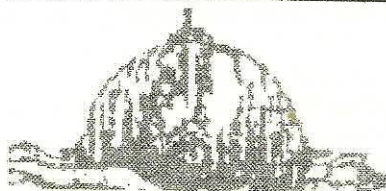
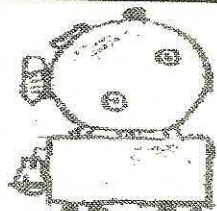


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Issue 23

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

FALL 1998



**AOM 25th Annual
Reunion
Corpus Christi TX
13-14-15 August 1999
Host: COMOMAG**

THE PRESIDENT

By Joe Balderrama

Let me first take this opportunity to thank each of you for electing me to represent this fine organization as your president. Rest assured I'll endeavor to serve honorably, always keeping your best interests foremost. There will be no changes in the staff of appointees at this time. However, as you may know, **Lyal Stryker** has requested to be relieved and with help of the board members we will make that change as soon as possible. (thanks **Lyal**)

For those of you that attended this years reunion in Charleston, I'm sure you will join me in applauding **Toby** and **Janie Horn** for their efforts in hosting the greatest reunion to date. Next years committee will be hard pressed to top the **Horn's** efforts, but I'm sure they will. (Thanks again **Toby** and **Janie**) If you missed this years reunion for any reason, I certainly hope that we see you next year in Texas. (We missed you)

You will read elsewhere in this edition about the history book, so I'll not discuss it here, other than to thank **Lyal** and **Toby**, for their undying efforts in pursuit of this project.

Clare and I will soon be on the road

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1998 Minemen of the Year Announced

Active Duty

MN1 (SW) Ronald Johnson
Afloat Training Group INGLESIDE, TX

Reserve

MN1 Rickey C. Whitworth
NR MOMAU 7

It is my pleasure to announce the 1998 Mineman of the year. Among a Distinguished list of well qualified professionals, a selection board of mine Warfare Command Master Chiefs was challenged to pick two who would represent the Active and Reserve Communities. The nominees were:

ACTIVE DUTY:

MN1 Chitwood - COMOMAG
MN1(SW) Bartoli - Rot Crew Foxtrot
MN1(SW) CARR - Rot Crew Hotel
MN1 BIEL MOMAU 11
MN1(SW) BIEBERITZ USS INCHON
MN1 CARMAN - USS CARDINAL
MN2 FARR - MOMAU 15
MNI HALEY - MOMAU 10
MN1 DESPRES - MOMAU 1
MN1 (SW) STAUFF - USS PATRIOT

MN1 Franklin - MOMAU 12
MN3 Marroquinn - USS FALCON
MN2 BROWN - MWTC
MN1 OSBORNE - USS AVENGER
MN1 PENDLETON - MOMAU 14
MN1 SANDER - USS PIONEER
MN1(SW) JOHNSON - ATG
MN1(SW) Nutting - MCMRON 3
MN1 STULTZ - MOMAU 3

RESERVE:

MN1 MUSSHORN - NR MOMAU 3

MN1 WHITWORTH - NR MOMAU 7

Congratulations to the selectees and well done to each of the candidates, who so superbly represented their commands.

Keep Smilin'..... **RADM CONLEY**

Association of Minemen (AOM) Members and Friends

It has been my esteemed honor and privilege to have been given the opportunity to serve as President of the AOM for the past three years. I sincerely feel honored to have been part of a professional, educational and caring group of individuals.

I want to thank all of the Officers and Directors as well as Committee par-

ticipants and members whose unswerving support and enlightened guidance did much in helping efforts during my term as caretaker for this superb group.

I especially wish to thank **Toby Horn** for his mentoring and informal input did much to make difficult tasks easy and impossible tasks tolerable and assured involvement in the right direction.

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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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permanently and communication will be a little difficult, but I'm doing what I can to correct the problem ASAP. and I'll keep you informed.

One final word "Membership" shipmates we must perpetuate the AOM. The old rascals won't be around forever and the youth must become involved. Keep the faith.

Are you a member of AOM, Why not Join?

CHARLESTON REUNION REVIEW

By Toby Horn

I have had, and still continue to have, both email messages and phone calls from many of you that were here for the Charleston reunion.

Thank you one and all for your kind remarks and expressions of thanks for a nice time at the reunion. I need to put things in proper perspective, though - it's all of you who make the party - and it's you who help all the others have a good time. After all, that's what we're all about - right??? We did have a good time, didn't we? 'Guess I'll start this by saying "thanks" to one and all of you early-birds for dropping by the house and getting the preliminary juices flowing. It was also a great compliment to our house guest, **Joergen Lorenzen** - our long standing Danish friend who was one of the founders of the Royal Danish Navy mine warfare capability. The house was almost to the fire-code capacity of 1500 and the eating was good, the drinking was fun and plentiful, and sea stories as bad as always. I especially enjoyed talking with some of the MOMAG gang - both from here in Charleston and the Reserve crew from Greenville. As a result of some of that chatter, I want to let them know that I/we have already sent a gentle inquiry as to the disparity of questions on the promotion exams for those that have not yet been cross-trained to the "sea-going MN" requirements.

I'll let you know what I hear in continuing chapters.

