

# THE DASHPOT

Issue 37      Newsletter of the Association of Minemen      Spring 2002



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Paul Santa Maria

Congratulations and thanks to MN1 Stephanie Cowart on her very successful membership drive at MOMAU Eight! I would think that this is a challenge to all the MOMAUs, both active and reserve. As has been said before, this is your organization.

Presently, the Yorktown Museum is in a "Status Quo" as Toby continues dialogue with the powers to be. Our responsibility at this time, I believe, is to give deep objective and subjective thought to the areas outlined in Toby's extensive report in the winter edition of the Dashpot.

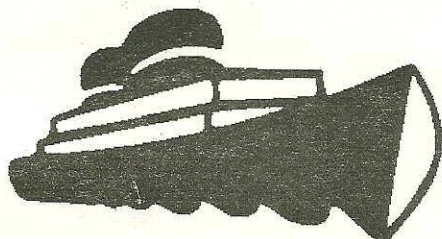
Time is passing by very rapidly and before you know it, we'll be together at the Yorktown Reunion. I can already feel the nostalgia, as I'm sure others of you do also. Don't forget to bring an item or two for the auction.

Plans for Reunion 2003, San Diego, are also underway according to Chairman Warren Savage. I'm sure info on both reunion sites will be found in this issue.

Our storekeeper has informed me that we are out of the MK6 tie tacks and no one seems to know who has the mold and who has made them in the past. If anyone has info, please contact me ASAP. Thank you.

Donations, to the scholarship challenge fund, are lagging behind. Hopefully, it will be met by reunion time. The purpose of course is to insure some money be available for scholarships for the long term. Your donations are tax deductible.

My lovely wife and I are now starting to enjoy retired life. In a few days, we are going on our first cruise, a seven-day cruise to the eastern Caribbean. We're very excited. God bless you all.



## YORKTOWN REUNION

By Jack Smoot & John Loonam

Things are coming into focus on the August Reunion in Yorktown. The hotel is accepting reservations (some are already in), the dinner menu has been selected, committee members are scouring the bushes to make sure this will be a memorable annual reunion. You will notice an increase on meals this time as price creep catches up on us. The original booking was with the Williamsburg Ramada Inn. They sold out and by the time you read this the new name will be the Clarion. For those familiar with the area, Jefferson Ave (Rt. 143), went by the Skiffs Creek Gate toward Williamsburg. About 7 miles up the road it becomes Merrimac Trail for a few blocks and then Second Street leading into Williamsburg. The hotel is at 500 Merrimac Trail just across the street from James York shopping plaza. 800-666-8888 Reservations: [reservations@williamsburgclarion.com](mailto:reservations@williamsburgclarion.com) Code TEM fax 757-220-4662

We have advanced booked 50 rooms for your convenience. Please tell the reservation person if you need a refrigerator in your room for "medicinal" purposes. They only have 65% available and will provide if requested.

The Early Bird reception room will be on the second floor just around the corner from the elevator. Drop in Friday evening after 6:30, see who is there, pick up maps and handouts, and share some old photos. The meeting rooms and banquet room are nearby.

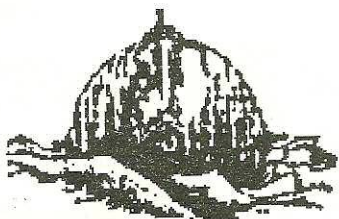
A BOD meeting will take place at 5:00 PM on Friday and may carry over to Saturday morning. The scholarship Committee will meet Saturday morning. The membership General Meeting will take place at 2:00 PM on Saturday when the members will vote on recommendations of the BOD and fill two BOD seats.

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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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### Reunion Continued.

The banquet will be start with a no-host bar at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:30. Preliminary guests are Mary Fisher, widow of our first president "Foxy" Fisher, her son, and a granddaughter who is a Naval Academy mid-shipman. Plans for the guest speaker are still in the works.

Jack Smoot secured reservations for the picnic at the old Mine Warfare School picnic area at the Coast Guard Officers Training Center.

Those interested in Saturday morning golf, please contact Committeeman Bob Spencer for details at 757-833-3180

For RV parking, camping, military admission tickets or any questions please contact John Loonam for detail: (804) 693-2094 or [jloonam@ccsinc.com](mailto:jloonam@ccsinc.com)

### PARLIMENTARIAN

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2002 REUNION COMMITTEE

### Jack Smoot

### John Loonam

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Chair)

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### Reunion Continued

Remember to bring articles for the Scholarship auction. Advance shipments to: Jack Smoot, 306 Artillery Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692

If your schedule allows free time, please remember area attractions such as: Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Busch Gardens Amusement Park, Water Country, The Pottery, Naticus and the USS Wisconsin (Norfolk), and Navy piers just to mention a few. A tourist bus stops at the hotel every half-hour and makes the circuit.

This issue of Dashpot includes your Reunion order form. Directions to the hotel will be in the summer issue.

## SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

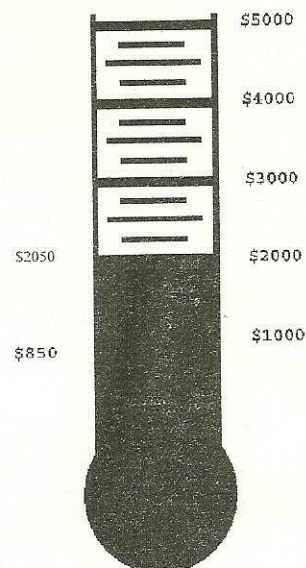
By William (Swede) Carlsen

Where do we stand in regards to the President's Challenge Scholarship Fund? scholarship fund? As of this date the AOM membership has raised \$2050 dollars of the \$5000 challenge. We still have a ways to go to sweep up the total. Remember the challenge is effective till 8/12/02. Let's match Paul and Bootsie's generosity and build a permanent scholarship fund base.

Remember, the AOM scholarships are for \$500 each. By limiting the scholarships to \$500 each we're able to help more than one individual. Tuition costs are so high that every dollar counts.

Open that wallet and purse to help our leaders of tomorrow. They need our help as we need their future capabilities.

### STAND TALL AMERICA





## PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

As with most organizations, updating its by-laws from time-to-time is very common. The changes as listed below are sorely needed to bring our organization into the present and on into the future. Without these changes, it will be almost impossible for the B.O.D. to function in accordance to our by-laws. Our purpose and principles remain unchanged. These changes will not change our 501(C)(3) tax-exempt status.

### ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION.

**PRESENT:** Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors that include ex-officio members as delineated in Art. V, Section 3 and Chapter Chairpersons designated in accordance with Article X, Section 2.

**CHANGE TO:** The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Directors that include ex-officio members as delineated in Article V, Section 3 and Chapter Chairpersons designated in accordance with Article X, Section 2. This body shall be known as the Board of Directors.

**PRESENT:** Section 2. These officers shall be elected with the exception of the Secretary, Treasurer and those ex-officio members who are appointed by the President; subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The position of Secretary and Treasurer can be held by the same person. Each elected official, and all Chapter Chairpersons in attendance, shall be a voting member at the Board of Directors meeting conducted by the President of the Association.

**CHANGE TO:** These officers shall be elected with the exception of the Secretary, Treasurer and those ex-officio members who are appointed by the President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. The same person can hold the position of Secretary and Treasurer. Each elected official, the Immediate Past President, and all Chapter Chairpersons in attendance, shall be voting members at the Board of Directors meeting conducted by the President of the Association.

**PRESENT:** Section 3. The Board of Directors will consist of six members who shall serve terms of three years. Two of these members shall be elected annually. Ex-officio members of the Board of Directors will include the Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and Quartermaster who are appointed in accordance with Article VI, Section 1. The Immediate Past President is an ex-official member of the Board of Directors. Ex-officio members act in only an advisory capacity and do not have a vote on matters before the Board.

**CHANGE TO:** The Directors will consist of six members, who shall serve terms of three years. Two of these members shall be elected annually. Ex-officio members of the Board of Directors will include the Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and Quartermaster who are appointed in accordance with article VI, Section 1. Ex-officio members act only in an advisory capacity and do not have a vote on matters before the Board.

### ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

**PRESENT:** Section 7. Four Directors shall constitute a

quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

**CHANGE TO:** Four voting members shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your indulgence and continued support.

Respectfully yours,  
G. Paul Santa Maria,  
President

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## YORKTOWN MINE MUSEUM REPORT

By Toby Horn

On February 27th I spoke with Eleanor Wimett, Director of Information Systems and Museum Collections for the Patriots Point Authority/USS Yorktown. She and some of her engineers/staff will join me for a walk-through of our spaces on March 7th, so we can document current conditions and use this as a benchmark for future improvements. She is anxious to get the below-deck office spaces cleaned up from the mess created when they had to cut through bulkheads and run oil pump-out hoses.

