



The DASHPOT



Issue 41 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Spring 2003



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Paul Santa Maria

Congratulations to MN1 Stephanie Cowart, our newest Ensign Select. We are all proud of you, Stephanie, and, without a doubt, you will continue to make us proud of you as you continue up the ranks!

I would also like to congratulate and welcome my two new appointments as ex-officio members to the Board of Directors as approved by the Board of Directors: the Dashpot Editor, Bill Fortner and the AOM webmaster, Phil Dechene. Thank you both for your hard work and dedication.

Speaking of hard work and dedication, I would also like to thank Director Bill Roberts for his outstanding analysis and recommendations on various areas of our by-laws, and also to those who contributed constructive thoughts and comments which led to the decision for leaving the by-laws unchanged. Let me assure all our members that we may meet only once a year, but important business is in continuum year round.

Our thanks go out to "Swede" and Irma Carlson and Frank Butler for their generous contributions to our Scholarship Fund. Education costs continue to rise as we all know and that makes continued contributions and successful auctions at the reunions. Thank you!!

Time is fleeting by and, before we realize it, reunion time will be upon us. Bootsie and I are looking forward with much enthusiasm and anxiety to be together with this great family of ours. Please take advantage of the form at the end of the newsletter and get your reservations in early.

For those of you who are artistically inclined, or know someone who is, please contact me as I have a simple project in mind. Presently, I have been working on a belt buckle design and have submitted it to a couple of manufacturers. Please let me know if that is of interest to you. If so, they will be available at the reunion.

A few months back, I had the once in a lifetime experience ... having libations with Superman. Much to my amazement, I discovered that Superman is not a mild mannered newspaper reporter, but, LO and BEHOLD, a famous Mineman.



SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED!

See you all in San Diego! GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

By Swede Carlsen

NOW HEAR THIS!
NOW HEAR THIS!

Our on-going battle with the high costs of college tuition is still on the front burner.

The AOM has \$10,600 in the challenge fund drawing 6.2% on a \$5,000 CD and 2.5% on a \$5,600 CD. The interest from both will be used towards a \$500

scholarship. The general scholarship fund has over \$2,000 for more annual scholarships. The AOM'S support of the scholarship program has been supplemented by Memorial scholarships in the names of Doreen Stryker and Kay Branan, thanks to the Stryker and Branan families.

The scholarship committee is looking forward to receiving applications so we will be able to select the scholarship recipients for 2003.

The committee is sure the membership has many college bound and in-school relatives, friends, and acquaintances who

should submit an application for an AOM scholarship. You can request applications from the Chair of the Scholarship Committee:

William (Swede) Carlsen
1925 Pilgrim Ave
Bronx, NY 10461-4001

or the Secretary/Treasurer:

Curtis Christian
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As you know your donations given to



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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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2003 REUNION COMMITTEE Warren Savage

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the scholarship funds are tax-exempt and will give you a little relief from Uncle Sam's long arm called taxes.

If you designate your contribution to the "President's Challenge Fund," the AOM will have more monies earning interest towards our scholarships. Whichever of the two funds, the challenge or the general scholarship, you contribute to, it will benefit the scholarship recipients and the AOM.

THINK SCHOLARSHIP!

Be an Easter Bunny and give an Easter egg in the form of a scholarship donation.

We hope to see you at the reunion in San Diego and don't forget to make your bids high on the items that will be auctioned off at the AOM'S picnic!

Check out Scholarship Search @fastweb.com on the internet for info on other scholarships.

STAND TALL AMERICA

THE FEWER THE FACTS... THE STRONGER THE OPINION.



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

By Curtis Christian

Hello to all of you out there in MINEMAN land.

We have had a good year so far. Lost a few members and gained a few.

Sure wish that we could get some of the YOUNG active duty folks to Join. I know — at my age most everyone is young compared to me.

Maybe we could get some brand new COMOMAG and some new ENS select to put in a good word for us. (smile)

Unfortunately we have a number of members who have not renewed their dues this year. After this posting of the DashPot I will drop those who I have not heard from. With the price of gas now you get a years dues for only 10 gallons.

At this posting our Finances are doing OK. This is the first time since I took this position that I feel comfortable with the finances. We have monies to pay our upcoming debits without borrowing funds from other accounts. As always we need donations for the scholarship funds. I will combine our two CDs this year so that we can draw the interest in time to use it for the new school year in Aug./Sep.

Fish Are Always Biting — Come on to my house.

29TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN (AOM) REUNION SAN DIEGO, CA, AUGUST 8-10, 2003.

By Warren Savage

We only have a few more months until our Reunion in San Diego, CA. Thanks to everyone, most importantly our Association of Minemen (AOM) President, our Directors, as well as involved members and friends, for their assistance in our pulling together our Reunion. We are looking forward to our 29th annual Association of Minemen (AOM) reunion to be held from Friday, 8 August to Sunday, 10 August 2003 in San Diego, California at the Handlery Hotel and Resort. This hotel location was selected by the AOM Reunion Committee Team to house our reunion as well as most of our annual functions and activities. Our 1996 AOM reunion was also held at this same location and received "WELL DONE" from those in attendance.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort is located at 950 Hotel Circle North in San Diego only minutes from the San Diego International Airport (Lindbergh Field) in the heart of Mission Valley. The 29th Association of Minemen Reunion is being planned and operated by a nucleus TEAM consisting of BILL BASH, GARY CLELAND, W.C. HOLLOWAY, JERRY CHIPMAN, JIM MILLER and WARREN SAVAGE as well as other southern California AOM members. We eagerly look forward to this event as one to be truly remembered and surpassing our 23rd AOM reunion held at the same San Diego site.

The TEAM is in the process of putting together activities, which include our annual EARLY BIRD banquet, a picnic and auction as well as a planned golf endeavor and annual meetings. We are looking forward to making this truly a FAMILY oriented function that enhances networking and camaraderie.

The Early Bird reception will be held on Friday 1600 at poolside in the POOL ROOM with refreshments available. This will be a great opportunity to meet and mix. There will be maps and handouts available as well as photos from the past.

The Board of Directors meeting will be held Friday evening and Saturday morning, 8 and 9 August.

The General Membership meeting will be held on Saturday, 9 August starting at 1400 hours.

The Picnic and Auction will be held Sunday, 10 August 2003.

We will be using our Dashpot and WEBSITE to keep everyone up to speed on what is happening. We are looking forward to a GREAT and MEANINGFUL REUNION.

To make arrangements with the HANDLERY HOTEL and RESORT at 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108, Phone 1-800-676-6567 weekdays 7AM-7PM PST. or 1-619-298-0511 and FAX 1-619-298-9793. Room Rates are \$104.00 plus tax, single or double. We have group rates for the Association of Minemen (AOM) available three days prior and three days following the Reunion. The cut-off date for Group Reservation is 8 July 2003.



LEANING ON THE TAFFRAIL



USS *Shea* (DM-30)

John Joseph Shea, born in Cambridge, Mass., on 13 January 1898, enlisted in the Naval Reserve Force on 11 June 1918. At the time of his release from active duty in 1919, he was promoted to the rank of ensign. He was honorably discharged in 1921 and reappointed in 1923. With the abolition of the Naval Reserve Force in 1925, he was transferred to the Fleet Reserve. In 1941, he was transferred to the Regular Navy in the rank of lieutenant commander. Lt. Comdr. Shea was serving in *Wasp* (CV-7) on 15 September 1942, when she was torpedoed and sunk by the Japanese. He left the relative safety of his own station to direct the fight against the raging inferno on *Wasp's* flight deck. Amid frequent explosions and flying debris, he worked to save the carrier. He was leading out another hose to continue the struggle against the fires in a ready ammunition room when a shattering explosion occurred. In all probability, Lt. Comdr. Shea died in that explosion; but, lacking concrete proof of death, he was declared Missing in Action until a year and a day later when he was declared legally dead. Shea was awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart medals and was promoted to commander, all posthumously.

Shea, a destroyer minelayer, was laid down on 23 December 1943 by Bethlehem Steel Co. yard at Staten Island, N.Y., as DD-750, an *Allen M. Sumner* class destroyer; launched on 20 May 1944; sponsored by Mrs. John J. Shea; modified to be a destroyer minelayer and redesignated DM-30 in late 1944, and commissioned at the New York Navy Yard on 30 September 1944, Comdr. Charles C. Kirkpatrick in command.

Shea spent 15 more days completing her fitting-out. She then loaded ammunition at Earle and Bayonne, N.J., returned briefly to New York, and departed for her shakedown cruise on 21 October 1944. She

completed shakedown training at and around Great Sound Bay Bermuda, and was underway for Norfolk, Va., on 16 November. *Shea's* crew underwent a month of further training in the Norfolk area before embarking, 13 December, for Brooklyn, N.Y., arriving the next day.

