



The DASHPOT



Issue 52 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Winter 2005



FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

Another great year and successful reunion has come and gone, but certainly will not be forgotten. Has anyone seen "Mac"??? We need to tell him that he missed a wonderful dinner and a great job by our "Guest Speaker" who refused to pay any ransom for one of our members, namely "Mac" McCarthy.

At this time I would like to offer a "Bravo Zulu" to Master Chief Mineman Jerry Williams and Ron Swart for their exceptional Co-Chairperson efforts in hosting our 31st annual reunion in Corpus Christi. Master Chief Williams filled in as "Guest Speaker" in the absence of CDR J. Dennett and Ron Swart was the "Master of Ceremony" for the Banquet Dinner. You both did a "superb" job!!! Thanks again. The weather cooperated after "Rita" and the reunion and picnic were enjoyed by all in attendance. Several members took advantage of the tour offered to the MCM ship and Mineman Class "A" school facilities. Also, a special "Thank You" to Senior Chief Mineman Mike Stultz and his MOMAU 15 "Volunteers" for their efforts in making sure the picnic was a huge success.

Welcome and congratulations to our three board members: Robert N. Hart (05-08), Walter W. Peters (05-08) and William Fortner (05-06). Bill Fortner was appointed to fill the vacancy created when Philip Mocalis passed on. My heartfelt thanks to all Association Officers, Directors and Committee Members for your efforts and contributions this past year to make our Organization work for its members.

This years two (AOM) Minemen of the year awardees were announced: Active: MN1 (SW) Stephen McQueen, USN, USS Gladiator and Reserve: MN1 Ernesto Ruiz, USNR, NRMOMAU. 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.

Congratulations to Master Chief Mineman Dave Walker for being the lone recipient of the "Clock Cockers Award" for the year 2005. Well Done Master Chief for your service.

The Association would like to "Thank" all members and guests who brought items for the auction and those who generously "bid" on them. Also I want to "Thank" each and everyone who contributed time and monies to all of our programs this past year. Without your generosity and unselfish contributions our Association would not be solvent. A special acknowledgement is in order for the anonymous donor of three thousand dollars (\$3000.00) to the scholarship fund so that six additional applicants could be awarded (\$500.00) each. Thank you again MR. ANONYMOUS.

Our 2006 reunion will be in Panama City, Florida, Oct. 20th, 21st and 22nd with Mr. Ron Swart again heading up the organizing. Also our membership overwhelmingly voted for the 2007 reunion to be in San Diego, CA with Mr. Warren Savage and Mr. Gary Cleland, organizing that one.

As the Holidays surround and overwhelm us, Patti and I want to wish all of you a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year. May God Bless all of you and your families and God Bless America. Bill J.

2006 AOM REUNION IN PANAMA CITY, FL OCTOBER 21 THROUGH 22

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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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ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held 22 Oct. 2005 in Corpus Christi Texas.

Some entries are taken from the BOD meeting.

The president called the meeting to order at 0837 hours.

Minutes of the meeting held in Charleston were read and accepted with the following change to be made:

The word scholarship CD should be changed to read Presidents Challenge Scholarship CD.

The President reported on correspondence received.

The Treasurers report was given and accepted.

The Treasurer asked that the fiscal year be changed to begin 1 Oct. each year and that dues expire on Oct. 30 each year. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Paul asked about having the treasurer and the co-owners of the bank account bonded. It was decided that we should have three members on the account vice two. Robert Stancik will be added to the account. Stancik will check with the credit union about bonding and insurance for the BOD.

The president asked about our membership count. We have 257 members and 335 on the mailing list.

A motion was made to have two active duty members on the BOD. They may be appointed by the commands at the Host City each year. The motion was passed.

A motion was made to have a marketing committee established consisting of three people. Motion Passed. Robert Wilson will chair the committee.

A motion was made to move the "North Sea Barrage" table from MOMAU 11 in Charleston to Panama City, FL. The motion was passed.

The nominating committee nominated Walter Peters and Robert Hart to serve another three years on the BOD. There were no further nominations from the floor. Peters and Stancik will serve until 2008.

The President appointed William Fortner to fill in the vacancy left by Philip Mocalis.

Ron Swart reported on the 2006 reunion in Panama City, FL. The dates will be 20, 21, 22 Oct 2006.

Swede Carlsen reported on the scholarship awards given this year. We awarded 13 scholarships. Six (6) awards from our scholarship funds, one (1) from Mr. Branan's memorial fund, and six (6) from an anonymous donor. Secretary's note—this anonymous donor also put \$2000.00 in our president's scholarship CD.

After a discussion it was decided to give the Mineman (active and reserve) one-year free membership to the AOM.

Paul stated that the AOM owned the mold for the Presidents medallion.

Warren Savage reported on the USS Midway mine display.

A motion was passed to have a committee for the USS Midway mine display. The motion passed. Warren Savage will chair the committee.

Warren Savage will handle the 2007 San Diego reunion arrangements.

Paul reported that Ron Swart would relieve him as storekeeper.

Dick Schommer stated that he would check with Bill Mehard about the ownership of the mold for the Mineman of the Year plaque.

A motion was made and passed, to invite the sailors from the host city to the picnic each year and have the AOM pick up the tab.

At 1245 hours, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Christian



The dreaded Pastel Zebra Moose found only in parts of New Hampshire.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Curtis Christian

Hope this finds everyone safe at home with only thoughts of the good times at the reunion.

We picked up a few new (and most needed) members at Corpus Christi. Thanks to all who put in a few good words for us.

Our Storekeeper Paul sold \$700.00 in goods for us. BZs Paul. You left Ron a hard act to follow. (SMILE)

The auction took in \$1,142.50. As you know half goes to the operating fund and half to the scholarship fund. Thanks to all who brought the good stuff to auction.

As you will see in the minutes, dues will now be due in Oct. each year. I have changed all records to show the new expiration date.

See you next year in Florida.

