

# CREDIBILLIS

Psychological Operations Veterans Association

SUMMER 2010

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## President's Message

Winter has come and gone. The warm weather has finally arrived. I hope everyone is taking advantage of the warm weather.

Our Reunion 2010, in Boston, Massachusetts, will soon be here. It is being held at the Marriot- Boston- Quincy. The dates are August 27, 28, 29, 2010. I recently checked the rates at the hotel on the internet and they are lower than when I sent out the Reunion Flyer. The new rates are reflected in the flyer in the newsletter. If you already made reservation please contact the hotel for the lower rate. I changed mine on line and it was no problem. I visited the hotel back in January of this year. The hotel is top notch and has a lot to offer for our Reunion. The city of Boston has something of interest for everyone.

Our POVA Reunion Dinner is on Saturday 28, 2010. I have reserved a private room off the main dining room for our dinner. If you are planning to attend the dinner please notify me by August 1<sup>st</sup>. This way it can be determined by the number of people attending if we are going to have a fixed price dinner or order off the regular dinner menu. The price of the fixed dinner is \$35.00 per person. The time of dinner will be determined when I get the exact number of people who are attending. Hopefully the dinner will be around 6:00.

This is our "Reunion" so let's make it just that by having a good time, meeting new and old friends, doing a little business, and to strengthen the POVA commitment. We also will discuss a location for our 2012 Reunion. Any member can contact me with a location and I will pass it on to the members who attend the reunion for consideration. I will be arriving on Thursday, August 26, 2010, and looking forward to seeing everyone that will be attending.

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 Treasurer, 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 years.

See you at the Reunion

*Mike Stoeckert*

**POVA Reunion 2010**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**  
**August 27, 28, 29, 2010**

To be held at the **Marriot-Boston-Quincy, 1000 Marriott Dr., Quincy, Massachusetts Phone: (617) 472 - 1000.**

Room rates per night for the above dates are:

**Normal rate \$109.00 Marriott Senior rate \$93.00**

**AAA rate \$95.00**

These rates are from the Marriott-Boston-Quincy website and should be the same if you call directly. This is a popular hotel and rates will be much higher if you wait. I would advise making your reservations as soon as possible. These rates are due to increase. You can cancel the reservations up to 24 hours before arrival date. You will not be billed until you arrive. For further information you can go to their website.

[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bosqu-boston-marriott-quincy](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bosqu-boston-marriott-quincy)

The hotel is located 8 miles from downtown Boston. It is accessible from Logan International Airport and the Rail System. The hotel offers free parking and free shuttle transportation to the train station to Boston. The train to Boston is \$2.

Boston is an incredible place. It has something of interest for everyone... Museums, Libraries, Faneuil Hall Market Place, The Seaport District, Historical North End (Little Italy), USS Constitution, Cambridge/MIT/Harvard Univ., Beacon Hill/Boston Common, Fenway Park, Theater District, Public Garden, Trolley Tours, Bus Tours, Sightseeing of all kinds and so much more. There are Restaurants with food to please everyone's palate. Of course there is plenty of excellent shopping.

Please make your reservations and notify me by August 1<sup>st</sup> or sooner so I can make arrangements for our POVA Reunion Dinner, Saturday, August 28, 2010 with the exact amount of guests. Our dinner arrangements will depend on the amount of guests who will be attending. Cost will be \$35.00 per person.

Remember, this is our "Reunion" so let's make it that, a wonderful reunion of old friends and new friends coming together while enjoying a fantastic time in a great city. Let this reunion and mini-vacation help reunite old friends, make new friends and strengthen our POVA commitment. You can contact me at [hookeye1@optonline.net](mailto:hookeye1@optonline.net) or (631) 868 - 3068 for any further information. Mike Stoeckert, President of POVA

## **NEWS FROM FORT BRAGG.....**

The building continues on Ft Bragg to accommodate the transition of FORSCOM and USARC to North Carolina. . 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.

