

# THE DASHPOT

Issue 38 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Summer 2001<sup>2</sup>



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Paul Santa Maria**

Whew! Time goes by fast when you are having fun. The duties of the President are not for the "Good Ole Boys" or the weak of heart. I am enjoying and appreciating the challenges, the accomplishments along with the genuine unselfish help that pours out from the membership.

A big thanks to the Yorktown Museum "Keep or throw" committee: Toby Horn, Bob Forbes and Dick Schommer. That's the first step to be taken in the re-vamping of the museum.

It looks like the Yorktown Reunion Committee, Jack Smoot and John Loonam have everything in place and all that is needed now is us members. "Ya'll come, ya hear". August will be here before we know it. Bootsie and I are looking forward to being together again with all you great, sweet, loving people. It also means that I will have completed my first year as your President. A tremendous honor, thank you!! Warren Savage informs me that the San Diego Reunion (2003) is shaping up. I'm sure there are reports on both reunions in this issue. In the upcoming reunion, we will have to decide where east of the Mississippi we will have our 2004 Reunion. Please give thought to this.

Thanks and success to Senior Chief David Ostrom of MOMAU Five on his AOM membership drive. It seems to be that MOMAU's Five and Eight are challenging the other MOMAU Units and possibly the shipboard minemen also. Success to all.

The latest word on the Scholarship Challenge is that it needs more infusion. Time is running out, but I am confident the challenge will be met.

See you all at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion.

God Bless All

**2002 REUNION  
9 - 11 AUGUST  
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS  
NOW!!**

## YORKTOWN REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

By John Loonam & Jack Smoot

A meeting was held on 2 June with the following members in attendance: Danny Epperly, Picnic; Bill Beck, Early Bird; Bob Spencer and Francis McCarthy, Golf; Ed Oyer, Donations & Dinner M.C.; Jack Smoot & John Loonam, Banquette & Reunion. We were informed that Eddie Atkins (Picnic) was in the Richmond Medical College of Virginia for open-heart surgery and he is up and getting around now.

Jack Smoot opened the meeting with a review of the AOM Master Plan for reunions. The Hotel (now the Williamsburg Clarion) had 17 rooms reserved as of 6/1. The dinner menu and advance reunion preparations are on track. The Early Bird hospitality refreshments were discussed. Ed Oyer informed us that he had commitments from four Williamsburg merchants to donate items for the Scholarship Auction. He is still twisting arms for additional booty. Auction items are being accepted at Jack Smoot's house. Ed will meet with the head of the Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce and obtain a hospitality package to promote area tourist attractions. We will provide handouts of AOM scheduled events and a map giving directions to the Yorktown Coast Guard Base picnic area.

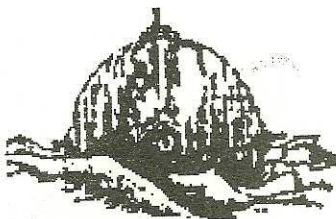
Golf folks, attention! Bob Spencer and Mack McCarthy are planning a Saturday morning golf competition. At present, either the Cheatham or Yorktown Weapons Station courses are available. The exact location will be decided later. They need you to contact them with the number of golfers and handicap (no fudging please). Mac has a tournament computer program to match up golfers. Tee times will be called in when the field is known and type of competition decided. Telephone: 757-833-3180, e-mail [spencer@nwsy.navy.mil](mailto:spencer@nwsy.navy.mil) They plan to have the golf tournament completed prior to the 2:00 PM Business Meeting.

Jack and Bill Beck each volunteered to donate a bushel of  
Continued on next page.

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## **MEN 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 with the mission of perpetuating knowledge of undersea mine warfare and championing its necessity as one of America's first lines of defense.

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## **Reunion**

steamed crabs for your Epicurean delight at the picnic. Bring your crab crackers/pickers!

We plan to have a photographer for portrait pictures and candid shots so we can produce a Yorktown 2002 Reunion booklet.

A press release will be issued to local newspapers to advertise our event to area Minemen and NMEF & NMWEA friends.

We need to submit final numbers for the dinner, picnic, golf and whatever so please get your reservation form to Curtis Christian. Please don't forget. The Clarion Hotel reservation price guarantee only runs through 9 July. 800-666-8888 or [reservations@williamsburgclarion.com](mailto:reservations@williamsburgclarion.com)

We look forward to seeing many of you here the weekend of August 9-11.

If anyone needs to contact Jackie Smoot or John Loonam regarding reunion matters please refer to the far left column of the masthead on this page for contact information.

## **RV PARKING INFO FOR YORKTOWN REUNION**

NWS Yorktown has campsites. RV capabilities may be discussed at 757-887-4601/7101 (MWR)

Newport News Park about 10 miles south of the hotel on the same Rt. 143 has a campground 757-886-7912 or [www.newport-news.va.us/parks](http://www.newport-news.va.us/parks)

Other possibilities Williamsburg Pottery Campground 800-892-0320 (webpage) and the Williamsburg Manor RV Resort 757-566-2133

The Williamsburg RV is closest but probably most expensive. Pottery and Newport News Park about 10 miles in opposite directions from the hotel. Bill Mehard said he would use the nearest Wal Mart parking lot. They encourage overnight stays on RVs. Not one real close. There is a shopping center directly across the street from the hotel.



## PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

As with most organizations, updating its by-laws from time-to-time is very common. The changes as listed below are sorely needed to bring our organization into the present and on into the future. Without these changes, it will be almost impossible for the B.O.D. to function in accordance to our by-laws. Our purpose and principles remain unchanged. These changes will not change our 501(C)(3) tax-exempt status.

### ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION.

**PRESENT:** Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors that include ex-officio members as delineated in Art. V, Section 3 and Chapter Chairpersons designated in accordance with Article X, Section 2.

**CHANGE TO:** The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Directors that include ex-officio members as delineated in Article V, Section 3 and Chapter Chairpersons designated in accordance with Article X, Section 2. This body shall be known as the Board of Directors.

**PRESENT:** Section 2. These officers shall be elected with the exception of the Secretary, Treasurer and those ex-officio members who are appointed by the President; subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The position of Secretary and Treasurer can be held by the same person. Each elected official, and all Chapter Chairpersons in attendance, shall be a voting member at the Board of Directors meeting conducted by the President of the Association.

**CHANGE TO:** These officers shall be elected with the exception of the Secretary, Treasurer and those ex-officio members who are appointed by the President, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. The same person can hold the position of Secretary and Treasurer. Each elected official, the Immediate Past President, and all Chapter Chairpersons in attendance, shall be voting members at the Board of Directors meeting conducted by the President of the Association.

**PRESENT:** Section 3. The Board of Directors will consist of six members who shall serve terms of three years. Two of these members shall be elected annually. Ex-officio members of the Board of Directors will include the Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and Quartermaster who are appointed in accordance with Article VI, Section 1. The Immediate Past President is an ex-official member of the Board of Directors. Ex-officio members act in only an advisory capacity and do not have a vote on matters before the Board.

**CHANGE TO:** The Directors will consist of six members, who shall serve terms of three years. Two of these members shall be elected annually. Ex-officio members of the Board of Directors will include the Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and Quartermaster who are appointed in accordance with article VI, Section 1. Ex-officio members act only in an advisory capacity and do not have a vote on matters before the Board.

### ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

**PRESENT:** Section 7. Four Directors shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

**CHANGE TO:** Four voting members shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your indulgence and continued support.

Respectfully yours,  
G. Paul Santa Maria,  
President

## YORKTOWN MINE MUSEUM REPORT

By Toby Horn

The period of time had taken its toll, as much other "junk" had been moved into this space from who knows where. We had to climb under, over, and in-between "stuff" to check off our list. I identified the mine material and made an on-site "stow or throw" decision. This was based entirely on two factors - the condition of the material and respective worth to any future display. Most of the items were already duplicated in our current display.

We then visited the mine museum space to talk about general appearance, the flow of tour traffic, future renovations, and ideas for changes, additions, etc. Eleanor talked about the use of wall space, small kiosk use for visual presentations, and general display layout so that the space would tell a mine warfare story. We were both in sync on that. While we were there, many people came through, and I could hear many of them saying, "I wonder what this is"? I rest my case.

So short report on a nice long visit: Eleanor will be making up a storyboard plan to visualize the general layout and story telling of the mine display. This is a long-term milestone and one where she wants a lot of input from us. She wants ideas - no matter how trivial they may seem. This can include old training film clips, photos, dioramas, models, etc. She explained their graphics capability - use of photo CDs in kiosk presentation - voice explanations via tape - photo metal identification tags, etc. So, we need to put our thinking caps on. Hell, I may visit a museum or two for ideas - get educated on visual presentation.

Some other good news. Eleanor doesn't think they will have to close the mine tour due to HAZMAT concerns. The only closure she is now predicting is for the renovation of the space itself. Again, this is down the road a bit - but in sight. The closure can be minimized by a good plan - so we need to get our act together and help her with ideas starting now. I would like any ideas to be forwarded to me as the single POC they requested. I promise to send them on to Eleanor intact (minus any derogatory expletives, of course).

Since there will be no closure, the short-term plan is to get some photo metal identification tags for material now on display. Eleanor gave me a copy of the identification listings they had - the standard Mk/Mod, weight, length, etc., which has no intrinsic value whatsoever to the general public. I am going to re-work these to put some general knowledge info on them that will make people stop, look, think. At least, that's the plan.

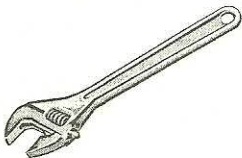
Also short term will be an initial material I.D., stow or throw get-together on May 1st for "stuff" we have in the below-deck spaces under the mine display area. Again, I will be trying to segregate the personal or individual "stuff" donated. I don't



## Yorktown Museum Report Continued.

think I have a prayer in identifying who gave what for purposes of return - so my intention would be to salvage this "stuff" for possible sale at our yearly auction for scholarship money. In general, if it doesn't meet any useable criteria, "stuff" will be designated for the circular file.

