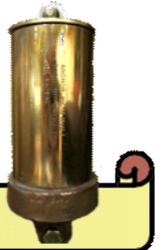




The DASH POT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

From the President

MN1 Charles Humbard (ret)



Fleet News



[NMCPAC EAD Unit Guam](#)
[October 16 at 12:21 AM](#)

My sincere condolences to the families of recently departed, shipmates, and family members. Those who are on the binnacle list or suffering from a medical issue, but know that your shipmates are wishing you a speedy recovery. Each of you remain in our thoughts and prayers throughout your ordeal.

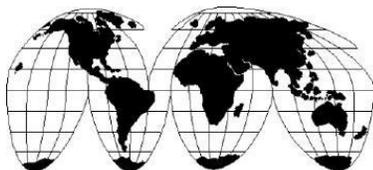
I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the 51st AOM Reunion in Charleston SC.

For the local Minemen there is a lunch the first Friday of every month at 11am. The lunch is held at the Stones Throw Brewing in Goose Creek. We have around 12 attendees on a regular basis.

Please pass the word about our AOM Scholarship Awards Program, we have awarded 240 scholarships totalling \$161,900.00. This is our way to help our families afford College. I would like to thank everyone who donated through the AOM auction. Also I would like to thank Scholarship Chairman and committee for their hard work. Remember our Shipmates and their families during the Holidays who may need help or just a phone call, text, or email now and then to lift their spirits or just to reminisce old times.

God bless and protect our Solders, Sailors, Airman, Marines, Space Force, and Coast Guard. God bless the USA.

Charles & Kim



HABA ADAI FROM TEAM NMC 🌴

NMCPAC EAD Unit Guam is the largest and most capable overseas mine shop. Our mission is to store, maintain, assemble and deliver underwater mines in support of 7th fleet. Our team is comprised of both military and civilian personnel



[Mine Warfare Training Center](#)
[October 9 at 12:58 PM](#)

⚓ Fair Winds and Following Seas, MNC Olsen! ⚓
Mine Warfare Training Center would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Mineman Chief Olsen for his outstanding dedication, leadership, and hard work during his time at MWTC. His commitment to excellence and mentorship has made a lasting impact on our Sailors and the mission. As he heads off to his next command, we wish him nothing but success and continued achievement in all his future endeavors. Thank you for everything you've done for the team, Chief — you'll always be part of the MWTC family!

DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U.S. NAVY

MINE FORCES

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.

OFFICERS

President

Charles Humbard (24-27)
111 Calhoun Ave
Goose Creek, SC 29445
charleshumbard@gmail.com

Vice President

Darryl Fox (24-27)
514 Sunnyside Ave
Meadville, PA 16355
Ph 716-940-6495
darr8f@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Nate Miranda (18- -□)
PO Box 2180
Temple City CA 91780
(626) 824-0727
assocminemen@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Bob Defrees (24-27)
526 South Honeysuckle LN
Gilbert, AZ 85296
Ph.623-229-6159
jdfreed@cox.net

Bruce Chapman (24-27)
9570 Charter Oak Lane.
Riverside, CA 92503
brucemncm@aol.com

Misty Rains (25-28)
745 W 99th Ave,
Northglenn, CO 80260
naturallylivingmom@gmail.com

John Epps (25-28)
231 Silverwood Ct
Richland, Wa 99352
Ph 509-366-0214
mncm@aol.com

David Badger (23-26)
2837 Lake Rd
Woodlawn, TN 37191
storboc@yahoo.com
907 529-0978

Michaelle Elliott (23-26)
3617 Beach Tree Dr
Hudson, NC 28638
8912bobandi@gmail.com

Past President
John Epps (17-21)
231 Silverwood Ct
Richland, Wa 99352
Ph 509-366-0214
mncm@aol.com

COMMITTEES

A.O.M. Historian

Don Moody (18- -□)
2559 King Richards Rd.
Melbourne, FL 32935-2932
PH 321-223-5337
donmoody8@gmail.com

Scholarship Chair

Ron Glasen (12- -□)
540 Cambridge ct. 1-D
Munster, IN 46321
Ph. 219-678-3228
searchcoil@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Nate Miranda (18- -□)
PO Box 2180
Temple City CA 91780
(626) 824-0727
assocminemen@yahoo.com

COMMUNICATION CHAIR

Don Moody (18- -□)
2559 King Richards Rd.
Melbourne, FL 32935-2932 PH
321-223-5337
donmoody8@gmail.com

Chaplin

David Badger (21- -☺)
2837 Lake Rd
Woodlawn, TN 37191
907 529-0978
storboc@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian

VACANT

Storekeeper

Tracey Hays (21- -□)
216 South Central
Somerset, KY 42501
(860) 559-9724
traceyannahays@gmail.com

Editor. "The DASH POT"

David Badger (23-☺)
2837 Lake Rd
Woodlawn, TN 37191
907 529-0978
storboc@yahoo.com



From the Editor

MNC Dave Badger (ret)



Welcome to another issue of the Dashpot.

Having just returned from the AOM Reunion in Charleston I will say I missed seeing those that could not attend. Hopefully you can attend the next one. We did have a great time from the start at the Meet and Greet on Wednesday to the luncheon and auction on Saturday. If you have never been to an auction conducted by Tim Paton you have missed a very fun time. Tim keeps you laughing while raising money for the Scholarship fund. Hopefully in the future we can broadcast the auction so those that can't attend can at least watch.

My condolences to the families of recently departed. And to those who are on the binnacle list or suffering from a medical issue, know that we wish you a speedy recovery. Each of you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to all the shiny new Chiefs and Mineman graduates, may your futures be bright as you go forward to defend our country.

If you have any article or information you would like to see in the Dashpot please let me know. You can email or call. I am always looking for articles of interest to our membership.

Dave B



T-Shirt my wife found at the Joint Base Charleston Exchange.

