



The DASHPOT



Issue 53 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Spring 2006



FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

As we speed into 2006, let me begin by thanking all of you out there who contribute articles to our newsletter "THE DASHPOT". Under the editorial control of Editor Bill Fortner, "THE DASHPOT" covers a variety of activities within the Mine Force and provides us with noteworthy news items that keep us abreast of past, current and future events. Thank you Bill, for a job well done, to help keep our AOM Members and the Mine Community up-to-date. Again, many thanks from all of us.

The plans are well underway for our 2006 AOM Reunion being held in Panama City, Florida, October 20 - 22. The reunion committee is hard at work putting together a program that promises to be a memorable event. See Related Article in this issue for further details.

Let me ask all of you to continue to recruit new members, those that are active, reserve or retired, as well as invite back former AOM members to join us to ensure we continue to keep our programs and association solvent, growing and meaningful. We need to keep beating the bushes for new members.

Just a reminder to remember our Scholarship Fund. Our Scholarship Chairman, William "Swede" Carlsen, will soon be sorting through the Scholarship requests and getting them ready for approval by the Scholarship Committee. Remember, your contributions are tax deductible.

The months are whizzing by and, before you know it, October and the 2006 reunion will be upon us. Make your plans early to attend and be a part of your Association. **May God Bless all of you and your families and God Bless America.**

Life is a great big canvas; throw all the paint on it you can. Danny Kaye (1913-1987)

REUNION 2006 IN PANAMA CITY, FL

For planning purposes, here is the latest information about the 2006 AOM reunion in Panama City.

Accommodations: The Boardwalk Beach Resort has reserved rooms for AOM members starting with 10 on Thursday the 19th for those who plan on arriving early (5 poolside and 5 on the beach side). Starting on Friday through Sunday there are 25 rooms poolside and 20 rooms reserved on the beach side. The cost for rooms is \$79.00 poolside and \$89.00 on the beach side per night. There is an additional charge of \$3.40 per night for telephone access fee which includes unlimited local and long distance phone calls (continental US Only).

To reserve your room please call the Boardwalk at (850) 234-3484 or the toll free number, (800-224-4853) and be sure to ask for the Association of Minemen Reunion to get these rates. These rooms and rates are available until 20 September 2006, after that date rooms will be provided on a space available basis at the regular rate.

If you are planning on bringing your RV or desire to camp... there are numerous places to stay near the hotel, on the Navy Base or Tyndall AFB. If you need assistance with locating a place, please contact (To Be Provided in Next Issue)

Miscellaneous: For those who may be interested, there is a small Navy Exchange on the Navy Base and a large BX and commissary on Tyndall AFB (about a 40-minute ride on Eastbound US 98). There are golf courses galore with

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PRESIDENT

Bill Johnson (04-07)
341 Shadynook St.
Keyport, NJ 07735-5140
732-583-8546
bpjohns@earthlink.net

VICE PRESIDENT
Warren Savage (04-07)
10330 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
619-258-1478
chiefskip@aol.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Curtis T. Christian (01- Morte)
303 Cypress Shores Rd.
Eutawville, SC 29048
803-492-4245
curtischristian@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT
G. Paul Santa Maria (04-07)
228 Kiwi Drive
Barefoot Bay, FL 32976
772-664-7540
gpaulsm@juno.com

PARLIMENTARIAN
Warren Savage
10330 Settle Rd.
Santee, CA 92071
619-258-1478

CHAPLAIN
Robert N. Hart
1237 Patrick Hwy
Hartsville, SC 29550-7759
843-383-0882
cnbhart@adelphia.net

HISTORIAN
Ron Swart
2020 Tupelo Court
Panama City, FL 32405
850-215- 9649
Mobile 850-276-1750
swartre@knology.net

YORKTOWN MUSEUM
Toby Horn
Tobyone@ix.netcom.com

LEXINGTON MUSEUM
Ron Swart
swartre@knology.net



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.



2005 REUNION COMMITTEE
Ron Swart
2020 Tupelo Court
Panama City, FL 32405
850-215- 9649
Mobile 850-276-1750
swartre@knology.net

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
William (Swede) Carlsen
1925 Pilgrim Ave.
Bronx, NY 10461
718-792-2298
mncsswede@aom@worldnet.att.net



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary L. Cleland (03-06)
12201 Sunrise Ct.
Poway, CA 92064-2865
858-748-3835

William Fortner (05-06)
1020 County Road 856.
Cedar Bluff, AL 35959
256-523-7111
mk27@httswireless.com

Robert W. Wilson (04-07)
10 Illinois Ave
Port Monmouth, NJ 07758-1108
732-787-4174
FAX 732-787-5519 (call first)
MNCUSNRET@att.net

Robert "Stan" Stancik (04-07)
151 Westminster Blvd.
Goose Creek, SC 29445-1879
843 797 2275
rfstan@bellsouth.net

Robert N. Hart (05-08)
1237 Patrick Hwy
Hartsville, SC 29559-7759
843-383-0882
cnbhart@adelphia.net

Walter W. Peters (05-08)
3040 Annette St.
Ardara, PA 15615-9724
wwsjp@aol.com

AOM STOREKEEPER
Paul Santa Maria (01-04)
228 Kiwi Drive
Barefoot Bay, FL 32976
772-664-7540
gpaulsm@juno.com

DASHPOT EDITOR
Bill Fortner
1020 County Road 856
Cedar Bluff, AL 35959
256-523-7111
mk27@httswireless.com

AOM HOMEPAGE
home.triad.rr.com/aom/index.htm

WEBMASTER
Phil Dechene
pdechene@triad.rr.com



2006 Reunion Information continued.

something for duffers and professionals alike. We're still looking for ideas on the Ladies Event to counterbalance the Business Meeting. If you need more information or have input, please contact the Reunion Committee.

