

Vietnam Security Police Association
150 Aurora Rd. Venice, FL 34293
813-497-0493



Guardmount

June/July 1995



On to Atlanta!

Well plans have been finalized as to the dates of our reunion and the location. We will meet somewhere in the Metro-Atlanta area on Columbus day weekend October 7, 8, 9. Early bird check-in will be on Friday evening with our business meeting to be held on Saturday from 4pm to 6pm with a social hour and buffet dinner to be held immediately following. Steve Ray, our reunion coordinator, has some tickets available to local attractions. Steve has been hard at work along with friend and fellow member Terry Lunsford. We need to get a count of how many rooms we will need and how many people will attend the dinner Saturday evening. This information is vital to our efforts, so if you're planning to attend please take a moment and send the enclosed reservation form to Steve. Steve is also planning to put together a Video of our service in Southeast Asia so we need you to send pictures, newspaper clippings, and audio cassette tapes. Please send copies of originals as we do not want to risk the originals. Also please send them directly to Steve. We will have copies of the tape in VHS form made available to our members. The cost depends on how many we make.

Newsletter Help needed!

If anyone out there has experience putting together a newsletter please let me know. We also need clippings and stories for the newsletter.

Transfer of Headquarters.

After the reunion, I plan on helping whoever becomes the president of our association to assume the office in an orderly manner. When I offered to help Terry Morris organize this group it was with the understanding that it would be for one year and that would take us thru the end of 1995. At our first reunion we will have to determine where we want to go as a group. I am making the commitment to financially carry the group thru its first year, but a budget will have to be laid out at the meeting. Please plan on making your feelings known at that time.

Changing your records.

Anyone who feels that their military records are not correct or that the proper medals and decorations are not listed on your DD214 you should file a request for change. This is not a complicated deal and if you would like help you can call or write Steve Ray@ 1300 Shadow ridge Dr SE Huntsville, AL35803.

Nha Trang Air Base Assn.

A Nha Trang Air base Assn. is being formed by C.R. Timms. You can contact him at 615 Chickasaw Dr. Westminster, SC 29693. They will have a reunion Sept 22-25 this year.

Mail Call

I have received numerous letters and I will try to share some with you. The following is from David

Dowdell.

I was stationed at Vung Tau AB for three months during my tour in Nam. The Airbase had a PSP runway and had C-7's and C-123's. Our detachment pulled perimeter security with the Aussie's. We doubled up on post's and had joint supervision on the bunker line. The Aussies would come on post with shorts and knee socks, soft caps, with an Enfield rifle and ammo. Their corporal would bring out hot Pea soup and steamed Shrimp, while we chowed down on C-Rats. The Aussies would play marathon games of Scrabble. While off-duty they would drink lots of beer. Foster's and Queens bitters was the common brands. I never drank so much beer in my life. On a more serious note I've had numerous operations to remove benign lymphomas from my chest and abdominal area. A friend told me that this could be related to Agent Orange exposure. Note*David has written an article about the Tet 68 attack on Tan Son Nhut and is in need of pictures. Especially a sketch of the 051 Bunker done by Felix Ferraro.

You may contact David at 1216 E. Village Dr Apt 20D, So. Charleston, WV 25309-1930. Ph:614-898-3947.

Terry Morris recently visited the San Antonio area and Lackland AFB. He writes that the trip was fantastic and that the area will be great for our reunion in 1996. Terry would like to thank all the folks in the Air Force Security Police Assn. for their help with his trip. As you may know their headquarters are in the San Antonio area and they have lots of contacts at the Air Base.

Ken Thompson writes of his tour at Nakhon Phanom AB.

I spent two tours with the 56th Air Commando SPS at a remote site called Nakhon Phanom on the Thai- Laos border. The base was highly secretive being the headquarters of Task Force Alpha the underground command center directing Arc Light bombing of Ho Chi Minh trail. Also operation Igloo White which planted sensors on the Ho Chi Minh trail. The 46th Special Forces used NKP as a launching pad for Macv Sog teams crossing the borders. Also Air America used NKP as a base to supply the various hill tribes throughout the area. We were harassed by the NVA with rocket/mortar attacks and occasional probes on the base perimeter which left a number of dead and wounded. My point is that the people who were based in Thailand deserve the same respect as our brothers who served in Vietnam. Editor's Note• Ken we really appreciate your writing and reminding us of our brothers other than in Nam. If you would like to write to Ken his address is Ken Thompson 425 Kinsey Ave. Kenmore, NY 14217.

A letter came in from John Kahler who is a member of our assn. and a Legal Assistant at the National Veterans Legal Services Program. John writes that we can expect many cuts in the VA budget and that we need to write our representatives in Washington to let them know we are concerned about cuts in our benefits. If you would like a copy of John's letter please send a LSASE to John Langley. Or you can call the NVLSP at 202-265-8305.

