



# The DASHPOT



Issue 57 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Spring 2007



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

As we "Spring" into 2007, let me begin by thanking all of you that provide information to the Dashpot Editor and to the Web-Master for inclusion into our Website. Your news items keep us abreast of past, current and future events and keeps the communications ongoing throughout our Association. **Keep your items coming!!!!**

The plans are well underway for our 2007 AOM Reunion being held in San Diego, California, October 19 - 21. **Chairman Warren Savage** and the reunion committee are hard at work putting together an outstanding program. See "related article" in this issue for further details. Anyone in the San Diego area that wants to assist with the reunion, contact Warren. **Thank you in advance.** Make your plans early to attend and be a part of your Association.

Just a gentle reminder to **remember our Scholarship Fund** when you send in your reservations for the upcoming reunion. Remember, **your donations are tax deductible.**

I am still working on rounding up some **very important members** so their names can be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval to fill vacancies in our Organization. If you want to volunteer, send me your name so I can add it to the list. **There is always room for one more name.**

Thank you all very much. **God Bless all of you, your families, all our Service Members around the World and God Bless America.**

**Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in nature has a function. Unknown**

## 33RD ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN REUNION, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

**OCTOBER 19-21, 2007**

You are ALL welcome to attend the 33rd Annual Association of Minemen (AOM) Reunion and be part of a most memorable event. We are putting together the final touches for our Reunion in San Diego, CA. I want to thank everyone for their assistance especially the 2003 Association of Minemen (AOM) Committee, our President, our Directors, as well as all the involved members and friends, for their assistance in our pulling together our Reunion. We are looking forward to our 33rd annual Association of Minemen (AOM) being held from 19 October to 21 October 2007 in San Diego, California at the Handlery Hotel and Resort. This hotel location was selected by the AOM Reunion Committee Team to house our reunion as well as most of our annual meetings, functions and activities. Our 1996 and 2003 AOM reunion was also held at this same location and received "WELL DONE" from those in attendance.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort is located at 950 Hotel Circle North in San Diego only minutes from the San Diego International Airport (Lindbergh Field) in the heart of Mission Valley. The 33rd Association of Minemen Reunion is being planned and operated by a nucleus TEAM consisting of GARY CLELAND, W. C. HOLLOWAY, JERRY CHIPMAN, JIM MILLER and WARREN SAVAGE as well as other southern California

## ON THE INSIDE

The Mail Bag	3
Scholarship Scoop	6
Taffrail	15
Taps	4
Fleet News	16
MOMAG News	17



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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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AOM members and associates. We eagerly look forward to this event as one to be truly remembered and surpassing our 29th AOM reunion held at this same San Diego site.

The TEAM is in the process of putting together activities which include our annual EARLY BIRD, BANQUET, a picnic and auction as well as other endeavors and annual meetings. We are looking forward to making this truly a FAMILY oriented function and enhances networking and camaraderie. We are looking at a USS MIDWAY and LOCAL CASINO activity.

The Early Bird reception will be held on Friday 19 October starting at 1600 poolside in the POOL ROOM with refreshments available. This will be a great opportunity to greet, meet and mix. There will be maps and handouts available as well as photos from the past.

The Board of Directors meeting will be held Friday evening, 19 October and Saturday morning 20 October at the Handlery. Our General Membership meeting will be held on Saturday 20 October starting at 1400 hrs at the Handlery. Our Banquet will be held on Saturday 20 October starting at 1800 hrs at the Handlery.

The Picnic and Auction is planned to be held Sunday 21 October 2007 starting at 1130 hrs at the Admiral Baker Park MWR.

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## CHARLESTON REUNION 2008

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Back by popular demand. The 2008 reunion site will be the Charleston, SC Town and Country Inn 10, 11 and 12 October. All events will be at the Inn as in 2004.

**Do not try to make any reservations at this time.**

More to follow at a later date.

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**Natives who beat drums  
to drive off evil spirits  
are objects of scorn to  
smart Americans who  
blow horns to break up  
traffic jams.**

Mary Ellen Kelly

## SECRETARY/ TREASURER



A note from the desk of your bean counter.

Our operating funds are looking good but could use some donations to the scholarship fund. We have \$1,694.68 in the scholarship fund and \$630.00 in the benevolent fund. Can you help?

Please check the front of your Dashpot. If you have a "Oct. 2006" date, you are behind in our dues. We have 37 members behind at this time.

Talked with Warren Savage about the reunion to be held in San Diego this year. I think Warren has sent some input for this issue. He informed me that the dinner tickets would be \$36.00 and Picnic would be \$12.00 (\$5.00 under 6). Please don't wait until the last minute to send you fees to me as I hope to go out a few days early this year. Will have your tickets ready when you arrive.

Warren also stated that the room rate this year will be \$89.00. This is a little cheaper than last time.

Break out the suntan lotion, summer is on its way.

Curtis

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## MAIL BAG

George Baker writes from Charleston:

I was on the Naval Base today working with a demo company and we took down the medical Center, Post Office, MacDonald's Restaurant and building 20 of the old MOMAG. Homeland Security has taken over most of the base and it is harder to get on than the Air Base.

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Bill: Yesterday (2/17/2007) marked the 38th anniversary of the tragic death of ex-Mineman Berry Cannon. I learned of Berry's death while I was on MAAG duty (67-69) in Taiwan. The story made the front page of the Stars and Stripes newspaper over there.

On February 17, 1969, Berry Cannon, convulsed and died near the SEALAB-III habitat at a depth

of over 600 feet of seawater. Berry's 135-lb diving rig was found to be missing a CO2-scrubber that would have saved his life. The SEALAB-III habitat was located on the sea-floor near San Clemente Island, off San Diego, CA.

"Death of an Aquanaut" is a book written about Cannon's death by William J. Bunton, who was also involved in the SEALAB projects.

I knew Berry Cannon for about a year and a half during his Mineman days. Berry L. Cannon was born in Florida, on March 22, 1935. Cannon joined the Navy in 1953, and I met him at Mine-man "A" School, Yorktown, VA, in early 1954. However, we weren't in the same class. Later that year we were transferred to NAD, Hawthorne, Nevada, where we joined the boxing team coached by MNC "Birddog" Hyder. At 0430, every day several of us including Cannon would get up and run to the base of Mount Grant and back before breakfast, and the Navy day ahead of us. We were in training for boxing matches that were held on the 4th of July at the Rodeo Grounds in Fallon, Nevada. A carload of us, including Cannon, also drove over to Yosemite National Park and spent a weekend there.

