



The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association
(POVA)

www.usapova.org

Ex Verba Victoria

1 January 2018

Fellow Psywarriors,

First order of this newsletter's business: HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL! Be safe and joyous, and be sure to start the New Year with hope and optimism!

The start of a new year.....end of an old year.....a trail of results, both good, bad, and some in the middle. On balance, POVA had a great year in 2017, and we stand well positioned to have a great follow-on year in 2018. I've created an Appendix to the newsletter with a brief report on our progress in several key areas as POVA continues to grow.

Note the update on Reunion planning at the end of this newsletter. Planning proceeds, and it will result in an excellent reunion.

C. V. (Chad) Spawr
President

Special Operations Logo Created by POVA Member



For those Psywarriors who have entered our "world" since the 1990's, this symbol is very familiar. It is the approved symbol and logo of the US Army Special Operations Command, a major combat command that encompasses Special Forces, Psychological Operations, and Civil Affairs. This symbol can be seen all over the Fayetteville area, but there are probably very few Psywarriors who know that this was created by POVA's own Tony Sims.



POVA Member
Tony Sims

Now found on merchandise online, through the Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM), on the signboards at the entrance to Ft. Bragg, worn as a current unit and/or combat patch by Special Operations soldiers, and dozens of other locations in and around the Fayetteville area, Tony's work fully describes the command striking power of Special Operations. Here is the plaque commemorating Tony's work as the Logo designer. This plaque is featured at the Visitor Desk in the center of the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC.



THE AIRBORNE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS MUSEUM LOGO

was designed in 1992 by Tony Sims, then a specialist with the 4th Psychological Operations Group. Having a paratrooper design the logo continues a grand tradition - the famous parachutist's badge was designed fifty years earlier by Captain (later Brig. Gen.) William P. Yarborough.

Here is Tony's bio and background info. It is a pleasure and honor to have Tony as a contributing member to POVA.

My **Military Units** during my service included the following: 6th PSYOP A Co, PDB-Print Dissemination Battalion (3rd PSYOP), 8th Army TSK- Training Support Korea, AFIC-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, 10th Special Forces

The question is how does a person write a bio about one's self? When all he ever wanted to do was serve his country to best of his ability and if death was that path, then it was an honorable and noble path. I have done many things in my 12 years 10 months in, and seen some not so pleasant things too.

If you have been in long enough you know all things are not black and white, the lines are not always drawn in the sand, the enemy is not always in front. However, we do it, because it is asked of us! Recognition is a nice thing, but the glory of spotlight was always something I was bashful about.

My journey in the military was between the years 1986-1998. I started in 6th PSYOP A Co which my heart will always be a Psywarrior to the day I die. The rumors in those days was that command was about to do a major change in the Special Operation Command, well it happen. One of the changes was a new Battalion named Print Dissemination Battalion later changed to 3rd PSYOP Battalion. During my time in that unit, GEN. Lindsay came to the illustrators (25M) and let us in on a future dream of his. The building of a grand museum. It had no name, no logo only a thought of what he wanted. He pitched his thoughts to us, which was only about four of us if memory serves. My eyes lit up, I loved the idea of a new untested blank canvas to work on. Therefore, I put my brain and hands to work with great speed. I was putting out about four designs out per day for about a month, until GEN Lindsay came back to us. Needless to say I overwhelmed him with just my designs, let along my fellow artists thoughts on the subject.

I was pleased that four of the six designs were mine for the final pick. With the luck of the Airborne Gods one of mine was chosen. Therefore, the Logo became the center point of the whole driving force for the pitch for funds in the building of this museum. It was a whirlwind of things happening, letterheads, notepads, shirts, hats, pins, road signs, the post entrance signs to the base, nothing has

happen like this since the 82nd Airborne patch was design by a soldier . I was on cloud nine, I got recognition for my work, and I struck a deal with the Gen that I get to make a ring made of the logo, which I'm the only person in the world that has this ring. Sadly the funds for this grand museum was raised after I left Ft Bragg and went to new units, I have never seen the finish museum with my logo, and the dream of GEN Lindsey. I hope to see it before I die.

When I left Bragg, things were not the same, my heart ached for PSYOP, but I was needed elsewhere, Korea for a year, then things went back in my favor, I was selected to run the graphics department for the President Inaugural Committee (AFIC) in 1997. My team did Briefings for over thirty people, Joint Chiefs, Secretary of Defense, DOD, Senators just to name a few.

My last unit was 10th Group out at Ft Carson, which I did not stay long due to a reoccurring shoulder injury back in PSYOP when I was attached to 1st PSYOP on a NATO Mission.

