

The DASHPOT

Issue 29

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

SPRING 2000



NEW ERA OF A.O.M.

by Toby Horn

FROM THE PRESIDENT

HI once again Shipmates. I'd like to begin this article with my heartfelt thank you and a note of praise to **Toby Horn** for his efforts in the pursuit of our tax exempt status. He has been dogged in his mission. Finally, he has succeeded.

I have asked **Warren Savage** to research a copyright for the AOM History Book, in order to include it in the Library of Congress. He has also agreed to chair the nominating committee for the elections. There are two Board members whose terms will expire this year. Anyone that would like to nominate someone or would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please notify **Warren Savage**.

LCDR Coral Mac Intosh, and her family have successfully relocated to Hawaii, and I would like to wish them well. We hope she will be available at the next reunion, if not, she will be missed.

I would like to take this opportunity to say we have lost a great shipmate, **Bob Benintende**. Bob passed away in early March after a most trying and difficult year. **Bob's** physical

(Continued on page 2)

Retroactive to 13 December 1999, the AOM officially became a tax exempt organization under IRS tax code 501(c)(3). This means we now fall within an educational, scientific and charitable framework that allows donations and certain expenses that are deductible by individuals on a specific basis.

Having worked on this for a long time, I have taken the privilege of studying our notification for requirements and allowable deductions and am just passing my observations along. I believe the decision has been made that your Parliamentarian, **Don DeCrona**, will be the ultimate ruler of this domain. I'll be forwarding all the paperwork on to him and I'm sure he will also be issuing some information and/or clarification.

Some deductions are apparent and substantiated by wording of the code. For those contemplating attending the reunion/business meeting in Charleston this August, they are worthy of consideration. I have also taken the liberty of contacting a local 501(c)(3) organization for amplifying info.

In our case, membership dues are deductible. Officers of the AOM, including committee persons who must attend meetings and vote, are able to deduct travel and accommodation expenses (including meals) - but could not deduct any "pleasure" expense (that's code talk for something like a golf outing).

A member may deduct any contribution to the scholarship or museum(s) funds. Similarly, a member may deduct the "cost of goods" for something given to the

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26th Annual Reunion Charleston

AUG 11-13 2000

First AOM Member of the Melinium

Dear Chief **James Hawks**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Association of Minemen on several accounts. First and foremost, we are pleased to welcome you as a new member to our organization. I hope that you will take your place as an active participant in all the activities and opportunities we have for our membership. Much of this is outlined in the documentation and information I am sending you.

Secondly, you are the first new member of our new millennium - the year 2000. To us, that represents a distinctive achievement, and I will forward the information to our Dashpot newsletter editor and our website managers for publication. Congratulations!

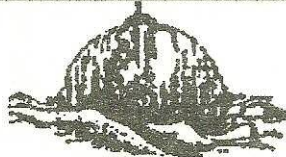
Thirdly, you take your place alongside many, many of your professional kin. They represent every walk of life - every trade you can imagine - every race, creed and religion - every state in our nation. Yes, we are a proud bunch. Proud of our heritage and those that made the way easier for each of us, just as you will do for those that follow you. And ... yes, we are proud to have you as our new member.

Thank you for joining us. I hope that we will meet again in the near

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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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condition deteriorated since his last hospitalization. Our Love and prayers are with him and **Michico**. It would also be appropriate at this time to thank **Paul Santa Maria** for being a good and trusting friend and shipmate to **Bob** and **Michico** during this time of difficulty.

Thanks to the AOM web page I received a phone call from the past, in the form of a (young) sailor that worked with me in Sigonella, Sicily in the late '60's. His name is **John Potts**. I have his address and phone # if anyone else remembers him, and would like to contact him.

It seems that **Dick Schommer** has put together a great package for the upcoming reunion. All functions will be conducted on the military installations in the Charleston area. It promises to be another exceptional reunion. The particulars should be found elsewhere in this issue. I for one am already anxious to attend this reunion.

Well *tha tha* that's all for this time folks. Have a great Spring and summer, we'll see you in Charleston.

(Continued from page 1) Hawks

future. If there is anything else I can provide for you in the way of information, or contacts you may want to make, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Curtis Christian

Secretary

(Continued from page 1) 501(c)(3)

AOM for the museum or for the auction we have at the Sunday picnic. I am studying (looking into) the application of "funds paid" by a member for "something" at the auction and have come to the conclusion that - whereas all is viewed as a contribution - only 50% of this could be deducted (since 1/2 of money raised goes to the scholarship fund - the other to operating funds). This gets a little "gray" here, since the member is receiving something "tangible". A broad interpretation and/or application would be that as long as you don't receive something "tangible" for your expense, you may deduct it.

I will be working with your Sec/Treas, **Curtis Christian** on a postcard type acknowledgement the AOM will provide for contributions made. This is the law of the tax code. In the case of money provided for a specific fund or funds, the AOM will acknowledge with the amount included. By the code, we cannot provide any monetary value for "goods" provided (such as for museum or auction) - that is the responsibility of the donor. I'm sure most of you have had this experience when donating goods to the NKF, Good Will, Salvation Army, etc. PLEASE HELP US OUT ON THIS - when you are making what you consider to be a contribution/donation, don't be shy - ASK FOR A RECEIPT. We won't be shy in telling you that, if applicable, such a contribution is not deductible within the meaning of the tax code.

Like I say, these are my interpretations. Don is one of those nitty-gritty guys when it comes to the allowable specifics, and I'm sure his further "rulings" will keep us on the straight and narrow. Hey, these are new grounds we are breaking, so have a little patience. If some of you out there have this knowledge via other organization participation, please let us know. May the force be with you.

Prostate Cancer

by Cecil Martin

These excerpts were taken from a lengthily article on this dreaded disease in the Winter issue of Brown Water Messenger (PBR Sailors) I will fax, mail or email the entire article to anyone that asks.

Agent orange has been linked to the disease making Viet Vets even more at risk. About 317,000 men are diagnosed per year. This results in a higher rate of any cancer in men which outpaces breast cancer in women by 33 percent. You are urged to take the time to be examined. remember, prostate cancer must be detected early to provide the best chance of successful treatment and often a

Glass Vials

Editors note. Last issue had a picture of some glass vials and asked you to identify them. The answer said "parts for the chemical horn on the MK 6." Well, that answer brought emails and phone calls from some "older" Minemen. I called the Public Affairs Officer at NWS Yorktown where the article originated in their "Booster" newspaper. **Kay Phillips** did some checking and **Mr Jeff Harlow**, Environmental Engineer (EPA cleanup) told her he made a mistake. He had gotten the correct information from **Lyal Stryker** some time ago but changed the MK 10 to MK 6 in his article. So the correct answer as many of you pointed out was the MK 10 Mod 1 chemical horn mine.



AOM

NEXT ARTICLE DUE DATE JUNE 16 2000

EDITOR

by john loonam

The AOM year is pressing along at warp speed. Only one more issue before the Reunion. Hope you folks in arrears will take a few moments and send in your dues so you will have uninterrupted delivery of Dashpot.

Our AOM has lost a great and dedicated member with **Bob Benintende** passing away. Please heed **Cecil Martin's** advice to have that prostrate check at every opportunity. We have been fortunate to have had **Bob's** support and participation in making us a better organization. Just two years ago he initiated the **Lyal Stryker** service to the AOM award. Sorry **Bob**, we didn't get a chance to nominate you for the next one.

Many thanks to the Sites that bother to share their activities work and personnel happenings. Shipmates and Shoremates around the globe can keep up with their counterparts and happenings within the community. The Retirees keep somewhat abreast of what is happening. Otherwise we would all be MK 6 MN and not a clue to today's technology. Some Sites are here every time and some let us slip through the cracks. It's the MN that counts.

