

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2008 - ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

AGENDA

1. 0845 hours – Call to order VSPA President Steve Gattis
2. Moment of Silence for those who did not come home and for our departed VSPA comrades listed at LM #111.
3. Invocation VSPA President Steve Gattis
4. Pledge of Allegiance Secretary Bruce Hadley
5. VSPA SISTERHOOD meeting will begin at 0900 hours.
6. Steve Gattis made a special appeal to all the members to make an appointment with their physicians to schedule a prostate screening exam, and stressed the importance to ensure quality of life not only the members, but also for the family members who share their lives with them. Family members left the room to attend the Sisterhood meeting. Steve Gattis specifically asked if there were any non-members present in the room. There were no non-members present. Steve Gattis called the VSPA Business meeting to order and declared a quorum with the following elected board members present:

VSPA President Steve Gattis
VSPA Vice President Hector Ramos
VSPA Secretary Bruce Hadley
VSPA Treasurer Den Cook
VSPA Historian Kelly Bateman

7. Approval of the 2007 Minutes Secretary Bruce Hadley by acclamation and without reading the full text of the minutes based upon prior distribution, a motion was made to accept minutes by Bill Cummings, seconded by Lew Goldberg, motion carried by majority vote.

8. REPORTS

- 8.1 Treasurer's Report Treasurer Denis Cook

The beginning balance was \$78,787.76; total receipts were \$28,891.13 for a balance of \$107,678.89; total expenses were \$7,538.14 for an ending balance of \$100,140.75. A copy of the full report was submitted for the minutes. Motion made to accept report by Keith Young, seconded by Albert Habercorn, motion carried by majority vote.

- 8.2 Historian's Report Historian Kelly Bateman

The USAF Security Forces Museum at Lackland AFB is in the process of upgrading its Hall of Honor exhibit. Visitors will be able to search for biographies and photographs on Security Forces killed in the line of duty. The exhibit will have introduction labels, a wall for the highly decorated medal recipients, medal recipients, Security Forces killed in the line of duty, an interactive computer station, a large screen for showing relevant media material with seating area and a donor recognition space. Motion made to accept report by Richard Garcia, seconded by Ray Rash, motion carried by majority vote.

- 8.3 Web Site Report- VSPA.com Web Master Don Poss

Don Poss reported that the system was continuing to be upgraded, was secure, and had not been hacked. He mentioned that all of the Guardmounts were now online, and Gary Jones is the troubleshooter for members experiencing problems with the web site. Steve Gattis emphasized that members should not engage in political activities or the like on the web site or on the bulletin board since that could affect our tax status and benefits. Motion made to accept report by Tony Morris, seconded by Bud Owens, motion carried by majority vote.

8.4 Membership Report

Steve Gattis for Membership Chairman Phil Carroll

Life memberships are available and payment is based on age of the eligible member. Member anniversary dates have been adjusted for better control in maintaining the records. In November 2007 there were 1,131 members of which 454 were life members. In October 2008 there are 1,189 members of which 525 are life members. The Membership Chairman and his assistant, Janet Wise, are continuing to look into permanent VSPA membership cards; however, they are not feasible at this time. Motion made to accept report by Don Graham, seconded by Randy Stutler, motion carried by majority vote.

8.5 Guardmount Report

President Steve Gattis and Larry Ernsting

Guardmount is online in addition to being printed. Online access is cheaper for the VSPA than printing. Steve Gattis made an appeal to the members who have computers that they voluntarily agree to receive Guardmount electronically which would greatly reduce the associations' cost for printing and mailing. Motion made to accept report by Van Digby, seconded by Al Handy, motion carried by majority vote.

8.6 Scholarship Committee Chairman Jim Lebowitz

Committee members are Vice President Hector Ramos, Jim Lebowitz, Albert Habercorn, Bud Owens and David Adams. Although there were two inquiries, there were no applications received for scholarships. Requirements for the J.J. Chestnut scholarships were reiterated. Members were encouraged to apply. Members, wives, children, grandchildren, stepchildren and step-grandchildren are eligible. Motion made to accept report by Bud Owens, seconded by Sebastian DeTuccio, motion carried by majority vote.

8.7 BX Sales Report

BX Sales Manager Van Digby.

The BX took in \$8,791 during the Washington DC reunion. Don and Larry Poss worked on getting a CD of pictures made of all the events attended. Out of the 300 CDs, 138 were sold during the first weeks of 2008 and are currently available through the BX. There have been over 265 BX orders placed using the web site, and over 700 people have registered. A copy of the full report was submitted for the minutes. Motion made to accept report by Jim Willis, seconded by Dan Vinson, motion carried by majority vote.

8.8 VSPA Service Officer

Service Officer Bud Owens.