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

1998/99 Dues were due in August. Please send your check for \$10 to AOM address on cover Dues notices are not mailed to members

On with the show, however - before John gives me the hook! Our Friday early-bird adventure seemed to come off quite well. I was holding my breath on the weather - warm and humid with rain showers all over the place. All the prayers and smoke signals seemed to work, though, and an evening breeze came up and blessed us one and all for our evening BBQ, beer and baseball game. We could have done with a few more ribs, versus the chicken, but the chicken was good. Our "Minesmen" recognition on the electronic scoreboard was a laugh, but they got it right when they announced our presence over the PA system. The RiverDogs lost, of course, even with all my screaming (which left me hoarse the rest of the weekend) and cow-bell ringing. The post-game fireworks were spectacular, however, and it did much to comfort the loss. Of the 110 of you that attended, I had many say that they had forgotten what a great time a baseball game could be, and you'd be going back home and support your local club. Some of you even said it was the greatest early-bird ever!

Saturday morning loomed early for the golfers in the crowd. **Mac McCarthy** has covered the golf outing in another section, so I'll leave the official coverage to him. Suffice it for me to say that I think there was a lot of kicking the ball out of the rough - a whale of a lot of mulligans - and a whole lot of tall tale telling that went on. Our team lost, of course. See Mac's article. Similarly, the AOM annual business

(Continued on page 3)

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meeting was held on Saturday afternoon. **Lyal Stryker** will cover the meeting in another article. One thing I know he won't mention - but I will - is that **Lyal** announced at the meeting that he will be pulling in his shingle as of December of this year. He has served as an officer or Secretary/Treasurer for the AOM since its inception and feels that, with all his other commitments to family and community, it is time he stood down. I think I can speak for a lot of members in saying that we will miss **Lyal's** steering hand at officer's quarters. The meeting was well attended and a lot of business was accomplished in good time.

Saturday evening was our dinner meeting - and what a dinner it was. I advertised in the reunion preview article that it would be the best buffet you ever had - and, to date, I have had many of the 140 of you who attended tell me it was even better than that. What a feed bag the hotel put on! A scrumptious salad bar with chunk lettuce and a wide choice of dressings (the blue cheese was to die for) greeted everyone at the head of the line. Then came a choice of bread and rolls and sweet butter, followed by a huge selection of oysters on the half-shell, large steamed shrimp, and mussels in the shell. Next were the fresh, steamed, vegetables followed by the white clam sauce spaghetti, seafood chowder, fried pop-corn shrimp and oysters Rockefeller. As if this wasn't enough, the steamship round at the end of the line offered everyone a huge portion of beef that was so tender you could cut it with a fork. Did I miss something? Oh yes - the dessert table, which had an assortment including boston cream pie, coconut cake, yellow cake with decadent chocolate icing, black forest cake, and lemon cake. I don't know of anyone who came away hungry from that feast.

Our head table seated our incoming President and his wife (**Joe and Claire Balderrama**), our outgoing President (**Warren Savage**), incoming VP and his wife (**Swede and Irma Carlsen**), our most highly decorated

MN (Medal of Honor nominee and Silver Star recipient) **Cecil Martin** and his wife **Kazako**, our honored guest and long-time AOM member from Denmark (recipient of the Royal Danish Order of the Knights Cross - the equivalency of being knighted) **Joergen Lorenzen**, Newsletter editor and Director, **John Loonam** and our guest speaker Captain **James A. "Jim" Kenney**, USN (Ret) and his lovely wife **Danielle**. **Jim** gave a provocative and absorbing talk entitled, "Where Have All The Heroes Gone" which - as always - captivated his audience and gave us many things to think about. **Jim** has been an outspoken supporter of the retired sailor and critic of those in authority who seem to let the promised retiree benefits erode away to nothing. His discourse on accountability for these and other similar actions always "tells it like it is"! As a result of **Jim's** active interest on behalf of all sailors, your AOM awarded him Honorary Mineman status and gave him a copy of our famous **Giles** cartoon showing some rascally kids mining the sailboat pond. There were door-prizes given, announcements made, and a special celebration of **Bob Benintende's** birthdays as a surprise provided by his lovely daughters to end up a nice occasion.

Sunday morning opened up her South Carolina skies just to show us what a little southern rain looks like. The gang at the hotel was sure the picnic was to be canceled - the rain was so hard and copious they couldn't even leave their rooms. Meanwhile, down at the picnic area, there was nary a drop as preparations were underway for hot-dogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmin's; cold beer and soft drinks; the hand-grenade toss for kids (and grown-ups); the egg toss; and set-up of all the for-sale and auction items. People started to trickle in starting about 1130 - there were mad dashes for ice and cups and other last minute items that had escaped my planning - and soon the whole gang (and then some) arrived for a great time.

The crew from Reserve MOMAG Unit Greenville pitched right in and helped with some of the cooking and set-up chores which went a long way to make it a great picnic. And, it was a great picnic - the smells of things cooking, the laughter, the heckling, water guns squirting, the sound of pumping up the beer kegs, squealing kids, clusters of people sharing renewed friendships and stories of do-you-remember and memories of other times and other places, about 220 attended. Our greatest regret was not having all the rest of our friends there with us to swap sea stories, but you can rest assured that they got talked about. **Lyal Stryker** ran some sale specials which a lot of members leaped on. The revered traditional door-prizes were won by some different members this year. The auction went well. I was so hoarse from yelling at the ball game on Friday that I had to relinquish my auctioneer role to **Joe Balderrama** - and he and **Bob Benintende** and **Swede Carlsen** did a great job in encouraging those moldy dollars out of wallets and pocket-books and into our Scholarship coffers. We thank each and every contributor - both of goods for auction and those of you who did the buying - for your support. Ya did goooooood!!! A good time was had by all. I'll miss you all - 'til next year.

