

Full Spectrum

Strategic Psywar 1952

UN Psywar Aligns with Allied Bombing Campaign in Korea

by Charles H. Briscoe

In early 1952, the 1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group (1st RB&L) integrated its organic Psywar capabilities to complement UN strategic air operations. Far East Air Forces Command (FEAF) had to keep pressure on Communist military units, try to influence UN Command (UNC) armistice negotiations, minimize enemy air attack threats, provide close air support (CAS) for UNC forces, and interdict enemy logistical and communications systems.¹ Bomb warning leaflet drops coupled with radio broadcasts were natural Psywar operations. It prepared the 1st RB&L to execute Plan PATRIOT emphasizing Korean Independence.² These two efforts provided good examples for depiction in Operation EYEWASH, a traveling public information display that explained strategic and tactical Psywar operations in Korea to a variety of audiences in Japan.

The purpose of this article is to show how 1st RB&L expanded the UN air, sea, and ground power Psywar theme to exploit the Allied strategic bombing campaign in Korea. It will describe how that integrated effort prepared the Psywar group for Plan PATRIOT, a dramatic, full spectrum documentary that commemorated Independence Day in South Korea. These two missions brought all 1st RB&L capabilities into play and provided good material to illustrate tactical and strategic Psywar operations for Operation EYEWASH. These major successes earned accolades from the Far East Command (FECOM) G-2 Psywar Section and the South Korean president, Syngman Rhee. Though the 1st RB&L Operations and Intelligence Sections unilaterally developed the bomb warning leaflet mission, its well-coordinated linkage to the FEAF strategic bombing campaign was a Psywar coup. Identifying key players will promote better understanding and appreciation of these accomplishments.

The 1st RB&L Operations section responsible for Psywar leaflet operations was headed by two WWII veterans, Signal Corps Captain (CPT) Edward C. Janicek and Field Artillery First Lieutenant (1LT) Robert D.B. Carlisle.



CPT Edward C. Janicek (center, seated), 1st RB&L S-3 Operations Officer, provided guidance on the latest Psywar leaflet to (L to R) 1LT Elwin D. Hatfield, Chief, Leaflet Section, the Chinese cultural advisor, retired Nationalist Chinese Brigadier Zeng-tse Wong, 2LT Roy A. Gallant, Operations Section, and 1LT Frank R. Mickelsen, Chief, Art Section.

Another artilleryman, Second Lieutenant (2LT) James B. Haynes, Jr., Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Information & Education (I&E) Section, developed the Psywar bomb target list. Veteran CPT Robert A. Horn and Corporal (CPL) Thomas M. Klein were the Intelligence Section. Sergeant (SGT) Henry "Hank" Cavanaugh served as Operations Sergeant in the S-3. The Operations, Leaflets, I&E, and Graphics Sections of S-3 collaborated closely with the S-2 researching bomb targets and developing weekly leaflet target lists based on industrial studies of North Korea and the FEAF strategic bombing priorities. The Radio Section, S-3, composed the broadcast warnings for dissemination by *Radio Pusan*.³

With input from the RB&L staff elements a Psywar leaflet bomb target list was prepared and updated weekly. It supported the priorities of the strategic bombing campaign. 2LT Haynes, the chief coordinator, became *de facto* Liaison Officer to FEAF. As such, weekly he presented a list of seventy-eight leaflet targets to the 1st RB&L commander, Military Police Corps (MPC) Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Homer E. Shields, a WWII North Africa and France Psywar veteran, and Colonel (COL) C. Woodall Greene, Director, G-2 Psywar, FECOM for approval. Greene had served as General (GEN) Douglas A. MacArthur's Psywar Officer in the Southwest Pacific. There was nothing "magic" about the number "78"; it just happened to be the number of planned FEAF bombing missions at the time Psywar began compiling leaflet target lists.⁴

Once approved, LT Haynes hand-carried the list several blocks down the street to the FEAF headquarters for mission scheduling. There, the FECOM air component command staff that controlled all UN and U.S. air assets in theater turned the Psywar leaflet target list into air mission requests. That simple, routine "joint" staff action changed after the Secretary of the Air Force, Harold K. Finletter, praised FEAF for its "humanitarian bombing campaign in Korea."⁵



WWI Field Artillery Captain, Harold K. Finletter, succeeded William Stuart "Stuart" Symington as the second Secretary of the Air Force (24 April 1950 to 20 January 1953).



2LT James B. Haynes, Jr. became the 1st RB&L liaison officer to Far East Air Forces Command (FEAF) in Tokyo.

4th MRBC Bomb Warning Announcement for Radio Seoul

ANNOUNCER: We interrupt this program to bring a special bomb warning to the citizens of Sinchon (a North Korean rail and highway crossroads). This is URGENT.

