

THE DASH POT

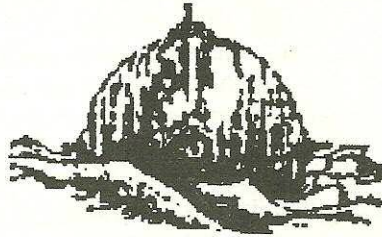
Issue 18

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

SUMMER 1997

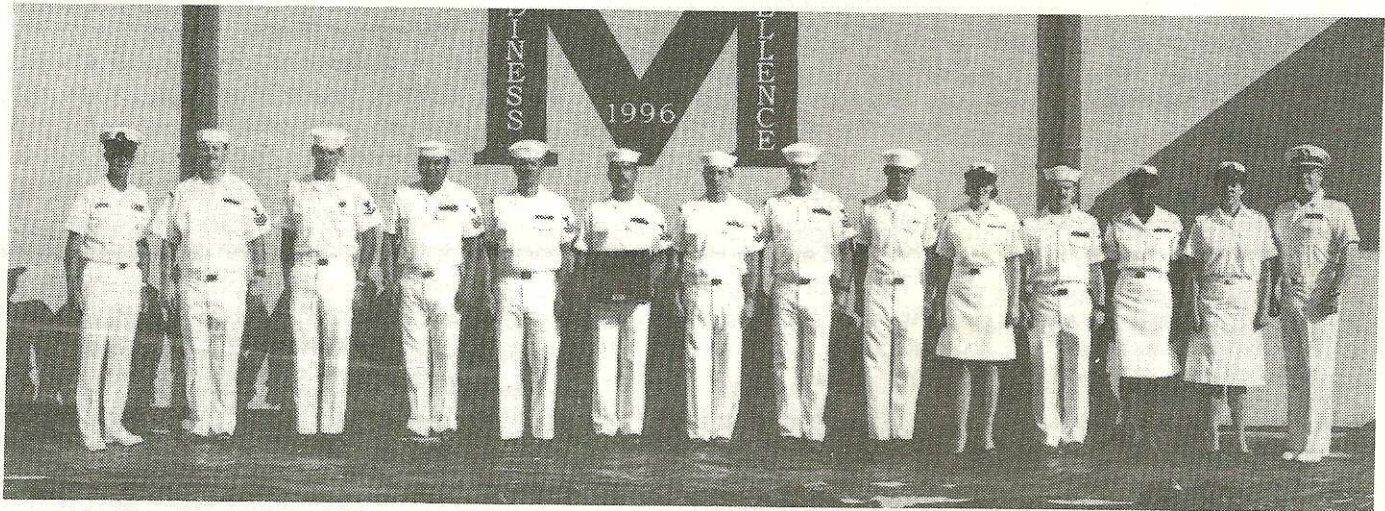
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Come one, come all. We are only a few weeks away from our 23rd Annual Association of Minemen (AOM) reunion, August 8 - 10 1997, at the Handlery Hotel and



AOM

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



resort in San Diego, CA. Things are falling into place and shaping up quickly for what should be very memorable and enjoyable gathering for all involved. I want to sincerely thank **Jim Miller, Jerry Chipman, Bill Bash** and **John Iwaneic** and the many other AOM members who have been working diligently behind the scenes to make our reunion truly one to be at; whether by yourself or as a family. There are plenty of activities for one and all in San Diego and

Please See **President** Page 2

INDEX

Committee Reports	3
Full Force News	4
Museum	3
Scholarship	3
Secretary's Report	2
Taps	11

MOMAD SEVEN wins 1996 M Award

Left to right **MNCS D Baldwin, MN1 R P Morrison, MN3 T J Sorenson, YN1 W Pedro, MN2 T K Ward, MN2 R W Dunbar, MN3 R A Childers, MN1 B L Allston, MNSN C J Adsit, MN3 A A Miller, MN2 T H Lavake, MN2 P S Smith, MN3 N L Faill** and **CWO3 G W Riggins (OIC)**

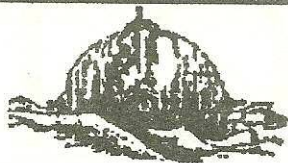
MCM Technology initiatives

NCCS Minewarnews

According to the unclassified *United States Mine Warfare Plan*, the thrust of the current plan is to develop technology to enhance clandestine reconnaissance and in-stride clearance in amphibious operations. Developing technologies to detect, classify, and identify mines in shallow and very shallow water. Develop high resolution acoustic and non-acoustic sensors compatible with this harsh environment and integrate those sensors for simultaneous

operation in a small underwater vehicle. Develop and integrate sensor and signal processing software to facilitate detection, classification, and identification of mines. Assess the technology of in-stride mine neutralization concepts eliminating mines prior to an assault.

Develop underwater MCM sensors and signal processors to detect and classify moored and proud bottom mines demonstrating long range minehunting sensors compatible with remotely or unmanned underwater vehicles.



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.

PRESIDENT

Warren Savage (95-98)
10331 Settle Road
Santee, CA 92071
(619) 258-1478
FAX (619) 258-0652

VICE PRESIDENT

Joe A. Balderrama (95-98)
1417 Sadler Drive #236
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 910-1882 (cel)

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Lyal M. Stryker (96-97)
8517 Deerwood Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406-9713
(803) 553-1450
FAX 803-569-6913

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William L. Carlson (95-98)
1925 Pilgrim Ave
Bronx, NY 10461
L. R. (Bob) Forbes (96-99)
1 Newark Ave
Goose Creek, SC 29445
John F. Loonam (94-97)
10033 Indian Rd
Gloucester, VA 23061-2830
William A. Roberts (94-97)
687 Aleida Dr
St Augustine, FL 32086
Horace L. (Buddy) Stewart (96-99)
4628 Yardley Drive
Charleston SC 29405
CDR Ron Swart (95-98)
5125 Cavendish Dr
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
PARLIMENTARIAN (96-97)
Donald A. Decrona
2320 Wide Horizon Dr.
Reno, NV 89509-5079
NEWSLETTER EDITOR (96-97)
John Loonam
10033 Indian Rd
Gloucester VA 23061-2830
(804) 693-2094 Phone/FAX
(9AM-11PM)

President from Page 1
especially using the Handlery Hotel and Resort as our home base.