Secretary Treasurer Report- Oct. 2025

It was great seeing old shipmates at the Charleston reunion. Our auction luncheon was a huge success netting just over \$2,800, which helps to fund our scholarship fund. A special thanks goes out to our auctioneer, Tim Paton and his "Vanna White", Mike Gildersleeve. They did a stellar job! As for our finances, we are in the black and hope to stay there when members bring up their membership dues up to date! As mentioned in the Membership Report, please look closely at the date just below your name on the Dashpot mailing label. That is the date in which your dues are up. If you find that the date is not correct, please send me an email and I will make the corrections. My email address is assocminemen@yahoo.com. Or, if you would like to send me a note by mail, here is the address. Association of Minemen, P. O. Box 2180, Temple City CA, 91780

Nate Miranda



Membership Committee Report- Oct. 2025

This quarter we had 3 new members joining us. However, we are dropping 13 members who have past dues since 2022. Sorry to see them go! Please take note of your membership status printed on the mailing label just under your name and send in your dues as soon as possible! Remember, there are two ways you can send in your dues. 1) you can mail it to; Association of Minemen, P. O. Box 2180, Temple City CA, 91780 or 2) electronic transaction by going to <https://form.jotform.com/90215855401148>.

Nate Miranda



Japan Holds Minelaying Drills Around Strategic Islands Near Taiwan

Minesweeper tender JS Uruga (MST-463) and destroyer JS Sawagiri (DD-157) practice minelaying south of the Sakishima Islands, Oct 3, 2025. Joint Staff Office of the Japan Self-Defense Forces photo

Japan's largest minelayer practiced defending a chain of strategic islands near Taiwan last week in what Tokyo described as a demonstration of "determination not to allow unilateral changes to the status quo by force."

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) minesweeper tender JS *Uruga* (MST-463) and destroyer JS *Sawagiri* (DD-157) held a series of tactical exercises Friday near the Sakishima Islands, the country's southwestern most territories located 100 kilometers from Taiwan. The minelaying was meant to "strengthen deterrence in the region and maintain and improve mission execution capabilities," according to a release from the Ministry of Defense Joint Staff Office.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the Scholarship Committee Awarded 1 Scholarship. Since 1996 the Association of Minemen have awarded 240 scholarships totaling \$161,900.00. This year we received 1 scholarship application. This application was from a studious young lady from South Carolina.

This year we received total donations from members of \$1,226. Any apathy to the rules and instructions when filling out your application will be taken into consideration by your scholarship committee when making our decision 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. To receive a AOM Scholarship.

(1) The candidate must complete the application forms S-1 and S-2.

(2) Provide a current Transcript of Credits earned from the 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 interest/ study, the courses he or she plans to complete.

(5) Provide any other pertinent information that the candidate feels might enhance their chances of receiving a Scholarship Award. Failure to follow these rules will make the application incomplete and will not be considered for a AOM Scholarship Award.

Cont PG 4

2025 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont)

Your Scholarship Committee of Robert Stancik, Don Moody, and myself Ronald Glasen, want-thank---you for' your past-support, and ask that you PLEASE continue to support the Scholarship Program with your generous donations. We need to continue the proud and great tradition of the "ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM.

Scholarship Chairmen



Ronald Glasen

AOM RECORD OF YEARLY SCHOLARSHIP DISPERSEMENTS

Year	Awards	Award \$	YR Total	Gross AMNT	Total Awards
1996	5	\$500	\$2500	\$2500	5
1997	2	\$500	\$1000	\$3500	7
1998	3	\$500	\$1500	\$5000	10
1999	2	\$500	\$1000	\$6000	12
2000	4	\$600	\$2400	\$8400	16
2001	4	\$500	\$2000	\$10400	20
2002	4	\$500	\$2000	\$12400	24
2003	9	\$500	\$4500	\$16900	33
2004	14	\$500	\$7000	\$23900	47
2005	13	\$500	\$6500	\$30400	60
2006	14	\$500	\$7000	\$37400	74
2007	15	\$750	\$11250	\$48650	89
2008	12	\$750	\$9000	\$57650	101
2009	17	\$750	\$12750	\$70400	118
2010	18	\$750	\$13500	\$83000	136
2011	22	\$750	\$16500	\$101150	158
2012	21	\$750	\$15750	\$116150	179
2013	9	\$750	\$6750	\$122900	188
2014	10	\$750	\$7500	\$130400	198
2015	12	\$750	\$9000	\$139400	210
2016	4	\$750	\$3000	\$142400	214
2017	5	\$750	\$3750	\$146150	219
2018	9	\$750	\$6750	\$152900	228
2019	4	\$750	\$3000	\$155900	232
2020	4	\$750	\$3000	\$158900	236
2021	1	\$750	\$750	\$159650	237
2022	0	\$750	0	\$159650	237
2023	1	\$750	\$750	\$160400	238
2024	1	\$750	\$750	\$161150	239
2025	1	\$750	\$750	\$161900	240

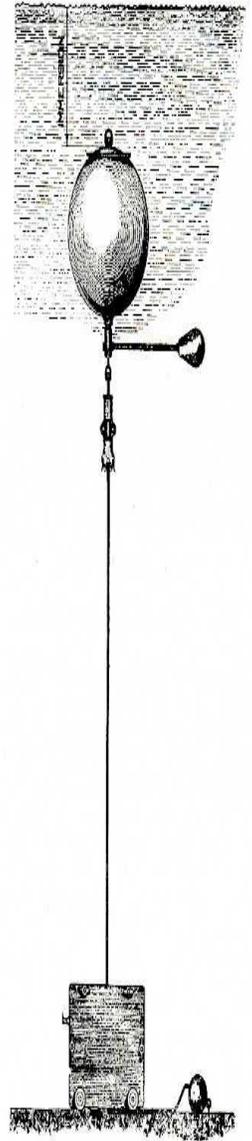
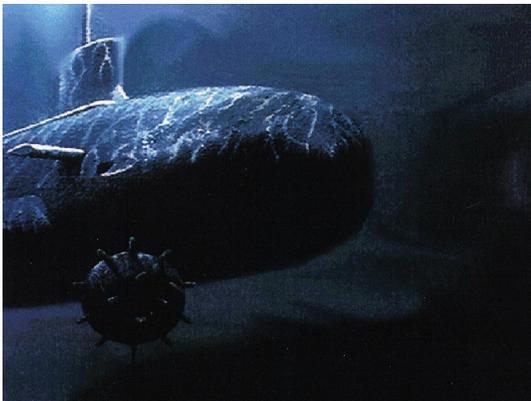


Figure 15.—Naval defense mine Mk 3.



