

# The DASHPO

Issue 26

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

SUMMER 1999



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello again Shipmates. Well it's almost reunion time again, and I can hardly wait. You would believe I have nothing else to occupy my time, but that isn't exactly true. **Clare** and I have been on the road with some frequency over the last few months and have a trip to Niagara Falls planned for next month. We are going to take three of our grandchildren on a short trip and hope that grandpa can cope.

I'm thrilled with the super job done by **Cdr Ron Swart** in scheduling, planning, and presenting all the preparations for the reunion. If the events are half as well organized, it will undoubtedly be a rousing success. All the information necessary can be found in this issue. In addition you can also access all the same information in the Internet at the AOM website, [www.battle.netgate.net](http://www.battle.netgate.net), thanks to **Fred Dane** and **Hal Elston**. Which by the way is another exercise in brilliance.

Should any of you have proposed agenda items for the Board of

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## Reserve Center SOY keeps busy

Story & Photo by AS2 Jill Cook  
NAVSTA Ingleside PAO

Congratulations to MN2 **Laura Rodriguez**, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region Eleven Sailor of the Year (SOY).

**Rodriguez** is currently stationed at the Naval Reserve Center (NRC) Corpus Christi, which supports and augments reserve man-power for 13 ships and more than 15 ready reserve unit commands.

The Eagle Pass, Texas, native began her military career 12 years ago when she joined the U.S. Army. After completing her two-year Army enlistment, she joined the Navy. "I wanted a change, to be part of a group, an important link. And the Army wasn't offering me the job opportunities I wanted to pursue," she explained. **Rodriguez** has had a busy career in the Navy, serving with Mobile Mine Assembly Detachment Six (MOMAD 6), Souda Bay, Crete, Greece; Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit 14 (MOMAU 14), Yorktown, Va.; MOMAU 5, Sigonella, Sicily; and NRC Corpus Christi.

She was selected as Junior Sailor of the Year while she was assigned to MOMAU 5 and MOMAU 14; and is NRC's Sailor of the Year two years running. Since joining the Navy, she has earned 13 medals and has completed more than 60 military correspondence and educational

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Corpus Christi AUG 13-15 '99 25th Annual Reunion

### Auberry selected for Commander

Reports hit the email circuit late last month informing all that **LCDR John Auberry** was on the Commander selection list. In response to my request the following brag sheet was submitted:

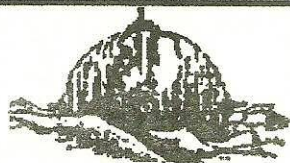
Brag stuff - I know we say "It's hard to be humble when you're a mustang" but I am humble and find it hard to brag. The truth is I owe my successes to both my natural family and my Navy family. Yes, I've worked hard throughout my career, but no harder than many others. The difference for me has been the many people along the way that helped me, nurtured me and kicked me in the butt when I needed it.

**Ken Harder** gave me my first real Navy butt-chewing (first of several) on my first day of Mineman "A" school. I laugh about it now, but back then it was not a laughing matter. Joining the Navy in 1974 without a High School diploma, **Marcus Roberts** encouraged me and saw to it that I obtained my GED within a few months upon reporting to my first duty station at Yorktown Va. **Marcus** also helped me escape NJP at two Captain's Mast. Two years into my first enlistment and my rough edges were starting to smooth out a bit.

While assigned to COMOMAG and

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# 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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Directors, you can contact any of the BOD members, or myself at the address/ phone # listed on page two of this publication. Should you wish to contact me by e-mail my current address is listed in the masthead.

Thanks to **Michiko Benentendi**, we have been able to keep up with **Bob's** condition, as well as his expected recovery from some pretty heavy-duty surgery. Please say a prayer for them both.

Here's hoping that I see each and every one of you in Corpus Christi, TX for the reunion. **Joe**

## Where's Charlie?

**Dick Martin** reported **Billy Case** retired as a MN1. The last time he saw him, was in Salt Lake City Utah. Telephone search failed to locate him. Anyone have a contact point?

Postcards have been sent to all members who are in arrears. We are getting good response from them. The number of cards sent was 185. This represents dues in the amount to cover a years Dash Pot.

Sec/Treas received a number of the cards back from the post office as undeliverable. The members have been deleted from our mailing list. Below is a list of dropped members. If anyone knows them, please get in touch and have them write to us.

**David F Boyd, James D Burton,, Gary A Evans, Richard C McBride, Alan N Ringdal, Michelle Guilmain, Michael P Slater, Thomas R Stokes, Ed Szczutyowski, J.H. Tapscott, LT Garry G Wraalstad**

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classes, and is on the verge of earning a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Maryland. Though her job keeps her busy, **Rodriguez** still finds time to do the two things she loves most -- traveling and volunteering.

"The most rewarding part of my job here is that it allows me the time to accomplish my goals, and to participate in off-duty activities" **Rodriguez** said. She has visited Spain, France, Italy, Germany, England, Portugal, Denmark, Finland, Scotland, Switzerland, and Puerto Rico. And when she isn't working or traveling, **Rodriguez** stays busy volunteering. She is the senior female drill instructor for the Corpus Christi Young Marines program, coordinates the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) program at Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi, and the Department of the Navy's Regional Training Coordinator for DEFY.

**Rodriguez** hopes to be stationed on a ship soon, so she can fulfill another one of her goals -- to earn her Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) pin. Some of her other goals include making first class petty officer and working toward an officer program. **Rodriguez** offers this advice for junior Sailors, "Establish your short-term goals, then work toward accomplishing them. Once you've done that, your long-range goals will follow. Always strive to achieve more, because the sky is not the limit."

## Old Mineman Chief makes good

by Cecil Martin

**J**ust saw on local news that AOM member **Jimmy Cottrell**, MNCS Ret. will be on **Steve Hartman's** "Every Body Has a Story". It was, according to Local newsman, to be shown on the CBS morning news show April 9th at about 0845. **Dick Martin** confirmed the show and has a tape of it.

# Join the AOM



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deploying to Italy, Greece and Scotland, **Steve Monroe** helped bring out some of my more positive qualities.

I received my first "Sailor of the Quarter" award while working for Steve - and I liked the recognition. At this point I think I realized, if I just worked hard and did my best, my supervisors would take care of me (and they did).

A few years later, **Will Dixon** (while he was CO of MOMAG FIVE Sigonella) was understanding of a medical condition with my son. He allowed me to return to the States just days before an MRCI. If Will would have made me stay in Sigonella, I would have exited the Navy as soon as possible. Yes, **Will Dixon** was not always known as "hang'em Dixon".

At MOMAG Det 0 and Unit Eleven (1980 -1983), working for **JB Orr**, **John Musseig**, **Bob Forbes** and **Arnie Helgerson**, my Navy career began to really soar. I was provided many opportunities to excel. Under their watchful eyes, positive guidance and firm leadership, I gained tremendous confidence and honed the qualities that stay with me to this day. Many people really wanted me to do well and I knew I just could not let them down - it made me work all the harder. They also ensured I was recognized for my accomplishments. I received several more "Sailor of the Quarter" awards, a NAM and the coveted Mine of the Year award. Now, properly "groomed", **JB** encouraged and mentored me on my LDO package. I remember how honored I was to have so many leaders taking the time and really looking out for my career.

In 1984, with 10 years in the Navy, I went from MN1 to Ensign. My first officer tour was on COMOMAG staff. To say the least, I was petrified. However, I soon realized that just because I was now an officer, I was not alone. My shipmates and leaders continued to help guide me, support me and discipline me. "**Red**" **Neiderburger** realized how naive I was and helped me get through my

first year as an Ensign. **Wes Keith** helped me experience my first tour as an OIC in Greece (scary, uh?). Now a LTJG and starting to get a big head, Captain "**Red**" **Riley** and **Jerry Christian** brought me back to reality with a strong reprimand. My OIC tour in Scotland from 1986-1989 was made successful by **Ralph Davis'** experience and loyalty. After Scotland, I reported to Guam for my first CO tour. Now in WESTPAC for the first time, three of our finest officers, **Ron Swart**, **Ed Hutsell** and **Dale Smith**, educated and mentored me on being a CO. I looked up to each of them (still do) and learned ever so much.

I also obtained my Associates Degree while stationed in Guam - but I knew this was not enough. So I applied and was accepted to the College Degree Program. I received my BA from Charleston Southern University in 1993. After college, I reported to COMOMAG staff as the Operations Officer.

