



Guardmount

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Arlington National Cemetery Reunion

In that one point this summer just about everyone in American knew his name. His picture leapt out from the front page of newspapers across nation, from big city tabloids to back water broadsheets. Likewise from millions of television sets on that nightmarish Friday in July when Jacob Chestnut and a fellow Capital Police officer were brutally and insanely gunned down while performing routine security duty near the U.S. House.

Checking tourist's passes and giving directions was a long way from ducking rockets and mortar rounds in places like Pleiku and Cam Ranh Bay where Jacob (J.J.) Chestnut had served as a U.S. Air Force security policeman during two tours in Vietnam many years before. He certainly was entitled to a little "skating" or easy duty, at this stage of his life.

They say he never had a chance. Reportedly, the gunman walked up behind Chestnut and pumped a bullet into the back of his head. He then began the wild shooting spree that ended with the wounding of the gunman by another valiant officer who, like Chestnut, was killed in the gun battle as hundreds of shock and frightened visitors ran screaming for cover.

The thread of violence was probably the last thing on Chestnut's mind that lazy summer afternoon. He had recently joined the Vietnam Security Police Association, a relatively new organization comprised of Vietnam peers. He planned to attend the groups annual reunion, which was scheduled to be held in Washington D.C. in October. "He was really looking forward to the reunion and maybe getting together with some of his old Pleiku buddies," said VSPA official Steve Ray. Instead, the group gathered at Chestnut's grave for one final farewell salute.

Because of his career military service, Chestnut qualified for burial in Arlington National Cemetery. His grave, still unmarked, is located on a gently sloping hill graced by stately oaks and rolling turf that was still lush and green on that raw, blustery October day when his comrades came to say goodbye.

They came from all over the country, a good number of them in places such as Huntsville, Ala; Gulf Breeze, Fla. and Hinesville, Ga., to pay homage to an African-American man most had never met but all considered family because of the common bond of Vietnam service. The men walked as a group from the main gate of Arlington to Chestnut's grave, a considerable distance, much of it uphill. Some were joined by wives and children and even grandchildren. Others limped with canes, some still carrying shrapnel or bullet frag-

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Bits an' Pieces

Steve Covington is looking for anyone who is involved with the Former Spouses Act to get in touch with him. There are a number of Vets trying to get this law changed and they need support. Contact him at:

1121 1/2 Hammond Ave
Superior, WI 54880
715-395-9604

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ments in aging, aching limbs.

The group gathered Solemnly at the grave side, joined by Chestnut's son and daughter. Their chaplain offered a prayer and spoke the obvious irony of Chestnut's having survived Vietnam as a young man only to lose his life through senseless violence years later in his own country. The group then snapped to attention and, as one, offered a crisp salute to the fallen comrade, friend and brother.

The television lights in cameras and hordes of reporters of July were long gone by now that no one seemed to care. The smiles of love and appreciation of the faces of Chestnut's children shown brightly through their tears, like the sun that eventually peaked its way through the dreary overcast of a blustery autumn day in Arlington National Cemetery.

Taken from the Boston Sunday Herald November 8, 1998, titled "Officer survived Vietnam only to be struck down back home". Written by Jim Murray, Vietnam Security Policeman from Cam Ranh Bay 65/66

Raymond Morgan has a hobby of restoration (Digital Scanned Image) of photos. He would be happy to work on old photos for any SP's for FREE. He can make it into an 8x10 or save to a disk so they can be made into as large a print as anyone desires. Contact Raymond at:

1215 N. Olney
Indianapolis, IN 46201

The 31st TFW, Aviano AB, Italy has a beautiful lithograph of all the fighters the unit has flown, from P51 to F16, for sale. Check out their web page at www.aviano.af.mil/photos/jpegs/litho.jpg, maybe some former 31st SP would like a copy.

Don Graham
Tuy Hoa 68/69

Many veterans organizations have an internet network setup. I get a great deal of information via email concerning veterans, if you are interested in setting one up contact me at camranh@atlantic.net Editor.



