



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



FALL EDITION – 2018



24th ANNUAL VSPA REUNION

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

Tucson, Arizona

OCTOBER 3-7, 2018



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



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

My Brothers and Sisters,

We are looking forward to our reunion in Tucson, AZ at Davis Monthan AFB in October. Sheila and I had a wonderful meeting in February with Bill and Janice Cummings who are Tucson area residents and did the groundwork for site selection. We visited the Desert Diamond Casino/Hotel complex next to the airport. The facility far exceeded our expectations by miles when compared to other not so nice selections. The staff was very cordial and professional and catered to all our requirements. They are very experienced in Veteran reunions and met our needs remarkably well. Expect a most excellent time! You can find specific information about the site by going to their website at www.ddcaz.com.

Please bring any informational items you wish to present or have presented to our members during the business meeting and we will make a spot for you on the agenda (Sisterhood too). This would include health updates, new potential events and personnel.

This past ugly winter was as bad as it gets. Fortunately Sheila and I winter in Central Florida and escaped the snow (Buffalo in Western NY). However Hurricane Irma ruined our roof and did interior ceiling damage to our home in Florida, but it was WARM.

Best wishes and God Bless you all.

Greg Cain, President
Binh Thuy 67-68



THE VSPA SISTERHOOD

Sheila Cain, Sisterhood President

Brothers and Sisters,

The time has come again to start making plans for the next reunion.

2018 will take us to Tucson, Arizona. The Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino will be our home for the reunion. There will be planned activities and plenty of free time to “schmooze” with your brothers and sisters.

2018 has also been a sad time as two sisters have gone to their heavenly home, Darlene Holstein wife of Brother Richard Holstein and Linda Beam, wife of Brother Robert Beam. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

With the summer season ahead it is my hope that you all have a safe and healthy summer.

As always, I am available to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood anytime. Feel free to call me at 716-480-9101.

Sheila Gervase-Cain, Sisterhood President
Wife of Greg Cain, Binh Thuy 67-68
smgervase@yahoo.com





Dear VSPA Members and Guests,

Two different couples from the VSPA (Greg & Sheila Cain and Bill & Janice Cummings) have inspected the Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel in Tucson, Arizona. They have attended several of our reunions and are very familiar with our reunion requirements, including those for the Sisterhood, the BX and the Hospitality Room. They met with the Reunion BRAT and the special event staff at the hotel/casino to ask extensive questions prior to agreeing to this contract. All of the questions were based upon comments and concerns from members who attended our last reunion. After two different inspections, the inspection teams feel that the Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel will be an outstanding venue for our reunion. The food is excellent, the rooms are very nice, and the areas for the BX and Hospitality Room are both easily accessible for all members while also providing enough space for our members.

Members who attended our last reunion also expressed concern regarding fatigue and the extended day while on base. Therefore, our planning for events will reduce the time on base Thursday. We will leave the hotel Thursday morning and go directly to a local cemetery where we will hold a memorial service for Sgt Millard Lehman who was KIA at Binh Thuy. At the conclusion of that memorial service, we will move to another area of the cemetery a short distance away to hold a memorial service for SMSgt Steve Porovich who died at Tan Son Nhut immediately following a mission that he had led on base. Afterwards, we will go to Davis-Monthan AFB to meet briefly with Security Forces troops and then go to the BX. We will eat individually, on our own, at the BX food court. All buses will return to the hotel by 1430 hours. There will be an optional tour of the Pima Air & Space Museum and their static displays on Friday. If you want to eat, there is a grill inside the museum. All buses will return to the hotel by 1430 hours. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for a reunion with less physical demands and more time to visit with each other.

Due to time concerns and gaming laws, we will not be selling raffle tickets during the awards banquet. However, the raffles are vital to paying for all of the beverages and snacks in our Hospitality Room. Raffle tickets will be sold in the Hospitality Room and the BX and, thereby, reduce the time required for our banquet, allowing us to adjourn earlier.

AGENDA: The agenda is generally accurate, but is subject to change due to base operational requirements for the 355th Security Forces Squadron and their Op Tempo for a base visit:

- **October 3rd:** Wednesday morning GOLF at approximately 0800. If you would like to play, please contact Pete Piazza wpiazza@aol.com 1-405-670-3101
- **October 3rd:** Wednesday evening Reception dinner buffet
- **October 4th:** Thursday graveside memorial services for Sgt Millard Lehman, KIA Binh Thuy, and SMSgt Steve Porovich of Tan Son Nhut; brief squadron tour. Lunch. Evening open.
- **October 5th:** Friday OPTIONAL TOUR of PIMA Air and Space Museum. Lunch on your own at the museum. Evening open.
- **October 6th:** Saturday morning VSPA Business Meeting. Afternoon open.
- **October 6th:** Saturday morning VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions. Afternoon open.
- **October 6th:** Saturday evening banquet dinner, awards and raffle.
- **October 7th:** Sunday morning memorial service – reading of the names. End of reunion.

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 TUCSON for our 24th Annual VSPA Reunion!



VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION



REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

24th Annual Reunion
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
Tucson, Arizona
October 3-7,2018

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 \$150 = \$ _____

OPTIONAL FRIDAY Tour - PIMA Air Museum \$44 per person # X \$ 44 = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED =\$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

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

A Confirmation of Registration and an itinerary will be mailed to you by: September 15, 2018. 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. The VSPA reunion will be held at the DESERT DIAMOND CASINO AND HOTEL, 7350 South Nogales Highway, Tucson, Arizona 85756. Phone toll free 1-877-777-4212 or local (520) 342-3012. The contract room rate is \$119 per night, plus tax, AND INCLUDES A FOOD CREDIT of \$10 per person (two per room) PER DAY making the final room rate for two occupants \$99 per night plus tax! The food credit may be used for breakfast, lunch or dinner in the hotel but may not be combined for one large blowout meal at the end of the week. The rooms include a refrigerator. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. Complimentary airport transportation is available between 0700 and 2200 ONLY. Complimentary SELF-parking is available at the hotel. Use the following link to see more information about this beautiful hotel and casino: <https://www.ddcaz.com/tucson/>.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call 1-877-777-4212, 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 10, 2018.**

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.

AIRPORT INFORMATION: Book your flight to "Tucson International Airport"

(AIRPORT CODE: TUS).

The Reunion Event Registration Table at the hotel will open at approximately 1400 hours on Wednesday, October 3rd so that you can pick up your Welcome Packet and Reunion ID.

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:** to mail your confirmation letter. **THE CONFIRMATION LETTERS WILL BE MAILED BY SEPTEMBER 15.**
5. **DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB ENTRY ACCESS FORM: NEW REQUIREMENTS!!!** Please make sure we have your full name as it appears on your **Driver's License** for yourself and all guests. PLUS we will need your DOB, Social Security Number and Country of Citizenship. This information is MANDATORY for access to DAVIS-MONTHAN 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 the attendee 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 their **Driver's License, plus their DOB, Social**

Security Number and Country of Citizenship. Guests under the age of 18 only need be listed by their legal name and DOB.

