



**A Publication of the Vietnam
Security Police Association**

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Fall 2012 Issue



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



VSPA Life Member #363 Gary Jones pictured with General Hertog at the Pentagon, after her retirement ceremony, June 25, 2012.



Air Force's Former Top Cop Retires

Major General Mary Kay Hertog, the Air Force's former Top Cop, retired during ceremonies at The Pentagon on 25 June 2012.

General Hertog is the only career Security Police/ Security Forces Officer to ever be promoted to the two-star rank.

Many of you will remember General Hertog as our guest speaker for our 2007 Reunion in Washington, DC. She really connected with our VSPA Members and Sisterhood. Her Dad was the late Colonel Don Reeves, and he was VSPA LM #450 as well. Col Reeves was a career Air Police/Security Police and served as the Commander, 35th Security Police Squadron, Phan Rang AB, RVN. General Hertog fully understood that war and its effects on those who served and their families.

General Hertog entered the Air Force in 1978, as

Major General Hertog retires—story continued on page 3

President's Corner

By Phil Carroll, President VSPA



Brothers and friends, we're getting very close to another reunion. Plans are progressing rapidly as they usually do this close to the day we'll get together. I'm very pleased this year that we'll be doing a couple special things that speak strongly not only to the feelings of Brotherhood that draw and hold us together, but things that actively and specifically carry out the purposes of the VSPA.

The first purpose listed in our Constitution is to perpetuate the memory of those Brothers we lost in Vietnam and Thailand during the Vietnam War. This year we're presented with an extraordinary opportunity to do just that. Don Poss, with help from a few other members and a Navy Vietnam Veteran, has discovered the gravesite of an Air Force Security Policeman who was killed in the line of duty at Tan Son Nhut AB during the war. We never knew that this man, Sgt Bruce Dale Jones, was one of us.

By an amazing chance of fate and with a lot of hard work Don discovered Sgt Jones' story, and that he was buried within about two hours' drive from our reunion. Details of the memorial ceremony we're holding there on Friday, October 5 have been emailed to members and posted on VSPA's bulletin board (www.voy.com/287/), and there's more on page 13 of this issue. If you're getting this newsletter by mail instead of downloading it, call me and I'll send you the information on how to sign up for the memorial event.

Because of the tremendous amount of work he's put into making this memorial happen, and the personal relationships he's developed with local representatives, I've asked Don Poss to be the master of ceremonies at the cemetery. He's asked Past President Newell Swartz to speak for the VSPA at the ceremony - we're being very well represented.

The second and third purposes of our association are preserving our history and the hard lessons we learned in Vietnam and Thailand. Even though we nailed those down with the publication of our history book a couple years ago, Don Poss' work on finding Sgt Jones is proof that the more we look the more we might learn. Speaking of our history book, we still have copies available for sale.

The third listed purpose of the VSPA is "support of the active-duty men and women of the United States Air Force Security Forces..." As usual we'll be visiting at least one of the three Security Forces squadrons in the area of this year's reunion. We'll have lunch with the troops, and we've invited all three squadrons to meet us (96th SFS at Eglin AFB, 1st Special Operations SFS at Hurlburt Field, and the Ground Combat Training Squadron at Eglin AFB).

In addition, this year our members who served as K-9 handlers are sponsoring the very first "Feed the Dawgs" event on the East Coast on Friday, October 5 (<http://thedawgsproject.com/feed-the-dawgs.html>). Former handlers and others who attend this event will be able to swap stories and information with today's handlers and their families over some good steaks. Feed the Dawgs is just one of the charities our members have sponsored to take care of today's handlers following in our footsteps; it was just announced this month that VSPA members and others who participate in the "Old Dawgs & Pups Program" have not only given personal comfort and support to 325 handlers in the war zone; the program has shipped more than \$74,000 worth of dog-specific supplies and equipment to handlers and kennels in some very scary places. That total, of course, doesn't include all the personal care packages from supporters!

I'll be attending the Feed the Dawgs event, and I'm really excited for the opportunity to meet in person three more of the handlers I've had the honor to sponsor during their deployments downrange, as well as their dogs, kennel masters and families.



See you in October - Welcome Home! Phil

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TK, 355th SPS, K9 Charlie 2M45; NKP, 56th SPS K9 TinaX768, LM #336.

(Major General Mary Kay Hertog retires....continued from front cover.)

an ROTC Distinguished Graduate. She began her AF career as a Flight Commander, 1608th SPS, Kirtland AFB, NM. She was an Operations Officer Squadron Commander, MAJCOM Staff Officer, HQ USAF Staff Officer, Group (Base) Commander, Wing Commander, AF Top Cop, Numbered Air Force Commander. At the time of her retirement, she worked for The Secretary of Defense, as the Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

General Hertog was best known for “leading from the front.” During her visits to Iraq and Afghanistan, she didn’t meet with the troops in hardened Command Centers...she donned the “battle rattle” and went out on patrol with the troops.

Among General Hertog’s major individual awards and decorations are:

- Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters
- Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster (silver = 5 awards)
- Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Achievement Medal
- Associate Life Member VSPA (Assumed her Father’s LM status upon his death)

General Hertog and her husband, retired Chief Master Sergeant Herm Hertog are retiring on the island of Kauai.

Story and front page photo submitted by Gary Jones, VSPA LM#363



Major General Mary Kay Hertog
Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force

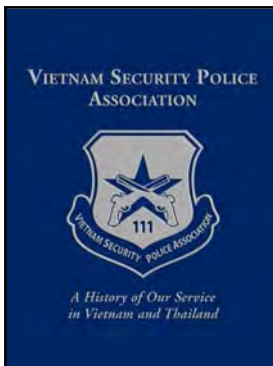


2ND PRINTING - BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE!

