inspection. The FIAT was moved back to September instead of August and will coincide with Foal Eagle 98 build up as well. **MNCM Bainbridge** from CSS Panama City will be here for the FIAT so we know we'll be "learned" right in the basics of VEMS.

MOMAU Ten would like to say "farewinds and following seas" to **MNCS Darnold** and wish him well in the future. **Frank**, you done good!!! Thanks for the help and keeping the faith alive.

Downsizing has hit here at MOMAU Ten, we are in the process of losing 8 personnel (between July and December 98) with no forecast gains (possibly 1) until Jan 99. We aren't the only ones feeling the pinch, everyone else is as well, especially in the E-5/E-6 range. Any suggestions on how we can stem the tide let's start E-mailing each other and put our

collective heads together. There's **Thames** (formerly MN2) is currently got to be an answer.

I'd like to take this opportunity and he is waiting for his next school. That thank the fine professionals at school in Florida must have been MOMAU Ten for supporting and really tough on him, he came back working with me, it has been a half the man that he was before. Ok, privilege ladies and gentlemen! I will maybe not half, but I bet he left at be leaving here on 1 Aug and least twenty five pounds down there. reporting to COMOMAG some time in By the time this newsletter hits the September. I am looking forward to street **MNCS Dearing** will be out of working with the people that keep an the Navy and in the locksmith eye on the pulse of the Mine Force. business. So remember, if you need a Sayonara from MOMAU Ten and lock fixed, who do you call? MN1 look for the next issue to be written by **Robertson** is hanging up his one of the many fine sailors that dungarees and heading back to occupies a great mine shop.(Possibly Michigan in July. For those who Numero Uno this year.....that's for you have not heard, the Oklahoma Gunner Riggins!)

Thanks to all and hope to see you up his spurs on July 12th and LT next year(CY 99) at the Mineman **Lyman** will take over the reins for Reunion in Corpus Christi.

MOMAU ELEVEN

by MNCM
Gordon

W e just finished our ADMAT and I am happy to say we came out of it in excellent condition.

Once again our color guards were quite busy. They did one burial detail. the **HOBSON** Memorial, five retirements, Burns Elementary School building dedication and parade the colors at the American Legion Post 166 Veterans Memorial Day celebration at Carolina Memorial Gardens. And we're on tap for six more retirements before the end of July.

Some awards our folks received are as follows: **SKCS Williams**, **MNCS Dearing**, **MN1 Robertson** and **MN1 Humbard** received Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals: **LT Lyman**, **MN1 Biel**, **MN3 Kwekel** and **MNSN Kearney** received Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. **MNCS Dearing** Received a Flag Letter of Commendation. Recipients of a CO's LOC are **MNCS Dearing**, **MN1 Atkinson**, **MN1 Vanczel**, **MN1 Collins**, **MN1 Biel**, **MN2 Link**, **MN2 Becker**, **MN2 Santee** and **MNSN Kearney**. Letters of Appreciation were **MN1 Cammack**, **MN1 Venczel**, **MN2 Wilbanks**, **MN2 Sullivan**, **MN2 Gilliland** and **MN3 Acox** for their work on the color guard. ENS

MOMAU 12 "FORWARD DEPLOYED AND READY"

by MNC Jeff Holt

H ello MINEMEN world from the tip of the spear Wow, what a quarter! Weather's hitting the mid 50's. We've survived the WESTPAC rotation for the MRCI, DDESB, and the FCA. A lot of hard work in preparation paid off in each inspection. We'll knock out the ADMAT next then get down to maintenance! The MRCI went well. It was good to see some old friends and gave **CWO3 Riggins** (MOMAU 12 PCO) a chance to re-visit a command he was assigned to "a few" Years ago...Looking forward to his arrival. A very hearty WELL DONE to the crew of MOMAU I Det 119 and MOMAU 8 Det 410. They were part of our MOMAU 12 team (as always) and shined during our MRCI. True Professionals all!

