

# The DASH POT

Issue 28

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

WINTER 1999



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

October 22, 1999

RADM **Jose' L. Betancourt**, USN

COMMANDER, MINE WARFARE COMMAND

325 Fifth Street SE

Corpus Christi, TX 78419

Dear Admiral **Betancourt**,

Membership

It is my pleasure to inform you that the governing body and members of the Association of Minemen, have unanimously voted you to be an honorary member of our organization. Such honorary membership is awarded to selected individuals who significantly contribute to perpetuating a knowledge and understanding of the importance of Mine Warfare to our nation's defense posture. Adjunct to this is the support and recognition of the unique requirements of the men and women who comprise the Mineman rating; the heart of the United States Navy Mine Force.

Our honorary membership is comprised of many distinguished individuals. Our ranks include many, now-retired, senior naval officers from previous Fleet and Allied commands; dignitaries of the military-industrial and civil service complex; and literary personnel who have served to record and preserve the history, impact and essence of mine warfare. We welcome you to these ranks and look forward to a long and pleasant association with you in the future.

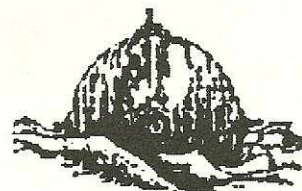
Very Respectfully

s/**Jose' A. Balderrama**

President, Association of Minemen

## SECNAV Visits Ingleside

**Secretary of the Navy** Richard Danzig visited briefly South Texas Friday, Oct. 15. He held an all hands call aboard USS Inchon (MCS 12) homeported at Naval Station Ingleside and reenlisted three Inchon Sailors. Secretary Danzig was the guest speaker at the South Texas 224th Navy Ball held Friday, Oct. 15.



**26th Annual  
Reunion  
Charleston  
AUG 11-13 2000**

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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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By CDR Ron Swart

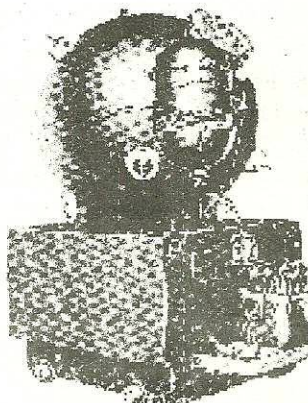
(Continued from page 1)

passed away. I will miss her dearly, she was a great friend to our organization and it will be impossible to duplicate the dedication she had.

**Dick Schommer** has made the arrangements for the next reunion in Charleston, and based on the info he provided me, it promises to be a wonderful event. As you will read in this issue, most events will take place at the Airforce Base. I for one can't wait.

Another item of interest is the receipt of a letter (found elsewhere in this issue) from the Danish Naval Librarian that should make us all proud. Thanks to **Joergen Lorenzen's** delivery of a copy of our History Book.

**Clare** and I will be in Southern Florida for the Christmas holidays and we would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and yours the most wonderful holiday season possible. In addition we wish each of you a prosperous and bountiful New Year. Stay well, Joe



**Meet MN1 Joseph Anthony Moszvar, USNR**, who was born in Beckley, West Virginia. After high school, **Joe** attended West Virginia University and completed his Bachelor's Degree in 1972 and Masters Degree in 1975. He began his military career in the Coast Guard Reserve in 1985, augmenting in Muskegon, Michigan as a Port Securityman. From Station Muskegon, he transferred to Small Boat Station Manistee Michigan and crewed on a 41' UTB whose primary mission was Search and Rescue during the busy Lake Michigan boating season.

From 1988-90, he was assigned to MSO Group Detroit as a Port Securityman with duties as Marine Inspector and Pollution Prevention along the Detroit River and Lake St. Claire. Additional qualifications were gained at Yorktown, VA and NWS Concord as a Hazardous Materials Inspector for ordinance and chemical loading/storage on commercial vessels. He also obtained the boat crew certification after attending training at Station Toledo and Station Belle Isle. While in the Michigan area, Joe worked for Ford Motor in Safety, Industrial Hygiene, & Fire Protection, in the Rouge Complex for the Steel Division and Dearborn Assembly.

Transferred to El Paso, Texas in 1990, he was assigned as the Safety & Fire Protection Engineer for three maquiladora plants in Juarez, Mexico. He has held other positions

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

in Preventative Maintenance, Facilities, and Materials. He is currently the Environmental Engineer for six plants and two warehouses in the El Paso/Juarez area.

While in El Paso, **Joe** transferred to the Naval Reserve, since there is more beach than water in West Texas. He wisely chose the Mineman rating over all others for his Naval career path. Formal training includes Career Counselor School in New Orleans and assistant instructor at the Reserve Mineman "A" school at CDS Ft. Worth. One of his most interesting assignments was the declassifying of documents at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. **MNI Oszvart** was selected as the, Senior Sailor of the Quarter (2 QTR 99) for Reserve Center El Paso and, received a Letter of Commendation from Admiral **Betancourt** for his work in the renovation of CDS Ft. Worth. He was selected as the Association of Minemen "Reserve Mineman of the Year" in 1997. His Unit 10 duties include Leading Petty Officer, Public Affairs Petty Officer, Mobilization Site Petty Officer, Unit Career Counselor, and AT/IDTT coordinator.

**Joe** is married to **Marianne Vukas-Oszvart**. They have two sons, **Alexander** and **Jordan**, and currently reside in El Paso, Texas.

## IRS 501 STATUS STILL PENDING

by **Toby Horn**

**I** have been in touch with Agent **Medina** regarding our application for 501(c)(3) status after receiving a very confusing IRS letter which has temporarily refused our request pending changes we must make to our Constitution and By-Laws (C&BLs). I am even now waiting for a return phone call which I made challenging some of the interpretations she has placed on the wording of our cover letter and the content of our C&BLs. She is reviewing our case again in view of

our discussion, and I think that we'll get some relief in certain areas. The IRS stated that they could not give us the status based on two areas of concern. One, that our scholarship program cannot be restricted to children of members only. Two, that we not provide death benefits to our deceased members.

The letter stated we needed to amend our C&BLs accordingly and that said amendment must be reviewed/approved by the State of SC in which we are incorporated. There is also some additional wording that was "checked off" as being required in the Articles/Sections of the C&BLs. I countered by saying that our C&BL Section regarding the scholarships has no wording regarding restriction, therefore no amendment would be required. The policy document, however, would have to be changed - but even that is in question now since I raised the question that our membership is now open to the public (in general - i.e., those wanting to join us in perpetuating our educational, historical and scientific endeavors). She is reviewing that part.

I countered the death benefits question by saying that we have none, per se, (prayers and TAPS ceremony are allowed as well as plaque commemoration) and none are stated in our C&BLs. I think she misinterpreted a statement in my cover letter which said that we maintained a network of friends, Dashpot notification, and homepage notification which often resulted in direct tangible benefit. I think I put that to rest by telling her that this meant visitation from local members who sent flowers and cards. As for the additional wording to be added to the C&BL sections, this is amplifying information to that already contained in the text and understood by all. For example, wording that says we are organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes; we do not pay salary to our officers and directors; that we do

not carry out political or other activities specifically prohibited by the code; and additional wording to our dissolution section to cover other areas of possible asset distribution than just the Patriot's Point Authority. I will continue to pursue this with Agent **Medina** and will keep you posted. Visit the home page for the continuing saga.

Editor's Note: Toby has caused about a ream of emails on this subject involving the President, Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer and Parliamentarian concerning the least painful manner in resolving this long standing application. To summarize: The IRS agent agreed to take action based on a President requested Board of directors concurrence to "word-smith" the existing C/BL to conform to these requirements. While meeting the IRS requirements it was decided they did not affect our C/BLs enough to require a membership meeting formal change prior to submission for consideration by them. Current written approval by the Board is to be ratified at the next general membership meeting in August is acceptable. **Joe** and **Toby** are moving forward with this plan as this issue goes to press.



## Wedding held on board USS Pioneer (MCM 9)

**LCDR Lee Pelton** and **Nancie Salvato** exchanged vows on board USS Pioneer (MCM 9) Dec. 10.

**Pelton** is an El Paso, Texas, native; the ship's chief engineer; has nearly 13 years U.S. Navy service. He wanted to exchange vows on the ship as its an integral part of his life.



## B-52s deploy Navy sea mines

Foc'sle 11/5

**T**wo B-52s from the 23rd Bomb Squadron, Minot Air Force Base, ND deployed to France to participate in NATO's Northern Lights '99 exercise. Each B-52 dropped eight MK 62 Quickstrike training mines. Various sea based forces attempted to locate and recover the mines. "By laying mines, we keep an enemy isolated on their coasts or away from their ports" said Col. **Greg Power**, 5th Bomb Wing commander. To date, the B-1 and B-2 bombers as well as the B-52 are certified to deliver these weapons. Anti surface ship warfare, surveillance and targeting and aerial mine laying are missions the Air Force provides to enhance the nations sea defense. "The Navy relies on the Air Force for high volume mine laying missions," said **Jim Morris**, Project engineer for aircraft interface with mines, Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division Coastal Systems Station's Mine and Ordnance Fleet Support Branch. Mines are prepared for delivery by Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Sailors located strategically throughout the world. They provide technical assistance to Air Force bomber crews in loading mines on aircraft.

## USS Falcon Change of command

LCDR **James J Malloy** relieved CDR **Robert P Ireland** as Co of USS Falcon on 13 November 1999.

