



# The DASHPOT



Issue 58 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Summer 2007



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

**Memorial Day** is now past and we have honored and reflected on the **service and sacrifices of our many veterans and deceased comrades** in all branches of the military and in all wars around the globe. We continue to pray for those that must go in harms way and also pray for their safe return.

Our children and grandchildren are finished with school for a couple of months and families will be taking that summer vacation that they so richly deserve. Drive and play safe. 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.**

We recently had the name of **MN1 Jim Cernick, USN, Retired**, submitted to the President and Board of Directors for approval as Historian of the AOM. **I am pleased to announce that he has been appointed to assume the job as Historian** from Ron Swart. Congratulations go out to Jim for stepping forward and volunteering for this important job. Thanks again.

Plans are well underway for our 2007 AOM Reunion to be held in San Diego, California, October 19 -21. The reservation form is a part of this Newsletter. Make your plans early to attend and be a part of **your Association**. See adjacent article for further details.

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

***It is wise to remember that you are one of those who can be fooled some of the time.***

Laurence J. Peter

## 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) reunion 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, **Reunion continued on page 3.**

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DEDICATED TO  
SERVING THE  
U.S. NAVY MINE  
FORCE

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina with the mission of perpetuating knowledge of undersea mine warfare and championing its necessity as one of America's first lines of defense.

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**Reunion continued from page 1.**

JERRY CHIPMAN, JIM MILLER and WARREN SAVAGE as well as other southern California 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, 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.

We will be using our DASHPOT and WEBSITE to keep everyone up to date on what is happening. We are looking forward to having a GREAT & MEANINGFUL REUNION.

To make arrangements with the HANDLERY HOTEL & RESORT at 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108, phone 1-800-676-6567 or 1-619-298-0511 weekdays between the hours of 7AM-7PM PST or FAX 1-619-298-9793. Room rates are \$89.00 plus 10.5% tax, single or double; \$99.00 triple and \$109.00 CODE "MINERS", Cut off date is 3 October 2007. Hotel Parking is \$5.00 per day.

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



**A NOTE FROM YOUR BEAN COUNTER.**

I will leave for San Diego on 18 Oct. We must have a count to Warren Savage before I leave SC. If I do not hear from you by 17 Oct. you will not have a seat Saturday night.

Please get your reservations to me early so we can make it a little easier for Warren to plan the banquet.

**Don't forget the scholarship fund.**

See Ya in San Diego

Curtis.



**SCHOLARSHIP  
SCOOP**

by Swede Carlsen

It's a known fact that college tuitions have increased over 40% the last decade. Tuitions have entered the realm of large financial burdens for the student's parents, grandparents and even the student. Many students are looking for financial assistance wherever they can find it.

The AOM has received donations of \$ 2,048 dollars for the general scholarship fund, \$ 630 dollars for memorial scholarships and \$ 200 dollars designated for the Presidential fund. We're hoping for a large increase in donations.

So far the AOM has received nine (9) applications for scholarships. To be able to award as many as nine (9) scholarships the AOM is in need of some large donations. It looks as if you (the membership) will have to dig deep in your wallets and purses.

Since the AOM is considered a charitable organization you can claim your donations as a tax deduction..

Remember, the students are America's future!

STAND TALL AMERICA

## LONG, LONG AGO AT A MINE BASE FAR, FAR AWAY ....

Phil Beckwith wrote and asked the questions that follow. I threw in a few locations as well.

Who and when were the first MNs, the plank owners, at NOF Yokosuka on the "rock", Azuma Island (Baka Shima).

This same question for MCAS Iwakuni, NAS Atsugi, Sasebo, Naval Magazine Subic, Naval Station Cavite, Manila Bay, West Loch, Key West and all the other old bases that no longer have MNs or even exist today like Sigonella, Sicily, Port Layote, Morocco, Malta, Souda Bay, Crete, Keflavick, Iceland, Andoya and Bodo, Norway, Mildenhall, England as well as the two bases in Scotland, etc. Long Beach and NAD Hawthorne are also pleasant memories for some.

I remember MN1 Frank Marshall {deceased} talking about his tour of duty on the Rhine River Patrol as a MN, one of the few. I was, along with Bill Segesser, Bill Savoy, Gene Wilson, and others, stationed at the Harbor Defense Unit, Lewes, Delaware in the mid 50s. When were these bases established for the MNs?

How about Sandy Hook Harbor Defense Unit and the bases at Trinidad, BWI, Pax River, Whidbey Island, Prudence Island and Naha, Okinawa? When were the bases at Kwajalein and Tinian closed? Where else were mines stored? Were there mine shops at Wake and Midway? When did the J11D units stand down? I know Bill Savoy was at tinian when the 49s blew a huge crater in the ground.

As far as I know, there is no comprehensive list of mine bases or mine storage facilities manned by Minemen from the date the rating was commissioned. Perhaps there should be such a list. We are at the tipping point of losing the WW II history. Are there any old timers out there that remember? Are there any with faded pictures of facilities and shipmates?



## 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

**04/16/07 - Keith (KD) Dixon MNC (SW); [Keith.d.dixon@navy.mil](mailto:Keith.d.dixon@navy.mil)**

**03/12/07 - Chad Q. Payne MNC (SW); [chad.payne@navy.mil](mailto:chad.payne@navy.mil)**

E-mail – Reservist

E-mail – Retired

**05/30/07 - Doug Guy MNC; [mineman37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mineman37@sbcglobal.net)**

**05/19/07 - Steve "Tibo" Tenney MN1; [randajohnson@frontiernet.net](mailto:randajohnson@frontiernet.net)**

**04/18/07 - LT Cecil H. Martin; [smart@dishmail.net](mailto:smart@dishmail.net)**

**04/16/07 - Ernest Hildreth MN1; [horseh1@alltel.net](mailto:horseh1@alltel.net)**

**04/16/07 - LCDR William J. (Bill) Mehard Jr; [mehardw@bellsouth.net](mailto:mehardw@bellsouth.net)**

**03/26/07 - David Watkins MN1; [watdavali@cox.net](mailto:watdavali@cox.net)**

**03/26/07 - Fred Dane MN1; [chibi31@netgate.net](mailto:chibi31@netgate.net)**

**03/09/07 - Tom Watson MNC; [twatson@alionscience.com](mailto:twatson@alionscience.com)**

E-mail – Ex-Minemen

**03/21/07 - Randall T Kubin; MNSN; [kubinr@laportetx.gov](mailto:kubinr@laportetx.gov)**

**03/18/07 - Kenneth (Ken) Leisy MN2; [kennethleisy@aol.com](mailto:kennethleisy@aol.com)**



# MAIL BAG

Dashpot Editor

I believe that the un-named LT in the photo on page 9 of your latest issue is Jim Bladh. Jim was a strong influence in both the diving and EOD communities, as well as Mine Warfare, for many years. He went through the ranks as many of us did, retiring as a LCDR. He continued his service as a civilian in the office of the Supervisor of Salvage after retirement. I understand that he retired from that position within the last couple years. I estimate that his career, Navy and civilian, spanned almost fifty years. If you would like any additional information regarding Jim's fascinating and somewhat amazing career you can contact him at [jimbladhsr@aol.com](mailto:jimbladhsr@aol.com).

