

THE DASHPOT

Issue 51

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

Fall 2005



FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

REUNION 2005 CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 21 - 23 OCT 2005

Time is rapidly moving toward our reunion date. According to Chairman Ron Swart, everything is lining up very nicely and all loose ends have been secured and we will have another great reunion. Don't forget to bring items for the auction. Monies from the auction mainly go to support our Scholarship Fund.

We will be selecting two Directors this year to fill the expiring terms of Robert Hart and Walter Peters. Members of the Board of Directors serve a term of three years. Step up to the challenge and let our Past President, Paul Santa Maria, know that you want to serve on the Board so he can put your name in for consideration.

As you know, our reunion location and dates are set up two years in advance. At this year's General Membership Meeting, we will be looking to commit for a place to hold the year 2007 reunion. This will be west of the Mississippi so bring your ideas with you and throw them into the pot.

Remember, 01 October 2005 is the cutoff date for hotel reservations (directly to the Hotel) and your dinner plans must be in by the morning of 19 October 2005 to Mr Curtis T. Christian, Secretary/Treasurer. The 19th is the last date that Curtis can check the P.O. Box before leaving for the reunion. Get your plans in as soon as possible.

Thank you very much. God Bless all of you and your families and God Bless America.



REUNION 2005 DRIVING TIPS

For those of you who intend to drive from anywhere in the East, Ron Swart offers the following recommended routes.

Those driving from the East should avoid I-10 and consider taking I-20 West to Shreveport, LA then consider either U.S. 59 South to Houston then on to Corpus Christi,...or I-20 to Dallas then I-35/I-37 to Corpus Christi... or cut across on U.S. 79 to Austin, then down I-35/I-37.



MOMAG UNIT FIVE DECOMMISSIONED

by Ron Swart

I just want to pass along a big "thank you" to MNC K.D. Dixon and the fine crew of MOMAU 5 for their dedicated efforts and hard work during the closing of the last mine shop in Sigonella. Chief Dixon sent me several generations of photographs from his Unit, which I will bring to the reunion in Corpus Christi for all to view. All of us who were stationed there have many memories and stories... all of which I hope will find their way into the Dashpot one day. Chief Dixon is headed to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, Hi for his final tour on active duty. See y'all in Texas!

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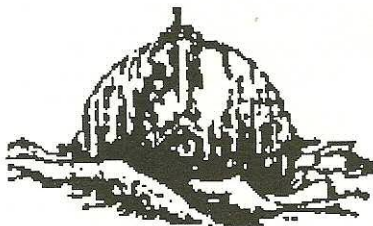
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THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN



DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina 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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FROM THE SECRETARY

by Curtis Christian

We are putting a good year behind us. Our funds have increased, but our membership has decreased. Somewhere, I know we have some Chiefs out there that can jack up the MNSNs (Petty Officers too) about the AOM. Sure do need your help Chief. I know that most of our Officers are getting old (not me) and we need some young blood to take over.

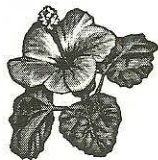
Hope to see all ya'll (and for our northern members, "all of you")(SMILE) in Texas in Oct.

I have enclosed a copy of our balance sheet starting 2006. Will have the report in Texas for your viewing. Should you have any questions, please feel free to ask. I can't believe that I could make an error (SMILE), but should you find one let's correct it now rather than next year.

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN BALANCE SHEET

Acc. No.	Account Title	Debit	Credit
101	Cash	32167.58	
102	Storekeeper Supplies	1621.65	
103	History Book Inv.	7150.00	
104	Admin supplies	96.74	
105	Unappropriated Cash	12670.83	
106	Scholarship CD	12627.44	
107	Not Used		
201	Scholarships		3025.43
202	Benevolent		600.00
203	History Books		
204.1	Membership Dues 1 (2006)		1210.00
204.2	Membership Dues 2 (2007)		920.00
204.3	Membership Dues 3 (2008)		480.00
204.4	Membership Dues 4 (2009)		210.00
204.5	Membership Dues 5 (2010)		105.00
205	Yorktown		200.00
206	Lexington		30.00
207	Museums General		1343.40
208	This Reunion		- <44.52>
209	Storekeeper		
210	Membership Dues (2011)		
211	Next Reunion		
301	Association Capital		31956.66
302	Income + Expense Summary		
303	Operating Funds		12670.83
304	Scholarship CD		12627.44
305	Not Used		
501	Dashpot expense		
502	Printing Expense		
503	Postage Expense		
504	Chaplin Expense		
505	P.O. Box Expense		
506	Admin supplies Expense		
507	Awards Expense		
508	Banking Expense		
509	Miscellaneous Expense		
510	Storage Expense		
511	Not Used		
	TOTAL	66334.24	66334.24

Ed Oyer reports that Trist McConnell, retired Technical Director of NMWEA, was admitted to a Williamsburg hospice Monday, the 5th of September 2005, with terminal lung cancer.



by Swede Carlsen

Once again the AOM scholarship drive for the year has been very successful. All of 2005 applicants will receive a \$500 assistance scholarship. Six (6) awards were from the membership. One (1) memorial scholarship in the name of Kay Branen and six (6) more were from an anonymous donor.

The following applicants will be awarded an assistance scholarship from the AOM.

Nicholas R. Squillace
Lauren Saccone
Kelly J. Stewart
Lindsey Wallace
John Wallace
Christine Tiramani
Steven Tiramani
Michelle Gagnon
Joseph Cavallo
Jacquelyn Vietro
John F. Loonam, Jr.
Shannon Sweeny
Antonieta Marmorato

Wright State Uni.
Eugene Lang Coll.
Furman Uni.
U of Puget Sound
Oregon State Uni.
Bucknell Uni.
Bucknell Uni.
Penn State Uni.
Tufts Uni.
SUNY Buffalo State
UNC Wilmington
Coll. of Saint Rose
Franklin Pierce Law Center

Congratulations to all applicants!

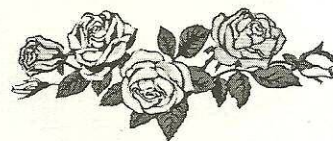
The 2006 Scholastic donations have already started with a memorial donation in the name of Anthony Ross by Nancy Ross.

This years picnic scholarship donations will add to Nancy's generous contribution.

Our future leaders need your help.

STAND TALL AMERICA

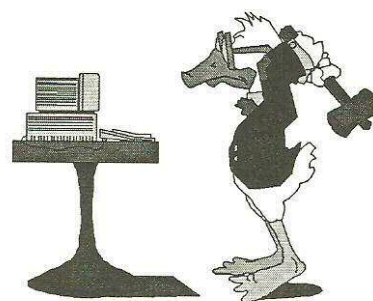
YORKTOWN - Marian Reimer Fisher died peacefully at home Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. Mary was born in Covington, Ky. on Oct. 20, 1914. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chief Mineman USN (Ret.) Forrest C. Fisher. She was a loving and compassionate wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by a sister, Pat Kessler of Las Vegas, Nev.; sons, Gerald and Marty Fisher and his wife, Pat, of Yorktown; daughters, Sharon and her husband, O.J. Horn, of Onancock, and Mary Ann and her husband, Eric Foell, of Gloucester, Va.; 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Mary was a founding member of St. Joan of Arc Church and very active in parish ministries. She was also an active member of the York Lions Club. Mary led a full life with many notable experiences, including surviving the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor. She was a resident of York County for more than 60 years. The family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to service time on Friday, Sept. 2, at St. Joan of Arc Church in Yorktown. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. Interment is private. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be made to St. Joan of Arc Church, 315 Harris Grove Lane, Yorktown, VA 23692 or the Lions Club, c/o Norman Giebink, 103 Gray Lane, Grafton, VA 23692.



When you were born,
you were crying and
everyone around you
was smiling.

Live your life so that
when you die, you are
the one smiling and
everyone around you
is crying.

FROM THE WEBMASTER



New E-mail Addresses

Below are recently changed or added e-mails on the AOM WEB Site. There have been several inquiries about e-mail addresses on the AOM WEB Site that are bouncing. If you are listed on the site please check to see if your address is correct. If changes are required, or you wish to be listed on the site, e-mail me the information at pdechene@triad.rr.com. Phil DeChene AOM WEB Master

E-Mail - Active Duty

Donna Oglesby MNCS (SW); oglesbyd@Kitty-Hawk.navy.mil
Laura (MIMI) Rodriguez MN2; mncrod48@aol.com
Jason Beldon MNSN; minemanhomicide@hotmail.com
Andrea Edwards MNCS (SW); andrea.edwards1@navy.mil
John Caporuscio, MNC (SW); vduben2@yahoo.com
CDR Terry Auberry; terry.auberry@navy.mil; auberryt@cnrma.navy.smil.mil