8. **RENEWAL OF ANNUAL DUES:** For existing 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. Life Members have paid their dues for life.
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 will 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 with your application.
10. **REUNION COST:** The registration fee is \$150.00 per person.

**GROUP SEATING AND
TABLE RESERVATION REQUESTS
VSPA AWARDS BANQUET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018**

The list below comprises volunteer seating coordinators who have indicated that they will attend the reunion and coordinate seating for their bases which have had ten or more at their tables in the past. They will have forms to submit to the Reunion BRAT to organize seating. Every effort will be made to accommodate those who request to be seated with their base or squadron. However, if you want to sit with your base or squadron buddies, you must contact the coordinator for your group listed below in order to be placed on the seating request. Wives and family are welcome at those tables. VSPA Board members may sit with their families and their base and squadron buddies. The listed people below will be the only people who coordinate seating with the Reunion BRAT.

Coordinators, please submit your seating requests to the Reunion BRAT **BEFORE** the night of the banquet. Tables will be set in groups often. Empty seats will be filled by other attendees, including active duty personnel from the Security Forces units that are supporting our reunion.

Bien Hoa – Pete Piazza wpiazza@aol.com 1-405-670-3101

Binh Thuy – Jaime Lleras chiefial9@gmail.com 1-301-848-3399

BX Operation – Joyce Digby jad403@att.net 1-989-686-3639

Da Nang – DonPossLM37@vspa.com 1-951-264-1263

K9 Kennel Master – Jim Stastny K9stastny@gmail.com 301-412-0981

Nha Trang – Larry Fleming ldfleming569@gmail.com 254-396-4091

NKP – Bob Curnick BobsBronco1977@yahoo.com 616-335-2347

Phan Rang – Richard Garcia cal400@optonline.net 516-799-9205

Phu Cat – Bob Sullivan surfrider1096@gmail.com 1-850-654-9972

Pleiku – John Paul Coakley johnpaul1845@gmail.com 818-7 49-17 49

Safeside – Jerry Nelson jrnell1423@aol.com 1-210-273-4777

Tan Son Nhut – Jack Smith skycop6768@gmail.com 1-614-879-6835



Guest List Procedures

355th Security Forces Squadron

DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB, ARIZONA

SUBJECT: VISITOR ACCESS – ENTRY AUTHORIZATION LIST

THERE ARE NEW AND ADDITIONAL BASE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS!! The following comes directly from the 355th Security Forces Squadron Pass & ID Section of Davis Monthan AFB: Failure to provide the information will cause denial of entry. **THIS IS NOT A SCAM! IT IS A SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT OF DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE!!!** "Guests must use their LEGAL information.

Nicknames, missing information or incorrect information are not authorized. People will be removed from the list due to not providing valid information for entry onto a Federal installation. List all personnel who require base access. Only use LEGAL personal information (i.e. Legal name, DOB, SSN and DL# or passport, for individuals 18 years of age or older. Guests under the age of 18 only need to be listed by name and DOB."

DMAFB must have your complete, full name as it appears on your state driver's license; NO NICKNAMES OR MILITARY ID CARD NUMBERS. NEW AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS SHOWN IN YELLOW. WE MUST PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION TO THE BASE SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON PASS & ID SECTION so that you can be allowed onto Davis-Monthan AFB with our VSPA Entry Authorization List (EAL). The FULL Social Security Number is required – NOT THE LAST FOUR. 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>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>
Doe, John D	(210) XXX-XXXX	TX./00000000	01/15/45	123-45-6789	United States
<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>
<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>
<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Country of Citizenship</u>

2. Visitors in private vehicles must have current proof of insurance, proof of registration and a current/valid driver's license. Additionally, all personnel and the property under their control are subject to search.

3. We 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 investigative authorities.

DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: Failure to provide the information to include date of birth, Social Security Number and country of citizenship will result in an individual being denied entry onto DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB.

ATTENTION VSPA MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED WITH THE REUNION BRAT:

Please remember that this is a **NEW** requirement and different from the last five years. We apologize for the inconvenience; however, if you have already registered for the reunion, please select one of the following options:

1. Print the new form, complete it and mail to the Reunion BRAT. OR,
2. Call the Reunion BRAT and provide the information via telephone so that she can complete the Entry Authorization List (EAL) for the VSPA. Your information will be secure as she is in the process of completing this information for a reunion being held at another Air Force base.

THE REUNION BRAT

**16817 Mountainside Drive East
Greenwater, WA 98022**

(360) 663-2521 TheReunionBRAT@hotmail.com Monday thru Friday 0900 - 1700.

If you receive voice mail, please leave your name and phone number. She will return your call.

2018 ELECTION OF VSPA OFFICERS

The VSPA's By-Laws call for elections of officers every two years, with all current members being given an opportunity to vote. Current members may vote in person by attending the business meeting at the annual reunion, or by mailing in a written ballot, follows the bios of candidates. Each member may submit only one ballot.

There are six positions up for election: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. The other positions on our board of directors (President Emeritus, Past President and Communications Director) are permanent positions as recognized by our Constitution and By-Laws. All other positions in the VSPA are staff positions appointed by the president and board based upon expertise and willingness to serve the members of the VSPA. Elected officers will be confirmed and installed after the voting is completed at the reunion in October. The term of office of all positions is two years. The positions do not receive a salary and are entirely on a volunteer basis.

VSPA members had until **August 1, 2018** to declare their intention to run for an elected VSPA position. They had to submit a bio and photo for publication in Guardmount. Each person who runs must have been a regular member or life member in good standing for at least two years prior to the election. Board members must have the ability to attend future business meetings that are held at our annual reunions. They must communicate via the Internet and by phone on a regular basis, and must make the commitment to provide the time necessary to serve in the position - none of these are ceremonial positions.

The duties of the elected board positions below are from the VSPA By-Laws:

PRESIDENT - The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Act as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- B. Cause to be called all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- C. Preside over all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- D. Enforce the Constitution and By-Laws.
- E. Direct and supervise the operation of the organization.
- F. Prepare and present the Board of Directors Annual Report at the annual business meeting.
- G. Coordinate the confirmation of all appointed staff members with the Board of Directors.
- H. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.
- I. Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the "Nominations Committee."

VICE PRESIDENT and **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** - The duties of the Vice President and the Second Vice President shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Assist the President in the discharge of his duties.

- B. Assume the duties of the President in the event of his absence, illness, or call to eternal Guardmount.
- C. Execute the powers and authority of the President, when required, in the absence of the President.
- D. Serve as elected members of the Board of Directors.
- E. Serve as Chairman and member of the Public Relations Committee if a committee is necessary.
- F. Serve as a member of the Scholarship Committee.
- G. Prepare and present annual reports relative to the operation of their respective office at the annual business meeting.
- H. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to their care and turn over the folder to his successor.
- I. The Second Vice President shall provide oversight for all record keeping activities and assist the President by maintaining hard copy records when necessary.

