

THE DASHPOT



Issue 42 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Summer 2003



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Paul Santa Maria

REUNION 2003! SAN DIEGO!

The committee is hard at work putting together a program that will be pleasing to all of us. Bootsie and I are looking forward with great anticipation to be together again with this great family. Bootsie is already laying out mountains of clothing to be packed. It is a good thing we are driving to California and the car is big!

Director John Loonam and I have been working on a couple of projects, one being a belt buckle. I have a prototype and it looks beautiful. It is something we will be proud to wear. They will be available at the reunion and on our web site. The other will be unveiled at the dinner.

A gentle reminder that the proceeds from the Auction help fund our Scholarship Program and other important projects, e.g., museums. Let's all try to bring an item or two for the Auction. The Auction is not only meaningful, but it is fun as well.

As you know, our reunion location and dates are set up two years in advance. At this year's General Membership Meeting, we will have to commit to year 2005 which will be west of the Mississippi. Give thought to a place you westerners!

This reunion will mean that I have been honored to be your president for the past two years. Thank you!! God bless you all!! God bless America.

See y'all in Diego!!

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SAN DIEGO REUNION

29TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN (AOM) REUNION, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA AUGUST 8-10, 2003.

You are ALL welcome to attend the 29TH Annual Association of Minemen (AOM) Reunion and be part of a most memorable event. We are putting together the final touches for our Reunion in San Diego, CA. I want to thank everyone for their assistance especially the 2003 Association of Minemen (AOM) Committee, our President, our Directors, as well as all the involved members and friends, for their assistance in our pulling together our Reunion. We are looking forward to our 29th annual Association of Minemen (AOM) reunion being 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 Team to house our reunion as well as most of our annual meetings, functions and activities. Our 1996 AOM reunion was also 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 29th Association of Minemen Reunion is being planned and operated by a nucleus TEAM consisting of BILL BASH, GARY CLELAND, W.C. HOLLOWAY, JERRY CHIPMAN, JIM MILLER and WARREN SAVAGE as well as other southern California AOM members and associates. We eagerly look forward to this event as one to be truly remembered and surpassing our 23rd AOM reunion held at this same San Diego site.

The TEAM is in the process of putting together activities, which include our annual EARLY BIRD banquet, a picnic and auction as well as a planned golf endeavor and annual meetings. We are looking forward to making this truly a FAMILY oriented

function that enhances networking and camaraderie.

The Early Bird reception will be held on Friday, 8 August starting at 1600 poolside in the POOL ROOM with refreshments available. This will be a great opportunity to greet, meet and mix. There will be maps and handouts available as well as photos from the past.

The Board of Directors meeting will be held Friday evening, 8 August, and Saturday morning, 9 August at Handlery.

Our General Membership meeting will be held on Saturday, 9 August starting at 1400 hours at Handlery.

Our Banquet will be held on Saturday, 9 August starting at 1800 hours at Handlery.

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The Picnic and Auction will be held Sunday, 10 August 2003 starting at 1130 hours at the Admiral Barker Park MWR.

We will be using our DASHPOT and WEBSITE to keep everyone up to date on what is happening. We are looking forward to having a GREAT and MEANINGFUL REUNION.

To make arrangements with the HANDLERY HOTEL and RESORT at 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA, 92108, phone 1-800-676-6567 or 1-619-298-0511 weekdays between the hours of 7AM-7PM PST or FAX 1-619-298-9793. Room Rates are \$104.00 plus tax, single or double. We have group rates for



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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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the Association of Minemen (AOM) available three days prior and three days following the Reunion. The cut-off date for Group Reservation is 8 July 2003.

FREE – Handlrey Hotel and Resort SHUTTLE is available. CALL 2 -3 days in advance for TO AND FROM the AIRPORT. Shuttle available to and from the airport as well as the San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Old Town and other tourist sites.

RADM Jose BETANCOURT, COMNAVREGSW, former COMINEWARCOM, will be our guest speaker at the AOM Reunion and attend our functions that weekend.



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

By Swede Carlsen

Once again I'm on the IMC for the AOM scholarship program. The annual AOM Reunion at San Diego is close at hand and we are looking for donations to support this worthy program.

We have over \$11,500 drawing interest to be used towards one (1) \$500 scholarship. As you know interest on CD's and savings accounts are very low, so we'll need some generous donations to raise the money up to the \$500 that is needed. You can give your contributions to either the President's Challenge fund or to the general scholarship fund.

Each year we have been fortunate enough to award at least (2) two scholarships. Let's make 2003 a banner year for scholarships. Membership donations and winning bids at the picnic's auction will bring us to the winner's circle.

The days of just a high school diploma is by the boards. Nowadays a Master's degree is the "IN" thing. Let's help some worthy students with their tuition fees or needed books.

See you in San Diego! Bring your wallets and purses. "Go Minemen Go"

Stand Tall America

**My goal in life is to be
the sort of person my
dog thinks I am.**



HISTORIAN'S ARCHIVES

By Ron Swart

I'm going to attempt to provide an initial input as the historian, but frankly I am somewhat overwhelmed by all the potential areas that could fall under that title. For the present, I understand that the primary focus of the AOM Historian is the two museums: Yorktown and Lexington. I need to get with Toby to discuss the Yorktown Museum in order to get a better handle on what we are doing there and where we are going. His wisdom and counsel will be invaluable.

As for the Lexington Museum in Corpus Christi, we have the same number of mines on display for the past 8 years. I asked Wayne "Arnie" Helgerson (MNCM ret.) and MNCM Jerry Williams (COMOMAG CMC) to take a look at the display and provide me with some feedback.

Arnie provided the following comments:

"The mines are pretty well placarded and they are in the mess deck right outside the room that we were fixing up. They have the tour routes snaked through them pretty good so you can see them, there are also a couple up on the hanger bay. Mines are placarded but probably could use some spiffing up, but for the most part they are in good shape. Ultimately it would be nice to get that room we were working on finished and move the mines into there, but as you know that takes some dedicated personnel to give up their time and that is hard to do in this days sailors." Arnie

Master Chief Williams provided the following comments:

"I have talked to the Lex and they have a Sea Cadets group that is going to be taking on the upkeep/completion of the mines display. The director told me he would be in touch in a few weeks to talk over the details, I'll let you know as soon as I hear from him and we can move forward. I also am getting some copies of the MN films from MWTC for the mines display as well."

My thanks to both Master Chiefs for their help and input.

Our original intentions for the Lexington were grander than our ability to execute, given the limited number of volunteers on any given weekend. I believe this is a general problem for any volunteer effort and requires inspiration, creativity and boundless energy on the part of the organizers to compete with family and friends time after working hours. For starters, with the help of the membership and

others who may be interested (we can make 'em members if they show interest...) I will compile a list of goals and objectives for each museum and we'll figure out how to accomplish them one step at a time.

The History Channel As many of you know, the History Channel is creating a piece on Mine Warfare to air sometime this coming August or September. The exact dates have not been decided but I will stay in close contact and will get the word out when it is decided. Actuality Productions of Los Angeles has interviewed a number of people covering both land and sea mine warfare. Coastal Systems Station of Panama City, FL consented to the interview as did members of the Naval Studies Board and others. I am working to get a complete list of participants for the Dashpot. Some of us suggested that lumping land and sea mines together was contentious and too broad of a subject, but the History Channel decided to proceed as planned. I am looking forward with great interest to the TV program to see how it all comes out. Stay tuned...