ADVANCEMENTS: BZ to **MN1 Kyle Franklin**, **MN1 Sharlene Walker**, **MN2 Jai Dykes**, **MNSN 'Kotch' Kotschnreuther**, and **MNSA Amy Greene** on their advancements! Congrats to all who "Made" it. MN1

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Joe Miller is CPO selection board eligible. Good luck to all candidates.

FAREWELL: to LCDR **Simmons**. He departed for MOMAU 1 in April. He's missed on the golf course. Playing times have sped up for some reason???

WHAT'S GOING ON: The next few months will bring many PCS moves and will prove to be an exciting time for those eagerly anticipating transfers. MN1 **Miller**: MOMAU 11, MN1 **Franklin**: USS **Guardian**, MN1 **Walker**: COMOMAG, YN2 **Wilson**: NRD Detroit.

I have the pleasure of hooking up with MNC **T J Kaiser** later in June down in sunny/Yokosuka. We'll be sure to talk about most of you (all the good and some of the hard times) and solve many of the challenges facing our Mineforce today. A special "How the heck are you" to MNCM (Ret) **"Smitty" Smith**. Stand by to retrieve a visitor in sunny Panama City? (No MNCM that's not a threat). Really look forward to reading the DASHPOT, see a lot of familiar names. That's all for now, take care and stay safe. Note: Chief **Holt** added some Unit 12 personnel email addresses. They can be found on the Active Duty address listing on the AOM Homepage.

MOMAU FOURTEEN

Hello! Once again we find ourselves herein Yorktown in the midst of a lovely spring climate. We completed our TAV in March and successfully passed our MRCI during the first week in June. The crew continues to lay-up the MK 60 Captor Mine and we anticipate completion of enough lay-up assets by the end of this fiscal year to support possible use in the Littoral Sea Mine development. The current plan is to continue to configure the Captor in the lay-up configuration for demil processing starting in FY-99. Here is the latest regarding the crew:

MN1 **David A. Vanetten** separated from the Naval Service on 18 April 1998 and resides in E1 Paso, Texas-Advancements (selectees from

March 98 exam cycle)

to MN1: MN2 **Jospeh K, Kirker**

MN2 **Patrick W. Rickaby**

to MN2: MN3 **Martin W. Clebowicz**

MN3 **Martha Liu** MN3 **Michael E. Nagle**

MINE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER

By LT Mac Intosh

Hello again from "The School." Glad to have an opportunity to update the happenings here. We have been very busy since the last issue, implementing fleet recommendations from the SWTRR into our curriculum.

The first graduates from the 15 week Mineman "A" School graduated 22 May and the critiques indicated they were very pleased with the training they received. The personal efforts of the talented instructors at MWTC, and the availability of the "School-Ship" enabled all students to get a true and complete picture of what to expect in their new career as Minemen.

We've had a few personnel changes since the last issue. MN1 **Kirker** transferred in May to PCU **Shrike**, and MN1 **Delaporte** transferred in June for a Security billet in Maryland.

New arrivals to the Mining Division include MNCs **Wysong**, BM1 **Reese**, MN1 **Godeaux**, and OS2 **Watson**. They will be working with Mineman "A" School, NMT (previously BMTc), and VEMS.

That's all for now. We'll see you in the next issue.

USS Raven MHC 61 joins fleet

Foc'sle 4/17/98

The Navy's 11th coastal mine hunter was delivered April 14 and commissioning is scheduled for Sept. 5th. Homeport will be Ingleside. The crew consists of 5 officers and 46 enlisted personnel.

Minemen in the news

Foc'sle 3/6/98

MNC **Larry Walker**, USS Chief

Command Chief was pictured with GMCM **D. Black**, first MCPON during a tour of the ship. Income tax help was provided by MNC(SW) **Matthew Prager**. MN1 **Bryan Allston**, MOMAD Seven, was listed as representing CINCLANT as Shore Sailor of the Year. MN1 **Melvin W. Bostic**, USS Pelican graduated from the Command Financial Specialist course at MWTC. Foc'sle 3/20/98

MN2(SW) **Terry Hoekman**, NS Ingleside and MN2(SW) **Michael Szostkiewicz**, USS Scout, were pictured at Rockport Elementary School demonstrating the role of the Color Guard. Sailors of the year pictured. MN1 **Rita J. Nicely**, MWTC, Instructor of the Year and MN1(SW) **Ronald Johnson**, Atlantic Training Group.

