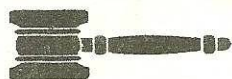


The DASHPO

Issue 11

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

FALL 1995



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let me first thank everyone for allowing me to serve as President of the Association of Minemen (AOM) for the next three years. I am very proud and honored to have been elected and given the opportunity to serve the membership. Our membership is made up of active duty, reserve and civilian personnel as well as those who have retired.

I want to personally thank all those who have worked so hard to bring this association to what it is today. Many have done much to assure the AOM remained a productive and involved organization. The two persons to whom we owe most are **Toby Horn** and **Lyal Stryker** both have provided the needed continuity and purpose to our organization.

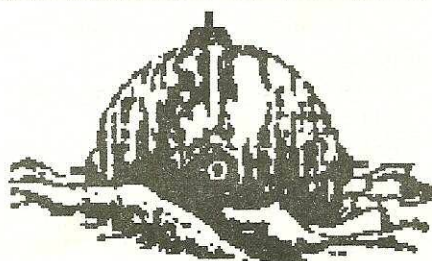
Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all past members who have and or supported our activities and special thanks goes to COMOMAG and COMINEWARCOM for all they have contributed.

The last reunion, which was held in Reno, Nevada, at the regency Sands Hotel on 11 to 13 August 1995, was one of our best yet. A

Please see President page 2

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Congratulations MINEMAN of the YEAR MN1

Bonnie Sudman

MOMAG Unit FIVE

ACTIVE DUTY MINEMAN OF THE YEAR
141038Z AUG 95
From: COMINEWARCOM Corpus Christi TX
TO: MINEWARCOM
INFO FLEMINWARTRACEN CHARLESTON SC

Subj: Active Duty Mineman of the Year

1. I take great pride and pleasure in congratulating MN1 **Bonnie Sudman** (MOMAG Unit Five) as the 1995 active duty mineman of the year. Her selection was announced at the Association of Mineman reunion in Reno NV on 15 August.

2. The selection of this outstanding petty officer was based on high sustained personal standards of professional performance, technical competence, and military bearing. For petty officer **Sudman**, your dedication to duty and professionalism is most impressive and you should be proud of your significant contributions to the Mine Warfare community and the United States Navy.

3. I am equally proud of the impressive list of nominees for this years competition. I congratulate each of you Mineman for being selected to represent your respective commands.

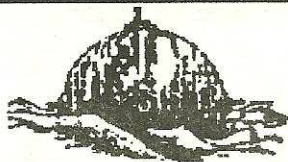
Command
COMOMAG
COMCMRON THREE
FMWTC
MOMAG Unit ONE
MOMAG Det SEVEN
MOMAG Unit EIGHT
MOMAG Unit TEN
MOMAG Unit ELEVEN
MOMAG Unit TWELVE
MOMAG Unit FOURTEEN
MOMAG Unit FIFTEEN
USS Warrior (MCM 10)
USS Gladiator (MCM 11)
USS Heron (MHC 52)



Nominee

MN1 **David Lauffenburger**
MN1 **Bruce Haway**
MN1 **John Carman**
MN1 **Rita Jo Nicely**
MN1 **Robert Gutierrez**
MN1 **David Hartje**
MN1 **Randall Lauderdale**
MN1 **John Bray**
MN1 **Keith Brieno**
MN1 **Keith Taylor**
MN1 **Michael Ward**
MN3 **Maurice Perine**
MN1 **Robbie Frunz**
MN1 **James Tandy**

4. Once again, Congratulations to all of you RADM **Pearson** sends.



**ASSOCIATION OF
MINEMEN
DEDICATED TO SERVING
THE
U.S. MINE FORCE**

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, 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.

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President. Continued from page 1

heartfelt thanks to **Ann Cobis, Don Decrona** and their able committees for all of their efforts in making this an excellent and memorable event.

The next two reunions are currently being planned with the dates and locations as follows:

9 - 11 August 1996 Panama City, Florida

8 - 10 August 1997 in San Diego, California

Looking forward to a great time at both locations.

I, with all of you, look forward to seeing the AOM continue to grow and prosper and provide education and support to all, as well as bring a network vehicle for all involved. With your input and assistance to assure a team effort, I am looking ahead with a lot of expectations that we, over the next three years, will continue to have a dynamic AOM. Thanking you in advance.

Respectfully yours,
Warren



RADM Pearson,
Commander Mine Warfare
Command was extended at
his present assignment until
June/July 1996

Past Association Presidents

M. D. Toby Horn	92-95
Jim Coffman	89-92
Dick Schommer	83-89 (2)
Lyal Stryker	81-83
Jack Smoot	78-81
Forrest (Foxy) Fisher	75-78

Address changes to the
Secretary/Treasurer
Please provide 9 digit ZIP

Secretary's Corner



My apologies for being remiss in keeping you up to date in the last couple of issues of the Dashpot We held our Board of

Directors meeting at 1000 on Saturday August 12, 1995 at the Sands Regency, Reno, NV. Present were **Toby Horn, Lyal Stryker, Bob Forbes, Ralph Shaw, Don DeCrona and Warren Savage.** Committee reports were given and will be covered in detail in the next Dashpot. Nominations for the offices of President, Vice President and two Board of Directors were presented and approved. New officers are noted in the Presidents column. **Lyal Stryker** reported we have \$8506.41 in our checking account, \$871.36 in savings and \$7784.37 in the History Book account. The BOD directed the Treasurer to investigate the possibility of putting some of our funds in CD's or similar. Current checking account interest rates are low. There were no nominations for Honorary Mineman. Toby and Lyal reported on the status of the History Book and reported the publisher had contacted us and wants to complete it as soon as possible. We have sent additional material to the publisher since the reunion and plan to complete our final input hopefully by the end of the year. This is a busy time for the publisher in completing their annual schedule of books to be published and we may be delayed by them a few months. Toby and Lyal pledged to devote the time necessary to complete the History Book as soon as possible. We

Please see Secretary Page 3

EDITOR

by John Loonam

My hat is off to the many who supplied me with an abundance of material for this issue. The distribution list on COMINWARCOM's message on page one is poorly represented. I can only hope you are proud enough of your outfit to want to share your good news with the community.

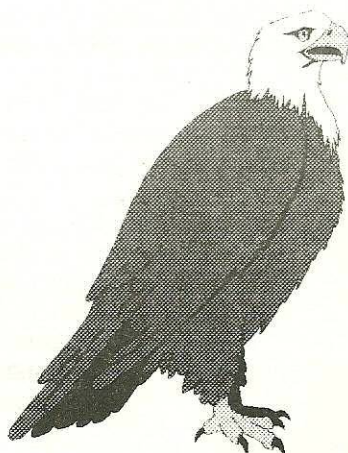
The term leadership is used throughout the military system to denote someone's ability to get the job done. Today that ability has to include a little more in that it must be done in a *politically correct* manner. We, the Association of Minemen, have just witnessed a great demonstration of leadership with *political correctness* in our past President, **Toby Horn**. As he steps aside to allow **Warren Savage** to assume the helm for the next three years, I can only say thanks for a job done super well and Warren I don't know where you are going to find the feet to fit in Toby's shoes. Hard act to follow is an understatement. We look forward to Toby's continuing contribution to the Newsletter and most of all to the Association.

We welcome **Warren Savage** as our new President and hope that with the support of all of us he can continue the forward growth of the Association and National prominence it deserves.

I understand, semi-officially, that the Association Secretary, **Lyal Stryker** and his family committed to an annual scholarship award for our Association. The scholarship will be named the **Dorreen Stryker Memorial Scholarship** fund to be supported by the **Stryker** family. On behalf of the Membership, a big round of applause for the **Stryker** family. Annually the Association awards scholarships to members dependents and others as recommended by the Scholarship Committee.

My thanks to all for kudos relating to my efforts on this Newsletter.

1995 Dues were due in August. Use the order blank on page 5 to renew or a new membership application on page 12 to join or re-join. Dues notices are not mailed to members



Secretary from Page 2

also have a few volunteers to help us. If you want to help please contact Toby or Lyal. It is not necessary to live in Charleston, we can mail material to be reviewed, etc. The BOD also authorized a \$100.00 donation to the Keyport Underwater Museum. There will not be a reunion book this year unless we can put one together. Those of you at the reunion please send us a copy of your photos and maybe we can prepare one. If you ordered the Charleston reunion book from last year you should have received it by now. If not, let us know and we will follow up on it. If you want to purchase a copy we have some extras for \$8.00 each with the profits going to the scholarship fund. At the membership meeting held at 1330 all of the above was mentioned and discussed. There was a heated but friendly discussion about the location of the 1997 reunion location West. After several votes and considering there was a lot going on in Reno August 1997, the members voted to go to San Diego. The members also extended a BRAVO ZULU to **John Loonam** for the great work he is doing as our Dashpot Editor! They

also elected **Warren Savage** President for the next three years and **Joe Balderrama** as Vice President. **Cdr Ron Swart** and **Bill "Swede" Carlsen** to the BOD for three years. Dinner meeting was great and an excellent meal thanks to **Don DeCrona**. TAPS was observed by reading the names of all our members and friends that had passed away since the last reunion. As outgoing President, **Toby Horn** swore in the new officers and presented **Warren Savage** with the badge of office which was hand made by our first President **Forrest "Foxy" Fisher**. **Fred Dane** was thanked for obtaining for us a copy of San Jose TV clips showing a MK 13 mine caught in a fishing boats nets and the subsequent destruction by EOD. We have some doubt if it was explosive loaded, contrary to what the young EOD Lt. said. Door prize winners at the dinner were **Jim Cottrell** who selected the famous Giles cartoon which he returned to us to auction at the picnic as he already has one. **Max Chilcott** took the cook book Dining in Quarters A, **Gary Cleland** took the book Till War Do Us Part and **Gracie Daughtery** took the book Brave Ship - Brave Men. She was wearing lighted flashing earrings at the dinner and was heard to say later that it still didn't get her a man. Better luck next time Gracie!

