



THE DASHPOT



Issue 76 Newsletter of the Association of Minemen Winter 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gary Cleland

Season's Greetings from San Diego. As we close out the year 2011 and enter the Holiday Season, I want to extend my thanks to many key people who played a large part in the success of the 37th AOM Reunion. Although we had a smaller turnout this year than we wished for, those who did attend indicated that a good time was had by all.

The following individuals deserve our special thanks. Warren and Jim for coordinating a fantastic event. You both worked tirelessly to keep things moving without a hitch. John, for providing the photo documentation of the entire event. I look forward to seeing the finished photo album.

Toby, for your spirited auctioneering, my granddaughter loves her \$40 souvenir kaleidoscope. To all who donated auction items and then bid generously on them. A special heart-felt thanks to those who generously provide financial support to our Association and Scholarship Fund.

Many thanks to those who stepped up and were elected to assume the vacancies in our Association leadership, Tracey Hays, Eddie Adkins, Dan Epperly, Ron Glasen and Kurt Stauff. I look forward to serving with you in the coming year. Thank you, Bob Reed, Gary Elliot, Swede Carlson, Ron Swart and Bob Hart for your past service To the AOM.

Mineman of the Year awards went to MN1 (SW/FMF) CORY N. BLAIR (Shore) and MN2 (SW) JOSHUA S. GARZA (Afloat). Congratulations to you both for your fine achievement. Sadly, there were no MOY nominations from the Reserve component.

May God bless those who "Stand the Watch" at home and in harm's way, God bless America.

37TH ANNUAL AOM REUNION

**POINT LOMA, CA
OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2011**

By all accounts, the 37th annual reunion in San Diego was a huge success and a great time was had by all. The auction produced significant funds for our scholarship program as well.

Now we can all look forward to the 38th reunion in Panama City next October. Ron Swart is heading up that event and will keep all advised via The Dashpot as soon as the details are firm.

The 39th annual reunion will be held at Whidbey Island, WA in 2013. That will be a first for the association. Toby Horn will be the reunion master of that event. Many Minemen have served there at one time or another and those who like to hunt and fish were sad when it closed its doors.

Take a moment and think of the places Minemen used to serve; Port Lauotey, Malta, Mildenhall, Atsugi, Iwakuni, Yokosuka, Andoya, Keflavik, Argentia, Tintian, Machrihanish, Glen Douglas, Crete, Subic Bay, Cavite, Rota, and a host of others, some still extant, bursting with redolent memories, fathoms of folklore and fairy tale as well as extravagant extrusions of the truth sometimes called sea stories.

There never was enough paper, parchment or papyrus made to contain all the stories and tales. It is only recently that the manipulation of electrons has made it possible to record all the deeds of daring do. Sadly, most of those who could relate those stories are gone from our midst. I encourage the new generation of Minemen to attend the reunions and learn your history from those who remain.

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DEDICATED TO SERVING THE U.S. NAVY MINE FORCE

The Dashpot,
published quarterly, is the
newsletter of the
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incorporated in the state of
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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 ON 15 OCTOBER 2011 IN
SAN DIEGO, CA**

The President called the meeting to order at 1410 hours.

Introduction of members was called for by the President.

Nominations for new officers were as follows.
President -----Gary Cleland
Vice President---Tracey Hays
BOD-----Dan Epperly
BOD-----Eddie Atkins

A motion was made to accept the new officers and BODs by Kurt Stauff and seconded by Paul Santa Maria; motioned was passed.

The President appointed Kurt Stauff as Ron Swart's relief as AOM Storekeeper.

The President appointed Ron Glasen as William (Swede) Carlsen's relief as Scholarship Committee.

Warren Savage and Gary Cleland moved to look into a company to track E-mail addresses of our members, to be able to get information out in a timely manner. A motion to accept was made by Toby Horn and seconded by John Loonam. The motion was passed.

Based on an E-mail from Dick Schommer on paying travel and lodging expenses for the Secretary/Treasurer for the AOM Reunions, discussion was held, a motion was made by Paul Santa Maria, and seconded by John Loonam, to pay up to and not to exceed \$500.00. The motion was passed.

Toby Horn presented information on Whidbey Island, WA for our 2013 Reunion. A motion was made by Kurt Stauff, and seconded by Warren Savage, to have the reunion at Whidbey Island. The motion was passed. The 2013 Reunion will be at Whidbey Island, WA. Toby Horn will coordinate.

Reunion 2012 will be at Panama City, Florida. Ron Swart is coordinating .

The President requested permission to present an AOM Coin and History Book to the guest

speaker at the reunion dinner. A vote was taken and passed.

The minutes from the 2010 BOD meeting were read and accepted as written.

Minemen of the Year:
Active Duty Shore - MN1 (SW/FMF) Cory N. Blair
Active Duty Sea-- -- MN2 (SW) Joshua S. Garza

A motion to adjourn was made by Curtis Christian, seconded by Warren Savage.

Respectfully submitted by

Michael Femrite
Secretary

**FROM THE SECRETARY/
TREASURER'S DESK**

It has been an exciting 11 months for me since Curtis turned over the duties of Secretary/Treasurer. I survived 3 mailings of The Dashpot and my first AOM Reunion, with just a little help from Curtis. I am also proud to say that this year's reunion in San Diego actually made a profit of \$190.00.

On another note, I would like to update all of you on our Scholarship Program. Since we started giving Scholarships in October 1996, the AOM has given out 159 scholarships, totaling \$100,400.00. The program is working well because of the generous donations of an anonymous benefactor, donations from our members and the funds taken in from our yearly auctions at the reunions. Remember the Scholarship Program is for the future of our children and their education.

I am looking forward to 2012 and will continue to keep all of you informed. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Don't forget to pay your dues for 2012 as they were due in October. Check your address label, if it does not say Oct 2012 or more, this will be your last Dashpot until you have paid your dues.

Mike Femrite

**The ultimate result of shielding
men from the effects of folly is
to fill the world with fools.**

Herbert Spencer, English Philosopher (1820-1903)

SCHOLARSHIP

SCOOP

by Swede Carlsen



Finally, my stomach isn't feeling like the gas bag on a blimp. Thanksgiving makes you over indulge a bit. Now, we have the food fight at Christmas to look forward to.

For the members who couldn't attend this year's reunion I want to say you missed one of the better ones. The bidding at the picnic's auction was a fun time success. Between the bids at the auction and membership donations to the scholarship fund the AOM membership raised \$26,943.75 for the general fund. We also have \$19,861.93 working for us in the Presidential fund. I think 2012 will be a good year. BRAVO ZULU SHIPMATES!

Let's keep up the good work with donations to the Scholarship Fund at Christmas. Have a great holiday season.

STAND TALL AMERICA!



THE MAIL BAG

We, the Harold Elston Family, enjoyed the article William Roberts wrote for the winter 2010 Dashpot.

