



The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association
(POVA)

www.usapova.com

1 February 2017

Fellow Psywarriors and Friends,

Our new POVA website went "live" on 3 January, and we had to work through a couple of little glitches here and there. However, it is now running, and early comments from members are very positive. We've had great input from our members regarding things we can do to enhance the benefit to all who visit our site. We will be expanding our offerings of POVA-branded merchandise, and will soon expand our photo archives with pictures from past POVA reunions, as well as some pictures taken in '69 by Life Member Ken Bennett of the 6th PSYOP Battalion HQ located in Bien Hoa, Viet-Nam. Only a few of the faces have names attached to them, as memories over time have faded. Still the pictures provide graphic images of a PSYOP battalion HQ in a war zone.

You'll also find herein two great articles written by Life Member John Cheney. Both address very current issues, and both are excellent. We hope you will enjoy them.

Enough for now.....enjoy the newsletter!

Fraternally,

C. V. (Chad) Spawr
President



Co-Founder and President Chad Spawr

Welcome to new POVA Life Members

The month of January has been very good for POVA, as we have brought in six (6) new Life Members. These include **Kenneth Bennett, Raymond Knagge, Andree Navarro, Andrew Paparella, and Tristan Macaulay**. Our new POVA website has been very helpful in attracting both annual members and Life members, and we're very pleased that these PSYOP veterans have chosen to join us for the long-term. Welcome Aboard!

A History Lesson (and perhaps a little PSYOP along the way)....The Challenge Coin

Today's military, and many civilian organizations, have adopted the tradition of challenge or unit coins to commemorate membership in their organizations. In many cases, these coins are presented to partners, other organizations, and supporters, and collections running to hundreds of coins have grown over the years with collectors.

A **challenge coin** is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. Traditionally, they are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In addition, they are also collected by service members. In practice, challenge coins are normally presented by unit commanders in recognition of special achievement by a member of the unit. They are also exchanged in recognition of visits to an organization. There are several stories detailing the origins of the challenge coin:

- The Roman Empire rewarded soldiers by presenting them with coins to recognize their achievements.
- According to a very common story, challenge coins originated during World War I.

- According to another story, challenge coins date back to World War II and were first used by Office of Strategic Service personnel who were deployed in Nazi held France.
- While a number of legends place the advent of challenge coins in the post-Korean Conflict era (some as late as the Vietnam War), or even later, Colonel William "Buffalo Bill" Quinn had coins made for those who served in his 17th Infantry Regiment during 1950 and 1951.
- Colonel Verne Green, commander of the 10th Special Forces Group-A, embraced the idea. He had a special coin struck with the unit's crest and motto in 1969. Until the 1980s, his unit was the only unit with an active challenge coin tradition.^{[9][10][11]}

There have also been Presidential uses of challenge coins, most recently by our last three Presidents:

- President Bill Clinton displayed several racks of challenge coins, which had been given to him by U.S. service members, on the credenza behind his Oval Office desk.
- President George W. Bush received a challenge coin from a Marine combat patrol unit during his short but unexpected visit to Al-Asad Airbase in Anbar province, Iraq, 3 September 2007.
- President Barack Obama placed challenge coins on the memorials of the soldiers killed in the 2009 Fort Hood shooting



POVA Challenge Coin
Price reduced to \$15, including tax and shipping

My first exposure to a challenge coin came in 2003, when then-LTC Curt Boyd gave me his Training Battalion's coin during my visit to a PSYOP Graduation and Pinning ceremony. My collection has grown since then.

The moral of the story? POVA is proud of its challenge coin, and encourages all our members to own at least one. It demonstrates pride in our Association, and can help you avoid buying the beer if in a group somewhere and everybody else has their coin except you.....it has happened. Interested? Check out our website (www.usapova.com).

Excellent Article on Developments in Egypt



POVA Life Member, VP and Chaplain
John Cheney

POVA Life member John Cheney has written an excellent article entitled "Egypt Develops New Alliances." This is an excellent article on the many military influences being called into play in the current situation in Syria, not the least of which is Psychological Operations. Kudos to John for his excellent writing. Note: John is a long-time POVA member, Officer, and leader, currently serving as Vice President and Chaplain.

Egypt Develops New Alliances **John Cheney**

A major development in the middle-east is taking place as Egypt pivots toward support for the Assad regime. Egypt believes that its strengthening of its relationship with Russia, an important ally to Cairo in the disentanglement of the Muslim Brotherhood is in Egypt's best interest. Egypt's leadership has recently made clear its support for President Bashar al-Assad's army in Syria and decided that it can now pivot toward Assad's regime. Egypt is becoming a strategic and political partner for the Syrian regime.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have been supporting Egypt with billions of dollars to keep it stable and as a pillar of the balance of power in the Gulf Region. Cairo is keenly aware that the conflict in Syria has become a war by proxy, with competing global powers Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Russia, the United States, and Europe. Egypt's Foreign Affairs Minister, Nabil Fahmy, has said that the solution is only going to be successfully concluded between world foreign powers supporting the different parties to the conflict.