The picnic was also great thanks to **Anne and Ray Cobis**, ribs and chicken with all the fixings. We took in \$1106.00 at the auction which goes to the scholarship fund. Much thanks to all that participated, especially those that brought the lovely crafts and those that were generous in purchasing the items. Door prize winners were **G.P. Santa Maria** who selected the Giles cartoon; Gunner **DeFrees** who took the book Till War Do Us Part; **George Kelly** took the book Dining in Quarters A and **Fred Reid** took the book Brave Ship - Brave Men. I will provide additional details, names etc. in the next Dashpot. If I don't get this to **John Loonam** now he will go to press without it, as he should. Remember, John is a "deadline guy"!

Committee Reports

Membership

by Toby Horn

After the recent purge of "inactive" members, I was able to report at the Reno AOM BOD and Business Meeting that we had a roster of 655 "active" members. That figure is now up slightly, since we signed up several more members in Reno. The membership forms have not crossed my desk yet, but I believe we added at least five more.

We also took a look at responses for dues update vis-a-vis the new August dues date. Response has been good. **Bob Forbes** smiles and says, "See, it proves my point!" Okay, Bob - point well taken.

Let this serve as a gentle reminder to you 10 percent who put things off. Your dues were due last month.

The following is a list of new members, promised from two issues ago:

Thomas (Tom) Beatty, Michael P. Slater, Michelle Guilmain, Captain Lawrence (Larry) Kelly, PMO-407, Charles K. Leonard, Edward A. Gard, Don C. Risk (LOBO), Lawrence E. Ronan, Dale G. Barco, Russ Hurden, Paul Horton and Emma Pruitt Arieta. WELCOME ABOARD!

On behalf of all our AOM members, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members aboard. We look forward to your participation in our organization, and we hope your affiliation with us is a long and rewarding one.

Doesn't seem that long ago that MN1 Milton Baird and MNCA John Loonam, at NOLTF Ft. Monroe range house on a 52/55 Mod 7 test observed the USS America leaving port on her first sea trial. ('65) Just read where the America departed on her last deployment before decommissioning in '96! Time does fly!

WANTED

MINEMEN VCR/TV PRODUCERS

Our annual AOM Reunions and Business Meetings now feature VCR/TV presentations.

We would like to have your active duty or reserve station, mine site, or MCM ship featured in an unclassified, home-made VCR/TV presentation that includes site/ship information, shows and identifies members of your crew and shows some of the activities you are involved in. Scenes of workshop, classroom and other spaces are encouraged. A morning quarters muster, with each crew member stating name, rate, state of birth, would provide an audio visual history. The presentation will be shown at our reunions and will also serve as a visual history which will be displayed on occasion at our museum on the USS YORKTOWN.

All presentations must be produced within the guidelines and authorization provided by your Commanding Officer, Officer in Charge and Public Affairs Office as necessary.

PLEASE OBTAIN PROPER
AUTHORIZATION.
GO FOR IT!



RENO HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

August 13th

by Francis (**Hot Dog**) McCarthy
Tournament Chairman

A good time was had by all, especially the *Winners!*

We had ten players vying for the individual trophies and eight players for the doubles trophy.

The trophy's now stay on the West Coast.

J. R. Cobis of Reno won the individual trophy. He really had a tough time. He had to wait out three rounds to be played by the other eight players. He had three buys before taking on John Sr. who had to win three previous rounds. Of course Cobus allowed John Jr. to rest before taking him on for the championship.

The doubles wasn't as tiring as two rounds determined the winners to be **J.R. Cobis** from Reno and **J. Cottrell** from Indiana.

Congratulations to all the players!!

Panama City AUG 9-11 '96

Scholarships:

by Lyal Stryker

This year we were able to award five \$500.00 scholarship assistance

awards. This was mainly possible by the money from the auction and your individual contributions. Those selected were, in alphabetical order;

Christopher Adams and **Emily Adams**, son and daughter of **Roger and Libby Adams**.

Shelby Guse, granddaughter of **Llyod and Carmen Bemis**. This was our first award to a members grandchild!

Dawn Nalepa, daughter of **MNC Nalepa**.

Kumi Swart, daughter of **Cdr Ron and Masako Swart**.

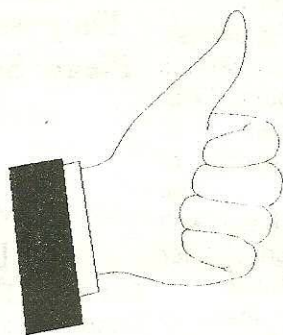
We hope to have their photographs and brief biographies in the next issue of the Dashpot.

RENO REUNION REPORT

by Toby Horn

Our members started arriving in Reno starting on Wednesday the 9th to take advantage of the gambling and numerous extravaganza shows in town. So much to do. So little time. The new Silverado Casino - a few blocks walk from the Sands - was a big draw for everyone, having "loose" slot machines to celebrate their opening, as well as the magnificent replica of the groaning, grinding processing wheels and the old mining shaft that stretched up almost four stories high into a huge dome that periodically provided wind and rain storms, lightening, and other weather phenomena. Several of our members won several nice jackpots there - **Bill Mehard** reported four, as I recall. Lots of members got away into the surrounding areas, Lake Tahoe, Fallon, Sparks, Carson City and Virginia City and reported great times, lots to see, great food and the wonderful Nevada hospitality. Many folks sorta stayed put in the Sands and played the slots there. **Grace Dougherty, Lavern Padgett** and **Joyce Bright** stalked the nickel machines throughout the Casino and, on one occasion **Mili Reed** camped out on a quarter machine and refused to move when it locked up on her.

I think everyone's stay was pleasant and congenial, thanks in most part to the "above and beyond the call of duty" planning and preparation of **Ann Cobis** and **Don Decrona** and their very supportive spouses, Ray and Lavon, respectively. Everything was planned to perfection and all our events came off without a hitch. On behalf of everyone, I applaud them and send along our praise, accolades, kudos, attaboys and sincere appreciation for a job extremely well done.



Our Early Bird on Friday night started our formal AOM activities throughout the weekend. It was held in the Hospitality Room provided by the hotel, which we officially opened on Friday afternoon to receive any and all who cared to drop in. **Don Decrona** had prepared some excellent placards giving details of our scheduled events, directions, membership info, and some memorabilia and trivia. Our long lost **Dan Bailey**, of Seattle, Washington wandered in with his lovely wife (great to have them back with us again) and we had several non-member Navy people who came in, declared their past affiliation with the Mine Force, and signed on the dotted line for membership and the following

activities of the weekend. The cash bar was wet and active, so much so, that we had to extend it's operation twice. We drew a nice crowd - at one time hovering at 100. I tried to count

them two or three times, but **Grace**

Dougherty kept flitting from table to table just to confuse the issue. And, when you get a mini-sea-story-conference going with the likes of **Al Boreen, Bill Bash, Bob Benintende, Ray Cobis, Bob "Gunner" Lattanzi, Lloyd Bemus, Zygie Chuhay, Jim Cottrell, Fred Reed, Hal Elston, Tony Ross** and **Charlie Nicklin**, it's hard to count when you're trying to keep track of who's lying the worse. **Jack Smoot** and the Yorktown entourage of Mineman Reservists were there to help with crowd control (**Dan Epperly** gave up after the flag-waving lady in her wheel chair crashed the party). Our faithful **Lee** and **Polly Engberg** were there trying to add a little "class" but they were soon subdued. **Swede Carlsen** at one time declared he was going back to the Bronx where everyone was comparatively civilized. "**Mac**" **McCarthy** was going around telling everyone about his bad arm so he

couldn't defend his horse-shoe throwing reputation. **Dick Rhoderick** and **Charlie Dean** represented the ol' Washington crowd, telling lies about the tough BUORD days of mine hardware acquisition. **Bob Forbes, Bill Beck, Richard Cox, David Massie** operated out on the fringes. **Ken Harder** just stared at the proceedings and murmured "incredible, incredible." Our new-to-be President **Warren Savage** tried to shield the eyes of his lovely new wife, Barbara, but she said she had to learn all this stuff eventually. Most of the wives and ladies-in-attendance barricaded themselves at a table in the corner, and Gracie and Joyce waved baseball bats, yelling "no more Tailhook." **Paul Horton**, who works there at the Sands, made an appearance with his "bride to be" - announcing their marriage on Saturday. We reluctantly agreed to allow him a leave of absence from the business meeting scheduled for the same time. I know this sea-story account doesn't recognize everyone there, so forgive me - omission is not intended.

Saturday events started with the AOM Board of Directors meeting in the Hospitality Room in the morning. Business was brisk and the results rewarding in terms of realizing our accomplishments in the areas of scholarships, accumulation and protection of our history, our endeavors in research and education, positive thrusts regarding membership, and our newsletter. **Lyal Stryker** will cover most of the details in his Secretary/Treasurer report, but I want to point out the special recognition, in absentia, of **John Loonam**, and the wonderful, dedicated effort he provides in getting the Newsletter to us all. Great job, John (and you too, Bobbie, for the support you give him)!!!

I officiated at the AOM Business Meeting for my last time on Saturday afternoon. It was a "two beer" meeting and our business before the organization went smoothly. Again, **Lyal** will cover the details in his

Please see Reno Reunion Page 6

Reno Reunion from Page 5

report. I do want to take reporter's license, however, and take this opportunity to welcome our newly elected officers of the AOM - President, **Warren Savage** of San Diego, California and two new Directors to the Board - CDR **Ron Swart**, USN, Chief of Staff, COMOMAG at Ingleside, Texas and **William "Swede" Carlsen** of The Bronx, New York. I personally know each of these individuals and the integrity and dedication they will bring to their jobs as you administrators. Congratulations to them, and also to **Joe Balderrama**, who was re-elected as your Vice President and I know will continue to provided you his unwavering support.