After one of his brothers read the story, he wanted me to send these pictures of his stone.

I pray for all to be well and have peace.

Faye Elston



Ken Harder in Yokosuka

I gladly served with Ken Harder in Yokosuka & in Charleston. He was a straight shooter and a fine man. What a blow it was to see the e-mail advising of his passing.

Ken Harder was involved in one of the most unusual UNDET operations I had ever heard of, so when he came by FMWTC after the xpl-tests were completed he filled us in on what had been done and how it had been done. Determining the maximum standoff distance that a 60 lb. xpl-charge placed near mines & DSTs on the bottom would render them safe was desired.

The tests were done on the upper northeast coast where 30 ft. tides were common. While the tide was out the charges were placed at various distances and orientations of the mine/DST to the charge. For example, nose-on, tail-first, etc. Then they waited for the tide to come back in before firing the explosives. Then they waited for the tide to go back out so they could check to see if the mines had been cleared and to place new charges. Ken, while puffing on his ever present pipe, had us in stitches while he explained all of this to our instructors. We were amazed. He really knew how to tell a story.

Don Jones

Bill Stanfel

10-14-11

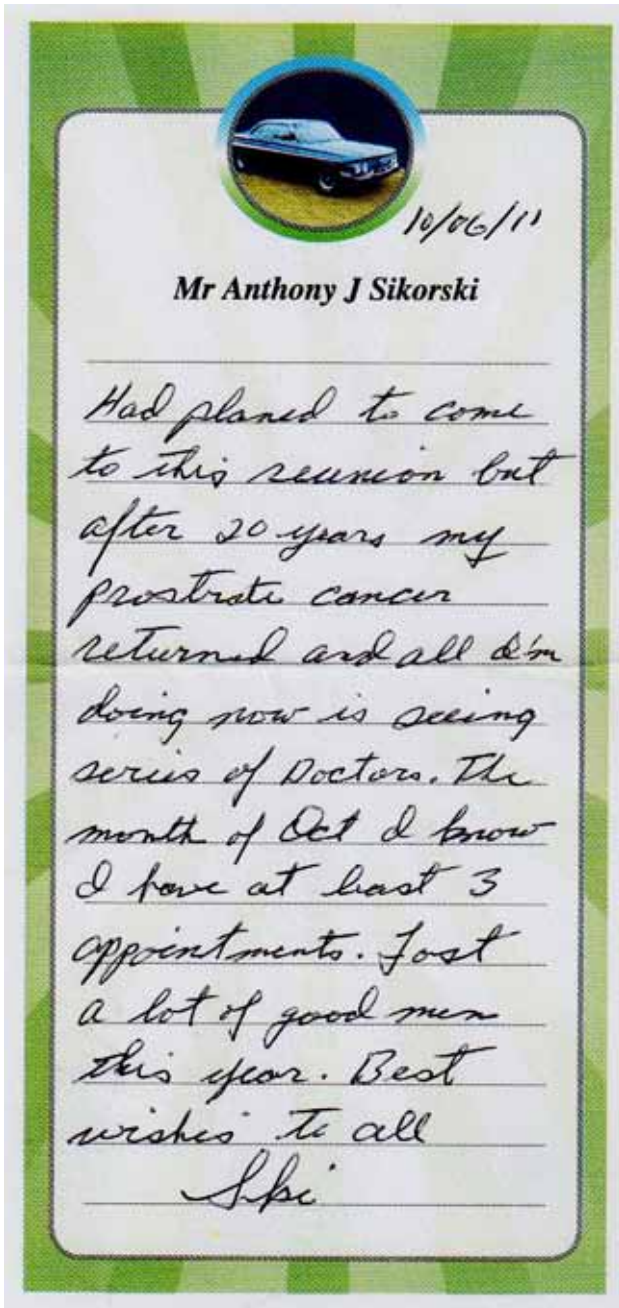
Dues for 2012. Keep up the good work.

Very best to all Minemen and their families for the Holidays and coming New Year.

Best regards,
Bill Stanfel

"THE HARDEST THING TO EXPLAIN IS THE CLARINGLY EVIDENT WHICH EVERYBODY HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEE."

--AYN RAND



September 18, 2011

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

Attention: Scholarship Committee Dear Sirs:

I recently spoke with Mr. Bill Carlson and informed him that I have taken a teaching job in Florida this year and will not be attending Graduate School at St. Joseph's College. I am, therefore, returning the scholarship check #1035 in the amount of \$750 made out to me (LoriAnn Cavallo) and St. Joseph's College.

I truly appreciate being a scholarship recipient in the past and thank you for all your help with college. I will not forget to reapply when I attend college for my Master's degree.

Thank you again.
LoriAnn Cavallo

NEW AOM OFFICERS AND TASK MANAGERS

Please review your data on the masthead (page 2) and advise of any corrections or changes that need to be made via e-mail to mk27@tds.net.

A CALL FOR HELP FOR THOSE WHO KNEW MN1 NEWBERRY

by MN2 (SW/AW) Mike Trnka, MINE WARFARE TRACEN, N7

A shipmate of mine who has had a run of pretty bad luck over the last year has just passed away from bacterial meningitis. He was MN1(WS/SC) William Newberry. Those who knew him called him Bill. Bill completed 17 1/2 years of honorable service to our country and the Navy. Just over a year ago Bill had to leave the Navy. He was honorably discharged, and moved his family back to Texas where he was from. His wife and children, one of which has autism, are still in Texas at this time in a house that she has to surrender to the mortgage company due to Bill's life insurance coverage running out a short time before his death. After she surrenders the house, she will be moving her and the children to Illinois to be closer to her family. We organized and held a couple of events, a car wash, and a bake sale to help her out with the cost of the move and the expense of getting a new house. I will be sending Mrs. Newberry the money from these 2 events along with all donations received by myself, and MN1 Munoz, who is collecting at the waterfront. You can send any donations directly to her at her mother's house where she will be staying until she can afford to get a place for herself and the kids: Spring Newberry, 722 W. Church, Benton, Il. 62812

If there is any way you could help me help Bill's family, it would be greatly appreciated.



