

The DASHPOT

Issue 30

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

SUMMER 2000

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Joe Balderrama

Hello again Shipmates, this will be the last issue of the Dashpot before the reunion in Charleston. Speaking of the reunion, all indications are that **Dick Schommer** has spared no effort to ensure that this will be the best ever. As you will read in this issue, the events scheduled will take place at the AFB, making it most appropriate given that it is the first reunion of the millennium.

In the interest of passing out kudos, I need to thank **Toby Horn** (again) for his efforts in obtaining the 501 (c) (3) Tax Status for the AOM. It will save us a bunch of money. In addition to that **Toby** and **Curtis Christian** along with the gracious assistance of MOMAG Unit 11, have been offered space for our fine materials and stuff, and either have moved, or will move the materials to Unit 11. A savings of about \$800 will be realized per annum.

I need to thank **Paul Santa Maria** for the changes that he has made to the Scholarship Program. These were necessitated by the changes in our Tax Status.

(Continued on page 2)

INDEX

Advancements	9
Binnacle	14
Balance Sheet	13
CDR Tom Beatty	2
Committee Reports	5
By-Laws Change	12
Full Force News	9
MN in Spotlight	3
Reunion Form	7
Scholarship	5
Secretary's Report	4
Taps	15

1998 Active Duty MN of the Year



MNC (SW) **Ron Johnson**, MN of the Year for '98, he's now on the MOMAG staff as Assist. Ops for Exercise and Training. CDR **Ron Swart**, COMOMAG, presents the AOM plaque

Mining Haiphong

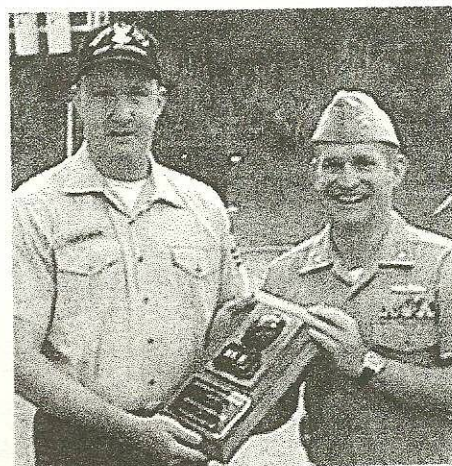
By Don DeCrona

Can you remember where you were on 9 May 1972, when we mined North Vietnam? I was stationed in Vietnam as an Advisor with the Brown Water Navy. I was so happy when I heard of the mining operation, and later to brief **RADM Wilson** on how we, the Mine Force, prepared for this operation. The following is taken from the book, "A Better War."

Beginning 9 May all the major North Vietnamese ports were mined. It took only a minute, literally, for nine Navy aircraft off the Coral Sea, roaring in at 400 knots only 400 feet off the deck, to put 36 Mk 52 mines -- huge magnetic things weighing 1,100 pounds and packing 625 pounds of high explosives -- in at Haiphong, the first target hit and North

(Continued on page 6)

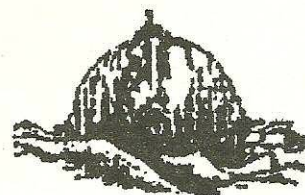
1999 Reserve MN of the Year



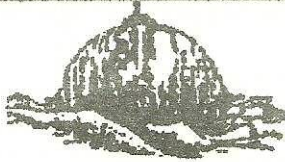
MN1 **Keith Hardiman**.

Plaque presented during this years MRCI at MOMAU 10 Kadena by his CO, LCDR **Paul Bernhard**, NRMOMAU 11

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



**27th Annual
Reunion
RENO NV
AUG 10-12 2001**



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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Dues are \$10.00 per year due by August The first number on your mailing label is your paid to date the second is your membership number. Dues may be prepaid up to 5 years.

(Continued from page 1)

Michiko Benintende notified me that the services for Bob at Arlington pleased her very much. She mentioned that **John Loonam**, **Jackie Smoot**, and **Barbara & Paul Bauer** were in attendance. Thanks folks, she really needed you. In a related subject, **Bill Mehard** made a donation to the Scholarship Fund in memory of **Bob Benintende**, I plan to make a similar donation. Thanks **Bill**.

Something to keep in mind for the General Membership Meeting, are any agenda items. They can be forwarded to **Curtis Christian** for inclusion and presentation at the meeting. One particular item is the ratification of the amended Bylaws; another is a proposal to afford the Immediate Past President a voting status on the BOD.

If I have neglected to thank anyone, please forgive me, I assure you it was not intentional.

Clare and I are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you in Charleston.

Stay Well, Joe!