Saturday evening, we gathered for our official dinner meeting. Although advertised as "informal", many chose

to come "dressed to the nines". This meeting is, of course, our time to recognize the old and the new from year to year; loved ones and shipmates who have passed on to a greater domain; shipmates who have served with pride, dignity and

longevity; and our annual award to the Mineman of the Year as selected by the active duty Navy Command Master Chief's from COMINELWARCOM, COMOMAG and FLTMINELWARFARETRACEN.

Again, Lyal will cover the details, but I want to proffer special congratulations to our first woman Mineman of the Year, Mineman First Class **Bonnie Sudman**, who was selected from an outstanding group of nominees from the various active duty commands. She received a resounding applause from everyone, especially Gracie, who we finally had to tie to her chair. After the dinner meeting, everyone went their

separate ways, gathering in small groups, doing some more gambling, or doing some of the shows in town.

Sunday, our Picnic Gala started at 1100. Again, the planning crew had provided us with a magnificent mixture of feasting, festivities, beverage and fun. The BBQ ribs were humongous, side dishes luscious, beer was cold and wet. The day was gorgeous - hardly a cloud in the sky - perfect temperature and no humidity. **Paul Horton** thought so much of us that he and his new bride attended, even though it was the first day of their honeymoon. Lyal will provide you details of our total attendance, door prizes awarded and auction take. **Mac McCarthy** coordinated the horseshoe tournament, and he will provide a separate report on the champion(s). Lots of photos were taken by various

members, with promises to send a copy of those that turned out well enough for publication (send them to **John Loonam**).

The picnic, to me is a great fun time of conflicting feelings, mixed emotions. We are glad to be together and

yet sad to know that many of us will soon be departing and heading back to other lives in other places. Some, it is sad to say, we may not see again. How nice, however, to be able to look back and smile with fond memory.

I want to thank each, all and everyone (did I leave anyone out) that planned for and came to Reno and contributed to these fond memories. Bless all of you who caused me to lose my auctioneers voice over bidding the many and magnificent items that contributed a very significant sum to our scholarship fund. **Milli Reed's**

Christmas afghan went for a song - what a bargain. Lavon DeCrona's handcrafted bird houses caused a real bidding war. I love my Tomahawk Cruise Missile hat provided by **Jim Martin** and have had to fight everyone here in Charleston for it.

I hope that **John Loonam** will allow me to continue on in a "contributing reporter" capacity so that I can tune in from time to time. Be assured of one thing - I'll be in Panama City, Florida next year. Everyone at Reno was talking about being there, and I want to contribute to my already extensive fond memory bank. Hope to see you there.

**Paid your '95-'96 dues yet?
They were due in August
Please Send your check in
today**

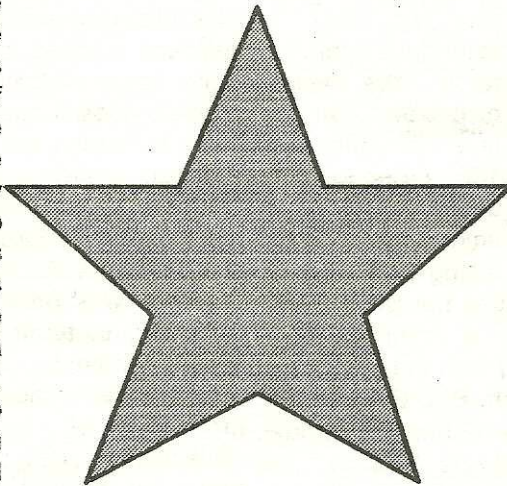
MCM' s Return From Deployment

The "MCM EURO '95" Task Group, comprised of USS Defender (MCM 2), USS Warrior (MCM 10), USS Pioneer (MCM 9) and USS Gladiator (MCM 11) returned to Ingleside on 14 August after a six month deployment.

During the deployment, the ships participated in three major NATO mine warfare exercises, celebrated VE day in Petersburg, Russia and New Castle, U.K. and showed the flag in numerous ports throughout Northern and Western Europe.

Retiring Chief Memento's

Retiring Chief Petty Officers can now be presented a flag that has flown aboard the USS Chief (MCM 14). You must supply the flag which will be flown on the Chief and returned with a certificate of authenticity. There is no fee. Send your flag (takes 2 weeks on Chief's end) to Commander, Regional Support Group, Ingleside, 120 Coral Sea Rd. Suite 63A, Attn.: GMCM(SW) Bob Eisenberg, Ingleside, TX 78362-5034



Parliamentarian, **Donald Decrona** wanted to share the following two articles with the membership:

The following article is from **Tom Clancy's** book *Submarine, A Guided Tour Inside a Nuclear Warship*.

Mines

"Probably the least appreciated weapons that can be carried by a 688I are mines. These weapons that wait are perhaps the most cost effective weapons ever derived for naval warfare. Though most of the mining done by the United States since the end of World War II has been done by aircraft, there may be situations where the stealth and precision of a submarine may be preferred for delivery of these dangerous "eggs."

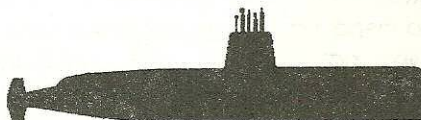
The first of these is the Mark (Mk) 57 moored mine. It is a derivative of the air-dropped Mk 56 and can be moored in several hundred feet of water. It has a variety of different sensor and triggering systems, including acoustic and magnetic influence fuzes. They can be programmed for activation delay or programmed to activate only for certain types and number of ships.

Another type is the Mk 67 mobile mine. These are obsolete Mk 37 torpedoes that have been rebuilt into mines that lie on the bottom and wait for a target to drive over them. A submarine might fire them up into a shallow channel, to a distance of 5 to 7 miles. Like the Mk 57, this mine has a variety of different fusing options.

But the crown jewel of the U.S. mine arsenal has to be the Mk 60 Captor mine. This is an encapsulated Mark 46 torpedo, programmed to wait for enemy submarines; when one is detected the torpedo swims clear and attacks the sub. As an added benefit they can be programmed to listen for a certain type of submarine, like a

Kilo or Akula. During the Cold War, it was planned to seed Captors along all the transit routes used by the submarines of the Soviet Union. Now they can be used against any of the growing number of countries that have chosen to buy and use diesel submarines in their navies.

One of the nice things about mines is that they take up only about half as much space as other types of weapons a sub might carry. Thus a 688I could carry as many as forty mines and still have a couple of ADCAPs for self-protection. The deployment of the mines is no different from loading and firing a torpedo (the BSY-1 has a mine launch mode), though the position of the mine has to be plotted absolutely accurately, so that it can be swept later. Fortunately the advent of GPS has made this task a bit easier, though efficient use of the SINS system is also required.



All in all, these weapons make for a very dangerous quiver of arrows for the submarine force.

Note:

1. 688I, Improved Los Angeles SSN-688 Class Boat.
2. ADCAPS, ADvanced CAPability. Newest version of the Mk 48 torpedo on board U.S. submarines.
3. BSY-1, (pronounced "busy one") submarine combat system. All the sensor, fire control, and weapons systems tied together into a single system.
4. GPS, Global Positioning System. A constellation of Navstar satellites that can very accurately determine the submarine's location.

5. SINS, Ship's Inertial Navigation System. A set of gyroscopes that monitor the submarine's position from an established reference point in space."

Panama City

Florida '96

AUG 9-11

Make plans now!

QUESTION:

"How many mines does it take to make a minefield?"

The question and following answer and article is from Tom Clancy's book *Submarine, A Guided Tour Inside a Nuclear Warship*.

ANSWER:

None; you only need a press release.

General Norman Schwarzkopf said it all during Desert Storm with one question to an obtuse reporter: "Have you ever been in a minefield?" Imagine what it's like. Every step you take might place you on the trigger of an explosive device. Every single step. You have to get where you want to go. But the simple act of going there may kill you. You don't know when you're entering the minefield, and you probably won't know when you're finally out of it. Sounds like fun?

And so it is for ships. A ship, remember, is steel bubble designed to keep air in and water out. And any ship can be a minesweeper. Once. Mines can be large or small, but in either case they blast holes in ships. Improving technology has made them more deadly. No longer the spherical steel containers with acid-filled horns (though these still exist and still work), modern mines can lie on the bottom,

Please see Clancy Page 8

Clancy from Page 7

be activated weeks after being laid, and can include special triggering devices so that one might go off when the first ship passes over, and its neighbor when the eleventh does. Mines, therefore, have a severe psychological impact, and in the natural dread of such things comes panic, concern, and an inordinate degree of effort to get rid of the damned things, a task both time-consuming and very, very iffy. How do you know when you have swept them all? You don't. You can't.

Tactical Example - Quarantining (Mining) an Enemy Port

It only takes a press release, but a single explosion will put a little emphasis on it. Mines are relatively small and compact, and a submarine can carry a goodly number of them, trading off roughly on torpedo for every two mines. And the submarine can deliver a wide variety of them: Mark 57 moored mines with sophisticated sensor and triggering systems. Then there are the Mk 67 mobile mines. These are obsolete Mk 37 torpedoes that have been rebuilt into bottom mines. A submarine can fire them into a shallow channel (which itself might be mined) up to a distance of 5 to 7 miles. The Mk 67 then lies on the bottom, waiting for a ship to pass over it before detonating. Finally, for real impact, there are the Mk 60 Captor mines. These are encapsulated Mk 46 torpedoes programmed to wait for the right kind of noise (in this case enemy submarines), at which point the torpedo swims clear and attacks. For example, you could program them to listen for a certain type of submarine (like a Kilo), which isn't exactly cricket. Mines that shoot first? Just the things for closing a port down.

