

## **VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION**

### **OCTOBER 18, 2003 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES Holiday Inn, Santa Rosa Blvd. San Antonio, Texas**

Before the business meeting began, SSGT (TSGT Select) Patrick Smith gave a presentation to the membership on a proposed Security Forces Memorial Monument to be placed at the Enlisted Heritage Hall, Gunter Annex, Alabama. Members in attendance donated \$460.00 to TSGT (Select) Smith. A certificate of appreciation will be given to the VSPA for this donation.

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Steve Gattis, President at 1000 hours.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Brian Thorne, Vice-President, led the Association members in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Pete Villarreal gave the invocation and then requested a moment of silence for those that did not return from Southeast Asia.
4. Reading of the 2002 minutes – Steve Ray read the business meeting minutes of the 11 October 2002 business meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report – Steve Ray read the treasurer's report in Den Cook's absence. A copy of the report was provided to all in attendance. Ending balance as of September 30, 2003 was \$29,931.70. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed. A copy of the treasurer's report is on file with the VSPA secretary.
6. VSPA Incorporation - Steve Gattis reported he had not retained the law firm in California as voted on at the 2001 business meeting due to a VSPA member who lives on the East coast volunteering to assist VSPA concerning the incorporation of VSPA. There will be an update later.
7. Steve Gattis reported that bricks for purchase for the Dayton Security Force Statue were available from AFSPA. He further reported that AFSPA requested that VSPA join them in sponsoring two \$7500.00 marble benches (total \$15,000.00) at the Statue site. Steve Gattis will request information be posted on the Internet and in Guardmount to gauge membership interest.
8. Membership Report – Terry Morris, Membership Chairman, gave the membership report. There are 693 paid members for 2003 with 120 Life Members. Statistics were provided on member renewal rates and months of highest/lowest new member sign-ups. There was a net gain of 30 members from 2002-2003. Terry requested that all address, e-mail, telephone number changes be sent to him. Dues are payable in January of each year and can now be paid on-line. There was a suggestion to put Guardmount out electronically. Discussion followed on how to recruit/retain members and some of the efforts made in the past. Steve Gattis reported Life Member #111 was set aside to honor and as a remembrance to all Air/Security Police that did not return from Southeast Asia. Life Member #111 pins and VSPA Brotherhood buttons were

donated to the VSPA for our Memorial Service by VSPA Member, Bob Mitchell. Terry reported he sends new member information, e.g. e-mail address to Don Poss (web site) and Dave Dobson (editor) about every 20 days. Members expressed concern in the amount of time it takes to have their information posted. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Membership Report.

9. Historian Report – Don Graham presented the History Report. A disk of his complete report is on file with the Secretary, Steve Ray. Don advised he would begin a process to document attacks that are not listed in the Airbase Defense in the Republic of Vietnam book. He requested members assist him by providing information on documented attacks (official documents/newspaper clippings, etc), and in the absence of documentation, provide the dates and as much data as possible. During the course of the year names were added to the SP museum Honor Scrolls with VSPA assistance. Mike Hilton's name was added to the Airman's Medal Scroll. Mike was present at the reunion and was recognized at the business meeting. Mike Danish's name was also added to the Airman's Medal scroll. There followed a discussion. Brian Thorne stated he was involved in a Library of Congress history effort. He provided information. Frank Bickerstaff asked if a Historian from the Library of Congress/USAF could be invited to attend the VSPA reunion for the purpose of gathering data/history information. Motion made and seconded to accept the Historian Report. Motion passed.
10. Scholarship Report – Brian Thorne, Scholarship Committee Chairman reported there were no applications received for the scholarship in 2002. The point of contact for the \$500.00 award is Brian. There was a discussion on the criteria. The receiving person must be a VSPA member, spouse, child or grandchild of a VSPA member and have a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Other requirements are required and are available by contacting Brian. Members were urged to submit an application for the year 2004. Brian asked for a volunteer to replace committee member Mike Daoust who passed away in 2002. Howard Pugh volunteered and was selected. Members of the scholarship committee are Brian Thorne (Chairman), Jim Lebowitz, Howard Pugh and Steve Ray. Motion made and seconded to accept the scholarship committee report.
11. VSPA History Book – Steve Gattis reported the publisher has been changed to Turner Publishing, replacing Thompson publishing. A handout was made available to all in attendance. The book will have three sections: 1. History of Southeast Asia operations, 2. Stories, photographs, maps, chart. 3. Bio's of VSPA members with 150 words free. The book will cost \$54.00. The publisher needs a minimum of 300 orders. VSPA would receive a percentage of proceeds for all pre-ordered books. All photo's sent to Turner Publishing will be returned. Information will be written in Guardmount. The deadline for submitting information and reserving a book is January 1, 2004. (See updated flyer for extended date).
12. Merchandise Sales – Van Digby took over sales after Mike Daoust's untimely death in 2002. Van reported several efforts are underway for new/improved items. Van asked for VSPA to fund the up front costs of \$1000.00 for an 8 inch patch (100 order). Motion was made and seconded to fund the purchase for

\$1000.00. Motion passed. Van reported his daughter handled the BX sales while he is on vacation or away from home. The membership asked that Van give her our thanks. Pins with date year of reunion are available. The new Challenge coin/reunion year pins are available through the BX sales in Guardmount. Silver challenge coins will not be available until the gold coins are sold out. Jackets are \$85.00 and are also available. Life Members may purchase a replacement pin if theirs is lost or damaged. The cost is \$5.

13. Web Site Report – Steve Gattis presented information for Don Poss on the VSPA web site. Don's brother, Larry provides VSPA the web site at a substantial monetary savings to the Association.
14. Reunion Site Selection –The VSPA reunion will be held in 2004 in Tucson, AZ. The dates are 7-10 October 2004.

Selection of the reunion site for 2005. 11 sites were offered before a motion was made and seconded to close. Motion passed. The top four to receive votes were: 1. Valdosta, GA (Moody AFB) 2. Ft Walton Beach, FL (Eglin AFB, FL) 3. Colorado Springs, CO (Air Force Academy) 4. Albuquerque NM, (Kirkland AFB). The membership selected Moody AFB, Valdosta, GA for October 6-9, 2005. In the event the 2004 reunion cannot be held in Tucson, AZ, the 2004 reunion will be held at Moody AFB.

15. Announcements from the Board – Don Graham reported the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC would be in 2007. He requested consideration for a reunion in November 2007 to be held in Washington DC and for the VSPA to march as a unit in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade.
16. Announcements from the membership – Mike Hilton thanked the VSPA for having his name added to the Honor Scroll at the SP museum on Lackland AFB. Henry Leshner thanked the VSPA for his Purple Heart Award presentation and ceremony at Lackland AFB.
17. Adjournment – Steve Gattis adjourned the meeting at 1225 hours after a motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Steven F. Ray  
Secretary, Vietnam Security Police Association