United Nations bombers will destroy Communist war supplies, industries, and military targets in your town tonight. I'll repeat that. United Nations bombers will be over tonight to destroy military targets. Leave Sinchon now. Seek shelter! Get out of the danger area! The United Nations wants to save your life. The UN Air Force seeks only to destroy the war materials of the Communist aggressors. Don't be destroyed with them! Leave Sinchon now!*



Korean translator Chang Sang Moon (L) listens as the Radio Seoul production man, CPL Sigmund S. "Sig" Front (R), explains a broadcast.

The *ad hoc* joint integration accomplished by the 1st RB&L suddenly took on more importance. COL Greene, G-2 Psywar, adroitly deflected FEAF Lieutenant General (LTG) Otto P. Weyland's "lightning bolt" to LTC Shields. LT Haynes was directed to deliver his list of seventy-eight targets to FEAF headquarters as soon as possible. "When I got there, a red-faced Air Force colonel was waiting inside the entrance. He snatched the list from me, mumbled something about second lieutenants, and stormed off," remembered Haynes. "I knew then that my leaflet target list would no longer be treated routinely by the Air Force...and fortunately I had already flown a B-29 *Superfortress* leaflet mission in September 1951."⁶

With the UN humanitarian bomb raid warnings the Psywar leaflet and radio themes were able to expand beyond the threat of artillery and naval gunfire barrages. The art staff worked on leaflet designs, while the 3rd Reproduction Company, at the FECOM Publication Center facilities in Motosumiyoshi, mass printed leaflets on Webendorfer Offset and Harris LTV Stream-Fed presses.⁷ Then, the leaflets were packaged in door bundles for C-47 *Skytrain* delivery in Korea or loaded as rolls into M129E1/E2 500 lb. leaflet bombs for B-29 squadrons stationed in Japan and B-26 *Invader* elements on the peninsula. Dates, times, and sites of the FEAF bombing targets were contained in teletype messages to the 4th Mobile Radio Broadcasting Company (MRBC) stations in Korea. The U.S. Army radio officers at each *KBS* station were responsible for writing and broadcasting humanitarian bomb warnings an hour before the air attacks.

The radio warning announcement shown in this article was one of several hundred broadcast into North Korea in support of Operation "HOAX," the FECOM deception plan executed in mid-October 1952 to force the Communists back to the Armistice negotiation table.⁹ FEAF medium and light bombers combined with Allied, U.S. Navy, and FEAF fighter bombers averaged 1,000 sorties a day based

on Plans DEADLOCK and STRIKE supporting "HOAX." Military and industrial targets in North Korea were bombed, rocketed, napalmed, and machine gunned day and night when Communists stalled Armistice talks at Panmunjom.¹⁰ This combined UN-Army-Air Force-Navy effort employing the full spectrum of 1st RB&L capabilities prepared the unit for a special mission--highlighting Korean Independence Day, 1 March 1919.

In conjunction with the bomb target warning campaign, the 1st RB&L mounted a two-pronged Psywar operation called Plan PATRIOT in early 1952. It was to remind South Koreans that the Proclamation of Independence from Japan on 1 March 1919 was a defiant manifestation of nationalism. Preserving their independence was portrayed as a symbol of pride for the South Korean people. The 1st RB&L capitalized on this Psywar opportunity.

Plan PATRIOT depended upon leaflets from Japan and radio broadcasts originating in Korea. Since the 3rd Reproduction Company had just received the "Cadillac" model of printing presses from the States, PATRIOT provided an opportunity to demonstrate its worth. This state-of-the-art printing machine was the 35" x 45" Harris LTV Stream-Fed Multi-Lithograph press, capable of printing four-color leaflets in a single run. The older 17" x 22" Webendorfer Lithograph presses required separate print runs as each color was layered onto a paper product. This was tedious, demanding, and time-consuming because separate lithograph plates had to be "cut" for each color in the design. Print men had to fastidiously align the paper between color runs.¹¹ The leaflet "test run" prior to preparing the Plan PATRIOT products combined the UN flag with the national colors of the fifty-four member states.¹² As plans were made to print the flag leaflets, research on the 1 March 1919 activities was being done by the Group S-2 and S-3 Information & Education Sections to help artists portray Independence activities.

Operation HOAX: The Kojo Invasion Deception of 1952



At Taegu 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (ARCT) paratroopers boarded C-119s and were flown to Japan. They donned parachutes and “Mae West” life preservers before boarding a 483rd Troop Carrier Wing U.S. Air Force C-119 Flying Boxcar.



Practice mass airdrops of the 187th ARCT were made in the Naktong Valley of Korea with C-119 aircraft in October 1950. (AP Photo)

It was suggested that infantry pre-deployment amphibious training be used as part of the deception. LCMs unloading and LVTs standing by on the Kalmo Pando beaches, near Wonsan, North Korea, 26 October 1950 was typical of the amphibious training done in Korea.