We need your dues, please
take a moment and stay
current

Secretary/Treasurer

By Curtis Christian

Hello from the Secretary's desk.

It seems as if we just got the winter Dash-pot out and

John says "guys it is time to go, get your info to me". You do a good job keeping all of this going **John** and we all appreciate it.

We had our first member of the new millennium. **James Hawks** from Va. I enlisted **Toby Horn** to help draft a letter to **James** (a copy of which is in this issue.) Worked for Chief **Hawks** in the MK 27 shop in West Loch about two lifetimes ago. Welcome aboard Chief.

Have had a number of calls from members not receiving the Dashpot. Hope that this has been corrected now. Remember, should you move you must let us know. By using bulk-rate mailing, we do not get returns if the Dashpot can not be delivered.

A number of members are still not up-to-date with the dues. I plan to send out post cards to all those in arrears. The cards that are returned will be listed in the summer Dashpot.

The latest balance sheet (Feb.) from our financial records will be posted to **John** for enclosure in this issue.

Just got the notice from the IRS granting us nonprofit status. Sent the letter on to **Toby** and I'm sure he will keep you posted when they get all the changes to our By-laws made. Good job **Toby**. I know that he is happy that is over.

We heard from **Bob** and **Frances Stickney**, in Long Beach, CA. Sending along condolences to **Lyal** and the AOM on the loss of **Isabel Border**. They thank all that worked on the History Book for a great job. They plan on being in Charleston in August.

The family of **Sam English** acknowledged deep appreciation for the AOM expression of Sympathy for **Zegi**.

H L Moore sent in a letter

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concerning renewing dues, enjoying the newsletter, history book questions and donation to the Scholarship fund. He moved from Bakersfield, CA

Hope to see each of you in Charleston in Aug.

Appreciation

Sam English wishes to convey a heartfelt thanks to all his friends and Shipmates that sent cards, letters and phone calls concerning the passing of his wife **Zegi**. Sam acknowledged that the loss of his companion and sweetheart was a terrible ordeal and thanks to all the support he received from you helped him get by the early days. Still in shock, Sam says "maybe time will heal but right now its heavy in the heart".

Lady Minemen man the rails

Foc'sle 1/21/00

Naval history was made on USS Kingfisher in November becoming one of two coastal mine hunters to integrate women as permanent crew members. The 11 female crewmembers on board kingfisher participated fully in all watch stations and mine hunting operations including mine neutralization vehicle (MNV) piloting, crane operation, bomb buildup, sonar and radar operations, navigation, helmsman and engineering. **MN2 Laura Rodriguez** became the first Navy female to successfully pilot the MNV during a live "MP-2 shot" involving the deployment of a remotely detonated explosive bomblet designed to disable a mine laying on the sea floor. "The women have greatly exceeded my expectations for their training and deployment, and I am fully confident on the ability of our women to adapt to their new shipboard environment. This sip is fully capable of completing any assigned mission" said LCDR **Michael A Hall**, Kingfisher's CO.

MN2 Trina Randell was pictured under instruction in crane operation. Mission Package (MP) refers to the two techniques of mine neutralization employed by the ROV. MP-1 involves the use of explosive cutter arms to break mooring chain or wire of moored mines so they surface for destruction. MP-2 is a bomblet that the ROV places in position at the bottom mine which is remotely detonated after the ROV and MCM vessel are clear.

Committee Reports

Reno Reunion

Don DeCrona & Ray Cobis

AOM Reunion Reno
Nevada
August 2001

As August is the peak period for Reno's tourist season and having the reunion on the weekend, most hotels will not schedule reunions or small conventions.

After canvassing the hotels for cost, location, and availability, we decided that returning to the Sands Regency Hotel and Casino is the best place for the reunion. They have hosted four of our reunions and they are very appreciative for our business. In fact, we have contracts for the cost of rooms and meals, and provides meeting and hospitality rooms at no extra cost. After the year 2000 reunion more details will be provided.

The Sands will provide two prices for rooms in order to accommodate those who might decide to come before or stay after the reunion. Friday and Saturday are the most expensive days to stay in Reno, so our cost will be \$60.00 plus 12% tax, or \$67.20 for those two days. For the other five days, it will be \$48.00 plus 12%, or \$53.76. It is

\$10.00 for each additional person.

Start making your plans to attend your Reno Reunion, it will be fun! If you have any questions, contact your reunion committee members Ann & Ray Cobis (775-826-3582) or LaVon & Don DeCrona (775-826-3081).

Scholarship Scoop

Paul Santa Maria

How many of you have children or grandchildren who are graduating this coming June? Surely some of them are enrolled in some type of educational career goals facility requiring expenses, tuition, books etc. There are three AOM \$500 scholarships available, two are awarded by the AOM and the third by the generosity of the **Stryker** family through the **Doreen Stryker** memorial Fund. So, contact the Association Secretary for the appropriate forms now. Completed forms are due back to the Secretary in May and selections awards are made at our yearly reunion in August. Good Luck

STOREKEEPER

Just wanted to let ya'll know that I have moved, so you can get it into the Dashpot and all. My new address is:

Association of Minemen
126 Davidson Drive
Terrell, Texas 75160

For clothing items please contact me. Prices and form listed on the AOM homepage. If you are computer disadvantaged, contact The Dashpot or me.
Stephanie

Board members terms
expiring in August are **John Iwaniec** and **John Loonam**



1 July 1975 - 1 July 2000

Mobile Mine Assembly Group



ANYTIME - ANYWHERE

MOMAG Update

by CDR Ron Swart

The annual MOMAG Commanding Officers Leadership Conference was hosted by the MOMAG Staff from 28 Feb through 5 March and was attended by both the active and reserve MOMAU Skippers. By all accounts, it was a most successful event and valuable information was exchanged by the staff and units, active and reserve. It was the first time I can remember that Hawaii wasn't represented in view of their closure earlier this year.

● Some good news from the mining side of Mine Warfare: CNO has approved retention of Mine Mk 56 until a replacement mine can be fielded. MOMAU 8 Guam and MOMAU 12 Misawa have been chosen to support the remaining stocks of this mine system. Since it has been a while since anyone did a full maintenance cycle on the Mk 56, a "Tiger Team" of moored mine experts (bubbas) and engineers are being assembled later this Spring to assess the stockpile readiness.

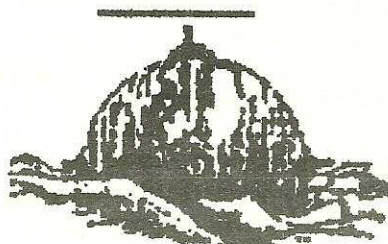
● Under the category of "everything

old is new again..." we've gotten into a bind having old mines and new Minemen. I could hear the "I told ya soz" and needed a fix for this problem fast. So we've convinced the chain of command that we needed to hire a couple of old Minemen to reside on the COMOMAG staff to serve as keepers of the tribal knowledge on mines and sundry support equipment. Our first resident expert will be Mr. Wayne "Amie" Helgerson (MNCM, RET) and he should be aboard by April this year. Welcome back, Shipmate!

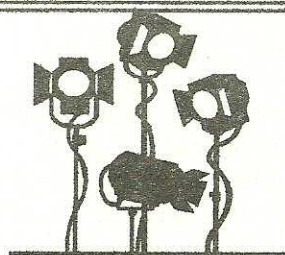
● The inventory of exercise and training "drill" mines is changing. We will have funding starting this Fall to start buying training mines that look (and in some cases act) like the foreign mines that threaten our forces. Take time to visit Unit 11 in Charleston this Summer and see some of the "other guy's" mines.

