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Summer 2011 Issue



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



Lehman Security Forces Complex Dedication Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ — April 8, 2011



Permission to print this art work granted by
Artist Joonho Kim - June 2011
www.tacticaldrawings.com

**2011 Reunion
Information
Inside!
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**Wright-Patterson
AFB,
Dayton, OH
Oct. 5 - 9, 2011**



President's Corner

By Phil Carroll, President VSPA

Well, here we are - finally announcing the 2011 reunion details. I'm pretty excited about this one and not just because it's my first time to be so involved in the planning. We're doing something different - largely in response to your suggestions. Thursday will be our big group tour day, with a fleet of buses that will take us to the dedication ceremony of our VSPA bench at the Defender Memorial, and then to Wright-Patterson AFB for lunch and a tour with the troops of the 88th Security Forces Squadron. The folks I've talked with in the squadron are looking forward to our visit, and eager to interact with us and show off their new facilities.

Friday, the second full day of this year's reunion, will be the one that's different. We'll have one big bus running loops all day long, from the hotel to the National Museum of the Air Force and various other local attractions. The loops might be every hour or so, we're not sure of the details yet, but you'll be able to get on the bus to visit the museum, go fancy-shopping or whatever for as long as you like, and catch the bus back to the hotel. The guys can spend the whole day at the museum while their wives may escape to some good shopping and restaurants. Or, get up late and take the bus for a quick visit to the museum and a good lunch spot, then quit early. You get to do your own scheduling.

Speaking of the VSPA's new bench at the Defender Memorial, we're almost ready to stop asking members for donations because we're nearly at our goal. We need several hundred bucks to top off the tank, and then we'll be good to go. Please send your tax-deductible donation to VSPA Treasurer Richard Garcia; his email is in the Board Directory in this issue if you need to ask him for his address. He will provide you with a letter from the VSPA for tax purposes. For all those who have already donated to this fantastic engraved granite bench - a permanent tribute to the VSPA - Thank You!

In early April, and again twice in May, I had the unbelievably huge honor to represent this wonderful association and all its members - you - at formal U.S. Air Force events. I spoke briefly and presented a beautiful gift from all of you at the dedication of the Lehman Security Forces Complex at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, in April. Some of you attended and enjoyed the wonderful event with me. This is such a significant event for the VSPA, for all Vietnam War Veterans, and for the Air Force, I find it difficult to describe the scope of its permanent impact. It's a huge connection for all today's Security Forces troops to link with those of us who served before them and created their legacy.

The other two events were the 36th Anniversary Mayaguez Memorial Retreat Ceremony at Luke AFB, and the dedication of the new 56th SFS K-9 kennels and training area also at Luke. There's more information on these two events in this issue of Guardmount, but I want to say again what an honor it is to speak for all of us.

Another big news item, and I'm really happy to announce this, is that the VSPA BX Store is about to reopen. We've found new managers to take over the operation, and they'll seem very familiar to all of us. Van and Joyce Digby will use their long-term experience managing our BX while they supervise their daughter, Kim and her firefighter husband Brent Budzinski. Kim and Brent will also be assisted by Kari Digby, the daughter that many of you know who has assisted with the BX in the past. They are a loving family and very dedicated to the VSPA. They are setting up the inventory now and will be open for business very soon. A mass email announcement will be sent to everyone when the BX is ready for business transactions. Please wait for the email announcement before you attempt to contact them or place an order. They have a great deal of work to do before they can open for business. Thanks and WELCOME HOME!



Editor's note: VSPA Life Member #173 Bill Cummings (355th SFS Mobility Section Chief at Davis Monthan AFB and former VSPA Kennel master) was intricately involved in the Lehman Building Dedication, and writes of the events of April 8, 2011, describing the military history and the commitment it took for this event to have taken place. In addition, VSPA Life Member #165 (former VSPA Vice President Hector Ramos) writes of the personal relationship he has had with this editor since 1966, and Millard Lehman's family since 2004, and the building blocks behind the eventual outcome of the building dedication story.

**Dedication of the
Lehman Security
Forces Complex
“A Dream and Its Journey”
by Bill Cummings
and Hector Ramos
Friday, April 8, 2011**



Bill Cummings



Hector Ramos

The Dedication, By Bill Cummings:

On Friday, April 8, 2011, the Security Forces Complex at Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona was dedicated in the memory of A1C Millard W. Lehman, KIA at Binh Thuy Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. Airman First Class Millard W. Lehman, son of Millard and Rachael Lehman, was born 14 May 1943 in Tucson, Arizona. He attended grade school at Sunnyside Elementary and high school at Rincon High where he was a member of the Rincon Rangers football team. He initially entered the Navy Reserves, before committing full time to active duty with the Air Force. He graduated basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. He was stationed at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska and Baudette Air Force Station, Minnesota before being deployed to Binh Thuy Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. On 8 July 1966, after completing a shift working in the armory, Airman Lehman volunteered, as he did so many times, to relieve posts so others could receive a hot meal. Shortly after he relieved one of the posts, the base came under enemy attack from 75mm recoilless rifles. Airman Lehman remained on post to sound the base alerting siren despite his relatively exposed position and the close proximity of exploding shells. He continued to sound the alarm warning others of the attack. The post he was manning took a direct hit and the resulting powerful explosion killed Airman Lehman instantly. Because of his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty, he saved countless lives and was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously. Airman First Class Millard W. Lehman was laid to rest at South Lawn Cemetery, Tucson, Arizona. He left behind his mother, Rachel Lehman, father Millard Lehman Sr., brother Shayne Lehman, and his fiancée at that time, Erlyce Guenin.

In the fall of 2004, the Vietnam Security Police Association held a reunion in Tucson Arizona. As part of the reunion a ceremony was held at the South Lawn Cemetery honoring A1C Lehman. During this ceremony, Captain Christopher “Kit” Johnson of the 355th Security Forces Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base escorted A1C Lehman’s mother, Rachel. Captain Johnson was so moved by the event that he took it upon himself to initiate the process of forming a local chapter of the Air Force Security Forces Association in honor of A1C Lehman with the assistance of local Vietnam veterans. One of the first acts of the newly formed chapter was to adopt Rachel “Mom” Lehman as an honorary member. The focus of one of the first few meetings was directed at naming the Security Forces building after A1C Lehman. After this meeting Captain Johnson immediately drafted and submitted a formal package to receive the approval from the Commander of Air Combat Command, United States Air Force. In late 2010 the squadron received official word that the request had been approved and work immediately began on a plan of action for the dedication ceremony. It had been 6 years since the idea first came up in that AFSFA meeting, but on 8 April 2011 building 1358 was officially named the Lehman Security Forces Complex, thanks to the men and women of the 355th Security Forces Squadron, AFSFA Lehman Chapter President Bob Morrison, the Air Force Security Forces Association, and Bill Cummings and the Vietnam Security Police Association.

The ceremony was held in the front of the building. In attendance were A1C Lehman's family, friends, VSPA members, some of whom were stationed at Binh Thuy AB with him, officers, dignitaries, and members of the 355th Security Force Squadron of Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson. During the ceremony several items were presented on behalf of the 355th squadron to A1C Lehman's mother Rachel and his fiancée at that time, Erlyce Guenin. The VSPA presented a shadow box to the squadron that will be placed in a display case along with several items donated by A1C Lehman's mother and fiancée. This display case will be placed in the front entrance of the building to honor A1C Lehman and to tell his story to all those who visit. Included in the display case are his bronze star and purple heart citations, his stripes and a plaque originally part of a memorial built by members of the 632nd Air Police Squadron, Binh Thuy Air Base, Republic of Vietnam in 1966.

On April 12, 2011, one of the first military visitors to the newly named building was Major General Mary K. Hertog. This was a very special and meaningful visit as General Hertog has close ties to the VSPA and had spoken at their reunion in Washington, D. C. and even met Mrs. Lehman at that event. General Hertog spoke about the building dedication and what it meant to the Lehman family, friends, and to Airmen past, present, and future. She was presented a copy of the VSPA history book by VSPA members Bill Cummings and Bob Morrison. She was very grateful for the copy of the book and immediately informed all in attendance that the airmen serving now should consider forming their own version of the VSPA. She then asked Mrs. Lehman to sign her copy of the book. Upon leaving, General Hertog relayed that she really "missed her beret" and the Security Forces career field. It was a truly fitting first "official visit" of the Lehman Security Forces Complex.



Bill Cummings with
Major General Mary K. Hertog



Major General Mary K. Hertog
& Rachel Lehman



Major Gen. Hertog, Rachel Lehman,
Bob Morrison & Bill Cummings

The Personal History, by Hector Ramos

Millard (or Lee, as he was known to fellow SP's at Binh Thuy AB RVN,) was KIA on 7/8/66 as a result of an early morning attack on the base. His normal duty was working in the 632nd SPS armory, but on that fateful night he demonstrated his selfless dedication by volunteering to fill in on someone else's post so that a fellow SP could break for hot chow at the mess hall. Lee also activated the alarm on hearing the first rounds impact, thereby saving other lives at his own peril. For his sacrifice he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, but as with any loss of a family member, it left an indelible mark on his parents, family and his then fiancée, Erlyce. The same sorrow and hurt that many families of men who served in that long ago war continues with the current casualties of service members and their struggle to move forward in life while finding meaningful ways to keep the memory alive. At Binh Thuy, a memorial with a plaque affixed to a stone base was placed in the memorial garden next to the NCO Club and dedicated in memory of Lee.

