



THE DASHPOT



Issue 68 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Winter 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT Robert Hart

Sitting here with a cluttered desk trying to recall all the people and events and items for action from the San Diego reunion and not accomplishing very much. For those who did not attend, I will tell you that the reunion committee made this year's reunion a very good one. To Warren Savage, Jerry Chipman, Gary Cleland, and Jim Miller, we say 'Thank you, Gentlemen.'

The weather was great on Friday and Saturday, but overcast and cool on Sunday for the picnic at the submarine base at Point Loma. We had a good turnout for the picnic and many well crafted items for the auction. Masako Swart brought some of her cross stitch creations (I bought one depicting the Navy Goat), and Ross Maddocks brought two wonderfully crafted bell ropes and a Bos'n's pipe lanyard, Toby Horn brought a brass Bos'n's pipe which was affixed to the lanyard by Ross. Claire Bash provided an excellent sweet banana delicacy.

Items for discussion concerning the disposition of the mine material in the MOMAG 11 warehouse and the mine material still on the Yorktown. We are investigating the possibility of a display at the Mariners Museum in Newport News, VA and CDR (Ret) Bill Roberts is proposing the creation of an honor roll depicting the names of Minemen and their awarded combat related medals and ribbons. This is a work in progress and eventually plans are for the honor roll to be presented to the new Mine Warfare School in Point Loma for display in a prominent location.

Hope to see you all in Williamsburg, VA.

~Bob

36th ANNUAL AOM REUNION

**YORKTOWN/WILLIAMSBURG,
VIRGINIA
OCTOBER 15-17, 2010**

Back to our beginnings in Yorktown, the 2010 AOM Reunion will be held at the Lexington Hotel/George Washington Inn, 500 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Phone 1-866-787-4494. Room rates are \$79.00 which includes breakfast. This rate is good from 13 to 19 October. Mention AOM for the rate. The Hospitality room will open at 4:00 PM on the 14th for really early birds and will be open during the reunion. We have booked 40 rooms for the reunion. Please reserve your room early so we can all be in the same area. All rooms and functions are scheduled for the second floor and in close proximity (picnic in courtyard). Due to Virginia ABC rules no alcoholic beverages may be carried outside rooms in the hotel. Meal choices for the sit down dinner will be beef or chicken. The Reunion order form will be in the Summer issue of The Dashpot. Ed Oyer 757-887-3219 is the 2010 Yorktown Reunion Chairman. E-mail contact is John Loonam at jloonam@yahoo.com for those cyber minded.

For your travel plans Newport News/Williamsburg Airport (PHF) 10 mi.), Norfolk International (ORF)(45 mi) and Richmond International (RIC) (45 mi) are all called local airports so get your best deal. There are banks, drug stores and supermarkets across the street from the hotel.

Continued on page 3 left.

ON THE INSIDE

Reunion Business	3
The Mail Bag	8
Taps	10
MOMAG News	17
MCM News	22

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THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN



DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot,
published quarterly, is the
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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.

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Reunion Continued

The hotel has free and RV parking. Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens and Water Country are just minutes away. Remember to bring items for the Scholarship auction.

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

**Minutes of the meeting held on 17
October 2009 in San Diego, CA**

**Note: Some entries are taken from the
Board of Directors meeting.**

The President, Robert Hart, called the meeting to order at 1005 hours.

Minutes of the meeting, held in Charleston SC in 2008, were read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report was given and accepted.

The Audit committee reported on the audit of the AOM books. All was found to be in order.

The Treasurer, Curtis Christian, reported on how monies for dues paid ahead were handled.

A discussion on funds held specifically for USS Yorktown and USS Lexington use be consolidated into a "General Museum Fund" for the purpose of providing funds where and when needed. A motion was made and seconded to move funds. Motion passed.

The Secretary, Curtis Christian, reported that he had some excess funds in the treasury and asked how to put these funds to work for the Association. The President suggested that we investigate the purchase of municipal bonds. It was decided that the Secretary would check with our accountant as how to handle this and report to directors or at the 2010 meeting.

Vice President, Ron Swart reported that he would give the Secretary a mailing list of all the new Commands and Command Master Chiefs.

The President reported on the state of the mine museums. Toby Horn elaborated on this and will contact the director at Patriot's Point, SC concerning the Mine display on the USS Yorktown. A discussion on what to do with AOM mine material which is presently stored at DET. 11 at NWS, Charleston. AOM Board of Directors member, Robert Stancik, stated that he would get an inventory of our "stuff".

The President reported that AOM member, Bill Roberts, suggested the creation of a roster of Minemen who had been awarded combat related medals and ribbons in the past. It was further suggested that AOM Historian, Jim Cernick, employ his records and historical knowledge to assist in this project. Anyone who has information to add, please contact Jim at the address listed in the DASHPOT. Future plans for this project is to create a "Mineman Honor Roll" to be presented to the new Mine Warfare School for prominent display in the school. Scholarship Committee Chair, Bill 'Swede' Carlsen reported on the scholarship committee. Seventeen scholarships were awarded this year.

AOM Parliamentarian, Warren Savage, reported that it would be advantageous to have the AOM reunion in San Diego every other year due to the fact that 'MN Headquarters' is now located in San Diego.

Ron Swart reported on the progress of the new "Cecil Martin" mine warfare school building at Point Loma. He will contact ADM. Hoffmann to request he be the guest speaker at the building dedication.

Warren Savage reported on the banquet arrangements and the picnic/auction at the submarine base at Point Loma, and stated that MineRon Two was our sponsor for the picnic site.

The AOM Membership Chair, Derick Hartshorn, reported on the progress of the membership committee to contact and sign up new AOM members.

AOM Past-President, Toby Horn, suggested that we should create a list of people who have been awarded scholarships over the years. Curtis Christian will contact Toby and try to supply a list.

AOM BOD member, Gary Cleland, and Warren Savage were nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. No other nominations were forthcoming. The membership voted and the nominees were elected for the term of 2010 – 2012.

AOM member, John Loonam, reported on Past-President, Jack Smoot's, health, and the progress of the 2010 reunion arrangements in the Yorktown/Williamsburg area.

AOM member, Don Decrona, reported on the health of Honorary Mineman, CDR. Jorgen S.

Lorenzen, Royal Danish Navy, (Ret), whose home is in Denmark.

No further business was addressed and the President adjourned the meeting at 1621 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Christian
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN REPORT

Fellow Members,
This report represents the activities and a report of the Membership Chairman since the last report, in accordance with the By-laws, and will be presented at the Annual Meeting which shall include any revisions which might transpire from receipt of this communication until the formal meeting which shall be held on 15 October 2009.

Since 1 September 2009, I have sent over 500 invitations to Minemen who are members of TogetherWeServed, but have not yet joined AOM. As our calendar year runs from October to October, your Chairman felt that this was an appropriate time to issue the invitations. The letter of invitation read:

Dear Minemen compatriot,
As a mineman, I am writing this to remind all other minemen who served anytime, anywhere, in the US Navy Mine Force that there is an organization dedicated to keeping alive, the times, the places, the memories and the opportunities to enjoy fellowship with the men and women who served in this elite assemblage of dedicated service members.