## USS Kingfisher Change of command

LCDR. **Michael Hall** relieved CDR **David Eastwood** as COP USS Kingfisher on 5 November 1999

## Member's son makes Chief

by MNC, Ret. **Bob Hart**

**S**on, **Patrick** entered the Navy in August 1986 and after completing basic training, was enrolled in CTM "A" school at Corry Station, Pensacola, FL. Then more school at Shepherd AFB and Lackland AFB, graduating as CTM3. He has served in PATWING 11, Jacksonville, FL. as CTM2 (AW), USS Fife (DD 991), Yokosuka, Japan, as CTM1 (AW/SW), USS Truxton CGN35, Bremerton, WA., US Naval Security Group, Monterey, CA., and is presently assigned to instructor duty at Corry Station, Pensacola, FL. He attained his present rank of CTMC on 16 September, 1999.

**Patrick** is married to the former Miss Catherine (Katy) Jensen of Salinas, CA. They presently reside in Pensacola, FL.

**Patrick** honored his Mother and me when he invited us to attend his pinning ceremony at Corry Station. Katy and I pinned his anchors on his collar. The anchors used were the ones that I wore at my retirement in Charleston. It was a very moving and heart-warming experience for Connie and me.

A Merry Christmas to you and yours, God Bless!

## EDITOR

by john loonam

Sure did get lots in for this Issue. I try to keep it down to 12 pages but the extra letters and articles really expanded this one.

Thanks to all that support the Newsletter.

I had hoped I'd hear a Swan Song from Det Seven for our archives. Future history books need reference material. How 'bout it, will someone closing Seven give us some statistics?

## Secretary/Treasurer

By **Curtis Christamm**


**O**ld St. Nick has come and gone but at my house the bills linger on. Hope that all of you had a big Christmas and a sober (smile) New Year. Last year we deleted all members who were more that one year in arrears on dues. At present we have 386 members. Of the 386, 29 are non-paying members and 126 have not paid this years dues.

I Talked with **Stephanie** (our store-keeper) via the convenient e-mail system, a few times in the past weeks. She is putting things together for a bigger and better inventory. I feel sure that you will hear from her in this issue somewhere.

As always, **Fred** is doing an outstanding job on the web site. I wish that each of you would take a look at it. [www.battle.netgate.net](http://www.battle.netgate.net). we have a world of info out there.

We have a new Chaplain now and I think your editor will list his new e-mail address. I think that **Henry** has even learned how to open attachments now.

I Plan to send Dashpot a balance sheet each quarter so as to keep you posted on how our finances are looking. Should any of you have any questions, let me know.

PLEASE LOOK AT THE MAILING ADDRESS ON THIS DASHPOT.

IF THE YEAR IS 1999, AND IT WILL BE ON 126 LABELS, LET ME HEAR FROM YOU

**NEXT  
ARTICLE DUE  
DATE  
MAR 10 2000**



# Committee Reports

## Membership

Jim Trick

I am glad you decided to stay on as Editor. Here are my thoughts on membership. Hope it is published and does some good.

To today's Minemen: We old timers built a legacy and passed it to you, When you are retired your legacy will be passed to other Minemen. You inherited our proud service to make our Nation strong and free, We gather ourselves together in an Association known as The Association of Minemen. We tell the world our history, As Minemen you are part of it. If you DO NOT BELONG, YOU SHOULD Apathy will get you NO WHERE, Don't put it off join us now, Quoting an old poem.

TO YOU FROM FAILING HANDS  
WE THROW THE TORCH, BE  
YOURS TO HOLD IT HIGH. JOIN  
NOW RENEW NOW

s/Just an old MN

## Scholarship

By Chairman, Paul Santa Maria

A little reminder to all our Active members that the scholarship fund is active all year long. We should not limit ourselves to making donations only at the reunion Auction or membership renewal time. Maybe a little something to the Scholarship funds Christmas stocking; or at taxable income reduction time; or remembering the fund in your will or living trust. We all have days when we feel generous; make that check out to our Scholarship Fund. There is no doubt in my mind that when you hit the lottery, a generous contribution will be made to the Fund in your name (s).

We (Scholarship Committee) would like to see this Fund grow to a point where can guarantee at

least two scholarships per year for the next five or ten years. Our new tax status allows us to deduct the contributions on our income tax.

Remember shipmates, your children and or grandchildren qualify to participate in this program. This applies to everyone. Here are a few letters of appreciation from recipients of Scholarship funds.

Hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New year.

**Dear Minemen Association;**

I'm sorry I did not get this to you sooner, but my recent graduation took a lot of my time and most of my brain power with final exams and work.

I have now graduated from trident tech with an Associate in Health Science-Medical Laboratory technology.

All my hard work has paid off. I really appreciate all of the Scholarships you granted me! You will never know how much it meant.

s/**Emily Adams** (Daughter of **Roger Adams**)

September 13, 1998

**Dear Mr Stryker** and the AOM Scholarship Committee;

I wish to thank your committee for the generous gift of a scholarship. This gift will enable me to continue the studies that mean so much to me here at California Lutheran university. Thank you for understanding the great cost of a university education. It is only through generous work and donations of Associations like yours that this education is possible for myself and many other college students. May God continue to bless you and your family.

With heartfelt thanks,

s/**Kari Hanson Smith**

September 23, 1999

Association of Minemen  
**To Officers and members**

I would like to thank the members of the Association for the recent Scholarship award. Your

consideration is an honor and your generosity is much appreciated. The Scholarship will help a great deal towards furthering my education at Cal Poly. San Luis Obispo. Assuming all goes smoothly, my graduation will either be in June of 2000 or the following December, once again thank you for your thoughtfulness

Sincerely,

s/**Stacey Leanne Cleland**

**Association of Minemen**

Dear Sirs,

I am pleased to inform you that I graduated from the University of South Carolina in May 1997 and am now serving with the City of Charleston Police Department as a Patrolman in the West Ashley/Team 4 area. I have been employed with the City since December 1997 and prior to joining the department was a candidate at the Maryland State Police Corps where I completed Community Police training From September to December 1997. I am now obligated to serve as a Police officer for four years. I have currently completed eighteen months of that contract and i am considering applying for a federal level law enforcement job. Hopefully next year will be an even more rewarding as these last two have been because I am getting married.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the association of Minemen for granting me the scholarships for the five years that I attended USC. The scholarship monies were helpful in buying the supplies I needed. So, thank you for your generosity and considerations over the years and I hope that the AOM Scholarship fund will continue to help others in the ways that it helped me and my family.

Sincerest Thanks,

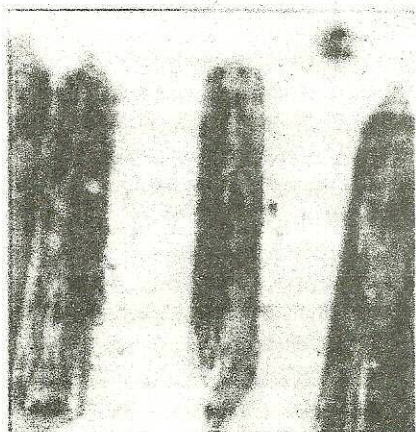
s/**Christopher A Adams** (son of **Roger Adams MNM Ret**)



## What are these?

NWS Yorktown Booster 12/99

**C**an you identify what is in the above picture? (clue: They are clear glass, sealed, clear liquid inside and about 4" long? Answer on page 10 The circle at the top right is a quarter.



(Continued on page 10)

## History

### Rolin' Along

By W.A.S. Douglas  
Washington Times-Herald  
(1939)

**S**omewhere in England. Now that the world is stirred by the German mine campaign in the North sea which, in its first week, accounted for five neutral ships, it is about time to go into the job of mine-sweeping, the most hazardous occupation of the first World war and, apparently, set to be the most hazardous one of the second. During the first conflict, the Germans laid 43,336 mines and there was a period when one minesweeper was lost for every two mines swept up.

Mine-sweepers are rough, tough little steamers taken by the Admiralty in the majority from the ranks of trawlers, herring boats and cross channel steamers.

They are manned by junior naval officers, junior merchant officers - before inclusion in the Royal navy - by skippers of fishing vessels, by

men-made-before-the-mast, by seaport and seaside village fishermen - in short by men who have followed the calling of the sea all their lives, they and countless generations behind them.

It was on February the first of 1917 that a desperate Germany announced "unrestricted" submarine and mine campaign. In that month 200 Allied and neutral ships were sent to the bottom; In March, 338; in April, 430.

On April 19, the worst day of terror, eleven British merchantmen and eight fishing steamers were sunk. One out of every four ships leaving British ports never returned.

This sort of campaign - only worse it is promised - that Germany is now undertaking. Whether she can get away with it, as she did for a period in 1917 remains to be seen.

There was, in 1917, hardly a harbor, headland or channel which was not sown with mines from the Shetland Islands to the Straits of Dover - and the job of cleaning them up which was finally accomplished, went to the mine sweeper.

Now he is back on the job again with even more deadly contrivances to combat, such as the magnetic mine which England claims has sent to the bottom all these casualties of the last few days.