She also wants to get a "fixed" inventory of "stuff" in these spaces - and believe me, there is a lot of "stuff". A rule of thumb will be that any personal, non-historical materials will be marked for disposal. That's a hard call, but we have to bite the bullet and realize that we can no longer think of this as our own little repository for "stuff" nobody wants any more. I would intend that we keep two each of special hardware items and the rest goes for disposal. This will give us one for possible display and a second as an engineering model. In this regard, I am going to suggest any extra hardware be offered to the USS Lexington and/or other museum sources.

If anyone has any concerns about a follow-on "throw or stow" evolution - and what goes or stays - you need to get back to me ASAP.

For the time being, I intend to hold all documentation we have on hand until we can get a working agreement for using the Yorktown's archive resources. We don't need to keep it in our spaces as long as it is on file somewhere and it is retrievable. Eleanor assured me previously that such documentation would be available for engineers, historians, authors, and academicians, as we have intended all along. The availability of their staff and help in cataloguing will help us get this capability even sooner.

Eleanor told me that the walk-through might trigger the closing of our space to the public due to official recognition of need for the HAZMAT cleanup in her subsequent issue of work orders, etc. Hopefully, that would be short lived. Since I did not receive any negative feedback on my report in the Winter 2001 Dashpot, I am assuming that I can also go forth with initiating a memorandum of understanding on our continuing working relations with Patriot's Point.

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



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOTES

Just a friendly reminder for all of you that may have a desire to serve as an elected Officer or Board Member of this grand organization. Please take this opportunity to provide me with your suggestions, nominations, and/or desire to become a more active member.

I can be reached at the following e-mail address: [gunnerjb@eagnet.com](mailto:gunnerjb@eagnet.com); or by telephone at 912-673-1220 or 912-996-3400.

Joe Balderrama  
Nominating Committee

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## PADRE'S PIECE

By AOM Chaplain Henry Williams

On national TV, Billy Graham's daughter was asked how could God let something like this happen? Anne Graham gave what I believe to be an extremely profound answer. She replied, "I believe that God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we have been telling God to get out of our schools, our government and our lives and now I believe he is finally doing what we have been asking him. How can we expect Him to give us His blessing and protection if we demand He leave us alone? Maybe it started when Ms O'Hare complained she didn't want prayer in schools and we said OK. Then someone said we shouldn't read the bible in school and we said OK. Then someone said we shouldn't pray at football games or display religious artifacts in schools or government places and we said OK. Dr Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave and we said OK. Then someone said our teachers or principals couldn't discipline our children because it might give them a complex and we said OK. Then someone said let's print magazines with pictures of nude men and women and call it art and appreciation of the human body and we said OK. Then someone said let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence and illicit sex and let's record music that encourages rape, murder, drugs and satanic themes. Now we are asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they have trouble defining right from wrong and why they are killing their classmates and even themselves. WE REAP WHAT WE SOW. If He were asked why He didn't save the little girl who was killed in school, God might reply, I am not allowed in school. Are you thinking? IF WE ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD IT IS US THAT HAS MOVED."



## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Hi All

Just a few items to report this quarter. Number one is, if any of you are traveling down I95 through SC, please bring a gallon of water and pour it in the lake. We are down five (5) feet and can use any help you can give. (Smile)

Bill Roberts has posted all the Photos from the history book that we recovered. Some have been returned to us "Address Unknown." Toby Horn is storing these. If you are still missing photos, please let us know. **MANY THANKS to CDR Roberts for a job well done.**

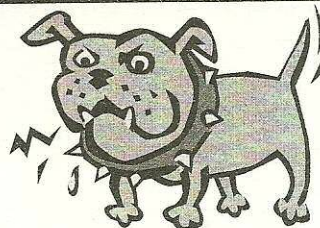
The scholarship challenge is a little slow, but coming along. If you look at the financial statement you will see \$1050.00 being met. The financial statement was sent in prior to closing the book for Feb. We have had more donations to the challenge (and one from Swede Carlsen for \$1000.00 (thanks) in NY). If we can meet this, it will bring another scholarship each year.

We have lost a few members and gained a few members this quarter. Mailing list is 436 this quarter. This figure includes all the ships and commands.

See Ya in Yorktown.

Curtis

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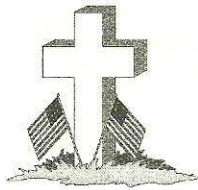


## FROM THE STOREKEEPER

By MN1 Stephanie Cowart

I am still looking for inputs from anyone on items to sell. The only thing I have gotten is for golf shirts. I am currently working on a supplier who can make them at a decent cost. I still have a couple of the AOM embroidered hats left. Get them while you can. They are some really nice looking hats! I think we will be getting some more tie tacks soon, as Bill Mehard has found someone to make the molds. (Thank you, Bill) If ANYONE knows where the original molds are it would be greatly appreciated if they would contact me, Mr. Santa Maria, or anyone else with the AOM. Those things sell better than Mulligans at an AOM Golf Tourney. That's all for now, please contact me with any ideas and purchases. [cowdawg1@ite.net](mailto:cowdawg1@ite.net)





## TAPS

**MNCM (ret) Harry L. Coker.** Fred Reid called to say that Harry Coker, a former shipmate and AOM member, passed away on April 23, 2001. Harry succumbed to brain tumors at the age of 78 at his home in Tonkawa, OK.



**KREPS**

**LT Oren (Bud) Kreps.** MNC (ret) Chuck Nicklin reports that Oren (Bud) Kreps, Lt., USN, (ret) passed away Jan 25, 2002, at the Bremerton Rehabilitation center in Bremerton, WA, from complication of a stroke that he had 7 years ago. Bud was 76. He was born Dec. 10, 1925, in Centralia, MT and served in the Navy from 1942 to 1969. He was originally in one of the aviation rates, but went to mine school and became a MN1 then chief. He applied for LDO, was selected, and ultimately advanced to the rank of lieutenant. He participated in Atlantic and Pacific campaigns during World War II and worked at the Undersea Warfare Center at Keyport, retiring as a supervisor in the late 1980s.

Survivors include his wife, Ramona; one stepdaughter, Janice Slade of Medford, Ore.; one sister, Betty Olsen of Seattle; two granddaughters, Lynette Serr of Parker, CO and Ramona Slade of Corvallis, OR; two great-grandsons, Justin and Andrew Serr of Parker; an aunt, Gertrude Kinnaman of Friday Harbor; and nieces and nephews.

**MN1 Raymond A. (Mac) McDonald.** Christy McDonald, daughter-in-law of Mac McDonald, USNR, wrote that he passed away in MI at age 69. Mac was born in Canada on February 18, 1921. He was a WW2 Mineman, entering the Navy on August 7, 1942. The rates and ratings he held were AS, S2C, S1C, GM3, GM2, MN2, and MN1. His duty stations were Great Lakes, IL, NRS Detroit, MI, STS Newport, RI, Naval Schools Mine Warfare Yorktown, VA, Hawthorne, NV, NAS Moffett Field, CA, USMAB San Bruno (Tanforan Race Track), CA, MAD4, Tinian Island, Northern Marianas 1944 to 1945. Some of the minemen that knew McDonald are MNCM Freddie Reid, MNCM Opocensky, MNCS Mac McCarthy, and MN1 Max Chilcott.

**Clarence L. (Len) Ringler.** Len Ringler of Williamsburg, VA died Thursday Dec. 27, 2001. He was a native of Portsmouth, VA, having graduated from the original Woodrow Wilson High

school in the class of 1939. Len graduated from Virginia Tech in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering. At tech, he was a member of the Honor Council, American Institute of Industrial Engineers and the Alpha Pi Mu Honorary IE fraternity.

He is survived by his wife, Lucy, a son, Leonard E. Ringler of Newport News, and a son Terry and his wife Becky of Smithfield, VA, and two grandchildren, Sarah and Christopher of Smithfield.

Len was a veteran of the Army Air Corps in World War II, a graduate of the Norfolk Naval Air Station Apprentice School, worked as an industrial engineer for the American Viscose Company and a unit manager for the General Electric Co. plant in Roanoke, VA. He retired in 1979 as Technical Director of the Naval Mine Engineering Facility, Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, VA.

Len was a registered professional engineer in Virginia, a member of the Williamsburg Methodist Church, The Williamsburg Lions Club, Williamsburg Pulaski Club, Pleasant Walk Hunt Club and a former member of the Williamsburg Moose Club. He was also a member of the AARP and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

The family received friends from 4 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30 at Neisen Funeral Home, 3785 Strawberry Plains Rd. A funeral service was held at 11 p.m. Monday Dec. 31, at Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Lions Medical Eye Bank, 600 Gresham Drive, Norfolk, VA 23507. Nelsen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Bill Roberts recalls that Len was between Haines Miller and Trist McConnell as TD (1973-1978). Len came to NMEF from the Naval Weapons Station Industrial Engineer for Management, the top civilian on the NWS staff.

