



# The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association  
(POVA)

[www.usapova.org](http://www.usapova.org)

*Ex Verba Victoria*

1 April 2018

Fellow Psywarriors,

Be sure to check the Appendices at the end of this issue for the latest updates on our Cleveland, OH Biennial Reunion. Updates are also posted on our website at [www.usapova.org](http://www.usapova.org).

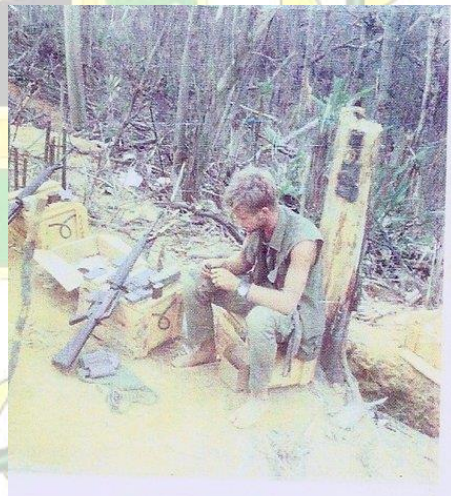
POVA is pleased to announce that our Banquet guest speaker will be COL Robert A. B. Curris, Commandant of the Psychological Operations Regiment. A veteran of PSYOP with several overseas deployments and command of PSYOP units up to and including the 4<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group (A), COL Curris is a POVA Life Member and good friend of all Psywarriors.

Our Reunion will, for the first time, include a Sunday morning "briefing-brunch" assembly to be organized and led by our fraternal organization, the Psychological Operations Association (POA). POVA will also host a book-signing by a number of POVA members who are successful authors. Plan to meet our fellow Psywarrior authors and they will personally sign their book for you. This will be a great event.

After the March issue was sent, I received a note from Life Member Stan Michelsen. Stan's PSYOP assignment was 7<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Battalion in Viet-Nam, and he was detailed support the 3d Marine Division. Here is Stan's note:

***"...besides being with the 7<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Battalion out of Da Nang, I was with Detachment 2 with the 3rd Marine division at Dong Ha combat base. This picture (is of) me sitting on ammo box reloading my magazines is from LZ Dodge which was half in the DMZ and the other half in South Vietnam. There was a line drawn straight down the center of LZ Dodge with arrows pointed to which side you're on."***

For Stan, as for many Viet-Nam Psywarriors, this was the essence of "combat PSYOP." For all of us Psywarriors, it is a very deadly business! It is very real.



***POVA Life Member Stan Michelsen reloading rifle magazines at Dong Ha Combat Base on the Demilitarized Zone. This place was pure hell.....for both sides!***

Finally, just another reminder.....be sure to stay current with your dues, as our Reunion Business Meeting is open only to members "in good standing." We will have several important orders of business to conduct, and we need strong member attendance.

***C. V. (Chad) Spawr, President***

## **New Life Members for POVA**



POVA welcomes new members Brent Mendenhall, Ian R. McKnight, Gary Conley, and David E. Rogers during the month of March. POVA's Life Member roster now totals 138.

David Rogers, who died in 2014, was a POVA Charter Member, Board member and Vice President. He made strong contributions to our early growth, and was an excellent advisor and friend to those of us who were working to build POVA from its earliest days. POVA's Board, by majority vote, has conferred Life Member status on Dave. We miss him! RIP Dave!

## **COL Robert A. B. Curris, Commandant, The Psychological Operations Regiment**

A letter from POVA Life Member and PSYOP Regimental Commandant Robert A. B. Curris:



**COL Robert A. B. Curris**  
**POVA Life Member and PSYOP**  
**Regimental Commandant Robert A. B.**  
**Curris**

*Dear friends and members of the Regiment. Chad asked if I could give a quick update to what's happening around the PSYOP Force for the newsletter. So I'll start by saying Happy 100th Year Anniversary! On 23 January 1918 the Psychological Sub-section of the Military Intelligence Branch, War Department was formed under the leadership of Captain Heber Blankenhorn to prepare the Army Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) to conduct psychological warfare in WWI. From these humble beginnings with that subsection starting with eighteen personnel we now stand with two Active and two Reserve Groups providing world class PSYOP support to over 40 countries and various contingencies.*