THE VSPA HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

By Steve Gattis, VSPA President Emeritus; Cam Ranh Bay ‘68-’69, LM #49

SGattis-LM49@vspa.com



Our history book is dedicated to the 111 Air Policemen and Security Policemen who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand, to the members of the Vietnam Security Police Association who have subsequently died due to their service, and to all who make it possible for the brotherhood we share to continue until the last man standing.

I received the following in a note from MG (retired) Mary Kay Hertog, who was our USAF TOP COP for several years. She is an Affiliate Member of the VSPA because her father, Col. Don Reeves LM#450, was an SP Commander at Phan Rang

“Steve, thank you and all the members of the VSPA for taking the time and effort to chronicle the history of what our career field did in Vietnam and Thailand. I’ve read quite a bit of the book and was impressed with the personal touches and stories as well as how thorough it is. I can only hope that our defenders today will do the same with OEF and OIF.

Our cops continue to do amazing things every day and their actions need to be recorded to preserve our current history. Our Vietnam Vets are our legacy. Thank you and the VSPA for preserving it.”

Respectfully,

Mary Kay Hertog, Major General, USAF

If you would like to purchase one of these great books, the cost will be the same as the original price of \$54 plus \$6.95 for shipping. Please send an email to me stating that you would like to reserve a book. Then, make a check payable to the Vietnam Security Police Association for \$54 per book, plus \$6.95 shipping. If you order more than one book, the shipping cost for each additional book is reduced to \$3 rather than \$6.95. This is the original book price and shipping rate charged by Turner Publishing.

Please mail the check (**payable to the VSPA**) to the following address:

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



British Special Forces “Tough Mudder” course

By Howard Yates, LM #644

BH 3rd SPS, AUG. - 1967-68



This photo depicts my son, Kyle Yates, and his team of Security Forces members, all from Sembach AFB in Germany. They traveled to Scotland to participate in the British Special Forces “Tough Mudder” course. It was a fund raiser for the "Help for Heroes", Scotland's Wounded Warrior Project. Kyle and his team did the 12 mile course in 2 hrs. and 46 min. The NCO’s who participated with Kyle are listed on the photo. Make sure you click on the link and look at the course map.....it's a doozie.

[\(http://toughmudder.co.uk/events/scotland/\)](http://toughmudder.co.uk/events/scotland/)



Photo provided by VSPA
LM # 644 Howard Yates.

My Time at the Traveling Wall

by Keith Young, BT 632nd APS, 1970-71 LM#175



Keith Young

The Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall arrived in Western New York State on Wednesday, July 18. The 24 foot car hauler was met by hundreds of motorcycle riders who escorted it to the American Legion Post in Eden, NY. VSPA Life Member Keith Young participated in the escort, immediately following the car hauler in his own truck with flags proudly displayed. The Traveling Wall is an 80% replica with 100% of the names and is the largest traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. It was displayed round-the-clock through Sunday afternoon. Keith was present each day and arranged with the host organization to have our VSPA Flag flown over the Traveling Wall. Keith was amazed by the number of people who stopped to chat, remember, and thank the veterans for their service. Keith met Kevin Weatherley, the young man from Texas who drives the Traveling Wall from community to community. Keith presented Kevin a VSPA Challenge Coin in recognition of his service in preserving the memories of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

VSPA Member Keith Young with Kevin Weatherley, a driver for the Traveling Wall. Keith presented Kevin a VSPA Challenge Coin.



The VSPA Flag flies proudly over the Traveling Wall in Eden, NY on July 18, 2012.



Welcome Home!

Vietnam Security Police Association 18th Annual Reunion

Fort Walton Beach, Florida – October 3 - 7, 2012
Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field, Florida

The reunion will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel - Destin, Florida (www.embassydestin.com/).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call the Embassy Suites - Destin, Florida at **800-701-0767** to make your hotel reservations, no later than September 12, 2012. You must tell them that you are attending the reunion of the Vietnam Security Police Association in order to receive our contract rate. If you prefer you can make your reservation on-line: http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DSIESES-VPA-20121003/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Our contract room rate is \$119 per night, plus taxes. The rate includes FREE breakfast each morning for each room occupant, and complimentary nightly managers reception. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. If you make a reservation and it doesn't show the rate for those extra days you will be able to get it fixed when you check in. Parking is FREE. You will have to specify your choice of a smoking or non-smoking room.

AIRPORT INFORMATION: There are three airports within reasonable driving distance of our hotel: Pensacola International Airport (PNS), Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) and the closest, Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS). If you fly into VPS, "Airport Limo and Shuttles" will give us a rate of \$40 per trip (one way) for up to three people, with \$5 for each additional person over three. You'll have to make a reservation a week in advance, by calling 850-902-2246. You'll need a reservation for any return trip to the airport as well.

REUNION REGISTRATION: This year's cost is \$165 per person, which includes several meals, the tour buses, and beverages and snacks in our Alvin "Sarge" Matthews Memorial Hospitality Room.

