



# Guardmount



## The MACV Rules Weren't So Bad

On June 8, 1970 I spent my 20th birthday assigned to a SAT team at Phu-Cat. Sergeant Finley was the leader of the two man team and our patrol started at 1245 hours on a hot sunny day.

At around 1500 we climbed the tower at Tango 17 to visit with A1C Edward Pantazelos, who had come up from Cam Rahn Bay with me in March. Tango 17 was a wood tower on the bomb dump side of the base far out in a free-fire zone. About 700 yards to the right of the post were some rice paddies, a river and a small village.

The three of us were involved in small talk, probably the typical Vietnam discussion: How many more days? What base are you putting in for? How much we hated Vietnam, the Air Force and the lifers.

Suddenly, out of nowhere we began to receive small arms fire. Bullets were whizzing by. We quickly glanced out toward the fields and jungle areas off base and spotted a group of Vietnamese running and firing their weapons toward us. Ed yelled the appropriate, "They're shooting at us!"

Sergeant Finley ran from the steps of the tower with me in close pursuit. I heard De on the radio calling CSC. We got into the gun jeep where our rifles and the M-60 machine gun was. Ed was now yelling at us that they had veered to his right toward the rice paddies.

Sergeant Finley raced down the dirt road to intercept while I held tightly to the M-60. We got to a location on a small bluff between the rice paddies and Tango 17. I set the machine gun up and glanced down the sights. I had three men in my sights, I was ready to pull the trigger. Sergeant Finley had his M-16 in one hand and was calmly asking permission to return fire. Small arms fire was still in progress but we were not receiving it at this point. Just then I heard the radio crackle, "Hold fire there are friendlies in the area!"

How close I came to killing three ARVN Troops that day and how much I for one, was happy for the rules of engagement.

As it turned out the ARVN had flushed out a VC and were chasing him. As he ran toward the air base he saw us and turned toward the village. We were simply caught in the crossfire and in the confusion we didn't know who was who.

Incidentally, the VC ran over the dyke of the rice paddy and an ARVN hit him slightly with a 40 mm round, knocking him to the ground. He then got up

*(Continued on page 4)*

## VSPA Points of Contact

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## AFVN Tapes

Last month I told you that Doug Gorski has some digital enhanced AFVN audio tapes and gave you his e-mail address. Well it dawned on me (with the help of Doug) that all of you may not have e-mail so by snail mail you can contact Doug at:

15 New Road  
Tabernacle, NJ 08088

Sorry for my not thinking, I forget at times that not everyone is hooked up to cybernet super highway.

*Editor*

## Recruiter News

I would like to take a minute to WELCOME all the new enlistees to our association. The response has been great and continues to improve thanks largely to our Webmaster Don Poss. Don has done a "super" job on our WEB page and we truly appreciate his efforts and skill. I would also like to thank all the old timers for re-upping and helping VSPA to grow and prosper.

As of September first, we have made contact with 462 former Security Policemen that served in SE Asia and we just broke 300 card carrying members. I think this is great considering our young age. Many of you have asked how they could help and the best thing they can do is to try and recruit new members. Place ads in Veteran Newsletters and magazines, create some posters and tack up in your VFW and American Legion Posts, place ads in your local newspapers and spread the word to your SP buddies, believe me, it all works. There were thousands of SEA SP's serving and it is our goal to communicate with as many of them as possible. I am very proud of this organization and we've only scratched the surface of what we can accomplish.

Very soon now I'm going to stop making the membership cards for 1997. Many new members have paid the 1998 dues as well and it's time to start the new cards. If I've misspelled your name or there is some other problem please let me know. I do the best I can but we're all volunteers here and sometimes stuff happens! The same applies to our WEB page, we'll make every effort to see that names are correct and we list you at the right bases etc. Also, if your name is Robert Henry Jones but you want your card to read Bob or Butch Jones, let me know.

