



The DASHPOT



Issue 54 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Summer 2006



FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

Summer is finally here. The children are finished with school for a couple of months and its time to enjoy that vacation you so richly deserve. As time is so quickly fleeting, its time for another Dashpot Article. It seems like only yesterday when I sent in my last one. Time goes by fast when we are having fun.

The Reunion Committee has been hard at work putting together a weekend that will be enjoyed by all. Ron Swart has assured me that everyone that attends will have a wonderful time. See **Related Article** in this issue for further details.

Just a friendly reminder to **remember our Scholarship Fund** when you send in your reservation for the upcoming reunion. Our Scholarship Chairman, William "Swede" Carlson, has been busy sorting through the Scholarship requests and getting them ready for approval by his committee. Remember, **your donations are tax deductible.**

Have an exciting and enjoyable summer and above all be safe. God Bless all of you and your families, our Association, the Navy and **God Bless America.**

\$20K BONUS FOR MN RESERVES!

See CNO message on page three.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE WORLD COMING TO AN END TODAY. IT'S ALREADY TOMORROW IN AUSTRALIA.

Charles M. Schulz (1922 - 2000)

REUNION 2006 IN PANAMA CITY, FL

For planning purposes, here is the latest information about the 2006 AOM reunion in Panama City.

I want to tie up some loose ends regarding the reunion. First the **Early Bird**. We are seriously thinking about putting on a shrimp boil but we don't know how many to expect. So the question is this: Is there interest in having a shrimp boil? (we'd charge a small fee per plate). The second question is: how many expect to attend? I'd like to do an e-mail / phone 'straw poll', so members and non-members alike who are going to be in town for the Early Bird drop me a line at swartre@knology.net or phone (850) 215-9649 (evenings please) or Bob Bainbridge at BainbridgeB@IPSIncorporated.com or Ken Waringa at kcwaringa@knology.net.

Next, the **Dinner**: please make your dinner selections not later than 30 September. We'll help you remember what you ordered ;-).

Finally, the **Picnic**. Bob Bainbridge and Leo Smith haven't priced out the roast pig just yet, but with a good turn-out the advertised \$12 per adult head should cover expenses. If the numbers are low, we may have to increase the price per adult to \$15. We're getting excited about this year's event. We're aiming to set a high water mark for fun reunions. Come on out and enjoy the beautiful Emerald Coast and good ol' Mineman hospitality.

Accommodations: The Boardwalk Beach Resort has reserved rooms for AOM members starting with 10 on Thursday the 19th for those

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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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2006 Reunion Information continued.

who plan on arriving early (5 poolside and 5 on the beach side). Starting on Friday through Sunday there are 25 rooms poolside and 20 rooms reserved on the beach side. The cost for rooms is \$79.00 poolside and \$89.00 on the beach side per night. There is an additional charge of \$3.40 per night for telephone access fee which includes unlimited local and long distance phone calls (continental US Only).

To reserve your room please call the Boardwalk at (850) 234-3484 or the toll free number, (800-224-4853) and be sure to ask for the Association of Minemen Reunion to get these rates. These rooms and rates are available until 20 September 2006, after that date rooms will be provided on a space available basis at the regular rate.

If you are planning on bringing your RV or desire to camp... there are numerous places to stay near the hotel, on the Navy Base or Tyndall AFB. If you need assistance with locating a place, please contact (To Be Provided in Next Issue)

Miscellaneous: For those who may be interested, there is a small Navy Exchange on the Navy Base and a large BX and commissary on Tyndall AFB (about a 40-minute ride on Eastbound US 98). There are golf courses galore with something for duffers and professionals alike. We're still looking for ideas on the Ladies Event to counterbalance the Business Meeting. If you need more information or have input, please contact the Reunion Committee.

The Reunion Committee:

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**THE ONLY DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A YARD SALE AND
A TRASH PICKUP IS HOW
CLOSE TO THE ROAD THE
STUFF IS PLACED.**



**NEW!!! - NEW!!! - NEW!!! - NEW!!!
AOM CHALLENGE COINS**

Superior quality 1-5/8 inch shiny brass, hand-painted, with the AOM logo on one side and the US Navy seal on the other. These spectacular coins are epoxy finished to protect the beautiful workmanship and luster. They are real keepsakes that you'll be proud to display. AOM Members price \$10 each + \$1 shipping (fixed shipping fee for 1 to 10 coins). Newly joining members can order coins for \$8 each + \$1 shipping (1 to 10 coins) with their paid membership application.

Remember, you can save the cost of shipping if you plan on attending the reunion in Panama City this coming October, where the AOM Ship's Store will have a large supply for purchase along with other AOM-logo items. Order yours today!

R 181249Z MAY 06
FM CNO WASHINGTON DC//N1//
TO NAVADMIN

GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. THIS NAVADMIN IS CHANGE ONE TO REF A AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. THIS MESSAGE EXPANDS THE NON-PRIOR SERVICE BASIC (NPSB) BONUS TO INCLUDE NON-GWOT CRITICAL RATINGS AND TO IMPLEMENT A TIERED BONUS PAYMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE PROGRAM. ALL BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CONTAINED IN REF B REMAIN IN EFFECT. GUIDANCE IN THIS NAVADMIN SUPERCEDES REF B IN ANY AREA WHERE THE TWO MAY CONFLICT. THE NPSB TIERED BONUS PAYMENT STRUCTURE IS BASED ON RATING/ SKILL AND A REQUIREMENT TO ENLIST IN THE SELECTED RESERVE FOR SIX YEARS. FAILURE TO SATISFACTORILY DRILL IN THE SELECTED RESERVE FOR THE FULL SIX-YEAR ENLISTMENT WILL SUBJECT THE MEMBER TO RECOUPMENT OF THE BONUS UNDER THE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN REF C. NPSB TIERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. TIER 1 SPECIALTIES: \$20,000 LUMP SUM

SKILL NEC NOTE
MN 0000

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE 2006 ANNUAL REUNION DINNER: MR. JOSEPH (JOE) G. KOCUR

Joe is a Jersey-boy, graduating with an electrical engineering degree in 1970 from Newark College of Engineering (later renamed as New Jersey Institute of Technology).

Joe went to work at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Maryland in June 1970 where he participated in the evaluations of the Torpedo Mk 48 Mod 1 and the advanced development version of the CAPTOR mine. Highlight moment: Joe was the Lab's submarine rider on the USS Narwhal (SSN-671) during the total system test of the CAPTOR. In this test, the sub ranged over the air-laid CAPTOR field, where the CAPTOR mines fired their torpedo upon detecting the sub.

From August '73 to Sep '95, he did in-service mine work at the Naval Mine Engineering Facility (NMEF), Yorktown, Va., later renamed the Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity (NMWEA) in 1983. During those years, Joe worked on producing, reworking or maintaining many service mine devices like the Firing Mechanism Mk 42 & Batteries Mk 95 of the Destructor weapons, Control Box Mk 49 (of the Mine Mk 55 Mod 7), Firing Mechanism Mk 26 of the Mine Mk 56, and the QUICKSTRIKE Target Detecting Devices Mk 57 and Mk 58. Ah, yes, and their test sets which were mostly made by companies who were not industrial giants!

