
Credibilis

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

Volume 15, Number 3

Fall/Winter 2002



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of POVA,

What an incredibly, wonderful, busy and interesting few months these have been for Cindy and me and for POVA.

First, a little about us. The "Hotel O'Neil" has been busy. We have enjoyed the wonderful company of Mike and Mary Paschkes for three days at the end of September. We had a beautiful New England day out on the lake. The weather was stunning, the scenery typical New Hampshire and the cheese, crackers and grapes while just drifting and enjoying the company of a great energetic couple, topped off by dinner by the lake made it wonderful for all.

Prior to this, the weekend of September 7th, Cindy and I drove to Eagle's Mere, Pa and stood up for Rick Hofmann and Trish on their wedding day. Rick's daughter Sarah was also married that day to Patrick Titus. A fine young man. (See wedding announcement on page 9.) Please join me in wishing them all the best in the future.

As I write this, we are enjoying the company of your secretary and friend Joe Rosenberg! Center Barnstead, N.H. will never be quite the same! We have combined our visit with both business and pleasure. Joe is headed to Canada and will be home by the end of the month.

I have been warned by Al Forgacz (editor) to keep this letter short as space is needed for other information and articles. I'm glad to report that work on the "Thomas Paine" award project is speeding up. I will have more information on it, the process and criteria for you from Rick and Chad in the next newsletter.

Al Paddock has been busy traveling, with book signings and work on the POA issue. We can expect more from him in the future. (See his article.) Two members of our board are a little under the weather right now: Trustees Ed Rouse and John Cheney. Please remember them in your thoughts and if you can, shoot them an e-mail. This is one of the many things that make POVA special when we care for and take care of our own. I know I can count on you.

We have several new members and also have sent out all the membership certificates to the Command structure at Ft. Bragg, to include MG Herbert Altshuler, Col Treadwell and his staff. I have

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received some nice comments from some of these people.

My friends, POVA is alive, growing and ready to jump to the next challenge. Soon Tony Newcomb will be traveling to Ft. Bragg, along with Rick and Trish to set in motion our 2004 reunion. If anyone has any ideas, please don't hesitate to contact and support Tony.

This being our Holiday issue, Cindy and I are taking this opportunity to wish you all the happiest Thanksgiving and a joy- filled Holiday season. May 2003 be a year of growth for POVA, but most of all a year of peace and safety for our young men and women, not only in Psyops. but all branches of our fine military. They are keeping us free and safe in the battle against those who would hurt us here at home and abroad. Keep them in your thoughts.

Also at this time, when thinking about gift giving, we need donations, no matter how small, to continue serving you, our members. Expenses for setting up the reunion, postage etc. Please along with your dues, if you can send something extra. I know I can count on you.

Finally Dennis Smiser has been named, with the approval of the board, Vice-president-at-large. He will be working closely with us on issues such as our possible scholarship award, and charitable contributions, to name a few. I'm sure Dennis will be a great asset to our board.

In closing, thanks again for all the support, the wonderful messages filled with ideas and memories from July. Please remember our POW's and MIA's from all conflicts, our troops in harm's way and all our members who need our support. Thank you and Happy Holidays to all from Cindy and me.

God Bless you all and God Bless America!

Loyally,

Jack O'Neil President

Financial Report

Balance Brought Forward
August 1, 2002 1949.35

Income:

Due: \$105.00
Donation: \$50.00*

Total Income: \$155.00

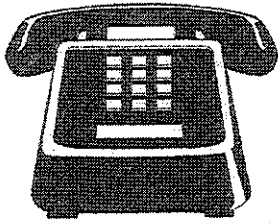
Expenses

Postage: \$373.69
Flowers: \$64.22

Total Expenses: \$437.91

*Donation from **The Swinks** who joined us at our reunion

Balance On Hand (October 17, 2002): 1666.44



Important Phone Numbers & E-mail Addresses for Members & Families

"To Be Announced"	Chaplain	
Mickey Wetherbee	VA Patient Advocate	(1-822-892-8384 x6491) Michelle.Wetherbee@med.va.gov
Jack O'Neil	PRESIDENT	(603-776-8253) namvet6870@aol.com
Rick Hofmann	VICE PRESIDENT/ LOCATOR	(302-683-0997) rgh@psyop.com
Frank Coburn	TREASURER	(559-798-2294) hcoburn@webtv.net
John Cheney	TRUSTEE	(817-442-9480) hqcmdt@hotmail.com
Stan Michelsen	TRUSTEE	(305-453-7344) stand@aol.com
Ed Rouse	TRUSTEE	(717-697-7025) psywarrior@pipeline.com
Joe Rosenberg	SECRETARY	(410-744-3468) rosenbergjoseph@hotmail.com
Chad Spawr	4th Group Liaison Officer	(248-276-2492) Spawrtan@comcast.net
Tony Newcomb	Veterans Service Officer	(217-412-0792) povasvo@earthlink.net
Al Forgacz	Newsletter Editor	(516-431-2014) forgacza@aol.com
Mike Paschkes	Newsletter Co-Editor	(718-884-8354) bmpaschkes@rcn.com
Dave Missavage	Nominations Officer	(309-786-1042) namvet6@aol.com
Tom Brandt	Historian/Memorabilia/ Design Artist	(630-837-7955) vietnamimages@yahoo.com
Dennis Smiser	Vice President-At-Large	(770-951-9585) dsmiser@bellsouth.net

Credibilis Web Site
Ed Rouse PSYOP's Webpage

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

(Please inform the Newsletter Editor if any of the above telephone numbers are incorrect or have been changed)

AGENT ORANGE REVIEW SYNOPSIS – Spring 2002

By Norton Newcomb

On Feb 27, 2002, the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report that concluded that “there is inadequate or insufficient evidence to determine if an association exists between exposure to the herbicides used in Vietnam or that their contaminants and acute myelogenous leukemia in the children of Vietnam veterans”.

Currently, health conditions that are recognized as service-connected for Vietnam veterans based on exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides are:

- (1) Chloracene (must occur within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange)
- (2) Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- (3) Soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)
- (4) Hodgkin's disease
- (5) Porphyria cutanea tarda (must occur within 1 year of exposure)
- (6) Multiple myeloma
- (7) Respiratory cancers, including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus
- (8) Prostate cancer
- (9) Acute and subacute transient peripheral neuropathy (must appear with 1 year of exposure and resolve within 2 years of date of onset)
- (10) Type 2 diabetes

Conditions recognized in children of Vietnam Veterans:

- (1) Spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta)
- (2) Other birth defects in the children of women Vietnam veterans (pending; proposed rules published in Federal Register on January 2, 2002; final regs should be published soon)

For detailed information, go to the VA's agent orange web site @: [http://www.va.gov/agent orange](http://www.va.gov/agent%20orange)

Any Vietnam veteran needing medical assistance should contact their nearest VA facility, or call 1-800-827-1000

Additional Agent Orange Information

By Bill Goodwin*

The new regulation adding diabetes to the list of herbicide-related diseases was effective July 9, 2001. Under normal circumstances, that means no compensation may be paid before that date. However, because of a longstanding class action suit, there are special rules for herbicide-related diseases. If you filed a claim for service connected compensation for diabetes and had it turned down at any time between 9/25/85 and 7/9/01, benefits may be payable from the date the VA received that claim.

To be eligible, you must have Type II diabetes, not Type I. In most cases, if it didn't develop until your 40s or 50s, it's most likely Type II. Type I means the pancreas produces no insulin at all, and it usually becomes evident in childhood or in the 20s. In Type II, there's insulin being produced but it's not doing what it's supposed to do; this type develops later in life. Another caveat is that you must have served in-country (as opposed to getting a Viet Nam service medal for flying over or serving on a ship offshore)

Another change involving herbicide-related diseases has to do with respiratory cancers. When these cancers were added to the list in June 1994, there was a stipulation that they must have devel-

oped within 30 years of herbicide exposure (last day served in Viet Nam). Obviously that time limit has passed or will be soon here for most of us. Effective 1/1/02, the 30-year time limit has been deleted from the regulation. This doesn't mean you should start or continue smoking in hopes of getting lung cancer! The money ain't worth it.

If you've never filed a claim for VA compensation or pension, you need to complete a VA Form 21-526, available at any VA office or online at WWW.va.gov. If you have filed a claim in the past, all you need to do is write a statement and send it to the VA Regional Office nearest you. In either case, it could cut some processing time if you include proof of Viet Nam service (just in case it's not already in your VA file) and some medical documentation of the disease, especially if it shows when it was first diagnosed.

*Bill Goodwin is retired from the VA after 30 years as a contract rep, adjudicator, rating specialist, and hearing officer. For addition information on Agent Orange disabilities write to:

Bill Goodwin
9446 W Iowa Ave
Lakewood Co 80232

Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program

By CPT David Albanese

Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program Congress authorized the program in the Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act for implementation by October 2002. As the program's Executive Agent, the Office of Personnel Management has contracted with Long Term Care (LTC) Partners to offer coverage for such areas as assisted living, nursing homes, adult care, etc., which go beyond services available under other current programs.

The Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program is a benefit that was authorized by Congress in September 2000 to help Active duty, selected reservist, federal employed civilian, retirees and qualified family members defray the rising cost of long term care. The Office of Personnel Management has a contractual agreement to provide informational briefings on military installations

Address any questions to LTC Partners at 1-800-LTC-FEDS or www.LTCFEDS.com.
The OSD program coordinator, Lt Col Bob Rennicker, may be reached at 703-697-3793.

Wisconsin Veterans Can Sign Up For State Tax Break

By Norton Newcomb

(http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/archive/local_6188959.shtml)

Posted Sep. 25, 2002

Retired military veterans and their surviving spouses are now exempt from paying state taxes on their pensions, but area lawmakers say many are not signing up for the tax break. Veterans must contact the appropriate federal agency to have withholding of state taxes stopped on their pension. Retired members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force - both active-duty and Reserve - should write to:

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service
Cleveland Center/ROCAD
P.O. Box 99191
Cleveland, Ohio, 44199
or call 800-321-1080, or send a fax to 800-469-6559.

Retired members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve should write to:

The Coast Guard/NOAA Human Resources Service and Information Center (RAS)
444 S.E. Quincy St.
Topeka, Kansas, 66683-3591
or call 1-800-772-8724.

Those writing should include their name, address, Social Security number and a request to stop Wisconsin state withholding effective January 2002. ---Norton A. Newcomb, POVA Veterans Service Officer

Cyber Service attracting students

By CPT David Albanese

The Federal Cyber Service program, which offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students to study information assurance in exchange for two years of federal service, could have as many as 200 to 300 students by the end of the year, said Subject Sheno, professor of computer science at the University of Tulsa.

<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2002/0722/web-corps-07-24-02.asp>

Cybercorps to extend to states

The White House's national strategy to protect cyberspace, scheduled for release in September, will contain a provision that extends a federal scholarship-for-service program to the state level, said Richard Clarke, cybersecurity adviser to President Bush.

<http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2002/0722/web-cyber-07-23-02.asp>

VA Told Not To Recruit New Veterans to VA System

By Norton A. Newcomb, POVA Veterans Service Officer

As you know healthcare is a very pricey commodity - but one which veterans earn a right to by virtue of their service. But, think about, couldn't we save a few bucks if we just didn't tell these guys and gals about the healthcare services they're entitled to? A shameful attitude, you say? Well, the Bush administration apparently doesn't agree.

A couple weeks ago a Bush appointee at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Laura J. Miller, sent out a memo to local administrators telling them to stop healthcare outreach programs to vets so that the Department could save money.

In the memo (just added to TPM Document Collection), Miller notes the growing demand for VA healthcare services. But "against this backdrop," she notes, "is very conservative OMB budget guidance for 2004." In plain English that means we need more money to service all the vets who are applying for VA healthcare services, but Mitch Daniels and the White House says we can't have it.

The answer?

Get more resources to serve the deserving vets?

Bite the bullet and say the budget requires cuts in VA health benefits?

No, no, no. Just order local officials to stop all efforts to tell vets what services they're entitled to. What could be easier?

In the memo, Miller orders local administrators to "ensure that no marketing activities to enroll new veterans occur within your networks." Efforts to get out the word about VA health services, the memo goes on to say, "with such activities as health fairs, veteran open houses to invite new veterans to the facilities, or enrollment displays at VSO meetings, are inappropriate."

copy of memo at:

<http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com/docs/veterans.affairs.1.html>

FORMER 4th POG COMMANDER BURIED AT ARLINGTON

By Al Paddock

On September 5, 2002, I attended the funeral of Colonel Charles S. McClain, US Army (Ret.), at Arlington National Cemetery. "Chuck" McClain's interment, with full military honors, was quite well done by the Old Guard, which always carries off these occasions with appropriate dignity and care.

POVA's flower arrangement (red, white, and blue) was prominently placed at the gravesite for the ceremony. The card's inscription read simply, "From the men and women of the Psychological Operations Veterans Association." Chuck's wife, Susan, was most appreciative, and she also passed on to me her thanks for the kind card sent to her by Jack O'Neil, our POVA president, prior to the funeral. I had the opportunity to talk to her before and after the ceremony, as well as with Chuck's daughter.

I had known Chuck McClain well. In one of those strange quirks of fate, Chuck succeeded me as 6th PSYOP Battalion commander in mid-1967, then I in turn succeeded him as 4th PSYOP Group commander in November 1979. This unusual turn of events came about as a result of the relief for cause of the 4th Group commander during the interim period. As the senior battalion commander and already on the 06 list, Chuck became the new group commander. He successfully guided the 4th through a difficult period, overcoming the morale problems that he inherited as a result of the previous commander's transgressions.

It is not necessary to dwell on the nature of these transgressions. What is important, however, is my admiration for Chuck's dedication, poise and professionalism in carrying out his responsibilities under particularly difficult circumstances. I was honored to represent POVA, POA, and the Regiment in paying our last respects to a fine man who made a valuable and lasting contribution to the PSYOP community.

Letter of Thanks from an Honorary POVA Member

By Mickey Wetherbee, Patient Advocate

What an unexpected gift! An honor! I am almost speechless, but as you get to know me you will see that is a rare occurrence. When I met Jack O'Neil in my duties as Patient Advocate at the Manchester VA Medical Center, I knew I had encountered a special soul. Occasionally, when I meet veterans, I am relatively certain you may have been one that I flirted with while living on Okinawa. I was there from 1960 to 1969 and loved it. Then again, you may be someone I encountered while I was in the Army (73 to 76). But even had I never met you personally, I have always had a great love and admiration of men in uniform. I was brought up a very proud American, and was thrilled to have gotten my own uniform. I have always thought men in uniform were a gift from heaven.

But to get back to meeting Jack, I was certain that when I started my job, September 11, 2001, that I would have the best job in the world. I could help frustrated vets find solutions to situations that baffle most of us when dealing with the government. Having been active duty, having been a patient here at this Medical Center, then having been hired here, I knew lots of things others may not have been aware of. I knew this is the job I was meant to have all my life – because I always knew veterans were important.

With my knowledge, background, inquisitiveness, and sense of humor, I hope that I have been able to affect vets in a positive way in this job. I did not need to do anything for Jack; he already had a good handle on the system and did not need my intervention. Soon, however, he started telling people to call me, to visit, to e-mail, and yell if all else failed to get in touch with me. Some of these folks, I have been able to help quickly, maybe with just some information, whereas with others it takes some time.

I will work for these vets as much as I work for all the vets who seek my assistance. In doing my job, I do not expect rewards from anyone. This is what I am hired to do, and what I feel I do well. So when Jack invited me into your group as an honorary member of POVA – I felt I did not deserve to be in such company with you. You are why I am here to serve. You are who makes it possible for me to come here to work. Yet, invite me in you did, and for that, in my most humble yet proud fashion, I thank you. From the very core of who I am. You again make me proud to work for the veterans, and if I can ever help anyone of you, please give me a call. It would be my pleasure and honor to meet people I hold in the highest regard. Sincerely,

Mickey Wetherbee, Patient Advocate

She can be reached at 1-822-892-8384 x6491

e-mail is Michelle.Wetherbee@med.va.gov

fax # is 1-603-626-6576 or write to:

Mickey Wetherbee

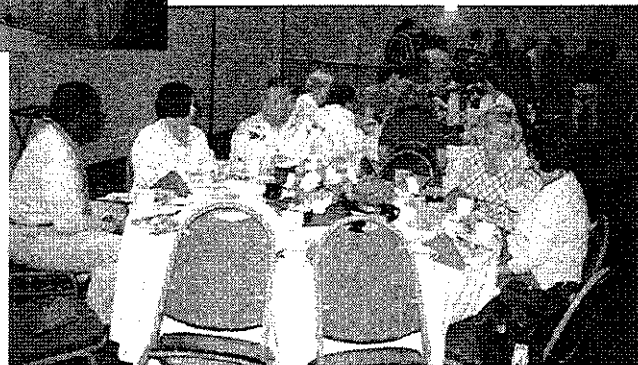
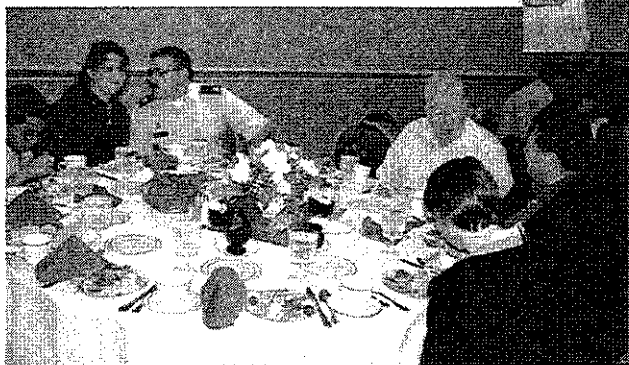
718 Smyth Rd.

Manchester, N.H. 03104

A List To Live By

The most destructive habit	Worry	The worlds most incredible computer	The Brain
The greatest joy	Giving	The worst thing to be without	Hope
The greatest loss	Self-respect	The deadliest weapon	The Tongue
The most satisfying work	Helping Others	The two most power-filled words	"I can"
The ugliest personality trait	Selfishness	The greatest asset	Faith
The most endangered species	Dedicated Leaders	The most worthless emotion	Self-pity
Our greatest natural resource	Our Youth & Our Elderly	The most beautiful attire	A Smile
The greatest "shot in the arm"	Encouragement	The most prized possession	Integrity
The greatest problem to overcome	Fear	The most powerful channel of	
The most effective sleeping pill	Peace of mind	Communication	Prayer
The most crippling failure disease	Excuses	The most contagious spirit	Enthusiasm
The most powerful force in life	Love	Our greatest teacher	Experience
The most dangerous outcast	Gossip	To the world, YOU may be one person; but to one person, you may be the world!! Have a wonderful life, day after day.	

