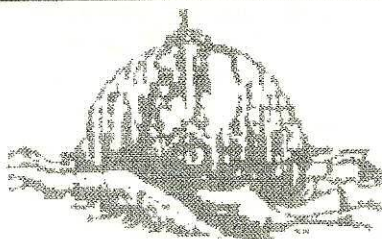
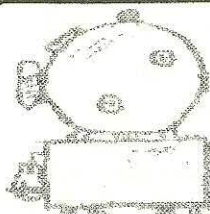


# The DASHPO T

Issue 24

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

WINTER 1998



## THE PRESIDENT

By Joe Balderrama

**A**s you will read elsewhere in this issue we have finally resolved the history book saga. We still have a lot of work to do, but the headaches are over. The list of those Who have done the heavy lifting on this project is the same as it has been in the past and they deserve our applause. Thanks again **Toby, Lyle, John, Don**, etc. etc. etc. I appreciate it.

Now to the business of relieving Lyle of the Secretary/Treasurer's duties, **Curtis Christian** has agreed to accept the combined role and he has been accepted by the BOD with a recommendation that we appoint an Assistant Sec/Treas. I agree with that recommendation and await a list of nominees from the BOD or the membership. Volunteers would also be appreciated. The actual turnover will be accomplished during the time frame of 12-14 Jan 99. I'll be staying at Toby's for a couple of days and I'm sure he won't mind if you contact me there should the need arise.

**Clare** is still working, so our travel plans are still on hold. We did take the 5th wheel down to southern FL, and then moved from north FL. about 3 miles north into southern Georgia. The baby semi pulls great and should present no problems in getting to Texas for the next reunion. See ya'll there!

Well shipmates, are there any suggestions on membership. This is

(Continued on page 2)

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## AOM

by John Loonam

**T**oby Horn reported the History Books would be delivered to his house in Charleston on 14 December 1998. That folks is a great accomplishment for the AOM! Some nay-sayers said it would never happen. We have waited too many years for this occasion. Now that it has happened, I hope the healing process can start and we can get back to pulling together for the Association. **Toby** asked Board members to support his purchasing of stuffed mailer envelopes to facilitate the mailing process. **Toby** had a friend that had a great buy on them. Try as we could, we were unable to get a list of who purchased the books. Looks like you will have to check your mailbox to see if you ordered one. Anyone asking that question is advised to call or contact **Lyal** (address/phone/fax on page 2).

**Toby** did have a list of who ordered their names printed on the cover. No word has been released on the distribution process.

Almost final costs (final shipping to us and a blueline correction excluded) Received so far on account \$16000. Due \$11785. Two AOM checks totaling \$11785. Were mailed on 11 November. So, hang on folks. Its about to happen. Thanks again to those that supported a loan to the book account. When the dust settles hopefully a repayment plan will be discussed.

## AOM 25th Annual Reunion

Corpus Christi TX  
13-14-15 August 1999  
Host: COMOMAG

## Scholarship Scoop

by Paul Santa Maria Scholarship Chairman

**H**ow many of our members in good standing have children or grandchildren who are graduating High School this coming June? Surely, some of them are enrolling in some type of educational/career goal facilities, which require tuition, books, etc. There are three five hundred dollar scholarships available. Two are awarded by the Association of Minemen and the third by the generosity of the **Stryker** family through the **Doreen Stryker Memorial Fund**. So, contact the Association Secretary for the appropriate forms now. Submission deadline is May and selection of the finalists for awards are made at the Annual Reunion in August. Good Luck!

## Working Party??

Museum Curator, **Toby Horn** asks Members contact him by phone, mail or email to discuss a Working Party Week on the Yorktown at Charleston this Summer. State your availability and **Toby** will put together a week or so of organized confusion 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!!