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

09/28/11 - William Shane Senseney MN1 (SW); svtshane361@yahoo.com
08/01/11 - LT John Caporuscio; STO@ddg110.navy.mil; vdubben2@yahoo.com

E-mail – Reservist

E-mail – Retired

11/13/11 - CWO4 Joe Sapien; cwogunner77@gmail.com
11/02/11 - Stephen A. Ciccarello MN1; stephenciccarello@yahoo.com
11/02/11 - Gerald (Chip) Chipman MNCS; chip878@cox.com
10/24/11 - Jerry Williams MNCM (SW); Airthug@sbcglobal.net
10/03/11 - CDR Ronald E. Swart; swartre1@windstream.net

E-mail – Former-Minemen

12/03/11 - Richard Stelmach MN3; x70098@yahoo.com
12/02/11 - Carl House, MN3; inhimministry@yahoo.com
12/02/11 - Dave Taylor Minemen; Lostinthefog@hotmail.com
12/02/11 - Mike Keeler MN3; mkeeler14@yahoo.com
11/02/11 - Brenda Van Dixon Mineman; brendavandixon@comcast.net
10/24/11 - Dean W. Fauber MN2, dwfauber@yahoo.com
10/15/11 - Roger Byrd MN1; poetic.justice69@yahoo.com

DEFUNCT E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The following e-mail addresses are defunct. If you used to own one of these, **please update to the following e-mail addresses: mike_MNCM@yahoo.com, pdechene@triad.rr.com, and DerickH@charter.net**. When you update, please use only the one address you prefer to get e-mail.

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Klages, Roger	franroger@home.com		



TAPS



Linda Haru Arnett

Linda Haru Arnett, 75, of Goose Creek, passed away October 7, 2011. Born in Okinawa, Japan, she was the daughter of the late Koshin and Naba Sakihara Tamashiro and wife to MN1 George Arnett. Mrs. Arnett enjoyed bowling, gardening, and cooking meals for her family. She was loving, caring, and most of all, giving. She will be missed by all of her family and friends. She and George enjoyed visiting church's and sharing her love for God. Her last words where, "I'm not afraid to die, because I know where I'm going." She is survived by her husband of 48 years George Arnett, five sons, Sakae Arnett of Goose Creek, Kenichi Tamagusuku of Ladson, Douglas Arnett of Dearing, GA, Francis Arnett and wife Rachel of Columbia and Lamonte Arnett and wife Darlene of Columbia; sister, Sue Johnson of Hawaii. Mrs. Arnett is also survived by eleven grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and her first great-great grandchild on the way. The funeral service was held Monday, October 10, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in McAlister-Smith Funeral Home, Goose Creek Chapel. Interment followed in Plantation Memorial Gardens, Moncks Corner. [Published in Charleston Post & Courier (www.postandcourier.com/deaths) on October 9, 2011]



Reynolds Gates Becker

Reynolds Gates Becker, 91, passed away Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011. Reynolds was a native of Petersburg, VA, and was a former resident of Yorktown before moving to Richmond in 2000. He was a graduate of Virginia Tech, class of 1943. He was a veteran of the Army Air Corps, serving his country during WWII. He was employed as an engineer at the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station until his retirement. He was a member of the York Lions Club for 35 years. Reynolds was preceded in death by his wife, Marian. He is survived by his daughter, Joan Cope of Richmond; and a sister, Virginia Heffner of Spartanburg, S.C. A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011, at Peninsula Memorial Park. Published in the Richmond [VA] Daily Press from September 26 to September 27, 2011. [Reported by Don DeCrona]



CWO4 Kenneth E. Harder, USN (Ret.)

Kenneth Edward Harder, 78, of Charleston, SC, the husband of Sadie Rosalie (Martinez) Harder, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, November 3, 2011. Mr. Harder was born in New York City,

NY on September 8, 1933, a son of the late Elizabeth Rose (Kiss) and Robert Charles Harder. He honorably and faithfully served our country as a Mineman in the U.S. Navy for over 33 years, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. Mr. Harder was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fleet Reserve Association, the Association of Minemen and the Military Officers Association of America. He is survived by his loving wife, Sadie R. Harder; daughter, Linda J. Braecklein; son, John K. Harder; nine granddaughters, Nichole Graybill, Elizabeth Grant, Melanie Underwood, Ashlie Harder, Danielle Graybill, Theresa Braecklein, Destinee Harder, Christine Harder and Jane Harder; grandson, Tracy C. Braecklein, Jr.; great granddaughter, Valarie Underwood; two great grandsons, Israel Grant and Camden Parker; two sisters, Betty Box and Mitzi Garvey. Mr. Harder is preceded in death by a daughter, Valarie A. Graybill; a son, Raymond J. Harder; a sister, Virginia Snyder and a brother, Robert S. Harder. His Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1695 Wallenberg Blvd. Charleston, SC. The Rite of Committal with Military Honors was held at 12:00 PM, Wednesday, November 9, 2011 in Beaufort National Cemetery, 1601 Boundary St. Beaufort, SC. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of the following; The American Cancer Society, 269 Calhoun Street Charleston, SC 29401 or The Association of Minemen Scholarship Fund, PO Box 510519, Punta Gorda, FL 33951.

Editor's Note: Ken was a personal friend and incredible in many ways. To my knowledge, his shed was the final repository of the only "Texas cushions" extant, as were many demilitarized and cast off mine parts. Some of these parts made it back into the exercise mine program when the error of premature disposal was discovered some time later. This speaks reams about his foresight and his inability to let anything useful be relegated to landfill status. Ken also had a soft spot for discarded lawn mowers and kept a stockpile of several dozen which he freely bestowed on those needing parts. In the early 80s, I was the recipient of three such discarded mowers from which I constructed a single working mower with a significant stockpile of spare parts. For all I know, it is still mowing several yards in the College Park subdivision in Ladson.

I am convinced that, if such a thing as a dump or scrap yard exists in Heaven, when my time comes, I know I will be able to find Ken Harder, Joe Glowa and Buck Fowler, pipes clenched tightly between their teeth, carefully sorting out useful things and restoring them to pristine condition for whoever might find the need for them.



MNC Charles Nicklin, (DV) USN (Ret)

Charles Nicklin, AOM member #807, passed away peacefully in his sleep August 16th at the age of 81 from kidney cancer and renal failure. Chuck gave his career a giant boost by graduating from 2nd class Deep Sea Divers School (Hard Hat) in 1951. He retired as a Chief Mineman from the U.S. Navy in 1968 after having served for many years on the USS Thomas E. Fraser (DM 24). He then worked on many aspects of torpedoes at NTS Keyport, retiring in 1985.

Chuck was born in Loup City, NE, March 7, 1930 and grew up in Junction City, OR; the oldest of eleven children. He lived for over 50 years in the Bremerton, Port Orchard and Silverdale area. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, camping and traveling with his wife, Viola Nicklin, who had preceded him in death.

Chuck is survived by his two children and four grandchildren: Sandra Jenkins, Daughter, Richmond, VA, Terry Lee Nicklin, Son, Bullhead City, AZ, Cory Nicklin, Grandson, Bullhead City, AZ, Ryann Nicklin, Granddaughter, Silverdale, WA, Amanda Jenkins, Granddaughter, Richmond, VA, Alicia Jenkins, Granddaughter, Richmond, VA, along with many loving brothers, sisters and extended family and friends. He will be missed! No services will be held per his request. [The Kitsap Sun, Bremerton, WA] [Reported by Bill "Swede" Carlsen]



ROBERT O. SMITH

ROBERT O. SMITH, AOM member #090, was born in Olive Hill, TN on July 9, 1930 the son of the late James Benjamin Smith, Sr. and Bertie Isabell Hurst Smith. He graduated from Tennessee Polytechnical Institute (what is now Tennessee Tech) in Cookeville and, on September 7, 1951 was united in marriage to Elizabeth Ann "Libby" LeCroy, who survives. Robert departed this life on September 21, 2011 at the age of 81 years, 2 months and 12 days.

