

## TALKING PAPER

### KNIFE 13 MEMORIAL MONUMENTS

#### PREPARED BY THE VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION, INC.

- The Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (VSPA) has proposed to raise funds, design, and deliver long-overdue memorial monuments to honor the 18 Security Policemen and five aircrew members (all assigned to the 56<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand) who perished in the crash of United States Air Force Helicopter, Knife 13, on 13 May 1975 in Thailand. Monuments will be located at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona (home of the 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and 56<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron) and the Security Forces Museum at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.
- The VSPA is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt organization of military war veterans who served as United States Air Force Air Policemen, Security Policemen, and Augmentees in Vietnam and Thailand. All donations to the memorials will be tax deductible for donors.
- The VSPA will seek support from corporate America and other patriotic organizations. Fund-raising is already underway using VSPA's extensive network of retired and active-duty Security Forces Defenders, including K-9 and others, plus the Special Operations community.
- The VSPA will fund, design, contract, transport and deliver approved monuments to mutually agreed upon and prepared sites that we have already surveyed at both bases.
- The VSPA has several members with in-depth experience in successfully creating and delivering world-class, distinctive memorials honoring this Nation's Military Veterans.
  - Granite Memorial Benches at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and Moody AFB, Georgia.
  - A series of photo-etched black granite Veteran's monuments created in the Town Square Park of Murrieta, California, in addition to a grey granite Fallen Warriors Monument, a POW/MIA Table, a 30-foot obelisk, and an Honor Garden where memorial bricks and tiles are available.
  - A Gold Star Honor Garden recently completed and dedicated September 22, 2022, in Hatboro, Pennsylvania.
- We anticipate raising the necessary funds to create the Knife-13 Monuments at Luke AFB, Arizona and Lackland AFB, Texas to recognize all who volunteered and perished when their helicopter, Knife-13, crashed while enroute to the staging area for the Mayaguez Rescue and Recovery Mission, also known as the Last Battle of the Vietnam War.
- The anticipated cost of both granite monuments has been estimated at \$100,000. The COVID pandemic, as well as labor and supply chain considerations prevent more accurate budget estimates. Once site and design concepts are agreed upon, and with approval from the Air Force Historical Research Agency, we will develop A&E renderings with more accurate cost.

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