NOW HEAR THIS! NOW HEAR THIS!

Gunner Joe is looking for a few good men ... nah, he ain't that way ... he is looking for a few good women as well, to become board members of this illustrious organization. Two board members will be needed to replace outgoing members at the annual meeting. The requirements are: the prospective board member must be an AOM member in good standing and willing to serve for the appointed time. Being able to fog a mirror is considered a plus.

Contact Gunner Joe at the address, phone, and/or e-mail specified on page 2 in the masthead.

WALTERBORO, SC NJROTC AWARDS

13 May 2003

From Colleton County HS NJROTC Unit in Walterboro, SC. We would like to thank the Mineman Association again for their support in the NJROTC program and providing two medals for the cadets.

The medals are awarded to the two most improved cadets during the school year. This year's awardees are C/SA Eric Ford and C/SN Sheila Biering. Both were advanced to C/CPO at the awards night ceremony on 23 April.

Cadet Ford was also named the Orienteering Team CDR for the upcoming school year and Cadet Biering was named one of the Platoon mustering chiefs for the upcoming school year. Both were very active in the Unit this year. Cadet Ford was on the orienteering team which placed in the top four at all meets entered and won trophies at all but one of their meets for the 2002/2003 school year. Cadet Biering was a member of the Unarmed Drill Team. The drill team won more than 30 trophies this past school year.

Two weeks after the awards ceremony the Unit was notified that they were chosen as a Distinguished Unit for the 5th time in six years and last year earned the Unit Achievement Award. Being a Distinguished Unit places the Unit in the top 30% of Units world wide.

Again this year we were fortunate to have some of the Mineman from Unit 11 assist us as judges for the "Pride of the Lowcountry" drill meet.

Respectfully,
Rick Spofford
MNCS, USN (Ret)
Senior Naval Science Instructor



MNCS Rick Spofford congratulates C/CPO Eric Ford and C/CPO Sheila Biering in April ceremony.



LEANING ON THE TAFFRAIL



A HISTORY OF U.S. NAVAL MINES IN VIETNAM HAIPHONG: MY LAST CHAPTER

By LT Joe Hernandez., USN, (Ret.)

In Issue 30 of the Dashpot, LCDR Don DeCrona, USN, Ret. asked the question, "Can you remember where you were on 9 May 1972 when we mined North Vietnam?" Yes. I was the Mines officer at MOMAG Charleston where our main mission was to support and man Lant/Eur mine sites under COMINEWARFOR.

The Commanding Officer, CDR L. M. Stryker, USN, (Ret.) wrote in our history book that, "During this tour, Minemen under his command were embarked on Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers where they did final preparation of the mines laid in Haiphongin May 1972 under the orders of President Nixon."

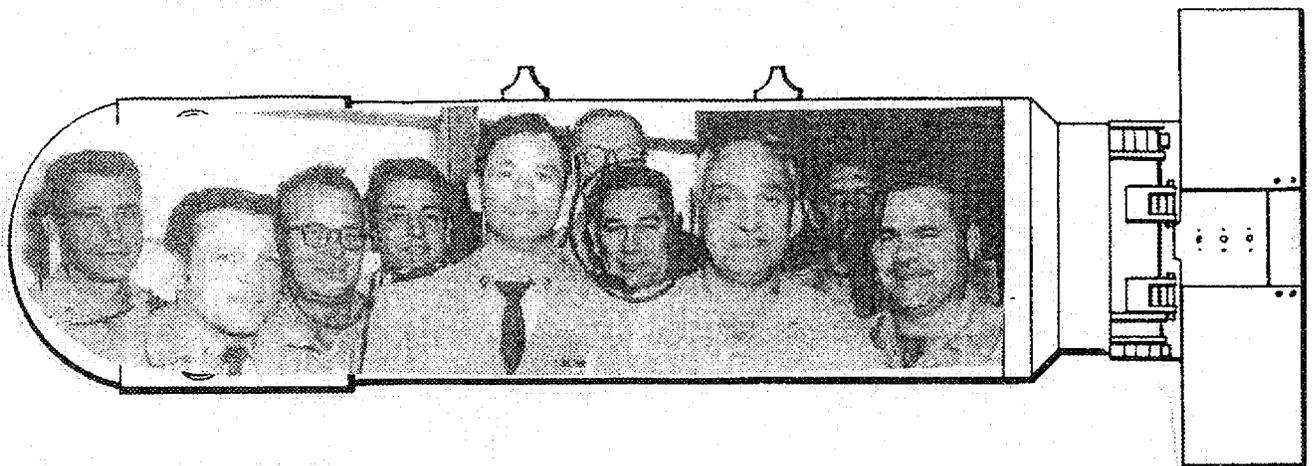
The thirty-six Mk 52 mines planted from the USS Coral Sea were final prepped by MN2 Gill, MN3 Pusher, MN3 Buris and MNSN Mercier.

Two carriers suffered deplorable incidents in the South China Sea. MOMAG Minemen were aboard as follows: USS Kitty Hawk, MN1 Yancy, MN3 Delozier, MNSN Reid and MNSN Kennedy; USS Constellation, MN2 Allen, MN3 Dufrein, MNSN Dubois and MNSN Hinton.

The mines came from NAVMAG Subic in '72-'73. LCDR R. L. Anderson, USN, (Ret.), responsible for mine and destructor assembly used in Haiphong Harbor and Vietnam, wrote in the History book that: "Self-destruct mechanisms were installed. No mine sweeping was necessary. Defective sterilizer batteries may have been installed. There were serious security problems."

Re-seeding the mines began on 17 December 1972 but MN1 David E. Yancy, USN (Deceased) would not be there. In the Autumn of 1972, he came home on emergency leave and found a broken home. He told me at sick bay that he had witnessed race riots on the carrier he was to return to.

Recently, talking with LT George Russel, USN Ret., he recalled among other things that Petty officer Yancy had been recommended for the warrant officer program by the carrier C.O.. MN1 Yancy's hands may not have touched the mines for Haiphong but he was there. Half the world away from home, he did his duty. He should be recognized for his role in our history. He lived up to the MOMAG motto "ANYTIME, ANYWHERE."



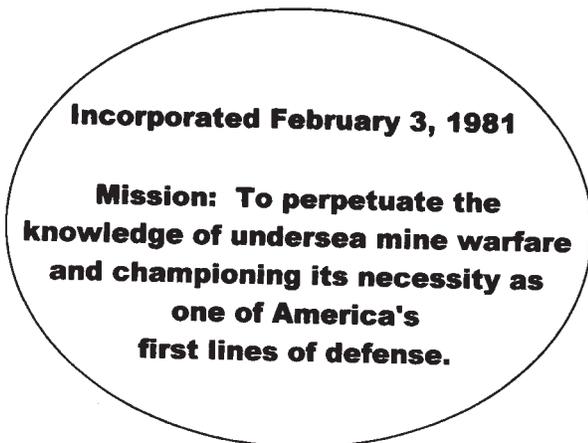
RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE FACES?