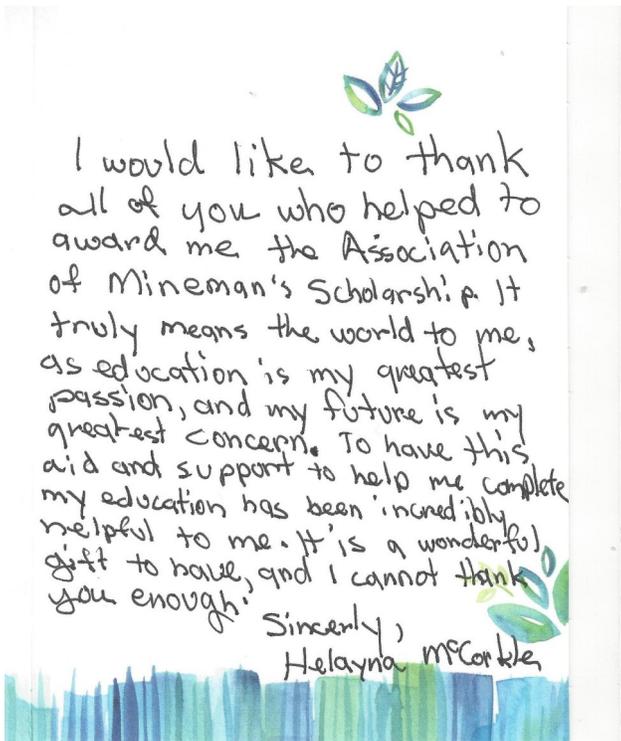
U.S. NAVY



MINEMAN



Thank you note to AOM



Mine Warfare Training Center

On September 16, 2025 Mine Warfare Training Center proudly congratulated our newest Chiefs on reaching one of the most significant milestones in their Navy careers; joining the ranks of the Chief Petty Officer Mess!

We congratulate the following

MWTC staff:

- MNC Calver
- MNC Littleton
- MNC Pier
- MNC Wiktorowski
- MNC Zamagne



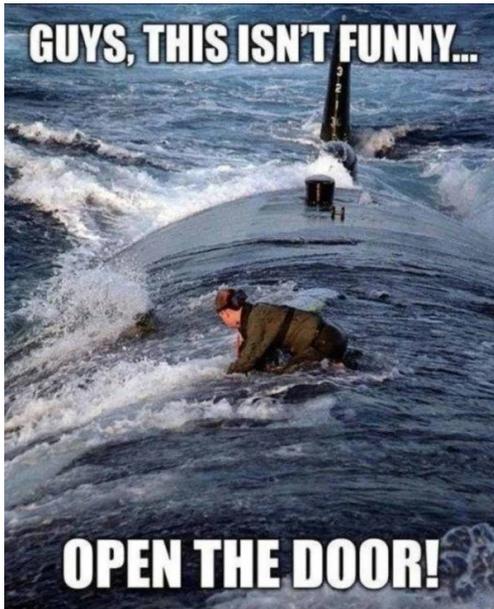
[Mine Warfare Training Center](#)
[October 8 at 10:25 AM](#)



MWTC Welcomes Force Master Chief Visit

At the end of August, Mine Warfare Training Center had the honor of hosting Force Master Chief Hodges of Naval Education and Training Command. Master Chief Hodges took time to meet with our staff and Sailors and provided an incredible opportunity to discuss the future of our Navy, the evolving landscape of Mine Warfare, and the importance of preparing our newest accession Sailors for success in the Fleet.

Our Sailors appreciated his insight, mentorship, and honest discussion on leadership, readiness, and professional growth. Thank you, Master Chief, for your time, guidance, and continued commitment to shaping the future of our Navy!



Visit the A.O.M Ship's Store

[https:// minemen.org/wp/aom-ships-store/](https://minemen.org/wp/aom-ships-store/)



Historian Report:

Historian report

MOMAGs (Mobile Mine Assembly Groups) were specialized U.S. Navy units that handled the assembly, storage, maintenance, and issue of naval mines. They supported both fleet mine warfare operations and forward-deployed forces during the Cold War.

In the mid-1970s through the 1990s, the Navy reorganized its mine warfare structure. MOMAGs were converted into **NMCs (Naval Munitions Commands)** because:

- Broader Mission Scope** – MOMAGs were narrowly focused on mines, while NMCs were designed to handle a wider range of ordnance (torpedoes, missiles, bombs, and mines). The change reflected a shift toward consolidated ordnance logistics rather than single-weapon specialization.
- Efficiency & Standardization** – The Navy wanted to streamline its ammunition logistics under a single command structure. Instead of having separate organizations for mines, torpedoes, and general ordnance, the Navy folded them into Naval Munitions Commands for efficiency.
- Changing Operational Needs** – As Cold War mine threats evolved and the Navy relied more on advanced missile systems, the demand for dedicated mine assembly units decreased. Combining them into NMCs allowed resources and personnel to be better utilized.
- Administrative Alignment** – NMCs fit into the broader **Naval Ordnance Center (NOC)** and later **Naval Weapons Station (NWS)** structure, simplifying command and control across the Navy’s ordnance enterprise.

So in short:

- MOMAGs were specialized, mine-only units.
- They became NMCs to broaden their role to all naval ordnance, improve efficiency, and align with evolving Navy logistics.

Here’s a timeline (with what is known / found) of when and where the U.S. Navy’s MOMAG / COMOMAG (Mobile Mine Assembly Group) was converted into or realigned under NMC (Navy Munitions Command), and how the Mine Activities were consolidated. I didn’t find every MOMAG detachment’s date, but these are the key milestones and known conversions.

Key Dates & Events

Date	Event / Location	Details
15 October 1973	MOMAG concept directed	Decision by Commander Mine Warfare Forces to create the Mobile Mine Assembly Group (MOMAG), growing out of previous Mobile Mine Assembly Teams (MOMATs).
1 July 1975	Establishment of COMOMAG Commander, MOMAG	Official establishment of Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group headquartered in Charleston, SC.
July 1995	HQ move to Corpus Christi, Tx	COMOMAG headquarters moved in July 1995 to be co-located with Mine Warfare Command & Mine Countermeasure Squadrons in the “South Coastal Bend region” of Texas.
1 October 2006	Realignment under Navy Munitions Command	COMOMAG was realigned under the newly formed Navy Munitions Command (NMC) as a Mining Division. On this date, the remaining Mine Activities (Mines Units) were disestablished and consolidated with Navy Munitions Command Division Units in various locations.
~2009	Base realignment & move of COMOMAG location	COMOMAG moved from South Texas to Southern California (Point Loma, San Diego) as part of base realignment efforts.
Sept 2009 (1 Oct 2009)	Signonella ordnance responsibility shifts to NMC	NMC Detachment Signonella established October 1, 2009, replacing the NAS Signonella Weapons Department.