I was stationed at Binh Thuy in 1968, and saw this memorial many times. Little did I know then the connection I would experience with the family of this fallen airman. After the base was turned over to the RVN, the plaque from the memorial was delivered to his parents in Tucson, Arizona. Although Erlyce Guenin always stayed in touch with the Lehman family, the passage of time, and the promise of a new found love, marriage and children tempered the loss.

The Dream

The following is a letter I sent to our webmaster Don Poss and VSPA President Steve Gattis in the summer of 2002:

"A1C Millard W. Lehman, KIA 1966 and family to be honored in Tucson

With thoughts about our next reunion and the great past reunions still fresh in my mind, I thought I could contribute a story that would coincide with our 10th anniversary and add a meaningful local honoring of a lost AP brother and his mother, who still resides in Tucson. For those of you that have had the time to visit the "stories & photos" area of our web site, you may recall my story. In short, about 16 years ago a volunteer at the Sioux Falls Vietnam Vet Center contacted me in search of information regarding her

KIA fiancée at Binh Thuy. Erlyce (Guenin) Pekas, had read the book “Dear America, Letters Home from Vietnam”, and saw that I was an AP and stationed at the same base as AIC Millard W. Lehman who died in a mortar attack in 1966. She wanted to obtain photos of a memorial erected in his honor, so as to do something stateside in his memory for his parents and, now I know, for her own broken heart and spirit. Well, I never took pictures of that memorial; I didn't have the heart to tell her then that I considered it BAD LUCK to do so. We corresponded for a short time afterward but eventually I lost contact with her. However, I kept that first compelling letter from her; I don't know why, maybe as a reminder of how foolish superstition could get the better of you or because maybe someday I would be able to fulfill that wish for Erlyce. As it turns out, it was 14 years late, but I did just that! In the Fall of 2001 while surfing for vet sites I came upon the Vietnam Security Police Association, which had photos of the memorial and a story by Duke Windsor. Millard was honorably represented there, as well as the memory of all of our brothers who did not return home.

When I finally relocated Erlyce through a web search, I emailed her on Christmas Day 2001. She was very thankful and touched that I responded after all these years. She visited the VSPA website where her response can also be found.. We may not say this enough, but we owe a debt of gratitude to the guys that created and maintain this website; it is ahead of its class.

Today, I know why I saved the letter; she's a good friend and if you think about it, as has happened with many of the loved partners of those lost in the Sept 11 attack on our country, they, too, became victims again due to non-recognition. That is why I suggested to Steve Gattis that we invite Erlyce to our reunion, and with her acceptance, I learned that Millard's mom, Mrs. Helen Lehman, lived on the back steps of Davis-Monthan AFB and would also be joining us. Erlyce lives in Phoenix, Arizona with her husband, Myron, and has two married daughters and two grandchildren. She still visits Millard's mother in Tucson and maintains contact with the Vet Center in Sioux Falls. She was a guest reader at the 10th anniversary of “The Wall” in D.C. in 1992 and featured in an article in her local newspaper for the event. I think if you're interested you'll find Erlyce Pekas to be deserving of a mention in the website, not for what the war cost her, but for how she has responded. I believe she is truly a remarkable woman. So, my Binh Thuy Brothers and all of my extended VSPA family, please join us in Tucson for a 10th Anniversary reunion that promises to be a special & memorable one for all.”

The Journey

Our tenth anniversary reunion in 2004 in Tucson, when coupled with meeting Mom Lehman and Erlyce as we held the wreath-laying ceremony at Lee's grave along with unscripted jet flyovers from Davis-Monthan, would set in motion the effort that brought the VSPA back to Davis-Monthan in 2011. Imprinted in the memories of those who attended that reunion were the contributions of the 355th SFS, their color guard and a bugler. The words of homage and remembrance for a fallen compatriot spoken by Steve Gattis provided the healing and solace evident in the faces of Erlyce, Mom Lehman and Duke Windsor who had served by his side in 1966 and left his poignant remembrance on the VSPA.com, Binh Thuy web page.



Millard's family: his niece, Jessica, mother Rachel, brother Shayne, Erlyce Pekas, & Jessica's husband, Brandon Brooks. Absent: Niece, Wendy Lehman. Just like her Uncle Millard who routinely worked for his buddies, Officer Wendy Lehman, a police officer with the Glendale, AZ Police Department, was unable to attend the dedication ceremony for her Uncle because she chose to cover the shift of a fellow officer whose child had been severely injured in an accident.

For then Capt. Chris Johnson and the 355th Security Forces Squadron, AFSFA Lehman Chapter President Bob Morrison, VSPA member Bill Cummings, and MSgt. Brian LaMasney of the 355th, A LABOR OF LOVE & REMEMBRANCE has borne fruit, and fittingly deserves our appreciation and sincere thanks. To Mom and Erlyce, who support the VSPA in so many ways and have attended seven consecutive reunions as honorary Associate Members, you have so much to be proud of.

Sonny (Mom's nickname for Millard) is now looking down at all of us in his Air Force blues, with his pinned AP badge on and executing a crisp salute to you in thanks.



Bill Cummings, VSPA, presents MSgt Brian LaMasney with a VSPA award of thanks for his herculean effort to coordinate the Lehman Building dedication.



Col. Metzler, with VSPA members Steve Gattis, Jim Randall, Jim Costello, Dennis Evans



VSPA President Phil Carroll with Col. Metzler, Chief of Security Forces, Air Combat Command

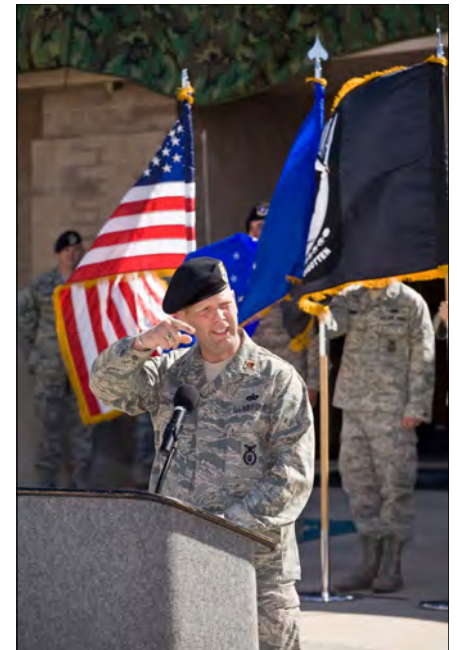


Binh Thuy troops are recognized

Lehman Security Forces Complex Dedication at Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ April 8, 2011



Mom Lehman is escorted by Major Johnson after speaking to those gathered for the dedication.



Major "Kit" Johnson speaks about the journey from the 2004 graveside memorial to the approval by Air Combat Command to name and dedicate the 355th Security Forces Complex to the memory of Millard Lehman.



Phil Carroll presents building dedication plaque to the 355th SFS at Davis-Monthan from the VSPA.



Mom receives artwork from the 355th SFS



Mom Lehman and K-9



The Binh Thuy troops with Mom Lehman and Erlyce



Erlyce receives flowers from the 355th SFS



Photo Credits
Steve Hall,
VSPA

Left side:

L to center: Lew Goldberg , Steve Gattis, Hector Ramos, Jim Randall, Dennis Evans, **Captain Chris "Kit" Johnson**, Keith Young, Ken Neal, Phil Carroll, Duke Windsor, Rachel "Mom" Lehman.....



Right side:

Center to R: Bill Cummings, Erlyce Pekas, Bob Morrison, Jim Glass, Greg Cain, Jim Costello, Paul Sharpe, Frank Field, Steve Hall....

Binh Thuy and VSPA members with Mom Lehman & Erlyce



Millard & his Mom 1944



AIC Millard Lehman Baudette AFB, MN 1965 692nd Radar Squadron



"Lee", heading to Vietnam, says goodbye To Erlyce at Tucson, AZ airport



Millard by a bunker at Binh Thuy AB, Vietnam, June 1966



Millard's name on 'The Wall'



RIGHT: VSPA members & Mom Lehman march in Veteran's Day Parade Washington, D.C., November, 2007



KIA 8 July, 1966. Memorial at Binh Thuy, Vietnam



Millard's parents at the Arizona Vietnam Memorial

Vietnam Security Police Association
17th Anniversary Reunion
Dayton, Ohio – October 5 - 9, 2011
Wright-Patterson AFB and the National Air Force Museum

The reunion will be held at the **Holiday Inn/FAIRBORN I-675**. Room rates are \$98 per night, plus taxes, and include tickets for a discounted \$6.95 breakfast each morning per occupant. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. Transportation from the airport is discounted shuttle rate of \$20 round-trip. Parking at the hotel is FREE. When you check-in at the VSPA registration desk in the hotel, you will receive a welcome package with reunion security identification, a commemorative reunion pin, a detailed itinerary, a list of attendees and local information. The following are included with the **\$155** registration fee:

- Reception dinner buffet with beer and wine, Wednesday Evening, October 5th
- VSPA Memorial Bench Dedication & Defender Memorial at the Air Force Museum, Thursday, October 6th
- Lunch with Security Forces and afternoon demonstrations at WPAFB, Thursday, October 6th
- VSPA bus shuttle service to local area attractions, including the Air Force Museum, Friday, October 7th
- VSPA Business Meeting, Saturday Morning, October 8th
- VSPA Sisterhood Gathering of wives and companions, Saturday Morning, October 8th
- SAFESIDE Business Meeting, Saturday Afternoon October 8th
- Banquet Dinner with Guest Speaker, Awards and Raffle, Saturday Evening, October 8th
- Memorial Service, Sunday Morning, October 9th
- Commemorative 17th Anniversary Reunion QC Pin
- Hospitality Room stocked with snacks & beverages
- All associated taxes and gratuities

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call the Holiday Inn/FAIRBORN I-675 at (937) 426-7800 **no later than September 14** to make your hotel reservations.

