



Vietnam Security Police Assn.
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Guardmount

A Publication for all Vietnam Security Policemen
April / May 1995

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

The response to our initial issue of Guardmount has been great. It appears that we have stirred up some old memories and created an interest in sharing some of our experiences. Recruiter of the month goes to Tom Rushnock who after receiving the newsletter, copied it and sent it to over 100 of his buddies in the Pleiku Air Base Assoc. Wow! That's a sign we are on the right track. Steve Ray our reunion Coordinator is hard at work. Right now we are thinking of getting together in Atlanta for Columbus Day weekend, October 7, 8, 9. Atlanta seems to be a central location and has lots of facilities available. Lackland AFB (San Antonio) seems to be the #1 choice for 1996. There is a Security Police Museum at Lackland AFB in addition to the Air Force Security Police Academy. Terry Morris our membership coordinator is looking for a few good (Air Force) men as usual. If you have any names send them to Terry or myself. I will print some kind of Membership roster for the next issue. I extended the deadline to March 24 for Charter membership as I sent a mailing of 125 pieces on March 12 and thought it only fair to give those guys a chance at signing up. I am designing a new T-Shirt for our association and on the back will be the names of all Charter Members. This is going to be a really unique shirt so start saving your money. Speaking of merchandise I go out of my way to buy American Products when possible. This means that sometimes the price is a little higher but it's a price well spent. The new bumper stickers are ready and paid up members will receive one with this newsletter. Membership cards are in the works. You will receive one ASAP. Also Charter members will receive a certificate. I'm working on the design now so if you have any ideas let me know. Any of you who are "Online" I am on America Online with the screen name of "Dogman 1968" Terry Morris is "Phan Rang".

Anyone else who has an internet address please send it in and we will publish it in the next issue. We need some stories for future issues of Guardmount so send them to me. Just make sure they're in readable form. Well enough from me I hope you enjoy the rest of this Issue.

Associations

Pleiku Air Base Association (over 500 Members)

C/O Tom Rushnock

1628 Taylor Ave.

Arnold, Pa 15068-4135

412-339-3421

Tan Son Nhut Air Base Association

C/O Don Parker

524 S. Gibson St

Princeton, Indiana 47670

812-385-4422

Phu Cat Air Base Association

C/O John F. Forgette

104 S. Garden St.

Bellingham, WA 98225

If anyone knows of any other associations please send them in. If you are interested in starting one give me a call and I'll help you get started.

Security Police in Vietnam

There were Security Police at the following Air Bases in Vietnam. Danang, Phu Cat, Pleiku, Tuy Hoa, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, and Binh Thuy. There were Security Police scattered throughout Vietnam at small installations and if you were one of these please let me know so we can write about it. If you had unusual duty let us know that also.

A WAR STORY by Harry Wallace CMS (Ret)

This occurred while I was NCOIC of the S.P. Investigation Section at Danang AB, RVN in 1966. A USMC 2nd LT and a USMC Sgt. spoke to a young USAF A1C at our motor pool and asked when he took lunch. The Airman said that he always went between 1200 and 1300 hours. At this point the Marine types left. When the Airman returned from lunch that day he found the fire truck missing. He reported it to me. Naturally I figured the Marines had it and made my way down to Marines CID to ask about it. After about a week I got a call to come down to a hanger on the Marine side. Sure enough there was our Fire truck all painted in marine colors (Grey).

Ironically, during this period we had a shortage of Jeeps which our CO made up for by going to the port where there were Marine Jeeps parked. About every other night we "confiscated" a couple. Our motor pool wouldn't service the jeeps much less fuel them, so we created our own "Motor Pool". Well after a while a Marine came looking for the Jeeps and I had to admit That I had one myself. Since I was rotating in two weeks I asked if I could keep it until then. He agreed but I had to personally deliver it to him. I often wonder about this Jeep adventure and wonder if other SP's did the same thing.

One Member's biggest battle by Jerry Gryzmala

If someone had told me two years ago that I would be dying of a terminal cancer caused by my service and exposure to the herbicides in Vietnam 25 years ago, I would have laughed at him. From time to time I had heard of Agent Orange but I didn't think I had or would ever have problems caused by it. Then, after noticing that in our part of the country quite a few Nam vets who were between 45 and 50 years old were dying of Cancer, I thought I might as well go in for a checkup. So, in January of 1992, I went to the local VA hospital for the "Free" Agent Orange exam.

The exam consisted of a blood test, EKG, Chest x-Ray, a very thorough physical exam and the taking of a verbal history. It took about 4 hours. About two weeks later, I received a form letter stating that all my tests looked good and if I noticed any problems to come back, but as far as the VA was concerned I had passed with flying colors.