● The Minemen of the Year plaques have been received and are now being distributed to the parent commands to present to the active and reserve winners for the past three years. Appropriate ceremonies and photographs will be available for the next issue of the Dashpot.

● On 1 July 1975, all the mine shops in our Navy were assembled under one hat... Mobile Mine Assembly Group. This is MOMAG's twenty fifth year as a command (in this configuration anyway) and we'd like to thank all the Minemen regardless of rank, rate, officer or enlisted, active duty or reserve, who have served our country and our Navy as a member of MOMAG, keeping us ready, anytime - anywhere!



Join the AOM Today



MINEMAN in the SPOTLIGHT

By CDR Ron Swart

Hey... where's the Mineman in this spotlight???

I'm sorry to report that no one wanted to be "lit up" for this issue, so I'm going to beat the bushes a little harder for next issue. If you know of someone with a story to tell, (that means that ALL Minemen are eligible...) either retired or still serving, active or reserve, send me the scoop along with a photo and we'll run the story.

MOMAU 1

By LCDR Ed Simmons

CO CORNER.

I want to welcome our new members and their families. A hearty HAIL to MNSR Kevin Blanchard and MNSR Louis Starelli, both coming from "A" School at Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside. MN2 Michael Busch, reported from MOMAU Eight, Guam and MN1(SW) Dean Carr (and soon his family) coming from MOMAD Seven, Hawaii. Our manning posture here has improved much since summer of 1999. Thank God Man! I know we as a community have felt the disparity in Mineman billet requirements versus the limited availability of bodies for some time. We on shore have taken a bigger hit than our sea going counterparts. And, with the efforts of our MN Detailer, MNCS Thanscheidt, it has been a real, uphill battle. I just want to pass on my thanks for his personal efforts. I know the detailing job is hard enough but with what he was handed, Senior Chief has done a

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good job. So here is some news at MOMAU One Seal Beach:

AWARDS & RECOGNITION.

Congratulations to MN1 **Steven Ciccarello** for his selection as MOMAU One Sailor of the Year and MN3 **Nadine Willis** for her selection as our Junior Sailor of the Year. Both sailors are extremely hard working dedicated professionals and represent their peers well. MN2 **Kecia Nason** was selected as Senior Sailor of the Quarter and MN3 **Eric Treece** selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the period November to December 1999. Both are hot running first termers who worked hard for this recognition. MN1(SW) **Mark Dohman** enlisted for another 5 years and MN2 **Kecia Nason**, reenlisted for 6 years (and a big SRB). I also want to recognize MN3 **Nadine Willis** for reenlisting 6 years. Although I do not have her signature on the dotted line, by the time this is printed, we should have her signed and underway to be a Recruiter in Northern California or in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. Again, congratulations all of you! My personal thanks go out to MN1(SW) **Mark Dohman** and MN1 **Stanley King** for their recent flawless Field Calibration Inspection. I just wished these two fine sailors were not leaving so soon. Both leave this summer. VISITORS. I want to thank CDR **Ron Swart** (COMOMAG) on taking time out from his busy schedule and spending a couple of days here in February for a site visit. The crew and I enjoyed seeing him and being able to get an idea of his vision for Mobile Mine Assembly Group and learn of the many new programs and initiatives being addressed by our headquarters. Yoshi and I enjoyed the visit as well and on a personal note want to say, "don't wait so long the next time." It was good having him onboard. Also, we had the new COMOMAG Supply Officer, LTJG **Vicky Rolff** and Administrative Officer, LT **Vince Ortiz** (LDO Admin type) onboard. Got a

special VIP tour to Paramount Studios for both and it was good to have them interact with all of us here at MOMAU One. OPERATIONS. It has been quiet the past quarter, so we have had time to do our refurbishment and get ready for another brisk spring exercise period. As part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises in Hawaii, we will be involved in a local RIMPAC EAST operation. This will be conducted in the Southern California Operating Area and I expect to have 5 to 6 sailors out supporting Very Shallow Water Mine Lay and Recovery and the Littoral Mine Lay and Recovery Operations. MOMAU 15 will provide Versatile Exercise Mines and a VEMS TECH so it should be a great operation. We will not see the Surface Mine Countermeasure Ships or the Inchon deploy out this year but will be supporting both the Explosive Ordnance Units and Air Mine Countermeasures folks. MOMAU One personnel recently supported the USS Abraham Lincoln/Carrier Air Wing Fourteen Workup and Mine Readiness Certification Inspection. As part of COMPTUEX 2000, they dropped MK 62 and MK 63 Quickstrike Laying Mines in preparation for their upcoming deployment cycle. Our sailors deployed to Everett Washington, and built mines in stride for the San Diego Operating Area. MOMAU One provided support to the Hawthorne Detachment in Nevada for screening and refurbishing of the older MK 52 Actuation Mines for our shipmates at MOMAU Five. Our team was comprised of MN1 "Goody" **Goodman**, MN2 **Laura Arthur** and MN3 **Nadine Willis**. Chief **Phil Taylor** also got to get a short orientation of their facilities and was met by Coastal Systems Station Representatives MNCM **Bob Bainbridge** and MNC **Donnie Kiper**. I want to recognize Mr. **Bob Bennett**, Ms. **Shelby Reynolds**, and Mr. **Rick Isom** for their help with coordination of this effort and a special thanks to

the guy who "kept us running", Mr. **Craig Reed**. Shipmate, we could not have done without you - Thank You. MOMAU One also supported EOD VSW MCM DET, SPAWAR and PATRON WHIDBEY ISLAND WA with various exploitation and mine assets. Sooo I guess it was not too sleepy of a quarter (never is).

THE END. Last parting word I have is on the CO Conference held at COMOMAG Headquarters this past week (28 FEB to 3 MAR). I enjoyed the fellowship and interaction of the site Commanding Officers and the folks who participated in the many briefings. We have a great crop of seasoned Ordnance Officers from many specialties and I am confident that when I retire, these new LDO and Warrants will continue to lead the Mine shops to even higher levels of readiness. It was also good to see the Reserve CO's and participants at this event. I hope to see all of you next year. Thanks to the Boss, CDR **Ron Swart** and a fine and outstanding staff who pampered us and kept the week rolling. It was ACES !!

MOMAU 5

By MNCM(SW) **Mark Zinnel**

Salve from Sigonella!
Spring is just around the corner here in Sicilia, lots of cold and wet days are hopefully just a fading memory. Probably saw Mt Etna in the news, lots of fire and brim stone this winter, getting lava flows quite regularly, that's good, keeps the internal pressure down so we get to continue working in this paradise of the Med.

More improvements in the works here: in Mine Assembly, the Italians are finally installing an air conditioner/heater for the Component Test Room, good thing, we are standing up the Versatile Exercise Mine System (VEMS) here at the end of March and need to

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keep the computers and test equipment at the proper temperature. Got the VEMS Battery Locker installed, complete with wiring and plumbing, so we're ready for the FIAT Team to start our training on these new ET assets. The earth covering for our magazines has been scheduled for re-work, hope to see it soon, need to keep things safe around here.

Demilitarization seems to have been our big driver this past couple of months. Had to get tons of material ready to ship back to the states for re-work and final disposal. Makes for lots of room in warehouses and some of the magazines but does involve a bunch of planning and good old manual labor. Lumber and steel strapping stocks will be a good investment for you stock market gamblers.

Three exercises, Spanish MINEX 2000, Damsel Fair 2000 and Arabian Gauntlet 2000, in March/April time frame have kept the assemblers busy and will have the Final Prep/ Recovery teams on the road. We keep busy, busy is good, makes the time go by and keeps the hard players too tired to get into mischief.

Advancements: MN2 **Carlisle** and MN3 **Lillegard** from Sept exam.