From 1950 - 1953, Robert served in the United States Navy working as a Mineman during the Korean War. His responsibilities included not only riding a minesweeper searching for mines, but also constructing them. During this time he and Libby resided in Hawaii. From 1957 until 1962, he worked as a food inspector for the United States Department of Agriculture and resided in Oregon and Idaho. Once he and Libby returned to Olive Hill, he began farming, raising Angus cattle, and for 30 plus years worked as the Post Master Relief at the Olive Hill Post Office. Robert was a member of Woodman of the World, served with District 9 of the Hardin County Volunteer Fire Department in Olive Hill, TN and was a member of the Association of Minemen.

From 1962 until present, Robert continued to operate the family store, H. O. Smith and Sons, with his brother Jim until Jim's death 2 years ago. He and Libby ran the store until his sickness. An excellent fisherman who loved the sport, Robert fished every time he had the chance and always claimed to have taught his son Billy everything he knows about the sport. He also enjoyed entering different sweepstakes that were offered in a weekly newsletter he received. He entered often and over the years won everything from bicycles to cash to basketballs, most of which he gave to his granddaughter, Jo Ann.

In addition to his wife, Libby of Olive Hill, TN he is survived by one daughter, Ann Smith Franks and husband Joel of Savannah, TN; one son, Billy Smith and wife Vickie of Olive Hill, TN; one grandchild, Jo Ann Franks Schumann and husband Keith; 2 step grandchildren, Brad Freeman and Blake Freeman; one step great grandchild, Maddox Freeman. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by one brother, James Benjamin (Jim) Smith, Jr.

The funeral service took place on Friday, September 23rd, 2011 1:00 PM at Shackelford Chapel, 450 Church Street, Savannah, TN. Interment was at Memory Gardens, Savannah, TN. A note of condolence may be sent to his widow Eliza-

beth ("Libby") and the family at PO ox 13, Olive Hill, TN 38475 or a phone call to (731) 925-5525. [Reported by Daniel Priest]



MNCS Robert (Bob) Broughton Walker, USN (Ret.)

Robert (Bob) Broughton Walker passed away Sept. 18, 2011 peacefully in his sleep at home, surrounded by three generations of his loving family after an extended battle with Alzheimer Disease. Born Feb. 12, 1926, in Greensboro, N.C. and raised in Rockingham, NC, he was a loving, caring and devoted husband, father and grandfather, and will be greatly missed by all. Bob leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife, Nellie, of 63 years; a son, Robert F. Walker of Huntersville, N.C.; two daughters, Linda W. Via of Gloucester, Va., and Rhonda W. Majewski and husband, Tim of Suffolk, Va.; five grandchildren, Suzanne W. Via of Greensboro, N.C., Stephanie M. Majewski of Charlotte, N.C., Brandon C. Majewski of Suffolk, Va., Zachary V. Walker and Nicolas F. Walker of Jacksonville, Fla.; five nieces and one nephew.

He was a member of the Church of Francis de Sales and past President of the Parish Council. Bob enlisted in the Navy in 1943. During his first tour of duty, at the Submarine Base, New London, Conn., he met his wife, Nellie. They were married Dec. 13, 1947. He served during WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict. The majority of his military career was spent aboard two destroyers, the U.S. S. Putnam, DD-722 and the U.S. S. Barton, DD-757. He received many metals, awards and ribbons for WWII Victory, Korean War, Naval Occupation, United Nations, National Defense and Good Conduct. Bob loved serving his country. In 1968, with 25 years of service, he retired as Senior Chief Petty Officer Mine Warfare Technician E8. After 14 years in Civil Service, he

retired as a Weapons Engineer Technician GS12.

Frank Edward Whipple, II, MN1, USN (Ret.)

Mass of the Resurrection, conducted by Father Robert Cummins and Father Nash, was held at 12:15 p.m. A graveside service following the Mass was held at H.C. Smithers Cemetery, Hudgins, VA. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be sent to the Church of Francis de Sales; The Alzheimer's Foundation; or Riverside Hospice. [Published in the Norfolk (VA) Daily Press from September 20 to September 21, 2011]

Frank entered into eternal rest on Tuesday morning, 15 November 2011. Petty Officer First Class Frank Edward Whipple, II, US Navy (Ret.), was the husband of Kum Yim Kim Whipple of Columbia, SC. His funeral service was held Friday morning, 18 November 2011 at International Church of God, 1560 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC 29407, at 11 am. Burial followed in Live Oak Memorial Gardens (3903 Ashley River Rd., Charleston, SC) with military honors.



Born on February 19, 1952 in Jacksonville, FL, Frank was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edward Whipple, I. He was a retired Navy veteran and attended Northeast United Methodist Church. He was a member of the VFW, DAV, and the American Legion. Surviving are his wife Kum Yim Whipple of Columbia; a son, Frank E. Whipple, III of Charleston; two brothers, Harold Whipple of Phoenix, AZ and David Whipple of AL.

DD 214 ONLINE

It's official; DD-214s are now Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mail room and processing time.

Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

Editor's Note: By the time this gets to your door Christmas and New Year will be past. That doesn't mean the Editor and the Entire Staff of The Dashpot do not wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year. **Bill**

I Wish You Enough... I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright. I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more. I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive. I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger. I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting. I wish you enough loss to appreciate all you possess. I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbye.

*By Bob Perks



SAVE THE DATE IN 2013 4, 5, 6 OCTOBER

by Toby Horn

Yup!!! We're going to Whidbey Island, Washington for our 2013 reunion. A lot of research went into this selection for our next "West of the Mississippi" event. Many web searches and phone calls were made to inquire about the prospects. Results showed that, compared to a San Diego destination, we can go there cheaper (air fare), room cheaper (about half the cost per night), and have a great dinner (at a very reasonable cost) catered by the NAS Chiefs Club or Officers Club (yes, they have them) depending upon the size of our group. The picnic price will remain about the same, but we will have a great place for it at the NAS picnic and RV camp grounds located on the shoreline of Puget Sound. There's golf at the NAS golf course, many excursions to sightsee the local waterways and wildlife (think whales and salmon) – and, yes, the Oak Harbor Tavern is still there for a visit from all the old Whidbey Mineman sailors.