SECRETARY - The duties of the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Officiate when required in the absence of the President and Vice President.
- B. Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- C. Serve as a member of the Membership Committee.
- D. Be the clerk of the organization.
- E. Be the custodian of all business-related non-financial records and materials, with the exception of: those records which are created and maintained by the VSPA Historian, the VSPA Membership Chairman, the VSPA Treasurer and VSPA Communications Director Don L. Poss; or those records which are required for performance of the duties of the registered agent and liaison with VSPA's tax accountant and tax attorney. All such records shall remain property of the organization.
- F. Take minutes and keep permanent records of the proceedings of all annual Business Meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.
- G. Prepare and distribute election ballots, if necessary and as required.
- H. Ensure that only members in good standing vote on organizational business. The Secretary will be assisted by the Membership Chairman and the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- I. Serve as official organization correspondent.
- J. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

TREASURER - The duties of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- B. Act as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee if the committee is necessary.
- C. Be the Chief Financial Officer of the organization.
- D. Be the custodian of all financial records of the organization.
- E. Receive and be responsible for the collection of all monies due and payable to the organization.
- F. Have custody of all organization funds, and shall provide for the safekeeping, retention, disbursement, and investment in a manner acceptable to the Board of Directors.
- G. Receive donations on behalf of the organization.
- H. Issue letters in acknowledgement of all donations as required by tax codes.
- I. To work with the President to make such reports and returns as are required by Federal, State and local governments, the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, and these By-Laws, including the disbursement of appropriate taxes and fees.
- J. Maintain accounts appropriate to the structure and activities of the organization and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and principles.
- K. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

HISTORIAN - The duties of the Historian shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- B. Serve as Chairman of the Historical Committee if a committee is necessary.
- C. Prepare and present a report at the annual business meeting regarding the history projects completed during the preceding year.
- D. Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

– – **CANDIDATE BIOS BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE** – –

Did everyone answer the trivia question from the Spring 2018 Guardmount?

Just for fun



What is it?

For those who may not remember, this is a paper or card stock version of a slide rule style calculator for creating the old time traditional Air Police/Security Police “9 and 3” flight schedules. You match the corresponding flight and day of week from the last day of previous month to determine the schedule for the current or next month. **How many remember using one?**

For President:

Jerry Nelson, CMSGT (Retired)

Life Member #668; Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70



I have observed and read the comments about the skills and qualifications needed for the leadership positions in the VSPA. This has caused me to evaluate my goals and desires regarding my personal service in the VSPA. Almost six years ago, I was asked by the VSPA leadership to fill the vacated position of Secretary of the Association. Since that time, I have been elected to two more terms and intimately involved with the Association's activities with the Board of Directors. I have also continually volunteered for many other responsibilities that helped the VSPA. I truly have enjoyed my relationships with my Brothers and working to make the VSPA better for every member. The Brotherhood within the VSPA means the world to me and I will do anything to protect and improve it.

After discussions with my bride who is a member of the VSPA Sisterhood, and many, many members of our Association, I have decided to seek the position of the Presidency of the VSPA. I do not take this endeavor lightly and can promise, if elected, I will do all in my power to fulfill all responsibilities of that position to the best of my ability. I certainly appreciate all the former Presidents and their efforts to keep this a strong organization. I feel this is a pivotal time in VSPA history and a strong, independent leader is necessary. I believe that I am that leader. I will work hard to increase membership, always working with the Brotherhood to ensure its vitality and ensure the Board of Directors (BOD) work together to make this organization better for everyone. There are many important issues facing the Association in our future and all must be addressed and handled by the BOD. I believe in a strong, active BOD that actively works issues as they arise. One person cannot handle all the issues; therefore, delegation of responsibilities is imperative. I, if elected, will work tirelessly to ensure that happens.

I would like to provide a brief background of my qualifications and why I feel that I am suited for this position. I retired from the USAF as a Chief Master Sergeant after a 27-year career. I served in Security Police for 12 years in many supervisory positions. I also served 15 years in the Air Force Recruiting Service. My last position was as the Superintendent, 367th Recruiting Group and was responsible for slightly over 1,000 recruiters. After retirement, I immediately entered the business world on the Field Audit team with Primerica. I have been in the Company for 23 years and am preparing to retire in 2019. I supervise a Field Audit team that covers the middle part of the US. I have been in supervisory positions almost my entire career.

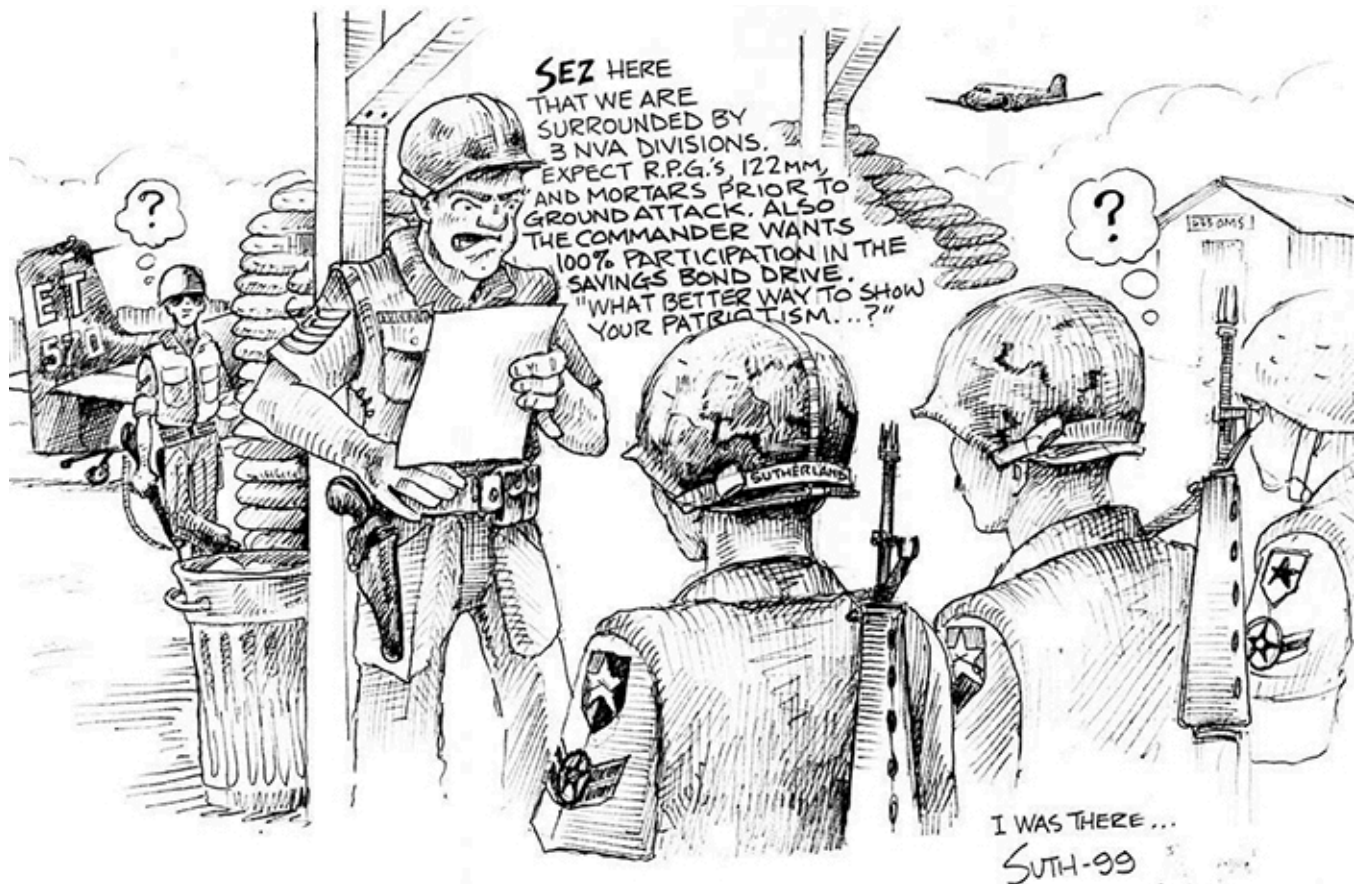
I have also served as the President of the Safeside Association since 2006. During those years, we have increased the size of the organization significantly and also incorporated as a tax-exempt organization, similar to the VSPA. We have also designed a memorial bench that was recently dedicated at the Defender Memorial located at the National Air Force Museum. With the cooperation of the Board of Directors, we have achieved many great things for our Association. I am very proud of our record of accomplishment during my tenure. I have already established a plan of succession for the Presidency of the Safeside Association, ensuring no conflict of interest between the two organizations. I was also selected to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Security Forces Museum. All these positions have provided me insight to the inner-workings of these organizations and enabled me to have a broader