E-Mail - Reservist

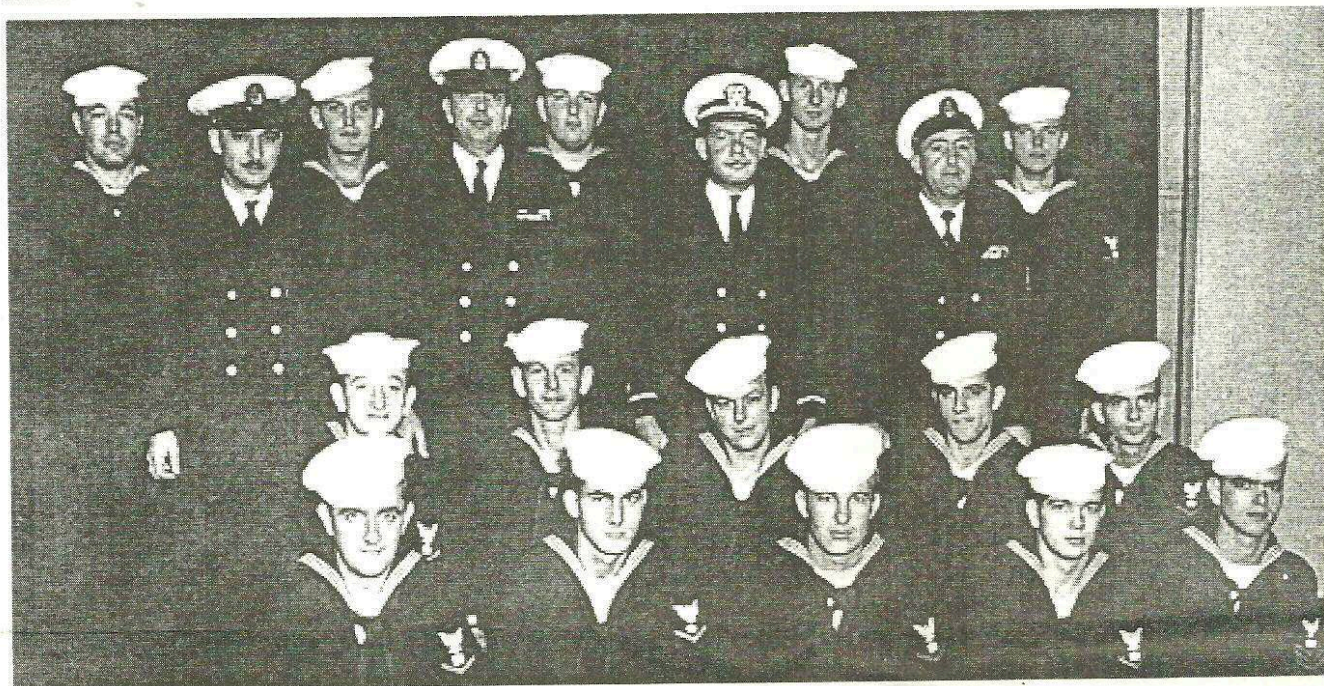
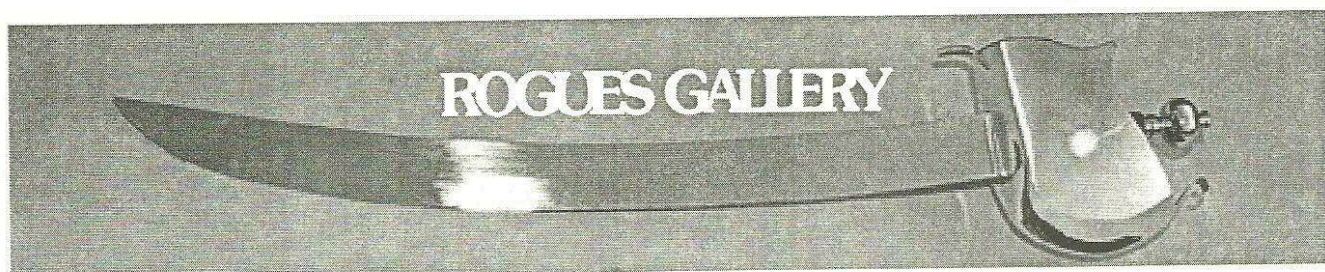
Able Fernandes MNC USNR; ablefernandes@optonline.net
John Brandenstein MN2; dodgetek@gmail.com
CWO4 Robert L. Stegge USNR; Robert.stegge@afiwc.aia.af.mil or Gunnerbob@access1.net
CWO2 Beth A. Hudson USNR; beth-hudson@ti.com
Keith Hardiman MNCS USNR-R; keith_hardiman@taiamerica.com
Troy J. Burrud MNC; USCTROY6@aol.com
Michael A. Peters MNC (SEL) USNR; mpete@inreach.com
Daniel R. Ward, MNC (SEL) USNR; danusn@netzero.net
LT Joe Oszvart; Former Mineman from 1990 to 2000; joszvart@ford.com navylt03@yahoo.com

E-Mail - Retired

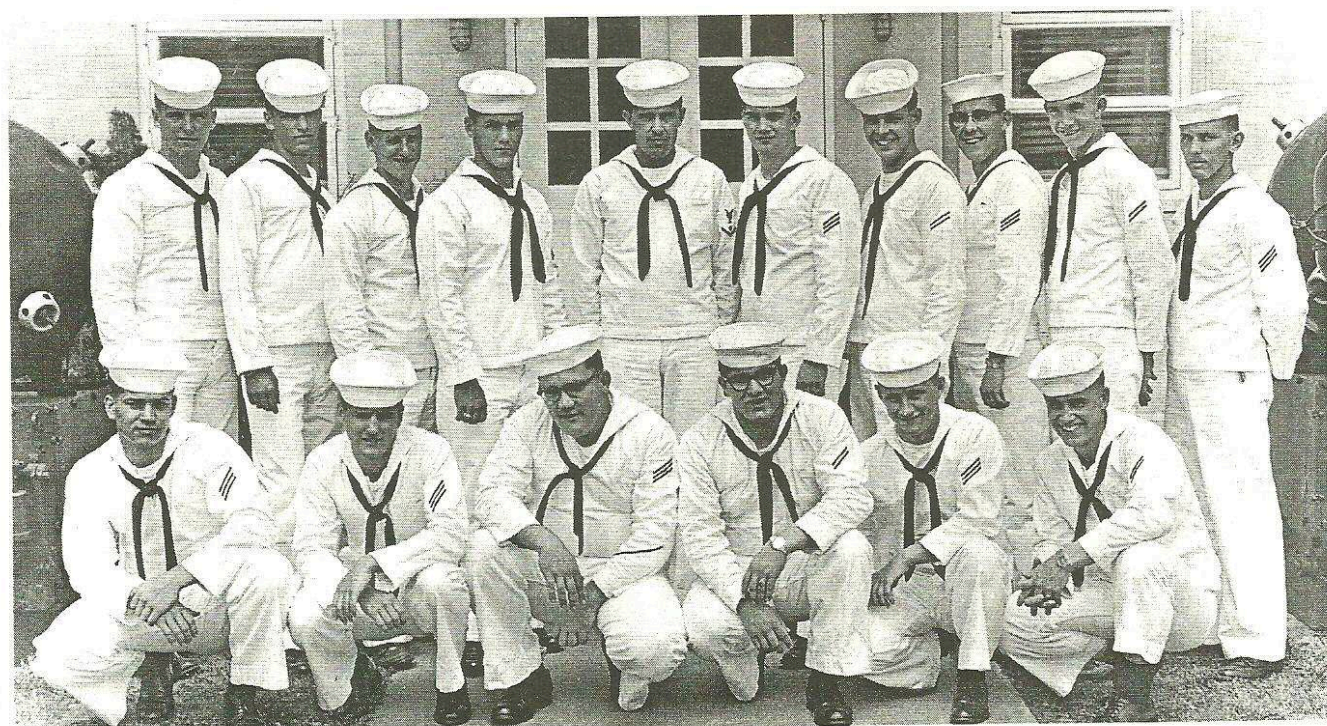
Gary Garvine MN1; gary_garvine@hotmail.com
Thomas Vail MNC (SW); vailthomas@msn.com
Don Jones MNCM; jodo496Usn@aol.com
George Preston MN2; presto@cox.net
CDR Toby Horn; tobyonesc@comcast.net
John A. Nahra MNCS; mrmomag@yahoo.com
Bruce Swenson MNC; swede51448@msn.com
David Watkins MN1; watdavali@earthlink.net
Fred Reid MNCM; JRReidH20@aol.com
LT Richard (Dick) Martin; damrem@frontiernet.net
John Carman, MNC; carmanjl@cableone.net
William "Mac" McKensie, MN1; wemmacmn1@yahoo.com

