



THE DASHPOT



Issue 78/79 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Summer/Fall 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gary Cleland

Hello to all from Sunny San Diego. As the summer season begins we are only a couple short months away from our 38th annual reunion in Panama City, FL. When you send in your reservations for the reunion please remember to be generous to the scholarship fund and our museum funds as well.

I would like to extend hearty congratulations to all of the active and reserve personnel who were recently advanced to their next level of personal responsibility. An extra special congratulation is extended to one of our own, our AOM Vice President, the newly minted Master Chief Tracey Hays. Way to go Master Chief!

I had the pleasure early in May to present two historical items to RADM Scott Hebner, NMAWC. A framed picture of the entire "mine force" in 1939 provided by the family of Foxy Fisher our first AOM president. A MINEFLOT 1 command plaque, which was provided by Ron Swart. The plaque recently having been displayed at NSWC. Ron felt NMAWC would be a better venue giving the historical significance of MINEFLOT 1. Admiral Hebner thanks the Association and assures both would be proudly displayed in a prominent place within the NMAWC Command. Photos of the presentation are in this issue on page 6..

Stay strong America, and may God bless our service men and service women in uniform. Thank you for your service.

***"It is any day better to stand erect with a broken and bandaged head than to crawl on one's belly, in order to be able to save one's head."* — Gandhi**

38TH ANNUAL AOM REUNION

22-24 OCTOBER 2012

The Reunion Committee is proceeding apace for this year's event in beautiful Panama City Beach. Please complete your registration form as soon as possible so we can get a good head count. Captain Scott Pratt, Commanding Officer of NSWC PCD, has offered a tour of the Mine Warfare Lab and projects to the membership. MNCS (SW) Kopp is working the details with the CO's office. We are honored to have Captain Scott Burleson, USNR, as our guest speaker this year and you'll be pleased to hear of all the activity going on in Mine Warfare these days. Scott is currently the Assistant Program Manager for the In-service Mines Program and also serves as the Chief of Staff for the US Fleet Forces Command Reserve Unit out of Greenville, NC. He has a long history in Mine Warfare starting with service in an MSO, and later as the Mine Warfare Requirements Officer, he commanded during multiple Unit deployments to the Middle East and served as the Technical Director at the Mine Warfare Command.

A special thanks to the wonderful help and assistance from the Innovative Professional Solutions 'Mine Shop' Team: Bob Bainbridge, Leo Smith, Ollie Collins, Brian Kopp, Nick Snyder, Ed Nixon, John Monn, and the boss, Mr. Terrance Houghton; Ken Waringa with IDSI and Dale Garwood and MNCS (SW) Brian Kopp of NSWC PCD for lending their time and talent to assist with this effort. We're looking forward to seeing everyone... Hope you will join us on one of the world's Most Beautiful Beaches.

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DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a 501-C non profit, non political 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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**EVERETT "SCOTT" PRATT CAPTAIN,
UNITED STATES NAVY COMMANDER,
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER,
PANAMA CITY DIVISION**

Captain Pratt hails from Dover, New Hampshire and received his commission from Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps, Boston University. Prior to assuming command of Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division he was assigned to Program Executive Office – Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO-IWS).

Captain Pratt's previous command tours include USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11) followed by Commander, Mine Countermeasures Division THREE ONE and most recently in USS HALYBURTON (FFG 40).

Additional sea tours include Engineer Officer in USS HUE CITY (CG 66) as well as his initial Division Officer tour in USS LEFTWICH (DD 984) where he served as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University as well as three Masters Degrees. The first two are Master of Science Degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School in Electrical Engineering and Systems Technology (Command, Control and Communications). The third is a Master of Science Degree from the Industrial College of Armed Forces in National Resource Strategy.

Additional shore tours include two assignments to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, first in the Strategic Plans and Policy Division of the Space, Information Warfare, Command and Control Directorate and most recently in the Warfighting Assessment Division of Director Navy Resources, Requirements, and Assessments. Captain Pratt's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (fifth award), Navy Commendation Medal (second award), Navy Achievement Medal, five Battle Efficiency Awards and numerous other unit and campaign awards.



**SCHOLARSHIP
HAPPENINGS**



By Ron Glasen

It looks like the warm weather is here to stay, (I think) and as anticipated the scholarship applications are rolling in. There seems to be an even balanced number of applications from both men and women. Applications seem to be from all over the country. We have them from the West Coast, the East Coast from the North and the South. This is good. There are applications from High School Seniors, College Undergraduates and even a young lady working for a Graduate Degree.

Most applications are being submitted clean, complete and neat as specified in our program instructions. The applications keep coming in and your Scholarship Committee is working hard going over each and every form making sure the Scholarship Program criteria is met and in the spirit of our Scholarship Program. We are receiving the applications, we are getting them cleared for approval, now all we need is the money. So Please, Please keep up with your financial support. There are a lot of good students that need our help at this important time in their lives. It's also time for our Treasurer to start writing checks, so please let's make sure that he has enough money to fill these checks. We don't want to disappoint our hard working well deserving youth who are in need.



Here is a photo of Bob Gill 2 yrs. ago getting a leadership award where I work. (35 yrs. now) I'm in the middle, It says USN on my left forearm.



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

05/12/12 - Branden Nohrenberg MN1 SW; nohrenberg11@yahoo.com
05/02/12 - Philip Phillips, MNC (SW); philip.e.phillips1@nav.mil : phillips@gmail.com
04/07/12 - Allen Alt MNCM (SW); allen8550@yahoo.com

E-mail – Reservist

E-mail – Retired

05/12/12 - Richard Bonfiglio MNCM; rb1001@bellsouth.net
05/02/12 - Richard Fortunato, MNC USNR; fortunato95@msn.com
03/30/12 - Gordy Harris MN1; Gordyhar@gmail.com
02/24/12 - Gary K Christmas MN1 (SW/AW); Retired: September 2006; Kingsville, TX; gary.christmas@dla.mil

E-mail – Former-Minemen

05/27/12 - Ron Patterson MN2; ronpatmn2@verizon.net
05/15/12 - John Fry MN2; john@peatco.com
05/12/12 - Mike Cleland MN1; freebirdman@netzero.net

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Richard "Rick" Spofford	ricksppofford@prepaidlegal.com
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Ernest Donnel	<a href="mailto:<edonnel@hotmail.com>"><edonnel@hotmail.com>
Jason Beldon	<a href="mailto:<minemanhomicide@hotmail.com>"><minemanhomicide@hotmail.com>
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Please get your updates to the webmaster, pdechene@triad.rr.com, and the secretary, mike_mncm@yahoo.com, and the chaplain, DerickH@charter.net.