Reunion 2002 - At the Banquet



List of Veteran Attendees

Stan Michelsen, Arthur (Art) Swink, Al Paddock, Dave Affleck, Jack O'Neil, Harry Westcott, Alfred (Al) Forgacz, Richard (Rick) Hofmann, Frank Coburn, Tony Newcomb, Dave Missavage, Chuck DeCaro, Tom Brandt, Ray Ambrozak, Chad Spawr, Ben Rogers, John Cheney, Charlie Borchini, Arlo Despain, Joe Wojcik, John Deverell, Dave Schultz, Michael Paschkes, Dennis Smiser, Joe Rosenberg, Len Rudy, Mike Stoeckert, Ed Rouse.

(Active Duty Members): Capt Dave Albanese, Col James Treadwell

Hofmanns Celebrate a Double Nuptial



The weekend of Sept 7th was truly a wonderful one. Cindy and I were asked to stand up for Vice President Rick Hofmann and Trish Ryan on their wedding day. What an honor! But that was only part of it--Rick's daughter, Sarah, also was united in marriage with Patrick Titus. They were attended by her sister Ellen and her husband John.

Trish was escorted by her father, Greg. Rick's mother, Marjorie, was there from York, PA. Also in attendance were Trish's sister, Kathy, mom Betty, and her aunt Edna, all hailing from New Jersey.

The ceremony started right on time at noon. The sun was shining, the flowers were in bloom and some tears of joy appropriately were shed on the occasion.

The weather was perfect as was the Crestmont Bed and Breakfast where the whole weekend was spent. The Crestmont Inn is located in Eagle's Mere, Pa. The food, service, staff--everything was just great.

After the ceremonies and many pictures, we all adjourned to the dining area for a wonderful dinner. After toasting Rick and Trish (in which I kept my promise not to embarrass them too much!), a toast by her brother-in-law, John, for Sarah and Patrick set the mood for the cutting of the cakes. I have to report both bridegrooms behaved them-

selves!

Rick and Trish headed off to a cruise the following week to the inner passage in Alaska, while Las Vegas was the destination for Sarah and Patrick.

Please join me in congratulating Rick, Trish, Sarah and Patrick and wishing them many years of happiness together. It was a weekend of much honor and happiness for Cindy and me...

In Friendship, Loyally
Jack O'Neil, President

A Mini-Reunion With the O'Neils



At the Baltimore reunion, his first, Mike Paschkes, one of the two Korean War vets there (Len Rudy was the other) who served a year-and-a-half apart in the 5th Loudspeaker & Leaflet Co., got pretty involved with POVA right from the get-go. They say never volunteer, but now he's a co-editor of this publication!

Since then, besides Al & Bobbi Forgacz, Mike and his wife, Mary, have already formed a very close friendship with Jack and Cindy O'Neil and were their guests Sept 30-Oct 2 in Center Barnstead, NH, close to Lake Winnepesaukee. Who'd ever dream that on Oct. 1 the temperature would soar above 80 degrees? What better weather for Jack to show off his latest acquisition...a 25-foot motorboat?

"We had the most wonderful visit", Mike said, "they really made us feel at home, along with their dog, two cats and son, Sean, who celebrated his 18th birthday on October 3rd. We hope it won't be long before they come to see us in the Big Apple."

Fledgling Radio Station Spreads News, Culture in Central Afghan Valley

By TANALEE SMITH, Associated Press Writer

BAMIYAN, Afghanistan - Behind the door of Room No. 1 at a government guest house, Radio Bamiyan is on the air, broadcasting news and music to a valley recovering from years of abuse at the hands of the Taliban.

The fledgling radio station, started with the help of the U.S. Army in May, is still battling technical hiccups that can knock it off the air for days at a time. But with a potential reach of 50,000 people, it has a powerful influence throughout the Bamiyan valley of central Afghanistan (news - web sites).

"Our goals are to provide news, to spread new information to the people to improve their thinking," said station manager Qurban Ali Fasihi.

Many men take their portable radios to work so they won't miss Radio Bamiyan's one-hour program, which starts at 6 p.m. Women congregate in one home to listen together to the health and human rights programming.

Staff Sgt. Joe Smith, chief of the U.S. Army Psychological Operations team in Bamiyan, calls the station the "public crown" of his team's work since coming to Bamiyan in April.

His three-member team is charged with building rapport with the residents in a 35-mile swath of the valley, an area rich with historical treasures where people are still recovering from the strict rule of the Taliban regime that was ousted last November by a U.S.-led military coalition.

They talk with residents about their needs, get feedback on coalition activities and distribute posters and leaflets warning residents to avoid land mines, condemning the Taliban and urging support for coalition activities.

Other brochures promote acceptance of different ethnic groups. Bamiyan province is home to the Hazara, who suffered heavily at the hands of the predominantly Pashtun Taliban. Under Taliban rule, hundreds of Hazarans were killed or imprisoned and farmers were prevented from planting crops.

The Taliban also destroyed two towering, 1,400-year-old Buddha sculptures that had been the pride of the valley and, in rare times of peace, a tourist attraction.

To appeal to local culture, the broadcasts, including music, are in Dari, the local language. Pashto, the language of the Taliban, is rarely heard.

"Although we want to preach tolerance, that won't happen by making them turn off the dial," said Spc. Darren Davila of the psy-ops team.

The radio station was one of the first tasks of Smith's psy-ops team following successful radio ventures in other provinces.

The team arrived to find a broken transmitter as their only asset. After a quick fix, they recruited volunteers and had the station running three times a week. Within a month, the provincial governor hired six journalists and the station was broadcasting every night.

Radio Bamiyan transmits from the governor's guest house. The office, empty except for the 400-watt transmitter next to the window, looks out over farmland and an empty niche in a cliff where the destroyed Buddhas once stood.

The journalists spend the morning gathering news from local provinces and lift items from the BBC or Voice of America's Dari broadcasts. They pre-record their one-hour program in the afternoon, mixing news with music, featured programming and public service announcements.

Though there are frequent equipment breakdowns, Radio Bamiyan has already made its mark in the community. Listeners regularly offer suggestions to improve the broadcast more Dari singers and more international news, for example and many take advantage of the regular "Ask a Doctor" or "Answers to Your Letters" programs.

Listeners drop off letters personally, since there is no telephone service through much of Bamiyan. They ask for advice on treating children's ailments, why the Taliban destroyed the Buddhas and why the station is not playing a particular singer.

"Every society wants different things," said Fasihi. "We play according to their beliefs. It is difficult because there are modern vs. old-fashioned ideals here. We have to please both."

The U.S. Army provides the generator to keep the station on the air, but Smith expects it will eventually become completely independent. Fasihi has been soliciting non-governmental organizations for advertising dollars, though the response so far has been minimal.

"Now we're in the crawling stage, but the station is definitely going in the right direction," Smith said.

The following URL has some very good information re Psyop in Afghanistan. It includes themes and complete texts of the radio broadcasts and the leaflet material.

<http://www.cnn.com/2001/US/10/17/ret.us.propaganda/index.html>

U.S. Drops Warning Leaflets on No-Fly Zone

By a Washington Post Staff Writer Thursday, October 3, 2002; 5:15 PM

U.S. warplanes dropped thousands of leaflets over the southern no-fly zone in Iraq today warning Iraqi air defense crews that they will be attacked and destroyed if they track or fire at coalition aircraft. The Iraqis fired anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles at A-10 attack jets dropping the leaflets. U.S. and British aircraft responded by attacking an air defense headquarters and operation center near Tallil, 160 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Defense officials in Washington said the leafleting was not the opening salvo in a psychological warfare campaign designed to encourage Iraqi defections and put Iraqi officers on notice that the use of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons will not be tolerated.

"They were Southern Watch leaflets, not-don't-use-nuclear-weapons leaflets," one senior defense official said, referring to the Pentagon's official designation for patrols over the southern no-fly zone, Operation Southern Watch. "We dropped them a year ago. This was just a part of the operation that says, 'We're doing this mission, don't shoot at us or you'll die.'"

But the leafleting signaled increasing tension in the southern no-fly zone, where Iraqi defense crews have fired on U.S. and British warplanes more than 40 times since the beginning of September. Coalition aircraft have retaliated against Iraqi air defenses and related communications facilities 11 times, including three strikes since Saturday.

The leaflet depicts a U.S. fighter jet firing missiles at air defense sites with a warning, written in Arabic: "The destruction experienced by your colleagues in other air defense locations is a response to your continuing aggression toward planes of the coalition forces. No tracking or firing on these aircraft will be tolerated. You could be next."

U.S. and British warplanes have been patrolling the southern no-fly zone since 1992 to enforce a United Nations Resolution passed after the Persian Gulf War in 1991 protecting Iraqi Shiites from attacks by President Saddam Hussein's military. Air patrols began over the northern no-fly zone in 1997 to protect Iraqi Kurds from attack by Baghdad.