Bud reported that retired personnel under a Chapter 67 Medical can now apply to the Air Force for concurrent retired pay. He also reported that a new law passed by Congress provides for pensions to Veterans and spouses over 65 years of age who are in need. Lastly, Bud reported that on May 8th this year the U.S. Supreme Court sided with the Veterans Administration in denying Veterans who served in Thailand and in the Navy "Blue Water" Project in the Republic of Vietnam the ability to claim compensation for Agent Orange related illnesses. He reiterated that the VA is not your advocate. Contact your local Veterans Service Officer with the DAV, American Legion or the Order of Purple Heart who have trained service officers to act as your advocate. They are very willing to assist you in getting into the VA system. Motion made to accept report by Duke Windsor, seconded by Ed Wilson, motion carried by majority vote.

8.9 K-9 Report

Bill Cummings, Kennel Master

8.9.1 Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial at Lackland

Bill Cummings

\$14,000 have been spent so far and the Air Force has designated the Memorial sacred ground.

8.9.2 Old Dawgs and Pups Program

Bill Cummings

The program is now world-wide and financially healthy. The Leatherman Company has struck a deal where if one tool is bought they will ship two for free to a deployed K-9 unit.

Motion made to accept both reports by Ray Rash, seconded by Mike Hilton, motion carried by majority vote.

8.10 Safeside Report

Jerry Nelson, President Safeside

No report was made to be voted on; however, Steve Gattis explained the Liaison positions and the need to increase the program to allow for one per base i.e. Lew Goldberg for Binh Thuy, Trent Nentrup for Cam Ranh Bay,

etc. Lastly, Steve mentioned that the members of Safeside Association donated \$1,000 to stock our Hospitality Room in Washington DC, and this year had donated \$700 to stock our Hospitality Room.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 VSPA History Book Update Steve Gattis

No report was made to be voted on; however, Steve Gattis gave an update to include that the project was moving forward in light of certain impediments caused by the split of the original corporation off the remaining corporation currently continuing the project, edit challenges caused by biographies with misspellings, photographs difficult to reproduce for publication, transcription errors, reversed dates, and incorrect and inconsistent spellings of base names in Vietnam and Thailand. The timeline for completion of the project could not be confirmed at this time although the project is moving forward. He appealed to the membership not to contact the company, Turner Publishing directly with complaints, only if ordering additional copies of the book.

9.2 Reunion Site Selection for 2009 Steve Gattis

Luke AFB in Phoenix, Arizona was selected at the 2007 reunion in Washington, D.C. With Lackland AFB as the secondary location in the event that base operations at Luke prohibited the 2009 reunion at that location. Proposals are in process from hotels in Phoenix. The dates will be October around the Columbus Day holiday and will be affected by hotel availability.

9.3 Selection of Reunion Site for 2010 Steve Gattis

	Reunion sites - Places we have been	U.S. REGION
9.3.1	Atlanta, Georgia 1995	East
9.3.2	San Antonio, Texas 1996	Central
9.3.3	Pensacola, Florida 1997	East
9.3.4	Washington D.C. 1998	East
9.3.5	Las Vegas, Nevada 1999	West
9.3.6	San Antonio, Texas 2000	Central
9.3.7	Hampton, Virginia 2001	East
9.3.8	Dayton, Ohio 2002	Central
9.3.9	San Antonio, Texas 2003	Central
9.3.10	Tucson, Arizona 2004 10th Anniversary	West
9.3.11	Valdosta, Georgia 2005	East
9.3.12	Las Vegas, Nevada 2006	West
9.3.13	Washington DC 2007	East
9.3.14	Albuquerque 2008	West Central
9.3.15	Phoenix, Arizona 2009	West
9.3.16	2010 Nominations/Suggestions/Presentations.	

Results of vote: Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Tx received 45 votes as the primary site for 2010 and Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH received 34 votes as the back up site in the event of operational changes at the primary base. Motion made to accept report by Duke Windsor, seconded by Bill Paddock, motion carried by majority vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Web Site Additions and Upgrades Don Poss

No report made to be voted on.

10.2 Membership Steve Gattis for Phil Carroll

No report made to be voted on.

10.3 Election of Officers - Two Year Term of Office - Elections scheduled for 2008.

Explanation of ballot process by Steve Gattis. There were 200 members eligible to vote. There were 159 ballots cast; 108 were mailed in; 51 were cast at the reunion. The final tally resulted in the following members being voted into

office with the indicated board members specifically authorized to sign checks on behalf of the association:

President Newell Swartz - Specifically authorized to sign VSPA checks
Vice President Hector Ramos - Specifically authorized to sign VSPA checks
Secretary Bruce Hadley
Treasurer Richard Garcia - Specifically authorized to sign VSPA checks
Historian Kelly Bateman

Motion made to accept the tally by Victor Lebsack, seconded by Duke Windsor, motion carried by majority vote.