# 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

**Joe A. Balderrama (98-01)**

1417 Sadler Dr #236  
Fernandina Beach FL 32034  
(912)673-1220

mbe@net-magic.net

## VICE PRESIDENT

**William (Swede) Carlsen (98-01)**

1925 Pilgrim Ave  
Bronx NY 10461  
(212)792-2298

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Lyal M. Stryker (98-98)**

8517 Deerwood Drive  
North Charleston, SC 29406-9713  
(843) 553-1450  
FAX 843-569-6913

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**L. R. (Bob) Forbes (96-99)**

1 Newark Ave  
Goose Creek, SC 29445  
(803)553-6845

**LCDR John Iwaniec (97-00)**

MOMAU 10

CFAO PSC 480 Box 54  
FPO AP 96370-0054

**John F. Loonam (97-00)**

10033 Indian Rd  
Gloucester, VA 23061-2830

**G. Paul Santa Maria (98-01)**

738 Pomeroy Rd  
Nipoma CA 93444  
805-929-4439

**Horace L. (Buddy) Stewart (96-99)**

108 Hartin Blvd  
Summerville SC 29483  
(843) 821-8990

**CDR Ron Swart (98-01)**

5125 Cavendish Dr  
Corpus Christi, TX 78413  
(512)985-0782

## PAST PRESIDENT

**Warren Savage (95-98)**

10331 Settle Road  
Santee, CA 92071  
(619) 258-1478

## PARLIAMENTARIAN (98-99)

**Donald A. DeCrona**

2320 Wide Horizon Dr.  
Reno, NV 89509-5079  
(775) 826-3081

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR (98-99)

**John Loonam**

10033 Indian Rd  
Gloucester VA 23061-2830  
(804) 693-2094 Phone/FAX 9-11  
Eastern

email jloonam@ccsinc.com

**AOM Homepage**

battle.netgate.net

(Continued from page 1)

our Association lets keep it alive.

**Joe**

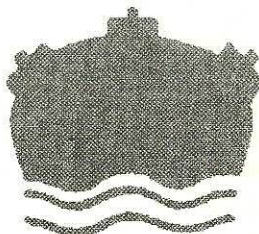
I forgot to thank new Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chairman **Paul Santa Maria** for all his help with the auction at the Annual Picnic. Prez **Joe Balderamma** had voice problems (Joe voice problems??) Anyway, thanks Paul for your efforts in helping out.

**Toby**

## Where's Charlie??

**Fred Dane** put out a feeler for some shipmates by email. he was looking for: **Linus Hitt**, **Admiral Dewey Kelly**, **Tiny Kobline**, two **Kirkpatrick**s and **Loui Logan Jones**. **Bill Roberts** came back with **Linus Hitt** was last known to be at the Yokosuka Naval hospital as an MN3. **Dick Martin** said he talked to **L L Jones** the first week of December. He was recovering from a recent fall on the ice. He also recovered from an auto accident 10 years ago but his wife has not recovered. He is 84 years young and lives in Declo Idaho. **Dick** is looking for the whereabouts of **MNC Ralph Million**.

News, info or additional queries to any Board Member, Dashpot or our web site.



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

Are you a member of  
AOM, Why not Join?  
We need YOU!

## THANKS a Bunch

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your vote of confidence by electing me to the Board of Directors of this outstanding and dedicated organization. I am indeed quite honored and anxious to take that responsibility to whatever and wherever challenge beckons.

Respectfully,

**G. Paul Santa Maria**

## First Submarine?

Submitted by Lyal Stryker

Sitting near the Barcelona Aquarium is a full scale model of the submersible ICTINEO 2 built and operated over 130 years ago. The first ICTINEO made its first dive in 1859 and the second completed in 1866. The two subs completed over a thousand dives to depths of over 80 meters with duration's up to 20 hours. The submersible (called an underwater ship) had lateral thrusters, a manipulator arm, optical ports, submersible lighting devices for viewing. It had its own air purification system.

## 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.

Http://www.battle.netgate.net



## Futuristic

Courier 9/11

A team of Coastal Systems Station scientists and engineers participated in recovery efforts of SwissAir crash site. Their torpedo-like towed device contains high technology side-scan sonar that is capable of producing high resolution images of the ocean floor. The system uses dual frequencies to detect and classify objects suspended in the water column, as well as those that may be buried or partially buried on the ocean floor. The system contains the latest technology in Electro-optics laser systems.