From Brooklyn, *Shea* moved on to San Francisco Bay, California. Sailing with TG 27.3, she transited the Panama Canal, 20-22 December, and made San Francisco on the last day of 1944. Four days later, she was underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and 13 more days of training exercises. Another round of training complete, she steamed out of Pearl Harbor bound for Eniwetok Atoll in the western Pacific, arriving on 2 March. After 17 days in the vicinity of Eniwetok, her crew engaged in still more of the perennial training exercises. *Shea* departed for Ulithi Atoll on the first leg of her cruise into the real war at Okinawa.

On 19 March 1945, she sailed from Ulithi and joined TG 52.3. By 24 March, *Shea* was off Okinawa helping prepare the way for the 1 April invasion. While her primary mission was to protect and assist the minesweepers clearing the area of enemy mines, she also stood radar picket duty all around Okinawa. During the period 24 March-4 May, she was constantly fending off Japanese air attacks and guarding against enemy submarines. Moreover, she probably sank or severely damaged at least one submarine and, on 16 April, in the space of 10 minutes, splashed no less than six enemy planes.

On the morning of 4 May 1945 *Shea* was en route to radar picket duty 20 miles NE of Zampa Misaki, Okinawa. She arrived just after 0600, having encountered two Japanese aircraft along the way, firing on both and possibly splashing one. Upon receipt of reports indicating the approach of large Japanese air formations, *Shea's* crew went to General Quarters. Soon thereafter, a "considerable smoke haze blew over the ship from the Hagushi beaches" and "visibility was at a maximum 5,000 yards." At 0854 a single enemy Betty was sighted six miles distant, and, four minutes later, one was shot down by *Shea*-directed CAP. At 0859, five minutes after the initial sighting, a lookout spotted a Japanese baka bomb on *Shea's* starboard beam, closing the ship at better than 450 knots. Almost instantaneously, the baka crashed *Shea* "on the starboard side of her bridge structure, entering the sonar room, traversing the chart house, passageway and hatch, and exploding

beyond the north side on the surface of the water. Fire broke out in the mess hall, CIC, chart house, division commander's stateroom, # 2 upper handling room, and compartment A-304-L."

Shea lost all ship's communications, 5" gun mounts numbers 1 and 2 were inoperative, and the forward port 20-millimeter guns were damaged. The main director was jammed and the gyro and computer rendered unserviceable. One officer and 26 men were killed, and 91 others were wounded to varying degrees.

With repair parties and survivors from damaged areas scurrying about, helping the wounded and fighting fires, *Shea*, listing 5 degrees to port, began limping off to Hagushi and medical assistance. She arrived there at 1052; her most seriously wounded crew members were transferred to *Crescent City* (APA-21), and the bodies of the 27 dead were removed for burial on Okinawa. *Shea* then resumed her limping, this time to Kerama Retto anchorage. At Kerama Retto, she underwent repairs and disgorged all but 10 percent of her ammunition. In addition, much of her gear, particularly radar and fighter direction equipment, was transferred to DesRon 2 for distribution to less severely damaged ships. After a memorial service on 11 May for her dead crewmen and the removal of some armament, *Shea* was underway on 15 May to join convoy OKU #4 (TU 51.29.9), heading for Ulithi Atoll.



USS Shea Battle Damage

Shea got underway from Ulithi on 27 May 1945 and, after a three-day layover at Pearl Harbor, departed for Philadelphia on 9 June. She arrived at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 2 July, visiting San Diego and transiting the Panama Canal en route. *Shea* underwent extensive repairs and post-repair trials before leaving Philadelphia on 11 October for shakedown at Casco Bay, Maine. While in the area, *Shea* celebrated her first peacetime Navy Day at Bath, Maine.

From 1946 to late 1953, *Shea* was engaged in normal operations with the Atlantic Fleet. Assigned to

MinDiv 2 and based at Charleston, S.C., she ranged the Atlantic seaboard and Caribbean Sea. This employment was interrupted late in 1950 by a Mediterranean cruise, during which she visited Trieste on a liaison mission with the British forces in the area. *Shea* returned to Charleston and the Atlantic Fleet on 1 February 1951 and remained so engaged until September 1953 when she reentered the Pacific.



USS Shea entering Havana harbor during Operation Springboard 1953. The *Shea* was the last US Navy vessel to visit Havana before Castro took over.

Shea spent the remainder of her active service in the Pacific, based at Long Beach, California. She participated in numerous minelaying and antisubmarine exercises off the West Coast, covering the area from Mexico north to British Columbia and west to Hawaii. In the spring of 1954, she made her only excursion out of that area when she took part in the atomic tests conducted at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. This was her first and only return to any of her old World War II haunts. She arrived back in Long Beach on 28 May and remained in the area until 9 April 1958 when she was placed out of commission in reserve. *Shea* continued in this reserve status until 1 September at which time, after being surveyed and deemed not to be up to fleet standards, she was stricken from the Navy list.

Shea earned one battle star for her part in the Okinawa campaign during World War II.

2004 REUNION CHARLESTON

The Town and Country Inn has been selected for our reunion functions, located on Savannah Highway Charleston, SC. Room rates are \$74.00 plus tax per night. King and Queen beds available. The '04 reunion is 8, 9, 10 Oct. Rates are good from 6-12 Oct. Hospitality room for the weekend. All functions except the picnic will be held at the Inn.

More info to follow.

DO NOT TRY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS AT THIS TIME.



BINNACLE LIST

Harold Elston

Harold Elston underwent quadruple by-pass heart surgery on Wednesday, January 8. Hal is recovering at home and doing well.

Phil DeChene

Phil DeChene underwent a five by-pass heart operation Thursday morning the 13th of February. Phil's wife Evelyn said it was on the spur of the moment as Phil had a stress test on Wednesday and they operated on him on Thursday! Evelyn said all went well and he is on the slow road to recovery. On the 27th of February, Phil wrote and thanked all who prayed for him and said that he was beginning to build up some strength. He said it might be a while until he gets back to the web page as he still gets a little woozy if he stays on the computer too long.

John Loonam

John Loonam wrote that he was on crutches recovering from foot surgery to correct a collapsed arch on his left foot.

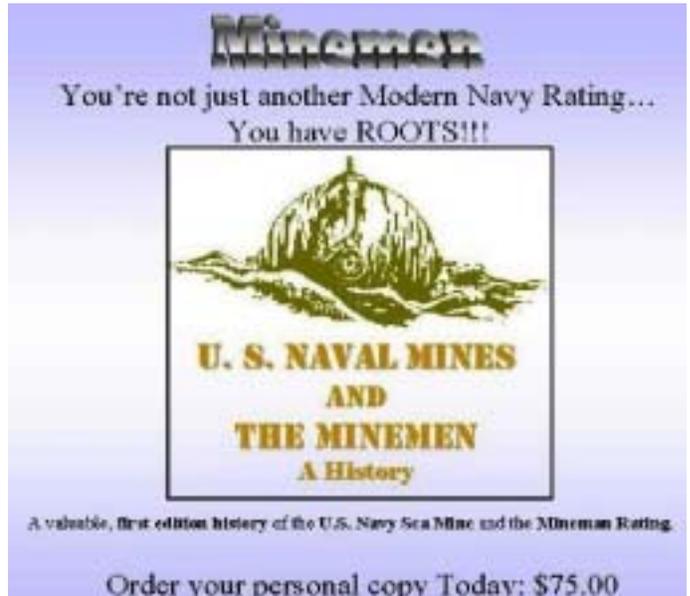
Bill Fortner

Your beloved Dashpot editor had a cataract removed from his left eye on Monday, the 17th of February. The operation was a success and painless although I think the anesthesiologist could have been a bit more generous. I will mention that to him before the next one. My vision is clearing nicely and I am no longer able to use temporary blindness as an excuse to get out of anything.

After 30, it's just patch, patch, patch ...

HISTORY BOOK AVAILABILITY

Minemen new and old would be proud to own this history of mines and Minemen. The book would make a great gift to loved ones that have worn the MN rating badge. If you are in the book, give as gifts to your children. If you are philanthropic, donate one to your local library (tax deductible). Does your ships library have a copy? As the number of mine sites shrink, here is a record of many "used to be" sites. Have it embossed at your local religious book store.



The cover of the book is hard bound, dark blue w/ gold letters and a gold floating mine. The book is "coffee table size", has 176 pages on glossy paper and is well written. This Historical Document covers a period from 1777 to 1975, and contains about 361 large & small pictures, 23 drawings and 7 charts.

Send in your name, address and check or M. O. for \$75 (includes shipping) to:

Association of Minemen
PO Box 71835
Charleston SC 29415-1835

AOM WEB SITE PAGE ERRORS

Will every entity and individual mentioned on any of the AOM web pages check your entry and send an update to Phil Dechene at pdechene@triad.rr.com.

Confirmation of correct data is welcome.