**RM2 Allan Polmanteer.** Allan served in U.S.S. e-AMC (U) 11 (June 1948 to April 1951), USS Yazoo AN-92 W/ Mine Tracks, was discharged October 22, 1952. He passed away the morning of Saturday, December 22, 2001. He was a member of AOM

Hello,  
This is Tim Polmanteer. I am Al's eldest son and I have some very sad news to bring to you regarding my father. Dad passed away suddenly the morning of Saturday, December 22nd.

He had had a biopsy on a lump on the left side of his neck. This happened November 29th and the biopsy confirmed that he had squamous cell carcinoma. He had a more extensive surgery on Wednesday, December 19th to remove lymph nodes and other affected areas in his neck. Thursday he suffered from congestive heart failure and had a minor heart attack. Friday afternoon, he seemed to be doing well and all his 4 children spent the afternoon with him.

I was called back to the hospital at 9:30 PM because he was having a difficult time and called for me. I was helping the nurse change the bandage around his neck when he had a



seizure. The intensive care doctor worked to revive him for 45 minutes to no avail.

The family is comforted in the fact that he died suddenly and because the cancer report showed that the cancer was more extensive than we thought and very well could have spread to his brain. He would have suffered horribly even if they had revived him on Saturday.

I apologize if we have not contacted you personally—there is so much we have to do and complications with his arrangements.

My dad spoke to me about most of you and he was very proud of his friendships, many going back 30-40 years.

I hope some of you can join us this weekend as we remember my dad.

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**MN2 David L. Valentine, USN, (ret).** Bob Defrees writes: With great sadness, I report the passing of David L. Valentine, MN2, Retired. Dave passed on sometime in 1995 at Merced, California

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## **NMWEA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON (2001)**

by Jo-Ann Lane

Those attending the NMWEA annual Christmas luncheon at Nick's Seafood Pavilion were:

Reggie Beane, Reynolds (Ray) Becker, Dick Bishop, Jim and Agnes Brabrand, Brenda and Dix Brown, Joe and Barbara Brown, Steve Brownley, Bill Burgess, Judy and Shannon Butler, Fred Bergey, Pat Cassidy and Husband, Randy Chandler and Wife, June and Corkie Collie, Neal Cowan, Emma Crawford, Jonathan and Stephanie Cruz, John Dunn and Wife, Lonnie Edwards, Wife and Grandson, John Filo, Jim Foster, Byron Gossett and Wife, Harry and Marcella Griffin, Pat Hallinan, Lucille Harris, Dewey Hogge, Lorrimer Hogge, Mildred Lambert, Jo Anne Krofcheck Lané, Winnie and Fred Lewis, Fran Lisciandri, Jim and Kume Longway, John and Bobbie Loonam, Dee Macrino, Joanne Matthews, Trist McConnell, Ron Muse and Fiance, Tommy Mylum and Wife, Annie Oliver, Ed Oyer, Ray Parcell, Flo Parker, Don Rainey, Marshall and Betty Reams, Lorraine and Bob Rhinehart, Frenchy Rodriguez, Hayden Ross-Clunis, Betty Ryan, Alice and Adrian Stepp, Pat and Gene Sutton, Waneta Towell, Daughter and Grandson, Annette Wilburn, Donald Williamson and Gisela Albrecht.

Regrets from: Jim and Anita Coffman, Bob and Carol Forrest, John and Glenda Holland, Richard and Doris Martin, Skip and Margaret Parker, Len and Lucy Ringler, Gene Riddle, Kitty and Jim Viccellio



## **BINNACLE LIST**

Dear Bill,

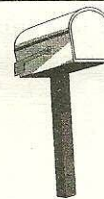
Greeting now! Heard from Gunner Bob Lattanzi that his granddaughter, Briana, 22, was involved in 2 motor cycle accidents and survived with a broken back with partial paralysis. She is adjusting well, but could use encouragement as she may never walk again. Her mailing address:

Briana Lattanzi  
C/o R. J. Lattanzi  
25521 Lincoln Ave.  
Space 69  
Hemet, CA 92544-5494

Would appreciate your touch in publishing in the Dashpot and the Web.

Sincerely,  
JoeHernandez  
p.s. My daughter, Anna's, web site: Ifont76

---



## **MAIL BAG**

Arthur W. Cook LCDR USN (ret)  
51 Plymouth Lane  
Bluffton, SC 29910  
7 April 2001  
e-mail [NellieBly@davtv.com](mailto:NellieBly@davtv.com)

Hi,

I am enclosing a copy of the e-mail I sent to three of the officers on the Minemen Assoc. It tells them that we will be attending a reunion of the USS Shannon DN 25 in Mass. At the same time as you are having the Minemen's reunion, and we cannot attend both reunions, and as we are already committed to the Shannon Reunion, well that

I am enclosing a check for this year's dues. We hope to attend next year's reunion. Come to think of it we have only attended one reunion and that was several years ago. Oh, well, such is life when there are too many things to do, and places to go.

As you can see from the e-mail I have had a great deal to do with mining throughout my entire Naval career, and with underwater sound, thereafter with the Bell Telephone Laboratories.



## Mail Bag Continued

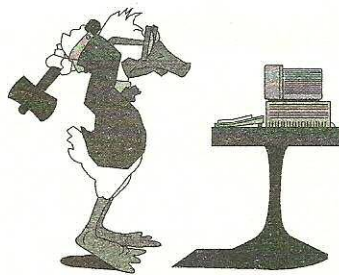
I am hoping that next year's reunion will be near enough and at a time that we are not already committed to be someplace else, but guess we will not know this until some time later.

Arthur W. Cook LCDR USN (Ret)

E-mail from Arthur W. Cook LCDR USN (Ret)

From: "Arthur Cook" [nellieby@davtv.com](mailto:nellieby@davtv.com)  
To: [jloonam@ccsine.com](mailto:jloonam@ccsine.com); [curtischristian@hotmail.com](mailto:curtischristian@hotmail.com); [gunnerjb@hotmail.com](mailto:gunnerjb@hotmail.com)  
Sent: Sabado, 07 de Abril de 2001 05:15 p.m.  
Attach: Minemen Reunion\_.eml; Minemen 2001 reunion.doc  
Subject: Minemen Reunion..

On the date for the minemen reunion I will be in MA attending a reunion of the Destroyer USS Shannon DM25. I was gun boss and mining officer for a couple of years on this ship, based in Charleston, but seldom there. I attended Mines MK 5 and 6 under Deforest on an island within Pearl Harbor while attached to the USS Dale, DD353 Later I went TAD, 2 times, to West Lock Ammo . Depot to assist in the assembly of batches of Mk 6 Dummy mines for use by the mine laying 4 stackers then located in Pearl. In early 41, will a GM2/c on USS Aylwin DD 355 I went TAD to the 3<sup>rd</sup> class at the mine warfare School, Yorktown. After taking a couple bullets in my chest during the 7<sup>th</sup> of Dec, and about four months later, I was sent back to Yorktown to teach mines waiting to go to the Hospital in Portsmouth. I was operated upon on 12/7/42 and returned to duty the next day. I made CPO at the school, a week later joined Warrant Officer Sheldon, as a warrant officer, and a week later was promoted to Ensign. I was soon transferred to the USS Salem CM 11 as Gunnery/mines officer, after the Med and then Saipan I was assigned to the William P. Ditter as Gun Boss, but never caught up with the ship. Instead was placed on TAD with Com Mine Craft PAC, under ADM Sharp. I was later transferred, under more or less the same job, to Com Serve PAC under ADM Nimitz. After the war, I was assigned to the Harbor Defense Unit as CO based. on Waipahu Point Pearl. Many months later, I was assigned to the USS Shannon as gun/mines officer. Three days after arriving on board, I was TAD by BuOrd to the USS Coral Sea, CVA 43, along with a CPO and about 20 men to conduct experiments on influence mines to develop and test means of assembling, adjusting and testing the mines during flight operations when they were trying to determine if jets could operate from a carrier. Upon completion, I returned to the Shannon. Later I was transferred to the Torpedo, Mines Test Station at Piney Point, MD as mines officer. I was a LT on this job. From here I was sent back to West Lock as Mines/Gunnery Officer, and to fill in as necessary as OinC and also as Gunnery Officer at Lualualei Ammo Depot. Later I was sent to Sandy Hook, NJ as CI and responsible for the underwater defenses for the bulk of Long Island Sound, New York Harbor and about fifty miles down the New Jersey Coast. I retired as a LCDR 1 April 1959 and went to work the next day with Bell Telephone Laboratories in connection with Sound and later on Kwajalein Atoll in connection with the Safeguard System to detect and destroy guided missiles directed against the US, then to N. Dakota as a civilian Operations Officer for the defense system. I retired from Bell Telephone Labs (AT&T) in June of 1980. I served 21 years with the Navy and another 21 years with Bell Telephone Labs (AT&T) and now live in Sun City Hilton Head, South Carolina.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

Greetings and salutations. Another Dashpot issue is in the bag along with the editor. The process has gotten much simpler and is now more like a single birth than triplets. This new found ease is astonishing since I inexplicably chose this time to quit smoking. After having been a heavy smoker for over four decades, I thought it was time to try and fail yet again. I like to do that from time to time to ease my conscience without actually being inconvenienced. I decided to try the patches as the latest failure mode just to say I did. To my chagrin, they worked even though I chose a stressful time frame to start! What a revolting development that was! I couldn't even weasel-word myself into another cigarette either. When one has the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes taped to one's backside it is difficult to convince oneself that yet another cigarette is required.