vision. I believe that every position that I have held or do hold will certainly make me better prepared for the future challenges facing the VSPA.

I feel I am qualified for the position, want to serve our Association and would love to have your support. I want to be everyone's President and will work diligently to ensure any concerns or problems are addressed. I am available and willing to discuss any issues or concerns that you may have. Please contact me at jrnel1423@aol.com or call me at 210-273-4777. I look forward to discussing issues and/or seeing everyone in Tucson, Arizona in October. Welcome Home Brothers!

Jerry R. Nelson
Life Member #668

-- CANDIDATE BIOS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE --



Cartoon by VSPA Member Larry Sutherland - RIP 2002

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES HAVE DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO RUN FOR VICE PRESIDENT. THERE ARE TWO CANDIDATES FOR TWO POSITIONS: VICE PRESIDENT AND 2ND VICE PRESIDENT. *YOU MAY VOTE FOR BOTH CANDIDATES, BUT ONLY ONE FOR EACH POSITION.* THEY ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

For Vice President:

Larry Fleming

Life Member #131; Nha Trang 68-69



I am seeking the office of Vice President of the VSPA. I have been a life member since 2004. I served in the USAF from 1966-1970, first serving at Minot AFB, North Dakota, then volunteering for Southeast Asia to escape the freezing North. I was sent to Nha Trang AB arriving on 31 January 1968 with a welcoming barrage courtesy of the enemy. After Viet Nam, I was sent to Hamilton AFB, California, where I was honorably discharged in 1970.

I worked in management positions for cities and water utilities for almost 40 years: First, as Director of Public Works for two cities, followed by Director of Operations and Project Manager for a newly established water district in Texas. I retired for a second time in 2014, after overseeing multiple capital projects in excess of 25 million dollars. I coordinated work with contractors, engineers, state agencies and the Water District. All contracts were finished on time and within budget. I feel my experience qualifies me to serve as a board member.

My first reunion was Washington D C. in 2007. If you were there, you were probably moved as much as I was by the parade, the visit to Arlington National Cemetery and other activities. That year changed my life and I was welcomed into a brotherhood that will be with me until I die. I have not missed a reunion since.

In 2015 I was honored to participate in a “Wall Washing” at the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Washington, D C. along with several of my buddies from Nha Trang and other VSPA members.

I am deeply connected with the VSPA and feel this is my time to become more involved in our organization. I hope to make a difference for the betterment of the entire membership. I am asking for your vote for Vice President in the upcoming election. **THANK YOU AND WELCOME HOME!**

Larry Fleming, Life Member #131
Ldfleming569@gmail.com

– – CANDIDATE BIOS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE – –

For Vice President:

Jaime A. Lleras, Chief Master Sergeant (Ret)
Life Member #887; Binh Thuy 1970



Jaime was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, on 11 March 1950, where he lived until 1953, when his family moved to the United States. He grew up in Brooklyn, New York and after graduating from a private High School, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in August 1968. During his 21 years in the Maryland Air National Guard, he was a First Sergeant, a Human Resource Adviser and retired as the Wing Command Chief, in May of 2004, after 29 years of service, including a year tour in Vietnam.

He worked at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, DC, as Director for Shared Services and Mail Operations and retired in 2012, after 23 years of federal service. He currently lives in Surfside Beach, SC. He and his wife Patricia (Pat) have been married for 34 beautiful years and they have three grown children and three grandchildren. He's been vice president of his

community in Maryland and was involved with the production and layout of his church's newsletter for several years.

He is currently the Commander for the DAV's Myrtle Beach, SC, Carroll E. Prosser Chapter 30, as well as a Chapter Service Officer. He has also held the following volunteer positions:

- Church Council as the Communications Committee Liaison and Program Coordinator and teacher of their English as a Second Language (ESL).
- A big brother in the Big Brother Big Sister of Southern Maryland program for 10 years.
- Volunteered at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland, for 3-years doing veteran visitations and managing the clothing store, where resident vets could come to pick up free clothing donated by the community.

He has excellent qualifications for this position such as,

- Strong leadership and managerial skills,
- Exceptional customer service experience,
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills,
- Detail-oriented, and
- Bilingual (Fluent in Spanish)

Jaime Lleras, Life Member #887
chiefjal9@gmail.com

– – CANDIDATE BIOS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE – –

For Secretary:

Bill Marshall

Life Member #85; Phu Cat 68-69



one could ask; however, due to the Vietnam build-up in 1968 that created a large demand for Security Policemen, I was assigned to Phu Cat Air Base. I am very proud that I was able to serve my country.