AGENDA:

- Reception dinner buffet with beer and wine: Wednesday evening, October 3th
- Eglin AFB and/or Hurlburt Field tour and meet the Security Forces troops: Thursday, October 4th
- Local area attractions including optional Air Force Armament Museum visit: Friday, October 5th
- Memorial Service for Ssgt Bruce Dale Jones, Evergreen, AL—(optional—see page 13:) Friday, October 5th
- VSPA Board of Directors meeting: Friday afternoon, October 5th
- VSPA business Meeting: Saturday morning, October 6th
- VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions: Saturday morning, October 6th
- SAFESIDE Business Meeting: Saturday afternoon October 6th
- Banquet dinner with guest speaker, awards and raffle: Saturday Evening, October 6th
- Memorial service: Sunday Morning, October 7th

Hospitality Room stocked with snacks & beverages will be open as much of the time as possible.
VSPA BX Store will be open as much as possible.

We hope to see you at this 18th Annual VSPA Reunion!

"We Take Care of Our Own!"



**VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION
REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
EGLIN AFB – HURLBURT FIELD
FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 3 – 7, 2012**



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\$165 = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED = \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 3, 2012. SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS, AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

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

You must also complete the attached Eglin AFB Entry Access Form (page 9)

Questions? Contact VSPA Secretary Dennis Evans toll free 866-672-6533, or 661-803-1812, email DennisEEvans@aol.com

A Confirmation of Registration and an Itinerary will be mailed to you by September 12, 2012. 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 Embassy Suites - Destin, Florida at 800-701-0767 no later than September 12, 2012 to make your hotel reservations. You must mention that you are with the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion to receive your group rate of \$119 a night, plus tax, and that price includes a FREE 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

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.

PLEASE PRINT or type all information clearly. Do not use abbreviations on any portion of the registration form.

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.

HOME ADDRESS and MAILING ADDRESS: This is where we will mail your confirmation.

EGLIN AFB ENTRY ACCESS FORM: Please fill out the attached Eglin AFB Entry Access Form with information for yourself and all guests. This information is MANDATORY for access to the Air Force base. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON BASE IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE ALL THIS INFORMATION.

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.

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 all required information on the Eglin AFB Entry Access List Form.

RENEWAL OF ANNUAL DUES: VSPA members only - you 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.

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 Dennis Evans, toll free at 866-672-6533, or at 661-803-1812, or email him: DennisEEvans@aol.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 1975, and a discharge under honorable conditions. \$15 dues must be sent in with your application.

REUNION COST: The registration fee is \$165 per person.

Questions? Contact VSPA Secretary Dennis Evans toll free 866-672-6533, or 661-803-1812, email DennisEEvans@aol.com



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 96TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM FOR: 96 SFS/S5B

FROM: 96 SFS

SUBJECT: Entry/Access to Eglin AFB for Vietnam Security Police Association 18th Annual Reunion to be held on 10/04/2012

The list of individuals below requires access to (area to be entered) in support of or to attend the Vietnam Security Police Association 18th Annual Reunion.

<u>Name (Last, First MI)</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u> (DD/MM/YYYY)	<u>Drivers License Number</u> <u>and State, if over 16 years</u>	<u>Social Security</u> <u>Number</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. The following personnel are authorized to verify additional personnel who require access and will act as a POC for any additional issues.

POC:

3. The effective dates of this Base Entry/Access list are 10/04/2012 - 10/04/2012. If there are any questions or concerns relating to this list please contact me (POC) or (person to be contacted)



Ramblings of an Air Force Brat... by Janet “Sparkplug” Parker

• *Editors note: Janet, Sisterhood Vice President and daughter of Sgt. Al Matthews, USAF and VSPA LM#127, (1942—2008) has been a contributing writer at GM for two years. After writing four articles on surviving grief, Janet offers us reflections on “the ramblings of an Air Force Brat.”*



The least of these...

This time, I would like to share my feelings on a slightly different relationship: the relationship that may be the purest of heart. I'll wait while you get some tissue...ok, ready?

I want to talk about our furry family. Those little ones who bring everything they have to the relationship just because they have it to give. Whether you are a dog person, cat person, bunny person, hamster person or you fill-in-the-blank person, you know where I am going.

For the first time in 25 years, I do not have cat in my home. My little Shelby left me on July 28, very suddenly. For my sake and hers, she did not suffer. She was my pretty princess. My cats, who will be embarrassed by this, always met me at the door when I got home, helped me get ready in the mornings, would come when called, if it was convenient, and generally did not have the aloof, distant disposition that cats are famous for.

I do, fortunately, still have the best dog ever in Jenny Parker. She was John's when we got married. She is the calmest, smartest, most cooperative dog I have ever had. She is a lady of a certain age now. Luckily, when John and I got married and blended our families, my Punkin and Shelby and his Jenny, we could not have asked for it to have been a better transition. They got along so well, immediately.

Little Punkin died in December 2011, leaving Jenny and Shelby, who ultimately became such buddies. Jenny looks for Shelby and just breaks my heart. She looks at me like “why no kitty?”

I can go on and on about how important our pets are in our lives. We could go down the scientific research path that shows pets help lower blood pressure and improve quality of life. How pets help those confined to nursing homes, the responsibility they can teach children, what they can do for the lonely, and so much more. Bottom line, we love them and they love us.

Now, this may start an argument, and I apologize in advance, but one of the things that offers me some comfort when one of my furry family goes on, is that I truly, wholeheartedly believe they go to heaven. I may not have a scholar's point of view on this, but I know what my heart tells me. If the Lord thinks enough of us to give us those sweet companions, He thinks enough of them to bring them home. I believe He at least includes them in expecting us to be good stewards of our world.

I KNOW that there are those of you will agree with me that you can look their sweet little eyes and see their souls. I KNOW there are those among us who have looked in those precious eyes, not while sitting a comfy couch, but in the rains of the jungle and been comforted, strengthened and saved by seeing that soul.

