

MINE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MINE WARFARE ASSOCIATION

<WWW.MINWARA.ORG>

November 2010

ANNOUNCING

MINWARA SPRING 2011 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

MINE WARFARE
“HOME” AND “AWAY GAME”
CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY ISSUES

MAY 9-12, 2011

BAY POINT MARRIOTT RESORT IN
PANAMA CITY FLORIDA

INSIDE

MINWARA NEWS
INCLUDING
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
9TH MONTEREY INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM ON TECHNOLOGY
AND THE MINE PROBLEM

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Mine Warfare Association. This has been a busy summer and fall. The annual Mine Warfare Caucus reception was held at the US Capitol on 22 June with a great turnout of mine warfare supporters and the Chief of Naval Operations. For those of you who haven't visited the Capitol recently, the new visitor's center is complete and provides an internal lobby and several new meeting rooms, a great improvement over some of the basement reception rooms in the Rayburn building that were used in the past.

The NDIA Undersea Warfare Conference was held at the Submarine Base in Groton, CT 20-23 September and had a good turnout of mine warfare program office and industry representatives. After a two year hiatus, the NDIA Expeditionary Warfare Conference in Panama City (4-7 Oct) included a mine warfare session and there was a standing room only brief with over 120 attendees on the first day to hear MG Hanifen, the new N85; Captain Mark Rios, N852; RDML Phil Sawyer, Deputy NMAWC; Mr. Vic Gavin, Deputy PEO LMW; Ms Donna Carson-Jelley, PMS-495; and Mr Walt Rankin of NSWC Panama City provide their perspectives on mine warfare and the way ahead.

Key topics discussed at the Panama City session included: the challenge in managing the transition from legacy to organic MCM capability, the renewed Combatant Commander and Navy interest in mining, the need for a long term vision for MCM, and the goal of conducting the full detect-to-engage sequence in a single pass by a future UUV. We all realize that LCS is behind schedule and that all of the systems in the mine warfare mission package have not reached IOC, so I was pleased to hear the Navy is actively looking at how and when to make the transition. In regards to mining, this new interest in upgrading our sensors and mine stock is refreshing. For over a decade the US has looked at mine warfare from a purely defensive mine countermeasure perspective. By reinvigorating our mine technology and funding new mine programs we'll start providing an asymmetric threat to potential adversaries.

We've commenced planning for the MINWARA May 2011 Regional Conference in Panama City. There's a new Panama City International Airport that provides expanded flight opportunities, including non-stop flights from places like BWI airport in Baltimore. Dates are Monday 9 May to Thurs 12 May 2011. Following up on our very successful conference in Panama City two years ago, the theme this year will be home and away game capability and capacity issues. CNO has already accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker on Tuesday morning. In addition, we have commitments from Rear Admiral Tillotson, Commander Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, US Northern Command, the Department of Homeland Security, and of course NMAWC, N85 and PEO LMW. We're also considering a special session on the future utilization of unmanned vehicles in support of mine warfare. Details will be posted on the MINWARA website.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and I hope to see you in Panama City in May!

Paul Ryan
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)
President

MINWARA NEWS

We have received confirmation from many key organizations and speakers, including the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), as participants in the conference. The Tuesday, 10 May agenda will focus on general mine warfare requirements and roles plus the overseas threat and mine warfare capabilities and capacity. The Wednesday, 11 May agenda will then focus on domestic threats to maritime safety in the morning. The agenda for Thursday is still up in the air: traditionally we've focused on future programs, current programs/acquisition and readiness issues. We're considering a special session addressing Navy's interest in unmanned underwater vehicles in support of mine warfare. We'll still finish up at noon on Thursday, 12 May.

This agenda format was very well received in 2009 by the largest audience (over 300) in attendance throughout the history of this conference starting back in 1995. We look forward to the possibility of increasing attendance even more at the 2011 conference. As in all previous conferences in Panama City, we plan to attract a significant number of presenters from the senior leadership of the U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps. They will address the various facets of the conference theme and the changes and future directions in sea mine warfare since our last conference in 2009. Significant interchange opportunities with senior leadership and conference attendees has been the hallmark of this conference in the past. The general agenda will be similar to prior conferences of this series, as follows:

Monday, 9 May 2011

AM/PM Registration and Captain's Choice (Scramble) Golf Tournament
PM No-host Reception

Tuesday, 10 May 2011

AM/PM General Sessions (evening free)

