

The DASH POT

Issue 15

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

FALL 1996



FROM THE PRESIDENT

What an outstanding event! Our 22nd Association of Minemen (AOM) Reunion was a grand success because of the support and involvement of many. With **Francis X. Martin**, his wife **Anne** and **Don Costa** at the helm, things moved on very smoothly.

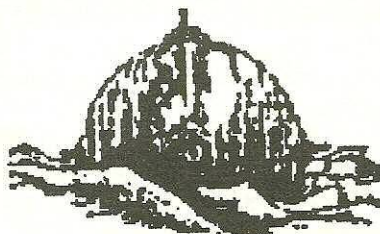
On Friday evening, the Early Bird Welcome reception at Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Branch 346, afforded all an ample opportunity to network and swap stories. The layout of food had something for everyone and thanks to all our FRA shipmates for making our visit memorable.

On Saturday morning many participated in the AOM Golf Tournament. The AMVETS went above and beyond in providing a meeting area for our general meeting along with tasty and timely food morsels. At our general Membership Meeting, the following members were elected directors ('96 - '99): **L. R. (Bob) Forbes** and **Horace (Buddy) Stuart**. The membership also selected **Charleston, SC** as the 1998 AOM Reunion Site which will follow

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AOM

**SAN DIEGO
AUG 8-10 '97
23rd Annual
Reunion**

Mineman of the Year

Active Duty:

MN1 Lee Whitmore
MOMAU ONE, Seal Beach, CA

Reserve:

MN1 Beth Hudson
NRMOMAD 111 NAS Dallas, TX

"The vision of the AOM is to select sailors who epitomize the best professional qualities of the Mineman rating. Since the Mineman rating now encompasses both mining and MCM skills, there were numerous nominees who either crossrated into the Mineman rating, or were ordnance-type Minemen who are now permanently assigned to sea duty for the first time in their careers. It was apparent that our goal of developing a professional enlisted Mine Warfare rating is quickly becoming a reality." excerpt from COMINEWARCOM 051100Z Aug 96

Other nominees:

MN2 James Adams, MOMAU 12
Missawa JA
MN2 Randall Childers, MOMAD 7
Hawaii
MN3 James Grant, HM-14
MN1(SW) Todd Harnish, RSG
Ingleside TX
MN1 David Hartje, COMOMAG
MN1(SW) Daniel Havens, MOMAU 3
Colts Neck NJ
MN2 (AW) Timothy Hickman,
MOMAU 15 Kingsville TX
MN1 Jody Hill, MOMAU 10
Kadena JA
MN1 Jennifer Lauffenburger,
COMOMAG
MN1 Thomas Mazza, NRMOMAD
207 Greenville SC

MN1 Steven McManus, NRMOMAD
107 Charleston, SC
MN2 Dennis Moxley, USS ROBIN
MN1 Rita Nicely, MWTC Ingleside TX
MN1(SW) Joseph Osborne,
USS AVENGER
MN3 Maurice Perine, USS
CHAMPION
MN1 John Pipkin, MOMAU 8 Guam
MN1 Terence Pirnay, NRMOMAD
207 Greenville SC
MN1 Matthew Ringrose, MCM
Rotational Crew Charlie
MN1 Keith Taylor, MOMAU 14
Yorktown VA
MN1 Carrie Williams, NRMOMAD
119 Long Beach CA

"BRAVO ZULU, RADM Pearson Sends."



**ASSOCIATION OF
MINEMEN
DEDICATED TO SERVING
THE
U.S. NAVY 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

our Reunion at San Diego, CA in 1997.

The Harbour House Restaurant provided a facility and an array of food for our banquet which I assume added an inch or two to us all. Dr. David Skinner, the Executive Director of the Coastal System Station, was our featured guest speaker who gave us a view of the new technology and developments utilized in Mine Warfare being accomplished at CSS Panama City.

The prestigious Mineman of the Year Awards were formally announced at our banquet and they were:

Active Duty:

MN1 Lee Whitmore, MOMAU ONE
Seal Beach, CA

Naval Reserve:

MN1 Beth Hudson, NRMOMAD
111 NAS Dallas, TX.

COMINEWARCOM, RADM Pearson, in his announcement message indicated it was apparent that the quality of nominees was outstanding making this years selection the toughest ever. He was very encouraged by the professionalism, expertise and commitment of all sailors throughout the Mine Warfare Force.

Our picnic held Sunday on-board the Coastal Systems Station, worked out very well and afforded all a chance to mingle and discuss things new and old. The Auction hosted by **Toby Horn, Lyal Stryker** and **Joe Balderrama**, went very well and the scholarship fund with needed monies to provide funding for those selected for scholarship awards.

All attendees were afforded the opportunity to attend an open house Both Saturday and Sunday on the USS Blackhawk, MHC-58. Your AOM President and Secretary/Treasurer had the pleasure to meet with its Commanding Officer, LCDR Bruce

Please see President Page 3

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

Secretary's Corner

Lyal Stryker



Thanks to all of you that sent in your dues for the coming year.

Some of you forgot that we have started a new schedule for dues. The dues year is now from 31 July through 1

August. Please look at the label on this newsletter and if it does not show 1997 or higher on the top line it means our records show you owe dues. If our records are wrong please let us know so we can correct our records. Your dues are paid through August of the year shown on the label. In an effort to encourage delinquent members to catch up with their dues we are offering members three years or more behind to become current, ie; through August 1997 by sending in \$15.00 now to be reinstated and retain their original membership number. Anyone needing a replacement card just drop us a line and one will be sent to you at no charge. We are continuing our purge of members that have not paid their dues in a few years so please reply if you are delinquent. As you have noticed our Dashpot newsletter contains a lot of interesting news about what is going on in the present day Mine Warfare community. As you know I am still filling in for the Quartermaster and am a little behind in some orders. I hope to be caught up by the time you receive this newsletter, so if you are reading this and have not received what you orderer please call me or drop me a line. THANKS!



My goal to get out four issues a year (on time) has been achieved for the second year. The Dashpot is being received well by all members that I have talked to the past couple of years. Each succeeding issue has articles from a more diverse readership. My objective is to continue to keep the record going but it looks as though the money crunchers think we should scale back a tad and try to keep the pages limited. If you disagree, let the President (AOM) know. Therefore, future submissions will meet an editorial ax to make room for a greater number of articles. I'd rather see your story in "your" words if at all possible so please keep it brief and to the point so I won't have anything to edit out. The Joe Hernandez article brought additional submissions of historical interest. I sure hope you folks have submitted all your personal and historical facts to the Secretary. Ladies and gentlemen the book is going to the printer in December 1996. If your withholding historical information because you thought someone else submitted it, rush to pen and paper immediately and get it in. When it comes out you'll wish you had! This is a Mine History Book about Minemen and their participation in making U.S. History. Just the who, what, when, where and why facts man; not the Hollywood version. You don't have to be an AOM member, if you have a story send it in.

NOTE

Articles submitted are printed without verification and are as perceived by the author. Editing by the Dashpot is for length not content. The AOM does not assume responsibility, accuracy or authorship on submitted articles.

1996-1997 Dues are past due. Send your check for \$10 to the Secretary/Treasurer. **Dues notices are not mailed to members.** Last paid year is on your mailing label



President from Page 2

Nichols, and his wardroom and were briefed on the MHC's capabilities and status.

Mr. **Doug Clark**, Head, CSS Mine Life Cycle Management Division provided a personal guided tour of the Headquarters to your President and **John Loonam** Dashpot Editor. It was very informative.

Captain **Green**, COMOMAG, as well as a contingency of his staff, CDR **Ron Swart**, (AOM Dir.) LCDR **Terry Auberry**, LT **Keith Nesmith**, LT **Dan Krulewich**, LT **Gary Martin** and LTJG **Teresa Wright**, attended our picnic and met many of the AOM membership. Captain Green was presented his AOM membership card (dues previously paid) at the AOM picnic.

The twenty-second reunion functions and meetings ran very smoothly because of the continuing efforts of **Lyal Stryker**, **Toby Horn**, **Joe Balderrama**, **William Carlsen**, **Bob Forbes**, **John Loonam**, **Ron Swart** and many other members and significant others who worked and participated to ensure all went well.

Thanks to you all.

