

# The DASHPOT

Issue 34

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

Summer 2001

## From The President

Joe Balderrama

**H**i again Shipmates. First things first. My Mother passed away on May 24th. She had suffered with Alzheimer's for quite some time. May she rest in peace?

It is time to heap praise on **John Loonam** for his total dedication to the publication of the Dashpot. He has executed his duties as Editor in an unselfish and generous manner. Without failure, he has never missed a deadline, nor has he ever failed to produce anything but the finest publication. All this he has done for 9 long years. I am grateful that he chose to remain the Editor while I was in Office. Thank you **John**. As of this issue you will take your leave and pass the reins to my good friend **Bill Fortner**. Your shoes will be difficult to fill but I believe that **Bill** will make every effort to.

Another **John** that deserves recognition is my friend and Shipmate **John Iwaniec** on the occasion of his retirement. I remember when he had every intention of leaving the Navy, far short of retirement. I for one am glad

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## 27th Annual Reunion Reno AUG 10-12 2001

By Ann Cobis and Don DeCrona

**T**he 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 reunion is now just weeks away and the cut off date for room reservations at the Sands is 10 July. After that date rooms might not be available and/or low prices might not be honored. If you are planning to stay at the Sands, please, please make your reservations. Also, we must know how many people are to attend the various events, so let us know if you are planning to attend.

The Sands has blocked double occupancy rooms starting on Wednesday, August 8 through 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 Dinner in the Regency CD Room with no host bar service starting at 6:00 PM, and dinner starting at 7:00 PM. Dress for the dinner is casual, no coat or tie required.

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.

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 through 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

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

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

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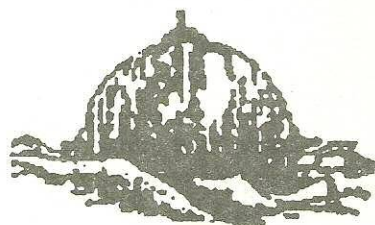
battle.netgate.net

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he stayed. He has proven to be a true asset.

I certainly hope that each of you has the opportunity to join us for the reunion in Reno. Don't forget that we have a new President, Vice-President and two Board Members to elect. In addition **Don DeCrona** has asked to be relieved as the Parliamentarian. Do we have any volunteers? Board member **Paul Santa Maria** has agreed to accept the nomination for the Presidency and I intend to place his name in nomination. See you in Reno. Stay



# Join the AOM Today It's Your organization

## Secretary/Treasurer by Curtis Christian

From The Desk of the  
Secretary



**N**ot much to report this time. We are looking for a lot of mail for tickets for the reunion in the next two months. At this posting we only have 41 for banquet and 46 for the picnic. Get your request to me as soon as possible. Our host in Reno needs counts for the hotel.

Have you seen the web-site? Over 36,000 hits. Our thanks to Fred for the up-keep on it.

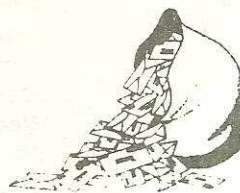
As most of you know, this will be **John Loonam's** last Dashpot. He is being relieved by **Bill Fortner**. John has done a good job over the years with the Dashpot and I'm sure **Bill** will appreciate his help. Thanks for a job well done **John**.

**Joe** is sitting back smiling now, as his tour is about to end. **Joe** had some big time problems to handle in his tour and did a magnificent job. Thanks "Arch-I-Ball" (smile)

Hope to see you in Reno.

## Mailbag

by Curtis Christian



**Andy and Ali Byne** from Scotland says: Just a quick note from the Scottish side of things, to

accompany my membership renewal. Please note our change of address. We have bought an old dilapidated cottage 12 miles north of Aberdeen. No central heating and no double glazing!! We recorded a record -5 C in the bedroom at one point when the window fell out.

Heading back to Macrihanish in August for a mate's wedding so we

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## "A" School graduate achieves perfect score

The Foc'sle 3/30

**MNSN Rebecca D Diehl** from Pensacola, FL joined Mineman "A" School in November 2000. "Failure is not an option," served as her motivation to put in the long hours of study and preparation, and in the course of this class, set her apart from her classmates as the role model to be emulated. She completed the 15 week course with a cumulative score of 100. Many graduate as "Honor Graduates" but this was the first time in the history of the school that the 100 percent was accomplished. She accomplished every standard above and beyond what is normally expected of the average student and presented an impeccable appearance at all inspections. **MNSN Diehl** was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal at the class graduation ceremony.



**NEXT  
ARTICLE DUE  
DATE October  
10 2001**

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package that features dinner at Tony Roma's and Show for \$19.95 and \$21.99 on Saturdays.

With summer here, they feature a Pool Party Saturday Nites 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!!!!

## Navy Unit Citations

By Cecil Martin

Shipmates; here's a site that you might be interested in. It give all of the unit citation ever given out to various units. <<http://neds.nebt.daps.mil/o1650.htm>>

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will pop in to the old base for a quick look (its all shut down now).

Sorry we are unable to make the reunion (again) but we are saving hard to get our selves down to OZ next Christmas to se Ali's parents. The RAF armourers have two web sites up and running [armourers.net](http://armourers.net) and [bombheadsworld.com](http://bombheadsworld.com) if you are interested. Anyway, must dash, many thanks for a great magazine. Regards to all.

**Tom Wright** from Tybee Island, Georgia writes: Please accept my check for @30 for 2001 and 2002 dues. I regret the delay but there was some confusion concerning status on my part.

I appreciate **Bill Roberts'** phone call this weekend. It was considerate of him to take the time to inquire into my status. email at [twright3@hotmail.com](mailto:twright3@hotmail.com)

**Raymond Tatem** writes: I saw the address in a military magazine. I was in the Navy 1951 - 1955. Went to Naval School Mine Warfare

November 1951. Worked on mines at Prudence Island, RI after school. Got out of service as 2nd class petty Officer. Could you send me information about the Association of Minemen?

**Earlene Walker** of Goose Creek writes: My name is **Earlene Walker**, I'm the guardian of **Donald C Howe**. I had to put Mr **Howe** in the Caboding Home on Rivers Ave on September 1, 2000. He has lost his short time memory and is not in very good health. He can no longer pay dues for anything. No one is to visit him without calling me first. Please understand I'm taking the best care of him I can. If you need to write or call me my address and phone number are below. (843-324-6973)

**Tim Patton** in Indiana writes: Enclosed is a check for \$45 to cover AOM membership dues owed from August 1999 through August 2001. I think that is what I owe. If I owe more, please let me know by firing me an email at [tpaton79@home.com](mailto:tpaton79@home.com). Reading the spring edition of DASHPOT I saw the list of cancelled members and thought for sure my name would be on that list. I get so busy sometimes I forget to take care of my responsibilities but I guess that could apply to any of our members.

Things are going well for my family an I up here in Indiana., although we are not used to the cold weather, although the locals say this is a really mild winter. Work is fine; there is a lot to learn about 2T Conventional Ammunition and even more to learn about Night Vision and Electro Optics. At first it was nice to get out of the Mining business, having done it for twenty-four years, however I miss it terribly, even with all it's funding problems. My son was accepted to Indiana University right here in tow, if you're a college basketball fan that was the **Bobby Knight** School. In any event, we here in the **Patton** family are pretty excited

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# Committee Reports

I received a phone call from Bud Rowzee, retired design engineer. NOL White Oak concerning the DST article in the Spring issue of Dashpot. He wondered if we were interested in how it really got started.

Bud Says "My thoughts on designing a mine in order to be successful, it must utilize high production parts — modified to fit your needs.

