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# Credibilis

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

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WINTER 2004

## President's Message

We are continuing our transition of POVA. Soon we will have our own website since our former President, Rick Hofmann has decided to step down as our locator and webmaster. Rick still maintains the [www.psyop.com](http://www.psyop.com) site. Rick has been the backbone of our organization since he joined in the early 1990's and deserves a rest and our heartfelt kudos for a job well done.

Rick's recent gift to us was a series of needed amendments to our Constitution. We voted on only the Dues amendment at the reunion and, because of time limitations, tabled the other amendments by unanimous vote. I have appointed our two trustees, Mike Stoeckert and Dennis Smiser to review Rick's amendments and any other constitutional proposals and report back to the 2006 business meeting. Once our website is up please review the Constitution and send any proposals to our Trustees. I would be glad to e-mail Rick's amendments to any member who requests them.

Thank God our recent national election ended peacefully with a record turn out. During that time, I asked our members not to forward partisan material to each other especially if the material was "second hand" making our POVA cyber traffic more civil and meaningful. I ask that we continue this policy. Please don't send anybody in POVA e-mail that you think will be needlessly upsetting.

The 2004 election was a great demonstration of democracy and something our PSYOP should exploit. Everyday we see our colleagues on active duty gearing up for global conflict against terrorists as they just did with the activation of the 5th POB for the Pacific.

At the World Wide PSYOP Conference I just attended I witnessed a vital and focused PSYOP community making great strides in the war on terror. General Bryan D. Brown of the US Special Operations Command told the attendees about the positive attitudes of the President and Secretary Rumsfeld towards our PSYOP and CA operations. MG Herbert Altshuler revealed that his tour as Commanding General of USACAPOC has been extended until April 2006 and that 4<sup>th</sup> POG Commander Jack Summe will be succeeded by Col Ken Turner next summer. I spoke to MG Altshuler about his email to POVA on the Regimental Association (RA).

Based on this talk and others I had at the conference I believe that any discussion of an RA ranks about seventeenth on any list of top 5 priorities of his command. I think that the PSYOP cadre through the US are concentrating on the war on terror and although they are appreciative of POVA's support have no inclination to revive discussions on an RA. What the speakers and attendees were interested in is efforts to remove Civil Affairs from its organizational pairing with PSYOP and efforts to rename PSYOPas Information Operations. I heard much pro and con on these topics couched in a barrage of military jargon and acronyms. I was amazed at the scope of organizations involved in PSYOP and the degree of coordination and cooperation required to get our message out. I also was struck with how competent and resourceful the Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels who lead PSYOP units are. (I already knew the Em's and NCOs were tops). The "downside" is the lack of promotional opportunities open to these fine leaders beyond their current rank as a career in PSYOP hits a glass ceiling after the colonel's rank is achieved. I did have the occasion to meet the Group commanders, Col Jim Treadwell and Col Mike Ceroli, who just returned from a tour in Iraq creating great PSYOP, and emphasized that their troopers on

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## URGENT NOTICE

*This will be the last Credibilis you get by snail-mail if you are not a dues paying member or a member of a "Gold Star" family.*

*At our reunion in July, we voted to charge \$15 for hard copies of this newsletter to all persons who do not pay us dues. This is to cover the increased costs of printing and mailing. The main reason for the increased costs was the closing of the Pitney-Bowes unit that printed our newsletter for free.*

*So, if you want to remain on our snail-mail list you will need to send us \$15 per year for 4 issues or give us an e-mail address. However, we do have an offer that may be more economical:*

*As a special offer to our active duty/reserve members who now get free honorary membership, you can upgrade to full voting membership for \$20 a year for 2005-2006 if we get two years' dues in advance or \$40 postmarked by 12/31/04. So for only \$10 more than you would pay for two years of snail mail copies, you can still get our newsletter by snail mail for 2005 and 2006, be an active member, pay less for our next reunion and have a voice in our discussions.*

*We also have an offer of discounted dues that applies to active members if we receive payment postmarked by 12/31/04. This is it:*

*The discount rate is \$40 instead of \$60 for a two-year membership 2005-2006; \$100 instead of \$150 for a six year membership, 2005-2010. We no longer offer Lifetime memberships but will accept \$200 for 12 years, 2005-2016, a savings of \$100 if we receive payment postmarked by 12/31/04. Please send your money to:*

*John Cheney, PO Box 3242, Grapevine, TX 76099 (817) 442-9480*

## **2006 POVA Reunion in Branson, MO.**

Soon we will be among the ghosts of Jimmy Rodgers, Flatt and Scruggs, Bob Wills and Roy Acuff in the Ozarks for our 2006 Reunion. As the date get closer the hotel and entertainment will firm up. Tentative dates are September 17-20, 2006. These are potential visits/entertainments:

The Veterans Memorial Museum [www.veteransmemorialbranson.com](http://www.veteransmemorialbranson.com)

Showboat Branson Belle and show [www.silverdollarcity.com](http://www.silverdollarcity.com)

Larry Gatlin/Pam Tillis [www.sullivanshows.com](http://www.sullivanshows.com)

Legends in Concert [www.legendsbranson.com](http://www.legendsbranson.com)

The Platters [www.starlite-entertainment.com](http://www.starlite-entertainment.com)

There will be ample time for our meetings, banquet and poker night!!!