*Focusing on what we do here at the Commandant's (CMDT) office I want to let you know about some of our initiatives and successes. Beginning with Futures, USACAPOC received good news that a force design update was approved to form a second Strategic Dissemination Company in FY19. This is a big deal and helps to build back capability that was lost during the last 17th BN remissioning. Additionally, the PSYOP CMDT is working with US Army Reserve Command and Special Operations Command to get some much needed equipment upgrades out to the Reserve force. A lot has happened over the last year in that regard but I am pleased with the progress we are making.*

On the Active duty side we have begun a program to address the lack of E5s in our formations. Similar to the 18X program that you may be aware of for Special Forces we have started the 37F Initial Entry program. This was effective as of 03 July 2017. Contracted 37F Initial Entry candidates will attend Military Police One-Station Unit Training (OSUT) (Basic and AIT combined), followed by Airborne school, then PSYOP Assessment and Selection (POAS). Selected candidates will then follow-on to the PSYOP Qualification Course pipeline with other in-service candidates. As a result of planning and implementing this incredible program, our HR specialist, Ms. Carrie Vernon-Spivey (retired 37F Drill Sergeant) was named USAJFKSWCS Civilian of the Year.



**MG Kurt L. Sonntag and POVA Life Member**  
**Carrie Vernon-Spivey**

Our Doctrine folks have been hard at work updating both Joint and Army Doctrine. Additionally we assist in the development of PSYOP related doctrine for our foreign partnered forces. Most recently we have been assisting in developing PSYOP and Information Operations doctrine for a few selected partners in Eastern Europe. As a result, two of our Doctrine developers were recognized by the Commander of European Command for their efforts. They have also created a Graphic Training Aid (GTA) to assist all PSYOP leaders with currently established and valid unclassified authorities and permissions. GTA 33-01-004, MISO Authoritative References (Nov 17) can be used by both AC and RC forces while engaging with their supported headquarters. Printed copies are available from Army Training Support Command (ATSC). Units can obtain printed copies of the pocket-sized GTA through their publications account and electronic copies from <https://armypubs.army.mil/>

Our Personnel folks are working hard managing the input and throughput of AC and RC students through the roughly ten different periods of instruction taught here within our 5th BN. One of their additional but critical duties is to manage the Regimental awards System. The next Distinguished/Honorary Member of the Regiment (DMOR/HMOR); MG Robert A. McClure Medal Awards Ceremony will be held at 1100 on 04 May 2018 at the John F. Kennedy Auditorium, USAJFKSWCS. Please submit nominations for Distinguished or Honorary Members of the Psychological Operations Regiment and the MG Robert A. McClure Award to Ms. Vernon Spivey at [carrie.i.vernon@socom.mil](mailto:carrie.i.vernon@socom.mil) <<mailto:carrie.i.vernon@socom.mil>> . The next set of nominations for DMOR/HMOR are due to the PSYOP Commandant's Office by 30 April 2018 and McClure nominations are due on 30 June 2018. Nominators will be notified of those approved for the McClure Medal by mid-August 2018.

On a related note. There have been two inquiries since I became the Commandant reference the automatic awarding of Gold McClure for KIAs across our force. We have widely researched this with other regiments to see how they recognize their fallen. All of the feedback we received was focused on personal awards I.E. Bronze Star and Purple Hearts as well as the Gold Star families. None of the Regiments automatically awarded their top Regimental honor, in our case that would be the Gold McClure. As such we are looking at ways to do a better job of honoring our fallen without misusing the McClure. In all cases, if they had served the Regiment for a long period and had significant impact then they should be nominated for a DMOR posthumously and if awarded would come with a Gold McClure. LTC Chad Buehring is the only example of that so far. I will be engaging the four Group Commanders later in the fall to look at a PSYOP specific award honoring our KIAs.