REUNION 96 PANAMA CITY

Lyal Stryker

Wow! what a reunion, one of the best yet and if you were not there you missed a really great time with shipmates and friends. During the business meeting we covered the following approved one year's free dues for new Chief Minemen and two years for the Mineman of the Year. Approved expenditure of funds for the coming year to pursue non profit mailing status, not to exceed \$200.00, tools, etc. for the Yorktown Mine Museum not to exceed \$200.00 and purchase of plaques/name plates for museum not to exceed \$300.00. Board of Directors elections resulted in **Bob Forbes** being re-elected for three years and **Horace "Buddy" Stewart**, Charleston being elected to replace **Ralph Shaw** who has contributed significant amounts of material for our museum effort. THANKS RALPH!! There were no nominees for Honorary Mineman **Leo Smith** was recognized as the most recent recipient of the COCC award, which is awarded each year to those Minemen retiring after completing 30 years service. The talk by Dr. **Dave Skinner** at our dinner meeting was interesting in the fact he showed us how the minehunting technologies were being applied to environmental problems as well as Mine Warfare. ATTENDEES: following is a list of all the people at the reunion that filled out registration forms; **W.E. Atkins**, **Donald J. Branan**, **Joe & Clare Balderrama**, **Fred Bartram**, **Lloyd & Carmen Bemis** w/grandchildren, **Bill (Swede) & Irma Carlsen**, **ZOC Chuhay**,

Please see Reunion Page 6

Paid your '96-'97 dues yet? They were due in August Please Send your check in today

Reports

History

Don Decrona

REORGANIZATION MINE FORCE, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET

The reorganization ceremony for the Mine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet was conducted on Wednesday, 30 June 1971, at the Headquarters, Commander Mine Force, Pacific, Long Beach, California. At the end of 1970, the Chief of Naval operations directed a major reorganization of the Mine Forces. As approved, effective July 1, 1971, the Pacific and Atlantic Fleet Mine Forces were consolidated into a single command headquartered in

Charleston, S.C. under the title of Commander Mine Warfare Force. The Pacific Fleet retained Mine Flotilla ONE headquartered in Guam, and Mine Flotilla THREE in Long Beach. Mine Squadron FIVE (Naval Reserve Forces) were also headquartered in Long Beach to direct the activities of an increased number of Naval Reserve Training ships homeported on the West Coast.

HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC MINE FORCE

The ships of the Pacific Mine Force during World War II included not only

and new, quickly assembled ships. This unusual assortment of minecraft personnel casualties in the Far East, led every invasion in the Pacific, as well as four ships sunk by mines. almost without public notice.

Before the invasion of Okinawa, 100 ships lost by the U.S. Navy in Korean minecraft were given seven days to waters.

"sweep" clear channels prior to the In South Vietnam, minesweepers main assault on April 1, 1945. These were among the first U.S. ships to be ships encountered not only mines, assigned a mission of assisting the but also Japan's last ditch defense of armed forces of the Republic of Kamikazes. However, the mission Vietnam. U.S. Navy MSO's joined was accomplished and the invasion Vietnamese Navy ships in barrier patrols south of the DMZ. In 1965,

when Operation Market Time was Mine Force numbered over 500 ships established as a program to interdict and craft, but post-war defense coastal infiltration, minesweepers of

COMINEPAC

IRON MEN and

WOODEN SHIPS

reductions resulted in the merger of the Mine Forces with other Pacific Fleet commands. A total contingent of 39 ships were in commission at the outset of the Korean engagement.

The importance of mining and mine countermeasures resurfaced with the Korean conflict. During the two years, 70 percent of all U.S. Navy casualties afloat were caused by mines. As a result of this heavy casualty trend, Mine Force, Pacific was reactivated as a separate command on February 19, 1951. Minesweeping ships and craft were assigned the extremely hazardous task of clearing the harbors and

Mine Squadron ELEVEN for more than five years. During several periods of intense enemy activity, Mine Division 112 and 113 were involved daily in river ambushes and their efforts were a major factor in the neutralization of the mine threat on the shipping channels to Saigon.

The men of MINERON 11 instituted programs of "Vietnamization" by training the Vietnamese Navy to assume these responsibilities. All the minesweeping craft in Vietnam was turned over to the Republic of Vietnam Navy.

MINEFLOT
THREE were made a significant element of that deterrent and had continued to be assigned a wide variety of missions.

In addition, river and harbor craft have played a vital role in clearing mines from major waterways in Southeast Asia. This mission was carried out by the division and detachments of

HISTORY

Ed Oyer

In early 1954 the USS SHEA DM-30 arrived in Long Beach, Ca after transiting the Panama Canal (maybe the 1st and last DM to do that in this era). We took aboard MK 25's that we placed onto dollies on the mine tracks. We proceeded off shore San Diego to lay aerial mines from a surface ship.

The SHEA was also a participant in the Hydrogen Bomb tests, "Operation Castle" in the spring of 1954.

While stationed in Sigonella in 1970 we participated in an out-load of mines that were transferred by cargo net and Helos (VERTREP) as the pier at Augusta was not ship accessible due to a nearby pier fire. Then to top that one an out-chopping carrier missed off-loading service MK 55's to the AE ended up flying the mines back to Sig on A-6's. Sigonella received BRAVO ZULU's on both.

At West Loch in 1954 the MK 27 shop assembled the first Ice Scape units for submarines. They were modified MK 10s used to blow a hole in the ice for Polar surfacing by subs.

Vietnam Mine History

Joe Balderrama

Mine History Book

Folks its the end of the line for inputs for our historical book on the Mineman's role in history. I have been designated to receive inputs for all Vietnam related stories. All personal accounts are welcome. We must remember that when two people recall the same event they may differ *somewhat* on what happened. **Like an auto accident between two drivers!!!**

For our history book the order of the day is **facts and minimal personal self edification**. I submit the following example covering a Mineman's tour in-country.

"From 1970 Through 1971 as a Mineman 1st Class, I was assigned to River Patrol Division (RPD) 56 which was made up of two River Divisions (511 & 592) as a result of action, which was the programmed turn over of boats and assets to the South

Vietnamese Navy, under the direction of the US Navy, I was assigned as a River Patrol Boat (PBR) Boat Captain and Advisor with the responsibility for two boats as the Patrol Officer. My crews were initially all US Navy Personnel, but were eventually made up of all South Vietnamese Navy, we operated out of Vinh Long on the Ham Long River with a patrol area south of My Tho (a tributary of the Melong River) in Ben Tre Province. From there we moved south to Song On Doc, and as a result of not receiving any support, we were unable to hold the base, and were forced to retreat. We went from Song On Doc to Moc Hoa along the Vam Co Tay/Vam Co Dong Rivers which is the border between Vietnam & Cambodia"

HISTORY

MNCM Moose Wheelock, USN Ret

Summary of mining operations by MOMAT 0304 deployed from NAVMAG Subic Feb. Mar. 1967

The Team:

WO George Russell, MNC Dale (Moose) Wheelock, MN1 J. T. Kennedy, III, MN1 Ron Chapin, MN2 Devenger, MN2 J. Miller, MN3 Stephens, MN3 Churchill, MN3 Bowling, MNSN Beffert.

Team deployed on USS SACRAMENTO AOE-1 to conduct mining operations from USS ENTERPRISE and USS KITTY HAWK. Plans called for laying Mines MK 50 and MK 52 and shallow water depth was a problem. On 26 February, mines and Minemen were VERTREPED from Sacramento to Enterprise. Thirty-five mines were launched on A-6 aircraft (VA-35). **To my knowledge, the first live aircraft-laid mines planted since World War II.** All aircraft reported mission complete and successful. VERTREPED from Sacramento to Kitty Hawk on 5 March. Final prepped and loaded 6 mines on A-6 (VA-85)

and 8 on A3B (VA-H-4) aircraft. Several MK 50 and MK 52 mines planted over next 10 days. Mission completed on 16 March. Intelligence reports indicated one barge damaged by mines and river traffic supply lines definitely slowed down.

HISTORY

Lyal Stryker

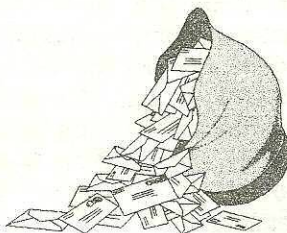
Thanks to Robert O. Smith from Olive Hill, TN for giving us a copy of a Mineman exam from West Loch in the 50's time frame. Will run some questions in the next Dashpot. Also, thanks to all of you that send us books, articles, clippings, etc. to add to our archives. Some of you have inquired about the HISTORY BOOK which we have been struggling with for too long. The publishing company recently wrote us and advised that we needed to submit a written schedule to them by 1 September for completion of our effort or they would cancel the publishing agreement and retain the \$4,000.00 first payment we previously sent them. We are pleased to tell you that we have sent them a schedule that they have accepted. **Lyal Stryker** and **Toby Horn** have reviewed all the book material we have on hand and what is needed to finish the book. The schedule calls for us to have submitted all material by March 31, 1997. Elsewhere in this issue is a plea from **Toby Horn** for all of you to give us some of your time and tell us about the places you were and what you did. Things like whatever happened to the Keflavik ROCK, who really borrowed the train in Japan, etc. We also need information about what Minemen did in Korea and Vietnam, not war stories but where you were and what you did. Send any Vietnam information to **Joe Balderrama** and Korea information to **Lyal Stryker**. Both addresses are on inside cover page of this issue. As a result of our schedule for completing the book we have to keep the momentum up. Several people have recently volunteered to help us and if you can please let us know. Again, please read Toby's article again. We need all of you.

