



THE DASHPOT



Issue 67 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Fall 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT Robert Hart

I hope you have had a good Summer and are looking forward to the reunion in San Diego. Warren Savage and his crew have arrangements in good shape, but I'll let him tell you about his progress in the Reunion Column.

Over here on the East coast some things have been happening to enhance the events at the reunion. Bill Carlsen has provided me with the Giles painting disc and the laminated display copy, I have had 2 copies made from one of the originals (my copy) and have had a new disc made to eliminate the green tint that has appeared on the laminated one in the past few years. I think you will find the new copies more to your liking and closer in appearance to the original Giles book dust cover from which our first copies were made.

Bob Wilson informs me that the castings of the mine that will be attached to the MOY plaques are complete and needs to send them to be mounted to whomever is going to do that.

Our Quartermaster, Ron Swart, has been busy with having new designs depicting mine warfare made and silk-screened on T-shirts to bring to the reunion.

I hope all your reservations are made and looking forward to another outstanding reunion.

Bob

“The scientific name for an animal that doesn't either run from or fight its enemies is lunch.”

-- Michael Friedman

35th ANNUAL AOM REUNION

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 16 - 18, 2009

You are ALL welcome to attend the 35th. 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 2007 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 16 October to 18 October 2009 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, 2003 and 2007 AOM reunions were also held at this same location and received "WELL DONE" from all those in attendance.

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 enhance networking and camaraderie. We are looking at a USS

Continued on page 3 left.

ON THE INSIDE

Scholarship Scoop	3
Taps	5
The Mail Bag	7
MONAG News	14



PRESIDENT
Robert N. Hart (07-10)
1237 Patrick Hwy
Hartsville, SC 29559-7759
843-383-0882
mncrnh@roadrunner

VICE PRESIDENT
Ron Swart (07-10)
2020 Tupelo Court
Panama City, FL 32405
850-215- 9649
swartre@knology.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Curtis T. Christian (01- Morte)
303 Cypress Shores Rd.
Eutawville, SC 29048
803-492-4245
curtischristian@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT
Bill Johnson (07-10)
341 Shadynook St.
Keyport, NJ 07735-5140
732-583-8546
bjjohns@earthlink.net

PARLIMENTARIAN
Warren Savage
10330 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
619-258-1478
CHIEFSKIP@aol.com

CHAPLAIN
Derick S. Hartshorn (08-Morte)
1204 4th Street Drive, SE
Conover, NC 28613-1827
464-4981,
DerickH@charter.net

HISTORIAN
Jim Cernick
2305 Westlake Circle S.
Ingleside, TX 78362
361-775-1219
BARKINPIG@aol.com

YORKTOWN MUSEUM

LEXINGTON MUSEUM
Ron Swart
swartre@knology.net



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 501-C non profit, non
political 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.



2009 REUNION COMMITTEE
Warren Savage
10330 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 29071
619 258 1478
CHIEFSKIP@aol.com

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
William (Swede) Carlsen
1925 Pilgrim Ave.
Bronx, NY 10461
718-792-2298
mncsswede@aom.worldnet.att.net



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Gary L. Cleland (05-09)
12201 Sunrise Ct.
Poway, CA 92064-2865
858-748-3835

William Fortner (05-09)
1020 County Road 856.
Cedar Bluff, AL 35959
256-523-7111
mk27@httswireless.com

Robert W. Wilson (07-10)
10 Illinois Ave
Port Monmouth, NJ 07758-1108
732-787-4174
FAX 732-787-5519 (call first)
MNCUSNRET@att.net

Robert "Stan" Stancik (07-10)
151 Westminster Blvd.
Goose Creek, SC 29445-1879
843 797 2275
rfstan@yahoo.com

Gary Elliott (08-11)
446 Hemlock
Sequim, WA 98382-3771
360-683-9569
gngelliott@yahoo.com

Bob Reed (08-11)
626 Pritchard Rd.
Oil City, PA 16301
814 678 2977

AOM STOREKEEPER
Ron Swart
2020 Tupelo Court
Panama City, FL 32405
850-215- 9649
Mobile 850-276-1750
swartre@knology.net

DASHPOT EDITOR
Bill Fortner
1020 County Road 856
Cedar Bluff, AL 35959
256-523-7111
mk27@httswireless.com

WEBMASTER
Phil Dechene
pdechene@triad.rr.com

AOM HOMEPAGE
www.minemen.org



Reunion continued.

MIDWAY and a LOCAL CASINO activity.

The Early Bird reception will be held on Friday, 16 October starting at 1600 poolside in the POOL SIDE Hospitality 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 Hospitality Room hours will be from 0700 to Midnight 15 October to 18 October.

Our Annual AOM Picnic and Auction is planned to be held Sunday, 18 October 2009 starting at 1130 at the picnic grounds at the sub base on Point Loma Naval Base.

REUNION ALERT

We have lost a lot of money paying for dinners and picnic fare for members/friends who made verbal commitment to attend and then did not show up. As your Secretary/Treasurer, I have begun a new policy of NOT accepting verbal commitments to our reunion dinner and picnic events BEYOND the planning deadlines set by the caterers and/or picnic planners. I will accept your verbal commitment for planning purposes up to the deadline, but if you have not paid for the event by that time, you will NOT be included in the final count. Should you ask a friend or officer to put your name on the list, that friend or officer must submit the payment for you. Similarly, we cannot refund money paid for an event in case you are a no-show at the event. Payments for events before the established deadline will assure you "a place at the table". I am sorry if this causes an inconvenience to anyone, but you can see the practicality of this policy.

V/r, Curtis Christian

From The Secretary/Treasurer

As always, Warren Savage has everything well in hand (except the fires). I have promised him that we would bring fire extinguishers with us this year.

I will be leaving SC on 15 Oct. and the last check of our P.O. box will be Wed. 14 Oct. Please get your reservations to me so I will have you down for dinner.

Many thanks to Warren and his crew for all the work they put into this reunion.

See You in San Diego.

Curtis

SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

by Swede Carlsen



Once again the AOM has been able to award assistance scholarships.

To all of the potential applicants. Seventeen awards were from the membership. A memorial scholarship in the name of Ann Cobis was donated by her many friends and family.