Membership News

This month I am publishing a complete roster of the names I have on my database. If under "date joined" there is no entry either you have not paid your dues or I have made a mistake. Either way please let me know your intentions. If you cannot pay your dues for a good reason let me know. Otherwise see you later. This will be your last newsletter. Membership cards and other goodies are in the works but please be patient.

Reservation Form for Reunion (send to Steve Ray, 1300 Shadow Ridge Dr SE, Huntsville, AL 35803-3654.)

Name		
address		
City	State	Zip
Number Attending		Number for dinner
Arrival date		Departing

Atlanta Airport South

Please call the Holiday Inn at 404-761-4000 for reservations. Rates are \$65. per room. Please mention you are with the association when making reservations. We will have a hospitality suite for our members use. Beau coup Dinky Dau behavior is expected. No Sweat GI. This get-together is a long time coming! Enjoy.

Guest Speaker?

We need a guest speaker for our reunion, so if anyone has an idea for one please contact John Langley. Please don't suggest you know who! Wise-Guys will be dealt with extreme prejudice.

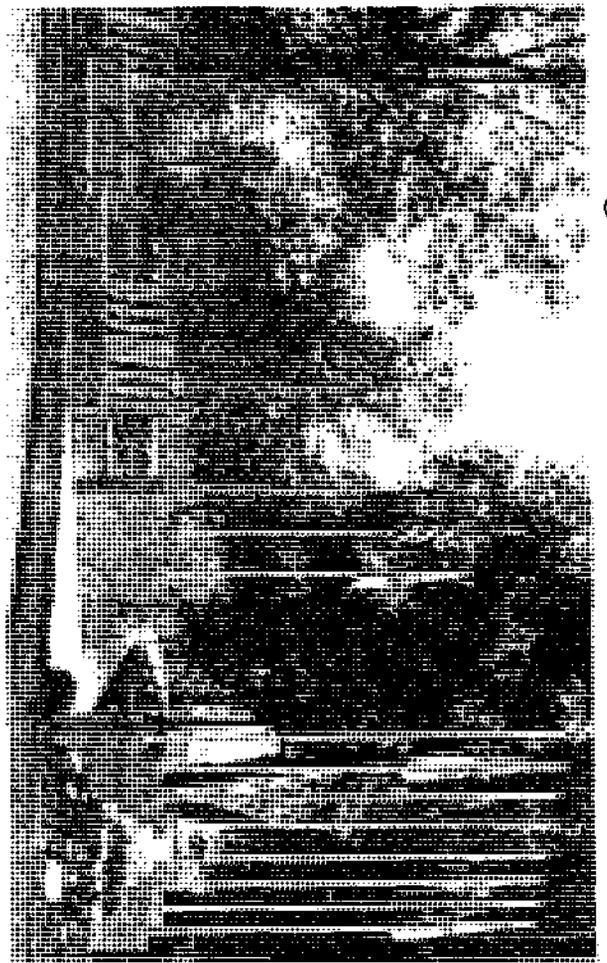
Press Releases.

Please send a note or letter to any publication you can think of regarding our reunion. Don't worry about duplication. Just do it. We need to get the word out.

Internet Address? If you have one send it to John Langley@ Dogman 1968@ AOL. COM.

After we unloaded the truck we took some pictures with the children and enjoyed each other's company. Finally, it was time to say goodbye so we loaded up on the truck and assumed our former positions. Not a word was spoken by any of us on the way out or upon the return trip. We went about our job with an intensity that most people will never experience. Even though we were all young and sometimes took unnecessary chances, we had all been shot at enough to know this was no game. We had all been tested under fire. If the VC had so much as poked his head out we would have ruined his whole day. We arrived safely back at the Air Base before dark. Mission accomplished. Victor Charlie knew we ruled and kept his head down. The trip was very rewarding for me personally as I'm sure it was for the other guys. The Chaplain was very appreciative of our efforts and as for the bottom line, so were the kids. After all, we did it for them.

Michigan Vietnam Veterans Memorial



The Michigan Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located at Island Park in Mt. Pleasant, MI pays tribute to all Vietnam era veterans. The memorial consists of monuments displaying 16 metal plaques bearing the names of all Michigan veterans who were killed or are missing in action. Flags of the United States, Michigan, armed forces branches, Vietnam Veterans Association and MIA-POW are displayed at the flag gallery. A walk bridge allows visitors access to Pickens field from Island Park. The park is open from 8am to 11 pm.

A ROOM WHERE ONLY I CAN GO In my mind there is a room, a place where I can go. And in that room there plays a scene, of a dying friend and a horrible scream.

By day I can escape that terrible place, but at night I drift back again, to see his face. Many years have passed now, and! I wonder why some politicians sent us there to die.