And you have also seen in those eyes, the vacancy when that precious little soul is gone from them.

I can write volumes on what I have learned from my dogs and cats over the years, as you can too. Most recently, when Shelby went on, I started looking at my relationship with my Heavenly Father. I gave Shelby comfort, food, shelter and security, just as He provides for me. I forgave her when she was not a perfect kitty (as if), just as He forgave my imperfections.

If we, in this broken hurting world, can give our hearts to “the least of these”, as He tells us, how much more does He give and have for us? I know Matthew 7:11 refers to children, but it makes sense at least to me, that we can apply that to our furry family too!

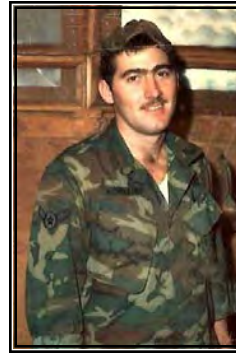
WOOF?

Janet

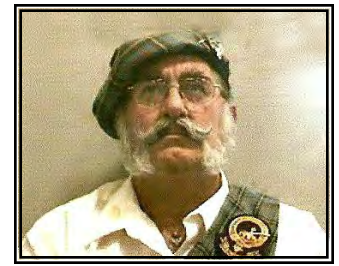


A Phu Cat/Pleiku Story

by Francis L. McMillian, VSPA
Phu Cat March –July 1968,
Pleiku July 1968—March 1969



Francis McMillian 1968



Francis McMillian 2009

While being stationed at Phu Cat AB, which was in a huge, sprawling valley, we could observe, at night, large flashes of light up in the central highlands. Upon asking a Senior NCO about the flashes, we were advised that the flashes were coming from Pleiku AB and that they were a nightly event. We, other Airmen and myself, looked at one another and said, “Sure glad I’m not up there!”

After five months at Phu Cat, where we were hit with occasional mortar and recoilless rifles, fifteen of us received orders to Pleiku AB.

We arrived at Pleiku in time to settle in for the night and receive another barrage of 122 MM rockets. Needless to say that the sound of a rocket was a whole lot scarier than a mortar round. At Phu Cat, I had gotten so used to the mortars that I slept through a couple of attacks. However, there was no getting used to the sound and impact of a rocket.

We all went to the storage and received our weapons and ammo. I jumped behind a bunker that surrounded the barracks and aimed at anything that was in my field of fire. I am not ashamed to admit that I was scared to death. Suddenly, an individual came walking from behind another barracks and looked in my direction. I took aim and then was advised by him that I should relax because we were only being hit by rockets and that we would not be overrun by V.C. This “individual” turned out to be a Senior NCO in the Squadron. He had been sent out to find us “new guys” to assure us that everything was alright.

We had rockets virtually every night, and when I was posted in a perimeter tower I could hear them whistling overhead.

While being an aircraft guard, we had another attack, so I ran to my designated bunker. Afterwards, I discovered that my aircraft had been destroyed and I was assigned another aircraft.

Off base, toward the end of our runway, was a South Vietnamese ammunition storage site. While on vehicle patrol, we observed some of the storage bunkers being blown up. We radioed CDC and advised them. They contacted the South Vietnamese CDC who contacted the storage area; they in turn advised us that all was in order. However, the following morning at shift change, South Vietnamese personnel discovered that indeed some storage bunkers had been blown up and that the entire night shift there had been killed. That’s how close we came to being overrun.



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 ninth article below.



FROM THE FIELD

of behavioral health

Kim Bayes-Bautista, MSSW, LCSW

Honorary Member VSPA



It's A Long Story....



Many patients have asked me with a puzzled look, "Were you in Vietnam?", "Were you Air Force Security Police?", questions triggered by the bust of the security policeman, plaques and different things in my office referencing Vietnam. I say "No, it's a long story..."

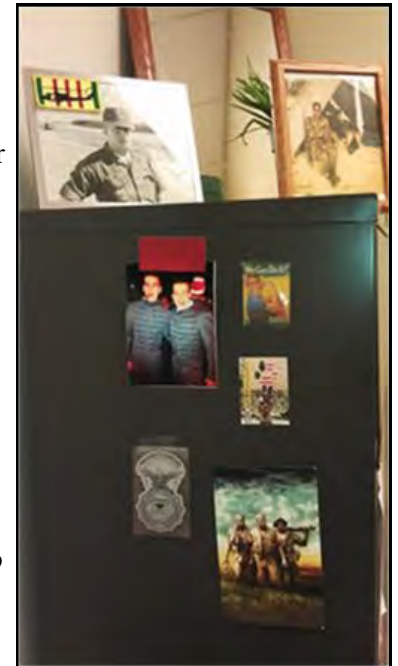
That story began with my best friend, the late Linda Irvine. We went to high school together in Germany on Zweibruecken AFB. Linda was an Air Force brat and I was an Army Brat. When our fathers retired in 1977, both of us felt we had lost our identities. The military way of life we had always known was gone. We made our way in the civilian world but always feeling different from our peers.

In 1982, Linda and I organized our first high school reunion. It was successful and many more followed. Linda left her job as a construction inspector and started The Reunion Brat, a business specifically designed for military reunions and staffed by military brats. When Linda asked me if I wanted to be site coordinator, I jumped at the chance. It was my way to reconnect with my military roots. This was how I became involved with VSPA in 1999.