There are two changes of command coming in the near future. The 3d PSYOP Battalion will have changed command from LTC Richard Springett to LTC Robert Curriss on 25 JUN at Meadows Field at the USASOC Headquarters on Ft Bragg. The 1<sup>st</sup> PSYOP Battalion will have their change of command at the same location on 10 AUG. The 2010 PSYOP Regimental Week will likely be held in October. I have no further information on the event at this time.

The Joint Fund for injured and deceased soldiers is at \$1016. I have received another \$65 that has yet to be deposited. There has not been a casualty for several months, so we are blessed. 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  
FT Bragg Liaison  
910-488-1383  
elwellds@embarqmail.com

## **ARMY OPTS FOR A NEUTRAL NAME**

The Army has dropped the name "Psychological Operations." The announcement below was from the New York Times and forwarded to me by Mike Paschkes:

The Army has dropped the Vietnam-era name "psychological operations" for its branch in charge of trying to change minds behind enemy lines, acknowledging that the term can sound ominous. The Defense Department picked a more neutral name: Military Information Support Operations. Ken McGraw, spokesman for the Special Operations

**Command said Thursday, adding that it more accurately reflects the unit's job of trying to influence enemy soldiers and civilians. (AP)**

**\*\*IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS / E-MAIL ADDRESSES\*\***

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	MIKE STOECKERT <a href="mailto:hookey1@optonline.net">hookey1@optonline.net</a>	631-868-3068
<b>VICE PRESIDENT/ CHAPLAIN</b>	JOHN CHENEY <a href="mailto:hqcmdt@hotmail.com">hqcmdt@hotmail.com</a>	214-929-6603
<b>TREASURER</b>	ARLO DESPAIN <a href="mailto:arlopova@yahoo.com">arlopova@yahoo.com</a>	801-571-5807
<b>SECRETARY/EDITOR NEWSLETTER MAILER</b>	MIKE PASCHKES      bmpaschkes@comcast.net	561-369-8698
<b>ASS'T EDITORS</b>	CLYDE GAIDOSH BARB GAIDOSH      cgaidos@pacifier.com	503-458-6825
<b>TRUSTEES</b>	DICK HOLZHEIMER      rholzh@yahoo.com PAUL WOLFGEHER <a href="mailto:paw1924@swbell.net">paw1924@swbell.net</a> DONALD WORKMAN <a href="mailto:djworkman@windstream.net">djworkman@windstream.net</a>	813-391-2975
<b>HONORARY HISTORIAN MEMORABILIA DESIGN ARTIST</b>	TOM BRANDT <a href="mailto:vietnamimages@yahoo.com">vietnamimages@yahoo.com</a>	630-837-7955
<b>LIAISON OFFICER</b>	DOUG ELWELL      elwellds@embarqmail.com	910-488-1383
<b>PSYOP VETERANS ASS'N</b>	psyopvets.com	
<b>Ed Rouse's PSYOPS Website</b>	<a href="http://www.psywarrior.com">http://www.psywarrior.com</a>	
<b>POVA's WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://www.usapova.com">http://www.usapova.com</a>	

POVA c/o Mike Stoeckert  
192 Clubhouse Dr.  
Patchogue, NY 11772

**FIRST CLASS      POSTMASTER:ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## *Yellow-Peril*

Walter Vail and I became friends shortly after arriving in country in March of '69. We were both newly assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Battalion and were sharing temporary quarters in the battalion's supply building in Nha Trang. Our only other companion was a horribly sunburned trooper from the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, a "Soldier of the Month" recipient up on a special three day RR. Walt may have been the oldest draftee in the US Army, having been inducted weeks shy of his twenty-sixth birthday. After college, he had been employed by the Robert Fulton Company, a defense department contractor, and had been sheltered from the draft until a glitch in his deferment surfaced.

