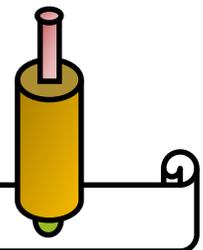




# The DASHPOT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

Memorial Day 27 May 2019

Commemorating men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces

In This Issue:

- MIW Articles and Reports
- Proposed Changes to AOM Bi-Laws
- Mining Campaigns (Cont.)
- 2019 Reunion Registration
- TAPS and Binnacle List
- Miscellaneous MN Stuff



## From The President

*MNCM John Epps, USN (Ret.)*



I'd like to pass on my condolences to the families of our recently departed shipmates and family members. I also want to wish those on the Binnacle List a speedy and pain free recovery. Know that all of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

I'm excited to announce that the reunion dinner guest speaker is **CDR Nichol Schine, Commanding Officer, NMC Mobile Mine Assembly Group**. We're fortunate to get her first hand insight and personal perspective on the current state of Mine Warfare readiness and our Navy's Minemen.

**Nate Miranda** (Secretary/Treasurer) informed me that there have been 15, either new or reinstated members since last November. I think it's safe to say, the majority of new members are due to the success of the Facebook page. Nate also reports that four members have submitted and paid their registration fees for the upcoming reunion.

**Gary Cleland**, our Reunion Chair for 2019, reported that nine people have made reservations at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk for the upcoming reunion. I'm fortunate to know or have been stationed with everyone on the list. It will be great to reminisce with old friends/ and Shipmates and meet new ones in San Antonio. This will be a good opportunity to show what the Association is all about and hopefully we can recruit some new members. I know the reunion is still over four months out, but make your hotel reservation before our block of rooms fill up. The Hotel's local number is on page 11. The hotel has a very liberal cancellation policy just in case your situation changes. If you follow the Facebook page, you've seen many new members sign up over the past quarter. I'm sure the increase is due to the posts and information shared by all, as well as, the word of mouth recommendations of our Sailors and retirees. According to our AOM Facebook page creator, **Don Moody**, there are currently 472 members. Welcome aboard Shipmates! Thanks to all for your input and participation.

God bless our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and God bless the USA!

**John**



## NOTABLE QUOTABLE

What is prudence in the conduct of every private family can scarce be folly in that of a great kingdom...

Adam Smith



"I need your help to execute three objectives, win the high-end fight, win without fighting, and build and sustain fleet readiness. Take those objectives back to your teams and build battle-minded, confident and capable Sailors. Make sure they are ready. I need leaders to tell me what's not working. If there's something preventing you from doing your jobs, I want to know right away so I can fix it and you can focus on generating *lethal combat power.*"

**Adm. John C. Aquilino**  
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet



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 a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense

OFFICERS

President

John Epps (17-20)
231 Silverwood Ct.
Richland, WA 99352
Ph.509-366-0214
mncm@aol.com

Vice President

Eddy Atkins (17-20)
117 Quaker Meeting House Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1851
Ph.757-565-3333
weatkins@cox.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Nate Miranda (18-20)
5728 N. Gladys Ave.
San Gabriel, CA 91775-2466
(626) 824-0727
assocminemen@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Philip DeChene (17-19)
1827 Broadway Dr.
Graham, NC 27253
Ph.336-229-1951
pdechene@triad.rr.com

Warren Savage (19-21)
10331 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
Ph.619-258-1478
chiefskip@aol.com

Tom Hoffman (17-19)
2266 East Hurd Rd.
Monroe, MI 48162
Ph.734-289-2279
mdau0302@sbcglobal.net

Charles Humbard (19-21)
111 Calhoun Ave
Goose Creek, SC 29445
PH 843-425-9932
charleshumbard@gmail.com

Danny Epperly (18-20)
123 Yorkshire Dr.
Yorktown, VA 23693
Ph. 757-870-1376
depperly1@verizon.net

Gary Cleland (18-20)
12201 Sunrise Ct
Poway, CA 92064-2865
Cell: 858-848-4030
Home: 858-747-3835
gunnercleland@sbcglobal.net



COMMITTEES

A.O.M. Historian

Don Moody (18-20)
2559 King Richards Rd.
Melbourne, FL 32935-2932
PH 321-223-5337
donmoody8@gmail.com

Scholarship Chair

Ron Glasen (12-20)
540 Cambridge Ct. (1-D)
Munster, IN 46321
Ph. 219-678-3228
searchcoil@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Derick Hartshorn (08-20)
1204 4th Street Dr., SE
Conover, NC 28613-1827
Ph. 828-464-4981
derickh@charter.net

Communications Chair

Derick Hartshorn (08-20)
1204 4th Street Dr., SE
Conover, NC 28613-1827
Ph. 828-464-4981
derickh@charter.net

Chaplain

E. Denson Rivers (19-20)
Ph. 225-572-2846
hawrunner52@aol.com

Parliamentarian

Warren Savage
10331 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
Ph.619-258-1478
chiefskip@aol.com

Reunion Committee 2019

Chairperson (San Antonio TX)

Gary Cleland
12201 Sunrise Ct
Poway, CA 92064-2865
Cell: 858-848-4030
Home: 858-747-3835
gunnercleland@sbcglobal.net

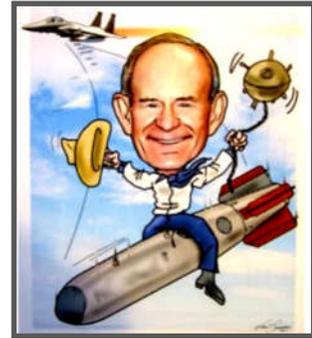
"The DASHPOT" Editor

Ron Swart (16-20)
305 Fairview Dr.
Canton, GA 30114
Ph.678-880-9008
dashpot-editor@comcast.net

Please send input to:
dashpot-editor@comcast.net

Input for Spring 2019
Dashpot #99 is due NLT:
July 12, 2019

From the Editor...



Spring has finally arrived after a particularly brutal Winter. I hope this issue finds you all doing well!

Our VP, Eddie Atkins, has tackled the long overdue task of updating our Bi-Laws. Thanks for your hard work Eddie! Check out the meeting minutes and proposed changes starting on page 4.

Members will be voting on these changes in San Diego.

You can read the continuing series, analyzing past mining operations now under Historian Don Moody's bi-line and I provide my impressions of CDR David Bruhn and LtCdr Rob Hoole's latest book.

Congratulations to the newest Mineman Master Chief: Brian Rosenberg!

I can tell you I'm hearing of some high-level interest in sea mines again and that the Navy is assessing our current MIW command and control structure. Perhaps some printable tid-bits will be made available in the future.

All the best! RON





**From our A.O.M.  
Secretary Treasurer  
Nate Miranda**

### Hello Shipmates!

As I reported in our last edition of the Dashpot, we have gone “eCommerce”! To date, there have been some pretty good responses to this method of paying for dues, membership and Reunion Registration! With that said, we have also had issues completing the payment process through PayPal! Do not be alarmed. It is still a very secure way of making payments! So, until the bugs are worked out, continue to use our online system. When you submit the form and are *not* redirected to PayPal, I will get a PayPal notification. Once received, I will send you an invoice through PayPal for the amount you indicated on the form. Once the payment process is complete, I will get another PayPal notice of completion! If this sounds confusing or you are not comfortable with this process, the old “analog” system is still an option! Just mail your form with a check to:

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

As always, any comments for improvement are always welcome via email to:  
[assocminemen@yahoo.com](mailto:assocminemen@yahoo.com).

**Thank you for your support!**

*Nate*



It has been a long Winter this year, but you guessed it. It's that time of year again. The school year is coming to a close. Trees and flowers are budding, a new life is starting as things are turning to green. This means that students are also thinking of green. Where can they find some green for their upcoming college necessities? **It's AOM Scholarship Time!!!**

Your scholarship committee is coming out of hibernation, we are sharpening our pencils, cleaning our bifocals and getting ready for the new applications to start coming in. If you know of any applicants, let them know that all the rules must be followed. If anything is left off of the application, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be considered for a scholarship award. The **rules** can be found on the **AOM web page**. All candidates must complete the **application forms S-1 and S-2**. Provide a **transcript of credits earned** from applicable schools. **Provide two letters of recommendation**. **Provide a study plan covering the scholarship term** which provides a synopsis of the **field of interest / study**. Provide the **courses he/she plans to complete**, and any other pertinent information the candidate feels might enhance their chances of receiving the award. **Applications** are to be received by the AOM Secretary **by June 1**, each year. **Good Luck** to all applicants. Your scholarship Committee is waiting to start working on all the new applications that will be coming in.

*Ronald Hoem*



**Membership Chairman  
Derick Hartshorn**

Since November 2018 to date, we have had 42 people pay their membership dues. Of the 42, 15 are either new or reinstated members! Of our 203 members, 19 of you are behind on your dues. As a reminder, your membership expiration/due date can be found on the DASHPOT mailing label just above your name. Example: If Oct. 2019 and beyond is on your label, you are up to date. If Oct. 2018 and lower, you are behind and should catch up as soon as possible. Dues can be paid up for as many as 5 years in advance, if you choose that option.