During an interview First Lieutenant (1LT) James B. Haynes, Jr., 1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group (RB&L) S-3 Liaison Officer (LNO) to Far East Air Force (FEAF) for Psywar leaflet targeting, mentioned a classified operation in the fall of 1952. He did not remember the codename and simply referred to it as Operation “HOAX.” Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Homer E. Shields, the 1st Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group (1st RB&L) commander, established a temporary operations center. A Military Policeman (MP) was posted outside to control access to the room. All materials were locked in a safe nightly.²⁵ The 1st RB&L team formulated a special Psywar leaflet, got it approved, and printed in Yokohama.²⁶ It became part of the Psywar Annex to a very sensitive Far East Command (FECOM) deception plan.

UN naval surface operations in the summer of 1952 were routine blockade and patrol of the Korean coast, mine sweeping, and bombardment of coastal infrastructure (railways, roads, and shore batteries).²⁷ A coincidental assembly of Combined Task Force (CTF) 90 gunnery ships, the Naval Forces Far East (NFFE) Amphibious Force, and four fast attack aircraft carriers in September 1952 prompted Rear Admiral (RAdm) Francis X. McNerney, the CTF 90 commander, to suggest that the infantry regiment pre-deployment amphibious training be used as part of a major deception.²⁸ Vice Admiral (VAdm) Robert P. Briscoe, the NFFE commander, supported the idea.

General Mark W. Clark, the UN Commander, had been looking for an opportunity to “alarm” the Communists. The NFFE recommendation fit his needs and Clark directed the preparation of an operation plan. Two separate amphibious assault options at Kojo, a coastal village halfway between Wonsan and the bomb line, were planned: the biggest was a landing by two infantry divisions in column; and the smallest, an assault by a single regimental combat team (RCT). The planners were kept in the dark; only senior leaders knew that it was a deception. The 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, loaded amphibious ships in Hokkaido, Japan, bound for Korea. On 12 October 1952 [D-Day minus 3 (D-3)], amphibious assault landing rehearsals were conducted at Kangnung in 25 knot wind-whipped seas.²⁹



Simultaneously, the Naval Advance Force (Battleship *Iowa*, two heavy cruisers, and a flotilla of destroyers) bombarded the Kojo landing zone with naval gunfire while the four fast attack aircraft carriers launched airstrikes. General Otto P. Weyland, Far East Air Forces (FEAF) commander, ordered ten days of intensified air attacks against eastern North Korea to coincide with the NFFE efforts. Psywar warning leaflets would precede major airstrikes. A remarkable 667 sorties were flown by the two air fleets on D-3.

For three days mass parachute drops by the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (ARCT) were made in the Naktong Valley using C-46 *Commando* and C-119 *Flying Boxcar* aircraft. The airborne assault objective was Simpo-ri. During the night of 13-14 October (D-1), two U.S. IX Corps infantry battalions launched attacks to seize "Triangle Hill" and "Sniper Ridge" along the Main Line of Resistance (MLR) near Kumwha (Operation SHOWDOWN). The preparations were done, but poor weather on D-Day (15 October 1952) delayed airstrikes and the amphibious assaults.³⁰

Low clouds hindered the naval bombardment before the amphibious deception and the close air support (CAS). High, 50-knot seas threatened the boat landings. But, the airborne assault feint was executed on D-Day. Before dawn thirty-two C-119s had taken off from Ashiya Airbase in Japan heading to Korea. As they landed sequentially at Taegu, 187th ARCT paratroopers clambered aboard while a second airborne assault echelon was trucked to an airfield closer to the MLR. The air transport fleet assembled in formation over Taegu, then dropped down to 800 feet (parachute drop altitude) over Chorwon. Just short of penetrating North Korea, the air flotilla wheeled to the east and headed for Japan with thirty planeloads of disgruntled combat ready paratroopers.³¹

About 2 P.M., seven waves of landing craft (minus troops) set off in high seas for the line of departure (LD) offshore Kojo. After crossing the LD, the vessels swung back seaward to mask their lack of occupants. By nightfall the amphibious fleet was docked at Pohang, unloading the 8th Cavalry Regiment. On D+1, the remainder of the 187th ARCT paratroopers, their vehicles, and equipment was loaded aboard those same ships to go to Japan.³²



A Landing Ship, Tank (LST) approaching Pusan Harbor in the summer of 1950. (Photo courtesy of John Rich)

The question was: "Who was deceived?" Most American participants were fooled. The special Psywar leaflets printed to support the deception were destroyed. However, the standard Psywar warning leaflets continued to be dropped before scheduled bombing raids and the naval bombardments. Some of the unknowing air commanders were quite upset. Their pilots had assumed risks acceptable for a major amphibious landing. Five aircraft were shot down and two minesweepers damaged. Belief that the war was finally getting off dead center raised hopes and created excitement as the feint operations escalated. But, that elation was short lived especially after reality hit home with the American troops, airmen, and sailors. The 1st RB&L planners and leaflet preparers were among the "unwitting players."³³

No enemy movements of magnitude were detected around Wonsan to counter airborne and amphibious assaults during the preparatory and execution phases of the deception. However, on D+1, North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung and Minister Peng The-huai from Communist China sent a strongly worded protest to General Mark W. Clark complaining about the recess in the Armistice negotiations.³⁴ Allied bombing attacks, airstrikes, and naval bombardments had some effect.