SAVE THE DATE 4-6 OCTOBER 2013 – CHAPTER II

By Toby Horn

Here are some more juicy tidbits to lure you to our Whidbey Island adventure in 2013. After arriving in Seattle and claiming your luggage, you have two options for transportation to Whidbey Island/Oak Harbor. You can rent a car or catch the shuttle you have previously arranged for to meet your flight. I'll provide shuttle info and prices as 2013 scheduling becomes available.

I'm going to rent a van since we're planning to arrive several days early to solidify arrangements and schedules – and we'll have it for local transport of carless couples to dinner and picnic events. Travel distance from Seattle to Oak Harbor is advertised as 48.5 miles via I-5 and Route 20 across Deception Pass Bridge. Travel time will be slightly longer if you use the 20 minute ride on the Mukilteo-to-Clinton Ferry to access lower Whidbey Island via I-5 and Route 525.

I'm going to go the ferry route so I can scout out Greenbank, Coupeville and Fort Casey along the way. We haven't firmed up our lodging plans as yet, but we've talked to some interesting folks that would be happy to see us. Gary and Virginia Elliott live close by, and they have made a visit to check out a couple of options. All of the Inn-keepers I've talked to promise a home-town-glad-to-meet-you attitude that will help make our event unforgettable.

I'm anxious to get back to visit my old haunt at the Oak Harbor Tavern. They used to serve the coldest "Oli" (Olympic beer) in town with a side of pickled pig's knuckle or pickled eggs. Yum!!! I hope it hasn't changed much. If you're a seafood lover, they say that Seabolt's Smokehouse is the place to go. Voted "best of Whidbey" and in "Washington's Top 50 Restaurants", it claims "the best of everything from the sea". Then there is Zorba's Restaurant with Greek and Italian dishes that will melt in your mouth. Frasers, located on Dock Street, has fabulous "starters" and "entrees" but tends to be a little pricey (you only go 'round once). The Pizza Factory, run by the Hill family, boasts that they have the best pizza in the Pacific Northwest. The Oak Harbor Marina has an eatery for casual waterfront dining, but I don't have rating or price list for them.

Tim and Sona Ryan handle "casual catering" from the BBQ Joint, which touts the best BBQ ever to cross your lips – so I'm going to explore that avenue for our picnic event and auction. I want to check out the NAS catering service as well, as they offer a picnic package at their Rocky Point picnic area, complete with keg beer. We'll see? Everything is very long range planning at this stage and we'll have to see what this year will bring to our planning table.

Stay tuned! I'll clue you on some of the fabulous things to do at Whidbey in the next installment – and while you're at it, why not plan to come early and leave later so you can "do it all!" You're not getting any younger, ya know! Save the date!

FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER'S DESK

Wow, where has this year gone. Seems we were just in San Diego and now we are getting ready to go to Panama City Florida! It will be fun to see more of the East Coast Members. Florida is great that time of year, and Panama City has a lot to offer visitors, Nancy and I are looking forward to the trip. Please make your reservations and plans early. It's important so we can plan ahead and know how many dinners and how big of a room we will need.

I would like to ask the members for some help. There were a number of members that were dropped because of nonpayment of dues. If any of you know someone who is not getting their Dashpots that is the reason. They will not know about the reunion coming up either. Please remind them that their membership is important to the Association and they need to catch up on their dues.

Mike Femrite

“Men, like nails, lose their usefulness when they lose their direction and begin to bend.” — Walter Savage Landor

ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN PRESENTATION OF HISTORIC PLAQUE AND PHOTOGRAPH TO RADM SCOTT HEBNER, NAVAL MINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE COMMAND



RADM Hebner greets AOM President in front of NMAWC.



President Cleland presenting MINEFLOT ONE command plaque to RADM Hebner.



President Cleland presenting a circa 1939 photograph of "THE ENTIRE MINEFORCE"



President Cleland bids RADM Hebner a fond farewell.

CAPTAIN TERRY AUBERRY RETIRES



Capt. Terry Auberry retired 22 June 2012 at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. His relief is CO of Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division Captain Martin H. Hardy III.



TAPS



Anita Jeane Coffman

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Anita Jeane (Shoup) Coffman, wife of our past president Jim Coffman.

Anita Jeane Coffman, 81, of Mount Dora, Florida, passed away on June 14, 2012. She was born on March 20, 1931 in Richwood, Ohio. Anita is survived by her loving family: husband James (Jim) Coffman, son James R. Coffman Jr. (Luz), Son Thomas O. Coffman, Son Ronald S. Coffman (Gale), grandchildren Thomas Michael Coffman, Mika K. Coffman, Timothy Kirk Coffman, and Kristina Coffman, and 3 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Coffman enjoyed camping, arts & crafts, and spending time with her family and friends. She was a member of the women's society at her church, the Tangerine Community Church in Mount Dora.

A card and/or call of condolence to Jim and the family would be appreciated. They can be reached at:

James Coffman
7018 Wright Ave.
Mt. Dora, FL 32757-7168
407-880-1830



MN1 LeRoy R. Engberg, USN (Ret.)

MN1 LeRoy (Lee) Robert Engberg, USN (Ret) resident of Hayward May 18, 1921 - March 24, 2012. A decorated US Navy veteran of 30 years, LeRoy Engberg passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on March 24, 2012. Lee was born in Atchison, Kansas on May 18, 1921 to Harry and Myra Engberg. He married Pauline (Combs) Engberg, on April 12, 1946. Throughout his navy career, Lee was stationed in Sicily, Guam, New Jersey, South Carolina, Virginia, and California, finally settling in Hayward California. After retiring from the Navy in 1971, Lee worked for Fruehauf Trailers in Oakland, CA for 15 years. Lee continued his passion of old war birds as a member of the Commemorative Air Force since 1990. In 2006 to the prestigious American Combat Airman Hall of Fame. Lee is survived by his wife of 66 years, Polly, their children, Ann Marie Simas (Joseph), Starlene Falkenberg (Sparky), Michael Engberg (Janice), grandchildren, Jessica Sinclair (Kevin), Michael Simas, Kevin, Brian and Derek Engberg, great-grandson, David Castillo, his sister Natalie Majors, several nieces and nephews. Lee will be dearly missed by all who knew him. A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 1pm at Chapel of the Chimes, 32992 Mission Blvd. in Hayward.



MN1 Frederick C. Dane, USN (Ret.)

June 27, 1931 - May 15, 2012 - Resident of San Jose, CA

Frederick, age 80, passed away on May 15, 2012 while in the hospital. He had been battling mul-

tiple issues from Renal Failure, COPD, and since April 12, Pleural Effusion, Hypoxia and an undiagnosed problem associated with Mesothelioma. His daughter, Lorraine was present at his bedside aiding him as he went peacefully from this world to the next.