The Anti Invasion Mine (the original bomb to mine concept) was introduced at the 1963? Lab Mine Conference. **No interest shown.**

**Betty Gay & Joyce**, lab personnel, introduced me to the MK 80 series bomb".

In 1966 reps from NAVSEA (Shreve, Gideon) and OPNAV met with NOL higher ups (Hightower and others) for a brainstorming session on mining inland waterways in Vietnam. **Bud Rowzee** was told to sit in and see if he could contribute. The session was going nowhere fast with multimillion development, long lead time proposals, etc. when **Bud** raised his hand and offered something that he had been working on for about two years. The conversion of General Purpose (GP) bombs into mines. **Bud** stated he could give them something for about \$600 per unit in 6 months. **Bud** had already worked on a 1/2 size search coil and MK 52 mine components that were to be placed in GP bombs. There were some already being tested in the York River. In a flash **Bud** was "on the team"

**Bud** went to the bomb people to discover the GP bombs (fat bodies) were all but gone from inventory. The MK 82 low drag bomb had replaced it. When **Bud** saw the front and aft cavities on the MK 82 were soup-can size, he thought his "saving" project was dead

He was already working on a Thin Film Sensor (does not require a

search coil) The **Betty Gray** (?) bomb tests for MK 82s was in progress at the time. Within seven days available parts were rounded up and a new weapon was born. Using 15 to 20 years of munitions experience the team including the drafting room, came up with the MK 75 DST Kit. In the original design a screwdriver was included. The screwdriver was the only part that did not make the final design. The nomenclature was the Anti Invasion Mine

**Bud** has extensive detailed records about the history of the DST Program

What was most peculiar about this effort was there was no development funding, no think-tank school developing the concept or committee laboring over details or long-lead procurement. The DST was basically off the shelf components into high production. It was the first free-fall, land, sea mine in history.

Editor response : **Buddy**, I thank you for your interest in the accuracy of our newsletter and Mine History. We are aging out on our history and want some of that information to be put down on paper now that it's not classified.

I was observing a Fleet Service Mine test at MOMAU One in Long Beach in the late 70's where Hawthorne civilians had built exercise MK 25 mines and shipped them to the West Coast for carrier planting. During post recovery analysis, when the tail plates were opened the MN were astonished at the hand wired TB-19s. They couldn't get over the pre-modular mine! How soon we forget!

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

I t is now the beginning of April and we already have a couple of requests for continuing education support. This may well be another challenging year for our Scholarship Fund. However, we are Minemen and we will take it on and be victorious with any challenge that comes before us! In the last issue of *Dashpot*, I asked our members to try to bring or send an item or two to Reno for our auction. Following my own request, yesterday I purchased a couple of unique item. They are too large to carry in our largest suitcase, so I will ship them to **Don**. Both **Don DeCrona** and **Ray Cobis** have enthusiastically agreed to accept packages any of us ship for the reunion functions. Their addresses will be at the end of this article. With still a few months to go before reunion time, who knows what other goodies will catch my or Bootsie's eye for the auction. Remember its all deductible, including shipping costs. Reduce your tax obligation; Think Scholarship Fund. We did!!

I would like to say "thank You" to our retiring editor, **John Loonam**, for the assistance he so willingly gave in helping me put out every article. See ya-all in Reno  
Packages for the auction to:

**Don DeCrona**  
2556 Rampart terrace  
Reno NV 89509-8631  
or

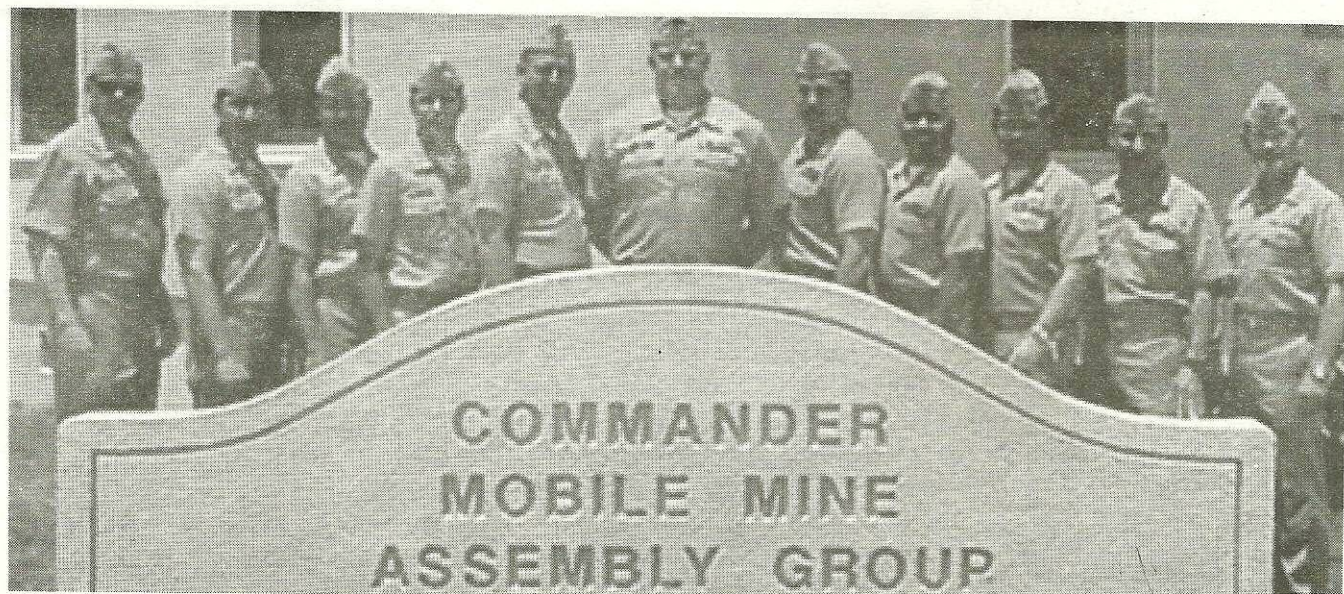
**J. R. Cobis**  
4505 Gorc Way  
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AOM Officers terms expiring in August are **President, Joe Balderrama, Vice President, Swede Carlsen and Board Members CDR Ron Swart and Paul Santa Maria**





MOMAG Commanding Officer's Conference 23-29 APR 2001 Active Duty CO's (Left to Right)  
 LT(jg) **Daryl Adamson**, PXO, MOMAU 8, Guam; LCDR **Mike Zahn**, CO, MOMAU 11, Charleston SC; CWO4 **Gary Riggins**, OIC, MOMAD T12, Misawa, Japan; LT(jg) **Dave Lauffenberger** CO, MOMAU 15, Kingsville, TX; LT **Gary Martin** CO, MOMAU 5, Sigonella, Italy; CWO4 **Dan Radford**, XO, MOMAU 14, Yorktown, VA; LT **Theresa Wright** PCO, MOMAU 10, Kadena, Japan; LT **Alex Brown**, CO, MOMAU 3, Colts Neck, NJ; LCDR **Matt Wisniewski**, CO, MOMAU 8, Guam; LCDR **Ed Simmons**, CO, MOMAU 1, Seal Beach, CA; CDR **Ron Swart**, COMOMAG, Corpus Christi, TX



Reserve CO's (Left to Right)

MNCM **Glen Niemitalo**, LCPO / Acting CO NRMOMAU 4 Albany, NY; MNCS **Jose' Lopez**, LCPO / Acting CO NRMOMAU 10 El Paso, TX; LT(jg) **Anthony Smola**, CO, NRMOMAU 11 Houston, TX; CWO4 **Ken Braam**, CO, NRMOMAU 9 Dallas, TX; CWO3 **Bob Stegge**, CO, NRMOMAU 8 Austin, TX; LCDR **Mike Ward**, CO, NRMOMAU 5 Pittsburg, PA; CWO2 **Donald Mol**, CO, NRMOMAU 2 Memphis, TN; CWO4 **Nate Miranda**, CO, NRMOMAU 1 Long Beach CA; LCDR **Ithan Zimmer**, CO, NRMOMAU 3 Colts Neck, NJ; CWO4 **Henry Knight**, CO, NRMOMAU 7 Greenville, SC; (Not in attendance: LCDR **Andy Lennon**, CO, NRMOMAU 6 Charleston SC)



# ■ FULL FORCE NEWS



1 July 1975 - 1 July 2000

Mobile Mine Assembly Group



ANYTIME - ANYWHERE  
COMOMAG

By CDR Ron Swart

**E**xcellent Exercise: MOMAU 8 our first ever 6-quarter exercise has recently participated in a "Storage to Target" deployment event (Toby's got to love this one...) called CAPEX or Capability Exercise, with the USAF at Anderson AFB, Guam. The Unit 8 crew prepared mines from their inventory and delivered them to the B-52 crews for final preparation and loading in order to evaluate the readiness of the entire assembly and logistics chain. Bravo Zulu to MOMAU 8 and their outstanding performance!

