

# The DASH POT

Issue 33

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

Spring 2001



## From The President

Joe Balderrama

Hello again Shipmates! I hope the land on most warships. Long-term winter has been good to each of Mine Reconnaissance System, a mine-detecting sonar for submarines.

Clare and I have both had some Remote Minehunting System., a minor surgery in the past couple of semisubmerged, remote-controlled months; she for Carpal Tunnel vehicle deployed from surface ships Syndrome and I had my Rotator Cuff and equipped with AQS-20 sonar and repaired. We're both recovering just a laser scanner to detect mines.

fine. Airborne Mine Neutralization System, a helicopter deployed, Gang" Don/Lavon DeCrona and torpedo-like weapon that can destroy Ray/Ann Cobis, have done another a mine after it has been detected. outstanding job of putting things Rapid Airborne Mine Clearance together for this years Reunion. System, a helicopter system that uses Congratulations guys, I'm sure it will a laser to detect surface and near-be the best ever. surface mines and destroy them with

Just as a reminder, don't forget to high-speed, water-penetrating bullets submit your recommendations, for a from a 30 mm gun.

new President, Vice President and Organic Airborne Shallow-water Board Members whose terms expire Influence Sweep, a system towed by this year. small helicopters that fools influence

I need to express my appreciation into exploding by mimicking the sound again to Fred Dane and Hal Elston, and magnetic field of a ship.

for the superb job they have done on Shallow-water Assault Breaching. a the Web Page. Please visit as often rocket-launched line charge system as you can. <http://battle.netgate.net> carried aboard hovercraft to clear a

I make it a point to visit at least once path to a beachhead by detonating a week and enjoy it more with each closely spaced mines.

trip. That's about all for now, enjoy Distributive Explosive Technology, a your summer and make your plans rocket-launched array of detonating for the Reunion in Reno. See you cord used in tandem with SABRE there! aboard hovercraft to explode closely spaced mines in the surf zone.

New mine countermeasures systems under development by the Navy:

Tampa Tribune 1/18/01

AQS-20, a high-speed sonar system towed by small helicopters that can

## 27th Annual Reunion Reno

AUG 10-12 2001

By Ann Cobis and Don DeCrona

It will be just a few more months until the reunion will be held at Reno, and we hope you are planning to attend. The Sands Regency Casino Hotel will host all of our events, except for the picnic on Sunday. That will be held at the Rancho San Rafael Park, and we will have the same large facility that we had for our last two reunions.

The Sands has blocked double occupancy rooms starting on Wednesday, August 8 thru Wednesday, August 15, check out date. Rooms for Friday and Saturday are \$60 plus room tax, and all other days for \$48 plus room tax. Extra person charge is \$10 per person, plus room tax. The reservation desk is open from 7:00 AM until midnight PST. Toll free: 1-800-648-3553. Local: 1-775-348-2264. Group Rate Code: ASS810. Cut off date for reservations is July 10, 2001.

The arrangements at the Sands are for the Early Bird to be held on Friday night from 6:30 to 10:00 PM in the Regency EF Room. The Hospitality Room will be the Regency EF Room on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Board of Directors meeting on Saturday TBA. The General Business Meeting will be in the Dynasty D Room on Saturday from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. The

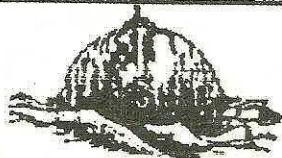
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Integrated Combat Weapons System, upgrades to sonar, weapons and other equipment aboard existing Avenger-class mine countermeasures vessels that potentially could reduce crew size. Improved AQS-14, upgrades and adds electro-optical capability to a sonar mine detection system towed by large helicopters.





# ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina... to perpetuate a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense.

## PRESIDENT

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

1417 Sadler Dr  
PMB 236

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

(912) 673-1220

gunnerjb@hotmail.com

## VICE PRESIDENT

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

1929 Pilgrim Ave  
Bronx, NY 10461

(718) 792-2298

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Curtis T. Christian (00-01)**

303 Cypress Shores Rd  
Eutawville SC 29048

(803) 492-4245

curtischristian@hotmail.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

820 North Tamarind Circle  
Barefoot Bay, FL 32976

561-664-7540

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

5009 Graford Pl

Corpus Christi, TX 78413

**LCDR Coral MacIntosh (99-02)**

5196 Iroquois Ave

Eva Beach HI 96706

808-499-1188

**Jim McGoldrick (99-02)**

1761 Weeping Willow

Rockport TX 78382

**Bill Roberts (00-03)**

687 Aleida Dr

St Augustine FL 32086-7702

904-797-4696

**Dick Schommer (00-03)**

827 N Aylesbury Dr

Goose Creek SC 29445-5707

843-797-3715

## PARLIAMENTARIAN (00-01)

**Donald A. DeCrona**

2556 Rampart Terrace

Reno, NV 89509-8361

(775)826-3081

## Past President

**Warren Savage (98-01)**

10331 Settle Rd

Santee CA 92071

(619) 258-1478

## Chaplain

**Henry Williams (00-01)**

1428 Edenfield CT

Lithonia GA 30058

Email: Willappr@aol.com

**Historian (00-01)**

**Lyal Stryker**

MNCDRLyal@aol.com

**Yorktown Museum (00-01)**

**Toby Horn**

tobyone@ix.netcom.com

**Lexington Museum (00-01)**

**Ron Swart**

swart@interconnect.net

**Scholarship (00-01)**

**Paul Santa Maria**

Address above

## Newsletter Editor (00-01)

**John Loonam**

10033 Indian Rd

Gloucester, VA 23061-2830

(804)693-2094 Phone/fax

(9AM-11PM) Eastern Time

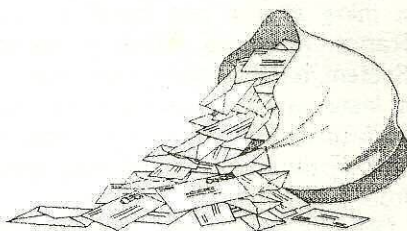
email <jloonam@ccsinc.com>

## AOM Homepage

battle.netgate.net

Webmaster Fred Dane battle@netgate.net

## Secretary's Mailbag



## Accumulated Letters to the Secretary

### From the desk of Fred Manzie

Would like to pay my dues for the next two years. I appreciate all you do in the highest esteem.

Thanks again for your good work and may success of the Dashpot continue for many years. Sincerely,  
**Fred**

### A note from Francis E Butler

Great work the Administrative Staff are doing for all of us.

I was a civilian engineer in Mine R & D at NOL and Navord. Our fight for R & D funds and the close

(Continued on page 3)

## Secretary/Treasurer

Curtis Christian



## From The Desk of the Secretary

I guess that John Loonam is getting older. The saying goes "as you get older time goes faster". Seems that as soon as we get one Dashpot out, John is prodding us to get ready for the next. It must be him getting older as I stopped aging 15---well maybe 20 years ago.

We have been easy on our President this quarter. Have not given him one problem to handle. Think we can get him to do the job again sometime?

We are into the last quarter of this fiscal year and all members who have not paid dues for 2001 will be dropped.

See the drop list of the members. Sure hate to lose members, we need the support.

Got an e-mail from **Phil DeChene** this week. It seems as though a member from our "A" class in 1957 got in touch with him. Some have said that they can not make it to Reno this year but hope to have them in Yorktown next year. That will be five (5) MINEMEN from our "A" class that are still around. **Bo Bellamy, Phil DeChene, R Stancik, Hollaman**, and myself.

Would like go give a big THANKS to Unit 11 for storing our "stuff". They have saved us a lot of money.

**Stephanie** our Store-Keeper will have a lot of new and better "T-shirts" this year. I'm sure you will be hearing from her later in this issue. See Ya.

**Join the AOM today  
You're membership  
stregnthens our  
mission!**



(Continued from page 2)

support and friends I made with the Fleet made us all feel like family. Best wishes, Frank B

Hello Shopmate **Curtis**;

This week is my anniversary- 6 May 58 years ago I was surrendered by the Army on Corregidor, after my ship, USS Tanager (AM-5) was sunk in Manila Bay. 62 years ago today, I joined the Navy in Houston, TX.

