



The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association
(POVA)

www.usapova.com

1 December 2016

Dear POVA Members and Friends,

Looks like December is a "short" news month for POVA, as our attentions turn to family and upcoming holidays. We all have much to be grateful for, but also much to do in our immediate futures. Even for those of us who are retired, there are never quite enough hours in the day. How does that work, anyway?

POVA is getting close to finalizing our new website; same address (www.usapova.com), and I hope we'll be ready to launch sometime in mid-December. It would go faster if I didn't continually wipe out pages I'd just finished writing. See what happens when you give a monkey a keyboard? For those more adept at writing website text, etc., it probably goes much faster, but as a real novice at this, it just takes longer. When we're done, we'll have the best of our original website combined with the great material from our 2016 Reunion website, all at the tip of our mouse pointers. Sorry it is taking so long.....

Here's hoping you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and are looking forward to the Christmas Holidays.

Fraternally,

C. V. (Chad) Spawr
President

POVA Life Member Ray Ambrozak Honored One More Time

POVA is extremely proud and pleased to share a tremendous honor bestowed on Life Member Ray Ambrozak in November. Here is Ray's story of recognition long overdue, and deeply appreciated.

When you go to the mailbox, you never know what to expect. In August, it was a letter from the C.G. Of the Special Warfare Center informing me that I had been selected to be inducted as a distinguished member into the Psychological Operations Regiment. To be recognized in this way was quite an honor. It turned out to be a two event visit to Ft. Bragg. There was a PRA birthday dinner on 27 October and the induction on the 28th. We were also to enjoy a mini family reunion. My son and his wife and children, my daughter and her son and 3 other family members were able to attend. Other friendly faces there were our POVA V.P. Rich Hosier and the Piper Doug Elwell and wife Shirley.



Ray and Ann Ambrozak (center), with family members.

The PRA dinner was held at McKellars Lodge on Ft. Bragg, with local BBQ on the menu (good, but its hard to beat Texas BBQ). The speaker for the evening was Gov. Matthew C. Armstrong, Broadcasting Board of Governors. This organization has the same function as the USIA had – overseeing all of the U.S overseas radio broadcasting. His remarks were both interesting and enlightening. After dinner, I was surprised by the Regimental Commandant when he called me to the podium and presented me with the Major General Robert A. McClure Gold Medallion on behalf of

the regiment. Being recognized this way by the current practitioners of PSYOP was truly an unforgettable honor. At that moment I was glad they did not ask me to speak.

The Regiment's induction ceremony was held at the auditorium of the J.F.K. Special Warfare Center and School. There were twelve inductees – four from each of the three disciplines of the Center of Civil Affairs, PSYOP and Special Forces. Four of the awards were posthumous with two of those being Medal of Honor recipients. Presenting the awards were the three regimental commandants, Col. Sadler, Special Forces; Col. Brown, Civil Affairs; and Col. Grimes, PSYOP.



From left: COL John Grimes, PSYOP Regimental Commandant, Ray Ambrozak

Major General James Linder, the commanding general of the J.F.K. Center and School, made the opening remarks in which he recognized the contributions the inductees had made in Special Warfare. As the inductee walked onto the stage to receive his certificate from the commandant, the citation was read for each of them. I felt a true sense of pride and humility at being included with this group of dedicated professionals. The other aspects that made the ceremony special was having it conducted in an auditorium full of contemporary PSYOPers and of course, the family was there. Shortly after the ceremony and reception which followed, the family was treated to a private bagpipe concert by Doug Elwell on the lawn outside of the hall. The concert included a rendition of "happy birthday" for my grandson, Simon Ambrozak celebrating his 12th year.

It was a remarkable two days that provided a great addition to my book of memories.

Your fellow POVA veteran brethren are very proud of you, Ray. You're a tremendous asset to PSYOP and to POVA! Congratulations, and thanks so much to Ann for keeping you on the correct path.....she's the hero in all this, isn't she?

