



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Paul Santa Maria**

It has been relatively quiet these past few months. That by no means indicates that nothing is in progress, quite the contrary. Director Bill Roberts, along with Historian Ron Swart and Museum Coordinator Toby Horn, are reviewing the duties of Historian/Museum Coordinators for possible realignment and clarification.

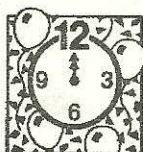
We have received confirmation from both the South Carolina Secretary of State and the IRS regarding our by-law changes. The by-law changes are acceptable and our 501 (c) (3) status remains intact. This means that your donations to the mine museums, or the Scholarship Fund, or items for the Annual Auction are tax deductible. Our treasurer, Curtis Christian, says he just loves receiving gifts for the AOM.

As you know, each year we elect two directors to the board of directors and every three years we elect in addition to the two directors a vice president and a president. If anyone has the desire to serve in one of the above mentioned positions please inform either our Vice President, Jack Smoot, or our Immediate Past President, Joe Balderrama. Any member in good standing (dues current) qualifies. Don't be bashful shipmates, you can do the job. Active duty personnel are encouraged to serve.

Time is just flying by and that means August 2003 will be here before we know it. I hope you all are making plans to attend our 29<sup>th</sup> reunion in San Diego. Let's make this another great reunion.

We wish a happy and safe holiday season to all!

God bless America and God bless you all



## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN (AOM) REUNION

By Warren Savage

Thanks to everyone, most importantly our Association of Minemen (AOM) President, Directors and involved members and friends, for their assistance in making 2002 a very good year for the AOM. We look forward to 2003 and our 29<sup>th</sup> annual Association of Minemen reunion to be held from **Friday, 8 August to Sunday, 10 August 2003** in San Diego, California at the Handlery Hotel and Resort. This hotel location was selected by the AOM Reunion Committee to house our reunion as well as most of our annual functions and activities. Our 1996 AOM reunion was held at this same location and received "WELL DONE" from those in attendance.

The Handlery Hotel and Resort is located at 950 Hotel Circle North in San Diego only minutes from the San Diego International Airport (Lindbergh Field) in the heart of Mission Valley. The 29<sup>th</sup> Association of Minemen Reunion is being planned and operated by a nucleus TEAM headed by Jerry Chipman, Jim Miller and Warren Savage and comprised of southern California members. We eagerly look forward to this event as one to be truly remembered and surpassing our 23<sup>rd</sup> AOM reunion held at the same location in August of 1996.

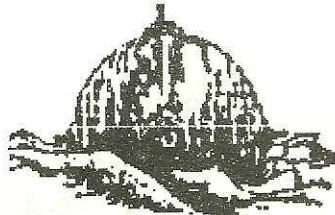
The TEAM is in the process of putting together activities which will include our annual banquet, a picnic and auction as well as a planned golf endeavor. We look forward to making this truly a FAMILY oriented function that enhances networking and camaraderie.

*Continued on page 2, third column.*

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## 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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We will be using the Dashpot and the WEB site to keep everyone up to speed on what is happening. We are looking forward to a GREAT and MEANINGFUL REUNION.

To make arrangements with the HANDLERY HOTEL and RESORT:

950 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA 92108  
Phone: 1-800-676-6567 Or  
1-619-298-0511  
FAX: 1-619-298-9793

Room Rates are \$ 104.00 plus tax



## SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

By Swede Carlsen

Our scholarship program was very successful in 2002. Two memorial scholarships were given, one in Doreen Stryker's name and one in Kay Branan's name. The generous donations from the AOM membership made up two more.

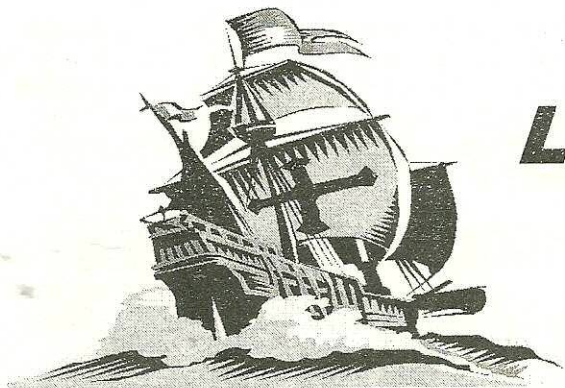
Let's gear up to meet the challenge of raising funds for 2003's scholarships. With cost of college tuition today you as parents of collegebound teenagers I'm sure are looking into many scholarship programs.

I was fortunate as I was able to use a scholarship to attain my degree. It was called the "GI BILL". The monies I saved with the "GI BILL" were used to send our son to college. Unfortunately, many people aren't that lucky. So as loyal AOM members we should give these promising youngsters a helping hand. Remember Christmas is just around the corner. Think Scholarship!!!

Scholarship applications can be obtained from the AOM web site, [www.battle.netgate.net](http://www.battle.netgate.net) or from William (Swede) Carlsen, 1925 Pilgrim Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461

STAND TALL AMERICA





# LEANING ON THE TAFFRAIL

## REMEMBRANCES OF THE DST 115 (CONTINUED)

By Toby Horn and Jack Shreve

Jack & All - believe report okay for the most part, but some minor corrections and additions. I was the OinC of the Mine Division at KWESTEVDET at the time of testing the DST-115 for evaluation and service acceptance. Bill Roberts was top CPOinC at the time. I believe John Loonam was still there (memory?) as the CPO of Component Test. Also Curtis Christian.

The bike tire was a real issue, as were the contact rings that were encased in them (circular - around the periphery of the case). The tire manufacturer finally did make the firing ring casing without their name on it, but the government had to buy the "mold" or "extrusion-whatever" (forget what it was called) for making the tire. I believe it is around somewhere as classified "government tooling".

There were three basic modes (mods) for the DST-115. An anchored version, a drifting version, and a bottom mine version. It could be launched by hand over the side of a small boat/vessel, or had a small parachute that allowed it to be launched out of high flying helicopters. All versions (mods) were assembled and/or configured in accordance with a small pamphlet that contained both photographs and line drawings (cartoons). Assembly/configuration and transportation had to be accomplished by relatively unknowledgeable and unskilled people. In order to prove this capability, I pulled cooks off the chow line, compartment-cleaners from the barracks, corpsman from the hospital, etc. and set up a "mission" that was to be carried out through the mangroves and swamps in the out-islands of Key West. Don Johnson was the NOL guy in charge of documenting changes that would be required to the "cartoon book". I remember him saying "he had never seen an operational evaluation like this one before". We gave the "crew" their basic mission (to transport and plant) and then stood back and watched. A little confusion reigned at first - when we refused to answer any of their questions (Don writing furiously) - but this gang of "misfits" got the job done.

To make a long story, short - we had much trouble with the firing rings. This was finally resolved

when they covered the rings with gold to increase their sensitivity to making contact. It also made them valuable and was a "secret" within a secret so that pilferage would be minimized.

The weapons were finally approved for service use. Bill Roberts, Ray Etheridge (from NMEF) and I (from NAVORD) were the first ones to take the units to Vietnam in December 1968. We operated with (ironically) CTF-115 out of Cam Rahn Bay, and positioned units at Camp Horn (ironically) outside of Danang, Bein Thuay, and Nah Bay. Buddy Eason (subsequently killed at Nah Bay while disarming a mine, I am told) was the EOD/UDT/Seal advisor we worked with in Saigon. We set up classes and taught Seal and Special Forces advisors.

This is how I best remember - then again - I am having senior moments these days. Hope this adds to the "mystique" of DST-115.

Toby Horn

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I couldn't remember the time frame for the development of the DST 115, but I was surprised that you said you took to first units to VN in December 1968. I was thinking that the DST 115 was developed and fielded before the DST kits that formed the DST 36 and 40.

I took the first kits for the DST MK 36 to VN in May 1967 and I am sure of the date (I dug up my old travel orders from my memorabilia locker). I remember an EOD type commenting to me (and I thought it was in VN or Subic) that the 115 was not a fun thing to deal with. But I could be wrong on the time or the place of his comment.

Also, I didn't remember that there was a bottom version of the 115. What kept it on the bottom and how was it stabilized so it wouldn't turn over and hit the firing ring on the river bottom?

Jack Shreve



Jack - as I recall, the bottom version of the DST-115 was the simplest configuration. You simply did not pull the pin which would allow for case/anchor separation after the soluble washer dissolved. This version was for planting in very shallow waters at "fording" sites where there was expected troop and vehicular traffic. I was also told later in an intel briefing that these were the ones planted that were recovered and exploited by the VC - using captive farmers/peasants and two bamboo poles that were placed under the firing ring assembly and the unit lifted (once they learned how not to blow the units).

The entry date in VN is correct. When we got there (Cam Rahn Bay) we asked to go to the magazines to see the units. The guys laughed and took us to a supply staging area right near the barracks (Quonset huts). Because of the markings (innocuous non-markings) on the shipping containers, they were considered as inert "support material". They were in a special holding area/group that was designated as a "hold for" (we had a mobile training team designator). The first thing we did was to get them moved to the explosives area. We reported this back to Washington immediately so that mistake would not be repeated. I never did learn how they marked the shipping containers after that? Oh yeah! By the way, the Admiral who was CTF-115 happened to be Tobin - an old COMINELWARCOM type. In those days, he wasn't fun to debrief after each mission.