Passing of the colors: Steve Gattis presented the VSPA flag with our campaign streamers and decorations to Newell Swartz, after which Newell made a few comments.

Newell Swartz appointed Don Hamilton to assist him in determining whether a 2nd Vice President will be needed for the association. They will make a report at the business meeting next year. Newell also appointed a reunion committee for the 2009 Reunion at Luke AFB in Phoenix, Arizona. Phil Carroll is the contact person for the 2009 Reunion. Luke AFB is not to be contacted directly by the membership. Guardmount will be published every three months and in it will appear a President's Corner. VSPA appointed staff members will be contacted regarding their ability to continue serving as members of the VSPA volunteer staff.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

11.1 SAFESIDE Meeting held on Saturday Afternoon, October 18 1230 to 1500.

11.2 Optional Tour 1500.

11.3 The new Executive Board will meet at 1230 hours

12. The meeting adjourned at 1150 hours.

Happy 61st Birthday U.S. Air Force! Sept. 18, 1947

USAF Key Historical Dates:

Aug. 1, 1907 - U.S. Army Signal Corps established a small Aeronautical Division to take charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning & air machines.

May 20, 1918 - WWI, President Woodrow Wilson issued an executive order transferring aviation from the Signal Corps to two agencies under the Secretary of War: the Bureau of Aircraft Production, headed by Mr. John D. Ryan, and the Division of Military Aeronautics, directed by Maj. Gen. William L. Kenly.

1926 - Air Corps Act of 1926 changed the name of the Air Service to the Army Air Corps. During WWII, the U.S. Army Air Forces was then established in 1941.

1964 - USAF was heavily deployed during the Vietnam War following the Gulf of Tonkin incident.

1991 - The USAF provided the bulk of the Allied air power during the first Gulf War. The F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter was utilized.

2003 - In the invasion of Iraq, following the defeat of Saddam Hussein's regime, the USAF took over Baghdad International Airport as a base.

ELECTED OFFICERS/Board of Directors:

PRESIDENT	Newell Swartz	602-574-3126	NSwartz-Pres-LM262@vspa.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Hector Ramos	973-430-1577	hramos926@comcast.net
SECRETARY	Bruce Hadley	718-896-1954	brunole@juno.com
TREASURER	Richard Garcia	516-799-9205	
HISTORIAN	Kelly Bateman	512-847-9805	texask-9@swbell.net
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES	Steve Gattis	254-898-2647	SGattis-LM49@vspa.com

APPOINTED STAFF:

Base Exchange:	Van Digby	989-686-3639	VAD403@sbcglobal.net
Chaplains:	Bill Cooley Steve Janke Jeff Kerkhoff Jim Stastny	830-899-7542 201-507-9038 626-338-6846 301-482-2659	BCAJ@gytc.com Jank953208@aol.com jimstastny@verizon.net
Guardmount Editor	Larry Ernsting	785-632-5310	ss821csps@netscape.net
Hospitality Room	Sheila Cane		
K-9 Kennel Master	Bill Cummings	240-925-1892	usafbrutus@comcast.net
Legal Services:	Paul Sigler	918-336-3595	parazig169@att.net
Membership Assistant	Phil Carroll Janet Wise	503-975-8608	K9nightfighter@msn.com Jwise11956@aol.com
Photographers	Steve Hall Tony Morris Lou Reda Ken Neal	714-634-1132 219-322-4418 419-668-7579 310-417-3820	hallstudio@worldnet.att.net htmorris@gmail.com loureda202@gmail.com MAXK000@aol.com
Safeside	Dave Pierson		swampur@att.net
Scholarship Chair.	Jim "Budda" Lebowitz	949-855-8901	jlz9107@earthlink.com
2nd.Vice President	Don Hamilton	602-973-4837	achilldigger@cox.net
Sergeant-at-Arms	Keith Young	716-549-0715	kcy9540@aol.com
Service Officer	Bud Owens	603-778-1990	betbudowens@comcast.net

VSPA WEB SITE:

Web Master	Don Poss		DonPoss-LM37@vspa.com
K-9 Webmaster	Monty Moore		K-9@vspa.com
Bulletin Bd Flt Chief	Bill Marshall	949-361-1770	billmarshallsaceliteguard@gmail
QRT Flight Chief	Gary Jones	843-851-7427	GaryandJJ@hotmail.com

VSPA SISTERHOOD (AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION)

President	Sheila Gervase-Cain		smgervase@yahoo.com
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