TAPS

Tom Alva Beasley

Tom Alva Beasley, age 82, died October 30, 2002 at Centennial Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo King Beasley; daughter, Barbara (Dean) Heady of Linden; son, Jeffery (Gloria) Beasley of Dickson; grandchildren, Jason Heady of Smithville, MS, Vanessa Heady of Abeline, TX, Joel Heady of Huntsville, AL, Rachel Mayes of Sedalia, KY, Rebekah Beasley of Nashville, TN, Ben Beasley of Dickson; great-grandchildren Nash Heady and Autumn Mayes; one nephew and 5 nieces. He was a member of the Linden Church of Christ, a retired Naval Veteran of World War II and a Pearl Harbor survivor. Funeral services were held Saturday, November 2, 2002 at Young funeral Home.



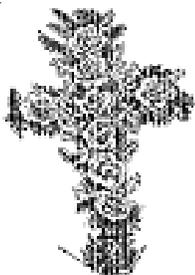
Wanda Carruthers

On 9/27/02, A. E. "Gunner" Carruthers, USN, (Ret.) provided the following sad news: "It's been a rough 15 months, my lovely wife of 55 years, Wanda, was killed in an automobile accident last year. I am trying to hang in there."



Weldon O Diggs

Weldon O Diggs, 82, passed away Friday February 21, 2003 in Williamsburg, VA. Survived by his wife Virginia and sons Barry & Brian and several grand and great grandchildren. Weldon retired as an MN1 I believe and then worked at Yorktown finishing up 40 years Military & Civil Service with the QA Department at Yorktown. Burial was in Mathews County VA where he was born. (John Loonam reporting)



Fredrick F. Jewett II

Fredrick F. Jewett II Capt., USN, (Ret.) Capt. Jewett of Toms River, NJ died at 80 years of age Friday, January 24, 2003 at his home. Capt. Jewett, a combat veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, was born in Schenectady, NY and moved to Toms River in 1977. He graduated from Elmira Free Academy in Elmira, NY and joined the Navy's V-5 program as a Naval Aviation Cadet in August 1942. Navy sponsored Ground School and Civilian Pilot Training at St. Lawrence University and the Navy's Preflight School at Athens, GA followed until his discharge to enter the US Naval Academy in June 1943 as a member of the 19th Company. He graduated on June 5, 1946 with the World War II accelerated wartime class of 1947, 16th Company. Tours in destroyer-minesweeper Rodman, cruiser Huntington and the destroyer Compton followed.

During the Korean War, he served as navigator, operations officer and communications officer of the rocket ship USS LSMR-403; served as an instructor in Ordnance and Gunnery at the Naval Academy; as communications officer and staff navigator for Commander, Cruiser Division SIX while embarked in Battleship New Jersey; as executive officer and navigator of destroyer escort Howard D. Crow followed by a two year assignment at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA where he received his master of science degree in electrical engineering.

In September 1960 he assumed his first command at sea, the ocean minesweeper Fearless. In December 1962 he was ordered as Officer in Charge of the Naval Mine Engineering Facility, Yorktown, VA. Command of the destroyer Beatty followed from November 1965 to February 1968. From March 1968 to June 1969 during the Vietnam War, he first served as a plans officer on the staff of Commander, US Military Assist and Command, Saigon, Vietnam, then reported for duty as Commander Task Force Clearwater for duty as Commander Task Force Clearwater, the operational commander of all Naval forces on the Perfume and Cua Viet. In 1969, Capt. Jewett assumed command of Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA for two years then served as staff of Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force, Norfolk. For his final two year tour in the Navy, he was given command of the NAVSURFLANT Readiness Support Group, Norfolk.

In addition to the Legions of Merit and Combat Action Ribbon, Capt. Jewett was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Korean Service Medal with five campaign stars, two Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medals, two Republic of Vietnam unit citations, the Korean War Service Medal and various World War II and other campaign and service medals.

Following retirement, Capt. Jewett began a second career at Admiral Farragut Academy, Pine Beach,

NJ, where he first served as Commandant of Cadets, then chairman of the mathematics and science departments and teacher of various mathematics courses. He continued to teach at the Academy until its closing in June, 1994. He was selected Teacher of the Year at the Academy in 1986 and 1989. He was an Eagle Scout and one-time Scoutmaster and was a life member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Barbara (nee Fitzgerald); three children, Jeffery of Bowie, MD, Kimberly J. Fiser of Cincinnati, OH and Brian of Champagne, IL; two half brothers, Philip Minos of North Carolina and Royal Jewett Jr. of Ohio; half sister Jennifer Dart of Connecticut; four grandsons, Dennis and Alan Fiser and Eric and Gregory Jewett. A graveside service with full military honors took place Thursday, February 6, 2003 at 3 p.m. at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Condolences may be sent to www.ryanfuneralhome.com.



John William Koerber, Jr

John William Koerber, Jr., LCDR, USN, (Ret.), age 81, passed away 1/11/03. John retired with 27 years Naval service. A WW II vet worked in mines, EOD, instructor at Minewarfare School Yorktown and NWS Yorktown. John is survived by his wife of 54 years, Shirley. Funeral services will be private. Condolence messages to the family on line at www.altmeyer.com (John Loonam reports)



Karen Muzak

Karen Muzak, MN3 was killed in a car accident at Det. 4, Scotland back in 1989 or 1990. About 18 months before Lt(jg) Mack.



Thomas V. Monzo

Thomas V. Monzo, MN3. Active duty from 54-59. passed away about 11 years ago 1991. Monzo was living in North Versailles, PA. near Pittsburgh. (Phil Beckwith reports)



Hayden Ross-Clunis

This mornings paper 1/7/03 had Hayden Ross-Clunis NMWEA Engineer, 70, retired, Seaford, VA passed away on 1/6/03. No details yet. He frequently attended the ROFT luncheons. (John Loonam reports)



Pat Russell

A few minutes ago Blas "Joe" Hernandez called stating that George Russell called him last night about the passing of his wife Pat on February 22, 2003. She had been fighting cancer for about 15 months and was very sick at the last. A lovely lady that will be missed.

George Russell
10806 S. Blossom Tree Lane
Sandy, UT 84070
1-801-572-6224
Prussell902@cs.com



Nelda L. Sikorski

Nelda L. Sikorski. Was reading the taps list and noticed my wife's name was not listed. My name is A. J. (SKI) Sikorski MNCM served from Nov. 20, 1947 until Aug. 2, 1976. My Wife, Nelda L. Sikorski died in her sleep on Apr. 2, 2002. Any further information needed please contact me via email.

Thank you.
Ski



Scott G. Slaughter

Scott G. Slaughter, born 1937; Mineman, UDT/Seal. Retired after 28 years in the Navy and passed away from cancer August 21, 2002. He lived in Florida (Al Boreen reports)



James E. Trick

James (JIM) E. Trick, MNC, (Ret) passed away at age 69 from a long illness. Jim went into the hospital right after his birthday on Dec 6 2002 and passed away Dec 30 at 1300. He retired on February 7, 1972 and resided at Haverhill, MA. Jim was a Dashpot contributor.

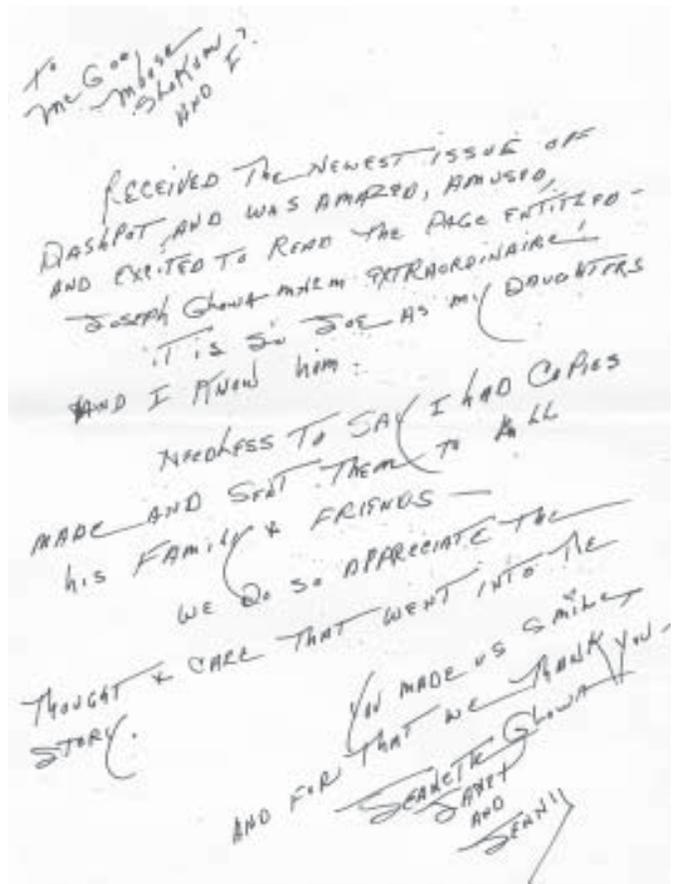




MAIL BAG



The AOM received this delightful Christmas card from Don Branan, a strong AOM Scholarship Fund supporter and patron of the Kay Branan Memorial Scholarship.