The Association of Minemen (AOM) is the voice of minemen everywhere and serves to provide a home for those who thought they had lost contact with those they served with.

Our web site (<http://minemen.org>) provides the opportunity to join with the friends you thought you might never be in contact with again. This site contains everything you need to acquaint yourself with who we are. We have a high quality newsletter that is sent to members by mail and is published on-line. With 20-28 pages and hi-res photos, it has been rated as one of the best newsletters among all naval organizations.

I am the Membership Chairman for the AOM, which is the reason for this letter. You may not realize how close-knit this organization is until you attend one of our annual reunions. We had our 34th annual reunion in Charleston in October, 2008. During those few short days, we had the opportunity to meet some really great fellow minemen, some of whom I served with and others who came before me--some entering the Mine Force during WW II. Our 2009 reunion will be in San Diego this October.

Please consider this letter as an invitation to join the ranks of our Association. If you consider yourself a "Mineman," active duty, reserve, retired or former, sending in an application for membership will probably be the single most important action you will ever do if you want to maintain contact with this elite group you first volunteered to join. An application form can be found at: <http://minemen.org/member.htm>. I hope you will take this opportunity to join with us.

Best wishes,
Derick S. Hartshorn
Membership Chairman-AOM

In addition, I seek the recommendations of AOM officers and members for additional resources in which to invite current and former service members of the Mine Force to membership in the AOM.

Additional activities and communications that were made to agencies and entities outside of this organization as deemed appropriate, follow:

The Naval Minewarfare Association (<http://www.navalminewarfareassociation.com/>), appears to be a closely-related naval fraternal organization. Their membership focus is dedicated to mine sweeper sailors rather than those who form the nucleus of the AOM. I suggest that we communicate with them in order to further publicize the existence of AOM. Their members have a close relationship to us and present the opportunity to enrich our knowledge of a related history and participate in our common interests. Presently, their web site lists our old web address. I have asked their web master to change it to our current URL address, www.minemen.org .

As Membership Chairman, I recommend a closer association with the Mine Warfare Association with the expectation that a closer affiliation might offer the opportunity to share goals,

provide further information to our members and to enhance our membership. They enjoy significant mentions on the first four Google pages--we don't have a single mention. Their web site is <http://www.minwara.org/>

Our shipmates "across the pond" have an association much like our own. The Minewarfare Association (UK), a membership organization and would provide an ideal platform to publicize AOM. Some members of my 'A' School class in Yorktown (1956) included members of the Royal Navy. We have the opportunity to affiliate with them with an associated relationship. Their URL is <http://www.mwassociation.co.uk/>

GlobalSecurity.org (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/mine-ref.htm>) has been contacted to correct our web page link from the defunct site to the present site, www.minemen.org. I have just been notified that it has been changed.

The Society For Counter-Ordnance Technology seems to have become defunct. In an attempt to contact them to possibly form an affiliated relationship, I have not received any responses. Their mission statement noted that they "...invite all who are concerned with the technologies or practices involved in countering mines and unexploded ordnance..." Their web site, which has not been updated for several years, is: <http://www.demine.org/>

As a member of *Together We Served*, I will be sending out a letter of invitation to AOM members, announcing the existence of TWS. It was through TWS, that I first discovered AOM and joined in 2007. Anything that can serve to enlarge our membership base should be promoted--both by members and through the Dashpot.

As an honor to an individual who not only originated the AOM web page, but a loyal member of our organization and one who sought to welcome fellow minemen into to our fraternity, I would like to make a motion that we publicly honor Fred Dane for his accomplishments and dedication to making AOM the umbrella organization of untold hundreds of minemen who have honorably served in the U.S. Navy Mine Force. Without his initial step, we might be a disconnected collection of sailors without the fraternity we now enjoy with one another. To Fred Dane, we owe the origination of our Internet connection.

I respectfully recommend that our existing web

page membership lists be combined into a single list. Several folks whom I have contacted have noted that their names did not appear on the list where they expected to see it. As it turned out, in several cases, they were looking at a different list. A single list could identify members as Retired, Active, Reserve, Ex or Other. This might help determine whether those listed are active members or have allowed their membership to lapse.

Respectfully submitted,

Derick S. Hartshorn
Membership Chairman-AOM



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

by Swede Carlsen

The AOM Scholarship Fund was added to by the bidding at the 2009 AOM picnic auction and by our talented auctioneer 'Toby Horn'. The 2010 general scholarship fund stands at \$13,023.00 due to the picnic's auction and donations by the membership and friends of the AOM. There is \$19,590.10 in a credit union CD working for us and \$750 in the beneficial fund.

Each year we receive more applications for our scholarships so more donations are needed to support the presidential and general scholarship funds.

A scholarship stocking will be hung on the AOM fire place mantel at Christmas. Let's see if you Santas can fill it with donations to the two funds.

The scholarship committee wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

STAND TALL AMERICA!

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mark Twain

CHAPLAIN'S ANNUAL REUNION REPORT



Gentlemen and Gentlewomen,

This report represents the activities and a report of the Chaplain since the last report, in accordance with the By-laws, and will be presented at the Annual Meeting which shall include any revisions which might transpire from receipt of this communication until the formal meeting which shall be held on 15 October 2009.

As AOM Chaplain, I am humbled by my awesome responsibilities and serve as best as the Lord leads me to minister to the needs of our members.

Since our last meeting, in October 2008, our fraternity has suffered the loss of many members and their loved ones. As Chaplain, I have endeavored to offer solace to surviving family members through messages of condolence on behalf of our organization. Reports of the passing of fellow minemen and their loved ones have come from many sources and attempts have been made to learn of details that might provide fellow members with opportunities to console surviving family members. Often times, details have been incomplete and have necessitated extensive research. Nevertheless, your Chaplain has made every attempt to determine how best to recognize and honor our fallen compatriots and their loved ones. Cards of condolence and offers of support have been freely provided to surviving family members.

The loss of those who have passed and the date of their passing, as of 24 September 2009, are mentioned here:

- **James Michael (Mort) Moriarity MN3**, 24 Nov. 2008
- **Vernie Alene Jones**, wife of Don Jones, 6 March, 2009
- **Rosita Vitug Hartshorn**, wife of Charles L. Hartshorn, 5 April 2009
- **George Dewey Hogge, Jr.**, 10 April 2009
- **Eva Eleanor Yearwood McDonough**, wife of James F. McDonough, 16 April 2009
- **Kiyoko "Nami" Kamahara Muessig**, wife of John Edward Muessig, 21 April 2009
- **Charles Lesley Hartshorn**, 4 May 4 2009

- **Helen B. Segesser**, wife of Bill Segesser, 26 May 2009
- **Keiko Chipman**, wife of MNCS Gerald Chipman, 26 May 2009
- **Ann Horton**, wife of MNCS Paul Horton, 15 June 2009
- **Ann B. Cobis**, wife of Ray Cobis, 27 June 2009
- **Harold Keeran**, additional information to follow
- and those known but to God.