The following applicants were awarded an AOM Assistance Scholarship.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Kyle Appleton | Muhlenberg College |
| 2. James Carlsen | Massachusetts Col.
Of Art & Design
Stony Brook Med.
Col. |
| 3. Joseph Cavallo | Suny-Cortland
Suny-Genesco |
| 4. Kristina Cavallo | Ivy Tech Com. Col. |
| 5. Lori-Ann Cavallo | USC-Beaufort |
| 6. Kimberly Jo Cottrell | Cedar Crest Col. |
| 7. Mary-Kaye Eayres | Francis Marion U. |
| 8. Jackie Frederick | Coastal Carolina |
| 9. Willam Hill, III | Brown University |
| 10. William C. Johnson | Seina College |
| 11. Christian Martino | U. Of Pittsburgh |
| 12. Nicole Martinico | East Carolina U. |
| 13. Kylie Murray | Springfield Col. |
| 14. Tyler Palagonia | Col. Of Charleston |
| 15. Michael Piesco | Winthrop U. |
| 16. Shelby Rodgers | |
| 17. Jaclyn R. Warden | |

The AOM congratulates all seventeen applicants.

There is \$ 2,158 dollars remaining in the general scholarship fund available for the 2010 scholarship applicants. Let's build on this by donations and large bids at the auction on the day of the AOM 2009 reunion picnic.

Stand Tall America

U.S. Senate Votes to Repeal SBP/DIC Offset

Nelson Amendment Approved by Voice Vote

The U.S. Senate just approved Senator Bill Nelson's (D-FL) amendment to the defense authorization bill which would eliminate the SBP/DIC offset.



FROM THE WEBMASTER

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

E-mail – Active Duty

07/17/09 - LT Stephanie Moss Cowart [former MN1 (SW)]; sto@cg56.navy.mil

E-mail – Reservist

05/18/08 - Byron L. Starnes MN2 USNR; byronstarnes2006@comcast.net

04/07/08 - Gary Evans Ex-MN2; gsevans@gtcinternet.com

E-mail – Retired

08/30/09 - Dave Clark MNC; ClarkDH@yahoo.com

08/22/09 - Wenceslaus “Jim” Pavlicek FTCS; [EX-MN1]; bohunck@yahoo.com

08/14/09 - CWO- 4 James F. McDonough; smokeytwo@comcast.net

08/07/09 - Roosevelt, Wyatt MNC; wyat150@gmail.com

08/05/09 - Keith Brieno MNCS; kbrieno@charter.net

E-mail – Ex-Minemen

08/26/09 - Patrick Timman MN3; ptimman@msn.com

08/14/09 - Bob Gill MN2; robert.gill@lantheus.com

08/07/09 - Donald Plack MN2; donplack@gmail.com

07/22/09 - Clay Coe MN2; wcoe@comcast.net

07/22/09 - Randall T Kubin; MNSN; randallkubin@gmail.com

07/17/09 - Wayne (Tex) Evans MN2; ewag32@sbcglobal.net

07/17/09 - Tom Kopecky MN2; kopecky@centurytel.net

07/17/09 - John Asmussen MN2; johnasmussen@earthlink.net

06/04/09 - Matt Lathrop MN2; matlathrop@yahoo.com

When we walk to the edge of all the light we have, and take the step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen.

There will be something solid for us to stand on... or we will be taught to fly.”



TAPS

Ann Cobis

Ann B. Cobis passed away suddenly on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nevada.

Ann was born on March 20, 1935 in North Hollywood, California to William H. and Agnes F. Wallace. The family moved to Hawthorne, Nevada in 1942. Ann graduated from Mineral County High School in 1953.

On August 2, 1953, Ann married Julius Raymond (Rayco) Cobis. Ray was stationed at the U. S. Naval Depot in Hawthorne, and shortly after their marriage they moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, the first stop on the exciting life journey. Over the course of the next 20 plus years, they lived in Whidbey Island, Washington; Subic Bay, Philippines; Brunswick, ME; Yorktown, Virginia; Atsugi, Japan; Guam, and San Diego, California. At each stop, Ann worked for the US Navy Exchange Retail System, and in 1978, both she and Ray retired and they moved to Reno, Nevada. For many years, Ann worked alongside of Ray in their home repair and rental businesses, Rayco and Walco.

Ann adored her family and friends and had a love for adventures and life. She loved to entertain, had a flair for flower arranging, gourmet cooking and setting a beautiful table. Her family and friends will long remember the lessons she gave them in the fine art of cooking. Ray's hunting buddies will always remember the wonderful meals she prepared for their many hunting trips - foil covered dishes with the instructions taped to the top!

Ann and Ray loved to travel and explore new places. Their trips were many and included Germany, the Panama Canal, Mexico, and China. They were as happy flying first class as they were camping in the travel trailer with friends. Ann was also an avid sports fan "Go Braves!" UNR football, and she loved to watch golf on TV. In addition to her life with Ray, she had a love for dogs and the Yorkies she raised during her journeys around the world.

Ann is survived by her husband of 55 years, Ray; brother, William (Mardelle) Wallace; nephews, William C. (Jill) Wallace Craig, Bret, and Joey; Michael J. (Vicki) Wallace John and

Glenn; Brian (Paula) Wallace Lindsey and Scott; and niece, Susan (Bill) Richards Kellen and Kiley. Ann is also survived by a large circle of family and friends throughout the country.

A Celebration of Life for family and friends was held on Monday, July 6, 2008 at 6:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity.

Should you care to send a card of condolence or express your thoughts to the family, Ray's address is: 4505 Gorc Way, Reno, NV 89502-6300 - (775) 826-3582



Derick S. Hartshorn, Chaplain - AOM

~~~~~  
**Charles Lesley Hartshorn and his wife, Rosita**

It is my sad duty to belatedly report the deaths of former Mineman First Class, Charles Lesley Hartshorn and his wife, Rosita Vitug Hartshorn. She passed away on 5 April 2009. Charles died a month later on 4 May 2009.

Charles' funeral announcement read as follows: Charles Lesley Hartshorn 74, passed away May 4, 2009. Survived by his daughters, Beth, Evelyn, Connie, Charlie and Linda; ten grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rosita. Graveside service was held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 8, 2009 at Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Sierra Vista, Arizona, with Military Honors by the U.S. Navy.

Rosita's funeral announcement read as follows: Rosita Vitug Hartshorn Passed away April 5, 2009. Survived by her husband, Charles L. Hartshorn; five daughters; ten grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at Fellowship Baptist Church, 712 S. Wilmot Rd. Burial followed in Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Sierra Vista, AZ at 1:00 p.m.

His former address is listed as 7838 S Hidden Stone Lane, Tucson, AZ, 85756-8475 - (520) 795-9283. Charles' and Rosita's children may be at this address should you choose to send a card of remembrance or condolence.

Derick S. Hartshorn (no relation), Chaplain-AOM



**KEERAN, Harold L.**

Harold L.KEERAN, born 20 Aug 1934, died 10 Feb 1999, Snowflake, AZ.

He may have resided on the NC coast from 1985-1989. - no further details

Bill Roberts wrote to Don Jones:  
Hello Don Its been quite some time since I learned of Harold's death and I really don't recall exactly how I learned about his passing. Toby Horn could possibly come up with more info. Harold was married to Lyal Stryker's daughter, you could try getting in touch with him. Harold was sort of a free soul after leaving the Navy. He lived on his boat for a while and the last that I knew of him, he was in California digging truffles. Good luck in your search I am pretty sure that he was born in Ohio and he was a year younger than myself so 1934 is a good birth year. Have a good one, Bill

If anyone can add to this, please contact Derick S. Hartshorn, DerickH@charter.net, (828) 464-4981.



