



THE DASHPOT



Issue 81 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Fall 2013



FROM THE PRESIDENT Gary Cleland

Greetings from San Diego, The center of the US Navy's mine world.

WOW! I just returned from our 39th annual reunion held at Whidbey Island, WA. We all must tip our hats to and send our heart felt thanks to Toby Horn for putting together one heck of a reunion. For me personally, it was my first visit to that part of the US. I have always heard it is beautiful in the Seattle/Puget Sound area. It is one of those things that have to be experienced to understand. The natural beauty combined with the excellent San Diego weather (just a touch of rain) I brought with me made for an indescribable experience.

In addition to Toby planning an excellent gathering he was the MC and Keynote speaker. Toby delivered a reminiscent and captivating talk honoring the accomplishments of our Mine Force, past and present. Thanks again Toby.

I had the pleasure of announcing the Selectees for our AOM sponsored MOY (Minemen of the Year) award. They are as follows:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Continued on page 4

Board of Directors	2	Letter to the Membership	15
From the Web Master	3	From the Editor	16
Secretary/AOM Minutes	6	Taps	17
40th Annual Reunion	8	NMAWC COC Ceremony	18
Active Duty Article	9	Naval History	23
Scholarship Committee	11	Memberhip Application	Back page

PRESIDENT
GARY CLELAND (11-14)
12201 SUNRISE CT
POWAY, CA 92064-2865
858-748-3835
GUNNERCLE@AOL.COM

VICE PRESIDENT
TRACEY HAYS (11-14)
114 HIDDEN PALMS BLVD
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29485
860-559-9724
GODSAVETHEQUEENAPRO8@YAHOO.COM

SECRETARY/TREASURER
MICHAEL FEMRITE (11-MORTE)
PO BOX 510519
PUNTA GORDA, FL
850-207-9831
MIKE_MNCM@YAHOO.COM

PAST PRESIDENT
WARREN SAVAGE
10331 SETTLE ROAD
SANTEE, CA 92071
619-258-1478
CHIEFSKIP@AOL.COM

PARLIAMENTARIAN
WARREN SAVAGE
10331 SETTLE RD.
SANTEE, CA 92071
619-258-1478
CHIEFSKIP@AOL.COM

CHAPLAIN
ROBERT HART (12-13)
1237 PATRICK HWY
HARTSVILLE, SC 29559-0882
MNCRNH@ROADRUNNER.COM

HISTORIAN
JIM CERNICK
2305 WESTLAKE CIRCLE S.
INGLESIDE, TX 78362
361-22-3292
BARKINPIG@AOL.COM

2014 REUNION COMMITTEE
RICHARD "DICK" SCHOMMER
827 N. AYLESBURY DRIVE
GOOSE CREEK, SC 29445
843-797-3715
RSCHOMMER@BELLSOUTH.NET

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Chair)
RONALD GLASEN (12-MORTE)
1114 FRAN LIN PKWY.
MUNSTER, IN 46321
219-838-6425
SEARCHCOIL@HOTMAIL.COM

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.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (Chair)
DERICK S. HARTSHORN (08-MORTE)
1204 4TH STREET DRIVE, SE
CONOVER, NC 28613-1827
828-464-4981
DERICKH@CHARTER.NET

YORKTOWN MUSEUM
POSITION VACANT

AOM STOREKEEPER
TRACEY HAYS (11-14)
114 HIDDEN PALMS BLVD
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29485
860-559-9724
GODSAVETHEQUEENAPRO8@YAHOO.COM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DANNY EPPERLY (12-14)
123 YORKSHIRE DR.
YORKTOWN, VA 23693
757-870-1376
DEPPERLY1@VERIZON.NET

EDDIE ATKINS (12-14)
117 QUART MEETING HOUSE RD.
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188-1851
757-565-3333
WEATKINS@COX.NET

PHILIP DeCHENE (13-15)
1827 BROADWAY DR.
GRAHAM, NC 27253
336-229-1951
PDECHENE@TRIAD.RR.COM

WARREN SAVAGE (13-15)
10331 SETTLE RD.
SANTEE, CA 92071
619-258-1478
CHIEFSKIP@AOL.COM

TOM HOFFMAN (13-15)
2266 EAST HURD RD.
MONROE, MI 48162
734-289-2279
MDAU0302@SBCGLOBAL.NET

G. PAUL SANTA MARIA (13-15)
228 KIWI DRIVE
BAREFOOT BAY, FL 32976
772-664-7540
GPAULSM@JUNO.COM

DASHPOT EDITOR
DON HEALER
5434 40TH AVE N
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33709
727-526-4109
DASHPOT1974@TAMPABAY.RR.COM

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
(WEB PAGE & NEWSLETTER)
DERICK S. HARTSHORN (08-MORTE)
1204 4TH STREET DRIVE, SE
CONOVER, NC 28613-1827
828-464-4981
DERICKH@CHARTER.NET

AOM HOMEPAGE
[HTTP://MINEMEN.ORG](http://minemen.org)



FROM THE WEBMASTER

When Phil DeChene turned over the web page to me, I never thought that I would be dealing with so many personalities. We have had 16 new members join AOM since the last Dashpot.