Those whose passing have been noted on TWS and not listed here will be presented at the 2009 Reunion and/or on the TAPS web page (<http://minemen.org/taps.htm>)

One of the responsibilities of the Chaplain is to: "Read the names of Association members, their families and friends who have passed away during the past year. At the annual dinner meeting cause a minute of silence in respect to their memory and a tribute to their service to our county." This is recognized as the "Bell Ceremony." I intend to be present at the 2009 Reunion and will be reading the names of those whose passing needs to be remembered and will be offering that moment of silence.

As Chaplain, one of my responsibilities includes, according to our Bylaws, to "conduct the opening prayer at the annual dinner meeting." Current government policies and procedures require all US Navy Chaplains to adhere to a non-denominational, secular approach to prayer. As the AOM Chaplain I feel that I am not under the same constraint. As a professing Christian, duly appointed by the President of the AOM to the position of Chaplain, I intend to offer the opening prayer in regard to my personal Christian beliefs. Those beliefs include giving honor to our Creator, Almighty God and to the author and finisher of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ. If this profession of personal faith might tend to offend any of the attendees to our reunion, I will step aside and allow our President or any of his appointees to give the invocation.

Respectfully submitted,

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain-AOM

*Those who deny freedom to others,
deserve it not for themselves.*



FROM THE WEBMASTER

PHIL DeCHENE

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

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09/24/09 - Troy J. Burrud MNCS; USCTROY6@sbcglobal.net

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11/04/09 - CDR Ronald E. Swart; swartre@comcast.net

10/27/09 - Daniel L. Lentz MNC USNR; dllentz@edg.net

10/27/09 - Ernest Hildreth MNCM; horseh1@windstream.net

10/25/09 - Don Gatewood MN1; dineh52@yahoo.com

10/09/09 - Alexander R. Higgins MNCM; al2662@msn.com

01/05/09 - Doug DeLong MN1; dougdelong152@gmail.com

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11/01/09 - Daniel Brouwer MN3; dbrouwer@aol.com

10/03/09 - Maria Sandoval; MN3; mariavsand@aim.com

09/04/09 - Leonard Peyton MN3; peytonle@yahoo.com



Chaplain's Notes

by Derick S. Hartshorn



Shipmates,

We are happy to report that Toby Horn has had a successful recovery from back surgery. He has asked me to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Wife Janie has been by his side and is probably the most important factor in his swift recovery. Hang in there, Toby and Janie!

In the meantime, we have another mineman who is about to undergo similar surgery. Judge George Preston, a recent attendee of the 2009 AOM Reunion in San Diego, is about to undergo similar back surgery on Dec. 15th. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as he experiences this invasive procedure. A note

of cheer may be sent to him at:
gpreston@cavecreek.org

Of particular interest to those who may have served at NAD Hawthorne during the early 50's, Don DeCrona has provided a valuable heritage of this duty station as well as the men who served there. Three pages of photos document the time of these "cactus minemen." Many thanks to Don for his contributions to mineman history. Please visit the site at: <http://www.hartshorn.us/Navy/navy-18.htm>

If anyone has any photos of mineman activities--any time, any place--please let me know. I want to help you share your memories with anyone who may have served with you--or with anyone with an interest with our Mine Force.



T
A
P
S



MN1 Edward Beavers, Sr.

MN1 Edward Clayton Beavers, Sr., US Navy, (Ret.), of Moncks Corner, SC, died Wednesday evening in a Charleston hospital.

His funeral was 3:00 PM Saturday afternoon, Sept. 26, 2009, in the CHAPEL OF DIAL-MURRAY FUNERAL HOME, MONCKS CORNER. Interment followed in Plantation Memorial Gardens with military honors.

MN1 Beavers was born Feb. 1, 1943, in Hampton, VA, a son of Ernest Clayton Beavers and Irene Woodcock Beavers. He was a Vietnam veteran, a former ordinance officer at the Charleston Naval Weapons Station, and a former security officer for DuPont. MN 1 Beavers attended Gethsemane Baptist Church, enjoyed cooking and crabbing, and loved playing with his grandchildren.

Surviving are, his wife, Tina Diver Beavers; a daughter, Joyce Brophy and her husband, James, of Moncks Corner; a son, Edward C. Beavers, Jr., and his wife, Lisa, of Moncks Corner; four sisters, Ruthie Pratt, Jean Lawrence, and Elsie Kostyol all of Hampton, VA, and June Howardton of Upper Lake, CA; two brothers, Thomas Beavers and Chris Beavers both of Hampton, VA; five grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to the cardiac care staff of Roper Hospital.

MNCS Robert T. Craig

I was recently contacted by George McDonell, Secretary, Fleet Reserve Assn., Harrisburg, PA Branch 106 of the passing of one of our comrades.

Robert T. Craig, MNCS, USN (Ret), passed away on 3 July 2009 after a six-month illness. He was 87 years of age and spent 24 years in the US Navy as a Mineman. He is survived by his wife, Patricia. FRA, Harrisburg Branch 106 conducted a two bell ceremony in honor of Chief Craig on 14 September 2009.

Expressions of condolence may be made to the Craig family at: 143 Rosy Hill Road, Lemont Furnace, PA 15456-1134, phone: 724 438-3863

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain-AOM

MSN Cooper Means, USN

The following was sent to me from AOM member, Maria Sandoval:
Coop died in October of 2002. He was proud to be a MN and he loved the Navy. He went to RTC sometime in August of 2001 and graduated 9 weeks later. I am not sure what Division he was in. After RTC, he was sent to Ingle-side, TX, where he went to MN "A" School. After school he was stationed at MOMAU 11 in Goose Creek, SC. That's where he died. His body was shipped to his hometown, which I think is somewhere in Kansas.

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain-AOM

MNCS Williams: Information Update

Fellow Leaders,

I have received many questions regarding the surviving family of a retired shipmate who passed last Friday night. Here are the facts as I know them to be and some things in process that Misawa Chiefs and others are doing to help.

MNCS Gregg Williams, USN Retired, served as the Senior Enlisted Leader of MOMAU-12 here in Misawa until his retirement in 2007. He was a proactive and robust member of the CPO Mess and was recognized by JANAF A in 2006 for his contributions to the Japan/American alliance. Gregg was a long time resident of Japan, spoke fluent Japanese, and although Gregg was divorced from his Japanese wife, he remained in the Misawa area to be near his now 14 year old son (Nick) and continue to be a part of his life. Gregg was working as a SOFA sponsored government contractor for the US Army at the Shuriki facility here in northern Japan. Gregg was involved in a single car accident, hitting a bridge abutment on a dark country road going home after spending a week in Misawa with his son. Gregg was pinned in the vehicle which caught fire and was completely burned. Cause of death is pending autopsy and remains are being identi-

fied through DNA testing sometime this week. Between USAF, USN and the Retired Affairs Office here in Misawa, we will figure out the who, what, and when of final arrangements for disposition of remains, funeral, etc... I have a good team getting started on figuring out what entitlements and assistance is available for his surviving son. The time-line for translating Japanese official documents (death certificate, police reports, etc..) and working them into the American system is unknown. In the interim, I am specifically requesting monetary assistance for this young man and his mother. Nicks' mother works as a cashier at Lawson's market and their income level is low to start with- now without child support, it is going to be more difficult.

