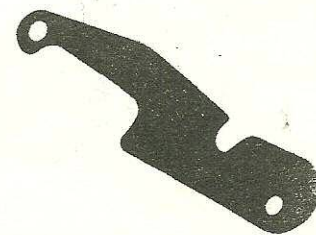




THE DASHPOT



Issue 36 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Winter 2001



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Paul Santa Maria

As the first six months of our year slips down the ways, a couple of important actions are being completed and/or are being discussed, putting forth a multitude of creative ideas. First and foremost, our publishing the history book has now made a full circle. To all who contributed photos, articles and those who assembled and edited; and those who made it possible to go to press through their loans and, last but not least, those who are presently returning the memorable, once in a lifetime photos. JOB EXTREMELY WELL DONE!!! THANK YOU!!!

Warren Savage is in the process of submitting our history book to the Library of Congress and also acquiring a publisher's I. D. number.

As of this writing, there is some positive news concerning the YORKTOWN Museum. An article by Toby is in this issue.

Our Scholarship Chairman, "Swede" Carlson is somewhat concerned that the Scholarship Challenge Fund donations are lagging behind. Soon it will be Christmas and hopefully you will remember this Fund with a \$25 or more gift.

Presently, there is an excellent, ongoing dialogue of reasons and suggestions as to why the stagnation in our membership growth. One of the reasons is, for example, that there is a general belief in the mine community that this organization is for the officers only. How very erroneous that concept is. We are about the Minemen rate, it's history and preservation, past present and future. To further refute the "for the officers only" concept, here are my credentials: served four years, no reserve time, discharged as a MN3. You can't be much less of a short timer nor any lower rated minemen and yet the membership unanimously elected this humble servant its President. WOW! What a tremendous HONOR!!! Climb aboard you enlisted shipmates and secure the future of this great organization.

I also wish to thank Joe Balderrama for accepting chairmanship of the Nominating Committee.

HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS TO ALL.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!!!!!

Paul Santa Maria

2002 REUNION PLANNING

By Jack Smoot

The 2002 Reunion Planning Committee has made reservations for 50 rooms at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Williamsburg, VA 23185. Their telephone number is 757-220-1410 or 1-800-666-888. The reservation code for the AOM rooms at the motel in August is TEM. Dates for the rate of \$84.00 per night are until 9 July 2002. After that you are at the regular in season rate. The date of the reunion is Friday, August 9 through Sunday, August 11, 2002. This is a very busy time in this area with Busch Gardens, Water Country, Williamsburg Pottery, and one month before school starts. We had to get reservations one year ahead.

For people that will be coming by RV to the reunion, there are campsites at Newport News Park, Cheatham Annex, and NWS Yorktown; all within 5 to 8 miles of the Ramada Inn.

We are looking at the Old Mine Warfare School area that the Coast Guard has now and also the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown. At this time, they have a high security alert going on. Also, there will be some changes of command coming up at the first of the year. The committee will be meeting after the first of the year and will keep on planning for the August reunion.

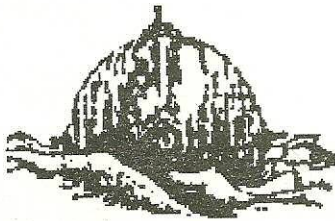
I also wish to invite anyone living/visiting the area to the monthly Retired Old Folks monthly luncheon at Nicks in Yorktown the first Thursday of each month. You can usually chat with Earl Roberts, Ray Ethridge, Ed Oyer, Len Ringler, Reggie Beane and others. About 20 folks show up and rehash the good old days at NMEF.

Enjoy the holidays

Jack

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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 with the mission of perpetuating knowledge of undersea mine warfare and championing its necessity as one of America's first lines of defense.

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHALLENGE

By William "Swede" Carlsen

So far the challenge that AOM President Paul Santa Maria and wife Bootsie issued to the membership isn't bearing much fruit. Of the \$5000 in the challenge only \$600 has been matched! Let's match Paul and Bootsie's generosity and watch the scholarship grow. There is \$1,714.20 undesignated money in the fund.

To refresh your memory, AOM President and his wife donated \$5,000 to the scholarship fund and, if matched in \$25 increments up to a total of \$5,000,

the interest can be used for scholarships. If all \$5,000 is matched, the AOM would have \$10,000 gathering interest in a Certificate of Deposit selected by the Secretary-Treasurer. For the first 5 years, only the interest can be used for scholarship funds leaving the President's and wife's donation working for the AOM. After the first 5 years the control of the challenge fund would lay with a committee consisting of the President, Secretary-Treasurer and Scholarship Chairperson.

For example, if the interest on the Certificate of Deposit was 5%, the match fund of \$10,000 would insure that at least one (1) AOM Scholarship of \$500 would be awarded annually. This, plus Memorial Scholarships and other contributions would boost the number of scholarships awarded.

Every dollar helps, especially with college costs still rising. A donation would be a great Christmas gift to our "Leaders of Tomorrow". REMEMBER, we have until 8/12/02 to match the AOM'S President and wife's challenge.

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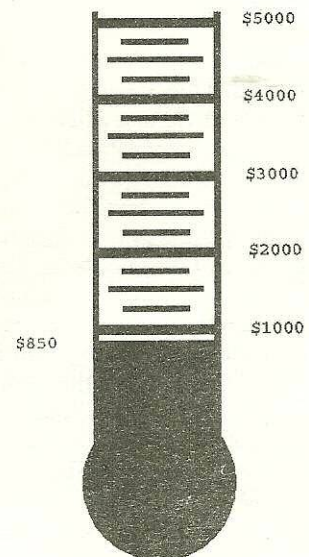
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STAND TALL AMERICA

Scholarship Challenge Matching funds



**WHO OR WHAT
WAS THE
DIRTY THIRTY
AND THE TEN
FRENCHMEN?**

YORKTOWN MINE MUSEUM REPORT

By Toby Horn

On Tuesday, November 27th, I met with Ms. Eleanor Wimett, who is the Director of Information Systems and Museum Collections for the Patriots Point Authority/USS Yorktown. Ms. Wimett is my newly appointed POC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current and future aspects of the Mine Museum located aboard the USS Yorktown.

I found Ms. Wimett to be an affable, professional, dedicated person representing new management faced with new policies and decisions (both state and federal) that will impact future planning for all existing and future exhibits aboard the Yorktown. As explained to me, the Patriots Points Authority is being barraged by a series of concerns regarding public safety and legal responsibility, culpability and liability. Ms. Wimett had familiarized herself with much of the history of the mine museum as represented through both documentation and conversation/discussion passed down to her. There are areas of undocumented decisions that were made by former management, which had the advantage of operating in a rather loose style during initial set-up phases. The areas of rights, possession and ownership are the biggest of these.

The documentation in hand and presented to me substantiates Ms. Wimett's position that the mines sent to Patriots Point were a result of requests by the management at the time. There are myriad letters sent to Mine Warfare Command, Naval Schools of Mine Warfare and Naval Ordnance Systems Command. DD-1149s (?) show shipment of much of the material requested, with receipt signature by them. The AOM does not show up in any of this correspondence. Indeed, the AOM did not come into existence until after the date of some of this correspondence. It should also be recognized that all "donations" by the Navy are on a "temporary custody" basis, regardless of custodian. (NOTE: In a subsequent phone call received from Lyal Stryker that same evening, he states that he is in possession of correspondence that transfers "province" of this material to the AOM. I can neither substantiate nor refute Lyal's claim, but have asked that he produce such correspondence at the earliest time so that we can get things cleared up. I really don't think it makes a difference, and I'm really not sure we want that responsibility anyway).

I really feel that Ms. Wimett is on the same wavelength as we are regarding our desire for a well-designed, purposeful museum. The question of "who does it" or who has bragging rights is moot at this point. She took me through their newly renovated Officer's Mess tour and proudly showed me the banners, displays and exhibits, which all had been done in-house. She is interested in developing a mine museum that tells a mine warfare story instead of just having some static displays that don't do much for anyone. She drew the analogy that, as currently set up, the mine museum brings instant recognition and nostalgia to a Mineman walking the tour, but does nothing for the average John and Jane Doe who come there and expect to be educated.

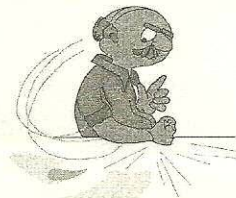
It's true! Now is the time to bite the bullet and work with them and forget authorship. Ms. Wimett admits they had little expertise in the mine warfare arena and will need all the help they can get. She invites ideas and methods to tell our story –

the mine and mineman story. She talks audio/visual, animation and other high tech support from in-house resources. Funding contribution can be made. I have promised her a History Book for possible ideas and information. I hope to deliver that in a few days.

Yes! There are details to work out and – yes – it won't happen overnight. There are other questions of excess materials, personal materials, contributions to other museums, and archiving of correspondence and documentation for historical purposes. We may have to close the museum for a while due to HAZMAT cleanup. Ms. Wimett wants to establish a concept, develop a time-line and get on with it. I think I can say that she is in sync – or we with her – in what we want to see achieved. I also feel that she will request and active role for the AOM in achieving it.

I strongly suggest that the AOM Officers and BOD adopt this approach and working arrangement. As your POC, I will, of course, take forward any position that you deem necessary. I have suggested to Ms. Wimett that once this position is solidified that there be a letter or memorandum of understanding initiated between the AOM and Patriots Point Authority.

CDR M. D. Horn, USN (Ret)
Mine Museum Coordinator



GUEST EDITORIAL

By William A. Roberts (MNC) (CDR USN Ret)

I was just re-reading the Fall 2001 issue of the "Dashpot," and again was impressed by the number of MNCPO selectees, twenty nine, my congratulations to all of them. I was also impressed by the number of them that belonged or should say did not belong to the AOM! I went a little further and checked the Fleet News article submitters and found only one mine type belonged to the AOM. We appear to be in one hell of a fix. We can't continue to survive without new blood.

Come on you mine people we need your support. The AOM is a great vehicle for all minemen, retired and active alike to keep in touch and stay abreast with what is happening in the mine world. Is it the case that the active duty minemen aren't aware of the AOM? I can recall when I was in the mine shops, that the "All Hands" magazine would arrive and after the mines officer got a look at it it ended up in the chief's desk never to be seen again. Is that the case with the "Dashpot," that is being sent to each command and detachment? For some reason the word doesn't appear to be getting to the troops, or has that spark disappeared that use to set the minemen apart from the rest of the navy? As a small group we continually proved that we could get the job done and reveled in our comradeship and accomplishments, are those attributes gone? Have the modern day minemen let that all slip away? I certainly hope not! Come on you minemen we need your support and certainly would be proud to have all of you as members of the AOM".