In Oct '95, the Yorktown Activity closed and in-service worked moved to NSWC-Panama City. Today, Joe works in supporting the production of the Target Detecting Device Mk 71 Mod 1 – the US Navy's latest and greatest target detecting device- for use in the Mod 3 QUICKSTRIKE mines.

Joe has met a lot of Minemen over the years through such events as the annual In-service Mine Conference in Yorktown during the 70's and 80's, site Fleet Assistant Team visits, or during their Fleet Liaison tours at Yorktown or Panama City. He treasures the opportunity to reminisce with you over some of the happenings in the world of US Navy mines over the last 35 years.

Footnote: Joe Kocur is now the senior engineer remaining from the Yorktown days and is considered by his contemporaries and peers throughout NAVSEASYSCOM as the national expert on near-field targeting devices and sea mines in general. His remarkable memory for detail and interest in all things historical, has made him the go-to guy for everything from music trivia to the most minute technical specifications. He has come to epitomize all of the hard work and technical acumen provided by the Navy in-service and mine system development labs over the past 36 years. Joe knows mines (and a whole lot more)! We're in for a treat at this year's dinner.

**FROM THE
DESK OF
THE SECRETARY**



**NEXT DASHPOT
ARTICLES DUE
1 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Hi All

We still look good with our operating funds at \$12,670.83. We will more than meet our expenses this year.

Sure do need some help with the Scholarship funds. We have only \$1876.18 in the fund and that will only cover three (3) scholarships. We will get a few hundred dollars from the interest on the Presidents scholarship CD. If you have an extra buck you may want to put in it this fund. We can not take the capital from this fund only the interest it makes in a given year.

If your Dash-Pot has "Oct. 2005" on it, this will be your last one. Send me some dues. We can only carry you for a year.

Hope to see Y'all in FI. This year. (For our members up north, that word Y'all is a wonderful word.) It can be used to cover most any thing. Like Y'all come on down to FI this year.

See Ya.
Curtis

HOW'S THE KIDS?

Connie and Bob Hart wish to announce the retirement of our son CTMCS Patrick A. Hart. Pat will retire on 23 June 2006 at the Naval Security Agency, Fort George G. Meade, MD.

CTMCS(SW/AW) Patrick A. Hart enlisted into the Navy and reported to Basic Training at Recruit Training Center, Orlando, Florida in August 1986. Upon completion of Basic Training, he reported to Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC), Corry Station, Pensacola, FL for Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) (CTM) A-school, where upon graduation was promoted to Petty Officer Third class. He then transferred to Wichita Falls and San Antonio, TX for schools enroute to his first duty station at Patrol Wing 11, Jacksonville, FL where he performed duties as a KWR/T-26, KG-84 and Mod 40 TTY maintenance technician. During this tour he was promoted to Petty Officer Second Class, designated an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and transferred in 1990 to the USS Fife (DD-991) forward deployed in Yokosuka, Japan.

Aboard the USS Fife he performed duties as the Outboard II High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) system maintenance supervisor. During this tour he was promoted to Petty Officer First Class, assumed duties as Division Assistant LPO, was designated an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and participated in the time honored ceremony of "Crossing the Equator" to become a Shellback. In 1993, he was assigned to USS Truxtun (CGN-35) in Bremerton, Washington where he performed duties as the Outboard I maintenance supervisor and Division Assistant LPO. During this tour he played a key role in the Truxtun's decommissioning process as Operations Department 3M Coordinator.

In 1995, he reported to Naval Security Group Activity, Pensacola to attend the Cryptologic Network Configuration Manager course at the University of West Florida. Upon graduation he was assigned to the Naval Security Group Detachment, Monterey, CA. as the Network Administrator and Support Department LPO. During this tour he engineered, installed, and managed the command's local area network (LAN) leading the command into the information age. Additionally, he served as Assistant Senior Watch Officer (ASWO) for nearly 450 Navy language students. During this tour, he met and married his lovely wife and soul mate Katy.

In 1999, he reported to NTTC Corry Station, Pensacola, FL as a Network Security and Vulnerability Technician (NSVT) instructor where he taught computer security and information assurance techniques to Navy and Air Force System Administrators. In September 1999, he was promoted to the esteemed rank of Chief Petty Officer and assumed the duties as Information Systems Administrator (ISA) Course Manager. Shortly after, he was selected to stand-up the Advanced Network Analyst (ANA) course where he served as Course Manager and lead instructor teaching both Cryptologic and Information Systems Technicians (CTs & ITs) how to manage and optimize the Navy's computer networks. In addition, he designed and stood-up the Journeyman Networking Core (J-NETCORE) course, replacing the ISA course, to teach System Administrators the latest in LAN/WAN networking technologies. In 2002, he was designated a Master Training Specialist and promoted to Senior Chief in 2003.

In 2003 Senior Chief Hart reported to Naval Security Group Command Headquarters, Fort Meade, MD where he served as the N4 Department Chief in charge of acquisitions, logistics, and maintenance throughout the Naval Security Group claimancy. In 2004 he was transferred to Navy Information Operations Command, Maryland to complete the remainder of his tour as part of the U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Network Warfare (JFCC-NW) charged with Computer Network Operations (CNO) planning and integration. Shortly after checking aboard he assumed duties as Department Chief for 120 Sailors. As the Deputy Training Officer and the Senior Enlisted Leader for 46 joint-service military personnel. During his tenure he interfaced with the services, training units, and USSTRATCOM Headquarters to fulfill critical workforce skill requirements resulting in a 400 percent increase in military manning. As Deputy Training Officer he served as Technical Lead for the development and implementation of the first-ever Department of Defense-wide CNO operator/planner course, teaching information warriors the knowledge and skills required to effectively plan and support Computer Network Operations while base-lining the CNO planning process, understanding of cyber-law, policy, and doctrine across DoD.

Senior Chief Hart has been awarded the following decorations:
Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards); Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation; Navy "E" (2 awards); Good Conduct Award (5 awards); National Defense Service Medal (2 awards); Southwest Asia Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2 awards); Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon (2 awards); Kuwait Liberation (Kuwait) Medal; Expert Pistol Marksmanship Medal.



BINNACLE LIST

Harold Elston, LCDR, USN (Ret.)

Hi all,

In case you haven't heard, I have been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. I started on Chemo last Tuesday and will have treatments every 3 weeks, with tests of blood cells each Tuesday between. I would ask that all the emails that are not personal, be held until further notice. I am pretty weak and have been having to just delete the ones I think are jokes, patriotic, religious and the like.

Please feel free to send personal emails but hold the other.

Thanks,
Harold Elston



15 May 2006

Greetings Mineman Association,

Once again I would like to thank the Mineman Association for presenting 2 medals to our Most Improved cadets. Again we had two cadets that fit the requirements for the award.

The Colleton County High School NJROTC Unit held its Annual Awards Night on 26 April 2006. This year 131 cadets received many awards.

We were very fortunate to have an Honorary Mineman present at the awards ceremony. Capt James Kenney, USN (Ret). He was here to present some other awards and I asked him if he would like to present the Associations awards.

This years Association of Mineman award was presented to C/SA Devorah Gantt and C/SA Matthew Rogall. Both of these cadets started out the year slow and really took off near the end of the first quarter. Both cadets are returning to the program next school year. Cadet Rogall is also on the school DECA Culinary Arts team. The team placed first in the region and first in the state. Last week we found out that the team also placed third in the nation. The reward for third place is a scholarship to a culinary arts college in New Hampshire.

