

THE DASHPOT

Issue 48 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Winter 2004



FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

Let me first thank everyone for allowing me to serve as President of the Association of Minemen (AOM) for the next three years. I am very proud and honored to have been elected and given the opportunity to serve the membership.

Welcome and congratulations to our newly elected Vice-President, Warren Savage, also a Past President and to our two new Board Members; Robert (Stan) Stancik (05-08) and Robert (Willie) Wilson (05-08). These two new members in addition to our present board members will give us another outstanding slate of officers for 2005.

At this time I would like to offer a "Bravo Zulu" to our exiting officers; President Paul Santa Maria, Vice-President Jack Smoot, and Board Member John Loonan. You have earned our respect and gratitude for a job "Well Done".

Without reservation our 30th annual reunion in Charleston, hosted by Dick Schommer and his "Charleston Committee" and including MOMAU Eleven, Goose Creek, went off without a hitch and was totally enjoyed by all in attendance. From the Friday morning tour of MOMAU Eleven to the last auction bid on Sunday afternoon, our many thanks to all members who participated and a job "Well Done" to Dick and all his workers. Thanks again everyone.

This years two (AOM) Minemen of the year awardees were announced: Active: MN1 (SW) Charles H. Keefer, USN, MOMAU Eight, Guam and Reserve: MN1 Daniel R. Ward, USNR, NRMOMAU Eight, Austin, TX. These sailors represent the finest the Minemen rating has to offer. Congratulations and "Well Done" to these two selectees. Additionally, a "Well Done" is sent out to all those Minemen nominated for this prestigious award. Keep up the good work.

Continued on page 3.

30TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN REUNION WRAP UP

By Dick Schommer

From all of the kudos I received during and after the reunion it must have went well, I thought it was terrific. There is no way that it could have gone as planned if not for all of the help that I received. I must mention the person's by name that helped pull it off.

I will start with the Unit 11 personnel, Commanding Officer LCDR Marquis Patton, Lt Jay Gulley, CWO2 James Traylor, MNCM Dave Walker, MNCS Mike Morus, MNCS Brian Allston, MN1 Patrick Brady, and MN1 Casey Watkins. This group was responsible for the shop tour, and the rest of the crew for the field day held prior to our arrival. This group was the weekend support for the picnic and any other thing that came up: MNC Chris Elsbury, MNC John Boden, and MN1 William Senseny. Last but not least, IT3 Christy Riley, MN2 Reuben Stretch, MNSN Brian Osborne and MNSN Daniel Kline. This group was the color guard. (Job well done for the limited space)

Dave Walker our guest speaker was great. I believe that all those in attendance finally heard a speech that all could identify with, including all of the wives. They have been there and done that. Dave's sea story involving me, as told by him was pretty truthful but, what I really said could not be repeated at the dinner. He left my office rather rapidly after our conversation. It did bring back memories of my last tour at the school. The very best tour I might add that I had in my Navy career.

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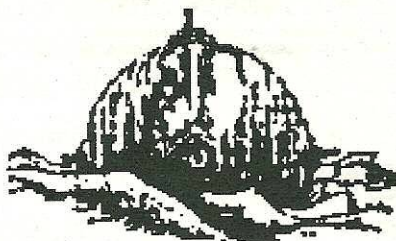
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THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN



DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina 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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HELP WANTED

Your Association needs your help. If anyone feels they have the qualifications to fill the position of either "parliamentarian" or "historian" for the Association, please feel free to contact the president for an appointment.

Thank You in advance.

Bill J, AOM President.

From the President

Master Chief Dave Walker, MOMAU Eleven, was our guest speaker for our 30th annual dinner meeting. Many thanks on a "superb" job Dave and for your many years of service to our country. May God Bless you and your family in all your future endeavors.

At this time I would like to thank and welcome aboard the following members who have graciously accepted these respective positions: Secretary/Treasurer, Curtis T. Christian; Chaplain, Robert N. Hart; Dashpot Editor, Bill Fortner; Scholarship Chairperson, William (Swede) Carlsen; AOM Storekeeper, G. Paul Santa Maria; AOM Webmaster, Philip Dechene; 2005 Reunion Chairperson, Ron Swart.

Congratulations to: William Bash, Ray Cobis, Phil Dechene, Robert Defrees and Sheldon Stephens for being the recipients of our coveted "Clock Cockers Award" for the year 2004. Well Done to all.

The Association would like to thank all members and guests who brought items for the auction and those who very generously "bid" on them. Also we want to thank each and everyone who contributed unselfishly with time and monies to all of our programs this past year. Our Association is very solvent thanks to all of you.

Our 2005 reunion will be in Corpus Christi, Texas and membership overwhelmingly voted for the 2006 reunion to be in Panama City, Florida.

As the Holidays fast approach, Patti and I want to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year. God Bless all of you and your families and God Bless America.

William Johnson

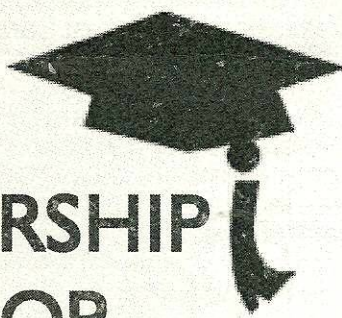
2004 Wrap Up

The Navy will be losing MNCM (SW) Dave Walker on the 10th of December 04. This is one retirement ceremony that I'm not looking forward to.

Thanks to Rodger and Libby Adams, my wife Sue and son Sam all went well in the cooking and serving line. Rodger helped with the whole nine yards from shopping to cooking. Thank you all again for all that you did to make my job easier. Bob Forbes and wife helped out on the Anniversary table as well. Without him things would have been dang near impossible.

This has gotten too long and probably boring so I will sign off with these words. I have enjoyed working with the past prez and his board of directors and, I look forward to attending reunions for the next 20 years or so. Thanks to all who attended this past reunion, see you all at the next one.

I still can't believe that I didn't get one gripe, not a one. Almost makes me want to host another reunion in Charleston but, I will be too damn old to host the next one.



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

By Swede Carlsen

The AOM'S reunion picnic raised \$1,097 dollars for the 2005 scholarship fund. The membership has been very generous and you are still sending donations earmarked for the scholarship fund. A special Xmas gift of a donation to the fund (general or Presidential) would make a nice tax deduction for 2004.

Did you know that there is \$300 million available for scholarships to the military community? This information is located on the internet at "Military.Com" Community@military-inc.com. Of course scholarship money can be found at colleges & universities, veteran's organizations, business corporations, various ethnic clubs, and religious organizations. Billions of dollars are there. Check them out at Scholarship.Com.

STAND TALL AMERICA



SECRETARY'S REPORT

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9 OCTOBER 2004 IN CHARLESTON SC.

The president called the meeting to order at 1405.

Minutes of the meeting held in San Diego were read and accepted with correction made to the spelling of ADM Bettencourt's name.

Correspondence read concerning COMMINEWARCOM's letter dropping his support for us if we could not provide funding to transport the MINEMEN of the year to the reunion.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted.

Warren Savage reported that the USS Midway was being berthed at San Diego and he would look into some MINE items being placed aboard.

Dick Schommer reported on the 2004 reunion and stated that the cost of the dinner was keeping some members away. Dick stated that the cost was increasing each year and that we had no control over it.

The President reported on the DET 11 visit.

Ron Swart reported on the Corpus Christi reunion for 2005.

A motion was made to wave the \$5.00 processing fee for anyone who joins the association during this reunion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bill Fortner brought up the idea of having our own museum.

Ron Swart reported on our museums.

A question was floored about the location of some MK4 cases. Ron Swart stated that he would see if he could locate them.

The President read Ron Swart's resignation as Historian.

A motion was made and seconded to change the price of the history books to \$49.95. Motion passed.

The president reported on the history book being placed in the Library of Congress. This should happen in the next few months.

Nominations for officers are as follows:
President William Johnson
Vice President Warren Savage
BOD Bob Wilson
BOD Robert Stancik

The vote was taken and nominated officers were elected.

The President announced the Minemen of the year as follows:
Active Duty — MN1 (SW) Charles H. Keefer
Reserve Duty — MN1 Daniel R. Ward

Clock Cockers Awards this year to:
William Bash
Ray Cobis
Phil Dechene
Robert Defrees
Sheldon Stephens

A motion was made to have the CD fund made a permanent fund. Motion passed

The membership discussed having our reunions advertised in different publications.

William Carlsen reported on the scholarship awards. Two from AOM, one from memorial, and ten from an anonymous donor.

Bill Fortner reported on the Dash-Pot.

Ron Swart volunteered to host the 2006 reunion in Panama City FL.

A vote was taken on the patches submitted. Bill Fortner's entry won.

Ron Swart played a tape on mine warfare.

Ron Swart reported that some powers were trying to change the Mineman rating.

The outgoing President thanked all hands for their support during his term.

1550 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Curtis Christian

**The surprising thing about
young fools...
is how many survive to
become old fools.**

Doug Larson

TREASURER'S

REPORT



Curtis T. Christian
Secretary/Treasurer

Just a few notes about the income from our reunion and our financial status.

We received \$2194.00 from the auction. Half goes to the scholarship fund and half to operating funds.

You folks did a wonderful job with this project this year. Toby Horn's heron took the highest bid and the bidder bought it for his wife. A vase, a quilt, and a blanket went as the next highest items. BZs to everyone. This was great...

Paul Santa Maria, not having enough to do being President, was also our storekeeper. He sold \$599.00 of our supplies. (Someone should have spent just \$1.00 more) (SMILE)

Thanks to the "Wheeling and Dealing" of Dick Schommer, we cleared \$247.41 on the reunion. Think we need to keep this Guy on the job.

Now for an account of the monies we have in the bank.

Dues paid ahead
2006 — \$1005.00
2007 — \$ 497.00
2008 — \$ 270.00
2009 — \$ 120.00
2010 — \$ 30.00

Operating funds for this year.
\$8396.54.

This held to pay for Dashpot and expenses to keep us going this year.

Scholarship Fund
\$2,392.73 for next year
\$12,253.78 in the CD.

Please remember to let me know when you send monies for the scholarship if it is for this year or to go into the CD.

For the Museums
\$1523.40 if any one wants to do some work the funds are here, where are you?

Curtis
Christian



BINNACLE LIST

Bobbie Loonam

Bobbie Loonam had another colon resection (abscess and perforation) the Wednesday after the October reunion. She has just about recovered after a pretty rough time. She re-started her chemo the first Friday in December. She has just about gained her strength back.

10/31/04

Hi Shipmates All;
I am doing quite well, after a 4-way bypass, five months ago.

I am taking things easy, trying to stay cool.

Best regards to all that might remember me.

Gunner Caruthers

Cavaluchi, Frank, MNCS, USN (Ret)

MNCS Frank Cavaluchi, USN (Ret) Frank is in failing health in a nursing home in Las Vegas. Fred Dane reports after a conversation with Frank's son.

Mirich, Pete, MNCS, USN (Ret.)

Bob Hart reports that his wife Connie talked to Betty Mirich on the 12th of October and Pete is doing somewhat better. He has lost 30 pounds, but is doing well after 2 radiation treatments and 2 chemotherapy treatments and is scheduled for another treatment in two weeks. The tumor is attached to his rib cage and surgery is not an option. The tumor has shrunk a little and it is hoped that further treatments will reduce it further. Betty said she would keep us informed of Pete's progress. Ask your readers to keep Pete in their prayers. Thanks, Bob

**NEXT DASHPOT
ARTICLES ARE DUE
1 MARCH 2005**

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**MAIL
BAG**

Shipmates,

It is with great pride and joy that I report to you that, as of May 14, 2004, our History Book has been accepted and copyrighted by the Library of Congress. As years go by, we may be gone, but our legacy will live on forever. Many thanks are due to all who made all of this possible. I can now say proudly that I accomplished practically everything I set out to do on my watch. God Bless all Minemen ... Past, Present, and Future.

I invite you to cut out the copyright in the title and paste it into your copy.

G. Paul Santa Maria.



FROM THE STOREKEEPER

G. Paul Santa Maria

SUPER T-SHIRT SALE

We are overstocked in Adult size Small T-shirts with large lettering and mine emblem. The great price that includes shipping is \$4.00 each or two for \$7.50. Get them while they last. This size and style will not be reordered.

AOM PATCH



Congratulations to Bill Fortner, winner of the AOM Patch Contest. We had four entries and Bill's won hands down. I have ordered 200 of these to be made and we should have them right after the first of the year. You may order now and I will ship them to you as soon as they arrive. The cost is

Sun, 19 Sep 2004

Dear Mr. Christian,

My name is Chris Sanborn and I don't know if you remember me, but I am the youngest son of Mel and Pat Sanborn. I am writing to regretfully inform you of Pat's passing; she passed away in November of 2002 and I have been meaning to write to inform you of this, but have not had the chance to until now. I know that you were good friends of my parents and I apologize for not passing this information on to you sooner.

If it is possible, could you send the remainder of her editions of the Dashpot to my address?

Chris Sanborn
1 Huntington Road
Augusta, KS 67010

I have been wanting to ask you if there is anybody in the Association who has pictures of or stories about my father Mel, could I get a copy of them? I have a lot of Dad's things from his time in the service, but others' pictures and stories would be great to have too.

Please keep in touch and if you'll have us, maybe we'll make it to one of the reunions one of these times.

Thank you,
Chris Sanborn

August 19, 2004

Greetings to all,
Fellow Minemen, I am unable to attend this year's reunion. Hope you all have a great week-end with nice weather prevailing.

Mr. Fred Hirstetter

Hi Bill,

Mary Fisher, wife of our first President, Foxy Fisher, celebrated her 90th birthday on Saturday October 16 with a large gathering of family and friends at the Edge Hill Community Center, Yorktown, VA.

Thanks Bill

Take care and enjoy your day

06 Sept. 04

Hi all,
I blew it as I haven't paid for so long. I've been paid up to August 2004. My membership number is 0429. I hope that although I am paying my dues late, I can still get the next copy of the "Dashpot". I look forward to each copy, but can tell I am getting old as I always recognize the names in the "TAPS" section.

I am doing well and hope to see you all at the reunion in Chas.

Your shipmate,
Harmon R. Maddocks MNCM (Ret.)
P.O. Box 582
Boothbay Harbor
Maine 04538
207-633-4431

November 8, 2004

Dear Bill,
Enclosed is a picture from the Charleston AOM reunion taken 09 Oct 04. This picture is five members of Mine Warfare School, Yorktown, Virginia Class "A" 9-57 that graduated 12 April 1957. I resent this to the Dashpot to be published as a challenge to any other "A" class members to equal our attendance at any future reunion. We also were in attendance for the Williamsburg/Yorktown reunion in 2002. We claim to be the largest surviving "A" school class in the association attending a reunion.

I have listed our names on the back of the picture:
L-R Robert Stancik, Curtis Christian, Tom Hoffman, Phil Dechene and Bo Bellamy/

Sincerely
Tom Hoffman
2266 E. Hurd Rd
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tomormarta@voyager.net



Mine Warfare School, Yorktown, Virginia Class "A" 9-57. L-R Robert Stancik, Curtis Christian, Tom Hoffman, Phil Dechene and Bo Bellamy.

Dear Mr. Carlsen,

I would like to extend my gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the Mineman Association Scholarship. I accept the award with great honor. The generous award was very helpful in covering the cost of my textbooks and other expenses during this first semester and I would like to give you a personal Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joseph Cavallo

NOTE: Attending Tuft's University

Thank you very much for the scholarship money. I used it to pay for books and school supplies. Education these days is not cheap and this scholarship money really helps out. Again Thank you.

Sabrina Peters

Dear Minemen Association,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to further my academic education with this scholarship money. It has come in handy greatly with my college education. I am very blessed to be able to use this money for my tuition and I want to thank you. As you know, college is a hectic time and I am sorry this took so long to get to you.

Thanks again.

Jillian Smith

September 29, 2004

Members of the Association of Minemen:

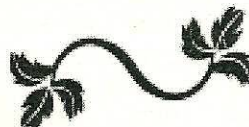
Thank you so much for awarding me the 2004 scholarship assistance award. It is a great honor for me to receive this award.

With your assistance, I am attending Furman University, one of the top liberal arts schools in the country. At Furman, I am receiving a superior education that will enable me to reach all my goals in life.

Again, thank you so much for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Stewart



Dear Mr. Carlsen and the Scholarship Committee:

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the committee for the generous scholarship. It is very difficult to find financial assistance for graduate schools and I thank the committee for extending the appreciation to graduate students. The money I received was used to buy my books and was also used in part towards my health insurance. I again thank you and assure you that my law degree will be used to better society and to help make me a better citizen of my community and my country.