I am enjoying the Dashpot. However, there are very few names that I still know as the old timers die off.

Under Taps listing: **Don DeForest** was listed as a CDR ? If I remember correctly, he retired as a "Tombstone Capt." I was stationed on Indian Island Annex (IIA), Bangor 1958-1960 as Mine Division Officer. Capt. **Don DeForest**, USN Ret. visited IIA to dig clams, where we met again.

I first met shipmate **DeForest** in Pearl Harbor in late 1940 - early 1941 when I attended Mine School there. He was a pin stripe Gunner under Lt. ??? **"Foxy" Fisher** was the Senior Gunners Mate Chief and number 3 on the school staff. I was on the Tanager, a flashing dashing SN 1st Class, (made GM3 1 May 1941) while working under 1st Class Gunnersmate **Bartlett**.

A few days later Tanager, Lark, Quail and Whipperwill departed for the PI to mine Subic and Manila Bay in the summer - fall of 1941. (3-4 months before Pearl Harbor)

I graduated in the top 5-10% in my class and was offered a transfer to the new mine school that was soon to open in Yorktown, VA.

I declined, as a hometown buddy had followed me into the Navy, requested my ship, Ogalala, got it, but in the meantime I was transferred to Tanagher, he requested Tanagher and got it also. I didn't want to separate from him after all the effort he had gone to serve with me.

Best wishes to all Minemen....."Gunner" **A.E.**

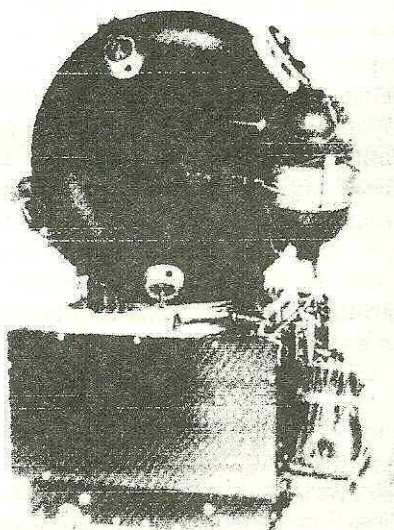
**Caruthers, Shepherd, TX**

**Mr. Robert D Stickney**

All is well with us and we had a wonderful Christmas and quiet New Years. 2000 went by so fast as it was a busy one. **Bob** was installed as President of the California State Seniors Bowling Association in March. In August, he was installed into the Southern California Bowling Hall of Fame by the Southern California Bowling Writers Association. He was surprised, pleased and honored.

Thank you all for the Dashpot. we enjoy reading it and appreciate all the hard work and time that goes into it. Enclosed is dues for 2001 and hope to see you in Reno.

Fondly, **Bob & Frances**.



**Lawrence Ronan, Virginia Beach, VA**

AOM; Please renew my membership in AOM for two years. My check is enclosed. Also, please correct my mailing address.

I enjoy your publication and recognize a name or two now and then. I am a former MNC but spent almost all of my enlisted career in EOD.

Thanks, **Lawrence E Ronan, CDR USN Ret**

Hello AOM;

Just a note to hide my check in this see through envelope. But, might as well chat a little anyway!

My most recent contact with the Mine Force was about a year ago (not too sure about that) when I went down to Earl for **"Nick" Nicholson's** and **Ray Molkenthin's** retirement. I hadn't even been to a Navy base since I retired. I guess everyone was surprised to see how much I had changed and I was pleasantly surprised to see all those MN 1s. I was also pleasantly surprised to hear from CO MOMAU 3 how the Reserves had pulled his Unit through the last MRCI. Twenty years ago I would have bet everything I had that I would never hear that.

As for myself, I'm in the job market again. My bank is going through a merger and I don't have a job after October 16th. Since the drive to the new office is 35 miles farther, through traffic, I'm happy that they didn't offer me a job. The only employer I can think of that is merger proof is the government, so I am looking for some form of government accounting/auditing job but I'm also looking for civilian jobs too.

I hope you enjoy the reunion

As ever, Rick ? (no last name on the letter)

**James R Hawks, Sutherland, VA**

Just received the Summer 2000 Dashpot and notes annual dues are due in August. Thought I'd better get mine in now before I develop CRS and forget to send them in.

It appears all is in place for a great reunion in Charleston. Sure wish **Betty** and I could make it. I'd much rather be with you folks instead of sitting around with a collar around my neck.

I look forward to the next edition of the Dashpot to see how many of the "old timers" (my era) were able to make it.

Sincerely, **Jim Hawks**



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Dinner in the Regency CD Room with no host bar service starting at 6:00 PM, and dinner starting at 7:00 PM.

The picnic on Sunday at the Rancho San Rafael Park will be at the Peavine Picnic Area (covered pavilion) opening at 10:00 AM, eating starts at about 11:30 AM. Directions and addresses will be provided in the next issue of the Dashpot.

In the words of the new President and CEO of the Sand's Hotel..."The old Sands is not what it used to be." There have been a number of changes to the Hotel and all of them for the better! They opened a new restaurant called "Original Mels Diner" It's a 1950 theme restaurant.....Just like the one you saw in the movie American Graffiti.....It's Hamburgers, Fries, and all the meals you usually find in a Coffee Shop. They closed the Coffee Shop on the second floor, and it will probably be reopened by the time the reunion is here.

They have totally renovated one of the towers and are working on the other two. They opened a Health Club and Spa on the 17th Floor with panoramic views of the Sierra's and downtown Reno.

They now have a Comedy Club which promises exciting and fun shows five nights a week..... Wednesday thru Sunday one show at 8:30 and two shows on Friday and Saturday at 8:30 and 10:30. The shows are \$9.95 or \$12.95 on Saturday. They also feature Dinner/ Show package that features dinner at Tony Roma's and a Show for \$19.95 and \$21.99 on Saturdays.

When summer gets here they feature a Pool Party Saturday Nights with food and drink specials.....and a Sunday Jazz Cafe at the pool with many specials and entertainment. There has been many other changes in Downtown Reno..... which we feel will make your stay and the Reunion more enjoyable.

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!!!!

## DST 115

**T**he article on DST-36 in this issue prompted interest about DST-115. Too late to research the project before press time, **Don DeCrona** decided to hold off for inputs for the summer issue. So far he has heard from **Jack Shreve, George Russell, Joe Hernandez, Ron Swart, Earl Roberts, Ray Ethridge, Moose Wheelock, and John Loonam** on the subject. If you have any information on this mine, please send it in to the AOM (addresses on page 2) or direct to **Don DeCrona** at <DeCronadl@aol.com>

While we're on the subject, does anyone know of any service mines planted in southeast Asia prior to the mining of Haiphong? **George Russell** was at Subic in 1967 and says only MK 50's, MK 52's and DST 115 were used commencing with the mining of Haiphong during his watch

## Mine Familiarizer

**Y**ears ago Dashpot printed various parts of Navsea's Mine Familiarizer. Well today you can see the whole thing in color at the COMOMAG website. Just check out [www.comomag.navy.mil](http://www.comomag.navy.mil) and you will have the familiarizer as well as all of COMOMAG's Sites, CO's photos, mission statement, the exercise and training program, refurbishment (check out the latest case refurbishment equipment), organization, chain of command, future planning and just about everything you could want to know about the mine game. It takes awhile to load but it is the most comprehensive accumulation of Mine information available to the public.

# Committee Reports

## Scholarship Scoop

Paul Santa Maria

by G Paul Santa Maria

**N**ow that the holiday season is past, where does our inspirations take us? For many of us, its high school graduation for our children, grandchildren and for some great grandchildren. coupled with graduation our hopes are that they will continue their education. Financing continued education in most cases need outside help, ie: scholarships. For quite a few years now, the AOM has awarded scholarships each year and it appears that it will continue for some time. So you shipmates, get those applications in. There are deadlines that we try to adhere to. Candidates must complete application forms S1 and S2; also provide current transcript of credit earned from applicable schools, Two letters of recommendation, provide a study plan covering the scholarship term which provides a synopsis of the field of interest / study, and other information that might enhance chances of receiving the award. These forms (S1 - S2) may be obtained from the AOM Secretary at PO Box 71835 Charleston, SC 29415; Also from our website <[battle.netgate.net](http://battle.netgate.net)>.