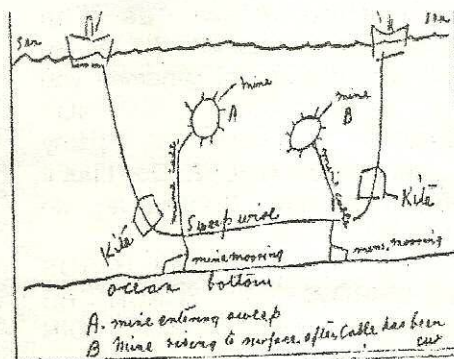
The magnetic mine is contrary to all rules of international warfare for it cannot distinguish between friend, foe or casual acquaintance - such as a neutral is presumed to be. It goes off on "contact" from as low a depth as 15 fathoms.

The job of minesweeper is not only to clean up the deadly contrivances but to keep a channel clear over the complete British coast. Every day from scores of ports the dingy ex-trawlers, ex-herring boats, ex-pleasure steamers, ex-ferries, ex-gunboats sally forth to their dangerous jobs.

Mines are sown in fields - at the entrances to channels and harbors and, of late, in those parts of the open sea used by Allied and neutral shipping.

The commonest method of sweeping up mines is by a wire passed between two sweepers which are steaming along abreast. The sweep wire is kept in the water at a set depth by "kites" which weigh it down. The sweep wire usually has a serrated edge. This cuts the cable of a mine moored to the bed of the sea and brings it to the surface where it is destroyed by gun or rifle fire.

The men aboard the minesweepers can see nothing.



They may be aware that they are over a mine field - and if they pass over a mine of the magnetic variety they will have good reason to know - but there is nothing ahead or behind but the dull gray water; and the ocean is a mighty big and lonely place.

They cannot locate the mine by apparatus as they can a submarine. All they can do is steam blindly and courageously ahead until a mine or two comes up - or the minesweeper goes up. If that happens the little boat is impaled on one of those cruel horns, the dread mechanism functions - and exit some of the bravest men in His Majesty's Navy.

It is generally admitted that if England and France are going to win this second world war they are going to win it by means of the

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

### British Navy

Unless the seas are kept open by the fleet for the merchantmen, who will bring England food and even sterner necessities of war, England will fall.

It is not generally realized - but it is nevertheless a most important fact - that without the shabby, down at heel minesweepers which are keeping open the seas for the great men-of-war these in turn could not keep open the ways for the merchant ships whose duty it is to bring the supplies of food, of airplanes, of guns, of munitions.

It is curious to relate that there are many Quakers among the crews of minesweepers. They refuse to fight but they do not shirk this more dangerous job.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Douglas is no great shakes as a draftsman, but you can get a rough idea of minesweeping from his sketch, anyhow; especially if you read his story.) (Dashpot Editor's note: This article is as it appeared in the paper in 1939)

### Hurricane Irene and USS Pioneer

Foc'sle 12/3

**P**ioneer departed Key West, Florida on October 13th to avoid Hurricane **Irene** bearing down on the Florida Keys. Almost immediately after reaching the Sea Buoy 12 foot seas and 35 knot winds were encountered. The only course of action at this time was to bring her bow into the wind and adjust speed as necessary to minimize pounding into the seas. Her maximum advance was six knots which was short of the eight knots needed to outrun the storm. The weather-decks were secured to all hands. The crew was split into port and starboard watch sections with all off-watch personnel ordered to their racks. Food preparation was not possible so crackers, ham sandwiches and meclazine were the

fare of the day. By nightfall, seas increased to 12 to 15 feet and the wind to 45 knots. Throughout the hurricane the ship encountered an average of 17 to 22 foot seas. Pioneer attempted to drive southeast but due to the winds and seas actually tracked northeast. Over this four-hour period, seas increased to 20 to 24 feet and sustained winds above 60 knots. The ship provided "ground zero" hourly weather reports to the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center, Norfolk by cellular phone. Finally after 52 hours of heavy winds and seas, Pioneer safely arrived at Grand Bahamas Bank and waited for Irene to pass through Florida and head out to sea. On October 17th crew Charlie sailed USS Pioneer safely into Miami for a much needed rest.

### History Books

**W**e were advised that the person doing the gold leaf name imprints on the History Books is no longer available. You will notice the imprint line is missing from the order blank. You can have this done on your own by going to any religious book store as they have facilities or contacts to emboss bibles.

### HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

by Lyal Sbyrker

**F**irst, I want to apologize to those of you that did not receive your History Book in a timely manner that you paid for. I and I alone am to blame so please do not take it out on **Toby Horn, Curtis Christian** or anyone else. Again, I apologize.

Second, All History Book back orders that I am aware of that we have good addresses for were put in the mail Monday December 13th. As you may know by now, we have lost the capability of personalizing future

orders of the History Book here in Charleston. However, you could probably have this done by a local bible book store.

Third, We will start returning photographs submitted for the History Book in January 2000. We thought it would be best to wait until the Christmas mail rush was over to preclude any possible loss in the mail due to the heavy volume of holiday mail.

### AOM Rings

MNCM Ret. **John Keen** asked that we try a picture of the AOM MK 6 ring as some of you were calling him and the manufacturer requesting a visual display. The ring pictured here is gold, face about the size of a dime and has a raised MK 6 mine with AOM impressed on the anchor bumper. The sides and remainder of the ring are smooth base metal. The prices were \$99. Silver ring, gold Mk 6 to \$185 for 14K white gold ring with yellow gold face. (850)-623-3901 is the phone number to order/details.







# Association of Minemen Ship's Store

T-Shirts						Ball Caps
Adult	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Adj. band hats, with AOM logo on Front.
Green						QTY
Grey						Red
Blue						Red & White
Red						Orange
Green Polo						Yellow
Youth	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Make funds payable to: Association of Minemen
Green						Send form to:
Grey						Association of Minemen
Blue						11932 Lake June Rd. # 48
Red						Balch Springs, TX 75180

## Windbreakers

Any question e-mail me [cowdawg1@aol.com](mailto:cowdawg1@aol.com)

Blue lined windbreaker with AOM logo in gold on front breast pocket

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	EXTENDED
Adult T-Shirt	\$7.50		
Youth T-Shirt	\$7.00		
Polo Shirt	\$16.50		
Ballcap	\$5.00		
Windbreaker	\$24.00		
S & H 10%			
Scholarship Program			
Mine Museum Contribution			
ANNUAL DUES	\$10.00		
TOTAL			

Ship To: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



## AOM Plaques

**P**laque back-log to be eliminated. Vice President **Swede Carlson** reported that **Lyal Stryker** indicated he is about to catch up on the delinquent AOM plaques. The engravings are being made up for the awards. Three of the awards are for the active duty types and of course the other 3 are for the reservists. This will catch the AOM up. So it looks like Santa will be carrying some plaques this year.

September 1999 Rating  
Exam Results

Bupers homepage

To Mineman 1st class:

MN1 Apodaca Ruben  
 MN1 Boulware Rodney  
 MN1 Boyles Tommy le  
 MN1 Brashier Steven  
 MN1 Gilmore David J  
 MN1 Gutierrez Jesus  
 MN1 Hoekman Terry A  
 MN1 Orms Jimmy Merl  
 MN1 Ortiz Luis Albe  
 MN1 Sedillo Isauro  
 MN1 Taylor Angelo D  
 MN1 Wirth Jeffrey E

To Mineman 2nd class:

MN2 Anable Thomas  
 MN2 Barrett Michael  
 MN2 Bitar Nicholas  
 MN2 Borneman Gerry  
 MN2 Brewer Aunaray  
 MN2 Cantu Manuel II  
 MN2 Carlisle Camero  
 MN2 Douglas Shaun R  
 MN2 Elizondo Roel H  
 MN2 Garcia Santiago  
 MN2 Gonzales Leonel  
 MN2 Gump Lawrence J  
 MN2 Hamm Timothy Ri  
 MN2 Hinton Antawan  
 MN2 Hoffmeyer Corri  
 MN2 Holland Myles P

MN2 Jackson Keon Le  
 MN2 Kotschenreuther  
 MN2 Littrell Bryan  
 MN2 McLane Matthew  
 MN2 Newberry Willia  
 MN2 Pasquith Robbie  
 MN2 Patton Ryan Kei  
 MN2 Reed Troy Micha  
 MN2 Samilton Willia  
 MN2 Senseney Willia  
 MN2 Simmons Daniel  
 MN2 Stanley Curtis  
 MN2 Thompson Christ  
 MN2 Vallez Dominic  
 MN2 Waters Leslie N  
 MN2 Williams Steven



To Mineman 3rd class

MN3 Bowen Thomas Fr  
 MN3 Campion William  
 MN3 Cupak Adam Jose  
 MN3 Davila Xavier  
 MN3 Fawcett Jason M  
 MN3 Garza Jack Dani  
 MN3 Greene Amy Mari  
 MN3 Greer Matthew R  
 MN3 Gunn Aaron Todd  
 MN3 Hohn Jerry Stev  
 MN3 Lillegard Krist  
 MN3 Martinez Ramses  
 MN3 McIntosh Jeffer  
 MN3 Morales Everett  
 MN3 Oppermann Willi

Charleston Reunion August  
2000

By Dick Schommer

11 Aug 2000 Early Bird-Charleston AFB Club-1800-until. The club has a steak special that night for \$5.00, Burn your own.