Toby

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Editor's Note:

Jack Shreve mentioned the "P-Mine" in the initial information on the DST 115 in the last issue of the Dashpot. The "P" or "Plank" mine was conceived by Commander Plank as a cheap, quick-and-dirty answer for Formosa to deal with possible invasion forces from mainland China.

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## **P-MINE**

By Willie Wilson

Just a small note to let you know that in 1962 I was involved with the "P" Mine while stationed at NAVMAG Guam, M.I.... My crew of Mineman and a Civil Service Civilian Ordnanceman by the name of Danny did all the work.

Our first assignment was to make concrete anchor and counterweights for the "P" Mine. We manufactured special knock down forms for pouring the anchors, and counterweights. Some how we acquired (Cumshawed) a small cement mixer and an air activated concrete vibrator from the Seabees (MOB-5). We bent our own rebar and mixed the concrete and insured it cured properly. The counterweights were grooved so a pound or more could be

sliced off with a chisel and hammer to compensate for the type of drum used (30/55 GAL) and, to insure when the drums were filled, they were also weighed to make sure they were just below the surface. We used the old beam scale to weigh the drums and the counter weights.

Danny and I were sent to the caves of Formosa where the "P" Mines were stored and we were there during a typhoon, which got all the equipment, and boxes wet and it was a mess. We assisted in getting the shipment off to NAVMAG Guam, M.I.

Our crew of Mineman back at NAVMAG had a great deal of cleaning, not only the wet boxes and the stick man paper work the was packed with the mine material, but cleaning up all the irregularities of the "P" Mine piping. They were so crudely manufactured there was explosive protruding from the booster and some had explosives in the threads. Talk about caution! That was an understatement! We used face shields, rubber gloves and brass wire brushes to clean them up of which we borrowed from EOD MN1 Cal Swartz who was stationed there at the time.

We poured some inert 55 gallon and 30 gallon drums for a drill exercise and planted them off of a Mike 6 boat in the Marianas. We were pretty proud of ourselves as they worked very well.

When I was transferred to the Drill Mine Facility at Long Beach, CA, I was assigned to work on the "P" Mine at COMINELPAC and assist in writing the precautionary measures of working with the "P" Mine.

I wish I could remember Danny's last name, but that was 40 years ago, I do remember he was of Greek ancestry. He was a great guy to work with.

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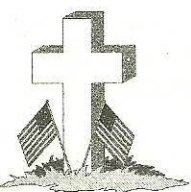
## **YORKTOWN REUNION PHOTOS**

A booklet of the Yorktown Reunion photos (100) is available. They are black and white photos posed and candid of the reunion, dinner, picnic, auction and hospitality happenings. Anyone wanting a copy please send \$5 (includes shipping) to The secretary treasurer at PO Box 71835, Charleston, SC 29415-1835

Thanks.

John Loonam





*T A P S*



## ***BINNACLE LIST***

**CAPT Don Hihn, USN (Ret)** Toby Horn reports: I am sorry to report from this morning's (9/20/02) newspaper, the passing of CAPT Don Hihn, USN (Ret), on Sept 16th, age 77. He was formerly the CO of NWS Charleston, then head of ORD-543 (Mine Warfare Office) in Washington (where I met him as my boss), but was most notorious as the head of the Dirty Dozen inspection team that went to the Pacific to inspect/prep mine sites, leading to the mining of Haiphong Harbor, which brought the US/VC/VN peace talks to a conclusion, ending the Vietnam "conflict".



**Criselda Gatewood (USAF).** Criselda Gatewood (USAF), daughter of retired MN1 Donald and Mrs. Evelyn Gatewood, passed away while waiting for a heart transplant while on active duty on 11 Jan 1997 at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

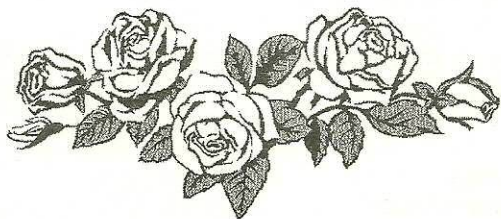


**Grady Teague MN1, USN Ret.** Dick Schomer Received a call from Shirley Teague, wife of Grady Teague MN1, USN Retired, stating that he had passed away on 17 Aug 2002. She said that he has suffered from extended illnesses for the past two years and was in and out of the hospital during that time frame. He was a school teacher after he retired from the Navy.

She stated that she still lived outside of Dayton, Ohio. I failed to get the full address, but it should be on our membership list. The telephone # is 937-236-3485.



**Jerry Wright.** John Loonam was unable to get a local obituary on Jerry Wright, Gloucester, VA passing. Ed Oyer confirmed he passed away a couple of years ago. Said he lived in Gloucester. I talked to Ed yesterday at the old farts luncheon at the Coast Guard Base, Yorktown. Ed, Bob Pricer, Ray Ethridge and I were the military reps at the table. Bob Pricer remarked "You know we used to gather around and discuss our last good liberty and now its our medical condition!"



Dear Relatives, Friends, and Loved Ones;

I am sending this in the interest of everyone getting the same story. From the horse's mouth, as it is. As we say in the Navy, "the straight skinny."

About two weeks ago I had my annual physical. I pointed out some trouble spots to the doctor. In the subsequent X-ray he noticed a mass in my lower right lung and in the lymph nodes attached thereto. A further CAT scan revealed a mass of about two inches in diameter in the lung and several of the same approximate size in the nodes. Because of the location of the masses, the thoracic surgeon says surgery is probably not an option; that it usually causes more harm than good. I have since had a needle biopsy which revealed that I do, indeed, have cancer, although the exact type could not be isolated. A further biopsy with a larger specimen will be taken next week for further identification and determination of method of treatment.

I have been told, however, that the cancer is not the garden variety lung cancer which is easily treatable. The pathologist has provided three possibilities: Melanoma migrating from the skin; lymphoma from the lymph nodes; and another type originating from the lining of the lung. My doctor and I are hoping for the lymphoma, which is most easily treated with radiation and/or chemotherapy.

The doctor tells me that I have four to six months of hard work. I suppose it will begin next week when I spend a night in the hospital for the biopsy. All of this means that I will probably not be writing to some of you as much as I did in the past, but it doesn't mean I will be thinking of you any less. When I do write, I will be my usual nasty self, opinionated and with far out opinions. That will not change. Keep sending me mail, though — I will try to read it all.

Merry Christmas and a most prosperous and Happy New Year to all;

Dan Powell

**NEXT DASHPOT  
ARTICLES ARE DUE  
1 MARCH 2003**





# MAIL BAG

## USS Shea (DM 30)

She may have been the Dirty Thirty at one time, however, our CO J. W. Reed had other ideas and we became a sharp ship. We left pier fox 7, 1015, 8/26/53, Charleston, exited the harbor at 1125 with one long blast of our whistle. Arrived east side Panama Canal on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1953. After being 90 feet above sea level in the Canal, we exited and headed for Long Beach. Arrived Long Beach, Sep 12, 1953. September 2, 1953 loaded 60 MK16 - 1 mine-inspected anchors - all hold off nuts had too many turns and drums were locked. Installed H-4 horns and salvable washers. September 22, 1953 off Santa Cruz, installed primers and commenced planting 0828 - completed plant September 24, 1953. San Diego 2030 hours to receive 28 Mk 25-1 mines on dollies - finish 2250 and underway for anchorage.

September 25, 1953 planted last 24 MK 16-1 mines and the MK 25's, 20 this time. Planted last 8 MK 25's after we installed CD-8's and buoys. September 27, 1953 Long Beach loaded more MK 16-1s only No. 34 had a locked down. Planted same day. September 29, 1953 load mines for last time in 1953 - planted same. October 8, 1953 left for Pearl Harbor. October 13, 1953 made \_\_\_\_\_ Guns ready. October 15, 1953 entered Pearl Harbor. Picked up observers for speed trials at 1030 hours. Hit 28 knots and main feed pump failed. Into West Loch to offload ammo. October 17, 1953 into yard for overhaul. January 5, 1953 to Long Beach. January 11, 1954 entered Long Beach harbor. Loaded 25 MK 16-1 mines. January 12, 1954 planted mines. February 16, 1954 loaded 0 MK 16-1 mines and 14 MK1-1 dan buoys. Almost knocked between barge and ship by a falling block and tackle from unmoused hook - saved by FT3 named Boyer.

February 17, 1954 commended planting - mine boom fell on Chief & MN3 Barker - few stitches were needed. February 19, 1954 loaded 80 MK 16-1 mines - one MNSM crushed his hand. Underway for San Francisco harbor and moored. February 24, 1954 underway for Monterey Bay - planted mines. February 25, 1954 observed aerial drop loaded swept cases. February 26, 1954 arrive Long Beach. March 13, 1954 loaded 16 MK 9-3 charges, 16 MK 7-3 arbors, 16 MK 6-4 boosters, 16 MK 6-2 pistols, 16 MK 6-2 extenders and 48 impulse charges underway for Pearl.

Before we left Charleston, one SMN was transferred to the USS Hobson and one from Hobson to us. I'll always remember what happened thereafter to the Hobson.