Best regards and best wishes for continued success with your publication and your Association of Minemen.

Larry

Lawrence E. Ronan (former MNC)  
Commander U.S. Navy (Ret)

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**Editor's note: We are deeply grateful for you identifying LT Bladh. So often those un-named slip away from the corporate memory and are lost forever. Thank you for your kind comments and your wishes for success. We wish you the same.**

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Larry;  
MN2 John Henry Tapscott started EOD Training in Key West in March 1961. After graduation from Indianhead he was stationed at NAD McAllister, OK. LTjg Mickey Heinz was the OIC of the Team. John retired in McAllister and sold Insurance until he died from complications from diabetes in 1996.

Just a note: John Henry was the only man I know who stole a "Passenger Train", loaded with passengers. He was on Liberty in Yokohama, Japan and needed to get back to Yokosuka and noted that the train was loaded and ready to roll, but the train engineers were not in the cab, so he took control and drove the train to Yokosuka. All of Japan was proud of him, I'm sure. I've been told that any Mineman would have done the same. I don't know.

Red Charlie

Curtis, 4/9/07  
Sorry my dues are late. I had a lot going on lately. I had my sister in a nursing home and she passed away last December. How has everything been going with you. I guess you have done a lot of fishing. I am doing good just staying busy. Maybe I will ride up to Eutawville one of these days.

Jasper (Kennedy)

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Enjoyed the pictures of some of the guys I served with a long time ago. Wish more who had a camera would send in pictures. Brings back some good and bad memories.

Tony Sikorski, MNCM "Ski" 1947 - 1972

## JNROTC



Greetings My Fellow Mineman,

Once again you have provided two awards to the most improved cadets in the Colleton County High School NJROTC Unit.

This years recipients are C/SN Gabriela Reyes and C/SN Ayannah Braye were chosen as the most improved cadets.

Both of these cadets were also advanced to C/CPO and assigned positions in the Unit on next years staff.

Once again the Unit was awarded the Distinguished Unit award, which is awarded to the best of the best out of nearly 700 units nation wide. That makes 8 out of the last 10 years. This year the cadets were involved in many drill meets, academic matches, rifle matches, athletic events, orienteering meets, color guard competitions, parades and even were requested to help with the dedication of the new VA, Victory House, convalescent home in Walterboro. They placed first in numerous events. The cadets received over 80 trophies and plaques this year which is more than any other year.

Over spring break 12 cadets toured the Naval Academy and Washington, DC. Many cadets were able to take trips to NAS JAX, FL and NAVBASE Mayport, FL. There they received damage control and firefighting training and toured an HS squadron and were able to fly the SH-60 and P-3 simulators.

Five of the seniors are Navy, Marine and Army NG bound. Five others are college bound.

Overall the cadets had an awesome year.

Very Respectfully,  
MNCS Rick Spofford, USN, (Ret)



## TAPS

### Ski Konieczka

Just for info. I just got off the phone with Rose Konieczka. She informed me that "Ski" is failing (cancer). They do not think he will last much longer. She asked me to inform the AOM as they do not know Ski's password and cannot get into his email system.

Ski was an MN2 back in West Loch in 1955 and had the machine shop. Rose and Ski stood up for Bobie and I at our church wedding at Eva Beach Catholic Church the summer of 1955.

Sorry to bring bad news.

John Loonam



### Tom Sannino

Received word that Tom "Skip" Sannino, MNC USN (Ret); passed away on 22 April 07 from complications of throat cancer. Skip retired 31 May 1984.

He and his wife Barbara resided at 8040-C Engle Ct. Ft Meade, Md. 20755.



## ALWAYS TOGETHER

**THESE FRIENDS WILL NEVER LEAVE US  
THOUGH NOT WITH US ANYMORE.  
AND WE'LL ALL MEET AGAIN  
ON A BRIGHT AND SUNNY SHORE**

**LIFE'S HURRICANES BEHIND US  
SMOOTH SAILING NOW BEFORE  
WE'LL HAVE A GRAND REUNION  
TOGETHER EVER MORE.**

WILLIAM FORTNER 2007



## TAPS FOR OTHERS WE HOLD DEAR



### David Ray Parcell

POQUOSON David Ray Parcell went home to God on April 15, 2007, at Mary Immaculate Hospital ICU after a lengthy battle with diabetes. He died due to complications of renal failure and surgery.

David was born on June 24, 1933, to C.B. and Nannie E. (Pankey) Parcell in Pamplin, VA. He moved to Yorktown at age 7, and remained a Peninsula resident. He graduated from Poquoson H.S. in 1951, where he was a football team manager and active in many school activities. He attended The College of William & Mary for 2 years. He was a U.S. Army Staff Sergeant during the Korean Conflict. He was a Boy Scout, attaining The Order of the Arrow, and served many years as an adult leader, and was on the Peninsula Council for Scouting. He retired in 1995 from the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, having worked there most of his adult life.

David was a charter member of the Williamsburg Players Community Theater and Living History performances in York-town In the 1970's. He was a volunteer for many years at Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News, serving as receptionist at the main hospital front desk and president of the Volunteer Organization.

David grew up in the Yorktown Baptist Church. Later, he joined Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Yorktown, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, coordinator of the video team, and the welcome program, and was a 4th degree Knight of Columbus.

He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 35 years, Marie Schindler Parcell; and family, sons George and Charles (C.W.) and his wife Barbara (Mills) Parcell; two dearly loved granddaughters; Kyleigh Bronwyn and Jillian Sienna Parcell.



