



# "Mindbenders"

Newsletter of the 4th PSYOP Group Vietnam Veterans' Association

Volume 7, Number 3

Summer 1994

## Dear Fellow "Mindbenders",

Our reunion in St Louis has come and gone. It may be gone, but it's surely not forgotten. Our accommodations at the Holiday Inn were more than adequate. The hotel staff was exceptional. Everyone, from the



shuttle drivers to the housekeepers to the management, they all deserve our thanks for a job well done. I dare say, this was the best re-union yet. Great job by Duane!

Our 1992 reunion was indeed terrific and we all agreed that it would be hard to beat. The trip to the "Wall" was a highly emotional tribute to our KIA's. St Louis, on the other hand, was just plain fun. From the moment of my arrival on Thursday evening, I

was overcome by pure joy. It was a delight to renew old friendships and start new relationships. One could see and sense the cheerfulness and excitement in all who attended.

This was truly a family affair. I felt like an instant uncle, especially on Friday at about 9PM when I went for a swim with the "kids".

It still amazes me how all of us, although from different backgrounds and from different regions of the country, can have such a close knit relationship.

A great big thanks to all for electing me President for the next two years. I will continue to try and make our Mindbenders' organization grow. Thanks also go out to

*"From the moment of my arrival on Thursday evening, I was overcome by pure joy".*

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*"our goal should be to continue to try locating our still unfound friends".*

and to the new officers who were elected for the next two years. They have big shoes to fill (no pun intended to Rik Hofmann).

Looking ahead to the next two years our goal should be to continue to try locating our still unfound friends. Hopefully we can increase our numbers. We will try to bring in both current members of the 4th Group and past members from conflicts after Vietnam (AKA Panama, Grenada and Desert Storm).

In closing, I would like to thank all those who attended our re-union. We will now be starting to make plans for the 1996 reunion to be held in either Nashville, Tennessee or Anaheim, California. I know I can count on you, the members, for your support and assistance during the planning stages. Finally, I urge everyone to remember our POW'S and MIA'S.

Fondest,

Jack O'Neil

## Financial Report

(June 28, 1994-July 18.1994)

Income

Expenses

Dues:	\$165.00	Donations:	\$135.00
Donations:	137.00	Reunion Catering:	109.00
Reunion Fees:	318.00	FDIC Fee:	1.50
Cash Not Used:	58.24	Return Check Fee:	94.00
Return Check Fee Reimbursement:	94.00		
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$772.24</b>	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$339.51</b>

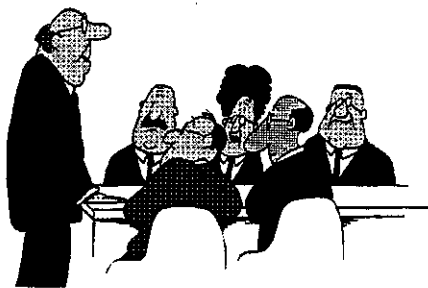
**Balance Forward** - June 28, 1994: \$1459.27

**Balance On Hand** - July 18, 1994 \$1892.00

**Respectfully Submitted**



**Chris Christenson, Treasurer**  
4th PSYOP Group "Mindbenders"



## Highlights from the Minutes

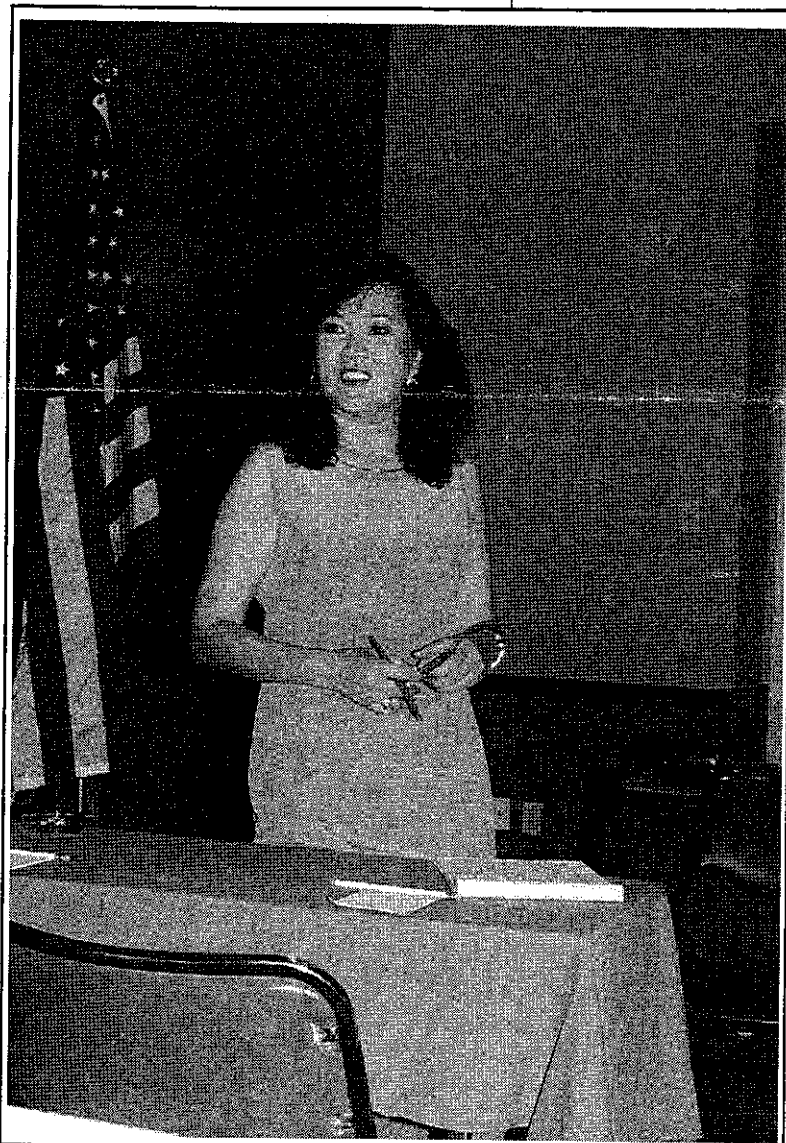
Minutes of the 1992 meeting and the Treasurer's report were read and approved.