Arthur W. Cook, LCDR, USN (Ret.)
51 Plymouth Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909
6 October 2002
Phone 843-705-5756
nelliebly@davtv.com

Hi,
I noted from the Fall issue of "the Dashpot" that I am past due to pay my yearly dues. Please find my check for the 02/03 dues.

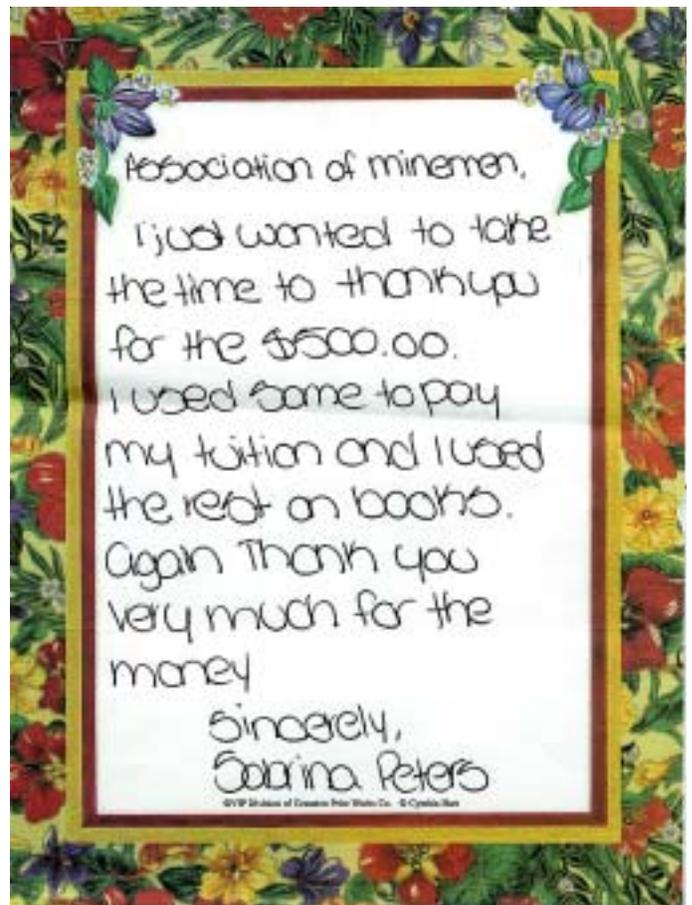
There was a reunion of the crews of the USS Shannon (DM 25) last week in Williamsburg. We had 69 members that attended this one. There was one couple from Nevada and a couple from California. The next reunion, next year, will be in Tucson, Arizona and likely in 2004 it will be way up in Maine.

My wife and I had a good time. I was the Gun Boss/Mine Boss on the Shannon for a couple of years. We do not, now, plan to go to Tucson, but will likely go to Maine.

According to your newsletter you had a good number of mine people at your reunion.

I provided my computer address, but it is on the fritz at this time. I have had a computer man trying to fix it for the past several weeks, but now have decided to buy a new Dell computer. Should be back on the circuit in about two weeks now.

Best wishes,
Nell & Art Cook





December 27, 2002

Dear Bill,
First I hope you had a great holiday season. I have a picture of a sign that was designed and painted by Phil DeChene in 1957 in Barber's Pointe, Hawaii. Phil and I went through "A" School together in Yorktown and were stationed at Barber's Pointe, Hawaii. I think Phil did a great job on this sign. I thought this would be a nice addition in The Dash-pot for the readers to see. One question Phil and I have, does anyone know what mine this is? I made greeting cards out of this picture and will enclose one also. There is no need to return the picture or the card.

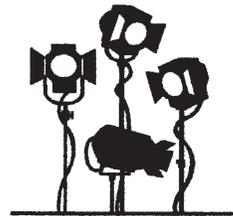
Well the best to you. My wife and I are looking forward to the Charleston re-union. We had a great time in Williamsburg/Yorktown.

Torn Hoffman
2266 East Hurd Rd.
Monroe, Michigan 48162-9354
(734) 289-2279
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FROM THE STOREKEEPER



The Storekeeper advised me that, in the future, I will have to put in a chit to speak to her in light of her new, august standing in the Mine Force



MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BIG FISH

By MNCS John Bray

It seems that since Big John Iwaniec finally left the island last year, Okinawa's fish stocks are finally returning and there are some fish to spear. I only wish John had been here to witness the "expansive" grin on my face when I flopped out of the water with that one!



Senior Chief Mineman John Bray displaying a nice Okinawan Ulua speared recently while freediving.



Big John Iwaniec with one of his trophies.



FLEET NEWS



MN1 Stephanie Cowart

MN1 Stephanie Cowart was selected as Ensign under the Navy's Limited Duty Officer program and will receive her commission 1 April 2004.

The AOM and the entire staff of the Dashpot congratulate you on your achievement.

MINE ASSEMBLY NEWS



By MNCM(SW) J. L. Williams
COMOMAG CMC

Greetings to everyone throughout the Mine Warfare world, active, reserve and retired, deployed and at home, on shore and at sea. We are a diverse and demanding community with some of the very best Sailors the Navy has ever produced. COMOMAG has seen several changes since we last reported, closing out the last issue of the Dashpot with the retirement and Change of Command of CDR R. E. Swart, and the assumption in command by CDR T. W. Auberry, kudos to the editor for a great photo layout of those events. As we go to press, world events are unfolding at an unprecedented pace and our community continues to undergo many changes. We recently saw the closing of MOMAU 3 in Earle, New Jersey, passing its mission on to the capable men and women of MOMAU 11 in Charleston, South Carolina. CDR Auberry and I had the pleasure of attending the closing ceremonies and witnessed that memorable event in MOMAG history. MOMAU 3 and its location will be missed and her Sailors have all PCS'ed to other areas in our community. We also visited the Central Drill Site in Ft Worth, Texas, seeing first hand the incredible job our community does with our Reserve counterparts. MNC(SW) Gonzales and MN1 Finney head that facility and their hard work running this program has been truly miraculous. Congratulations also go out to MN1 Scott Finney who was recently recognized by the Association as the 2002 Mineman of the Year. He is an outstanding Petty Officer and an excellent example of the best of the best.

Despite a myriad of other year end taskings, we closed out 2002 with our annual command Holiday Party at one of the local Country Clubs, along with the Children's Holiday Party with a visit from Santa and all his helpers. A great time was had by all, except for a lengthy tug-of-war during the gift exchange for the espresso machine and cordless screwdriver. No one came to blows, but those were surprisingly popular gifts.

2003 is now well underway, and COMOMAG is as busy as ever, especially in these times of tight budgets and limited resources. New program roll-outs and modifications continue, and you all can count on maximum support for all the staff on your individual command priorities. We are now in the

final stages of completing the long process of billet structure reorganization, and are beginning to see the benefits of this realignment effort. The changes are many, but basically close out the reassignment of many MN billets from past MOMAU closings (7/14/3) to bring all remaining MOMAU/MOMAD's up-to-date, accurately matching manning to mission requirements. It's been a long process, but the painstakingly hard work associated with this and the benefits of getting it right are laying the foundation for our future success. Other recent events include:

BZ's to the following outstanding Sailors:

4Q02 Staff SOQ	MN2 Jennifer Dillabough
2002 Staff SOY	YN2(AW) Amber Pratt
2002 MOMAG SOY	MN1(SW) Steven McMillian (MOMAU 10 SOY)

Advanced:

MN3 Edward Gardner
IT1(SW) Joshua Dennis

We unfortunately also had to say goodbye to some good Shipmates over the past several months, they included:

YN3(SW) Michelle Pinto – VP1
SK2 Ivonne Ramos - EAOS
OS1 Roy Easler - COMSECONDFLT
IT1 Irene Hammer - EAOS
MN1(SW) Gerald Starr – Fleet Reserve
MN1(SW/AW) Butler – MOMAU 11
MNC(SW) Jennifer Lauffenburger – Fleet reserve
MNC(SW) Thomas Vail - USS Ardent
SKC(AW) Jamie Earlywine – USS Kennedy
MNC(SW) Ronald Johnson – USS Falcon
SKCS(SW/AW) Stanley Swiss – Fleet ILO Team

We welcomed aboard the following recent arrivals:

IT1(SW) Joshua Dennis
MNC(SW) Frank Kent
SK2(SW) Eunice Defro
SKC(SW) Daniel Gonzales
YNC(SW) Shawn Sanders

That about wraps up events for this issue, remember to visit the COMOMAG world wide web site for updates on a variety of issues, useful web links to Navy sites and programs, and current contact info as needed. The address is: www.comomag.navy.mil As always, if you need help with an issue, feel free to contact the staff for assistance. 'Til next time, God Bless, Take Care and Stay Safe.



MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

By LCDR K. L. Miller

CO's CORNER. Spring is here! Spring is here! Yippee! Wait a minute, it's Spring here most of the year in Sunny Seal Beach! This morning, I received an email from Donna Loehr, a friend that I worked with at AEGIS TECHREP in Moorestown, NJ. She described the fresh coat of snow that blanketed the area last night. While reading that, all I could think of was the Sunny Surf that is just a stones throw away!



WHAT???? NO SNOW????
Unit One Christmas '02

We wrapped up November with a feast of Thanksgiving and the start of Hanukkah. With Christmas looming, December was jam packed with activities. On the 2nd, we observed Native American History Month with a presentation covering the Navajo code talkers by MN2(SW) Vernon Saunders and a potluck luncheon held in the crew's lounge. On the 6th, the Los Angeles chapter of Destroyer Escort Sailors Association (DESA) and Navy League (NL) delivered holiday dinner baskets and grocery gift cards to our sailors. These baskets are truly remarkable as they included everything needed for a spectacular holiday feast from a ham and turkey through eggs and sugar with everything in between!



DESA Members

On the 7th, we watched Navy roll over Army while enjoying our Children's Christmas Party. Again this year, the fine members of DESA stepped up and hit a homerun with our children. A clown dazzled the children before all enjoyed a warm heartfelt potluck meal finished off with fabulous desserts provided by the ladies of DESA. A visit from Santa topped off this great day for all. I want to take a second and thank the President of DESA, Mr. Jim Lamberth, their XO, Mr. Earl Johnson, along with past president, Mr. Paul Scott. They are just a few of the many wonderful members of DESA that have gone "Above and Beyond" for my crew.



Children's Christmas Party

The evening of the 12th marked our Command Christmas Party. This year, we held it onboard the Queen Mary. It is a grand vessel that was a fitful setting for our party that lasted into the night. Our holiday leave period kicked off on the 13th with many sailors departing to point across the continent to be with family and friends. On the 20th, MNCM(SW) Mark Zinnel judged the Christmas decorations of each department. Although ADMIN took an early lead, Production topped everyone with their Santa snare and Christmas tree, and QA placing second.

MN2(SW) Matthew Heyer and MN2(SW) Saunders flexed their know how onboard USNS Navajo off Silver Strand, California and ASDV-1 off Red Beach in Camp Pendleton from January 6th to the 10th for Transparent Hunter 03 mine lay. Over one hundred mines, from foreign VSW shapes to the MK65, were precisely placed for this crucial Mine Counter Measure exercise. MN2(SW) Heyer, our lead Fork Truck trainer, conducted a course from 27 to 30 January for our newly reported personnel. We closed out the month with a Hail and Farewell at the CBQ. MWR provided the hotdogs and hamburgers while fine culinary dishes (read potluck) came in from the crew. On the 29th, Production Department flexed their MWR muscles cooking up mouth watering California Burgers and seared hotdogs. Punxsutawney Phil did not make it out here for Groundhogs Day, but February started with Type III Crane training course as taught by our own MNCS(SW/AW) Garrett Cecilio. That was followed closely with the start of the recovery of TH03 assets on the 10th. MNCS(SW/AW) Cecilio, along with MN3 Jesus Rivera and MN3 Shane Huddleston made the first of many retrieval attempts.



MNCS Cecilio on TH03 recovery.

On the 18th we tore a MK56 down to parade rest, and built it back to "A". It was a good training session that should help our sailors in the upcoming rating exam. Yesterday, we said goodbye to the Mobile Ordnance Training Team. They were here from the 24th to teach Fleet Sentencing. They offer a valuable training opportunity that will pay dividends in the long run. QA/OPS grilled up scrumptious hotdogs on the 26th for their MWR fundraiser. I promised CW04 Ric Hernandez, COMOMAG Gunner, that I would save him two for the upcoming Commanders Conference. They should fully harden by then!

HAILS & FAREWELLS. We have had a few new sailors join our family this quarter. MN1(SW) Jacob Mazurek joins us from the chilly shores of Saint Mawgan, United Kingdom where he worked for the Joint Maritime Communication Center. MN3 Misty Rains and her son Glen arrived from MOMAU Five in Guam. From the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence Ingleside, Texas came MNSN Shawn McFall and MNSA Arlan Madison.

On the 10th of December, we bid farewell to MN1 Laura Arthur as she heads to MOMAD Twelve in Misawa, Japan. MNC(SW) Dean Carr, wife Denise, and his family set sail on 17 January to Ingleside, Texas for duty aboard USS Pioneer. On Saint Valentine's day, MN1(SW) Frank Mendenhall departed for USS Ardent, in Manama, Bahrain.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION. YN2(SW) Roland Coates earned Sailor of the Year 2002 honors, receiving the Navy Achievement Medal. MNSN Christopher Miserlian was selected as our Blue Jacket of Year 2002, receiving a CO Letter of Commendation. CO Letters of Commendation awarded to MN2(SW) Matthew Heyer and MN3 Travis Baxter on selection to Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively. MN1(SW) Mazurek was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal for his noteworthy performance while stationed at JMCC Saint Mawgan, UK. MNC(SW) Carr's stellar performance during his tenure here earned him an end of tour Navy Achievement Medal. Military

Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals were awarded to MNC(SW) Carr and YN2(SW) Coates. MN2 Shane Stone's noteworthy efforts during the Combined Federal Campaign earned him a CO Letter of Appreciation. **Bravo Zulu to all!!**

IN THE TARGET QUEUE. The next quarter is full indeed. We will have our first Captains Cup Challenge in a few weeks. All are honing their foosball and horseshoe skills. DESA will again graciously host our Children's Easter Party. Preparations for our impending MRCI are at full steam. All that and the Commanders Conference in May!



MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

By MNCS(SW) Dave Ostrom

Saluto da Sicilia! The first part of 2003 saw MOMAU FIVE's participation in several Planning Conferences for MIW Exercises scheduled for the Mediterranean with our NATO/Partners for Peace nations. We have just completed the assembly and shipment of over 60 exercise and training mines for our 1st exercise east of here starting the first part of next quarter.

We are proud to announce that UNIT FIVE's Executive Officer, CW02 Baron Tillinghast, has been selected for LTJG under the LDO program.

UNIT FIVE received a new Air Compressor System in our Mine Production Facility. This is a very welcome addition to our Mine Assembly/Component Test/VEMS shops. The old system required constant maintenance and repairs. Our Host National Navy representatives did an outstanding job. Their direct coordination with Italian contractors and working closely with us ensured this project was successfully completed.

We have secured funds through CNE for a new "Mine Refurbishment System". We have started the process of identifying what type of equipment we will have installed (sandblast booth/paint booth/DRY compartment), looking at electrical power requirements, etc... This is another big project that will definitely enhance and accelerate the way we do mine refurbishment in Mine Production.

Bill Kearns and Mike Uzarski from CSS Panama City were onboard in February working closely with UNIT FIVE's VEMS techs. Bill and Mike provided an outstanding two-week "Tech/Training Assist Visit". Their efforts identified and corrected faults with our DATE/STS System and provided excellent training with the assembly and test of the MK74 VEM's.

Transfers: MN3 Kevin Dielman to NAVCRUITDIST Chicago IL, MN3 Robert Moses to USS SHRIKE (MHC 62), MN3 Brandy Hastings to USS CHIEF (MCM 14), MN3 John Shewburt to NAVCRUITDIST Jacksonville FL and MN3 Richard Crane to PHYSEC Duty Tinker AFB OK.

Arrivals: MN2(SW) Mark Floor from USS SCOUT (MCM 8) and MN1 Matt Greer from USS OSPREY (MHC 51).

BRAVO ZULU's: MOMAU FIVE's 2002 "Sailor of the Year" was awarded to YN1 Paul Lipsey and MN3 Jeramie Lane. Our 4th Quarter 2002 "SOQ's" are MN2 Jeff Tucker and MN3 David Reinertsen.

In closing: Are you looking for a very challenging and rewarding tour overseas? In the window to start negotiating orders with Chief East? Consider strongly a tour at MOMAU FIVE Sicily. You will work closely with our NATO counterparts during MIW training exercises, be assigned TAD to various locations throughout the Mediterranean and Europe. There are many off duty education opportunities here in Sigonella. Universities of Maryland, City Colleges of Chicago, Embry-Riddle and Excelsior College offer many classes and several may be even completed on-line. Military housing locations continue to grow, and one of the finest DODD's schools within Europe is right here. If you are interested, drop me a line anytime at ostromd@nassig.sicily.navy.mil. That is about all for this issue, will send our next update to the Summer DASHPOT edition. Stay safe, best wishes and success.