Yet again, I was blessed with working for two of the Navy's finest, Captain **Danny Powers** and **Ken VanOurney**. In 1995, Captain **Powers** lined me up for our top mining job on COMINELWARCOM staff. My tour at COMINELWARCOM was filled with mixed feelings. It was rewarding to work with **Ron Swart** and disheartening to watch the mining program fall apart and not being able to stop it. I was able to obtain my MBA from Texas A&M prior to the completion of my tour.

I am now stationed at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana. My job is in conventional ammunition program management.

I hope I've conveyed what I wanted to here. Yes, **Terry Auberry's** name was on the Commander selection list. But my name was on the list because my shipmates were shipmates. I've mentioned some of you above, but certainly not all. I'm not bragging on me - I'm bragging on you. To everyone who has touched my Navy life, I am truly and forever grateful.

## Promotion Lists

from BUPERS internet site

MNCM - **Bell, Richard**  
MNCS - **Chabot, Paul; Hodder, Mark S; Roberts, Paul; Seals, Steven; Walker, Larry**

34 MN1 hopefuls have selection packages at BUPERS for the MNC selection in a few weeks:

**Adams, James; Allston, Brian; Anderson, Denn; Ballard, David; Bartoli, Antho; Beville, Peter; Bieberitz, Bri; Born, Craig; Carman, Joh; Eckelbecker, G; Epton, David; Frunz, Katheri; Gonzales, Mich; Hargrove, Davi; Hickman, Timot; Hormann, Richa; King, Paul; Lowder, Timoth; Marlow, James; McCrady, Jeffe; McKenzie, Will; McLaughlin, St; Mims, Donnie; Myers, Gary; Nixon, Edward; Nutting, Don; Pendergrass, R; Pipkin, John; Stauff, Kurt; Stultz, Michae; Vail, Thomas; Ward, Michael; Whitmore, Lee; Williams, Greg.**

To MN1:

**Anderson, Grady; Braham, Joan; Farr, Raymond**

To MN2:

**Abueg, Michael; Ancil, Jeff; Armstrong, Zacha; Barney, Fred; Beggs, Irving; Betz, Corey; Black, Terry Burba, Daniel Castacio, Demetr; Douglas, Lance; Fels, Russell; Flores, Irving; Gallegos, Felipe; Herbig, Jarad; Jamison, John; Kearney, David; Koski, Jeremy; Lanpheare, Richa; Marroquin, Joe; Martell, John; Matelski, Joseph; McMillian, Steve; Portillo, Natali; Raphael, Christo; Reeves, Gregory; Rojas, Jose Anto; Smith, Brian Sco; Snyder, Paul; Stafford, Steven; Stephens, Matthe; Townsend, Fondra**

To MN3

**Aguirre, Ramon; Astin, Timothy; Bedard, Cheri; Burton, Jerame; Copeland, Eeric; Cowden, Travis; Danek, Thomas; Friday, Adrian; Glaeser, Aaron; Hartman, Gregory; Heyer Matthew; Koehler, Matthew**

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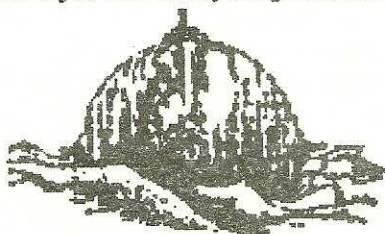
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**Martinez, Armand; Menle, Zeb; Moser, Shawnadam; Munoz, Ricardo Musil, Michael; Plazola, Brian; Rey, Brian; Schuette, James; Towles, Donald; Trius, Ernesto; Umbel, Melissa; Villarreal, Marc**

## Committee Reports

### History Book

**Toby Horn** wrote: - for those of you who sent photos or other material for the History Book and wished to have them returned, we have now received everything back from the publisher/printer and will be returning "stuff" soon. **Lyal** has everything numbered



and cataloged, with a record of those of you who asked for return. Keep the faith.

**Lyal Stryker** reports: As of June 10, 1999 we have mailed all the History Books for which we had good mailing addresses and were paid for. The following we have not been able to locate: **Pam Mack**, wife of deceased **D G Mack**; **Thomas A Morris**; **John P Boden**; **John S McDaniel MN**; **Givens, Jerry William**; **Marcelino B Diaz**; **Robert A Wagner**; **Donald N Gatewood**; **Kenneth J Klein**; **Maurice C Humphrey**; **George J Roberts**; **James L Box**; **Robbie L Frunz**; **M P Henry**; **Madeline Liggett**; **Barbara Wark (Tonya R)**; **Deborah A Koch**; **Edward Arbogast** and **MNC Dave Ostrom**. If you know where any of these people are please have them contact us so we can send them the History Book they have paid for. We do have History Books in stock for immediate shipment and you can use

the order form from the web site of this issue of the Dashpot. Personalization is available, limited to 21 spaces and are done here locally in Charleston. If ordering a personalization please allow an additional 5 to 10 days for shipment. You may want to consider purchasing a copy to donate to a library or some other group. **MNCM John Keen, Jr., USN (RET)** purchased the first book to be donated and hopes his shipmates will do the same.

## Community News

by **Lyal Stryker**

Again this year we participated 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 was held on Sunday April 25th, 1999, 1:30 p.m. at the Monument at White Point Gardens on the Battery. The guest speaker was **RADM Leonard N. Oden, USN (RET)**, the last Charleston Naval Base Commander. He recounted some of the more significant accomplishments of the Hobson during WWII and later as a unit of Commander Mine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet based here in Charleston. He also noted that that when he was commissioned in 1963 our fleet numbered 1800 ships. Ten years ago we had less than 600, today we have a Navy of 324 ships and their numbers are decreasing monthly. In the new millennium they will number less than 300.

## AOM Chaplain

**P**resident, **Joe Balderrama** announced the appointment of **Henry Williams MNC Ret.** as our Chaplain. Mail 1428 Edenfield Ct, Lithonia, GA 30058 email (dau) <jean.shaner@aol.com> Please refer all sickness and distress information to him. He will take action and compile the quarterly lists for Dashpot.

## Secretary's Corner

by **Curtis Christian**

**J**ust a few notes to bring the membership up-to-date on what has been happening with the financial end of the AOM.

First we closed the history book and the master card/visa accounts. All history book funds are being tracked as an item in our regular checking account. This makes it much easier to handle the books. We received \$8000.00 from members who supported a loan to the history book account. Of this \$8000.00, \$200.00 was donations leaving us with an outstanding loan balance of \$7800.00. **Warren Savage** has asked that we send him another history book and donate the remainder of his \$500.00 loan to the Scholarship fund. This leaves us with an outstanding loan of \$7300.00. (THANKS WARREN).

A search of past records proved that we only used this account one time a year at the reunions. We were being charged for the use of the account each month even if we did not use it. If the account was used they charged us from 4.5% to 6% depending on the average size of the charges. This will save us some funds each year.

When we shipped the Spring issue of Dashpot, we enclosed a card to the members that were behind with dues. This brought some unexpected results. Of the members who were more than two years behind most exercised the option of just sending \$15.00 to reapply for membership. We have some sharp Minemen out there folks.

The Dashpot is posted as bulk rate postage so if undeliverable it is not returned to sender. In May I sent postcards to 185 members who are behind in dues. This let me know if they have moved and not notified us. the Summer Dash Pot will be sent to all but after that point **They will be dropped from the rolls.**

As you will probably read elsewhere in this issue, we have a member who is

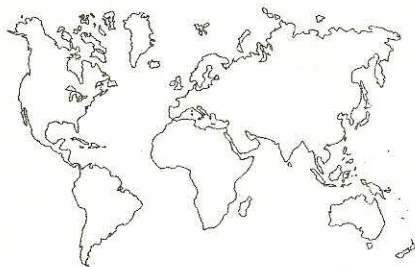
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Welcome aboard Henry. Hope to see all of you in Texas this year.

## Full Force News



## CMWC Change of Command

Foc'sle 2/26/99

RADM Dennis R. Conley passed the command of the force to RADM Jose L. Betancourt Jr. 19 February 1999. "The Mineforce is healthy and prepared to perform its mission. You can thank the Sailors for that assessment", said RADM Conley. He said "We have the best and brightest men and women to ever serve in our mine force. They are proud of their mission and ready to show their stuff." RADM Betancourt reported from CO USS Peleliu LHA 5. The Admiral commanded USS Merrill which served as flagship and MCM support for mine clearance during Operation Desert Storm. RADM Conley retired after 36 years of Naval service. RADM Conley recently received the prestigious award of "Old Salt" for being the the earliest OOD qualified officer on active duty.