12 Aug 2000 Golf Tournament place undetermined at this time (AFB or NWS)

12 Aug 2000 Business Meeting-Charleston Club-Time to be determined by Prez.

12 Aug 2000 Banquet-Charleston Club-1800-until.

The motel that I blocked 30 rooms is the Best Western at I-26 and Ashley Phosphate Rd. Exit 209. Rate per day \$62.00 good 3 days prior to and 3 days after the reunion dates, and this price includes breakfast. Reservations can be made by phone or E-mail (doscha@lodgian.com) Mention Association of Minemen for the special rates. Phone 1-800-528-1234 local: 843-572-2000

For those that plan on using a campground the Base offers the FamCamp which is adjacent to the picnic area. This is first come basis. \$10.00 per night for water, electric, and restrooms/shower area. Also a dump station.

The only reservation lacking is the picnic grounds and it cannot be locked in until 3 Jan 2000.

Members and guests that plan on playing in the golf tournament please email me or call me (843) 797-3715 or **Buddy Stewart** (843) 821-8990. We need a count for the Tee times. The Air force base is usually booked solid but Buddy is going to give it his best.

If you need anything else contact me at Phone number above or rdschommer@hotmail.com



(Continued from page 6)

## Did you get it?

Did you identify the glass vials dug up during the NWS Yorktown EPA buried dump clean-up?

If not here it is. The vials in the picture are from Mark VI mines and are used to detonate the mine. The vials are placed in each of the mines horns and when a ship hits the horn, the vial breaks, spilling acid into a battery which causes a current. The current ignites the mine and everything goes BOOM!

## Win, Lose, or Draw

In the early 70's I was stationed on board the USS Waddell DDG 24 during refresher training in Cuba. Damage control drills were conducted constantly; All situations were simulated.

In the passageway outside sickbay, one of our botswain'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 botswain's mate he said, "sailor this is a simulated hole in the deck. What action do you take?"

The sailor thought for a few 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 lines he calmly walked away.

Several years ago, the Commander-in-Chief of the British home fleet arrived on the quarterdeck of the HMS Implacable. It was his habit to initiate some sort of practice emergency drill immediately on coming on board one of the aircraft carriers. Looking at the duty LCDR, he took off his hat,

Subject: Presentation and donation of the AOM History book to the Danish Navy Library 23 September 1999.

Dear all members of the "Association of Minemen U.S.N.

I have on the 23 September 1999 - on behalf of our fellow AOM members handed our "U.S. Naval Mines and the Minemen - A History Book" - donated to the "Danish Navy Library" at Holmen Copenhagen. The "History Book" was handed over during a small reception.

The "History Book" has been donated by our Association in recognition of the Royal Danish Navy's role in modern warfare - their significant contribution to the development of U.S.N. mine hardware deployment and maintenance policies and strategies. For their many hardware improvements and innovations recognized by the U.S.N. Engineering Activity and personnel. Most important for their long-standing partnership with the U.S.N. Minewarfare activities, facilities, and personnel in perpetuating naval mine weapons as a formidable first line of defense in both tactical and defensive scenarios.

I had the honor - as membership number HO-11 of our Association - to hand over our "History Book" and will, on behalf of the "Danish Navy Library" give all my fellow members a - thank you so much for the donation of the book. The only book on hand in a foreign country on a naval Library.

The wording in the letter from our AOM President to the Commander Senior Grade **P Groth** - head of the Library goes to my heart - all shall know - that I have done my job - to my best ability through all my life - in a way that I felt was the best for my own country - Denmark - in war as in peacetime - as well as during the "Cold War" threats for the U.S.N. in our common interest to build up the best Mine Weapon in the World - ready to act on a very short notice - not days.

My time is running out - but all my time with the U.S.N. as well as all my personnel friends in the United State of America should know that the wording in the letter to the Naval Library: "We are pleased to have Commander **Joergen Strange Lorenzen**, Royal Danish Navy (Retired), as one of our most stalwart members of our organization. Although honored and held in heroic esteem by our Nation and Navy, he is equally regarded by many of us as a true champion of Minewarfare" These words will be with me to my last day.

Sincerely - thank you all from the old men - **Joergen**

Well done, you guys and gals of the AOM. I think you can all walk a little taller today. **Toby Horn**

threw it on deck, said, "all right, that's an incendiary bomb. What are you going to do about it?" The duty LCDR promptly kicked the hat over the side of the ship

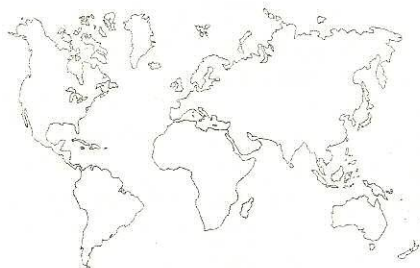
During overhaul, we had a change of command. The old skipper, after a lengthy speech, turned the command over to our new skipper, and left the ship. The new captain looked the crew over and said "lets clear up one thing, this is not MY

ship, this isn't YOUR ship, Its OUR ship." A voice from the crew muttered, "good lets sell it".

During a cold night underway the OOD asked the messenger to bring him a cup of coffee. Returning the officer noticed the messengers thumb partially submerged in the coffee. "Young man, you have your thumb in my coffee" said the OOD. "That's alright sir, it ain't hot" said the messenger.



## FULL FORCE NEWS



### Mine Warfare News

By CDR Ron Swart

It has been a very busy Fall for the miner's-mates. It is time for the even-year budget wars and for us to help the Fleet justify the requirements for underwater mines. I'm happy to report that thanks to unprecedented support from RADM **Joe Betancourt**, COMINEWARCOM, and the Fleet staffs, we have a good shot at getting some new programs funded at long last. We think that funding for a replacement for the Mk 56 Mine is possible and a an improved Sub-launched Mobile Mine too. There are a number of other initiatives that will improve existing mine systems that stand a good chance as well. Retirement of Mine Mk 56 is temporarily on hold pending a decision from the top on whether or not to keep some around until we field a replacement. In keeping with our focus on improving Mine Countermeasures training, we have asked for a new generation of training mine-like targets that represent the threat our Minemen will go up against while on sea duty. We've received a favorable response from the Chain of Command and hope to begin next year. All in all, we are cautiously optimistic about keeping a viable mining capability for our Navy. Keep your fingers crossed.

#### Around the Group

It is time to say farewell to MOMAD Seven, in Hawaii. After many, many years of service in various locations around the West Loch complex, our Mine Shop in Paradise is closing at the end of December 1999. On behalf of all the Sailors who proudly served their duty there, I wish we could keep

her going. But, time marches on and we bid Hawaii a Minemen Hail and Farewell to the Pearl of the Pacific.

MOMAU Five in Sigonella has taken on a new, additional responsibility: taking care of the U.S. Fifth Fleet. They've just completed support for Fleet Battle Experiment Foxtrot with MCMRON Three, where all facets of Mine Warfare as applied to the Gulf Region were played out. The were aided in their new mission by MN1 **Farr** from MOMAU Fifteen and together they formed a most successful team. Congratulations on a job well done.

MOMAU Ten just completed an exercise in Australia, but I'll let LCDR **John Iwaniec** tell you all about it. MOMAU Eleven has moved into their new digs in Charleson and is preparing to receive their stockpile of service mines this coming Summer.

MOMAU Fifteen has a brand new water-blast and powder painting capability that will greatly reduce hazardous waste and maintenance of our exercise mines.

MOMAU One hosted the new MOMAG Supply Officer and Admin Officer who wanted to see how squared away our Mine Shops were. MOMAU Twelve's CO, CWO3 **Gary Riggins** has just returned from supporting Naval Exercises in Korea and Thailand. I'm sure he's glad to get back home where the snow is already many feet thick.

Welcome aboard to LT **Alex Brown** who assumed the helm of MOMAU Three in New Jersey. He relieved LT **Tom Mathison** who completed a most successful tour and is now reporting for duty aboard USS Cowpens.

MOMAU Eight has their new CO, LCDR **Matt Wisniewski** aboard and operating at full steam. He relieved LT **Ed Barrios** who did a fabulous job as interim CO. **Ed** is staying on as the XO.

MOMAU Fourteen CO, **Ken Dalton** traveled to CSS Panama City to work out details regarding the CAPTOR retirement. His outstanding crew has stayed on

schedule in spite of the daunting details involved with laying up this complicated system. We are all sadly saying good-bye to Mr. **John Holland** this month, who is retiring after 22 years with the CAPTOR shop. We wish **John** a Mineman Fairwell and Following Seas upon his departure. He'll be sorely missed.

CINCLANTFLT, Admiral **Vernon Clark** visited COMINEWARCOM and COMOMAG this past month and was favorably impressed with our Mine Force. His message was clear: We need to retain our Sailors and stop the unnecessary losses due to a wide variety of reasons... we must fix the cause of the problem, not the symptom. We have a lot of homework to do!!!

#### Other News

CDR **Terry Auberry** was selected for the "Acquisition Professional" corps and that will allow him a wide range of future opportunity in the Program Management field. Congratulations, **Terry**!