I was born and raised in rural Van Wert County, Ohio where I worked on the family farm. I attended Ft. Wayne International Business College for one year prior to entering the United States Air Force in 1965. My assignments were primarily in SAC as an Air Policeman/Security Policeman with my first assignment at Grand Forks AFB. I was assigned to “missile facility top-side security.” I was fortunate enough to be selected for a position with the SAC Elite Guard in 1967 to provide internal security for the headquarters building at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. I worked at entry control points within a building with 23 assigned Generals plus one Admiral, thousands of Colonels, Lieutenants, Captains and Majors. Additional responsibilities included: honors and ceremonies, funeral details and standboards for visiting dignitaries. This assignment was the best duty

My greatest pleasure was serving with other airmen who, in the spirit of duty and brotherhood, protected their base as well as each other. I was discharged in 1969 as a Staff Sergeant. I worked for the Hanes Knitwear Corporation for 25 years; first as a sales representative, then as a sales manager where I was responsible for 25 sales representatives covering six western states. I took early retirement in 1996 and started my own executive recruitment company, from which I recently retired. I am now fully retired and would like to give back to organizations like the VSPA which have been instrumental in bringing closure to my Vietnam experience while allowing me to initiate many new friendships throughout the USA. Because of this, I ask that I be considered for the position of Secretary. I believe very strongly in the VSPA and its motto “We Take Care of Our Own.” I have been a member since 2001 and have repeatedly seen this expressed for a fellow brother. While we are all different, we share a brotherhood that can only be understood by those who

have stood in harm’s way and who have risked their lives to protect their base and brothers. This bond, forged by a war 50 years ago, cannot be broken and will continue to the last man standing. I am a life member of VSPA. I have been the Second VP and Membership Chairman for several years and have monitored the web site bulletin board for seven years as the Bulletin Board Flight Chief. I have attended as many of the reunions as circumstances permitted. One of the most special moments of my life was to

march with 400 VSPA brothers at the 25th celebration of “The Wall” in Washington D.C., paying tribute to those who served and to those who paid the ultimate price.

Additionally, this past fourteen years I created a web site that paid tribute to all the men who served on the SAC Elite Guard. From this initiative grew the SAC Elite Guard Association (SEGA) 501(c)(19), which now numbers over 700 former members and over 100 past members who have turned in their shield for the final time. I served as the first President of SEGA and presided over its incorporation during the first four years, acted as its webmaster the past two years and was reelected in May, 2010 as SEGA President. Upon finishing that term, I am currently the secretary. In 2015 I was appointed to the Van Wert County Veteran Commission as a Commissioner, responsible for the 3000 Veterans currently residing here. My duties are to insure their needs are met and to promote veterans rights as their advocate to the Veterans Commission. I am currently serving as the Finance Officer of my local American Legion Post 178. I am in charge of the Honors and Ceremonial guard that renders graveside honors services that average approximately 100 per year with additional Honor details as required. I am currently serving a 2 year term as a City Councilman for the city of Van Wert, Ohio. Having served the VSPA these past 17 + years, I believe that I am a capable candidate for Secretary.

-- CANDIDATE BIOS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE --



For Treasurer:

Richard Garcia

Life Member #82; Phan Rang 69-70



I have served as the Treasurer of the VSPA since 2009 (nine years).

I enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1967. Basic Training, Security Police School, Combat Prep Course at Lackland AFB 04/67-07/67. After Lackland, I went to Francis E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, WY 07/67-01/69, guarding Minuteman Missiles/Nuke Warheads.

I served at Phan Rang AB, RVN with the 35th Security Police Squadron in heavy weapons, Tiger mortar pit. I completed my service commitment with the 370th SPS Bangor, Maine, and was honorably discharged in April 1971.

- Retired four year ago as a Billing/Collections manager with the Episcopal Church.
- Received the “Vietnam Security Police Association Mike Daoust Award” in 2011.
- Received the “Vietnam Security Police Association Warriors Medal of Valor” in 2014.

Associations:

- Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) Life Member #82
- VFW
- American Legion, Massapequa Post 1066
- DAV Life Member
- Vietnam Veterans of America Life Member

It would be an honor and a privilege to continue serving this great association of USAF Air/Security Police brothers.

Welcome Home!

Richard Garcia

cal400@optonline.net

– – CANDIDATE BIOS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE – –

For Historian:

Steve Shelt

Life Member #157; Pleiku 67-68



I have had a very diverse career within the federal government as well as private business and industry. My career began in 1966 when I enlisted in the Air Force. As a Security Policeman, I was assigned to the 410th Bombardment Wing, 410th Combat Defense Squadron, K.I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan; 633rd Combat Support Group, 633rd Security Police Squadron, Pleiku AB, Vietnam; and the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, 81st Security Police Squadron, Bentwaters RAF, England. My most memorable experience in the Air Force was defending Pleiku Air Base during the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

I separated from the Air Force in 1970 and pursued my college education while working as a warehouse manager for a pharmaceutical and hospital supply company. After graduating from Tiffin University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, I made the decision to rejoin the military and entered the Army as a Military Policeman. I was assigned to the 554th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Patch Barracks, Germany; Headquarters U.S. European Command, Protective Service Detachment, Germany; and Forces Command, Law Enforcement Activities, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. My most memorable experience in the Army was leading protective service missions with the Multinational Peace Keeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon.

In 1987, I started my civilian career in federal service with the Department of Army, assigned as the Director/Physical Security Officer, Physical Security and Crime Prevention Division, Office of the Provost Marshal, Ft Sheridan IL. My responsibility included facilities and installations in six mid-western states assigned to the 4th Army. In 1989 I was recruited by the U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR). During my tenure at the DOE-SR, I was assigned as a Team Leader, Branch Chief, Program Manager, and Division Director. I managed and directed a wide range of programs to include: Physical Security, Protective Force Operations, Intelligence/Counter-intelligence, Fire Protection, Aviation, and Emergency Management. I also directed the security mission for nuclear spent fuel being transported via ocean vessels from foreign country reactors to the U.S. as part of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. After 9/11, I was assigned a collateral duty to the FBI's Southeast Joint Terrorism Task Force, CSRA Joint Agency and Midlands Weapons of Mass Destruction Working Groups representing DOE Savannah River Operations Office.

I retired from federal service in 2007 and became a consultant to both private industry and the federal government on nuclear and petroleum security, terrorism, emergency services, and aviation safety and management. I completely retired from the work force in 2012. Post retirement I have volunteered with the Augusta Historical Society working on the National Veterans History Project collecting (videotaping) personal accounts of American war veterans for a better understanding of the realities of war. Those accounts are sent to the National Achieves so that future generations may hear directly from the veterans. I am a member of the county Community Emergency Response Team and volunteered 3 years at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Medical Center, Augusta, GA. I have also provided lectures to the current Air Force Security Forces on the emergence and tribulations of Air Base Defense in the Vietnam War. My favorite activity is backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and singing karaoke with friends. I am active with veteran's organizations such as the American Legion, Post 192, Vietnam Veterans of America, Vietnam Security Police Association (Life Member #157), and the Pleiku Air Base Association.

steve@visoweb.com



Vietnam Security Police Association

BALLOT

PRINT AND MAIL TO:

MIKE KENNEDY
14766 Foxfield Lane
Fontana, CA 92336-1185



PRINT OR TYPE CAREFULLY
SO THAT WE CAN VERIFY YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND ADDRESS

NAME: Last First M.I. Nickname

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY and ZIP CODE:

PHONE NUMBER: EMAIL ADDRESS:

INSTRUCTIONS

If you are attending the reunion, you may mail your ballot, or you may wait to meet the candidates and submit your ballot at the reunion. You may only vote one time.