In closing, I appreciate all that you do and have done in support of the PSYOP Regiment. If there is one constant in the Army it is change and I will endeavor to keep you all informed of some of those changes as we progress.

*Persuade, Change, Influence!*

v/r  
Robert A.B. Curris  
COL, USA  
Commandant for Psychological Operations

### **Book Signing Event at POVA Cleveland Reunion**

POVA is blessed with many great and talented people, including a historical video producer, a severely talented musician and song-writer, and a number of published authors. We are not just a group of "pretty faces!" So, POVA will schedule two book-signings to be held during the Reunion in Cleveland, and hope that our member authors will attend and personally sign books for our assembled Psywarriors. These authors and their books are well regarded, and some have gone through multiple editions! This will be an opportunity to interact with a fellow Psywarrior who has made a contribution to our Association and to our larger community in a very meaningful way.

More details to follow!

## **POVA Life Member Ray Ambrozak to be Honored at MacDill AFB, Tampa**

POVA is extremely proud to announce that long-tenure Life Member Ray Ambrozak will be inducted into the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Commando Hall of Fame on 19 April 2018 at McDill AFB in Tampa, FL. Ray is a veteran of American involvement in Laos and the war in Viet-Nam in the 1960's. Here is the letter from Dr. Jared Tracy, USASOC Command Historian (a POVA Life Member), announcing Ray's induction:



**POVA Life Member  
Ray Ambrozak**

*Good morning, Ray (and Anne).*

*It is my pleasure to inform you that your nomination was approved for induction into the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Commando Hall of Honor. Congratulations!*

*Located at MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL, USSOCOM is the four-star unified command responsible for all special operations forces (SOF) under the Department of Defense. The Commando Hall of Honor was established in 2010 and "recognizes those who have served with great distinction and have demonstrated leadership and selfless service within the SOF community." See this page for more details: <https://www.socom.mil/hall-of-heroes> Those inducted represent the various SOF from all services, including SF, PSYOP, Rangers, Navy SEALs, USAF and USMC SOF, etc. etc.*

*A representative from USSOCOM will be in touch in the near future to make coordinations with you. Congratulations again! I am very glad that you and your service are being recognized with this great honor. Well-deserved!*

*Jared*

In 2016, Ray was honored by the US Army Special Operations Command with induction as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR), one of the most significant honors afforded to a member of the Army's Special Operations community. Ray has been a valued contributor, coach, friend, and mentor to many of his fellow POVA officers and members. He and lovely wife Ann are two of the most steadfast members of our Association.

Congratulations Ray. This is an honor long overdue!

## **Redstone Arsenal Seeking Interviews with Viet-Nam Veterans**

POVA has received a note from Skip Vaughn, Public Affairs Specialist at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL, encouraging support for their project to collect personal history interviews with Viet-Nam Veterans in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Viet-Nam War. Here is Skip's message.....feel free to contact him directly:

*The Redstone Rocket, the Army's weekly newspaper at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, has an ongoing series called "Vietnam Revisited" in which we interview Vietnam veterans and Vietnam-era veterans. We started doing this in January 2015 in conjunction with this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War. We've interviewed 158 veterans so far.*

*These are the personal stories of brave Americans who were shunned for fighting an unpopular war. Our website is [www.theredstonerocket.com](http://www.theredstonerocket.com).*

The first two years of these interviews have been published as a book, "Vietnam Revisited," which is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. I'm the author and I've written every article in this weekly series. I would love to hear from veterans willing to share their memories from Vietnam and how it impacted their lives. My email addresses include [skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com) and [skip.vaughnsports@gmail.com](mailto:skip.vaughnsports@gmail.com). Here is the website for Skip's book: <http://www.pagepublishing.com/books/?book=vietnam-revisited>

Thank you,  
Skip Vaughn

Army public affairs specialist at Redstone Arsenal, and Redstone Rocket editor

### **POVA Member Mervyn Roberts' New Book**



**New Roberts book Cover**

Here is a note from Mervyn Roberts about his new book "The Psychological War for Viet-Nam, 1960-1968." Published at the end of February, the book will be shipped as soon as available. This is a good way for Psywarriors to learn more about this war that was so critical to today's PSYOP theory and practice, while also supporting a fellow Psywarrior. The book, in both print and Kindle version, is available on Amazon for \$39.95.

