

The DASHPOT

Issue 27

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

FALL 1999

MINEMAN of the Year

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well now let me see, where do I want to start? I suppose it would be appropriate to begin with recognition of those that made the Reunion in Corpus Christi such a rousing success. I can assure you that I had a wonderful time. Many people worked very hard at putting things together and I will probably neglect to thank them all, but I must thank CDR **Ron Swart** and all the active duty people that helped him, I must thank **Paul Santa Maria** for his help at the picnic. Our Secretary/Treasurer **Curtis Christian** and his wife **Mary** were also a great help as was my best friend **Clare**.

In addition to all the work, CDR **Swart** was also kind enough to be our guest speaker at the Association Dinner. He made a super presentation and deserves a round of applause. We recognized the Minemen of the Year, MN2 **Laura Rodriguez** USN, MN1 **Joseph K. Hardiman** USNR and will present certificates as well as membership in the association for the current year. We hope they renew and stay with us forever.

1. COMMANDER, MINE WARFARE COMMAND and the ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN take great pleasure in announcing the selection of MN2 **LAURA RODRIGUEZ**, USN and MN1 **JOSEPH K. HARDIMAN**, USNR as the Active Duty and Reserve Minemen of the year, respectively. MN2 **Rodriguez** is currently a student at Mine Warfare Training Center and is under orders to the USS Kingfisher (MHC 56). MN1 **Hardiman** is assigned to NR MOMAU 11, Houston, TX.

2. The selection process was, as always, extremely competitive. congratulations to all nominated for this prestigious award:

ACTIVE DUTY:

MN1(SW) **Allen E. Alt**, - USS Defender (MCM 2)
 MN1 **John P. Boden**, - USS Shrike (MHC62)
 MN1 **Barbara L. Davies** MOMAU 14, Yorktown
 MN1(SS) **Gregary L. Eckelbecker**, - MOMAU 8, Guam
 MN1 **Andrea L. Edwards**, - MOMAU 5, Sigonella
 MN1 **Katherine Frunz**, - MWTC, Ingleside, TX
 MN1(SW) **Richard A. Hormann**, - Rotational Crew Echo
 MNC(sel)(AW) **Timothy W. Hickman**, USS Kingfisher (MHC 56)
 MN1 **Jennifer S. Lauffenburger**, - MOMAU 3, Earle, NJ
 MN2 **Steven J. McMillian**, - USS Kingfisher (MHC 62)
 MNC(sel)(SW) **Edward J. Nixon**, - USS Kingfisher (MHC 62)
 MN2(SW) **Brad E. Potts**, - Rotational Crew Bravo
 MN2 **Michael E. Rodgers**, - Rotational Crew Hotel
 MN2 **LAURA Rodriguez** Mine Warfare Training Center
 MN1(SW) **Michael E. Szostkiewicz**, - USS Scout (MCM 8)
 MNC(sel)(SW) **Thomas M. Vail**, - Rotational Crew Charlie
 MN1 **Dean L. Venczel**, - MOMAU 11, Charleston, SC.

RESERVE:

MN2 **Dennis E. Brown**, USNR - NR MOMAU 7
 MN1 **Hardiman** NR MOMAU 11, Houston, TX.

Chief Mineman Selectees

MNC - CHIEF MINEMEN [E-7]

ALLSTON, BRIAN 013
 BARTOLI, ANTHO 010
 CARMAN, JOHN L 014
 HICKMAN, TIMOT 011
 MCCRADY, JEFFE 005
 MYERS, GARY VE 002
 PALMER, ANDREW 006
 WHITMORE, LEE 003

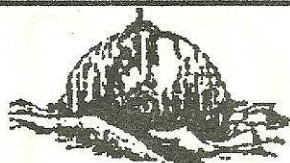
ANDERSON, DENN 012
 BEVILLE, PETER 004
 HARGROVE, DAVI 015
 KING, PAUL EDW 008
 MCLAUGHLIN, ST 009
 NIXON, EDWARD 007
 VAIL, THOMAS M 001

Number denotes selection order

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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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Of particular interest was the noticeable absence of three of our staunchest members. **Joergen Lorenzen** was unable to attend due to illness, we wish him a speedy recovery, **Lyal Stryker** was helping his friend **Isabell Boorda** return to her family in New England, we should also say a prayer for her, she is not well. And **Toby Horn** stayed in Charleston helping **Janie** care for her father, causing him to miss his first ever Reunion.

Let me also thank **Toby** at this time for all the effort he put into completing the required paperwork for submission to the IRS in pursuit of our 502 (C) (3) tax exempt status.

The AOM voted to donate a copy of the History Book to the Royal Danish Navy Library, in the name of **Joergen Lorenzen**.

We now have a new Quartermaster/Storekeeper to manage all the items that we have for sale, such as hats, T-Shirts Etc. My thanks to MN2 **Stephanie Cowart** for accepting the job.

And finally let me congratulate the two newest Board Members. MNCS (ret) **Jim McGoldrick**, and LT **Coral MacIntosh**.

Stay well, Joe!

**Charleston
Reunion
AUG 11-13 '00
26th Annual**



Mineman in the Spotlight

by CDR Ron Swart

Meet Lieutenant (Junior Grade) **David Alan Lauffenberger**. He is a native of Warren, PA, and graduated from Warren County Area High School in 1982. **Dave's** hard work and impressive talent was evident at an early age and was selected as Draftsman of the Year for both 1981 and 1982. **Dave** joined the Navy in May 1983 has been a Mineman since graduation from 'A' School (at the top of his class) at the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center, Charleston in February of 1984. His first duty station was MOMAG Unit Eight in Guam and subsequently joined the crews of MOMAG Unit Three, Colts Neck, NJ, MOMAG Det Seven in Hawaii, and COMOMAG Staff in Charleston, SC. He attended SLMM 'C' School in 1985-86. Excelling in each assignment, **Dave** has been Sailor of the Quarter at every Mine Shop and as the Sailor of the Year three times. In 1993 and 1994, he was selected as the COMINELWAR-COM Atlantic Shore Sailor of the Year. He charged up the ranks becoming a Chief Mineman in 1995 and was then transferred to the staff of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, Ingleside, TX. During this abbreviated tour, he attended school for the AN/SQQ-32 Minehunting Sonar. With sea duty as his destiny, **Dave** joined the pre-commissioning crew of USS Falcon, MHC-59 in 1996, where he earned his Surface Warfare qualifications and became

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proficient in Mine Countermeasures operations. Leadership is **David's** forte' and there was little doubt that he would eventually strive for a commission, which he achieved in October of 1997, selecting to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CWO2 / Surface Ordnance). As a newly commissioned officer, it was back to sea for our intrepid Mineman and USS Seattle (AOE-3) needed his talents as the Weapons Officer, Physical Security Officer, Helicopter Control Officer and many other collateral duties. **Dave** has done a magnificent job in USS Seattle and was promoted to the LDO ranks last year and now holds his present rank of LT (jg). It is his desire to return to the Mine Warfare Community after this tour and pass along some of the leadership and mentorship he received during his impressive rise up the ranks. **Dave** is married to the equally talented Mineman First Class **Jennifer (Voss) Lauffenberger** and they presently reside in base housing at Weapon Station Earle, NJ.

If you would like to nominate a Mineman for this feature, active or retired, forward an appropriate biography or article with a photograph to **Ron Swart**, 5009 Graford Place, Corpus Christi, TX 78413
e-mail: swart@interconnect.net

**NEXT
ARTICLE DUE
DATE
DEC 10 1999**

Newest AOM Board Member

LT Coral Lee Mac Intosh was born in Schenectady, New York. In August 1976, she enlisted in the Navy and was ordered to RTC, Orlando, Florida to attend Recruit Training.

In March 1977, LT Mac Intosh graduated from Mineman "A" School and reported to her first duty station, Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Charleston, South Carolina, where she was assigned tours at Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Detachment FIVE, Sigonella, Sicily, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Detachment SIX, Souda Bay, Crete and Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Detachment FOUR, Glen Douglas, Scotland.

March 1980, she was transferred to Navy Recruiting District, Albany, New York for a tour as a Navy Recruiter. In June 1983, she was transferred to Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center where she attended the Test Set Repair and Maintenance Course. Upon graduation, in October 1983, she received orders to Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Charleston, South Carolina as a first class petty officer and performed staff duties as the Assistant Operations Officer for Logistics, the Assistant Operations Officer for Quality Assurance and Facilities, and the Assistant Operations Officer for Maintenance. Additionally, while assigned to Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, she deployed to Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Detachment SIX, Souda Bay, Crete and returned to serve as Assistant to the Operations Officer. In September 1985, while attached to the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training center, she was advanced to Chief Mineman, the first female in the Navy to do so, and performed duties as an instructor, course supervisor and administrative chief.

On 1 February 1989, LT Mac Intosh was commissioned under the Limited

Duty Officer Program and became the first female LDO in the surface ordnance field. She then assumed duties as the Repair-5 Division Officer onboard USS JASON (AR 8). In June 1990, she was transferred to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, San Francisco, California and served as Repair-Treasure Island and Repair-1 Division Officer. April 1993 she was assigned to Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Unit ONE as Prospective Commanding Officer, and became the Mine Community's first female Commanding Officer of a Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit in June 1993.

In July of 1996, following a successful Commanding Officer tour at MOMAG Unit One, she transferred to Commander, Mine Warfare Inspection Group where she served as the Mine Preparation Inspector and Department Head until the command disestablished, May 30, 1997.

She has served at Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside, Texas since June of 1997 as the Mine Systems Division Officer and has recently been selected for LCDR.

LT Mac Intosh has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star in lieu of Third Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation with two bronze stars, Navy "E" Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal with one bronze star, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Ribbon with two bronze stars, and the Navy Recruiting Ribbon.

LT Mac Intosh is married to **Paul Francis Appleton**. They have one son, Kyle and currently reside in Corpus Christi, Texas. She is awaiting orders to Hawaii and will be transferring in December.??

Committee Reports

Chaplain

by Henry Williams

The Bible tells us in Matthew 6:15 "If you do not forgive others their trespass, neither will God forgive your trespasses.

In a recent article of USA Today, a report was given from a study of the National Healthcare Research regarding an unforgiving heart. It said Holding a grudge is hazardous to your health.

Growing evidence shows that people inclined to forgive others enjoy better mental and physical health than those who hold grudges.