Foc'sle 4/3/98

MN2(SW) **Michael Szostkiewicz**, USS Scout Letter of Appreciation. MN2 **Leo Butler**, MN3 **Kenneth Corn** and MN3 **Andre Graham**, MCM Rotational Crew Charlie, received Letters of Commendation.

Foc'sle 4/17/98

MN3 **Kenneth Corn**, Rotational Crew Charlie, was pictured as taking third place in the BUPERS Fleet Free-Throw Contest. MN3 **Scott Packer**, Rotational Crew Alpha, and MNSA **Bryan Littrell**, Crew Bravo, were pictured among the Mercenaries who took second place in a local paintball competition.

Foc'sle 5/1/98

St. Leo College Dean's List included MN2 **David Gilmore**, MWTC, MNC **Kevin King**, Readiness Support Group and MNC **Warren VonDollen**, Ships Intermediate Maintenance Activity. MN2 **Michael Szostkiewicz**, USS Scout, was pictured rounding second in a softball game against USS **Inchon**.

Foc'sle 5/15/98

Junior Sailor of the Quarter, MN3 **Denny Jenkins**, USS **Sentry**, MN1(SW) **Todd A. Harnish**, USS **Falcon** nominated as Sea Sailor of the Year, Instructor of the Year.

Are you a member of AOM, Why not Join?

Section 1. Proposals for Amendments to these by-laws will be submitted to the Secretary prior to 1 May.

Section 2. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of attending members at the Annual General Business Meeting, provided that written notice has been given to the membership that the amendment item has been placed on the agenda.

In accordance with the AOM Constitution and By-Laws the changes listed below will be discussed and voted upon at the regular business meeting at Charleston, SC on 8 August 1998

Proposed Amendments for the Bylaws of the Association of Minemen.

Last Amended in August, 1992

The Association's Board at the August 8, 1997 meeting, directed that the duties of Secretary/Treasurer be separated into individual positions. This change to the bylaws requires that the bylaws be amended. As a rule of thumb, bylaws should be reviewed every four or five years and amended as needed

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The Board of Directors submits the following proposed bylaw amendments to the members to be voted upon at the Annual General Business Meeting on August 8, 1998. A copy of the current 1992 bylaws and a copy of the bylaws with proposed amendments inserted will be available at the reunion.

There are two types of bylaw amendments described in this notice. The first type is the separation of the positions of the Secretary and Treasurer, new mailing exempt status, and the USS Lexington as a mine museum. The second type are the proposed bylaw changes that are of technical or administrative type.

Article I NAME AND STATUS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Section 3. Add the new mailing-exempt-status at the end of the paragraph. Formal wording to be provided when exempt status is finalized.

Article II OBJECTIVES

Section 4, line 1. Change Museum to Museums. Line 2, after "South Carolina," Add "and the USS Lexington at the Maritime Museum, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Article III BASIC POLICIES

Section 3. Change "...a regularly issue newsletter and annual general membership reunions and/or conventions." to read "...a regularly issued newsletter, at the Annual General Business Meeting, and reunions/conventions."

Article IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1, Voting Members, line 4, after "1958" delete the words "and/or."

Section 1, Voting Members, line 5, after "Charleston, SC" insert "from January 1959 through 30 September 1995, and/or Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside, TX, since 1 October 1995,..."

Justification: Disestablish of Charleston and establish of Ingleside as training centers.

Section 4. After the word "concerning" insert "the interpretation of"

Article V OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1. Separate positions of Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Change "...exception of the Secretary/Treasurer, and ex-officio members who shall be appointed..." to read "...exception of the Secretary, Treasurer, and those ex-officio members who are appointed..."