We are honored to have as our guest speaker, Vice Admiral **Alexander J Krekich**; Commander, Naval Surface Force, Pacific Fleet. Vice Admiral Krekich was born in Passaic, New Jersey, and graduated from the Naval Academy in June 1964 and served on many sea duty assignments as well as shore activities. Vice Admiral Krekich was promoted to flag rank in 1992.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort is located at 950 Hotel Circle North in the center of the city of San Diego. Minutes from all places of interest, the phone number of the Handlery is 1-800-676-6567 or 1-619-298-0511 fax 1-619-298-9793.

Anyone requiring transportation to and from the hotel and airport will find it provided free via Cloud 9 Shuttle compliments of the Handlery. Just tell the Cloud 9 shuttle you are with the AOM and your ride will be FREE.

Those of us flying will find that US Airways (US Air) is offering special discount to travel to and from San Diego and any city they service. Refer to AOM gold file number 28620170. (valid between August 5 and 13, Call 1-800-334-8644 0800 - 2100 Eastern Time.

I would like to encourage all AOM members to attend the 23rd AOM Reunion and look forward to a Great time. We will be discussing the state of the Mine Force and provide an update on some of the short and long term plans for the force as well as the Mineman (MN) rate in particular. The reunion is a great opportunity to "RELIVE" and discuss fond memories of the past.

We have 70 blocked rooms at our group rate and spaces prior 7 July by calling 1-800-676-6567. King and Queen rooms are available. The \$69. rate includes taxes, complimentary breakfast, use of swimming and tennis facilities and our hosted reception.

I am looking forward to a great time. The Reunion Committee will be on

hand to greet you all. Please take time to look over the 23rd AOM Reunion Program.

Best wishes to all - see you in Sunny San Diego, "Always in Season"

FROM THE SECRETARY



Received the first reunion registration from **Fred Dane** in California who picked it off the AOM web page. Also received the first membership application

using the web page form from **Andy Johnson** in Burlingame California. Ex MN2 1996-70 and attended MN "A" School 1966-67.

Just a reminder that dues for the coming Association year are due August 1, 1997 if your mailing label does not show 1998 or higher on the top line. Dues can be paid up to a maximum of five years in advance. Hope to see all of you at the San Diego reunion. That's all for now, if I don't get this off to our Editor **John Loonam** then it will be early for the next issue.

New Building at NCCS

CSS Minewarnews

The new Mine Warfare Research and Development Facility provides permanent quarters for 50 engineers and specialists previously scattered throughout NCSS in temporary quarters after arrival here from NMWEA, Yorktown. The massive 30,000 square foot two-story building will be used for environmental, vibration and materials testing. Included are two air guns used to simulate impact on electronic hardware destined for the fleet. Completed in just 15 months at a cost of \$3.2 million, the building was completed on schedule and within budget. According to Life Cycle Management Division Head, Doug Clark, "The opening will improve our efficiency and ability to interact as a team. Designed primarily to house test equipment, the second floor contains office space and related

Committee Reports

History

Lyal Stryker

Thanks to all of you that answered the final call for inputs to the History Book. As you read this issue of the Dashpot the final manuscripts are in the hands of the publisher. This was the hardest part of this project, getting people to submit information about their personal experiences and editing all of it to conform to the History Book format. They will typeset the information and return the manuscript material to us for proofing. We will then select photographs and other material to be placed within the typeset pages. It is still not too late to submit photographs for inclusion in the History Book if you want to. Yes, we have been working on this History Book for too long and we offer our apologies to those that have waited so long and have become impatient. We do believe however when you see the book you will agree the wait was worth it. We have many one of a kind photographs going back to World War I and many from World War II. It is interesting to note that only two people have requested a refund for the History Book. We are convinced that this project is worthwhile and if we did not do it no one else would!

Scholarship

Lyal Stryker

Due to your generosity throughout the year and at the picnic auction last year we were able to again award five \$500.00 scholarship assistance grants to our members families. This year we have received six requests, the largest number to date. In this issue is the registration form for the San Diego reunion in August. When

you send in your registration/dues, please be generous to the scholarship fund so we will be able to award all six. THANKS! And for all you beautiful people that donate great items for the auction, THANK YOU for your past donations and we hope you will donate again for this year. If you are unable to attend the reunion/auction you can send them to our President Warren Savage at the address on the inside front cover of this Dashpot.

Museum

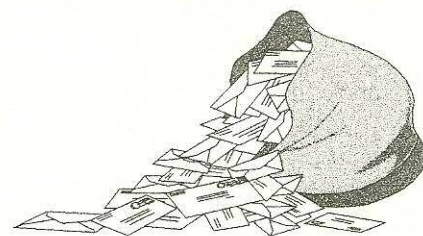
Toby Horn

AOM NJROTC Awards

On Tuesday 6 May, Toby Horn represented the AOM at the annual awards ceremony for the Walterboro, SC High School Navy JROTC Unit. He presented the AOM sponsored Freshman Leadership Award and Medal to a young cadet, **Ahmad Garrett** who had to meet the criteria of good academic standing - be of high moral character - evidence of a high order of loyalty to the unit, school and community - demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership - and to be evaluated as the most improved Naval Science I cadet. **Toby** had the opportunity to address the Unit of almost 200 cadets and their parents and friends in the audience. He stated how great it was to see so many young men and women involved in the program; acknowledged their hard work and study which brings them into contact with much that their school, community, state and nation stand for; stated our pride in their achievements and complimented the Unit officers of a sharp and smart looking crew. Our own Senior Chief **Rick Spofford** is the Associate NS Instructor for the Unit and members of the Unit support our museum work each spring aboard USS Yorktown.

Mailbag

Lyal Stryker



Following are abbreviated notes received from members when sending in their dues, orders, etc.

Bruce Swenson sent in a contribution to the scholarship fund along with two years dues. Said he likes the section called "Minemen on the Net" and hopes it expands in future issues. Knows of other Minemen on the net that are not listed. NOTE: Anyone wanting to be listed should send the information to our Editor **John Loonam** who will list it one time in the Dashpot. Bruce also checked out the AOM home page and thinks it is going to be an outstanding web site when all is said and done.

Received a note from **Nat Lewis** in Williamsburg, Virginia (ex NMEF Department Head) when he sent in his dues. Asked to be remembered to everyone.