NEW AOM BUCKLE

The new AOM belt buckle will go on sale at the 29th Annual Reunion. Here's what it looks like.



Front



Rear



FROM THE STOREKEEPER

By MN1 Stephanie Cowart

Regretfully, this will be my last input as Storekeeper for the AOM. Mr. Santa Maria will assume these duties for awhile since I will be going on a 6 month deployment soon. After returning, I will attend OIS (Officer Indoctrination School) and I have follow-on orders to the USS COWPENS in Japan and will not be able to keep up the duties as Storekeeper. Mr. Santa Maria will have a lot more time to devote to y'all and has some really great ideas. I have truly enjoyed being an active part of the AOM, and hope to continue to help out as much as I can. Thank you to everyone for all the support.



TAPS

Caulder, Johnny Leither, MNCS, USN, (Retired)

Hi All,

John Caulder was in the obits of the Charleston paper Sunday, April 20, 2003.

MNCS John Leither Caulder, USN, (Retired) 66, of Burlingame, California; a retired Navy Minemen Senior Chief Petty Officer, Coast Guard veteran and husband of Mercia Caulder, died Wednesday. Arrangements by Crosby N. Gray and Co. Funeral Home.

John worked at the Coast Guard base after he retired but, was never in the Coast Guard to my knowledge.

Dick Schommer



Credle Sr., Clifton Mann, MNC, USN, (Retired)

NEWPORT NEWS - Clifton Mann Credle Sr., 82, passed away on Monday, May 12, 2003. He was the son of Clifton and Sophia Credle. He was a native of Washington, N.C., but spent most of his early life in Hyde County, N.C. He graduated from Sladesville High School and joined the United States Navy and retired in 1959 after 20 years of service. While in the Navy, he was a first-class diver and participated in the Bikini Resurvey. After his retirement, he worked additional 20 years with the Explosive Disposal Unit at the Weapon's Station in Yorktown, VA. He was a member of several Southern Baptist Churches, a Sunday School Director and teen teacher. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Patience Jordan Credle; two sons, Clifton M. Credle Jr. and his wife, LaRue, of Poquoson, Va., and Samuel Credle and his wife, Nan, of Houston, Texas; a sister, Ann Goodwin of Orlando, Fla.; two grandsons, Chip Credle of Fairfax, Va., and Andrew Credle of Houston, Texas. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday May 13, in Amory Funeral Home, Grafton, VA. A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, in First Baptist Church of Smithton, Belhaven, N.C., by the Rev. Burke E. Holland. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Hampton Roads Chapter 20, Interstate Corporate Center Suite 233, Norfolk, VA 23502. Published in the Daily Press on 5/13/2003.



Commander Robert W. "Ike" Eigell

Eigell, Robert W. (IKE), Commander, USN, (Retired)

Commander Robert W. "Ike" Eigell of Vienna, VA passed away on Monday, March 24, 2003. Explosives expert and ordnance disposal pioneer, he was one of the nation's foremost experts in mine warfare and explosive ordnance disposal. He was instrumental in obtaining for the Navy Department the responsibility for ordnance disposal training and research. He was a member of the first Mine disposal Class graduating in Washington, DC in 1941 and received advanced training in the United Kingdom. He completed five schools and subsequently worked with the British in rendering safe live ordnance in England. Upon his return to the United States in 1941, Eigell was transferred to Pearl Harbor at the outbreak of hostilities, where he disarmed and investigated numerous live bombs and torpedoes dropped at Hawaii on December 7. He was present at the surrender ceremonies at Tokyo Bay.

He designed, developed and tested the first remotely operated bomb fuze extractor wrench to remove fuzes from unexploded bombs, descendants of which are still in US and British service today. Robert W. Eigell assisted in disarming and dismantling the first Japanese bomb ever recovered by American forces.

Prior to joining the Navy in 1936, he worked as a cowboy in the CBC in eastern Montana for ten years. He chronicles his naval career in his book "Recollections of a Mustang," and his life as a cowboy in "Cows, Cowboys, Canners, and Corned Beef and Cabbage."

Commander Eigell's career achievements were honored in dedication of a street named after him, "Eigell Road" at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division Command at Indian Head, MD.

His decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and two Navy Commendation Medals.

Beloved husband of Mellie Eigell: devoted father of Meta Patricia Wallace and Dennis Henry Eigell. He is survived by his sister, Pauline Hendrickson;

sisters-in-law Samantha Murat and Yurda Yates; brothers-in-law Rauf and Joe Baykara; nephews, Gene Atamer, Michael Eigell, Jack Baker; nieces, Penny McMullian, Meta Lale, Renee Inman, Shannon Eigell; son-in-law, Douglas Wallace; Granddaughter, Ashley Dianah Wallace.

Funeral services were held at the Old Post Chapel, Arlington, VA and followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.



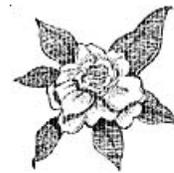
Gonyo, Don, MN1, USN, (Retired)

MN1 Don Gonyo, USN, (Retired) of the Richmond, VA area passed away in 1998 at the age of 68. Don was on active duty from 1950 through 1955.

Request this be noted in the TAPS section of the Dashpot.

Thanks,

Anthony Cook 4/11/03



Ropiequet, Gerald, EM2

Hi all,
Bootsie's brother, an AOM member, Gerald Ropiequet EM2 passed away May 5 of a cardiac arrest. He was dying of pancreatic cancer. Each day we would walk across the street to visit, and you can see the deterioration. The heart attack was fast and a blessing.

God bless,
paulsm



Wright, Jerry

Joe Hernandez called back in January about Jerry Wright passing. His daughter sent Joe a Christmas card saying her name was Teresa Lafata White. Her dad passed away in April 2002 at the VA hospital in Richmond. I have looked at the local papers obituaries and could not find a thing. Her mom passed away two years ago.

Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2003 4:40 PM By John Loonam



MAIL BAG

Sadie Harder writes:

1 April 03

Just a quick note to let you know we are all doing well.

Sorry we won't be able to go to the reunion. Two of our granddaughters, Melanie Graybill and Elizabeth Braecklein joined the Navy last summer. They are in the Delayed Entry Program. They leave for the Great Lakes for bootcamp sometime in June or July. Keep them in your prayers.

Yours truly,

Sadie Harder

I used to be lost in the shuffle

Now I just shuffle along with the lost.

BINNACLE LIST



Henry J Warner writes:

4/11/03

Hello Mates,

Wish I could offer more than my dues, but times are rough to be retired. No money extra. We both have some health problems, but should be OK.

My ticker has a leaky valve being watched by my doctor. He seems to think I'll be alright for a while. Sometime in the future, I may need a new valve.

Mother's troubles are over I hope. She has had 5 operations in the last three years. She is on the road to recovery and losing weight.

We won't make the reunion, but, hopefully, will when it is back in Charleston.