Section 2, line 3. After the word "Directors." insert "The position of the Secretary and Treasurer can be held by the same person."

Section 3, line 3. Delete "Immediate Past President."

Section 3, line 4. After the word "...Section 1" insert "The Immediate Past President is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors."

Justification: The Immediate Past President is not an appointed position, as previously indicated in this Section.

Section 4. Separate positions of Secretary and Treasurer.

Article VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Note: Because of the separation of the positions of the Secretary and Treasurer and other administrative changes, Article VI has several changes. However, the duties of the two positions remain the same.

Section 1, line 2. Change "...appoint the Secretary/Treasurer as prescribed in Article V, Section 2; shall appoint ex-officio members,..." to read "...appoint the Secretary and Treasurer and ex-officio members as prescribed in

Article V, Section 2, and shall appoint..."

Section 3. Designate this paragraph for the Secretary's position.

Section 4. Designate this paragraph for the Treasurer's position.

Sections 4, 5, and 6 of the current 1992 bylaws will become Sections 5, 6, and 7, of the amended bylaws. This is

(Continued from page 13)

due to the separation of the Secretary (Section 3) and Treasurer (Section 4) positions.

Section 4 (Treasurer), line 8. Delete "Patriot's Point Naval Museum." And after the "...organization assets to the..." Insert "USS Yorktown and the USS Lexington Mine Warfare Museums;..."

Justification: In the event of dissolution of the Association of Minemen, both museums should share the organization's assets.

Sections 2 (Vice President), 3 (Secretary), 4 (Treasurer), and 5 (BOD). Add the following wording at end of these sections. "And such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association." Section 1 (President) currently has a statement that is similar in meaning.

Comment: The Association's bylaws have been written as not to list *all* the duties of each officer. Yet care must be taken in the writing of the articles not to omit any duty, since an implication that the duty is not required could be read into the omission. For this reason, it is well to conclude the Section on each officer with a clause such as, "and such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association." This is something like, "as other duties that might be assigned." The Association's parliamentary authority is that stated on page 2, Art III, Section 1, of the Association's bylaws.

Section 5, line 3. Delete "...beyond those budgeted expenses"

Justification: The Association does not submit an annual budget.

Section 6 new Section 7. Will consist only of the following wording, "Four Directors shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors."

Section 6 new Section 8. 1992 bylaws statement in Section 6: "However, a telephone or mail vote may be conducted with a written record of each Director's vote read into the minutes of the next meeting of the Board." To new wording in proposed new Section 8: "In the business throughout the year, the personal approval of a proposed action separately by telephone or individual interview, from every member of the Association Board will constitute approval of the Board. Since the members were not present in one room where they could mutually debate the matter, action on such a basis must be ratified at the next regular Board meeting in order to become an official act of the Board."

Comment: At a regular Board meeting each Director's vote is not made part of the minutes. For those meetings conducted by telephone or mail, some of the Directors might not want as part of the minutes how they voted on the proposal. This is perfectly correct if they do not want their vote noted in the minutes.

Justification: Robert's Rules of Order.

Article X CHAPTERS

Section 4, line 2. Delete "associated." Add the following words to read, "... members found at fault will be removed..."

Comment: As presently written all Chapter members would be removed from membership if a minority of members brought discredit to the Association. There may be members who did not condone nor participate in the wrong doing, therefore, they should not be removed from membership.

Section 5. Add New York to the Northeast region.

Justification: New York was missing from 1992 bylaws.

NEXT ISSUE

Article Deadline
September
10

Paid your '98-'99 dues yet?
They are due in August
Please Send your check in
today payable to AOM

MNCS Lee N. Ostrander, ret.

