

CREDIBILIS

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

FALL/WINTER 2009

President's Message

The summer has come and gone. Hope everyone enjoyed the summer season. I have to apologize for not having a summer issue of Credibilis. Some of you already know that I was in a motorcycle accident in July and was unable to do a newsletter do to my injuries. I have since recovered from my injuries and doing well.

On June 4, 2009, during the 3rd annual PYSOP Regimental week, four psywar vets received the Gold Major General Robert A. McClure Medal: COL Jeffery B. Jones, COL Frank E. King, LTC Joseph P. Miessner, and Dr. (COL) Alfred H. Paddock, Jr. More about the Medal is in the "News from Fort Bragg" newsletter from Doug Elwell.

I recently made a trip to Boston to check out several locations for our reunion in 2010. The reunion will be held in September or the early part of October depending what dates are open at the locations that I am looking at. I have chosen several places and will do a follow up on them for our location. I have chosen hotels that are about 10 miles outside of Boston for the following reasons: The hotels in the city of Boston are very expensive, parking is difficult to find, and most hotels charge anywhere from \$30.00 to \$40.00 to park your vehicle. Most municipal and private parking lots charge the same. The hotels I am looking at offers free shuttle service to the rail system that takes you to the city. The rail system is inexpensive and takes you within easy reach of the cities attractions. Boston is a beautiful city and has much to offer for our reunion. More information will be in the next newsletter or in a separate email or mailing.

If any member would like to contribute information, pictures, or an article for the newsletter you can contact me or one of the editors.

Dues reminder. Check with Treasure Arlo Despain to see if you are up to date on your dues. Dues are \$30.00 for one year and \$50.00 for two.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

Mike Stoeckert

NEWS FROM FORT BRAGG.....

The building continues on Ft Bragg to accommodate the transition of FORSCOM and USARC to North Carolina. The FORSCOM website has some information about the move from their standpoint at <http://www.army.mil/-news/2009/09/09/27063-forscom-relocation-planning-accelerates-as-move-nears/>. You can also get some Ft Bragg perspective at <http://www.bractf.com/forscom.php>. The bottom line is that it will be getting crowded as about 5,000 more positions are added on Post. There is still a lot of replacement of old buildings in the 82d Division area as the new barracks are going up. Gruber Road is taking on a whole new look. It has been past due for the care of the soldiers. There is growth in the numbers of soldiers in Psychological Operations, too, even if we aren't seeing the additional building space yet.

The 3d Annual PSYOP Regimental week kicked off on 01 JUN 2009. Sporting competitions, technology displays, and briefings of world events from the PSYOP perspective ruled the week. It culminated on Thursday, 04 JUN, with the Formal. The guest speaker was LTG John F. Mullholland, CG, US Army Special Operations Command. The entertainment provided by the 82d Airborne Division Chorus was top notch. They are always great. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the first four recipients of the gold Major General Robert A. McClure Medal. The award is presented to PSYOP soldiers by the Psychological Operations Regimental Association. To quote the dinner program:

"The most prestigious award presented on behalf of the Regiment, the Gold Medal recognizes those individuals who have had an exceptionally significant impact on the Psychological Operations regiment; who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character; displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence; served the Psychological Operations Community with selflessness over a long and distinguished career; and contributed to the promotion of the Psychological Operations branch in ways that stand out in the eyes of senior leaders, subordinates, and peers of the recipient. This Medal is awarded on behalf of the Psychological Operations Regimental Association and presented at the Annual Regimental Dinner in conjunction with the PSYOP Regimental Week."

The 2009 recipients were (alphabetical order): COL Jeffrey B. Jones, 4th POG Commander 1993-95; COL Frank E. King, 2nd POG Commander 1980-84; LTC Joseph P. Meissner, DCO 2nd POG 1989-91; and Dr. (COL) Alfred H. Paddock, jr, 4th POG Commander in the 1980s.

The Joint Fund for injured and deceased soldiers is at \$1446. There was a recent KIA, CPL Nicholas Roush. Those wishing to make a contribution to this fund are welcome to send a check or money order made out to POVA and mail it to: Doug Elwell, PO Box 36315, Fayetteville, NC 28303. The money goes to PSYOP soldiers injured in service or the families of PSYOP soldiers that die in service.

Members can contact me if they have questions.

Best regards,

Doug Elwell

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Military Pay

Ms. Cindy Williams wrote a piece for the Washington Times, denouncing the pay raise(s) coming service members' way this year citing that she stated a 13% wage increase was more than they deserve. A young airman from Hill AFB responds to her article below.

"Ms Williams: I just had the pleasure of reading your column, "Our GIs earn enough" and I am a bit confused. Frankly, I'm wondering where this vaunted overpayment is going, because as far as I can tell, it disappears every month between DFAS (The Defense Finance and Accounting Service) and my bank account. Checking my latest earnings statement I see that I make \$1,117.80 before taxes per month. After taxes, I take home \$874.20. When I run that through the calculator, I come up with an annual salary of \$13,413.60 before taxes, and \$10,490.40, after.

I work in the Air Force Network Control Center where I am part of the team responsible for a 5,000 host computer network. Amazingly, this job does NOT pay \$13,413.60 a year. No, this job is being offered at \$70,000 to \$80,000 per annum..... I'm sure you can draw the obvious conclusions.

You may have picked up on the fact that I disagree with most of the points you present in your opened piece. But, tomorrow from KABUL, I will defend to the death your right to say it.

You see, I am an American fighting man, a guarantor of your First Amendment rights and every other right you cherish. On a daily basis, my brother and sister soldiers worldwide ensure that you and people like you can thumb your collective nose at us, all on a salary that is nothing short of pitiful and under conditions that would make most people cringe. We hemorrhage our best and brightest into the private sector because we can't offer the stability and pay of civilian companies.

And you, Ms. Williams, have the gall to say that we make more than we deserve? You can kiss my royal red a**!!!

A1C Michael Bragg Hill AFB AFNCC

This Cindy Williams is an **Assistant Director for National security in the Congressional Budget Office.....** ED Note: This was condensed from a much longer article.

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provide the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment or special benefits 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 website.

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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. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

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