

# The DASHPOT



Issue 46    Newsletter of the Association of Minemen    Summer 2004



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

G. Paul Santa Maria

Congratulations are in order for one of our hard working Minemen and also to a recipient of our scholarships. To Stephanie Cowart who has been accepted into the LDO Program and is now Ensign Cowart. She is only the second female Mineman to make this transition. We are very proud of you and we'll continue to follow your career. Another hard working, dedicated young lady, pursuing a career in medicine, will very shortly be known as Doctor Kumi Swart. "Job Well Done" Ron and Misako Swart.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their unanimous vote to have our history book submitted to the Library of Congress for consideration and to be copyrighted. All agreed that this endeavor, if accepted, will ensure our rate and history will not be forgotten. It will take about six months for their decision. A little prayer won't hurt.

Are all our artistically talented people asleep with Rip Van Winkle? I haven't received any designs for an AOM sew-on patch as of this writing. Don't be bashful. You can do it.

The office of President is not confined to enjoyable hard work, but also includes exciting invitations to important functions. I am unable to accept them all, however, I did accept the invitation to attend the MPMAU ELEVEN change of command on June 21<sup>st</sup>. I am very honored to represent the AOM at such an important function. Another honor surprised and excited me and for that, I would like to thank my ol' shipmate, Lyle Stryker. It's a two year paid membership in the USS Hobson Memorial Society. You can bet that I will continue to be a member for a long time. Thank you again, Lyle.

Time is rapidly moving towards our reunion date. According to Chairman Dick Schommer, everything is falling into place very nicely. All indications are that we are going to have

Continued on page 2.

## 30TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN REUNION

By Dick Schommer

The Association of Minemen will be Thirty Years young this reunion. Those of you that are debating on whether to attend this year, Remember one very important thing, the members and guests that are attending this year may not be here next year.

As stated before, all events will take place at the Town and Country Inn. The picnic will be at the pool area, which is now in the process of a complete remodel, this includes a transparent roof. It is going to be very nice and roomy. This brings up a point. The Auction for our Scholarship Fund, please bring items for the Auction, and bring plenty of money for bidding.

The schedule of events has not been completed at this time, but Dinner on Saturday will be Buffet Style and it will be starting at approximately 1900 (7 PM). 9 October 2004

Early Bird will be in the Oak Room, and it will be opened at approximately 1600. Adult Beverages and soft drinks, and light snacks will be available Friday, 8 October 2004.

Meeting times will be on the schedule of events.

The Tours of MOMAU ELEVEN will be the morning of 8 October 2004. In order to attend this tour you must send me BY SNAIL MAIL,

Continued on page 2.

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**2004 REUNION CHARLESTON, SC  
MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!!!**

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## ON THE INSIDE

Scholarship Scoop	3
The Mail Bag	4
Taps/Binnacle List	6
Editor's Corner	9
Who's Who?	10
MOMAG News	11
MCM News	18

### President

another great reunion! Just a reminder, don't forget to bring items for the auction. Also, this is our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary so let's make it a whiz-bang one. Last, but not least, this year we elect a new President, Vice-President and two Directors so step up to the challenge shipmates. It's very rewarding.

God Bless you and yours.

### Reunion

YOUR FULL NAME, ADDRESS, DATE OF BIRTH, and SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. Without this information you cannot enter the restricted area.

USS YORKTOWN Tour will be the afternoon of 8 October 2004, and may possibly extend through the weekend. This has not been firmed at this time.

At this time I have not received any requests for the COCC Award. Anyone with 25 years of service as a Minemen can receive the award. Don't wait until the last minute or you will be waiting until next year.

Campgrounds were published in the last Dashpot. The same

Continued on page 3.



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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**

phone numbers apply.

Folks, there is a lot to do in Charleston and the surrounding area, the Inn will assist you in making reservations for tours or assist you with maps and directions. All you have to do is ask. I have had nothing but top-notch service from the staff at the Inn.

If you have any questions about the reunion give me a call at 843-797-3715 or send an e-mail to [rdschommer@hotmail.com](mailto:rdschommer@hotmail.com)

Kumi was the recipient of more than one of our assistance scholarships. As you can see your donations are being used successfully.

The AOM will raise money at the auction during the reunion's picnic in October. This designated money will be added to the two scholarship funds.

You can download applications forms from the AOM website at <http://home.triad.rr.com/aom/index.htm> or you request them by "Snail Mail" from the Secretary/Treasurer, Curtis Christian or Scholarship Chairman, W. (Swede) Carlsen.

STAND TALL AMERICA

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**SCHOLARSHIP  
SCOOP**  
By Swede Carlsen

The scholarship program has three (3) candidates so far. Remember, to send the applications in by August, This way the students will be able to use the AOM assistance scholarship's at the start of the fall term.

As stated in the spring "Dashpot" the AOM has over \$12,500 dollars in the President's fund. Please designate your donations either to the President's fund or to the general scholarship fund.

It's our 30th anniversary, so why not give a dollar for every year the AOM has existed. This will boost our funds considerably.

Let me tell you what your donations have helped to accomplish for one of our member's daughters. The following announcement was received by AOM President G. Paul Santa Maria.

The Board of Regents,  
Chancellor, President, and Faculty  
University of North Texas Health Science Center  
announce that

**Kumi Deanna Swart**

is a candidate for the degree of

**Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine**

at the commencement exercises  
Saturday, May Fifteenth  
Two-thousand Four at two O'clock  
Fort Worth Convention Center Arena  
Fort Worth Texas

President's Reception following  
Exhibit Hall E & F

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**NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD**

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**MEMBERS NEEDED!**

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As we draw near the October reunion, be considering who you would like to represent you and hold leadership positions in the Association. If you think you are fit to lead or represent, then get your name to:

**Gunner Joe Balderrama**  
[gunnerjb@earthlink.net](mailto:gunnerjb@earthlink.net)

If you think one of your "friends" meets the criterion, then send his or her name. Your friend will be ecstatic to know that you hold him or her in such high esteem ... trust me ...

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**Creative Challenge**

There has been much interest in a special badge or patch that can be worn on jackets or other clothing to proudly identify AOM members. We have a lot of artistic and creative talent in the mine community so the AOM is sponsoring a contest for the design of an official badge/patch for the association. You may submit as many entries as you like. Judging will occur and the winning design will be announced on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Dinner Meeting. A prize will be presented for the winning design. Please submit your entries to Curtis T. Christian or G. Paul Santa Maria. Contact data for them is found in the masthead on page two of **The Dashpot**.

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Error Correction: The article on Nick's Seafood was in error in that the USS Yorktown Mary Mathews commissioned was a CG and not a DDG as previously written.



# MAIL BAG

Arthur W. Cook LCMDR USN (Ret.)  
51 Plymouth Lane,  
Bluffton, SC 29909  
2 April 2004

Gentlemen:

Enclose please find my check for 15 dollars to pay for my dues from June 2004 through to June 2005. This will likely be my last renewal due to health reasons, but will see when the next increment is due.

