



The DASHPOT



Issue 56 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Winter 2006



FROM THE PRESIDENT

William "Bill" Johnson

Another very successful reunion and a great year for our organization. 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. Thanks again to all involved!!

As the year comes to a close, I would like to offer a "Bravo Zulu" to **Ron Swart and "Team Panhandle"** for their tremendous efforts in hosting our 32nd annual reunion in Panama City Beach. From the Shrimp Boil at the early bird, held at the PCB Amvets Post 47, through the Banquet Dinner and concluding with the Association Picnic and Auction, all events were truly enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks again "Team Panhandle" and to your wives for their efforts also.

This years two (AOM) Minemen of the Year awardees were announced: **Active: MN1 (SW) Samuel Dorbrandt, USN**, MCM Crew Loyalty in USS Pelican and **Reserve: MN2 Kevin Landers, USNR**, NR MOMAU TEN, Det. Two. 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 outstanding work.

Welcome and congratulations to our two "new" board members, Gary Cleland (06-09), and William Fortner (06-09). These two members volunteered to remain on as Board Members for 3 more years. **This is what service is all about.** Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!!

Congratulations to Bill Fortner and Norm Wicke on being this years (2006) recipients of the "Clock Cockers Award". Well done to both of you for your many years of dedicated service to our country. My sincere thanks for the outstanding job done by **Mr. Joe Kocur, as our Guest Speaker** and Congratulations Joe on being presented with

our Honorary Minemen Award. Congratulations **Minemen "A" Class 1957** on your 50th anniversary. **Thank you Bill Mehard** for your efforts in keeping us supplied with the Annual Minemen of the Year plaques. **Special Note:** Mr. Lewis Dickerson (94 years young) was our oldest Minemen present at the reunion. He is still going strong. Stay healthy, Lewis!!

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 our programs this past year. Without your generosity and unselfish contributions our Association would not be solvent. A special acknowledgement is in order to the anonymous donor who made it possible to award **Nine additional scholarships** this year. **Thank you again MR. ANONYMOUS.**

Our **2007 reunion** will be in **San Diego, CA, Oct. 19, 20 and 21** with **Mr. Warren Savage heading up the organizing.**

Our membership unanimously voted for the **2008 reunion to be in Charleston, SC** with **Mr. Dick Schommer as Chairperson.**

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.**

**I have a rock garden.
Last week three of
them died.** Richard Diran

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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

Minutes of the meeting held 21 Oct. 2006 in Panama City Beach, FL

Some entries are taken from the BOD meeting

The president called the meeting to order at 1310.

Minutes of the meeting held in Corpus Christi were read and accepted.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted.

Robert Wilson reported on the marketing committee.

Phil Dechene reported on the web site.

After a lengthy discussion on the museums, it was suggested that we look into abandoning the Yorktown.

Warren Savage reported that the USS Midway museum looks as if it will work out good.

Bill Fortner reported on the Dashpot. Curtis Christian will check on different mailing options.

The nominating committee recommended William Fortner and Gary Cleland to serve another three years on the BOD. No further nominations from the floor Fortner and Cleland will serve until 2009.

Dick Schommer reported on the Clock-Cockers award for this year.

Warren Savage nominated Mr. Joe Kocur to be made an Honorary Mineman. The vote was taken and passed.

The President reported on the Minemen of the year awards.

The President reported on the history book inventory.

After a discussion on the bonding of the treasurer, Robert Hart stated that he would talk to the insurance company and talk with Robert Stancik about it.

The President reported that he had talked to Bill Mehard about the Mineman of the year plaques. Bill agreed to make a few in advance and the President will look into another member taking over the job.

A discussion was held on the AOM scholarship awards. A motion was made to have two scholarships awarded each year and raise the amount to \$750.00. The vote was called and the motion was passed.

Ron Swart reported on the program for Saturday night.

Warren Savage reported on the 2007 reunion in San Diego. It will be held on 19-20 & 21 Oct.

Dick Schommer reported that his wife had given him permission to host the 2008 reunion in Charleston SC.

The Secretary asked that AOM mailbox be moved to avoid having a fifty-mile drive to pick up mail. The membership was in agreement.

Secretary's note — The new address will be P.O. Box 69, Eutawville SC 29048-0069.

John Loonam reported that he had two Giles Photos for the reunion. One to a door prize and one to be auctioned at the picnic.

No further business the meeting was adjourned at 1413.

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Christian



FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Curtis Christian

Hope that all of you made it back to your homes safe and just a little overweight from the good feed we had on Sunday.

My thanks to CDR Ron and the crew he put together. You folks did a great job. We all left with our bellies full and our scholarship account a lot fuller. How's that for some Southern slang y'all? More to come. (SMILE)

One of the members looked at the roster and saw Sam English on it and asked, "How did you get Sam out of Atlanta?"

Then, later in FL when no one saw him, I was asked, "Is Sam coming?" Then from out of the background came a voice, "If Sam sent his money, he will be here." Glad you made it, Sam. Loonam and I did not try to let that 150-lb. shark eat you. (SMILE). Good to see you mate. Come back next year.

CDR. Toby Horn. Sorry you could not make it to Panama City. Those Minemen put on a party just a little better than we did in '63. (SMILE) But then they did not have to dive around the piers and get coke bottles to come up with the money to buy the pig. We missed you and hope to see you on the west coast in '07.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NEW ADDRESS:

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P. O. BOX 69
EUTAWVILLE SC. 29048-0069

On Sept. 6, 2006, I completed fifty (50) years working for our US NAVY. On Jan. 3, 2007, I am going to retire and take on another challenge. I am going to undertake the task of putting the catfish on the endangered species list. Any of you, who come to Gods Country SC and would like to help, give me a call. My Navy.mil email address will no longer be good. Use my Hotmail address at: curtischristian@hotmail.com.

As a New Year for scholarships is upon us we need your help with donations. The Scholarship Fund is our donation to our "Pride of today and our Hope for tomorrow". (KIDS) When you send in donations let me know what fund you want the monies to go to. The scholarship fund goes to scholarships for this year. The Presidents scholarship fund goes into a CD that we pull the interest from each year and use that interest to fund another scholarship for this year.

Hope to see you on the West Coast next year.

NAUTICAL TERMS

by Don Decrona

Nautical terms have found their way into everyday American speech for centuries, enriching the language with colorful phrases. Now you can bamboozle your friends before getting them squared away with seafaring knowledge.

Bamboozle: In the days of sailing, this modern term for deception meant disguising your ship's nationality by flying colors that were not your own—a practice common among pirates. Today, an intentional deception among friends, usually meant as a joke, is said to be bamboozling.