The monies for these scholarships comes from several sources: one of which is the reunion auction which varies from year to year. I notice that when there are many attractive items, the auction is not only highly successful but also a lot more fun had by all. I hope that all of us, whether or not we plan to attend the reunion, will bring or send an item or two. The Association is very grateful for your support in the past and we are confident will continue in the future. Thank you!! see you all in Reno.



## FULL FORCE NEWS



1 July 1975 - 1 July 2000

Mobile Mine Assembly Group



ANYTIME - ANYWHERE

## MOMAG and Mine Force Update

by CDR Ron Swart

**S**pring has arrived along with the Spring-breakers to South Texas. It has been a busy winter for us all and it appears that it won't stop for the foreseeable future. It has been a long haul but it appears that we are nearing the "truth" with regards to our bottom line funding requirements. These last 8 years of "zero-sum" budgets have finally forced us to the point where we have had to totally revamp our budgetary approach. Now we have a base line budget figure that will help us prioritize our spending and when necessary, we just might have to say no to some requests for our services. No one has any money to spare and we can no longer squeeze it out of our funding allocation. On a brighter note, we have received strong fleet support for modernizing our mine inventory and for a computerized tactical decision and planning tool for the fleet to use. I cannot recall a tougher time for maritime mining in the USN. We are working hard to get a place at the

funding trough for fiscal year 2003 and beyond. Wish us luck!

\* Congratulations to MNCM **Tom Meglen**, our newest Mineman Master Chief. MNCM Meglen is currently serving on the staff of MCMDIV 31 in Bahrain.

\* Fair Winds to CWO4 **Bob and Connie Reed**. I had the pleasure of speaking at his retirement ceremony this past February in Charleston and it was a well-organized and appropriate ceremony, attended by many familiar Minemen faces. **Bob and Connie** have retired to their home in Oil City, PA.

\* MOMAU 14 Yorktown has accelerated their time line for closure and will be ready to close its doors early this summer. LT **Ken Dalton** departs later this spring for instructor duty at Wallups Island, MD. CWO3 **Radford**, his XO will relieve him in command until the Unit closes. We'll send an announcement message when we get a final closure date.

\* LCDR **John Iwaniec**, CO, MOMAU 10 in Kadena, (Okinawa), Japan has announced his retirement which will take place on June 22, 2001 in Kadena. **John** will be relieved by is current XO, LT Theresa Wright who will fleet up. CWO4 **Gary Riggins** will roll in behind as the new XO later this summer.

\* The COMOMAG staff wishes LT **Vince Ortiz** farewell after a most excellent tour as the Administrative Officer. **Vince** reports to USS Kitty Hawk homeported in Yokosuka, Japan in April.

\* Good luck to our prospective Commanders: LCDR **Ed Simmons** (CO, MOMAU 1), LCDR **Tim Paton** (Crane) and LCDR **Matt Wiesnewski** (CO, MOMAU 8). The board is now in session... we need them all to promote!!!

\* Congratulations to MNC **Jim East**, the next Mineman Detailer. He had some tough competition: MNC **Hickman**, MNC **Rogers** and MNC **Williams**, all of whom would have made excellent choices in their own right. Well done!

\* Congratulations to YN1 **Eric Ellis**,

MOMAG Sailor of the Year. YN1 **Ellis** serves on the COMOMAG staff and has done an exemplary job for us all. I've served with some fine Sailors, but none better than YN1 **Ellis**. Bravo Zulu!

\* We didn't have a Mineman selected for commission this year, but the competition is tough. We have some superstar Sailors and we urge them to keep trying.

That is all for this issue... my thanks go to all those who work so hard and do so much for their country. Well done!

## GREETINGS FROM MOMAU THREE

Submitted by MNC Brieno

**G**reetings from the men and women of MOMAU Three. It has been pretty busy around here since our last submission. A lot of hard work went into preparing for our MRCI. I am happy to report we successfully completed the inspection and received our certification. The MRCI team was most impressed with how well our three reserve units were incorporated into the unit and the professionalism demonstrated by all. We are now preparing for the NWS Earle /MOMAU Three Explosive Safety Inspection and our Quality Review.

Congratulations to MN3 **Pasilan** and MN1 **Eckelbecker** who were our Junior and Senior Sailors for 4th Quarter 2000, and again to MN1 **Eckelbecker** for his selection as MOMAU Three's Sailor of the Year. In a recent awards ceremony the following personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

MNC **Keith D. Brieno** (3rd)

MN1 **Gregory Eckelbecker** (6th)

MN2 **Cary W. Kazamaier**

MN2 **Herbig**

We recently said farewell to MNSN

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**Deshawn Taylor** who was transferred to the Medical Holding Unit in Bethesda, MD, welcome aboard to **MN1 April Morehouse** from MOMAU 15 in Kingsville, TX and we are looking forward to the arrival of **MN1 Santos** in April.

MOMAU Three participated in the "12 Days of Fleet Fitness", specifically recognized were **MN1 Eckelbecker**, **MNSA Rivera** and **MNSA Wheat** for placing in the 5K run. We continue to pursue an aggressive Physical Fitness program, often challenging NWS Earle departments and other tenants for base bragging rights.

As you may already know, MOMAU Three is currently scheduled to decommission within the next few years, until then, we continue to pursue all aspects of our operational mission.

## Salve from Sigonella!

By MN1CM(SW) Mark Zinnel

**S**pring seems to be early this year at Sigonella, a little rain, temps in the upper 70's, green plants everywhere, bugs and bees sticking to my windshield, AHHHH LIFE IN PARADISE!

We have a brand new 60 hertz generator, a brand new heating system for the Admin building and new air conditioners promised before summer, new lights in Warehouse One with the other three scheduled, new pavement throughout the compound and lovely striping and signs to keep everyone on their half of the road. Must be a big budget year for NATO, we seem to be getting everything we ask for.

Our breather is over, we are building exercise mines for three exercises, **ALCUDRA**, **Arabian Gauntlet** (our first VEMS exercise) and **Damsel Fair**, all happening at the same time. With so many "A" Schoolers reporting we spend a great deal of time beefing up their knowledge of service and exercise

mines. Fortunately they are smart, willing to get dirty and ready to learn from the old folks around here. Our **MRCI** has been moved from May to November because after six years of waiting, the magazines are going to be repaired! It means juggling the explosives stored here but the work is really needed.

**MN1 Julie Porter** was selected as our Sailor of the Year and **MN3 Daniel Gonzalez** was our Junior Sailor of the Year for 2000. Both have worked really hard for the command not only in their primary duties but go the extra mile to help Shipmates in their collateral and volunteer duties as well.

Our only transfer this time is **MN1 (SW) John Wolfe** who will be reporting to COMCMDIV Three One in Manama Bahrain. **MN2 Jason Calton** is here from MOMAU Eleven, **YN3 Tasha McNeely** from the Diving and Salvage School at Panama City FL, and the following have joined us from "A" School: **MNSN Kevin Dielman**, **MNSN John Shewbuirt**, **MNSN Lindsey Wohlgemuth**, **MNSA Robert Moses**, **MNSA Jonathon Reece**, **MNSR Richard Crane**, **MNSR Jeramie Lane** and **MNSR Timothy Wilson**. We now muster 53 Sailors!

That's all from the tip of the Mediterranean Spear ...Arrivederci!