## Combined Exercise

Exercise MARCOT/Unified Spirit '98 took place off Newfoundland in June. Five advanced concept technology programs were demonstrated during the mine countermeasures phase of the exercise. Dr Skinner, Executive Director, NCCS summarized the success. "Each system we deployed worked extremely well and the fleet representatives were amazed at the ease with which these systems functioned". Three of the Navy's most advanced minehunting sensors were deployed. These sensors and signal processors offer the Navy an inexpensive upgrade to the Remote Minehunting System. Deep water and very shallow water tow bodies provide classification of mine and mine-like targets. The tow platform is an un-manned radio controlled snorkeling, diesel-powered semi-submersible vehicle. It is capable of speeds up to 16 knots with an endurance of 24 hours at 8 knots. The Dolphin has been tested successfully in the Persian Gulf as a tow platform for other minehunting platforms.

## BONUS

Sailors in the Mineman rating with one of eight Navy Enlisted Classification Codes are eligible for a Selective Reenlistment Bonus of \$20,000.

12 August 1998

Dear Joe,

I can't tell how much **Danny** and I enjoyed the 24th Annual Minemen Reunion last Saturday evening. As I said, it was a real privilege to address OUR wonderful group.

I had the picture hung Monday morning at my office and it is the first thing you see when you open the door. We still need to get an artist to put a model airplane in there somewhere.

The real reason I am writing is to thank you all for the singular honor you bestowed upon me by making me an Honorary Mineman. I don't think the real import of what you people did sunk in until the next morning.

I have received my share of awards and thank you's; however, I would like all Minemen to know how much I value this great honor. Nothing I have ever gotten can rank with being named an Honorary Mineman! I am humbled by it and will always cherish the moment it was announced by the Past President, **Warren Savage**.

Warmest personal regards,

Captain **James A. Kenney** USN

## National Navy Memorial

Sailors can record their personal history in the US Navy Memorial in Washington DC. Permanent record of service and awards may be placed in their records at the Memorial. A self-service computer allows the public access to records. Placement in the log is available for a \$25. tax deductible donation and a photo may be posted for an additional \$25. Check it out at <http://www.lonesailor.org> or write Navy Log-Dept V PO Box 96570 Washington DC 20077-7685. (Example: look me up Loonam, John (The Capt. Bernard and Cdr. Walter are my brothers.)

## Reunions

USS **Thomas E. Fraser** (DM-24)  
17-19 May 1999 Charleston, SC.  
Contact Bill Sturgill PO Box 332  
Grass Lake MI 49240 (517) 522

## Navy News

Foc'sle 8/7

New utility uniform to replace dungarees that have been around the fleet for 60 years. Replacing dungarees for E-6 and below will be a 65 percent polyester and 35 percent cotton-blend uniform consisting of dark blue straight leg trousers and a chambray shirt. Optional coveralls with the same mix will also be added to the sea-bag by 1 October.

Foc'sle 10/30

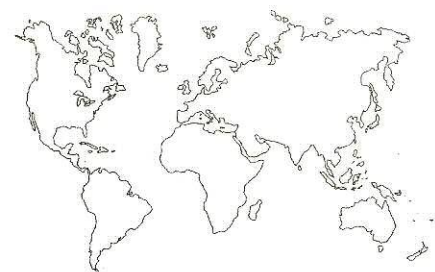
With the highest across-the-board advancements of any rating in the mine warfare force, Sailors are reaping the benefits of being part of the Navy's fastest growing enlisted career field. Numbers will get even better as in FY 1999 76 billets are scheduled to be converted to MN. Boatswain's Mate, Gunners Mate, Sonar technician and Operation's Specialist billets in the mine warfare force will be converted to MN. By 30 September 1999, the Mineman rating will increase from 546 to 622. Advancements from the last cycle were MN3, 100%; MN2, 58%; MN1 51%. New enlistees who choose MN "A" school following boot training receive a \$2000. enlistment

## Secretary/Treasurer

The relief of our Secretary/Treasurer, **Lyal Stryker**, was discussed at the Annual reunion in August. Two positions were recommended and volunteers sought. Word from the President in late November indicated **Curtis Christian III** would assume both positions in mid December. On 5 December we were informed there was a scheduling conflict and the relief will take place in mid January. Unless notified otherwise, the AOM official mailing address and financial accounts will remain intact as before. The prospective Sec/Treas

address is:  
Curtis T Christian III  
303 Cypress Shores Rd  
Eutawville SC 29048  
(803) 492-4245 email:  
[curtischristian@hotmail.com](mailto:curtischristian@hotmail.com)





## COMOMAG

By CDR Ron Swart

**S**easons Greetings from COMOMAG. We all wish you all the happiest of holidays. There is change in the wind throughout the Mine Warfare Forces and I'd like to update you on some of them.