Devil to pay: Although now used primarily to warn of an unpleasant consequence, this phrase described a grueling job—caulking the longest seam, or "devil," of a wooden ship. A sailor would use a pitch, known as a "pay," to do the caulking.

Figurehead: This carved wooden figure placed at the bow had no function but to "see the way." The term now denotes a person appointed to a leadership position, but with no real responsibilities.

Long shot: Here's a modern gambling term that has nautical origins. Because the guns on early ships were inaccurate except when fired at close range, it was an extremely lucky "long shot" that would find its target at a great distance.

Slush fund: Slush, a watery mixture of fats made from scraping empty meat-storage barrels, was often sold ashore by the ship's cook, who would pocket the profit. This money became known as a slush fund.

Squared away: This term for being finished with one task and ready for a new one came from a square-rigged ship with her yards braced so the ship was said to run "squarely" ahead of the wind.

Three sheets to the wind: If the "sheets" (the rope lines used to control the sails) are loose on a fully rigged ship, the sails flap and flutter in the breeze—and are said to be "in the wind." A ship in this condition appears "drunk" because it shudders and staggers in the water, aimlessly floating.

Under the weather: The bow of a ship that comes under the constant beating of the sea, or "under the weather," is where sailors below deck were most likely to become seasick. The phrase evolved to indicate feeling ill in today's lingo.

Wallop: Admiral Wallop of King Henry VIII's navy gained notoriety after he and his ships were sent to the French coast to retaliate for the burning of the town of Brighton, England. He so thoroughly destroyed his enemies that his name now indicates a mighty blow.



SCHOLARSHIP SCOOP



by Swede Carlsen

The AOM'S start on the 2007 scholarships from donations and bids at the picnic auction are at the \$1,689.68 mark. Now, during the season of giving we can build on this \$1,689.68 mark. Donations should be designated for the Presidential Challenge fund or the General Scholarship fund. Santa will find the donation gifts to the scholarship funds a very light burden.

Remember, a donation would lighten your TAX burden too. STAND TALL AMERICA

Reunion pictures will be in the next issue. The Dashpot office was overwhelmed with bronchitis so the editor had to take care of the entire Dashpot staff and then the entire Dashpot staff had to take care of the editor. The next issue will be much bigger. Hurry up with the new mailing method, Curtis.



FROM THE WEBMASTER

by Phil Dechene

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

- 10/31/06 - **Allen Alt MNCS (SW); MHC CREW LOYALTY**; allen8550@yahoo.com
- 09/26/06 - **LTJG Stephanie Moss Cowart [former MN1 (SW)]**; stephanie.cowart@navy.mil; cowdawg1@yahoo.com
- 09/26/06 - **William Newberry MN1**; william.newberry@navy.mil
- 06/16/06 - **William Shane Senseney MN1 (SW)**; mineman10@yahoo.com

E-mail – Reservist

- 07/19/06 - **CWO2 Beth A. Hudson**; gunner_bh@yahoo.com

E-mail – Retired

- 11/25/06 - **Richard Roderick MN2**; rroderick6@comcast.net
- 11/25/06 - **Chin Sing Jr. MNC**; chin.sing@sbcglobal.net
- 11/13/06 - **Robert (Bob) Hart MNC**; AOM; mncmh@roadrunner.com; Family: cnbhart@roadrunner.com
- 10/31/06 - **CAPT Neal Bundo USN**; Neal.Bundo.ctr@disa.mil; nbundo@msn.com
- 08/08/06 - **Bob Gormley**; puk_to_u@yahoo.com
- 07/20/06 - **CDR Toby Horn**; tobyonesc@bellsouth.net
- 06/29/06 - **LCDR Ed Hutsell**; cwoceo_1@yahoo.com

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- 10/31/06 - **Carl Zuelke MN3**; ice2000_54173@sbcglobal.net
- 10/11/06 - **Ron OBrien MN2**; robrien@netonecom.net
- 09/26/09 - **Ed Smith MN2**; navvetmomat0321@yahoo.com
- 09/26/06 - **Louis C. Degg MN2**; lcdegg@yahoo.com
- 09/26/06 - **Joe Wise MN2**; jwise59@nc.rr.com
- 08/08/06 - **Krista (Allen) Petersen MNSN**; jixergirl@hotmail.com
- 06/29/06 - **Dave Noetzel, MN3**; dnoetzel12@cox.net
- 06/16/06 - **Gregory L. Canright MN2**; glc939@sbcglobal.net



MAIL BAG

16 September 2006

Bill, greetings:

Re page 13/14 Summer 2006 edition. Surface laying of aerial mines is not new. We Minemen on board the USS Shea DM-30 loaded Mk 25s at NAS San Diego in March 1954 onto bogey carts and strapped them down and they went off shore and planted those rascals without a hitch. We then went up to Long Beach and did one Mk 6 plant there and one into Monterey Bay and then to Frisco for liberty!!!! Then to Pearl Harbor shipyard for upkeep (what fun that was), then to hydrogen bomb test and back to pearl. I departed soon thereafter.

Keep up the good work, we really do appreciate The Dashpot.

The second generation (immediate family) third generation going back to WW II, is now a qualified submariner (on deployment) to be in the USN.

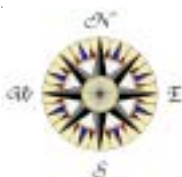
Take care and warmest wishes,
Ed Oyer



TAPS

MNC Edwards

Got word this morning that MNC(SW) Chuck Edwards, USN (Ret.), former STGC, passed away on Sat Nov 4th. I served with him at Unit 11 for most of '95, I think he retired from there, but I am not sure. Chief Edwards' memorial was scheduled for Friday, Nov 10th 2006 at 11:00 AM at the Home Branch Church of God of Prophecy, 2211 Connor Rd., Manning, SC. stephanie.cowart@navy.mil



McElreath, Amos

Amos Mitchell McElreath, age 74, of Monroe, died on October 10, 2006. He was born on August 4, 1932 to the late Martin Columbus McElreath and the late Minnie Lee Bridges McElreath. He was preceded in death by his brother, the late James McElreath. Surviving are wife, Betty Barineau McElreath of Monroe; daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Ray Martz of Woodbine; son, Michael McElreath of Monroe; mother-in-law, Margaret Barineau of Monroe; grandchildren: Ryan Martz, Courtney Martz, Paige Martz, all of Woodbine. A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, October 12th at 3:00 P.M. at the Chapel of Meadows Funeral Home. Visitation was held on Thursday from 1:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M. at Meadows Funeral Home in Monroe. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the American Heart Association, 1101 Northchase Parkway, Suite 1, Marietta, GA 30067, or call (678) 385-2000. Meadows Funeral Home, Inc., of Monroe was in charge of arrangements.