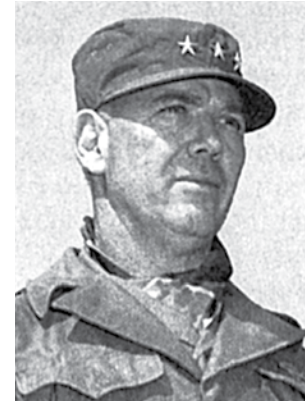
Two soldiers from the 3rd Reproduction Company, Corporal (CPL) Seguisfredo Mercado (L) and Private First Class (PFC) Wilfred Lopez, carefully stack rolls of leaflets into a M129E1/E2 500 lb. leaflet bomb.

While 1st RB&L Korean artists in Tokyo sketched leaflet proposals supporting the Independence Day theme, radio broadcast writers worked on dramatic commentaries for Plan PATRIOT which were to be ready by 19 February 1952.¹³ In the meantime, 2LT Frank R. Mickelsen, the S-3 Graphics Section leader, and CPL Francis J. “Frank” Jackmen, a 3rd Reproduction Company soldier, visiting POW (prisoner of war) camps around Pusan to interrogate prisoners on the effectiveness of the 1st RB&L surrender leaflets, were enlisted by 2LT Eddie Deerfield at *Radio Pusan*. He wanted the port city searched for original signatories of the Proclamation of Independence. With help from the police, government officials, *Radio Pusan* interpreters, and interested citizens, the American soldiers managed to find three of the original thirty-one signers: two in Pusan (Assemblyman Lee Kap Sung and La In Hyop) and a third, O Se Chong, in Taegu, living in abject poverty, forgotten. The *Radio Taegu* detachment personnel recorded O Se Chong’s recollections. The commentaries were completed on 23 February 1952 for airing on the *Voice of the UN Command (VUNC)* from *Radio Tokyo* studios and rebroadcast from *KBS* stations in Korea.¹⁴ This initiative prompted more ideas.

Special speeches by President Syngman Rhee and Lieutenant General (LTG) James A. Van Fleet, the EUSA commander, reinforced the significance of Korean Independence Day in 1952. Their recorded proclamations (LT Deerfield did President Rhee in Pusan and CPL Sigmund S. “Sig” Front did LTG Van Fleet in Seoul) connected the independence theme to war against the Communists. These recordings, one of which highlighted the sound of the Independence Gong (like our Liberty Bell), were sent to Tokyo to be incorporated into the broadcast programming.¹⁵ Deerfield reviewed the recording of President Rhee’s speech with U.S. Ambassador John J. Muccio and his staff on 26 February 1952. The ambassador commented that the “speech was extremely mild compared to previous remarks” and left LT Deerfield to negotiate



Republic of Korea President Syngman Rhee



LTG James A. Van Fleet, EUSA commander

redaction of “two offensive paragraphs” with Mr. Minn Tuk Ki.¹⁶ This completed the preparations.

Just twelve days after being alerted to prepare Plan PATRIOT, 1st RB&L was ready to execute. Six special multi-color propaganda leaflets that commemorated Korean independence had been produced, printed, and packaged for air delivery (24,445,000 were printed in eight days).¹⁷ The Korean weekly news sheets for 29 February had a color headline connected to the Independence Day celebration.¹⁸ An hour and a half of daily radio programming was dedicated by *VUNC* broadcasting from *Radio Tokyo* facilities. Plan PATRIOT, showing the solidarity of the UN alliance behind South Korea’s fight against Communism, was approved to run from 27 February through 2 March 1952.¹⁹

Considering that the execution would originate from *Radio Pusan* with reprogramming by all other *KBS* radio stations and *VUNC*, Plan PATRIOT demonstrated full spectrum exploitation of a Psywar theme. It epitomized the “most powerful Psywar program, a dramatic commentary that smoothly blended news and drama into something more easily digested and retained longer by the primary ‘target audience,’ the South Koreans”²² According to 1st RB&L Command Report No. 7, Plan PATRIOT turned February 1952 into a “banner month” for the Psywarriors because all elements in Japan and Korea contributed to the success.²³

These well-executed missions caused the FECOM staff to enlist the assistance of the 1st RB&L in a deception plan called Operation “HOAX.” Continued recalcitrance of Communist negotiators at the Armistice negotiations despite increased air and naval bombardment of North Korea prompted drastic measures—threat of UN amphibious and airborne invasions behind enemy lines. (See Operation “HOAX” sidebar). The deception plan, rehearsed and executed, however, did not cause the Communists to reinforce Wonsan to block an Allied “invasion.” Successful or not, the Chinese and North Korean delegates did return to Panmunjom shortly afterwards.²⁴ Despite these successes, promoting Psywar capabilities was a constant for the 1st RB&L.