Reunion from Page 3

Doug Clark, Jim & Anita Coffman, Robert Corpening, Don Costa, Jim & Judy Cottrell, Richard Cox, Ray & Ann Cobis, Arthur Cook, Fred & Mary Dane, Grace Daughtrey, Carroll Delaney, Dan & Shirley Dawson, Hal Elston, Rob Fernandez, Bob Forbes, Michael Femrite, Ron & Myra Gentry, Bob & Connie Hart, Steve & Bonnie Howard, Ken & Sadie Harder, Jon Hildreth, Toby & Jani Horn, Bob Lattanzi, Jim Longway, John & Bobby Loonam, Frank & Anne are Martin, Bill & Emmie Mehard, Pete abbreviated Mirich, Mac McCarthy, Don Moody, notes Opie & Kitty Opocensky, Walter received "Pete" Peters, Homer Powell, from Danny Priest, Dick Rhoderick, Bill members & Jo Roberts, Tony & Nancy Ross, when Glenn Robertson, G.P. & Bootsie Santa Maria, Warren Savage, Leo Smith, Robert O. Smith, Dick & Sue Schommer, Jack Smoot, Jim Stultz & daughter, Lyal Stryker & Isabel Boore, Sheldon "SR" Stevens, Mike Whitener, Frank Whipple, and Carol Whitley. At the picnic we also saw Phil Jones, Joe Coker and Gill Firth (ex NMWEA), Craig Roberts from Mine Warfare PEO Washington, Victor & Virginia Newton (ex NOL White Oak), Captain Green COMOMAG, Ron Swart and others noted elsewhere in this newsletter. MANY MANY THANKS TO THOSE THAT BROUGHT OR SENT AUCTION ITEMS AND YOU MEMBERS THAT WERE SO GENEROUS. Hot items this year were bird cages from LeVon DeCrona and the Harders. Also the wooden children's crayon holders shaped like a school bus, tractor trailer and large pencil from Bob & Connie Hart. The bus went for \$70.00 and the others for \$40.00 or more each. There were also many many other craft items that brought the scholarship fund good prices. The prize item each year is of course Millie Reid's afghan that went for \$205.00, the last La Von DeCrona bird house went for \$81.00, This year we had two Giles paintings, one

donated by Earl Roberts that went for \$115.00. Bill Mehard brought two of his prized ash trays, one of which went for \$45.00. There were many other great craft items donated that helped make this one of the best auctions yet! Thanks again to everyone! PS - watch for your reunion photos in the mail shortly.

Mailbag



sending in their dues, orders, etc.

Melvin Konieczka AKA SKI sent a note to say he had radical surgery to remove a cancerous prostate last February and he is back to normal now (if that's possible). (his words, not ours!). Said he and Rose are fine and that he enjoys the Dashpot and looks forward to receiving it.

MN1 Mark Sutherland (RET) sent a card with his dues and wants to congratulate Kenneth F. Bramm on being promoted to CWO3, formerly MNCS RES.

Fred Reid sent in the reunion registration form with his dues and museum/scholarship donations but Millie put a post it note on it saying she would not be able to make the reunion but Fred might make the picnic, but he didn't make it. Fred also wrote notes in all the blank spaces to tell us that he had been on a fishing trip to Alaska and even caught a fish. Daughter Linda is moving back to Washington state, Bangor. Son Jim made Lcdr and he and his five kids are doing great. Son Steve is just hanging around.

Postcard from George F. Ziegler in San Diego saying he could not make the reunion this year he would like to see if he could find any old buddies. He was AOINC of Mine Detail #4 on Guadalcanal 7/1/43 to 2/44 and

loaded mines on planes at Henderson. Is an Ordnance Engineer, was Mining Officer at Mine Depot Yorktown, served on COMSERVPAC Staff in 1954, Navy Department Procurement PR8b and was on the staff at NOL White Oak as Ordnance Officer. If you remember him, drop him a line at 4015 Crown Point Drive P-10, San Diego, CA 92109.

Paul M. Henry, MNCM (RET) sent a note with his dues and says he hopes to make the 97 reunion. Asks to give his best to Ray and Ann and also a hello to "Don De", long time since he has seen any of the "ole gang". Says he even remembers what a Dashpot does!

Bob Benintende wrote to express his regrets at not being able to make the reunion this year. Michiko is in Japan to see her mother who is quite ill and will not return until October. They have relocated from Albany OR to Lompac, CA (central coast) having moved in 1 June this year. Anyone travelling up or down the coast call or stop by. Phone (805) 733-0631.

Hank Wolfe from Roy Utah dropped a line to wish us a good time at the reunion. Noted he was in the Navy from Oct. 48 to Oct. 52 and went through the Mine Warfare School in Yorktown Jan.-May 49. Served aboard the USS Harry F. Bauer.

Stephen E. Clinko is trying to locate a shipmate of his, MN1 John P. Cooper who was stationed at the Mine Warfare School, Charleston in 1968. You can write him at 1427 - 100th Street SW, Space 111, Everett, WA 98204. Steve is a retired BMC.

New Mine Warfare R & D Building

The \$3.1 million Mine Warfare Research and Development Facility's 35,000-square foot, two-story brick building that will provide test and laboratory spaces is well underway at Coastal Systems Station to be used by Codes 260 (New Mine Development) and 270 (Mine Life Cycle Manager).

Membership

Since we last reported new members the following are the latest new or reinstated members; Captain Green, COMOMAG, Walter Pieper, Gary Wraalstad, Frank Perry, Raymond Green, James O'Hara, Robert Corpening, Dave Ostrom, Chuck Hadden, Donald Schultz, Robert McNeal, John Bishop, Henry Ochs, Gerald Gleason, Richard Bassak, Paul Chitwood, Dennis Doerr, Chuck Edwards, Calvin Robertson, Walter Anhorn, Charles Gouer, Roy McGinnis, Ross Wadman, Henry Wolfe, Gil Firth and Victor Newton. WELCOME ABOARD!!! Earlier this year we sent out our yellow postcards to members that dues were far in arrears. Many of you returned them with your dues, but a great many came back marked FOE, Forwarding Order Expired. We need you to help us locate these past members who are probably wondering why they do not receive the Dashpot anymore and didn't realize we needed a change of address from them. Following is a list of the FOE cards returned and if you know where they are please have them contact us or you can send us their address. Remember, they can become active again paid up through August 1997 by sending \$15.00. Here they are; Stephen M. Archer, David J. Badger, Michael O. Bera, James D. Burton, Ivor W. Collins, John L. Collins, James F. DeFrees, Frank A. Eck, David M. Epton, Lori K. Fairsheets, W.S. (Bill) Fortner, Donald H. Gadd, Donald R. Gony, James G. Goodwin, Herbert J. Griffith, Jr., Jeffrey S. Harding, Benjamin L. Harman, Barry Hicks, George A. Hipp, W.C. Hollaway, Robert W. Hough, Curtis L. Jones, Kenneth J. Klein, Stan Kosewski, Mike Kramer, Susan Kreidler, Robert E. Lavoie, Mrs. Pam Mack, John A. Nolan, David Pendley, M.D. Radke, Vickie Redding, John T. Reeve, Colleen M. Sabel, Tom Shipley, Barry L. Soles, A.D. Spiess, Thomas L. Sumpter, Silas J. Wooten, and Mark D. Worriow.



Mine Museum

Toby Horn

On Wednesday, 31 July and Thursday, 1 August, the Walterboro High School NJROTC Unit of Walterboro, South Carolina boarded the USS Yorktown to help us begin expansion and improvement of our mine museum. MNCS Richard Spofford, who is also the school's Assistant naval Sciences Instructor, directed the cadet team effort.

After the cadets, both male and female, got their gear stashed in their respective overnight quarters, work started in earnest on the new mess deck space we have been given, which is adjacent to our existing mine display space. The cadets moved an estimated 3 tons of old shelving, support braces, cabinets, fittings, machinery and other brick-a-brac out of this space, through our mine display space, and through the geedunk space to one of the working bomb strike-down elevators. When the elevator holding space got saturated, the cadet team began cleaning up and organizing our below-deck spaces, including the staging/storage area, workshop, tool room, paint storage, companion-way and office space area.