Departures and arrivals; MN2 **McKnight** is on his way to recruiting in Jacksonville FL, MN2 **Kopp**, MNSA **Bufano** are headed for "C" School and USS Guardian, MN3 **Plazola**, MN3 **Villareal**, MN3 **Mounsey**, MNSN **Russell**, MNSN **Long**, MNSA **Barrientos** and MNSA **Gillis** are all joining MN2 **Carlisle** on USS Pioneer, hope the ship survives the shock! MNSA **Boyd**, MNSR **Brito**, MNSN **Dykes**, MNSA **Gonzalez**, MNSR **Krueger**, MNSR **Murray** and MNSR **Ramsey** have all joined us from "A" School. MN1 **Wolfe** and MN2 **Jimenez** have both decided to hang here for another year. Despite rumors to the contrary, MNC T J **Kaiser** has been deemed healthy enough to stick

around!

Sailors of the Year are YN2 **Francis** and MNSN **Long**. Sailors of the Quarter are MN2 **Kopp** and MNSN **Long** 4th Quarter 1999. All received Special Liberty, appropriate personal awards and time off the Watch Bill.

Awards, let's see...NAMs for MN2 **O'Halloran**, MN2 **Kopp**, MN2 **McKnight**, YN2 **Francis** and MNSN **Long**.

Letters of Commendation for MN2 **Kopp**, MN2 **Carlisle** MNSN **Long** and MNSA **Bufano**. MOMAU Five was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for Operation Noble Anvil.

That's all from the tip of the Fifth/ Sixth Fleet SpearArrivederci!

MOMAU 8

by MNCM Jerry Williams

HAFA ADAI to all our fellow Minemen around the world. Since the last Dashpot, things have been really busy here at Unit Eight. We closed out 1999 with a great command Christmas Party at the local "Jimmy Dee's and The Chamoritta's" nightspot. Tons of great food and fun, but somehow, they arranged to get me up on stage for a hula dancing contest with a beautiful Chamorro young lady, and I even won the dance-off. Of course, I had the biggest cheering section with all my MOMAU instigators in the crowd. (Hope those photos don't show up on the internet!) We also had a great Children's Christmas Party at the local "Tarza" water park. The kids never got enough of the water, but us old folks still have the bruises from the body surfing machine. All in all, both parties gave 1999 a great send off. With the new year, we've been focused on a host of operations including MRCI preparations, CAPTOR Loadouts, and MK 56 maintenance reintroduction. We also took time out recently for a command Camp-Out, put together by MNC Jack

Cantrell & Family. Despite the typhoon conditions, we still managed to eat our fill, "Hail & Farewell" several shipmates, and celebrate Chief **Cantrell's** birthday (still 25, how does he do it?). Our MOMAU "Aqua-men" also braved the deep recently for the annual charity "CNM Belly Flop & Cannon Ball Diving competition. They all made quite a splash, received several trophy's, but most importantly, raised money and collected food and toys for the island's needy. "BZ" to LCDR **Matt Wisniewski**; MN1(SW) **Duane Crocker**; MN2 **Sean Potter**; MN2 **Jennifer Gibb**; MN2 **Corey Betz**; MN3 **Margaret Wilson**; MN3 **Ed Hindman**; MNSN **Greg Brown**; and MNSN **Matt Greene**. But even with all the fun and hard work, the great crew here has more than met the challenge and kept everything up-to-date and on track. Unfortunately, we have also had to say goodbye to a few outstanding Sailors these past few months as well: MN1(SS) **Greg Eckelbecker** moved on to Rotational Crew Charlie; MN2 **Jarad Herbig** moved on to MOMAU Three; MN2 **Jeff Ancil** and MN2 **Corey Betz** both separated at EAOS for college. We miss each of these fine Sailors and wish them all the best in the their new assignments and lives ahead. Thankfully, we also have received several new Sailors to fill the gap: MN1 **Steven Brashier** from MOMAD Seven; MNSR **Kelly Freeman**, MNSR **Adam Britton**, MNSR **John Long**, and MNSR **Christopher Harris** all arrived from MWTC. Each of these fine Sailors have "Hit the Deck" at full speed and they are a welcome addition to our team. As I write this, we are also about to say goodbye to MNC(SW) **John Sullivan**. He is on his way to the USS Dextrous, forward deployed to the Persian Gulf. His three plus years here has been invaluable and his shoes will be hard to fill, plus we'll never be able to keep all the computers up and running as well as

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

he does. BZ Chief. Along with the Chief, I also will be PCSing in a few days to the USS Cardinal, also scheduled to change homeport to the Persian Gulf later this summer. But first, both the Chief and I will spend three months in Ingleside at the MWTC for school enroute. On a personal note, since this is my last submission to the Dashpot from MOMAU Eight as the outgoing Command Master Chief and Mine Production Officer, I want to thank all of you for the support you have given to me and my family during our tour. You may not have known it, but all the little things so many of you have done for us these past two-plus years, despite the long distances, has really been tremendous. After so many previous years on Guam and multiple tours at MOMAU 8, (not to mention making Chief, Senior & Master Chief here) it's going to be difficult leaving so many good friends and shipmates. My family and I will miss the crew here and we look forward to seeing and working with them, and any of you at assignments in the future. I have turned over my duties to MNC **Jack Cantrell** and ask that you support him here as you have me. So without further delay, I'll pull anchor and move on to this past quarters "Bravo Zulu's": CMWC 99 Senior Enlisted Leader-MNCM **Jerry Williams**. SOY MN1(SS) **Greg Eckelbecker**; JSOY MNSN **Greg Brown**; SOQ YN2 **Terrance Winfield**. NCM LCDR **Matt Wisniewski**; MNC(SW) **John Sullivan**; MN1(SS) **Greg Eckelbecker**. NAM MN1(SS) **Greg Eckelbecker**; MN2 **Jeff Ancil**; MN2 **Corey Betz**; MNSN **Greg Brown**. GCM MNCM **Jerry Williams**; MN3 **Margaret Wilson**. MOVSM MNCM **Jerry Williams**. CAR MNCM **Jerry Williams**. Advanced MN1 **Steven Brashier**. Frocked MNCM **Jerry Williams**. ADM LOC MN1(SW) **Greg Williams**; MN2 **Michael**

Barrett. LOC YN2 **Terrance Winfield**; MN2 **Jarad Herbig**; MN2 **Jeff Ancil**. OUT PRT-MNCM **Jerry Williams**; MNC **Jack Cantrell**; MN1 (SS) **Greg Eckelbecker**; MN1(SW) **Greg Williams**; MN1(SW) **Duane Crocker**; MN2 **Sean Potter**; YN2 **Terrance Winfield**; MNSN **Greg Brown**. EXE PRT MN2 **Jarad Herbig**. Blood Donors LCDR **Matt Wisniewski**; MNCM **Jerry Williams**; MN2 **Jennifer Gibb**; MN3 **Margaret Wilson**; MNSN **David Camerer**; MNSN **James Weaver**. Well that's it folks, time to say farewell til next quarter, but remember, MOMAU 8 is where the action is, so if you want to serve with the best and be stationed on the *Forward Edge of Freedom*, then put in for orders to MOMAU Eight, on the tropical island paradise of Guam

MOMAU Twelve

By MNC R. J. Nicely

Greetings, from the "Land of the Rising Sun"! Well, we are knee deep in snow and the sun is shining. The 1999-2000 winter season is in third place for record snowfall with about 180 inches so far and we're only half way through March!

We have welcomed aboard MNSR **Ortner**, and will soon be receiving MN1 **Anderson** and YN1 **Grobb**. MN1 **Anderson** will be here in time for the MRCL, but the YN1 will just miss it.