E-Mail - Ex-Mineman

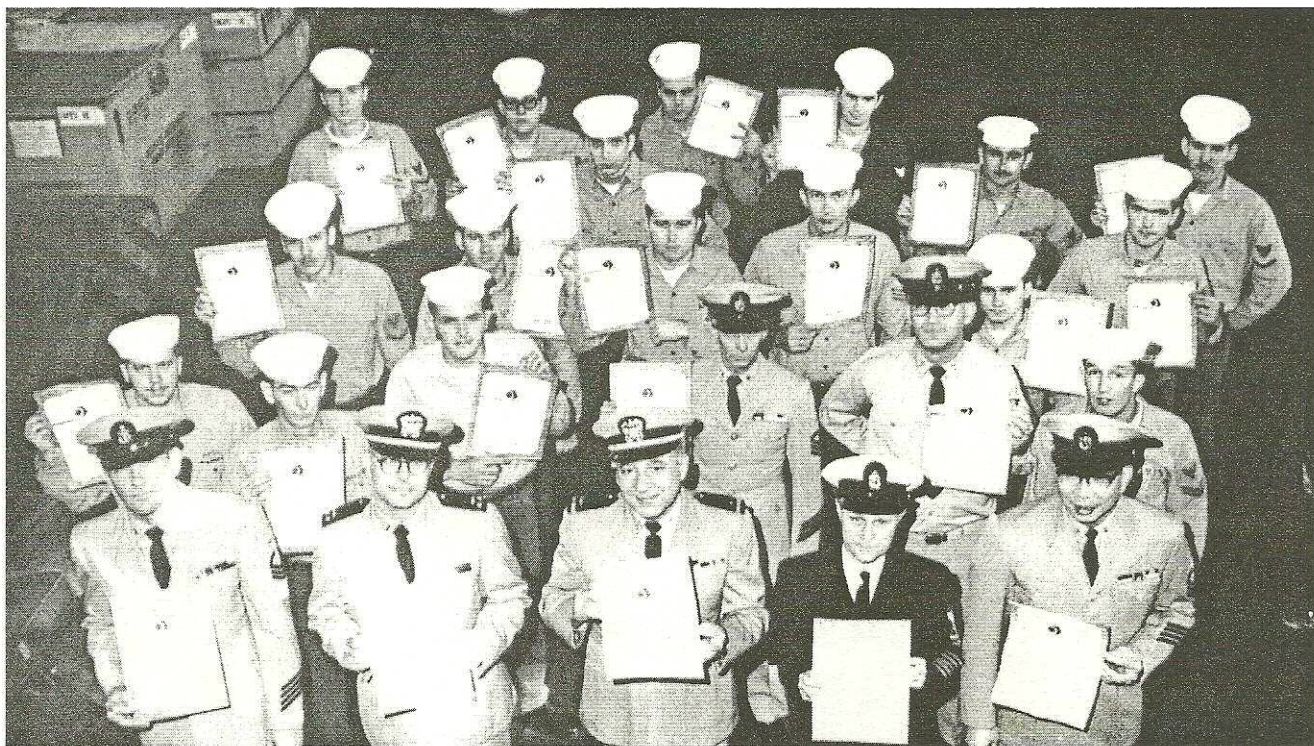
Ronnie Smith MN3; ronniefwtx@yahoo.com
Eric Crews MN3; ecrews1@hotmail.com
Julia Anderson (Raab) MN3; juliaandri@yahoo.com
Vickie (Andresen) Sedillo; Mineman; vickiesid@cableone.net
James R. Gray MN2; graydog1945@yahoo.com
Larry (disco) Dickson MN3; Stmrydickson@aol.com
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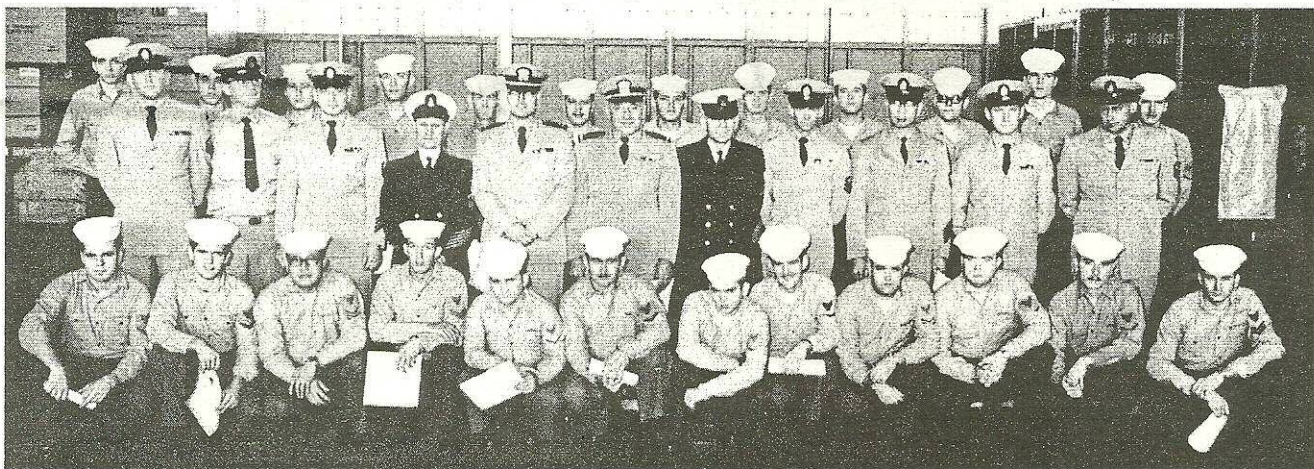
Advanced Mines Enlisted Class Yorktown, VA, 8 September 1953 to 3 December 1953



A School Class Summer 1962 Front Row: Flora, Myself (Eugene Stanton), Darwin Webb, Roland VanWey, Wayne Bradfield, Bill Macha
Back Row: Unknown, Gerry Mosso, Unknown, Marshall Pallett, MN3 Bell, James Schelinski, Unknown, Al Higgins, Unknown, Evans



MOMAUPAC Long Beach 29 Jan 1970. Known present in this image: MN2 Robertson, MNC Frank, MNC Johnson, MN2 Reynolds, MNCS Fowler, CWO2 Dechene, CWO4 Scharschan, MNCM Glowa, MNC Sing



The Tear-stained Album

Until the time the Bo'sun's pipe sounds the call for me,
These tired old eyes will gaze upon the faces that I see
In this treasured album, resting tear stained on my knee.

When the final bugle sounds playing taps alone for me,
I'll board a shining silver ship and sail a crystal sea,
With gold top gallants billowing to Port Eternity.

There, upon arrival, surrounded I will see,
My shipmates sailing years before waiting there for me,
Who welcome me as worthy kin, home at last from sea.

So weep not when I board that ship and sail the crystal sea
And join my shipmates who are waiting patiently for me
To render my best hand salute when the Bo'sun's face I see.

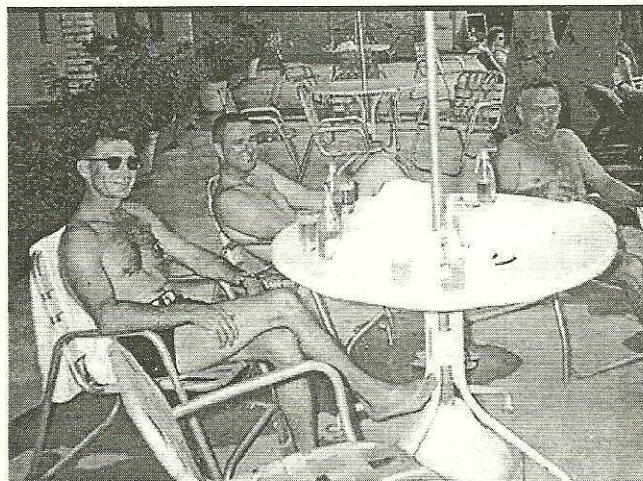
William & Emma Mehard (Charleston, SC)



William James and Emma Jane Mehard of Hanahan, South Carolina celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 11, 2005, with a cruise to the Western Caribbean. They celebrated this special event with their children, grandchildren and relatives.

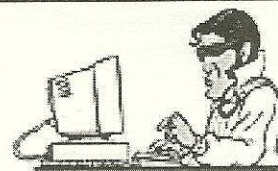
The Mehards were married June 11, 1955, in First Christian Church, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. Their children are David Mehard and his wife Jenifer of Hanahan, South Carolina; Dr. William B. Mehard of St. Louis, Missouri; and Leslie Brady and her husband David of Manasses, Virginia. The couple have four grandchildren: Rachel, Treavor, Alexander and Kyle.

Mr. Mehard retired with 25 years of Naval service in the Mine Warfare community as a Lieutenant Commander. Mrs. Mehard is a retired real estate agent. Published in the Charleston Post & Courier on 7/10/2005.



On deployment, MNC Stan Kozeski, MNC Bill Roberts and MN1 Sam English

EDITOR'S CORNER



The truth comes out with time. Sam English told me he was born a W-2 and joined the Navy as a W-3! Perhaps the story of Sam and the "bomb" at Michaelangelo International Airport needs to be recounted before it fades from memory.

It is good to see old snapshots and I wish more came in. I know there are more out there so scan them and send them as .jpg attachments or mail them and I will return them the same day.

See you at the reunion on Corpus Christi.



THE MAILBAG

8-5-05
0038-Aug 2005

Dear Curtis,

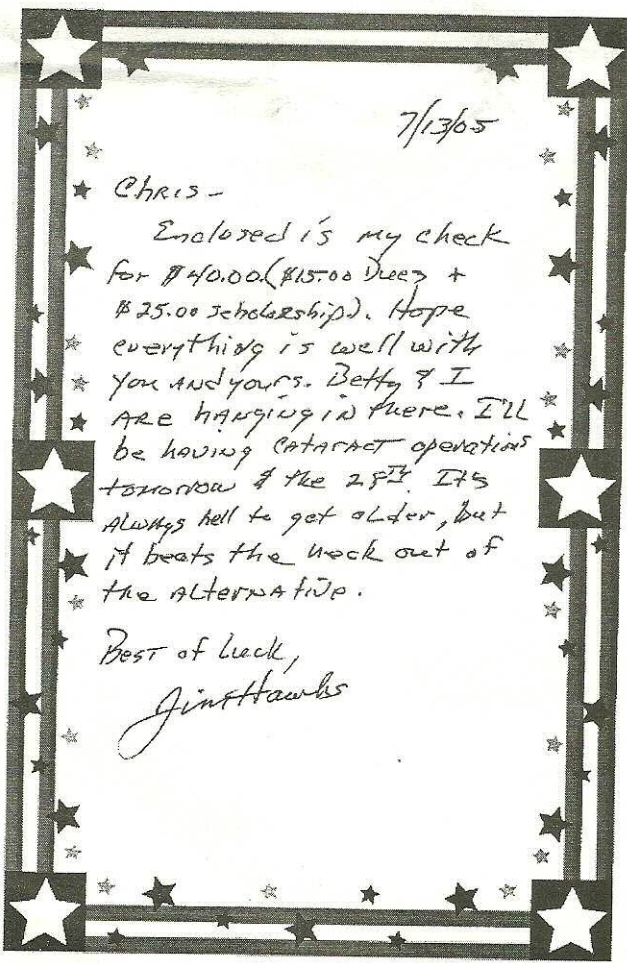
My Dues:

Hope all is well with you and yours. We are as well as can be expected for so many birthdays.

My check for five (5) years dues and request for two (2) dinner and picnic tickets to be picked up in Corpus. THANKS.

Looking forward to seeing you and the other old members.

Ted Newton



LT Edwin Carl Oyer, USN (Ret.)

Curtis,

I still maintain the ASSN. should have a Minuteman plaque at the Navy Memorial Wall - an item for the up-coming reunion??

Enclosed, a check for two years dues.

also, I'll put up seed money for the plaque if need be. total cost is \$2,500.00.



U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL

701 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 123
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-2608

129/1

(over)

Mrondson in the final phase of the neck school there and may stay there on staff come November.

