

# Vietnam Security Police Association

## Guardmount

www.vspa.com

Volume 9, Issue 3

January 31, 2004

### Special points of interest:

- Our 10th year and growing.
- Vietnam SP History Book..
- Your 2004 dues are now due.
- Guardmount, a new look.
- We need your stories.

### Inside this issue:

10th year for VSPA	1
Incoming in the Beer Pit	2
Udorn Attack	4
Recruiter Update	4
Links	5
President's Message	6
I'm the Flag	6
New Members	7
Guardmount, a new Look	10
Who is the Enemy	10
Tet 68-08	11
BX	12
VA Contacts	13
K-9 Report	13
Base Attacks	14
Important Dates	14

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY VSPA

By: Steve Ray

It all began in 1994. John Langley was trying to locate former AP/SP's from Vietnam and I was looking for former members of my Vietnam unit. John and I both had placed ads in the publication, "Vietnam". After speaking with John by telephone, he told me he was forming the Vietnam Security Police Association. As they say, the rest is history. Our humble beginnings as an Association began in January 1995 when John published the first "Guardmount" newsletter and stated the VSPA would hold a reunion in 1995. John Langley published the first several issues of "Guardmount" and then Dave Dobson took over until the end of 2003. Den Cook picked up there and this is his first issue. In a letter dated February 21, 1995, I wrote to John congratulating him on the publication of the first issue of "Guardmount" and for using an article I had sent him for publication on the joys of eating C-Rats! In that letter I told John I'd like to direct all of my unit contacts to at-

tend the VSPA reunion and volunteered to serve on a committee to make the reunion happen. Thus, I was duly appointed the task of organizing the first reunion. The reunion was held October 7-9, 1995 at the Days Inn Atlanta airport. Terry Lunsford provided vital legwork in selecting the hotel as he lived in the Atlanta, GA area. There were 16 attendees and 9 spouses/guests. The attendees were: Bob Anisko, Denis Cook, Mike Daoust, Ted Janiak, Jack King, John Langley, Terry Lunsford, Patrick McKinney, Terry Morris, Steve Ray, Tom Payne, Wes Smale, Richard (Dick) Brown, Jerry Stevens, Mickey Reade and Alan Grybosky. Elections were held and John Langley became President. Our first act of charity was a donation of \$10.00 on December 5, 1995 to "The Air Force Enlisted Widows Home Foundation, Inc." The 1996 reunion was held in San Antonio, TX and Medal of Honor recipient, Army Sergeant Roy Benavidez, was our keynote speaker.

*Continued page -2-*

## Renew your Membership Today

Your 2004 dues payment is now due. Please look at the mailing label. To the right of your name you will see a number or a letter.

If there is the number 03 to the right of your name, then your 2004 dues are now due. If there

is the number 04, 05, 06, or 07 then your dues for 2004 are paid. If the letter is LM, then you are a Life Member and you no longer pay dues.

To pay your 2004 dues please make your check payable to "VSPA", for \$15.00 and mail

to:

Denis Cook  
4248 Fiesta Way, #1,  
Oceanside, CA 92054

If your membership expired in 2003 and you do not renew, then this may be the last Guardmount you will receive.

## Incomming, in the Beer Pit by

Very late one morning after a hard nights work on Panther Flight, it came time to close the bar behind the Orderly Room or face the wrath of the First Shirt. Last to leave after helping the bartender "police" the area, I met the volunteer delivery crew in the old cut down and worn out school bus. They had enough help as they formed a line from the back of the bus to the cooler.

Waiting on the side to see if I was needed, I watched as the cases of beer were thrown from one person to the next. YES: I said "thrown". Shipped all the way from the states in a hot box on top of a ship, can you imagine? Suddenly a call came from

the cooler to stop. "Need to arrange the box" was heard. Seems the guy in the bus did not hear the command and kept throwing. Half way down the line, cases of beer were being held by each member and some were being dropped in order to catch the oncoming burden.

As I watched, a case of Falstaff seemed to start "cooking off" in mid air while the man to catch it already had a load. He turned to see the "incoming" and dropped his case of Falstaff which immediately exploded at his feet. The incoming box slipped, as it was wet, and it too exploded in a glorious ball of foam. Three of the men were covered with spray before

they could run. Lucky for all there were no injuries requiring treatment. The orderly room smelled really good for the rest of that day I suppose. I stumbled back to my rack and went to sleep suffering about the loss of that wonderful nectar. Yes, I drank Falstaff because my uncle worked for them back in McAllen as the good will man. I just remembered that the beer crew was made up of volunteers that ran the NCO Club. Found my last membership card to the "Bamboo Viper" / NCO Club still with my shot records. Wonder what the names were for other Squadron/Flight bars and the various NCO Clubs that were In Country?

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY VSPA Continued by Steve Ray

VSPA stayed at the Holiday Inn Northwest and the Vietnam Dog Handlers were there in a joint reunion effort with VSPA. VSPA added the position of Chaplain at the 1996 business meeting and Steve Janke has served in that position ever since. Captain Mike Florio, 343<sup>rd</sup> SPS, was my contact for the 1996 reunion events and I worked with Mike on VSPA sponsoring the "Commandants Award" which later was dropped in favor of sponsoring the Louis Fischer Award. In 1997, VSPA became the official sponsor of the Louis Fischer Award and remains so today. Captain Florio certainly made life easy for us by doing lots of coordination and I'll never forget his hard work and assistance at Lackland and at Camp Bullis. Skipp Tullgren and John Manzi volunteered to present the Fischer Award on behalf of VSPA and did so for many years. Currently, a member of the SFS academy does the presenting on our behalf. Mickey Reade stepped up and coordinated the 1997 reunion with a visit to the "Wall South" and Hurlburt Field, Florida. Mickey did a great job and all in attendance had a great time. Supporting Members (spouses, family members of VSPA members) were authorized membership for \$5.00 a year but no voting rights until such time as deemed necessary (voting rights extended when only a few Active members remain and there is a need to turn over the Association to our relatives to carry on our legacy). Mike Daoust was elected Presi-

dent.