I smirked when I installed that first patch after my bath one night. I knew I would be craving a cigarette by morning, grumpy by 9 a.m., insufferable by 11, and blissfully back to my old habits by noon. You can imagine my horror at finding that I did not crave a cigarette when I woke up! I did not crave one all day although I kept an open pack of cigarettes and a lighter ready and waiting just in case. Sadly, I haven't "needed" that next cigarette yet. I occasionally "want" one in the mildest sense of the word, but I can't justify adding to what I already have poisoning my system transdermally.

It has been over thirty days since I smoked my last cigarette. The open pack has gotten moldy, I have not knowingly killed anyone, and I have not smoked the shrubbery. I am well into the lower dosage patch. That step down passed without notice and did not provide any wiggle room. I am resigned to the fact that the last reduction in nicotine won't either and I will be forced to admit that I have quit smoking.

On the down side, I have had to fill two and a half hours a day with some activity besides smoking. I turned to my shy and retiring bride of some 40 years, and she was amused for a time, but she has since barricaded herself in the bathroom until further notice. With a third of the natural, masculine entertainment choices of "wine, women, and song" being out of the question, I turned to song, but the canine accompaniment is terribly annoying. Not a one in ten can carry a tune! My options have narrowed to but one ... thank goodness every cloud has a silver lining.

Press any key to continue.....  
.....or any other key to quit





Unit 8 had the pleasure of AOM member, MN3 Phillip E. Phillips (Yes that is his REAL name), reenlisting for 6 years. By so doing, he received a ... this is not a typo ... \$38,550.00 SRB (selective re-enlistment bonus). The AOM and the entire staff of the Dashpot wish to congratulate MN3 Phillips for his excellent career choice.

## Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades

Gather around ancient barnacles, old salts, and minnows and let's relive some choice moments in Mineman history.

Time was when minemen were long of arm, hairy of chest and capable of the most outlandish deeds. This is not to say that the coed chests and arms appearing in the modern mineforce are any less capable of foolishness. As a matter of fact, I vividly recall one such incident.

During my tour in Earle, NJ a comely and most capable WIN reported for duty. If my memory serves me well, that very day was a day of rejoicing in its own right due to advancements. Being the benevolent OIC that I was, I granted a couple of hours of early liberty and the crew took themselves to the enlisted club with such gusto that the vacuum they created almost collapsed the walls of the mine assembly building.

Later, my trusted AOIC, a warrant officer of great renown, and I visited the club to confer the obligatory congratulations. While there, the gunner noticed that the male sailors were hovering about the new female sailor like gnats around an open sore and plying her with copious quantities of that golden elixir that clouds minds and skews judgement. We discussed intervention (chivalry was not yet dead), but the female sailor seemed to be holding her own and we departed for our respective quarters rather than cause her any embarrassment.

About 11 p.m., the Command Senior Chief called and said

there was a problem at the club and asked that I meet him there. Presuming fisticuffs had broken out among the ardent swains. I hopped into my car and headed for the club. As I neared the club, I noticed several of my sailors being escorted (carried) by other sailors, many more "walking" very unsteadily, and some had even taken up residence in the drainage ditch and bushes between the club and barracks.

Arriving at the club, I found no riot in progress, just several sailors draped over the furniture sleeping like babies and a couple diehards finishing a last beer with the new female sailor. The duty section was called and they came and collected the remnants of this once proud command and deposited them in the barracks.

The next morning at quarters, I presided over the sorriest looking collection of human debris I had ever seen. I could hear their heads pounding from 20 paces and I fully expected many to bleed to death from their eyes within the hour. I bit my tongue and the gunner excused himself and made it to the office before he went into hysterics. Sad looking puppies all; all, that is except for one ... the new female petty officer was crisp, clear, recruiting poster sharp, and absolutely bubbling over with enthusiasm.

The men were out numbered. There were only 28 of them against all of her. From that point on, I never questioned the abilities of women in the Navy



# MINE WARFARE CHANGE OF COMMAND

Rear Adm. Paul J. Ryan, Jr., will assume duties as Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Feb. 4, 2002, in an official ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

Rear Adm. Ryan relieves Rear Adm. John E. Boyington Jr., who served as commander since Dec. 17, 2001. Rear Adm. Boyington will continue to serve as Chief, Naval Air Training and Commander, Navy Region South, both based at NAS Corpus Christi.

During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Ryan will assume command of the worldwide assets of Mine Warfare Command, which include 27 ships, two airborne mine countermeasures squadrons, and three mine countermeasures squadrons.

Rear Adm. Ryan was raised in Yonkers, New York, and entered the United States Naval Academy in 1969. He graduated with distinction in 1973 and was awarded a Navy Burke Scholarship.

After initial nuclear power training, Rear Adm. Ryan reported to USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635) (GOLD), where he served three years in various engineering billets. Assigned to the Naval Postgraduate School in 1977, he combined the curriculum at graduate school with the Defense Language Institute Russian Language Program, graduating with a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs (Europe/USSR) and a Russian Language Diploma (with honors).

From 1979 to 1982 Rear Adm. Ryan served as Engineer in USS Tullibee (SSN 597). After attending the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, he served as Navigator and Operations Officer in USS Groton (SSN 694), and as Executive Officer, USS Boston (SSN 703). From 1986 to 1988 he was the Military Assistant to the Principal Deputy and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Engineering, and Systems).

Rear Adm. Ryan commanded USS Philadelphia (SSN 690) from 1989 to 1992, completing three major deployments, including participation in Operation Desert Storm. During his command tour USS Philadelphia was awarded two Meritorious Unit Commendations, the Battle Efficiency "E", the CINCLANTFLT Golden Anchor Award, and two Silver Anchor Awards.

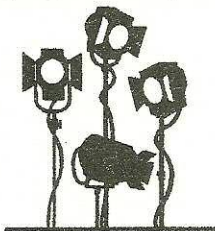
Rear Adm. Ryan served as a Branch Chief in the Division of Naval Warfare (OP-701) and the Navy Reorganization Transition Team (N83) before reporting to the Joint Staff (J-5) in November 1992. On the Joint Staff he served as the Central and East European Branch Chief and European Division Chief, with major emphasis on events in the former Yugoslavia and NATO. After completing his tour on the Joint Staff, Rear Adm. Ryan attended the Harvard University Executive Program for Senior Officials in National Security.

Rear Adm. Ryan commanded USS L.Y. Spear (AS 36) from July 1995 to May 1996. He was then assigned to the Navy staff as the Director, Operational Support Division (N23), and subsequently selected as the Deputy Director of the Navy Quadrennial Defense Review Office (N8C). In July 1997 he was assigned as Strategic Submarine and Maintenance Branch Chief, Submarine Warfare Division (N871). In July 1998 he reported as the Senior Navy Fellow on the Secretary of Defense Strategic Studies Group and from June 1999 to July 2000 he served as Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for Long-range Planning (N09V). In August 2000, Rear Adm. Ryan assumed first flag assignment as Director, Warfare Programs and Readiness (N8) on the staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Rear Adm. Ryan's awards include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three Gold Stars, Meritorious Service Medal with four Gold Stars, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with one Gold Star, and Navy Achievement Medal.



# MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## ACTIVE DUTY MINEMAN OF THE YEAR



Cdr. Swart and Master Chief John Reeve presenting the AOM MN of the Year (active) to MNC Mike Gonzales. Chief Gonzales is reporting to Central Drill Site (CDS) Ft. Worth Texas as the CPOIC this coming January 02.

## 2001 MINE WARFARE SAILOR OF THE YEAR

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I ANNOUNCE HM1 (SW/FMF) WILLIAM J. BURRELL AND MN1 GREGORY L. ECKLEBECKER AS THE 2001 MINE WARFARE SAILORS OF THE YEAR IN THE SEA AND SHORE CATEGORY RESPECTIVELY.

HM1 (SW/FMF) BURRELL WAS NOMINATED BY USS CORMORANT AND MN1 ECKLEBECKER WAS NOMINATED BY MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY UNIT THREE. BOTH WERE SELECTED FROM A FIELD OF OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES REPRESENTING THE FINEST PETTY OFFICERS SERVING IN OUR MINE FORCES AFLOAT AND ASHORE. A HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OTHER FINALISTS:  
A. SEA CATEGORY:

SK1 (SW) WILLIAM P. VIOLA USS CHAMPION/MCMRON ONE  
IC1 (SW) GERALD THOMAS USS ROBIN/MCMRON TWO  
MR1 (SW/AW) BONNIE S. HOARD USS INCHON

B. ASHORE CATEGORY:  
ET1 (AW/PJ) RAY E. HAMMONDS SC-RMC, INGLESIDE  
IT1 MARK A. LEWIS FSA, INGLESIDE  
PN1 HEIDI L. ROMAGOSA CMWC

3. PETTY OFFICERS BURRELL AND ECKLEBECKER WILL COMPETE IN THE 2001 COMMANDER, NAVAL SURFACE FORCES ATLANTIC COMPETITION IN NORFOLK, VA IN MARCH 2002. BZ!