MOMAU EIGHT GUAM

By MNCS LeeAnn Baker

What an exciting and busy quarter it has been for the crew of MOMAU Eight! This will be my last submission from MOMAU 8, as I am transferring in a few days. We started out with a bang (not literally), and have been focusing most of our operational efforts towards the MK 67 SLMM mine. The systems testing STILL continues and by next summer, everyone in the command should be SLMM gurus. We are preparing for our second ESI inspection in a year, due to COMNAVMAR's ESI inspection cycle. Our regular workload was busy enough, but then add on the SLMMs, ESI Preps, and the wrath of Typhoon Pongsona. Everything came to a screaming halt on Dec 8th, and the command made a smooth transition from operational commitments to ice making to support the typhoon recovery efforts. The

crew averaged 8,000 lbs of ice a day to distribute to the base housing areas, Naval Hospital, and to our sister village, Talafofo.

Super Typhoon Pongsona hit the island with fury, with sustained winds of 160 and gusts to 184. While not as strong, the damage surpassed the damage caused by Super Typhoon Paka in 1997. Base housing was without power for 13 days, and as of today, Jan 11th, I am still without power out in town. There was no water for roughly 6 days on base, and it was until after Christmas for those of us out in town had our water restored.



Housing damage on Guam from Super Typhoon Pongsona

To make matters worse, one of Mobile's gas storage tanks caught on fire the night of the typhoon, and it along with 2 others burned for 8 days throwing the island into mass panic and a gas shortage. I say shortage, what I mean is NO GAS! So for the few lucky individuals who had generators, that luxury was short lived when you ran out of gas after the second day. There were stories of fights at gas stations and individuals having gas siphoned from their vehicles in the dead of the night.



Fuel tank fire raging in typhoon's wake.

The command sustained severe damage, including the loss of reefer 4. Our sheds had doors blown in, roofs blown off, and metal siding peeled away. We have shifted back to our work load, but continue storing ice, cleaning up, and trying to salvage our sheds. A heck of a way to go into an ESI inspection!



Reefer 4 damage.



Reefer 4 damage rear view.

Several command members had the opportunity of a lifetime back in November, while participating in **MN1 Koski** and **MN3 Jimenez's** reenlistment. One of the great things we try to do here at Unit 8, is make each individual's reenlistment unique and exciting. We have had some really good ones this year, but this was probably by far the most exciting. Our Executive Officer, **LTJG Daryl Adamson**, was able to arrange a SPIE (Special Insertion and Extraction) Rig with the EOD Mobile Unit 5. Ok, I had no clue either what it was at first, but this is where you have 10 or 12 people hang from a rope underneath a helicopter! It was very exciting for those daring enough to let their feet leave the ground.



LTJG Daryl Adamson reenlisting MN3 Jesus Jimenez and MN1 Jeremy Koski just before they participated in a SPIE Rig demonstration (where you hang from a helicopter by a rope)

MN3 Richard Dierks took a more down-to-earth approach and reenlisted on the beach.



LTJG Adamson reenlisting MN3 Richard Dierks on the beach.

The command also established and participated in the **1st Annual MOMAU Eight Jack P. Cantrell Golf Classic**. Command members felt that **MNCS Jack Cantrell** should somehow be memorialized here at the command, and what better way to do it than with a golf tournament! The event raised over \$160 for our MWR fund and over \$1100 with a “Seaman for the Day” auction. The winning golf team consisted of **MN1 Bill Nelson, MN2 Kelly Freeman, MNSN Sam Darby, and MN3 Jesus Jimenez**.



The participants in the “1st Annual J.P. Cantrell Golf Classic”

The command has continued its standard of excellence even through the tough times. We have added to our long list of success this year adding the Retention Excellence award. Individual achievements include:

Senior Sailor of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter – **MN1 Stephanie Moss Cowart**
 Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter – **MN3 Matthew Greene**
 Blue Jacket of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter – **MNSN Samuel Darby**



JSOQ 3Q02 MN3 Matthew Greene and BJOQ 3Q02 MNSA Sam Darby

COMNAVMAR Regional Senior Sailor of the Quarter (Ashore) 3rd Quarter – **MN1 Stephanie Moss Cowart** (2nd selection this year)

Senior Sailor of the Quarter, 4th Quarter – **MN1 Bill Nelson**
 Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 4th Quarter – **MN2 Jerry Perez**
 Blue Jacket of the Quarter, 4th Quarter – **MNSN Harold ‘Bo’ Ayres**

COMNAVMAR Regional Senior Sailor of the Quarter(Ashore) 4th Quarter – **MN1 Bill Nelson**
 COMNAVMAR Regional Junior Sailor of the Quarter(Ashore) 4th Quarter – **MN2 Jerry Perez**

MOMAU Eight Senior Sailor of the Year – **MN1 Stephanie Moss Cowart**
 MOMAU Eight Junior Sailor of the Year – **MN2 Philip E. Phillips**
 MOMAU Eight Blue Jacket of the Year - **MN3 Kyle Halle**

We would like to congratulate **MNSN Crum** on his advancement to MN3, and also to the following personnel for their decision to “Stay Navy”:
MN2 Matt Wilhoit reenlisted 01 Oct 02 for 6 years and received an SRB
MN3 Richard Dierks reenlisted 04 Oct 02 for 6 years and received an SRB
MN1 Jeremy Koski reenlisted 22 Nov 02 for 6 years and received an SRB
MN3 Jesus Jimenez reenlisted 22 Nov 02 for 6 years and received an SRB

Other awards this Quarter included:
 NAM – **MN2 Robert McQuiddy, MN3 Matthew Greene, MN3 Richard Dierks, and IT1 Corey Singletary**

Flag LOC– **MN3 Jesus Jimenez**
CO's LOCs –**MN2 Ryan Cook, MN3 Moses Hughes, MN3 Misty Rains, and MN2 Kelly Freeman**

We have had quite a change in personnel this quarter, all detaching! The following personnel detached: Nov-**MN3 Matthew Greene** and his wife Therese left for Bahrain to the USS Dexterous, **MN2 Kelly Freeman** also is heading to Bahrain to the USS Dexterous. Dec- **MN2 Ryan Cook**, his wife Mindy, and son Garrett are on their way to NTC Great Lakes where he will be a small arms instructor, **MN3 Kyle Halle** transferred to the USS Devastator, **MN3 Jimenez** and wife Brandy left for Texas to the USS Devastator, **MN3 Misty Rains** reported to MOMAU One, **IT1 Corey Singeltary** reported to a pre-com in Hawaii, and our Executive Officer, **LTJG Daryl Adamson** went back to sea on the USS Vicksburg out of Jacksonville, FL. Jan – **MN3 Moses Hughes** departed for the USS Pelican, and I, **MNCS LeeAnn Baker**, detach 13 Jan for the USS John F Kennedy, also out of Jacksonville, FL. Coming up in February, we lose THE two finest MN1's in the mineforce today, on 12 Feb **MN1 Stephanie Cowart**, her husband Bob, and daughter Olivia, are heading back to Texas where she will report onboard the USS Cormorant, and on 21 Feb her "Sea-Brother", **MN1 William G. Nelson** will begin his terminal leave and prepare for retirement. (Definitely marks the end of an ERA) **MN1 Nelson** will hold his "official" retirement ceremony at MOMAU 11 in Charleston on 21 March 2003. Everyone is not only welcomed to attend, but encouraged! Please help him celebrate 20 years of outstanding Naval service, and the absolute countless contributions he has made to our Mine Force.



MNSN Bo Ayres and MNSA Sam Darby help celebrate MNCS LeeAnn Baker's and MN1 Bill Nelson's last Christmas on Guam.

We were finally able to WELCOME another enlisted khaki, its been a long time! On 06 Jan 2003, **MNC(SW) Duane Crocker**, his wife, and two sons, made a return trip to Guam. He will have some big shoes to fill as the only enlisted khaki at the command, and with a gapped XO billet until May 2003.

That's all from Guam...Hafa Adai, Lana Dude, and God Bless from the Best MOMAU in the world!



MOMAU TEN KADENA

By **MNCS John Bray**

Hey everyone....we hope the coming of spring finds everyone in good health and even better spirits. We at MOMAU Ten are happy to welcome in the start of a non-inspection year this time. The water is cold and the fishing slow but life is still grand in good old Okinawa. The shop is alive and well and we are improving the shop more and more each day. Our Skipper, LCDR Cross, has settled in as the new boss and is driving hard for improvement on a daily basis. Its nice to have a boss who is truly committed to excellence and improving the command for the crew. We have managed to have our forklift battery charger and Ordnance Handling Equipment permanently mounted in our new MHE/CESE building. Also, many of our long-standing magazine facilities issues are getting rectified with the Air Force finally. I'm sure there are more than a few of our local Air Force brethren here scratching their heads and wondering who that new Navy LCDR is making waves and demanding IMPROVEMENT! OK, enough sucking up to the boss, now on the important stuff!