I expect that we will soon have a change of address for it is likely that we will enter an assisted living retirement home someplace in Northeast Illinois. I will inform you of the new address as soon as we make this move, likely in mid-summer. Both of us are now 86 and not in the best of health.

Last night I sent a lengthy e-mail to G.L. Santa Maria, Jack Smoot, Ron Swart and a few others, which might contain some data about the mine Force starting in about 1940, which might be useful in the DASHPOT. Use it if you want to.

Best wishes,  
Arthur W. Cook



From Curtis Christian to be put on the agenda at our next meeting.

After looking at the wording in section "B" of "Standing Committees," under "Duties of Officers, Directors and Committees" (That was a long one SMILE"), I talked to a number of our members about my concerns. Please read the following input from one of the members and let this be my notification of intent to place this on the floor for change.

Curtis – in regards to your questions concerning the Scholarship awards, money, et al, I have reviewed the info (Officers/Committees) you sent and offer the following comments:

A. The wording of the guidelines for the Scholarship Committee is restrictive in that it allows the award of only two scholarships per annum using AOM scholarship money (i.e., those funds donated by individuals "for the scholarship fund") Other awards can be made using "benefactor" or "memorial" funds that have been provided in whatever amounts they may be offered. The wording would

not seem to limit the number of awards that could be made in either of these categories.

B. The handling of monies received in the scholarship fund should be handled very carefully. Of all the categories or line items you have to account for funds, those for the scholarship fund probably have the most visibility from a scrutiny point of view. Benefactor or memorial donations should be used strictly for that purpose and in the name of the donor as requested. If the donor requests that the award be anonymous, that is between the Treasurer and the donor (i.e., the Treasurer knows who the donor is and "records" the receipt in the donor's name, but disburses the funds in an anonymous context). Similarly, the monies received in the general category of "scholarship funds" should go to that line item and be used strictly for AOM-designated scholarships. As set up now, this would include the "matching funds" category used to substantiate the savings/CD account to perpetuate additional funds through earned interest. There should never be a crossover or switching of funds from one category to another unless specifically authorized by wording that is approved by the BOD and declared to the general membership (it could be announced in the Dashpot).

C. I offer the following word changes to the Scholarship Committee duties to clarify its ability to make awards:

Paragraph 3. Add new sentence at the end to read: "Qualified applicants will then be ranked in an order of merit, considering such factors as clarity of thought and completeness of the application; perceived personal attributes; and the statement of goals and objectives.

Paragraph 4. Change to read: "The Board of Directors will advise the Committee of funding available for award. Depending on the funding available, the committee will, nominally, select the top two candidates in the order of ranking to receive AOM Scholarship awards. If additional funds are available, the Committee may select the next descending rank candidate, or candidates, for AOM Scholarship award. If special donations have been received from individuals or other sources that were designated for the scholarship program in a benevolent or memorial status, the Committee may select additional descending rank candidates to receive these awards. The Committee may also declare that there be no awards, or that the benevolent awards be made in lieu of AOM awards. The selection of candidates by the Committee is final and cannot be changed by the Association BOD or at the General Business Meeting.

Mail Bag continues on page 5.

**NEXT DASHPOT ARTICLES  
ARE DUE  
1 SEPTEMBER 2004**





From the Association of Minemen, 19 April 2004.

Ensign Stephanie Cowart  
OTCP  
LDO/CWO Class 4130  
150 Chambers Ave.  
Pensacola, FL 32508-5221

Dear Ensign Cowart,

We want to offer collective "Association of Minemen" congratulations to you for your significant accomplishment of earning a Navy commission in the Limited Duty Officer Program. As you are well aware, we have many "mustangs" in our membership, all of whom have trod the same path before you. It is especially notable that you are only the second female Mineman to achieve this impressive milestone. It makes our Hearts swell with pride.

You have a long and difficult training path ahead of you as you prepare for your first assignment on the USS Cowpens. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all the way. We will follow your new career path with great interest and excitement, Please accept our heart-felt "Bravo Zulu" and well done.

Respectfully,  
G. Paul Santa Maria  
President



From the Desk of Lt James Longway, USN (Ret.)

Sending in annual dues now. Looking forward to Charleston in October (Hopefully).

All is well here in Richmond. Just work and study. Not much play anymore.

See ya,  
Jim Longway



May 13, 2004

Good Morning Bill,

Please accept this token of my sincere appreciation, for the tremendous support and product excellence – The Dashpot.

From MOMAU 15 to the Dashpot Editor "BZ" and God bless.

Thanks Bill,  
Our best to your bride and family,  
Julian

April 15, 2004

Hi Y'all

Stephanie is away at OIS and is gonna be busy all summer. I know she will want her dues renewed with the AOM.

She will always be part of this organization.

Sincerely,  
Robert A Jones

Stephanie Cowart  
#1128



April 17, 2004

Shipmate;  
Received the AOM buckle today. It is a quality buckle that I will wear with pride. It seems that it was only yesterday that I ordered the buckle. Thank you. Hope to see you at the coming reunion. Thanks.

Bruce Swenson

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## DEAD RED ROOSTER REPORT

by Toby Horn



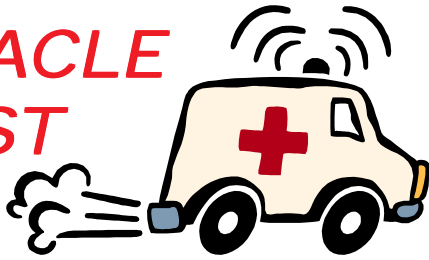
I have only had one response for interest in a golf outing adjunct to our reunion in October. I can't contract with the local golf course for that limited number of golfers. If we're only going to have minimal response, we'll have to go "pot's luck" for reservations a week ahead of time. Locked-in reservations will require a "guarantee" of at least three foursomes. Please let me know of your intent to play ASAP. Email is [tobyone@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tobyone@ix.netcom.com). Home phone is 843.762.3552.



**IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITIES,  
NOT OURSELVES, THAT WE  
SHOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY.**

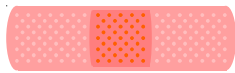
**Peter Ustinov (1921 - 2004)**

# BINNACLE LIST



## Hideko Smith

Ron Swart reports that Leo Smith's wife, Hideko ("Mitzie" to almost everyone in the Mine Force), suffered a stroke last week and is now out of ICU and in guarded condition at Gulf Coast Hospital here in Panama City. Please pass the word for thoughts and prayers for her swift and complete recovery. Thanks!



## RADM Horne

RADM Chuck Horne, USN (Ret.), former COMINWARCOM, underwent surgery for thyroid cancer on May 19, 2004. I have no feedback on the outcome. Our hearts and prayers are with him and we wish him a safe and complete recovery.

## TAPS



## FREITAS, Joseph D., MNC, USN

The April All Hands magazine has a Joseph D Freitas, MNC Branch 175 listed in Taps. John Loonam Sends.