4. RDML P. J. RYAN SENDS.

## 2001 MINEWARFARE SENIOR LEADERSHIP AWARD

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I ANNOUNCE SKCS (SW) STEVEN ANDERSON AND MNC JOHN BRAY AS THE 2001 MINE WARFARE (MIW) SENIOR LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS IN THE SEA AND SHORE CATEGORY RESPECTIVELY.

SKCS (SW) ANDERSON WAS NOMINATED BY USS GLADIATOR AND MNC BRAY WAS NOMINATED BY MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY UNIT TEN. BOTH WERE SELECTED FROM A FIELD OF OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES REPRESENTING THE FINEST CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS SERVING IN OUR MINE WARFARE COMMUNITY. THE COMPETITION WAS EXTREMELY KEEN AND CHARACTERIZED THE HIGH CALIBER OF CHIEFS SERVING IN MINE WARFARE AT SEA AND ASHORE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. BZ!

3. RDML P. J. RYAN SENDS.//

## Ode To A Friend

I'll miss those days past of when  
I could do banter with dear ole Len  
He was a trusted and true dear friend  
Who'd I'd readily give my life to defend  
He'd jostle and then give a slight poke  
And always as a pure simple joke  
He was always fair yet stern and firm  
But always with conviction on his term  
And never to forget he was his own man  
The very best he was as only he can  
Now there are only fond thoughts to last  
For Len has become a memory of the past.

Member #0079  
Ed Oyer

On the passing of Clarence "Len" Ringler 12/27/01  
Former TD NMEF



# MINE ASSEMBLY NEWS



CDR R. E. Swart, COMOMAG

Well, as our new boss, RADM Paul Ryan, said recently, "It is an exciting time for Mine Warfare. We are experiencing a **confluence of events** that will serve as a catalyst for change in the Mine Warfare business". In my view, perhaps foremost among these events, is the assignment of RADM Ryan, a submariner with an extraordinary background and experience, as Commander, Mine Warfare Command. Having received the news of his new assignment (which was pretty much off the usual track, given his particular background) as the designated relief for RADM Joe Betancourt, Admiral Ryan has put his full attention towards learning the mining and MCM trade. RADM Ryan comes to our community from CINCLANTFLT where he was responsible for the fleet's long term requirements and vision for our Navy. On behalf of the Association of Minemen, I welcome RADM Ryan aboard.

So, what exactly is the confluence of events the Admiral was talking about? Aside from his assignment, the retirement of USS Incheon this summer will force us to think out of the box on how to accomplish all of the mission enhancing capabilities that USS Incheon brought to Mine Warfare. She served as a capable host to mine countermeasures helicopters, surface mine countermeasures ships and EOD and is truly the backbone of our MCM triad. Large deck ships of opportunity will not have the experience and mission focus that a dedicated MCS has and our Navy leadership is seriously looking for a replacement as soon as feasible. Other events include the potential loss of the MH-53E helicopters and their likely replacement with the smaller and currently less capable MH-60; introduction of "organic" MCM systems to the battlegroup giving them the first generation of MCM capabilities beyond the dedicated Mine

Force; the "Mainstreaming" effort to get Mine Warfare knowledge embedded into the fleet; and lastly, an increasing awareness throughout the Navy leadership of the need for a viable Mine Warfare capability.

I haven't said anything about maritime mining or sea mines so far, but at long last, we have positive movement in our program as well. It seems as though we've been fighting for a new mine system to replace Mk 56 (and others) forever, and it appears as though we'll get one before 2010. Quickstrike will improve too, with the introduction of a new targeting device and eventually an aerial delivery method that will allow the aircraft to release the mine many miles from its intended minefield, gliding in for precise (and safe for the airplane) emplacement. It has been over 20 years since RADM Chuck Horne first suggested a RECO (remote control) capability for our mines and soon command and control of mines and minefields will be available. The technologies have been tested with success and eventually will work their way into our inventory.

Where miners and countermeasures come together for the benefit of all, is in the area of training. New emphasis on "threat-like" exercise mines and instrumented mine fields are improving training for our sailors, it's improving our sensor technology and our understanding of how to operate in a mine environment. Our surface and submarine forces are getting serious about the mine threat and we miners are playing a key role in their tactical proficiency.

At the risk of repeating something that one of the Units will report, here are the MOMAG going's on for this issue:

- We welcome LCDR Steve Anderjack, PCO of MOMAU 11 in Charleston. Steve will relieve LCDR Mike Zahn, on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- MOMAU 11 has had several cornerstone events recently. They are now certified to build and maintain the Quickstrike mine series. It has been a long time since Charleston had a service mine capability. Well done to the crew on their successful FIAT (no, not the Italian car... their Quickstrike Fleet Introduction and Training event) and their recent Explosive Safety Inspection. With their numbers swelling to around 70 enlisted Minemen, Unit 11 will also become the lead Submarine Launched Mobile Mine Mk 67 (SLMM) mine shop for LANT/EUR later this summer.
- This is the start of the busy exercise and training cycle for the fleet. MOMAU 5 Sigonella, Italy will be supporting numerous training events in the Mediterranean, the Baltic and the Arabian Gulf. MOMAU 11 will support the Joint Task Force training exercises off of Virginia and North Carolina. MOMAU 10 in Okinawa will be in Korea and Thailand supporting the Seventh Fleet. MOMAU 1 in Seal Beach is busy preparing for RIMPAC, an exercise with Pacific Rim nations who will meet in Hawaii later this spring.
- As I write this MOMAD 12 in Misawa, Japan is busy preparing for their MRCL, soon followed by MOMAU 10, Okinawa and then MOMAU 8, Guam. Leading the team is LCDR Jim Washington, with Chief Inspector Mr. Wayne "Arnie" Helgersen, MNC Ron Johnson and MNC Jennifer Lauffenburger rounding out the team. I've been assured that they are ready for inspection and we wish them luck!
- MOMAU 8, Guam has been in the spotlight for a number of



remarkable reasons: Their Commanding Officer, LT Rob Kurz was sent forward to support Operation Enduring Freedom in the Arabian Gulf. His impressive ordnance management skill earned him kudos' from CNO, CINCPACFLT, CINUSNAVEUR, CINCLANTFLT and NAVCENTCOM and we're glad to get him back to Guam and back together with his family. The XO, LT (jg) Daryl Adamson, was tasked to lead Unit 8 through several highly successful inspections: Navy Explosive Safety Inspection, Department of Defense Explosive Safety Inspection, and their Field Calibration Certification Inspection. The MRCI is next. Good Luck!

·To top off the busy and highly successful events at Guam, MOMAU 8 successfully advanced 13 for 13 on the last rating exam. WOW! Well done!!!

·RADM Chuck Horne III (retired) visited MOMAU 11 recently and I'm told he was impressed by their facilities and sailors. (I'm sure he'd have told me if he wasn't...). I encourage all of you retired Minemen and mine warfare professionals interested in what we're doing these days arrange for a visit to this great mine shop.

·The Operations staff has been busy coordinating the USS Inchon ordnance offload in preparation for decommissioning. Additionally, we now have responsibility for management of the MCM mission ordnance on all of the MCM and MHC class ships. It keeps Gunner Tim Pease and MNC Tom Vail very busy (and out of trouble). Gunner Pease is transferring to CSS Panama City this spring and will be a real asset to the fleet liaison office and the in-service engineers.

·We're beginning the Admin and Materiel Inspection cycle again and I'm trying to visit all of the shops before I leave command this August. My projected Change of Command is 30 August when CDR Terry Auberry assumes the helm as COMOMAG. It will be another busy year!



## MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

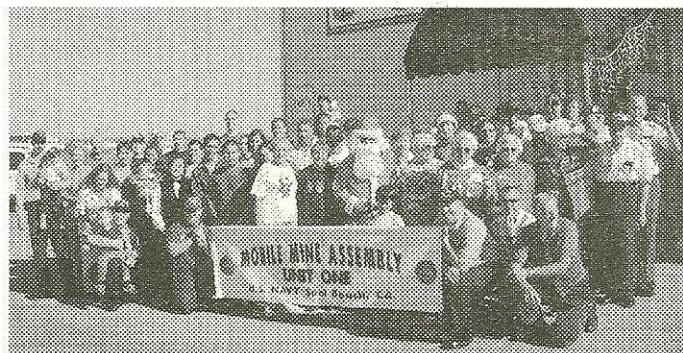
By LT K. L. Miller

**CO's CORNER.** Spring is here! Well, it almost felt like Spring all Winter here in Seal Beach. I guess it is one of the joys living in Southern California! Time is moving quickly, a third of my tour is nearly complete.