KUDOS: First and foremost on the congratulatory front, a very hearty congrats and well done go out to **MN1(SW) Steven J. McMillian** who was selected as our Senior Sailor of the year and was subsequently selected as the **2002 MOMAG SAILOR OF THE YEAR**. This was a very well deserved selection as Petty Officer McMillian really busted his tail for the command this past year and was directly responsible for significant improvements in numerous areas of the command. We'd also like to wish congratulations to **MN3 Fiora Vallez** who was selected as our 2002 Junior Sailor of the year. She has definitely filled some "big shoes" this past year in OPS and as the Command ROLMS P.O. Additionally, congratulations go **MN2 Astin** and **MN3 Snow**, our fourth quarter Senior and Junior SOQ's. Lastly, **MN1(AW) Lonell White** was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (third award) for his hard work and contributions to the command during 2002.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES: We recently welcomed aboard **MNSR Boyd** who joined us from MWTC A School and **IT2 Atkins** from the USS **SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG-58)**. I'm quite certain **Gunner Riggins** and **MN1(SW) McMillian** are more than a little happy to relinquish their ADP

duties now that we finally have an IT assigned. As always, its sad to say good-bye to Unit Ten Sailors and we bid farewell to MN1(IUSS) Michael Pelski who left us for the USS HERON (MHC-52), and MN2 Alex Pascual who has decided to leave the Navy and once again try his hand in the U.S. Army. Also, MN1(AW) Lonell White transferred to the Fleet Reserve after 20 years of faithful service. Like some, Lonell didn't want any of the "hoopla" of an official retirement ceremony but we were able to surprise him this past week with a small, impromptu ceremony and get-together to honor this Sailor's 20 years service to our Navy and Mine Force. Lonell has decided to relocate back up to South Dakota and take a job with the U.S. Postal Service so we wish him all the best in his new calling.

EXERCISES: What do ya know.....**MINEMEN in the P.I. once again!!** I just finished up the Final Planning Conference swing for the 2002 "CARAT" Exercise and found myself once again in the Philippines after a 20 year hiatus from there. With the normal Thailand phase of CARAT as in years past, we will be working on a limited basis with the Philippine Navy this year during May if funding comes through. Unlike in years past, Mother MOMAG now pays all of the exercise TAD bills and the pot of money seems to run mighty dry these days. For all us old timer Subic Bay Veteran's, P.I. is nothing like it was before; things have changed quite a bit in that country since the decommissioning of MOMAG Unit Nine in the early 90's. Its still a great place to visit though but nothing like the days of old. Due to security restrictions these days, you are pretty closely supervised by JUSMAG and the embassy folks. Still, the P.I. lives on! We currently have a team up in mainland Japan for the 03-1JA MINEX and will be sending our Foal Eagle Team up to "frosty" Korea very soon for that one month fun in the sun - not! Also, we will be supporting the upcoming Singapore-based Western Pacific MCMEX this year along with MCMDIV 11 ships as well as the normal Cobra Gold trip to Thailand. Yep, this year's busy schedule will be filled with a good bit of "road time" as always but someone has to do it right?

That will do it for this issue. Best wishes to all from WESTPAC's finest Mine Shop.

**NEXT DASHPOT
ARTICLES ARE
DUE 1 JUNE 2003**



MOMAU ELEVEN CHARLESTON

BY MNC(SW) Michael Morus

Greetings from the Low Country, Lots of Mineman news to report from MOMAU Eleven. We've had a full plate last year and the forecast for this year looks about the same. We ended 2002 with a full-blown Technical Assist Visit. The team from COMOMAG consisted of LCDR Peter Bachand, Mr. Wayne Helgerson, MNCM (SW) Jerry Williams, MNC (SW) Frank Kent and MNC (SW) Ronald Johnson. We conducted a MK65 Quickstrike build, a MK 74 & 75 VEMS build and a MK 67 SLMM build. Throughout the process we received positive feedback that validated all of the hard work we have been doing to bring our service mine mission on-line.



Mk 65 Quickstrike Mines .

We had the honor of starting our new year with a visit from COMOMAG. CDR Auberry brought us up to date on mine warfare news, toured our facilities and conducted a Captains Call with our sailors. We rolled into February and in a 3 week period performed long cycle maintenance on Mk 65 cases and built a total of 64 ET mines to support P-3 squadrons in Brunswick, Maine and Jacksonville, Florida. Included was a trip to Barksdale, Louisiana to support a B-52 Squadron.

In other news, our Commanding Officer, LCDR Stephen Anderjack was selected as the next Surface Navy Association President, Charleston Chapter. Needless to say, attendance by MOMAU Eleven personnel at SNA luncheons has dramatically improved. Hmmm?

We are also busy supporting the community through the providing of mentors to Windsor Hill

Elementary School, supporting “Parading of the Colors” with our command color guard and serving as judges for the Walterboro NJROTC annual drill competition.

KUDOS

Great sailors doing great things:

Sailors of the Year

Senior Sailor of the Year MN1(SW) Gerhardt
 Junior Sailor of the Year MN3 Campbell

Sailors of the Quarter

Senior Sailor of the Quarter MN1 Sullivan
 Junior Sailor of the Quarter MN3 Percy

Awards

Navy Achievement Medal MN1(SW) Gerhardt
 Navy Achievement Medal MN2 Carte
 Navy Achievement Medal MN3 Campbell

LOC MN1(SW) Martell
 LOC MN1 Garvine
 LOC MN2 Coleman
 LOC YN2 Kinner
 LOC MN3 Conklin

HAIL AND FAIRWELL

Arrivals

MN2 Gipson
 MN2(SW) Webb
 MN3 Wohlgemuth
 MNSN Derum
 MNSA Rishovd

FROM

MOMAU 5
 USS Sentry
 MOMAU 5
 USS Sentry
 Mineman “A” School

Departures

MN1 Garvine
 SK2(SW) Roundtree
 MN3 Diamond

TO

USS Pioneer
 COMNAVEUR
 USS Pioneer



MOMAD TWELVE MISAWA



MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

By MNCS(SW/AW) Timothy W. Hickman

Greetings from South Texas! Winter seems to be hitting us with a vengeance this year. Now, we know the weather down here is not nearly as cold as it is up north, but when the thermometer drops below 65 f, we’re donning our arctic weather gear. In case you were wondering, yes we are still in Kingsville awaiting turnover of Bldg. 500 Naval Station Ingleside. If everything goes well, turnover will occur 1 March and we will then begin the process of moving in and setting up.

Our schedule has calmed down a bit since last quarter. Transparent Hunter-03 was a success over in sunny California. I’m sure our compadres sent to California in support of Transparent Hunter-03 had a marvelous time.

We’ve had some new arrivals recently, and would like to welcome aboard MNC(SW) Terry A. Hoekman and family, reporting from USS Robin (MHC-54), MN2(SW) Robert C. Mounsey, reporting from USS Defender (MCM-2), MNSA Cassandra J. Ward and husband and MNSR Benjamin W. Wells and wife, reporting from Mineman “A” School. And we cannot forget the most recent addition to the team, Vivianna, a beautiful and healthy 9 lbs. baby girl, born to MN1(SW) Jose A. Rojas and wife, Rosetta. Congratulations.....

With the arrival of personnel, we all know someone is leaving, so reluctantly we say farewell to ship-mates, our corporate knowledge who have served the command with dedication and hard work who are moving on with their naval career. Good Luck to MN2 Margaret A. Wilson on board USS Kingfisher and MNSN Christopher A. Burr on board USS Warrior.

We occasionally stumble over the truth ... but most of us pick ourselves up and hurry on as if nothing happened.



MINE COUNTERMEASURES NEWS

INGLESIDE-BASED MINEHUNTER RESCUES THREE FROM SINKING BOAT

By Ens. Zachary Garcia
USS Osprey (MHC 51) Public Affairs

While transiting off the Florida Keys on Dec. 11, the Naval Station Ingleside based coastal minehunter USS Osprey (MHC 51) intercepted a distress call from the fishing vessel SUZI ANNE that had spotted three Cuban men clinging to a sinking boat nearly 20 miles out to sea. After contacting SUZI ANNE and the U.S. Coast Guard station in Islamorada, Fla., the crew of the USS Osprey determined they were the closest vessel to the scene.

Without hesitation, USS Osprey and her 50-man crew turned from their intended track and raced to meet the craft before it sank completely. Within 30 minutes, USS Osprey arrived at the scene and immediately lowered a ready lifeboat into the water for a rapid recovery of the three Cuban men. The tiny craft that the Cuban refugees clung to had a fiberglass hull with rubber inner tubes attached to the edges for added buoyancy. A motor turning a homemade propeller, stuck through a hole in the bottom of the craft for propulsion, resembled a lawnmower engine.



Cuban refugees in serious trouble.



One grateful Cuban refugee is in the lifeboat.



The last refugee is being helped into the lifeboat .

Onboard USS Osprey's lifeboat, the three male refugees were greeted with soup, sandwiches and water. The men remained with the ship's crew until they were transferred to a boat from the Islamorada Coast Guard station for further transfer to shore.

