



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



SPRING/SUMMER EDITION – 2017

Return to the Alamo



23rd ANNUAL VSPA REUNION

Lackland Air Force Base (Joint Base San Antonio)

OCTOBER 4 – 8, 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Greg Cain, Life Member #62
Binh Thuy 67-68



My Brothers and Sisters,

Warm regards to our members and the Sisterhood. October is on the horizon and we are looking forward to seeing everyone that can attend the reunion in San Antonio.

An important issue has come to our attention through Jaime Lleras (VSPA Service Officer) and Steve Flamm (VSPA member) regarding service connected disability claims in relation to Agent Orange exposure and subsequent illnesses. In addition to the cancers (approx. 36 types) there seems to be several types of peripheral neuropathy being reported. Usually this is reported along with diabetes but has been reported without. We need to have additional input from the membership about their personal experiences, as these conditions are not being compensated in most cases. I am asking for the members to bring or send information so we can accumulate data as to their experiences with neuropathy. The BOD will discuss this info and decide with membership input what to do with the data.

In spite of the aforementioned, I wish you all good health and we will see you in Texas.

Greg Cain, President
Binh Thuy 67-68

THE VSPA SISTERHOOD By Sheila Cain

Brothers and Sisters,

Summer is upon us. A time for parades, picnics, and fun. Hopefully it will be a safe, healthy, and happy one for all.

It's also time to plan for our reunion. This year we are meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The hotel is the Menger Hotel next to the historic Alamo. It is also near the River Walk.

On Saturday morning, the Sisterhood will have its annual meeting. We will discuss veteran issues and items that pertain to our membership. If there is a topic that you would like to be addressed, please feel free to let me know and I will be happy to put it on the agenda.

Just a reminder that at the Sisterhood meeting we hold a raffle. Please try to bring an item to be included for the ladies. It is a lot of fun. As is our tradition, we will be serving Mimosas at the meeting.

Saturday evening is our main event. A banquet and awards dinner. The ladies dress nicely for this occasion. At that time, we will have the Main Raffle of the reunion to help support the VSPA. If at all possible, please bring a gift for this as well.

As Hospitality Chairman, I am looking for anyone who will be driving to Texas that has a Van or a Truck. I need 3-4 vehicles to be able to go to the base and help transport supplies for the Hospitality



Room. If you can help in this endeavor, please contact me at 716-480-9101 as soon as possible so that I can make all the proper arrangements.

I look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio. It's going to be a great time.

Welcome Home and God Bless the United States of America!

Sheila Gervase-Cain, Sisterhood President
Wife of Greg Cain, Binh Thuy 67-68

smgervase@yahoo.com

716-771-1157



Thailand Dog Handlers Group Reports Donation Fundraiser Was An Overwhelming Success At The VSPA Tampa Reunion

The Thailand Dog Handlers donation fundraiser was able to generate \$2,000 which was divided equally between The Thailand Dog Handlers Web Site for its operating expenses and, for Sarge's Café, Inc. providing meals to needy students when school is not in session, establishing or supporting food banks for that purpose and to provide meals for the elderly in need. Jerry Dishman won the first prize of 8 Shields and Commemorative Badges. Lloyd Wilson won second prize of an Air Force Security Forces Association Silver Anniversary Shield and Pin set. Larry Poss won the Air Force Belt Buckle that converts into a knife. Two other prizes were donated to the fundraiser during the reunion. Roger Nelson won an Air Commandos Commemorative Badge and Salvatore Meli won a 6th SFS MacDill AFB Challenge Coin. Lt. Col. Melissa Brown the MacDill AFB SFS Commander won a 70th Anniversary MP, AP, SP, SF Commemorative Badge and turned around and gave it of one of the Honor Guard, Airman 1st Class Ring. There were some considerably sizeable individual donations this year. The funds are greatly appreciated by the two organizations. An Additional \$100 was raised and donated to Safeside for a memorial bench project at the AF Museum, Defender Statue at Wright-Patterson AFB. Thanks to all those who donated funds this year. We look forward to your support next year.

Ken Neal
John Homa

From the Editor

Hi, I am Mike Kennedy, the new Guardmount Editor. I served with the 3rd SPS at Bien Hoa, 69-70. While new to this job, I am a long time VSPA Life Member. I took this job to contribute something to our association. When I volunteered to take the reins from Steve Gattis, I told him I had some ideas for some new features and enhancements for Guardmount. First is an enhanced version of the Guardmount header that I created several years ago. Another is a series of high-resolution unit guidon graphics I recently created for all the AP/SP squadrons that served in SEA to attach to stories. I also have permission from the artist, a Vietnam Veteran to republish selected Vietnam related cartoons that we can all relate to even if we didn't experience them all. I hope everyone enjoys. Feel free to submit stories, photos, etc., or comments on Guardmount to my email listed in the Staff List at the end of each issue.

Donald Mullen - My Story

By Donald Robert Mullen, Bien Hoa 67-68



Born Donald Robert Mullen. May 19, 1945 in a small town in Maine. At the age of six, I lost my Mother to Bright's Decease. Having three older brothers was very hard for my Father to support us, as he was a Maine State Policeman.

I was adopted by my Uncle and Aunt. He was a Navy Pilot so we moved a few times. He flew with the

Blue Angels when we lived in Texas. After 7 years, I went back with my father as he had remarried. He did not want to split up the boys.

At the age of 19, I joined the Air Force for 4 years. I was stationed in Maine at a SAGE Base for a couple of years then in 1967, I went to Bien Hoa, Viet Nam with the 3rd SPS. On May 12, 1967 at 1:00 in the morning my Hut #59 was hit with a rocket. I was in the hut at the time. I was pulled out by someone I do not know. While in the hospital I was told I was bleeding from my ears, nose, legs and back. I had trouble with my hearing for a long time after and still do. I had some shrapnel in my back and hands. I was thrown a distance in the hut. I had pulled two mattresses over me just as the rocket hit. I have received two Purple Hearts for this. I had lost everything in my hut, including my camera, which I had taken a lot of pictures of movie stars who came to our base and LBJ. As a result, I now have limited use of my right arm and I have Tinnitus.

When I returned to the United States, I was stationed at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. About 3:00 in the morning on a Security Post I was on, I had a nervous breakdown where I tried to commit suicide. They strapped me down in a plane and flew me to a mental hospital at Eglin AFB in Florida where I spent time to get better. After a while they sent me back to Maxwell where I worked for a few months at the Motor Pool inspecting vehicles. They would not allow me to carry a gun anymore. Life after coming home was very tough. Lots of people teasing me. I had gone to Tech School for electronics and I worked for many years in Avionics.

I am retired now. I am 71 now and single. I was married twice but was not good to them due to my PTSD. I have no children. My health is good but the memories will always be there. I attended the VSPA Reunion for the first time in Tampa Florida. I still try to talk to the Vets on Facebook. Well, this is my story. Hope others will do the same.