## MOMAU ONE

by LCDR Ed Simmons

Best wishes from Seal Beach - California. We had a busy spring schedule and looks like the summer months will be about the same with support of two CV/CVW Ops and two USAF B1 Ops (so far). MOMAU One was heavily involved this spring in Exercise Kernel Blitz 99. I deployed a mine planting/recovery team on board the USNS Navajo and USS Salvor. MNC Rich McGinn headed

up the team. His team comprised of MN1(SW) Mark Dohman, MN3 Steven Stafford, MNSN Jerame Burton, MNSAs Kristopher Brown, and Ramses Martinez did a superb job in planting and recovery of the Versatile Exercise Mine (VEM) MK 74, operational MK 6 Inert Moored Mines, and various other inert exploitation mines. Of note was the employment of the VEM MK 74 for this operation and the highly successful result and superb support of the surface Mine Countermeasure Vessels and Air Mine Countermeasure forces employed in the exercise. Additionally, I had MN1 Stephen Ciccarello heading up another team to plant and recover Very Shallow Water (VSW) Mine Shapes used in the operation. These foreign mine shapes helped to exercise Explosive Ordnance Group's VSW Detachment in mine clearance operations. His team included MN2 Christian Siangco, MN3 Jeremy Koski, and MNSN Ramses Martinez (did you notice Martinez was at both places - but no, not at the same time). Again, well done to MNC McGinn and all those fine sailors involved in the operations. That includes the rest of my fine sailors who refurbished, assembled, tested, shipped, and coordinated this operation. On a different subject, if you notice my hail and farewells, you notice that my farewells far out number the hails. Yes, that does means that we are losing some fine sailors and not getting in replacements. I expect this trend to continue for some time... so, for those of us left, led by my new Chief, MNC Phil Taylor, we will have to have an innovative approach in conducting our fleet support business. Rest assured, like all of you older Mineman, the new Mineman will still make it happen with style, sweat and still have a great time on liberty. I was delighted with seeing Terry Auberry on the LDO CDR Listing and want to pass on my personal congratulations. It's back to two Commanders again in the Community. On that note, I want to pass on my belated best wishes to

CDR Will Dixon and his wife Mellie. Will retired last fall. Will, although I worked for you only one time, you can be assured that I and many of my fellow shipmates think the world of you and your accomplishments. Keep in touch and hope to see you and Mellie in the near future. AWARDS & BZ's. Navy Commendation Medal to MNC Rich McGinn, for his stellar tour of duty at Seal Beach. Rich was here for 4 years from June 1995 to June 1999, served under 3 CO's and held positions as Operations Chief, Mine Production Chief, Command Chief and various other duties. Well done Chief! Joint Navy Commendation Medal to MNC Phil Taylor, for an outstanding tour of duty at Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Indian Head, MD. Navy Achievement Medal to MN3 Gregory Crawford, for his exceptional tour of duty at Seal Beach. Good Conduct Medals to MNC McGinn, MN1(SW) Dohman, MN1 King, SK2 Adams, MN2 Arthur, MN3s Mayfield, Stafford and MNSN Willis. Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal to MN1s Whitmore, and Ciccarello and YN1 Telford. Sailors of the Quarter for First Quarter 1999 are MN1 Stephen Ciccarello (Senior) and MN3 Jeremy Koski (Junior). Letters of Commendation: MN1 Ciccarello and MN3 Stafford for Kernel Blitz operations. MNC McGinn and MN3 Killip for outstanding performance of duties. Flag LOC to MN1(SW) Dohman for his exceptional work in preparing, planting and recovery of VEMS for Kernel Blitz. Letters of Appreciation: MN1s King and Goodman, MN2s Nason and Arthur and MN3 Mayfield for support of the Orange County Special Olympics. MN2 Siangco, MN3 Koski, MNSN Martinez and MNSA Brown for support of Kernel Blitz Operations. SK2 Adams and YN1 Telford for outstanding performance of duty during. MN2 Arthur for coordinating the Navy & Marine Corps Relief

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Society Annual Fund Drive. MN2 s and MNSN **Burton** on preparation of Mine Displays. MN1s **Ciccarello**, and **King**, MN2s **Siangco** and **Arthur**, SK2 **Adams**, YN3 **Ballard** and MNSNs **Burton** and **Martinez** for support of McGaugh Elementary School Programs. Promotion & Advancement: Congratulations to our new selectees from the March 1999 Exam Cycle. They are **Jeremy Koski** and **Steven Stafford** to MN2, and **Jerame Burton** to MN3. Also congrats to MN2 **Laura Arthur** on her advancement from the September Exam Cycle. For the three MN1's who were selected, MN1 **Ray Farr** (Kingsville), **Joan Braham** (Charleston) and **Grady Anderson**. It was great seeing your names on the selection list. For my CPO candidates, I hope to have your names listed here in the Fall Dashpot. Community Support: Navall Weapons Station Seal Beach, MOMAU One and the 5th Battalion, 14th Marines signed a joint Personal Excellence Partnership with the McGaugh Elementary School on 12 May 1999. This formalized the working partnership that has been in effect for some time. MN1 **Stephen Ciccarello** and YN3 **Kenyatter Ballard** assisted the McGaugh Elementary School conduct its Semiannual Physical Readiness Testing. MN1s **Stephen Ciccarello**, and **Stanley King**, MN2s **Laura Arthur** and **Christian Siangco**, SK2 **AJ Adams**, MNSN **Jerame Burton**, and MNSA **Ramses Martinez** participated in the McGaugh Elementary School Read Aloud Program. MNSN **Willis** provided weekly tutoring at Remington Elementary School in Santa Ana. MOMAU One and the Destroyer Escort Association (DESA) held a Children's Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck Luncheon 27 March 1999 on NWS Seal Beach. Annual festivities sponsored by the DESA was headed up by SK2 **A.J. Adams**. Others involved in the community include

■YN1 **James Telford** coaching in the AYSO Walnut Youth Softball Program, MN1 **Lee Whitmore** and MN2 (Call Me) **Medina** coaching in the Los Alamitos Bronco Youth League. MOMAU participated in NAB Corona Memorial Day Celebrations. MN1 **Stanley King**, MN3 **Steven Stafford** and MNSN **Nadine Willis** took two 5-tons with mine displays. They were there to answer questions from the crowd, but from what I hear the old "Salts" knew quite a bit more about the mines. MOMAU One provided the S.S. Lane Victory two mine shapes for use in honoring fallen Merchant Mariners of WWII. The MK 6 represented the anti-shipping mines and the MK 67 Submarine Launched Mine represented the WWII Torpedoes that sank many of these Cargo Transport Vessels in the Atlantic. MN2 **Mark Geisler** and MNSN **Jerame Burton** completely refurbished the mines, putting a powder coating that just made the mines shine. They were Great! I almost put it in front of my house! To Dr. **Joe Hart**, the museum curator, I am glad we could assist you in this endeavor. The S.S. Lane Victory is a National Historic Landmark berthed in San Pedro, California. If you get a chance to tour the ship, please do. The mines will be on display and play an important role in honoring the fallen WWII Merchant Mariners. Hail & Farewell: Hail to MNC **Phil Taylor** and his family. Chief reports for duty from EOD Training School in Indian Head, Maryland, where he was a Division Officer and instructor. Hail to MNSA **Jesus Suarez** who is on temporary duty to us for 6 months from USS Guardian, home ported in Sasebo, Japan. Farewell to MNC **Rich McGinn** and his family who transferred to MOMAU 10. **Rich, Meg** and **Matthew**, best wishes on an outstanding tour in Okinawa. Hope you enjoy all that foreign travel to those arduous spots in Australia, Malaysia and Thailand (ha). Make sure **Meg** gets to go with you on a few of the trips. Farewell to MN1

**Lee Whitmore** who is separating from active duty. **Lee** has an excellent job opportunity in the local community and is looking into joining the Reserve Program. I know this is a big step after putting in over 15 years on active duty. We wish you and your family the best! Farewell to MN1 **Marcus Despres** who is separating from active duty. **Marcus** is looking to become a full time student at the University of Maine, where he will pursue a degree in engineering. **Marcus**, an exceptional nuts & bolts sailor departs with over 13 years of active duty experience and is looking at joining the Naval Reserves. Hey, hope to see you next time as a commissioned officer. Farewell to MN2 **Paul Becker** who is separating from active duty. **Paul** is working in the local community and has intentions to go back to school and get filthy rich. Best of luck - give me a call in a few years when I retire! Farewell to MN2 **Alfredo Medina** who is separating from active duty. He has two job opportunities and has the INF and the Riverside Police Department both trying to sign him up. Best wishes to you and your family! Farewell to MN3 **Rachael Mayfield (Richardson)**. She is departing the service to go back home to Michigan to hang out a bit then pursues a college degree. We wish you success! Farewell to MN3 **Edward Killip** who separated in the local area to pursue other interests - I hope you get that job at NWS Seal Beach. Farewell to MN3 (Select) **Jerame Burton** who transfers to USS Pelican MHC-53. **Jerame** is scheduled to take the MN Electrical Core, and complete the AN/SQQ-32 Operator and Maintenance Classes. Best wishes for you and your new bride. Farewell to MNSN **Ramses Martinez** who transfers to USS Black Hawk MHC-58. **Ramses** gets to go through the Navy Tactical Command Systems Afloat Operators Class and an opportunity to enhance his skills in computer science.