Chad,

I wanted to bring your attention to the University Press of Kansas release of "The Psychological War for Vietnam, 1960-1968." Between 1960 and 1968 the United States conducted intensive psychological operations (PSYOP) in Vietnam. Until now, no comprehensive study of the psychological war in this region has been conducted. This book fills that void, describing the development of American PSYOP forces and their employment in Vietnam. Significantly, by looking at the complex interplay of American, North Vietnamese, National Liberation Front (NLF) and South Vietnamese propaganda programs, a deeper understanding of these activities and the larger war emerges. I am a PSYOP soldier, currently assigned to the Joint Special Operations University and teacher at Central Texas College.

For more details, please visit [mervynroberts.com](http://mervynroberts.com) or email: [info@mervynroberts.com](mailto:info@mervynroberts.com)

Mervyn Roberts

### **Information that May be Helpful to Homeless Veterans**

POVA has received information from Mr. Cyrus Dylan of the Springfield Library. The son of a veteran who struggles with PTSD, Cyrus has compiled a list of information articles that may be useful to our fellow Psywarriors struggling. Here is his email note:

Thank you for all the work you do to help those who served our country. My father suffers from PTSD, and I've been trying to do everything I can to help him heal, including helping him tap into all the resources he can. I salute you for your efforts here to help people like my dad. Here are some other resources that have been useful for him, which perhaps you might find worthwhile as well:

**PTSD and Substance Abuse Help for Veterans:**

[www.yourstoragefinder.com/guidance-for-veterans-mental-health](http://www.yourstoragefinder.com/guidance-for-veterans-mental-health)

**Guide to Finding a PTSD Therapist:**

[www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/therapy-med/finding-a-therapist.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/therapy-med/finding-a-therapist.asp)

**How to Stop Living Out of Your Car - Guide for Homeless Vets:**

[www.thezebra.com/insurance-news/5518/guide-how-to-stop-living-out-of-car/](http://www.thezebra.com/insurance-news/5518/guide-how-to-stop-living-out-of-car/)

**Homeless Veterans' Resources:**

[www.bigrentz.com/how-to-guides/resources-homeless-veterans](http://www.bigrentz.com/how-to-guides/resources-homeless-veterans)

**National Coalition for Homeless Veterans:**

<http://nchv.org/index.php/help/>

**Financial Benefits of a Military Career:**

<https://blog.taxact.com/how-to-make-the-most-financially-out-of-your-military-career>

**Financial Assistance for Homeless Vets:**

<http://www.operationwearehere.com/FinancialAssistance.html>

**Homes for Homeless Vets:**

[www.homecity.com/homes-for-homeless-vets](http://www.homecity.com/homes-for-homeless-vets)

**Support for Veterans and Their Struggles:**

[www.realwarriors.net](http://www.realwarriors.net)

**Legal Advice for Veterans:**

[www.justgreatlawyers.com/legal-advice-for-veterans](http://www.justgreatlawyers.com/legal-advice-for-veterans)

Thanks, Cyrus

### **Call for Raffle Items for the POVA Biennial Reunion Raffle**

POVA will hold a raffle to continue raising funds for our educational and charitable activities in support of our Association and our fellow veterans and their families in need. You can help by donating something that we can add to the list of raffle prizes. In 2016, late Life Member Tony Newcomb donated a bottle of vintage (1968) Viet-Nameese Snake Wine, a truly unique raffle prize. It generated a great deal of interest and conversation!

Because POVA is an IRC 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit corporation, the value of any raffle prize you donate is fully deductible from your taxes.