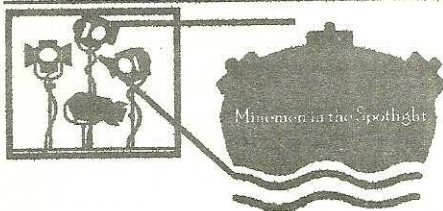


TOM BEATTY SOME THOUGHTS ON HIS PASSING

By CDR Ron Swart

We received the sad news that **Thomas Johnny Beatty** died of a heart attack on October 5, 1999. **Tom** was known as Mr. Mine Warfare to those of us in the Mine Warfare Community. No other person worked longer or harder for the betterment of Mine Warfare in the U.S. Navy than did **Tom**. The following is a partial list of his many tours and duties related to Mine Warfare: (Assistant Chief of Staff at COMINWARCOM for NATO and Allied Plans, including his appointment as Head of the US Delegation to the following annual events: NATO Mine Warfare Conference, NATO Mine Warfare Working Party, NATO ACLANT Mine Warfare Conference, Mediterranean NATO MW Conference (MENACE), Commander and Chief Staff Officer of the Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Chief Staff Officer of the Mine Warfare Inspection Group, Chief of Staff for Amphibious Flotilla 7, Commanding Officer of an MSC, Advisor to the South Vietnamese Army, Hard hat diver on Submarine Rescue Ship Skylark While attached to the Inspection Group, **Tom** began conducting training missions to various allied Navies. He continued this role during subsequent tours and made four missions to Saudi Arabia, one to Malaysia, and two to Indonesia. He developed a variety of Mineman courses for the allies. When the Suez was mined in 1984, **Tom** went to Cairo to serve as the Mine Warfare Officer for COMNAVCNET and commanded Mine Countermeasures operations for the RH-53D helicopters clearing Jidda. At the outbreak of the Tanker War, **Tom** went to the Persian Gulf and flew in the helicopter that made the first visual sightings of mines in the approaches to Kuwait City. He was viewed among the NATO and

(Continued on page 4)



MASTER CHIEF

MINEMAN

MAURICE D. RADKE

USN

Master Chief **Radke** enlisted on December 7, 1976. He completed Recruit Basic Training at RTC San Diego, CA and Mineman Basic 'A' School in July 1977. After completing his initial training he was assigned to Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit NINE, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines where he performed underwater mine assembly and maintenance in support of Indian Ocean CVN mine assembly deployment teams. During this tour he earned an Associate of Arts Degree at Central Texas College. He was then assigned to the personal staff of the President, Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, performing numerous logistic functions. During this tour, he personally aided then Vice-President George Bush, Chiefs of all the U. S. armed services and their counterparts from many foreign nations. Other duty stations include: two assignments to MOMAG Unit EIGHT, Guam, Instructor Duty at Naval Reserve Readiness Center, Naval Air Station Dallas, Texas, and again at MOMAG Unit NINE in the Philippines where he served as Command Senior Chief and Operations Officer during Desert Shield/Storm, Mt. Pinatubo volcanic eruption, and eventual base closure. Master Chief **Radke** was then assigned to Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, which included duties as School Director and Lead Facilitator for the Navy

Leader Development Program, Command Managed Equal Opportunity and Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor courses. He also completed a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University. After being selected into the Command Master Chief program in 1995, he reported to USS CUSHING (DD-985) as 3M Coordinator and eventually Command Master Chief. He is currently assigned as Command Master Chief, Patrol Squadron FOUR (VP-4) at MCBH Kaneohe Bay.



He is married to the former **Rosario Villamor Cadenas** of San Juan, Manila, Republic of the Philippines and they have three children; **Jenna, Maurice, and Jonathan.**

Additional info on "MO" Radke.

- USS CUSHING deployed to the Arabian Gulf in 96-97 and we took along RMS (Remote Minehunting System) which appeared to work pretty well. Enjoyed the surface Navy but being so senior and not having had the shipboard experience before made it a real challenge. I figured the best way to learn was to start from the beginning: fantail watch underway, engineering watches, OOD in-port, 3M coordinator, Repair

5 and DCTT, basic DC, all the bells and whistles. When I went for my EAWS, I was wired tight. Unfortunately the CPO mess amassed every conceivable expert from every nook and cranny and they whooped up on me for almost 5 hours! They all had their fun. . . two weeks later I was their CMC! HA!

- Deployed to Diego Garcia: Dec 98 - Jun 99 w/VP-4

- Deployed to Misawa Japan: Jun 00 - Dec 00 w/VP-4

- Still enjoy touting the attributes of being a Mineman to the tin-can Sailors and the Airedales. I brought a SCPO flight engineer to see the shop in Misawa a couple of years ago and I swear the guy would have cross-rated if he hadn't been so senior.

- Love the P3 Navy: They get me all over the world so I can visit the MCM's and the MOMAG's (or mau's). I have a special place in my heart for the AO's cause we have ordnance in common. I even gave MK 25, MK 36, MK 56, MK 60, and MK 80 series training to them. (I really remembered a lot and realized that I had forgotten more!)

- Still love getting my hands dirty; qualified as a lineman and enjoy launching and recovering aircraft every now and then. Also, the engine mechs let me twist a few wrenches with them because I'm not afraid to get "dirty". And of course, being the CMC of the different platforms really lets me see the whole Navy first-hand and always makes me a bit sad because being a Mineman is where its at! I'll always treasure my time "in community" and look forward to the day when I can serve my brothers and sisters in Mine warfare.

- Still enjoy playing a bit of golf but not as much as I'd like to. Spend a lot of time working on my cars. Coached a little High School baseball this year for Jon's last season.

- Referee for high school football and was the only military official in the state to get selected to work the state championship tournament.

- Still enjoy carrying the Mineman

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

rating. When watching a FUBAR evolution, I relish the opportunity to throw in my mine warfare jibe's. . . "We wouldn't stand for this in the mine community I tell you" etc.

E-mail is: oneputta@aol.com

(Continued from page 2)

other allies as the most knowledgeable Mine Warfare Officer in the Free World. He retired twice only to be reactivated immediately to his post at COMINEWARCOM. One of Tom's dreams was to establish a Mine Warfare Enlisted Community that maintained mines ashore and performed Mine Countermeasures at sea. His vision inspired the expansion of the Mineman rating after DESERT STORM, and Tom lived to see that dream come true. After finally really retiring, Tom continued working as a contractor on Mine Warfare tactical decision aids. We owe Tom Beatty a great debt for his outstanding contributions to the important discipline of Mine Warfare at a time when being identified as a Mine Warfare type was neither personally rewarding nor advantageous for ones career. Tom is survived by his wife Jean and sons, Bryan and Stephen.