After his hitch in the Navy, Cannon went to work as a civilian at the old Mine Defense Lab in Panama City, FL. I'm not sure when he joined the SEALAB projects.

The only picture I have of Berry is a group photo of the boxing team including boxing coach MNC "Birddog" Hyder, MNSN Jim Dodd, and myself.

Regards, Don Jones



## TAPS

### MN1 Richard Callahan.

Richard Callahan, MN1 1948-1962 died August 7, 2006 at age 76 of congestive heart failure at his home in Hillsboro, Oregon.

He funeral was held at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Portland, Oregon, and he was buried at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Corinne, and sons Bill, Mike and John, their spouses and five grandchildren.



### Deceased Shipmates

The following are deceased shipmates. Please search your memories and any other resources to try to fill in the blanks, I need date and place of death if you know it. Respond to mncrn@roadrunner.com

COSETTE, MN3  
 COURTNEY, Deloyd, MN2  
 HITT, Linus  
 JOHNS Gerald E."Jerry", MN2  
 JONES, Frank "F.M.", MN1,  
 KELLY, Admiral Dewey "A.D."  
 MILLER Joseph, MN  
 OFFINS, Jack, LT.  
 PETIT C. E. "Joe", MNC  
 PHELPS, Percy, MNC  
 ROTHSTEIN, Richard, MN1  
 RUTH, James R., MN1  
 SLAUGHTER, Scott, MN  
 THORP, Jack, CDR  
 WILLIAMS, Gary, CWO3, Campbeltown, Scotland

### MNCM Nicholson

MNCM Malcolm A. Nicholson, USN (Ret.), age 59, of West Haven, died Thursday, December 14, 2006. He is survived by his children, M. Chris Nicholson of Milford, Katie A. Nicholson of Fairfield, Ann E. Nicholson and Colin P. Nicholson and his ex-wife, Catherine Thompson Johnson, all of North Branford. Malcolm was born in New Haven, son of the late Malcolm and Marion Genett Nicholson. He was a teacher for many years, mostly at West Haven High School, Bridgeport Central High School and the Aquaculture School in Bridgeport. He was active in the local, state and national teachers unions. He was an eagle scout and a boy scout master for troop 16, West Haven and was also a U.S. Navy veteran, serving as a Mineman Master Chief until his retirement. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Our Lady of Victory Church. Interment followed in the St Lawrence Cemetery.



**MNC Kenneth G. O'Dell**

Newport News. MNC Kenneth G. "Digger" O'Dell, 83 went to be with the Lord on Monday, January 29, 2007. Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, he had been a peninsula resident since 1962.

Mr. O'Dell served in the US Navy as a Chief Petty Officer, retiring in 1961 after 21 years of service. He was a veteran of WW II and Korea where he specialized as Explosive Ordnance Disposal. He then went on to retire from the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station in 1981. He was a member of the Meachville Baptist Church and a former member of Warwick Baptist Church. Mr. O'Dell was an avid golfer who would play 18 holes and walk the entire course. He also enjoyed fly fishing and camping with his wife, Mildred.

Mr. O'Dell is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, two married daughters, five grand children and one great-grandchild.

Mr. O'Dell was laid to rest in the Hampton Veteran's Memorial Gardens on Friday, February 2, 2007.



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**MSGT ROBERT "BOB" E. PIPER, SR.,  
USMC (Ret.)**

ELTHAM-Robert "Bob" E. Piper, Sr, 86, of Eltham in New Kent County, VA, passed from this earthly life to his heavenly home on Jan. 1, 2007.

Bob was born in Fayetteville, TN on May 26, 1920. He lived the younger part of his life in

Jacksonville and Sarasota, Fl. After finishing high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps and was transferred to Yorktown, VA, on Pearl Harbor Day, December of 1941. He was a Master Sergeant and served in two wars, WWII and the Korean War. He was stationed in the USS Mississippi Battleship between 1941 and 1944. After retiring from service, he devoted his entire career to civil service at the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown, where he retired in 1988.

Bob was the son of the late Bert Ray and Elizabeth Irene Piper. He was preceded in death by his half-brother William Carlisle.

Bob is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruth Brown Piper; his son, Robert 'Chip' E. Piper jr.; his daughter, Perryann Piper Whitehurst and husband, Robbie; four lov-ing grandchildren, Rachael and Gabby Piper and Chase and Bobby Whitehurst, all of Eltham, and numerous nephews, a niece and other dose family members.

Both humble and very patriotic, Bob was also a wonderful and kindhearted person. He was a good husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. Bob was a member of Post 8356 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for more than 50 years, the USS Mississippi BB-41 Mighty Missy Alumni Club, the American Legion and other military associations. He was a member of and had held many positions at Tabernacle United Methodist Church.

Funeral Services with full military honors were held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at Tabernacle United Methodist Church located at 20051 Tabernacle Road, Barhamsville, VA.

We will miss you, Big Daddy. We will continue to live life like you showed us. You were a man of Honor and Integrity, and today we celebrate your life. Heaven now has its newest Angel.



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You will hear me in the zephyrs,  
you will feel me in the rain  
And know that I 'm still with you  
until we meet again.  
To live a life fantastic  
where there is no word for pain.



## SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

by Swede Carlsen

It's that time of the year again, where we as parents and grandparents start to help our graduating high schoolers with the search for the college that meets his or her needs and requirements. They're exposed to probing interviews by the school's staff and various entrance exams. If they are accepted by the school the realization of tuition costs comes slamming home.

Then, the search for scholarship help gets underway. There is about \$3 billion in scholarship money available nationally. This money is available in amounts from a few hundred bucks to thousands of dollars.

The internet is a great source of scholarship information. Check out the following sites:

fastweb.com  
collegenet.com  
smexpress.com  
scholarshipamerica.com  
collegeboard.com  
scholarships.com

For personnel on active duty or with the reserves look for scholarships at [military.com](http://military.com). They're scholarships available from billion dollar corporations, your parents employers, government agencies, union and fraternal organizations. Don't forget veteran's organizations.

Now, let's not forget the AOM assistance scholarships. The membership approved an increase to \$ 750 from \$ 500 for two (2) assistance scholarships. We have \$ 1694.00 available for 2007's scholarships plus \$ 630 designated for Memorial scholarships. Donations are needed to increase our scholarship funds, Presidential or the general fund. Please give generous donations so the AOM will be able to help all the applicants.