● Excellent Deployment MOMAU 10 Kadena Japan recently participated in Exercise Tandum Thrust conducted in the Land Down Under. Tandum Thrust is a large JCS sponsored exercise combining the entire spectrum of sea, air and land forces. This year's events included mining and mine countermeasures and the Unit 10 team led by CWO4 Gary Riggins put in many miles of travel to support this exercise from several locations ashore and at sea. Well could result in greater attention to our

Done MOMAU 10!!! Last CAPTOR MOMAU 14 Yorktown has process their last CAPTOR. The last of the Mk 60 mines passed through their shop on the way to the DEMIL pile this May. CO, LCDR Ken Dalton and his hard working crew completed their bittersweet task ahead of schedule and below cost. The Unit will officially close it's doors in September, giving us time to accommodate all the orders and transfers for these excellent Sailors. I can't say enough in praise of their outstanding effort!

● Successful Inspection: MOMAU 3 Earle NJ successfully completed one of the most thorough and arduous explosive safety inspections that any explosive operations outfit has ever endured. Under the excellent leadership of their CO, LT Alex Brown and his Mine Assembly Boss, MNC Brieno, they passed every test and the closest records and accountability scrutiny. Great job, MOMAU 3!

● Staff Initiative: The COMOMAG staff has not been standing still. This past week I was pleased to sign out a schedule to our Units and Detachments. This was significant in that previous funding and scheduling depended upon Unit/Det input. This time, we had the high-level information available from the CINCs and Fleets and the OPS Team under the leadership of LCDR Jim Washington, Wayne "Arnie" Helgersen, MNC (SW) Johnson, MN1(SW) G.O. Starr and MN2 (SW) Manual Cantu were able to match up fleet exercise objectives with requirements for our participation for the first time... no guessing! It should help the Units and Detachments with their planning and scheduling (and us with the funding ) Well Done, Team!

● Mines and Mining Study: We expect the Naval Studies Board to report out very soon on their findings on the CNO directed study on maritime mining. I hope to pass along the results next issue. This will make our program and, if positive, result in greater attention to our

capability for employing effective mines in support of our country's defense. Get Well Soon: LCDR Mike Zahn, CO, MOMAU 11 in Charleston reports that Master Chief Al Fross has been pretty ill with heart and lung related problems. Big Al still reports to work every morning and we are all pulling hard for his quick recovery.

● New training capability: The latest tool to help mainstream mine warfare into the conscience of the big fleet is the Versatile Exercise Mine System (VEMS) our present and future "actuation mine" that can emulate several foreign threat mines. The newest capability will include the ability of this mine to send a radio signal or an e-mail to designated fleet commanders or evaluators to report mine fires. Additionally, it is now capable of providing real-time feedback to mine countermeasures ships so they can see how the mine is reacting to their efforts. New Trailer Our Naval Reserves have a new training trailer at the Central Drill Site in Ft Worth. MN1 Finney the current CDS honcho and supporting reserve Units did another remarkable job with this trailer which will be pulled as a fifth-wheel behind the new CDS pick-up truck. It replaces the worn out Winnebago for use as a mobile training platform. Interestingly enough, the old "Winnie" has been reborn and spruced up as the new Mine Warfare Career Retention Van (see the early June issue of Navy Times).

● New Commander Congratulations to LCDR Matt Wisniewski, CO, MOMAU 8 Guam upon his selection to the rank of Commander! This was a highly deserved promotion and we're all proud of CDR Ski!!!

● New Stars: Congratulations to the Commander, Mine Warfare Command, RADM Jose Betancourt who was picked for his second star this past week.

● Announcing upcoming Changes

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of Command: MOMAU 1, Seal Beach, CA: LCDR Ed Simmons will be relieved in July by LT Kevin Miller MOMAU 5, Sigonella, Italy: LT Gary Martin will be relieved by LT Larry Kelly in August MOMAU 10, Kadena, Japan: LT Theresa Wright relieved LCDR John Iwaniec in May MOMAU 8, Guam: LCDR Matt Wisniewski will be relieved by LT Lowell Kurz in October MOMAU 12, Misawa, Japan: CWO4 Gary Riggins will be relieved by ENS Stephen Wangelin in August. Welcome New XO's: LT(jg) A. J. Ashton, who has reported to MOMAU 11, Charleston, SC LT(jg) Daryl Adamson who has reported to MOMAU 8, Guam CWO4 Gary Riggins who will report later this summer to MOMAU 10, Kadena

● New numbers: We'll continue our reorganization for the new century by renumbering our Units this next year to align ourselves with the US Navy practice of assigning ODD Numbers to the west coast and EVEN numbers to the east coast. East: Unit 11 will become Unit 2, Unit 15 will become Unit 4 and Unit 5 will become Unit 6. West: Unit 1 will remain Unit 1, Unit 8 will become Unit 3 (after Unit 3 in Earle closes), Unit 10 Kadena will become Unit 5 (MOMAU 12 Misawa will become MOMAU Misawa without a number). This will be a slow process to get everyone used to the idea and to prevent confusion... when done, even BIG Navy will finally understand our numbering scheme.

● A Sad Farewell: We all wish a heartfelt Farewell to LCDR John Iwaniec and LCDR Ed Simmons who retire this summer after 30 years of brilliant and unselfish service to our country. Navy and the Mine Warfare Forces Their loss is a serious blow to our leadership and professional experience. On behalf of everyone who has been a part of the MOMAG organization, past and present, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude for all that you both have accomplished and all the

Sailors you have trained and mentored. We can't thank you enough. You will be missed greatly! Farewell also: to LCDR Ken Dalton who's excellent leadership and managerial expertise successfully and seamlessly retired the CAPTOR mine and enabled the closure of MOMAU 14, Yorktown. Ken moves on to the AEGIS training center in Maryland as the OIC. We wish him the very best in his new tour. Farewell, yet again: Major James "Auk" Auclair, USAF leaves us this July after a highly successful tour as the minefield planning officer and USAF liaison officer here on staff. Auk has been a forceful catalyst for improving the way we prepare our mining plans and how we support the war-fighting CINCs. His relief has not been designated yet, but is expected later this year. Well Done James... we know you'll only be a phone call away!

● Welcome Aboard: To MN1(SW) Mike Gonzales who will report to our reserve Central Drill Site at NAS Ft. Worth. Mike comes to us from the USS Warrior and is MNC Bob McGwire's designated relief. Chief McGwire retired this spring. To CWO4 Chico Buyo who relieved LT Vince Ortiz as the COMOMAG Admin Officer. We're glad to have someone with such tremendous experience and background aboard. Conference held:

● The annual, week-long MOMAG CO's Conference was held this past April with all of the CO's or their XO's aboard to represent their Unit or Detachment. As you might imagine, there was a lot to talk about and discuss. The Naval reserve MOMAG CO's and Chiefs were aboard for the last part of the week to round out the attendee list. A sincere thanks to all who attended and supported this years event. I feel that it was very much worth while and we look forward to us all getting together again next spring

## GREETINGS FROM MOMAU THREE

(By MNC Briano)

Greetings from the men and women of MOMAU Three. I am happy to report that we successfully completed our Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI) this past May. Significant because for the first time in history, the ESI now includes Program 15 as one of the four pillars. This is an in depth look at inventory management and the NAR program. I'm sure more will follow as MOMAG is unique in the way we do business and we don't track our assets like many other activities. We continue to work on the MK 56 demilitarization and our regular maintenance while preparing for our Quality Review.

We welcome MN1 Santos who reported from the USS Ardent out of Bahrain and to MNSR Simpson who reports from MWTC in Texas. Both welcome additions to the command. While many Units enjoy the influx of Mineman, we still are short three Chiefs and getting ready to lose several Seaman. For those of you who remember CWO2 Keith Taylor, he has reported to the Atlantic Ordnance Command (also a tenant of NWS Earle) as the Ordnance Officer. It will be good to work with him again.

On a sadder note, MN1 Eugene Christian who was attached to NR MOMAU Three passed away 25 May. Having been diagnosed with cancer about two months ago, he continued to drill here with his unit. It is with our deepest condolences and fond memories that we say goodbye to him.