TOM BEATTY CAREER NOTES

By Dave Belton

Tom entered the Navy at the age of 17 in either 1949 or 1950. His first duty station was the Presidential Yacht, Williamsburg. He used to tell the story that on a cold winter morning he had the watch topside. Harry Truman came up for a breath of fresh air and noticed that Tom was cold. He told Tom to go down and get a warm cup of coffee. Tom told the President that he couldn't

because he as on watch. Tom said that the President said "You go on down and get your coffee. Tell them that Harry has the watch." Tom was a hard hat diver and served on the Submarine Rescue Ship Skylark. He was also Commanding Officer of an MSC. He served in Vietnam as an Advisor to the South Vietnam Army. He received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with combat V for that tour. He also served as Chief of Staff for Amphibious Flotilla 7 prior to coming to the Mine Warfare Inspection Group as Chief of Staff in 1977. Tom served with the inspection Group until about 1980. He went to Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG), where he served as both Chief Staff Officer and Commander. He left COMOMAG in 1983 to become ACOS for NATO/Allied Plans at COMINEWARCOM. He retired in July 1986 and was immediately recalled to active duty. He retired again in July 1988 and was again recalled to active duty. He finally retired for good in July 1990.

While attached to the Inspection Group, Tom began conducting training missions to various Allied Navies. He continued this role while attached to COMOMAG and COMINEWARCOM. The missions usually lasted about six weeks in country. There were at least four such trips to Saudi Arabia, one to Malaysia, and two to Indonesia. He developed Mineman Electrician, Mineman Boatswain, and Mineman Engineman courses for the Saudis. When the Suez Crisis broke out in 1984, Tom went to Cairo to serve as the Mine Warfare Officer for COMNAVCENT. He provided Mine Warfare expertise to the Admiral. During this time he also commanded a four-helicopter detachment which was assigned to clear Jidda, Saudi Arabia. During the Tanker War, Tom went to Kuwait and flew in the first helicopter to discover mines (visually) in the approaches to

Secretary/ Treasurer

By Curtis Christianm



Hello from the secretaries desk.

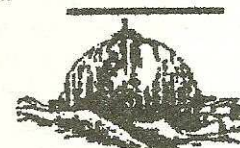
I hope that each of you are getting ready for the reunion. So far I only have about eleven members forms. Send in your request for tickets (and money). I will have your tickets ready when you get to Charleston.

You do not want to miss hearing Joe roar at the auction. Be there and cheer him on.

We heard from MOMAU 11 about storing the history items that we have at a warehouse. That will save us about \$1,000.00 a year. Toby and I spent all afternoon packing and labeling boxes. We trashed a lot of things that were not part of the Mine Force. Toby had a tear in his eye as some of it went. Did not bother me, as I can't remember back that far. (SMILE)

Last month I sent cards to all members who were in arrears with dues. Got some good results from the cards and a lot of questions. Dues are \$10.00 per year. This runs Aug. to Aug. All members who have 2000 on your mailing label are paid up through Aug. of 2000

Sure hope to see all of you at the reunion.



Lost Minemen

Hi, I am writing to you because I am looking for a lost Mineman and someone gave me your e-mail address, my name is Tammy and I am looking for Yvette Lynn Blume., She is the mother of my brother that I have never met and I would like to. If you have any information concerning her whereabouts please contact me at tarma21@aol.com, she was a Mineman in Charleston South Carolina, she had a son named Zachary Shane Blume on June 10, 1983. please write me back, thanks

Kuwait City. He also sailed in Saudi MSCs to clear that minefield.

From 1983 until 1989, **Tom** acted as head of the US Delegation to the NATO Mine Warfare Conference, NATO Mine Warfare Working Party, NATO ACLANT Mine Warfare Conference, and MENACE (Mediterranean NATO MW Conference), each of which met annually. **Tom** was viewed in both NATO and Allied Navies as being the most knowledgeable Mine Warfare Officer in the Free World. **Tom** also accompanied Rear Admirals **Home**, **Cockfield**, **Tobin**, and **Mathis** on Mine Warfare visits to Navies in both Europe and on the Pacific Rim. While at COMINELWARCOM, **Tom** received two Legions of Merit.

One of **Tom's** dreams was to establish a Mine Warfare Enlisted community that maintained mines ashore and performed Mine Countermeasures at sea. His vision inspired the expansion of the Mineman rating after DESERT STORM, and he lived to see this dream come true.

Since retiring, **Tom** worked for several defense contractors. He conceived the idea of MEDAL, which is the only authorized Tactical Decision Aid for Mine Warfare in the U.S. Navy, and forms the basis for the integration of Mine Warfare's Command and Control with the rest of the Navy. MEDAL is expected to be the standard for Mine Warfare for many years to come.

Taken from a letter of 17 October 1999 by Mr. Dave Belton, **Tom** Beatty's long time friend and associate at COMINELWARCOM.



Committee Reports

Reunion

Dick Schommer

The Charleston Club is located at 100 West Hill Blvd. If entering the Air Force Base from Dorchester road the club is approximately 1 mile, on the left side of the street. If entering the base from the old Rivers Ave gate (back gate) you would turn left at the first stop sign which is located approximately 3.5 miles from the gate, again located on left side of road. From the back gate, you pass the picnic area, and the golf course.

All of the loose ends have been tied up for this years reunion. The schedule of events are;

11 Aug 00 Early Bird at the Charleston Club, located on the United States Air Force Base 100 West Hill Blvd. 1800-until. Club special that night is burn your own steak for \$5.00. Snacks provided by AOM.