The arrival of two Army National Guard infantry divisions, the 45th and 40th, in Japan was the impetus behind

the 1st RB&L Operation EYEWASH, an impressive Psywar public information briefing with an illustrative traveling display of tactical and strategic capabilities. Designed to promote better understanding of, and appreciation for Psywar, the visual "story boards" contained operational photographs and actual propaganda leaflets. While the mission was shelved in January 1952, it was resurrected later in the year.³⁵

"FEC Psywar's most ambitious production-piece to date hit the boards in a cleverly written, smoothly directed dramatic presentation designed to tell the story of Psywar," said *The Proper Gander*. The hour-long drama, "The Psywar Caper," directed by CPT Robert A. Leadley and 1LT Jack F. Brembeck, incorporating modern radio

and visual techniques, was capped by a "stupendous leaflet-drop finale."³⁸ "The Caper" was along the lines of a popular American radio program, "Sam Spade: Private Eye." SGT Leon H. "Lee" Nelson played "Bogie," a shamus with a past" while CPL Hanno Fuchs took Kay Dale [*Armed Forces Radio Station (AFRS) Tokyo*], acting as "Bogie's" co-worker/secretary, through all the steps of writing and producing Psywar radio shows broadcast in Korean. Then, leaflet production was explained by more Psywarrior "actors." Ideas, target audience, artwork, calligraphy, and press work were "whipped out in brisk fast-paced" dramatically-lighted scenes with realistic sound effects. The darkened finale started with a rising drone of B-29 *Superfortresses* approaching overhead. As the B-29 sounds

KBS "Proclamation of Independence" Programming
(via Radio Pusan)

Wednesday, 27 February

0800	Nemo to Home	Historical background of March 1 st
1830	Children's Hour	Patriotic poem about March 1 st
2130	Microphone Interview	Discussion of hopes for future

Thursday, 28 February

0800	Home Hour	Women in the March 1 st Movement
1830	Children's Hour	Songs of March 1 st

Friday, 29 February

0800	Nemo to Home	Spirit of March 1 st
1830	Children's Hour	Drama on March 1 st Movement
1845	Round Table Talk	Historical significance of March 1 st
1900	Special	ROK Gen Lee Han Limb on Independence

Saturday, 1 March

0645	Special	Reading of original Proclamation of Independence
0800	Home Hour	Plans for March 1 st observance
1000	Special	Remote pickup of March 1 st
		Anniversary Ceremony in Korea
1745	Special	Speech by Defense Minister Lee Ki Bong
1815	Special	Speech by President Rhee to school children
1830	Children's Hour	Drama on March 1 st movement
1845	Special	Speech by Park Cong Hwa, president. Seoul Press
1915	Special	Speech by Assembly woman Mrs. Pak Sun Chun
1930	Special	Drama to commemorate March 1 st
2130	Special	Reading of President Rhee's proclamation

Sunday, 2 March

1745	Special	Patriotic songs
1845	Special	Chorus in spirit of Independence ²⁰

Note: Yun Chul Sung (the "Voice of Philosophy"), a commentary reader at Radio Pusan, built up a large following among South Korean listeners. Mimeographed copies of his presentations were mailed to listeners who requested them (750 sent by 29 February 1952). Yun Chul Sung explained in his 29 February Korean Independence Day commentary how the UN was helping Korea help herself. He also described how various UN agencies were working with the ROK government on a huge rehabilitation program that would repair war damages countrywide.²¹

Mr. Yun Chul Sung, the most popular broadcaster at Radio Pusan, did three commentaries daily.