PRINT THIS PAGE

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS BALLOT AND MAIL TO MIKE KENNEDY WITH A POSTMARK NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 24, 2018.

Completed ballots can also be emailed to Mike Kennedy at: mike3sps@verizon.net

Place a check [X] in the box next to the name of the Candidate(s) of your choice below.

FOR PRESIDENT

[] Jerry Nelson

VOTE FOR TWO: FOR VICE PRESIDENT (listed alphabetically)

Check the box for your choice for VP or 2nd VP for each candidate.

DO NOT CHECK BOTH BOXES - DO NOT CHECK THE SAME BOX FOR BOTH CANDIDATES.

VP 2nd VP
[] or [] Larry Fleming

VP 2nd VP
[] or [] Jaime Lleras

FOR SECRETARY

[] Bill Marshall

FOR TREASURER

[] Richard Garcia

FOR HISTORIAN

[] Steve Shelt

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



WWI
100
YEARS

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2018



va.gov



Vietnam Security Police Association
J.J. CHESTNUT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

<http://www.vspa.com/t-rip-chestnut-1998.htm>

Jim Lebowitz, Life Member #241, Bien Hoa AB – 66-68

Deadline: September 24, 2018

The VSPA (USAF) has established a scholarship fund in memory of J.J. “Jacob” Chestnut. J.J. was a career USAF Security Policeman and served two tours in the Republic of Vietnam, with the 12th Combat Security Police Squadron and the 633d Combat Security Police Squadron. After completion of his military career, J.J. Chestnut became a member of the U. S. Capital Police. In 1998, during an attack which shocked the nation, J.J. Chestnut was killed in the line of duty defending the U.S. Capital Building against a deranged individual attempting to gain access to sensitive areas. J.J. Chestnut is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

All VSPA members, spouses, children, grandchildren, stepchildren/step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are eligible to compete for this scholarship. Normally one \$1,000.00 award is given annually. The award will be granted to those seeking education beyond the high school level and may include trade schools, community colleges, junior colleges or four-year college or university and graduate degrees.

The deadline for submission of scholarship applications is **SEPTEMBER 24th**. The basis for the award will be recommendation(s), Grade Point Average (GPA) and the applicant’s response to one of the below listed questions.

VSPA members may request applications on behalf of applicants via the public bulletin board on the VSPA Web Site, email, or telephone. Applications may also be requested by survivors of a deceased VSPA Member.

Please complete the biographical data and recommendation. On a separate piece of paper, please respond to one of the following questions, in 500 words or less:

1. In what instances, if any, do you feel that the United States is justified in taking military action?

Or

2. Many people feel the military today is alienated from the general population. How can such alienation be eliminated or prevented?

Submit the completed application via e-mail to jlz9107@earthlink.net or regular mail to:

Jim Lebowitz
2144 Ronda Granada
Unit G
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Vietnam Security Police Association J.J. Chestnut Memorial Scholarship Application

APPLICANT'S BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Name of VSPA member: _____

Relationship: _____

Name and address of school currently attending or last attended:

Current degree/education level: _____

Name and address of school currently or planning on attending:

Grade point average: _____

- Note:** 1. Please attach a copy of your most current transcripts.
2. Recommendation of school official, principal, university administrator, department chair, or guidance counselor.

Name of applicant: _____

Comments concerning applicant's qualifications and potential:

Signature/Title of person making recommendation

Date



MPC - AKA, Funny Money & Monopoly Money

Mike Kennedy, Life Member #35, Bien Hoa AB – 69-70

Do you remember the jingle of change in your pocket while you were in Vietnam.” Well, only if it was in a dream or memory from “The World” before you arrived In-Country. That is because U.S. military and civilian personnel could not have or use U.S. currency in Vietnam. In place of the good old “American greenbacks,” everyone was issued MPC or Military Payment Certificates, more affectionately known as Funny Money or Monopoly Money by the troops. MPC Series 681 was in use during most of my tour in 1969 and 1970.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced MPC for the U.S. Department of Defense. MPC originated from the Allied Military Currency (AMC) that was used during World War II. A trial run of MPC was carried out within the Pacific Command in July 1946. The Secretary of War approved the use of MPC and the first MPC series (Series 461) was issued in September 1946. There were thirteen series of MPC designed and/or produced between 1946 and 1973, including four series issued during the Vietnam War (Series 641, 65-68; 661, 68-69; 681, 69-70; 692, 70-73). The DoD has not issued MPC since 1973 and cancelled the program in 2003.

Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1969-1970 – Series 681

5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ notes

Front



Back



MPCs were elaborately designed products. All notes had four-color faces and two-color backs and the sizes of notes varied according to denomination. Lower denominations of 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, and 50¢ were small in size; \$1 notes were medium size; and \$5, \$10, and \$20 notes were large.

MPC could be used on designated overseas military bases when any of the following conditions existed:

- there was a risk for large amounts of U.S. dollars falling into enemy hands
- the introduction of U.S. dollars into an area could devalue the local currency
- the local government prohibited the use of U.S. dollars by U.S. forces
- the military operation was anticipated to last more than 180 days

If you didn't bring any home with you, MPC is available for veterans who want a souvenir or for collectors; the different notes are available through sources like eBay and even specialized coin and currency brokers. However, you can expect to pay a high price for well-preserved samples. As an example, a recent eBay listing had a 10¢ MPC note selling for \$14.95, or 150 times its face value.

Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1969-1970 – Series 681 \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes

Front

Back



The first MPC issued for Vietnam was Series 641

Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1965-1968 – Series 641
5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ notes

Front



Back



**Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1965-1968 – Series 641
\$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes**

Front



Back



While several sources indicate the Series 641 \$20 note did exist, extensive searches of memorabilia and currency collecting resources failed to locate any images of this particular note.