Antonietta Marmorato '06
Franklin Pierce Law

Dear Mr. Carlsen,

Thank you so much for the scholarship money. Although it was not quite so simple to get everything with the whole situation. I am very blessed for this opportunity. I am sorry this card took a while to get to you, college has been a hectic time, but I love it. Thanks again.

Jillian Smith

I would like to thank the Association of Minemen for the 500.00 award. It has really helped with the unbelievable high cost of books. A special thank you to Mr. Curtis Christian for all the trouble you wne through with Trident Technical College losing the first issued check. I hoped that is resolved. Thanks again.

Justin Pittman

I would like to thank you so much for the scholarship. It really means a lot to me and it helps me out a lot.

Thanks,
Ashley L. Chavez

September 17, 2004

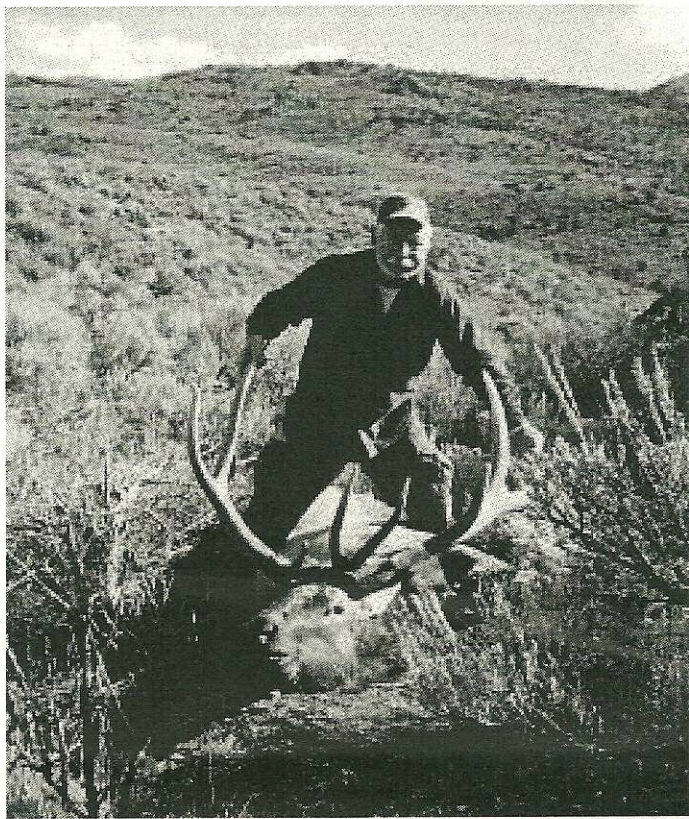
To The Association of Minemen:

Thank you for the scholarship that you so generously bestowed upon me. The school year has begun and so has the work. Although challenging, I feel that I can handle the work load. I have enjoyed my experience so far and hopefully it will help me grow not only intellectually but as an individual in society as well.

Again thank you for the financial support.

Sincerely,
Nick Squillace

MNCM Ray Cobis, USN(Ret.) went out west and has earned significant respect among the local polulace as a champion "Elk Wrestler." Here is a couple of images of Ray in action in the large outdoor arena. He didn't even work up a sweat!

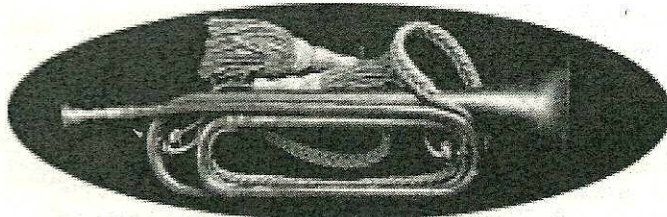


The elk was taken down for the first fall with a step-over toe hold, a flying mare, and the dreaded and devastating "antler twist".



Emulating that great hunter, Davy Crockett, Ray simply "grinned" the elk into total submission for the second fall and the match. The rifle shown in the picture is strictly for protecting the "grinned down" and helpless elk against Grizzly Bear and Mountain Lions while in that state.

The elk was so impressed with Ray's expertise that it asked to accompany him home to reside in his freezer due to the unseasonably warm, damp weather now threatening Reno's winter sports industry. Ray graciously approved the request.



TAPS

ANDERSON, R., MNC, USN (Ret.)

Don DeCrona reports receiving a call from Joe Hernandez about the passing of Andy Anderson that was in the Fall Dashpot (page 4). Andy was Joe's chief many years ago, so to learn more he called Bob Stickney.

Andy is not listed under Taps on our web page. He retired as an MNC and he had 2 handles to his name, "Andy" and "Bigfoot." I mentioned to Joe that I remember him as a big guy and Joe said that is why he got the name of Bigfoot. Joe said he always went by R. Anderson. We don't have his full name, if he ever had one. I have friends that have just initials for their name. He died 4 September 2003.

AUSTIN, Robert, MNC

The October issue of All Hands lists MNC Robert Austin Branch 269 in its Taps column.

GUYTON, John Robert, MNCS, USN (Ret.)

MNCS John Robert Guyton passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of September 20, 2004, at the age of 83. He was born near Muskogee, OK on January 11, 1921. John joined the Civilian Conservation Corps at age 17. In December 1940, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was aboard the USS Pruitt on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor Navy Base. During WWII he served aboard ship in the Central Pacific to the South Pacific Islands. He reentered active duty during the Korean Conflict and stayed in the Navy until retiring in 1964 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer. John worked for the next 20 years for Washoe County (Reno, NV) as an electrician, retiring in 1985.

There is a mistake on the date of his death that I'm sure will be corrected in our newspaper. I will update this information when I get it. I served with John in the Navy and then we worked together another 8 years for the County. John was very active with several organizations and local events, recently the memorial dedicated to the victims of 9/11. If you want more information about John, drop me an e-mail. Don

Mason, Gilbert, MN1, USN (Ret.)

MN1 Gilbert Mason, USN (Ret.), born March 19, 1932, of Goose Creek, died at age 72 Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at his home. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Norma; son, Frank Mason; and two grandsons: Frank Mason Jr. and Michael Mason, all of Goose Creek. His daughter, Brenda Mason, preceded him in death. A private memorial service was held. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Palmetto Hospice, 1815 Old Trolley Road, Suite 109, Summerville, SC 29485. Goose Creek. Condolences may be sent via www.mcalister-smith.com.

Mocalis, Philip L., MN1, USN (Ret)

Shipmates,

I am very saddened to pass on this very tragic news of the loss of one of our Board Members.

I recently sent out a letter to Phil's address as I had gotten a response that his e-mail address was no longer valid.

The attached e-mail is what I received from his brother Jeff. What a tragedy!! I sent a response, extending our deepest sympathy to family, on behalf of the Association of Minemen.

God Bless America and God Bless the Memory of Philip L. Mocalis.

Bill Johnson, AOM President

Dear Sir,

I am Philip Mocalis' brother, Jeff Mocalis. It is with great sadness that I have to report to you the tragic death of my brother Phil. He and his/our nephew were killed in a car crash on December 27th, 2003. Briefly, the accident occurred when a Semi-Tractor trailer rig crossed all lanes of her side of the highway, crossed an unprotected median, and jack-knifed flipping over on top of Phil's car in the opposing lanes of traffic. My brother and his nephew died at the scene. We are very sorry that this news comes to you so late, but there are many aspects of Phil's life that we have struggled to handle since his passing. We hope you understand this delay. My brother spoke often of his planned trips to meet with you when he went on vacation. We would appreciate it if you would send the word to the other members of your group.

If there is anything that Phil was doing or something he had that you need, please let us know and we will try to find it and send it to you.

Jeff Mocalis

Transition

Is death the feared grim reaper that snatches life away
And strips us of the ones we love for ever and a day?
Or is death a healer that takes away the pain
And lifts us from this mortal shell to make us whole again?

Or is it just a passage rite that mankind must endure
As entrance to a different plane where life is more secure?
Perhaps death is a velvet cloak that wraps us in its fold
And takes us to a better place that wiser men foretold.

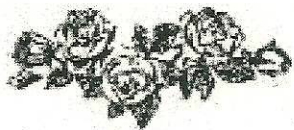
William Fortner, 1993

Robertson, Glenn E., MNCS, USN (Ret.)

MNCS Glenn Ernest Robertson, 57, of Gurley, AL succumbed to cancer and passed away at approximately 2330, October 19, 2004. The retired Navy veteran is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife Betty Ann Robertson; one son, Glenn E. Robertson Jr. and his wife, Jennifer; one daughter, Anita L. Clark; father, Paul B. Robertson of Highland, IN; three brothers, Jeff, Mike, and Jim Robertson; one sister, Lynn McKern; and six grandchildren.

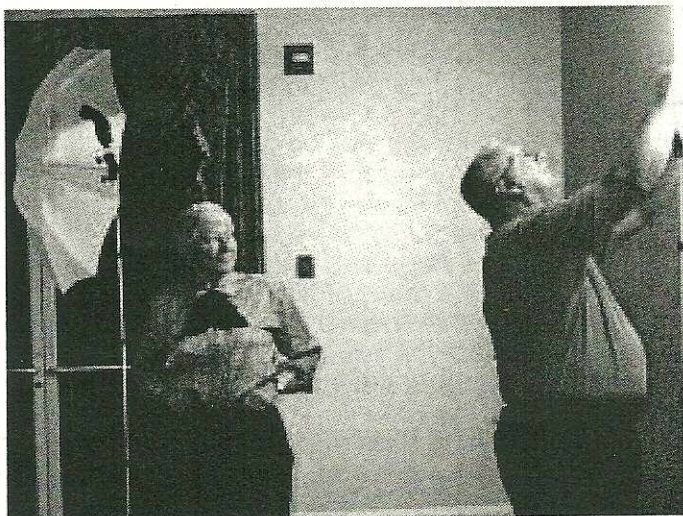
Friends may donate to the Glenn E. Robertson Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 335, Gurley, AL 35748

May God grant you air winds and following seas to that safe harbor, shipmate.



Sanborn, Patricia

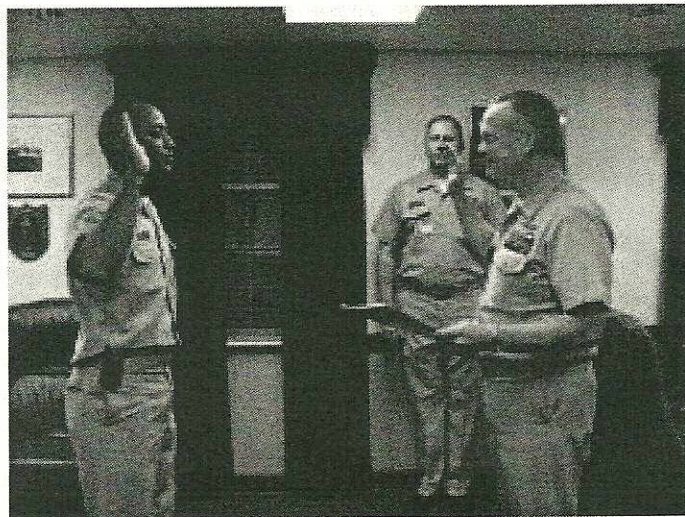
Patricia Sanborn, wife of MNCM Melvin H. Sanborn, USN (Ret. Dec.) passed away in November of 2002.



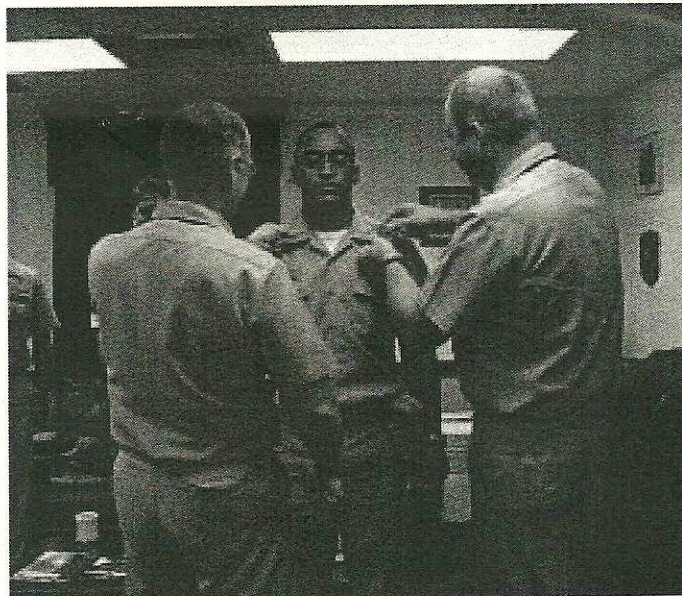
"A little higher ... more to the left ... no, the right ..."
They never miss a chance to supervise do they?

GOLD OAK LEAVES

On 1 November 2004, LT Julian C. Wyatt, Commanding Officer of Mobile Mine Assembly Unit FIFTEEN, Ingleside, TX officially donned the gold oak leaves of a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. The AOM and the ENTIRE staff of the Dashpot congratulate you and wish you continued success in the future.



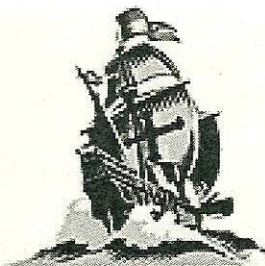
CDR John Dennett, COMOMAG, administers the oath of office as LCDR Thomas Mathison, CSO COMOMAG looks on.



CDR Dennett and LCDR affix the gold oak leaves to LCDR Wyatt's collar.

The future is here.
It's just not widely
distributed yet.

William Gibson



LEANING ON THE TAFFRAIL

NAVMAG SUBIC BAY: THE EARLY DAYS

By Don Jones, MNMCM, USN Retired E-Mail: jodo496Usn@aol.com

Naval Magazine, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, was commissioned in July, 1955. CDR Mueller was the first CO. I was 19, and like my buddy Jim Box, we had been transferred to Subic as part of a 30-man unit from Naval Ammunition Depot, Hawthorne, Nevada. After arriving at Subic, our Minemen and Torpedomen were augmented by a few each of BMs, GMs, and QMs prior to NAVMAG's commissioning. We were quartered in the Naval Station barracks until NAS, Cubi Point was completed then we moved into one of their barracks.

Soon as the commissioning was over, we shifted into dungarees and piled into waiting vehicles. We were in high spirits as a convoy of cargo trucks, bomb trucks, and jeeps carried us to the Ammo Pier. Three ships loaded with ammunition were waiting offshore. Filipino stevedores helped unload the ships. For the next 16.5 days, without weekend breaks, several of us drove truckload after truckload of munitions from the pier to the magazine areas.



The beach along side the Nav Mag ammunition pier.

For the first few weeks, the naval ammunition was not palletized, everything was hand-loaded onto trucks and unloaded by hand. It was grunt-work, but it was rewarding work. We learned about naval ammunition by picking it up and getting the feel of it. And time permitting, we read stenciling on the items and their containers. If an acronym or color code stumped us, we asked questions.

LT W. R. Tucker, who had come with us from Hawthorne, was in charge. He was well-liked and he was an energetic leader. LT Tucker and his assistant Ensign Mickleberry seemed to be everywhere in their jeep, as they monitored our activities.



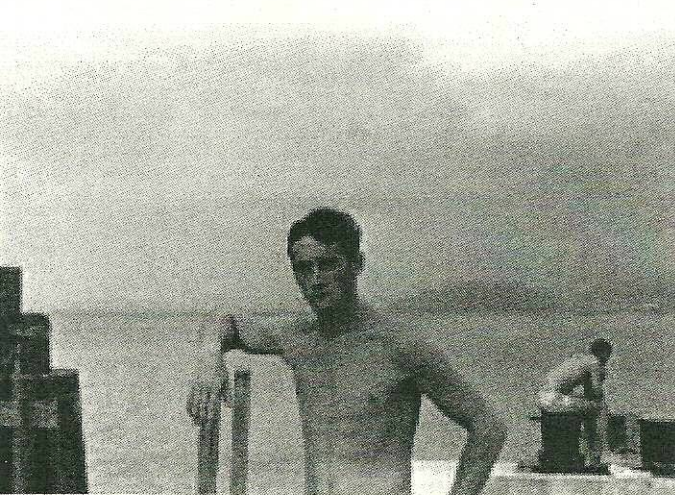
LTjg Walton R. Tucker from Nashville, TN.