No diaries were allowed once we sailed from Pearl for Operation Castle - H. Bomb test. I was transferred to NAD Hawthorne after we turned from the test.

During the reunion in the hospitality room, I misplaced an 8X10 black and white photo of MOMAT 0321 - I'd really like to have it for my history file. Please check your collections for the picture. (Pls put in Dashpot).

On the Epping Maru - I do believe she was the fishing boat contaminated from the H-bomb shot, Operation Castle. As I recall, a NOTAM (Notice to all Mariners) went out before the shot so why was the boat too close? Maybe the same reason we on the Shea had two sonar contacts and were at GQ with depth charges at the ready.

I sent my Liberty Cards from the Shea to Charleston for the museum - guess they are lost now - too bad. I sent some photos to Ron Swart on unique OPS we did at Sigonella and a copy of the VA Gazette article on our reunion.

I commended John Loonam on his job as Editor - you too are to be commended for a really tough job

Sincerely,

Ed Oyer

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With the passing of CAPT Don Hihn, USN, (Deceased), we have lost the M.O. who recommended to the Chief of Naval Operations that the mine force be re-organized resulting in a high state of mine readiness in the fleet.

As Head of the CINCPACFLT MRI Team in 1969, CAPT Hihn represented and reported to ADM T. H. Moorer, USN, (RET), then the CNO, ADM Moorer was very suspicious of mine readiness in WESTPAC. With the "team's" help, ADM Moorer got the truth.

In CAPT Hihn's letter to me of 7 Mar 1997, he wrote: "There is a little bit more, which I still hold as privileged." The rest is history. But I have to tell you how he closed: "Good luck. Please let me know when your book comes out. I'd like to buy one."

Joe Hernandez

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While watching Dr. Schuller's sermon on the "Power of One", I couldn't help but remember CAPT Hihn's article on page 102 of our history book: "The Dirty Dozen Plus One".

His letter to me was this story plus some advise. Perhaps "Plus One" might make a good title for letters about CAPT Hihn!

Sincerely,  
Joe Hernandez



# Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades

In 1976, the Mine Warfare Inspection Group returned to Guam for a reinspection knowing there was a typhoon lurking in the Pacific. It was well south of Guam, tracking northeast, and not thought to pose a problem ... yeah, right. As soon as we set foot on the island it stopped dead in its track. The next day it began moving due north, straight at Guam. The following day, the typhoon picked up speed and was still making a beeline for us. Having lived through several terrible hurricanes and many worse typhoons, the yeoman, YN1 J. J. Vola, and I were not keen on sticking around if it was avoidable. With tearful eye on bended knee, we prevailed upon CDR Bill Roberts to get the captain to let us work overtime and get off the island before the storm hit. I swore I could get the tear-down and post analysis of the mines done by midnight and Two-Js had already booked reservations on the last flight out at noon the next day. We could do the report on the plane. Though Bill Roberts earnestly beseeched the captain, he turned him down flat remarking that it was "just a storm."

The next day was beautiful and sunny as we all leisurely finished the inspection and wrote the final report ... and the last flight out of Guam departed, packed to the wingtips and ailerons with the last sane people on the island.

We watched in horror as Typhoon Pamela built from a category 1, to a category 2, to a category 3, then to a category 4 as it bore down unerringly on us. During the night, it reached category 5. By dawn, things had changed dramatically. Gone was the brilliant sun and in its place a dark, leaden, roiling horizon to horizon demon filled with lizards, coconut crabs, Quonset hut parts, plywood, 2X4s, trees, clothing, signs, all manner of recreational equipment, and the occasional car hood and trunk lid. We marveled as sheet metal from roofs sailed through the air severing both power poles and trees alike as they went.

After hearing the final call over the barracks PA system, Two-Js and I decided to get a hot breakfast while that opportunity still existed. As we stepped from our room into the passageway, we met a CB CPO. He overheard us discussing the wind and volunteered that he had installed the new windows in the barracks during the recent rehab and that they were rated for 150 mph. We thanked him and continued on our way. Two-Js wondered out loud if the windows would stop a 150 mph coconut. With that, the CB spun on his heel and headed back to his room without comment. We followed and saw him hastily barricading his window with a large table and the rest of the furniture in his room. Sufficiently alarmed, two-Js and I promptly did the same then continued on to the messhall for a hot breakfast. We made it into the messhall with significant difficulty, but ate hearty once there. We dawdled over coffee and doughnuts as the winds built and built. The way back was tough and we had to cling desperately to ropes strung between the stanchions for just such fools as we while roofing gravel nearly stoned us to death.

We climbed the stairs to our floor and, as we passed the laundry room, heard a great tumult and went in to see.

There, amidst the washers and dryers, were at least 30 sailors clutching fists full of dollars, jockeying for position at the windows, and loudly betting on when the next trunk or hood would blow off a particular car in the parking lot. Two-Js made 5 bucks off the departure of the sign on the enlisted club. Sailors, though fearless, are easily amused.

Being resourceful senior petty officers, Two-Js and I had laid back a rather impressive stock of fine wines, junk food, and even a "John Wayne" for the occasion. We had not, however, laid back a cork screw. Fortunately, we managed to remove the corks with a towel and merrily sat out the rest of the storm ... I do mean sat out ... and, on occasion, were completely prostrate.

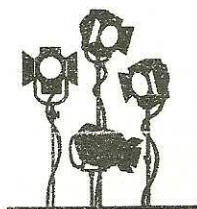
The next morning, we made our way through the carnage and debris noting that there wasn't any green living thing left on Guam. The palm tops were gone, the shrubbery was bare, and even the "tanga-tanga," the dense jungle growth that had repulsed many a semi truck fully laden with bombs, was stripped to brown sticks. Covered in the verdant green foliage it normally wears, Guam is a rather pretty island. Without its wig and makeup, it is butt ugly. We went to the BOQ to see how the other half had fared. As we entered the building, the ground floor was awash. I passed by the captain's room and saw him wading about in his skivvies as his carpet gently undulated in his wake. To help ease the burden of command, I stuck my head in his door, smiled, and said, "It's just a storm, captain."

Two-Js and I stood transfixed like deer caught in headlights while the air turned a sulphurous yellow as the captain began to loudly chant ancient and arcane curses invoking fearsome nautical deities the likes of which we had never before heard. Then lightning flashed from his eyes, steam burst from his ears, and fire erupted from his backside temporarily consuming all the moisture in the room. We ran for our lives. Apparently, the burden of command weighed heavier on the captain than I had previously thought.

The storm had fairly ripped Guam. There were two tugboats parked at the main gate hundreds of yards from any water and a conical swirl of cars like a cone of soft ice cream at the entrance to Camp Covington (the MCB Base). The USO had completely disappeared and the little night club on the mountain near Santa Rita where we had whiled away our free time only the day before was missing as was the concrete pad on which it had been built. As we approached Anderson AFB via the back road, we saw a Toyota pickup about half full of wire and stopped to talk with the ancient Guamanian slowly adding wire he picked up from the road. He was collecting the telephone lines and had about 3 more miles to go. That partial truckload represented all that was left of the entire Guam phone system. We heard that some of the concrete runway had been blown up at the seaward end of the runway at Anderson AFB and none of us doubted it.

Ten days later, suitcases filled with moldy and mildewed clothes, we gratefully boarded a plane back to a place where hot showers and electricity were commonplace.





## MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### LCDR PATON RETIRES

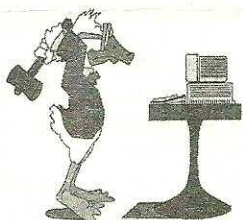


CDR Swart making a presentation to LCDR Tim Paton

LCDR Timothy W. P. Paton retired from active duty with over 26 years of Naval Service in ceremonies at Naval Surface Weapon Center, Crane, Indiana on Friday, 8 November 2002. CDR Ron Swart was the guest speaker for the event which was conducted by CDR James Ford, Executive Officer of NSWC Crane. Tim Paton has commanded MOMAG Unit One Seal Beach, CA, MOMAG Unit Fifteen, Kingsville, TX (Commissioning CO), and MOMAU Eight, Guam. He was the head of Minefield Planning and Requirements for COMOMAG before reporting to Crane for duty.



LCDR Paton receiving an award from CDR Swart

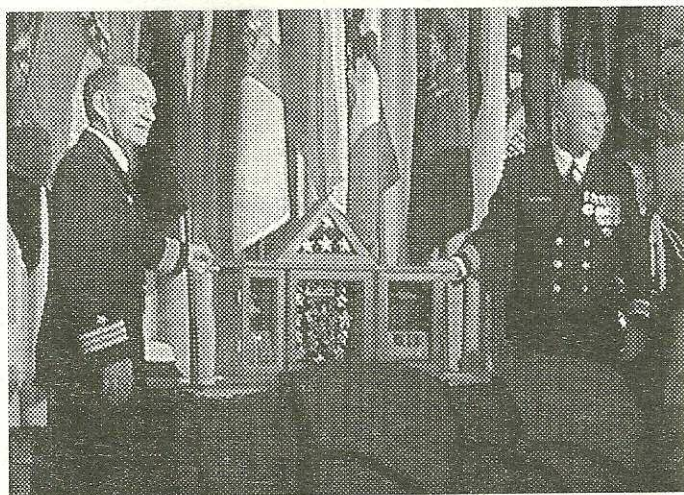


## EDITOR'S NOTES

This quarter, two outstanding mine warfare officers retired; Tim Paton and Ron Swart. I know both of these men personally and have known them for a long time. They have contributed immeasurably to the Mineman rating and I am intensely proud of them. I wish there were more Minemen like them in the pipeline.