We're moving the date(s) up a week to coincide with the local Oktoberfest and several other local festivals – and the Chamber of Commerce guarantees that the Oak Harbor merchants will accept money from other states as you enjoy local restaurants, antique shops, novelty stores, massage parlor, etc. (more on this in coming issues).

This really looks to be a great adventure – going where we haven't gone before and proving we can go anywhere with minimal presence on the other end having to arrange things. You can no longer use the excuse "...if I have to pay all that money for travel, I want to go somewhere new!"

Toby and Jane Horn are our official coordinators for this great "departure from the norm". For inquiries reach them by e-mail at tobyonesc@bellsouth.net with "Reunion 2013" as the subject line – or by phone at 843-762-3552. They'd like to hear from you with your questions and ideas and to add your name to the head count (30 already and counting). In the meantime, do your own web search on Whidbey Island and see why we're so excited about going there. More to come!!!



Okinawa Mine Shop Crew circa 1966 (old flight line quonsets)

Back Row, L to R: MNI Savoy, AA Sanders, MNSN Clifton, MNSN Schmidt, MN3 Temple, SA Collins, MN2 Graham, MN2 Kibe, MN3 Davis, AA Manning, MN2 Fortner.
Row, L to R: MN3 Yancy, MN3 McCumber, MN2 Terry, MNI Ziegler, MN1 Spoon, AA Hall, MN2 Briggs, MNC Menser
Missing: MNC Tomashofsky and MNI Kennedy



Over the Tairail

Jim Ryan's Seabag



There was a time when everything you owned had to fit in your seabag.

Remember those nasty rascals? Fully packed, one of the suckers weighed more than the poor devil hauling it. The damn things weighed a ton and some idiot with an off-center sense of humor sewed a carry handle on it to help you haul it. Hell, you could bolt a handle on a Greyhound bus but it wouldn't make the damn thing portable. The Army, Marines, and Air Force got footlockers and WE got a big ole' canvas bag.

After you warped your spine jackassing the goofy thing through a bus or train station, sat on it waiting for connecting transportation and made folks mad because it was too damn big to fit in any overhead rack on any bus, train, and airplane ever made, the contents looked like hell. All your gear appeared to have come from bums who slept on park benches.

Traveling with a seabag was something left over from the "Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum" sailing ship days. Sailors used to sleep in hammocks, so you stowed your issue in a big canvas bag and lashed your hammock to it, hoisted it on your shoulder and, in effect, moved your entire home from ship to ship.

I wouldn't say you traveled light because with ONE strap it was a one shoulder load that could torque your skeletal frame and bust your ankles.

It was like hauling a dead Greenbay linebacker.

They wasted a lot of time in boot camp telling you how to pack one of the suckers. There was an officially sanctioned method of organization that you forgot after ten minutes on the other side of the gate at Great Lakes' or San Diego's boot camp.

You got rid of a lot of the 'issue' gear when you went to a SHIP. Did you EVER know a tin-can sailor who had a raincoat? A flat hat? One of those nut-hugger knit swimsuits? How bout those 'roll-your-own' neckerchiefs... The ones girls in a good Naval tailor shop would cut down & sew into a 'greasy snake' for two bucks?

Within six months, EVERY fleet sailor was down to ONE set of dress blues, port & starboard, undress blues, and whites, a couple of white hats, boots, shoes, a watch cap, assorted skivvies, a pea coat, and three sets of bleached-out dungarees.

The rest of your original issue was either in the pea coat locker, lucky bag, or had been reduced to wipe-down rags in the paint locker.

Underway ships were NOT ships that allowed vast accumulation of private gear.

Hobos who lived in discarded refrigerator crates could amass greater loads of pack-rat crap than fleet sailors. The confines of a canvas-back rack, side locker, and a couple of bunk bags did NOT allow one to live a Donald Trump existence.

Space and the going pay scale combined to make us envy the lifestyle of a mud-hut Ethiopian. We were global equivalents of nomadic Mongols without ponies to haul our stuff.

And after the rigid routine of boot camp, we learned the skill of random compression, known by mothers world-wide as 'cramming'. It is amazing what you can jam into a space no bigger than a bread-box if you pull a watch cap over a boot and push it with your foot.

Of course, it looks kinda weird when you pull it out, but they NEVER hold fashion shows at sea and wrinkles added character to a 'salty' appearance.

There was a four-hundred mile gap between the images on recruiting posters and the ACTUAL appearance of sailors at sea. It was NOT without justifiable reason that we were called the tin-can Navy.

We operated on the premise that if 'Cleanliness was next to Godliness' we must be next to the other end of that spectrum...

We looked like our clothing had been pressed with a waffle iron and packed by a bulldozer. But what in hell did they expect from a bunch of swabs that lived in a crew's hole of a 2100 Fletcher Class tin-can? After awhile you got used to it... You got used to everything you owned picking up and retaining that distinctive aroma... You got used to old ladies on busses taking a couple of wrinkled nose sniffs of your pea coat, then getting and finding another seat.

Do they still issue seabags? Can you still make five bucks sitting up half the night drawing a ship's picture on the side of one of the damn things with black and white marking pens that drive the old master-at-arms into a 'rig for heart attack' frenzy? Make their faces red... The veins on their neck bulge out.... And yell, 'What in God's name is that all over your seabag???' 'Artwork, Chief... It's like the work of Michelangelo... MY ship... GREAT, huh?'

"Looks like some damn comic book..."

Here was a man with cobras tattooed on his arms... A skull with a dagger through one eye and a ribbon reading 'DEATH BEFORE SHORE DUTY' on his shoulder... Crossed anchors with 'Subic Bay-1945' on the other shoulder... An eagle on his chest and a full blown Chinese dragon peeking out between the cheeks of his butt... If ANYONE was an authority on stuff that looked like a comic book, it HAD to be the MAA...

Sometimes, I look at all the crap stacked in my garage and home, close my eyes and smile, remembering a time when EVERYTHING I owned could be crammed into a canvas bag.

ANDOYA, NORWAY



MOMAT 0321 - Back: MN2 Joseph L. Ellis, MN1 James R. Coffman, LTJG Don DeCrona
Front: MN2 James A. Manning, MNSN Robert B. Pricer, MNCA Daniel W. Priest



MOMAT 0327 - (Names might not be in order of picture.) MN2 Walter Kibe, LT John Koerber, MN3 Rudolf Heydenrich, MN3 William Briggs, MN3 Gerald Sevier, MN3 Dennis Walsh, MN1 Avon Ray



NMC COMOMAG SAN DIEGO, CA

MN1(SW) Sean Hindley

Happy Holidays from all of us at NMC COMOMAG Division in sunny San Diego, CA. With the beginning of the new fiscal year come new opportunities for the staff of NMC COMOMAG Division to serve the fleet in support of the Mine Warfare mission. As is customary, new challenges and opportunities also bring big change. NMC COMOMAG Division is no exception! This quarter we saw renewed interest in our Versatile Exercise Mine System (VEMS), as well as Sailor recognition, arrivals, departures, and a new Commanding Officer at the helm.