After working for two weeks straight, we grew fatigued both physically and mentally. One day when Box was returning to the Ammo Pier with an empty truck, he took a curve too fast and a CO2 fire extinguisher in the cab toppled over. The safety pin wasn't installed so the extinguisher fired a burst of CO2 that Box mistook for smoke. Afterwards, he said he immediately assumed the truck was on fire and it was loaded with ammo. We couldn't imagine what was wrong when Box sped down the hill blowing the horn wildly, and while standing half-in half-out of the driver's door he motioned for everyone to get out of the way. Then to our complete amazement, he ran the truck into the water alongside the Ammo Pier to extinguish the imaginary "fire."

Box was embarrassed and mad at himself when he realized there was no fire, and his truck was empty. But, since it happened at low tide and the water was shallow, it was easy to pull the truck out. Before going back to work, we made pictures of the "Baptized Deuce-and-a-Half," to send to the folks back home.

When we first arrived, the mine and torpedo shop areas were not inside a fence. Since we had security watches at night, M-1 carbines were issued along with 10 rounds of ammo. Late one night, a full-grown water buffalo wandered into the compound and a startled sailor cut down on the intruder with the carbine. There was a 500 peso (\$250) fine for killing a water buffalo, so the OOD had a bulldozer operator dig a deep hole and the animal was buried before daylight.

As far as we knew, there were no human intruders or thefts in the compound until after the perimeter fence was installed. One night someone making his rounds found a gaping hole in the new fence and ran to the bunkroom for help. We notified the OOD, who was miles away at the Admin area, then went to investigate. Fortunately, the intruders had escaped back into the jungle by then and no one got hurt. Marines went into the jungle, after sunrise, and found the stolen goods hidden under a Navy tarp not far from the compound. The thieves had taken the carburetors off our portable light generators, a dozen CO2 fire extinguishers, and a few other items.



Don Jones

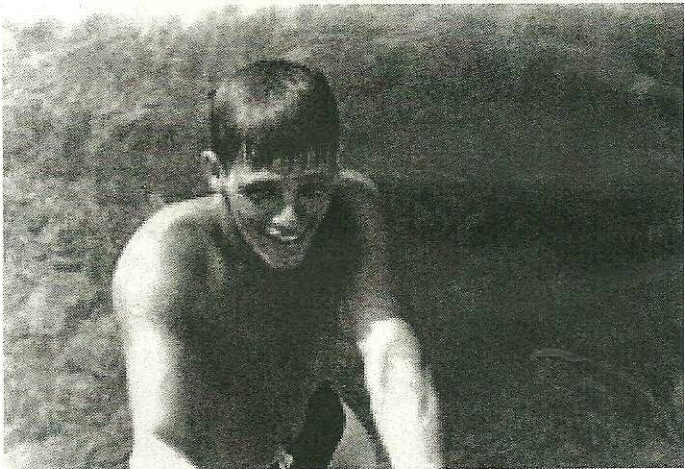
LT Clark arrived a few weeks after NAVMAG was commissioned. He was a POW during WWII, and a survivor of the Bataan Death March. When LT Clark became the Ordnance Officer he made changes in the way we operated. First, all the naval ammunition was palletized before it left the pier. Second, all the naval ammunition already in the magazines was to be palletized. The third had to do with our work uniform. No cutoff pants, or shirts with cutoff sleeves were allowed.

Our only Carpenters Mate started a wooden pallet construction operation at the storage area behind the Ammo Pier, and within days his crew could produce pallets faster than we needed them.

One of our magazines contained many boxes of old dynamite that had been left behind by the Seabees. A senior petty officer told an interesting

and possibly true story about that magazine. He said one overcast day when he went inside to take the magazine temperature readings he forgot to take his flashlight. Without thinking he whipped out his Zippo and spun the wheel. There was an immediate whooshing noise and for a split-second he saw a strange blue light race along the ceiling of the magazine. At any rate, the EOD officer decided to destroy the dynamite before it deteriorated any further. EOD was understaffed so they asked for some help. Box and I jumped at the chance to work with EOD.

The dynamite was transported to the beach area west of the Ammo Pier. The Boatswain's Mates wanted a small reef located there flattened so landing craft could be beached at low tide. The boxes of dynamite were carried out into waist deep water and placed atop the reef. To ensure a high-order detonation, EOD had rigged detonator cord to 1lb blocks of TNT that were stuffed into each box of dynamite. A crowd had gathered to watch the explosion, however, when the plunger on the hellbox was pressed the only thing that fired was the detonator. EOD was crestfallen, but on the second try the shot went off without a hitch.

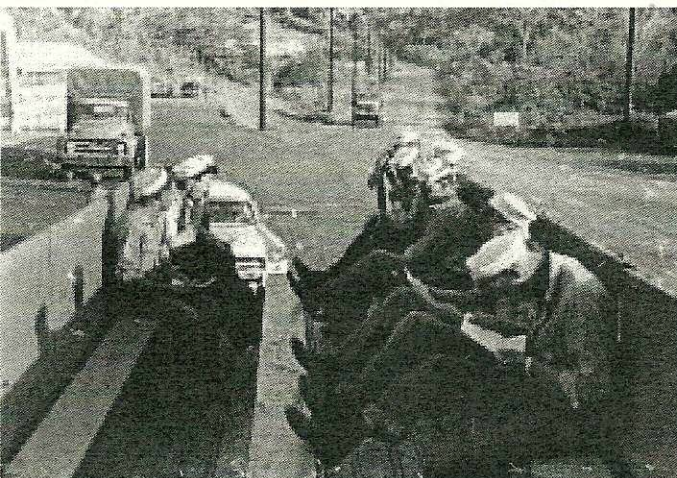


Michael Keating, a new man in the outfit.

When the CO wanted a telephone line installed between the Admin area and the Ammo Pier, a young Electrician's Mate was given the job. Box, a guy called "Gropo," and myself was also assigned to the project. Since the telephone line was to be hung on trees at the edge of the road, the Electrician thought the job could be completed in one week. But first, bamboo up to 3-inches in diameter had to be cut down with machetes in order to get the telephone line to the trees. It took over two weeks to get the line to the pier and then the phone didn't work. The old telephone wire had a break somewhere, but the EM found it, repaired it, and the CO was satisfied.

In March 1956, the damaged USS Floyd B. Parks (DD-884) came alongside the pier to have her ammunition offloaded. A collision at sea between the destroyer and the cruiser USS Columbus had left the Parks with most of her bow

side, a young officer with a wad of cash flagged down an empty truck and went off in search of ice and liquid refreshments. The ship's cooks set up shop on the sandy beach and cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for the exhausted crew. A Chief we talked to was lucky to be alive. He had been pulled from the water unconscious after the collision.



A bunch of roughnecks in one of their gentler moments. Reading mail from home when, for a few wonderful moments, you weren't in the PI, but back at home.

During the collision the forward magazine of the Parks had been heavily damaged. We unloaded 3-inch rounds and 5-inch powder cans that had been cut in two. The Parks went into a floating drydock for repairs after leaving the Ammo Pier.



MN3 Jones at a photo Studio in Honolulu enroute to Subic bay, Republic of the Philippines

side, a young officer with a wad of cash flagged down an empty truck and went off in search of ice and liquid refreshments. The ship's cooks set up shop on the sandy beach and cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for the exhausted crew. A Chief we talked to was lucky to be alive. He had been pulled from the water unconscious after the collision.

E-Mail - Active Duty

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David E. Evanoff MN1 dnlevanoff@cox.net
CWO-4 Bob Pricer bpricer@cox.net

E-Mail - Ex-Mineman

Steve Sparks MN3 sgssparks15@hotmail.com

Officer Keefer has also been the backbone for On-The-Job Training (OJT) for newly reporting personnel in Quality Assurance Department. This training has guaranteed that the impressive level of Quality Assurance Inspectors continues. His technical knowledge is equal to a well-rounded Chief Petty Officer.

(2) MN1(SW) Keefer was hand picked to lead "TigerTeam" tasked with completing a wall-to-wall inventory, repackaging, and retagging of over 2300 different line items. Over 120 off duty hours were spent from 4 January 2004 to 15 March 2004 to meet this objective. The results of his efforts overwhelmed the Mine Readiness Certification Inspection Team when they were unable to site one discrepancy in ammunition accountability. His tireless effort has ensured the command is within complete compliance with COMOMAG and Navy directives for weapons stowage and accountability.

(3) MN1(SW) Keefer spent countless on and off duty hours completely overhauling MOMAU Eight's technical publication library. The result of this effort was zero discrepancies in this area during the MRCI inspection.

(4) Developing Subordinates: As the Command Career Counselor he developed and provided study material for all command junior personnel in preparation for the September Advancement Exam. He is constantly mentoring junior personnel and helping them manage their careers. During this year alone, he assisted 2 members in negotiating PCS orders, 1 member in completing all the required paperwork for OTEIP, and is in the process of working with the Detailer in negotiating orders for 2 members. His efforts in all facets as the command's career counselor were instrumental in the Command being awarded the Golden Anchor for 100% retention.

(5) Community Involvement: Volunteered for school cleanup at Talafofo Elementary School. Volunteered for Liberation Day Queens Escort and Japan Jaycees Escort. Volunteered at Boy Scout Camp.

(6) MN1(SW) Keefer has been taking college courses at the University of Maryland since arriving onboard. He is working on the last two courses to finish his Associates Degree in General Studies.

(7) MN1(SW) Keefer is simply without equal in his ability to lead Sailors, focus on the important task, cut through the "fluff", and accomplish all mission taskings! Petty Officer Keefer is far ahead of his peers in the day-to-day operations at MOMAU Eight. MOMAU Eight simply could not run as efficiently or as effectively without Petty Officer Keefer being aboard. Finally, MN1(SW) Keefer is without a doubt, one of the finest First Class Petty Officers I have had the pleasure to serve with in my 27 years of active duty naval service. I do not say these words lightly; and I genuinely believe each and every one of them. He demonstrates the highest level of initiative; intelligence and foresight in planning and executing the mine maintenance and production work

schedules. I cannot think of one person more deserving of AOM Mineman of the Year.

MN1(SW) Keefer truly represents the very best in the Mine Community today.

MN1 DANIEL R. WARD, USNR MINEMAN OF THE YEAR NAVAL RESERVE

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve
Mobile Mine Assembly Unit EIGHT, Austin, TX

To: Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Corpus Christi, TX

Subj: 2004 ASSOCIATION OF MINEMAN,
MINEMAN OF THE YEAR ICO:
MINEMAN FIRST CLASS DANIEL R. WARD

Ref:
(a)COMINEWARCOM MSG R 191929Z AUG 04

Encl:
(1) Evaluations (02JUN07-03MAR15; 03MAR16-03AUG15; 03AUG16-03NOV15)
(2) 2003-2004 PRT Results

1. IRT Ref (a) and Encl (1) the following pertinent information is provided:

a. Name: Daniel R. Ward

b. Rate: Mineman First Class

c. Date of Birth: 02/21/1973

d. Previous Sailor of the Quarter Selections:
N&MCRC, Austin, TX Jr. SOQ, 3rd Qtr, 1998
N&MCRC, Austin, TX SOQ, 3rd Qtr, 2003

e. Date of Initial Enlistment: 11/23/1992

f. History of Advancements:
E2 - 16 SEP 1993
E3 - 16 Jun 1994
E4 - 16 Jul 1995
E5 - 08 AUG 2001
E6 - 16 AUG 2003

g. Summary of all Awards:
Navy Achievement Medal (2)
Navy Good Conduct Medal
Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (2)
National Defense Service Medal (2)
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Southwest Asia Meritorious Service Medal
W/Bronze Star
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
Navy Sharpshooter Pistol Ribbon



MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT



MN1(SW) CHARLES H. KEEFER, USN MINEMAN OF THE YEAR ACTIVE DUTY



CDR Dennett (COMOMAG) presenting the
AOM Mineman of the Year Award to MN1(SW) Keefer.
Photo courtesy of MOMAU EIGHT

Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Unit
Eight
Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Corpus
Christi, TX

2004 ASSOCIATION OF MINEMAN (AOM)
MINEMAN OF THE YEAR
NOMINATION ICO MNI (SW) CHARLES H.
KEEFER, USN, 372-04-5478

- (a) COMINWARCOM 1919292 AUG 04
(1) Copy of Last Two Evaluations
(2) 2003/2004 PRT Results

1. In accordance with ref (a), enclosure (1) and
the following
pertinent information is provided:

a. Name: Charles Henrick Keefer

b. MNI (SW) Rate:

c. Date of Birth: 30 AUG 1977

- d. Sailor of the Year/Quarter Selections:
(1) USS DEXTROUS MCM 13 Junior Sailor of
the Quarter, 1st Quarter 2002
(2) USS DEXTROUS MCM 13 Junior Sailor of
the Year 2002
(3) MOMAU Eight Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 1st
Quarter 2004

e. Date of Initial Enlistment: 02 April 2000

f. History of Advancement:

- (1) E-3: 15 DEC 2000
(2) E-4: 16 SEP 2001
(3) E-5: 16 AUG 2002

g. Summary of Awards:

- (1) Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
(4 awards)
(2) 9mm Pistol Expert
(3) Letter of Commendation (Multiple)
(4) National Defense Service Medal
(5) Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service
Ribbon (2 awards)
(6) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (2
awards)(7)
(8) Navy Unit Commendation (2 awards)
(9) Meritorious Unit Commendation (2 awards)
(10) Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2 awards)
(11) Battle "E" Ribbon
(12) Good Conduct Medal
(13) Overseas Service (3 awards)
(14) Combat Action Ribbon
(15) Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary
Medal

h. Professional Development:

- (1) MINEMAN VOLUME 1 NAVEDTRA 82448
(2) English 101
(3) History 156
(4) Explosive Driver Course
(5) HAZMAT Certification Course
(6) Finance 110
(7) Spanish 101
(8) E5 Leadership Training Continuum

i. Commanding Officer's Endorsement: Through-
out Calendar Year 2003, MN1(SW) Keefer has
been a key player in MOMAU Eight's unbroken
string of successes. He has provided leadership
and technical expertise in maintaining the U.S.
Navy's largest stockpile of underwater service
mines as one of our most experienced and
knowledgeable Mineman. Specific achievements
include:

(1) Petty Officer Keefer's leadership and mana-
gerial skills are far beyond those normally found
in a First Class Petty Officer. While serving as
Command Quality Assurance Inspector, he has
been directly responsible for the maintenance,
accountability, storage and transportation of over
2,300 ordnance line items. His impressive techni-
cal knowledge in this area has been evident
during our myriad of discrepancy free inspec-
tions, which has resulted in 100% validity of
ammunition accountability in all inspections. Petty

Navy Expert Rifle Medal
 Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/"M" and
 Bronze Hour Glass
 Involuntary Presidential Recall; Operation
 Noble Eagle

h. Professional Development:

GSM "A" School	16 Weeks
Basic Hot Plant	4 Weeks
DC Team Trainer	1 Day
MN Reserve "A" School	2 weeks
MN Reserve Shipboard "A" School	2 weeks
Explosive Forklift Operator	1 week
Physical Security/Law Enforcement	
Phase I Basic Training	2 Weeks
Emergency Vehicle Operators Course	2 Days
Armament Systems and Procedures	
Police Baton Certification	1 Day
Professional Development Course (E5)	2 weeks

Collateral Duty Assignments:

Leading Petty Officer 16 Aug 2003 - Present

Member, Non-Nuclear Ordnance/Explosive
 Handling Qualification and Certification Board
 16 Aug 2003 - Present

Training Petty Officer 07 Aug 2004 - Present
 Classified Material Control PO
 07 Aug 2004 - Present

Advancement/Cross-Rate Counselor
 07 Aug 2004 - Present

Physical Fitness Coordinator
 07 Jun 2002 -25 Jul 2004

Master-At-Arms 07 Jun 2002 - 25 Jul 2004

Member, PQS Examining Board
 07 Jun 2002-25 Jul 2004

Medical Dept Representative
 07 Jun 2002 - 25 Jul 2004

i. Commanding Officer's Endorsement:

It is with the greatest pleasure that I endorse Mineman First Class Daniel R Ward for AOM's, 2004 Mineman of the Year. His military bearing, appearance, discipline, and moral character are of the highest order. He continually exudes reliability, competence, and truthfulness in every facet of his job. Throughout his Naval Reserve and civilian career he has demonstrated sustained superior performance in all his duties. He aggressively pursues difficult challenges and is tireless in his efforts to excel. MN1 Ward has and continues to fully demonstrate the leadership, exceptional management ability, extraordinary technical knowledge, and meticulous administra-

tive skills that enable him to discharge, in a superior manner, the broad duties and great responsibilities of a Leading Petty Officer (LPO). While MN1 Ward has been the LPO, the unit readiness was consistently maintained at over 90% and a perfect safety record maintained. He was the catalyst for the seamless integration for over 30 reserve personnel into our gaining command, MOMAD 12, Misawa, Japan, during the last Mine Readiness Certification Inspection. Also, he presently serves as the Unit's Quality Assurance Inspector during weapon build-ups and Training Petty Officer. During the last MRCI he was cited for superior performance of his duty as Quality Assurance Mine Assemblyman. Petty Officer Ward displayed great personal initiative and commitment to success in contributing substantial amounts of overtime to ensure the readiness of MOMAD 12. His outstanding efforts during the MRCI were critical to the command earning a 100 percent overall validity on reportable items, 97 percent on non-reportable items, and 96 percent weapons reliability. Petty Officer First Class Ward is the driving force in completely turning the Unit's Physical Fitness Training program into a highly effective and successful effort with zero failures and an over-all increase in readiness scores. During the last two conferences, he volunteered to be an instructor for training classes to all of the enlisted. Thru his mentoring to unit personnel and fantastic people skills, everyone in the unit has re-enlisted or extended in the Reserves. He readily takes new personnel under his wing and provides the needed counseling and instruction to make them superior sailors. He proves he is both mission and people oriented as identified by our highly successful recruitment and retention program. MN1 Ward's career shows strong self-motivation and an attitude toward the Navy that exemplifies the concept of "pride and professionalism". No matter what the assignment, MN1 Ward excels.