The Association of Minemen has set up a Facebook Group page for current AOM Members and potential members who qualify to join. Looking for someone you served with? This is a great way to connect or reconnect with Shipmates and fellow Minemen.

This is a ‘closed’ group but all Minemen and their spouses can join. Any current Group member can nominate a Mineman and/or their Spouse to join as well.

Any Facebook member can find the AOM-MINEMEN group page but can't see the posts unless they become a member.

### **Come JOIN US**

There are a lot of memories, sea stories and recollections going on every day!

The Group Administrator is Don Moody, AOM Historian  
[donmoody8@GMAIL.COM](mailto:donmoody8@GMAIL.COM)



Association of Minemen

### 2018 AOM GENERAL BUSINESS MINUTES (Abbreviated for the Dashpot)

#### CALL TO ORDER:

By President John Epps 10/11/2018 @ 10:15 AM  
John welcomed the members to the 2018 Membership and Business meeting.

#### MINUTES OF 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING:

The minutes of the 2017 BOD meeting were read and approved by the BOD.

#### BUSINESS / CORRESPONDENCE SINCE 2017 BOD MEETING ADJOURN:

- Report distributed on \$500 versus \$750 Scholarship award.
- Request received and withdrawn to increase the scholarship amount to \$800
- AOM Flag and streamers: Much has transpired with regard to this issue that needs to be addressed as both old and new business
- Treasurers bond was renewed
- Issues concerning ballot vs voice vote – carry to new business
- One new COCC award recipient forwarded to Dick Schommer
- Nominations committee convened, actions provided to all BOD members – to be reported during 2018 special committee reports to the membership
- Standing and special committee reports were presented chairpersons who were present and will be additionally delivered at the membership meeting
- Financial related reports were presented BOD members who were present and will be additionally delivered at the membership meeting

**Old business** from BOD meeting presented to the membership

- Replacement of the AOM flag and streamers
- Question regarding transfer of bond in the name of the new treasurer

**New business** from BOD meeting presented to the membership

- MNOY Award
- COCC Recognition
- Ballot guidelines were approved
- AOM flag replacement by toby horn rescinded:
- Recommendation for 2018 AOM BOD meeting to move ceremony to membership meeting if flag and streamers are to be replaced
- 2018 bod meeting adjourned

#### MINUTES FROM 2017 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

- Minutes of the 2016 membership meeting were read and approved by the membership.
- The 2017 membership meeting was adjourned
- The 2016 minutes were approved

#### 2018 GENERAL BUSINESS NOTES

- BOD actions since last membership meeting were reported as part of the 2018 BOD meeting minutes.

#### 2018 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

**Scholarship Committee Chair** Ron Glasen reported nine scholarships were awarded this year

#### 2018 AOM Scholarship Awards

1. Catlin Clark: Valparaiso University
2. Elizabeth Ann Runge: Chapman University
3. Warren Glisk: George Town University
4. Hannah J. Tuller: Monroe County Community College
5. Cara Nicole Ryan: Culinary Institute of America
6. Ryan R. Glasen: Purdue University
7. Lauren Kreps: Mercy College
8. Erin Latimer: University of Kansas
9. Jordan Williams: University of Connecticut

**Membership Committee Chair** Derick Hartshorn reported two new members, several reinstated members and he did not know how many members had dropped.

**Communications Chair** Derick Hartshorn reported that Arlington Cemetery ceremonies for Cecil Martin will be on October 25 as reported to him by Martin's daughter.

**Dashpot Editor** report from Ron Swart was presented by John Epps:

- Four issues printed and mailed for 2017 and three for 2018  
Each issue had active, retired and mine community reporting
- Black and white mailing were and will be the order of business and a color version is available via e-mail to those requesting as well as on the AOM website
- Annualized cost for preparing and mailing the Dashpot are in the treasurer's report
- A \$180 annual charge for large file transfer will be stopped in April 2019

#### 2018 REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

##### 2018 REUNION:

- 2018 reunion cost were \$6772.73.
- Dinner speaker will be: MNC Rick Contreras (Ricardo but he goes by Rick).

##### 2019 REUNION:

- Because of inability to secure an acceptably location the Corpus Christi location was cancelled – change of venue to San Antonio was suggested by the BOD and approved by the membership

##### 2020 REUNION:

- East Coast reunion will be in Charleston, SC and chaired by Charles Humbard

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Nate Miranda was appointed by the president to be the new secretary / treasurer. His appointment was approved by all of the BOD.
- If any of you wish to volunteer as our Chaplain, please make it known
- The membership approved Charles Humbard for the BOD position vacated by Paul Santa Maria
- Warren Savage has agreed to continue on the BOD for another term

#### 2018 FINANCIAL REPORTS.

##### TREASURER'S REPORT 2017/18

presented by Mike Femrite:

CASH	\$57,832.81
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$13,780.00
SANTA MARIA SCH FUND	\$20,857.23
2017/18 DUES	\$2,315.00
HISTORY BOOK	\$4,706.55
STORE KEEPER	\$4,657.00



**Proposed Revisions to the AOM Bi-Laws  
For Membership Review**

**EXPENSES THIS YEAR**

SCHOLARSHIPS	\$6,750.00
DASHPOT	\$1,943.36
HOST GENERAL WEBSITE	\$59.40
POST BOX	\$250.00
CONSTANT CONTACT	\$168.00
PERMIT# 270	\$225.00
HOST GENERAL WEBSITE DOMAIN	\$19.70
TOTAL	\$9415.46

**STOREKEEPER REPORT** - presented by Tracey Hays:  
677 ITEMS IN INVENTORY  
\$9,488.00 INVESTMENT  
0 ITEMS SOLD

**2018 OLD BUSINESS / UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**From 2017**

- Membership approved rescinding unused \$500 for Toby Horn to replace the AOM flag and streamers

**2018 NEW BUSINESS**

**2018 MINEMAN of the YEAR**

The 2018 winners of the MNOY award are:

- RESERVE MOY - MN1 James Edward Washington Jr.
- SHORE MOY - MN1 (SW) Pua C. Xiong
- SEA MOY - MN1 Yves Dessources

- Change Scholarship Award to \$800 – motion was made and withdrawn, award to remain at \$750

**Consolidate Order of Clock Cockers (COCC)**

- Nate Miranda received his COCC award – no additional nominees were forwarded.

**2019 REUNION:**

- Membership approved reunion location change to San Antonio

**OUT YEAR [2020] REUNION LOCATION**

- Membership approved east coast reunion in Charleston, SC with Charles Humbard chair

**ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP FLOOR**

- Don Moody extended Facebook as means to gain more presentation for the AOM
- Don was voted in as the AOM Historian

**AOM FLAG**

- With the Toby Horn \$500 funding rescinded, the membership approved funding to replace the lost AOM flag and streamers – going forward, the flag and streamers shipment will be insured at the replacement cost

**FLAG CEREMONY**

- To maintain new streamers in inventory, the flag ceremony is being moved to the membership meeting where minutes are recorded.
- There were no minutes taken at the dinner meeting

**DINNER SPEAKER**

- The speaker for this year's reunion is - MNC Rick Contrera
- The membership meeting was adjourned @ 3:00 PM

**Officer Duties Document Revision to Change the \$500 Indicated Award to the Approved \$750 and Parliamentary Procedures Governing the Handling of Called AOM Business in the Interim Between Reunions.**

For membership vote, the document revisions proposed here-in will be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled membership meeting. The revisions proposed below will be presented as a motion in the 'New Business' section of the agenda. Per AOM document revision guidelines, a quorum of 2/3rds of the assembled membership is required to move forward with revising subject document or documents. Approving a motion from the floor does not in itself authorize a revision of AOM documentation. An approved motion changes the rule, but does not specify documentation revision. A proposal for documentation revision following the format below, using the original and revised text, published in the Dashpot, placed on the next membership meeting agenda and approved by a membership quorum will result in document revision. On completion of the revision a provenance will be maintained at the end of the revised document. Additionally, the Secretary will retain the document with these revisions as the current working document and will distribute locked copies to the members of the AOM Board of Directors and Webmaster of the minemen.org web site. The replaced document will be moved to a history file and retained for future reference.

**Amendment guidelines state:**

Proposals for Amendments to these Officer Duties will be submitted to the Secretary prior to 1 May. These Officer Duties may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of attending members at the Annual General Business Meeting, provided that written notice has been given to the membership that the amendment item has been placed on the agenda.

In accordance with the AOM Constitution and By Laws, the changes below will be discussed and voted upon at the regular business meeting at San Antonio, TX on October 10, 2019

**DOCUMENT FOR PROPOSED REVISION:**

**Title of subject document:** ASSOCIATION of MINEMEN DUTIES OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES APPROVED as of 13 May 1998— Article, section and paragraph being revised: OFFICERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES; STANDING COMMITTEES; B. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE; PARAGRAPHS 2 through 5 with an added paragraph that will result in paragraphs 1 thru 6 and ; BUSINESS AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES; B. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN; Paragraph 5, Paragraph 9 and addition of Paragraphs 5a through 5g and 9a. Listed below and so labeled is the 'PRESENT' section: This section displays the current text for the section that is proposed to be revised. Followed by the so labeled 'PROPOSED' section: In the "PROPOSED" segment, text being removed is shown with double strike through and the new or replacing text is shown in all capital letters.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR REVISION:** From the Oct 21, 2006 membership meeting minutes, the membership approved changing the scholarship award from \$500 to \$750 per individual award. Other documentation addressing the scholarship award has already been changed to reflect the \$750 award value. This document does not have a published revision

## Proposed Revisions to the AOM Bi-Laws For Membership Review

process, so the process specified for the AOM By Laws is being used.

