

---

~ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ~

Arlo Despain, POVA President

Since my election as your president on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, at the Biennial Reunion in Branson, Missouri, I have been trying to understand and adjust to just what the duties of this position are. It seems that I am slow to learn, but was still able to assist in getting the Fall issue of Credibilis published. Yes, I am still learning and still here.

If for some reason you didn't get the Fall 2006 issue of the newsletter, please go to website and you should find it posted there at this time. I assure you the next issue will be there much earlier.

I have been trying for the past 2 months to contact our webmaster to update the website ( usapova.com ). However, due to my inability to master e-mail intricacies, not adding a dash here and putting the cart before the horse, I was unable to make contact. Hopefully, now I have achieved success with that endeavor.

**A Bit of New Information . . . . .** The process of having a building named after one of our comrades, Lt. Merkel, has been postponed until March 2007. I also want to welcome a new member, **ANDRAE EVANS**, of Rochester, New York to POVA.

I really admire how much Joe Rosenberg was able to accomplish as the past president of this organization. He really put a lot of time and effort into the position of president of this organization. Joe still has the success of our organization as one of his priorities in his life. He keeps nudging me to get the things done that need to be accomplished, and I just keep procrastinating. His health is still improving.

**Please help!** We still are in need of a treasurer. It is not as difficult as you might suspect. The work will be minimal for at least the next year. **Please let me know if I have any volunteers, suggestions or nominations?**

~ **2008 POVA REUNION ~ FLORIDA ~ START THINKING ALONG REUNION LINES.**

Time and place to be announced at a later date. Please contact me or your Vice President, Mike Stoeckert, if anyone has any suggestions or ideas for the 2008 Reunion. We welcome both!

I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Arlo Despain**

~ Treasurer's position is still vacant. Do we have any volunteers? ~

**ENDING BALANCE: 1/30/2007 = \$1870.93**

2007 Dues = \$30.00

Please send dues to: POVA

c/o Arlo Despain  
1762 Tramway Dr.  
Sandy, UT 84092

Here is a website submitted to us by one of our members, Joseph Rosenberg. This Veterans Report is the most comprehensive newsletter available to HELP VETERANS stay current on benefit changes, learn about important legislation, get great discounts, and use the benefits earned in service.

Here are just a few of the topics the newsletter addressed as of December 25, 2006:

- Buyer Praises VA Information Technology Centralization
- Deal of the Week: Military Discounts on iPods & Other Products
- Clinic to Open in Rural Colorado
- Coming Home Project
- Headline Military News

And much, much more. If you are interested in this site I have included the website address: [newsltr@miltnews.com](mailto:newsltr@miltnews.com).

■ ***NATIONAL GUARD TURNED 370 YEARS OLD*** ON DEC. 13, 2006. Happy Birthday to this dedicated organization. The National Guard Bureau is celebrating with a Website dedicated to the organization and its history. You can find much more news about this on the website I just mentioned

Reprinted from Veterans Report 12/2006  
Cgaidos – POVA editor

Contributed by POVA member  
Ed Rouse

## **HEAD GAMES**

Author: Tim Downs [www.bugmannovel.com/](http://www.bugmannovel.com/)

This book is about 3 former officers of the 4<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group who served in Desert Storm. Several years later after the war, one of the officers dies mysteriously which makes the other two raise questions as to how/why he died. The main character has everything going for him, and then suddenly, a tragic sequence of seemingly random occurrences threaten to take away everything he loves – everything he lives for.

Tim Downs did a lot of research into PSYOP before he wrote the book. He interviewed a number of current and former PSYOP personnel, myself included, to make the story background as accurate as possible.

From POVA Chaplain  
John Cheney  
[hqcmdt@hotmail.com](mailto:hqcmdt@hotmail.com)

■ Nadine Hersh, wife of Lifetime POVA Member Eric Hersh, passed away at 12:52 AM on January 16, 2007. She was born March 13, 1945 in Brooklyn, New York and a graduate of Franklin Square Nursing School / University of Maryland. The Hershes made Tucson home in 2001.

Nadine is survived by her husband, Eric, twins Erica and Ric, and sister Toni Donnell. The Hersh's Tucson address: 9073 N Sweet Acacia Place, Tucson AZ 85742.

In lieu of sending flowers or gift baskets the family requests that donations be made in the name of Nadine Hersh to:

Immune Deficiency Foundation

<https://www.primaryimmune.org/youcanhelp/youcanhelp.htm>

■ POVA made a \$50 contribution in memory of Nadine Hersh to the above foundation.

## **VA PRESCRIPTIONS ID METHOD . . . . .**

**Source: NAUS Weekly Update 17 Nov 06++**

The VA started putting the last four numbers of the SSN on prescription labels in the 1970s as a way to identify the patient by asking the last name and last four. This was not unique at a lot of places so they increased this to the last six. Prior to 1984 SSNs were issued when requested with the result that number assignment was more random. Since 1984, SSNs are being issued at the hospital at time of birth to allow entry into schools.

