

# VSPA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome Home! As your current VSPA President, I am glad to say that the Vietnam Security Police Association is always looking for former or retired Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who served in Vietnam and Thailand during the Vietnam War. Our Association has over 1,200 members, but there are still more APs, SPs and Augmentees out there who have either not heard about us or may not have a computer to look at our award winning [www.vspa.com](http://www.vspa.com) website. We welcome you. If you are a family member assisting your father, grandfather, brother, uncle or friend in their effort to find old friends, THANK YOU! Encourage them to join our group.

We hold a reunion once a year in one of the three section of the USA. We divide the country into sections (east, central and west) and rotate them so that we meet each year in one of these sections to give our membership a chance to attend a reunion that will always held near an active duty Air Force base.

The 2013 reunion was held in Charleston, South Carolina (east section) at Joint Base Charleston. The 2014 reunion will be in Shreveport, LA and Barksdale AFB (central). Next year, the reunion will be in Las Vegas, NV at Nellis AFB (west). We will select the location for the 2016 Reunion from the list of east coast bases when we meet this year. With the exception of Lackland AFB, where we have visited four times in our 20 years, we go to different bases each year so that we can support the troops who followed in our footsteps. We want to visit as many active duty Security Forces squadrons as possible.

We have an elected Board of Directors for the VSPA who are all volunteers and serve two year terms as officers of the association. Elections are held every two years. The officers are assisted by VSPA members with specific skills who serve as appointed staff members. We are a tax exempt military association and none of our officers or appointed staff members receives compensation for the time they willingly give to their brotherhood. Sometimes these positions come open as the member working that position has to give up the job because of health or personal reasons. Either way, we will post the open position on the VSPA Bulletin Board and ask for volunteers to fill the slot.

We have what I would say is an outstanding VSPA website that has won many awards. The web site was designed to provide links to photos and stories from our membership as well as to preserve the history or our service in Vietnam and Thailand. Once you have had the opportunity to browse the web site, I am sure you will agree that it is by far the best site you will ever see, bar none! Don Poss (Da Nang K9 1965-66) and his brother Larry have done an outstanding job and continue to make us proud with the latest updates for the website. We do have some regulations that we ask everyone to follow while using the VSPA Bulletin Boards. One bulletin board is public and open to our members, prospective members, their

family members, and visitors, including current Security Forces Defenders. We also have the members only FREE FIRE ZONE where members can discuss more personal issues that might involve difficult memories, post traumatic stress, Agent Orange related cancer issues and other subjects of a more personal nature that would only be understood by someone who has served as a USAF Air Policeman, Security Policeman or Augmentee in Vietnam and Thailand.

Our VSPA BX is an incredible one-stop location where members and the public can buy memorabilia related to our service in Vietnam and Thailand. If you are looking for something our BX does not have, they will find a way to get it for you. Van is a VSPA member who served at Phan Rang Air Base. His wife, Joyce is a member of our VSPA Sisterhood. They have done an outstanding job keeping the BX stocked with items related to the Vietnam War. They do this as volunteers to support our membership and their families who may want to buy a specific gift for a member. Van and Joyce transport the entire BX operation to our reunion each year. If you are looking for something special, you can find the BX on the VSPA website.

Our motto is *"We take care of our own."* We have the distinct honor to say that while many of our bases and sites were attacked multiple times during the Vietnam War, no air base protected by Air Policemen, Security Policemen or Augmentees was ever taken or overrun by the enemy. We have a section on the VSPA Web site that honors those AP/SP/Augmentees who gave their all during and after the Vietnam War. There are 110 who died or were KIA in the Vietnam and Thailand during War. Since then, others have died due to injuries, Agent Orange and post traumatic stress.

I would like to ask each of you to think about your service in Vietnam and Thailand and those who served with you, since each day we are finding VSPA members and non-members who have passed away. That is very sad because sometimes it can be several months, or maybe a year or two, before we hear about their passing away! Many Vietnam Vets do not have an obituary set up for posting in the newspapers in their hometown or where they live now. Think about this since it would help your family a great deal and will let your friends or former comrades know of your passing. It would also help us preserve the history of your service in Vietnam and/or Thailand.

We have several hundred Life Members of the VSPA. Each Life Member receives a specific number that is unique to them. For example, I am Life Member #141. We also have a very specific Life Member number for all members of the VSPA who have died since Vietnam. Among our hundreds of numbers is Life Member #111, which is a location on the web site that lists all VSPA members who have passed away. Life Member #111 was selected to honor all those who died in Vietnam and Thailand as well as those who were VSPA members who have died since then. When we have funeral or memorial service information, we post that information on the VSPA Bulletin Board. So, please take a moment to setup an obituary notification process. Let your family members know where it is located, either on the computer or some

other place, so that they can notify your brothers in the Vietnam Security Police Association.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the VSPA, becoming a Life Member or renewing your dues, please contact our Membership Chairman, Phil Carroll. All of the information you need to join is on our web site and the annual membership fee of \$15 is the lowest of any Veteran's organization. I served three tours in Vietnam and can tell you that the VSPA has reunited me with many of my Brother-In-Arms.

There are many "changes" coming to the US Air Force due to budget cuts and the ever-changing advances in technology. We are not sure of what the coming changes will be, but we know that the Security Forces career field is essential to the USAF mission just as it was in Vietnam and Thailand. Remember that the VSPA mission is to preserve our history and the hard lessons learned in Vietnam and Thailand, to share those lessons with those who followed in our footsteps and to support them when we gather for our reunions. We might be able to help them remember the impact of cuts that we felt in personnel, training and equipment. Our everlasting goal is to bring together all Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Augmentees who served in the Vietnam War no matter what rank they were. After all, we are all Brothers-in-Arms who would give anything and everything to protect the man on the next post.

So again, I say, "WELCOME HOME" and hope to see you at one of our VSPA Reunions.

Respectfully,

[William \(Pete\) Piazza](#)

VSPA President

Life Member #141

Cam Ranh Bay AB, Bien Hoa AB and Phu Cat AB