Frederick was born on his grandparent's farm in the town of Pendleton, OR. Old friends and new also knew him as "Fred."

He is survived by his two sisters Joanne Lovelace (Willard) of AR, and Kathy Oberholtzer of OR; step-daughter Catherine Hardin of HI; three children Ramona of CA, Lorraine Boyer (Rodney) of PA, Frederick Jr. (Yolanda) of NV. And, during his retirement Frederick found great joy visiting his grandchildren: Marie-Cathleen (PA), Michelle Giovengo (Michael) of PA and five great-grandchildren: Alex, Cassie, Dom, Crystal, and Catalina (all from PA). He was preceded in death by his parents, and wife Mary J. Dane.

Frederick enlisted with the Navy in 1948, at the age of 17. His career took him to Alaska, Virginia, Hawaii, California, Japan and finally Charleston, SC. He attained the Naval rating of MN1 (Mineman First Class) and retired in 1968 with an Honorable discharge.

After retirement, Frederick attended San Jose City College and received an Associate in Arts Degree: Electronic Technology. He later attained a job at the college and retired after 15 years of service.

In his personal time, he enjoyed working outdoors and helping those in need. He also had a passion in the development of a Mineman Association web page. Other interests included being a member at the local Senior Center. His hobby was flying remote control airplanes.

Cremation services were provided by Neptune Society of San Jose, CA. Frederick's cremains will be taken to his daughter's home in Pennsylvania for future burial in the Veteran's National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

As I noted in a prior post, Fred was the first AOM webmaster and he kept it up to date right up to the end. Visit it at: <http://www.battle48.com/home/index.htm>

Fred also posted a special to a tribute to his wife, Mary: <http://battle48.com/mary/mary.htm>

Fred has been honored on my Mineman Memories Memoriam page: <http://www.hartshorn.us/Navy/navy-Memoriam-2012.htm>

CDR Jorgen Lorenzen, Royal Danish Navy (Ret.)

Long-time members of AOM will remember CDR Jorgen Lorenzen (Royal Danish Navy, Ret.). He attended our 2010 Reunion in Yorktown/Williamsburg as well as earlier gatherings. He was a 1951 graduate of Mineman 'A' School in Yorktown and has been a close companion to many of us over the years.

I received word from him that Aase, his close companion for the past 18 years, has passed away from Mesothelioma. She was diagnosed with this asbestos-caused disease over two years ago and Jorgen has cared for her since.

Please join with me in expressing condolences to Jorgen for his loss.

His address is <joergen@strangelorenzen.dk> and his web page is at <http://www.hartshorn.us/Navy/navy-Lorenzen-1.htm>

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain-AOM

MNC Fred Manzie, USN (Ret.)

John Loonam passed along the following notice that he found in the FRA magazine:

WILLIAMSBURG - Frederick N. "Fred" Manzie, 89, died Feb. 18, 2012. He was born 22 May 1922 in Newport News, VA, and enlisted in the Navy on 19 June 1940. He mustered on board his first duty station, the battleship USS Texas (BB-35) on 17 September 1940 and continued to serve on active duty for the next 20 years. Following his Naval service, he worked for the Department of the Navy for the next 30 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Agnes (Mansico) Manzie who passed away on 27 Jan 2008. A memorial service was held at St. Bede Catholic Church and interment took place in Arlington National Cemetery, alongside his wife. [Published in Hampton, VA Daily Press from March 26-27, 2012]





MNCS Bobby J. C. Notgrass, USN (Ret.)

Asheville, NC - Bobby J.C. Notgrass, 74, of Asheville, died on Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

A native of Eastland, TX, Mr. Notgrass was born September 20, 1937 and was a son of the late Herman and Ida Mae Thomas Notgrass. He was also preceded in death by sons Timothy and Tommy Notgrass.

Mr. Notgrass was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during the Vietnam War and Korean Conflict. He later retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer with the Minemen's Division. He was also a member of the Mason's and of the VFW while he lived in Texas.

Mr. Notgrass is survived by his daughters, Teresa Notgrass, and Tammy Notgrass; sons, Robert Notgrass, Kenny Notgrass, and Richard Ray; grandchildren, Amber Demos, Easton Notgrass, Michael Floyd, Casey Floyd, Jonathan Floyd, Timarie Vasquez, Ayako Notgrass, Leilani Notgrass, Junior Notgrass, Jessica Ray, and Chris Ray; sister, Lea Alexander; and his companion, Sue Hird.

Anyone who ever served with NOF, Azuma Island, 1956-58, will fondly remember Bobby Notgrass. He was a legend and was well known for his many instances of "unconventional extra-curricular activities." He was fun to be around and never failed to amaze his fellow shipmates with his antics. His proclivity for riding trains in the Yokosuka area formed many of the legends for which he was well known. A year older than me, I shall never forget Bobby and will miss him dearly.

Derick S. Hartshorn
Chaplain-AOM



Myrtis "Mitzi" Santa Maria

Mitzi, the wife of our dear friend and AOM past-President, Paul Santa Maria, recently passed away, freed from the bondage of Alzheimer's disease

Myrtis Day Santa Maria, 84, died April 1, 2012, at her home in Barefoot Bay. She was born in Detroit and lived in Barefoot Bay for 11 years, coming from Nipomo, Calif. She was employed by various companies in California as a purchasing agent in the electronics field. She was a life member of the VFW Auxiliary Post No. 2417 in Atascadero, Calif.; member of the American Legion Auxiliary No. 136, Arroyo Grande, Calif., Women of the Moose No. 1767 in Sebastian, life member of the Italian-American Club of Sebastian and member of the Homeowners Association of Barefoot Bay.

Survivors include her husband of 29 years, Guilio Paul Santa Maria of Barefoot Bay; daughters, Lori Gottlieb of Woodland Hills, Calif., Tracey Valencia of San Luis Obispo; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Vitas Hospice Charitable Fund, 4450 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32934.

Services were held at Templeton Public Cemetery, Templeton, Calif.

MNC Fred West, USN (Ret.)

Frederick ("Freddie") D. West, Sr. recently passed away. Fred was born 30 January 1933 and died 11 December 2011 at Crystal Manor Care Center in Adrian, MO. Fred's wishes were to be cremated and remembered with fond memories.

Pre-deceasing Fred was his daughter Casandra Lynn West Wood who passed away 31 July 2011. He is survived by his wife, May Lou (Stannard) West.