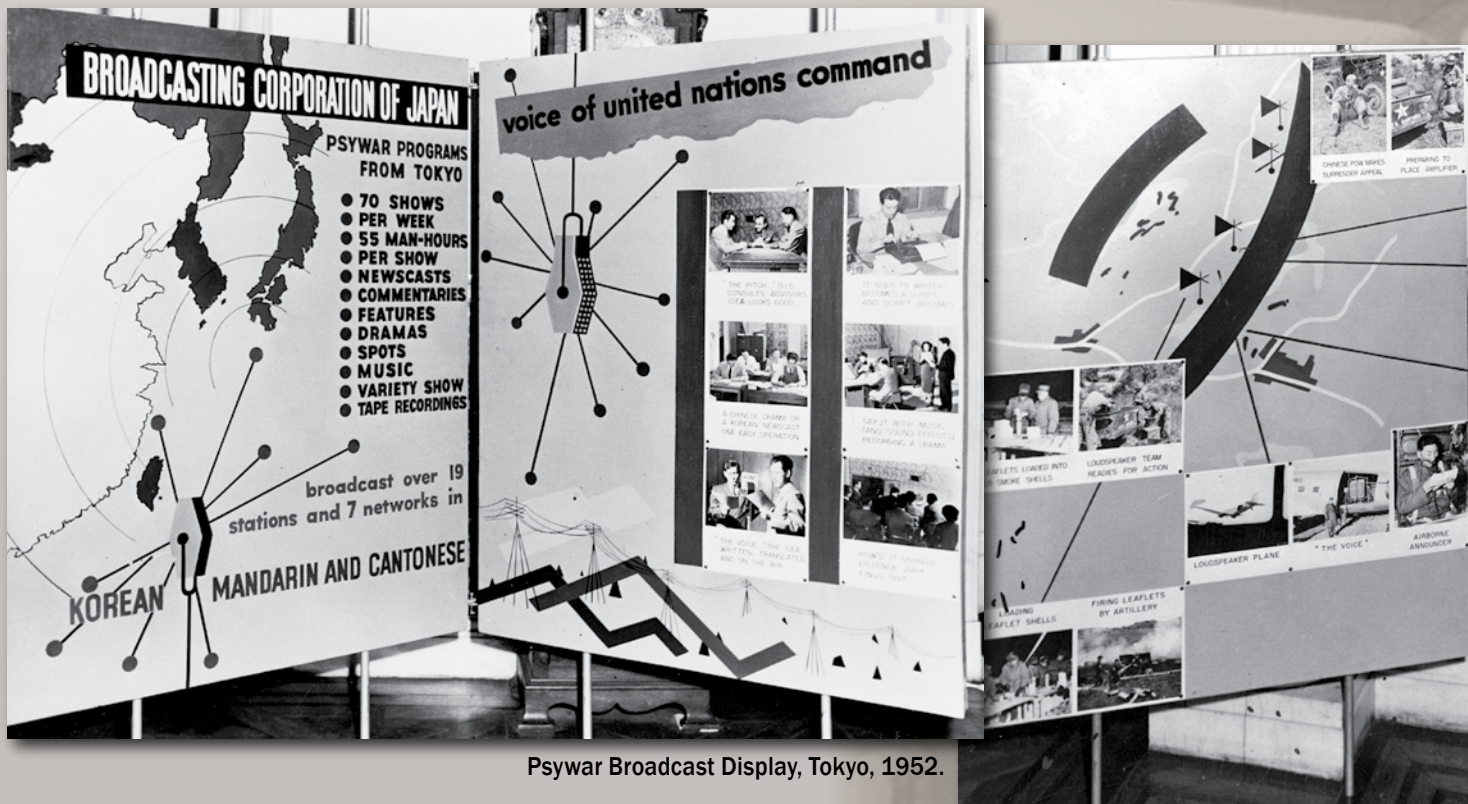


Operation EYEWASH

Operation EYEWASH entailed designing and producing a twelve-panel traveling Psywar field exhibit. It was to demonstrate how Psywar used various media (print, radio broadcasting, and loudspeakers) at the tactical and strategic levels. The exhibit was to educate personnel

on capabilities and show how Psywar complemented combat operations.³⁶ EYEWASH was first demonstrated to the FECOM Women's Club on 15 May 1952 in the Tokyo Officers' Club.³⁷

Psywar Planning Display, Tokyo, 1952.



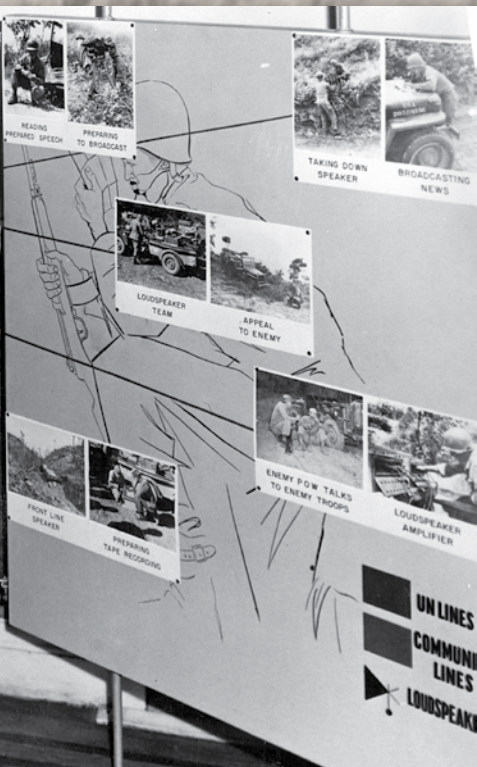
Psywar Broadcast Display, Tokyo, 1952.