If any of you have not attended one of the previous reunions, please make an effort to do so. I don't know enough good adjectives to describe the reunions, you have to experience one for yourself. Whether you're reunited with old friends or meet new ones for the first time, there is an automatic bond there that can't be put into words. The United States Air Force Air/Security Police did an outstanding job in SEA and that brotherhood is as alive

*(Continued on page 5)*



## President's Corner



As we approach our annual get together there are some issues that should be dealt with. The first thing is that I do not plan on running for office again. My family has had some major health problems in the last year and I plan on devoting more time to them. This year I really took the year off. Only because we had strong leadership from Steve Ray and others that we were able to move ahead as an organization. Our group needs some fresh input from some of you. Please feel free to call or write any of the officers to make your suggestions. Please expect to be ask to help implement your ideas. You may call me at 1-800-711-2646 on Fridays only. Please do not call this number any other day. Other than that I'll see you in Pensacola.

*John Langley*

## Nam Stats

Here are some interesting statistics about the war in Vietnam which are not exactly what the press lead us to believe.

1. 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.
2. 74% said they would serve again even knowing the outcome.
3. Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only 1/2 of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.
4. 97% were discharged under honorable conditions; the same percent of honorable discharges as then years prior to Vietnam.
5. 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted.
6. 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races.
7. We have been told that the average age of a man who fought in Vietnam was under 19 years of age (the average man who fought in WW II was 26 years of age).

*From the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993. The CACF is the basis for the "The Wall"*

## Guardmount Pass-on's



The Vietnam Dog Handler Association is requesting that the Postal Service issue a stamp to commemorate the heroism of America's canine war heroes. Please send a letter of support to:

Military Working Dog Stamp  
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
US Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, Room 4474-E  
Washington D.C. 20260

About 20 people have indicated an interest in attending the reunion. The deadline to get hotel room is 22 Sept. If you think you can attend go ahead and register with the hotel. Most hotels have a 3 day cancellation period. Ask about the Best Western cancellation period and then if you can't make it, just cancel out and it will not cost you anything. Mickey Reade has really worked hard to get everything ready. You don't want to miss it! Plan on being at the hotel on October 22 as we will be starting early (0615) on the 23rd.

A complete treasurers report will be given at the business meeting that will be held on the 26th.

If you have any issues you want put on the table for a vote at the business meeting please send them to me ASAP.

As you may know, VSPA has been working hard to identify all the SP KIA/died in Vietnam/Thailand. One that has been very difficult to identify is the casualties at Pleiku in the arms room explosion (see recent "Guardmount" articles). I have narrowed it down and would welcome your input. Does anyone know an A1C Robert Edward Pasco, date of casualty was 08 Jul 1967. He died as a result of an accident from explosion. Was he an SP? If anyone knows, please contact me. You can view the casualty list on the VSPA web page, click on "Roll of Honor" to view. (We will publish the lists in up coming issues of "Guardmount" as well.) If you know of a casualty that is not listed please let me know. I need this information prior to our Washington DC reunion in 1998.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Flight to Vietnam Answer

(Continued from page 1)

village.

Dear James,

I haven't thought of my first day in Vietnam since August of 1969. After reading your article in Guardmount, it all came back in a flash. The flight over the ocean, stopping in Hawaii to shop in the airport gift shop in the airport gift store while refueling. I still have the dumb black lava rock figurines I took to Vietnam with me.

Arriving on the tarmac, waiting for the stairs to be pushed to the open door, the humidity and stanch filled air hit my face. I knew immediately that it wasn't Oz out there. Entering the terminal hanger full of servicemen from Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, with Foreign and Vietnam troops all coming and going. When I saw that cyclone fence reaching to the ceiling in the middle of the hanger I remember saying to myself, "no deposit, no return."

I sat down with all the others waiting to be processed in an orderly manner when I heard a loud voice say, "All Security Police come to the head of the line." I remember feeling privileged because I was given special treatment over all the rest of the troops. Not realizing they just wanted the Security Police out on the perimeter as soon as possible to put it all on the line.