Gregg had no other relatives and his 14 year old is the official next-of-kin. Nick is a good kid who was very close to his Dad and is now living the nightmare a lot of us have gone through in the sudden and unexpected death of his Dad. Add to that the worries over how to make proper arrangements and costs associated have both mother and son in a bad way.

I helped get Nick a black suit yesterday and it was one of the hardest things I have ever done both as a father and as a son of a deceased father. Nick attends the DODDS high school here on Misawa Air Base (20K tuition paid by his Dad) and is a good student and well liked by his classmates - he is taking this week off to be close to his mother. Nick still does not believe it was his Dad in the car; his grieving is just starting.

I know I am rambling in this and should get to the point but I want you all to 'know' Gregg and Nick as a Navy Chiefs' family albeit a retired family. Gregg did not opt for SBP for his son (we all know we are going to live a long time and SBP is not always a good financial option). I do not know what, if any, life insurance he carried following his retirement. I do know that Nick will eventually receive assistance through the Social Security Administration and perhaps other sources - I leave that up to the Retired and Decedent Affairs experts. For now, and the foreseeable future, he needs help.

The Misawa CPO Mess has established a fund specifically for Nick Williams under the title of "MNCS Williams Memorial Fund". This fund is run solely by the base approved and chartered private organization of "Misawa Chief Petty Officers' Association". Account is subject to audit and oversight by JAG and Supply Corps

officers. Our President and Treasurer will oversee all facets of donation accounting as supervised by me. Every dollar and yen donated will go to Nick in memory of his Dad from the Japan based Chiefs from the entire region. I ask that any donations be collected and total amount sent by check made out to "Misawa CPOA" with an annotation that this is for the "MNCS Williams Memorial Fund". Every envelope I receive will only be opened in the presence of all three persons responsible for the accounting. Command Mailing address (using MPS) is:

Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Air Facility, Misawa
Unit 5048
APO AP 96319-5000
ATTN: CMDCM Bond

James Zeigert

"James Zeigert, former Mineman and WWII veteran enlisted in December of 1942. He passed away on Wed. 21 October 2009. He was married to Elizabeth Wilcox on Dec. 31, 1942, and they had 4 children (James, Mary, Ellen, and Ann), they also had 8 grandchildren (Jill, Christopher, Laurie, Terry, Kristin, Tracy, Rachel, and Janel).

Preceding them in death was their lovin granddaughter Janel Margaret Spaeth. They also have 14 great grandchildren. James and Elizabeth originally settled in West Bend, WI, and later, retiring to Kewaskum WI. After his wife Elizabeth passed away, he moved to Oak Park Ill with his daughter Ellen. After suffering a series of strokes, he resided at a nursing home in LaGrange, Ill., where he passed away peacefully. He will be dearly missed by family and friends. It is nice to know that he has joined the love of his life!"

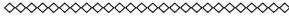
No obituaries appeared in the newspapers and the only person I have been in contact with has been his granddaughter, Rachel. She had a very close relationship with her grandfather and in speaking to her, I think a short email condolence would let her know that the memory of a fellow mineman is held dear by all members of the Association of Minemen. Her email is jgresk@wi.net

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain-AOM





Taps for others for whom we care...



David Hargrove.

David Wayne Hargrove, 47, of Southport passed away suddenly Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009. David was born July 6, 1962, in Norfolk, Va., to Tommy Hargrove, of Pace, Fla., and to the late Frances Clark Hargrove. He was a 1980 graduate of Woodham High School in Pensacola, Fla., and served his country in the U.S. Navy. He retired after 22 years (1983-2005) in the Navy and worked as a defense contractor for SAIC in Panama City Beach, Fla., from 2005 until the present. David was an avid golfer, a devoted husband, father and son. David is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 14 years, Susanne of Southport, Fla.; three sons, Erik Hargrove, Matthew Hargrove and Noah Hargrove, all of Southport, Fla.; a brother, Robert Hargrove and wife, Rachel of Navre, Mont.; and a sister, Kandice Kennerly of Monticello, Fla. A Celebration of David's Life will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, at Sand Hills Baptist Church, 6758 State 77, Chipley, Fla. David was a very compassionate and giving man who always thought of others before himself. He always was willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. He will be greatly missed.

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain-AOM



Lee M. Hunt

Lee M. Hunt, 83, died 8 October 2009 at the Mt. Vernon Hospital, Alexandria, VA of complications from diabetes and heart disease after a long illness.

Born and reared in Clio, AL, Lee served in minesweepers in the Pacific during World War II and again in Korea. He was involved in economic mining (for metals) briefly, and then joined the National Research Council (NRC) National Academy of Sciences in 1960.

During his initial years with the NRC, Lee supported the Committee on Undersea Warfare

and the Mine Advisory Committee until both were disbanded in 1974 to form, in part, the Naval Studies Board (NSB).

Lee served as the first Director of the NSB from 1974 until his retirement in 1995, where his interests included sea and land mine warfare and led to publication of some 70 NRC reports on mines and mine countermeasures. Since 1964, he was a proponent of measures to reduce the global accumulation of unexploded ordnance and, during his retirement, Lee served as vice president for academic affairs at the Mine Warfare Association, dedicated to raising awareness of mines and mine countermeasures.

Lee was a giant in the mine warfare community and more broadly, in the Navy R&D community. He will be sorely missed.

BINNACLE

LIST



Lana Hartshorn

Dear friends,

Some of you know but others don't; my wife Lana went in for triple by-pass surgery the week of 7 December 2009 and has recovered better than expected.

If she is able to return home Sunday or Monday, that will begin the first day of the rest of our lives.

For those who were aware of her heart condition and operation, thanks for your many prayers. For those who didn't know, prayers are requested for her swift recovery.

God bless you all and have a wonderful Christmas,



--Derick

**A NATION OF
SHEEP WILL BEGET
A GOVERNMENT OF
WOLVES.**

EDWARD R. MURROW



From the Labyrinth of the Historian

Howdy AOM and Hello MW. Winter is at our door and looks like we might get some snow for the 2nd time in over 100 years, once in 1894, and once in 2004. It finally rained in Texas, flooded even, yes; the bugs finally got a drink, folks came outside from the air conditioning to see what it was, many fainted, had to throw a bucket of sand in their face just to revive them all. With all the water, I actually had a couple of tomatoes growing for 2 days until the skeeters flew off with them, now they are building nests or kicking out birds it's so cold. All of the dogs are sporting their skeeter fur coats too, didn't hardly recognize mine, once in awhile a Chihuahua or Dachshund flies by, not much bigger than that though. All good in Texas.

