



The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association
(POVA)

www.usapova.org

Ex Verba Victoria

1 September 2017

Fellow Psywarriors,

Since early summer of 2015, we have worked aggressively to rebuild POVA's total roster and actual membership. In particular, we've worked with both the active PSYOP force and the USACAPOC PSYOP organization to recruit new members for our long-term future. As you may recall, POVA offers dues-free membership for all currently-serving active duty and Reserve PSYOP soldiers.

From a few dozen "active" vets on our 2015 roster, we have now topped a total count exceeding 500 PSYOP soldiers, vets, Gold Stars and families. As previously reported, we have also grown our Life Member ranks, and as of this writing, POVA has 112 Life Members onboard.

This is significant growth. We are under no illusion that all "free" soldier members will one day become dues-paying members, but the odds are in our favor. Between our excellent monthly newsletter, our Biennial Reunions, and our superb Internet website (www.usapova.org), we offer communications, contact, reconnection, and products that speak well of our Association. Our original goal in 1988 was to create a mechanism for veteran friends to reconnect with buddies from the Viet-Nam War. Today, our connections cover a string of worldwide engagements that are truly "global!" POVA veterans come from conflicts and engagements that are truly global in their reach, effect, and influence.

We have taken great strides since 2015, and our future is bright. However, it won't last long if we don't continue to develop and deploy Association leaders who "move the ball" forward with every opportunity. POVA is looking for leadership to step up and help move POVA forward into an even brighter future. Our 2018 Biennial Reunion will result in a new slate of leaders to take POVA forward. It is time for "new blood" to lead this Association forward.

C. V. (Chad) Spawr
President

POVA Honors Top Grads of PSYOP Qualification Course

On 3 August, POVA Vice President Rich Hosier presented POVA recognition and awards to the top graduates of the most recent PSYOP "Q" course completed at Ft. Bragg. Operated by LTC Xavier Colon's 5th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, these highly trained and incredible soldiers were the top graduates of the extremely difficult program of study.



From left, these outstanding soldiers are CPT Don H. Gomez, Honor Graduate; SFC Matthew C. Vela, Honor Graduate; POVA VP Rich Hosier; SGT Julio L. Villa, Distinguished Honor Graduate; and CPT Jacob J. Enke, Distinguished Honor Graduate.

POVA awards conferred included Life Membership and Life Member pins for the Distinguished Honor Graduates, Special Recognition Membership certificates and POVA Challenge Coins for the Honor Graduates, and special Achievement certificates for soldiers topping the Commandant's List. All Q course graduates were granted POVA membership for the entire duration of their military service (free of dues, of course!).

Significantly, this graduation ceremony was attended by MG Francis M. Beaudette, Commanding General, 1st Special Forces Command (A), 1st Special Forces Command (A) Command Sergeant Major Brian C. Rarey, Commanding Officers of the 4th and 8th MIS Groups (A) (COL Bethany C. Aragon and COL Timothy Huening), all MIS Battalion Commanders, and the several Group and battalion Command Sergeants Major.....a most significant audience!

POVA is extremely proud of these outstanding new PSYOP soldiers who will carry on and advance the traditions of military psychological operations. Congratulations to each and every Q course graduate and new POVA member.

EX VERBA VICTORIA!

Correction to Location of 245th PSYOP Company/8th PSYOP Battalion in VN

POVA received a note from reconnected member Don Fieler regarding an error in the location of one of the PSYOP battalions in Viet-Nam. Here is Don's note:

Want to let you know of an error in the August News Letter. In 1967 when the 4th Group was formed and the 245th PSYOP Company became the 8th Battalion it remained based in Nha Trang. I'm positive of this because I was there from May 1967 to August 1969. I started with the 245th and then it became Co A of the 8th BN. The Pleiku Company became Co B of the

8th Bn. The 8th Bn was still in Nha Trang when I ETS in August of 1969 but there was talk of it being relocated to a different city.

Thanks Don.....here is the corrected set of Battalion locations during Viet-Nam:

the 244th Company became the 7th PSYOP Battalion, located in DaNang
the 245th Company became the 8th PSYOP Battalion, located in Nha Trang
the 246th Company became the 6th PSYOP Battalion, located in Bien Hoa
the 19th Company became the 10th PSYOP Battalion, located in Can Tho

PSYOP Tartan Products Available

POVA Trustee Doug Elwell has advised that the PSYOP Regimental Tartan is again available to all PSYOP soldiers and veteran who may be interested in acquiring a traditional Scottish kilt, or ladies' skirt, for wear on appropriate occasions. Here is Doug's recent announcement:

The Psychological Operations Regiment has a tartan registered with the Scottish Registry of Tartans (SRT). The tartan was designed in 2012 by members of the Regiment with help from our UK PSYOPS Brothers, approved by the Commandant of the Regiment at Fort Bragg, and registered in 2013. The SRT is authorized by the Parliament of Scotland to review, approve, and store the records for all officially recognized tartan patterns or sets. The registry number for the Psychological Operations Regimental Tartan is 10822 and more detailed information regarding this tartan can be seen at this site:

<https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/qResults?searchString=psychological%20operations%20regiment>

There is an effort underway to have kilts for the men and skirts for the ladies made of this tartan for members of the Regiment, past and present. The tartan will be woven by a mill in Scotland of 16 ounce Scottish wool and the garments will be made in the US by a vendor who provides such clothing to military, collegiate, and civilian baggage bands, as well as individuals.