Bill Roberts reports that "Freddie and I were in the MK 18 Torpedo / MK 27 Mine Shop at the Sub Base Pearl, in 1953, He was in the gyro shop and I was doing mine after bodies. He was a good shipmate. "

Fred was an AOM member (#636) and belonged to the Fleet Reserve Assn., Chapter 161 and resided at 40 W 3rd Street, Adrian, MO 64720-9608.

cheer is the order of the day and/or a friendly e-mail would be appreciated.

The address is:
Ed and Mary Szczutkowski
PO Box 1071
Newton, IA 50208-1071
szczutkowskie@yahoo.com



THE BINNACLE LIST

Ed and Mary Szczutkowski

Shipmates,

Our fellow shipmate, Ed Szczutkowski, and his wife, Mary, have had a rough few months.

Ed had total knee replacement surgery on February 14, 2012. Mary writes: "4 1/2 days after surgery he has become Mr. Atlas.....Walking the halls and anything else he can do.....and all without any pain medication....says he doesn't like feeling fuzzy. Hopes to come home Mon. or Tues. but that's up to the Dr. He says if I can figure this out (Never sent a group E-mail) to tell everyone 'Hi' and thanks for the prayers. "--Mary (or Mom)"

And then a few days ago, Ed writes: "Mary is scheduled for hernia repair surgery for Tuesday morning, May 15th. Please pray for her!"

On the 16th, Ed writes: "Her surgery came through ok. She is in some pain, but hopefully after the third surgery this year, maybe all is corrected. Thanks for all your prayers. Prayer is a powerful tool. Her color looks good and she was up and walking."

"Mary was loopy today, May 17, when I visited her. Sleeping constantly. She has been on a lot of pain medication. Perhaps it caught up with her. She seemed wore out today. She was supposed to be discharged today but will hold her another day due to the dopeyness."

I'm sure that we all wish Ed and Mary a speedy (and complete) recovery on their health issues. A card of



THE MAIL BAG

Dear Association of Minemen,
Thank you so much for awarding me one of the Minemen Scholarships. The money will be such a great help as I start my freshman year at Indiana University. Thanks again!
-Annie Olesh

Dear Mr. Glasen and the Association of Minemen -
Thank you so much for the \$750 Minemen Scholarship. It really means a lot and I appreciate it greatly. I will be using the money to help pay for school this fall as I enter my junior year at Ball State University.
Thanks again for all you do!
Emily Olesh

Stephanie Cavallo
2365 Lancaster Street
East Meadow, NY 11554
Scava19@gmail.com

August 21,2012

Association Of Minemen
P.O Box 510519
Punta Gorda, FL 33951

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the Minemen scholarship. I was very honored to receive such a great award. This generous scholarship will help me further excel in my education in Business Management at Farmingdale State College. The money provided by your Minemen Scholarship will be put towards school expenses. Again, thank you very much for selecting me it was a great honor on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Marie Cavallo

August 12, 2012

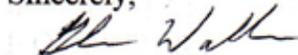
P.O. Box 510519
Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Dear Committee,

I wish to thank the Association Of Minemen Committee for the check in the amount of \$750. In a few weeks I will be beginning my final year at Sonoma St. I am majoring in communications and on track to graduate in May. It will also be my final year of baseball. I am continuing my dream of pitching at the collegiate level while getting an education. I hope I get the opportunity to continue playing after graduation. I am confident that good things are to come. Thank you for all of your support throughout the years.

Out of State tuition and living costs are expensive and I greatly appreciate your help. Thank you again for your support and generosity.

Sincerely,



Glenn Wallace

I would like to thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. It is really going to help me get through school and get to my dreams. My great granddaddy John Paul Opocchsky passed away a little over a year ago and he would be so proud of me and I know he is. Once again thank you.

Shaunice L.
Hilton

To the Association of Minemen
I would like to take the time to thank you for the scholarship you gave me. I can't express to you my gratitude for your consideration and generosity. The scholarship will really help with college expenses, especially textbooks and other supplies. I can also say that my Dad is very proud to be a part of an association like yours where you promote the high education of young, aspiring adults. Thank you again.

Dear Mr. Glasen,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the Association of Minemen's Scholarship Assistance Award. It is such a great honor. This scholarship will help me attend my dream school, University of Pennsylvania, and pursue all of my passions in life. Thanks again!

Brook Mattio

THE EDITOR'S CORNER



Hi Folks,

I have been a tad under the weather for a few months and must apologize for missing the summer issue entirely. I still have a ways to go yet and some serious surgery ahead, but I don't think it will interfere with the winter issue. It may cut me out of the reunion and I will hate that.

I know there are a few of you out there with enough screws loose yet retain a dribble of common sense who would make excellent Dashpot editors. While we are an aging community, there are some relative youngsters among us who should consider shouldering the mantle of editor. It is not wise to have only one old lunatic who knows how to do it. The software learning curve is not that steep and, if you are still on active duty, makes you an incredibly valuable asset to your command and other organizations to which you may belong. Think about it.

Bill

**NEXT DASHPOT
ARTICLES
ARE DUE
1 DECEMBER 2012**

IRAN MINE THREAT SCARES NAVY: CNO SCRAMBLES TO FIX DECADES OF NEGLECT



WASHINGTON: Iran's threat to strangle oil tanker traffic through the Straits of Hormuz has the Navy scrambling to redress its decades-old neglect of mine warfare. Admirals from the Chief of Naval Operations on down have publicly admitted the service is not where it needs to be.

"What I find amazing is the amount of interest that's being afforded mine warfare by the senior navy leadership," said Scott Truver, a naval analyst and author. "It's all due to the Iranian threat to close -- if indeed it is possible to close -- the Hormuz Straits."

When asked point-blank whether he was "comfortable" with the Navy's mine-clearing capabilities, the Chief of Naval Operations said bluntly, "No." But, Adm. Jonathan Greenert went on in remarks at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space symposium last month, "I feel much better than I did six months ago. We've moved about a billion dollars total" from various accounts to weaponry for shallow-water warfare in places like the Gulf, and "a lot of that was in mine warfare," Greenert said. "But we have more work to do," he went on. "It's not just the near term issue."

The Navy's long-term solution is a high-tech concept centered around the controversial Littoral Combat Ship, which will serve as a fast, albeit vulnerable, mothership for mine-hunting helicopters and a host of unmanned vehicles. That's definitely more attractive than the traditional approach of sending minesweeping ships, divers, and even trained dolphins straight into the minefield. But the much-delayed mine-countermeasures module for the LCS is still in development, with extensive testing about LCS-2, the Independence, scheduled for this summer. Until it's operational, the Navy's counter-mine capacity remains distinctly limited.