12 Aug 00 Golf Tournament Naval Weapons Station Golf Course. Tee off at approximately 0730. If you plan on playing we need your name by mid July 00.

E - Mail or call me rdschommer@hotmail.com or call 843-797-3715, or call Buddy Stewart at 843-821-8990.

12 Aug 00 Business Meeting again at the Charleston Club 1400. Election of two board members. Important for you as a member to attend and vote.

12 Aug 00 Dinner at the Charleston Club. 1800 cocktails cash bar. Chimes at approximately 1915, Buffet line opened.

13 Aug 00 Picnic at the Air Force picnic grounds, starting at 1200. The usual picnic goodies, beer, more beer, and hotdogs, hamburgers, and possibly a surprise addition to the

Scholarship

Paul Santa Maria

By the time we go to print, all scholarship applications should have been received. We did have a little problem with requestors not receiving all the necessary forms. I made personal phone calls to correct the problem. However, if any applicant is still confused, please contact me and we will correct it.

Our scholarship is an excellent program, but like any other program, its survival depends upon income from its membership. Presently there are three sources of income: (1) cash donations, (2) participating in the auction, (3) donating items for the auction. Can you imagine the giant auction we would have if everyone attending the reunion would bring at least one item to be auctioned. WOW!

Our new IRS standing necessitated some verbiage changes in the By-Laws, however it did not affect our basic program.

I have received several scholarship requests to come before the Committee. We have our work cut out for us. See you all in Charleston

menu. Remember to bring your items for the Auction. Games will be played for the youngsters, and the oldsters.

The motel that has rooms blocked is the Best Western located at I-26 and Ashley Phosphate Rd. Rate is \$62.00 per day, good three days prior to, and three days after the reunion dates. Reservations must be made by phone 843-572-2200, mention the AOM for discount. There are numerous motels in the vicinity of the Air Force Base, pick your favorite and call their 800 number.

Any non retirees or persons not entitled to entry to the base must include this info in your reservation, or e-mail me. I have to supply a list

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 1)

Vietnam's most important seaport. Over successive days the lesser ports were sowed, with all mines set to activate at 9 a.m. on 12 May. "It took us eight years to get permission" to mine Haiphong harbor, said Admiral **Moorer**, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Afterward not one ship entered or left the harbor until we took up the mines." (page 327)

As part of the agreement the U.S. Navy swept the mines from Haiphong harbor, thereby, releasing a flotilla of ships that had been bottled up in the port for three hundred days. Not a single vessel had entered or left since the one decisive minute in which the blockading mines were laid. (page 362)

Ray Cobis replied:

We were on Guam hauling 1500 tons of bombs a day for the Air force to drop on our friends up north

Bill Roberts replied:

I sure do remember where I was on 9 May 1972. I was serving with JUSMMAT, as Minewarfare Advisor to the Turkish Navy, stationed at Golcuck Turkey. My counter parts had lots of questions, however, at that time all of the details we had on the mining of Haiphong came from the Stars and Stripes.

Joe Balderrama replied:

Just finished running the river's in Vietnam. I WAS on recruiting duty in Colorado.

Cecil Martin replied:

I was an Instructor at NSMW teaching "B" School Electronics and Black Box and in the process of being relieved by MNC **Red Niederberger** as I was to be promoted to WO 1 on the 1st of June, 72.

John Iwaniec says:

I was just finishing up "A" school, thought for sure I was heading that way to be a gunner on a PBR. Couldn't understand why I was going

through "A school for mines when I heard Minemen were shooting fifty Cals, on boats in the Delta, ha! I graduated first in my class, so my reward was to be put on the Sand Blaster at COMOMAG. None of my classmates and I don't think any following classes went to Nam, I wonder what year they stopped sending Minemen over there, do any of you wiser older folks know.

Cecil Martin responds:

I don't know when the last MN went to PBRs but do know that a few served as advisors to the Vietnamese after the boats were turned over to the VN Navy. The only enlisted Minemen that I know of to go to PBRs were MN1/MNC and were assigned as Boat Captains/Patrol Officers, when we still had the boats, and as advisors after the turnover.

Those that I remember to have been assigned to PBRs in some capacity were; MN1 **William Williams**, MN1/MNC **Timothy Rogers**, MN1 **Cecil Martin**, MN1 **H. Ross Maddox**, MN1 **Shelly Kelly**, MN1 **Sal Carvajal**, MN1 **Sellers**, MN1 **Joe Balderrama**, MN1 **Bob "Willie" Wilson** and somebody told me one time that MN1 **"Germ" Kennedy** was also assigned to PBRs but I don't know that for sure.

As mentioned in the original e-mail that started of all this, at least one MN LDO was assigned to the Brown Water Navy as an advisor.

Other MN were assigned to Billeting in Saigon; MN1 **Jasper Kennedy**, MN1 **Bob Stancik**, and another was assigned in Country but don't know in what capacity; MN2?) **Ted Rutt**.

Others served in EOD; MNCM **Paul Henry**, MN1 **Bradfield**, MN2 **Frank Marshall** and possibly others.

I don't believe we had any MN SEALs.

Very many served in ships on Yankee Station and some were in country TAD with the DST 115. I

Don't know if anyone did anything in country with the "P" or if it was even used.

John Iwaniec responds:

Wow, what great info, I was surprised by some of the names you mentioned. the only guys I knew who served on the PBRs were you, **Ross Maddox** and **Jose Balderrama**. Here I've known a lot of those guys over the years but not much about their past. Thanks for the info.