Hope y'all had a great and Happy Thanksgiving, with no cold or flu or other deflagration, and I hope you have an even better Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GOD Bless all of our Troops and all of our Veterans.

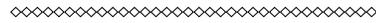
I picked up another NS Barrage history from 1919, two actually, one good, one bad. This history lists all of the men that participated in the sweeping and removal of the minefields, a dangerous job that got less attention than the planting of course. I don't believe they got a heroes welcome when they sailed back after the war, unlike the planters. Pretty rare volume, and published by the men themselves. I'll send in some good excerpts from it in next issue or so.

Congratulations to former MN Kecia Nason on a 1 year free membership, enjoy the newsletter and stay with us for years to come.

Enjoy the other half of the 1951 Collier's magazine article about the USS Osprey in Korea. If anyone desires the article in whole, just drop me a plummet, and I'll fast rope a pig out to you, or just grab me on the horn...errrr phone.

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 10 FREE 1-year memberships for ANY MN who just contact me at barkinpig@AOL.com , barkinpig@clearwire.net , or 361-775-1219. Until next time, take care, DTTAFSA, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, BPIG sends

NAVY TELLS SC MUSEUM TO REPAIR CARRIER OR JUNK IT.



Associated Press-October 21, 2009 7:35 AM ET

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (AP) - The U.S. Navy has told a South Carolina museum it needs to repair the aircraft carrier Yorktown or make plans to dispose of the rusting ship.

The Post and Courier of Charleston reported that the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant has gotten a letter about the World War II-era ship from the Department of the Navy.

Officials with the Patriots Point Development Authority estimate it would cost more than \$100 million to put the carrier in dry dock and repair it.

Authority executive director Dick Trammell says he doesn't want to dispose of the ship but doesn't have the money to fix it. Trammell says the repair estimate doesn't include money to do the dredging and other work to move the ship. He says the ship is not in danger of sinking. Information from: The Post and Courier, <http://www.postandcourier.com>



Editor's Corner

Long time no say much...not a characteristic of your editor, but a few observations come to mind. Back in the dawn of time, when I went to Mineman "A" school, the value of mines was well recognized and there were several mine types for several applications. Mines could be planted by surface vessels, aircraft and submarine. US mines were effective in all the oceans and seas except for the Marianas Trench and a few other deeps. Mine warfare was considered the force multiplier that would neutralize enemy combatants and strangle resupply until America could move enough machines, bombs, boots and bullets to take the fight to the enemy. I am not sure this is true anymore. It looks like the pendulum has swung the opposite way again and offensive mine warfare has become passe. If history repeats itself, as it often does, America may find that it has made a serious mistake limiting its offensive mine warfare capability. It makes no difference how stealthy the modern submarines have become, even the old mines would detect and kill them in deep water.

Men of the Mine Sweepers

“Where the fleet goes, we’ve been!”

By CHARLOTTE KNIGHT

Collier's War Correspondent

Collier's, November 10, 1951

Continued from Fall issue.

Rifle Fire Will Sink Mines

When these lines have been cut, the buoyancy chamber within the submerged contact mine brings it to the surface, where it bobs about until destroyed by mine sweep crews, usually by rifle fire. (It isn't necessary to hit the horns or explode the mine; filling the buoyancy chamber with rifle holes is sufficient to send the mine to the bottom, where it stays.)

In normal operations, one of the mine sweep ships acts as a “destruct” vessel—a special job which is rotated among the sweepers. Equipped with rifles and 20-mm guns, it “stooges around” the swept area and sinks the floating mines. Another ship draws “darning” duty, that of dropping dan-buoys at the end of each sweep so that the exact area cleared is plainly indicated.

Mine sweep ships operate in one of two kinds of formations: wide open, or “pig-to-pig” that is, several ships abreast, obviously covering a maximum area but exposing all of the ships to the same dangers; or the protected formation, which results in maximum safety for the ships but minimum sweeping cover. By using this latter technique, developed in World War 1, ships can proceed behind one another in a staggered formation so that all except the lead ship are protected by the sweep of the ship ahead. Obviously, this means some overlapping.

Time is the factor that determines the kind of operation a mine sweep commodore shall employ. “Naturally we can get the job done a lot faster with an open formation,” explained Commander Shouldice. “Generally, we're being rushed, and some-times we have to sacrifice the safety factor.”

By and large, mine-force officers feel that their problems were not made any easier—at least in the beginning—by the lack of understanding all too frequently encountered among the high command concerning the capabilities and limitations of the sweeper craft. From others I had heard how Shouldice had suddenly been called back to Tokyo some months ago to get his orders for a forthcoming landing operation. The admiral in charge of those particular plans briefed the mine officer.

“We figure you should be able to sweep the area in four hours,” he told Dusty, “so your ships will go in at H hour minus 4.”

The salty mine commander exploded. “Four hours!” he said. “My God, sir, it would take—at the absolute minimum—*six days* to sweep that area!” Dusty has been in the Navy for 24 of his 42 years, doing just about everything as he worked his way up from “swab hand” to lieutenant commander, and his practical approach to problems and plans is not how good they look on paper, but simply “Okay, but will they work?” His forthright speech does not especially endear him to his superiors; but his husky, unforgettable voice, emerging from a six-foot 200-pound frame, has a ring of authority which makes them listen. And they also know by now that when Dusty says he will do something, they don't have to worry about it any more.

On this occasion, the admiral blinked and caught his breath for a moment. Then he looked at the calendar. “Six days, um? Well, today is D day minus 6. Guess you'd better get started.” He called an aide. “Get Commander Shouldice to the airport as fast as you can. He is returning to Korea at once.” The job took exactly six days, working at top speed.

Orders From the Navy Brass

"We kept on getting orders: 'Sweep this area instantly!'" said one of the mine people, "when sometimes we wouldn't even know if the beaches were in friendly hands. We're small so that we can maneuver close to shore, but we're also slow. We'd ask the brass: 'What if the shore batteries start firing?' 'Very simple,' they'd say. 'Duck 'em. Take evasive action.' At eight knots? Good grief!"

Sweeping up enemy mines is unpleasant enough even when the beaches are "ours." Add to this the ever-present fire from enemy shore batteries and you have Wonsan exactly as it has been for the better part of a whole year, except for the comparatively short time when UN forces held that important North Korean port. Neither Dusty nor anyone else in the mine force here is likely to forget those first sweeps.

Captain Richard T. Spofford, of Malden, Massachusetts, then commanding Mine Squadron Three, the Far East's mine force, described the situation: "The mine field ran 30 miles to sea. Altogether, the enemy had mined at least 400 square miles. The first sweep ran into such heavy concentrations. I could see we would never get there. Everything was tried to clear the way. Planes dropped 1,000-pound bombs to set off the mines, but that was ineffective. Underwater demolition 'frogmen' went ashore to hunt mine-control cables, but had no success."