Wednesday, 11 May 2011

AM/PM General Sessions
PM - Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Open House and Shrimp Boil

Thursday, 12 May 2011

AM General Sessions, Adjournment, and No Host Lunch

9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON “TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINE PROBLEM”

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey CA 93940

17-20 May 2010

The Ninth Symposium at NPS focused on the **TECHNOLOGIES to support MINE WARFARE and EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE**, with a detailed focus on **UNMANNED SYSTEMS’ TECHNOLOGIES, CONCEPTS, and APPLICATIONS**. The stage was set by Admiral (RET) Harry Ulrich (former Commander, US Naval Forces Europe), RADM Scott Hebner (NMAWC), RDML Kevin Scott (OPNAV N85), and Capt Glenn Allen (NECC). Research and Acquisition reports and insights were provided by Dr. Frank Herr (ONR), Mr. Victor Gavin (PEO, LMW), RDML Jim Murdoch (PEO SHIPS – LCS), Capt Tim Dunigan (for PEO, UMS), and Professor Joe Rice (NPS). CDR. Keith Gordon (SSG- “The Unmanned Imperative”), Dr. Dan Goure (Lexington Institute – “Countering the Asymmetric Threat from Sea Mines”), and Mr. Robert Button (Rand Corporation – Unmanned Systems Study) discussed recent authoritative research studies and Mr. Jim MacFarlane (ISE) and Mr. Tony Rodgers (Orca Maritime) reported on industry research. **And that was only the plenary speaker lineup!**

Recurrent themes offered by these speakers and echoed throughout the Symposium’s technical sessions and informal discussions were the exploding interest in harnessing unmanned systems (UMS) capabilities and addressing controls and autonomy issues, the Mine Warfare transition to LCS, the need for data collection, fusion, and display; and a resurging interest in naval mines.

Approximately 200 attendees (including USN junior officer and enlisted personnel plus over 50 NPS students and faculty who attended selected Symposium events) were exposed to more than 60 technical papers of outstanding quality. Technical sessions’ topics (with Session Chairs in parenthesis) were: Biometric Robots (Dr Joe Ayers – Northeastern), UMS Controls (Dr Lora Weiss – Georgia Tech), Autonomy (Doug Horner – NPS), MIW Community of Interest (DR. Megan Cramer – PEO, LMW), Unique UMS (Mark Ott – HARBORWING and Dr. Jim Bellingham – MBARI), Environment (Dr. Herb Eppert – NRL and Capt. Paul Oosterling – CNMOC), UMS Concepts (Rob Simmons – PMS-EOD), MIW Technology (Dr. Earl Williams – NRL), LCS Mission Modules (Kwok Eng – PMS 420), Change Detection (Dr. Dan Sternlicht – NSWC PC), Mines (Dave Everhart – NSWC PC), Port Security (Capt (RET) Rand LeBouvier – Blue Fin Robotics), and Gliders (Dr. Kevin Mahoney - NAVO). **The most challenging issue during the technical sessions was deciding which sessions to attend!**

The final sessions were a spirited panel discussion as well as a brief report out of the subjects addressed during each technical session.

The Symposium is indebted to sponsors who have made this conference possible since its inception in 1995. This year’s Symposium could not have happened without the financial support of ONR, the PEO-LMW/N85, and the Naval Postgraduate School. One highlight of the Symposium was the MINWARA hosted reception at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

continued on next page

The Symposium organizers and all Symposium attendees owe a sincere debt of gratitude to our plenary speakers, our technical session chairs, and our technical session presenters. Without your support the Symposium would not be possible. Thank you very much!!! (and we will look forward to seeing you again in 2012!)

RDML Rick Williams, USN (Ret)
NPS Faculty Chair of Expeditionary and Mine Warfare

NAVY EXAMINES IMPROVED OFFENSIVE MINE WARFARE CAPABILITIES

At the recent NDIA Expeditionary Warfare Conference in Panama City, discussion of the renewed Combatant Commander and Navy interest in mining took place. An allied article from *Inside the Navy* has surfaced with additional info excerpts cited below:

The Navy is carrying out an analysis of alternatives examining ways to improve its offensive mine capabilities, according to the head of its mine warfare branch.

Capt. Mark Rios said the Navy now has the ability to lay indiscriminate mines, but in short order could create mines that would more effectively target enemy ships and could be turned off by remote control after a conflict ends.

“I think we want there to be a discussion about how we can use mines,” Rios told *Inside the Navy* at the Expeditionary Warfare Conference earlier this month. “Clearly some of our adversaries or potential adversaries have submarines, have patrol craft that are very nimble and fast. Early on in the conflict, mining their harbors or their approaches to come in and out of port, just by logic, it would reduce the number of ships and submarines that could come out to attack us and this reduces our threat.”

Rios said that offensive mines could also be used to protect the flanks of a sea base. Creating mines that could distinguish the sounds of various ships could also help prevent unintentional casualties.

Fleet Forces Commander Adm. John Harvey said the Navy needs to avoid losing its naval mine warfare capabilities while involved in a ground war or at peace, but said that funding offensive mine research is not currently at the top of the list of priorities.

“Certainly [that is] one more area we can add to the list of things we need to examine,” he said, “and I think in some places that area is being examined and being examined actively . . . I’ve seen some scenarios discussed where it is a capability we would very much like to have available to us should the need arise, so I can’t give you a firm yes, that it’s right there -- you know it’s not today -- but I also can’t give you a definite no.” -- *Cid Standifer*

MINWARA NEWS

MINWARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – JUNE 2010

The key aspect of this meeting was to update the Bylaws of the Mine Warfare Association for the first time since their inception in 1995. At that time MINWARA included members interested in land mines and demining. Over the last decade MINWARA has focused increasingly on the sea mine threat. Consequently the revised Bylaws deleted all references to land mines, space mines and demining. Changes were also made to reflect the actual organizational structure, which is slightly different than established in 1995. The proposed changes to the Minwara Bylaws were reviewed and approved by the Board.

As a sidebar discussion at the meeting, the point was made that the Gulf Oil Disaster represents an example of a low probability, but high impact, event/disaster. The lack of resources to pursue port security from underwater mine/IED potential threats seems to ignore this point. Hopefully, Minwara may be able to convince key decision makers to give this point higher consideration than previously.

ANNUAL MINWARA MEMBERSHIP DUE JANUARY 1, 2011

The Mine Warfare Association (MINWARA) was formed in 1995 to create an awareness of mine warfare issues and to assist government, industry, and academia in optimizing their combined contributions to solving the challenges associated with military sea and land mine warfare. The MINWARA believed that many of the solutions would be found in emerging technologies. The Mine Warfare Association looks forward to continuing this educational effort in support of military mine warfare and the associated challenges and problems.

To continue your membership or to become a new member, please complete the included application form and send with your check or credit card number to the DMC Companies (our association management company).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mine Warfare Association

c/o The DMC Companies

484B Washington Street, MB 340, Monterey CA 93940

phone: (831) 373-0508, fax (831) 373-0460, e-mail: minwara@dmccompanies.com

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CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP

(All schedules except Life Membership are on an annual basis)

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- Student \$25
 Annual Membership \$50
 Life Membership \$500

Corporate or Foundation Memberships

(Life/Annual)

- Bronze \$500 (0/2)
 Silver \$1000 (0/4)
 Gold \$2000 (1/2)
 Platinum \$5000 or Greater (2/2)

The level of membership (Bronze, etc.) selected by a prospective corporate member determines the number of Life and Annual memberships awarded upon application for a particular calendar year (January 1 through December 31). The Bronze level would be awarded zero life memberships and two annual memberships for the year of membership. The Platinum level would be awarded 2 life memberships and 2 annual memberships for the year of membership.

The new membership recipients (life and annual) for the corporation should be designated upon corporate membership application. They will be added, in our database, to prior life membership recipients (where applicable) for the corporation. Life and annual membership recipients may be individuals by name and/or corporate position.

Corporate membership should not be confused with event corporate sponsorship. We, separately invite corporations to be event sponsors for our conferences and symposia. This may include exhibits, receptions, banquet tables, etc. offered at varying prices for the event. Platinum corporate members are not charged a fee for one exhibit space at an event.

The corporate membership benefits for the various membership levels are listed at www.minwara.org. Hopefully, this clarifies any confusion on these issues.

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Operational:

- Naval Research and Development
 Demining Economics
 Management Fundraising
 Field Work Unexploded Ordnance
 Public Education

Geophysical Interests:

- Surf Zone Beach
 Deep Water Shallow Water
Language skills (Please specify):

Willingness to Serve MINWARA:

- Board Member Officer
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