CWO Robert J. Lattanzi, USN (Ret.)

Robert J. Lattanzi passed away on 10 October 2006 from kidney failure. Funeral arrangements are for Bob to be buried at the Riverside National Cemetery, California, at 1400 hours, Wednesday, 18 October 2006. He will have a military ceremony officiated by the military. Bob will be buried next to his wife Corlynn who died in 1994, and a few plots from his son Wayne who died in 1996.

Patty Lattanzi, wife of Wayne who died, is making all the arrangements for the funeral and taking care of Bob's personal affairs.

Bob was born in New York, 13 October 1922. Enlisted USN on November, 1940. Commissioned Chief Warrant Minewarfare Technician in 1959. Retired February, 1961.



WOLENSKY, Arnold

Arnold Wolensky of Davie, FL passed away suddenly on Tuesday, September 26, 2006. Beloved husband of Rosalyn (Schwartz) and loving father of Beverly and her husband Alan Rosenbaum, Alan Wolensky and his wife Anne, and the late Heidi Wolensky Bradley. Arnold also had many beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews. Services were held at Stanetsky Memorial Chapel, Brookline, MA on Wednesday, October 3 at 11:30 and interment followed at the Anshe Polish Cemetery in Woburn, MA. Arnold was a WW II Navy veteran.



OTHERS WE HOLD DEAR



Pstrak, Sr., Theodore, Captain, USN (Ret.)

PSTRAK, SR., Theodore Captain Theodore (Ted) W. Pstrak, Sr., US Navy, Ret., husband of Helen Tyriw Pstrak of Mt. Pleasant, SC died Saturday, December 02, 2006 in a local hospital. The Mass of Christian Burial was in Christ Our King Catholic Church, Mount Pleasant, Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 10:30 AM. Prayers of Final Commendation and Farewell followed in Mount Pleasant Memorial Gardens.

Captain Pstrak was born February 8, 1927 in Wilkes-Barre, PA, son of the late Anthony Pstrak and Ella Bacak Pstrak. He was a member of Christ Our King Catholic Church and led the singing for the daily Mass for many years. He was a 1948 Penn State Graduate. He received the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Commendation; American Campaign Medal; WWII Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross); Republic of Vietnam of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation. He had an outstanding military career of 33 years of service with 10 commands with his last duty station as CO US Naval Station in Charleston, SC. Surviving are his wife, Helen Tyriw Pstrak of Mt. Pleasant, SC; daughter, Mary Ella Runyan of Fort Worth, TX, four sons, Myron Pstrak and Charles Robinson of Charleston, SC, Theodore Pstrak, Jr. and Julie Jackson of Charleston, SC, Stephen and Debra Pstrak of Gilbert, SC and David and Theresa Pstrak of Mount Airy, MD; one sister Dorothy Wujcik of Plymouth, PA; eight grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Donations may be made to the Christ Our King Catholic Church Building Fund, 1122 Russel Drive, Mt. Pleasant, SC.



EDITOR'S NOTES

My, what a reunion! It was a spectacular event, made more so by the lack of adult supervision. The food was great, the picnic grand and the only thing left of the roast pig was the squeal. My hat is off to Ron and the Panama City boys. The weather was nice although it threatened to rain during the picnic and it did get a little drunk out most nights. I am pleased to announce that there will be no additional charge for the poolside entertainment in the wee hours of Sunday morning.

I was shocked to see Sam English at the reunion. He had personally told me he was dead. I should know never to believe anything Sam says. I was near to having to change my BVDs when John Muessig showed up at the picnic looking just like the John Muessig I was stationed with in Hawaii in the late 60s. That just isn't fair. I think everyone was glad to see them both and I certainly hope they return to the next reunion in San Diego; if not that one, then the the 2008 Reunion in Charleston. It was good to see many down from Yorktown as well.

It appears change is afoot for better or worse and I hope the mine forces do not suffer as they always did when under the hand of another command. I remember not being able to get parts because "mine money" had gone to other departments. I think many of us remember when minemen were weighed when they entered a space and when they left it as tools and other consumables had a tendency to be attracted to them. Some called that cumshaw, other less generous people called it piracy. We in the mineforce looked upon it as a survival strategy and more as wrongful appropriation for rightful reasons. I hope that doesn't happen again. It is a lesson that never seems to stay learned. I am afraid that another third world country will have to deny the sea to the mightiest fleet in the world as North Korea did at Wonson for the learning curve to begin anew. There may not be enough time to get ahead of the power curve this time.

Many of our number suffer from serious illnesses. I hope each and every one of us will remember them in prayer and with a call or a note of encouragement. It is better to say the good things that are in our hearts to them now while they can hear than to wait until they no longer can.

I am looking forward to the reunion in San Diego. Unfortunately, I will be closely supervised this time. Betty Wilson! I heard that, "Thank God."

Rogue's Gallery



Mineman "A" School class of 1954. Most of the class was transferred from Yorktown, Virginia to NAD, Hawthorne, Nevada. Kneeling left to right: Diptola, Mishler, Unknown, McLaughlin, and Hinman. Standing, 2nd row, L-R: Don Jones, Don Frost, Vernon Perry, Joe Gallagher, Ralph Padgett, Klinger. Standing, back row, L-R: James Dodd, Lee, Joe Crognale, Unknown, Severance, "Soup" Jessen.



Assorted Rogues, Rascals and Renegades at 37th Annual Mine Conference.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NAD HAWTHORNE, NEVADA

by Don DeCrona



The Court of Inquiry which was appointed on 14 July 1926, to investigate and report on the Lake Denmark disaster in New Jersey recommended that a new Ammunition Depot be established to serve the Pacific Coast. It was to be located within 1,000 miles of that coast, and in a central, strategic position.

The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and the Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks took the matter into consideration. A great many points in Nevada, Utah, and California were suggested by interested and disinterested parties as possible sites.

Admirals C. C. Bloch and L. E. Gregory made a personal inspection of the prospective sites. It finally limited down to three possibilities and Hawthorne was favored over the Flannigan site, 60 miles north of Reno, NV, and the Secret Valley site in Eastern California.

The joint recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy on 13 December 1926 was that Hawthorne be selected as the location for the Naval Ammunition Depot to be constructed at an aggregate cost of not more than \$3,500,000.

The program was formally launched on 24 July 1928, and formally commissioned 15 September 1930. Officers and enlisted personnel reported for duty on 1 October of that year and the first shipment of high explosives arrived on 19 October 1930.

In December 1930 bids were received for the proposed Mine Filling Plant, and after contracts were let, all of the buildings in Mine Filling Plants #1 and #2 were constructed.

