



Ex Verba Victoria

POVA LEAFLET DROP - MARCH 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and welcome to Spring and your March Leaflet Drop.

In March we welcomed two new members: Daniel Felton and Laura Arrington.

Your Board of Directors held their first meeting on 1 March. Anyone who would like a copy of the minutes can email me at: Dietz.POVA@gmail.com and I will send a copy.

Some highlights from our meeting were:

- We welcomed Daniel Wood as our Scholarship Committee Chairman.
- The February Leaflet Drop was sent to 579 email addresses.
 - We had a 60.4% open rate which is well above the industry rate of between 17 and 28%
- We are evaluating moving our banking relationship and are considering Wells Fargo and Edward Jones. Anyone with input please let me know.
- Brett Cox, President of our St. Louis Chapter reported that the chapter is preparing for a major reinvigoration over the summer. They will continue to have their meetings at a local Elk's Lodge.
- Our next virtualBoard meeting is scheduled for 12 April at 1900 Eastern Time. If you would like to attend please let me know via email.

I have tried to contact the Commanding General of the JFKSWC who serves as the PSYOP Regimental Home Base Commander. Thus far, I have not been able to get on his calendar. If anyone can help facilitate a virtual office call, I would appreciate it.

We still have several Board and Committee positions vacant. Filling these positions is critical to moving the organization forward. I have put the titles and job descriptions at the end of this message. We need members to step forward and help us lead the organization. If you are interested, please send me an email @ dietz.pova@gmail.com.

Our POVA FaceBook page continues to be quite popular and we have a particularly rich collection of material in our PSYOP News this month.

If you missed the February Leaflet Drop, you can find it at:
<https://conta.cc/3Z40oiP>

Together POVA can continue to support the PSYOP Regiment - soldiers and veterans - to ensure that we maintain our legacy of excellence.

Larry

Lawrence D. Dietz
President

Open POVA Board & Committee Chair Positions

The Vice President of Corporate Relations will organize, coordinate, and execute plans to raise funds for philanthropic purposes. The plan must be approved by the President following review by the Board, and will propose potential donors, levels of support, and identify a proposed biennial giving plan to support the Association's philanthropic objectives. This plan will be defined for a biennial calendar and will be reviewed annually by the Board to measure performance to plan.

Membership Chairman- responsible managing all services associated with membership:

1. Membership Recruiting
 2. Membership OnBoarding
 3. Welcome Packet Coordination for Life Members (with Chad Spawr)
 4. Welcome letter for other members
 5. Entry into Constant Contact
 6. Maintains the accuracy and integrity of our membership database in Constant Contact
 7. Organizes and manages a system whereby annual and two year members are solicited for renewal.
 8. Develop a system to convert free serving members to paid members when they are no longer serving or sooner if possible.
 9. Helps to reconcile legacy files with new members.
- a. Perhaps a postcard campaign to POA Members makes sense to update their information in our database.

All above needs reformatting

Parliamentarian

1. Responsible for the maintenance of the Constitution.
2. Responsible development of appropriate by-laws, hopefully modeled from other organizations such as the Civil Affairs Association
(https://www.civilaffairsassoc.org/_files/ugd/85da1e_ecfb11bc260d4f0db0e77850ca917f1b.pdf)
3. Works with appropriate resources and individuals to help the Board understand the issues involved with IRS 503c Non Profit Organizations and IRS 503- and IRC 503-c19 Veterans Organizations (see:
<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable->

[organizations/exemption-requirements-501c3-organizations](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/veterans-organizations/exemption-requirements-501c3-organizations) and <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/veterans-organizations>)

4. In the absence of a Secretary may be asked to take minutes of official Board meetings.

Events and Reunions Chairman

1. Responsible for the planning and execution of all POVA reunions and other events.
2. Provides the Board with advice and information concerning the pro's and con's of events along with a pro forma financial analysis of the profitability/cost of the proposed events.