The AOM treated to all the cadet's meal requirements for both days (including a cake baked by the ship's cooks to celebrate one of the lady cadet's birthday) and the Patriots point Authority provided free overnight accommodations aboard ship.

I have started a "Things To Do - Wish List" for the museum which was presented to our Board of Directors at the meeting in Panama City. Not listed, of course, is the highest priority of all - MANPOWER. Lyal Stryker and I have some ideas (e.g., there are 2 more NJROTC Units

Scholarship

Lyal Stryker

Due to your generosity throughout the year and at the picnic auction we were able to again this year award five \$500.00 scholarship assistance grants to our members families. Recipients this year are Kumi Swart, daughter of Cdr Ron Swart; Christopher Adams and Emily Adams, son and daughter of MNCS Adams; Kari-Hanson-Smith, daughter of CWO4 Thomas J. Smith; and Amber Romanchuk, daughter of MN3 Steve Romanchuk. Thanks to the following members that sent in donations with their dues and reunion registration; Swede Carlsen, Fred Dane, Jim Longway, Ken Harder, Anthony Ross, Jim Stultz, Fred Bartram, Bob Benintende, Cecil Martin, Jasper Kennedy, Lloyd Bemis, Bill Mehard, Opie Opocensky, Dan Dawson, Fred Reid, Porky Rogers, Moose Wheelock, Lyal Stryker, Steve & Bonnie Howard, Carol Whitley and Joe & Clare Balderrama. Some donations were anonymous in memory of Aiko Moody, June Smoot and Charlie Hunt. Anyone wanting a scholarship application can request one from the AOM address or Lyal Stryker. Submission deadline for next year is May.

which have stated interest in helping: CAPT Danny Power's Unit and CAPT Fred Massey's Unit; we can/will get on the list for Sea Cadet work sponsored by the Navy League; and we are also planning to pick up a weekend Saturday in the near future and send a local post-card invitation for a work-party followed by a beer bust). There is much to do to get our museum back to "gem-like" condition.

Does anyone out there have some spare tools they would like to donate to the museum? Some of you older shipmates, perhaps, who don't get to use them any more. We need standard mine type tools - pliers, socket wrenches (set), ratchets,

Please see Museum Page 8

!!! READ THIS DAMMIT !!!

Toby Horn

You, shipmate - yes, you. We need your help. Now!!! Right now!!! We need to close our final chapters of our history book and get them to the printer ASAP. But we need some memory material. That's where you come in. We know you don't like to write, but you gotta. We need your immediate input in two chapters/categories: Mine Sites and Units, and Sea Stories and Nostalgia. We specifically need some remembrances from some of you ol' timers on WW II units such as the MADs, J11Ds, FASRONs, MDAUs, Mine Projects (4 and 6 are all I can remember) and bases such as Tinian, Saipan, Sasebo, Atsugi, Iwakuni, Yokuska, Misawa, Nahan Kadena, Subic, Guam, West Loch, Whidby Is., Keyport, Indian Is., Key West TEVDET, Trinidad, Port Lyauty, the NMDs, Malta/Halfar, Keflavik, Andoya, the Sigonella set-up, the Glen Douglas/Mildenhall/Macrihanish set-up. I know there are more - you fill in the blanks.

It'll be easy, just start off with remembering your first duty station and start jotting down those memories. For example.... "I remember the Naval Schools of Mine Warfare were located at Yorktown, Harry Coker taught me the M-9 FM and I well remember his little tricks he threw in to mess up our trouble shooting class, and there was the famous Dilbert Dunker that was added to the "dip tank" which was the only way to justify a grade-A truck up to the mess hall and load up swimming pool... and then FASRON (Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron) 110 all the fixins and head out to White at San Diego and the drill mine shop Beach for a picnic...The Dirty Dozen which supported the P5-M seaplane inspection of PAC sites in preparation minelayers, I remember working the boat crews to float the wheels out to the planes as they came up the ramp, "Monk" and the famous midnight and guarding those dam things on mid-watch duty, duty every four days and never being on the super carriers at Yankee Station...I list...then FASRON 118 at Naha, Okinawa where we were Mine Detail Augmenting Detail Unit (MDAU 0301) and we spent most of our time manning the rake stations for the carrier planes (the dummies just came in and dropped all their practice mines in one place)... and so on"

Then we need you to write your remembrance of a favorite sea story, - a favorite event in your Navy MN career. You can write two or three or as many as you want, or weave a string of them together much as you did the duty station thing. For example..."I remember those quonset huts we lived in at Naha and the days of "Cinderella liberty" which we got around by making our hut classified so master-at arms couldn't come in for bunk-check - we'd go sleep in one of the cook's beds in the next hut over, so one or the other of them

could stay in the ville overnight - and we'd pull the old bomb up to the mess hall and load up with steaks, tomatoes, potato salad, and head out to White Beach for a picnic...The Dirty Dozen in preparation for the Vietnam Mining Campaign, Ed Sprecher and his daily battle with the famous midnight attack conjured up by Fred Reid...the CODs on and off the caves at Crendi on Malta which we used for magazines and the caves and tunnels at Souda Bay...and remember the day after day, 24 hours a day (it was all night time by then) fireworks in Andoya as the Auroa Borealis did its stuff while the Russians blasted the atmosphere during their famous series 17 tests - hell, you throw a stone and hit Russian soil... and so on."

See how easy it is, and once you begin you'll find that one memory begets another. Write 'em down and send it to us. please shipmate, do it for us - do it for you. If you don't like to write, borrow a tape. many local libraries now have this service (with coffee). Give us a few hours of your time - we guarantee your effort will last many lifetimes. Thanks for your support of our history.

Museum from Page 7

screwdrivers, dikes, etc. We can also use some carpentry tools for making display cases, benches, etc. Please let me know (or send) to 54 Rivers Point Row, Charleston, SC 29412-3620, e-mail tobyone@ix.netcom.com or you can phone me at (803) 762-3552.

The Dashpot plans to join the information superhighway in October with an e-mail address.

Contribute your memories to the History Book

Reservists add touch of Safety

Coastal Courier 6/14/96
Naval reservists from MOMAD Albany, NY inspected and certified inert mine cases on-board the Coastal System Station, Panama City, FL. The twelve men and women spent their 18-day deployment assisting the station with the periodic safety requirement.

MOMAU 15 in Kingsville makes mines for the fleet to find

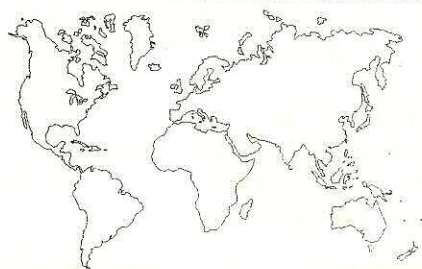
The Foc'sle 6/28/96

This "business" of building mines falls on the shoulders of the Navy's Mobile Mine Assembly Group (MOMAG) and its subordinate units.

MOMAG builds, not only service or actual high explosive mines to protect America's interests, but also exercise mines to train US Sailors and Allied navies to combat the threat of mine warfare. The dedicated Sailors

Please see Unit 15 Page 12

■ FULL FORCE NEWS



COMOMAG

CDR Ron Swart

● Name change affects Mine Assembly Units and Detachments

● The Mobile Mine Assembly Group has been so named since its inception on July 1, 1975. Since that date, subordinate Units and detachments have been named "Mobile Mine Assembly Group (MOMAG)" Unit NINE or "MOMAG" Detachment TWO, etc. Following standard Navy organization, only the headquarters staff should be referred to as the "Group" while subordinate commands would be Units or Detachments, no "Group-Unit" or "Group-Detachment". Confused? So were we, so now our Units and detachments will be "Mobile Mine Assembly Units" (MOMAU) and "Mobile Mine Assembly Detachments" (MOMAD). This name change has already begun and should be complete MOMAG wide by 1 Jan 97.

● Congratulations to our new Lieutenant Commander Selectees

● LT Tim Patton, CO, MOMAU Eight, Guam

● LT Mike McAdams, CO MOMAU ELEVEN, Charleston SC

● LT Ed Simmons, CO MOMAU TWELVE, Misawa

● LT John Iwaniec, CO MOMAU ONE Seal Beach, CA

COMOMAG Staff changes

Welcome to LT Ron Davis who reported aboard from MOMAU FOURTEEN, Yorktown, VA as our new Operations Officer. Ron relieved LT Keith Nesmith who wore two hats as Ops and service mine readiness after the transfer of LT Ed Simmons to MOMAU TWELVE,

Misawa, JA. Welcome also to LTJG Rhonda Dunn, an LDO "Torpedoman", will be assigned to the service mine readiness code.