We should all keep Mr. **Dave Bucher** in our prayers. **Dave**, one of the few remaining "real mine" engineers that came from NMWEA (NMEF) to CSS has been seriously ill and we wish him a speedy recovery. That's about it for this issue. I want to wish you Minemen everywhere the happiest of holidays and a very merry New Year!!!  
All the best

### MOMAU ONE

by LCDR Ed "SIMY" Simmons

CO CORNER. Life here at MOMAU One is going great...we have great weather, a great crew! What more can one expect. First off, I want to welcome our new members and their families. A hearty HAIL to: MNSR **Dave Baker**; MNSR **John Gardner** and his new bride **Carrie**; MN2 **Nick Bitar**; MNSN **Dewey Noble** and his wife **Kimberley**; MN3 **Eric Treece**, his wife **Susan** and son **Mark**; and MNSR **Ralph**



(Continued from page 12)

**Maldonado**, his wife **Echo** and their new son of 6 weeks, **Noah**. All are coming in from Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside. Also, welcome to YN3(SW) **Roland Coates**, who reported from the USS TARAWA. I would like to extend my best wishes and for fair winds and following seas to MN2 **Mark Geisler** and his family. **Mark** separated and is now working locally for a Long Beach Contractor as their Safety Officer.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**  
 Congratulations to MN1 **Steve Ciccarello** Senior Sailor of the Quarter and MNSN **Nadine Willis** Junior Sailor of the Quarter. **Nadine** was also recently frocked to MN3 and along with MN2 **Nick Bitar** to his present rank. Also, want to congratulate **Ramses Martinez** for advancement to MN3 - Congratulations all. MN1 **Ciccarello** received his 4th Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for superior performance during the recent Explosive Safety Inspection (if one could "ACE" an inspection, he surely came close to achieving that). Great Job CC! Additionally, MN2 **Nason** was awarded the NATO Medal and MN1 **Ciccarello** was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Other advancements this quarter: MN2 **Koski** and MN2 **Stafford**. Both finally are getting paid! Want to extend a warm SOCAL (Souther California) welcome to LT **Vince Ortiz**, COMOMAG Admin Officer and LTJG **Vida Rolff**, COMOMAG Supply Officer to the Mine Community. They both just returned back to COMOMAG after a short site visit with us here on 30 December and our Admin and Supply Department's look forward to working with you both. To all who know **Alfredo Medina**, he separated from the Navy back in August and is graduating from the Riverside Sheriff County Police Academy on 17 December. Hats off to him and his family. Also, **Lee Whitmore** and

family are doing well in the local community as well as **Paul Becker** (Miss you all, man!). **RE-ENLISTEMENTS**. Congratulations to MN2 **Laura Arthur** who reenlisted for 3 years and MN2 **Kecia Nason** who reenlists in January for 6 years. Best wishes for success on your decision to stay in. **HOLIDAYS**. We finished up this year's Hollywood tapings of the LEESA show. What a great time we had. And the money we got for our MWR was not bad either. Now its time to plan our Command Holiday party and enjoy the holidays with our families. The Destroyer Escort Association again brought XMAS Baskets to our sailors. What wonderful folks! This year there was enough to distribute to each and every sailor. Our joint XMAS Party this year was another resounding success. Thanks to SK2 **A.J Adams**, MN1 **Steve Ciccarello**, MN1 **Goody Goodman**, MN2 **Kecia Nason** and crew, we all enjoyed the fellowship and all the great food that was brought. It truly was a family affair, with all of the crew, their loved ones, DESA, and our NRMOMAU One Reserve Crew who we also invited to the potluck luncheon. I wish to extend our heartiest, "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" to all our shipmates and their families out there. **Yoshi** and I extend our best wishes to all and are looking forward to the New Millennium. May it be a safe one for us all!

## MOMAU 3

by LT Tom Mathison

**W**elcome aboard to LT **Alex S. Brown**, USN. LT **Brown** has relieved LT **Mathison** as CO of MOMAU 3 on 23 Nov 99. LT **Brown** reports from CINCPACFLT and LT **Mathison** departed for the USS COWPENS.

Welcome aboard to YN1 **McDonald**, MNSR **Fedo**, MNSR **Wheat**, MNSR **Taylor**, MNSR **Nosek** and SK2 **White**.

Fair winds and following seas to SK2 **Santiago**, LT **Mathison**, MN1 **Pascoe**, MNC **Taylor** and MN3

## Olenslager.

Congratulations to the following personnel. SK2 **Santiago** (Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal), MN1 **Pascoe** (Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal), MNC **Tandy** (Navy and Marine Corps Commendatio Medal), and MN3 **Olenslager** (COMOMAG Letter Of Commendation).

## Hello from Sigonella

By LT Martin, CO

**A**s 1999 comes to a close, pull up a fender and recall what Unit Five has been doing over the past 12 months and where most of us are going. MOMAU Five completed six Nato/Cincusnavetur, and one Comnavcentcom Minewarfare exercises, assembled and disassembled 165 exercise shapes, supported operation efforts in Kosovo. deployed personnel to France, Spain, Northern Italy, Bahrain and Israel. We completed a very successful MRCI with the outstanding support from Reserve MOMAU's 6 and 7. We had a nice review during an AMHAZ and DDESB inspections and made preparations for the new exercise system (VEMS). It has been a fast paced and productive year.

MOMAU Five received CWO2 **Curt Simmons** as the Executive Officer from USS John F. Kennedy and within the last two months received 5 new Minemen from the "A" school.

MN1 **Slater** has orders to EOD Training Unit Two in VA. PO2 **Kopp** and MNSN **Bufano** have orders to USS Guardian, MN3 **Carlisle** has orders to USS Pioneer and MN2 **O'Halloran** just re-enlisted for 4 years and is off to Rota Spain for 3 years security duty. PO2 **McKnight**, MN3 **Plazola**, MN3 **Villarreal**, PO3 **Mounsey**, MNSN **Gillis** and MNSN are within their 9 month window for orders and are working hard for a good set.

We expect to receive MN1 **Sanders** from Rotational Crew Bravo and MN1 **Haley** from Unit



One.

As the old century ends and the new one begins, MOMAU Five will remain at the tip of the spear of freedom, vigilant and ready and will continue the tradition of excellence.

## MOMAU Eight

By MNCS Williams

**H**afa Adai from Guam. This past quarter has been very busy with lots of SLMM work and regular maintenance on all the other weapon systems, but as fate would have it, another typhoon season has just come to a close without any storms hitting Guam this year. With this good fortune under our belts, we were able to take advantage of the great weather and also spend some time on outdoor facilities projects, cleaning, repairing, painting and fixing. The crew has outdone themselves as usual and the compound never looked better. We have also finished up more ceiling work in some of the office spaces and can now begin rebuilding the Supply Office over the holiday period. Lots more projects on the burner however, and just a few more work orders and 1999 can be put to bed. We have a new Commanding Officer onboard, LCDR Wisniewski. He arrived from MOMAD Seven in October, and will continue to be their OIC as well as our CO until their final closure later in December.

Recently, we heard from an old Shipmate - LT Ed Oyer (USN Ret) dropped us a nice letter from Williamsburg, VA. He was here at the site from 1967 to 1969 when it was the "Mines Division" of NavMag Guam. LT Oyer gave us some insight into the planning that went into the building of our present compound. He even asked if the original reefers are still here (yep, they are). We sent him a note of appreciation and

some MOMAU-8 goodies (including a Unit ballcap). We hope it fits and that you wear it proudly, LT.

We continue to have a bumper crop of outstanding personnel well deserving of recognition this period, and I'm happy to report the following: MN1(SS) Eckelbecker - NCM, NAM, 1999 SOY; MNSN Brown - NAM, 1999 JSOY; MNSN Camerer - NAM; MN2 Gibb - LOC 3Q99 SOQ; YN2 Winfield - LOC, 4Q99 SOQ; MN3 Wilson - 2nd GCM; MNCS Williams - CAR, 11th OSR; MN2 Herbig - LOC; MN2 Ancil - ADM LOC, LOA. PRT awardee's were: Outstanding - MNCS Williams, MNC Cantrell, MN1(SS) Eckelbecker, MN1(SW) Williams, MN1(SW) Crocker, MN2 Potter, YN2 Winfield, MNSN Brown, and achieving Excellent was MN2 Herbig.

Recent new arrivals include MNSR Greene, MNSR Freeman, MNSR Ledford, and MN3 Hindman. As is the case throughout the Mineforce, these new members of our team were sorely needed to fill vacant billets and they have hit the deck plates running. Unfortunately, we also had to say goodbye to several transferring Sailors, among them MN3 Barrett, and MN3 Patton, and SK1(SW) Bryan who recently retired with 20 years of faithful service. In addition, we're also losing MN2 Herbig and MN1(SS) Eckelbecker in December. All those Sailors were hard-chargers and their shoes will be hard to fill. We will miss them and their families and wish them all the best on the road ahead.

MWR Christmas Party fund-raising activities have been in full swing this year, with something happening just about every Friday. The recent Marbo Cave expedition was filled with fun and surprises for all, including a bumpy ride for most and a burned up transmission for me! All's well that ends well though, and the cool water and myriad of places to explore was really exciting. Our annual "Seaman for a Day" buy-out also closed with lots of money in the till. MN1(SW) Williams won the

honors along with MN2 Herbig. Of course, only the top two finishers got the pleasure of spending a day toiling away at specially reserved "Seaman" projects, but for those that felt left out, we gladly offered them positions along-side their Seaman Shipmates! Darn the good luck! On another note, believe it or not, it finally happened. Marianas Cable installed cable TV lines all the way through the jungle to the compound, and underground to all three buildings, and best of all, it was FREE! Seems there was Federal money left over from Super Typhoon PAKA repairs just for these types of jobs. So with just a week's work, lunch time in the lounge and after hours with the Duty Section isn't as quiet anymore. A real QOL Goal finally met for the fine crew here. Remember we've been trying to get this done for us for the past 20 years!!!