Applications for AOM scholarships are available from Curtis Christian (AOM Secretary/Treasurer) at Association of Minemen, P.O. Box 69, Eutawville, SC 29048-0069.

You can request them from W. (Swede) Carlsen (AOM Scholarship Chairman) 1925 Pilgrim Ave., Bronx, NY 10461-4001. You can download the forms from the AOM Homepage at <http://home.triad.rr.com/aom/index.htm>.

STAND TALL AMERICA

## LIEUTENANT ED OYER USN (RET.)



Lt. Edwin C. Oyer, USN (Ret.) celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 11, 2006.

Happy 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, Pop! Glad you are still around to keep us (and everyone else) on our toes! The world must have been boring before you.

We love you  
The Oyer Clan

Editor's Note: Ed says his uniforms still fit. Mine still fit too. They just don't fit me.

We wish you many, many more, Ed.

## CURTIS "Catfish" CHRISTIAN



Curtis has always said you needed big bait to catch big fish. Here he is displaying his bait before a day of fishing on the lake. Nice "bait".



# Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary



## MR. AND MRS. H.L. STEWART

Horace Lee "Buddy" and Shelby "Jean" Hardwick Stewart, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 23, 2006.

The couple celebrated the special occasion, with family and friends, at their home, hosted by their children and respective families.

The Stewarts were married on December 25, 1956, at the home of Rev. O.M. Hilburn, Buddy's maternal grandfather, in Darlington, SC.

Their children are: Chaplain Ray Stewart and wife Susan of Woodbridge, VA; and Donald Stewart and wife Brenda of Goose Creek, SC.

Buddy and Jean have four grandchildren: Ashley Stewart and Katie Stewart attending Old Dominion University; Kelly Stewart attending Furman University; and Jamie Stewart serving in the United States Marine Corps.

Buddy is retired from the United States Navy and the United States Postal Service.

Jean is a devoted and successful homemaker.

**Happy 50th  
Wedding Anniversary**



1956



2006



# 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](mailto:pdechene@triad.rr.com). Phil DeChene AOM WEB Master

## E-mail – Active Duty

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01/07/07 - Darrell Bostic MNC (SW); [darrell.bostic@navy.mil](mailto:darrell.bostic@navy.mil)  
12/18/06 - Eric W Elliott MNC (SW); [eelliott@hotmail.com](mailto:eelliott@hotmail.com)

## E-mail – Reservist

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12/04/06 - Able Fernandes MNCS USNR; [ablefernandes@optonline.net](mailto:ablefernandes@optonline.net)

## E-mail – Retired

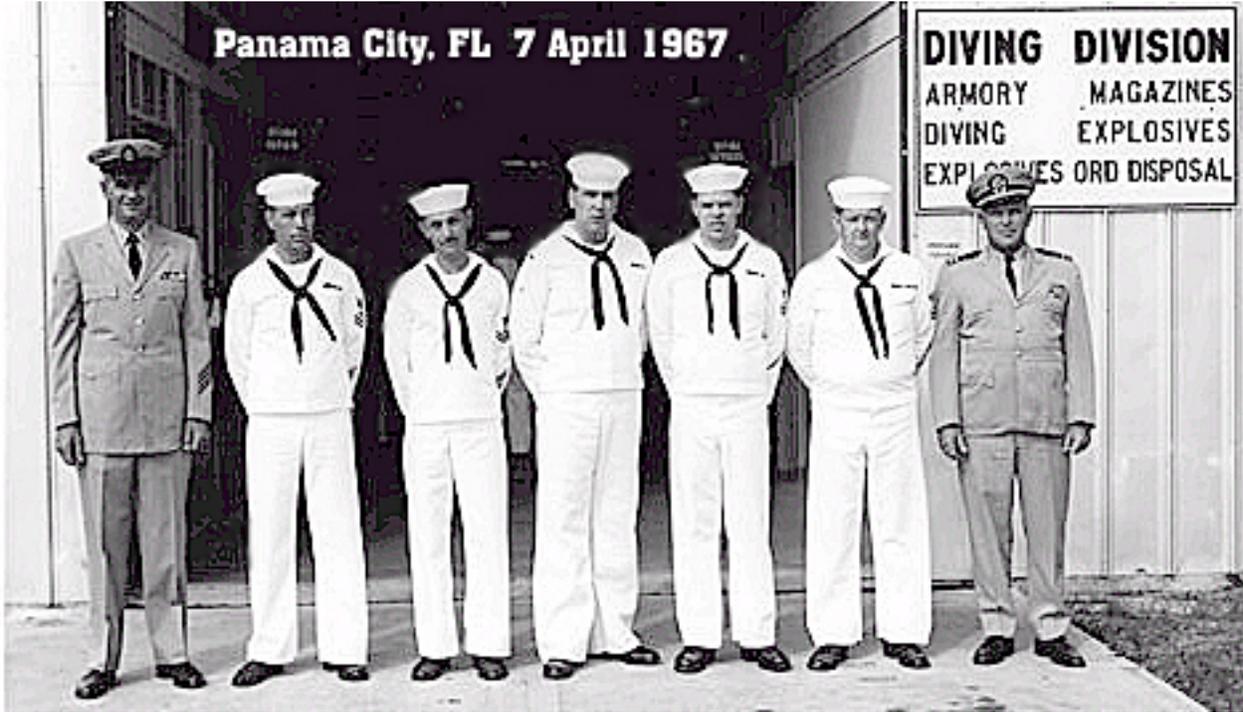
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02/19/07 - CW04 Nathan (Nate) Miranda USNR; [gunnermate@yahoo.com](mailto:gunnermate@yahoo.com)  
02/15/07 - Paul Chavez, Jr. MN1; [pepeNMPatriots@msn.com](mailto:pepeNMPatriots@msn.com); [PCChavez@doeal.gov](mailto:PCChavez@doeal.gov)  
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12/25/06 - James M. Sullivan PR1; [fishinfool29550@yahoo.com](mailto:fishinfool29550@yahoo.com)  
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12/04/06 - Craig K. Born MNC (SW) [saralyn.mason-born@kos.kiewit.com](mailto:saralyn.mason-born@kos.kiewit.com)

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01/22/07 - Mary Tackett (Franklin); MN3; [marsolo2@yahoo.com](mailto:marsolo2@yahoo.com)  
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12/04/06 - Mike Butzen MN2; [mjbutzen@tds.net](mailto:mjbutzen@tds.net)

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*Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Choose your words, for they become actions. Understand your actions, for they become habits. Study your habits, for they will become your character. Develop your character, for it becomes your destiny.”*



L to R Harris or Harison MN2, Al Stout (sp) MN2, Joe Sapien MN3, Ed Combs MN2, Don Parks MN2. The other two are GMCM Smith , LT ?