Joergen Lorenzen, CDR Royal Danish Navy, (RET) and Honorary Mineman has sent in his reunion registration and will look forward to seeing many of his old friends in San Diego.

LCDR **John Iwaniec**, USN Commanding Officer MOMAU Seal Beach, California wrote us a nice letter and noted that **Ed Hutsell** visited him recently and they had a fantastic time in Mexico spear fishing. John says all is going well at the mine shop (see UNIT 1 Report). John is helping with the San Diego reunion arrangements and is looking forward to seeing all of you there. Sent his E mail address and asked for mine. (Unfortunately I do not have one yet but hope to get up and Please see Mailbag Page 10

■ FULL FORCE NEWS



COMOMAG

CDR Ron Swart

This is my final DASHPOT update while serving as CSO of COMOMAG, as I am being relieved by LCDR Terry Auberry, effective 1 June. I will assume my new duties at COMINEWARCOM in the newly established Readiness, Requirements and Tactics Department (N8). The exact nature of my new assignment has not been fleshed out yet, but I expect to be up to my ears in MCM tactical analysis, MIREM (a minewarfare analysis exercise program) and future requirements of all kinds for the Mine Warfare forces. Right now, I'm concentrating on the Mine Warfare Forces reorganization.

● We had one E-8 and one E-9 Mineman on the promotion list this year. Congratulations to MNCS Ron Sinclair of FTSCCLANT Det Ingleside and MNCM Bob Bainbridge, stationed at CCS Panama City in their Fleet Liaison Department. Discussions with the Mineman Detailer, MNCS Darnold and COMOMAG CSO, LCDR Terry Auberry, indicate that the promotion opportunities will definitely open as senior sea billets convert to Mineman in '98 and '99. The decision to convert these important sea billets last was made to ensure that the MCM and Mining communities maintained senior leadership and expertise as the sailors on both sides of the rating find their bearings.

● Petty Officer selectees from the March '87 exam are as follows:

● MN1-Martin Beil, Gary Christmas

● MN2 - Joseph Baney, Shawn

Gary, Brian Koop, Livingston Merzier

● MN3 - Chad Adsit, Laura Arthur, Demetrius O'Halloran, Jeff Pate, Phillip Phillips, Richard Lessor, Sharon Schneider.

Congratulations and Well Done!!!

● The MN rating expansion goes well. Recent surveys and informal discussions indicate that there are a lot of very sharp sailors who call themselves "Minemen", both at sea and in the mine shop. The five year plan is on track and is thus far a success.

● RADM

Conley, COMINEWARCOM, assisted by Captain Bill Shannon (N8), presented the reorganization of MINEWARCOM on 27 May, to subordinate commands, ships and waterfront activities. The big

personnel shift became reality on 1 June and the process of moving and converting billets is underway. As I had mentioned previously, this is a comprehensive change that will form up a Readiness, Requirements and Tactics Department and create a third Mine Countermeasures Squadron.

● The COMINEWARINSGRU has stood down and was disestablished 30 May 1997 in a ceremony held on the former USS Lexington, Captain Mike Trudell, the last INSGRU Skipper, presented a plaque with the names of every CO since establishment in July 1975. Captain Trudell retired from active duty at the same ceremony. A noteworthy person in attendance (among a capacity crowd of active duty and civilian Mine Warfare professionals) was INSGRU Plank Owner Mr. (LCDR) Dave Belton who will soon retire for a second time as a support contractor to COMINEWARCOM, and return to South Carolina join his wife Molly. By this fall, INSGRU billets will be used to form the third Mine Countermeasures Squadron and the inspection of various Mine Warfare Missions will be accomplished by the appropriate "Type Commander".

● COMOMAG will be undergoing some leadership changes in the

coming year as Commanding Officers transfer to their new assignments. These LDO 6160s will move something like this: LT. Tom Mathison from MINEWARTRACEN (MWTC), Ingleside to CO, MOMAU 3, Colts Neck. LT. Coral MacIntosh from COMINWARINSGRU to MWTC as Mineman "A" and "C" school Director. LT. Sandra Downing transfers from CCS Panama City to CO MOMAU 15 Kingsville. LT. Keith Nesmith will role out of his job at COMOMAG and will fly out west to Guam as CO Unit 8. LCDR Tim Patton returns from Unit 8 and assumes duties as Head, Minefield Planning and Requirements Department (N5) on COMOMAG staff. LT. Theresa Wright is on her way to take on the job of XO at MOMAU 10 Kadena under the command of LT. Mike Ledbetter. CWO4 Joe Harris retired 13 June 97 and LT. Mike Sportelli will retire in January '98

● The Minewarfare exhibit aboard the former USS Lexington, here in Corpus Christi, is progressing nicely. However, it is summer time and that means it is HOT here in South Texas. We need \$10K to install air conditioning in the mess deck spaces where the exhibit will be on display. The original plan was to open the weekend of the 4th of July, but without A/C it will be impossible. The AOM itself, isn't rich enough to fund such a large amount, so I expect to hold a series of fund raisers and donation drives this Summer to help out. If you're interested, address ideas and donations (earmarked Lexington) to the AOM for what should prove to be an excellent exhibit, complementing what has already been accomplished on the former USS Yorktown.

● A *Heartfelt Thank You* goes out to HT3 Jeffery Boland, HT3 Robert Thompson of SIMA Ingleside and MN3 Keith Pearson of COMOMAG for their volunteer efforts on the

Please see COMOMAG Page 7

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P.O. Box 71835
CHARLESTON, SC 29415

TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL MINEMEN REUNION MEETING at SAN DIEGO

Please return this reservation form as soon as possible to the address above to expedite your registration for reunion events. Your tickets will be made available at the Early Bird, General Business Meeting, Dinner and Picnic.

Name: _____ Member# _____

Address: _____ City _____ State: _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone No. _____ - _____ - _____ (for last minute notification)

Dinner Tickets @ \$25.00 Ea _____ X \$25.00 (CASUAL) \$ _____

Picnic Tickets @ \$8.00 Ea _____ X \$8.00
(13 years and up) \$ _____

Picnic Tickets @ \$4.50 Ea _____ X \$4.50
(8 to 12 years -- 7 or under are free) \$ _____

Annual Dues (\$10.00 as applicable to update, advance 5 Years max) \$ _____

USS Yorktown Mine Museum Donation \$ _____

USS Lexington Mine Museum Donation \$ _____

AOM Scholarship Fund Donation \$ _____

Number of Children 7 or Under at Picnic _____

Please indicate number of children 7 or under so we can plan picnic details

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____

We must guarantee numbers for dinner no later than the morning of 5 August therefore **no refunds after 4 August 1997**

The picnic will be standard "picnic stuff", hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. with all the trimmings plus cold refreshments for all.