Unfortunately when we receive new personnel, we usually have to say good-bye to someone. In this case, we will be saying farewell to MN1 **Corvo** and family as they head for the USS *Raven* and the "Land Of The Sizzling Sun"; and to MN2 **Matelski** as he heads home to further his education.

MOMAU 12 was lucky enough to get new carpeting throughout our administrative/supply offices this year, paid for by NAF. Really brightened the place up. The

contractors just finished this week, so the crew is busy putting everything back in the appropriate office space. Gunner managed to miss the chaos by being TAD to Corpus Christi! Honestly though, thanks to the hard work of the crew, especially our AIS administrator MN2 **Rambo**, the command had only a minimal amount of "down" time. He kept us up and running administratively throughout the whole ordeal, which lasted almost two weeks.

Finally, the crew at MOMAU 12 would like to extend a hearty "Congratulations" to MNCM **Jerry Williams**.

MOMAU 15

Greetings from the pearl of Southwest Texas. The exercise season is about to kick into high gear. We are preparing for exercises in the Gulf of Mexico and on the West Coast. In the past six months we have worked diligently and successfully to promote Versatile Exercise Mine (VEM) employment in fleet exercises. Our efforts are paying off. VEM demand is dramatically increasing and the Mine Countermeasures Community is reaping the benefits of understanding the contribution that VEM makes to quality training.

Many of the old guard are on their way to new duty stations or will be very soon. MN1(SW) **Todd Kumro** is transferring to Naval Recruiting District, Buffalo, New York. MN2 **Able Gonzales** transferred to USS *Guardian* (MCM-5), Sasebo, Japan. MN2 **James Grant** will soon transfer to USS *Dextrous* (MCM-13). MN3 **Bill Opperman** transferred to BUDS/SEAL School. Last but not least, our beloved YNC(SW) **Rick Betancourt** will be transferring to Joint Command Warfare Center, San Antonio, TX. All will be missed, but I have to say that losing Chief **Betancourt** is going to be sad.

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We will soon be welcoming MN1 **Garza**, YN1 **Parks**, MN2 **Gallegos**, MN2 **Wayda** and MN2 **Head** from sea duty. YN2 **Ellis** from COMOMAG staff will be with us temporarily until YN1 **Parks** reports aboard in July.

Until the next time, Adios Amigos

Change of Command

CDR. **Scott Stuart** turned over the helm of USS **Cormorant** (MHC 57) to LCDR **Steven Mucklow** during a ceremony at sea on Feb. 3. USS **Cormorant** is an Osprey Class coastal mine hunter homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

USS **Defender** welcomes new commanding officer. LCDR **Thomas M. Negus** turned over the helm of USS **Defender** (MCM 2) to LCDR **Aaron C. Jacobs** during a traditional change of command ceremony held Feb. 18.

USS **Gladiator** welcomes new commanding officer LCDR **Brian Shanahan** turned over the helm of Mine Countermeasures Rotational Crew Alfa embarked on USS **Gladiator** (MCM 11) to LCDR **Dominic DeScisciolo** during a change of command ceremony Jan. 13.

USS Heron MHC 52 to the rescue

At 4 a.m. on Jan. 14, USS **Heron** (MHC 52) received a relayed distress call from the Coast Guard Group in Corpus Christi. The **Peggy Anne**, a 49-foot fishing vessel, was disabled from a failed engine. The seas had swelled to eight feet: the **Peggy Anne** was forced to anchor in 60 feet of water six miles off shore.

The **Heron** crew, conducting a mine hunting exercise 50 miles off shore, responded to the call with all engines ahead full. Making her way through the on setting cold front, the **Heron** reached the stranded vessel within three hours of initial hail.

LCDR **Anthony Krueger**, **Heron's** commanding officer, deemed that the situation required immediate action and that the crew of the coastal mine hunter would tow the fishing vessel to safety.

Shot lines were let out to the stranded boat. The line, hauled in by the crew of the **Peggy Anne**, became hand taught. As the revolutions increased under tow, the line sang with the strain.

Heron, with vessel in tow, struggled through the current and waves to the safety of the Port Aransas jetties. Five knots over ground and eight knots of current tensioned the line beyond its limits. The **Peggy Anne's** tow line snapped and the vessel was set adrift 100 yards east of the jetties. **Heron** made several dramatic and heroic maneuvers to recover the stranded vessel, to no avail. With the majority of the rescue completed, the Coast Guard was able to brave the last hundred yards to bring the vessel to safety. USS **Heron** is homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

Minemen in the News from Ingleside

Foc'sle 1/7/00

MN3 **Gerald Roach** is on the staff of The Foc'sle. MNSN **Andrew Springer** was pictured as a Team Member at the Mine warfare Center of Excellence. Mine Countermeasures rotational Crew Foxtrot embarked on USS **Dextrous** participated as the sole MCM ship in a battle experiment. MN3 **Jim Schuette** and MN1 **Ralph Juliuson** were both quoted saying positive remarks about their training and effectiveness in the exercise.

MN3 **John Kutrich** was pictured reenlisting on board USS **Defender**.

Rotational Crew Foxtrot Letters of Appreciation: MN3 **Lorne Hancock** (2), MNSN **Matthew Greer** (2), MNSN **Jerry Perez** (2), MNSN **Vernon Saunders** (2), MN2 **Gregory Wisniewski**, MN1(SS)

Ralph Jacob, MN1(SW) **Ralph Juliuson**, MN3 **James Schuette** and MN3 **Casey Watkins**.

USS **Kingfisher**, Frocking letters to MN2 **Kotschenreuter** and MN1 (SW) **Jimmy Orms**.

Afloat Training Group Paintball Team takes top honors in the Fleet paintball war. MN1 **Efrain Montantes** was a member of the top honors team. Third place Warrior's team included MNSN **Travis Hutchins** and MNSN **Matthew Wilhoit**.

Foc'sle 1/21/00

MN2 **Laura Rodriguez** and MN2 **Trina Randell** were pictured "manning the gear" on board USS **Kingfisher**. (article on page 4)

MN1(SW) **Tim Lowder** joined USS **Avenger's** First Class Petty Officers Associations visit to a local children's hospital.

MNC(SW) **Paul King** was installed as command chief on board USS **Heron**.

USS **Raven** hosted a visit from Nueces County Juvenile Alternative Education School students. MN2 **Joseph Sanchez**, MN2 **Paul Snyder** and MN2 **Douglas Warren** strutted their knowledge of CIC, Mine neutralization Vehicle and the .50 cal machine gun.

Navy Achievement Medal to MN1 (SW) **Ray Pendergrass** of USS **Oriole**. MN3 **Sean Silman** was quoted on his pick of Tennessee to win the Super Bowl.

Foc'sle 2/18/00

MN2(SW) **Edward Barnes**, MWTC, instructor was pictured lecturing 180 elementary school fifth graders during "shadow day". MWTC participates in this mentoring project demonstrates the connection between academics and careers allowing students to observe various career fields first hand.

MN2 **Jack Angle**, MN2 **Greg Reaves** and MN2 **Thomas LaVake** were all pictured receiving their reenlistment bonuses. All exceeded \$30,000.

(Continued from page 9)

MN1(SW) **Daniel Havens**, USS Pelican received a Letter of Commendation. MN2 **Douglas Warren**, USS Raven was pictured in an article describing his receipt of a Letter of Commendation for being selected as Raven's Senior Sailor of the Quarter. MN3 **John Watkins**, Rotational Crew Foxtrot embarked in USS Dextrous did some shopping in the Gulf of Oman during ship visits to ports there.

Foc'sle 3/3/00

Bravo Zulu's: MN1 **Katherine Frunz**, USS Cormorant, Letter of Commendation, MN3 **Melisa Umbel**, Letter of Appreciation. MN1 (SW) **Martin A Biel** accepted for Officer Candidate School and Supply Corps School.