Donald R. Mullen



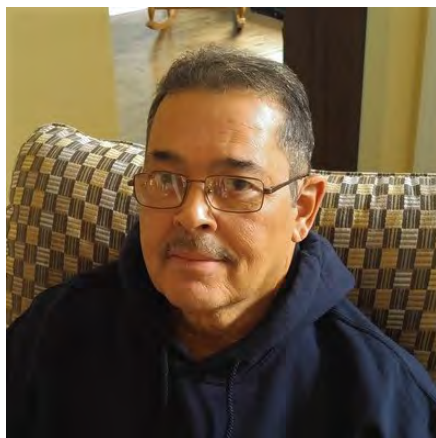
Don Mullen's Vietnam Photos





FROM YOUR NEW SERVICE OFFICER

JAIME A. LLERAS, Life Member #887, Binh Thuy AB - 1970



I am honored to have been selected as the VSPA Service Officer in November 2016. I'm looking forward to providing you with the most current information on Veteran's rights, claim process and updates on what the VA is working on that affect us all.

First, let me start by reminding you that, if you haven't yet:

1) Visit your VA or Primary Care doctor ASAP to have your prostate checked during a physical or lab work (PSA Test). This simple test(s) can be a life saver;

2) Register with the VA's Agent Orange Registry. According to the VA, the Agent Orange Registry health exam alerts veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to Agent

Orange exposure during your military service in Vietnam. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively. To register, contact your VA Environmental Health Coordinator about getting an Agent Orange Registry health exam as soon as possible.

Secondly, here's an update on a current (and scary) issue the VA is working on:

FROM THE VA

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently acknowledged that certain diseases showing up in Vietnam Veterans are directly linked to Liver Flukes. Thousands of Veterans from the Vietnam era are coming down with rare cancers, many of which are the result of Veterans having consumed parasitic fish while serving in Vietnam. The VA is seeing an increase in bile duct cancer, Cholangiocarcinoma, and liver cancer amongst Vietnam era veterans.

What Are Liver Flukes?

Liver flukes are parasites ingested in raw or under-cooked freshwater fish. They are endemic in parts of Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, along with other areas, mainly in China and South Korea. Some 25 million people are infected with the worms. Liver flukes die when frozen, but they can survive fermentation or pickling. Visitors traveling in endemic areas can also be infected.

What is Cholangiocarcinoma, and How Do Liver Flukes Cause It?

Cholangiocarcinoma is a rare cancer that affects the bile duct. Liver flukes are a risk factor; others include hepatitis B and C, cirrhosis and bile duct stones. After the worms are ingested, they can live for more than 25 years in the bile duct, causing inflammation and scarring that can eventually lead to cancer. The disease is difficult to treat, with many victims dying within months of diagnosis. A patient typically does not experience any symptoms, such as jaundice, until the end stages.

Can This Cancer Be Treated?

Bile duct cancer is unusual because it can be prevented in some cases. Pills can wipe out liver flukes early on, but the medicine is not effective in later stages after the worms have died and scarring has occurred. Surgery is possible in some cases, but the survival rate is only about 30 percent for five years, said Dr. Gregory Gores, a gastroenterologist and executive dean of research at Mayo Clinic. Affected countries, such as Vietnam and Laos, have not conducted extensive research to determine the extent of the problem. The world's highest rate of cholangiocarcinoma - about 84 new cases per 100,000 people -

is found in northeastern Thailand where many people eat a popular raw fish dish. In the U.S., cholangiocarcinoma is extremely rare, with around 1.7 in 100,000 people diagnosed each year.

What Is The Connection to Vietnam Veterans?

Men and women who served in the Vietnam War and ate raw or poorly cooked fish, sometimes while on patrol in the jungle after their rations ran out, could have been infected by liver flukes. Left untreated, they can experience symptoms related to bile duct cancer decades later. Because the disease is so rare and awareness about liver flukes is poor in the U.S., many veterans may not be aware of the possible connection to their service time.

Finally, if you need further information about this or any other diseases affecting Vietnam Veterans, contact your nearest VA clinic or facility. And, please don't try to work on a claim with the VA on your own. Always get help from a certified Service Officer from one of the several Veteran organizations such as the Disable American Veterans (DAV) or the Vietnam Veterans of American (VVA). Or, contact me via email – see above.

Jaime A. Lleras, USAF, CCM, Ret.

Chiefjal9@gmail.com

DAV Chapter Service Officer, Myrtle Beach, SC

VSPA Service Officer

632nd SPS, Binh Thuy AB, RVN – 1970

ATTENTION ALL VSPA MEMBERS

By Larry Breazeale, Bien Hoa 68-69

You might consider inquiring with your local VA hospital/VA POLICE, to see if they have annual events for Memorial Day, Veterans Day or a LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY at their location. If they do, that would be an excellent way to reach out to your fellow VIETNAM/THAILAND SP VETS in your community! The photo shows how an event like these will get the VSPA LOGO AND MESSAGE OUT THERE.

At age 21, Larry Breazeale (now MSgt, USAFR Security Forces, retired) served at Bien Hoa, Vietnam in the 3rd SPS. At age 43, he served in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Whenever and wherever he

engages in this type of networking, Larry always promotes the VSPA and his other organizations like the Air Force Security Forces Association (AFSFA), Air Force Association (AFA), Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Larry is a Life Member of both the VSPA & AFSFA and strongly encourages his fellow VSPA members to consider contacting their own local VA Hospital and VA POLICE to see if they have similar programs like the Long Beach, California VA Hospital has for their community.



AGENT ORANGE PROSTATE CANCER

By Steve Gattis, LM #49, Cam Ranh Bay 68-69



As life would sometimes dictate, we make decisions that can affect us years later. When I was at Kunsan Air Base, Korea in 1967, Paul Shave and I volunteered to go to Vietnam, something we did not have to do, but wanted to do. While others were leaving for bases in Europe, my decision was founded on the loss of friends from home who had been killed in action, and a sense of duty that drove me to follow in the footsteps of my father to serve my country during war.

The year in Vietnam was tough, but ended without being wounded or seriously injured...or, so we thought. Some injuries cannot be seen, and some do not become evident for many many years. I was diagnosed with Agent Orange related prostate cancer last October, a week after our reunion in Florida. Thankfully, I had followed studies on Agent Orange and had led prostate cancer discussions at VSPA reunions for several years. My PSA and biopsy-based Gleason scores were very low because I had pushed to have annual PSA tests and anticipated that I might have a problem since Vietnam Veterans have a 2 ½ times greater probability of contracting aggressive prostate cancer. The very early diagnosis made surgery unnecessary. Radiation treatments started on January 9, five days a week for eight weeks. With highly skilled oncologists, I should be cancer-free in at some time in the future, with long-term survival and a permanent cure that will be monitored by frequent PSA tests. The 40 radiation treatments ended in March. My first follow-up PSA test showed that it had been reduced by 50%! The next test is in July and will, hopefully, be lower.

As I write about having Agent Orange prostate cancer, something I knew could happen, I also think about what it was like to be a cop in Los Angeles County, knowing that being injured or killed in the line of duty was a possibility, something I regularly talked to my deputies about in terms of training, officer survival and estate planning for their survivors if something bad happened. Sadly, I lost over 30 friends in 32+ years, men and women who died or were killed in the line of duty. It happened, although my friends and partners never thought that their name would be on the peace officers memorial, just like our brothers in Vietnam and Thailand did not think that their names would be on a memorial like The Wall in Washington.