Bob Hart says:

As you know we were all on Azuma Island when the call came for volunteers for the PBR's and as I recall, among all the First Class Minemen, Torpedomen, Enginemen, et al that put our names in the hat, only you and **"Porky" Rogers** were selected. As time went on and we were eventually separated, most of the people got into the fray. I went to NavMag Subic and in 1969 took a team aboard the USS Oriskany CV-34 and then cross decked to the USS Kitty Hawk CV-63. During that time, other First Class and Chiefs from all over the Far East were getting their turn at going to Yankee Station with their teams. My team and I flew from the Oriskany to the Kitty Hawk when Oriskany left Yankee Station for R&R in Hong Kong. We were relieved on the Kitty Hawk by **Ernie Egelhoff** and his team. I transferred from Subic in October 1969 to Instructor School in Norfolk and then to instructor duty at NSMW Charleston in Jan. 1970, I was instructing when the mines were planted in May 1972.

(Continued from page 5)

of persons wanting to attend the functions on the base.

For the members that need assistance, don't hesitate to call at the above listed number or again use your e-mail to contact me, I will do everything I can except loan you money. Hope to see you all in Charleston

**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.

Do you need to be on the access list for the Air Force Base (no vehicle decal) ? _____

Notes to Secretary:

Association of Minemen Medal Award

By MNCS, Ret. Rick Spofford

Retired MNCS Rick Spofford, NJROTC instructor at Walterboro High School, Walterboro, SC presented AOM sponsored medals to two NJROTC cadets in May. The criteria for the medal is that the recipient be:

In good academic standing

Of high moral character

Evidence a high order of loyalty to the NJROTC Unit, school and community

Demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership

Be evaluated as the most improved Naval Science cadet

This year's awards went to Cadet SAs Paul Bryant and Melanie Miller

The Senior Chief reports his Unit was awarded the Distinguished Unit Award for the third straight year. That means the Unit is in the top 30% of all NJROTC Units in the country. Bravo Zulu cadets.

Cadets from the Unit have assisted in working parties in the AOM museum spaces on board the USS Yorktown.

USS Devastator welcomes new commanding officer

A change of command ceremony was held on board USS Devastator (MCM 6) on Feb. 24. LCDR Clifford A. Pish relieved CDR Thomas A. Flisk in the presence of ship's company on the fantail.

MCM Squadron Two welcomes new commanding officer

Capt. H. L. "Buzz" Broughton turned over the helm of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two to Capt. Richard C. Rush May 25. Capt. Rush most recently served as OPNAV's branch head for

current, joint operations and plans.

Admirals view Vehicles

MN2(SW) Fondrae Townsend described the Mine Neutralization Vehicle's operations to RADM Jose Betancourt, Commander, Mine Warfare Command and RADM Lindell G. Rutherford, Director for Operations, Plans, Policy and

Training, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; as LCDR Steven Mucklow, USS Cormorant Commanding Officer, and MN1 Richard McClellan stood by. Rutherford toured Cormorant Monday, May 15.

"THAT RAGGED OLD FLAG"

Courtesy of Mel Koneiczka

I walked through a County Court House square.
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.
I Said, "Your old Court House is kinda run down."
He Said, "No, it will do for our little town."
I Said, "Your old flag Pole is leaning a little bit.
And that's a ragged old Flag you've got hanging on it."
He Said, "Have a seat," and I sat down.
"Is the first time that you've been to our little town?"

"Well," he said, "I don't like to brag,
But we're kinda proud of that ragged old Flag.
You see, we got a little hole in the Flag there,
When Washington took it across the Delaware.
And it got powder burns, the night Francis Scott Key,
Sat watching it, writing "Oh Say Can You See."

And it got a bad rip at New Orleans,
When Packingham and Jackson took it to the scene
And, it almost fell at the Alamo beside the Texas Flag
But she waved on through

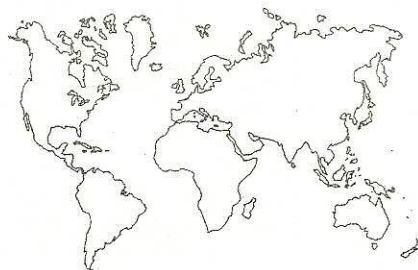
She got cut with a sword at Chancellville,
And she got cut again at Shilo Hill
There was Robert E. Lee, Bouregard and Bragg
The South wind blew hard on that Old Ragged Flag
On Flanders Field in World War One
She got a big hole from a Bertha Gun
She turned BLOOD RED World War Two,
And she hung limp and low a time or two
She was in Korea and Vietnam

She went from our ships upon the briny foam
Now they've about quit waving her back here at home
In our good land she's been abused,
She's been burned, dishonored, denied, and refused
And the Government for which she stands
Is scandalized through out the land

She's getting threadbare and she's wearing thin,
But, she's in good shape for the shape she's in
Because she's been through the fire before,
I believe she can take a whole lot more

So we raise her up every morning,
and we Take her down every night,
We don't let her touch the ground,
and we fold her up right,

On second thought, I DO LIKE TO BRAG,
BECAUSE I'M MIGHTY PROUD OF THAT RAGGED OLD



MOMAG and Mine Force Update

By CDR Ron Swart

It is time, once again to summarize all of what has gone on in the world of MOMAG and Mines. As I had reported last issue, we were hot on the tedious job of justifying ourselves (and our various projects) for the next budget cycle. Well, most of that is past and I don't have too much to update you on, regarding how the mines program fared, except to say that continues to be a tough battle. We'll have enough money to keep going, but not much in the way of new mine systems made the initial cut for the next fiscal year. Still, ever optimistic, I submit that we've made quite a favorable impression on many of the senior Flags moving into key positions throughout our Navy. We shall see. In the meanwhile, we've got mine shops to run...