Terry Morris, Membership Chairman since VSPA began, started the first VSPA web page and then Don Poss took over and we now have one of the best veteran web sites on the Internet. In 1998 the VSPA reunion was held in Arlington, VA/Washington, DC. Ted Janiak was elected President. Adrian Cronauer of "Good Morning Vietnam" fame was our guest speaker. A memorial service was held at the "Wall" with a wreath placed during a brief ceremony. A memorial was also held at Arlington National cemetery at the gravesite of JJ Chestnut, Capitol police officer slain while on duty. JJ was a VSPA member and had planned to attend the 1998 reunion. The Chestnut family was in attendance at the gravesite service and were guests of VSPA at the reunion banquet. B/General Coleman attended the business meeting and gave an update on the status of USAF Security Forces. In February 1999, VSPA sponsored, along with the Air Force Security Police Association, an award ceremony, at Lackland AFB, Texas presenting the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal to Sergeant (Ret) Alonzo J. Coggins. VSPA also provided the academy a photo provided by VSPA member Jack Roberts, of Sergeant Louis Fischer. In addition, the association sold tee shirts as a fundraiser, which netted \$1500. A retirement coin for B/General Coleman and new modular furniture was purchased for the SP museum from

*Continued page -3-*

# San Antonio News.

This is a copy of an editorial/Letter to the Editor in the San Antonio newspaper after our last reunion. It was sent in by VSPA member, Jack Manzi.

Recently, the Vietnam Security Police Association held its annual reunion in San Antonio. It was great to see old friends and make new ones. We swapped stories and brought each other up-to-date on what we have been doing since that war ended. It was hard to visualize these guys, now mostly in their 50s and 60s, de-

fending our bases in Vietnam and Thailand. But we did it, and we lost many of our comrades in the process. We also lost our nonhuman partners,

**Become a Life Member!  
Pay dues one time...**

the sentry dogs. Were it not for their abilities and training, more of our security police would have been casualties. We may be older now and a little

overweight, but our spirits were as high during this reunion as they were when we were defending bases in Southeast Asia. Even though we never got the complete support of the

American people, one thing will never change — and that is we never lost an air base to the enemy. We visited Lackland AFB and met with today's security forces. These are sharp, dedicated, professional men and women with a tough job to do. We came away feeling this country can depend on our forces today like we could during the 1960s.

— Jack Manzi

Note: Many thanks to Jack for his efforts over the years to promote and represent the VSPA at the Fisher Award Ceremonies.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY VSPA Continued by Steve Ray

the proceeds of the fundraiser. In March of 1999 VSPA representative Lewis Barnett, officially dedicated, along with squadron commander Major Michael Trapp, 366 SFS, the Defender Park Pavilion at Mt. Home AFB, ID, in honor of AIC Gary L. Fuller who was killed in action while serving with the 366<sup>th</sup> SPS at Da Nang AB, RVN. VSPA went to Las Vegas in October of 1999 for the annual reunion and the Reunion Brat began making arrangements for our reunions. President Ted Janiak passed away after a lengthy illness and Kevin Fitzgerald took over as President of VSPA. During 2000, VSPA worked with the Discovery Channel on a program entitled Seized at Sea: Situation Critical, The Story of the Maququez Crisis. Unfortunately, VSPA was never given credit for our assistance in the making of the program but one of our members was credited (John Cary). For the 2000 reunion it was back to San Antonio and B/General Coleman was our guest speaker. The VSPA rifle team defeated the active duty security forces in a marksmanship contest held at Medina Base. The 2001 reunion was held in Hampton, VA and was difficult for all due to the September 11, 2001 attack on America by terrorist. Mike Daoust recommended that VSPA begin a JJ Chestnut scholarship fund for member's families. The recommendation was accepted and began in 2002. Reunion

2002 was held in Dayton, OH with a trip to the USAF museum at Wright Patterson AFB. Steve Gattis was elected President of the association. San Antonio was the venue once again for 2003. Lackland AFB and Camp Bullis were visited by the membership. Over the years many other activities have been started. Thanks to the efforts of members who have served as association Historian's many names have been added to the Honor Medal Scrolls for Valor at the SP museum, research on base attacks have been documented and provided to the Air Force through official channels, history books have been compiled, Purple Heart lists have been started, and many names have been added to the Memorial List of our comrades that lost their lives in Southeast Asia. Vaughn Hull, Don Graham and Ken Record are the Historians who have completed this fine work. I'm sure I've left out things that should be written here and failed to mention many who have done a good

**Don't wait, pay your dues today!**

work for VSPA. Forgive me if I did leave you out. Accept thanks for what you have done. My hope is that the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will be filled with as much or more of the accomplishments made by the membership of VSPA during our first ten years. God bless you all.

# Thailand, Udorn Air Base Base Attacks!

432d SPS Assigned Udorn AB, 18 Sep 1966-27 Jan 1973 by Ray Conboy (Copyright © 2000)

I was a Security Policeman and served in the Air Force 10 May 68 to 9 May 72. I was at Udorn 69-70. I get ragged on by some Marines (in good spirit). My response is to remind them that whenever Da Nang was hit, it would be the Marine or ARVN perimeters, and not ours. I always believed that it was because we were more interested in doing our jobs instead of doing dope, beer and prostitutes some of our



brothers in other branches liked to do on base security. Reading about SSgt Johnson and other air cops I can see the bravery shown by my brothers.

I got to Udorn in Aug of '69. Udorn was hit by sappers approximately 6 to 10 months before my arrival. The story I was told was that a C-141 had evacuated some wounded. They landed at Udorn for fuel or some necessary repair.

A sapper team had placed satchel charges on or around the

wheel wells. A security policeman was posted on the aircraft after the satchel's were placed.

There was a problem with the satchels and they did not explode. The sappers went to check on their explosives and the security policeman discovered them and a fire-fight ensued. He blew his assigned rounds off right fairly fast. A SAT team responded and a QRT responded. They killed 5 of the sappers. During the firefight, fire units responded and were hosing down the aircraft IN THE MIDDLE

*Continued page -11-*

## Recruiter News

Terrell Morris: Membership Chairman

It's hard to believe that this month marks the 10th year anniversary since VSPA was born. Our first reunion in Atlanta Georgia in 1995 had about a dozen Charter Members and their wives participate. Thanks to

the elected officers and volunteers at that reunion, and those that followed, we've grown to a really great veteran's organization.

Thanks to the Poss brother's fantastic web site, [www.vspa.com](http://www.vspa.com), my job as Membership Chairman has become a lot easier. At the close of year 2003 VSPA has a total of 726 members to

include 122 Life Members. There is still a lot of room for increasing that total however. We have accumulated a roster of 1590 SP's that served in Southeast Asia. That roster includes members, past members and those that for some reason never enlisted in VSPA.