Earlier this week, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld asserted for the first time that coalition aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones are performing "aerial" weapons inspections under a separate U.N. resolution that bans Iraq from producing biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

While U.S. defense officials say coalition aircraft fire at Iraqi targets only after they have been fired upon, Rumsfeld disclosed last month that he has urged coalition commanders to direct retaliatory strikes at radars, missile sites and air defense communications centers in an attempt to degrade Iraq's overall air defense network.

Submitted by Ed Rouse

U.S. aim in Iraq: 'Lightning' action

Dave Moniz *USA TODAY*

WASHINGTON -- On a moonless night as soon as December, a flock of B-2 Stealth bombers cruising some six miles above Baghdad, Iraq, unleashes dozens of satellite-guided bombs on military command and air defense targets.

Waves of Navy F-18s and Air Force F-15s and F-16s follow. They fly just under the speed of sound, dodging orange anti-aircraft tracer fire to hunt chemical and biological weapons facilities. An all-night barrage of Tomahawk cruise missiles rains down on Saddam Hussein's 50 presidential palaces and on the base of his internal security forces.

Then come the foot soldiers.

This is how the Bush administration's campaign to dislodge Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein could begin. While the Pentagon continues to refine options for a possible invasion of Iraq and has made no final decision, a broad outline for how the war could be fought is emerging from months of heated debate within the Pentagon and U.S. Central Command in Tampa.

From Day 1, it would be fast:

Army Rangers with night-vision goggles and "whisper" microphones would parachute from C-130s flying at 500 feet

to seize airfields in southern and western Iraq. After a 10-second plunge to earth, they would quickly set up hubs for tens of thousands of American ground forces streaming into these new bases by air and land.

The campaign would be sophisticated:

The arrival of American troops would coincide with the dropping of leaflets and blaring radio broadcasts that are designed to persuade Iraq's conscript army to lay down its weapons and help "liberate" the country.

A dozen military officials and analysts interviewed by USA TODAY described a conflict that would bear little resemblance to the 1991 Persian Gulf War. What most envision is more like the 1989 invasion of Panama, when the United States removed an entrenched dictator.

"Look for innovative, agile lightning tactics and look for it to be immediately overwhelming," says Steve Baker, a retired rear admiral who is a military analyst at the Center for Defense Information.

Baker and others say a Desert Storm-like buildup and a massive ground invasion are not likely.

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(Continued from Page 11)

Experts say that if the United States chooses military force to get rid of Saddam, the war will be defined by fundamental beliefs now associated with Donald Rumsfeld's Defense Department: Reliance on precision weapons, superior intelligence and swift movements designed to capitalize on U.S. military advantages including information gathering and agility.

* Don't look for a huge invasion force thundering across Iraq's borders. The United States controls much of the airspace over southern and northern Iraq and believes it can keep Saddam's crumbling military at bay while it sets up bases inside his borders. The Pentagon is unlikely to position large ground forces within range of Iraq's dozen or so remaining Scud missiles before the attack, experts say.

* The war will almost certainly be preceded by a lengthy disinformation campaign designed to keep Saddam guessing about U.S. intentions. That effort, some say, has already begun with the disclosure of plans to move a key military headquarters to the tiny Persian Gulf nation of Qatar and the continued leaking of "war plans," including military training for Iraqi dissidents, to U.S. media. Says one former Gulf War planner: "It's been wonderful to have all those stories out there to confuse Saddam."

* Besides smart bombs and surgical commando raids, a key part of a U.S. strategy will be convincing the regular army and Iraqi civilians to assist in the effort to "free" their country. This psychological operations, or "psyops," campaign is designed to topple Saddam and leave the Iraqi people unharmed.

* In this war, look for elite U.S. commandos to attack sensitive targets quickly and for conventional forces such as Army tanks and helicopters to move more deliberately, analysts predict. Destroying Saddam's grip on power, but not necessarily his military, is the central aim of the war. The speed of the war depends on whether Iraq's military decides to fight or step aside, as large portions did in 1991, and on whether Saddam uses stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons. U.S. troops will be inoculated against anthrax and will carry protective suits with them to protect against nerve agents.

A much smaller force

If the United States could be at war with Iraq within three months, where are all the troops? Unlike Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91 -- characterized by massive flows of soldiers and tanks to the Arabian Peninsula -- there has been no discernible U.S. buildup.

There are several reasons. With U.S. personnel already stationed in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, the Pentagon has a ready-made military infrastructure that it didn't have a decade ago. Since the Gulf War, the United States and Great Britain have controlled airspace over much of Iraq and have moved ready-to-use war stocks to regional bases.

This war is likely to involve a much smaller force than De-

sert Storm. Instead of 500,000 U.S. troops, it could require fewer than 100,000. Military experts add that they don't all have to be in place before the United States launches an attack.

"You could do this in phases," says David Grange, a retired Army general and an expert in special operations warfare. It's possible that the largest portion of U.S. troops -- some say a minimum of 25,000 -- will be needed to maintain order and disarm Saddam's military after the invasion. Some would probably have to stay for years to ensure peace.

Given the danger of Iraq striking Israel or U.S. forces before the attack, the Pentagon will seek tactical surprise, analysts say. The Pentagon could base ground troops hundreds of miles away or on ships to maintain surprise.

It's also possible that any U.S. plan might have to be ditched or quickly redrawn if Iraq strikes U.S. forces or Israel ahead of time. Given the uncertainties over which Arab countries might offer bases or assistance, Rumsfeld and the Bush administration are almost certain to insist on flexible options that can be easily altered, one experienced Pentagon war planner says.

The Air Force, for example, has already studied attack plans that do not require the use of Saudi air bases. The Saudi government originally said it would bar U.S. attacks from its bases but agreed more recently to allow the use of its facilities as long as the attacks are sanctioned by the United Nations.

The United States is not likely to need the massive armada of aircraft -- more than 2,000 -- that took part in bombing Iraq 11 years ago. The widespread use of smart bombs, dropped infrequently in 1991, would shrink the number of fighters and bombers needed to strike.

A single B-1, B-2 or B-52 carrying as few as a dozen smart bombs can destroy as many targets as an entire squadron of 24 aircraft did during Desert Storm. The bombers' destructive power was magnified in Afghanistan by special operations troops using laser pointers and global positioning system receivers to call in airstrikes. According to Pentagon officials, one Special Forces soldier directing smart bombs from the ground called in strikes that killed 3,000 Taliban in a single day last fall.

The Air Force is also poised to use a deadly new bomb against Iraqi tanks if Saddam threatens U.S. ground troops. Known as "sensor-fuzed weapons," the hockey-puck shaped smart bombs are dropped by one fighter or bomber and can target up to 40 tanks or armored vehicles over 30 acres.

Already at war

The United States has begun an aggressive campaign to dismantle Iraq's air defense network in the past month. During that time, U.S. and British aircraft have attacked air defense command centers south of Baghdad and in western Iraq with raids of up to 30 aircraft.

(Continued on Page 13)

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The Pentagon has explained the expanded strikes as acts of self-defense after Iraqi batteries targeted American warplanes. Privately, military officials say the United States is taking the opportunity to dismantle Saddam's air defenses.

Military officials say they are confident that they can quickly disable Iraq's countrywide air defense network, which is connected by underground fiber optic cable. Iraq is believed to still have thousands of surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft guns. The first part of the air campaign will be designed to reduce the threat against U.S. pilots from those weapons and, according to recent statements from Rumsfeld, neutralize chemical and biological weapons facilities.

Among the weapons that could be employed are 5,000-pound, ground-penetrating "bunker buster" bombs and special bombs used in Afghanistan to kill terrorists hidden in deep cave complexes by literally sucking the oxygen out of the underground tunnels.

Will they fight?

The big wild card in any war with Iraq is gauging the Iraqi military's loyalty. Will conscript soldiers fight to keep Saddam in power or, as happened during the Gulf War, surrender en masse?

Many analysts predict that a large portion of Saddam's 375,000-man regular army will refuse to fight. During the 1991 war, more than 70,000 gave up after a month-long pummeling from the air and ground.

But Iraq's 100,000-man Republican Guard, Saddam's most loyal and well-trained troops, could choose to resist. They are augmented by the Special Republican Guard, a security force that is centered in Baghdad and designed solely to keep Saddam in power.

Although U.S. intelligence and Iraqi defectors believe many Republican Guard troops will choose not to fight, the Pentagon cannot build a war plan based on that assumption.

Thomas McNerney, a retired Air Force lieutenant general with close ties to the Iraqi opposition, says the Pentagon will use exiles to persuade soldiers to leave the regime.

"All the military forces will be told that they have two choices: Either help us change the regime and build a democracy, or be destroyed," McNerney told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Monday. McNerney also echoed warnings from Rumsfeld that Iraqis who use weapons of

mass destruction will "be tried as war criminals."

Despite those warnings, planners have to assume Iraq could unleash chemical or biological weapons. Saddam held off deploying such weapons in the 1991 war after being warned that their use would provoke a devastating U.S. response. Now that U.S. forces are aiming to oust or kill him, he may feel he has nothing to lose by targeting U.S. troops or Israel with missiles or artillery shells packed with gas or biological agents.