### **POVA Visits 2d Group and 7<sup>th</sup> Group USACAPOC PSYOP Units**

POVA President Chad Spawr visited three more Reserve PSYOP companies during the month, meeting with Battalion and Company officers, NCO's and enlisted soldiers. These visits were supported by COL Randall S. Cartmill, Commanding Officer of the 7<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group, and 12<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Battalion Commanding Officer Mark Flitton. With their support, plus the efforts of POVA Life Member 1SG Jeremiah Trench (of the 2d PSYOP Group), the visits were readily coordinated for succeeding Saturdays in March.

On 10 March, POVA visited the 319<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Company in Arden Hills, MN. Soldiers were provided a presentation on the Viet-Nam-based history of modern military Psychological Operations, and introduced to POVA and the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Reunion being held in Cleveland, OH. Several soldiers commented that they had no idea that so much of the work they do had its foundations in the efforts of PSYOP soldiers beginning in the 1960's. Participants were given opportunities to collect POVA shirts and hats, and membership materials were distributed.

On 17 March, POVA visited both the 324<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Company and the 339<sup>th</sup> Tactical PSYOP Company in Aurora, CO. Participants included both Company commanders (MAJ David Tiedeman and CPT Jesse Kittel), as well as their NCO's and soldiers. Numbering approximately 65 soldiers in the meeting room, there was strong interest demonstrated in the historical roots of today's PSYOP, and several questions about operational PSYOP were asked by soldiers at the conclusion of the session. Again, POVA distributed shirts and hats in addition to membership materials.

POVA is strongly committed to expanding our membership, both for POVA and for our Regiment, among all the nation's Reserve PSYOP units. At all sessions, POVA speakers offer greetings from the Regiment and its leadership. Plans are in progress for additional visits to Reserve PSYOP units across the nation. POVA is always well received, and we are grateful for the excellent reception and support from these critically important members of our PSYOP Regiment.

### **POVA Life Member to Assume Command of 2d PSYOP Group (A) in Cleveland**

POVA has learned that Life Member COL Andree Navarro, former commander of the 16th PSYOP Battalion in Ft. Sheridan, IL, will assume command of the 2d POG from current commander COL Jesse Manning. The date for the Change of Command is yet to be determined but is anticipated for the summer of 2018.

POVA is very proud of both PSYOP leaders, both of whom are POVA Life Members.