Their names will appear on the appropriate e-mail lists but, until I can sort out their status, here they are:

- Philip W. Adams, MNC (Ret), frog971@comcast.com
- Harold Benton, MNMCM (Ret), sbret@excite.com
- Robert K. Clubb, MNC (Ret), robertkclubb@hotmail.com (attended the reunion with his lovely wife)
- Richard 'Dick' Cox, dickcox@aol.com
- Terry Dunne, MN1 (Ret), tcdvad99@comcast.net
- Michael Gonzales, mgonz76901@yahoo.com (Mineman of the Year, 2002-03, a remarkable writer-see his contributions in this Dashpot)
- Sandra Kent, LCDR (Ret), tlkent@mindspring.com (high fives to Laura for her accomplishments)
- Donald Kiper, MNMCM (Ret), donniekiper@yahoo.com
- Daniel Lentz, MNC (Ret), dllentzmnc@gmail.com
- Sherman B. MacCready, MN3, sherman@jcsvc.com (one of many MN3s who continue to have pride in their Mine Force service.)
- Victor E. Martin, mn.vicmartin@gmail.com (talented artist who donated a marvelous art work to AOM for the scholarship auction)
- Branden Nohrenberg, MN1 (Ret), nohrenberg11@yahoo.com
- Linda Phillips, lindaphil762@gmail.com
- Dale Smith, LCDR (Ret) diedrich9@hotmail.com

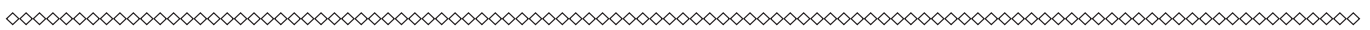
Please take a moment and send an e-mail to these new AOM members and welcome them to the Navy's most prestigious organization.

With no known e-mail address, we welcome the following folks to AOM:

- Joe A. Oszvart, LCDR (Ret)
- Robert K. Bainbridge, MNCM (Ret)

I continue to seek material for the AOM web page. If you have stories, pictures, accounts of your service in the Mine Force, please send them to me.

Derick S. Hartshorn



FROM THE PRESIDENT PAGE 1

Active Duty (Sea) – MN1 (SW) David J Rojas of MCM crew Constant

Active Duty (Shore) – MN1 (SW) Rebecca D Cross of Mine Warfare Training Center

Reserve – MN1 Corie E Brice of Naval Reserve Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 3.

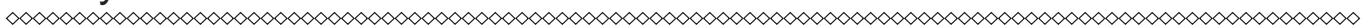
Their biography's are attached. Pictures of the MOY certificate and plaque presentations will be published in the next Dashpot.

I will refer to Mike Femrite's input as to the BOD elections and other business of the Membership as well as our Scholarship Chairman Ron Glasen.

Early in April 2013, I was contacted by the Mine Warfare Training Center Chief's Mess and asked to make an "Honorary Mineman" presentation to the outgoing MWTC Commanding Officer CDR Mark Scorgie at his change of command. CDR Scorgie was our guest speaker at the 2011 reunion in San Diego. Attached on the next page is a copy of that proclamation.

Gary Cleland.

MOY bio's continued on page 20



THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN BESTOWING
THE TITLE OF

HONORARY

 **MINEMAN** 

UPON

COMMANDER MARK A. SCORGIE

UNITED STATES NAVY

FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF MINE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, SAN DIEGO. YOUR LEADERSHIP, VISION AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE LED TO THE SUCCESSFUL TRAINING OF MORE THAN 700 MINE WARFARE SAILORS. UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF THE FLEET, YOU MADE COUNTLESS IMPROVEMENTS TO MINEMAN ACCESSION TRAINING PROGRAMS AND INITIATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MUCH NEEDED STAFF OFFICER PLANNING COURSE. A DEDICATED MINE WARFARE EXPERT AND ADVOCATE FOR MINEMEN AROUND THE WORLD, YOU ARE MOST DESERVING OF THIS HONOR. YOU REPRESENT ALL MINEMEN, PAST AND PRESENT WITH HONOR AND PRIDE! IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR RANKS.

HOOYAH MINEMEN!

BESTOWED THIS DATE, 26 APRIL 2013

GARY L CLELAND, CWO4 USNR RET.
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

New positions on the board are MNCM Tracey Hays is our new Store Keeper.

Don Healer is our new Dashpot Editor.