During the 1991 war, Army planners estimated that if Iraqis employed chemical weapons, they could kill up to 10 times as many U.S. troops as might die from conventional arms. Destroying Saddam's ability to launch such weapons would be among U.S. forces' first priorities in any invasion.

Even though Iraqi forces are much weaker than they were 11 years ago, there are still potential nightmare scenarios for U.S. war planners.

One is a grisly urban battle in which clusters of Iraqi troops attempt to inflict huge casualties on American foot soldiers.

Retired Army lieutenant general Dan Christman, who helped plan the Gulf War, says the worst case is that such a fight could look like the Russians' deadly street fights with Chechen rebels in Grozny, which produced thousands of casualties for the Russian army.

Few experts would compare battle-hardened Muslim extremists in Grozny with Saddam's ill-trained draftees, but it's possible that the Iraqi leadership would try to create the conditions for similar street-by-street gunbattles.

"Saddam will try to hide and embed troops in with the population. If we can separate Saddam's forces from his people, then we've won half the battle," Christman says.

Retired general Joseph Hoar, a former U.S. military commander in the Middle East, recently described the possibility of 100,000 Iraqi troops with thousands of artillery pieces defending Baghdad.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Hoar said Saddam has learned that he cannot fight the United States in open terrain and hope to win.

The Pentagon, Hoar said, should do everything possible to avoid urban warfare. "U.S. forces would prevail," he said. "But at what cost? And at what cost as the rest of the world watches while we bomb and have artillery rounds exploded in densely populated neighborhoods?"

Letter From Charles Borchini

Dear friends, veterans, and PSYOP professionals,

Ever since I attended your wonderful July reunion in Washington and Baltimore, I've wondered how POVA will evolve, what will happen to POA, and if will we ever see a PSYOP Regimental Association. Recently I've seen several papers Al Paddock has written to encourage thought, discussion and action concerning this. We need to help him do something about this, now.

(Continued on Page 14)

(Continued from Page 13)

I want to let you know that first and foremost, I deeply respect everything you and POVA have done, and that I am very proud to be associated with POVA. Like POVA, POA was a great organization when it started, but for whatever reason it just never took root within the PSYOP community. Few joined and among those who joined, fewer did anything proactive; I am in that latter group. A small group of great PSYOP professionals, mostly from the Reserves, have carried the ball for POA and given it their best to make it successful.

When I first met Jack and then got to know Chad, I saw a special light in your eyes to do something with and for your fellow Vietnam-era PSYOP comrades. You graciously changed your name and opened up your doors to all PSYOP veterans. When we activated the PSYOP Regiment I hoped we would be able to make the Regiment and a parallel Regimental Association viable, effective organizations for PSYOP. But poor Al, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment has been like St John the Baptist calling out in the desert and has not gotten much help to make this a reality.

My friends Jack and Chad, I ask for your help to get something moving. I would love to see POVA as the foundation for a new PSYOP organization that absorbs POA and creates a PSYOP Regimental Association as a branch of the bigger organization. I also think one more name change might be appropriate, since POVA is much more than just an association for PSYOP veterans. POVA includes active duty, reserve and national guard folks as well as civilians still serving in PSYOP assignments, academics, PSYOP practitioners from other countries, and family members and friends of PSYOP veterans.

For POVA to live and grow it must continue to evolve. It is much more than just an organization for us old fart PSYOP veterans. I believe POVA can and MUST be the catalyst for change and revitalization which we desperately need within our PSYOP community. Please give this some more thought and ACTION.. POVA can easily absorb POA and form the structure for a Regimental Association. If anyone can do this, Jack and Chad, you can! Al and I and others can help.

Letter From Charles Taliaferro

Greetings from the Kitchen Table Gang Trust.

We are a rag-tag bunch of retired veterans who help out men and women who are in VA and military hospitals with a little "R & R" and comfort and caring. We have also started a "grass roots" movement to stop the closure of VA hospitals. We were wondering if you might like to help us with, what many folks say, is a really great project. We hope you deem us worthy!

We are holding our annual fund-raiser with the sale of our 12th Annual Veteran's Celebrity Cook Book. The book is large format, 52 pages and has 128 recipes from some pretty famous people. There is a suggested donation of only \$10 (+\$3.00 first class postage) and you can get it from the Kitchen Table Gang Trust, P.O. Box 783, Hanford, CA 93232-0783.

If you'd like more information on the cook book and the famous folks who gave us these delicious recipes, please visit:

<http://taliaferro.net/cookbook>. If you want to know more about us, who we are and what we are doing, please visit our website at: <http://www.kitchentablegang.org>

If you like what you see, please sign our guest book.

Thanks for caring! God Bless You! God Bless America!

Charlie Taliaferro crtajt@pacbell.net

Letter From Ed Rouse

Don't know if anyone would be interested or not, but a friend of mine, Jerry Berry, (a combat photographer/reporter during the Vietnam War), just published "*The Psychological Warfare Leaflets of the Vietnam War*", a book on CD (Acrobat Reader Format). The CD shows Vietnam era leaflets and their translations.

The CD can be purchased through his web site at www.currahee.org or you can e-mail Jerry directly at: currahee@clink.com

Message to a Prospective New Member

We are essentially a reunion association; we do a little other business, but we are mostly a group of vets and families, including a few Gold Star families, who get together every other summer for a few days, enjoy each other's company, and do a little business. No war stories or drunken revelry, we enjoy the fact that we are alive, we remember our losses, but we mostly enjoy the company of each other and our families. We've been together every other year since 1988, and have recently become more involved with 4th PSYOP Group at Ft. Bragg.

I hope you'll take a minute to consider us and then join. Our dues are only \$20 per year, or \$80 for 5 years. We publish a newsletter approximately quarterly, the content and value of which is directly dependent on our members and officers. We are not a veterans' service organization such as VVA, AL, VFW. We are about enjoying each others' company once every other year, and perhaps doing a little business.

If you are interested, please send your name, address, phone, connection to PSYOPs and the dates of your involvement, Rick Hofmann at rgh@psyop.com. Rick will send you our application and that will make it as official as it can be. We are a pretty informal Association, and we do have a good time at our reunions.

Sincerely, and Welcome Home
Rick Hofmann

JUST A REMINDER

Membership dues are \$80.00 for FIVE years or \$20.00 annually.

All enrollments (\$20.00) received after November 1 will be applied to the following year's dues.

"Life Member" - One-time dues of \$200.00.

Please make your checks payable to Psychological Operations Veterans Association and forward to:

Frank & Hazel Coburn
15476 Avenue 332
Ivanhoe, CA 93235

The views and opinions stated in this Newsletter are solely those of the individual members and contributors, and are not necessarily of the Psychological Operations Veterans Association (POVA). 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.

23 Bow Mills Rd
Center Barnstead,
NH 03225

Seasons
Greetings

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Seasons
Greetings

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

Credibilis

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

Volume 15, Number 2

Summer 2002



Dear fellow Psywarriors,

Where does one start when there is so much to say? When there is so much to be grateful for? I guess I will start with the gratitude that fills my heart and Cindy's. You the members, spouses and friends of POVA have truly humbled me by electing me as your new President and making Cindy feel so much a part of our family.

Although I have been down this road before in '92' and '94' and those moments were truly special, 2002 really is a plus for Cindy and I and I hope for all of you. You are POVA! You have trusted me to lead POVA for the next two years. I will not let you down! POVA today is very much alive and well because of a lot of work by many people over the last 14 plus years.

First, thank you! The reunion has been best described by many that I have spoken to as "the best yet"! Thank you for these comments and also the award you gave me and the wonderful picture frame for Cindy! Both not necessary, but already on the wall and mantle!

Cindy and I both thank all of you. A special thanks to Col James Treadwell, commanding officer of the 4th Psyop GP, for attending our ceremony at the Tomb and for his presence at our dinner. We are all proud you were with us and even more proud of the men and women of the Psyop community. God speed in all your work! We stand ready to serve you and your people. To Rick Hofmann, our past-president, current vice-president and locator, many thanks for his leadership, tireless effort and support to me over the years. He helped so much with the reunion, and has been a loyal friend to all in POVA. I know I speak for all of you when I say that Rick will be a constant source of energy helping POVA and it's members attain their goals. Thanks to Joe Rosenberg for working so hard during the planning stages of the reunion, setting up the "crab feast", the winery tour and so much more. He has done all of that and has stood up once again to become your secretary. Welcome to the board Joe. Frank and Hazel Coburn for keeping the funds, replying to our needs for the reunion and for their undying loyalty we thank you both! Al and Bobbie Forgacz, for Al's tireless efforts in producing the newsletter and giving it the expertise and personal touch it has. Of course we have to thank Bobbie for so much, but most of all for getting Al to return phone calls!! Chad Spawr, welcome to the team once again! Your support, friendship and leadership has helped to put POVA on the map! We are better people for having you as our new "Military and Special Operations Liaison Officer"! I can only imagine where your insights will take us now! Col (ret) Charlie Borchini for all

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your help since that day in 1997 when we met at 4th GP headquarters. You have been a constant source of information, especially with the past reunion and ceremony at "The Tomb of the Unknown". We all look forward to working with you in the future. Capt. Dave Albanese for your constant flow of information about the happenings at not only 4th GP, but with the entire Psyop community. Thanks Dave! To all the new members of the board, Stan Michelsen, John Cheney and Ed Rouse as your trustees. Welcome! Your promises of being proactive are heard loud and clear. We need you and welcome your efforts for POVA! Mike Paschkes for joining our board as assistant-editor, working with Al to produce, I'm sure, an even better newsletter! Tony Newcomb is a special addition to the board as the new Veteran's Affairs Officer and 2004 reunion chairman. Tony brings lots of experience to both positions. We are lucky to have him. I ask all of you to work with Tony in the next 2 years to help make our next reunion even better. Last but not least our nominations officer, Dave Missavage. He has been doing this job for several years and contributed so much to POVA! Dave we applaud you.