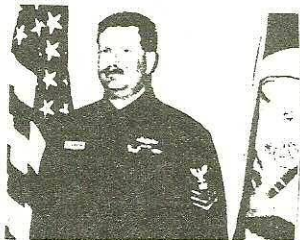
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We are embarking on a journey with new and experienced leadership as well as those that truly are working for the welfare and betterment of the AOM.

Our History Book, which is a chronicle of our past as well as a gateway to our future, is being produced as we speak through the generosity and faith of our organization as a whole.

Thank you all. God Bless You. We are continuing our committed journey in a positive movement forward.

Respectfully Yours
Warren H. Savage Jr.
Immediate Past President (95-98)



MN1(SW) R. Johnson

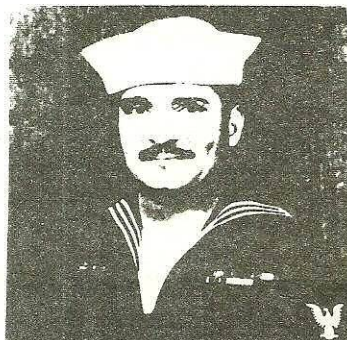
Profile of Active Duty Mineman of the Year

MNC(SW) Ronald Johnson

Born 06 April 1963

Graduated from Stevens High School May 1982 and enlisted in the USN as a Sonar Technician September 1986. Graduated STG A School February 1987 Frocked to STG3. Transferred to SIMA NRMF Long Beach CA. Feb 1987. Frocked to STG2 July 1989. Transferred to Fleet ASW Training Center Pacific August 1989. Graduated from Digital Electronics School May 1990. Transferred to USS Scout (MCM-8) Precom Det June 1990. Graduated AN/SLQ-48 Maintenance school October 1990. Graduated AN/SQQ-30 Maintenance school December 1990. Commissioned USS Scout (MCM-8) 20 December 1990. Participated in EURO 93 Deployment September 1994. USS Scout Crew Became MCMROTCREW Charlie MCMROTCREW Charlie deployed to USS Patriot (MCM-7) in Japan During my 5 years as a member of USS Scout and Rotational Crew Charlie I received 3 Navy Achievement Medals, 2 Good Conduct Medals, and 2 Sea Service Ribbons. Command advanced to STG1 December 1994. Transferred to Afloat Training Group December 1995. Converted to Mineman in April 1996. Selected IATG and Afloat Training Group Sea Sailor of the Year in 1998. Received fourth Navy Achievement Medal and Third Good Conduct Medal in 1998. I am attending ST. Leo College and

am 3 credit hours short of my Associates of Liberal Arts degree. I am also the committee chairman for the Port Aransas Boy Scouts. I plan on making the Navy my career. After the Navy I would like to become a school teacher and coach school sports. I enjoy all sports and I also enjoy college. I would like to thank all those people who I worked for that inspired me and pushed me to do my best. I would also like to thank all the people who have worked for me, their dedication and hard work have gotten me where I am today. I hope that some day I am able to inspire them as I was inspired.



MN1(SW) R. Whitworth

Reserve Mineman of the Year

MN1(SW) Rickey C. Whitworth
USNR

After cross rating from AO2 to MN2 in February 1991, he advanced to MN1 in 1994. Previously named Sailor of the Year and Semi-annual Sailor of the Year at the Reserve Center in Greenville, SC., his recommendation letter contains many Letters of Commendation and Appreciation from various Commands including MOMAUs Three, Five and Det Six. Petty Officer Whitworth participates in civic, church, and fraternal organizations. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership, organizing and motivational skills contributed to the Site receiving the 1997 Mine Site Excellence "M" Award. In his billet as Quality Assurance Inspector (Component test), Petty Officer Whitworth's

military bearing, demeanor and exceptional patriotism are second to none. In the classroom, he is a solid instructor working hard to maintain the program amidst the major changes within the MN rating. A consistent performer year after year who is proud, dedicated and accepts no substitutes for excellence in all endeavors.

Looking for Mines on the Net?

AOM Homepage

<<http://battle.netgate.net>> by AOM members **Fred Dane** and **Hal Elston** lots of Minemen and ex-MN. addresses, master taps list, Dashpot, Sea & Shore stories etc. I said I would post members names and email addresses one time here. After looking at the homepage above I see Active Duty (29), Reserve (16), Retired (67) and Ex MN (25) addresses. That's the place to find them rather than trying to find a particular issue of Dashpot or the addresses on the other side of an order blank.

Home Page looks great!!

We should all thank **Fred Dane** and **Hal Elston** for their time, effort and money in maintaining such a great web site on mine warfare.

Charleston and all coastal
(two Counties wide) SC new
area code is 843

Y2K Charleston Reunion
11-12-13 August 2000
Contact:

Dick Schommer, Past AOM
President at 827 N Aylesbury Dr
Goose Creek SC 29445
(803) 797-3715
Can you help? Give Dick a call.

Thanks to **Bob (Willie) Wilson**
MNC Ret for all the duty station T
shirts and logo items prepared by
his son up in NJ. They are inter-
ested in filling up the Gear Locker.

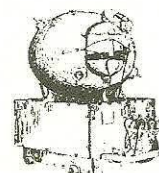
Association of Minemen

On behalf of the Association of Minemen it gives me great pleasure to present this award to

Commander Lyal M. Stryker, U.S. Navy, Retired
for service as set forth in the following



Citation



For meritorious service from the inception of the organization to the present. Commander **Stryker** has been one of it's most staunch supporters and diligent workers. He was one of the original founders and a member of the committee to write the initial constitution and bylaws under which the organization was formed. Much of that original wording and the intent of those bylaws are the that we operate from today.