The name membership committee will be changed to communications coordinator, which will be headed by Derick Hartshorn. Derick is the Webmaster with assistance from Phil DeChene. Members in the arrears will receive notification from Derick.

New BOD: Tom Hoffman remains on the board, approved by membership.

Paul Santa Maria replaces Robert Oltman, approved by membership.

Bob Hart relieved Derick Hartshorn as Chaplain, approved by membership. MNCM Tracey Hays has taken the lead on the AOM Memorial Plaque for Washington DC Memorial.

This year Bob Bainbridge and Leo Smith were awarded the COCC Award. Dick Schommer is becoming low on Clock Cocker Keys. If anyone has a small stock pile, he would like to get some from you. Please let him know.

The Oldest AOM member at the reunion was Freid Reed, and the person who traveled the furthest was Ross Maddocks.

This year's winners of the Association of Minemen Award are:

Shore: MN1(SW) Rebecca D. Cross (Mine Warfare Training Center).

Sea: MN1(SW) David J. Rojas (MCM Crew Constant).

Reserve: MN1 Corie E. Brice (Naval Reserve Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 3).

Discussion on how the awards are delivered to the recipients. A Letter will be sent to the Command with the Award to be awarded to the Recipients.

Dercik Hartshore stated that Constant Contact is not replacing the Dashpot. It is used to keep members up to date on news as it happens.

MIW 1 GOLD PAVING THE WAY AHEAD

BY AG1 NATHANIEL HARRIS, DET 2



The past year has seen many changes in the MCM World as it relates to the LCS MCM Detachments mission at sea. First and foremost, is the integration of miw 1 gold with crew 201 onboard uss independence (lcs 2). Having become a department on the ship, The Detachment has taken on new and exciting roles through this integration phase, sharing collateral duties, maintenance and watch standing duties both on and off hull. The integration has also become a part of the off hull cycle to train both crew 201 and The Detachment. miw 1 gold assisted uss independence (lcs 2) through PSA One before our off hull this year and after returning onboard, The Detachment completed Developmental Testing Phase 4 with the software and system engineers that drive the Remote Minehunting System (RMS) development and process improvements as we push forward and carve out the future of the Navy's Mine Warfare Community. This testing event saw many benchmarks in the RMS Program including the longest recorded autonomous vehicle mission to date with Remote Multi Mission Vehicle 8 staying on task for more than 23 hours without any major loss of comms or mechanical failures of any kind.



This year The Detachment also said “Fair Winds and Following Seas” to both a Leader and a true Shipmate as we had the Honor and Privilege of planning and carrying out the retirement ceremony for MNC(SW) Abel Gonzales after 21 years of Active Duty Service. He will be missed but never forgotten for his Leadership, Mentorship and Friendship, as he begins the next phase of his life. MNC (RET) Abel Gonzales, we wish you all the best in everything you do.

“There are, broadly speaking, two kinds of workers in the world, the people who do all the work, and the people who think they do all the work. The latter class is generally the busiest, the former never have time to be busy” ~ Stella Benson ~

Association of Minemen Scholarship Committee

CONTRIBUTED BY RONALD GLASEN



Your 2013 Scholarship Committee has approved 9 Scholarship Awards. Each Award is worth \$750, for a total of \$6,750 awarded this year.

Our association really enjoys giving out these scholarship awards, but the money in our scholarship fund is not without limits. The Fund this year was smaller than last year and consequently our scholarship awards reflected this dilemma. All of our applicants just graduated high school or are already in college. Either way, some of our applicants don't seem to be able to follow instructions completing the scholarship application form. This seemingly indifference to the rules and instructions when filling out the application, and the shortage of scholarship funds, was taken into consideration by your committee when making our decisions for this year's scholarship awards.

This year we had 15 applications sent in. 6 Applications were rejected because they were incomplete. Of the 9 accepted applications, 5 were repeat award winners, and 4 were new applicants. 8 are undergraduate students, and 1 is a postgraduate student.

Since 1996 the AOM has awarded 189 scholarship awards totaling \$122,900. The committee of Curtis Christian, Robert Stancik, and myself Ronald Glasen want to thank you for your past support, and ask you to please continue to support the Scholarship Program with your generous donations, so we may continue the proud tradition of the AOM Scholarship Awards Program.

In the future, the rules for completing an application must be strictly adhered to as they were written. These rules are published on the AOM Web Page.

all four application pages are required to be fully completed to qualify for

the scholarship award program.

All applications must be submitted to the AOM secretary by May 1st as stated in the instructions. Failure to follow the rules will make the application incomplete and will not be considered for a scholarship award. Money is tight and we must use our scholarship fund money wisely.

July 29, 2013

Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 510519
Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Dear Association of Minemen,

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of The Association of Minemen's 2013 Scholarship Assistance Award. I am greatly honored and appreciative to receive this award.