HISTORY BOOK COMMENTS

By Joe Balderrama

Hi again Shipmates, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you that were so kind and generous during our time of need. The original request was for loans that would allow us to finance the final production of the History Books. Many of you responded immediately without any assurance of repayment. That gesture was greatly appreciated. When we were finally in a position to start repaying those loans, you came forward with offers to write those loans off as a gift. We were able to finally clear the books due to those gifts. The Secretary (Curtis Christian) has reported that the "loans" have all been repaid or donated, clearing the books.

You know who you are, PAT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK!

Stay well, Joe Balderrama

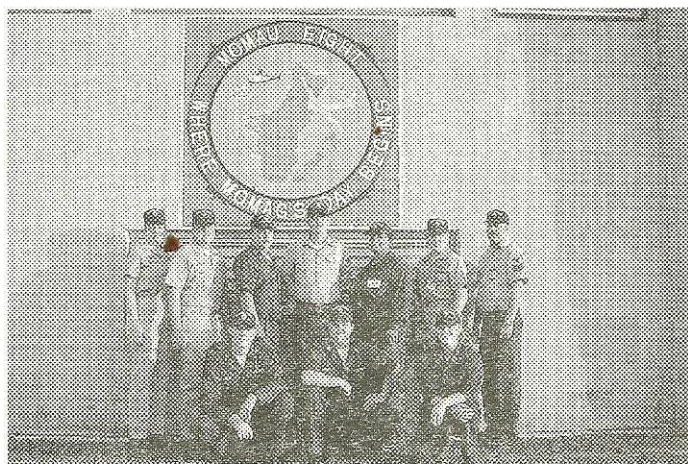
NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

By Joe Balderrama

Just a reminder, the President has asked me to chair the nominating committee for the purpose of filling vacancies that will occur this year. I urge you to contact me if you feel you would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors or any other position. I can be reached at the following e-mail address gunnerjb@eagnet.com or you may call me at 912-258-4177 I'll speak to the benefits at a later date. Watch this space for coming attractions.

Stay Well Joe Balderrama

New And "Recovered" AOM Members Signed Up During A Membership Drive At MOMAU EIGHT



Front L to R: MN2 Ryan Cook, MN1 Stephanie Cowart, and MN3 Misty Rains

Back L to R: MNCS LeeAnn Baker, MNC Steve Brashier, MN1 Bill Nelson, MNSN Taylor, MN3 Nadine Willis, LTjg Daryl Adamson, and MN1 Jerry Weller. Not pictured...MN3 Phil Phillips TAD.

AOM HISTORY BOOK PHOTOGRAPH STATUS

By William Roberts

As of 1500 hours yesterday 101, envelopes (with photos) had been mailed. Now comes the fun. I would request that our individual Board of Directors review the following lists and check their particular area listings, especially those Directors on active duty please take a long look at the "Unknown Address" list. It will be a big help.

AOM History Book:

In the beginning it was requested that AOM (and other) personnel contribute bios, short stories or recollections, individual (before and after) photos, all relating to their particular history in mine warfare.

These items were collected and eventually our history book published. Returning those items initially collected is now under way and some one hundred and one envelopes of materials have been returned, however due to the time lag between now and then a few problems have occurred which hinder the return of all photos collected, mainly the loss of current addresses and the inability to place the ownership to some of the incidental photos received.

It is requested that all hands review the following lists, make identification of the photos, claim them if they are yours or donate them to the AOM archives. Secondly, review, verify and/or update those addresses presented to: William A. Roberts, 687 Aleida, DR. St. Augustine, FL. 32086, warjar@aug.com, (904) 797-4696.

Unidentified Photos:

1. 2x31/2, 1 ea. Photo of Powerwagon, with three men. Noted on back of photo "Saipan 1947, Duma, Alex, Corouron,
2. 31/2x6, 3 ea. Tinian, 1945-46
Photo labeled "1945-46, Tinian MAD 4, mines stored in open revetments"
Photo labeled "1945-46, Tinian MAD 4, during construction of living quarters"
Photo, no label, photo shows open mine stowage, Mines MK 25, with storage bands, sailor with turned down white hat."
3. 5x7, 1 ea. Group photo, written on back of photo "MAD 4 Hawthorne Nev." name of "Frank Calfino," crossed out.
4. 21/2x31/2, 8 ea. Tinian 1946
Photo labeled "Japanese officers mess."
Photo labeled "Japanese shrine."
Photo labeled "Japanese shrine."
Photo labeled "Ruins of Tinian MI."
Photo labeled "Jap tanks."
Photo labeled "Japanese fox hole."
Photo labeled "Japanese gun fortification."
Photo labeled "Japanese galley."
5. 3x4, 2 ea. Believed to be taken at the new facility at Macrahanish, Scotland.
Photo1. Forklift placing refer. under lean too.

Photo2. Unopened crates in empty test facility.

6. 5x7, 1 ea. Group photo: Indian Island MOMAG 2622, 1983

7. 3x4, 3 ea.

Photo1. Sign of "US Naval Ordnance Facility Port Lyautey, French Morocco," with note on back, "My outfit Jul 1953."

Photo2. Quonset hut, with sign "Naval Ordnance Facility," with note on back, "NOF office, Dec 52."

Photo3. Inside of a building that appears to be a small mine assembly area with a 7,200 exp. limit.

8. 3x4 1/2, 1 ea. Man sitting on swivel chair on the stern of a fishing boat.

9. 8x10, 1 ea. (Party at CPO Club), NAD Oahu Hawaii, Sep 8, 1967. (All hands names listed on the back)

10. 8x10, 1 ea. Group photo of Minemen, US Naval Air Station, Whidbey Isl., WA., Apr.17, 1958. Those that can be identified are: Ray Cobis, Joe Petit, Chin Sing, Roland Adams, Dougan, Bellamy, Maddox, and Bass.

11. 5x7, 2 ea. Group photo of Mine Project 4 men grouped around a MK 13 display mine (Note on back "Mine crew Project 4 c. 1959) Refer to pg. 117 in the History book.

12. 4x5, 1 ea. Volleyball game at Project 4.

13. 3x4 1/2, 2 ea.

Photo1. June 64 (note on back: "Crete.")

Photo2. June 64 (note on back: "Sicily.")

14. 8x10, 1 ea. Group photo: note on back "Project 4, Jan 29, 1953, At Jacksonville, FL." image of 16 men around a bomb truck.,

15. 8x10, 3 ea. Loading DST 36, USS America, CVA 16, 1969.

Photo 1. See pg. 58, Mine History Book

Photo 2. See pg. 61, Mine History Book

Photo 3. See pg. 111, Mine History Book

18. 8x10, 1 ea. Picture of LSD-16, with well deck flooded. refer to pg. 56, Mine History Book.

17. 10x13, 1 ea. (Mounted on cardboard) photo of donkey and goat hitched to four bomb trailers, loaded with MK 25 mines, Morocco.

18. 9 1/2x14, 1 ea. Annotated " MOMAG Unite 9, Mt. Pinatubo Ash Busters," refer page 176, Mine History Book

19. 8x10, 5ea. Arial photos of Malta:

1. Photo of anchorage

2. Photo of fort, communications towers, note on back "29 June 1962, H.M.S. Falcon."

3. Photo of ship entering harbor, note on back "17 Nov 1964, H.M.S. Falcon."

4. Photo of airfield, mine shop, hangers, note on back "5 May 1965, H.M.S. Falcon."

5. Photo of airfield, communication towers, airfield and anchorage, note on back "5 May 1965, H.M.S. Falcon."

Addresses from up-to-date AOM Roster, but do not check out with the Internet, white pages.

1. Butt, James, P.O. Box 297, Poplar Branch, NC 27965-0297

2. Engberg, Leroy R. 862, Cherry Way, Hayward, CA. 94541-1835

3. Dixon, Will E. 1846, Alice DR. Charleston, SC 29407-7602

4. Johnson, William S. 341, Shadynook St. Keyport, NJ

07735-5140

5. Lee, Loren E. 23, Bean Pot Campground Loop, Crossville, TN 38558

6. Moody, Don 300 Columbus DR. 1502 Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

7. Padgett, Laverne 17610 N. 28th. DR. Phoenix, AZ 85053-1941

8. Stephens, Sheldon R. 1301 Pinyon Pine DR. Ladson, SC 29456-3163

9. Radke, Maurice 658 Valley View Loop, Honolulu, HI 96818-4348

10. Smith, T.J. 2005 Moonstone Cir., Eldorado Hills, CA 95762-4347

Addresses listed in an eight to nine year old AOM Roster, and do not check out with the Internet, white pages.

1. Badger, David 4451 Farmwood St. Ladson, SC 29456

2. Bodisch, L. M. 532 E. Pass Road, Gulfport, MS. 39507

3. Becker, Ray G. 208 Dogwood Court, Yorktown, VA 23692

4. Box, James 915 Deer Creek Cir., NW. #G7, Leland, MS 38756

5. Bash, William 3674 Gatty St. San Diego, CA 92154

6. Gildersleeve, Mike 24824 Oro Valley, Auburn, CA 95603

7. Hansen, Philip 115 Sparrow St. Bonneau, SC 29413

8. Johnson, Osby P.O. Box 127, Madison, CT. 06443

9. Kennedy, Jim 1147E. 4th. St. Long Beach, CA 90802

10. Kenney, Edward 1706 Warner Ave. McLean, VA 22101

11. Klein, Kenneth Box 46 Deansboro, NY 13328

12. May, Einer A. 13947 Frame RD. Poway, CA 92064

13. McClain, Mark W. 325 Fifth St. SE. Corpus Christi, TX 78419

14. Myrick, James Capt. USN Ret. 2961 Innisbrook Court, Charleston, SC 29407

15. Reeve, John 319 Cherokee DR. Summerville, SC 29483

16. Riggins, Gary W. 11 Parnasus, Goose Creek, SC 29445

17. Seigl, John Mrs. 503 Old Dominion RD., Yorktown, VA 23692

18. Sing, Chin Jr. 10401 Lexington St., Stanton, CA 90680

19. Simmons, Edward 1 Keklico Court, Goose Creek, SC 29445

20. Spofford, Richard T. Capt. USN. Ret. 8326 Longridge RD. Charleston, SC 29418

21. Waughtel, Guy F. P.O. Box 1742, Beaverton, OR 97075

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1. Almonrode, Ronald

2. Bainbridge, Robert

3. Benintende, Bob Mrs.

4. Benton, Harold

5. Bera, Michael

6. Burrund, Troy

7. Chandler, Thomas H.

8. Dozier, Cornelius

9. Hogge, Lorimer

10. Haselberger, Francis

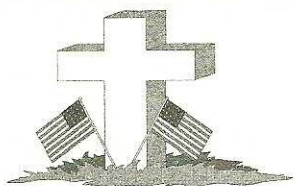
11. Hendrickson, Robert C.