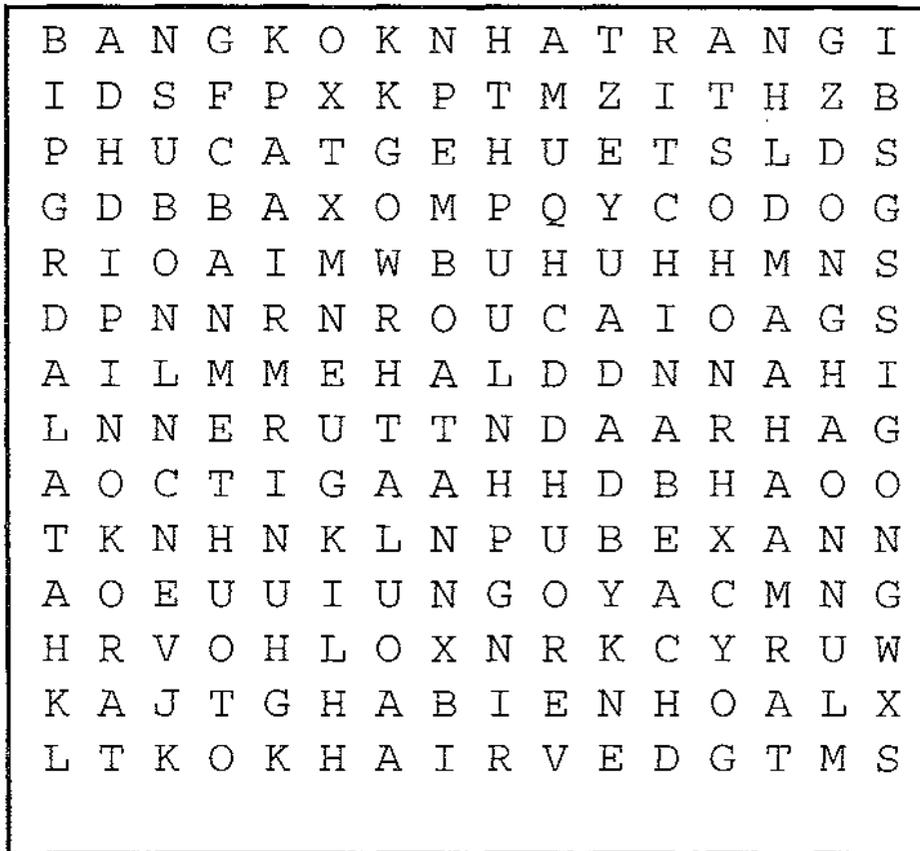
*continued page -7-*

President:	Steve Gattis PO Box 1889 Glenn Rose, TX 76043 stgattis@lasd.org	Treasurer:	Denis Cook 4248 Fiesta Way #1 Oceanside, CA 92057 denis@ixpres.com	Historian:	Don Graham 1423 D Johnston Dr. #D Bethlehem, PA 18017 tuyhoa68@att.net
Vice President	Brian Thorne 1734 Trent St. Crofton, MD 21114 ibthor@aol.com	Membership:	Terry Morris W5148 E. Bush Pardeeville, WI 83954 incoming@jvlnet.com	BX:	Van A. Digby 403 N. Kiesel St. Bay City, MI 48706 VAD403Wmsn.com
Secretary:	Steve Ray 1903 Fairmont Rd. Hunteville, AL 35801 steve.ray@lmco.com	Chaplain:	Steve Janke 739 Hill St. Carlstadt, NJ 07072 jank953208@aol.com		

# Find the following bases.

No spaces between words, no backwards spelling.

BanMeThuot	Bangkok
BienHoa	BinhThuy
CamRanhBay	ChinaBeach
Chulai	Dalat
Danang	DonMuang
DongHa	HonTre
Hue	KoKha
Korat	MondeyMountain
Muccdahan	NakhonPhanom
NhaTrang	PhanRang
PhuCat	Pleidu
QuiNhon	Saigon
Tahkli	TanSonNhut
Thiland	TuyHoa
Ubon	Udorn
UTapao	VungTau



We are always looking for new material. If you have a puzzle or list of words for this column please send your idea to any of the Guardmount Editors.

## Links for Vietnam Veterans by Tommy Williams

From time to time, when I have been sitting at my computer, I have searched to see what other stories might be available about or of interest to Vietnam Veterans. I have come up with the following sites you might not have seen:

<http://www.geocities.com/militarypoliceofvietnam/>

This site is dedicated to those who served as US Army Military Police in Vietnam. There are many pictures from all stages of the war, from the very

early years when the MP's were wearing pith helmets and sam brown belts, to the later stages when they were providing convoy escorts using APC's and 50 cal. machine guns. There is even a section given to recognize the USAF Air Police/Security Police. Several of our members have contributed pictures for this section, your's truly included. While we were mostly dedicated to the protection of USAF facilities and resources,

the Army MP's provided security for US Army resources as they moved across the country. I remember seeing many Army convoy's going toward the An Khe Pass along Hwy. 19 north of Qui Nhon with several APC's providing security and it never crossed my mind, for some reason, that those were Army MP's in the APC's.

<http://www.philadex.com/philadelphia/tourism/>

Continued page -6-

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Hello to all. Steve Gattis, President

I just returned from Texas and have started to answer all of the emails that were waiting for me. I sincerely appreciate your notes of thanks for the reunion and will always remember the kind words used to express how wonderful our reunions have been. The thank you's and the great postings on the VSPA Bulletin Board have been wonderful testimony to the brotherhood that we share through the bulletin board and when we meet at reunions. However, as each of us has attempted to describe what we feel, words seem so inadequate to describe the tears of happiness upon seeing an old friend, the feeling of hugging your hooch mate, of shaking the hand that woke you during an attack, to say thanks to the man that trained you, to make new friends and

realize that precious time has been lost, or to be able to relax with someone who shared the same kind of duty during a very difficult time in our lives.

When we say, "Welcome home" or, "We take care of our own" we have a very sincere commitment to our brother AP's and SP's who served in Vietnam and Thailand. Sincerity comes easily because many of us have sought and failed to find similar acceptance among some of the other Veteran's organizations. While we all owe a debt to those who served their country in all branches of the service, some of our members have experienced continued rivalry among the branches that does not allow some soldiers and marines to understand or accept that we had a mission

in Vietnam and Thailand. Our reunions provide a few days of complete, total acceptance, without justification of any kind. Guys with PTSD have no way to describe the sense of relief they find when they meet other AP's and SP's at a reunion, especially when they did not know that our association even existed. They find a very caring brotherhood that was born over 30 years ago at a time when you accepted danger and duty as the only line of resistance between the enemy and you and the aircraft that were loaded and ready to fly in support of the soldiers and marines who needed air support. Air Base Ground Defense was our mission. We did it well and no base was ever lost while  
Continued page -8-

## The Flag in the Case; Let Me Introduce Myself!

My name is the American Flag and the story of how I got here goes back a man's lifetime. I covered his casket in honor of his nine years of U.S. Army service and one year in South Vietnam. This man was a very private



person. He was a loner, no family and few friends. He worked the third shift at Elwyn, Inc., and kept to himself. But, God called him home, 8 July 2002.