## From the Hermitage of the Historian

Hello AOM, and hello Mine Warfare. I'm your new Historian, MN1 Jim Cernick, USN (Ret.). I take this position with Great Honor from Ron Swart, who did years of outstanding work for all of us, and I hope will continue to help. Those of you, who know me, know I love history. Namely, the kind that blows up and sinks ships. I hope to grace these pages, and provide you with pieces of our history that are forgotten or unknown. The kind you can't find anywhere else. From period photos and articles, to little known publications, I will try to give you something that might just interest you and keep you paying your dues, or if new, join AOM. Through this organization your history is assured, you who are active duty, continue to make history everyday whether you know it or not. If you're a Mineman, whether on a sweeper or at a MOMAU, this is your Union, Join. With that, I will try and make up for my reading the Dashpot for free off the Net all these years. I have 10 FREE 1 year memberships to AOM for new members, active E-6 and below, who are the first 10 to email me the correct name of the ship that Adm. Bull Halsey picked to lead the Surrender Fleet into Tokyo Bay.

Hats off to MN1 Tim Hickman, and Congratulations to MN1 Larry Thetford on 20 years; There are good ships, and there are wood ships, ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are friendships, and may they always be, fair winds and following seas my friend. Eighty-nine years ago this month, the Yankee Mining Squadron One began operations in the North Sea, for two, long, hard years. I'll leave you all with a Barrage poem from 1918, The Mine Layers.

Please feel free to email me any history concerns or questions at [Barkinpig@aol.com](mailto:Barkinpig@aol.com), until next time ...

DTTAFSA, Bpig sends

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**Welcome aboard, Jim. The ENTIRE staff of the Dashpot welcomes you and looks forward to a long and hilarious ... uh, harmonious working relationship with you. I have an outrageous sense of humor as well. Good luck sneezing the dust off the ancient tomes.**

**Bill**

### The Mine Layers

The sun comes from the Northern sea,  
O'er Scotland's rocky harbor walls,  
And sees ten gorgeous banners rise,  
While ten bronzed bo'sn's pipe their calls.

Ten valiant ships, by twos alike,  
With terrible resolve have come,  
To close high seas to Teuton wolves,  
The U.S. Mining Squadron one.

Seaworthy craft, whose peaceful lines,  
From monster guns and armor free,  
With war paint to confuse the eye  
Betwixt the sky and tossing sea.

Here forty hundred sailors dwell,  
Our wartime homes are ships of steel,  
Called from all planes and walks of life,  
To serve mankind and public weal.

Across this northern passage way,  
From tossing wave to ocean's floor,  
From Norway's coast a chain of death  
We stretched to Orkney's rugged shore.

And other well-laid snares were set,  
To trap the cruel Hunnish knave;  
His wreckage silent witness bore  
Of death upon the restless wave.

We go not forth to meet the foe  
Who have not, will not, fight like men;  
We trap the wolves who scourge the sea,  
And keep him in, or from, his den.

Though weather fair or foul may be  
A hidden trail of death we make,  
Perdition takes the enemy  
Who luckless dares our silent wake.

The blow of roaring ocean wave  
The sudden dart of coward's might  
We brave with faith and courage high  
Because we serve the GOD of right.

Now praise to gallant Godfrey's craft,  
Manned by the sturdy British tar,  
Our guardians throughout danger's path,  
Aye, warding peril from afar.

When Truth spreads History's pages o'er  
With deeds that triumphed o'er the Hun,  
One force will shine as none before—  
The U.S. Mining Squadron One.



# Over The Taffrail



## Vietnam Facts vs Fiction

For over 30 years I....like many Vietnam veterans....seldom spoke of Vietnam, except with other veterans, when training soldiers, and in public speeches. These past five years I have joined the hundreds of thousands who believe it is high time the truth be told about the Vietnam War and the people who served there. It's time the American people learn that the United States military did not lose the War.

As Americans, support the men and women involved in the War on Terrorism, the mainstream media are once again working tirelessly to undermine their efforts and force a psychological loss or stalemate for the United States. We cannot stand by and let the media do to today's warriors what they did to us 35 years ago.

Below are some assembled facts most readers will find interesting. It isn't a long read, but it will....I guarantee....teach you some things you did not know about the Vietnam War and those who served, fought, or died there. Please share it with those with whom you communicate.

### Vietnam War Facts: Facts, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.

240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War

The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

58,148 were killed in Vietnam  
75,000 were severely disabled  
23,214 were 100% disabled  
5,283 lost limbs  
1,081 sustained multiple amputations

Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21,  
11,465 of those killed were younger than 20.

Of those killed, 17,539 were married

Average age of men killed: 23.1 years.

Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 yearsold.

The oldest man killed was 62 years old.

As of January 15, 2 004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War

97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged

91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served

74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.

Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.  
Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.

87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.

There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study)

Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.

85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

Interesting Census Stats and "Been There" Wanabees:

1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).

~ During that same Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was: 9,492,958.

~ As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to be-



lieve, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day. The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with errors that 2,709,918 U.S. military personnel as having served in-country.

Isolated atrocities committed by American Soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. - Nixon Presidential Papers

### Common Myths Dispelled:

**Myth:** Common Belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

**Fact:** 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

**Myth:** The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

**Fact:** Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. "The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.

**Myth:** Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

**Fact:** 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia,

a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war."

**Myth:** Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

**Fact:** Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better.

Here are statistics from the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993. The CACF is the basis for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall): Average age of 58,148 killed in Vietnam was 23.11 years. (Although 58,169 names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action)

### Deaths Average Age

Total: 58,148, 23.11 years  
Enlisted: 50,274, 22.37 years  
Officers: 6,598, 28.43 years  
Warrants: 1,276, 24.73 years  
E1 525, 20.34 years  
11B MOS: 18,465, 22.55 years

**Myth:** The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

**Fact::** Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

**Myth:** The Common belief is that the domino theory was proved false.

**Fact:** The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

**Myth:** The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

**Fact:** The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II ....75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords of 1962 would secure the border).

**Myth:** Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972 ... shown a million times on American television ... was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

**Fact:** No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers.

**Myth:** The United States lost the war in Vietnam.  
**Fact:** The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a

battle of any consequence. From a military standpoint, it was almost an unprecedented performance. General Westmoreland quoting Douglas Pike, a professor at the University of California, Berkley a major military defeat for the VC and NVA.

**THE UNITED STATES DID NOT LOSE THE WAR IN VIETNAM, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DID. Read on.....**

The fall of Saigon happened 30 April 1975, two years AFTER the American military left Vietnam. The last American troops departed in their entirety 29 March 1973. How could we lose a war we had already stopped fighting? We fought to an agreed stalemate. The peace settlement was signed in Paris on 27 January 1973. It called for release of all U.S. prisoners, withdrawal of U.S. forces, limitation of both sides' forces inside South Vietnam and a commitment to peaceful reunification. The 140,000 evacuees in April 1975 during the fall of Saigon consisted almost entirely of civilians and Vietnamese military, NOT American military running for their lives. There were almost twice as many casualties in Southeast Asia (primarily Cambodia) the first two years after the fall of Saigon in 1975 then there were during the ten years the U.S. was involved in Vietnam. Thanks for the perceived loss and the countless assassinations and torture visited upon Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians goes mainly to the American media and their undying support-by-misrepresentation of the anti-War movement in the United States.