Henry J. Warner (Member # 1215)



EDITOR'S NOTES

WELCOME TO USS CORMORANT

This is an extremely meaningful Dashpot issue for us. Our more astute readers will notice a significant change in the MCM section of the Dashpot. Included is the first article from a MCM ship, the USS Cormorant (MHC 57). Many of our young Minemen are again at sea as they were in times past in the USS Terror, the USS Shea, the USS Shannon and many others. The main difference now is that these young men and women not only build mines, but they also clear them. Laying sea mines by surface vessel under combat conditions is hazardous to say the least, but those engaged in sweeping mines are a most courageous lot indeed.

The AOM wishes to thank the Commanding Officer of USS Cormorant, LCDR Glenn R. Allen, for permitting this significant milestone for us. We also wish LCDR Allen fair winds and following seas as he transfers later this month to COMCMRON ONE where he will assume duty as the CSO. We welcome the Prospective Commanding Officer, LCDR William R. Grotewold, and hope that he will continue to support this first effort to connect the shore and sea Mineman communities.

The AOM and the ENTIRE staff of the Dashpot take this opportunity to thank MN1 Stephanie Cowart for the invaluable service she has provided the AOM as our Storekeeper. We wish her the very best of luck in her busy new assignment and subsequent commissioning. We also appreciate her tenacious and effective effort to help unite the sea and shore Mineman communities by submitting the first Dashpot article from a MCM unit.



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

Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades

JULIET AND FRIENDS

Not all the rascals in the Mineforce are human. It is well known that sailors have an affinity for animals and keep them even aboard ship making service records, dog tags and other official records to document their status. It used to be rare for a command not to have a mascot of some sort, officially recognized or not. Minemen are no exception. There have been a plethora of dogs of note. Rocky and Lurch with their laid-back, continental attitude at Sigonella come readily to mind as does Nooger, a small, wizened pooch that slept in the barracks at Okinawa, rode the base bus to and from the messhall and flightline in the morning, at noon and at quitting time and lazed around the NCO club on weekends. The crew at Subic Bay even captured a 16 ½ foot long python and lugged it in to the admin compound on 10 shoulders expecting to keep it. Yes, Minemen do like their mascots, but perhaps the strangest of all was Juliet.

Juliet was a Sicilian donkey and the absolute monarch of the magazine area. There was a time when Juliet was young, fashionably thin and amused Minemen and visiting dignitaries with rides around the compound in her very own highly decorated cart. All she required was exclusive access to all the grass and weeds in the compound, a daily brushing with a standard hand wirebrush as well as the odd Milkbone dog biscuit. Time works against us all and Juliet was no exception. Soon, she could no longer fit between the rails of her cart and it took two people to do the brushing. The occasional dog biscuit became a narcotic and she required several fixes a day.

I recall a lazy Sunday afternoon when Poochie Troutman and I had duty. Pooch had found a warm spot in the sun and had reared a chair back against the warehouse door jamb and was napping away the after effects of the rather riotous life we lived in Siggy. This was in that wild and wooly era when individual alcohol consumption was measured by the quart rather than the drink, but I digress. At the appointed hour, Juliet presented herself for her mandatory brushing. Pooch, not wanting to recognize her regal status, ignored her. This went on for a short while until Juliet, incensed at the insolence, began to nudge him to get his attention. Her efforts resulted only in a shower of unkind words as only those suffering from severe sleep deprivation can utter. When the gentle nudges did not get the desired effect, Juliet took one dainty hoof and, with the speed of light, deftly removed the chair from under a rather startled Pooch who promptly obeyed the law of gravity. At that point, a brushing seemed to be the wisest course of action.

Later in the day, Juliet returned for her Milkbone fix. Her ability to sniff out the hiding place of the dog

biscuits was legendary and, as a result, the biscuits had to be placed in a secure place far out of her reach. Until that day, on the top of a substantial twelve foot long, eight foot tall double sided bin of nuts, bolts, washers, and countless other small parts had been a secure place. Juliet was a rural donkey, never having had the benefit of an advanced education like city donkeys, but that didn't mean that she was a dummy. She had self-schooled herself in physics, engineering, and science by the close observation of her subjects as they erected a Quonset hut that promptly collapsed at the first hint of a gentle zephyr and jump started a diesel fork lift using a huge electric forklift battery which sent several cells from the diesel's 12 volt battery so high that they were picked up on NORAD radar. The afternoon air had warmed to the point that the air conditioned bunkroom had become a haven and there were no subjects to attend her. She announced her presence, but no one came. We watched through a crack in the wall. She looked at the box of biscuits and then at the huge parts bin and back again several times then left in disgust. We figured she had given up, but we were wrong ... she was calculating mass and trajectory.

A few minutes later a terrible crashing din was heard and the whole warehouse shook. We thought Mt. Etna had blown its top big time. We rushed out to see if we needed to be evacuating or something only to see Juliet calmly munching on dog biscuits that were eight feet lower than earlier. As she had deftly removed the chair from under Pooch, she had done the same with the parts bin and little bitty parts were scattered and mingled the length and breadth of the warehouse. It took days to get the bins back in order. From that point on, our duty section assigned a Juliet watch to properly attend to her ladyship.



Her ladyship, Mistress Juliet, and companion, MN3 Howard, exercising with her sport cart in the old NAF 2 mine compound.

MINE ASSEMBLY NEWS



COMOMAG

By MNCM(SW) Jerry L. Williams
COMOMAG CMC

Hello to everyone inside and outside the MOMAG world. Seems like just yesterday that we were wrapping up 2002 and beginning the new year, yet here we are several months along. So much has happened since then, increased world tensions, the war in Iraq, riveting images of brave men and women serving in combat on land and sea, and followed swiftly by the US led Allied Victory. We have much to be thankful for as Americans, especially the freedoms we enjoy and now can feel justifiably proud we are bringing that same freedom to the oppressed people of Iraq. I know you all share with me great pride in our nation, and ask that you also take a moment for quiet reflection in honor of the fallen heroes that have paid the ultimate price while serving the American people. May God bless and keep each of them and their families in this time of loss.

On the MOMAG front, we were all disappointed that funding would not allow the annual CO's conference to be held this year, but issues normally addressed in that forum are under review and a CD containing all relevant topics and presentations will be forwarded to all MOMAG very soon. Many of you had PCS orders held up in the last several months due to funding issues as well. It was touch and go for awhile, but money was found to fully fund NPC through the end of this FY, and all orders should be back on track by the time you read this. Two MRCI's were also just completed, MOMAU One and MOMAU Eleven. Both Units were superb and received their certifications for another 2 years. BZ to their outstanding crews for all their hard work, it really showed and the inspection team was very impressed.

We have just reluctantly said goodbye to both LCDR Norberto G. Jimenez, our Chief Staff Officer, and CW04 Francisco M. Buyo, the Admin Officer. LCDR Jimenez retired with 28 years of service, and is remaining in the local area to teach Mathematics with the Troops to Teachers Program.



LCDR Norberto G. Jimenez, COMOMAG Chief Staff Officer, receives a "Ship's Wheel" shadowbox during retirement ceremonies.

CW04 Buyo retired with 26 years of Service, and also will remain locally to take over the Ingleside Educational Services Office.



CW04 Buyo looks on as he is presented with a "Ships Wheel" shadowbox commemorating 26 years of service.