● MRCI Results

● All nine Units and one Detachment passed their Mine readiness Certification Inspections over the past year. The most recent were tremendous successes at MOMAD SEVEN, Hawaii, where they underwent certification for service MK 67 (SLMM) mines, and at MOMAU TEN where they aced their service QUICKSTRIKE certification. Both sites had just reestablished a service mine mission and had previously passed their exercise and training MRCI's earlier this year. BRAVO ZULU to all for a clean sweep.

● COMINEWARCOM organizes (Again)

● COMINEWARCOM has announced further changes to its organization by placing another hat on the head of Capt. Mike Green (COMOMAG) who now will be in charge of all mining and minefield planning functions. the minefield planning shop, Code N5, now headed by LCDR Terry Aubery, will change to Code N9 and will move from their present spaces at COMINEWARCOM to the COMOMAG building this fall.

● Commander, Readiness Support Group, Ingleside, Capt Bob O'Donnell, will continue to act as Deputy, COMINEWARCOM. CDR Mike O'Moore, CO Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside will be double hatted as COMINEWARCOM N7, Training and Readiness.

● Changes to COMINEWARCOM's organization are an effort to take advantage of the "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" by tapping talent available at subordinate commands.

● CDR Will Dixon is transferring to CINCPACFLT as the Assistant Ordnance Logistics Officer sometime this fall. He is presently assigned to a secret CIA spy ring that is heavily

involved with the Russians: (Actually I don't know what his present assignment is called... Something to do with "START" Treaty Verification...)

NRMOMAD 107

Deploys

LCDR Steve Davis

Naval Reserve MOMAU-5 Det 107 recently completed twelve days of Annual Active Duty for training (AT) and six days of Individual Duty Training/Travel (IDTT) requirements at its gaining command, MOMAU FIVE, Sigonella.

Over the eighteen day training period, reserve Minemen were involved in various mine-related activities, including component work on the SLMM system, supply warehouse support, and mine component handling in the warehouses and magazines.

Administrative support was provided by YN2 Lillian Johnson, who was recognized by MOMAU FIVE in a Letter of Appreciation for her outstanding "performance" and intense "dedication" during AT.

The Charleston based reserve detachment, headed by Captain (Select) Scott Laidlaw, also provided direct support to MOMAU FIVE in preparation for an Explosive Safety Inspection. With each of the three officers attached to NRMOMAD 107 involved in environmental and hazardous materials safety, industrial safety, or safety management consulting activities in their civilian occupations, they were available as a safety resource to MOMAU FIVE. They assisted in evaluating the gaining commands existing safety program activities and status of current safety-related training requirements for both active duty and reserve personnel. In addition, support to the Quality Assurance Department included creation of computer data base systems for identifying hazardous chemicals stored and used on Site, and for tracking all tools, equipment, and instruments requiring calibration.

San Diego, California

AUG 8-10 '97

Make plans now!

NAVSEA'S Mine Familiarizer by NMWEA Continued from Issue 14

Deployment and Operation Cont.

Should it become necessary to jettison the mine in a safe condition, the pilot de-activates solenoids that allow the arming wires to fall intact with the mines.

Submarine-Laid Mines.

When secrecy is paramount, the submarine is the preferred mine-laying vehicle. Although submarines can carry mines great distances from home ports, they are not conducive to carrying large payloads. Nonetheless, it is interesting to note that although the torpedo was considered the primary weapon of the submarine during World War II, many missions by Seventh Fleet submarines involved the laying of mines. Throughout the war, submarines had planted 576 mines resulting in 27 ships sunk and 27 damaged, or one ship per 10 planted mines.

Surface-Laid Mines.

During World War II surface ships were used primarily for defensive mining operations, i.e., defending friendly harbors and waters from penetration by enemy vessels. Planting was usually done from specially designed minelayers or from certain other surface craft. Throughout the war, thousands of these mines were laid just outside Chesapeake bay, around Cape Hatteras, and around Key West to protect our shipping against enemy submarines. Also, large fields were laid in the Atlantic off the coasts of Trinidad and North Africa in the Mediterranean off the coast of Sicily. Although there is no record of any of the enemy's ships being sunk or damaged in the Navy's defensive fields, neither is there any record of any of the enemy's ships passage through the fields. Perhaps the knowledge that the fields existed prevented any attempts being made, thus proving the adage that mines work well even when they don't work at all.

AOM Officer Duties Continued from Issue 14

Reunion Committee B, 2 Cont.

This member, or members, shall comprise the Reunion Committee, even though other volunteers may be concurrently or subsequently assigned.

3. The Committee shall be provided a reunion planning guide and/or other guidelines by which they can effectively and efficiently outline, plan and execute all necessary arrangements for the reunion/business meeting, so that only minimal time and effort will be required.

4. The Committee shall have the ability to negotiate prices for facilities/services at the local level in anticipation of events, sign committing contracts as required, and draw upon Association funds to secure necessary arrangements, materials or foodstuffs.

5. The Committee will provide periodic reports to the President and Secretary/Treasurer for the purpose of advising on progress, forthcoming plans and events, and information required for registrations forms to be promulgated via the newsletter.

BUSINESS AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

A. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Rules of conduct are necessary to help shape a strong and effective organization for the betterment of the entire Association of Minemen. It is based on freedom of speech, respect for the dignity of fellow members, and uniformity and fairness. The most serious defect in most board meetings and general member assemblies is the lack of reasonable decorum. Good order must be maintained by the presiding officer if business is to be carried out.

1. The following has been adopted as the standard order of business in conducting meetings:

- a. Reading of minutes or waiver of reading of the previous meeting.

- b. Reports of standing committees.
- c. Reports of special committees.
- d. Financial reports.
- e. Unfinished business.
- f. New business.

2. In preparation for the Board meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting should be gone over with the President and Secretary to correct or clarify them in advance, if necessary.

3. All reports by standing and special committees would be best submitted in written form. At the discretion of the President and/or Board of Directors, there are times when verbal reports are acceptable.

4. Standing committees usually function throughout the year and function in a very informal fashion observing none of the formal rules of conducting meetings. They are expected to submit reports at the annual meeting.

5. Special committees are appointed by the President and approved by the Board to perform some special task, secure more information, investigate a situation, and to bring back a report or a recommendation to the President who brings the report to the Board. These are temporary committees which cease to function when they have completed their duties and brought in a written/verbal report, or they may be annually restructured committees (e.g. Nominating, Reunion) which will proceed on matters for the next year.

Unit 3 from Page 10

Retirement Dates:

MN1(SS) **Randy S. Coben**

31 JAN 97

MNC **Carily E. Myers** 30 APR 97

MNCS **Kenneth Empire**

31 MAR 97

That's all for now, Unit personnel looking forward to the next issue of The Dashpot.

USS Champion MCM-4

PAO LTJG Brett M. Mears

On March 29, 1996 MNC(SW) **Michael W. Thandscheidt** was selected for Mineman senior Chief Petty officer. MNCS(SW) **Thandscheidt** was the first "Traditional" Mineman Chief Petty Officer sent to sea duty on the Mine warships stationed in Ingleside, TX. Prior to sea duty on the USS Champion (formerly crew of USS Warrior), **Thandscheidt** served tours at MOMAUs 9, 10, 11 and 12 and as an instructor at Fleet Mine Warfare Training Center, Charleston, SC.

Senior Chief **Thandscheidt** volunteered for sea duty on the MCM 1 Class ships because "he was looking for a challenge in what may be described as a mid life crisis". After 14 years of Naval service, he was looking for a new experience so he turned to fleet operations. Additionally, with the new transitional Mineman rating, **Thandscheidt** recognized the enhanced advancement opportunities that accompanied volunteering for sea duty.

Sea duty was not easy at first. "My introduction to sea duty could be compared to a fish out of water" adds MNCS(SW) **Thandscheidt**. When reporting for duty he was amazed at the level of knowledge, experience and diversity exhibited by the MCM sailors. He noted that "the things that inherently were familiar in my early career had suddenly changed". After qualifying as CIC Watch Officer, standing watch as Conning Officer, deploying overseas for MCM Euro 95, and becoming Command Duty officer, MNCS(SW) **Thandscheidt** notes "nothing worthwhile is easy". Although extremely demanding and always a challenge, he has found sea duty to be very rewarding.