Curtis



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

by Swede Carlsen

I just finished reading a Special Report in the Nov 14, 2005 issue of "Business Week" magazine. Basically, it's about young college graduates and their financial condition. An example is a young lady who graduated from college in 1997. She attained a business degree and \$20,000 in student loans. She is paying off her loans, \$300 a month, at that rate it will take her until she's about 50 years old to get off that "Dead Horse" she's riding. According to official reckoning she is a typical graduate. I personally know of two graduates whose loans are three times as much. A graduate students debts are much, much more.

The AOM helped 13 scholarship applicants in 2005. So far, \$1,071.18 has been raised for the 2006 assistance scholarships.

The holiday for giving will soon be here. Why not give a little to the scholarship funds, Presidential or General. This would be a way to give some much needed relief to our debt ridden college students.

STAND TALL AMERICA

KUDOS TO REUNION WORKERS

The Association of Minemen thank the personnel who helped make the 2005 AOM Reunion a success.

MOMAU 15

412 Coral Sea Road
BLDG 500
Ingleside, Texas 78362

Picnic and Tours

MNCS(SW) Michael Stultz
YNC(SW) Eldrid Vistro
MN1(SW) Scott Kopelwitz
MN1(SW) Isidro Beltran
MN1(SW) James Cooks
MN2(AW) Sheree Stevens
MN3 David Reinertsen
MN3 Louis Marroletti
MN3(SW) Mark Owens and brother-in-law, Andrew Shifflett

COMOMAG

275 5th Street
BLDG 36
Corpus Christi, Texas 78419

Tour Driver

MN1(SW) Renee Myers

USS Scout (MCM 8)
AA 34093-1928

Ship Tour Guide

MN1(SW) Gerald Crain

MWTC

330 Coral Sea Drive
Ingleside, TX 78362

School Tour

MNC(SW) Shawn Bee

Without the help of these commands and these people, and perhaps many more unnamed, who selflessly gave of their time and talent and worked so hard the reunion would not have been the success and pleasant experience it was. The AOM wishes to extend our thanks and a hearty "Well Done" for your help with the reunion and your service to the Navy and our country.

**AN ELEPHANT IS A MOUSE
BUILT TO GOVERNMENT
SPECIFICATIONS.**



FROM THE WEBMASTER

Below are recently changed or added e-mails on the AOM WEB Site. There have been several inquiries about e-mail addresses on the AOM WEB Site that are bouncing. If you are listed on the site please check to see if your address is correct. If changes are required or you wish to be listed on the site e-mail me the information at pdechene@triad.rr.com. Phil DeChene AOM WEB Master

E-Mail - Active Duty

CWO2 Jim East; GunnerJim@gmail.com; james.east@stennis.navy.mil

E-Mail - Reservist

Carrie Williams, MNCS (AW/SW); airhug@ite.net

E-Mail - Retired

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Jim McGoldrick, MNCS; jim.mcgoldrick@navy.mil
James R. Coffman, MN1; jcoffman11@juno.com
Roy (Nick) Willey, MN1; oransay@cox.net

E-Mail - Ex-Mineman

Shawn Kerr, MN3; ShawnKerr@Zoominternet.net

Recognize Yourself In this Rogue's Gallery?



Iwakuni, Japan July 12, 1968

First row, from left to right; MN3 W. R. McMillion, MN1 J.J. Sbei, LCPO MNC L.M. Siluk, Department Head and Mines Division Officer LT. K.T. Ahlstrom, Assistant Mines Division Officer WO1 E.R. Jones, MNC B. L. Bishop, MNC L.E. Lee, MN3 G.L. Gray, MN3 P.D. Weaver.

Second row, left to right; MN3 J.L. Meeks, MN2 A.P. Kirkwood, MN3 C.S. Ewer, MN1 J.R. Cottrell, MN3 J. M. Willis, MN3 B.E. Swenson, MN3 G.R. Donaldson, MN2 S. J. Kelly.

Third row, left to right; MNSN E.L. Kinder, MN2 B.W. Luker, MN2 B.H. Tyrrell, MNSN K. E. Hirst, MN2 N.S. Canfield, SN D.W. Gmeiner, MN2 J. Sapien, MN2 A. A. Bauer, MN1 D. P. Allgor.



NUCLEAR TEST PARTICIPATION



by John Loonam

Here are some facts given to me by Ed Oyer yesterday. You can put it on the website and in Dashpot. He would like to get it to any MN that participated in the tests. The source is Ed. (Ed does not have a computer so he is not on the net)

After many years (first letter to government was in 1973) of badgering government officials, Ed Oyer was able to get some response to document that he had participated in the Pacific Atomic Bomb tests on board USS Shea, a Destroyer Minelayer. The AOM website www.home.triad.rr.com/aom/index/htm has an article by Phil Dechene describing his participation in Operation Hardtack, a nuclear test in the Pacific. Ed was concerned that future health problems for himself or his children could be connected to exposure to radiation sustained during the tests. He was amazed that his military records do not show he participated in the tests. He contacted several government officials by phone and mail to attempt to get documented he had participated in nuclear tests. Finally, three months ago, he was referred to The Veterans Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction. Their toll free number is 866-657-8237. Ed was told to document his participation and submit it to them. Ed did so and received a 10 page claim response from Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Ft. Belvoir, VA. The toll free number is 800-462-3683 and they are on the net at WWW.DTRA.mil. Ed said the 10 page report had it down to radiation levels derived from detection badges worn by select individuals during the tests. The report verified Ed was one that participated and levels of his exposure. He stated he did not understand the meaning of the readings and was contacting the nuclear section down at Newport News, Northrop/Grumman, shipyard for a layman's description. Ed was ecstatic that finally someone put it in print that he had participated and what he was exposed to. The man in charge is a retired Vice Admiral, Medical Service Corps. Anyone exposed in any way should contact the above agencies and get their own personal report for their family medical history. Ed would be happy to answer questions on this subject at 757-887-3219

I see Ed every month at the old farts luncheon and he does not appear to glow green.