The design of the ASOM Logo, and the President's Inaugural were the crowning jewels in my career. I currently live in Wyoming with my lovely wife Carla. I am working for Union Pacific Railroad, where I dream of my military days and friends and wish they would take this old dog back for one last mission. AIRBORNE!!!!!!

50th Anniversary Celebrations for 8th PSYOP Bn and 4th PSYOP Group

POVA officers and several members attended the 50th anniversary celebrations of the 8th PSYOP Bn (A) on 30 November 2017, and of the 4th PSYOP Group (A) on 1 December 2017 at Ft. Bragg. The Iron Mike Conference Center was the venue for both celebrations.



Gold Star parents Mark and Nancy Stets, seated at center, in the company of some very distinguished Psywarriors and veterans.

SSG Stets' parents, Mark Sr. and Nancy, both POVA Life Members, were in attendance and were presented with POVA Challenge Coins during the evening. The 8th Battalion celebration was also a memorial for SSG Mark Stets, who was KIA in 2010 in Pakistan.

On the following evening, the 4th PSYOP Group (A) gathered to celebrate the Group's 50th Anniversary. In attendance were Dr. William Forgey and MAJ-Ret. Ray Ambrozak, who served together in the Group at the time it was redesignated as the new 4th Group. Other POVA members in attendance were Rich Hosier, Dick Holzheimer, Curt Boyd, Manny Salazar and Chad Spawr.



Celebrants included (l-r) POVA President Chad Spawr, LTC Marcus Welch, 4th Group Commander COL Bethany Aragon, POVA Vice President Rich Hosier, PSYOP Commandant Robert A. B. Curris, POVA member and Viet-Nam veteran Dick Holzheimer, POVA Vice President and former 4th Group Commander COL-Ret. Curtis Boyd, and MAJ-Ret. Ray Ambrozak.

5th Special Warfare Training Battalion Graduates New PSYOP Professionals

A new group of “Q” course graduates are moving now to fill the ranks of our professional PSYOP Regiment. POVA was represented at the early December graduation by VP and Life Member Curtis Boyd. Always good to welcome new Psywarriors to our Regiment!



Course Distinguished Honor Graduates CPT Brian Jernigan and SGT Christian Bidwell were awarded POVA Life Membership certificates, Life Member pins, and a POVA Challenge Coin in recognition of their outstanding performance.

Helping Our Own in Time of Need

One of POVA's members has suffered a serious spinal cord injury, and is in a program of rigorous rehab at a Seattle, WA VA Hospital.. As if the situation isn't sufficiently difficult, she is being treated at a great distance from her home and family, and so has little interaction with friends and family. Deborah Van Ham is being treated at the VA Medical Center Spinal Cord Injury Unit, located at 1660 S. Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108. Her phone is 406-951-0300. Any contact with fellow Psywarriors will buoy her spirits as she progresses through a difficult rehab!

We encourage our members to keep Deborah in their thoughts and prayers. Receiving mail is always important (remember from our days overseas?), and little thoughtful things like cards, etc., can bring a smile to a person feeling isolated and alone. Deborah is one of us, a fellow soldier, and a Psywarrior. Please, fellow POVA members and friends, take a few minutes to send her a note, give her a phone call, and let her know her fellow Psywarriors have her in their hearts and minds.

16th PSYOP Battalion Recruitment is a Stunning Success



16th PSYOP Bn Crest

The Christmas and year-end Holiday season has been a great time for POVA to continue its efforts to include more Reserve PSYOP soldiers in our Association and in support of our PSYOP Regiment. Beginning with Battalion Commander LTC Christopher Ambrosio who joined as a Life Member, the three companies of the Battalion have (as of this writing) enrolled over a dozen new POVA members.

Pictured below is the assembled Battalion members attending the Battalion Dining Out ceremony on 16 December in Illinois.



3d PSYOP Battalion Dining Out Event Scheduled for 19 January 2018

POVA is pleased and proud to announce a Dining Out event in celebration of the 27th Anniversary of the 3d PSYOP Battalion. Commanded by LTC Christopher Stangle, the Battalion has a proud heritage, outstanding PSYOP soldiers, and perpetually honors the memory of 1LT Mike Merkel, for whom the Battalion's Media Operations Center (MOC) is named. 1LT Merkel was KIA in Viet-Nam in 1968.

3rd POB (A) (D) 27th Anniversary
Dining Out

Friday the 19th of January 2018
at the Iron Mike Conference Center on Fort
Bragg, NC. Social hour will begin at 1700 with the dining out starting
at 1800. All past, present, family and friends of the Battalion are welcome.