Prostate cancer is real. It will KILL you. All of us have lost VSPA buddies due to Agent Orange related cancers. When I talk about it at reunions, and ask if there are members who have had a PSA test or a digital rectal exam, there are always some VSPA members who have not been tested. Thankfully, that number gets smaller every year. There are always several members present at reunions who have been tested, diagnosed, treated and have survived! They are very willing to share information and they always encourage members to get tested because Agent Orange related prostate cancer will kill you. Even now that I have had a biopsy and have a positive diagnosis of prostate cancer, and absolutely knew it was a high probability because of exposure to Agent Orange, I still find it hard to believe that it happened to me, and I got tested every year.

I want to thank Jack Smith, Don Graham and Gary Jones for their willingness to talk about something that is consistently perceived as deeply personal. They take care of their own by talking about their treatment and survival. Although I have conducted a lot of personal research and have seen several doctors who provided excellent information, Jack, Don and Gary provided perspective that led to good decision making for me, for Lise, and for my children and 11 grandchildren. Get tested. Catch it early. Give yourself some options rather than letting Agent Orange take you to the grave. Get tested. Do it as an act of love for your families.

Since I was diagnosed with cancer, several of my VSPA brothers have also been tested. Thank you. Some were very lucky and had low PSA tests. One had a high PSA and a digital rectal exam that indicated a potential problem. The combination of both tests, just like mine, indicated a distinct need for

further investigation with a biopsy. The biopsy came back positive for prostate cancer. That brother and dear friend is John Risse. He discussed all of this with me and notified the VSPA on the Bulletin Boards. John was exactly 20 days behind me in the treatment program. Thankfully, his treatment has also been completed and his PSA has also been reduced. I send my best to all of you. PLEASE GET TESTED.

PROSTATE CANCER CAN KILL YOU!

Ten Minute Heels

By Frank Pilson, Cam Ranh Bay '66-'67

Last week we (Emma and I) were invited to a wedding down at the VA Hospital in Esmere, Delaware. It seems one of Emma's relatives was getting married in the VA Day Room. I had never been to the VA for wedding service.

It seems that their father is a patient down there with major medical problems and couldn't attend the 2nd service this Saturday.

I know most of us have been to a VA for PTSD, Agent Orange Screening, hearing aids etc. In all my VSPA reunions I never heard of one of my peers at a wedding.

The Lady from the VA invited fellow Vets in the day room to attend the wedding. The family had some VA forms to sign and hurry up and wait.

I noticed many Vets were in wheel chairs and were wearing caps. I welcomed home a fellow USAF Vet who was stationed at Da Nang in 1968-69. We talked for a few minutes about Nam.

While we were waiting, the wedding party arrived and the minister asked them a few questions. It was her first time to marrying someone in a VA hospital. She told us she wore 'ten minute high heels, then back to flats.'

A few Vets were outside for wedding and the marriage service started and was over in a few minutes. The picture guy was doing his thing.

The bride's father enjoyed the service and posed for pictures.

I thought about many of us still being able to function in the world today. These men fought for their country too and today brought something different into their daily routine.

Then the VA lady said "dinner time" and my fellow Vets were off to chow.

It was an interesting wedding service.

2016 VSPA Reunion Bios

Anthony "Tony" Palermo

Tony lives in Prescott, AZ. He has two adult children. Prior to his tour in Vietnam, he was stationed at Mather AFB, CA. He was stationed at Tan Son Nhut AB from December 1963 to December 1964. Upon return to CONUS, he was Honorably Discharged.



Raymond Blouse

Ray and his wife live in Riverview, Florida. Before to going to Vietnam, Ray was stationed at Bergstrom AFB near Austin, TX. He was assigned to the 377th Security Police Squadron at Tan Son Nhut AB. He worked on a Security Flight in the Bravo Sector.



Charles "Chuck" Edwards

Born in Philadelphia, PA. Lives in Jupiter, FL. Prior to Vietnam, Chuck was stationed at Ankora, Turkey. In 1969, he was stationed at Binh Thuy AB. After Binh Thuy, he was assigned to McDill AFB.

After four years with the Air Force, he was Honorably Discharged as a Sgt (E-4) and went to work as a Palm Beach County School

Policeman, where he worked for 16-1/2 years before retiring.



Dennis Green

Dennis lives on Long Island, New York. He is married and has two (adult) children. From 1965 to 1967 (18 month tour), he was stationed at Kadena AB, Okinawa.

He was assigned to Pleiku AB in 1967-1968. After departing Vietnam, he was stationed at Westhampton AFB, Long Island, NY. He retired after serving as the

Box Office Treasurer for Carnegie Hall.

Dana Hutchenson

Dana is married and lives in Zanesville, OH. Before going to Vietnam, Dana was stationed at Mather AFB, CA. His assignment in Vietnam was with the 377th Security Police Squadron at Tan Son Nhut AB, from October 1967 to October 1968. He served out the balance of his four years at Lockbourne AFB, near Columbus, OH. He was Honorably Discharged.



Don Mullen

Don Mullen lives in Nashua, New Hampshire. He was stationed at Bien Hoa AB in 1967-1968. As an Airman First Class, he worked Swing shift and Midnight shifts. He was wounded twice during rocket attacks and was awarded two Purple Heart decorations. Before he went to Vietnam, he was stationed at Topsham AFB, Maine; after Vietnam he was stationed at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. After receiving an honorable discharge, he went to work for the Kollsman Corporation, calibrating avionics equipment.



Jack & Pam Jobs

They reside in Colchester, CT. They have been married for 50 years and have 2 sons and 1 daughter. One of their sons is a Security Forces defender stationed at Beale AFB, CA. During his assignment at Phan Rang AB,



1967-1968, Jack was an Airman First Class working on Panther Flight. He worked in bunkers and towers and in machine gun jeeps on the perimeter. Prior to going to Phan Rang, his first assignment was at Andrews AFB. He returned to Andrews AFB when his tour in Vietnam was completed. Jack retired as a Master Sergeant after serving 21 years in the Air Force.

Nick & Inez Harper

Nick and Inez reside in Winterhaven, FL. They have been married for 55 years. They have two sons, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Before Vietnam, Nick was stationed at Minot AFB, ND. From June 1963 to February 1964, Nick was assigned to Tan Son Nhut AB.



Odell & Marva Smith

Their home is in Alachua, FL. Both are originally from Alabama. They have been married for 1-1/2 years. They have 15 grandchildren between them. Prior to his assignment at Bien Hoa AB, 1965-1966,



Odell was at Hamilton AFB, CA. His assignment following Bien Hoa AB was at Bitberg AB, Germany. Odell's first duty assignment was at McDill AFB. He retired from the Air Force with the rank of Lt. Col. after 25 years. His last assignment before retirement was at the Pentagon where he served as the Chief of the Law Enforcement Branch of the Security Police, Air Force Headquarters, Washington, D.C.