Take care and enjoy your day

John



MAIL BAG

10-27-05

I was stationed at the Darwin, Australia Mine Assembly Base in 1944 and 1945. The base was shut down in 1945 and we moved to Manus Island for several months. From there I was assigned to Pearl Harbor for three months in 1946. Anyone still around from any of these bases?

Paul Culotta

Mr. Carlsen,

September 16, 2005

I offer my gratitude for the gracious Association of Minemen Scholarship award. The award will be very helpful for paying my educational expenses. Being in narrow financial straits, the award is very timely.

My return to college so late in life (currently age 48) occurred as much because of the changing vocational opportunities in the modern world as because my declining health forced me to look for new career opportunities. I have been triply impacted by disabling health issues that prohibited me from doing the work that I have previously done. Diabetes by itself would have demanded few work changes, but on top of that I also have damaged my wrists from a lifetime of hard labor. And that more than anything prevents me from doing the work I expected to do until retirement. I have had some corrective surgery that has alleviated the worst symptoms but any manual labor is no longer possible for me.

I am in the UNC Wilmington Creative Writing program as a junior and feel that achieving a Master's Degree in creative writing will promote my career opportunities and benefit the country. I already have some small successes and am building an audience so writing seems to be a natural direction for me to take.

I have enjoyed Dad's anecdotes about his time as a Mineman. I have always been proud of the US Navy and the Mine Forces, even during the turbulent '70s.

Thank you and Respectfully yours.

John F. Loonam Jr.

**All people smile
in the same language.**

— Author Unknown

27 sept 05

Trist passed away second week in September. I represented the US Navy in dress blues. Only uniform there.

A lot of Minemen and civilians knew him.

Ed Oyer
9-21-05

ODE to TRIST

He gave it his best in whatever and all,
Never to ever stumble, hesitate or fall.
On his mind so much of the times
The ardent passion for underwater mines.
We all always know what NMEF meant,
Naval Mine Engineering Facility, hellbent.
When he assumed the top title of TD,
Every T was crossed, I dotted, that to be.
A prime reason for him not to fail
Was his penchant for every detail.
Then when he put civil service aside,
Civics became that which to abide.
When he said, a mayor I want to be,
I quickly replied, I'll be proud of thee.
Our paths first crossed the year of '63,
A fortunate event that was for me.
On occasion be met with our crony bunch,
To partake in our group monthly lunch.
A gentlemen always so proper and prim,
Cordiality was the trademark ever with him.
With that, my shipmate and friend, if you please,
I extend to you fair winds and following seas.

Ed Oyer
James City

August 29, 2005

Hey,
I'm hoping you can get my new home address to the Secretary. Isabel got the old home place, so I had to sell. I've moved to an apartment. New address:
Joyce Bright
300 Bridge Ct. #103
Camden, NC 27921
Phone #252-338-1963

I don't believe I have been receiving the Mineman newsletter, I really enjoyed getting them, so I could keep up with everyone.

Thanks,
Joyce

Hi Yu-All.

I guess that a few years ago I (We) attended the last Mine-Men Reunion that we shall ever attend, but I would like to maintain some-sort of a contact with yu-All. Reasons 1. My wife Nell is ex-

tremely sickly, must be on oxygen at all times, cannot walk alone by Herself hardly at all, and requires about twenty kinds of medicines every day. I am somewhat in better condition, but have a very painful spinal problem, that the Docs tell me is unfixable, my left foot likes to give up on me due to severe damage I acquired in the Navy, to say nothing about the wounds I acquired during Pearl Harbor and another off Algiers.

I got introduced to mines and mining in Pearl Harbor, in a sort of school about where the control tower is, or was, thirty years ago, by a CPO (whose name I do not remember, who Later on was a full Commander in the Asia area and I understand received quite a few medals) while I was on TAD from the USS Aylwin DD 355. I received two bullets in my chest during the attack in Pearl, but did not know it for a period of time. As we had all the Medical Dept. ashore, I just washed off the blood, and put a couple of bandaids over the two holes and continued to do my job. I, as a 2nd Class Gunner's Mate, was the senior man on board in the Gunnery Dept.. When I was sent to the Pearl Harbor Hospital the Doc looked at me and said you are not badly hurt go on back to duty, as I did and after a bit I was transferred to Mine War school as a teacher, then to the USS Salem (an ex Ferry boat) being used as a mine layer, and Ammo Ship. We could make 5 knots Max speed if the wind was with us, but did get over to the Algiers area as we took the place. The Germans did not like the idea of losing the place and sent over a number of 4 engine bombers, one of which came down low behind me as I was directing gun fire into the City and put a machine gun bullet just under the skin just over the left hip bone and out again. No big deal this time. Later when The Doctor operated on it they saw the chest and took the bullets out there also (about a year after I received them).

I was in and out of one phase of Mining more or less for the rest of my Naval life, such as working in Ad —Corn Mine Craft Pacific, with Com Serve Pac then as Co of the Mines Unit based on Sandy Hook, N.J. Responsible for the Northern segment of New Jersey, New York Harbor, and east to Fisher's Island, as well as most of Long Island.

In the Spring of 1980 I retired once again, this time from AT&T where I had been responsible for most all explosive work, some underwater sound detection equipment, and while with the Company spent four years in the Kwajalein Atoll, responsible for the handling of all Guided Missiles from the time they arrived on Kwajalein Island until they were launched at missiles fired at us from Submarines and or the West Coast of the US. The boosters of these missiles were loaded with many pounds of Nitro Glycerine.

I am making a very small donation, and hope that it will help in the mailing of your letters, which I am

hoping to see more of each year.