MOMAU 8 MNCM **Jerry Williams** winner of Annual Senior Leadership Award Shore Duty, by COMINEWARCOM.

Squadron Two SOQ MN1(SW) **Matthew D O'Connell**; Crew Foxtrot JSOQ MN3 **Casey A Watkins**; USS Avenger SOQ MN1(SW) **Isauro P Sedillo**; USS Pioneer JSOQ MN2 **Steven Williams**; USS Osprey SOQ MN1(SW) **Darvin F Robinson**; USS Blackhawk JSOQ MN3 **Jack Garza**; USS Falcon SOQ MN2 **Lance Douglas**; USS Cardinal SOQ MN1 **Lary Thetford**; USS Raven SOQ MN2 **Douglas Warren**; USS Shrike JSOQ MN3 **Abraham Garcia**; MWTC Instructor of the Quarter MN1(SW) **William T Andrzewski**

USS Raven's MN2 **Michael Abueg** was pictured giving the MNV "dog and pony show" to Commander, Naval Reserve Force and COMINEWARCOM. MN1 **Randall Childers** explained the ships sophisticated sonar and its capabilities.

MN3(SW) **James Schuette** Rotational Crew Foxtrot embarked in USS Dextrous, received his Surface Warfare qualification. MNC(SW) **David Johnson**, Crew Foxtrot set up crew fix-up visits to Indian Ocean port non-profit

organizations facilities.

College credits? Mineman "A" school receives seven credits including three credits for physics in the Navy College Program. Check out the navy college web site.

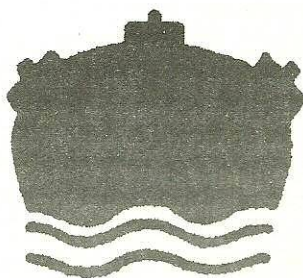
Brown Water Messenger, Winter 1999

Cecil Martin, National Vice President, PBRA was pictured in wreath laying ceremonies at the Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials in Washington, DC.

Coastal Courier 2/25/00

Retired MNCM **Fred Bergey**, pubs writer, at Coastal Systems Station was pictured and answered the roving reporters question on primary elections.

About Bob Benintende, we received the sad news last night, as our computer was down for 48 hrs. **Joe** and **Rose Hernandez** just read the mail as they were visiting us, and I printed their Buddy and friend **Bob B.** and his photo and page. My father cried and started to think of his friends. All the more reason to drive him out to Charleston, SC. He misses and does think about the good ol days with the team of Momat. As he read the arrangements concerning **Bob's** passing, it does seem like life can be short, but more specifically precious and very special. With our heart felt grief, thank you for being a part of our lives, to serve, and set free. fair winds Anna (Joe's daughter)



EX-NMWEA Christmas Luncheon

Held at Nick's Seafood Pavilion, Yorktown 12/18/99

Attendees: **Albrecht, Giesla; Beane, Reggie; Beard, Lyn Becker, Rey; Braybrand, Jim Brown, Joe; Burgess, Bill Butler, Judy; Chandler, Randy Crawford, Emma; Drewry, Karen; Dunn, John; Firth, Gilbert; Forrest, Bob & Carol; PC, Fla., Germek, Marsha; Griffin, Marcella; Hallinan, Pat; Hamilton, David; Harris, Lucille; Henderson, Wayne & Beth; Hogge, Lorimer; Hogge, George Dewey; Holland, John & Glenda; Jenkins, Boyd D.; Jordan, Esther Marie; Josey, Myrtis; Krofcheck (Lane), JoAnne; Lee, Richard; Lewis, Winnie & Fred; Liscandi, Fran (Organizer); Loonam, John; Macrino, Dee; Mann, Suzan; Griffin, Marcella & Harry; Martin, Bobby; Matthews, JoAnne; McConnell, Trist; Miller, Charlie; Mylum, Tommy; Neider, Carol; Oliver, Annie; Ostrowski, Brenda; Oyer, Ed; Parcell, Ray; Parker, Flow; Rainey, Don; Reams, Marshall; Rodrigue, J.M. (Frenchy); Ryan (Alexander), Betty; Secord, Dolores; Silvers, Margie; Sparrer, Ray; Stepp, Alice; Sutton, Pat; Thompson, Evelyn; Towell, Waneta; Walker, Cleveland; West, Linda; Whitley, Carol PC, Fla.; Wilburn, Annette; Williamson, Donald; Wilson, Charles**

All are looking forward to next year's gathering

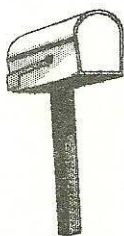


Binnacle

Jim Longway reports he is about healed up from his rib cracking event. **Ray Cobis** tells us he is recovering from surgery. LCDR **John Iwaniec** recovering from back surgery.

Treasurers Report as of 3/1/00

| | Debit | Credit |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cash | \$ 1978.75 | \$ 0.00 |
| QM Supply | 1595.50 | 0.00 |
| History Book Inventory | 14616.00 | 0.00 |
| Admin/Supply Inventory | 152.23 | 0.00 |
| Scholarships | 0.00 | 122.75 |
| History Books | 0.00 | 5480.00 |
| Dues 00 (year) | 0.00 | 3130.00 |
| Dues 01 | 0.00 | 865.00 |
| Dues 02 | 0.00 | 220.00 |
| Dues 03 | 0.00 | 130.00 |
| Dues 04 | 0.00 | 120.00 |
| Yorktown | 0.00 | 10.00 |
| Lexington | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Museums Gen | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Reunions | 0.00 | (200.00) |
| Capital | 0.00 | 10191.55 |
| Dashpot Expen | 439.39 | 0.00 |
| Postage Expen | 1021.31 | 0.00 |
| Chaplain Expen | 57.24 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expen | 158.00 | 0.00 |
| Totals | \$20,069.30 | \$20,069.30 |



Incoming

Vern Struck writes
Hello John,

Our trails must have crossed at West Loch, I was there from the summer of 54 to Oct. 1956. Sorry about not remembering you, can only blame it on this gray hair and time. MN2, **Alton Collier** and his wife Carol lived at Ewa Beach. He went back a year ago and said the little store is still there. They now live in Pasadena TX. where he's retired after 33 years with a Texas power company. I think he came to West Loch sometime in 55 and also left in 56. MN2 **Dick Carlyle** and I knew Ewa Beach pretty good, we did a lot of surfing there, in fact we left our boards lying there on the sand. **Carlyle** lives in Minneapolis and retired from working in refrigeration. As a result of being exposed to ammonia he's in very poor health. We E-mail almost everyday. I live in Medford, Oregon and retired from the Medford Fire Dept. after 26

years. My wife **Jeanne** and I have been married 34 years and have one daughter. She, **Vonna**, is a Captain in the Air Force, she's a OB nurse and stationed in Germany.

Alton Collier's E-mail address is: rubyhillrose@juno.com

Richard (Dick) Carlyle,s is: eagle@uswest.net

And **Ed & Phyllis Danielson's** address is; 575 North Ninth St., Harrisburg, OR. 97446

AOM Board Member, **LCDR Coral MacIntosh** has moved from FMWTC to the lightweight torpedo business at West Loch, Hawaii. Address and email address in masthead. (an MN still there!)

Bill Mehard sent in an article from the Charleston Post and Courier describing a fishing boat recovery of a MK 25 exercise mine on 7 December. The Air Force EOD said the mine was at least 15 years old and inert.

Heard from **Chad Chandler**, Ret. CWO, Ordnance Branch Head in Guam over Christmas. He sends his regards to all.

