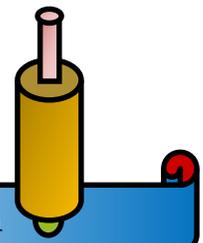


The DASHPOT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

In This Issue:

- Mine Warfare in the News
- Underwater Mine History: All Hands Magazine
- COMOMAG Update
- AOM Reunion 2020 UPDATE
- TAPS and Binnacle List
- Miscellaneous Mineman Flotsam and Jetsam



From The President

M.N.C.M John Epps, USN (Ret.)



As time passes, more and more of the departed are familiar to me and I am saddened by the loss. When reading through the Taps List, please take a moment of silence to honor our fallen comrades and family members. I'd also like to pass on my sincerest condolences to the families of recently departed shipmates and family members. Know that you, as well as those on the Binnacle List, are in our thoughts and prayers.

As you've probably heard, due to the Coronavirus, the 2020 Reunion has been suspended and rescheduled in Charleston for 2021. Ron has dedicated a page in this issue to keep you informed of the details. It was a hard decision to make, but in the end, it is about keeping our members safe to hang around for many years to come. We must all do our best to stay healthy for ourselves, shipmates and loved ones.

Many things will take place even though the reunion is suspended. We will still award Scholarships and without the annual auction, our available funding will be less. I'm hoping that members will open their wallets and donate to the scholarship fund so there will be adequate funding for next year. Many registered members for the 2020 reunion have donated all or part of their registration fees to the scholarship fund. Thank you for your support!!

We are also hoping to extend each elected official one year so we can properly fill upcoming vacancies. If approved, we will replace the President, Vice President and two Board of Directors in 2021. We have had one member, Vic Martin, volunteer for a position. There are still more vacancies to fill so please consider volunteering your expertise. If you are interested in taking on any of the positions, please contact Charles Humbard or Warren Savage.

The Facebook page continues to boom. There are currently 809 members. Welcome aboard Shipmates. Your input and participation is making the page a success. Thanks again Don for your management of the AOM Facebook page and Website. God bless our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and God bless the USA!

John

NOTABLE QUOTABLE



“AMERICA WAS NOT BUILT ON FEAR. AMERICA WAS BUILT ON COURAGE, ON IMAGINATION AND AN UNBEATABLE DETERMINATION TO DO THE JOB AT HAND.”

— HARRY S. TRUMAN

When Harold Macmillan became Britain's prime minister, he was asked what would determine his government's course. He replied with Edwardian languor: “Events, dear boy, events.”





Association of Minemen

Dedicated to Serving the U. S. Mine Force

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen (AOM), a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina...to perpetuate the knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense

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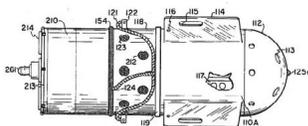
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Input for Fall 2020
Dashpot #105 is due NLT:

6 November 2020

From the Editor...



Well... COVID-19 Strikes Again!
Out of the utmost respect for the health of our "senior" and most vulnerable members and guests, it became necessary to postpone our 2020 AOM Reunion until 2021, in hopes that it will be behind us (for the most part) by then. The decision to reschedule our reunion has many moving parts and you can read The Board's decisional machinations on page 9. To appear compliant, I looked for a photo of The Editor wearing a face mask, but apparently he spent his active duty career in fearless abandon. I did find the above photo, which was intended to convince the sitting COMMANDER MOMAG at that time, the disguise demonstrated that the potential for terrorist aggression against U.S. Forces overseas, was being taken very seriously! (of note, he was not impressed with my lack of decorum). Don's history page takes us back to 1957 when All Hands featured the Mine Force and the Minemen. I wish I could have included all 68 pages!

With fewer fleet, Schoolhouse and NMC Unit contributions, you may notice that this issue is a few pages shorter than usual. Sadly, we almost made up the empty space with our TAPS section. May God rest their souls and comfort their families.

All the best! RON



Secretary Treasurer Report July 2020

As mentioned in this news letter and the Minemen News email blast regarding the change for our 2020 / 2021 Reunion, I await your request on what to do with the registration money already sent. For those who of asked, the thought of retaining your registration money for the 2021 Reunion will not be one of the options due to the uncertainty of the new cost, venue, and to clear the books at the end of this fiscal year! If I have not heard from registers by the end of August, I will attempt to make contact via email or phone call to obtain your requested options for the refund!

On behalf of the Scholarship committee, I would like to thank those who have already donates some or all their registration refund to the Scholarship Fund. As you may know, the action money that we would have collected at the reunion picnic all goes to this fund! So again, many thanks for your generosity!

If you can think of anything that could improve how we do business, please feel free to email me your suggestions at: assocminemen@yahoo.com.

A sincere thank you for your support!

Nate Miranda



Membership Committee Report April 2020

This quarters membership stats are 7 new members and 3 reinstated members. We also had 4 members dropped! 3 for past dues (2017) and 1 for no forwarding address. On a similar note, we received 6 Dashpots via retuned mail. 5 of those were re-mailed to a new address and 1 did not have any forwarding information! As a reminder, if you move, please drop me a note with your new address. This way you will receive your Dashpot in a timely manner and you'll save AOM the expense of return mail and the re-mailing cost! Thank you to those who have brought their membership current! **Remember!!!**, if the date on your Dashpot label is highlighted, please send your dues in via mail; Association of Minemen, P. O. Box 2180, Temple City CA, 91780 or via secure electronic transaction by going to <https://form.jotform.com/90215855401148>.

Thank you!

Nate

Membership Chairman, Nate Miranda



The AOM College Scholarship Committee Report

This year the Scholarship Committee has awarded 4 Scholarships. Each scholarship was worth \$750, for a total of \$3,000. Since 1996 the Association of Minemen have awarded 234 scholarships totaling \$158,900

In 2019, the number of scholarships awarded was 4. As in 2018, and 2019 all of our applicants just graduated high school or are already in college.

This year we received 4 applications. Of the 4 applications all were from women, and none were from men. Two of the applications were from past award recipients, and two were from first time applicants just graduating high school and are entering college for their first time. Any apathy to the rules and instructions when filling out the application, will be taken into consideration by your committee when making our decisions for any scholarship award. The rules for completing an application must be strictly adhered to as they were written. These rules are published on the AOM web page.

Under Section G. Paragraph 2 of the AOM published rules required for an applicant to receive an AOM Scholarship...