Congratulations go out to SK2 White and FC3 Maringo who were selected as Senior and Junior Sailors of the Quarter. For those wondering what we are doing with an FC at MOMAU, she has been assigned TAD from the USS Seattle

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due to a dependant care issue. Both her and her husband (an ET3 on recruiting duty) had packages in for separation. In keeping with the Navy's goal to reduce first term attrition, BUPERS disapproved both requests and reassigned her orders to a shore duty command in the same geographic area as her husband. **LT Brown** (CO MOMAU Three) reenlisted both in front of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia as the crew looked on. Both received bonuses together totaling over \$80,000. Yes that's correct \$80,000. We are happy for both and hate to see her go as she has done outstanding work for us as an Admin Assistant.

MOMAU Three participated in a joint effort with Medical and NWS Earle personnel in the Commodore's Cup Challenge where we took an overall 2nd place win. Several of MOMAU personnel placed in many events including **MN1 Eckelbecker** who took first in the 5K run. We also participated in two parades in Farmingdale and Freehold this past Memorial Day, showing the colors and a float with our display mines.

## MOMAU 8

By MNCS J.P. Cantrell

Hafa-Adai Shipmates from Guam,

**G**uam's rainy season is upon us and since we have not had any Typhoons after "PAKA 97", everyone is working hard to prepare for the "what if's". Mostly just ensuring the generators are in good working order. Well not much happening out here in the west. Still working the famous Mk 56 mine to bring it back to its regular maintenance cycle. We can see the light! We just finished our first-ever joint exercise "CAPEX-01" with Andersen Air Force Base. We built a bunch of service mines and deployed to Andersen to prepare them for planting. The exercise was a great test of our flexibility, but as always the Mineman "can do spirit" came through at the end with total

success.

**WOW! MOMAU 8** placed second in Captains Cup Golf. Will wonders never cease.

Now on to our Bravo Zulu's. The following outstanding Sailors were recognized for their accomplishments during the period: The outstanding personnel from NRMOMAU 9 out of Fort Worth Texas were presented with the following awards for their never dying support during CAPEX-01. **CWO4 Ken Braam**, Navy Achievement Medal (second award), **MNC Rick Marvin**, Navy Achievement Medal, Letters of Commendation **MN1 Russell Rosenburger**, **YN1 Collen Whipple**, **MN2 Rebecca Beaver**, **MN2 Billy Phares**, **MN2 Velma Delbosque**, **MN2 Kenneth Richardson**, **MN2 Gordon Lee**, **FC2 Sean Sutton** and **BM3 Javier Rangel**.

The following MOMAU 8 personnel recognized this quarter were, **MN1 Shawn Potter**, Navy Achievement Medal, **SSOQ-MN1 Steven Brashier** (2 in a row), **JSOQ-YNSN Rochelle Harris**, **MNCS Lianne Baker** promoted to her present rank. Finally, our CO, **LCDR Matt Wisniewski**, was selected for promotion to full Commander!

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 FROM MOMAU 8 "WHERE MOMAG DAYS BEGIN"!!**

We welcome the arrival of our new XO, **LTJG Daryl G. Adamson**, and his lovely family coming from USS **GEORGE WASHINGTON**. Also we welcomed **MNSN Kyle Jansen** from **MINWARTRACEN Ingleside TX**.

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.

## MOMAU ELEVEN

By MNCM Al Fross

**G**reetings y'all from Unit Eleven. Hope everyone is having a great summer. Took awhile but it's finally heating up here in the South. The crew did some more building improvements this quarter, which saved us over ten thousand dollars. First we built an ADP office that will meet the security requirements needed so we can get our DMS capabilities on line. Next we remodeled and enlarged the CO's office. We also enlarged our conference room where more than 8 people can sit for our weekly meetings. Another thing happening around here is we have been receiving assets from Unit Five for one of the missions we'll be taking on. Something tells me they were glad to see that stuff leave. In addition our new XO, **LTJG Ashton**, arrived onboard and from what I've seen he will be a great asset not only to us but the Mineforce. Now for the rest of the news.

Departures: **MN2 Portillo**, **MN3 Cowden**, **MNSN Gray** and **MNSN McGlosson** departed the Navy and returned to CIVLANT.

Arrivals: **SK1 (SW) Dickinson** and family reported to us from the USS **David R. Ray (DD 971)** and **MNSN Sellers**, **MNSA Reed**, **Lopez**, **Guerrero**, **Cox** and **MNSR Smith** came to us via the schoolhouse.

Advancements: Congratulations go out to **MN1(SW) Gerhardt**, **MN3 Gunn** and **Seabrook**. Well done.

Awards: LOC's to **MN1 Ortiz** and **MN3 Nartker** as our Sailor's of the Quarter. Second Good Conduct to **MN3 Walker** and numerous LOA's to **MN1 (SW) Elmhurst**, **MN2 Bishop**, **MN2 (SW) Gerhardt**, **MN2 Dominguez**, **MN3 Auman**, **MN3 Simpson**, **MN3 Nartker**, **MN3 Walker**, **MN3 Deshazo**, **MNSN Gunn**, **MNSN Musil**, **MNSN Seabrook** and **MNSR Smith** for their

(Continued on page 9)



## MOMAU Ten

by MNC Bray

Well, here we are already in the month of June. Busy as always with TAD deployments, a change of command, and the retirement of our Skipper.

LCDR "Big John" Iwaniec will retire after 30 long years of faithful service to our great Navy and Mine Force on 22 June. The Commander has found a position as the Director of the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society right here on Okinawa. I guess all the big fish here in these waters are still not safe from the old "Spearpro" for at least a few more years. We wish the Commander, wife Liz and daughter Joleen all the best in their future endeavors.

LT. Theresa Wright "fleeted up" from the XO position and assumed command on 4 May from LCDR Iwaniec. She knows she has a big pair of shoes to fill (literally) but we have complete confidence in her abilities as one of the "old salts" here at the command. She has been here so long now, there is word on the street the Okinawa Prefectural Governor has offered her status as a land owner - no small feat on Okinawa.

We would like to congratulate SK1(SW) Ed Bajarías and MNSN Spencer Waitschies for their selection as Senior and Junior Sailor of the Quarter. Also, congratulations go to MN1 John Pendleton for his nomination as the Unit Ten AOM Mineman of the Year candidate. We will soon bid

farewell to MN3 John Spindler and MN2 Aaron Gunn who are both separating from the naval service this month. Also we would like to give a hearty hail to MNSN Rodriguez who just reported aboard from MWTC.

On the TAD exercise front, we would like to extend our thanks to CWO4 Gary Riggins for his filling in on Exercise Tandem Thrust on short notice. The Gunner, myself, MN2 Vallez, MNSA Souphanavong where "down under" in Australia for a month. I must say the Kangaroos and Dingo's were a first for all of us and it was one great trip to say the least. I have promised Fred Dane that I would be sending digital pictures from the exercise so I know I'm still on the hook for that one. MNC McGinn led a month-long trip to Thailand with MN1(SW) Apadaca, MN3 Pascual, and MNSN Waitschies in support of Exercise Cobra Gold 2001. Chief McGinn will also head up the summer CARAT 2001 exercise swing back to Thailand with MN1 Pendleton, MN2 Pelski, and MN2 Black. That's it for now from the Exercise Capitol of the Pacific. Have a safe and prosperous quarter everyone.

## MOMAU TWELVE

By MN1 Grady

Ka'Nichi Wa from the tip of the spear, Misawa Japan. This is MN1 (SW) Grady

Mark Anderson taking over for our shipmate MN3 Jason White, who is now helping the cause at Recruit District Los Angeles! We would like to welcome aboard MNSR Cline, MNSA Stratford, MNSR Hunt, and MNSR Dugdale,

all reporting fresh in from MWTC and beautiful Ingleside TX. We would also like to welcome IT2 Avilos from Norfolk VA. and MN1 Gilliland from the USS Guardian. Congratulations to MNSN Shelbourn and MNSN Garner for their recent promotion to Third Class and to our MAO, MNCS Rita Nicely for making Senior Chief.

Always Upwards and Mobile! We now muster 20! (1) officer, (1) E-8, (5) E-6's, (2) E-5's, (5) E-4's, and (6) E-3 and below. The biggest news this summer for us is our Change of Officer in Charge on Aug 17. ENS Wangelin is taking the reins from our "GUNNER", CWO4 Gary Riggins, who will be transferring to UNIT 10 as their new XO! As of now, the temperature is a blistering 55 and raining (instead of snowing). It's hard to believe that the year is half over. As the saying goes, "Time fly's when you are having fun!" With all the camping, fishing, festivals, and cooking out, it's hard to believe we get paid to work here! So until the next issue, remember those that stand in harms way, on the tip of the spear. Tachi Iri Kinshi.