Tenative Program

Host Hotel is the Handlery Hotel and resort located at 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. Toll free number is 1-800-676-6567. For use 8:AM to 5:PM (pacific time). Commercial 1-619-298-0511 anytime. Rooms \$69. single or double up to 2 persons. Continental Breakfast per room. Free Transportation to and from Airport by Cloud 9 provided by the Handlery. mention AOM when booking rooms.

Golf: Pre-Registration \$2.00 9 July after 1 Aug pay in full. 0700 Tee Time cost \$23.00 includes cart. Golf Shop (619) 556-5520 Starter (619-556-5521) mention AOM

The Picnic will be standard picnic stuff Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, etc. with all the trimmings plus cold refreshments for all.

8 AUG Golf available today

1600-2200 Early Bird, welcome reception pick up tickets, snacks, hors d'ouvres courtesy of AOM

Hotel resturant open for menu orders.

1900-2100 Board of Directors meet (tentative)

9 AUG 0700 Golf Tournament

1000-1200 Board Meet (Alternate)

1400-1600 Gen Membership Meet in Conf Rm elect 2 Directors J. Loonam & B. Roberts term expires

1800-1900 Cocktails No-Host

1900-2000 Dinner

2000 Guest Speaker (Approx)

10 AUG 1130 Picnic Admiral Baker Park

Auction Auction Auction

US Airways (formerly US Air) is the official carrier for the AOM 23rd annual reunion.

Discounts are offered are 5% first class and 10% unrestricted coach fares. Valid August 5-13 1997.

Call the Meeting and Convention Reservation Office at (800) 344-8644 8:AM to 9:PM Eastern Time. Refer to Gold File 28620170

Points of contact for the Reunion:

Jim Miller 619-695-1289 (H) 619-695-7112 (W) 3-11 PM Pacific (calls welcome)

Bill Bash 619-424-9417

Jerry Chipman 619-421-6609

COMSERVPAC to Speak

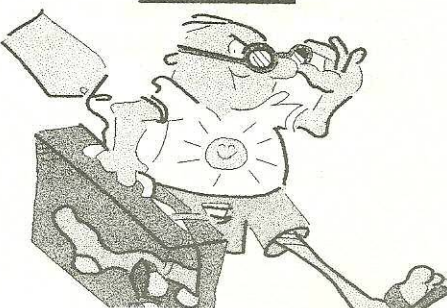
Vice Admiral Alexander J. Krekich, Commander, Naval Surface Force, Pacific will deliver the keynote speech at our annual reunion in San Diego. A Native of Passaic, NJ Admiral Krekich gradated from the Naval Academy in 1964.

Sea duty tours included USS Warrington DD 843, USS Davis DD 937, USS John King DDG3, USS Ainsworth FF 1090, CO, USS Belknap CG 26, Chief of staff to Commander Second Fleet and Da Nang with Coastal Division 12 as OinC of a swift boat.

Shore duty included tours at Bupers, COMSURFLANT, Deputy CNO for Surface Warfare and

Executive assistant to Vice CNO.

Promoted to Flag Rank in February 1992 his assignments included Deputy Director for Strategy and Policy on the Joint Staff, Commander George Washington Battle Group and Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Two. His previous assignment was Director of Surface Warfare on the staff of CNO.



Casual attire for the Dinner please

Wpnsta Yorktown hit again

Daily Press 3/20/97

Latest cut-backs at NWS Yorktown drop 186 jobs from the current 500 man civilian work force. Military personnel number around 300. Another 420 civilians and 500 military work at tennant commands. Some of the losses are at Naval Ordnance Centers (NOC) Atlantic command occupying the new NMWEA building. They have reorganized and are now known as a Lead Weapons Support Facility combining efforts for Yorktown, Earl and Charleston's Weapons Stations. In the 1970's Yorktown had a high of 2700 workers.

COMOMAG from Page 4

Lexington. With their "plasma" cutting rig, they were able to cut away mounting supports on the mess deck in two days that would have normally taken over two weeks with a grinder and cutting touch. It is efforts like this that has made this whole project a Mine Warfare community effort we can all be proud of.

I'll continue to contribute to the DASHPOT from my new position at COMINWARCOM. I'm certain that LCDR Terry Auberry and Master Chief Wayne "Arnie" Helgersen will keep readers up to speed on

MOMAU 1

LCDR John Iwaniec

Well these last couple of weeks have been busy ones, we just completed our Versatile Exercise Mine (VEMS) (FIAT) and built our first four Submarine Launch Mobile Mine (SLMM)s for a June shoot from the USS Pogy (SSN 647). The VEMS will be utilized in the Colonel Blitz Exercise coming up in June as well. MN2 Becker and MN3 Geisler are our SLMM experts, We'll know for sure after the exercise... We also completed the first phase of the Mine MK 65 interface with the B1-b, MNCM (SW) Zinnel finally got a chance to go TAD on that one. MNCS Williams and MNC McGinn have been staying busy with the Quickstrike MK 62 plants with the B1-b. Our new refurb Equipment is going much slower than we anticipated, the base has just downsized again, another 80 personnel so the response time for work requests has increased dramatically.

The entire crew participated in Earth Day by mustering at Seal Beach and picking up trash, the new TV series *Sunset Beach* was in the process of filming and some of our more zealous trash picker got carried away looking at the sweeties and wondered onto the film and had to be ordered off the set, typical Minemen...

Most of the crew have moved out of Navy Housing at Los Alamitos which is closed and into new quarters at

Seal Beach. All future personnel with assignments here will be happy with the housing right outside the gate. Half the units will be 4 bedroom.

Some other news; MN3s Gamache Ellis and Poulsen have separated from the navy to further / continue their education

MN3 Geisler received his first Navy Achievement Medal (NAM) for the outstanding job he has been doing with SLMM. He was able to get all our "hanger queens" tested and managed to get some critical changes to the SLMM pub.