● Refusal to forgive is most common among people with high anger and fear levels.

● People who feel that they have been forgiven in the past are much more likely to forgive others.

● Guilt is good. if you feel bad about a grudge, you are more likely to forgive.

Heart rate and blood pressure rise and moods worsen for those who dwell on the hurt.

Pray therefore, "Father forgive me my debts as I forgive my debtors". It is good for the body as well as your soul.

Civic News

Lyal

Ooops... Lost in the cracks of the Summer issue. A continuation of CDR **Lyal Stryker's** article on Civic Affairs on The Annual USS Hobson Memorial Ceremony in Charleston SC.

I was privileged to represent the AOM on your behalf. Also present was VADM **Albert J. Baciocco**, USN (RET), last years guest speaker and other Navy League members. Also AOM member **Capt Ted Pstrak**, USN (PET). The MOMAU 11 color guard paraded the colors and looked real sharp.

Everyone commented on their appearance and performance. The color guard was composed of MN1 **Jody Wilbanks**, USN, MN1 **Dean Vencsel**, USN and MN2 **Dale Pollitt**, USN. The USS Hobson, DMS 26 was sunk in the North Atlantic while acting as plane guard for the USS Wasp when the Wasp collided with the Hobson. There were 176 men that lost their lives in this tragic accident in which the ship sank in four minutes. One of our own, MN3 **George Swan** was lost in the accident. The keel for the USS Hobson DD-464 was laid at Charleston Navy Yard on 14 November, 1940, launched 8 September 1941 and Commissioned 22 January 1942. She served with distinction in the European theatre before returning to Charleston where she was converted to a High Speed Minesweeper and deployed to the Pacific. She participated in the battle for Okinawa and was heavily damaged on 16 April, 1945 where four members lost their lives.

Scholarship

Paul Santa Maria

Congratulations to Miss **Stacey L Cleland**, daughter of **Gary Cleland**, CWO4 USNR, on being awarded The Association of Minemen Scholarship for the year 1999-2000. On behalf of the **Stryker** family, congratulations to **Victor Hansen-Smith**, son of **Thomas Joseph Smith**, CWO4-USN, the recipient of the scholarship sponsored by the **Doreen Stryker** Memorial Fund. Good luck to both in your chosen endeavors.

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, **Swede Carlson**, **Don DeCrona**, and myself; We would like to extend our gratitude to all who contributed so unselfishly to insure that scholarships could be awarded this year. On that note, thank you to President **Joe** for his continued fund raising schemes; to **Clara Balderrama** for her generous

donation; to all who donated items for auction; to CDR **Swart** and his most hospitable crew who not only put out one heck of a picnic but also participated in the auction with gusto as did everyone else; to **Mac Mc Carthy** who truly demonstrated one of the many attributes of a Mineman; being resourceful, charging for the "free" boat rides provided by a MOMAGGER to further help the scholarship fund. Thank you again one and all.

Sailors help build home for Habitat for Humanity

More than 50 Sailors from the local area will help build a three-bedroom Habitat-for-Humanity home in Corpus Christi.

Sailors are from the following commands: Naval Station Ingleside, Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Mine Warfare Training Center USS Inchon (MCS 12) Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three, Mine Countermeasures Rotational Crew Alfa and Golf, Fleet Technical Support Center, U.S. Atlantic, Naval Reserve Center in Corpus Christi

They will be putting shingles on the roof, and doing exterior work to the home and interior insulation.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit agency that partners with the community to build affordable housing to deserving low income families who are willing to help themselves and who would otherwise be unable to afford decent housing. Construction began in July. Estimated completion date is October

Paid your 1999-2000 dues yet? Please forward to AOM PO Box71835 Charleston SC 29415-1835 We need you as a member.

Secretary/Treasurer

Curtis Christian



I guess that everyone has recovered from the reunion in Corpus Christi. That is all of us that could leave and not have to face hurricane

Bert. Heard that Ingleside was not hurt to bad.

We started off with a visit to the school and witnessed the graduation of a MN "A" class. This was followed by a tour of the school. Sure do wish that I could go back now. Totally different than what we were teaching back in—well, never mind how far back. The young men who complete the school now have a foundation that will allow them to excel in many fields after there Nave careers.

As always the early bird was filled with old stories and old timers. We were blessed with some much-needed young blood at all the functions. The dinner was outstanding even though the Navy saw fit to take our guest speakers out of town at the last minute. Cdr. **Swart** was stuck with entertaining us and he did a wonderful job.

The Sunday picnic turned out great. We had everything from boat rides to water-pistols fights. So much food was served that everyone had more that they could eat. The cooking crew could go into catering business and get rich.

Cdr. **Swart** who headed up the reunion this year is to be commended for a great job and his staff left nothing to be needed. **GREAT JOB FOLKS AND OUR THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.**

We have struck the names of 118 past due members from the mailing list. All those who are more that a year past due have been deleted. We hated to do this but could not afford the expense of posting any longer. In June 1999, we had past due members in the amount that would pay for the Dashpot (printing and postage) for one year. That's a

lot of money.

A financial statement has been sent to our publisher. Don't know if we will have room to publish it all but **John** will work in what he can. We still owe about \$5,000.00 to loans for the history book. Two scholarships were awarded this year and **Paul** will fill you in on tem.

As you will see in other parts of the Dashpot, we have a new storekeeper. **Stephanie Cowart** is taking over and by the time you read this I will have shipped her the supplies. It has come to my attention that **Stephanie** had to recruit some help to handle this job. Congratulations and we wish you the best **Stephanie**.

In parting I would like to ask all of you to look on the front of your Dashpot. **Are your dues up-to-date?** (2000 means your paid until August of 2000)

Finance

From Curtis Christian

Curtis provided us with a financial print-out and I will attempt to put the figures in some kind of format for a first of its kind financial report. The financial program has only been operational since this Spring so bear with us on this. Balance on hand 97/31/98 Not reported

Income:

Auction proceeds:	\$1357
Scholarship	471
Museum	102
History Book	2400
Dues	3283
Reunion Dinner	1910
Reunion Picnic	683
Other	220

Total reported income \$10,429

Expenses:

Print Dashpot	\$ 496
Mail Dashpot	532
Museum, Lexington	250
Admin supplies	228

Chaplain	74
Reunion TX	3919
Storage	621
Scholarships (1999)	1000
Small Stores	159
Not categorized	606
Total reported expenses	\$ 7885
Balance on hand 7/31/99	Not reported

Category Balances:

History Book	\$ -5000
Scholarship	Not reported
General Fund	Not reported
Outstanding bills	Not reported

Assets other:

Small Stores	Not reported
History Books	Not reported
Equipment	Not reported

Mine Warfare Assets:

All Hands 9/99

1 Command and Control Ship:
USS Inchon

14 Mine Countermeasures Ships (MCMs)

USS Avenger, USS Defender, USS Sentry, USS Champiunon, USS Guardian, USS Devastator, USS Patriot, USS Scout, USS Pioneer, USS Warrior, USS Gladiator, USS Ardent, USS Dextrous, USS Chief

12 Coastal Mine Hunters (MHCs)

USS Osprey, USS Heron, USS Pelican, USS Robin, USS Oriole, USS Inngfisher, USS Comorant, USS Blackhawk, mUSS Falcon, USS Cardinal, USS Raven, USS Shrike

2 Mine Countermeasures helicopter Squadrons:

HM-14 Vanguard, HM 15 Blackhawks

10 Mobile Mine Assembly Units (MOMAUs)

U-1 Seal Beach CA, U-3 Earl NJ, U-5 Sigonella IT, D-7 Barbas Point HI, U-8 Guam, U-10 Kadena JP, U-11 Charleston SC, U-12 Misawa JP, U-14 Yorktown VA, U-15 Kingsville TX

In the Papers

Coastal Courier 8/13

Looking at Minewarfare for the future, a demonstration competition was held at NCSS in August for the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle. MIT beat U-Florida for top honors also Stevens U, Hoboken, Florida Atlantic U and the Naval Academy rounded out the field of competitors. Foc'sle 6/18 CWO3 **Norm "Gunner" Haugen** (pictured), COMOMAG, captured top awards at the Pacific Fleet and All Navy (West) Rifle and Pistol Championships at Camp Pendleton, CA. Rotational Crew Charlie embarked in USS Pioneer change of command where CDR **James R Boorujy** was relieved by LCDR **Rodelio Laco Jr** on June 25th. Graduation at St Leo's College June 18th included MN1 **Ronald Johnson** and MN1 **Jeffery Moore** both receiving AA degrees. MNSR **Troy Hepner**, MWTC was pictured with several others during Operation Paintbrush where sailors, civilians and family members come together to help members of the community with house repair and painting. MN1 **Brian Bieberitz** and MN3 **Jermaine Bradshaw** were pictured in their volunteer role in renovating/expanding a kids park in Corpus Christi. MN1 **David Kirker**, USS Shrike, was pictured and quoted on Fathers Day about his dad's teachings.

Foc'sle 7/2 The navy's new degaussing facility, Electromagnetic Roll (EMR) Facility, opened for business July 6th. The old facility in Charleston, SC really impacted on ships machinery and morale as it was a 1 week transit to Charleston. Now its a 1 mile transit. CDR **Ron Swart**, COMOMAG, had a lengthily article in the Career Counselors Corner describing all the Minemen shore duty worldwide. (Ed note. Looking at the manning shortfalls at the Sites, I think he was doing some hard recruiting) MN1 **Ray Pendergrass** and MN2 **Peter**

Placek USS Oriole's MNV pilots were reported as having great training at NCSS. MN2 **Orville Hall**, USS Heron, was pictured and asked about independence day.

Foc'sle 7/16 MN3 **Myles P Holland**, Rotational Crew Delta in USS Dextros, was pictured firing a shotline as the Dextros prepared to UNREP with the USNS Niagra Falls at sea. MNC(SW) **John Valdez**, Crew Delta's deck division officer was proud of the great job the crew had done. USS Scout advancements MN3 **Greg Hartman** and MN3 **Shaun Moser**; Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists MN1(SW) **Gary York**. USS Champion Sailors frocked MN3 **Thomas Danek** and MN3 **Matthew Heyer**.