There are, as of 1953, over 2400 buildings on the station, of which over 1900 are magazines. There are almost 100 ordnance production buildings and almost 200 storehouses.

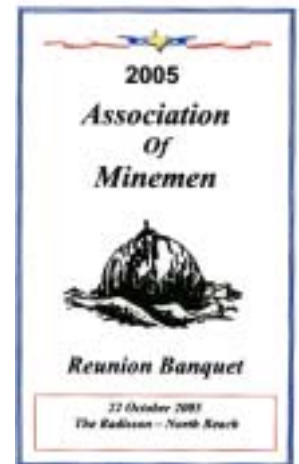
The Community of Babbitt (Navy Low Cost Housing) contained housing for about 1,300 families, as well as a shopping center, recreation buildings, parks, and playgrounds.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AOM Reunion Booklets Available



Association Of Minemen
31st Annual Reunion



Corpus Christi Texas
October 21 - 23 2005

Reunion Booklets are available through Curtis Christian (Secretary) or Ron Swart (Storekeeper) covering the 2004 and 2005 AOM reunions. These booklets contain more than 25 pages of color photos of reunion activities, family portraits, year's Taps and reunion attendees. The cost \$10 each plus \$2 mailing. The Panama City reunion is in the hopper. (available next reunion, orders accepted). Order yours today. They cost over \$12 a copy to produce.

KUDOS

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Panama City Reunion Committee (Leo Smith, Bob Bainbridge, Ken Waringa, Chuck Hadden) to say how much we enjoyed hosting the reunion this year. We wanted to set the bar up high and put on a quality event. We hope everyone had a good time. We'll see you in San Diego October 2007. All the best, Ron Swart

A synonym is a word you use...
in place of one you can't spell.



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

MNCM MAURICE RADKE, USN (RET.)



Today I had the pleasure and honor of attending Master Chief Radke's retirement ceremony aboard the USS Missouri, Mo aboard the Mighty MO. It was absolutely the best retirement I have ever attended.

Admiral (Four Star) Roughead PACFLT had some great things to say, Mo's father was terrific on the trumpet, his mother sang the National Anthem and a slew of awards were presented to him. He acknowledged many in the audience and talked fondly of the mine force mentioning many. Bill Bash was held in the very highest esteem. Master Chief Brian Robinson was there as so was Tom Johnson (Subic Mid 70s) along with a few other friends and shipmates, about 150 of them,

The ceremony renewed my faith in the Navy and the best things in life,

Mo, it was truly something special! Thanks! V/R Ed Hutsell



LCDR Ed Hutsell, USN (Ret.) and MNCM Maurice Radke, USN (Ret.)

Electricity is actually made up of extremely tiny particles called electrons, that you cannot see with the naked eye unless you have been drinking.

Dave Barry , *US columnist & humorist*



MINEMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MINEMEN OF THE YEAR



MN1(SW) Samuel Dorbrandt, USN aboard the USS Pelican receives recognition as the AOM Active Duty Mineman of the Year from AOM President LCDR Bill Johnson, USN (Ret).

MN2 Kevin Landers, USNR of NRMOMAG 10 Detachment 2 was selected at the Reserve Mineman of the Year.

As always, competition is tough and the choices are difficult. Congratulations to Petty Officers Dorbrandt and Landers for this significant career achievement.

**THE NEXT
DASHPOT ARTICLE
DUE DATE IS
1 MARCH 2007**

21 INGLESIDE MINEMEN ADVANCED TO CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

- MNC(SW) Robert Acox
- MNC(SW) Patrick Baker
- MNC(SW) Jeffrey L. Blackwell
- MMC(SW/AW) Brian A. Bonnett
- MNC Steve Boomer
- MNC(SW) Gerald Crain
- MNC(SW) Abraham Garcia
- MNC(SW) Kevin J. Geary
- MNC(SW) Gregory J. Hartman
- MNC Jeffrey A. Lindhorst,
- MNC Jason Lipka
- MNC(SW) Jacob A. Mazurek,
- MNC(SW) Erik C. McKnight
- MNC(SW) Stephen J. McQueen
- MNC(SW) James Ramey
- MNC Michael Rodgers
- MNC(SW) Joseph Sanchez
- MNC(SW) Robert Williamson
- MNC(SW) Alberto Ortiz
- MNC(SW) Ronnie Auman
- MNC(SW) Renier Sudul

This is just Ingleside and doesn't include the rest of the Mobile Mine Assembly Units. Remember when the advancement rate for MNC was zero or one?

Congratulations to the new CPOs. If you haven't been already, you will soon be Chiefs and members of one of the most respected fraternities in the free world.



WHO SAID THAT?.....



MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY GROUP WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER



Commander Stephen M. Anderjack

Commander Stephen M Anderjack was born in 1956 in Binghamton, NY. His family moved to Nashville, TN in 1960 and he enlisted in the Navy in January 1977. After recruit training in Orlando, FL and Basic Submarine School in Groton, CT, he attended Polaris Electronics "A" School and Fire Control Technician (Ballistics) "C" school in Dam Neck, VA. His first sea tour was in the USS HOLAND (AS 32) W-2 Division, responsible for upkeep of SUBRON 14 Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines. He later served as Leading Petty Officer (LPO) in USS ULYSSES S. GRANT (SSBN 631) (Blue) for Ballistic Missile Fire Control Division completing six deterrent patrols. He was initiated as a Chief Petty Officer in August 1986.

Commander Anderjack earned his commission in September 1987 through the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program. Upon commissioning, he served as the commissioning Systems Test Officer (STO) in USS PRINCETON (CG 59) during which time he made two Western Pacific deployments, including OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, participated in RIMPAC 90 and Demonstration Testing/Operational Testing for AN/SPY-1B radar. His second STO tour was in USS HUE CITY (CG 66) making one BALTOPS and two Mediterranean deployments. His last sea tour was with Cruiser-Destroyer Group TWELVE as Combat Systems Officer including a seven-month deployment with ENTERPRISE Strike Group for OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

His shore assignments include "C" School and Officer Instructor at Guided Missile School, Dam Neck, VA, commissioning Officer-in-Charge, AEGIS Training Support Group, Mayport, FL, Officer-in-Charge, AEGIS Training and Readiness Center (ATRC) Detachment Mayport, FL, Commanding Officer Mobile Mine Assembly Unit ELEVEN, Charleston, SC, and Officer-in-Charge, Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division, Detachment Guam.

Commander Anderjack is qualified Enlisted Submarine Warfare, Surface Warfare Officer and has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), and Navy Achievement Medal (four awards).