SSOQ is MN2 Becker and JSOQ is MN3 Burroughs.

MN1 Ciccarello checked aboard from Unit Five is filling the Deck Supervisor slot. He received the NAM for his outstanding performance while in sunny Sigonella.

SK1 (SW) Townsend transferred to USS Stethem (DDG 63) after receiving the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal for the terrific job he did here at Unit One. MN2 Merzier transferred to Unit Eight taking my advice to stay in the Navy rather than go to work for Home Depot.

We are proud to announce MN3 Baney will soon advance to MN2. he is taking college courses to get his ASVAB scores up to realize his dream to become a Navy Seal.

That's it for now gotta make sure I make the deadline for articles submitted.

MOMAU 5

By YN1 (SW) James G Keith

Awards presented over the past couple of months:

Navy Commendation Medal:

MNC Robert E Kessel

MNC Kevin B King

Navy Achievement Medal:

MN2 Robert S Hillerich

Letter of Commendation:

MN2 Jeffery E Wirth SSOQ

MNSA Russel J Fels JSOQ

MNCS Bruce A Howard

YN1 (SW) James G Keith

Advancements to MN3:

MN3 Bert A Henry

MN3 Wendy R Sims

Selectees for MN3:

MNSN Erik C McKnight

MNSN Gavonni M Johnson

MNSN Demetrius S O'Halloran

MNSN Laura S Arthur

Departures:

MNC Kevin B King to

COMREGSUPGRU Ingleside

MN2 Robert S Hillerich to EOD School

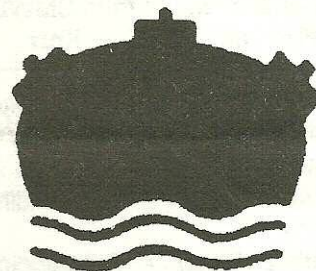
Arrival:

MN1 (SW) John J Wolfe from MN 'A' school

Retirement:

MNC Robert E Kessel

The entire crew awarded Letter of Commendation for successful completion of May MRCI and proudly announce 100% weapon reliability.



MOMAU 10

By MN2 Ramsey

Exercises: Cobra Gold 97 (Thailand), Carat Thi 97 (Thailand), Mercury 97 (Singapore) Minex 97 2JA (Japan)
Inspections: Our AV will be in September and despite manning shortages we will show that we are still OUTSTANDING!

Advancements: MNSN Pate to MN3

Arrivals: XO LT. Theresa Wright from COMOMAG, SK1 Payawal, and MNSR Hudson from MWTC, SK1 Carzell Thomas from USS Mount Vernon,

Departures: MN1 Jody R Hill will retire 31 Aug. and plans to link up with old Minemen Henry and Siegel for a hunting excursion in the Great North, MNSN Justin Socoy to civilian life.

Please see Full Force Page 8

Full Force from Page 7

MOMAU 11

By Chief A. Gordon

Awards: Navy Commendation

Medal:

MN2 Doerr upon retirement

Navy Achievement Medal:

MN2 Cammack, MN2 Evanoff, MN2

Venczel, MNSN Kinzie

Good Conduct Medal:

MNCS Dearing, MN2 Collins, MN2

Evanoff, MN3 Cox

NATO Medal:

MN1 Chitwood, MN1 Hubbard,

MN1 Parker, MN2 Becker, MN2 Biel,

MN2 Braham, MN2 Brashier, MN2

Cammack, MN2 Chitwood, MN2

Morehouse, MN2 Swift, MN2

Venczel, MN3 Senseney for service

with NATO on operations in relation

to former Yugoslavia

Letter of Commendation from CMWC:

MN3 Kwekel, MN3 Kerr -

outstanding performance

YN1 Bevis for SSOQ, MN3 Kwekel

for JSOQ

YN3 Campbell for end-of-tour

MN1 Faulkner - outstanding

performance

Mrs. Debbie Doerr - Outstanding

Ombudsman

YN1 Bevis, MN3 Nolen, MN3

Raphael, MN3 Gilliland - Outstanding

Physical Readiness Test (PRT)

MNC Wright, SK2 Smeltzer, MN2

Biel, MN2 Chitwood, MN3

Anderson, MN3 Kwekel - Personnel

Consecutive Outstandings on PRT

SKCS Williams, MN2 Braham, MN3

Nolen, MN3 Gilliland - Significant

improvement on PRT

Certificate of appreciation:

MN2 Chitwood, MN2 Wilbanks and

MN2 Venczel - NJROTC Walterboro

High School

Letter of Appreciation:

MN1 Chitwood, MN2 Venczel - St.

Andrews Parish High School, MN1

Parker, MN1 Taylor, MN2 Santel for

outstanding Reserve Affairs

Coordinator

Nominated for 1997 Federal

Employee of the Year:

MN1 Robertson, MN2 Venczel,

SK2 Smeltzer

Advancements:

MN2 Biel frocked to MN1

MNSN Kinzie selected for MN3

Retirement:

MOMAU 14

By MNC Leeann Baker

Greetings from historic Yorktown.

We have started to lay-up some

CAPTOR mines. The lay-up

configuration removes the torpedo

and other selected components. A

number of lay-up CAPTORs may be

used as part of the development effort

for the Littoral Sea Mine (LSM). Use

of Captor components in the LSM

program will greatly reduce the cost

of development and production of the

new mine.

Personnel actions:

SSOQ MN1 John A Pendleton

JSOQ MN3 Martha Liu

NATO Medal

MN1 Barbara L Davies

MN2 David Higgs

MN2 Patrick W Rickaby

MN3 Martin W Clebowicz

MN3 Robert J Powers

Good Conduct Medal

MN3 Gregory W Flowers (2nd)

MN2 Joseph K Kirker III (2nd)

MN1 Timothy D Lowder (3rd)

SK1 William T White III (4th)

Letter of Commendation from

Recruiting Commander Area Three,

Jacksonville and Chief of Naval

Personnel

MNC Leeann Baker

Navy and Marine Corps

Achievement Medal (4th) from Navy

Recruiting Command, Jacksonville

MNC Leeann Baker

Advancement:

To MN3, MNSN Shawn T Lessor

Separations: MN3 Tracy A Kelly to

Spokane, WA and MN3 Gregory W

Flowers to Raleigh, NC

Reenlistment

MN3 Martin W Clebowicz

MOMAU 15

By MNCS Clint Chacanaca

Howdy from MOMAU 15 to all our

shipmates and friends around the

world. In March we had our ESI and

passed with flying colors. GOMEX-

97-2 was a big success with the

VEMS MK 74-1. The mine museum

is coming along great on the USS

Lexington even though there will be a

delay in the opening due to a lack of

funds for air conditioning. In May, I

had the opportunity to participate in a

research and development project at

the HI - TEST laboratories in Arvonja,

VA with BB&N Company and High

Tech Company for tests on

neutralizing mines with a shock wave.