Once again, for the 7th time in 9 years the Unit received the Distinguished Unit award, which places the Unit in the top 30% of NJROTC Units in the nation. The other two years the Unit received the Unity Achievement Award.



I would like thank the Association for its continued support.

V/R MNCS Rick Spofford

Naval Science Instructor
Colleton County High School
Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps
Colleton County High School



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

By Swede Carlsen

My wife and I had the pleasure of attending our God Daughter's Graduation from the Franklin Pierce Law Center. The Commencement ceremony was very impressive. It made me feel very proud as a member of the Association of Minemen because our God Daughter had been a recipient of AOM scholarships.

There is still time for students to submit applications for an AOM Scholarship. As always, the applicant forms can be downloaded on line at: home.triad.rr.com/aom/index.htm or they can be had from the Secretary/Treasurer, Curtis Christian and the Scholarship Chairman, W. (Swede) Carlsen. Have potential scholarship applicants submit their forms, so the Scholarship Committee can select qualified applicants for an AOM Scholarship.

Remember, your donations are what support the AOM Scholarship programs. Both the Presidential and General Scholarship funds are available for your Tax Free generosity.

STAND TALL AMERICA



FROM THE WEBMASTER

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

05/14/06 - ENS John Caporuscio; vduben2@yahoo.com
05/12/06 - Jai Dykes MNCS (SW); jamie.dykes@navy.mil
04/15/06 - Steven McMillian MNC (SW); mnc0216@yahoo.com
03/13/06 - John Pennington, MN1 (SW); john.a.pennington@navy.mil
03/03/06 - Nick House MN3; nicholas.house@navy.mil

E-Mail - Reservist

01/11/06 - Carrie Williams, MNCS (AW/SW); chiefcarrie@yahoo.com

E-Mail - Retired

05/05/06 - David Jerome Higgs MN2; higgypa@cox.net
04/25/06 - Jim" Pavlicek FTCS; bohunck@wavecable.com
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04/02/06 - George Baker MN1; beekeeper11@juno.com

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03/13/06 - Tim Lee MN3; tjlee96@mchsi.com
03/13/06 - Roger Hanich; rhanich@mchsi.com
02/26/06 - Jim Polk MN2; armymp6272@hotmail.com

NEW FISHMARKET OPENS IN EUTAWVILLE, SC



Curtis and a friend claim they caught these beauties. Folks in the know suspect these were bought at the local fishmarket and they spent the day just goofing off in the boat. Note the rare "Stealth Fish" (rt. ctr.) found only in Lake Marion and caught only with Cherry Bombs. :-)



TAPS



Wheelock, Dale E., MNCM, USN (Ret.)

Dale E. Wheelock, 76, a retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, who once served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander, Naval Forces, Philippines, died Monday, 29 May (Memorial Day) of complications associated with Pancreatic Cancer at the Harrison Medical Center in Bremerton, Washington. He was 76 years old.

Dale was born in Roseburg, Oregon and after graduating from Camas Valley High School, worked as a logger until he enlisted in the Navy. After entering the Navy and becoming a "Mineman" he completed a 27 year Navy career during which, he served at a variety of duty stations including: Charleston South Carolina, Yorktown Virginia, Indian Island Washington, Trinidad British West Indies, Cubi Point Philippines, Iwakuni Japan, Guam and made deployments onboard the USS Ticonderoga, and to the Republic of Vietnam.

He was a well-respected member of the Navy's Mine Warfare community and known affectionately as "Moose". He was instrumental in the buildup and deployment of naval mines used to mine Haiphong Harbor in North Vietnam which

accelerated the end of the Vietnam conflict and was selected to be the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander of Naval Forces in the Philippines during the early 1970s, which was one of the most challenging assignments of his Naval career.

He retired from the Navy in 1976 and moved to Trout Creek, Montana where he lived for two years, ultimately settling in Chimacum Washington where he worked as a civil service employee at the Naval Base at Indian Island until his retirement in 1991

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, the former Anne Brown of Schuyler VA, two sons Greg and Dana, two brothers Terrell and Joe, and two grandsons, Phillip and Daniel.

Memorial services were conducted at 3:30 PM on Sunday 11 June at the Irondale Church in Port Hadlock, WA. The family requests contributions in lieu of flowers to the following charities:

America's Second Harvest at: <http://www.secondharvest.org/>

or

Feed the Children at: <http://www.feedthechildren.org/site/>

[PageServer?pagename=dotorg_homepage](http://www.feedthechildren.org/site/PageServer?pagename=dotorg_homepage)



Glaze, Doyle R., MNC, USN (Ret.)

My father, Doyle R. "Rick" Glaze MNC (Retired 1970), passed away at home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from lung cancer at 6 pm on May 16. He was stationed on the Ticonderoga, Indiana, Shanks and others that he could not remember. We were so excited to know that he found this website, and I believe he caught up with an old shipmate of his though this great site.

He wanted me, his daughter, to contact and inform you of his death and its circumstances. We are asking that, in lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Cancer Society. If anyone was close to him and wishes to write anything to him or my mother, it can be sent to our home address:

9469 El Cajon Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Thank you. We appreciate all your hard work in the service.

Sincerely,
Nicole Glaze

Fair winds and following seas, shipmates.



MAIL BAG

Hello Bill,
Sorry for the late E/Mail But it was with heavy heart when I read the Taps page.

With the passing of Chief Frank Cavaricci, a fellow Mineman from PA. At Mineman A school AMN 6/66 frank took me under his wing like a son, At A school he always had time to help me if there where any problems, and was always at the softball games for Mine Warfare School, to make sure that I was putting out 110% on the field as well as off the field, and to help fellow shipmates when ever possible.

MN3 Glenn C Troutman.
(Smokey Moose)

Belated e-mail from MNCS Donald Healer, USN (Ret) via Joe Hernandez 11/22/04

I was reading your article on the AOM last night. The USS Midway (CVA-41) also was responsible for the mining of Haiphong (Dec 18,1972). I know because I was there. MN1 Charlie Dunn, Michael Milem, MN3 Jim Anderson (USNR), and myself MNSN. Very exciting night. Lou Delozier was a good friend of mine and was sorry to hear of his passing. I deployed to MOMAG Det 4 with Tim Mercier in 1973 and often wonder how he is getting on. If you remember, he was one of the first Minemen to receive the NAM. I still remember the day MNCM Reid told us of MN1 Yancy's passing. Your article brought back a lot of memories. Thanks.

Have a great day and I hope you have many more enjoyable years of retirement.

Regards,
Donald Healer (MNCS Ret.)



Note from Paul Santa Maria (AKA Snoopy, famous WW I Fighter Ace)

Here's some pics we took when we went to California in March. We spent a couple of days with Boot's daughter and son-in-law at NAS Lemoore. What a thrill it was to sit in an F-18 "Super Hornet". He also took me on a tour of the Operations Area in the hangar. It felt good to be among a bunch of sailors again.





MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Mineman Chief Commissioned as Ensign with Son's Blessing

By Dan Broadstreet, NSWC PC Public Affairs



A family custom is incorporated into a Navy commissioning ceremony as seven-year-old Tyler Caporuscio places a new officer's cap upon his newly commissioned father, Ensign John Caporuscio. Pictured left to right are: Donna Niemuth (mother); Ensign John Caporuscio; Tyler Caporuscio; and grandfather Chris Niemuth who assists young Tyler in completing the ceremony's official honors.

PANAMA CITY – Mineman Chief John Caporuscio was ceremonially discharged honorably and reinstated as Ensign, April 1, with distinctive honors incorporated into the Navy's time-honored commissioning ceremony. Present for the event, which took place at the Naval Support Activity's Long Glass Conference Center, were Caporuscio's wife Amber, his son Tyler, daughter Kalea, friends, and superior officers.

Among several keynote speakers were, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City's Commanding Officer, Capt. Vito Jimenez; Executive Officer Cmdr. Jeffrey Prater; Cmdr. Ron Swart USN (Ret.); and Mineman Petty Officer Second Class, Michael Taylor.

Prater informed audience participants they were witnessing a rare sight, emphasizing that most commissioning ceremonies were conducted at the Naval Academy, Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, or at the Officer Candidate School. He said he considered it a privilege to be part of an "individualized," yet a time-honored tradition that had been carried on for literally hundreds of years.

Reading aloud his own 'George Letter,' to Caporuscio, Prater said he hoped by sharing the traditional letter that welcomes officers to the wardroom, that it would inspire Caporuscio to continue such traditions, which Prater feels strengthens camaraderie and promotes unit cohesiveness.



Naval Surface Warfare Center Executive Officer Cmdr. Jeffrey Prater (right) administers commissioning oath to Ensign John Caporuscio as his mother Donna Niemuth (far left), wife Amber, son Tyler, and father Chris Niemuth (standing behind Tyler) look on with pride.

"The Oath is really as profound as a person's reputation. And, we are literally committing our very lives for the freedom and defense of all Americans," Prater added, emphasizing he hoped Americans remembered such commitment is what drives Sailors to serve with distinction deserving of promotion.

Adding to Prater's commendations, Swart – who had previously served with Caporuscio as a superior – said Caporuscio's consistent adherence to safety, his ensuring strict adherence to ordnance instructions, procedures, and regulations were leadership traits to the benefit of all.

"He didn't leave a mess for someone else to clean up in wake of his deployments to other stations assignments," Swart said, further commending Caporuscio for setting examples of excellent leadership qualities.

"When I spoke of a continuum of leadership and excellence, I was using Ensign Caporuscio as a living example of how it is done the right way," Swart added.

Caporuscio said he was fortunate to have served with America's finest shipmates. However, he gave most of the credit to his wife and family, adding that their unfailing support were unmatched fuel for sustaining his dedication to country.

"My wife's loyalty and support have brought me to this point in my life. And, when I made Chief, again – my son was there to place my cover on my head," he said, emphasizing he believed keeping his family involved in the Navy's core values would inspire loyalty and patriotism in his children.

"They are memories and values I believe Tyler and Amber will be able to keep forever," he concluded.

Rogue's Gallery



COMOMAG Eearly 1980s



Bill Mehard and Bob Stancik



Timmy Patton



Terry Auberry



Pooch Troutman



WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A MORE UNIFIED NAVY

By Andrea Bell



The Commander, Mine Warfare Command (CMWC) Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) Platoon recently returned from collaborative experimentation conducted at the NATO Undersea Research Center (NURC) in La Spezia, Italy. Experimentation took place off of the northwest coast of Italy from the 12th to the 17th of December. The primary objectives of the experiment were to assist in testing the NATO prototype Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) planning and evaluation tool and develop Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) for employment of small UUVs from Surface Mine Countermeasures Vessels (SMCMVs).

Led by LTJG Melissa Flores, Officer-in-Charge (OIC), members of the UUV Platoon operated two Remote Environmental Monitoring Units (REMUS) vehicles equipped with a sidescan sonar from the NURC research vessel *LEONARDO*, “flying” multiple missions. During the 5-day event, they carried out key Mine Countermeasures (MCM) tasks such as searching for and classifying Mine-like Contacts (MILCs), and “bottom mapping” the ocean floor to facilitate seabed classification, clutter density estimation and other tactical objectives. NURC Scientist-in-Charge, Dr. Ben Evans, was responsible for producing a well-conceived and flawlessly executed trials plan. Personnel from the Naval Oceanographic Office, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City, and Hydroid, manufacturer of the REMUS system supported the CMWC team.

This experiment and associated data collection and analysis directly contributed to accomplishment of U.S. Navy SMCM User Operational Evaluation System (UOES) objectives and also satisfied key objectives of Sea Trial initiatives: 2020, SMCMV UUV Employment, and Littoral

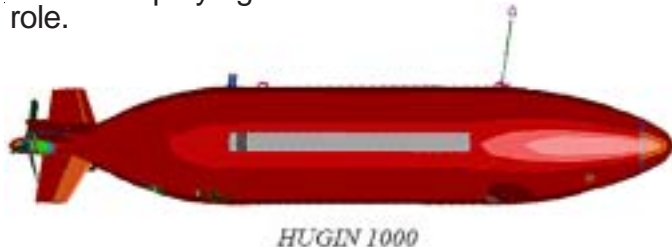
Combat Ship (LCS) Mine Warfare Mission Modules Employed from Transformational Vessels in Support of LCS Development. Sea Trial is the U.S. Navy’s collaborative effort to formalize and fully integrate concept development and technical insertion into the experimentation process. The LCS is a new breed of fast, agile, and networked warships, which will operate with focused-mission packages, including MIW, that deploy manned and unmanned vehicles to execute missions as assigned by Combatant Commanders.

An additional highlight of the experiment featured multiple UUV operations from *LEONARDO*, involving the platoon’s two REMUS vehicles and a HUGIN 1000 AUV operated by a team from the Royal Norwegian Navy. The HUGIN 1000 AUV and two REMUS UUVs operated simultaneously in an operating area seeded with mine-like targets. HUGIN-detected contacts were passed to the CMWC UUV Platoon onboard *LEONARDO* for “on-the-fly” re-direction of REMUS UUVs for reacquisition. The technique was extremely successful and paves the way for development of more sophisticated multiple vehicle tactics, techniques and procedures.

Commenting on the success of the experiment, LT Flores enthusiastically stated, “Working with the NATO scientists and Norwegian Navy was a treat. They were extremely professional and gave us ideas for future experimentation for the UOES program. Our observations of both the REMUS and HUGIN, especially launch and recovery, will be beneficial to the LCS program.” LT Flores’ sentiments were echoed by Mr. Scott Price, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Mine Warfare Programs at the Mine Warfare Command: “This collaborative effort will serve as a model for future efforts. Through thorough planning and close coordination across a number of agencies, we were able to develop a program that satisfied objectives for numerous programs. During this single 5-day experiment, we learned valuable lessons and accomplished objectives that will be of value to the SMCM UOES program, two Sea Trial Initiatives, the LCS program and to other U.S. Navy UUV programs as well.and the benefits don’t stop there; this experiment was carried out in cooperation with NATO’s premier undersea warfare research centre, NURC. The data collected will help to improve the tactical planning tool being developed at the centre. This planning tool will dramatically improve interoperability amongst NATO allies employing, or planning to employ UUVs for MCM operations.” RDML Deborah Loewer was reached for comment on 13 January; fittingly the 1-year anniversary of her assumption of command as Commander, Mine Warfare Command (COMINWARCOM): “I have now been in command of the U.S. Navy’s Mine Warfare force for exactly 1 year. During this past year, I have traveled extensively and engaged directly with

senior war fighter leadership in both the Fifth and Seventh fleet Areas of Responsibility (AOR). During these engagements, we have improved our understanding of exactly what they need and expect from us in order to win any battle they are called upon to fight and they have gained a heightened appreciation for both the capabilities and limitations of today's MCM force. As a result, we have embarked on a program aimed at accelerating the demonstration and assessment of promising new technologies, including UUVs, in forward operating areas. The recent UUV experiment carried out in cooperation with NURC in the European theater is the first of many such engagements; the next will occur in the Pacific during RIMPAC 06."