Capt. Dave Albanese and wife Julie

There is so much going on with POVA, all of the Psyop and Special Operations community, both active and reserve. We, with Chad's leadership, will follow them closely. We are even offering free membership to all active duty personal.

We are also planning on working with Col (ret) Dr. Al Paddock and other members of the Regimental Association. Al will be keeping me informed of his progress and, working with the board, we will present findings and recommendations to you, the members. Also Steve Maxner, from Texas Tech University (who is with oral history Vietnam archives project) will be contacting many of us for interviews. This is one's choice, but we carried a motion at the business meeting to work closely with Steve and his staff. I welcome all of you to join us.

Well, I'm sure I've forgotten something or someone, but in closing just let me say that the team assembled this year at our reunion is the best yet. We are here to serve you, the membership. The contributions were many this year! Please feel free to contact me or any member of the board at anytime. Cindy and I welcome any of you to our home. Thanks once again for your trust and friendship. God bless you all and God Bless America.

Loyally,
Jack O'Neil President co-founder POVA 4th GP 6TH
Batt Vietnam 68-70



FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance forward:
July 1, 2002 \$2129.27

Income: Dues, reunion fees, Donations \$1997.72	Expenses: Holiday Inn Baltimore \$1705.84 Hospitality room \$ 273.70 Roses for ceremony \$ 65.70 Additional wreath \$ 132.40
Total Income: \$1997.72	Total expenses: \$2177.64

Balance on hand:
August 1, 2002 \$1949.35



Submitted by:

The Coburns



Above:

Frank Coburn slaving away over the financial books while Hazel's just hanging around!

New Email Addresses:

Dave Schultz dps7@optonline.net
 Dick Holzheimer rholzh@yahoo.com



Important Phone Numbers for Members & Families

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Credibilis 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)

(Please inform the Newsletter Editor if any of the above telephone numbers are incorrect or have been changed)

**POVA MEETING NOTES
JULY 13, 2002**

The Biennial meeting of POVA was held at Holiday Inn in Timonium, MD. It was called to order at 8:30AM by President Rick Hoffman. It opened with an invocation by Vice-President Jack O'Neil and the Pledge of Allegiance. 24 members were present out of 161 total membership, which is the net after 74 losses since the group was organized by five men in 1988. On file are 3279 names of potential members. Present were Dave Affleck who dates to WWII, Mike Paschkes and Len Rudy from the Korean War, and the rest were Vietnam Vets.

Treasurer Frank Coburn reported that from a beginning balance of \$2185, the net would be approximately \$200 after the reunion, with estimated expenses for it of almost \$2,000. Accordingly, a motion was made, seconded and passed to assess each member present \$25 which would add \$600 to the treasury along with receipts from the raffle, unpaid dues and dues effective January 2003. Annual expenses run approximately \$1,200.

Discussion was held on the need for an award to be bestowed by POVA to worthy individuals or organizations and by motion made, seconded and passed, this will be called "The Military Order of Tom Paine". Paine, the writer of "Common Sense" was an outstanding propagandist. In earlier articles about this program it was called the "Order of Saint Gabriel"

In answer to a call from Al Forgacz for help with the POVA newsletter, Mike Paschkes, who also lives in the New York City area and has had many years of editorial experience, including the Seventh Army Sentinel while in the service, volunteered to assist.

Elections were held for various offices, each nomination seconded and voted upon favorably, the following members will serve for the next two years:

President — Jack O'Neil

Vice President and Locator — Rick Hofmann

Treasurer — Frank Coburn

Trustees — John Cheney, Stan Michaelson and Ed Rouse

Secretary — Joe Rosenberg

Liaison Officer — Chad Spawr

Veterans' Affairs — Tony Newcomb

Nominations Officer — Dave Missavage

Historian for Life — Tom Brandt

Special Certificates of Recognition of new members were distributed by President Rick Hofmann. In anticipation of the bus tour to Washington, DC to place wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery and the Vietnam Memorial, Mike Paschkes and Len Rudy were given the special honor of placing one at the Korean War Memorial, both having served in the 5th Loudspeaker and Leaflet Co. during that time.

A special presentation was made by Steve Maxner of the Vietnam Center in Texas Tech University, which has received a grant of \$960,000 from the Dept. of Education to continue its work of collecting an oral history of the Vietnam War. He was willing to coordinate with POVA and make available CDs of our history and materials. It was moved, seconded and passed to endorse the project. Tom Brandt will coordinate with the Texas Tech project.

By motion made, seconded and passed, the next reunion will be at Ft. Bragg, on the same corresponding weekend in July 2004. Tony Newcomb will be the reunion coordinator.

Dr. Al Paddock, who retired recently from 31 years of active duty, and has authored a book on Special Warfare, reported on the Special Warfare Center that has been established at Ft. Bragg, to which he has been named an advisor. A psyop regiment has been formed. Both organizations need to explore the parameters of a future relationship and our mutual paradigm. Al is preparing a newsletter article on the "Regiment's" potential relationship with POVA.



Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Joe "Beppe" Rosenberg

Bus Trip To Washington D.C.



From the Editors Desk

As you can see, I've tried to incorporate as many photos from the reunion as space allows. I have many additional personal photos. In addition I would like to thank Ed Rouse, Jack O'Neil, and Stan Michelsen for the photos and negatives they submitted to me. Reviewing and selecting just the "right" ones was a difficult task.

Since I have quite a few more that I would have liked to put in...but was unable to...I plan on including some additional ones in the next newsletter (specifically pictures at the banquet)

In addition, I would like to reprint Page 12 (Guys & Dolls), with captions, identifying each and every person in the photo. To do this I need your help. I would appreciate it if anyone can assist me in identifying all the individuals (this is not a homework assignment). Send information to:

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

or Email me at: forgacza@aol.com or forgacza@coned.com

POVA and the Regiment: A Future Relationship

**By
Al Paddock**

At our 2002 reunion in Baltimore, incoming president Jack O'Neil asked me to make a short presentation concerning a possible future role for POVA and its relationship with the PSYOP Regiment. He also asked me to follow this up with an article on the subject for inclusion in CREDIBILIS, thus this piece.

A brief bit of background may be useful, particularly for our newer POVA members. The US Army Psychological Operations Regiment, activated in November 1998 at Fort Bragg, NC, consists of three groups: the 2d, 4th, and 7th. The 4th is an active component unit, stationed at Fort Bragg, NC; the 2d and 7th are reserve component.

The US Army Regimental System (USARS), created in 1981, is intended to provide soldiers an identification with a regiment and increase the probability of recurring assignments with that unit. According to AR 600-82, the USARS purpose is "to enhance combat effectiveness through a framework that provides the opportunity for affiliation, develops loyalty and commitment, fosters an extended sense of belonging, improves unit esprit, and institutionalizes the war fighting spirit."

Honorary Members of the Regiment (e.g. Honorary Colonel and Honorary Sergeant Major) are appointed to perpetuate the history and traditions of the regiment. AR 600-82 states that the Honorary Colonel "may also act as a liaison between his or her regiment and a regimental association (private organization) if one exists." Unlike our sister regiments in the US Army Special Operations Command--Civil Affairs, Special Forces, and Ranger--Psychological Operations does not have a regimental association.

Two private PSYOP associations have existed since the 1980s: POVA and the Psychological Operations Association (POA). POVA began principally as a reunion organization for Vietnam veterans of the 4th PSYOP Group, but more recently has opened its membership to include personnel who have served in or provided support to military PSYOP. POVA has developed a close relationship with the 4th PSYOP Group. It publishes a newsletter, CREDIBILIS, holds biennial reunions, and its membership has grown modestly.

POA began with an ambitious charter to "assist and advance the capabilities of our military forces in psychological operations." Membership is open to all military services; in fact, two of its former presidents were Air Force officers. At its peak, the POA held annual meetings in conjunction with the DoD World Wide PSYOP Conference and presented awards to personnel who made significant contributions to military psychological operations. It publishes a PSYOP journal, PERSPECTIVES, and offers an e-mail PSYOP letter service. In recent years POA's activities and its membership have dropped off sharply.

Together the two PSYOP associations' paid membership probably totals no more than 300. Neither POVA nor POA has been successful in recruiting members from the active and reserve component groups (approximately 3,500 personnel), or from veterans of these units. I believe that a major reason for this lack of success is because neither POVA nor POA is a true regimental association, as is the case with the other special operations associations previously cited.