The second MPC issued for Vietnam was Series 661

Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1968-1969 – Series 661
5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ notes

Front



Back



Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1968-1969 – Series 661
\$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes

Front

Back

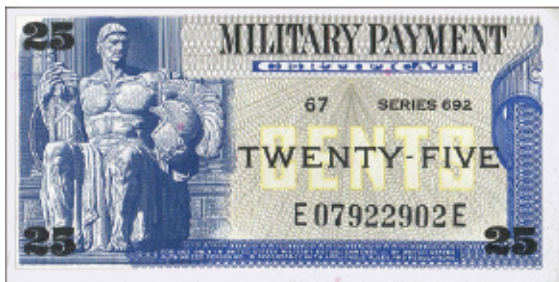


The final series of MPC issued for Vietnam was Series 692 beginning in 1970

Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1970-1973 – Series 692
5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ notes

Front

Back



Military Payment Certificates – Vietnam 1970-1973 – Series 692
\$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes

Front

Back





Good Night Vietnam

ADRIAN JOSEPH CRONAUER

Airman Who Coined The Now Iconic Phrase ‘Good Morning Vietnam’ Has Passed Away



Air Force and Vietnam Veteran Adrian Cronauer, 79, of Troutville, VA, passed away on Wednesday, July 18, 2018. Adrian Cronauer served as a disc jockey with AFVN - American Forces Vietnam Network in 1965-66. “Gooooooooood morning, Vietnam!” was Cronauer’s signature sign-on for his morning “Dawn Buster” show. His on-air personality and musical selections provided a welcome break from the toils of war for the troops in Vietnam. Cronauer later became the inspiration for Robin Williams’ role in the movie “Good Morning Vietnam.” After leaving Vietnam, Cronauer went on to a successful career in radio and television broadcasting before operating an advertising business and going into law. Adrian Cronauer was the keynote speaker at the Vietnam Security Police Association’s 1998 Reunion in Washington DC. While he may have been in Vietnam before many of us, all of us can recall the enjoyment we got from listening to Adrian Cronauer and the others who followed.

So now we say “Good Night Vietnam” to an icon from our time in Vietnam.



From the left: Steve Gattis, Brian Thorne, VSPA President Mike Daoust, Adrian Cronauer, Gary Linebaugh, VSPA Secretary Steve Ray.



Everett Squires presents a VSPA challenge coin to Adrian Cronauer at a meeting of the Eagle Chapter AF Security Police Association at JB Anacostia-Bolling a few years ago.

Gattis, Thorne, Daoust, Linebaugh and Ray all served at Cam Ranh Bay. Gattis, Thorne and Daoust lived in the same hooch. This was the first time that they had seen each other in 30 years.



CREED
of A
SECURITY
POLICEMAN

I am a Security Policeman

I hold allegiance to my country, devotion to duty, and personal integrity above all.

I wear my shield of authority with dignity and restraint, and promote by example high standards of conduct, appearance, courtesy, and performance.

I seek no favor because of my position.

I perform my duties in a firm, courteous, and impartial manner.

I strive to merit the respect of my fellow airmen and all with whom I come in contact.

AIR FORCE SECURITY POLICE VETERAN

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size (1) Patriot – % Daily Value*

Discipline	100%
Loyalty	200%
Willing To Defend Freedom With:	
Hostility Towards Enemies	100%
Necessary Violence	200%
Lethal Aggression	300%
Sympathy for Terrorists/Enemy Combatants/etc.	0%
Respect For Fellow Veterans	300%
Love of Country	600%

*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on having risked life and limb to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy and would proudly do it again.

It Was Just A Flag!

Mike Kennedy, Life Member #35, Bien Hoa AB – 69-70



Saturday, January 20, 1970, was just like any other night for the 3rd SPS Charlie Flight at Bien Hoa Air Base. It started off with checking out weapons from the armory and doing the usual pre-shift check of my APC, then attending Guardmount. Guardmount included the usual briefing on local activity and intelligence. There were no unusual threats reported for our area that night. After breaking Guardmount, the other three members of my QRT and I did our final check of weapons and equipment, and we headed out to our assigned position on the east perimeter. Besides being in charge of the east perimeter

QRT, I also drove the APC.

After driving around the southern perimeter of the base, we arrived on the east perimeter and took our usual position behind a berm that was next to a small drainage ditch just north of the “infamous” Bunker Hill 10. The crew checked out the small sandbag-reinforced foxhole that they had dug into the end of the berm a couple months earlier; and we all then settled in for a long, but hopefully quiet shift.

After several uneventful hours on post, we got permission from CSC to take the APC to the motor pool to refuel and notified the area SAT that we would be out of the area. After refueling, we made a stop at the Aerial port terminal to get some coffee and snacks from the canteen before returning to our post. Once back on post, we again settled in for the remainder of the shift and the usual conversations about home and an occasional war story.

Our long boring night was suddenly interrupted at 0456 hrs with that well-known radio call; “10-88, 10-88, Incoming, Incoming!” That was immediately followed by the familiar howl of the base air raid siren. The official records show that Bien Hoa was hit with eight 122mm rockets that morning. Ultimately, it resulted in approximately twenty-six injuries indirectly related to the attack and one damaged C-130.



Since the attack occurred just over an hour before our usual end of shift, CSC directed all Charlie Flight personnel to remain on post longer, as a precaution, for any further enemy activity. An hour or so later, the area SAT came around and delivered the requisite C-Rations. So, now all these pale-skinned night shift defenders are sitting around on post in the glaring sunlight, all keyed up after a night of boredom and late shift attack.

As was often the case, all the guys started telling more war stories and talking about what we could do to blow off steam, show some esprit de corps and let others on the base know that the “Thundering Third” was alive & well as we proceeded back to the squadron compound. All of the guys on the crew said we really should have a flag we could fly from the APC. Unfortunately, our APCs weren't equipped with flagpoles or even a radio antenna to fly a flag in those days. A great idea for the suggestion box, although I don't remember the squadron having a suggestion box either. Finally at about 1000 hrs, CSC released Charlie Flight personnel to breakdown their posts and everyone started to return to the squadron area.

So, now as they say, the names have been changed to protect the innocent as I finish the story. Well, actually after almost 50 years, I have lost all records of those involved and have forgotten the names, so it is just my name.

As mentioned earlier we were normally required to drive the APCs on the perimeter roads going to and coming from posts, but on this particular day I got permission to take a short cut through the base. The route I used took us past the base headquarters building. As we passed headquarters our path was suddenly blocked at an intersection by a 3rd SPS jeep and a very irate Major. Initially I didn't understand why our squadron second-in-command was screaming at me, but it soon became clear. Two of the guys on my crew were sitting on top of the open gun bay hatch holding a flag aloft that I was unaware of. While it wasn't funny or enjoyable at the time, this was the beginning of an even longer day touring the "Chain of Command" from top to bottom and back to the top again several times.

The Major demanded that we give him the flag immediately and report to CSC. The flag he took was a state flag, which had a pattern resembling a Confederate Flag. I know it looks bad, but wait. When we arrived at CSC, we were met by our Flight Chief who briefly chewed me out along with the two guys who were flying the flag. He said that we had to report to the squadron commander's office later and we would be well advised to get a haircut before reporting. After briefly reprimanding me and the other two guys, the Flight Chief laughed and said our biggest mistake was getting caught. He also said he thought it was funny because the flag the guys were flying was his home state flag. Although none of the three of us really needed a haircut, we managed to get one (just in case) before reporting to the squadron commander's office.