## KIRKPATRICK, Wayne A., MNC, USN

John Loonam reports that the June issue of All Hands lists MNC Wayne A. Kirkpatrick in Taps. He is listed as a member at Large (No home Chapter). Fred Dane reports this information was in also the Naval Affairs Magazine, May 2004 issue. It did not say that he was retired, but Fred thinks that he might have been. He got this from the NMA membership chairman.



MNCS Spofford congratulates C/SN French and C/SA Hodges

5 May 2004

Greetings AOM,

Once again, I would like to thank the AOM for awarding two Medals to the most improved cadets for school year 2003-2004.

The two cadets that were awarded these medals on Tuesday, April 20, 2004 were C/SN Raymond French and C/SA Lamar Hodges. These two cadets were recognized as being the "Most Improved Cadets." C/SN French was also advanced to C/CPO and will be one of the platoon mustering CPO's for the next school year. Both Cadets will be returning for their second year in August.

We were also provided some great news this week, after the awards were handed out. That is, that the Colleton County High School NJROTC Unit was selected for the Distinguished Unit Award. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year out of the last 7 years that the Unit has been recognized with this award. The other year, the Unit received a Unit Achievement Award. Along with the award this year, we received the award with academic distinction. This places the Unit in the top 20% nationwide. This also allows the Senior Naval Science Instructor the opportunity to offer appointments to the Naval Academy and the other Service Academies.

This school year the Unit participated in 8 Drill Meets, 5 Orienteering Meets, 4 Parades, 3 Shoulder-to-Shoulder Rifle Matches, and over 20 postal rifle, athletic, academic, and orienteering matches. The Unit visited Charleston AFB, Beaufort MCAS, Kings Bay, Sub Base, and Jax, FL, NavSta. The Unit also participated in many civic functions.

Once again, I would like to thank the AOM for their support in tomorrow's leadership.

Respectfully,  
Rick Spofford  
MNCS USN (Ret.)  
Naval Science Instructor  
Colleton County H. S.  
1379 Mighty Cougar Drive  
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# MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## ENSIGN STEPHANIE COWART

On a balmy Spring day, the 1st of April 2004, MN1(SW) Stephanie Cowart was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy. She is the first female MN1 and first MN in over a decade to achieve this distinction. This is a pictorial essay of that event.



**LCDR Robert Jones, USN (Ret.) delivers the oath of office to MN1 Cowart**



**LCDR Daryl Adamson and LCDR Bill Fortner, USN (Ret.) attach Ensign Cowart's shoulderboards.**



**LCDR Fortner congratulates Ensign Cowart as LCDR Adamson looks on.**



**Ensign Cowart receives her first salute from MNCN Lee Ann Baker and EN1(SW) William Kohler**



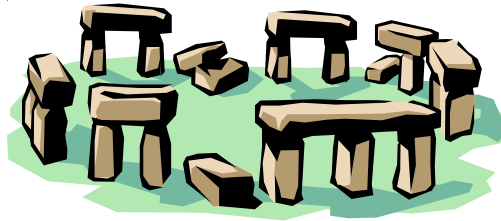
**... and pays for it with a shiny new silver dollar continuing a centuries old tradition.**



**MNCM McGoldrick, USN (Ret.), Ensign Cowart, and the entire staff of the Dashpot relaxing at the "Wetting Down" Party**

It was an honor and a privilege to attend this ceremony. The tour of the USS Cormorant was extremely interesting as well. Ensign Cowart will have finished "knife and fork" school by the time this is published and will be at Wallops Island, VA in school on the Aegis weapons system prior to arriving at her ultimate duty station, USS Cowpens.





## HISTORIANS REPORT

Ron Swart provides this insightful look into the history of Lee Hunt's efforts to get a handle on unexploded ordnance residual to war

### U.S. TO STOP USING 'PERSISTENT' LANDMINES AFTER 2010

George,

I, too, thoroughly approve of the decision regarding the future of landmines. By the implications of the policy change for sea mines, as you suggest, it not only allows all mines to begin shedding what I have long called their "Dark Side," a side immortalized by Farragut's "not the weapon of a civilized nation," and Sherman's "a weapon of cold blooded murder," but it opens the door for mine design to catch up with modern technology, and to join the network centric era. And, it is a far better policy than meekly signing a "ban the mine" treaty which, like gun control, only disarms the good guys, and places the mines in the hands of the bad guys.

While on the subject, let me tell you, and those on your distribution list, a little story – a personal story spanning four decades. The title, as well as the moral, of the story is: "Don't Mess With That Which Ain't Ready To Be Messed With."

In 1964 I suddenly became aware of the worldwide threat, involving both land and sea, posed by abandoned explosive ordnance. I was a bit slow in coming to this awareness since the problem and its threat, though attracting little attention, was old at the time. What caught my attention was to learn that, contrary to the opinion held by many, ten years in the land or sea environment did not render such ordnance harmless, thus meaning that the problem was cumulative. This awareness was subsequently confirmed when Ralph Hightower, that uniquely capable and entertaining scientist at the old White Oak Laboratory (NOL), showed me a hole blown in the hull of a Japanese freighter big enough to drive a Toyota Camry through; a hole put there by one of World War II bottom influence mines – 25 years after being laid. My respect for LeClanche dry cell batteries, in a near reefer environment, went up considerably.

And then, there was the bay near Copenhagen where, again during World War II, the Germans had dumped all their excess explosive ordnance when they retreated to the East. Roughly a quarter century later the Danes decided to lay an underwater communications cable across the bay, and, ironically, hired a German firm to clear the ordnance from the

bottom. Upon recovery, it was found that the stenciling on the sides of artillery shells could still be read, the copper rotating bands, if scrubbed, still shined like new, and, when dried, could be fired. The experience also introduced, for the first time, the existence of the Elephant Mine. On occasion, while the recovery operation was going on, a giant explosion could be heard late at night. On investigation, it was found that a disgruntle employee was taking out his frustration by firing what he called Elephant Mines. However, it was found that the huge, dome-shaped discs of explosives, obviously configured to give a Miznay-Chardeen (sp) effect, were actually the warheads of the German Mystal Weapon. In this weapon, an ME-109 was strapped atop a twin engine bomber in the nose of which the "Elephant Mine" was installed. The ME-109 pilot, in control of both planes, flew to the target, aimed the whole contraption, and decoupled at the last minute. Innovative, if desperate, those Germans.

With this, and a growing mountain of evidence indicating that the problem of abandoned explosive ordnance was not only persistent, but cumulative, I began what I later called Phase 1 of a campaign to raise awareness of the problem. Though working in Mine Warfare at the time, I concentrated on the vastly larger problem of all abandoned explosive ordnance. This is not to say that abandoned mines did not represent a threat. Through frequent contact with Lloyds of London I found that after 1945 over 500 ships (555 by 1990), worldwide, had been sunk or damaged by abandoned explosive ordnance. The curve I developed with this date indicated that the majority of these casualties occurred soon after the end of World War II, and tapered off rapidly with the passage of time. This, to me, meant that the greater number of these casualties were caused by still live mines. In Phase 1 I pleaded my case to all the right people within the community, tried to get the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study to bound and highlight the problem, and even wrote a paper published in the Ocean Technology magazine (Hazards of the Deep) calling attention to the problem. The results of Phase 1? Zilch!