Dan is a proven leader who always obtains results surpassing command objectives. If the goal of AOM's 2004 Mineman of the Year selection board is to select the very best, most professional Mineman from the Naval Reserves this year, then Mineman First Class Daniel R. Ward is a definite select.

2003-2004 PRT Results:

SPRING 2003	EXCELLENT MEDIUM
FALL 2003	EXCELLENT HIGH
SPRING 2004	EXCELLENT LOW
FALL 2004	SCHEDULED, 30 OCT 2004

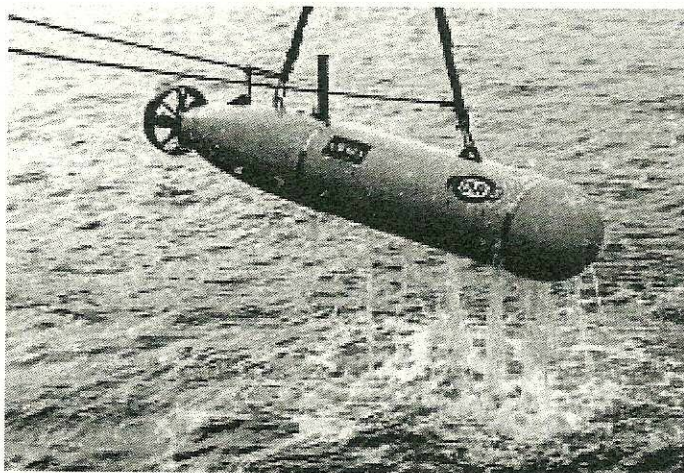
**TACT IS THE ABILITY TO DESCRIBE
 OTHERS...**

AS THEY SEE THEMSELVES.

Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)



BATTLESPACE PREPARATION AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE "BPAUV"



At sea aboard USS Falcon (MHC 59) Jun. 10, 2003 — The crew aboard the mine hunter coastal ship USS Falcon (MHC 59) recover the Battlespace Preparation Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (BPAUV) after a demonstration. BPAUV is an unmanned anti-mine warfare vehicle designed to travel along a preset course once launched. U.S. Navy photo. (RELEASED)

BLUEFIN TESTED IN WATERS AROUND NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE

By Mike Antoine, Naval Station Ingleside Public Affairs

INGLESIDE, Texas (NNS) — A handful of onlookers got a sneak preview of the future of mine warfare, June 10, aboard USS Falcon (MHC 59). What they saw was a demonstration of an unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) being operated from an Osprey-class coastal mine hunting ship.

Bill Schopf, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) demonstration manager, stated that placing

emerging technologies in the hands of Sailors during demonstrations was a means of getting better equipment into the hands of our fleet operators faster. He explained that the work aboard Falcon was just the beginning of a two-year experimentation program designed to determine the feasibility of employing unmanned underwater vehicles in conjunction with the ship's organic sensors.

If successful, the vehicle, known as Battlespace Preparation Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (BPAUV), should reduce the vulnerability to critical mine countermeasure ships, and help shorten the tactical time-line associated with surface mine-hunting.

"The Navy is always looking for faster, less expensive and safer ways of doing mine warfare," said Falcon Commanding Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Glenister.

He added that being involved with the proof of concept demonstration was good for his crew, which launched and recovered the vehicle flawlessly.

"We welcomed this opportunity with open arms," Glenister continued. "It shows our Sailors that the Navy is serious about mine warfare — and they get to be a part of that. Besides — it's just plain fun."

The BPAUV weighs 800 pounds (1,000 wet), is 122 inches long, 21 inches wide, is powered by lithium polymer batteries and has an operational speed of 3 knots. The vehicle, once launched by crane from the mine warfare vessel, is an autonomous vehicle that travels on a preset course loaded into its program. With its side scan sonar, the BPAUV is able to detect and classify mine-like contacts in advance of the ship.

The demonstration was conducted over a two-week period in the Corpus Christi Operating Area. The crew of Falcon employed the BPAUV in several different mine warfare missions designed to demonstrate the feasibility of operating from a surface mine countermeasures (SMCM) platform and to evaluate increased mission effectiveness in terms of time and risk.

According to Royal Navy Lt. Paul Guiver, project officer for the SMCM/UUV Acquisition Program, the demonstration of the Bluefin Robotics technology provides a look at just one of several systems being considered by the U.S. Navy. Tests on a similar smaller vehicle, REMUS, are being conducted aboard USS Pelican (MHC 53).

Chuck Laughinghouse, who provides operational support to ONR demonstrations commented, "Unmanned underwater vehicles are the wave of the future of mine warfare. Keeping mine warfare

assets out of the minefield is just over the horizon," he stressed.

Bob Grieve, of Bluefin Robotics, helped conceive and design the current vehicle for the Navy in an amazing 11-month period. He's pleased with the way the system has been working in a series of tests leading up to the June 10 demonstration. "We're getting great user feedback," he said. "Input from the Sailors is helping us determine what changes are needed."

The initiative was conceived by the Commander, Mine Warfare Command and the Chief of Naval Operations.

THE 2010 MINE

USN MAY LAUNCH OFFENSIVE NAVAL MINING MISSION

By Andrew Koch

Washington, DC — The US Navy (USN) wants to apply to undersea warfare many of the same 'smart' innovations created for aerial weaponry in order to make systems such as naval mines relevant once again.

Washington's last naval mining mission was more than 30 years ago at Haiphong Harbour in Vietnam but navy officials now want to control the mines to attack only identified enemy combatants.

"Our next-generation mine needs to be more controllable so we can have more discrimination and a smarter weapon," said Captain Barry Dagnall, head of the Mine Warfare Branch in the Department of the Navy's Expeditionary Warfare Division (N-75). "[Naval] mines have become difficult weapons for us to use," Capt Dagnall explained, because of their inability to sufficiently discriminate between combatant and civilian shipping. Further, they do not offer the operational speed and flexibility desired by US Navy commanders, Capt Dagnall said, because when a naval minefield is laid it has to be cleared as soon as combat circumstances change. "That is not an attractive option for our commanders today ... it's just not discriminating enough."

To overcome those issues, the navy is exploring development of a new weapon called the 2010 Mine. The idea is to create a mine-like weapon capable of being deployed, loitering in position and then moving to a target for attack once signaled to do so.

Among the ideas being considered is the use of encapsulated torpedoes and other loitering weapons and giving them the ability to be cued from external sensor grids or via a link to a network.

The 2010 Mine was originally intended as a one-for-one replacement for the 2000 lb (907 kg) aircraft-laid Mark-56 medium-depth mine now in the navy's inventory, but that programme was delayed. Instead, the navy is reconsidering the requirement for the 2010 Mine along with mine technology and how it would work operationally. Although he stressed that the requirements are still under review, Capt Dagnall noted: "We have changed course from it being a one-for-one replacement of the Mark-56 ... one mine might not be the answer."

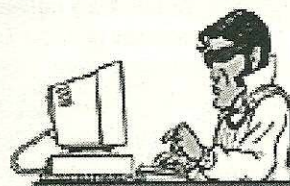
On a broader scale, Capt Dagnall noted, the service is examining how naval mines fit with the service's SeaPower-21 concept.

Options for possible future use include offensive mining to control littoral waters and defensive mining for protection of the future sea bases off which US forces are expected to operate.

By the end of fiscal year 2005 (FY05), Capt Dagnall said, the navy hopes to complete all of the analysis, review what is technically possible and define the 2010 Mine's requirements before developing an acquisition strategy in FY06. A request for information on available technology is expected to be sent to industry within the next three to four months.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY 1 DEC 04

EDITOR'S NOTES



It looks like 2004 is history. We have seen much happen in this country and in the world. Most of it good I think. It has been a distinct pleasure to edit the Dashpot another year and I look forward to 2005. I hope to interest some of the fleet units in sending articles and I will try to get informative articles as well as historic data as often as I can.

There has been a shortage of articles for the Rogues, Rascals, and Renegades column. I should like to point out that the statute of limitations has expired and it really is safe to come clean on who stole the train in Tokyo and drove it to Yokosuka. I might even be persuaded to tell Bill Roberts and Captian Brown exactly how many "O" rings were a problem in Subic that fateful MRCI for a fresh caught Full Fleet Ensign ... and then, again, I may not. I might describe the panic of Sam English in the Rome International Airport.

MINE

ASSEMBLY

NEWS



COMOMAG

By MNCS (SW) Cecil H. Fish

(Texian Cowboy)

Howdy Mates! Well, durn here in Sou Texas (COMOMAG) I whined bout the lack a rain in this here last Dashpot. But fer the last Dashpot of this year, I got cows floatin' down river for God sakes. Lets put it this way, the cows got water and plenty of grass to et, and if their not getting cow tipped by Tornadic weather, (must be one of them Texan words from Webster) we're Bar- B-Q 'um. Ain't nuthin' wrong with a good ole Bar-BQ. We just wrapped up the Thanksgiving Holidays and we're all are getting ready to endure the Christmas holidays. Boy, has this been another quick year filled with Mine Exercises, Changes of Command, Retirements, meetings, boards, MOMAU MRCI's, and TAD's to distant places, but this is what COMOMAG does best. Well, here are some of our headliners.

CDR John Dennett (COMOMAG) and MNCS (SW) Williams (MOMAG CMC) just completed a Pacific swing of MOMAU's 8, 10, and MOMAD 12. The CDR was very impressed with all three sites and enjoyed meeting their professional crews and their dedicated leadership. CDR Dennett was also the guest speaker for the MOMAU 10 Change of Command between LCDR Cross and LCDR Carpenter, which took place at the scenic Navy Marina in Okinawa. Site visits such as these enable each new COMOMAG Commodore to see first hand the capabilities of the Units and provides the headquarters with all the necessary familiarity to address MOMAG issues during their tours. The sites use these valuable visits to press their unique issues and get visibility for their crew's and missions.

The CDR and Master Chief returned to Corpus Christi just in time for Thanksgiving with their families.

COMOMAG has been looking into the future for some time now and exploring the ideas for the so-called 2010 Mine. Mine Warfare is continually reaching out, looking for the best way to do business. (See 2010 Mine article in the Fleet News section.)

Other events this Quarter:

BZ's Corner: A Bravo Zulu goes out to MOMAD 12 for being awarded a Weapons Safety Certificate from PACAF Hickam AFB HI for FY 04.

The Operations Department here at COMOMAG would like to express BZ's to all the MOMAU's/ MOMAD's for good communication efforts and the support given to complete Exercise Missions for CY04. It seems every time we had issues with any missions we all worked together to get issues resolved. Merry Christmas and have a Wonderful New Year.

Awards:

LT McGill	- Joint Service Commendation Medal
MN1 (SW) Grant	- 3Q04 Sailor of the Quarter
MN1 (SW) Cook	- Good Conduct Award (4 th)
MN2 (SW) Champion	- Good Conduct Award (2 nd)

Departures:

CWO4 Hernandez	(Retired)
LT Bowman	(Retired)
MN2 Champion	(Transferred)

Arrivals:

MN2 Renee Myers from MWTC

Well, for ending notes, let's keep in our prayers CW02 Theodore R. Forsythe from MOMAU Eight GUAM for a speedy recovery in which he suffered a stroke and is in stable condition. Again, also remember with the holidays coming up, enjoy your families, friends and loved ones, and keep those soldiers and sailors over in war zones in your thoughts and prayers. We have so much to be thankful for and I know we all stand proud. That concludes another entry from down here in South Texas, I think I'll go try to tie some antlers and a red nose on a cow and sing Rudolf the Red Nose Moo Cow, Cowboy up!!!





MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH

by LT Bart D. Hall

CO's CORNER. Greetings from Southern California! The year is almost over, but the work never ends for MOMAU One. It has been a year full of exercises with lots of extracurricular activities to go along. I'm still enjoying every day as Command Officer. The job has had its share of challenges but it just adds excitement and satisfaction.

MOMAU One will be turning over a significant amount of our experienced sailors this year. I welcome the new folks and wish the outgoing personnel Fair winds and Following Seas.

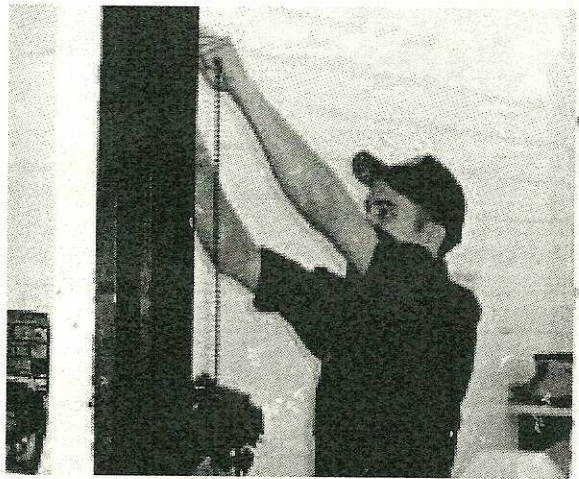
All had a great time at our annual Halloween party. Everyone put a lot of time and effort in designing and crafting their costumes. MN1 Mazurek won special liberty for the best home-made costume and MNSN Ricks won best store bought costume.



Davey Jones

MOMAU One Knott's Berry Farm day was a huge success. During the month of November active duty military and veterans got free admission. We took advantage of the small crowds during the weekday and had a great time. I think it was MMCM Zinnel and MNC Bartoli's objective to make the CO puke, but that wasn't happening.

From our family here at MOMAU One to all of your families, we wish you a joyous, safe and happy Holiday Season.



Holiday preparations.

HAILS & FAREWELLS. Hail to MNC(SW) Bartoli reporting from USS PATRIOT (MCM 7), MN2 Taylor from USS RAVEN (MHC), MNSN Creadick and MNSN Danley both report for duty from MWTC, Ingleside, TX. Additionally, we have four sailors reporting onboard within the next few months. MN3 Wagner, coming from NAS Keflavik, Iceland. MNSN Gonzalez, coming from MOMAU Eight. MN2 Ramsey from USS WAR-RIOR, MN3 House from USS BLACKHAWK and MNSN Blow is due to report from MWTC Ingleside, TX in December.



Final touches on the Christmas Tree.

Fair winds and following seas to MN3 Rains, who will be separating from the Navy in January 2005. Upcoming transfers are MN3 McFall, MNSN Ricks, MN3 Madison, MN3 Kaboskie, MNSN Bell and MN3 Golden who all will be transferring to USS PATRIOT (MCM 7) based in Sasebo, Japan. They are all very excited to continue to serve together and look forward to going overseas. Additionally MN1 Saunders will be transferring to USS SWIFT (HSV 2).