Commander **Stryker** has gone far beyond the "Call of Duty" in working as an officer of the Association acting as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Scholarship committee chair, and a myriad of other duties and volunteer activities, such as representing the Association at the annual Memorial Services commemorating the sinking of the USS Hobson.

Commander **Stryker** has continuously and unswervingly served the organization in every possible assignment. His devotion to the integrity of the Association of Minemen and his efforts to establish and maintain the mine museum aboard the USS Yorktown are exemplary. There has not been a single day since the AOM was formed that he has not been involved in and supporting the organization directly in some position of responsibility. His service to the organization has been invaluable.

Warren Savage, President

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

Commander **Lyal M. Stryker, USN, Retired**
8517 Deerwood Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406-9713

August 8th 1998

Citation for service beyond the call of duty,

The attached Citation is hereby delivered, with great pleasure.

Warren Savage, President

Our Hero's

Captain Kenney asked "Where have the Hero's gone?" in his address to the AOM at the Annual Reunion. **Bob Benintende**, initiator of the **Lyal Stryker AOM Outstanding Service Award** says "we have our own right here". Our younger sailors should look at Minemen like **Lyal** to emulate in their professional careers. From MNSA to CDR and after retirement with his service to the AOM, CDR **Stryker** had the Mineman Rating uppermost in his endeavors.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee Report

By G. Paul Santa Maria, Chairman

Congratulations to Ms **Emily E. Adams**, daughter of **Roger Adams MNCM** and **Kari Hanson-Smith**, daughter of **Thomas J. Smith**, CWO-4 for being the recipients of \$500. scholarship awards.

Ms **Adams'** award is from the AOM and Ms **Smith's** award is from the now named **Doreen Stryker Memorial Fund**. The **Stryker** family have been sponsoring a \$500. award for the past several years, unnamed and un-announced. A very special "Thanks" is extended to the **Stryker Family**. This generosity raises the number of scholarships awards each year to three. So, all you members in good standing who have children or grandchildren reaching out for more education/training, now is the time to contact the AOM Secretary for appropriate forms and instructions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Committee members, **Don DeCrona**, **Swede Carlsen** and alternate **Freddie Reid** for the great job they have done and also for agreeing to stay on for the coming year(s).

Golf Classic

by Francis A. McCarthy

On August the 8th, 1998 the athletes of the Minemen Reunion gathered together including three women for a total of 21 players. We had four foursomes a threesome, and a twosome at the Muni Golf Course in Charleston. The game we played was called Captains Choice or one man best ball. The scoring ranged from plus (3) to minus (9). The results were very good since none of the players had played together except **Butch**

and **Susan Daugherty**. I was told she just started the game a year or so ago.

The team captain of the winning team, **Jim Stultz**, won the coveted chicken award. He then presented the chicken to **Susan Daugherty** for being the most advanced golfer. Her prize requires her to bring it to the next reunion which, I understand, will be in Texas next year.

Anyone, no matter how good or bad they think they are, can play this Golf game. I will bring my computer which has the Calloway system in it because that's the game we will playing next year. The lord willing.

Team # 1 **J. Baldemma, S. Cowart** plus one & **D. DeCrona**

2 **D. DeLong, J. Horn, T. Horn & W. Johnson**

3 **D. Krupczyk, W. Peters, F. Strunk & B. Roberts**

4 **J. Stultz, F. McCarthy, B. Daugherty & S. Daugherty**

5 **H. Elston, J. Martin & M. Martin**

6 **H. Willows & F. Bartram**

A good time was had by all. SEE YOU IN TEXAS!!

Working Party??

Museum Curator, **Toby Horn** asks Members contact him by phone, mail, email of just hollerin to discuss a Working Party Week on the Yorktown at Charleston. The Museum is in dire needs of organizing, straightening, sorting and displaying our heritage. Members may have a day, days or a week to muster around and get the Museum into shape that we can all be proud of. State your availability and **Toby** will put together a week or so of organized confusion where we can supply brains or brawn to bring the display area up to standard. Apply at:

54 Rivers Point Row
Charleston SC 29412
(803)762-3552

<tobyone@ix.netcom.com

Thanks!!

FULL FORCE NEWS



COMOMAG

By CDR Ron Swart

I have recently returned from sea as a part of the Mine Warfare Battle Staff for the Command Post Exercise "Ulchi Focus Lens 98" ran by COMSEVENTHFLT. I must say that it was a watershed event for Mine Warfare and a real learning experience for all the Task Force Commanders as well. Though we started out as somewhat of a novelty, we quickly became one of the most important Task Forces in the game. Needless to say Mine Countermeasures was a key focus from the start, but mining too became a very important player for all the reasons that the AOM has touted for these many years. By the time it ended, **RADM Conley** and his small afloat staff had captured the attention of every CTF and we have been invited back as full and equal members of participating Seventh Fleet operational forces. I had never seen such honest Mine Warfare play in a war game and the lessons learned will keep us all busy for the coming months.

Here are some personnel changes and events since the last newsletter:

- **LCDR Ed Simmons** assumed command of MOMAU One Seal Beach
- **LCDR John Iwaniec** departed for MOMAU Ten, Kadena, Okinawa to assume command from **Lt Theresa Wright**, acting CO since the retirement of **Lt Mike Ledbetter**, will once again fill the XO slot. **Lt Wright** has has done a

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wonderful job as CO, operating one of the busiest sites in MOMAG with poise and authority.