So, in recognition that persistence is one of the most

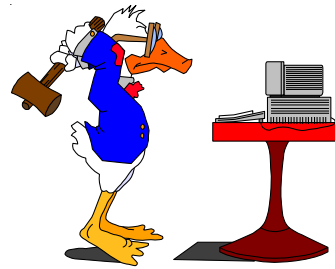


valuable of human attributes, I mounted Phase 2 of my campaign. Here I called for a complete overhaul and modernization of the Hague Convention of 1907 – a modernization to include landmines. The inclusion of sea mines in the 1907 convention resulted from the experience in the aftermath of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, in which moored mines broke loose from their moorings in storms, and drifted into fishing grounds and shipping lanes where they sank many more ships than the 16 combatants sunk during the war itself. The convention, as you will recall, contained six international rules governing the use of sea mine, including that each nation clear the mines planted in their own waters, and that mines not be free from control of those who planted them for more than one hour (drifting mines), which subsequently resulted in moored mines being equipped with hydrostatically controlled exploder plugs to sink them if they broke their moorings. The introduction of the bottom influence mine, and the lack of the landmine's inclusion, clearly indicated the need not only for modernization of the convention's rules, but a reaffirmation by the major powers. The results of Phase 2? Again zilch!

Blooded but undaunted, I then began Phase 3 of the campaign. Here I simply called for an international rule requiring all mines – sea and landmines - to be equipped with what I called a fail-safe explosive sterilization feature. This simply meant that the feature was an integral part of the mine such that to attempt removing it would wreck the mine, and if the operator neglected to set a time on the clock, the mine detonated on the least setting. Here I was not so much worried about sea mines since the major naval powers, with some glaring exceptions, had attempted to abide by the intent of the 1907 Hague Convention by including sterilization features on their mines. For instance, the German mining in opposition to the Normandy Invasion would have been more effective had they not miscalculated the arrival time of our ships, and set the time on their sterilization clocks too early – repeatedly. And then there was the classic Haiphong Mining Campaign during the latter days of the Vietnam War in which we planted 11,500 mines; that number being required because, repeatedly, we were too optimistic about the amount of time required to reach an agreement at the Paris Peace Talks, and had to replant the fields. I call it classic because Project Endsweep swept only one mine after the war – 11,499 mines had explosively sterilized themselves. I was, however, worried about landmines because they had never had a sterilization capability. Mine designers told me that it was too expensive, which meant that neutralization designs had never been seriously studied and costed – the cost is trivial. In desperation, as Phase 3 gained no traction, I even resorted to the threat: “If you don't take this problem in hand, and do something about it, one of these damned activist groups is going to rub your nose in it.” The results of Phase 3? Triple zilch, and end of story.

Now, George, in the unlikely event that someone

should ever ask you the question – “This guy Lee Hunt who used to work on naval problems over there at NAS, was he effective.” – you will know the answer. ZIP OVER INFINITY.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

### MISSING GRAY EAGLE

Many years ago, Will Dixon had a wooden “Gray Eagle” MK 6 Mine carved in the Philippines. It had about a 5" square anchor and similar sized case topped with an eagle with spread wings. Will gave it to me as I was the Gray Eagle at that time and I passed it along to Will when I retired as the honor fell to him. He, in turn, passed it on. In the mists of time since then, the Gray Eagle Mk 6 Mine has disappeared. It is needed as a pattern for more. Anyone knowing where it might be, please let me know.

### MN2 VALARIE WHEELER

I would like to take a moment and thank MN2 Valarie Wheeler for the excellent articles she has submitted from Unit ELEVEN. Valarie is being transferred to a sub tender and has graciously offered to continue sending articles from that part of the fleet. Thank you Valarie and we appreciate it. Fair winds and following seas and may your transfer be smooth.

### IN APPRECIATION

I greatly appreciate the speed and thoroughness with which the Dashpot contributors responded. It has enabled Miz Dee and I to take a much needed vacation. We hope to visit Mt. Rushmore, the Crazy Horse Monument, the Badlands, the Custer Battlefield at Little Big Horn and continue on to Yellowstone with many stops along the way. This will be the first time we have not had to travel against the clock.

### THE COMMISSIONING

I was honored to attend the commissioning ceremony of now Ensign Stephanie Cowart. I met her husband, Bob, a super guy, and too many great sailors on the USS Cormorant to count. It was a grand thing for me as I remember my shoulder boards being slipped on several decades ago and I remember how great it felt. Stephanie, I wish you a smooth transition into the officer ranks, great success in all that you undertake, and satisfaction in a job well done. Sic 'um Cowdawg! :-)

# WHO'S WHO?

A look at the MOMAG Site Co's and OICs



**LT Julian C. Wyatt, USN**  
**Commanding Officer of MOMAG Unit 15**

*"INVENIUM VIAM AUT FACIAM"*  
I shall find a way or make one



Lieutenant Julian Cameron Wyatt is a native of Worcester, Massachusetts and graduated from Essex Catholic High School in New Jersey.

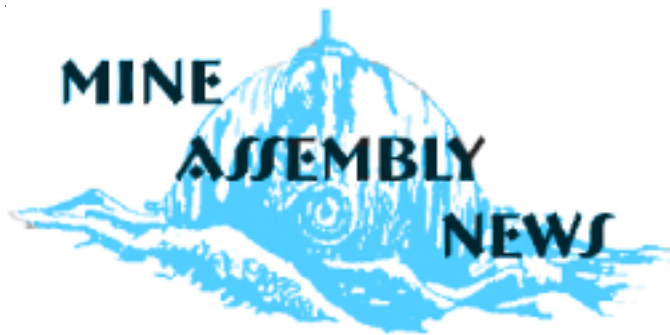
Lieutenant Wyatt enlisted in the Navy in June 1980, attending Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Great Lakes. Upon completion of basic training, he reported to First Division as a deck seaman onboard the USS Sterett (CG-31), home ported in San Diego California, which changed homeports to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines one year later. Within four short years, Lieutenant Wyatt struck out of first division, became a GMM (Gunners Mate Missile man) and completed GMM, Mk 10 Terrier "C" School and Basic Electricity and Electronics (BE/E) School in Great Lakes in 1985.

As a Gunnersmate, Petty Officer Wyatt served in the USS Reeves (CG-24), in Yokosuka, Japan as Work Center Supervisor, Leading Petty Officer, and Ammunition Administration Petty Officer for the AFT Missile House. After his tour on the USS Reeves,

GMM1(SW) Wyatt served as a Weapons Technician "A" and "C" school, and Nuclear Weapons Security Officer (NWSO) Instructor at Nuclear Weapons Training Group Pacific (NWTGP) at Naval Station North Island in Coronado California. During his tour, he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer; earned the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia (EAWS) and became a Master Training Specialist. After instructor duty, he served his third sea tour onboard USS San Bernardino (LST 1189) home ported in Sasebo, Japan from 1991-1994. Onboard San Bernardino, Lieutenant Wyatt was the Ordnance Officer, Gunnery Officer, Gunnery Liaison Officer (GLO), and Quality Control Officer. He was commissioned on 1 September 1994 as an Ensign, with the surface ordnance designation, 6160.