Karl Sheaffer

Karl was born in Harrisburg, Penn and now resides in Lewisberry, Penn. He served two tours in Vietnam. His first tour in 1968-1969 was at Cam Ranh Bay AB. His second tour was at Tan Son Nhut AB in 1970. Prior to his Vietnam tours he was stationed at Kadena AB, Okinawa. After

returning from Vietnam, he volunteered for and was assigned to Naha AB, Okinawa. He served 8 years in the Air Force.

After receiving an Honorable Discharge, he went to work for and retired from the Pennsylvania Capitol Police. He has three adult children, two sons and one daughter.

Steve Smith

Steve lives in Wilmington, NC. Steve served in the Air Force for 13 years. He was honorably discharged with the rank of TSgt. After leaving the Air Force he worked civil service in the area of security. Steve served at Bien Hoa AB, Phan Rang AB in 1970-1971. Then, from 1972 to 1976 he served at Korat AB, U-Tapao AB, and Ko Kha Air Station in Thailand.



Tom & Sue Kerr

Tom and Sue reside in Wesley Chapel, Florida. They have one daughter. Tom served with the 35th Security Police Squadron at Phan Rang Air Base from Dec. 1966 March 1969. Before going to Vietnam, Tom was stationed at Westover AFB. After his tour in Vietnam, he was assigned to Tainan Air Station, Taiwan.



YOUR SECURITY FORCES MUSEUM

A REQUEST FOR HELP AND INFORMATION

By Ken Neal, VSPA Liaison to the Security Forces Museum

Your Security Forces Museum is moving forward on a number of projects, the most important, of which, is to upgrade the Awards Panels within the Hall of Honor exhibit. We are reaching out to the VSPA membership for help. If you were awarded the Bronze Star with "V", The Airman's Medal, The Distinguished Flying Cross, or the Silver Star and are not 100 percent sure that your name is currently in our awards display, please do the following:

1. Make a copy of your award citation, certificate, and Special Order.
2. Black out your AFSN/SSN and those of others who are also on the orders.
3. Indicate which others are also AP/SP members.
4. Indicate which squadron and base you were assigned to when you performed the action resulting in the award.
5. Send these documents to the museum at the following e-mail address:

george.strader@us.af.mil

To date this year, we have found 30+ Awards of the Bronze Star Medal w/V and 18 Airman's Medals that were not recognized in our Hall of Honor. All of those awards were located on Award Special Orders for other people. We believe there may be many more and we wish to honor those who received this recognition. If you have any questions, please call me direct at 310-733-8232 or you may send e-Mail to me at MAXK000@AOL.COM.



Ken Neal, Life Member #80

377th SPS L/E Tan Son Nhut AB

By Jack Smith, 377th SPS 68-69

This is for the 377th SPS troops who are attending the VSPA reunion in Oct. I have a list now that includes us and our wives, 32 total as of today. I know that will increase as we get closer to the reunion. Now I always get the 377th together for a dinner at the VSPA. Here is what I need from all of you. I have found a place that will be a big treat for all of us. It is large and has great food. So I can arrange for us to go there (within walking distance of our hotel). It would be a lunch buffet. I am working on the price per person and it looks like under \$20.00 per person. This would be on Friday our free day. So does a buffet lunch meet everyone's approval??? Please let me know here, in an email or P Message on Facebook.

377th SPS troops heads up if you have "NOT" contacted me and you are going to the VSPA reunion I still have some 377th SPS coins and decals. Contact me if you want any of them. Coins by mail are \$13.00 at the reunion \$10.00, the decals are \$8.00 mail or reunion.



Vietnam Security Police Association
23rd Annual Reunion
San Antonio, Texas – October 4-8, 2017
Lackland Air Force Base (Joint Base San Antonio)

The VSPA reunion will be held at the MENDER Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, phone 1-800-345-9285. The contract room rate is \$129 per night plus tax. The rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. Refrigerator in room based UPON REQUEST AND AVAILABILITY. ALL ROOMS ARE NON-SMOKING. A reduced rate for valet parking is available for \$20 per day with in and out privileges. Parking in city lots is available in the area for \$12 to \$20 per day. Use the following link to see more information about this beautiful hotel where US presidents have stayed: <http://www.mengerhotel.com/> The Alamo is next door to the hotel. The Riverwalk is a five minute walk to exceptional shopping and dining. Other shopping is also very convenient. Airport shuttle: SuperShuttle \$19 one-way, \$34 round trip. A SuperShuttle information counter is located in the Airport Baggage Area.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call 1-800-345-9285, ask for Reservations and refer to our Group: **Vietnam Security Police Association**. Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check-out time is 12:00 noon. **The room rate is locked in for us, but there will be a deadline for reservations of September 3, 2017. After that date, rooms will be space available only and AT THE HOTEL'S PREVAILING RATE. Make your reservations early!** If you encounter any difficulty with hotel reservations, reserve the room, obtain the confirmation number and contact the Reunion BRAT at 1-360-663-2521. Explain the problem and she will correct it for you. You can also use the following link for online reservations: <https://reservations.mengerhotel.com/75799?groupID=1774328> Group Code: **1017VIETNAM**

AIRPORT INFORMATION: Book your flight to “San Antonio International Airport” (**AIRPORT CODE: SAT**).

REUNION REGISTRATION: The registration fee is \$185 per person. Please use the Registration Forms.

AGENDA: Generally accurate, but is still subject to change due to base operational requirements for Security Forces host elements and their Op Tempo for a base visit on Thursday, October 5):

- Reception dinner buffet, Wednesday evening, October 4th
- Thursday, October 5th: Base tour, lunch with the Defenders, briefings from host elements. Evening open.
- Friday, October 6th: FREE DAY for shopping, local tours and meals with friends. Evening open.
- Saturday morning, October 7th: VSPA Business Meeting. Afternoon open.
- Saturday morning, October 7th: VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions. Afternoon open.
- Saturday evening, October 7th: Banquet dinner with guest speaker, awards and raffle.
- Sunday morning, October 8th: Memorial service – reading of the names.
- Hospitality Suite stocked with FREE snacks & beverages will be open as much as possible.
- VSPA BX Store will be open as much as possible.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR THOSE ARRIVING EARLY: There will be a Security Forces Academy graduation at 1530 hours on October 3rd. While NOT a specific part of our reunion activities, our members who are arriving early to visit with friends and explore San Antonio have been invited to attend the graduation at the Security Forces Academy.

If you have a question or need some more info about this reunion, please contact VSPA President Greg Cain gjcain@roadrunner.com or VSPA Sisterhood President Sheila Cain smgervase@yahoo.com or, call them at (716) 771-1157. We hope to see you in SAN ANTONIO for our 23rd Annual VSPA Reunion!

“We Take Care of Our Own!”



**VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION
REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**



**Lackland Air Force Base
San Antonio, Texas
October 4 – 8, 2017**

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 guests(s) _____

Banquet meal selection: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN _____

List any special needs: _____

In case of emergency, notify: _____

Is this your first VSPA Reunion? YES: ____ NO: ____

REGISTRATION FEES

Are your annual VSPA dues current? **Dues Renewals Only** \$15 = \$ _____
(Not for new members - to join the VSPA, please see "VSPA Membership" on the instructions page).