Foc'sle 7/30 MN1 **James Hayes**, Naval Reserve MOMAU 8, NAS Fort Worth was pictured testing components. MOMAG Central Drill Site aboard NAS Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth dedicated its newly remodeled facility. MNC **Robert McGuire** and MN1 **Scott Finney** are the Active Duty members who provide hands-on training for reservists. MOMAG CDS Dallas closed its doors September 1998. The new facility will provide training for seven MOMAUs in Ft Worth, El Paso, Houston, Austin, Memphis, Pittsburg and Greenville, SC.

Foc'sle 8/13 LCDR **Mark Dennis** relieved CDR **Christopher Grady** as Co Rotational crew Echo embarked on USS Chief on July 19th.

MN2(SW) **Brad Potts**, Rotational Crew Bravo aboard USS Ardent, was pictured performing his duties as the ship's OOD. The article described the all enlisted underway watch and how enlisted personnel are taking on more responsibility.

C D R **George Bonsall** turned over command of USS Sentry to LCDR **Donald Hornbeck** on August 6th. MN1(SW) **Jose Garza**, MN2(SW) **Isauro Sedillo** and MNSN **Jeffery McIntosh** were pictured manning the rail as USS Avenger arrives home after their MED Deployment.

USS Inchon, USS Avenger, USS Champion, USS Devastator and USS Scout welcomed home from their MED deployment on July 28th having deployed in February.

LCDR **Anthony L. Krueger** assumed command of USS Heron (MHC 52) from CDR **Peter L. Stitt** during a traditional change of command ceremony held Aug. 27 at Ingleside.

LCDR **Edward Kenyon** relieved CDR **William McQuilkin** as CO USS Scout on 10 September at Ingleside.

Earlier report from CDR **Ron Swart**...Last issue, I discussed the closing of Unit 3 and Unit 11 and moving to Yorktown. Well sometimes the right decision isn't the first one and we've changed our focus. It appears that the best and least expensive change will be to keep Charleston open and close Unit 14 and Unit 3 after they have completed the withdrawal of their mine systems. CINCLANTFLT and COMINSEWARCOM agrees. Now for the paperwork. Summer-Fall Moves: LCDR (Sel) **Keith Nesmith** moves to COMLOG WESTPAC Singapore as the SEVENTHFLT Ordnance Officer, replacing LT **Alex Brown** who moves to Unit 3 as CO, relieving LT **Tom Mathison**. Tom will roll back to sea duty. Replacing **Keith Nesmith** will be LCDR **Matt Weisniewski** who is now the OIC of Det 7 Hawaii. Speaking of Hawaii... CINCLANTFLT and CNO have approved a January 99 closure. We will be working with the detailers on orders for the Det personnel. For historical purposes, it would be great to get some remembrances and sea stories. We still have serious manpower shortages in the Mineman rating. I had an opportunity to visit the Navy boot-camp at Great Lakes and I am confident that the recruiters and recruit division staff members are doing their best to bring the best Sailors into our Navy. Some of these

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

large Selective Re-enlistment Bonus will help encourage their choice. We are looking forward to hosting the 25th Annual AOM Reunion. See you in Texas !!! Ron

AOM MN Rings

by MNCM John Keen, USN Ret.
(Goose Creek, SC)

Prices are as follows:

Sterling silver ring with 10k gold face \$99.00

10k gold ring with 10k gold face (MK 6 Mine) \$155.00

10k white gold ring with white gold face \$155.00

14k gold ring with white gold face \$185.00

14k white gold ring with yellow gold face \$185.00

Shipping and handling free

State tax Florida only (residents)

The company sells nothing over \$200 therefor, data extracted from prototype rings indicates ring mass had to be beefed up to accommodate AOM logo and engraving on ring shoulders drove

acquisition costs over \$300. This resulted or dictated the ring to be as shown above. The AOM

logo at this time is impressed on anchor bumper. Visible with aid of a good set of eyes. "AOM" is on both ring shoulders. MK 6 is on top. These rings can be ordered direct from Mike Bean at 1-850-623-3901 using Visa or

Master Card and state ring size and AOM ring.

This has been a protracted excursion for me. I'm happy its over. I'm satisfied with the outcome entirely. I love the ring. I also bought an E-9 ring from them. I hope its well received by the elected members of the association management and by the general membership. The ring is unique and will be extremely rare in the world of rings. It embodies more than a simple membership card can do. Its a durable forever thing. For me, its not a dress-up ornament, it's an every day event.

Prices may vary with the price of gold. It's expected any price changes occurring will be minimal. Gold prices have been on the low

storekeeper News

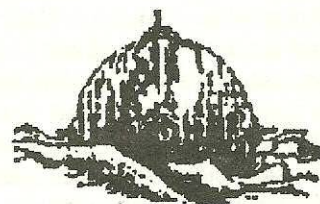
By MN2 Stephanie Moss Cowart

Hi to all! I am MN2 **Stephanie Moss Cowart**, currently on recruiting duty in Texas, (and ready to go back to a MOMAU) and I have recently taken over the role of storekeeper (T-shirts, hats, etc...) for The AOM. I find this ironic, as should those of you who know me and know how much I "love" supply and how long I spent trying to get out of being the SK at Unit 8. For future reference, watch what you say to Joe, he'll hold you to it! Anyway, I wanted to let everyone know what we have, and don't have for sale right now. We have a limited number of ballcaps and T-shirts in various colors and sizes. Also a handful of windbreakers and the polo style shirts. Out of the stock turned

over to me, there are no mine medallions or tie tacks at this time. I have revised the order form to reflect the items available and where to send the orders to. It is my understanding that **Harold Elston**, and **Fred Dane**, who upkeep's the AOM homepage, will also put that form on the web site. You can contact me via email at cowdawg1@aol.com with questions regarding sizes available. I am looking into several new items for the AOM. Hopefully after next week's rating exam, I can devote some more effort into it. I am looking at providing command style ballcaps in different colors. (That being, the mesh style cap with the AOM logo embroidered on it) Also, I am looking at new t-shirts. I know the ones made for the Chas Reunion in '98 were a big hit. I am planning on having some made for the reunion in 2000. I am considering that style with a more

attractive look than what we currently have in stock for our regular shirts. For those of you out there with any ideas, please feel free to contact me with them. I want to get you guys items you want to buy.

And on one last note, the last two years I have become more involved and interested in the AOM, even though I have been a member since '94. I was astonished to learn and see the lack of interest and support the AOM is receiving from active duty members. After attending the past two reunions and seeing the attendance, or should I say lack of, by active duty members and to see that they aren't "joining" the association, I thought I would try to do my part as a member and do "something". We all look forward to the Dashpot issues, looking for our names, our command's submissions, and finding out what the other commands and our shipmates are up to. The AOM is about more than that, and for a minimal amount of \$10 a year, its worth supporting. Without the younger members getting involved and taking an active role, the history and tradition that the AOM is trying to preserve will eventually fade away. I encourage all of my active duty shipmates to become members, and if you already are a member, to catch your membership up to date and see what you can do to help out. I am even considering sponsoring a "recruiting" award yearly (fitting since I am on recruiting duty) to the individual who recruits the most AOM members a year. I hope to some that it is an incentive.



Minemen of the future

All Hands 9/99

The year is 2004. Its 0-dark -30 and a Navy battle-group steams quietly along in a 21st century theater of operations. Mineman 1st Class Mike Manta, lead operator on the embarked mine warfare fleet introduction team sits at a console in the command information center (CIC) aboard the battle group's forward destroyer.

With a confidence born of years of experience, Manta points to the console's sonar screen and explains the contact to the tactical action officer (TAO): a moored mine some 15 nautical miles ahead of the ship, detected by the ship's remote minehunting vehicle (RMV).

With lightning speed, Manta types commands into the console's keyboard. The RMV makes a sweeping turn around the contact. Seconds later verification of the moored mine against the computer database is complete. Location marked. The destroyer passes its findings along electronically to the battle group commander. A decision is made to avoid the mine rather than expend a neutralization device, knowing that the dedicated mine force will be along later to neutralize the threat.

This time it was only an exercise mine. Next time, as Manta well knows, it could be the real thing.

Sound like science fiction? Well, maybe, but it's really not that far away. In this decade alone, the Navy has done more to advance mine warfare technology than in its entire history.

"For the most part, the image of the mine as a cheap weapon that floats on the surface with pointy horns is no longer valid" RADM Bentacourt, Commander Mine Warfare Command, cautions. "The sophistication and proliferation of today's mines has moved forward, but there are many unsophisticated mines still out there that pose a significant threat to Navy ships".

EDITOR

by John Loonam

Well, I didn't think I would be in this column for the Fall issue. I had planned to resign as Editor in August. I just have too many "glitches" with the Association that just don't go away. Hopefully, things will turn around as more volunteers get on the band wagon and help make this Association flourish. I'd sure like to see our Active Duty folks read and heed our Storekeepers comments concerning membership and participation. She made me feel great with her description of the use the Fleet gets out of the Newsletter. I volunteered to take it for another year and we will see how that goes. Our President, Joe, needs all the help he can get for ways to make us prosper and grow. Why not give a hand? Our Museums need manpower to get back to something we Minemen can be proud of. Chip in, lend a hand or take the initiative and get something going.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 1999

At the Sandy Shores Hotel in Corpus Christi Texas

The president called the meeting to order at 1530

Cdr. **Ron Swart** gave a report on the reunion dinner and picnic. He thanked **Ken Allen** for taking on the responsibilities of the picnic.

The Secretary gave a report on the membership count and thanked **John Loonam** for staying up late to put it together.

The president read the Yorktown report sent in by **Toby Horn**. The Yorktown is going through some management changes and we will have to wait until they set some guidelines as to what we can and can not do. He reported that the Yorktown crew had moved things into our spaces and that they may move the display mines at the entrance to the Yorktown.

Cdr. **Swart** reported on the Lexington. The exhibit is being set up and taken care of. The Lexington management wanted us to pay \$40,000 to air-condition our spaces and all work came to a stop for a while. Other arrangements have been made and work is going ahead.

The president asked Cdr. **Swart** and **Toby Horn** to work together on storing our exhibits and completing an inventory. CDR **Swart** will provide space in Charleston to store excess display items. In addition he will provide through the Charleston Unit, manpower to move materials from our existing stowage facility to the Unit. (free stowage)

Cdr. **Swart** indicated he is interested in the Dashpot editor job when he retires in two years. (That is if he does not make Admiral before then (SMILE) The Historian job was discussed and tabled.