Upon commissioning, he was assigned as the Pre-commissioning Systems Test Officer (STO) onboard the Arleigh Burke Destroyer, USS Gonzalez (DDG 66), home ported in Portsmouth Virginia. During the first two years of his tour, the ship was being built in Bath, Maine, and the ship was commissioned in Ingleside, Texas in 1996. Lieutenant Wyatt completed all workups to include, CART, TSTA, PDT&T and FEP. His watch standing duties included CSOOW (Combat Systems Officer of the Watch), AAWC (Anti-Air Warfare Officer), CSC (Combat Systems Coordinator), and Officer of the Deck. He was also the Command PRT Coordinator, Assistant Operations Officer, Combat Systems Training Officer, and Command Managed Equal Opportunity Officer. During the tour, he completed COMPTUEX, JTFEX, and the ship's first Med Deployment. His follow on tour was instructor duty at Dahlgren, Virginia. During his tour at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren, Virginia, from 1999-2002, Lieutenant Wyatt taught a myriad of courses to the PCO/PXO, Division Officers and Department Heads as part of the Aegis Weapon System Combat Systems Officer Course and the Combat Systems Maintenance Manager Course. In his last duty station before beginning the pipeline to Command MOMAU 15, Lieutenant Wyatt served as the Ordnance Officer for Commander Task Force Five Three (CTF 53) in Bahrain where he was responsible for the accurate and timely delivery of Ordnance for all forces in the Gulf of Oman in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom from 2002-2003.

Lieutenant Wyatt has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), Navy Unit Commendation award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal (five awards), National Defense Medal (two awards), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards), Humanitarian Service Medal (two awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (five awards), Overseas Deployment Ribbon, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, NATO Medal, Kosovo Liberation Medal, Expert Pistol and Rifle Medal. He also holds a Masters Degree in Education from Old Dominion University.



## COMOMAG

by MNCS (SW) Cecil H. Fish  
(Texian Cowboy)

Howdy! Shipmates. Well everyone down here in the South Texas (COMOMAG) has been getting their fair share of the rain. Lets put it this way; the cows have more than enough grass to eat. Now we all are gearing up for another Hurricane season. I tell you the weather has really been a bit un-stable down here in Texas, but as well, the rest of the country also. So all areas need to be ready. Remember, lets keep those service members in our thoughts and prayers that are in the hot spots and away from their families.

### COMOMAG Beach to Bayers

Six members from COMOMAG participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Armed Forces Day Corpus Christi Beach to Bay Relay Marathon on May 15, 2004. The race started promptly at 0700 at Nueces County Park on the Beach, south of Bob Hall Pier on Padre Island. The Beach to Bay Marathon is a 26.2-mile point-to-point relay beginning at the Nueces County Park, going across the Kennedy Causeway, winding through the Naval Air Station and ending at Cole Park on Corpus Christi Bay. The course is divided into 6 legs of approximately 4.4 miles each. The first leg is run on the beach, the remaining legs are run on a paved surface.

IT2 Michael Ramirez ran the first leg in the moist, but hardened sand as the sun rose in this most exquisite south Texas beach. The temperature was a runner-friendly 70 degrees. After running with some of the area's elite runners he passed the baton to IT1 Joshua Dennis for the second leg of the race.

Assuming IT2's pace, Dennis unlike IT2 ran on a paved surface. Continuing the blistering pace established by IT2, Dennis passed the baton to LT Sheila Bowman. Running the Kennedy Causeway portion of the race, Bowman had to endure the steady uphill slope of the Kennedy Bridge and all the road construction between Corpus Christi and Padre Island. Luckily the overcast skies maintained a runner-friendly climate. Maintaining the steady strain efforts she passed the baton to CWO4 Rick Hernandez, the old goat of the team, to wind through NAS Corpus Christi. With the runner-friendly climate continuing in the team's side, Gunner passed the baton to one of the team's fastest runners, ISC Randy Bubar. The chief had the exquisite privilege of running past the Texas A&M Corpus Christi University Campus and Corpus Christi's finest homes on Ocean Drive. After getting their second wind, thanks to the chief's strong legs, he passed the baton to the anchor of the team, CDR Terry Auberry. For the second consecutive year the Commander has anchored the team in the finest fashion considering the runner-friendly climate gave way to a warmer, more humid climate as the sun peeked out from behind the clouds. By then the race was over for the COMOMAG Peacocks. He finished the race in 3 hours 44 minutes and 13 seconds — 23 minutes and 48 seconds better than last year's time.

The team finished 251 of 1116 teams that registered in the race. The Peacocks were registered in the Military/Law Enforcement Division finishing 27<sup>th</sup> of 58 teams.

All along the way were crowds encouraging the runners, base security guards all along the NAS portion, and race volunteers manning the various water stations. Some runners opted for getting water splashed on them to keep cool. As always there were the serious runners, out to win and the casual runners, out to have fun. Our Executive Officer was making fun of the team name. The COMOMAG Peacocks didn't care. They entered as casual runners; out to have fun, and buku fun they had representing COMOMAG in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon.

### Other events this Quarter:

**BZ's Corner:** Great job to MOMAU Eight, MOMAU Ten, and MOMAD Twelve on the successful completion of their recent Mine Readiness Certification Inspection. BZ's also go out to MOMAU One and Eight for successful completion of their Administrative and Material Assessment.

#### Awards:

MN1 Gilliland	- Good Conduct Award
MN3 Wilson	- Sailor of the 4th Quarter 2003 LOC
MNC (SW) Kent	- Good Conduct Award
IT1 (SW) Dennis	- MWR Ltr of Appreciation

Well, from the Cowboy Country of the World, that's a wrap for this quarter; remember to visit



COMOMAG's World Wide Web site for updates on issues, useful www links to Navy and other programs, and current contact information. The address is [www.comomag.navy.mil](http://www.comomag.navy.mil). As always, if you need assistance from the staff here, don't hesitate to call, email, or otherwise contact us for help. Take Care and keep your horse on the trail, and be safe.



## MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH

by LT B. D. Hall

**CO's CORNER.** Greetings fellow Mine Warriors! I am LT Bart Hall, the new CO of MOMAU One. My Change of Command was on 19Mar04. I would like to wish LCDR Kevin Miller a hearty "fair winds and following seas" as he makes the 500-yard trek to Naval Weapon Station Seal Beach Bldg 110 and reports for duty as Regional Ordnance Officer. During my turnover, it was clearly obvious that I have taken command of the best mine shop in the world. The warm welcome, enthusiasm, and positive attitude displayed by all are a tribute to LCDR Miller's leadership, hard work, and success.

On 23 and 24 Mar 04 FTSCPAC conducted a Fleet Calibration Assessment (FCA). MN2 Mario Barrientos' FCA program passed with flying colors. ZERO discrepancies noted, BZ!