Best Wishes,
Arthur W Cook LtCmdr USN (Ret.)
10 E. Hawthorn PKWY Apt # 111
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
30 September 2005
Phone 1-847-968-4420

Editor's Note: It is human nature to put things off. We get busy with our own lives and don't think to call or send a note or a letter to a friend or one of our members, particularly those we may not know well or personally, who are getting on in years and burdened by the weight of time and the debilitating infirmities that brings. We often wait until we see their names in the Taps section before we think of them and remember the service they performed for our country in a terrible world war, Korea, and Vietnam. Then we think of them with fond memories, smiles, and tears. Then we say nice things about them. That is too late for them. Let us call and write them now and tell them we remember and appreciate them. Let us say the nice things to them while they still live and can enjoy it. Let's not let a bugle call be a sad reminder. Bill



Other Passings of Note

Jack Cox, MNC, USN (Ret.)

MNC Jack Cox, 66, entered into eternal rest on Friday afternoon, December 2, 2005, Jack Paul Cox, husband of Liselotte N. Cox. Graveside services was held in Memorial Park, Heavener, Oklahoma on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at two pm.

Alan B Holmes, MNC, USN

The October Naval Times Magazine lists MNC Alan B Holmes member at large in the Taps section.

Robert Mason, MN1, USN (Ret.)

MN1 Robert Mason died about 2 weeks ago as per a phone call from his wife, Jo Ann. The cause of death was kidney failure. Had been on dialysis for 9 months. He lived in Port Townson, WA

Charles V. Wilson, LtCol (Ret.)

LtCol Ret Charles V. Wilson 89, passed away 10/15/05 in Poquoson, VA. Charlie worked in Naval Mine Engineering Weapons Engineering Department for 19 years, mostly on mine/aircraft compatibility. He was known by many in Fleet Liaison.



EDITOR'S CORNER

I am just now getting to the trip Miz Dee and I took up "Nawth" a few months ago. We spent a delightful couple of days with Coral, Paul, and Kyle Appleton in Freeport, Maine during the 5 days of spring they have there. Coral boiled up a batch of live lobster she got from the, can you believe it, commissary! I learned that I was a novice about extricating crustaceans from their shell and took lessons from a master. There is a technique midway between the delicate cracking with endless picking and the brute force smash and shred that produces optimum results in minimum time. I now have a couple of pairs of those "cut anything" scissors in case any lobsters happen to wander down this far south. The entire family is doing well and Coral is working at the base in a new capacity, Paul stays busy, and even Kyle is working at 14. Retirement just doesn't fit into their lifestyle. I have no clue why we have no pictures of them. I can only plead temporary insanity.

On the way back we managed to hook up with Ross Maddocks and his wife Kathleen. They stopped by and they treated us to dinner. He and Kathleen are doing well. Ross retired from being the harbormaster at Booth Bay Harbor.



I already have the ribs in the freezer waiting for them to get tired of the cold weather and come south for some barbecue and maybe some fried catfish and cole slaw.

Ross said that he and Rome made it all the way to Florida in the boat, but had engine trouble and that was why they were late returning. Now that is entirely possible, but my version is more colorful.

2005 ACTIVE DUTY MINEMAN OF THE YEAR



***MN1 (SW) STEPHEN J.
MCQUEEN***
DECK LPO

MCM CREW CONFLICT

Stephen Jason McQueen was born on April 12th, 1978 in Houston, TX. Attending Evan E. Worthing High School, he was part of the schools Magnet Program and studied Biotechnology for three years until enlisting in the United States Navy in 1996.

His career began with Boot Camp in Great Lakes, IL followed by his first tour of duty aboard the USS Champion (MCM-4). He immediately hit the deck plates running where as a seaman he worked extremely hard to set the standard by earning his Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification (ESWS). On CHAMPION he completed his first deployment to the East Coast visiting various U.S. ports. In 1999 he joined the ranks of Petty Officers by advancing to BM3 and deployed again for the MCM EUROPE 99 Cruise. In November 1999, he attended Mineman "A" school, where upon completion he was advanced to Mineman Third Class. In February 2000, he reenlisted and completed his first sea rotation. His next tour of duty was to serve at MOMAU 3 in Colts Neck, NJ where he advanced to Mineman Second Class. There he began to seek extra leadership tasks that landed him the opportunity

MN1 McQueen continued bottom of page 11.

2005 NAVAL RESERVE MINEMAN OF THE YEAR



MN1 ERNESTO RUIZ
LPO NR MOMAU 8 DET. 2
EL PASO, TX

MN1 Ruiz joined the Naval Reserves in March of 1992 under the old Advanced Pay Grade (APG) Program as an E3. Within the first year of his enlistment, he completed all requirements to advance all the way to the rank of E5. MN1 Ruiz then advanced to E6 in January of 2000. MN1 Ruiz is currently the Leading Petty Officer (LPO) of NR MOMAU 8 Detachment 2 El Paso, and previously served in that capacity for NR MOMAU 10 Austin before moving back to El Paso. MN1 Ruiz is married to his supporting wife Veronica and they have a 3 year old son, Cristian. MN1 Ruiz is employed as a Service Manager for Echostar Communications.

**NEXT ARTICLE DUE DATE
IS 1 MARCH 2006**



TAPS



Julio “Jay” Ereñeta, CWO3, USN (Ret.)

CWO3 Julio “Jay” Ereñeta was born Jan. 2, 1902 and passed away April 2005 in San Diego, CA. He was 103 years old. Julio, with his son, stopped by our reunion in San Diego 2003. Julio was life member of the Naval Mine Warfare Association and an Honorary member of the AOM. He was featured in Shift Colors July - Sept. 2002 and the dashpot. Information came from Jim Minor (NMA)

Jack Lindquist, CWO4, USN (Ret.)