"We've been doing mine countermeasures since 1917 and we still can't get that package ready for production," lamented naval historian and analyst Norman Polmar. For now, "14 minesweepers and two squadrons of helicopters are our nation's entire mine countermeasures capability."

In March, Adm. Greenert made a very public point of ordering more mine-hunting helicopters and ships to the Gulf, noting that the deployment would double the number of Avenger-class minesweepers operating out of Bahrain from four to eight. What he didn't emphasize was that's more than half the nation's entire minesweeper force, leaving just two ships for training in the States and four in Japan to keep an eye on China's estimated arsenal of 100,000 naval mines.

At the moment, moreover, the reinforcements for the Gulf are still en route -- not under their own power but hauled aboard heavy-lift ships, since the small minesweepers aren't well-suited to cross oceans on their own. The Navy continues to upgrade the 1980s-vintage minesweepers, recently improving their sonar for example. Overall, however, the Avengers are slow, vulnerable, and increasingly difficult to maintain.

By contrast, the LCS is brand new, much faster, and at least as survivable as the Avengers. The Navy rates both ships' resistance to battle damage as "level one," compared to the more resilient level two for the similar-sized Perry-class frigates and level three for the much larger Arleigh Burke-class Aegis destroyers. The LCS also has an anti-missile system and other self-defense capabilities the Avengers lack to keep from being hit. Moreover, the whole LCS concept of sending out unmanned submersibles and helicopters -- the Avenger cannot do either -- is meant to keep it further from danger in the first place. While the Pentagon's own independent Director of Operational Testing & Evaluation has questioned the LCS's ability to survive in a "combat environment," even LCS skeptic Polmar admits it's an improvement over the geriatric Avenger.

In the strategic big picture, however, the most important difference is that whereas the Navy has just 14 Avengers, it has committed to buying 55 Littoral Combat Ships. Not all 55 will be minesweepers: The LCS concept is "modular," with each ship capable of being quickly re-outfitted to deal with either mines, submarines, or swarms of fast attack boats (all three are part of the Iranian arsenal, incidentally). The Navy plans to buy 24 mine-countermeasures modules, almost double the number of Avengers.

The devil is in the modules, however. Only the small-boat-fighting module has actually been deployed on a real-world operation, without its full complement of weapons. Work on the anti-submarine module was "reset" after the Navy changed its concept to better exploit LCS's speed; delivery is not expected until 2016. Then there's the mine countermeasures module, with two prototypes in testing and formal assessment by the Director of Operational Testing & Evaluation scheduled for 2014.

"The key piece for us is we now have the software that works," said the Navy's program manager for LCS modules, Capt. John Ailes, in a briefing at last month's Sea-Air-Space convention. With the underlying software in place, he said, the Navy can keep plugging new capabilities into the module as they become available in a continuous cycle of upgrades. In May, for example, the Navy announced it was adding the "KnifeFish," an unmanned submersible specifically designed to look for mines that are buried on the sea floor instead of floating, a task right now that can only be accomplished by trained dolphins and divers.

In the longer term, Navy officials talk about having unmanned mini-submersibles that can "porpoise," briefly surfacing to transmit data back to the LCS for analysis before returning to their underwater hunt. With current technology, however, sailors with winches have to physically haul the drones back aboard to download the data. So at the moment, said Capt. Ailes, "the biggest challenge we have is launch and recovery" of the main unmanned mine-hunting submersible, the Remote Multi-Mission Vehicle (RMMV). "We can safely pick it up, we can safely put it down," said Ailes "[but] we want to make it routine."

Another mundane obstacle to the high-tech approach is that the LCS's MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter is simply a lot smaller than the MH-53E Sea Dragon that makes up the Navy's existing -- and highly regarded -- airborne mine-hunting squadrons, which operate off big-deck amphibious warfare ships and carriers. Equipment optimized for the MH-53 needs to be resized for the MH-60, with inevitable losses in capability. Nevertheless, given that the LCS-based MH-60s will supplement the existing MH-53 units rather than replace them, the Navy's mine-clearing capacity will still increase overall.

The nascent LCS fleet will face a complex juggling act learning how to use all these new mine-hunting capabilities and its anti-small-boat module and the sub-hunting system, whenever that is operational. In theory, a specialist mine warfare ship would be ideal. In practice, it's only the multi-role potential of the LCS that convinced the Navy to buy them in numbers, and it's only in numbers that a ship can create critical institutional mass.

Historically, mine warfare has been a marginal activity, conducted by a few sailors in a few ships far from the Navy's power centers, aircraft carriers, submarines, and amphibious warfare ships. The

fleet has occasionally had mine-warfare panics in the past -- in 1950 after North Korean mines laid by wooden sailing junks kept Douglas MacArthur's invasion force out of Wonsan; in 1991 after Iraqi mines damaged the ships Tripoli and Princeton -- but the effort has always quickly flagged. "There was a lot of money thrown into mine warfare for three or four years and then attention turned elsewhere," said Truver. "That's my concern: That mine warfare's going to be getting money but then, as priorities change, it's going to be a backwater."

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF MAINLY DUE TO PERNICIOUS IGNORANCE IN HIGH PLACES.

WILLIAM FORTNER 2012



COMOMAG SAN DIEGO, CA

by MN1(SW) Sean Hindley

It's Summer time in SOCAL and NMC COMOMAG is busy supporting the mine warfare mission worldwide. It was a busy quarter for both the Service Mines and the Exercise and Training teams. NMC COMOMAG personnel travelled far and wide to verify mission readiness for all of our East Asia Division (EAD) shops. This past quarter we conducted certifications, assisted with Reserve affairs, welcomed new staff members, and watched some of our valued Sailors wrap up successful careers.

NMC COMOMAG Operational Support Officer (OSO) / Reserve Affairs Coordinator, Mr. Rodney Biggs, participated in the COMNAVRES-FOR OSO / Reserve Working Group. The group focused on improvement of OSO and Reserve Affairs processing. Mr. Biggs' continuing commitment to this working group will ensure that the best possible service is available to our Reserve component.

MNC(SW) Sandoval traveled far this quarter in support of FRONTIER SENTINEL 2012 located in Nova Scotia and Connecticut. FRONTIER SENTINEL is a combined interagency exercise involving Joint Task Force Atlantic, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy Fleet Forces designed to continue to develop and validate the existing plans, treaties and standard operating procedures for a bilateral response to maritime homeland defense and security threats.