Since Change of Command we have been hard at work preparing for our Administrative and Material Assessment (ADMAT) by COMOMAG and supporting the fleet's training needs. We spent the month of April reviewing all of our administrative programs and field daying top to bottom. The troop's hard work culminated in a very successful ADMAT the last week of April. I couldn't have been more pleased with the results and everyone's performance.

On 03 Apr 04, the local chapter of the Destroyer Escort Sailor Association (DESA) hosted a Children's Easter party. It was a great opportunity for all our families to get together for some great food and fun. The kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and the Easter Bunny made an appearance for

pictures. Many thanks to DESA for their support of MOMAU One families.

After ADMAT was completed the troops took a well-deserved long weekend and a few took the opportunity to go camping at Lake Hughes recreational area. Even though the lake was low enough to walk all the way across, everyone had a great time and the feedback from the on-site managers was our folks were the best-behaved and courteous campers they'd had in a while. All returned safely. MWR continued to raise money by attending tapings in Hollywood and conducting car washes. This year's Christmas party is shaping up to be a gala event.

**HAILS & FAREWELLS.** We have four new sailors joining our ranks this quarter. MN1(SW) Keon Jackson arrived from USS SCOUT, MN2(SW) Marco Navarro comes to us from USS AVENGER, MN2(SW) Eddie Gumin reported from USS SENTRY and YN2(SW) Marcus Perkins reported aboard from USS PRINCETON. Welcome aboard to all!

On the 31st of March we said goodbye to IT1(SW) Sheila Loe who separated from the Navy as well as MN1(SW) Mathew Heyer who transferred to MCMDIV ELEVEN.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION.** CO Navy Achievement Medal was awarded to MN2 Mario Barrientos for his hard work during Fleet Calibration Assessment. COMOMAG Chief Staff Officer awarded COMSUBPAC Flag Letters of Commendation to MN2 Mario Barrientos, MN3 Stanley Kaboskie, MNSN Christopher Ricks, MNSN Lee Buss, and MNSN John Bell for their hard work during recent SLMM buildup in support of USS SAN FRANCISCO TRE. YN2(SW) Jamaal Thomas was recognized as Sailor of the Quarter and MN3 Stanley Kaboskie was recognized as Blue Jacket of the Quarter. MN3 Shawn Mcfall is commended for advancing to his respective rank! *Bravo Zulu to all!!*

**ON THE HORIZON.** This summer is looking to be very busy replenishing the warehouse. As I write this, approx 60 assets are being loaded for delivery to Morehead, NC in support of C2F CJTFEX and the final touches are being put on another approx 50 assets supporting C3F RIMPAC in Pearl Harbor, HI. It has been a busy couple of weeks. Should be exciting!

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**THE OLD BELIEVE  
EVERYTHING ;**

**THE MIDDLE-AGED  
SUSPECT EVERYTHING;**

**THE YOUNG KNOW  
EVERYTHING.**

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## MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

by MNCS(SW) Dave Ostrom



HSV 2 SWIFT, BLUE GAME 04

***Salve da Sicilia!*** This past quarter has been a very memorable time for the crew at MOMAU FIVE. We deployed three Final Prep Teams in direct support of SPANISH MINEX 04, BLUE GAME 04 and DAMSEL FAIR 04. MN1 John Dominguez, MN2(SW) Rich Weldon and MN2 Gary Dove were onboard USNS APACHE for the surface launch and recovery of over 30 ET/MCMTT training shapes in support of SPANISH MINEX. During the same time, myself, MN3 Lou Marroletti and MN3 Tony Bedard were onboard HSV 2 SWIFT and the Norwegian mine-layer KNM TYR for BLUE GAME. We conducted the surface launch and recovery of over 40 U.S. and NATO training shapes during this evolution. It was personally great for me to run into my shipmate MNCS(SW) Larry Nauman who is the SWIFT's Command Senior Chief. We all enjoyed working together and had a great time during the surface launch of some INERT MK6 MSM's. And, it was also a very rewarding experience working directly with the outstanding crew of the KNM TYR.



MK6 MSM SURFACE LAUNCH ONBOARD HSV 2 SWIFT



OVER THE SIDE AND READY TO DROP

MNC(SW) Steve Pierce, MN1 Irving Flores and MN2(SW) Mark Floor were on TAD assignment to USNS APACHE for exercise DAMSEL FAIR. They conducted surface launch and recovery operations with over 40 ET/MCMTT training mines. We now are seeing new personnel arrive onboard, so training, PQS qualifications and QUAL CERT Boards are in full swing. June has our Explosive Safety Inspection and we also welcome back onboard for a two-week Annual Training (AT) NR MOMAU's THREE and FOUR. We have scheduled an extensive training program for them, and 4 of the Naval Reservists will participate in exercise BALTOPS 04 with us. The end of this quarter has us conducting our Change of Command. LCDR Larry Kelley will be leaving us first week of July and heading back home to Texas. He will be attached to MWTC Ingleside. So, most of us will be able to see him as a good majority of us are heading to the waterfront at Ingleside for MCM/MHC sea duty.



MOMAU FIVE ENJOYING A FOOTBALL MATCH WITH OUR HOST NATIONALS, SANTA BARBARA DAY FESTIVITIES

***BRAVO ZULU's:*** our 1st Quarter 2004 Sailors of the Quarter are SK1(AW) Elizabeth Moran (SOQ) and MN3 James Batman (JSOQ). We had the advancement to E-4 MN3 Collin Joseph.

***WELCOME ABOARD:*** to MN2 Matt Leadford from the USS DEFENDER (MCM 2).



**TRANSFERS:** MN1 Tina Bibby transferred to USS CORMORANT (MHC 57), MN3 Jeremy Chittenden to USS DEVESTATOR (MCM 6) and MN3 Jim Batman to USS WARRIOR (MCM 10).

**In Closing:** Next issue I will be able to provide you with some more photos of the crew working with our NATO Allies during our Mine Warfare Exercises. Next quarter we will see a big crew turnover and the start of repairs to our facilities by our Host Nationals. Until next edition, the best wishes for continued success. Stay safe, take care and God Bless.



MN3 COLLIN JOSEPH GETTING THEM READY FOR DESTINED GLORY 04



## MOMAU TEN KADENA

by MNCS(SW) Tom Robertson

**KONNICHIIWA** from beautiful Okinawa, Japan! This year is flying by, here we are already in the summer of 2004. As this issue is being prepared, the crew here at MOMAU TEN has had a very busy spring with a busy summer coming up. First, we started the year preparing for our MRCI. The hard work of the crew really paid off by receiving a 100% weapons reliability as well as a 100% inventory accuracy. When I say the crew, I am talking about the active duty and the reserve (NRMOMAU ONE) crews working together as one team. We couldn't have done it without them, and the integration between the two units couldn't have been any smoother. This summer is starting out to be a busy time for us. With exercises COBRA GOLD and CARAT in Thailand, as well as working together

with MOMAD Twelve from Misawa, Japan for Exercise 04-2JA in mainland Japan, we are busy preparing for our Explosives Safety Inspection coming up at the end of June followed by our ADMAT in July, we are going to be stretched thin.