A few days later, I received a call from the doctor who did the exam. She told me on one of my tests my blood levels showed an abnormal high level of "M" protein and asked if I could come in for more evaluation. After more testing, including a bone marrow biopsy, my doctor advised that I had bone marrow cancer. I was told that I had two to five years to live. At age 45, that was something I was not expecting to hear. However I wasn't going to give up. I am going to fight this battle. I served with the 3rd Security Police at Bien Hoa from 1967 to 1968. I survived that place and also survived a battle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Now with a little luck and a Bone Marrow transplant I just may survive this battle.

Jerry Gryzmala continues his battles with cancer and would like to hear from fellow Nam Security Police. Call him at 216-951-8442.

Biography: Steve Ray

I arrived for basic Training at Lackland AFB in April 1971 and finished my training in May. I passed a Security Police bypass test and was assigned to Vandenberg AFB, CA (SAC). I was assigned to the 4392nd SPS and worked Resources Protection. I received orders for Vietnam and went back to Lackland for AZR training in September 1971.

I arrived at Cam Ranh Bay AB in January 1972 and was assigned to the 483rd SPS Ranger Flight L/E. In May I was sent to Korat RTAFB Thailand and was assigned to the 388th SPS. I worked Flight and Town patrol. Leaving Korat in January 1973 I was assigned to Craig AFB, Selma, Alabama (ATC) where I was assigned to the 29th SPS. I left Craig and arrived at Kunsan AB Korea in April, 1974 where I was assigned to the 3rd (later the 8th) SPS. I worked Flight for 5 months and then Investigations for 16 months (I extended for 9 months). I was honorably discharged on Jan 7, 1976 as a SSGT.

Steve Ray is our reunion Coordinator and may be reached at 205-880-1638 where he lives in Huntsville, Alabama.

From the desk of Jim Miller- 15 February 95

John, I received your letter and card. Enclosed please find a check for \$10.00 for my membership to the Vietnam Security Police Assn.

You know, when I was in security, especially in Nam, we were always separated from the rest of the "Norm" or at least, we felt that way we

didn't eat, sleep or associate with anyone outside our unit. We even built our own "Hooch" so we'd have a place to have a "PBR" (Pabst). If we ever did show up at the chow hall etc. everyone would stare at us or whisper. They knew we were Air Force, but what they saw, kind of startled them, because we were dirty, unshaven and loaded with weapons and ammo. Sort of like "light infantry" I guess, because we traveled very lightly. No one ever confronted us or asked. Maybe they wouldn't have believed anyway.

What I like about the association is that it's strictly for Vietnam Air Force Security Policemen. No one else! You can count me in.

Jim Miller served at Nha Trang Air Base and can be reached at 303-935-8671. He is presently the Commander of his local VFW.

Vietnam Trip

I received a letter from Ed Eaton of Vietnam Tours regarding our planned venture to Nam in March 1996. He said that if we have less than 16 members the price would have to go up. 10-16 members would be an additional \$85 dollars and the half-price fare for one of our members would go to only 25% off. I know that I am looking forward to this trip so if you are too let's get the lead out and sign up.
John Langley.

Charter Members

We ended up with 72 Charter members paid by March 24. If you have received more than one newsletter and you have not paid your dues we will assume you are not interested. Thank you very much but your name will be removed from our list.

Merchandise For Sale

1. Vietnam Security Police Assn. Patch. \$5.00 ea.
2. Air Force Combat Veteran Patch. \$4.00 ea.
3. Security Police Badge Patch. \$4.00 ea.
4. Poor quality QC patch. Free with any order. Limit 2.
5. Black Baseball Cap with any of above Patches on it. \$10.00.
6. Full size Security Police Metal Badge. Numbered. These are former Air Force issue. Now Surplus. Only a few left. \$15.00 ea.
7. Pewter Security Police Lapel Pin. Official Dress. \$6.00 ea.
8. Our Assn. Bumper Sticker. Free with membership. Extras \$1.00 ea.
9. Grey Hanes Beefy T with QC patch silkscreened on it. \$12.00 ea.

Please add \$1.00 per item for shipping up to a maximum of \$3.00. Make checks for merchandise out to John Langley. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Membership Application (Send Copy of DD214 and \$10 fee)			
Name			
Address			
State	Zip	Phone	
Unit in S.E. Asia			
Dates of S.E Asia Duty			
Description of Duty			
Looking For?			

Membership in the Vietnam Security Police Association is restricted to those with service in Southeast Asia during the years 1959-1975. At this time no Associate members are accepted. Newsletter subscriptions are free with membership or \$10.00 for others. We do not accept advertising and the list of members is available to our members only. At this time the association is not non-profit and any donations are not tax -deductible.

Please send inquiries to
John Langley 150
Aurora Rd. Venice, Fl 34293-2601 or 813-497-0493