Charged with telling the Psywar story that demonstrated tactical and strategic capabilities with operational examples, Sergeants John A. Davenport, Larry Meyer, and Robert C. McConaughey did an outstanding job laying out a very complicated, educational exhibit using

graphics, illustrations, and photographs. The verbiage explained everything concisely and clearly. These period photos demonstrate the quality of the production and show why the three sergeants were specifically commended by LTC Shields, the 1st RB&L commander.



Psywar Deployment Display, Tokyo, 1952.



Operation RAT KILLER



Psywar Employment Display, Tokyo, 1952, misnamed Operation RAT KILLER.



1st RB&L Group leaflets to encourage civilian support during Operation RAT KILLER.



Major General (MG) Paik Sun-yup conducted the largest anti-guerrilla campaign of the war in southwestern Korea from December 1951 to March 1952. With loudspeaker teams from the Eighth Army 1st Loudspeaker & Leaflet Company and leaflets and a mobile radio station from 1st Radio Broadcasting & Leaflet Group (RB&L) broadcasting surrender appeals in conjunction with his 'cordon & search' tactics, great success was achieved. After two operational phases, nearly 6,000 guerrillas/bandits had been captured

and 4,500 killed. By the end of RAT KILLER, Task Force Paik had managed to kill or capture 19,000 insurgents.¹

Endnotes

1 1st Radio Broadcasting & Leaflet Group leaflet #8377, "Dissident Elements in South Korea," 13 December 1952, Robert L. Darcy Papers, Box 4, Folder 4, Manuscript Collection, U.S. Army History Institute, Carlisle, PA; John A. Squicciarini, 1st L&L, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 30 November 2004, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Walter G. Hermes, *Truce Tent and Fighting Front*, United States Army in the Korean War (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2005), 182-183.

faded thousands of specially-designed Psywar leaflets fluttered down on the delighted, applauding audience. It was plain that Psywar sold itself that afternoon.³⁹ "Mom (Mrs. Homer E. Shields) was the 'hit for the day' among the FECOM ladies. Dad had already taken my younger brother, Joe, and me to lunch at the Club to see the display," remembered Timothy L. Shields. "It was really done well."⁴⁰

Operation EYEWASH was a collective effort. More than fifty people were involved in "The Psywar Caper" and "untold hundreds of hours" were invested to prepare and validate the presentation.⁴¹ The key architects of the mobile Psywar display, Sergeants John A. Davenport, a Franklin School of Professional Art [New York City (NYC)] graduate, Larry Meyer, a Pratt Institute (NYC) artist/illustrator, and Robert C. McConaughey, a University of Nebraska journalist, received Certificates of Achievement and Letters of Commendation from LTC Shields.⁴² EYEWASH was ready to educate the U.S. Army infantry divisions in Japan on Psywar.

The successful accomplishment of these missions demonstrated that the 1st RB&L was fully capable of coordinating and executing a variety of missions simultaneously with FEAF and the South Korean government. Unintentionally, the 1st RB&L had demonstrated

how strategic Army Psywar could improve the UN air campaign. The Korean Independence Day programs that personally involved President Syngman Rhee were a UN Psywar coup because it boosted the ego of the longtime nationalist and gave Washington and New York a temporary respite from his reunification rhetoric. After surpassing the one billion mark for Psywar leaflets dropped on North Korea in December 1951 and with well-established broadcast programming at *VUNC* and *Radio Pusan*, the G-2 Psywar Division shifted from direct involvement in all aspects of Psywar to simply providing strategic Psywar guidance and approving 1st RB&L products. The bomb warning leaflets and Plan PATRIOT showed that Psywar was 'value-added' to UN combat operations in Korea. Operation EYEWASH illustrated how the 1st RB&L applied all of its Psywar capabilities to support UN and FECOM war efforts. ♣

Charles H. Briscoe has been the USASOC Command Historian since 2000. A graduate of The Citadel, this retired Army special operations officer earned his PhD from the University of South Carolina. Current research interests include Army special operations during the Korean War, in El Salvador, and the Lodge Act.