I am currently getting ready to begin my freshman year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where I will study Animal Sciences with a focus on Pre-Veterinary Medicine. This scholarship will help me reach my goal of attending graduate school in order to become a veterinarian.

Earlier this year I graduated from Champaign Centennial High School as a co-valedictorian with a 4.0 GPA. I was also selected for the high school softball all-area second team as a varsity outfielder. I am currently spending the summer working at a local children's farm to gain hands on experience working with animals.

Thank you again for awarding me The Association of Minemen's 2013 Scholarship Assistance Award. Your generosity and support will help me focus on my studies and reach my goals.

Sincerely,

Kristen Leuck

Kristen Leuck



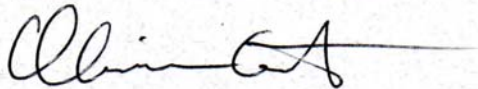
TO THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE \$750 SCHOLARSHIP! I WAS INCREDIBLY HAPPY TO RECEIVE IT. I USED THE MONEY TO PAY FOR MY BOOKS AND LAB FEES. I AM TAKING 18 CREDITS THIS SEMESTER, MORE THAN A FULL LOAD, AND HAVING THE SCHOLARSHIP MONEY REALLY HELPED OUT SO THAT MY MOM DID NOT HAVE TO PAY SO MUCH. I AM VERY THANKFUL TO THE AOM, AND TO MY MOM, FOR ALL OF THE HELP AND SUPPORT IN STARTING OFF MY COLLEGE CAREER.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Always,

OLIVIA MOSS COWART



Dear Mr. Glasen,

Thank you for not only considering me for the Association of Minemen's 2013 Scholarship Assistance Award, but awarding me with it also. The award will support me in accomplishing all of the high goals I have set for myself. I will always work towards achieving greatness as a student at USF.

Sincerely



Dominic Apugliese

Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 510519
Punta Gorda, FL 33951

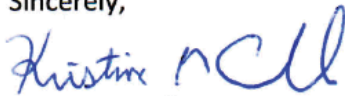
August 21, 2013

Dear Minemen Association,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the Association of Minemen Scholarship for 2013. I accept this award with great honor. This generous award will be very helpful in covering the cost of textbooks this semester and I truly appreciate it. This scholarship is a great financial help.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Kristina Cavallo

Joseph Martinico

352 Maple Ave

East Meadow, NY, 11554

joemartinico20@yahoo.com

August 9, 2013

Association of Minemen

P.O. Box 510519

Punta Gorda, FL 33951

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Minemen scholarship. Paying for college and books is a stressful time, and this money will help to relieve some of that stress. I am thankful to be receiving this money because it will help me pursue my goals at The College of New Jersey as a Computer Engineering student. Once again thank you for choosing me as a recipient, I greatly appreciate it.

Thank You,

Joseph Martinico

An Open Letter to the Membership: Mineman Memories or just Junk in the Trunk?

BY RON SWART

To one degree or another, I'm sure that we all have 'stuff' that we have saved from our Navy service. I could well be sliding towards the 'hoarder' side of the scale. My own collection started from my earliest days as a Mineman and continued right up until my recent second retirement. I have amassed numerous boxes of Navy and Mineman-related treasures: plaques, shadow boxes, mine parts, books, coffee cups, uniforms, ball caps, nick-knacks, newspaper articles, letters, memoranda and objects that have become physical reminders of sea stories retold over beers and BBQ. Others have entrusted their items to me for proper disposition and placement into a museum of some sort. Some of my collection is actually historical but most are just personal memories. I've dragged this ever-growing pile around from one duty-station to another (shipped as "Professional Files" of course) fully expecting that, at the end of the line, this treasure would find a home where others could enjoy the objects and articles as much as I did.

Although I am certain it has happened many times, I'm saddened by the story that someone found a pile of plaques, coffee cups and memories left on a curb after D.C. Wright's death. Then there was the impressive collection left by Lyal Stryker when he passed and the duty to screen it all, fell to Toby Horn (who probably has his own collection). I admit to being far less than effective as a Museum representative to the AOM. The aircraft carrier museums are picky about what they take aboard... most material must pass muster and be considered historical in a greater Navy or Naval Air context ...and someone has to take care of it. Even if personal articles and mine displays make it aboard, there is no one to serve as a caretaker or curator/conservator to keep the story alive. Lacking support (or current relevance) the display eventually is moved to the back room or down to the bilges. So what about our history? How do we preserve our own legacy? There has to be a better way than passing all this on to our children, who often have little if any emotional connection to our "I love me" Mine Shop Plaque wall-of-glory. So in the end, most of our pass-down will be chucked into a pile after we pass on because there is nowhere to donate it.

