

# CREDIBILIS

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

~ SUMMER 2007 ~

## ~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~

Arlo Despain, President

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Due to a communications breakdown, and my own laziness, there was no spring newsletter. I hope that doesn't happen again. **If any of you have input for future newsletters, please send it to me.**

We are still planning on holding our next reunion in the Orlando, Florida area in the fall of 2008. Because of hot humid summer weather Florida members have suggested we aim for September to mid – October for the 2008 reunion. We should have more information on this matter by next newsletter.

A few months ago I received a membership application and dues from John J. DiSanza. I thought this was a familiar name and after sending his membership card to him, he responded back. He stated that he was the same DiSanza that had gone to Vietnam with my detachment.

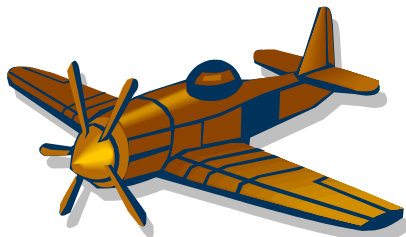
I spent almost two years as a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Bn at Fort Bragg, (1964 – 1966). As a First Lieutenant, I was selected to command the 26<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Detachment and take it to Vietnam. Lieutenant Winston Groom was my XO. This detachment consisted of 22 men. DiSanza had been in the other PSYOP Battalion at Bragg.

You would think that with myself and one other officer, we would become good friends, but that wasn't the case. I don't know where the breakdown came. I had spent ten years as an enlisted man and had completed Infantry OCS a couple of years earlier. I believe he was fresh out of ROTC or some other commissioning program, the age difference and different backgrounds didn't leave us much in common. He left our little detachment about the time we were reassigned to Saigon three months later.

After completing my tour in Vietnam, I was assigned to Fort Bliss, Texas. I didn't maintain communications with any of my Vietnam buddies. In my first 13 years of active duty I had 13 different permanent changes of station and never the same one twice. I suppose that with all of these short tours of duty one doesn't develop lasting relationships.

Fast forward to 1993. One day I received a call from Rick Hofmann who informed me of POVA. When I went to the 1994 Reunion in St. Louis I again became acquainted with Rick (one of the 22 members of the 26<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Det. who showed me a full page review of the movie, Forrest Gump. It had been based on a book by *Winston Groom*, the same Winston Groom we had served with in Vietnam. Of course, it became a hit movie.)

Fast forward again to the letter in January from John J. DiSanza., author and artist. Note this months book review. The book review was written by one of Hildegard's ( my wife) friends in one of her 3 monthly book review groups. IMAGINE THAT! Two members of the small 22 man detachment becoming successful authors.



Arlo Despain

# 2007 DUES ALERT

~ Treasurer's position is still vacant. Do we have any volunteers? ~

**ENDING BALANCE: 7/31/2007 = \$2226.28**

2007 Dues = \$30.00

Please send dues to: POVA

c/o Arlo Despain  
1762 Tramway Dr.  
Sandy, UT 84092

# REST IN PEACE

**JOSEPH ROSENBERG**

**December 16, 1942 – June 4, 2007**

On June 4, 2007 we lost a dear friend, our immediate Past President, *Joseph Rosenberg*. He passed away after battling diabetes, heart problems, as well as other health problems.

I have known Joe since the 1998 Anaheim Reunion. Joe also attended the reunions held at the Evergreen, Colorado, Baltimore, Maryland, Fayetteville, North Carolina, and Branson ,Missouri. If I have the facts correct, Joe did most of the work in setting up the Baltimore reunion. He was elected POVA secretary at that reunion. When our elected leaders were unable to finish out their term of office, Joe became acting President of POVA until he was elected President in Fayetteville, NC in 2004. At that time Joe asked me to be his Vice President, a position I reluctantly accepted. Joe became my mentor and continued as such until his passing.

After I was elected as POVA President last year Joe also took over many of my responsibilities which I greatly appreciated. I suspect that I may have been a disappointment to Joe as his expectations for this position were quite high.

Even before he became an officer of this organization, Joe's commitment to POVA was emerging. In the past four years Joe became an outstanding example of what an active POVA member should be like. He worked tirelessly, spending much of his time everyday for the good of POVA.

I suspect he even dreamed of POVA and how he could make it a better association. Shortly before his death he assisted in solving a problem concerning the gravesite of one of our Vietnam KIA's. This goes to show all of us of his tireless dedication and commitment to this organization. The man even at the time of his passing was still working and planning for POVA.

Joe proudly and fondly referred to the founders of this association on many occasions. Joe stands with the founding members of this organization as one of its most outstanding members, and memories of Joe will forever be with us..

Arlo Despain  
POVA President 2007

# 2007 READING PICKS

Contributed by POVA member

Arlo Despain ( courtesy of his wife Hildegard's book review club member)

## **Johnnie Saigon: No Band Played**

Author: John J. DiSanza

These gritty short stories recount the years 1967 – 1969 in the life of “ Johnnie Saigon “, a Vietnam war veteran, struggling to regain control of his life. Returning from his tour of duty, Johnnie finds himself employed as a New York cab driver after a stint at Sears Roebuck and an affair with a co-worker doesn't work out.

Most of the money he makes goes to support his heroin habit. Through flashbacks, we learn of his teenage years when he enlists in the Army to avoid marrying Toni, a girl he believes to be pregnant. Alas, after enlisting, he finds out she isn't pregnant.

Boot camp is missions, near-death run-ins with the enemy, gory battles, encounters with prostitutes, and a wound that garners him a Purple Heart.

The book ends in 1969 with Johnnie at Woodstock, a self-proclaimed turning point in his life.

The author, John J. Di Sanza, has succeeded in creating an evocative account of an era that will forever shape the consciousness of this nation.



# FORT BRAGG - NEWS FROM DOUG . . . . .

Doug Elwell, Liaison Officer

► Please note pictures of Media Operations Complex Dedication Ceremony. I want to thank POVA and POA for your help and donations in making this ceremony possible. Mr. Henry Bast came through with donations to assist in making the event great.

► The total event was absolutely great. From the dinner with the family and friends on the night before to the tour of the facility at the end of the ceremony, it went without flaw. The family and alumni were most grateful and appreciative of the work that went into this effort. The Army ( read PSYOP) really shined at the ceremony.

Respectfully,  
v/r Doug



Daughter, Mother, COL Turner unveil plaque



Lobby plaque

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