



The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association
(POVA)

www.usapova.com

1 April 2017

Fellow Psywarriors,

Two years ago, POVA had an "active" roster of approximately 25 PSYOP veterans. The Viet-Nam veteran contingent was fading fast, and attending reunions was increasingly difficult for many. To say that POVA was in serious decline was an understatement.

Today, our "active roster" nears 300 names, including soldiers in both active and Reserve PSYOP organizations, PSYOP veterans, and family members of those who have already passed. Our Life Member roster has expanded from 11 in 2015 to 66 as of this writing. It is gratifying that so many veteran Psywarriors see value in POVA as an organization for their future. The "newer" Psywarriors I have met are interested, energetic, and full of great ideas about how we go forward; they are, after all, the future of POVA.

Yet another addition to our POVA website is our new Blog. It is up and active now as blogPOVA. You can post comments, ideas, thoughts, concerns, etc.. All postings are reviewed and approved before they are finally posted, but unless somebody shows really bad judgment, engages in threatening, hostile, or really inappropriate language, POVA will post it. Pretty sure I'm not too worried about our fellow Psywarriors in this regard.

We are on the move. Good things continue to happen!

Fraternally,

C. V. (Chad) Spawr
President

A Follow up to the March newsletter

Last month's newsletter carried a significant story submitted by POVA Life member Ray Ambrozak, in which he described a project known as "White Star." This project required cooperation of elements of both the Laotian and US governments, and was the first designed PSYOP campaign in the Southeast Asian theater. The Laotian government official was General Phoumi, head of the Royal Laotian Army.

In the newsletter, reference was made to General Phoumi's draft letter, which should have been attached. Due to your editor's oversight, probably brought on by his advancing age and mental maladies (OK, that was gratuitous), the General Phoumi letter was missed. However, it is attached to this newsletter (I got one right!). I apologize to Ray for this oversight, but also to our readers for leaving them hanging. This is worth reading.

Special Warfare Museum at Ft. Bragg is Moving



Current Home of the USA JFK Special Warfare Museum

Please understand that donations to "our" Regimental museum on post are welcome and encouraged!

in Fayetteville. ASOM has rigid rules it must follow about any donation processes, but "our" Special Warfare Museum is much more flexible. Roxanne's letter is appended to the end of this newsletter; please read it! If you are interested in donating any of your PSYOP memorabilia, please contact her at merittr@socom.mil:

Worthwhile Reading!



John Stryker "Tilt" Meyer

On recommendation of a friend several months ago, I downloaded a Kindle book entitled Across the Fence: The Secret War in Viet-Nam, written by John Stryker Meyer. A Green Beret, John is a Special Operations brother and recent friend of POVA.

For those interested in genuine "on the ground" real-world history about American Special Forces long-range reconnaissance, John's book is first-class. As a recon team leader in MACV-Studies and Observation Group (SOG), John led a joint American-Vietnamese recon team....RT Idaho. Here is John's bio:

John Stryker Meyer was born January 19, 1946, and entered the Army Dec. 1, 1966. He completed basic training at Ft. Dix, N.J., advanced infantry training at Ft. Gordon, Ga., jump school at Ft. Benning, Ga., and graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in Dec. 1967. He arrived at FOB 1 Phu Bai in May 1968, where he joined Spike Team Idaho, which transferred to Command & Control North, CCN in Da Nang, January 1969. In October 1969 he rejoined RT Idaho at CCN. That tour of duty ended suddenly in April 1970.

Today John is a program director at the Veterans Affordable Housing Program, based in Orange, CA and joined the SOFREP team of correspondents in March 2015. He has written two

non-fiction books on SOG secret wars: [Across The Fence: The Secret War in Vietnam](#) - Expanded Edition, and Co-Authored [On The Ground: The Secret War in Vietnam](#) with John E. Peters, a member of RT Rhode Island. Meyer's website is: www.sogchronicles.com.