Unless a miracle occurs, we aren't likely to hear from the Storekeeper or Unit EIGHT before we go to press. MN1 Stephanie Cowart managed to send a short note advising that Typhoon Pongsona was bearing down on them for a forecast direct hit. It missed by a few miles, but managed to huff and puff itself into a category 5 super typhoon. I was stationed on Guam for two years and never experienced winds above 50 kts. I had to make a special trip back to the island as a member of the Mine Warfare Inspection Group to get pasted by Super Typhoon Pamela, and even that was avoidable. I do recall that even most vividly and will recount some salient points in the "Rogues" section.

As an enlisted Mineman, he was selected as Mine-man of the Year in 1985 and was chosen for the Naval Forces Europe Senior Enlisted Leadership Award. Tim, his wife Louise, and children Emily and Tim, were joined by his Mother, Patricia, her husband Phil and two of his brothers Rick and Matt, celebrating his outstanding career as a Naval Officer and Mineman. His stunningly beautiful shadow box was built by CWO3 Ray Farraro (MN Ret) from "Constitution Oak" grown on the Crane complex, used for repairs on the USS Constitution.



Shadowbox made for LCDR Paton

Tim and his family will stay at NSWC Crane where he will work in Acquisition Management as a government contractor. Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate!

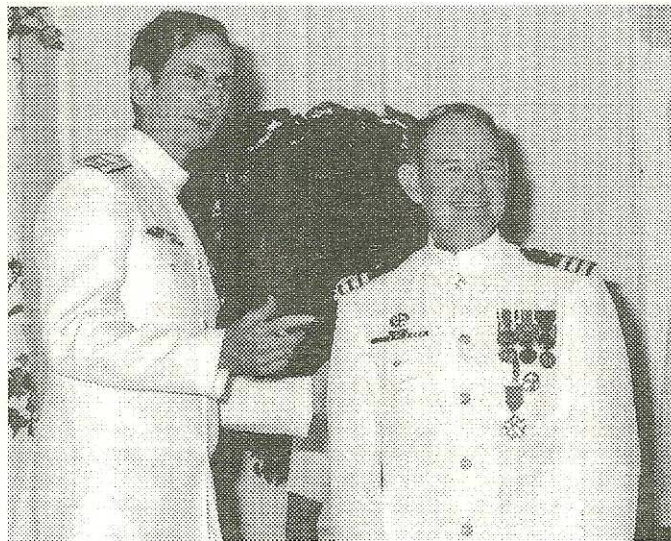


# CDR SWART RETIRES



**CDR RONALD E. SWART**

Navy Commander Ronald E. Swart, a Carrington, ND native, was properly relieved by CDR Terry Auberry, USN as Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Corpus Christi, Texas on 6 September 2002, in ceremonies conducted by Rear Admiral Paul J. Ryan, Commander Mine Warfare Command.



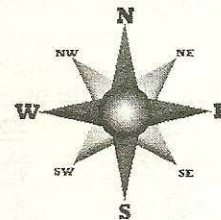
**RADM Ryan awarding the Meritorious Service Medal to CDR Swart**

He was awarded the Legion of Merit for his services as the Group Commodore for the worldwide organization responsible for sea mines and exercise mines and targets for undersea mine countermeasures training.

In his remarks, RADM Ryan pointed out that Swart rose through the ranks from Seaman to Commander, serving 7 presidencies, to become the Navy's senior active duty expert on Naval Mines and mine warfare. His contributions to the readiness of both the Navy's mine warfare capability and training of mine countermeasures forces was both significant and impressive. CDR Swart will retire from the Navy on 31 December 2002 after more than 32 years of Naval Service. He and his wife Masako will move from Corpus Christi, TX to Panama City, FL. They have two grown children: David a Senior in Electrical Engineering at Texas Tech University and Kumi, a third-year medical student at the University of North Texas in Fort Worth.



**Fair winds and Following Seas**

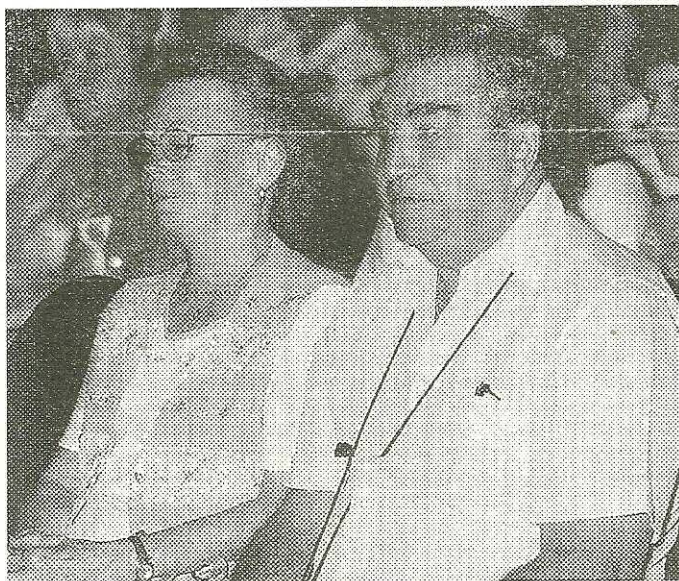


## **CDR SWART'S COC/ RETIREMENT THROUGH THE EYES OF BOOTS AND PAUL SANTA MARIA**

**By Paul Santa Maria**

Shipmates, the change of command and retirement ceremonies for CDR Ron Swart were most memorable occasions for both Bootsie and myself. This was a first for both of us (one of the shortcomings of being a "short timer."). Commander Swart gave recognition to both of us as well as the AOM on several occasions. As soon as we entered the ceremonial area, we were asked our names by a monitor. As soon as we gave him our names, he said, "Oh yes," and had a Master Chief Petty Officer escort us to the front section of seats. WOW! My chest expanded several sizes. I don't know whether it was pride or ego, though probably an equal amount of both.





**Boots and Paul right up front.**

The "side boys" were in place and Commander Swart, then Commander Auberry, and then Admiral Ryan were "piped" aboard. Automatically, I snapped to attention. That was pride for sure. As the change of command ceremony progressed, the reading of Commander Swart's accomplishments as Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG) was profound. I am sure that the whole of the mine community is very proud and appreciative of his contributions.



**RADM Ryan and CDR Swart**

When I had the opportunity, I spoke to Commander Auberry and there is no doubt in my mind that he, too, has the energy and direction to lead our part of the mine warfare community into this new millennium. Commander Auberry assured me that the cooperation between our two organizations will continue at the same level. He did, however, allude to the fact that he was not as prolific a writer as Commander Swart.

It was inspiring to witness as another hardworking, determined, focused Mineman climbed the arduous ladder through the enlisted ratings to the pinnacle of success as a senior Limited Duty Officer to become COMOMAG.



**CDR Auberry and CDR Swart**

During Commander Swart's retirement speech, he gave an excellent monologue on the mission of the AOM and encouraged the audience to become members. To top off this most memorable day, we were invited to the home of Ron and his lovely wife, Masako, to celebrate Ron's birthday (He never said how old he was). It was a great evening! The food was not only plentiful, but oh so delicious as well.



**Daughter Kumi and Wife Misako**

In the early part of the evening, I noticed that none of the guests were wearing shoes except Bootsie and me. It immediately dawned on me that the centuries old Japanese custom of not wearing shoes in the house was observed here. We immediately removed our shoes and became one of the crowd. I promoted the AOM at every opportunity and gave out some tie tacks. This event provided the opportunity to meet with and speak to two recipients of our scholarships; Kumi and David Swart. They both expressed their appreciation again.

My wife and I would like to thank Commander and Masako Swart for honoring us with invitations that allowed us to share with them a most memorable day.

Sincerely, Boots and Paul Santa Maria.





## MINE ASSEMBLY NEWS



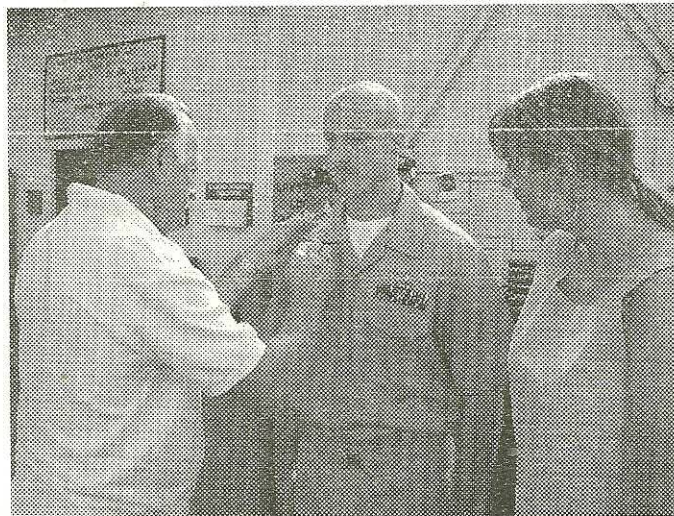
## MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

By LT K. L. Miller

CO's CORNER. I wish to extend our warm and sincere wishes for a joyous holiday season. As I look at the weather outside, I must look at a calendar to remind me that December is almost here. I talked with my Mom and Dad last week, they told me of their early Christmas present of 2" of snow. I let her know that shorts and flip-flops was still the prescribed uniform of the day here in Sunny Seal Beach!