Both Ceremonies were conducted on board the USS Lexington, and included presentations by local NJROTC units, Elementary School Choirs, and the local high school band. Despite the heat here in South Texas, everyone had a great time and both officer's expertise will be sorely missed. Other recent events included:

Awards:
LCDR Norberto G. Jimenez – MSM
CW04 Francisco M. Buyo – MSM
LT Richard P. Weiss – NCM
MNCS(SW) Cecil H. Fish – NCM
LT Jon C. Grant – NCM

(Continued on overleaf)

Awards continued from page 10

ITC(SW) Michael P. Usery -- NCM
IT1(SW) Joshua C. Dennis – LOC 1Q03 SOQ

Advanced:

MNCS(SW) Thomas F. Robertson
MNCS(SW) Cecil H. Fish

Departures:

LCDR Norberto G. Jimenez - Retired
CW04 Francisco M. Buyo – Retired
LT Richard P. Weiss – AEGISTRACEN

Arrivals:

LT Jon C. Grant
LT Gregory L. McGill
MNCS(SW) Thomas F. Robertson
MN1(SW) Laura Rodriguez
MN2(SW) Bradford A. Simoncic
YN2 Shenita R. Kennedy

That's a wrap for this quarter, remember to visit COMOMAG's world wide web site for updates of issues, useful www links to Navy sites and programs, and current contact information. The address is www.comomag.navy.mil. As always, if you need something from the staff here, don't hesitate to call, email, or otherwise contact us for help. Take care and Stay Safe.



MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

By LCDR K. L. Miller

CO's CORNER. Greetings from Sunny Seal Beach! Here it is, another gorgeous Summer to be had on the shores of Southern California. It doesn't get better than this. It is hard to believe that I have been here nearly two years. Fortunately, the detailing gods have seen fit to allow me to spend some additional quality time until my planned relief arrives. I can think of no finer duty station!

We have weathered a flurry of activity over the last three months. We welcomed March like a lion kicking off our first annual, hopefully at least, Captains Cup Challenge on the 7th. All hands competed in various sports and challenges from dominoes to volleyball while feasting on a potluck luncheon. The champions were: MNSR Brian Kiggans and MNSN Shawn McFall for Horseshoes; YNSN

Vernon Severin for Dominos; MN2(SW) Matthew Heyer, YN2(SW) Roland Coates, and MN2 Shane Stone for Volleyball; MNSN Michael Pendley and MN3 Travis Baxter for Foosball; MN2 Travis Hutchens for Darts. Crowned, they will be till next year! We conducted a mine upgrade assessment the week of the 10th in preparation for MRCI. We were visited by the Navy Crane Center for our annual WHE audit the week of the 17th. MNCS(SW) Garret Cecilio's fastidious preparations ensured a blemish free report. On the 21st we commemorated Women's History Month with an in-depth presentation given by MN2 Nicholas Bitar, following that up with a fantastic potluck luncheon. ADMIN and Logistics Departments held a fundraiser for MWR on the 26th. MN1(SW) Jacob Mazurek, YNSN Severin, and YN2(SW) Coates wowed us with their zesty fajitas.



Fabulous Fajita Cook Out

The evening of the 28th, I was honored to attend the birthday party for the Exchange Club of Long Beach held at Golden Sails Hotel. In addition to their many charitable contributions to the community, they also support the White Hat Christmas and the holiday dinner baskets. The United States Naval Sea Cadets, Seal Beach Battalion's Annual Inspection and Awards were held on the 30th. MNSN John Golden and yours truly attended as CAPT Rusty Mirick, CO NWSSB, gave the opening remarks. It was a pleasure attending, seeing such proud young people on their way to be the leaders of tomorrow.

We welcomed the official return to whites with a Command Service Dress White Inspection on the 4th of April. I was impressed with the overall results, four Outstandings and no UNSATs! The winds of April blew in fast and the furious with the Long Beach Grand Prix. Part of the downtown is transformed into Race Central as the people of CART and thousands of fans flock together and watch this racing spectacle. This year, we enjoyed the smell of

rubber and roar of high output engines from the 11th to the 13th. The week of the 14th, we conducted another mine upgrade assessment for MRCI rehearsal. The Long Beach Chapter of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association blessed us yet again by hosting our annual Children's Easter Party.



Easter with DESA

MNSN Pendly and MN3 Shane Huddleston grilled up some marvelous hamburgers and hotdogs as DESA held an Easter egg hunt and gave the children scrumptious baskets filled to the brim goodies and chocolate. All enjoyed the potluck picnic with the Ladies of DESA bringing scintillating desserts. This wonderful afternoon party was wrapped up with a hippity-hoppity visit from the Easter Bunny. Again, I give my thanks to the generous and warm-hearted members of DESA! On the 21st, we kicked off our MRCI. LCDR Pete Bachand, Mr. Arnie Helgersen, and MNCM(SW) Jerry Williams were on board for the week during inspection. All went well as the inspectors enjoyed Sunny Seal Beach, food, and friendly natives.

Mr. Ken Waringa of Coastal Sea Systems, Panama City, was on board from the 5th of May till the 15th to assist us in our SLMM build for the USS City of Corpus Christi. Mr. Waringa brought with him a new fangled widget for battery filling that proved to be faster and safer than previous methods. He provided additional guidance to our SLMM technicians as we produced four all up rounds for the COCC shoot. This will mark the first SLMM exercise and training shoot since '98.



Team SLMM

On the 14th, Production Department held a fundraiser for MWR. They flexed their culinary muscles making piquant chili and chilidogs. They were a wonderful taste treat! With the arrival of Armed Forces Day, we helped the city of Torrance celebrate setting up a static display at the Del Amo Mall on the 16th to the 18th. Our sailors shined as they explained the mines, our unique community, and the Navy as a whole. Well done indeed!!



Armed Forces Day

On the 16th, we held a Hail and Farewell along with a potluck lunch. Our MWR hosted a trip to Magic Mountain on the 20th. All enjoyed the thrill and excitement of the world famous amusement park. On the 30th, we celebrated Asian/Pacific Heritage with an authentic luau. Well, it was as much as possible as the host command frowned on the idea of roasting a pig in the sand. All had fabulous fun.



Luau Antics

HAILS & FAREWELLS. We have had a few new sailors join our family this quarter. On the 29th of April, MN1(SW) Mazurek married the former Milena Miltchina, joining us from the fog and chill

of London, United Kingdom. From the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence Ingleside, Texas came MNSN John Golden, MNSN Lee Buss, MNSN Brian Kiggans, MNSN Stanley Kaboskie III, and MNSN John Bell.

On the 7th of March, we bid farewell to MNCS(SW) Cecilio, his wife Dela and their two little girls as they head, eventually, to Little Creek, Virginia, where Senior Chief will shout the Mineman cry on board the new HSV X-2. MN3 Hughes and his wife Sabrina and daughter Raina set sail on 23 May to Ingleside, Texas for duty aboard USS Pioneer. MN3 Nicholas Resch also departed on the 23rd, headed to the USS Gladiator in Ingleside.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION. CO Letters of Commendation awarded to MN2 Hutchins and MNSN Golden on selection to Sailor of the Quarter and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, respectively. Good Conduct Medals were awarded to MN2(SW) Heyer and MN3 Misty Rains. The United States Naval Sea Cadets, Seal Beach Battalion presented LOAs to MN2 Stone and MNSN Golden for their exceptional support. I also offer a hearty attabooy to MN2 Mario Barrientos, MN3 Golden, and MN3 Pendley advancing to their respective ranks! Bravo Zulu to all!!