(Editor note: I just finished [On the Ground](#): and it was excellent. Really good writing and a good look at the world of the SF SOG guys in action. For those interested, E-books are least expensive, and folks can order directly through John to avoid PayPal. See the link to his website in the preceding paragraph.

POVA's Life Members

POVA is very pleased to introduce our new Life Members. We are very grateful for their confidence and support, and welcome them to our Association. Our newest Life Members are [Bruce Leahy](#), [Denton Poe](#), [Dorothea Burke](#), [Darrell J. Weatherford](#), [Robert A. Martinez](#), and [Howard R. Charbonneau](#).

Thanks for supporting POVA and your fellow Psywarriors.

David Affleck *
Jack O'Neil *
David Schultz
David Albanese
Alfred Paddock
John Cheney
Arlo Despain
William Forgey
Eric Hersh
Rick Hofmann
Stanley Michelsen
Hammond Salley
James Osborne
C. V. (Chad) Spawr
Leon DeHaven
Jim Danger Fisher
Dennis Smiser
Rich Hosier
Curtis Boyd
Carrie Spivey-Vernon
Lawrence Diez
Mike Stoeckert

Ray Ambrozak
Roxanne M. Merritt
Norton "Tony" Newcomb
Miguel Hobbs
Ferdinand Irizarry II
Joseph Meissner
Floyd Turnquist
Steven N. Collins
Richard Caplin
Matthew Robbins
J. David Missavage
B. Michael Paschkes
Benjamin Tipton
Timothy Fitzpatrick
Kelley Jhong
Paul Lawrence
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Thomas Sweeney
Ramon Pangelinan
Donald Miller
Alan Byrne
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Kenneth Bennett
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Mary Martin
John Yanikov
Randall S. Cartmill
Lucas J. W. Donnelly
Alfred Forgacz
Jesse C. Manning
Raymond Knagge
Andree Navarro
Andrew M. Paparella
Tristan Macauley
Timothy Huening
Reginald Bostick
Bruce E. Leahy
Denton Poe
Dorothea Burke
Darrell J. Weatherford
Robert A. Martinez
Howard R. Charbonneau

*Deceased Life Member

New POVA Hoodie Sweatshirt Available



We are very excited about our new "hoodie" sweatshirt. It is a very classy and high quality sweatshirt, emblazoned with the POVA logo and motto. It comes in black, light grey, green and blue.

Price is \$35.00, \$40.00 for 2-5XL, including shipping. To order, visit our website Store at www.usapova.com/shirts.

Order and buy online with POVA.

Former Viet-Nameese PSYOP Interpreter Joins POVA



ARVN Sergeant Dao Tien Tu

POVA is very pleased to announce that Mr. Dao Tien Tu (known as Tu Dao to Americans), former Viet-Nameese Army Sergeant assigned as an Interpreter to the 6th PSYOP Battalion and the 1st Cavalry Division, has joined POVA. Tu Dao and his family were able to escape Viet-Nam in 1975, settling eventually in Southern California.

We are pleased that Tu Dao has joined his fellow PSYOP veterans from the Viet-Nam War. Tu Dao provided language services to PSYOP teams involving President Chad Spawr and Trustee Howard Patrick.

Chad found specific mention of SGT Tu in his 1969 mission planning book for an operation on 25 Feb 69, in which our APT team with SGT Tu captured three NVA soldiers escaping from an airstrike. This man was a true ally!

POVA Attends 321st PSYOP Company Field Training Exercise

POVA President Chad Spawr met with members of the 321st Tactical PSYOP Company during its FTX held at Ft. Custer, Michigan, on 24 March. Chad gave a brief overview of his experience as a PSYOP Field Team Leader in Viet-Nam, and presented our Association to the Company's soldiers. Chad introduced the Company's soldiers to POVA's "dues free" membership benefit to all Reserve and active duty PSYOP soldiers, and discussed the benefits of POVA membership. Many thanks to 321st Company 1SG Jeremiah Trench and Company Commander CPT Raphael Trujillo for arranging POVA's visit to the FTX.

