

MINE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MINE WARFARE ASSOCIATION

<WWW.MINWARA.ORG>

December 2008

ANNOUNCING

MINWARA SPRING 2009 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

*Mine Warfare –
“Home” and “Away” Game Challenges*

MAY 18-21, 2009

Bay Point Marriott Resort in Panama City Florida

INSIDE

MINWARA NEWS

Including

Highlights of the

*8th Monterey International Symposium on
Technology and the Mine Problem*

and a letter from

Naval Mine and Antisubmarine Warfare Command

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow supporters of a robust Navy mine warfare capability! We're in-between the two major mine warfare conferences: this MINELINES provides a brief review of the 8th Monterey International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem held in May 2008 at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and provides planning information on the Spring 2009 Mine Warfare Association conference (with co-sponsorship from Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City) at the Bay Point Marriott on 18-21 May 2009.

Let me start by congratulating Rick Williams, the Naval Postgraduate School Chair of Mine Warfare, on the very successful conference in Monterey this May. The agenda was stimulating, the working groups were a novel approach, and the reception at the Monterey Bay Aquarium was superb. Listening to the questions from the audience and sidebar discussions, I was struck by the interest and concern associated with the potential for an underwater IED attack in a US port. As we commenced planning for the Spring 2009 conference, we decided to have a dual focus: what's the threat and what are we doing about it in the US, and what's the threat and what are we doing about it overseas. Our theme is: "home" and "away game" challenges. It's hard to talk about the threat in an unclassified forum, so we're investigating the possibility of having a classified session and hearing from representatives of both the Director of Naval Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence. Details to follow. In addition, I was disappointed by the lack of Coast Guard attendance at the Monterey conference, so we'll be reaching out to our Coast Guardsmen to participate in the Spring 2009 conference, which is especially important when we talk about homeland security.

When I took over as MINWARA President last year there was an outstanding action item to investigate sponsoring a documentary video on the importance of maintaining a robust mine warfare capability. We've talked with the Discovery Military Channel and Atlantic Video to learn the mechanics of sponsoring a video, then we solicited contributions from our corporate sponsors. The cost of the video is estimated at \$150k. The MINWARA can commit \$50k to the project and we're looking for \$100k in corporate contributions to go forward.

RDML Bob Girrier has relieved RDML John Christianson as the deputy NMAWC (former MINEWARCOM) and shifted his flag from the old MINEWARCOM headquarters in Corpus Christi to being co-located with RADM Frank Drennan at NMAWC in San Diego. The rest of the headquarters staff and the remaining ships from Ingleside will transfer to San Diego as BRAC funded facilities become available.

I look forward to seeing many of you again at our Panama City conference in May 2009.

Paul Ryan
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)
President

8th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON “TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINE PROBLEM”

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey CA 93940

6-8 May 2008

The Eighth Symposium at NPS focused on the technologies needed for Mine Warfare, Expeditionary Warfare, and Port Security. A broad picture of status and needs across these diverse areas was painted by RADM Drennan and RDML Christenson (NMAWC), RDML Tillotson (NECC), RDML Castillo (USCG), Mr. Thomsen (PEO LMW), COL. Cintron (SOUTHCOM), CAPT. Angove (NOAA), and DR. Colon (JIEDDO). Recurrent themes offered by these speakers and echoed throughout the Symposium’s technical sessions and informal discussions were the techniques and technologies for route survey and change detection as a means of shortening the mine (or maritime IED) countermeasures timeline; the potential capabilities offered by unmanned systems; the need for data collection, fusion, and display; integrated communications; wireless networks; countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IED’s) in multiple scenarios, and the Mine Warfare “home game” as well as the “away game.”

Approximately 225 attendees (plus over 40 NPS students and faculty who attended selected Symposium events) were exposed to more than 60 technical papers of outstanding quality in both plenary and chaired technical sessions. Technical sessions’ topics included Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Environmental, Land Mines, Command and Control, Chemical Explosives, Optics, Underwater and Port Security Technologies, and Unmanned Systems Operations and Controls.

RADM Chuck Horne, USN, (RET) planned, recruited, and moderated two Industry Panels that included sponsors, operators, acquisition experts and industry that proved again to be a major draw. This panel promoted broadly ranging open discussions on a variety of current and emerging issues.

For the first time, the Symposium also provided the opportunity for three “Workshops”. The specific workshops and leaders were: Workshop 1 – “Issues facing the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command” - CAPT David Balk (NECC N-9) ; Workshop 2 – “Issues facing those responsible for port security” - Tony Fuller (NMAWC); and Workshop 3 – “Issues facing the United States Southern Command” - COL Norberto Cintron, USA (Chief Engineer, USSOUTHCOM). The Workshops exploited the creative and synergistic energies of small groups of experienced military officers and highly qualified scientists and engineers to brainstorm possible technological solutions to urgent operational problems and provided the forum for broad as well as in depth discussions about Workshop topics.

A highlight of the Symposium was the MINWARA hosted reception at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Our thanks to **Lockheed Martin Corporation** and **Northrop Grumman Corporation**, Integrated Systems, both MINWARA Corporate Members who generously funded a significant share of the reception food and beverage.

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

MINE WARFARE - TAKING A FIX

In the twentieth century, ASW and Mine Warfare were addressed as distinct entities, driving capability and associated capacity in specific directions – these had limitations. The twenty first century sees evolving threats in ASW and MIW more effectively approached in a common undersea context. Two years ago, COMINWARCOM and Fleet ASW Command joined to form the Naval Mine and ASW Warfare Command (NMAWC) – the Warfare Center of Excellence focusing on undersea warfare ...a fusion conceived to leverage resources and expertise in both warfare disciplines with increasing commonality. The phased merge of the two separate commands and staff under two-star leadership has progressed steadily. In concert with this staff integration is execution of BRAC moves to San Diego in 2009 affecting NMAWC Corpus Christi, tactical MCMRONS 1 and 3, MCMRON 2 (the MCM CLASSRON), the Mine Warfare Training Center, and the CONUS-based MCM class ships. COMOMAG will move to San Diego in 2010, and the MH-53 AMCM assets from HM-15 will move from Corpus Christi to Norfolk in 2009. NMAWC's metrics-based assessment process seeks to quantify "how good we have to be," assess integrated-level performance to determine "how good we actually are," then works to reduce that delta through focused training and identification of critical gaps. A look at some additional MIW-related developments in ships, maintenance and upgrades; technological advancements; and exercises follow.

Ships, Maintenance and Upgrades. Significant sonar upgrades for MCM ships and aircraft include improvements to the SQQ-32(V)3 and AQS 20 systems. High Frequency Wide Band (HFWB) is an upgrade to the SQQ-32 to improve the detection of the Mine Countermeasure (MCM) Ships in the littorals. This upgrade also addresses obsolescence facing the towed body and topside electronics. The AN/AQS-20A Side Scan Sonar program integrates an existing Electro-Optic Identification Device (EOID) sensor into the AN/AQS-20 baseline system providing for identification of bottom mines and detection, localization, and classification of bottom, close tethered, and volume mines. Some additional FY08 material accomplishments include: Certification of first MCM Ship for Electronic Charting and Display Information System – Navy (ECDIS-N) in USS DEVASTATOR; initiated fielding of MEDAL Build 11; completed Sonar Data Recorder installs on all Ships; completed AN/AQS-24 deliveries to Air Squadrons and initiated Mk-105 Mod 4 Overhauls

Technological Advancements. In the continuing effort to "take the man out of the minefield" progress continues with the LCS - RMMV (AN/WLD-1). The RMMV is a diesel powered semi-submersible vehicle (23' long, 4' diameter, 13k lbs) that tows a variable depth sensor, the AN/AQS-20A. The system determines the presence or absence of mines to an acceptable level of confidence to enable ships to operate in or avoid specific areas.

MH-60S MIW capability continues to grow with development of the AMNS, ALMDS and RAMICS packages. The AMNS will reacquire mine targets and explosively neutralize unburied bottom and moored sea mines that are impractical or unsafe to counter using existing minesweeping techniques. The ALMDS uses light detection and ranging (LIDAR) technology to detect, classify, and localize near-surface moored and floating sea mines. RAMICS is capable of reacquiring and neutralizing near-surface and surface (floating) moored mines. It will utilize an electro-optic laser system to reacquire the target and aim a rapid firing MK44 30mm gun.

MINE WARFARE - TAKING A FIX

Exercises and Engagement. The MIW force is actively involved in exercises throughout the world, to include onboard NMAWC training and assessment teams capturing pertinent data to reduce the delta between where we are and where we need to be. In Seventh Fleet, activities have included a recent UUV Demonstration with Mine Division 11 (forward deployed in Sasebo, Japan) with their JMSDF counterparts. The event involved an in-water deployment and recovery of the REMUS UUV, demonstrating its capabilities and limitations as well as its potential utility in coastal and harbor defense applications. Exercise Clear Horizon, also recently completed in Seventh Fleet, displayed emerging technologies in support of unmanned/remote MIW and environmental sensing systems. Both are prime examples of ongoing in-theater activity aimed at leveraging emerging technologies. Additionally, MH-53 AMCM aircraft are currently deployed to the C7F AOR contributing to the MCM mission.

In Fifth Fleet, MCMEX 09-1 was just completed the first week of November. Following Fifth Fleet's guidance and direction, this combined US-UK MCM Triad Exercise in the Central Arabian Gulf included MCM Division 31 as lead, with staff support from COMCMRON THREE and UK MCM 1. US and UK MCMs, HM-15 Det TWO, and the EOD MCM PLT all participated. One in the series of quarterly MCM exercises, this event is central to maintaining US-UK MCM interoperability, with focus on communications employing CENTRIXS. The Winter/Spring timeframe will see larger scale exercises integrating warfare areas. The biennial Arabian Gauntlet 09 scheduled for April is an example, featuring multilateral participation to refine coalition warfare capabilities, specifically in mine and surface warfare, and off-shore infrastructure protection. MCMRON THREE will assume the role of MCM Commander for the exercise with focus on successful communications between all services and countries while building relationships to promote Theater Security Cooperation in the region.

CONUS MCM forces recently participated in RIMPAC and PANAMAX this summer. The PANAMAX series is an annual Joint Exercise involving militaries from over 20 Nations and multiple services. MCMRON THREE assumed the role of MCM Commander.

These are exciting times for the Mine Warfare community. The upcoming move to the San Diego fleet concentration area and co-locating key command, training and assessment elements while increasing opportunities for interaction and integration with the rest of our Navy is a necessary step in the right direction. Important modernization of legacy MCM systems continues while development of new technologies for the LCS MIW mission package moves forward. Operationally, our units are involved in challenging exercises forward, integrating new technologies, developing innovative CONOPs -- and ultimately -- improving our performance in this challenging mission area. MIW remains a relevant and increasingly visible discipline as mine threats continue to grow around the world. We're leaning into the challenge.

RDML Robert Girrier, Vice Commander,
Navy Mine and ASW Command

SOCIETY FOR COUNTER ORDNANCE TECHNOLOGY (SCOT)

The SCOT S&T Symposium proposed for Sept 2009
is postponed probably to Spring 2010.

MINWARA NEWS

MINWARA SPRING 2009 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2009 MINWARA Conference on sea mine warfare will be held at the Bay Point Marriott Resort in Panama City FL on May 18-21. The theme for the conference will be:

Mine Warfare – “Home” and “Away” Game Challenges.

The conference theme is reflective of a number of changes since our last conference in May 2007, such as:

- Transition to theater level mine warfare concepts/vision.
- Continued development of the Maritime Operational Threat Response (MOTR) concept for use in U. S. ports by USN/USCG forces.
- Two years of new mine warfare leadership from the NAVAL MINE AND ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE COMMAND (NMAWC).
- Near term introduction of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and associated Mine Warfare Mission Packages.
- Updated environmental knowledge in theaters of potential conflict and homeland waters (plus a number of wargames on the homeland subject).
- Continuing development of Assault Breaching Systems.

