

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**DR. PAUL MYRON ANTHONY
LINEBARGER, COLONEL**
U.S. Army, Retired, Posthumous

Inducted April 2, 2026



Dr. Paul Myron Anthony Linebarger, also known by the pen name Cordwainer Smith, stands as one of the most influential pioneers in the history of psychological operations (PSYOP). His exceptional record of military service, academic achievement, and literary innovation fundamentally shaped the development of modern PSYOP. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in July 1913, Linebarger's diverse upbringing across China, Germany, and Japan cultivated an early understanding of global politics that would define his future contributions.

During World War II, Col. Linebarger emerged as a central architect of U.S. Army psychological warfare capabilities. As a Far East specialist, he played an instrumental role in establishing the Office of War Information and the Operation Planning and Intelligence Board. He organized the Army's first psychological warfare section, creating the initial framework for what would evolve into today's Psychological Operations Regiment. While serving in China, he coordinated Anglo American-Chinese military operations and directed psychological warfare efforts with exceptional strategic insight. His accomplishments earned him the rank of major during the war, and he was later promoted to colonel in the Army Reserve.

Parallel to his military contributions, Col. Linebarger built a distinguished academic career. After earning his Ph.D. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University, he served as a professor at Duke University from 1937 to 1946, balancing academic work with wartime service. He later joined the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies as a professor of Asiatic Studies, where his expertise in Far Eastern affairs shaped generations of scholars and practitioners. His landmark 1948 publication, *Psychological Warfare*, remains one of the foundational texts of the discipline and continues to influence military doctrine. He further supported international security efforts through advisory roles with British forces in Malaya and the U.S. Eighth Army in Korea.

Beyond his military and academic impact, Linebarger became an influential cultural figure through his science fiction writings under the pseudonym Cordwainer Smith. His stories, marked by psychological depth, imaginative world building, and early explorations of behavioral influence, earned him a lasting place in modern literature. Works such as "Scanners Live in Vain" and "The Game of Rat and Dragon" remain widely celebrated for their originality and insight. His fiction also seeded ideas that continue to resonate in contemporary discussions of authoritarian systems and societal conditioning.

Linebarger's innovative understanding of influence shaped his approach to psychological operations, which he described as an emotionally compelling form of persuasive narrative. His concept of the "Propaganda Man," introduced in *Psychological Warfare*, emphasized building relatable characters and storytelling frameworks to more effectively shape human behavior—an approach far ahead of its time and still reflected in modern influence strategy.

Dr. Paul Linebarger's enduring contributions to military strategy, international studies, and literature exemplify the highest standards of service and intellectual leadership. His visionary work laid the intellectual and structural foundations of modern psychological operations, and his influence continues to guide PSYOP professionals across generations. His unmatched blend of operational experience, scholarly excellence, and creative genius makes him eminently deserving of recognition as a Distinguished Member of the Psychological Operations Regiment.