~~~~~  
Helen Segesser

Dear Compatriots,

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of Helen Segesser in Keno, OR on May 26, 2009 after a long battle with vascular dementia. This belated notice came from AOM President Bob Hart after receiving notification from Helen's husband, Bill Segesser, on July 20th. Bill and Helen were married for 57 years and were close friends of Bob Hart and wife, Connie. He served with Bill on Azuma Island in the mid 60's. The entire Mine Force and AOM offer their collective sorrow to Bill in this time of loss.



Should you desire to send a card of condolence, the address is: 11425 Hamaker Mountain Rd, Keno, OR 97627-9701



Derick S. Hartshorn,
Chaplain-AOM

~~~~~  
**MNCS Robert T. Craig, USN**

**September FRA Taps listing. No further information available.**

**Willie Wilson reporting.**



**EPA DECLARES  
EMERGENCY**

**Asbestos contamination requires  
extensive cleanup**

BY MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Environmental Protection Agency, for the first time has determined there is a public health emergency in a contaminated community, targeting a Montana town Wednesday for immediate federal attention.

The announcement by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson involving Libby, Mont., will not result in an evacuation but will require an extensive, home-by-home cleanup and better health protections for residents with asbestos-related illnesses.

The EPA will invest at least \$125 million over the next five years in the ongoing cleanup.

Asbestos contamination from a now-closed vermiculite mine near Libby has been cited in the deaths of more than 200 people and illnesses of thousands more.

Miners carried asbestos, home on their clothes, vermiculite once covered school running tracks in Libby and some, residents used vermiculite as mulch in their home gardens.

Jackson said the announcement was the first time the EPA has made such a determination under authority of the 1980 Superfund law that requires the cleanup of contaminated sites.

Investigations performed by the federal Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry have found that occurrences of asbestosis near Libby are staggeringly higher than the national average for the period from 1979-1998, Jackson said. The EPA is working with the Department of Health and Human Services, which is making available a \$6 million grant to provide medical care to Libby and residents of Troy, Mont.

From The Post and Courier, Charleston, SC  
Thursday, June 18, 2009

I remember that we used vermiculite for packaging filler at West Loch in the 50's. We stored components in 40mm cans. MN1 Bill Savoy was in charge.

Willie Wilson



# THE MAIL BAG

## More about vermiculite.

29 June 2009

Dear Bob,  
I'm sending a clipping from the local newspaper stating that EPA has declared an emergency concerning the use of asbestos from a closed vermiculite mine.

If my memory serves me correctly, back about the mid seventies, COMOMAG was running out of Mk 25, 36 mine cases. There were thousands of empty cases available and COMOMAG was charged with filling them with a mixture of vermiculite, cement and water to approximate the correct weight in filling the empty mine cases.

Sailors were covered with this vermiculite dust, no mask of any kind was used and I believe this continued for over a year.

I believe that this information from the newspaper should be included in the next Dashpot and also online to all concerned.

It is now thirty some years later and some of these minemen might be experiencing some breathing problems.

The minemen who did not make a career of the Navy may have a recourse for health care through the V.A. I know it is a long shot, but it deserves a try.

John "Frenchy" Lemieux

July 1, 2009

Mr. Curtis Christian  
Secretary, The Association of Minemen 303  
Cypress Shores  
Eutawville, SC 29048

Dear Mr. Christian:

As you know, I am a new member of The Association of Minemen. Thank you for the "Welcome letter", the membership card, and associated materials.

I am only saddened that I did not know of the Association earlier - now that I am in my mid-seventies, it is too late for me to offer much to the Association except memories and old photos. I was surfing for old friends when I came across the web site.

I do have a question, however. Given the caveat that one will not share the information improperly, does the Association from time to time issue a full membership list? I would like to get in touch with old friends that I haven't seen since the 1950's and early 60's.

I would be happy to pay any expenses involved in such a production.

Sincerely,

Former MN1  
Philip D. Smith, Jr. PhD, GTS, FSA Scot

Professor Emeritus of Languages and Linguistics  
1318 Park Drive, Cookeville, TN 38501  
Tel. (931) 526-6194; email smithphild@aol.com

July 14, 2009

Dear Mr. Carlson,

Thank you very much for selecting me as a recipient for your Minemen scholarship. I am very grateful and honored to have been chosen for this award. The money will most definitely be put to good use towards books and other expenses for my upcoming school semester. Thank you again and enjoy your summer.

Sincerely yours,

Nicole Martinico

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I would like to thank you for awarding me with your scholarship. It is a tremendous honor to receive this award. It is helping me attend my dream school, Brown University. Thank you for your generosity

Sincerely,

Beau Martino

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you so much for my generous scholarship. It will help me further my education in math and science. Your faith in my abilities is greatly appreciated and you will not be disappointed.

Sincerely,  
Shelby E. Rodgers

*To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.*

Thomas Jefferson

Thank You!

I just want to thank you for awarding me your association's scholarship. I am honored you picked me.

Thanks again,

Tyler Palagonia

---

Dear Bill and the Minemen Association Committee,

I am truly honored to have received this award. I am looking forward to continuing my education at Springfield College, and I am grateful to have received your award to help assist with my education.

Thank You,

Michael Piesco

---

July 31, 2009

Enclosed is a donation for your scholarship fund. I know no better way to recognize Ann Cobis. Each year she had so much fun making pinecone baskets, etc, for your auction. This year, may this donation be for the items that will be missed.

Sincerely,

Marilyn and Jim Uhart

Please send an acknowledgement to Rayco.

---

September 3, 2009

#### ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This donation is made to the Association of Minemen Scholarship Fund in commemoration of Ann B. Cobis, beloved wife of MNCM Ray Cobis, Retired. All who knew her will always remember her. She was a true Sailor's wife. Her readiness to host a reunion, provide food and lodging to a family on concurrent travel to the Philippines, go on a balloon ride, or just socialize with friends. She was the center of Ray's universe. She could still laugh at Ray's jokes after hearing the same ones for over fifty-five years. Ann loved to travel. She could pack a suitcase faster than a seaman first class with transfer orders. The many of us who knew her are blessed. She was a ray of sunshine in our lives. We all loved her, we will all miss her. Sincerely,

Richard & Charlotte Cox  