Number of persons attending the Reunion including you # _____ X \$185 = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED = \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

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

THE REUNION BRAT
16817 Mountainside Drive East
Greenwater, WA 98022
(360) 663-2521 TheReunionBRAT@hotmail.com

We must also have your complete full name as it appears on your state driver's license or military ID card so that you can be allowed onto Lackland AFB with our VSPA Entry Authority List.

A Confirmation of Registration and an itinerary will be mailed to you by September 11, 2017. 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. **HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** Call the Menger Hotel at 1-800-345-9285, ask for Reservations and refer to our Group: **Vietnam Security Police Association**. **Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check-out time is 12:00 noon. The room rate is locked in for us, but there will be a deadline for reservations of September 3, 2017. After that date, rooms will be space available only and AT THE HOTEL'S PREVAILING RATE. Make your reservations early!** If you encounter any difficulty with hotel reservations, reserve the room, obtain the confirmation number and contact the Reunion BRAT at 1-360-663-2521. Explain the problem and she will correct it for you. You can also use the following link for online reservations:

<https://reservations.mengerhotel.com/75799?groupID=1774328> Group Code: **1017VIETNAM**

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.
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:** This is where we will mail your confirmation.
5. **LACKLAND AFB ENTRY ACCESS FORM:** Please make sure we have your full name as it appears on your ID card (**military ID or Driver's License**) for yourself and all guests. This information is MANDATORY for access to LACKLAND AFB. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON BASE IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION.**
6. **TELEPHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS:** Your contact information is vital to a successful reunion. 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 it appears on the ID (**Military ID or Driver's License**) they will be using to enter LACKLAND AFB as this information will be our VSPA Entry Access List.
8. **RENEWAL OF ANNUAL DUES:** VSPA **members only** - you can renew your 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. For information on how to become a member, contact Paul Shave at 505-831-9401 or email him: Paul_Shave@hotmail.com. You'll have to submit a completed application form and a DD-214 showing service in the USAF as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or an Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand 1958 to 1976, and a discharge under honorable conditions. \$15 dues must be sent in with your application.
10. **REUNION COST:** The registration fee is \$185.00 per person.



Guest List Procedures

802nd Security Forces Squadron

LACKLAND AFB, TEXAS

(Joint Base San Antonio)

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 4 – 8, 2017. Additionally, some early arrivals may be attending the Security Forces Academy graduation on October 3rd.

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./00000000	01/15/65

<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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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 are 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.

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 LACKLAND AFB.

GROUP SEATING AND TABLE RESERVATION REQUEST VSPA Awards Banquet Saturday, October 7, 2017

Please use this form to request group seating by squadron, base, skill, or large family with guests for the awards banquet based upon the following examples:

Squadron (i.e. 14th SPS, 377th SPS, etc)

Base (i.e. Binh Thuy, Cam Ranh Bay, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Phu Cat, etc.)

Skill (K9, Safeside, etc.)

Large Families, including guests of members (i.e. K9, Safeside, Squadron leadership, etc.)

Please make contact with each member of your group and have ONE person act as coordinator to provide the requested information so that there are no duplicate requests. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request provided that the Reunion BRAT has the information **BEFORE** the night of the banquet. Tables will be set in groups of eight or ten. Empty seats will be filled by other attendees, including active duty personnel from the Security Forces units that are supporting our reunion.

GROUP NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

Name Phone number

NAME	NAME	NAME
1. _____	11. _____	21. _____
2. _____	12. _____	22. _____
3. _____	13. _____	23. _____
4. _____	14. _____	24. _____
5. _____	15. _____	25. _____
6. _____	16. _____	26. _____
7. _____	17. _____	27. _____
8. _____	18. _____	28. _____
9. _____	19. _____	29. _____
10. _____	20. _____	30. _____

A MESSAGE FROM JANET MATTHEWS, CHAIR OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR COMMITTEE, TO THE 2016 RECIPIENTS OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR:

Congratulations to the 2016 recipients of the Warriors Medal of Valor. Sarge would be proud to have you included in this special group. For the new members of the VSPA, be assured that Sarge would seek you out just so he could say, "Welcome Home, Welcome to the VSPA." Not all of you had the chance to meet Sarge, though I hope you have heard about him. Alvin W. Matthews, MSgt, USAF retired, served in the 483rd Security Police Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam from January 1971 to January 1972. He was an instructor at the Security Police Academy before he retired from the Air Force in 1980. He found the VSPA on the Internet and like many of you, he kind of watched from a distance before deciding to join or attend a reunion. It is an honor to say that he is Life Member #127. Sarge posted his last Guardmount on January 4, 2008, his 66th birthday. His resting place is plot number **111** at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Scottsboro, Alabama, a plot he specifically selected to honor his Brothers. We have some wonderful memories of our Sarge. I am so glad that he found the VSPA. He loved this association, he loved his Brothers, and I know he is proud of the continued commitment and growth. He would definitely tear up at the thought that you continue his dream of honoring his VSPA Brothers with this medal.

The Warriors Medal of Valor Request for Nominations

Sarge and the Nominations Committee established the following criteria for consideration: The nominee 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.



You may submit the nomination by including his name and your justification for why this member deserves the medal. Please include as many **details** on his service as you can. Nominations must be submitted to me at the following email address: janetmm62@gmail.com no later than **August 30, 2017**. The Warriors Medal selection committee will receive nominations for the award **until August 30**. The committee must have time to review the nominations, make the selections, engrave the medals and prepare the certificates. The medals and certificates will be presented at the VPSA Reunion Banquet in October.

Thank you for your service and WELCOME HOME.
Janet Matthews, Daughter of VSPA Life Member #127



**BUSINESS MEETING
22nd ANNUAL VSPA REUNION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016**



1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 0914 hours by President Greg Cain
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPARTED BROTHERS INCLUDING:**
 - A. The 111 Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand.
 - B. All VSPA members listed at Life Member #111, which was established as a tribute to those who did not survive the war, and those **137 members of the VSPA** who died as members in good standing.
3. **INVOCATION** – Chaplain Jeff Kerkhoff
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Vice President Jack Smith.
5. **INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICERS** by name, squadron and place of residence:
 - Greg Cain, President; LM #62; West Seneca, NY; Binh Thuy 1967-68.
 - Edwin “Jack” Smith, Vice President; LM#453; West Jefferson, Ohio; Tan Son Nhut 68-69
 - Bill Marshall, Second Vice President; LM #85; Westerville, OH; Phu Cat, 1968-69.
 - Jerry Nelson, Secretary; LM #668; San Antonio, TX; Safeside Phu Cat 821CSPS, Phan Rang 821CSPS, Tuy Hoa 821CSPS, 69-70
 - Richard Garcia, Treasurer; LM #82; Massapequa, NY; Phan Rang, 1969-70.
 - Steve Shelt, Historian; LM #157; Evans, Georgia; Pleiku 67-68
 - Don Poss, Communications Director; LM #37; Hemet, CA; Da Nang K-9 1965-66.
 - William Piazza, Past President; LM #141; Del City, OK, Cam Ranh Bay 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71.
 - Steve Gattis, President Emeritus; LM #49; Glen Rose, TX; Cam Ranh Bay, 1968-69.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM BY PRESIDENT CAIN WITH NINE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the previous annual business meeting. Rather than taking the time to read them during this meeting, we published the minutes in Guardmount. Motion to approve by Hector Ramos. 2nd by Rick Gano. Approved.
7. **REPORTS BY THE PRESIDENT, BOARD MEMBERS, APPOINTED STAFF AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**
 - 7.1 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT** by President Greg Cain – A Board of Directors meeting was held on Wednesday evening. We discussed items of concern to the Board that will be mentioned during the course of this meeting.
 - 7.2 **GUARDMOUNT REPORT** – by Steve Gattis so that Erlyce Pekas can attend the VSPA Sisterhood meeting. Steve expressed their appreciation for everyone who submitted stories and