Duane Yaeger, Veteran's Affairs Officer/Locator Officer, reported that the Jessie Carroll claim which was submitted to the VA back in November/December through the Illinois VVA can take up to 18 months before a response is received. Duane added that if the claim is rejected, an appeal will be submitted through the American Legion, which has an excellent record of appeal processing. As Locator Officer he reported that 358 Mindbenders have been located. Work continues on locating more.

Gia-Hoa Ryan and Joe Meissner of the Friendship Foundation of American-Vietnamese, Inc. gave a presentation about their organization. Members were assured that the Foundation's goal of 80% of all funds collected reach the Target audience. A motion was made, seconded and approved to donate \$135 to the Foundation and an additional \$135 to the National Headquarters of the "Make A Wish Foundation". Donations are to be in the names of the 12 "mindbenders" listed as KIA. In addition a motion was made to issue a Resolution of Support for the Friendship Foundation of American-Vietnamese, Inc. and approved.

A request for a new classification of membership was discussed. Al Forgacz moved that we establish a "Gold Star" membership. These would be for the immediate next of kin of KIA's. They would be carried as members, however their membership would be at no cost, and they would be non-voting members. Another category

"358 Mindbenders have been located. Work continues on locating more".



Ms. Luong Thi Gia Hoa Ryan

*"constitution be amended to permit issue of either One year memberships for \$15 or Five year memberships for \$60".*

would be "Affiliate" member. These would be the surviving spouse of a member. They too would be at no cost and non-voting members. The motion to amend the constitution to reflect the new categories of membership was made, seconded, and approved.

Chad Spawr moved that the constitution be amended to permit issue of either One year memberships for \$15 or Five year memberships for \$60. Motion was seconded and approved.

There was a discussion of "Hardship" membership. A general consensus was reached by the membership that each case would be reviewed on an individual basis. The Membership Officer and Executive Board would make the determination of eligibility with the authority to issue one year "Hardship" memberships and subject to review on an annual basis.

Rick Hofmann, Roster Officer asked that anyone who has any new or corrected information make the correction/additions directly to the roster.

Jack O'Neil mentioned that he will be investigating the possibility of a "Harley-Davidson" motorcycle tour of Vietnam be undertaken, representing the 4th Psyop Group. He will seek some "Corporate" backing. More information will follow.

Duane Yaeger passed on greetings to all present from Joe Wojcik, Russ Kelly, Mike Charlton, Wayne Wardwell, Dave Fielder, Taro Katagiri, Bill Forgey, Rod Fritz, and Ray Calore, who were unable to attend this year's reunion. (Editors Note: Hey guy's...you were sorely missed).

Tom Brandt was commended for his Memorabilia display and Dave Mis-savage for his KIA memorial display.

The site for the 1996 Reunion, to be held on the July 4th weekend of 1996, was discussed. It will be in either Anaheim, California under the direction of Ham Salley or Nashville, Tennessee under the direction of Al Binkley. Final determination to be made by the Executive Board.



**Richard D. Holzheimer**  
Secretary

"MINDBENDERS"



**4TH PSYOP GROUP**  
**VIETNAM**  
 PANAMA GRENADA KUWAIT

**4TH PSYOP GROUP**  
**VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**  
**"MINDBENDERS" OFFICERS ROSTER**  
**1994-1996**