The Psychological Operations Regimental Tartan material is not an "off the shelf" material and the mill requires a minimum run before they will start the loom. The orders will be taken for only a short period of time in order make this happen in a timely fashion.

If you have serious interest and want more detailed cost/ordering information, please contact me now.

Respectfully,

Douglas Elwell
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Another MOS/Career Field 37 PSYOP Q Course Graduation

LTC Xavier Colon, Commanding the 5th Battalion 1st Special Warfare Training Command at Ft. Bragg, has announced graduation of another class of PSYOP soldiers on 18 August 2017. Unfortunately POVA was unable to attend this class and induct its members into our

Association, but LTC Colon presented the top graduates with their POVA recognition awards. Distinguished Honor Graduate, PFC Corey Brown, is our newest Life Member, and we are proud to bring him into our Association. Here is a photo of the top graduates of the course.



I-r: SSG Marcos Garcia (Cycle Instructor), PFC Corey Brown (DHG), PV2 Ryan Bain, SPC Simon Federman (Iron Soldier & Commandant's List), SPC John Appleby (Commandant's List), SPC Noe Olivera (Commandant's List), SPC Catherine Saraniti (Commandant's List), SFC John W. Minarick (Platoon Sergeant for the training cycle).

USACAPOC PSYOP MOS-Transition Training Cadre

POVA has worked closely with our fellow Psywarriors in the USACAPOC PSYOP units to bring in new members and bring our membership benefits to Reserve soldiers, and is now working with the training units that are transitioning Reserve soldiers into the PSYOP 37F MOS.

Key to any successful training regime is the training cadre who organize, train, coach soldier-students, and bring the course to conclusion. At right are the course training cadre for the most recent MOS-Transition training completed at Ft. Knox, KY: (l-r) SFC Paul Campos, SFC Tony Yang, and SFC David Capelli.



The most recent graduates, Class 17-004, were presented with POVA Member certificates at their graduation ceremony. Upcoming MOS-T classes are scheduled for later in 2017 at Ft. Hunter-Liggett, CA. More details on the graduation and the graduates will appear in the October issue of the newsletter.

POVA'S Life Members



POVA's Life Member ranks continue to grow, and with this newsletter, have now reached 112 "Lifers." POVA is proud to announce the Vandling family, Gold Star family members of SGT Thomas E. Vandling, who died in combat in 2007, has accepted our offer of Gold Star Life Membership in POVA. The family includes SGT Vandling's parents, **Thomas and Dianne Vandling**, sister **Elizabeth Vandling**, and brothers **James and Michael Vandling**. In addition, our offer of Gold Star Life Membership has been accepted by **Stephen Barger**, son of LTC Ferdinand Ora Barger, KIA in Viet-Nam in 1968.

POVA is proud to add **three very special new Life Members.....Jacob Enke, Julio Villa, and Corey Brown**, recent Distinguished Honor Graduates of the PSYOP Qualification Courses completed under direction of POVA Life Member LTC Xavier Colon, Commander of the 5th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the addition of new Life Members **Jay Glenn, John Venhaus, and Jack Summe**.

David Affleck *
Jack O'Neil *
N. "Tony" Newcomb*
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. Curris
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 R. 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 Kofeot
Mary Alice Nice
Ned Lynch
Bethany C. Aragon
Frank E. Coburn
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

*Deceased Life Member

New Program will allow Many Vets to shop online at Base Exchanges

POVA Life Member Ben Rogers passed along some very significant information pertinent to our fellow POVA members: beginning on 11 November 2017, honorably discharged military veterans not otherwise eligible for post exchange shopping benefits will be able to shop online only at the several military exchange websites.

Keep in mind this benefit only applies to online shopping. It does not grant us access to military bases to shop in person. There will also be benefits regarding sales tax and shipping costs. This new benefit is a result of federal legislation, and is currently being beta-tested now. Here is a website providing further explanation:



https://militaryadvantage.military.com/2017/01/millions-more-vets-to-be-able-to-shop-at-exchanges-online/#.WXOY_Kym82w.mailto

You can go online to www.vetverify.org for more information, to see if you will qualify, etc.. You may even be offered the opportunity to participate in beta-testing.

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