Navy Munitions Command Pacific, East Asia Division, Unit Misawa, Japan



Navy Munitions Command Pacific, East Asia Division, Unit Misawa, Japan August 24

Express gratitude to the NAVSEA test equipment team for their essential training and guidance, which enabled the successful completion and certification of the Unit Misawa Test Equipment Lab. Recognize MN1 Tate and MN2 Ramirez for their hard work, which was critical to this achievement.

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMAN (AOM) MINEMAN OF THE YEAR 2025

Sea

MN1(SW) Jonathan M. Rangel

Mineman First Class Petty Officer Rangel was born on June 7th, 1990 in Houston, Texas. He enlisted in the United States Navy and attended basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois in 2015. Upon completion of basic training, he attended Mineman Apprenticeship School in San Diego, California. He currently serves as the Operations Department Leading Petty Officer onboard USS DEVASTATOR (MCM-6), a Forward Deployed Mine Countermeasures ship homeported in Manama, Bahrain.



Petty Officer Rangel began his naval career serving as a Deck Mineman onboard USS DEXTROUS (MCM-13), a Forward Deployed Mine Countermeasures ship homeported in Manama, Bahrain, from July 2016 til December 2018. His second assignment was onboard USS WARRIOR (MCM-10) in Sasebo, Japan where he served as Armory Leading Petty Officer from December 2018 till January 2022. He was then assigned to his first shore tour at Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR) in Norfolk, Virginia, where he served as Operational Test Director for LCS Mine Warfare Mission Package from February 2022 to September 2023. He has been married to Kathrina Rangel since December 24, 2021 with no children currently.

His academic achievements include Academic Writing 1, Arts history, Technology in Contemporary Society, Foundations of Oral Communication, Introduction to Research, and United States Military Apprenticeship Program course.

His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (seven awards), Good Conduct Medal (three awards), as well as the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Insignia.

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMAN (AOM) MINEMAN OF THE YEAR 2025

Shore

MN1(SW) Derek McCutchen

MIW Team Lead Commander, Naval Surface Group Central

Petty Officer Derek McCutchen hails from Kingwood, Texas where he graduated from Splendora High School and immediately enlisted in the Navy 08 August 2016. Upon completion of Boot Camp, he attended Mineman "A" School at Mine Warfare Training Center San Diego, CA.

His first duty station was FDNF-C onboard USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) in Manama, Bahrain from November 2017 through January 2020, where he advanced to 3rd Class Petty Officer. He qualified as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist while completing and participating in multiple multi-national Mine Warfare exercises. He achieved the qualification of as rig captain and minesweeping POIC.

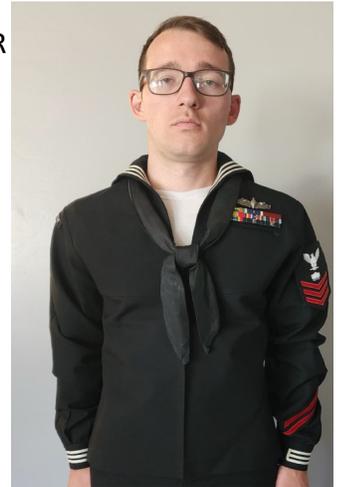
After completing GCCS-M, AN/SLQ48 operator and maintenance he reported to FDNF-J in August 2020, to USS WARRIOR (MCM 10) where he remained until January 2023. Participating in several real world operations and multiple multi-national Mine Warfare exercises throughout the 7th Fleet AOR. Advancing to 2nd Class Petty Officer and qualified Combat Information Center Watch Supervisor.

After completing AN/SQQ32 school he reported to Commander, Naval Surface Group Central (FDNF-C) in April 2023 where he advanced to 1st Class Petty Officer and qualified as a MIW Team Member / Team Leader along with attaining his Afloat Training Specialist (ATS) qualification. Additionally, volunteering time to get UW with all ships on the waterfront to attain his Combat Information Watch Officer, Antiterrorism Watch Officer, and Mine Counter Measures Evaluator.



ASSOCIATION OF MINEMAN (AOM) MINEMAN OF THE YEAR
2025 Reserve

Colton Cook
Mine Assembly Unit Okinawa
Seal Beach CA.



Mineman Petty Officer First Class Cook was born in Des Moines, Iowa on 15 May 1997 and raised in South Des Moines and Norwalk, Iowa. His father, Sherwin, is a steelworker at Firestone, and his mother, Mary, is a cardiovascular sonographer at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iowa City. His wife, Ilse, is currently pursuing her education to become a Registered Nurse. He attended Norwalk Senior High School in Norwalk, IA, and graduated in 2015, participating in a variety of sports throughout his academic years.

With little preparation for college and a strong desire to travel, he chose to follow in his older footsteps by joining the U.S. Navy. After graduation, he contacted a recruiter and enlisted as a Mineman. He left for boot camp in October 2015 and endured the winter at Great Lakes before traveling west to attend School in early spring. His first duty station was the USS Warrior, where he reported in mid to late 2016.

This marked the beginning of his Naval career. While onboard, he earned two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualification. After checking onboard, he was luckily selected for the Tiger Team during the Light Off Assessment, gaining valuable hands-on experience that was utilized to receive his ESWS. He was temporarily assigned to USS Patriot, this opportunity underway helped him become one of the most qualified Sailors of his rank once returning to his crew. Near the end of his tour, he earned multiple advanced qualifications, including Fire Marshal, Damage Control Training Team Member, Combat Information Center Watch Supervisor, Master Helmsman, and Sonar Supervisor.

Following this tour, MN1 Cook reported to NMC PAC UNIT Seal Beach in August 2019. Initially assigned to the Supply Department, he supported daily RSSI movements. Through hard work and dedication, he became QA/SO qualified, led the QA division, and received a board member designation letter, serving on qualification and certification boards. Taking part in two Munitions Readiness Certification Inspections (MRCIs) and one Mine Readiness Assist Visit (MRAV). Becoming a key contributor to the operational success and team cohesion at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.