CWO4 Jack Dee Lindquist, 69, of Taylors, SC died Saturday, November 5, 2005. Born in Wichita, KS, he was the son of the late Lee O. and Mildred I. Lindquist. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1985 after 30 years as a CWO4, where he then worked for the Orlando, FL Postal Service for 15 years. Mr. Lindquist enjoyed fishing and hunting, he loved spending time with his family and especially the children. He was a former member of The First Baptist Church of Greer. He is survived by his wife, Maxine Terry Lindquist; one son, Preston Lewis Turner of Virginia; two daughters, Karen Lindquist-Williams of Indian Head, MD, and Jacqueline Dee Fisher of Greer, SC; two brothers, Jerry L. Lindquist of Arizona and Jay A. Lindquist of Kansas; seven grandchildren, Christa, Jordan, Jacob, Michael, Faith, Kara and Kamille; two great grandchildren, Austin and Brynn. He was predeceased by a son, Raymond L. Lindquist. Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 8, 2005 at 11:30 am at Brushy Creek Baptist Church, 4999 Old Spartanburg Road, Taylors, SC. Donations may be made to: The Cancer Society of Greenville, 113 Mills Ave, Greenville, SC 29605.

Ann Martin

Bill, I received a call from Bob Forbes stating he had spoken to Carmen Rousseau confirming the death of Ann Martin, wife of MNC F.X. Martin (deceased), She passed away 9 September 2005. The cause of death was cancer. No further details at this time.

Dick

Peter Mirich, MNCS, USN (Ret.)

MNCS Pete Mirich passed away Friday October 7, 2005. No further details are available at this time.



TRIST B. MCCONNELL, CAPT, USNR (Ret.)

Retired Naval Reserve Captain Trist Bringier McConnell, a civilian engineer and former mayor of Williamsburg, VA, died Sept. 8, 2005, at age 83.

In 1987, Mr. McConnell retired as the Technical Director of the Naval Mine Warfare Engineering Activity, Yorktown, VA, capping a 38-year career. For his achievements, he was presented with the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award.

The following year he won election to the Williamsburg City Council, serving eight years, the last four as mayor. During his tenure he championed open, participatory government, preservation of neighborhoods, education and the environment.

Upon his retirement from office, he chaired Williamsburg’s 300th Anniversary Celebration Commission and was a founding chairman of the Greater Williamsburg Community Trust. Additional community endeavors included his advocacy for a performing arts center and a botanical garden. The Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce recognized his public service with the Roll of the Drum Award. The College of William and Mary named him their 1999 recipient of the “Prentis Award”.

Continued at top of page 11.

Trist McConnell continued.

The son of Samuel Logan and Suzanne Bringier McConnell; he was born in 1922, and grew up in Monroe, LA, where he relished outdoor life, especially hunting and fishing on the Ouachita River. In 1943, Mr. McConnell graduated from Tulane University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. After graduation, he served in the Navy, captaining a PT boat assigned to patrol the Solomon Islands during World War II.

Trist is survived by his wife of 58 years, Helen Strickler McConnell; his children, Suzanne Baggett and her husband, Joseph, of Herndon, Va., Bringier McConnell and his wife, Sally, of Williamsburg, Sarah McConnell and her husband, Robert Gibson, of Charlottesville, Logan McConnell of Alexandria; seven grandchildren, Merritt Baggett, Graham Baggett, Helen Gibson, Logan Gibson, Stella Gibson, Cole McConnell and Adele McConnell; and two sisters, Mary McConnell Sherrouse, of Waveland, MS; and Stella McConnell Fans, of New Orleans. A service of thanksgiving was held 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 12, at Bruton Parish Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Parkway, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

MN1 McQueen continued

to become the Production Deck Supervisor and ultimately the Quality Assurance Inspector. Due to the Decommissioning of MOMAU 3 in 2002, MN2 McQueen was transferred to MOMAU 15 in Kingsville, TX where he worked in the Production Department and later as a Quality Assurance Inspector. His next assignment was aboard the USS PIONEER (MCM-9) where as a Second Class Petty Officer he became the Deck Department LPO leading 7 personnel. Recognized for his outstanding leadership skills, he was selected for CAP advancement to Petty Officer First Class. In support of the Navy's recent "Sea Swap Initiative", he and the crew aboard the USS PIONEER was named MCM CREW GOLF and were tasked to deploy to Bahrain aboard USS ARDENT (MCM-11) in August 2004 for six months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He continues to serve the same crew which has been renamed MCM CREW CONFLICT and is currently serving aboard USS GLADIATOR (MCM-11) in Ingleside, TX where he was recently selected by the Association of Mineman as the 2005 Mineman of the Year.

MN1 McQueen's awards include the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) and various service and campaign awards.



COMOMAG

by MNCS(SW) David Ostrom

Greetings all. I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends and enjoying making all the preparations for Christmas! It has been a busy quarter here at COMOMAG. We started out with MNC(SW) Frank Kent's reenlistment ceremony.



Commander John Dennett reenlists Chief Kent for 2 more years of service



Smiles all around at the reenlistment.

We then held MNCS(SW) Cecil Fish's retirement ceremony. Cecil retired after 28 years of dedicated Naval service and is now residing locally in the Ingleside, Texas area. It was a beautiful ceremony where his entire family was attendance.



LT Laffenburger presents Mr. Jim Fish (Senior's brother) with a Letter of Appreciation



Presentation of Senior Chief Fish's Shadow Box

The staff at COMOMAG hosted the Service Mines/VEMS/Targets IPT meeting, Foreign Mines Conference and the COMINWARCOM Six Quarter Scheduling Conference this past quarter. Looks like calendar year 2006 will have us busy in Mine Warfare. Wayne "Arnie" Helgerson and Mr. Ed Simmons attended the 6T COG Stratification Review conference at SPCC Mechanicsburg, PA. LT Greg McGill was on TAD assignment to Okinawa Japan for EXERCISE TERMINAL FURY. MNCM(SW) Jerry Williams also went to Seal Beach, CA for a site visit to MOMAU ONE with CMDMC Meglen from CMWC. As everyone knows, the AOM Reunion was held this year here in Corpus and was very well attended. It was a great time and our own MNCM(SW) Jerry Williams was the Guest Speaker representing RDML D.A. Loewer. I'm sure there will be plenty of other pictures and articles in this issue about the reunion, so I'll just say we all had a great time and look forward to the AOM coming back again to Corpus.