- It is my sad duty to report the loss of one of our young Mineman, MN3 **Michael R. Gibson**, who lost his life this past November in a forklift accident at MOMAU 14, Yorktown, Va. We mourn his loss and pass our deepest sympathy to his wife, **Kim** and his parents **David** and **Claudia Gibson** of Dodge City, KS.

- As the Mineman rating expands from around 450 to over 800, (at the same time as the Navy is experiencing severe manning shortages and a difficult recruiting environment) we are having to do our job with fewer people. Senior personnel who were rolling from sea to shore were diverted to recruiting, leaving our MOMAU's with vacant billets. Some of our Units are now down to one Chief. To address this problem, COMINELWARCOM has invited the detailers to Texas to put together a plan that will get us our fair share of new people into the Mineman rate, to solve the female MN problem (currently they can't go to sea), and to capture the Minemen filling out of rating jobs and get them back inside the lifelines. I expect that we will see improvement in all three areas but it will require close supervision to keep us mission ready.

- Some of you may heard that there is a plan to reduce the number of MOMAU's. Well you heard right.

As we retire our most labor intensive mine systems, we will require fewer sites to build and maintain the remaining Quickstrike mines. Under consideration is a plan to consolidate the three East Coast units into one at Yorktown. This proposal is based on good business, since we essentially pay the same landlord for these three sites.

It looks like we'll have to close Det 7 Hawaii in the not too distant future since they'll be losing Mine Mk 67(SLMM), their main battery. Unit 12, Misawa may shrink to Detachment status to match their current manning. We're working on a plan to get Unit 15 moved from Kingsville, TX to Ingleside, TX where their customer base is. Unit 8, Guam, Unit 10, Okinawa and Unit 5, Sigonella will remain unchanged for the most part. After COMINELWARCOM approves the plan, it will be forwarded to CINCLANTFLT for the green light. Even then it could take several years to get everything moving since the Navy manpower system requires us to hit many wickets along a long and winding road.

- What is ahead for mines and mining? Glad you asked. Our resource sponsor at CNO N852, the Program Office at PMS-407, Coastal Systems Station, Panama City and COMINELWARCOM-COMOMAG have begun to develop a "Marketing Plan" with the goal of moving sea mining into the 21st Century. Currently funded is the Improved Sub-Launched Mobile Mine (ISLMM), a mine for deeper water now called Littoral Sea Mine (LSM) and a new Target Detecting Device (Firing Mechanism) TDD-71 with remote control. A stand off "glide-in" capability for mines is being investigated as well. Whatever future mines are developed will have to fill a fleet identified need that cannot be addressed as inexpensively or in any other way.

- Since the last report, CWO3 **Gary Riggins** assumed command of MOMAU 12, Misawa; Master Chief **Harold "Sonny" Benton** retired to

Florida; CNO said yes to CINCPACFLT's request to keep a small quantity of SLMM maintained and ready for the next five years; Master Chief **John Nolen** got married; Lt **Ed Barrios** transferred from COMOMAG staff to Unit 8 Guam as the XO; MN1 **Gordon Harvey** retired to the Corpus Christi area; Gunner **John Godwin**, XO MOMAU 8 retired from active duty; LCDR **Tim Paton**, my stalwart acting XO and full time Planning/Requirements Officer reminded me that he has been doing a great job and would like to see his name in print; Lt **Carmina Towe**, Training and Reserve Officer left active duty and is joining the reserves in Dayton, OH. She will continue to affiliate with COMOMAG and help us with our Naval Reserve program (thank goodness!).