719 Creekbridge Dr.  
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732

## DON JONES Celebrates 45 Years



*Don Jones, senior naval mines analyst, honored in CAPT Simeral's office for 45 years of government service.*

Don Jones is the Senior Mines Analyst in the Conventional Weapons Division, ONI-232. Mr. Jones is an all-source analyst responsible for determining the characteristics, capabilities, and operation of foreign naval mines and mine countermeasures. He specializes in Russian and former Soviet systems, yet has extensive knowledge and expertise on worldwide naval mine and naval countermeasure systems.

Don has devoted his life to serving his nation, and has built a career that spans over 45 years specializing in naval mines and mine warfare. He joined the Navy in 1953 and thus began a 32-year active-duty military career in mine warfare in which Don achieved Master Chief rating and numerous decorations and honors. He retired from active duty in 1985, and was hired by ONI in 1986. Since that time, Don has continued his career as an all-source intelligence analyst focusing on mine warfare.

From the Office of Naval Intelligence **Intelligence Newsletter**.

---

## Congratulations Captain Auberry

Captain Terry Auberry takes command of all the west coast ordnance facilities assuming major command of Naval Munitions Command CONUS West Division.

*You have done well, Grasshopper.....*



## From the Labyrinth of the Historian

Howdy AOM and Hello MW, it's the end of summer, not the heat or the drought though unfortunately. With the last sweeper headed for Panama City and then on to San Diego, the piers here are empty, waiting their fate. The 155 acres, some underwater, that was once the degaussing pier is being contested by a few different parties, some want it for a pay to fish pier and store I'm sure. The Coast Guard has dropped the security mission and it has passed to the Port Authority. The base is pretty empty and except for the close up and down contractors, Ingleside and South Texas is history to Mine Warfare, again. 4,135 jobs and 345 million in annual salaries gone, won't hurt us at all LOL.

I picked up a WW1 Barrage photo album from the USS Housatonic, great pics and history. I'll get them scanned for the next issue, and after some more research.

If Bill can swing it, I'm sending along an article from the Collier's magazine in 1951. It was written during Korea and before "Most Dangerous Sea". It includes some rare color photos, perhaps the first and only ones of War time Mineman, published anyway. It also is headlined with our old motto, "Where the fleet goes,

we've been." This is the earliest I've seen it written anywhere, though it is from WW2 for sure.

*CORRECTION and some history, thanks: From Joe, This was and still is a great article. The USS Osprey was the YMS-422. My ship, the YMS-302, shared "head of the column" duties in the Kobe-Osaka sweep in December, 1945, and on into 1946. I have known Phil Levin for many years. The NMA rosters include over a dozen former Osprey crew members. Their leader is Walter Crews who lives in Blanchard, Oklahoma. Walt currently serves as our Treasurer and Store Keeper.*

*The combat record of the Osprey under Phil's command would make a great movie. Phil, along with five other AMS CO's, were awarded the Silver Star medal for some of their daring do's in Korea. According to Walt they did not always do things per Navy regs, but they got the job done with few casualties.*

*The motto "Where the fleet goes, we've been" came out of the Korean War - not WW II. Joe Schreiber, Jr., NMA Historian/Public Relations Director*

Push AOM in the NEW school again, build it in the Mineshops, and sail it in the fleet. Don't stop the flow. Give AOM memberships as an award incentive, it's easy, I STILL have 11 FREE 1-year memberships for ANY new members who just contact me at [barkinpig@AOL.com](mailto:barkinpig@AOL.com), [barkinpig@clearwire.net](mailto:barkinpig@clearwire.net), or 361-775-1219.

Until next time, take care, DTTAFSA,

BPIG sends

---

# Men of the Mine Sweepers

*"Where the fleet goes, we've been!"*

**By CHARLOTTE KNIGHT**

*Collier's War Correspondent*

It was a grim morning and an even grimmer mission. Cold driving rain stung our faces and beat hard on the decks of our plucky little mine sweeper, the Osprey, as we left Korea's fog-shrouded west coast and headed into a mined, "unswept" channel in the Yellow Sea. We were on the hunt for the most insidious weapon UN forces have encountered in 17 months of the Korean War: the magnetic underwater mine.

Like most mine sweep missions in this war, this was another urgent, top-priority, sweep-it-right-now assignment. Intelligence sources, evaluated as reliable, had produced information that Communist forces had laid several magnetic mines in the channel of Chawol-To, one of the approaches to the vital UN supply port of Inchon. The Osprey and two of her sister sweepers, the Swallow

and the Waxbill, had been suddenly diverted from their major sweeping operations off Wonsan on the east coast and ordered to steam full speed for the Yellow Sea to take care of the situation. It was up to them to locate and explode the dread mines--or be able to assure our high command that the mines had become inactive and were therefore no longer a threat to UN warships.

A few mines, stealthily laid at night by innocent-appearing sampans and fishing junks, could put an immediate and very likely disastrous end to our naval operations in the vicinity, unless we first took appropriate means to counter them. Of these methods, that of physically sweeping a given area clear of all types of mines still is, after almost half a century of coping with the mine as an offensive weapon, the most effective countermeasure.

It is hazardous work--as Navy casualty figures offer somber proof--but danger is the Osprey's business and her crew takes it in stride.

On the bridge, her skipper, Lieutenant (jg) Philip Levin, of Philadelphia, set about his job with quiet efficiency and an air of calm which seemed to spread to the entire ship's company. If they were jittery, they concealed it amazingly well.

Not that anybody on the Osprey had any doubts about what could happen. For then are the sobering statistics to date: 17 of our ships have been hit by Communist mines since the start of the Korean War; the deadliness of the weapon can be attested by the fact that 12 of these vessels sank, and one of them, the destroyer Walks, suffered severe damage and 26 of her crew killed in the Navy's worst single disaster in Korean waters. Six of the ships sunk were UN mine sweepers; four were American. The Magpie, the first U.S. Navy sweeper lost, went down a year ago, with 21 of her small crew of four officers and 29 men missing in action.