In front of the hanger was a bus to take me to the hootch area and report to the duty Sergeant. He assigned me to a hootch that held five other airmen who had wood crosses in between the sand bags and the hootch wall. I asked, "What's with the crosses," and they told me that every time they killed a rat in the hootch, they make another cross for the graveyard.

I definitely knew I was now in the land of Odd and in no time I fit right in.

Thanks for helping me remember that first day. I now have it down on paper with some of my other fond memories.

Welcome Home, *Doug Gorsky*  
*Cam Rahn Bay '69 - '70*

I learned that day about mass confusion and the importance of keeping calm in emergency situations. Ed Pantazelos was a real professional and when I got back to the States I wasn't surprised to read in the AF paper how he got the Commendation Medal for subduing a berserk Vietnam Vet who had shot at him. (I don't know why everyone wanted to shoot him.)

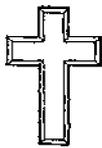
Sergeant Finley was a typical, capable first term NCO who took charge that day, kept his cool and did his job in an exemplary manner. I was proud to serve with men like that and all the SPS in Vietnam, even the lifers.

*Jack King*  
*Cam Rahn Bay 70-72*  
*Phu Cat, Bien Hoa*

(Continued from page 3) Pass-on's

The Association will be awarding the "Louis Fischer" Award to selected graduates of the Security Force School at Lackland AFB, Texas. The Award is named in honor Sgt. Louis H. Fisher, 377th SPS who was killed in action on 31 January 1968 during the "Tet" Offensive at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam. The Award will be given to the "best" of the "best". It is anticipated that only three or four awards will be given during a one year period. Recipients of the Award will be in a select group of individuals and can point with pride to the fact that the Award is given out only rarely. The Association is seeking VSPA members who will present the Award at Lackland AFB. If you live in the San Antonio area and feel you can represent the VSPA please contact me for details.

*Steve Ray*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*



# Chaplain 's Corner



## *Living With Survivor Guilt*

At some point, a combat vet with PTSD symptoms will give a godlike status to friends who died in the war. Whether they were good men or not, the dead will suddenly be raised to a much higher esteem than the veteran gives himself.

They were better men; they would have made more of their lives if given a chance. Why am I still here and they are gone? What is my purpose? They could have done it better. If I would have done something different, they might be alive....

This is natural. PTSD leads to depression, and depression leads to low self-esteem, which leads to making everyone, especially dead war friends, seem bigger than life.

For many veterans, this can also, whether they know it or not, be the time to resolve their feelings about letting dead friends go. Most combat vets did not have time to



*(Continued from page 2) Recruiter*

today as it was 30 years ago. "We Take Care of Our Own."

A couple last THANK YOU's should go out to Dave Dobson for the hard work put into our Newsletter, "GUARDMOUNT", Dave's done a super job and I know it's a lot of work. Also THANK YOU to John Langley, our Prez, and Steve Ray our Trez because without their efforts, the VSPA would not exist let alone be the best veteran organization yet to happen... And don't forget Mickey Read and Mike Daoust for all the Pensacola Reunion work, I've seen the brochures for our hotel, WOW! I'm sorry we only do this once a year!

**WELCOME HOME BROTHERS,** Let's do the job with the Vietnam Security Police Association that we did for our country in SE Asia.

*Terry Morris  
Phan Rang 4/66-67*

grieve during the war. When someone died, they accepted it, and pushed back sorrow or any emotional reaction.

But those emotions remained inside all those years...and then they are released, veterans suddenly hit the low point of their lives.

A veteran needs to learn at how to look at the positive side of surviving instead of the negative. This can be hard when times are rough and the future seems bleak.

Maybe you survived so your children can grow up to do great things. Maybe you will do great things. If the country collapsed next week, you wouldn't run around in a panic. You would be able to protect your family and hope. You would be a survivor, just like you were in the war.

When dealing with PTSD, the veteran can work through guilt feelings to a realization that surviving war is something that can be turned into positive feelings.