## MOMAU 10

by LCDR John Iwaniec

**W**e're having fun out here right now with NR MOMAU Eleven on board. What a great bunch of guys lead by LCDR **Paul Burnhard** and CWO4 **Ken Braam**. **Ken** and I go back a long ways when he used to augment MOMAG Unit 9 in the Philippines.

There are also some other old faces like; newly frocked MNCS **Brian Robinson**, MN1 **Keith Hardiman** and MN2 **Russel Rosenberger**. I really like this bunch of guys, not only because they did great during our just completed mine upgrade but also because they all like to dive. Some of them even accompanied me out on a fish killing expedition and MNCS **Robinson** shot a nice Palani (Surgeon Fish). Of course yours truly shot enough fish to feed 10 of us at my house that night and a great time was had by all. LCDR **BurnHard** impressed everyone when he was able to eat a spoonful of **Daves** brand, Insanity Sauce. He was able to accomplish this feat without going into cardiac arrest. However, he did light up like a vine ripened tomato and quaffed two beers before he could talk again.

Our exercise schedule is getting heavy right now and we have trips leaving for Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Korea. CWO3 **Gary Riggins** ( CO MOMAU Ten ), talked me into a spot on the Thailand team and flies in tonight to get his briefs on the exercise before we deploy. LT **Theresa Wright**, my XO, is currently up in Naha doing the Dragon boat race and competing against the local Okinawan ladies teams. The U.S. ladies team won the competition last year, so you can bet the Japanese will be gunning for them this year.

Our personnel issues have been getting a little better with a few more warm bodies coming in. MNC **Rich McGinn**, from MOMAU One in Seal Beach will arrive near the end of June and he's our replacement for MNC **Kaiser** who has settled into MOMAU

Five, In Sunny Sigonella. We also will be getting MN2s **Apodaca** and **Hatlevig**, MN3s **Black** and **Vallez**. MN1 **Correy Vetter**, will be leaving us sometime in July, however he still doesn't know where he's going from here. MN1 **Vetter** was also our senior sailor of the Quarter and has been my ace in accomplishing all our facility related problems. Our Junior Sailor Of The Quarter is MN3 **John Spindler**, who has come a long ways since I arrived on board and I am very proud of his efforts. Along with the Reserves, we have Mr. **Archie Hanna** on board from COMOMAG. **Archie** is a genius with computers and we can't thank him or COMOMAG enough for sending him out here to upgrade our system. **Archie** was also able to fix my computer at home and all I had to do was fix him a home cooked meal, what a guy. On other fronts, for those of you who knew LCDR **Ed Hutsell** retired, he has recently been promoted to the position of CEO at Marine Corp MWR Okinawa, effective July 99. **Ed** has really worked hard to attain this position and is well deserving of the promotion. **Ed Hutsel's** son **Dave** is also doing great in the Navy and is now an Ensign pilot, flying the AE6b. I'm not sure of those numbers, it's not the Prowler, but the 727 version, Command Control Aircraft, very prestigious. **Dave** is stationed in Oklahoma City and we just got word that the terrible Tornadoes that touched down there yesterday, may have taken his house out, good thing he was home here on leave... Guess that's it for now, the weather is warming up and I can hear the fish calling me.

## MOMAU 11

by MNCM Gordon NWS GOOSE CREEK

LT **Mike Zahn** assumed the duties as Commanding Officer on 11 March. LT **Lyman** passed into retirement very quietly. He decided to retire without a formal ceremony Chiefs **Wright** and **Hicks** also choose to end their career in the same manner. We have also said good by to MN1 **Kevin Taylor** who retired on 12 March. His retire-

ment was held on board the USS Yorktown. This ceremony was quite good. Some of the visiting dignitaries were **Glenn Holder** (the guest speaker), **RP** and **Rick Basssak**. MN3 **Portillo** gave birth to a bouncing baby boy in February.

Some awards our folks received: CWO4 **Reed** received the Meritorious Service Medal. MNC **Micks** and MN1 **Taylor** received a Navy and Marine corps Commendation Medal- MN1s **Collins**, and **Venczel**, MN3 **Kearney**, MNC **Wright**, MN2 **Santel** and MN1 **Silver** all received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. MN2 **Dominguez** received the Humanitarian Service Medal and Our color guards was real busy this period we did eight official functions this quarter. They are scheduled to go to Walterboro on March 20 to give MNCS **Spoffard** a hand with an NJROTC competition. This should be my last input to the Dashpot, because I will be hitting the dusty trail in a few months. After twenty eight years of hanging around with you guys it's time for me to find new friends. This is all for now, until next time.

## MOMAU 12

MNC R.J. Nicely

**K**onnichi-wa! We have been blessed with some of the most beautiful weather in the history of Misawa over the past few weeks. I have heard the phrase "this is not normal" so many limes; I was beginning to wonder if it was the standard greeting. As with most of the other sites, we are about 40% undermanned, but as always the crew is not letting it get them down. Morale is very good (maybe the weather has something to do with it) and we are right on schedule with our workload.

Gunner **Riggins** just returned from Cobra Gold 99, sporting two broken toes no less. Says he had a wonderful time in Thailand.

Congratulations to our recent advancees. MNSN **Amy Greene** was advanced to her present rank on 16

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

April; MNSN **Ricardo Munoz** will be frocked to MN3 and **Joseph Marelski** to MN2 on 10 June. MNSAs **Jason White** and **Richard Smith** will be advanced to E-3 on 16 July. We would like to send our congratulations to advancees out there. Well done.

As you may have noticed, MNC **Holt** is no longer writing for MOMAU 12. We said farewell to him in May. We wish him the best of luck in his new challenges prepares to go to sea.

We will be saying sayonara to MN3 **Munoz** and MN2(SW) **Gutierrez** in late July. MN3 **Munoz** will be transferring to MWTC for training and MN2(SW) **Gutierrez** elected to separate and see what civilian life has to offer.

However, we will be receiving an SKI soon and an MNSR. Lets see - loss three gain three - it could be worse! I guess I won't start to grovel yet.

We're also getting ready for our reserves to come over and train with us. Always a good time when they're here. Till next time - Ki o tsukete.

## MOMAU FIFTEEN

by:YNC(SW) **Bentancourt**

**H**owdy! to all of our shoremates and friends around the world, from MOMAU Fifteen here in South Texas. Yes, it's summer again and the TEMPERATURE is rising! The new water blast/paint spray system has finally been installed and awaiting a day of testing. ' It will be of great benefit to the command and throughout the Mine Warfare Community. All the preparation for the Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI) in February 1999, tuned out to be very successful, with only one minor discrepancy noted, a JOB WELL DONE to all of MOMAU Fifteen personnel.

Welcome aboard to MNCS **Larry Walker** who reported from Rotational Crew Echo. He replaced MNCS(AW/SW) **John Babcock** as Command Senior Chief. We have a new Senior and Junior Sailor Of The Year (CY

98) at MOMAU Fifteen, MNI **Raymond Farr** and MN2s **Gregory Reeves** and **Morehouse** and MNSN **Oppermann** were selected as Senior and Junior Sailor of the Quarter (1st Qtr CY 99). Congratulations to all. A recent awards Ceremony was held with the following personnel being recognized: MN2 **Reeves**, Letter of Commendation (JSOY) Good Conduct (1st Award) and Certificate of excellence (PRT); MN2 **Morehouse**, Letter of Commendation (SOQ), Certificate of Excellence [PRT]; MN2 **Jack Angle**, Good Conduct (1st Award); MN1(SW) **Todd Kumro**, certificate of Outstanding (PRT); MNSN **Oppermann**, Letter of Commendation (JSOQ) and Certificate of Outstanding (PRT). Congratulations to MN1 **Farr**, MN2 **Reeves** and MN2 **Irving Flores** on their advancement from the Cycle 163 (March 1999) Navy-Wide Examinations. "Bravo Zulu" to all. This is it for now, until the next quarter.