My story begins when his friends and the Elwyn "family" buried Mr. Mervin

Parker in Edgewood Cemetery in Glen Mills, PA. A co-worker insisted that Mervin be buried with Veteran's honors and, thanks to Frank Pilson, George Brown, Dave Cashman from Curt Weldon's office and the management at Elwyn, Inc., I was put to good use...blanketing a  
Continued page -8-

## Links for Vietnam Veterans (Continued) by Tommy Williams

[veterns\\_memorial.asp](#)

Even if you've never been to the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC, then you will appreciate this link, too. The City of Philadelphia has it's own wall dedicated to all who served in the Vietnam war. There are a series of illustrations of various settings from the war, including

one clearly showing an AF Security Police Airman guarding some AF jets. The actual setting is a very tranquil area, surrounded by trees and flowers, just off from one of the river settings in the city, Penns Landing. A good site to visit for more information about the wall and the city.

These are just two of many links you can find for and about Vietnam Vets. In the coming issues of Guardmount, I will explore other points that might be of interest to our members.

Tommy Williams  
Phu Cat AB '70-71

# New Members

## New Members in order of enlistment.

Oct-03

Roger Nelson	Phan Rang 69 Cam Ranh Bay 4/70-71	Omaha NE
Arthur Garcia	Don Muang 60 Takhli 62 Tan Son Nhut 11/67-68	San Antonio, TX
William "Keith" Kastner	Danang 8/69-70 Ubon 74-75	Bath, NY
Stephen Carlton	Cam Ranh Bay 2/66-67	Minneapolis, MN
Barney Oldham	U-Tapao 6/70-71	Bertram, TX
Samuel Baldon	Tan Son Nhut 7/65-66 Dong Ha	Azusa, CA
Richard Deggans	Tan Son Nhut 72	Carrollton, TX
James Center	U-Tapao 9/68-71 Udorn 71-72	Wilmington, DE
Randon Mellon	U-Tapao 3/70-71 K9	Houston, TX
Jerry Borland	Phan Rang 5/70-71	Woodson, AR
William Cooley	Cam Ranh Bay 3/71-72 K9 Mingo	Canyon Lake, TX
Phillip Scherzinger	Phu Cat 5/69-70	Spring, TX
Ernest Wikander	Tan Son Nhut 11/65-66	Charlotte, NC

Nov-03

Richard Titus	Nha Trang 11/65-66	Cathedral City, CA
Terry Greenlee	Cam Ranh Bay 70 Phan Rang Tan Son Nhut	Ripon, CA
Jerry Baijot	Phu Cat 4/68-69 Pleiku Bien Thuy	Bristol, VA
Gunter Lenk	Bien Hoa 4/69-70	Parker, CA
Richard Linton	Danang 9/66-67	Las Vegas, NV
Randall Lyons	Cam Ranh Bay 2/67-68	Port Saint Lucie, FL
Bernard Beldin	Phu Cat 3/67-68 Tan Son Nhut	Richland, WA
Dennis Johnson	Ubon 72	Stockton, CA
Lonny Boardman	Udorn 75	Sutherland, IA
Gregory Crowe	Udorn 12/74-75 K9	Cincinnati, OH
John Ganley	Bien Hoa 11/65-66	Kennewick, WA

Dec. 03

Robert Etzler	Bien Hoa 12/64-65	San Francisco, CA
Frederick Murray	Bien Hoa 10/66-67	Davison, MI
James Willingham	Korat 8/73-74	Gainesville, TX
David Coulie	Korat 10/73-74	Albuquerque, NM
Donald Trigueiro	Cam Ranh Bay 12/67-68	San Jose, CA
Richard Schlutz	Cam Ranh Bay 3/69-70	Costa Mesa, CA

## Recruiter News: by Terrell Morris

The challenge for the next ten years is to reach out even further and tap into some of the thousands of SP's that don't even know that VSPA exists. That's something that every single member can help with. Do a little investigative work, after all, we were all cops! If every member recruited even just one new member, VSPA membership would double! If I

can help, or if you have questions about current members, feel free to contact me via email at [incoming@jvlnet.com](mailto:incoming@jvlnet.com). If you don't have email you can call me at (608) 429-9090, please call after 10 AM, this recruiter is a late sleeping night worker. Enclosed in this new issue of *Guardmount* is a list of the new members that enlisted in the last

quarter of 2003. If you see someone you know and need further contact information just email or call me. VSPA has reunited many brothers from so many years ago. I hope that the New Year brings you together with an old friend you served with or you make new friends that share our common bond.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Steve Gattis

we were responsible for the defense of that base. The guys who are full of BS have no idea that we have our own heroes who have received the Air Force Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" and the Purple Heart. However, Vietnam Veterans who are honest and mature, not full of bar room BS, know and accept what we did. It may not be the same duty, but we were there and they have thanked us over and over for our service, just as we have thanked them and said, "Welcome Home, Brother."

For those of you who have never attended one of our reunions, they have five major events:

1. The reception;
2. The base tour and link-up with the current Security Forces Squadron;
3. The business meeting;
4. The banquet; and,
5. The Memorial Service for those who did not come home, and for the members we have lost between reunions.

This year we added an event for the spouses and significant others, including family members that took place during our business meeting. We had a combined breakfast for all attendees before our business meeting. At the conclusion of breakfast, the wives, significant others and family members adjourned to an-

other room for presentations on Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) which were given by our Reunion Brat Hostess, Kim Bayes (who is a licensed counselor), and VSPA Member Frank Ybarbo, who spoke about his own experiences with combat trauma and PTSD. The presentations were an outstanding success and provided critical insight into the life experiences of many of our members. The outcome of that meeting, which took place while we had our business meeting, was the formation of an internal communication process to support our own support group, the VSPA Sisterhood. These very loving and dedicated people have asked for this special meeting to be held again in 2004 during our business meeting. Please look for more information from their leader, Sheila Cain, who is the wife of VSPA Life Member #62, Gregory Cain. Each event has a different agenda, but the focus is the same: Provide the best possible opportunity for our members to be involved with each other, to share memories, to preserve our history, to remember our brothers, to plan association activities, and to ensure that our members and their loved ones leave with very positive feelings. Putting all of those events and feelings down on paper would require a book, or something equivalent to the Veteran's Oral History Project.