The Reunion Committee:

Ron Swart 850-215-9649
swartre@knology.net

Ken Waringa 850-230-8336
kcwaringa@knology.net

Leo Smith

Bob Bainbridge 850-249-1536
BainbridgeB@IPSIncorporated.com

Chuck Hadden

**IN CASE YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S
GOING TO BECOME OF
THE YOUNGER
GENERATION, IT'S GOING
TO GROW UP AND START
WORRYING ABOUT THE
YOUNGER GENERATION.**

ROGER ALLEN

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

2/23/06 - Leonard Rambo MNC (SW); leonard.rambo@navy.mil
02/15/06 - LCDR Tracey Kunkel (formerly MN2); lcdrkunkel@yahoo.com
02/04/06 - Darrell Bostic MNC (SW); bosticd@dextrous.navy.mil
02/04/06 - Anthony Bartoli MNC (SW); anthony.bartoli@navy.mil
02/01/06 - Timothy R. Hamm MN1 (SW); timothy.r.hamm@navy.mil; trhamm29@yahoo.com
01/24/06 - Amy (Lisinski) Greene MN1 SW/AW; amy.greene@navy.mil
12/19/05 - Patrick Haley MNC (SW); pat_9502@yahoo.com
12/15/05 - Lawrence Stolinski MN2 (SW); lawrence.stolinski@navy.mil
12/05/05 - Delton "Cole" Drum II MNC; coledrum@hotmail.com

E-Mail - Reservist

E-Mail - Retired

02/10/06 - Donald Lozen MNC; mncusnret@yahoo.com; mncusnret@bellsouth.net
02/04/06 - Steve "Tibo" Tenney MN1; amanda.tenney@mckennan.org
01/22/06 - Cliff Bartyzal MN1; Cliffbartyzal@aol.com
01/10/06 - Norman M. Sivertsen Jr. MN1; usnmnfra@hvc.rr.com
01/08/06 - Larry D. Moir MN1; lmoir@mitchelltelecom.net
12/20/05 - Jeffrey (Jeff) Holt MNC (SW); navycpojeff@yahoo.com
12/20/05 - Rob Maness MN1; RDMNTAN@aol.com
12/19/05 - Dale D. Smith LCDR; diedrich9@hotmail.com

E-Mail - Ex-Mineman

02/10/06 - D. M. Smith MN1; sandprince01@adelphia.net; sandprince02@adelphia.net
01/24/06 - Barry Payne MN2; bpayne094@adelphia.net
12/19/05 - Kecia R. Nason MN1; kecia1@mac.com
12/15/05 - Bill Finch MN3; bpmtte@stompit.net



MAIL BAG

12 Jan 2004

Bill
 Revising your 52 Newsletter I came across the article on Nuclear Test Participation written by John Johnson. In the article Ed Ager was concerned about his exposure to radiation while serving aboard the USS Shen. Also the lack of response to document his participation on the atom bomb tests in the Pacific. The article also informed individuals whom Ed chose to contact. For a fact I know the USS Shen did participate in Operation Castle in 1954.

I wrote an article which was posted in the summer 1992 Dashpot (4507) which stated the exposed person is required to submit their service data (Name, SSN, Date of Test series, date of last service, and unit attached to during the tests), to the Defense Nuclear Agency, etc. 204-870R, Washington D.C. 20315-1000 to receive a report of the exposure survey.

I provided the above information to Toby Stone, who was the Dashpot Editor at that time. In reviewing all my back copies of the Dashpot, looking in the article I came across a note that had sent to Toby regarding my time as a Mineman from 1950 to 1955. Toby published the article as a note from a special member stating "I enjoyed reading the Dashpot. Toby, no offense is taken, I'm back to it and have been for the past 55 years or more. However, Toby you should have known there were 20 female minemen in the 1950's. I am happy however that the Navy has expanded our recruitment list."

I thought you might enjoy this and maybe this info might expand the base for exposure to radiation.

Edward E. Pelanoff
 5709 Whiteville Ct.
 St. Charles, MO. 63304

P.S. I wrote John Johnson and posted on all the above information which he can give to Ed Ager at the next old photo reunion

Mr. Bill Carlsen
 Association of Minemen
 1925 Pilgrim Ave
 Bronx, NY

Mr. Carlsen & Others,

I would like to thank the Association of Minemen for selecting me as the 2005 recipient of their scholarship award. I find it very gratifying when recognized for my hard work. Your generous gift is very helpful in trying to finance my education and I greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
 Joseph Cavallo

Dear Association of Minemen,

Thank you for your generous scholarship that you have awarded me. I would like you to know of my current status in my postsecondary education. I am currently employed for two separate places on campus working as a Community Advisor in the campus dormitories and I also work in a Water Toxicity Lab on the main campus. This coming July I am participating in a study abroad program through my school. I will be attending Griffith University from July through November of 2006, which is located in the Gold Coast, Australia. You'll be pleased to hear that I have put your financial award towards text expenses and study abroad expenses. I am maintaining a high GPA and still have future ambitions of attending graduate school for Veterinary Medicine. Thank you again for your generous award.

Sincerely,

Nick Squillace

EDITOR'S CORNER



This issue is complete and my faithful, old computer made a heroic struggle to complete one final mission before it gasped its last. A new one sits in the other room to take up the challenge. Ok, ok, so I succumbed to technolust. ;-P''''''

I look back at how the Dashpot has evolved and take some measure of pleasure. I thank the MOMAUs and COMOMAG for their support and those of you who send the articles and letters that make it interesting. Putting together the Dashpot is a fun job for the most part, but, with the closeness of this community, the TAPS section is often heartbreaking. I don't think anyone ever gets used to losing friends and shipmates. I hope to see them again someday.

Many of us are "in that age group" where parts need rework, complete overhaul and, sometimes, total replacement. As a close community, I think we should remember those who are no longer able to be with us at the annual reunions. A card or short letter to let them know we remember and care is good medicine for the soul and spirit. We need to keep in touch.

I look through the membership roster and don't see a lot of names I know could be there. Those of us who live in "Mine Warfare" towns might consider visiting that old friend you know who is not a member and invite them to the reunion. Those of us who travel might consider a side trip to visit an old shipmate and perhaps return some of the lost sheep to the fold. There are many that I remember and would like to see again at a reunion. I am sure many of you can say the same. Perhaps a letter or a phone call is all it will take to rekindle their interest. Take the time and make the effort to restore and strengthen the association.



TAPS

CAVARICCI SR., Frank, MNCS, USN (Ret.)