## MOMAU EIGHT

By MNC J.P. Cantrell

**H**aifa-Adai Shipmates from Guam,

The dry season is upon us and thank God we went another season with Zero Typhoons. Everyone is working hard to bring back the famous Mk 56 mine to its regular maintenance cycle which will be completed at the end of this quarter. WOW! Is MOMAU Eight growing. We are now mustering 41 enlisted personnel, and the BA manning is expected to be 50 personnel. For all you old salts out there we are mustering almost as many

personnel as we did in the 70's and 80's. The command also has been doing a lot of community service at the "War in The Pacific" Museum, a U. S. National Park and other park sites around the Island. We have refurbished numerous mines, torpedoes and other displays that were associated with the liberation of Guam during W.W.II. We are now in the process of refurbishing two different types of Japanese mounted guns. This has saved the U.S. National Park Service over \$10,000. The savings will be used to acquire additional exhibits.

Now on to our Bravo Zulu's. The following outstanding Sailors were recognized for their accomplishments during the period: **Lt. Ed Berrios** Navy Commendation Medal, **SSOY-MN1 Bill Nelson**, **JSOY-MNSN Kelly Freeman**, **SSOQ-MN1 Brashier**, **JSOQ-MNSN Mathew Greene**. **MN1 Brashier** was also was selected as **COMNAVMAIANAS SSOQ**. This award is highly competitive with all the commands on Island and are voted on by the CMC/ SEA man what a fight but we won. It is hosted by the Navy League and is one of the most prestigious awards you as an enlisted can be recognized during your tour here. In addition to an awards luncheon, Petty Office **Brashier** received a \$100.00 U.S. Savings Bond and numerous dinners and cruises from the different merchants around the Island who support the Navy League and their cause in recognizing the best of the best on Guam. In addition **MN2 Wilhoit**, **MN3 Travis Miller**, **MN3 Chad Harris**, **MN3 Philip Phillips**, **MN3 Gregory Warren**, and **MN3 John Long** were all advanced to their present rate.

We would also like to say BRAVO ZULU to all of our shipmates around the Units, Dets and ships for their accomplishments and well deserving recognition during this period. CONGRATULATIONS!!



(Continued from page 6)

We welcome the arrival of **MNC Leeann (Loveland) Baker** (no kin to **MNC (ret) Joe Baker**) and her family from Unit 14 Yorktown Va., **MN1 Jerry Weller** and his family from Unit 3. **IT2 Corey Singletary** Honolulu HI. who is knee deep up grading and trouble shooting all our computers for us. **MN3 Patrick Cook** and his family from **MCMROT Crew G**, Ingleside, **MN2 Matthew Wilhoit** from **MCMROT Crew F**, Ingleside, **MNSR Kyle Halle**, **MNSN Cody Byers**, **MNSN Misty Springs Rains**, **MNSN Jaretta Bell**, **MNSN Jesus Jimenez**, **MNSN Chad Hill**, **MNSN Chad Trammell**, **MNSN Danny Crabtree**, **MNSN Rex Taylor**, **MNSN Richard Dierks** and **MNSR Moses Hughes** all coming from **MWTC Ingleside Texas**.

Unfortunately for us, but fortunate for the gaining command we had to say good bye to **Lt. Ed Berrios** our **XO** who transferred to **USS CARL VINSON**.

That's about it for this quarter here at Unit Eight. We'll cast off now and look forward to seeing any of you out here for duty or come and visit us on the beautiful tropical island of Guam. Till next time, may God Bless all of you and your families.

\*P.S. From **LCDR Wisniewski (MOMAU-8 CO)** - Chief Cantrell is just too modest. In the "BZ" Section above, he forgot to mention that he (**MNC Jack Cantrell**) was selected as **COMINEWARCOM's** Senior Enlisted Leadership Award Winner for Calendar-Year 2000. Super job Chief! That is recognition long overdue!

## MOMAU ELEVEN

By **MNCM AL Fross**

**H**appy new millennium from the crew of Unit Eleven. A few things have happened so far this year. First and foremost the inspection team visited us from **COMOMAG** for our **MRCI**. **LT Washington** and team gave us a

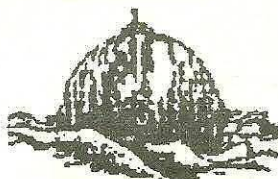
good look and when it was all done we were certified for another two years. A couple of our areas were noted as outstanding. **BZ's** were given to **MN1(SW) Drum** for his training program and **MN1 (SW) Crocker** for the commands impound areas. Next we were visited by **CSS** who conducted a **MK 75 FIAT**. **MNC Kiper** and crew also conducted some great training for our **VEMS** technicians. And last but not least we said goodbye to **CWO4 Robert Reed**. He had a great retirement ceremony honoring his 30 plus years. **CDR Ron Swart** was the guest speaker and in addition to presenting a Meritorious Service Medal he also presented Gunner with an impressive gift to go along with the Gunner's picture of **JOHN WAYNE**. All I can say is you had to be there to appreciate the gift. **Connie** and the Gunner are now living in Oil City Pennsylvania and will be missed by all. Now for the rest of the news.

Departures: **MN1 (SW) Pollitt** and family departed for Florida where Petty Officer **Pollitt** will be attending **EOD School**. **MN2 Calton** transferred to **MOMAU Five** and **MN2 Kearney** and family departed the Navy and returned to **CIVLANT** in Kansas. All will be missed.

Arrivals: **MN1 Boden** and family reported to us from the **USS Shrike**; **YN2 Jackson** and son from **NAS Sigonella**; and the families of **MN2 Gibbs**, **MNSA Rives** and **MNSA Diamond** came to us via the schoolhouse.

Awards: **NAM's** awarded to our Sailor's of the Year **MN1 Drum** and **MNSN Campbell**. **LOC's** to **MN1 Drum** and **MN3 Dove** as our Sailor's of the Quarter.

See ya in the summer.



## MOMAD TWELVE

By **MN3 Jason White**

**K**onnichi-wa again from **Misawa, Japan**, the "Land of the Rising Sun", or as it has been referred as lately, "The Land of the Sideways Blowing Snow." **MOMAD 12** is covered with a 2 foot deep blanket of snow, and there has not been a temperature reading above 35 degrees for about 3 months. However, the crew is optimistic and looking forward to a **Misawa** springtime season which is unmatched anywhere in the world for its beauty. For those that caught the new acronym **MOMAD 12**, our name was officially changed in December to **Mobile Mine Assembly Detachment 12, Misawa**.

The fine crew at **MOMAD 12** has braved the elements and completed a heavy workload schedule the past few months which included numerous upgrade evolutions and an extensive demil operation.

We recently held our quarterly award ceremony, where **SK1 Archie Jusayan** and **MNSN Christopher Garner** were awarded Senior and Junior Sailor of the Year for **CY 2000**. Both outstanding Sailors were recently honored at the **Misawa Air Base Sailor of the Year banquet**. **MNSN Garner** was also featured in the **Misawa Base newspaper** for being selected as **Misawa Air Base "Warrior of the Week"**. **MN3 James Graham** was awarded **4Q00 Sailor of the Quarter**.

We welcomed aboard 2 new Sailors recently, **MNSR Robert Marx**, and **MNSA Kyle Mann**, both from **MWTC**, while we said farewell to **MN3 Amy Lisinski**, who left in February to join the crew of **VFA-87**, homeported in **Oceana, Va**. Her husband will join her there in May. Also, **MN3 Jason White** and family will depart in early May and report to **NRD Los Angeles, Ca**. Both **MN3 Lisinski** and **MN3 White** have been with us since 1998.



## Development of Destructor Mk 36

By Don DeCrona

What initiated and what was the time frame for the development of the Destructor Mk 36? This might be a moot question, except for the fact that in early 1966, LCDR **Ben Randle**, Mines Officer for COMSERVPAC, visited West Loch and while working with personnel from MOMAT 0302, he discussed the concept to convert bombs into mines. LT **Blas (Joe) Hernandez**, USN, Ret, has mentioned this conversation in his writings on mining of Vietnam. Ben's conversation led Joe to believe that the need for the destructor was predicated upon a Vietnam mining operation that took place prior to Ben's visit to West Loch, where mines failed to arm in shallow water. No prior mining records can be located to confirm earlier mining operations in VN, however, if anyone knows of mining of VN waters prior to early 1966, please let us know.

In the Fall 2000 issue of The Dashpot, LT **George Russell, Jr.** USN, Ret, and **Jack Shreve**, retired NAVSEA civilian Deputy PMS-407, both featured articles on mining and destructor operations in Vietnam. George's article noted the mining of VN during February- March 1967, were the first mines planted in enemy waters since WWII. Jack's article describes the first use of the Destructor Mk 36 in VN on June 20, 1967. For the development of the destructor, he credits **Bud Rowzee** at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory and **Rudy Schuetzler** at BUWEPS. The first weapons went into the water at Vinh only 10 months after the initiation of development was approved by CNO.

In order to determine more on the correlation between the first mining and first destructor use in VN, LCDR **Don DeCrona**, USN, Ret,

wrote Jack requesting more background on the development of the destructor. Approximately, three weeks later George wrote Jack a similar request. The following is a segment of Jack's reply to George and Don.

"Sometime in late 1965/early 1966, I was part of the mine office in BUWEPS, but we were physically located at NOL, White Oak, MD. We received a request from CINCPACFLT to develop an air laid mine that could be used on the inland waterways of Vietnam to target small craft, some of which were not even powered. Somewhere along the line it was suggested that a further use of such a mine would be against bridges and dams. One concept from PAC was a floating mine that could be planted upstream from bridges and dams and drift downstream until it struck something and exploded. Something the size of a basketball was envisioned.

We put together a team to propose ideas, estimate feasibility, prepare development plans, etc. Of course, PACFLT wanted it ASAP, which limited the complexity and development time. The floating concept was quickly discarded due to the inability to control where the mine would go off as it made its way down curving, shallow streams and rivers with sandbars. A sidelight: we couldn't find any maps of Vietnam or other information to show how deep the rivers were. So we contacted the Defense Intelligence Agency for help. They said sure we have all the info that you need. A visit to them, after all sorts of clearance and need-to-know red tape, revealed that all they had were some old Shell Oil Company road maps of Vietnam, which were useless for our purposes. The scary thing is, these were the best maps of VN in the intelligence community.

I don't remember the other concepts but **Charles (Bud) Rowzee** of NOL had been working on a thin film magnetometer sensing

device (something that was really high technology at the time) with the idea of fitting it into a standard bomb case (of which there was an unlimited supply in the Navy and Air Force). It had the further virtue of being compatible with every bomb-carrying aircraft and had the same aerial ballistic characteristics.

Dr. **Gene Beach** from NOL, CDR **Bob Gideon** (OPNAV minewarfare boss) and I took our various ideas to PACFLT, who concurred that the bomb/mine was the way to go.

From then on, it was full speed ahead at NOL, with NMEF assisting with the logistics aspects of the project. The official "go ahead" for the development was received from OPNAV in September 1966 and the first weapons were in the water in June 1967."

**Rudy Schuetzler** provided the additional comment.

"After the initial DST deployment, a project office was setup at BUWEPS to handle ongoing development and, mainly, production of the DST Mk 75 Kit. I was in that project office along with CDR **Earl Roberts** and others. Captain **Don Hihn** was head of the Mine Warfare Division at that time. The project office itself received very little information on DST deployments much less the use of other Mk's and Mods. I don't recall the exact number of Kits that were produced but the production was, by far, the largest mine procurement ever and it is not likely to be topped ever again!!

Of interest perhaps is that the Air Force received many of the Kits and their use and deployment is another ball-game!!"

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



Coastal Courier 1/12/01

The new U.S. Navy Battery Recycling Facility at the U.S. Army Depot in Hawthorne NV is up and running. The original study was reported in an earlier Dashpot. The project is now up and running full steam. The Navy has 150 tons of used mercury and silver batteries from mines to dispose of. Coastal Systems Station and others participated in the project. Battery disposal costs of \$3.6 million are avoided and recovery of \$1.8 million in precious metals each year is realized. The recovered metals are used in manufacturing new batteries. A recent procurement contract awarded for new batteries includes the use of 189,000 troy ounces of silver reclaimed by the facility. Using this reclaimed silver saved the Navy and ultimately taxpayers \$800,000.

Coastal Courier 1/26/01

Mine sensors save manatees. Florida's giant manatees are curiously gentle sea creatures - whiskered - slow moving and blubbery, distant sea relatives of elephants, with spatula-shaped tails, fingernail-tipped flippers and thick gray skin. The population is dwindling with a total of just over 2000. Deaths from disease, pollution, pleasure boat collisions and boat propeller wounds. A surprising number of deaths are caused because manatees have no fear of Florida's underwater canal gates and locks. Each year a significant number of manatees die after being crushed in the canal locks. The Navy is coming to their rescue. A system of acoustic sensors - originally developed by ONR for underwater mine detection - was fitted onto the gates and locks at Port Canaveral. Designed to stay open if a manatee is near them, the Port Canaveral gates now operate like garage doors, sensing in a tenth of a second if a manatee is nearby. The gates will not close until the creature passes by. During the first

five weeks of operation, the sensors detected seven manatees and saved them. Not a single manatee death caused by gate closings has been reported since the sonar devices were installed in March 2000. The goal is to outfit all of Florida's gates and locks fitted with these simple sensors says the project engineer affiliated with Florida's Manatee Protection System.

Coastal Courier 2/23/01

**Doug Clark**, retired civilian Technical Director, NMWEA and Mine Warfare Life Cycle Management Head at Panama City was inducted into Coastal Systems Station's Hall of Fame. Mr. Clark was recognized for his outstanding 35 years in the mine game. "He combined his engineering knowledge of the hardware and an appreciation for the Sailors' requirements with the logisticians passion for organization and planning to institute a 'systems engineering approach' to life cycle management."

The Foc'sle 12/22/00

**John Morgan** son of MN2 **Robert Morgan** was pictured welcoming the USS Osprey home from a three month deployment. MN2 **Lance Douglas**, USS Falcon was pictured with his son **Zachary** upon his return to port after their deployment which included a visit to the port of Alexandria, VA just a few miles from the U.S. Capital.

Foc'sle 1/19/01

MN1(SW) **Michael Gonzales**, USS Warrior, organized and maintained the watch teams throughout a four day visit of The Vietnam Moving Wall in Rockport TX. USS Warrior spearheaded the task of setting up the 5/8-scale replica of the original wall located in Washington DC. From the moment the set-up was complete, crewmembers performed round the clock security, computer data base operators, hosts, guides and clean up crew for the more than

200,000 visitors that attended the display. Speaking about the names on the wall, **Gonzales**, a Vietnam era veteran, said "I don't want to forget them, and I am doing my best to not let others forget them." MN2 (SW) **Gerry Borneman** received his Enlisted Surface Warfare pin. MN2 (SW) **Myles Holland** Search and Rescue Swimmer on USS Warrior participated in the ships boarding party rescue of a sinking fishing trawler in the Gulf.

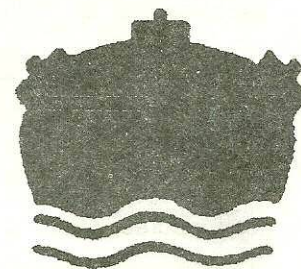
Foc'sle 2/2/01

MN3 **Travis Wright**, USS Gladiator was pictured as a part of the ship's NEY award winning food service team. Gladiator placed first in the NEY award - a first for a mine countermeasures ship. MN2 **Robewrt Mounsey**, USS Defender, was pictured and quoted in the Mindsweep roving reporter's column on best advice received since joining the Navy. "Always do your job and earn your qualifications, you never know what the future will bring."

Foc'sle 2/16/01 Congratulations were offered to MN1(SW) **Jody N Wilbanks**, USS Dextrous, for being selected as Commander Mine warfare Command Sea sailor of the Year.