Data analysis by NURC, CMWC, NAVO, and NSWC PC is ongoing. Final reports will be posted on the CMWC and NWDC (Sea Trial Information Management System) websites. The synergy resulting from CMWC UUV Platoon participation in the experimentation provides a solid foundation for further collaboration and fosters improved interoperability amongst NATO navies employing AUVs and UUVs in an MCM role.



Editor's Note: Surface minelaying! Shades of the USS Terror, the USS Gwen, the USS Shay and other surface minelayers of years gone by. We have come full circle again. Now it appears that anything with a fantail that floats can get into the act. Two generations from now the Navy will once again discover surface minelaying after forgetting about it again. Lessons learned are transitory.

U.S. NAVY TRIALS NEW SURFACE MINE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Recently, Sailors from Mobile Mine Assembly Unit One, Seal Beach, CA traveled to San Diego, CA to demonstrate a new capability for the U.S. Navy. A team of six Sailors and Officers went onboard the MV Acoustic Explore to set up and then use the EX-181 Mine Rail System. This prototype system is made of lightweight aluminum, which provides the required strength and rigidity, and utilizes a series of nylon roller chocks, which allow the continuous movement of heavy materials to roll down the rail assembly. This system allows for easy placement of sea mines in the water off the stern or over the side of small naval craft or contracted craft of opportunity.

U.S. sea mines vary in size from the 500lb MK 62 Quickstrike shallow water mines up to the 2000lb MK 56 Intermediate Depth mines. The U.S. Navy currently employs aircraft or submarines to deliver sea mines to their intended minefield, but not have the ability to lay mine from a surface ship. Expansion of mine laying capability within the U.S. Navy increases Mine Warfare support of Sea Shield and Sea Basing Concepts. Surface sea mine delivery gives sea commanders the ability to react with very little prior notification and to lay down large numbers of sea mines while aircraft and submarines are detailed for other priority missions.

The containerized EX-181 mine delivery system can be assembled in roughly three hours by Sailors using basic hand tools. The system is then hoisted on-board a vessel and mounted to a vessel's weather deck, positioned in an elevated manner allowing sea mines up to 2000lb to rapidly traverse down the launcher rails. Sea mines are planted to establish minefields for protective or defensive purposes and allow seagoing forces to efficiently shape the sea battle space.

The prototype EX-181 system production cost was approximately \$750 thousand dollars. LCDR Tom Mathison, Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group of Corpus Christi, TX estimated that unit costs would diminish if the U.S. Navy purchased more of these systems.



MN2 Mikael Nissen aids in hoisting the EX-81 on board the MV Acoustic Explore in San Diego Harbor.

TOO OFTEN WE...ENJOY THE COMFORT OF OPINION WITHOUT THE DISCOMFORT OF THOUGHT.

John F. Kennedy , (1917-1963)



The EX-181 is being aligned for tie down to demonstrate surface mine laying on the MV Acoustic Explore in San Diego Harbor. (MNS Travis Andrews, Master Captain Bob Rosser, MN1 Eddy Gumin, MN3 Arlan Madison, MN3 Brian Danley)



A MK-65, 2,000 lb mine is loaded onto the EX-181 mine rail system to test launching capability on board MV Acoustic Explore in San Diego Harbor. (MN2 Mikael Nissen, MN3 Arlan Madison)



A MK 56, 2,000 lb moored mine is launched form the EX- 181 on board the MV Acoustic Explore in San Diego Harbor. (MN 2 Travis Andrews, MN2 Brian Danley)



COMOMAG

By MNCM(SW) Jerry L. Williams

Greetings Shipmates. I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to a great summer, with plenty of heat and fun filled activities. We've had the heat for awhile now, but here in Texas we really need a lot more rain, so if anyone has more than they can use, please send it our way, fast.

On the official front, we just completed MRCI's at MOMAU's Eight and Twelve, arranged for recovery operations in Nanoose Bay, Canada for the MK 56 IRE, re-spoiled uncoated cables in MK 56 anchors with MOMAU 11 Sailors at Hawthorne, and a myriad of other ongoing projects keeping everyone here very busy. The MK 56 IRE has been needed for a long long time and we are all excited to put these mines through their paces and show the Navy what they can do. There will be video of all the drops and as soon as we can get something available, we'll link it up with the AOM web site so everyone can see the action. In other news, the E4 to E6 advancement results for the March Exam are being published as I write this, so let me send out a "BZ" from the Commander and all of us here at COMOMAG to all the Selectee's, we know you all worked very hard and your advancement's are well deserved. Keep up the good work and Keep Chargin!

Staff News:

Awards:

CDR John Dennett - MSM

OS1 Maisha Dunomes - NAM

MN2(SW) Bradford Simoncic - NAM

MN2(SW) Billy Arthur - LOC - 1Q06 SOQ

Departures:
CDR John Dennett - Retired
MN2(SW) Bradford Simoncic - MCM Crew
Conflict

Arrivals:
LTJG Jeffrey McCrady - USS PAUL HAMILTON
LTJG Peter Furman - USS ARLEIGH BURKE
OS2(SW) Koena Bey - USS PORT ROYAL

Time to wrap up this quarter's input. Please don't hesitate to call or email me if I can do anything for you. Email: jerry.l.williams@navy.mil Phone: (361) 961-4992

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 web address <http://www.cmwc.navy.mil/COMOMAG/default.aspx>. 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 Stay Safe



MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

by LCDR B.D. Hall

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

Job well done to the crew for their dedication and hard work in preparation for the C3F RIMPAC '06 Exercise. Commencing June 28th RIMPAC will be held in Pearl Harbor, HI and the surrounding islands. MOMAU One will embark two MAT Teams to conduct final preparations on over 115 ET Mine assets in support of the exercise. The crew spent long days and countless off-duty hours ensuring all assets were prepped and ready for service to the fleet. The time to perform has arrived and the crew's diligence and hard work has paid off. With all assets shipped out the door and in route to their destination, we are equipped and prepared to deliver top-notch support to the fleet in true MOMAU One fashion.