PSYOP NEWS - MARCH 2023

3/15/23

Russian Psyops in Northern Europe

Russian Strategic Psychological Operations (Psyops), specifically information operations, have an important place in the Kremlin's foreign policy and Russian military strategy. Russia is conducting psyops on a global scale. Still, the war in Ukraine, the increasing attention to the Arctic region, and the Swedish and Finnish applications to NATO are all factors which increase strategic value in psyops targeting [Northern Europe](#).

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

3/10/23

US says intelligence shows Russia stirring unrest in Moldova

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence officials have determined that people with ties to Russian intelligence are planning to stage protests in hopes of toppling the Moldovan government, [according to the White House](#).

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the intelligence shows that actors, some connected with Russian intelligence, are seeking to stage and use protests in Moldova as a basis to foment an insurrection against Moldova's new pro-Western government.

Kirby said the intelligence shows that another set of Russian actors would provide training and help manufacture demonstrations in Moldova, which was granted European Union candidate status in June, on the same day as Ukraine, its war-torn neighbor.

<http://bit.ly/3yDBN9x>

3/9/23

Defeating the Deepfake Danger

[Deepfakes](#) are part of the ongoing trend of weaponized AI. They're extremely effective in the context of social engineering because they use AI to mimic human communications so well. With tools like these, malicious actors can easily hoodwink people into giving them credentials or other sensitive information, or even transfer

money for instant financial gain.

Deepfakes represent the next generation of fraud, by enabling bad actors to impersonate people more accurately and thus trick employees, friends, customers, etc., into doing things like turning over sensitive credentials or wiring money.

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

3/6/23

US sees China propaganda efforts becoming more like Russia's

FILE - A Chinese flag hangs near a security camera outside of a shop in Beijing on Oct. 8, 2019. China has long been seen by the U.S. as a prolific source of anti-American propaganda but less aggressive in its influence operations than Russia, which has used cyberattacks and covert operations to disrupt U.S. elections and denigrate rivals. But many in Washington now think China is increasingly adopting tactics associated with Russia — and there's growing concern the U.S. isn't doing enough to respond. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — China has long been seen by the U.S. as a prolific source of anti-American propaganda but less aggressive in its [influence operations](#) than Russia, which has used [cyberattacks](#) and [covert operations](#) to disrupt U.S. elections and denigrate rivals.

But many in Washington now think China is increasingly adopting tactics associated with Russia — and there's growing concern the U.S. isn't doing enough to respond. U.S. officials and outside experts cite recent examples of China-linked actors generating false news reports with artificial intelligence and posting large volumes of denigrating social media posts. While many of the discovered efforts are amateurish, experts think they signal an apparent willingness from Beijing to try more influence campaigns as part of a broader embrace of covert operations, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

<http://bit.ly/3Jjis3E>

3/6/23

US Special Forces Want to Use Deepfakes for PSY-OPs

U.S. Special Operations Command, responsible for some of the country's most secretive military endeavors, is gearing up to conduct internet propaganda and deception campaigns online using deepfake videos, according to federal contracting documents reviewed by The Intercept.

The plans, which also describe hacking internet-connected devices to eavesdrop in order to assess foreign populations' susceptibility to propaganda, come at a time of intense [global](#) debate over technologically sophisticated "disinformation" campaigns, their effectiveness, and the ethics of their use.

<http://bit.ly/3L3XbME>

And <http://bit.ly/3kUhDEY>

And <http://bit.ly/3JplfqI>

3/2/23

A Private Company is Using Social Media to Track Down Russian Soldiers

On Oct. 12, 2022, Russian soldier Aleksey Lebedev logged onto VKontakte, Russia's most popular social network, and uploaded a photo of himself in military fatigues crouching in a large white tent. He had been smart enough to obscure his face with a balaclava, but unfortunately for Lebedev and his comrades, he did not obscure the exact location from which he had posted: Svobodne village in southern Donetsk.