I also sent some comment to the Broceeding on the Mene's article.

Ed.



Hey Curtis,
no more goat shedding.
Hogs & deer OK. Can't hunt
 Elk any more due to mountains
 getting steeper every year.
(Global warming)
 Too bad they feel like
 they have to move the
 mine community again.
 About the time they
 have all of the facilities
 they need, they move
 to someone elses land
 and we lose facilities.
 About the keg mine
 what ever happened
 to the one we had
 at Charleston and
 gave to the Yonktown?
 Steve Howard
 909 Willow Creek Dr
 Burleson TX 76028

We are thinking on
 maybe trying to make
 the reunion.

Bonnie and I are going
 on a trip to Minnesota,
 Washington State, & Calif.
 If we have any money
 left we will probably make
 an appearance.

Take care and keep
 your powder dry
 Steve

Tommy E. Hogan
 700 Anita Dr
 Tehachapi CA 93561-1502

Hi EVERYONE

Enclosed is three
 years dues, use
 the extra \$5.00
 anyway you choose.
 Can't make the
 CORPUS REUNION
 But fully intend
 to make the
 2006 Reunion.
 Hope all will
 have a good time
 this year.
 Tom Hogan



www.MooseCharities.org

7-7-05

Dear friends,

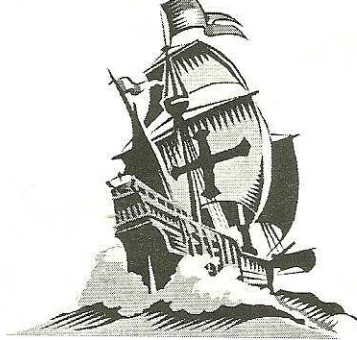
Enclosing dues for 2005-06.

We are both doing well and keep busy.
 We recently enjoyed ten days in
 Norman, OK with our son and family.
 We were able to spend time with
 our grandson who is a Pre-med
 student at OU and our grand daughter
 who came from Odessa, TX where she
 now lives.

There have been several earth-
 quakes in the last few weeks but only
 one shook us up pretty good. No damage
 done. Thank you for the backpat.

Sincerely,

Bob & Frances Steckley



LEANING ON THE TAFFRAIL

MAAG DUTY IN TAIWAN

by Don Jones

I was assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) - Taiwan, 1967 to 1969. Being a Mine Warfare (MIW) advisor for the Republic of China Navy (ROCN), at Tsoying Naval Base, was a highlight of my navy career. Tsoying is located in the south, near Kaohsiung.

During my first weeks on the naval base, I spotted several USN exercise mine recovery floats by the side of the road. The floats were from a MINEX the year before. Their nylon recovery lines had been removed, but several had unfired explosive fittings installed. I took the floats back to headquarters and removed the explosives without incident. The ROCN did not have EOD personnel. They relied on UDT divers to supplement their meager MIW force.

Early on, I visited Makung, on the Penghu Islands, and was disappointed with the state of the many weapons stored there. I convinced the Navy brass they should conduct a Fleet Service Mine Test, similar to that used by the USN. During the operation some of their moored contact mines didn't work properly. The chemical horns and detonators checked out, but the electrical wiring was faulty. Corrosion on an electrical contact point made of brass kept the mines from firing. A few strokes with emery cloth and the old mines worked okay.

When a mainland Chinese ship conducted suspicious operations at night near the island of Kinmen, two coastal minesweepers were sent out to check for mines. When we arrived off Kinmen, the tension was high and the guns were manned as we conducted mechanical sweeping where the Chinese ship had operated. Nothing popped to the surface. Then an acoustic device was used with no results. The sonar operator didn't see any mines either, so we returned to Tsoying. We had been tricked into an expensive sweep operation.

Every year, P3's from Okinawa would drop exercise mines close to Tsoying. Due to strong currents and bad luck we were never able to recover all of the mines. One year, the sweepers

managed to cut-off most of the recovery floats and they popped to the surface. It was very embarrassing to all concerned.

By early 1969, U. S. foreign policy had changed and up to 50 advisors a month were leaving. When the Amphibious and Gunnery advisors departed, I assumed their duties, too. In rapid succession I participated in an amphibious landing south of Kaohsiung, a refueling at sea with a USN ship, and an anti-aircraft gunnery exercise.

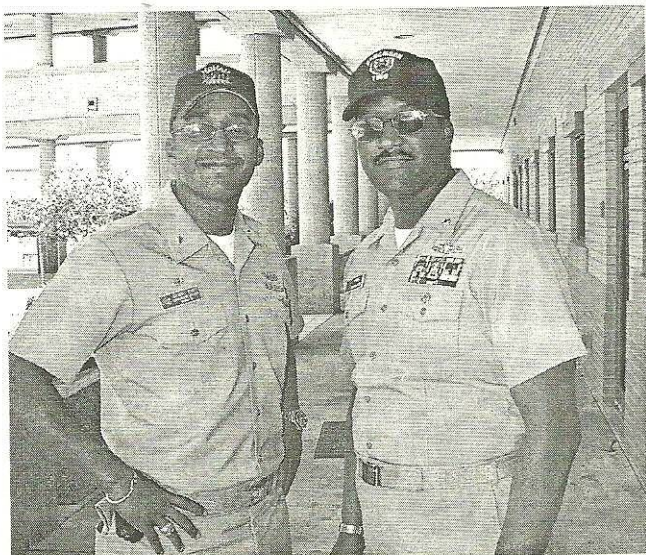
In May, 1969, I was sent TDY to the Army base at Long Binh, South Vietnam. By then I was an MNC, and I relieved an Army E-8. My boss was an Air Force major, and his boss was an Army colonel. Our job was to help Taiwan acquire excess U. S. Army equipment at the Property Disposal Depot. When the new M115 jeeps arrived they turned in their old M38s, which were still in very good condition. Monthly, ROCN LST's delivered loads of bagged cement to the Newport Terminal, and soon as they were empty we back-loaded them with jeeps, trailers, and trucks of various sizes. In mid-July, 1969, the AF-major and I flew up to Danang for a few days, where we were given a mysterious wooden box to hand-carry back to Taiwan. We suspected the box contained captured AK-47's, but we didn't know for sure.

All things considered, the MAAG duty was a bittersweet learning experience. I went there unaware of the tension/hostility between the ex-mainland Chinese and the native-born Taiwanese. For example, one day we learned a Taiwanese civilian had been executed for stealing gasoline at a military base. It was frustrating and counterproductive to work in an environment like that, but, I was satisfied with my performance and I looked forward to my next assignment.

Don Jones
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Sherwood, TN 37376
Phone: 931-598-0864
E-mail: jodo496Usn@aol.com

FLEET NEWS

MAN OVERBOARD!!



LCDR Julian Wyatt (left) and his brother, LCDR Jason Wyatt, have been serving the "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" together since 2003.

Story, photo by Mike Antoine
Naval Station Ingleside

INGLESIDE, TEXAS — What's that old saying — if you can dream it; you can do it? Two boys growing up in Newark, N.J., during the late sixties and seventies are proof positive it's more than just an old saying.

One of the brothers' favorite games was pretending they were Sailors on a fantastic adventure on the high seas. Pillows on the floor represented the deep oceans; their beds represented the great tall ships of some impressive imaginary fleet. Fearlessly, they would encounter and prevail over anything in their bedroom from turbulent ocean waves to giant sea monsters to menacing pirates.

Today, those young "sailors" are serving as officers and gentlemen of the U.S. Navy — and as fate would have it, both are stationed in Ingleside, at the "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence." They're the Wyatt Brothers, and this is their tale.

The Brothers

LCDR Julian Wyatt is the commanding officer of Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 15. He assumed command in October 2003.

The 44-year-old bachelor holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Regents University (now Excelsior College); a Master's in Education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, and is currently working on an MBA in Human Resources from Florida Metropolitan University.

Four years younger, LCDR Jason Wyatt is the READRON Operations Officer for MCM Squadron Two and has been

there since March 2003. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H.

The Formative Years

Growing up in Newark, Julian and Jason saw little of their dad, Archie, during a typical workweek. "Dad would leave for work around six in the morning, and we wouldn't see him again until much later that night," Julian said.

Every day, he took an hour-and-a-half bus ride from Newark to New York City, then boarded a train for work in Manhattan, where he worked for the *New York Times* and at a clothing distributing company.

Little wonder Julian and Jason were so close growing up, and enjoyed participating in many activities together — such as martial arts and running.

Archie, now deceased, served as a medic in Vietnam. Their mother, Anne, now lives in Whiting N.J. The Wyatt brothers have one married sister, Natasha. Another sister, Tanya, is a retired first class cryptologic technical (communications).

Answering the Call

Julian entered the Navy in June 1980. He said he got the taste for the sea service shortly after high school, when he worked with the merchant marines during a 42-day stint over the summer to earn money for college.

"I absolutely loved it — it was my first time working at sea," he said. But after a year at Worcester State College, he realized he wanted to pursue a career in the Navy. And it wasn't all motivated by love of the sea.

"There's a strong notion of honor in our family, so joining the Navy also gave me a chance to do something for my country," Julian said. Julian's recruiter told him which schools he qualified for, but warned him that once he got into a rate he would be more or less "stuck with that rating for the rest of his life."

That notion didn't appeal to Julian.

"I opted to go in as an undesignated seaman. The recruiter told me that by doing that, I could at least figure out what I liked and what I didn't like."

One thing the young Sailor found out was that he didn't like chipping paint all day — that revelation coming after a couple of months aboard USS Sterett (CG 31). Julian applied for the Limited Duty Officer and Chief Warrant Officer program, and was subsequently picked up the first time and commissioned an ensign in 1994, while serving aboard USS San Bernardino (LST 1189).

One of Julian's earliest memories as an officer was serving in the precommissioning crew for USS Gonzalez (DDG 66), as the ship's systems test officer (STO).