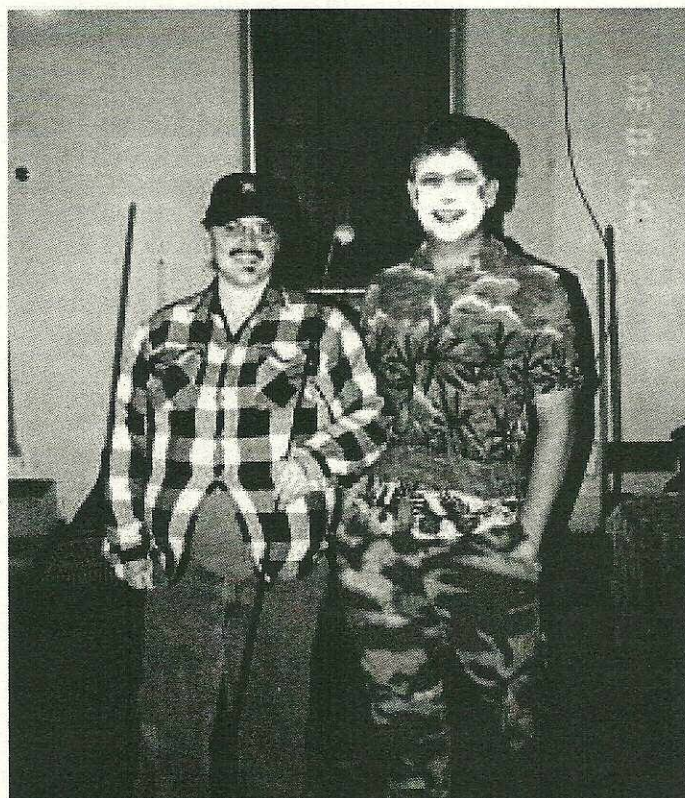


Chief Bartoli

AWARDS & RECOGNITION. BZ and well done goes out to MNSN Kiggans and MNSN Buss both were advanced to Mineman Third Class from the Sep 04 Navywide advancement examination. Congratulations to MN2(SW) Navarro for his selection as Sailor of the Quarter and MNSN Ricks for his selection as Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Bravo Zulu to MNCM(SW) Zinnel and his Mine Assembly Teams for their exceptional professionalism and expertise during the recent CVW-9 COMPTUEX and Mine plant and recovery exercise with USS CARL VINSON.

A hearty "Well Done" goes to MN3 Madison and the entire crew for contributing over \$2500 to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for MOMAU One.



The Rains

ON THE HORIZON. The Long Beach Chapter of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Assoc will host MOMAU One's children's Christmas party on 4 December 2004. We will have our command Christmas bash 10 December 2004 before going on some well deserved Holiday leave and stand down.

We continue to support C3F exercise mining requirements. As I write this, MNC(SW) Weatherholt is preparing his Mine Assembly Team for CVW-11 COMPTUEX Mine plant and recovery with USS NIMITZ. I am confident he will be as successful as MNCM(SW) Zinnel.

IN THE TARGET QUEUE. We have plenty of work to keep us busy for the next year. There are exercises scheduled as far as the eye can see and assets continue to arrive from previous exercises. We are constantly striving to make a quick turnaround to get them refurbished and back to the fleet.

Preparations for our upcoming MRCI in Apr have begun and I am confident we will continue to be successful.



MN3 Golden

**GENERALLY SPEAKING,
YOU AREN'T LEARNING MUCH
WHEN
YOUR
LIPS ARE MOVING.**

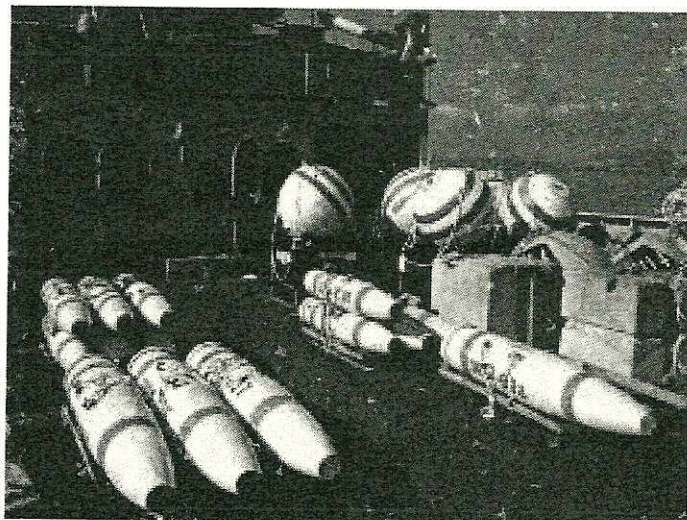


MOMAU FIVE SIGONELLA

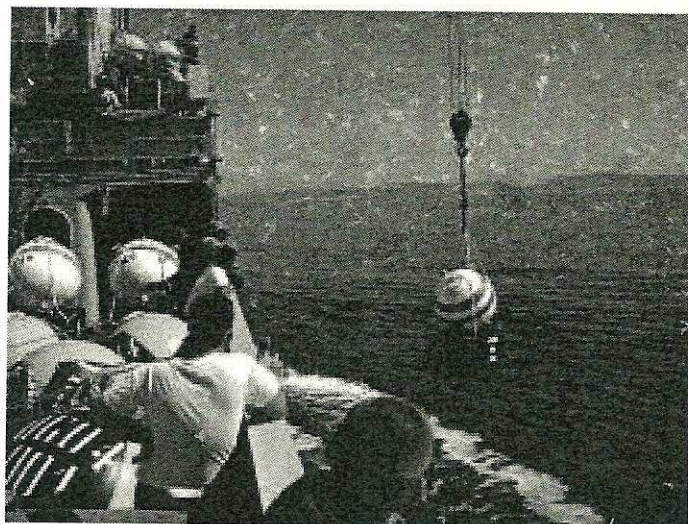
by MNCS(SW) Dave Ostrom

Buon Natale a tutti dalla squadra di UNIT 5!

The past three months out here in Sicily has seen MOMAU FIVE complete NATO Mine Warfare Exercise DESTINED GLORY 04. MNC(SW) "K.D." Dixon, MN2(SW) Rich Weldon and MN3 Lou Marroletti deployed to the Italian Minelayer ITS CAPRERA for the surface launch and recovery of 29 ET/MCMTT shapes in support of this exercise. All three members had a great experience working with our Host Nation Italian Mine Warfare experts.



INERT MK6 MSM and QUICKSTRIKE onboard ITS CAPRERA DESTINED GLORY 04



Surface Launch MK6 MSM DESTINED GLORY 04

Our new Commanding Officer, LT Evangeline Smith has checked in and taken the helm. LT Smith comes to UNIT FIVE from a very successful tour aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63).

We have completed our move from the Mine Production Operating Facility building 908 into our Transportation Facility building 907. Starting this quarter, very needed repairs to the Mine Production building will commence. Contract was awarded and our Host Nationals are ready to begin the repair and weatherproof of the buildings roof, a new deck surface laid and new ventilation system installed. These repairs are long overdue, and the crew is all smiles that in the very near future they will have an outstanding Mine Production area to work. These repairs, when completed, will enhance the new Air Compressor System, airlines and fittings that have been installed within the last two years.

It was an honor to have Rear Admiral Stan Bozin and CNOCM(SW) J.R. Smith, Commander Navy Region Europe visit MOMAU FIVE in November. Admiral Bozin and Master Chief Smith received a brief on UNIT FIVE's mission and we provided them a tour of our magazine facilities.

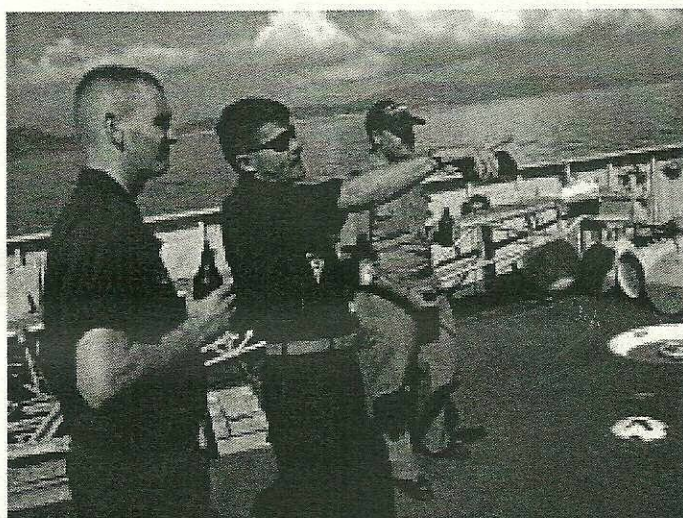
BRAVO ZULU's! to MN1 Ryan Long who was frocked to Mineman First Class Petty Officer from the September advancement exams. Our 3rd Quarter 2004 Sailors of the Quarter are MN2(SW) Rich Weldon (SOQ) and MN3 Lou Marroletti (JSOQ).

WELCOME ABOARD! to YN1(SW) Meredith Mitchell from USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71), MN3 Rich Bryan from USS RAVEN (MHC 61) and MN1 Placek from USS CORMORANT (MHC 57).

TRANSFERS: MN3 Craig Bruner to MOMAU FIFTEEN, MN3 Walter Fix to USS ROBIN (MHC 54), MN1 John Dominguez to NAVSCOLEOD, MN2(SW) Mark Floor to NRMF SIMA Ingleside TX, and MN2 Jeff Tucker to MHC CREW KILO.

In closing: this is my last submission to the DASHPOT as I am heading back to Ingleside, Texas and report for duty to MCM CREW ALPHA. I will attend the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy (SEA) and Combat Systems Senior Enlisted (CSSE) prior to arriving in Ingleside. I turn over the Mine Assembly Officer's duties and responsibilities to my good friend and shipmate MNC(SW) Keith "K.D." Dixon. These past 3 years working with these fine Sailors has been the most rewarding experience in my 22 years of naval service. Each and every day they impressed me with their motivation, desire, dedication and professionalism. They are truly OUTSTANDING Sailors! Are any of you looking for a very challenging and rewarding tour overseas? Sicily is a fascinating and unique island, of color and contrast, myth and legend. Families can take a day trip every weekend for a year and not see

everything there is to see on the Island. The experiences and memories will last a lifetime! In the window to start negotiating orders with Chief Dykes? Strongly consider a tour at MOMAU FIVE. We are the cornerstone of COMFIFTHFLT/COMSIXTHFLT Mine Warfare capability. In addition to a professional challenge, our location affords many opportunities for travel. You will work closely with our NATO counterparts during MIW training exercises, be assigned TAD to various locations throughout the Mediterranean and Europe. There are many off duty education opportunities here in Sigonella. Universities of Maryland, Embry-Riddle and Excelsior College offer many classes and several may be even completed on-line. Military housing locations continue to grow, and one of the finest DODD's schools within Europe is right here. If you are interested, drop Chief Dixon a line anytime at: dixonk@nassig.sicily.navy.mil. Stay safe, and I wish you all best wishes for continued success. *Arrivederci!*



MN2(SW) Rich Weldon, MNC(SW) K.D. Dixon and Commanding Officer ITS CAPRERA - end of recovery operations DESTINED GLORY 04



MOMAU EIGHT GUAM

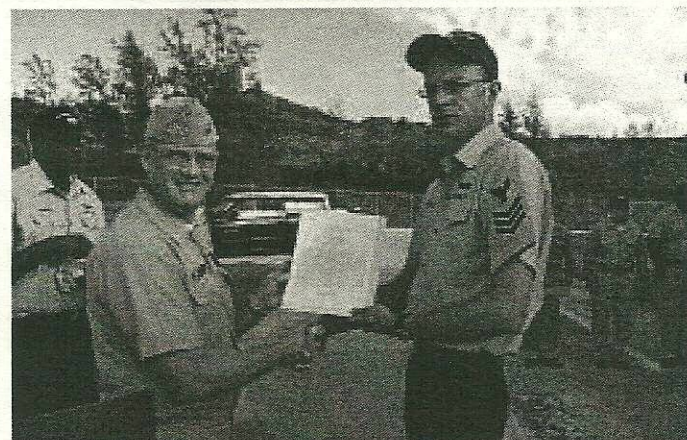
by MNCS(SW) Paul King

HAFAADA! to all! The holiday season is upon us and I know everyone out there is preparing for family and friends in this most joyous time of the year. The cold weather has begun to blow here in Guam (just kidding), but as always, we are still

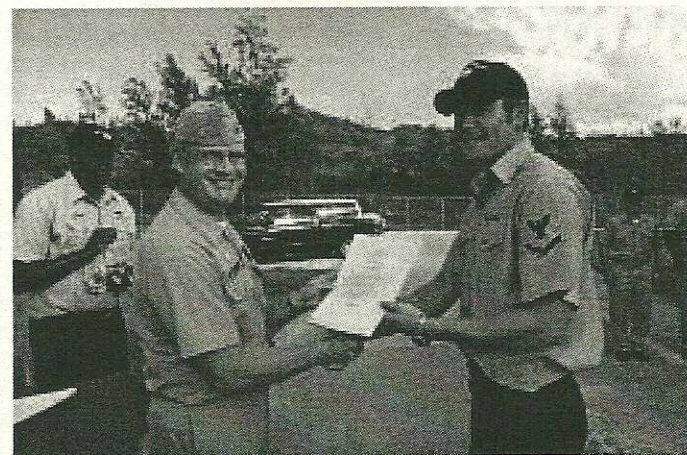
dodging Typhoons. I would like to share with you just a few of the many accomplishments that MOMAU 8 has achieved this quarter. We supported the Air Force up at Anderson AF Base by providing them with MK 62 Quick Strikes for the 04-2 Mine Exercise. MOMAU 8 has several personal achievements for this quarter. MNSN Whaley was frocked to MN3. MN1(SW) Keefer was selected as AOM Mineman of the Year.



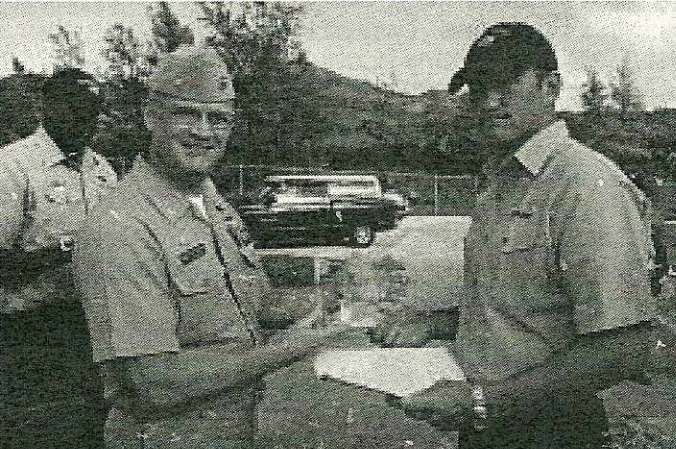
CDR Dennett (COMOMAG) presenting the AOM Mineman of the Year Award to MN1(SW) Keefer



CDR Dennett (COMOMAG) presenting MOMAU 8's Sailor of the Quarter to MN1(SW) Keefer



CDR Dennett (COMOMAG) presenting MOMAU 8's Junior Sailor of the Quarter to MN3 Ayres



CDR Dennett (COMOMAG) presenting MOMAU 8's
Bluejacket of the Quarter to YNSN Coates

MOMAU 8 had a few HAIL and FAREWELLS this quarter. MNC(SW) Crocker departed for ATG Ingleside TX. We wish him and his family fair winds & following seas. MN2 Freeman reported in from USS Dexterous (MCM 13). Welcome aboard shipmate.

MOMAU 8 would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK

by MNCS(SW) Michael A. Morus

Greetings from the Low Country!

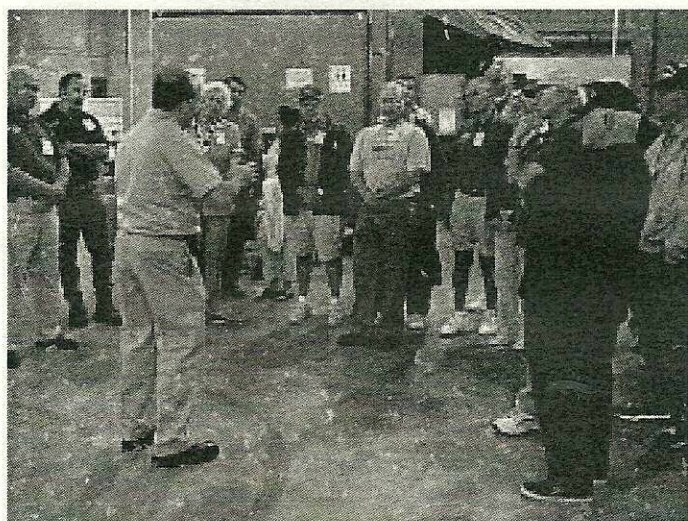
We've got a few things to report for this issue and a couple of pictures thrown in for good measure. Let me start off by saying "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to our Master Chief, MNCS(SW) David Walker. Retiring after 24 years of honorable service, he's been the rudder that kept us on course. It's been 3 years as of February since MOMAU Eleven took on the service mission for Atlantic Fleet and Master Chief Walker provided the guidance that was needed for success. Thank You Master Chief Walker.