Foc'sle 2/2/01

LCDR **Frank Linkous** relieved CDR **Donald Hornbeck** as Commanding Officer USS Sentry at the Naval Station Ingleside on March 2nd. MN3 **Timothy Astin** and MN3 **Ricardo Munoz**, USS Ardent, were pictured among shipmates reenlisting to earn the ship its first Gold Anchor pennant. The Gold Anchor is awarded for retention excellence. Ardent is permanently deployed to the Arabian Gulf.





INGLESIDE, Texas — The four ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group 3 (MIWRG-3) departed Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, Thursday, 15 Feb., for a six-month deployment that will take them through the Panama Canal to the Pacific Ocean and U.S. West Coast.

The mine countermeasures ships USS Avenger (MCM 1), USS Chief (MCM 14), USS Devastator (MCM 6), and USS Scout (MCM 8) will participate in a number of naval exercises during the deployment including Exercise Kernel Blitz 01, a joint exercise conducted March 19 – April 8 off the coast of Southern California. Capt. Richard Rush, Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two, based in Ingleside, will spearhead mine warfare efforts during the exercise.

In addition to participating in a number of training exercises, the nearly 320 Sailors aboard the four MCM's will enjoy port visits along the U.S. West Coast, and Canada. The ships are scheduled to participate in the Portland, Ore., Rose Festival in June, and make several port visits, including stops in San Diego and San Francisco, Calif., and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. On the return trip, the ships plan to make stops in Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, and Grand Cayman, British Virgin Islands, before returning to their Ingleside, Texas, homeport Aug. 8.

These ports will be interesting," explained Damage Controlman Third Class William Botterbush, a three-year Navy veteran from St. Louis. Botterbush, who works in CHIEF's engineering department, said that leaving his family and friends in Ingleside will be tough, "But they know I'll be back."

The four Avenger-class ships are designed as a mine hunter-killer capable of finding, classifying and destroying moored and bottom mines. The 224-foot, 1,300-ton mine countermeasures ships are

equipped with a high definition, variable-depth sonar, and a remotely operated, robotic submarine used to neutralize mines. It is also capable of conventional mine sweeping measures. The ship has a fiberglass-sheathed, wooden hull and is armed with two .50 caliber machine guns.

## Squadron exercise to test mine warfare training

CMWC PAO

INGLESIDE, Texas — Four ships from Mine Warfare Readiness Group Four will participate in Squadron Exercise 01-2, March 5-16, in the Gulf of Mexico near Panama City, Fla. The mine countermeasures ships USS Warrior (MCM 10) and USS Gladiator (MCM 11) will be joined by the coastal minehunters USS Cormorant (MHC 57) and USS Shrike (MHC 62) for the exercise. Squadron Exercise 01-2, or RONE is designed to provide intermediate phase training in mine sweeping, mine hunting and mine neutralization capabilities in a multi-ship environment.

## MOMAU ONE

By LCDR Ed Simmons

**CO CORNER:** First off, I want to welcome our new members and their families. A hearty HAIL to: MNSN **Christine Beal**, MNSN **Jose Avelar** and MNSA **Brian Lampman**, all three coming from Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside. And SK2 (SW) **Pierre Rhinehart**, coming from the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Anticipated GAINS are MN1 **Mendenhall**, MN2 **Heyer**, IT2 **Lowe**, MN3 **Petree**, YNSN **Severin**, and my relief LT **Miller**. Projected LOSSES are YNC **Telford** and myself later this summer. **AWARDS & RECOGNITION:** Congratulations to MN1 **Steven Ciccarello** for his selection as MOMAU One Senior Sailor of the Year. That's three out of the past four years. Congrats to

YN2(SW) **Roland Coates'** selection as 4th Quarter Senior Sailor of the Quarter. MOMAU One was recognized at a recent Combined Federal Campaign Awards Luncheon with the highest percent increase in dollars raised. MN2 **Laura Arthur** spearheaded this with a 99% increase in dollars raised and 70% participation. Letter of Appreciation was presented to LT **Jim Washington**, MNCM **John Reeve**, MNC **Tom Vail**, and MNC **Johnson** for doing a great job on a very fair and impartial inspection. My personal thanks goes out to the crew of MOMAU One for their efforts in the successful results of the recent Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI). They can build mines well and did just a super job!! Of course, that's the way they train. Between the OPS before, during and after the MRCI, mixed in with the ongoing electrical repair project for the building, this inspection was almost an after thought. I want to give a big "HUYA" to the Supply crew who was moving materials and putting things back into place right up to the inspection (had to move the materials out of the way for our new lights), the Deck who readied the Mountain Home MINEX, the Kernel Blitz mines, and giving Supply a heart attack, and my QA/ Safety folks for keeping me young and alive! They know what that means! Oh, and my MPO, YNC **Jim Telford** my ADMIN, YN2 **Coates** and MNSN **Blanchard** for getting all that admin stuff ready, those two deployment instructions we finished. **RETIREMENTS:** Just want to wish a friend and shipmate a fond farewell. CW04 **Bob** and **Connie Reed** left Goose Creek on 21 February headed up to Oil City PA. LCDR **Mike Zahn**, MNCM **Fross**, and the crew of MOMAU Eleven did a great job in the retirement ceremony. **Yoshi** and I

(Continued on page 11)



## Mineman SEALS

By Cecil Martin

I have determined that there was at least one Mineman SEAL who served in Vietnam. I had stated previously that "I don't think we had any MN SEALS" and was answered by **Thomas Michael**. That a friend of his, **Daniel D. Powell** and another guy the he described as "a rather large African American" went to SEAL training out of "A" School. I was not able to find about either of the people he had mentioned. However, While reading the book, "Point Man" by Chief **James Watson**, I came across the name **MN2 Wellington T. Leonard**. I Checked with Chief **Watson** and he tells me: "The **DUKE** was a Small White Guy and I might add one hell of a operator and Stonner man, did two tours with me, later went on to Team six with **Dick** and got a commission and retired as a LCDR". "**Dick**" mentioned by Chief **Watson** is **Richard Marchinko** author of **Rogue Warrior**.

I asked Chief **Watson** if he knew of other MN SEALS and he said there were a few but he could not recall them right off hand.

The above makes me even more proud of our Mineman and their participation in the Vietnam War. It is now nearly impossible to mention any job from the war that a Mineman didn't have some part in. Except maybe being a pilot bombing the North!!

## Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2001

(Concurrent receipt)

By Cecil Martin

Two bills, House of Representative Bill, H.R. 303 and Senate Bill, S. 170, have been introduced in the 107th Congress.

House of Representatives Bill, H. R. 303, and Senate Bill, S. 170, are bills to amend Title 10, United States Code, to permit retired

members of the armed forces who have a service connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and to receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability. That is, any member with sufficient service to be eligible for non-disability retirement (including Reserve retirees and disability retirees with at least 20 years of service) would be allowed to keep their military retired pay plus any disability compensation subsequently awarded by the VA. Both Bills have the short title: "Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2001". Receipt of both retirement pay and VA disability compensation is commonly know as "Concurrent receipt".

Service Connected Military Retirees are the only persons singled out to waive one dollar of their retired pay for every dollar received in Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Compensation. No private industry workers, local civil servants, state civil servants, federal civil servants, nor appointed or elected officials are required to pay for their own disability compensation as they can draw their pensions and VA disability compensation without the dollar for dollar reduction in their retirement benefit.

These service connected disabled military retirees spent their lives, into middle age, in service to our country. They served with distinction dedication and honor around the world, many of them spending time in bloody battle. It is clearly unjust not to seize the opportunity to end the unfair practice of offsetting military retirement pay by the amount of VA disability pay. Those stipends are earned and awarded for entirely different purposes, yet current law ignores any distinction. This is a unique opportunity to show our gratitude to the remarkable men and women who have sacrificed so

much for this great country of ours by supporting the Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2001.