I only wish they could have been there, the day my friend died. Instead of playing golf somewhere with their sons at their side

So they etched his name into a Black Marble Wall, and said there Nam Vets, be still, once and for all.

But if you don't have the wound you can't know the pain, so their conscience is dear, but my nightmares remain.

And tonight, I'll return again, to comfort my friend.

I'll hold him tight to muffle his screams, Until the last of his life's blood and the pain are gone.

I'll recite to him the 23rd Psalm, Back in that place, we called" THE NAM "

Author Unknown

JOHN CARY WRITES OF HIS TOUR AT NAKHON PHANOM

I was glad to see Ken Thompson's write up in the July GUARDMOUNT about his tours at Nakhon Phanom (NKP). I've read a lot about numerous locations in Viet Nam and all over SE Asia but rarely, if ever, see anything about NKP. I spent one year (Sep 74 to Sep 75) at Nakhon Phanom during the last year of the war and I was one of the last 100 U.S. troops to leave SE Asia and close down NKP. I was a communications clerk in the 87th COMM SQ of 56th SOW (Spec Ops Wing) but was reassigned to the 56th SPS for the last four months (having been a SP augmentee and gone thru training at Lackland during prior assignment). I pulled perimeter patrol and flight line guard duty every night during those last months and Ken Thompson's comments were absolutely correct about those of us who served in Thailand deserving the same respect as our brothers who served in Vietnam. NKP was a top secret camp from which numerous special operations were run and from which the "CIA's secret war in Laos" (as today's history books refer to it) was run. Pathet Lao insurgents regularly blew up flight facilities equipment and sappers harassed and hit the camp. There were many U.S. casualties at NKP and in Ops in Laos from NKP and even casualties during the last few months as the war finally closed down. Nakhon Phanom was a primitive place compared to other AFBs in Thailand (e.g. Karat, Udorn, U-Tapao) and was next to the Mekong river in NE Thailand on the Laotian border. Recon drones launched elsewhere in Thailand to fly over and film North Vietnam and the Ho Chi Minh trail sometimes went down close to the river and NKP SPs (base ground defense) teams took part in their recovery. North Vietnamese backed Pathet Lao insurgents constantly threatened that region of Thailand during the year I was there. NKP was also the underground intelligence center for the 7th Air Force. I would like to hear from others who were at NKP. I have articles and pictures and would like to see others.

John Cary, 2235 E. 25th Place, Tulsa: Ok 74114

Once, I was in the USAF. I served for only 6 years, but I'm proud of that time. I did all I could for my country during the Viet Nam war, even though I never left home. I was there, and I gave of myself, and that's what counted. Often, we were put on alert whenever the war escalated. We couldn't leave the base. I remember hearing stories about and seeing pictures of the war on the television news and from my fellow airmen who had returned from Nam. My boyfriend was one of those sent to Phu Cat Air Base who shared his experiences with me via letters, tapes, and phone calls. How grateful I was to see him come home in one piece! How grateful I was when the Viet Nam war ended!

Today, there is still a war going on, only it isn't physical; it's spiritual. Everyone is involved in this war. Nobody wins unless they use the weapons provided by God, Who is the Commander-in-Chief of this holy army composed of men and women made righteous by Jesus Christ. To be a Christian soldier, we must wear the armor and carry the weapons designed by God. Our belt is the Truth; our breastplate is righteousness; our boots are prepared with the Gospel of peace; our shield is faith; our helmet is salvation; our weapon is God's Word, sharper. Than a two-edged sword; our plan of attack is accomplished through prayer only the armor and weapons of our Almighty Commander will protect us and defeat our spiritual enemy--Satan.

The Viet Nam battlefield was an arena of destruction of many lives in my military day, not to mention other wars where precious American soldiers were maimed and killed. Worse than all the wars of all times, however, is the spiritual warfare within the human mind and heart. It takes place daily, and it is deadly. I pray for everyone, including myself and my fellow military veterans and those who serve today,

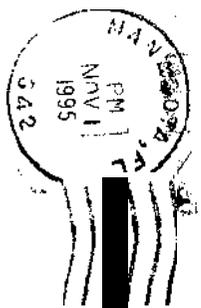
that we will be cautious, alert, strong, and victorious in spiritual combat. With God on outside, arming us and protecting us, ALL things are possible!

--Shari Lyons (USAF Vet)

Vietnam Security Police Assn
150 Aurora Road
Venice, Florida 34293-2601
(813) 497-0493



Reunion 95 Participants
See you in San Antonio



Help! Help! Help!
If you enjoy this newsletter, please send in stories, pictures, poems, or anything you would like to see published. Send to: John Langley 150 Aurora Rd Venice, FL 34293-2601.

First Class