**I** received a package of Foc'sle and Coastal Couriers that missed the Spring Deadline. Some of this is old to many but news to some especially the retireds. We all are interested in our community as we read about personal accomplishments and advancements of some of our students at A school taking Command Master or Senior Chief billets.

## Ingleside happenings

Foc'sle 11/25/98

SOQs MN2 **Edward B Barnes**, MWTC and MN2 **Andre Graham** Rotational Crew Delta, MN3 **Kenneth Corn**, Crew Charlie, MN2 **Robert Williamson**, USS Sentry. USS Heron sailors recognized were MN2 **Orville Hall**, Letter of Appreciation and MN1(SW) **Robert Gutierrez**, Fourth Good Conduct Award and Letter of Commendation. MN2 **Todd Brown** MWTC was pictured and quoted on his plans for Thanksgiving.

Foc'sle 1/29/99

## Reunions

**USS Terror** CM-5 Reunion 16-20 Sept. '99 Cincinnati, OH (513)451-3585 **USS Thomas E Fraser** DM 24 was held may 17-24 in Charleston Contact point 843-556-8666.

USS **Lindsey** DM 32 # 10722 has a reunions scheduled. For specific information on them look on the net at [www.vets.org](http://www.vets.org)

U.S.S. **TOLMAN** (DM 28) Sept. 24-26 1999 in Norfolk, VA contact **Edward E. McCall** 25225 Blue Heron Lane Hollywood, MD 20636 301-373-5488 or e-mail **Ned McCall** (his son)

[@njmccall@skipjack.bluecrab.org](mailto:@njmccall@skipjack.bluecrab.org)

## USS Roanoke

Dashpot received a package and inquiry about the USS **Roanoke**, commissioned on 25 January 1918, the converted merchant ship used as a minelayer in WW-1. Enclosed was an article describing our entrance into mine warfare. It reported we bought our first moored mines from France in the early 1900's In 1915 the US Navy began manufacturing its own. The first specialized mine warfare ship was the the former San Francisco (Protected Cruiser No. 5) converted at Norfolk and recommissioned as "Mine Laying Vessel" on 29 November 1911. The net was former Cruiser **Baltimore** (Protected Cruiser No. 3)recommissioned as a "Mine Planter" in 1915. The Historical Society of Roanoke Virginia is assembling memorabilia and documentation concerning the ships named **Roanoke**. The package was forwarded to the Sec/Treas for dissemination/action by our Historian. Readers having information should contact the Sec/Treas

## VISIT

Editor had a visit by **Dick** and **Doris Martin** the week of 7 June. They made the rounds of several members and NMEF folks. Had dinner with them and the Bauer's past OIC.

(Continued on page 9)



## BINNACLE LIST

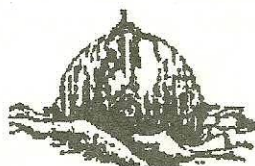


Bob Benintende was diagnosed with bladder cancer on February 23rd, 1999.

A surgery to remove his bladder, prostate and nearby lymph nodes was done on March 18th at Cottage hospital in Santa Barbara. The surgery was successful in taking out the cancer since it was still contained within the bladder wall. No chemotherapy or radiation treatments was needed after the surgery. However, He is battling many complications from the surgery itself. He is home now, recuperating and making some improvement. He send us an e-mail to say: My Shipmates one and all. Thank you for your prayers, get well cards and continuous flow of supportive e-mail that you bestowed upon me while I was hospitalized and during this prolonged period of recuperation. You have buoyed my spirits with our encouragement and good wishes. My regards to each of you, and regrets that I will not be able to attend the 99 reunion.

Sincerely, Bob Benintende

CDR Swart reports: By the way, Korea was beautiful, Guam was in excellent readiness and morale shape and Hawaii is ... well... paradise Did you know that John Iwaniec's daughter Joleen has had spinal surgery? She is recovering well. Very very painful for a youngster (or oldster too!). She'll be in a cast for several months or so... pls wish her well. She may well be the sweetest young lady in the mine force!



(Continued from page 8)

CNO has authorized CPO uniforms to include soft shoulder boards. Effective immediately, CPOs may wear the CPO garrison cap CPO device on blue or kacki windbreakers, black dress jackets and all weather coats. Mandatory use of the soft shoulder boards, to be available in Navy Exchanges takes effect 1 October 2000. MN1(SW) **Paul D Boring** Sup Ships Jacksonville Det Ingleside was awarded a Letter of Appreciation. MN2 **Robert Acox**, USS Pelican was awarded a Letter of Commendation.

Foc'sle 2/12/99

MN1 **Craig Born**, MWTC was pictured elementary school students Mk 56 Mines in a mentors program showing young people connecting academics with career fields. MN1 **Tim Lowder**, USS Avenger was pictured checking equipment during pre deployment maintenance. MN1(SW) **Donald R Nutting**, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three was selected as SOY 1998.

Foc'sle 2/26/99

MN2(SW) **Patrick D Richardson**, USS Oriole SSOQ Fourth Quarter 1998. MN3 **Myls P Holland**, Crew Delta and MN3 **Shaun Douglas** USS Devastator were JSQs for Fourth Quarter 1998.

Foc'sle 3/12/99

MCM ships deploy. USS Inchon, USS Avenger, USS Champion, USS Devastator and USS Scout are deployed to the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf. More than 1500 Center of Excellence sailors are on the five month deployment. MNC(SW) **John D Valdez** was pictured receiving the Navy and Marine Corps Award for Heroism on July 22 1998. Chief **Valdez** made it to a break wall where a ski-boat rammed a metal breakwater. He rendered first aid to a victim with compound fractures, stopped the bleeding and immobilized the the injured leg. He assisted the Coast Guard who arrived on the scene minutes later in securing the boat and movement of victims.

Foc'sle 3/26/99

MN1 **Efrain Montantes** MCMRON 2

and MN1 **Katherine Frunz** were points of contact for the Annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive. The story and photo carried the by-line of MNSN **Gerald Roach**. MN3 **Lorne Hancock**, Crew Foxtrot received his first Good Conduct Award, MN3 **Jermaine Bradshaw**, Crew Echo, was the JSQ.

Foc'sle 4/9/99

Rotational crew Charlie members pictured in a USS Pioneer demonstration for Dale Gerry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Undersea and Minewarfare were MN2 **Kenneth Corn** and MN2 **Andre Graham**. MN1(SW) **Thomas Vail** Crew Charlie Sailor of the Year was pictured swinging in a Boatswains chair putting the finishing touches on Pioneer's Battle "E". MN2 **James Grant**, MN2 **Jack Angle** and MN3 **Irving Flores** were pictured at MOMAU 15 preparing MK 6 training mines for deployment. The accompanying article was carried in the last issue of Dashpot.

Foc'sle 4/23/99

USS Shrike MHC 62 Homeports at Ingleside. Shrike, twelfth and final Osprey Class MHC to join the MCM forces at Ingleside. The first USS Shrike MSC 201 was very familiar to many of our readers of KWEST-EVDET fame. First MCM ship enters the new Electromagnetic Roll Facility at Ingleside. The new Facility replaces the Degaussing station at Charleston. Crew members are happy that they can be home nights during testing of degaussing systems instead of an eight week deployment to Charleston, SC. MN1(SW) **Greg Williams**, student MWTC, was pictured and quoted on his positive opinion of the Navy's new dungaree uniform.

Foc'sle 5/7/99

MNC(SW) **Dave Ostrom**, USS Shrike, was pictured and identified as a Mine Warfare Center of Excellence Team Member. MN1 **John Broden**, USS Shrike was pictured with his family as the ship arrived at Ingleside

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

for homeporting. MN1 **Katherine Frunz**, MWTC was pictured and quoted on her opinion on Mothers Day.

Foc'sle 5/21/99

MN2 **Denny Jenkins**, USS Sentry received a Navy Achievement Medal MNCS(SW) **David L Walker**, Command Chief for Crew Echo received his E-8 star. The Senior Chief is welcomed aboard in the MOMAU-15 report.

USS Sentry completed technical evaluation of the third version of the SQQ-32 minehunting sonar. MNC(SW) **John Shelton**, Afloat Training Group Ingleside, was on hand for the testing. MNC **Pepper Mitchell** was listed as a participant in Ingleside's Taste from Home project where baked goodies were collected and sent to the deployed USS Inchon and accompanying MCM ships.