Other news from COMOMAG: N3 OPERATIONS is in full swing working with all the MCM/MHC class ships with FY06 NCEA allocations, shipfill ammunition requirements, required ROLMS Periodic Lot Reporting and the completion of Conventional Ordnance Safety Reviews and inspections. We have been working with all the MOMAU sites in coordinating the following Mine Warfare exercises: NSWPC AMNS-60 CT/DT; NSCT-1/MIREM LOE 05-4; NSCT-1 VEMS Diver Platoon Evaluation, USS REAGAN CSG/CVW-14 C2X MINEX, USS REAGAN CSG/MIREM LOE 05-3M, GOMEX/RONEX 06-1, OPTEVFOR RMS Testing, and Anderson B1 Bomber Squadron MINEX for QUICKSTRIKE MK62/65. All indications are good that MK140 Gel-Cell batteries for the Exercise Mine MK67 will be available this December as scheduled and shipped to the MOMAU sites for this system. We have been working closely with our points of contact at NOLSC-NSWC Panama City and identified MK87-4 Delay Sonar Transmitter shortages and FY06 procurement for more of these assets. In water testing of the TDD MK71 has re-started and we are coordinating the introduction and training of FIOBUOY's manufactured by FIOMARINE Industries, Australia. FIOBUOY's are a submersible marine marker buoy and retrieval system that will be used by MOMAU for recovery of selected high cost mine targets and VEMS during MIW exercises. We have identified shortages of MK44 MCMTT slings and MK46 MCMTT harnesses at the MOMAU sites and are tracking the requisition and shipping status of these items.

N5 PLANNING and REQUIREMENTS: The staff at N5 has been busy completing numerous MFPP's, EXMFPP's and preparing briefs and presentations regarding our Worldwide Mine Stockpile. They have been involved with EXER-

CISE TERMINAL FURY 05 and developed the TF05 Mining Plan.

Awards: "BRAVO ZULU's" to MNC Kent who was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, MNCS(SW) Cecil Fish who was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and MN1(SW) Kirk Veselka for his unanimous selection as COMOMAG's 3rd Quarter SOQ

Departures:

MNC(SW) Frank Kent to ATG Ingleside, TX
MNCS(SW) Cecil Fish to Fleet Reserve

Arrivals:

MN2(SW) Billy Arthur from USS DEFENDER (MCM-2)
MNC(SW) Steven Pierce from MOMAU FIVE Sigonella, Sicily

In closing: that wraps it up for this quarter's submission. We all at the COMOMAG staff wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to a very challenging and rewarding year in 2006! God Bless and stay safe. I leave you with one last picture of our Shipmate Senior Chief Cecil Fish!



Cake cutting ceremony at the local VFW, Ingleside



**You only live once,
but if you do it right,
once is enough.**

Mae West (1892 - 1980)



MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK

BY MNC (SW) KING

Happy Holidays!!

MOMAU Eleven is busier than ever and has just completed its Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI).

The preparation we put in for the ESI has paid off. We received a Supply validity score of 95%, and our programs met the required standards. The inspectors were impressed with our operations, facilities, magazines, and the knowledge of our junior personnel. Singled out by the inspectors as being exceptional were MN2 Webb, and MN2 Haynes, our ROLMS operators; FC2 Page, a member of our magazine crew; and SK2 Garcia, our HAZMAT coordinator.

During this period, we continued to support the fleet. We deployed a team to Barksdale Air Force Base to support an Air Force MINEX and we sent a two-person team to Italy to support a COMUSNAVEUR MINEX.

As you know, MOMAU Five has been decommissioned, and their material transferred to MOMAU Eleven. We finally have received all of the material, and have been busy continuing to inspect and storage it.

Our crew size has grown. We are now mustering 86 personnel. The mine production department has been divided into Service and ET divisions.

Finally, this exam cycle has been good for MOMAU Eleven. Six personnel were selected for promotion to E6, and four to E4.

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

Completed Associate Degree
CWO2 James Traylor
IT2(SW) Christy Riley
IT2(SW/AW) JOSEPH Biosca

Awarded Good Conduct Award Medal
MNSN(SW) Robert Howard (First Award)
MN2 Gregory Warren (Second Award)
YN1(SW) Darrel Thomas (Sixth Award)



Congratulations to MN1 (SW) Allard for selection as Senior Sailor of the Quarter

Letter of Appreciation for raising Money for Hurricane Katrina Victims

- MN2(SW) Richard Dubois
- MN2 Bruce Haynes
- MN2 Joseph Pawlikowski
- MN2(SW) Jonathon Reece
- MN2(SW) Ralph Maldonado
- MN2 Frederick Saporita
- MN2 Gregory Warren

Senior Sailor of the Quarter 3rd QTR

MN1(SW) Robert Allard

Junior Sailor of the Quarter 3rd QTR:

MN3 Jeremiah Tilley

Blue Jacket of the Month

- MNSN Brian Osborn - SEP
- MNSN Shawn Thornton – OC
- TMNSN Gregory Pettit - NOV



Seaman Waiting to Be Frocked to 3rd class Petty Officer

New Personnel onboard

- MNC(SW) Pamela Kulisek
- YN3 Richard Saunders
- MNC(SW) Patrick Haley
- MN3 Todd Browne
- MNC(SW) Jeffery Harper
- MN2 Kenneth Matthews
- MN1(SW) Ryan Long
- MN1 Peter Placek
- MN1(SW) Jon Tetrault
- MN3 Charles Porter
- YN1 Sherry Brooks
- MN3 Sean Humphries
- MN3 Richard Bryan
- MN1(SW/AW) Shereda Jamison
- MNSN Martin Ballman
- MNSN(SW) Jack Nugent
- MN1(SW) Joshua Chronister
- MNSN Jason Stevens



MN2(SW) Pawlikowski receives Letter of Appreciation for helping to Raise Money for Hurricane Katrina Victims

Fair Winds and Following Seas

- SK1 John Vanhorn
- YN1(AW) Shelia Thompson
- MN2 Bruce Haynes

Promotions

To E6

- MN1 William Brown
- MN1(SW) Joshua Chronister
- MN1(SW) Ralph Maldonado
- MN1(SW) Jonathon Reece
- MN1 Bryan Walker
- MN1(SW) Wood Carlos

TO E4

- MN3 Daniel Kline
- MN3 Jamnis Lacy
- MN3 Jeremiah Tilley
- MN3 Martin Ballman



Color Guard performs at SK1 Van Horn's retirement

From the low country, we send a heart felt Christmas prayer for our MOMAU Family.