### **POVA Assists in Sending Packages to our Troops Overseas**



***Ryan, Linda, and Chad Spawr at Colorado National Guard packing for our troops***

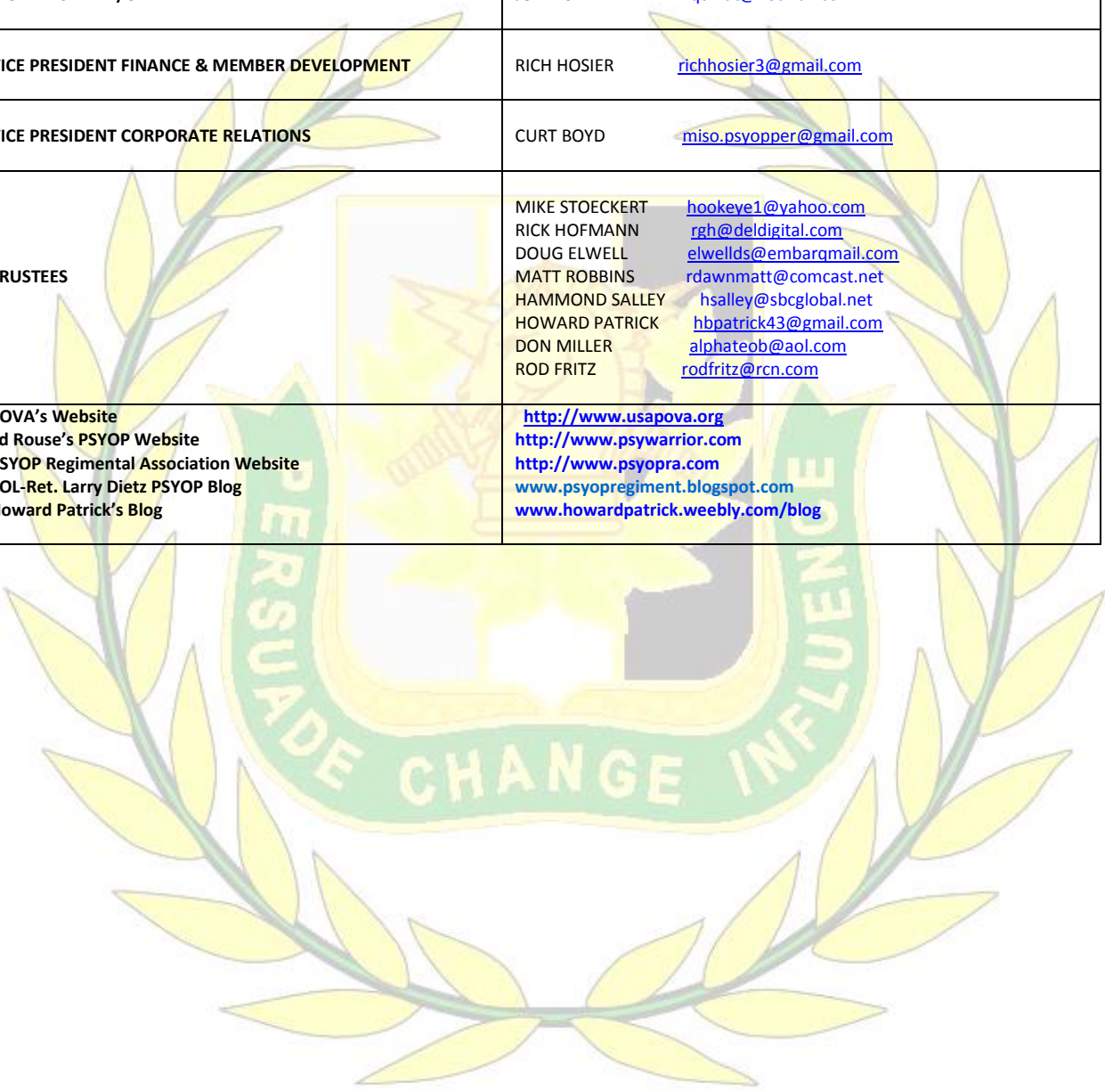
On Saturday 17 March, POVA President Chad Spawr, wife Linda, and son Ryan, joined a few dozen other committed folks to package Girl Scout cookies and various sundries which will be sent to our troops deployed overseas. In less than 3 hours, the group packed approximately 500 large boxes filled with cookies and sundries to benefit our deployed soldiers. A Saturday well spent!

The working group included members of the Colorado National Guard, a group of high school "Young Marines," and many families who are committed to helping our deployed troops.

Note: I didn't know there were so many Girl Scout cookies! Hundreds of cases.....great donation for our soldiers.

**\*\*IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION \*\***

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## APPENDIX I

### **2018 POVA Information Update**

**Updated effective 28 March 2018:**

<b>Day &amp; Date</b>	<b>TENTATIVE Reunion Activity/Event(s)</b>
<b>Thursday 19 July 2018</b>	<b>1500 – 1800</b> Arrival at Reunion hotel(s), Registration, POA Info table and POVA store open. <b>1600 – 1730 POVA Authors Book Signing Event</b> <b>1800 – 1930</b> Welcome Reception, HQ Hotel, light snacks, cash bar <b>1930 – 2000</b> POVA Officer Call/Meeting (location TBD)
<b>Friday 20 July 2018</b>	<b>0930 – 1130</b> POVA Business Meeting (members only) (location TBD) <b>1200 – 1730</b> Cleveland Attractions (TBD) <b>1830 – 2000</b> Buffet Dinner @ Buffalo Wild Wings (on same property as HQ hotel). <b>Sponsored by our fellow Psywarriors from the POA</b>
<b>Saturday 21 July 2018</b>	<b>0900 – 1730 Cleveland Attractions: Great Lakes Science Center, Maritime Museum, Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame.....plus several other available attractions.....more details to follow.</b> <b>1830 – 2100</b> POVA Banquet & Remembrance Celebration (HQ Hotel banquet/conference room)
<b>Sunday 22 July 2018</b>	<b>0800 – 1200 POA organized-sponsored Buffet breakfast and briefing program, presentations</b>

### **Update on Reunion Registration**

Reunion Registration Fee (includes Friday evening buffet and Saturday banquet dinner):  
\$40.00 per person

Registration Process: two ways to register....online via the POVA website ([www.usapova.org](http://www.usapova.org)), and navigate to the Reunion Registration page. Complete and pay online!