**PRESENT:** 5. The scholarship shall be for the amount of \$500 per annum, per candidate. The scholarship shall be applied to the academic year or designated term for the course of study for which the candidate had requested in their application. The Selection Committee reserves the right to award lesser amount for any given year based on qualifying need, applicability, or availability of funds.

**PROPOSED:**

5. The scholarship shall be for the amount of ~~\$500~~ \$750 MAXIMUM per annum, per candidate. The scholarship shall be applied to the academic year or designated term for the course of study for which the candidate had requested in their application. The Selection Committee reserves the right to award lesser amount for any given year based on qualifying need, applicability, or availability of funds.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR REVISION:** The AOM BOD is charged with advising the Scholarship chairperson of the funds available for scholarship awards and it would appear that the advising of funds available is not taking place until after the award presentations have been made. Additionally, the \$500 limit to the BOD approvals would not be an issue because the BOD is 'advising' the chairperson how much money he / she has available from donations directed to that philanthropy. A new paragraph places this process in the current BOD meeting and the funds made available are for the following year. To allow for the new paragraph, current paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5 are renumbered 3, 4, 5, and 6. Previous paragraph 4, now numbered Paragraph 5 is revised to compliment directives of new Paragraph 2.

**PROPOSED:**

Paragraph 5 is renumbered Paragraph 6  
Paragraph 4 is renumbered Paragraph 5  
Paragraph 3 is renumbered Paragraph 4  
Paragraph 2 is renumbered Paragraph 3  
The new Paragraph 2 below is entered: Proposed Paragraph 2 : 2. AT THE ANNUAL REUNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING THERE WILL BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR THE DIRECTORS TO REVIEW SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE AND ADVISE THE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Old Paragraph 4, now paragraph 5 is revised to compliment new paragraph 2 providing next year scholarship funding during the current Board of Directors meeting and revise prose to more appropriately describe the function.

**PRESENT:** Paragraph 4: The Committee will select two candidates to receive funds. If the Committee is advised by the Association Board that special donations have been received from individuals or other sources that were designated for the scholarship program, then the Committee will select the additional candidates. The Committee may also declare that there be no awards. The selection of candidates by the Committee is final and cannot be changed by the

Association Board or at the General Business Meeting.

**PROPOSED:**

New Paragraph 5 [formerly Paragraph 4] 5. The Committee will select two candidates to receive funds. If the Committee ~~HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN~~ advised by the Association Board that special donations have been received from individuals or other sources that were designated for the scholarship program, then the Committee ~~will~~ MAY select ~~the~~ additional candidates. The Committee may also declare that ~~there be no awards~~ NO SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED. The selection of candidates by the Committee is final and cannot be changed by the Association Board or at the General Business Meeting.

**OFFICERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES; BUSINESS AND PARLIAMETARY PROCEDURES; B. PARLIAMETARY PROCEDURES FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF MINE-MEN; Paragraph 5, Paragraph 9 and addition of Paragraphs 5a through 5g and 9a.**

**JUSTIFICATION:** Paragraph 5 and 9 addresses conducting called AOM business between annual reunions. Basically, we are currently directed that an item of business cannot be formally completed until a forum is assembled where all BOD members can freely discuss and debate the issue before a final vote. Additionally Paragraph 5 stipulates that individual telephone calls and a face-to-face meeting between individuals as the only way to conduct interim business. Newer technologies make available other methods to conduct interim business as well as providing forums for discussion, debate and voting. This proposal offers revision to subject document to streamline the conducting of called AOM interim business.

**PRESENT:** 5. In the business throughout the year, the personal approval of a proposed action obtained separately by telephone or individual interview, from every member of a Board will constitute approval of the Board. Since the members were not present in one room where they could mutually debate the matter, action on such a basis must be ratified at the next regular Board meeting in order to become an official act of the Board.

**PROPOSED:** 5. In the business throughout the year, the personal approval of a proposed action BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS obtained separately by INDIVIDUAL telephone CALL, individual interview, TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL, E-MAIL OR 'ONLINE MEETING' TO CONTACT ~~from~~ every member of a Board will constitute approval of the Board. ~~WHEN~~ ~~Since~~ the members were not present in one room OR FORUM where they could mutually debate the matter, IT MUST BE CARRIED TO THE NEXT CONVENING ANNUAL BOD MEETING FOR RATIFICATION.

5a. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS OF BUSINESS ACTIONS OF THE BOD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING BY THE SECRETARY IS A REQUIREMENT PER AOM BY LAWS Article VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS; SECTION 3. WHEN NEW MEETING TECHNOLOGIES BECOME AVAILABLE THIS SECTION PROVIDES APPROVAL TO USE AS LONG AS THE FORUM ISSUE AND A MEANS TO GATHER MINUTES ACCOMPANIES THE USE.

5b. FOR FORMALLY CALLED BOD, MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND ALL CALLED BUSINESS HANDLED BY THE BOD BETWEEN REUNIONS, MINUTES ARE RECORDED BY THE AOM SECRETARY OR A SUBSTITUTE APPOINTED BY THE MEETING PRESIDENT.

**Proposed Revisions to the AOM Bi-Laws  
For Membership Review**

5c. WHEN INDIVIDUAL TELEPHONE CALL OR INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW IS THE CONTACT MEDIUM, THE ACTION WILL BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORUM TYPE MEETING FOR BOD FORMAL RATIFICATION.

5d. WHEN E-MAIL IS USED AS THE CONTACT MEDIA, DISCUSSION AND DEBATE, IF ANY WILL BE IN WRITTEN FORMAT FROM EACH RESPONDER'S E-MAIL REPLY. EVERY TRANSMITTED MESSAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISSUE WILL BE RETAINED IN AN E-MAIL THREAD, HELD BY THE SECRETARY AND SCALED DOWN BY THE ORIGINATOR FOR INCLUSION IN THE BOD ANNUAL REUNION AGENDA.

5e. TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL AND ONLINE MEETING FORMATS PERMIT A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE. WHEN THERE IS A QUORUM, THE INSTANCE IS CONSIDERED A BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND MINUTES ARE TO BE TAKEN. WHEN THESE MEDIA ARE USED, CARRYING THE BUSINESS TO THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FOR RATIFICATION IS NOT REQUIRED.

5f. FOR PAR 5d AND 5e, ACTION IS RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT BOD MEETING PER AOM BY LAWS Article VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS; SECTION 5, EITHER FOR BOD APPROVAL OR RECORD OF BUSINESS ACTIONS AND BE REPORTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

5g. AN INTERIM CALLED ASSEMBLY OF THE AOM BOD IS INITIATED BY THE AOM PRESIDENT AS STIPULATED IN THE AOM BY LAWS ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS SECTION 1.

9. A vote by voice is the regular method of voting on any motion that does not require more than a majority vote for adoption. In making a voice vote, the chair puts the question by saying, "The question is on the adoption of the motion to (or "that")... (Repeating or clearly identifying the motion). As many as are in favor of the motion, say aye. Those opposed, say no."

9a. THE SAVED E-MAIL RESPONSES TO ACTION OFFERED TO BOD MEMBERS FOR VOTE VIA E-MAIL ARE CONSIDERED THE SAME AS A BALLOT VOTE AND FUNCTION AS RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS.

*Submitted By:  
Eddie Atkins; AOM Vice President and self-appointed  
Document Change Agent*

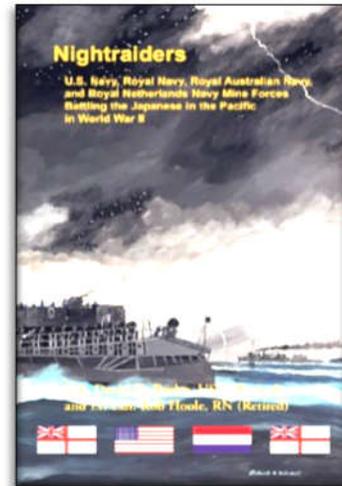
**Membership will vote on these changes at  
the next Reunion and Meeting  
in San Antonio, TX**



**Association of Minemen**



# Mine Warfare Book Review



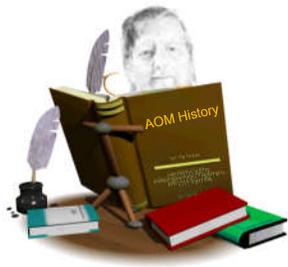
## **NIGHTRAIDERS**

CDR DAVID D. BRUHN, USN (Ret.)  
LT CDR ROB HOOLE, RN (Ret.)