**PRESIDENT** — Jack O'Neil (6th BN)  
 88 Pinehurst Ave.; Methuen, MA 01844 (508-687-1323)

**VICE PRESIDENT** — Dave Affleck (HHC)  
 13947 Brewster Dr. Largo, FL 34644 (813-596-5068)

**VICE PRESIDENT** — Jim Osborn (244th Co.)  
 HC 69, Box120 Prestonburg, KY 41653 (606-886-2356)

**TREASURER** — Frank Coburn (6th BN)  
 15476 Ave #332 Ivanhoe, CA 93235 (209-798-2294)

**TTRUSTEE** — Dave Rodgers (6th BN)  
 801 Pocahontas Trail; Georgetown, KY 40324 (502-863-4870)

**Chad Spawr (6th BN)**

*(to be announced in next issue)*

**SECRETARY** — Dick Holzheimer (8th BN)  
 3158 Kinross Circle; Herndon, VA 22071 (703-834-5653)

**ROSTER OFFICER/Locator** — Rick Hofmann (Old 6th/Pre 4th GP)  
 5 Van Dyck Drive; Wilmington, Del. 19809 (302-762-5629)

**Newsletter Editor** — Al Forgacz (6th BN)  
 959 W Park Ave. Long Beach, NY 11561 (516-431-2014)

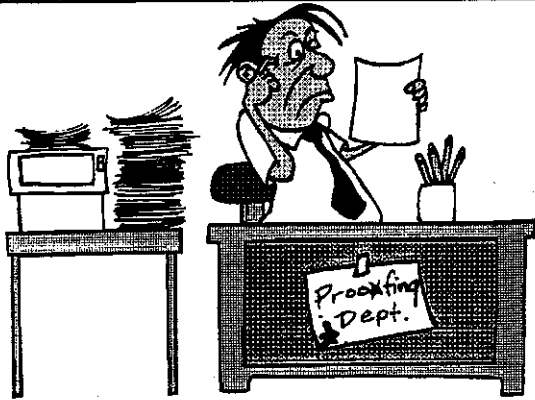
**Nominations Officer** — Dave Missavage (HHC)  
 P.O. Box 5353 Rock Island, IL 61204 (309-788-9296)

**Veteran Affairs** — Ray Calore (6th BN)  
 9109 Nieman Rd Overland Park, KS 66214(913-492-6131)

**Agent Orange Liaison** — Wayne Wardwell (7th BN)  
 1318 Kelly Town Road; Mansfield, PA 16933 (717-662-3363)

**Historian/Memorabilia/Design Artist** — Tom Brandt (246th Co/Pre 4th GP)  
 1307 Robin Drive; Carolstream, IL 60188 (708-837-7955)

**Public Information/1996 Reunion Chairman** —  
**Al Binkley (246th Co./6th BN)** - 5001 Langford Pass ; Old Hickory, TN 37138 (615-754-4954)  
**Ham Sallay (HHC)** - 1669 S. Inez Way; Anaheim, CA 92802 (714-456-2546)



## From the Editor's Desk



I have been elected the newsletter editor, taking over where Dave Schultz left off. Dave, over the past few years, has done an absolutely marvelous job on the newsletter. I realize I have some very large "shoes" to fill. Since this is my first attempt as editor, I am requesting all the assistance I can get from you the members, since this is YOUR newsletter. Your suggestions as to format, content, style, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

Our recent reunion in St. Louis was an overwhelming success. Many of the members from the past reunion came as well as a number of new members. It was especially nice to see that many members brought their families. I recall at one breakfast session our group literally took over half of the hotel restaurant. It was amusing to watch the "poor" waitress trying to keep tabs on who ordered what, as we played "musical chairs" (a true psyops operation). We did not see her the next morning. Rumor has it ... she went on an extended vacation.

Prior to my first reunion in D.C./Maryland, I can recall how I was filled with anxiety and apprehension. I came away with new friends and an extended family. That feeling was re-inforced in St. Louis. I rekindled old friendships from Viet Nam from some 20something years ago, relived memories from Washington with newer friends from two years ago, and now with this latest venture in Missouri, added to my new "family" with even more friendships. My only regret is that the time went too quickly. I'll have to content myself with looking forward to the next reunion in about two years or twenty four month.

I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible.

*Al Forgacz*  
Al Forgacz



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28307-5200



Mr. Dave Schultz  
"Mindbenders" Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 624, Mattituck, New York 11952

Dear Mr. Schultz:

You may be interested to know about our office and what we do in the way of PSYOP history and pass this information on to your readers. After a year of research and writing in the history of U.S. Army PSYOP for a book-length study of the subject, I can say that our Historical Archives have PSYOP material not found anywhere else, including unpublished contemporary studies, after-action reports, secondary material, etc.

Researchers are welcome during business hours, and, of course, there is no charge to use our facilities.

We also solicit photos, written material, etc. from SOF veterans. Anything sent here would be copied and the originals plus a copy returned promptly. The material would then go into our Archives or the JFK Museum and might also be used in the classes I teach in PSYOP history.

We also have an extensive oral history program and are always looking to interview SOF veterans who can make it down here.

I look forward to hearing from you and your readers.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stanley Sandler".

Stanley Sandler  
Assistant Command Historian

David P. Schultz  
Post Office Box 624  
Mattituck, New York 11952

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June 30, 1993

Jerry D. Steelman, Editor  
*Special Warfare*, USAJFKSWCS  
Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000

Dear Mr. Steelman:

I kindly request to be placed on the mailing list to receive future issues of *Special Warfare*. As I am the "Mindbenders" *Newsletter* editor for the 4th PSYOP Group Vietnam Veterans' Association, I feel that I have a need to know about articles in the PSYOP field that can be shared (with your permission) with our PSYOP veterans.