In September 2022, he made the decision to transition out of active duty to pursue new goals and further his education. Continuing his Navy career in the Selected Reserve, he currently serves as the Leading Petty Officer for NR NMC PAC MAU OKINAWA's Operations Department. There, he leads and coordinates 30 Sailors across five sections and has participated in one MRCI and one MRAV. Since arriving at the unit, he has consistently taken on responsibility and shared his active-duty experience to enhance the development of junior Sailors. His involvement in training, planning, and execution has contributed to a positive cultural shift in work ethic and operational readiness. He is well-respected by both leadership and peers alike.

On the civilian side, Petty Officer Cook has placed his education on hold to support his academic journey. He is currently employed at the Mine Warfare Training Center under General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), where he began instructing at Mineman School. Since then, he has advanced to roles including Mine Warfare Evaluator, Mission Planner, and Post Mission Analysis/Contact Manager in the Tactics Office. His work plays a direct role in improving warfighter readiness and supporting critical mine warfare operations across the fleet.

AOM Founders



Photo and note provided by Jane Horn

This photo was taken at a Mine Conference at NMEF in Yorktown in 1972. I believe it's when during that conference, this group decided to start having reunions every year.

I can identify some but not all. Toby is front center. Earl Roberts is front far left and I think that is Phil Dechene to Earl's right. Not sure who is next to Phil but Andy Anderson is next just left of Toby. To Toby's right in back is Ed Sprecher. Third from right is Bob Benatende, then Lyal Stryker. I am afraid that's all I can remember.

They were a great group of guys.

(From the book U.S NAVAL MINES AND MINEMEN A History)

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

Created in 1970

Constitution and By-Laws Adopted and Officers Elected -1977

Officially Incorporated in State of South Carolina 3 February 1981

OUR PREAMBLE

To cherish the memories, experiences and associations of our Mine Warfare Forces Units and Personnel during peacetime and while engaged in the World Wars, Military Actions, Conflicts and Campaigns waged for humanity;

To instill and stimulate love of our country and our Flag;

To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation;

Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States· '

o foster relations among all branches of the Armed Forces, including those of our Allied Nations;

To acquire and preserve records of U. S. Navy Mine Warfare Force services including individual achievements and their associated honors and awards;

To encourage and assist in the holding of Commemorations and the establishment of Memorials dedicated to accomplishments of U. S. Navy Mine Forces;

And to transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our country, we are established

AOM Reunion 2025 Meet and Greet



Mark McClain enjoys free dinner



Dave and Shirley Badger



Relaxing by the pool



Kenneth Pfitzer and Mark McClain



Dave Badger and JW Epps



Loading the Hospitality Room



Gary Cleland and Mike Ball



Mike Maistros



AOM Reunion Day 2



JW Epps



Charlie and Kim Humbard



Don Moody



Misty Rains



Gary

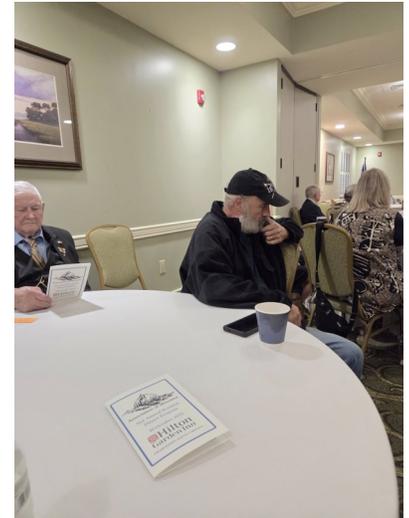


Mike Maistros and his son Dave

AOM Reunion Meetings/Dinner



Kenneth Pfitzer and Mark McClain



AOM Auction 2025



Our Auctioneer Tim Paton



Some Auction Items



Some Auction Items



Charlie Humbard, Tim Paton and Mike Gildersleeve



Cowboy Hill





John M Robinson IV MN2

March 14, 1961 - August 15, 2025
Holton, KS

John Marshall Robinson IV, 64, of Holton, KS, passed unexpectedly August 15, 2025 at his home. He was born March 14, 1961 in Sedalia, MO, the son of John Marshall Robinson III and Flora Mae (Parks) Rodewald.

After graduation, John joined and proudly served in the United States Navy from 1988-1995, serving as a Weapons Systems Technician, until he was medically discharged.

He was a member of the Harley Motorcycle Club.

John married Willimena J. Hall on September 9, 2008 in Holton, they celebrated over 16 years of marriage. He was also preceded in death by a step-daughter, Nadean Hall and sister, Theresa Rodewald.



Robert O Elliott

Spouse of **Michaëlle Elliot**

Nov 13, 1944 — Sept 4, 2025
Hudson, NC

Robert "Bob" O. Elliott Sr. 80, of Hudson, NC passed away Thursday, September 4, 2025 at his home. He was born November 13, 1944 in Mecklenburg Co. to the late Robert Burton Elliott and Julia Caldwell Elliott.

Bob was a veteran of the Air Force serving during Vietnam, he was an aircraft mechanic. After serving the Air Force Bob went to work for the NC corrections he worked his way from guard to Correctional Superintendent 2 he retired after 32 years. He loved spending time with his family and his boys Loki, Scout, and Romeo.

TAPS



William J Mehard LCDR
Jan 27 1933—Sept 19 2025
North Charleston, SC



William James Mehard, Jr. William James Mehard, Jr., age 92, of Daniel Island, SC, died Friday, September 19, 2025, after a month-long illness at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC. Known to all as Bill, he was born on January 27, 1933, in New Castle, PA.

Bill enlisted in the United States Navy, which took him to many port cities of the world. He was commissioned as an officer and later retired in June 1976 in Charleston, SC, after 25 years of dedicated service as a Lt. Commander.



Julie Newman (Smolenski), MN3
Huntington Beach, CA, 20 May 1966 - 17 Sep 2025

Julie Newman was born in Orange, California, and passed away in Huntington Beach, California. She was the daughter of William and Beatrice Smolenski and the sister of Bill and James Smolenski.

Julie proudly served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in the Philippines for four years. After her military service, she worked as a secretary at the University of California, Irvine.

She was passionate about rock music and believed in being a kind human being to people from all walks of life. Julie thought that smiling and staying in a good mood were important and she would talk to anyone at any time. She will be remembered as a giving person who was always willing to help others in need.