I continued with my busy life, furthering my education, adopting my children, struggling with my late husband's health and subsequent death, moving, and doing contract social work outside of my full time job. Despite the hectic pace of my life, I always made time for VSPA because each year I grew closer and closer to the wonderful men and women who attended reunions. They became family.

After the death of my husband Mike, I decided to redefine my life and permanently get back to my military roots. I was blessed to get a job at Fort Hood, marry Jaime, a wonderful man who just happened to be retired military and a Zweibruecken Army brat. VSPA was ever supportive during all of my transitions.

My passion for the well-being of soldiers and veterans has led me to consider a hefty pursuit; to obtain a doctorate. It is my goal to provide pro-bono services to veterans who do not or cannot access therapy services. This journey will not be without sacrifice. I will have little to no free time. My time will be spent working full time, doing school work and parenting two teenagers. This being said, I wanted to let VSPA members know that this year's reunion will be my last as your on-site rep for the Reunion BRAT. I am honored to be an Associate Member and do plan to attend reunions in the future to see my VSPA Family as time allows. I will continue to write for Guardmount whenever possible. One thing will always be constant, my love and respect for each one of you. I thank you for your friendship over the last 13 years and you all will always be a vital part of my life and the direction it has taken.



Kind regards, Kim Bayes-Bautista aka Queen Mother

WELCOME HOME SGT. BRUCE DALE JONES

by Don Poss ~ Webmaster/Communications Director

DN, 23rd ABG/AP; 6252nd APS; 35th APS; 366th SPS,
TOPDOG45, K9: Blackie 129X 1965-1966, VSPA LM#37



“We Take Care of Our Own” is the well-known motto of the Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (USAF). It is a motto from the heart and will be carried by our members until the last man standing.

Reunion 2012 was planned and events scheduled well in advance of my receiving an email from a member concerning a missing name from our Air/Security Police KIA/LOD roster. The short version is after a lengthy search for information, a hitherto unknown name of Security Policeman Sgt. Bruce Dale Jones was confirmed to have lost his life at Tan Son Nhut Airbase in 1972. As it turned out, Sgt. Jones was buried only 109 miles from our Reunion 2012 location in Florida.

For forty years Sgt. Jones lay at rest in a small country cemetery, along an unnamed dirt road, in a heavily wooded forest near Evergreen, Alabama. Evergreen, a small town of 3,900, gave eleven sons during the Vietnam War, and Sgt. Jones was the last from their town to die in Vietnam.

Somehow it just didn't seem right that Sgt. Jones had never been Welcomed Home by fellow Security Police and brothers who served with him. Very little was known about Bruce Dale Jones' service in Vietnam, but he was one of us and that was all that mattered. Larry Poss and I were determined that forty years would not be added to without something being done about it. We sent out notices to members to see if others felt as strong about joining in a Welcome Home for Sgt. Jones – they did, and by the dozens.

I spoke with VSPA president Phil Carroll about the growing interest and a developing problem concerning how to get members to the Sgt. Jones memorial. After all, the reunion events were already scheduled and paid for and no funds were collected to pay for a bus. Phil said the association would pay the costs in recognition of the memorial's importance, and ‘That's what we're all about...taking Care of Our Own.’

Many of our members have expressed interest and said they wanted to attend Sgt. Jones' memorial, but were long committed to other Reunion 2012 events. My suggestion is to go to those Friday events and represent the members attending the memorial, who will represent you there. The next Guardmount will have a full account with photos of the wreath laying memorial for Sgt. Jones.

For more information, check out VSPA's online story, 'Finding Sgt. Bruce Dale Jones', at http://www.vspa.com/t_tsn-bruce-dale-jones-1972.htm.

If you are able to go with us, then email Don Poss (DonPoss-lm37@vspa.com) and check for available seats on the bus.