Let us say that there is a country, North Korea for example, with a nasty habit of exporting military hardware, which offends the sensibilities of the rest of the world. Let's say their

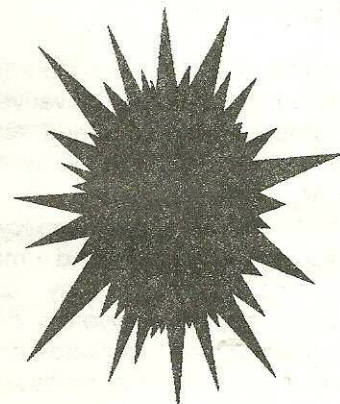
nuclear weapons program has finally yielded results. Being strapped for capital, perhaps they might choose to sell off a few to the highest bidder. Somehow (perhaps through some of their contacts in the Swiss banking industry), the American intelligence services get word of the transaction. This starts the ball rolling on a confrontation between the United States with her allies, and the North Korean's. It's the kind of confrontation that the United States could go to the UN with, and make a point to the world about arms proliferation, or suffer a major foreign policy debacle. Not so long ago, the United States expended huge resources tracking a ship loaded with a cargo of North Korean-manufactured missiles on its way to Iran. At the last minute the CENTCOM maritime surveillance forces lost track of the ship, and the cargo was delivered despite the protest of the rest of the world. Would it not have been more effective to just bottle up the port in North Korea with mines and never let the ship out in the first place? That way, wouldn't the UN have a chance to inspect the cargo and make sure it did not contain the offending weapons? You bet! It is a "must win" kind of situation that requires a delicate and discreet touch.

So how does one deploy the mines to close the port in question? The problem here is that the North Korean's have a proven record of hostility toward U.S. surface vessels and aircraft operating anywhere near their borders. (Remember the capture of the USS *Pueblo* and the EC-121 shootdown in 1968?) Thus it is imperative that such action be handled carefully. Just the kind of job submarines are best suited for.

The mines are quietly delivered to a 6881 (Improved Los Angeles SSN-688 Class) at a tender at Guam or some other forward base. The 6881 probably offloads all her missiles (except perhaps for Tomahawk antiship missiles in the Vertical

Launch System tubes), and most of her Mk 48 torpedoes. Other than the mines, her only weapons are likely for self-defense. In addition, a SEAL team might be embarked to assist in any on-the-spot surveys required to support the mission. The mining plan has probably been carefully worked out, with appropriate consideration given to such things as the actuation times, tidal and seabed conditions, types of mines, and appropriate warnings to the other interested parties involved. Of critical importance is knowledge of the exact placement of each mine, as we would probably have to sweep them (as we did in North Vietnam in 1973) after the incident is closed.

The operation begins with the 6881



reconnoitering the area surrounding the port. Part of this is to establish the operating patterns of the North Korean patrols, but also to check for irregularities in the charts and seabed surveys that might affect the mining plan. Here, the Navstar Global Positioning System is critical, as it allows for precise navigation of the boat in the confines of the North Korean coastal waters, and placement of the mines. Once the survey is finished, the job of mine deployment begins.

First out of the tubes probably are the Mk 57 moored mines, to be placed in the outer mouth of the

Please see Clancy Page 9

port. The 6881 goes in slowly using every sensor of the BSY-1 system to look for trouble. Every few minutes, another mine package is ejected from her torpedo tubes, their activation clocks ticking away to a prearranged time (probably 1 or 2 days later). As each mine is released, its position is carefully noted for future sweeping. It will take many of these, as ship captains are creatures of habit who follow their charts and rarely deviate into less traveled channels. Once this is done, the submarine's commander may fire some of the Mk 67 mobile mines up into the shallow channel leading to the inner harbor, say six to eight of these for each side of the channel, to sit on the bottom. Now the 6881 carefully moves out of the area. Just to keep things fair in the coming crises, the boat might move to one of the nearby naval bases that handles their fleet of diesel submarines and patrol boats. Here it could lay a few more Mk 67s in the channel, and possibly a belt of Mk 60 Captors to keep the North Korean Navy, particularly their force of diesel submarines, bottled up during the coming confrontation. You don't even have to do it to all of their bases. Just do it to one, and say that you have done it to all of them. Who is to know, right?

You now have foreign policy *fait accompli*. And don't forget the press release.....

Note: BSY-1 (pronounced "busy one") submarine combat system. All the sensor, fire control, and weapons systems tied together into a single system."

Panama City Reunion Contacts:
Don Costa
209 San Gabriel St
Panama City FL 32407
(904-) 234-5221
Francis X. Martin
3918 West 21st St
Panama City, FL 32405-1421

Active Duty Mineman of the Year.

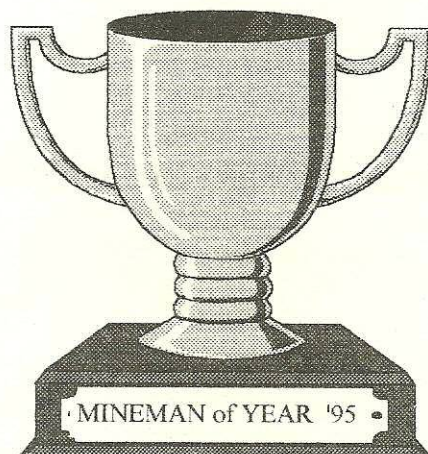
by Lyal Stryker

The Mineman of the Year was announced at the reunion dinner by our new President **Warren Savage**. The winner is MN1 **Bonnie Sudman** from MOMAG Unit Five, Sigonella, Sicily. She was selected from a field of sixteen Minemen recommended by their Commanding Officers. In his message announcing the winner, Radm **Pearson**, Commander Mine Warfare Command noted he was equally proud of the impressive list of nominees for this years competition. We also noted that this was the first year a Mineman had been nominated from an MCM ship, now that the rating is also seagoing. Other

James Tandy, USS HERON, (MHC-52). CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU.

Reserve Mineman of the Year.

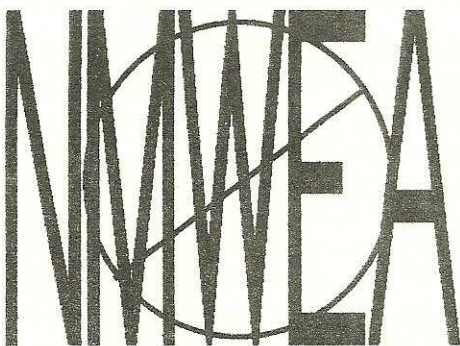
The Reserve Mineman of the Year was announced by COMINELWARCOM following the reunion. The winner is MN2 **Michael Allen Peters**, NR MOMAG 119. Again, Radm **Pearson** noted in his message announcing the winners the impressive list of nominees. Other nominees were; MN1 **Raymond Francis Molkenthin**, NR MOMAG UNIT 104; MN2 **Daniel Cleveland**, NR MOMAG DET 302; MN2 **Carmen D. Dickover**, NR MOMAG DET 207. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU.



nominees were; MN1 **David Lauffenburger**, COMOMAG; MN1 **Bruce Haway**, COMCMRON THREE; MN1 **John Carmen**, FMWTC; MN1 **Rita Jo Nicely**, MOMAG UNIT ONE; MN1 **Robert Gutierrez**, MOMAG UNIT THREE; MN1 **David Hartje**, MOMAG DET SEVEN; MN1 **Richard Rollins**, MOMAG UNIT EIGHT; MN1 **Randall Lauderdale**, MOMAG UNIT TEN; MN1 **John Bray**, MOMAG UNIT ELEVEN; MN1 **Keith Brieno**, MOMAG UNIT TWELVE; MN1 **Keith Taylor**, MOMAG UNIT FOURTEEN; MN1 **Michael Ward**, MOMAG UNIT FIFTEEN; MN3 **Maurice Perine**, USS WARRIOR, (MCM-10); MN1 **Robbie Frunz**, USS GLADIATOR, (MCM-11); and MN1

Retirees Win!

We reported the Virginia Supreme Court was reviewing the state income tax on military retired pay in the mid '80's. Retirees were offered 78 cents on the dollar and no interest payable over five years. once you accepted the offer (150,000 did!) it was final. Today, September 15th 1995 the State Court issued its findings in favor of the 14,000 retirees that refused the state offer. They are owed full refunds and interest the court stated. Details of appeal to the US Supreme Court are not known. Governor Allen said today "If we owe it, we will pay it"



Editor the Dashpot;
8/31/1995

by MNMCM Leo Smith

This is the last report you'll get from NMWEA Yorktown, as of 1 September all our mail is going to Commanding Officer, NAVSURFWARCON COASTSYSSTA 6703 W. Highway 98 Panama City, FL 32407-7001

I have got some word back from the folks that have moved and 99% are really enjoying Florida life. Well, heres the latest subject to change at any time: The Military;

CDR **Yates** was picked up for Captain and transferred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

LT. **John Lawton** was transferred to NOCAMMOLANT at NWS Yorktown.

CWO4 **John Sandoval** was transferred to NWS Yorktown.

MNMC **Leo Smith** retiring 01 Dec 95.

EMCS **Lee Torrence** was transferred to the USS Stennis.

STGC **Chuck Dills** transferred to FMWTC Charleston/Corpus Christi.