Bravo Zulu to the crew for achieving a myriad of educational goals and college credits throughout the course of this year. Since January 2005, over 80% of MOMAU ONE has been awarded numerous semester hours of upper and lower level credit in pursuit of higher education by participating in a multitude of CLEP and DANTES exams. Currently, a solid 42% of assigned personnel are degree seeking, enrolled in various accredited colleges and anticipate two Associate and two Baccalaureate degree's to be conferred by end of this fiscal year. As a result of the crew's dedication, their accomplishments have not gone unnoticed and will be recognized this summer by the Navy Compass newspaper. The Navy Compass will be publishing a column this summer highlighting MOMAU One's educational achievement.

I'd like to also extend my thanks to the fine members of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association (DESA) for their steady support of MOMAU One and our events. We celebrated this past Easter holiday with DESA and once again their support of the crew was unmatched and superb.

HAILS & FAREWELLS: I would like to hail our newest addition to the MOMAU One family, Dewayne David Purvis III, born to MNSN Purvis and his wife, Misty. Congratulations and we welcome their son with open arms as extended family to MOMAU One.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION: Best wishes to MNC(SW) Anthony Bartoli who recently retired after 24 years of honorable service. The crew of MOMAU One sent MNC(SW) Bartoli off in style with an honorary retirement ceremony on his behalf. His dedicated service and vast array of knowledge in the Mineman community will undoubtedly be missed.



Congratulations to MN2(SW) Navarro for his selection as MOMAU One 1st Quarter Sailor of the Quarter. I'd also like to congratulate MN3

Madison and MNSN Purvis, who both received Letter's of Commendation from COMSUBPAC. Their outstanding support during the submarine support exercise resulted in both members being recognized for their performance. **Bravo Zulu!**

ON THE HORIZON: Next on the plate for MOMAU One will be preparations for our upcoming Technical Assist Visit (TAV) schedule in October '06 by COMOMAG. The summer months will be steadily busy for us as we prepare for the assist. As always, I am confident the crew will rise to the occasion and meet any requirements or tasking set before us.

Unit ONE and Unit ELEVEN sent pictures from an exercise in Minot, ND so I will combine them here. We know the exercise was done in winter because, in Minot ND, it is ALWAYS winter!



Minot AFB personnel loading MK 62 mine on MHU 110 for assembly by MOMAU Eleven MAT



MAT Team Assembling MK 62 QS at Minot AFB



MNSN Petite Inspects MK 9 Arming Wire on Mk 15 Fin



MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK, SC

BY MNC(SW) KING

Hello from the low country!! It's getting hot!

MOMAU Eleven has been busy supporting numerous exercises. We have supported MIREM LOE 06-2 with VEMS and MAT, Trident Fury with QS 62's and MAT, and have also provided MATs in support of USS DWIGHT D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and MK56 IRE preparations. Additionally, we are currently busy preparing material in support of RIMPAC 06-1 and QS MK 65 Long Cycle Maintenance.

In May, we successfully completed the Test Set and Repair Field Calibration Assessment (FCA). Kudos to MN1 Chronister for the long hours he put in leading up to this successful inspection.

CO's Corner

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

Advancements: 2006 March Exam Cycle

Name: MN2 Matthew Ledford YN3 Richard Saunders MNSN Stephen Bates MNSN Gabriel Cabrera MNSN Jeffrey Gardner MNSN Brian Osborne MNSN Shawn Thornton Advanced to: MN1YN2MN3MN3MN3MN3MN3

Senior Sailor of the Quarter 2nd QTR
MN1(SW/AW) Shereda Jamison

Junior Sailor of the Quarter 2nd QTR:
MN2(SW) James Knott

Blue Jackets of the Month
MNSN Jeffery Gardner - FEB MNSN Jason Stevens - JAN

New Personnel onboard
CWO3(SW) William Jurkowski
MNC(SW) Travis Meyer
SK1(SW) Penny Drouse
MN1(SW) Ramon Hernandez
MN3(SW) Erik Motley

Farewell and Following Seas

CWO2(SW) James Traylor
MN1(SW) Carlos Wood
MNC(SW) Ollie Collins
MN1(SW) Patrick Brady
MN1(SW) Paul Bufano
MNSN Daniel Musante
SK2 Luis Garcia
SK2 Tiffany Peters
MN3 Thomas Bowen
MNSN Jeremiah Tilley

From the low country, have a safe summer.



**MOMAU FIFTEEN
INGLESIDE, TX**

By MN3 Sandy M. Gardner

Greetings:

I am constantly amazed by the amount of generosity that we have here at MOMAU FIFTEEN.

The personnel have donated more than just their time to the community, they have given of themselves. I would like to thank all that gave blood for the Coastal Bend Blood Drive held, 25 May 2006. I would also like to say thanks to MN2 (SW) Mozek who helped me with Adope a Beach. We helped clean the Corpus Christi Cole Park, it was an entertaining experience. A job well done to everyone who participated in volunteer efforts this quarter, keep up the good work!

Picture 1
MOMAU FIFTEEN COMMAND PHOTO 2005

Hails:

MNSN Priest from MWTC
MN1 Dominguez from SCRMC
SK1 (SW) Robinson from RON1 SCR
MN1 (SW) Hall from MCM Crew Impervious
MN3 (SW) Fipps from USS Scout

Farewells:

SK1 (SW/AW) Pruske on to USNS Niagara Falls
YNC (SW) Vistro on to NMCB FIVE

From the Desk of the Commanding Officer:
LCDR Julian Wyatt

To MOMAU 15, Family Members and Colleagues,

We have just completed a tremendous exercise in Florida, with the assistance of MOMAU 11 and Panama City. Our Mine Assembly Team (MAT) Leader was our Supply Department Head, MNC (SW) Rambo, who was assisted by MN3 Gardner, our editor and chief of the Dashpot, MN2 (SW) Mozek and MNSN Johnson. Great job to all Departments in making this happen. By the



next issue of the Dashpot, our beloved MAO, SEL and Executive Officer, MNC (SW) Robert Dunbar, will have retired. Words simply cannot express our collective gratitude and appreciation for all that you have done for MOMAU 15, Mine Warfare Community, the waterfront and for the United States Navy. You will be profoundly missed. We wish you, Felomina and Katarina all the best as you embark upon a new career. To Senior Chief Nixon and his family, welcome aboard shipmate. It is a pleasure to have someone of your caliber and experience at MOMAU 15. I would like to take a moment to also welcome aboard my new Department Heads; YN1 (SW) Parker and Operations Officer, MN1 (SW) Hall. Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not welcome aboard SK1 (AW) Robinson, Supply Department LPO. Thank you, everyone, for your continued efforts to make this command "top notch." It has not gone unnoticed.

From the Desk of the Mine Assembly Officer:
MNCS (SW) Edward Nixon

CONGRADULATIONS!!! to our JSOQ and SOQ for all the hard work it took to get you here. I can't say enough how important it is to be recognized for your efforts. Keep up the good work and continue to be the leading example. Get-R-Done.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MN1(SW) Orville Hall

I would like to say thank you to everyone here for all the warm welcoming. I know that I have big shoes to fill, but I will do my best. I would like to also say thanks to everyone who participated in the command Chili Cook Off. MNC (SW) Rambo took 1st, MN3 Dease took 2nd, and YN3 Barnette took 3rd. Great Job to all the contestants, I look forward to all the great memories.