Having stories of the WWII mining campaigns as told by our Mineman elders and seniors indelibly embedded in my head, I approached NIGHTRAIDERS with more than a little curiosity, hoping to test the validity of these pass-down tails and learn something in the process. With the possible exception of books by LCDR Arnold Lott, accounts of the Allied mine warfare effort in the Pacific Theater are hard to come by. This book brings the combined efforts of U.S., British and Australian mining, mine countermeasures and mine clearance operations into focus, by providing a comprehensive and well paced account of these less documented (and not so glamorous), but equally important efforts. The tasks undertaken by these Allied forces were all incredibly dangerous; whether it was placing our mines under enemy fire, sweeping for hidden lines of enemy mines, or disposing of both, normally under the cover of darkness and heavy weather. NIGHTRAIDERS spans the Pacific island-hopping campaign through the South Pacific, the liberation of The Philippines, up North to the Aleutians and finally, the offensive assault of Okinawa and Japanese home islands.

This is a very well written and thoroughly documented account that I consider a 'must read' addition to your library or collection. Today, our Mine Warfare forces stand on the shoulders of these giants who fought so bravely and without the recognition afforded the 'Big Navy'. This book documents their significant contributions and provides the recognition they certainly earned.

*Ron Swart... Dashpot Editor*



# AOM HISTORIAN DON MOODY



## Four Mining Campaigns:

### AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMANDERS

#### The Wall at Kephez... The defeat at Gallipoli



A research paper prepared by Commander James A. Meacham, U.S. Navy, (Ret.) Circa 1968-1970

**Operations:** The story of the Dardanelles campaign and the series of events which led the British and French armies to their tragic defeat in the mire of Gallipoli is truly one of the most fascinating of modern military history. It has the air of fable; forces and influences from another world seemed to shape the destinies of men and armies in an inexorable way, unaffected by the monumental and heroic efforts of the participants to alter them. There was a quality of Greek tragedy in the story of a great gamble where enormous stakes were to be won or lost on single improbable events. Fantastic coincidences and unbelievable episodes of luck and courage crowded upon one another with such rapidity that 50-odd years afterwards (*now 104 years..Ed.*), it seems impossible that things really happened that way. Yet they did, and high upon the scale of miniature dramas which changed history by a hair's breadth lies the story of the sea mine.

The original idea of a Dardanelles expedition was quite straightforward. British surface warships which had no other gainful employment at the time were to force the Straits and attach Constantinople. This would knock Turkey out of the war and permit the British and French to aid directly their ally, Russia. Turkey was extremely weak at this time, and there was nothing to indicate this was not feasible and that the whole scheme would not work. Probably it would have, if the Straits had been forced. Early bombardments had good success in dealing with fortifications and guns near the lips of the Straits. As the British and French battleships and monitors worked their way up the Straits toward the Sea of Marmora, the resistance stiffened a bit, but the only thing which prevented a headlong rush to Constantinople were the mine fields in the narrows. These were protected by guns, both mobile and emplaced. These were of little deterrence to the heavy ships, at least initially, but nevertheless they prevented the mine

sweepers from clearing a safe channel through the mined area. As early as June 1914, the British knew through the Greeks that the Turkish Straits were protected by mines. At this time also, the British still had a military mission to Turkey, headed by Rear Admiral Limpus, who had additional duty as Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish Navy. As relations between Turkey and Britain deteriorated, Limpus was asked to leave and was replaced soon thereafter by Rear Admiral von Usedom of the Imperial German Navy, who was known as an expert on harbor defense and mining. He had been the German Navy's Inspector General of Coast Artillery and mines. Following a daring submarine penetration of the Straits by a British submarine on 13 December 1914, the defenses were greatly strengthened. Between November 1914 and February 1915, ten rows of mines and an antisubmarine net were put into place. The navigational aids were removed or rendered inoperative and notices were promulgated that the Straits were closed. The naval bombardment of the entrance to the Straits commenced in February 1915, and at that time the British mine sweepers conducted exploratory sweeps in the Dardanelles and found that no mines existed to seaward of Kephez Bay. On 1 March, the hard work began in earnest. That night the sweepers commenced their attack on the Kephez fields. This was an undertaking of the first magnitude. The Straits here are something less than 5000 yards wide, and the Germans had, by this time, organized a fairly good defense consisting of light mobile guns, emplaced guns and a number of powerful searchlights, which illuminated (and blinded) the mine sweepers and their crews. The guns, of course, had been calibrated precisely to the mine line locations, and a hot time was had by the converted trawler sweepers. Three cruisers were operating in support of the sweepers but were no match for the integrated defenses. After one or two fruitless passes, the sweepers, manned by crews of civilian fishermen, turned and fled. Thus developed the pattern of the struggle for the Straits. The sweepers were unable to open a channel while opposed by the shore batteries... *HMS Queen Elizabeth* attempted to reduce the shore guns by indirect fire across the Gallipoli Peninsula. This attempt was not successful although aircraft were used in spotting. The battle of attrition went on. Each night the sweepers attacked the mine fields, and each night they were driven off by the shore fire which was little affected by the covering fire of cruisers and monitors. On the night of 7-8 March, French mine sweepers tried to force Kephez but were repulsed as the British had been. On this same night, unbeknownst to the Allies, the Turks delivered a decisive stroke. Under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Geehl, a mine specialist, the steamer *Nousret* proceeded to Eren-Keui Bay and planted there, a row of 20 mines parallel to the axis of the channel. Geehl had wanted to muster enough



mines to effect complete closure of the Straits closer to the entrance than the Kephez field in order to ease the pressure on the batteries at Kephez and Chanak which had been rather badly knocked about. However, there were not sufficient mines for this, and he settles for a single line in the area from which the cruisers and battleships had been firing on batteries at Chanak and Kephez. This mine line was about 3000 yards long and roughly seven miles from the target forts. The mines were moored about 15 feet below the surface in order not to fire on destroyers which roamed the area at will. During the next few days, several British ships came very close to this mine line. These included *HMS Queen Elizabeth* which was the most modern battleship in the British Navy at that time. However, all escaped, for a time. On 8 March, *HMS Irresistible* sighted two drifting mines in the area of this line. These were 'supposed' to have come from the Kephez field or to have been set adrift by the Turks, and no exploratory sweep was conducted in the area. By the 11<sup>th</sup>, the deliberate approach to the mine sweeping was recognized as unsatisfactory and an effort was made to increase the drive and effectiveness of the sweepers. On that evening, the sweepers penetrated the narrows and attempted to sweep to seaward, i.e. with the current. The strong (4-5 knot) east-west current which prevails in the narrows was considered a major factor in the ineffectiveness of the sweeping efforts up to that time. Commodore Roger Keyes (Chief of Staff to Vice Admiral Carden, who was in overall command) himself rode in the sweepers during this attack. This method upped the ante generally. A number of mines were swept; one sweeper was blown to pieces by a mine; and a number of escorting destroyers and several of the sweepers were hit by gunfire. Keyes' commentary expresses it perfectly: "It was something, but it was not good enough." Carden and Keyes pushed ahead in their determination to force a channel. The next day, Royal Navy officers, petty officers and seamen were put aboard the trawlers to take charge and to strengthen the resolve of the crews. Orders were given that the fields were to be forced regardless of the losses incurred. It was considered that several of the sweepers might have to be sacrificed, but that this would be a fair price to pay for the opening of the Straits. These decisions were undoubtedly sound. Had they been taken earlier, the Straits probably could have been forced, for we know that the Turks and Germans were in despair at this time. They believed they were going to be overwhelmed and were fighting on discipline only, awaiting what they considered to be an inevitable defeat. On the night of 13-14 March the downstream sweep was again attempted. This time a good many of the sweepers were hit, and only one pair (two-ship moored sweep was being used) actually managed to carry out a sweep, which incidentally, accounted for several mines.

On 13 March the cruiser *HMS Amethyst* was hit badly by gunfire. The damage to this ship was a sobering influence on all concerned, and Whitehall began thinking of the possibility of a landing of troops as a method of silencing some of the guns. From 13 to 17 March sweepers conducted check sweeping of the area to seaward of the Kephez fields. This effort was undertaken to ensure the area would be clear, enabling the main force of battleships and cruisers to provide fire support for a major effort which was planned for the 18<sup>th</sup>. The damage to *Amethyst* and the failure of the downstream sweeps had convinced Carden that a major daylight assault would be more fruitful than nighttime actions during which the battleships could not hit the Turk's mobile guns, and when