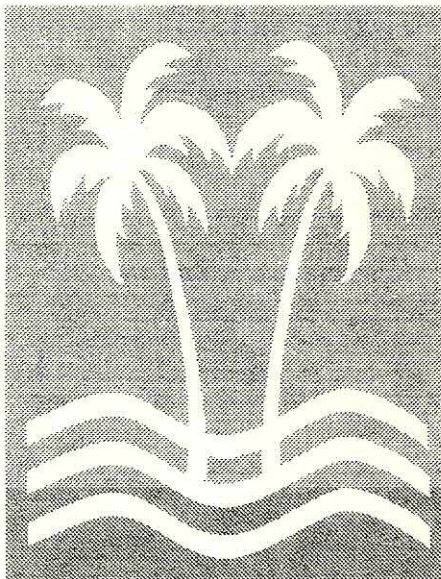
BMC **Curtis Tatum** is reporting to NWS Yorktown on 30 Sep 95.

As you can see, none of the current military received orders to CSS, which was unfortunate, but MNCS **Bob Bainbridge**, BMC **Brady**, STG1 **Kelley** and just checking in LT. **Sandra Downing** have everything under control in the Fleet Liaison Department.

Civilians Retiring-R,
Transferring to other organizations-T,
and not moving status unknown:

Gerri Allen Mike Bata-T
Dick Bishop-R Jim Braybrand

Alisa Campbell	June Collie
Erma Crawford	Eric Cruz
Stephanie Cruz	Ray Dame-R
Ken Dickerson-R	Brenda Dix
Karen Drewy	John Dunn-R
Della Garren	Chuck Gill-R
Byron Gossett-R	Beth Henderson-T
Wayne Henderson-T	Glenda Holland
Denise Jenkins	Jean Klochak-T
Bill Maisey	Fran Liscaindri
Sue Mason	Wadene McClenney
Dan McElroy-T	Charlie Miller-R
Pat Murray	Carole Neider
Pat Ryan-T	Dee Secord-R
Margie Silvers	Jay Smith
Dave Spangler	Pat Sutton
Evelyn Thompson	Julia Williams
Donald Williamson-R	Jim Henkel-T
Pat Rios-T	



Civilians in Panama City or
planning on moving (Date):

Ann Allen	Bob Andrews 10/16
Tom Arrington	& Sue Arrington 9/28
Bob Belling	Randy Brown 10/6
Ann Brown	Steve Burnette
Phylis Cain	& Greg Campbell 10/16
Bobbie Candy 10/10	Diane Caufield
Joe Caufield	Randy Chandler 10/16
Teddy Chapman 10/16	Doug Clark
William Coffman	Dave Cooke 9/18
Howard Cooke 10/16	Neal Cowan 10/6
Glen Danks 9/18	Tony David 10/4
Phill Davis	Roy Dody 10/16
Jim Dyer 10/2	Raymond Fagg
Joe Filo	& Bob Forrest 10/16
Marcella Griffin	& Joe Harrison 10/16
Cheryle Johnson 10/2	Phil Jones

Doug Jones 10/10	Jaunita Keatts 10/2
Joe Kocur 10/2	Patti Livera 10/10
Phil Livera 10/10	Cliff Manderscheid
Mary Martin 10/16	Shirley White 10/10
Jackie McClure	Joe Morgan 10/16
Pam Morris 10/16	Cathy Munoz 9/18
Nguyen Nguyen	& Anne Oliver 0/16
Bob Ostrowski 10/16	Joe Papciak
Al Reiver 10/10	Marty Richardson 9/28
Danny Rodgers	Peggy Saunders
Shirley Smith	Carol Whitley 9/21
Bob Smith 10/16	Andy Tatum
Janey Thrift 10/16	Lawrence Wallace
Pierre Ware	& Bob Dix 10/16
Marshall Widgeon 10/10	Fred Martin
Val Williams 10/16	Rus Wilson 10/11
Jackie Yang 10/16	Dora Yellorday
Nan Eddins	

Well that's the latest and greatest I can give you right now. A Lot may change by October 16th.

P.S. In case you missed it on the front page, yes, I am retiring. According to the Bureau, I'll have (with constructive time) 30 Years 6 months and 20 days on 01 dec 1995. My retirement ceremony is going to be at the NWS Battery Club on 08 Sept 95 at 1300.

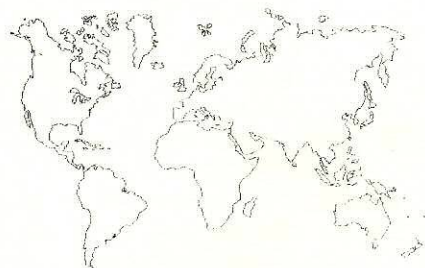
P.P.S. See you at the '96 Reunion!

Editor's note: Its kinda ironic that the first Officer in Charge of the Mine Engineering Facility/Activity was selected for Captain (Jewett) and no more until the last (Yates), some 40 years.

COMOMAG Capt. Danny J. Powers Retires

Captain Danny J. Powers, USN retired after completing thirty years of naval service on 14 July 1995. The ceremony took place at Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, South Carolina. Captain Powers came to MOMAG from assignment as Deputy Director for Mine Warfare in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Naval Warfare (OP 72) in June 1992.

■ FULL FORCE NEWS



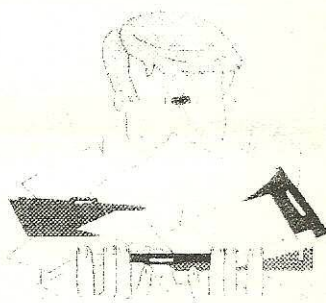
MOMAG UNIT ELEVEN

Jul 19, 1995

by LT. John Iwaniec

Just a short note here on the status of MOMAG Unit Eleven. I know there have been a lot of rumors and speculation out there about where we are going in the future. As some of you may have heard, we were supposed to go to Mayport, Florida after the BRACs decision to close the Naval Station. There are a couple of reasons why that didn't happen. First of all, it was going to cost CINCLANTFLT 9 million dollars to move us there. That included an interim facility and the cost of a MILCON Project. Not only did CINCLANTFLT balk at the cost of moving us, but there was no mining range in the Jacksonville area. Another important factor, there were no provisions for a mine recovery department or even a place to put them. Additionally, with the ever increasing sensitivity to the EPA threads. The Navy, through issues, it is more than likely that the Floridians wouldn't be too pleased about having mines dropped on their coral reefs. All things considered, to seemed the smartest thing to do and for once smart has prevailed. As things stand today, COMOMAG's Mine Recovery Department will fall under EOD out at the Weapons Station and a berthing facility has already been constructed near the mouth of Goose Creek. MOMAG Unit Eleven inherited the MK 48 Torpedo Shop, which is one of the nicest facilities on the Weapons Station, in fact will probably be the finest building in the Mine Force, easily rivaling Misawa. To sweeten the pot,

the Weapons Station also gave us two huge warehouses located on the annex to store all our inert material that for years has been stored out in our yard for lack of any place else to put it. We have already filled one of these warehouses and have started on the second one. COMNAVBASE has already served us our eviction notice to be off the Naval Annex by October 1995. The only thing we are waiting for right now is our new water blasting machine. Yes folks we are finally doing our best to get away from the dirty, nasty old sandblaster. We have witnessed numerous demonstrations with water blasting systems of late and I am convinced that w will generate a fraction of our past waste and leave us with a lot less to dispose of. The water is recycled. We never have to worry about finding grit, no more big messes to clean up, no more clogged hoses or wet sand, no more



respirators, no more air samples or nasty residue floating all over the shop and no more pitted flanges and threads. The Navy, through CINCLANTFLT's EPA representative is totally funding this venture with future prospects to eventually provide these systems to all mine shops that desire them, that is if everything goes well with the prototype system. The modifications to building 930 are progressing well and the contractors assure us that they will be completed before the August 1st deadline.

Unit Eleven has been very busy with our exercise schedule and also have a new partnership in excellence program (PEP) with Saint Andrew High School. In case any of you out there don't know, former COMOMAG Capt. Massey is the ROTC coordinator for Saint Andrews and

has been doing a great job heading up that program. CDR Vanourney COMOMAG's last CSO has also retired from the Navy and hired on to a school in Kentucky to head up their ROTC program. Capt. Powers retires this Friday and as I look out my window COMOMAG is in the final throws of moving out to Corpus Christi, Texas. Loading vans have been there for the past few days and soon they will be gone. Some of the staff that isn't moving will be staying with us until their orders come in. LT. Michael Jackson will stand in as my XO until LT. Lyman gets in sometime in late September or October. In fact most of the old guard will be leaving Unit Eleven by early spring. MNM Helgerson will be deserting me this fall to be one of the guys in the dark hats at COMINELWARINSGRU, (again) Arnie believes very strongly that it is better to give than receive. Chief Baker will be retiring in March of '96 and Chief Cantrell will be heading to Guam. MNM Gordon will be replacing MNM Helgerson and MNC Wright will replace MNC Baker. I will be leaving Unit Eleven in early June of next year three days after my MRCI to be the CO of MOMAG Unit One. My replacement will be LT. McAdams currently the CO of MOMAG Unit Twelve in Misawa. Unit Eleven Color Guard at the USS Hobson Memorial Service were

MN3 Shane W. Scott
MN3 Stephanie M Cowart
MNSN Victoria P. Mitchell
MNSN Dara L Westervelt

Wreath Layers:

LT. J. E. Iwaniec

MN1 Jennifer S. Lauffenberger

MN2 Richard J. Lewis

Medals:

CWO 2 Riggins - Navy
Commendation Medal by
COMINELWARCOM for meritorious
service while assigned to MOMAG
Unit Eleven.
SKCS Williams, MN1 Robertson.

Please see Unit 11 Page 12

Unit 11 from Page 11

MN1 Basssak, MN2 Elmhorst, MN2 Chitwood, MN2 Williams and SK2 Thomas awarded Navy Achievement Medals by C.O. MOMAG Unit Eleven for professional achievement in performance of duties during the ADMAT Inspection.

MN1 Kaiser awarded his third Good Conduct Medal.