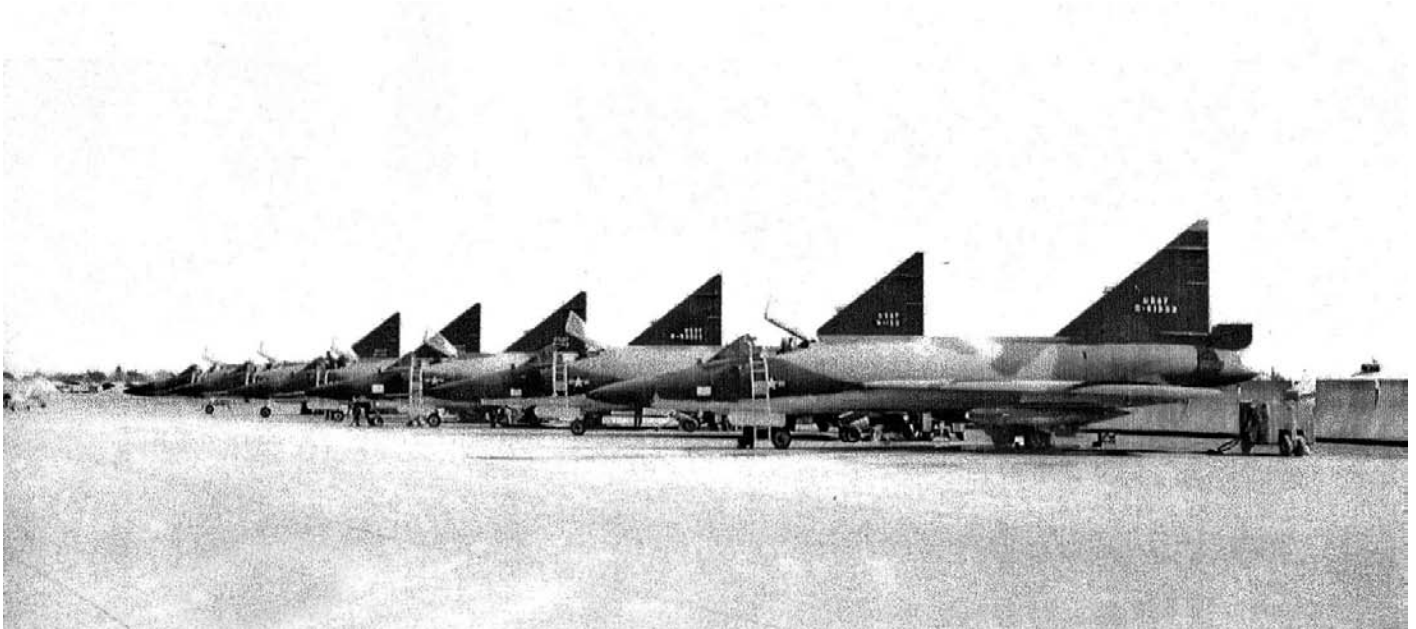


Don Poss



BLAST FROM THE PAST-YOUR VSPA HISTORY

By Kelly Bateman, VSPA Historian ~ LM #118 ~ Ubon K-9 70-71; Baron 279M;



(WX15) Washington, March 9, 1967.—American planes in Thailand. U.S. F-102 interceptors are on the flight line at Udorn Air Base in Thailand, top, in this photo made in December 1966. Below are F-105 Thunderchiefs and ground support equipment at Takli Air Base in Thailand in December 1965. The photographs were released today in Washington by the Defense Department after an announcement that U.S. planes using Thai bases are operating over North Vietnam. U.S. Air Force Photos via AP Wirephoto, 1967)

RADIO TEN SERIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10-1 Receiving Poorly | 10-47 Rendezvous with ___ at ___ |
| 10-2 Receiving Well | 10-48 Complete last assignment ASAP |
| 10-3 Stop Transmitting | 10-49 Do you copy/I, Do copy |
| 10-4 Acknowledge, Will Comply | 10-50 Friendly Forces in Your Area |
| 10-5 Standby | 10-51 Is Post ___ Secure |
| 10-6 Busy | 10-52 Challenging/Detaining Suspect |
| 10-7 Out of Service At ___ | 10-53 Illuminate Areas |
| 10-8 In Service At ___ | 10-54 Hostile Forces in Your Area |
| 10-9 What is Your Location | 10-55 K-9 Alert At ___ |
| 10-10 Return to Normal Operations | 10-56 Alert Reserve Forces |
| 10-11 Return to Station | 10-57 Unusual Incident has Occurred;
Search and Secure your area. |
| 10-12 Phone this Office | 10-58 Prisoner/Suspect has escaped |
| 10-13 Trouble, need help | 10-59 Incoming Small Arms Fire |
| 10-14 Latrine Break | 10-60 Ground Attack At ___ |
| 10-15 Non-Hostile Emergency At ___ | 10-61 Artillery Attack At ___ |
| 10-16 Hostile Emergency At ___ | 10-62 Under Attack/Require Assistance |
| 10-17 Sabotage Alert | 10-63 Dispatch Additional personnel |
| 10-18 Alert Force Launch | 10-64 CSC under Duress |
| 10-19 Proceed at emergency speed | 10-65 Implement Alternate CSC |
| 10-20 Repeat, Reception Poor | 10-66 Take Protective Cover |
| 10-21 Radio Check | 10-67 Post/Area Secure |
| 10-22 Time Check | 10-68 Supervisors, Assess Casualties
and Damage |
| 10-23 Disregard Last Transmission | 10-69 Wounded/Dead personnel At ___ |
| 10-24 Station/Net clear | 10-70 Security Condition WHITE |
| 10-25 Change Frequency | 10-71 Security Condition GREY |
| 10-26 All Units Acknowledge | 10-72 Security Condition YELLOW |
| 10-27 Relay Messages/Instructions | 10-73 Security Condition RED-OPTION 1 |
| 10-28 Clear net for messages | 10-74 Security Condition RED-OPTION 2 |
| 10-29 Negative | 10-75 Security Force Launch |
| 10-30 Proceed at normal speed | 10-76 Service you vehicle |
| 10-31 Fire At ___ | 10-77 Vehicle inoperative At ___ |
| 10-32 Establish Roadblock At ___ | 10-78 Request Water |
| 10-33 Power Failure at ___ | 10-79 Request Coffee |
| 10-34 Dispatch Ambulance to ___ | 10-80 Request direct Communication |
| 10-35 Escort Convoy to ___ | 10-81 Relief |
| 10-36 Arrived at Scene; Advise | 10-82 Fight At ___ |
| 10-37 Report Status at Scene | 10-83 Assignment Completed |
| 10-38 Mission Accomplished | 10-84 Request for Recon Fire |
| 10-39 Vehicle Accident At ___ | 10-85 Request for Test Fire |
| 10-40 On-Base Aircraft Accident at ___ | 10-86 Request for Range Fire |
| 10-41 Off-Base Aircraft Accident At ___ | 10-97 Secondary Duress Code |
| 10-42 Photographer needed at ___ | 10-98 Primary Duress Code |
| 10-43 EOD needed at ___ | |
| 10-44 Aircraft burning/Exploding At ___ | |
| 10-45 Aircraft Emergency Terminated | |
| 10-46 Plot Aircraft Status | |

Remember these?