The destabilizing impact of the armed conflict and the impact of 2.4 million+ Syrian refugees in the Gulf Region is Egypt's greatest concern. The refugee numbers continue to grow. Syrian refugees in Egypt are estimated to be around 250,000. The refugees were supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood which creates a hostile population within

Egypt. Egypt has this as well as many other internally destabilizing concerns. A solution and end to the conflict in Syria are most important to Egypt and its stability.

Therefore, Egypt is mostly concerned with the possibility of the fall of the Assad regime, causing disintegration of the present Syrian state. It would fall into religious disarray Sunnis vs. Alawites which could further destabilize the Gulf Region. Continued financial support by United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are most important for the immediate future as Egypt continues to rebuild its economy.

Meanwhile, Egypt has two new Mistral landing craft. Egypt purchased the two Mistral class landing/transport craft from France after the contract for the two craft with the Russian Navy was cancelled. The purchase is a part of the Egyptian naval modernization program in which France and Germany sold other additional naval craft to Egypt's Navy. These craft are capable of moving an Army Brigade or two to Syria in a few days, should the need arise. The Egyptian Army is fully capable of supporting Assad in his efforts to take back Syria from ISIS and the opposition. Assad may need such a professional armed force to seize the remainder of Syria. Such a move could take place in 2017 as Egypt moves to support the regime of Syria's Assad.

Egypt will be in a better financial self supporting situation as its economy improves in 2017. This may be required as the changing alliances in Syria and Egypt may remove some of the current Gulf States financial support.

Some Recognizable Faces and Scenes from the 6th Battalion in Viet-Nam, 1968-69



1LT Ben Rogers



Left 1LT Bell; right 1LT Jack Gilbert,



1LT Michael Pavlina, Team Leader

During monsoon, it was often a sea of mud:



Bn HQ and Enlisted Quarters



POL, storage, and officer quarters



General View of the Battalion compound



Bn HQ Offices and Enlisted Quarters



Guard post, Bn vehicles



Battalion admin support

The entire set of Ken's pictures will be uploaded to our new website, with captions where possible. It is part of our POVA history that Ken has helped us all to preserve.

If any of you have any pictures at all from your time in PSYOP, whether overseas or in CONUS, please share them, and we'll put them on our website.

John Cheney's Predictions for 2017



John Cheney in Viet-Nam

A popular activity at the start of each year in many quarters is predicting what the major issues will be in the coming year. Here are John Cheney's predictions.....let's track these, see what happens:

Predictions for 2017 John Cheney

- The end of the ISIS Caliphate in Syria and Iraq will not be the end of ISIS. ISIS will scatter and hide in other countries and continue terrorism to keep itself relevant. This will require the free world to adopt new strategy in finding and attacking the ISIS base.
- There will be more stability in the Middle East as ISIS is largely defeated. A stable Syria, even if headed by Assad and a stable Iraq would go a long way to insure peace in the Middle East. A strong new Kurdish state would go a long way to contribute to Middle East peace as well. The Kurdish state will be ripped from Syria and Iraq by the world powers.
- Iraq has been moving toward a three-way split for some time. Iraq has been moving toward partitioning with Kurdistan in the north, Sunniland in the center of current Iraq and Shia Iraq in the south.
- 2017 will see the repatriation of Iraqi soldiers, police officers and security personnel who abandoned their posts in 2014 and were then dismissed from service. As a result of the upcoming elections in Iraq, a need for political support by political parties, immediate requirements for trained security personnel, and the need to create a more stable Iraq these personnel will be pardoned and rehired. It is true that the state of Iraq can use already trained and experienced security personnel. The employment of former security personnel would help to manage the newly liberated Mosul and surrounding territory.
- India will pursue demonetization, with a cashless society in mind. A cashless society would help secure tax collections, and eliminate some cash oriented criminal activities. If it works, many other countries will soon follow India's lead to a cashless society.
- Business travel will increase 5% in 2017 and businesses will notice employees begin using all of their vacation time leaving none to expire at years-end.
- Turkey's secular community will reconsider their living in the new Islamist society. Many remain without jobs as a result of the Erdogan purges. Former military, police, educators, and others caught up in the purge will consider immigrating to Europe, Canada, and the United States. Look for them to start hitting the exits in summer of 2017.
- Another Turkish issue which is developing much faster than the government imagined is the implosion of the Turkish economy under President Erdogan. Inflation is rapidly rising as the Turkish lira saw inflation of 25% in the last six months of 2016, apparently with no end in sight. The Lira was 3 to the American dollar 6 months ago. The Lira is now near 4 to the dollar. Investors worldwide are now shunning Turkey as the stable, safe investment haven it had recently been. This indicates a major economic crisis for Turkey. Turkey was the worst performer recently in the emerging markets sector. The President and the legislature have made constitutional changes to create an executive presidency. New powers have been legislated for the President that formerly belonged to the legislature, the judiciary and the prime minister. The economic crisis could continue its' rapid decline, which could lead to the collapse of the AKP party as citizens lose faith in the new Islamist government. This could also result in the elimination of Erdogan as president.
- The Kurdistan Region may see a civil war, as there are power struggles between the KDP and the PUK parties. The issues are leadership, resources and revenues. The PUK is looking to Iran for support as the Turks continue to intervene in the Kurdistan Region. Various Islamic groups will take advantage of the disarray amongst the Kurds to increase their numbers, better organize and radicalize the base. These tensions and instability will lower economic growth and cause instability.
- United States interest rate rises could lead to economic instability in Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Turkey.
- Larger companies in the United States will look for more from a healthier workforce by hiring a manager for their fitness programs. This would logically fall under the Human Resources department. Many companies already have a 'wellness program' in place today. Less absenteeism due to illness will become a priority for corporations. Corporate provided wearable fitness trackers may become commonplace. Data gathered would help keep the workforce become more fit, save lives and help corporate profits.