I'd like to have a little help on the May 1st venture. Two other people would be nice. Three would be better. Eleanor wants to commit all material identified to a computer listing, including serial numbers of material where appropriate. She intends to have a couple of ships company there for doing this, and for tagging, marking or stockpiling material designated for disposal. I'll try to scrounge up a few guys around the area to help with this?



## **USS YORKTOWN WORKING PARTY REPORT**

By Toby Horn.

The following is my report on the work party we had on the Yorktown:

We had a good workout on the Yorktown for our throw and stow bash. I met Dick Schommer and Bob Forbes in the parking lot. Lyal Stryker did not show, but that didn't surprise me. We were down below by 0930, got the routine down, and were heaving "stuff" onto the trash pile within minutes. Both Dick and Bob were heard to remark, several times, that they had never seen so much junk in their life. That was an understatement. What we were doing with so many blanking-off plates, cables, ten and twenty each of firing mechanisms, test sets that would never be used or displayed - I'll never quite understand. We did put aside two each of most important items. These were brought onto computer inventory by Eleanor Wimett's crew, who were kept busy entering nomenclature and taking photos. We found some additional CD-14s (but only a few keys), which will add to our larder. We also kept "stuff" that we agreed would be of interest as auction items, which I will try to load up and bring with me for the reunion. I also pigeon-holed all the brass I could find (some old Mk 3 test pots, spring-loaded booster spacers, etc.) for Bill Mehard, if he's interested. I'm copying him on this report so he can get in touch and let me know. All the paperwork and documentation was stowed in a single location for near-future identification and archive entry. I only gave this a cursory inspection, and I did not find any additional photos or see any personal mementos. Eleanor told me she would put together the "new" inventory (material we are keeping) and send me a copy. This will also result in a "disposal" list, which will basically be a comparison of the new inventory against our old inventory. Eleanor remarked that the disposal list could be sent to other interested activities to see if there was any of this material they wanted. I'm working on the re-write of the identification plates to go on our display mines and hope to have that for Eleanor within a week or so. I still need anyone's thoughts/ideas as to the "new look" of the museum. Any questions, come back. Toby



## **FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK**

It is hard to understand where the year has gone. Time is drawing near for our 2002 reunion and I look forward to seeing all of you again.

Please take a moment to look at the front of your Dashpot. If the date is "Aug. 2001" you are about a year past due. After this posting I will have to drop the ones who have not paid dues. (\$15.00 per year).

We still need your help meeting the scholarship challenge. We only have about half of it covered. This would provide another scholarship each year and is tax deductible. Many thanks to those of you that have helped.

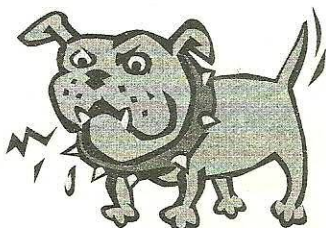
As for the money books— We have \$2285.00 in the operating funds that we can use this year. Still have this Dashpot to pay for. We have \$2611.00 donated to the challenge for the scholarship. We are more that half way. The President will appoint an audit committee to audit the books prior to our meeting. If any of you would like to be on this committee please let Paul know. Of course with a name like mine I know you think that I could never make an error,(smile) however it can happen and it is better to catch it now than two years from now.

See You in Yorktown.

Curtis

**NEXT DASHPOT  
ARTICLES ARE  
DUE  
1 SEPT 2002**



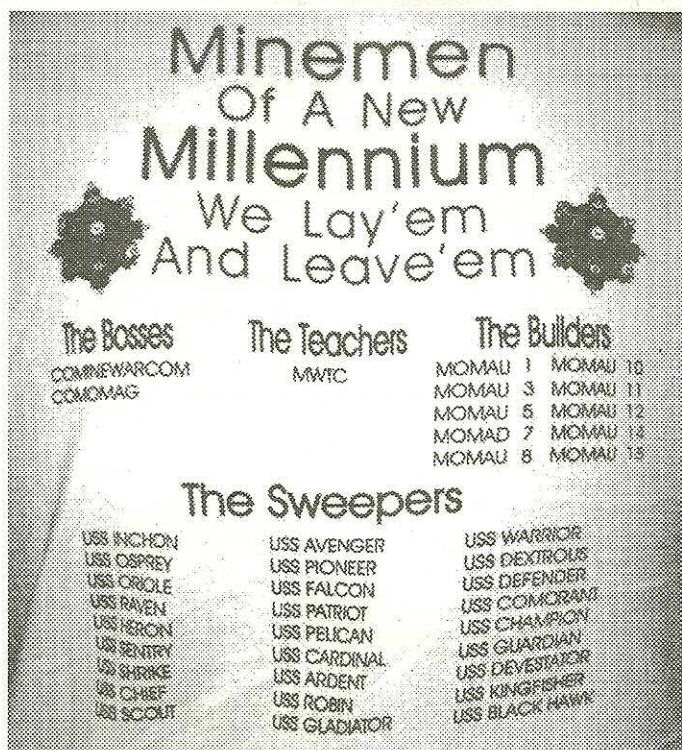


## FROM THE STOREKEEPER

By MN1 Stephanie Cowart

Hi all from Guam. THE TIE TACKS ARE BACK! Paul Santa Maria was able to obtain more tie tacks, and we have them for sale at \$5 a piece. I tried to add a picture of them, but I couldn't get a good close-up for ya'll to see. They are gold Mk 6 mines, with the anchor and are very nice. They can be used as either tie tacks or hat pins.

I have included a picture of the back of our 2001 Reunion shirts. I still have a handful left, in the XXL and XL sizes. Purchase them while you can. We have sold out of the embroidered hats. I will be getting with TNT out of Charleston to see what kind of deal they can give us on them. Mr. Santa Maria sent me some prices on shirts, and he has a good deal on the embroidered ones, and I have a good deal locally on the screen print ones. I hope to have some new shirts available by the next Dashpot. I am also looking at koozies. (Thanks for the idea Toby) They are fairly inexpensive and I would like to have them available for the 2002 Reunion, and then whatever is left over, put up for sale through the AOM webpage.



## MAIL BAG

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
WALTERBORO NAVY JROTC UNIT  
1379 BULLDOG AVE  
WALTERBORO, Sc 29488

30 April 2002

Greetings Fellow Minemen,

On 24 April the MINEMEN ASSOCIATION presented to cadets Washington and Way a medal for being the most improved cadets for their freshman year. I was the presenter.

Cadet Seaman Apprentice (SA) Chantel Washington and Cadet SA Kyle Way were also very much involved in the Walterboro High School NJROTC Unit this year. Washington worked as a supply assistant and Way was on the armed drill team. Both cadets will be returning to a new Unit next year since the School name will change to Colleton County High School.

I would like to thank the Minemen Association for their continued support in our effort to teach many young people about being better citizens.

I enjoy receiving the DASHPOT and trying to keep up with the changes taking place in the Mine Force. Keep up this great service.

MOMAU 11, also assisted us with judges for our drill meet this year. The XO even helped out. Thank you very much for your help.

V/R

Rick

Richard C. Spofford, Jr.  
MNCS USN (Ret)  
Naval Science Instructor  
Walterboro High School  
Walterboro, South Carolina



Picture L to R C/SA Chantel Washington, C/SA Kyle Way, MNCS Rick Spofford

Age doesn't always bring wisdom.  
Sometimes age comes alone.



## More Mail

ADM Monger, COMINWARCOM 1976-1979, sent the following from San Diego:

I enjoy the Dashpot very much. Still see some names that I remember well. Keep up the good work.

Jack Monger

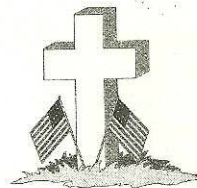
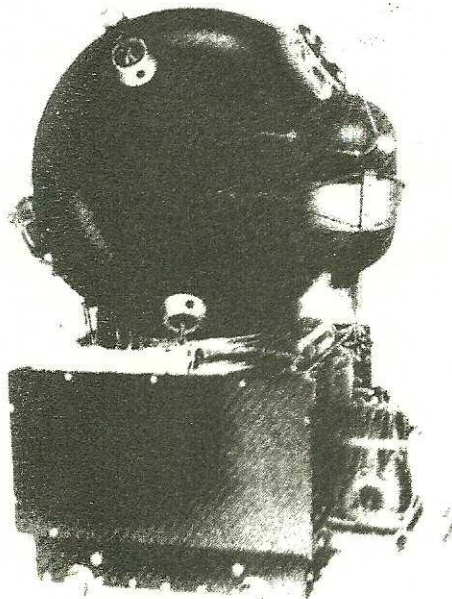
Editor's Note: You are remembered with fondness Admiral.

The Greater Charleston Naval Base Memorial, Inc.

Those of you that live in the Charleston area, or have been stationed in Charleston (almost all minemen), might want to consider purchasing a brick for the Greater Charleston Naval Base Memorial. For more information write to the Greater Charleston Naval Base Memorial, Inc., P.O. Box 190016, Charleston SC 29419-9016. You may also call (843) 740-2558, or FAX (843) 308-4738, or visit their web site at [www.charleston.net/org/gcnbm](http://www.charleston.net/org/gcnbm).