Coffee & Cinnamon Rolls

By James P. Costello ~ LM #552 ~ Nha Trang 14th SPS 1969-70

While on SAT one night at Nha Trang, we were called into CIC for some forgotten reason, and shortly headed back out. As we passed the officers club just down the street, Sarge noticed a light on, so we stopped to check it out. While doing a building check we found an open door. It happened to be the front one. Like well-trained Security Policemen, we stealthily made our way in.



Jim and Rosemary Costello 1978



Jim Costello 2010

Airman certainly don't frequent the "O" club, so this was my first appearance in it. Was I really in Vietnam, or was this some plush night club on the Vegas Strip?! Not that I had ever seen one. I was only 20 when I arrived in Vietnam, and too young to enter Vegas clubs. Only old enough for war. Rank surely did have its privileges. There was no doubt this was NOT the airman's club.

Making our way past the lush leather furniture to the rear of the club, we found ourselves in the doorway of the kitchen observing an airman baking. He had no idea we were even there. Superior training by far. (When he did finally notice us, he said it, and then may have done it!). Sarge asked him what in the blazes he was doing here in the middle of the night. He said he was making cinnamon rolls for the officers in the morning. What an opening statement! That really set well with us. Also that he did this every night. Now we were struck with disbelief. After more questioning, (in a very professional manner, of course,) we accepted his explanation, but still, with some speculation. So we informed him there were a lot of guys in bunkers and towers along the perimeter, and asked if he could make an extra tray for the guys out on post. We had a guy who ran coffee around twice a night, and we would be grateful if he could do this for us. He was very gracious and said he would. Cool, the guys will have a treat tonight! Then he said, if our coffee runner came by on his second run every night, there would be a tray waiting for him. Maybe we did scare the...out of him.

Depending on where you were on post, if you were lucky enough, the pastry was still hot and dripping with icing when it got to you. Either way it was right out of the oven, and most enjoyable. Ah yes, nothing like a cup of joe, and a hot cinnamon roll while in a monsoon downpour. What dreams are made of. It was a nice but short respite, and gave us something else to think about during those endless nights of watching and waiting.

This went on nightly for awhile until the guys began to lose interest in cinnamon rolls. Perhaps they were causing weight gain on our lean mean fighting machines. Besides, how many cinnamon rolls could one eat night after night?! We weren't officers! It was back to the good ole "C" rations for the remainder of the tour, our physiques intact.

They were cinnamon rolls like the ones you can find in donut shops every morning today. I have seldom eaten one since returning home, though. Oh well, not a great loss, but the memory is certainly worth keeping.



PAID IN FULL - - - - - by Duke Windsor LM#142

I generally wear my Viet Nam Hat and I get many "thanks for your service" comments, which is nice. However, the last week has been really unique. My wife and I were dining at IHOP, and when we prepared to leave I asked the server if the restaurant still gave military discounts. She said yes and she would adjust our bill. When she returned the bill was marked "paid in full". Two couples at a table by us had paid for our meal! As we left they said "we thank you for your service and God Bless". I thanked them, and left surprised and grateful. Later in the week we were on a trip and waiting for a shuttle to take us to our hotel. An Asian lady approached me and asked if I had been in Viet Nam. When I said yes, she said "Thank you, I was a refugee." All in all, it was quite an emotional week.



Duke Windsor
Sgt USAF Security Police
BT, 632nd SPS, Devil Flight 66-67



Time to Renew those VSPA dues.....

VSPA Reunion 2012 is just around the corner! It's easy to pay dues or re-up an expired or expiring membership. If you've been putting it off trying to find time, take a few minutes now and make it happen :)

Just go to VSPA's Homepage (<http://www.vspa.com>) and on the top menu, click the menu "About/Join/Dues/Help", and select the appropriate link.



See you in Florida!

Donation Fundraiser, To Be Held By Members of the Thailand Dog Handlers Group

Win a unique USAF camouflage shirt with proto type Air Police badge or, an in-country (Thailand) made jacket with Security Police badge or, current day Security Forces/Security Police brassards with a Security Police badge.

Thailand Dog Handlers attending the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion in October, in Fort Walton Beach, FL will be holding a donation fundraiser for these three unique Security Police memorabilia items during the reunion. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate or be present to win one of these incredible items.

All donated funds raised by this project will go to two proven charitable funds, "The Nemo's War Dog Hero's Memorial Project." <http://635thk9.com/tdhnemo.htm> and, "Feed The Dawgs," <http://thedawgsproject.com>

VSPA members are encouraged to donate to this fundraiser. These two organizations are particularly in need of funds this year to support current day troops, veterans, and Military Working Dogs past and present.

If you are not able to attend the reunion you may still donate for a chance to win by sending in your check or money order donation (PLEASE, NO CASH!), to be received by September 21st. See details below. After that date we cannot guarantee your chances will be placed into the drawing.

Fundraiser Prizes

First Prize: Valued at \$500.00

USAF Security Police Camouflage Shirt with in country made Security Police crossed pistols patch, and Harry J's Commandos tab. Included with the shirt will be an Air Police prototype badge with white and blue enamel inlay.

Second Prize: Valued at \$200.00

A jacket made of a GI wool blanket with the US stamp on the back in the middle. It was made in 1969 in Udorn, Thailand. The lining is Thailand Camo and has never been worn. The participant patch was also made at Udorn in 1969. Labeled under the pocket is 423nd Security Police Squadron – K-9 Sec. Included with the jacket will be a Security Police badge. Jacket donated by Jay Jones.

Third Prize: Valued at \$150.00

Current day SF Sather Air Base Baghdad, Iraq and SP brassards and a Security Police badge. Brassards donated by Bill Cummings and Jim Stastny.