The wonderful smell of Chili



JSOQ: MNSA JOHNSON



LCDR Wyatt and MNC Rambo



SSOQ: IT1 (SW) BURGINS



LCDR Wyatt and MN3 Dease



LCDR Wyatt and YN3 Barnette

ADMIN DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: YN1 (SW) William Parker

Congratulations to IT1 (SW) Burgin on your selection as MOMAU FIFTEEN SSOQ. Your hard work is well worth recognition. Keep up the good work. Well done YN3 on your 3rd place prize at our 1st annual Chili Cook Off.

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head, MNC (SW) William Andrzekewski.

Well the Mine Assembly Team has done it once again. Great job on the recent exercise in Panama City Fl, despite any and all set backs y'all did a fantastic job. MNC (SW) Rambo, MN2 (SW) Mozek, MN3 Gardner, MNSA Johnson along with MOMAU ELEVEN successfully deployed and recovered 40 MK 74 VEMS and 18 MK 75 VEMS. What a great turn out, yall are the best. The buck doesn't stop there though, seems that our work doesn't ever end. We are looking forward for our next big exercise. We would also like to recognize TSM for their excellent performance and successful outcome of the FCA held 25-26 APR.

We would also like to recognize MN1 Dominguez, MN3 Reinertsen, and MN3 Gardner on their assistance with the tour given to Florence Middle School on 26 Apr 2006. MN1 Dominguez gave a great show of our facility, MN3 Reinertsen was, as always, helpful in the service questions, and MN3 Gardner finished with a description of the MK 74 and MK 75 VEMS.



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

CONGRATULATIONS to MN1 (SW) Mounsey and his wife Tony on the birth of their new baby girl, Summer Cheyenne, born 12 Apr 2006. We would like to also congratulate MN2 (AW) Stevens on the birth of her baby girl born 03 APR 2006.

We would like to thank MN2 Piccione for the tour he gave to MWTC and distinguished guest on 12 Apr 2006. Your efforts and familiarity with the shop procedures and equipment were extremely useful.

With thanks to Pooch Troutman ...

NAVY COFFEE

For Greeks, ambrosia was OK,
But used up all a sailor's pay.
Then, in a more enlightened age,
Tars worked for grog instead of wage.

But as for me, I love to hug
A good old Navy coffee mug.
Its fragrance cuts the salty air
And wafts me far away from there.

It's best when made so it can stand
Without the mug, just in your hand,
And crusted mugs from watches back
Are germ free, if your coffee's black.

Beware the canned milk on the bridge;
It's likely never seen a fridge,
And if it fails to pour or run,
It's left from World War Two (OR ONE!).

But don't spill coffee on your boots;
Your socks will soon start growing roots.
And if it penetrates the deck,
The panicked crew could cause a wreck.

Way down below, the engine crew
Prefers an even stronger brew,
And sometimes as they ply their craft,
They use the stuff to grease the shaft.

When Navy coffee's thick and black,
It guards against a heart attack.
And if it's strong enough, I'm sure,
It functions as a cancer cure.

But best of all, it makes the days,
Pass quickly in a caffeine haze,
Before your teeth have all turned brown,
You'll find you're back in Norfolk town!

~Author Unknown~





MCM NEWS

GOMEX PREPARES MINE WARFARE FOR DEPLOYMENT AND FLEET INTEGRATION

By Dan Broadstreet, NSWC PC Public Affairs & Tony Fuller,
CMWC Concept Development



COMINEWARCOM Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) Platoon equipment is loaded onboard USS Pioneer (MCM-9) pier side at Naval Support Activity Panama City in preparation for Mine Countermeasures (MCM) operations during GOMEX 06-2.

The U.S. Navy's Mine Warfare (MIW) community organized air, surface, and underwater Mine Countermeasures (MCM) assets to conduct the Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) 06-2 May 1-9 in the coastal waters of Panama City Fla., to train and assess MCM mission readiness and operational capabilities. GOMEXs are a regular part of the Navy's advanced-phase MIW pre-deployment preparations.

"I have to commend Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City for outstanding support," said CAPT Jonathan Tobias, Commander of Mine Countermeasures Squadron THREE. "I mean, not only are the waters here ideal for testing airborne, surface, and sub-surface forces, but we also have most of our technical Mine Warfare experts resident in a centralized geographical area."

Supporting Tobias's remarks, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City's (NSWC PC) Branch Head for Airborne Fleet Readiness Allen Hawkins – also serving as In-Service Engineering Agent for Airborne MCM systems – described NSWC PC's wealth of expertise as one-stop-shopping for this type of naval preparation.

"Collectively speaking, my personnel have approximately 319 years of Airborne MCM experience. So, our community of scientists and technical experts are serving as a dependable and constant knowledge base for the Navy's Sailors who will be MCM trained; but, may likely rotate out of the community after a period of two to three years," Hawkins said.

While monitoring and coordinating GOMEX operations from NSWC PC'S Expeditionary Warfare Integration Facility (EWIF), Tobias said the facility and personnel provided a Command and Control (C2) capability that included readily-available technical support in case of any unforeseen equipment failures.

EWIF personnel described, in particular, the support lauded by Tobias.

"We provided access to the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET), Non-Classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET), Tactical Satellite Communications, laptop computers, overhead projectors, and office space, all in a secure environment, including technical support if any problems arose," said EWIF Electrical Engineer David Silnutzer. "I think having all this available in our facility makes Panama City an economically efficient place to conduct Fleet exercises like GOMEX."

MIW and MCM expertise has long resided within this small and specialized community, according to Matt Prager – a specialist from Commander, Mine Warfare Command's (CMWC) Concept Development and Experimentation Division.

Prager added that this particular GOMEX would incorporate off-board testing of some Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) mine hunting technology, which would ultimately be mainstreamed into the Fleet at large.

“Mainstreaming mine warfare into the Navy’s Fleet as part of Expeditionary Strike Groups and Carrier Strike Groups is, in part, the Navy’s way of reducing mine hunting and neutralization timelines,” Prager said. “Building platforms such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) that incorporate more automation and use of UUVs, will help create an in-stride - or organic - MIW/MCM capability for our Fleet.”



Photo by Wade Sigstedt

(Left to Right) MNC Isauro Sedillo and LTJG Melissa Flores review tactical plans, while MNC Tomas Hernandez maintains a watchful eye over small boat operations.

Operating tactically from *USS Pioneer* – an MCM-1 Class Ship that also participated in GOMEX 06-2 – was LTJG Melissa Flores, Officer in Charge of the CMWC UUV Platoon.

Flores strongly agreed with Prager’s statement that UUV technology used during GOMEX 06-2 would ultimately be mainstreamed throughout the Fleet.

Flores explained how the technology played a significant role during the exercises.

“We were part of the ship’s combat system and were embarked just like divers were embarked on the *USS Chief*. The Surface Mine Countermeasures Commander tasked us as one of the Captain’s assets,” Flores said. “So, we were fully integrated in GOMEX: everything we did was part of the GOMEX tactical scenario. And obviously, it turned out to be very effective because we ended up getting a lot of time in the water.

“Initially we weren’t sure how much they were going to employ the UUVs, but we ran the vehicles a total of 98 hours with six people,” Flores said. “We were trying to identify the issues in operating off-board sensors like how much situational awareness is needed; and, whether or not the system provided enough information. Also, we assessed our capability to use these

UUV systems in such a way that we were able to multitask.”