- (1) The Candidate must complete the application forms S-1 and S-2.
 - (2) Provide a current transcript of credits earned from applicable schools.
 - (3) Provide two letters of recommendation.
 - (4) Provide a study plan covering the scholarship term, which provides a synopsis of the field of study he or she plans to complete.
 - (5) any other pertinent information the candidate feels might enhance their chances of being awarded the scholarship.
- Unfortunately for the applicant, failure to follow these rules will make the application incomplete and cannot be considered for a scholarship award.

Your Scholarship committee of Robert Stancik, Ed Smith, and myself Ronald Glasen want to thank you for your past support, and ask you to please continue to support the AOM Scholarship Program with your generous donations. Our Scholarship Fund could use a little tweaking, as the Scholarship Fund is not without funding limits. A little shot in the arm would be greatly appreciated. We need to continue this proud tradition of the Association of Minemen!

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Ronald Glasen

searchcoil@hotmail.com

Generosity
changes everything



AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

NMC COMOMAG

COMOMAG
MN1(SW) Joseph R. Fields
San Diego, CA

Greetings from Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG). Finally, Summer is here and we are eagerly awaiting to enjoy a variety of warm weather activities! We would like to remind everyone to take safety precautions when participating in any off-duty activities. Here is a quick look at what COMOMAG has been up to the last few months:

COVID-19 has hit the world hard, placing new travel restrictions on our military force and causing everyone to adjust their work schedule. Despite the impact that this non-traditional adversary has placed on our daily operations, we will never stop striving to achieve our mission and continue moving our great nation's Naval force forward into the future. We had to manage new priorities and reschedule events by working with other commands in order to accomplish tasks and ensure we maintain mission readiness.

N32 (Exercise and Training Mines Division) Mr. Rodney A. Biggs, MNCS Christopher T. Alford and MNC Patrick R. McReynolds assisted with coordinating the travel and assembly of Quickstrike Mines across three airfields in support of the joint mining Exercise Trident Warrior. The N32 team, along with eight Reserve Sailors and three Sailors from Naval Munitions Command, Atlantic Unit Charleston, were spread out across the United States at Ellsworth Air Force Base South Dakota, Minot Air Force Base North Dakota, and Naval Air Station Lemoore, California. They all worked simultaneously to ensure the success of Trident Warrior.

N31 (Service Mines Division) has been working diligently to reschedule Mine Readiness Certification Inspections and Mine Readiness Assist Visits in order to support the U.S. Navy's fleet-wide training and certification requirements. Additionally, they have been coordinating the validation efforts of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Detachment's explosive residue cleaning procedures that will increase mining readiness fleet-wide.

The COMOMAG family would like to bid a farewell to MN1(SW) Tyler G. Cowen and IT2(SW) Jared P. Hollingworth. MN1 Cowen served at COMOMAG as a vital member for both N31 and N32 Divisions in his three years onboard. He is now on his way to USS SENTRY (MCM 3) homeported in Manama, Bahrain. IT2 Hollingworth served as COMOMAG's Information Assurance Manager and lead COMSEC Security Assistant. He is now on his way to the LCS CREW 228. We would like to wish them, "Fair Winds and Following Seas! You will both be missed, Shipmates."

In the month of June, we observed LGBTQ Pride month, by celebrating the progress towards ensuring equality for all individuals and taking pride in all who serve. Above all, we must show respect for our service members, civilian employees, and family members, recognizing their individual needs, aspirations, and capabilities.

From all of us here at COMOMAG, we hope everyone is staying safe. We are all in this together. Hopefully, this pandemic passes soon so we can all get out and enjoy ourselves. We would also like to say, "Happy Independence Day to the greatest nation in the world."