Happy holidays.



MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE

by MN3 Sandy M. Gardner

Greetings:

I would like to start off by saying that this last quarter has been a world wind of events. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out with the Spook Ville Carnival. I would also like to say thanks to everyone who attended the Mineman Association luncheon at the USO in October. It goes to show that MOMAU FIFTEEN can always be counted on. And to all of our crew, thanks we were able to raise much-needed MWR funds this year at our Christmas auction. We also had a wonderful turnout for this year's Navy Ball. Here are a few of the famous faces.



MN3 Rick Schmidt and his wife Crystal



LCDR Julian Wyatt and daughter PVT Nicole Wyatt, United States Army, Active Duty

Hails:

MN1 (SW) Isidro Beltran from USS OSPREY, MN1 (SW) Jeffery Blackwell from USS SCOUT (Crew Persistent), MN2 (SW) Jessie Jochims from MHC 55, MN3 (SW) Mark Owens from the USS OSPREY (Crew Aggressive), MNSR Dustin Johnson from MWTC, YN3 Debbie Barnette from 31st Seabee Readiness Group, MN3 Layne Volckerick from USS Scout, MN3 Louis Marroletti from MOMAU FIVE, MN3 (SW) Justin Tramell from USS Blackhawk, and MNSA Kenneth Bioty TAD from MWTC.

Farewells:

MNCS (SW) Michael Stultz on to USS Chief MN1 (SW) Jeffery McIntosh on to USS Guardian, and YN3 William Howard on to USS Milius.

From the Desk of the Commanding Officer: LCDR Julian Wyatt

"Great showing... superb brief to the Staff of COMOMAG on SPOT. From MN3 Gardner to MN3 Mason and all inputs by users (Work Center Supervisor - MN2 Piccione), MN1 (SW) Mounsey, MN1 (SW) Kopelwitz, the experts - SK1 (SW) Maxwell (excellent briefer) and of course the master - SK1 (SW/AW) Pruske and the XO, Chief Ski and Suppo, you answered every question and gave CDR Mathison a great overview."

Thank you very much!!!!

From the Desk of the Mine Assembly Officer: MNC (SW) Robert Dunbar

A big pat on the back goes to our JSOQ, YN3 Howard and SSOQ, MN1 (SW) Kopelwitz.



JSOQ: YN3 William M. Howard

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SITREP: De- partment Head: MN1 (SW) Jeffery Blackwell

Our department has been working diligently to prepare for our upcoming ESI. We have also aided GOMEX and RONEX with three MK 6s and MK 44s.



SSOQ: MN1 (SW) Scott L. Kopelwitz

ADMIN DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: YNC (SW) Eldrid Vistro

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! To our new IT1 (SW) Joey Burgin. Great job!!!! Also I would like to say good-bye to YN3 Howard who is head off to the West coast.

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head, MNC (SW) William Andrzejewski

Great job on the two big exercises we had, NSCT-ONE and MIREM 05-2, thanks team for the long hours and hard work. I would like to also say excellent job to MNC (SW) Dunbar, MNC (SW) Rambo, MN2 (SW) Mozek, and MN3 (SW) Tramell, as members of our Mine Assembly Team you always give the needed time and effort. In addition to the two exercises, great job on the completion of the MWTC display shapes. Team as always you pulled through when needed. I would like to say thanks to MN2 Piccione (our Component Testing Supervisor) and MN3 Gardner (Mine Assembly Technician) for their cooperation during the MHE Audit. I would also like to say thanks to MN1 (SW) Beltran (Leading Petty Officer) and MN2 (SW) Mozek (our Deck Supervisor) for all the hard work yall put in. I would also like to say CONGRATULATIONS!!!! To our new MN3, Sandy Gardner, great job. Also CONGRATULATIONS to MN2 (SW) Jochims and his wife Kari. They had a new addition to their family, Seth born 27 Sept 2005. In addition good luck to everyone who made rate this cycle and keep up the hard work to those who didn't, will next time. I would also like to say that MN2 (SW) Mozek did an excellent job with his tour to COMINEWARCOM.



SUPPLY DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MNC (SW) Leonard Rambo

Not much going on. We do have ourselves a new SK1, CONGRATULATIONS to Amanda Maxwell it was well deserved. Also the supply department will be adding new names to its greetings list, both MN1 (SW) Robert Mounsey (our ROLMS Supervisor) and MN2 (AW) Sheree Stevens (ROLMS Assistant) are expected to have new editions to their families in April. MN1 (SW) Mounsey and his wife Tonya are expect to have a baby girl. We all hope that MN2 (AW) Stevens also has a baby girl.



LCDR Wyatt, ADM LOewer, ADM Watters, MN2 (SW) Mozek



Naval Station Ingleside

MWTC SAILORS CELEBRATE NAVY'S BIRTHDAY REFURBISHING LEXINGTON'S GUN MOUNTS

by Fifi Kieschnick

Thursday, Oct. 13, about 20 Sailors will spend the day refurbishing gun mounts on board the Lexington Museum on the Bay, beginning at 8 a.m. The Sailors are Mineman "A" School students and instructors at the Mine Warfare Training Center. They chose this day-long project as a way to celebrate the Navy's 230th birthday and to help make the local community a better place to live. The Mine Warfare Training Center, located aboard Naval Station Ingleside, serves as the Navy's premier instructional site for Mine Warfare tactics, planning and systems, as well as other specialized programs.