Lebedev's post was picked up by a Ukrainian military investigations company called Molfar. This lead was transferred to an analyst in its open-source intelligence (OSINT) branch, and investigators spent the next few hours constructing a target location profile for Lebedev and his military unit. The unit's location was believed to be a training base for Russian and pro-Russian separatist troops. After discovering two other photos posted from the same location by pro-Russian servicemen—as well as other corroborating evidence, which was shared with *Foreign Policy*—Molfar passed its findings onto Ukrainian intelligence.

<http://bit.ly/3Ji927b>

3/2/23

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III Message to the Force

Today, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, published a Message to the Force to reaffirm his three priorities: defending the Nation, taking care of our people, and succeeding through teamwork. The memorandum reinforces the guiding principles and critical priorities in accordance with the National Defense Strategy while recognizing the commitment and hard work of the Department.

Secretary Austin provided his priorities and specific areas of focus:

1. DEFEND THE NATION

Prioritize China as the "Pacing Challenge"

Tackle the Acute Russian Threat

Address Advanced and Persistent Threats

Innovate and Modernize

Meet the Climate Crisis

2. TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

Build Resilience and Readiness

Ensure Accountable Leadership

3. SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

Strengthen Partnerships Across America

Build Unity Within the Department

3/1/23

US Cyber Command developing on intelligence hub

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — U.S. Cyber Command, tasked with defending Department of Defense IT networks and coordinating cyberspace operations, is developing its own intelligence hub, after years of relying on other information-gathering sources. The endeavor, still in its infancy, is meant to buttress data collection and augment CYBERCOM's understanding of foreign capabilities in [the ever-expanding cyber realm](#).

"We know everything about a T-72 tank, all the way to every nut and bolt in there, for the Army," Col. Candice Frost, the leader of the Joint Intelligence Operations Center at CYBERCOM, said at a Feb. 28 event hosted by Billington Cybersecurity in Virginia. "But we don't have that for networks, with respect to an all-source capability."

"Congress asked us: Do we need a center that is focused on all-source intelligence to [support Cyber Command](#), in the cyber domain?" Frost said. "And the answer was a resounding yes."

<http://bit.ly/3mhIVW8>

2/27/23

NSA Shares "Best Practices for Securing Your Home Network:

Don't be a victim! Malicious cyber actors may leverage your home network to gain access to personal, private, and confidential information. Help protect yourself, your family, and your work by practicing cybersecurity-aware behaviors, observing some basic configuration guidelines, and implementing the following mitigations on your

home

network

<http://bit.ly/3y5WGtv>

2/27/23

From the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO):

[Counterespionage Corner - Recent Arrests, Convictions, Expulsions, and more...](#)

- Australia to deport Kazakh-born Irish woman for allegedly spying for Russia - [Intel News, 26 Feb 23](#)
- Chinese spy who visited key Delhi 'installations' held during Nepal return - [Times of India, 24 Feb 23](#)
- Ex-Army colonel who spied for China sentenced to 7.5 years in prison - [Focus Taiwan, 24 Feb 23](#)
- DRDO Official Arrested on Espionage Charges, Sent to 4-day Police Custody - [News18, 25 Feb 23](#)
- Polish authorities charge Russian with spying for Moscow - [Associated Press, 23 Feb 23](#)
- Danish former minister charged with revealing state secrets - [Associated Press, 21 Feb 23](#)
- Delhi NIA court convicts one terrorist in espionage case - [Law Beat, 27 Feb 23](#)

- Lithuanian citizen once again arrested in espionage case - **Delfi, 27 Feb 23**
- Former FBI National Security Branch Agent Gets Prison For Leaking Info To Armenian Mob - **Patch, 27 Feb 23**

2/23 Many cyber operations conducted by Russia are yet to be publicly disclosed. According to a joint report published by the Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD), and the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIVD), many cyber operations conducted by Russia-linked hackers against Ukraine and NATO members during the past year have yet to be publicly disclosed.