Frank Cavaricci, Sr., MNCS, USN (Ret.), 79, of Las Vegas, passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 17, 2005. He was born Nov. 29, 1925, in New Castle, Pa., and resided in Las Vegas for 35 years. Frank served with proud distinction in the U.S. Navy. He retired as a senior chief petty officer and was a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In 1970, he moved his family to Las Vegas and started a career in the casino industry where he eventually became a casino executive at the Sahara Hotel. Frank was preceded in death by his son, Frank Jr. He is survived by his beloved wife, of 55 years, Vivian; daughter, Victoria; son, David; son, Jeff and his partner, Karen Moreno; daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Trey Harris; daughter-in-law, Barbara Cavaricci; and grandchildren, Anthony, Gianni, and Michael Cavaricci, Mikalah and Samuel Gordon, and Tyler, Jake and Katie Harris, all of Las Vegas. He is also survived by brothers, Lou, Chuck and Perry; and sister, Vienna DeAugustine. Frank was a proud man, a hard worker, a dedicated father, a great storyteller and a loving "Papa" to his beloved grandchildren. Frank will be missed by all who knew him. The funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21, at Our Lady of Las Vegas Catholic Church, 3050 Alta Drive. The interment was at 10:40 a.m. Monday, Oct. 24, at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City.



The Tear-stained Album

Until the time the Bo'sun's pipe sounds the call for me,
These tired old eyes will gaze upon the faces that I see
In this treasured album, resting tear stained on my knee.

When the final bugle sounds playing taps alone for me,
I'll board a shining silver ship and sail a crystal sea,
With gold top gallants billowing to Port Eternity.

There, upon arrival, surrounded I will see,
My shipmates sailing years before waiting there for me,
Who welcome me as worthy kin, home at last from sea.

So weep not when I board that ship and sail the crystal sea
And join my shipmates who are waiting patiently for me
To render my best hand salute when the Bo'sun's face I see.

William Fortner 2005



Peter Mirich Jr., MNCS, USN (Ret.)

MNCS Peter Mirich Jr., USN (Ret.), 68, passed away Friday afternoon, 7 October 2005, at his home after a courageous battle with lung cancer. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Pete was born Dec. 3, 1936 in Lowellville, a son of the late Peter Sr. and Mary Brinsko Mirich, and was a graduate of Lowellville High School.

He served in the U.S. Navy for 22 years, retiring in June of 1977, and returned to Youngstown with his family. Subsequently, he worked for General Motors, Lordstown for 23 years, and retired from there in 2002. Mr. Mirich was a member of the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, the Naval Fleet Reserve and the American Legion in Millersburg.

He enjoyed woodworking, was an avid Cleveland Indians and Ohio State University Buckeye fan, and enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Pete leaves his wife, Betty Beniston Mirich, whom he married Dec. 2, 1960; three sons, Peter III (Michelle) Mirich of Boardman, Master Sgt. Michael (Debra) Mirich, stationed in Hampton, Va., and James (Buffy) Mirich of Killbuck; six grandchildren, Nancy, Krista, Kevin, Olivia, Michael, and Brett; three brothers, George (Dolores) Mirich of New Springfield, Steve (Beverly) Mirich of Youngstown and Louis Mirich of Youngstown; seven sisters, Mary Ann (James) Berick of Youngstown, Myra Mirich of Youngstown, Margie (Oscar) Obenauf of Struthers, Kathy Mirich of Struthers, Helen (Don) Morgan of Mogadore, Elaine (John) Omslaer of Salem and Delores (Nick) Pavlic of Lake Worth, Fla.; and a sister-in-law, Amy Mirich of Struthers.

A brother, Mike Mirich died in 1989, and a brother, John Mirich was a 1969 casualty of the Vietnam War. Funeral services were held Tuesday, 11 Oct. 2005 at the Kinnick Funeral Home and at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church. A committal service with full military honors followed at Belmont Park Cemetery





TAPS FOR OTHERS WHOSE MEMORY WE HOLD DEAR



Don Brown, Captain, USN (Ret.)

Funeral services for Captain Donald Dare Brown, USN (Ret.) 78, were held 11 am Monday, January 16, 2006 in the chapel at JACKSONVILLE MEMORY GARDENS FUNERAL HOME 111 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, Florida with Rev. Kenneth Miller officiating. Interment followed in Jacksonville Memory Gardens Cemetery with full military honors. Mr. Brown served his country proudly in the United States Navy as a Fighter and Attack Pilot, retiring after thirty years of decorated service. Captain Brown was a member of the Middleburg Presbyterian Church where he served as an Ordained Elder, he also taught The Seekers Sunday School Class.

Captain Brown was predeceased by his parents, Glenn and Grace Lenheart Brown; and brother, Edward Brown. He is survived by his loving wife, Jane Keene Brown; son, Michael Brown (Debbi); three daughters, Allyson Nechvatal (David), Anita Isaacs (Allen), and Patricia Jones (Paul); four step-sons, John Keene (Cheryl), Richard Keene, Michael Keene, and Barry Keene (Mary); brother, Robert Brown; two sisters, Mable Sulham and Dorothy Mason; ten grandchildren, Jennifer Nechvatal, David Nechvatal, Amber Isaacs, Ashly Isaacs, Brock Jones, Parker Jones, Haley Jones, Erica Kerce, Marissa Cox, and Joseph Keene; former wife, Helen Brown, and many other loving family members and friends.

Family requests memorials in his name be made to Middleburg Presbyterian Church, Operating Fund.

Captain Brown commanded the Naval Mine Warfare Inspection Group in the mid 1970's and was greatly respected and admired by all who knew him. We wish him fair winds and following seas on this his last voyage. We will miss him.



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP

by Swede Carlsen

Now is the time for submitting AOM scholarship applications. For applicants it's time to compile all their attributes for listing on the AOM scholarship applications. All applicants should insure they answer all questions in detail. This is to preclude elimination due to the lack of the individual's qualifying information.

The AOM awards as many scholarships that there is monies available in the two (2) funds,

Edwards, Allen "Eddie" Vernon, CPO, USN (Ret.)