VSPA MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION AT THE DEFENDER MEMORIAL – MORNING: The Defender Memorial is located at the Air Force Museum and is dedicated to all Military Policemen who served in the Air Corps, or U.S. Army Air Forces, and all Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who served in the United States Air Force. The VSPA Memorial Bench will be placed near the Defender Memorial and officially dedicated during this event to commemorate our service in Vietnam and Thailand. A group photo will be taken at the dedication.

AFTERNOON EVENT: Shortly after the photo is taken of our group, we will enter Wright-Patterson AFB to have lunch with the Security Forces Defenders of Wright-Patterson AFB. Half of their assigned 300 personnel are deployed. After lunch, we will have several demonstrations and briefings including K-9, weapons and a trip to the range facility. **0830 to 1700 hours.**

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ACTIVITIES ON FRIDAY: The VSPA Shuttle (a full-size bus) will transport members and their families (at no charge) to and from the Air Force Museum, various malls and other selected attractions throughout the day for an “open day” of events that you select. The Museum is large with an outstanding store and numerous display areas that include an IMAX Theater, many aircraft, and a special area on Southeast Asia with related aircraft. The Museum also has great food in their dining area. For information about the museum, go to: <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/> **Friday, 0830 to 1700 hours.**

PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION FORM TO REGISTER FOR OUR REUNION.

If you have questions, call VSPA Secretary Dennis Evans toll-free at 1-866-672-6533
or Email Dennis at: DennisEEvans@aol.com

Alternate Contact: The Reunion BRAT - Phone: 1-360-663-2521

Email: Info@TheReunionBRAT.com

“WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.”

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION



REUNION REGISTRATION FORM



WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB - AIR FORCE MUSEUM

**DAYTON, OHIO
OCTOBER 5 – 9, 2011**

NAME _____

RVN or THAI BASE _____ SQUADRON _____ YEARS 19__ to 19__
(Do not list bases outside of Vietnam or Thailand)

RVN or THAI BASE _____ SQUADRON _____ YEARS 19__ to 19__

HOME ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME(s) of YOUR GUEST(s) _____

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY: _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES: _____ NO: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

ARE YOUR ANNUAL DUES CURRENT? RENEWALS ONLY FOR \$ 15 = \$ _____
(Not for new members. To join the VSPA, please see the attached membership information).

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING REUNION # _____ x \$155 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 5, 2011

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT
50721 State Hwy 410 E
Greenwater, WA 98022
(360) 663-2521

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB SECURITY FORM 9

A Confirmation of Registration and an Itinerary will be mailed to you by September 15, 2011. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the Holiday Inn/FAIRBORN I-675 at (937) 426-7800 no later than September 14, 2011 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention that you are with the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion to receive your group rate of \$98 a night, plus tax which includes a discounted breakfast. The room rate is available three days before and after the reunion should you choose to extend your stay. Parking is FREE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM

1. The information that you provide on this form is critical for a successful reunion. All name and base information will be placed on your reunion identification badge. Guests will also receive reunion identification. The reunion ID will serve as your identification throughout the reunion and must be worn, especially while we are in all military or government facilities.
2. **PLEASE PRINT** or type all information **clearly**. Do not use abbreviations on any portion of the registration form. Your cooperation will make the processing of reunion identification badges and all security rosters a much more accurate process.
3. **RVN OR THAI BASE INFORMATION:** Please list only those bases where you served in Vietnam or Thailand. When listing bases, **do not abbreviate**. When listing squadrons, please indicate Air Police, Security Police, or specific detachments. The information will be used on your reunion ID.
4. **HOME ADDRESS and MAILING ADDRESS:** We will mail your reunion confirmation to the mailing address listed on this form.
5. **WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB SECURITY FORM:** Please complete the attached Wright-Patterson AFB Security Form. This information is essential for access to the air force base due to the enhanced security requirements. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON BASE IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM.**
6. **TELEPHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS:** Your contact information is vital to a successful reunion. The information will be part of our security roster that we must provide to the local Security Forces Squadron. You will also receive a copy of this roster upon arrival at the hotel.
7. **NAMES OF YOUR GUESTS:** Please provide the first name, middle initial and last name of your guest(s) on the Registration Form as well as the Wright-Patterson AFB Security Form.
8. **RENEWAL OF ANNUAL DUES:** This item is a reminder for VSPA members only so that they can renew their dues at the time of registration if they are not current. VSPA membership must be current in order to attend the reunion or bring a guest.
9. **VSPA MEMBERSHIP:** If you are not a member of the Vietnam Security Police Association, please do not send \$15 with this registration form. The VSPA uses a three-step membership application process for approving membership. To be eligible for membership, you must complete the following three steps: 1. Submit a completed application. 2. Document your service in the United States Air Force as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or an Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand during the years 1958 to 1975, and a discharge under honorable conditions. Your documentation of service must be a DD Form 214. Additional documents may in some cases be necessary. If you do not have a DD Form 214, you may submit alternate substantial proof of service for consideration until you are able to obtain your DD Form 214. Please remove your Social Security Account Number (SSAN) from the DD Form 214. 3. Submit \$15 in annual dues with your application and DD Form 214. The DD Form 214 is required for two reasons: 1. To prevent stolen valor. 2. Because we are a taxexempt, incorporated organization of war veterans as defined by the IRS in Section 501(c)(19).
10. **REUNION COST:** The basic registration fee of \$155 is the cost per person plus the museum tour. If you bring a guest, their registration fee is also \$155 and will cover transportation, several meals and our Hospitality Room.



Guest List Procedures

References: WPAFBI 31-101; 88 SFOI 36-3026

06 Jan 09

SUBJECT: Request for Visitor Access

1. Request a Visitor Access Pass for the following individual(s) for entry to the installation: The Vietnam Security Police Association will be visiting Security Forces facilities and Military Working Dog (MWD) training areas from October 5 – 9, 2011.

Please follow the example below:

| <u>Last Name, First Name</u> | <u>Telephone #</u> | <u>State/Driver License#</u> | <u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Doe, John D | (210) XXX-XXXX | TX./0000000 | 01/15/65 |
| <u>Last Name, First Name</u> | <u>Telephone #</u> | <u>State/Driver License#</u> | <u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u> |
| <u>Last Name, First Name</u> | <u>Telephone #</u> | <u>State/Driver License#</u> | <u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u> |
| <u>Last Name, First Name</u> | <u>Telephone #</u> | <u>State/Driver License#</u> | <u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u> |
| <u>Last Name, First Name</u> | <u>Telephone #</u> | <u>State/Driver License#</u> | <u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u> |

2. I will inform my visitors that they must have current proof of insurance, proof of registration and a current/valid driver’s license. Additionally, they were briefed that while on this installation all personnel and the property under their control is subject to search.

3. I understand that failure to provide any of the information requested WILL result in the denial of an installation access pass. Disclosure of information is voluntary, however; this information is necessary for validation of identity and may result in a non-issuance determination by the issuing authority.

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 8012, 44 U.S.C. 3101 and EO 9397
PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: The date of birth is used for further identification of the individual and for retrieving information from files. Routine use could include disclosure to other investigatory authorities.
DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: Failure to provide the information to include date of birth will result in an individual being unable to gain entry onto Wright-Patterson AFB.

Surviving Grief, part 4, by Janet Matthews Wise

The article below is the fourth in a series that speaks to the process of grieving. Some of us are grieving now, or maybe still. All of us have or will **grieve in our lifetimes. It's a fact of life. HOW we manage it is another story.** In this issue, VSPA Sisterhood Vice President Janet Matthews-Wise offers her insights and reflections after suffering the loss of her husband, father and grandmother in the space of 5 short months.



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So far, in this series, we have looked at finding help with grief, the Holidays, and living minute to minute. Now, let's take a short look at perseverance.

I recently heard a sermon based on Jesus' Parable of the Widow (Luke 18:1-8). She is described as persistent. The word that came to my mind is perseverance. So, I went straight to Webster's to make sure I understood the word. I was surprised and pleased by the second half of the definition.

Perseverance is defined as "steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc., especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement. And, in *Theology*, continuance in a state of grace to the end, leading to eternal salvation."

This widow implores an indifferent judge to take up her cause and defend her from her adversary. She was relentless in her efforts. He gave in because he knew if he did not, she would never leave him alone. Thus, he knew she would be persistent but she knew she would persevere.

I took away two things from this parable.

First, never give up. When everything is against you, keep going. The easy solution is quitting. Every single day in grief offers new challenges. Not the least of these is the challenge to keep your circumstances from stalling you. In grief, nothing makes sense. But you can keep trying. Every day that you get up and get out, you take a step toward healing.

Second, our Father patiently hears every syllable of our pleading. Grace will give you the strength to be persistent. Daily prayer, even the redundant ones, is our way of connecting with the One who can ease our suffering and hold us close.

Patience is a by-product of persistence and perseverance. That patience will extend to not only the world around you but to you. At some point, this will help you regain some control over your thought processes.

It takes practice and effort initially. Gradually, the persistence of daily baby steps will pay off. At some point, life will feel natural again. This could take quite a while and it certainly will not be easy. But every step forward brings with it strength, in spite of difficulties.

I pray you will continue in a state of grace and peace.