I have enclosed a copy of our latest *Newsletter* for your perusal. I have also enclosed a letter to prospective members written by Duane Yaegar, our founder, which describes the intent of our Association. With your permission, we will include you on future mailings of our *Newsletter*.

Like me, many of our members are past graduates of the JFK Center for Special Warfare and are very interested in current thoughts and operations in PSYOPs. We would appreciate any sharings that we could pass along to our members.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

AOHS-HS

Mr. David P. Schultz  
PO Box 624 Mattituck, New York 11952

1 August 1994

Dear Mr. Schultz:

I appreciate your taking the trouble of forwarding my letter to interested people in the "Mindbenders" association, and I look forward to their reactions and comments.

By way of partial compensation for your kindness, I have forward your letter requesting to be put on the **Special Warfare** mailing list to Mr. Steelman. (I also talked to him on the 'phone.)

Thanks again for your interest.

Cordially,

Stanley Sandler  
Assistant Command Historian

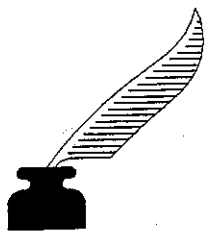
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## *Just A Reminder*

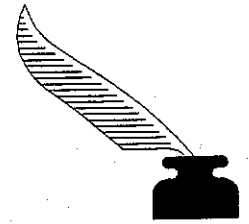
Membership dues are \$60.00 for FIVE year memberships, or \$15.00 annually (\$10.00 after July 1). All enrollments (\$15.00) received after November 1 will be applied to the following year's dues.

Please make your checks payable to "Mindbenders" and forward to:

*Rik Hofmann*  
*5 Van Dyck Drive*  
*Wilmington, DE 19809*



# MEMBERSHIP LETTERS



We really enjoyed the reunion and thought Duane did a super job in setting up most of it.

Sue thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of you that she had heard about since Denver, Bragg, Baltimore and now St Louis.

"Thank all of the "Mindbenders" for a wonderful time"!

Chris Christenson

Frank and I have recovered from the reunion and subsequent trip to North Carolina. Sure wish the reunion could have lasted longer.

We had such a wonderful time renewing old friendships, and making new friends. I wish we had not waited so long to do this.

You can be sure we will be at the next one (Nashville?) with bells on!!! I watched my husband of almost 25 years revert to a 20 year old, laughing and joking with his buddies. What a wonderful experience.

I am quite convinced that all of the wives there had a great deal in common. Insane husbands!!!

I will close now, Frank's duties as Treasurer are keeping me busy. We will try to keep in much closer touch with everyone than in the past, as everyone is now much more than a name



Frank Coburn, clowning around

Frank & Hazel Coburn

## Membership Letters *(continued)*

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I just wanted to drop a short note to say "thanks" for making me feel comfortable at my first reunion.

I also pulled back, when I came home (from Vietnam) and didn't want to remember. That was until a Saturday morning when I got a phone call from Duane. He came down to Houston for a week. We went through his slides, trying to put places and names together. It's all unbelievable.

You (Al), Duane, Frank and Gary mean so much to me. I just can't tell you how much.

I'm looking forward to the future; Also looking forward for the reunion newsletter.

Dick Winner

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Pat and I had a terrific time at our St. Louis reunion. Duane did another great job in his hotel selection as the Holiday Inn Airport North provided us with superb accommodations and service throughout our visit.

Although the attractions in St. Louis (and the convenience of the Metro-Link) added a great deal of enjoyment during our visit, the highlight was seeing so many veterans and their families at the reunion. I was

impressed not only by the number of attendees (nearly doubling the size of the 1992 reunion), but also by the large group that arrived early and stayed on beyond the scheduled dates of the reunion. It allowed us greater opportunity to strengthen friendships while developing new ones. Even so, the time was too short.

I urge everyone to attend our 1996 reunion, whether it be in Nashville, TN or Anaheim, CA. In the meantime, join our Association. It's the easiest and least expensive way to stay in touch.