I received these photos from retired MN George Clark. Some are from the Mine Shop at Point Loma in San Diego (USS Sperry & USS Nereus sub-tenders). Those are 1952 - 1053

John Loonam

These may not be to good but you can have a little laugh. Maybe you can put them on the Minemen web site. George



MN Hartso



MNSN George Clark



MNSN John Loonam



MNSN Dave Clark



MNC Harder (rt)



George Clark (rt)



Dave Clark (rt)



Unknown Rogues

**Women and cats will do as they please,  
and men and dogs should relax and get  
used to the idea.**

Robert A. Heinlein

# US DOG TAGS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Arlington National Cemetery is not the only resting place for "Unknown Soldiers." Countless American soldiers have died defending our way of life throughout the history of this great nation; many of their graves are marked with a single word, "unknown"

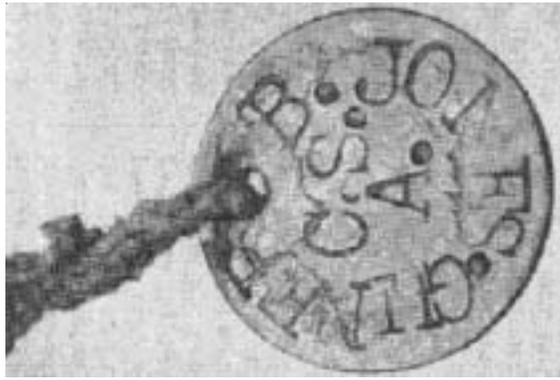
The American Civil War (1861-1865) provided the first recorded incident of American soldiers making an effort to ensure that their identities would be known should they be killed on the battlefield. Their methods varied, and all were taken on by the soldier's own initiative. (42% of all Civil War dead remain unknown) In 1863, before the battle of Mines Run in northern Virginia, troops wrote their names and units on paper tags and pinned them to their clothing. Many soldiers took great care in marking all of their personal belongings. Some troops made their own id tags out of wood, boring a hole in an end so that they could be worn on a string.

The commercial sector saw the demand for an identification method and provided products. Harpers Weekly Magazine advertised "Soldier's Pins" which could be mail ordered. Made of silver or gold, these pins were inscribed with an individual's name and unit designation. Private vendors who followed troops also offered ID tags for sale just prior to battles.

Soldiers also fashioned tags out of coins by scraping one side smooth and engraving or stamping name and unit. Below is an example of the one type of disk available for private vendors.



Above is an 18 x 35 mm German silver pin



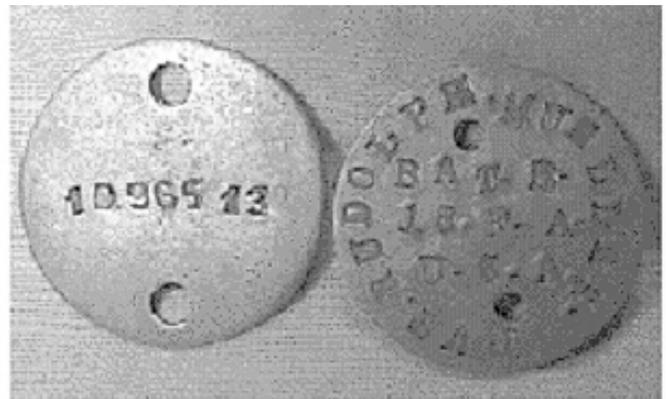
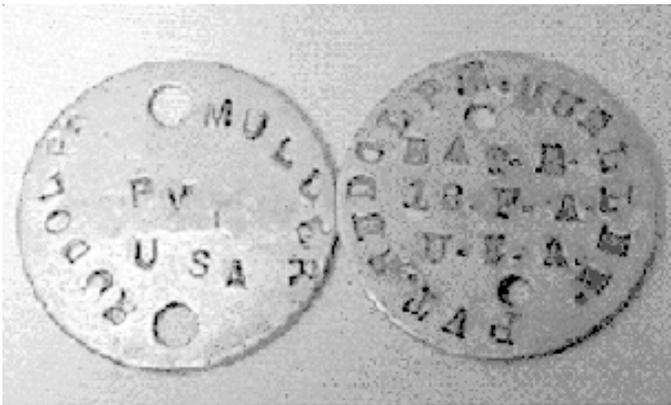
Above is an "ID" tag made from a coin

Despite the fact that fear of being listed among the unknowns was a real concern among the rank and file, no reference to an official issue of identification tags by the Federal Government exists from the Civil War.



Above is a Spanish-American War dog tag from 1898, that contained unit, company and individual number

The first official advocacy of issuing ID tags took place in 1899. Chaplain Charles C. Pierce recommended that an "identity disc" be included in the standard combat field kit, although the first official introduction of one tag didn't happen until December of 1906. The Army Regulations of 1913 made an identification tag mandatory. In July of 1916 a second tag was added, and by 1917 all combat troops wore aluminum discs on rope or chain. In February of 1918 the official introduction of Serial Numbers started.



An aluminum WWI set with Serial Number on back.

*"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world. Marines don't have that problem."*

"Ronald Reagan"

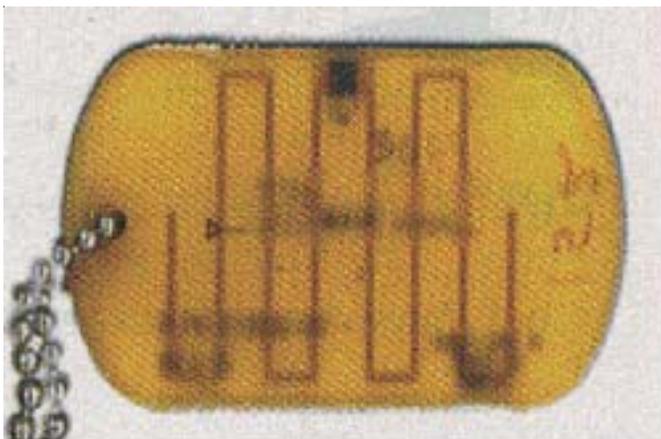




Above is the M-1940 “notched” type dog tag. By the early 70s the “notch” was removed to the present day tag.