● Lt **John Lyman** moved up from XO to assume command of MOMAU Eleven, Charleston behind LCDR **Mike McAdams**, who retired in the local Charleston area.

● CWO4 **Bob Reed** was relieved by Lt **Gary Martin** at MOMAU Five. **Bob** moved in to the XO job at MOMAU Eleven.

● Lt **Ken Allen** has been "officially" relieved by Lt **Carl Cubbage** as CO, MOMAU Fourteen, Yorktown. **Ken** has become my OPS Officer at COMOMAG.

● Lt **Kevin Lilek** has relieved Lt **Rhonda Dunn** as the Exercise and Training Mine Readiness Officer at COMOMAG.

● LCDR **Tim Paton** is filling in as my "CSO" since that billet has been temporarily gapped (he's doing a great job!).

● LCDR **Matt Wiesnewski** has relieved CWO3 **Riggins** as OIC of MOMAD Seven, Hawaii.

● MNCM "Sonny" **Benton** is the acting CO at MOMAU Twelve, Misawa, Japan due to the early departure of LCDR **Simmons**. CWO3 **Gary Riggins** will arrive in November to assume command.

Master Chief **Benton** will then retire after 30 years of service. I just visited Misawa and must say that he is doing an outstanding job and his Sailors and spaces never looked better.

● I had the opportunity to visit Okinawa on my way home from SEVENTHFLT and played a little golf with LCDR (Ret) **Ed Hutsell** and LCDR (Ret) **Dale Smith**, both of whom have jobs on island. I'm a lousy golfer, but greatly enjoyed the reunion with my friends. They send greetings to all, as does **Mike Ledbetter** who "hired on" at Marine Corps MWR on island.

MOMAG is changing along with the rest of the Navy. Defining who we are going to become and what we'll be doing is one of the most important

tasks that lay before us. I hope to make any changes that become necessary with my feet firmly planted on our long history of excellence as Minemen, while focusing on the mission requirements of the 21st century. Wish us luck.

News from MOMAU One

By LCDR Ed Simmons

This past quarter has been a very busy one for us at MOMAU One. We aced our Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) in May and if anyone could ace a command administrative inspection, we came close to doing that in July. I was here as PCO for both evolutions and must say the sailors are nothing short of outstanding. A simple change of command ceremony was conducted on 14 August when I assumed command from LCDR **John Iwaniec**. I want to take this opportunity to say, "I'm proud to take the helm and provide the leadership for a great crew and command." **John**, thanks and well done shipmate. Our best wishes for happiness and success on your new assignment as Commanding Officer of MOMAU Ten Kadena, Okinawa, Japan. 2nd Quarter Awards and BZs'. Navy Commendation Medals presented to LCDR **John Iwaniec** and LCDR **Ed Simmons**; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals presented to MNC **Richard McGinn**, MN1 **Marcus Despres**, and MN1 **Richard Thomas**. BZ to our Sailors of the Quarter: MN3 **Steven Stafford** (junior); MN1 **Marcus Despres** (Senior). Others receiving Letters of Appreciation and Commendation are: MN1 **Stanley King**, MNI(SW) **Mark Dohman**, MN1 **Richard Thomas**, MN2 **Kecia Nason**, YN3 **Kenyatter Ballard**, MN3 **Jeremy Koski**, MN3 **Christian Siangco**, MN3 **Steven Stafford**, MNSN **Nadine Hallam**,

and MNSA **Stephen Donovan**.

Advancements: Well done to our selectee's from March Advancement Exam: MN1 **Richard Thomas**, MN2 **Mark Geisler**, MN2 **David Harmon**, MN2 **Alfredo Medina**, MN2 **Robert Morgan II**, MN2 **Kecia Nason**, MN2 **Jennifer Poulson**, and MN3 **Ramses Martinez**.

Reenlistments include: MNCM **Mark Zinnel** - 4 yrs; MN1 **Stanley King** - 6 yrs, MN1 **Richard Thomas** 3 - yrs, MN1 **Lee Whitmore** - 1 yr; MN2 **Robert Morgan II** - 6 yrs, MN3 **Jeremy Koski** - 3 yrs; and MN3 **Christian Siangco** - 3 yrs.

Farewells: LCDR **John Iwaniec** to MOMAU 10 Kadena, Okinawa, Japan; MNCM **Mark Zinnel** to MOMAU 5 Sigonella Italy; MN1 **Richard Thomas** to Naples Italy; MN2 **Jennifer Poulson** to MOMAU 8 Guam, MN2 **Kirk Veselka** to Rotational Crew Bravo at Ingleside, Texas; and MN2 **Robert Morgan** to USS Osprey at Ingleside Texas.

Boun goirno from sunny Sigonella

By Mark H. Zinnel MNCM(SW)

Here's the latest from the foot of Mt. Etna:

LT **Gary D. Martin** has relieved CWO4 **Robert J. Reed** as Commanding Officer for MOMAU Five, and has been busy working on improvements for the sight including post-WW II office furniture! Sent MNC'S **Bruce Howard** home to the famous backyard pool and MOMAU Fourteen, and I'm studying **Mario Andretti's Self-Paced Driving in Sicily** course while gearing up for October's Assist Visit and the upcoming MINEX's.