Bill, a friend of mine called to ask if you would put their reunion notice in the up coming issue of the DASHPOT. He was on a YMS during WW2 and he is a member of the Naval Minewarfare Association. He is also the membership chairman and past president about 2 or 3 times ago of that assn.. His name is Jim Minor. and also a member of AOM. Here is the information: I said that you may or may not do it, but I would send it anyway

Another Upcoming Reunion:  
NAVAL MINEWARFARE ASSOCIATION (NMA)  
DENVER, CO SEPT. 4-9, 2002  
CONTACT: KRIS GRETZINGER  
16278 W. ARROYO VISTA LANE  
SURPRISE, AZ 85374  
TELFAX (623) 975-6326  
[kgretz56@aol.com](mailto:kgretz56@aol.com) web site info is : [http://members.aol.com/\\_ht\\_a/fredricxxx/re202.htm](http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/fredricxxx/re202.htm)



## TAPS

**MN1 Lloyd Bemis, USN, (Ret).** Carmen Bemis wrote the following:

I am writing to inform you of the passing of Lloyd Bemis on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Lloyd had Alzheimer's Disease and went into a home last December. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, he had a slight stroke and passed away peacefully the following morning. He had a beautiful military funeral with all honors. Because he always loved the Navy, I buried his uniform with him. He will be missed by all.

Carmen Bemis

Lloyd joined the Navy in late 1941 or early 1942 and served in the Navy for 30 years. He was 78 when he passed away.

**MN2 Glenn Holden, USN, (Ret).** Alan Hipp passed on the sad news that Glenn Holden died at St. Petersburg, FL on May 31, 2002. Glenn had been fighting a tumor for some time and finally succumbed. If anyone would like to send cards, flowers, or money to help with the funeral, the address is: 236 NW Monroe Circle, N. St. Petersburg, FL 33702. The phone number is 727 526-6272.

**MN2 Bobbie G. Jenkins, USN.** Jim Minor from the NMA reported that Bobbie G. Jenkins, MN2, born May 2, 1925 passed away April 12, 2002 at Fanning Springs, FL. He was stationed on the USS LINDSEY DM 32.

**MNC Louis Logan Jones, USN, (Ret).** Dick Martin reports that Louis Logan Jones passed away last Oct (2001). He was 87 and lived in Declo, ID. Martin got the information from Logan's son.

**MN2 Erwin S Reed, USN, (Disch).** Roger Freeman MN2 (Disch.) advises us that Erwin S. Reed, MN2, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955 aboard the Naval Mine Depot Yorktown, VA passed away January 9, 2002 at Madison, OH.



"Death surprises us in the midst of our hopes."  
— Thomas Fuller (Gnomologia, 1732)





## SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

By William (Swede) Carlsen

As of 1 June we have \$2661.00 in the Challenge Fund and \$1446.58 in the scholarship fund. REMEMBER, we have until 8/12/02 to match the challenge of \$5000 that AOM President Paul Santa Maria and wife Bootsie issued at last years reunion.

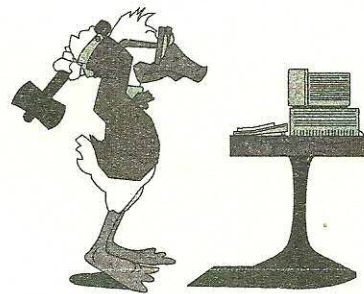
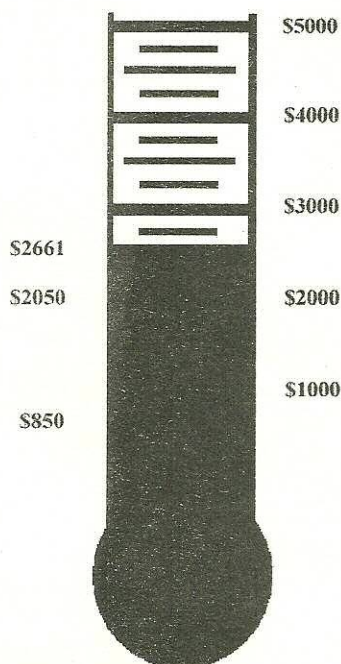
As you all realize tuition costs have risen dramatically over the past two decades. On average, tuition has gone up 40% or more in private and public colleges. Our help in defraying these costs will assist at least two students in receiving a higher education.

You can send an earmarked donation for the Challenge Fund to the AOM Secretary Treasurer or use your winning bid money at this year's auction (reunion picnic) to raise the matched monies in the Challenge Fund.

HINT: All scholarship contributions are tax deductible!

See you at the picnic and please give Paul and Bootsie a run on their \$5000 Challenge.

STAND TALL AMERICA

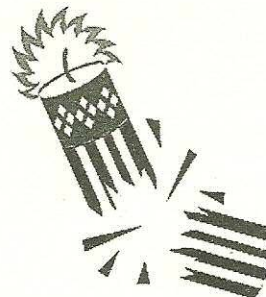


## EDITOR'S NOTES

By Bill Fortner

In my crusade to remove "EX" from the Mineman lexicon where it refers to those that have served honorably in the Mine Force, the thought struck me that there needs to be a viable substitute. I have been turning over a few abbreviations and acronyms in my head to replace the "EX". I considered the acronyms (DFAD), Discharged From Active Duty and (DAD) which omits the "From" letter. Neither of these seemed appropriate as this term would appear frequently in the Taps section of this newsletter and might be misconstrued. The acronym (SH) for Served Honorably came to mind, but that might cause some confusion at a later date with some special military qualification. like (SS) or (SW). Perhaps the use of the word discharged abbreviated and in parentheses [(Disch)], similar to (Ret) that indicates retired, is most appropriate. There are a few hundred of us and it would seem logical that there might be a better idea somewhere. I would appreciate any suggestions the readership might have.

On a more serious note, I have become acutely aware and deeply touched by the passing of so many Minemen these last few months since I became editor of The Dashpot. While death is a part of human existence, so is memory. In the last issue of The Dashpot the Taps entry for Lt. Oren Kreps included his photograph. It was not a photograph of an man in his seventies, but of a much younger man when he was proudly serving his country. We are all proud to have served our country or we would not be members of this organization. I thought about this a long while and decided that I, too, would like the last image people see of me to be one where I was proudly serving my country, when life held its greatest meaning for me. Because death is so traumatic on those that remain, I resolved to make sure that the future editors of The Dashpot had a digital image of me taken at a time in my life when I proudly served my country and the Navy through the Mine Force. For those of you that have similar feelings, I will be glad to accept photographs and keep them on file to be used to alert your shipmates when you have shipped out.



Enjoy the Fourth and take time to reflect on all the things for which America stands and what being an American truly means. I hope to see you all at the reunion.



# Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades

## JOSEPH GLOWA, MNCM EXTRAORDINAIRE

McGoo, Moose, Slokum, and I, the "Gruesome Foursome", Third Class Petty Officers all, were attached to a submarine tender and, as Minemen, we were relegated to living off the ship in a dusty old building used to house the torpedo crane, the occasional exercise round, and batteries. It was a slow Sunday and McGoo returned late in the afternoon with a large bag of shrimp from Mt. Pleasant. These were real shrimp too, not the puny little-finger size things that pass for shrimp today. Our hearts soared as we were getting terribly tired of salami and peanut butter. (We were far too lazy to get dressed and go to the ship to eat.) Fortunately, we were equipped with an ancient 220 VAC hot plate rescued from the salvage yard and a pot of sorts as well as what could pass for a frying pan. We dumped the shrimp into the pot and filled it with water, our mouths watering in anticipation. In less than a minute a terrible "KEEEEEEEE-ZAAAAAAP!" and a puff of acrid smoke heralded the death of the hot plate. Undaunted, we took the filled pot down to the tool room to boil the shrimp with the acetylene torch ... the acetylene tank was bone dry! What a quandary! Suddenly Moose positively lit up with an idea, something that was rare indeed. We could boil the shrimp in the coffeepot, a stroke of genius to be sure. We emptied the last of the coffee from the 48-cup pot, rinsed it, and poured in the shrimp. It was slow, but sure enough, it cooked the shrimp. We headed back to the bunkroom to the reefer for some ketchup. Another disaster! There was very little left, certainly not enough for all these shrimp. What was available was a small box of Texas Pete hot sauce. We dumped several bottles into the frying pan and did our best to cut it with the remaining ketchup ... our best was not good enough. There we sat; feasting on shrimp with tears as big as horse apples streaming down our faces. We were far too macho to admit that the incendiary hot sauce was eating us alive and knew that we would be using ice cream for toilet paper on the morrow. Through puffy lips with breath that could peel paint we grandly extolled the virtues of the shrimp dip. We finished all the shrimp, washed out the coffeepot, and refilled it with water and coffee grounds for the next morning.

It was freezing out in the main shop when I turned on the coffeepot on the way to the head. All of us were hunkered down around the heater in the bunkroom waiting for the main heater in the shop to make a difference when I walked Master Chief Mineman Joseph Glowa. He retrieved his cup from the pegboard, put it under the spout, and cracked the valve. The hot coffee striking the bottom of the frozen cup did a most remarkable thing. The entire bottom dropped out intact leaving MNCM Glowa holding a glass tube by a handle and pouring hot coffee all over his pants and shoes. We cracked up. He was not amused. One spine withering stare and we hustled back into the bunkroom. The Master Chief went into the office, retrieved his emergency cup, and carefully acclimated it with some warm water out of the nearby sink. He returned to the coffeepot and drew himself a cup. Then, with his left arm akimbo on his hip, he surveyed his fiefdom with satisfaction, raised the cup to his mouth, and took a significant gulp ... and spit it nearly 40 feet. We were mustered at attention in front of him before his bellow ceased echoing in the building. He commenced to discuss our shortcomings with us most forcefully and inquired as to why the coffee tasted like dead fish. Not waiting for an answer nor

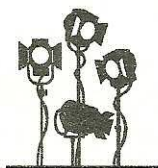
interested in the circumstances, he continued with our instruction nearly nonstop for an hour and a half until the Navy Exchange opened and we could graciously and selflessly volunteer to purchase another coffee pot. We were so very happy to be given that opportunity that the heels of our boondockers were positively smoking as we left to do so. Things returned to normal by mid week, but one of us AL-WAYS tasted the coffee before the Master Chief arrived.