MCM NeWS

MCM Crew Constant Sailor Receives Phone Call from President

Navy News | Aaron Schutte, | November 28, 2005

USS DEXTROUS, North Persian Gulf - A young Sailor serving in the North Persian Gulf as part of USS Dextrous' (MCM 13), Crew Constant received a surprise Thanksgiving phone call Nov. 24 from the President of the United States.

Mineman 3rd Class Matthew S. Johnson of Seattle took a call from President George W. Bush, who wished him a happy holiday and congratulated him on a Job well done.

Johnson, part of an 80-man crew from Ingleside, Texas, is currently on a six-month deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of maritime security operations.

The call came just three days after Johnson found out he had been selected for advancement to petty officer third class. The president thanked Johnson and Crew Constant for their service, sacrifice and hard work.

"It was pretty hard to believe. It kind of felt like I was outside of myself watching it happen. It was really cool, and I'm still pretty excited about it. I got to ask him how the Thanksgiving dinner was in the White House, and he said, 'I'm not in the White House. I'm in Texas, God's country.' I think the thing I liked the most was that he just seemed like a normal guy," Johnson said.

Johnson got a direct order from Bush at the end of the call, to call his wife and parents and wish them a happy Thanksgiving. Moments later, a White House representative was on the line connecting him directly to his father.

"Guess what, Dad?" Johnson said, "This call is coming from the Arabian Gulf through the White House, and straight to you."

Johnson said his father was really excited when he found out who preceded him on the other end of his son's conversation.

"He had no idea what to say at first. I could tell he was really proud," Johnson said.

Johnson was nominated to receive the phone call by the chief petty officers on his crew. The chiefs described him as a hard-working, intelligent Sailor who skillfully executed his duties and responsibilities and aggressively pursued all opportunities that came his way.

Johnson has been in the Navy since 2003. He is the son of Linda Nordstrom and Mike Johnson of Seattle, and the stepson of Jeff Smith, also from Seattle. He has one sister, Laytisha, and an 18-month-old niece, Maya. He lives in Portland, Texas, with his wife, Winter Devito of Colorado.



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND 1969

REUNION 2005 CORPUS CHRISTI

THE ARRIVAL



Attending the reunion at Corpus Christi taught me three important things that I did not know.

1. Texas just may be a mite bigger than it really needs to be.
2. Speed limits in Houston are merely suggestions and very conservative suggestions at that.
3. I can tell sea stories so incredible that I can astonish even myself.

FRIDAY EARLY BIRD



SATURDAY BUSINESS MEETING

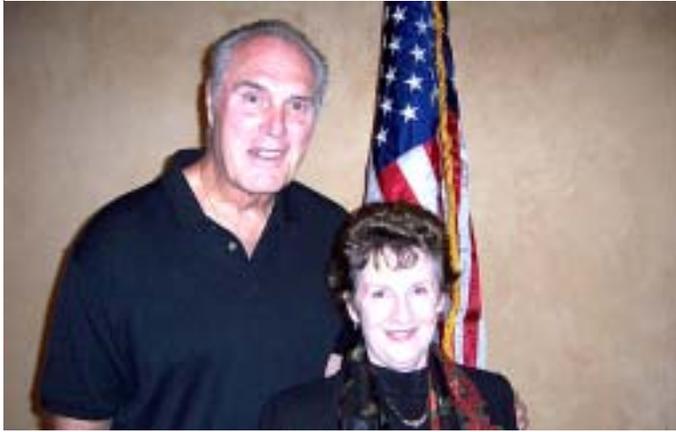
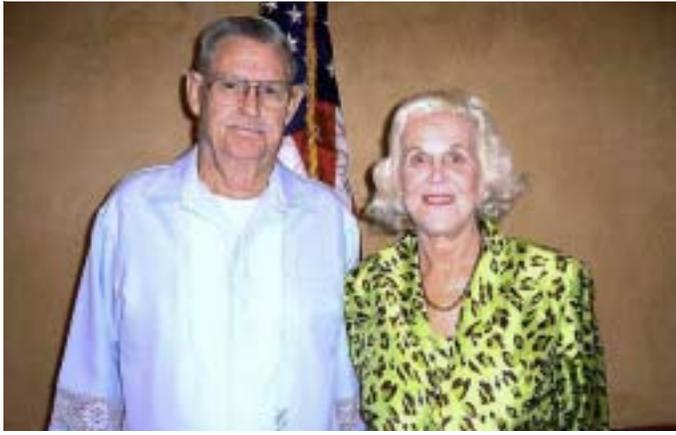


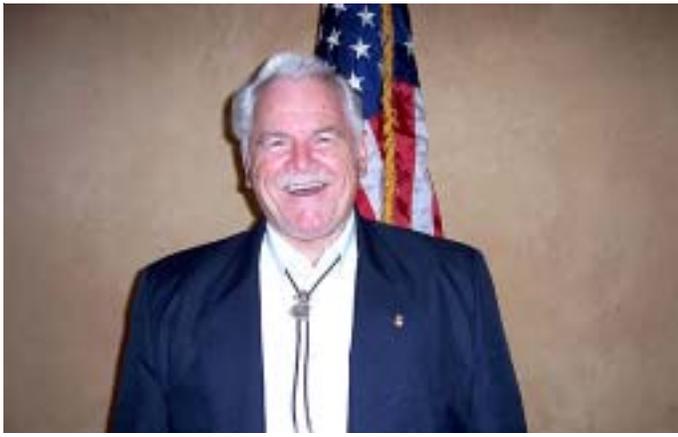
DINNER MEETING

















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