spotting aircraft were of no value. It was at this juncture that Admiral Carden's health broke. He had been failing for some time and was relieved at his own request on the 16<sup>th</sup> by Rear Admiral De Robeck who was spot-promoted to Vice Admiral. While a change was desirable, in this case the effects were minimal. De Robeck had been one of Carden's subordinate commanders, had taken part in all of the planning to date, and indicated that he was in full accord with the planned attack on the 18<sup>th</sup>. While the senior officers of the force were occupied by the relief of Vice Admiral Carden, another event, perhaps of great portent, occurred. Mine sweepers check-sweeping in the bombardment area sighted four drifting mines. They believed these were drifters from the Kephez fields, but they may well have been from *Nousret's* field which the sweepers had swept unknowingly. In addition to check-sweeping which had been conducted in preparation for the attack, the area had been searched by seaplanes. Tests at the Tenedos anchorage had indicated that moored mines could be spotted up to 18 feet below the surface. In actual reconnaissance, the planes gained further credibility by reporting that they had spotted some of the mines in a line running from Suan Dere Point. The reports from these planes seemed to corroborate those of the sweepers that there were no mines to seaward of the Kephez fields. Thus all was in readiness for the attack on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The plan of attack was as follows, as taken from the planning memorandum of Carden: "*The general idea is to silence the defenses of the narrows and of the mine field simultaneously, so as to enable the sweepers to clear a passage through the Kephez mine field; if this is successful the attack will be at once continued on the remaining defenses until the Fleet has passed through the Dardanelles.*" Pursuant to this, and detailed supporting orders which ordered the sweepers into action against the Kephez fields about two hours after the commencement of bombardment, the mighty combined British-French fleet swung into action about 1100 on 18 March 1915. This fight has been described in minute detail by many historians and will not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that, while the support of mine sweepers was the primary purpose of the bombardment, the small ships and their mission were soon forgotten. At 1345 the French battleship *Bouvet* struck a mine, blew up, capsized and sank. Out of her complement of about 709, only 71 were saved. At 1611 *HMS Inflexible*, which had been maneuvering near the *Nousret's* mine line all day, also struck a mine. It did not sink however and was beached at Tenedos and eventually repaired. At 1614 *HMS Irresistible* was mined. Finally, at about 1900 *HMS Ocean* became the last victim of the mine field. Both *Irresistible* and *Ocean* sank during the night, although many of their personnel were rescued by destroyers working under heavy fire. When the smoke of the battle had settled, the admirals conferred in *HMS Queen Elizabeth*, in an atmosphere undoubtedly of deepest gloom. Opinions were expressed but there was no disagreement on the essentials. The conclusion was reached that "...the battleships could not force the Straits until the mine field had been cleared; the mine field could not be cleared until the concealed guns which defended them could be destroyed, and they could not be destroyed until the Peninsula (Gallipoli) was in our hands, hence we should have to seize it with the Army." Thus, what had begun as a naval operation with minimum support now became a land operation with the fleet in support. Never again did the fleet try to force the Dardanelles. De Robeck's telegram to the Admiralty said in part, "*Mine menace will continue until Marmora is*



reached, being much greater than anticipated... I think it will be necessary to take and occupy Gallipoli Peninsula before it is possible to force the Straits with first-rate (battle) ships."

This recommendation was adopted, and the drama moved on intone of the most miserable land campaigns of history, resulting in enormous casualties for the Allies and accomplishing nothing. The enterprise was finally given up and the army evacuated, but the mines were stil in place at the end of the war and sweepers had to precede the triumphal entry of British warships past the silent guns into Constantinople on 12 November 2018.

**Generalizations from the Operations:** It is a great temptation to draw conclusions from an analysis. It is clear that any conclusions taken from study of one exercise, or one wartime operation involving one set of circumstances (never again to be duplicated), and one set of "actors", do not have the character of "lessons". Therefore, these conclusions shall be called "generalizations" and a final attempt made to group those (generalizations) of various campaigns in order to see if any reasonable inferences may be made relative to the reactions of decision-makers to mining attacks. Of the effectiveness of the mines in the Dardanelles, there can be no doubt. The entire operation hinged on them. However, the effects on British actions remain to be examined in detail. First of all, a central fact appears. The British were afraid of the mine fields. They knew the Straits were protected by mines and they believed very strongly that sweeping was required in order to assure safe passage of the heavy warships. Sir Roger Keyes in his memoirs declares "...there was never any question of taking battleships through unswept mine fields." In all of the literature, testimony and memoirs dealing with the Dardanelles episode, nowhere does there appear any indication that anyone made even a rough attempt to calculate the chances of forcing the partially-swept field with the sweepers leading the battleships from a short distance ahead, or by using the obsolete battleships as 'bumpers'. It is perhaps not reasonable to speculate on what might have been the results of these courses of action, but the important fact is that no one ever considered them. The British had only fragmentary knowledge of how many mines were there. Admiral Kerr reported from Greece in 1914 that the Straits were protected by "17 rows of mines" at the Kephez-Chanak narrows. This apparently came from Greek intelligence sources, and was wrong. At least the Turkish records of the mining of the Straits do not indicate that there were ever 17 rows. These records show the first mines were laid on 3 August. In fact, the mine fields were probably in bad shape. According to a German staff officer, a large number had been carried away by the current or had sunk. The mines themselves were a motley collection of hardware. They included French, Russian and even Bulgarian mines which had been washed ashore or were leftovers from the Balkan War and had been reconditioned. Old net wires were used for mooring cables. Apparently any and all materials available were utilized in an effort to get some mines in the barriers. It would have been surprising indeed if a good percentage of these had not become waterlogged and unserviceable after a few months in the water. Of the 352 mines comprising the Kephez barrier, fewer than 150 were laid after 1 January 1915; all of the others were older. If all of the mines which the Turks had laid in the Kephez fields are assumed to have been in place at once, the risk to a battleship transiting the Straits would have been about 85%. However, this was never the case. Some mines were seen drifting quite



early in the operation and the Turkish records indicate that no drifting mines were used. If half of the mines over three months old on 1 March 1915 are subtracted from the total as an approximation of natural attrition then the threat from these weapons does not look too severe. Of course, this is pure speculation. In view of the peculiar character of the material, the great currents prevailing and the fact that a number had been swept, it seems improbable that more than ten percent were really working. Whatever the true threat to a battleship trying to bull its way through the narrows, it could have been reduced considerably by precursor sweepers. The salient feature of all this, however, is not the true threat but the fact that the British had only a vague idea of the magnitude of it, and apparently made no detailed analysis of what information they did have. They viewed a mine field as an entity, not as any degree of risk; and it never occurred to them to hazard their capitol ships, even the obsolete ones in it, until it could be swept. In this respect, it is interesting to note that the British could have lost their entire fleet, and the casualties would have been far less than those suffered by the Army ashore. The second significant fact which may be deduced is that the British and French believed that they could overcome the mine-gun combination at the narrows until they lost three battleships to an entirely different mine field. They did not know that the culprit was another mine line of course. It was not until after the war that the saga of *Nousret* became known. Also, some thinking had already been going on prior to this time on the possibility of putting an Army ashore. However, even after all this is considered, the fact remains that the losses on 18 March from a trap field (in no way connected with the central barrier to Constantinople) were the turning point in the operation, and in particular, *Nousret's* field as a part of the overall mine threat. Once severe losses to mines had occurred, there was no longer any thought of challenging the mines anywhere, until the guns had been silenced so the sweepers could clear them out.

**In the Summer DASHPOT: The Next Campaign:**

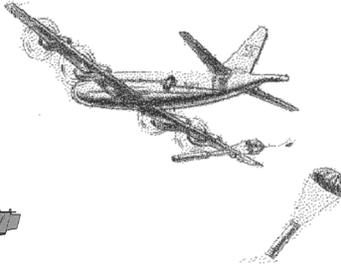
**BLOCKADE OF THE NORTH SEA**





Association of Minemen

# A.O.M REUNION 2019



## Attention!

**ALL A.O.M. MEMBERS & ALL MINEMEN EVERYWHERE!!!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATE!**

**\*\*\*AOM 45th REUNION DATES ARE SET \*\*\***

**OCTOBER 7-11, 2019**

**Come one, come all, for four days of new faces, newer faces,  
old faces and even older faces!**

**Connect, reconnect, join in; meet old and make new friends.**

For those planning on trekking to San Antonio or even considering attending, the block of reserved rooms will be released on 7Sep19 from the low contact rate of \$121.00+tax. The rate is good 2 days before and 2 days after the published dates. Reserve early to save!! Last minute reservations will certainly rise in cost.

To call Hotel Desk direct, dial (210) 224-2500  
Holiday Inn San Antonio - Riverwalk, 217 N. St Mary's Street  
Reunion dates: 7-11 OCT 2019

A.O.M. Or Association of Minemen @ \$121.00 + TAX  
Room rates available depending on availability 2 days before and after above dates.

**WHERE: San Antonio, TX  
AT: Holiday Inn Riverwalk  
217 N. St. Mary's St.,  
San Antonio, Texas 78205**

**Check out the Holiday Inn Riverwalk link below:**

**<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=Y2hks9pqFiZ>**

**Any questions? Please contact:**

**Gary Cleland - 45th AOM Reunion Planner**

**[g.l.cleland@gmail.com](mailto:g.l.cleland@gmail.com) or [gunnercleland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gunnercleland@sbcglobal.net)**

**Or call me at (858) 858-4030**





# ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION & MEETING



## Holiday Inn Riverwalk

217 N. St. Mary's St.,  
San Antonio, Texas 78205



**OCTOBER 7-11, 2019**

Please return this form to the address below to complete your registration for the reunion event. Your tickets will be made available by Nate Miranda.