Chief Petty Officer Allen "Eddie" Vernon Edwards, 86, of Wethersfield, CT, USN Retired, died peacefully, Friday February 3, 2006 at Hartford Hospital. Born May 24, 1919 in Little Rock, AR, Allen lived for many years in Connecticut. "A.V." joined the navy in 1937 serving initially on the USS Richmond and later in submarine support as a mineman. He married Rose Marie DePhillips of Hartford in 1944 and, along with their son Robert, Allen saw duty in French Morocco, Key West, FL, Charleston, SC, Groton Sub Base, Prudence Island and Honolulu Hawaii. After 30 years of service, Allen retired from the navy in 1957 and for the next 20 years worked at Franklin Sign Co. in Wethersfield. A man of honor, character and decency, Allen Edwards will be sorely missed

Robert (Bob) A. Will, LCDR, USN (Ret.)

LCDR Robert (Bob) A. Will, USN (Ret.) died of natural causes at Hollywood Florida. LCDR Will was Mines Counter Measures Officer on COMINELANT Staff, Charleston, SC 1966-1967 and Executive Officer, Naval Schools Minewarfare, Charleston, SC 1970 - 1972. This is reported by Mel Konieczka (Ski) MNCM, USN (Ret.), membership # 0026.

Roy Schardin, CWO4, USN (Ret.)

I received a phone call a few days ago from Ed Oyer. He heard from Earl Roberts that Roy Schardin passed away May 26, 2005. Roy was the first to receive a Warrant under the Mine Warfare Technician designator. Roy retired from the Navy and went to work at NAVORD until retirement. Roy was a Pearl Harbor survivor. John Loonam sends.

Thanks for the info on the passing of Roy. He was my division officer at West Loch and was instrumental in me taking the LDO exam. After I made chief he persuaded the ops officer to assign me as the Ops Admin Chief so that I could get admin experience.

Sorry to hear about his passing. I forwarded your message to others who served with him. Don DeCrona

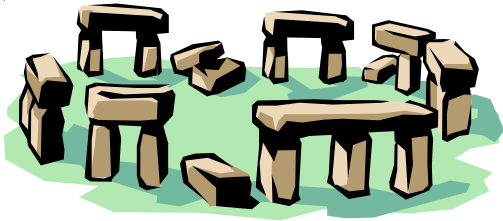
Presidential and General. This means the more the contribution to the two (2) funds, more qualified applicants are awarded AOM scholarships

Applications are available from:

1. Download on line at: home.triad.rr.com/aom/index.htm
2. By "snail mail" from the Secretary/Treasurer, Curtis Christian or Scholarship Chairman W. (Swede) Carlsen

FRA members should check out the scholarship article in the March 2006 issue of Naval Affairs.

STAND TALL AMERICA



U.S. NAVAL ORDNANCE FACILITY, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN, INSIGNIA

by Don DeCrona

It is possible that many of the Minemen who had duty at the Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, Japan, saw the insignia of the command and had no idea what the insignia represents. Below is the official description and picture of the insignia.

The U.S. Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, Japan, insignia is basically colored in the traditional Navy colors of Blue and Gold. The shape is the never-ending circle as well as having the ordnance implication of the mouth of a Naval Gun.

The Black Ship as the central motif represents Commodore Perry's Black Ship anchored in the Kurihama area of Yokosuka Bay. The paddlewheel on the ship is shaped like a mine representing underwater ordnance responsibility of NOF. The crossed-guns in the center of the paddlewheel mine represent conventional ordnance responsibility.

The Kanji character above the ship spells out, "Nippon" (Japan), thus giving the insignia a subtle Japanese attitude.

The coloration of the insignia includes the various ordnance storage colors:

- a. Yellow or Orange – High Explosives, Black Power, etc.
- b. Red and Yellow – Fuses, Detonators, Exploders, etc.
- c. Red – Fixed Ammunition.
- d. Green – Projectiles.
- e. Blue – Semi-fixed Ammunition and Bag Charges.
- f. White – Small Arms Ammunition, Pyrotechnics and Chemical Ammunition.
- g. Brown – Inert Ammunition, Combustible.
- h. Black – Inert Ammunition, Non-combustible.

The insignia therefore, symbolizes the location and mission of the U.S. Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, Japan.



BINNACLE LIST



R. J. Lattanzi, CWO, USN (Ret.)

Again, this morning I talked to Bob Lattanzi at the Mayberry Home Care where he has lived for the past year. He sounds in good spirits, but has health conditions that might never improve, only get worse. Sometime ago he had a heart triple by pass and is on oxygen. His feet are cold and there is talk that he might require amputation of both feet. That isn't something that is right around the corner; however, he has had conversation with his doctor about such an operation. Joe Hernandez has talked to Bob several times and it was Joe who provided me with Bob's phone number.

Bob was born 13 Oct 1922, enlisting in the Navy Nov 1940. Made MNC in 1945. For some of us he was our leading chief. Appointed Warrant Minewarfare Technician 1956, CWO in 1959. Retired February 1961. Bob is AOM member number 0094, who has attended several of our reunions.

Bob told me it was OK to provide his phone number and address.

R. J. Lattanzi
 Mayberry Home Care
 42127 Mayberry Ave.
 Hemet, CA 92544-6436
 1-951-927-1969

Don DeCrona.



LEANING ON THE TAFFRAIL

HAIPHONG MINING

by Robert D. Gill

One day at work, I was clicking around Yahoo on my computer when I got an idea to type in "Mineman" and hit "Search". I stumbled upon the AOM page with all kinds of interesting names and information. What really caught my eye was reading The Dashpot and seeing my name on page 13 (fall issue) in an article about the mining of Haiphong Harbor on 9 May 1972.

My name is Robert D. Gill. I was the Petty Officer in charge of the three-man mine assembly team aboard the USS Coral Sea CVA 43 back in 1972. I joined the Navy in November of 1968. In February, after Great Lakes boot camp, I got orders to go to Mineman "A" school. I graduated on 25 July 1969 and in August of 1969 I arrived at NAD West Loch for a two-year tour. Bill Mehard was the Mines Division Officer. I went to MOMAG Charleston in August of 1971.

After almost three years of shore duty, I thought a deployment on an aircraft carrier would be a change. Four of us were sent to the USS Coral Sea. I think a guy named Smith was the MN1. I was the MN2, Robert Pusher was the MN3 and Tim Mercier was the MNSN.