I think I made it through the valley of the shadow of death. I hope that my ramblings may have helped you to a better place, too. But, it may be time to shift gears a bit and I think my next article should go in a different direction. I would like to explore the perspective of being a military dependant, and may address some current issues of interest to veterans' families.

Thank you for indulging me! In His love,

Janet



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). 12

Editor's note: Many of you know Kim Bayes Bautista, Associate Member, aka "Queen Mother" and a great friend to the VSPA. In addition to assisting with our reunions for many years, Kim is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Ft. Hood, TX. She has graciously agreed to write a repeating column for GUARDMOUNT and we gratefully present her fourth article below.

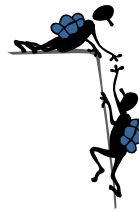


FROM THE FIELD

of behavioral health

Kim Bayes-Bautista, MSSW, LCSW

Honorary Member VSPA



Stress or Anxiety?

What is stress? ***Stress or Stressors*** are things that are outside of our control and happening outside our body. In other words, stress is an outside circumstance or situation that we cannot control. ***Anxiety*** is a person's reaction or internal response to the outside circumstance or situation. For example, you are in a long line at the airport where there is an ill-prepared passenger without their identification holding everyone up. This is not in your control. This is a stressor. You find yourself becoming nervous, agitated, upset or impatient. Your reaction to the stressor is called anxiety. Your reaction is something you have total control over. How hard would it be if you lived your life trying to eliminate all your stressors? It "ain't happnin' bay-bay!" It isn't possible and it isn't necessary.

We will never get to a place in life where we have no worry or anxiety. The key is to learn to manage it, embrace it and look for passion in life.

Let's look at anxiety as it relates to relationships. For example it can be anxiety provoking when our children leave home because we are no longer connected to them in the same way. It is the rare parent who does not fret about their child once they have left the nest. We may become anxious about how this new role feels. Relationship anxiety may also be insecurity, mistrust, miscommunication or non-communication in an intimate partner relationship.

There is also the anxiety of being a human being. The angst that comes from uncertainty, of not knowing what is coming next. The anxiety related to the meaning and purpose of one's life. It is always good to get another supportive person's perspective. Remember "It's a Wonderful Life" and the dangers of a closed mind?

Finally let's consider acute anxiety. This is resultant from the day to day stressors that cause us to feel anxious, such as driving on a congested highway. Once at our destination this anxiety subsides.

. People may have multiple episodes of acute anxiety in one day. I once treated a soldier who would experience tremendous anxiety only when he opened the doors in his apartment as he was fearful he would see the faces of his deceased comrades. We worked on building his anxiety tolerance level.

Everyone has an anxiety tolerance level, some greater than others. If one is experiencing 'relationship anxiety', 'what-does-my-life-really-mean anxiety' and acute anxiety, the combination may tip the balance and send one into a meltdown (some folks melt down daily exhibited by verbal or physical outbursts) or substance abuse to relieve the anxiety. To gain tolerance we must think with our rational brain (when we are anxious and escalated we have engaged our emotional brain also called the reptilian or 'lizard' brain) and look at the facts, determine if the situation is a real or an imagined danger and ask ourselves how important will this be five years from now. We grow our anxiety tolerance by putting ourselves into or working through situations, sitting through it and analyzing 'what can I do and how can I learn from it'. Techniques such as meditation, relaxation breathing, yoga, Thai Chi, Acudetox (acupuncture in the ears), self-analysis, actually stopping and counting to ten (gives time to go from emotional brain to rational brain.) and biofeedback are all good and drug free.

Kim

Col. Oliver North Presented with Safeside Challenge Coin, by Pete Villareal LM#104

The Vietnam Traveling Wall was recently in Corpus Christi, Texas. On April 12, a banquet was held with Col. Oliver North as the guest speaker to honor the 191 Vietnam War KIA from the Coast Bend Area. It was a great evening to honor our heroes.

The Vietnam Veterans Band played, posted the colors, and the event was held at the Solomon Ortiz Convention Center right next to the Port of Corpus Christi. Roll call was held for the 191 heroes, and included one of my high school class mates, 1st Lt Harry W. Wickersham.

Colonel North gave us an outstanding speech. He has the ability to deliver a speech with a punch, a speech that will make you laugh, or cry and many a tear were shed at that event.

I purchased a book by Oliver North, Special Operations, and stood in line to have it autographed. I shook his hand and presented him with a Safeside Challenge Coin, on behalf of all the men and women of the United States Air Force Security Police and Security Forces that fought in Vietnam, Thailand, Iraq and Afghanistan.

He said, "Thank you, brother".

JOINED TO FIGHT!

Pete Villareal
PR, 822nd CSPTS, BH,
3rd SPS, NKP, 56th SPS



Col. Oliver North with VSPA member Pete Villareal

YOU CAN LEAVE THE MILITARY -- BUT IT NEVER REALLY LEAVES YOU.

By Ken Burger, The Charlestown Post and Courier Thurs, March 4, 2010

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, tech sergeant." Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced -- a place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business. Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with.

That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score. Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line military formation that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon.

I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the tarmac, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review. To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business -- especially in times of war.

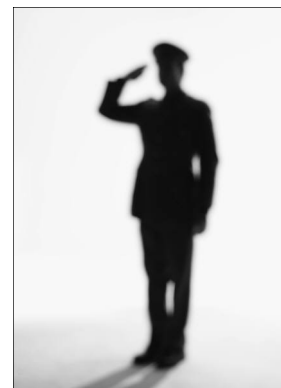
But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we criss-crossed on the flight line. I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit. I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender.

Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

(Permission to reprint this article granted by Ken Burger, March 8, 2011)



“WOUNDED WARRIORS”

by Chaplain and Kennel Master Jim Stastny
 VSPA Life Member #442 - Korat RTAFB '70-'71 -
 388th SPS K9 /Boots 645m



SSgt. Ben Seekell, and his wife Meagan, with VSPA Chaplain Jim Stastny and his wife, Linda

Shortly before Memorial Day, I received information that two USAF Security Forces members had been injured on May 8th while on patrol in Afghanistan. SSgt. Russell Logan stepped on a land mine, blowing off his left foot. As the patrol returned SSgt. Logan to the compound, a K-9 handler, SSgt. Ben Seekell, also stepped on a land mine, blowing off his left foot and injuring his K9 partner, Charlie. Both airmen were sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. MWD Charlie received shrapnel wounds from the explosion that also blew out his eardrums. He’s still overseas awaiting transportation back to the States. Once Charlie is deprogrammed, he will be adopted by SSgt. Seekell and his family.



SSgt. Ben Seekell, and his wife Meagan, with their three children, Kayla, Matthew, and Caiden.

Linda and I live near Walter Reed Medical Center and visited with both SSgt Seekell and SSgt Logan. We located SSgt. Seekell at a picnic around the corner from his apartment where his wife and children are able to stay with him. Recognizing the patches on my vest, he told his wife, “It’s K9.” It was my honor to present him with certificates of appreciation from The Vietnam Security Police Association and the Old Dawgs and Pups Program. We agreed there’s a bond between K9 that transcends age, once a K9 handler, always a K9 handler.

Linda and I visited with SSgt. Seekell and his wife, Meagan, for at least forty-five minutes. We also met their three beautiful children Kayla, Matthew, and Caiden. Meagan Seekell is the epitome of a military wife. She amazed us with the sense of calm she had when told of he husband’s injury, and for raising three wonderful children while her husband was deployed three times. I cannot begin to tell you how much SSgt. Seekell impressed me. He’s a young man with his foot blown off, sitting in a wheelchair, and he has the most upbeat, positive attitude one could imagine. Instead of complaining about his missing foot, he kept talking about getting his prosthesis and returning to duty. As we visited, the band played the Star Spangled Banner. Being the true American he is Ben didn’t remain seated, which would have been proper considering his injury. He stood on one leg at attention to honor this great country. To think that we have K-9 handlers like Ben carrying on the tradition of the USAF Security Forces makes me so proud. What a grand way to celebrate Memorial Day weekend with this young warrior and his family.





SSgt. Russell Logan with
VSPA Chaplain Jim Stastny

I visited with SSgt. Logan on the following Tuesday because he had been away for the Memorial Day weekend. He is another upbeat young man who desires with all his heart to return to full duty. I presented SSgt. Logan with a certificate of appreciation and a challenge coin from the Vietnam Security Police Association. We chatted for a while and he showed me the large collection of challenge coins he received while in the hospital. Michelle Obama had given him her challenge coin just the day before. I prayed with him for a brief moment, then left.



SSgt. Russell Logan with
Certificate of Appreciation from the VSPA



SSgt. Ben Seekell, and his family with the Montgomery County K-9

Your Stories..... By Don Poss

Goodbye Sunshine, Hello Rain *Every Cloud has a Silver Lining (except a Monsoon)*
Da Nang Airbase, 1965 Copyright © 2011, by: Don Poss



Don Poss, DaNang, 23rd ABG/AP; 6252nd APS; 35th APS; 366th SPS, TOPDOG45 K9

For more than a month the sun has not shown through dark bruised clouds. It can get cold in Vietnam. Back home, in southern California, rain was light, borne on warm trade winds, infrequent, and scrubbed the smog till mountains could be seen. Until Vietnam, I never thought of rain as anything but a passing fancy that spotted my '51 Chevy. In Vietnam, rain drizzles, spits, sneezes, whoops, showers, pours torrential, deluge, and a thousand other scourged names for that wet pestilence of humidity, heat, and suffocation. Monsoon drinks away light, sucks away colors, and devours life. A sopping plague that pounces, punches, stifles, assaults, whips and cannot be ignored until all are worn down to drown in despair and exhaustion.