12. Heckman, T.W.

13. Iwaniec, John E.

14. Joyce, Richard W.

- 15 Koch, Deborah A.
16. Lawton, John C.
17. Liggett, Troy & Madeline
18. Martin, Kenneth R.
19. Massey, Frederick
20. Miller, Sandra L.
21. Mack, Donald G.
22. McDaniel, John J.
23. Patterson, Ronald JR.
24. Quinn, John F.
25. Sportelli, Michael
26. Sudman, Bonnie
27. Villareal, Hernandez Trina
28. Wright, James
29. Wark, Tonya R.
30. Whitmore, Lee
31. Morris, Thomas A.



TAPS

Jim Alvis And Wife. Jim Alvis died of cancer on 1 September. He was buried on 7 Sept, and his wife died 10 Sept. She just didn't want to live without Jim. He was 82 years old, she was 78. Fred had talked to Jim's son for about 20 minutes. If you know of people who would be interested in Jim's passing, please pass this information to them

Justin D.M. Roberts The son of CDR USN Ret William and Josephin Roberts was killed in his home in Sacramento, CA on 14 Sep 2001, by intruders, all three of which are in custody.

MN1 Guy Waughtel Guy was born 11-11-29 at Winter, CA. He joined the navy in 4-4-49 and his first duty station out of mine school at Yorktown was NAD West Loch 1950-1952. He retired as MN1 in Oct. 1968. Guy passed away May 13, 2001 at Beaverton, OR. from kidney damage. He also had diabetes and had several strokes. He was in a nursing home and passed away in his sleep. He was cremated and ashes sent to San Diego, put on a US Navy ship, and buried at sea. The Navy took picture of the ceremony and sent them to his sister along with a flag.

MN2 Greg Warr Greg's wife of 29 years informs us that Greg passed away on Tuesday, November 13, 2001 from a heart attack. He is to be buried on Monday November 19th at 11:00 AM. His wife asked that I pass this message on to his mineman friends.

Ruth Viola Phelps, 78, of Poulsbo died of cancer Nov. 20, 2001, at Martha & Mary Health Care Center. She was born Dec. 15, 1922, in Union Deposit, Pa., to David and Bessie (Fittery) Koons. She graduated from Annsville High School. She was married to **Percy Phelps MNC ret.**, who preceded her in death. She was in the Navy during World War II.



BINNACLE LIST

We all seem to be in pretty good shape for the shape we are in.



FROM THE STOREKEEPER

By MN1 Stephanie Cowart

I FINALLY made it back to the biggest and best mineshop, MOMAU 8. And as Christmas approaches, my family finds it hard to get in the Christmas spirit while it is a balmy 85 degrees outside and we head to the beach. I have sent Fred Dane and Hal Elston pictures of the new hats and the reunion shirts. You should be able to see them on the website. We only have a few hats left, so get them while you can. I am not sure if or when I can get them at that price again. They are selling for \$10 a hat, and they are very nice embroidered hats. We do not have any reunion shirts left, but I am having more made, without the reunion logo on them. Apparently, they were a big hit, and they list ALL the Minewarfare commands. If you have any suggestions for items for the AOM Store, let me know, I am always open to them and am wanting to carry items you are interested in. I am currently working on golf shirts and coffee cups. To order items, you can contact me at cowdawg1@ite.net or cowdawg1@yahoo.com.

GO MOMAU 8 !!!

**NEXT DASHPOT
ARTICLES ARE DUE
1 MARCH 2002**



MAIL BAG

Association of Minemen, Mr. Santa Maria, and Mr. Fortner,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all very much for the AOM scholarship. I was very pleased to learn that I was one of the recipients this year. The scholarship will be valuable in helping me with the incredibly huge cost of a medical education. I am now in my second year of medical school and am close to completing the requirements for my degree in public health. The course load is very challenging, but I am working hard at maintaining my focus. I know that the pay-off will be great when I finally graduate, and I thank you again for your generosity in helping me to achieve my goals.

Kumi Swart

Hi Curtis

I thought I'd better run off a few lines as to what we've been up to over here in glorious Aberdeenshire.

We eventually had all of our new windows fitted and hence no longer suffer the discomfort of snow on the bedroom carpet of a frosty morning "brrrrr". Our next big project will be the central heating. Ali has designed the system so all I have to do now is go and buy all the correct bit's and get on with it. I guess this will probably happen towards next fall.

We had our first bout of snow/hail and ice two weeks ago and all the mayhem that normally entails on the way into work. The gritters never seem to quite make it out in time, (I always wondered how does the snowplough driver get to work ?) but hopefully we will miss a large part of the grim weather.

This Christmas we are legging it to parts warmer, namely Bangkok for three days and then onto Ali's parents in Sydney (Blue Mountains). Five glorious weeks of sunshine and kicking back (or fencing, painting and general fixing and bodging most likely). This is the first time Ali has been home for nearly seven years so I guess things could get a bit watery when we arrive. Her brother Duncan was with us for three weeks during the summer and we managed some fantastic sailing on the Clyde. It was a bit of a debacle getting to the boat as Ali was stuck offshore in fog and therefore couldn't pick her brother up from Aberdeen Airport (East Coast), I was supposed to be on the boat racing on the West coast (three and a half hours drive away) so some fast decisions had to be made. In the end, the boat set off one body short and I picked a bleary eyed Duncan up from Aberdeen Airport. After travelling for twenty eight hours from Sydney, he was still keen to go straight to the boat and race, so we headed off to Largs to meet the boat and the rest of the boys there. Duncan eventually folded at a party on the quayside at 2 in the morning !!!!!!! (Good Lad). Earlier on

in the evening (after imbibing quite a few ales) we managed to get a satellite link out to Ali in the radio room of the oil rig she was on with a mobile phone, and eventually had her in tears (laughter and frustration at being stuck) as the full crew were yelling and trying to chat to her all at once, including Duncan and I.

We are hoping to take part in the Sydney to Hobart Race this Christmas although apparently all sponsorship has been dropped so not quite sure what is happening there. If we get to race I will drop you a couple of lines and photos.

Eight days to go until we leave, who's counting.

Anyway I'd better get back to work and start writing up my hand over for next week.

Take care and we hope you have a great Christmas and New Year.

All the very best,

Andy and Ali Byne

Dear Friends,

All is well with the Stickneys. Were sorry to miss the Reno reunion. Bob bowled in the ABC Tournament there in June, so we decided to pass. 2002 in Yorktown sounds great and maybe a visit to our daughter and husband in Pursellville, VA. at that time, along with the reunion can be arranged. Hope to fly to Norman, OK to spend Thanksgiving with our son and family. Our lives continue to be busy and thank God we have the good health to enjoy everything we do. Bob continues bowling in three leagues a week, maintaining above 200 average, and loves the game more than ever. Our great grandson continues to be a joy in our lives as are our children and grandchildren. Thank you for the Dashpot, we enjoy reading it. All work, time and effort that goes into it is really appreciated.

Fondly,
Bob and Frances Stickney

Bill,
I attended Mineman Class "A" 9-57 in Yorktown, VA and graduated in April 1957. I remember arriving on base in November 1956, just before Thanksgiving. One thing that really stands out in my mind is that hellish watch duty on the pier during the cold winter nights. Any shipmate that recalls that watch can relate to it. When the Sweeps were in we were able to get a coffee and take the chill off, if invited on board. The only other heat I remember is the light bulb in the phone booth. A shipmate wrote a poem about this sentry duty and Phil DeChene recommended that I send it to you for the next edition of "The Dashpot". I cannot put a face with the author but he signed it : R.O. Acete. I have enclosed this poem as an attachment to this e-mail.

Hope to see all at the Yorktown re-union. Best to all. Please acknowledge receipt of e-mail with attachment.
Tom Hoffman Member # 1297
tomormarta@voyager.net

Pier Sentry's Desire

Oh hardened sentinel of wave and wind
Who guards the sweeps when they are in
Who mocks the winds and damns the rains
Who gains not a penny for all his pains
Who checks the lines and chaffing gear
Who keeps all danger from coming near
Who walks his post from flank to flank
Who takes no s*** from any rank
God save him from this icy flow
For penance let him shed a tear
But save him from that lonely pier

By R.O. Acete

August 30, 2001

Association of Minemen

Secretary/Treasurer
P. O. Box 71835
Charleston, SC 29415-1835

Dear Friend,

I am a Navy Veteran of World War II. I served aboard the heavy cruiser USS New Orleans, CA-32, in the Pacific. However, it is not of myself that I wish to write about, but is, instead, to make you and your members aware of a relatively new Institute established at the Department of History, Florida State University.

This Institute is known as "The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience." Its stated purpose is "To Preserve a Legacy of Historical Perspective". Tom Brokaw, after the publication of his book "The Greatest Generation" received over 5,000 letters, photographs, and memoirs, from veterans and others about World War II. Mr. Brokaw has selected the Institute to be the repository of these momentos and has already shipped most of this material to the University.

In spite of this huge donation of material from Mr. Brokaw, the Institute still feels there are more stories, more pictures, and more artifacts, in the possession of, or in the memory of, those who served in a military capacity during World War II, or perhaps a friend of a military person who might have retained letters or other memorabilia of the World War II era. Also, there are those that worked in supporting entities, such as shipyards, aircraft construction, ammunition plants, etc., that might have stories to tell.

So now can I ask you for a personal favor? I am just a small piece of a large puzzle. I am a volunteer trying to make the Institute's presence known to as many persons as I can. Would you do me the favor of informing your membership about the Institute?