As with much of the Vietnam War, the news media misreported and misinterpreted the 1968 Tet Offensive. It was reported as an overwhelming success for the Communist forces and a decided defeat for the U.S. forces. Nothing could be further from the truth. Despite initial victories by the Communist forces, the Tet Offensive resulted in a major defeat of those forces. General Vo Nguyen Giap, the designer of the Tet Offensive, is considered by some as ranking with Wellington, Grant, Lee and MacArthur as a great commander. Still, militarily, the Tet Offensive was a total defeat of the Communist forces on all fronts. It resulted in the death of some 45,000 NVA troops and the complete, if not total destruction of the Viet Cong elements in South Vietnam. The Organization of the Viet Cong Units in the South never recovered. The Tet Offensive succeeded on only one front and that was the News front and the political arena. This was another example in the Vietnam War of an inaccuracy becoming the perceived truth. However, inaccurately reported, the News Media made the Tet Offensive famous.

Please give all credit and research to:  
Capt. Marshal Hanson, U.S.N.R (Ret.)

Capt. Scott Beaton, Statistical Source

# US NAVY AWAITS LASER MINESWEEPING

(DEFENSE NEWS 02 APR 07) ... William Matthews

Sweeping along at 60 knots, a U.S. Navy helicopter equipped with a blue-green laser will soon be able to detect mines in water deeper than 40 feet.

Using data collected during the sweep, the helicopter will return to the area and use a second, more focused laser to zero in on the mines, then destroy them with specially designed 30-millimeter supercavitating bullets.

The new Airborne Laser Mine Detection System (ALMDS) and its companion Rapid Airborne Mine Clearance System (RAMICS) promise to dramatically speed up mine detection and clearing of floating and near-surface mines, and at the same time make the process safer.

"This takes the man out of the minefield," said Gary Humes, program manager in the Navy's mine warfare program office. "It's a capability we do not have today at all."

Current mine detection and clearance sometimes is as primitive as posting two petty officers with binoculars on either side of a ship's bow to spot mines. Beside them stand sailors with rifles, ready to explode the mines, Humes said.

The Navy also uses a variety of mine detectors and detonators towed slowly through the water by helicopters, and it has a fleet of mine-countermeasures ships that attack mines with divers and remotely piloted underwater vehicles.

All are considerably slower than ALMDS and RAMICS are expected to be — eventually. The mine-detection system is scheduled to be ready for use in 2009, the mine destruction system a year later.

The need for better mine-detection and -clearing capabilities has been clear since the Iran-Iraq War spilled over into the Arabian Gulf to become the tanker wars of 1984-88. Mines were a problem again during the first Gulf War in 1990 and 1991.

Since then, the Navy has worked on a variety of helicopter-based mine-detection systems. The ALMDS and RAMICS systems are the product of more than seven years of development by Northrop Grumman.

Dave Stafford, a Northrop vice president and director of the company's maritime and tactical systems, described the two high-tech systems during an April 2 press briefing.

"We've chased a bit of science here and come up with a gem," Stafford said.

The mine-detecting laser is encased in an eight-foot pod that is attached to the side of an MH-60S helicopter. The laser fires "hundreds of pulses per second" to collect information about what is in the water, Stafford said.

Exactly how deep it can see is classified, but it is deep enough to protect all U.S. Navy ships to keel depth, he said.

The laser is fired into the water, and cameras in the pod capture the reflections to create images, which are stored in digital form.

When the helicopter returns to its ship, the data is transferred to computers, which display it for analysts to examine and help to identify mines. It requires "massive computing" power, Stafford said.

Once the mines are identified, the helicopter is outfitted with the RAMICS system. Reconfiguration takes about four hours, he said.

RAMICS uses the same type of blue-green laser, but this one is much more narrowly focused. Using Global Positioning System coordinates, the helicopter goes back to the minefield, relocates the mine and homes in on it.

The system then aims a 30-millimeter gun that fires bullets designed to travel accurately through water. Instead of being diverted off course by water, as ordinary bullets are, these supercavitating bullets create an air bubble, or "cavitation envelope," around themselves and travel in that through the water to accurately hit their target, Humes said.

Mine clearing could be done even faster if detection could be followed immediately by destruction, but that's not yet possible, Humes said.

"We're talking about terabytes of data," too much to be quickly analyzed or even transmitted from the tracking helicopter to a ship or another helicopter, he said. That's the next step, but it's likely years away.

The first pod, delivered to the Navy in January, is the product of a \$35.7 million contract for two pods. Once in production, the pods should cost about \$4.5 million apiece, Humes said.

Northrop Grumman says the Navy plans to buy 45 pods by 2018 for \$255 million.

The RAMICS system cost \$36.9 million to develop, according to Northrop. It is expected to cost about \$5 million per system, Humes said.



## COMOMAG

By LTJG S.M. Cowart

Howdy Y'all from beautiful South Texas. The weather is definitely heating up and so is the activity here at COMOMAG!

It has been a very busy, and productive, quarter for the Staff. We are currently reviewing EVERY COMOMAG instruction with a fine tooth comb. This is a very time consuming and, at times, painful process, but a beneficial to both the Staff and MOMAUs. Please ensure you are checking the COMOMAG website at <http://www.comomag.navy.mil> for updated and cancelled instructions. You need to have authorization to access the instruction portion of the website, for questions or concerns, please contact **Ms. Brenda Davis** at 361-961-1468.

The Service Mines Division (N31) would like to acknowledge MOMAU UNIT ONE for the successful completion of their MRCI in April. Unit personnel were highly motivated and professional. They demonstrated their ability to work smoothly and efficiently as a well coordinated team. Bravo Zulu to MOMAU 1, MOMAU 8, MOMAU 10, MOMAU 11 and MOMAU 15 for keeping their calibration readiness well above fleet standards.