- Up next: COMOMAG will host a CO's Conference for all MOMAU/MOMAD bosses the week of February 22. COMINELWARCOM will have a change of command 19 February aboard USS **Inchon**. RADM **Dennis Conley** will be relieved by RADM **Jose Betancourt, Jr.** (BIO attached). (Ed note. Couldn't break the attachment) see next issue) USS **Inchon** Battle Group sails for the Mediterranean and the Arabian Gulf this Spring accompanied by four MCM ships. We have our work cut out for us in the months ahead. My goal is to keep MOMAG and the Mineman rating at the cutting edge. Thanks for your support !!!

CDR Swart

**SPRING  
ISSUE  
Article Deadline  
MARCH  
10**



## UNIT Three

By MNC Buttethor

**H**ello, from UNIT 3 in the great (I don't know if its ever gonna snow) state of New Jersey. This has been so far, a very interesting fall and winter season for us. On Monday, 7 Dec., a record high of 76 degrees was reached. Today, the 10th of Dec., I woke up to a low of 26 degrees. What a difference! It doesn't look like we'll be doing any command ski trips this winter.

We have had a few additions to the command since the last newsletter; MN3 **Jennifer Olenlager** checked onboard from Unit 10- MN2 **Phil Moyers** and his wife **Debra** had a baby girl **Catherine**.

There has also been a few personnel transfers. MN1(SW) **Daniel Havens** transferred to the USS Falcon. MN1 **Mike Stultz** transferred to the USS Pelican- For **Mike**, this will be his first taste of sea duty, we wish him luck.

On the advancement side of the house, we had no selections for advancement but, we did find out that MNC **Keith Taylor** was selected for a commissioning as an Ordnance Chief Warrant Officer. He will be commissioned to CW02 on 1 March with his new duty station to be the USS Bridge AOE-10, homeported in Bremerton, WA- He will function as the Ship's Gunner in charge of Ordnance Operations. For any one who knows **Chief Taylor**, you know how much he loves cold rainy weather. This should prove to be an interesting tour for him (We've already advised him to buy plenty of woolies)-

Life is good here as we get ready for the holiday season and the only wish we have is for "Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow" to come true. Well, at least that is my wish. The rest of the crew is probably happy just the way it is.

We did receive an early Christmas gift from COMOMAG in the form of new computers for a major upgrade. We're all looking forward to putting them to good use.. January, will

have us performing the first demil on our stockpile of MK 56s.

Well, from all us here in New Jersey, may you all have a great Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

## ALOHA FROM Det.7

by MNCS(SW) **Campbell**

**W**ell, you can feel it's December. We've had to put up with temperatures plummeting into the 70's at night. I don't know how we'll survive, but you know "NEED'S OF THE NAVY" come first. DET Seven continues to stay busy. We continue to provide MK 67 service mine in support of COMSUBPAC and MK 25/MK 36 MET mines in support of COMPAT-WINGSPAC.

This quarter we welcomed aboard MN1 **Dean Carr** from MCM Rotational Crew Hotel and MNSA **Jarrold Simpson** from Mine Warfare Training Center in Ingleside , Texas.

In the month of January we lose a lot of our corporate knowledge. MN1 **Robert Morrison** departs for Mine Warfare Training Center with follow-on orders to USS Champion (MCM 4) in Ingleside, Texas. MN2 **Robert Dunbar** also transfers to Mine Warfare Training Center for class "C" school with follow on orders to be determined, MN3 **Chad Adsit** has decided to separate from the Naval Service and head back home to Wyoming.

YN1 **Claire Eversman** was selected as MOMAD Seven's Sailor of the Quarter for third quarter calendar year 1998. This award was well deserved.

As far as our new Officer in Charge, LCDR **Wisniewski** has been doing, he has realized, as OiC there is no limit to the amount of message traffic he can generate. Since taking charge he has proposed, and COMOMAG has implemented the new Submarine Launched Mobile Mine Technical Information Exchange (SLMMTEX) program. This program opens an avenue for technical information ex-

change between all SLMM sites. This has become extremely important with the loss of the In-service Engineering Activity (ISEA) for SLMM.

Well, that's about it for now. Time to throw another log on the fire to take the chill off. Until next time "ALOHA".