We picked up the carrier in Hawaii (Pearl Harbor) in November of 1971. When we got onboard, I thought we would get assigned to Special Weapons Division. After all, how many mines would they need assembled? The Aviation Ordnance Officer asked us if we would like to help out in "G" Division (bomb assembly) as the AOs always could use the extra hands.

For the next seven months, I never worked so hard and long in my life. I think G Division put together about 50,000 MK 82 bombs in that period. Our MN1 got transferred to Guam after a couple of months and that left Pusher, Mercier and myself on board. It was not uncommon to do 30, 40, and 50 day line periods in the Gulf of Tonkin. The workday was usually 12 on and 12 off.

The Eastertide Offensive was going on and we had six carriers over there in early May of 1972. After a long workday, I was called to Ordnance Control. When I got there, the Weapons Officer and the Captain of the ship were waiting for me. They told me they wanted all the MK 52s we had in "Alpha" condition ASAP. I thought they had their conditions mixed up.

Between Pusher, Mercier and me, we directed the bomb assembly crews (AOs) in putting the mines together and sent them up to the flight deck after we made all the settings and finishing touches. After being up almost two days straight with no sleep, I had to hit the rack.

A few hours later MNSN Mercier woke me up to say they needed me up on the flight deck because they thought one of the mines was armed. I went topside and was directed to the Flight Deck Officer. He started screaming at me that someone pulled a safety pin out of the hydrostatic arming device. I knew the mine would not arm unless it was deep in the water. He blamed us down below and I told him someone loading the mines on the A6s must have done it putting arming wires on.

This whole operation was classified. The pilots could say nothing to their aircrews (zip lip). Many sailors on the carrier did not know what this type of bomb was. They had never seen it before.

The jets took off toward the coast, destination unknown.

Shortly afterward, the captain of the USS Coral Sea got on the speaker and stated that President Nixon had just announced the port of Haiphong had been mined. All ships had three days to leave (delayed arming). I think everyone onboard was thrilled to be a part of history.

However, I was told I had to go see the Captain of the ship after the jets had returned. There had been some problem. When I got up to the Captain's office there were two pilots in their flight suits. They said the parachute packs on a few mines had blown off in flight. They had to jettison the mines. The Captain wanted to know why. I found out later there was a defect in some of the parachute packs (E-rings?). A few days later, they flew me by helicopter over to an ammunition ship to see what they had in the magazine for mines. We had to restock our supply. I do not think the people on the ammunition ship knew what a mine looked like. I was flown over to the USS Kitty Hawk to confer and get advice from MN1 Yancy because I was somewhat overwhelmed by all the responsibility. (I had just turned 22.) I guess we got the job done.

We received a Navy Commendation Medal for our efforts.

HOW'S THE KIDS?

Being a small and close community, one of the first things we ask when we meet is, "How's the kids" ? Here is an article about "one of the kids". If there is enough interest, perhaps this can become a regular section. The following comes from Phil Beckwith, a very proud dad indeed. Phil's son is a ... gasp ... Marine, but seems to be good at it.

Paul M. Beckwith is a "Mustang" Lt. Colonel, USMC, born in Yokosuka Japan, 43 years old, 24 years in the Marines, started out as a private and was enlisted for 8 years 4 active and 4 reserve while in college making Sgt. E5 while on active duty. Upon completion of college he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. at the same VFW club where marine aviation hero Maj. Pappy Boynton was commissioned. In fact only the second Marine to be commissioned at this facility.

He attended US Naval flight schools in Florida, Mississippi, Texas and other areas and graduated as a F 18 Hornet pilot qualified officer which included carrier take off and landings and started flying for the Corp. He was forced into the reserves in the late 90s.

While in the reserves he was flying weekends for the Marines and full time for FedEx as a DC 10 pilot officer. Since being recalled among other duties he has served on the ground in Iraq, and when his promotion to Lt. Colonel was received, was assigned to the USS Tarawa CESSG 1, as the Air Boss but that billet was changed when the earthquake struck and he was sent to Pakistan along with a squadron of marine helos and support personnel.

He was recalled to full active duty with the Iraq war buildup. He will be able to complete his 20 years of active service for retirement in 2007/8. He has no firm plans for his time after retirement, but is building seniority with FedEx while on active duty. Because of his recall, he is still on FedEx's inactive/active pilots list.

They still need relief items in Pakistan, baby clothes, coats, shoes, etc for the victims. He asks that you the stuff to the American Red Cross, Attention Pakistan Relief Effort. If you send clothing mark CLOTHING on the box so it can get right to the disaster area.

Paul writes: "This doesn't happen to regular people like you and me... Yesterday I made the trifecta by meeting President Bush. He complimented all of us on how well we had done over here and how much we had done for the global war on terror "winning the hearts and minds" of the Pakistani people... and he finished it off jokingly by saying "I probably screwed it all up by showing up here"... he was trying to be

funny... and it was...

Also, seven of us from the Disaster Assistance Center got to go join 300 others in a formal dinner with President Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Secretary of State Condoliza Rice, Laura Bush, and of course President Bush... The dinner was followed by a one hour show of Pakistan culture and music...

Simply put, things like this do not happen to small town folk from Idaho... It was awesome... a day to remember... I got the trifecta... Looks like I will be leaving Pakistan now around 8 April...."



41st President George H.W. Bush 16 Jan 06



42nd President William J. Clinton 17 Feb 06



43rd President George W. Bush 4 Mar 06

Rogue's Gallery



Mildenhall Det Bravo - 1964



Keflavik Iceland - 1968

SHIP AND AIRCRAFT DESIGNATORS

by Don DeCrona

I was recently asked by a couple of World War II destroyer veterans what the DD designation represents. The best explanation I could find was in my Weyer Warships of the World of 1968.

“Each type of ship in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard is assigned a letter code of two, three or four letters. Destroyers, for example, are assigned the letters DD, and Fast Combat Support Ships, the letters AOE. Within each type, each ship is assigned a number. Normally, numbers are assigned in sequence; the first ship of a type will be numbered “1”. Thus, the Sacramento, the first Combat Support Ship, is AOE-1. The highest-numbered destroyer is the Turner Joy (DD-951). When a ship is reclassified, she gives up her old number and takes on a new one. Thus the Mitscher, formerly the DL-2, is now the DDG-35. No other ship will be assigned the code DL-2.”