There wasn't a lot going on those first couple of weeks, and Walt decided to look up a former civilian colleague who was working in Nha Trang as a "tech rep" for his former employer. Two days later, decked out in our brand new jungle fatigues adorned with PFC stripes, we attended an elegant cocktail party on the veranda of a French Villa overlooking the Beach Road. Not exactly how I'd envisioned my first weeks in Vietnam, rubbing elbows with senior ranking officers from multiple countries while sipping mimosas and munching on caviar. Over the course of the evening, we met two French guys who had been teaching in a private school. They were soon to return to France and were in a big hurry to sell their sail boat. Walt and I put our heads together, and after inspecting the craft the following day and parting with a month's pay split two ways, we were the proud owners of a seventeen foot sailing vessel which we renamed *Yellow-Peril*.

For a fee of ten dollars a month, the boat was kept at the Wha Trang, a small bar and restaurant located right on the beach about half way between Camp McDermott and Nha Trang City. The hull was white, made of fiberglass with a centerboard. The rudder was attached to the stern. It was a heavy, sturdy boat, decked out with plywood painted Air Force Blue with donated paint. The boat was set up as a lateen rig, much like a sunfish, with a large canvas sail and bamboo mast set well forward with bamboo spars. We reinforced the mast's stress points with fiberglass

cloth and resin from aircraft fuselage patching kits, also a donation from our Air Force friends.

At first, we kept it all very hush-hush. We were sure there must be some sort of Army regulation prohibiting ownership of a pleasure craft in a war zone. It didn't take long, however, for the word to spread through the company area. One day, Walt and I were summoned to one of the battalion's senior officers, and we were really prepared for the ax to fall. "Hey, Walt and Bruce," we were greeted by our first names! "Understand you guys have a sailboat...any chance I could get one of you to take me and my Red Cross lady friend out for a sail tomorrow?" The pressure was off! Word evidently also passed down to 4<sup>th</sup> Group HQ in Saigon. From time to time we would hear through the chain of command that Major and Captain so-and-so were going to be up visiting battalion and were requesting an afternoon sail if possible. *Yellow-Peril* soon became part of the fabric of Company A life. We brought her around to the unit's beach parties and introduced many to their first sailing experience.

We explored up and down the coast and the Islands off shore. The warm South China Sea and prevailing northeasterly winds, steady at fifteen to twenty knots, were excellent for sailing. Many days we hung out on hiking straps, miles offshore, with the boat heeled way over beating to windward, all without life jackets or other safety equipment. Occasionally we carried weapons, usually WWII vintage that someone had purchased on the black market. Hon Tre Island, a couple miles off shore was one of our favorite destinations. The back side was spotted with shallow lagoons and beautiful deserted half moon beaches lined with palm trees. On those rare occasions when we had a day off, four or five of us would sail out and lounge on our private beach with lunch and a case of Hamm's. Returning from one excursion, we found the Nha Trang beach strangely deserted. Hitching a ride back to Camp McDermott, we were stopped by MPs sporting steel pots and flack vests. "Don't you guys know the base is under attack and we're on Red Alert." It turned out that our fellow psy warriors had spent most of that afternoon hunkered down in bunkers. I learned many years later that former U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey lost a leg in a fierce battle with a VC unit as a Navy Seal on one of those picturesque Hon Tre Island beaches that year. He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Nixon in 1970 for valor during that action.

**As our tour wound down and DEROS approached in March of 1970, we put the boat up for sale. After a little negotiation and exchanging some MPC, two Green Berets from the Special Forces HQ became the new owners. Neither were experienced sailors, but, typical of their breed, they were confident and didn't seem too concerned. After we'd left country, we'd heard they capsized a couple hundred yards off the beach on their initial voyage. Reportedly, *Yellow-Peril* sank like a stone, never to be seen again.**

**This was article was submitted by Bruce Beagley who served with the 8<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Bn in 1969. He would like to hear from anyone who sailed with him. His email address: [bruce\\_beagley@ml.com](mailto:bruce_beagley@ml.com)**