Allen T Bellamy Jr, MNMCM
1-20-1937 — 10-20-2024
Holden Beach, NC

Bo was born on January 20, 1937, in Wampee, SC to Allen and Ruby Johnson Bellamy. After graduating from State High School in Camden, SC. Bo enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1956. He proudly and honorably served his country for 30 years before retiring as a Mineman Master Chief Petty Officer.

Bo will be remembered for his strong faith, his hearty laugh, his bear hugs, his entertaining stories about his youth on the farm, and his many adventures in the Navy. He gave generously to many children's charities. His favorite was St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Bo enjoyed many close friendships in the Holden Beach community. A life-long fitness enthusiast, Bo was a fixture at the gym, working out several times a week with his buddies at TruFit in Shallotte. He was a regular at many local coffee shops and restaurants. He loved to make babies laugh, lighting up any room with their joyful giggles. He was a lover of all desserts, especially Ma's cakes and key lime pie. He enjoyed happy hour, British TV comedies, and mysteries. Bo was never one for rigid plans or schedules, preferring instead to live life at his own pace. His free-spirited nature and spontaneous personality made every moment with him an adventure. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends, but his memory will continue to bring smiles and laughter to all who knew him.



William Stanfel
February 4, 1940 —
September 5, 2025
Fargo, ND

William "Bill" C. Stanfel, 85, of Fargo, ND and Cotton Lake, Rochert, MN, passed away peacefully on September 5, 2025, at the Fargo VA Medical Center, surrounded by his family and friends, under the compassionate care of Hospice.

Born on February 4, 1940, in Canton, IL to August and Margaret (Eyerly) Stanfel, Bill was raised in Canton and graduated from Canton Senior High School in May of 1957. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served honorably from 1957 until his discharge in 1961. During his service, he attended the Naval Mine Warfare School, later continuing his commitment to the Navy as he retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve as Master Chief Mineman on August 1, 1994.



Michael Lee Bolger

November 26, 1953 — August 12, 2013

Michael Lee Bolger, 59, of Mount Dora, passed away Saturday, August 10, 2013. Born in Saginaw, Michigan, he moved to Mount Dora in 1992 from Chicago, Illinois. He retired as a Mineman First Class from the US Navy after 20 years of service to his country.

The Binnacle List



Lilly Holmes
Shelburn, In

Granddaughter of Steve Gooch, she continues her battle with cancer please keep her in your thoughts and prayers She has osteosarcoma.

Wife of MNCS Gerald "Mac" Berry

My wife has developed Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease and I am the caretaker.



2025 AOM GENERAL BUSINESS/MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

CALLED TO ORDER:

By President Charles Humbard October 10, 2025 @ 1:05 PM

WELCOMING ADDRESS:

Charles welcomes the members to the 2025 Membership and Business meeting.

START OF 2025 MEMBERSHIP AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF 2023 MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Meeting Minutes was printed in Dashpot #117 and mailed to all members for their review. We propose that the reading of these minutes be waived.

Approval by, All in attendance.

Seconded by, All in attendance.

2025 BOD BUSINESS NOTES

BOD actions since last membership meeting were reported as part of the 2025 BOD meeting minutes.

2025 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Scholarship committee member Ron Glasen reported one scholarship was awarded this year.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the Scholarship Committee Awarded 1 Scholarship. Since 1996 the Association of Minemen have awarded 240 scholarships totaling \$161,900.00. This year we received 1 scholarship applications. This application was from a studious young lady from South Carolina.

This year we received total donations from our members' totaling \$1,664.18

Any apathy to the rules and instructions when filling out your application, will be taken into consideration by your scholarship committee when making our decision 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. To receive a AOM Scholarship.

1. The candidate must complete the application forms S-1 and S-2.
2. Provide a current Transcript of Credits earned from the 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 interest/study, the courses he or she plans to complete.

5. Provide any other pertinent information that the candidate feels might enhance their chances of receiving a Scholarship Award. Failure to follow these rules will make the application incomplete, and will not be considered for a AOM Scholarship Award.

Your Scholarship Committee of Robert Stancák, Don Moody, and myself Ronald Glasen, want thank you for your past support, and ask that you PLEASE continue to support the Scholarship Program with your generous donations. We need to continue the proud and great tradition of the "ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM".

Scholarship Chairmen



Ronald Glasen

2025 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE

The BOD has reviewed funding available and provides \$4,000 for up to four scholarships for the 2025 scholarship awards. Note:

COMMUNICATION & HISTORIAN - Report from Don Moody – Communication and Historian

1. Tribute videos: 5
2. Minemen News: 24
3. Website: updates and improvements, man hours work
 1. Website host did some changes that thanks to Nathan I was finally able to make some small addition, 50-man hrs.
4. FB Total MN: 136 Plus 27 approved waiting
5. FB AOM: 1150 - 20 = 1170 Plus 3 approved waiting
6. FB MN US Navy: 1258 + 85 = 1343 Plus 12 approved waiting
7. FB COMOMAG: 366 + 31 = 397 Plus 12 approved waiting
8. Departed reported: 14
9. MN Boxes of stuff: zero

2025 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT - reported by Nate Miranda – Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT - reported by Nate Miranda – Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – FY 2024/25

5 - NEW MEMBERS, 1 - REINSTATED MEMBERS and 16 - DROPPED MEMBERS

Of the dropped members, 5 - DECEASED, 1 – non-payment of dues since 2022.

The past due members stand at 13 – 2022, 13 – 2023 and 22 – 2024

I have been holding off dropping the 13 for 2022 in hopes that they would send in their dues before having to pay the \$5 reinstatement fee. However, once they pass the 3-year mark, I will drop them. I am doing something new as well. If I have an email address of members who send in their dues, I acknowledge their support via mail a personal email.

Of the 258 members on the mailing list, 18 are Commands mailing, 25 are spouses of deceased members. 215 are dues paying members.

DASHPOT EDITOR REPORT – Reported by Dave Badger

1. *Published 4 Issues of the Dashpot*
2. *Maintain the Transfer to Heaven list (20)*
3. *Mailed out condolence cards (20)*

2025 BOD SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT - Report by Charles Humbard

- 23 Registered
- 22 Dinner Cruise
- 36 Dinner Sold
- 32 Signed up for Auction/Picnic Lunch

2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominations Committee members: Charles Humbard.