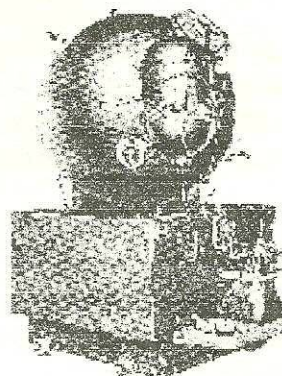
In 2000, a similar bill passed the Senate before being dropped (because of funding concerns) during House/Senate conference action on the FY2001 Defense Authorization Act. All military and veterans associations will seek to build on last year's support, and will press the House and Senate Budget Committees to allocate the needed budget authority so this important legislation can be enacted this year.

You can help in the effort to pass this important legislation by contacting your Legislators and urging their support of H.R. 303 and S. 170 by each of them becoming cosponsors of the bills. Those of you on the internet can contact your legislators by going to: <http://capwiz.com/troa/home/> and typing your Zip code in the elected officials Box. Those of you not on the internet may find your legislators contact information through local newspapers or local government officials

(Continued from page 10)

were among many well wishers who attended. "Best wishes for success friends!"

Well that's all for now from Surf City USA.





Association of Minemen 27th Annual Reunion & Meeting Reno, NV  
At The Sands Regency Casino Hotel 10 - 12 August 2001

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

Please return 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 @ \$25.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Picnic Tickets @ \$10.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Picnic Tickets @ \$4.50 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Age 7 to 12 years \$4.50, under 7 years FREE)

Number of children attending picnic age 6 and under \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$15.00 August 2001 to August 2002 (5 year max) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your label has your paid to date, e.g., August 2001 is your paid to date

(New or reinstatement member add \$5 application fee)

Museum Donation: Tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AOM General Fund: Tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AOM Scholarship Donation: Tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Association of Minemen (no cash) TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* We must guarantee number for dinners not later than the morning of 8 August 2001. There will be NO refunds after 7 August 2001.

The picnic will be Barbecue Tri-Tip, Lemon Pepper Chicken Breasts, Potato Salad, Chili, Mixed Fruit, Beer, Soft Drinks.

\* Sands Regency Casino Hotel reservations 1-800-648-3553 or 1-775-348-2264. Cut off date for Group Rate reservations is July 10, 2001. GROUP RATE CODE: ASS810.



Thanks to Dave Clark

My forgetter's getting better  
 But my rememberer is broke  
 to you that may seem funny  
 but, to me, that is no joke  
 For when I'm "here" I'm wondering  
 If I really should be "there"  
 And, when I try to think it through,  
 I haven't got a prayer!  
 Oft times I walk into a room,  
 Say "what am I here for?"  
 I wrack my brain, but all in vain  
 A zero, is my score.  
 At times I put something away  
 Where it is safe, but, Gee!  
 The person it is safest from  
 Is, generally, always me!  
 When shopping I may see  
 someone,  
 Say "Hi" and have a chat,  
 Then, when the person walks away  
 I ask myself, "who's that?"  
 Yes, my forgetter's getting better  
 While my rememberer is broke,  
 And it's driving me plumb crazy  
 And that isn't any joke.  
**CAN YOU RELATE???**  
 I don't remember who I sent this to.

## OBITUARY NOTICE!

Thanks to Bill Fortner

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense lived a long life but died from heart failure at the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, the early bird gets the worm, and life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple,

sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the kids), and it's okay to come in second.

A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including feminism, body piercing, whole language and "new math."

But his health declined when he became infected with the "if-it-only-helps-one-person-it's-worth-it" virus. In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing federal regulation.

He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers and enlightened auditors. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of six year old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student. It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but cannot inform the parent when the female student is pregnant or wants an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses into everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports.

As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments, regarding questionable regulations for asbestos, low flow toilets, "smart" guns, the nurturing of Prohibition Laws and mandatory air bags.

Finally when told that the homeowners association restricted exterior furniture only to that which

enhanced property values, he breathed his last.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers: Rights, Tolerance and Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

## COMOMAG logo date

Ed Oyer called a while back questioning the COMOMAG logo that appears in the Full Force news section of Dashpot. Joe Hernandez also asked us about the logo date in our newsletter. He remembered being in MOMAT 0321 formed from Mine Project Four at Yorktown; MOMAU 0322 was in Charleston. That was disestablished to start MOMAULANT in 1970 or 1971. He has correspondence signed by Hal Elston, COMOMAG in July 1971. Hal Elston joined in to say "I relieved LT Roger Janke as Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Unit, Atlantic (MOMAULANT), reporting 28 Feb 1969. Commander Mine Forces, Atlantic Fleet became Commander Mine Warfare Forces on 1 July 1971 and I was transferred from CO, MOMINASULANT to CO, MOMAG effective that same date." CDR Ron Swart clarifies the logo date by stating that the logo did not mean to imply that MOMAG, COMOMAG or MOMAU didn't exist before 1 July 1975....that is when COMOMAG went world wide and for the first time, owned all the mine shops... this was recommended by COMINEWARFOR to CNO and was approved. The MINEWARINSGRU stood up and COMINEWARFOR became COMINEWARCOM on the same date. In 1996 Ron also changed the Unit names from Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit (MOMAGU xx) to Mobile Mine Assembly Unit (MOMAU xx) since



AOM members dropped for non payment of dues.

ALLEN ULYS S.

ANDERSON ROBERT R.

BAILEY DONALD G.

BAKER, LEEAN MNC

BOREEN A. R. LCDR (RET)

BURRUD TROY J. MN2

CALLAHAN RICHARD P. MN1

CARUTHERS A.E. CWO4 (RET)

CHAPIN RON CWO4 (RET)

CHVILICEK MICHAEL J. MNC (RET)

COLVIN FRANK J.

COOK A. C.

COWART STEPHANIE MN2

DARLINGTON BILLY C. MN2

DELAPOORTE WILLIAM R MN1

DULL F. C. MNCM (RET)

EDGIN JOHN S.

GARD EDWARD A MN2

GENTRY RONALD E. LCDR (RET)

GRAHAM C. D. MNC (RET)

GREMBI JIM

GUSTAFSON, JR ARTHUR J. GS-14

HAIGHT RICHARD D. MNC (RET)

HARDIMAN KEITH J. MN1

HORNNE DONALD C.

HUFFSTETLER THOMAS R. MN3

HULLINGER BILL

IDIAQUEZ JAMES O. MN2

IKAWA RADM HIROSHI JMSDF (RET)

JEWETT, II, F.F. USN RET CAPT (RET)

JOHNSON ANDY

JONES DONALD R. USN (RET) MNCM

LAUDERDALE RANDAL L MN1 USN

LEISY KENNETH R. MN2

MARTIN JAMES M. CAPT

MAY, EINER A. LCDR USN (RET)

MCCALL EDWARD E.

MCELREATH AMOS M. MN1

MCNEAR JOHN W. MN2

MILLER JAMES E. CWO4 (RET)

MIRICH PETER MNCS

MITCHELL PATRICIA

MORRIS THOMAS A.

MURNER DAVE MNCM (RET)

OGLESBY DONNA MN1

OPOCENSKY JOHN P.

PATTERSON THOMAS R.

PIEPER WALTER

POLLITT DALE

PONTING JOHN F. MN2

POWELL D.G. CDR (RET)

POWERS JAMES W.

PRATT PAUL F. MNCM

REAGAN PATRICK L.

REEVE JOHN T. MNCM

RINGROSE MATHEW L. MN1 USN

RODRIGUEZ LAURA MN2

SANDOVAL JOHNNY M.

SANNINO THOMAS V. MNC (RET)

SHIRE GEORGE L. MN2

VENCZEL DEAN MN1

WADMAN ROSS E. MN2

WATT HOWARD R.

WICKE NORMAN E.

WILBANKS JODY MN1

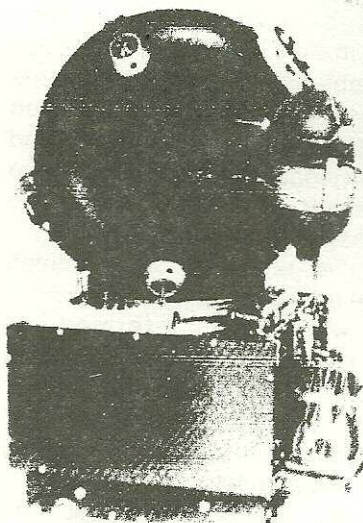
WOOD L. E. JR. CAPT (RET)

WRIGHT THOMAS W. CDR (RET)

ZUELKE, JR. CARLTON H.