"Precomm crews are very tight," he said. Julian added that what made it so enjoyable was having what he called a major input in how the ship was designed.

Julian left the ship in 1998 as a lieutenant, and headed to Dahlgren, Va., for PCO/PXO instructor duty for the Aegis Weapon System.

In 2002, Julian found himself in Bahrain as Fifth Fleet ordnance officer with Combined Task Force 53 under COMUSNAVCENT.

In addition to serving aboard Sterett San Bernardino, and Gonzalez, Julian served aboard USS Reeves (CG-24).

On the other hand, Jason's "real" Navy adventure began in 1990, while brother Julian, then a chief gunner's mate, was a weapons technicians instructor at Nuclear weapons training group, Pacific in San Diego. Jason had marked time for four years after high school, trying his hand at a

variety of jobs. "I'd worked in a mental hospital, sold securities, worked as a security guard — and with a newspaper," he said. "But nothing really stuck with me."

He said he finally decided to join the Navy as Desert Storm was brewing, partly because of the postcards he'd gotten from Julian and his sister Tanya from overseas and CONUS duty stations. "Both Julian and my sister made the Navy sound like a great place to be.

"It also gave me a chance for me to figure out what types of skills I'd be best at using, as well as giving me a chance to serve my country."

Jason earned his Naval commission in 1990 through Officer Candidate School, Newport, R.I. After completion of Surface Warfare Officer school in San Diego, he reported aboard USS Mount Vernon (LSD 39), as second division officer, Deck Department. Jason served aboard Mount Vernon through 1994, also seeing duty as ship's CIC officer.

With the drawdown of forces following the Persian Gulf War, Jason accepted commission as a Reserve officer, and was given the opportunity to become a TAR (training and administration of reserves).

"I accepted the conversion, Jason said, "and got orders for Omaha, Neb., as executive officer of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center."

Obviously, Jason didn't see any ships in Nebraska, but it was during that stint he actually saw someone working in rates he had only read about in the *Bluejackets Manual* — steelworker and lithographer.

His next assignment was a little closer to water — Department Head School in Newport, R.I.

His following assignments got him much closer to water. He was operations officer aboard USS Lewis B. Puller (FFG 23), from 1996 to 1998; and later aboard USS Ogden (LPD 5), from 1998 to 2001.

Following consecutive sea assignments, Jason reported for duty as commanding officer at the Naval Reserve Center, Glens Falls, N.Y., where he eventually put on lieutenant commander bars.

Rendezvous at NAVSTA

"I asked for South Texas," Julian said. "One of my goals when I originally came in the Navy was to make master chief as soon as I could — because they never have to stand duty."

He added that one of his ultimate goals in the Navy was to be a commanding officer, be it aboard ship or at a shore station.

He got some good information from his detailer. "I learned that for LDOs, the only place you can become a commanding officer — as opposed to an officer-in-charge — is in the mine warfare community. When I heard that I knew it was for me."

He lined up his follow-on assignment before he went to Bahrain. Jason said that commanding MOMAU 15 "is like a dream come true."

"It's a lot of hard work, but it feels fantastic," he added, "but it has far exceeded any of my expectations."

Julian attributes his success to leadership by example, continuously trying to qualify for the job you are in (prevents stagnation) and his 4E-1P Formula: positive Energy; ability to Energize others; Edge — the courage to make tough yes-or-no decisions; the ability to Execute in order to get the job done; and Passion. You have to be passionate about work, about life, about everything! It is conta-

gious. Additionally, he likes to "empower people."

His goals for everyone under his command is that they have or get started working on their associate degrees.

After completing his going from at-sea department head billets to command ashore, forty-year-old Jason told the detailer he was ready to get back in touch with the fleet when it was time for him to leave the Reserve Center at Glens Falls.

"I am very easy going and was ready to go wherever the detailer needed me to be. We looked at Norfolk, but the timing wasn't going to work. Then my detailer offered me the Squadron operations officer job — and here I am. The CO's and crews on these ships are some of the hardest working Sailors in the Navy. It wasn't part of my plan, but I have really enjoyed being in Texas, and it's nice to come back to warm weather."

Although the brothers work on the same base, they have opposite jobs within the mine warfare community.

Julian's mission is to prepare mines to be placed in the water for exercises and operations; while Jason works with ships that are trained to hunt, sweep and neutralize sea mines.

The rest of the story

Julian enjoys martial arts and running, when not engaged in educational pursuits.

Jason likes to spend time with his family, computers, and bicycling — in that order.

He and his wife, Rosa, live in Portland with their three children, but they will be leaving South Texas later this summer, when Jason reports for duty with OPNAV staff in the Pentagon.

Julian will continue his Naval career as CO of MOMAU 15 until some time next year. He is currently negotiating with detailer for his follow-on assignment.

More than a job

The one word that sums up Julian's Naval journey is, as he puts it, "Rewarding — there's no better word for it. I feel blessed," he said. His motto has always been "Invenium Viam Aut Faciam"; I shall find a way or make one.

His achievements affirm that motto. He's earned two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Navy Unit Commendation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, a Navy OEO Ribbon, five Good Conduct Medals, two Navy Expeditionary Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, two Humanitarian Service Medals, five Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, a NATO Medal, the Expert Pistol Shot Medal, and the Expert Rifleman Medal.

Jason said the one word that would sum up his Naval experience is "diverse."

He's proof positive of that notion. He likes to think of himself as "your average Ivy-league guy who is OCS, with experience in amphib, cruiser/destroyers and mine warfare who happens to be a TAR."

His advice for junior Sailors? "Be ready to commit yourself and give your all," he said. "You don't gain anything by just going 'along for the ride.' You got to push yourself — be involved."

Continued overleaf at bottom.

MINE ASSEMBLY NEWS



COMOMAG

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

Howdy! Shipmates. Well as we all know were in that part of the year where you have to be watching your back side down here in South Texas and any where up and down our East and Gulf Coastal Waters, for those mighty wind storms called Hurricanes. Looks like things are going to get bad in New Orleans like they did last year in Florida. Just make sure your ready and have a plan in case one comes your way. You might want to mosie on up the trail a little time before the big storm, if not, be ready to cinch up the saddle and hope everything and everybody, makes it through the wild ride. Its strange, but as I'm writing this article, hurricane Katrina is hammering Louisiana and Mississippi, lets keep them in our prayers .

Here is what's going on at COMOMAG.

N3 Department has been busy processing and working the issues to ensure that MOMAU FIVE has a smooth as possible closure transition on October 05. Gunner Carl Washington took the lead in coordinating the movement of all their explosive ordnance from MOMAU FIVE to MOMAU ELEVEN, not to count several tons of inert training mines and associated equipment. With the closure of MOMAU FIVE, this gives MOMAU ELEVEN coverage for half the world for mine warfare exercises and mine support.

Two of our N3 personnel participated in PANAMAX 2005. MN1(SW) Renee Myers and MN1(SW) Kirk Veselka went for a ride on the HSV 2 SWIFT. A smooth, fast-paced two-day transit was all it took to get from Ingleside, TX to Panama. On the fourth day, MN1(SW) Myers and MN1(SW) Veselka enjoyed a short stop visiting the stores on the pier of Colon, Panama. The next morning, the Swift was off and going; ready for some hands on experience for MN1(SW) Myers and the deck crew on how to lay the MK 36 mines under the direction and vast mine laying

experience of MN1(SW) Veselka. Later that afternoon, the COMOMAG duo, had the mine plant message sent out, the mine crates put back together, and were ready to enjoy the rest of the ride. What they got was: a few choppy days, a couple of Motion Eaze pills, and a lot of knowledge of a great ship with seemingly endless possibilities and potential.

N5 Personnel have been hot to trot with the UFL(ULCHI- FOCUS LENS) Exercise going on. This exercise takes about two weeks to complete with efforts of N5 and Reserve Personnel working long hours they deal with mine planning and working with MCM's in the Korean Theater. Our Reserve Personnel that have been assisting N-5 Department are CDR Matt Koriath, MNC J. Gutierrez and MNC Kathy Dardio, which all are with the NR COMOMAG Unit.

Awards:

LCDR Grant – Meritorious Service Medal
LCDR Brachand – Meritorious Service Medal
OS1(SW) Davis - LOC SOQ – Second QTR –
(Back to Back!)





ROGUES, RASCALS, AND RENEGADES

GUNNER SAM AND THE SANDWICH BOMB

Gather 'round while I tell you a tale of greed, avarice, and revenge.

It was a cold and wintry day when the inspection team arrived at Heathrow on our first inspection trip. The travel to the British Airways domestic terminal was fraught with disaster. Master Chief Keen had been robbed of his skivvies as the airlines had lost his luggage yet again. This was a common occurrence. As a matter of record, Master Chief Keen has underwear in most every major airport visited by the inspection group. But digress ... British Airways does not serve snacks on board as the flights are very short in duration, but they do have a sandwich buffet where travelers can make a quick sandwich and eat before boarding. We all made a sandwich and boarded our flight. The inspections, as I recall, went well.

A year later, we returned for the "assist" visit. Again we made our way to the domestic terminal and made a sandwich. Gunner Sam made several.

The visit at Glen Douglas went smoothly as I recall after we thawed from the bus ride, the driver of which had no clue as to the meaning of the American term, "Turn up the heat." The ride to Campbelltown was no better and we arrived with blue lips at the hotel. It is my recollection that the officers stayed in relative luxury at the Argyle Arms, owned by a banker, while the enlisted personnel were quartered in the Kintire Hotel, owned and operated by a retired sailor. I believe everyone went to their rooms then returned to get shillings to put into the room heaters to try to save themselves from frostbite. The manager advised us to "just pull out the coin box and cycle the coins back through." What a novel and generous idea.