- Cyber propaganda in fake news will increase dramatically.
- The Arabian Peninsula and North Africa will see al-Qaeda become more active as it shifts geographic emphasis.
- The United States will eliminate many overseas obligations and get other countries to carry more of their share of the defense burden.
- Business Email Compromise (BEC) scams will attack more corporations. Easily vulnerable areas are, Point of Sale Terminals (POS), POS networks, and corporate financial networks.

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 Paschkes
Kelley Zhong
Paul Lawrence
Robert A. B. Curris
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
Al Forgacz
Jesse C. Manning
Ken Bennett
Raymond Knagge
Andree Navarro
Andrew Paparella
Tristan Macaulay

*Deceased Life Member

In the clutches of the money men....

After speaking with John Cheney recently, one of which was the system of Military Payment Certificates (MPC) used by the US military in place of US dollars in foreign countries. I haven't seen any MPC in years and hadn't thought much about it in nearly 50 years. So, John's mention of the MPC triggered a memory of a day in 1968 when I came face-to-face with the potential ugly reality of the MPC changeover process. By "ugly," I do not mean Don Sheldon.

In early October 1968, I was medevaced out of an 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment firebase with a bad case of dysentery, and was there almost two weeks. During my hospital stay, I experienced the meaning of both rapid dehydration and acute diarrhea, and learned first-hand the meaning of the "silver bullet." Several times. Eventually, I was strong enough to return to the 6th Battalion, which was only a few miles away. That was when I learned about the "MPC Conversion."

The date was 21 October 1968 (I Googled that), a day on which all US issued Military Payment Certificates throughout Viet-Nam were collected and replaced with brand new certificates, thereby rendering all other MPC outside US hands worthless. Part of the process was to deny entry into all US compounds to any personnel, even US personnel, regardless of reason, for a period of up to 48 hours. I was given this information at the entrance to the 6th Bn compound by a young PFC named Don Sheldon.



PFC Don Sheldon ca. 1968

I didn't know Don Sheldon very well, but he stood firmly in the

compound entrance with his M-14 at the ready, and told me I could not enter for 48 hours. I explained why I was there and therefore had nowhere else to go. He frankly didn't seem to care, and told me "it isn't my problem." So, I walked past him anyway and entered the Battalion compound. Not many choices!

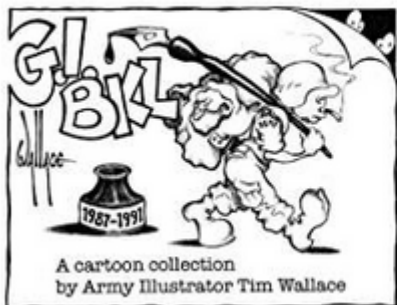
Don Sheldon was (and still probably is) a really good guy, and I was a bit grumpy having just gotten out of the hospital, and was in an unusually surly mood (go figure!). As I walked past him a few feet, I thanked him for not shooting me. That would have really ruined my day. Afterward, any time I saw Don, he always looked at me like I was a little bit crazy. I did buy him a few beers after that in the club, at least whenever I was back at Battalion HQ.

To quote Sheldon Cooper (Big Bang Theory), "I'm not crazy; my mother had me tested."

POVA Member's Book published, on sale

POVA Member and former PSYOP Illustrator Tim Wallace has published a great book of cartoons in the style of WWII's Bill Mauldin. Entitled "GI Bill 1987-1991," the book is a collection of cartoons depicting Army life as only a veteran could do it. Tim's book can be purchased through Amazon. Here is the Amazon info:


https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=GI+Bill+1987



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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.

Error Correction

In last month's newsletter, 8th MIS Bn (A)'s Command Sergeant Major was mistakenly identified as CSM Hooverman. His name is actually Robert Groover. Apologies to you, CSM Groover! You have earned better! A pretty big miss, and we'll do better next time.

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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