

# CREDIBILIS

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

SPRING 2006

## • *PRESIDENTS MESSAGE*

I am trying hard to make this message positive, so I'm placing the VA/USASOC issues in another venue. I have written a few essays on these subjects, which I'll share with anyone who asks.

The issue of a trip to Vietnam has been discussed at least at two reunions. *Stan Michelson & Joe Meissner* both have visited the country with positive results. About a month ago I answered a question about Saigon tea on a wine discussion site. In a few days I was in a discussion with a young Vietnamese businessman and lamented at the high cost of getting to his country. He said he recently acquired a travel agency in Hanoi and would be willing to search for a low airfare package for POVA.

The site is at <http://www.waytovietnam.com/index.asp>. PLEASE look at this site and let me know if you are interested in a visit. We need to make some determinations on places to visit and tour length. Your input on this is valuable. Be advised, that this would not replace any planned future reunion.

We have 10 people and at least 4 rooms committed to the reunion. We need 20 paying adults and 15 paid rooms to meet the Welk Resort's minimums. As a special bonus if we sign the minimum up, the frozen Lawrence Welk will be zapped in a huge microwave and play "Lady of Spain", for us at the banquet. If we make 30 people and 20 rooms, we will get an encore of "Tico, Tico", and danced to by a Charro look alike!

On the downside it appears Texas Tech and our Historian have not reached agreement of transporting the memorabilia collection to Branson and eventually Lubbock, Texas. Texas Tech has offered to pay the moving costs if the collection is donated to them. June 30<sup>th</sup> is our deadline on this project. After that date if there is no chance of seeing the collection in Branson, we are no longer interested in moving the collection. We will ask the historian to identify donated items and make arrangements for their return. He will retain possession of the balance of material to do with them whatever suits him. There will be no further effort by POVA to have the collection at future reunions.

**RENEWAL DRIVE IS ON --- 2006 DUES = \$30 --- If you haven't renewed yet, PLEASE DO ASAP!**

By my calculations if we retain most of our members, possibly we could have more reunions past 2008. However, our other functions, such as our website and newsletter, might become a luxury. These calculations are based on the idea we continue to have folks as officers who will pitch in on membership retention, editing the newsletter and holding the office of treasurer. I estimate that except for our *Liaison, Doug Elwell*, no one is getting an "A" for effort on membership retention & other duties.



**Current 2006 BOARD openings to be filled at the Reunion and the minimum duties:**

**SECRETARY:**

Record all business meeting minutes as well as ARCHIVE all PAST newsletters. This file is

already set up, may need recent newsletters.

**TREASURER:**

Assists President on financial planning, Maintain Checking account, (Checks & Balances) publish quarterly reports to members.

**EDITOR:**

Reviews and assembles all copy for the newsletter and the web site.

**VETERANS**

**SERVICE OFFICER:**

Reviews material on Veterans from various websites and newsletters, edits and Rewrites submitted material in a form that best communicates the information to Our membership. This person also assists our members VA problems and other Issues as they come up.

**REUNION CHAIR:**

Coordinates lodging and activities for the 2006 Reunion as well as any future Reunions. The Members at the bi-annual business meeting determine the site.

**TIME-WISE, these positions require a commitment of 3 – 5 hours per week depending on what is happening. When Newsletters are being assembled, those involved may find a need to commit a few more hours to this project. Of course this is all time well spent and greatly appreciated by all the membership!!!!**

Our organization consists of the following BOARD positions:

**PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER & AT LEAST 2 TRUSTEES.** These positions have been two-year positions but the incumbents for President, VP & the Trustees have expressed a willingness to serve another two years.

The President appoints the rest of the Board who are non-voting members:

**EDITOR, VSO, LIAISON, HISTORIAN, NOMINATIONS.**

**CHAPLAIN:** Currently our chaplain is in the Middle East, serving our country, so we may need to appoint someone else depending on when she will be stateside again or how soon. We all pray for her continued safety.

I had a thought that for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of POVA aka Mindbenders, we visit the Wall in DC one more time. We could plan on staying in Virginia's Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Williamsburg or Richmond area. It would be great if we could have our founders attend this reunion and have their travel and lodging subsidized, if possible. If we select this program we will solicit contributions for our founders.

I think our days of visiting Fort Bragg are on hold as several changes in policy and deployment are underway. I urge all our members to respect the Cadre at Bragg and keep communications with them to minimum. Our two HCORs (present and past), **Larry Deitz** and **Dr. Al Paddock** are keeping us current with activities at Bragg and beyond. We are ready if called upon to protect these soldiers.