Error! Error! Error!

New Editor's email address is:

Mk27@starband.net

Couldn't go into retirement leaving out a couple of inputs and a bad address for the editor!



(Continued from page 8)

support in various events.

Now on a personnel note. As I transfer to the retired list after 30 years of service, I would like to say thank you to all that have helped me during my career. I also want to thank all that thought of me during my recent medical hiccups. It's much appreciated. I'm sure my withdrawal's will start soon but as I've heard many say before me that the thing they miss the most is the people they have meet and friendship's started and not necessarily the Navy. Only time will tell for me but with me and my family staying here in Charleston I'm sure I'll run across a few of the old timers. Again I want to say thanks and hope to see some of ya soon.

## Newsprint

The following articles were in the station papers indicated

Coastal Courier 3/9

Mine countermeasures ships USS Warrior, USS Gladiator joined coastal minehunters USS Cormorant and USS Shrike in exercise RONEX out of Panama City. The exercise is designed to provide intermediate phase training in mine sweeping, mine hunting and mine neutralization capabilities in a multi ship environment.

Coastal Courier 3/23

The Mine Warfare Association and Coastal Systems Station will co-host a summer conference July 23 - 26 in Panama City with the theme of Mainstreaming Mine Warfare.

Coastal Courier 4/20

MNCS(SW) Donnie Kiper was pictured with his family in front of a Captor mine. Senior Chief Kiper assigned to Fleet Support was frocked to his present rate by CDR Ron Swart, COMOMAG.

Coastal Courier 5/4

CAPT Fred Shutt relieved CAPT Duane Covert as Commanding Officer Naval Coastal Systems Station, Panama City on May 4th Mine Bill of Materials (MBOM) have

been replaced by Mine Allowance Database (MAD) The crew at Coastal Systems Station replaced the old with the new. Pictured were MAD team members including MNCS(SW) Donnie Kiper and retired MNCS's Bob Bainbridge and Leo Smith. The first operational MAD was installed at MOMAU Three, Earl, NJ.

Coastal Courier 5/18

MNCS(SW) Donnie Kiper's three children were pictured displaying their hard earned "Yard of the Quarter" sign.

The Foc'sle 3/30

MN2 Sean Silman was pictured as part of the SIMA Ingleside Color Guard demonstrating proper procedure for folding the American Flag at local at a local middle schools.

A MOMAG crew was pictured displaying their Retention Excellence pennant for 100 percent retention of first-term Sailors, first quarter 2001.

Sailors of the Quarter fourth quarter 2000 MN3 Michael H. Just, Jr. USS Defender; MN2(SW) James H. Cook, USS Chief; MN1(SW) Laura Rodregus and MN3 William H Opperman, USS Kingfisher and MNSN, USS Shrike.

LCDR John T Beaver Jr. relieved LCDR David A. Chase as CO USS Avenger March 30th at Naval Station San Diego, CA.

Foc'sle 4/13

MN1(SW) Henry Thedford, Squadron One and MN1 McClellan, USS Cormorant were listed as Chairpersons in the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive at Ingleside.

Foc'sle 4/27

MNCS(SW) Joseph Osbourne, Shore Maintenance Activity (SIMA) was frocked on April 9th at SIMA.

MN1(SW) Laura Rodrigues, USS Kingfisher was pictured along with other sailors of the year at the annual Ingleside Area Navy League recognition ceremonies.

USS Cormorant Sailors recognized

include MN1 Barbara Davies, SSOQ, MN1 Katherine Filter, Navy Achievement Meday, MNCS(SW/AW), Patricia Mitchell Frocked to senior Chief.

Foc'sle 4/27

LCDR Mark S. Manfredi relieved CDR Rudy Laco on the USS Ardent on April 11th in Bahrain.

Foc'sle 5/11

MN1(SW) Martin D Ingmire, SIMA, Ingleside reenlisted for four more years for an assignment on board USS Patriot homeported in Sasebo, Japan.

MN1(SW) Michael Gonzales USS Warrior SSOQ; MN1(SW) Jody Wilbanks, USS Dextrous SSOQ; MN1(SW) Laura Rodriguez, USS Kingfisher SSOQ; MN2(SW) Lance Douglas, USS Falcon SSOQ.

Foc'sle 5/25

CAPT Tonya J Concannon relieved CAPT Nan E Honey as CO Naval Station Ingleside on May 25th on the Naval Station waterfront.

Foc'sle 5/25

MN2(SW) Trina Randall, USS Kingfisher was pictured enjoying an authentic Asian meal onboard the ship celebrating Asian Pacific Month.

MN2(SW) Fondrae Townsend, USS Cormorant was pictured for his reenlistment for six years. Petty Officer Townsend, selected in the Enlisted Commissioning Program, reports for preparatory study in Newport Rhode Island prior to studies at Prairie View A&M University in Houston, TX.

PAO Ingleside:

USS Chief welcomes new commanding officer

CDR Mark V. Dennis will turn over the helm of USS Chief (MCM 14) to LCDR John E. Lux during a change of command ceremony to be held Wednesday, April 25, in San Francisco, Calif. USS Chief is currently deployed to the U.S. West Coast as part of Mine Warfare Readiness Group 3

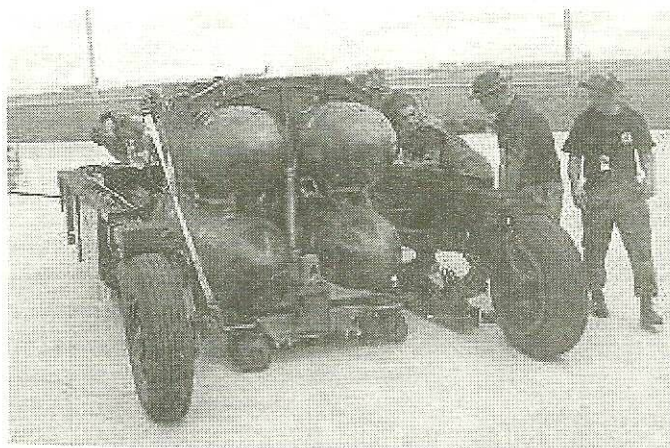
(Continued on page 12)



# Air Force B-52 Mining Capability Exercise

Mine MK 65

DST MK 36



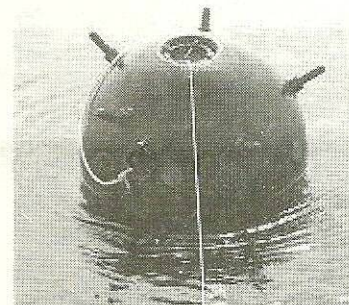
**MOMAU 8** participated in a combined USAF/MOMAU exercise to demonstrate the preparation and delivery of Quickstrike mines from the shop to the aircraft at Anderson AFB Guam. (Photos courtesy of CWO4 Ken Braam)

## Financial Report

Balance Sheet May 2001

by Secretary/Treasurer

	Debit	Credit
Cash	9746.96	0
QM Supply	1523.60	0
History Book Inv	8816.00	0
Admin Supplies	95.16	0
Unapp Cash	4707.25	0
Scholarship	0	1914.20
History Books	0	620.00
Dues 01	0	3441.00
Dues 02	0	1960.00
Dues 03	0	700.00
Dues 04	0	165.00
Dues 05	0	15.00
Yorktown Museum	0	15.00
Museums, Gen	0	365.00
Reunion	44.00	2538.82
Quartermaster	0	562.75
Capital	0	3296.81
Operating Funds	0	3223.00
Dashpot exp	1061.03	0
Printing exp	44.00	0
Postage	316.68	0
Chaplain exp	100.00	0
PO Box exp	44.00	0
Awards exp	127.38	0
Misc exp	2600.00	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>29226.58</b>	<b>29226.58</b>



MOMAU 15 Corpus Christi shows their Russian MKB Training Mine.

(Continued from page 3)

about that, he'll start this August (Fall 2001 Semester). I apologize for being late by a couple of years, I'll make every effort to stay on top in the future. Warm regards.