Simply forming a regimental association in addition to the two existing associations, however, is not in the best interests on either POVA or POA. If young officers and soldiers are presented with three associations to choose among, they probably would select only the regimental association--a situation that over the long term would not augur well for the continued growth of POVA or POA.

I suggest that POVA examine transforming into a regimental association and possibly merging with POA. This undoubtedly will necessitate compromises by both POVA and POA. If each, however, insists on retaining a rigid interpretation of its original charter, such a merger will not work. Issues like non-Army members will have to be re-examined, and perhaps associate memberships created. Nevertheless, neither association should lose perspective--the largest potential recruiting pool lies in the Army active and reserve units and their veterans. The potential numbers from other sources pale by comparison. Our goal should be to offer a package that appeals to both serving and former PSYOPers.

Down the road we could envisage chapters across the US, for example, formed close to active and reserve units and metropolitan areas in which large numbers of PSYOP veterans reside. Certainly a reunion aspect would be an integral part of such an organization. The key point, nonetheless, is to have an association that actively represents the PSYOP Regiment, as does the SFA and CAA.

One argument heard against forming a regimental association is that the Regiment itself has not established an effective governing body. This is true. The reasons for this situation include a high level of operational requirements for both our active and reserve units and other factors that don't require elucidation here. An initial meeting, however, of the Regimental Board of Directors will be held at the DoD World Wide PSYOP Conference in November.

Nevertheless, I do not believe that we should gauge a decision on forming a regimental association on the progress of the Regimental Board of Directors. Indeed, it may well be when the Regiment's units are in their highest levels of operational tempo that a good regimental association can serve its most useful purpose. It may also be the case that an active regimental association would spur the Regimental Board of Directors to become more engaged.

Transforming POVA into a regimental association will require discussion among, and the full support of, POVA's membership; close coordination between the leadership of POVA and POA; and development of a plan of action. While not a small undertaking, this is a worthwhile challenge for POVA to consider.

Fellow Psywarriors and Friends,



POVA's 2002 biennial reunion has now come and gone, and it was truly a splendid affair. Our reunions have just gotten better, ever since the first reunion in March 1988.

One of the reasons the reunions get better is because POVA continues to grow and get better. We've grown from the 5 original founders in 1988 to encompass over 500 psywarriors from World War II, the Korean Era, Viet-Nam, Panama, Desert Storm, the Balkans, numerous and ongoing worldwide PSYOP

deployments, and the current conflict in southwest Asia. Along the way, we've grown from a group limited to Viet-Nam veterans of the 4th PSYOP Group to a true psywarrior "home" for all participants and contributors to the profession of military psychological operations.

Of particular interest for this note, POVA has opened doors to long-term relationships with not only the 4th PSYOP Group (ABN), but also to the Army's Reserve PSYOP units as well as to those other services which provide support and assistance to military psychological operations. These include Air Force crews who flew our missions, as well as those who today fly in support of PSYOP's. We are also seeing interest from other members of the Special Operations community, including Rangers, Special Forces, Civil Affairs, and Air Force special operations professionals.....all have been involved in or support military psychological operations.

In recognition of POVA's growth beyond the small number of Viet-Nam veteran psywarriors, POVA established a new leadership position entitled "Military/Special Operations Liaison Officer." I am proud to have been entrusted by my brethren to hold this office. In this new role, I will serve as the initial point of contact with the Psychological Operations Regiment's active and reserve units as well as with other military and special operations units which may have involvement with PSYOP's. Our goal is to identify and then create and develop ongoing relationships with these organizations and thereby develop interest in POVA as a membership organization. It is only fitting and proper that POVA should make these contacts, as military PSYOP's is clearly a significant element of America's Special Operations community.

Over the past several years, POVA has developed special friendships and relations with the 4th PSYOP Group and its commanders. Beginning with Charlie Borchini (COL, Ret, USA), a new and harmonious relationship was created; that was continued under the leadership of Chris St. John (COL, Ret, USA); and continues today with COL Jim Treadwell, today's 4th POG Commanding Officer. All three POG CO's are members of POVA, and are considered to be valued contributors. They are joined by former 4th POG CO Al Paddock (COL, Ret, USA), who is also a POVA Life

Member, and others all the way back to David Affleck (COL, Ret, USA), who was the CO of 4th Group's predecessor unit, the 6th PSYOP Battalion; David, who also commanded the 2d POG at Ft. Bragg in 1970-71, is also a Life Member of POVA.

POVA is real; POVA is alive; and POVA is growing. POVA is the "home" for all psywarriors whether they be active, reserve, or veteran. We also include Gold Star and Next of Kin members. As we continue to grow, my office will expand contacts with individuals, organizations, and agencies which contribute to the ongoing success of military psychological operations. By such outreach will POVA continue to lead as the one place where all psywarriors can look for their heritage, tradition, culture, and reunion "home."

I am pleased and proud to have the honor to serve POVA and its members in this new office. I am proud to continue playing a role in this organization and to serve our members both today and tomorrow.

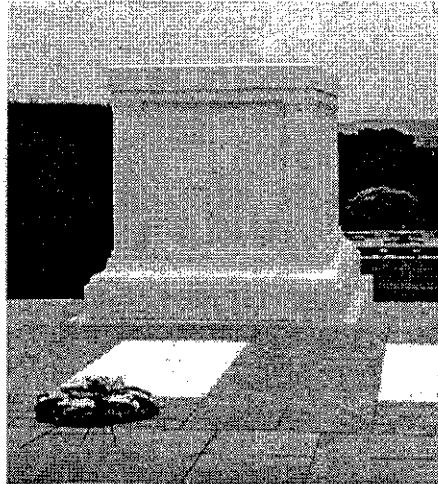
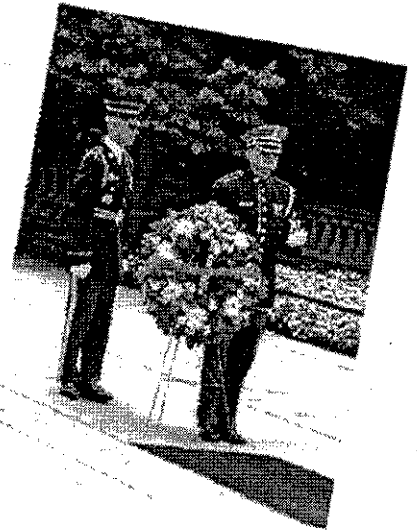
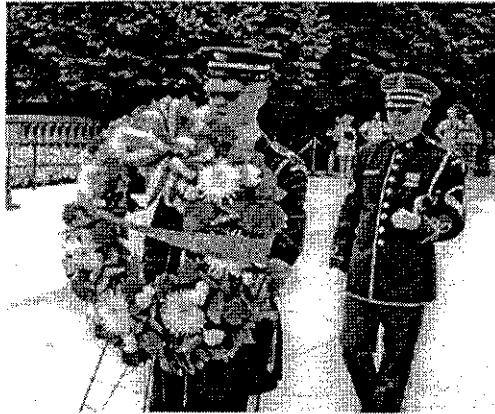
Chad Spawr
Military/Special Operations Liaison Officer
POVA Co-Founder (1988)
Trustee (1988-96)
Past President (1996-00)
Viet-Nam 1967-69

Dear Newfound Friends,

Don't know how to thank you three couples in particular, although there were many more, for one of the most remarkable weekends I can remember. Your warmth, the welcome, the many honors and the feeling of belonging just made it something very, very special for me and Mary. We know we'll be seeing Al and Bobbie soon after our return in Mid-August, and certainly hope it won't be two years before we see the newlyweds and the New Englanders again.

Hope you got home safely.
Bless you all.
Mike and Mary

Placement of Wreath At the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier



Pictured Above:

Col Treadwell

POVA representatives:

Jack O'Niel, Chad Spawr, and
Rick Hofmann

Along with Honor Guard

Hi There Jack!



Well I actually sat down and wrote this last night. I want you to know that I don't have much faith in my expressing myself in writing (in person I have no trouble whatsoever!). However Stanley told me that this was fine. I didn't want to mention anyone in particular for fear of leaving someone out so I just put down my overall impression. If it's not what you are looking for I certainly will not be insulted should you decide not to use the piece.

I also want to thank you for all of your hard work and efforts to make this reunion such a memorable experience for all who came especially the guy we left at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier!--Just kidding!). I really look forward to seeing you in NC unless you manage to get to the Keys before that!

Please give my love to your lovely wife, Cindy. You are a lucky man!

Where do I even begin to describe my feelings and impressions of this year's PSYOP reunion. The very first word that comes to mind is "emotional". When friends ask me how our vacation to DC was, my response has been, "What a truly emotional, moving experience. "The silence at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The heart wrenching, tearful moments at the Viet Nam Wall. The solemnest at the Korean Memorial. That Saturday was an exhilarating and exhausting day. A wonderful day. A memorable day. To be able to experience these memorials with some of the men who gave their hearts and souls to these wars as well as with some of the families who paid the ultimate price, the loss of their loved one, was a true honor. I thank you all.