It is night again and Blackie, my K-9 German Shepherd, looks like a drowned mongrel. I kneel down and pull him under my poncho and have him lay down for a break. We are patrolling between the active runway and the new runway under construction. The blue lights along the runway will wink if the Sarge is near, and if Charlie dares...*Blackie never sleeps.*

My vinyl-like rain poncho does little to deter the constant pelting, like drumming keys of a maniac typewriter upon the poncho's hood. Humidity assures I am soaked to the bone beneath the poncho. *Who cares?* The rain, by now, must have tattooed a dozen new chapters upon my poncho. No aircraft has landed nor taken off for more than an hour. This world's busiest 'airport' is broken by the storm. Blackie raises, quakes in futile effort, and moves forward resuming patrol. Drizzle swirls a vortex around a mile-marker sign as we trudge past. Bazillions of indifferent wet droplets, impossible to swat away, catch the dimmed light of marker-number-5.

A C-47, from somewhere, kicks a string of flares over the tree line of the Marines' perimeter. Flares sizzle in rain, illuminating every raindrop like a crazed artist's watercolor painting, then carried by the wind are swept into the storm like fading afterburners of an F-4 Phantom. Automatic weapons can be heard somewhere ... *someone else's war.* Monsoon smothers sounds ... if you can hear it, it must be nearby. But weapons grow silent, flares ghost-out, and the Gooney Bird is gone.

The rain is still here, lashing without mercy, and the night will be long. Blackie alerts toward winking runway lights. Gary Eberbach and Bucky are at the edge of our adjoining posts. He must want to BS. Gary found a piece of plywood the construction crew left along the new runway. He had propped it up against something and made a lean-to to crawl under and ate most of his C-rations before the wind popped it away and drowned his food. Bucky ate the rest. We soon part to check our two thousand foot long posts.

Sarge and the LT can be seen checking posts two posts down. Their pickup bounces along unseen rain-filled potholes. Both make it to my post and I heel Blackie. Both get out of the truck as it is just as wet inside as out. Both know better than to approach too closely. Blackie would kill them if he could. I report my post. They comment on the obvious. Sergeant Kays places a coffee with a lid on the hood for me. Both get back in the truck, I grab the coffee, and they continue on dodging potholes toward Gary Knutson and Eric's post. I think of *bookends*-Gary's adjoining my post.

The K-9 ton-n-half truck arrives a little early picking us up right at dawn. We ride with our dogs muzzled, heads tilted against the driving rain.

Dogs put away for the day. Handlers decide to head for the chow hall. Caked in mud, clay too thick to melt from driving rain, we splash and stomp mud-puddles like *five-year-olds* on our mile hike to the guarded compound. The gate AP checks other airmen entering for ID's and uniform violations, but with the storm his focus is mainly on ID's. He looks at us, grins, shakes his head and stands just inside the doorway of the gate-shack, pretending to be dry.

The flight line APs have beat us to the chow hall. Thick mud clumps from scraped bottoms of their boots scar the raised cement sidewalk near the entrance. As we enter, heads lift to stare, amused, disgusted, or indifferent by our appearance. They slept a sound sleep because of us, *and they know it*. No one says anything. We quickly eat the yellow stuff, the white stuff, the brown-shingles, and wash it all down with the black stuff, the white stuff, and the orange stuff.



Our tents in a Monsoon



Gary Eberbach, 1965 VSPA LM #673

An hour later and I am in my tent. The tent sides and roof are bulging and flapping, breathing with the wind, and snapping like a sail on a beached schooner. Humidity is 100% and the temperature matches. I take off my boots and collapse on my cot. No one has stolen my mosquito net during the night – *there is a God*. Someone is shoveling gravel-drops against my side of the tent, and I cannot sleep. I want to sleep. *Who cares?* Breakfast is demanding I trudge the 75 yards to the John and showers. I am beyond pretending I don't have to go. I open the tent's flap and the insides expand like a giant billows. Latching the flap, the tent deflates like a gasping balloon.



The wooden-plank sidewalks to the john are barely above water. With each step, the platforms rock and sink and cause mini-tsunami waves that rush toward tent flaps on both sides of the walkway. Curses echo in my wake (*heh-heh*). *Too bad*. The generator to the John must be out again. Someone is standing outside buck-naked, lathered with soap and showering in the rain. He curses the rain, generators, and earth -- drops his soap and kicks it, cursing the soap.

Heading back to my tent, I gleefully stomp the planks (more curses). Mosquito net still there—*check*. I rest my head knowing I will not sleep. The constant rain ... the monsoon ... is *toying with my brain*. *Maybe* today Vietnam will sink or float away to California. *Maybe* LBJ and Lady Bird secretly smoke pot. *Maybe* Uncle Ho will *accept Jesus* and call off the war. *Maybe* Jane Fonda will become a Republican. *Maybe* the earth will split open like Hanoi Hannah's big mouth and swallow everything but the freedom birds flying home. *Maybe* the sun will come out. *Maybe* someone will tell me Short is when I have less than 300 days left. For more than a month the sun has not shown through dark heavy clouds—*shut up brain! I like the rain. Who cares?*

Suddenly it is time to get up, get ready for the night, get Blackie, and *get monsooned*.

299 and a wakeup.

Editor's note: Former VSPA President Newell Swartz was stationed at Phan Rang and Phu Cat in 1966-67 and had similar experiences with monsoons. Below is his response to Don Poss' story about those Vietnam Monsoon storms.

Looking at the monsoon storm approaching Da Nang on the webpage brings back a lot of memories. It sent a chill down my spine, just like when you walked out into the night rain waiting for the first drops of water to find their way under your poncho and run down your back. As you got ready to go to work it seemed the night shift was always colder. You just had to get used to those first drops of rain getting you wet under the poncho and then you just relaxed and accepted it. At Phan Rang and Phu Cat in 1966, we didn't have any washers or dryers so our clothes never ever dried out during the monsoon season. Sitting beside a foxhole with water in it on top of Nui Dat at Phan Rang with absolutely no shelter and really cold, words from a Charley Pride song came to mind "*Rain dripping off the brim of my hat (helmet), sure is cold today ... Is anybody going to San Antoine or Phoenix, AZ*".

But Phu Cat was worse. Water standing everywhere, K-9s walking in mud and the guys on the M-60 bunkers had their foxholes filled to the brim with water. Just wait in the mud till dawn when you got relieved. I hated sticking a fuse into the claymore when it was raining, not sure if static electricity could set it off or if lightening might hit nearby and set it off. But even the guys in the M-60 bunkers built on top of the triple tier graves or railroad tracks got wet. Now everybody knows why guys went to our little clubhouse and drank beer until breakfast. I don't know how we ever got used to it but other than that little shiver when the first water ran down your back as you stepped out into the rain to go to post, it just came to be a way of life. Now I am sitting in Phoenix praying for the summer monsoon (LOL).

Newell Swartz, LM #262 - Phan Rang, 35th SPS; Phu Cat, 37th SPS

Your Stories..... By Howard Yates

"A Heartfelt Thank You!"



In April my son, Ian Yates, sent me an email from the mountains of Afghanistan. He and his Army Military Police Company are stationed at an outpost in Wardak Province. Their mission is to assist in the training of local Afghan National Police. They sometimes travel to various small villages to conduct their training. There are some other aspects of their mission which take them to various locations but I'm not given much information about that.

My son told me that they relied heavily on the GPS units in their vehicles but many times they would dismount and conduct their missions on foot. He also said that the GPS unit in his team's vehicle was inoperable, and they had been unsuccessful in trying to get it repaired. He told me that the GPS units sure made things a lot easier for them. I asked him if there was something I could do to help. He told me that it would be invaluable if they could get their hands on some small portable GPS units. I told him I would try to help him and his team.

The GPS units they really wanted were wrist worn and were made by the Garmin company. They cost upwards of \$200.00 each and they would like to have six of them, one for each team leader. That's when I started making inquiries as to where to obtain them and if I might be able to get a special deal on the price. I posted a note on the VSPA BB and before I knew it, I was overwhelmed with a landslide of advice and offers to help. I felt like I had bitten off more than I could chew. There were offers to send money and a few offers to buy one or two units to send over there. I was trying to determine the best course of action when I received a call from one of our members, Mr. Chris Boley, (Cam Ranh Bay and Phan Rang 71 - 72). Chris asked me for Ian's address because his company was purchasing the needed units and shipping them over to Ian's outpost. I can't put into words, my emotions, at the time. Chris stepped up to the plate and hit a home run. He saw to it that those Military Police had the GPS units that they needed. I have since heard from several of the MPs in Ian's unit, that the units work beautifully. Ian's Sergeant, Michael Buccieri, even posted a "Thank You" note on the VSPA BB.

Chris Boley certainly exemplifies our motto, "We Take Care Of Our Own"..... and then some. Ian's team deployed for a year and should return this next March.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who offered to help my son's MP company obtain the GPS units they need. There were over 50 emails waiting for me one morning. I had difficulty reading them as my glasses began to fog up...