CAPT **Jewett**, former OIC NMEF writes: Sorry for the delay. your reminder card came while I was in the hospital for 12 days. I wasn't particularly impressed with the 1/2 page of Dashpot devoted to blasting those whose dues were overdue by 7 months. Letter follows after I get out of hospital for up coming surgery 3/30 . (Editor's note) We

(Continued on page 12)



## Gulf of Mexico/MIREM exercise to test mine warfare training

INGLESIDE, Texas - Nearly 400 Sailors tested their mine warfare proficiency during Gulf of Mexico Exercise (GOMEX) 01-2 and Mine Warfare Readiness and Effectiveness Measurement (MIREM)-17 beginning June 11 and running through June 22.

GOMEX 01-2 marks the transition of Mine Warfare Readiness Group Four from training to ready-to-deploy status and includes integrated surface, air and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mine countermeasures (MCM) operations. MIREM 17 runs concurrently with GOMEX. The MIREM program was established to collect and analyze high quality data and to quantitatively assess readiness and effectiveness of Mine Warfare assets. The exercises will be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, and at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

MCM forces participating in GOMEX 01-2 will be under the tactical command of Capt. Gregory Cornish, commander of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three based at Ingleside.

Ships taking part in the exercises include the coastal mine hunters USS Oriole (MHC 55), USS Cormorant (MHC 57), and USS Shrike (MHC 62). The mine countermeasures ships USS Pioneer (MCM 9), USS Warrior (MCM 10), and USS Gladiator (MCM 11) will also participate in the exercise.

Members of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit TWO, based at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.; Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 108; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) SIX, Detachments SIX and TEN, based in Ingleside; as well as Mobile Mine Assembly Unit FIFTEEN, based at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, will also participate in the exercise.

-more-

## GOMEX/2-2-2

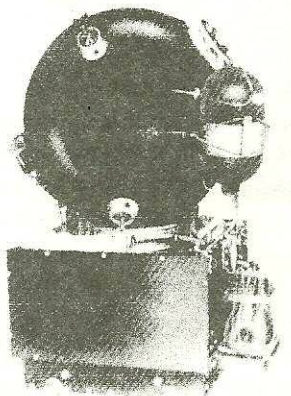
During GOMEX 01-2, Sailors aboard the coastal minehunters and mine countermeasures ships will search for, identify, neutralize and recover sea mines. Crews will use a variety of methods to find and neutralize sea mines, including mechanical and influence minesweeping techniques. Their training will prepare the ships of Mine Warfare Readiness Group Four for their upcoming deployment to the Atlantic Ocean this fall.

## Storekeeper news

by Stephanie Moss-Cowart

Well, I am FINALLY transferring! I need you to make an update to the stores page, taking OFF my Terrell address. I am moving Tuesday, and I don't want anyone sending money or anything to that address as I might not get it.

If you could make a note to contact me through my email address which will remain the same through August <Cowdawg1@aol.com>, or call me on my cell phone (214)282-6925 to make orders...I would greatly appreciate it.



## Yorktown 2002

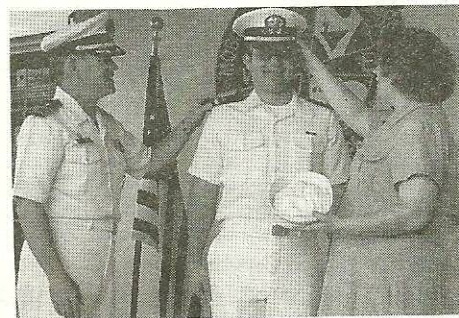
Folks driving RV's to Yorktown for the Reunion are advised Chatham Annex has RV and Camp Sites. 757-887-7224. NWS



## Binnacle

Fred Dane reports:  
Guy Waughtel MN1  
Ret lives in

Beaverton, OR. His sister said that he had a massive stroke on his right side and is in the hospital and will soon move to a nursing home.



## Petty Officer to Padre program

MNSN Nathan Drake, from Fair Play, Missouri, is commissioned to Ensign by CDR Ron Swart as part of the Petty Officer to Padre program as his wife, Stacey assists.

MNSN Drake had his college degree and wanted to be a chaplain. The program works this way...he submitted an application to the Chief of Chaplains for acceptance into the program. He was released from active duty...commissioned an ENS (line) in the inactive reserve and goes to chaplain indoc this summer at Newport, RI then attends seminary. (he had to apply to a seminary separately) Then, upon completion of seminary, he is commissioned into the chaplain corps as an active reserve officer and then goes to sea. The commissioning took place at COMOMAG, NAS Corpus Christi, TX, and was the third of its type in the history of the Navy.



## Recent "A" School graduates make top marks

by EMC(SW) Victor B. Crowe MWTC PAO

The most recent Mineman "A" School class, 01020, which graduated from the Mine Warfare Training Center on March 9, distinguished themselves by obtaining a group cumulative grade point average of over 92 percent -- quite an accomplishment considering the demanding nature and length (15 weeks) of this course.

The graduates, hometowns, and gaining commands are as follows:

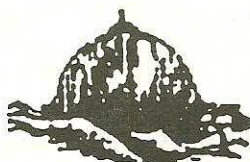
**MNSN Chip Smith**, Nashville, TN, Class Honor Graduate, to USS Ardent, Manama, Bahrain; **MNSA Travis Andrews**, Elk Grove, CA, to USS Cardinal, Manama, Bahrain; **MNSR Triveni Baron**, Green Valley, AZ, to USS Falcon, Ingleside, TX; **MNSR Michael Bennett**, Sparta, TN, USS Sentry, Ingleside; **MNSA James Blanton**, Riverside, CA, USS Champion, Ingleside; **MNSR Chris Caldwell**, Oklahoma City, Okla., USS Defender, Ingleside; **MNSR Benjamin Campbell**, New Orleans, LA, USS Avenger, Ingleside; **MN1 Charles Demoss**, of Portland, TX, USS Shrike, Ingleside; **MNSR Yancy Forbes**, Manistee, MI, USS Scout, Ingleside; **MNSN Eric Gummersheimer**, Amarillo, TX, USS Champion, Ingleside; **MNSR James Knott**, Sedro Wooley, WA, USS Cardinal, Manama, Bahrain; **MN2 Daniel Sells**, Long View, TX, USS Shrike, Ingleside; **MNSR Heather Smith**, Visalia, CA, Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Eleven, Charleston, S C; **MN3 Ricardo Suarez**, Garland, TX, USS Patriot, Sasebo, Japan; **MNSN Carlos Vielma**, Dallas, TX, USS Chief, Ingleside; **MNSR Anthony Washington**, Seattle, WA, USS Devastator (MCM 6), Ingleside

Class 1030 graduated April 13th. Foc'sle 4/27

**MNSN Luis Flores**, Pasadena, CA, USS Ardent; **MNSR Jeremy Frick**, El Maton, TX, USS Pioneer; **MNSR Abel Guerrero, Jr.**, Lapuente, CA, MOMAU 11; **MNSR Jared Kline**, UNION City, MI, MOMAD 12; **MNSR Steven Lopez**, Wichita Falls, TX, MOMAU 11; **MNSN Daniel Marquardt**, Oklahoma City, OK, USS Guardian; **MNSA Kristy Reed**, Sacramento, CA, MOMAU 11; **MNSR Nicholas Resch**, Cody, WY, USS Scout; **MNSR Jerry Simpson**, Crossett, AK, MOMAU 3; **MNSN Ryan Smith**, Pueblo West, CO, USS Raven; **MNSA Richard Weldon**, Louisville, KY, USS Dextrous.

Class 1040 graduated May 18th.