Mineman Third Class Petty Officer **Maurice Q. Perine** reenlisted for four years in USS CHAMPION MCM-4 on 09 May 96. He reported to USS WARRIOR MCM-10 on 10 Dec 94, and was the first Mineman to be assigned to the Deck Department. During MCM EURO 95 Deployment,

MN3 **Perine** qualified as Special Sea and Anchor detail Petty Officer in Charge, Minesweeping Rig Captain and Underway Replenishment Petty Officer in Charge. For his effort and leadership, he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. In March 1996, he was part of a crew to transfer to USS CHAMPION MCM-4. In CHAMPION, he was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter for his motivation, professional competence and respect for others. Petty Officer **Perine** will complete his sea tour in December 1996 and report for duty at MOMAU TEN in Okinawa, Japan.

Thank you for providing a forum to recognize our outstanding Mineman performers. In order to keep our Mineman informed about their community, we request information on how to obtain a subscription to The Dashpot.

(Ed. note, all MN commands are on our "official" mailing list. Individuals are encouraged to join the AOM for their personal copy)



MOMAU TWELVE

MNC J.L. Holt

We enjoy reading the Dashpot, learning of our past and keeping up with the present.

Expect future inputs from our Unit. OHIO GOZIMUS from the land of the rising sun! Its been a busy year so far but with the MRCI, FCA, and ESI behind us its time to get ready for next year (i.e. play golf). Congratulations are in order for our present Chiefs, MNC Brieno and SKC McIntyre, they are adjusting well to their new found identities! We recently received word that LT Ed Simmons has been selected for

promotion to LCDR, what a year! Recent award winners are: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

MNC **Jeff Holt**
MN2 **Tiffany Steele**
MN2 **Tom Lavake**
MN3 **Tamara Smith**

COMINEWARCOM Letter of Commendation:

MN2 **James Adams**

Sailors of the Quarter:

MN2 **William Franklin**
MN3 **Jamie Dykes**

MN2 **Tiffany Steele** gave birth to a 7-1/2 lb girl, Margaret Rebecca, both are doing fine. Sayanora to MNC Brieno who is departing to Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside, he'll be missed

MOMAU THREE

MNCM John Nolan

MOMAU THREE had an excellent year that included the successful completion of the biennial MRCI, Calibration Laboratory recertification and Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB) plus the usual myriad of special projects. MNCM Nolan on-board in January '96 to takeover as Command Master Chief and Mine Assembly Officer. We have had quite a turnover of personnel this year with personnel departing well before their replacements arrive, but what is new?

The awards:

Navy Achievement Medal:
MN1 **S.L. Frederick** (2nd)
SK2 **H. Harte**
MN3 **L.G. Kinnell**

Sailor of the Quarter:

MN2 **A.E. Alt** (Senior)
MNSA **P.E. Philips** (Junior)

Please see Unit 3 Page 11

MOMAU FIVE

MNCM Cliff Bombard

Bits of Pasta from Unit FIVE

In June MN2 Mary Noonan, retired to settle in Idaho, DP2 Kevin Ratcliff transferred to Willow Grove, PA.

Reporting aboard:

YN1 James Keith and SK1 Kevan Dodd from Transient Personnel unit, Norfolk, VA, MN2 Luis Hortiz from Unit ELEVEN and MNCS Bruce Howard from EOD Training Unit TWO, FT Story, VA.

Recent Promotions:

MNC Kevin King, YNC Georgette Butler, MN2 Luis Orteiz, MN2 Jeff Worth and MN3 Tom Rasmussen.

Awards:

Navy Achievement Medal:

MN2 William Lowery, SK2 Lisa Parker and DP2 Kevin Ratcliff.

Sailor of the Quarter:

MN2 Laura Rodriguez (Senior)
1stQ, DP2 Kevin Ratcliff (Senior)
2ndQ, MNSA Wendy Sims (Junior)
1stQ, MN3 Kecia Nason (Junior)
2ndQ

Good Conduct Medals:

MN1 Kevin Taylor (4th), MN1 Ed Moriarity (3rd), SK1 Kevin Dodd (2nd), MN2 Lori Rodriguiz (2nd), MN3 Jason Jenkins and MN3 Frank Paternoster

We are busy as bees getting ready for our October Assist Visit and ADMAT coming up sooner than all get out.

Unit 15 from Page 8

manning the 10 mobile mine assembly units and detachments are scattered around the world.

Providing mines to the MCM fleet in South Texas is the responsibility of 21 men and women of the newest MOMAU in the Navy. MOMAU 15 is located on board NAS Kingsville, TX. This group of skilled technicians, primarily of the Mineman (MN) rating, build exercise mines that allow others to hone their mine-hunting skills. The article contained photos of MN2 Tommy Boyles, MN2(AW) Gary Christmas and MN3 Stephen McDonald performing refurbishment tasks.

From COMOMAG**NEWSLETTER****2nd Q '96**

You may have heard that the MK 56 and MK 60 mine systems are likely to be cut from the budget.

COMINEWARCOM

requested

feedback from the fleet CINCs and numbered fleets, and so far it indicates we need strong endorsement for the Littoral Sea Mine in future budgets. If approved, drawdown should start in 1998.

COMOMAG participated in Air Force B-1 fit tests for QUICKSTRIKE Mine MK 62. They can carry 84 of them.

SLMM MK 67 Mod 2 is being converted to Mod 0.

The MK 74 Codes listed in the Panama City personnel listing is the Versatile Exercise Mine System (VEMS)

The water blaster system (replaces the sand-blaster) at Unit ELEVEN is working fine and funded at Units ONE, TEN and FIFTEEN. A powder coat paint system is also funded for these Sites.

The computer network installations at Units EIGHT and TEN have been completed. Now it is possible to sit in the CO's office at Unit EIGHT and send E-Mail to the production building.

MOMAG instructions are available on the internet. What a transition they are going through!

**Mineman receives Bravo Zulu**

Several Mine Countermeasures Rotational Crew Delta personnel were recognized for Civic help including MN3 Steven Themins

Mine Countermeasures Rotational Crew Bravo members received Letters of Commendation from Commander, Amphibious Force, US Seventh Fleet including MN1(SW)

Floyd Greer, MN3 John Halsey, MN3 Matthew O'Connell, MNSN Kristopher Widga, MNSA Gary Fernandes and MNSA Brad Potts.

MCMROT CREW Bravo sailors frocked included: MN3 John M. Halsey, MN3 Brad L. Pettit and MN3 Kristopher Widga.

USS Heron MHC-52**Commissions CWO**

MNC(SW) Todd C. Knopp, former command master chief, was commissioned on board Heron by Medal of Honor recipient, Msgt. Roy P. Benavidez, US Marine Corps, Ret. CWO Knop will transfer to the USS Paul Hamilton DDG-60 where he will serve as the missile officer.

USS INCHON MCS 12**arrives in Ingleside**

The Foc'sle 7/26/96

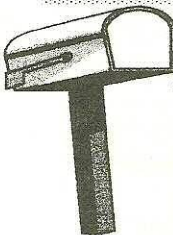
Inchon brings many unique traits to the "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" It is the largest ship home ported here, over 600 feet long with a displacement of 18,340 tons. It is the first ship designed to serve as a command, control and support vessel for the mine warfare fleet. Inchon is the only ship at Ingleside with female crew members with over 80 women assigned to the crew of 700. Originally commissioned in 1970, Inchon recently underwent a 15 month conversion to her new mission as a Mine Countermeasures Command, Control and Support ship. Captain Matthew Tuohy assumed command on 23 July. Capt. Tuohy's last assignment was X.O. USS John F. Kennedy CV 67

Inchon will be serving as a "floating port" to provide both a landing platform for MH-53E "Sea Dragon" minesweeping helicopters, and a repair and resupply facility for Avenger Class mine countermeasures ships and Osprey Class Coastal mine hunters.

Ingleside now serves as homeport for the MCS, 12 MCMs and 5 MHCs.

LETTERS

Code 270 from Page 13



Kinda late, but we received a letter in May from **David Hutsell**, son of retired LCDR **Ed Hutsell**, as he graduated from Washington State Univ. in May and headed for Pensacola, Florida and Navy pilot training. We wish him well as he starts his naval career. **Ed** is working for the military in Okinawa.

Ed Oyer is wondering why the new mine fleet and their state of the art technology was not involved in the TWA 800 recovery project. He also sent his regrets on not going to the Reunion. He had planned to make it.

Heard from Retired Chief **Glen Robertson** working for a contractor at Ingleside, TX on the MK 48 Mine Neutralization System. He says he has been with them since he retired about 15 years ago.

Sorry to say we received a note from the **Rines** Family telling us that LT **Bob Rines**, USN Ret passed away June 27th after having cancer for three years. "As all of you know, Dad enjoyed life to the fullest. He had an exciting and successful career in the US Navy for 22 years. He then enjoyed an accomplished career as a manager at Textron Automotive Supply".