Did we Really Think about That?

An interesting story has emerged about a US Army plan to consider a "special" act of psychological operations against Japan during World War II. The logistics of it notwithstanding, it was an interesting idea. The full article is posted on our POVA website at www.usapova.com/critical-writings/. Thanks to new Life Member Andy Paparella for submitting an excellent article on WWII PSYOP.

Memories of a Psywarrior Past

Life Member Dave Missavage sent a brief note recalling COL-Ret. Robert G. Laabs, who was the first head of the 4th PSYOP Group Product Development Center (PDC). COL-Ret. Laabs, born in 1937, was a distinguished military honor graduate from Ripon College (WI) in 1958, was commissioned into the US Army, and retired in 1984. He died in 2006, and is buried in Killeen, TX. In the picture below left, POVA Life Member Alan Byrne (then Captain Byrne) is pictured at left, then-Major Laabs at right.



In the photo at right, MAJ Laabs looking over Miss Loan's shoulder as they view the first issue of the "Thong Cam Magazine" "Mutual Understanding" designed for distribution to Vietnamese Employees that work on U.S. Bases, with a circulation of approximately 170,000. Capt. Pete Crow was the Project Officer, 1st Lt. Dave Missavage was the assistant Project Officer. Pete coordinated the printing, because it required 5 to 7 colors, we could only do three. Thus the printing was done in Okinawa, as I recall. I ran ads in newspapers in all the major cities for prospective staff. I then interviewed all the applicants and had them run thru the Vietnamese security checks with ARVN. then hired approved applicants. Photo from October 1968 issue of the CREDILIBUS (4th PSYOP Group newspaper).

POVA-branded clothing now in Ladies' sizes, colors

POVA has added a line of POVA-branded shirts for our ladies, along with a sizing chart to assure a correct fit. The new ladies' products are now listed for sale at the POVA website Store. Here is the t-shirt line.

Colors are available in black, royal blue, and sport grey, with the POVA logo heat-pressed in vibrant colors. Price is \$15 for sizes S-XL; add \$3.00 for 2-5XL. There is a ladies' size chart on the website.

Green and white polo shirts for ladies are also now available, along with a specific sizing chart.

Check the Store for our other new Ladies' products.



Yesterday and Today

In 2015, POVA attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of the 6th PSYOP/MIS Battalion (A). As one of the guest speakers, I felt very fortunate to be able to share vignettes of experiences we had while conducting PSYOP missions in Viet-Nam.

As I looked out at the audience, I saw a truly unique site. Seated in the auditorium were the Psywarriors of yesterday and a battalion of Psywarriors today. It was a special moment. At left in the picture below is POVA Life Member & VP Rich Hosier and POVA Life Member Ray Ambrozak, both of whom served in Viet-Nam.

The large group of today's Psywarriors in the succeeding rows perfectly highlighted the continuum from yesterday to today. Maybe you had to be there.....



Front from left: POVA Life Members Rich Hosier & Ray Ambrozak in 2015 with today's 6th Battalion

Sound Off!

Have questions, comments, complaints, or suggestions for your Association and/or its members? Please feel free to send any such commo to Chad Spawr, and the newsletter following receipt will include your note/comment.

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In Closing If you have a correction to previous information, or something you'd like to add to a future newsletter, send it to Chad at the email address listed above.

In Brotherhood,

C. V. (Chad) Spawr

**Chad Spawr
 President & Interim Editor**

From Roxanne N. Merritt, Director
USA JFK Special Warfare Museum
Ft. Bragg, NC

I am not sure if you all know, but we will be moving! In case you have heard rumors that we are closing, these are unfounded. We will be taking occupancy of our new home, Bldg D-2815, located across from the JFK Special Warfare Chapel sometime between the middle of March and the middle of April. Our new home is considered temporary, but we won't be moving anywhere until 2022. The building not only consolidates our offices and workshops, but also the two exhibit galleries. With this schedule in mind, we have closed the exhibit galleries to allow us to pack, inventory and move the artifacts safely and efficiently.