Congratulations to **MOMAU 12** Misawa, **MOMAU 10** Kadena and **MOMAU 8** Guam on their most impressive performance during their respective MRCIs. All three shops still perform to the highest standards. My XO, LCDR Norbert Jimenez lead the team with MNCM John Reeve, MNC Ron Johnson and MNC Tom Vail. They really could tell how much work and pride went in to each Unit's effort. Bravo Zulu WestPac Minemen!

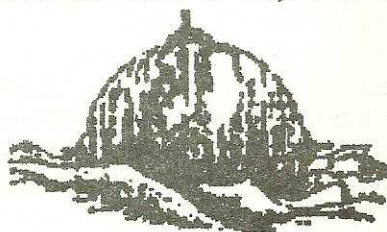
LCDR Iwaniec tells me that **MOMAU 10** has been on the road as usual and had benefited from CWO3 Riggins' help with all the meetings and planning conferences that are held each year. WestPac continues to be the busiest exercise environment for us. We say farewell to MNC Allen

Hipp who retired from Unit 10 recently. Fair Winds Chief!

MOMAU 12 will have their work cut out for them as they begin maintenance and assembly work on their Mk 56 stocks. Gunner Riggins has a well oiled machine so the job will get done right!

At the "tip of the spear", **MOMAU 5** Sigonella is commended for the highest standards of professional performance for their work with the Dwight D. Eisenhower Battle Group. Suffice it to say that they upheld their tradition of excellence and readiness by answering the call. Well Done!

A crusty bunch of old Mk 56 Minemen gathered on Guam a couple weeks ago to assess the readiness of the Mk 56 mine stockpile to serve a while longer... they pronounced it fit for duty. Lead by CWO3 Gary Riggins, this Tiger Team consisted of engineers and



experts from CSS Panama City (Phil Jones, Jim Fath, Ken Warringa) along with MN1 Rambo and MNC Vail... who all joined by the fine **MOMAU 8** team for a comprehensive evaluation of this veteran mine system. The added benefit was some very good training for all hands.

MOMAU 14 Yorktown has accelerated their time line for completing all the CAPTORs in the inventory. CO, Lt Ken Dalton now estimates closure of this Unit by the end of September 2001.

MOMAU 3 has been hard at work gearing up for a fall time MRCI. The CO, Lt Alex Brown says he will have all their reserves aboard for professional training in June. We're looking everywhere for an MNC to relieve MNC George Butterhoff. Where are those Chiefs when you

really need one?

MOMAU 1 Seal Beach has been very busy with the RIMPAC exercise as well as some noteworthy community involvement. LCDR Ed Simmons and his fine crew, always seem to have time to take on "just one more tasker". My sincere thanks to them on their assist with the display mines at Mine Warfare Training Center.

My thanks to **MOMAU 11** for their assistance to the AOM in providing storage for our "stuff". When you reunion attendees get to Charleston, be sure to visit Unit 11 and see their wonderful new facility and some of the "threat" mines they're building for the MCM Navy to train with.

MOMAU 15 in Kingsville has some great news indeed... the money for construction of their new mine shop at Naval Station Ingleside is on track for this coming fiscal year. If the appropriation goes as expected, they'll be moving into their new shop in 18 to 20 months from October 00 (two years sooner than expected!). Also, my thanks to MNCS Dave Walker for his expertise and forward leaning initiative to advance the training of our MCM ships using the Versatile Exercise Mine System. Good Luck on your upcoming MRCI!

Congratulations to the MOMAG Sailors who promoted on the last advancement cycle. I'll provide some detail on the promotion percentages and how we're doing across the Mineman rating as soon as I get the data. Things are looking pretty good for advancement these days.

With Mine Warfare ships in the Great Lakes and cruising up the Mississippi River this summer, the Mine Force is getting a lot of well-deserved attention all around the world. The demand upon our time and talents throughout the force has been a challenge and the exercise season has only just begun. Unfortunately, I will be deployed when this year's reunion rolls around. Have fun and stay safe.

MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY UNIT THREE

by YN1 BILLY W. MCDONALD, PAO

The sailors of Mobile Mine Assembly Unit THREE have been busy this year preparing to provide "Mines for Defense".

Welcome aboard to the following new shipmates; **MNSR Jeffery Rivera**, **MN2 Brain Smith**, **MN2 Mathis Ramon**. In with the new and out with the old. We bid farewell to **MN1 Michael Cassidy**, **MN1 Rodney Boulware** and **MN2 Richard Lanpheare**.

April brought about an opportunity to train with our reserve counter parts. The highlight of this four day training is what is called "upgrade training". Upgrading training is where the mines are produced from start to finished. From parts to a asset ready for use in the fleet. The Commanding Officer presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to the following personnel; **MN1 Jennifer Lauffenburger**, **MN1 Rodney Boulware**; **MN1 Jerry Weller**, **YN1 Billy McDonald** and **MNC George Butterhof**. **MNSA Jeffery Rivera** was recognized as the Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2000.

May brought in a change of season and a change of uniforms. A command inspection was held Memorial Day weekend. The men of **MOMAU THREE** also participated in the local community. Providing a color guard and a float for parades in Freehold, New Jersey and Framingdale, New Jersey.

MOMAU THREE remains ready when called upon to provide "Mines for Defense"

June brought another opportunity for **MOMAU THREE** and its reserve partners once again came together on the first two weeks of June for training. This included MK 56 demil, classroom and physical training.