MNCM(SW) Alt, MNC(SW) Angle, MNC(SW) Tetrault and MN1(SW) Flores spent a week with our counterparts at Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) conducting a full review of five of the seven Mineman Rate Training Manuals. The team completed a comprehensive overhaul of the manuals, ensuring that the most up-to-date information is available to our Sailors looking to progress through the ranks.

NMC COMOMAG Division N31 Service Mines team in concert with COMOMAG senior leadership conducted three back-to-back Mine Readiness Certification Inspections (MRCIs) throughout NMC East Asia Division. The MRCI inspection team consisted of COMOMAG's Executive Officer CWO3 Black, MNCM(SW) Alt, MNC(SW) Angle, MNC(SW/EXW) McQuiddy, and our N31 Department Head Mr. David Epton. The MRCI team visited NMC EAD Unit Guam, NMC EAD Unit Misawa, and NMC EAD Unit Okinawa, resulting in three successful inspections of our forward based Mine Assembly Units.



NMC EAD Unit Guam



NMC EAD Unit Misawa

MN1(SW) Guerrero has been underway this quarter assisting with the seeding of multiple mine fields in preparation for RIMPAC 2012. In addition to his time underway, MN1 traveled to Dyess Air Force Base to support Air Force mining initiatives.

Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group would like to extend a "Bravo Zulu" to IT2(SW) Marlin Wren and LS2(SW/AW) Leonard McCready. Petty Officer Wren was recently selected for advancement to First Class Petty Officer. Congratulations IT1 Wren! Petty Officer McCready was selected as NMC COMOMAG's Sailor of the Quarter. Congratulations Shipmates!

We would like to welcome aboard ENS Michael Millin reporting from Maritime Expeditionary Security Group One in Imperial Beach, CA. ENS Millin was previously a PSCS with MESHG-ONE and is currently serving as NMC COMOMAG's Admin Officer. He received his commission through the Limited Duty Officer Program on February 1, 2012. Welcome Aboard, Sir!

Alas, the time has come for us to extend a fond farewell to MN1(SW) Steven Stafford who is transferring to the Fleet Reserve after 20 years of stellar service to the Mine Warfare Community. MN1 Stafford's contributions to the Mine Fleet will echo through the ranks for generations to come.

Also going ashore for the final time is Commanding Officer Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division, Captain Terry W. Auberry. Capt Auberry enlisted in the Navy in May 1974. He joined the Navy's Mine Force in August that same year upon graduation from Mineman "A" School in Charleston, SC. Over the next ten years Capt Auberry served at MOMAGs around the world including Virginia, Italy, Greece, Scotland, and South Carolina. His enlisted career achievements culminated in his selection as Mineman of the Year in 1984. That same year, Capt Auberry earned a commission as a Limited Duty Officer Surface Ordnance. His officer assignments included various tours as staff, Operations Officer, and Chief Staff Officer at COMOMAG as well as being the Officer in Charge at multiple MOMAGs around the world. His last assignment prior to commanding NMC CONUS West Division was as the Regional Security Director, COMNAVREG MIDLANT, Norfolk, VA. Captain Auberry's long and lustrous career has covered a span of 38 years of service to not only The United States Navy, but to Mine Warfare as a whole. His professional knowledge and experience are invaluable resources that countless Sailors have been privileged to be exposed to. Your unparalleled guidance and leadership will not soon be forgotten, Sir.

The staff of NMC COMOMAG Division wishes to extend a sincere "Thank You" to Captain Auberry and MN1(SW) Stafford for your unselfish duty and devotion to both The United States of America and The United States Navy. With the greatest respect and warmest wishes we can offer, Fair Winds and Following Seas!

To all the Mine Warriors around the World, have a safe and productive summer! We'll see you in the Fall.





SEAL BEACH, CA

by **YN2(AW) Dayna Watson**

Greetings from Naval Munitions Command Underwater Weapons Department in sunny Seal Beach, California!

NMC CWD Unit Seal Beach is a skilled unit specializing in material safety criteria and mine shape testing and training for US Naval commands. Mineman at NMC CWD Unit Seal Beach partake in fleet mining and training programs while maintaining a continuously deployable status as operations arise.

The biennial large-scale multinational projection of power/sea force known as Rim of the Pacific Exercise or RIMPAC for short is upon us, and with RIMPAC comes a busy schedule for NMC CWD Unit Seal Beach! The preparations and logistics involved to facilitate a successful participation require arduous training and annual commitment. NMC CWD Unit Seal Beach began preparations for their part in RIMPAC 2012 starting in October 2011!

The Production department is responsible for disseminating more than 300 assets to be used during the RIMPAC evolution; additionally they will be deploying 10 mine assembly and recovery teams across SOCAL and OAHU area of responsibilities of RIMPAC. There are three evolutions of RIMPAC that the Mineman from NMC UWD Unit Seal Beach will be executing vitally important roles in.

Evolution 1 consists of multiple teams being dispatched to SOCAL and OAHU AOR's where Mineman will begin tactically creating 7 minefields beginning 21 May and continuing on through to 31 June for use with the exercise! Evolution 2 beginning will involve strategic re-deployment of team forces as they begin taking their places at OAHU and SOCAL! OAHU team forces will work with explosive Ordnance Demolition groups from 4 different nations actively

assisting in mine warfare training! SOCAL teams will be assisting in AMCM live mine warfare pouncer operations of the SOCAL harbor phase. Evolution 3 begins with the actual execution of the harbor phases for OAHU and SOCAL taking place simultaneously.

Upon completion of the final evolution for NMC CWD Unit Seal Beach of RIMPAC the team from UWD will have the crucial task of working with MK5 Mammal teams in OAHU and SOCAL operating areas to locate 300 mine assets and an additional 56 air laid mines! The command leadership having the utmost faith in their deployable teams expects this process to take up to 3 weeks with Sailors working around the clock to ensure the assets are recovered safely, correctly and in a timely manner befitting the highest expectations required of those personnel at NMC CWD Unit Seal Beach.



LCS MIW DET ONE, TWO, AND THREE

Greetings from MIW Detachments 1, 2, and now 3 of the LCS SQUADRON.

USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2) Arrived in San Diego May 2nd, 2012 with MIW Det 2 embarked, on May 6th MIW Det 1 relieved MIW Det 2 on-board USS INDEPENDENCE. All detect to engage training has finally paid off as the USS INDEPENDENCE is the first to be fully functional for Mine Warfare.

MIW Detachment 3 will be fully stood up as of July 2012. MIW Detachment 4 will begin to stand up this fall.

PCU FT. WORTH (LCS-3) Is being built and is expecting to be commissioned in Galveston Texas on September 22nd 2012. With a longer hull, lessons learned from Freedom, and a top speed faster than both Freedom and Independence the Ft. Worth will prove to be one of our most powerful assets yet!