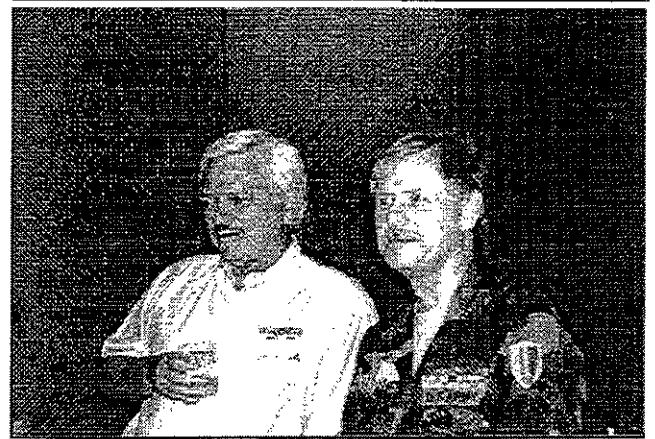
Dave Schultz and Pat Zanieski

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# REUNION PICTORIALS



Baldy Duane Yeager



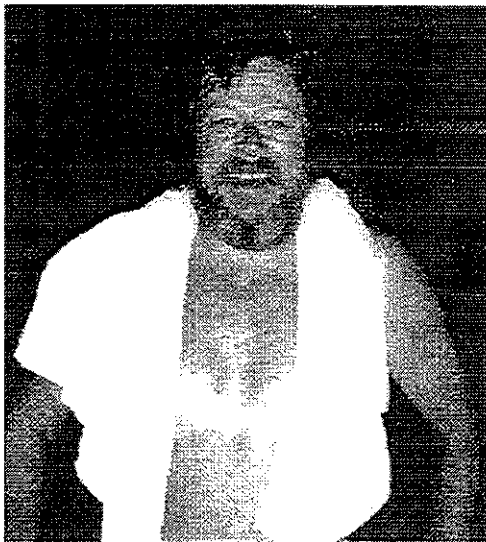
Jim Osborn and Tom Brandt



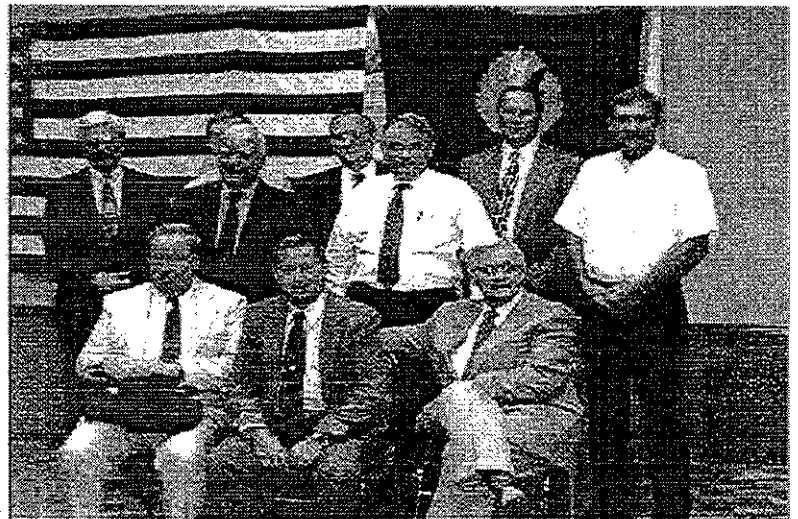
Rik Hofmann



Left to right: Dick Holzheimer, Chris Christenson, Mrs. Merkle, Bill Garvey, Jim Russell



Jack O'Neil



Top left to right: Jim Osborn, Tom Brandt, Ham Smalley, Mick Stoeckert  
Middle left to right: Dave Shultz, Rik Hofmann, Clyve "White Lightning" Broyles  
Bottom left to right: Arlo Despain, Al Binkley, Dave Affleck

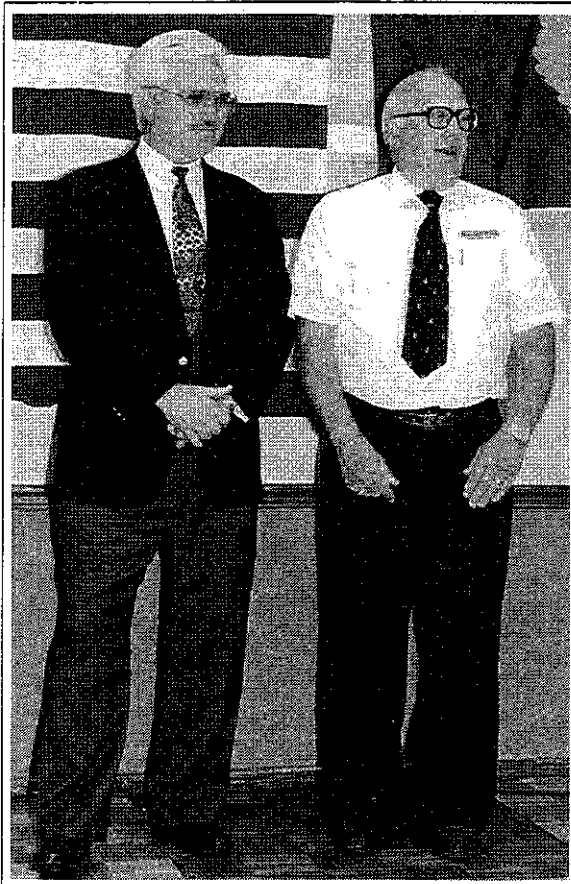
# REUNION PICTORIALS



Chad, Linda, Alex and Ryan Spawr



AL: "Only on my BEER"



Jim Osborne and Ray Gaier



Garry and Linda Conley

**Membership Letters (continued)**

Dear Mindbenders,

**WE MET YOU IN ST. LOUIS:**

only a day's drive

**WE SAW:**

- St. Louis
- Friends
- The Arch
- The VP Fair
- The Museums
- The Zoo
- The Air Show
- Friends