Below: Sgt. Buccieri (wearing a Garmin GPS unit on his wrist)

Below: Ian Yates in Afghanistan



Above: Ian Yates with his father, VSPA LM # 644 Howard Yates
Bien Hoa, 3rd SPS, Augmentee



Washing The Wall - by Gary Jones

(LM#363 - Udorn, 432nd APS; Phan Rang, 822
CSPS; 35th SPS; Da Nang, 366th SPS; Tan Son
Nhut, 377th SPS)



Gary Jones in
Vietnam 1968



Gary Jones and Gary Bogart at
the Wall, 4-23-2011

The Air Force Security Forces Association sponsored the semi-annual washing of the Vietnam War Memorial (The Wall) on April 23rd, 2011. Members of the Association were joined by members of the Air National Guard, Vietnam Security Police Association, Loring Ramp Rats Association and several friends and

family members of those organizations. Participants traveled from as far away as Florida, South Carolina and Pennsylvania to honor the more than 58 thousand men and women who died in the Vietnam War.

It was rainy and cold as the crew started arriving at the Memorial. There was divine intervention when the rain stopped as the washing was about to commence and didn't resume until after the job was finished. The morning began with the invocation, led by Vietnam Security Police Association Chaplain Jim Stastny. Chaplain Jim gave thanks for the supreme sacrifice made by the men and women whose names are inscribed on The Wall. He prayed for the safe return of the military forces serving around the world to protect our freedoms. Finally, he thanked God for giving us hope, through his Son, as we prepared to celebrate the Resurrection weekend. One of the most meaningful things that happened to me that day was seeing Gary Bogart (see photo above), VSPA LM #424 for the first time since we had served together at Da Nang in 1971.

Following the invocation, participants were given a brief history of The Wall. It was noted that 160 of those on The Wall would be celebrating their Birthdays on April 23rd. It was also noted that 148 men died on April 23rd. Fifty-five of those were under 21 years of age.

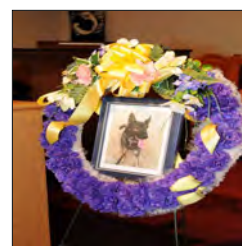
At the conclusion of the washing, participants gathered at the apex of The Wall and gave a salute to the fallen. May they never be forgotten.

VSPA LM Willie Squires,
LM Jim Stastny, LM Gary
Jones, student Albert
Goenner, LM Mike Cowder,
and LM Gary Bogart



MWD "Art" Honored and Remembered at Tinker AFB

By Pete Piazza, LM #141 - Cam Ranh Bay, 12th APS; Bien Hoa , 3rd SPS; Phu Cat, 12th SPS



A Kennel sits empty, bucket upside down, choke chain, leash, collar and badge hang from the kennel door. The kennel is flanked by two black working dogs lying calmly, yet ever alert. Above them stand their handlers dressed in service dress blues; their badges shining except for the black strip across the center symbolizing the loss of one of their own. Behind the kennels stands a handler without a dog, for it is his dog that was lost.

The Memorial service for ART, a fallen Military Working Dog, started at 1330 hours on 20 April 2011. Four handlers and their military working dogs escorted Art's handler, SSgt James Cochran, to the stage to present MWD Art's ashes. Art was a 2 year old German Shepherd that was assigned to the 72nd Security Forces Squadron K-9 section, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, on 14 December 2010. Art was preparing to validate the week after his unfortunate death on 4 March 2011, when Art died from a rare twist in his lower intestine just above his rectum. The memorial was solemn, but Lt. Col. Roberts, 72nd Security Forces Squadron Commander, reminded everyone that even though the squadron had suffered this loss, the unit must carry on and accomplish the mission. The memorial concluded with a Pass in Review by the Tinker MWD teams and Art's ashes being escorted from the stage by four MWDs.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ Member Pete ★
 ★ Piazza, who is ★
 ★ also a member of ★
 ★ the Oklahoma ★
 ★ Heartland Chapter ★
 ★ of the Air Forces ★
 ★ Security Forces ★
 ★ Association, ★
 ★ presented SSgt ★
 ★ Cochran an ★
 ★ engraved wooden ★
 ★ plaque with the ★
 ★ "Trusted Partner" ★
 ★ poem by VSPA ★
 ★ Life Member ★
 ★ Howard Yates. ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★





HELP!!

We need your recipes for the VSPA SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK

By Lise Gattis and Martha Fleming

Last year at the reunion, members of the VSPA Sisterhood decided to prepare a taste-tempting cookbook featuring the favorite recipes from members of the VSPA and the VSPA Sisterhood. So far, we have received about 40 recipes. We send our thanks to those who have sent the recipes. They are yummy! BUT, WE NEED AT LEAST 300 RECIPES TO FILL THE BOOK!

Send your recipes right away or we will not be able to have the book ready for this reunion. It's going to be your cookbook and it will be beautifully illustrated, specifically printed for the VSPA Sisterhood and placed in a special three-ring binder with our logo on the cover. The use of a three-ring binder will allow additional recipes to be added at subsequent reunions. The cookbook will also contain information about the VSPA and the Sisterhood along with some photos, and will be sold as a fundraiser for the VSPA.

Please follow the instructions below and submit your recipes via email or US Mail as soon as possible so that Lise and Martha can begin typing and formatting the recipes. The Sisterhood Cookbook Committee will then make the final decisions regarding the overall design of the cookbook and forward everything to the publisher.

- If sending via US Mail, **TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK, NOT PENCIL.** If more than one page is needed, use another sheet of the same size paper and staple together.
 - If sending via email, please send **ONE email for EACH recipe.**
 - List all ingredients in order of use in the ingredients list and directions. If you are sending something special from long ago, PLEASE update your mother's or grandmother's recipes using current brands available throughout the United States.
 - Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can.
 - Keep directions in paragraph form, not in steps.
 - Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar." DO NOT use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."
 - Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
 - Please use the abbreviations for measurements as they are described below.
 - Be consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe you contribute.
- Your recipes should fit into the following categories and format:

CATEGORIES:

- Appetizers & Beverages
- Soups & Salads
- Vegetables & Side Dishes
- Main Dishes
- Breads & Rolls
- Desserts
- Cookies & Candy
- This & That

FORMAT:

- Recipe Title
- Category (from the list above)
- Submitted By (after you give your name, please include name of VSPA member and their base of assignment in Vietnam and/or Thailand and your relationship to them, i.e. Jane Doe (daughter of John Doe, Da Nang AB and Korat RTAFB).
- **DON'T FORGET TO PROVIDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU IF WE HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR RECIPE(S).**
- List of ingredients using the following standardized abbreviations for measurements:
pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.
- Directions for following and completing the recipe:

There is a category called This & That, so just about anything could go in there, including a funny recipe. And yes, we have received a funny one from Life Member John Homa that will have you drunk and rolling on the floor if you follow the directions. Remember, these books will be sold, so please give credit to someone if they have given you the recipe. We prefer to have your own recipes or your family favorites that you have modified or made your own. Please don't send a recipe from another cookbook unless it is your own recipe. If the recipe has been previously published, we need to have the information.

We know that many of our husbands like to cook and will be submitting recipes. In fact, we have already received our first recipe from Life Member Jimmy O'Connell, who heard about the cookbook while at our reunion in San Antonio.

Please send your recipes to Lise Gattis and Martha Fleming. We are neighbors and will be working together to prepare all of the recipes.

Contact information for Lise Gattis is lwgattis@windstream.net

Contact information for Martha Fleming is msfleming@valornet.com

If you are sending the recipes by US Mail, please mail to:

Lise Gattis
P.O. Box 1889
Glen Rose, Texas 76043



NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2010 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed.

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UBON LIAISON Jim Watson; Ubon 68-69; Fritz X704; jimwatk9@ca.rr.com; 626-806-8463

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Life Member #700 has joined the VSPA!!

Another VSPA milestone has been reached with the 700th Life Member!
Congratulations, LM #700 Thomas W Greer, twgreer@zoominternet.net BH, 3rd SPS, K9; TSN, 377th SPS, K9, 1972-1973, K9; Herman 6X82; Duke 84A2.



Remarks at the Dedication of 56th SFS MWD Kennels by VSPA President Phil Carroll - Luke AFB, Arizona - 20 May 2011

On 20 May 2011, I was the featured speaker at the dedication of the new \$1.6 million kennel support building and training area for the 56th SFS MWD section. The kennels are the first "green" kennels in the DoD, and was a contributing factor in the 56th SFS being named the "Best Medium Security Forces Squadron in the USAF" in 2010. The kennels have a 45,000 square foot outdoor training area which is entirely covered by a high sun shade providing 10 to 15 degree temperature reduction from the surrounding area. The training area is covered with the highest grade of synthetic grass, requiring less maintenance and no watering - saving about 42,000 gallons of water per year. These improvements allow the MWD section to train year-round in any kind of weather. The area around each of the obstacles is underlain by a layer of recycled auto tires to provide a cushion for the dogs when they jump off each obstacle. The benefit of this to the dogs is a reduction in joint stress and injuries from training. The kennel support building has been enlarged from its former size, and now includes space for each of the assigned handlers to complete required training and paperwork on an individual computer, plus additional office and meeting space.



Phil Carroll 1970

Photo Credits Bill Cummings and Ken Neal



Below are my remarks to the 56th SFS MWD section.

“I am a dog handler.

But it never entered my innocent young mind to be a dog handler until one day in late 1968. I knew nothing about the idea, beyond seeing a few so-called “Police Dogs” in movies.

But that day in Security Police tech school at Lackland an “old guy” with lots of stripes on his sleeves, and a big German Shepherd on a leash, walked into a boring afternoon classroom and gave us the sales pitch.

“All volunteer,” he said. “Exciting. Not for everybody. A proud bunch. The most effective detection system for base protection

ever created.”

I don’t know what captivated me, but I instantly decided that’s what I wanted to do and I signed up. Not many of the guys in the room followed.