Well Shipmates, that's about it for this issue. Halloween and Thanksgiving have come and gone, Christmas is almost here, and the Y2K bug is getting hungry, so be safe, take care, and may God richly bless you, your families, and your commands.

## MOMAU Ten

By LCDR John Iwaniec

**S**orry this has taken so long to get out, but my e-mail has been down and I've been in Australia for the past month. I know y'all feel real bad for me but someone had to take that nasty DUGONG exercise down under in bloody Australia Ha!. Let me tell you folks, it was great....

First news from Unit Ten is we have some new Petty Officers in the command.

MN1 Apodaca, MN2 Stanley, MN2 Vallez, MN3 Petree, MN3 Spindler and MN3 Gunn, all picked up rank from the last exam and I am



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extremely happy to have such a good showing. I also have 10 people going to college next semester (more than half the command). Seeing so many sailors taking advantage of an education so early in their careers is outstanding and will make them very competitive in the future.

#### Other news

**MN2 Curtis Stanley** is the proud father of a new baby boy, born 26 Nov. **Kaleb Dale Stanley**. **MN2 Maurice Perine** also has a new baby on the way. I am extremely proud of **Perine** as he is also our SOY nominee. Additionally, **MN2 Perine** has now decided to re-enlist in the navy after threatening to get out. **Perine** has orders to the USS Patriot and will be leaving us in February. **Perine's** presence here will be sorely missed. **MNSA Pascual** arrived on board from the school and has hit the ground running. We also have orders on **MNSR Spencer Dale Waitschies** who will be arriving in January from FMWTC. **YNSR Jeremy Chauncey Keels** is scheduled to arrive in January. We are happy to have **Keels** headed our way since we have been rudderless in the admin department for a year now. Last but not least we also have orders on **MN2 Shane Scott** who should be arriving sometime next September. We are also supposed to be getting Chief **John Bray** from Guam, sometime in the spring but no orders received to date. Those leaving include; **MN2 Mary Jackson**, who has orders to MOMAU 14 and leaves in May 2000, **MNSN Gunn** has orders to the USS Guardian and leaves us in May. **MN1 Haley** has orders to transfer in August to MOMAU 5, Sigonella Sicily. **MN3 Spindler** is in a holding pattern until we get an update on his foot. **MN3 Spindler** had the painful experience of having his foot run over by a Six K forklift carrying a Mk 52 mine. Not something he wants to go through again any time soon. Chief **Hipp** gets out of the navy this coming June, the

chief has been gone for the past month at the CARAT Planning Conference. This swing has him in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, real rough duty. We just finished up the Foul Eagle exercise in Korea, it wasn't a fun one this time, "Good Gosh Man" what an adventure. **CWO3 Riggins** probably won't be volunteering for another one anytime real soon.

For other news, **Mr. Riggins** and I have been doing the planning for MOMAU Twelve/ MOMAU Ten consolidation. COMOMAG will determine the time frame for the actual date when Twelve will become a Det under Unit Ten. Unit Ten will acquire some additional billets from the consolidation, which will help us out tremendously with our exercise schedule. I guess that's it for now, we are in the process of gearing up for our MRCI and a host of other inspections next year. Oh, LT. **Gary Martin**, I hope you're ready for the new Millennium fishing contest, I'm looking forward to seeing you and the other CO's at this years conference. Merry Christmas/ Hanaka to everyone out there, I hope Y'all have a super holiday season and stay safe.

#### MOMAU Twelve

by MNC R. J. Nicely

**G**reetings, from the "Land of the Rising Sun"! As you've probably already guessed, we've had our first snowfall. Thankfully, it only stuck around for a day or so. Everyone made it to work in one piece, and had a great time shoveling snow! Read as "clear the walkway by means of a snowball fight."

We've had our command Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Party, both were big successes. Luckily, **CWO3 Riggins** and **MN1 (SW) Corvo** made it back from Korea in time to enjoy the festivities at the Christmas Party. (Gunner **Riggins** missed a fabulous spread at the Thanksgiving Dinner.)

Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the "gag" gifts tremendously! The door prizes that all the junior personnel wanted to win were "CO, Mine Assembly Officer and LPO for a day". The lucky(?) recipients were **MNSR Chris Garner (CO)**, **MNSN "Rico" Smith (MAO)** and **MN2 (SW) Reinhart (LPO)**. Of course, those of us currently filling those positions get to be Seaman for a day. Rest assured the winners will probably be more than willing to turn the jobs back over to us!

We'd like to express our thanks to the instructors at MWTC for the excellent jobs they are doing. We have received some very well trained Sailors in the past few months, and are slated to receive a couple more. We welcomed aboard **MNSR Garner**, **MNSR Everitt** and most recently **MNSR Shelbourn**.

**MNSN Greene** will soon be an **MN3**, so we would like to extend our congratulations to all the recent selectees to **MN3**, **MN2** and **MN1**.

Finally, we would like to extend our wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to all! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

#### NR MOMAU 10 - EL Paso, TX

by MN1 J.A. Oszvart

**T**he pride of West Texas, NR MOMAU 10, had a productive and celebrated year. All of our Minemen did a variety of AT's this off-MRCI year. **MN2 Chavez & Delgado** completed their NAVLEAD for E-5 up in scenic Albuquerque, NM; **YN2 Valasquez** spent two casual weeks with Cincpacflit in Honolulu; **MN2 Ruiz & MNCS Lopez** gave a helping hand to MOMAU One in Seal Beach; **BM3 Rangel** and **MNC Grieb** made the long trek to MOMAU 8 in tropical Guam to help the

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undermanned staff there; BM3 **Valles** attended the Mineman Reserve "A" school in Ft. Worth; MN1 **Oszvart** completed the career counselors school in New Orleans and helped instruct the CDS Ft. Worth Reserve Mineman "A" school, and our CO, LT. **Filley** took a pleasure cruise on the USS Millus (DDG 69). Our focus in training will now be to hone those skills necessary to achieve a successful & proficient score on the up-coming MRCI with unit 8 this spring.

Our Reserve Minemen have also been recognized for their hard work in other areas as well. In March, MNCS **Lopez** & MN1 **Oszvart** received letters of commendation from Admiral **Betancourt** for their work on the renovation of the CDS Ft. Worth and the remaining unit members received letters of appreciation. MN2 **Ruiz** (1 Qtr 99) & **Chavez** (3 qtr 99) were Reserve Center El Paso JSOQ, and MN1 **Oszvart** for the SSOQ (2 qtr 99).

As a navigation instructor at the Naval Academy, I always explain to the Midshipmen that a good navigator was 80% confidence and 20% book learning. While taking sights with one of the fledgling navigators on a short cruise, I kept telling my student to take another sight, because each sight of mine taken at the same instant was reading seven minutes of arc lower than his. After three or four attempts, with the same difference in reading, the Midshipman turned to me in exasperation and said "Sir, do you have any idea what **you** are doing wrong?"

## Smoking

By AOM member **Bob Benentende**

A vast there young sailor and you there, the old salt too. Take heed to my tale cause it just might reflect upon you.

Pull up a chair and sip on a brew while I relate this story to you.

Its about a young lad, about fifteen I'd say, who started to swipe and puff a cigarette or two each day - his buddies all thought that it was hot stuff to sit under an ole pepper tree and puff, puff, puff.

At seventeen and some months this lad slim and trim with visions of a future sailing the Pacific rim. A sailor he thought a career through and through.

Sea stores aplenty and cigarettes cheap too, with the smoking lamp lit the stories just flew.

Thirty years flew by the experiences just grew, retirement came and then plus two. Now he an old salt, tobacco stained fingers and yellow teeth too and a cough that would put a barking Saint Bernard to shame. He realized that all that smoking was really not much fun as his chest racked with pain whenever he tried to walk fast or run.

Up and quit he did - but not just like that - had help tis true a clinic support group pulled him through.

Fifteen years later and life is good when BANG a big heart attack about put him dead. "If you smoke -stop" the Doctor said "a triple bypass may fix you but don't let it go to your head.

Now five years more have passed, been trying to live a proper life with the aid and care of a loving wife.

When one night a stream I did pee as red as the red sea could be. So off to the Doctor I did go a worry that had my thoughts going to and fro." **CANCER** my man "was the Doctors reply, Tests confirmed that you have three to five years and then you will die.

Consultation did reveal that radiation, chemotherapy would not suffice.

Surgery was the only choice, slice,

slice, slice. Three times for surgery you see to remove the cancer from me. Transitional cell Carcinoma is it's name. Caused from smoking, working in the chemical industry or subjected to heavy doses of radiation. Guess where I fit in?

A year of worry, agony and pain, finally I'm on the mend. I'm getting better now and singing this refrain, IF YOU SMOKE- STOP. Seek out a support group- do your self a big favor DON'T SMOKE. Put the Smoking Lamp out of your life, one cigarette is one to many. This tale that I have spun to you is true.

I would not wish the pain I have suffered on my worst enemy. I have heard it said many times "Oh a cigarettes can't hurt you, they help me relax, it's really enjoyable with a cup of coffee. Don't kid yourself.