The March-April time frame is when we will actually be allowed to occupy and work out of the building, not when we'll have everything back up on exhibit. Our goal is to have at least a small area ready for the SF Convention in June, but do not anticipate us being fully operational until later in the summer, early fall. As part of the renovation of the building, we will have Wi-Fi so hopefully will be able to enhance the visitor experience with cell phone apps which can show artifacts in more detail, interviews, etc.

The gift shop will remain operational here at our current location throughout February and part of March. They will also be able to open in the new location while we are still reestablishing exhibits in the gallery. From 7 February until March, their hours will be Monday through Friday 11 - 4.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new staff member. Carrie Cutchens comes to us from Florida where she was working at a children's museum. Former military, Mrs. Cutchens worked for 1st Cav Museum for six years and, for a short time, at the Artifact Repository at Anniston, Alabama. Beginning right after Thanksgiving, she enthusiastically jumped into the fray for the first phase of our move in December and is working diligently now that we are in the throes of the move.

Other news to report is that the memorialization for both COL Robert Howard (MOH) and SFC Yntema (MOH) have been approved. Howard Hall at Camp Mackall will be dedicated in the spring. Yntema's name has been removed from the Bingo Hall (formerly the NCO Club) and will be transferred to the JFK DFAC (Mess Hall) in conjunction with the next induction of the Distinguished Members of the Regiment ceremony sometime in the early summer.

At the POVA meeting, I was told that POVA members had approached the museum downtown with offers of donations and had felt rebuffed. They got the idea that no one wanted their memorabilia. Well, that is not true. We are your regimental museum. We would not even have a museum without you guys. It was a SP4 Haller from 360th PSYOP who designed the exhibits and a SP4 Brian Armstrong that painted an oversize painting on the Kachin Rangers that was used in fund raising when the museum was first installed in 1961. We are interested in your stuff. We want to be able to showcase your history fully. Currently, that isn't as possible as we like, because I do not have a lot of material. We just have to follow different procedures - there are restrictions that have been recently initiated which we have to follow. It is not as easy as it once was where you could come and drop material off. Is it impossible? No. Is it a pain in the derriere? Yes.

So, let me first give you a snapshot of what is going on generally in the US Army Museums. The US Army Center of Military History has reorganized all the Army museum system into The Army Museum Enterprise. 55 museums now fall under the direct supervision of CMH. We do

not. There are three others that do not either. They are the Medical Museum at FT Sam Houston, the Corps of Engineers collection in DC and the Army War College at Carlisle,

The change in acceptance policies in museums was prompted by two things. One was the publication of the new Army regulation on gifts and donations. It is very strict and specific and negates the use of the donation forms we used to use. The second action that impacts on us are two GAO reports on the museum system as a whole. The reports show that over the years museums have collected several items that are duplicative in nature such as AK47s, M1s, Army OG Green Class B uniforms, etc. There is a concern over the cumulative cost to maintain and preserve such material and the fiduciary responsibility that is placed on the Army during the tight budgetary environment. CMH, consequently, in response has instituted a moratorium of sorts. We can still consider donations, but now have to check against the centralized database to see if there are duplicates and where they may exist. If we can validate that the item is not in the system, then we will work with the donor to draw up the appropriate paperwork. A packet with photograph, narrative, our statement that it is not in the system and the donor letter is then submitted to a collections committee made up of other museum curators and members of the CMH staff. If approved by this committee, we can take it. The Command here at USAJFKSWCS is working with us to streamline this process, but until we have this in place, we have to work under these procedures. In our case, few of our donations are duplicates, Most are unique and fill a void that we have in our exhibit story lines. There are cases, however, where this is not the case (such as Montagnard crossbows!) and we will be forced to be more selective. Much of this is subjective and will be based on how strong a justification we have. For example, if you offer us a set of 1960 vintage fatigues, we will initially decline or give you the impression of disinterest as the museum system as a whole has several sets of fatigues. HOWEVER, that said, if the fatigues can be tied to an event, personality or something else that is significant, then we can make a case of acceptance. They may have been worn by a PSYOPer who was involved in a significant operation in Vietnam, Laos, Latin America, etc. Or, they may have had to be modified because of a requirement and we do not have a set of fatigues with this modification. Weapons are more problematic and require a much stronger justification.