To this day I am so proud that I did. I stand up a little straighter and hold my head a little higher whenever the subject comes up. To this very day I enjoy my Security Police brothers telling me they either always wanted to go K-9 but never got around to it, or wouldn’t get near one of those dogs for all the money in the world. I will never forget the love and loyalty the dogs gave us; the huge adrenaline rush of my first few times in the bite suit or a sleeve; getting nearly - or very thoroughly bit; the joy of caring for the dogs and watching them learn and flourish.

I handled Baron in dog school, Duke at my first duty station - a SAC base in Michigan, and Charlie and Tina at two bases in Thailand. Tina was the last dog I handled, and the best. We were a team. You handlers know exactly what I mean.

I hugged her, played with her, trained with her and taught her tricks. I trained her to qualify as a Patrol Dog, and the transition from Sentry Dog came easy for her. She attacked my flight chief one night for pointing his finger at me, but of course I stopped her with a word.

But there was another K-9 flight chief I want to bring up, as good a supervisor and as good a man as I ever met. He was one of the three guys you’re remembering in this new facility. He was SSgt. Faleagafulu Ilaoa, and he was one of the volunteers who died when their helicopter crashed into the Thai jungle on May 13, 1975.

The K-9 handlers who perished with him were Sgt. Gerald Fritz and Sgt. Dennis London. Fifteen other Security Police troops, also all volunteers, died. The whole flight crew of Knife 13 was killed along with them. I don't ever want any of these men to be forgotten, because of who they were, how they stepped up, and how we all served together.

I am simply unable to find words to express how much it means to me, and to all the handlers and Air Police and Security Police veterans of that war, to have you remember them. The Brotherhood we older veterans have come to share with one another is precious. K-9's maybe even more so. The same thing is there for all of you as well, if you choose to embrace it and stay proud of yourselves and what you do as a dog handler, a Defender, or whatever else, no matter where your career takes you.

I am forever honored, for I have marched with heroes. I thank you for remembering them.

Thank you."

RIGHT: SQ CC's father catches a bite



A number of Phoenix-area civilian police and sheriff's departments were present for the dedication of the new 56th SFS MWD kennels and training area. Some of the civilian and 56th SFS handlers flank the speaker's lectern during the speeches and presentations at the dedication. At the right end of the line is Bob Curnick, VSPA member and NKP K-9 veteran, with retired USAF MWD Jampy.

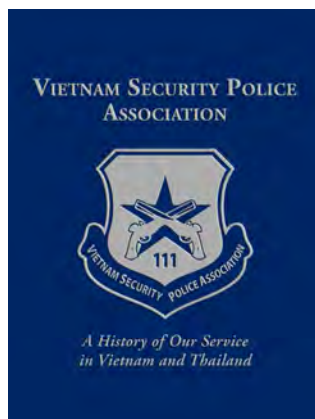


56th SFS Squadron Commander Maj Gerald Mulhollen's father, Gerald Mulhollen Sr., attended the kennels dedication and Mayaguez Memorial Retreat, along with the Major's wife Kim, mother Barbara and son Nathaniel. Here Gerald Sr. gets to try catching a bite from one of the K-9 Section's Military Working Dogs - under very carefully controlled conditions, obviously, as nobody wanted to be responsible for him getting bit.

HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

By Steve Gattis

SGattis-LM49@vspa.com



The book is **SOLD OUT**. A total of 475 books were printed. The publisher mailed 375 books and I mailed the 100 extra books that we ordered. If you pre-ordered and paid for a book from the publisher and have not received it, please contact me immediately so that I can contact the publisher on your behalf!

I send my heartfelt thanks to all of you who participated in the book or ordered a book. We own a wonderful piece of our history. We have not made a decision to purchase more books at this time because we would have to buy a minimum of 100 books. Nor has a decision been made on a Volume II because those books would require a minimum of 300 books to be pre-sold and paid for in advance.

I hope to see you at the reunion in Dayton and at the Defender Memorial located at the Air Force Museum!

DON'T FORGET THE DATES OF OUR REUNION:

October 5 thru October 9, 2011

Remarks to the 36th Annual Mayaguez Memorial Retreat Ceremony 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Arizona, 19 May 2011

By VSPA President, Phil Carroll

In May 1975, a Cambodian gunship seized the American cargo vessel SS Mayaguez on the high seas, and the 56th Security Police Squadron was the closest combat-ready U.S. Military unit that an angry and impatient President Ford could call on to bear arms in defense of America's interests.

Security Police troops of the 56th Special Operations Wing at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB were asked to volunteer for an urgent rescue mission, and those chosen were loaded aboard CH-53 Knife and HH-53 Super Jolly Green Giant helicopters. They were on the way to U-Tapao RTAFB where they would stage for an assault to recapture the SS Mayaguez. While en route, one CH-53 helicopter, Knife 13, carrying 18 Security Police troops and five aircrew members of the 21st Special Operations Squadron crashed into the jungle near the border between Thailand and Laos. There were no survivors.

The 56th, now a Fighter Squadron, is at Luke AFB, Arizona, where we held the 2009 VSPA reunion. The squadron remembers our Brothers, and the aircrew members who perished with them, every year in a Memorial Retreat Ceremony. This year, VSPA President Phil Carroll was the guest speaker at the ceremony and a number of VSPA members, some veterans of NKP, attended the event.



Troops of the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB, including the Security Forces Squadron, in formation during the 36th Anniversary Mayaguez Memorial Retreat Ceremony.

Below are my remarks for the 56th SFS Mayaguez Retreat Ceremony.

“Thank you, and good afternoon. I’m here today as a veteran of the 56th, and as a guardian of your history.

I’m paying tribute to some brave young men who volunteered for a dangerous mission and perished. One of those was my flight chief, and a friend, when I served in the 56th Security Police Squadron at Nakhon Phanom in 1971.

Today, as the president of the Vietnam Security Police Association, I’m charged with preserving our history and the hard lessons we learned in Vietnam and Thailand. The security policemen who volunteered for the Mayaguez operation are significant to VSPA history in part because most Americans have only heard about the Marines who completed the mission - Security Police involvement was classified at the time.

In the 1960’s I spent two years in college with the serious students, the guys who were in school only to avoid being drafted and the protesters alike, before deciding to enlist in the Air Force. Even when I

raised my right hand I was troubled by serious questions about the Vietnam War; questions which were encouraged when our swearing-in ceremony was interrupted by a returning combat veteran shouting protests from the back of the room.

But we had faith enough in our country to serve despite our questions. I had been raised in a family tradition of military service: my grandfather survived being gassed by the Germans in the trenches in World War I; my dad was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals for his service in a B-29 in World War II, and my uncle served in the Korean War. Many young people in the 60's had a similar family history.



Some of the attendees at the Mayaguez Memorial Retreat Ceremony, left to right: SSgt Gabe Bravo, 56th SFS K-9 handler; unidentified NKP veteran; SSgt Ricky Glass, 56th SFS K-9 handler; Ann Brian LeFevere, 56th SFS standard bearer with the 56th's campaign streamers; Bill Cummings, VSPA member and former kennel master; unidentified U.S. Marine, a veteran of the Kho Tang Island battle; John Jackson, VSPA member and NKP veteran; Bob Curnick, VSPA member and NKP K-9 veteran; Phil Carroll, VSPA president and NKP K-9 veteran; Roy Gallagher, VSPA member and NKP K-9 veteran (with retired USAF MWD Jampy).



This plaque was presented to 56th SFS Squadron Commander Major Michael Borders at the VSPA's 2009 reunion at Luke AFB. The plaque includes a VSPA patch and an original 56th Special Operations Wing patch. It was donated by the VSPA members who served with the 56th SPS at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB. These veterans find it extremely rewarding that the squadron today honors them by proudly displaying the plaque at such a significant event as this ceremony.

Many questioned the Vietnam War but decided to serve anyway. Other young people, then as now, had feelings only about accumulating personal wealth and power - they scorned military service.

Yet others were completely distrustful of their government and violently opposed to any American involvement in Southeast Asia. These last were the vocal ones - the demonstrators - the people who spat on us and labeled anybody in the military a fool, a sucker and a "baby-killing war monger."

America was in turmoil; even within the military ranks there was a full spectrum of strong, gut-level opinions about the Vietnam War.

Eventually, most of us served our one full enlistment and were discharged. We got away from the trauma of the war and tried to hide from our anger and confusion at how we were treated by the folks back home whose freedoms we had sought to protect.

We discovered that putting our old military gear in a locked trunk in the attic was a better idea than putting our military service on a job application - unless we wanted to stay unemployed. Once our hair grew long enough for us to blend in, we quit mentioning our military service; even tried to forget it. Some suffered horrible nightmares, fought with undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and agonized over lost friends. Those who could, pushed the memories away and struggled to forget. For many, events, details, even friends were forgotten along with the trauma.

My God what a terrible loss that was. It's a loss we are busily healing from today, and a loss we hope that you will never allow yourselves to suffer.

Most Americans changed their attitude toward the military in 1990 and 1991 with the tremendous successes of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and even more after the national tragedy on September 11, 2001.



That reversal in public attitude encouraged many of us old-timers to begin to identify ourselves as military veterans, something that we did with difficulty and which didn't seem quite right at first, until we found ourselves breaking down in tears when someone finally said, "Welcome Home."

Lately we've tried to remember more and more about those old days. We've started to reclaim that huge and important part of our lives that we had hidden away in locked trunks and the forgotten corners of our minds. We've started to search for and to find some of those friends we served shoulder-to-shoulder with in the war zones.