It takes time.

*Steve Janke, Chaplain  
(Portion of an article taken with per  
mission from S-2 Report, Latham Press)*



## Help Needed

We would like to compile a list of words and phrases that are specific to SP's and would like your inputs. What SP does not know what is meant by, *the hawk is kicking tonight*. There are others we used, send your list and we will compile a list and print it.

We also need more articles about your activities in Vietnam. *Editor*



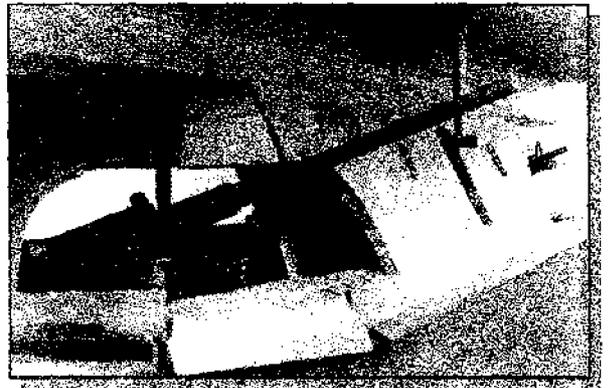
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V-100 Tank



(L to R) Doug Meadors from Baton Rouge, LA; Duane Schmitt from Spokane, WA and Don Thorapson form PA. Don was one of the first people trained on the V-100Tank.

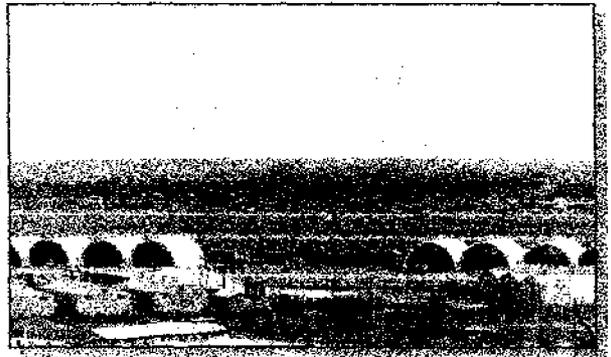


Bunkers that replaced the sand bag bunkers.



Check point at POL area.

1968 to  
1969

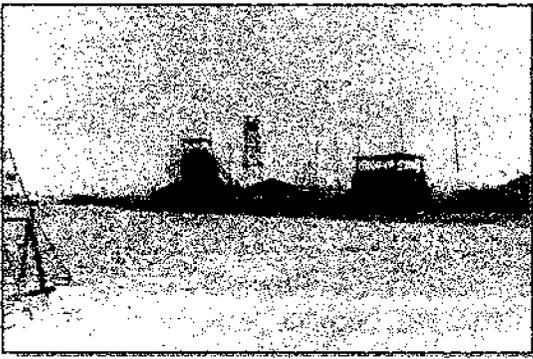


Flight line at Tan Son Nhut.

VVA National Convention, Kansas City

Two of our members were at the VVA National convention in Kansas this year and made sure that VSPA was represented and advertised there. We wore our VSPA hats with pride and answered questions and handed out information about VSPA. the two in the photo are Vaughn Hull, VSPA Historian on the left and Dave Dobson, Guardmount Editor on the right. Hopefully we were able to recruit some new members.





Area to the left of Oscar 51 gate to Tan Son Nhut. This was an entry to Alpha sector on the west side of the base. Manned by both American and ARVN.



A1C Robert McCarthy at Oscar 51 Gate



Vietnamese ARVN sitting outside Oscar 51 Gate



"Me" (SP sending the pictures) at Oscar 51 Gate



Part of the Heliport and the wooden barracks of the 377th Security Police Squadron.