Editor's Note: Commander Anderjack, the editor and entire staff of the Dashpot wish to extend our heartiest "Welcome Aboard". Being only slightly younger than dirt, I recall a submarine commissioned the USS Amberjack attached to SUBRON 4, I believe it was, when I was stationed in the USS Howard W. Gilmore (AS-16) which tended the boats in Charleston. Your name is so close it caught my attention and brought back a lot of pleasant memories. If there is anything The Dashpot can do for you, you have but to ask. I believe that goes for the Association of Minemen as well.

It is inaccurate to say that I hate everything. I am strongly in favor of common sense, common honesty, and common decency.

This makes me forever ineligible for public office.

H. L. Mencken , *US editor (1880 - 1956)*



COMOMAG

by MNCS(SW) David Ostrom

Greetings all and Happy Holidays! We hope everyone had a pleasant Thanksgiving with family and friends and enjoying getting ready for the Christmas season. Another busy quarter here at COMOMAG. We welcome aboard Commander Steve Anderjack who has taken the helm and welcome back LDCR Tom Mathison from Charleston, SC while serving as the CO for UNIT 11. Our Inspection Teams have been very busy and traveling conducting MRCI's and ADMAT's. Outstanding participation by the MOMAU Units in direct support of exercises USS NIMITZ C2X, USS STENNIS C2X, B52 COUNTERSEA Training Sorties, MINEX/EODEX 06-3JA, and providing ET/MCMTT mines for Panama City MIW Training Fields and Training Fields in Southern California.

Two of our MOMAU Unit's conducted Changes of Command, and we are seeing major facility upgrades being completed at our sites. We continue to work with NAVAIR and NSWC Panama City on material support for F/A-18E/F carriage testing, and test plans for the new TDD 71. The FIAT for the new TDD MK71 is scheduled for first part of calendar year 2007.



Awards: MN1(SW) Renee Myers who was selected as COMOMAG's Sailor of the Quarter for 3rd quarter 2006.



BRAVO ZULU: to SK1(SW/AW) Ray Paradis for his reenlistment for 3 more years!

Departures: MNCS(SW) Tom Robertson to SCRMC, Ingleside. MN1(SW) Jim Grant to MCM CREW DOMINANT. MN1(SW) Wendy Sims to CIVLANT, region South Texas Portland!

Arrivals: Commander Steve Anderjack from Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division, Detachment Guam. LT Emma Mathis from NAS Sigonella, Sicily. MNCM(SW) Randy Childers from MCM CREW IMPERVIOUS. MNC(SW) Darrell Bostic from MCM CREW IMPLICIT.

In closing: this wraps it up for this quarter's submission. All of us at COMOMAG wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to a challenging and rewarding year in Mine Warfare 2007! God Bless and stay safe.



MOMAU ONE SEAL BEACH, CA

by LT G. V. Bodine

CO's CORNER: Greetings fellow MOMAU warriors!

I am LT George V. Bodine, the new Commanding Officer of MOMAU One. My Change of

Command was held on October 12th, 2006. Prior to my turnover it was evident that I would be taking command of one of the premiere mine shops on the waterfront. I look forward to maintaining that reputation and continuing to provide top-notch ET mine support to the fleet. I bid my predecessor LCDR Hall a hearty "fair winds and following seas" and wish him the best of luck as he continues his Naval career onboard USS TARAWA (LHA 1).

Bravo Zulo to all hands for an outstanding Technical Assist Visit (TAV) during the first week of October. The crew spent countless on and off duty hours in preparation for the assist visit conducted by COMOMAG. As always, in true MOMAU One fashion, the crew stepped up to the plate and performed exceptionally in all programs and inspected areas of the assessment. Special thanks to the TAV team for the wealth of knowledge they relayed to the crew. The assessment was undoubtedly beneficial to all hands and will help us immensely in preparation for next years Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI).

Following TAV and Change of Command we've been quite busy here in Seal Beach. We've deployed various MAT Teams to a multitude of exercises and different evolutions throughout the Fall months. Many newly appointed junior Sailors got the opportunity to "strut their stuff" to the fleet over the course of the previous months. For a vast number of junior Sailors this was their first chance to embark onboard carriers and incorporate their shore based training into real-time scenarios. The training and exercises included: USS STENNIS COMPTUEX, USS STENNIS and USS NIMITZ G-3 Division Mine Team Training, and ET Mine recoveries onboard civilian vessels MICHAEL UHL and DIANE "G". Job well done to all MAT Teams and crewmembers involved. The hard work, dedication and attention to detail was undoubtedly recognized throughout the fleet.

In between maintenance, training and various exercises, we have managed to have some fun along the way. October 15th marked our observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. All hands and families gathered for a "fiesta style" potluck and enjoyed plenty of food and relaxation, as well as speeches from various crewmembers in recognition of the Hispanic culture and lifestyle. On November 11th we were proud to participate in the Long Beach Veteran's Day parade where we marched alongside our shipmates from the local chapter of the Destroyer Escort Association (DESA).

HAILS & FAREWELLS: Welcome aboard to MNC(SW) Wolfe from COMNAVREG MIDLANT Norfolk, MN2(SW) Merry from USS SWIFT (HSV 2), and MNSR Myers from UMINEWARTRACEN.

We had four enlisted personnel transfer from our MOMAU family this past quarter. MNC(SW)

Jackson to MCM CREW PERSISTENT, MN1(SW) Gumin to LCS PRECOM San Diego, SK2(AW) Morales to HSC 23 North Island, and last but not least MNSN Bell who transferred to MCM CREW DOMINANT. Best of luck and continued success to all!

AWARDS & RECOGNITION: Congratulations to MN2(SW) Navarro for selection as Sailor of the Quarter, and YNSA Mullen for selection as Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Flag Letter's of Commendation were presented to MN1(SW) Ramsey, MN2 Lane, MN2(SW) Nissen, and MNSN Wolfe for their superb support during RIMPAC '06 in Pearl Harbor, HI. MN1(SW) Ramsey was also awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his exceptional service with the NWS Seal Beach Sea Cadets. End-of-Tour NAM's were presented to MNC(SW) Jackson, MN1(SW) Gumin, SK2(AW) Morales, and MNSN Bell. Job well done to all awardees!

ON THE HORIZON: We have many events to look forward to this season beginning with DESA and Navy League's annual Children's Christmas Party which will be held December 9th. Followed by our own Christmas Potluck on the afternoon of December 15th and continuing into the evening with the NWS Seal Beach Christmas Party. Following our Christmas festivities we fall right into our holiday stand down period to take a deep breath and enjoy some leisure time with friends, family and loved ones as we prepare for 2007.