President's Corner



Our new President, Ted Janiak, is ill and unable to send a message this quarter. Let's keep him in our prayers for a speedy recovery. Get well soon Ted, we are all with you.

Editor

Membership

There have been requests from "friends", having served on Guam, that want to pay Association fees without voting rights to support the Association. We can't offer them any type of membership of this time. It seems the VVA is in some trouble with the IRS because they have more non-regular memberships than regular memberships. It may be possible to offer non members the newsletter, Guardmount, at \$10.00 a year with no membership being afforded.

At the last membership meeting (1998 Washington, D.C.), the membership voted to keep the requirements for membership the same as they currently are. Men being sent to Thailand or Vietnam were required to attend AZR training at Lackland/Camp Bullis or some other training site used for AZR (combat training) prior to moving it to Lackland. The Air Force thought there was a threat level which necessitated combat training. The only way that others can become members is for someone to make a motion at the next annual business meeting and this must pass by vote of the membership. Currently, if someone is invited to join as an Associate member, they must have performed some high-level service for VSPA.

If any SP's were sent to Thailand or Vietnam TDY, then they are eligible for membership. The burden of proof, however, would lie with the applicant. If we allow those stationed on Guam to join based on their combat support of Vietnam operations we open up claims for those who served in the PI, Okinawa and other places where B-52's or other aircraft were assigned to support the war effort. Even though not everyone who was stationed in Thailand or Vietnam saw rocket attacks or combat they were all subject to those events at any moment. This commonality of this experience is the glue that binds us together as an Association. The next business meeting should debate the dates of service for Association membership because at this time there is some ambiguity in that regard.

'Nam Terms and Words

Here are some of the terms and words that were so familiar to us in Nam, how many do you remember today? If you can think of any more send them to me. Many may be hard to pronounce today but they rolled off of our tongues with no effort when we were there.

Baht	Thai currency
Biet (<i>Bic</i>)	Understand
BOHICA	Bend Over Here It Comes Again
Beaucoup (<i>Bookoo</i>)	many, lots of...
Boom Boom	short time \$3 - \$5
Caca Dau	I'll kill you
Chieu Hoi	Open arms, amnesty
Choi Oi	Good Heavens or what the hell
Cyclo	3 wheel passenger vehi- cle, bicycle power move quick
Di Di Mau	crazy, you're crazy
Dinky Dau	captain
Di Wee	stop, halt
Dung Lai	F. new guy
FNG	F. up beyond all repair
FUBAR	F. it got my orders
FIGMO	good, best
Number One	bad
Number Ten	very bad
Number Ten Thousand	fermented fish sauce, armpit sauce
Nuoc Mam	elderly Vietnamese man piaster Vietnamese money
Papa San	
P's	
Pucker Factor	fear factor
Puff	AC - 47
QC	Qua^n Ca^nh (white mice) our Vietnamese counter part
REMF	rear echelon MF
Sapper	terrorist, sabotage team
Sky Pilot	Chaplain

Smelling Like A Rose

I was off-duty in a bunk at the time of the attack and the strangest thing happened. We all got up and knew something was wrong even though the explosions had not occurred and "Giant Voice" wasn't even activated. Then all hell broke loose. We heard explosions and saw a giant fire ball. Since all the security vehicles were in use we grabbed weapons from the conex box setup for that purpose and boarded a bus. I thought at the time how ironic it was to be going into a possible fire fight by the school bus and Air Force blue. We ended up in the base dump as a blocking force and you know our maids let us know about the smell the next day. I did not hear that the airman on duty in the pump house ran out of it during the first explosion and right into a VC carrying a satchel charge. Not having a weapon he exercised the better part of valor and ran back into the pump house followed by a satchel charge. It was a stroke of luck he was not killed. But the exception of one airman, the POL tanks themselves, the news service reporting that the base had been overrun (scaring the hell out of loved ones) we all came out "Smelling Like A Rose".