When I volunteered to assist in publicizing the activities of the Institute, I received a letter from Bill Oldson, Director of the Institute, that I would like to quote, in part:

"The Institute concentrates on the lives and experiences of average men and women during the war, especially those who served in the armed forces and defense industries. The Institute is a repository or archives of information about the period 1941 - 1945 which so profoundly influenced this country's later history. It is not a museum, although we have limited exhibits for visitors and the media. It is our hope that personal histories in the form of diaries, letters, and memoirs will present the experiences of the ordinary serviceman or woman, the defense worker, various volunteers, and conditions on the Home Front."

"We would be delighted to receive personal letters, diaries, photographs, memoirs, military records, etc from the World War II era. Our archival environment gives us the capability to preserve these materials for many years for the use of researchers, teachers, students, and members of the general public who have an interest in the social history of the period".

To donate memorabilia to the Institute or to obtain more information about the institute, please contact:

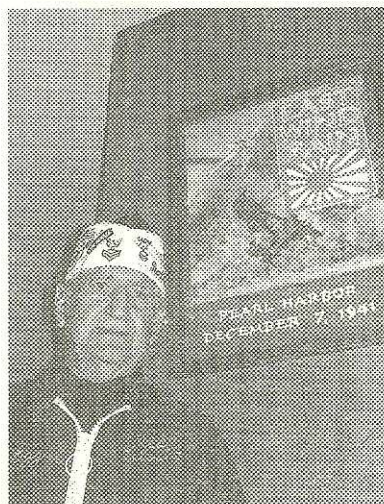
Dr. William Oldson*
The Department of History
The Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200
(850) 644-9033
Fax (850) 644-6402
Email - ww2@ww2.fsu.edu
Or on the Web at: <http://www.fsu.edu/~ww2/>

Sincerely,

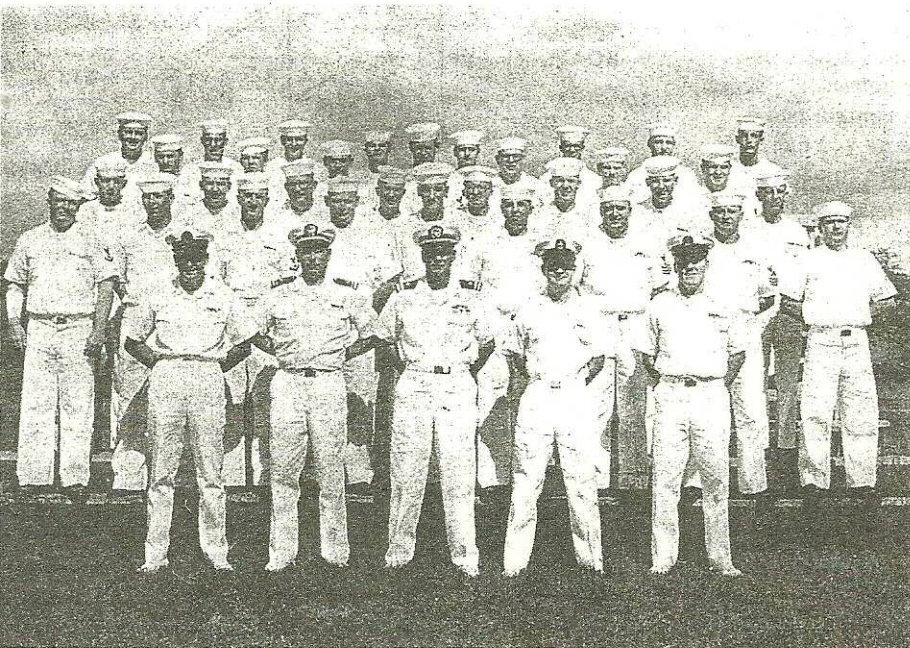
Carl T. Hartzell
33 Redbay Ct. W
Homosassa, FL 34446
(352) 382-1238
email - chartzell@xtalwind.net

* If you telephone, Dr. Oldson may be busy. If so, talk to whomever responds to your call

LEST WE FORGET



MAHALO NUI LOA KAHUA Joe Hernandez sends greetings from State Number 50 to the desk of an envious editor, with a photo of a bright and happy group. And well they may be since they are the officers and men of the Mines Division, including members of MOMAT 0302, stationed at NAD, Oahu. Thesefortunates, left to right, are:



Front row: J.R.Hawks, MNC; L.T.(ig) B.P. Hernandez, OIC MOMAT 0302; LT J.J.Ireland, Mine Production Officer; D.G. Hutchinson, TCM; R.F. Barnum, TMCs. **Second row:** J.R.Defrees, MN3; D.L.Valentine, MN3; V.J. Malanowski, MN3; A.A.Bauer, MN3; P.D.Jones, MNSN; T.E.Hogan, MN1; R.R.Beumer, MN1; J.H.Connell, MN1; W.L.Griner, MNSN. **Third row:** F.D.Grisham, MN3; N.L.Lalley, MN2; D.R.Webb, MN3; A.B.Hinman, MN1; J.L.Caulder, MN2; L.E.Sanders, MN2; B.G.Gates, MN2; G.S. Stanley, MN1. **Fourth row:** J.W.Hiestand, MN2; T.L.VanDevender, MNSN; G.A. Clark, MN2; T.W.Newton, MN1; D.M.Moore, MN3; T.E. Blanford, MNSN; J.E.Muessig, MN2. **Fifth row:** N.T.Older, MNSN; R.Tyrrell, MN3; J. Coers, MNSN; W.D.Voyles, MN3; E.H. Stanton, MN3; C.T.Christian, MN3; F.Foucault, MNSN; D.L. Cunningham, MNSN. **Not present for photo:** A.P.Ray, MN1; L.G.Bemis, MN1; D.R.Glaze, MN1; W.R.Sturgill, MN2; C.S.Cowell, MN2; T.W.Neal, MN2; W.R.Bash, MN2.

WIKKI WIKKI: This is the last group photo in our editorial drawers. Somebody send me, quick!

Recognize Yourself In this Rogue's Gallery?

Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades

As promised in the last issue of the Dashpot, this column is dedicated to one of the more illustrious and colorful members of our elite group, Pete Mirich. All of the tales here told are absolutely factual and will be attested to by a virtual army of liars, layouts, and sea story aficionados.

Here are two Pete Mirich stories from Joe Beetar and a couple of mine.

I was a Mineman Seaman working for Pete, who was a MN2, in Stock Control on Azuma Island. Almost every morning, some single guy would stop in and ask Pete if he had brought an extra sandwich from home (Pete was a brown-bagger living on the beach). And every morning Pete would vehemently proclaim, "H*** no, I didn't bring an extra sandwich."

One Monday morning following Thanksgiving, Pete brought a turkey and dressing sandwich for himself. The same guy came into the shop and asked Pete the same question. Pete said, "Sure." and handed the guy a sandwich wrapped in tin foil. The guy was literally in shock and put the sandwich in his pocket. That day at lunch, he goes to the chow hall, sits down, takes out the sandwich, and announces to everybody, "Pete Mirich gave me one of his sandwiches today," and proceeds to unwrap it. In front of everybody, he unwraps the sandwich and removes the top slice of bread. And sitting there on the bottom slice was the "Parson's Nose." (For those of you that do not know what the "Parson's Nose" is, ask me via e-mail.)

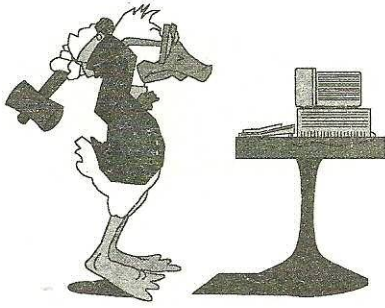
One of Pete's pet peeves, and he had many, was that visitors to Stock Control insisted on using his mug at the coffee mess instead of the visitor's mug. Everybody had a personalized mug hanging on a hook above the coffee pot. So, one morning after quarters, in front of everybody, he took his mug down and announced, "Everybody watch this." He then brought up a lunger (he had a bad cold at the time) and spit it into the mug.

The word quickly got around and nobody ever used his mug again.

On one warm and balmy Christmas eve, Pete came to my house to pick up the small Honda motorscooters he had bought for his sons and stored at my house away from their prying eyes. Joe Spoon and I helped him get them out and on the street. Pete mounted the largest of the two, a whopping 90 cc's, and proceeded to demonstrate his prowess at motorcycle handling. In an instant, the little thing reared up and dumped Pete in the grass with a resounding thud. With remarkable presence of mind, Pete maintained a death grip on one end of the handlebar ... the throttle end ... it was wide open. Pete lept to his feet to set it upright, but just couldn't seem to accomplish the feat as the motorcycle was racing in circles using the other end of the handlebar as a pivot. Round and round Pete raced trying to outrun the howling, vicious back wheel which was cutting a deep circle in my neighbor's grass. Joe and I would have helped, really we would, but, unfortunately, Joe had collapsed in an hysterical heap in the middle of the street and I was hanging onto a light pole in much the same condition. After some significant period of time, Joe regained enough composure to yell, "Let go of the throttle," a concept that had not entered Pete's mind. In the confusion, Pete's cigar had disappeared ... we think he ate it.

As the Couth Control Officer at NSMW, Pete was always the epitome of decorum. I can remember when he inserted two of those gigantic cigars he smoked into his nose and poked his head into the Mines Department office looking all the world like a warirus with bad tusks. The young YNSN sitting at the desk shrieked, turned an impossible shade of green and bolted for the head for reasons best left to the imagination.

Pete, we love you. You have brightened many a drab and boring day.