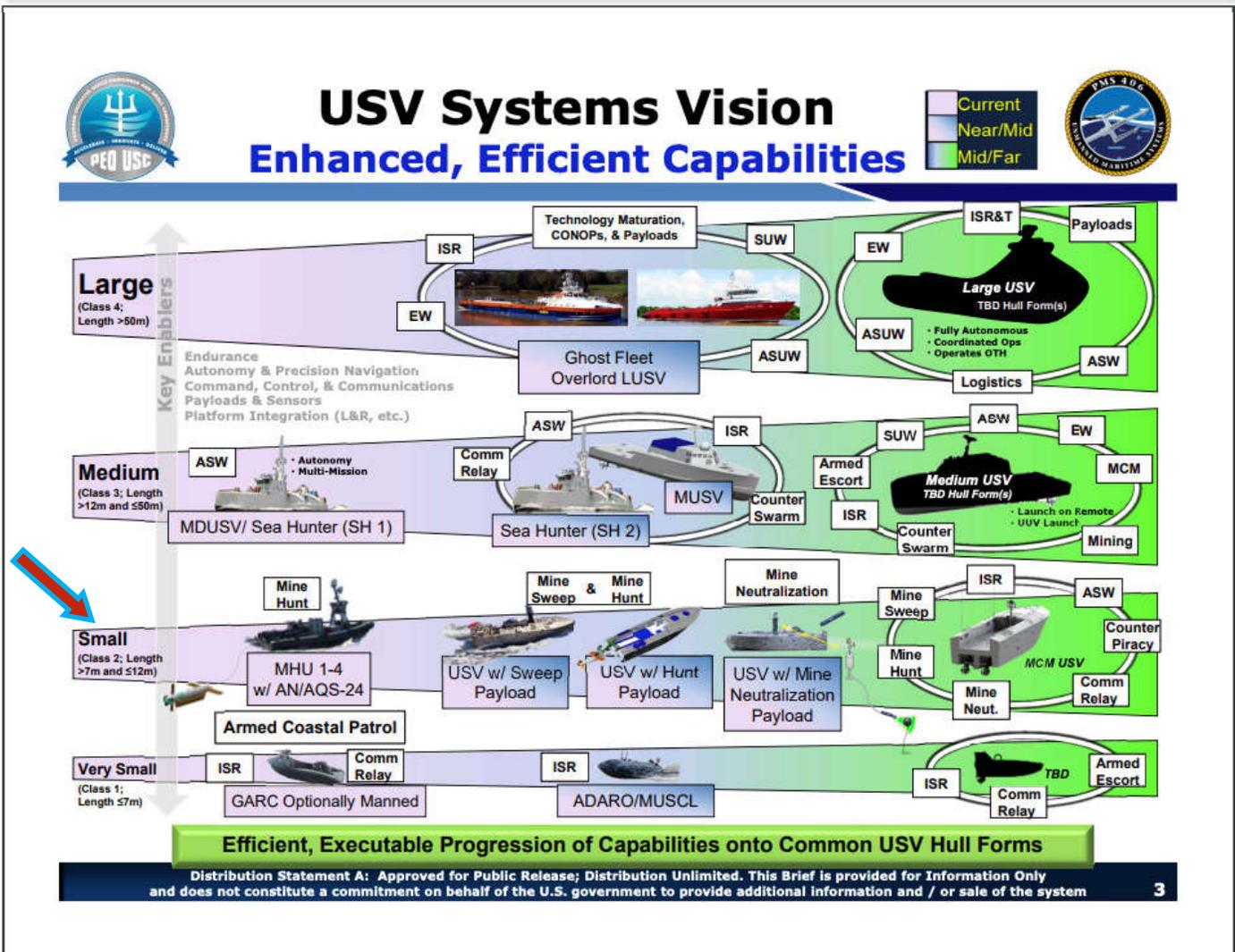


MNCS Alford Christopher (far left) at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota in support of Exercise Trident Warrior.



MINE WARFARE IN THE NEWS

Will Unmanned Surface Vessels replace manned MCM Ships? This overview suggests that perhaps part or all of the future mine sweeping and mine hunting mission will be unmanned.



Not just MCM: Japan aiming to develop prototypes of self-propelled mine system

The Japanese Ministry of Defense (MoD) is aiming to develop two prototypes of a remotely operated, self-propelled mine system. The new systems, which were described by the MoD as “small expendable wireless unmanned underwater vehicles [UUVs]” carrying an explosive payload, are designed to be deployed to high-risk sea areas and loiter there until they are remotely detonated in the proximity of enemy vessels, an MoD spokesperson told *Janes* on 23 June.

The Japanese Ministry of Defense (MoD) is aiming to develop two prototypes of a remotely operated, self-propelled mine system, which it has described as a small expendable UUV for use in high-risk sea areas. In fiscal year 2020 (FY 2020) the MoD secured JPY7.5 billion (USD70.1 million) to order the two prototypes, but as of 19 June it had neither opened bidding for this project nor signed a contract with any company, said the spokesperson. The revelation comes after the MoD’s Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA) awarded Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) a JPY3.06 billion contract on 27 March to conduct research on several UUV technologies, including the development of exchangeable modules and mission payloads, according to MoD documents obtained by *Janes*.



MINE WARFARE IN THE NEWS

Jun 24, 2020

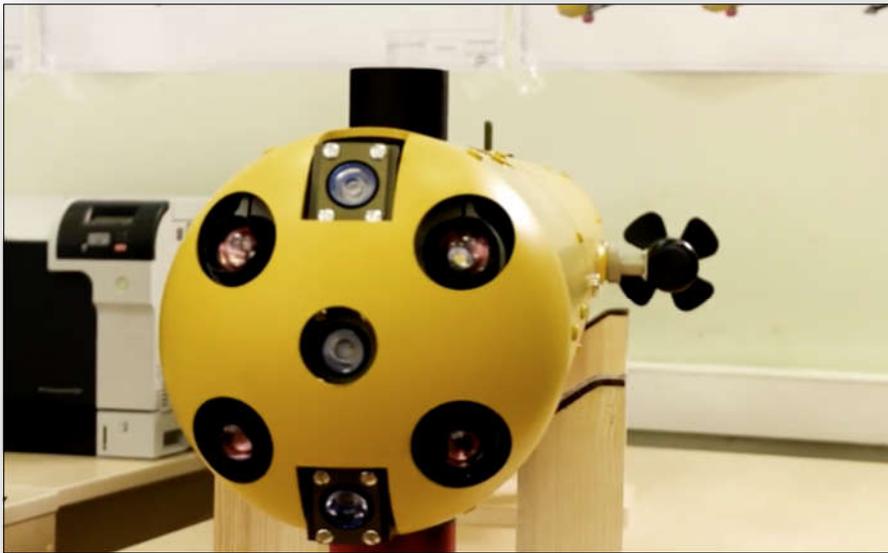
New Russian Robot Will Shoot Naval Mines With A Gun

<https://www.forbes.com>



Kelsey Atherton, Contributor

Aerospace & Defense



A Russian underwater un-crewed vehicle, about the length of a long table or a small torpedo.

(SCREENSHOT BY AUTHOR, FROM TRC STAR VIDEO)

The last thing a naval mine expects is to be shot by an underwater robot holding a pistol. Naval mines are expectant machines, terrible potential floating below the surface. With preset triggers, they are a sensor and a bomb, waiting for the rough impression of a passing ship to suddenly explode.

A new underwater un-crewed robot, designed by the Russian firm "Region", wants to provide a robotic answer to these undersea emplacements. It is primarily a scouting platform, made first to find other underwater robots and mines. With just 15 minutes of work, a human crew can swap out the sensor platform and replace it with a variety of tools.

"The UUV has five uses, according to [designer] Anna Molarskaya," says Samuel Bendett, an adviser to the think tank CNA's Russia program who specializes in Russian unmanned military systems. These include the abilities to "search for underwater drones, lay a charge on discovered mines as a sapper, be a manipulator (with an appendage for additional work attached to the nose), works as an autonomous moving mine, and be an underwater robot armed with a special pistol (also attached to the nose)."

In that sense, Region's robot is a versatile platform, building off of existing capabilities, like underwater pistols developed for Russian Special Forces, and modern needs, like hunting other underwater robots. While the robot has yet to be picked up for a formal trial by from the Ministry of Defense, it has received attention from the Russian military and is built in accordance with doctrine recommending modularity for future missions. "It may also work in both autonomous and remotely piloted modes - the adversary drone/mine identification may be carried in an autonomous mode, but the actual destruction of mines or other UUVs/ or work with a manipulator appendage may be carried in a remotely piloted mode," says Bendett, a CNAS Adjunct Senior Fellow who researches applications of Russian military unmanned system and AI. "At this point, the MOD would like its Navy to be operating a full range of maritime autonomous systems - with every vessel eventually becoming a "carrier" of multiple unmanned platforms."

What robots like this add to a fleet is a proactive, cheap-to-upgrade answer to the robots and weapons of other nations, all looking for any possible edge in the warming oceans of the world.





...IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Naval Supply Systems Command Ammunition Logistics Center

Name, Rank, Rate: Mineman Senior Chief (MNCS) Surface Warfare (SW) David Toyloy

Command: Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Ammunition Logistics Center

Mission: Naval Supply Systems Command Ammunition Logistics Center (referred to as NALC) is a NAVSUP Headquarters activity responsible for daily ammunition logistics operations and inventory management requirements for Department of Navy's (DoN) \$42 billion conventional ordnance stockpile for Navy operational forces. NALC is the fleet's ammunition support agent, coordinating fleet requirements, resolving issues, and managing the distribution of ordnance.

The Job: The Underwater Mines and Mine Countermeasures Logistics Management Specialist (LMS), responsible for ammunition supply chain execution and Life Cycle Logistics coordination and management for 6T COG ordnance for Navy and Marine Corps units worldwide.

How this supports the fleet: Provides management of redistribution documents in support of Combatant Commands Mine Warfare operations and exercise requirements, coordinate CONUS and OCONUS ammunition shipments, enabling fleet warfighter ordnance readiness, ensuring fleet warfighters receive all applicable updates from ordnance manufacturers and Technical Engineers when there are changes to the characteristic of ordnance. The goal is to generate the highest level of ordnance readiness, by validating ordnance condition, in order to maximize the life cycle of ordnance and the stockpile posture. Also, to track and coordinate backordered requisitions and recommend optimal sourcing solutions to unit, Navy Type Command, and fleet-level ordnance customers. All efforts enable ordnance readiness, which in turn supports the fleet's operational and training requirements to be prepared to execute their mission and global taskings.

Who you work with: Ordnance Enterprise stakeholders, from Program Offices to fleet and unit customers.

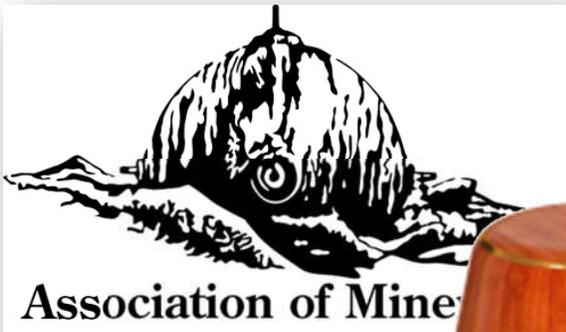
Length of your tour: 36 months

Length of Active Duty: 12 years, 2 months

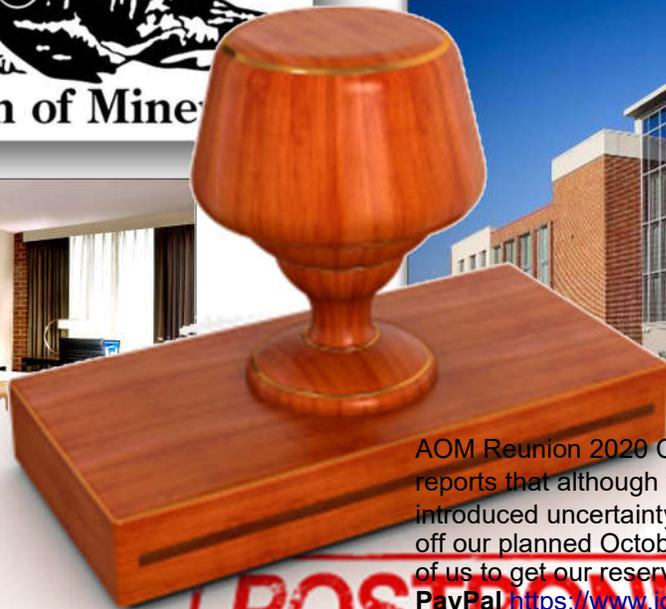
Career Background: Ammunition Supply Admin, Crew Served Weapon OPS & MAINT and Crew Served Weapons Instructor. In addition, a previous tour at Navy Munitions Command Atlantic Unit Charleston was an essential building block to understanding how Mine Warfare ordnance is maintained and the life cycle of different components of mine ordnance.



REUNION 2020 UPDATE



Association of Minemen



POSTPONED

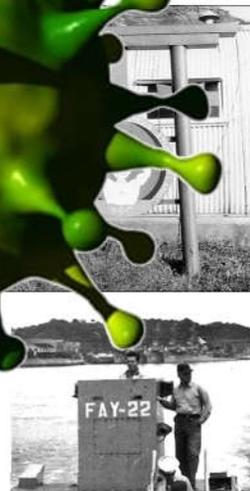
AOM Reunion 2020 Chairman Charles Humbard reports that although the **COVID19** outbreak has introduced uncertainty on whether or not we can pull off our planned October reunion, he encourages all of us to get our reservation forms **in the mail or via PayPal** <https://www.paypal.com/90268038916160> before the deadline in September 2020 in the event we can safely gather together once again. We will keep everyone updated.

Note: Dinner Cruise reservations need to be made by July 15th. Fifteen or more are required. If we fall short of that number for the dinner cruise, your money will be reimbursed.



50 Years

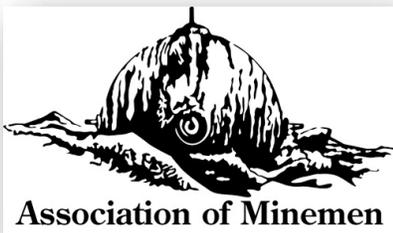
Celebrating the Closing of
Azuma Island Japan
Mine Shop
Reunion 2020
Charleston, SC



The 50th anniversary of the closing of the Naval Ordnance Facility on Azuma Island in Yokosuka Japan will be held in conjunction with the 2020 AOM East Coast Reunion to be held in Charleston, SC. **All former Minemen and Shipmates in other ratings who served there, are invited... AOM members or not!** We have many of the names but need contact information and more photos from your time in Japan. Our AOM website will dedicate a page to all those who served on Azuma Islands, in whatever capacity. The very idea brings back some wonderful memories of "Baka Shima" among those who served there. We want to know all those who served with NOF in the middle of Tokyo Bay. If you ever served on Azuma Island or know of someone who did, please send it to **Don Moody** at donmoody8@gmail.com and/or

Bill Holloway at: william.holloway1010@gmail.com

The **AOM Reunion Coordinator** for 2020 is **Charles Humbard** at charleshumbard@gmail.com



The AOM Board of Directors has voted to reschedule the suspended 2020 reunion to 2021.