*Bruce H. Buckelew
483rd SPS
Cam Ranh Bay 1/70-1/71*

When I first arrived for guardmount, I was assigned to the SAT team in the Tango area (bomb dump) and found myself becoming a regular, spending ten months there.

The night the POL was hit, it was two o'clock in the morning and I was on the SAT team just east of the area. We could hear the explosion and could see the flames from where we were. I remember how short I was at the time with only 34 days and counting. They said if you were going to get it, it would be when you first arrived in the Nam or when you were just to leave. So yes, you can say I do remember that night very well! We were told to keep on the lookout for Charlie in case he headed inland instead of going back over the river to the mainland. We positioned ourselves just below, I can't remember the post name or number, but it was the tallest tower we had. I remember helping the guard many a night by tying his supplies to a rope so he get them up. After the explosion, we got out of the Jeep and to cover along the dirt road just east of the Tower and behind the POL area. Thank God Charlie went the other way, for ours was a dead end! I remember it was a long night waiting for someone to

come walking down that road. We took incoming rounds at 0445 which just added to the excitement and we were told to get back in our Jeep and patrol the area for more Sappers. Everyone near me thought they were now trying to the Tango Area. When the sun came up I knew I had made it through with only 33 days left in counting.

Sometimes it seems like yesterday.

*Doug Gorski
483rd SPS
Cam Ranh Bay 10/69 - 10/70*

I was on phantom flight security on either OP 43 or OP 45 (very tall tower)...when the explosion, in the POL area, happened. The blackness of night was turned into an eerie glow, as if it was a surreal nightmare. Actually, from my vantage point, since I was a moderate distance away, the sweeping vista unfolded and has been indelibly etched in my mind. My first thought, was the SP's guarding inside the POL area. I thought that there would be casualties.

I heard a couple of former Army guys say either they saw the explosion or heard about it from others. If I'm not mistaken, one guy saw it happen from the air, either leaving or coming to Vietnam. It was a long time ago, so obviously, every detail cannot be remembered. I heard estimates that 1 million gallons of JP-4 went up that night.

Shortly after this happened, I volunteered for the Neptune Patrol (19 & 20) the joint AF SP/Navy night patrol on the bay waters from the bridge north past our last tower on northern most perimeter.(7 miles)

In conclusion, I am thankful for the Vietnam Security Police Assoc., and proud to have served with you guys.

*Wayne "Spooky" Kasper
12th/ 483rd SPS
CRB 1969-1970.*

I was SAT team leader for Whiskey Delta and had been since April. During that time I had set up a routine of making random checks off the area and stationing my team at a central location, which was in the area of Oscar 41. I was setting in the Jeep facing south and talking about my R & R that was to start in 3 weeks. We were relaxed, waiting for

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This is the remains of the POL tank involved in the Sapper attack, refer to the story 'Smelling like a Rose' The tanks in the back ground showed effects of the intense heat but did not burn, they were filled with JP4. We were lucky that other tanks did not explode causing more damage. There were satchel charges placed at other tanks but they did not cause the fire this one did.



Bruce Buckefew as he looked in 1970 while he was stationed at Cam Ranh Bay.



Roger P. Fox, Tony Morris and Obert Heitt share a moment at the reunion in D.C.



Members of VSPA place objects that they brought at the wall as they pay their respects to the Security Police whose names appear on the wall



Members of VSPA attending the Reunion in Washington DC mass at Arlington National cemetery to pay their final respect to a fallen comrade, JJ Chestnut in a grave side ceremony. See the cover story for further information on this ceremony.



Members of the Association who were stationed at Pleiku gather at the wall to pay respect to Robert E. Pascoe who was killed in an armory explosion at Pleiku. The other four men from Pleiku are (L to R) Pat Dunne '68, Jim Ulmer '69, John Henninger '67 and Steve Shelt '67.