EDITOR'S NOTES

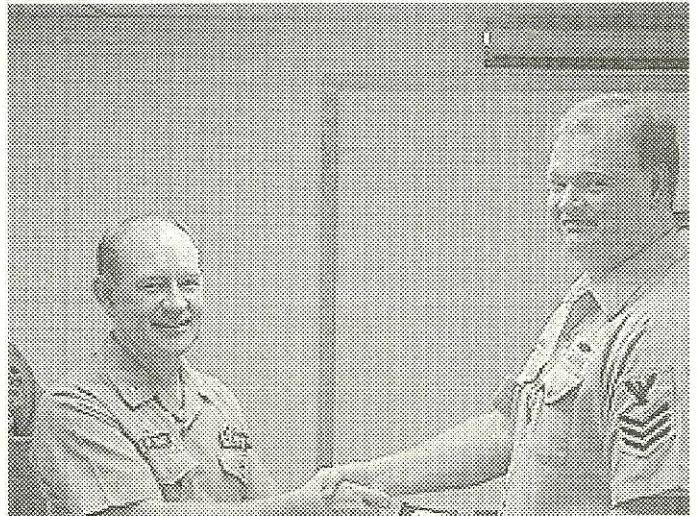
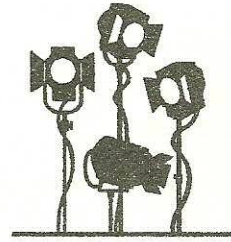
I know that 9-11 came as a terrible shock to all of us and it is sad that it took so great a tragedy to shake up the self centered, self serving, hedonistic society we had become and bring us together in common cause. It is sadder still that, during the Christmas season, American men and women must once again be the world's surgeons and remove yet another putrid pustule from the posterior of the planet because we weren't prepared. Our national leaders learned nothing from December 7, 1941. I can only hope and pray the current solons have the courage and tenacity to pursue the cause of freedom until the issue is no longer in question anywhere on earth, no matter the personal political cost. If America must be the world's policeman, then so be it. God bless those that protect and defend us.

I would like to call your attention to the unique site report sent by LT Kevin Miller, Commanding Officer of MOMAU EIGHT. I think the photographs added a certain something that words alone just can't quite convey. Lt. Miller went the extra mile also sending and resending the images until I got what I needed. Kevin, I appreciate your patience and perseverance and I applaud your initiative and creativity. Well done!

For those of you that wish to send images, I would like to provide some information. Most digital cameras and internet images use 72 dots per inch (dpi) resolution as that is the best most computer monitors will resolve. Using a higher resolution is a waste when a computer monitor is the intended medium of display. Not so with printed matter. Resolution is critical, as an image must be pushed through several processes to make it acceptable for printing. Digital cameras make up for the low, 72 dpi resolution by making images that are, on average, 13" by 17." Raw digital images this size are fine as I can reduce the physical size while increasing the resolution and maintain image quality. If you scan an image to send, use at least 100 dpi for 8X10 images and 300 dpi for 4X5 images. Images 2.5" and smaller need at least 600 dpi scanning so I can enlarge them to fit the column and still have clarity. For those of you that have photographic prints you would like to use in an article, please mail the image to me. I have the time and equipment to make a suitable scan from almost anything and I can assure you that your images will be in the mail back to you the day after I get them. If you are unclear about sending an image with an article, please feel free to call, write or e-mail me and I can advise you directly.

The Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades column was well received. The next issue will contain some interesting stories by Phil DeChene and Ed Oyer and more if there is room. Regarding this issue, I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to Pete Mirich who has the uncanny ability to cause me to wet my pants laughing at the most unexpected and inconvenient moments.

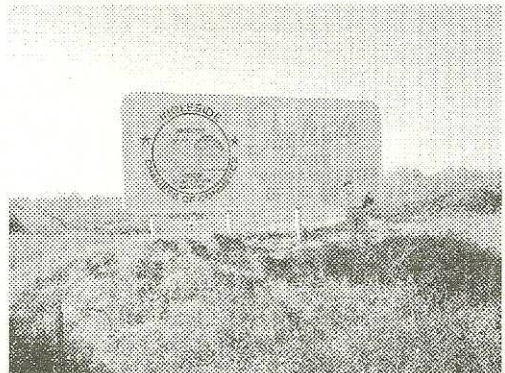
MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT



CDR R. E. Swart presents MN1 Dennis Moxley the Navy Commendation Medal awarded by COMINWARCOM, for his creation of a computerized data management system to support MOMAG Operations. His cutting edge work currently leads industry in this particular software application and links many different capabilities and applications into a user friendly format that is scalable to meet the requirements of leadership and staff alike.

CHIEF SELECTEES RENOVATE FAMILIAR LANDMARK

By Mike Antoine



Personnel driving south along Highway 361 on their way to Naval Station Ingleside, have taken note of a visible difference in a familiar landmark, the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce sign that proudly proclaims, "Ingleside, Mine Warfare Center of the World." Through years of enduring every element of weather known to South Texas, the sign was in need of a make

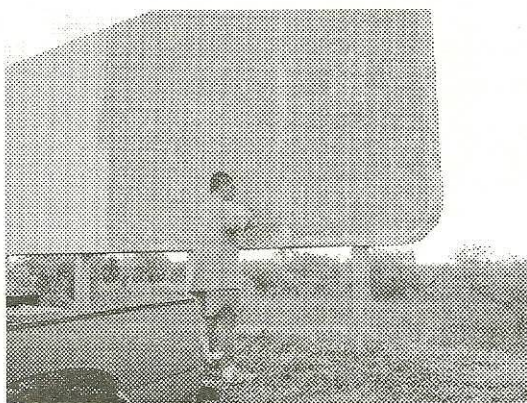
over. And that's just what it got, thanks to a group of chief petty officer selectees from a variety of Ingleside commands.

DCC(SW) Andy Merrill, of USS Avenger (MCM 1), worked with Robert Schwebel, manager of the local Lone Star Hardware and Paint Co., who donated paint, rollers, extension poles, scrapers and brushes.

The project began Aug. 18, and was completed over the course of the next four Saturdays.

Merrill said the aim was to keep the sign looking as original as possible.

The first Saturday was spent clearing a path to the sign, located atop a small hill about 20 yards off the road. The next Saturday was spent pressure washing the paint off the sign. SKC(SW) Suzie Petri free hand painted the elements that make up the graphic on the sign on a three-quarter-inch piece of plywood, and the letters above and below the graphic are wood cut-outs attached to the plywood.



Almost 30 hours of work went into the refurbishment of the sign. "It was a team effort," Merrill added. "While we were doing this project, our fellow selectees were washing cars and having bake sales to help defray the costs of initiation and pinning ceremonies."



Chief petty officer selectees who worked on the project are: DCC(SW) Curtis Briggs, of USS Pelican (MHC 53); ITC(SW) Bobby Martinez, of SIMA; MNC(SW) Mark Dohman, of Squadron Two; HMC(SW/FMF) Andrew Holcomb, of Branch Medical Clinic; SKC(SW) Susie Petri, of SIMA; DCC(SW) Andrew Merrill, of USS Avenger (MCM 1); ENC(SW) James Barrett, of USS Chief (MCM 14); ENC(SW) Jose Moya, of ATG; and MNC(SW) Barbara Davies, of USS Cormorant (MHC 57).



MINEMAN "A" SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATE

Bravo Zulu to the following Mineman "A" School graduates.. Following the graduates names are their next assignments:

Class 01080

MNSN Joseph Baker, of Ione, OR, reports to USS Dextrous (MCM 13), Manama, Bahrain.
MNSA Stephen Boarman, of Baltimore, MD, reports to Physical Security, Gaeta, Italy
MNSR Robby N. Detevis, of Salt Lake City, UT, reports to Physical Security, La Maddalena, Italy.
MN1(AW) Richard Fleisher, of Modesto, CA, reports to USS Scout (MCM 8), Ingleside, TX
MNSA Edward Gardner, of Lawton, OK, reports to COMOMAG, Corpus Christi, TX
MNSR Seth Holderoft, of Athens, OH, reports to MOMAU 3, Earle, NJ
MNSA Bradley Jenkins, of Covington, LA, reports to Physical Security, La Maddalena, Italy
MNSR Nickolas McKissick, of Lucedale, MS, reports to USS Ardent (MCM 12), Manama, Bahrain
MNSR Christopher Miserlian, of Bonanza, OR, reports to MOMAU 1, Seal Beach, CA
MNSR Jeramy Peninger, of Challis, ID, reports to Physical Security, La Maddalena, Italy
MNSN Jason Tracy, of Albuquerque, NM, reports to MOMAU 11, Charleston, SC
MNSN Jason Waterbury, of Kansas City, MO, reports to USS Ardent (MCM 12) Manama, Bahrain

Class of 01090

MNSN Scotty L. Cox, of Enid, OK, reports to Physical Security, Yorktown, VA
MNSA Wesley T. Evans, of Columbia, GA, reports to USS Cardinal (MHC 60), Manama, Bahrain
MNSN William J. Howard, of Malvern, AK, reports to USS Heron (MHC 52), Ingleside, TX
MNSR Robert A. Kapsa, of North Royalton, OH, reports to USS Patriot (MCM 7), Sasebo, Japan
MN2 Billy L. Latty, of Anderson, MO, reports to USS Robin (MHC 54), Ingleside, TX
MNSA Jerret N. Lutz, of Detroit, OR, reports to Physical Security, Guam, M.I.
MNSN William H. Miller, of Mauriceville, TX, reports to Physical Security, Sigonella, Sicily
MNSA Craig B. Rosenberg, of Hiram, GA, reports to MOMAU 10, Okinawa, Japan
MNSR Jarrad S. Thomas, of David, OK, reports to Physical Security, Souda Bay, crete
MNSR Brandon A. Tuttle, of Sacramento, KY, reports to USS Scout (MCM 8), Ingleside, TX

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW AND PROMOTED MOMAG PETTY OFFICERS

The Association of Minemen and the entire staff of the Dashpot wish to congratulate the new MN petty officers and those that have advanced up the ladder of success. A full listing of all minemen being promoted fleet wide will be in the Spring Dashpot.