MOMAU Eleven had the fortunate experience of having the 2004 Minemen Reunion here in Charleston. To all of you that attended we say

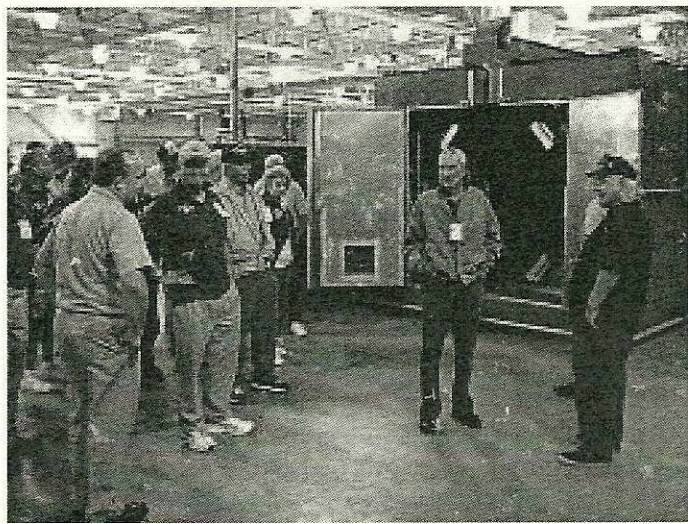
one out to the shop and we hope you enjoyed the visit. We'd like to extend our appreciation to MNCS (Ret) Dick Schommer for hosting an outstanding reunion, he did a great job setting up a memorable weekend.

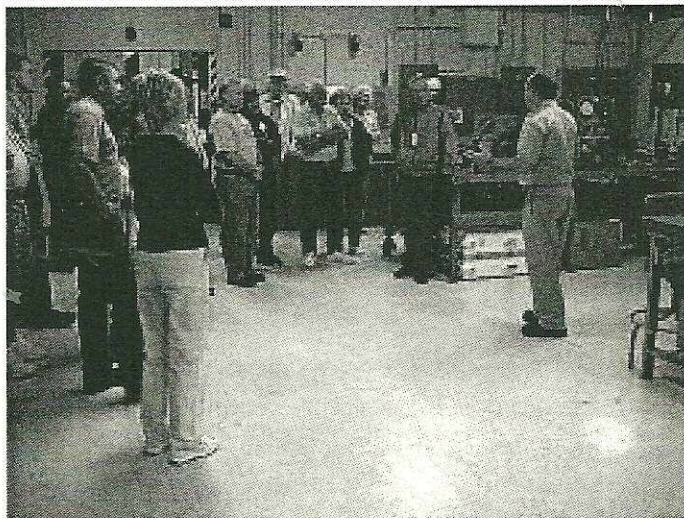


Saying Hello in the Mines Bay

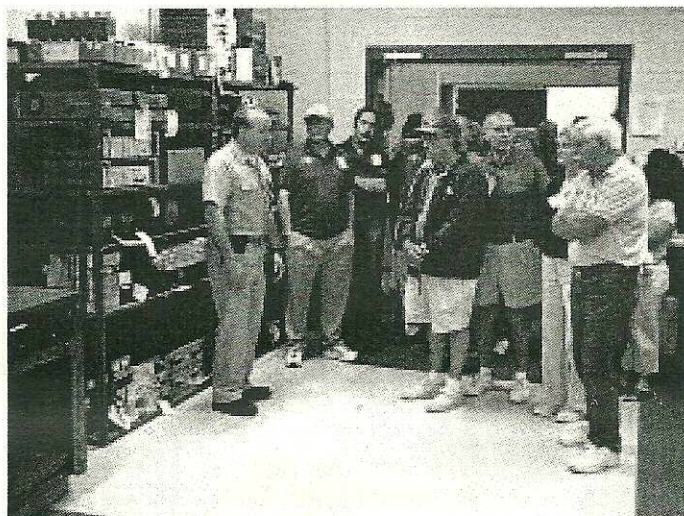


Explaining our New Paint System





The SLMM Test Cell



Test Set Repair/ Maintenance

On the home front, MOMAU Eleven deployed two Mine Assembly Teams to Brunswick, ME and Jacksonville, FL for disassembly of exercise mines that were stored on-station. The Brunswick Team consisted of MNCS(SW) Allston, MNCS(SW) Morus, Master Chief Walker, MN2 Brown and MNSN Musante. The Florida Team consisted of Gunner Traylor, MNC(SW) Collins, MN1 Watkins and MN3 Harvey. Included in our schedule for last quarter was a highly successful Technical Assist Visit conducted by Master Chief (Ret) Arnie Helgerson, CDR Bachand, Master Chief Williams and Chief Kent from COMOMAG. We'd like to extend our thanks to them for putting a second set of eyes on our programs and upgrade flows.

Departures

MNCM(SW) Walker	USS Retired
MNCS(SW) Morus	MCMROTCREW Juliet/
	USS Pioneer
MNC(SW) Boden	USS Retired
MNC(SW) Elsbury	MCMROTCREW Kilo/ USS
	Champion
MN2 Gipson	USS Civilian
MN3 Lichford	USS Patriot

Arrivals

MN2 Ledford
MN2 Warren
MN2 Smith
MNSN Lacy

From

MOMAU 5
USS Cardinal
USS Pioneer
USS Fort McHenry

Kudos

MN1 Bufano
IT2 Riley
MN2 Webb

MN2 Webb
IT2 Riley
MNSN Kline

MNSN Musante

MN3 Rishovd

MNSN Tilley

Advanced to MN1
Advanced to IT2
AOM Mineman of the Year
Nominee
Senior Sailor of the Quarter
Junior Sailor of the Quarter
Operations Dept. Hard
Charger of the Month
Operations Dept. Hard
Charger of the Month
Operations Dept. Hard
Charger of the Month
Operations Dept. Hard
Charger of the Month



MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

by LCDR Julian Wyatt

From the Desk of the Commanding Officer:
LCDR Julian Wyatt

Happy Belated Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to everyone!

From the Desk of the Mine Assembly Officer:
MNCS(SW) Michael Stultz

Congratulations to MOMAU 15's Stellar Four (4) Selectees:

MN1(SW) Jeffery McIntosh; MN2 Daniel Johnson; MN3 Robert Apple and MN3 Cassandra Ward.

A well deserved Salute to our Sailors of the Quarter:

SSOQ: SK1(SW/AW) Jerilynn Pruske; Supply Department Head
JSOQ: MN3 Cassandra Ward; Mine Assembly Technician



Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, for Mine Warfare Command, Captain George P. Croy, congratulates SK1(SW/AW) Jerylynn Pruske MOMAG Unit FIFTEEN Senior Sailor of the Quarter.



Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, for Mine Warfare Command, Captain George P. Croy, congratulates MNSN Cassandra Ward MOMAG Unit FIFTEEN Junior Sailor of the Quarter, recently frocked to MN3.

ADMIN DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: YNC(SW) James Parks

At the end of December, MOMAU Fifteen will bid farewell to YNC(SW) James Parks who will head to NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain. Since Chief Parks reporting back in July 2000, he has been at the helm of every major inspection, assist visit, NMCI transition and was instrumental in our relocation from Kingsville, Texas to Ingleside, Texas. We'll miss you Shipmate, Fair winds and Following Seas. YN1(SW) Eldrid Vistro from the USS Shoup (DDG 86) will be reporting in December and filling the Administrative billet in 2005 and beyond along with his trusty side kick, YNSN William Howard.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MN1(SW) William Andrzejewski

GOMEX 05-1 is the target on our radarscope!! This was a joint effort with MOMAU One's assistance in providing one MK 44 Shape! Operations Department is moving in leaps and bounds. From the new work order meetings, to the streamlined facilities report, and the Petty Officer Exam preparations; you continue to excel beyond my greatest expectation. Welcome aboard to MN3 Trisha Mason, who reports from Production Department. It is a pleasure to have you working with the team!

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: SK1(SW/AW) Jerilynn Pruske

Show me the money!! Our new Supply Department Head, SK1(SW/AW) J. Pruske, continues to balance the budget and keep me from going to jail. End of the quarter close out, was down to the penny! The heart of MOMAU Fifteen rests in Supply Department, no money, no assets to keep the mines going out of the door. SK2(SW) Amanda Waldrep, MN1(SW) Robert Mounsey and MN3 Richard Schmidt continue to excel in their overall performance. Thanks for all the support shipmates!!

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MNC(SW) Robert Dunbar

Does it get any better than this? Display shapes delivered to COMOMAG for the Royal Navy, Minister of Defense Visit! Refurbishment, Sonar Conditioning Check Shapes and Fleet Exercise Support continues to be a smooth operation with a quality product!! Welcome aboard to the new Production Department Head, MNC(SW) Robert Dunbar. Chief Dunbar hails from the Supply Department, right around the corner. He has turned over CEO of Supply to SK1(SW/AW) Jerilynn Pruske. Congratulations to MN1(SW) Mounsey, MOMAU 15's new MK 141/142 Data Base Manager! It was a fierce competition, but you prevailed. Nice job Ace!

QA DEPARTMENT SITREP:

MOMAU Fifteen is moving into Phase II of our Industrial Hygiene Survey (HIS) with flying colors!! Way to go all departments involved!

Welcome Aboard to the following personnel:

MN3 Craig Bruner reporting from MOMAU Five Sigonella, IT
MNSN Sandy Gardner reporting from MINEWARTRACEN Ingleside, TX
MN2 Daniel Johnson reporting from USS Gladiator (MCM 11)
MN3 David Reinersten reporting from MOMAU Five Sigonella, IT

Farewell and Following Seas to the following personnel:

MNCS(SW) Terry Hoekman transferred to MCM Crew Kilo
YNC(SW) James Parks transferred to NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain

Community Support:

A Hearty Thank you and Job Well Done to MOMAU 15 in their superb showing and overall support on 27 October 2004 in the Drug Education For Youth (DEFY), Spook Ville Halloween Carnival at North Shore Country Club in Portland, Texas. Two hundred and Fifty youth and approximately 150 parents attended this event. BZ, in overall support of the Youth Program in South Texas. I am proud of each and every one of you!!



MCM NEWS

CHIEF SELECTEES HELP REFURBISH BUILDING FOR GIRL SCOUTS

Story, photos by Mike Antoine
NAVSTA Public Affairs

INGLESIDE, TEXAS — "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" Chief Petty Officer selectees performed an extensive community service project on Sept. 15, a fitting way to end a training process that culminated in their pinning ceremony the following day.

Some, 54 CPO selectees refurbished a building that has been donated to Girl Scout Service Unit 683 by the Ingleside VFW Post 6386. The Sailors arrived at the facility before dawn, and began re-roofing the building, repairing the building's ceiling; putting up new sheetrock, painting the interior and exterior of the building, and repairing two toilets.

This community service project turned into an Ingleside community event. Some of the Girl Scouts in the unit, as well as members of Keep Ingleside Beautiful's Youth that Care (YTC), came out to help late in the afternoon.

The Girl Scouts were very appreciative of the CPO selectees efforts on their behalf.

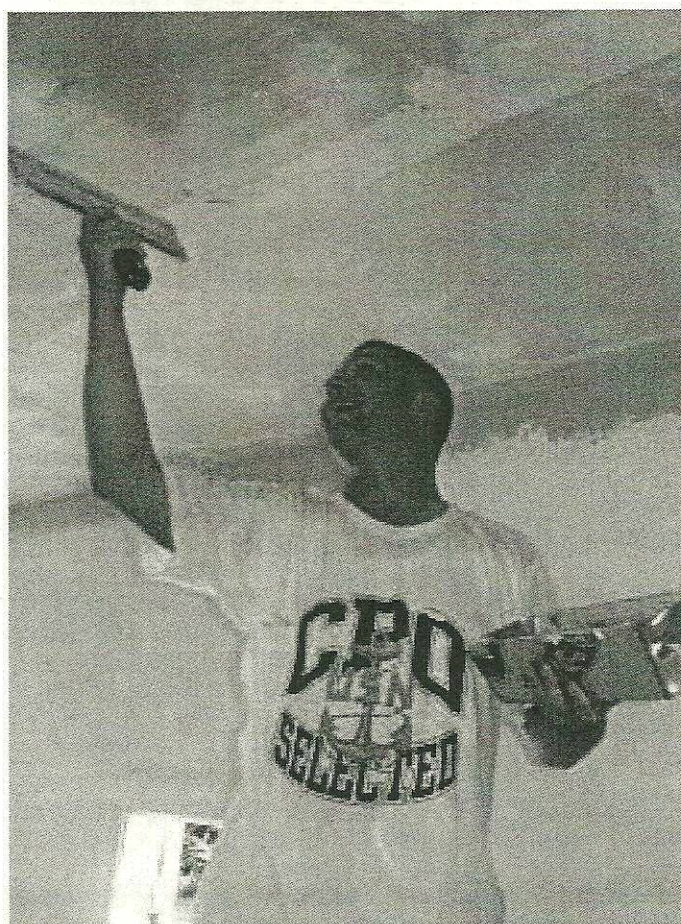
"I'm excited about getting to meet here," said 13-year-old Sarah Melcher. "Yeah," added 13-year-old Kassie Stewart, "we just had to fit into a room at a church before." Stewart's dad is MNC(SW) Philip Stewart, of USS Osprey (MHC 51).

"The selectees are doing a bang-up job," said Jane Ward, who is a member of Keep Ingleside Beautiful. "This just shows what a great partnership we have with the Navy."

"You don't get a lot of chances to help out the Girl Scouts," said HTC(SW)(Sel) Scott Tomkins, of USS Gladiator (MCM 11).

Businesses in the local community are also involved with donations. Gulf Coast Contracting oversaw the roof repairs to ensure it meets windstorm requirements. BFI donated a dumpster for debris. Moose Lodge #2063 members cooked lunch for the volunteers. All Out Septic donated the use of two port-a-potties. Roofing materials were donated by Ingleside Councilwoman Stella Hermann and Bill Coomer with Martin Homes. Others helped with donations to help pay for all the materials being used.

As a finishing touch, a plaque was affixed onto the building commemorating the involvement of the CPO selectees in the refurbishing efforts.



EMC(SW)(Sel) Michael Rebscher, of USS Robin (MHC 54), does his part to help the Girl Scouts move into their new meeting facility.



"This will be the first time ever that we have supported five MCM/MHC vessels plus their command ship, simultaneously," Betz said. "Also, the Helicopter Minesweeping Units will be bringing several additional aircraft to the activity will require 24/7 support. Our port, small craft, logistics and fueling folks will definitely be earning their pay during these next two weeks. We have been planning for this so we're ready to get it going."

Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City, located at NSA-PC, is the Mine Warfare Laboratory for the Navy and most mine countermeasure systems being used in the GOMEX were developed by NSWCPSC scientists and engineers.

"The NSA-PC Operation's areas present the Fleet with a one-of-a-kind warfare test and training venue unique to the mine countermeasure, mine hunter-killer Fleet. NSA-PC coordinates and the Warfare Center maintains several ranges in the Gulf of Mexico that offer a wide variety of mine-type simulators," Betz said. "These 'systems' are typically deployed in a manner that addresses a multitude of threat scenarios, as they might encounter in hostile areas. In addition, most of the ranges can be reconfigured to evaluate new techniques as emerging threats evolve."

Specific *Avenger* class surface units participating in the exercise include: *USS DEVASTATOR* (MCM 6), *USS SCOUT* (MCM 8), *USS CHIEF* (MCM 14), *USS SENTRY* (MCM 3), and *USS OSPREY* (MHC 51). The Sea Dragons are attached to Helicopter Mine countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) from Naval Air Station Corpus Christi located in Texas.

Avenger class ships are designed as mine hunter-killers capable of finding, classifying and destroying moored and bottom mines. The last three MCM ships were purchased in 1990, bringing the total to 14 fully deployable, oceangoing *Avenger* class ships. These ships use sonar and video systems, cable cutters and a mine-detonating device that can be released and detonated by remote control. They are also capable of conventional sweeping measures. The ships are of fiberglass sheathed, wooden hull construction. They are the first large mine countermeasures ships built in the United States in nearly 27 years.

USS Osprey (MHC 51) class ships are also designed as mine hunter-killers capable of finding classifying and destroying moored and bottom mines. The ships' hulls are made of glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) fiberglass.