The real ass-chewing came in the squadron commander's office. The officers present demanded to know why we were flying the flag and who authorized it. After explaining that it was just something to blow off some steam after the earlier rocket attack, the guys flying the flag said they made the decision on their own. The Major asked if we were trying to cause a race riot and said that we should have known that the flag had the potential of causing a racial issue. He went on to state that a 3x5 inch Confederate Flag had caused a near race riot at the NCO club just a couple weeks earlier. We explained that while two of our QRT teams had been dispatched to standby outside the NCO club as backup for LE personnel, we were never informed of the circumstances. I told the officers if I had known, I would not have allowed the team to fly that particular flag.

When we said it was just to blow off steam and show esprit de corps, the Major asked why we didn't fly some other flag or just fly a white handkerchief from the APC. I said that if we had a US or another appropriate flag we would have flown it, but we never considered a handkerchief or "White Flag" because we had no intention of surrendering to anyone. The end result was we escaped a possible Article 15 or a written reprimand in lieu of the ass-chewing from the commanders, who said they would be watching us for the rest of the time we were at Bien Hoa. I almost got in more trouble when I said that was fine because I only had a couple months left In-Country.

Now here is the funny part of the story. My QRT crew of four included three Caucasians and one African-American. It was the three Caucasians who were observed by the Major initially and had to endure what seemed like a near endless tour of the chain of command. The African-American crewmember was sitting down inside the APC and was not seen by the Major and, therefore did not get in trouble. In fact the rest of the crew agreed that we would not make any reference to him. The most amusing and ironic part of the story is that the guy who brought the flag out on post the night before was the guy who was NOT seen and did not get in trouble. He had borrowed the flag from a hootch mate and taken it with the idea of flying it if something happened.

All four of us had a good laugh about it later and agreed, "*It Was Just A Flag!*"



Military Pride within The Vietnam Security Police Association



Ken Neal's 8th SPS K9 License Plate



Ernie Childers' 432 K9 Lic Plate & Beret



Alan Ashbaugh's VSPAK9 License Plate



Alvin Matthews' SAC Plate & VSPA Flag



Phil Carroll's License Plate

Military Pride within The Vietnam Security Police Association



Gary LaTour's License Plate



Pete Williams' 8th SPS K9 License Plate



Calvin MONK Pope's License Plate



Jay Jones' 432nd SPS K9 THOR 76M5



Bill Cummings' 635th SPS K9 Tag

Military Pride within The Vietnam Security Police Association



Jim Randall's License Plate



Randy Stutler's License Plate



Mike Kennedy's 3rd SPS License Plate



Mike Kennedy's VSPA & Patriotic Decals



Jim Watson's Ubon K9 License Plate

NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2016 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 Tucson, Arizona.

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; jrnell1423@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

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: Jaime Lleras; Binh Thuy 1970; chieffal9@gmail.com; 301-848-3399

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 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659

Chaplain: Bill Cooley; Cam Ranh Bay 71-72; Mingo 30A0; BCAJ@gvtc.com; 830-899-7542

Chaplain: Jeff Kerkhoff; Tan Son Nhut 72-73; (no email); 626-338-6846

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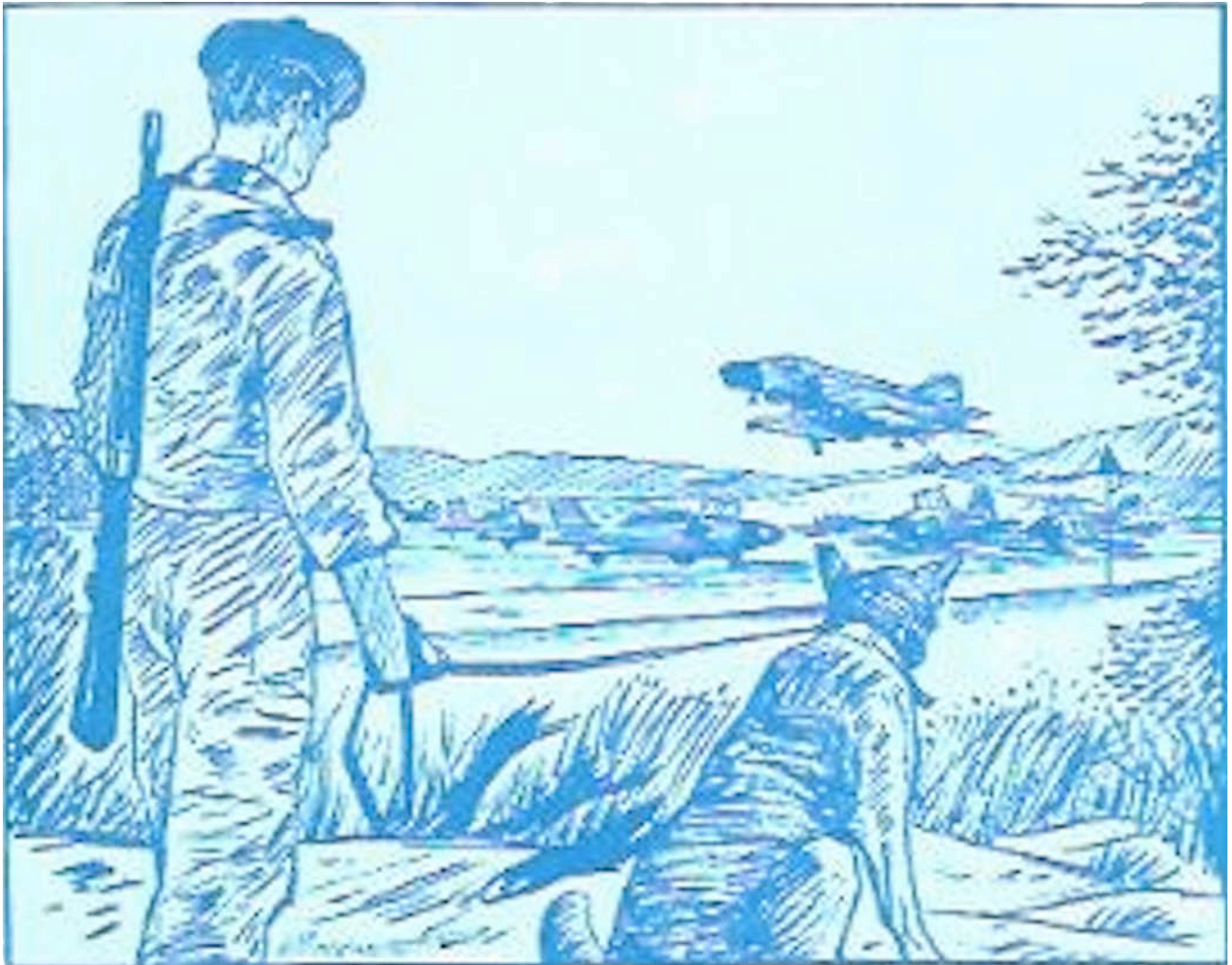
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AIR BASE DEFENSE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM



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