Now I don't want to leave you with the impression that Master Chief Glowa did not have a sense of humor because he did. He was never one to wash his car and it was a pitiful sight to see parked outside and very nearly blending perfectly with the dirt parking lot. The Master Chief always went to the ship for lunch and while he was there one day I was inspired to wash one hubcap on each side and opposing halves of the front and rear bumpers. Though he was unhappy, he didn't raise a fuss about it mainly because he didn't know who did it. I did this about once a week and the Master Chief got increasingly irritated. It was very educational watching him and marveling at the colorful invectives he crafted right off the top of his head. One day he left for lunch and I checked to make sure he was well on his way before I washed something. I dashed out and washed the lower half of the driver's door and was working on a taillight when I hear this gentle tapping. Gentle tapping when there is no one around is not a good sign at all, no sirree! I slowly turned to see Master Chief Glowa standing in the doorway of the shop smiling so broadly his face almost disappeared. Still smiling, he tossed me his car keys and told me there was a bottle of whitewall cleaner in the trunk and that I might as well do them too. I got the message. For the next month, I washed his car once a week (always on Friday) and learned in agonizing detail how to do it to his complete satisfaction.

Master Chief Glowa was also perhaps the most renowned packrat in the entire fleet except for CWO4 Harder who taught a graduate course in Packratmanship. He used to take a couple of us underlings with him to the base dump which was across the street from the shop to stir through the trash unearthing such treasures as half a sister hook, 2 feet of 2X4, a shackle pin, some loose wire, and other such valuables. He amassed a phenomenal stock of used lumber, scrap metal, and other detritus which took us months to return to the dump after he transferred.

Joe was a risk taker as well. He sent Moose and I over to the ship to get some 1" angle iron from the overhead storage racks. He told us that if any one asked us what we were doing with it just to say that the chief said it was OK. We were stopped at the after brow and asked about the metal by the Chief of the Watch as we were leaving the ship. We told him that, "The Chief said it was OK" and he passed us on. When we returned with the angle iron Master Chief Glowa asked if we had any problems with it. We told him about being stopped on the after brow and that we had been passed by the Chief of the Watch when we explained that it was OK with the Chief. Instantly his voice faded to a conspiratorial whisper and he cautiously asked, "You didn't say which Chief did you?"

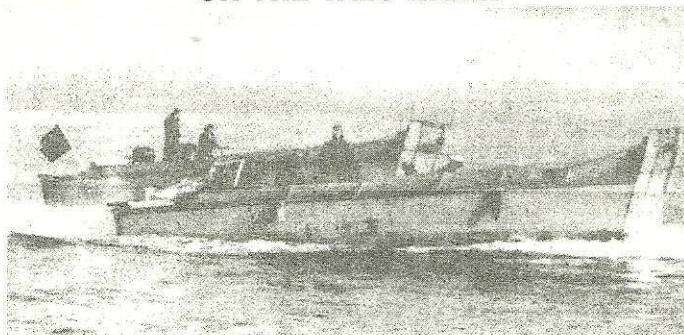




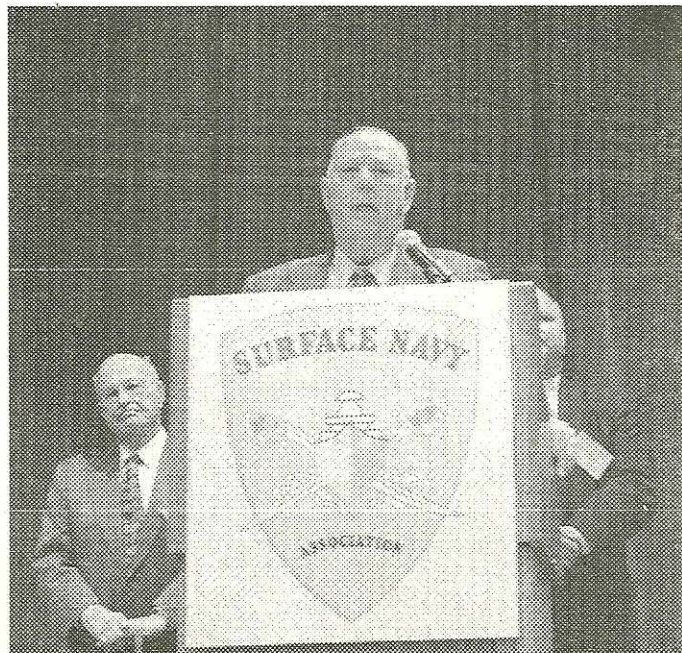
# MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**LCDR HAROLD ELSTON, USN  
(RET)**

## **MINESWEEPING UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL ON THE YALU RIVER**



Harold Elston (standing at far right on rear boat), on one of the LCVP minesweepers he served on in the Koreaqn War.



LCDR Hal Elston, USN (Ret) accepting the Surface Navy Association Historical Remembrance Award

**"When we went up the river the Koreans on the bank were waving American flags and cheering.  
When we came back down the river, they were waving Chinese flags and shooting!"**

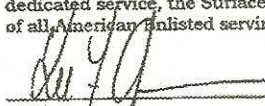
# Surface Navy Association



Surface Warfare Historical Remembrance

**LCDR Harold Elston, USN (Ret)**

You first enlisted and served during the Korean Conflict on board the destroyer minesweeper USS CARMICK (DMS 33). Following the Inchon invasion the Navy ordered minesweeping off the West Coast of Korea at Chinnampo to correspond with the continuing operations off Wonsan. As a Junior Enlisted mineman he volunteered to improvise a minesweeping operation based from a Japanese Landing Ship Tank. During this operation he and his shipmates equipped two 35-foot motor launches with miniature sweeping gear and quarter-inch wire rope to work in the shallow waters off Chinnampo. Later, he employed similar tactics on board LCVPs, and with helicopter support, destroyed a number of enemy mines. His mission at the mouth of the Yalu River found him confronting friendly fire as well as North Korean rifle fire. For the risks and missions accomplished, he received the Bronze Star medal with combat "V" and a Navy Unit Commendation for service on the USS CARMICK. LCDR Elston rose through the ranks and was commissioned Ensign in the Limited Duty Officer Program in July 1961. During one of his tours as an officer he was assigned the task of completing mining reports for the laying of mines in Hanoi and Haiphong in 1967. During his long outstanding career devoted to Mine Warfare he also received the Good Conduct Medal (3 awards), Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> award), and the Navy Achievement Medal. For your faithful and dedicated service, the Surface Navy Association takes pleasure in presenting to you its Historical Remembrance Award on behalf of all American Enlisted serving in mine warfare during the Korean Conflict.

  
Lee F. Gunn  
VADM USN (Ret)  
President, Surface Navy Association

16 January 2002



Continued from page 9.

Here are some interesting excerpts from "Chinnampo Revisited" by Harold Elston and paraphrased for brevity in places by the editor.

Imagine being a young Mineman Seaman Apprentice aboard a Destroyer Minesweeper (USS Carmick DMS 33) In the Korean Theater of Operations from 28 Oct. to 30 Nov. 1950 and being asked to volunteer for a task without knowing the task or the risk. I don't remember exactly how I came to volunteer, but the next thing I knew I was with 8 or 9 others, loaded into a motorized whaleboat and delivered to a Japanese LST that had just arrived in the approaches of Chinnampo (now called Nam'po). We were shown 2 WWII 35' motor launches and a considerable pile of minesweeping gear which appeared to be miniatures of the gear found aboard a YMS (Motor Minesweeper) for sweeping moored mines. After checking over the gear, we returned to the ship.

The next day, after checking the time of high tide, we left the ship for the LST and our first day of Small Boat Minesweeping. Little did we know that that this was the first time this had ever been attempted. We proceeded to launch the gear and started our first sweep into the shallow waters in the entrance of the river leading to Chinnampo.

There is a 27-foot tidal range in that area and we could only sweep while the tide was at, or near, flood stage. When the tide ebbed, many of the moored mines that had been planted there, often during the night, came to the surface and were easily avoided. We were able to sink them with M-1 rifle fire. Once in awhile, instead of just making a hole in the case so that it would fill with water and sink, when hit by a bullet from our M-1 the explosive charge would detonate. Mud, water and all kinds of other debris would be thrown all around us. We first decided to stay about 200 to 300 feet away so most of the heavier debris would go over our heads. That worked fine until the shrapnel started falling into the boat. We changed our tactics and decided to stay as far away as we could and still hit the mine with rifle fire.

The entrance to the Chinnampo River was very wide at high tide with two islands almost side by side creating a narrow entrance. Once past the two islands the river widened out to a width of a mile or so (at high tide) so we had an area inside the two islands about a mile wide and about 3 miles long before it became a narrow channel leading to the pier at Chinnampo, two miles up river. We swept in and around the two islands and up the river at each high tide, during daylight, for the next 15 days. During this time we had the helicopter from the Japanese LST firing on mines which surfaced because the tide went out or because they were improperly laid in water too shallow for them.

Occasionally, a USN PBY would fly by and use the waist machine guns to either sink or explode mines that came to the surface. One day there was a line of eight mines floating on the surface when the PBY came by. As they fired on the mines the entire line exploded all at the same time. The plane was making a turn at that moment, crossing the line of mines. A wall of water was sent skyward as all of the mines fired simultaneously. The wall was higher than the PBY was flying and when they hit it they lost altitude. They were almost to the surface before they managed to get the aircraft under control. Watching from our boats, we were sure it was going to crash, but somehow the pilot was able to get the plane back into the air before hitting the surface.

On another occasion, the EOD folks gathered up a large number of the mines which had surfaced and been towed to one of the islands in the entrance. Without letting us know, they suddenly detonated all of the mines at one time. We never did learn how many mines were involved, but large fish were killed in the area we were located, almost 3 miles away. As we neared the island where the detonation took place, we noticed fish up to 24-inches in length had been killed.