Those of us at the Kintire made great and lasting

He knows what he's talking about — here's a list of his medals: Two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals; two Navy Achievement Medals; Joint Meritorious Unit Achievement Award; Navy Unit Commendation; Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation; two Battle Es; National Defense; Armed Forces Expeditionary; two South West Asia Service Medals; the Global War on Terror Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; two Sea Service; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait); and Navy Pistol sharpshooter.

Musings

"Jason and I are very close," Julian related. "He actually flew to San Diego while I was stationed at Nuclear Weapons Training Group Pacific to talk to me about coming into

impression on the staff as we each had in our possession several bottles of duty free spirits which we spread around quite freely. We became very popular with the staff; endeared, yea beloved, would not be too strong of a term.

The inspection at Machrihanish was too soon over and the time to return was upon us. To show their gratitude, the Kintire Hotel staff threw us a party and it was a doozy.

The next morning dawned cold and gray with a razor sharp wind blowing into the harbor. The bus tooted impatiently and the sickest, saddest, sorriest sailors you have ever seen stumbled, careened, reeled, ricocheted, or were poured onto the bus and away we went. As humanity returned, so did hunger. Sam opened his briefcase and offered bone dry, week-old British Airways sandwiches for a dollar.

The following year, we stopped at Earle, NJ first and one of us bought a ham sandwich with extra mayo from the Country Store there and had it sealed in a barrier bag. Miles and miles it traveled, rounder and rounder it got until we were afraid to carry it any longer. At Michelangelo International in Rome, this round shiny ball was given to Sam when he mentioned he was hungry. There are many guns in that airport and Sam got suddenly afraid. We rapidly cleared out of the line of fire with Sam holding the bag so to speak.

It opened with a loud pop! The stench cleared out at least a hundred yards of concourse and left Sam complaining that we could have gotten him shot. That had been a real possibility and, if the Carabinieri had known who had caused that stink, I am quite sure they would have done just that.

Sam got out of the sandwich business after that.

the Navy — he wanted to know my feelings and recommendations."

Before both being assigned to commands aboard Naval Station Ingleside, Jason and Julian had never had the opportunity to be stationed together, so they've made the most of it.

"We get together a few times a week," Julian said. "We share DVDs, I mooch off of him for a good home cooked meal, and if I have any problems with my computer, I give him a call."

It's been some ride since their days of "sailing the high seas" on their beds.

Indeed, as another old saying goes, it's been an adventure.

Departures:

LCDR Bachand
 LCDR Grant
 MNCS (SW) Fish
 MNC(SW) Kent
 YN1(AW) Pratt
 SK2 Defro

Arrivals:

LT McGregor
 MNCS (SW) Ostrom
 MN1(SW) Simms

Well, let me wrap up my last entry into the Dashpot by saying, its been a nice long 28 years of military service, I retire on 8 Sept, and I'll soon be reminiscing about all the opportunities I had while I was in the service. The military has been a big part of what type of person I turned out to be. I feel that I turned out to be a better person than if, I wouldn't have joined. Most of all, I'm proud for serving my country, and hope in my civilian life that I set a fine example in supporting our fine country and what we stand for. I've enjoyed the ride, and want to thank all who had a part in my military successes, for I could not have done it alone.

See Ya'll Down the Trail MNCS Cecil fish

The ENTIRE staff of the Dashpot wishes you fair winds and following seas, Senior.



MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH

by LT B.D. Hall

CO's CORNER: Greetings from Seal Beach, CA.

Although faced with numerous mission requirements and short fused operational commitments, MOMAU One's MWR committee still managed to keep morale escalated throughout the summer months. In June MWR sponsored the first of two Spades tournaments during the summer. The stakes were high and game faces on as the troops partnered together and faced their rivals in intense, but cordial, fast paced games of spades. In the weeks to follow, MWR also sponsored a

MOMAU basketball shootout. The competition was on as crewmembers showed off their skills and athleticism. Fund raising for our holiday events are also in full swing. Giving the upper chain of command a break while giving the junior enlisted a chance to see how it is to be the "Top Dog", the CO, MPO and Production LCPO positions were auctioned off for a day. I was introduced to the sand blaster and afforded the opportunity to get first hand knowledge of what it is like to refurbish mines for eight hours.

Congratulations to MN1(SW) Mazurek for his community involvement with the Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach and the Long Beach Veteran's Rehabilitation Center. MN1 contributed immensely to both foundations over the course of the summer. He led a team of nine volunteers during the painting of a 6'x12" mural he designed himself at the local Boys and Girls club. Bravo Zulu!

This past summer we had two new additions to our world. I'd like to congratulate SK2(AW) Morales and his wife Adriana on their newborn baby girl, Ella, as well as MNSN Creadick and his wife Arlene on their newest edition to the family, a healthy baby boy named Matthew. We welcome both newborns with open arms as extended family to MOMAU One.

HAILS & FAREWELLS: Welcome aboard to MN1(SW) Ramsey from USS WARRIOR (MCM 10), MN2(SW) Hoffman from MCM Crew India, MN3 House from USS BLACK HAWK (MHC 58), and also SN Allen and SA Purvis from Mine Warfare Training Command.

Farewell to MN2 Barrientos who transferred on 17 June 2005 to Inshore Boat Unit Five and MN3 Golden who transferred on 11 July 2005 to USS PATRIOT.

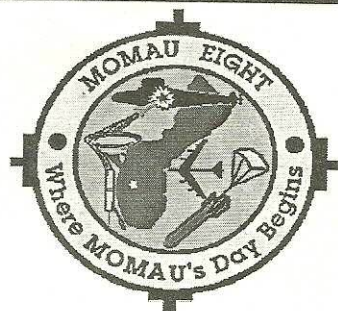
Congratulations to MNCM(SW) Mark H. Zinnel on his retirement after 30 years of honorable and dedicated service. Master Chief Zinnel was sent off in style as the crew of MOMAU One arranged an unforgettable retirement ceremony in his honor. As tokens of the deep respect and admiration afforded him by the crew of MOMAU One, he was presented with a genuine Navy Cutlass and scabbard. The Meritorious Service Medal signed by CMWC completed the event. His contributions throughout his Naval career, and to MOMAU One, will have a lasting impact on myself and all the fellow crewmember's who had the privilege of serving with him. Best wishes to Master Chief Zinnel and family. In traditional Navy fashion I bid you "Fair winds and following seas."

AWARDS & RECOGNITION: Congratulations to MN1(SW) Jackson for his selection as Sailor

of the Quarter and MNSN Wolfe for his selection as Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

I'd like to congratulate MN3 Golden for his exceptional dedication and devotion to the Seal Beach Battalion Sea Cadets prior to his transfer. As a result of his unfailing commitment, the Seal Beach Battalion Sea Cadets presented Petty Officer Golden with a placard and citation for his outstanding duties. As a special dedication they announced that all future recipients would be given the "John R. Golden" award for their outstanding efforts. The acknowledgement undoubtedly sets the bar for future Sailors to follow.

ON THE HORIZON: With the summer rapidly coming to a close, mission requirements continue to build as we enter the fall. MOMAU One will be at the forefront of some interesting firsts. As the aging MAU 91 is being phased out of our inventories, the MK12 tail fin is becoming the new staple of MK63 Quickstrike and Mine Assembly Teams (MAT). MOMAU One MAT personnel will use the technology in a carrier build for the first time, providing training to carrier based Aviation Ordnancemen and feed-back to the T&E people. Homeland Security is also shaping up to be a huge consumer of our products. Utilizing our unique knowledge of mines, MOMAU One has manufactured the first training IED's for use in training exercises in defense of terrorist mining of our harbors. This Gulf of Mexico exercise will employ two of our sailors in the transportation of the IED's to Mobile, Alabama where they will assist in the plant and recovery of the assets, subsequently making the long return via highway back to southern California.



MOMAU EIGHT GUAM, USA

by MN1 Eugene T. Smith

Greetings from the beautiful island of Guam. We are happy to report that UNIT EIGHT has successfully passed our Explosive Safety Inspection. A lot of long weekend hours and hard work went into preparing for our ESI. The training and level of knowledge that resulted from all that work was well worth it. Our attention is now focused on our up-coming TAV in September and ADMAT in November.

We were lucky enough to get a special SLMM class arranged for three of our crewmembers. MN2 Kapsa, MN3 Sakaris and MNSN Beeler will be our new SLMM Techs.

All available hands recently joined the production department in completing the huge task of screening & doing maintenance on 691 Gas Generators received from Hawthorne.



MN1 Thetford seen here re enacting the crating a Mk 56 Anchor Mech Section during up-grade training as it was done prior to the discovery of air tools.

HAIL AND FAREWELLS

-Said hello to: MNCS PIPKIN from USS GAURDIAN
SK1 DAVID from USNS BRIDGE
IT2 APODOCA from COMFLEACT CHINHAE

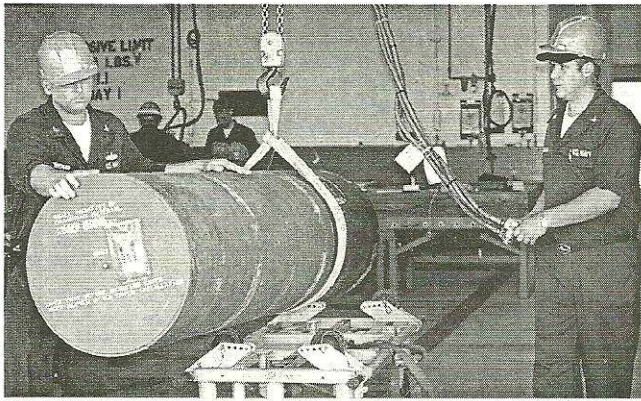
-Said goodbye to: MN1 GONZALEZ transferred to NRC-DALLAS
IT1 TROTTER transferred to NCTS GUAM

REENLISTMENTS

-Congratulations to the following shipmates recently re-committed themselves to serving our great nation:

SK1 BROWN - 4 more years
MNCS KING - 3 more years





MN2 Freeman and MN3 Sydenham (pictured wearing his PPE incorrectly to demonstrate that AO's really are inferior to MN) handling a MK 56 Anchor Mech Section during recent upgrade training.