The United States Armed Forces is currently developing and testing a new type of dog tag, which will hold 80% of a soldier's medical and detail records on a microchip known by several names (The Individually Carried Record, Meditag, The Tactical Medical Coordination System, and Personal Information Carriers known as PIC), it is not intended to replace the present tag, but rather to augment it as part of the “paperless battlefield” concept.



The yellow TacMedCS being tested by the Marines uses radio frequency technology, electronics, and global positioning systems to pinpoint the wounded. The black rubber encased PIC is currently under DOD testing.

**Activism is a way for otherwise useless people to appear important.**



The above MEDITAG is under consideration by foreign governments.



**“You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, the Swiss hold the America’s Cup, France is accusing the US of arrogance, and Germany doesn’t want to go to war.”**



## Over the Taffrail

by Donald DeCrona

Some of you might remember this incident and others would not know because they never visited Hawthorne. This was in one of my old books published in 1991. Don

### Who Stole the Ding-Dong?

Back in 1955, an employee of the government facility in Hawthorne decided to moonlight as a musician in a local barroom. Since he was never above taking a few sips during the evening in order to share in the bar’s festivities, he planned to work weekdays for the government and weekend evenings at the bar until the wee hours, and then sleep most of every Sunday.

When the musician rented a house across the street from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, he didn’t know the church bell would be rung at 7 A.M. and 9 A.M. on Sunday mornings to call the faithful to worship. You can imagine how, with half a hangover and very little sleep, he reacted to being blasted from bed by the bell after his first busy Saturday night.

The next day he asked Father Smith to stop ringing the bell on Sundays. Of course this suggestion was received with about as much enthusiasm as if he had asked the priest to join him in a stroll through the local red-light district. But as the musician suffered through the din the following Sunday morning, his tormented brain began to piece together a plan for revenge.

On the third Sunday, after the parishioners had gathered for early Mass, he turned his loudspeakers as high as they’d go and bombarded the neighborhood—and the church interior—with Dixieland jazz. The police were at his door in no time, demanding that he turn off the music or be hauled in for disturbing the peace.

“Disturbing the peace?”, he shouted. “How the hell about the bell?”

“You’re messing with freedom of religion, son. It’s in the Constitution, so we gotta leave it alone,” replied the law. So rather than go to jail, the musician turned the music off.

A couple of weeks later, in the middle of the week, the bell disappeared.

Now, it weighed about 300 pounds and would have taken at least two people to move it. Naturally, there was strong suspicion that the disgruntled musician was the culprit. However, no one could locate the bell so no charges could be made. The church got a nice insurance settlement, the musician got to sleep on Sundays, and life returned to normal in Hawthorne.



## NEW AIRBORNE LASER DETECTS MINES

NAVY NEWS | JANUARY 30, 2007

WASHINGTON — Navy officials observed the roll-out of the first low-rate initial production unit of the Airborne Laser Mine Detection System (ALMDS) in an official ceremony at Northrop Grumman Corporation and Integrated Systems Division's, Melbourne, Fla., facility on Jan. 26.

“This milestone represents an important step forward as we are now delivering the next generation in mine countermeasures technology,” said Gary A. Humes, program manager, Mine Warfare Program Office in Program Executive Office Littoral and Mine Warfare (PEO LMW). “Because ALMDS has no in-water components, it will help shorten the detection timeline and maximize the helicopter’s time on station, thereby providing the maneuvering force with essential capability to dominate the complex, high-operational tempo environment of the littorals.”

Operating from the MH-60S helicopter, ALMDS uses a light detection and ranging (LIDAR) blue-green laser mounted in a pod to detect, localize and classify near surface moored and floating sea mines. ALMDS provides a new capability to the mine warfare (MIW) mission package designed for the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). Because it is mounted on a helicopter, the system can cover a larger amount of sea space in a shorter time frame.

Scheduled for delivery this year, the LCS will host five airborne mine countermeasures systems, developed to provide aircraft carrier strike groups and expeditionary strike groups with full-spectrum organic mine hunting and neutralization capability. ALMDS, along with other planned sensor systems, will allow the LCS to provide the springboard for revolutionary new organic mine warfare capabilities that provide better, quicker, and safer performance.

“By leveraging new technology and having mine detection and neutralization systems organic to the fleet, we can take the Sailor out of the minefield and have these system ready, on-call

within the Navy’s expeditionary strike groups and aircraft carrier strike groups,” said Capt. Joe Spitz, deputy program manager, Mine Warfare Program Office, PEO LMW.

ALMDS will help shorten the detect-to-engagement timeline and maximize the MH-60S helicopter’s time on station. Shrinking this time is a giant step toward the fleet’s goal of avoiding minefields during transit and assuring access in the littorals to support operational maneuver from the sea.

ALMDS is also being considered for anti-submarine warfare applications.

The delivery is a result of an initial \$35.7 million contract awarded in April 2006 for a low-rate initial production (LRIP) of two AN/AES-1 ALMDS pods. A second LRIP contract is planned to start this spring for an additional two pods following developmental testing. The third LRIP contract and full rate production are planned in 2009 and 2010 respectively for an additional eleven pods.

The ALMDS program is managed by PEO LMW, Mine Warfare Program Office, PMS-495. The Navy plans to buy 45 ALMDS pods between now and 2018. The overall program is valued at approximately \$255 million

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## TM AND GM RATINGS MERGE

NAVY NEWS | SA KEN INGRAM |  
MARCH 05, 2007

Millington, TN. — The Chief of Naval Operation (CNO) approved the merger of the gunner’s mate (GM) and torpedoman’s mate (TM) ratings into the GM rating on Feb. 26.

The move was made to leverage the strengths, knowledge, skills and abilities found in the two ratings to meet mission needs now and in the future.

The gunner’s mate training focuses on the operation, maintenance and troubleshooting of the naval gun, as well as a strong emphasis on basic explosives, guidance and tracking systems, small arms, naval ammunition classification and safety. Upon completion of this basic training, enlisted members often continue on to a specialized “C” school, where they learn a particular weapons system.