Key to prefix letters of identification:

E - Experimental ship

T - Ships assigned to Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS)

W - Ships of the U.S. Coast Guard are assigned the prefix letter W, as in WHEC.”

A Navy ship must have a letter code of at least two letters, so they added another D to designate a destroyer, like BB for battleship and SS for submarines.

Ship Names

Aircraft carriers are marked CV, destroyers DD, heavy cruisers CA, battleships BB, etc. Battleships are named for states; cruisers for cities, inventors and former members of Congress; destroyers for Secretaries of the Navy, officers and enlisted men of the Navy or Marines; cargo ships for stars; submarines for fish; oil tankers for rivers; oceangoing tugs for Indian tribes; etc.

Naval Aircraft Markings

In addition to wing insignia, the Navy uses letters and numbers to indicate the purpose and the manufacturer's name of the aircraft so marked. Numbers placed between letters indicate the model of the plane, and numbers placed at the end of letters indicate the series of the model. The first letter is employed to denote the primary function type of aircraft, the second letter indicates the secondary type and the third letter indicates the plane manufacturer. V – heavier-than-air; X – experimental; Z – lighter-than-air (blimps and balloons); B – bombing plane; F – fighter plane; O – observation plane; S – scouting plane; P – patrol plane; T – torpedo plane; J – utility plane; R – transport plane; etc. Thus, the combination “PBY” would mean a patrol bomber manufactured by Consolidated Aircraft.



NAVY TO BASE FIRST LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP IN SAN DIEGO



Navy News | December 05, 2005

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Navy announced Dec. 2 that USS Freedom (LCS 1), the first littoral combat ship of the LCS 1 class, will be homeported at Naval Station San Diego, Calif.

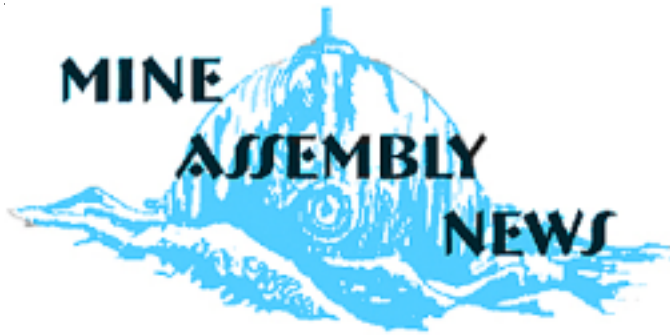
Freedom is expected to be delivered to the Navy in December 2006 and arrive in San Diego in early 2007.

Freedom-class ships are designed to counter challenging shallow-water threats in coastal regions, specifically mines, diesel submarines and fast surface craft. A fast, agile, and high-tech surface combatant, they will utilize mission-focused packages that deploy manned and unmanned vehicles to execute a variety of missions.

On May 27, 2004, the Department of Defense awarded both Lockheed Martin Corp. Maritime Systems & Sensors in Moorestown, N.J., and General Dynamics - Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, separate contract options for final system design, with options for detail design and construction of up to two Flight 0 LCSs.

Lockheed Martin Corp. was awarded the contract option on Dec. 15, 2004, for detail design and construction of the first Flight 0 LCS. Lockheed Martin's teammates include Gibbs & Cox in Arlington, Va.; Marinette Marine, Marinette, Wis., where the ship was built; as well as Bollinger Shipyards, Lockport, La.

The homeports of future Freedom-class ships have not yet been determined.



COMOMAG

by MNCS(SW) Dave Ostrom

This submission to the Spring 2006 DASHPOT sees all MOMAU sites kicking off calendar year 2006 supporting numerous Mine Warfare events throughout the Fleet. A very challenging and rewarding year in front of us, and all the MOMAU's continue to respond to all commitments in a superb manner. I would like to start off with a few pictures of the crew of MOMAU 10 during the recent MIW exercise TERMINAL FURY 05.



"MNCS(SW) Tom Robertson, MAO UNIT 10 briefs RADM Loewer COMINEWARCOM on the pre-setting of TDD MK57"



"Assembled MK63 QUICKSTRIKE's ready for the flight line"



"MOMAU 10 personnel assembling QUICKSTRIKE UMN's MK63 TERMINAL FURY 05"

COMOMAG Operations has been working closely with MOMAU ONE as they plan and execute their Surface Launch Mine Delivery Demo scheduled to coincide with the USAF MINEX this March at the southern California SCORE range. The annual Waterfront Ordnance Conference will be held at NAVSTA Ingleside 21 through 23 March. Twenty-four of 26 MCM/MHC's have finished the required Conventional Ordnance Safety Review (COSR), and FY06 NCEA Expenditure Summary Reports for all MCM/MHC class ships are 100 percent completed. COMOMAG continues to work with CSS in resolving issues with Test Set calibration. The age of MK50 series test sets has seen the availability of condition code "A" replacement test sets decline, coupled with the obsolescence of required standards to calibrate ones currently held at the MOMAU's. We hosted the MK56 IRE conference in February. Representatives from PEO Washington, NSWC Panama City, Yorktown, Keyport and Hawthorne were in attendance confirming requirements and finalizing the POA&M for this

The future depends on what we do in the present.
Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

Fall's event. COMOMAG Planning and Requirements has also reviewed protective mining options in support of Homeland Defense. Additionally, N5 hosted a Minefield Planning Process meeting in February and continue to work Mining Module requirements with the MEDAL program. Our ADMAT/MRCI/TAV inspection teams have started the CY06 inspection schedule and visited MOMAU 15 for a TAV 24-27 January, MOMAU 11 for a TAV 13-17 February and MOMAU ONE for an ADMAT 27 February through 3 March. MOMAU 8 will conduct their MRCI 27-31 March, and UNIT 12 will have their MRCI 24 through 28 April.

BRAVO ZULU: to our COMOMAG 2005 Sailor of the Year is OS1(SW) Adrian Davis. 4th QTR 05 Sailor of the Quarter is MN1(SW) Renee Myers. Congratulations to MN1(SW) Kirk Veselka who re-enlisted for 4 more years on 3 February.