January 31, 1999 Sgt. Alonzo J. Coggins will receive a Silver Star for his heroism during TET 1968 as a member of the 377th Security Police Squadron. Sgt. Coggins was one of the five Security Policemen manning the O-51 bunker on the night of January 31, 1968. He was the only Security Policeman to survive the assault after an eight hour battle. He was sent the

paper work for the medal but it was never presented to him. Maj. Joyce, active duty Air Force, has hunted Sgt. Coggins down to award it to him. They are hoping to have Col. Peebles, TSN Commander pin the medal on him. Any VSPA member in the area and attending the ceremony would be welcome. Hope to have pictures in the next Guardmount.

Poet's Corner

Vietnam Brotherhood

We would not have gone
 if not for our Brothers
We would not have fought
 if not for our Brothers
We would not have killed
 if not for our Brothers
We would not have died
 if not for our Brothers
We would not have to remember
 if not
 for our Brothers

By *Douglas Gorski* ©

A SALUTE TO THE BLUE KNIGHTS OF VIETNAM

They stood tall... protecting those mighty war birds and
the men that kept them high.
They stood tall... in the hot Asian sun, in the monsoon
rains
and that cold winds that blew by.
They stood tall... in the dark, near the perimeter wire,
waiting... waiting with their weapon ready to fire.
They stood tall... night after night on the dark tarmac,
lit only by a pop flares light.

They stood tall... waiting for that distinctive call...
"V.C. on the fence!" or "Charlie in the wire!"
They stood tall... professional sentinel's one and all.
They stood ready and waiting for that ominous call.

They stood tall...Blue Knights in Camouflage armor dedi-
cated
to protecting and defending those mighty war planes and
the
principles they personified.

They stood tall...representing the bright light of freedom
that protects us all.

They stood with distinction and valor... they answered that
call
and here and now, I stand in attention and salute them one
and all.

Jack R. Kays
SSgt USAF
35th Air Police Squadron
Danang, AFB
Vietnam 1965

Dream warrior

The Wall is dark as in my dream,
I am still.
The names are like Willie, Peter -
burning into my being. Friends,
comrades, other men, Warriors all.
I am taken back before the loss,
when we were all happy, had trust and all,
and all.

The pain is great, to my knees I go,
my woman holds me as a child.
I talked to her, I remember, of people --
Persons -- Places -- Things.
The tears flow, for a moment I see them
The ones I've come to grieve.
Warriors all.

I turn and leave shaken to my core --
voices say return at nite,
return at nite, return at nite.
Return -- return.
This I do.

The Wall is there, the Warriors, too.
They walked the path, as Warriors do.
The voices return, -- carry on, carry on --
You have Battles on ahead,
these you must win.
The Battles of Happiness -- Trust --
These causes you must win, must win.
Dream, Dream, Dream on Warrior.

James Keltner
Tan Son Nhut
'67 - '68

Reunion 1998 Washington D.C.

The fourth annual re-union kicked off on Thursday evening, Oct. 8 with a social that was held in the hospitality room of the DoubleTree Hotel, Arlington, VA.

On Friday morning everyone boarded chartered buses and went to the Pentagon for a tour. After the tour the group proceeded to Bolling AFB by bus where a group photograph was taken in front of the R. V. Maisey building. Next stop was the base picnic area located on the banks of the Potomac River. A free BBQ lunch was provided by the 11th Wing. The Wing commander gave a big welcome home to the VSPA veterans and troops of the 11th Security Forces Squadron who had just return from a tour of duty in the desert. VSPA members had a chance to visit with active duty troops and tour the K-9 kennels next to the picnic ground.

Friday evening found the group and invited guests back at the DoubleTree Hotel for a buffet banquet. After dinner, the guest speaker was Adrian Cronauer of "Good Morning Vietnam" fame. VSPA was pleased that Wen-Ling and the Chestnut and her daughter were in attendance. Individual photographs were taken of all attendees and a reunion booklet will soon be published with those and other photos of all the events. Great door prizes were given out and every attendee received a copy of the book "Air Base Defense in the Republic of Vietnam 1961-73" Office of Air Force History. The author of the book, Roger P. Fox, who is a VSPA member, attended the banquet and signed the books for several of the members. VSPA exchange challenge coins with the active duty members of the 11th SFS. The above mentioned book will be provided at future reunions to those that attend and have not received a book previously. There are 50 more books and stock, so sign up early for the next (1999) re-union to be held in Las Vegas and a book will be reserved if you attend.