We live in the greatest democracy in the world. It's been 55 years since Captain Harry Truman integrated the Armed Forces, another 10 years (1940) when our Government officially frowned upon anti-Semites. Before that it was the Irish and Italians who were mocked and discriminated against. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights are not out of date but the basis for all political discourse. We need to remember that when we see nasty things on TV, our kids, out there in the heat of Afghanistan and Iraq everyday display the virtues of Democracy. They are our human PSYOP. We do an extraordinary amount of naval gazing over why we aren't liked by this group or the other. The universe has brought forth these fanatics to make us stronger. We can set each and every terrorist up with a shop full goods and unlimited line of credit and they'd still hate us. People who don't have much future are jealous of the places and groups that have. No matter how distressed our enemies make us, as we remain true to our concept of this Republic, we undermine their anger. Let's not forget or discard who we are.

NAMESTE & SHALOM!

Joe Rosenberg



**Joseph Rosenberg, Congressman Dutch Ruppersburger from Maryland, (a member of the House Intelligence Committee) discuss the deployment of PSYOP troops.**

\*\*\*\*\*

- **Some Good News about the VA . . . . .**
- **VA CARE IS RATED SUPERIOR TO THAT IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS!**

~ **Article written by: Rob Stein, Washington Post Staff Writer, Friday, January 20, 2006, A15**

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical system once epitomized poor-quality care. After a series of changes, the system has been hailed in recent years as a model for health care reform.

Now, survey results released this week indicate that those improvements have translated into a high level of satisfaction among veterans getting treated by the rehabilitated VA.

The telephone survey, conducted in October, found inpatient care received a rating of 83 on a 100-point scale: outpatient care got a rating of 80. In comparison, a similar survey of patients receiving private care found they rated their satisfaction at 73 for inpatient care and 75 for outpatient care. The survey involved more than 200 veterans who received care at one of the VA's 154 hospitals or 875 clinics.

"We're very pleased and continue to be very proud of the work that people are doing in this vast health care system," said Veteran's Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson. "The real proof in the pudding is in the taste --- that is, "What do the people we're taking care of think? In case you are wondering, they give us very good grades."

The findings mark the sixth consecutive year the VA health care system has outranked the private sector for customer satisfaction.

Nicholson attributed the high ratings to the changes in the system, such as implementation of electronic records to reduce the risk of errors. "Our system has become not only much more efficient, but safer," Nicholson said.

The survey, known as the American Customer Satisfaction Index, has been conducted since 1994 by the National Quality Research Center at the University of Michigan business school and two consultants, the CFI Group and the Federal Consulting Group.

Peter S. Gaytan, Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation for the American Legion, said he was not surprised by the findings because the quality of VA care has been steadily improving.

"The old image of the VA warehousing veterans has changed immensely in the past 20 years," Gaytan said.

"The problem that the American Legion has is the accessibility to care. There are veterans waiting in line to receive care," Gaytan said. "With the veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, it's our hope that they won't be turned away."

Nicholson acknowledged that some veterans do have to wait for care, but he said the waiting time has been improving and continues to improve.

“We absolutely are working on that and are making progress,” he said.

©2006 The Washington Post Company



“ YUP, IF I HAVE TO BE IN THE HOSPITAL, I’LL TAKE THE VA OVER PRIVATE  
SECTOR ANYDAY, LOVE THE TLC THAT I GET !!!!!”

©cgaidos2006



**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE KOREAN WAR**  
**CONFERENCE HELD.**

( Courtesy of Gregg Edwards – Director)

On 23 – 25 February, 2006, in Independence, Missouri, the Center for the Study of the Korean War of Graceland University held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on War and Media. This year’s topic was War and Propaganda.

The conference was an opportunity for an interesting and informative series of presentations, including key note speaker, Dr. Chris Simpson of American University, and Korean War veteran, Paul a. Wolfgeher of Independence, Missouri, a member of POVA.

The conference kicked off with a reception sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library, held at the Truman Library in Independence.

At this reception, Paul A. Wolfgeher received the Center’s Annual Award for Continuous Contribution to the Center’s Mission. The highlight of the two – day conference was a presentation on Psych War Papers by Paul Wolfgeher, who served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company.

The Center was extremely honored to present this award; it represents the gratitude the Center has for the enormous support and interest shown by Mr. Wolfgeher in his effort to remember the Korean War. It also honors him for educated future generations about the importance and the significance of the Korean War upon future generations.

