



The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association
(POVA)

www.usapova.org

1 September 2018

Fellow Psywarriors,

POVA's 17th Biennial Reunion has "come and gone." Having attended many POVA reunions, I can say that this was one of the finest efforts we have put forward. It was also the first Reunion in which we were able to introduce Allied PSYOP veterans who have become Life Members of our Association. We are truly becoming an international association of Psywarriors; do I hear "name change" on a future breeze?

POVA has learned that the US Marine Corps is launching its own organic PSYOP capability. As we have already known, the Army's PSYOP training programs at Ft. Bragg have included Marine Corps students for many years; their numbers will rapidly ramp up and our two fighting services further develop the doctrines and techniques associated with "Persuade, Change, Influence."

Regimental Commandant COL Robert Curris and POVA Life Member Miguel Hobbs are helping facilitate commo with the Marines.

POVA has received an invitation to visit Quantico, VA, later this year to meet the USMC leadership team organizing and leading the Corps' PSYOP program. We are interested in speaking to the Corps, and the Corps is interested in speaking to POVA. I love it when "interests" coincide to our mutual advantage. POVA Life Member Miguel Hobbs has been our "pointman" with the USMC on this project.

POVA's final amended Constitution is now loaded on our website. Changes were subtle, but important. Check it out on our website.

C. V. (Chad) Spawr
President

Some Important PSYOP Birthday Milestones

2018 is a banner year for all of us in PSYOP, whether active, Reserve, or veteran. Here's the "milestone lineup" for this historic year:

- ✓ Our **PSYOP Regiment** was activated on November 18, 1998. **Our Regiment is now 20 years old.**
- ✓ Our **PSYOP Veterans Association (POVA)** was founded in 1988 by 5 veterans of the 6th PSYOP Battalion who served together in Viet-Nam. **POVA is now 30 years old.**
- ✓ The **US Army Psychological Warfare Division** of the Army Central School opened in 1950. Known today as the JFK Special Warfare Center and School (SWC), it is the source of both the famed Special Forces (Green Berets) and today's expert Psywarriors. All US Army Special Operations have their beginnings in Psychological Operations. Known today as the USAJFKCS, **our formalized profession is now 68 years old.**
- ✓ Our **US Army PSYOP profession** began in 1918 when CPT Hemer Blankenhorn was directed to create a psychological warfare capability to support US and Allied objectives during World War I. **Our US military PSYOP profession is now 100 years old.**

It surely has been a good century for PSYOP. Thanks to our brothers in the PSYOP Regimental Association (PRA) for hosting the 100th Birthday celebration at Ft. Bragg on 1 August. Well done!

New POVA Life Members



POVA welcomes new Life members David Mitchell, Delwin Fisher, Thomas Milligan and Colin Tait. Both Milligan and Tate recently graduated from the POQC course at Ft. Bragg; Milligan was the Distinguished Honor Graduate, and Tait was the Honor Graduate. We are proud to enroll them as Life Members of POVA. POVA's Life Member roster now totals 147.

You can view our entire Life Member roster on POVA's website at <http://www.usapova.com/current-members/>

Another Viet-Nam Psywarrior is now a POVA Life Member

POVA is proud to announce that another long-time member, Delwin Fisher, has elected to become a POVA Life Member. Del attended his first POVA Reunion in Cleveland this summer with lovely wife Marcia, and they had a great time. Always good to see the Viet-Nam PSYOP contingent staying active and helping POVA continue to grow. Del worked as a Printer in the 6th PSYOP Battalion printing facility in Saigon.

Without the excellent work of our PSYOP print plant and printers, those of us in the field teams would have had nothing to disseminate. The work they did, usually on very short time notice, was excellent.

Welcome Home, Del!



Delwin Fisher

"Persuade, Change, Influence" PSYOP Motto Being Given a Broader Meaning

POVA was contacted in early July by Dr. LaMaurice H. Gardner, PsyD., who serves as a Clinical Psychologist consultant and advisor to the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Detroit. Dr. Gardner is a consultant and trainer for the Oakland County, MI, Sheriff's Department training the Department's Hostage Negotiation Teams. Dr. Gardner said the distinctive PSYOP crest was chosen for the very motto emblazoned on it. After we spoke briefly, he presented me with the Department's pin, and I gave him our POVA Challenge Coin. Both are pictured below. Our "Influence" continues to grow!