IN THE TARGET QUEUE. The calendar is chock-a-block. We look forward to hosting NRMOMAU 5 & 9, ESI, another SLMM shoot, beginnings of RIMPAC '04, and a possible visit from RADM Ryan.



MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

By MNCS(SW) Dave Ostrom

Salve da Sigonella! MOMAU FIVE has been busy this past quarter with participation in MIW exercises, ET mine refurbishment and several Mine Readiness Training Assessments in preparation for our up-coming MRCI in August. Here is an update on what's happening out here in the Mediterranean:

March saw MOMAU FIVE's participation in ARABIAN GAUNLET 03. Myself, MN1 Pat Haley and MN3 James Batman were on TAD assignment as the Final Prep/Recovery Team for 84 exercise and training shapes that included MK74 VEMS, MK6 Mechanical Sweep Mines, and MK62, MK63, MK52 & MK25 inert shapes.

May had MN1(SW) Steve Pierce and MN3 Matt McDonald deploy onboard the Italian Minelaying Vessel ITS GORGONA. They were the Surface Launch/Recovery Team for 25 training mines that included MK6 Mechanical Sweep and MK52 Hunting Mines.

June has a 4-person Final Prep Team on TAD assignment in support of BALTOPS 03. MN1 Mary Jackson, MN2 Jeff Tucker, MN3 Jayson Allen and MNSN Craig Bruner will be assembling MK62 and MK63 QUICKSTRIKE Laying Mines for aerial minelaying operations with our VP Squadrons on deployment out here.

We are keeping up with the constant refurbishment of our ET assets for some outstanding exercises scheduled for next quarter which will have our Teams on assignment in Scotland and the Arabian Gulf. And along with our scheduled maintenance of service assets and all associated components, we are training and preparing for our NRMOMAU Units to augment UNIT FIVE for our August MRCI. This issue I have provided pictures of the crew doing what they do best!

Welcome Aboard: MNSA Collin Joseph from MWTC Ingleside, Texas.

"BRAVO ZULU's": Congratulations to our recently advanced Petty Officer off the March advancement exam – to E6 MN1 Tina Bibby. Our 1st QTR 2003 Sailor's of the Quarter are MN1(SW) Steve Pierce Senior SOQ and MN3 Matt McDonald our JSOQ.

Have a great and safe summer! Until next issue, *Arrive'derci!*



MOMAU EIGHT GUAM

MNC(SW) Duane A. Crocker, Command Chief

Hello to all from MOMAU 8. Since the last time, we have had a lot of things going on, so let me tell you about them.

First I will start off by telling you we have had an exciting and very busy last few months. The crew has been working hard to make up for the lost production time while recovering from Super Typhoon Pongsona with outstanding results. In January, when I relieved MNCS Leeann Baker the command was approximately 6 ½ weeks behind in work orders. The Production Department was given a challenge to

have all work orders, present and past completed by 1 June 2003. The Production Department lead by MN1 Jenkins set in motion what some might say was going to be a long gruesome months ahead, but with a new focus on “Goal Orientated work weeks”. With the exception of the MK 67 SLMM team, this undermanned and hard charging team started out bumpy, but what a finish!! Due to their hard work and attention to detail the command is back on target for regular schedule work orders.

We have recently finished our Explosive Safety Inspection in February that has left the inspectors stating this is the “Best mine shop in the Fleet!” The hard work and teamwork put into this inspection was clearly demonstrated during the entire inspection process. BZ especially goes out to the Supply Department lead by MN1 Koski and that stead fast ROLMS operator, MN3 Jansen which received 100% on Stock and Management validity.

Our focus has shifted back to ensuring all our MK 67 SLMM is fully operational. Our “Typhoon” backlog of MK 4 MMA continues with system testing and the crew has even initiated a night crew with a goal of producing 10 MMA are completed each week. We also want to send thanks to our visitors from CSS, Mr. Ken Waringa and MNC(SW) Allen Alt who came out and provided excellent MK 67 Technical Training. Before their visit we were maybe putting out 2 to 3 MMA per week. Now the SLMM Team of 5 personnel lead by MN1 Brown and MN2 Phillips are HOT! By the end of June we will be 100% ready for any operational tasking.

Just recently we had to shifted gears and start working inert items only. We have been swarmed by civilian contract workers making repairs and modifications to the command. Both our operating building (901/902) and Supply Warehouse (900) has been given a fresh coat of paint and by mid June the Reefer Pad and Emergency Diesel Building will also have a new look. The Admin offices in Bldg 902 went down hard when the contractor gutted the compressor room of the A/C unit for 5 long days. Now we actually have an A/C system that maintains the set temperature and shuts off after reaching the desired temp which reduces the annoying whistling from the overhead vents. The Production office, TSM, and CT area in Bldg 901 also had their A/C unit stripped out and replaced. The contractors are literally crawling in the overheads in 902 replacing the fire alarm electrical system and installing a Zone Box and more flashing lights with up to date pull stations. At the same time new fire main piping is being installed in all office spaces with drop heads which will penetrate through the proposed new overhead / lighting system. Hopefully soon the contract will be awarded so they can start replacing the antiquated paneling on the bulkhead. BLII is underway and soon the new Sipernet room will be built in the back of the QA office and the hardening of the spaces is in the near future, exactly when is still TBD. Most recently a 210K project has been funded to refurbish the Crews Training Room/Lounge and

Bldg 901 Production and TSM offices which have been desperately needed to maintain a suitable work environment. In all, looks like the construction workers are here to stay for a while.



Building 900



Building 901



Building 902

This crew of 24 personnel set a new record high collecting a whopping \$1863.00 for the Navy Relief Society. The primary goal was \$1000.00 and the secondary goal was \$1500.00. This crew showed true Navy Spirit by donating to the Navy Relief to help our fellow shipmates around the world.

The Navigator is the military base newspaper and every week they go out and find a "Top Notch" sailor who they believe is deserving of a "spotlight". The section is called, "Sailor Spotlight" and the paper talks about the job positions, specific likes about the job, goals, favorite hobbies and interest. We were blessed to have two of our junior personnel pictures posted in the "Sailor Spotlight". Congrats to MN3 Jansen and MNSN Lipscomb.

After the super typhoon, the War in the Pacific museum closed its door due to significant damage which could result in permanent closure. The museum director contacted the command and we went out and picked up several war relics from the War in the Pacific Museum for possible refurbishment. A couple of them will be for the quarterdeck and a couple of the big guns and old mines will be put out front of the command for display.

The command again came together to show that community spirit. Several volunteers, including spouses formed up and made lunch for more than 50 Habitat for Humanity Volunteers.

Congrats to the following SOQ, 1st Quarter 2003:
SSOQ - MN1(SW) Jenkins
JSOQ - MN3 Jansen
BJSOQ - MNSN Lipscomb

I'd like to take time to recognize our new Ombudsman, Mrs. Nancy Kazmaier and her assistant Mrs. Roxanne Long. These two ladies have jumped head first into the program and have already made a difference not only to the married folks but also to the geo-bachelors and single sailors. Keep up the great job and thanks for volunteering your precious time.