I look forward to seeing all POVA members at the reunion!!

John Cheney, 2006 POVA Reunion Planner

**Attention Retired PSYOPPERS:** Here's your chance to revisit Ft. Bragg, have a 6 AM breakfast with the troops and be a part of the Rites of Passage Ceremony.

*The Special Warfare Command (SWC) has converted the "Heroes" program into the Rites of Passage for graduates of PSYOP/Civil Affairs training. SWC would like to have a PSYOP speaker at every other ROP Ceremony. We will alternate with Civil Affairs speakers. SWC will soon provide me with a list of dates for the next year and would like to lock-in the speaker two months prior.*

*The Ceremony will be in conjunction with a "Super Breakfast" at 0600 at which time the speaker addresses the class. The breakfast will be held at the Rowe Training Facility at Camp MacKall. (The lodging will be coordinated between the SWC coordinator and the speaker for on/near FT Bragg. Lodging receipt will be submitted to SWC by the speaker.)*

*The speaker will arrange own transportation (fly/drive) and submit receipts to SWC. Speaker will arrange transportation to arrive the day before and leave the afternoon of the ROP or the next day, speaker's choice. The speaker will receive per diem for the Ft. Bragg area.*

*SWC would like a short biography to be provided to SWC by the speaker. SWC will coordinate with speaker for approx 30 minute interview with student via telephone in advance of ROP. The subject of the speaker's address will be "Historical Perspective on the Speaker's Involvement in PSYOP". Length of the speech is to be 10-15 minutes. Speaker will advise SWC of any audio/video requirements in conjunction with the speech.*

*I emphasize that this is a coordinated effort, primarily between the speaker and SWC. The SWC coordinator for the speaker at this time is SPC Natalie Athonvarangkul. She is a professional and knows her business. We have a small roster of names gathered at the reunion. We need more. If you are interested please contact me.*

*Douglas P. Elwell, POVA Liaison Officer  
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### In Memoriam...

The Psyop Veterans Association regrets to announce the passing of Mr. Charles Barber, of Boulder, CO.

Mr. Barber served as a cryptographer in WW II with Detachment "B" of the 5th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company during the last half of 1944 and the first half of 1945.

He served in the Psychological Warfare Command Center on the Rue Pierre Charon, Paris, under the command of Maj. Gen. Robert Alexis McClure, the father of modern psychological operations.

Mr. Barber, a POVA Life Member, died on 8 May 2004, and was buried in the Fort Logan Military Cemetery, Denver.

**President's Message** (Continued from front page)

active duty are eligible for free membership in POVA. I will follow this up with messages to the Group Commanders soon.

Elsewhere in this issue are the obituaries of SSG Michael G. Owen and Cpl. Jonathan J. Santos, two psyoppers who died in Iraq. In addition, Sgt. Jamie Michalski, 345th Psyop Co., was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan, where she was working as an interpreter. All three were under 35. Another NCO was critically wounded in the incident that killed SSG Owens and Cpl. Santos. He is still hospitalized. This already brings the number of PSYOP KIAs in Iraq and Afghanistan to six. The number of KIAs from the whole Vietnam war was 13.

The sad news is that we are going to mourn more young people before the war on terrorism is over. In the past, we arranged for a wreath at the funeral and/or donated money to the memorial fund set up to help our Gold Star families. Now we no longer have sufficient funds in our treasury; so we have entered into an agreement with the Psyops Association (POA) to create a joint welfare fund for active duty and reserve troops killed in action or severely injured. I hope both POA and POVA can kick off the fund with a small donation from our Treasury's, but it will be up to our members, to donate as much as you can our PSYOP Gold Star fund for our brave troopers. We will keep you posted. Of course we in POVA will continue to use our Treasury to help our members when we are needed.

*Joe Rosenberg*  
*Let Freedom Ring*

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**Remarks of Colonel Jack N. Summe on the Occasion of the Activation Ceremony  
of the 5th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne), Ft. Bragg, NC  
19 October 2004**

General Altshuler, Colonel Leyda, Colonel Keeling, Colonel Mullin, Lieutenant Colonel Hickman, Lieutenant Colonel Burke, ladies and gentlemen, friends, family members and soldiers and civilians of the newest battalion in the United States Army, the 5th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne), welcome to our activation ceremony. I want to take a moment and compliment the 5th PSYOP Battalion on this outstanding formation and extremely professional ceremony. The Battalion looks great and that stands as a testament to the professionalism and dedication of the entire battalion as well as her non-commissioned officer and officer corps. Thank you all for your fine support.