If you prefer, there is an online option to register and pay at:

<https://www.jotform.com/90268038916160>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ AOM #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLATED DINNER SERVICE

All plated dinner entrees include: Tossed Salad, Selected Vegetables, a Starch and Dessert, Warm Rolls and Sweet Butter Rosettes, Fresh Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee, Assortment of Hot Teas and Iced Tea. (Tax and gratuity is included)

#### SELECT ENTREES:

**Chicken Piccata** \$55 ea. x = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lightly Breaded Boneless Breast of Chicken topped with a Lemon Caper Butter Sauce

**Gluten Free Chicken Piccata** \$55 ea. x = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Prepared as above without breaded preparation

**Vegetable Wellington.** \$55 ea. x = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Puff Pastry with non-dairy cream layered with Asparagus, Soy Bean, Pimentos, vegan mozzarella, squash and eggplant

**Seared Salmon** \$59 ea. x = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Atlantic Salmon Filet Lightly Seasoned, Seared and topped with a Lemon Oil Beurre Blanc

**Fire Grilled Sirloin Fillet.** \$62 ea. x = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Top Sirloin seasoned in Olive Oil, Sea Salt and Freshly Cracked Black Pepper, Char-Grilled

**AUCTION PICNIC LUNCHEON Tickets at \$22.00 ea. x = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pizza:** Pepperoni, Combination, Veggie, or Cheese Pepperoni. Gluten Free Pizza can be made with Cauliflower crust, upon requests.

**Reunion Fee** (Member Approved for Incidental Reunion Cost) \$ 10.00

**Annual Dues** \$15.00 as applicable - (Check your DASHPOT address label for dues status. Pay ahead (5 years max. Add \$5.00 for new or member reinstatement fee). \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**AOM Scholarship Donation** (Tax Deductable) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT** Please return this form and your check or money order payable to: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **Reunion Notes: Plan Early, Book Now. Room Block Expires September 7, 2019**

Additional nights available 2 days before and 2 days after reunion based on availability at the negotiated Reunion Room rate. When making your reservation, mention that you are attending the AOM Reunion!

Complementary Hotel airport transportation is **NOT AVAILABLE**, suggest Uber, Taxi or Rental. Hotel parking is available at the negotiated price of \$15/night. There is a vehicle size restriction! Inquire when making your reservations. Full American Breakfast Buffet is available at a discounted price of \$13.00.

**COPY OR SAVE THIS PAGE... SIGN UP AND SEND IT IN !!!**



# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

**NMC COMOMAG** By MN1(SW) Jonathan Wampler

Greetings from Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG). As Winter comes to a close and Spring is now in full swing, we look forward to warm weather activities! We've been very busy at COMOMAG with retirement ceremonies, inspections, new check-ins, and many other activities. Here is a brief snapshot of what we have been up to during the past few months.

The N31 Service Mine Division has been extremely busy performing Mine Readiness Assist Visits (MRAV). The team, consisting of Mr. Dave Epton, CWO4 David Sledge, MNC Duncan Ellson and MN1 Tyler Cowen, all visited NMC Charleston, Guam, Misawa, and Okinawa to perform MRAVs. MRAVs are an integral part of the mine readiness certification process ensuring all NMC's are compliant with current publications and instructions. While MRAVs are not the actual inspections, it provides valuable feedback to the NMC's to identify areas of improvement prior to the certifying inspection.

In April we observe Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). The Navy is hard at work promulgating valuable information in regard to Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention. Sexual assault is an egregious act that has no place in the world. It's the Navy's goal to eliminate sexual assault throughout the fleet and it is every Sailor, civilian and family member's responsibility. In observance of SAAPM, COMOMAG participated in the annual Naval Base Point Loma SAPR Tug-of-War. While COMOMAG did not win, Mine Warfare Training Center represented all Mineman with the victory, beating out five other teams in the Point Loma area!



We, here at COMOMAG, would like to congratulate IT2 Jared Hollingworth on his selection as COMOMAG's SOQ 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2019. Bravo Zulu Shipmate! As the sole Information System Technician, his role at the command cannot be understated and we appreciate all his hard work that led to his selection as SOQ.

Mine Warfare Improvement Program (MIWIP), hosted on Naval Base Point Loma Annex, is a collaboration of all involved with Mine Warfare to come together to discuss the future of MIW. The event highlights fleet updates and requirements, while presenting future naval technologies, capabilities, and initiatives all aimed at improving MIW.



## Farewell's

LT Delton C. Drum held his retirement ceremony on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, after 24 years of faithful Naval service. He started his Naval career in 1995 as an Undesignated Seaman, later attending Quartermaster "A" school. After spending the majority of his time onboard MCM platforms, as a Quartermaster, he cross rated to Mineman in 1999. He was initiated to the rank of Chief Petty Officer in 2004 and shortly after, commissioned in 2008 as a Surface Ordnance Limited Duty Officer. We thank LT Drum and his entire family on an outstanding career, as well as wishing them all the best in their much deserved retirement in Texas!

MNC Gregory Warren also retired, after 20 years of service to our country. As a Mineman from the beginning of his career in 1999, MNC Warren has done everything a Mineman could do! He cleared waterways during the initial War on Terror in Iraq. He served on NMC units and ships in Japan, Bahrain, and Charleston. Additionally, he served as an instructor at an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training unit! MNC Warren celebrated his retirement in a non-traditional fashion, with indoor kart racing at K1 Speed in San Diego. Thank you to K1 Speed! We would also like to thank MNC Warren and his entire family on their sacrifices to our country and wish them good fortune during their retirement. MNC Warren plans on retiring in the Northeast and spending plenty of time with his family and friends. Additionally, MNC Jamnis R. Lacy departed COMOMAG and will report to USS MANCHESTER (LCS-14). To all who have departed the Navy and the COMOMAG family, we bid you, Farewell and Following Seas, Shipmates!!



As Summer weather is quickly approaching, we want to remind everyone to stay safe in pursuit of warmer weather activities! As always, COMOMAG is steady on the helm at the forefront of mine warfare, making mining great again, one mine at a time!



# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

By MN1(AW) Courtney Crank

MNC Lampman (photographer), MN1 Tejada, MN2 Haskell, MN2 Hoyos, MN2 Rincon, MN2 Santos and MN3 Stinson in front of display shapes at MWTC's Martin Hall, Pt. Loma/San Diego



Greetings from the **Navy Munitions Command Pacific CONUS West Division Unit Seal Beach, Underwater Weapons Department (UWD)** in sunny California!

### ~MISSION UPDATES~

With the Mine Readiness Assist Visit (MRAV) on the horizon, the Department revamped its Mobile Assembly Teams (MAT). As the old adage goes "Train as you fight", the new teams demonstrated their proficiency as they built 60 Quick Strike mines in full explosive procedural compliance.

Reving into high gear after the holidays, UWD shipped over 144 Exercise and Training (ET) mines and Mine MCM Target shapes, as well as their applicable components, in support of 10 Fleet exercises. UWD also performed maintenance and refurbishment of nearly 100 additional shapes and equipment to those that were earlier shipped.

On a separate mission, the Mine Assembly Team (MAT) delivered eight MK 82 General Purpose bomb shapes (with their respective components) to Marine-Corps Air Station Miramar, where they trained the USMC personnel how to build All-Up-Round MK 62 Quickstrike mines on location. The Sailors here at NMCPAC CWD USB are assigned for shore duty, but that never stops a Mineman from returning to sea. On two separate missions, two and three man crews were sent out to assist the MV Surveyor in laying mine targets and retrieving others...cycling 40 mine shapes in total!

Lastly, Unit Seal Beach would like to **congratulate MN1 Quezada** for his selection through the Meritorious **Advancement Program**.

### ~UNIT CAMARADERIE~

The First Class Petty Officers' Association (FCPOA) for NMCPAC CWD Unit Seal Beach have come together in grand fashion to support the crew of UWD. From potlucks to departmental outings, the FCPOA has made sure the Junior Sailors knew their hard work was noticed and appreciated. UWD also went participated in a variety of event. Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March. UWD set forth another stunning static display, featuring the MK 62 and MK 63 Quick Strike mines, as well as a MK 49 REXTORP, to showcase for the civilian and military guests that came to celebrate with the base.



Good luck at your next command, YN1 Williams!

Building mines wasn't the only piece to the mission objective, either. The crew transported display assets from the Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) in San Diego, CA to Seal Beach for a full refurbishment to their original pristine condition. The 10 display mines were delivered back to MWTC and assembled on sight with the students observing what their future as Assemblymen would be like.

MN2 Fernandez, MN2 Miles and MN3 Perkins painting Mine Targets for upcoming mission.



MN3 Lowe choosing the next raffle winner from MN1 Wilson for the FCPOA UWD Potluck.



### ~HAIL AND FAREWELL~

UWD would like to welcome aboard GMC Vance, GMC Perry, GM1 Lopez, MN2 Hoyos, MN2 Perkins, GM2 Eyasu, MN2 Fonseca, MN2 Oechsel, GM2 Perkins, and MN3 Lowe. We also wish fair winds and following seas to our brethren; LT Klassy (Retired), MNCS Flores, MNC Sisson (Retired), YN1 Williams, GM1 Maltese, MN2 Honesty, MN2 McFarland, MN2 Chrisp, MN3 Parker and MN3 Ruiz. Your next command is lucky to have you!



MN2 Hoyos and MN3 Stephen Torres at NWSSeal Beach 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

## MEET THE NEW MINEMAN DETAILER MNC (SW) DEVIN SMITH



our Rating, we are rapidly moving more towards EOD Mobile Units and the LCS program. They have already begun decommissioning the MCM 1 class ships and are rapidly changing the way our Rating operates at sea.