The reunions are an experience with unique feelings and memories for each one of us. So, it is with great honor, much laughter and tears for joy, that I can honestly say that that is precisely why words seem so inadequate to describe the feelings we share. That is why people say, "You would have to be there to really understand." One of the highest honors that we have as officers in the VSPA is to coordinate events to provide the recognition that our members earned in combat. At Lackland, we participated in the presentation of the Purple Heart to VSPA Life Member #12, Henry Leshner, for wounds he received on August 23, 1969, while serving as a Security Policeman in the 31st Security Police Squadron at Tuy Hoa. Sergeant Leshner waited 33 years for the presentation of his highly deserved medal. Brigadier General Shames presented the Purple Heart in front of a combined gathering of over 400 current and former Security Policemen and Air Policemen. Henry's family, including his son, active duty Security Forces Member, SSgt. Aaron Leshner were also present during the presentation. We all extend a sharp salute to one of our heroes, Sergeant Henry Leshner! While all events are very special, the Memorial Ser-

*Continued page -9-*

## The Flag in the Case; Let Me Introduce Myself

Veteran's casket. Mervin's time of service was remembered by many at his service and I was taken from his casket and handed to another Vietnam Veteran. I am now being displayed

with honor in the local VVA Chapter's display privilege."

**"I am the American Flag and I stand for freedom and the price that has been paid by so many to maintain**

**that privilege."**

Frank Pilson  
Chapter Member and co-worker  
Life Member #28, VSPA

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Steve Gattis

vice seems to cap everything for me because it is a time when we come to terms with the fact that we had 111 brothers who did not come home. We are also losing members to Agent Orange related illness, to other injuries and to age. Why a memorial service? Because it is living testimony to their service and the fact that they would have done it for us. There is no way to describe the feelings of the heart when I hear our members come forward to give thanks for special people they served with, to give thanks for the reunion, to thank their family, or to have their family thank them because they finally understand. Emotions are raw, yet handled with dignity and care. There is no place for BS, just the brotherhood that brings us back to another reunion. You will find guys like Ray Rash who came to the reunion to be with his brothers. A very hard choice for him, because it was the same weekend that CNN covered the final memorial service for his uncle, who was shot down over North Vietnam, and whose remains were only recently identified. I found Paul Shave (a buddy from Tech School and Kunsan), Brian Thorne (my Cam Ranh Bay hooch mate), and my sector sergeant, Glenn Wilson with his lovely friend, Elaine. There were many others, like Frank Bickerstaff, Art Rodgers and Hector Ramos. Bill Cummings and his son, a current K-9 SSgt, also joined the 185 we had for the banquet dinner. Sharon Anderson who adopted or coordinated the adoption of over 340 K-9 and SP's serving in the desert

was there with TSgt Tim Smith, one of her adoptees who attended as the guest of Sharon and her husband Vern, who served as a K-9 handler in Thailand. There was also Thomas Payne, whose daughter Stacy is an active duty TSgt and spent her honeymoon with us. Many incredible people, all with unique memories of the same reunion. As with all great events that bring people together, reunions can be a financial hardship and they do require some planning in order to make it possible to attend, especially when you have to consider the registration fee, air fare or driving, the hotel and meals. It is a vacation and all vacations require some planning with requests for time off work and saving some money to finance the trip. This might sound unusual to some of you, but I have financed my trips by paying myself a dollar a day to work, and by saving money that I might have spent on lunch. It sounds trivial, but after a year of tucking away dollar bills, there is enough to make the reunion possible.

Planning has already started for Tucson. Proposals are coming in. Take the time to start your own preparations for another great event. Please join us in Tucson from October 7 through the 10th. During our business meeting

(please refer to our minutes) we discussed the publication of the history of the Vietnam Security Police Association by the Turner Publishing Company. A flyer was distributed to all of

those members who were present. A similar flyer has been enclosed in this newsletter. Please read the flyer and get involved in the preservation of our history. The book will be a legacy for our families and children, as well as an inspiration for current Security Forces personnel who rely upon our history to survive the intensity of being under attack while defending an air base. If you have a story you would like to

see in print, then get it together now. Our goal is to produce a highly readable, entertaining and informative book that will fulfill our mandate to preserve our history in Vietnam and Thailand. The publication will provide historical information in the form of a remarkable collection of intensely personal stories, photographs and biographical information written by you - the members of the VSPA.

Finally, I would like to thank Bob Mitchell, who made enough "VSPA Brotherhood" buttons to give to each VSPA member who attended the Memorial Service. The buttons were an incredible tribute and appreciated by all who wore them and saw them.

My best to all of you.

Steve Gattis, President  
Vietnam Security Police Association  
Life Member #49  
Cam Ranh Bay 68 - 69

**March 11, 1968,  
Korat, USAF  
LOD 1: Francis, James E.,  
388th SPS  
Non-Hostile: Explosive Device**

**March 1, 1968, 0503 hours  
Tan Son Nhut  
16 Rounds 122mm  
USAF KIA 9, USAF WIA 151  
RVN KIA 0, WIA 11  
Aircraft Loss 7, Damaged 75**

## Who Was the Enemy by Tommy Williams

One day in the summer of 1970, Larry Lanning and I were driving South on Hwy. 1 from Phu Cat AF through the village of An Nhon, probably going to Qui Nhon, the Provincial Capital of Bin Dinh Province. Usually, I would do the driving, but on this day, Larry was driving. We routinely made this trip, going either to the MACV compound in Qui Nhon or to visit with the US Army S-2, Intelligence Officer, at the MACV compound in An Nhon. These guys were responsible for the Phoenix Program in the area. This was the CIA backed program of identifying and often removing the VC leadership in the villages of S. Vietnam.

As we approached An Nhon, the traffic ground to a halt. Nothing was moving into or out of the village. This was very unusual as vehicle traffic along Hwy. 1 usually flowed freely and, often, quite recklessly during the day. Hwy. 1 consisted of a two lane blacktop road, just wide enough to accommodate normal vehicle traffic. It was not unusual, as on any other road in Vietnam, to see the seriously overloaded busses and other large vehicles careening down the road with people and animals hanging on to and out of every door and window available. It is a sight, sound and

smell that one doesn't soon forget, if ever!

As we got closer to the village, the sound of gunfire rang out. We were still too far away from the center of the village to see or even guess at what was happening. While this area was generally, secure during the day, there had been recent incidents of US Army soldiers having hand grenades thrown under their vehicles as they drove down this highway. Not all of the locals like the US soldiers, even thought we had been in this area for several year and many US made items were sold from the many stands along the road. It was 30 years before I would learn that An Nhon was actually the birthplace of communism in South Vietnam and that the village of Phu Cat, from which the Air Base got its name, was a major VC training area before being taken over by the US forces.

As we moved into the village, there were many more people crowding the roadside than normal. Naturally, our senses were heightened and I had my AR-15 lying across my lap rather than in the mount along side the doorway. Suddenly, as we were moving forward at a snail's pace, I was aware of movement to my right.....something landed in my lap.

Was it a hand grenade? A snake? My reflexes began to take over and I began rising my weapon in a defensive position while still trying to determine what had landed in my seat. Almost all at the same time, I realized that what had been thrown at me and landed so near to the "family jewels" was a handful of leaves and trash and that it had been thrown by a child, probably 5 or 6 years of age who was standing in the crowd at the side of the road....And, then, he was gone. As a member of the SP Intelligence Section, I knew that the "enemy" could just as easily be a young boy or girl and was certainly not limited to a "uniformed force". I had read numerous reports of enemy contact with US and Korean units in which young teenagers had been used, voluntarily or otherwise, by the VC or NVA. That thought flashed through my mind as I began reacting to the situation. I don't remember how long it took me to calm down after that but I have been told by Pete Piazza that I had shared this story with him after returning to Base. It's a moment in time that I will never forget!

Tommy Williams  
PCAB 1970-71

## Guardmount, A New Look

A special thanks to :

Senior Editor, Dave Dobson, Editors Larry McNally, Steve Ray, Tommy Williams, Bill Cummings, Terry Morris, Van Digby, Charles Myatt, Steve Gattis, Don Graham, Steve Ray, and contributing members Frank Pilson, Jack Manzi, Ray Conboy, and Don Pass. Guardmount has a different look that, I hope, will evolve over the next several issues. There is an absence

of logos and pictures simply because I ran out of space to put them.

Our goal is to have continuing columns with information and articles we all want to see. Dates, links, and VA information are a few of the recurring articles.

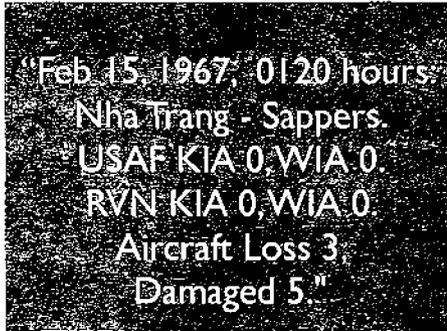
**Contributions.** We need contributions from everyone. New or old stories, something you see that may be of interest to everyone will be included in

Guardmount. If you don't see something, ask, we'll do what we can to include your request. Comments? you bet, let me know what you think, both positive and negative. Guardmount cannot exist without your input. We hope you enjoy receiving your copy of Guardmount as much as we enjoyed putting this issue together.

Den

# VSPA Life Memberships

If you are not a LIFE MEMBER of the VSPA, your annual dues should be paid in January of every year. You will be PAST DUE on April 1st and will not receive future issues of Guardmount due to the associated cost. If your dues are not current, remember that the dues are only \$15



and that they offset the cost of printing and postage for this newsletter. If you cannot afford to pay your dues, please remember that WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN. Contact VSPA Treasurer, Denis Cook, regarding payment of your dues. Life Member-

ships are also available and are based upon your age using the following table:

41 to 50	\$180
51 to 60	\$160
61 to 70	\$130
71 to 80	\$90
80+	\$55

If you have already paid your dues for 2004, 2005 or 2006, the money may be applied to your life membership.

## Thailand, Udorn Air Base, by Ray Conboy, Continued

OF THE FIREFIGHT. The original SP got a Silver Star and the responding security policemen and firemen got 16 bronze stars. All of the security policemen were PCS when I got there and the story was told me by a basic and tech school friend, Gordon Burris. Gordon

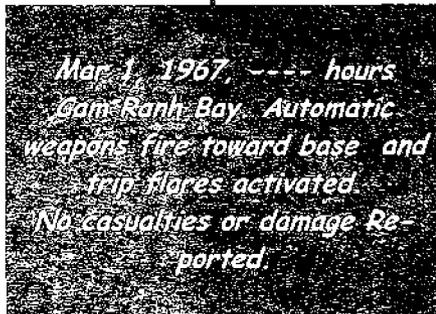
also told me that one of the weapons recovered from the sappers was neutered, barrel plugged and put on a plaque. It was then given to the silver star recipient. When he got to Don Maung (when returning CONUS), the award was seized. Knowing our beloved Air Force, that part of the story rings

true. Hopefully the account is accurate of the attack, response and awards but I'm not sure because it is a second person account. I just started browsing the site and look forward to doing some more reading.  
Ray Conboy

## TET 1968 - 2008 by Don Graham, Historian

A very good friend of mine, Sam Bell, was recently contacted by the Air Force Security Police Association concerning a tribute to TET 1968. Sam is a member of the AFSPA and has been very active at past ceremonies for The Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C.

There is a plan in the works to hold a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1968 defeat of the Communist Tet offensive. This ceremony will



be called Victory and Vindication. It will address the misconception held by many Americans that Tet 1968 was a defeat for the Allied Forces. Sam will be the point of contact for the AFSPA Eagle Chapter and would like to hear from any of our members who were stationed in Vietnam during the 1968 Tet offensive. The actual ceremony, to be held in 2008, will be open to any mem-

ber who wishes to join in. This will be a multi-service event.

You may think that 2008 is a long way off, but an event like this takes a lot of planning. The sooner we help get the ball rolling the better. Sam can be contacted at the following address'

SAM BELL

jsbelljr83@earthlink.net  
1093 FITZ COURT  
PASADENA, MD.  
21122-1814

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t.	VVA-Reflections Clock, direct ship/ship included	\$66.00

**Shirts and Jackets:**

a.	Deluxe Polo Style Shirt w/QC Emblem on the Front (Size S, M, L, XL - \$25.00 XXL - \$28.00)	
b.	T- shirt w/Security Policeman and Names of those who did not return(M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)	\$12.00
c.	B-15 type Black Jacket w/VSPA logo Size XXL add \$100, XXXL add \$110	\$95.00
d.	Full Zipper Fleece Jacket VSPA logo Black, Sm - XL - \$50, XXL - \$53, XXXL - \$55, SSSSL - \$58	

It is vacation time for the retired people in my family. Joyce, my wife and I will be heading for the sunny warm state of Florida for the next 4 months to get out of the snow of Michigan. The BX will still be active with the help of my daughter Kari. This past year she was a great help doing the BX in our absence while we were on several long trips. Starting with 2 months in Florida, 10 weeks in Alaska, a fishing trip to Canada, the reunion, and now the return trip to Florida. You can still reach me by e-mail if you have any questions pertaining to the BX items. Thanks, Van

# VETERAN CONTACT NUMBERS

by Don Gram, Historian

For info on home loans, disability, medical care and burial 1-800-827-1000  
 Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477  
 Education (G.I. Bill) 1-888-442-4551  
 Health Care Benefits 1-877-222-8387  
 Agent Orange 1-800-749-8387  
 Headstones & Markers 1-800-697-6947  
 web address [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Need help with the VA? Bill Wagonlander, VSPA member, has a web site that will help.

[Http://12.239.11.79/vetsvacorner/](http://12.239.11.79/vetsvacorner/)

Offices that can assist in searches for supporting documentation.

To obtain copies of your records go to [www.archives.gov/research\\_room/vetrecs/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/index.html)

National Records & Administration Center  
 Attn: NCP-MA  
 9700 Page Blvd  
 St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

Washington National Records Center  
 8601 Adelphi Road  
 Adelphi, MD. 20740-6001

National Archives & Records Administration  
 Library & Printed Archives Branch  
 Eight & Pennsylvania Aves. N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20408

Air Force Personnel Center  
 Attn: DPPPR  
 550 C Street West Suite 12  
 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

Unit Histories, Lineage and Honors  
 Air Force History Support Officer - 202-404-2264

Dept. of the Air Force  
 HQ/AFHRA  
 600 Chennault Circle  
 Maxwell AFB, AL. 36112-6424

Correction of Military Records  
 Air Force Review Board  
 Office SAF/MIBR  
 550 C Street W. Suite 40  
 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4742

## K9 News, by Jim Watson

On October 16th I had the pleasure of attending my first VSPA reunion in San Antonio TX. What a great time was had by all! A special thanks to President Steve Gattis and all VSPA members who gave us k-9 troops a warm and friendly welcome. For most of us it was our first but not last VSPA reunion.

Those dog handlers attending were Bill Cummings, Vernon Anderson, Randy Mellon, Barney Oldham and John Homa all from the 635th SPS K-9 out of U-Tapao. From the 388th SPS K-9 out of Korat were David Adams, Walt Stanlonis, Terry Strickland, and William Wigginton. Also in attendance from the 8TH SPS K-9 Ubon were Alan Ashbaugh, Kelly Bateman, Ken Neal and Jim Watson and from the 432nd SPS K-9 out of

Udon Ernest Childers. Richard Deegans from the 377th SPS K-9 Tan Son Nhut AB RVN was also there.

On Friday, we took a tour of the security forces facility at Lackland AFB. Needless to say Lackland has changed quite a bit in the last 35 years. I didn't recognize any thing on that base. Almost everything had changed including all the old barracks were torn down. Lunch was served at the Kelly AFB officers club. I am thinking that was the first time any of us had been in an officers club especially us old dog handlers.

Saturday was a very special day. Thanks to John Sarabia a current security forces Ssgt we were all given a tour of the 37th SFS K-9 section. As we drove up I said to myself this looks familiar. It was the old dog school-training site. Its where we all got started. Most of us

got our first dogs there, myself included. I took Fritz X704 through 8 weeks of sentry dog school and then to our first base March AFB. After that took him to Thailand to start up the first K-9 section at Ubon RTAFB. Fritz lasted until 1974 and then was

turned over to the Thai AF. He was a good dog and I still miss him. I am sure I speak for all the K-9 troops. You just never for-

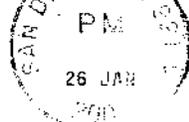
get your dog. They are in our hearts and minds forever.

The reunion was great and I will be at the one in 2005 wherever it will be held. In 2004, I will be attending the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association reunion in Phoenix.

**May 5, 1968, 0100 hours:  
 Pleiku - 11 Rounds.  
 USAF KIA 0, WIA 11.  
 RVN KIA 0, WIA 0.  
 Aircraft Loss 2, Damaged 0**

# VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

4248 Fiesta Way, #1  
Oceanside, CA 92057



Don Poss LM 37  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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## Undocumented Base Attacks:

The Association is looking to document all attacks on our bases in Thailand and Vietnam. Please provide any information you may have on currently undocumented attacks. Contact me if you are not sure if an attack is officially documented.

We will divide these attacks into two categories. One will be for those attacks that you have documentation for and the other will be for those attacks that you remember but have no documentation. We will collect this information, research it and provide the results to the Air Force History and Research Center at Maxwell AFB, AL. All information should be in by June 2004. Please contact Don Graham at [tuyhoa68@att.net](mailto:tuyhoa68@att.net) or 610-691-6960.

## Important Dates to Remember

October 7 - 10, 2004 - VSPA reunion in TUCSON, ARIZONA (Davis-Monthan AFB). Come and help us celebrate our 10th Anniversary!

October 6 - 9, 2005 - VSPA Reunion in VALDOSTA, GEORGIA (Moody AFB).

2007 — VSPA Reunion in DC, the 25th anniversary of the Wall. (?)

2008 - 1968 - 2008 40 year anniversary of the Tet offensive.

# Guardmount: Supplement

I've included a supplement so I could add two more articles. I could have held these articles until the next issue, but I found all the contributions for this issue of Guardmount to be of interest to all and very relevant to what we are about. Enjoy, Den.

## VSPA SISTERHOOD

By Sheila Gervase-Cain

What started out as an idea for participation for the wives and significant others during the reunions has evolved into a new, self-help support and informational group known as the VSPA "Sisterhood".

We are a result of one to one and group conversations about issues affecting our lives. The Nam experience, PTSD, Agent Orange, Substance Abuse, Birth Defects Health Care and the VA.

Our personal relationships and how we cope with the problems that are unique to the families of Vietnam Veterans were also major concerns.

We are united in a common goal: "Help each another so that we can help you." Together we can network to collectively answer common questions and problems between each other that only we know how to do.

In future issues of *Guardmount*, I would like your input for topics that most concern you so we can offer directions in helping to answer your questions. It is a hope in the future to have a secured area on the VSPA website for the Sisterhood. For now please feel free to contact me by e-mail at:

smgervase@yahoo.com or for those without Internet access my address is

261 Crocker Street

Sloan, NY 14212

716-895-4922

so that we can start this off with great momentum

With love and unity,

Sheila Gervase-Cain

## 9-11-68 - Phan Rang, RVN by Barry McLean

0029 Hours, alarms sound that we have incoming and the sirens are blasting (duck and cover). Everyone that isn't on post is awakened by the alarms and puts on minimal uniforms and head for the armory to get their weapons.