**ARRIVALS:** After more than two years without a yeoman, we finally welcomed aboard YN1(SW/AW) Jimmy Emory. MN3 Bolyard, who served as the command yeoman, has once again joined the crew in Production.



**DEPARTURES:** We will be wishing “Fair Winds and Following Seas” to MNCS John Bray and his family as he retires June 4<sup>th</sup> after 24 years of service to the Navy and the Mine Warfare community. We are also saying goodbye to MN3 Roberts and MN3 Smith (who will be attending Temple University) as they depart the Navy for life as civilians. We wish them both all the best.

A big hearty congratulation goes to MN2 Everingim as he was recently frocked to his new rank, and to MNSN Fry for his selection as the Sailor of the Quarter and all the hard work and overtime he put in preparing for our Field Calibration Assessment that was conducted in April. IT2(SW) Atkins will also be welcoming twin baby girls to the world in mid-July. Congratulations!



## MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK

by MN2 Valarie Wheeler

**GREETINGS FROM THE LOW COUNTRY!** Spring has arrived to MOMAU Eleven and the relative cool and calm of winter is now a memory. The pace of the largest mine shop in the world slows for no one. With the Service side of the house scrambling to bring material back into proper maintenance cycles and the MET side completing one request after another for shapes, we have been a little busy.

Congratulations to the SLMM team! They faced a seemingly impossible mission at the start of the year; turn over 200 Condition Code “E” Main Mine Assembly’s into Condition Code “A” by 01 June. Not only did MN1(SW)Brady, MN2(SW) Bufano, MN2 Percy, MN3 Jones, MN3 Harvey, MNSN Klein and MNSA Musante complete their task, but they did it a month ahead of schedule. No time to celebrate their accomplishments though as JTFEX-04 had arrived with a vengeance. With a quick turn two, the SLMM team lent a hand to The VEMS team of MN2(SW) Graham, MN2 Wicklander and MN2 Wohlgemuth. Together all of them began the long, arduous task of preparing 19 MK 74’s and 4 MK 75’s. This is the largest build of its kind conducted here at MOMAU Eleven in three years.



In 7 days all of this...



Was done by (from L to R) MN2 Gipson, MNC(SW) Elsbury, MNSN Klein, MNCS(SW) Morus, MN2 Wohlgemuth, MN2(SW) Bufano, MN2 Stretch and MN3 Lichford. (Not pictured are MN2(SW) Graham and MN2 Wicklander and MNSA Musante)

Meanwhile, the main production team had its own operation to complete. The JTFEX-04 had a request in for a few mine shapes to play with. The remaining crew of MOMAU Eleven pulled themselves up by their bootstraps, set their teeth and began the monstrous task of refurbishing 61 mines of various shapes and functions for the exercise. Using the water blaster, jitterbugs, several gallons of white and orange paint and a lot of elbow grease, this colossal undertaking was completed on schedule.



All of this and we still have room for....



These.

Work did pause briefly in order to conduct a reenlistment ceremony. The occasion was simple and short though no less profound as we congratulate MN1(AW) McLaughlin on choosing to stay with the Navy.

Now the deck is cleared and the MK 65's begin arriving for their scheduled maintenance. Rain or shine the ongoing mission of MOMAU Eleven never ends.

On a more personal note, congratulations are in order to MN1(SW) Patrick Brady and his wife, Diana on the arrival of Patrick Junior into their family. Also congratulations to MN3 Charles Breeden and his wife Colleen and their new son Alexander.

The MOMAU Eleven softball team, affectionately named The Outlaws are currently riding high in the Weapon Station board with seven wins and only one loss. They also competed in the Air Force vs. Weapon Station competition and placed second over all. Well done on their winning season.

As always, time passes causing friends and shipmates to move on, leaving us to bid them farewell. Soon though, new faces arrive fitting into the empty spaces of those who left us behind....

## HAIL AND FAIRWELL

### Departures

CDR Anderjack

MNCS(SW) Shelton  
 MN1(AW) McLaughlin  
 MN1(SW) Coleman  
 MN1 Cassidy  
 MN2 Percy  
 MN2 Wohlgemuth  
 MN2 Wheeler  
 MN3 Markham  
 MN3 Sandoval  
 MN3 Quinn  
 MN3 Jones  
 MN3 Breeden

### Arrivals

MN2 Brown  
 IT3(SW) Riley

### KUDOS

MN1(SW) Allard  
 MN1(SW) Brady  
 MN2(SW) Bufano

SK2(SW) Peters

MN2 Stretch  
 MN3 Jones  
 MN3 Harvey  
 MN1(SW) Bowman  
 MN3 Asbill  
 MN1(SW) Braham

**To**  
 CPF,NAVMARANAS-SUPAC, Guam  
 MINEDIV 31, Bahrain  
 USS Ardent, Bahrain  
 Medical Dept. OST, Chasn. Fleet Reserve  
 USS Champion, Ingle.  
 USS Frank Cable, GU  
 USS Frank Cable, GU  
 USS Guardian, Sasebo, JA  
 USS Kingfisher, Ingle  
 USS Civilian  
 USS Chief, Ingle.  
 USS Oriole, Ingle.

**From**  
 USS Pelican  
 CTS Bahrain

Navy Achievement Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Letter of Commendation  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Letter of Commendation  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Good Conduct Medal  
 Good Conduct Medal  
 Letter of Commendation

MN2 Wheeler  
 MN3 Asbill  
 MN3 Durham  
 MN3 Nix  
 MNSN Nichols

Letter of Commendation  
 Letter of Commendation  
 Letter of Commendation  
 Letter of Commendation  
 Letter of Commendation

## BRAVO ZULU

MN3 Wheeler  
 MNSN Durham  
 MNSN Nix

Advanced to MN2  
 Advanced to MN3  
 Advanced to MN3



# MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

by LT Julian C. Wyatt

**“ATTENTION in the Pilot House”**, this is LT Julian C. Wyatt (Commanding Officer), I have the DECK and MNCS (SW) Michael Stultz (Mine Assembly Officer and Senior Enlisted Adviser) has the CON, belay all reports!

Greetings friends, family members and Mine Community, MOMAU 15 has established residence at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, in building 500 and are busy supporting our customers locally and abroad. We hope this SITREP arrives to find each of you in the best of health and spirits.

At the helm of MOMAU 15 Departments, the following “Outstanding Leaders” have the watch: MNCS(SW) Terry Hoekman (Production Department Head), YNC (SW) James Parks (Admin Department Head); MNC(SW) Robert Dunbar (Supply Department Head) and MN1(SS) Gregory Eckelbecker (Operations Department Head)!

Exercise Support: From INSURV to TSTA, we have shipped MK 6's, MK 36's and even (6) X Shaped Targets to MCMDIV 31 in Bahrain in support of USS Cardinal's INSURV. The MCM's and MHC's keep us active in provision of Afloat Training, which MNCS (SW) Hoekman, MNC (SW) Dunbar, and MN2 Mozek have rendered on 4 separate occasions. Fleet Exercise support has been a steady strain, and has increased production output of VEM's, both MK74's and MK 75's. We anxiously look forward to the rest of this quarter, while digesting the most recent Six Quarter Exercise Schedule.