For a \$5 donation you will receive 3 chances to win one of the prizes. Donate \$20 and you will receive 15 chances to win. VSPA members are encouraged to donate \$20 for 15 chances to win and to support this project. For \$50.00 you will receive 39 chances to win. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. Remember, you do not have to be present to win!

Tickets will also be sold during the VSPA reunion in Fort Walton Beach, FL.



If you mail in a donation, after your donation is received, we will return to you your portion of the ticket and copies of your stub chances that will be placed into the drawing with your name and phone number.

First Prize



Second Prize



Photos by John Homa
VSPA LM#599



Third Prize

Send in your check or money order donation (PLEASE, NO CASH!), to be received by September 21st for the drawing at the VSPA reunion. Send donations with name, return address, and phone number printed clearly on a sheet of paper to:

John Homa
151 CR 556
Athens, TN 37303

“Goodbye Valiant Warrior” by James Stastny

KRT, 388th SPS, K91970-1971, K9: Boots 645M ~ VSPA LM #442

Last March 23rd fellow dog handler and VSPA member Bob Curnick and I had the privilege of going to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to attend the memorial service for a brave K9, Nisan F060. We arrived the night before, and stayed at the same hotel as our October 2011 reunion. The clerk at the desk recognized our VSPA logo. After checking in we went for dinner with several of the WPAFB handlers. Bob and I returned to our respective rooms to awaken to overcast skies and the threat of rain. Fitting weather for the service to take place that afternoon.

We called the 88th SFS WP kennels; they sent a vehicle to take us back to the base. After visiting with the dogs and handlers we then drove over to the 88th SF headquarters. Many will remember it as the building where, last October, we lunched with the squadron. About a hundred chairs filled a section of the hanger, before them stood two lecterns, one centered in front of the audience, the other about ten feet to the side.

Members of the Patriot Guard Riders, many civilian K9 police officers, some with their dogs, an honor guard, the base commander, other dignitaries, and many 88th SF members were in attendance. The ceremony began with Kennel Master TSgt Joshua Hicks welcoming all.

After those comments the official party made their entrance, followed by the National Anthem and Invocation. At that point the squadron commander, Lt Col Aeneas Gooding rose and spoke. He began by talking about the history of MWDs, making special reference to their role in Vietnam, at which point he also introduced Bob and me. Lt Col Gooding then spoke of Nisan’s amazing career. Nisan, having been whelped in May 2001, reached the age 10 years before being put down. After earning his Patrol/ Narcotics certification, in May 2003, the USAF assigned him to WPAFB. During years of service Nisan, in June 2009, went on one deployment, to Balad AB, Iraq. In his ten years of life/eight years of service Nisan accumulated an impressive record. He was responsible for narcotic finds in excess of nine kilos resulting in over five hundred arrests!!!

When the Lt Col finished, Nisan’s handler SSgt Seth Dale stood and spoke of his friend and partner. SSgt Dale made specific reference to the incredible bond between a handler and his dog, a bond that only those like him can even begin to understand.

When he finished, the master-of-ceremonies, TSgt George Freese invited Bob and me to come forward. We presented SSgt Dale with two certificates of appreciation, one from the VSPA and the other from Thailand Dog Handlers. I then read the poem *Trusted Partner* written by VSPA member Howard Yates. After that other handlers from the squadron read other poems praising MWDs and the work they do. Not a dry eye could be found among the audience after the reading of those pieces.

The event finished with bagpipes playing *Amazing Grace*, a *Twenty-One Gun Salute*, the playing of *Taps*, and the reading of *Rainbow Bridge*.

That evening Bob and I went to SSgt Dale’s home, where others also gathered, to support SSgt Dale and talk about the glories of K9.



Stastny presenting
Certificates ~ 2012

88th SFS dog handlers with Bob and Jim, 2012

“Trusted Partner”

by Howard Yates ~ BH, 3rd SPS, AUG 1967-1968, VSPA LM #644

Trusted partner by my side
You sense there's trouble near
But your courageous loyalty
Surpasses any fear

You tell me of the foes' advance
But utter not a word
And though they did their best to hide
Their every move you heard

With presence cloaked by midnight's veil
Surprise is their intent
But they misjudged your K-9 nose
That found them by their scent.

You gave away their hiding place
And then you made your stand
Without a thought of giving up,
Though death, was close at hand.

You are my partner and best friend
And though we must soon part
Your memory and comradeship
Will live within my heart

Oh yes, my valiant warrior
Your deeds shall long be known
Of how you carried on the fight,
Long after I'd gone home.

Howard G. Yates
© February 12, 2007



Ssgt Seth Dale and MWD Nisan



Squadron Commander Lt Col
Gooding and Ssgt Dale.

Photos pages 20, 21 courtesy of
VSPA Chaplain James Stastny.

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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VSPA Scholarship Fund

The VSPA has a scholarship fund established for members and their families for furthering their education beyond high school. Members, spouses, children, grandchildren, and step children are eligible.

For applications/information please contact me via
e-mail at jlz9107@earthlink.net or call me at
949-855-8901.



The cutoff date for submission is October 1, 2012.

VSPA member Jim Lebowitz BH, 3rd

SPS ~ 1966-'68

Life Member # 241



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!

REUNION REMINDER—ELGIN AFB AND HURLBURT FIELD IN FLORIDA, FALL 2012
(See pages 6-9 for Reunion and Hotel Registration—Reunion dates Oct. 3-7, 2012.)