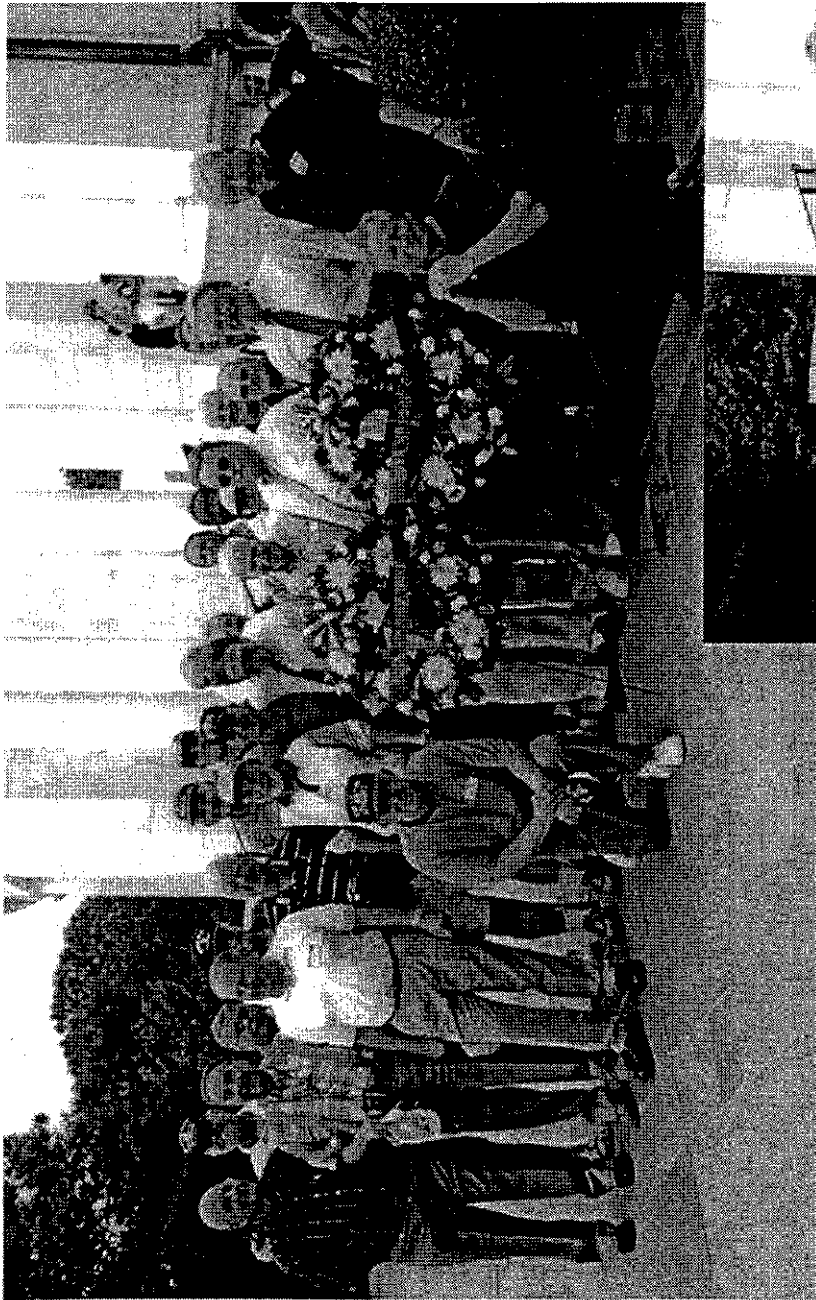
Then of course, there were all of the "fun" times and "fun" people. There was that delicious 'crab feast", a trip to the zoo, a trip to the waterfront, trying to relax in the world's hottest Jacuzzi, many, many more buffet breakfasts than one needs, a moving and memorable banquet and many chats and drinks together in the lobby. What a great bunch we are, if I do say so myself! There were those of us who had been at previous reunions and just seemed to pickup where we left off and then there were all of the new friends we made. And let's not forget the men who recognize one another for the first time in 30 years or more and the bond that's never really been broken.



I personally want to thank all of you for making this a reunion I will never forget. Then I just want to say I hope to see all of you (and some new members) in North Carolina in two years. God bless all of you and God bless America and all of those who help to keep us free.

Love You All,
Marlene

Guys



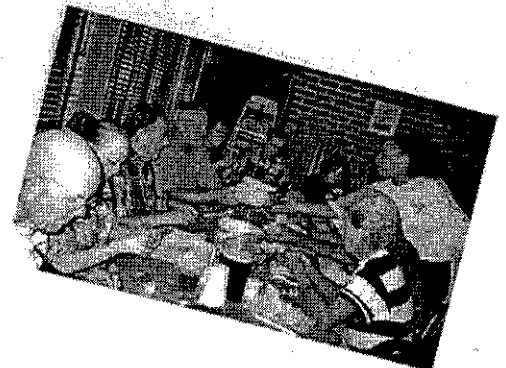
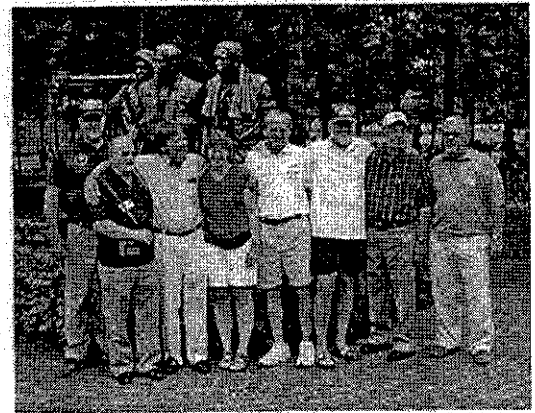
& Dolls



**Wreath Ceremony
At
Vietnam Memorial**



**Wreath Ceremony
At
Korean Memorial**



Message to a Prospective New Member.

We are essentially a reunion association; we do a little other business, but we are mostly a group of vets and families, including a few Gold Star families, who get together every other summer for a few days, enjoy each other's company, and do a little business. No war stories or drunken revelry, we enjoy the fact that we are alive, we remember our losses, but we mostly enjoy the company of each other and our families. We've been together every other year since 1988, and have recently become more involved with 4th PSYOP Group at Ft. Bragg.

I hope you'll take a minute to consider us and then join. Our dues are only \$20 per year, or \$80 for 5 years. We publish a newsletter approximately quarterly, the content and value of which is directly dependent on our members and officers. We are not a veterans' service organization such as VVA, AL, VFW. We are about enjoying each others' company once every other year, and perhaps doing a little business.

If you are interested, please send your name, address, phone, connection to PSYOPs and the dates of your involvement, Rick Hofmann at richard.hofmann@phwilm.zeneca.com. Rick will send you our application and that will make it as official as it can be. We are a pretty informal Association, and we do have a good time at our reunions.

Sincerely, and Welcome Home
Rick Hofmann

JUST A REMINDER

Membership dues are \$80.00 for FIVE years or \$20.00 annually.

All enrollments (\$20.00) received after November 1 will be applied to the following year's dues.

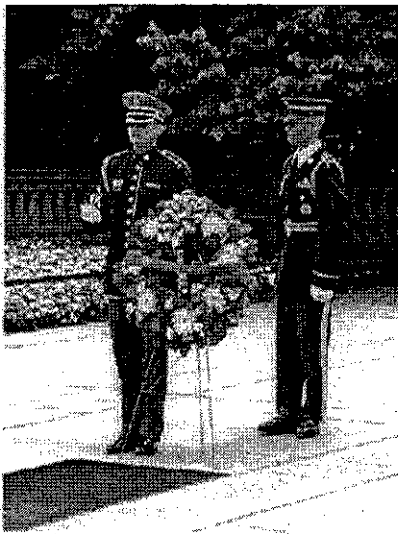
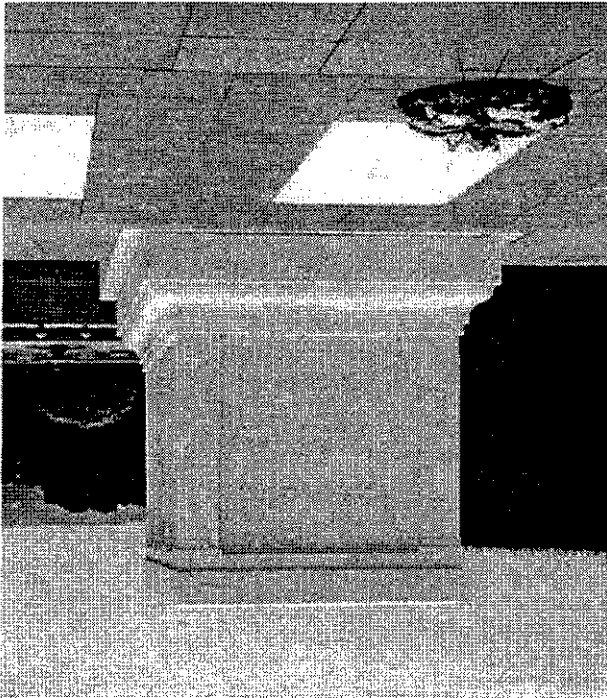
"Life Member" - One-time dues of \$200.00.

Please make your checks payable to Psychological Operations Veterans Association and forward to:

*Frank & Hazel Coburn
15476 Avenue 332
Ivanhoe, CA 93235*

<p>The views and opinions stated in this Newsletter are solely those of the individual members and contributors, and are not necessarily of the Psychological Operations Veterans Association (POVA). No member or contributor may individually create organizational policy or modify or amend the Constitution</p>
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