Letters of Commendation:

MNC Baker, MN1 Anderson, MN1 Powell, MN2 Franklin, MN2 Lamadrid, MN2 Brown, YN3 Blevins, MN3 Kopec, MNSN Larkin, MNSN Westervelt, MNSN Raphael And MNSA Logue from Commander Naval Base Charleston for their voluntary participation in the 1995 Special Olympic's Bowling Tournament.

MN2 Williams, YN3 Blevins, MN3 Jackson and MNSN Kerr From Commander Naval Base Charleston for professional performance while assigned to the Naval Station Auxiliary Force.

MN1 Ringrose, MN2 Wisniewski, MN1 Allston, MN3 Pratt and MNSN Ward were awarded end of tour letters from C.O. MOMAG Unit Eleven for outstanding performance of duty.

MN3 Worth from C.O. MOMAG Unit Eleven for professional performance while assigned to the Administrative Department.

MN1 Kaiser, MN1 Allston, MN2 Brown, MN2 Doudna, YN3 Blevins, MN3 S. Scott, MN3 Kopec, MN3 Cowart, and MNSN Kerr from C.O. MOMAG Unit Eleven for professional performance during the recent Administrative and Material Inspection.

Letters of Appreciation:

Lt. Iwaniec from COMINEWARCOM for display mines provided COMINEWARCOM.

MNC Baker, MN2 Patterson, MN3 Jackson and MN3 Scott from Commander Naval Base Charleston for assisting in decorating Park Circle at Christmas.

MN2 Doerr and MN2 Lamadrid from North Charleston Elementary School for participation in their 1995 Science Fair.

MOMAG Unit Eleven from North Charleston Elementary School for support and assistance during the 1995 Spring Carnival.

Twenty-three Unit Eleven personnel from North Charleston Elementary School for participation in the PEP Program throughout the year.

Frockings:

MN1 Chitwood, MN1 Allston, MN2 Rodriguez, MN2 Jackson, YN3 Cloud, MN3 Larkin, MN3 Kerr and MN3 Mitchell.

Re-enlistments:

MN3 Sanchez, MN3 Wirth, MN2 White MN1 Bray and MNC Cantrell.

Extended:

MN2 Doudna and MNC Baker.

Separations:

MN3 Ford to further his education and employment in Arizona.

MNSN Ward to further his education.

MN3 Pratt to further her education.

GREETINGS FROM MOMAG
UNIT FOURTEEN

By MNCS (SW) Campbell
ello from the CAPTOR maintenance facility in historic Yorktown, VA. The time has sure flown since the last issue of "DASHPOT".

Since the last issue we have had to add several new personnel to the muster report, they are: SK1 William White reporting from duty aboard the USS ENTERPRISE CVN 65), MN2 Thomas Suchodolski from MOMAG Unit THREE in Colts Neck, New Jersey, MN2 Joseph Kirker from MOMAG Unit EIGHT in Guam, MNSN

Robert Powers from MOMAG Unit FIVE in Sigonella, Italy and MNSR Shawn Lessor from Mineman Class "A" School in Charleston, SC. They all bring with them a wealth of experience and are welcome additions to the MOMAG Unit FOURTEEN team.

We had to bid farewell to MN3 Robert Briggs and MN3 Darin Henry who returned to their home of records after each serving four years in the Navy. We wish them well in their civilian career. Expected to depart in February is MNCS Henry (Hawk) Lindley III. he is currently under orders to report to the Mine Warfare Inspection Group in Corpus Christi, TX. He will be sorely missed. There is also talk of MNCS Chacanaca's departure to COMOMAG Corpus Christi, TX in May of 1996.



One of the best things that can happen to an individual in their Naval Career is to be recognized for their outstanding performance. We were pleased to award the Navy Achievement Medal (Gold Star in Lieu of Fourth Award), to SK1 White from Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12. In addition, MN2 Andrea Edwards was selected as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter and MN3 Gerald Crain as Junior Sailor of the Quarter. "Well Done" to these very deserving personnel.

In closing, we would like to wish MNCM Leo Smith a fond farewell. Master Chief Smith retired on 8 September 1995 after 29 years of dedicated service to the Mine Force. We wish him fair winds and following seas as he starts his new civilian career.

Full Force News Cont. from Page 12

THE TEXAS MOMAG REPORT

by CDR Ron Swart

The Commander Mobile Mine Assembly group Staff changed homeports from Charleston to Corpus Christi in July and has since reconstituted as a functioning part of the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence here in Texas. The staff is near 90 percent manning wise and we expect to be back to 100 percent by December 1995.

Capt. Danny powers retired after 30 years of active naval service on 14 July 1995. He was relieved (temporarily) by CDR Ron Swart, who is the new Chief Staff Officer and will be the acting COMOMAG until the arrival of Capt. Mike Green. Capt. Green reports as COMOMAG from the COMSIXTHFLT Staff and is expected to arrive around the Dec 95 time frame.

Who's around the Group as of 1 October 1995?:

MOMAG Commanding Officers / Officers in Charge:

MOMAG Unit ONE: LT. Coral Mac Intosh

MOMAG Unit THREE: LT. Mike Sportelli

LT. Keith Nesmith, XO

MOMAG Unit FIVE: CWO Bob Reed

MOMAG Det SEVEN: CWO2 Garry Riggins

MOMAG Unit EIGHT: LT. Tim Patton

CWO3 Ray Ferraro, XO

MOMAG Unit TEN: LT. Mike Ledbetter

MOMAG Unit ELEVEN: LT. John Iwaniec

LT. Michelle Jackson, XO

MOMAG Unit TWELVE: LT. Mike Mc Adams

MOMAG Unit Fourteen; LT. Ron Davis

MOMAG Unit FIFTEEN: CWO4 Joe Harris

COMOMAG STAFF OFFICERS

Commander: CDR Ron Swart
(Capt. Mike Green)(P)

Chief Staff Officer; LT. Ed Simmons (Acting)

Operations Officer: LT. Ed Simmons

Service Mine Readiness Officer: LT.

Keith Nesmith (P)

Exercise Mine Readiness Officer: LTjg Theresa Wright

Logistics / Facilities Officer: CWO 2

Ben Butler

Training and Reserve Affairs

Officer: LTjg Carmina Towe

Administrative Officer: LTjg Carmina Towe

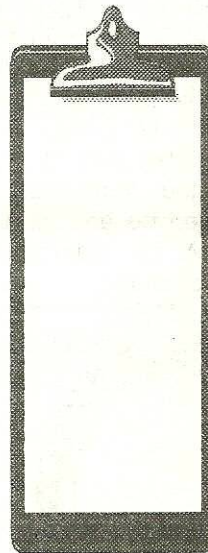
(LT. Donna Joyal) (P)

Supply Officer: LT. Dan Krulewich

COMOMAG STAFF CHIEFS

Service Mine Readiness: MNC James Kirsch

Exercise Mine Readiness: MNC Dave Walker



Logistics: MNC James Burton

Supply: SKC John Costanti

COMOMAG is temporarily housed in the old CBU compound behind the hospital on NAS Corpus Christi. our permanent quarters are currently under renovation and should be ready for occupancy by mid-October. Building 36 is next door to COMINEWARCOM (Bldg. 37) and the MINEWARFARE Inspection Group (Bldg. 39). The new headquarters in addition to staff offices will include the Mine Warfare Video Teleconferencing Facility and Training/Conference spaces.

Mineman rating: The expansion of the Mineman rating into the MCM/AMCM community continues. Bupers will soon release a NAVADMIN message accepting conversion of MCM STG, GMG, BM and OS personnel into the Mineman rating. Sea and shore billets will then be converted to MN billets. The first "Mine Warfare Specialist" advancement exam for Minemen of every flavor will be September 1996. The Reserve Community exam will lag by a year (or two) There are many details to be worked out on the reserve side as all but one of the MHC-51 class ships, the USS Inchon (MCS-12) and four of the MCM-1 Class ships will be SELRES. Our new rating will change its name from Mineman (MN) to Mine Warfare Specialist (MW) on 1 October 1998 and we will keep the MN rating badge. CNET has worked out a viable training pipeline to bring new Minemen into the force as well as a fleet transition school for current ordnance Minemen going to sea and MCM sailors rolling ashore to a MOMAG Unit.

That's it for this time. I promise a more comprehensive update next issue. Bottom Line... We are here and operating as an integral part of the Mine Warfare Community of South Texas

Contract Awarded

Ingalls Shipbuilding, USA received a \$29 million contract to convert an amphibious assault ship into a mine counter-measures command, control and support vessel. The Ingalls-built USS Inchon will become a 'floating port', providing a landing platform for Sea Stallion minesweeping helicopters, and a re-supply/repair facility for Avenger class minesweepers and Osprey class coastal mine hunters. The USS Inchon is due to arrive at Ingalls' shipyard early next year for the 12 month conversion.

From The Foc'sle, Naval Station Ingleside newspaper dated August 18, 1995

COMOMAG moves to NAS Corpus Christi from Charleston

The staff of Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG) recently changed homeports from Naval Station Charleston, S.C., to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, becoming the newest tenant command on the Station.

This shift in homeport was due largely in part to the base closure of NAVSTA Charleston and the need to incorporate all of mine warfare to the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence located in South Texas' Coastal bend.

COMOMAG is a staff comprised of 30 personnel -- officers, chief petty officers, petty officers and civilian employees. COMOMAG is responsible for development programs and mine systems readiness in support of mining activities of the Navy's operating forces. Their mission includes coordination and supervision of activities relating to research and development,

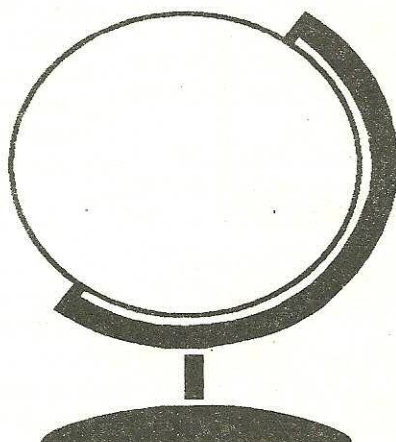
test and evaluation, monitoring mine readiness, correcting deficiencies and effecting their improvement, and maintaining and administering the U.S./ Navy's service and exercise mine

inventories and mine readiness programs. COMOMAG is the administrative commander of 10 Mobile Mine Assembly Groups located worldwide.