## UNIT Eight

By MNCS **Williams**

**H**afa-Adai Shipmates,  
As the rainy season comes to a close here on Guam, we remain in a water-restricted status due to lighter than normal rainfall for the year. Despite this however, the command is in tip top shape, and based on the extremely large number of personnel who choose to re-tour onboard, we remain the best kept secret for duty in the Mineforce. We just started winding down from a historic Presidential visit to the island last week. The President's stopover really excited the local's and gave them a chance to not only see the President, but also discuss island issues.

Thanksgiving was quite the affair this year, with a BRAVO ZULU going to MN2 **Crocker** and his family for hosting every single Sailor onboard for turkey and all the trimmings at his home. The day was filled with fun, food, and good company for all involved. As December arrives, we get even busier. An Upgrade is scheduled for the first week, followed by a children's Christmas Party, a Hail & Farewell Dinner, Command Christmas Party, and Retirement ceremony. Whew! We're chartering a Catamaran for a cruise for this year's Christmas Party. Live music, a professional Magic Show, dinner, gifts, and all at sea! Should be a really great party to remember.

This past quarter, we received our Third MUC for operations in 1997. We also recognized the following Outstanding Sailors: NAMS - MNC **Cantrell**, MNC(SW) **Sullivan**, MN1 **Sullivan**, YN1 **Barnes**, MN2 **Merzier**,

(Continued on page 6)



**MNSN Waters.** SSOQ-MN1  
**Nelson,** JSOQ-MN3 **Betz.** LOC -  
**MNSN Waters,** MN1(SS)  
**Eckelbecker,** MN3 **Barrett,** YN2  
**Fortier.** LOA - **MNSR Brown,**  
**MNSR Camerer.** These  
individuals work extremely hard and  
we're proud their on our team. We  
had to say goodbye to MN2 **Merzier**  
last month, a real loss but a gain for  
his next command - Rotational Crew  
Foxtrof. SKC(SW) **Manglicmot** is  
also preparing to leave us, and  
although he's transferring to  
EODMU5, he'll still be right here on  
Guam since that's where they're  
located. Sadly, our XO, CW03  
**Godwin** will be reitiring on the 10th  
of December as well. He's served  
over 26 years and has been a truly  
Outstanding XO for MOMAU Eight.  
The Gunner and his family have  
already bought a house, and will be  
settling down to raise their children  
in Rhode Island. They will all be  
missed and we wish them fair winds,  
following seas, and God's blessing's  
in their future.

## UNIT Ten

By LCDR John Iwaniec

**W**ell I checked aboard on the 8th  
of Sept and it's great to be  
overseas again. MOMAU Unit  
Ten has had some significant  
accomplishments this past quarter  
including; Acing their MRCI, passing  
their ADMAT and successfully  
passing the VEMS FIAT. Recently,  
We received a Bravo Zulu from  
Commodore (**Dawg**) **Dewey** for a  
great Mirem Exercise with the first  
VEMS plant ever in Korea.

It seems where ever I go we have  
new refurb equipment to install, the  
only bad thing is I end up transferring  
before I ever get to use the dang  
things. we should have our  
preliminary work done for this unit by  
the end of December and hopefully  
we can get the contractors out here in  
the early spring. Believe it or not our  
sinking deck in supply has finally  
completed the 100% review process  
and the funds should be approved  
sometime in December, of course the

work won't start until the summer  
sometime. I'm also trying to get the  
Production deck air conditioned,  
temperatures in the summer time  
exceed 100 degrees and you can  
hardly breathe out there. Other  
future projects include a 100ft by  
40ft shed to be installed out back, to  
house our MHE and other inert  
materials. I am also pushing to get  
rid of this antiquated water shed  
paint spray booth and replace it with  
the walk in dry filter type.