The 2025 officers whose positions are up for election are:

Nate nominates Misty Rains to fill the outgoing Noah Kalemkiewicz BOD. Also nominate John Epps to fill the outgoing John Epps (Michael Pittenger replacement)

2025 BOD FINANCIAL REPORTS

TREASURERS REPORT- presented by Nate Miranda – Treasurer

2025 TREASURER’S REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TREASURER’S REPORT FY 2024/2025

CASH ON HAND, IN THE BANK AS OF 10/01/2025		\$49,030.64
SCHOLARSHIP FUND CD		\$10,000.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND-201		\$10,656.23
202-REUNION ACTION AND OTHER DONATIONS		\$6,822.80
SANTA MARIA SCH FUND	Total money in bank \$89,686.87	\$20,000.00
OPERATING FUND		\$11,096.66

MONIES IN DUES ACCOUNTS

2022	\$2,576.13
2023	\$2,530.52
2024	\$2,605.98
2025	\$1,472.23
2026-2030	<u>\$2,975.58</u>
TOTAL	\$12,160.44

HISTORY BOOK	\$555.00
STORE KEEPER SUPPLIES	\$5,182.00

EXPENSES THIS YEAR

SCHOLARSHIPS	\$750.00
DASHPOT	\$2,430.35
HOST GENERAL WEBSITE DOMAIN	\$59.40
HOST GENERAL WEBSITE 10 GIG EXTRA SPACE	\$24.00
POST BOX (PO BOX)	\$170.00
CONSTANT CONTACT	\$189.70
PERMIT# 270 (With new Post Office process, no longer need to pay this.)	\$0.00
OPERATING EXPENSES (WEBSITE, PO BOX, MAILING PERMIT AND DOMAIN)	<u>\$443.10</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,623.45

CD earnings

Santa Maria CD earned \$552.46 and the AOM CD earned \$276.23. Total \$828.69. CD mature on November 7th, 2025. Current interest rate is 3.74%.

2024 STOREKEEPER REPORT by Tracey Hays

Total dollars in inventory are, \$ 5,182.00

CALL FOR DISCUSSION ON MOTION – Tracie Hays to look into lowering prices to move old inventory.

2024 BOD OLD BUSINESS / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2024 OB-1

STATED MOTION: Quorum Change Reported by: Nate Miranda

At the 2024 business, we voted on reducing the quorum number from 4 to 3. It was approved by the board; however, it needs approval by the members before we can make the change to the By-Laws.

2023 OB-2

TOPIC: Bookkeeping Software – Reported by Nate Miranda

Have not succeeded on finding a software package that is able to fit our needs yet. Still looking for something affordable as well.

2023 OB-3

TOPIC: None

2025 NEW BUSINESS

2025 BOD NEW / RECURRING BUSINESS

STATED MOTION: None

2025 MNOY Reported by: Charles Humbard

SEA: MN1(SW) JONATHAN M. RANGEL (USS DEVASTATOR MCM 6)

SHORE: MN1(SW) DEREK M. MCCUTCHEN (COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE GROUP CENTRAL)

RESERVE: MN1(SW) COLTON J. COOK (NR NMCPAC MAU OKINAWA)

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP FLOOR

2025 NB-1

TOPIC: 2026 Reunion Location

Take our recommendations to the General Members Meeting for their recommendations and/or approval. Also need to identify the 2026 reunion chairperson.

Reported by: Charles Humbard

CALL FOR DISCUSSION ON MOTION – At the BOD meeting it was recommended that we go to the Pacific Northwest, Washington State. We have not yet identified a reunion chairperson, in that it is still in the planning phase.

TONIGHT'S DINNER SPEAKER

No speaker identified. We opted to read the requirements to become a Mineman today. This was read by Dave Badger.

Adjourn

Meeting is adjourned @ 1:57 PM 10/10/2025. **END OF 2025 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Feel the Burn

Europe Is Calling Me!

ATTENTION

VISUAL
SEARCH

Every word listed is contained within the group of letters below. The words can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. The words can be read backward or forward.

AUSTRIA

FINLAND

IRELAND

RUSSIA

CZECH
REPUBLIC

FRANCE

ITALY

SPAIN

DENMARK

GERMANY

NORWAY

SWITZERLAND

ENGLAND

GREECE

POLAND

TURKEY

HUNGARY

PORTUGAL

Y	T	N	A	F	L	C	M	D	D	I	C	V	Y	L	Y
C	M	O	I	C	G	L	E	P	R	N	Y	R	M	R	N
T	V	R	S	T	Q	N	M	E	E	P	A	H	P	Y	D
C	R	W	S	K	M	M	L	N	C	G	O	L	Q	C	R
I	X	A	U	A	Q	A	H	T	N	M	P	L	N	T	M
L	L	Y	R	S	N	M	F	U	A	L	J	Q	A	I	V
B	M	K	V	D	W	K	H	P	R	Q	F	T	C	N	F
U	A	U	S	T	R	I	A	R	F	R	P	X	P	K	D
P	T	N	N	F	W	N	T	N	Y	N	A	M	R	E	G
E	U	K	P	E	F	K	D	Z	R	L	M	G	Y	T	N
R	R	T	X	F	C	J	N	K	E	D	F	L	R	I	P
H	K	X	K	P	Y	E	Z	C	T	R	A	R	A	N	G
C	E	W	W	R	D	V	E	L	T	T	L	P	R	J	K
E	Y	L	P	X	H	K	C	R	I	N	S	A	L	P	K
Z	H	E	N	G	L	A	N	D	G	T	M	W	N	Y	R
C	L	A	G	U	T	R	O	P	R	L	J	L	R	D	G

Finland to lead Naval Mines Cooperation

From NAVAL NEWS Published 10-17-25



In July 2024, the Defence Ministers of Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Finland signed a Letter of Intent on Naval Mines Cooperation Baltic Sea.

Naval Mines Cooperation aims to strengthen the collective defence and explore practical opportunities for cooperation in the procurement, logistics and operation of naval mine weapon systems.

The Finnish Navy has maintained a high level of expertise and developed consistently the different aspects of naval mines capability. Since the Letter of Intent, Finland has taken the lead role in Naval Mines Cooperation.

“Cooperation around the naval mine warfare is in the interest of Finland and our allies operating in and around the Baltic Sea. We have recognised that by sharing our own know-how, we will strengthen our allies, but our own defence as well”, says Finnish Minister of Defence Mr. Antti Häkkinen.