This reduced the randomness of number assignment and if one knew the location of where a SSA holder was born it would be easier to pin down what number was assigned. When the issue of privacy first came up the VA Pharmacy Service checked with the VHA privacy officer and found that putting this limited amount of information was within the VA privacy rules plus it did not violate HIPAA regulations either.

However, identity theft is now a big issue with everyone going out and buying shredders and expressing their concerns. The VA is going to take a number of actions in the next few months to a final solution with the re-engineered pharmacy (PRE) software. The mail order pharmacy, which dispenses 80% of the prescriptions, will by the end of the fiscal year go back to the last four digits of the SSN.

This will increase the number of potential combinations into the billions. In PRE, the VA will use the last name of the patient and the picture of the patient from the VIC card as the two identifiers for patient's pickup of prescriptions. This solution will not be available until the 2009-- 2011 time frame.

ED NOTE: Thanks to the VA for once again coming up with good security measures, for dispensing our MEDS!" C.Gaidosh 2007

.....  
**POVA Executive Board**  
**2007 – 2008**  
.....

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>ARLO DESPAIN</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>MIKE STOECKERT</b>
<b>TREASURER / LOCATOR</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>SECRETARY / EDITOR</b>	<b>CLYDE GAIDOSH</b>
<b>ASS.T EDITOR/ NEWSLETTER MAILER</b>	<b>MIKE PASCHKES</b>
<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>PAUL WOLFINGER</b>
<b>TRUSTEE</b>	<b>DONALD WORKMAN</b>
<b>HISTORIAN / MEMORABILIA DESIGN ARTIST</b>	<b>TOM BRANDT</b>
<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	<b>JOHN CHENEY</b>
<b>TRUSTEE/BRAGG LIAISON</b>	<b>DOUG ELWELL</b>
<b>ED ROUSE'S PSYOPS WEBSITE</b>	<b>ED ROUSE</b>

**\*\* NOTE: Please see back page for complete list of e-mail addresses and phone numbers to contact these folks.**

**FORT BRAGG - NEWS FROM DOUG . . . . .****Doug Elwell, Liaison Officer**

• April 9, 2007 is the current date for the dedication of the new Media Operations Complex at Ft. Bragg. The 4<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group will dedicate this building in memory of First Lieutenant Michal A. Merkel. There was an article in the most recent copy of the USASOC publication , VERITAS, about the fighting at Pleiku in which 1<sup>st</sup> LT Merkle was killed. The article is entitled, Attack on Pleiku Radio Station, and the author is Robert W. Jones Jr.

• POVA member Henry Bast of New Rochelle, NY has almost single – handedly kept funds coming into the Joint Fund. Henry even collected donations of an additional \$205 for the Family Readiness Group at Christmas. We presently have just over \$2000 in the Joint Fund.

This is the extent of the news I have from down below.

v/r Doug

<b>IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS ~ EMAIL ADDRESS</b>			
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	ARLO DESPAIN	<a href="mailto:arlopova@yahoo.com">arlopova@yahoo.com</a>	801-571-5807
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	MIKE STOECKERT	<a href="mailto:hookeye@optonline.net">hookeye@optonline.net</a>	631-868-3068
<b>TREASURER/LOCATOR</b>			
<b>SECRETARY/EDITOR ASS'T. EDITOR</b>	CLYDE GAIDOSH BARB GAIDOSH	<a href="mailto:cgaidos@pacifier.com">cgaidos@pacifier.com</a>	503-458-6825
<b>PROOFREADER / NEWSLETTER MAILER</b>	MIKE PASCHKES	<a href="mailto:bmpaschkes@adelphia.net">bmpaschkes@adelphia.net</a>	561-369-8698
<b>TRUSTEE</b>	PAUL WOLFINGER	<a href="mailto:paw1924@swbell.net">paw1924@swbell.net</a>	
<b>TRUSTEE</b>	DONALD WORKMAN	<a href="mailto:djworkman@prodigy.net">djworkman@prodigy.net</a>	
<b>NOMINATIONS OFFICER</b>	DAVE MISSAVAGE	<a href="mailto:namvet6@aol.com">namvet6@aol.com</a>	309-786-1042
<b>HISTORIAN MEMORABILIA DESIGN ARTIST</b>	TOM BRANDT	<a href="mailto:vietnamimages@yahoo.com">vietnamimages@yahoo.com</a>	630-837-7955
<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	JOHN CHENEY	<a href="mailto:hqcmdt@hotmail.com">hqcmdt@hotmail.com</a>	
<b>LIAISON OFFICER</b>	DOUG ELWELL	<a href="mailto:elwellds@earthlink.net">elwellds@earthlink.net</a>	910-488-1383

<b>SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT</b>	NATALIE RICHIE	<a href="mailto:armadillo30@hotmail.com">armadillo30@hotmail.com</a>	706-769-4717
<b>Ed Rouse 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 Arlo Despain  
1762 Tramway Dr.  
Sandy, UT 84092**

**FIRST CLASS**

**POSTMASTER:ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**