As the detailer, I will personally be trying to make myself more accessible to the fleet. I have started an "MN Detailer" Facebook group to best utilize social media to benefit us. This group is there not just so that the Detailer can disseminate info, but also so that active duty Minemen can share info with each other. Finally, a primary goal of mine over the next few years, will be to improve communication within our community. I will be making it a point to be in regular contact with the senior leadership.

**MNC(SW) Devin M. Smith**  
**NPC PERS-406**  
**MN/C160 E1-E9 Detailer/Rating Lead**

*Chief Devin M. Smith was raised in San Diego, California, and joined the Navy in 2003. His Navy career began like most of us...*

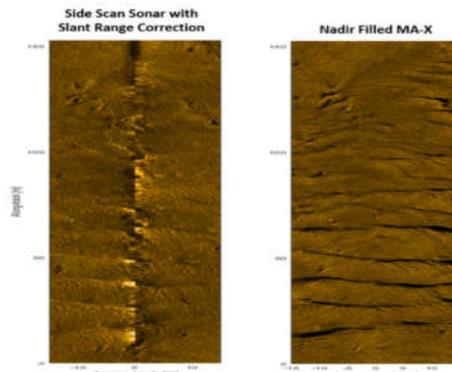
"After Basic training in Great Lakes, IL. I reported to MWTC in Ingleside, TX where I attended MN "A"-school and Minesweep Boatswain's Mate "C"-school. After training, I then reported to the USS Dextrous (MCM 13) in Manama, Bahrain which ultimately became the MCM Crew Dominant rotational crew.

In 2009, as an MN2, I reported to MOMAU 11 in Goose Creek, SC where I was advanced to MN1. In 2012, I reported to the USS Avenger (MCM 1). In 2014, I was selected to Mineman Chief Petty Officer. After a successful tour in Sasebo, Japan, I then reported to the LCS Program in San Diego, and took part in the shock trials on USS Milwaukee (LCS 5), and the Pre-commissioning of the USS Manchester (LCS 14). I was then selected to be the Mineman Detailer and reported to Navy Personnel Command to relieve MNC Andrew Fillebrown in FEB 2019.

From my recent experiences in

## Klein Debuts MA-X Imaging Technology

Marine Technology News April 10, 2019



Side scan sonar equipment developer Klein Marine Systems has developed a new, patent-pending technology called MA-X it believes will redefine ocean imaging, Klein's parent company Mitcham Industries announced this week.

MA-X is essentially the next generation of side scan sonar whose arrays are physically mounted at an angle relative to the towfish or autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) platform,

Klein Marine Systems said. In this way, each narrow fan-beam is oriented at a downward and forward-grazing angle, resulting in an acoustic track over the sea bottom that starts from the port and starboard side and extends diagonally forward across the nadir ahead of the platform.

MA-X allows for seamless imaging of the entire swath, including the nadir area where traditional side scan sonar imaging leaves a gap. This gap in data requires overlapping survey lines which leads to additional survey time to achieve 100% coverage. According to Klein Marine Systems, a cost-effective "gap-filler" solution has long been sought by the industry, as Traditional gap-fillers tend to be expensive or of low image quality. The new MA-X technology will provide unmatched image quality and an estimated 40% increase in the coverage rate and survey efficiency (i.e. fuel, survey time), Klein believes.

Guy Malden, Co-CEO of Mitcham Industries, commented, "In our opinion, MA-X represents a paradigm shift in seafloor imaging. We believe it to be a cost-effective, attractive and low-risk gap-filling sonar solution, capable of being immediately adopted on AUVs of all sizes – even in conjunction with other manufacturers' sonars, including SAS [synthetic aperture sonar]. This MA-X technology should provide Klein with an attractive value proposition and the ability to rapidly expand its penetration of the AUV and towed side scan sonar market." The immediate benefits of MA-X technology are shorter survey time and more predictable surveys in windows of good weather. For AUV operators, this translates into either longer autonomy or smaller size battery, i.e., lower cost or more payload space. In addition, the MA-X imagery has the same interpretative characteristics as side scan images (grazing angle, shadows) and therefore, no operator re-training is needed.

MA-X-based products will continue to output Klein's SDF data format and will be compatible with major third-party imaging software applications, including automatic target recognition software. The MA-X technology will be introduced in a variety of Klein products, including both towed systems and payloads for autonomous platforms.





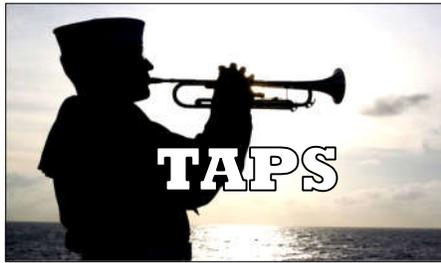
**Blas Palma "Joe" Hernandez,  
LT (USN, Ret)**

89 years old of Albuquerque, NM passed away Saturday, January 5, 2019 at home in the arms of his loved ones. Joe was born in Los Angeles, CA in 1929 and graduated from Hollywood High in 1947. He joined the Navy in 1950 during the Korean conflict, and was a Torpedo Officer in 1967 aboard the Destroyer Tender USS Frontier (AD 25). Joe served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War. He served proudly in the United States Navy for 24 years retiring in 1974 and relocating his family from Charleston, SC to Albuquerque, NM. He was a real estate broker for many years. He had a vibrant passion for music and performed at the VA Hospital for patients and families with a musical group "Los Ultimos." He was a generous and gregarious soul, entertaining us at family gatherings. He had many hobbies including breeding birds, collecting seashells, looking for garage sale treasures, and was an avid movie goer.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Rosalia Gomez Hernandez; daughters, Anna Fontanez and Gloria Alfero; and son-in-law Israel Fontanez. He was a proud grandfather to Jason Garduno, Michelle Fontanez, John Fontanez, Angelina Garduno, Joseph Fontanez and Madeline Alfero, all from NM. He leaves behind his youngest sister Anita King, CA and many other loved ones. He was preceded in death by his son, Daniel Jose Hernandez, FL and granddaughter Angela Fontanez, NM.

A memorial Mass was held at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Frances of Assisi, 131 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe, NM on January 24, 2019 at 10 am. Interment followed at 12:45 pm at the Santa Fe National Cemetery with full military honors.

Messages of condolence can be sent to: [afont54@yahoo.com](mailto:afont54@yahoo.com)



**MARY CHRISTIAN**

Jun 27, 1940 - Mar 14, 2019

*Mary Christian of North Charleston, South Carolina, wife of the late Curtis Christian passed away on March 14, 2019. Funeral Home Services for Mary were provided by Carolina Funeral Home of North Charleston, SC.*

*Unfortunately, the family chose not to include any personal details of Mary's life.*

*Mary Christian attended nearly every AOM with her husband, Curtis. During the last days of Curtis' life, she was faced with a long string of tragedies as Curtis was constantly beset with health problems. That she was able to go on without Curtis was a testimony to her tough spirit. May she rest in God's peace which she so richly deserved.*



**Sadie R. Harder,  
Charleston, SC**

The relatives and friends of Sadie Rosalie Martinez Harder (*Wife of deceased Shipmate CWO4/MNMC Ken Harder*) were invited to attend her Mass of Christian Burial Monday, March 25, 2019 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1695 Raoul Wallenberg Blvd., Charleston. Father Patrick O. Eynla

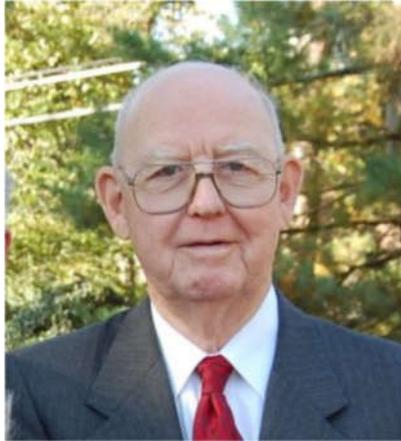
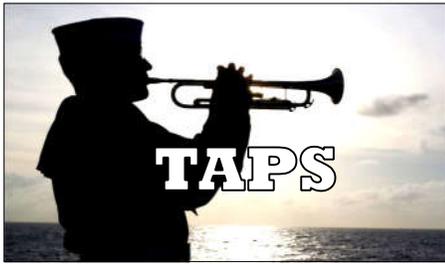


**George D. Arnett, 82**, of Goose Creek, South Carolina, passed away on February 27, 2019. He was born on July 19, 1936 in Harlem, Georgia, son of Ruby Rainwater and Charlie Arnett. George was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Haru Arnett and son, Sakae Arnett. He is survived by four sons: Kenichi Tamagusuku of Goose Creek, SC, Douglas Arnett of Goose Creek, SC, Francis Arnett and wife Rachel of Camden, SC, and Lamonte Arnett and wife Darlene of Myrtle Beach, SC; Mr. Arnett is also survived by eleven grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. George enjoyed bowling, gardening, and spending time with his family. He retired from the U.S. Navy as a Petty Officer First Class, as well as from MWR after thirty years as a bowling center mechanic. A graveside service was held at 1:00PM on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at Plantation Memorial Gardens, 2839 S Live Oak Dr, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. Memorial contributions may be made to the in George's name. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted online at [www.mcalister-smith.com](http://www.mcalister-smith.com).

celebrated the Mass. The Rite of Committal took place 10:00 AM Tuesday, March 26th at Beaufort National Cemetery, 1601 Boundry St., Beaufort. The family received friends at the James A. McAlister Funeral Home, 1620 Savannah Highway. The Rosary was be recited the following Sunday.