Today represents the culmination of a vision that began seven years ago when I was in Command of the 1st PSYOP Battalion. At that time, no one foresaw the huge demands of a global war on terror on the entire PSYOP community.

At that time, the 4th PSYOP Group was organized with only five total battalions and only three regional battalions. These battalions consisted of two line companies each and the 8th PSYOP Battalion had responsibility for both the CENTCOM and PACOM Areas of Responsibility. At that time, Colonel Charlie Borchini, then the 4th PSYOP Group Commander, directed the task organization of the entire 4th PSYOP Group to create what was then known as the PACOM PSYOP Battalion. (Task Organized.) What Col. Borchini recognized was that the burgeoning requirements for PSYOP in the CENTCOM

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region combined with the PSYOP engagement requirements throughout the Pacific and the ever-present need for PSYOP on the Korean Peninsula were just too much for any one PSYOP battalion to manage. The task organization of the Group resulted in the loss of one line company per regional battalion so that we could man four regional battalions across the group; thus increasing the 4<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group force structure to six total PSYOP battalions with four regional battalions focused on each of the four regional Combatant Commands. Although not really adequate to provide the total depth and breadth of PSYOP support to each region of the world, this task organization ensured that each Regional Combatant Command received equitable PSYOP support. The internal creation of the PACOM PSYOP Battalion was the right response to a world that required constant, low-level, peacetime PSYOP engagement. This task organization existed for almost seven years until the events of 9/11 forced the Department of Defense to re-examine PSYOP requirements for the Global War on Terror. This re-examination resulted in what you are witnessing here today, the official recognition of the 5th PSYOP Battalion, and further, the increase in the overall 4th PSYOP Group force structure to include two line companies per regional PSYOP Battalion.

So today is truly a momentous occasion for the PSYOP community. In the year that LTC Kyle Hickman has been in command of the PACOM PSYOP Battalion, we have witnessed a shift in responsibility from simply providing PSYOP exercise support in the Pacific to becoming a vital and active part of the fight against global terrorism in the PACOM Region of the world. This battalion has accomplished its mission by working with U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Special Operations Command, Pacific to fight terror wherever it may exist. Our job of influencing foreign audiences to support U.S. Government objectives has been nurtured with great skill and expertise in the PACOM PSYOP Battalion, and I expect no less from LTC Hickman and the fine soldiers and civilians of the newly organized 5th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne).

As we furl the flag of the PACOM PSYOP Battalion, I want to thank you all for a job well done. Conversely, as we unfurl the flag of the newly organized and established 5th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne), I charge you with being prepared to continuing your mission of developing and disseminating PSYOP products to assist in fighting terror wherever it may exist in the Pacific region, while continuing to assist in maintaining the peace on the Korean peninsula.

This is a large and complex task that requires all the skills each of you possesses. Take a moment now to reflect with pride in the accomplishments of the PACOM PSYOP Battalion while preparing yourselves for the long-term ideological battle to be fought in your designated region. You are the only Regional PSYOP Battalion focused on PACOM; a great deal depends on your continued professionalism and dedication.

I ask you to maintain your professionalism and continue to tirelessly do your part as we all work together to win this Global War on Terror that began on September 11th, 2001 and will end, in the words of President Bush, "...at a time and place of our choosing." The ugly hand of terror has reached into our very Group by recently taking the lives of two of our fine soldiers and seriously wounding another. This is the first combat loss in the 4th PSYOP Group since the Vietnam War. Therefore, it is imperative that we continue this fight and win this ongoing war.

As we hold each of those soldiers in our hearts and prayers, we must remain steadfast in our determination to win this war at all costs. I'm proud of your accomplishments and your dedication, hard work, and continued support does not go without appreciation. It is soldiers like you that provide the shield that protects us all from the dangers of the terrorists that want to take away our very way of life in the United States and abroad. Thank you all for such a fine formation and for a job well done. I wish you all God Speed and good luck as we work for a better future for all Americans.

Victory Through Influence" and "Words Conquer!" Thank you.

## **New Identity Card for Veterans**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10, 2004 -- The Department of Veterans Affairs has designed a new identity card for veterans that will safeguard confidential information while combating identity theft.

"The new identification card ensures veterans' personal information is protected," Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi said in a statement. "It also helps prevent the theft of important benefits and services from veterans that they earned by their service to our country."

The card, formally known as the Veterans Identity Card, will have veterans' photos on the front and identify them as enrollees in the VA's health-care system.