**CDR R. E. Swart, COMOMAG**

This will be my last Dashpot article as COMOMAG and I want to thank everyone for allowing me to contribute and serve. My Change of Command will take place 6 September 2002 followed by a brief retirement ceremony, after which I will take some leave and figure out what I will do next. It has been a rewarding 32+ years of service. I'm happy to report that we finally have some future mine programs funded: a replacement for the Mine Mk 56, a new Target Detecting Device for the Quickstrike Mine Family and a Tactical Minefield Planning tool for the fleet. Now, let's hope it stays in the budget!

ROC/POE Signed: The Office of the CNO (code N75) has approved and signed a new Required Operational Capability / Projected Operational Environment (ROC/POE) document giving COMOMAG both administrative and operational control of our subordinate units and detachments for the first time. This fundamentally changes the MOMAG organization from a shore support organization to an operational command. Funding and manpower are currently being aligned to properly support the changes and a new Operational Order (OPORD) is in draft with guidance to our Units and Detachment.

ADMAT results: We have completed Administrative and Material (ADMAT) inspections at MOMAU 1 Seal Beach, MOMAU 8 Guam, MOMAU 10 Kadana and MOMAD 12 Misawa and I'm pleased to say that all these PAC Units passed the inspection are doing well. We were in Japan in time for the



first round of the World Cup Soccer matches. As you might imagine, World Cup Fever has the Japanese and Korean population pretty excited. Our ever-lucky Admin Officer, CWO4 Buyo, got some free tickets to the round one Italy-Mexico World Cup Game while in Japan. He sure picked the right game to see.

**MOMAU 3 Closure:** MOMAU 3 will close it's doors after a decommissioning ceremony on 13 September 2002. Commanding Officer, LT Alex Brown extended aboard to ensure that all the loose ends were properly wrapped up. This represents the end of an era and the start of a new one for MOMAU 11 who assumes the LANT service mine mission from Colts Neck.

**HSV News:** The designated replacement for USS Inchon which is decommissioning in June, is an experimental High Speed Vessel (HSV) with catamaran hulls and a flight deck. With a small crew and high transit speeds, the HSV will be capable of staying with the battle group and supporting Mine Warfare operations with an embarked staff and equipment. COMINSEWARCOM reports that the HSV will be received in March 2003 and will be shared with the USMC.

**Hail and Farewell:** Sayonara to LCDR Jim Washington, COMOMAG Operations Officer and to CWO4 Tim Pease, Service Mines Officer. Welcome aboard to LCDR Pete Bachand our new Operations Officer and CWO4 Ric Hernandez our new Service Mines Officer. LCDR Washington had a wonderful tour at COMOMAG and now reports to Atlantic Ordnance Command at Sewells Point, Va. CWO4 Pease, who also had a fantastic tour here, reported for duty at Coastal Systems Station, Panama City. LCDR Bachand comes to the staff from a highly successful tour as the Explosive Safety Officer for Commander Naval Forces Marianas, Guam and CWO4 Hernandez joins us after a great tour as Ordnance Officer, Fleet Activities Sasebo.

**Congratulations:** Mr. D. B. "Stan" Stanley (LCDR Ret.) has been selected for the civil service position of Plans and Requirements Officer (code N5) on the COMOMAG staff. He'll now have to schedule his fishing trips around his demanding schedule.

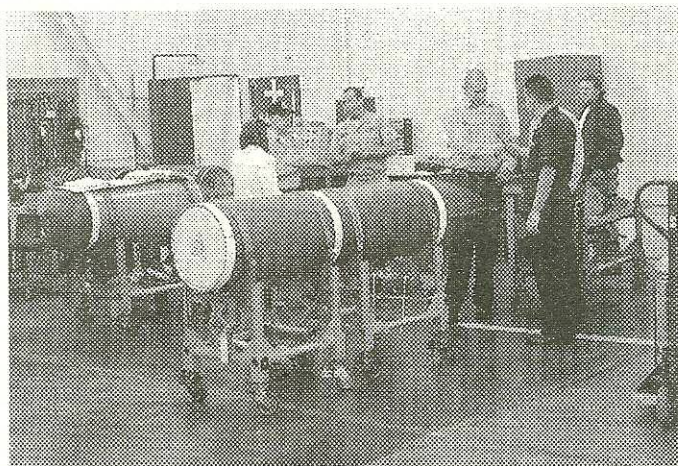


## MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

By LT K. L. Miller

**CO's CORNER.** Greetings from Sunny Seal Beach! The last three months have been a blur of activity, but with the beautiful weather and friendly natives, one could hardly notice. One of my true joys is sitting here, writing my two cents, reviewing the calendar, and reminiscing. So much fun in so little time!!

March came in like a lion, a flurry of activity. Our new TSM technician, MN3 Michael Caprioglio, performed extremely well as we flew through our FCA certification with only three minor discrepancies. EODMU Seven Det 105 stopped by on the 7<sup>th</sup> for a dog and pony. I believe that it was merely subterfuge as they were more concerned with the extra demolition shapes in the yard and taking notes for their next shopping spree. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, our CMEC committee held a worthy observance in commemoration of Women's History Month. MNCS(AW/SW) Garret Cecilio noted the contributions of Women in the Military after which we all enjoyed a pot luck luncheon. We kicked off our SLMM line operation with a Tech Pub validation visit with assistance from Panama City. MNC(SW) Allen Alt, Mr. Ken Waringa, Mr. Bob Bainbridge, and Mr. Jim Fath helped get some bugs worked out during their visit from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Saint Patrick's Day celebration in Seal Beach is very special indeed, a small town with a very large outpouring of joy that was enjoyed by all. Our good friends with the local Destroyer Escort Sailor Association (DESA) hosted our annual Children's Easter Party on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the park near Bunker 33. The fine people of DESA brought numerous dishes and desserts, while MNC(SW) Greg Williams, MNCS(AW/SW) Cecilio, and myself created culinary classics (read Hot Dogs and Hamburgers) on the BBQ Grill. Easter egg hunts and a special visit by Peter Cotton Tail highlighted the day. Though the day started out overcast, it had a warm and bright ending.





March ended with a visit from the Commodore and his staff for our Administrative/Material Inspection. The earnest efforts and unit pride of the crew was self-evident as this milestone inspection played out. We like to think that Unit One is Number One!

After a well deserved three-day respite, we kicked off April assisting NWSSB with a blood drive on the 4<sup>th</sup>. All the crew pitched in on the 6<sup>th</sup> for a car wash to raise money for our MWR. One of the more exciting days was our visit to the pistol range on the 10<sup>th</sup>. I believe that some of my sailors have a newfound appreciation for marksmanship skills. It's just not like it is on TV. The week of the 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the return of our guests from Panama City, along with MNC(SW) Jennifer Lauffenburger and Ms Anne Brown, conducting a mini FIAT for SLMM. MNC(SW) Lauffenburger stayed on a few extra days assisting our Supply Department in the creation of a functional MBOM for SLMM. I am certain it had nothing to do with the weather here! Production department wowed us with a fundraiser for MWR, grilling up world renowned Hamburgers and Hot Dogs for the base. Needing to build up the coffers for the Christmas Party, we finished off the month with a visit to Paramount Studios for the taping of a pilot sitcom.



May was another busy month. We hosted representatives of COMNAVAIRPAC on the 6<sup>th</sup>, showing off our fine facility and production lines. The NAVREGSW Fire Department paid a visit on the 7<sup>th</sup> conducting a full-blown fire drill. We conducted our quarterly upgrade assessment on the 14<sup>th</sup>, followed up by a good session of hands on training. The afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> was fun in the sun as we enjoyed a Hail and Farewell cookout and championship volleyball competition. MN3 Jesus Rivera and MNSN Shane Huddleston assisted Unit 15 sailors from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> during the passive MINEX for JTFEX 2-02. We continued our association with the city of Torrance and their Armed Forces Day weekend celebration from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Our sailors proudly represented the Mine community manning a MK56 and MK65 display at the Del Amo mall. Naval Weapon Station sailors challenged us to a bowling tournament on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Rest assured that Minemen reigned supreme. The Galloping Gourmets of Supply and Admin departments cooked up mouth watering Fajitas on the 22<sup>nd</sup> during another very successful fundraiser. Capping off this month was our Asian Pacific Islander Heritage observance. MN1 Kecia Nason provided an interesting A/V presentation and the crew chipped in for a wonderful lunch of Thai, Chinese, and Vietnamese delights.



**HAILS & FARWELLS.** I wish to offer a hearty hail to: MN2(SW) Vernon Saunders from USS Gladiator and MN1 Ronald Chabot from USS Warrior. MN1 Chabot is accompanied with his wife Jennese, daughter Samantha, and sons Michael and Jonathan. They are all welcome additions to our family.

A few in our family have set sail for new adventures. MN3 Jose Avelar, his wife Eva and daughter Vanessa depart for the USS Pelican. MN2 Eric Treece, his wife Susan and children Sydney and Mark head to the USS Avenger. Both ships stationed in Ingleside, Texas.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION.** CO Letters of Appreciation were awarded to MN1 Nason, MN2 Treece, MN2 Saunders, MN3 Caprioglio, MN3 Brian Lampman, MN3 Rivera, MN3 Shane Stone, MN3 Kelly Tupper, MNSN Huddleston, MNSN Donal Meade, and MNSN Nicholas Resch for their diligent efforts in preparation for ADMAT. CO Letters of Commendation were awarded to MN2 Michael Busch, MN2 Nicholas Bitar, MN2(SW) Matthew Heyer, MN3 Avelar, MN3 Christine Beal, MNSN Travis Baxter, MNSA Jason Hughes, MNSA Christopher Miserlain for their noteworthy ADMAT endeavors. CO Navy Achievement Medals were earned by MN1(SW) Frank Mendenhall, MN1(SW) Dean Carr, SK2(SW) Pierre Rhinehart, IT2(SW) Sheila Loe, YN2(SW) Roland Coates, MN2 Laura Arthur, and MNSA Michael Pendley noting their superb contributions to a highly successful ADMAT. CO LOCs were awarded to MN1(SW) Mendenhall and MNSN Meade on selection to Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively. MN3 Stone, MN3 Tupper, and MNSN Meade were awarded CO LOCs for their excellent performance in the startup of our SLMM production line. MN3 Caprioglio's performance during our FCA was also noted with a CO LOC.