The VOTE ON ORIGINAL OR AMENDED MOTION as follows:

There being neither further discussion nor amendments to the motion, the final version is restated below and we call the question:

MOTION RESTATED: Charles Humbard Moves: I would like to schedule in a like time and hold the suspended reunion in Charleston, SC in 2021. I will continue as the event planner / host.

Call for question by – President John Epps Seconded by - Vice President Eddie Atkins

Motion Action – Responding in favor – All; Opposed – 0

The action is approved by the simple majority rule. The Motion is passed. Further Voting is suspended.

ACTION ON THE ISSUE: On receipt of this voting result, the Dashpot editor is directed to publish the following information soonest: ***“Because of concerns with the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the AOM BOD is saddened to announce their decision to suspend the plans for 2020 reunion. The 2020 reunion will move to the 2021 Reunion in Charleston, SC”***

- All hotel reservations will be cancelled as a block action by the Omni hotel
No further reservations will be accepted by the Omni for the 2020 event
- If members with reservations being cancelled have added days to their reservation for personal purposes, you will need to contact the Charleston Omni to make different arrangements in that regard.
- At a later time the AOM BOD will provide information to the membership on the following:
 - * What is planned for officer terms in that there will not be a 2020 membership meeting to approve nominations and vote on new officers. Offices effected are; President, Vice President, and two BOD members

How the planned 2021 reunion will be addressed. AMENDED MOTION: Tom Hoffman moves to amend the motion to: I amend the motion to reschedule the original 2021 west reunion to 2022 and negotiate the 2023 location at the 2021 reunion and I call for the Previous Question.

Motion Action – Respondents in favor – ALL; Opposed – NONE Approval declared on majority rule vote.

ACTION ON APPROVED MOTION: Scheduled 2021 west reunion is rescheduled to 2022. Denson Rivers agreed to organize the reunion and is directed to proceed with planning for the west reunion in 2022.

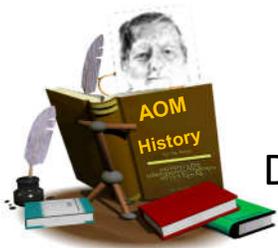
From the Secretary/Treasurer:

With the suspension of our 2020 Reunion, we would like to offer members who already registered the following four options. 1) Full refund. 2) Apply monies towards annual dues. Limited to a total of 5 years which includes current dues status. (Up to 2024). The remainder refunded or any portion donated to the Scholarship fund. 3) Member to donate some or all to the Scholarship Fund. 4). Any combination of the before mentioned options. In order to facilitate the requested options, we need each member to let us know what to do on their behalf! Please email your request to me at:

assocminemen@yahoo.com

or via postal mail to; **Association of Minemen, PO Box 2180, Temple City, CA 91780.** These means are preferable over a phone call or text, so we can keep a copy of your request on file.

Nathan (Nate) Miranda
AOM Secretary/Treasurer



AOM Historian

Don Moody

1957

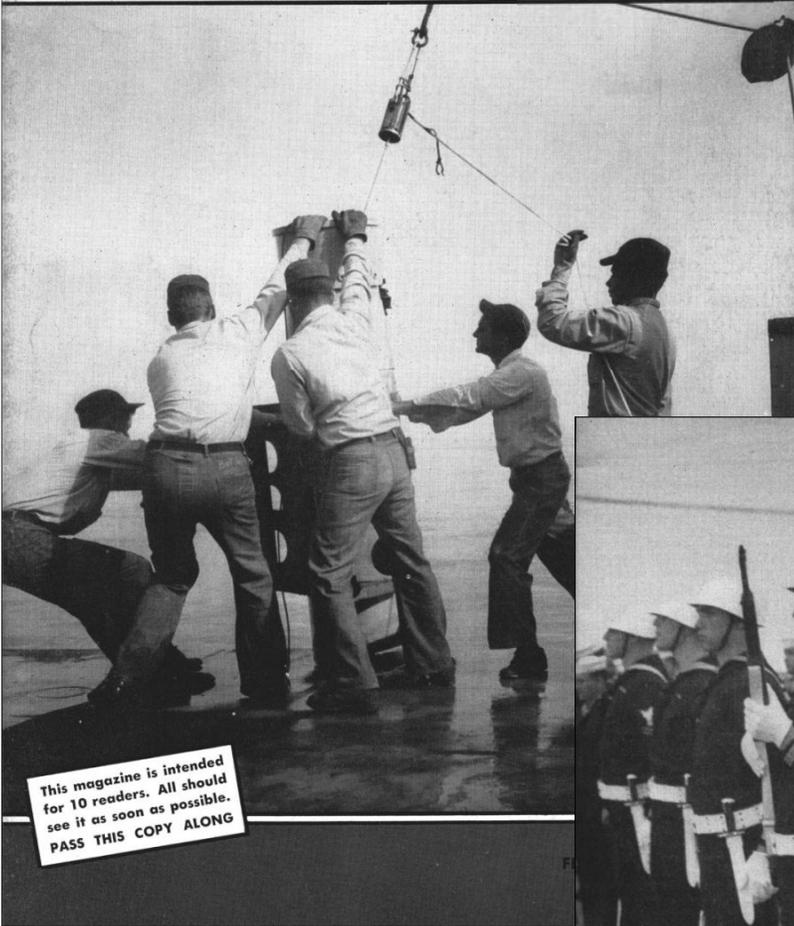


DOUBLE CHECK—R. G. Siers, BM3, USN, and K. W. Webb, BMC, USN, check electrode of magnetic minesweeping cable on board USS Bulwark (MSO 425)



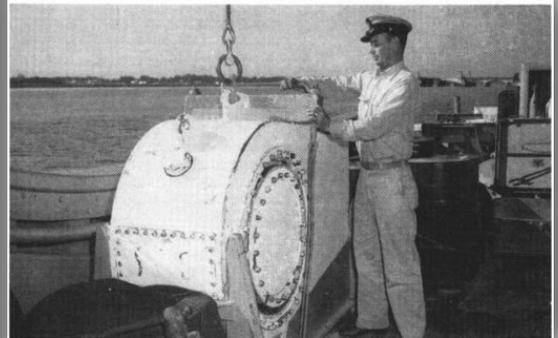
ALL HANDS

THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL INFORMATION BULLETIN



This magazine is intended for 10 readers. All should see it as soon as possible. PASS THIS COPY ALONG

Below: 'Hammer,' noise maker for acoustic mines, is secured.