Online condolences can be made at [www.CharlestonFunerals.com](http://www.CharlestonFunerals.com). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Bonaventure Mission, 25 W. Navarre Blvd., Thoreau, NM 87323 ([www.stbonaventuremission.org](http://www.stbonaventuremission.org)). Visit the McAlister Funeral Home Guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/Charleston](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/Charleston)



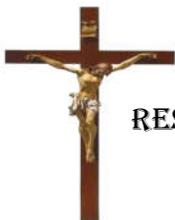


**John Eugene Shreve  
"Jack" (Age 89)**

On Sunday, October 7, 2018, of Kensington, MD. Loving husband of Terry Shreve; devoted father of Ginny Finley, Christine Bowersox (Tom), Michael Shreve (Sharon) and Mark Shreve (Lisa); beloved grandfather of Colin Finley (Mary Jo), Tommy Finley (Becky), Jeremy Shreve, Kathleen Finley, Ainsley Shreve and Kerry Finley; great grandfather of Zoe; brother of Msgr. Thomas Shreve and Mary Ellen Pearl.

Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Redeemer Church, 9705 Summit Ave, Kensington, MD, was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. Interment was held at St. James Catholic Cemetery, Falls Church, VA on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Gonzaga College High School, 19 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

*Jack was a strong supporter of mine warfare in his position as a Program Manager in the 1970's and 1980's. Ed.*



**REST IN PEACE**



**Phil Dechene** reports that his wife Evelyn has been diagnosed with Parkinson's and has bad balance requiring a cane or walker. She was also in the hospital for acute anemia and congestive heart failure. She is periodically requiring iron infusions. For general info, I'm slowing down with the usual aches and pains in the joints. I'm still pretty active with model railroad groups and I get to the rifle and pistol range a couple of times a week. I was on a couple of command pistol teams during my active duty days.

**Johnny Sandoval** recently underwent a robotic hernia repair but reports that he's healing well and that the robot didn't relocate any of his innards. He's looking forward to the AOM Reunion in his hometown and said he's going to contact Nate to renew his membership. Welcome back shipmate!

**Gary Cleland** says Tuesday May 7 will be 9 weeks since surgery (his **twin knee replacements!**) I am well on my way. I am very optimistic about the end results. I am also very glad I chose the double knee replacement surgery, versus one at a time. I will see you all in San Antonio this year in much better shape than in Jacksonville last year!

**Jim Raymond** is recovering from his spine surgery and says that before, he couldn't walk without a cane and an arsenal of medication. Now, he's done with the cane, and the remaining pain is from the surgery incision. No pains like before, gone!!! He gives a Big Shout Out to the V A for fixing him. Next up is more rest, more healing, then back to work.



CDR Maurice "Toby" Horn, USN (Ret.)  
 Interment at Arlington National Cemetery  
 Monday 29 April 2019



**REST IN PEACE SHIPMATE...  
 WE HAVE THE WATCH**



He was getting old and paunchy  
 And his hair was falling fast,  
 And he sat around the Legion,  
 Telling stories of the past.  
 Of a war that he once fought in  
 And the deeds that he had done,  
 In his exploits with his buddies;  
 They were heroes, everyone.  
 And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors  
 His tales became a joke,  
 All his buddies listened quietly  
 For they knew where of he spoke.  
 But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
 For ol' Joe has passed away,  
 And the world's a little poorer  
 For a Veteran died today.  
 He won't be mourned by many,  
 Just his children and his wife.  
 For he lived an ordinary,  
 Very quiet sort of life.  
 He held a job and raised a family,  
 Going quietly on his way;  
 And the world won't note his passing,  
 'Tho a Veteran died today.  
 When politicians leave this earth,  
 Their bodies lie in state,  
 While thousands note their passing,  
 And proclaim that they were great.  
 Papers tell of their life stories  
 From the time that they were young,  
 But the passing of a Veteran  
 Goes unnoticed, and unsung.  
 Is the greatest contribution  
 To the welfare of our land,  
 Some jerk who breaks his promise  
 And cons his fellow man?  
 Or the ordinary fellow  
 Who in times of war and strife,  
 Goes off to serve his country  
 And offers up his life?  
 The politician's stipend  
 And the style in which he lives,  
 Are often disproportionate,  
 To the service that he gives.  
 While the ordinary Veteran,  
 Who offered up his all,  
 Is paid off with a medal  
 And perhaps a pension, small.  
 It is not the politicians  
 With their compromise and ploys,  
 Who won for us the freedom  
 That our country now enjoys.  
 Should you find yourself in danger,  
 With your enemies at hand,  
 Would you really want some cop-out,  
 With his ever-waffling stand?  
 Or would you want a Veteran  
 His home, his country, his kin,  
 Just a common Veteran,  
 Who would fight until the end?  
 He was just a common Veteran,  
 And his ranks are growing thin,  
 But his presence should remind us  
 We may need his likes again.  
 For when countries are in conflict,  
 We find the Veteran's part,  
 Is to clean up all the troubles  
 That the politicians start.  
 If we cannot do him honor  
 While he's here to hear the praise,  
 Then at least let's give him homage  
 At the ending of his days.  
 Perhaps just a simple headline  
 In the paper that might say:  
**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
 A VETERAN DIED TODAY."**

(Author unknown)

Contributed by: *Mike Femrite*




# Mineman Miscellany

... it's still on !!!

## Azuma Island Mine Shop Reunion 2020

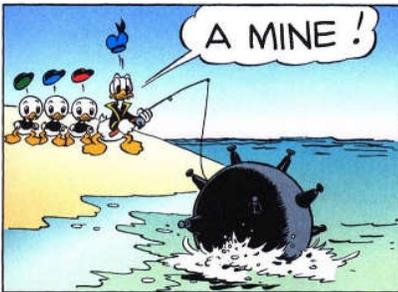
The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Naval Ordnance Facility on Azuma Island in Yokosuka Japan will be the theme of the **2020 AOM East Coast Reunion to be held in Charleston, SC**. All former Minemen and other Shipmates who served, are invited... AOM members or not!

**We have many of the names but need contact information and more photos from your time in Japan.**

**Derick Hartshorn writes:** Our AOM web site will dedicate a page to all those who served on Azuma Islands, in whatever capacity. The very idea rouses some really wonderful memories I have of "Baka Shima" and those I served with. 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 go to the web page (<http://minemen.org/Azuma.htm>) and use the criteria listed and send it to Derick Hartshorn at [derickh@charter.net](mailto:derickh@charter.net)

**Contact Information:**

"Azuma Is. Reunion Coordinator" Bill Holloway at: [william.holloway1010@gmail.com](mailto:william.holloway1010@gmail.com)  
 AOM Communications Chairman and Web Master at: [derickh@charter.net](mailto:derickh@charter.net)



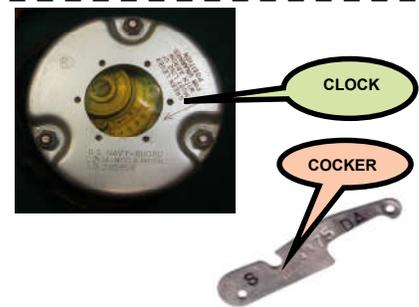
### Fiscal Year 2019 E-8 Quota Mineman

Eligible 81  
 Quota 18  
 Opportunity 22.22%



### **MINEMAN MASTER CHIEF (SELECT) BRIAN ROSENBERG**

Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division, Unit Misawa Japan



The "Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers" plaque is awarded in recognition of those Sailors who have served as a Mineman (MN Rating) from the beginning of their Navy service, for a minimum of 25 years Active Duty. To be recognized for this award, the following information must be submitted:

1. Full Name and Rank
2. Active Duty Base Date
3. Your Mailing Address, *unless* you want the plaque presented to you during the Annual AOM reunion.

**Mail requests for recognition to:**  
 R. Schommer, 827 N. Aylesbury Rd,  
 Goose Creek, SC 29445  
 email to [rschommer@bellsouth.net](mailto:rschommer@bellsouth.net).  
 Please allow 30 to 45 days for the plaque to arrive by mail.

### Transitions, Going Ashore...

**SOCS Jeremy Gump, USN (Navy SEAL & former Mineman) retires on 9 August 2019 at Navy Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA.**

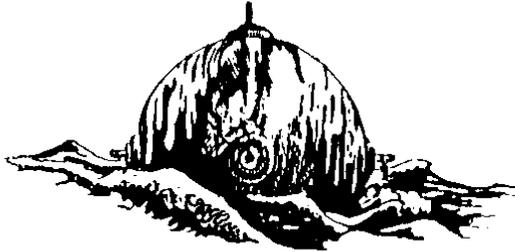
**Congratulations Senior Chief on an outstanding career and thank you for your service to our great Nation!**

**DON'T Forget to pay your AOM dues.  
 ONLY \$15 !! Keep getting "the DASHPOT"**

<https://www.jotform.com/90215855401148>

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

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



Association of Minemen

1974 - 2019

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RANK/RATE/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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