MOMAU 15 provided the MK 6 Mines

and the results were amazing to say

the least to see what a shock wave

will do to a mine. (They offered to let

us have the mines back, but I let them

keep them for souvenirs because I

couldn't see any use for PANCAKE

MINES!!!). We are preparing for

CWO4 Harris' retirement Friday 14

June and we just held our change of

command where LT. Davis took over

as Commanding Officer until LT.

Downing arrives from CCS Panama

City in October.

We had three sailors pick up rate;

MN2 (AW) Christmas is putting on

First Class and MNSN Gonzalez is

putting on Third Class from the most

recent exam and MNSN Angle is

being advanced to Third Class for his

outstanding achievement in MN "A"

school as the top student.

Congratulations to all.

Medals:

NAM YN3 Christian Martinez

Good Conduct: MN1 (AW) Hickman

SSOQ MN2 (AW) James East

JSOQ MNSA Gregory Reeves

Arrivals:

YN3 Martinez from USS Saipan

MN1 (SW) Theodore Arcand from

USS Champion

MN2 James Grant from HM-14

Departures:

MN1 King to Unit 1

MN3 Sheena Thetford to NAS

Please see MOMAU 15 Page 10

Navsea Engineer of the Year Selectee

Coastal Courier May 9'97

Chris Doyal of NCSS was selected as the Navsea Field Activity Engineer of the year award. Mr. Doyal, a mechanical engineer has been working on the Shallow Water Assault Breaching System (SABRE), a rocket deployed underwater linear charge, a sea based device to support "Forward from the Sea" and Operational Maneuver from "Over the Horizon" concepts. It has become the first shallow water mine countermeasures project to successfully complete a Navy decision Meeting chaired by the Program Executive Office for Mine warfare.

Engineers solve problem

Frank Gregory NCCS

Two NCSS engineers, **Gary Woodington**, and **Darryl Updegrave**, were assigned to assist an MHC in winch assembly problems with their umbilical cable handling system. Orientation during placement of two vent valves was determined to be the cause. Technical manuals are being updated and the problem resolved. Using "hands on" examination and detailed study, CSS engineers were able to quickly isolate the problem, find a solution, and ensure the ships equipment was put back into operation.

USS Cormorant MHC 57 Commissioned

Foc'sle 25 Apr '97

The USS Cormorant MHC 57 was commissioned April 12th at Harbor Island, Tampa, FL and arrived in Ingleside May 13th. MN2 **Rick Custis** was pictured with his own family welcoming committee. Cormorant is the seventh of 12 Osprey class ships to be built. These ships are responsible for performing reconnaissance, classification and neutralization of moored and bottom mines in coastal waterways. They

have high definition, variable depth sonar and a remotely-operated robotic submarine used to neutralize mines.

Installation Excellence

Naval Station Ingleside was selected as the Commander-in-Chief's award for Installation Excellence.

Short takes from various The Foc'sle.

Bravo Zulu to MNCS (SW) **John E Babcock**, Afloat Training Group Ingleside on his Good Conduct Medal (fifth).

MN2 (SW) **Terry Hoekman** was pictured participating with NavSta Ingleside's color guard during Navy Day festivities.

MN2 **Dennis Moxley** was pictured as part of a group of Ingleside sailors volunteering to help the Texas State Aquarium lower their 18 by 28 foot shark touch tank to make it more accessible and safer for children to view the sea life.

MN3 **Brad Potts** was recognized for his Tiger team efforts on Rotational Crew Bravo's PQS and watchbill system.

MN3 **Chad Payne** MWTC student was pictured reenlisting and receiving a bonus check for \$14,000, after "C" school **Payne** will be assigned to MOMAU 11.

MN3 **Victor Ortiz**, Rotational crew Charlie was pictured in the personal comment section, Mindsweep, saying he would spend the summer enjoying the sun at Ingleside.

MN1 **Rita Nicely** was pictured and featured in spotlighting the Ingleside area sailors of the year. Selected by MWTC for 1996, Petty Officer **Nicely** described her ambitions, duty assignments and favorites for the half page article.

MN1 **James Cook** was pictured fully dressed for the occasion undergoing firefighting training at the new MWTC firefighter trainer, a three story state of the art facility with 14 separate "fireplaces".

Rotational Crew Charlie members MN1 **Matthew Ringrose** and MN3

Victor Ortiz were pictured being congratulated at Ingleside's Navy Campus for their efforts in taking PACE courses.

Civic News

Lyal Stryker

This past April we participated in the annual USS Hobson (DMS 26) memorial service along with the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 50 and local VFW and American Legion Posts. Our own Vice President, **Joe Balderrama** represented us and spoke briefly during the ceremony. Guest speaker was Captain **Jim Kenney**, USN (RET) who is also an AOM member. He spoke about patriotism, honor and duty, which seems in short supply these days. The MOMAU ELEVEN Color Guard paraded the colors and they were sharp. Thanks to MN2 **Jody Wilbanks**, MN2 **Dean Venczel**, MN2 **Mitch Sullivan** and MN3 **Christopher Raffael**. Also thanks to MN2 **Ted Cammack** and MN3 **Timothy Gilliland** for escorting the veterans placing a wreath at the base of the Hobson Memorial. On another subject we want to thank MM1 (SS) **Brian K. Faulkner**, MN2 (SW) **Monty A. Thames** and MN3 **Christopher J. Raffael** from Unit Eleven for their help in removing some WWII test sets from the USS Yorktown recently. The test sets have been sent to Unit 15 and will ultimately end up in the new mine museum/display on the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi.