Phone call from MN2(DV) **EOD Edward Gard** from New York out toward Buffalo way concerning an order for logo clothing. He went through mine school at Yorktown in 1951, first duty was on a minesweeper in Korea, spent 3 years on Azuma Island in Japan, went into EOD and got out in 1960 after 9 years. I asked him to write it up and send it to Lyal or Toby.

ALAN REIVER-MINE SYSTEMS
MARTY RICHARDSON -PROJ MGMT
DANNY RODGERS-LOGISTICS
NATHAN ROLLINS-LOGISTICS
PEGGY SAUNDERS -B/E SHEETS
BOB SMITH-MCM SYSTEMS **BILL**
SPURGEON-LOGISTICS
JUNE STOUT-LOGISTICS **ANDY**
TATEM-MCM SYSTEMS
SHELIA THOMAS-PROJ MGMT
JANEY THRIFT- LOGISTICS
DENNIS TOWNSEND-MK 74-1
MIKE TROMBLY-LOGISTICS
CHARLOTTE TYRE -MCM SYSTEMS
DARRYL UPDEGROVE- SLQ-48
MICHAEL UZARSK I-MINE
SYSTEMS
MARVIN VALENCOURT -AIS
PAM VALENCOURT -PROJ MGMT
PIERRE WARE-MCM SYSTEMS
STEVE WERNER-MINE SYSTEMS
CAROL WHITLEY-PUBS
BETTY WATERS- ACCOUNTING
MARSHALL WIDGEON -LOGISTICS
VALERIE WILLIAMS -LOGISTICS
RUSS WILSON -MCM SYSTEMS
GARY WOODINGTON-MCM SYS.
CASSIE WOOLARD-CUSTOMER
SUPPORT
DORA YELLORDAY-PROJ MGMT
CINDE ZALENSKI-PROJ MGMT

I DID SAY THAT THE CIVILIAN STAFF HAS GROWN SMALLER, BUT BY LOOKING AT THE ABOVE LIST I'M SURE YOU'LL QUESTION THAT. I HAVE TO SAY THAT I DID VERY MUCH ENJOY THE MINEMAN REUNION HELD HERE AT COASTAL SYSTEMS STATION, PANAMA CITY, HOWEVER I DIDN'T MEET THE AGE REQUIREMENTS. I GUESS I WILL HAVE TO COME BACK IN 10 YEARS OR SO. IT WAS REALLY A PLEASURE TO SEE SOME OF MY OLD SHIPMATES FROM DAYS GONE BY. CONGRATULATIONS FROM FLEET LIAISON TO MN1 **WHITMORE**, MOMAG UNIT ONE "COMOMAG MINEMAN OF THE YEAR". I KEPT LOOKING FOR **ED HUTSELL** AND **DALE 'MOOSE' WHEELLOCK** AT THE REUNION BUT THEY DIDN'T SHOW. WHEN YOU READ THIS SHIPMATES GIVE ME A CALL. THIS WAS MY FIRST

MINEMAN REUNION, AS I SPENT THE MAJORITY OF MY CAREER IN WESTPAC, ACTUALLY ALL OF IT HAS BEEN WESTPAC I'M PROUD TO SAY. ONCE AGAIN CHANGES FOR OUR MINEMAN RATING ARE NOW TAKING PLACE, SO WE THE HOMEGROWN MINEMAN ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE MINE WARFARE SPECIALIST INTO OUR COMMUNITY AND CONTINUE THE HIGH STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONALISM. WELCOME-ABOARD!
"ANYTIME ANYWHERE"

GA-DAY TO YA ALL

MNCS BOB BAINBRIDGE, USN
TO REACH FLEET LIAISON BY
PHONE :
DSN: 436-5488
COMM: 904-235-5488
FAX: DSN: 436-4858
FAX: COMM: 904-234-4858
TO REACH FLEET LIAISON BY
MAIL:
COASTAL SYSTEMS STATION
DAHLGREN DIVISION
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE
CENTER
CODE 270F
6703 WEST HIGHWAY 98
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32407-
7001

Promotions & Recognition

The Foc'sle 8/23/96

Among promotion selectees reported to MNC:
MN1 James W. Tandy, USS **Heron**
MHC-52, **MN1(SW) Bruce A. Haway**,
Regional Support Group, **MN1 Kirby**
Brown, **COMOMAG**

Sailor of the Quarter:
MN1(SW) Joseph G. Osborne, USS
Avenger MCM-1 and **MN1 Rita**
Nicely, Mine Warfare Training
Center.
Atta-boy to MN1(SW) Bruce A.
Haway, USS **Heron** for participating
in refurbishing the Cook Elementary
School, Ingleside playground.

Mine Life Cycle Manager

Code 270F MNCS Bob Bainbridge

NAVSURFWARREN COASTAL
SYSTEMS STATION, PANAMA CITY,
FL
MINE WARFARE LIFE CYCLE
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FLEET LIAISON CODE 270F

GA-DAY MATES FROM SUNNY
AND WET PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA.
THIS IS THE FIRST OF MANY
FUTURE REPORTS YOU WILL ALL
SEE FROM THE NEW FLEET
LIAISON STAFF HERE AT COASTAL
SYSTEMS STATION. AS MNCS
LEO SMITH (RET) REPORTED TO
YOU IN THE FALL 95 ISSUE,
NMWEA OF OLD HAS FINALLY
COMPLETED IT'S MOVE AND ALSO
HAS CHANGED IT'S MONIKER, IT
IS NOW THE NSWC CSS MINE
WARFARE LIFE CYCLE
MANAGEMENT DIVISION CODE
270. TRY TO FIT THAT INTO THE
OLD LOGO'S, I.E. NMEF, NMWEA.
AND THE MILITARY PERSONNEL
ATTACHED ARE AS FOLLOWS:
MINE WARFARE ENGINEERING
OFFICER, LCDR JAMES COUPE
WHO REPORTED ABOARD SEPT.
95 FROM ORDNANCE OFFICER
DUTIES ATTACHED TO SURFPAC,
SAN DIEGO CA.

FLEET LIAISON OFFICER, LT
SANDRA DOWNING WHO
REPORTED ABOARD
AUG. 95 FROM ORDNANCE
OFFICER DUTIES ABOARD USS MT
BAKER, HOMEPORTED
CHARLESTON, SC.

FLEET LIAISON OFFICER (MINES)
MNCS BOB BAINBRIDGE WHO
REPORTED ABOARD MARCH 95
FROM AOIC DUTIES AT MOMAG
UNIT TEN, OKINAWA, JA.

FLEET LIAISON OFFICER (SWEEP
GEAR-ELECTRIC) EMCS (SW/AW)
EMILIO AYONON WHO REPORTED
ABOARD SEPT. 95 FROM 3M-
COORDINATOR DUTIES ABOARD
USS DAYO DD 989, HOMEPORTED
CHARLESTON, SC.

FLEET LIAISON OFFICER (SWEEP
GEAR-DECK) BMC (SW) RICH
"BUBBA" BRADY WHO REPORTED
ABOARD MAY 95 FROM CMAA

DUTIES WHILE ATTACHED TO
NMCSB-ONE.

FLEET LIAISON OFFICER (MINE
NEUTRALIZATION SYSTEMS)
STG1 (SW) JAMES KELLEY WHO
REPORTED ABOARD MARCH 95
FROM ASW FIRE CONTROL
SUPERVISOR ABOARD USS
COWPENS, HOMEPORTED SAN
DIEGO, CA.

AND THE NEWEST ADDITION TO
OUR MILITARY STAFF IS MNCS
ROBERT "BUBBA" HILL WHO
SERVED AS THE MINE ASSEMBLY
OFFICER AT MOMAG UNIT EIGHT,
GUAM, MI. SENIOR CHIEF HILL
REPORTED ONBOARD 5 AUGUST
96.