Encrypted on a magnetic tape on the back of the card will be the veteran's Social Security number, date of birth and a control number. The magnetic strip also records whether the veteran has a service-connected disability.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation. The Federal Trade Commission listed identity theft as the No. 1 fraud reported by consumers in 2003.

Requests from veterans and their congressional representatives were instrumental in bringing about these latest changes, officials said.

"The new VIC ensures the security of veterans' personal information as well as ensuring that only eligible veterans receive the benefits and services they've earned," said Kristin Cunningham of the VA health-care system's business office.

Veterans should request the new card at their local medical center. Processing will take five to seven days once eligibility is verified. VA officials said they hope to complete the conversion to the new, safer card by mid-November. The existing cards will remain valid until veterans receive their new cards.

Related Site for more information:

Department of Veterans Affairs [<http://www.va.gov/>]

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## **LTC Boyd Cedes Command of 3d Brigade To LTC Butcher in Special Ceremony**

*by Michael A. Charlton:*

On July 26, 2004, in a special ceremony, LTC Curtis D. Boyd, a good friend and supporter of POVA, relinquished command of 3d Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne). Among the guests at the ceremony were Lieutenant General Vines and other senior officers, notable civilians, and senior non-commissioned officers, including the new Bde Senior NCO, CSM Terry L. Peters.

The ceremony was well attended and executed in a professional manner by all participants. The Group commander, COL Deimer, opened the initial round of remarks by praising LTC Boyd for being one of the most outstanding officers that he had served with and listed the accomplishments that Curt had made during his two-year command tenure. Curt followed by addressing the critical need for well-trained special operations forces and praising the efforts of his staff and cadre. LTC Butcher, the incoming commander, then closed out the remarks portion of the ceremony by stating his appreciation to be chosen for this high visibility command position. The short and dignified ceremony was followed by a catered reception.

## Two PSYOP Soldiers killed in Iraq

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, Oct. 18, 2004) - A pair of Army psychological operations Soldiers died in Iraq Oct. 15 after their vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device.

Staff Sgt. Michael G. Owen, 31, of Fayetteville, N.C., and Cpl. Jonathan J. Santos, 22, of Bellingham, Wash., were fatally wounded while conducting vehicle-mounted loudspeaker operations with the 1st Marine Division in Karabilah, Iraq. Their deaths represent the first combat-related casualties for the 4th POG since the Vietnam era.

Both men were psychological operations specialists assigned to the 9th Psychological Operations Battalion, 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The 4th POG has worldwide responsibility for strategic and tactical PSYOP support to military operations. The group has conducted operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Originally from Phoenix, Ariz., Owen served as the team leader of a three-man tactical PSYOP team. His unit deployed in September 2004 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. He joined the Army in November 1992 and completed the Psychological Operations Specialist Course at Fort Bragg, N.C in 2002. He had previously served as an automated logistical specialist before retraining as a PSYOP specialist at Fort Bragg. Owen completed the French Special Operations Language Training Course in January 2004.

His awards include the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Senior Parachutist Badge.

He is survived by his wife, Crystal, and his parents, Howard Owen and Kay Hutchinson of Arizona.

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Cpl. Santos served as a psychological operations specialist on a three-man tactical PSYOP team. His unit deployed in September 2004 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. He entered the Army in July 2001 and completed the Psychological Operations Specialist Course at Fort Bragg in 2002. He was assigned to the 9th PSYOP Bn. in May 2003. Santos had also graduated the Modern Arabic Language Course at Fort Bragg in 2002.

His awards include the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Parachutist Badge.

He is survived by his mother, Doris Kent, of Bellingham, Wash., and his father, Les Santos, of Oshkosh, Wis.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
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| <b>Dave Missavage</b> | <i>Nominations Officer</i>                          | <b>(309-786-1042)</b><br>namvet6@aol.com  |
| <b>Tom Brandt</b>     | <i>Historian/Memorabilia/<br/>Design Artist</i>     | <b>(630-837-7955)</b><br><a href="mailto:vietnamimages@yahoo.com">vietnamimages@yahoo.com</a> |
| <b>Karen Meeker</b>   | <i>Chaplain</i>                                     | <b>(910-907-3150/3149)</b><br><a href="mailto:meekerk@soc.mil">meekerk@soc.mil</a>            |
| <b>Doug Elwell</b>    | <i>Liaison Officer with<br/>PSYOPS at Ft. Bragg</i> | <b>(910-488-1383)</b><br>elwellds@earthlink.net   |

**RICK Hofmann's Web Site**

[HTTP://WWW.PSYOP.COM](http://www.psyop.com)

**Ed Rouse PSYOP's Webpage**

[HTTP://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/1012/kia.html](http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/1012/kia.html)

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