The secretary gave the financial statement and thanked all the loan holders who donated their balances to the AOM.

Paul Santa Maria reported on the scholarship awards. He read two letters from past recipients of the award thanking the AOM for the help with their education. As funds are low this year we will give no awards at this time. Should the auction and donations at the picnic provide sufficient funds we will give the awards. (Secretary's note-two awards were given, with funds provided by the membership at the picnic.)

The nominating committee nominated MNCS (ret) **Jim McGoldrick** and LT **Coral MacIntosh** to serve on the BOD for the 99-02 time frame. There being no further nominees from the floor a vote was taken and **Jim McGoldrick** and **Coral MacIntosh** were elected to the BOD.

The secretary asked for a storekeeper to take over the

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(Continued from page 8)

supplies. No one wanted the job. Note—at the picnic MN2 **Stephanie Moss Cowart** offered to take the job. (Thanks **Stephanie**, When CDR **Swart** makes Admiral I will recommend that you fill the CDR. Slot.)

Warren Savage reported that CWO4-Gary Cleland, USNR was to receive the CLOCK-COCKERS award this year.

John Loonam gave a report on the Dashpot and as each year asked for articles from the membership. Can't print a Dashpot without input from the members.

H.E. Elston thanked John for his work on the Dashpot.

Don DeCrona thanked **Fred Dane** and **Hal Elston** for the work on the Web Sight.

The president reported that thanks to **Toby Horn** the IRS tax-free forms were completed and would be posted this week.

The president presented the ring and photos from **John Keen** that had been made up. It was decided that each person would order directly from the company.

Don DeCrona asked for the reunion in 2001 to be held in Reno NV. On August 10-11-12. A vote was taken and passed by the membership.

Hal Elston moved to have the reunion changed to the Sep./Oct. time frame and consider the Seattle area. A vote was taken and not approved by the membership.

A motion was made by **Hal Elston** and seconded by **Bob Hart** to donate a History Book to the Denmark Museum. A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

A year's free dues will be awarded to the Active and reserve Minemen of the year. Volunteers are requested to man our Awards Committee.

Cdr. **Swart** reported that the new buildings and ball fields in Ingleside would be named after Minemen that had contributed above and beyond

to the Navy and the Mine force and that the roads would be named after war actions. (Mining) (see related article on page xx)

A motion was made by **Hal Elston** and seconded by **Warren Savage** to have the Secretary/Treasurer be an elected office with a vote on the BOD and have the immediate past president be a voting member of the BOD. **Don DeCrona** to prepare a change to the by-laws and vote to be taken by the BOD at a later time.

Bill Johnson, Lyal Stryker and Swede Carlsen (after getting an additional book for his library) asked that the monies owed to them

Membership

We are about to get this count down to a gnats eye but not quite yet.

We have a mailing of 487 now and another group is about to be dropped for non-payment. The mailing includes 118 "free ones" to official addresses, Honoree members and widows of members. Quite a few members responded to our postcard mailing. Please keep us informed of your address changes as we our mailing is not forwarded.

A HAIRY PROPOSITION

A good many years ago I served in a salvage vessel engaged in recovering torpedoes that had been fired by the submarines during exercises in LaHaina Roads. Wind was picking up and the sea's swell's was running, making recovery more difficult. Because of the increased rolling and reduced deck space lost to units already brought on board, some sightseers were assisting the deck gang in landing the torpedoes. The last torpedo to be landed was swinging badly. As it came over the bulwark a small young quartermaster striker at the propeller end was unable to prevent its bumping hard against the

bulwark. Though the bulwark later was found not to be damaged, the Chief Bos's began berating the boy. The small seaman looked up at the big Warrant Officer and said very meekly, "but, Sir, my name is SIMPSON, not SAMSON".

ALL SCREWED UP

The factory representative of the British ejection seat manufacturer who made the emergency escape system installed in our aircraft, visited our squadron periodically to give us a refresher and up date on the equipment. On one visit new ensign persisted in asking over and over again, "what if this doesn't work?" or "what if that fails?" of each automatic function of the seat. "and what do you do if the parachute doesn't open?"

Tired of hearing from the new ensign, the British gentleman demonstrated how the ensign parachutist should twist his right leg in front of and around his left leg and, with arms extended overhead, twist his left arm in front of and around his right arm. "What good will that do?" scoffed the ensign.

"It shan't do you any good at all," was the droll reply. "but it will make it a bit easier for the bloody rescue party to unscrew you out of the ground."

WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

In the early 1970's I was stationed on board the USS WADDELL (DDG 24) during refresher training in Cuba. Damage control drills conducted constantly; All situations were simulated.

In the passageway outside of sickbay, one of our boatswain's mates was stopped by a Chief from the training team. The Chief using a piece of chalk, drew a large circle on the deck. Turning to the boatswain's mate he said, "sailor this is a simulated hole in the deck. What action do you take?"

The sailor thought for a few

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25th Annual Reunion

by Ron Swart

I "t's hotter'n Hades here" said **Hal Elston** and I must say that summed it up pretty well. With the August sun pushing the temperatures up to 100 degrees everyday, we could have saved some money on charcoal at the picnic. I'll defer to those who attended from out of town and locally, on whether or not this year's 25th Annual AOM Reunion was a success or failure, but I sure had a good time. For me, I had my first opportunity to really get to know those Minemen who had served so proudly in the generations before mine and I have to tell you, we really have some impressive characters in our membership. I must admit I was a little more than nervous since this was my first attempt at hosting our annual reunion, but I was quickly put at ease by the gathering of kindred spirits and the hearty camaraderie.

This year's events started earlier than the Early Bird. Friday morning, I was pleased to accompany a large contingent of members to the Mine Warfare Training Center where I spoke at the graduation of Mineman Class 'A' School Class 99055. It was great to see the expressions on the faces of those young Minemen as each veteran was introduced by rank and the date they themselves became a Mineman. You can well imagine that **Fred Reed** and "**Mac**" **McCarthy's** statistics really made their eyes open up! Anyway, it was a wonderful ceremony that included a re-enlistment and after a tour of the new schoolhouse, I heard many favorable comments. Our sincere thanks to Captain **Jim Haggart**, CDR. **Andy Fuller**, LCDR (sel) **Coral Mac Intosh**, **Jim McGoldrick** and **MNCM Bell** for inviting us.

The Early Bird got off to a rousing start Friday evening at the Sandy Shores, and I was pleasantly surprised at how many retired and active duty Minemen attended who reside in the Corpus Christi area. "**Mac**" **McCarthy** took charge of the

muster and all the likely suspects were logged in. (Muster List attached). There were enough "poo-poops" and adult beverages consumed to keep the conversation flowing and the volume high. As it turned out, I had to bug out a little earlier than I'd planned in order to take a call from **Tim Paton** who was deployed to Seventh Fleet in USS Blue Ridge with Admiral **Joe Betancourt** (COMINEWARCOM) as a part of his Battle Staff. (More on that in the Mine Warfare News). I'm guessing that there was at least some measure of restraint that night because we had a van full of folks who were ready to visit the ships the next morning. USS Cormorant and USS Defender hosted us for tours on Saturday. Those who went to see the ships found a mixture of old and new Mine Warfare technologies, all manned and maintained by today's impressive Minemen. Our thanks to the Skippers and crew on both those fine fighting ships. We held up the general membership business meeting to accommodate the ship tour members but it gave the Board of Directors the additional time they needed for their business.

The Dinner served Texas style Bar-B-Que and a relaxed atmosphere that made everyone feel welcome. I believe our President set a new record for lengthy introductions and other miscellaneous ramblings, which opened up plenty of opportunity for hecklers among the attendees. Our most noteworthy guest was MN2 **Laura Rodriguez** who was recognized as the 1999 active duty Mineman of the Year. She more than lived up to her reputation as a sharp Sailor with her perfect rendition of **Joe Balderrama's** Master of Ceremonies style. Even **Joe** was a loss for words. Our original guest speaker was deployed, as were the entire host of alternatives, so I took the opportunity to report on the health of our underwater mine and maritime mining capability. I hope that everyone found it informative.

As per the script, Sunday was a

beautiful day and our picnic location on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi was perfect. **Ken Allen** and **Paul Chitwood** brought their organizational and cooking skills, **Ted Cammack** came with his ski boat and the pavilion filled to capacity in no time flat. I must say that the food was most excellent and we didn't have very much left over at the day's end. **Joe Balderrama** and **Paul Santa Maria** did a tremendous job auctioning off the treasure trove of donated objects d'art. I believe we were able to fulfill our desire to fund two worthy scholarship nominees as a result of the generous bidding by everyone. Our special thanks to **Ken Allen**, **Paul Chitwood**, **John Reeve** and **Susan Lowder**, **Jim** and **Kim McGoldrick**, and of course, the entire COMOMAG Staff, for their unselfish contributions to the success of this year's event.

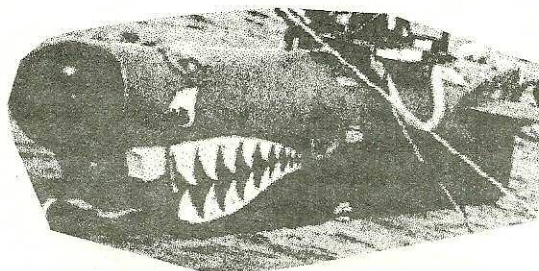
To sum it all up... I heard plenty of sea stories, a few true stories, laughed a lot, ate too much and came away with a great feeling of belonging to a wonderful organization of Miners-mates, their spouses and their guests. We made a positive impression on those new to the Mineman rating and got the word spread all along the waterfront that the Association of Minemen is worth belonging to. **Masako** and I thank y'all for coming to Texas and we look forward to the next reunion in Charleston!!!

Cold War Certificates Available

sent in by **Lyal Stryker**

The Cold war Recognition Certificate is available on line at sdcw.army.mil/coldwar. Dates for fax e-mail and mail applications will be announced. Dates of eligibility for those that "faithfully served the U.S. during the Cold war era from 2 September 1945 to December 26th 1991.





Kingfisher's "Shanira"

Mineman rating takes the spotlight

Wow! the Navy is really out recruiting sailors for the MN rating. There is a \$2000. sign-up bonus now. The September issue of All Hands arrived to Dashpot from both our Sec/Treas and Mrs **Mary Fisher**, widow of our first AOM President, MNC "Foxy" Fisher. She said "Her hubby never received any sign-up bonus".

The cover tells it all. MN1(SW) **Tim Hickman** leans on "Shania" the USS Kingfisher's Mine Neutralization Vehicle/Remote Operated Vehicle. The magazine devotes over half its pages to articles on Mine Warfare Technology, Mine History, Mine Hunting, the Mine Countermeasures Force and the Mine Warfare Training Center. If your connected, you can view the whole thing at: <http://www.mediacen.navy.mil/pubs/allhands/sep99/index.htm>. They portray the MN extremely well. Makes you want to pound your chest and say "That's what Minemen do".

MN mentioned and some pictured in the various articles: MN1(SW) **Tim Hickman**, MN1(SW) **Mike Manta?**, MN1 **Katherine Frunz**, MN1 **Ollie Collins**, MN3 **Lance Douglas**, MNSN **Joshua Punga**, MNSN **Troy Hepner**, MNSN **Walter Webb** and MNC **Luis Bodeaux**.

Looking toward the future, Minemen will be embarked on destroyers with forward deployed vehicles seeking mine-like obstacles in the path of the battle group. He will be the underwater "eyes" of the group.

Reunion 1999 Attendees

Tom, Elina, Regina & Michael Vail, Ken Alen (cooked), Paul & Kyle Appleton W. E. Atkins, Joe & Clare Balderrama, Anthony Bartoli, Bill Beck, Bo & Kay Bellamy, Richard (Rick) Bellamy, Craig K & Saralyn Born James & Virginia Burton, Ted & Vicky Cammack, Bill & Irma Carlsely, Swede & Irma Carlson, Mr & Mrs Jim Carson, Paul & Debbie Chitwood (Cooked), Curtis & Mary Christian

Ray & Ann Cobis, Jim & Judy Cottrell, Carole, Doug, Darrin Curry, Ted & Vicky Curry, Fred & MaryDane, Freddie, Kathy, Nicole Dane (Guests), Don & LaVon DeCrona, Juan & Lourdes Delgado, Barbara

Eckert (Guest), Harold Elston, Danny Epperly Joe & Wendy Estes, William Estol, Harold L Garnett(Guest), Ron & Guest Pat Gentry, Gregory & Morgan, Grant (Guest), James & Elane Grant, Robert & Connie Hart, Wayne (Arnie) Helgerson, Bill Holloway, Jeff Holt, Steve & Bonnie Howard, Bill & Pat Johnson, Robert Jones (Guest), David Kirker, John & Bobbie Loonam, Tim & Suzan Lowder, Willard & Joanne Lovelace (Guests), Coral Mac Intosh, Francis A McCarthy, Jim & Kim McGoldrick, Pepper Mitchell, Phil Mocalis Stephanie Moss-Cowart, Walt & Jane Peters, John & Sue Reeve, Fred & Milly Reid, Ed Reid (Guest), Glen & Betty Robertson, Mr & Mrs Gerald Ropieqret, Laura Rodriguez, Mr & Mrs Paul Santa Maria, Pat Saunders (Guest), Warren J Savage, Ralph & Barbara Shaw, Gene & Mylin Smith, R. F. & Irene Stancik, Gerald Star, Ron Swart, Tom Vail Dean Venczez, Charles Walker

Hurricane Bret

By CDR Ron Swart

The hurricane (Bret) fortunately jogged west 60 miles south of CC so about 400 ranchers and 400K head of cattle got very wet... (over 20 inches in 24 hrs). We did well and evacuated the area commands without incident. **Masako** and I battened down the hatches and rode it out with **Tim Paton's** family (he was at sea with Admiral **Betancourt** off the coast of S. Korea). South Texas needed the rain, but we all wish that it would come in smaller increments... Thank you all for coming to the reunion. I truly believe that it will have a positive impact on membership in the active duty Mineman community.

NEW VETERANS ASSOCIATION OPEN TO MINEMEN OF THE RIVER PATROL FORCE AND OTHERS OF SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS

By Cecil Martin

I am extremely proud of the Mineman's contribution to the Vietnam War effort. We served in nearly every capacity imaginable. From Mine Shops through out the Pacific, MOMATs on AOE's and CVAs on Yankee Station, assigning billets in Saigon, EOD, Mining Operations in country with the DST 115, Senior Advisors to the Vietnamese Navy, and most dear to my heart as River Patrol Boat Sailors. We served primarily as Boat Captains and Patrol Officers and later as Advisers to the VN River Patrol Forces.

A relatively new Veterans Organization has been formed by a handful of River Patrol Boat (PBR) Veterans. Some how, this old retired Mineman is currently serving as Vice President, PBR Forces

(Continued on page 12)

Veterans Association, Inc., (PBR FVA).

As an organization, PBR FVA takes full advantage of the wonders of Cyber Space. Communications between our officers, staff, board of directors and members is almost instantaneous. We have a web site of approximately 30 pages and links to more than fifty other military related sites.

Nearly all of our business is conducted via the internet and by FAX. We publish a quarterly newsletter, the "Brown Water Messenger", which is especially welcomed by those that do not have internet access. We now hold annual and special reunions and have a line of products of interest to the PBR Sailor. In a bit more than a year we have grown to nearly 300 members.

PBR FVA is incorporated in the state of Missouri, and has been granted non profit status by the IRS under Section 501 (a) as described in Section 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Established in 1998, this Association consists principally of former Task Force 116 (T. F. 116, code named Game Warden) Sailors but is also open to members of the Army 458th Transportation Co. and others of the "Brown Water Navy". We have no "hidden agenda" nor "secret policy". We primarily exist to serve the needs of the River Patrol Force's Vietnam Veterans.

As an association, We advocate historical accuracy. The truth, in all it's complex variety, is most important and most vulnerable. Our goal is to gather important historical records and to preserve those records. Preserving those records will disclose the truth and dispel myths for future historians that would write the history of the Vietnam War. Presently, we are preserving archival materials with the Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock Texas.

PBR Forces Veterans Association, Inc. PBR FVA is not a general

membership organization, and does not admit casual or unqualified persons to any membership category. PBR-FVA is exclusive, and shall always remain small and personable.

If you would like to learn more about PBR FVA please take a look at our web site at <http://www.pbr-fva.org> (our AOM site is linked to the PBR FVA site) or do not hesitate to contact one of our Officers or a staff member by e-mail or by mail. If you would like to submit a membership application to us, you may contact us at 732 American Inn Road, Villa Ridge, Missouri 63089-2214, Phone (636) 451-5688 FAX or Voice, e-mail: president@pbr-fva.org You may also print the application on the site and submit it to the above address.

You are most welcome to contact me: **Cecil H. Martin**, 3612 N. Coles St., Casey, IL 62420-3426. Phone/ FAX (217) 932 4801. e-mail: cmart@eiis.net or vice-president@pbr-fva.org

Honoring Minemen

By CDR Ron Swart

During this year's AOM Reunion, the Command Master Chief at Mine Warfare Training Center expressed a desire to initiate a campaign to name facilities and buildings at Naval Station Ingleside (our Navy's Mine Warfare Center of Excellence) after distinguished and decorated Minemen, (i.e. **Cecil Martin** and others). I thought this was a grand idea and asked the BOD for their support and if my memory serves me correctly, we have it. We have ball fields, tennis courts, the new Mine Warfare Command Building, the upcoming MOMAU Mine Shop, and the school of course, plus several others (the USO too I believe...). We can look as far back as Bushnell and Robert Fulton. Vietnam wasn't the only war that Minemen distinguished themselves; we should also consider heroes from the Mining and MCM efforts in Korea and

WW1 and II.

I believe **Lyal Stryker** may have a few names and he also had recommended that the same person for whom the schoolhouse was named in Charleston, be transferred to the schoolhouse here. I've spoken to Captain **Jim Haggart** (CO, MWTC) about this and he is on board with this proposal. Accordingly, I would like to start an e-mail "chain letter" of sorts (and phone calls/letters, etc.) to get the word out to as many folks as possible, asking for nominees. An award citation or some other documentation detailing why this person is worthy, can be forwarded to me. Once I've got a good number of nominees, we can set up a selection committee of retired and active duty folks (CO, NS Ingleside, COMINWARCOM, CO, MWTC, and so forth) to choose from among them. NS Ingleside's sole purpose in life is to support Mine Warfare... it is both fitting and proper that Minemen be so honored on this base. Thanks in advance for your help!!! All the best

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seconds, then took out his own piece of chalk, and drew two parallel lines through the center of the circle. Looking at the Chief he said, "that's a simulated board," taking care to stay within the two lines he calmly walked away.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

He was early for a preflight briefing, so the young enlisted man sat down in the ready room to read. He had just propped his feet on the table when a burly petty officer entered and bellowed, "get your feet off that table, would your mother let you do that around the house?"

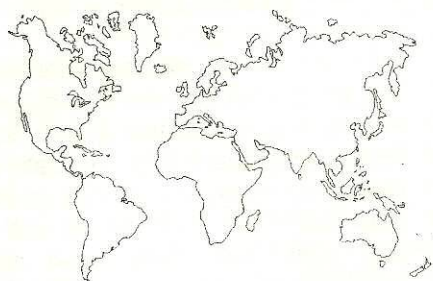
"Nope and she doesn't let planes land on her roof either",

SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED

As the commanding officer of the

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■ FULL FORCE NEWS



Mine Warfare Update

by Ron Swart

To sum it up, this has been a busy year for the underwater mine business... We have received an unprecedented amount of attention from the Fleet Admirals since the decision was made to retire the Mk 56 and Mk 60 mine systems. It seems that maritime mining is still an important capability to the war fighter and the renewed interest is timely indeed, since the budget process for fiscal year 2002 has already begun. Meanwhile, the lay-up of the mine stockpile continues and there are no replacements in the near future leaving our Navy with a capability gap. It is our goal to clearly articulate our requirements and energize the Chain of Command to support them in the upcoming budget battle. Wish us luck!

I mentioned the COMINWARCOM Battle Staff in my Reunion Report, so I had better explain what all that is about. Admiral **Betancourt** now has responsibilities as a deployable Task Force level commander supporting Seventh Fleet and other numbered fleets who need Mine Warfare experience and expertise. Every year in August (beginning last year) he and select members of his staff deploy to USS Blue Ridge to play the desktop war game "Ulchi Focus Lens" or more commonly called UFL. This year, I sent LCDR **Tim Paton** accompanied by two Naval Reserve Minefield Planners: LCDR **Dave Sewell** and Lt. **Matt Koriath** as the "Miners" for this important event. As was the case last year, Mine Warfare

took center stage, validating our effectiveness as a warfare discipline. We're now on the hook to support this exercise every year and it really supports our mining tactics, planning and future requirements effort.

I'd like to update everyone on the current status of the MOMAG organization. Since the last report, CINCLANTFLT gave his approval to our plan and we have begun the process of realigning ourselves to meet the needs of the 21st Century Navy.

Originally, we had focused on consolidating our East Coast Units into one at Yorktown. However, we couldn't pass up the excellent facility offered to us at Weapon Station Charleston. As a result of this change, Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Eleven will become the sole Mine Shop in the East. They'll have both service and exercise mines supporting CINCLANTFLT, COMSECONDFLEET and the US Air force. With three officers and a crew of around 65 Minemen, Storekeepers and Yeomen, Charleston will be the largest Unit in our Group. The move from their present facility into their new building has begun and should be complete later this fall. LCDR **Mike Zahn** and Gunner **Bob Reed** assure me that they'll be back up and running in no time.

Mobile Mine Assembly Detachment, Hawaii is closing 1 January 00. They are in the process of retiring the last of their Mk 67 "SLMM" mines recently offloaded from USS Bates. Detachment personnel are negotiating for orders with the detailee, MNCS **Mike Thanscheidt**. The Officer in Charge, LCDR **Matt Wisniewski** and his LCPO MNCS **Mike Campbell** have done a superb job in readying their shop for closure. LCDR **Wisniewski** has accepted orders to be the next CO of Unit Eight in Guam. Senior Chief **Campbell** is off to "fly" the LCAC air-cushioned landing craft. We wish them both and their exceptional crew the very best in their following assignments.

MOMAU Five, Sigonella has had a very busy exercise season and they are getting ready for a Fleet Battle Experiment where Mine Warfare will be the centerpiece. Commanding Officer Lt. **Gary Martin** got his first Executive Officer, Gunner **Curt Simmons**, who recently reported from USS John F. Kennedy. Unit Five will soon gain the Versatile Exercise Mine System (VEMS) to its workload in order to fulfill their new responsibilities supporting both Sixth Fleet (Med) and Fifth Fleet (Arabian Gulf). "Sig" has a lot of irons in the fire with a large workload and the long running task of bringing their crumbling facilities back up to spec.

MOMAU Three, NJ has kept busy laying up Mk 56 and Mk 67 Mines. They have the difficult task of keeping their morale high even though they will close in 2002. They have a lot of work to do and Lt. **Tom Mathison** and MNC **George Butterhoff** have done a tremendous job staying on track as their personnel level dropped to below 50% of their allowance. This remains a serious problem across the Mobile Mine Assembly Group and it is especially acute up at Unit Three. Lt. **Mathison** will soon be relieved by Lt. **Alex Brown**, who is coming to us from COMLOG WestPac way out in Singapore.

MOMAU Fourteen continues to work their way out of a job as the CAPTOR mine system is retired. Lt. **Ken Dalton** and MNCS **Bruce Howard** have had to create their own in-house SOP to compensate for the canceling of Mine Mk 60 training at the Mine Warfare Training Center. Theirs is an especially important job for our future since a large part of their stockpile will be "mothballed" for future use as what we hope will be a new mine system. Unit Fourteen will close its doors sometime in 2002.

Out in the Pacific, MOMAU Twelve, Misawa is suffering with the lowest manning level they have ever experienced. Gunner **Gary Riggins** and MNC **Rita Nicely** have slowed

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(Continued from page 13)

down their work pace to compensate for having only 10 workers. Unit 12 will become a detachment of Unit Ten in Okinawa later this coming year and this will help both mine shops adjust their manpower and workload to meet their primary mission of supporting Seventh Fleet.

● MOMAU Ten, Kadena is in the middle of numerous building and facility repairs and improvements too. CO, LCDR John Iwaniec and XO, Lt. Theresa Wright run the busiest outfit in MOMAG, supporting all of those allied countries that Seventh Fleet plays with: Japan, Korea, Singapore, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia and so forth. They've even supported Fifth Fleet in the Gulf region. Unit Ten too, has manning problems and they're spread pretty thin. Still, they more than get the job done.

● MOMAU Eight is being run by Lt. Ed Barrios who relieved Lt. Keith Nesmeth in July. He, MNCS Jerry Williams and their fine crew are running the only active stockpile of SLMM Mk 67 Mines for Seventh Fleet in addition to their sizable Quickstrike mission. Should the leadership decide to retain some Mk 56 Mines, Unit 8 will get the responsibility of keeping this aging mine in war-ready condition.

● MOMAU One in Seal Beach has a very busy exercise season coming up. With the deployment of USS Inchon and four mine countermeasures ships coming to town this coming year, you can bet that Third Fleet will get the most for their money. LCDR Ed Simmons has the only operating high-pressure water blasting and powder-paint system which he uses to keep his stock of exercise mines in pristine condition. He and MNC Phil Taylor work closely with the Navy's only Very Shallow Water Mine Countermeasures outfit by deploying our largest stockpile of "foreign" mine shapes to help their training proficiency. Unit One is temporarily giving up their VEMS capability in

order for us to get started out in Sigonella. This important training device will be replaced as money becomes available in the budget.

● MOMAU Fifteen, Kingsville had to run from Hurricane Brett this past month, but they are back up and running now. They have a new toy in the form of a high-pressure water blast and powder-paint system that they hope to have certified and operating soon. CO, Lt. Sandy Oliver and MNCS Dave Walker (who just took over as Leading Chief from MNCS Babcock) will be working closely with local mine countermeasures squadrons and ships supporting their training cycle, as they get ready for deployment. Unit Fifteen has big plans to move over to Naval Station Ingleside after approval of "MILCON" to build them a proper mine shop. Once they move, they will assume additional responsibilities managing and maintaining all the shipboard ordnance as well as their current exercise and training mission.

o You've probably gathered that we have a manning "crunch" within MOMAG. The Mineman rating is expanding to somewhere around 850 Sailors and now that we have a sea-shore rotation, the priority has been sea duty. As a result, there are few available personnel to man the mine shops. There are gradual improvements being made, most notably the Mine Warfare Schoolhouse will be up to about 80 students by October. The Navy's recruiting drive is paying off and we are finally reaching our 'A' School throughput goals. It may take a couple more years of pain. By then, MOMAG will be fully realigned to face our future missions head on and in the end I believe we'll have a healthy, viable rating with unique capabilities and skills.

MOMAU 3

by MNC Butterhoe

Hello from MOMAU THREE in the garden state of NEW JERSEY. We know it's been along

time since we have submitted anything so there's a lot of catching up to do.

MOMAU THREE has been the test site for the MK 56 de-militarization. We have accomplished a lot in our DEMIL endeavors and managed to overcome numerous bumps in the road. We will continue on and if any sites out there have any problems or want some information please give us a call and we'll be glad to help you out.

Since the last time you heard from us there have been allot of changes. Most of them departures. I hope I don't forget anyone.

YN1 Cooper retired, replacement due in Oct.

MN3 Kutrich has departed for Ingleside.

MN3 Hire, MN3 Harrison and MNSN Phillips exited the Navy at their respective EAOS this past spring.

MN2 Moyers is currently on terminal leave; I wish all Sailors were like him. On his last day here he was still working away, until the CO chased him home. I could have gotten another two or three hours of work out of him, before he left, we all went out to lunch.

MNSA Haley departs Naval Service on 01 Oct 99.

We have had two arrivals MN2 Kazmaier and MNSR Wheat from Mineman "A" School. MNSR Fedo is due in 04 OCT 99; he will be another welcome addition to our large crew.

MN2 Rodney Boulware is at this very moment being re-enlisted by ADM Reason, CINCLANTFLT, a big moment in his career.

We have given out some awards

MN2 Moyers received a NAM for his efforts in the offload of USS Simon Lake.

MN2 Cassidy received a NAM for the installation of our new Lan system and workstations.

MN1 Pascoe was selected as our 2nd quarter SOQ.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

MN2 Burba was selected as our 3rd quarter SOQ; we only have one now. Not enough personnel for a Junior and Senior.

MN2 Cassidy, **MN2 Boulware**, **MN2 Moyers**, **MN3 Kutrick**, **MN3 Olenlager** received an LOA from local Girl Scouts.

MN2 Lanpheare had been accepted into BUDS but then he hurt his shoulder, so instead of losing him in August we now get to keep him until March of 2000. For everyone that knows about his forklift mishap he is doing fine and we expect him back to work on 09 Sept. If you talk to him he'll be sure to tell you just how great a seatbelt and hardhat really are.

MOMAU 5

by MNCM Mark Zinnel
Salve from Sigonella!

Spring and Summer are coming and going through, temperature has been milder this year, low 100s to high 90s (put your finger tips and thumb together, hold the hand in front of you with fingers pointing up and palm in, now move your hand in and out once for each word and say: "Is typical Sicilian weather!") but we still have August to get through.

More improvements in the works here: in Mine Assembly, the Italians are repairing inner and outer walls, replaced some of the doors and locks and now painting is scheduled, well, they'll supply the paint and tools, we'll operate them... they replaced one of the roll down doors in transportation and finally fixed the door for the junior male locker room in the Admin building!

Had a great MRCI in May thanks to the hard work of the crew here at Unit Five and the critical assistance provided by Naval Reserve Units Six and Seven, they were a great bunch of Minemen lead by two great Master Chiefs, **MNCM Jan Bays** and **MNCM Brenda Bazzell**, oh, and a capable wardroom for each unit of course!

As with all Sites, departures seem to out number arrivals, **MN2 Ortiz** is on his way to Unit 11 in Goose Creek SC, **MN3 Vallez** is on his way to Unit 10 in Okinawa Japan and **MNSN Wilkins** left for CIVLANT. **MNSN Kristopher Lillegard** has joined us from "A" School, our new XO, **CWO2 Curt Simmons** (no claimed relation to LCDR Ed Simmons at Unit One) arrives at the end of August and **MN2 Bernard Whack** will join us in October from the school house.