Utah Ditch in Alpha sector

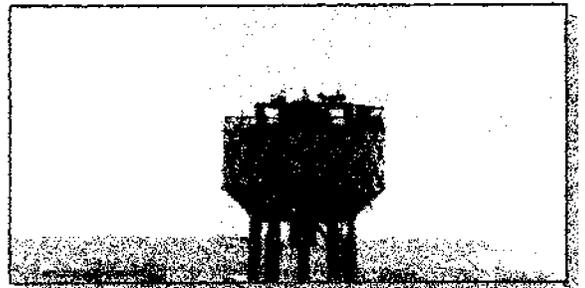


Tower in center of photo (hard to see) is Tango 10 in Alpha sector. This is located in the Ammo Storage Area.

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ARVN paratroop training area. Photo taken from top of Tango 1



Tower - Tango 1 in the Echo sector - one of three towers used to spot rocket and artillery flashes.



Scope on top of Tango 1. Scope used for getting coordinates of rocket and artillery flashes. Used in combination with towers Tango Alpha and Tango 10.

1968 to  
1969

# The Wall

The rain was coming down in a hard drizzle as I approached the area where I had been told that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") was. It was close to 10 PM by the time I reached the area of the mall that I had been directed to. What struck me first was how dark it was, and the fact that there was no flag or flagpole nearby. As I approached the memorial, a vet in cammies (camouflage fatigues) came up to me and told me to "watch my step." It became evident why he had told me this when I discovered that there was no walkway, other than a muddy track, upon which someone had put some boards and you had to walk on the boards to keep from falling into the mud. Except for the portable Coleman-type lamps at either end of the wall, there were no lights to illuminate either the walkway or the wall itself.

Although there wasn't much to see in the darkness, I did experience some profound emotions as I walked down the path to the center of the wall, and then walked back up again to the other end. I felt as though I was walking into the pits of hell as I walked down the path that led to where the wall was highest, where the two ends converged. A sudden chill came over me, I started shaking and then I started to cry. I don't know why, but the crying seemed to take over my body and I couldn't stop. It felt as though I was going under water and the waves were crashing over me and the water was pulling me out into the dark, deep sea. It was total sensory overload and it was not something I was prepared for or ready to deal with, it was just too overwhelming and I had nothing to compare it to. Rather than fight all of these conflicting feelings and emotions which included what I later found to be something called "survivor guilt". Seeing, or since it was so dark, feeling all of those names on the wall, just overwhelmed me with this sense of why I survived Vietnam when all of these other guys (and girls, seven of whom are on the wall) died. Why did I come home when all of these others didn't? Why was I so special that I lived and they died? For the first time in my life, since returning from Vietnam, I was starting to deal with some of the things that I had locked away in some secure place in my mind. And it scared the shit out of me! So, alone with the guilt

and the grief I now added fear to what I was feeling. And the fear was an enveloping type of fear. It just swallowed me up, so that there was nothing of me left and I felt lost and alone and unsure of what was happening.

Walking back up the boards on the other side of the wall, I was just totally overcome by all of these feelings, and felt myself stepping up my pace, as though, by getting away from The Wall, I could get away from all the feelings. As I approached the furthest end of the wall, one of the vets in cammies came up to me and just grabbed me in a bear hug. He could tell, without my saying anything, that I was a Vietnam vet. He could tell, without my saying anything, that I was overcome by it all. So he did the best he could and just hugged me, telling me that it was OK and that I should come back in the daytime and that it was a beautiful thing to see. He also told me something that almost struck me funny...he said, "Man you don't have to say anything, it's OK." Hell, even if I had wanted to say something, I couldn't have, I was too busy crying like a baby, with all of these feelings bubbling over and bursting out of the door that I had double-locked them behind in my mind. It seemed like he held me in that bear hug for an hour, but it was probably only for a few seconds. As I walked away from him, I did feel somewhat better.

Two hours later I found myself walking around downtown Washington, D.C. I had no idea that two hours had gone by - it was as though I was on automatic pilot and had shut my mind down for that period of time. Perhaps the whole experience of seeing the wall for the first time, and alone, had been too much for me to deal with and my mind realized that and just went off on its own for some well-deserved R & R.