We take great pleasure in retiring an outstanding Yeoman, YN1(SW) Scott A. West who has been transferred to the Fleet Reserves after 20 years of dedicated and faithful service to this great US Navy. His ceremony took place on 30 May 2003 at the Top O' The Mar, Nimitz Hill. He received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Rear Admiral Ryan, Commander Mine Warfare Command for his distinctive accomplishments, unrelenting perseverance and steadfast devotion to duty and to the Mine Force. YN1 West will be truly missed by all at the command. So, we say to this fellow Shipmate; "Fair winds and following seas and good luck in the civilian sector".

As far as advancement goes, we have two selections. Lets give a round of applause for MN1(SW) Gregory Brown and MN2(SW) Rodney Terry. Great job!!

Last but not least, lets give it up for our new arrivals. Welcome aboard to the following personnel:

- **MN2(SW) Rodney S. Terry**, his lovely wife Janet, and his three boys reporting from the USS Robin (MHC-54).
- **MN1(SW) Gregory W. Reeves**, his lovely wife Brandy, and his son and daughter reporting from the

USS Patriot (MCM-7).

- MN2 Kelly E. Mayer and his lovely wife Satomi reporting from the USS Patriot (MCM-7).
- IT1 Sonia C. Trotter, her wonderful husband Tim, and her son reporting from USS Frank Cable (AS 40).
- SK1(SW) Rodney O. Haygood reporting from NCTS Guam.

That's all folks and we will talk to you next time. GOD Bless and take care. "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of all who threaten it!"



MOMAU TEN KADENA

By MNCS John Bray

Greetings and a happy summer to everyone...good things are happening all around us. This is a busy time for us right now as we're in the middle of exercise season and holding down the fort at home with a skeleton crew. We recently finished up our annual foray to the frozen tundra of Korea - successfully completed Exercise Foal Eagle 03. LCDR Cross has a team in Thailand as I write this covering the Cobra Gold exercise. We also have the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) swing gearing up for departure next week. Although we had anticipated a trip to the Philippines on the swing this year, that phase was canceled out at the last moment ... what the heck, I didn't fancy parading around that place in a bullet-proof bus anyway - maybe next year. Lastly, we will finish up with the annual 03-2JA Exercise coming up in July. MOMAD Twelve will handle that one for us this year; it's in their neck of the woods anyway and it just seemed to make sense this year. We really appreciate their willingness to help us out on this for sure.

ADVANCEMENTS/KUDOS: Congrats go out to MN2 Vallez who was recently frocked from the March exam. It's been a long time coming for her and she is more than deserving. Sailors of the Quarters this time around were Senior MN1(SW) Reed, and Junior MN3 Rodriguez. Warm congratulations and well done go out to all these folks for their super hard work and dedication.

NEW ARRIVALS: We recently welcomed MNSA Boyd who joined us from A School and he has been a welcome addition to our team of dedicated professionals.

Looks like we might soon be getting civilian employees to fill our Yeoman and Storekeeper

billets - really! Our YN1 billet has been gapped for more than 5 years now and our current SK will transfer soon without a relief. We are more than pleased that COMOMAG and COMINEWARCOM have approved our request for filling these key positions and with any luck, we might well have GS personnel in place this upcoming fiscal year. Being type 6 duty, it seems nobody wants to pull shore duty overseas in Okinawa. What a pity though as the COLA here more than makes up for not having the convenience of a "Wal-Mart" close by - I think they really don't realize what they are missing! This will be a big cross-road though for us at Unit Ten with civilians onboard as part of our team. Like any new venture though, Minemen will take it in stride and make them feel welcome and at home.

Although a bit short this time, no Dashpot submission from here would be complete without my usual nudge for people. If any Minemen rolling to shore are looking for a great duty station with Florida-like weather, super high COLA, and great TAD opportunity, MOMAU Ten is it ... call your Detailer! We wish everyone a great summer filled with fun in the sun.



MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK

By MN3 Wheeler

Greetings from the Low Country! There is lots of new and exciting news from Unit Eleven. The first, and most important is that we just completed our first service shop Mine Readiness Certification Inspection on 9 May. This inspection was a first time experience for many of the crew and the knowledge provided by the "old timers" would prove to be invaluable. Build-up training for the MK 65, MK 67 SLMM and MAT teams became a priority.

Our reserve counterparts from NR MOMAU Units NR06 and NR07 arrived the week before the MRCI and smoothly integrated with the rest of the crew as if they had always been here.

The lead up to the MRCI was hectic and had the element of controlled chaos. The crew pitched in at every opportunity, keeping their heads up and smiles

on their faces while the Inspection team started on the Administrative and Supply Departments first thing Monday morning. Tuesday at 0545 the trucks began to roll. The unpredictable Charleston weather scared everyone for a minute as it began to rain cats and dogs. Our fears proved unfounded though as the rain stopped as the first MK 65 arrived at the door. The flow went effortlessly; the crew maintaining high spirits while building. The transition to the MK 67 line was so fluid we appeared to be seasoned pro's even though we had only done 4 build-up training missions.

By Wednesday, Supply had finished their inventory and all three MAT teams began their build-up on the MK 62's and MK 63's. The backflow of the MK 65's and the MK 67's began first thing Thursday morning and by 1700, the shop was empty, as though the MRCI had never occurred. Friday the crew waited with baited breath to hear the results of the MRCI. With 99% validity in the Supply department and weapons reliability at 100% **KUDOS** to the crew of MOMAU 11 and our reserve counterparts!

In other news, the powder paint system is slowly being incorporated, the ovens having finally arrived. SLMM is having it's first plant in almost 10 years in St. Croix this coming July.

HAIL AND FAIRWELL

Departures

MNC(SW) Rodriguez
MN1(SW) Gerhardt
YN2 Kinner
MN3 Guerrero
MN3 Lopez

To

USS Dextrous
USS Dextrous
USS Civilian
HSV-2
USS Dextrous

Arrivals

SK1(SW) Van Horn
MN1(SW) Senseny
MN1(SW) Collins
SK2(SW) Garcia
MN2(SW) Allard
MN2(SW) Watkins
MN2(SW) Webb
MN2 Stretch
MN2 Gibson
MN3 Wohlgemuth
YN3 Lozada
MNSN Durham
MNSN Harvey
MNSN Richovd

From

NAS Sigonella
USS Shrike
USS Falcon
USS Geo. Washington
USS Devastator
USS Avenger
USS Sentry
MWTC 'A' School
MOMAU 5
MOMAU 5
USS Nimitz
USS Sentry
MWTC 'A' School
MWTC 'A' School

KUDOS

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

SAILORS OF THE QUARTER

MN1(SW) Bowman
MN3 Wheeler
MNSN Nix

Sr.Sailor of the Quarter
Jr Sailor of the Quarter
Blue Jacket of the Month

ADVANCEMENTS

MNCS(SW) Morus

MN1(SW) Senseny

MOMAD TWELVE MISAWA



MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

By MNCS(SW/AW) T. W. Hickman

Yee Haw from South Texas! Finally Old Man Winter left, opening the skies for the awesome Summer Sun, who is in full force I might add. Our Sailors have been taking full advantage of this tropical oasis we live in, hitting the lakes in search of that 15-pound spawning large mouth bass, enjoying the beauty of the Gulf of Mexico and the long and sandy beaches on South Padre Island.