Saturday morning members went to the grave side of J. J. Chestnut, VSPA member and Capitol Police Officer slain by a gunman in July. Two of J. J. Chestnut's children were in attendance at the memorial service. Jim Murray, VSPA member, wrote an excellent article, it was published in the Boston Herald on the memorial event. (See cover story) At

1400 on Saturday, members gathered at the "Wall" and conducted a memorial and wreath laying at the apex of Vietnam War Memorial. Selected members read the names of those AP's/SP's who died in SEA during the war. As of this writing, the VSPA has identified 94 names of AP's/SP's who lost their lives. Saturday night was old squadron night and members hooked up with others that had served in their old units and went to dinner together.

All Sunday activities were held at the DoubleTree Hotel. VSPA provided breakfast for ladies in attendance on Sunday morning and the church service with conducted by VSPA Chaplain Steve Janke. Members took up a donation in lieu of an offering for "Vets With A Mission". \$225 was raised.

The annual business meeting was opened at 1120 hours with a moment of silence for our fallen comrades. B/General Richard Coleman, Director of USAF Security Forces and VSPA member, made remarks to the association on current and future security force issues. Members voted and approved the following: Membership: Life Membership was table, the criteria for joining VSPA remains the same and no increase in dues; membership cards will be issued upon initial acceptance into the Association. Replacements will cost \$5.00; Regional Chapters rejected; History Book of SP SEA service should be done in-house (Association) and did not hire an outside agency to write the history book; Future reunion sites: 1999 Las Vegas and 2000 San Antonio. Terms of office: two years for each office and a maximum of two terms consecutively.

President:	Ted Janiak
Vice-President:	Kevin Fitzgerald
Secretary/Treasure:	Steve Ray
Chaplain:	Steve Janke
Historian:	Steve Ray
Research Historian:	Ken Record
Trustee:	Mike Daoust

Terry Morris was re-appointed Membership Chairman. Dave Dobson was re-appointed Editor of Guardmount.

Members voted to approve the slate of officers for the term indicated.

Mike Daoust asked if there was any other business for

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the next three hours to pass so we to get off.

I don't know which came first the sound of the explosion and the fire ball or the radio transmission indicating Charlie was spotted in the area. We all sat there for a moment starring at the huge ball of fire. The fire looked so hot we thought that we could feel heat at this great a distance. We then proceeded to make a check of all posts in the Delta area and make a sweep of the area. Every time we came into a clearing we could see the fire. Over the radio we heard the action of people trying to clear the area. There was a lot of traffic on the radio some even sounded confusing, and when this happened the calm, deep, gravely voice called our flight chief, MSgt. Jim Worsham, would come in and take charge calming people down. It gave us the feeling that someone was taking care of what needed to be done to clear the area.

We all joked nervously in order to cover our fear as we drove through narrow roads through this dence under growth of thick vegetation. Every shadow seemed to cover a potential danger. As we continually patrolled the

area watching out for Charlie we listened to the action on the radio. Time seemed to crawl by as we waited for dawn.

I agree with Doug that sometimes it seems like yesterday.

David Dobson
483rd SPS
Cam Ranh Bay 2/70 - 2/71

Next month an account of a return to Siagon from a man who was stationed at Tan Son Nhut during Tet 68. Hope to have pictures as well.
Editor

(Continued from page 3)

Yards	Montagnards
SNAFU	situation normal all F up
SOS	same old shit
Ti Ti (Tee Tee)	a little bit
Trung Wee	Sergeant
Ville	little town



ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE FOR SALE



- | | |
|--|----------|
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