Personnel wise, we are suffering  
alot like the rest of the navy and  
we're down to 15 people. Our  
Yeoman, pety officer Bell left here  
the week I checked on board,  
followed by Petty Officer  
**Lauderdale.** MNSN **Bridgeford** got  
out of the Navy along with MN 3  
**Spangler.** MN3 **Pate** gets out of the  
Navy this weekend and Petty Officer  
**Reed** our mineman yeoman, leaves  
in January. This is not looking good  
folks, of course the workload goes  
on and everyone has more collateral  
duties than they can tolerate. Guess  
it makes you a leader of men and a  
knowledgeable individual...Other  
News, MN2 **Perine** has a new son,  
**Rintaro**, which means humble  
honest and sincere (in Japanese),  
great ideals to live up to, if he turns  
out anything like his father he will be  
a  
great man indeed. His son was born  
19 Sept and weighed in at 7lbs and  
2 ozs.

I guess thats all the news for now, I  
will add that the diving is fantastic  
with copious amounts of fish,  
anybody looking for a great  
command, hard work and super  
liberty, come on over, we can sure  
use you.

## Letters

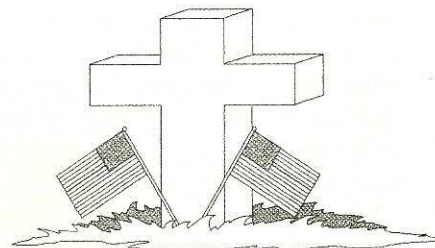
From CDR **Lorenzen**

**Joergen** sent in a nice letter with  
pictures of his sailing the Atlantic  
and historical search on a Danish  
priest killed by the Germans during  
WW II. He is concerned about our  
membership and reminds us all that

we "better get going" to ensure we  
keep this AOM alive. **Fred Dane**  
posted some of his letter on the  
homepage. The CDR can be  
reached at [strange@teliamail.dk](mailto:strange@teliamail.dk)

**Joe Hernandez** calls from time to  
time. He is anxious to see the  
"Book" He is still concerned  
whether he contributed to harm on  
youth in Vietnam.

## TAPS



**S**ince our last issue the  
following notices have arrived:  
**Mrs Kay Branan** passed away  
Nov 25, 1998 in Austell GA.  
Husband **Donald Jack Branan**, Two  
daughters and two sons, five  
grandchildren. **Kay** suffered from  
Alzheimers and was nursing home  
bound for the past 6-1/2 years.  
**Randol F. (Whisky) Anderson**  
MNCM Oct 1998 Naval Affairs MAL.  
**Kama Marie Wilson** wife of **Chet**  
**Wilson**, son of member **Bob (Willie)**  
**Wilson** was in her car and was  
broad sided near their home and went  
into a Coma and never regained  
consciousness. She was determined  
brain dead at 0900. **Kay** was a Donor  
so at 2100 Hours the life support  
system was disconnected.

## Gathering

**Trist McConnell** hosted a group of  
NMEF folks that worked with the  
Danish Navy mine procurement  
program. CDR **Jorgen Strange**  
**Lorenzen** was a house-guest on his  
way to the August Reunion in  
Charleston. **Len Ringler**, **Reggie**  
**Beane Jorgen**, **Trist**, and **John**  
**Loonam** swapped stories. Led on  
by **Trist**, we did sing a Happy  
Birthday to **Nat** for his 81st birthday!  
**Ray Ethridge** couldn't make it.



## Around the Fleet

Foc'sle 8/7

**RADM Dennis R Conley**, COMINELWARCOM, took time out of his busy schedule to have a photo taken with Ingleside area Chief selectees. Pictured with the Admiral among the selectees were: **MN1(SW) Todd Harnish**, **MN1(SW) Steve Rogers**, **MN1 Rita Nicely**, **MN1 David Hartje**, **MN1 Louis Godeau**, **MN1(SW) Johnny Shelton** and **MN1(SW) Joseph Osborne**.

Eight Rotational Crew Delta sailors embarked on USS Warrior came to assistance of some Charleston area watercraft operators. Their ski boat rammed a metal break water at the former Naval Base. The sailors were first on the scene and rendered emergency first aid and assisted the Coast Guard. The warrior was in Charleston for degaussing Operations.

USS Osprey reported **MNC(SW) David Johnson** received a Letter of Commendation from MWTC for outstanding performance. **MN1(SW) Darvin F Robinson** was frocked to his present rate.

**MN1(SW) Johnny L Shelton** was featured as a Chief selectee and gave this advice to fellow MN: Get shipboard qualifications and advancement qualifications early, work hard and stay out of trouble. He says that success comes from the support and dedication of one's shipmates.