COMOMAG is eager to get involved in the civilian community, according to CDR Ron Swart, interim commander, and LT. Ed Simmons, acting chief staff officer. They

recently were involved in the Adopt-a-School program in Charleston and are interested in adopting a local Corpus Christi school, as well as assisting in the local community. They are temporarily located in Building H54 on 12325 Yorktown Dr., until October when they will take permanent residence in one of the Naval Air Station's historical buildings located at 275 Fifth Street, S.W.

Their mission is to maintain the highest standards of mine material readiness and when directed by the appropriate war plan execution authority, responsibly assemble and complete the final preparation of Prepositioned War reserve Material Stock (PWRMS) Service Mines and Destroyers in support of mining operations and mine warfare in accordance with the general war, contingency and peacetime training plans of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; and Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, and to provide and maintain the readiness of mine warfare exercise and training assets as directed by Commander, Mine Warfare Command.



Navy Times 7/24 and 8/14

New Chief's To MNC USN

Cornel Dozier Robbie Frunz
Jeffery Holt Thomas Kaiser
J. Lauffenburger Leea Loveland

To MNC USNR

Ra Molkenthin

Mineman Advancements

To MN1

Dated May 23, 1995 (sorry, some first initials not received)

Mineman Advancements

To MN1

J. Cernic D. Ward
B. Allston P. Chitwood
Morrow K. Taylor

To MN2

T. Boyles M. Lavassuer
B. Ramsey M. Jackson
T. Hernandez H. Collins
C. Barber M. Burks
D. Moxley D. Oglesby
S. Pierce L. Rambo
A. Rodriguez L. Rodriguez
P. Smith M. Szoztkiewicz

To MN3

T. Black D. Brouwer
Gunther Herring
Kruz J. Johnson
E. Killier S. Kerr
B. Kopp W. Larkin
Marks M. McGraw
V. Mitchell C. Raphael
J. Rineheart J. Smith
J. Socey J. Stephens
D. Westervelt

O'Moore takes control of Navy mine center

Cmdr. Michael J. O'Moore assumed command recently of the Navy's Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center at the Charleston Naval Base.

O'Moore relieved Capt. Malcome E. Bellamy Jr., who had commanded the unit since 1994. Bellamy, a Beaufort native, retired after 26 years in the Navy.

O'Moore is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. He comes to the Mine Warfare center following a tour in the Charleston-based mine countermeasures ship Patriot.

The Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center trains sailors in the operation and detection of mines and similar weapons. The unit is scheduled to transfer to Ingleside, Texas in January 1996

from The Foc'sle 3/3/95

Mine Countermeasures rotational crews evolve through current 'renaissance' of mine warfare.

Since June 25, 1995, when USS Scout (MCM 8) arrived at Naval Station Ingleside for homeporting, a rebirth of the mine warfare community has been taking place. Aging minesweepers, weapons during the last century and homported at naval stations around the country, were being decommissioned, making room for two new classes of mine warfare ships.

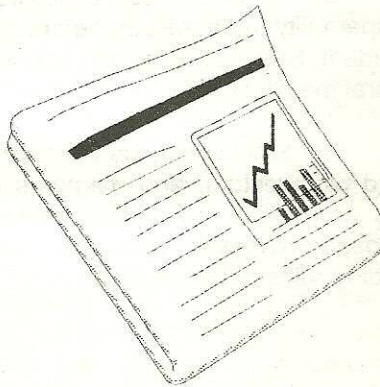
Capt. **Richard L. Owens**, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three, calls this the renaissance of mine warfare". It began with 14 Avenger class mine countermeasures ships, all now homeported at NAVSTA. The renaissance continues with the ongoing construction and homeporting of 12 Osprey class coastal minehunters.

Last year, eight crews were identified by **RADM John D. Pearson**, Commander Mine Warfare Command, to rotate among six Ingleside-based mine countermeasures ships. The rotation consists of six months aboard forward-deployed ships, fly to Ingleside and begin training/re-training (4-5 months), move aboard Ingleside-based ships to continue training for deployment (about 9 months) and 3-4 week stand down prior to deployment to deployed ships. Rotational crews are designated Alpha through Hotel.

Owens credits **Pearson** for leadership and vision in taking a 50-year old mine warfare force and bringing it into the 21st century. "With the MCM sailors and the state-of-the-art ships that we have today, we are the most capable mine warfare force in the world. Now, our oldest mine warfare ship (USS Avenger) is only eight years old.

Mine and Torpedo Technology Exhibits to Open

The naval Undersea Museum, located at Keyport, Washington announced they are opening a Mine and Torpedo technology permanent exhibit in their next increment after the Civil War mine exhibit opened in February. The exhibit's purpose is to explore the technical principles behind development of undersea weapons during the last century and a quarter while showing how they were used and how they affected history. The mine section will show mines typical of four 20th century wars: The MK 6 (WW1), MK 25 (WW2), destructor MK 36 (Vietnam) and The MK 60 Captor (The cold war). The exhibits were to open in June and September 1995.



Are you in the Navy Log?

On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., I visited the U.S. Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Ave. between the Capital and the White House. Visitors have access to a number of computer stations to look up last names then first names to view the photograph and service history of Navy members in their data base. You can put your name and photo in the Log entry and another \$25. plus your photo to get the mug shot in. Contact: U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, PO Box 96570, Washington, D.C. 20077-7685

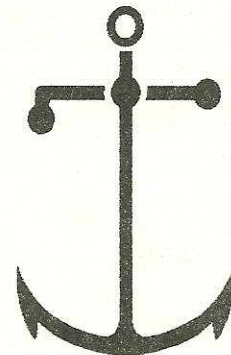
Health anyone?

Like Mine Warfare early detection of health problems is the best defense.

LT. Cecil Martin, USN Ret (highest decorated Mineman, MN1 Martin awarded the Bronze Star in Viet Nam) never let the opportunity for a leadership lecture to pass requested to share the following with us.

"If you have room in your next Newsletter, I would (if possible) ask that you put in a little note reminding our shipmates that early detection is the key and as uncomfortable and distasteful as a rectal-digital exam is, it only lasts for a short time and I would also advise a PSA (prostate specific antigen) test along with the former - neither is totally effective but the combination of the two will detect about 88% of all cancers. The PSA is a blood test. Also, if detected early prostate cancers are the easiest to put into remission. Prostate has now become the most common cancer in men.

We men, of course, put a lot of stock in our sexual prowess and impotence is an un-pleasant thought of psyche, all truly honest amongst our selves, we'll admit that with age we do slow down. And for me, if I'm permitted to watch my new granddaughter grow into a young woman then impotence and some temporary inconvenience seems a small price to pay."



AOM Duties of Officers, Directors and Committees Cont.

Note: these duties were amended at the August 11, 1995 Reno meeting to add/modify duties published in the last issue. only additions/alterations are listed for offices reported in that issue.

DUTY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

(added)5. Coordinate annual nominations and/or eligible names for awards or honorarium to be presented each year at the annual Board of Directors and general business meetings. This shall include, but not be limited to:

- Minemen of the Year (Active and Reserve)
- Consolidated Order of the Clock Cockers (COCC - 30 years award)
- Honorary Minemen (Concentrated Service)

6. With the Secretary/Treasurer, maintain a stock of plaques, forms, letters of recognition, etc., to recognize unique or outstanding service to the U.S. Navy Mine Force and/or private sector which perpetuates the objectives of the Association.

C. DUTY OF THE TREASURER/SECRETARY

(added)8. In the event of dissolution of the Association of Minemen organization, the Secretary/Treasurer shall cause permanent distribution of all organization assets to the Patriot's Point Naval Museum; an exempt organization within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

D. DUTY OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

continued

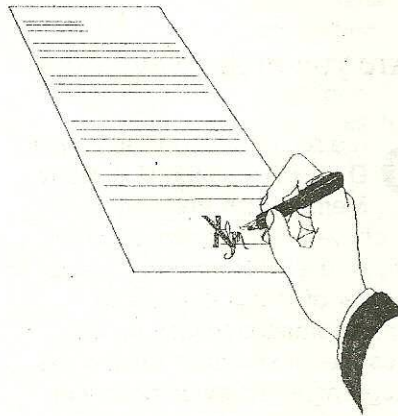
2. The Parliamentarian shall become acquainted with any business to come before the meeting of the Board and general business meetings; shall advise the chair and Secretary on the planning and steering of business to be introduced; and shall advise the chair of any potential or anticipated problems concerning meeting conduct.

3. During the meeting, shall give advice to the chair and, when requested, to any other member.

4. Shall call attention to the chair, as inconspicuously as possible, to any error in the proceedings that may affect the substantive right of any member, or which may otherwise create an area of conflict.

5. Shall maintain a position of impartiality in all matters before the President, Board of Directors, and the general membership.

6. Shall assist the President, Board of Directors, and members in the interpretation of standing bylaws, proposed bylaws revisions and standing rules of committees.



E. DUTY OF THE CHAPLAIN

1. Perform any special duties relating to sickness, distress or death of a member as may be requested by the President.

2. Conduct the opening

prayer at the annual dinner meeting.

3. Read the names of Association members and friends that have passed away during the past year at the annual dinner meeting and cause a moment of silence in respect to their memory and tribute to service to our county.