There has been plenty of activity within the NMC COMOMAG Division including MCMEX 11-2 in which MCM rotational crews were able to demonstrate their propensity to successfully complete the mine warfare mission alongside multinational naval forces and certify as "deployment ready" for their next 6 month tour in Bahrain. Included with MCMEX 11-2 was a VEMS demonstration. This event was conducted in order to present VEMS capabilities to Fleet leadership in a controlled

environment. MNC(SW) Tetrault, MNC(SW) Sandoval, and MN1(SW) Hindley provided two days of hands on training for students attending the VEMS courses.

CDR Paul Harvey, who has been our Commanding Officer of NMC Mobile Mine Assembly Group since February 1, 2011 was relieved by CDR James D. Craycraft during a change of command ceremony on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Base Point Loma. CDR Harvey is reporting for his next tour of duty to Expeditionary Strike Group Three. CDR James Craycraft assumed command of NMC COMOMAG Division after most recently serving as Executive Officer for Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. CDR Craycraft has been in the US Navy for 32 years, 12 of which he spent working his way through the enlisted ranks, attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer before being selected for commissioning under the Limited Duty Officer program. CDR Craycraft has been involved with the ordnance community in various capacities through his entire career and is poised to lead NMC COMOMAG Division into the New Year and beyond.

Awards:

Congratulations to MN1(SW) Luis Flores for his selection of both Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of The Year for 2011.

CDR Harvey: Meritorious Service Medal
MNC(SW) Greer: Navy Commendation Medal
MNC(EXW/SW) Mcquiddy: Navy Commendation Medal

MNC(SW) Sanchez: Navy Commendation Medal
MN1(SW) Hindley: Navy Achievement Medal
LS2(SW/AW) Mccready: Navy Achievement Medal

YNSN Toves: Navy Achievement Medal

Mr. Ed Simmons: Civilian Meritorious Service Medal

Promotions:

“Bravo Zulu” to Chief Warrant Officer Desrosiers, who was recently promoted to the rank of CWO4, and to YNSN Toves who was selected for advancement to Petty Officer Third Class. Great job, Shipmates!

Hails:

Welcome aboard to Mr. Rodney Biggs as our OSO/ Reserve Affairs Coordinator this quarter. Mr. Biggs served 27 years in the US Navy before retiring as a CWO4, 13 of which he spent in the Aviation Ordnance community where he attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer. His most recent tour was with CTF 72/57 where he served as the Weapons / Exercise Officer. Welcome aboard, Sir!

Fairwells:

MNC(SW) Joseph Sanchez transferred to MC-MRON 5.

From all of us here at NMC COMOMAG Division, have a safe and happy holiday season. See you next quarter!



SEAL BEACH, CA

by YN2(SW/AW) Donny Piper

Greetings from Naval Munitions Command Underwater Weapons Department in sunny Seal Beach, California! With the weather turning somewhat mild after a great summer Underwater Weapons kept the ball rolling with operational commitments, fleet obligations and community involvement.

-KEY EVENTS-

The Halloween Party and Chili Cook-off was a huge success giving the families a chance to spend the day at work with their service members enjoying some great chili and a very eerie haunted house put together by Production and Quality Assurance divisions. Additionally, Underwater

Weapons Department coordinated another successful Veteran's Day Parade with Destroyer Escort Sailors Association (DESA) in Long Beach, California allowing our Sailors a chance to show support to the surrounding communities. Maximum participation in the Captain's Cup at NWS Seal Beach allowed UWD to bring home the 2011 Captains Cup trophy. Great Job Shipmates!

-MISSION UPDATE-

A six member Mine Assembly Team traveled to Abilene, Texas for MINEX and built an astonishing 48 assets. Additionally, our department sent six Sailors to assist in two different recoveries of assets on San Clemente Island, California. A job well done by those Sailors!

-FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS-

Underwater Weapons Department said goodbye to GM2(SW) Bartholomew and MN2 Faires, we wish GM2 well at his next command and MN2 the best of luck during his post-Naval career!

-REENLISTMENTS-

Congratulations to MNC(SW) Phillips, MN1(SW) Nichols, and MN3(SW) Barrett on their decisions to stay Navy.

-INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTEES-

MN1(SW) Mahoney left for her IA on 16 November 2011 to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

-ADVANCEMENT-

With the active duty results released, we congratulate GM2(SW) Otwell on his promotion!

-AWARDS-

Awards quarters was held on 28 October and the following were awarded:
MN1 Tilley (Flag Letter of Commendation),
YN1 Davis (Good Conduct Medal & Certificate Of Appreciation),
GM1 Rhine (Letter Of Commendation),
LS2 Casillas (Flag Letter of Commendation),
LS2 Meyer (Flag Letter of Commendation),
YN2 Watson (Letter Of Commendation & Certificate Of Appreciation),
MN2 Andrews (Letter Of Appreciation),
MN2 Crans (Letter Of Appreciation),
MN2 Frazey (Letter Of Appreciation),
MN2 Tully (Letter Of Appreciation),
YN2 Piper (Certificate Of Appreciation),
MN3 Crespo (Good Conduct Medal),
MNSN Dawkins (Letter Of Commendation),
MNSN Robinson (Letter Of Appreciation),
MNSA Cravey (Letter Of Appreciation),
MNSA Foster (Letter Of Appreciation).
Congratulations to GM1 Rhine, YN2(AW) Watson and MNSN Dawkins for becoming our Sr. Sailor, Jr. Sailor and Bluejacket of the Quarter.

Also a big BRAVO ZULU to YN1(AW) Davis, MN2(SW) Rodriguez and MNSN Foos on being selected as our Senior Sailor, Junior Sailor, and Blue Jacket of the Year.



CHARLESTON, SC

by **MNCS(SW) Mike Szostkiewicz** and **MN1(SW) Shane Senseney**
TEAM CHARLESTON WARRIORS: "We work hard... so others don't have to!"



Hello and Greetings from Navy Munitions Command Charleston, SC! This was a very special quarter for us having celebrated the 236th birthday of the United States Navy. Secondly, our beloved Mineman rating celebrated its 68th birthday on 12 October. We were honored to have onboard CAPT John Kersch, Commanding Officer, Navy Munitions Command and CAPT Charles Marks, Commanding Officer, NMC CONUS East Division, to celebrate these snapshots in history with us.

We are ecstatic to announce the promotion of five superb Mineman. MN1(SW) Frank Alvarado, MN1(SW) Jon Reeves, MN1(SW) Ryan Bish, MN3 Angel Luna and MN3 Ashley Knight were recently promoted to their present rank. Moving on up like George and Weezie!