KUDOS

-We'd like to congratulate the following personnel for their accomplishments:

MNCS PIPKIN - NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SK1 DAVID - NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MNCS KING - NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MN1 GONZALEZ - CO LOC

IT1 TROTTER - CO LOC

MN1 SMITH - SSOQ 2Q05

MN3 SYDENHAM - JSOQ 2Q05

YN3 COATES - OUTSTANDING PRT

MNC BUTLER - EXCELLENT PRT

MN1 VAN MATRE - EXCELLENT PRT

MN1 SMITH - EXCELLENT PRT

SK1 BROWN - EXCELLENT PRT

MN2 MAYER - EXCELLENT PRT

MN2 KAPSA - MOST IMPROVED PRT

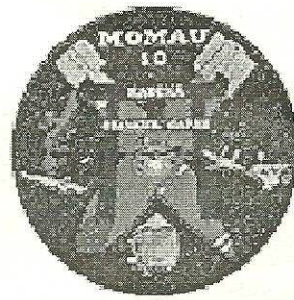
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

-The Navy and the Command were represented at the Memorial Day Ceremony in our sister village of Talofofo by MNC Butler, SK1 Brown, SK1 Haygood and MN3 Sydenham

- The CO (LCDR Washington), MNC Butler, YN1 Wright and YN3 Coates recently hosted a Basketball Clinic and Tournament for all age groups at the base gym, which was a huge success.

If I could kick the person in the tail that causes me the most problems I could not sit down for a week.

Will Rogers (1879-1935)



MOMAU TEN KADENA

by MN2 (SW) Troy M. Reed

OGENKI DESU KA? ARE YOU WELL

Summer is coming to a close here in Okinawa, Japan. We have successfully completed 101 critical days of summer. MOMAU TEN remained accident free during this critical time. ORM played a big part in our success. Continuous training and using our buddy system helped keep Team Ten safe and mission ready.

VIP VISITS :

COMOMAG's CMD DENNETT paid a site visit to MOMAU Ten during the month of August. He brought the latest news and plans for the mine warfare community. Most importantly taking the time to talk with all the personnel. Keeping his finger on the pulse of our community, he addressed questions and concerns.

ARRIVALS:

TEAM TEN would like to welcome aboard our newest team members and their families.

1. Fleet sailor MN3 Jose I. Lopez , his lovely wife Marjorie and their son Santiago.

MN3 joins us from the tip of the spear, USS Raven, MHC 61 Manama, Bahrain. MN3 Lopez is currently attached to our newest division Packing Handling Storage and Transportation P. H. S. & T

2. Surface warfare specialist MNSN Brett M.

Grzegorzczuk, who joins us from the recently decommissioned USS DETROIT, AOE4. MNSN GG as we lovingly refer to, worked with A division Engineering Dept. MNSN GG is currently working with our production team.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Sailors of the Quarter for the second quarter:



Senior SOQ-MN1 (SW) Montero



Junior SOQ-MNSN Abegg

DEWA MATA ATO DE Well then, see you later!



MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK

By MNC(SW) King

Greetings from the Low Country!!

We have been busy preparing mines for various exercises, receiving material from MOMAU Five, and performing quarterly maintenance. We begin by announcing that we have successfully completed our ADMAT inspection. All of the time spent working to ensure records was complete and programs are being administered correctly paid off.

During our quarterly mine assessment, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to train with NR MOMAU Units 6 and 4. Both units readily jumped in to help and showed that they are a part of Team MOMAU. In addition to receiving valuable training and they provided valuable training to our personnel.

In support of the closure of MOMAU FIVE, we sent a five-man team to Colts Neck, N. J. to presence all ordnance and non-ordnance returning from Unit FIVE onboard the USS MOUNT

BAKER. They inventoried material as it was off-loaded and assisted in organizing the transportation of the material to MOMAU ELEVEN. The daily truckloads of material arriving have kept our transportation division busy.

Because of the closure of MOMAU FIVE, MOMAU 11 is expanding. We have obtained additional magazines and are working on obtaining addition buildings for mine assembly work. Our crew size is also growing. We have approximately 60 minemen onboard and anticipate another fifteen by the end of the calendar year.

Congratulations: We'd like to congratulate the following personnel for their accomplishments:

Awarded Commanding Officer's MOMAU ELEVEN Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in support of ADMAT.
 IT2(SW/AW) Joseph Biosca
 MNC(SW) Stanley King
 IT2(SW) Christy Riley
 YN1(AW) Darrell Thomas
 YN1(AW) Sheila Thompson

Commanding Officer's Letter of Commendation in support of ADMAT
 MNSN Brian Osborne
 MNSN Shawn Thornton
 MN3 Luis Veliz
 MN1 Naddine Wicklander

Awarded Good Conduct Award Medal
 MN2 Bruce Haynes (Second Award)
 MN2 Quenton Lewis (First Award)
 MN1(SW) William Senseney (Fourth Award)
 MN2 Rodney Terry (Second Award)

Commanding Officer's Letter of Appreciation for Color Guard
 MN2 Reubin Stretch
 MN2(SW) William Brown
 IT2(SW) Christy Riley
 MNSN Jeremiah Tilley
 MN3 Brian Osborne

Senior Sailor of the Quarter 2nd QTR
 MN1(SW) William Senseney

Junior Sailor of the Quarter 2nd QTR:
 MN3 Jeremiah Tilley

New Personnel onboard
 MN1(SW) Edelmiro Caceras
 MN2(SW) Triveni Baron
 MN2(SW) Glenn Burton
 MN2(SW) Richard Dubois
 MN2(SW) Matthew Giannini
 MN2(SW) Thomas Howard
 MN2(SW) Ralph Maldonado
 SK2(SW) Sharon Paulk
 MN2(SW) Johnathan Reece
 MN3 Daniel Gower
 MNSN(AW) Gabriel Cabrera

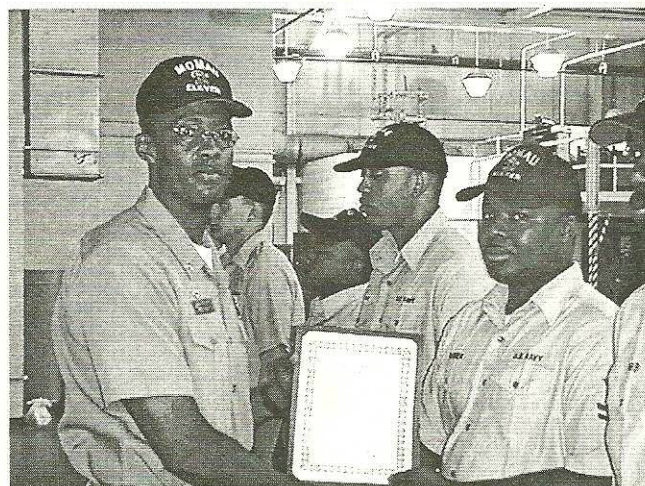
MNSN(SW) Jeffery Gardner II
MNSN Spencer Billy
MNSN(SW) Robert Howard
MNSN Douglas Woods
MNSN Kenneth Pospisil

Finally, to the victims of hurricane Katrina, our thoughts and prayers are with you. MOMAU Eleven collected donations for the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society for Sailors affected by the storm. So far, we have raised \$1900.00.

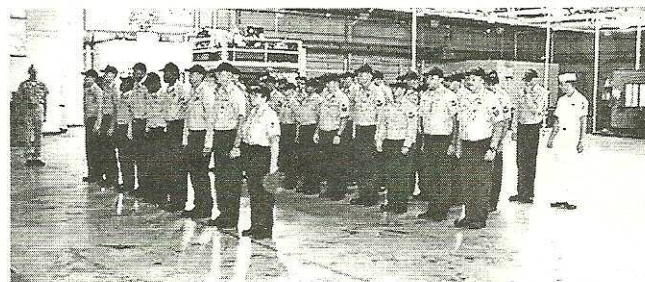
This is all for now. Enjoy your Holidays.



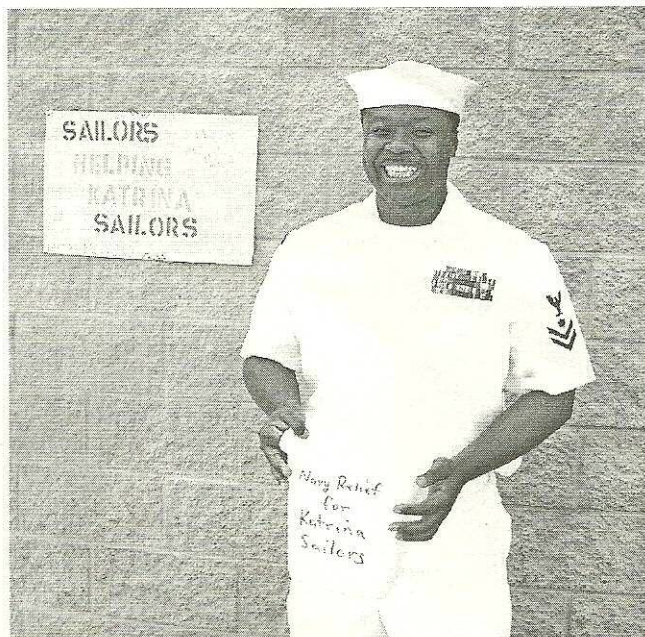
Congratulations to MNSN (SW) Lacy for selection as BlueJacket of the Month



MN2 Warren receives Letter of Commendation for ADMAT



Crew at Awards Quarters



MN2 Warren Collecting Donations for Hurricane Katrina Victims



MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

From the Desk of the Commanding Officer:
LCDR Julian Wyatt

Congratulations to YNC (SEL) Eldrid Vistro and MNC (SEL) William Andrzejewski on their selection to Chief Petty Officer!