SFC & Above \$40
SGT & SSG \$35
CPL & Below \$30

Military: Dress Mess or
Dress Blues
Civilian: Black Tie Attire

R.S.V.P by 15 December 2017
Phone: (910) 396-6631
(931) 933-0444
Email: edwin.j.pierce@socom.mil
keneth.bolton@socom.mil

This is a significant celebration for all soldiers and veterans of the 3d Battalion. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to the persons indicated (NOTE: email address for Kenneth Bolton is in error....correct email is **Kenneth.Bolton@socom.mil**).

A History Lesson from the earliest days of the 4th PSYOP Group

When the original 4th PSYOP Group was created by reorganization of the 6th PSYOP Battalion in 1967, the first Group Commanding Officer was COL William J. Beck. COL Beck commanded until his successor, COL Taro Katagiri, assumed command in October 1968. COL Beck died before POVA was created, but COL Katagiri was a POVA member until his own passing in 1997.



Colonel Katagiri asks the men of the group to help him in his new assignment.

COL Taro Katagiri, 4th POG Commander and POVA Member



COL Beck's Marker at Arlington National Cemetery

POVA'S Life Members



POVA's Life Member ranks continue to grow, and now have enrolled 131 Life Members.

A special welcome to new Life Members Shawn Groover, Marcus Welch, Javier Rivera Camacho, Christopher Ambrosio, Bradley Carr, and PSYOP "Q" course Distinguished Honor Graduates Christian M. Bidwell and Brian S. Jernigan, and Edward Burley.

David Affleck *
Jack O'Neil *
N. "Tony" Newcomb*
Frank Coburn *
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 Dietz
Mike Stoeckert
Ray Ambrozak
Roxanne M. Merritt
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
Robert A. B. Curriss
Thomas Sweeney
Ramon Pangelinan
Donald Miller
Alan Byrne

Daniel Ammerman
John-Matthew Urby
Carl Lostracco
Kenneth Bennett
Patrick J. Dillon
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 Charbonneau
Carrell Van Deacon
Benjamin F. Rogers
D. Scott Lene
John A. Hardaway
Raymond Hackler
Monique Guerrero
Xavier Colon
Jody J. Hall
Russell B. Price
Peter J. Running
Harold Isom
Ronald Deese
Timothy Wallace
Judith Harriman Kofoet
Mary Alice Nice
Ned Lynch
Bethany C. Aragon
Jack Guy
Joel Krall
Nicholas Israel
Raphael Trujillo

Jeremiah D. Trench
Craig Champagne
Annie Hilton
Ann Turner
Eric Kreitz
Mark Stets
Nancy Stets
Jared Tracy
Gregory Seese
David Rosa
Robert Kratoska
Howard Patrick
Jacob Enke
Julio Villa
Jay Glenn
Stephen Barger
Thomas Vandling
Dianne Vandling
Elizabeth Vandling
James Vandling
Michael Vandling
John Venhaus
Corey Brown
Jack Summe
Herbert Friedman
Richard Durant
Nicole Vacciani
Derrill de Heer
Anastasios Fountis
Brett Cox
Thomas Miller
Paul Creal
Gary L. Bress
Stewart Clark
Richard Simonian
Javier Rivera Camacho
Shawn Groover
Marcus Welch
Christian M. Bidwell
Brian S. Jernigan
Christopher Ambrosio
Bradley Carr
Edward G. Burley

*Deceased Life Member



PRESIDENT'S PROGRESS REPORT **ON KEY ISSUES FOR POVA'S** **GROWTH AND SUCCESS**

2017

POVA emerged from its Fayetteville reunion in 2016 with a stronger focus on creating a stronger, more vibrant, and growth-oriented future. Key among these goals was expansion of our dues-free membership for all active duty and Reserve PSYOP soldiers, and a much stronger and direct coordination of support for our PSYOP Regiment.

Many of the items below are “foundational” in that they help build a stronger and more resilient organizational base for growth and success. Others still are about further expanding our contacts, our commitments, and our outreach to make qualitative differences in the lives of our veterans, our soldiers, our Gold Stars and our families. Here are a few of the “highlights” POVA has achieved since 1 January 2017, each contributing to our positioning for the future:

- **IRS Tax Exempt Status:** POVA now has IRS approval as a tax-exempt educational and charitable organization under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. POVA also completed its registration as a Michigan not-for-profit corporation.
- **POVA Website:** our new updated website was launched in January 2017. Located at www.usapova.org, we can upgrade and update as opportunities and information arise.
- **Member Growth:** our total active member roster now exceeds 500 Psywarriors, Gold Stars, friends and families.
- **Life Member Growth:** in the summer of 2015, POVA's Life Member ranks numbered about a dozen veterans. Today, counting veterans, Gold Star family members, top graduates of PSYOP Training programs, our Life Member ranks are nearing 150.
- **International POVA Membership:** POVA's Allied membership includes one veteran of the Army of the Republic of Viet-Nam (who served with me and with fellow Life Member Howard Patrick), an Australian who served jointly with US PSYOP troops in Viet-Nam, and two German Psywarriors (one of whom is still a serving Reservist).
- **Member Expansion to Reserve PSYOP Units:** POVA is now actively and successfully recruiting members among our USACAPOC Reserve PSYOP Battalions.
- **POVA Member Database:** POVA has created a master database to maintain member information, plan different reporting capabilities, maintain dues and renewal information, etc..
- **Member Credentials:** We have designed certificates for different categories of membership such as Gold Star Life Members, POVA Life Members, Active & Reserve Members, etc..
- **Revenue Generation/Clothing Sales:** POVA has created unique clothing items bearing our logo, our propriety “Battered Flag” logo'd clothing, our stunning Challenge Coins, and will continue adding items of interest to continue revenue growth.

- **2018 Biennial Reunion Planning:** POVA selected Cleveland, OH, as our 2018 Reunion site, to be held from 19-22 July 2018. Planning is headed by Life Member Howard Patrick, who is lining up excellent hotel, banquet and related activities.
- **2018 POVA Budget:** For the first time ever, POVA has developed and will operate with a budget to manage revenue generation and expenditures. VP Rich Hosier has worked aggressively to “corral and coordinate” our finances so we can focus on important projects and begin the process of dedicating funds as they are available to assist our charitable focal points.

On the “other side” of the equation, we have some issues that have not yet succeeded, or which continue to lie dormant and unresolved. These include:

- **POVA Speakers’ Bureau:** catalog the names, interests, and areas of expertise within POVA to provide knowledgeable speakers for PSYOP training classes, Battle Assembly presentations, etc., “Dining In” and other celebratory events, and to bring the history of modern PSYOP to younger soldiers and those in development. We may postpone this project until the new Biennium begins in 2018.
- **Corporate Sponsorships:** we have to date failed to create any corporate sponsorships to raise funds either for POVA operations or to support our charitable/educational efforts. Our current sources of revenue are member dues, personal donations, and clothing sales revenue. That is insufficient to carry on our aggressive plans for growth.
- **PSYOP Memorabilia Donation Process:** many POVA members have donated historical materials and artifacts in the past, only to have them disappear or otherwise become lost. Trustee Doug Elwell has taken the lead on this project. Our goal of recovering our “lost” memorabilia has met with zero success to date.

There are many other items on which we’ve worked and made progress, but these are the “big hitters” we felt needed attention to achieve the greatest benefit to POVA.

So, what do we need? **We need help from our members.....**

- to identify potential sponsors and contributors;
- to create processes for award nominations and recognitions of deserving Psywarriors and our supporters;
- to network and recruit PSYOP soldiers and veterans, Gold Star families, and those people critical to the success of PSYOP in our communities.

If all the work is done only by two or three people, then POVA will struggle. We are doing well now, but need help from our members. Your help in OUR Association and in support of OUR PSYOP REGIMENT is critical to our successful future.

PSYOPPERS.....ONCE AND FOREVER!



Chad Spawr, President

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2018 POVA Reunion Calendar Update

Here is the current “trending” calendar of events for our Reunion in Cleveland:

Day & Date	TENTATIVE Reunion Activity/Event(s)
Thursday 19 July 2018	<p>1500 - 1800 Arrival at Reunion hotel(s), Registration, POA Info table and POVA store open.</p> <p>1800 - 1930 Welcome Reception, HQ Hotel, light snacks, cash bar</p> <p>1930 - 2000 POVA Officer Call/Meeting (location TBD)</p>
Friday 20 July 2018	<p>0930 - 1130 POVA Business Meeting (members only) (location TBD)</p> <p>1200 - 1730 Cleveland Attractions (TBD)</p> <p>1830 - 2000 Buffet Dinner @ Buffalo Wild Wings (on same property as HQ hotel).</p>
Saturday 21 July 2018	<p>0800 - 1800 Planning still in progress.</p> <p>1830 - 2100 POVA Banquet & Remembrance Celebration (HQ Hotel banquet/conference room)</p>
Sunday 22 July 2018	<p>0800 - 1200 Buffet breakfast and Joint POVA-POA “PSYOP Update” program, presentations (planning in progress)</p>

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, 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 Hotels: POVA is negotiating with two nearby “alternate” hotels for the reunion; prices and details will be available in early January, and we will publish that info in our newsletter and on the POVA Facebook and Website.

Extended Stay America - Beachwood, Orange Place NORTH

3625 Orange Place

Beachwood, OH

Reservation Phone: **844-548-5571**

Extended Stay America - Beachwood, Orange Place SOUTH

3820 Orange Place

Beachwood, OH

Reservation Phone: **844-548-5571**