MN1(SW) Carr and MN2 Treece's continued exemplary professional performance was noted with Good Conduct Medals. Additionally, MN2 Treece was presented a CO NAM for his superb retention efforts. His hard work was essential in our award of the Golden Anchor.

Marksmanship awards were earned by the following: MNSN Meade (Expert Shot), MN3 Rivera and MNSA Hughes (Sharpshooter), and MN2 Bitar.

Bravo Zulu to all!!

**IN THE TARGET QUEUE.** As always, we look to the next quarter and see a calendar yet again full with multiple events. We look forward to our participation in RIMPAC 2002, Fleet Battle Experiment Juliet, C2X, and our eventual VEMS startup.

From sunny Seal Beach California, Sea Ya!!





## MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

By MNCS(SW) Dave Ostrom

SALUTO dalle isola bella di Sicilia! It is great to be back overseas once again and part of the MOMAU community. Here's what's happening out here in the Mediterranean:

- The first of the year saw UNIT FIVE's participation in "MIREM 20". MNC(SW) Steve Sanders led a five-man Final Prep Team who included MN3 Fred Denson, MNSN Tim Wilson, MNSN Matt McDonald and MNSN Brandy Hastings. MIREM 20 had over seventy exercise and training mines from UNIT FIVE that included MK6, MK52 and MK74/75 VEMS assets.

- RADM Paul Ryan (COMINEWARCOM) visited UNIT FIVE in March. It was a very special event for the entire crew. RADM Ryan was provided a tour of NAS Sigonella and the Belpasso Mine Depot. Once onboard, UNIT FIVE's Commanding Officer LCDR Larry E. Kelley provided a UNIT FIVE Power Point presentation and coffee with the Italian Navy Commandante. An "All Hands" call was held with the Admiral and COMINEWARCOM's CMDMC Master Chief Bruce Codie. An awards ceremony followed, and concluded with a tour of the Belpasso Mine Depot and UNIT FIVE's Mine Production building and magazine area.

- We aggressively completed an extensive POA&M and Explosives Safety Self-Assessment (ESSA) for our Explosives Safety Inspection. Areas of QUAL/CERT Program, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), Inventory Management, and Facilities were looked at hard and all preparations completed. The crew successfully completed the required AMMO 18 and 49 "Basic Explosive Safety" CBT courses. The Supply Department along with Quality Assurance completed an extensive "wall-to-wall" inventory of ammunition and all supporting material/piece parts, which included all four warehouses and Reservetta/ Magazine/Igloo spaces. Mine Production ensured the Lightning Protection/Ordnance Ground System was inspected and all repairs made. I am proud to announce we have just received our outbrief from the ESI Team and MOMAU FIVE has successfully passed the inspection!

- We have been aggressively completing Mineman PQS qualifications for the MK62/63/65 QUICKSTRIKE watchstations, MK52 Actuation Mines and MK74/75 VEMS. We have this past two quarters scheduling numerous upgrade evolutions with QUICKSTRIKE and MK52 Actuation Mines to train and complete required "300 Series PQS" requirements.

- MN2(SW) Wayne Hinton and MN3 Jim Gipson were TAD to Norway in support of STRONG RESOLVE 2002. They

ensured the recovered assets from this exercise were properly packaged and palletized for return shipment to CONUS.

- SPANISH MINEX 02: MN3 Tim Gatlin and myself were TAD to USNS APACHE for this exercise. We were the Surface Launch/Recovery Team for MK52 Actuation mines. MN2 Gary Dove, MNSN Jesse Rupe and MNSN Jody Casey were sent TAD to MORON for the final assembly of MK 62/63/65 QUICKSTRIKE mines for Spanish P3B ORION's. And VP-10 here on their six-month deployment were involved with the aerial minelaying of MK62/63 QUICKSTRIKE Laying Mines. We were even able to have eight of our Mineman fly on the two P3C sorties during the operations!

- We are concluding all preparations for DAMSEL FAIR 2002 and BALTOPS 2002. We are busy keeping up the refurbishment of all these exercise and training mines that have supported these NATO MIW exercises.

- This summer we will see many improvements to our facilities. Scheduled to begin very shortly will be the upgrade and improvement of our electrical power requirements, repairs to the roofs, the re-surfacing of Mine Production's deck, heating and ventilation, and earth covering on all Reservettas/Magazines/Igloos.

BRAVO ZULU's: 1<sup>st</sup> QTR 02 SOQ: MN2(SW) Hinton, JSOQ MNSN Duncan Harvin. MN1 Mary Jackson re-enlisted 01 March for 5 years. MN2 Travis Hutchens re-enlisted 26 April for 6 years.

Welcome Aboard: IT2 Irene Martinez from VS 41 San Diego, MN1(SW) Steve Pierce from the USS FALCON.

Transfers: MN3 Murray to the USS WARRIOR (MCM 10), MNSN Kruger to USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11), CWO3 Simmons to FTSC LANT Jacksonville FL, MN3 Gatlin to USS BLACK HAWK (MHC 58), MN2 Rudy Altema to VFA 87 Virginia Beach Oceana VA, MN3 Chuck Jackson to USS RAVEN (MHC 61), MN3 Jose Lopez to USS RAVEN (MHC 61), MN3 Chris Shuck to USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11), MNSN Randy Kubin to USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11), MN3 Ian Schaming to USS ORIOLE (MHC 55) and MN3 Chris Wisor to USS ROBIN (MHC 54).

In closing: It has been a busy year, with lots of great Mine Warfare exercises with our NATO allies and Partners For Peace (PFP) here in the Mediterranean. By the next time I send in MOMAU FIVE's input to the DASHPOT, MNCS(SW) Mark Zinnel, his lovely wife Pam, and son Benjamin will be on their way to Seal Beach California. Master Chief will be missed by all, and some big shoes for me to fill once he leaves. We all wish Master Chief and his beautiful family the best while stationed in California! If you are completing a sea tour onboard one of the MHC/MCM ships and are looking for a challenging and rewarding experience at a MOMAU establishment overseas, drop me a line anytime at [ostromd@nassig.sicily.navy.mil](mailto:ostromd@nassig.sicily.navy.mil). Talk to you all next issue!

**"COMEDY IS WHEN SOMETHING  
EMBARRASSING HAPPENS TO YOU;**

**TRAGEDY IS WHEN IT HAPPENS TO ME."**

**ANON.**





## MOMAU EIGHT GUAM

By MNCS LeeAnn Baker

Hafa Adai from MOMAU 8, the "BEST" MOMAU in the Mineforce. We have been keeping on our toes with another close miss by a typhoon and a 7.2 earthquake back in April. You GOTTA love Guam! The beginning of the quarter brought an end to our inspections. In the last Dashpot, MNCS Cantrell challenged the MRCI Team to "bring it on". Well, they did, and MOMAU 8 stepped up to the plate and proved why we are the "BEST". With just a week's break after the MRCI, we turned around and proved the same to the ADMAT inspectors and CDR Swart. We had the honor of having CDR Swart be the presenter at an awards ceremony. He presented **FOUR** AOM members with Navy Achievement Medals; MNCS LeeAnn Baker, MN1 Stephanie Cowart, MN1 Bill Nelson, and MN1 Jerry Weller.



CDR Ron Swart awarding the NAM to MN1 Stephanie Cowart.

He also presented both the SSOQ and JSOQ awards for 1Q02, both also AOM members; SSOQ MN1 Stephanie Cowart, JSOQ MN3 Philip Phillips. The AOM is well represented at MOMAU 8. Our success just seems to continue. Other awards presented this past quarter include:

Navy Commendation Medal – MNCS Jack Cantrell  
Navy Achievement Medals – MN1 Michael Cassidy, YN1 Scott West, and SK1 Marcello Oytas.  
COMNAVMAR Regional Senior Sailor of the Quarter – MN1 Stephanie Cowart  
Blue Jacket of the Quarter 1Q01 – MNSN Kyle Halle

The conclusion of our inspections has finally given us some time to relax a bit, participate in Admiral's Cup Sports, and become proactive with community involvements. We gave them a run for their money in softball, but ultimately our season ended the first round of the playoffs. We were just happy that EVERY-

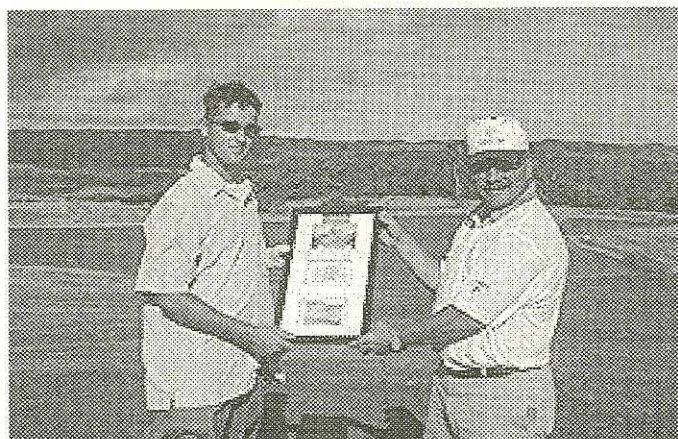
ONE finished the season healthy; a first for Unit 8, I think. Currently the command's biggest project is the local Sea Cadet Division. We are helping support their "bootcamp" this week, and I think our junior sailors are enjoying it more than the Cadets!