Newest Minewarfare Center of Excellence Master Chiefs pictured with **ADM Conley** included **MNCM(AW/SW) John E Babcock**. Another photo showed new Senior Chief's pictured with the Admiral including **MNCS(SW) Thomas S Smith**.

**MNSR Jason White**, MWTC is pictured explaining his hobby that helps relieve stress is "Playing Basketball helps me to get rid of tension and aggression".

Foc'sle 8/21

Chief's picture again:  
all are MN1's **Ronald D Johnson**,

**ATG; Joseph G Osborne**, Avenger; **David A Hartje**, COMOMAG; **Todd A Harnish**, Falcon; **John G Sullivan**, Unit 8; **Carrie J Williams**, Unit 10; **Louis Gudeaux**, MWTC; **Rita Nicely**, MWTC **Brian R Wilson**, MWTC; **Steve E Rogers**, Osprey.

Foc'sle 9/4

Sailor of Quarter **MN1(SW) Donald Nutting**, RON3; **MN1 Richard Hermann** Crew Echo; **MN1 Allen Alt**, Defender; **MN1 Ray Pendergrass**, Oriole; **MN2 George Custis**, Comorant; **MN1(SW) Jeffery McCurdy**. Junior Sailor of the Quarter **MN3 John Jamison**, Crew Alpha.

Chief selectee **Todd A Harnish**, USS Falcon was pictured and advises juniors to set goals, write them down and review and track your progress. He attributes his success to the good leadership he has had. **MN1 Ronald Johnson**, Afloat Training Group, was also pictured and interviewed. He attributes his success to hard work and leadership.

**MNC Kevin King**, Afloat training Group, was pictured among other recipients of a \$250. college scholarship in his St Leo College account courtesy of Ingleside's Navy League Area Council.

Foc'sle 10/2

**MN2 Richard McClellan**, USS Comorant, was pictured helping his daughter, **Kirah**, man the hose during a family cruise.

Foc'sle 10/16

**MN1(SW) Floyd Greer**, Rotational Crew Bravo received his fifth Good Conduct Award. **MNC Todd Harnish**, USS Falcon, was pictured leading tour of 6th graders on board visiting the ship in Beaumont TX.

Foc'sle 11/13

**MN2 Robert Williamson**, USS Sentry received recognition for promotion to his present rate. **MN3 Lee Beggs**, USS Falcon was pictured touring historic Fort George in George Town, Grand Cayman Island during a port visit.

Courier 8/14

Change of Command

**Capt Harold Duane Convert** relieved **Capt Richard Parish** as Commanding Officer Coastal Systems Station, Panama City FL.

Courier 8/28

Commander Naval Sea Systems Command **VADM George P Nanos** was briefed about the Airborne Mine Neutralization System (advanced development model).

## MINE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER

by LT Mac Intosh

Here we are again, another hot and humid day in Ingleside, TX. As always, it is my pleasure to update everyone on things happening in the Mines Division and the Mine Warfare Training Department.

Since the last issue, we hired a civilian Mine Warfare Training Department Deputy Director, Mr. **Jim McGoldrick**. Some of you may remember him, he is a retired Mineman Senior Chief, married to **MNC Kim McGoldrick**. They just left Okinawa, Japan and **MNC McGoldrick** is now stationed at COMOMAG.

August brought us a new Mine Warfare Training Department Director, **CDR A. B. Fuller**. His previous assignment was Commanding Officer, **MCM-2, USS Defender**. He brings extensive MCM experience to the department and has already added significant changes to the content and quality of MIW instruction.

The department had four selectees for MNC, two of them from the Mines Division, **MN1 Nicely**, **MN1 Godeaux**, **MN1 Wilson**, and **STG1 Kelley**.

That's it for now, will see you in the next issue! (Ed. Note. This just missed the Fall Issue so here it is.)

## USS Yorktown

(Mine Museum)

Come visit on the World Wide Web [www.state.sc.us/patpt](http://www.state.sc.us/patpt). Or go to the AOM homepage battle.netgate.net and click on PatriotsPoint



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