I wish to extend my warm and sincere wishes to you for a joyous holiday season. On behalf of my crew, we wish you our heartfelt joy and prayers for a healthy and prosperous new year.



MOMAU EIGHT, GUAM

By MN1 Eugene T. Smith

Hafa Adai from MOMAU Eight Guam.

As we prepare for a well earned Holiday stand down, we pause to reflect and respect those presently serving in harms way. They have all our best and remain in our prayers. God Bless you all.

Although we remain gainfully employed providing mines and training to our USAF counter parts, and attempting to control our material inventory, we still have found time to spend time with the community. Largely credited to both Petty Officers Anderson & Davis, MMU-8/Talofofu Sister Village Program Partnership is up and running with MOMAU-8 personnel spending over 500 hours of off-duty time collectively repairing school grounds and equipment.



MNCS PIPKIN holding MK56 training with USAF personnel

Additionally, through the efforts of Principal Rose Meeks and our Commanding Officer, LCDR Washington, a student recognition program has been in place since the beginning of the school year, "Student of the Month" formally recognizes each top academic achiever from each room during scheduled Talofofu PTA Assembly & Fiesta. Fun for all.



MNSN Guadron explains TDD programming to his USAF counterparts

ADVANCMENTS

MN3 FRAZIER

MN3 BIVINS

HAIL AND FAREWELLS

-Said hello to:

YN2 DAVIS from VFA-37

MN2 ANDERSON from USS GUARDION

MNC WOOD from USS ROBIN

MNC JONES from USS FALCON

MN3 WERNER from USS GUARDIAN

MN2 HARRIS from MCM CREW DOMINANT

LCDR KLEVA from COMLOG WESTPAC

-Said goodbye to:

SK1 BROWN to USS STOUT

MNC BUTLER to USS PATRIOT

MNC LAVAKE to ATG INGLESIDE

MN1 MAYER to NSCT-1

MN2 KAPSA to LSC PRECOM

MN1 VANMATRE to COMNAVREG MIDLANT

MN1 KEEFER to GITMO

CWO3 FORSYTHE to USS KENNEDY

MN1 THETFORD to PSD GUAM



Inert MK56 Mine prepared for VIKING BLITZ 06



B-52 Pilots provided a guided tour to the crew of Unit Eight prior to Dropping mines (seen on the wing stations)



KUDOS

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

MN1 Smith – SSOQ 3Q06

MN3 Cockfield – JSOQ 3Q06

MNSN Frazier – BJOQ 3Q06



Until next time, adios, and feliz navidad from the Officers & Crew of MOMAU Eight.



**MOMAU TEN
KADENA, JA**



MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY UNIT TEN UNDER GOES BUILDING RENOVATION

by YNC(SW/AW) J.L. Emory

MOMAU Ten is located in the beautiful Island of Okinawa and within the compounds of Kadena Air Force Base. The command's current production and administrative building was constructed in the Vietnam Era and on 13 November 2006, it finally began a six month renovation project worth \$737,000 U.S. dollars. The renovation contract was awarded to Oshiro Gumi CO, LTD by Naval Facility Far East, Public Works Department Okinawa, Japan. Mr. Tamayoshi Takashi and Ms. Ayano Chibana are the lead supervisors for this extensive and challenging endeavor. Part of the plan includes extensive asbestos removal work and elimination of 3 refrigerators and 2 reefer units. As technology advances, these refrigeration units have become virtually obsolete for the storage of mine batteries. New batteries do not require strict refrigeration parameters and have a longer shelf life. With the extra space gained, additional office space will be made available for command work centers. Additionally, plans call for modernization of current office space, sanding room, paint room, battery storage locker, Test Set Maintenance room, calibration lab, and a male and female locker room. The overall working environment will definitely improve the quality of life of each Sailor currently assigned and to those Sailors who may become a part of TEAM Ten in the future. MOMAU Ten remains at the tip of spear in the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility and it's the busiest mine shop in the world. The new facility will increase Team Ten's readiness and ability to perform its mission ANYTIME - ANYWHERE.



JPG "LT Jesse Sanchez, Commanding Officer MOMAUTEN, MNC(SW) Cesar Montero and MNC(SW) Chris Bender with Public Works Okinawa representatives Mr. Tamayoshi Takashi and Ms. Ayano Chibana"



Merry Christmas to all from the crew of MOMAU TEN!"



MOMAU TWELVE MISAWA JAPAN

by MNCS(SW) Greg Williams

Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays from the land of the rising sun Japan! It's been truly a busy year for us here in Misawa Japan. Lots of happenings and changes here over the past few months here in Misawa. So here's a quick snapshot. In Aug 06 the crews hard work and diligence paid off with a very successful Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI) with an impressive "ZERO FINDINGS" report we received from the senior inspector. In October of 06 we changed from a Detachment back to a unit with the OIC Billet fleet up to a CO billet. Congratulations to CWO3 Bly. No rest for the wicked as we then

moved on into preparations for our bi-annual Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) from 13-17 Nov 06. CDR Anderjack the new Commodore for COMOMAG was very impressed with our crew of 13 strong bodies. We passed with flying colors. Thank god for that 531 days until our next MRCI yeah. We are now finishing up our workload to try and enjoy some much deserved holiday stand-down for the crew. They have certainly earned it.

FAREWELLS

MNC(SW) Angle – Reporting to MCMCREW BULWARK
 MN1(SW) Munoz – Reporting to MCMCREW BULWARK
 SK1(AW) Altares – Reporting to DDG 73 USS DECATUR

HAILS WELCOME ABOARD

YN1 Forest – Arriving from EODMU 11
 SK1 Powell – Arriving from MHC CREW LOYALTY
 MN1 Busby – Arriving from MHC CREW IMPLICIT
 MN3 Moorelock – Arriving from MHC CREW CONQUEST
 MN3 Goss – Arriving from MHC CREW CONQUEST

I would also take some time to recognize and congratulate the following personnel for a job well done during our most recent TYCOM inspections

(ESI & MRCI) and one of our Sailors Re-enlisted for another 6 years. More awards for MRCI are forthcoming and will be reflected in the Spring Dashpot update.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

SK1(AW) Altares NAM (ESI)
MN1(SW)Munoz Reenlisted and received and SRB of over \$23,500.00
MN2(SW)Browning 2 NAMS (ESI-MRCI)
MN2 Hanson NAM (ESI)
MN2 Hill NAM (ESI)
MNSN Pitts NAM (ESI)

ON THE RADAR SCREEN

After the holiday stand down it's time to get back in full swing as next quarter marks a busy schedule for maintenance. We have a 07 JA exercise that we will be participating in southern Japan, we also currently have a 900k construction project in full swing here for building 1440 and the retirement of CWO3 Bly on the horizon. Lets not forget we will also have a ton of snow to shovel we set some records last year we received over 180". My back aches just thinking about it. Well that's all for now from the land of the rising sun. So iu koto de sayonara.