John Opocensky called reporting members address problem and reporting a deceased MN, **Tex Williamson**, 1942 graduate of mine school. **Tex** went on to be a college professor after the war. Sorry that he missed the reunion in Corpus, **Opie** plans to be in Charleston with the aid of his walker to assist his failing legs.

CDR Jorgen Strange Lorenzen sent us a lengthily synopsis of his endeavors to put his life history in print. Included in the article was a photo of a 1911 Christmas card. The entire submission can be viewed on the home page where Fred has it posted. Copy by request to me.

Seek and Destroy

Sep '99 All Hands

By remote surveillance cameras on the fantail, the Mineman (MN) in CIC observed the ships crane being utilized to lower the \$2 million remote-operated mine neutralization vehicle, Shania, into the rolling sea. "Forty-eight pilot," rang the tactical action officer's (TAO) voice in the Mineman's headset. "We have a contact bearing one-eight-five; range 225 yards; possible mine-like object. You have permission to take control of the vehicle." responding 'Aye Aye Sir,' the MN takes the pilot stick in hand and taps it forward sending the hovering MNV into a 45 degree dive. "Flying the MNV through the turbulent, murky undercurrent toward a mine like target is comparable to executing aerial maneuvers in a cockpit. Piloting isn't a solo act. The success of seek and destroy is a combined effort of all hands on board.

First priority is to put some distance between the ship and the ROV. "Vehicle is 50 yards from the ship, request permission to commence mine hunting evolution" is passed to the bridge. Data on the console monitor allows the MN to

(Continued on page 13)

**Association of Minemen
26th Annual Reunion & Meeting
Charleston SC
11 - 13 August 2000**

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

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

Name: _____ AOM Member # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ e-mail: _____

Dinner Tickets @ \$20.00 EA X _____ Tickets = \$ _____

Picnic Tickets @ \$10.00 EA X _____ Tickets = \$ _____
(13 Years old and above)

Picnic Tickets @ \$4.50 EA X _____ Tickets = \$ _____
(Age 7 to 12 Years ... Children age 7 and under are FREE)

Number of Children attending Picnic under the age 7 Years and under: _____

Annual Dues: (\$10.00) Aug '00 - Aug '01 \$ _____

Your label has your paid to date eg. 1999 is 8/99

(New member add \$5 application fee)

Museum Donation: (Tax deductible) \$ _____

AOM General Fund: (Tax deductible) \$ _____

AOM Scholarship Donation: (Tax deductible) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: (check payable to Association of Minemen) \$ _____

- We must guarantee numbers for dinner not later than the morning of 9 August. There will be NO refunds after 8 August 2000
- The picnic will be standard "Picnic Fare": hamburgers, hot dogs with the appropriate sides and refreshments for all.

Notes to Secretary:

Mine Battery Disposal

Feature 3/3/00 by Frank Gregory

Minemen throughout the world often wonder what happens to all those environmentally hazardous mercury and cadmium mercury batteries that are turned in for disposal. Recent changes to the stockpile have greatly increased the quantities available for disposal. Commercial sources for disposal of batteries does not exist and storage of them poses environmental problems. The Navy found itself with over 140 tons of mercury batteries and another 40 tons of cadmium mercury batteries awaiting disposal. The Mercury Battery Disposal Facility, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Hawthorne, NV Detachment performs controlled environment battery recycling and disposal.

As part of the disposal process, the recovery of expensive materials is also realized. Recovery of large amounts of silver from silver oxide propulsion batteries from Mine MK 67 (SLMM) and Torpedo MK 37. The silver plates in these batteries have returned \$2,850,000 worth of silver to the navy's stockpile. The negative battery plates, which are zinc amalgamated with mercury, present the same difficulties and liabilities for disposal as hazardous material. The old system of using an oven to melt down batteries became obsolete as batteries became more complex in design and formulation. An extensive study was conducted and a new plan for recovery was put in place. It was determined that freezing batteries with nitrogen, crushing and shredding them and then separating the chemicals would do the trick. Their basic process depending on the type of battery was freeze, crush, shred and bake.

A retort oven, which transforms material by heat and vacuum is then started. The retort process heats the mercury containing material under a vacuum to high

temperatures in order to convert the mercury into a gas. Using a vacuum system the process directs the gas flow from the oven into collection tanks. It takes about 10 hours to heat the oven to 700 degrees Fahrenheit and another eight hours to remove the mercury and another two for controlled cooling.

Hawthorne's existing oven is being modified to meet the Navy's need and is expected to become operational in March 2000.

This process was developed for the disposal of mine batteries. However, there is potential to use it for other types of batteries within DOD. Torpedo batteries are laden with silver. The Air Force has inquired about retorting their mercury batteries. Once operational, this process has potential application through technology transfer into commercial markets.

Once in operation the following batteries are scheduled for the process: Dry Silver-Zinc Battery MK 46, Wet Silver-Zinc MK 53, MK 135 series, MK 95, 117, 130, 131, and 141 series. The backlog should be eliminated by the end of 2002.

(Continued from page 11)

avoid entangling the ROV umbilical cord heading on correct course and depth. "Sir, I have the contact in sight" reports the MN. The intense light emanating from the MNV breaks through the cloudy water and illuminates the algae covered cylindrical object. The MN reports: it looks like a UDM Sir." referring to a Russian built, multi-influence bottom mine. "Request permission to deploy the bomblet?" "Permission granted" is the reply. The MN pushes a red button and fires an explosive charge that releases the two foot bomblet in a nose down trajectory toward the UDM. "Bomblet armed and properly deployed Sir" is relayed to the

bridge. "Very well 48, return the vehicle to the ship" is the response. After 20 minutes Shania is safely secure in her rack on the fantail. "Stand by to detonate, Three, Two, One"... BOOM! Two simultaneous explosions. First the bomblet, second the mine. Cheers erupt, high fives are given and the celebration ends as the crew gets back to work. After all this was but one mine and they have a mine field to clear. MN1(AW) Tim Hickman was the MN pilot on USS Kingfisher during this exercise.

A cabbie picks up a nun. She gets into the cab and the car driver won't stop staring at her. She asks him why he is staring and he replies, "I have a question to ask you but I don't want to offend you." She answers, "My dear son, you cannot offend me. When you are as old as I am and have been a nun as long as I have, you get a chance to see and hear just about everything. I am sure that there is nothing you could say or ask that I would find offensive." Well, I have always had a fantasy to have a nun kiss me. She responds, "Well, let's see what we can do about that. Number 1, you have to be single and number 2 you have to be catholic." The cab driver is very excited and says, "yes, I am single and I am catholic too." The nun says "OK, pull into the next alley. He does and the nun fulfills his fantasy. But when they get back on the road, the cab driver starts crying. "My dear child, said the nun, why are you crying? Forgive me sister, but I have sinned, I lied, I must confess, I am married and I am Jewish. The nun says, "that's OK my name is Kevin and I'm on my way to a Halloween party. Sent in by Henry Williams

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 (Charleston International Airport) 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 local: 843-572-2200. The 800 number doesn't honor the group rate.

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.