Two more advancements from the March exam, **MN3 Brian Plazola** and **MN3 Marcus Villarreal** are wearing new devices, we are proud of them naturally. Hoping the September Exam will continue the cycle.

Sailors of the Quarter include **MN2 Ortiz** and **MNSN Plazola** for 1st Quarter 1999, **YN2 Francis** and **MNSN Russell** for 2nd Quarter 1999. All received Special Liberty, Letters of Commendation and a month off the Watch Bill.

Awards, let's see...NAMs for **MN2 Leonard Rambo**, **MN2 Luis Ortiz**, **MN2 Eric Mcknight**, **MN2 Catherine Traynor** and **MN3 Dominic Vallez**.

A Letter of Commendation was received by **MNC Thomas Kaiser** and Letters of Appreciation went to **MN1 Michael Slater**, **MN2 Manuel Jiminez** and **MN3 Robert Mounsey**.

Our new Ombudsman is **Contine Francis**, life partner of **YN2 Derrick Francis CY** (Combat Yeoman) our former, **Joyce Slater**, has become the Ombudsman Coordinator for NAS Sigonella.

That's all from the tip of the Mediterranean Spear Ardvederalci!

MOMAU 8

By MNCS Jerry L Williams
"Hafa Adai" from MOMAU Eight

Well shipmates, summer has come and gone and out here

on Guam we are enjoying the rain that came with this years typhoon and rainy season. The drought from last year is all but forgotten, now that the Navy's Fena Lake Reservoir is full and over-flowing. We've been spared any storms thus far, seems the typhoons/hurricanes are all happy to be in Texan and East Coast waters this year. Hopefully, they'll all die out quickly and not cause too much trouble for coastal residents.

These past few months of summer have been very busy. We recently underwent an extensive Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI) along with the other ordnance activities out here, and just as expected the inspectors found MOMAU Eight to be the "best of the best"! The crew really worked hard to make sure that we could continue the units history of stellar performance. Inspectors even made copies of various Explosive SOP's to use as templates for other, less efficient commands. "BZ" to those who worked so hard for so long to make this happen!

As is the case for most of you, we also continue to be undermanned. Despite this reality however, our Sailors are "second to none" and their dedication and perseverance keeps everything on track. We recently recognized two prime examples, **MN1 (SS) Eckelbecker** as Senior Sailor of the Quarter, and **MN3 Herbig** as Junior Sailor of the Quarter. We also just welcomed aboard **YN2 Winfield** and **MNSN Weaver**. They couldn't have reported aboard at better time, and both have hit the deck plates running. Sadly, we also said goodbye to **YN2 Fortier** and **MN2 Hinton**. Their contributions to our team will be missed as we wish them and their families "Fair Winds and Following Seas" in their new assignments. We also welcomed aboard a new command Ombudsman, **Mrs. Jodi Berrios**. She has already sent out her first Newsletter in record time and will, no doubt, be a tremendous asset for the command family members and our program.

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Lots of projects ongoing as usual; All new reefers beginning construction; New tool room with the entire extra's in place and operational; Drop-ceiling's and new lighting for Admin, Conference Room, Operations, and all passageways. Next up, rebuild the Supply Offices and expand the lounge for more room.

Despite all the hard work, the crew has also found time to hold a variety of fund-raising activities for the coming Christmas Party. A recent 4x4 Trip by the entire command aboard every available mud-runner did more than just dirty a few carpets. The 5 mile trail was practically underwater most of the time, so every vehicle along, (yes, even my military blazer) sooner or later found itself hopelessly stuck. Those occasions (more than I want to remember) brought everyone together, mud and all, to escape the mud's grip. We even had to build an impromptu bridge over a creek at one spot, and the hills were slick as ice! We finally made it out at about 5 PM, a lot dirtier than when we started, but also, and most importantly, a lot closer as a command team who can overcome any obstacle. A great time had by all. Oh yea, Chief **Bray** wanted me to pass along that he now has a brand new 4x4 for sale now, only slightly damaged by the underwater route he took, nice brown (mud-colored) carpet and dash, nice fishy smell, ready for you fixer-uppers!

Any runners out there? Seems we have a bumper crop this year. Half the command is now running seriously on a regular basis. Every race on island has a small army of MOMAG'ers covering every age group. **MNSN Brown** along with **MN1 (SS) Eckelbecker** always places in the top five including winning some of the races. They even managed to get the CO, LT **Berrios** and I out there for the weekly 5k's and daily runs. With all the beautiful tropical surroundings out here, you couldn't ask for a better

location to enjoy the outdoors and stay in shape as well. If you like challenges, beautiful tropical island hospitality, and want to experience the satisfaction and professional development that comes with maintaining "every" mine system, then you need to put in for orders to MOMAU Eight. I speak for everyone here when I say, "You've not lived until you've had a tour at MOMAU Eight" in Guam.

Well, that's all for now folks, until next time, may God keep and bless each of you, your loved ones, and may your futures be filled with all the happiness that life can offer.

MOMAU 10

By LCDR John Iwaniec

Things here at Unit Ten are moving along well, we just finished our exercises in Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia and it's good to have the crew back. We also had Reserve Det Seven on board for two weeks and I can't thank them enough for all the assistance rendered. They screened a lot of MAU 91 fins and built a bunch of flight gear kits. Of course it wasn't all work, I think they all had a great time diving on the weekends, sorry the trip to the Karama Islands didn't work out. I guess the fear of a Typhoon in the local area spoiled their plans. However, it never transpired and it turned out to be a great weekend. On other fronts we have had a marriage, **MN3 Curtis Stanley** took the big plunge and got hitched to an Air Force gal. His wife, the former Miss **Stacey Sullivan** is stationed here, the **Stanley's** already have a young-un on the way. **MN2 Black** checked on board, he and his wife **Yoko** also have a baby due shortly and I think both wives are in their 6th month. Our Last SOQ's were **MN1 Pendelton (SR)** and **MN3 Stanley, JR SOQ**. The crew continues to get better and choosing the SOQ is getting more difficult, course that always makes

me happy to have more than a couple hot runners. **MN3 Vallez** has checked on board and so far he is everything LT **Gary Martin (MOMAU 5)** said he was (good stuff).. Course you can't believe everything Mr. **Martin** says, he keeps spreading this story that I caused him to loose this big catfish, lost during the last Mine Conference at former LCDR **Stanley's** private pond. Seems he is denial about the whole affair and blames me for tying his hook on wrong. Problem with the story is old whiskers (around 15-20 lbs) broke the line off above the float, as he was last seen swimming away with the float dragging behind him. To tell you the truth folks, I aint never seen a man horse a fish so bad, drag was set so tight the ole LT didn't have a chance. Guess we will have a rematch of the big fishin contest during the next conference, HA! Also Mr. **Martin**, I believe that was three Sheepshead caught to your one

MN2 Hatliveg checked on board a couple months back and has truly impressed me as one of those rare superstars, he is currently in California going to Ammo Admin classes for ROLMS. **MN2 Hatlivigs** family hasn't seen much of him since he checked onboard, with all the overtime he has been putting in but he is doing a super job in supply. **MN2 Jackson** is still with us, she was supposed to transfer to a ship but I guess that fell through now and she will finish her extension here. **MNC Hipp** also got a reprieve and has been allowed to stay in the navy until next June. His kids will now be able to graduate from school with their classmates. Chief **Hipp** has been on the road so much with exercises, that every time I see him, I feel like he's just newly checking aboard.

Chief **Rich McGinn**, also checked on board from MOMAU One, I'm really happy to have him

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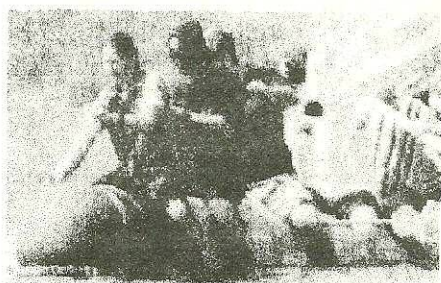
here and man does he have a full plate. The chiefs wife, **Meg** and son, **Mathew** are doing fine and I'm sure they will enjoy it here. **Meg** got off to a bad start on her first week, with an on base accident (fender bender), what a way to begin a tour. I guess that's it for now, the weather has been great and the diving fantastic, in fact I think I still have two hours of daylight left to go kill a few fish, so Sayonara!

MOMAU 12

MNC R. J. NICELY

Greetings from beautiful Misawa! What a busy time we've had here. Our reserve counterparts from NRMOMAU-8 Austin, TX, led by LCDR **Mike Brady** and CWO3 **Stegge**; along with CWO4 "**Nate**" **Miranda** and PN1 **Meshulam** of NRMOMAU-1, Seal Beach, CA paid us a visit from 26 July through 6 Aug. Wanting them to feel right at home, the weather was HOT and dry. Temperatures stayed in the 90's for most of the visit. Great weather for an upgrade, so we did one and everyone performed extremely well.

After a lot of begging on his part, MNSN **Richard Smith** was given the opportunity to ride on a Japanese minesweeper during MINEX/EODEX 99-2JA. MNSN **Smith** says he can't wait to get stationed on one of ours. He liked "sea duty" so much that he, along with MN2 **Leonard Rambo**, spearheaded the building of MOMAU-12's entry into the 14th Annual Navy Regatta held here at the base beach. Building a boat that bore an uncanny resemblance to a MK 56,



MNSN "**Rico**" **Smith** and MN2 "**Captain**" **Rambo** were joined on the water by MN2 "**Attitude**" **Matelski**, MN3 "**Watergirl**" **Kotschenreuther**, MNSN "**Preppy**" **White** and MNSR "**Mr. T**" **Joynes**. Batteling "rough seas, navigation hazards (read lost oars and distance markers) and each other, the MOMAU-12 team came in 3rd of 9.

SK1 **Archimedes Jusayan** arrived in July from Special Warfare Unit 3 in Bahrain. He, of course, doesn't find the weather here as hot as we do. Another recent addition is MNSR **Terrence Joynes**, straight from MWTC in Ingleside. He's ready to put all his recent learning to the test here.

Finally, since the last edition, we have had several awards ceremonies, with the following personnel recognized. MNSN **Amy Green** and MNSN **Jason White**; Letter of Appreciation from CO, NAF Misawa, for participation in the semi-annual Safety Fair. MNSN **White** also received a Letter of Commendation for his selection as MOMAU 12's SOQ. SK1 **Archimedes Jusayan** received a Letter of Commendation signed by Brigadier General **Toney** and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Rear Admiral **Richards** for his service while assigned to SPECWAR Unit 3.