The torpedoman’s mate training focuses on performing organizational and intermediate level maintenance on underwater ordnance, handling torpedoes and antisubmarine rockets and pre-

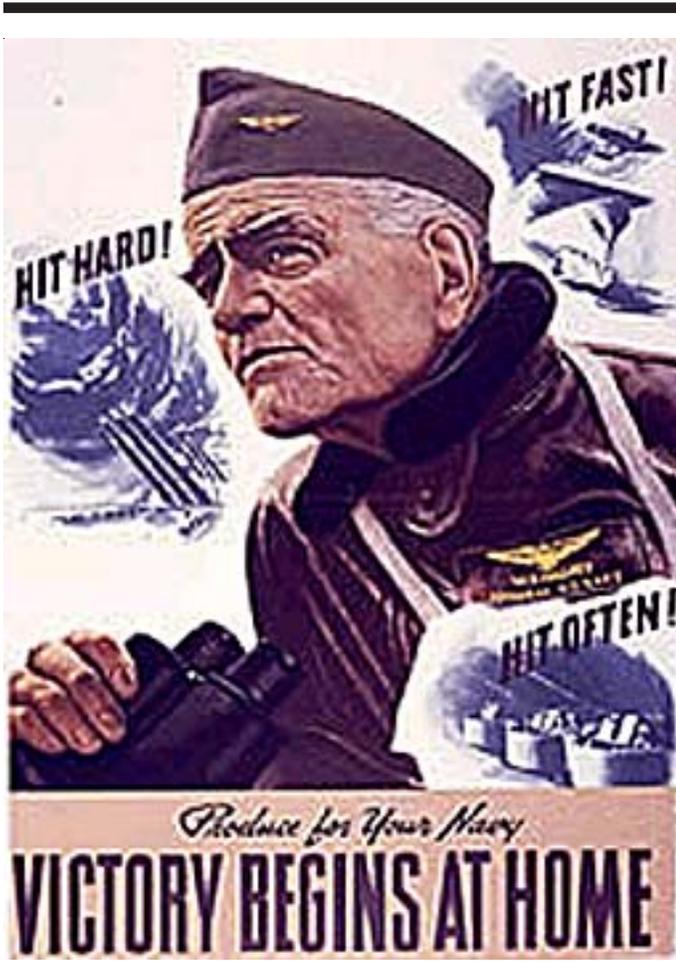
paring underwater ordnance for launching, conduct postfire and postrun routines, and weapons performance evaluation procedures.

"The training Sailors receive after basic training for their ratings on an apprentice level has been the same for both gunner's and torpedoman's mates," said Senior Chief Torpedoman's Mate Sherry Secrease of the Navy Personnel Command. "This makes the merger easier to accomplish."

Active-duty Sailors E-1 to E-9, as well as selected reserve and individual ready reserve (IRR) Sailors from E-6 to E-9, will automatically switch to the new rating Oct. 1. Selected reserve and IRR Sailors from E-1 to E-5 will switch over March 1, 2008.

Career Reenlistment Objective figures reveal paygrades E-1 through E-3 are overmanned in both ratings, and the TM rating is overmanned in paygrades E-1 through E-6.

"It is possible that during the first phase of the merger there will be a fluctuation in advancement rates; however, this is normal for any rating merger. After full implementation, we expect advancement opportunities to increase and career paths and training to expand," said Secrease.



## COMOMAG

by LTJGS.M. Cowart

Howdy y'all from beautiful, and already warm, South Texas! I am **LTJG Stephanie Moss Cowart**, ADMIN Department Head at COMOMAG, and I will be assuming the duties of submitting Dashpot entries from **MNCS(SW) David Ostrom**. Senior will be retiring soon, and is slowly, and reluctantly, turning over his collateral duties!

Operations' Exercise and Training Division (N32) hosted the SIX QUARTER EXERCISE SCHEDULING CONFERENCE in January, and has released the UNIT's SIX QUARTER EXERCISE SCHEDULES for their planning, workload schedules, and asset/personnel support. Noteworthy, is this past quarter's B-52 aerial minelaying events. MOMAU ELEVEN is supporting COUNTERSEA SYLLABUS SORTIES 07A-1 and 07A-2 out of Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. Their Mine Assembly Teams (MAT) will provide assembly and Final prep QUICKSTRIKE series Laying Mines. MOMAU ONE and FIFTEEN will Provide Mine Recovery Teams to Southern California to recover all assets. MOMAU EIGHT Guam is providing outstanding support and training to the 96EBS where MK62 QUICKSTRIKE Laying Mines will be provided in support of GUAMEX 07-3. MOMAU ONE and FIFTEEN are also providing assets and personnel to support VULCANEX Little Creek Virginia and SUB MINE WARFARE TEST Panama City, Florida. N32 continues to compile all data related to each and every one of these Exercises into the Exercise and Training Database (ETD).

The Service Mines Division (N31) would like to acknowledge MOMAU Units ELEVEN and TWELVE for the successful completion of their MRCIs in October and November. **MNCM(SW) Randy Childers**, MRCI Inspector, reports being very impressed with both commands and that they have set the bar high for the other MOMAUs.

While Operations gets all the glory with their exercises, Supply, ADMIN, and AIS have steadily been providing outstanding support to both COMOMAG Staff and the Unit commands. **LT. Emma Mathis**, Supply Officer, and her whole department have done an outstanding job this quarter of getting the funding out to the commands and providing staff support and expertise.

**LT. Mike McGregor** had the unique opportunity to spend most of January in Millington, TN and was able to bring back some very useful information regarding the selection board process; not only for LDO's, but CPO's as well. On that note, we would like to congratulate **MNCS(SW) Andrew Palmer** of MOMAU 12 for his selection to CW02, and **MNC(SW) Steven McMillian** of MCM CREW CONFLICT and **MNC(SW) Matt Hatlevig** of Mine Warfare Training Center for their selection to LDO. What a successful year for Minemen!

**Mr. Jay Burton**, the Training and Reserve Affairs Coordinator, reports that **MN2 Kevin Landers** NR MOMAU Ten Det Two will be recognized as the 2006/2007 Reserve Mineman of the Year on 11 March. The award will be presented by **LCDR Richard Weiss**, Commanding Officer, MOMAU 11 Charleston, SC, and his CMC, **MNCM(SW) Donald Kiper**. Also, **CWO4 Vincent Wisner** completed his two week Annual Training at COMOMAG, and assisted **Mr. Burton** with the Reserve Mid-Year Review Budget, and a rewrite of several COMOMAG instructions.