OUR CIVILIAN STAFF HAS
GROWN SMALLER FROM THE
YORKTOWN MOVE BUT STILL
CARRIES A BIG PUNCH. THEY ARE
AS FOLLOWS: NAMES/EXPERTISE
ANN ALLEN-HAZMAT

BOB ANDREWS-BATTERIES
SUE ARRINGTON-MBOMS

TOM ARRINGTON-LOGISTICS

TINA BAXTER-MP-2 (MCM)

JOE BELL-MK60

BOB BELLING-COMBAT SYS

FRED BERGEY-PUBS

JEFF BONOMO-AIS

ALLEN BRACE-MIW

JESUS BRITO-LOGISTICS

RANDY BROWN-COMBAT SYS

ANNE BROWN-MK 67 /

QUICKSTRIKE

LINDA BROWN- ADMIN SUPPORT

DAVE BUCHER-ALL MINES (THE
WIZARD)

STEVE BURNETTE-PROJ MGMT

BUD BUSER-CONFIG MGMT

BOBBIE CANADY-COMBAT SYS

DIANE CAUFIELD-COMBAT SYS

JOE CAUFIELD -PROVISIONING
/PLANNING

DOUG CLARK-DIV HEAD Code 270

BILL COFFMAN-MNS

LARRY CONNELLY-MNS

HOWARD COOKE -MNS

JOE CORBIN-PROJ MGMT

JANET DAVENPORT -

PROVISIONING / PLANNING

TONY DAVID-PROJ MGMT-VEMS

JAMIE DAVIDSON-MK60

PHIL DAVIS-MK74-1/PINGERS

WAYNE DICKERSON-CONFIG MGMT

ROY DODY-MNS

JIM DYER-MCM ENGINEERING

NAN EDDINS-MGMT RESOURCES

GEORGE ESSIP -PROVISIONING
/PLANNING

JIM FATH-MGMT RESOURCE

RAY FAGG -CONFIG MGMT

GIL FIRTH-MK60

CAROL FORREST MGMT
RESOURCES

BOB FORREST-PROVISIONING/
PLANNING

FRANK GREGORY-PUBS

LORI GRIFFITH LOGISTICS

PAT HALLINAN-AIS/TECH INFO

PETER HALVORSON-LOGISTICS

CATHY HARRIS-PROVISIONING
/PLANNING

JOE HARRISON -PROVISIONING/
PLANNING

JOYCE HETRL-LOGISTICS

K.CHARLES HILL-MCM SYSTEMS

JOHN HOLLAND-MK60

CHERYLE JOHNSON-TMDER/TFBM

PHIL JONES-PROJ MGMT/ MK60
/MK67

NANCY JONES-CONFIG MGMT

BILL KEARNS -MK74-

1/QUICKSTRIKE

JOHN KELLY-LOGISTICS

JOE KOCUR-QUICKSTRIKE

BRIAN KOEHN-MK74-1

JAYE LAROUX-MINE SYSTEMS

HEIDI LECKNITNER/HALVORSON-
LOGISTICS

PATTI LIVERA-PROVISIONING/
PLANNING

PHIL LIVERA-AIS

CLIFF MANDERSCHIED-MK74-1

FRED MARTIN-LIMPET

RICHARD MARTIN-AIS

WAVERLY MASON-QUICKSTRIKE
/TEST SETS

JACKIE MCCLURE- LOGISTICS

SHIRLEY MCRAE-MCM SYSTEMS

JOHN MERRITT-LOGISTICS

KEITH MILNE-SLQ-48/MCM

JOE MORGAN-MINE SYSTEMS

PAM MORRIS-TECH LIBRARY

KARL MORRIS -SLQ-48/MCM

JIM MORRIS-MINE SYSTEMS

TOM MYLUM-MK 60

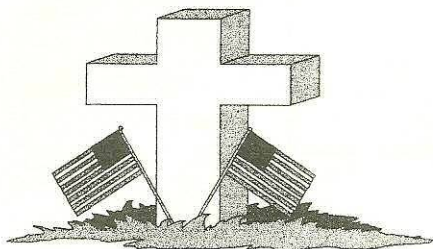
JAMES NOBLE-TECH LIBRARY

GINNY OWENS-LOGISTICS

JOE PAPCIAK-MCM SYSTEMS

CHUCK RAGAN-MK 60

TAPS



Since our last newsletter we have learned of the following members and friends that have passed away. The membership of the Association of Minemen wish to express their sympathy to the families of those departed loved ones who now reside with our Most Supreme Commander.

Lt. **Bob Rines**, June 27, 1996, Farmington, NH after a long battle with cancer. A memorial service was held in Farmington N.H. on June 29. A letter from his family tells us how much **Bob** enjoyed his Navy career, retiring after 22 years service. They also noted his love of golf and that he took great pleasure in teaching his golf skills to his grandchildren (as soon as they could walk). Many of us remember **Bob** from the old Minecraft Base at the foot of Calhoun Street in Charleston where he used to cut hair in the mine shop during lunch hour.

June Smoot - Newport News VA July 5, 1996 after a long illness. June was the wife of Past President **Jack Smoot**. She was born on the Naval Mine Depot in Yorktown, now the Naval Weapons Station. She retired from the base in 1985 after 30 years of service where she had been the secretary to many Commanding Officers. Memorials may be made to the York County Fire and Rescue Squad, c/o Department of Public Safety, P.O. Box 532, 126 Ballard St., Yorktown, VA 23692.

MNC Charlie Hunt - Charleston, S.C. August 4, 1996, suddenly, at home from a heart attack. MOMAG Unit 11 provided pallbearers in Charleston at the funeral service. The Charleston Minemen turned out in large numbers to honor their

shipmate. Internment was in Beaufort National Cemetery with full military honors provided by the U.S. Marine Corps. **Charlie** will always be remembered as one who was always cheerful and had the ability to pass it on to others. He was one of the early workers on the USS Yorktown Mine Museum.

Calvin Williams, Nicholasville, KY August 4, 1996, after a long illness. Brother of member Henry Williams.

A reminder. Please inform the Secretary as soon as you know of the death of any of our members, any Mineman and family members. If we know in time we can respond with a remembrance at the service.

Order your Association of Minemen History Book by contacting the Secretary / Treasurer

(the printing order goes in soon)

Recycle old mines

Frank Gregory The Foc'sle 8/9/96

Editors note: **Frank** has submitted many mine-related interesting stories to The Dashpot for our use. We will try to squeeze and condense them as space permits.

Recent history has brought mining and mine countermeasures to the forefront. Unless quickly identified and cleared or neutralized mines can seriously delay amphibious landings, close harbors delaying resupply efforts, take ships out of action and endanger lives. The rudimentary contact mine, costing a few hundreds to a few thousand dollars can wreck havoc on an amphibious fleet. By their simplicity, these mines complicate hunting and sweeping technology designed to work against more sophisticated weapons. We were reminded that our modern countermeasures needed to include the "old contact mine"

The old MK 6 sweep mine was the answer. Two major problems were encountered. Experience levels in these mines was minimal and hardware non-existent.

Dave Bucher, Mine Fleet Support

Association Logo Paraphernalia (shirts, hats, tie tac, sweat shirts, jackets etc available. For order blank & prices Contact Lyal Stryker (address P2)

**NEXT
ARTICLE DUE
DATE
DECEMBER 10
1996**

Branch at CSS said mine cases were sold to a junk dealer in Nevada who was approached and sold them back to the government. Personnel knowledgeable were found in the senior enlisted force and civilian engineers, some retired, who were involved in various stages of early MK 6 development and use.

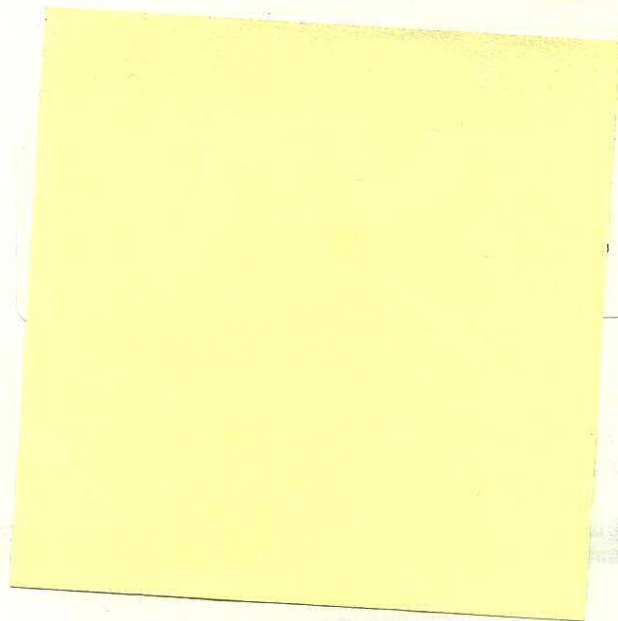
A new deployment system had to be developed as today's surface platforms do not look anything like those of the W.W.II era. Old drawings and manuals were consulted, retirees and senior enlisted personnel made recommendations of how to adapt old deployment tactics and equipment to current needs and the result was both the development of a portable rail system to deploy mines, and modification of crane launching techniques to be used when rails were not available. Thanks to the durability of the MK 6 and the men and women who were experienced with them, our modern MCM forces now have an accurate shape to train against. The old MK 6 mines had not died -- they were "recalled to active duty"

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I wish to join the Association of Minemen and include payment of \$10.00 membership fee (plus \$5.00 initiation fee).

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/CIV. TITLE _____

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NOTICE !!! To maintain membership, dues of \$10.00 must be paid annually by the month of August.