Kieschnick said EOD detachments based in Ingleside, under the command of the Charleston, S.C.-based Explosive Ordnance Mobile Unit (EODMU) Six Forward, will handle underwater mine countermeasures responsibilities during the

Members of the Girl Scout troop which will be using the building for meetings watch the chief petty officer selectees repair the roof.

"Naval Station Ingleside is the Navy's Mine Warfare Center of Excellence"

GULF OF MEXICO EXERCISE PUTS NAVY TO THE TEST LOCALLY

NSA-PC Public Affairs Office

PANAMA CITY, Fla - More than 500 personnel from Naval Station Ingleside and Naval Air Station Corpus Christi will put their mine warfare training to practice Dec. 3-14, 2004 in the Gulf of Mexico.

Additionally, the High-Speed Vessel Swift 2 will pull into port Dec. 1, 2004, for training in conjunction with the GOMEX.

According to Naval Station Ingleside Public Affairs Officer Fifi Kieschnick, who is coordinating efforts with Naval Support Activity-Panama City Public Affairs, the Gulf of Mexico Exercise 05-1 gives ships, aircraft and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) divers an opportunity to work together as an integrated team.

"This will be the first time a Mine Countermeasures Squadron Staff embarks and uses *HSV2 SWIFT* as their Mine Countermeasures Command Flagship for a fully integrated MCM exercise," Kieschnick said.

The Panama City community may see an increase in Navy helicopter and ship movement due to this training exercise.

Naval Support Activity-Panama City's Operations Director George C. Betz Jr said NSA-PC port has hosted similar training exercises, like other GOMEXs in the past but this one will offer more of an operational and logistic challenge.

exercise. They include: EOD Mobile Unit Six and Detachments 2 and 4.

CAPT Jonathan Tobias, Commander, of Ingleside's Mine Countermeasures Squadron Three is the exercise's operational commander. The commodore and his staff will operate from *HSV2 SWIFT*. The purpose of GOMEX 05-1 is to provide the Intermediate Level Assessment of the Mine Countermeasures Squadron Staff and ships so they can become deployment ready.

OSPREY CO RECALLS 'DAY OF TERROR' ABOARD USS COLE

Story, photos by Mike Antoine
NAVSTA Public Affairs

On Oct. 12, 2000, terrorists blew a gaping, deadly hole into USS Cole (DDG 67), a \$1 billion guided-missile destroyer.

LCDR Derek Trinke, who recently took the helm of USS Osprey (MHC 51), remembers that day somewhat vividly. On that fateful day when a routine refueling operation became something else altogether, he was a lieutenant on board as the ship's operations officer.

"We were scheduled to just get in and get out of the Port of Aden (after refueling), and head for the Persian Gulf for the next four months," said the Holliston, Mass. native.

"Twenty-five U.S. Navy ships had already been in and out before us," he continued. "I was performing safety observer duties on the ship's foc'sle as we pulled into the port, and moored alongside a concrete dolphin (a waterborne platform) in the harbor."

According to Trinke, the mooring operation took longer than usual. It turned out that his commanding officer, CDR Kirk Lippold, had some trouble trying to convince the Harbor Pilot to let them turn the ship around so it would be facing the harbor opening during refueling. Eventually, the ship was moored and the fuel hoses were attached. It was shortly after 11 a.m.

"I went for some chow," Trinke recalled.

One deck down and about 100 feet aft, hungry crew members were standing in the mess line as other crew members were already chowing down on the mess decks.

Suddenly, a routine refueling became anything but.



"I was sitting at the table in the wardroom when 'it' happened," Trinke recalls. "The sound (of the explosion) was absolutely tremendous — lights went out, and pictures frames fell off the bulkheads as the ship lurched sideways."

Trinke says his first thought was that perhaps a fuel line explosion had occurred.

After going topside, he knew better.

"The smell — the direction of the push — I realized we had been attacked — and we wondered if another attack was coming.

"At one point I had a shotgun in my hands — then I realized, 'this is silly.' I had to get below and try to get a message out, so I gave the weapon to someone else."

While provisions were being made to get the wounded off the ship, Trinke headed to the ship's Combat Information Center to get a message out — but there was no power.

According to Trinke, they wound up calling Fifth Fleet from a borrowed cell phone.

"I left CIC and went back to the bridge," he continued. "I talked to harbor control — told them not to move any ships. 'We considered ourselves under attack. They complied.'"

The Cole had been seriously damaged.

"Fortunately, there were no fires, but flooding was a concern," he said. "The forward engine room was totally flooded to the waterline; and the aft engine room was getting water through bulkheads."

As badly as the ship was damaged, the costliest damage was done to ship's personnel — 17 dead, dozens wounded. Help arrived rather quickly, according to Trinke.

"The French sent a medical team right way, and transferred our wounded to a shore facility." He added that the British helped out, too.

We were fortunate that our ship had one IDC, our command master chief was a former HM and IDC," Trinque continued. "Plus we had our regular corpsman and a striker who'd been working in 'medical' a couple of months."

The injured were taken off the ship with a rigged makeshift brow; casualties being let down lines on stokes stretchers.

According to Trinque, many of the casualties had been working in the galley, or standing in the mess line or eating. "The galley was totally destroyed," he said. Four of the Sailors killed were in the engineering spaces at the time of the explosion.

USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) and USS Hawes (FFG 53) soon arrived and stayed with Cole in its time of need, and ferried supplies to the stricken ship. More U.S. ships showed up in the following days. In addition to American and British ships, Cole personnel received help from the Marine Security Team and SEALs.

A nearby ship had set up an e-mail account for Cole; and crew members were ferried 10 at a time periodically to give them a "breather" from the ship.

U.S. Fifth Fleet sent water, satellite phones, and food. The crew stood in long lines waiting for their chance to use the phone to call worried loved ones at home. When Trinque's turn came up, he got a recording, but left a message. Later when more phones became available, he was able to call his wife and speak to her "live."

"I later learned that Heather (his wife) had gotten a call from her sister about the attack. She was teaching class, and the administrator allowed her to go home early.

"That first night," Trinque continued, "there was a lot of 'I heard that so and so is missing or that so and so was killed' — I just told the guys that hey — yes — there were casualties — but we needed to stay focused. We all knew each other," Trinque said. The ship's complement is around 300 — seven of the casualties worked for him.

In about a day, according to Trinque, the ship had air conditioning, sewage, water, and electricity restored to most areas of the ship. "The aft third of ship was completely habitable; at that point we were just keeping flooding from progressing."

A little more than two weeks later, Cole was towed westward down the coast of Yemen, about 70 miles, to get ballasted up to Blue Marlin.

The crew boarded USS Tarawa (LHA 1), which took them to Oman.

"The Marine Corps helicopters embarked on Tarawa flew us into Oman three days later," he said. "We were put on a charter plane to Norfolk, with a stop over in Germany," Trinque said.

The ship was eventually towed to Pascagoula for \$250 million in repairs. A year later Cole was back in the water, and just recently returned from a deployment. During the repair period, crew members either transferred to other ships or were sent to schools. A few members of the crew who were on board during the attack were crew members during the recent deployment.

Trinque left the ship in June 2001, reporting for duty aboard USS Normandy (CG 60) as Operations Officer.

He said that several crew members did experience — and got treatment for — post traumatic distress syndrome.

"It's helped me put things in perspective," he continued. "Sometimes, when I feel like I'm having a 'bad day' — I remember what a really bad day is."

He and his family like South Texas. "Portland's a nice community to live in," he said. "And I'm impressed with how the ships here seem to go out of their way to help each other. They really stick together."

Trinque, who took the helm of Osprey on Sept. 24, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1992, with a bachelor's degree in political science. He also has a master's in international management from the University of Maryland (1998); and a degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College (2003).

Trinque said he's been fascinated with the Navy since his childhood days, during which he spent part of it listening to the stories of his grandfather, who had been a radar operator on a cargo ship in the Pacific during World War II.

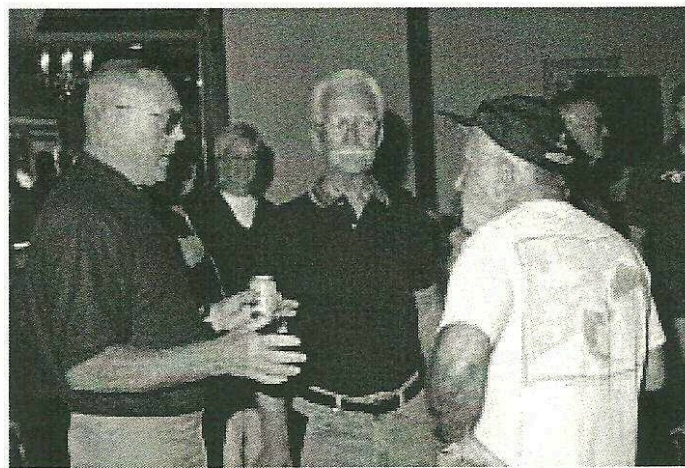
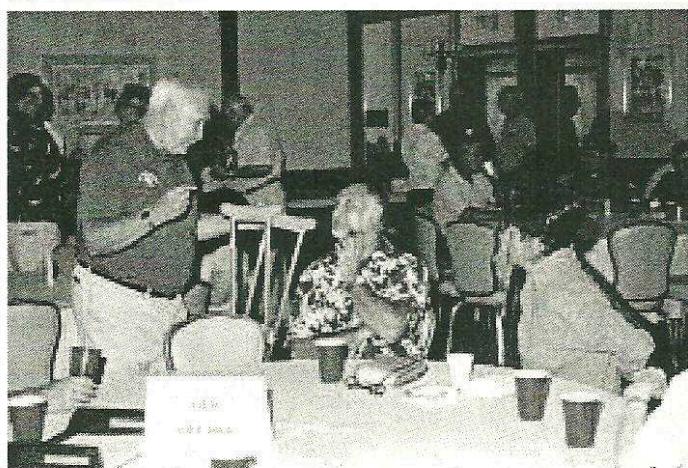
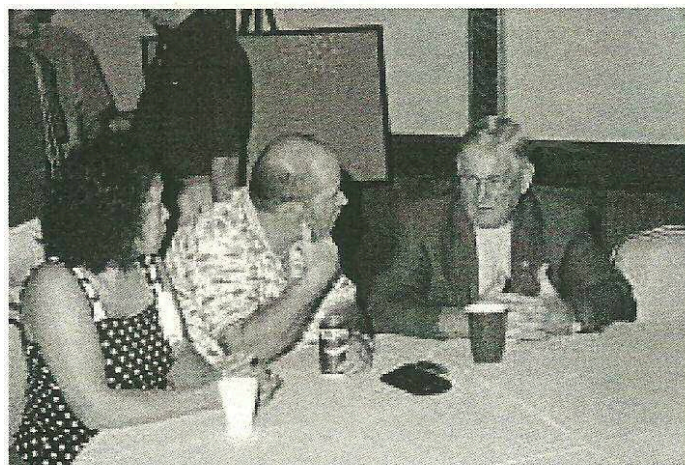
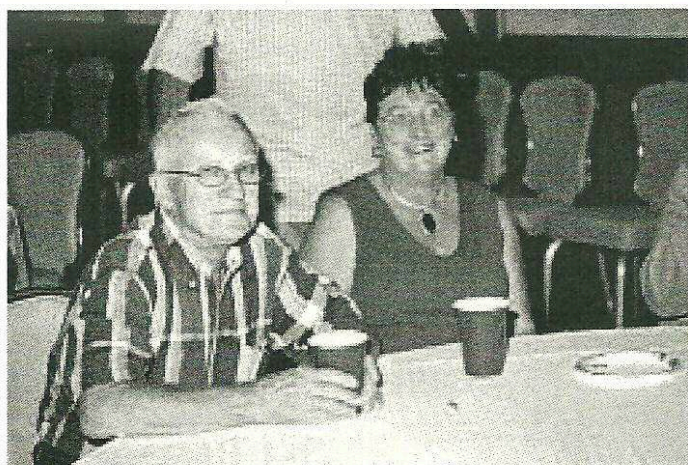
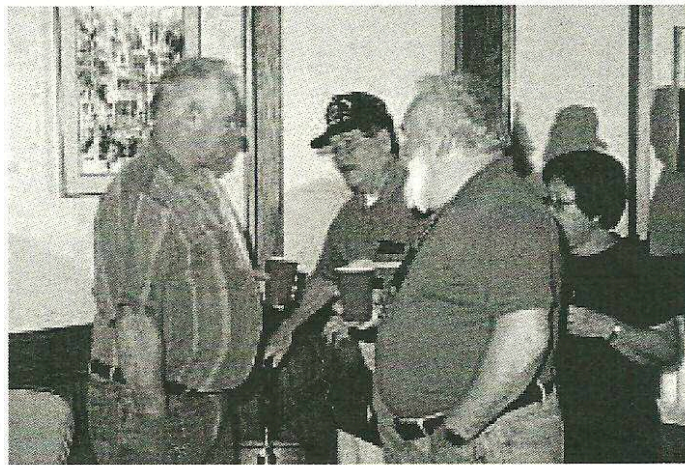
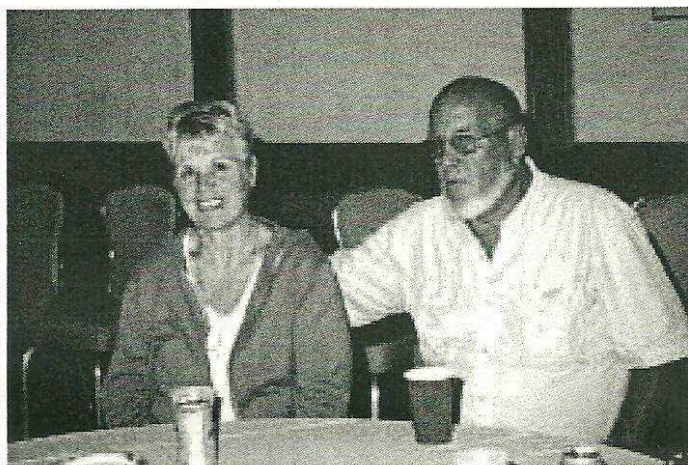
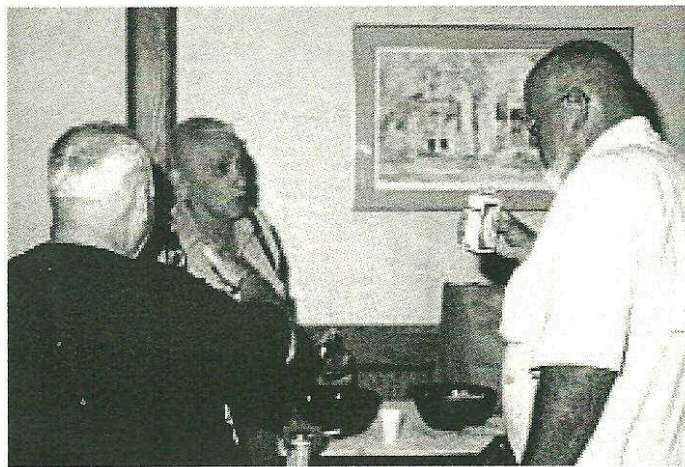
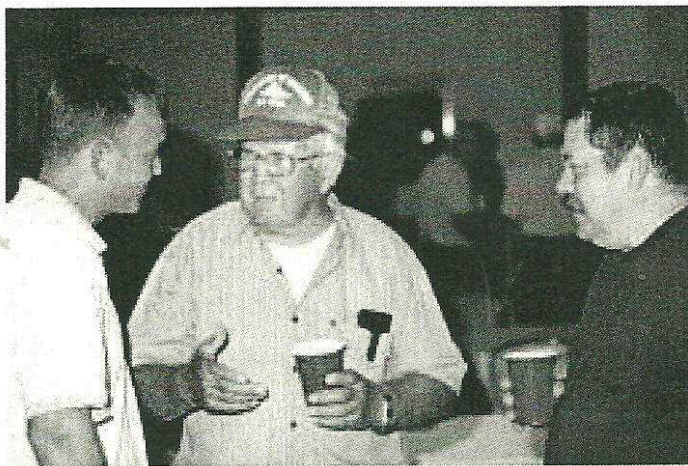
Trinque and his wife have two children: Katherine (age 2), and Jonathan (age 6 months).