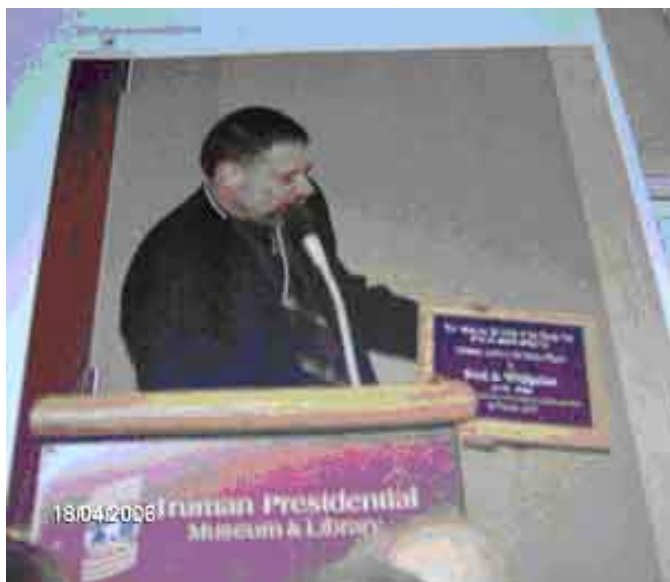
For more information about the Center for the Study of the Korean War, located on Graceland University’s Independence, Missouri campus or if you have items to donate including making a contribution, please contact the following;

Paul M. Edwards / Gregg Edwards

816-833-524 ext: 4303 or 4304

email: [gedwards@graceland.edu](mailto:gedwards@graceland.edu)

Visit our website: [www.koreanwarcenter.org](http://www.koreanwarcenter.org)



- Presenter at the Center for the Study of the Korean War Annual Conference gets ready to present annual award to Paul A. Wolfgeher for Continuing Services to Center's Mission. ( Sorry, picture of Paul receiving award unavailable at this time.)
- ENDING BALANCE: 3/31/2006  
\$2066.56  
John Cheney POVA Treasurer.

*Billy Shakespeare, the writing guy, said in Julius Caesar, Beware of the Ides of March.* Turns out this year it wasn't a big deal except for the fact our records indicate your dues to POVA for 2006 might be due.

**If you owe POVA dues for 2005 or earlier it is not required that you pay past dues, but we will no longer send you our newsletter, the Credibilis unless we have received dues for 2006. ( The "Cred" is still available on the web at [www.usapova.com](http://www.usapova.com)).**

We have planned an excellent reunion in Branson, Missouri for 14 September 06 thru 17 September 06. All of our members get a discount on their registration fee. In the last few years we have helped members deal with various agencies so they get the funds due them for their service.

No one is turned away because of financial circumstances, just tell us and we will make other arrangements. On the other hand no donation will be refused, either.

2006 Dues = \$30.00

2007 - 2008 = \$50.00 (If received in 2006)

Please send money to : POVA

c/o John Cheney

PO Box 3242

Grapevine, TX 76099

Email address: [hqcmdt@hotmail.com](mailto:hqcmdt@hotmail.com) phone: 817-961-0033 John Cheney

[rosenbergjoseph@hotmail.com](mailto:rosenbergjoseph@hotmail.com) Joe Rosenberg

HO: 410-744-3468 Cell: 443-604-0988

- **DEADLINE FOR AMENDMENTS TO POVA CONSTITUTION.**

We will be voting on a set of proposed changes to the constitution which were tabled at our last meeting. If you have additional proposals for the POVA constitution, we need to receive them no later than 6/30/06. All proposals need to be reviewed before the 2006 Business Meeting on September 16, 2006.

Please send your proposals to one of the following email addresses:

[hookeye1@optonline.net](mailto:hookeye1@optonline.net) , [dsmiser@bellsouth.net](mailto:dsmiser@bellsouth.net), [arlopova@yahoo.com](mailto:arlopova@yahoo.com)=20

**Please find POVA Constitution at ;** <http://www.usapova.com/constitution.htm>

NOTE: President Rosenberg is committed to having a Yes or NO vote on tabled amendments.)

AD HOC CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Arlo Despain, Mike Stoeckert, Dennis Smiser

**Doug Elwell**  
**POVA Liaison**

The good news is that PSYOP has not lost any soldiers so far this year. The Gold Star Fund is in good shape and hopefully we won't have to use it again.

The World Wide PSYOP Conference, tentatively scheduled for April, has been officially CANCELLED. No word as to whether there might be a go at it in the Fall.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> PSYOP Battalion has their Change of Command scheduled for 15 June. A couple more should pop up on the view screen shortly.

The OPTEMPO is keeping everyone busy but the soldiers just take it in stride and keep moving forward. That's about it for this time!

- Joseph Meissner, POVA Member

My book on Viet Nam has been published, "The Green Berets and their Victories." It is the history of 1968 and 1969, crucial years in the war. It points to many lessons which can be applied in Iraq today.

If any of you would like a copy, the price is \$39.95, which includes shipping. All proceeds go directly to our Educational Scholarship program in Viet Nam. The purpose is to help all poor kids there get a decent education! The Program is sponsored by the Friendship Foundation.

I want to say , " That was a great message from our President!" Thank you very much, Joseph.