These changes provide a robust menu of presentation topics and issues for discussion at the 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 2007. Previous conference presenters have included **the CNO, Commander Fleet Forces Command, and the USMC HQ Director of Operations** among approximately ten flag and general officers providing presentations. **CNO and the Commandant of the Coast Guard** have been invited. Speaker invitations have already been confirmed by **Commander, Fleet Forces Command, the Commander and Vice Commander of NMAWC, and the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC).**

Significant interchange opportunities, with senior leadership and conference attendees, have been the hallmark of this conference in the past.

The general agenda will be similar to prior conferences of this series, as follows:

Monday, 18 May 2009

AM/PM Registration and Captain's Choice (Scramble) Golf Tournament

PM Reception and Banquet (with featured speaker)

Tuesday, 19 May 2009

AM/PM General Sessions (evening free)

Wednesday, 20 May 2009

AM/PM General Sessions

PM Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Open House and Cookout

Thursday, 21 May 2009

AM General Sessions, Adjournment, and No Host Lunch

Note that this year we are attempting to host classified intelligence briefings on potential foreign and domestic mining threats. If we're successful in working out the details, a SECRET clearance will be required to attend the classified briefs. The remainder of the conference will be unclassified and open to all attendees.

MINE WARFARE ASSOCIATION MINE WARFARE DOCUMENTARY

As a number of our members are aware, Minwara is attempting to produce a documentary on U. S. Navy Mine Warfare. The object is to make the public aware of the complexity of the conduct of mine warfare and review historical impacts of mining and mine countermeasures. The documentary will also showcase a number of our capabilities in mine warfare and provide technical experts' views on capability gaps which still exist.

Assuming we can solicit sufficient funding to go into production, we hope to showcase the documentary in Washington DC in Spring 2009 to an audience including Congressional members, military leadership, and additional officials who can impact funding of naval mine warfare programs. We also plan to show the documentary at the Spring 2009 Minwara conference in Panama City FL.

We hope to air the completed documentary on Discovery Military Channel and other similar media outlets.

We are attempting to solicit approximately \$100K from our corporate members in the next few months to match the \$50K, which Minwara is able to provide. We have received commitments for approximately 40% of the needed corporate partnership funds.

HISTORY LOCKER

In May, 1972, U. S. forces mined North Vietnamese ports following large scale employment of North Vietnamese Army units in South Vietnam. This action completely shut down seaborne importations to North Vietnam. The logistics train needed to support these Army units was crippled by elimination of 85% of imported supplies for the North Vietnam war effort. This forced war material imports to enter the country and move south by train, during daylight hours, in addition to night hours, making them much more susceptible to successful air attack. The combination of mines and B-52 bombing significantly reduced the capabilities of North Vietnam Army units in South Vietnam. Reseeding of mine fields and resumption of B-52 bombing in December 1972 followed further intransigence by North Vietnam in reaching a cease - fire agreement. Eventually, a cease - fire agreement was reached in January, 1973, contingent on U. S. forces' clearance of mines. Clearance began in February 1973. Further balking by North Vietnam, in complying with the cease-fire agreement and release of American POW's, was answered by interrupting mine clearance, resulting in release of POW's by 1 April 1973. Combined with diplomatic isolation of North Vietnam from the USSR and the PRC and B-52 bombing, mining was clearly a key ingredient in dealing effectively with a previously intransigent government.

ANNUAL MINWARA MEMBERSHIP DUE JANUARY 1, 2009

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).

MINE LINES

C/O THE DMC COMPANIES

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mine Warfare Association

824 Munras Ave., Suite C. Monterey CA 93940

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

Concerning all aspects of Sea-Land Mine warfare and Explosive Ordnance Disposal



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CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Individual Memberships

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

Geophysical Interests:

- Land Beach
 Surf Zone Shallow Water
 Deep Water

Language skills (Please specify):

Willingness to Serve MINWARA:

- Board Member Officer
 Conference Organizer Membership
 Clerical Assistance Corporate
 Fundraising Presenter
 Other (Please specify):

Method of payment:

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