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

MOMAU 10

By LCDR John Iwaniec

Figured I had better get this in before I go in for surgery tomorrow. I have been suffering from a herniated disk in my lower back

a few years now and tomorrow I go in to have it fixed. Anyway, for command news here goes. I just got back from the CO's conference in Corpus Christi TX and it was terrific, my thanks to COMOMAG Staff, they really put out some great stuff and took care of us really well. On the home front, out supply deck is completed and looks great, we can finally sit in a chair and keep from rolling to the center of supply. Public Works has also started to tear out our old Water Shed Paint Spray System and are replacing it with a Dry Filter System. The Paint Shed should be complete by early April. The command is really looking sharp, we have repainted all spaces and I finally feel like the command is where it should be. I have a terrific crew and they have really worked their hearts out over the past year and a half. We have a busy schedule of up-coming exercises; Cobra Gold and Carrat, so our summer will be active but no one seems to be complaining since they are all looking forward to participating in these two great trips. On other fronts, MN2 Jackson has orders to MOMAU 14 and transfers in May. MN1 Haley has orders to MOMAU 5 and transfers in August. We have MN2 Pelski coming in tonight, I'm sure he will be happy here especially arriving after all the works been done, Hah! Our Sailor of the Year was MN2 Perine who has since transferred to MCM ship Guardian, out of Sasebo Japan. Last but not least, the big fishing contest never really happened this year between myself and LT Martin back at the conference. The weather was lousy and we only made it out once, MR Martin did catch one more pinfish than I did, so I guess technically speaking he was the winner.

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see;
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me; I wish so

much you wouldn't cry The way you did today, While thinking of the many things, We didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name,
And took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready,
In heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.

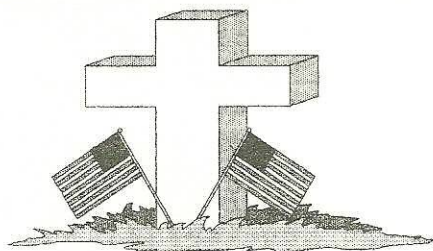
But as I turned to walk away,
A tear fell from my eye,
For all my life, I'd always thought,
I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for,
So much yet to do,
It seemed almost impossible,
That I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays,
The good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared,
And all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday,
Just even for a while,
I'd say good-bye and kiss you
And maybe see you smile.
But then I fully realized,
That this could never be,
For emptiness and memories,
Would take the place of me.
And when I thought of worldly things,
I might miss come tomorrow,
I thought of you, and when I did,
My heart was filled with sorrow.
But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home.

When God looked down and smiled at me,
From His great golden throne,
He said "This is eternity,
And all I've promised you."
Today for life on earth is past,
But here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow,
But today will always last,
and since each day's the same day
There's no longing for the past.
But you have been so faithful,
So trusting and so true.
Though there were times you did some things,
You knew you shouldn't do.
But you have been forgiven
And now at last you're free.
So won't you take my hand
And share my life with me?
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here, in your heart.

(Jose Balderrama, thinking of Bob)

TAPS



Sue Arrington, ISEA Logistics, 3/10/00
Panama City, FL

CDR Thomas F. Armstrong Jan. 6,
2000

LCDR Bob Benintende 3/6/00 Lompoc
CA

CDR Don DeForest. Ret passed away
1965 at Port Townsend, WA, **Freddie
Reid** said that **Don** came in the Navy
early 30's and retired early 50's. He had
been around the mine force for some time,
usually on staff.

Herbert Johnson, MN2, '50-'54, 29 Feb
2000, Fullerton, California. from Bill
Darlington

MN1 Frank "FM" Jones, Ret per Fleet
Res. paper 2/00 from **Mike Cummings**

Richard Lee, NMEF Supplement E Desk
passed away this past winter according
to the NWS Yorktown Retirees
Newsletter 2/00.

Rose McGarry wife of **Harold McGarry**
MNC Oct 10, 1999 from **Robert Mason**
Melvin H. Sanborn Nov. 16, 1999 from
wife **Pat**

Robert Lee (Tex) Williamson about
1998 went to MN School in 1942

BOB BENINTENDE LCDR RET. USN

Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3443

The second ten commandments

Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the
most unproductive of all human
activities.

Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of
the things we fear never come to
pass.

Thou shalt not cross bridges before
you come to them, for no one has
succeeded in accomplishing this.

Thou shalt face each problem as it
comes. You can only handle one at
a time anyway.

Thou shalt not take problems to bed
with you, for they make very poor
bedfellows.

Thou shalt not borrow other peoples
problems, for they can better care
for them than you.

Thou shalt not try to relive
yesterday, it is gone forever.
Concentrate on what is happening in
your life and be happy now.

Thou shalt be a good listener, for
only when you listen do you hear
different ideas from your own.

Thou shalt not become bogged
down by frustration, for ninety
percent of it is rotted in self pity and
will only interfere with positive
action.

Thou shalt count thy blessings,
never overlooking the small ones,
for a lot of small blessings add up to
a big one.

-copied-

Henry Williams

Jose Hernandez writes:

I knew Bob Benintende when we
were shipmates teaching mines at
the Minewarfare School.

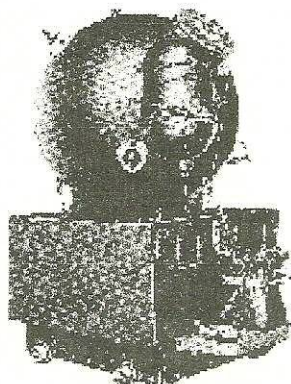
On one of his transfers from NWS
Yorktown Bob told me to take care
of "old George" his favorite deer.

I shot and killed a 16 point buck
in December '69 and it turned out to
be "old George"

Dear Bob in Heaven, will you for-
give me?

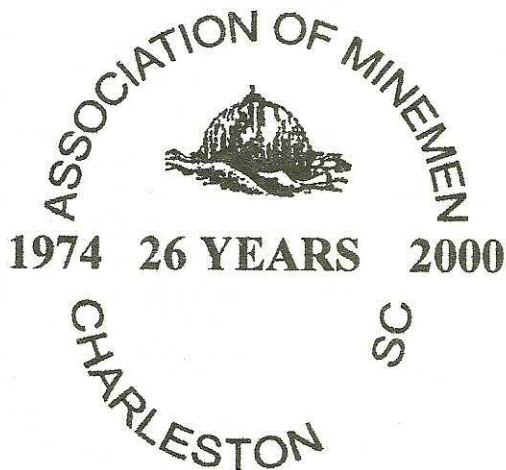
LOMPOC, CALIF. A memorial mass
for **Bob Benintende**, age 69, of
Vandenberg Village, was celebrated
at 10.00 a.m. Thursday, March 9th,
2000 at Queen of Angels Catholic
Church with the Reverend Msgr.
John Fitzgerald officiating.
Internment with full military honors
will be held at Arlington National
Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Mr. **Benintende** was born Aug 14,
1930 in Buffalo, N.Y. to **Leonard** and
Lena Tabone Benintende. He was
raised and educated in San Diego.
He served with the United States
Navy for 30 years, retiring in 1978 as
a Lieutenant Commander. He was
employed as General Manager at
Corvallis Security, Corvallis, Oregon,
for three years before moving to
Hawthorne, Nevada where he was an
ammunition planner with Day
Zimmerman Basil Corporation for
another three years. He was a
member of The Association of
Minemen. He served as Scoutmaster
with The Boy Scouts of America and
was a former member of Veterans of
Foreign Wars, the Rotary Club of
Philomath, Oregon, Albany Elks
Lodge # 359, and was a volunteer
with the equestrian group for the
Albany, Oregon 4-H club. A lover of
horses, he was a riding instructor and
coach who also was a trainer
participating in numerous horse
shows. He came to Lompoc from
Albany, Oregon in 1996 and was a
member of the Vandenberg Saddle
Club. He died Monday, March 6, 2000
at home. Survivors include his wife,
Michiko Benintende of Vandenberg
Village, daughters **Kathy Monteith** of
Hampton, Virginia and **Barbara
Spinello** of Palm Beach Gardens,
Florida; brothers, **Joseph John
Benintende** and **Leonard
Benintende**, both of El Cajon, Calif
and grandson, **Troy Preston Monteith**
II. In lieu of flowers, friends may send
contributions to: Catholic Relief
Services 209 West Fayette St.



Association of Minemen
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