Since then (although those who man the sweepers comprise less than 2 per cent of naval personnel in the Far East), more than 20 per cent of all naval dead or missing have been mine sweep people.

### **No Push-Button Gadgets for This Job**

"Until we can come up with a classy, remote-control, push-button sweeper, looks like we'll have to keep on doing it the hard way," said one of the Osprey's officers as the little ship rocked and rolled on our way toward Chawol-To, past the stately Los Angeles, the Eldorado and some of the other great gray warships. Our 136-foot wooden craft suddenly seemed absurdly small. As though he read my thoughts, Lieutenant (jg) David A. Beadling, of Prospect Park, Pennsylvania, the Osprey's executive officer, sprang to her defense. "Yeah, I know. I suppose we do look pretty silly alongside those steel jobs." (I was shortly to discover that to all mine sweep personnel, everything from a small destroyer to a battleship falls under the simple classification: "steel job.")

"I suppose they have a right to think they're pretty important--they're the only ones you read about; and nobody ever heard about the Osprey. But you ought to see 'em run for cover the minute they smell a mine field. Yes, sir," reflected Beadling with what appeared to be some satisfaction, "there's nothing like a few mines strewn about to cut the big boys down to size."

"Don't forget our motto," prompted Lieutenant (jg) Gordon Shoolman, of Rochester, New York, "Where the Fleet Goes, We've Been".

"It may become apparent after a while that we don't quite consider ourselves part of the regular Navy--or maybe it's vice versa," continued Beadling, known aboard the Osprey only as "the Beadle."

"For instance," observed Shoolman, "when it comes to food and supply, the Navy's got mine sweepers listed after 'combatant' ships. What the hell do they think we are?"

Like any group of proud people whose jobs are specialized, dangerous, virtually unpublicized, and frequently unrecognized even in their own service, the mine sweep personnel are inclined to be a bit hypersensitive. Slightings and rebuffs are apt to be long remembered. As we chugged out of Inchon Harbor, it became apparent that the humiliation suffered at the hands of one of the big warships in this very spot during the amphibious landings just over a year ago still rankled. On that occasion, it was recalled, the Osprey was steaming along in her usual cocky fashion when she intercepted a blinker signal from one "steel job" to another.

The message, which clearly referred to the tiny wooden craft, the only one of its kind around at the

moment, read: "Stand by to take tug alongside."

The Osprey's men were slightly agitated. The saucy sweeper blinked the warship right off the light waves with an indignant retort: "**WE AIN'T NO TUG!**" and bounced on its way.

The marked disdain the Osprey's crew felt for the Navy proper was not surprising. Conversations with mine-force people over a period of several weeks had already convinced me this feeling was general. That it was not without some basic justification has been all too dramatically proved by events themselves this past year.

Almost at once, the Korean War exposed the critical neglect of our mine force. All departments of the Navy had suffered as a result of the administration's pre-Korea policy of economizing on defense by "trimming off the fat without cutting the muscle." But the mine sweepers were hit perhaps hardest of all. We were way behind in men, in equipment and in research.

During World War II, we had 150 to 200 mine sweepers in the Pacific alone; but when the Korean campaign began, our sweeper force in these waters consisted of four 221-foot, steelhull Fleet Mine Sweepers (of which three were in "caretaker" status), and six wooden Auxiliary Mine Sweepers. Ninety-nine per cent of our mine sweep personnel in the last war were reserves; but, since 1945, we had done almost nothing to build up even a small nucleus of trained officers and men. Similarly, there had been so little emphasis on improving our sweeping gear or developing new mine sweeping techniques that we were right where we were five years ago.

At the expense of lives lost, ships sunk and entire invasion forces stopped cold, we learned here in Korea the bitter lesson of underestimating the dreadful capabilities of mine warfare. Firsthand, we have already had an unpleasant foretaste of what we are most certainly going to be up against in any war with the Soviet Union.

The prospects are somewhat terrifying. Lieutenant Commander Darcy V. (Dusty) Shouldice, of Oakland, California, then commander of Mine Division 31, had dwelt upon a few of them as he talked to me aboard his flagship, the Mainstay, a few weeks before. "Look what happened at Wonsan in October, 1950," he said. "We ran smack into 3,000 mines, one of the most concentrated fields in history. Fifty thousand men were all set to come ashore some 80 miles above the 38th parallel, on the east coast; there were all those ships waiting to get in to support the land invasion by South Korean forces. They couldn't budge for eight solid days after the original D day, until we'd swept some safe channels for them.

"Don't you see what a few enemy mines can do?" Shouldice continued. "All the carriers, battleships and cruisers we've got won't do much good against the Commies unless we're able to land troops ashore, supply them and get our warships close enough to give them fire support.

"Have you thought, for instance, about what would have happened to our famous Pusan perimeter if the Commies had dropped a few mines around, here and there, when things were so critical? I used to lie awake nights worrying about how just one stinking submarine, carrying 32 mines (special mine-laying subs can carry as many as 50), could have tied up our whole effort and ended our perimeter. Just because the possibility existed, we had to checksweep it every day."

### **The Enemy Can Harass Us Cheaply**

Dusty Shouldice was talking shop now and nobody talks it more convincingly. "Look," he said, "we have the world's most powerful Navy and we have no equal in amphibious operations. The enemy knows this only too well. But see how fast and how simply he can neutralize our best effort, even though he has no surface forces of his own. And how cheaply. It's the most inexpensive type of war.

"Mines are easy to mass-produce. Why, any toy factory or typewriter plant could turn 'em out in quantity and at very low cost. It's damned frightening."

The commander's words were reminiscent of those of the late Admiral Forrest P. Sherman in his testimony before a Congressional committee shortly before his death. When the committee chairman pointed out that the several hundred mines the U.S. Navy had swept in Korean waters must have made serious inroads in the Communist mine supply, Admiral Sherman said: "Well, sir, I would like to be that optimistic, but I'm afraid they can probably be "manufactured at a rate just as fast as our recovery of them."