Thank you to my many Shipmates for the e-mail, letters, get well cards, phone calls and especially your thoughtful prayers

Your Shipmate Bob

Prior to WW II navigable rivers in China were patrolled by gunboats from various nations, ostensibly to protect the lives and property of their citizens. The US Navy maintained a number of lightly armed gunboats on various rivers but primarily the Yangtze.

After a number of years, these ships became a part of the Chinese landscape and most of the non-military shipboard activities were carried out by Chinese servants and helpers. One afternoon the customary mooring was not available and the ship had to anchor out. The Captain and crew were astonished when the anchor bobbed to the surface, The Chinese crew had sold the anchor and replaced it with a carved painted wooden one.



## Page 16A

## MOMAU 15

"SEASONS GREETING" from MOMAU Fifteen. *It's that time again,* Tis the season to be Jolly. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the Mine Warfare Community and their families. MOMAU Fifteen crew members have been doing an outstanding job for the past couple of months in supporting the Mine warfare throughout the Gulf of Mexico with the following exercises: GOMEX 99-2/MIREM 9; ROMEX 99-2 and MK 75 Versatile Exercise Mine Fleet Introduction and Assistance Training (FIAT). Nothing but praises were received from the Staff that were involved. BZ to the crew and keep charging! As some already know, MN1 **Farr** departed CONUS to participate in MIREM 11 and Fleet Battle Experience in Bahrain. Per MOMAU FIVE's CMC, he has been doing a bang up job. Petty Officer **Farr** is one of the finest Minemen in the Mine Warfare Community, BZ to MNI **Farr**.

We recently hailed MNSR **Benito Juarez**, MNSR **Royce Adams** and MN2 **Ryan Patton**. Both **Juarez** and **Adams** reported from MINEWARTRACEN, Ingleside, TX and MN2 **Patton** reported from MOMAU EIGHT, Guam. Welcome aboard to you and your families. MN2 **Reeves**, MN2 **Angle** and MN2 **Flores** transferred to sea duty. Farewell and Following Seas to you and your families.

We recognized the following personnel on our most recent awards ceremony: MN2 **Smith** (SSOQ), MN3 **Gonzales** (JSOQ), SK1 **King** (LOA), MN1(SW) **Kurmo** (PRT 3rd outstanding), MN2 **Smith** (PRT Excellent), MN2 **Morehouse** (PRT Excellent), MN2 **Gonzales** (PRT Excellent) and MNSN **Oppermann** (PRT 2nd Outstanding). The September 1999 Navy-Wide Exam Results were finally reported and the following personnel selected: MN2 **Leonel**

**Gonzales, MN2 Ryan Patton and MNSN William Oppermann.** Congratulations to all personnel who were recognized and keep up the great work. This is it for now, until next time, **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## AOM Balance Sheet

Below is an abbreviated form of our balance sheet for November 1999

Title	Debit	Credit
Cash	2327.09	0.00
QM Supply	1595.50	0.00
History Book Inv.	14616.00	0.00
Admin Supply Inv	91.32	0.00
Scholarship	0.00	92.75
History Books	0.00	5400.00
Dues1	0.00	2850.00
Dues2	0.00	720.00
Dues3	0.00	200.00
Dues4	0.00	120.00
Dues5	0.00	120.00
Reunion	0.00	(200.00)
Capital	0.00	10191.55
Dashpot exp	150.00	0.00
Postage exp	714.39	0.00
Totals	\$19494.30	\$19494.30

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News from the papers  
Coastal Courier (CC) 9/10/

NAVSEA realigns major centers. The realignment is part of NAVSEA's strategy to form a more agile, responsive, corporate NAVSEA with improved focus on mission priorities and core equities, and builds on the successful operation of the centers and facilitates closer alignment of NAVSEA science and technology, product development and engineering capabilities. SEA 03 will be realigned and redesignated as SEA 05, the Integrated Warfare Systems Directorate. SEA 53 will have additional duties as Commander Naval Surface Warfare Center.

CC 10/22/

Coastal Systems Center (CSS) Panama City becomes hub for high-technology research vessels and university students. A five-year study to better understand how high-frequency acoustic sensors can be used to identify objects buried beneath the ocean floor began in the Gulf of Mexico 14 October. Universities of Washington, Texas, Florida Atlantic, California at San Diego, Columbia, North Carolina, Naval Research Laboratory and Scripps Institute will work alongside several Defense contractors deploying highly sophisticated systems working near six fathoms.

Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM-15) flying Sikorsky MH-2E Sea Dragon aircraft visited CSS. They were there to exercise towing MK 105 Magnetic Influence Mine Sweeping Systems - a hydrofoil sled that skims across the water behind the aircraft at speeds in excess of 25 miles per hour.

CC 11/19

NAVSEA releases new logo. Depicting the future, the new logo has the Corporate name NAVSEA superimposed on a globe with a futuristic missile, surface platform and stealth submarine streaking across

the globe. Local command names appear across the bottom.

MOMAU 15 sent CSS a "Well Done" to MNMCM (SW) **Bainbridge** and others here for their efforts during the Mk 75 FIAT. USS Pelican sent a message to CSS thanking MNC **Donnie Kiper** and others here for particularly outstanding support in troubleshooting and repair of their SQQ-32 sonar.

CC 12/3

Telogistics has arrived. USS Scout crew members have instant interactive logistical support for their SLQ-48 mine neutralization system. The system provides maintenance and logistic data from Navy shore activities. Through a laptop computer the ship has access to drawings, interactive electronic technical manuals, diagnostic information, supply data and training information from various data bases. In addition, audio/visual capabilities allow the ship to communicate with in-service engineering activities to assist with troubleshooting and repair reducing the need for technical representative visits to the ship. Current design (prototype) is limited to pier-side use. NWS Yorktown The Booster 9/99

The old station gym met its demise to the bulldozers as the relocation of "people" buildings on station is finished. A 45 year old relocation project is complete. The project was mandated by the explosive arc or safety zone from the ammunition pier. Not one building is standing in the area of the base near the Colonial Parkway. Gym, commissary, theater, galley, fire-house, exchange, sick-bay, gas-station, Navy barracks, Marine barracks, housing and whatever else was there is just grass now. The only thing left down Barracks road is the Wright Circle picnic area. Lots of memories but nothing to substantiate them.

Foc'sle

9/10

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), MMCM(SW/SS/AW)

**Jim Herdt** visits MCM Rotational Crew Delta in Arabian Gulf. During the visit, MN1 **Gonzales** requested the MCPON review a letter that had been sent to the CNO in June 1991. "The letter, concerning the mining campaigns of North Vietnam, which I and many other Minemen were involved in between 1967 and 1973, was a request for recognition for those mining campaigns from which no awards were ever received. After 26 years of waiting and hoping for the Navy to recognize a job well done, I know that MCPON **Herdt** is probably our last chance."

LCDR **Edward Kenyon** relieved CDR **William McQuillen** as CO USS Scout

Three MOMAU 15 Sailors suited up in scuba gear to clean garbage and lost fishing equipment from Port Aransas jetties in support of Operation Deep Clean. The team captured third place for recovering the most fishing line, which included tow cast nets and 155 lead weights. Bravo Zulu to MN1 **Raymond Farr**, MN2 **Eugene Smith** and MNCS(SW) **David Walker**.

LCDR **Anthony L Krueger** relived CDR **Peter L Stitt** as CO USS Heron Mine Warfare Association (NMA) reunion held at Corpus Christi. Some of the 400 NMA reunion attendees visited Ingleside where they visited the USS Shrike and MWTC. A marble plaque was presented to MWTC that says "Presented by the Naval Minewarfare Association to honor U.S. Navy Sailors who served in Naval mine warfare. Where the fleet goes we've been. September 6, 1999.

CPO Pinning in front of USS Chief on 16 September 1999. The following new Chiefs received their fouled anchors: MNC(SW) **David W Hargrove**, Afloat Training Group; MNC(SW) **Thomas M Vail**, Rot. Crew Charlie; MNC(AW) **Timothy W Hickman**, MNC(SW) **Edward J Nixon**, USS Kingfisher; MNC(SW) **Andrew J Palmer** and **Anthony**

(Continued on page 18)





(Continued from page 17)

**Bartoli, MWTC; MNC(SW) John L. Carman, USS Cardinal; MNC(SW) Dennis L. Anderson, USS Comorant; MNC(SW) Paul E. King, USS Raven; MCC(SW) Jeffery B. McCradey and Steven V. McLaughlin, USS Blackhawk**

**MN3 Tim Austin, USS Dextrous,** was quoted how he spent Friday the 13th on MCM-13. Base liberty and a call home to family was his reply "It was a great day for me" he said.

Foc'sle 9/24

**MNC(SW) Steven McLaughlin** was pictured being pinned as Chief.

Foc'sle 10/8

**MN1(SW) Timothy Lowden** is one of more than 20 USS Avenger sailors participating in a partnership with W. C. Andrews Elementary School bringing experience and expertise to benefit the students.