Mine Warfare Detachment for the LCS SQUADRON is officially on Facebook and is fully up and running, for all the latest and greatest news please feel free to "like" us and keep track of the progress and the future of the Mine Warfare Community.



MNC(SW) Tallchief congratulating MNC(SW) Rey on his recent reenlistment.
Photo taken by: MN2(SW) Watson MIW DET 3

HAIL

- MN2(SW) Watson
- MN2 Taylor
- MN1(SW) Rivera
- AG1(AW/IDW) McLaughlin
- EN1(SW) Dowding
- EN1(SW) Farmer
- MNC(SW) Watts
- MNC(SW) Allard
- LCDR Palsrok
- MN1(SW) Hassler
- MN1(SW) Kouma
- MN2(SW) Bennett

FAREWELL

- MNC(SW) Theademan
- MNC(SW) Thompson
- ENC(SW) Butts
- MNC(SW) Rey
- MNCS(SW) Olson



Using the MOBICON system onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2) has made the world of difference in the Mineman rating moving around the Remote Multi Mission Vehicle (RMMV) in the hanger bay of the "Indy"



MN1(SW) Gwilt as he listens intently as RADM Hebner asks several questions about all the new Minehunting gear onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2)



MN1 (SW) Rivera and MNC(SW) Watts at their Hail Ceremony!
Photo taken by: MN2(SW) Watson M IW DET 3



Night streaming operations with the RMMV.
Photo courtesy of USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2) official facebook page



A side-by-side picture of the USS FREEDOM (LCS-1) and the USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2) with all of the applicable Command Crests for LCS 1-4, MIW Detachment, MIW Detachments 1-3, and the LCS SQUADRON.

Photo and command crests provided by MN2(SW) Watson

IN THE PERSIAN GULF, A VULNERABLE FLEET

THE NAVY'S CAPABILITIES ARE IMPRESSIVE. BUT WE NEED MORE SHIPS.

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 13 MAR 12) ... Bret Stephens

ABOARD USS BUNKER HILL -- It didn't take Chief Warrant Officer Jason Echevarria more than a glance through the ship's binoculars to figure out what the Iranian-flagged dhow 3,400 yards off the starboard beam wasn't doing.

For one thing, the gaily colored boat was larger than the dhows that typically ply the confined waters of the Persian Gulf. Its deck was clear of netting and tackle, and the paint job seemed fresh. The Furuno radar was another giveaway. And it was shadowing us, coming at one point within a mile.

"If that's a fishing boat, I'm a monkey's uncle," said Mr. Echevarria, a native of Melbourne, Fla. Later, the boat would be photographed flying the colors of the IRGC-N, the naval branch of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps.

Nobody on the Bunker Hill—a 567-foot, 9,800 ton guided-missile cruiser serving as the principal surface escort for the nearby carrier USS Carl Vinson—was surprised by the arrival of the Iranians. With

Aegis radar, Seahawk helicopters and electro-optical scanners, Bunker Hill had been tracking the dhow long before it became visible in the morning haze. Michael Ford, the ship's captain, had been watching the Iranians even longer, ever since he first deployed to the Gulf some 20 years ago. Tension with Iran, he says, "ebbs and flows in terms of the rhetoric, but the reality of the interactions is still relatively routine."

That's the point that nearly every senior officer I've met with on this trip seems most eager to make. On Jan. 3, Maj. Gen. Ataollah Salehi, the head of the Iranian military, made headlines world-wide by warning the departing carrier USS John C. Stennis not to re-enter the Gulf. Since then, however, two other U.S. carriers have come here without incident, and the Navy continues to deal with the Iranians—tower-to-air; bridge-to-bridge—generally on the basis of mutual professionalism. Far from being a flash point, the Gulf may be the only place where the U.S. and Iran have something like a functional relationship.

But functional isn't friendly. Vice Adm. Mark Fox, the commander of the Fifth Fleet, stresses that the Navy is "absolutely prepared" for any contingency.

At the same time, he offers a long list of the ways in which Iran has in recent years developed capabilities purpose-built to challenge U.S. maritime dominance: ship-killing missiles; midget submarines of the kind that sank a South Korean corvette in 2010; mines ("the maritime equivalent of an IED," he says); and thousands of fast inboard attack craft—basically, armed Boston Whalers meant to swarm larger U.S. ships. "I respect their capability," says Adm. Fox dryly.

In the face of the asymmetrical threat, the Navy's first defense is an unmatched degree of situational awareness. From the Bunker Hill's blue-lit combat information center, Capt. Ford can see, identify and track everything that moves on or above (and probably below) the Gulf. Any departure from what the Navy calls "pattern of life" on the sea would be noticed long before the Iranians peak their head over the horizon. At that distance, the firepower a ship like the Bunker Hill can bring to bear could defeat almost anything Iran can muster.

But the Navy has its own vulnerabilities. Iranian ships could lawfully come awfully close to the Bunker Hill before revealing their intentions, leaving Capt. Ford little time to deter and defend. Last month, The Journal reported that Pentagon war planners had identified "gaps" in military capabilities and needed to spend \$100 million to fill them. One such gap: The Vinson currently lacks the Phalanx Close-in Weapons System, a high-powered gatling gun used to stop incoming missiles (or fast boats) at close range. The Navy insists it's covered by other defensive systems, but the absence of such guns was one reason the British Navy lost so many of its ships in the Falklands War.

There's a deeper vulnerability. In our interview, Adm. Fox mentioned he had some 42 ships deployed, including two carriers. But between the Fleet's anti-piracy mission around Somalia and its aerial support for operations in Afghanistan, there are only two major U.S. surface combatants in the Gulf—the Vinson and the Bunker Hill—plus two nuclear attack submarines, four minesweepers and some smaller patrol ships. Were the Iranians to mine the Strait of Hormuz, the ships could be trapped in the Gulf for at least as long as it took the minesweepers to clear the way.

How long would that take? In 1991 it took a year to clear up 1,300 mines in the Gulf. Today Iran is estimated to have some 5,000 mines.

The Navy doesn't like to advertise this, but it is trying to fulfill its traditional global role with a fleet of 285 ships—the smallest it has been since before the First World War, even if modern warships are more capable than ever before. That number is likely to decline further under President Obama's proposed budgetary cuts. If you sleep better at night knowing that a powerful American Navy ensures the freedom of the seas in places like the Gulf, the time to start worrying about the Navy's future is now.

BOLD ALLIGATOR '12 FOCUSES ON SOF INTEGRATION, POST-LANDING COOPERATION

Posted on InsideDefense.com: February 3, 2012

As Bold Alligator 2012 kicked off last week, Navy and Marine Corps fleet commanders were focused on not only enhancing blue-green integration, but also on learning how to better incorporate special operations forces into amphibious operations.