## Panama City happenings

Coastal Courier 12/4/98

### Team sweeps bay with MUDSS

A team of Navy and NASA scientists and engineers from Coastal Systems Station and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory demonstrated a system that detects and maps the location of unexploded ordnance underwater. Named Mobil Underwater Debris Survey System (MUDSS) uses sophisticated sonar, magnetic and laser optic underwater sensors to provide detailed images and maps of targets. The sonar can detect and classify objects suspended in the water column, lying on the bottom or buried in the sediment of the bay floor. Electro-optic laser sensors, operating at night to eliminate false signals, provided photographic-quality images of targets at ranges two to three times farther than are visible with the human eye.

Courier 3/12/99

Coastal Systems Stations' Advanced Lightweight Influence Sweep System

(ALISS) participates in Kernel Blitz '99 exercise. ALISS is a Navy technology demonstration program designed to develop the net generation of acoustic and magnetic sources for influence minesweeping in the shallow (40 to 200 ft.) to very shallow (10 to 40 ft.) region. ALISS uses a conductively cooled, semiconducting magnet to generate assault craft magnetic signatures. An advanced spark gap transducer array provides the frequency agility needed for spectral shaping of the acoustic signal. Integrating the two produces a magnetic and acoustic signature that creates false targets for certain sea mines, causing them to detonate. These devices are currently deployed on a target drone boat that can be remotely controlled from anywhere in the world. This technique removes personnel from the battlefield.

Courier 5/27/99

During Kernal Blitz the "other side" prepared MK 74 exercise mines to mimic enemy mines. MOMAU One, Seal Beach provided the mines. The ALISS mine locating systems explained in the above article was used and remarkably detailed images were transmitted to Commander, Countermeasures Squadron Three, who could then assess the mine threat with no risk to divers. Once identified, the Advanced Lightweight Influence Sweep System was deployed for four successful influence sweep missions to clear the fleet entrance into the threat area.

Courier 3/26/99

Bay County BRAC Committee works diligently to head off any attempts for base closures in the are. One of the major actions the committee took was to help establish the Congressional Naval Mine Warfare Caucus. The caucus is a bicameralcongressional organization seeking to increase funding and support for mine warfare and mine countermeasures. The caucus helped secure an additional funding of \$316 million over the next six years for an array of initiatives geared to introducing new systems to hunt and destroy mines on

destroyers, amphibious ships and fleet helicopters. The web site for this caucus visit [www.cnmwc.org](http://www.cnmwc.org) on the net.

Courier 5/7/99

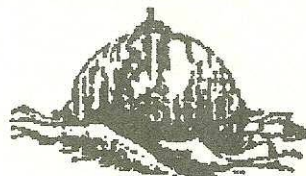
Line Charge continues to clear mines.

A linear demolition charge was successfully deployed from an AVV in the surf zone off Santa Rosa Island part of Elgin AFB test range. No significant adverse environmental impact was noted. Padded sonarbuys were used to gather acoustic energy during the blast. (Ed. note) Many AOM members participated in preparing and evaluating many many mines used in two line charge tests off Key West in the early 60's.

The Annual Naval Mine Warfare Association conference took place at Coastal Systems Station with 215 military, DOD civilians, and industry professionals gathered to discuss the future of the naval forces and the need for up-to-date equipment from industry leaders. Keynote speaker, ADM **Paul Reason**, CINCLANTFLT extended his opinion that mine warfare is a "national priority" with preeminence around the world being based on unimposed access to the world's shores by sea.

Courier 6/4/99

CSS and the University of West Florida join forces to identify Native American shell middens and burial sites on station property. As these sites are considered sacred by Native American tribes, there is a reluctance to disturb them by traditional excavation. Suspected sites will be examined by NASA ground penetrating radar that can detect and determine the extent and perhaps their contents without traditional digging. Representatives of local tribes will observe the procedure.





Association of Minemen  
25th Annual Reunion & Meeting  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
13 - 15 August 1999

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

Please return this reservation form as soon as possible to the address above to expedite your registration for reunion events. Your tickets will be made available at the Early Bird, General Business Meeting, Dinner and Picnic.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AOM Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Tickets @ \$25.00 EA X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Children 8 and below dinner free. How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Picnic Tickets @ \$8.00 EA X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(13 Years old and above)

Picnic Tickets @ \$4.50 EA X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Age 7 to 12 Years ... Children age 7 and under are FREE)

Number of Children attending Picnic under the age 7 Years and under: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: (\$10.00) Aug '99 - Aug '00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your label has your paid to date eg. 1999 is 8/99

(New member add \$5 application fee)

Museum Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AOM Scholarship Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: (checks payable to Association of Minemen) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- We must guarantee numbers for dinner not later than the morning of 9 August. There will be NO refunds after 8 August 1999.
- The picnic will be standard "Picnic Fare": hamburgers, hot dogs with the appropriate sides and refreshments for all.
- **The Host Hotel is the Best Western Sandy Shores Beach Motel, 3200 Surfside, P.O. Box 839, Corpus Christi, TX 78403, Phone (800) 242-5814. Use group #4010 When making your reservations for the AOM rate. Pool side \$69 and Bay side \$89 both + 13% tax, 2 in a room, \$10 each additional.** The Sandy Shores is located across the Harbor Bridge from Downtown Corpus Christi in the Aquarium Village District, halfway between Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and Naval Station Ingleside.

The AOM Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday 14 August, at the Gulf Winds Golf Course, NAS Corpus Christi. The format will be Best-ball/Captain's Choice with a "shotgun" start at 0730. Those wishing to play can contact LCDR Tim Paton (361) 961-4986 (X-124) or CWO3 Mike Bryant (X-119). Cost is \$25 per person which includes green fees and cart to be paid the morning of the tournament. We are limited to 72 players or eighteen teams.



## Mineman of the Year

Foc'sle 5/7/99

Once again the AOM is planning on recognizing the top Mineman in the Navy. The selection process takes place 30 July at COMINEWAR-COM, Ingleside. Recommendation packages must be received by 15 July. The winner will be announced at the Annual Minemen Reunion dinner meeting in Corpus Christi, TX on 14 August.

## Navy opens another sea lane to women

Daily Press, Newport News VA 5/14  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

One of the Navy's last barriers to women serving at sea is about to go down the drain.

The Navy is modifying a fleet of 12 coastal minehunting ships to permit them to carry female sailors and officers. The change would leave submarines as the last major group of Navy vessels to bar female crew members.

The Osprey class mine hunters USS Kingfisher and USS Cormorant are the first of the dozen ships to convert. Adjustments to berthing compartments will permit each to carry up to 15 enlisted women and five officers. The ships carry a complement of 46.

The Navy's top leaders still must approve the change. But the prospect of sea duty is exciting to female enlisted specialists in mine warfare.

Petty Officer 1st Class **Katherine Frunz**, who has served 12 years on shore as a Mineman, said the change will let her "get my hands actually into the equipment and be a part of the team."

**Frunz** trains prospective Minemen at the enlisted advanced school at the U.S. Naval Station in Ingleside, Texas, where the mine warfare fleet is based. Minemen test, maintain, repair and overhaul mines and their components.

After 16 years in the Navy, Ms.

**Frunz** said she saw few opportunities ahead until the prospect of sea duty opened. Now, she said, she figures to stay in the service for at least 20 years.

The Navy's need to retain experienced Minemen and attract more people to the specialty is driving the move to open the mine sweepers to women, Navy officials said. About 15 percent of the service's 540 billets for enlisted Minemen are unfilled.

Only 45 women now are qualified as Minemen. "We would like to have our fair share," said ENS **Charles Bell** a spokesman for the Mine Warfare Command.

Mine warfare emerged during the 1990s as a growth area for the Navy. During the Persian Gulf War, a pair of Iraqi mines, each worth \$35,000, almost sank the \$1.2 billion cruiser USS Princeton.

With that in mind, Navy leaders pushed development of the Osprey class of coastal mine sweepers, 188 foot ships with fiberglass hulls that allow them to sail over mined areas without detonating the ordnance below.

Until recently, Navy leaders resisted assigning women to the mine sweepers, saying the limited space aboard the ships made mixed sex crews impractical.

"Our previous policy kept (the mine sweepers) closed due to prohibitive modification costs," Assistant Secretary of Defense **Rudy DeLeon** said in a letter to U.S. Sen. **John W. Warner**, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, earlier this month.