The Exercise and Training Division (N32) coordinated many worldwide mine warfare exercises last quarter to include AMNS Operational Assessment 07-2 in Panama City, RMS operational testing at the South Florida Test Facility and the Quickstrike BRU testing for the MMA P-8A was

able to occur with support from Unit 11. Well done to **MN1 Bryan L. Walker** and **MN3 Jeffrey D. Gardner** who were valuable to this mission. MOMAU 10 provided a Mine Assembly Team (MAT) to support DIV 31 and MCMRON THREE for a successful Arabian Gauntlet in the Persian Gulf for our forward deployed MCM's. Unit 10 also supported CARAT 07 and Cobra Gold 2007 in Thailand and exercise Foal Eagle 07 in Korea. Unit 15 provided support for GOMEX 07-2 in the Panama City OPAREA where USS DEVASTATOR, USS BLACK HAWK, and USS KINGFISHER participated. Additionally, Unit 15 and Unit 1 combined forces to support the Applied Research Laboratories of the University of Texas with acoustic testing of U.S. mines and targets at Lake Travis. Unit 1 also provided support for MK 65 Quickstrike high altitude software delivery testing at Edwards A.F.B along with support to Naval Special Clearance Team One for unit level training. Finally, MOMAU 8 assisted EOD Mobile Unit Five with their MRCI. Thanks to all the MOMAU's for their contributions supporting the fleet, ranges and support littoral mining programs.

COMOMAG recently hosted the bi-annual Mine- man Advancement Exam Development Conference. Special thanks to **EMCM(SS) Robert McCombs** and **Ms. Annette Baisden** from the Naval Education and Training Professional and Technology Center (NETPDTC) Pensacola, FL. Thanks also to the following SME's for their outstanding contributions in the test bank development and validation of over 3,000 questions along with the development of the Mineman advancement exams for the next two years: **MNCS(SW) Mike Cooley** (COMOMAG), **MNCS(SW) Laura Dierks** (COMCMRON ONE), **MNC(SW) Len Rambo** (MOMAU 15), **MNC(SW) Mike Corvo** (MCM CREW IMPERVI- OUS), **MNC(SW) Shawn Bee** and **Ensign Select MNC(SW) Matt Hatlevig** (Mine Warfare Training Center).



**Mineman Advancement Exam Development Conference**

The ADMAT Team made the Asia swing out to MOMAU Units 10 & 12 in May. **LCDR Tom Mathison**, ADMAT Team Leader, commended both Units for a job well done on their inspections.

From the Reserve and Training side of the house, **Mr. Jay Burton** reports that the Reserve MN "A" course will take place in July at CDS Ft. Worth.

Also, the Reserve CO's conference is scheduled for 26-29 July at JRB Ft. Worth.

**CDR Anderjack** would like to personally congratulate the following Minemen on their recent advancement:

**UNIT ONE**

- MN1 Jeramie D Lane**
- MN2 Nicholas D House**
- MN3 Dewayne D Purvis**
- MN3 Travesse J Walters**

**UNIT EIGHT**

- MN1 Spencer Waitschies**
- MN2 Frederick Werner**
- MN3 George Guadron**

**UNIT TEN**

- MN1 Matthew D Greene**

**UNIT ELEVEN**

- IT1 Christy Riley**
- MN1 Shane Stone**
- MN2 Martin Ballman**
- MN2 Joseph James**
- MN2 Dennis Landman**
- MN3 Spencer Billy**
- MN3 Paul Harris**
- MN3 Matthew Tidd**

**UNIT TWELVE**

- MN1 Gary Hanson**
- MN2 William Goss**
- MN3 Luke Doyle**
- MN3 Joshua Keiser**
- MN3 Andrea Krouse**

**UNIT FIFTEEN**

- MN1 Toby Mozek**
- MN2 Richard Dierks**
- MN3 Heather Priest**

**MWR Notes**

**LTJG Cowart** & **MOMAU 15** challenged **COMOMAG** to a Best Ball Golf Tourney held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The winning team of **Mr. Ed Simmons** and **CDR Anderjack**, gave **COMOMAG** the trophy, and bragging rights, until the next challenge.

**COMOMAG** held its' Quarterly Blue Shirt Vs Khaki Bowling Tournament on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Khakis emerged victorious once again and remain undefeated.

**IA ASSIGNMENTS**

**MN1(SW) Jerry Williams** leaves for his IA assignment to Iraq in June

**SK1 Paradis** returns from his IA duty in Djibouti, Horn of Africa in June



**MN2(SW) Michael Adkins, MN1(SW) Rene Myers and MN2(SW) Billy Arthur enjoy themselves during the Golf Tournament**



**Mr. Ed Simmons shows his winning form during the MOMAU 15 Vs COMOMAG Golf Tournament**

**FAREWELLS**

**MN1(SW) Wendy Sims** transitioned to civilian life at her EAOS

**YN1(AW) David Dibble** transferred to the Fleet Reserves

**MNCS(SW) David Ostrom** transferred to the Fleet Reserves

## HAILS

**MNCS(SW) Cooley** from MCM CREW  
CONFLICT

**MNC(SW) Bostic** from MCM CREW IMPLICIT

**YN1(SW) Wilson** from USS MOMSEN

## AWARDS

**MNCS(SW) Ostrom** - Navy Commendation  
Medal

**YN1(AW) Dibble** - Navy Achievement Medal

**MN1(SW) Sims** - Navy Achievement Medal

**SK2 Hylton** - Navy Achievement Medal

**MN1(SW) Reinhart** - LOC

## SAILOR OF THE QUARTER

**MN1(SW) Reinhart**

## Reenlistments

**SK2 Trammell**



# MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

by LT G. V. Bodine

**CO's CORNER:** Greetings from sunny Seal Beach! Yet another gorgeous Spring season to be had on the shores of Southern California. The month of March marked six months since I assumed command of MOMAU One and I have been nothing short of impressed, to say the least, of my troops at MOMAU One and the top-notch support I've received throughout the Mineman community.

Special thanks goes out to Mr. Ken Waringa of Coastal Sea Systems, Panama City. His superb support and wealth of knowledge was undoubtedly appreciated during our SLMM Tech assist from 15-19 February. My SLMM team consisting of MN2(SW) Merry, MN2 Robinson and MNSN Myers had their noses to the grindstone during the assist and cranked out 4 all up rounds during the assist. Bravo Zulu to the SLMM Team!

In the midst of busy workload schedule the crew still found a way to have a little fun and boost morale. The troops had "fast and furious" time courtesy of MWR at the California Speedway in Fontana on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Thousands of fans from all over flocked to the speedway to enjoy this racing extravaganza and soak up the smell of rubber and the roar of high output engines. The crew had a great time at the NASCAR Nextel Series race and looks forward to next year's annual event.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> we added a new addition to our extended MOMAU One family. Congratulations to MN3 Justin M. Creadick, and wife Arlene, on the birth of their new baby boy Kaleb. On behalf of myself and my crew, we welcome baby Kaleb with widespread open arms.

\*\*We concluded the month of March with a mine upgrade assessment from the 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. A lot of new personnel in new positions got some much needed and productive training during the upgrade.