MOMAD 7 reports Karate champs

B. Baldwin

Detachment 7 personnel took honors in Hawaii State Karate Tournament. MN3 **Faill**, division 1st place in Kumite (fighting) and second place for Kata (forms). MN 3 **Miller**, division 1st place Kata (forms). Both are students of Hawii Okinawa Kenpo Karate-do.

Kingsville
 MN2 Williams to NavHosp Corpus Christi
 MN2 Slater to Sigonella
 MN2 Bostic to USS Pelican
 MN3 Hinton to Unit 8
 To MWTC (student)
 MN2 Elsbury
 MN2 (AW) East
 MN1 (AW) Christmas
 MN1 (AW) Hickman
 Arrivals:
 LT. Downing (CO)
 From MWTC
 MN2 Smith
 MN2 Farr
 MN1 Kumro

That's it for now, so I'll be signing off until the next Dashpot. Happy trails and best wishes to "Ya All"!!!

NR MOMAU 1

Nate Miranda

MNCM Michael J Gildersleeve retired 31 Dec 96 after 30 years service.

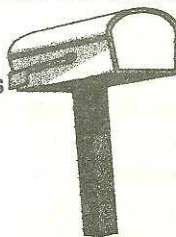
Gunners Gary L Cleland and Nathan (Nate) Miranda have been selected for CWO-4, FY97.

The Unit received REDCOM 19's small unit "Golden Anchor" award.

MN1s Carrie Williams, Vickie Woleader, Gilbert Bourgouin, and MN2s Troy Buurd and Michael Peters received Armed Forces Reserve Medal - First award (10 year).

NOTE

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



Letter and "part 2" of History of USN Mines in Vietnam received from Retired LT. "Joe" Hernandez. Dashpot dedicated most of one issue to Part 1 of Joe's story. In fairness to all contributors to the History Book, this submission is being forwarded to the History/Archives Committee for retention/consideration for the next issue of our history. For copies or comment contact the Association Secretary. Another note from "Jose" asks "Why all the fuss about changing the rules in the military about behavior? In his opinion the current rules are OK. What we need is leaders to set the example." Joe went on to quote the *fool some of the people some of the time* etc.

Received a copy of Rudy Schuetzler's "how the Destructor got started from Earl Roberts. He was forwarding it to the History Committee.

Mailbag from Page 3

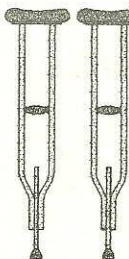
running soon.)

Leslie Ann Mehard, daughter of Bill and Emma Jane Mehard was married on April 26, 1997 to David Lee Brady. The wedding and reception was at Woodlands Resort & Inn, Summerville, South Carolina. They will live in Summerville.

Laverne Padgett was in Charleston recently to attend the high school graduation of her grandson Randy at Stratford High School in Goose Creek. She told us that the daughter of Frenchy LaFluer was recently married and after the wedding Frenchy and Helen departed on a trip to Alaska.

NEXT ARTICLE
 DUE DATE
 September 10
 1997

BINNACLE LIST



Seems like Jani Horn pulled a Clinton back in April and fell down her employers steps during a big reception. Toby Horn was laid up at the same time with knee surgery.

Toby said the sound of crutches echoed throughout the house for awhile (click-thump!, click-thump!). Heard that Moose Wheelock was up and going strong after his knee replacement surgery.

E-mail

Again my apologies for miss-typing CDR Bill Roberts E-mail address.

Bill Roberts warjar@aug.com

Thanks MN2 Ramsey for all these:

LT. Ledbetter (CO)

ledbettm@emh.kadena.af.mil

or ryukyu@kic.or.jp

LCDR John Iwaneic

spearpro@juno.com

MNC Hipp hippg@emh.kadena.af.mil

MN2 Haley haleyp@emh.kadena.mil

MN2 Ramsey ramsey@kic.or.jp

or wrestlr@hotmail.com

Coming soon MOMAU 10 home page click now on

http://www.kic.or.jp/~ramseyyb

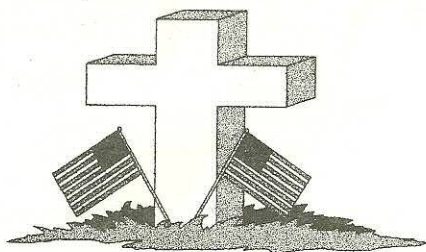
Patriots Point www.state.sc.us/patpt

Mine-stopping sound waves?

Navy Times 7 April

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is exploring development of a non-air-breathing shock wave source as a potential for mine clearance in water depths of up to 10 meters. Since the end of the cold war, mine warfare has taken on added importance as attention is shifted to coastal regions where easily mined waters could hinder amphibious operations. Ed. note. See MOMAU 15 article on tests conducted.

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.

Nora Coker - March 26, 1997 in Tankowa Oklahoma, wife of Harry Coker, Past Vice President of the AOM. We understand that Nora had been ill for some time.

Loretta Frances Krupczyk - April 3, 1997 at home in Ladson South Carolina, wife of Donald Krupczyk. Memorials may be made to the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, Greenville Unit, 950 West Faris Road, Greenville, SC 29605.

MNC Rodney M. Fair, USN (RET) at home in Gettysburg Pennsylvania from a heart attack. He retired in 1989. Survived by his wife Takako.

Haines Miller - April 22, 1997 in Palm Bay, Florida at the age of 81. He was the first and longest serving Technical Director of the Naval Mine Engineering Facility, (NMEF) Yorktown, Virginia.

Sam Reams - civilian at NMEF for many years that worked in the logistic support area.

MNC William Rufus Terry - April 16, 1997 in a Charleston Hospital. He was a mobile home park owner and manager in Summerville, South Carolina.

San Diego Bound?

If you're driving to the Handlery Hotel its located off I-8 between I-15 and I-5. This is in the vicinity of San Diego Chargers stadium.

Rotational Crews man forward deployed ships

Rotational Crews Alpha and Echo relieved Crews Charlie and Golf on USS Ardent and USS Dextrous supporting Fifth Fleet operations in the Arabian Gulf region. Deploying the crews instead of ships saves life on engines and other machinery on these countermeasures ships. The crew doesn't mind the transit by air instead of the 28 day sea voyage. After being relieved the crews return to Ingleside for post deployment stand down prior to entering their training phase.

Holy Bloopers

Thursday, at 5 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be Little Mothers, please meet with the pastor in his study.