As for Viet Nam, I am a great believer in urging people to return. I have been back over twenty times. Everytime I go, I learn more and meet more good people. The first time was difficult. When I returned the second time, it was even more difficult. Since then it has become progressively better and I really look forward to the trips.

I appreciate the efforts at trying to find inexpensive ways of going. That is a great project. Of course, you have to be careful because the point of going back is not to save money, but to see something and even do something.

Let me be really frank and I know this may ruffle some people. It is not about the money in going back. Really! That is a good excuse and

we all have needs for our always limited monies. There are other more serious reasons why people shy away from going back to meet the ghosts. I pass by all the time where PSYOP used to be located in Sai Gon. In my mind, I see all of you working there long ago. There are so many ghosts. In fact, at night I can see over 58,000 souls lined up as our friends and buddies. So what do I mean? It takes an act of courage to go back. It is that simple. You also want to have a mission, purpose, and tactics. You also need to set a date and whoever goes, goes.

I hope to hear from some of you. I hope to be in Branson in September. I hope I did not get too many of you angry. Sometimes that is good if it stirs you to volunteer, step forward and help your President and POVA.

Take Care,  
Joseph Meissner, Viet Nam veteran  
[JPMeissn@lasclev.org](mailto:JPMeissn@lasclev.org)

## **2006 ~ REUNION ~ BRANSON, MO**

- ✓ POKER – PARTEE – MUSIC IN THE OZARKS
- ✓ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2006
- ✓ 3 Nights, 2 Shows, 2 Dinners (Includes Banquet), 3 full Breakfasts for as low as \$179 per person ( four per room)  
SEE RATES BELOW.

### LATEST RATES:

- Ø Single - \$354 per person
- Ø Double - \$237 per person, total \$474
- Ø Three per room - \$198 per person, total \$594
- Ø Four per room - \$179 per person, total \$716
- Ø Additional nights 9/12, 1/13, 9/20, 9/21 --- \$70 per night + tax (11.475) = \$78.03

NOTE: A \$100 deposit is payable to the Hotel by August 14, 2006 . Hotel voice= 1-800-808-9355. We are group 3401. We are also asking our members for a \$35 registration fee, and \$50 non – member fee payable by that deadline also. We are accepting deposits.

***Y'ALL COME TO THE WELK RESORT!!!***  
***We wonder if they play “Lady of Spain” in the lobby & elevators?***  
***Find out for yourself and enjoy!***

<b>IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ~ EMAIL ADDRESS</b>			
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>JOE ROSENBERG</b>	<a href="mailto:wmp11@comcast.net">wmp11@comcast.net</a>	<b>410-744-3468</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>ARLO DESPAIN</b>	<a href="mailto:arlopova@yahoo.com">arlopova@yahoo.com</a>	<b>801-571-5807</b>
<b>TREASURER / LOCATOR</b>	<b>JOHN CHENEY</b>	<a href="mailto:hqcmdt@hotmail.com">hqcmdt@hotmail.com</a>	<b>817-961-0033</b>
<b>SECRETARY / EDITOR</b>	<b>MIKE PASCHKES</b>	<a href="mailto:bmpaschkes@adelphia.net">bmpaschkes@adelphia.net</a>	<b>561-369-8698</b>
<b>LAYOUT EDITOR</b>	<b>CLYDE GAIDOSH</b>	<a href="mailto:cgaidos@pacifier.com">cgaidos@pacifier.com</a>	<b>503-458-6825</b>

TRUSTEE	DENNIS SMISER	<a href="mailto:dsmiser@bellsouth.net">dsmiser@bellsouth.net</a>	770-951-9585
TRUSTEE	MIKE STOECKERT	<a href="mailto:hookeye1@optonline.net">hookeye1@optonline.net</a>	631-868-3068
NOMINATIONS OFFICER	DAVE MISSAVAGE	<a href="mailto:namvet6@aol.com">namvet6@aol.com</a>	309-786-1042
HISTORIAN/MEMORABILIA DESIGN ARTIST	TOM BRANDT	<a href="mailto:vietnamimages@yahoo.com">vietnamimages@yahoo.com</a>	630-837-7955
CHAPLAIN	KAREN MEEKER	<a href="mailto:karen.meecker@us.army.mil">karen.meecker@us.army.mil</a>	
LIAISON OFFICER	DOUG ELWELL	<a href="mailto:elwellds@earthlink.net">elwellds@earthlink.net</a>	910-488-1383
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT	NATALIE RICHIE <a href="mailto:armadillo30@hotmail.com">armadillo30@hotmail.com</a>		706-769-4717
ED ROUSE'S PSYOPS WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.psywarrior.com">http://www.psywarrior.com</a>		
POVA'S WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.usapova.com">http://www.usapova.com</a>		

POVA c/o John Cheney  
PO Box 3242  
Grapevine, TX 76099

FIRST CLASS

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED