



Guardmount

Volume 6, Issue 2

October, 2000



VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Business Meeting Minutes of 7 October 2000

President Kevin Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 0810 hours.

Kevin Fitzgerald lead the Association members in saying the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the 9 October 1999 business meeting were read by Steve Ray, Secretary. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Terry Austin, seconded by several members. Motion passed.

Steve Ray gave the treasurer's report. The report covered the period 31 October 1999 to 30 September 2000. The balance was \$3885.02 for the period. A motion to accept the report was made by Jack Roberts, second by Ed Wilson. Motion passed. Each member was given a copy of the report and is included in these minutes as an attachment.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

Vice-President Steve Gattis made opening remarks and spoke on dues, membership, supporting memberships, the availability of membership rosters, the need to recruit new members, and informed the

members the newsletter is published quarterly.

A motion to send out a separate dues notice to members and pay the extra-required postage to do this was made by Al Habercorn and seconded by Don Graham. Motion passed. Dave Dobson should mail the notice to members in early January, separate of the Guardmount, due also in January. Members were reminded they could pay dues for three years in advance

A motion was made by Joe Bouback to change supporting dues to \$1.00 per supporting member. Seconded by Owen Lamb. Motion passed.

Mike Daoust reported the Association would take over the product sales of Association merchandise from John Langley. The cost of the merchandise is \$1697.00. A check for \$1697.00 was issued to John Langley. The Association now owns all Association merchandise and Mike Daoust will handle the sales. Profits will go into the Association bank account. Mike stated new items would become available for members to order. A motion was made by John Zolondz to fund the up front cost of \$750.00 in making an Association coffee mug. Ed Wilson gave the second. Motion carried. A motion was requested to fund the up front cost of \$750.00 for the die cast fee for a QC ring. No motion was made. It was noted that there would be no die cast fee if 25 or more orders are received. Anyone wanting a QC ring should contact Steve

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VSPA Points of Contact

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Ode To The Vietnam Veteran

Across the rice patties...
Up the muddy mountain passes...
Through the steamy jungle...
On the ocean waves...
Across the skies...

They came!

These young men and women sacrificed:
Their youth
Their blood
Their lives

To maintain liberty in a world of strife!

Now they don't want our sympathy or hear us cry:
They just want us to remember; Who... When...
Where... and Why.

These young Centurions will always recall:
The hot wind from the South China Sea...
The echo of the Howitzer...
The scream of an incoming mortar...
The rat-a-tat-tat of the M-16 rifle...
The ghostly light from a flare's drifting flight...
In the middle of the deadly Asian night...

They will remember:

The thundering roar of a B-52...
The smell of napalm in the early dawn's mist...
These memories will always exist for the Vietnam
Vet,
Who's nightly dreams bring back the cries and
screams from a time forgone...
But never forgotten.

Proudly they stand today... side by side!
In memory of those men and women,
Who made that ultimate sacrifice for that glories
banner of Red... White and Blue.
As long as Old Glory waves the Vietnam Veterans
have paid their due.

*SSgt. Jackie R. Kays
Da Nang, 1965*

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feet deeper where the blast occurred. We expected to see more earth removed after witnessing the explosions, but I guess the shape of the revetment funneled the blast upward. Not all revetment went up.

EOD had their hands full for about a month, and baby bombs continued to go off sporadically for about a month.

I'll never forget it. I didn't keep track of attacks that year, but we got hit more than any other Air Base in 1971.

*Dave Bieganski
Cam Ranh Bay 71*

The Night the Bomb Dump Went Up

August 28, 1971

40 extra augmentees were sent to TANGO AREA with regular PHANTOM FLIGHT SP and K9 posts. The reason for this was the intelligence reports said high probability of attack. Before midnight K9 reported bare foot tracks in a revetment and the dog was alerting. The SAT team was sent to check out situation. There was a small explosion in the next revetment and everybody was ordered to pull back. Within a few minutes the same revetment went up with a big explosion. The revetment was holding MOTHER BOMBS, that is ones that hold 1,000 BABY BOMBS the size of a hand ball that have wires hanging out of them. They go off when tripped or anywhere from 30 seconds to thirty days. They are considered anti-personal type.

This explosion threw those BABY BOMBS all over the entire dump. They were going off like popcorn. The order to evacuate the area was given. Then a revetment full of rockets went up with a tremendous explosion that looked like a nuclear bomb. There was confusion in the area trying to evacuate augmentee personal who had never been in the tango area. South bay reported movement and incoming. North bay reported movement.

What had happened was the rocket revetment explosion had thrown hot rockets everywhere and some were going off on impact or in the air. In the mean time baby bomb explosions were getting intense, there were some 10,000 hot baby bombs scattered all over the dump. I was at Oscar 37, the one next to Oscar 35, the tallest tower on base. The dump had an orange glow with the sound of baby bombs sounding like popcorn at it's most intense stage. People were trying to evacuate, the radio was going crazy. The orange glow got brighter and brighter, and the intensity of the small bombs could get no more, there was an intense white flash in the middle of the glow-----radio went dead silent and BOOOOMMMMM. It looked like another bigger nuclear explosion.

I watched the shock wave coming towards me shaking everything on base and off, brush was bending in it's

path, when it hit me it knocked me clean across the tower. I thought at that time that everyone in the TANGO area had been killed. 30 seconds later the radio came alive again with the voices of people in the tango area trying to get the hell out of there.

The next order was to go on foot out and away from the dump.

K9 handler Hal Aber was on the radio saying his dog was alerting in another revetment. Then he reported four individuals. Another huge explosion and after the next radio silence, it was reported that the revetment he was in front of went up. I thought for sure he was dead after seeing the nuclear size explosion.

He's alive! He told me the next day that the dog was shook up because of all the explosions and was barking and jumping and alerting on four gooks. He said he was pointing the car-15 at the gooks and was ready to squeeze the trigger when the revetment blew. The next thing he remembers he was flying through the air with his leashed dog and four gooks flying like with pieces of bomb casings in the air going at the same speed they were flying. He said they passed a jeep and watched the tires go flat and that the bomb casing went right through the engine area and wham! - he, the dog, and the gooks hit the bank on the other side of the perimeter road.

When he came to the dog was shook and barking at all the small explosions, he took 5 pellets from a baby bomb in his leg. I think he said he seen the gooks disappear into the brush.

There was 12 hours of continuous explosions, with 7 major blasts, the largest occurred after daylight, when 250 500 pound bombs went up. This one was really nuclear in size and shape. A dust ball rose a couple thousand feet. The concussion caved the theater roof in, broke all the glass or plexiglass on base. All the hospital windows were broken. It even ripped some speakers in the hootch stereos.

Eleven vehicles in the area were destroyed, there were 5 casualties and unbelievably, not one person was killed. Thank God!

By the way all the bunkers and towers were destroyed in the tango area. The revetments were about 30

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HISTORIAN REPORT

(1 OCT 1999 – 30 SEP 2000)

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

1. New modular office furniture for the curator's offices were donated to the SP museum on 28 Jan. 2000. (See attached report)
2. VSPA donated special coins to commemorate the retirement of B/Gen. Richard A. Coleman. (See attached report)
3. A Shadow Box was purchased to house the medals and awards for Horace Holbrook. Ken Record presented the Shadow Box to the family of Holbrook who was KIA in 1967. (See 1999 minutes of VSPA business meeting for additional details on Horace Holbrook).
4. Donation of \$250.00 was made to the AFSPA for the SP Bronze Statue that will be placed at the USAF museum in Dayton, Ohio in October 2000.
5. VSPA sponsored dinner meals for award recipients at the SP Symposium Week held at Lackland AFB, Texas. The awards are given to active duty, reserve and National Guard members.
6. VSPA provided a four volume set of CD's produced by the Tan Son Nhut Association on the battle for the 051 bunker to the 51st SFS, Osan Air Base, Korea. The 51st wanted the CD's to use in a training course for the unit.
7. Continued to sponsor the SGT. Louis H. Fischer Award at the SF academy, Lackland AFB, Texas. Eleven awards were given to the most outstanding students during this reporting period.

Charter Member Certificates were sent to all VSPA Charter Members.

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Gattis. Anyone wanting to purchase an Association jacket should contact Mike Daoust. The following persons/organizations donated merchandise for the VSPA raffles: VVA Chapter 494, Tony Morris, John Zolondz, VSPA, Steve Gattis, Frank Yarbaro, and Ed Wilson.

Historian Report – Steve Ray provided members with a copy of the 1999-2000 historian report. The report was read to the members and is included in these minutes as an attachment. Motion was made by Bruce Hadley to accept the historian report as read. Second by Tony Morris. Motion carried.

Terry Morris (Membership Director) presented a report on membership. Terry stated 1152 former SP's have been contacted. He stated there is approximately a 33% response rate to his membership information mail out's. There was a discussion on how to increase recruiting. Terry will provide free membership rosters to any member who agree's to contact those SP's on the roster that have never joined VSPA. Several members volunteered to undertake the task and a separate off-line meeting was scheduled with Terry Morris to discuss the matter.

Public Relations Report – Steve Gattis reported he is staying in touch with current active duty squadrons and has put several links on our web site. He would like to provide certificates of appreciation to those that assist the VSPA. Members requested the patches that appeared in the last reunion booklet also be included in this year's reunion book. Steve Gattis will see that the patches are included. Steve would like to make a poster of all the patches and have the poster available for purchase by members. He also suggested that if the poster is made a copy should be given to the SP/SF museum at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Reunion Site Selection for 2001 – A discussion was held. Members voted to go to Langley AFB, VA for the 2001 reunion. The reunion will be held Oct 4-7. The Reunion Brat was approved to assist

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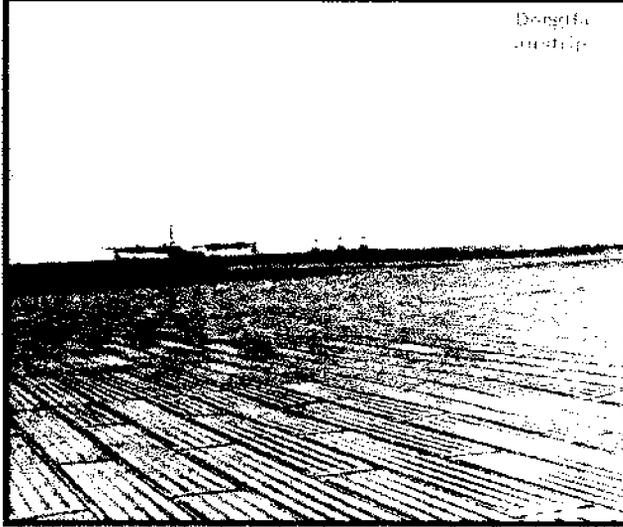
Pictures at Orphanage in Danang



**Frank Lewicki
Shares his memories of Vietnam**



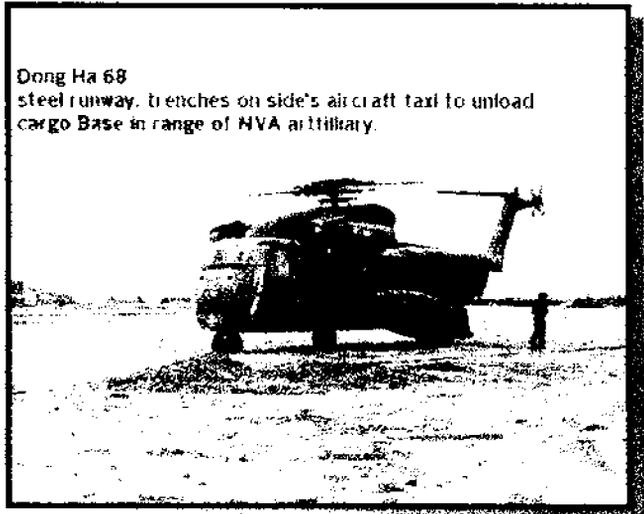
Dong Ha
airstrip



Remember the metal ramps?

Dong Ha '68

Dong Ha 68
steel runway, trenches on side's aircraft taxi to unload
cargo Base in range of NVA artillery.



Safe pass?

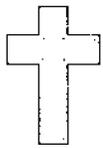


HÃY BÁO CÁO CHO CHÍNH-PHỦ VNCH HOẶC NHƯNG
ĐỒNG-MINH NƠI CÓ BỌN VIỆT-CỘNG VÀ QUÂN CHÍN
VIỆT AN TRÚ.

Dong Ha 67-68
Waterhoy site



Lewicki at Dong Ha



Chaplain 's Corner



This poem is engraved on a wall for orphan children in Calcutta

Poem on a wall in a Home for Children in Calcutta

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;

 Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

 Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some friends and some true enemies;

 Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

 Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

 Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

 Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

 Do good anyway.

Give to the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

 Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

 It was never between you and them anyway.

Chaplain Steve Janke



Editors Corner



For the last five and a half years I have had the pleasure of editing this publication and hope to continue for the unforeseeable future. I have tried to keep the material printed in it here limited to Vietnam and Security Police activities there. Since there are other publications that cover current Security Police/Force activities I feel this publication is for our own piece of history. In order to keep this publication up I need material to print. To quote retired LTG Link in a speech at the traveling wall in Huntsville, AL, "*But talk we must for we are living witnesses, and if we are silent others will continue to spin a version of the truth that best suits their personal or political agenda (referring to the media).*" This is our voice and you all have a story or two to share. I am sure that if we look closely at most of the pieces published in past issues they are not in perfect English but they do get their point across. I personally have recalled many incidents as I have read the material I have received, hope you have too. This is what we all need as part of the healing process. How about putting some of your memories down on paper and send them to me so they can be shared with others and we can get our truth out, undistorted.

If you have pictures they can also be shared with others.

I hope to hear from all of you soon.

Dave Dobson
CRB 70 - 71

Notice: Guardmount comes out 4 times a year – January, April, July and October. If you do not get an April issue that means we do not have your dues, so you may want to check it out.

Dave Dobson

Treasures Report

ACCOUNT SUMMARY EXPENSES

30 September 2000

Vietnam Security Police Association
Treasurer's Report – Oct 31, 1999 – 30 Sep. 2000

Beginning Balance: \$3205.97
Ending Balance: \$3885.02

Receipts Expenses

Oct.	\$807.00	\$1053.30
Nov.	\$734.80	\$2592.10
Dec.	\$201.00	\$168.48
Jan.	\$675.00	\$1105.34
Feb.	\$3691.50	\$121.58
Mar.	\$939.00	\$1767.38
Apr.	\$445.00	\$74.20
May	\$1020.00	\$541.04
Jun.	\$210.00	\$651.60
Jul.	\$269.50	\$162.59
Aug.	\$208.75	\$183.14
Sep.	<u>\$480.61</u>	<u>\$582.36</u>
Totals	\$9682.16	\$9,003.11
Receipts minus Expenses:		\$679.05
Ending balance 9/30/00:		<u>\$3885.02</u>
Checkbook/Account book balance:		<u>\$3885.02</u>

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Newsletter expenses: (Printing/postage) \$2,390.30

Membership Expenses: (Membership cards/postage) \$279.29

Misc. postage/supplies: \$93.58

Reunions and other get together expenses: \$1,072.47

(includes left over 1999 expenses, gifts, door prizes, refreshments, hospitality)

Donations: \$2,875.00

(SP museum furniture, Horace Holbrook Shadow Box, AFSPA Bronze SP Statue, SP Symposium Week, Lunch at SP museum 1/28/00, Set of CD's to the 51st SFS)

Merchandise orders: \$39.00

Historian travel expenses: \$1,192.47

(SP museum furniture dedication, B/G Coleman retirement)

Historian Expenses: \$61.90
(copies of video's, postage)

SGT. Louis H. Fischer Awards: \$289.10

Web page fees: \$710.00

Total expenses: \$9,003.11

Steven Ray
Secretary/Treasurer
VSPA

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VSPA BX PRODUCT SALES



Patches:

- a. VSPA Patches _____ \$ 5.00
- b. QC Patches _____ \$ 5.00
- c. SP Badge Patch _____ \$ 4.00
- d. Air Force Vietnam Vet Patch _____ \$ 4.00
- e. Tet 68 Survivor Patch _____ \$ 4.00
- f. 7th Air Force Patch _____ \$ 4.00
- g. POW/MIA Patch _____ \$ 4.00
- h. QC Back Patch (9") _____ \$15.00
- i. U.S. Air Force Back Patch (10") _____ \$15.00

Pins:

- a. QC Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- b. 7th Air Force Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- c. Air Force Vietnam Vet Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- d. Tet 68 Survivor Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- e. POW/MIA Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- f. Vietnam Base Pins (Bien Hoa, Binh Thuy, Cam Ranh Bay, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Phan Rang, Pleiku, Phu Cat, Ton Son Nhut) _____ \$ 4.00
- g. U.S. Air Force (Generic) _____ \$ 4.00
- h. Vietnam Service Ribbon Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- i. Vietnam Veteran With Ribbon Bar Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- j. New Air Force Security Forces Pin _____ \$ 4.00
- k. Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Pin _____ \$ 4.00

Stickers:

- a. VSPA Bumper Sticker _____ \$ 1.00
- b. 7th Air Force _____ \$ 3.00
- c. POW/MIA _____ \$ 1.00
- d. Vietnam Service Ribbon _____ \$ 3.00
- e. U.S. Air Force _____ \$ 3.00

Hats: (Baseball Style Black) \$12.00

- a. VSPA Association
- b. QC
- c. Security Police Shield
- d. U.S. Air Force Vietnam Veteran With Ribbon Bar

Miscellaneous:

- a. Security Police Mini Shields (Numbered) _ \$10.00
- b. Security Police Qualification Badges _____
(Lg \$4.00 Sm \$2.00)
- c. 7th Air Force Coin _____ \$12.00
- d. Paper Weights
Marble with QC Patch and VSPA ___ \$ 15.00
Lucite With Security Police Shield __ \$30.00
- e. VSPA Black Satin Jacket Embroidered ___ \$85.00
- f. USAF Black Laminated Wood Clock ___ \$45.00
- g. Vietnam Memorial Black Laminated Wood Clock
_____ \$45.00
- h. Belt Buckels (Vietnam Veteran with Service and Campaign Ribbons) _____ \$12.00
(U.S. Air Force Generic) _____ \$12.00

Please add \$3.00 shipping and handling for all orders under \$50.00, orders over that are only \$4.50 for Shipping and Handling. Please make checks for merchandise payable to Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA). Sorry no Credit Card Orders. Send checks and orders to Mike Daoust, 401 N. Kiesel St., Bay City, MI 48706

Membership Application (send Copy of DD 214 and \$15.00 fee)

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Unit in S.E.Asia _____

Dates of S.E.Asia Duty _____

Description of Duty _____

Looking For? _____

Guardmount

First Class



VSPA in the 2001 reunion coordination efforts.

Election: An election for all offices was held. Mike Daoust presided over the election. The slate put forward was:

- President: Kevin Fitzgerald
- Vice-President: Stephen Gattis
- Secretary/Treasurer: Denis Cook
- Membership Director: Terry Morris
- Historian: Don Graham
- Chaplain: Steve Janke
- Mike Daoust: Past President and Trustee
- Steve Ray: Life Board member Emeritus

A motion was made by Owen Lamb with a second by Bill Wright to accept the slate of officers. One vote was cast for the slate and they were duly elected. The term of offices will expire in October 2002.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed. President Kevin Fitzgerald adjourned the meeting at 0940 hours.

Steven F. Ray
Secretary/Treasurer

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9. Several names were added to the valor medal list at the SP museum and on the VSPA web site as a direct result of VSPA research efforts.

Several names were added to the VSPA Purple Heart List as a result of VSPA research.

Assisted several VSPA members by doing research for VA claims and on missing decorations on DD-214's.

Received a reply from Dr. Richard P. Hallion (USAF Historian) expressing appreciation for VSPA's research efforts in documenting eight attacks not listed in the Fox or Vick books. (See 1999 VSPA business meeting minutes).

Steven F. Ray
Historian