F. DUTY OF THE QUARTERMASTER

1. Be the custodian of all Association property that the President might assign. Maintain an inventory and order and compile necessary reports.

2. Provide a significant sample of Association items for sale at the annual membership meeting at each function (i.e., early bird, hospitality suite, business meeting, picnic) where possible.

3. Disburse purchased items of Association owned items of clothing and accessories and provide the proceeds to the Secretary/Treasurer.

G. DUTY OF BOARD MEMBERS

1. Acquire a working knowledge of the Robert's Rules of Order, a thorough understanding of the bylaws, and any standing or special rules of the Association, so that you may help the President control meetings and conduct business with proper decorum.

2. Attend each meeting with a positive attitude and an objective to help make the meeting as productive as possible.

3. Vote on issues before the Board including expenditure of funds, and adopting or otherwise modifying any rules, procedures,

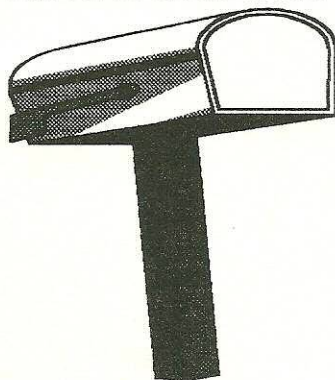
continued next issue

LETTERS

Editor The Dashpot;
July 22, 1995

John, Greetings:

Herewith, a clip from the WALL STREET JOURNAL of June 5, 1995.



A Red Cross ship exploded and sank off northern Sri Lanka after it struck a mine.

Eleven of the 12 crew members were rescued. A military spokesman said Tamil separatist rebels are believed to have laid the mine. On Saturday, India requested the extradition of the rebels leader for trial in the 1991 killing of Prime Minister Gandhi.

We, the U.S. Navy keep steaming around the Med and its adjoining littorals as if no threat is out there.

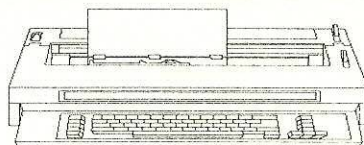
I'd venture a guess that the ship did not strike a mine (as most think) but rather was a victim of an influence mine sold by Russia, either directly or through a third or fourth party.

Do we have any countermeasure forces over there? I Doubt much. So when our "bird farms" are in port, say for R&R, someone (Serbs?) could keep us there for awhile - plausible? you bet and without even putting one mine into the water. Does anyone remember?

Now for page 9 of the Spring DASHPOT. MOMAG Unit 15 came alive just as MOMAT 0321 did in 1963 - has anything changed? NO!! The Mineforce remains on the bottom of the totem pole and always will - of course that is until the need arises. We get a bone thrown our way every now and then - that is it.

Keep up the great journalism.

Ed Oyer
Williamsburg, VA



ANOTHER LONGWAY JOINS THE FLEET

Tina R. Longway, daughter of retired Mineman LDO LT. Jim Longway, enlisted in the U.S. Navy on April 24, 1995. After completion of basic training at RTC Great Lakes, she attended Yeoman "A" school, in Meridian, Mississippi and graduated with honors on August 25, 1995. She is currently serving at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Richmond, Virginia. We welcome Tina to the Fleet and wish her great

The Sea

*Behold the wonders of
the mighty deep
Where crabs and lobsters
learn to creep
And little fishes learn
to swim
and clumsy sailors tumble
in.*

Anonymous

Editor, The Dashpot;
July 22, 1995

Received issue 10, Summer of 1995 and the front page razed my hackles.

When, oh when are sailors going to get the meaning of rate and rating straight? (MN1 Rating, MN-E6- Rate) has been around long enough to (hopefully) know the difference - a rudimentary chapter in military requirements. rate = pay -simple.

I just completed THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY USNI Press. My old shipmate and friend Bill Roberts did a fine job on history - I hope others will read and remember.

With all those medals and commendations being splashed about one might wonder what is left

to do? The Navy has jumped into bed with the Army and Air Force on this issue.

MN1 Landers wasn't the only one who was changed to fill a MN "A" Class. I left ARL-15 USS Minotaur in Charleston as a FN for sweep school. Upon arrival in Yorktown, I was informed that one more person was needed for a MN "A" Class. I said "you can't change me to a SN" - the rest is history. Keep up the good work.

28 June 1995

Change of Command

Capt. Richard J. Parish, USN relieved Capt. David C. Steere, USN as Commanding Officer, NSWCCD CSS, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, Coastal Systems Station, Panama City, Florida

Executive Director Named

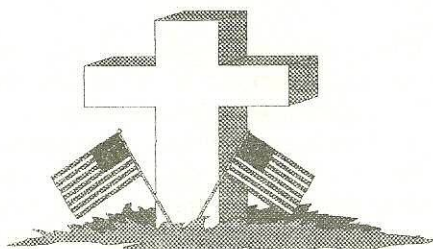
Dr. David P. Skinner was selected as the Executive Director at NSWCCD CSS, Panama City. We hope to meet and talk with him at the annual reunion at Panama City in August 1996. Dr. Skinner holds a doctorate degree in Electrical engineering from the University of Florida.

USS HOBSON DMS 26

Memorial Service

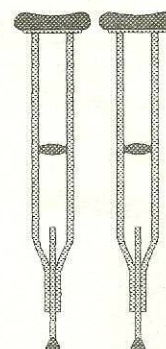
Fleet Reserve Association, Mendel Rivers Branch 50 and the Association of Minemen conducted a memorial service last April in remembrance of the the Destroyer Minelayer sunk by collision with the USS Wasp. (CV18) April 26, 1952. The Association Secretary, Lyal Stryker, spoke at the ceremony. The principle speaker was Mr. L. Mendel Rivers, Jr. former U.S. House of Representatives for South Carolina. The Ceremony included music by the Charleston Navy Band, wreath-laying by several groups assisted by MOMAG Unit ELEVEN and Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center and a rifle ceremonial salute by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, Charleston.

BINNACLE LIST



Joe Eckert, September 1995, Louisville, Kentucky. Brother in law of **Fred and Millie Reid** and who attended many of our reunions in past years. Also visited Isle of Palms each year with his family and

MNC Roland Brown,
September 11, 1995, Yorktown,
Virginia. He died in his sleep. Roland
is remembered by many of us when
he was an instructor at the Naval
School Mine Warfare in Yorktown.
Roland retired from the Navy in 1957
and went to work at NMEF working in
the Fleet Service Mine Test program.



Last issue I reported receiving correspondence from past Association President **Jim Coffman**. I neglected to report he said he was recovering from multiple by-pass surgery. Sorry Jim, we all hope you have recovered by now and are back on the golf course again.

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50/50 Cotton Polyester

Children's Sizes: 6-8S; 10-12M; 14-16L

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Ringer T-Shirts: White w/collar & cuff colors shown (Insert quantity in size)

Children	S	M	L	
w / Kelly				
w / Navy				
w / Royal				
w / Scarlet				
Adult/Youth	S	M	L	XL
w / Kelly				
w / Navy				
w / Royal				
w / Scarlet				

Basic T-Shirts

Solid colors: Burnt Orange, Cardinal, Columbia Blue, Dark Green, Gold, Kelly, Maroon, Oxford, Navy, Purple, Royal, Scarlet, White

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(select color; insert quantity in size)

COACHES SHIRTS

Two button w/pocket

Colors: Cardinal, Columbia Blue, Gold, Eagle Gray, Navy, Royal, Scarlet & White, Kelly

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Style	Qty
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Adjustable band hats with AOM logo on front are available in Red, Green, Gray, White, Black, Columbia Blue, Orange and Navy Blue. Enter color and your quantity in the form below.

Note: All T-Shirts include large logo on front. All hats include logo on front. All coaches shirts and jackets include small logo on right breast. Large logo on back of jacket and personalization on the jacket (up to 25 characters) per price list below. Print personalization desired on separate paper.

Item	Price	Qty	Extended
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Hats (Color:	5.00	X	
Tie Tacs	5.50	X	
Large Logo on Back of Jacket	5.50	X	
Personalization	5.00	X	
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Mine Museum Contribution			
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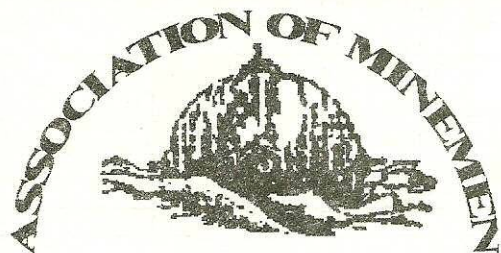
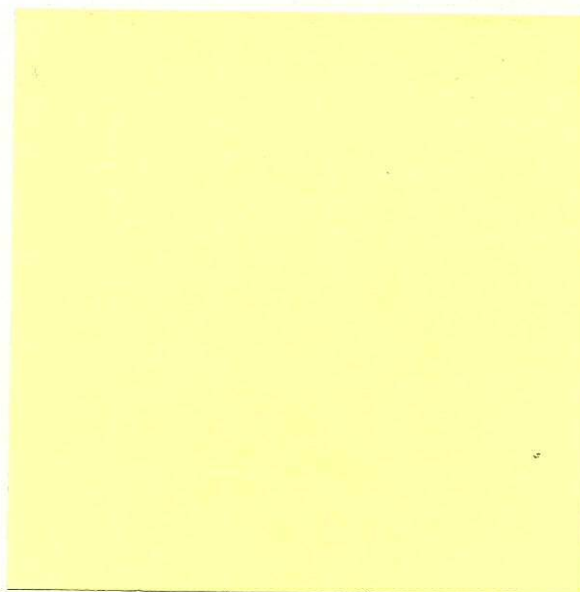
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NOTICE !!! To maintain membership, dues of \$10.00 must be paid annually by the month of August.