So my request is that if you have material you would like to donate, please go through it, list it and write up supportive narratives. Photographs would be most appreciated. Send that to me at merritr@socom.mil or carrie.cutchens@socom.mil. Or you can mail it to Cmdr, USAJFKSWCS, 3009 Ardennes Stop A, ATTN: AOJK-MU (Merritt), Fort Bragg, NC 28310. Or call, we'll be more than glad to work with you. Our number is 910-432-4272 or 1533. Again, we will be moving, so our response may be slower than usual.

I hope to continue these updates to the newsletter on a recurring basis. If you have a question for the museum, please let us know.

D R A F T

FROM: General Phoumi
TO: General Bounleut, Luang Prabang
General Boun Pone, Savannakhet
Colonel Kouprasith, Chinaimo
Lt Colonel Siho, Director of National Security

SUBJECT: Plan For Increased Emphasis Upon Psychological Operations

1. It is the desire of the RIG to restore peace and to reunite the people of Laos without the unnecessary shedding of blood . There must be a strong FAL psychological operation for use in support of national aims and in gaining and holding the support of the Villagers for the RIG. This is particularly true in view of the constant activity of Viet Minh cadre and their Lao-Viet followers who are spreading false information to our Villagers concerning the RIG and FAL. We must counteract this threat.

2. The United States has offered the services of twelve specialists who are now in Laos to assist FAL in the development of a strong information program and to teach the techniques necessary to conduct such a program. These specialists will be available until mid-July of this year.

3. Within FAL we have need for the services of these twelve specialists in the following areas:

a) Troop Indoctrination: We want to orient our FAL recruits in the aims of RIG and FAL for improving conditions in villages as the security situation permits. FAL recruits will then be able to counter Viet Minh false information.

b) To orient Villagers: FAL Mobile Information Teams need to show motion pictures and distribute printed materials designed to gain support of the Villagers.

D R A F T

3. Cont'd.

c) Development of Propaganda in support of combat operations: An effective information campaign will, in large measure, allow us to achieve our goals without killing our fellow Lao. Interrogation of PL prisoners indicates many PL's would cease fighting and surrender if assured of proper treatment by FAL.

d) Radio Operations: The development of our radio broadcasting network is essential for the education and training of our troops and for informing our people of our aims and programs for their better living.

4. These twelve information specialists will be divided among the regions and will be assigned to the PEO Regional Advisor's staff. Their services can be requested through the PEO Advisor in each area. Due to the different problems peculiar to each region, the specific tasks for these specialists will be decided by consultation between the Senior Commander and the PEO Advisor in each region. It is suggested, however, that these specialists work with the staff officer responsible for psychological operations and G-5 or, in the absence of a psychological operations or G-5 officer, with Operations, Plans and Training Section. Here, the specialist will assist with planning and production of programs described in paragraph 3 above.

5. It is planned that these specialists will be available through mid-July, 1961. Their initial assignments are as follows:

Commander FAL	-	Mr. Ambrozak
Commander Surface Defense	-	Mr. Daly, Mr. Lien, Mr. Fitzberger
Commander IV Mil Region	-	Mr. Rinden
Director National Security	-	Mr. Murray
Commander V Mil Region	-	Mr. Greer
Commandant P&I Company	-	Mr. Gussell, Mr. Hollomon, Mr. Harder, Mr. Crookham, Mr. Dixon

In the event requirements develop for technical advisors in radio or other fields, adjustments in assignments will be made.

General Phoumi