**WE RODE:**

- To the top of the Arch
- The Shuttle Bug
- The MetroLink
- The Hotel van

**WE ATE:**

- At BIG breakfast gatherings
- At Lindy's
- The Robert E. Lee
- The "concretes" at Ted Drewes
- The reunion meal

**WE SCHMOOZED:**

- With the entire MINDBENDERS group
- With Wayman(Better late than never)
- With old friends and new ones

**WE THANK DUANE:**

- for the great weather
- for the great accommodations
- his dedication and hard work

**WE THANK:**

Everyone who came to share the experience, full of camaraderie, caring and craziness

**WE HOPE:**

- All of you had as much fun as we
- Plan to come in '96
- Your pictures turned out
- You find that missing bolt(or was it the wheel)

Thank you for a special weekend.  
On behalf of the Spawr crew,  
Fondly,

Linda Spawr

A few comments regarding the reunion:

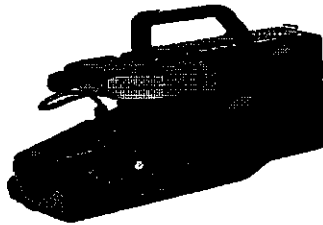
This was my first reunion and I really enjoyed renewing old acquaintances, making new ones, and reliving some events via conversation and several photo albums brought along by fellow members. Duane did a great job.

Particularly enjoyed visiting with Chris and Sue Christenson. Chris and I were in ROTC together in college and followed each other on several Army assignments.

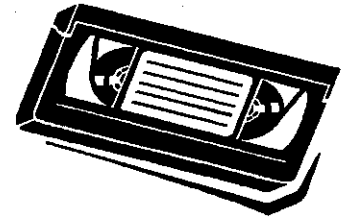
Rik Hofmann related the story of how he had purchased a motorcycle for me during his R&R in Japan and had it shipped to my home. Although I had that bike for over 14 years, I had forgotten the name of the super nice individual who went well beyond the call to acquire the motorcycle for me. Thanks for refreshing my memory Rik. I have always appreciated your gesture. It was great seeing you again.

Looking forward to the next reunion whether it be in Nashville or Southern California.

Hammond Salley



# REUNION VIDEO



For those members who have not yet obtained tapes of the 1992 reunion and the trip to the "Wall", they are still available through Rik Hofmann (5 Van Dyck Dr.; Wilmington, Del. 19809) at a cost of \$10.00. This is a bargain price considering the professional quality of this tape.

Anyone having taped this year's reunion should send these tapes to Rik for inclusion in the 1994 production.



## Fall Newsletter



The Fall '94 edition of the *Newsletter* should be mailed sometime in November and will include any additional letters received subsequent to this mailing...so keep them letters coming. If anyone wishes to include any other articles of interest, feel free to submit them as well. Pictures are also welcome. Comments and suggestions for future newsletters would be appreciated.

Please send all material to:

Al Forgacz  
959 W Park St  
Long Beach, N.Y. 11561

# Important Phone Numbers for "Mindbenders" & Families

### "Mindbenders" Hot Lines:

- Chaplain Bill Mark..... (617) 275-7500(work)  
(617) 527-2365(home)
- Duane Yaeger..... (618) 242-3647
- Jack O'Neil..... (508) 687-1323
- Al Forgacz..... (516) 431-2014

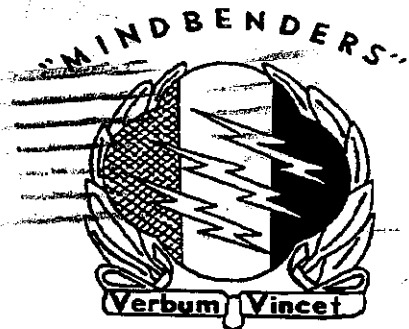
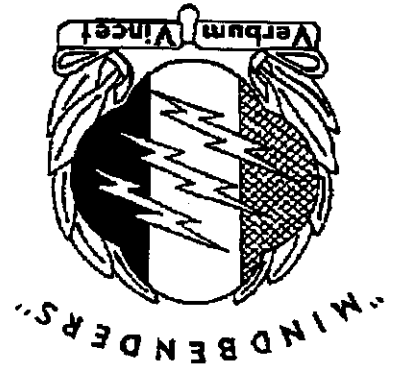


The views and opinions stated in this Newsletter are solely those of the individual members and contributors, and are not necessarily of the 4th PSYOP Group "Mindbenders" Association (POMA). No member or contributor may individually create organizational policy or modify or amend the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association; nothing published herein shall constitute such amendment.