“LCDR Tom Mathison COMOMAG re-enlists MN1(SW) Kirk Veselka at NAS Corpus Christi’s Lighthouse Lanes”



Arrivals: MN2(SW) Adkins from MCM Crew “AGGRESSIVE”.

In closing: We have learned that MOMAU 12 (that’s right, they are a UNIT once again) in

Misawa, Japan continues to experience a heavy winter this past quarter. They have reported that snowfall has reached in excess of 72 inches on the ground. As we gear up for the In-Water Reliability Evaluation (IRE) this fall with the MK56, I will leave you with some pictures from a previous MK63 QUICKSTRIKE IRE. Take care, God Bless and stay safe.



MOMAU 11 personnel assembling MK63 QUICKSTRIKE



B-52 load



Mk 63 run



On target



MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH

by LCDR B.D. Hall

CO's CORNER: Greetings from Seal Beach.

Congratulations to the troops for successful completion of our 2006 Administrative and Material Assessment (ADMAT) by COMOMAG. The crew spent countless hours, days and even a few weekends over a six-week period in preparation for the inspection. The crew's hard work, reviewing programs and performing field days from top to bottom resulted in an outstanding assessment and overall "satisfactory" in all programs.

Job well done to MN1(SW) Ramsey for a successful completion of yet another Field Calibration Assessment (FCA). A great amount of personal hours went into preparation for the assessment by MN1 and his outstanding attention to detail and quality of work reflected in the end result. Bravo Zulu!

Welcome back to MNC(SW) Bartoli, MN1(SW) Ramsey and MN2 Hutchens who just returned from Barksdale, LA where they assisted the Air

Force and MOMAU Eleven during the Countersea Syllabus Exercise. The team assembled 61 mines consisting of an assortment of MK 62, MK 65, and MK 56 exercise mines.

In addition, MN2 Lane represented MOMAU One at the FIOBOUY training given at Mine Warfare Training Center, Ingleside Texas where he was trained on the latest and greatest in exercise and training shapes. The FIOBOUY is a comparatively inexpensive counterpart to the Versatile Exercise Mine series and will be tested during the upcoming Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC).



Animal, mineral or vegetable?



B-52s ... still flying, still bombing, still mining.

HAILS & FAREWELLS: Welcome aboard to YNSA Mullen and YNSA Huskey from NTTC Meridian, MS. Both Sailors have had an immediate impact in the administrative department as well as throughout the command.

I would like to hail our newest addition to the MOMAU One family, Wyatt Nolan Danley, born to MN3 Danley and his wife, Amber. Congratula-

tions and we welcome their son with open arms as extended family to MOMAU One.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION: Congratulations to MN1(SW) Jackson for his selection as MOMAU One CY2005 Sailor of the Year and MNSN Allen for his dual selection as CY2005 Blue Jacket of the Year and 4th Quarter Blue Jacket of the Quarter. I'd also like to congratulate MN2(SW) Nissen for his selection as 4th Quarter Sailor of the Quarter.

Bravo Zulu to MNCS(SW) Weatherholt and MNC(SW) Bartoli for qualifying as Ordnance Artificer's through the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP). Through their diligence and commitment to the program both senior enlisted have set a prime example for junior Sailors to follow in the pursuit of higher education.

Last, but definitely not least, congratulations to LCDR Bart D. Hall on his promotion to LCDR. On behalf of the crew, we are proud to serve under your command and look forward to the continued success of MOMAU One. Thank you for your leadership and support as our Commanding Officer.

ON THE HORIZON: The following months look to be very busy with mission requirements. Most notably, the crew will be making preparations for the C3F RIMPAC 2006 Exercise. In late June RIMPAC will be held in Pearl Harbor, HI and the surrounding islands. MOMAU One's MAT Team will be conducting final preparations on over 115 ET Mine assets in support of the exercise. The crew's nose will be to grindstone to have the assets ready to go, but I'm fully confident in their ability to have all assets prepped and ready for service to the fleet.

Prior to our upcoming exercise schedule, in early May we'll be sending MNC(SW) Bartoli off in style after 24 years of honorable service. His contributions to the Navy and MOMAU One have been numerous and his transfer to fleet reserve will have great impact on the core mine shop knowledge as it goes with him. On May 13th, 2006, the crew of MOMAU One will conduct an honorary retirement ceremony on his behalf.

**NEXT DASHPOT
ARTICLES ARE
DUE
1 JUNE 2006**



MOMAU ELEVEN GOOSE CREEK

by MNC(SW) King

MOMAU Eleven just completed its Technical Assist Visit and is preparing for its MRCI. Members of the TAV team were Lt. McGregor, MNCM Willams, MNC Sullivan, and Arie Helgerson. We appreciate the through inspection, and the information they shared to help us improve.

We remain busy preparing mines and sending MAT teams to the fleet to support mine exercises. We have prepared approximately 75 mines for various exercises.



Breaking Out TTDs



Loading Mines onto Trailer to Transport to Magazine



MK 56 Mines provided by MOMAU Eleven and MOMAU One loaded on B-52 at Barksdale AFB



MK 65s provided by MOMAU Eleven and MOMAU One loaded on B-52 Being Loaded at Barksdale AFB

CO's Corner

Congratulations: I'd like to congratulate the following personnel for their accomplishments: MN2(AW) Richard Dubois was recognized by Trident Area Combined Federal Campaign for achieving a 10 percent or more increase in contribution over 2004 donations. Bravo Zulu.

Senior Sailor of the Quarter 4th QTR

MN2(AW) Richard Dubois

Junior Sailor of the Quarter 4th QTR:

MN3 James Lacy

Blue Jacket of the Month

MNSN Justin Dennehy - DEC
MNSN Jeffery Gardner – JAN

New Personnel onboard

SK1(SW) Jeffery Clemente

MN1(SW) Hugh Griffis
MN2 (SW/AW) Amy Green
YN3 Richard Saunders

Farewell and Following Seas

MN3 Bradley Derum
MN1(SW) Casey Watkins
MN2(SW) Walter Webb
MN2(SW) Haynes

From the low country, have a safe Spring.



