

# CREDIBILLIS

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

FALL/WINTER- 2008

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## President's Message

The reunion of 2008 in Orlando is over and everyone that attended had a great time. It was good to see other Psyopers and their guests. We shared many stories and many laughs. After we finished our formal dinner John Cheney gave everyone a little Psychological Operations history with his trivia questions. John started this in our reunion at Branson and it went over very well. Hopefully the tradition will continue at further reunions. That evening, John taught us how to play Texas Hold-'em and we had a lot of fun.

I would like to commend Mike Paschkes for doing an excellent job in setting up the reunion and choosing the Marriott Courtyard for the site of the reunion.

During our business meeting I was elected President for the next two years. It is an honor to be elected to this position. I want to thank our past President Arlo Despain for doing an excellent job. I hope I can fill his boots.

We have a wonderful Association. I have been going to the reunions since 1995 and only missed two of them because of work commitments. During these reunions I have met other members I served with and met many others in the Pysop family. It is a wonderful experience that I won't forget. The members who have attended some of the reunions expressed the same sentiment. When I first started to go to the reunions we had a large number of members attending but for the past several reunions attendance has gotten smaller.

During our business meeting there was a discussion on how to increase our membership and to get members to attend the reunions. The Board is a very small part of the membership. There are many members in this Association and the Board is reaching out for ideas and suggestions. This is your Association and I would like to see it keep growing. All ideas and suggestions are welcome. You can contact me or any of the Board members.

Our next reunion is going to be in Boston in September 2010. The site will be announced at a later date. Any member who is familiar with Boston and some of its accommodations and places of interest can contact me.

Thanks,

**Mike Stoeckert**

# **MINUTES OF POVA REUNION MEETING OCTOBER 17-19, 2008**

Meeting was held at a Marriott Courtyard in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, near Orlando. It was called to order on October 17 at 4:18 pm by President Arlo Despain from Sandy, Utah. A prayer was offered by Chaplain John Cheney of Grapevine, Texas.

Also present were Mr. Despain's wife, Hildegard; Dick Holzheimer from Tampa, Florida; Mike Stoeckert and his companion Alee Lynch from Long Island, NY, and Mike and Mary Paschkes from Boynton Beach, Florida. (Mike is a Korean War vet.)

Although wide sections of the country were represented, unfortunately only five POVA members attended.

The first order of business was to set the location for the 2010 reunion, and the Boston area was voted upon unanimously. It was chosen because POVA membership tends to be concentrated in the Northeast. Since she is so familiar with the area, Ms. Lynch volunteered to help make arrangements for the reunion which will be mid-to-late September 2010.

Dues will continue to remain at \$30.00 for one year, \$50.00 for two years. New members would get the first year free.

Officers elected for the next two years are: President, Mike Stoeckert; Vice President and Chaplain, John Cheney; Treasurer, Arlo Depain; Secretary and newsletter editor, Mike Paschkes; and Trustee, Dick Holzheimer, along with Paul Wolfinger and Donald Workman.

Doug Elwell continues as Liaison Officer at Ft. Bragg. Tom Brandt was named Honorary Historian. Hopefully, Clyde and Barb Gaidosh will still be available as assistant editors of our newsletter, "Credibilis."

Under New Business, despite the cost of approximately \$100 per issue, it was decided to continue publication of the newsletter for those who don't have computers, but possibly only once a year beginning in 2009.

Discussion was held as to how membership in POVA might be increased. It was agreed that membership need not be confined to past wars, but that even current Psyop practitioners should be invited to join. This was another rationale for keeping the newsletter, and in it ask for contacts.

It was suggested that a booklet or flyer about POVA might be prepared for distribution at Ft. Bragg and elsewhere. It could emphasize the benefits of belonging including the newsletter, our charitable giving and special relations with Special Ops at Ft. Bragg. (NOTE: There should be a better way to express this. Ideas welcome.)Mike Paschkes will pursue with Doug Elwell.

It was also suggested that members be given business cards to distribute at the right opportunity.

Meeting was adjourned at 530 PM.

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On the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup>, a formal dinner was held. All the ladies were presented with roses that symbolized our remembrance of departed members. In particular, former President Joe Rosenberg was remembered for his devotion to the organization.

Nancy Pastore spoke about her and Angie's brother Jimmy who was lost in Vietnam.

Chaplain John Cheney offered a prayer for the departed as well as our continued well-being and hopes to meet again in two years if not before.

Despite the limited attendance, an enjoyable time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted  
(sig)

Mike Paschkes

## **NEWS FROM FT. BRAGG**

There is now an induction ceremony for the new PSYOP School graduates into the 4th POG. The first occasion was 02 OCT 2008. Called the Indoctrination Ceremony, the new soldiers are formed in the "Genesis Platoon" initially. The Group Commander speaks to them as a group and then the soldiers fall in facing their new respective battalion. The Battalion Commanders pin the respective battalion crests on their new soldiers' berets and the soldiers reform at the back of the battalion formation. The intent of the ceremony is to give more of a ceremony to the addition of new soldiers into 4th POG and to elevate the esprit de corps of the overall unit.

Attached is plan of troop formation and movement during the ceremony.

We did lose another soldier two weekends ago. SGT Christina Smith, 5th PSYOP Battalion, was killed in a knife attack while walking with her husband, an NCO in 3d PSYOP Battalion, in a residential area of Fayetteville. Things took a more tragic turn when investigation disclosed the suspected murdered was another soldier in her Battalion and that the suspect says the husband offered money for the killing. This has seemed surreal. The service for SGT Smith was held 08 OCT 2008 at the JFK Chapel on Ardennes.

The account balance for the Joint Fund is \$1,845.50 as of 30 SEP 2008. I have a couple of payouts still in suspense.

Best regards,

Doug Elwell

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