SGT Robert C. McConaughey,
S-3 Information & Education Section,
1st Radio Broadcasting & Leaflet Group

Robert C. McConaughey was born 23 March 1928 in Lincoln, Nebraska to a banker father and a mother who managed the university bookstore. He wrote for the newspaper and yearbook before graduating from Lincoln High School in 1945. Majoring in journalism at the University of Nebraska, McConaughey worked summers for *KLMS*. After completing his degree in 1949, he was a news and sports commentator and late night disc jockey at *KLMS* until drafted in the fall of 1950. Six weeks of infantry basic training at Fort Riley, KS preceded six weeks of chemical warfare schooling at Edgewood Arsenal, MD. Then, the smoke generator operator with a college degree was sent to Fort Myer, VA to be evaluated for Psywar. Private (PVT) McConaughey was among the first three sent to the 5021st ASU (later 5021st Psywar AU) at Fort Riley, KS. There, he began researching and writing lessons plans for Psywar Courses. When Private First Class (PFC) Frank A. Tennant, a UCLA journalism graduate, started the 1st RB&L newspaper, *The Proper Gander*, at Fort Riley, PFC "Magoo" McConaughey was drafted as a writer and later became co-editor. As a Sergeant (SGT) he was NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge) of the S-3 Information & Education Section, the impetus behind the unit Christmas card in 1951, a key player in Operation EYEWASH, and co-editor of *The Life and Times* in 1952. 1LT James B. Haynes, Jr. said it best: "SGT 'Magoo' ran the I&E Section; he was really the one in charge, especially so when I was the liaison Officer to FEAF."⁴³

Endnotes

- 1 Far East Air Forces Command Report, November 1952, Volume II from Walter G. Hermes, *Truce Tent and Fighting Front, United States Army in the Korean War* (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2005), 397.
- 2 James B. Haynes, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 17 September 2010, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited by name and date.
- 3 Haynes interview, 17 September 2010.
- 4 **Having a very competent SGT Robert C. McConaughey, as the I&E Sergeant, LT Haynes filled the *ad hoc* position of 1st RB&L Liaison Officer to the Far East Air Force in Tokyo.** Haynes interview, 20 September 2010.
- 5 Haynes interview, 17 September 2010.
- 6 Haynes interview, 17 September 2010. **LTC Homer E. Shields flew on a B-29 leaflet drop over North Korea on 29 August 1951. 343rd Bombardment Squadron (M), 98th Bombardment Wing (M) ADVON, APO 328 Memorandum for Record, SUBJECT: Tax Exemption dated 1 September 1951. COL Homer E. Shields Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter referred to as Shields Collection.**
- 7 Charles R. Broderick letter (Yokohama) to The Brodericks, Marion, Illinois, dated 22 January 1952 in Charles R. Broderick Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Broderick letter and date.
- 8 Robert L. Darcy Collection, Box 2, Folders 10 and 13, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle, PA, news clipping, "U.N. Swaps Warnings and Bombs For Peace Talks at Panmunjom," *Newsweek*, 18 August 1952 hereafter cited as Darcy Collection with appropriate box and folder therein.
- 9 U.S. Department of the Navy. James A. Fields, Jr., *History of United States Naval Operations KOREA* (Washington, DC: Naval History Division, 1962), 444; Robert Frank Futrell, *The United States Air Force in Korea 1950-1953* (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1961), 494.
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- 25 Haynes interview, 22 September 2010.
- 26 1st RB&L, Classified Psywar leaflet #1221 for North Korea was printed in mid-September 1952. It is most likely that leaflet #1228, "UN Overwhelming Power" dated 26 September 1952 was that dropped by Far East Air Forces (FEAF) because it contained cutout photos of an aircraft carrier, battleship, a fighter-bomber aircraft, heavy artillery, and a tank. Haynes Collection; Robert C. McConaughey, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 5 October 2010, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited by name and date.
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- 28 Fields, *History of United States Naval Operations KOREA*, 444; Futrell, *The United States Air Force in Korea 1950-1953*, 494.
- 29 Fields, *History of United States Naval Operations KOREA*, 444; Futrell, *The United States Air Force in Korea 1950-1953*, 494.
- 30 Fields, *History of United States Naval Operations KOREA*, 444, 445; COL Robert I. Channon, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 7 September 2011, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited by name and date; 1st RB&L Classified Psywar leaflet #1221 for North Korea was printed in mid-September 1952, but all were destroyed. Haynes Collection; Futrell, *The United States Air Force in Korea 1950-1953*, 494-496.
- 31 Fields, *History of United States Naval Operations KOREA*, 445; **Contrary to Hermes, *Truce Tent and Fighting Front*, the 187th ARCT paratroopers had loaded aboard the C-119s at Taegu and were prepared to combat jump into North Korea, when the air transport fleet wheeled about and headed to Japan. This was related by the former 187th ARCT S-3 Plans Officer, CPT Robert I. Channon.** Channon interview, 7 September 2011.
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- 42 McConaughey interview, 5 October 2010; *Life and Times 2002*, 160-161, 214-215.
- 43 Haynes interview, 20 September 2010; McConaughey interview, 4 October 2010.