I don't have a specific recommendation, but want to bring the subject into the open for discussion. Personal collections, however modest or grand, are not accessible to the greater membership, can't be used for research, historical pass-down or to tell our story to those who follow. Today, the Navy has a large gap in its researchable knowledge base about Minemen and Naval Mines. With historical ebb and flow of interest or action for both mines and Minemen, we are forced to relearn lessons over and over again. The AOM's mission statement seems pretty clear to me. Let's put our heads together and take on the challenge. Keeping our history alive could be one of the most valuable contributions the Association of Mineman can make.



FROM THE EDITOR

Well here's another Dashpot, my second issue. I have not heard my name preceded by any derogatory adjectives concerning my work on the dashpot so things must be going OK. I've had several positive comments via dashpot email and it was mentioned at the reunion that the page numbers were a little too small, I fixed that in this issue. If you ever have any comments concerning the Dashpot, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at dashpot1974@tampabay.rr.com, your comments are always welcome, put it in writing I say, and it will be fixed. The hardest part is getting all these articles to fit!

Today I received an email from someone that said he/she had not received an AOM update since July and what's up with that? The dates for submitting material are 1st of Oct, Dec, Mar, and Jun. If I don't get the material on time, then the issue will be late, so please try to be as close to those dates as possible. I start assembling the Dashpot when I receive the first article. With that said, I truly enjoy doing this service and look forward to the next issue!

Regards,

Don Healer



NMAWC Conducts Change of Command Ceremony Commander, U.S. Third Fleet Public Affairs, Oct 21

CONTRIBUTED BY RON SWART

SAN DIEGO (NNS) – Commander, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command (NMAWC) held a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Point Loma aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Asheville (SSN 758) Oct 18.

Rear Adm. William Merz relieved Rear Adm. Robert M. Hennegan, who retired following 33 years of honorable service.

“Robert, you have invested your life into the Navy and into our country and I hope you will see it, as I do, a great and wise investment,” said Arnold Pinkston, keynote speaker and Hennegan’s personal friend.

During his time as commander, Hennegan led efforts to ensure Navy-wide competency in the Mine Warfare (MIW) and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) mission areas.

“This is my fifth change of command and fifth opportunity to lead such a terrific team and I feel very fortunate; it has been the highlight of my entire career from my early days on the USS Buffalo to today, here with this NMAWC team,” said Hennegan.

Highlights from Hennegan’s career include serving in fleet support positions on the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and at Submarine Squadron 16. He also served as the deputy chief of Legislative Affairs for the Navy, on the Department of Defense Transition Task Force in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and as the deputy commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike at U.S. Strategic Command. He most recently served as Commander, Submarine Group Nine.

“Beyond these shores, the world is a very dangerous place and many of you have seen this first hand,” said Merz. “NMAWC represents two of today’s most challenging warfare areas [mine and anti-submarine]. But fortunately this great challenge pulls together great talent, and this command is known for great talent.”

Merz's tours include USS Haddo (SSN 604), USS Proteus (AS 19), and USS Boise (SSN 764). Command assignments consisted of the deep submergence vessel Submarine NR-1, USS Memphis (SSN 691) and Submarine Development Squadron 12. He has deployed overseas nine times in support of operations in the Pacific Command (PACOM), European Command (EUCOM), Central Command (CENTCOM), and Africa Command (AFRICOM).

Ashore, Merz conducted submarine design research in Carderock, Md., served on the Navy Staff (N8) and Joint Staff (J8) in the Pentagon, served as Special Assistant to the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion at the Washington Navy Yard and most recently served as the Chief of Staff for Commander, Submarine Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, Va.

NMAWC's mission includes providing mine warfare commander battle staff to support operational maritime component commanders in executing operational control of air, surface and underwater mine countermeasure forces.

U.S. Third Fleet leads naval forces in the Eastern Pacific from the West Coast of North America to the international date line.



**“There is nothing stronger than the
heart of a volunteer”**

~ Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle ~

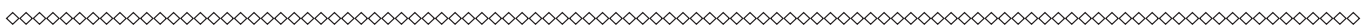
**MINEMAN FIRST CLASS (SW/AW)
REBECCA DEANNAH CROSS
UNITED STATES NAVY**

Petty Officer Cross was born in San Bernardino, California. She is the Daughter of retired Air Force Master Sergeant Ernest and Nancy Lisman. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, Florida.