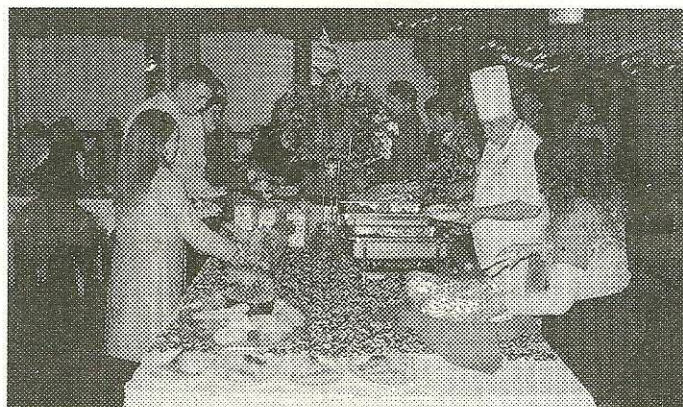
Due to the holiday leave schedule and stand down our pace slowed slightly. As we now prepare for our up coming Administrative/Material Inspection and RIMPAC 2002 the pace has quickened noticeably.

I kicked December off with a surprise Christmas lunch for the crew on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We were blessed December 7<sup>th</sup> by the generos-

ity of the local Destroyer Sailor Association (DESA) and Navy League (NL). They provided Christmas Meal Baskets and Grocery certificates to all of sailors. That evening, we participated in the Seal Beach Holiday Parade. We all pitched in to hand out candy canes to the children along the route. December 8<sup>th</sup> marked another very successful DESA/NL Children's Christmas Party. Over forty of their members and our sailors, wives, and young ones thoroughly enjoyed a potluck luncheon and a special visit from Santa.



Our command Christmas Party was held at Sam's Seafood with an island flare, secret Santa, and white elephant gifts. A grand time was had by all.



Supply Department narrowly edged out QA Department, winning the office decorating contest on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a roaring Farewell Party for MN3 Louis Starelli and MN3 Kevin Blanchard before ringing in the New Year on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

January, we were back to work providing mines and personnel to support the USS Abraham Lincoln. The weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> marked our sailor's participation with the local U.S. Navy Sea Cadet program. One weekend a month, two of our sailors provide basic Seamanship and General Military Training to our Navy's future sailors.

MN2 Sara Atkeson, MN3 John Gardner, and MNCS(SW/AW) Garrett Cecilio were the guests of honor at a festive Hail and Farewell 8 February. We enjoyed our Spring Command Picnic on the 15<sup>th</sup> with good food and sporting events. MN1(SW) Dean Carr, MN2(SW) Matthew Heyer, and MN3 Jose Avelar were the 3-on-3 volleyball champions, and MN1(SW) Frank Mendenhall was closest to the pin on the chip shot. Our quarterly upgrade assessment was held after President's Day, but with an added twist. We included variations of the MK56 and MK65 in addition to the normal mix of MK62's and MK63's. MNC(SW) Greg Williams and MN1(SW) Carr flexed their comprehensive Mineman skills, making sure we did it right. MN1 Kecia Nason conducted a multi-media presentation noting African American contributions to our Navy and Nation for our observance of the Heritage Month on February 25<sup>th</sup>. We followed that with a noteworthy feast of ethnic foods for lunch.





QA Department, led by MN1(SW) Carr at the grill, kicked off our annual MWR fund raisers on the 28<sup>th</sup> with superb hotdogs topped with the finest chili this side of the Mississippi.



It is my pleasure to introduce and welcome MNCS(SW/AW) Cecilio, his wife Dela and their little girls Ariel and Nicole. They have returned to the USA after a tour onboard USS Patriot, in Sasebo, Japan. They are a welcome addition to our family.

We have had many in our family set sail for new adventures. MN2 Steven Stafford to USS Kingfisher, along with MN3 Starelli and his wife Lucy to USS Warrior, and MN3 John Gardner and his wife Amanda to USS Avenger, all stationed in Ingleside, TX. MN3 Blanchard departed for USS Raven in Bahrain. MN3 Ralph Maldonado, his wife Echo and son Noah, left for USS Guardian in Sasebo, Japan. MN2 Atkeson, and her husband Chad, have departed the Naval Service returning to Chad's home state of Oregon.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION.** CO Letters of Commendation were awarded to IT2(SW) Sheila Loe and MN3 Brain Lampman on selection to Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively. MN1(SW) Carr represented our command as Sailor of the Year (2001) earning a CO NAM. Bravo Zulu to all!!

**IN THE TARGET QUEUE.** It was best said in the movie *Top Gun*, "the pattern is full." As we look to the next quarter, our calendar is chock-a-block with multiple events. Everything from FCA certification to ADMAT to RIMPAC 2002, we will be busy beavers.

From sunny Seal Beach California, Sea Ya!!



## MOMAU THREE EARLE

By MNC Brieno

Greetings from MOMAU Three, Colts Neck, New Jersey. Since we missed the last submission, there is a lot to catch up on. First off the Status of MOMAU Three. We are officially authorized and scheduled to decommission 30 September 2002. This makes for a very aggressive work schedule to meet the decommissioning date. We are keeping busy with scheduled maintenance, weapon systems redistribution/demilitarization, and material packaging and preparation. Adding to this challenge is our shrinking manpower, as personnel transfer without replacement.

MOMAU Three is proud of our own MN1 Eckelbecker who was selected as COMOMAG Sailor of the Year and COMINEWARCOM Shore Sailor of the year. We wish him luck as he competes at the SURFLANT level.

We were visited in December by CMDMC Cotie from COMINEWARCOM. He addressed the troops and participated in an awards ceremony where the following awards were presented:

MN1 Eckelbecker: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (6<sup>th</sup>) for selection as MOMAU Three Sailor of the Year

MNSA Simpson: Letter of Commendation for selection as MOMAU Three Junior Sailor of the Year.

Congratulations to MN2 Pasilan and MN1 Herbig who were our Junior and Senior Sailors for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2001 and to our New First and Second Class Petty Officers:

MN1 Ramon  
MN1 Herbig  
MN1 Kazmaier  
MN2 Pasilan

We recently said farewell to MN2 Williams who was transferred to the Medical Holding Unit in Bethesda, MD, MN2 McQueen, MOMAU 15 in Kingsville, and MN3 Nosek, USS Warrior in Ingleside.

We were also visited by MNC East, the Mineman Detailer. He was extremely helpful assisting our personnel selecting orders as part of the decommissioning process. A hearty thanks to him.

As we count down the days to decommissioning, we are focused on closing the doors. We are loading trucks almost everyday and anticipate closure as scheduled.





## MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

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## MOMAU EIGHT GUAM

By MNCS Jack Cantrell

### WINTER

**Editor's Note:** Because of an incredible oversight, due entirely to advanced senility on the part of the editor, the Winter submission from Unit 8 did not get into the Dashpot. The culprit has been duly flogged.

### *Hafa-Adai Shipmates from Guam,*

MOMAU Eight wants to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! Well, we are at the end of our rainy season (one more month) and since we have not had any Typhoons we are all grateful and have been able to take advantage to do a lot of outside beautification. We also are putting the final touches in place for our ESI inspection being held 10-14 December. In addition, 2002 being our "inspection year" we are focused on ensuring all the fine details have been looked at, and of course training our newly assigned sailors in the fine aspects of performing our mission. Let me tell you, it is so nice to have such an OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL TEAM. Everyone of these fine sailors really takes pride in their everyday tasking ensuring the command is inspection ready 24/7. The famous Mk 56 mine is now back to the regular maintenance cycle. I have to be honest, with all our technology I sure hope the "Big Dogs" upstairs are working on replacing this dinosaur weapon system!! Buildings 901 and 902 are having their decks replaced finally! This work order has been ongoing since Typhoon PAKA back in 97 when the water seeped between the concrete slab and the non-conductive flooring separating the two and causing pot holes throughout the buildings. Raytheon guaranteed the job should be done by 31 January 2002. We also just installed a new phone system just like the one at COMOMAG and took out all the old fashioned dial phones out. Its bad when you have to have an

SOP for the new seaman recruits who come on board asking what they are and how to use them.

### BRAVO ZULU'S

The following outstanding Sailors were recognized for their accomplishments during the period: MNC Brashier's selection to Chief Petty Officer, SSOY -MN1 William Nelson, SSOQ 3rd quarter MN1 William Nelson, SSOQ 2nd Quarter MN1 Michael Cassidy, JSOQ 3rd Quarter MNSN Kyle Jansen, JSOQ 2nd Quarter Kyle Halle. We would also like to say BRAVO ZULU to all of our shipmates around the Units, Dets, and Ships for their accomplishments and well deserving recognition during this period.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM MOMAU 8 "WHERE MOMAG DAYS BEGIN"!!