**MN2(SW) Isidro Beltran**, Chyenne, WY, USS Pelican; **MNSA Steven P Conklin**, Nashville, TN, MOMAU 11; **MNSR Matthew D. Cox**, Haskell, OK, MOMAU 11; **MN1(SW) Dale L. Elkins**, St Joseph, MO, USS Pioneer; **MNSN Jason T. Franz**, South Bend, IN, MOMAU 3; **MNSN Shane E. Huddleston**, Phoenix, AZ, MOMAU 1; **MNSA Benjamin D. Hunt**, Indianapolis, IN, MOMAD 12; **MN2(AW) Leroy P. McLaughlin**, Castro Valley, CA, MOMAU 11; **MNSR Charles E McKinney**, Dallas, TX, MOMAU 15; **MNSN Jesus Rivera**, Los Angeles, CA, MOMAU 11; **MNSN John P. Rodriguez**, McAllen, TX, MOMAU 10; **MNSR Christopher L. Romann**, Perham, MN, MOMAU 11; **MN1 Eric B. Saucedo**, Garland, TX, USS Pioneer; **MNSR Aaron D. Smith**, Lake Charles, LA, MOMAU 10; **MNSR Wyatt T. Steward**, Okmulgee, OK, MOMAU 10; **MNSA Russell P. Stratford**, Corning, NY, MOMAD 12.



(Continued from page 9)

**LCDR Ian M. Hall** relieved **CDR Anthony W Swain** as Commanding Officer USS Raven on May 1, 2001 at Bahrain.

USS Kingfisher welcomes new commanding officer Command of coastal mine hunter USS Kingfisher (MHC 56) changed hands Friday, May 4, when **CDR. Michael A. Hall** turned over the helm to **LCDR. James McGovern** during a change of command ceremony on the Naval Station waterfront.

(Continued from page 10)

also received emails concerning the posting of delinquent members in the newsletter. Editor's note: Folks it was informational not chastisement. The Secretary used that method hopefully to get shipmates and friends to contact buddies we have "lost" in the mail system. We apologize to anyone offended by this method of notification.

**Buddy Stewart** says: Hi Chris, Just wanted to give you some news for the paper. **Fred and Millie Reid** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 10th. **Jean and I** went up there for a pig roasting May 29th and 30th. **Fred and Millie** come from a big family. There must have been 125 people. Had a great time. **Jean and I** have 6 more to go before our big day. I hope she behaves so we can make it. All for now, will keep in touch.

We need you and your dues. Please take a moment and stay current  
Annual dues \$15  
To: AOM  
PO Box 71835  
Charleston 29415



## March 2001 Rating Exam Results

Quotas: MN1 49 took exam 12  
Advanced 24% MN2 60 took  
exam 14 Advanced 23% MN3 73  
took exam 73 Advanced all

To MN1: Keith Burch, James Cooks, Kevin Geary, Jerry Gerhardt, James Grant, Manuel Jimenez, Orville Miller, Robert Morgan, Maurice Perine, Peter Placek, Fondra Townsend, Kirk Veselka

To MN2: Mario Adame, Timothy Astin, Dvid Camerer, Patrick Cook, Jason Dilworth, Jarrod Gibbens, travis Hutchens, Michael Jjust, Edwardse Killip, Ryan Long, Robert McQuiddy, Ricardo Munoz, John Pennington, Wendy Sims

To MN3: Royce Adams, Samuel Anaya, Angel Arias, Billy Arthur, Jose Avelar, David Baker, Mari Barrientos, Billy Bennett, John Best, Rafmar Brito, Todd Browne, Joey Burnett, Brian Cantrell, Josh Chronister, Michael Corbitt, Bradley Costa, Frederic Denson, Rebecca Diehl, Kevin Dielman, Nathan Drake, Jacob Fedo, Ernesto Flores, Kelly Freeman, Christop Garner, Chimoc Gathings, Gregory Gillis, James Gipson, Henry Glenn, Matthew Greene, Michael Gunn, William Hall, Justin Hauck, Bruce Haynes, Troy Hepner, Nicholas House, Demictri Jacobs, Joseph James, Benito Juarez, Matthew Ledford, Quenton Lewis, Ralph Maldonado, Albert Mercer, Shawn Moser, William Nilles, William Nosek, Matthew Piccione, Jason Pixley, Misty Rains, Jonathon Reece, Jeffery Rivera, Jason Roach, Chad Runt, Carl Sandin, Jan Schaming, Habib Seabrook, Steve Shelbourn, John Shewbuirt, Chip Smith, Darre Sprinkles, Davi Talamantes,

Deshawn Taylor, Michael Taylor, Rex Taylor, Rodney Terry, Kenneth Ullman, Euclides Uribe, Joshua Vanmatre, Spen Waitschies, Lind Wohlgemuth, Zachar Woodruff, Eric Zenero

## Membership

by Bill Roberts

**P**resident, Joe Balderrama asked me to send you the results of our efforts to salvage what members that we could from the list posted in the Spring issue of the "Dashpot" of those members for non payment of dues.

AOM Treasurer, Curtis Christians' article in the Spring 2001 "Dashpot," concerning the members being dropped from the association for non-payment of dues, (sixty eight in fact) really caught the attention of the AOM Board of Directors. It was felt that something should be done to salvage as many of our shipmates as possible. In the mean time Curtis, had sent post cards to all concerned on the list, with good results reducing the list but not completely eliminating it. There were thirty some non responses to his post cards.

Board members (Bill Roberts, Dick Schommer, William Carlsen, Ron Swart, and president, Joe Balderrama), got together via e-mail and decided to give it one last try and contact those members not responding to the "Dashpot" or mail. The remaining members were divided up between the board members and an attempt was made to call each one with the following results: nine, will re-new, 14, could not be reached due to non-working phone numbers, one, was not interested in renewing, one, was deceased. Ron Swart also indicated that he had recruited two new members, and that Class "A" mine school students were being contacted upon graduation.

I must add, "BZ fellow board

members, for a good effort and a job well done"

## New "Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades" Column

By Bill Fortner

**I** think that we have overlooked a very colorful and interesting facet of our history and that is the folklore and fairy tale associated with a host of individuals that wore the Mineman rating. I am soliciting input to a column I have tentatively named "Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades." I really do want to know the true story of how the black swan's necks got tied in a square knot and an how the international incident was avoided, how an arab managed to get hit with a snowball in Morocco, who stole the train in Tokyo and ran it to Yokosuka and why, and a multitude of similar events. Being a chronically under funded rating, the tales of "wrongful appropriation" of material for "rightful purposes" alone would fill a book. Now that the Statute of Limitations has expired, I think it is vital

to accurately chronicle these deeds of daring-do so daringly done by members of our elite fraternity before the corporate memory expires along with the culprits Did Old Shoes, the Reluctant Eagle, really try to throttle Juice Steedly after he

caused the window to fall out of the airplane when it landed? Did a Chief Mineman really break the sound barrier leaving the smoke shack with his trousers around his ankles in the Philippines after forcibly removing the screen door to the

head? I heard a snake was involved. Who installed the search coil and Sensitrol Relay under the road at the gate as a "snooze alarm" to alert the crew when the

(continued on page 14)



brass were entering the compound so they could look busy? Did Saxy P really fall into a ditch in Andoya and was unable to turn over like a turtle because of the volume of clothes he was wearing to keep warm? Who chopped up the marline and made a sandwich with it to deter a lunch burglar? Is it true that Cherokee Brown spent the night in a magazine on Guam? Did the legendary boiled egg and beer SBDs by Charlie Graham really cause a Lieutenant JG to vacate his office on several occasions?

Please send your stories with as much detail as you can remember and do not worry about wording. As the incoming editor of "The Dashpot", I do not intend to edit fleet input, however, I will take the time rewrite and edit these stories if necessary. The single ground rule is basic. Stories that may affect family relations should not be submitted.

### 60 lbs. of 'pop-tabs'

"Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" Sailors, aboard Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, have been collecting "pop-tabs" from soda cans for the past several months. CDR **James Looby**, Naval Station Ingleside's chaplain has spearheaded the effort. **Looby** and **RP3 Esparanza Waterman**, of the Chaplain's Office, recently brought more than 60 pounds of these "pop-tabs" to the Ronald McDonald House in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for the families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. The nearly 90,000 tabs collected, when recycled, can pay for more than an entire day of electricity needed to keep the Ronald McDonald House running. "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" Sailors continue to collect pop-tabs. Note 57 pounds will pay for a day of electricity for the facility

## EDITOR

by John Loonam

**A**s I bid farewell to this task of Editor, the Dashpot, I think back over three presidents of our Association. **Toby, Warren and Joe** all did their best to make the Association work and be fruitful for the Mineman. Active, Reserve, Retired, Ex-MN, spouses and widows all banded together for the comrade of belonging to a mighty small segment of the U.S. Navy. The rating originating in the '40's and almost extinct in the '90's banded us into a mighty close community. Being toured and re-toured with our classmates and new found acquaintances, we survived a tour or career letting our Christmas card list get bigger. Many of our children knew each other better than their own cousins.