MINEMAN'S TOUCH—Learning how to check and adjust equipment calls for know-how and delicate handling.

ALL HANDS

THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL INFORMATION BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 1957 Nav-Pers-O NUMBER 481

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES L. HOLLOWAY, Jr., USN
The Chief of Naval Personnel
REAR ADMIRAL K. CRAIG, USN
The Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel
CAPTAIN O. D. FINNIGAN, Jr., USN
Assistant Chief for Morale Services

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CDR F. C. Huntley, USNR, Editor
John A. Oudine, Managing Editor

Associate Editors
G. Vern Blasdell, News
David Rosenberg, Art
Elsa Arthur, Research
French Crawford Smith, Reserve
Don Addor, Layout

● FRONT COVER: CAREFUL TEAMWORK is a must in handling mines. Here, crew members of LCU 1263 swing practice mine over the side during MinPac minelaying exercises.

● AT LEFT: MINLANT HONOR Guard is inspected by VADM James L. Holloway, Jr., USN, as men of Atlantic Fleet Mine Force stand formation in honor of his visit to their Charleston, S.C., headquarters. RADM Neil K. Dietrich, USN, MinLant commander, and LTJG B. A. Wadsworth, USN, accompany the Chief of Naval Personnel.

● CREDITS: All photographs published in ALL HANDS are official Department of Defense Photos unless otherwise designated.

How the U.S. Navy Plans to Crush Iran's Sea Mines in a War

By Kris Osborn

7/12/2020

Sea mines lurk beneath the surface of the ocean with explosive power, often buried in the sea floor, denying enemies entry into combat-critical waterways. They can explode on impact or use sensor technologies for proximity detonation. They are shallow, deep-water, and open ocean weapons that are inexpensive, available and increasingly deployed in critical waters by both rogue nations or great powers. This is why mines a persistent and long-standing threat to U.S. Navy surface ships, submarines and small boats, are becoming much more advanced as newer sensing and explosives become available. With this in mind, the Saudis, British and Americans all detected, tracked and destroyed mine targets in the Arabian sea in a recent series of training operations. The exercises included "mine hunting simulations where participating units practiced detecting and classifying training aids shaped like mines while following standardized mine hunting procedures," according to a U.S. Navy report on the training. It goes without saying that the Arabian Gulf is an area of huge significance to the U.S. and allied Navies, given its vital strategic and commercial functions regarding both security issues and the free flow of global commerce. The training and interoperability exercises are doubtless, at least in part, aimed at protecting the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow strip of water bordering Iran in the Arabian Gulf. The United States has long been concerned about Iranian placed mines and small boat attacks that could disrupt, or even attack, U.S. maritime operations in the area. Furthermore, America and allied nations have, in recent years, expressed substantial anxiety about the proliferation of both shallow and deep water mine threats. Not only are they inexpensive and growing in number, but they are also becoming more sophisticated with advanced sensors and newer methods of detonation. The coordination between the three countries participating in the training included U.S. and UK

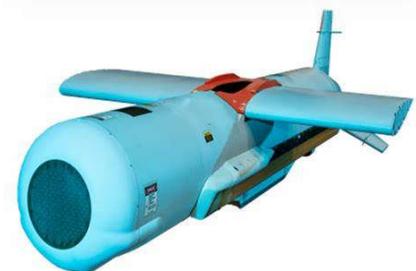
mine-countermeasure patrol ships and, quite likely, advanced sensors, drones and possibly unmanned surface vessels. The U.S. Navy has been moving quickly to innovate emerging mine countermeasures technologies, accelerate development of newer, high-tech systems and conduct testing and training operations with new platforms. The service has also, in recent years, been working on new mine countermeasure strategic documents. Some of the more recent innovations include Northrop's AQS-24 which uses underwater laser side-scanning. Speaking in January 2020 at the Surface Navy Association Symposium, Captain Danielle George, Mine Warfare Programs Manager, said the Navy plans to deploy the AQS-24C as soon as this year. The AQS-24C, described by George as a Volume Search Sonar, is an upgrade to existing "A" and "B" variants. It is a cylindrical vehicle towed through the water beneath an Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV). USVs, quickly becoming more autonomous, can be remotely operated by a ship or shore station miles away. "Think of it as being able to double the speed you can operate at, because we are pinging at the same rate but we go twice as fast. We figured out how to do that. We still get the benefits of synthetic aperture sonar. We get the benefit of going 18 knots and we maintain the benefit of high resolution. We maintain the same resolution over the full speed range of the vehicle," Gene Cumm, Director of International Mine Warfare Programs, Northrop Grumman, told *TNI* earlier this year. The Navy is now also rapidly developing and testing the Barracuda Mine Neutralization System. This new technology uses an emerging, layered system consisting of a forward-looking AQS 20C sonar system, networking buoy and an undersea sensor-explosive known as Barracuda. The integrated system, as described by Raytheon developers, combines sonar, an RF antenna, an acoustic modem, an Electro-Optical/Infrared camera and a highly specialized

explosive. The multi-pronged process, according to Andy Wilde, Raytheon Director of Strategy and Business Development for Undersea Capabilities, hinges upon a recently integrated high-tech forward-looking sonar known as AQS 20. Having recently delivered its tenth AQS 20 sonar to the Navy, Raytheon developers are moving quickly to meet a growing Navy demand for its long-range sensing technology, Wilde told *TNI* earlier this year. Significantly, the Barracuda not only uses cameras to "see" and "confirm" the existence of a mine, but also itself functions as its own explosive able to destroy or neutralize the mine. The explosive, Wilde described, is highly specialized for the mission, saying additional detail was not available for security reasons.

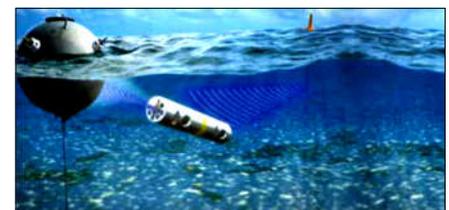
Kris Osborn is the new Defense Editor for the National Interest. Osborn previously served at the Pentagon as a Highly Qualified Expert with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army—Acquisition, Logistics & Technology. Osborn has also worked as an anchor and on-air military specialist at national TV networks. He has appeared as a guest military expert on Fox News, MSNBC, The Military Channel, and The History Channel. He also has a Masters Degree in Comparative Literature from Columbia University.