### WELCOME ABOARD

We welcomed the arrival of our new CO, LT Lowell Kruz, and his family reporting from COMNAVSURFGRU MED Naples Italy. Also MN1 Stephanie Cowart, YN1 Scott West, YN2 Victoria Poynter, MN2 Jenkins and their families.

### "FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS"

Unfortunately for us but fortunate for the gaining commands we say Adios to the following personnel: CDR (select) Matt Wisniewski reported to Pers 406 in Millington TN, MN1 Shawn Potter reporting to the USS Osprey, YN2 Terrance Windfield reporting to CINCPACFLT, Pearl Harbor, HI and, last but not least, MN2 Edward Hindman reporting to USS Chief.

That's about it for this quarter here at Unit Eight. We'll cast off now and look forward to seeing any of you out here for your next tour of duty or just come and visit us on the beautiful tropical island of Guam. Till next time, may God Bless all of you and your families.

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## MOMAU EIGHT GUAM

By MNCS J. P. Cantrell (sort of)

### SPRING

Hafa Adai from partly sunny Guam. The rainy season is still lingering, and a VERY late typhoon made a sweep South of us this past week. We have been in Inspection mode since December. We had a very successful ESI inspection in December, another success with the FCA in February, and an ace on the DDESB in March. Currently we are anxiously awaiting the MRCI and ADMAT inspection teams (Bring on the inspectors!) as they have saved the BEST for last.

The command has experienced a tremendous amount of success the last few months. We advanced 100% of the personnel who took the rating exams in September, which is quite impressive.

Those who advanced to E-6 were: MN1(SW) Dennis Jenkins, MN1 Jeremy Koski, and YN1(SW) Victoria Poynter; E-5 MN2 Greg Warren, MN2 Nadine Willis, MN2 Jerry Perez, and MN2 John Long; E-4 MN3 Chad Hill, MN3 Moses Hughes, MN3 Kyle Jansen, MN3 Robert Roberts, MN3 Richard Dierks, and YN3 Rochelle Harris.





These are our "frookees" for advancement: MN2 Willis, YN1(SW) Poynter, MN1(SW) Jenkins, MN1 Koski, MN2 Warren, MN2 Perez, and MN2 Long.



Our other frookees: MN3 Dierks, MN3 Roberts, MN3 Hughes, MN3 Jansen, and MN3 Hill.

Our Fourth quarter SOQs were:

SSOQ - YN1 Scott West, JSOQ - MN1 Jeremy Koski, and BJOQ MNSN Chad Trammel.

Our SOYs are: SSOY (none other than) MN1 Bill Nelson and JSOY - MN2 Jerry Perez.

Other awards included: LOCs from RADM Dunn to MN3 Matthew Greene, MN3 Richard Dierks, MN3 Rex Taylor, and MN3 Kelly Freeman. MN3 Phillip Phillips received a NAM for his work on the SLMM. MNC Steve Brashier, MNCS Cantrell, and MN3 Phillips all reenlisted and are letting their journey continue.

We very happily welcomed onboard SK1 M. Oytas from the USS Frank Cable. We said good-bye to MNC Steve Brashier who is enroute to the USS Cardinal and MN3 Matthew Ledford who reported to the USS Defender.

That's about it from MOMAU 8...the BEST MOMAU in the Navy!

About it except for this little tidbit that was slipped in under the editor's door while he was taking his afternoon nap.

**Congratulations Senior Chief Cantrell!**



**MNCS J. P. Cantrell reenlisting.**



## **MOMAU TEN KADENA**

By MNCS John Bray

Hello to all in the AOM world. As of this writing, a "ton" of work and preparation is going on; NR MOMAU's 2 and 11 are onboard and busy helping out in preparation for the upcoming MRCI and ESI. MNCS(SW) Donnie Kiper and Mr. Ken Struve are onboard from CSS providing RTAS and VEMS DATE calibration training in preparation for the 2002 Cobra Gold Exercise this year. We have history in the making here in preparation for the first ever VEMS deployment to Thailand.

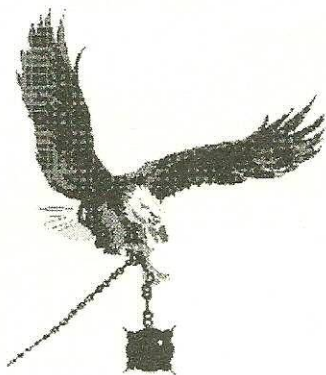
**Hail and farewell:** MNC Rich McGinn left us on the 15th of February in a small ceremony held here at the command. Rich can be justifiably proud of the significant impact he has had on the command and its mission over the past 3 years. He leaves after 25 years of service to the community and he and his family will move back up to the frigid Northeast here in the very near future. As for new faces in the crew, MNSA Rosenberg and MNSA Parfait recently joined us from MWTC and have both hit the deckplates running and quickly proved themselves up to the task.

**KUDOS:** A very well deserved congratulations go out to the following personnel: Senior Sailor of the Year - SK1(SW) Bajarias, Junior Sailor of the Year - MN3 Diehl, Senior Sailor of the Quarter - MN1 Pendleton, Junior Sailor of the Quarter - MN2 Bell.

On the personnel front, we are busy trying to fill our currently open MNCS billet at the command; we were getting ready for MNCS Nicely's arrival this summer but unfortunately, she was diverted to the KINGFISHER billet. Looks like the crew will



# MINE COUNTERMEASURES NEWS



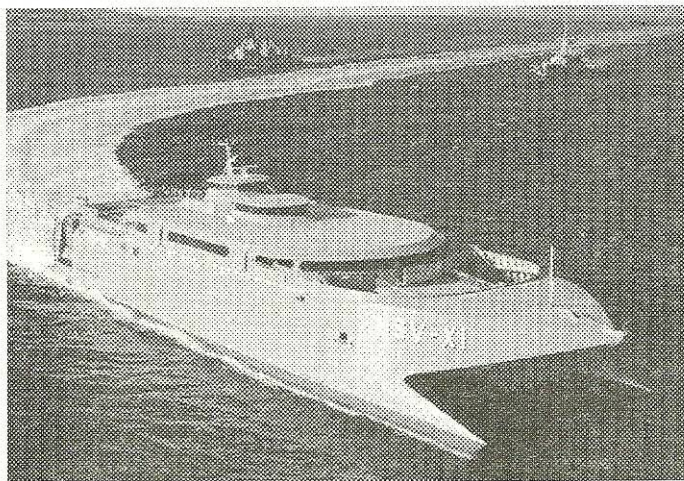
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## NEW CONCEPTS TESTED DURING MINE WARFARE EXERCISE

By LT Marc Boyd

Mine warfare is usually known as a slow and methodical task. Not any more! This year, a new concept in mine warfare was tested as part of Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX) 02-1. That concept? SPEED!!!

A ship on loan from Australia; the Joint Venture (HSV-X1), is a 313-foot-long, diesel-powered, high-speed, wave-piercing catamaran, capable of cruising at speeds in excess of 40 knots. In a test, sponsored by the Navy Warfare Development Command, in Newport, R. I., the unique aluminum-hulled ship was used as the Mine Countermeasures Command and Control Ship during the two-week exercise. Capt. Richard Rush, commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, based in Ingleside, Texas, controlled the exercise from the Joint Venture.



The Joint Venture HSV-X1. During the exercise, held in the waters off Panama City, Fla., the unique 313-foot, diesel-powered catamaran served as the Mine Countermeasures Command and Control Ship, with Capt. Richard Rush, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, embarked.

More than 500 Sailors participated in the exercise, which ran from Nov. 28 to Dec. 14, and was designed to test their mine warfare proficiency. 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 was conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, near Panama City, Fla. and the Coastal Systems Station, Panama City, Fla. "This is basically a graduation exercise for our mine force," Capt. Rush explained. "It allows us to do some 'fine tuning' of our mine warfare skills."

The ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group One participated in the exercise. The mine countermeasures ship USS Sentry (MCM 3) joined 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 (T-AO 187) provided logistics services during the exercise.

Also participating in the exercise were 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.

"GOMEX facilitates the teamwork aspect of mine warfare by integrating the MCM triad of aviation, surface, and underwater MCM assets," explained Lt. Monica Mitchell, MCMRON Two Asst. Operations Officer and exercise observer. "GOMEX 02-1 was a terrific opportunity for the staff, MIWRG ONE ships, and EOD detachments to operate in a realistic, integrated mine warfare scenario."

That scenario included using Joint Venture as a Command and Control Ship for the first time in a Naval exercise, and participants were eager to see what the ship could do.

"This ship does not like to go slow," exclaimed Joint Venture's Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Glenn Miller, as the ship's four diesel engines propelled the 850-ton vessel to 48 knots, speeding past the four other mine warfare ships in the exercise.

"It was exciting to see something that big moving that quickly," exclaimed Lt. Cmdr. Chris Halton, Commanding Officer, USS Black Hawk. "When we first saw it, it was moving at about 40 knots. I've been on (a number of different ships). The fastest I've ever gone on a ship was about 30 knots on an aircraft carrier. Seeing this thing going over 40 knots was pretty amazing."