Enlisting in the U. S. Navy July 2000 and reported for Basic Training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois where she was meritoriously promoted to Seaman. September 2000, she reported to Mineman "A" School Ingleside, Texas where she was the first Mineman "A" School graduate to finish with a perfect score of 100 percent. As a result of her academic excellence she received orders to Mineman "C" School Ingleside, Texas and was awarded: Navy Enlisted Code (NEC) 1211 Versatile Exercise Mine System (VEMS) Operator/Maintenance. Her next assignment was to Mobile Mine Assembly Unit (MOMAU) Ten in Okinawa, Japan from July 2001 - October 2004. She served as the VEMS and Mine Production Supervisor and as the Retail Ordnance Logistics Management System (ROLMS) Data Base Administrator. In addition, she deployed in support of numerous multi-national exercises with the navies of Japan, Korea, and Thailand. Petty Officer Cross was selected as the Junior Sailor of the Year for 2001, Senior Sailor of the Year for 2003. She was advanced to Third and Second Class Petty Officer during this assignment. Assigned next to Strike Fighter Squadron 87 (VFA 87) from October 2004 – October 2005 Virginia Beach, Virginia where she served as the Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Leading Petty Officer (LPO). She was awarded: Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) and NEC 2735 J Net Working Core, and deployed onboard the Aircraft Carrier USS ROOSEVELT (CVN 71). Her next assignment was to the Mine Hunter Coastal (MHC) CREW FORCE from February 2006 – March 2007 where she served onboard the USS RAVEN (MHC 61) forward deployed to Bahrain as the Weapons LPO. She was awarded: Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS), NEC 0812 Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor and 9595 Hazardous Material Coordinator. She was selected as MHC CREW FORCE'S Sailor of the

Year 2006. Her next assignment was to the High Speed Vessel (HSV) 2 SWIFT Little Creek, Virginia from March 2007 – December 2007 where she served as the C4I LPO and was awarded: NEC 0342 Global Command and Control Systems Operator. She advanced to Petty Officer First Class during this assignment. She was hand selected to be the first Mineman to be a Requisition Manager at AMMOLANT in Norfolk, VA where she managed annually \$2 Billion dollars worth of ordnance for the Atlantic Fleet’s CVN, CG, DDG, and FFG platforms as well as all 6T cog underwater Ordnance. She was selected as sailor of the year for 2008 and 2011 as well as the NAVSUP Sailor of the Year for 2011.

Petty Officer Cross is currently serving at the Mine Warfare Training Center as an Instructor and A School LPO since March 2012. Her personal awards include Two Naval Commendation Medals, 6 Naval Achievement Medals, three good conducts, two Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals, and numerous unit and campaign awards. In her career of 13 years she has been Sailor of the Year 7 times and Mineman of the Year 1 time.



**MINEMAN FIRST CLASS
CORIE EDWARD BRICE
UNITED STATES NAVY (RESERVE)**

Mineman First Class Corie E. Brice was born and raised in New York, and attended high school in New Jersey. In July 1999, MN1 Brice entered the Navy Reserve, completing Mineman A School at the Mine Warfare training center in Ingleside Texas in August 2001. Initially assigned to the active component MOMAU 3, then MN3 Brice supported the unit’s decommissioning. During that time MN3 Brice received a Letter of Appreciation for his support through two Mine Readiness Certification Inspections and also was selected JSOQ for Navy Reserve Center Earle NJ.

MN1 Brice remained a drilling Mineman, contributing to the Mineman community through several realignments. Surviving the decommissioning of its active duty namesake, NR MOMAU 3 was realigned to support MOMAU 10 in Sigonella, Sicily. MOMAU 10 was decommissioned in 2005, and NR MOMAU 3 was then reassigned to MOMAU 11, since redesignated NMC CED Charleston. NR MOMAU 3 and MN1 Brice continue to support the

mine shop at Charleston.

MN1 Brice mobilized from 2011-2012 with NAVELSG FWD Mike Wave in Kuwait. While mobilized, MN1 Brice worked the night shift for the Tactical Operation Center in Headquarters for Arifjan, Kuwait. Since returning from mobilization MN1 Brice assumed duties as LPO and Assistant Career Counselor of NR MOMAU 3.

In his civilian career, MN1 Brice is a longstanding postal employee. In 1992 MN1 Brice applied to be a carrier technician in the United States Post Office and began working in Westfield, NJ post office. He continues with the postal service as Assistant Supervisor with over 19 years' experience.



MINEMAN FIRST CLASS (SW)

David J. Rojas

First Class Petty Officer Rojas, a native of Highland Village, TX enlisted in the United States Navy in September 2001. Following completion of basic training at RTC, Great Lakes, IL he completed Undesignated Airman in Pensacola, Florida.

Upon graduation, he reported to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5 located in Guam. While being undesignated, he struck for Operations Specialist. Upon completing Operation Specialists school, he then converted to Mineman in 2005. Where he reported to Mine Warfare Training Center Ingleside, Texas for Mineman "A" school where he completed AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System "C" school. While being on Crew Leader he advanced to Third Class 2006. In 2008 he volunteered for a one year IA Tour to Iraq for Land-based Phalanx Weapon System Operator. In 2009 he was meritoriously advanced to E-5 under the Command Advancement Program while serving in Iraq. Upon returning to Bahrain in 2009 after his IA Tour he earned is Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin while completing his tour with Crew Leader.

In 2009, he transferred to MOMAU 8, which in turn became Naval Munitions Command East Asia Division Unit Guam. While stationed in Guam, he earned his Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal through dedicating time to the Big Brother program, Special Olympics, and clean up

projects around Talofofa Elementary School.

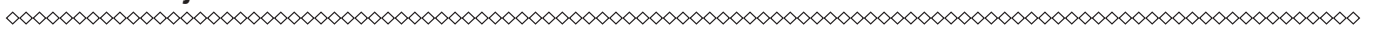
While assigned as Quality assurance inspector of Naval Munitions Command East Asia Division he was selected to travel to South Korea to oversee the movement of missile.

While transitioning to MCM Crew Constant in 2012, he was advanced to Mineman First Class Petty Officer. Since arriving with MCM Crew Constant, MN1 Rojas received Sailor of the Quarter in 2013.

Now back at sea, MN1 Rojas will be permanently be stationed on USS Sentry deploying to Bahrain where he will serve as Combat Leading Petty Officer.

His decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards), and various unit and campaign awards.

MN1 Rojas is married to the former Rebecca Hammett.



The USS Warrington Incident

BY MICHAEL GONZALES, JR, MNC (SW), RET

When you are a soldier or even a pilot in battle, you see the targets that you aim at and sometimes even witness the result of your actions. Not so for the Navy Minemen that assembled the mines planted in Vietnam. Even though our fingerprints were still fresh on the mine cases, we were never present when the mine got its prey, whether it be friend or foe. This was not the case concerning the Navy destroyer, USS Warrington. We knew she hit two of our Mk 36 Destructors off the coast of Vietnam, on July 17, 1972.

Investigations revealed pieces of Mk 82 general bomb casings imbedded in her hull. Mk 82 bombs were the 500 lb weapon that we converted into Mk 36 Destructors. Naive newspaper reporters speculated that it was a US mine that broke away from its “moorings.” But what actually happened was that the USS Warrington had disregarded messages warning them about the area used for jettisoning bombs and Destructors.

Pilots returning to their carriers had been directed to release their un-expended pay-loads in the “Unarmed” configuration, in the event that they had not been dropped on their targets. Evidently these two weapons were still armed. The interesting thing about this incident is that the components

for these two Destructors, were more than likely processed by the crew (my crew) of building P-5, located in Naval Magazine Subic Bay, Philippines.

Coincidences in life are sometimes discarded, as such; just coincidence. But as far as my life is concerned, I tend to take note when life goes full circle. As you read further you will discover the truth in that statement. Was it coincidence that I happened to be present when the Warrington was towed into the harbor, and I saw the gaping hole that our mines created? The irony being that I could have very likely handled the components of the weapons that caused that gaping hole. No Mineman, that I have ever met, can say that they have witnessed the result of their craft. But, I can.

Two weeks after the USS Warrington incident, the USS Hollister also hit two more Destructors in another area of the South China Sea. Although the damage to the USS Hollister was not extensive, the USS Warrington was not so lucky. Her damage was far worse and she was eventually decommissioned and scrapped. I extend my deepest apologies to the captain and crew of the US warship USS Warrington.

As a tribute, the following is a short history of that ship and its brave crew:

The USS Warrington (DD-383) was named after Lewis Warrington and commissioned at the New York Navy Yard on 9 February 1938. Lewis had been an officer in the Navy during the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812. He also temporarily served as the Secretary of the Navy. A movie was made about her actions in WWII, starring, Walter Brennan.

Unfortunately she was lost at sea during a hurricane with the loss of 348 officers and enlisted. Warrington's name was stricken from the Registry of Naval vessels on 23 September 1944. Please take note: (Coincidentally, September 23 is my birthday).

The next ship to bear the name Warrington was commissioned USS Warrington DD-843, on 20 Dec 1945 and had a illustrious history during the Vietnam war.

Her last mission before encountering the US underwater mines was on 15 July, as she briefly pulled into port at Danang and then headed for the

coast of North Vietnam to participate in Operation "Linebacker." On 16 July, she relieved Hamner (DD-718) of "Linebacker" duty and began her primary mission -- the destruction of North Vietnamese small craft and observation of communist Chinese merchant shipping. The following morning, while operating in company with Hull (DD-945) and Robinson (DDG-12), Warrington came under the rapid and heavy fire of enemy shore batteries; but she took prompt evasive action and avoided damage.

That same afternoon, however, luck abandoned her. At 1316, two underwater explosions close aboard her port side rocked the destroyer. She suffered severe damage in her after fire room, after engine room, and in the main control room. Her crew rose to the occasion, and their efforts enabled her to retire from the area at 10 knots. Later, the damage forced her to shut down her propulsion plant and ask Robinson for a tow.

Through the night of 17 and 18 July, her crew struggled against flooding caused by ruptured fuel oil and fresh water tanks, but she remained afloat the next morning when Robinson turned her over to Reclaimer (ARS-42) for the first leg of the trip to Subic Bay. Tawakoni (ATF-114) took over from Reclaimer on the 20th and towed Warrington safely into Subic Bay on the 24th. Throughout the six-day voyage, Warrington's ship's company worked magnificently to keep their ship afloat.

For a month after her arrival, Warrington received the special attention of the ship repair facility at Subic Bay to improve her habitability and insure watertight integrity. However, at the end of August, a board of inspection and survey found her to be unfit for further naval service.

Accordingly, on 23 September 1972, (the day of my 22nd birthday), 28 years to the day after her predecessor (USS Warrington (DD-383) was stricken from the Registry of Naval vessels, the USS Warrington DD-843 was decommissioned at Subic Bay and her name was once again stricken from the Registry of Naval vessels. On 24 April 1973, she was sold to the Taiwan Navy for cannibalization and scrapping. Life does in fact go full circle.

So was the fate of the USS Warrington (DD-843).

To the brave crew off the USS Warrington (DD-843) I extend a hardy

“Hoozah! May the memory of your gallant history remain in the hearts and minds of all that knew you.

With deepest sympathy,

Michael Gonzales, Jr., MNC (SW) U.S. Navy (Ret.) <mgonz76901@yahoo.com>



Sea Mines: the next generation

CONTRIBUTED BY RON SWART

While it should come as no surprise to any of us who have served careers in our Navy’s Mine Warfare Force in any era, our mine stockpile is aging. Previous attempts over the past 20 years to fund improvements and new capabilities to keep pace with our potential adversaries have not been successful, for a variety of reasons. Now that the national defense focus is shifting from the long land wars in the Middle East to the vast Pacific region, there is renewed interest in the weapons that wait.

The Office of Naval Research has initiated a Future Naval Capabilities (FNC) effort to develop and adapt emerging technologies to the task of undersea weapon systems that can perform the mining mission and much more. Advance work has already begun on the Advanced Undersea Weapon System (AUWS) that has its official start this Fiscal Year, FY-14 (starting 1 October 2013) and those of you who took the tour of NSWC Panama City Division during last year’s reunion saw some of the new hardware.

To understand the complexities of developing a new mine system that can meet the mission requirements of the future, it is helpful to remember the challenges that a mining mission faced in past conflicts: limited delivery capacity (every mission needs that aircraft or submarine for their mission at the same time as you do); challenging delivery environment (the enemy shoots at low-slow airplanes dropping mines); accurate placement (if they are shooting at your airplane, who knows where the mines will end up?); you can’t get them back once they’re laid (and our sweeps are left with a long hard mission to find them and clean them up); if the enemy sweeps a passage through the field, you need to re-plant the mines (and every ship, dhow or sampan the enemy sends into the minefield is a minesweeper).

Today's technology can overcome all of these difficult challenges and even some that we haven't experienced in the past.

What will this new generation of sea mine look like? What capabilities will it have? The mission payoff statement for the war-fighter reads: "This capability provides operational commanders with clandestinely delivered, autonomous and remotely controlled, cost effective minefields. It will provide a tactically flexible, asymmetric capability to deter and restrict the mobility and access of adversary forces that threaten our ability to maneuver at sea."

Here is a list of objectives for AUWS development:

Autonomous and clandestine delivery and extraction

Remote command and control

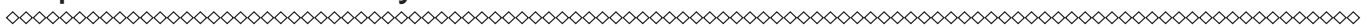
Autonomous target detection and discrimination

Assured 'on-demand' communications

Low-power distributed sensing systems

Intelligent mission planning

So visualize an undersea mobile weapon delivery system with it's own distributed sensor field (like the spider's web) with weapons that can be remotely ordered to become active or left behind to act autonomously (like today's mines) or call home or return home when the threat is over. It may deploy with a variety of weapon options, from traditional mines, mini-torpedoes, rockets or even non-lethal weapons, depending upon the mission. Think of the operational flexibility. That's AUWS.



Next Dashpot Articles Due 1 Dec 2013

Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 510519
Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Punta Gorda, FL
NO. 270

Return Service Requested



NEXT ARTICLE DUE DATE IS 1 December 2013

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/CIVTITLE _____

STREET _____ DATE _____

CITY _____ TEL _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ SIGNATURE _____

ELGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

Application fee \$5.00
Annual Dues \$15.00

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 510519
Punta Gorda FL 33951