AN/AQS-24 Minehunting Sonar



AN/AQS-20 Minehunting Sonar



Raytheon Barracuda



LCDR Coral Lee MacIntosh, LDO, USN (Retired) age 61, 30 year Navy Veteran, wife of Paul Appleton, passed away on June 19, 2020 from cancer.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chad E. Poitras , Cremation and Funeral Service, Buxton, ME www.mainefuneral.com



Claude Frank Yates
May 23, 1949 - December 30, 2019

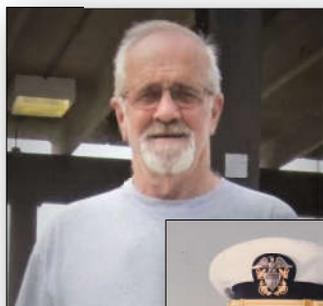
Born May 23, 1949 in Memphis TN to Catherine Howell Yates and Dr. C. Frank Yates . he grew up in Memphis and attended Snowden Elementary School and Grace St Luke's Episcopal School . He graduated from Memphis University High School in 1967. Claude served in the United States Navy as a **Mineman**, from 1969 to 1973 providing him travel opportunities in The Philippines and Scotland. After his honorable discharge, he attended Jackson State Community College in Jackson, Tennessee and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville majoring in marketing. His love of the Great Smoky Mountains kept him in East Tennessee where he worked on many graphic design projects for several publications in Gatlinburg, Pidgeon Forge and Sevierville. The lure of the sea called him to Hilton Head, South Carolina where he continued his career in graphic design and marketing. Upon the death of his father in 1994, Claude returned to Memphis to care for his mother. He was a loving and dedicated caregiver for her until her death in 2000.

The Binnacle List



Ed Smith was admitted to the hospital on June 19th. They determined he had a brain tumor, removed it and because it was cancerous, is starting chemotherapy and will remain in the hospital for a couple more weeks. Thoughts and prayers are always welcome and get well cards can be sent to:

10 Oxford RD
Jackson, NJ 08527



CWO4 Gary Lee Gray, USN (Retired) age 74, passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at home, surrounded by his children. He was

born August 24, 1945 in Baltimore, the only child of Rachel Mae (Nutt) and Chester Leroy Gray. He was a 1963 graduate of Parkersburg WV High School . After High School, he joined the U. S. Navy in 1965 where he served for 30 years, eventually retiring at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer on October 31, 1995. After his time in the service, he became a small business owner and pursued a degree in business, graduating with an associates degree from Trident Technical College in 2006. He loved working with his hands and all forms of motorsport. His passion was classic American muscle cars and he bonded quickly with those who shared his love for them. His sense of humor and easy personality were infectious. He made everyone comfortable around him.

He is survived by his children Theresa (Terry) Little, Mark (Lori) Gray, Jacob

Gray, five grandchildren and his ex-wife Mie Gray. Friends, family and others whose lives were touched by Gary were invited to the Carolina Memorial Funeral Home, North Charleston, SC to celebrate his life and legacy on Monday June 8, 2020.. Those wishing to remember Gary may donate to the American Cancer Society in his name.





MNCS John Nahra
Collingswood, NJ, DOB: 24 Dec 1956
DOD: 24 Jun 2020



John Anthony Nahra, MNCS, USN (Retired), a South Jersey native, passed away peacefully at home with his sister by his side on June 24, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on Christmas Eve, 1956, John lived a thousand lives in one. He was a Father. He was a Role model. He was a Sailor. He was a Man. These are the words of his Sons. His former shipmates from across the globe speak of his leadership, his intelligence, and his bold presence. If you walked into a room and John was there, you knew you were going to be both highly entertained and intellectually challenged. You also knew you were safe. His love of his Family was paramount. He was simply devoted to his sons and sisters. His second great love was the US Navy, particularly the Mine Force. "Anytime. Anywhere" is the mine force creed and John would show up anytime anywhere to support a Sailor in need. His third great love was football; he was the most loyal and most loud Philadelphia Eagles fan, no matter his geographical location.

Following graduation from Collingswood High School in 1974, John enlisted in the US Navy. He started his Naval career at Recruit Training Center, IL and Fleet & Mine

Warfare Training Center, Charleston, SC. He served at various Mobile Mine Assembly Group (MOMAG) units, to include detachments in Souda Bay, Crete, Machrihanish, Scotland, Glen Douglas, Scotland, Long Beach, CA, Charleston, SC, and Corpus Christi, TX. Special duty assignments included Recruit Training Center, San Diego, whereas a Company Commander, he molded young civilian men into capable and disciplined Sailors. He was a Naval Security Guard in Naples, Italy. John's performance as a US Naval envoy to the US Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia, Jubal, SA was truly legendary. MNCS Nahra was instrumental in the establishment and operation of MOMAG Det Zayed, Abu Dhabi, UAE, earning the Kuwait Liberation Medal and SW Asian Service medal. Other notable awards included: US Naval & Marine Corps Commendation medals, Naval Achievement medals, Good Conduct Awards, National Defense Service ribbons, and Humanitarian Service Medal. John served his Country, his Navy, and his Family every day of his life. He won the love and respect of his family, shipmates, and friends. MNCS Nahra retired in 1999 with over 23 years of honorable service and thoroughly enjoyed his retirement years. John did not join the Navy to see the world; he joined the Navy so the world could see him. And the world did see this proud Camden boy lovingly known as Dad, Pops, Papa J, Jackie, Grandpa, SR, Senior Chief, Nahra, and sometimes simply John. No matter the salutation, he was known, and he will forever be remembered.

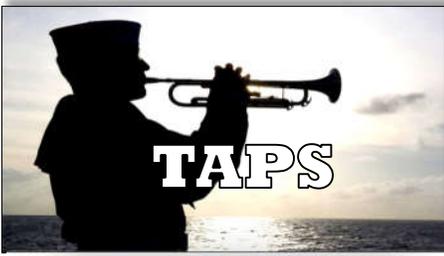
John is preceded in death by his son, Matthew Vincent Nahra and is survived by his sons, John Alexander Nahra and Dylan Francis Nahra, and their mother, Kathleen Engle. John is also survived by John Alexander's wife, Rachel, and his grandson, Maxwell. He is also survived by his three sisters, Julie Nahra, Mary Nahra, Dorothy Brown and her husband Kevin Brown, his nephew, Kirk Pawlak, niece, Amy Barto, and great niece, Lily Barto. MNCS John Anthony Nahra will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, at a date to be determined.