We wrapped up August with the Commanders Conference in Corpus Christi. When I walked into the wall of humidity stepping off the aircraft, I realized how much I appreciate the weather in Seal Beach. The conference offered me a rare opportunity to socialize with my peers, and the occasion to discuss the different situations that we, at times, find ourselves.

I observed the one-year anniversary of the tragic events in New York City on September the 11<sup>th</sup> during a visit to New Jersey with my good friend Ms Stephanie Mason. I had originally planned the trip to attend the decommissioning of MOMAU Three and give best wishes to LT Alex Brown on his next adventure, but it also offered an excellent opportunity to catch up with old friends. Ms Mason and I ventured into the city, my first since June '01, visiting ground zero to pay homage to the fallen and those that have battled back since. Gone were the remnants of twisted metal and heaps of debris, resembling nothing more than a construction site. Unless one had stood next to the twin towers, looking straight up over 110 stories into the heavens, traipsed through its mammoth under ground train station and shopping mall, or strolled its five-city block footprint on the street, one would be hard pressed to truly comprehend the enormous loss that took place.



MNC (SW) Carr anchor pinning by his father

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, we held a pinning ceremony for MNC(SW) Dean Carr. His wife, Denise, and father conducted the honors, after which MNC(SW) Carr and I held our wetting down party at Dave's Other Place. A grand time was had by all as the festivities extended into the night. September concluded with our annual MWR trip to Las Vegas. The big money winners were YN2(SW) Roland Coates and MN2 Michael Busch. Nightclub revues were thoroughly enjoyed by all. IT1 (SW) Sheila Loe, MN1 Laura Arthur, and MN2 Christine Beal shared particularly enthusiastic adventures and recollections. We had a farewell party and volleyball tournament on the 27<sup>th</sup>, where the Chiefs reigned supreme on the court. It goes to prove that old age and treachery will overcome youth and enthusiasm. We celebrated Hispanic Heritage on the 30<sup>th</sup>, inviting families for a presentation conducted by SK1(SW) Pierre Rhinehart and a potluck luncheon. The afternoon was capped off with the children enjoying a traditional Piñata.

October arrived, bringing with it the financial realities of a new fiscal year. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the khaki enjoyed a rare luncheon in Long Beach as the remainder of the crew attended a MWR taping event of "The In-Laws" in Hollywood.



MNCM(SW) Mark Zinnel and MNSN Nicholas Resch Cut Navy Birthday Cake



We celebrated the Navy's birthday a few days early. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, all were invited to a potluck luncheon and cake cutting ceremony. MNCM(SW) Mark Zinnel and MNSN Nicholas Resch performed the traditional oldest/youngest honors.



#### **LOGS/ADMIN Department MWR luncheon.**

LOGS/ADMIN department held an MWR luncheon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hamburgers and Hotdogs were cooked to perfection as MNCS(SW) Garret Cecilio and YN2(SW) Coates flexed over the barbecue. We were presented a unique opportunity and attend a live broadcast of "Doctor Phil" on the 24<sup>th</sup>. MN1(SW) Gallegos and MN2(SW) Head, of MOMAU Fifteen, joined us in support of JTFEX 03-1 for the USS Constellation Battle Group. After completion of readiness checks on VEMS, they were able to join us in our Halloween Costume party on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Halloween Costume party**

A motley collection of costumes was paraded at Bunker 33 with IT1(SW) Loe and MN3 Travis Baxter winning "Best Costume", MNC(SW) Greg Williams' son Nicholas and MN3 Michael Caprioglio earned "Scariest Costume" honors. Bingo and a basketball free throw competition added to the evening. MNC(SW) Williams and MNSN Christopher Miserlain joined Unit Fifteen personnel deploying the VEMS on the 28<sup>th</sup> and subsequent recovery on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ballots were cast for our representative government as we conducted our upgrade assessment from 4 through 7 November. An unusual downpour drenched the annual Veterans Day Parade in Long Beach on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but it did not dampen the cheers of the crowd that lined the streets. QA/OPS department did their share in raising much needed MWR dollars holding a chili dog sale on the 13<sup>th</sup>. MN2(SW) Garner wowed us with his home-made chili as MNC Carr and MN1 Arthur displayed their grilling acumen. Mr. Huntsman of AMMOPAC visited our unit from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> conducting a ROLMS Assist. MN2 Shane Stone headed our efforts in the Combined Federal Campaign, raising \$2,872. We conducted NR&R stand down on the 26<sup>th</sup>, refreshing all with knowledge as we think about the upcoming Thanksgiving Day feast.

**HAILS & FAREWELLS.** Only one new addition to our family this quarter to report. MN2 Travis Hutchens joins us from MOMAU Five in Sigonella.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, we bid farewell to MN2 Beal as she heads to USS Kingfisher in Ingleside, Texas. MN3 Brain Lampman set sail on 1 November enroute to USS Dextrous, in Manama, Bahrain.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION.** MNC(SW) Williams was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal for his noteworthy performance during RIMPAC '02. MNCS(SW) Cecilio, MN2(SW) Matthew Heyer, and MN2 Vernon Saunders earned Navy Achievement Medals for their superb work during Fleet Battle Experiment "J". MN3 Lampman's service merited an EOT NAM. YNSN Vernon Severin earned his first Good Conduct Medal. CO Letters of Commendation awarded to YN2(SW) Coates and MNSN Miserlain on selection to Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively. CO LOA were presented to MN1(SW) Ronald Chabot, MN2 Caprioglio, MN2(SW) Charles Garner, MN2 Stone, MN3 Mario Barrientos, MN3 Baxter, MN3 Meade, MN3 Kelly Tupper, MNSN Miserlain and MNSN Michael Pendley noting their participation in the Long Beach Veterans Day Parade. MN2 Caprioglio, MN2 Stone, MN3 Nicholas Resch, and MN3 Jason Hughes "did it right", advancing to their respective ranks. Bravo Zulu to all!!

**IN THE TARGET QUEUE.** As we decorate our facility, we look forward to the Christmas holiday. The local chapters of the Destroyers Escort Sailors Association have again graciously volunteered to provide Christmas baskets and presents for our annual Children's Christmas Party on December 7<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to our Holiday Party on the 11<sup>th</sup> on board the Queen Mary, complete with secret Santa and cheer for all.

On behalf of my crew, we wish you our heartfelt joy and prayers for a healthy and prosperous 2003.





## MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

By MNCS(SW) Dave Ostrom

Buon Natale a tutti dalla squadra di UNIT 5! This last issue for CY02 Winter edition of the DASHPOT has the crew winding down from a very busy Mine Warfare Exercise schedule, and enjoying a short break to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Then, our attention is focused on meeting our commitments for 2003. Here's what's happening in the Mediterranean:

It is with great pleasure I announce that MN3 Jeramie Lane and his lovely wife Tiziana had a beautiful baby girl "Sophia" in November. Mom and Sophia are doing just great!

The beginning of October had our participation in COMSIXTHFLT MIW exercise DESTINED GLORY 02. MN1(SW) Steve Pierce, MN2(SW) Burel Jones, MN3 Kevin Dielman and MNSN Kevin Gilbert deployed to USNS APACHE and oversaw the successful surface launch and recovery of over 60 exercise and training shapes.

In November, we had representatives from CSS Panama City and COMOMAG onboard to conduct the Mine Allowance Database (MAD) install. MNC(SW) Allen Alt, MNCM(Ret) Bob Bainbridge and Mr. Greg Lane from CSS, and MNCM(Ret) Wayne "Arnie" Helgerson from COMOMAG were the team of professionals who provided outstanding training for the crew and provided MOMAU FIVE with an excellent tool that is extremely user friendly. It was great to have them onboard working closely with the crew and sharing their knowledge as well as seeing our facilities up close.

With a break in supporting our various MIW exercises, we charged forward with the refurbishment of all recovered assets over the previous quarter. Additionally, we provided EOD Mobile UNIT EIGHT with some refurbished inert exercise and training shapes for underwater training evolutions. We had them over to certify inert an old MK25 exercise mine that was recovered and provided to us during DESTINED GLORY 02. This shape has many, many years of sea growth on it, I had told the crew it must have been on the bottom of the ocean floor for at least 10 years plus. It still had the old drill shield attached. In fact, Wayne Helgerson while onboard in November had told me it was in the water much longer than 10 years, the drill shield he examined still attached led us to that conclusion.

**BRAVO ZULU's:** The following personnel were advanced to their next higher paygrade from the September 02 advancement exam. To Petty Officer Second Class was MN2 Jim Gipson, and to Petty Officer Third Class was MN3 Jim Batman, MN3 August Sorvillo and MN3 David Reinertsen. Our 3rd Quarter Senior SOQ is MN2 Deb Spangler, and our JSOQ MN3 Jody Casey. MNC(SW) Steve Sanders reenlisted for 3 years in October, and MN2 Jeff Tucker reenlisted for 6 more years and received a very nice selective reenlistment bonus in November!

