

POVAcomm

**The PSYOP Veterans Association
(POVA)**

Founded 1988

www.usapova.org



Ex Verba Victoria

Greetings Fellow POVA Members,

President's Message

This is my first communication with you as your new President. Unfortunately, Chad Spawr has stepped down from being President due to health reasons. We need to thank him for his dedicated service as POVA's President and look forward to his continued presence and guidance as an active member of POVA's Board.

As First Vice President, I felt it was my duty to step up and serve as President.

Having said that, POVA is facing severe challenges at this point in time. In particular, we need to recruit a new leadership team that can move the organization forward. Those of us who served in Viet Nam are now at the point where we must transition our leadership.

POVA's mission has always been to support PSYOP soldiers past and present in whatever ways our resources would allow. We need to evolve as an organization to adapt to these changing and challenging times to continue with this important mission.

I envision that our efforts will be organized into three major phases:

Consolidation - we, as POVA's leadership team, must do what we can to consolidate the resources of the organization to move it forward while continuing to attract new members and continue with our financial stability.

Transition - we need a younger, non-Viet Nam era leadership team to assume management of the organization. We also need to evaluate organizational models that best serve POVA membership and the PSYOP Regiment.

Progression - the new team will serve the PSYOP Regiment and adapt the organization to best serve those needs.

Chad, Ham Salley, Mike Rogers and I have been working to revamp our Board for the coming year. I have attached a copy of the new Board in this publication.

However, we need the help and support of more active leadership. Please contact me if you are interested in joining our Board. My email is dietz.pova@gmail.com and mobile (on Pacific Time) is 408-718-0385.

The Leaflet Drop is your publication. As President, I will use this medium to send out a monthly communication. This month I am adding PSYOP News which is a collection of articles covering various aspects of influence operations.

We would like to add other content. If you are a Life Member and would like your profile published in a future publication, let me know. If you have an article you would like to contribute as a writer or one that you feel our members would be interested in, send it my way.

Together we can continue to support the PSYOP Regiment and its soldiers and maintain our legacy of excellence.

Larry

Lawrence D. Dietz
President

State of Membership

As of January 18, 2023 we had over 575 people on our membership roster.

We have 243 Registered Life Members, 13 of whom are deceased.

It is our pleasure to welcome the following new members:

New Life Members

Derek Hahan
Bruce Martin

Two Year Members

Karl Hutson
Chris Lindung

One Year Members

Wilhelm Eisele
Vickie Scotti

Serving Members - Active Duty & Reserve

Adam Cross
Vergil Johnson
Benjamin Juebschman
Michael Richardson
Christopher Sharman

PSYOP Calendar of Events

7th PSYOP Group Dining Out
25 January 2023 1700 - 2200
Reception, Dinner & Dancing
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94045
POC SGM Carolyn Sherratt
Phone: (614) 216-7899

393 Tactical PSYOP Company Dining Out
Arlington Heights, IL
Weekend of the 25th and 26th of February.
POC: SFC Desmond Gudets
Email: desmond.j.gudets.mil@army.mil

Here are some links and summaries of important developments in the influence world.

1/10/23

How Finland Is Teaching a Generation to Spot Misinformation

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/10/world/europe/finland-misinformation-classes.html>

See also: How it Started, How It is Going: Media Literacy Index 2022

<https://osis.bg/?p=4243&lang=en>

6 Jan 23

Deepfakes and International Conflict

Deceit and media manipulation have always been a part of wartime communications, but never before has it been possible for nearly any actor in a conflict to generate realistic audio, video, and text of their opponent's political officials and military leaders. As artificial intelligence (AI) grows more sophisticated and the cost of computing continues to drop, the challenge deepfakes pose to online information environments during armed conflict will only grow.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/deepfakes-and-international-conflict/>

28 Dec 22

MCIOC Marine Receives 2022 Major General Robert A. McClure Medallion Award
QUANTICO, VA, UNITED STATES

12.28.2022

Story by [Capt. Karen Jensen](#)

[Marine Corps Information Operations Center](#)

QUANTICO, Virginia. – The U.S. Army's Psychological Operations Proponent's Office announced the recipients of the Major General Robert A. McClure Medallion Awards, December 19, 2022, for the recipients' sustained meritorious contributions in support of U.S. Army Special Forces, Civil Affairs, and Psychological Operations Regiments.

Gunnery Sgt. Jeffery D. Jones, an Influence/Psychological Operations Marine from the Marine Corps Information Operations Center, is one of four U.S. Marine Corps service members selected as Bronze award recipients. The three other U.S. Marine Corps recipients, all previous MCIOC Marines, are Staff Sgt. Taylor J. Dieckman, Gunnery Sgt. William Correa, and Maj. Christopher B. Hampton.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/435981/mcioc-marine-receives-2022-major-general-robert-mcclure-medallion-award>

22 Dec 22

Cyber to be featured for first time at US military exercise in Africa

WASHINGTON — An upcoming military exercise involving U.S. Africa Command and more than a dozen countries will for the first time feature elements of cyber. The Justified Accord 23 event, or JA 23, kicks off in mid-February and will allow the U.S. military to work with African forces on matters tied to the digital domain, a highly influential and contested space, [the Army announced](#) Dec. 21.

Specifically, time will be spent sharpening incident detection, intelligence collection, containment and eradication abilities. Participants include Kenya and Uganda.

<http://bit.ly/3Wp3SM0>

The Power of ChatGPT

Unleashed on Military Technology

<http://bit.ly/3hSqJ3r>

The dire warnings suggest an outcome similar to science fiction movies such as *The Terminator* or *The Matrix*, where armed machines turn on their masters. However, as Musk noted, the greater danger is that AI could take everyone's jobs, as it could simply do everything better than humans. That danger could be released with recently released software known as Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, or ChatGPT. It actually sounds like a rather harmless application. But is it?

"It is a chatbot application developed by OpenAI that is built on top of the group's GPT-3.5 family of large language models," explained technology analyst Charles King of Pund-IT. "ChatGPT is fine-tuned with both supervised and reinforcement learning techniques, allowing it to develop detailed responses and articulate answers across numerous knowledge domains."

The prototype launched just last month, and the application's human-like responses raised alarms over whether ChatGPT might be used to build or orchestrate automated [phishing scams](#) sophisticated enough to fool consumers and businesses. "Those same concerns could apply to government agencies, including groups dealing with defense and national security issues," King told ClearanceJobs. "From my reading, I don't believe that ChatGPT is a serious threat yet."

20 Dec 22

'South Park' Creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone Land \$20 Million in Funding for Their Deepfake VFX Studio

The creators of "South Park" have secured a \$20 million investment for their AI entertainment startup Deep Voodoo. The funding was led by Connect Ventures, an investment partnership between CAA and venture-capital firm New Enterprise Associates (NEA). It's the first outside capital raised by Deep Voodoo, which previously was funded entirely by Parker and Stone's independent entertainment company, Park County.

Stone and Parker plan to use the new funding to "accelerate Deep Voodoo's development of its leading deepfake technology, cost-effective visual effects services and original synthetic media projects," according to the announcement.

<http://bit.ly/3hG0z49>

16 Dec 22

Drones critical to US info-warfare playbook, Air Force Kennedy says

<http://bit.ly/3YHX91h>

The three-star general spearheading the U.S. Air Force's information warfare efforts foresees a sustained future for drones in the military, as nations monitor, analyze and attempt to outfox each other from greater and greater distances.

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Errors, etc

Please contact Larry Dietz - dietz.pova@gmail.com with information on any errors.