The following personnel have been recognized at an awards ceremony

so far this year. **MN1 Michael Cassidy** (Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Letter of Appreciation from the Girl Scouts), **MN1 Rodney Boulware** (Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal), and **SK2 Michael White** (Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal).

MOMAU ELEVEN

MNCM Al Fross

Greetings from the **MOMAU** on the move. We recently moved, again, into the Standard Missile and Tomahawk Testing building on the Charleston Weapon Station. As y'all know Unit Eleven has moved three times in the last 13 years or so. Almost like PCS's every four years except it's a lot harder packing out a Mine Shop then having some movers show up and doing it for you. The crew has been doing a truly outstanding job getting our Facilities back into shape.

Departures: **MN2 Payne** and family are on their way to Bahrain. **MN3 Zimmer** and family departed and went back to Civlant to pursue a different career.

Arrivals: **MNCM Fross** finally got out of the brig (he did have keys) and reported onboard for his twilight tour. **SK2 Roundtree** and family reported onboard from the USS Monterey, and **MN1(SW) Butler** and family came to us from MCM Rotational Crew Charlie. Also **MN3 Walker** and wife added a new bouncing baby boy into their family.

Awards: **NAM's** to **MN2 Kearney** and **MN2 Simmons** for their selections as our Senior and Junior Sailor's of the Year, Good Conduct to **MN2(SW) Calton** (3rd award), **LOC's** to **MN2 Pollitt** (SSOQ), **MNSN Tucker** (JSOQ) and **SK2 (SW) Roundtree** for outstanding

performance from his last command, **LOA's** to **MN3 Zimmer** and **MN3 Cowden** for their assistance in getting numerous display shapes painted and installed in Naval Weapon Stations beautification project and to **MN1 Silver** for his assistance, in providing Quickstrike training during CVW-7 recent Minex.

MN2 Domingez recently re-enlisted for 6 more years and received a healthy check (course Uncle Sam got his normal 20% off the top) for his continued commitment to the US Navy.

Well that's all for now from the **MOMAU** on the move.

CINCPACFLT Staff

By MNC Randy O Morris

My Code, **NCEA**, stands for Non-combat expenditure allocations, basically it's the Ordnance the Navy uses for training. I get the allocation list from the CNO people and distribute it to the Major Tycoms and Regional Commanders. I took over for a **GMC** when he retired, when I leave in June their will not be a Mineman billet here. The Torpedoman and Mineman billet were deemed unnecessary during a staff reduction 2 years ago. We do have a LDO Mineman onboard, **LCDR Donovan McManus**, he may be interested in writing an article, if not I'll slap something together. Mr. Dixon was in this office, (retired and went back to Charleston) I enjoyed working with him and listening to his old sea stories. I'll be glad to join, is the application on-line? Well, gotta go.

MNC Randall O. Morris
CINCPACFLT NCEA Manager
Phone No. (808) 474-6431
DSN 474-6435
E-mail Address: morrisro@cpf.navy.mil

USS Patriot MCM-7

By MNC(SW/AW) G W Cecilio

I am not sure what Dashpot is, or what info you may want, but here is a shot at it.

I am MNC(SW/AW) Cecilio, I am one of three MNC's in Japan. I am stationed on USS Patriot MCM-7. MNC Alston and MNC Archie are stationed aboard USS Guardian MCM-5. We are the only two minesweeper forward deployed to Asia. Our job is to protect the Amphib Force "stationed in Sasebo, Japan" from the threat of mines from Korea and China. We utilize several weapons systems to accomplish this task. We have moored sweeping equipment which we can sweep large areas for Acoustic, Magnetic, Pressure, and Moored mine fields. We also have a deep submersible robot the SLQ 48 that we use to hunt the smarter, bottom laid mines. We are equipped with sophisticated sonar and sensors to assist us in this effort. Its an awesome platform for mine sweeping and hunting. The ship has a crew of 81, with such a small crew we are cross trained in several specialties.

My specific specialty consists of NEC 0107 which is the sweep gear, the SLQ 48, Gunner's Mate, and Ship's Bos'n. MNC Alston and MNC Archie split the duties between them aboard Guardian. The two ships normally steam together and are independent operators from the PHIBRON. Our marching orders come from our Squadron in Ingleside, Texas. Which is under direct command of COMINWARCOM, Corpus Christi, Texas. Both ships work together to accomplish the mission, and their is a high level of camaraderie between both crews.

Congratulations

to MN1 J A Oszvart USNR on his selection to LDO Ensign.

NR MOMAU 10 El Paso, TX

By MN1 J.A. Oszvart

Many exciting things have happened in the desert with the Unit since the last newsletter. First, MN2 Paul Chavez and Ruby Padilla were married on 5 February 2000 at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Congratulations are given to Ernesto Ruiz on his advancement to MN1 from the last examination cycle.

Seven members took part in a four-day IDTT in February to Naval Station Ingleside for shipboard orientation and familiarization aboard the MHC's Heron and Falcon. Integration with active duty personnel helped the Unit's members become more cognizant of mine hunting and mine sweeping equipment and ships operation. While in Ingleside several members got the added experience of touring the INCHON while she was in port, and the Mine Warfare Training Center. This is quite a facility offering training for both active duty and reserve members. Our CO, Lt. Filley and XO, MNCS Lopez attended the CO's conference, during the first week of March in Corpus Christi, TX. They brought back a lot of information on where the mine force is going and the opportunities for the future for our members. MN1 Oszvart was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Award and was recently selected for LDO.