Now a Framework Arrangement (FA) for setting the scope for the NMC has been signed by Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Poland. The FA will enable joint procurements, navy-navy cooperation, logistics and life cycle management, exercises and training, exchange of information and development of the naval mine weapon systems.

A joint procurement of the Blocker Influence Sea Mine System under Finland’s leadership is also planned within the NMC framework. The joint procurement is being prepared by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Norway.

Minister Häkkinen considers joint procurement opportunities promising: “Finnish industry has world class products and know-how that interests our allies. Exploring opportunities for joint procurement is one possible area of cooperation, and we have been preparing a joint procurement of Blocker Sea Mines already.”

– End –

US Navy Upgrades Mine Warfare Capabilities With New Archerfish Neutralizer Contract.

From Naval News 6-19-2025



The image shows an MH-60S Seahawk helicopter equipped with Archerfish mine neutralizers for rapid airborne deployment. (Picture source: Bae Systems)

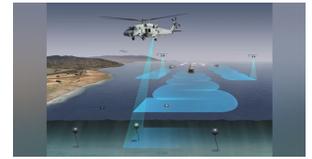
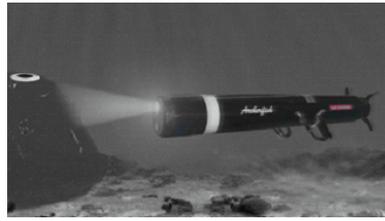
The Archerfish mine neutralizer is a state-of-the-art, lightweight, expendable, remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) specifically engineered to neutralize naval mines in deep and shallow waters. Measuring approximately 1.6 meters in length and weighing around 16 kilograms, the system can be deployed from the U.S. Navy’s MH-60S Seahawk helicopters as well as from unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) and remotely operated surface vessels. Its compact form factor facilitates rapid deployment and high maneuverability in complex underwater environments. Archerfish is equipped with a high-frequency sonar system and a low-light camera that provide real-time imagery and target discrimination capabilities, enabling operators to positively identify and engage threats. Navigation and control are maintained via a fiber-optic tether, which transmits live video and telemetry back to the launch platform. The payload consists of a high-precision shaped charge warhead, designed to penetrate and detonate the explosive content of sea mines without triggering sympathetic detonations or unnecessary collateral damage. The system is rated to operate at depths up to 300 meters and offers a stand-off engagement capability, reducing risk to manned assets. From a tactical perspective, the new contract to supply additional MK64 Mod 0 destructors and updated fiber optic spool kits enhances the operational readiness and versatility of the U.S. Navy’s mine countermeasure forces.

US Navy Upgrades Mine Warfare Capabilities With New Archerfish Neutralizer Contract. (Cont)

In modern naval operations, freedom of movement through contested littorals and chokepoints is critical, and sea mines remain one of the most cost-effective and widespread maritime threats. By integrating the Archerfish into expeditionary strike groups and carrier strike group operations, the U.S. Navy ensures a persistent and rapid-response mine neutralization capability that can be deployed from airborne platforms, without requiring the presence of slower, risk-prone legacy minesweeping vessels.

The fiber optic enhancements improve command-and-control resilience in environments with electronic warfare interference, while the new destructors ensure increased lethality against next-generation stealthy or buried mine types. This acquisition is aligned with the Navy's Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO) concept and Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO) doctrine, where speed, flexibility, and survivability are essential. The capability to eliminate underwater explosive threats swiftly and with surgical precision supports broader mission assurance for amphibious landings, port security, and critical sea line of communication (SLOC) clearance, making the Archerfish a vital asset in maintaining naval superiority in peer and near-peer conflict scenarios.

The importance of effective mine destruction capabilities cannot be overstated in modern naval warfare. Naval mines, often low-cost yet devastatingly effective, pose serious threats to warships, commercial vessels, and amphibious operations. Their strategic use in denying access to maritime areas, blockading ports, or delaying fleet movements presents a significant asymmetric challenge. By maintaining a robust and agile mine countermeasures capability, the U.S. Navy ensures the uninterrupted flow of maritime trade, the security of allied naval assets, and the operational freedom of its fleets. Systems like Archerfish, which allow precise, remotely operated neutralization of mines, play a pivotal role in preserving sea control, deterring aggression, and



enabling joint force entry in denied areas, ultimately contributing to the broader objectives of maritime domain awareness and deterrence.



Today's Mineman

A US Navy Mineman (MN) is a highly skilled sailor responsible for the maintenance, assembly, and operation of underwater mine and related equipment. Their duties include operating sonar and Remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) to detect and neutralize mines, assembling and maintaining explosive devices, and handling ammunition. Minemen work as part of the mine countermeasures (MCM) team at sea aboard minesweepers and ashore in technical shops, performing both physical and detailed electronic work.

Key Responsibilities

Mine Detection and Neutralization: Minemen use sonar systems and submersible ROVs to locate, classify, and neutralize underwater explosive devices.

Maintenance: They perform organizational and intermediate maintenance on mines and associated equipment, including guns, gun mounts, and other mine countermeasure systems.

Assembly and Testing: Mineman assemble and test underwater explosive devices and their electrical and electronic components.

Equipment Operation: They operate and maintain specialized mine-handling equipment like forklifts and cranes, as well as hand tools and electronic test equipment.

Operational Support: Mineman serve in the ship's Combat Information Center (CIC), assisting with command and control, analyzing tactical data, and providing technical advice on mine warfare matters.

Work Environment

Afloat: Mineman serve on minesweepers and other ships involved in mine countermeasures operations, often in a non-magnetic environment to ensure their safety in a minefield.

Ashore: They work in mechanical shop settings to assemble, test, and maintain mines.

Team-Oriented: Mineman work as part of a close knit team, requiring good teamwork, physical ability, and mental talent.

Requirements

Citizenship: Mineman must be U.S. citizens.

Education: A high school diploma or equivalent is required.

Skills: They need manual dexterity, mechanical ability, good memory, problem-solving skills, and the ability to perform intricate, detailed work.

Security Clearance: A security clearance is necessary for the role.

Color Perception: Normal color perception is also a requirement.

**Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 2180
Temple City, CA 91780**

**Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
San Gabriel, CA.
NO. 270**

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



1974 - 2024

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ - _____

DATE _____

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.