As we are getting ready to exit our hooch, in runs an airman (name long since forgotten, lucky him). He grabs the mattress off of Don Proctor's top bunk and starts to run out the door with it.

Don yelled "Hey, where the hell do you think you are going with that?" The instant reply was "To the trenches!" Don said "The hell you are" and we quickly reacquired the mattress and put it back on Don's bed.

It wasn't funny at the time, but boy, we sure got a lot of mileage out of that one. I wrote home that 18 mortar rounds fell on Phan Rang AFB that night with no injuries and minimal damage if any.

Barry McLean

VSPA Life Member #53

Editors note: Barry has put together a seconds story, a much more serious story, that will appear in the next issue of *Guardmount*. Personally I've found that reaching back into my past was often difficult if not impossible. For many of us our past continues to haunt us and that writing, for myself, was a vital part of the healing process. It is not for everyone. But it does help to remember. And sharing your stories in *Guardmount* and at [VSPA.com](http://VSPA.com) is an extra bonus. We all want to hear your stories. I ask those who have placed there memories on paper, to share them with their VSPA brothers. There are many of us who would help those who wish to write. You can contact Don Pass, any of the editors, or myself for help editing your stories. But please remember to write for yourself. Thank you Barry for taking this courageous step. Den

# VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE HISTORY BOOK

To My Fellow Air Policemen and Security Policemen,

The Vietnam Security Police Association was formed for many reasons: To preserve the history of our service in Vietnam and Thailand, to ensure that the hard lessons learned in Vietnam and Thailand would not be forgotten, to reunite friends and to preserve the memory of our fallen brothers. Lessons of life and death, forged in war, tempered in battle that, when remembered, will generate pride for those who fought and bled with us. The book will be a legacy for our families and children, as well as an inspiration for current Security Forces personnel who rely upon our history to survive the intensity of being under attack while defending an air base.

If you have a story you would like to see in print, then get it together now. Our goal is to produce a highly readable, entertaining and informative book that will fulfill our mandate to preserve our history in Vietnam and Thailand. The publication will provide historical information in the form of a remarkable collection of intensely personal stories, photographs and biographical information written by you – the members of the VSPA.

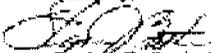
Mail your story to Turner Publishing for possible inclusion in the book. Please limit your story to 2,000 words and include any photographs you have. Write your name and address on the back of each photo. We will also need a caption for each photograph that includes the names, location, date and the event that is taking place. Do NOT send photocopies of photographs!

You may submit your story in handwritten form, typewritten, or printed using a computer. Just be sure to send a story about you, your friends and memories of being an Air Policeman or Security Policeman in Vietnam or Thailand.

We want as many biographies of VSPA members as possible for inclusion. We are in touch with over 1,500 former Air Policemen and Security Policemen and have over 700 active members, so keep reading for more biographical details.

You do not have to order a book to be included. All materials will be returned to you after the book has been published.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen T. Gattis, President  
Vietnam Security Police Association  
Cam Ranh Bay 68-69

## CONTENTS TO INCLUDE:

- History of Vietnam Security Police and the Association
- A memorial to the 111 brothers we lost in Vietnam and Thailand
- Bases/Locations
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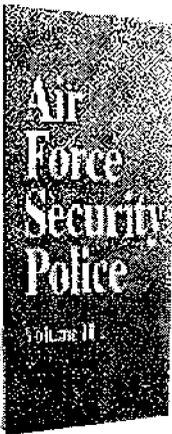
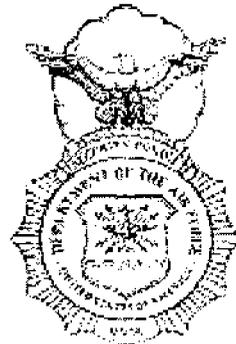
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## PARTICIPATING IS EASY

This book will include stories, photographs and personal biographies of our members who served as Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees in Vietnam and Thailand. Submit your material today before it is too late. There is absolutely no obligation to buy and there is no charge to have your story and photographs included. If you served as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or an Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand, then you have a story to tell. Write it down for inclusion in this book and preserve your history for generations to come. After all, this is our history! Let's not be forgotten. Do not allow our hard fought lessons to be thrown away.

- Submit your free 150 word personal biography to Turner Publishing Company using the form on the reverse side of this brochure. Send along two photographs: one photo of when you were in the service and another, more recent photograph. A 15 cent per word charge will apply to the words in biographies that exceed 150 words.
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*If you don't feel comfortable writing your own biography, please write this information on a piece of paper and Turner's professional staff will write it for you. There is no charge to have your biography included if you remain in the 150 word count. For each word over the 150 limit there is a .15¢ charge per word. Don't forget to submit your two photos: one while in the service and one current. Use the sample biography on the right as a guide to write your own.*

- Name
- Birth Date/Place
- Date Enlisted/Place
- Assignments/Locations/Positions/Stations/Bases
- Wars/Battles Participated
- Date of Discharge/Rank
- Award/Medals
- Accomplishments
- Civilian Activity
- Marriage Date/Spouse's Name
- Number/Names Of Children
- Number/Names Of Grandchildren
- Retired/Date (from Where)
- What You Are Doing Today (Hobbies)
- Where You Reside Today

**WAYNE H. COX, CMSgt. (Ret.)**. Born 12/10/46, in Joplin, MO. Entered the USAF on 2/8/66 and graduated from Air Police Technical School, Lackland AFB, 5/66. Served active duty air/security police units at NM, TX, WY, OK, Viet Nam, Okinawa, Philipines, Germany, UK, and Washington, D.C.

Most memorable experience was the assignment as Security Police manager, RAF Greenham Comon, United Kingdom. The deployment of Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) system helped win the cold war. Last assignment as the CMSgt. of the Security Police, HQ USAF, Pentagon.



Awarded the AFMSM with 5 OLC, AFCM with 2 OLC.

Married, 2/16/80, to the former Cathy Ann Parker of San Antonio. Retired 6/1/95; currently Deputy Office Leader, Planning & Assessments Office, Facilities, Security & Safeguards Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM.

If you have questions pertaining to your biography please call (270) 443-0121 ext. 102

**Do you remember a funny or memorable moment while serving as an Air Policeman or Security Policeman in Vietnam or Thailand? If so, then you've got a story to tell. Write it down (2,000 word limit) for inclusion in our story section. This is a separate section from the biographies. After all, this is your history book! Our book is only as good as you make it. Our book will not be complete without you!**

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