This quarter we welcome two senior shipmates to our family. LT(jg) Chris Weddell, joins us from the USS VICKSBURG (CG 69) as our new Mines Department Operations Officer. MNC (SW) James Knott joins us from LCS Squadron One to become our new Training Department LCPO/Quality Assurance Officer.

The seasonal weather made life a little easier here in the Low Country but the workload ceases to falter. Our Exercise and Training division continues to support Fleet Exercises across the globe.

We're all too familiar with Standard Operating Procedures and have been revamping ours recently. We explained our SOPs with Base Safety step by step so that they were easy to understand. Mine department's six new operating procedures have been validated and vetted through JBC Safety Dept/628th Mission Support Group. So easy a Caveman could do it!

As we entered fall and the weather began to cool we continued to reach out to the community. Eight Sailors raised \$540 and participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's while 4 Sailors and 12 Marines participated in the 9th Annual VA Stamp out Homelessness at Armory Park in North Charleston, SC. MN2(SW) Jonathan Pitts our Volunteer Coordinator also led 12 people in the Hampton Park beautification project.

Historic events happening at NMC Charleston! We recently concluded the 1st ever Worldwide Naval Reserve MOMAU Upgrade!! We plugged our Reserve counterparts into our quarterly upgrade for a very successful week of training. We were joined by Commanding Officers and crew from Naval Reserve MOMAUs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10. With the extra support, we were able to run our Mk 65 upgrade simultaneously with our MAT1, MAT2 and MAT3 upgrades. NMC along with our Reserve counterparts had the opportunity to be addressed by CAPT (select) Paul Harvey, Commanding Officer, NMC COMOMAG. He expressed his gratitude for a job well done and presented NMC UNIT CHARLESTON with a framed letter of appreciation.

We piped ashore 5 shipmates this quarter. LS1(SW/AW) La Detrick Smith leaves us to further her career onboard the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71). MN2 Robin Taylor heads to the West Coast to LCS PRE-COMMISSIONING UNIT. ITSN Kyle Mandle remains with us in the mine warfare family heading to the USS AVENGER (MCM 1) in Sasebo, Japan. MNSN Daniel Rendon and MNSN Corpuz depart the Navy for the Civilian sector. Good luck to you all!

Many good things have been happening onboard on the morale side of the house. Our MWR committee has been working feverishly putting together fund raising and morale boosting events. We had our 2nd semi-annual paintball tournament which ended up being an exhausting amount of exhilarating fun! In respect to Hispanic Heritage Month our CMEO MN1(SW) Senseney organized a Hispanic food potluck which turned out to be tasty! MN1 (SW) Smith our MWR President organized a potluck Thanksgiving Dinner which turned out to be one UNFORGETTABLE meal! The meal involved a huge team effort from the Navy, Marines, Civilians and their spouses. Here at NMC we work hard as a team and play equally as hard!

We also took the time recognize and celebrate the careers of two stellar Civilian employees, Mr. Kenneth Bausley with 36 years and Mr. Fred A. Mizell, 25 years. Your shoes will be hard to fill, GOOD LUCK!

Over the last year we have hit some incredible milestones for our Sailors here at NMC. Education is a fore leader in personal growth for our sailors that will not only benefit the Navy in the here and now but the sailor after separation/retirement. Our MN1(SW) Jon Reeves has been a driving force in the

guidance of just that. In fiscal year 2011 alone we have had 24 enrolled personnel with 83 classes taken. Year to year our enrollment has grown and will continue to do so!

This quarter we recognized those among us who stand out; who go the extra mile and set the example for the rest. During his visit, we were honored to have CAPT John Kersch, Commanding Officer, Navy Munitions Command present NMC Unit Charleston's BJOQ, JSOQ, SSOQ, BJOY, JSOY and SSOY.

Sailors of the Year (2011):

Senior: MN1(SW) Michael Lynch
Junior: MN1 Jon Reeves
Bluejacket: MNSN Michael Thompson

Sailors of the Quarter (4th Quarter FY2011):

Senior: MN1(SW) Henry, Glenn
Junior: MN2(SW) Jonathan Pitts
Bluejacket: MNSN Franklin Brown

Navy Commendation Medal:

MNCM(SW/AW) Tim "HOLLYWOOD" Hickman for meritorious service as Command Master Chief, Mine Warfare Training Center from August 2007 to December 2009.

Navy Achievement Medal:

LS1(SW/AW) La Detrick Smith, MN2 Robin Taylor, MNSN Daniel Rendon all received end of tour NAMs.

Maritime Prepositioning Force:

One of our myriad of missions here at NMC Unit Charleston is that of the Maritime Prepositioning Force. Here's an excerpt from: <http://www.msc.navy.mil/pm3/mpf.asp>

Fifteen Military Sealift Command (MSC) prepositioning ships are especially configured to transport supplies for the U.S. Marine Corps. Known as the Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF), the ships were built or modified beginning in the mid-1980s and are forward-deployed to the western Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The ships contain nearly everything the Marines need for initial military operations -- from tanks and ammunition to food and water and from fuel to spare parts and engine oil.



The ships are organized into three squadrons: MPS Squadron One, usually located in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic; MPS Squadron Two, usually located at Diego Garcia; and MPS Squadron Three, normally in the Guam/Saipan area. In addition to Marine Corps designated ships, MPS squadron staffs also oversee all other prepositioning ships in their geographic operating areas.

Each MPS squadron carries sufficient equipment and supplies to sustain about 15,000 Marine Corps

Air Ground Task Force personnel for up to 30 days. Each ship can discharge cargo either pier side or while anchored offshore using lighterage carried aboard. This capability gives the Marine Corps the ability to operate in both developed and underdeveloped areas of the world.

Our civilian counterparts on the MPF and Rail team remain involved in the shipping and receipt of nearly 5,000 tons of ammunition and supplies from USNS SISLER (T-ARK-31), USNS PFC EUGENE A. OBREGON (T-AK-3006), USNS WATSON (T-AKR 310, , USNS FISHER (T-AKR 301). and USNS SGT MATEJ KOCAK (T-AK 3005. We continue to ensure that all worldwide ordnance movements will go smoothly and efficiently.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

R 231328Z NOV 11
FROM: NMC CONUS EAST DIV YORKTOWN VA

1. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE SELECTION OF MN1(SW) MICHAEL J. LYNCH, UNIT CHARLESTON, AS THE 2011 NMC CED SAILOR OF THE YEAR.
2. AS THE 2011 NMC CED SOY, PETTY OFFICER LYNCH WILL COMPETE WITH OTHER DIVISIONS AT THE NMC SAILOR OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.
3. WELL DONE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NMC CED CANDIDATES. COMPETITION AT THIS LEVEL WAS EXTREMELY KEEN AND IS INDICATIVE OF THE OUTSTANDING CALIBER OF SAILORS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE NMC COMMUNITY. EACH PARTICIPANT SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF HIS/HER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND WELL DESERVED RECOGNITION. I CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ON THEIR NOMINATION:

DET ROTA GM1(SW) ADAN R. MACIAS;
DET OCEANA AO1(AW/SW) TWYISHA D. BUCHANAN;
DET BAHRAIN YN1(SW) PATRICK R. WEATHERSBY;
DET JACKSONVILLE GM1(SW) JOHN LEE;
DET SEWELLS POINT GM2(SW) DAVID A. PITRE.