Although the Commander really loves to work, he did allow for some fun time, too. The Command participated in a Khaki -vs- Blue Shirt bowling tournament in February, and even without our ringer, **CDR Anderjack**, the Khakis have bragging rights until the next bowling event. Coming up is the greatly anticipated golf tournament, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

Bravo Zulu to the following

AWARDS:

**SK2(SW) Hensley Hylton**, **SK2(SW) Gabriel Nunez** and **SK2 Christina Trammell** received LOAs

SAILOR OF THE QUARTER 4Q06:

SK2(SW) Hensley Hylton



SK2(SW) Hensley Hylton receiving his SOQ plaque for 4Q06 from CDR Anderjack

SAILOR OF THE YEAR, COMOMAG STAFF, 2006

SK2(SW) Hensley Hylton

MOMAG SAILOR OF THE YEAR 2006

**SK1(SW) Pablo Arao Jr.** of MOMAU Unit 10

AOM 2006/2007 Mineman of the Year (Active)

**MN1(SW) Samuel Dorbrandt**, of MHC Crew LOYALTY - USS PELICAN

AOM 2006/2007 Mineman of the Year (Reserve)

**MN2 Kevin Landers**, of NR MOMAU Ten Det Two

PROMOTIONS:

**SK2(AW) Brian Grigsby** to his present rank



SK2(AW) Grigsby being frocked by CDR Anderjack as LCDR Mathison reads the citation in the background

DEPARTURES:

**MNCS(SW) Laura Rodriguez Dierks** to COMCMRON ONE, Ingleside, Texas

**IT1(SW) Scott Reeder** to VAW-117 Point Magu, CA



IT1(SW) Scott Reeder and MNCS Laura Dierks receiving model MK 6 mines at their Hail & Farewell

CONGRATULATIONS:

**YNC(SW) Stace Pierce** and his wife, **Maya**, on the birth of their daughter, **Delaney Grace**, on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mother and daughter are doing well, while Dad is out purchasing a shotgun.

We'd also like to wish **MNC(SW) Duane Crocker** and his family "Fair Winds & Following Seas" as they retired this past January 13<sup>th</sup> in a beautiful ceremony at his local church. He is a great Shipmate and will be missed.



**NEXT DASHPOT  
ARTICLES ARE  
DUE 1 JUNE 2007**



## MOMAU EIGHT GUAM, MI

### WORLD'S BEST MINE SHOP.

by MNCS(SW) John Pipkin & MN1 Eugene Smith

Hafa Adai from the beautiful Fena Valley, Santa Rita, Guam, Home of the world's best mine shop! We trust everyone enjoyed a safe and uneventful holiday season.

Things continue to progress quite well as our unit rang in 2007 with first baby born on U.S. soil.

Congratulations to IT2 Jerome (aka: Poppadaca) Apodaca and his lovely wife, Amber, the proud parents of Aryanna.



MN3 Bivins, Blue Jacket of the Year, 2006

We also saw the rotation of sister service bomber squadron personnel as they made their way back to chilly Minot AFB, North Dakota, from sunny Andersen Air Force Base.

We wish them well and look forward to their return.

Their replacement squadron is now in place joining us all the way from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana and appear to be acclimating to the island

with the majority of embarked bomber crews already visiting the world's best mine shop for a site visit and underwater mine familiarization brief.

In turn, they have graciously provided several informative guided tours of the venerable B52-H Super Stratofortress to several newly arriving crewmembers as well as the Minemen Detailer posse led by MNCS(SW/AW) Jai Dykes. Fun for all.

From the operational perspective, we proudly proclaim we remain ready and able to meet and exceed any and all mission requirements that may come our way. Our ranks have been bolstered by the arrival of Senior Chief Mineman Jody Wilbanks of Central, South Carolina, (yes, he is still in!) who just checked-in from the mighty special purpose platform HSV-1.

We also, as of this writing, welcome aboard our new YN1, Petty Officer Fundalewicz reporting to us from VQ-2, NAS Whidbey Island, Washington.



MN1 Freeman, Senior Sailor of the Quarter 4Q06

Additionally, we said sadly bid goodbye to Petty Officer Brandi Sakaris and family who are presently in-route to Naval Special Clearance Team One, Coronado, California.

Kudos goes out to the entire MOMAU-8 Team for their stellar performance during Naval Ordnance Safety & Security Activity's Explosive Safety Technical Assist Visit (NOSSA ESI TAV).

The NOSSA Team conducted a detailed review of the command's explosive safety programs with "ZERO" significant findings and were extremely impressed with the cleanliness of MOMAU-8 and the professionalism displayed by the crew.

Favorable comments were also received regarding the unit's explosive qualification certification program and standard operation procedure development processes.



YN2 Davis, Junior Sailor of the Year, 2006 / JSOQ 4Q06

#### KUDOS

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

MN1 Smith – SSOY CY06  
YN2 Davis – JSOY CY06 / JSOQ 4Q06  
MN3 Bivins – BJOY CY06  
MN1 Freeman – SSOQ 4Q06  
MNSN Guadron – BJOQ 4Q06

MN3 Sakaris – re-enlisted for 3 years



MNSN Guadron, Blue Jacket of the Quarter 4Q06

*“A sailor without a destination cannot hope for a favorable wind.”*

*—Leon Tec*



## MOMAU TEN KADENA, JA

A DYNAMIC Team that defines success!

In February 2007 NR Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Ten Det Two and NR Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Ten Det One joined forces in support of Annual Training at Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Ten in Okinawa, Japan.

The teams seamlessly and professionally integrated together and trained on various ordnance topics as well as assembly of different mine shapes. The team performed maintenance on over 180 MAU-91 fins, upgraded 36 MK-62's, 36 MK-63's, and 12 MK-65's. All these make up the "Quickstrike family" of underwater mines in the U.S. Navy's inventory. In addition, the NR dets helped us package and ship 7 MK-52's along with 10 MK-6's mine shapes in support of FAWMOMEX 07. The training conducted ensures proficiency in mine assembly, which is a highly perishable skill if not practiced, and guarantees maximum readiness in the event of a real world tasking order. On the administrative side, the two dets came together to help us prepare for an upcoming ADMAT inspection. The two YN's provided a tremendous amount of help and in return they received superb in-rate training from our seasoned YNC. A post training/build farewell barbeque was held for relaxation and the enjoyment of camaraderie among all three Units.

Building renovation continues and things have been a little more complex than anticipated. Some asbestos joints were found during the tear-down process that weren't previously identified in the original contract. NAVFAC Far East has been working diligently with OGUMI Corp to identify and procure funding for the abatement process. Phase One has been re-scheduled to be completed by mid to late May and Phase Two will commence shortly after day one with no firm completion date as of yet. Phase Two will include refurbishment of front office space and should not adversely affect Unit Ten's capabilities.