1998 Dues are due. Send your check for \$10 to the Secretary /Treasurer. Year on your mailing label indicates dues are paid through August of that year. Dues notices are not mailed to members .

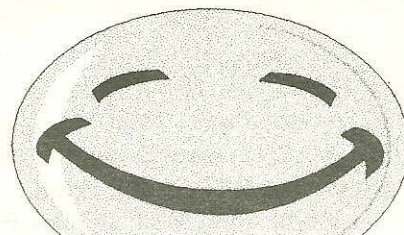
Association Logo Paraphernalia (shirts, hats, tie tac, sweat shirts, jackets etc) available. For order blank & prices Contact Lyal Stryker (address P2)

Irish Golfer

One fine day in Ireland, a guy is out golfing and gets up to the 16th hole. He tees up and cranks one. Unfortunately, it goes into the woods on the side fairway. He goes looking for his ball and comes across this little guy with a huge knot on his head, and the golf ball lying right beside him. "Goodness," says the golfer, and proceeds to revive the little guy. Upon awaking, the little guy says "Well, you caught me fair and square. I am a leprechaun. I will grant you three wishes." The man says "I can't take anything from you, I'm just glad I didn't hurt you too badly," and walks away. Watching the golfer depart, the leprechaun thinks to himself, "Well, he was a nice enough guy, and he did catch me, so I have to do something for him. I'll give him the three things that I would want. I'll give him unlimited money, a great golf game, and a great sex life." Well a year goes by and the same golfer is out golfing on the same course at the 16th hole. He gets up and hits one into the same woods and goes off looking for his ball. When he finds the ball he sees the same little guy and asks how he is doing. The leprechaun says "I'm fine, might I ask how your golf game is?" "It's great! I hit under par every time." "I did that for you. And might I ask how your money is holding out?" The golfer says "Well, now that you mention it, every time I put my hand in my pocket, I pull out a hundred dollar bill." "I did it for you. And might I ask how your sex life is?" The golfer looked at him a little shyly and says, "Well maybe once or twice a week." The leprechaun is floored and stammers, "Once or twice a week?" "Well, that's not too bad for a Catholic priest in a small parish.

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

(the printing order goes in soon)



Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 71835
Charleston, SC 29415-1835

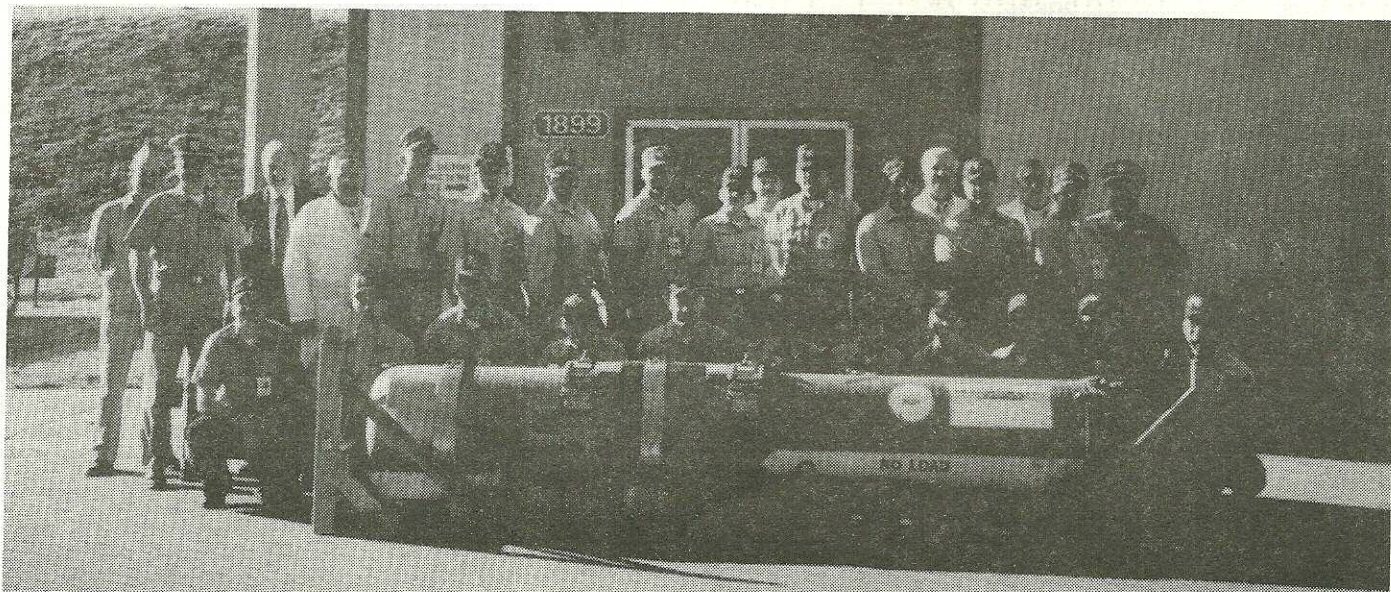
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charleston SC
NO. 270

ASSOCIATION of MINEMEN

1975—22 YEARS—1997

CHARLESTON SC

San Diego, California
AUG 8-10 '97
Reservation Form Inside



MOMAU 14 personnel, located in Yorktown, VA, pose with the first Mine MK 60 (CAPTOR) to be layed-up and stored at Hawthorne, NV. Pictured are: (back row left to right) MNCS (SW) Michael D Campbell, LT. Kenneth R Allen (CO), Gill Firth, John Holland, MN2 Thomas S Suchodolski, MN2 Joseph K Kirker, MN1 David A VanEtten, MN1 Timothy D Lowder, MN2 Andrea L Edwards, SK1 William T White, MN2 David J Higgs, MN2 Mark Sloan, Joe Bell, MN2 Patrick Rickaby, Chuck Regan, MN3 Gerald L Crain, LT. Carlon J Cubbedge (XO) Front row left to right: MN1 John A Pendleton, MNSN Shawn T Lessor, MN3 Paul D Snyder, MN3 Robert J Powers, MNSN David S Caylor, MN2 Gary J Keeney, MN3 Andrea S Dussault, MN1 Julie J Porter, MN1 Barbara L Davies, MN3 Martha Liu, MNC Leeann Baker, and MN1 Richard L Rolins. Tom Mylum not pictured