The enemy has laid thousands of mines around the coasts of Korea, of which we have so far swept less than half, despite continuous dawn-to-dark operations. Ninety-eight mines were "cut" recently in one day, just off Wonsan alone.

Exactly how these mines have been laid is the subject of much speculation among mine-force people, but it is generally assumed that most of them reach their destination by means of small boats or fishing junks. "We were so used to modern methods of mine laying, such as by aircraft or submarines, that we weren't prepared to cope with something as primitive as the sampan fleet," observed one mine officer.

"The whole idea gets grisly after a bit," said Commander Shouldice. "Some mines weigh as little as 750 pounds. So, a few coolies can pick one up and walk off with it. They can put four of them on a fishing boat with no strain at all. Or they can suspend a magnetic mine underneath an ordinary sampan by putting a few lines (which look like fishing lines, of course) over the side and conceal it that way. When they get the boat in position, they merely cut the lines and drop the mine."

To prevent this sort of thing, we naturally maintain a constant vigil, day and night. Task Force 95, the UN Blockade and Escort Force, under the command of Rear Admiral George C. Dyer, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, has a "flycatcher" patrol whose job is to intercept-and-inspect these small craft. But it is physically impossible, especially at night, to keep some of them from slipping through the blockade and seeding some mines.

With few exceptions, all the mines swept have been the common, moored "contact" mines--mammoth spheres with protruding "horns" which detonate the explosive charge when they come in contact with a ship.

To date, the best method of sweeping these moored mines is for a vessel to tow from her stern two Oropesa or "O"-type sweeps: these are steel wires stretched out from the port and starboard beams by steel "kites" or "otters" which are designed to submerge the sweep wires at the required depth and keep them there; they are attached to Oropesa floats, torpedo-shaped affairs known in mine sweep parlance as "pigs." These floating "pigs" stream out at an angle from the ship and keep taut the kite lines, along which are arranged, about 250 feet apart, series of cutters capable of severing the mooring lines holding the mines in position.

Collier's, November 10, 1951  
Continued in next issue.

---

## Naval Aviation Chronology 1970-1980

### Operation Pocket Money

#### May 9, 1972

Operation Pocket Money, the mining campaign against principal NVN ports, was launched. Early that morning, an EC-121 aircraft took off from Danang airfield to provide support for the mining operation. A short time later, Kitty Hawk launched 17 ordnance-delivering sorties against the Nam Dinh railroad siding as a diversionary air tactic. Poor weather, however, forced the planes to divert to secondary targets at Thanh and Phu Qui which were struck at 090840H and 090845H, Vietnam time, respectively. Coral Sea launched three A-6A and six A-7E aircraft loaded with mines and one EKA-3B in support of the mining operation directed against the outer approaches to Haiphong Harbor. The mining aircraft departed the vicinity of Coral Sea at 090840H in order to execute the mining at precisely 090900H to coincide with the President's public announcement in Washington that mines had been seeded. The A-6 flight led by the CAG, Commander Roger Sheets, was composed of USMC aircraft from VMA-224 and headed for the inner channel. The A-7Es, led by Commander Len Giuliani and made up of aircraft from VA-94 and VA-22, were designated to mine the outer segment of the channel. Each aircraft carried four MK 52-2 mines. Captain William Carr, USMC, the bombardier/navigator in the lead plane established the critical attack azimuth and timed the mine releases. The first mine was dropped at 090859H and the last of the field of 36 mines at 090901H. Twelve mines were placed in the inner segment and the remaining 24 in the outer segment. All MK 52-2 mines were set with 72-hour arming delays, thus permitting merchant ships time for departure or a change in destination consistent with the President's public warning. It was the beginning of a mining campaign that planted over 11,000 MK 36 type destructor and 108 special MK 52-2 mines over the next eight months. **It is considered to have played a significant role in bringing about an eventual peace arrangement, particularly since it so hampered the enemy's ability to continue receiving war supplies.**

# Nimitz Preserves Ties to Renowned Japanese Warship

Yokosuka August 26, 2009 - Crewmembers from the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) volunteered for a community service project to paint the famed Japanese battleship Mikasa Aug. 25 in Yokosuka, Japan.

The Nimitz has a special connection to the Mikasa. Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz greatly admired Adm. Heihachiro Togo, the "victor of the battle of Tsushima", who defeated a Russian fleet from the flying bridge of Mikasa.

The much-needed paint job, applied to the hull and super structure of the 110-year old Japanese battleship, was a way for current Nimitz Sailors to preserve the memory of their ship's namesake.

Adm. Nimitz helped to spearhead a movement to save Togo's flagship after World War II. Today, the ship sits in Mikasa Park on display as a museum.

"Mikasa is not categorized as an active ship; we don't receive much funding from the government to maintain it," said retired Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force Capt. Greg Kouta the museum curator. "That's why painting by the volunteer group from the Nimitz is a great support."

Nimitz volunteers arrived with all the equipment needed to preserve the ship but also with the personal motivation to continue the cooperative efforts between the U.S. and Japan.

"It feels good to come out and help fix up this monument," said Chief (sel.) Yeoman (AW/

SW) Alexis Nicholas. "The historical aspect and the ties that we as Nimitz Sailors have to the Mikasa makes me feel proud . It's like I am part of history."

Many Yokosuka residents were present in Mikasa Park to watch the project and to hear the U.S. 7th Fleet Dixieland Band perform.

"A lady that was walking by smiled and said 'arigato', which I know means 'thank you' in Japanese," said Machinist's Mate Fireman Chelsea McCray. "That made me feel really good about what we're doing."

The Battle of Tsushima was a major engagement during the Russo-Japanese war in 1905 during which 34 of 38 Russian ships were sunk, captured or disarmed.