Foc'sle 10/22

**Bravo Zulu** to the following Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Sailors: **MNC Joe Osborne, Navy Commendation Medal and Flag Letter of Commendation**

**Foc'sle 11/5** **Bravo Zulu** to **MN1 Randall Childers, USS Raven** who was pictured and noted for receiving a letter of Commendation for being named Raven's Senior sailor of the Quarter. **MN3(SW) Robert Abreu, Rotational Crew Alpha** on **USS Gladiator** for receiving his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (SW) pin. **MN2 Matt Stephens, Rotational Crew Golf,** was pictured and quoted on his favorite duty station Barhain

Foc'sle 11/19

**USS Oriole** assisted in salvage efforts for EgyptAir Flight 990. Using her **SQQ 32** sonar and television cameras on her **SLQ 48** mine neutralization vehicle, **Oriole** was tasked with locating and identifying debris. The ship also mapped sections of the debris field. **Rotational Crew Golf** embarked on **USS Warrior** hosted several technicians demonstrating the capabilities of the **KLEIN 5000** series sonar. The **5000** series "Family" of

high speed, high resolution, multi-beam side scan sonars consist of three systems. One, the **58000** is an eight beam side scan sonar that is designed for detection and classification applications requiring images of the sea floor with very high resolution. The multi beams allow 100 percent bottom coverage at higher speeds. Small bottom targets are detected at 15 knots with an overall coverage swath of 400 meters.

Foc'sle 12/3

**Bravo Zulu** **MN1(SW) William T. Andrzejewski, MWTC Junior Instructor of the Quarter; MN1(SW) Frank D. Kent, Rot Crew Alpha SSOQ; Crew Gulf MN3 Donald C. Towles, JSOQ; MN2 Manuel S. Qunitaro, USS Avenger, SSOQ; MN1(SW) Allen E. Alt, USS Defender, SSOQ; MN3 Thomas J. Danek, USS Champion, JrSOQ; MN1 Randall A. Childers, USS Raven, SSOQ; MN1(SW/AW) James East, USS Shrike, SSOQ.** **MNC(SW) Brian Wilson** was a contest winner in retrieving a vaseline coated five pound weighted pumpkin off the Ingleside Total Fitness Center's pool bottom. Winners were awarded gift certificates redeemable for Thanksgiving meal supplies.

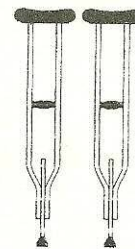
## AOM



(Continued from page 11)

**CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."**

This poem was written by a Marine stationed in Okinawa



## Binnacle List

**Dick Martin** talked to **Louis L. Jones MNC USN (ret),** today. He was very sick earlier this year (April) with heart trouble. He underwent surgery at the Latterday Saints Hospital, Salt Lake City UT. They replaced a valve and did bypass on a couple of arteries. He said that he is doing fine in his recovery. If anyone wants to write or call him his address is: Box 91, Declo, ID 83323 Tel # (208) 654-2186. He is a wonderful person and I am sure he would like to hear from some of his old shipmates.

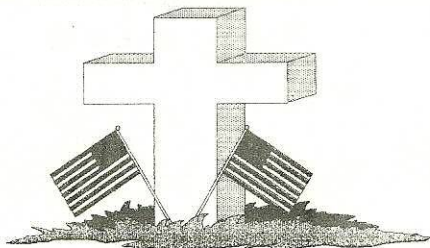
Heard second-hand that **Moose Wheelock** is still on the mend but progressing nicely.

**Ex-MN2 Bernard Rossman** is recovering from multiple heart by-pass surgery up in the Seattle area

During the Vietnam war an Ensign in the Naval Reserve had only taken a short course in officers indoctrination when he received orders to an aircraft carrier in Alameda. On a San Francisco street, he was overtaken by a new seaman recruit, who saluted and said "by your leave sir" as he passed. This was a new one to the Ensign. Feeling ridiculous, but wanting to know proper etiquette, he asked the man to repeat what he said. "By your leave sir" was the reply. "What am I supposed to say" the ensign asked? "Please sir" the recruit said "they only taught me my part."



## TAPS



**Isabelle Boorda** friend and companion to our past Sec/Treas **Lyal Stryker** 9/99. **Isabelle** was Lyal's right hand assistant at several recent Reunions assisting with registration, clothing sales and auction items. **Isabelle** said "She enjoyed being a part of the AOM family".

Seamen **Gabelli** had been on board the submarine for two years, and had served passably, if not conspicuously in every department. Each time that an advancement exam cycle came around, however, he decided he wanted to try a different rating and declined to take the exam. Since his performance was always satisfactory, he was allowed to move to a new department. Following one move a wardroom discussion ensued. He qualified as a engine throttleman, battery charging electrician, Torpedoroom watch stander and even as a cook. He did none well but did them to minimum standards. Summing up the discussion the Executive officer said "ok, **Gabelli** is a jack of all trades and master of none, but what are we going to do with him?" At that point one of the officers suggested, "we could send him to OCS".

**1999 Dues are past due**  
**Forward your \$10. To-**  
**AOM**

## Ziggy English

by Chaplain Henry Williams

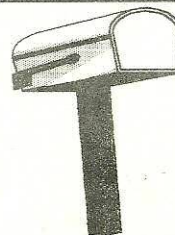
**T**uesday December 7th I went to **Ziggy English's** funeral. It was held at the Colbert Baptist Church in Colbert, Georgia. The church was decorated with flowers and wreaths for Christmas and there was many beautiful flowers from family and friends sent to honor **Ziggy**. There was beautiful singing. The pastor talked of **Ziggys** life, of her love of people, her love of animals, her love of family and friends, her love of **Sam** and her love of Jesus Christ her lord and savior. I did not know **Ziggy** very well, I only met her a few times. I wish I had known her better for it was apparent to me from listing to the pastor talk that she made peoples lives happier for knowing her. I know **Sam** and other loved ones will miss **Ziggy** and because of that, it was a sad and somber occasion but I also came away from Colbert feeling like I had been to a happy occasion. I had been to a celebration of the life of **Ziggy English**.

## Ziggy English

By Toby Horn

**H**i All - sorry to report that I received a phone call from both **Lyal Stryker** and **Bill Roberts** to inform me that **Zigi English** died last night (5 Dec.) at approximately 6:30P after lingering illness. I remember **Zigi** fondly. **Bill Roberts** and I claim responsibility for she and **Sam** meeting while we were on project at the Fort Lauderdale Test Facility. They were the good ol' days of the Escape Hotel, **Scoop** the bartender, hurricanes galore, and lots of work to keep us busy. We left **Sam** at Fort Lauderdale to monitor test results and returned to Key West. **Sam** and **Zigi** fell in love and that became the basis for their lasting marriage. I'll miss her, as we all will.

Just heard from CWO Ret **Laura Chandler** saying he was enjoying life in Guam & Season Greetings.



## Incoming

By John Loonam

**Fred Dane** tells me he called MNCS Ret. **Frank Cavaricci** while visiting Las Vegas. **Frank** told **Fred** he

was now retired from the gambling business and enjoying life.

**Cecil Martin** says he saw **Jim Cottrell** at a farm sale in Indiana.

**Ed Oyer** called some time back looking for an address. He is well and enjoying his retirement.

News of the weird column story: "Russia said it would sell its fleet of 10 trained kamikaze dolphins that can set off mines on their backs to blow up enemy ships".

I visited Ret. LT **Jim Longway** in December. He had a visit that day from ex-MN2 **Richard Storey**, who lives in Kentucky, a Sasebo shipmate. **Richard** was on Active duty 1966-1970. The visit was a result of a search on the AOM homepage.

The Association received correspondence from a member of England's Minesweeper Association. He was interested in information on AOM. Past President, **Toby Horn** took it for action.

I received several emails from **David Miller**, in Florida, son of **Haines Miller** (dec.) first Technical Director at NMEF. His relief, **Len Ringler** helped with the correspondence. **Len** provided much information concerning his dad's work at NMEF. I asked **David** if he wanted to donate any of his dad's memorabilia to the AOM? He is considering doing that.

**Bob Hart** asked if the Yorktown Mine Warfare School reunion advertised in the American Legion magazine was still on. After contacting the organizer, it was determined it never got off the planning stage.

**Jim** and **Phyllis Pierce** sent a lengthy email concerning the Chinese ambitions at the Panama Canal

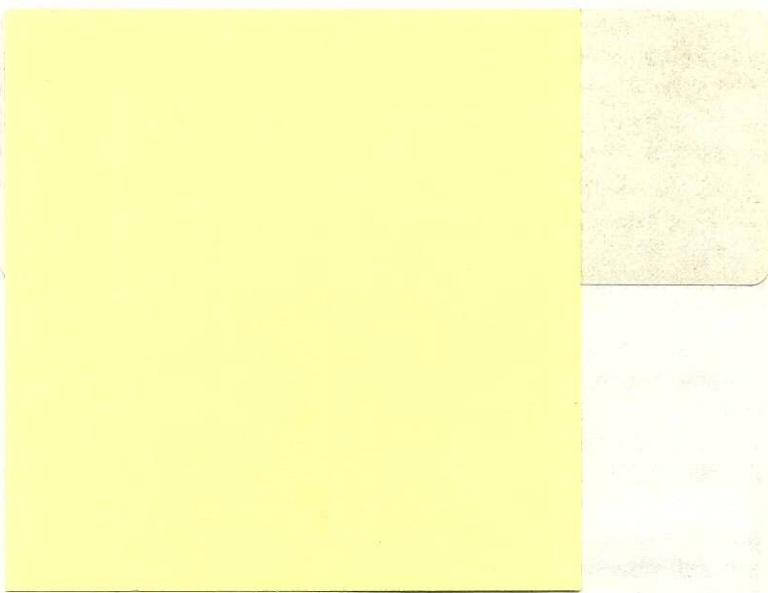


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