New arrivals include: MNSR **Mario Barrientos**, MNSA **Gregory Gillis**, MN2 **Manuel Jiminez**, MNSR **Ryan Long**, MNSR **Robert Mounsey**, MNSA **Brian Plazola**, MNSN **Jared Russell**, MNSN **Marcos Villareal**,

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

MNSR **Michael Wilkins**, all from MWTC, SK1 **Victoria Meadows** from USS Simon Lake, and myself from MOMAU One.

MN1 **Edward Moriarty** made it to the plane for MOMAU Eleven, with several others lined up to follow him back stateside over the next three months.

Awards and recognition go to MN2 **William Lowery** and MN3 **Laura Arthur** for their selections as MOMAU Five's Sailor and Junior Sailor of the Quarter for 2Q98, to MN2 **Erik McKnight** and MN3 **Demetrius O'Halloran** for their first Good Conduct Awards, to MN1 **Michael Slater**, MN2 **William Lowery**, and MN3 **Russell Fels** for Letters of Appreciation from the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Radioathon Fund Raiser, to most of the command for the NATO Service Medal and I received my fourth Navy Commendation Medal for a "job well done" at MOMAU One.

Lots of new construction started, finished or in the works for the Sigonella bases including new housing, a new commissary and mall, new barracks for the single sailors and improvements to many of the existing structures, same crazy roads and drivers outside the gates though...life is good! So long from the island of panne, vino, formaggio and of course, the Geep!

ALOHA FROM Det.7

by MNCS(SW) Campbell

Aloha from Hawaii. A lot has happened at Det Seven in the last few months. We passed our Mine Readiness Inspection (MRCI) in June. The personnel at Det Seven really showed their expertise in upgrading the MK 67 Submarine Launched Moblie Mine (SLMM) and MK 65 to the COMOMAG Inspection Team. In July we had our Administration and Material Inspection (ADMAT). Again MOMAD Seven showed why we have received the Mine Site Excellence Award for two consecutive

years. On the 7th of August, LCDR **Matthew Wisniewski** relieved CW03 **Garry (Gunner) Riggins** as Officer in Charge. LCDR **Wisniewski** reports from USS NORMANDY (CG 60) Homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. At the end of September, Gunner is off to assume Command of Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Twelve in Misawa, Japan. Also in September we will be losing MN1 **Brian Allston** who reports to USS Guardian (MCM 5) homeported in Sasabo, Japan and MN2 **Thomas Sorenson** who reports to MCM Rotational Crew Hotel in Ingleside, Texas. They will all be sorely missed, We welcome aboard MN1 **Keith Dixon**, Petty Officer **Dixon** came from USS Blackhawk (MHC 58) homeported in Ingleside, Texas MN1 **Allston** received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his selection as MOMAD Seven, COMOMAG and COMINEWARCOM Sailor of the Year. MN3 **Tasha Fail** received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for her selection as MOMAD Seven's Junior Sailor of the Year. Well done to both these superb Sailors!

MOMAU 12 "TACHI IRI KINSHI"

BY: MNC JL Holt

Here we go again! Time to break out the parkas and shake off the dust! Being a warm blooded native from the southeast I'm hoping to make it thru one more winter! We successfully completed our ADMAT. Thanks to LCDR **Joyal** and LT **Gwaltney** for their "training" and assistance. It was greatly appreciated. COMOMAG stopped over for a couple days. Misawa has grown quite a bit since his departure as CO. CDR **Swart** made time to tour the facility and brief the crew on the latest and greatest. Always good to get it straight from the top!

HAPPENINGS: MOMAU 12 Sailors recently set sails for the deep unknown during the 1998 Navy Boat Regatta. This infamous pirate crew

included Skipper MN1 "Send Me To Sea" **Walker**, 1st Mate MNSN "Lounge Rat" **Kotschenruether**, Chief Engineer MNSN "Paddle Faster" **Munoz**, 1st LT MNSN "Social Butterfly" **Wallace**, and barnacle crusted mates MNSR **Smith** and MNSR **White** provided rowing power churning out an incredible 2 knots! MN1 "Vanity Smurf" **Franklin** and MN2 "if you ain't a MN you ain't ****" **Dykes** provided offensive saturation mining from our newly developed Subsonic Air Launched Saturation Ashore Mining Unit (SALSA-MIU). Deadly aim resulted in FIVE confirmed kills utilizing the MK 12 Mod 1 littoral water balloon mine. This jaunty crew, with ashore support, finished an amazing 5th (OK there was only six teams BUT it floated) ahead of arch-rival NAF Trans (they stole our design AGAIN). Definite OPSEC problem, but they paid dearly, losing their vessel to the deadly aim of our SALSAMIU. Davey Jones can rest easy for another year!

HAIL AND FAREWELLS: Upcoming PCS transfers. MN2 **Dykes**: USS Guardian; MN3 **Matelski**: MWTC/MCM; MN3 **Douglas**: MWTC/MCM; and MNSN **Wallace**: USS Oriole. Welcome aboard to MNSR **Richard Smith** and MNSR **Jason White** from MWTC. That's all from the land of the rising sun, take care and stay safe.

FROM MOMAU FOURTEEN

Hello! Once again we find ourselves here in Yorktown in the midst of a fall climate. The temperature is around the upper 70's with a few day~ into the very low 80's. The crew continues to lay-up the MK60 Captor mine and we anticipate completion of enough lay-up assets by the end of this fiscal year to support possible use in the Littoral Sea Mine development. The current plan is to continue to configure the Captor in the lay-up configuration for demil processing starting

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

in FY-99. Here is the latest regarding the crew:

Arrivals: LT Kenneth W. Dalton reported onboard as Executive Officer from USS ANZIO (CG 68).