Lieutenant Edward P. Flynn, Jr., of Ozone Park, New York, skipper of the Incredible, told me what happened on October 12, 1950:

"It was the third day of our Wonsan sweeping operation. We were determined to get our noses in. By about 10:00 A.M. we had got in between Rei-to and Kodo-to, a couple of the islands that guard the approaches. The Pirate, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Bruce Hyatt, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, the OTC (officer in tactical command), was lead ship; the Pledge (whose skipper was Lieutenant Richard O. Young, of Inverness, Florida) was second in the formation; the Incredible followed. The Kite and the Redhead were darning. Commander Hyatt said he was going to get in as far as he could. He was getting sonar 'pips' and echoes all over the place so he knew he had a good field.

"At 1154, the Pirate cut six moored mines with her gear," he continued. "Three or four minutes later, the Pledge cut three, and the Incredible cut four. And then, suddenly, the Pirate got hit in the starboard quarter. She foundered awfully fast, thrashed from side to side and sank in three minutes. Six men were lost and there were a lot of wounded.

Then the formation really started having trouble. The shore batteries opened up from Sin-do and Rei-to with their 75-millimeters," Flynn went on. "They had an angle on the ends of two islands and therefore had us bracketed pretty closely. The Pledge took Sin-do under fire with her three-inch gun and the Incredible took Rei-to. The Endicott (our fire-support vessel) stayed outside the mine line and opened up with her five-inch guns, but still couldn't silence the island batteries. (We called for air and, 45 minutes later, our planes knocked them out.)

"After the Pirate sank, the Pledge's skipper, Lieutenant Young, said: 'We'd better turn around and get out of here.'" He turned left about 15 degrees and I turned right. Then the Pledge hit a mine under the ship's wardroom just about the same time a shell hit it in the CIC (Combat Information Center) and killed a radar man. Young had broken his leg, but he kept hobbling about inspecting the ship and her men. The vessel stayed afloat about 45 minutes and then sank."

Lieutenant Young's official report says in part: "The starboard side of the hull, just forward of the superstructure, was rent from below the waterline to the topside. The deck was sheared from gunwale to gunwale. It was evident that damage throughout the ship was of such a nature as to prevent saving her from sinking. The silence that reigned throughout the ship indicated that casualties were very heavy. I therefore gave the order to abandon ship."

To be concluded in the Spring issue.

MEMBERSHIP MEDITATIONS

Shipmates,

The 2009 Association of Minemen Reunion in San Diego is now history. It may well have been the best reunion ever, since our founding, 35 years ago. Many friendships were renewed and new ones established. A great time was experienced and the time passed much too quickly.

As you are probably aware, the decision has been made to re-deploy Mine Warfare units from Charleston, SC and Ingleside, TX to San Diego. For that reason, San Diego has taken on a greater strategic presence for the Mine Force and ASW.

In keeping with the increased concentration of Mine Force resources in San Diego, the AOM Board of Directors voted to hold the 2011 AOM Reunion there. While this will take place two years hence, your board continues to make plans for the growth, activities and the continued service of the AOM. Plans on specifics are yet to be formulated for the reunion but the accommodations and activities will not be disappointing.

The AOM is not just a fraternal organization for reunions of older Mine Force members. The AOM has focused its policy on recruiting members from the ranks of the active duty Mine Force and reservists, without regard to sex or length of service and all those who have ever had any affiliation with the U.S. Navy Mine Force.

The 2010 AOM Reunion will be held in the Yorktown, VA area. This represents a "Come Home to Yorktown" event. A great many of our mine community attended "A" school in Yorktown and many others were stationed at the Mine Depot and the NWS there. Therefore, the significance of this get-together is nothing short of epic. Plans are being made by reunion host, LT Edwin Oyer, USN (Ret.) for this great get-together. Further details will be provided for accommodations in the Williamsburg/ Yorktown area.

If you have been a dues-paying member of AOM and have not yet attended an AOM reunion, I strongly encourage you to make plans to attend this one. Among the many naval ship and unit organizations, the Association of Minemen is unique. Long ago, we formed a bond with fellow minemen and their families, one that we honor until we are separated by death. In addition to gathering at annual reunions, the focus of AOM is to provide college scholarships without restriction.

I have erected a personal web page that documents the activities we experienced during this year's 2009 reunion. Please see: <http://www.hartshorn.us/Navy/Reunion-2009.htm>

With constantly changing mailing lists, I have difficulty determining whether my e-mails are being sent to AOM members or non-member minemen. If you are not an AOM member, I strongly encourage you to join our organization and use the membership form at <http://minemen.org/member.htm> to become one of us.

If you are already a member, I know that you have already experienced the fellowship we provide. We all look forward to seeing you in Yorktown in 2010. Further details will be forthcoming.

Warm personal wishes,

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain and Membership Chairman--AOM

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



Mine Warfare at NMAWC San Diego

By **MNC(SW) Jacob Mazurek**

Mine Warfare has a new Center of Excellence in San Diego, CA. With the closing of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command (NMAWC) Corpus Christi at the end of August, all duties previously assigned to that command now reside in the offices of NMAWC San Diego.

NMAWC San Diego is currently rebuilding its personnel base to better support the Navy's MIW mission. As with the rest of the Mine Warfare Community, the full transfer of responsibilities between commands did not come with an associated transfer of a full complement of NMAWC personnel. We are building up our Mine Warfare manning steadily and remodeling our building. Thanks to the never-ending efforts of our Mineman Detailer, MNCS(SW/AW) Chad Payne, we should be fully manned sometime by next summer.

Operationally, NMAWC MIW personnel recently supported exercises and unit MSO-R certifications in South Korea, Bahrain, Okinawa, and Norfolk. We are pushing forward with developing MIW training software for squadron staffs, and hope to have NKO populated with this training in the next couple of months. Additionally, we are working with MCMCLASSRON, ATG and NSWC PANAMA CITY to review and update training requirements and several tactical publications.

Finally, we would like to welcome our newest member, MNM(SW/SS) Kurt Stauff, who we received from the former MOMAU Eleven in October.



COMOMAG SAN DIEGO CA

Happy Holidays from COMOMAG! There have been a lot of new changes in the Mine Warfare community recently. COMOMAG is the only MIW command still remaining in south Texas for now, but that will change soon. We have received our Homeport Change Certificate and will relocate to San Diego, Ca. by 30 Jun 2010 as a result of BRAC 2005. Our new home will be on the first deck of building 1 at the Naval Mine and Antisubmarine Warfare Center (NMAWC) located in Point Loma, formerly known as FLEASWTRACENPAC (Fleet ASW). MOMAU's 8, 10, 11, and 12 have all disestablished and consolidated with their collocated NMC Detachments at each location. COMOMAG still maintains operational oversight of all the new NMC Units in executing our mining and exercise support missions.