The exercise is the latest in a series that began in 2008 and will make use of more than 31 ships, 150 aircraft and 16,000 Marines and sailors to test the services' ability to plan and execute amphibious operations, said Adm. John Harvey, commander of Fleet Forces Command, during a Defense Writers Group breakfast in Washington on Jan. 31. Eleven other countries will participate, he added.

Lt. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, commander of Marine Corps Forces Command, said at the same breakfast that "we're really going to stress SOF/general purpose forces integration" during the exercise -- not just Marine Corps Special Operations Command, but also Operational Detachment-A's from the Army.

During recent preparations for the exercise, Hejlik said it became clear that SOF operations and protocols hadn't been fully examined by the rest of the Navy and Marine Corps.

"What are your restrictions from engaging an irregular force?" he said. "What's your rules of engagement? So that's the thought process that, at least what we saw at that moment, they had not thought through. They had the SOF forces ashore, now how were you addressing that?"

The broader concept about what to do once the Navy delivers a landing team ashore is also something Hejlik and Harvey said they wanted to see addressed.

"It is enormously important for the Navy to start learning a lot about Marine Corps operations and getting a landing force ashore in whatever scenario you're talking about, and how that landing force operates -- not just how we get it there, but what happens after we get it there," Harvey said. "And it was enormously important for the Marine forces to understand what it took to get the naval force to the position where you could land the assault forces and sustain the assault forces. That part of this education, I think, would be the greatest benefit to this exercise."

The two commanders said the exercise, while not modeled after any specific event or enemy, did reflect realistic concerns the military could face. Harvey said it began with a significant minesweeping effort and would include a large number of small-boat threats, shore-based cruise missiles and other irregular threats in the littorals -- the very same threats the military faces in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, he noted.

As for the SOF component, MARSOC and ODA landed ashore early in the exercise to learn about the built-up environment and determine where the notional insurgents were located and what anti-access and area denial assets they possessed.

"It's going to be the special ops forces that are going to condition that battle space and be able to identify and sort of give us the word: 'Okay, here's where we have seen these launched-in-a-box-on-the-back-of-a-truck cruise missiles,'" Harvey said. "That's going to be incredibly important, that kind of integration. This is a naval battle. The actions ashore will have tremendous influence on our ability to maneuver at-sea, just as the force at sea is supporting the force ashore. So there's tremendous dynamism here, I think, that will be very reflective of any situation that we get into around the globe today."

-- Megan Eckstein

**ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN 38TH ANNUAL REUNION
 PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA
 AT THE BOARDWALK BEACH RESORT & HOTEL
 22-24 OCTOBER 2012**

**Association of Minemen
 Post Office Box 510519
 Punta Gorda, FL 33951**

Please return this 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', the General Business Meeting, Dinner and Picnic.

Name: _____ AOM Member #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

The Early Bird, October 22nd: This year the AOM will be hosted by the AMVETS Post 47 located near the Navy Base just off of Hwy 98 on Panama City Beach, starting at 1600 on the 22nd. This year once again, we'll try Dale Garwood's yummy Gulf Seafood Boil to accompany the refreshments of your choice. We will ask for a small donation to cover expenses at the event.

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

Board of Directors Meeting and General Membership Meeting: The October 23rd BOD meeting will begin at 0800 and the general membership meeting will begin at 1000 in Salon 1-4.

Dinner Meeting, October 23rd: The evening dinner meeting will start at 1700 with dinner served at 1800.

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.) Cut off date for Dinner reservations for this menu choice is 17 October 2012.

Please indicate your choice and quantity of entrée below:

•London Broil #_____ meals

•Seafood Newberg #_____ meals

•Chicken Picatta #_____ meals

Dinner Tickets @\$30 each X ___ persons Ticket total- \$ _____
 (Includes tax and gratuity)

Picnic Tickets (Adult) @\$12.95++ X ___ persons Ticket total- \$ _____

Picnic Tickets (Child 5-12 yrs) @\$6.50 X ___ persons Ticket total- \$ _____

Reunion Fee: (Approved by membership in 2010 to meet reunion expenses) \$ 10.00

Annual Dues: \$15 (pay ahead 5-year max – check your Dashpot label for expiration and dues Status. (New or reinstatement member fee – add \$5) \$ _____

Museum Donation (tax deductible): \$ _____

AOM General Fund Donation (tax deductible): \$ _____

AOM Scholarship Fund Donation (tax deductible): \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to Association of Minemen: TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

We must guarantee numbers of guests for dinners not later than the morning of 17 October 2012. There will be no refunds after that date. Boardwalk beach Resort Reservations: (850) 123-4567. Cut-off date for AOM Group rate reservations is midnight 24 September 2012.

Accommodations: The Boardwalk Beach Resort has reserved rooms for AOM members at the same rate as our 2006 reunion! In addition, they will extend their prices before and after the reunion period for any member who desires to come early or stay late (or both). The cost for rooms per night is \$75.00 +tax poolside and \$85+tax on the Gulf. To reserve your room please call the Boardwalk at **(850) 249-0606** and be sure to ask for the Association Of Minemen Reunion to get these rates. These rooms and rates are available until COB 24 September 2012, 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, at the FAM CAMP on the Navy Base or Tyndall AFB. If you need assistance with locating a place, please contact one of the Reunion Committee Members (below).

Picnic, October 24th: We don't have to cook this year! The picnic will be held at the Boardwalk's Beach Pavilion starting at ~1100. The menu will include burgers and a variety of traditional sides and beverages.

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 East-bound US 98). There are golf courses galore with something for duffers and professionals alike. If you need more information or have input, please contact the Reunion Committee.

Panama City Airport is NORTHWEST FLORIDA BEACHES INT'L AIRPORT (ECP) is 13.9 miles (~21 minutes) from the Boardwalk. There are no hotel shuttles. Taxi's only. Average cost from one-way from ECP to the Boardwalk is ~\$40.

Reunion Committee: This year's PCB Reunion Committee are Ron Swart, Bob Bainbridge, Leo Smith, Ken Waringa, Ollie Collins, Brian Kopp, Nick Snyder, Ed Nixon, John Monn, Dale Garwood and Terrance Houghton. We hope to have a great turnout, as this is one of the most beautiful times of the year in the Florida Panhandle, home to the World's most beautiful beaches. The Navy Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division is the technical development home to Mine Countermeasures and Mining. We're looking forward to seeing all y'all!

**Association of Minemen
P.O. Box 510519
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