

CREDIBILIS

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

SPRING 2009

President's Message

Many of our members are probably not aware of a project that has been in the works for sometime of a medal to be awarded to individuals in the PSYOP Community. The award will be a General Robert A. McClure Medal. General McClure was the father of modern PYSOP beginning with WWII. I was informed that the award was the idea of Chad Spawr, one of our past-presidents and a founder of POVA. After several years it has finally materialized. Lt. Steven Banard of Ft. Bragg is the project manager who did an excellent job in coordinating the different parties and organizations to make the medal a reality.

The medal was approved on March 19, 2009, by all the parties involved in the process. I am proud that POVA was involved in the process to see the award materialize.

There is still much to be done before an individual is selected for this award and honored during PSYOP week. It is to be held the first week of June. Hopefully members of POVA will be in attendance during the presentation. POVA is going to make a contribution of \$200.00 to help pay for the funding of the medals. More information Page 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Henry Bast of New Rochelle, NY for the money he collected and donated in the amount \$718 towards a Christmas Party for PSYOP soldiers' children at FT. Bragg. Our own Doug Elwell got to play Santa for the event. Henry also collected \$745 more which was given to PYSOP soldiers and their families in need at Christmas. Henry has done a lot for the PYSOP community and has made them aware of POVA.

On a sadder note, I was informed of the passing of LTC. Dave Affleck, on December 12, 2008. Many of us served under him while in Vietnam. He was a good friend to many and will be missed. Our sympathy goes out to his family. (More information page 3)

If a reader would like to contribute information or an article for the newsletter you can contact me or the editor. The board is still reaching out for ideas and suggestions to increase the membership and attendance at our reunions. Hopefully the McClure Award will give the Association more exposure.

Mike Stoeckert

The Robert A. McClure Awards (Gold, Silver and Bronze)

(The following information was supplied by COL (Ret) AL Paddock)

--In 1942 General Eisenhower appointed Gen. McClure head of Information and Censorship (INC) for the invasion of North Africa and Sicily. This Allied organization included branches for public relations, censorship, and psychological warfare. By the end of this campaign, he was focusing most of his attention on psywar, his "big job," as he stated in a letter to his wife.

--In early 1944 Eisenhower directed McClure to head the Psychological Warfare Division (PWD/SHAEF) for the invasion of mainland Europe, an unusual Allied organization with both staff and operational responsibilities.

--After VE Day Eisenhower told McClure to help in planning for the occupation of Germany. His PWD changed names. It became the Information Control Division (ICD), and was a key player in the reorientation and de-nazification of Germany. ICD had branches for radio, press, film, theater, music, and publications.

--After the outbreak of war in Korea, BG McClure was appointed Chief of the Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare (OCPW), the first organization of its type in Army Staff history. He built the office from a few individuals to a staff of over 100 personnel. He also sold the Army on the need for a UW capability (Special Forces). In addition to providing psywar forces to Korea and Europe, he convinced the Army to create a center for both psywar and Special Forces, and directed establishment of the Psywar Center at Fort Bragg in May 1952 (title changed to the Special Warfare Center in 1956).

--Over a period of 10 years, McClure made vital contributions to PSYOP and SF. His most lasting legacy was creation of the Psywar Center, the foundation of what we have today. The Army recognized him as the "Father of Army Special Warfare" in 2001, and named the USASOC headquarters building in his honor. He is the only PSYOP general officer in our history.

More detail on McClure can be found in Al Paddock's book, "U.S. Army Special Warfare: Its Origins" (Revised Edition), published by University Press of Kansas in 2002.

ED Note: A very involved procedure has been developed for the nomination of candidates for the awards. They must have shown exceptional service and/or achievement in PSYOPS. It will be administered by a PSYOP Regiment A highly detailed letter of agreement was signed which maintains the independence of POVA and POA which have agreed to work together under the auspices of the Regiment. Details of the procedures and agreement are available by e-mail from President Mike Stoeckert. (hookeye1@optonline.net)

NEWS FROM FORT BRAGG.....

With the increase in military units moving to Ft Bragg under the BRAC, you can imagine there is a lot of new construction and remodeling happening. There is growth in the numbers of soldiers in Psychological Operations, even if we aren't seeing the additional building space yet.

There have been ongoing meetings at Ft Bragg between military (US Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, JFK Special Warfare Center & School , 4th PSYOP Group, 2nd PSYOP Group, and 7th PSYOP Group) and civilian (PSYOP Veterans Association and the PSYOP Association) organizations for the purpose of further defining the PSYOP Regimental Association. Soon to be retired CSM Carney is leading the effort to draft the by-laws and establish the organization by early summer. The RA will be a civilian organization and is looking for a joint effort (POVA, POA, and RA) to recognize contributions of past and present PSYOP soldiers through an awards system under the oversight of the PSYOP Proponent, JFK SWC&S. (ED Note: Presumably this is the McClure medal described on page 2)

The Joint Fund for injured and deceased soldiers is at \$1546. There have been no recent payouts (Thank God!). Those wishing to make a contribution to this fund are welcome to send a check or money order made out to POVA and mail it to: Doug Elwell, PO Box 36315, Fayetteville, NC 28303. The money goes to PSYOP soldiers injured in service or to the families of PSYOP soldiers that die in service.

The 3d PSYOP Battalion is putting up pictures of the history of psychological operations in the hallways of the Media Operations Complex (50,000 square foot building). Do you have copies of PSYOP-related photos to share? Pictures with notes of who, what, when, and where would be most appreciated (and don't forget to include your name). Please send them to me and I will put them in the proper hands. Thanks in advance. Best regards...

Doug Elwell, FT Bragg Liaison, 910-488-1383 elwellds@embarqmail.com

IN MEMORIAM...

Col. David W. Affleck, Commander, 6th Psyop Bn. Vietnam, 1966-1967

David Westerdahl Affleck, Colonel Infantry US Army Retired, 83 of Largo, FL died Friday December 12, 2008 at Morton Plant Hospital in Largo. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. the son of Major David Burt Affleck and Isabella Westerdahl Affleck. He attended East High School in Salt Lake City and the University of Utah.

Col. Affleck served in the US Army for 30 years, and resided in Largo since his retirement. He was a veteran of World War II, the Korean and Viet Nam wars and also served tours in the Philippine Islands, Alaska and Germany. He is survived by Janice, his loving wife of 59 years, a daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

ED Note: Space does not permit printing several accolades received from POVA members, but they can be forwarded on e-mail request to bmpaschkes@comcast.net

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