On the shop side of the house, Team Ten has been keeping busy continuing maintenance on

the remainder 180 MAU-91 fins, and preparing exercise and training assets in support of Cobra Gold 07 and CARAT 07. This year CG 07 will require 6 MK-6's, 2 MK-44's, 2 MK-46's, and 6 MK-62's. CARAT 07 will require 4 MK-63's. In addition to these training assets, Unit Ten has been tasked to provide a significant amount of mine warfare training to the entire Royal Thai Mine Countermeasure Squadron.



**PS2 Sandoval and MN2 Collotzi are installing a MK 15 fin assembly while MN2 Valdez ensures the MK 3 arming wire is properly inserted into the TDD.**



**MN2 Miller, MNC Burrud, and MNC Montero go over the shop traveler of a MK 63 Quickstrike while MN1 Quintero supervises the assembly line.**



**MN2 Hicks, MN1 Buchanan, MNCS Bourgouin and MN1 Olson relax at Friday's going away BBQ.**



MN1 Stone, MN2 Miller, MNSA Hamilton, and MN2 Landers compete on a friendly volleyball game.



**MOMAU FIFTEEN  
INGLESIDE, TX**

**MOMAU 15 welcomes new CO**

by Fifi Kieschnick



LT Sanchez and LT Vichit (RTN Mine Prep Shop XO) pose for a PAO shot after a site survey for Cobra Gold 07 and CARAT 07.



**LT. DARVIN F. ROBINSON**

Command of Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Fifteen changed Feb. 8, when Lt. Darvin F. Robinson relieved Lt. Cmdr. Julian Wyatt.

MOMAU 15 is one of six active Mobile Mine Assembly Units (MOMAU) located in key locations around the world. They store, maintain, and assemble the U.S. Navy's stockpile of underwater mines. They are prepared to mobilize in support of operational plans at a moment's notice. Additionally, they maintain and prepare exercise and training mine-like objects in support of fleet training and naval exercises.

Wyatt, a native of Worcester, Mass., had been at the helm of MOMAU 15 for the past three and a half years. His next assignment will be as the 3M (maintenance, material, management) coordina-



LT Sanchez and LTjg Nara (RTN work together to develop the Mine Warfare SOE portion of CARAT 07.

tor of USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77), in Newport News, Va.

Robinson, a native of Hempstead, N.Y., graduated from Parker High School in Greenville, S.C. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy in September 1986 and attended basic training at Recruit Training Command, Naval Training Center Orlando, Fla. Upon completion of basic training, Robinson reported to Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center in San Diego, Calif., where he completed Sonar Technician (STG) "A" School and Basic Electronics and Electricity School in March 1987. He concluded the mine warfare (MIW) training pipeline in October 1987.

Robinson's first assignment was aboard USS EXCEL (MSO 437) homeported at Treasure Island, Calif., in January 1988. There he was a part of the first "Black Sheep" rotation crew to support Persian Gulf mine-hunting operations. In November 1989, he was a member of the commissioning crew of USS SENTRY (MCM 3) homeported San Diego, Calif., where he led the Sonar OA Division as Work Center Supervisor. He then reported to Commander, Naval Base San Diego, where he served as senior counselor and clinical leading petty officer (LPO) for the Counseling And Assistance Center (CAAC) Substance abuse program from January 1993 to April 1996.

Prior returning to sea duty in 1996, Robinson laterally converted to Mineman technician and completed AN/SLQ-67 Submarine Launched Mobile Mine Course and follow on pipeline. He then reported to USS OSPREY (MHC 51), as leading Mineman technician/LPO from October 1996 to October 2000.

As an Mineman Chief Petty Officer, he served at Afloat Training Group Ingleside, Texas, as Leading Chief Mineman for the Basic Phase Assessment Department and was responsible for certifying 27 mine warfare ships stationed in Ingleside, Bahrain and Japan to fully meet mission and training requirements from October 2000 to April 2002.

Robinson was commissioned ensign in the U.S. Navy as a Limited Duty Officer under the Ordinance Program in March 2002. He completed the AEGIS training pipeline at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Dahlgren, Va., enroute to his inaugural assignment as System Test Officer (STO) and Force Protection Officer (FPO) on board USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51) from August 2002 to August 2004. His follow on assignment was as commissioning system test officer (STO) and fire control officer (FCO) on board USS HALSEY (DDG 97). HALSEY commissioned in San Diego, in July 2005.

Lieutenant Robinson has been awarded two Navy Commendation Medals, five Navy Achieve-

ment Medals, three Navy "E" Ribbons, five Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medal, Coast Guard Special Operations Medal, four Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, Expert Rifleman Medal and Expert Pistol Shot Medal.

He is married to the former Vertina Kay Lloyd of Corpus Christi, Texas. They have three children.



## EDITOR'S CORNER

A-TEN-HUT! HAND SALUTE! Fair winds and following seas, Bob. TWO! As You Were. If "The Marine's Hymn" is accurate, Bob is Sargent of the Guard at the Pearly Gates. He was a remarkable man in many ways. I will miss him.

I had hoped to get some of the images from the reunion into this issue. Shoulder surgery followed by a persistent, first-time bout of vertigo conspired to make it impossible. I hope this vertigo clears completely and never comes back. I did not like it.

After two visits to the hospital only 4 days apart I can assure all and sundry that I am tired of everybody in the state of Alabama sticking me with needles and sucking blood or, apparently, just sticking me for the hell of it just in case the doctor \*might\* want to start an IV later! YES, FRIENDS! I WAS GIVEN A PREEMPTIVE STICK! IT TOOK THREE TRIES! IT WAS NOT USED!

I also need another eight to ten square inches of chest hair to replace that which the harpies from hell ripped out with those damnable monitor pads and tape that are the work of the devil. It is predictable! A sweet nurse, looking pained at the task ahead, apologizes for the future pain and lulls you into a state of stupidity. At some point in the future, another nurse enters and apologizes for the pain that one must endure and then gleefully rips the monitor pads and tape off at the exact speed that will elicit maximum pain without risking retaliation with a bed pan.

It is amazing that, what I would consider to be intelligent people, would not shave or clip the area the monitor pads go prior to placing them. They already apologize for the pain so they must know. Secondly, is it really necessary for the monitor pads and tape to be coated with an adhesive as strong as super glue?

Next time I'll be prepared. Nurse, bloomers, Gorilla Glue. Some assembly required.

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