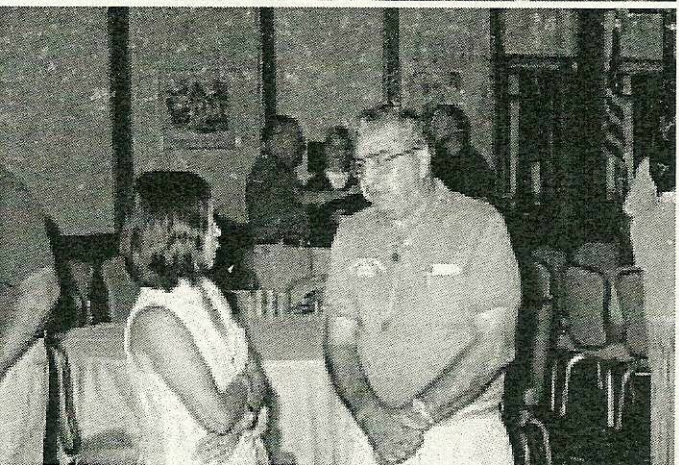
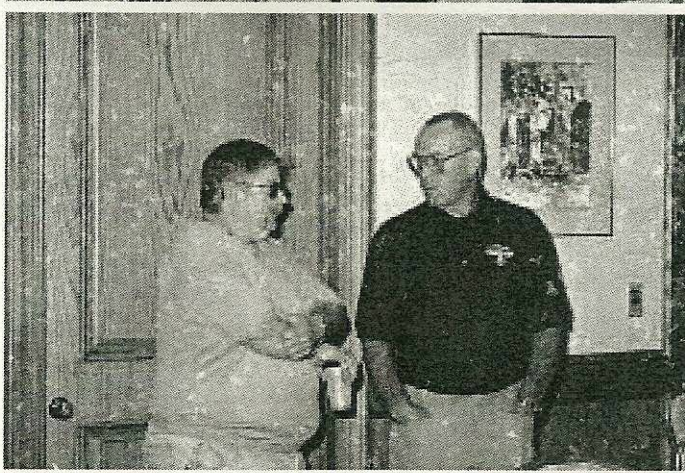
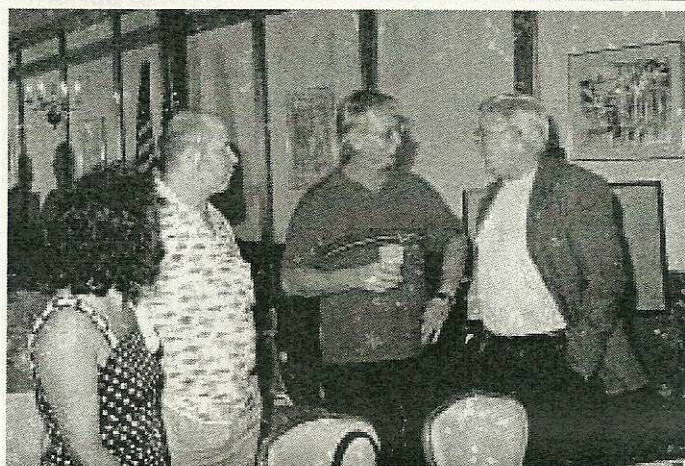
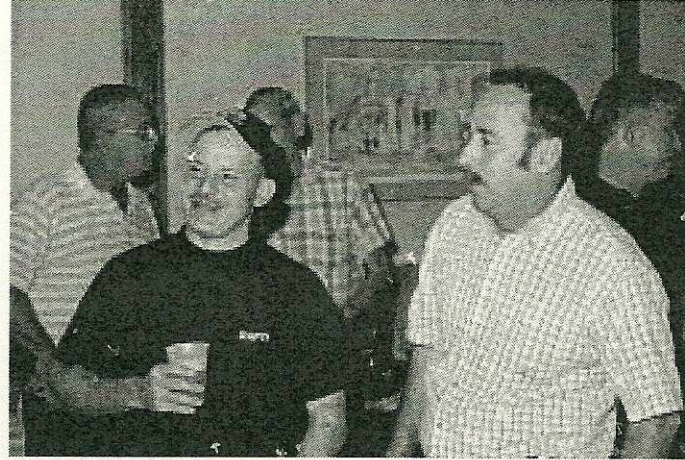
They won't understand for awhile, but one day they're going to realize how blessed they really are to have a daddy.



LCDR Derek Trinque, Commanding Officer,
USS Osprey (MHC 51)

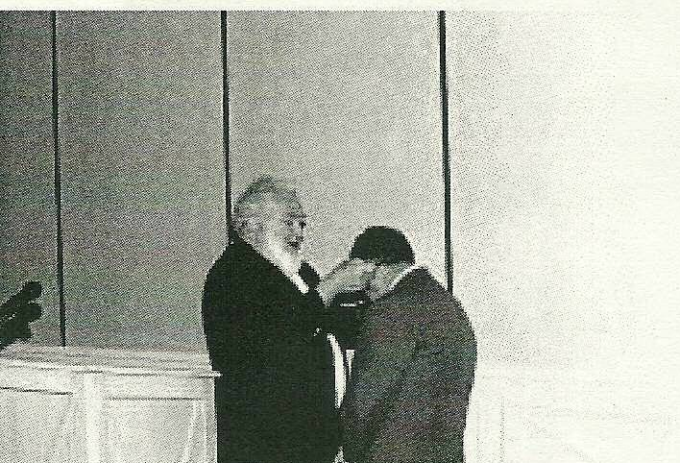
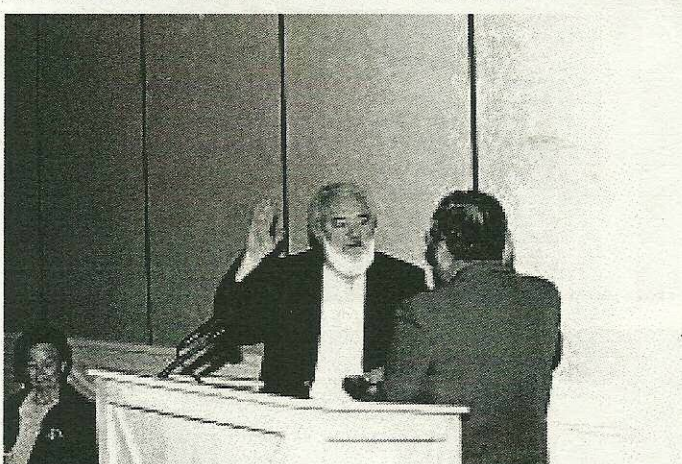
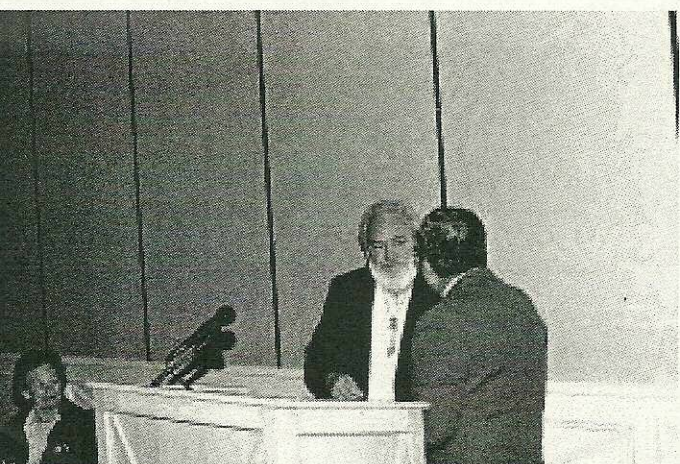
AOM REUNION 2004 EARLY BIRD - DOUG DELONG

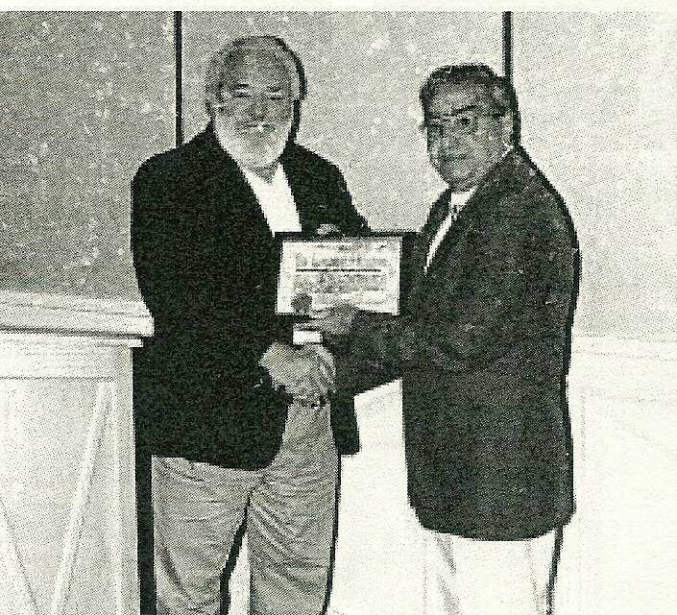
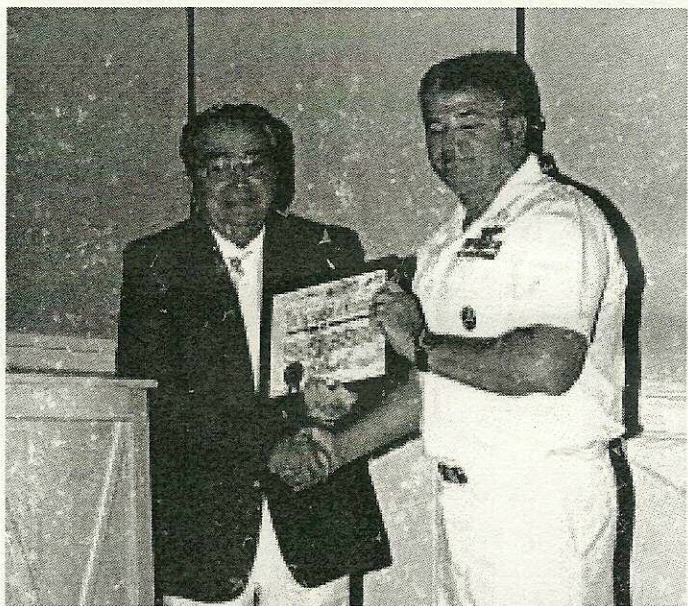
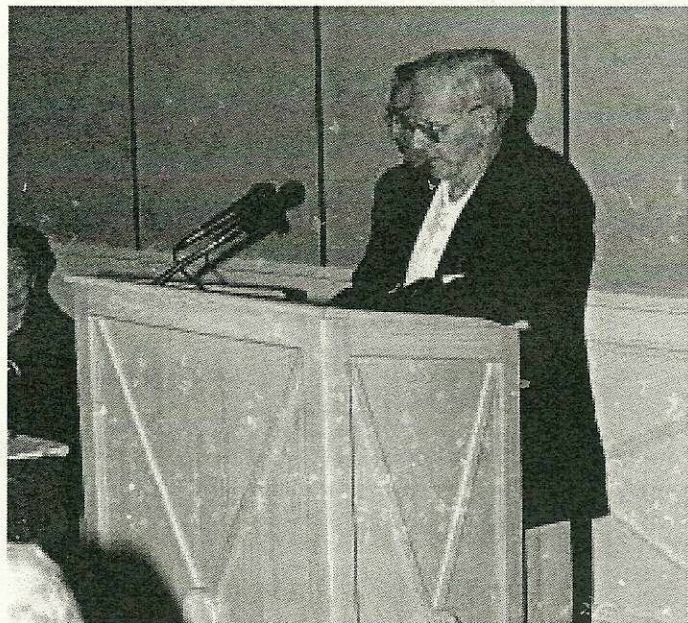
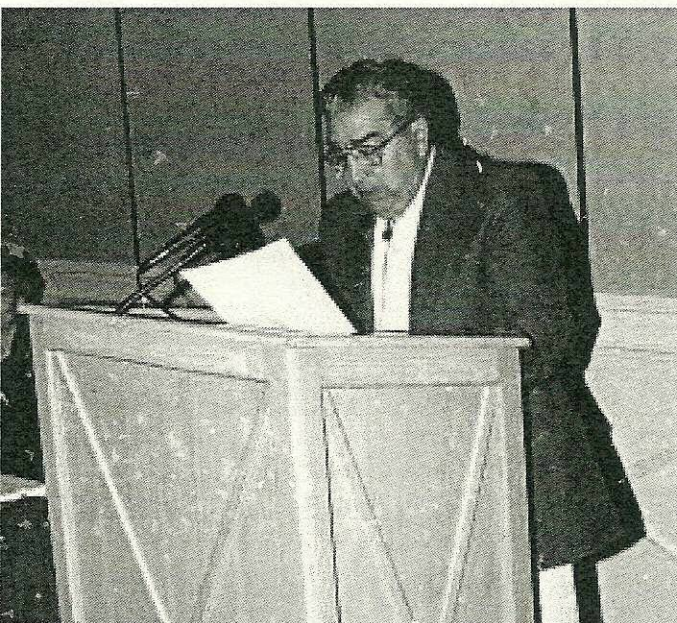




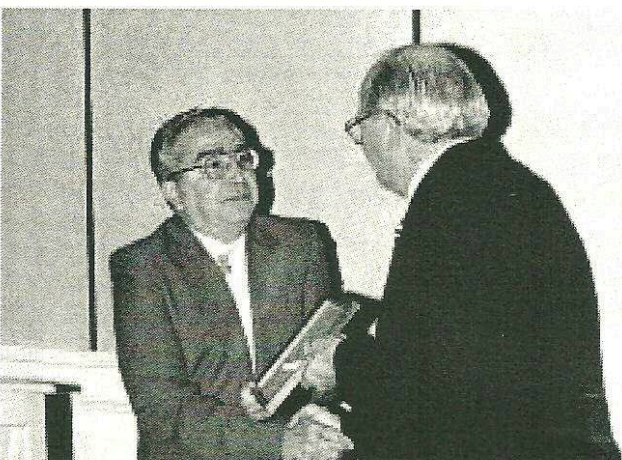
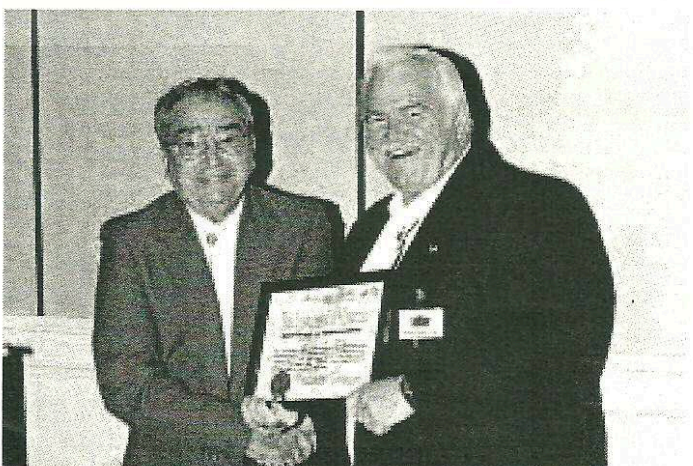
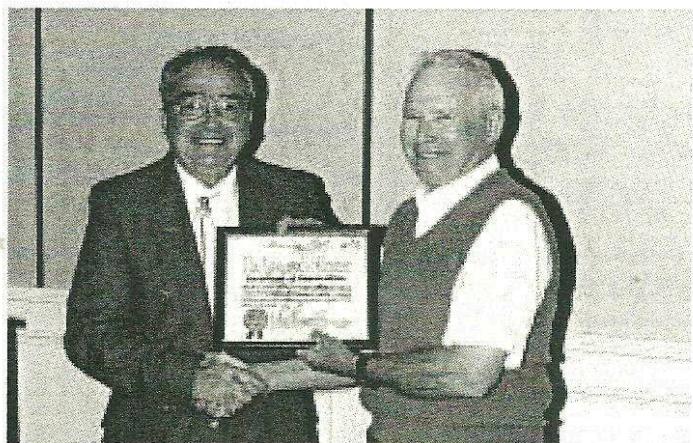


AOM REUNION 2004 DINNER MEETING - D. DELONG





AOM REUNION 2004 DINNER MEETING - D. DELONG

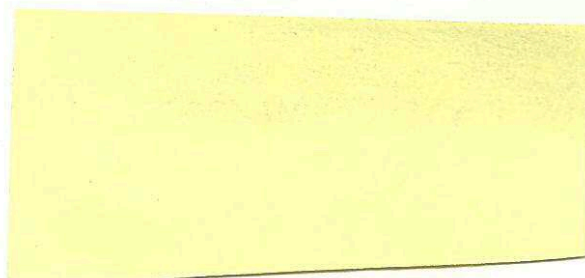


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