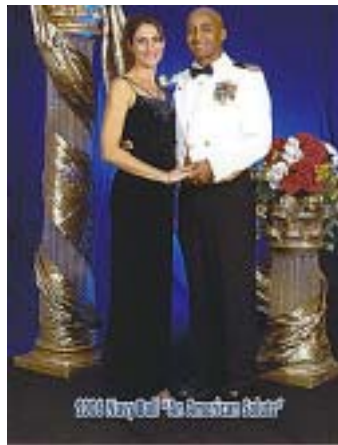


MOMAU FIFTEEN INGLESIDE, TX

Greetings:

Well hello to everyone. We are wishing everyone who was up for advancement the best of luck. This has been a quarter for finishing old projects. Each department has been working hard to wrap up some of those forgotten tasks. I would also like to take this time to thank everyone for all the hard work and contributions' made to the community this quarter. This will be the last Dashpot article I write for MOMAU FIFTEEN. I will be leaving next quarter. In addition it seems that this year has been one full of challenging times. I would like to make a personal wish that everyone has a very special and safe Holyday. Take a look at our very own celebrities at the Navy Ball.

**Don't worry if you're a kleptomaniac ...
you can always take something for it.**



**LCDR Julian Wyatt
and his date Thomea
Floros**



**MNCS (SW) Edward
Nixon and wife Tina
Nixon**

Hails:

MN1 (SW) Saucedo

Farewells:

MNC (SW) Blackwell

MN1 (SW) Mounsey

From the Desk of the Commanding Officer:
LCDR Julian Wyatt

Happy Holiday's MOMAU 15 Family, Friends and
Colleagues,

I hope and I pray that each and every one of you has a safe and wonderful holiday season. This will be my last dashpot article commenting as your Commanding Officer.

My relief is LT Darvin Robinson who will be onboard sometime in January 07 with a February 8th, 2007 Change of Command. It has been an honor and an absolute privilege to serve with you. I will be reporting for duty on USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), Pre-Com crew, being built in Newport News, Virginia as the 3MC.

With that said, the past three months have been extremely busy with supporting MCM/ MHC's with refurbishment and exercise support of shapes in Panama City. Great work team!! MOMAU Fifteen was mentioned in the base paper for our Halloween MK 6 Pumpkin.

Production has done a phenomenal job in the creative and marketing department and rumor control has it that a Christmas MK 6 is in the initial design stages.

I would like to formally congratulate SK1(SW) Amanda Maxwell on her nomination as MOMAU 15 Senior Sailor of the Year, MNSN Johnson as the Junior Sailor of the Year, MN2 Mozek as Senior Sailor of the Quarter (FY06, 4th QTR), MN3 Owens as Junior Sailor of the Quarter (FY06, 4th QTR).

Welcome aboard to MNC(SW) Fuhrman from HM15, MN1(SW) Watkins from NASCC, MN3(SW) Young from Crew Conquest (USS CORMORANT). We bid fair winds and following seas to MNC(SW) Blackwell who transferred to the USS Champion and MN1(SW) Mounsey who retired.

All the best,
LCDR Wyatt

From the Desk of the Mine Assembly Officer:
MNCS (SW) Edward Nixon

Great job to those who participated in the PANAMX 2006 trip. I know that at times it seems nothing ever goes the way we plan, however remember some of the greatest experiences happen when you aren't expecting it. Here is one you may never see again, four Mineman on board LHD-3, the largest ship any Mineman may have ever seen.



MN1 Bowmen, MNC Payne, MN3 Gardner and MNSN Johnson on board LHD-3 PANAMX 2006

Great job to our Junior and Senior Sailors of the Quarter and to the Junior and Senior Sailors of the Year, your hard work is much appreciated. As supervisors we have to remember it is sailors who put in the extra effort that makes our jobs easier. Those who go above and beyond will be the ones in our place one day. Teach them well. Get-R-Done.



Mk 56 being loaded on a B-52 wing pylon.



JSOQ: MN3 (SW) Mark Owens



JSOY: MNSN Dustin Johnson

SSOQ: MN2 (SW) Toby Mozek
SOY: SK1(SW) Amanda Maxwell

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: MN1 (SW) Orville Hall

As life would have it, change is the most predictable concept. We all understand that our lives will change, the surrounding will change and our friends will change. It's not until the change is permanent that we look back and say, "Where did the time go?" We are saddened by the loss of MN3 Mason, her and daughter Megan leave us to pursue opportunities in the civilian sector. On behalf of the MOMAU 15 family we would like to wish her and Meagan all the best. I would like to take this time to welcome from the land of ADP, IT1 (SW) Burgin who has stepped in and taking over as Training Officer. I am very pleased to have someone with his knowledge and foresight in OPS. With the holidays quickly approaching OPS and Training would like to send a happy holiday season to all the MOMAU families. May this be a very pleasant season for ALL.

ADMIN DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head: YN1 (SW) William Parker

With the vast majority of MOMAU FIFTEEN taking time to help out the community it has added a few extra papers to be filed this quarter. I would like to say to everyone who helped with Spookville, NROTC at Aransas Pass High School, and Search for Truth Ministries, great job. Your contributions' never go unnoticed.

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT SITREP: Department Head, MN1 (SW) Isidro Beltran.

I must say this quarter has been full of activities. We have completed many tasks that we have put off, such as refurbishing our own display shape

for Halloween. We have plans to redo it again for the Christmas holyday. We have attacked QA impound and cleared out some much needed space. This quarter we have been more productive then in the past. I would contribute that to the great atmosphere we have here. The Production team has also been working on community involvement, be it helping with Naval Station Ingleside's Spookville, NROTC in Aransas Pass, Search for Truth Ministries or just being a guiding light. Here is a glimpse of how our Halloween went. Can you guess who is who??



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

We are glad to welcome MN1 (SW) Saucedo as our new ROLMS person. I know that it is a huge responsibility to take on, and he has come through very well. Also I would like to say great job to our Warehouse team, MN3 (SW) Tramell and MN3 Marroletti. The new lounge was erected in record time, Thanks guys. Also the display of mine shapes for NROTC held at HM 15 went well. Everyone enjoyed the mine figures, and I was glad to elaborate on each ones importance and special characteristics. Last I would like to be the first to welcome the upcoming newest member of the MOMAU FIFTEEN family. Our SK1 (SW) Maxwell and her husband Daniel will bring into the world their first child over the holyday season. To everyone have a very Merry Christmas.