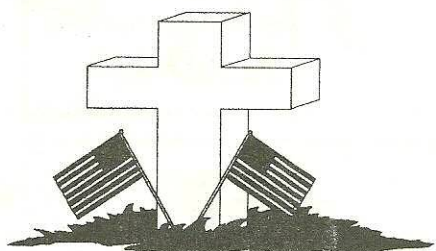
I retired out of Unit One in January, 1990 and moved to Duluth, Minnesota to join the civilian community with relatives in the area. Landed a good job with a local company. worked there for seven years and when relatives moved away, decided that the winters were slightly longer (and colder) than I remembered. Wife and I and daughters (**Monica & Heather**) left Minnesota son **Donald** stayed behind and started a new job with an equipment rental house. We bought a house in Lakewood and the kids are enjoying California schools and of course the weather.

Pam and I made it to the San Diego reunion, but only for the dinner. Saw a few friends and even some newer mineman that I didn't know. very enjoyable, but I wish we could have made the entire reunion.

I went on the website and got a couple of e-mail addresses and wrote to a few folks that I haven't heard from since MK 6 school and am looking forward to staying in touch now that I can do this so easily.

Anyhow, let folks know I'm still kicking and have relocated back to California. phone number is in the Lakewood, directory or e-mail address is leepluspam@aol.com

TAPS



by Earl Roberts

ADDITIONS:

Powers, Lee, wife of MNCM Jim**Powers** 19 April 1998**Lampton, Gilbert M.** MN3, 4 Dec 1996, Kansas**Benzinger, Donald H.** MN2, 25 May 1998, Seabrook, WA age 67, discharged 1956**Ruth, James R.** MN1 (All Hands 5/98)

CORRECTIONS:

First name for "Suds" Honnicker was **William****Redner, Fred** should have been **Redmer, Fred**

Can you name the country that has:

- 709,000 regular service soldiers;
- 293,000 reserve troops;
- Eight standing army divisions;
- 20 air force and navy air wings with 2,000 combat aircraft;
- 232 strategic bombers;
- 13 strategic ballistic missile submarines with 3,114 nuclear warheads on 232 missiles;
- 500 ICBMs with 1,950 warheads;
- Four aircraft carriers, and;
- 121 surface combat ships and submarines, plus all the support bases, shipyards and logistical assets needed to sustain such a naval force.

Is this country Russia? No, it's not. Red China? Nope. Great Britain? Hardly!

Give up? Well, don't feel too bad if you are unable to identify this global

superpower because this country no longer exists. It has vanished.

These are the American military forces that have disappeared since **Bill Clinton** took office.

What's Happening at MOMAU Fifteen

by YN1(SW) **Bentancourt**

How ya'll shipmates and friends from around the world doing? To introduce myself, I am YN1(SW) **Bentancourt**. I relieved YNC **Krenek** as Administrative Officer. I reported in Mid March from USS Belleau Wood LHA 3. Our Mine Readiness Certification Inspection was successfully completed on 31 March. It is now the exercise season, so we are busy building and refurbishing exercise mines. It's hurricane season down herein South Texas from Juneto December and wishing for some rain, especially for the farmers. The crew is still charging and recently received a Bravo Zulu from COMINWARCOM for the support of COMFIFTHFLT and MIREM 3. As far as personnel, we welcomed aboard MNSN **Leonel Gonzales** from USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN 71. MN1(SW) **Theodore Arcand** will soon be retiring in August, we wish him and his family the best. Congratulations to our new Petty Officer Thirds: MN3 **Irving Flores** and **Gregory Reeves**. New Second Class: MN2 **Abel Gonzalez** and **Jack Angle**. Congratulations to MN2 **James Grant** and his wife **Elaine** on their new baby girl, **Morgan Gabriella**. I look forward to keeping you informed on what's happening here in Southern Texas. Have a great summer wherever you are and be

Changing Times

NWSY Booster

The former Marine Corps Security Force Yorktown officially became the Second Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team on March 18, 1998. Yorktown's Marines will continue to aid with physical security aboard station when needed. Their mission is now much more far-reaching. In a nutshell, small teams will deploy on both a planned and as needed basis to "hot spots" around the world.