“Before and during the war, Russian intelligence and security services engaged in widespread digital espionage, sabotage and influencing against Ukraine and NATO allies.” reads the [joint report](#). “The pace of Russian cyber operations is fast and many of these attempts have not yet become public knowledge. Ukrainian and Western digital defenses have so far been able to limit the impact of continued Russian attack attempts. Throughout the war, Russia has also found it difficult to synchronize cyber operations with other military operations, such as airstrikes. By far the largest part of Russian cyber operations is aimed at espionage to obtain military, diplomatic and economic information from both Ukraine and NATO allies.”

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

2/23/23

What Pentagon leaders say they have learned one year on from the battle in Ukraine.

One year ago Russia invaded Ukraine, sparking a conflict that’s resulted in, by one **US estimate**, over 200,000 casualties. It also has provided key lessons about modern warfare that, until the last year, were largely academic in nature.

Watching two relatively advanced militaries face off provided a new window into war, a generation beyond the far more asymmetric nature of the War on Terror. And while the US military surely isn’t advertising everything it has learned, the last 12 months saw repeated public declarations from just about every service and specialty about how they’re incorporating what they’ve seen play out in eastern Europe. The article provides a selection of those lessons, curated by the Breaking Defense staff.

<http://bit.ly/3kuok0f>

2/23/23

193rd SOW Welcomes New Aircraft and Mission

The first MC-130J Commando II aircraft arrived at Middletown, Pa., Feb 2, 2023, achieving a major milestone in the 193rd Special Operations Wing’s mission conversion. The 193 SOW is the first, and currently the only, Air National Guard unit to receive the Commando II mission, a flagship mission of Air Force Special Operations Command.

“This is a monumental day for the 193rd, ANG, and AFSOC. The Commando II mission will ensure the 193rd SOW remains not only relevant, but also at the forefront of the battlespace for years to come,” said Col. Edward Fink, 193rd SOW commander.

<http://bit.ly/3Z8E6g2>

2/20/23

The Global Footprint of Chinese Cyber Warfare and Espionage

Turning the pages of history concerning the gradual progress of humankind, right from the ancient to the modern world, a common connecting link can be found. It is called War. But what makes this fact more interesting is the perpetually changing nature of war. It is an expression of numerous variables of history and their complex combination in which war plays a major role that cannot be undermined.

<http://bit.ly/3SDOYk7>

2/15/23

US working with 'Five Eyes' nations, Japan on information warfare

The U.S. is consulting with its "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing partners and additional allies to share and sharpen information-warfare techniques in the Indo-Pacific.

Dialogues and exchanges of best practices are ongoing with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the U.K. and other countries including Japan, according to [Vice Adm. Kelly Aeschbach](#), commander of Naval Information Forces.

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/information-warfare/2023/02/15/us-working-with-five-eyes-nations-japan-on-information-warfare/>

2/14/23

Sailors, soldiers need skills to fight propaganda, Navy's Cleary say

Members of the U.S. military must beef up their media literacy skills as propaganda proliferates and sources of dubious information explode at home and abroad, according to the Navy's principal cyber adviser, Chris Cleary.

The Navy in October published its so-called Cyberspace Superiority Vision, which highlights the values the service is using to shape its future cyber investments and improve its virtual posture, including through what Cleary previously described as the ability to "fight hurt." Months prior, the Marine Corps unveiled its philosophies and frameworks for the information environment, known as [Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 8](#).

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/information-warfare/2023/02/14/sailors-soldiers-need-skills-to-fight-propaganda-navys-cleary-says/>

2/14/23

Wanted: Interns Who Can Make TikTok Hits

The hot new internship for college students is creating TikTok content for brands hawking jewelry, ice cream, sunflower seeds and more.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/12/business/tiktok-interns.html>

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