A new analysis, however, found that the conversions could be completed on the 12 Osprey class ships for about \$70,000 per ship, **Bell** said.

When women are approved for the ships, the Navy expects to send seven female Minemen and eight female enlisted sailors to fill the female berthing compartment.

In addition to the Osprey class, the Navy has 14 slightly larger, Avenger class mine sweepers built between 1987 and 1990.

**Bell** said different berthing arrangements on the Avenger class would make conversions there more expensive. For now, there are no plans to alter those vessels.

## Reunion RV Parking

Here are some of the ba'zillion RV Parks in the local area...these are all very convenient to the reunion site and local attractions. Port

A is on the B E A C H (Mustang Island - Padre Island)... Flour Bluff is near NAS and Padre Island.

COLONIAL DEL REY RV PARK

1717 Waldron RD Flour Bluff

POC: Brenda 361-937-2435

Daily Rates: \$21 Full Concrete

Pad, fee incl water, sewer, cable &

electric. BEACHWAY RV PARK AND

APT 223 N. Station Port Aransas

POC: Sharon 361-749-6351 Daily

Rate: \$18 Concrete Pad, no cable

PUERTO DEL SOL TRAVEL

TRAILOR 5100 Timon Blvd (near

Sandy Shores) POC: Jay 361-

882-5373 Waterfront spots \$21 non

\$19. LAGUNA SHORE VILLAGE RV

PARK AND BOAT STORAGE INC

3828 Laguna Shores Rd, Flour Bluff

(close to NAS) POC: Ann 361-937-

6035 reservations reqd \$15/day + \$1

for cable. PADRE PALMS TRAVEL

TRAILER PARK 131 Skipper LN

(close to NAS) POC: Richard 361-

937-2125 Reg \$17 day Discount

\$15.30 day for good Sams/TACO/

AAA cable incl reservation reqd

HATCH RV PARK 3101 Up River RD

(Near Air Port off I-37... Near Sandy

Shores) POC: Becky 361-883-

9781 \$23 day discount for good

Sams/TACO/AAA full hook and cable

MUSTANG RV RESORT 300 E

Cotter, Port Aransas POC: Alice

361-749-6248 \$18 day full hook and

cable GULLY's MOBILE HOME AND

RV PARK 8225 Leopard St (near

greyhound race track and not far

from SandyShores. GREYHOUND

RV PARK 5402 Leopard St (near

greyhound race track and not far

from Sandy Shores) 361-289-2076

\$16 day full hook up



## Reunion details

**P**icnic details are being worked out and it will be on NAS CC due to the availability of the best facilities. Starts at 1100 on Sunday. Early bird is at Sandy Shores Hotel, and additionally there is a good bar-restaurant right next door if the party goes on real late (early?). The hotel is providing facilities for BOD and general business meetings about 1300 and 1400 respectively. **Tim Paton, Ken Allen and MN1 Chitwood** are handling the local reunion details while I'm gone. **Ron**

## Weekend possibilities

**W**e have tours of MCM/MHC ships, working on a special deal for LEX... can work in fishing, horseback rides, tanning contest, etc. Will arrange tours of Unit 15 in Kingsville and COMOMAG and HELMINERON 15 if there is interest. All can be set up and will await opinion and input prior to making final arrangements.

## Local Sites and Attractions

**H**ost Hotel: Best Western Sandy Shores Beach Hotel. The Sandy Shores is located in the Corpus Christi Beach in the Aquarium Village district. Here in only a 3 block area, you can find the Texas State Aquarium and the USS Lexington Maritime Museum. These wonderful attractions are only a short walk from the Beach Hotel. Visit the International Kite Museum located on the hotel grounds. It is a celebration of the complex and fascinating history of kites from their origin in the Orient until present times. Hotel rates are \$69 for the tower or pool-side and \$89 for a view of Corpus Christi Bay. These rates are subject to a 13% state and local tax. Phone: (361) 883-7456 or Fax: (361) 883-1437 (800) 242-5814

**USS Lexington Maritime Museum**  
The battle of the Marianas Islands

and Philippine Sea... over 500 enemy planes destroyed in battle after battle! The enemy reported her sunk four different times, but nothing could stop her. The USS Lexington haunted the waters of the South Pacific and became known as the "Blue Ghost". Today... the past, present and future come alive on the LEX. Multimedia presentations dazzle. Unique exhibits intrigue. Live reenactments engage visitors of all ages. Over 20 historic aircraft on the flight deck. Prepare for battle in the Ready Room! 1-800-LADY-LEX

### Texas State Aquarium

Adventure is waiting for you around every corner at the Texas State Aquarium... ferocious sharks, playful river otters, beautiful angelfish, dive shows, animal interviews, a marine-themed playground and much more! Over 400,000 gallons of water and 3000 animals. An exciting and unique experience. Admission for Adults: \$8; Youth between the age of 12 and 17: \$6.75; children ages 3 to 12: \$4.50; Seniors: \$6.75

1-800-477-GULF (361) 881-1200  
[www.txstateaq.com](http://www.txstateaq.com)

### Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

Experience the world of discovery! Treasures of the Gulf... exciting Spanish shipwrecks... Smithsonian Institution Exhibits, models, murals and videos. Visit the Columbus Fleet: Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. (361) 883-2862

### What else to do in Corpus Christi

- Mine Countermeasures Ship Tours at Naval Station Ingleside
- Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Fifteen, Kingsville
- Padre Island National Sea Shore
- Windsurfing (the US Open Championships are held here every year)
- The King Ranch, Kingsville (bigger than Rhode Island!)
- Padre Island Horseback Riding (you can ride most anywhere in

Texas)

- Whooping Crane Tours (in the Winter season)
- Day Sailing
- Bay Cruises and sightseeing
- Deep Sea Fishing or local bay fishing (excellent!)
- Nature Tours: Dolphin, Birds, Shrimp Trawl, Sunset Cruises
- The Fulton Mansion State Historical Park
- The Art Museum of South Texas
- The Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport
- The Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens
- Concerts on the Bay most evenings

## New Mine Technology

Foc'sle 5/21/99

Office of Naval Research/Office of Congressional and Public Affairs  
he Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency are sponsoring a new mine-detection

**T**he Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency are sponsoring a new mine-detection technology that promises to significantly improve the Navy's ability to detect and clear underwater mines. In early tests the number of undetected mines was reduced by half and decreased false alarms by a factor of five. The advanced technology is part of the Navy's stepped-up effort to develop an "organic" mine hunting capability for the fleet's surface combatants, amphibious ships and submarines. This capability would give a ship the ability to identify and avoid or deactivate mines as it encounters them instead of relying on specialized minesweeping ships which may not be available when needed. The price of an Ageis cruiser is about \$1 billion. The cost of a low tech underwater mine is as low as \$2,000. Defense Secretary **Cohen** recently directed an additional \$315 million to the mine warfare budget for FY 2000 to 2005 "to translate the 'organic vision' to executable programs and deliver this capability to the fleet."



# Lemmings march on Capitol Hill

By NAVSEA and  
NUWC Public Affairs

The "Lemmings" marched across the Senate Hearing Room on April 20 before members of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). The interactive display allowed senators the opportunity to see them in action .. and even remotely control them.

So what are "Lemmings" you ask? Lemmings are bottom crawlers that operate in the surf zone to tag man-made objects (like mines) and neutralize them. They creep and crawl along the ocean bottom, looking for potentially deadly mines along the way.

The Naval Undersea Warfare Center's Newport Division has been working with Foster-Miller Incorporated of Waltham, Mass., under a CRADA to advance this bottom-crawler technology.

Lemmings, as one of the U.S. Navy's forefront technologies, were demonstrated at the request of the Office of Naval Research as part of Navy Acquisition Chief Dr. H. Lee Buchanan's briefing to the SASC's sub-committee on Emerging Threats.

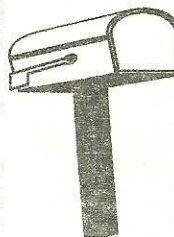
Lemmings introduce a new paradigm in mine countermeasure operations. As bottom-crawling autonomous units, they provide a massively parallel, clandestine and remote means of independently neutralizing mines, while remaining affordable.

Lemmings use the power of swarming and diffusion theory to search and destroy mines. Diffusion is achieved by providing the bottom crawlers with quasi-random search trajectory. They can move forward a random amount of time between a minimum and maximum limit, and turn to the right or left a randomized number of degrees.

While at any given instant the diffusion approach appears to be highly inefficient, integrated over time coverage is complete.