NJROTC

by Rick Spofford

Our drill teams have been very busy this year. They took two 4th place finishes, two third place finishes and two 2nd place finishes overall in drill competition. one of the 2nd place finishes was 3 points away from winning the state championship. we won it three years ago. We took 2 first places in the tri-athletic meets. one for the boys and one for the girls. The orienteering team came in first place on the expert course, second place on the intermediate course and third place overall on the intermediate course. Two cadets came home with individual medals for 2nd and third place (expert). Yours truly feeling great pain had to defend his first place finish of two years ago, finished second and one of my co-instructors (CWO3) Roger Williams, USMC,(ret)) came in third. The cadets also scored in the top 10% in nearly every academic test they took this year. that includes the national exams as well as the ones given in the area. Again I had to defend my first place title in the Silver Bluff H.S. current events exam. I finished third though. Guess the knees, ankles and brains are the first things to go. Been told differently. The drill teams also were awarded first place for 5 parades they were entered in this year. Toby and or Lyle will be here for our 5th annual awards night on 30 April. They will give out two AOM medals for the most improved first year cadets. We are still planning on working at the AOM mine museum on board the USS Yorktown this summer. We do need any of the pre MK 50 series mines Minemen who live in the low country of South Carolina to come aboard and help us identify the components so we came help expand the museum. There is a compartment next to the present museum that is just waiting for us to prep and place new mines in it. the work is not heavy or dirty. Just need your expertise. Give these great kids a hand. Call Toby Horn so we can coordinate a date. Well guess that's all for now. Keep up the great work. Hope to attend as many of the events at the reunion as I can make.

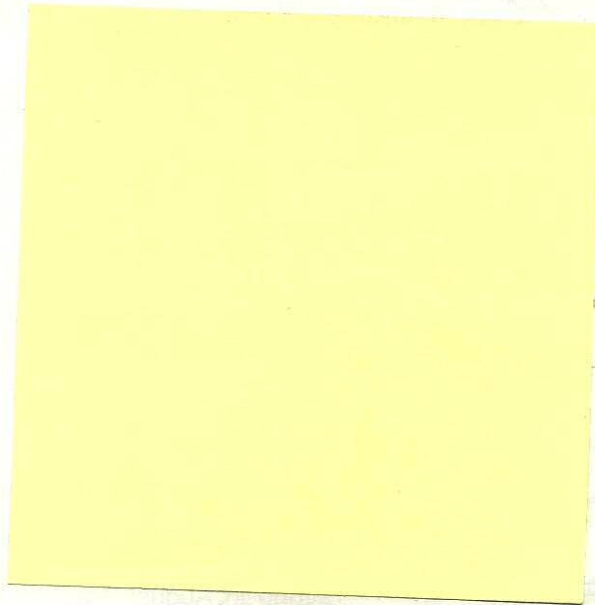
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ASSOCIATION of MINEMEN

1975---23 YEARS---1998

CHARLESTON SC



General Characteristics Mine MK60 CAPTOR

Primary Function: Destroy enemy shipping.

Additional Background: The CAPTOR is the Navy's primary anti submarine weapon. This deep water mine is designed to be laid by aircraft or submarine, and is anchored to the ocean floor. Its acoustic detection system is designed to seek hostile submarines, ignoring surface craft and friendly submarine acoustic signatures. Upon detection of a hostile submarine, the CAPTOR launches a MK46 Mod 4 torpedo.

Type: Aircraft, ship or submarine laid magnetically moored mine.

Detection System: Reliable acoustic path (RAP) sound propagation.

Dimensions:

Aircraft / Ship laid: 21 inches x 145 inches
(centimeters)

Submarine laid: 21 inches x 132 inches

Depth Range: Up to 3000 feet

Weight: : Air / Ship laid: 2370 pounds ; Submarine laid: 2056 pounds

Explosives: 96 pounds of PBXN-103 high explosive in MK46 torpedo.

Date Deployed: 1979