COMOMAG would also like to announce some changes in our bag of weapons. First, demilitarization is complete and the MK 56 mine has been officially removed from the U.S. Navy weapons arsenal. With one complete another begins with the start of the MK 67 mine demilitarization process which is scheduled to be completed in 2012. This will leave us with the MK 62, 63, and 65 mines from the Quickstrike family to conduct our mining mission. All the other mines the old timers remember are still used in our exercise and training program (MET) to support mining and mine countermeasures training world-wide.

Congratulations are in order for MNM(SW) Childers for re-enlisting for another five years and YN2 Heitschmidt for four years.

Fair winds and following seas are wished for MNM(SS/SW) Jeff Stork who retires 31 Jan 2010 after 20 years of honorable service. We sent him ashore on terminal leave with a traditional ceremony held aboard the USS LEXINGTON museum on Corpus Christi Bay on 20 Nov. Texas State Representative Todd Hunter was in attendance and even made a special presenta-

tion of a national ensign flown over the state capitol.



MNC(SS/SW) Jeff Stork



MNC Stork piped ashore.

Fair winds and following seas also go out to MNCS(SW) Ron Johnson as he transfers to the Fleet Reserve on 31 Dec 2009. Senior Chief Johnson was only with COMOMAG briefly after NMAWC Corpus Christi departed for San Diego and prior to commencing his terminal leave.

Reenlistment:

MNCM(SW) Randall Childers
YN2(SW) Karl Heitschmidt

SOQ for 3rd Quarter:

MN1(SW) Kirk Myers

Hail:

MNC(SW) Rob Acox from MCM CREW BULWARK
LTJG Ronald Thompson from ECRC FWD San Diego (Afghanistan)

Farewell:

LT Emma Mathis to USS UNDERWOOD (FFG-36)
LSCS(SW/AW) Peter Nwosu (GSA duty in Kuwait)

Retirement:

MNC(SW/SS) Jeffery Stork (31 Jan 2010)
MNCS(SW) Ronald Johnson (31 Dec 2009)



MNCM(SW) Randall Childers ships for six.



YN2(SW) Karl Heitschmidt ships for four.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



COMOMAG Staff



**MOMAU ONE
SEAL BEACH, CA**

by MNSN Shimonek

Greetings from MOMAU ONE in sunny Seal Beach, California:

I hope this finds everyone well as we near the holiday season. We wish everyone a safe and healthy quarter. We have completed the BRAC relocation of MOMAU 15 to Seal Beach, California. It's been a busy few months. On top of the move, we also had a chance to participate in our first volunteer event as a dual command. On Saturday, November 7th, the command participated in a Veteran's Day parade thanking all those who have served and those who continue to serve.

The command has been hard at work this quarter with Vulcanex 10-2, sending nine VEMS and a two person Mine Assembly Team (MAT) to Virginia to complete the mission. Recently, we sent two of our sailors to China Lake, CA to participate in P8A testing. This was a unique

opportunity for our Sailors to help in the development properties of weight and mass of our Quickstrike mines.



Combined Units 1 and 15 take part in the San Diego Veteran's Day Parade

Some of our Sailors had big personal and career changes. We held a re-enlistment for LS1(SW/AW) Hood on home plate at Angels stadium. Congratulations on your decision to re-enlist and we look forward to working with you in the future! We will be expecting the newest little member of our command in May; congratulations to MNSN Watson and her husband on their first pregnancy. We said farewell to MN1(SW) Merry who will continue service on LCS 1 in San Diego. Also, we said farewell to LS1(SW) Hood, who is continuing service at SPECWARGRU 1 San Diego. We wish them the best of luck. Congratulations to our Sailor of the Quarter, IT2(SW) Cody, and to MN3 McKelvin on his selection as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.



LS1(SW/AW) Hood reenlisting on home plate at Angels stadium.

Farewell for now, from MOMAU 1 and 15.

NMC EAD MINE DIVISION KADENA, JAPAN

by MN1 Frank Waller

This first quarter of fiscal year 2010 has seen some major changes for those of us at the Mine shop in Kadena. Most notably being the change in our name and the addition of our brothers and sisters from NMC EAD Det Okinawa. With the additions, are new command name has become Naval Munitions Command East Asia Division Unit Okinawa. The combination of the skills and resources of both shops now joined together will aide in our continued ability to carry out our mission on time and on target!

Next we'll go through our shop's hails and farewells. Our arrivals are MNSN Huron and MNSA Horning, both reporting from MN "A" school and we said farewell to MNC(SW) Greene who transferred to MCM CREW CONFLICT onboard USS CHIEF (MCM 14) in San Diego, CA.



This quarter we sent out one of our MAT teams in support of CLEAR HORIZON 09 in Korea. The team worked hard and received rave reviews. Job well done!

Back at the shop, Unit Okinawa has been busy preparing for this years upcoming MRCI and ESI as well as preparing for our upcoming exercises COBRA GOLD and FOAL EAGLE.

Finally, we wish all a safe and festive holiday season and look forward to hearing from everyone in the coming year.

NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND UNIT CHARLESTON GOOSE CREEK, SC

by MNCS Shawn B Barker

Holiday Greetings from the finest multipurpose Navy Munitions and Mine Shop in the world! The times have changed dramatically for us over the last few months and will continue throughout the coming New Year. Mobile Mine Assembly Unit ELEVEN (MOMAU 11) has gone through a near complete overhaul. After completing several Exercise and Training Missions this Summer we began our consolidation with Navy Munitions Command CONUS East Detachment Charleston (NMC CED) in early Fall.

MOMAU ELEVEN and Navy Munitions Command merger.

The consolidation with NMC CED began with our Change of Command on September 17th, 2009. LCDR Marc Goode turned over command of MOMAU 11 to CDR Timothy French during a ceremony held in BLDG 274, formerly MOMAU 11's main production facility. The ceremony was attended by over 120 family, distinguished guests and crew.

On October 1st, 2009 the merger was officially complete and MOMAU 11 was disestablished and successfully integrated with NMC creating Navy Munitions Command Unit Charleston (N00193). This merger combined MOMAU 11's superb Service Mine maintenance and Exercise and Training Mine refurbishment processes with NMC's superior shipping, tracking and storage of Navy, Marine Corp and Army Munitions. Additionally we welcomed the Marine Corps Liaison Office, MARCORSYSCOM crew supporting our brothers and sisters in Marine operations IN-CONUS and abroad.



Navy Munitions Command Unit Charleston

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

NMC Unit Charleston was fortunate enough to have one of its crew selected for Chief Petty Officer, MNC(SW/AW) John Davis. This honor rallied the CPOA into a frenzy of community support which included several Habitat for Humanity projects. Our support was evident to the community and praised in several local newspaper articles. NMC Unit Charleston also continues to support its Adopt a Highway program with litter and debris removal along Red Bank Road.