MOMAU 1 Seal Beach, CA

MN1 K. Nason
MN2 S. Atkeson
MN3 K. Blanchard
MN3 M. Caprioglio
MN3 MN3 S. Huddleston
MN3 B. Lampman
MN3 J. Rivera
MN3 L. Starelli
MN3 S. Stone
MN3 K. Tupper

MOMAU 3 Colts Neck, NJ

MN1 J. Herbig
MN1 C. Kazmaier
MN1 M. Ramon
MN2 M. Pasilan

MOMAU 5 Sigonella, Italy

MN2 R. Dykes
MN2 D. Gonzales
MN2 D. Spangler
MN3 T. Gatlin
MN3 C. Jackson
MN3 N. Krueger
MN3 J. Lopez
MN3 R. Moses
MN3 K. Murray
MN3 T. Ramsey
MN3 C. Shuck
MN3 J. Wilson
MN3 C. Wisor

MOMAU 8 Guam

MN1 D. Jenkins
MN1 J. Koski
MN2 J. Long
MN2 J. Perez
MN2 G. Warren
MN3 C. Hill
MN3 M. Hughes
MN3 K. Janson
MN3 R. Roberts
YN1 V. Poynter
YN3 R. Harris

MOMAU 10 Kadena, Japan

MN1 S. McMillian
MN1 M. Pelski
MN2 J. Bell
MN2 A. Pascual
MN3 J. Rodriguez
YN3 J. Keels

MOMAU 11, Charleston, SC

MN1 W. Gibbs
MN1 L. McLaughlin
MN1 B. White
MN2 J. Deshazo
MNG. Dove
MN2 J. Nartker
MN2 J. Tucker
MN3 S. Campbell
MN3 B. Carte
MN3 M. Musil

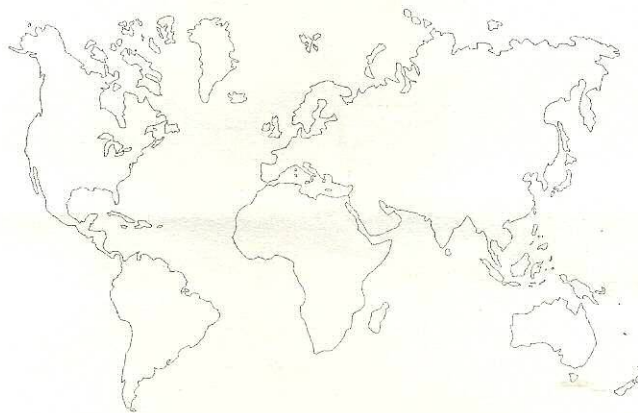
MOMAD 12 Misawa, Japan

MN1 J. Reinhart
MN2 J. Graham
MN2 J. Ortner
MN3 A. Dugdale
MN3 J. McAndrew

MOMAU 15, Kingsville, TX

MN1 J. Wayda
MN3 B. Branum

FLEET NEWS



MINE WARFARE COMMANDER RECEIVES SECOND STAR

By LT Marc Boyd

Norfolk, Va. – Rear Adm. Jose L. Betancourt, Jr., Commander, Mine Warfare Command, received his second star from Vice Adm. Albert H. Konetzni, Jr., Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet during a brief ceremony today in Norfolk, Va.

Betancourt has led Mine Warfare Command, based in Corpus Christi, Texas, since February 1999. He controls the Navy's mine warfare assets around the world, including 27 ships based in Corpus Christi, Texas; Sasebo, Japan; and the Arabian Gulf, two helicopter mine countermeasures squadrons based in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Norfolk, Va., and three mine countermeasures squadrons based at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

Rear Adm. Betancourt was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 1972 after graduating from Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. His service at sea includes duty aboard USS FREDERICK (LST 1184), USS JOHN S. MCCAIN

(DDG 35), USS WILLIAM H. STANDLEY (CG 32), and USS FOX (CG 33), where he served as Executive Officer. He commanded USS MERRILL (DD 976) from 1990 to 1992. While in command of USS MERRILL, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm, where his ship served as Flag ship and mine countermeasures support ship during extensive mine clearance operations. Rear Adm. Betancourt also served in command of USS PELELIU (LHA 5) from 1996 to 1998.

His assignments ashore have included duty as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Naval Forces, Marianas, and duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC, where he served as Special Assistant for Officer Accession Programs. Other assignments ashore include duty with the Chief of Navy Recruiting, Washington, DC, and service in the International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

MINE ASSEMBLY NEWS



CDR R. E. Swart, COMOMAG

As I reflect on this past year, I'd say on the whole we had a pretty good year. We've gotten much needed recognition throughout the Chain of Command and within the offices of the CNO on the need for a viable maritime mining capability and now, we have programs showing up in the "funded" column for the first time in many years. Our Units and mine stockpile remain ready and fit for full duty should they be called upon. Our Minemen are promoting at a brisk pace and serve at the leading edge of the action throughout the world. We've a lot to be thankful for. Here are the highlights since the last issue:

- Congratulations to all the Sailors who selected for advancement off the latest exam. *Bravo Zulu* to MOMAU 8 who advanced 100% of those taking the September 01 exam. Well Done!!!

- MNC Mike Gonzales was presented his Mineman of the Year Plaque in front of his shipmates aboard USS Warrior, by his Commanding Officer, LCDR Ricks Polk. I was also present to represent the AOM along with Master Chief John Reeve. MNC Gonzales leaves his ship to assume duties as the CPO In-Charge of the Ft. Worth Central Drill Site where he will support training for our Naval Reserve Units. Photos not yet available.

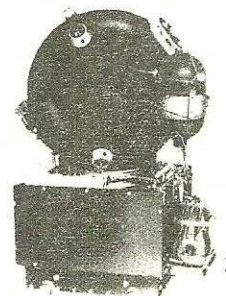
- Welcome aboard to Mr. Ed Simmons (LCDR RET) who joins the MOMAG staff as the Service Mines Program manager. We're fortunate to get someone with his tremendous background and experience.

- Congratulations to Mr. Jay Burton (MNC RET) and Mr. Wayne "Arnie" Helgeson, (MNCM RET), who join the MOMAG staff as Government Civilians. Jay will head up the Training and Reserve effort and Arnie continues as the Exercise and Training Program Manager.

- LT Rob Kurz, the new CO of MOMAU 8 Guam has to put his command tour on hold for a couple months as he helps out in the war effort by managing ordnance logistics in the Arabian Gulf. His expertise was sought by CINCPACFLT and COMFIFTHFLT who have promised to have him back by February. Meanwhile, Unit 8 maintains their excellent readiness under their XO, LT(jg) Daryl Adamson.

- Congratulations to MOMAU 5, Sigonella where LCDR (sel) Larry Kelly and his crew successfully passed their MRCI. Well Done!

- Leadership on the move: MNCS Jack Cantrell has orders to finally leave Guam and report for duty to MOMAU 5, Sigonella, Italy. MNCS Dave Ostrom is now on his way to MOMAU 5, Sigonella, Italy, too. Senior Chief (SW) Ostrom is coming off his sea tour in USS Shrike. MNCM (SW) Mark Zinnell, MOMAU 5 Sigonella is happy for a number of reasons, not the least of which is his new baby, passing his MRCI and having two Senior Chiefs relieve him. He has orders to MOMAU 1 Seal Beach, CA and will report this summer. MNCS (SW) Gary Cecilio is reporting to MOMAU 1 from USS Patriot. MNC (SW) Tim Hickman, USS Kingfisher, has orders to report to MOMAU 15 in Kingsville and expects to arrive in time to move the Unit to Ingleside. MNCS (SW) Dave Walker, MOMAU 15 has orders to MOMAU 11 in Charleston. MNCS Rita Nicely is departing MOMAD Misawa for MOMAU 10 in Okinawa after three years up north.





MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

By LT K. L. Miller

CO's CORNER. I wish to extend our warm and sincere wishes for a joyous holiday season. As I reflect on the past year, even with the disastrous events of September 11th, I see so many good things to be thankful for. Sometimes we need to step back, take a breath, close our eyes and clear our thoughts to truly visualize the resplendence of the life we live.

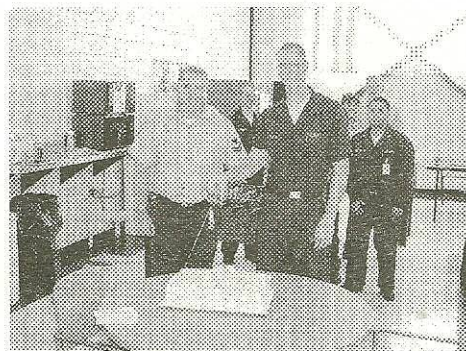
We have been busy, here in our little corner of the world. We completed our Explosive Safety Inspection with flying colors. The crew worked hard on this effort. They were justly rewarded with the praise of the senior inspector for our high material condition of readiness and the effectiveness of our safety programs.



Between Zone Inspections, maintenance, and training, we have managed to have a little fun. October 11th marked our observance of Hispanic Heritage month. All hands and their families came in for a luncheon feast and piñata. We raised \$20, collected canned food and over 50 pounds of clothing for donation to The United Latino Fund.



Our 226 years of Naval heritage was honored on the 12th, with our youngest and oldest sailors cutting a delicious cake that added to our potluck lunch.



A Halloween costume contest closed the month of October. Held at Bunker 33, crew and family enjoyed this early evening event. MNC(SW) Greg Williams and wife Kanako's son, Nicholas, walked away with the Grand prize, while MN2(SW) Matthew Heyer hit the mark in the Candy Corn contest.



With the events of September, the scheduled November blood drive took on an added air of importance. Ninety-six percent of the crew were eligible and donated to the Red Cross. We continued our streak of participation in the Long Beach Veteran's Day Parade. Several fine sailors volunteered their off-duty time to take part in this important commemoration.



Football, Thanksgiving Day Feasts, and our observance of American Indian Heritage month finished off November. Somewhere in between all of that, we managed to attend two studio-taping sessions in Hollywood, held a chilidog lunch, and sponsored two car washes to raise Morale, Welfare & Recreation funds. Additionally, we enjoyed hosting Master Chief Cody, COMINELWARCOM CMC.

It is my pleasure to introduce and welcome new members to our family. A hearty Hail to: MNSR Michael Pendley and his wife Amanda; MNSR Chris Miserlian, his wife Melody, and daughters April and Morgan; MNSN Kelly Tupper his wife Teresa and their children Karrington and Jayden. All arrived from Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside. I am delighted to announce a new addition to MN3 Jose & Eva Avelar's family, their beautiful new baby girl Vanessa.

We have had a few in our family set sail for new adventures. MN3 David Baker to USS Avenger along with MN2 Christian Siangco and his wife Leah to USS Robin, both ships stationed in Ingleside, TX. MN3 Dewey Noble and his wife Kimberly separated from the Navy, he is currently attending one of the local police academies. A special fair winds and following seas goes out to MN1 Stephen Ciccarello his wife Carolyn, and son Kyle on his transfer to the Fleet Reserve after twenty years of Naval service.

RE-ENLISTEMENTS. Congratulations to MN2 Steven Stafford and MN3 Avelar on their re-enlistment of six years. Both ceremonies were held on our QuarterDeck with all hands in attendance.