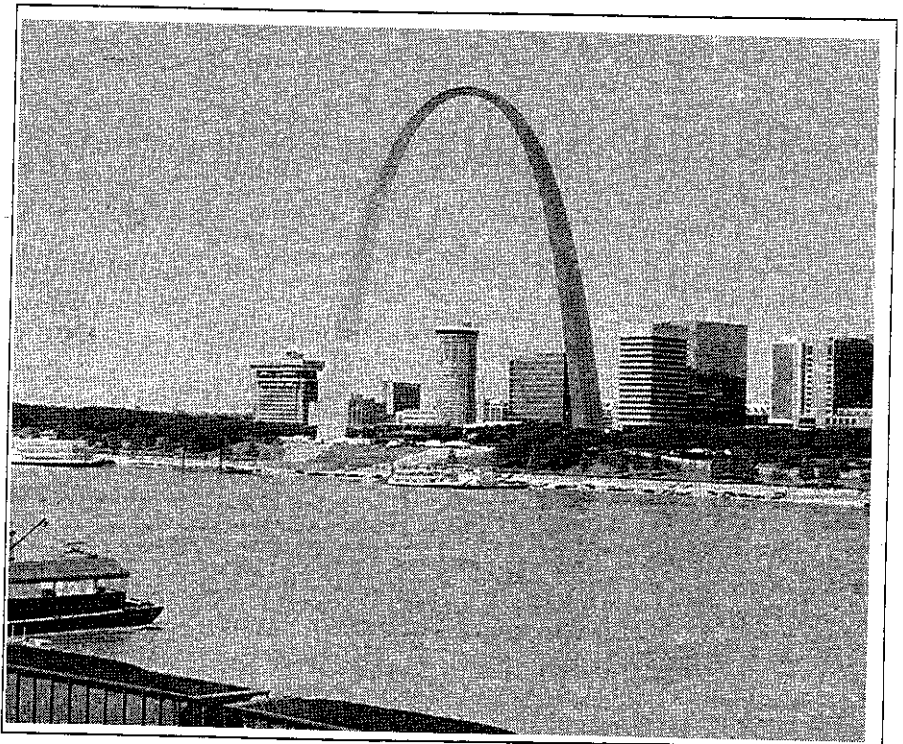
Postmaster: Address Correction Kindly Requested

Harmond M. SALLEY  
1669 S. Inez Way  
Anaheim CA 92802

88 Pinehurst Avenue  
Methuen, MA 01844  
4TH PSYOP GROUP  
VIETNAM  
PANAMA GRENADA KUWAIT



4TH PSYOP GROUP  
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PANAMA GRENADA KUWAIT



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Final production, including high resolution picture scanning, was professionally accomplished by *Pitney Bowes*, 4A Gill Street, Woburn, MA 01801. Thanks again to **Dave Elias** (former owner and operator) and the *incredible staff at Pitney Bowes* for the quality production of this Newsletter.





## "Mindbenders IV" -- 1994

"Meet Me In St. Louis"

By Duane Yaeger

In each of our first three reunions, the Association has had a certain amount of obligations to meet to conduct normal business and a limited amount of time to devote to pleasure. With this reunion coming up in St. Louis we are doing our best to insure that it will be a social success.

On June 16, 1993 Duane Yaeger met with Ms. Benny Shepak, who is the sales manager for Holiday Inn -- St. Louis Airport/North. Duane found the facility to be everything we could want and still be in our price range. The only problem which arose concerned the room rates for our reunion weekend of July 4, 1994.

It seems that from July 1 to July 10, St. Louis will be hosting the Olympic Festival and the St. Louis area hotels will be raising their rates during this period. Even with this increase from \$54.00 per room (set rate per room, probably up to four per room) to \$64.00 per room, we feel that this rate is still competitive with any regular date rates we have received. We have also been advised that should the Olympic Festival rates drop down prior to our visit, we would also be given these rate reductions.

There should be no room shortage in the St. Louis area nor should there be any extreme traffic influx. The different Olympic venues will be spread out throughout the Missouri/Illinois Metropolitan area of St. Louis. We hope that, should you be interested in any summer Olympic events, you would find this to be another good reason to join us in St. Louis.

Further hotel information will follow in the next issue with the projected schedule of reunion activities. We will also be contacting TWA in the early fall to be our reunion airline. We should therefore have airline reservation information available in our fall, winter, and spring *Newsletters*.