VSPA President Phil Carroll speaking to the assembly for the 36th Annual Mayaguez Memorial Retreat Ceremony at Luke AFB, 19 May 2011.



A table of honors, front and center for the Mayaguez Memorial Retreat, including a VSPA plaque and other memorabilia of the disaster. In front of the table, three pairs of boots with three rifles topped by three items of headgear representing the Security Police, flight crew and ground crew who perished in the helicopter crash.

In my process of remembering, I joined the Vietnam Security Police Association in 2004. In 2006 I was talking over old times with another VSPA member who had served as a K-9 handler with the 56th at NKP. I discovered during that phone call that a flight chief I served under and liked and respected was one of the 18 Security Policemen who died on the way to fight to rescue Americans held hostage by Cambodian military bandits. I was devastated at the loss, and hurt and embarrassed that I hadn't even known.

My friend and flight chief 40 years ago was Faleagafulu Ilaoa. He was, I believe, on his first of three tours in Thailand when I worked for him in 1971. He and I had an instant connection when I arrived at NKP because he usually went by "Phil," to give the rest of us a break from our clumsy attempts to pronounce his name.

He was a kind and thoughtful supervisor, young but a little more mature than the rest of us. He had us doing the important things by the book, without any micromanaging or nitpicking of things that didn't matter. He kept us, and our dogs, well trained and well aware of the constantly shifting threats around us.

Looking back, I see in him some of the same essential qualities I see and admire in so many of today's Security Forces Defenders. He was professional and skilled and comfortable doing his job well. I'm so very proud of him and absolutely NOT surprised that he was one of the volunteers for the rescue mission, just as I'm so very proud of all of you when I hear how many of you continue to volunteer to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan.

They had more highly trained volunteers for that 1975 mission than they could use, by the way, just as today there are some missions that get over-subscribed with volunteers from your ranks. I am honored to remember those 18 Security Police volunteers who perished in the crash of the helicopter "Knife 13" on 13 May 1975. As I honor their memory I also remember the flight crew of Knife 13, who died along with my 18 Security Police Brothers. As we think about those we lost, I also remember the Security Policemen on the other special ops helicopters on the same mission. They were immediately diverted to land and provide security for the crash site and the remains of their brothers. Those survivors, some of whom are members of the Vietnam Security Police Association, carry vivid memories of their brothers, as well as the horrible memories of flaming wreckage.

They performed their duties at the crash site with skill and honor in spite of their incredible personal loss and emotional trauma. I also think about those who were not on the mission, but were then shocked to learn that they had lost friends and brothers

I thank you all for the opportunity to speak here today. Given what I've told you about the "old days," and some of our history since then, I hope you can begin to understand how fulfilling it is for us to see you acknowledge those who came to America's military and to your career field before you. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We know that those who perished will live on in our thoughts, and it's a great comfort to see that they live on in yours as well.

I would ask all of you to stay proud, to stay in touch with your memories and your friends. Remember your fellow Defenders, and that you served with honor. Know that your shared honor allows our history to endure.

Take pictures wherever you go and save them someplace safe. Keep copies of your orders with all those names and dates. Always remember those we have lost. Enjoy the public's admiration while it lasts, but never forget that the public is a fickle bunch.

Enjoy - and count on - your fellow Air Force warriors. Your bond with each other will carry you in hard times, and can be the foundation of all that you do for the rest of your lives. And know in your hearts that every one of you is just as extraordinary as the 23 Security Policemen and Airmen we're honoring today. Hooah!

Thank you."

Phil Carroll – President and Life Member #336
Vietnam Security Police Association

THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR ~ Request for Nominations ~



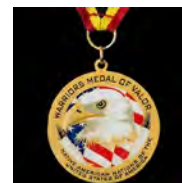
The Warriors Medal of Valor from the Native American Nations of the United States of America was created by a Native American Chief who served in Vietnam. Our ability to award the Warriors Medal of Valor has been approved by a local Tribal Council and was made possible by Life Member Alvin "Sarge" Matthews. MSgt. Matthews was the first VSPA member to receive the Warriors Medal of Valor for his service in Vietnam. He received his medal from a Cherokee Chief while attending a Cherokee Powwow in 2005. He later became the first Chairman of the VSPA Committee for the selection and presentation of the Warriors Medal of Valor.

Sarge and his daughter, Janet, worked to make it possible for the VSPA to present the medal, made all of the arrangements to present the Warriors Medal of Valor at our reunions in 2006 and 2007, and personally financed the awards for our members. Thanks to Sarge and Janet the presentation of the Warriors Medal is a very moving experience and an honor for all recipients. Sadly, Sarge attended his final Guardmount in 2008. To honor her father, Janet continued to make the Warriors Medal of Valor available to the VSPA by chairing the VSPA selection committee in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Several of our members gave contributions to the VSPA in Sarge's name to ensure that the financial requirements for the award would always be met. Janet will chair the committee again this year.

The 2011 Warriors Medal selection committee will receive nominations for the award until August 15. Please submit your nominations directly to Steve Gattis or Phil Carroll who will distribute the nominations to the committee members. The following VSPA criteria for the medal were established by Sarge and approved by the VSPA Board:

Must be a member in good standing of the VSPA plus any one or combination of the following:

- A. Valor (recognized or unrecognized by the Air Force) for service as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand.
- B. Outstanding service to the members of the Vietnam Security Police Association.
- C. Outstanding service to the military and/or Veterans.



A Special Event in South Texas by VSPA LM #222 Ed Cottrell



"Here is an overview of our April 9, 2011 McAllen, Texas Welcome Home to Vietnam Veterans, as a Living Memorial to all who served.

For many Veterans, this event may have brought closure after 36-57 years, but for most it was to give remembrance to 58,264 KIA's, MIA's and POW's who could not attend. The event drew within a few thousand vets, families, and public. A total count of those attending was not available as many left after a short time due to our weather, temperature in the upper 90's.

Attached are photos of the War Memorial and the McAllen, TX Convention Center, where the event was held. Also, 2 Walls (of 4) with the names of 2,100 (of 3,400) Texans killed in Vietnam, were unveiled and dedicated. The Healing Wall, Replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was on display, with an escort procession to McAllen (about 150-200 miles), by the Warriors Watch Riders, and was on display April 7 to April 9.

*Edward R. Cottrell, VSPA LM #222
VDHA LM #3453*

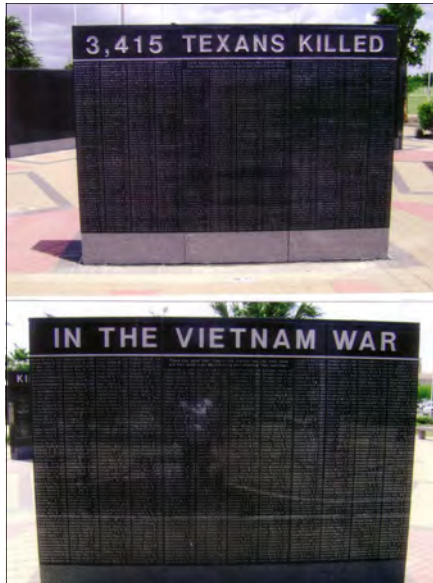


Donna, TX High School JROTC

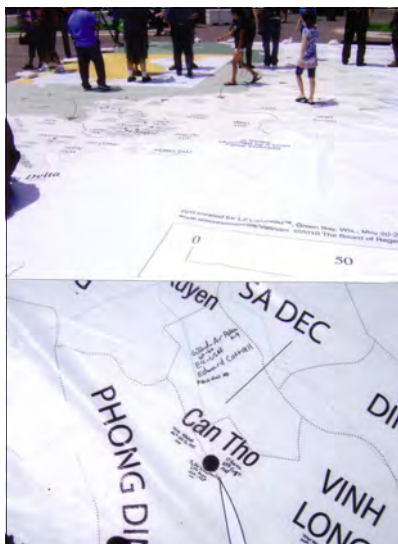


Ed Cottrell, Binh Thuy, 632nd APS,
TOPDOG45 K-9, 65-66

Welcome Home South Texas Vietnam Veterans Event



Two (of four) Walls Dedicated to the Texas Veterans KIA in Vietnam. The event was held in the new McAllen, TX Convention Center. The Traveling Wall was also on display for three days.



LEFT: Ed reports that a giant map of Vietnam was laid out on the ground and Veterans were encouraged to write their names on it near the areas where they had been stationed.



Erlyce Pekas, Guardmount Editor
Associate Member
Vietnam Security Police Association
P.O. Box 22035
Phoenix, AZ 85028

Happy 4th, everyone!



USAF Security Police Vietnam Veterans—Welcome Home!

If you served in the USAF Air Police, Security Police, K-9, Safeside, or as a Security Police Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand between 1958 and 1975, there's a great brotherhood looking for you. With more than 1,300 currently active members, the Vietnam Security Police Association is where you belong.

VSPA was formed for many reasons; to reunite friends, to preserve the memories of our fallen brothers and the history of our service in Vietnam and Thailand, and to ensure that the hard lessons learned in that war would not be forgotten. Lessons of life and death, forged in war, tempered in battle, that when remembered provide inspiration to Airmen who are yet to taste combat defending the fortress, and pride for those of us who have fought and bled together.

If you're qualified and interested in membership, read more about the VSPA and how to join at our website: www.vspa.com. WELCOME HOME TO VSPA!

**GET READY FOR NEXT YEAR'S REUNION AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, DAYTON, OH!
October 5 - 9, 2011**