Given enough vehicles and enough time, the random search provides a high degree of coverage. These vehicles were specifically designed for the adverse environment of the surf zone but can be readily extended for both shallow water and beachfront clearance. Lemmings assume that on a beach if an object is man-made, it should be treated as a potential target - as it could represent a mine, a mooring system for a mine, or an anti-invasion obstacle.

## Incoming Letters



Member James F O'Hara, Wilton Manors, FL, sent in clippings and photo's of NAS Key West, Florida visit by USS Cardinal over the Armed Forces Day celebrations May

14th. He was proud to see an MCM ship there. Also included was an article from The East Broward Sun Sentinel reporting crew members of the USS Raven some 25 strong assembled and assisted the Ft. Lauderdale-based Broward County chapter of the American Red Cross consolidate hurricane disaster relief supplies from various sites to their storage facility in Tamarac. We stayed at the RV grounds of Sigsbee Point Naval Housing off the NAS Key West. The enclosed clippings show the Mine Force getting good publicity. I enjoy Dashpot and eagerly look forward to receiving it. Keep up the excellent work of keeping us informed. Jim, formerly on COMINEPAC's USS Fortify.

Phone call from ex MN2 Jim Carson of Sweetwater, TX on how to join the AOM. Had read a Dashpot and was interested. I relayed the Sec/Treas address etc and he joined. Jim reported he owned a liquor store in Sweetwater, had gone in with a gaggle of customers on the lottery in Texas and was a partner of many in a \$50 million jackpot. (Ed. note) That's the second Mineman that hit a lottery jackpot Bob McGaw about \$13

million here in Virginia.

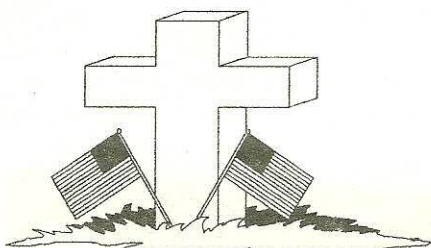
email from Don Decrona. He just had a talk with Moose Wheelock's wife after gall bladder removal surgery in late March. He was already recovering and looking forward to his release and recovery.

Fred Dane sent me the Winter issue of the Silent Defenders, the Naval Minewarfare Association's quarterly newsletter. They are about ten times our membership.

Ed Guard writes: This five day old computer is trickier than the dip needle mechanism which I used to set up in the non-mag building on Azuma Isle. Tough job, whenever the whale ships would move so would the ambeient field! The reason I'm reduced to this ancient method of communication is because the machine is smarter than me! I also have a word processor I haven't learned to use. Enclosed is Frank Panzer's address. Yes, he was on the USS Sperry and Point Loma with you in 1952/3. He went to Azuma Island, Japan. in early 1954. I went to "B" school in late '53 and he as there at Azuma when I returned. He and I ent to "A" school together. When we were discharged, we went into business together here in Silver Creek, NY, a resturant, which failed. I went back into the Navy. Frank became a banker in Baltimore. We have kept in touch over the years as we had shared many adventures. Frank has had heart problems over the years and would like to hear from you. Received my Mineman History book. It is very nice. I wish it had more about Azuma. It was one of the largest depots in the world at the time. I went to swim school in Key West in the Spring of '56 and finished EOD/SWD Indian Head in Spring '57. Went to EOD-2 Charleston and forthwith rode the USS Detector for a Med trip. I stayed with EOD-2 until my wife decided we leave the Navy in early 1960. I continued my diving career with Scott Aviation Corps of



## TAPS



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

**MNCM James (Jim) W. Powers**, Winterhaven, FL 4/4/99. He moved to Florida in 1971 after retiring from the US Navy in Subic Bay, RP.

*(Continued from page 14)*

US Army Engineers and finally eight years in ONR diving research project at the State University of NY at Buffalo. I am now 100% service connected lung disability from diving. I don't get around much anymore. Forgot to mention some classmates at "A" school. **Tony P Mooney** and **John L Frey** went to the USS TUCAN AM and **Howard Hodges** and I went to USS Symbol AM 123 both at Korea in the Spring of 1952. Frey and I were later transferred to COMINERON 3 EOD team where we worked with MSB Div 1 from the LSDs Comstock and Fort Marion. Lots of fun was had in Wonson. **Hodges** died later of TB contacted while on Azuma.

**Blas P "Joe" Hernandez** writes: Regarding our beautiful blue and gold history book, I have forwarded some letters to the Historian that opens or closes the door to why it took so long to mine Hiphong. Regretably the mining history of that war we lost in Vietnam remains unfinished and some who took credit for mining Hiphong and ending it failed to state the historical facts.

Lets hope, that someday, someone will find the combination to the files sans mud- come hell or high water.

**Ed Oyer** writes:

The History Book is just that - a complete fold out on the Mine Force in one place and a thumbnail sketch of some who were there. As for the Spring Dashpot, some reflections on NAD Oahu. NAD Oahu Component Test, early '50s had to my knowledge, the only working Weapon Alpha bread board. Again early '50s, We MN were teaching magnetic mines to submarine officers from the Sub Base. NAD, in the early 50's and 60's had a great promotion number in all paygrades when numbers were tough. The Mk 27 shop out on the K line had a successful shoot of all units in an FSMT and they went where they were supposed to and they worked as mines too. Who remembers the subs testing Regulus missiles in our back yards. Side bar.; On Glen Douglas. Our Det Alpha in 1970 helped prepare a traditional American Thanksgiving for all the employees and a sit down dinner we enjoyed. **Dennis**, the then OIC of the Depot often spoke of that. Some of the crew **Mac Torenefohl**, **MN1 Stewart**, **Matson**, **Young**, **Romano**, **Campbell**, **Vorke(?)**, **Gandara**, **Maltic(?)**, **Anders**, **Howell** and **Payne**. The Scots really liked the pumpkin pie and all the turkey and dressing. Appreciate the Dashpot **Ray Becker**, NMEF Ret. wrote to the editor of the Daily Press concerned about President **Clinton's** legacy. He disapproves of the illegal air war in Yugoslavia and says "...to the people and the military, wake up, you have been conned by the expert con man for his legacy.

**Bob Wilson** asks us to check out <http://members.aol.com/veterans/warlib3.htm> They are collecting photographs of all US Veterans. They will post the photo and place your name and address as the contact point. People recognizing veterans can contact you for further information.

**Jack Shreve**, NAVSEA Civ. Ret recommends reading the non fiction book, **Blind Man's Bluff** about submarine espionage.

The "old Mineman" **AB Hinman** wrote: We have a little get together most Sundays at the Goose Creek American Legion for breakfast with few old Mineman including **Frenchy Lemieux**. A couple Sunday ago he said he found out **DC Wright MNCS** ret. ( April 85) passed away (21 April 98). His wife passed away approximately 1 year earlier. **Frenchy** found a shadow box (moneto box) with his flag and other personal items at a yard sale and still has them and would like to donate them to the mineman memorial on the Yorktown.

It's sad that we loose track of some our own. Thought I would drop this short note m maybe this is early enough to include in the next news letter.

## USS Shannon DM 25

by Bernard Rossman ex MN2

The following Mineman are pictured in the Shannon Cruise book '44 -'46 **MNC J B Frankel** **MN1 M A Ryan**, **MN2s W E Burt**, **R B Dye**, **J E Craver**, **R W Wickey**. **MN3s A C Harder**, **H J Cover**, **A Dewy** **MNSNs J J DiArenzo**, **W E Rolerson**, **C F Grumble**, **E J Howard**.

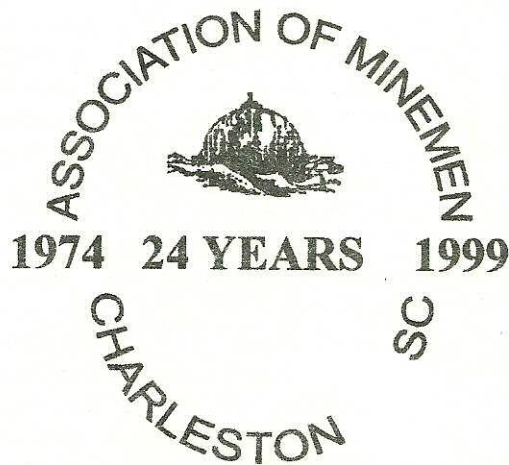
**MN2 Richard B Dye** USNR was awarded the Bronz Star for observing and firing a .50 caliber machine gun at an unreported enemy aircraft while manning his condition II depth charge projector station. He was responsible for and assisted in shooting down the plane.

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