CDR Anderjack presents an award to YN1(AW) David Dibble at his retirement



CDR Anderjack presents a plaque to SK2(SW) Christina Trammell at her reenlistment



**TM2(SW) Ralston verifying lot numbers on TDDs during quarterly upgrade training.**



**MN1(SW) Hoffman (left) and MN3 House (right) working as spotters during quarterly upgrade training.**



**(left to right) MN3 House, MN1(SW) Hoffman and MN2(SW) Andrews taking a breather in between building and posting ET mines.**

The fine ladies and gentlemen of the Long Beach Destroyer Escort Sailor's Association (DESA) blessed us yet again by hosting our annual Children's Easter Party on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The crew grilled up some splendid hamburgers and hot dogs as DESA held their traditional Easter egg hunt for the children of MOMAU One. Follow by a hippity-hoppity visit from the Easter bunny.

**HAILS & FAREWELLS:** Welcome aboard to my new Mine Production Officer, MNCS(SW) Allen E. Alt. Senior Chief Alt comes to us from Naval Station Ingleside, TX from MCM CREW LOYALTY.

We bid farewell to MNCS(SW) Bobby G. Weatherholt, as he transferred to the Fleet Reserve on February 28th. We wish him and his wife Isabel the best of luck as they transcend to the ranks of the civilian life. We also wish fair winds and following seas to MN2(SW) Marco A. Navarro and wife Jessica as they make their way to Naval Station Ingleside, TX as Petty Officer Navarro continues his naval service with MCM CREW DOMINANT.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION:** Congratulations to MN1(SW) Travis D. Ramsey for his selection as MOMAU One's CY2006 Sailor of the Year and subsequent selection as CY2006 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Sailor of the Quarter. As well as MN3 Justin M. Creadick for his selection as CY2006 Blue Jacket of the Year. Last but not least, job well done to MN3 Brian D. Danley for his selection as CY2006 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Blue Jacket of the Quarter. Bravo Zulu to all awardees!

**ON THE HORIZON:** As always, we look forward to the upcoming quarter and any mission requirements placed before us. Most notably, the crew will be making preparations for our Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) taking place in the month of April. Followed by support of the USS BUFFALO MRCI in May. As our calendar fills with various evolutions or tasks, MOMAU One will be ready to deliver top-notch support in true MOMAU One fashion.

Those who agree with us may not be right ...  
but we admire their astuteness.

**Cullen Hightower**

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



## MOMAU TEN KADENA, JA

by LT Jessie Sanchez

### CHALLENGING TIMES!

These past couple of months have been tremendously challenging for MOMAU Ten. First of all, we'd like to say Farewell to MN3 Abegg who leaves to Mineman community to become a Damage Controlman as a result of the Navy's Perform-to-Serve Program. We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to MNSA Knarr and MNSR Dockery who join the MOMAU community straight out of "A" school. In addition, a warm congratulations is in order for MN1(SW) Stone and MN3 Gartman who were recently selected as Senior and Junior Sailors of the Quarter. Finally, "BZ" to our superb Ammo Accountant MN2(SW) Greene, who's been selected to advance to Petty Officer First Class. Well Done Petty Officer Greene! We are glad to see your hard work has paid off with dividends.

During the month of May, our ISIC came out to look at "our books" during this year's Administrative and Material Assessment. This assessment consisted of a series of program reviews that evaluated the command's effectiveness, efficiency, readiness, safety, quality assurance, management of personnel, equal opportunity resources, and financial management. Team Ten's program managers MNCS(SW) Juliuson, YNC(SW/AW) Emory, MNC(SW) Bender, SK1(SW) ARAO, MN1(SW) Stone and IT2 Charles are credited with the satisfactory completion of the inspection and a job well done.

Modernization and asbestos removal of our building continues slowly, but at a steady pace. Phase I of the project is near completion and Phase II will follow closely. Our shop remains fully mission capable, but keeping it this way through this massive project has presented incredible challenges, which range from simple quality of life issues to considerable de-confliction of schedules in order to meet our mission. Our Commanding Officer, LT Sanchez, is constantly



changing his ball cap with a hard hat and keeping a close eye on all the details which encompass this complex project. Phase II, which will cause the command's administrative spaces to relocate, is schedule to be completed by 29 June, 2007.

As stated before, throughout both construction Phases, MOMAU Ten has been 100 percent operationally capable and proved it by supporting a near no-notice exercise tasking (ARABIAN GAUNTLET '07) in the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). Upon receipt of tasking, Team Ten immediately went to work and prepared over 45 targets in support of this important exercise. Once the targets were prepared and shipped, MNC(SW) Bender and MN1(SW) Jordan provided onsite Exercise and Training support to MCMDIV 31 during the final preparations for the exercise. ARABIAN GAUNTLET is the world's largest mine countermeasures exercise in which mine warfare is integrated with surface warfare, and participants include 16 ships from 14 coalitions and regional allies. The successful completion of this and the support provided by MOMAU Ten reinforce our unwavering readiness to deploy ANYTIME - ANYWHERE.

In 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Area of responsibility, Team Ten supported Foal Eagle 07 with 4 MK63 Quickstrike training assets, which were planted by a P-3 from CTF 72. This year's exercise did not require MAT support due to assets being loaded onto the delivery platform (P-3) as full-up rounds at Kadena Air Force Base, and flown directly to the exercise site in South Korea. A little further West, MNC(SW) Montero, along with his Mine Assembly Team composed of MN1(SW) Quintero, MN3 Grzegorzczuk and MN3 Shofner provided Exercise and Training mine support in Thailand during the joint, multilateral, interagency exercise COBRA GOLD 2007. This exercise continues to strengthen and increase TEAM Ten relations with the Royal Thai Navy and the United States Naval Mine Counter Measure Forces. Additionally, some team members had the opportunity to embark on Royal Thai Navy and U.S. Navy vessels to observe and assist with surface mine laying and recovery operations. The exercise was deemed a success by its sponsor, CTF 76.

Team Ten will continue supporting the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet AOR during the upcoming exercise CARAT 07 with MK 63 Quickstrike training shapes. In addition, LT Sanchez will be providing Basic Mine Warfare training to the Royal Thai Navy's MCM Squadron.





Team Ten personnel along MCMDIV 31 prepare to deliver MK 6 targets from the BANZ warehouse in Bahrain.



MN1 Quintero and MN3 Shoffner instruct Royal Thai Navy minemen on the assembly and post-inspection of a MK63 Quickstrike mine used during the exercise Cobra Gold '07.