Possible Large-Scale PSYOP Conference in 2018?

POVA Life Member Joseph Meissner is starting down the long and arduous path toward creation of a national-level PSYOP conference to be held in Cleveland in the summer of 2018. POVA is in discussion with Joseph as our 2018 Biennial Reunion is also being held in Cleveland in 2018, and to the extent possible we'd like to see things coordinated, not in conflict. There is much to be discussed, and POVA will keep our members up to date on developments as they transpire. You can contact Joseph Meissner at meissnerjoseph@yahoo.com.

In the January newsletter, I will have more info on additional discussions regarding this conference. Not sure how it will shape up, but this could be an excellent opportunity for POVA to interact with a broad range of participants in the broader PSYOP community. More to follow.....

Military Records/DD-214.....Available Online

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online. Please pass on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

For the "Winged" PSYOP Vets Among Us....

Many of us earned Flight Crew wings and multiple Air Medals flying missions over VC and NVA territory in one of these UH-1H models. This particular Huey belonged to the 195th Assault Helicopter Company, and flew multiple daily missions throughout the III Corps Tactical Zone for the 6th PSYOP Battalion. In this picture, the Huey is parked at the one-ship pad next to the 6th Battalion HQ on Cong Ly Street in Bien Hoa.

These Huey's were not particularly fast and were vulnerable to automatic weapons fire, especially at low altitudes and when flying low and slow. Many POVA vets experienced the joys of their Huey's taking multiple hits and crashing, often incurring serious or fatal injuries. Just had to share.....



POVA's Life Members

Life Members are the heart and soul of any organization, and our growing roster of "Lifers" is excellent demonstration of the belief our members have in POVA and our organizational values. Continuing thanks to each and every Life Member for your invaluable support, guidance, and brotherhood over the years.

*David Affleck **
*John H "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
Chad Spawr
Leon DeHaven
Jim Danger Fisher
Dennis Smiser

Rich Hosier
Curtis Boyd
Carrie Spivey-Vernon
Lawrence Dietz
Mike Stoeckert
Ray Ambrozak
Roxanne M. Merritt
Norton "Tony" Newcomb
Miguel Hobbs
Ferdinand Irizarry II
Joseph Meissner
Floyd Turnquist
Steven N. Collins
Richard Caplin
J. David Missavage
Matthew F. Robbins
Benjamin Tipton

Timothy F. Fitzpatrick
B. Michael Pasckhes
Kelley Jhong
Paul Lawrence
Robert A. B. Curriss
Thomas Sweeney
Ramon Pangelinan
Donald Miller
Alan Byrne
Daniel R. Ammerman
John-Matthew Urby
Carl Lostracco
Patrick J. Dillon
Mary Martin
John Yanikov
Randall S. Cartmill
Lucas J. W. Donnelly

*Deceased Life Member

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.

Your editor made a typo when introducing Mr. Clyde Sincere, President Emeritus of the Special Operations Association (SOA). I fat-fingered his name to "Clyde Service," and regret the error. Sorry Clyde.