Nimitz CSG, commanded by Rear Adm. John W. Miller, Commander, CSG 11, is comprised of USS Nimitz (CVN 68), the guided-missile destroyers USS Pinckney (DDG 91) and USS Sampson (DDG 102) of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 23, the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Chosin (CG 55) from Commander, Naval Surface Group, Mid Pacific and the Perry-class frigate USS Rentz (FFG 46) from DESRON 1. Squadrons from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11 include the "Black Aces" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 41, the "Tophatters" of VFA 14, the "Warhawks" of (VFA) 97, the "Sidewinders" of VFA 86, the "Indians" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6, the "Black Ravens" of Electronic Attack Squadron 135, the "Providers" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the "Wallbangers" of Carrier Airborne Command and Control Squadron 117. Detachments from the "Easy Riders" of Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light HSL 37, the "Battle Cats" of HSL 43, the "Wolfpack" of HSL 45 and the "Scorpions" of HSL 49. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11 and the USNS Bridge (T-AOE-10) embarking the "Wildcards" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23 also accompany Nimitz CSG.





## COMOMAG

by *MNCS Michael Cooley*

We bid Fair Winds and Following Seas to Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command Corpus Christi and Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 15 who have executed their BRAC relocation to California. Thanks to all our sailors at MOMAU 15 for all the hard work preparing for their move. The south Texas Mineman community is almost completely gone now.

There are some major improvements for the mine community that are coming down the road to help improve our business processes. Some of the changes are the retirement of BATS 98 and the Mine Automated Reporting System (MARS) on 30 Sep 2009. The program taking over MARS is AWIS (All Weapons Information System) as of 01 Oct 2009. If any guidance is needed for the new website please contact COMOMAG N31.

The COMOMAG staff has participated in a few exercises last quarter. MNC(SW/SS) Stork personally delivered a Fiobuoy system to NAVO at the Stennis Space Center for retrieval of equipment used to measure ocean currents. MNCS(SW) Bostic and MNC(SW) Hawes traveled to Korea as part of the battle staff for Ulich Freedom Guardian – a joint US/ROK mine warfare exercise. Mr. Ed Simmons led the MAT team from MOMAU 11 in planting E/T mine shapes for SHAMAU 09-2 in C5F while MNC(SW) Hawes led recovery efforts for the recovery and download of the Versatile Exercise Mine Systems (VEMS) used.

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

MNC(SW) Jeff Blackwell – Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

### WELCOME ABOARD:

MN1 Joshua Mundenke from NMAWC Corpus Christi  
AG2 Steven Hatchett from NMAWC Corpus Christi  
SK2 Ralph Taylor from NMAWC Corpus Christi  
CS2 David Gonzales from NMAWC Corpus Christi  
IT1 William Mahan from COMCMRON ONE  
SK2 Veronica Valdez from MOMAU 15

### FAREWELL:

MNC(SW) Jeff Blackwell - Retirement



## MOMAU TEN KADENA, JA

*MN1(SS) Frank Waller*

This final quarter of fiscal year 2009 has been extremely eventful for us here at MOMAU Ten. We'll start off with our hails and farewells. Team Ten said farewell to MNC(SEL)(SW) Heyer and MN1(SW) Flores who transferred to ECRC in San Diego, CA. Also, MN3 Vroman and MN3 Hamilton both transferred to USS Defender in Sasebo, Japan. Our lone arrival to Team Ten is MN2(SW) Killen, reporting after 3 years aboard Crew Fearless in Ingleside, TX.

Team Ten would like to congratulate our newly selected Chiefs. They are MNC(SW)(SEL) Heyer, MNC(SW)(SEL) Siangco, and MNC(SW)(SEL) Greene. We also would like to congratulate MNC(SW)(SEL) Stone who transferred in March to Maritime Expeditionary Security Det Bahrain.

This quarter we sent out two MAT teams. The first team headed to Thailand where they participated in exercise CARAT '09 with the Royal Thai Navy. The second team headed to Mutsu, Japan to participate in 09-2JA

with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. Both teams worked hard and received rave reviews from the joint force teams they worked with. Job well done to both teams.

Back at the shop, Team Ten has been very busy. MNCS(SW) Juliuson is retiring October 13, 2009 after 24 years of service. He has put in a lot of leadership and time these past 3 years and the command has truly benefitted from him, he will be missed. We are also making way with our merger with NMC East Asia Division Detachment Okinawa. This merger provides opportunities for our personnel to gain new qualifications. So far it has been a lot of hard work and coordination but it is good to be working with our fellow brothers and sisters in ordnance. Additionally, we are continuing to prepare for our upcoming MRCI and ESI next year.

Finally, we would like to send out a special thanks to Reserve Unit MOMAU One, Seal Beach, CA. They came out for an additional AT prior to our MRCI to conduct an upgrade and assist in finishing up these final preparations.



MNCS(SW) Ralph Juliuson at his desk.



MOMAU Ten FY '10 chief selectee's: (from left) MNC(SEL) Greene, MNC(SEL) Heyer, and MNC(SEL) Siangco.



## MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK, SC

**By MNCS(SW) Shawn Barker**

Greetings from the world's largest, most productive mine shop! It has been an extremely busy and exciting time here at MOMAU ELEVEN, supporting ET missions across the world as well as maintaining the world's largest Service Mine Stockpile. Team ELEVEN provided and what seemed like countless ET shapes support of four Multi-Service, Multi-National exercises.

First we would like to give a fond Farewell to our Commanding Officer, LCDR Marc Goode as he heads to USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) as the Combat Systems Maintenance Officer. He turns over command of MOMAU ELEVEN to CDR Timothy French, SC on September 17.

We also bid a fond farewell to MNCS(SW/SS) Kurt Stauff. He will be greatly missed in the Low Country. We wish him Fair Winds and Following Seas as he moves on to new challenges at the Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command (NMAWC) in San Diego, CA. We would also like to say Welcome Aboard to our new Senior Enlisted Leader, MNCS(SW) Mike



MOMAU Ten MK 65 E/T mineshape deployed by VP-45.

Szostkiewicz, coming to us from Ingleside, TX as the SEL of Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE.

### **MOMAU ELEVEN EXPANSION/CONSOLIDATION**

The consolidation with Naval Munitions Command (NMC) Detachment Charleston has already begun and Team ELEVEN has been hard at work ensuring a smooth transition. Our new Explosive Operations Building is almost complete and our Team is extremely eager to streamline our Service Mine workload. This multi-million dollar project will facilitate all of our explosive operations as well as our MK 65/67 buildups. The consolidation with NMC Detachment Charleston is well underway. Combining our forces with NMC will not only expand our capabilities but will also allow us to learn new and exciting things within the ordnance community.

Team ELEVEN proudly displays it's most recent accomplishments.



**TEAM ELEVEN displaying some of their handiwork.**

### **JOB WELL DONE**

Once again TEAM ELEVEN would like to send a special "Thank You" for all the support provided by the students at Navy Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC). Without their diligent hands on work, it would be extremely difficult to maintain our refurbishment process to support our myriad of Fleet Exercise taskings. Thank you all for the hard work and dedication.