Flores explained that multitasking meant the UUVs were deployed in certain areas for minehunting purposes, which after drop-off of the UUVs enabled the ship to travel elsewhere to conduct other MCM tasks.

“In other words, we tested whether the ship could hunt while the UUVs hunted; because, basically our UUVs operate as off-board sonars,” Flores said. “Then, we simply picked up the UUVs later. We are definitely providing inputs to Panama City on our data sets so they can continue improving unmanned systems.”

According to Prager, this type of collaboration in the testing and evaluation of UUV technology will help shorten MCM timelines and will help in developing ships with re-configurable mission-module packages.

“Exercises that employ our UUVs like this also help us reduce risk as well,” Flores added, “which is the other measure of effectiveness for mine warfare.”

Flores explained that UUVs helped by hunting the most dangerous zones – a one-nautical-mile area that has been identified around known mine threats, which enables MCM platforms to search for additional mine threats present in the surrounding areas.

“And in many cases, we did find additional mines. So, had the ship been hunting in those areas, hopefully they would have detected them, but it’s much safer having a UUV do it; and, very effective in helping us keep ships out of those danger zones,” Flores said.

“This technology helps take Sailors out of the water and harm’s way,” Prager added. This is an important capability to achieve, according to LT John Porter, who explained that had this been a real-world threat scenario, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Units (EODMU) would have to, and in many cases still do, dive to personally neutralize mines.

“EODMU SIX Detachments TWO and FOUR participated in GOMEX 06-2 by diving on various exercise-mine contacts and visually identifying them as mine or non- mine-like objects,” Porter said.

Consequently, developing UUV technologies to reduce MCM timelines and risk – to both diver and fleet platforms – remains a high priority, according to Karl Morris, Head of NSWC PC Fleet Readiness Branch.

“It is one of the highest priorities of today’s and tomorrow’s Navy,” Morris added. “That is, to automate ships with UUV technologies.”

JMSDF MINEX/EODEX

KURE, Japan – U.S. Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) units recently participated in an annual MINEX/EODEX exercise. Two forward deployed U.S. Navy mine countermeasures ships and 19 JMSDF ships, with the staffs of Commander Mine Force (COMINFORCE) JMSDF and Commander Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE (COMCMRON ONE), augmented by Commander, Mine Countermeasures Division ELEVEN (COMCMDIV 11), and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit FIVE (EODMU 5) Detachments 51 and 53, proceeded from port on 14 February in support of the MINEX/EODEX 06-1JA. During the ensuing two weeks, the team of U.S. and Japanese forces, joined by U.S. and Japanese P-3 and MH-53 aircraft, performed various mine warfare missions, including surface and aerial mine laying, Surface Mine Counter Measures (SMCM), and Underwater Mine Counter Measures (UMCM). In the opening days of the exercise JDS BUNGO (MST-464), and P-3 aircraft from the Screaming Eagles of the Navy's VP-1 and the JMSDF VP-66 performed aerial and surface mine laying operations, establishing minefields in Japan's Inland Sea. Then, during the first phase of the exercise, USS GUARDIAN (MCM 5) and USS PATRIOT (MCM 7) and JMSDF mine warfare ships conducted focused mine hunting and minesweeping training against moored and bottom mines. U.S. and Japanese EOD divers embarked in the mine warfare ships conducted training in support of mine neutralization operations. BUNGO and JDS URAGA (MST 464) acted as command and control platforms for the Mine Countermeasures staffs. U.S. and JMSDF forces kicked off phase two of the exercise with a replenishment at sea evolution during which PATRIOT and GUARDIAN tied up alongside the anchored BUNGO and took fuel. During these evolutions crews from both the delivery and receiving ships had the opportunity to visit and tour the others' ships. Other opportunities for interaction included the exchange of ship riders between GUARDIAN and PATRIOT and many of the JMSDF ships along with the embarkation of COMCMRON ONE and COMCMDIV 11 personnel aboard BUNGO. Daily interaction between the U.S. and Japanese personnel participating in the exercise gave members of both forces an appreciation for the differences in tactics, techniques, and procedures used by the two countries in operations. Moreover, U.S. personnel gained new perspective on life aboard a Japanese ship.

LCDR Kevin Hagen of COMCMRON ONE

described the exercise as “groundbreaking,” as U.S. and Japanese forces performed combined operations to clear a lane between two exercise harbors within the inland sea. COMCMRON ONE and COMCMDIV 11 staff worked closely with the staff of COMINEDIV 51 to expand the clearance of a six-mile long channel from 400 to 1000 yards wide. The two staffs directed JDS YAEYAMA, JDS HACHIJO, GUARDIAN, and PATRIOT, combined with their embarked EOD detachments, in the completion of this task. The culmination of the exercise was the lead through of BUNGO by YAEYAMA and PATRIOT, while HACHIJO and GUARDIAN conducted precursor operations. Each ship showcased its skill in maneuvering and visual communications in the successful completion of the exercise.



USS PATRIOT (MCM-7) breaks away from JDS BUNGO (MST-464) after conducting a moored alongside replenishment during MINEX/EODEX 06-1JA.

**IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE
THAT WHILE SOME
DOLPHINS ARE REPORTED
TO HAVE LEARNED ENGLISH
— UP TO FIFTY WORDS
USED IN CORRECT CONTEXT
— NO HUMAN BEING HAS
BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE
LEARNED DOLPHINESE.**

Carl Sagan (1934 - 1996)

**Association of Minemen 32nd Annual Reunion & Meeting
20-22 October
Panama City Beach, FL at the Boardwalk Beach Resort and 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 # _____
Spouse / Guest Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip : _____ - _____
Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____ @ _____

The Early Bird, October 20th: This year we'll be hosted by the AMVETS post 47 located near the Navy Base just off of Hwy 98 on Panama City Beach. This year we'll try a yummy seafood boil to accompany some of the refreshments. We will ask for a small donation to cover expenses.

AMVETS Post 47
8317 Front Beach Road
PCB FL, 32407
850-234-0995

Dinner Meeting, October 21st:

Dinner Tickets @ \$26.00 ea. X _____ Ticket(s) = \$ _____
This year our dinner choices start with the house salad, and the entrée choices are *London Broil*, *Seafood Newberg* and *Chicken Picatta*. Desert will be cheesecake or key lime pie. (This price includes all taxes and gratuities.) Please indicate your choice and quantity of entrée below:

"London Broil # _____ meals
"Seafood Newberg # _____ meals
"Chicken Picatta # _____ meals

The Picnic, October 22nd: We're reserving the Navy Base MWR Picnic Grounds and Beach for this year's "grill and chill" starting at 1100. Those of you who remember the AOM Reunion during the summer of 1996 will recall that this is a great facility. Base access will require a photo ID and we'll add your name to a list at the Main Gate.

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 _____

Annual Dues: @\$15.00 October 2006 to October 2007 (5 year max) \$ _____
Your label has your paid to date, e.g., October 2005 is your paid to date.
(New or reinstatement member add \$5 application fee)

Museum Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____

AOM General Fund Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____

AOM Scholarship Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____

Dinner total \$ _____

Picnic total \$ _____

Checks payable to: Association of Minemen **TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ _____
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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 October.
The dues expiration date is October in the year
above your name on your mailing label.