Or

Paper Registration which is included below. These can be completed and mailed to the address on the form.

**Sunday morning (22 July) “brunch and briefing” program sponsored by the Psychological Operations Association (POA). All are welcome to attend.**

## **Update on Banquet Meal Options**

Our Reunion Banquet on Saturday 21 July will include the following menu selections; the costs are current estimates, with final costs potentially affected by product pricing (however, these are very close):

**Sliced Roast Beef with Mushroom Demi-Glace, chefs starch and vegetable, salad with dressings, rolls and butter, coffee, decaf or iced tea**

**Cod Milanese (white wine, butter and capers) chefs starch and vegetable, salad with dressings, rolls and butter, coffee, decaf or iced tea**

**Chicken breast with a sauce (agreed upon by the group), chefs starch and vegetable, salad with dressings, rolls and butter, coffee, decaf or iced tea**

**Vegetarian Option**

## **APPENDIX II**

### **2018 Biennial Reunion Hotel Updated Information**

Here is the current information for our HQ Hotel for the 19-22 July 2018 POVA Biennial Reunion in Cleveland, OH:

**HQ Hotel: Marriott Cleveland East**

26300 Harvard Road

Warrensville Heights, OH 44122

**216-378-9191**

**Special POVA Reunion Rate: \$112.00 USD per night + applicable taxes**

**To make your reservation at the Marriott Cleveland East ONLY**, CTRL+click **HERE**; it will take you to a special reservation page already set up with our Reunion dates and special rate. Fill in the data, enter your credit card information, and your reservation will be confirmed.

#### **ALTERNATE REUNION HOTEL**

***Extended Stay America – Beachwood, Orange Place SOUTH***

3820 Orange Place

Beachwood, OH **Reservation Phone: 844-548-5571**

Features:

- Includes Kitchenette and Grab & Go Breakfast
- Studio Suite with 1 Queen bed

Rate Availability:

- **Military Rate** is \$90.24
- **Advance Purchase** is \$85.49 (Reservation must be made 60 or more days in advance)
- 

**You must make your reservation immediately. Both rates go up as it gets closer to summer.....Hotel is already half full for July.**

**IF NOT REGISTERING ONLINE, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM,  
PRINT, AND SEND TO POVA AT THE ADDRESS INDICATED.**



United States Army  
Psychological Operations  
Veterans Association  
Founded 1988  
*Ex Verbo Victoria*

**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS VETERANS  
ASSOCIATION (POVA)  
17th BIENNIAL REUNION  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
19-22 JULY 2018**

**Reunion Registration**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Spouse/Guest/Friend: \_\_\_\_\_  
(additional names) : \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number(s) of Spouse/Guest/Friend attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee per person: **\$40.00** (includes Friday buffet and Saturday banquet)  
**Total Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Registration Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_ (pay online or write check to "POVA")

.....  
**Banquet Dinner Selection**

*Please select a choice for each person in attendance (checkmark or number)*

Sliced Roast Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Cod Milanese \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Option \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify any food allergies that we can address: \_\_\_\_\_  
.....

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

1. Register and pay online at [www.usapova.org](http://www.usapova.org) by credit card.

or

2. Send your completed Registration and check to:

Rich Hosier  
108 Sea Star Circle  
Surf City, NC 28445

**APPENDIX III**

**Welcome to Galls, POVA's first Platinum Sponsor for the 2018 Biennial Reunion**



**PROUD TO SUPPORT  
OUR ARMED FORCES**

**YOUR SINGLE SOURCE  
FOR UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**  
Trusted by more than 1 million  
professionals each year



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