### **SAILORS DEPLOY**

Team ELEVEN has had the opportunity to show off our skills in various locations throughout the world. This summer we provided over 400 shapes for 11 separate exercises. First our Mine Assembly Teams deployed to Barksdale AFB, LA to train our Air Force brothers and sisters in the art of Offensive Mine Warfare. We have also deployed Sailors overseas to the

5th Fleet AOR. MN1(SW) Miguel Torres lead a team to utilize our Versatile Exercise Mine capability. Lastly, Team ELEVEN deployed down to Jacksonville, FL and provided VP-30 with Quick Strike Mines for P-3 Crews MIW qualifications and deployment.



MN3 Nicole Primeaux and others from MOMAU ELEVEN deployed to Barksdale AFB, LA in support of Counter Sea Syllabus 340 WEPS09B.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Bravo Zulu and congratulations to the following Sailors:

**ADVANCEMENT:** MNC(sel) (SW/AW) John Davis

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL:** MNCM(SW/SS) Kurt Stauff

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

MN2(SW) Bradley Corson

MN3 Courtney Ruble

MN3 Gilbert Priest

Senior Sailor of the Quarter: MN1(SW) Eric Gummersheimer

Junior Sailor of the Quarter: MN2(SW) Justin Tassej

Blue Jacket of the Quarter: MNSN Beau Temple

### **DEPARTURES**

LCDR Marc Goode

MNCM(SW/SS) Kurt Stauff

MN2(SW) Bradley Corson

MN3 Courtney Ruble  
MN3(SS) Ramirez Jones  
MN3 Gilbert Priest

**ARRIVALS**

MNCS(SW) Mike Szostkiewicz  
MNC(sel) (SW/AW) John Davis  
MN2 Stephen Bancroft  
MN2(SW) Russell Boone  
MN2(SW) Christopher Evans  
MNSA Daniel Rendon  
YNSA Brent Jarvis  
ITSR Kyle Mandle

**NAVY'S NEW PIRATE  
CATCHER...**

**U.S.S. Independence (LCS-2)**

**A Triple Hulled, Weapon-Laden Monster.**

first of the new fire-breathing breed, ready to scoot out of dry dock at a rumored 60 knots.. It's like a speedy and heavily-armed aircraft carrier for helicopters.



We've been hearing rumblings about the U.S. Navy's triple-hulled ships, but here's one that was launched last month, the U.S.S Independence .. Built by General Dynamics, it's called a "littoral combat ship" (LCS), and the tri-maran can move huge weapons around faster than any ship in the Navy. Ironical that with all that high tech built in, the ship reminds us of the Merrimac ironclad from Civil War days. Littoral means close to shore, and that's where these fleet-hulled babies will operate, tailor-made for launching helicopters and armored vehicles, sweeping mines and firing all manner of torpedoes, missiles and machine guns. These ships were designed to be relatively inexpensive this one's a bargain at \$208 million and the navy plans to build 55 of them. This tri-maran is the

# Baltic Gems

By William Mehard

While cruising the Baltic countries with Holland American ship Eurodam, we stopped in Kiel, Germany as our last port before Copenhagen, Denmark and flying home. On a tour we stopped in the town of Laboe outside Kiel at a German war memorial honoring the dead from WW1 and 2. On display was this C-12 moored mine. I couldn't read the full inscription as it was raining and blowing gale force winds. No umbrella could withstand the wind force including mine. WE left the port with hurricane force winds that evening and a 6 degree list on this huge vessel of 84 k tons. I thought it might be of interest in the newsletter.



In the memorial hall at Laboe were inscriptions of sunken ships. Here are the mine layer and mine sweeper losses.



# A Celebration of Life

*Dedicated to Ann Cobis*

Yesterday we attended the Celebration of Life for Ann held at their home. The large number of friends and family that were there was quite a surprise to several of us. Many of them we had never met, yet some of our old friends were there to remember Ann. Ray and Ann have a backyard that is fitting for entertaining, which was full and others were in the house. A wonderful poem was read followed by prewritten comments from the family on what they remembered of Ann. Bill, her brother, said a few words then Bill's son made his comments. After that many of us retreated to the front yard where each received a balloon. On Ray's command the balloons were released taking flight in the perfect evening sky. A catered meal was made available. Yes, as you know Ray, there was an open bar.

Don and LaVon



# ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN 35TH ANNUAL REUNION SAN DIEGO, CA AT THE HANDLERY HOTEL AND RESORT 16-18 OCTOBER 2009

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 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Tickets (Includes tax & gratuity.) @ \$38.00 ea. X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children under 10 years old @ \$18.00 ea. X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Buffet: London broil with mushroom sauce, herb roasted chicken with whole-grain mustard cream, rice pilaf, garlic mashed potatoes, garden salad, seafood pasta salad, chef's dessert table).

Picnic Tickets (Adult) @ \$12.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Picnic Tickets (Child) @ \$6.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Age 7 to 12 years \$6.00, under 7 - FREE  
Number of children attending picnic age 6 and under: \_\_\_\_\_  
(The picnic will be the usual burgers, franks, beans etc.)

ANNUAL DUES: @ \$15.00 October 2009 to October 2010 (5 year max.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Your label has your paid to date, e.g. October 2009 is your paid to date.  
(New or reinstatement member add \$5.00 application fee.)

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

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

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

Checks payable to: Association of Mine men: TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We must guarantee number for dinners not later than morning of: October 09, 2009. There will be NO REFUNDS after: 09 OCTOBER 2009.

Handlery Hotel and Resort Reservations: PH: 619-298-0511 or weekdays 7:00 to 7:00 PST 1-800-676-6567

Room rates are \$99.00 plus 12.5% tax, single or double; \$109.00 triple and \$119.00 PROMO CODE "Minemen", Cut off date **was 18 September 2009**. Check-in time is 3:00 PM and checkout time is 12:00 NOON. Hotel Parking is \$6.00 per night with complimentary in and out privileges.

FREE HANDLERY SHUTTLE: 0830-1700. Call ahead 2-3 days. Routes are to and from ZOO, SEA WORLD, OLD TOWN and other sites by APPOINTMENT!

**Association of Minemen  
P.O.Box 69  
Eutawville, SC 29048-0069**

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Eutawville, SC  
NO. 270



**Return Service Requested**

**NEXT ARTICLE DUE DATE IS 1 DEC 2009**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RANK/RATE/CIVTITLE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ELGIBILITY \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

Application fee \$5  
Annual Dues \$15

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

Mail Checks to:  
Association of Minemen  
P.O. Box 69  
Eutawville, SC 29048-0069