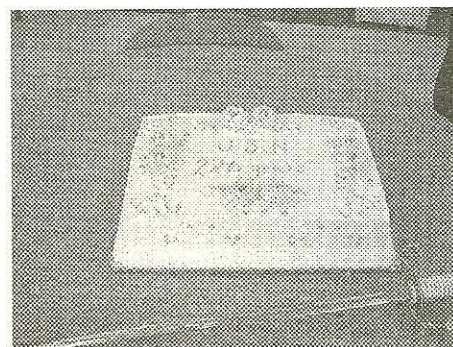


AWARDS & RECOGNITION. MN1 Ciccarello earned the Navy Commendation Medal, an excellent culmination to his years of superb service. Flag Letters of Commendation went to MN3 Christine Beal and MNSN Brian Lampman for their work on the SLMM start-up. Navy Achievement Medals were awarded to MN1(SW) Frank Mendenhall and MN1(SW) Dean Carr for their exceptional contributions to ESI. End-of-tour NAM's were awarded to MN2 Siangco, MN3 Noble, and MN3 Baker. MN2 Siangco earned the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his work at a local church and the Seal Beach elementary school. CO Letters of Commendation were awarded to MN1(SW) Carr and MN3 Avelar on selection to Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively. CO Letters of Appreciation we awarded to MN1(SW) Mendenhall, YN2(SW) Roland Coates, MN2(SW) Heyer, IT2(SW) Sheila Loe, SK2(SW) Pierre Rhinehart, MN2 Nicolas Bitar, MN2 Michael Busch, MN2 Kecia Nason, MN3 Ralph Maldonado, MNSN Jesus Rivera, and MNSN Louis Starelli for their significant contributions to the Hispanic Heritage observances. YN2(SW) Coates earned a CO LOA for his leadership in coordinating our Navy Birthday celebration. MNSR Miserlian earned a LOA from CO NAVSTA Ingleside for his support of the Aransas Pass Shrimporee. Additionally, I would like to extend my gratitude to MN3 Sara Atkeson and our MWR committee for their hard work in raising over \$2,800 since August for our Holiday Party.

IN THE TARGET QUEUE. As we decorate our facility, we look forward to the Christmas holiday. We will be participating

in the Seal Beach Holiday Parade on December 7th. The local chapters of the Destroyer Escort Association and the Navy League have again graciously volunteered to provide Christmas baskets and presents for our annual Children's Christmas Party on the 8th. We look toward the merriment of our Holiday Party on the 11th, complete with secret Santa and cheer for all.

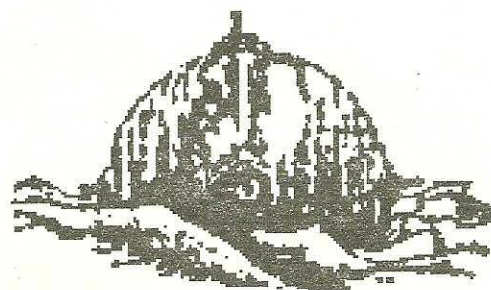
PERSONAL NOTE. Just a few short months ago I was stationed onboard USS Arctic, and USS Normandy before that. There, I could look out across Raritan Bay and plainly see Manhattan. Living near the coast, in New Jersey, for a few years, I had many friends who commuted on a daily basis to "the City." The City was a place that I truly enjoyed, visiting occasionally for dinner or a show. Luckily, all of my friends survived the gut retching events of 9/11 physically unscathed; unfortunately, all of their friends did not. If you have the time, please take a minute, think of those families that will have empty seats at their holiday table.



On behalf of my crew, we wish you our heartfelt joy and prayers for a healthy and prosperous 2002



MOMAU THREE EARLE





MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

By MNCM(SW) Mark Zinnel

Salve from Sigonella!

Halloween, Thanksgiving and now Christmas is just around the corner, time sure flies when you're having fun....winter is here, cold, rain and more rain this year, gotta love it.

We have completed our MRCI and are now working on Spring ESI preps, no rest for the wicked. Three exercises all back to back starting in February, COMFIFTHFLT's SHAREM/MIREM, NATO's DAMSEL FAIR and Spanish MINEX 2002 are being worked up, lots of travel for our away teams. LT Kelley has been beating the money trees to death so lots of improvements coming this and next year to make life a bit more appealing on the compound, the magazine re-covering project is really happening now, actual workmen busy with preparation, new electrical distribution for the Admin Building, more A/C units and finally heat and A/C for Mine Assembly.

Had a good session with our two Reserve units, NR MOMAU Six and NR MOMAU Seven for the MRCI in November, lots of great training and did a rehearsal for the MRCI and then completed the MRCI in four days. This was really the last trip for MNCM Jan Bays and MNCS Robert Gunn from Unit Six, both were retired in early December.

MN1 Julie Porter has moved on to recruiting for the Navy in Roseburg OR, MN2 Brian Plazola has gone back to CIVPAC, word is he is a teaching assistant working on his Elementary Education Degree. I have orders to report back to Unit One in Seal Beach by August, my last tour prior to retirement. CWO3 Curt Simmons is returning to Jacksonville FL, MN2 (Select) Robert Dykes and MN3 (Select) Nathan Krueger are going to Security duty, MN2(Select) Daniel Gonzalez is going to Monterey CA for language school, MN3 Travis Ramsey is reporting to USS Warrior, MN3 Kevin Murray is reporting to USS Avenger and MN3(Select) Jose Lopez is reporting to USS Raven.

New arrivals are MN2 Wayne Hinton for his second tour here from USS Heron, MN3 Burel Jones also from USS Warrior, MN1 Mary Jackson is here from MOMAU Fourteen, MN2(Select) Jeffrey Tucker and MN1(Select) John Dominguez from Unit Eleven, guess the "A" School pipeline is still secured.

September Exam results are out and the following Sailors have added more chevrons or a new crow to their uniform sleeves:

MN1(Select) John Dominguez, MN2 (Select) Robert Dykes, MN2 (Select) Daniel Gonzalez, MN2 (Select) Debra Spangler, MN2(Select) Jeffrey Tucker, MN3 Kevin Murray, MN3 Travis Ramsey, MN3(Select) Timothy Gatlin, MN3 (Select) Charles Jackson, MN3 (Select) Nathan Krueger, MN3 (Select) Jose Lopez, MN3 (Select) Robert Moses, MN3 (Select) Joyce Wilson and MN3 (Select) Christopher Wisor. We are very proud of all our advancers and selectees!

That's all from the tip of the Mediterranean SpearArrivederci!



MOMAU EIGHT GUAM



MOMAU TEN KADENA

Hello to all in the mine world. Lots to talk about since June so here we go. First and foremost, we wish a hearty congratulations to our CO LT Wright on her recent selection to LCDR.

New Faces:

Since June, we have had 11 new faces added to the crew as follows: MN3 Diehl, MNSN Everingim, MNSN Rodriguez, MNSA Smith, MNSA Bolyard, and MNSA Steward all reported aboard this summer from MWTC; MN3 Bell joined us from MOMAU Eight; MN2(SW) Hinton from the USS CARDINAL, MN2(SW) Astin from the USS DEXTROUS, and MN2(SW) McMillian from the USS DEFENDER. Finally, we welcome CWO4 Riggins from MOMAD Twelve as our new XO.

Departures:

We said good bye to MN2 Curtis Stanley who transferred to the USS DEXTROUS. His extensive VEMS expertise will be sorely missed but MN3 Diehl is a quick learner and has taken over as our resident VEMS Specialist. Additionally, she shows

great promise in this area — not only did she ace the “A” School, she is equally adept at getting her hands dirty in the shop. Lastly, we said good-bye to MN1(SW) Apodoca who transferred to the USS CARDINAL.

On the TAD front, MNC Rich McGinn led a highly successful CARAT 01 trip to Thailand this past summer; and MN2 Stanley and MN3 Pascual completed the 01-2JA plant in mainland Japan which unfortunately had to be “scrubbed” due to bad weather. Our thanks go out to MNCS Rita Nicely and her crew at Misawa for all their assistance with this exercise and getting our weapons shipped back to us. We will be gearing up for the RSOI exercise in Korea in the near future and Cobra Gold ‘02 in Thailand is right behind that.

Command Kudos: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal - MN2 Stanley; Junior Sailor of the Quarter - MN3 Vallez; Senior Sailor of the Quarter - MN1 Pendleton.

Finally, MNC Rich McGinn will be retiring in the near future at a yet to be determined date after 24 years of faithful service. We wish Rich, wife Meg, and son Matthew all the best in their future from the MOMAU Ten family. That’s about it from sunny Okinawa.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



MOMAU ELEVEN CHARLESTON

By MNC (SW) Rodriguez

Wishing the best from MOMAU Eleven, South Carolina. Congratulations to our new CPO’s and all of the new MNC’s in the Fleet. We wish a “Fair Winds and following seas” to MNCM Albert W. Fross. Another 30 years of experience has left the mine force and his shoes will be hard to fill. He will be greatly missed but not forgotten. MNCM John T. Reeve arrived TAD from COMOMAG to assume the role of CMC. He stepped in and kept a fast pace rolling for the command. We are sad to see him depart and owe him a great debt of gratitude for his outstanding performance. We are in good hands with MNC David W. Patton as our CMD Chief and we expect to see MNCS Dave L. Walker in the upcoming months.

The realignment of the East Mine shops has posed a very intense Fall Season in support of fleet MINEX’s. The winter months are here and we are looking forward to a relaxing stand down period. However, with our schedule becoming ever more increasing, the crew will have more than their fair share of work ahead of them. I have great faith in our crew to be more than ready for the challenge at hand. The crew of MOMAU Eleven has indeed put their best foot forward in support of our mission.

“Bravo Zulu to all”.

M. R. Zahn, Commanding Officer.

Re-Enlistments:

MNC(SW)Rodriguez and MN1(SW) Gerhardt re-enlisted onboard the USS Yorktown under Zone B SRB level for 6 years.

Awards:

Congratulations to the following personnel in receipt to the following awards:

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals:

MNC White(1st)

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals:

MN1 Turner(1st), MN2 Bishop(2nd), MN3 Dove(2nd)

Navy Good Conduct Awards:

MNC Crocker(4th), MNC White(4th), MN1 Silver(5th),

MN2 Dominguez(2nd), YN2 Kinner(2nd), MN2 White(4th),

MN2 Bishop(2nd), MN3 Simpson(3rd)

SSOQ: MN2 DOMINGUEZ

JSOQ: MNSN CARTE

Family additions:

Congratulations to the Gray’s on the birth of their son. Soon MNSN Reed will be expanding her family.