We wish to send fair winds and following seas to the following shipmates who will soon depart for new and greater challenges.

Separations:

MN2 Robert S. Hillerich is currently on terminal leave in Panama City FL.

Transfers:

LT Kenneth R. Allen departs in September for COMOMAG as Operations Officer, MN1 John A. Pendleton departs in October for Unit 10 Okinawa, MN1 Julie J. Porter transfers in September for Unit 5 Sigonella, MN2 Martin W. Clebe-wicz departs in October to MWTC with follow-on orders and MN2 Michael E. Nagle departs in December for the PIONEER rotational crew.

Retirement:

MN1 Richard L. Rollins (December 98)

Bravo Zulu

by Joe Balderrama

What an act to follow!! On behalf of Toby Horn, Lyal Stryker and myself, I wish to acknowledge a heartfelt Bravo Zulu to our outgoing President Warren Savage. He led us through three tough years and will continue to advise and help in the new position of Past President. Thanks for a swell job Warren and we look forward to your continued support and leadership.

WINTER ISSUE

Article Deadline
December

10

NAVAL MAGAZINE LUALUALEI

by Don DeCrona

LOCATION:

The Magazine consisted of three separate branches located in the rural Oahu. The Lualualei Branch, occupying about 8,303 acres of land, was located approximately 35 miles northwest of the City of Honolulu. The West Loch Branch of about 3,169 acres was 20 miles west of Honolulu and about 18 miles southeast of Lualualei. The Waikale Branch of about 520 acres was approximately 19 miles northwest of Honolulu, 18 miles east of Lualualei, and 10 miles north of West Loch.

HISTORY

The first Naval Ammunition Depot on Oahu of seven above-ground magazines located on Kuahua Island in the vicinity of the community and industrial areas of the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard. Kuahua was used from 1916 until April 1934 when it was decommissioned because of its unsafe location and limited area available for expansion.

In 1929, the Navy acquired about 8,000 acres in the Lualualei Valley. The majority of the land came from the McCandless Estate, which had been a cattle ranch. About the same time 763 acres, part of what was the West Loch Branch, also were set aside from the Pearl Harbor Reservation for use by the Depot. Construction at these two locations was begun in 1931 and they were commissioned as the NAD Oahu on 1 May 1934. After the Depot was commissioned, additional acreage adjacent to the West Loch Branch was added.

The land occupied by the Waikale Branch was acquired between 1942 and 1946 from various owners as the second branch of the Depot for storage of ammunition in the slow issue category.

For a short period the Depot had the Kunia Branch which consisted of 158 acres of land located adjacent to Wheeler Field. This property was

acquired from the U.S. Air Force on 22 December 1953 and was used for inert storage. On 1 January 1955, it was transferred to the Industrial Manager, Fourteenth Naval District.

The West Loch Branch served as a shipping and receiving facility and was bounded on the north and northwest by waters of the West Loch and the Pearl Harbor Reservation. And to the west by cane fields of the Ewa Plantation Company.

There were over 500 buildings and structures on the Depot. There was a total of 426 magazines with storage capacity of 103,000 tons of ammunition and explosives located at the Lualualei, West Loch, and Waikale Branches.

On 1 July 1974, as part of the Navy's Shore Establishment Realignment Program, the Naval Ammunition Depot Oahu was disestablished and the Naval Magazine Lualualei was established as a Tri-Service facility for the Navy, Air Force, and Army.

MOMAD Seven

MNCS(SW) Campbell, MOMAD Seven, tells Dashpot that they are located at West Loch in an almost new building built as a Mk 50 Torpedo facility. The decision to maintain MK 50 Torpedo's at West Loch was withdrawn leaving a brand new building available for the Minemen.

Binnacle List

Doug DeLong reports John Totuszynski, MN1 Ret was injured when he overturned his 18 wheeler April 4th and hasn't worked since. He is improving but the doctor won't release him to work.

Paid your '98-'99 dues yet?
They were due in August
Please Send your \$10. check
in today payable to AOM

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I hereby apply for membership in the Association of Minemen and include payment of \$10.00 membership fee and (\$5.00 application fee for new member, a one time fee or re-application fee). If not eligible or approved my money will be refunded. Make payment out to Association of Minemen and send it to:

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Some Reunion Attendees:

George Arnett, Bill Atkins, Al Boreen, Joe Balderrama, Nolan Barb, Richard Bassak, Bill Beck, Bob Benentende, Marty Biel, Ted Cammak, Swede Carlsen, Ray Cobis, Jim Cottrell, Stephanie Cowart, Mike Cummings, Fred Dane, Bill Darlington, B. Daugherty, Phil Dechene, Don DeCrona, Doug DeLong, Benjamin Elmhorst, Hal Elston, Dan Eperly, Dave Evinoff, Ron Gentry, Ken Harder, Bob Hart, John Herb, Ernie Hildreth, Toby Horn, Bill Johnson, Herb Johnson, John Keen, Shelly Kelly, Stan Konieczka, D. Krupczyk, Res. MOMAU 7, Jorgen Lorenzen, Jim Longway, John Loonam, Cecil Martin, Francis McCarthy, M McCune, Harmen Maddox, John Muessig, Ralph Parsons, Walter Peters, Homer Powell, Ron Powell, Danny Priest, Dick Rhoderick, Fred Reid, Bill Roberts, Earl Roberts, Lonnie Roberts, Jerry Rogers, Tony Ross, Paul Santa Maria, Joe Sapien, Warren Savage, Dick Schommer, Ed Smith, R O Smith, Leo Smith, Jack Smoot, Bob Stanscik, Frank Strunk, Lyal Stryker, Jim Stultz, Sullivan, Ross Wadman, Henry Warner, Frank Whipple, Mike Whitner, Harold Williamson, Bob (Willie) Wilson, Marty Wilson, Rickey Witworth

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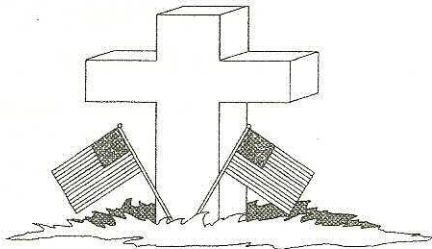
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TAPS



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.