**Transfers:** MN2 Travis Hutchens to MOMAU ONE Seal Beach, MN3 Rafimar Brito USS CARDINAL (MHC 60), MN3 Jody Casey NAVSTA Roosevelt Rds Security Detachment PR, MN2 Jim Gipson MOMAU ELEVEN Charleston, MN3 Duncan Harvin NAF Key West Security Detachment, MN3 Jesse Rupe Tinker AFB Oklahoma City, MNC(SW) Steve Sanders CSS Panama City, MN3 Lindsey Wohlgenuth MOMAU ELEVEN, MN1(SW) Jayson Calton USS SCOUT (MCM 8), MN3 Tim Wilson USS BLACK HAWK (MHC 58), MN3 Jessie Jochims USS ORIOLE (MHC 55), and MN2 Wendy Sims USS KINGFISHER (MHC 56).

**Prospective Gains:** We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of MN2 Mark Floor from the USS SCOUT (MCM 8) first part of the year, MN1 Matt Greer from USS OSPREY (MHC 51) in March, and MNC(SW) Keith "KD" Dixon in August 03. Which leads me to say, for any of you "hard chargers" out there on the waterfront looking for a very challenging and rewarding tour overseas, and you are in the window to start negotiating orders with Chief East, consider strongly a tour at MOMAU FIVE, Sicily. An excellent career choice, you will be able to work closely with our NATO counterparts during numerous Mine Warfare training exercises that will see you assigned TAD at various locations throughout the Mediterranean and Europe. Next year we are scheduled to participate in nine (9) C5F/C6F/NATO MIW exercises. You will work exclusively with the MK74 and MK75 Versatile Exercise Mine System (VEMS), and complete all PQS qualifications and certification on all service mines we have in our inventory. Are you looking for that LPO leadership position in Mine Production or Logistics? You will have the opportunity to serve in highly visible command wide collateral duties such as CCC, DAPA, and Command Fitness Coordinator. Off duty education opportunities are OUTSTANDING here in Sigonella. The Universities of Maryland, City Colleges of Chicago, Embry-Riddle and Excelsior College offer many classes and several may be even completed on-line. Our military housing locations continues to grow with the recent edition of Marinai (close to 500 new units). We have one of the finest DODD's schools within Europe right here in Sigonella. And I have not even started to mention the great liberty you will enjoy here on the beautiful island of Sicily and great travel opportunities throughout Europe while in a leave status. Interested? Drop me a line anytime at [ostromd@nassig.sicily.navy.mil](mailto:ostromd@nassig.sicily.navy.mil).



In closing: I received two nice e-mails just this past quarter from two ol' shipmates I was stationed with many years ago. Mike Pineno (MN3) wrote to me. We did a tour together here in Sig 1985-87. Mike, his wife, Angela, and two daughters are all doing well in New Jersey. Yvonne Wedde (Wilciewicz - MN3 MOMAU 1 1988-90) her husband, Mark, and two boys are all well in Wisconsin. Well, that about does it for this edition. We are gearing up for a very exciting year. We have our ADMAT and MRCI inspections in 2003, and nine exercises with our NATO allies! We all at UNIT FIVE wish each and every one of you and your families the best of holidays and joyous New Year! God bless.



## **SUPER TYPHOON PONGSONA**

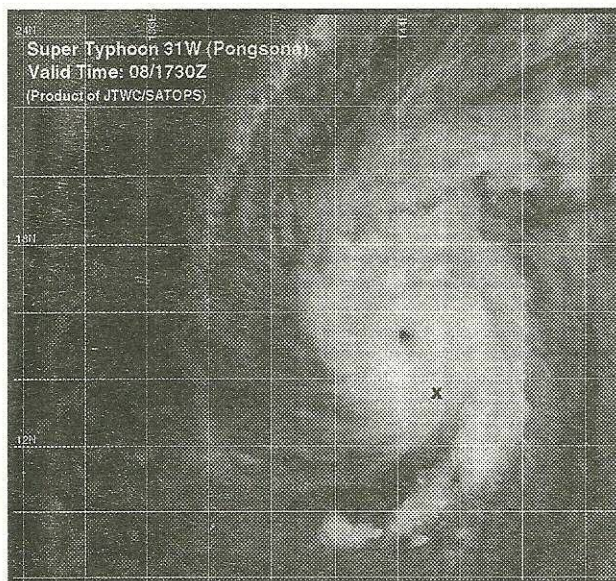
**HAFA ADAI AND WELCOME TO YOUR  
LOCAL ISLAND WEATHER PAGE**

**As of Sunday, December 8, 2002, 5:00 CST**

**INTERACTIVE MAP OUT OF SERVICE**

**GUAM RADAR IS OUT OF SERVICE**

**SATELLITE IMAGERY IS NOT AVAIL-  
ABLE**



**VERY DANGEROUS SUPER TY-  
PHOON PONGSONA CONTINU-  
ING NORTHWESTWARD**



## **MOMAU TÈN KADENA**

**by MNCS Bray**

Hello and happy holiday to everyone...we hope the turkey was good and that everyone is ready for the upcoming Christmas season (we sure are). First, we had a wonderful Change of Command Ceremony on the 18th of October and said good-bye to LCDR Wright and hello to our new "Skipper" LCDR John Cross. CDR Auberry was our guest speaker and MNCS(SW) Williams accompanied him on the trip. We were glad to host them both and we hope they enjoyed their visit and the Japanese-style hospitality. On the command front, we are happy that the long delayed, three year project to install the command's new Forklift storage shed has finally been completed. This was a long time coming and the island rain, heat, and humidity had really done a number in recent years on the command's rolling stock. Now that we have the luxury of storing everything inside, maybe our circa 1970's forklifts will finally be able to last a few more years.

We had a great command Thanksgiving potluck on the 27th of November and had the opportunity to get all the active duty and dependents together at one sitting to enjoy some good holiday cheer. With all that has gone on this year with the Inspection Cycle and exercises, it has been difficult to have a function where 100% of the command was able to attend.....and yes, for the record, Gunner Riggins was even there...HA! We held our long awaited holiday raffle to raise funds for our upcoming Command Christmas Party with tickets being sold for Seaman for the Day, CO for the Day, Duty Driver for the Day, etc. We were able to raise over \$900 as people dug DEEP in the old pockets to help out. Bravo Zulu to the crew for making this a reality.

**ADVANCEMENTS/KUDOS:** Congrats go out to the following personnel who were recently frocked from the September advancement exam: MN1(SW) Hinton, MN3 Snow, MN3 Rosenberg, MN3 Parfait, and MN3 Bolyard. Since all our Seamen were advanced to PO3, that gave special meaning to the Thanksgiving party raffle for "Seaman for a Day". Congratulations also go out to MN1(SW) Steven McMillian and MN3 Bolyard for their selection as 3Q02 Senior and Junior Sailors of the quarter respectively.

**NEW ARRIVALS:** Man...what luck we are having in the manning department; finally another Chief onboard! — and not a minute too soon. A hearty



### **Missions Accomplished:**

Congratulations to MN1(SW) Graham for an outstanding performance during the Field Calibration Assist, his maintenance was flawless.

Congratulations to MN1 (SW) Graham, MN1(AW) McLaughlin, MN3(SW) Bailey, MN3 Diamond for an outstanding VEMS build, and mine-plant in support of MIREM 21.

Congratulations to the SLMM Shop, made up of MN1 Sullivan, MNSN Jones, MN3 Wheeler, MNSN McCain, MNSN Markham, MNSN Owen and MNSN Quinn for a job well done.

### **Sailors of the Quarter:**

Congratulations to MN1/ MNC(Select) Elsbury for his selection as Senior Sailor of the Quarter and for advancement to Chief Petty Officer and his selection.

Congratulations to MN2(SW) Coleman for his selection as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

Congratulations to MNSN Asbill for his selection as Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

### **Advancements:**

Advancement to First Class Petty Officer: MN1 Garvine

Advancement to Third Class Petty Officer:

MN3 Conklin  
MN3 Diamond  
MN3 Litchford  
MN3 McHargue  
MN3 Perkins  
MN3 Reed  
MN3 Roof  
MN3 Sandoval

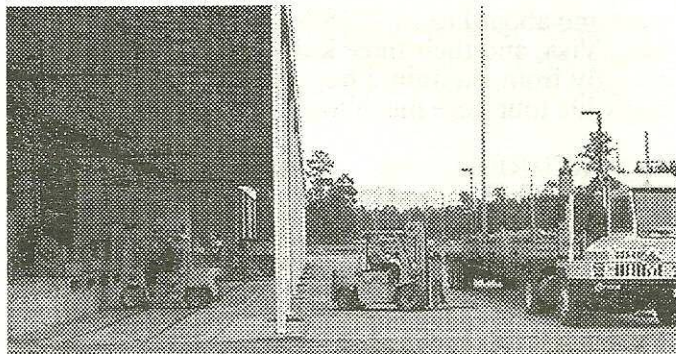
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### **Winter**

**BY MNC(SW) Morus**

Greetings from the Low Country.