From the Desk of the Mine Assembly Officer:
MNCS (SW) Michael Stultz

A well deserved Salute to our Sailors of the Quarter:

SSOQ: MN1 (SW) Jeffery McIntosh; Mine Assembly Leading Petty Officer

JSOQ: MNSN Sandy Gardner, Mine Assembly Technician

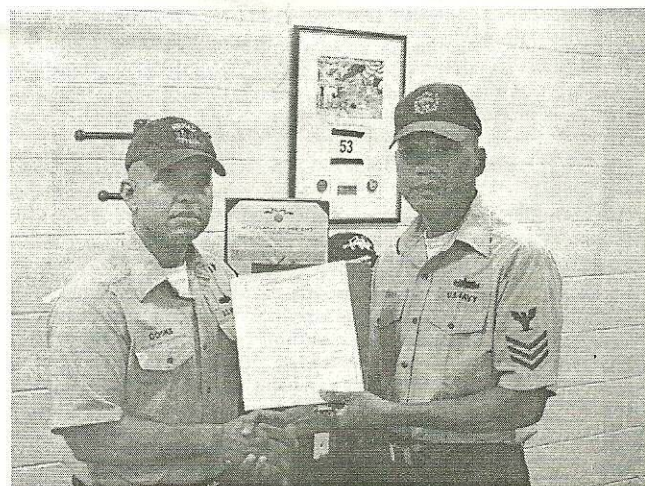
ADMIN DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: YNC (SEL) Eldrid Vistro

Thank you to all Departments for your inputs to notices and instructions! The highly successful

ADMAT was the culmination of everyone's effort!!! MOMAU 15 will be bidding farewell to YN3 Howard, who will be reporting to the USS Milius (DDG 69) in San Diego, California and we will be welcoming aboard YN3 Barnette, who is reporting from 31st SRG Port Hueneme, California. Thank you for your steadfast devotion to MOMAU 15 YN3! You have truly been a superstar, acting as Assistant Command PRT Coordinator and Assistant Admin Officer for a brief stint. Farewell and following seas.



MN1 (SW) Cooks (on left) being reenlistment by YNC (SEL) Vistro (on right). YNC (SEL) Vistro administered oath!!



The shame of it all!! A First Class Petty Officer impersonating a Chief Petty Officer by administering oaths and all. MY WORD! I hope this has been duly noted by the Goat Locker..... and remedial action taken at his initiation.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MNC (SEL) William Andrzejewski

The last 3 months have been extremely busy for MOMAU 15. Exercise support has encompassed the following Operational Areas: Southern California, Corpus Christi, Cherry Point, Panama City and the Caribbean Sea! Factor in one ISIC inspection and preparation for MRCI and ESI on the horizon in conjunction with standard refurbish-

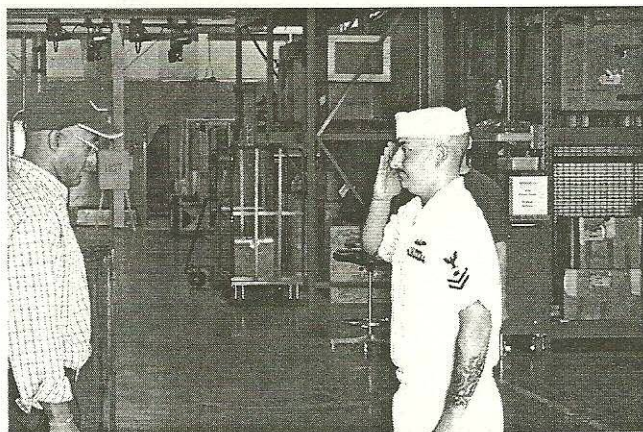
ment requests and war-fighter support, and you can imagine the number of work orders processed. A hearty "BZ" goes out to all departments for work order processing!

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MNC (SW) Leonard Rambo

Congratulations to SK2 Maxwell and her husband, Daniel, who were recently married. The long hours and wall-to-wall inventories paid off for supply department in the recent ISIC ADMAT inspection. We would like to thank all departments for their assistance and in particular, LT Parks from CMWC, for his sage advice and wisdom in preparation! I would be remiss if I did not thank SK1 (SW/AW) Pruske and team, for the outstanding turnover as Supply Department Head and for doing such a stellar job! It's great to be here!!

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MNC (SW) Robert Dunbar

The mine recovery team is alive and well!! One of the ULS/ULD exercise shapes, a MK 49, recently washed up on the beach in Port Lavaca. MOMAU 15 deployed the mine recovery team to retrieve the asset without incident. Go team! We recently experienced a fantastic groom on the Water Blaster from MNC (SW) Dalve, a reservist, who volunteered to conduct his training time in Ingleside and seize the opportunity to completely overhaul our system and provide training to our personnel. Thank you so very much!!



MN2 (SW) Boyd end of tour award

QA DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MN1 (SW) Scott Kopelwitz

Farewell and following seas to MN1 (SW) Terry Ward who retired August 22, 2005. We will miss seeing you around here and definitely, your sense of humor! QA Department has devoted many hours updating shop travelers and preparing for the recently successful ADMAT inspection. Next goal or target of opportunity is MRCI and ESI. Thank you MN3 Reinersten for all of your assistance! You are the man.



MCM NEWS

4 MIW SHIPS DEPLOY TO SUPPORT HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY, RELIEF EFFORTS

Francoise "Fifi" Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer
Naval Station Ingleside

NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE, TEXAS — Four mine warfare ships deployed this afternoon, beginning at 3 p.m., to support Hurricane Katrina disaster recovery and relief efforts. USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11), USS SCOUT (MCM 8), USS CORMORANT (MHC 57) and USS DEFENDER (MCM 2) will work with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to clear waterways that may be clogged by debris. The ships will use Unmanned Underwater Vehicles and their divers to locate and identify items that could cause unsafe passage and inhibit recovery and relief efforts in the affected areas. The mine warfare ships are under the tactical command of Cmdr. Jon Lux, Chief of Staff, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three. The ships are homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

THE WORLD ISN'T
INTERESTED IN THE
STORMS YOU
ENCOUNTERED,
BUT WHETHER OR NOT
YOU BROUGHT IN THE
SHIP.

RAUL ARMESTO

NJROTC NEWS



Once again we, at the Colleton County High School NJROTC Unit, would like to thank the Mineman Association for the awarding of two "Most Improved Cadet Award."

This year the recipients were C/SR Jocelyn Grant and C/SN Mark Brilhante, who was advanced to C/CPO at the annual Awards Night and was assigned as a Mustering Chief for the next school year.

These two cadets have shown a great deal of ability to want to learn more about the Navy and how to grow through learned leadership.

One cadet C/LCDR Chantel Washington, who received the award four years ago, will graduate on 28 May 2005. Early on in her freshman year of high school she was inches away from being disenrolled from the program. Since then she has completed the NJROTC Leadership Academy and on 26 April this year turned over her position as the Battalion Executive Officer. She was also the recipient of the Cadet Achievement Ribbon, which is the 5th highest award a cadet can receive and the 2nd highest award for individuals. She received this award for outstanding leadership during last years Basic Leadership Training camp. C/LCDR Washington basically ran all the events and set up and ran the graduation at MCRD Parris Island, SC upon completion of the camp.

She will be headed off the Francis Marion University in Florence, SC.

Thank you again from the instructors and the 22 cadets that have received this award over the last 11 years.

Lastly, the Unit received the Unit Achievement Award this year. This brings to 8 the number of awards the Unit has received in the last 8 years. Six Distinguished Unit Awards and two Unit Achievement Awards.

Richard C. Spofford, Jr.
MNCS USN (Ret)

Association of Minemen 31st Annual Reunion & Meeting Corpus Christi, TX

21-23 October at the Radisson Beach Hotel

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 @ \$23.50 ea X _____ Ticket(s) = \$ _____

(Garden Salad Bar with Choice of Dressing, Roast Beef Bundles with Hunter Sauce Stuffed with Sautéed Mushrooms, Onions, and Red Bell Peppers, Chicken Raphael with Cream of Artichoke and Mushroom Sauce, Parmesan Roasted Potatoes, Broccoli & Cauliflower Au Buerre, Yeast Rolls and Butter, Iced Tea and Coffee, Chocolate Iced Sheet Cake with AOM Logo. (This includes all taxes and gratuities.)

* We must guarantee number for dinners not later than the morning of 19 October 2005. There will be NO refunds after 19 October 2005. This form must be in the Treasurer's hands NLT the morning of the 19th as he will be leaving for TX that day.

Picnic Tickets @ \$12.00 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 2005 to June 2006 (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 \$ _____

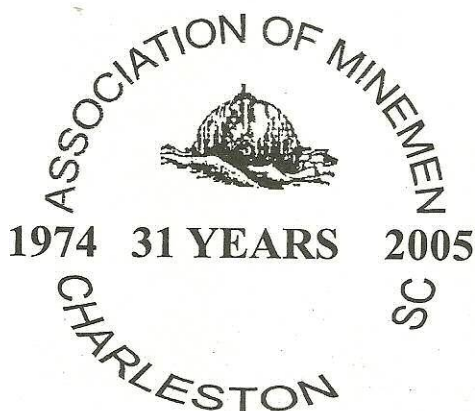
AOM Scholarship Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____

Checks payable to: Association of Minemen (no cash) TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

* Radisson Beach Hotel reservations (361) 883-9700. Address is 3200 E Surfside Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78402. Cut off date for group rate reservations is 1 October 2005. Single/double \$65.00 (Wetlands View) or \$76.00 (Ocean View) +15% tax

**Association of Minemen
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Charleston, SC 29415-1835**

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Annual Dues \$15

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NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues of \$15.00
must be paid annually by the month of August.
The dues expiration date is August in the year
above your name on your mailing label.