articles for Guardmount. Erlyce and Steve will continue as Assistant Editors to help our new Editor, Mike Kennedy who served in the 3rd SPS at Bien Hoa. He retired as a lieutenant from the University of Southern California Police Department and is very involved as a State Level officer in the VVA. Mike developed the masthead we have been using for several years. He is unable to travel to all reunions but is very willing to use his graphics skills and newspaper layout experience to publish Guardmount for our association. Erlyce and Steve look forward to working with Mike. Erlyce will continue handling her administrative duties with the coordination of printing and all mailing. As in the past, we will always mail a hardcopy of Guardmount to those who have written something that was published in Guardmount. Steve asked the members to continue sending stories, photos and articles for publication in Guardmount because it is their opportunity to preserve a piece of their history. The new email address for Guardmount articles and photos will be: Guardmount@vspa.com. DUE TO THE GROWING EXPENSE OF PRINTING AND POSTAGE TO MAIL GUARDMOUNT TO OUR MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE COMPUTERS, GUARDMOUNT WILL BE PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR IN THE FUTURE – WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO EDITIONS: SPRING/SUMMER AND FALL/WINTER. Motion to Approve by Bud Owens. 2nd by Lowell Knapp. Approved.

- 7.3 TREASURER’S REPORT** by Richard Garcia. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Amount in checking account: \$1,955.46. Amount in savings account \$60,540.26. Amount in CD \$10,006.43. TOTAL \$72,502.15. Motion to receive the financial report by Tony Morris. 2nd by Mike DeTuccio. Approved.
- 7.4 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** by Paul Shave. Report attached to the file copy of the minutes. Total number of VSPA 1248, including 924 Life Members who have paid their dues for life. The 924th Life Member just signed up at this reunion! Paul thanked members for their donations of \$15 to support members who cannot afford to pay their dues. Motion to Approve by Scott Baker. 2nd by Van Digby. Approved.
- 7.5 BX SALES REPORT** by Van Digby. The BX continues to do well with sales from reunions, online and mail orders. This year we have added patches, hats and a polo shirt for men and women. We are currently working to expand the K-9 section, finding items that will be of interest to Dog Handlers. We are working to make the Challenge Coin provided by Jeff Wedding available in the BX. Hopefully, we will have them available next year. Also we continue to look for items for Thailand members. Thanks to all members for their support of the BX. Motion to Approve by Bud Owens. 2nd by Lowell Knapp. Approved.
- 7.6 WEB SITE REPORT** by Don Poss, Communications Director. Don updated the members of his on-going issues with eyesight and recent surgeries. He has several planned projects and is looking forward to completing them, including several graphic representations of our history. We have a new program driving our roster that is faster and formatted for mobile devices, cell phones, iPads, etc. He is looking forward to being able to spend more time on the computer to finish several projects.

Steve Gattis added the following to the web site report, reminding all present that our status as a Tax Exempt Military Organization of War Veterans requires that we follow IRS Rules and Regulations regarding the prohibition of political activity in support of or against specific candidates for office. The VSPA does not pay income tax and all donations to the VSPA are tax-exempt for donors. Our exempt status is the equivalent of the government and the public

paying us to conduct our business on behalf of our membership. We cannot receive the benefit of tax exemption if we engage in political activity as an organization. Therefore, the VSPA and other organizations like the VVA cannot advocate for or against candidates for political office, especially during the coming highly contested Presidential elections in November. The VSPA must demonstrate compliance by removing political comments from our bulletin boards when members attempt to organize votes or begin speaking for or against candidates. Members are free to engage in whatever political activity they desire as long as it is not in conjunction with the VSPA and our tax exempt activities which include the web site, the bulletin boards and the VSPA private group on Facebook. Motion to Approve by Mike DeTuccio. 2nd by Tony Morris. Approved.

- 7.7 HISTORIAN'S REPORT** by Steve Shelt. The VSPA archives are stored in Steve's office and have been stagnant for two years. These consist of six cases of archives. There has not been any information received from members in two years. Steve requested any historical documents, duty rosters, after action reports, etc., to be sent to him for addition to the archives. He is working to move some archives to a more modern electronic storage system. It is a work in progress. He requested that members assist him in keeping our history up-to-date. Motion to Approve by Van Digby. 2nd by Bud Owens. Approved.

SECURITY FORCES MUSEUM UPDATE: Presented by Ken Neal, VSPA Liaison to the Security Forces Museum and Member of the SF Museum Foundation. The Museum is open for visits and will be part of our tours at the 2017 reunion at Lackland. The VSPA Board voted to use funds specifically donated by members for the museum to replace the tattered and badly damaged set of 50 State flags that are flown daily at the museum. The flags have been delivered to the museum and presented on behalf of the VSPA by Ken Neal. Motion to Approve by Howard Yates. 2nd by Scott Baker. Approved

- 7.8 KENNEL MASTER:** Kennel Master Jim Stastny had to leave the meeting due to a leg injury: Due to his injury, there was no report submitted for the Kennel Master.

OLD DAWGS & PUPS REPORT by Jerry Nelson. Bill Cummings was not present; however, he submitted his report to the Secretary. The Old Dawgs & Pups program has supported K-9 troops for 11 years. Their mission is to support Base Security, FOBs and Outposts, and OTW Explosive teams. The program has supported 530 MWD teams at 139 MWD Kennels. They support teams from all branches of the military. The program has sent equipment, of various types, totaling \$149,832.00 down range! Their leading sponsor is Leatherman Tool Company, which has donated \$71,949.00 to the program. Bill wanted to thank VSPA members for their donations totaling \$23,639.00 (individual VSPA members and raffles). He also wanted to thank Don and Larry Poss for creating and maintaining the Old Dawgs and Pups website. Motion to Approve by Scott Baker. 2nd by Bob Curnick. Approved.

- 7.9 SAFESIDE LIAISON REPORT:** Presented by Safeside Liaison David Pierson. The next Safeside reunion will be at Moody AFB, Georgia, in November 6-9, 2017. We had a Board of Directors meeting at Moody AFB, GA and had an opportunity to meet the new 820th BDG Commander, Col Kevin Walker. He was a former member of the 820th BDG. He pledged to be a prominent supporter of the Safeside Association. CMSGT (Ret) Rick Parsons, 820th BDG, is forming a Safeside Chapter at Moody AFB, GA to promote membership. The Association BODs has approved placing a Safeside Memorial Bench at the National Museum at Dayton, OH. It will be very similar to the VSPA bench that was dedicated in October 2011.

