



NAVY MINE EXPERT FINDS NAVAL WEAPONS STATION IS "THE TIE THAT BINDS"

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The observation that "you can't go home again" certainly does not apply to the U. S. Navy Reserve's Chief Warrant Officer Jack F. Smoot. "I never really left Yorktown's Naval Weapons Station since I was born there..." says Smoot. And today, his ties with the station are even closer. Consider that his wife, the former June Elkins, was also born and raised on the station and that today, he works there as a civilian during the week and as commanding officer of a highly-regarded Naval Reserve Unit one weekend a month. Further, his wife is the station Commanding Officer's secretary and, at one time or another, all five of his brothers also worked at the station.

When Jack Smoot was born in 1929, one of six boys and three girls, his father was a civilian electrician at what was then known as the Naval Mine Depot. His wife's father was the facility's maintenance carpenter. When Jack graduated from Poquoson High School in 1946, he immediately enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Electrician Mate's school at Great Lakes, IL. Following graduation, he spent the next 18 months aboard the amphibious repair ship USS Krishna ARL-38.



After mustering out in late 1948, he simultaneously joined the Navy Reserve and went to work as a civilian at the Naval Weapons Station. His progress in both pursuits over the years has been remarkable. In his civilian capacity, he has risen to head of the management division of the station's Quality Assurance Department with a GS-13 rank. In



...IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NR MOMAG UNIT 1006

U.S. Naval Reserve MOMAG Unit 1006 was the first of the twenty-seven modern Naval Reserve Mineman units. It was established as MOMAG 501 in July 1972 under the command, and largely due to the efforts of, Chief Warrant Officer Jack F. "Gunner" Smoot, training at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Newport News, Virginia. The unit presently reports to the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Readiness Center, Norfolk, Virginia, Captain Paul B. Elliott, USNR, commanding; and trains at the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia. The mission of the unit is to support the mission of MOMAG, especially to augment MOMAG Unit 5, Sigonella, Italy. Unit 1006 was a recent winner of the "M", the Mine Site Excellence Award.

CWO4 E.F. Sacco	LTJG R.E. Pickett	LTJG W. Brown
MNCS D.L. Eppley	LNCS R.A. Spencer	MNCS B.G. Mason
MNCS S.W. Lyman	MNCS J.H. Rouse	MNCS L.A. Rogers
MNCS S.E. Winer	MNCS D. Ferguson	MNCS L.L. Palmer
MNCS E. Weber	MNCS P.E. Bantz	MNCS R.J. Belmonte
MNCS T.E. Johnson	MNCS E.A. Chard	MNCS R.C. Walsh

MOMAG W.E. Ashkin : MOMAG W.S. Beck

the Navy Reserve, he has been promoted over the years from Mineman First Class to Chief Warrant Officer with an Underwater Ordnance Technician specialty, one of the few, if any, in the Navy Reserve Program. As a reservist, Chief Warrant Officer Smoot commands Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit 1006 with a compliment of 16 enlisted personnel, the first of 27 units in the U. S. Navy Reserve. "I was on active duty at the Mine Warfare School in Charleston, SC in 1971" recalls Smoot, "and became aware of the need for continued Navy Reserve readiness in this highly-specialized and technical field of mine warfare." He wrote a memorandum to the appropriate authorities in Washington D.C. and outlined what he thought such a unit could accomplish. "Not only did they like my idea," says Smoot, "but they asked me to set one up here at the station and ordered me to it as Commanding Officer." Jack Smoot has been CO of NR MOMAG Unit 1006 since 1971, except for two years on another assignment. "Our task as a unit is to have every man up-to-date in every respect of the technical aspects of mines and mine warfare and to be ready to integrate with the regular Navy should such a contingency arise." I can say categorically, that we are ready." And, that statement is no exaggeration. In addition to two

days of drilling one weekend every month, the men of NR MOMAG Unit 1006 go on active duty for training for two weeks every year. Recently, they were sent as a unit overseas to work with their active duty counterparts at a mine staging site in Europe. As an auxiliary activity, the unit also maintains a most impressive and historic collection of mines in a museum housed in the drill site building at the Weapon's Station. With obvious pride, Smoot comments that "The collection of mines we have represents virtually every type of mine used in the history of modern mine warfare. Some of them date to World War I and include enemy mines as well. They were obtained by both reservists and civilians over the years and serve a training function as well." While mines clearly take up a great deal of Jack Smoot's time and attention, he also finds time to pursue golf and fishing. He and his wife have two married daughters, Connie Reynolds and Pamela Worthy, both of the Yorktown area. Whether pursuing his career or his hobbies, there is probably no one who knows mines any better than Jack Smoot. The Navy is proud to have his services both as a civilian and a Navy Reserve Officer. *Jack served as the second President of the Association of Minemen after our inaugural President "Foxy" Fischer, (Ed.)*

Mine Warfare Experts Offer Timely Briefings



Chief Warrant Officer Jack Smoot discusses fine points concerning modern, tubular-shaped mines during a briefing.

"Mr. Mineman"

The Naval Mine Engineering Facility referred to CWO4 Jack Smoot by this name as a result of all the RUDMINE reports he submitted