EACH OF YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF YOUR EXEMPLARY SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS.//



MINEMAN FIRST CLASS (SW) MICHAEL J. LYNCH
NMC Charleston, SC Sailor of the Year

Mineman Petty Officer First Class Michael J. Lynch was born October 12th 1984 in Duluth, Minnesota and lived in the neighboring city of Superior Wisconsin for 21 years. He graduated from Superior Senior High School in 2003 and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin Superior playing varsity baseball. After his sophomore year of college, he took a hiatus from his studies and on January 4th 2006 he enlisted in the United States Navy.

In March of 2006, he successfully completed Recruit Training and began his Electronics Apprentice Technical Training (ATT) at Great Lakes Illinois. Upon the completion of ATT on April 21st 2006 he was transferred to Mine Warfare Training Command (MWTC) located at Ingleside, Texas. MN1 Lynch completed Mineman "A" school on June 20th 2006 and received his orders to USS PATRIOT (MCM 7) stationed out of Sasebo Japan. Before he left for Japan, he completed Minesweep Boatswains Mate "C" school on August 20th 2006.

On October 6th 2006, MN1 Lynch reported to USS PATRIOT (MCM 7) as MNSN and assigned to its Deck Department. During May 2007, he attained Mineman Petty Officer 3rd Class and became the Department's Repair Parts Petty Officer and Work Center Supervisor. Petty Officer Lynch was selected as PATRIOT's Bluejacket of the Year for 2007 and also Amphibious Force 7th Fleet Bluejacket of the Quarter. Following highly successful spring patrols throughout 7th Fleet AOR, Petty Officer Lynch was advanced to Mineman 2nd Class and became Deck Department's Leading Petty Officer. As Leading Petty Officer, he was instrumental in the completion in many multi-national exercises including 3 in South Korea and 2 in Russia. During his tenure onboard, MN1 Lynch immersed himself in and out of the Mineman rating becoming qualified in CIC Watch Officer and the only Mineman to attain the title of Gas Free Engineer on his ship. He also mastered underway watch stations standing CONNING officer for many special evolutions and sea and anchor details.

After a most successful sea tour, Petty Officer Lynch departed PATRIOT October of 2009 and reported to the newly merged NMC Unit Charleston in Goose Creek, South Carolina. During his first months onboard, he was influential in the completion NMC Unit Charleston's Explosive Safety Inspection (ESI). Following the ESI, Petty Officer Lynch attained Mineman Petty Officer First Class May of 2010 and was charged with the role of Leading Petty Officer of the Exercise and Training (ET) Division which were responsible for all fleet exercise requests. Petty Officer Lynch flawlessly executed

over 30 fleet exercises for ET Division and was nominated as NMC Unit Charleston's Senior Sailor of the Quarter 1st quarter 2011. He was then handpicked to assume the role of Division Officer (Lead Planner) for NMC Unit Charleston, planning and scheduling all of NMC Unit Charleston's mine maintenance and fleet exercises. MN1 Lynch was charged with running the Command's fitness program and became the Commands CFL responsible for the physical readiness of 75 personnel. Petty Officer Lynch resides in Goose Creek, South Carolina and is married to the former Lisa Schweikert of Superior, Wisconsin. They have a daughter, Penelope Lynch who is nine months old.

His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 awards), Navy Battle "E" Ribbon (4 awards), Navy Good Conduct Medal (1 award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Deployment Ribbon (3 awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3 awards), Sharpshooter Rifle Ribbon and Sharpshooter Pistol Ribbon.



LCS MCM DET ONE, TWO, AND THREE SAN DIEGO, CA

By MN2(SW) Hill

Hello from LCS Mine Countermeasures Mission Package Detachments One, Two and Three!

Here is the latest and greatest:

First and foremost I want to welcome all of our new shipmates arriving to MCM Det Three which officially stood up on December 1, 2011 to prepare for the upcoming commissioning of USS Coronado (LCS-4).

DET Two conducted Developmental Testing (DT), for the first time, onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2). During DT Det Two Sailors conducted three Remote Minehunting System (RMS) missions, and seven Launch, Handling and Recovery revolutions. In addition to participating in three Airborne Laser Mine Detection System (ALMDS) missions.

Not only did they conduct DT, Det Two personnel also accompanied the USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2) to St. Petersburg, FL. While there, the sailors onboard conducted 3000+ tours as well as a VIP tour for The Honorable Congressman Bill Young. Det Two also attended the 20th Annual International Sea Power Symposium at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI October 18-21. Mission Package (MP) personnel presented the Navy's newest Remote Minehunting Vehicle to the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) as well as more than 110 nations, many of the representatives being the senior most officers from their Navy and/or Coast Guard. This was the first time the USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2) has visited either of these ports.

DET One personnel participated in qualification training in Panama City, FL en route to replace Det Two Sailors onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2). Det One Sailors embarked the ship on December 2, 2011 to continue DT onboard.



USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS-2) arriving in Newport, Rhode Island

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Awards

MN1(SW) Taylor – Senior SOQ MN1(SW) Merry – NAM MN2(SW) Rivera – NAM

Advancements

MN1(SW) Ricks	MNC(SW) Butts	MN1(SW) Kaboskie
MNC(SW) Rey	EN1(SW) Daniel	MNC(SW) Thompson
EN1(SW) Insko	MN1(SW) Barrows	

Hail

LCDR Ruth	EN1(SW) Daniel	MN2(SW) Watson
EN1(SW) Insko	MN2(SW) Lee	MN2(SW) Pospisil
MN1(SW) Hinton	MN1(SW) Baker	MN2(SW) Bennett
MN2 Taylor		

Farewell

MNC(SW) Just	MN1(SW) Hidalgo	MNCS(SW) Caver
MN1(SW) Lacson	MNC(SW) Gumin	MN1(SW) Hill

New Family Arrival

MNC(SW) Rey and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Izabella Rey on July 8, 2011. Congratulations!



MNC(SW) Montalvo keeps MNSN Lagrange and MNSN Hoang on check while performing banding procedures on a BLU-110A/B bomb –

by AO1(AW/SW) Horton Land



MNC(SW) Montalvo, AO1(AW/SW) Henderson and MN3 Prewitt from QA department watches closely as a pallet of BLU-111A/B bombs are picked up and loaded on to a semi-truck -

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