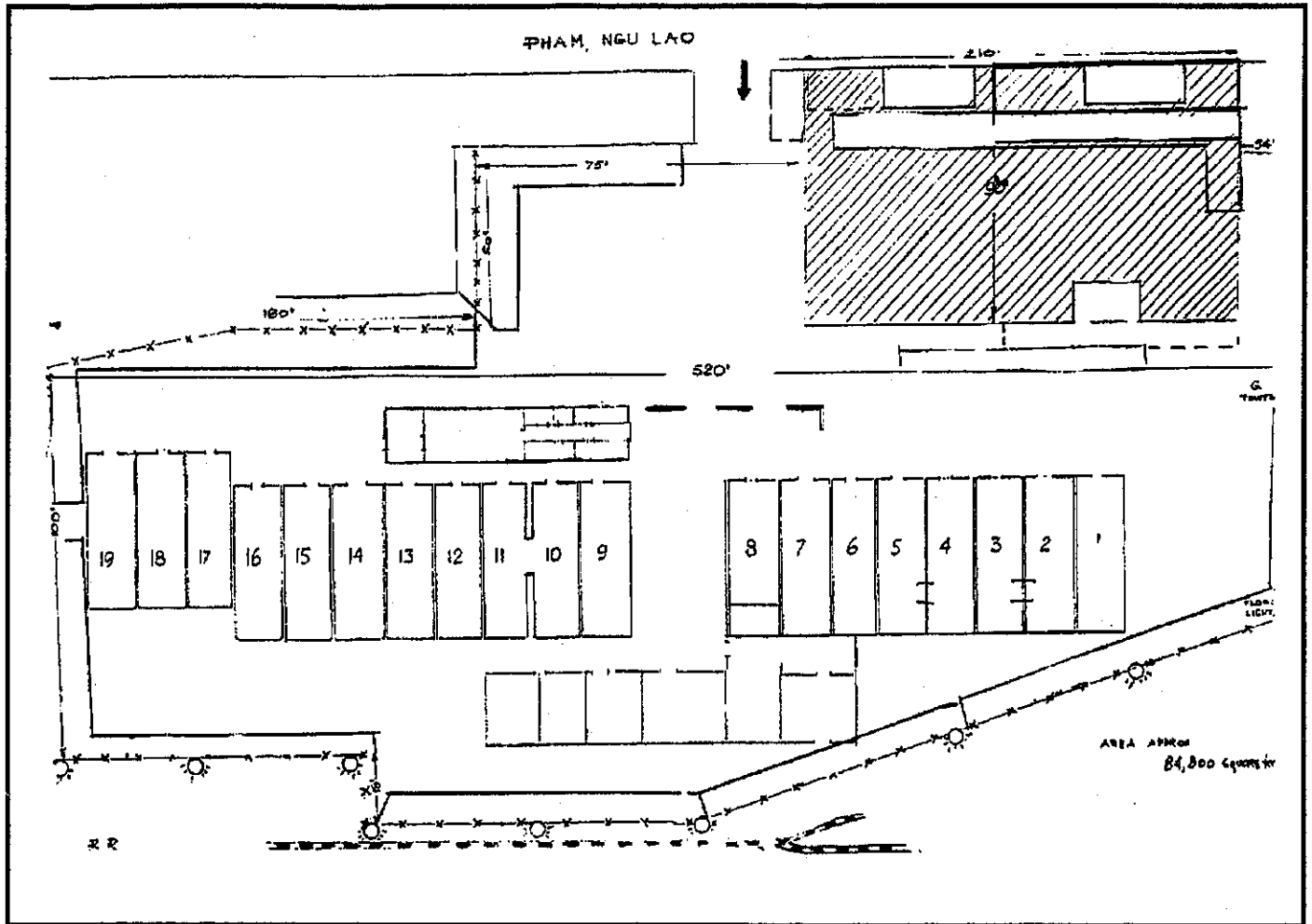
Several of the Board and Staff members have discussed the choice of July 4 weekend for our reunion date and a decision was reached that we should remain with the date decided upon at our last reunion. There were good reasons presented for changing the date, but a large majority of those polled felt that for many various reasons the reunion should take place on July 1 through July 4, 1994.

As was promised in the last *Newsletter* issue, we are presenting information here regarding area golf courses for those who would like to get out and chase that little white ball around.

Benny Shepak tells us she really likes the golf course in Forest Park near downtown. We do not have any information on this course, but if you are interested, try calling (314) 555-1212 (information) and ask for the phone number for Forest Park Golf Course.

The course that seems to be the most logical choice for avid golfers would be Quail Creek Golf Course. This course is one of St. Louis's finest 18 hole public facilities. Designed by Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc., it is managed by Hale's management team. This challenging par 72 course has four different tee placements. The course is located 20 minutes south of St. Louis (our hotel is located 20 minutes northwest of St. Louis).

## Cruz Compound Plot Plan (Courtesy of Dave Missavage)



Special thanks to Dave Missavage for sending a number of items that included the above Cruz Compound layout. Although Dave had identified various buildings for their usage during his tour, it was decided to present the above without clues. Anyone who remembers the Compound should send their own identifications (and pictures) of the buildings to Dave Schultz, *Newsletter* Editor. Hopefully, we will receive enough response to run an article (with pictures) about the evolution of Cruz Compound in a future edition.

For those that need starting clues, the arrow depicts the direction of the photo taken from Pham Ngu Lao (the street outside the Compound) that is featured on the outside page of this *Newsletter*. The interrupted line beyond the barbed wire at the bottom of the plan represents the railroad that ran on the back of the Compound.

Dave Missavage also sent a photocopy of the first 4th PSYOP Group PDC photo taken in December 1967, shortly after the 4th PSYOP Group was formed. Look for the photo in a future issue along with the opportunity to identify over 40 faces.

Please continue to send in pictures and other items that we can share with our membership. Also, please provide some information regarding yourself since your tour. As much as the above brain teaser may be fun, most of us are also curious about what is going on in your life now, and since then. And as boring as your life might appear to you, it is interesting to us. It gives this *Newsletter* a personal appeal.