MNC Bender and MN1 Jordan provide assistance to USNS CATAWBA personnel while deploying MK6 targets in support of ARABIAN GAUNTLET '07.



## MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK, SC

by MNC(SW) Shawn B. Barker

Greetings from the largest, most productive mine shop in the world. With the recent completion of the highly successful Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI), many new and interesting things have been happening over the last few months with Team ELEVEN.

### SAILORS DEPLOY

Our Mine Assembly Teams (MAT) have recently deployed to support multi-service missions across the country. Two deployments of interest were the COUNTERSEA SYLLABUS SORTIES 07A-1 and 07A-2 hosted by Barksdale AFB in Barksdale, LA. MOMAU ELEVEN provided two 5 man teams to perform assemble and final preparation of well over seventy (70) MK62 and MK65 QUICKSTRIKE Laying Mines. These mines were planted off the coast of Southern California and will be later recovered by MOMAU



MN1 Quintero and MN3 Shoffner, along with members of the Royal Thai Navy's Mine Prep Shop, perform post-deployment checkout on a MK 44 and MK 46 exercise mine.

ONE. The first MAT team consisted of Team Leader MNC(SW) Jon Tetrault and Team Members MN3 Justin Dennehy, MN1(AW) Richard Dubois, and MN3 Michael Harrington . The second MAT team consisted of Team Leader MNC(SW) Shawn Barker and team members MN1(SS) Lance Thomas, MN2(SW) Ralph Maldonado, MN2(SW) Matthew Giannini and MN3 Joseph James.



**Once assembled the MK62 Quickstrikes were loaded onto MK110 trailers for transportation to the B52 flight line.**

MOMAU ELEVEN also deployed two personnel to Amityville, New York in support of QUICKSTRIKE MK62, MK63 and MK65 testing for the EDO Corporation. MN1(SW) Bryan Walker and MN3 Jeffrey Gardner were responsible for the setup and testing of multiple QUICKSTRIKE weapons and arming wire configurations. These weapons were utilized to perform measurements, which will ensure that all weapons will clear the new Bomb Release Unit assembly for the P-8 Aircraft.



**MN1 Walker and MN3 Gardner perform final prep on an MK62 Quickstrike for BRU P-8 testing.**

## RETIREMENTS

MOMAU ELEVEN would also like to wish fair winds and following seas to MN1(SW) Joan Braham who retired after twenty years of honorable service on 30 March 2007. Best wishes to her and her husband David.



**MN1 Braham retires after twenty years of honorable service.**

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Bravo Zulu and congratulation to the following personnel:

Awards:

Navy Commendation Medal:  
MNCM(SW/SS) Kurt Stauff

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:  
MNC(SW) Jeffery Harper  
MN1(SW) Gary Bowman  
YN1(SW) Darrell Thomas  
MN1(SW) Matthew Ledford  
MN2(SW) Frederick-Paul Saporita  
MN3 Michael Harrington  
MNSN Eric Cothran  
MN1(SW) Braham  
MN3 Jason Stevens  
MN3(SW) Stephen Bates  
MNCM(SW/SS) Kurt Stauff

MN3 Justin Dennehy

Navy Good Conduct Medal:  
MN1(SW) Gary Bowman

Sailors of the Quarter 1Q07:  
Senior Sailor of the Quarter:  
MN1(AW) Richard Dubois  
Junior Sailor of the Quarter:  
IT2(SW) Christy Riley  
Blue Jacket of the Quarter:  
YN3 Richard Saunders



MN1 Dubois SSOQ



IT2 Riley JSOQ



YN3 Saunders BJOQ.

The best leader is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

Theodore Roosevelt

Promotion:  
MN1(SS/SW) Kurt Stauff to his present rank.

Reenlistments:  
MN1(SW) William Brown reenlists for 6 years  
and MN2 Todd Brown for 4 years.



## MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE, TX

by MN3 Heather M. Priest

From the Desk of the Commanding Officer:  
LTJG Stephanie Cowart

I would like to begin by congratulating **MNCS (SW) Nixon** and his wife, **Tina**, on the newest addition to their family. **Curtis Allen Nixon** was born Friday, June 1, 2007. Both he and his mom are doing well.



**MN1 Brown** being reenlisted by **LCDR Richard P. Weiss** Commanding Officer **MOMAU ELEVEN**.

The past few months have been full of challenges and as usual the MOMAU 15 crew has not only risen to meet them, but exceeded expectations. The added support and valued effort of the MWTC "X" Division has played a major role in our successes this quarter. The crew has been hard at work, tearing up the impounds and refurbishing. I personally would like to thank **MN1(SW) Jones** for being a driving force out on deck and bringing back some of the old Mine Shop work ethic. Bravo Zulu crew, keep up the good work!!

Also this quarter, we challenged COMOMAG to a Best Ball Golf Tournament. It was a fun time had by all, and proved to be a great way to get MOMAU and COMOMAG counterparts together,



**MN2 Browne** being reenlisted by **CW03 William Jurkowski** Operations Officer **MOMAU ELEVEN**.

### DEPARTURES

MN3 Keith Hoover, Separation  
MNSN Eric Cothran, Naval Reserve  
MNC(SW) Jeffery Harper, Bahrain  
MN1(SW) Gary Bowman, Ingleside  
MNSN Douglas Woods, Japan  
MNSN Kenneth Pospisil, Ingleside  
YN1(SW) Darrell Thomas, Bahrain  
MN1(SW) Timothy Hamm, Separation  
MN2 Amy Greene, SCRMC Ingleside  
MN2 Todd Browne, Japan  
MN1(SW) Joshua Chronister, Ingleside  
MN3 Justin Dennehy, Ingleside



**MNCS(SW) Ed Nixon** and **MNC(SW) David Fuhrman** at the **MOMAU 15 vs. COMOMAG** golf Tournament

face-to-face to meet each other. **Ed Simmons** won the tournament for COMOMAG, somewhat assisted by his golf cart driver, **CDR Anderjack**. I believe we will be having a bowling challenge next, and look forward to the interaction and camaraderie between the two commands. Of course, the smack talk never ends.

### **From the Desk of the Mine Assembly Officer: MNCS (SW) Edward J. Nixon**

Greetings from MOMAU 15, hope everyone is ready and geared up for the summer and vacations. It has been a very productive quarter for MOMAU 15. We have developed a partnership with MWTC to provide refurbishment training with personnel in their X division. While the students are awaiting class-up dates they come over to MOMAU 15 and receive some hands on training on the use of the water blaster and powder coating systems. They have refurbished most of the display shapes in front MWTC and they look awesome. We have placed a greater emphasis on quality of work to decrease the turnaround process on display shapes and the results are obvious.