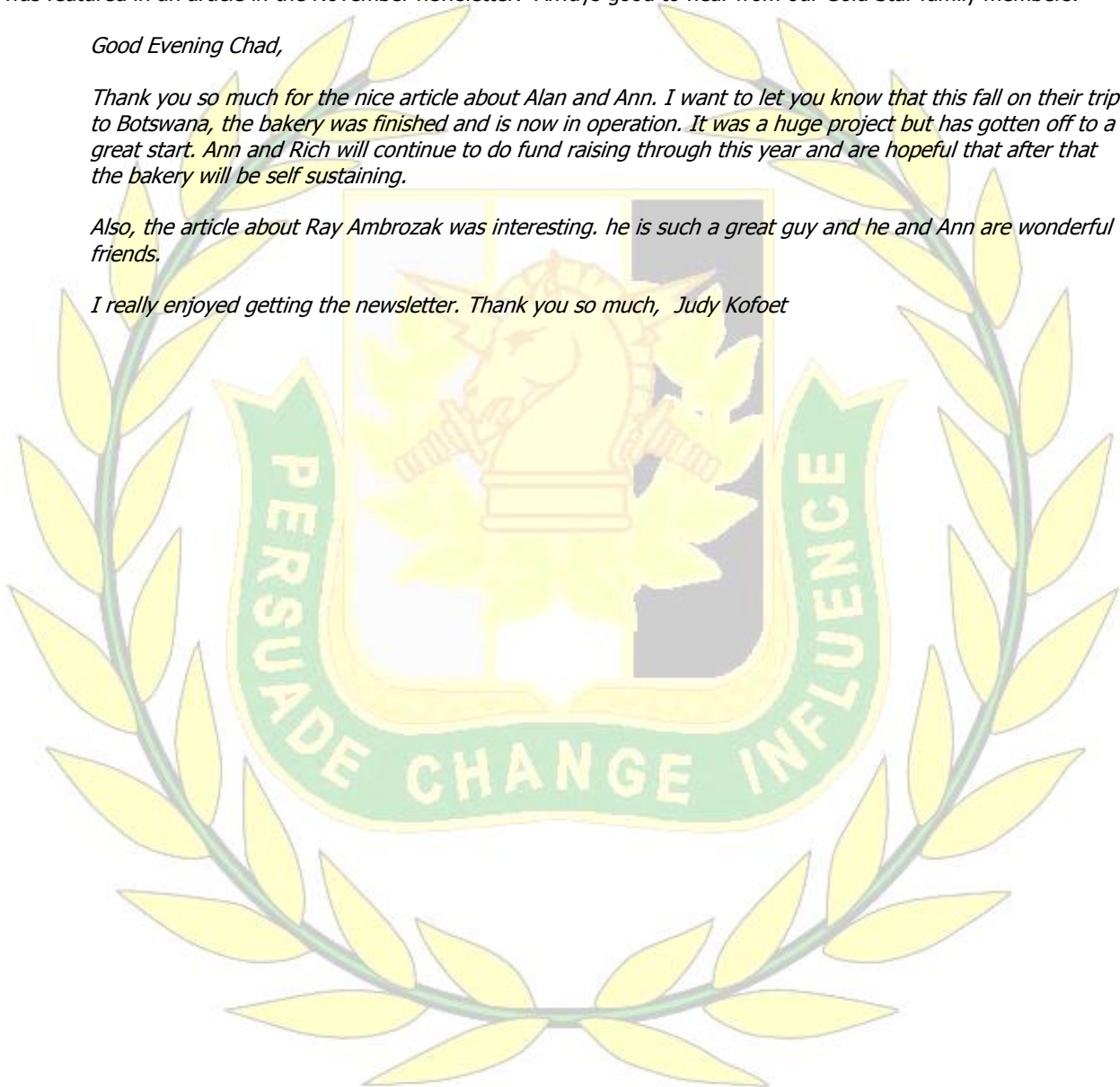
Received a nice note from Judy Kofoet, widow of CPT Alan Harriman who died in August '64, and whose daughter was featured in an article in the November newsletter. Always good to hear from our Gold Star family members:

Good Evening Chad,

Thank you so much for the nice article about Alan and Ann. I want to let you know that this fall on their trip to Botswana, the bakery was finished and is now in operation. It was a huge project but has gotten off to a great start. Ann and Rich will continue to do fund raising through this year and are hopeful that after that the bakery will be self sustaining.

Also, the article about Ray Ambrozak was interesting. he is such a great guy and he and Ann are wonderful friends.

I really enjoyed getting the newsletter. Thank you so much, Judy Kofoet



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| COL-Ret. Larry Dietz PSYOP Blog | www.psyopregiment.blogspot.com |
| Howard Patrick's Blog | www.howardpatrick.weebly.com/blog |

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