Gains and Losses:

We would like to welcome aboard our new arrivals:

From the Fleet: MN2 McLaughlin, MN2 Garvine, MN2 Martell, MN2 White, IT2 Quillen, and MN2 Graham.

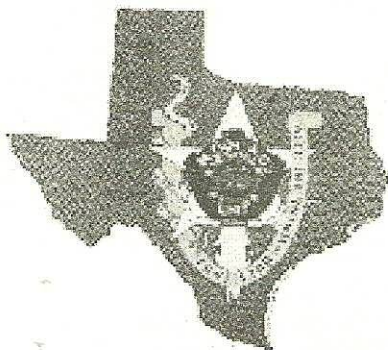
From Mineman A School MWTC Ingleside, TX: MNSN MCharge, MNSN Conklin, MNSN Romann, MNSN Asbill, MNSN Perkins, MNSN Cox and MNSN Carte, MNSN Tracy. Wish a thanks to the our departures for their teamwork in support of our mission:

Departures: MNC White, MN1 Turner, MN1 Silver, MN3 Tucker, MN3 Gunn, MN3 Dove, and MN3 Nartker.



MOMAU TWELVE MISAWA





MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

By MN2 Wilson

Greetings from South Texas! We've made it through Hurricane season without a scratch, however, the seven plus inches of rain last week did produce a small pond on the mine production deck. Now if we can only get rid of these pesky mosquitoes that appear to be the size of quarters.

The summer's exercise schedule has been steady, Between Kernel Blitz 01-2, MIREM 16, GOMEX 01-2, MIREM 17, RONEX 02-1, JTFEX 02-1 and MIREM 19 we have planted enough mines to be considered an act of aggression by some. Besides the normal business of providing mines and VEMS that are reliable, we have immersed ourselves in a very focused ad hoc project to identify every conceivable way that the assembly and operation of the VEMS can be improved. In "sailor speak", we've really put our thinking caps on to squeeze this system for everything it's worth.

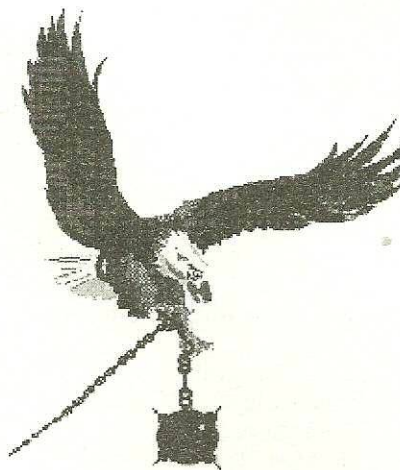
It has also been a busy quarter for the crew. Congratulations go out to MN3 Adams and his wife on the birth of their son Royce Gene Adams IV and MN3 Juarez and his wife Tracey on the birth of their son Jordan Antonio. We also welcomed IT2 Summer, MNSR Burr and MNSA McKinney, his wife Brenda, daughter Brandi and sons Keishon and Charles Jr. We hope your tour here is an enjoyable one. With the coming of new people we say goodbye to the ones who have finished their tour and are ready to move on. We would like to bid farewell to MN2 Gonzales and MN3 Juarez, his wife Tracy and daughter, Jessica, MN3 Adams, his wife Stacey, daughter Ashley and brand new son Royce. Thank you for all your hard work.

We would like to conclude this article with our deepest condolences to those who may have lost a loved one in the terrorist attacks that occurred on Sep 11. We salute the brave men and women who participated in the rescue efforts. We would also like to send a warm thank you to all who helped raise money for the victims' families and anyone else who was effected by the attacks.

Vaya Con Dios



MINE COUNTERMEASURES NEWS



GOMEX 02-1

LT Marc Boyd

Squadron Exercise to Test Mine Warfare Training

More than 500 Sailors will test their mine warfare proficiency during Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX) 02-1 beginning tomorrow and running through Dec. 14. GOMEX marks the transition of a mine warfare readiness group from training to ready-to-deploy status and includes integrated surface, air and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mine countermeasures (MCM) operations. The exercise will be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, near Panama City, Fla. and the Coastal Systems Station, Panama City, Fla. Squadron Exercise to Test Mine Warfare Training

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The ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group One are participating in the exercise. The mine countermeasures ships USS Defender (MCM 2) and USS Sentry (MCM 3) will join the coastal minehunters USS Robin (MHC 54), USS Kingfisher (MHC 56) and USS Black Hawk (MHC 58) for the exercise. The fleet oiler USNS Laramie (AO 187) will provide logistics services during the exercise. Also participating in the exercise are Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) THREE, Detachment 51 from San Diego, Calif.; EODMU SIX, Detachment FOUR, based in Ingleside, Texas, and EODMU

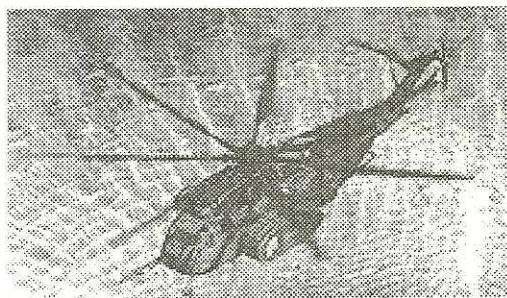
SIX, Detachment SIX, based in Charleston, S.C. Members of the Mine Warfare Command Mobile Integrated Command and Control Facility, based in Ingleside will also provide communications support for the exercise.

GOMEX 02-1 marks the first time that a U. S. Navy ship has not been used as a Mine Countermeasures Command and Control Ship. Capt. Rush and his staff will embark the High Speed Vessel (HSV) Joint Venture to direct mine countermeasures efforts during the exercise. Another HSV, the Norwegian ship Skjold, will also participate in the exercise.

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MH-53E SEA DRAGON

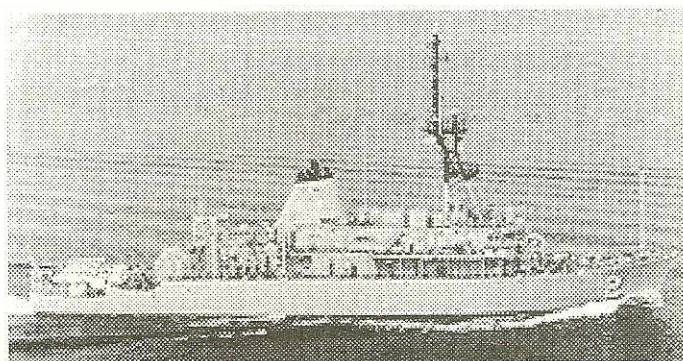
The MH-53E Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) helicopter is manufactured by Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. The MH-53E is a Class 2 aircraft equipped with a seven-blade main rotor and a four-blade tail rotor designed for land and ship-based operations, with an emergency water operating capability. Power is furnished by three T64-GE-416, T64-GE-416A, or T64-GE-419 engines, manufactured by General Electric Aircraft Engines. At a power turbine output speed of 14,280 rpm, each 416 or 416A engine is capable of producing 4380 shp. The 419 engine also has contingency power capability of up to 5000 shp for up to two minutes.

RONEX

SQUADRON EXERCISE 02-1

By LT Marc Boyd

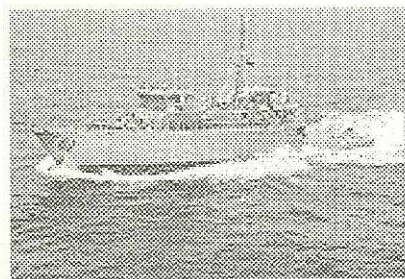
INGLESIDE, Texas — The ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group One are participating in Squadron Exercise 02-1, 23 Oct. to 2 Nov., in the Gulf of Mexico near Corpus Christi, Texas. The mine countermeasures ships USS Defender (MCM 2) and USS Sentry (MCM 3) will join the coastal minehunters USS Robin (MHC 54), USS Kingfisher (MHC 56) and USS Black Hawk (MHC 58) for the exercise. Squadron Exercise 02-1, or RONEX is designed to provide intermediate phase training in mine sweeping, mine hunting and mine neutralization capabilities in a multi-ship environment.



USS DEFENDER MCM2

RONEX is the second training phase of a three-part series designed to give ships crews the skills needed for effective mine countermeasures capability. The first phase includes individual ship training. Once that is complete, squadron ships participate in RONEX for coordinated multi-ship mine countermeasures training. The final phase includes other mine countermeasures methods, including Explosive Ordnance Disposal divers, and aviation mine countermeasures systems.

Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, commanded by Capt. Richard C. Rush is conducting the exercise.

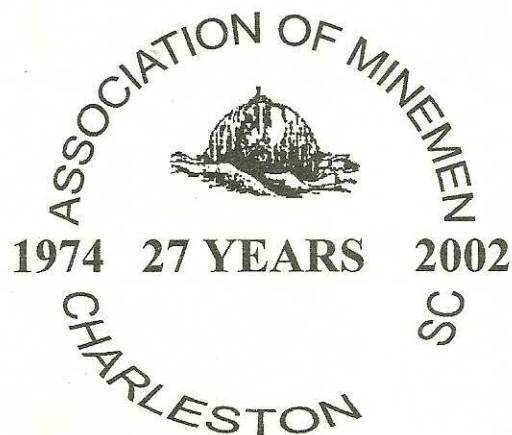


USS ROBIN MHC 54

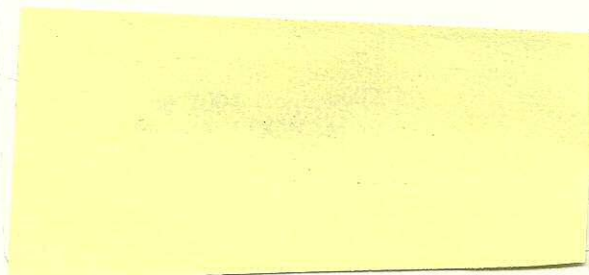
"RONEX is an important phase of the Inter-deployment Training Cycle," Rush, a native of Petersburg, Va., explained. "It is a good opportunity to review the basics and hone our skills in the mission of mine countermeasures."

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