While speed is one thing Joint Venture has plenty of, another is stability. Even at 45 knots, the ship easily made 180 degree turns, many times without passengers feeling a thing. Joint Venture's speed and maneuverability are causing military planners to rethink the way mine warfare is done.

"We want to know if a platform of this type, with its associated speed and stability, can adequately support the MCMRON commander while he's conducting mine countermeasures operations," explained Cmdr. Paul Judice, Navy Warfare Development Command, Mine Warfare Experiment Director. "That includes airborne mine countermeasures, underwater mine countermeasures and surface mine countermeasures."

"I took the opportunity to use the Joint Venture as my flagship



for the exercise, combining current technology while also 'thinking out of the box' to test this type of ship in a mine countermeasures command and control ship role," Rush explained.

Chief Mineman (Surface Warfare) Kim McGoldrick, Command Chief and Combat Information Center Watch Officer, felt Joint Venture would be an ideal platform as a command and control ship which could also support the rest of the dedicated mine warfare forces.

"You need some type of command vessel because the (mine warfare ships) are not designed to support themselves," she said.

A high-speed vessel, like Joint Venture, could rapidly support mine warfare ships, providing food, fuel, supplies and repair parts quickly. Its relatively shallow 12-foot draft allows the vessel to operate in waters closer to shore, where the mine warfare forces normally conduct their efforts. Its size allows it to carry support facilities for divers and unmanned underwater vehicles used to map ocean bottom and locate mine-like objects.

"We practiced astern refueling with them," Halton said. "We were testing our ability to maintain station, bearing and range to the ship as well as see how we handled. Since the HSV has water jets for propulsion, it could cause unusual changes in the way our ship handles. But everything went fine and we were able to maintain station adequately."

Having the support ship close by allows mine warfare forces to stay on station longer, clearing mines, McGoldrick, a 21-year Navy veteran explained.

Currently, mine warfare ships either self-deploy, or are transported via a heavy-lift ship, to the area of operations. Once on station, mine danger areas and narrow sea routes are slowly and systematically cleared to prepare for an amphibious landing or to allow warships and cargo vessels to safely transit the area. Speed is not a factor. It is a time consuming business.

High-speed vessels like Joint Venture change all that. Rush explained that the ship's ability to get to and from an area quickly, launch and recover mine countermeasures helicopters, house unmanned underwater vehicles and transport MCM divers all make the design attractive to Navy leaders.

"Right now, to do mine warfare (in preparation for an amphibious landing), it's very obvious that you're doing it near the coast," Rush said. "The enemy knows that you're preparing for a landing in the area, so maybe we want to use the high speed to go in and drop off some unmanned (underwater) vehicles (UUVs), then scoot back out to sea to safe water and let those UUVs do their job. Then we can recover them to find out what's on the bottom. I think there's a lot of promise in doing things more stealthily." The ability to get in and out of an area quickly adds to the vessel's stealth.

While Mine Warfare Command, along with NWDC and Coastal Systems Station, Panama City, Fla., are developing other Naval applications for the unique vessel, Joint Venture was only one part of the advanced mine warfare exercise.

Three coastal mine hunters and a mine countermeasures ship

were the main part of the exercise. The crews of those Ingleside, Texas, based ships concentrated on finding and clearing the waterways of sea mines.

"Our objective was to hunt, find and identify mines to make sure that the area would be safe for other vessels traveling through the waterway," McGoldrick explained.

That objective didn't just apply to a small part of the crew who were directly involved in minehunting.

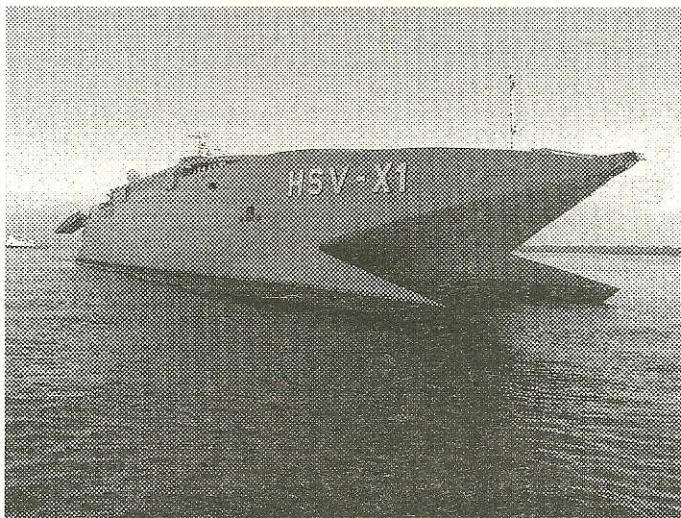
"When we start minehunting, the whole ship gets involved. It's not just the guys in Combat doing their thing while the guys in Engineering do their thing. The whole ship gets involved," McGoldrick explained.

"I've been in command a little over a year and this is, by far, the best opportunity I've had to do mine hunting training," Laxen said.

"We really came together during this exercise," explained Information Systems Technician Second Class (Surface Warfare) Jason Montanez, Communication Officer aboard Robin. "I've been in other exercises where we didn't seem to 'gel' as closely as we did during this exercise. If one ship had a problem with a piece of equipment, another ship would be able to help out and get the job done."

Chief McGoldrick explained that the team effort among the ships was a primary concern. "My main focus was making sure that the team was working together for a successful mission," McGoldrick said.

That team effort, along with testing new systems and incorporating high speed technology combined to make a realistic training exercise that prepares the mine force for today's missions, with an eye toward the future.



Panama City, Fla (Dec. 3, 2001) — The high speed vessel, Joint Venture, pulls into Port Panama City unaided by tugs prior to participating in Gulf of Mexico Exercise 02-1.





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just have to make due with little old me for a while till we can get this important billet filled. MNC Corvo is due to arrive from the gulf this summer though so all is not lost just yet.

On the exercise front, looks like four of us will be leaving during the tail end of MRCI week to head up the annual Foal Eagle exercise in Korea. Right behind that comes Cobra Gold and CARAT in Thailand. Unfortunately, we will not be going to Australia this year as many of the crew had hoped for but hey, there's always next year right? LT Wright has her transfer orders to detach in October to the Atlantic Ordnance Command at which time LT Cross will be coming in to relieve her. Hey, it looks like I might be able to have some luck in spearfishing now that "Big John" Iwaniec has left the island and the fish population is coming back - HA! That's about it for this issue from sunny Okinawa. Good luck to all the WESTPAC MOMAU's on their upcoming inspection cycle.



## **MOMAU ELEVEN CHARLESTON**

**MNC (SW) M.A. Morus**

Greetings from the Low Country

I'd like to start off by saying "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to MNC David W. Patton. He'll be transferring to the Fleet Reserve after 26 years of faithful service, his expertise and guidance will be greatly missed, but not forgotten. I'd also like to say welcome aboard MNCS(SW) David Walker who will be MNC Patton's replacement. He should be onboard by the time this hits the streets.

We've been very busy here in the Low Country with a schedule that included several mine plants along with a highly successful ESI followed by the fleet introduction of the Quickstrike Mine family to MOMAU 11. Thanks to the team from Coastal Systems Station for helping us take on this new mission. MOMAU 11 continues to grow by the day in mission type and personnel and we look forward to being a fully integrated ET/Service shop in the near future.

**Awards:** Congratulations to the following personnel who were awarded the following:

**MNSN Sellers** — Navy Achievement Medal  
**MN1 Ortiz** — Letter of Commendation  
**MN3 Carte** — Letter of Commendation  
**MN3 Campbell** - Letter of Commendation  
**MN3 Seabrook** — Letter of Commendation  
**MNSN Conklin** - Letter of Commendation

**Re-Enlistments:** MNI Ortiz for 4 years with a Zone "B" SRB.  
MN2 Bishop for 6 years with a Zone "B" SRB.

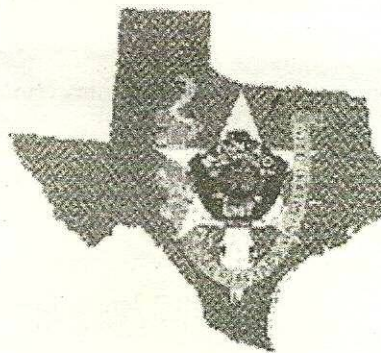
**Family Additions:** Congratulations to MNSN Reed on the birth of her son and to MN3 Musil on the birth of his son.

**Gains:** We would like to welcome aboard our newest members of the MOMAU 11 team: **MNC (SW) Morus**, **MNC (BW) Shelton**, and **MN1 (SW) Elsbury**.

**Losses:** We would like to say thanks for a job well done and good luck to the following individuals who will be departing: **MN2 Gray** to the USS Devastator, **MN2 Bishop** to the USS Dextrous, and **MN1 Ortiz** to USS Ardent.



## **MOMAU TWELVE MISAWA**



## **MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE**

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