Frederick (Freddie) Casper Dull
1930-2013

Resident of Concord, CA, Frederick (Freddie) Casper Dull, 88, passed away on August 2, 2019 at the Veteran's Hospital in Martinez CA. Born on 12/16/1930 in Taft CA. He was the 2nd of 4 children to Henry & Eunice Dull. A career Navy Mineman, Fred spent 30 years as a diver in the EOD Unit. He retired in 1979 & settled in Concord, CA where he was actively involved with the Shriner's organization. Fred is preceded in death by his parents as well as his wife Adonna Dull and his sisters Barbara (Neil) Glisson & Mary Souter. He is survived by his sister Veda (Richard) Gunter, his children Kathy (Javier) Artigas, Nina (Mickey) McCoy, Laurette McMullen and Laurence (Reba) Dull, his stepdaughters, Suzanne (Ken) Walker, Joan Bekowsky, and Francine Stone. Fred also had many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

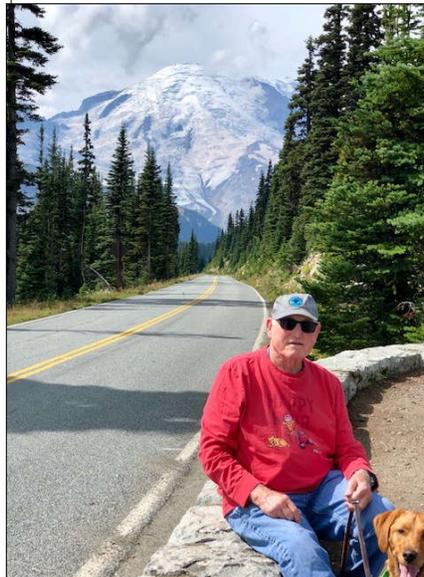




MNCM Roy L. Neely, USNR (Retired) from Naples, Idaho passed quietly in his sleep on May 30, 2020 in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Roy was born January 29, 1950 in Los Angeles, California. He was adopted through the L.A. Children's Home Society by Leonard Leroy Neely and Chesna Irene Neely. Roy grew up with his adopted sister, Candace Banks, in Woodland Hills, CA and Riverside, CA. He attended Ramona High School in Riverside, graduating in June, 1968. He later attended and graduated from Riverside City College with his AA degree. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a **Mineman** and also started working at AT&T as a Lineman in the late 60's. Roy married Debra Taylor then a resident of Riverside Ca in September of 1972. Several years later they had a son. Dirk currently resides in California. After completing the active duty portion of his Navy commitment he decided to stay in the Reserves. He was a part of MOMAG Detachment 2419 located in Long Beach, Ca. He eventually obtained the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer.

During his service he traveled extensively, serving at times in many locations including Charleston, South Carolina, Guam, Scotland, Hawaii, Long Beach, Ca., Okinawa, Washington DC and Misawa, Japan. He served on many Chief Selection Boards in Washington DC during the 1980's. For several years

he was a member of the Naval Policy Review Board in Washington DC. And in 1986 he attended and graduated from the Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, Rhode Island. Roy eventually served as the Command Master Chief for the Reserve Center in Long Beach, Ca. He retired in 1995. He was proud to serve his country and enjoyed the many fine people he met and worked with during his 26 years of service. In addition to his Navy commitment Roy worked at AT&T. He started as a Lineman working in the desert in Southern California. Over the years he had many other job titles including Repairman, Line Assigner, and Installer. As technology advanced in AT&T, so did Roy. One of his final assignments was working on installing and repairing high speed technology services for businesses. Whatever job he had, he loved his work. He had a good sense of humor and enjoyed working with his teammates. After 49 years of service he retired in September, 2018. Roy had many passions and was always involved in something. He was an avid scuba diver,



even became a certified dive instructor, and obtained a black belt in Aikido. His favorite activities included spending time with family, his dogs and friends on the water in one of several boats he owned during his lifetime. Roy always enjoyed the outdoors, with favorite activities including boating, kayaking, camping, hiking, backpacking, running, biking and snowshoeing. Northern Idaho seemed the perfect place to pursue these activities. In 2010 he and

Debbie purchased a home in Naples, ID. When Roy retired in 2018 they moved permanently to Naples where he continued to pursue his hobbies and activities.

Unfortunately he passed much too soon from cancer, leaving his wife, son, sister and other family members to remember his larger than life presence and his hearty laugh. Services will be held later this summer and his ashes spread in the Pacific Ocean near some of his favorite dive spots., Roy requested that he be memorialized by making a donation to Panhandle Animal Shelter in Ponderay, ID.



Hiroko Ozaki Forbes, 77, August 7, 1942 - July 5, 2020

of Moyock, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 6, 2020. Born in Japan, she was the daughter of the late Shoyaman and Tami Ozaki. She was also predeceased by husband, MNCM (Retired) Bob Forbes of Charleston, SC and Granddaughter, Laura of Chesapeake, VA.

Survivors include her two daughters, Gretchen Baxley (Robert) and Bobbie Eastwood (Randy); grandchildren, Michael, Bryan, Aaron and Keely; two great-grandsons, Jason and George as well as many other extended family and dear friends.

Friends are invited to share memories and sign the online guestbook at www.omanfh.com.

Lt Michael Grant Myers, LDO/USN (Retired) DOB 1950 - DOD 13 May 2020 (70), Summerville, SC

After retiring from active duty, Mike became a government contractor as a senior engineer. He is survived by his wife Kathy. Funeral arrangements were made by the James A. Dyal Funeral Home in Summerville, SC



Mineman Miscellany

On October 12, 1943, The Navy Bureau of Ordinance (BuOrd) established the Mineman rate and re-designated those Gunner's Mates (Mines) and Ordinance Technicians, whose primary duty was the maintenance, assembly and planting Navy Underwater Mines, as Minemen.



MN²A' Graduation
sometime in 1978



MK 55 Mine
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1974 - 2020

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DATE _____ EMAIL _____

TEL _____ SIGNATURE _____

ELEGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

Application Fee: \$5.00 - Annual Dues: \$15.00 - NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues must be paid annually by the month of October. The dues expiration date is printed on the mailing label above your name. Mail checks to the Association of Minemen, P.O. Box 2180, Temple City, CA 91780 Our on-line member application link- <https://form.jotform.com/90215855401148>. If you have any questions about your membership, please send an email with your question to: assocminemen@yahoo.com.