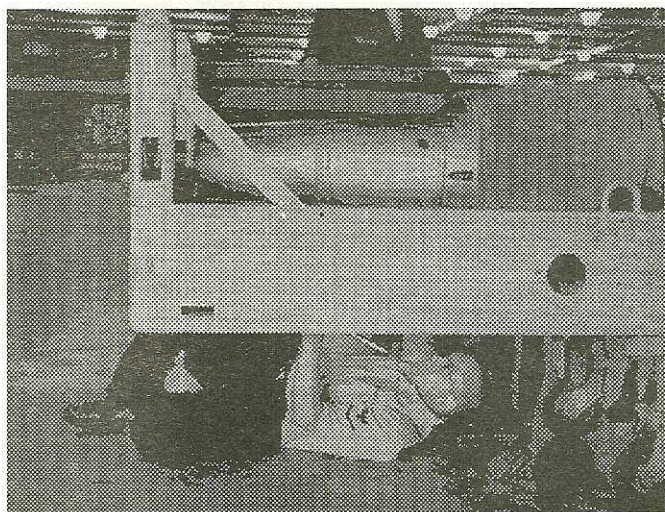
A highly productive year is rapidly coming to a close but next year will be just as industrious. We feel like we've earned the right to brag a little about our accomplishments. Besides assuming a service 65 mission, a service and ET 67 mission, tailoring production plans to our facility, qualifying our sailors, running the communities largest exercise program and long shopping list of other projects, our days are pretty mundane. We're looking forward to the unit's first service Assist Visit which will occur 2-6 December. Our hard working sailors have done a terrific job of getting the service mission up and on line. MK 67 SLMM and MK 65 Quickstrike are in full swing, and our mission seems to grow everyday. Since the last issue we have had 2 upgrades for MK 65 training, including our NR MOMAU component and a flow development upgrade for the MK67. All in all we've had a busy quarter.



**MK 65's ROLLING IN THE DOOR!**



**VALUABLE TRAINING IN PROGRESS.**



**NEWLY FROCKED MN3 BAXLEY PERFORMING BACK-BREAKING WORK !**

We had an excellent opportunity to shed some light on the Mineman community with a visit from the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry D. Scott. MCPON(SS/AW) Scott spent the morning conducting a roundtable discussion with our Chiefs Mess, touring the shop and talking with our sailors.



welcome aboard to MNC(SW) Mike Corvo, his wife, Visa, and their three kids who all joined us recently from Bahrain. I have assured Mike he will enjoy his tour here much more than the Gulf.

**DEPARTURES:** We recently said good-bye to MN1 Black who left us bound for the USS Guardian, and MN2 Bell who transferred to the USS Kingfisher. These Sailors and their contributions to the command will surely be missed.

**EXERCISES:** Just finished up the Initial Planning Conference swing for the 2003 exercise season and it looks as though the upcoming year will again be filled with plenty of "road" time. We are gearing up for first-ever Western Pacific MCMEX with MCMDIV 11 and numerous other international MCM Forces down in the Singapore Straights and Indonesia next spring....looks to be a dandy for sure. Of course, the "regular" TAD trips to Korea and Thailand will again be on the slate this year along with.....what? Minemen back in PI? Yep, the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) swing will include a trip to the Philippines as well.

Fellow Minemen....when you approach that detailing window, talk to the Detailer and seriously consider coming out here for a tour....this is still the place to come for great travel and the highest COLA rates in the Navy. That will do it for this issue, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the crew of MOMAU Ten.

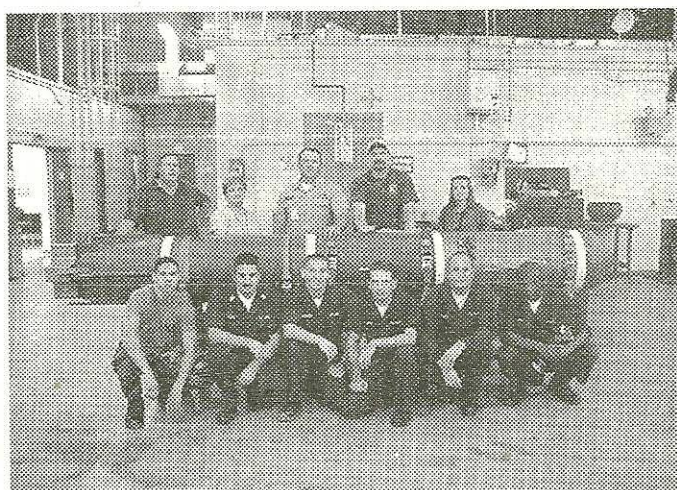


## MOMAU ELEVEN CHARLESTON

BY MNC(SW) Morus

### Fall

Greetings from the Low Country. Lots of new and important Mineman news to report from Unit 11. We'll start off by reporting that we just completed a very successful FIAT, introducing the MK 67 SLMM. The Coastal Systems Station team comprised of CSS Liaison MNC(SW) Alan Alt, Mr. Ken Waringa, Mr. Bob Bainbridge, Ms. Ann Brown and Ms. Jenny Owens provided outstanding training. Some of us "old timers" or "straight sticks" at the command have talked about it and have decided that working with the SLMM is not as fun as building MK 52/55's, but we'll take what we can get.



Front Row/ L-R: MNSN McCain, MN1 Sullivan, MNSN Markham, MNSN Owen, MNSN Quinn, MNSN Jones  
Back Row/ L-R: Mr. Ken Waringa, Ms. Jenny Owens, MNC(SW) Allen Alt, Mr. Bob Bainbridge, Ms. Ann Brown  
Not Pictured: MN3 wheeler

The addition of service mines to Unit 11 includes the implementation of NR Minemen into our fold, and we were fortunate to have the opportunity to train with NR MOMAU Units NR06 and NR07 in early August. We spent the weekend getting our reserve counterparts qualified for MK 65 upgrades and received valuable training for our active duty folks as well. Thanks go out to CW03 McKettrick and his personnel for helping make the most out of our training.

Our ET side of the house has been extremely busy with preparations for 3 large scale builds for CSS Panama City, totaling over 125 mines in a 2 month period.



Production Deck Bldg. 274

The future of Unit 11 has some interesting changes taking place, including the welcome addition of the powdered paint system. This project has taken some time to get up and running, but once completed, it should help move things along.

We have tons of personal accomplishments to congratulate!





## MCPON(SS/AW) SCOTT LEARNING ABOUT OUR SLMM MISSION WITH MN3 MCCAIN, MNC(SW) ELSBURY AND MN3 MARKHAM

On the ET side of the house we had an extremely successful VEMS build in support of MIREM 21. The VEMS Shop built 4 MK 74 Mines and 2 MK 75 Mines. MN3M(SW) Walker, MNC(SW) Morus, MN1(SW) Graham and MN2(SW) Bailey deployed to Little Creek, VA to plant, interrogate, and recover the mines, using the USNS Mohawk as our platform.

### KUDOS

We'd like to congratulate the following personnel for their accomplishments:

#### Sailors of the Quarter

Senior Sailor: MN1(SW) Martell  
Junior Sailor SK1 Roundtree  
Blue Jacket: MN3 Guerrero

#### Advancement to Petty Officer First Class

MN1(SW) Bowman SK1 Roundtree

#### Advancement to Petty Officer Second Class

MN2(SW) Bailey  
MN2 Carte  
MN2 Campbell

#### Advancement to Petty Officer Third Class

MN3 Baxley MN3 Breeden  
MN3 Carruth MN3 Guerrero  
MN3 Jones MN3 Lopez  
MN3 Markham MN3 McCain  
MN3 Quinn MN3 Sellers

### HAIL AND FAIRWELL

#### Departures

MNC Crocker  
MN1 Gerhardt  
MN2 Carte  
MN2 Campbell

#### TO

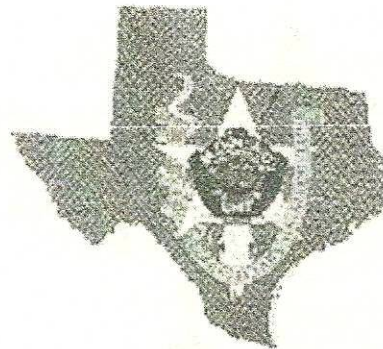
MOMAU 8  
USS Dextrous  
Recruiting Duty  
USS Guardian

#### Arrivals

MN1(SW/AW) Butler  
MN1(SW) Bowen  
SK2(SW) Peters  
MN2(SW) Bailey  
MN3 Bowen

#### FROM

COMOMAG  
USS Kingfisher  
USS Artic  
USS Frank Cable  
MOMAU 5



## MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

By MN2 Wilson

Greetings from South Texas! Winter seems to be ascending upon us. Temperatures for the Thanksgiving holiday in the mid 50's. Last year at this time we were still wearing shorts. The good thing about this cold weather is not dealing with all the mosquitoes.

Things around here have been getting busy with the coming of the holiday season. We are preparing for the Transparent Hunter exercise, which will start the first week of January and last till mid February. This past quarter we also provided VEMS support for JTFEX-03 in California. Providing weapons for exercises was tough going because our DATE computer didn't want to work with us but, thanks to the help of CSS, we got it up and running again.