If you noticed in my last article, I mentioned we would be moving in and setting up at our new facility onboard Naval Station Ingleside, TX in March 2003. Well it's now June 2003 and we have relocated our Jet Blast and Paint System, but that is all. Seems things are not moving along as fast as we would like, so instead of teasing you with dream dates, I'll be sure to let you know when the move actually happens.

On a high note, our schedule around the shop has picked up this quarter with the completion of RONEX 03-3 and GOMEX 03-3 going on as I write this. An exercise coming down the pipe will be ESG-1 C2X MIREM LDCE 03-3 in which MNC(SW) Hoekman and MN1(SW) Gallegos will participate. Let's not forget the guys staying behind in the shop; they will be building up for Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) demo in CCOA.

We have one new arrival we welcomed aboard in April MNSA Robert Apple and his wife, reporting from Mineman "A" School. And speaking of new arrivals MN2 Jeffery Macintosh just had a beautiful 7 lbs., 7 ozs. baby girl, Bonka Lenay Macintosh. Congratulations to MN2 and his wife, Jennifer.

And as the quarters roll on we inevitably have to say goodbye to shipmates moving on in their careers and next duty stations so we say Farewell to MN3 Charles Mckinney in route "C" School in San Diego and ultimately winding down to USS Shrike MHC 62 Ingleside TX.

MINE COUNTERMEASURES NEWS



USS CORMORANT

By MN1 S. M. Cowart

Greetings to everyone in the Mine Warfare community. Through the years, the Dashpot has reported the activities, operations, and increasing improvements in the MOMAU organizations. Since the Transformation of the rating from a "shore" based rotation to a "sea/shore" rotation, the flow of information regarding sea going commands has been a slow trickle. We are truly enthusiastic with the opportunity to share our successes, discuss our operations, and publicize the achievements of our personnel.



Crew of the USS CORMORANT with a "trophy" from
RONEX

The ship's schedule has finally slowed down a bit after the incredibly demanding basic phase training cycle. The crew performed flawlessly and all of their long hours and dedication paid off with the exceptionally successful completion of two major mine exercises, RONEX in April and GOMEX in May.

Most MET shop Minemen are familiar with these type of operational exercises from their involvement in building the mines. Our mission is to demonstrate the ability of the crew to locate and neutralize these mines. The moored mines are cut with the Mine Neutralization Vehicle (MNV) and serve as tangible evidence of the long hours and hard work invested in mission accomplishment. Mines were cut and recovered during both exercises.



MN3 Saporita stands next to the ship's MNV (Affectionately known as "Damien" by the MNS Department)

During GOMEX, USS CORMORANT set the pace for all other ships to follow. The ship outperformed all others involved in the following objectives: SQQ-32 Minehunting – 99 hours, Total hours on task – 137 hours, and Successful MP1 missions – 2.



MNSN Marla Stover and MN3 Newcomb-Mason man the SQQ-32 sonar detect and classify consoles during the recent GOMEX exercise

The crew is currently preparing for the Change of Command, which will take place on 13th of June. Our **Commanding Officer, LCDR Glenn R. Allen**, will depart for COMCMRON ONE as the CSO. The **Prospective Commanding Officer, LCDR William R. Grotewold**, is arriving from the CNO Staff office.

Next on the horizon is our POM period, then we will come into our deployment window.

Successes of the men and women assigned to the USS CORMORANT

Congratulations to the following personnel on their advancement to their new rank:

ET1(SW/SS) Puig
IT2 Frank Blaise
EN2 Jeromy Guy
MN3 Michael Pendley
MN3 Fredrick Saporita
MN3 Dennis Dowthitt

Awards:

Navy Commendation Medal – **MNC(SW) Barbara Davies**
 Navy Achievement Medal – **ITC(SW) Glynn Romogosa, MN1(SW) Joan Braham and MN1 Stephanie Cowart**

Re-enlistments:

EM1(SW) Lile
DC1(SW) Soulet

SSOQ: MN1(SW) Joan Braham
JSOQ: SM3 Clinton

Hail and Farewells

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new personnel:

IT1(SW) James Bradford
MN1 Stephanie Moss Cowart
MN2 Kenneth Ullman
IT2 Frank Blaise
EM3 Ladarryl Johnson
MS3 Shellerie Gulley
DCFN Dixon

The arrival of new personnel means that we regretfully had to say good-bye to some old shipmates: **MN1(SW) Joan Braham** departed in May for another tour at MOMAU 11. In June, **MNC(SW) Barbara Davies** departed for NALC PA in Mechanicsburg, PA (Here's a "hook-up" for all of you ROLMS operators out there!), **ITC(SW) Glynn Romogosa** departed for NAVMARCORESCEN in Worcester, MA., and **LCDR Glenn R. Allen** departs 13 JUN 03 for COMCMRON ONE here in Ingleside, TX. In July, our Executive Officer, **LCDR Hill** will depart for the Naval War College.

That's all for now from the pier, see you next issue.

**ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN 29TH ANNUAL
REUNION & MEETING SAN DIEGO, CA.
AT THE HANDLERY HOTEL AND RESORT 8-10
AUGUST 2003**

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 # _____

Address:

City : _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____ @ _____

Dinner Tickets @ \$35.00 ea. X _____ Ticket(s) = \$ _____ (Includes tax & gratuity (Not Padded)
(Banquet buffet: london broil with mushroom sauce, herb roasted chicken with whole-grain mustard cream, rice pilaf, garlic mashed potatoes, garden salad, seafood pasta salad, chef's dessert table.)

Picnic Tickets @ \$10.00 ea. X _____ Ticket(s) = \$ _____
(Age 7 to 12 years \$6.00, under 7 years FREE)

Picnic Tickets @ 6.00 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 2003 to August 2004 (5 year max.) \$ _____
Your label has your paid to date, e.g. August 2002 is your paid to date. (New or reinstatement member add \$5.00 application fee.)

Museum Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____.

AOM General Fund: Tax deductible \$ _____.

AOM Scholarship Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____.

Checks payable to: Association of Minemen (no cash) TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____.

*We must guarantee number for dinners not later than morning of 5 August 2003. There will be NO re-funds after 4 August 2003.

Handlery Hotel and Resort Reservations: PH: 619-298-0511 or weekdays 7:00 to 7:00 PST.
1-800-676-6567. Cut off date for AOM Group Rate reservations is July 8, 2003.
(for single/double \$104.00 + 10.5%.)

FREE- Handlery Shuttle 0830 - 1700. Call ahead 2-3 days. To and from airport, as well as to and from Zoo, Sea World, Old Town and other tourist sites.

**Association of Minemen
P.O.Box 71835
Charleston, SC 29415-1835**

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Application fee \$5
Annual Dues \$15

NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues of \$15.00
must be paid annually by the month of August.
The dues expiration date is August in the year
above your name on your mailing label.

Mail Checks to:
AOM
PO Box 71835
Charleston, SC 29415-1835