The next step in this initiative to developing personal pride in their workmanship is to have the refurbishment team put their names on the mines they refurbish. Then, everyone who see's the shape will know who put their blood and sweat into it.

We have also had some great sailors transfer into our command over the last quarter. **MN1(SW) Jones, MN2 Fedo, MN3(SW) Sexton, MN3(SW) Torres, MNSR Leyva, IT1(SW/AW) Velazquez, and SK2 Valdez**. They all bring with them unique skills which have greatly enhanced our command and brought our manning back to full strength.

We have additionally restructured our department heads to build more flexibility and promote cross-training throughout the command. This will enable us to have at least two personnel trained as department heads.

### **OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SITREP: MNC (SW) David Fuhrman**

Operations Department would like to welcome aboard **IT1(SW/AW) Velazquez**. IT1 will be replacing **IT1(SW) Burgin** who will transfer in July. IT1(SW/AW) comes to us from USS Essex, she is married to **CS3 Velazquez** currently stationed with Crew Swerve. Welcome Aboard!

### **PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT SITREP: MNC (SW) Leonard Rambo**

I personally want to thank the Production Department for all the hard work they have produced this last quarter. They have been turning and burning

out on deck especially with the refurbishment of the code "E" material in impound. It is really nice to see that the bone yard is finally disappearing, and I'm sure that QA Department is happy about it to.

Of course a lot of the credit is due to Mine Warfare Training Center. They have been sending their X-division Sailors over for some mine shop experience and have really helped out with the refurbishment of the mines out in front of their schoolhouse. They take great pride in their work and it really shows in the quality of the mines that they put out the door.



**MN2 Richard Dierks refurbishes a VEMS**

Also, getting the extra help from the schoolhouse enabled us to deploy 2 MAT teams at the same time. MAT 1 deployed to Virginia in support of VULCANEX-07 and consisted of **MN1(SW) Mozek** and **MN2(SW) Fipps**. MAT 2 was deployed to San Diego in support of Counter Sea Syllabus-07 and MOMAU One, consisted of **MN1(SW) Beltran, MN3(SW) Trammell, and MN3(SW) Owens**.

### **Hails:**

**IT1(SW/AW) Fransisca Velazquez** from the USS Essex  
**MN2 (SW) Jacob Fedo** from MCM Crew Fearless  
**MNSR Bryan Leyva** from MWTC  
**MN1 (SW) Burel Jones** from MCM Crew Leader  
**MN3(SW) Robert Sexton** from MHC Crew Conquest  
**MN3 (SW) James Torres** from MHC Crew Loyalty

**SK2 (SCW) Veronica Valdez** from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One

**Farewells:**

**SK1 (SW) Amanda Maxwell** on to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eleven **MN1 (SW) Cooks** who has retired after a distinguished career in military service.

**AWARDS:**

**MN1 (SW) John-Carlos Dominguez** (NAM & 4<sup>th</sup> Good Conduct)

**MN3(SW) Justin Tramell** (NAM)

**MN1(SW) Toby Mozek** (2<sup>nd</sup> Good Conduct)

**SK2 (SW) Veronica Valdez** (2<sup>nd</sup> Good Conduct)

**MN3 Layne Volckerick** (2<sup>nd</sup> Good Conduct)

**MN3(SW) Mark Owens** (2<sup>nd</sup> Good Conduct)

**YN3 Debra Barnette** (2<sup>nd</sup> NAM)

**SK1(SW) Amanda Maxwell** (COMOMAG LOC)



**LTJG Cowart** reenlists **MN1(SW) Isidro Beltran**



**MN1(SW) Toby Mozek** and **MNC(SW) David Fuhrman** with FSA duty at a command picnic



**CDR Anderjack** presents **SK1(SW) Amanda Maxwell** with a LOC from COMOMAG

**ADVANCED:** We would like to congratulate three of our sailors that have advanced to the next pay grade. Job well done to **MN1(SW) Toby W. Mozek**, **MN2 Richard P. Dierks**, and **MN3 Heather M. Priest!!**

**REENLISTMENTS:** Congratulations to the following Sailors for "Staying Navy"

**MN1(SW) Isidro Beltran**  
**MN3(SW) Robert Sexton**

**JSOQ (1Q07): MN3 (SW) Justin A. Tramell**

**SOQ (1Q07): MN1 (SW) John-Carlos V. Dominguez**

**2006 JSOY: MNSN Dustin Johnson**

**2006 SOY: SK1 (SW) Amanda J. Maxwell**



**Blast from the Past! MET Mk 36** found with all inner components and a shop traveler dated March 1972

All right ancient mariners, tell the kids what the mod of this Mk 36 Drill Mine happens to be from memory and without having to rely on a paper check sheet stuffed inside. Perhaps they might share the name of the Mine-man that put it together so well 35 years ago that it stayed dry. **Bill**

**ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL REUNION & MEETING SAN DIEGO, CA  
AT THE HANDLERY HOTEL AND RESORT 19-21 OCTOBER 2007**

Association of Minemen, PO Box 69, Eutawville, SC 29048-0069

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AOM MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Cutoff date for AOM GROUP RATE reservations is October 3, 2007. For single/double \$89.00 + 10.5%. FREE HANDLERY SHUTTLE: 0830-1700. Call ahead 2-3 days. Routes are to and from airport, as well as to and from ZOO, SEA WORLD, OLD TOWN and other sites by APPOINTMENT!**

**Handlery Hotel and Resort Reservations: Weekdays 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM PST 1-800-676-6567. All other times, 619-298-0511**

**We must guarantee the number for dinner not later than the morning of October 3, 2007. There will be NO REFUNDS after 12 OCTOBER 2007.**

**Banquet Buffet includes London broil with mushroom sauce, herb roasted chicken with whole-grain mustard cream, rice pilaf, garlic mashed potatoes, garden salad, seafood pasta salad and Chef's dessert table. Dinner ticket includes tax and gratuity (Not Padded). The picnic will be the usual burgers, franks, beans, etc.**

Your label has your paid to date, e.g., "Oct. 2007" means October 2007 is your paid to date. (New or reinstatement member add \$5.00 application fee.)

ANNUAL DUES: @ \$15.00 October 2007 to October 2008 (5 year max.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Dinner Tickets @ \$37.00 ea. X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Picnic Tickets @ \$12.00 ea. X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Picnic Tickets @ \$6.00 ea. X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Number of children attending picnic age 6 and under \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Children under 7 are FREE)

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

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

AOM Scholarship Donation: Tax Deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

Checks payable to: Association of Minemen. (no cash).

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Application fee \$5  
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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  
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