We will have a fund-raising drive to procure the funding of the bench. The approximate cost will be around \$5,000. Donations will be accepted from anyone wanting to support this effort. The bench will be located at the Peacekeeper statue, adjacent to the VSPA Bench. Motion to Approve by Scott Baker. 2nd by Hector Ramos. Approved.

7.10 SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT – By Bud Owens and Jaime Lleras. Bud has not been able to attend a VSPA Reunion the last three years due to health issues. Bud talked about the DAV.org website, which can be of great assistance in obtaining benefits from the VA. Jaime Lleras, a DAV Service Officer and retired Chief Master Sergeant will be the new VSPA Service Officer. Bud Owens will continue as a VSPA Service Officer, serving as an assistant to Jaime. Bud strongly suggested when filing a claim, do not go the VA to file it, go to the DAV. This is important to ensure you are represented properly. Motion to Approve by Tony Morris. 2nd by Odell Smith. Approved.

7.11 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT by Jim Lebowitz. Eight applications were mailed to applicants. Two were returned. The \$1,000 Annual J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship is awarded to: Mackenzie Richter. Motion to Approve by Bud Owens. 2nd by Rick Gano. Approved.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

8. OLD BUSINESS –

8.1 REUNION SITE SELECTION FOR 2018: Kennel Master Jim Stastny had to leave the meeting due to a leg injury: Due to his injury, there was no report submitted for the Kennel Master.

- a. Sites are selected two years in advance so that planning by the VSPA and the host Security Forces Squadron can begin early and they have the time necessary to adapt to active-duty operational requirements. MacDill AFB, Florida was selected in 2014 as the site for the 2016 reunion. Joint Base Andrews, Maryland was selected as the backup location in case the Security Forces Squadron at MacDill AFB could not host our reunion due to the impact of other operations and deployments.
- b. As in the past, the 2017 reunion will be held in October, the Wednesday through Sunday before the Columbus Day holiday (which is always the second Monday in October). **The 2017 reunion will be held at Lackland AFB October 4 thru 8, 2017.**
- c. The site selection process will be conducted by VSPA President Greg Cain and Vice Presidents Jack Smith and Bill Marshall.
- d. President Greg Cain explained past reunions and the bylaw requirement to choose by alternating regions in the CONUS: WEST, CENTRAL and EAST and **THAT WE MUST CHOOSE A LOCATION IN THE WESTERN CONUS FOR 2018.**

USAF ACTIVE DUTY BASES IN THE WESTERN US ARE;

JB Lewis-McCord, WA
Fairchild AFB, WA
Los Angeles AFB, CA

8.2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The slate for Board of Directors is:

Greg Cain President

For Vice President: Jaime Lleras, Bill Marshall, Ken Neal, Bud Owens, Hector Ramos

Jerry Nelson Secretary
Richard Garcia Treasurer
Steve Shelt Historian

All candidates except for Vice President ran unopposed. There were five candidates for Vice President. One ballot was emailed to Steve Gattis, 44 were mailed to Steve Gattis and verified. One ballot was not eligible as it came from an Associate Member, which is an honorary membership. 51 Ballots were cast at the reunion. The Vice President candidate with the most votes was Hector Ramos. The Vice President candidate with the second highest number of votes was Bill Marshall and will therefore, continue as 2nd Vice President.

Motion to approve the election of the new Board of Directors for the term of office, which will be for the next two years, by Lowell Knapp. 2nd by Tony Morris. Motion approved by acclamation.

THE NEXT ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN TWO YEARS AT THE 2018 REUNION.

9. NEW BUSINESS

NONE.

10. AFFIRMATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The following is a legal requirement as a Tax Exempt entity and a major requirement for banking purposes with the authorization to sign checks for the Association during the coming year.

10.1 THE OFFICERS ARE:

- President Gregory J. Cain (authorized to sign checks)
- Vice President Hector Ramos (authorized to sign checks)
- Treasurer Richard Garcia (authorized to sign checks)
- Second Vice President Bill Marshall
- Historian Steve Shelt
- Secretary Jerry R. Nelson
- Past President William “Pete” Piazza
- President Emeritus Steve Gattis
- Communications Director Don L. Poss

Motion to Approve by Ken Neal. 2nd by Don Ashby. Approved

10.2 AFFIRMATION OF APPOINTED POSITIONS – By VSPA President Greg Cain: The existing appointed positions are hereby re-appointed for the next year, subject to future changes per the Constitution & By-Laws.

11. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

11.1 President Greg Cain presented information regarding Agent Orange and stated that October was Agent Orange Awareness Month. Please contact your representatives in Congress regarding Senate Bill 2921 and House Resolution 1769 regarding the extension of Agent Orange research to families and seven generations.

11.2 Several members discussed their ongoing treatment for AGENT ORANGE PROSTATE CANCER, including the need for diagnosis with a PSA test and a digital rectal exam as indicators for a biopsy of the prostate gland. Of all those present, only one member had never been tested. He was urged to get tested as Vietnam Veterans had a 2 ½ times greater probability of contracting an aggressive form of prostate cancer that can lead to death. Treatments discussed included surgical removal and the new DaVinci robotic surgery, radiation therapy, proton therapy, radioactive seed implants, freezing and hormone therapy. GET TESTED!

12. EVENTS BEING HELD WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS:

12.1 BARKSDALE AFB SALUTE AND WELCOME FOR VIETNAM VETERANS: The 307th Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, is hosting a Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's celebration on November 11, 2016.

When: 11 Nov 2016 / Cocktails 5:00 PM / Event 5:30 PM

Location: Bossier City Civic Center, Louisiana

12.2 Safeside Reunion at Moody AFB, Georgia 6-9 November, 2017.

13. REMINDERS

13.3 The Awards banquet tonight will begin with a no-host bar at 1700, posting of the colors at 1800, followed by dinner, awards and raffles. In the interest of time, we will not have a guest speaker this year.

13.4 Reminder that a Worship Service will be conducted at 0800 Sunday by Chaplains Jim Stastny and Jeff Kerkhoff.

13.5 Reminder that our annual Memorial for our 111 begins at 0900 Sunday. The names of all Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand will be read at that time.

14. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

14.1 There will be a collection for the 6th SFS Defenders and their families on Saturday night.

14.2 The Air Force Security Forces Association is accepting bios, photos and stories for their 3rd history book. All VSPA members and AFSFA members are eligible to submit. They would like to pre-sell as many books as possible.

14.3 Mike Mahn, a Security Police Veteran of Bien Hoa Air Base, who served with Pete Piazza, has written a book that is both a personal memoir and a review of what happened during Tet 68 at Bien Hoa Air Base. Mahn was a K9 handler and credits Pete Piazza with saving his life. The book is titled *AMERICAN PASSAGE* and is available on Amazon.com for Kindle and is also in print.

15. CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 1128 hours.

Motion to Approve by Tony Morris. 2nd by Ken Neal. Approved

MINUTES BY:

Jerry Nelson, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Greg Cain, President



Vietnam Veterans Memorial “Wall of Faces”

By Mike Kennedy, Bien Hoa '69-'70

As the VVMF continues to work on the plans for the Education Center (Museum) adjacent to the Wall, they are desperately looking for photos for the 58,318 names inscribed on the Memorial. Currently there are 5,705 individuals who do not have a photo attached to their record.

If you have a picture of a loved one or fellow veteran whose name is on The Wall, please help the Memorial Fund honor these individuals by putting a face with a name. Regardless of whether or not the Memorial Fund has a photo of the individual already, we encourage you to submit it anyway. We are trying to collect as many photos of each individual as possible.

More information and links for online procedures and printing forms is available on the VVMF website at <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>. Please help if you can.

NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2014 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed. Elections will be held this year in Tampa.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Greg Cain; Binh Thuy 67-68; gjcain@roadrunner.com 716-771-1157

VICE PRESIDENT: Hector Ramos; Binh Thuy 69-70; hramos926@verizon.net 732-713-3466

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com 614-623-3568

SECRETARY: Jerry Nelson; Safeside Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70; jrmel1423@aol.com 210-273-4777.

TREASURER: Richard Garcia; Phan Rang 69-70; cal400@optonline.net 516-799-9205

HISTORIAN: Steve Shelt; Phu Cat & Pleiku 67-68; sshelt1102@gmail.com 706-231-5056

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X

DonPossLM37@vspa.com 951-325-7244

PAST PRESIDENT: William "Pete" Piazza; Cam Ranh Bay 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71;

WPIAZZA@aol.com 405-670-3101 or 405-921-8900

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Steve Gattis; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; SGattis-LM49@vspa.com

254-898-2647

APPOINTED STAFF:

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN Paul Shave; Binh Thuy 68-69; Paul_Shave@hotmail.com

505-831-9401

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT Janet Matthews; Sisterhood VP; janetmm62@gmail.com 205-663-

7662

K-9 KENNEL MASTER Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net

301-482-2659

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Keith Young; Binh Thuy, Phu Cat 70-71; kcy9540@aol.com

716-549-0715

SERVICE OFFICER Bud Owens; Binh Thuy 66-67; betbudowe@comcast.net 603-7781990

BX STORE MANAGERS: Van and Joyce Digby, assisted by daughter and son-in-law Kim &

Brent Budzinski—MAIL ORDER available by phone 989-667-9117 or email: jad403@att.net or

vad403@att.net (** Please note these are new email addresses for Van and Joyce **)

CHAPLAIN Steve Janke; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; Kobuc X448; Jank953208@aol.com

201-507-9038

CHAPLAIN Jim Stastny; Korat 7071; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net 301-482-2659

CHAPLAIN Bill Cooley; Cam Ranh Bay 7172; Mingo 30A0 BCAJ@gvtc.com 830-899-7542

CHAPLAIN Jeff Kerkhoff; Tan Son Nhut 72-73; (no email); 626-3386846

GUARDMOUNT EDITOR: Mike Kennedy; Bien Hoa 69-70; mike3sps@verizon.net

909-563-0107

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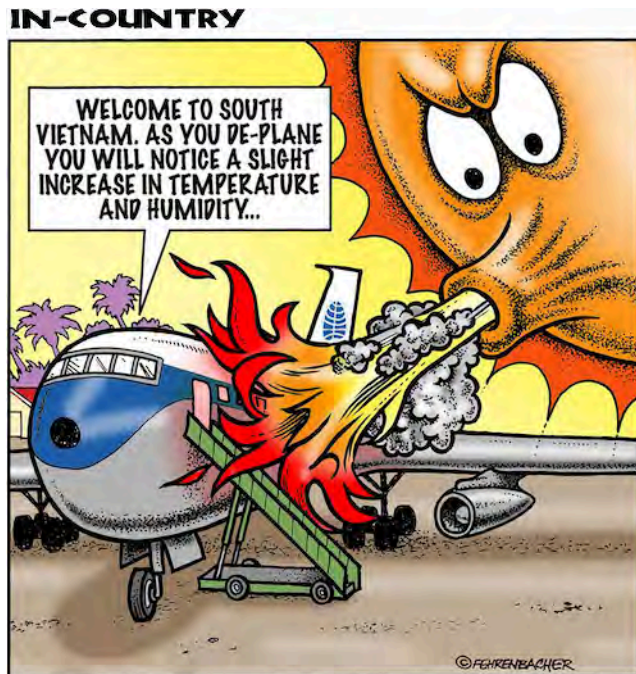
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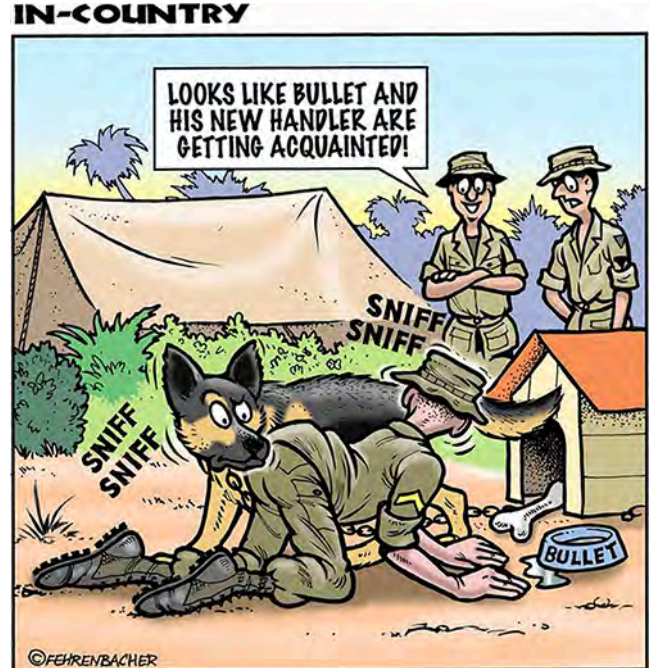
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THE FIRST OF MANY UNDERSTATEMENTS!



THE SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN DOG AND HANDLER.

These In-Country Cartoons are printed by permission of the creator Phil Fehrenbacher. Phil served with the Army in Vietnam from FEB 1968 to OCT 1969. His cartoons depict the experiences and memories of veterans who served in South Vietnam. As the In-Country Facebook page says, the cartoons aren't always funny, but are meant to jog the memory of other vets. After creating over a hundred cartoons, Phil also published his cartoons in a book "In-Country: Memories of a Tour of Duty in South Vietnam". While we may not have experienced all of the situations depicted, we can all relate to the memories.

A Warrior's Soul

So softly as they play, heavenly harps so far away.

Gossamer wing angels, singing quietly by the staircase to heaven.

Warriors on their God given journey into eternity.

No wrongs, no rights, just battlefield casualties on a heavenly flight.

Their fight is over, glory be, for their body is gone, but their soul, like an eagle, soars on, and forever remembered on that black, granite wall.

Heroes, one and all!

Jackie R. Kays

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