Since that day in January 1983, I have been back to the wall five times. Each visit has given me a new insight and has helped tremendously in the healing process. Someday, Vietnam really will be over, for me and every other vet that was there.

*Jim Blake*  
*Cam Rahn Bay 71*

# Mail Call

6205 Greenbank Rd.  
North Little Rock, AR 72118

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At sometime in that eleven months of service, a cassette was made of a rocket attack at Da Nang. There was also a Mad Minute. I was known as "Tex". In the tape, another troop stated, "Tex, I thought I was dead." I've lost my copy. There were several copies made. If you know of someone who has a copy I would sure appreciate getting another copy. Please call or write:

Jim "Tex" Britcher

Work 1-800-482-6650 or 501-682-7502

Home 501-458-5871

I am planning a reunion for January 31, 1998 at the California Vietnam Memorial to honor Capt. Maisey and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. If you served with Capt. Maisey I would appreciate any and all information you may have.

Bill Scholtz

5803 Joni Ct.

Pollock Pines, CA 95826

## Membership Application (send Copy of DD 214 and \$10.00 fee)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit in S.E.Asia \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of S.E.Asia Duty \_\_\_\_\_  
Description of Duty \_\_\_\_\_  
Looking For? \_\_\_\_\_



## ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

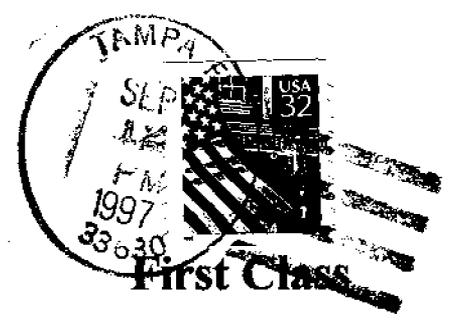


1. Association Patch - made around a QC design \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00
2. Air Force Combat Veteran Patch \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 4.00
3. Security Police Badge Patch \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 4.00
4. QC lapel pin, Just arrived \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 3.50
5. QC patch, Actual size. Quality Reproduction. American Made \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00
6. Air Force Security Police Coin - Pewter \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 6.00
7. Black Baseball Style Cap with any of the above Patches on it \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00
8. Air Force Flag 3' X 5', Nylon \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00
9. Hanes Beefy T-shirt with QC patch silk-screen on it...M,L,XL,XXL. \_\_\_\_\_ \$14.00
10. Association Bumper Stickers \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1.00
11. 7th Air Force - Patch \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 4.00
12. 7th Air Force - Pin \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 3.00
13. Mini-Security Police Badges, 1 3/4" high, Official Issue \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10.00

Please add \$1.00 per item for shipping up to a maximum of \$3.00. Please make checks for merchandise payable to Steve Ray. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Send checks to 170 Shih Dr. Apt C-4, Huntsville, AL 35802

Guardmount  
David Dobson  
5315 Bevans Ave.  
Spring Hill, FL 34608

**Guardmount**



**AMERICA IS #1**  
Thanks to our  
Veterans

Don \_\_\_\_\_  
Poss \_\_\_\_\_

**Urgent! Rush!**

**REUNION '97**

**Urgent! Rush!**

The Reunion Hotel is The Best Western Pensacola Beach  
16 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561  
For reservations call 1-800-934-3301 and tell them you are  
with the Vietnam Security Police Association  
Room Rates: \$65.00 per night plus 14% Tax  
Room rate is for 1 - 4 persons in a room

Reservations must be made by September 22, 1997  
Check in is at 3 PM, Check out is 11 AM

Any questions please call Mickey Reade - 904-934-8837  
or Mike Daoust - 912-876-4729

**Reunion 97 Registration Form**  
**October 23rd to October 26th 1997**  
**Pensacola, Florida**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee of \$10.00 enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to Vietnam Security Police Association

Send to Steve Ray, 1626 Chandler Rd., Huntsville, AL, 35801