This camaraderie evolved into the Association of Minemen some 27 years ago. As the forefathers of the Association age out, it's time for younger Minemen to take up the slack and carry the load to make it work. There are many talents out there that can be committed to making the Association expand and prosper. You don't have to be retired, ex-officer or any other specific other than want to help the Mineman cause. Join, support the leadership, run for office, volunteer to do a task or do anything to continue the AOM into our future.

I will sound a sour note on one subject, Membership! I recall some 20 years ago when I had Enlisted evaluations passing through me that involvement in Community service was commented upon. I do have a problem with the Association awarding a free membership to the annually selected Mineman of the Year. Seems to me the top Mineman in the Navy would already belong to support his community? What will it do for me, one may ask? Make you part of the only association for and about the Mineman rating. An application is on the back page. Sign up and support your rating.

The job of Editor has been frustrating and fun. I enjoy working with the computer and over the past 9 years the software has made things easier. Deadlines and computer/printer problems always make for a hectic week but when its in the mail and on the way to the web-page, I feel a great sense of accomplishment. Those that have stood by me and make every issue with an article, my hats off to you. This one is certainly easier to produce than my first (issue 7).

I would also like to thank my friends that responded to my Mayday call for help in raising funds to get our History Book produced. You loaned over \$7000. to the AOM to help defray the final expenses. Now many have been repaid, some donated their loans to the AOM and some are waiting for the last repayment this fall. You folks did a bang up job of helping when we were in extremis.

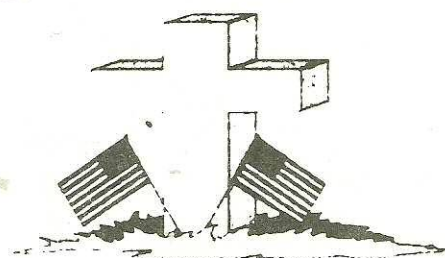
**LT Bill Fortner**, retired MN living down in Alabama, has a few spare hours on his hands and an excellent knowledge of computers and graphics. Therefore, he has volunteered to take on the Editor job. **Bill** will charge on, improving the quality and content of your newsletter. Problem is he needs input from ALL of you. Best send articles in or he will spam this thing full of email jokes! **Bill** is starting a Rogues, Rascals and Renegades column to allow the "sea stories" to come to print. They can't Court Martial you after 30 years, can they? Should be a great addition to our history. Fred could start a collection of them on the AOM Home page. Just can't say enough how great a job **Fred Dane** is doing for the AOM with our Homepage <battle netgate.net>. He's paying for it too!

A newsletter cannot function without the input of the Secretary/Treasurer so a big thanks to **Lyal and Curtis**.

My thanks for allowing me serve you. I Hope to see you in Reno! and again in Yorktown in 2002.



## 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 loved ones who now reside with our Most Supreme Commander.

Mike Cummings reported to Fred Dane the passing of **Walter J Denison (Spider)** MNC Ret. In Oahu, Hawaii 11-12-2000. From the EOD Disposaleer.

Ed Guard, Silver Creek, NY tells us **Francis Panzer** (69) Ex MN 3) of Sevens Park, MD passed away 25 Jan 01 in Glen Burnie MD of heart failure. Frank was a 1951 graduate of Mine Warfare School, Yorktown. His first assignment was the USS Sperry AS-12 anchored in San Diego Bay. The MN on Sperry were assigned to a MK 10 mine shop ashore at Point Loma adjacent to the fuel pier. (Long before tenders or subs were berthed there.) Two tenders, USS Sperry and USS Nereus anchored out in the stream and nested their submarines alongside. Access to the tenders or subs was by boat. The MN lived in the shop ashore and didn't normally participate in the ships routine. Frank was the whaleboat coxwain for the many trips to the tenders (all supplies, pay, exams, sick bay etc. on the ships) Frank was at Azuma Island 1953 - 1955. After his tour in the Navy, Frank served in many capacities in Baltimore banking from teller to acting president of correspondent banks before he

retired. Frank is survived by five children.

**Bob Wilson** (Willie) also tells us already retired. He was part of my tells us the May issue of Naval Chief initiation. I am sorry to here of Affairs had **MNC Walter J (Spider)** his passing. I have very fond **Dennison** USN Ret. listed in Taps. memories of reviewing his JUMP **Bob** says "First time I ever met him LOG and discussion's for an EOD was at the Silver Bar in Hawthorne, Tech not to change rate from MN... NV, where we were both stationed, Take Care...Randy he wanted me to go to the Piaute The June issue of All Hands Taps Bar next door for a drink. So being list has **MN2 Deloyd Courtney** young and foolish I went with him. Branch 166 (Virginia Beach)

When we walked in he took off his shirt, pulled out a switchblade knife, stuck it in the wooden bar, and stated "I am here for the night"! When the fight broke out, I thought I was going to die, but some how we managed to get out of there with out any wounds. Of course I never went out with **Spider** again till my tour in Vietnam. He was in civies and I had no idea of what his status was there. We had a few beers together, in Nha Be and the next time I saw him when my boat was doing an extraction near Cambodia and when he got on the boat he punched me because I didn't know him. He was wearing civies and of course a Green Face. That was the last time I ever saw him."

Sirs and fellow Mineman, I'm sorry to say Hello this way but I've just heard the horrible news from Campbeltown that one of our own, Gunner **Gary Williams** died recently, thought you would like to know if you hadn't heard already. I don't know any details other than that. Take Care All, Jim (BARKINPIG@AOL.COM Note; other reports indicated a past heart attack and current liver failure in Scotland.

From: **Pat Thomas** NEODA Secretary May 24, 2001 Subject: Crossing the Bar

Please pass the following information to folks in your area.

I have received word from his sister that **MNCM Paul Henry** passed away on 22 Jan 2001, his 68th birthday.

I had the opportunity to meet and

spend some "LIBERTY" time with **Paul Henry** while I was stationed at Seal Beach, of course he was

## Incoming

**Bias Palma Hernandez** "Joe" writes:



I can say without fear of contradiction that your efforts as "Editor" these past few years were unique and they played a big part in uniting the

mine community.

You always tried to paint the truth about Naval History, but as we have found out, it is not a hard and fast science. Historical truths are sometimes elusive. They emerge gradually as versions are gone over and over again. History must remain open to critique and it has no end.

Behind you was "**Bobbie**". She deserves a special thanks. Peace be with you both

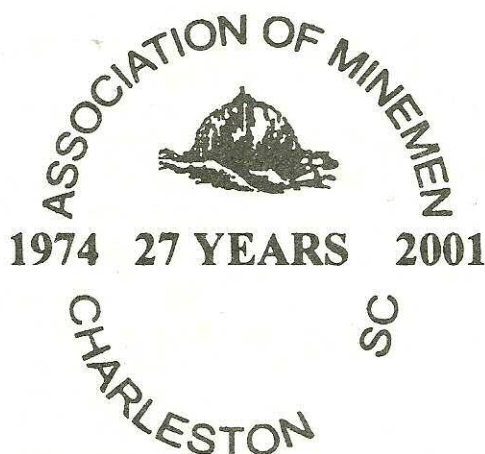
**MNCM Al Fross** says: Here's Unit Eleven's summer input. As you know this will be my last article. It's been a pleasure working with ya and I still have fond memories of Okinawa when we both were there. I consider it one of my best tours. Again I thank you for all you have done for the Mineforce and me personally.

Retired **MNCS John Nahra** expressed his displeasure of our listing the about to be dropped members.

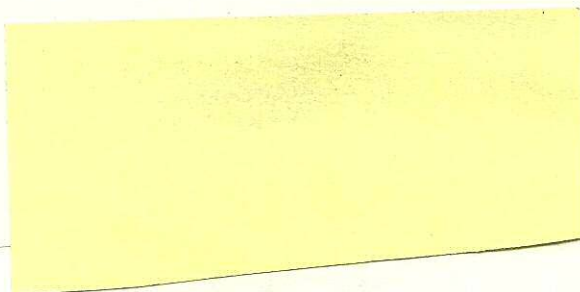


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