This morning, we found out that the following personnel were advanced: To MN2 – MN3 Kelly Freeman and MN3 Philip Phillips (finally), to MN3 – MNSN Cody Beyers, MNSN Kyle Halle, MNSN Jesus Jimenez, and MNSN Chad Trammell. Congratulations for some well deserved advancements. We have several new faces onboard MOMAU 8. The last few days we have welcomed aboard MNSR Darby, MNSR Lipscomb, and MNSR Morales from MWTC and MN3 Coppedge from MOMAD 12.

Sadly, the coming of new personnel means we had to say farewell to several shipmates. MN3 Robert Roberts, Jr. is in transit to MOMAU 10, MN2 Gregory Warren and his expecting wife, Andrea, are en-route to the USS Cardinal in Bahrain, and MNCS Jack Cantrell FINALLY transferred, after 6 ½ years in Guam, to use his country style leadership at MOMAD 12. While we knew it was inevitable, we will definitely miss MNCS Cantrell, Ms. Pam, Callie, and Murphy Dawg, and know that he is needed elsewhere. He left his footprint at MOMAU 8 (and on the back of a few coveralls), and will always be a legend here.

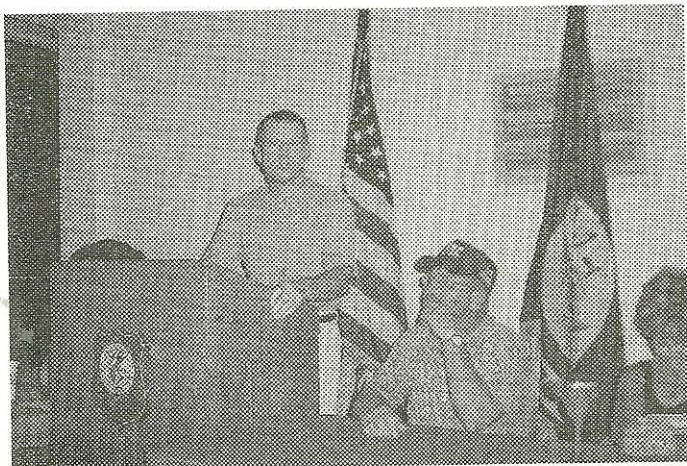


MNCS Cantrell's receiving his Navy Com from MN3 Phillips. The Australian Navy has junior folks present awards to senior folks, we adopted that.



MNCS Cantrell re enlisting MN3 Robert Roberts, Jr





**Our XO, AOM member LTJG Adamson saying a few words about Jack during his farewell roast. Sitting next to him is Jack and Jack's wife Ms. Pam.**

That's it from Guam for now, we stand by ready "Anytime, Anywhere".



## **MOMAU TEN KADENA**

By MNCS John Bray

Man..o..man, what a run this past quarter has been. We successfully completed our FCA, MRCI, DDESB, and ESI with only the ADMAT left coming up here in two weeks. Its been one heck of a learning process and I have come to the realization it is one thing to prepare for a MOMAU inspection cycle..and quite another to do it while also completing four bi-lateral exercises at the same time. Yes, it must be 2002 in WESTPAC!!

Its only fair to say that we owe a great deal of thanks to our brothers and sisters in the NR MOMAU world and couldn't have done without them. Ltjg Tony Smola and CWO2 Don Mol and their NR MOMAU 2 and 11 performed flawlessly during their three week stay with us. Not only were they a tremendous help with the MRCI, they received some great cross-training on ET mines as they were a key part of completing both the Foal Eagle and Cobra Gold loadout for Korea and Thailand. A special thanks goes out to MNC Keith Hardiman for all his assistance in devising and planning the Cobra Gold loadout. Normally, we ship these out break-bulk style on Marine Amphibious platforms. This year, we were thrown a slight curve due to real world events and had to "stuff" our 22 weapons and all their associated gear in a 20 foot TEU container for shipment via commercial contracted vessels. No big deal you say?...what's so hard about that?...well, this was a first for us and to say it presented somewhat of a new challenge

is an understatement. Keith used his expertise in the civilian auto industry to devise a workable load plan which ensured everything fit safely and made the trip without any problems. I can report that yours truly had one heck of a fun time unloading all that gear "sans help" on the Chuksamet Pier in Thailand with its 100+ degree temperature and stifling humidity. Yes, the Senior Chief can still sweat and work like with the best of them.

Gunner Gary Riggins led the Foal Eagle Team in "frosty" Korea and is in Thailand on Cobra Gold as of this writing. This is the first year VEMS has been deployed to Cobra Gold and preliminary reports from the field indicate everything is running smoothly. I need to add another special thanks in here to MNCS Donnie Kiper, Mr. Ken Struve, and the entire CSS VEMS team for the RTAS training they provided along with round the clock logistics and technical assistance for Cobra Gold. This superb level of support assured this monumental task was a complete success.

**Kudos.** A hearty congratulations go out MN1(SW) McMillian and MNSA Rosenberg who were selected as Senior and Junior Sailors of the Quarter respectively.

**Departures.** We will soon say farewell to MN2 Terry Black who will be leaving us this summer for the USS PATRIOT in Sasebo. Also, MN1 John Pendleton will be transferring to the Fleet Reserve this summer after 20 years of faithful service. MN1 says to look him up in Thailand as he will move there after completing his out-processing.

That's about it for now. After we get the ADMAT, CARAT 02 and 2-JA exercises out of the way, looks like smooth sailing for the rest of the year. We can't wait!



## **MOMAU ELEVEN CHARLESTON**

Greeting from the Low Country,  
Lots of good Mineman business to report from MOMAU ELEVEN. We've had a lot going on here for the last 4 months including a MK 65 IRE build, and exercises in support of the AMNS program, and the AEGIS program. To top it off we performed long cycle maintenance on our first lot of Mk 65's, the first time in a long while that service mines have been worked in Charleston.

Along with all of the work, we've been growing by the day, and we've gone through some changes. We say farewell to our CO, LCDR Mike Zahn, who is retiring after 26 years of Naval Service, and with his departure we say welcome to LCDR Steve Anderjack who took over the watch as MOMAU



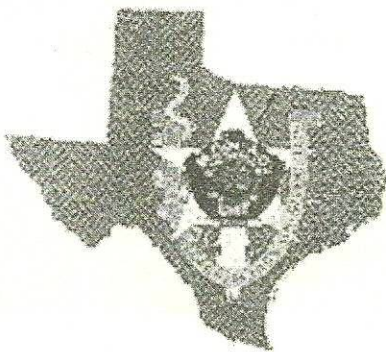
ELEVEN'S CO. We gained some senior enlisted leadership with the addition of MNCM (SW) Dave Walker, and MNCS (SW) Brian Allston. To go with these additions we'd like to say thanks to the Mineman Detailer MNC (SW/AW) East who has done a great job of trying to fill our needs.

Additions to our Team: MN2 (SW) Anthony Coleman, MNSA Christopher Baxely, MNSA Shani Carruth, MNSR Jessy Davis, MNSN Shawn Jones, MNSN Robert Lichford, MNSA Neil McCain, MNSA Cooper Means, MNSA Christopher Nichols, MNSR David Nix, MNSA Anthony Owen, MNSN Ronald Percy, and MNSN Maria Sandoval.

Advancements: MNCS (SW) Johnny Lee Shelton, and MNCS(SW) Brian Allston.



## MOMAU TWELVE MISAWA



## MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

(Summer)

By MN2 Wilson

Greetings from South Texas! Summer has hit full blown. We're not even sure there was a winter this year. Lots of changes are happening in our neck of the woods. Our new building contract was awarded in February and construction started 17 May. If everything goes as planned we are scheduled to move in as early as December of this year or as late as March of 2003. Summer typically being our busiest time, We've just completed JTFEX 02-2 in California, with RIMPAC-02 and GOMEX/MERCURY-02 exercises scheduled during the June/July time frame.

We've recently said goodbye to our Mine Assembly Officer, MNCM(SW) Walker. We bid him farewell and wish him and his family well at MOMAU 11. Taking over the job as Mine Assembly Officer is MNCS(SW/AW) Hickman. We welcome him and his wife Tina and children Caleb, Nathaniel, and Faith. Other new arrivals are: AK1 Harros with his wife Maria and children Jonathon and Christopher, MN2 McQueen, MNSR Kilgos, MNSR Mathura, MNSR Adams, MNSR Cintron, MNSR Chiles his wife Katherine and children Samantha, Kimberleigh, and River, MNSN Brooks and his wife Criselda, MNSN Stordahl with wife Bethany and children Isaiah and Marcus.

Awards: MNCM(SW) Walker received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; SOY MN2(SW) Gallegos; SSOQ 1Q02 MN1(SW) Lauderdale; JSOQ 1Q02 MNSA McKinney; LOA to MN2 Wilson and MN2(SW) Rojas; LOC to MN2 Wilson.

Advancements: Congratulations to MNCS(SW) Walker for making Master Chief and MNC(SW/AW) Hickman for making Senior Chief.

(Winter)

By YNC(SW) James Parks

Greetings from sunny South Texas and the Versatile Exercise Mine System center of the universe. Thank Goodness that nasty 60 degree weather is over. We thought we'd freeze. It was a great time to stay indoors and catch up on maintenance. Which is a lot of what we have done after a busy exercise schedule early in the winter months and in preparation for a busy spring schedule. Lot's of great exercises (and liberty) just around the corner for us. RIMPAC in Hawaii and JTFEX in San Diego have some of the Minemen pretty excited and a couple of the non-Minemen wishing they were Minemen.

Without the excitement of an exercise underway, we've put our heads to trying to come up with ideas to improve the VEMS system. We're most excited about a local surveillance program that we have ran for the past two months on the MK 1 Ballast Sections air hoses and fittings to determine alternate methods for making the system more air tight. As a follow on to our local efforts we are testing a loctite(r) product for NSWC CSS as a replacement for teflon tape which is currently used. Hopefully, in a few short days we will be able to report that we have tested a reliable product, recommend a reliable procedure and take some of the anguish out of the assembly process for everyone.