POVA Has Lost one of our Newer Members



POVA Brother Tony Sims

It is saddening to report that our Brother Tony Blakely (Sims) has passed. Tony has been a POVA member for the past couple of years and was an active poster on our Facebook group. Tony stood for election to POVA's Board as a Trustee; although he was not elected, one or two more votes would have added him to our Board.

You may remember that Tony designed the Special Operations Command logo that graces our "home" base at Ft. Bragg and in Fayetteville. Tony was honored for his contribution by the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in May 2018. Here is Tony's obituary:



USSOCOM Logo

Tony M. Sims Jan. 18, 1968 – Aug. 2, 2018

TORRINGTON, WY – Memorial services for Tony M. Sims, 50, will be 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, 2018, at the Colyer Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Cody Dyer officiating. Tony died Aug. 2, 2018, at Community Hospital in Torrington and cremation has taken place. Memorials may be given to the American Heart Association. The Colyer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements and condolences may be sent to www.colyerfuneralhome.com.

Tony was born Jan. 18, 1968, in Baton Rouge, La. He grew up and received his education there. He served in the US Army from October 1986 to November 1998 as an Army combat graphic artist at Fort Bragg, N.C. After his discharge, he was employed by the Union Pacific railroad as a conductor from March 1999 till his death.

Tony enjoyed hunting and several other hobbies, in addition to spending time with his family. Tony is survived by his wife Carla Sims; his son Justin Cole; his daughters Krystal Marlatt and Christy Payne; his parents Tom and Pat Blakely; brothers Tom Blakely, Joey Blakely and Bobbi Ligimer; grandparents Bob and Marion Moran; and grandchildren Kamea, Jayla, Amyia and Lanyia Cole and Jaylen and Emmalynn Payne.

He was preceded in death by his stepfather John Sims.

RIP Tony. Your fellow Psywarriors will always remember.

POVA Attends 2d PSYOP Group Change of Command

2d POG held its change of command ceremony at the US Army Reserve Center in Twinsburg, OH, on Sunday 12 August. President Chad Spawr attended on behalf of POVA.

Presiding Officer MG Darrell J. Guthrie, CG/USACAPOC, transferred command of the 2d POG from COL Jesse Manning (a POVA Life member) to COL Andree Navarro (also a POVA Life member).

The Change of Command was attended by several retired 2d POG Commanders and Command Sergeants Major, the several battalion commanders of the 2d POG battalions, and families and friends.

MG Guthrie is very interested in POVA and our support of both our Regiment and our Reserve Psywarriors. He has agreed to meet with POVA officers during a November 2018 visit to Ft. Bragg.

In the photo, from left: MG Darrell J. Guthrie, POVA President Chad Spawr.



The 2d POG Change of Command was preceded the evening before with a dinner for outgoing Commanding Officer Jesse C. Manning. The dinner was excellent and well-attended. In attendance were former 2d POG Commanding Officer Michael Barger and incoming 2d POG Commanding Officer as well as key members of the 2d POG leadership team.

Key 2d POG personnel are pictured below:



I-r: Chad Spawr, COL-Ret. Mike Barger, COL Andree Navarro, COL Jesse Manning



I-r: CSM Daniel Benedict, Chad Spawr, SGM Eric Soto



I-r: Chad Spawr, COL Jesse Manning

One of the great pleasures of attending such activities as Change of Command, unit "dining in" events, etc., is the opportunity to both reconnect with fellow Psywarriors and to create new connections with "kindred spirits" from our "world." It was a pleasure meeting retired CSM Mike Gargac (left below), and reconnecting with former 2d POG Commanding Officer COL-Ret. Dave Frisone (right below).



POVA's New Vice President for Membership

After several discussions, Life Member Matt Robbins has offered to step into a new role as our VP for Membership. Principal duties will include recruitment activities, registering and enrolling new members, working with VP Rich Hosier to encourage member renewals, and preparing new member certificates and welcome letters.



***New VP Membership
Life Member Matt Robbins***

This is an important role, and having Matt take this on will be immensely helpful as POVA renews its focus on long-term growth efforts. Thanks in advance, Matt.