**MOMAU FIFTEEN
INGLESIDE**

By MN3 Sandy M. Gardner

Greetings:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally say that MOMAU FIFTEEN has shown that not only are we dedicated to our mission, we are also dedicated to the MOMAU FIFTEEN family. It seems that we have been tested to our limits and still we are strong. In addition I would like say GOOD LUCK to all those taking the exam this cycle.

Hails:

YN1 (SW) Parker from USMTM Saudi Arabia

Farewells:

MN3 Richard Schmidt, "Fair winds and following seas."



From the Desk of the Commanding Officer:
LCDR Julian Wyatt

Congratulations to SK1 (SW/AW) Pruske, on her selection as Commander Mine Warfare Command, Sailor of the Year. The competition was extremely close and we are so very proud of you SK1. Speaking of which, you will be sorely missed when you transfer in April, to embark upon the USNS Niagara Falls.

To the Crew of MOMAU 15 and our precious families, MN3 Gardner hit the nail on the head, when she commented above, on each and everyone's support to our extended family. We have experienced the full spectrum of grief, support and happiness. Thank you for taking care of one another. Next quarter will be a busy schedule, a lot of exercise support and I appreciate the extra effort; as usual, no task too small for MOMAU 15. Remember, safety first and the rest will follow through your expertise and reputation. We hosted several distinguished visitors this past quarter (high ranking), and your conduct as well as standard operating mode, was beyond reproach.

Welcome aboard YN1. By our next submission, YNC (SW) Vistro and family will have departed for sunny California. Words cannot begin to describe how very fortunate we have been to have you here at MOMAU 15, Admin O. Thank you. Please stay in touch. To the MOMAU 15 Family, and to our Ombudsman, Mrs. Aimee Dease, thank you for everything. We simply could not have pulled through without the MOMAU 15 spouses and entire crew involvement, on behalf of a few of our shipmates. Keep up the great work!!!

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

CONGRADULATIONS!!! I am very proud of all the hard work that everyone has done. Lets give our JSOQ, SOQ, SOY and JSOY a big hand. One team one fight.



JSOQ: MN3 Trisha Mason



SSOQ: SK1 (SW/AW) Jerilynn Pruske SOY: SK1 (SW/AW) Jerilynn Pruske



JSOY: MN3 Sandy Gardner

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MN1 (SW) Jeffery Blackwell

I would like to say congratulations to our MN3 Trisha Mason on her selection of JSOQ for the fourth quarter 2005. Her hard work and dedication has also awarded her with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Job well done.

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

Welcome YN1 (SW) William Parker from USMTM Saudi Arabia. We hope that you find a home here at MOMAU FIFTEEN.

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

We have also had events that have no doubt had us full of activity. Our TAV (Technical Assist Visit) conducted 24-26 January 2006 showed that we

are on target. In addition our visit from ADM Loewer was again a pleasant occasion. We have finally completed COMOMAG's shapes and are finishing up the last of our Versatile Exercise Mine's for the next big exercise.

We are also looking forward to sending MN2 Mozek, MN3 Tramell and MN3 Gardner to FIOBUOY training. FIOBUOYs are a submersible marine marker buoy and retrieval system that will be used by MOMAG for recovery of selected high cost VEMs and mine targets during exercises or from GOMEX MIW range support.

So long to MN3 Richard Schmidt, hope all is well in the civilian world. You will be greatly missed.



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

CONGRATULATIONS to SK1 Jerilynn Pruske!!! She was selected as Commander Mine Warfare Command's SOY for shore commands. It was an eventful week of preparation, which included a tour of the Texas Treasure Casino Cruse, San Antonio IMAX Theater and Admiral's Social with Admiral Loewer. We are proud of all her hard work. Next month she will be traveling to Norfolk, VA to compete against other COMLANTFLT SOYs. In addition she also reenlisted for another 2 years with her husband and daughter there.



MCM

HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON FIFTEEN

"THE BLACK HAWKS"



At Work



Big rascal, isn't it?

**Association of Minemen 32nd Annual Reunion & Meeting
20-22 October
Panama City Beach, FL at the Boardwalk Beach Resort and Hotel**

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

Please return the reservation form as soon as possible to the address above to expedite your registration for reunion events. Your tickets will be made available at the Early Bird, General Business Meeting, Dinner, and picnic.

Name : _____ AOM Member # _____
Spouse / Guest Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip : _____ - _____
Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____ @ _____

The Early Bird, October 20th: This year we'll be hosted by the AMVETS post 47 located near the Navy Base just off of Hwy 98 on Panama City Beach. This year we'll try a yummy seafood boil to accompany some of the refreshments. We will ask for a small donation to cover expenses.

AMVETS Post 47
8317 Front Beach Road
PCB FL, 32407
850-234-0995

Dinner Meeting, October 21st:

Dinner Tickets @ \$26.00 ea. X _____ Ticket(s) = \$ _____
This year our dinner choices start with the house salad, and the entrée choices are *London Broil*, *Seafood Newberg* and *Chicken Picatta*. Desert will be cheesecake or key lime pie. (This price includes all taxes and gratuities.) Please indicate your choice and quantity of entrée below:

"London Broil # _____ meals
"Seafood Newberg # _____ meals
"Chicken Picatta # _____ meals

The Picnic, October 22nd: We're reserving the Navy Base MWR Picnic Grounds and Beach for this year's "grill and chill" starting at 1100. Those of you who remember the AOM Reunion during the summer of 1996 will recall that this is a great facility. Base access will require a photo ID and we'll add your name to a list at the Main Gate.

Picnic Tickets @ \$12.00 ea X _____ Ticket(s) = \$ _____
(Age 7 to 12 years \$5.00, under 7 years FREE)
Picnic Tickets @ \$5.00 ea X _____ Ticket(s) = \$ _____

Number of children attending picnic age 6 and under _____

Annual Dues: @\$15.00 August 2005 to August 2006 (5 year max) \$ _____
Your label has your paid to date, e.g., August 2004 is your paid to date
(New or reinstatement member add \$5 application fee)

Museum Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____

AOM General Fund Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____

AOM Scholarship Donation: Tax deductible \$ _____

Dinner total \$ _____

Picnic total \$ _____

Checks payable to: Association of Minemen **TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ _____
(No cash please)

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