Nine Unit members participated in the Mine Readiness Certification Inspection held in Guam from 24 April through 3 May. Lt. Filley will be performing his AT during June aboard the USS Coronado (AGF 11) in contributory support with COMTHIRDFLT as a Surface Watch Officer during RIMPAC 00 exercises.

Advancements

to MN1

Barnes, Edward B ; Bertsch, Paul C; Cole Richard J; Cowart, Stephani ; Elliott, Eric W; Elsbury, Christo; Jack , James D; Jackson, Mary Y; Jamison, Shereda; Jordan, Wilton B; Kopp, Brian E; Kuntz, David C; Lavake, Thomas H; Merzier ,Livings Meyer, Travis E; Moxley, Dennis A ; Penberthy, Mark; Perez, Mario S; Pierce,Steven L; Potter, Sean R; Rambo, Leonard W; Roberts, Brian K; Rodgers, Michael; Rodriguez, Laura Stevenson, Jeffry; Thomas, Bernard; Warren, Douglas

to MN2

Anable, Thomas; Barrett, Michael; Bitar, Nicholas; Borneman, Gerry; Brewer, Aunaray; Cantu, Manuel ii; Carlisle, Cmero; Douglas, Shaun R; Elizondo, Roel H; Garcia, Santiago; Gonzales, Leonel; Gump, Lawrence J; Hamm, Timothy R; Hinton, Antawan; Hoffmeyer, Corri; Holland, Myles P; Jackson, Keon L; Kotschenreuther; Littrell, Bryan; McLane, Matthew; Newberry, Willia; Pasquith, Robbie; Patton, Ryan K; Reed, Troy M; Samilton, Willia; Senseney, Willia; Simmons, Daniel; Stanley, Curtis; Thompson, Christ; Vallez, Dominic; Waters, Leslie N; Williams, Steven

to MN3

Bowen, Thomas F; Campion, William; Cupak, Adam J; Davila, Xavier; Fawcett, Jason M; Garza, Jack D; Greene, Amy M; Greer, Matthew R; Gunn, Aaron T; Hohn, Jerry S; Lillegard, Krist; Martinez, Ramses; McIntosh, Jeffery; Morales, Everett; Oppermann, Willi; Payne, William B; Petree, Sara D; Roach, Gerald Jr; Saunders, Vernon; Silman, Sean W; Simpson, Jarrod; Spindler, John B; Starnes, Byron L; Vallaster, Samuel; Walker, Timothy; Wilhoit, Matthew; Willis, Nadine J

Proposed Amendments for the Bylaws of the Association of Minemen.

Last Amended in August, 1998

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The AOM officially became a tax exempt organization under IRS tax code 501(c)(3); therefore, the Association bylaws are to be amended with an effective date of 13 December 1999. The Board of Directors submits the following proposed bylaw amendments to the members to be voted upon at the Annual General Business Meeting on August 12, 2000.

Article I NAME AND STATUS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Action: Delete the following wording from Section 3:

"The Association is also an exempt organization within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, being granted 501(c)(7) status on 20 November 1981."

Action. Add the following wording at the end of Section 3:

"The Association of Minemen is an exempt organization within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) effective 13 December 1999. The Association of Minemen corporation/organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code)."

Article III BASIC POLICIES

Action. Add the following wording at the end of Section 2:

"No part of the net earnings of the corporation/organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable

to its members, trustees, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation/organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of Section 501(c)(3) purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation/organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation/organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office."

Action. Change Section 3 and 4 to read Section 4 and 5, respectively.

Action. Insert the following wording as the new Section 3.

"Section 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation/organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation/organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code) or (b) by a corporation/organization; contributions of which are deductible under Section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code). Upon dissolution of this corporation/organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, i.e., charitable, educational, scientific (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code), or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. And perform such other duties applicable to the office as

prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association."

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Action. Delete the following wording from Section 4:

"In the event of dissolution of the Association of Minemen organization, the Treasurer shall cause permanent distribution of all organization assets to the USS Yorktown and the USS Lexington Mine Warfare Museums; an exempt organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code."

Action. Insert the following wording in Section 4 where the above wording was deleted:

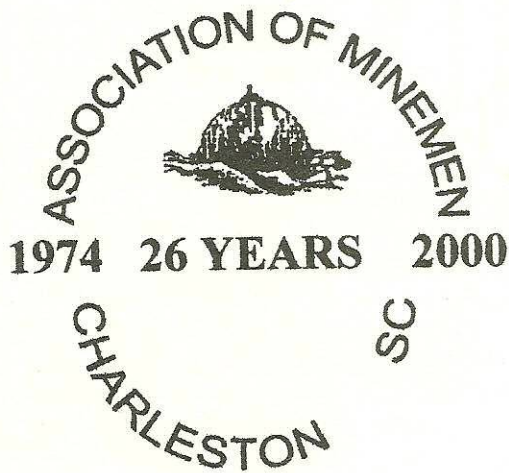
"Upon dissolution of this corporation/organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, i.e., charitable, educational, scientific (or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code), or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose."

Mine Countermeasures Ships Operations

MIW Readiness Group One hunts mines and recruits. On March 16th, MCMs Defender and Sentry joined MHCs Robin, Kingfisher and Black Hawk in joint force operations demonstrating their mine hunting and neutralization capabilities. After the exercises, Sentry and Kingfisher will use the St Lawrence Seaway to transit to some 30 port visits in the Great Lakes recruiting. Meanwhile, Blackhawk will do likewise on the Mississippi making seven port visits as far up as St. Louis.

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NOTICE !!! To maintain membership, dues of \$10.00 must be paid annually by the month of August.