POVA's New Vice President-at-Large



COL-Ret Curt Boyd at Retirement Ceremony

With the movement of VP Matt Robbins into a key role managing our membership processes, we had a resulting vacancy in a VP position. With the strong concurrence of our Board, POVA has selected former VP-Corporate Relations Curt Boyd to fill the vacancy created by Matt's move. Curt is a retired O6 who has been a POVA friend and supporter for over 15 years. An incredibly experienced PSYOP leader, Curt commanded the 3d Training Battalion which trained the Army's PSYOP soldiers; the 4th PSYOP Group (A); and was Chief of Staff of the Kennedy Center Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS) prior to his retirement.

Curt is a valued friend, advisor, and outstanding representative for POVA in several activities in the Ft. Bragg "world" of Special Operations and PSYOP.

Potential for a First POVA Chapter: Spreading the Flag

POVA Life Member Miguel Hobbs is undertaking efforts to organize a POVA chapter in the Northern Virginia-Washington DC metropolitan area. Miguel will further expand and adapt the outstanding work already done by Reggie Bostick to help move us closer to our first chapter.

At present, POVA believes we may have potential for strong chapter development, in addition to the Northern VA-DC area, in the areas around Cleveland, OH; Denver, CO; and Fayetteville, NC.



Another PSYOP Veteran Reunion



POVA Life Member Stanley Michelsen holds a reunion every year with a small group of US Marine Corps veterans with whom he served in Viet-Nam. Previous items and pictures involving Stanley have been published in our newsletter.

2018 was no exception. Stan, on the right in this picture, sent along this picture of his combat veteran Marine brothers from so long ago. Well done, Stan. The ties that bind...

Welcome Home, Brothers!

POVA Speakers Bureau

In 2017, POVA solicited its members to determine who might be interested in serving as a speaker for POVA. Such activities may include speaking at instructional classes at Ft. Bragg and at Reserve Reclass training to further develop our Reserve Psywarriors, giving presentations based on our hands-on PSYOP experiences on deployment, attending unit dining-in activities, change of command ceremonies, etc. POVA sees this Speakers Bureau as an excellent vehicle to support our PSYOP Regiment while also encouraging all Psywarriors to become POVA members.

I am disappointed to report that, when my laptop had a fatal "crash and burn," it took that data with it. I am embarrassed to have to ask again that our members again offer to be added to our "Speakers Bureau" roster. Apologies to all who offered to participate, and thanks in advance to those who will participate.

The items below are the information we need to rebuild our Speakers Bureau roster. Please participate. Please reply directly to Chad Spawr (chad.spawr@usapova.com).

POVA Speakers Bureau Interest Sheet

Name:

Email Address:

Phone:

Mailing Address:

What is your PSYOP experience while in service?

Topics on which you can speak?

Do you have, or can you prepare, a PowerPoint for your presentation?

Do you have exhibits, photos, artifacts, etc., for a presentation?

How Far are you willing to travel to speak?

Can you visit and speak to Reserve PSYOP Units?

Can you cover all or most of your travel expense?

(If possible, POVA can provide some assistance)

Are you willing to recruit members for POVA when you speak?

****IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION ****

PRESIDENT & NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHAD SPAWR chad.spawr@usapova.com
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	LARRY DIETZ lawrenceddietz@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT/CHAPLAIN	JOHN CHENEY hqcmdt@hotmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE	RICH HOSIER richhosier3@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP	MATT ROBBINS matt.robbins@usapova.com
VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE	HOWARD PATRICK HPATRICK43@GMAIL.COM CURT BOYD MISO.PSYOPER@GMAIL.COM
TRUSTEES	MANUEL SALAZAR many.s.salazar@gmail.com MIGUEL HOBBS miguel.hobbs.mbh@gmail.com TIM RUIZ timothy.e.ruiz@gmail.com DESMOND GUDETS desmond.i.gudets.mil@mail.mil TIM WALLACE dirtdart357@yahoo.com MIKE STOECKERT hookeye1@yahoo.com HAMMOND SALLEY hsalley@sbcglobal.net ROD FRITZ rodfritz@rcn.com
POVA's Website Ed Rouse's PSYOP Website PSYOP Regimental Association Website COL-Ret. Larry Dietz PSYOP Blog Howard Patrick's Blog	http://www.usapova.org http://www.psywarrior.com http://www.psyopra.com www.psyopregiment.blogspot.com www.howardpatrick.weebly.com/blog