We'd like to welcome the following personnel and their families: MN2(SW) McIntosh from the USS Avenger, MNC(SW) Stultz, his wife Tina, daughter Meagan, and son Shane from the USS Falcon, and MN1(SS) Eckelbecker, his wife Helen and sons Christopher and Robert from MOMAU Three. With the coming of new people we say goodbye to the ones who have finished their tour and are ready to move on. We'd like to bid farewell to the following personnel and their families: ABF2 Wayda, his wife, Jo Ann and son Charles are heading to the USS Eisenhower, MN2 Patton transferring to USS Guardian and MN3 Branum, wife Shanda, son Blake, and daughter Gatana are heading to HSV-X2.

### AWARDS:

Sailor's of the year: **Senior SOY is MN2 WILSON**  
**and Junior SOY is MN3 MORALAS**

Sailor's of the Quarter: **SSOQ is IT2 SUMMER**  
**and JSOQ is MN3 BROOKS**

**GOOD CONDUCT: AK1 Harros, MN1 Rojas,**  
**MN2 Head, MN2 McQueen and MN2 Willson.**

**Letter of Appreciation: MN3 Stordahl, from Navy**  
**Recruiting District, Houston**

**PRT EXCELLENTS: IT2 Summer, MN3 Branum,**  
**MN3 Brooks, MN3 Cintron and MN3 Stordahl**

See photos page 18, column 1 bottom.





## MINE COUNTERMEASURES NEWS

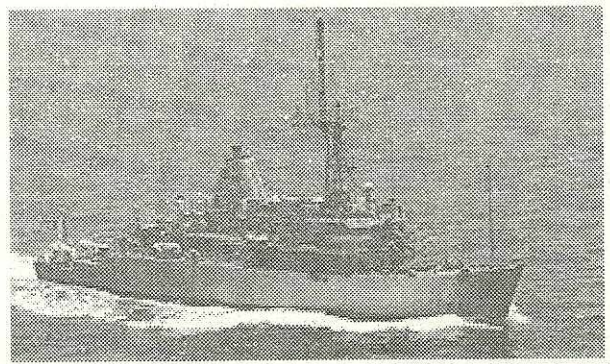
MOMAG Unit 15 images



Unit 15 Senior SOY MN2 WILSON



Unit 15 Junior SOY MN3 MORALAS



## USS CHAMPION PAINTS PUERTA VALLARTA "RED"

By LTJG Grayson Burnette

SAN DIEGO — USS Champion (MCM 4), currently deployed to the Eastern Pacific, recently conducted a port visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Although the port is a well-known tourist spot, it wasn't all fun and games. Eleven Sailors from Champion helped a local elementary school renovate their playground.

"We painted 30 play tires with bright colors, 2 slides, 2 swing sets, a play area perimeter wall, a flower bed border and a wall area with white wash and sealer," said Champion's Command Chief, MNC Cecil Fish. Even though it was hard work, "the guys had a great time. At first we thought we were going to have kids with different bright colors all over their white school uniforms, but we cut them off at the pass," managing to keep the children at a safe distance until the paint had an opportunity to dry.

Community relations projects such as the one Champion undertook in Puerto Vallarta has been an important part of the U.S. Navy's port visit policy.

"There is no better way to foster camaraderie, friendship, and good will between the U.S. Navy and the local community than through this type of program," says LCDR Phil Roos, Champion's Commanding Officer. "The community opens their door to you and you get to give something back."

Personnel from Champion that participated included: ENC(SW) Carl L. Bowman, MNC(SW) Robert P. Morrison, HM1 Bryan M. Miller, EM1(SW) Tony J. Lueck, IC1(SW) James D. Booker, EN1 Edmund P. Pisarski, AG1 Matthew D. Malone, MS2 Timothy H. Clark, MN2 Edward N. Sandoval, SK2 Luis E. Rios and MS3 Tony P. Maratea. A Sailor from USS Scout (MCM 8) temporarily assigned to USS Pioneer (MCM 9), IC2 Jason Kinman, was on hand as well.

Champion departed October 17 with USS Pioneer (MCM 9) for a 6-month deployment to the Eastern Pacific. The ships will operate primarily out of Naval Station San Diego, Calif., and will support Commander, Third Fleet operations and exercises. They expect to return to their homeport of Ingleside, Texas, next spring.



## NORFOLK AMBHIPIOUS SHIP TO BE USED IN MINE COUNTERMEASURE EXERCISE

By LTJG Herlinda Rojas

Mine Warfare Command (MINEWARCOM) will demonstrate its capability during a ten day at sea training period in the Gulf of Mexico this month with Norfolk based USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). USS Kearsarge, acting as a stand-in mine warfare command ship, will embark airborne, surface and undersea mine countermeasures (MCM) personnel and equipment from Naval Station (NS) Ingleside and Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi during this simulated wartime scenario.

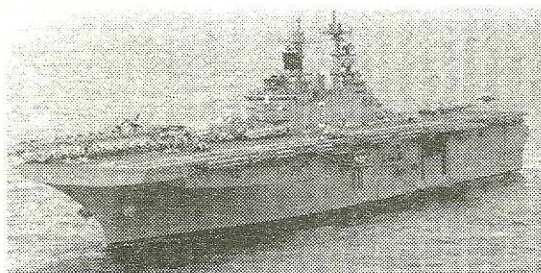
According to Rear Adm. Paul Ryan, Commander, Mine Warfare Command, mine warfare forces are expeditionary by design. Packing up and going where needed and when needed is how mine warfare was conducted prior to Desert Storm and prior to having a dedicated mine warfare command and support ship. "This exercise will familiarize a new generation of mine warfare personnel with the details of embarking on a ship of opportunity," said Ryan.

During the exercise, MINEWARCOM will use USS Kearsarge as a host ship and will exercise all three legs of the MCM triad: airborne, surface and underwater mine countermeasures. A squadron of MH-53 minehunting helicopters from NAS Corpus Christi will provide airborne MCM. Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units embarked on USS Kearsarge will provide underwater MCM. Three NS Ingleside minehunter and minesweeper ships, USS Sentry (MCM 3), USS Scout (MCM 8) and USS Devastator (MCM 6), will provide the surface MCM. Approximately 700 local service men and women will join USS Kearsarge for this exercise.

"We'll be utilizing USS Kearsarge the same way we utilized USS Inchon. We'll be hunting for exercise mines, sweeping the mines once they've been located, and using EOD personnel to neutralize designated mines," added Ryan. When the exercise is complete, USS Kearsarge will return to Ingleside for offload and then return to Norfolk.

Since the decommissioning of USS Inchon in June, the Navy has been evaluating options for a permanent replacement. "In the meantime, we're in the final stages of evaluating proposals to lease a high-speed vessel (HSV) to temporarily serve as our operational mine countermeasures command and control ship," said Ryan.

The new HSV will be used to support mine warfare exercises on both the East and West Coasts and will also deploy overseas. Ryan said it will also support Navy and Marine Corps experimentation, particularly in the areas of modular payloads and organic mine warfare.



## HIGH SPEED VESSEL TO VISIT NS INGLESIDE MINE WARFARE COMMAND TO RECEIVE OWN HSV JUNE '03

By LTJG Herlinda Rojas



*HSV-X1 Joint Venture passes under Newport bridge.*

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—A High Speed Vessel (HSV) will moor at Naval Station Ingleside Nov. 13 to familiarize local military and political leadership with its class of ship. The vessel, *Joint Venture HSV-X1*, is similar to the ship that will be delivered in June 2003 to NS Ingleside to be evaluated in mine countermeasures exercises. The ship scheduled to arrive next year is currently being referred to as HSV-X2.

*Joint Venture HSV-X1*, designed and built by Australian shipbuilder Incat Tasmania Pty Ltd., has recently participated in Millennium Challenge 2002 exercises in the waters between Port Hueneme, Calif., and Tacoma, Wash. In September, it also crossed the Atlantic Ocean in five days to participate in joint military exercises in Poland and Germany. The experimental ship can travel up to speeds of 40 knots and carry up to 400 troops.

In October, the Navy's Military Sealift Command awarded a \$21 million one-year charter contract with renewable one-year options to Bollinger/Incat USA, L.L.C. to support U.S. Navy Mine Warfare Command and to serve as a test platform for experiments with advanced hull and propulsion technology integrated with advanced communications technology.

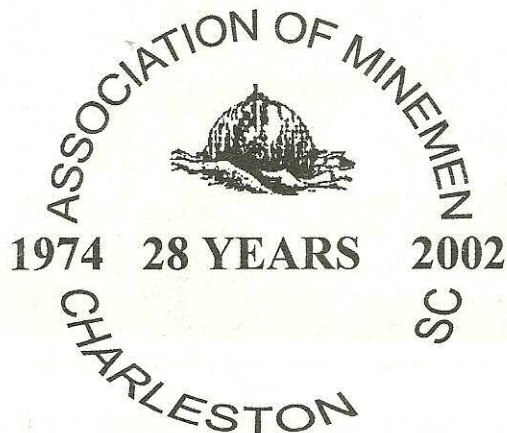
Currently, *HSV-X2* is slated to participate in three exercises from September to December 2003. These exercises include Atlantic Fleet Joint Task Force Exercise, Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX 04-1) Exercise and Pacific Fleet Joint Task Force Exercise.

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