Maurice J "Frenchy" Lamonthe, MNC Ret passed away 6/2/98 in Hampton VA. Worked at NWS Yorktown 14 years after retirement
William C Lindsey Ex MN2 passed away in 1992 (brother verified)
Frank McLean, Ret Mine Design Engineer at White Oak passed away 7/8/98 reported by **Jack Shreve**.
Charles Raley Ex MN3 passed away 3/22/97 in Denver City TX.

Got a Story to tell?

At the Reunion Picnic I was approached to run a "stories" column where members could relate anecdotes or humorous experiences within the Mineforce. Why heck yes! Only guidelines I can think of are you must be a paid up member, Maximum length 250 words, no "How I got one over on the Chief stories." or setting up individuals for un-wanted attention. Please don't waste your time preparing political or controversial stories as this is not the platform for soap-box speeches. Remember we are space limited so it may take awhile to get to your story

EDITOR

By john loonam

Here I am on the Taps page. Have a good reason to be here. Seems that with the status of membership and dues re-

newals we may become history. Come on Minemen, send in that application and participate. For the cost of a couple of lunches at a fast-food place, you could be card carrying members. Please do us and yourself a favor and send in the application on page 10. We need your support and help in carrying on the tradition of the Rating.

Meeting Notes

By john loonam

These are not official minutes but some of my observations/notes on the meetings at Charleston. First of all, thanks for all the kudos on Dashpot. They came from every direction and are all appreciated. This make my 17th issue at 4 a year on time and informative.

The History Book was at the printers for production as all editing had been completed by **Toby** and **Lyal**. Money problems cropped up due to the requirement to pay the bill in full prior to delivery and additional copies/costs required to add pages. Via the Internet the AOM raised about \$6600 in temporary loans from members to expedite the final submittal. Now another \$7000 or so is needed to get delivery. If you can help support this project, please send your check to the AOM with History Book interest free loan on the memo line. Or, send in an order for one or more books. Prepaying for unsold books is the main problem. None of the pre-paid book money goes into the AOM general fund. It is all placed in a separate account and auditable. Here's the loan supporters so far:
 \$500 Club: **Moose Wheelock, Lyal Stryker, John Loonam, Warren Savage, Don DeCrona, Bob Benintende, Swede Carlson, Phil Dechene, Dick Rhoderic and Fred Reid.**

\$300 Club: **Bill Johnson**

\$200 Club: **Fred Dane, Hal Elston, Jim Cottrell, John Keen,**

\$100 Club: **Bill Roberts, Eddie Atkins, Cecil Martin, Ken Harder.**

Gift \$100: **Earl Roberts.**

Election of Officers as described elsewhere. **Toby** says the not for profit final papers are about to be submitted. Charleston was selected for the 2000 Reunion. **Dick Schommer** will Chair. The Curator of the Yorktown directed our display signs conform to the ship standard. **Toby** is looking into costs, availability and procedures. Some suggested temporary display signs in the interim. **Toby** plans to use the NJROTC to sort our vast amount of documentation. **Ken Harder** is negotiating with a ring-maker to provide an AOM ring. Let us know your interests so we can go forward with this endeavor.

"Joe" Hernandez says "I can't wait to see our History book. Please make sure you thank all those who worked so hard for those that couldn't be there." A member of our Community said "There were many things that impacted the mining effort in Vietnam... I doubt if we will ever be able to reconstruct all the things that happened. How are we summing up eight years of MN man hours and all the carrier OPS. ?

MN3 **Caporuscio** was pictured in a NWS Yorktown Honors article in *The Booster* (7/98) as a recent Good Conduct Medal recipient.

MINEWARNEWS

Clips 7/98

We need to elevate mine counter-measures as a full war fighter equal to other systems, whether its aircraft, submarines or surface ships. Mines are "show stoppers" capable of foiling amphibious operations. (the new organic remote mine hunting system prototype is on the home page) Use of SH-60 helicopters to perform AMCM duties from DDGs and CGs is under review. Dolphins are still being used for mine locating. A new AMCM concept using light pulses into the water for mine detection has been tested. Australia is planning a new programmable bottom mine, a stand-off mine and a sub launch mobile mine.

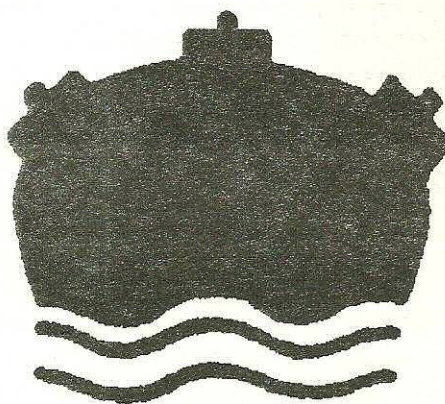
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