Momau 15 wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

VICE COMMANDER NAVAL MINE AND ANTI- SUBMARINE WARFARE COMMAND



REAR ADMIRAL JOHN N. CHRISTENSON

Rear Admiral John N. Christenson was born in Carmel, California . He is the fourth of the six sons of Captain Donald A. Christenson, USN (Ret) a Navy A-1 SKYRAIDER Pilot, and the late Joanne Logue Christenson, a former Navy Nurse. He entered the UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY in July 1977 and was commissioned an Ensign in May 1981.

From April 1982 until April 1985, Rear Adm. Christenson served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant aboard USS COOK (FF-1083). Aboard COOK he made his first Western Pacific deployment. He was then assigned as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to COMMANDER CRUISER DESTROYER GROUP ONE in San Diego . He deployed aboard the Flagship USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9) with the Navy's first Battleship Battle Group, again to the Western Pacific.

In August 1986 he reported to the UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY where he served as

Company Officer, Celestial Navigation Instructor, Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach, and member of the Admissions Board.

After graduating with distinction from Department Head School in Newport, he returned to sea duty serving as Weapons Officer aboard USS DOWNES (FF-1070). He served there with the Pacific Fleet ASW Squadron, deploying to the Western Pacific in September 1989. In August 1990 he reported to COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON TWENTY-ONE in San Diego as Combat Systems Officer, completing a deployment to the Persian Gulf aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN-68).

In March 1992 he reported to the NAVAL WAR COLLEGE in Newport, Rhode Island as a student. He graduated with distinction and first in his class in March 1993, earning his Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

He reported to USS HARRY W. HILL (DD-986) as Executive Officer in September 1993, completing a deployment to the Persian Gulf in July 1994. After graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia in June 1995, he served in the Strategic Initiatives Group, HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, Washington D.C. , until July 1997.

Selected for the Navy Federal Executive Fellowship Program, Rear Adm. Christenson spent from July 1997 through June 1998 at the FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY in Boston, Massachusetts . He took command of the Guided Missile Frigate USS MCCLUSKY (FFG-41) in March 1999 while underway in the Persian Gulf and part of the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) Battle Group.

Rear Adm. Christenson reported to the Joint Staff in Washington D.C. on 7 December 2000. He served in J-5, Strategic Plans and Policy, and then as the Executive Assistant to the Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff from April 2002 to July 2003. He commanded Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-ONE from 19 September 2003 to 16 November 2004. Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-ONE was the Sea Combat Commander for the USS JOHN C STENNIS (CVN-74) Strike Group, the Pacific Fleet's ASW Innovative Strike Group. He was previously in command of the Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport Rhode Island . He took command of Naval Mine and Anti-submarine Warfare Command Corpus Christi Texas on 26 October 2006.

Rear Adm. Christenson has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit twice, the Meritorious Service Medal twice, the Navy Commendation Medal five times and the Navy Achievement Medal.



Rear Admiral Christenson: ‘Do more than you think you can, stretch yourself’



Rear Admiral John N. Christenson, took the helm Thursday Oct. 26th of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command-Corpus Christi (NMAWC-CC) and envisions growth for Mine Countermeasures and sailors who serve the command.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to be given this opportunity of working with the Navy’s finest Mine Warfare staff.” Rear Adm. Christenson said, “It’s our time to move Mine Warfare forward from where it is today.”

The move aligns the mine warfare community’s staff and research elements with similar work being done in the ASW area. Noting these elements and commenting on the viability of a major new tool in the arsenal, the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), Christenson stated, “The LCS program is a move in the right direction, it is an innovative piece of technology that enhances the capability of mine countermeasures.”



The Littoral Combat Ship, whose speed can reach more than 40 knots, will act as a modular platform that can be reconfigured for anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare or surface warfare missions.

At Commander’s Call, the newly appointed admiral pointed out that men and women who serve NMAWC-CC make the Navy effective. “It’s all about you being the best sailor, best father or mother, best spouse, the best person you can be.” Christenson said. “If you work to be the best you can be, the command cannot help but be the best it can be.”

“We need sailors willing to do more than they think they can,” he continued. “To stretch themselves beyond where they think they can go.” With sailors a key ingredient, Christenson said of the transition from a single focus (mine warfare) command to a merged Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, “The goal is to do it right, have the right people, the right pieces fit together the best way they can.”



A goal of the merger and realignment of Mine Warfare Command with the San Diego-based Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Command during his command, he stated, is to establish that mine warfare has a seat at the table in every strike group, whether expeditionary or carrier, or wherever, whenever it is needed.

What does Christenson think of the CNO’s thousand ship navy? He believes mine warfare capabilities are a highly relevant and integral piece. With well-trained people, innovative technology and other countries having similar assets and capabilities, the navies can work together to keep the seas open and free.



MCM NEWS



EA DRAGONS CONDUCT MINE TRAINING

Navy News | PO2 Sean Spratt | November 08, 2006



USS Saipan, At Sea - The amphibious assault ship USS Saipan (LHA 2), along with the "Blackhawks" of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 15, successfully conducted a mine sweeping training event in the Persian Gulf Nov. 7.

HM-15 Blackhawk personnel flew HM-53E Sea Dragons that towed MK-105 Magnetic Influence Minesweeping Systems, better known as "sleds," which are high-speed catamaran hydrofoil platforms.

"The 'sled' is a high speed sweep, so you're looking at a faster and safer way to clear waterways vice using conventional ship sweeping," said Capt. Jeffrey Harbeson, commander of Destroyer Squadron 50. "The 'sled' is good for sweeping magnetic and acoustic mines, giving more flexibility and speed to the mission."

Throughout the years, mine sweeping countermeasure operations have proven to be an important asset to the Navy, because they provide the ability to protect ships and their crews from seemingly invisible threats in the water.

HM-15, along with the sleds, embarked aboard Saipan Nov. 3. The exercise marks the second time within two months that the unit has successfully demonstrated its mine sweeping capability in the Persian Gulf.

"From the Arabian [Persian] Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz to the Red Sea, you see a coalition of forces operating together to protect ships and countries from terrorists," said Harbeson, "thus keeping the world open to free commerce and trade on the high seas."

Saipan is currently on deployment in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of operations conducting maritime security operations (MSO) in the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean.

MSO help set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. These operations deny international terrorists the use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other materials.

Saipan left its homeport of Norfolk, Va., Aug. 15, and began a surge deployment to the U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command areas of responsibility. Sound Off...What do you think? [Join the discussion.](#)

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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.

Mail Checks to:
Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 69
Eutawville, SC 29048-0069