If we are in error about you,  
please contact the secretary.

**NEXT  
ARTICLE DUE  
DATE June 11  
2001**



## Binnacle

Don DeCrona sends

I do not care to be the person to tell you that our shipmates are not doing too well. However, if you are like me, you want to know how our friends are doing.

Steve Scharschan received a Christmas card from Lloyd Bemis' family and they mentioned that Lloyd has Alzheimer

When Earl Roberts notified Roy Schardin about E J Milanowski's eye problem, he was told that since the second of January, Roy has been going to the cardiologist for a battery of tests on his heart. He has a right coronary artery that is 90 some percent blocked and is too diseased for another angioplasty and stent, so the doctor is trying to treat it with medication to keep from doing another by-pass. In the past five years, He has had prostate cancer, angioplasty with stent, busted appendix with gangrene, and cancer on his left kidney. The family is very thankful to still have him with them.

I have been talking to Jorgen Starng Loreozen (Denmark e-mail) and Friday he had another doctors appointment for his back pains, high blood pressure and other normal problems. He continues to have severe back pains that restricts him from doing what he would like to do.

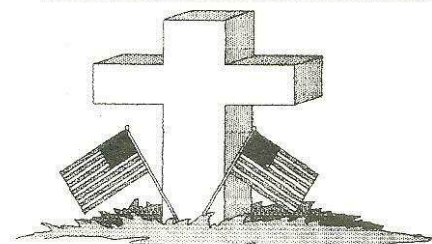
Let's say a few prayers for our friends.

Bobbie Loonam had another angioplasty and first stent put in in January.

Officers terms expiring in August are: President Joe Balderrama, Vice President Swede Carlsen, Paul Santa Maria and CDR Ron Swart



TAPS



Since our last newsletter we have learned of the following members and friends that have passed away. The membership of the Association of Minemen wish to express their sympathy to the families of those departed ones who now reside with our most Supreme commander.

**Fred Dane** reports: talking to **Freddie Reid** and he said that **Buck Rogers TMC Ret.** passed away Dec. 1999 in **LIVINSTON, TX**. He came in the Navy in the 20's and retired late 40's on 30 years. **Freddie Reid** and **Chuck Nicklin** both knew him.

**Joe Hernandez** reports: With the passing of **LCDR Pater T. Lang**, (Naval Affairs Feb. 2001) the mine community has lost a good friend. No one can ever say that this BMC was not one of the Navy's finest EOD officers.

The **USS FRASER** taps list had 22 Minemen names and we already had 19 of them, here are 3 more new ones. **Gates, Llyod C.** MN3 7-25-88 **Kemp, Kenneth, R.** MNSN 4-17-95 **Parker Leland** MNC 3-15-94 **Rusk, Charles (Gene)** MN2 on the **USS FRASER** from 1949 to 1952 Jan 22, 2001 Deerfield, OH

**Jerry Rogers** notified the community of the passing of **MN1 Ret. Darvey Hargett** from a heart attack on 30 Jan 01 at home in **Williamsburg VA**. **Jerry** rounded up area Minemen to attend the service. **Darvey's** wife **Rosemary** was appreciative of **Jerry's** and other Minemen support. Her address is 3829 Fox Run, Williamsburg, VA 23188

Incoming



Dear John; This article appeared in the Tampa (FL) Tribune. You may find some part of it you wish to print in the Dashpot. This information may be old hat to the modern day Mineman but it is heavy stuff to those of us went into inactive duty about 50 years ago. The last mine I worked on was the **MK IV**. **Lewis Dickerson AOM #78.** (part of article on page 1)

NMWEA Christmas luncheon  
Corrected list

**Reggie Beane, Ray Becker, Dick Bishop, Jim Brabrand, Bill Burgess, Randy Chandler, Hayden Ross Clunis, Neal Cowan, Emma Crawford, Eric Cruz, Roy Dody, John Dunn, Bob Forrest, Pat Hallinan, Dewey Hogge, Lorimer Hogge, John & Glenda Holland, Joanne Lane, Fred & Winnie Lewis, Fran Lisciandri, John Loonam, Dee Macrino, Joanne Matthews, Trist McConnell, Shirley McCrae, Charlie Miller, Don Muss, Tom Mylum, Annie Oliver, Ed Oyer, Ron Prezioso, Ray Purcell, Don Rainey, Gene Riddel, Earl Roberts, Frenchy Rodriguez, Betty Ryan, Alice Step, Pat Sutton, Juanita Towell, Lousia Valencourt, Kitty Vicellio, Donna Watkins, Shirley White,**

**Naval Mine Depot Yorktown 1954**  
Station Yearbook Minemen listed  
Inspection Department:

**CHGUN Roy Schardin,** (no rates listed) **R F Barnum, F R Bowman, J R Brown, W O Diggs, E J Eggeston, J P Gordon, T G Manus, C R McCord, G.M Metcalf, R D Nickosn, W H Sulzberger.**

Assistant Photographer **MN3 R V McCallum**

Training; **MNC L L Jones, MN3 C K Schumpert**

Mine Service Test; **MN3 D F Gardner, SN E C Helltigel, MN3 R C**

**Kelly, SN K D Manning, SN R E Mathis, MN3 R C McBride, SN C Meyeriecks, MN2 R M Schofield.** Civilians: **F C Fisher, J F Smoot, Trist McConnell**

Mine Mechanism Rework; **MNSN W N Ball, MN3 C W Barbee, MN3 R F Benson, MN3 J T Bonanno, MNSN H E Bowman, MNSN R J Brechmer, MNSA R Carlestrom, MNSN T Chalmers, MN3 F E Cole, MN3 J R Covert, MNSN T J Craig, MN3 C V Cummings, MN3 R W Ditttrich, MN2 F R Dominic, MNSN R Firestone, MN3 R W Franklin, MN3 J C Fullem, MN3 J E Grein, MNSN R E Griffin, MN2 W B Haley, MN3 J W Hann, MN3 E J Harris, MNSN C R Healey, MN3 J Holmes, MN3 J D Hunter, MN3 K R Jenks, MNC L L Jones, MNC C A Kirkpatric, MN3 B Lacy, MN3 J R Mann, MNSN J P Matous, MN3 D J Meacham, MNSN R A Moore, MNSN W H Mooty, MN3 C E Nowe, MN3 J P Pozucek, MNC J H Price, MNSN R A Raines, MN3 F H Ray, MN2 A J Reeths, MN3 J A Rogers, MNSN H L Sewart, MNSN H M Schmidt, MN2 C A Schieman, MN3 C R Schumpert, MN3 J H Sferruzzi, MNSN D L Sharpe, MNSN C P Simmons, MNSN J R Smallwood, MN2 F E Snead, MNSN G S Stanley, MN3 G V Stratton, MN3 E E Thomas, MN3 J Tripucka, MN3 M E Weade, MN3 D Turner, MNSN J E Vaughn, MN2 O T Vaught, MN2 W F Vickrek, MN2 G E White, MNSN G B Williams, MN3 T O Wolfe, MN3 G E Yantes.**

Not listed **MN3 Fred Dane** assigned to tug at pier.

Mine Project 4; (no rates listed) **D A Beaverson, CPO L M Bodisch, B L Bishop, J T Bullinger, E D Caffrey, W L Carlsen, R C Clayton, R L Cupp, R C Detrick, E W Evans, J R Goodwin, R D Green, R N Hart, A Hatfield, F J Higstetter, C L Hughes, A K N Jensen, W L Kingrey, B B Lafferty, P R Lindsey, C W Mitchell, G W Oxendine, R A Pilot, L R Ross, M R Rioux, E J Segrue, N M Sivertsen, A H Stoudt, C E Wright,**