MOMAU 14

by MNC Leeann Baker

reeting shipmates from MOMAU Fourteen located in historic Yorktown Virginia. Well it's been a great summer we've all enjoyed the weather and took advantage of it and participated in many outdoor activities with Busch Gardens located nearby. We also are helping out the community weekly by working with the Peninsula Agency on Aging (Meals on Wheels) delivering home cooked meals to the elderly. The crew is also an active participant the Veterans carnival for the disabled veterans living at the VA hospital. Here

are some items of interest pertaining to our crew.

Welcome Aboard To:

SK2 **William P. Dale** reported from USS Vella Gulf

YN3 **Rashita L. Morris** reported from HSA Norfolk

MNSR **Chad D. Runt** reported from Mineman "A" School

We wish to send fair winds and shipmates who are transferring or separating:

MN1 **Patrick W. Rickaby** departed in August for USS Falcon, Ingleside, TX

MN1 **Barbara L. Davies** departs in October for USS Cormorant, Ingleside.

MN1 **Thomas S. Suchodolski** departs in October for Rotational Crew Delta Ingleside

MN2 **Micheal E. Nagle** departed in July for USS Patriot, Japan

MN2 **Trina M. Randell** departs in October for USS Kingfisher, Ingleside

MN3 **Matthew E. Koehler** departed in August for USS Defender, Ingleside

MN3 **Kenneth F. Tallchief** departed in August for MCM Rotational Crew Hotel, Ingleside

MNSN **Patrick K. Brady** departed in July for USS Avenger, Ingleside

Separations:

MN2 **Mark Sloan** separated 7 Jul

YN3 **Patricia G. Lewis** goes on terminal leave 15 Sep

MN3 goes on terminal leave 1 Nov

MN2 **Martha Liu** separates 19 Nov

SK1 **Chester D. Shoup** was transferred to the Fleet Reserve 29 Jul

Reenlistments: L

MN1 **Barbara L Davies** 3 Years 14 Jun

MN2 **Trina M. Randell** 4 Years 10 Sep

Awards:

MNCS **Bruce A. Howard** 5th Good Conduct

MNC **Leeann Baker** 4th Good Conduct

MN1 **Barbara L. Davies** Unit Fourteen Nomination for Mineman of the

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Year

MN2 **Bernard J. Thomas** SSOQ

MN3 **Wendy R. Sims** Awarded

NATO Medal

MNSN **Patrick K. Brady** JSOQ

MOMAU 15

By: MNCS (SW) Dave Walker

MOMAU Fifteen is busy with GOMEX and MIREM after a long, hot and somewhat relaxed summer. A significant addition to the Unit's capability is the recent introduction of the MK 75 MANTA Versatile Exercise Mine. The FIAT was completed on 10 September, 1999. The facility has also improved with the installation of a state of the art water blast and powder paint system.

MOMAU Fifteen sailors were recently featured in the "Flying K" (NAS Kingsville's base newspaper) for assisting the Texas State Aquarium during Operation Deep Clean. Deep Clean is held annually to collect refuse from local bays and harbors. Our volunteers distinguished themselves by placing third in the "Most lead weight" category. Must be a joke in there somewhere.

Hurricane **Bret** soaked many of our spaces and caused a mandatory evacuation of the entire Kingsville area. The facility and the sailors came out alright, except for power outages in base housing for about thirty hours and a good deal of water in the facility itself. Bret proved that sailors really do take care of their own. What could have been a complete disaster brought out the best in the crew.

Sailors of the Quarter were MN2 **Eugene Smith** and MN3 **Leonel Gonzales**. Finally, MNCS (SW) **Dave Walker** assumed duties as Command Senior Chief in June, relieving MNCS (SW) **John Babcock**. Senior Chief **Walker** reports to us from MCMROCREW

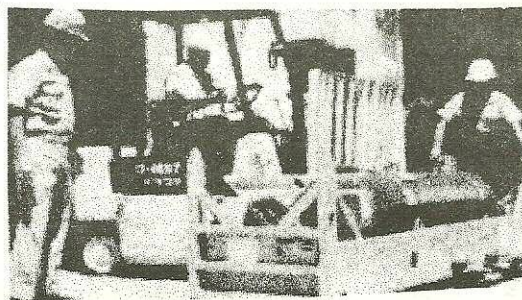
ECHO, where he served as CIC Officer and Command Senior Chief in USS ARDENT, USS DEXTROUS and USS CHIEF. Master Chief Babcock transferred to Fleet Support Group, Ingleside as the MIW Readiness Coordinator.

NR MOMAU SEVEN Performs Second OUTCONUS Unit AT in 4 Months

by LT **Joey Dodgen**, USNR

NR Mobile Mine Assembly Unit (MOMAU) Seven of Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Greenville, SC rallied as a unit to perform a second overseas AT in only four months. Rising to meet the needs of the Mine Force, NR MOMAU Seven traveled in August to Okinawa, Japan to augment MOMAU Ten, located at Kadena AFB.

LT **Joey Dodgen**, Commanding Officer of NR MOMAU Seven, organized his unit for this second AT period after learning of an assistance request at MOMAU Ten. "After augmenting MOMAU Five in Italy for a 16-day AT so recently, I wasn't sure if everyone would be able to support a second AT so soon. I am proud to say that the entire unit was unanimously ready to meet the challenge of a second AT." This Fiscal Year has been busy for NR MOMAU Seven, with 4 IDTT periods in addition to the 28 days of Annual Training.



While at MOMAU Ten, the

Minemen performed inspections and assembly on over 200 mine components. During peacetime, MOMAU Ten supports the ET (Exercise and Training) mine needs for various exercises along the Western Pacific Rim. Most recently they supported CARAT-99 and Cobra Gold-99. The arrival of NR MOMAU Seven personnel provided additional manpower to increase productivity during a busy summer. "We really appreciate the reservists anytime we can get them here. Our manpower doesn't increase as the workload does, so having them aboard allows us to meet the demands placed on us throughout the Pacific Theater," says LCDR **John Iwaniec**, Commanding Officer of MOMAU Ten.

The Mine Assembly Force consists of active duty sites throughout the world with headquarters at Corpus Christi, TX. Under Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine

Assembly Group (COMOMAG), these sites are each augmented by NR MOMAU units at Reserve Centers across the U.S. "Our chain of command within the Naval Reserve was very supportive. This type of effort shows the active duty Mine Force that if we are needed anywhere in the world, we will be there to help," says CW04 **Henry Knight**, Executive Officer of NR MOMAU Seven.

With the work in Italy and Japan behind them, NR MOMAU Seven sailors are looking forward to the next Fiscal Year and its challenges.

When reflecting on his two periods of Annual Training this summer, MN1 **Ricky Whitworth** summed it up for the unit, "It took a lot of coordination with my family and civilian career, but it was worth it.

It's great to work with your active duty peers and directly impact day-to-day Navy operations throughout the world."

MWTC

By LCDR Sel Coral MacIntosh

Just a note from the Schoolhouse. CDR Swart is right, the fall class could bring our total student population to well over 60. The student population in the next module is actually just a few students shy of the total "A" school grads of the previous year! I will try and work on a year end final write up prior to my leaving the school for Hawaii. I will work with the Public Affairs Officer to see about him carrying on the reports.

was the guest speaker at the American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony in Gloucester VA. Ron is the NJROTC Department Head at Gloucester High School.

Ret Lt **Ed Oyer** continues to keep the letters to the editor column busy as he writes his opinion/objection on building a new high school in his County.

I heard from **Buddy Rowzee**, retired NSWC White Oak Engineer concerning the White Oak Laboratory Alumni Association. **Lyal** recommended he contact me concerning membership in the association. Their charter calls for the preservation of their "Proud Memories" of the White Oak Lab will continue to be shared. Many of our "older" members worked with these folks in test and evaluation of new mine components and systems throughout the years. Guess they should have had an input to the History Book. For a nominal \$15 a year, the AOM would be able to archive these memories for inclusion in Dashpot articles and for Volume 2 of the History Book. We gotta get this renewed interest and role the MN plays in the MCM Navy into our recorded history.

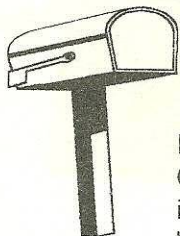
Brown Water Messenger

Fall 1999

Our hero and distinguished member **Cecil Martin** sent in a copy of the PBR Association's newsletter. The multi-color publication has a number of photos showing **Cecil**, Vice President of that association, attending a wreath laying ceremony at the Moving Wall in Ft Mitchell, KY.

(Continued from page 12)

1st force Reconnaissance Company in the early 1960's I had a hard time getting replacement parachutes. The 24 ft reserve chute was in chronically short supply. Time after time, we sent requisitions, tracer letters, and other correspondence, without reply. Months went by. Then one day, I received an urgent looking Navy speed letter, among other things, it said "since the main parachute seems to open successfully most of the time, is there any continuing need for the reserve."



Incoming

Retired MN **George Clark** tells me the rain in the far Northwest is busier than normal.

He says he and his bride are going to the Philippines for their annual winter vacation. He plans to have his computer internet link working from there. He thought about coming to the Texas reunion but it didn't work out. We could see him in Reno I n 2001.

Anyone out there remember CDR **Ron Harding** in Minewarfare at OPTEVFOR and Charleston. He



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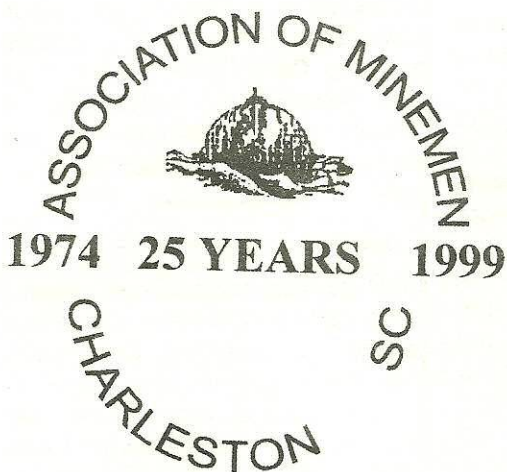
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