On a congratulatory note, MOMAU 15 was proud to frock MNCS (SW) Hoekman this past Friday, 7 May



2004 from MNC to MNCS. Way to go Senior Chief! Congratulations to you, and Carrie.

Recent Achievements: ADMAT (Jan 04), FCA (Apr 04), CMEQ Survey (Apr 04), NMCI cutover on NIPR (Apr 04). I am still in a job, so we did exceptionally well (smile). Next hurdle is MRCI scheduled for June 04.

Congratulations to MOMAU 15 Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year for 2004: IT1 Summer (SOQ); MN3 Whitmore (JSOQ); MN1(SS) Eckelbecker (SOY) and MN3 Chiles (JSOY).

Welcome aboard to: YNSN Howard, MN2 Piccione, MN1 Kopelwitz, SK2 Waldrep, SK1 Pruske, MN1 Ward, and MN2 Mozek. Additions to the MOMAU 15 Family are Megan Mason and William Wesley David Wells!

The major change of hats for me was this past month. MNCS (SW) Hickman, the outgoing MAO and SEL, turned over to MNCS(SW) Stultz (he was the production officer, who now, fledged up to be the MAO and SEL. MNCS (SW) Hickman transferred to the USS Chief.



CO MOMAU Unit FIFTEEN, LT Julian C. Wyatt and MN1 Santel. (Photo by MNSN Apple)



Mineman Senior Chief Petty Officer Michael Stultz, Unit FIFTEEN Senior Enlisted Leader, Mine Assembly Officer, and Executive Officer emcees the retirement ceremony.



Unit FIFTEEN Operations Officer, MN1(SS) Eckelbecker, MN1 Santel, and Assistant Supply Officer, SK1 Pruske. (Photo by MNSN Apple)



## MWTC UPDATE

By CDR Polk

Mine Warfare Training Center held a change of command ceremony May 7, 2004 onboard Naval Station Ingleside. Cmdr. Ricks Polk relieved Capt. Richard Rush as commanding officer.

Captain Rush has made an indelible mark on the Mine Warfare community, South Texas, the fleet, indeed the world. He took command of Mine Countermeasures Squadron TWO in May 2000. In October of 2002 he assumed command of Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside, TX. Captain Rush's performance as Commander, Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) from October 2002 to May 2004 and Afloat Training Group Detachment Ingleside (ATGI) from October 2002 to October 2003, has



been absolutely phenomenal, a stabilizing force in a sea of change. His inspirational leadership, judicious and thorough execution of training policies, and innovative solutions to a myriad of complex issues has been the cornerstone of success, culminating in MWTC's selection as NETC Training Excellence award winner. His visionary leadership of the mine force cannot be overstated as his impact reaches across a multitude of commands and around the globe, from his additional duty relationship to Commander Mine Warfare Command to the Naval Personnel Development Command and Center for Surface Combat Systems to Carrier and Expeditionary Strike Groups, the Afloat Training Group and individual fleet units both stateside and forward deployed. Captain Rush has integrated Mine Warfare across the spectrum of force capabilities. Mine Warfare (MIW) has emerged as a critical mission throughout the fleet in light of *Desert Storm*, *Operation Iraqi Freedom* and the introduction of Organic Mine Countermeasures (OMCM) systems. Captain Rush stepped to the plate in spearheading mainstreaming efforts. With expansion of MWTC, he has set the table for continued growth and development of MIW training, while the export of training to each CSG, ESG, NAVOCEANO, ONR, Program Offices, and the Naval Reserve has broadened the knowledge base throughout the fleet. Desiring a grand slam in mainstreaming, Captain Rush envisioned and is collaborating with the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) to expand the reach of MIW to joint forces.

(CNELSI). The gas turbine engine has revolutionized how Sailors learn the basic operation of the gas turbine engine in the MCM Propulsion Operator and Maintenance Engineman "C" School course.

Gas turbine generators supply the power for light-load propulsion motors on the Navy's mine countermeasures ships. They also run the bow thruster motor and mag tail reels.

"It allows us to provide realistic, operational training on the gas turbines in the Naval fleet for the first time," says LCDR Ray Goyet, CNELSI officer in charge.

Prior to the new fully operational teaching tool, students who would someday be servicing the gas turbine engine in the fleet, were trained on a non-working, older model of the turbine in school.

"The class lecture and study material side of the course was excellent," Goyet continued, "but the model was inadequate, almost useless. Now, they're looking at an up-to-date model – and one that operates," he said. Course instructors include ENC(SW) Craig McGuire, ENC(SW) Richard Gibson, ENC(SW) Tomas Falkenberg, EN1(SW) Corbin Stalcup, and EN2(SW) Phillip Valadez.



## MCM NEWS

# STATE-OF-THE-ART GAS TURBINE ENGINE MAKES DIFFERENCE AT MWTC

Story, photo by Mike Antoine  
Naval Station Ingleside Public Affairs

Here's a riddle. What weighs about 5,300 pounds and costs just a little over a million bucks? If you answered "the Model 1302 gas turbine engine, you'd be right.

It's the showpiece, so to speak, at the Center for Naval Engineering Learning Site, Ingleside



EN1(SW) Corbin Stalcup teaches a class to students at Mine Warfare Training Center's MCM Propulsion Operator Maintenance Engineman "C" school course.

**DISCIPLINE WITHOUT  
FREEDOM IS TYRANNY.  
FREEDOM WITHOUT  
DISCIPLINE IS CHAOS.**

# Association of Minemen 30th Annual Reunion & Meeting Charleston, SC

## 8-10 October at the Town and Country Inn

**Association of Minemen**

**P.O. Box 71835**

**Charleston, SC 29415**

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

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

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

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

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Tickets @ \$32.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Tossed Salad with Choice of Dressing, Baked Chicken, Broiled Salmon, Fried Shrimp, Scallop Newberg, Traditional Rice Pilaf, Roasted New Potatoes, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Rolls and Butter, Iced Tea and Coffee, Dessert Cream Pie. This includes all taxes and gratuities.)

Picnic Tickets @ \$11.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Age 7 to 12 years \$5.00, under 7 years FREE)

Picnic Tickets @ \$5.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children attending picnic age 6 and under \_\_\_\_\_

(The picnic will be the usual burgers, franks, beans etc.)

Annual Dues: @\$15.00 June 2004 to June 2005 (5 year max) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your label has your paid to date, e.g., August 2004 is your paid to date (New or reinstatement member add \$5 application fee)

Museum Donation: Tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AOM General Fund: Tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AOM Scholarship Donation: Tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Association of Minemen (no cash) TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* We must guarantee number for dinners not later than the morning of 5 October 2004. There will be NO refunds after 4 October 2004.

\* Town and Country Inn reservations 1-800-334-6660. Cut off date for group rate reservations is 8 September 2004. Single/double \$74.00 +12% tax

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NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues of \$15.00  
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