USS Osprey's Search and Rescue Swimmer, Mineman Seaman Joseph Arruda from Lemoore, Calif., said it felt good to do his job and help someone.

Minutes after the refugees were safely on their way to shore, their makeshift boat sank in over 600 feet of water as several sharks circled nearby. According to Boatswain's Mate Second Class (Surface Warfare) Juan Mendez from El Paso, Texas, "It was good that we got there when we did. I don't think they were going to make it to shore." USS Osprey was in transient to Naval Station Ingleside when the incident occurred. For USS Osprey's crew, the event provided a spirit-boosting and gratifying end to an arduous deployment.

**Congratulations and "Well Done" to the crew of
the USS Osprey (MHC 51)**

DEVELOPMENTAL MINE COUNTERMEASURES PROGRAMS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

AN/WLD-1(V)1 Remote Minehunting System

The Remote Minehunting System (RMS) is a high-endurance, remotely operated, surface-ship launched and recovered semi-submersible vehicle towing a mine reconnaissance sonar. The system will conduct rapid reconnaissance of bottom and moored mines from the deep-water region to the 30-foot contour of the Very Shallow Water region. Mine reconnaissance operations conducted by RMS will determine the presence of mine-like objects and safe routes or operating areas around potential minefields.



Remote Mine-Hunting System

RMS has had an evolutionary development process that began with RMS(V)1, which towed the AN/AQS-14 minehunting sonar and had a commercial forward looking sonar. USS *John Young* (DD-973) operated this system using a line-of-sight data link after the vehicle was launched from a shore location. RMS(V)2 was a modification of the (V)1 hardware and software to allow the system to be launched and recovered from a *Spruance* class ship. It was installed on USS *Cushing* (DD-985) which conducted successful mine reconnaissance exercises in the Arabian Gulf in 1997. RMS(V)3 developed a new semi-submersible vehicle. The (V)3 effort ended in FY99. RMS(V)4, now designated AN/WLD-1(V)1, is being developed for deployment on *Arleigh Burke* (DDG-51) class destroyers beginning with DDG-91. AN/WLD-1(V)1 will introduce new sensors and use the semisubmersible Remote Minehunting Vehicle developed in the RMS(V)3 program. The AN/WLD-1(V)1 will include permanent launch, recovery and maintenance facilities. New developments will provide a replacement for the AN/AQS-14 sonar, the addition of an electro-optical sensor for mine identification, and integration of the display and control of RMS with the AN/SQQ-89(V)15 which will allow use of that system's displays and extension of system range to over-the-horizon.

Near-term Mine Reconnaissance System

Near-term and long-term programs have been established to deliver Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) mine reconnaissance capabilities to the fleet. The initial capability has been designated the

Near-term Mine Reconnaissance System (NMRS). The single NMRS will be launched and recovered from a *Los Angeles* (SSN-688) class submarine. NMRS will be capable of limited mine detection, classification, and localization with an inherent low risk to the host platform. NMRS capitalizes on existing technologies and capabilities in order to reduce cost and become available in the near term and will remain operational until the LMRS reaches its Initial Operational Capability (IOC).

NMRS will be deployed through standard SSN-688 class torpedo tubes. The operational system will consist of two reusable UUVs; launch and recovery equipment; and shipboard control, processing, and monitoring equipment. Operators control the vehicle via a fiber-optic cable connected to the launch platform.

During 1998 Joint Countermine ACTD, NMRS operating from the oceanographic research vessel *Knorr*, conducted five mine reconnaissance and survey sorties in both deep water and shallow water environments with varying bottom types. Testing from a *Los Angeles* (SSN-688) class submarine was completed in April 1999.

Long-term Mine Reconnaissance System

The Long-term Mine Reconnaissance System (LMRS) will ultimately replace the Near-term Mine Reconnaissance System, providing the Navy and Marine Corps a significantly increased mine reconnaissance capability. The LMRS will operate from and interface with *Los Angeles* (SSN-688) class submarines and the New Attack Submarine (NSSN). Like NMRS, LMRS will detect, classify, and localize mine-like objects in anticipated operating areas. However, LMRS will provide improvements in areas where, due to its near-term focus, NMRS is inherently limited - such as the overall number of systems, as well as its endurance, reliability, and search rate. The Navy is currently completing Concept Exploration and Definition studies and analyses that will define the requirements for the LMRS. Development contracts will be awarded by the end of FY99.

Airborne Laser Mine Detection System

For several years, the U.S. Navy has been evaluating electro-optics as a method of locating sea mines. Lasers have become more powerful and compact and their wavelengths more tunable. The use of a blue-green laser, which has a frequency compatible with seawater, allows a Laser Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) system to provide accurate information on the characteristics of targets at various water depths. This technology will provide the fleet self-protection when travelling through choke points and confined straits, as well as rapid reconnaissance of minefields in support of amphibious operations. The Airborne Laser Mine Detection System (ALMDS) is an electro-optics-based mine reconnaissance system that will detect and localize drifting/floating and shallow-water moored mines from the CH-60 helicopter platform. ALMDS IOC is planned for FY05.

Magic Lantern Deployment Contingency System

During the Persian Gulf War, the U.S. Navy demonstrated a laser-based electro-optic prototype on a very limited scale. The system has since been through development and testing of two Advanced Development Models (ADMs). These two ADMs, which were repackaged and integrated into the SH-2G helicopter, became the Magic Lantern Deployment Contingency (ML(DC)) System program. A third ML(DC) system has been procured and integrated into the SH-2G aircraft, and all three systems are currently available for contingency use by HSL-94, a reserve squadron located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.



Magic Lantern

Laser Line Scan System

Currently, sonar minehunting systems cannot distinguish between actual mines and mine-like objects. This inability forces mine neutralization efforts to investigate every mine-like contact, resulting in very slow rates of neutralization. The Laser Line Scan System (LLSS) program will provide a means of positively identifying actual mines, resulting in a typical mine neutralization phase only one-fifth as long as is currently required. This program will integrate the Northrop Grumman SM-2000 laser line scan sensor into the existing AN/AQS-14A sonar minehunting towed body. By using existing technologies, cost, schedule, and performance risks will be minimized. Four deployment contingency systems are scheduled to be available to the fleet in FY01. This technology was used to support the search and recovery operations for the TWA Flight 800 and Swissair Flight 111 aircraft.

Streak Tube Imaging LIDAR

While towed submersible acoustic sensors have proven effective for detecting potential threats such as moored mines, resolution is inadequate for high-level classification and identification. The Streak Tube Imaging LIDAR (STIL) Technology Demonstration program, scheduled for FY98-00, will demonstrate an Electro-Optic Identification (EOID) device capability from a towed submersible vehicle as an adjunct to acoustic sensors for lane clearing missions. Capabilities will include high resolution in

3-D, tow speeds of up to 30 knots, a high detection range, and a compact, rugged configuration for multiple platforms. The technology demonstrations will evaluate critical subsystems in the laboratory, demonstrate the integrated EOID sensor in a laboratory setting, and rigorously evaluate the EOID capability in an operational environment. Results will demonstrate the feasibility of employing the STIL from a helicopter and provide the U.S. Navy with sufficient data to support a decision as to whether to transition the technology into the Engineering and Manufacturing Development phase in FY01.

Shallow-water Assault Breaching System The Shallow-water Assault Breaching (SABRE) system is a discontinuous line charge system delivered by the Mk 22 Mod 4 rocket and deployed from an LCAC. SABRE is designed to accomplish wide area neutralization of anti-invasion mines in the three to ten foot deep portion of the Surf Zone, minimizing the loss of personnel and surface landing craft. The system is designed for operation with the DET in graduated clearing of an approach lane from the sea for amphibious landing craft. Explosive effectiveness tests have shown line charges to be very capable of reducing light and medium obstacles on land and defeating mines located in water depths up to three to ten feet. Inert SABRE systems have been successfully launched from the decks of LCACs operating in the Surf Zone. SABRE is expected to be fielded during FY03.

Distributed Explosive Technology Distributed Explosive Technology (DET) is a 180-by-180-foot distributed explosive net system with a 200-foot standoff range that is launched from an LCAC by two Mk 22 Rocket Motors. The system is designed to provide a wide swath of clearance in the zero to three foot deep portion of the Surf Zone. The system is designed for operation with SABRE in graduated clearing of an approach lane from the sea for amphibious landing craft. Explosive effectiveness tests have shown DET to be very capable of defeating mines in water depths from zero to three feet. Inert DET systems have been successfully deployed from the decks of LCACs operating in the Surf Zone. DET is expected to be fielded during FY03.



SABRE

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN 29TH ANNUAL REUNION & MEETING SAN DIEGO, CA. AT THE
HANDLERY HOTEL AND RESORT 8-10 AUGUST 2003

Association of Minemen

P.O. Box 71835

Charleston, SC 29415

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(Banquet buffet: london broil with mushroom sauce, herb roasted chicken with whole-grain mustard cream,
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