KUDO's to the NUC's

Continued gratitude is in order for the support provided by all NNPTC students. With Navy wide manning issues continuing to plague our community, the support of these students is vital in our continued mission success. The students perform in all aspects of work that our strict safety criteria will allow. Thank you again for your past, present and continuing support.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Bravo Zulu and congratulations to the following Sailors:

ADVANCEMENT

MNC(SW/AW) John Davis

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MN1(SW) Paul Antos
 MN1(SW) Eric Gummersheimer
 MN1(SW) Hugh Mitchell
 MN1(SS) Lance Thomas

MN2(SW) William Holbrook
 MN2 Dennis Landman
 MN2(SW) Robert Lichford
 MN2(SW) Justin Tassej
 MNSN Beau Temple
 YN2(SW/AW) Keyosha Wilson

Senior Sailor of the Quarter: MN1(SW) Hugh Mitchell

Junior Sailor of the Quarter: MN2 Dennis Landman

Blue Jacket of the Quarter: IT3 Deshantré Key

DEPARTURES

MN1(SW) Eric Zenero
 IT1(SW) Vonetta Ellison
 MN2(SW) Bradley Corson
 MN3 Gilbert Priest

ARRIVALS

CWO4 Luigi Federici
 MNC(SW/AW) John Davis
 MN1(SW/SS) James Morgan
 MN1(SW) John Sisson
 MN2(SW) Michael Lynch
 MN2 Brandon Adams
 MN2(SW) Devin Smith
 MN2(SW) Adrian Cortez
 MN2(SW) Christopher Evans
 MN2 Stephen Bancroft
 MN3 Matthew Hamm
 MN3 Robin Taylor
 MN3 Matthew Schumacher
 MN3 Luke Hatton
 YNSN Brent Jarvis
 MNSN Christopher Gonzalesbouton



HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FOURTEEN

by **MN3 Ruble, Courtney**

Greetings from the World Famous Vanguard! HM-14 houses the largest helicopter in the Navy, the mighty Sea Dragon (MH-53E). Here you can find some of the most motivated crew members in the Navy, including our favorite, the Minemen! We provide the tactical support required to carry out the AMCM mission and keep our pilots on their toes. Here are some of the missions we have helped carry out over the past quarter:

Tactics Continuum

This year's Tactics Continuum in Panama City, Florida, had a great turn out from both the military and civilian side of the AMCM house. AWS1 Miller, MN2 Brown, AWS2 Marti, MN3 Ruble, and MN3 Wagoner were the representatives for the Tactics team at Homeguard. The class proved to be an important asset for the up and coming VULCANEX exercise, which immediately followed. AWS2 Marti showed the MEDAL world his dedication to learning more about the Mine Warfare Community by jumping head on into the system and running the program. He was noted for his motivation and is now enrolled in the new schoolhouse in San Diego, CA for further MEDAL training. MN2 Brown proved his expertise during the class by providing in depth MEDAL (Mine-Warfare Environmental Decisions Aid Library) training to both Minemen and Aircrewmembers alike.



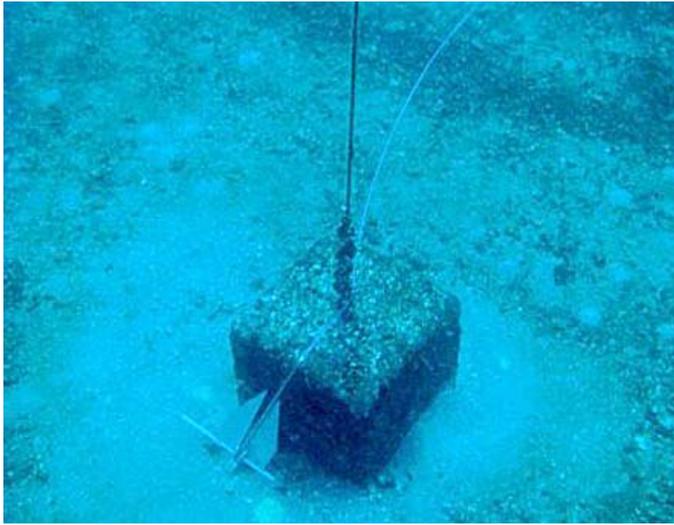
MH-53E about to be pulled to the flight line for Pre-Flights.

VULCANEX 10-1

Thanks to Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida for supporting the VULCANEX 10-1 from October 14 through October 23. HM-14 performed exceptionally well, impressing HARP (Helicopter Assessment Readiness and Preparedness) with their ability to perform at the highest level and maintaining that performance throughout the entirety of the operation. The Tactics team (MNCS Standley, MN1 Stevens, MN1 Denson, MN2 Brown, MN3 Wagoner, and MN3 Ruble) proved their worth during this exercise. They pulled one shift, averaging out 18 hours a day, maintaining the professionalism that is befit a Minemen. The new additions to the team not only performed well, but also gained an exceptional amount of knowledge to the MEDAL, the PMA (Post Mission Analysis) process, and Q-24 tactical specifics. Our newest member, MN3 Ruble, was awarded HM-14's CO's coin for her steadfast dedication to the job. EOD also contributed to the exercise, going out and checking the coordinates that Tactics provided to them; at one point the Lat and Longs were so precise that EOD actually dropped anchor on one of the Mk 6's anchor, which was found and located with the data retrieved from a HVSS (High-resolution Volume Search Sonar) mission. The HSLS (High-resolution Side Look Sonar) images came in beautifully, and the LLS (Laser Line Scan) images were crystal clear. Many thanks to the crew for their motivation and contributions to the exercise!



Tactics team.



EOD mine.



DET Support:

MN2 Willems, Anthony – S. Korea

Welcome Back:

MNCS Kulisek, Pamela – S. Korea

AWS2 Carney, Sean – S. Korea, Australia

MN3 Wagoner, Christopher – S. Korea

Welcome Aboard:

MN3 Ruble, Courtney – MOMAU Eleven

Awards:

MNCS Kulisek, Pamela – Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist

MN1 Jackson, Mary – Letter of Commendation for support to MOMAU Eleven

MN1 Stevens, Sheree – Letter of Commendation for support to MOMAU Eleven

AWS2 Marti, Joshua – Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal

MN3 Perdue, Jeremy – Letter of Commendation for support to MOMAU Eleven

Congratulations:

MN2 Morales, Raymar – New addition to the family, Ty Morales.



Flight coming in for landing.



The Morales family's new arrival.

Crew Updates

Fair winds and following seas to:

AWS2 Anderson, Benjamin- Airborne Mine Countermeasures Weapon Systems Training School

MN2 Morales, Raymar – Iraq

MN1 Stevens, Sheree – Transient Personnel Unit



I share the beliefs that you cannot have peace without victory, war is sometimes necessary and necessarily brutal, try to kill them all so there won't be problems later and America has never been attacked when it was strong. No one spits in the face of a man armed, capable and willing to shoot him.

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