We are also busy planning for and helping with the NAS Kingsville Blue Angels Air Show. One of the benefits of having a facility on the flightline is great front row seats at air shows. We recently welcomed MN2 McQueen from MOMAU Three Colts Neck, New Jersey and AK1 Harros from Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona. We also have orders on four Minemen "A" school grads who will all be reporting within the next month. Things are looking up. MNC (SW) Tim Hickman is also reporting this month as MNCS (SW) Dave Walkers replacement. Senior Walker is transferring to MOMAU Eleven in a few short weeks.

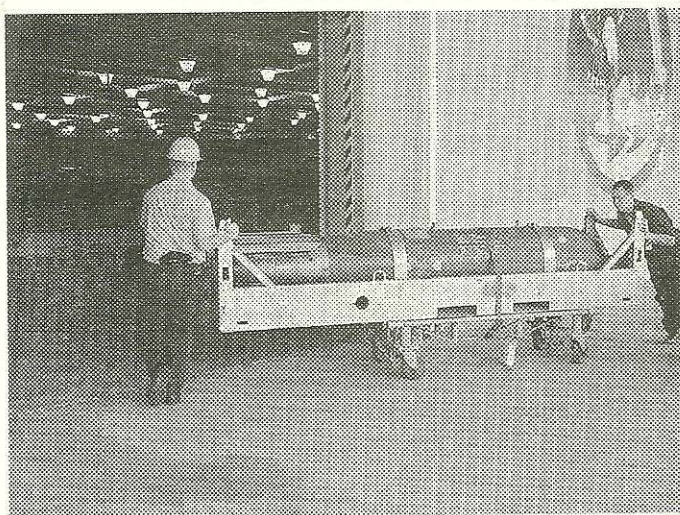
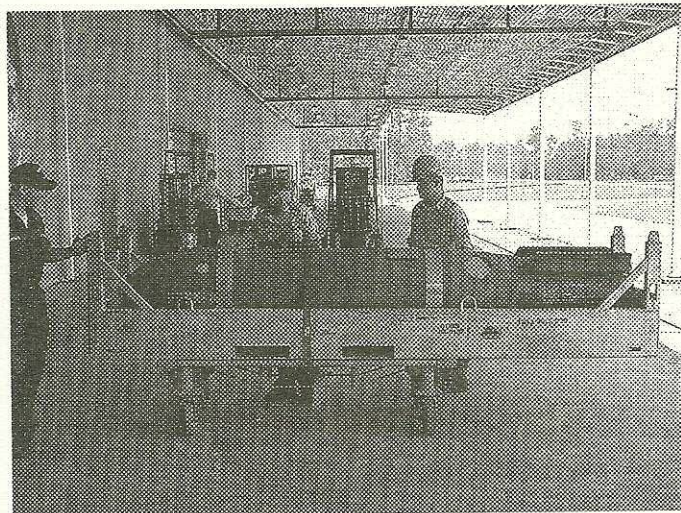
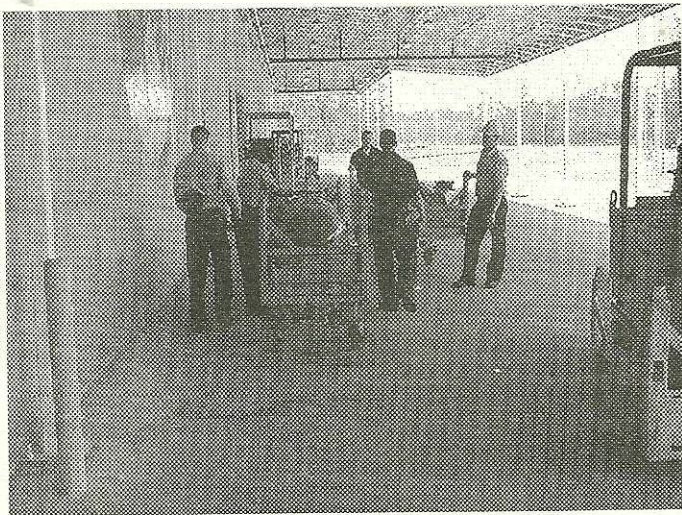
All for now. Adios amigos.



# FLEET NEWS

## SERVICE MINES RETURN TO CHARLESTON

A Pictorial Essay By LCDR Mike Zahn





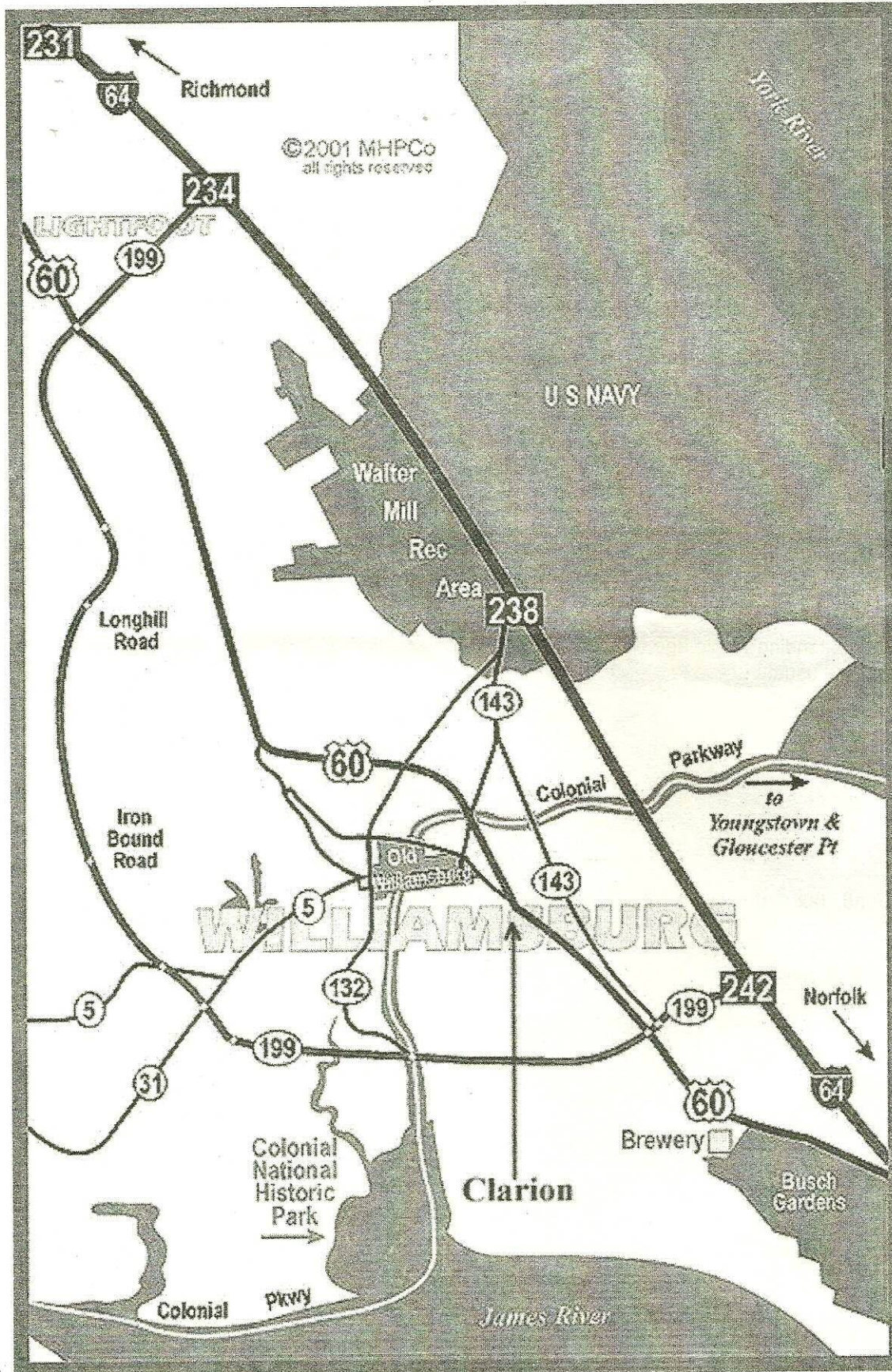
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**Association of Minemen 28th Annual Reunion & Meeting Yorktown, VA**  
At The Williamsburg Clarion Hotel 9 - 11 August 2002

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

Please return the 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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Dinner Tickets @ \$32.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Picnic Tickets @ \$5.00 ea X \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children attending picnic age 6 and under \_\_\_\_\_  
(The picnic will be the usual burgers, franks, beans etc.)

Annual Dues: @\$15.00 August 2002 to August 2003 (5 year max) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Your label has your paid to date, e.g., August 2002 is your paid to date  
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Museum Donation: Tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

\* We must guarantee number for dinners not later than the morning of 6 August 2002. There will be NO refunds after 5 August 2002.

\* Clarion Hotel reservations 1-800-666-8888 or 1-757-220-1410. Cut off date for Group Rate reservations is July 9, 2002. GROUP RATE CODE: TEM. single/double \$84.00 +9.5% tax

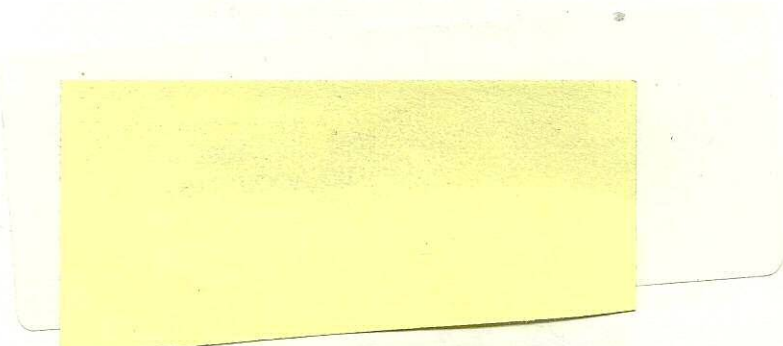


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