



**Vietnam Security Police Association**  
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# Guardmount

A publication for all Vietnam Security Policemen  
January/February 1995

Here we go!

Not long ago I was at a Vietnam Related function and I was asked what branch of the service I was in. When I mentioned Air Force it seemed like the air went out of the conversation. Well I told that person and anyone else that could hear that I was proud to be ex Air Force and extremely proud to be a former Security Policeman. We former SP's ate C-Rats, dug holes, sweated, got rained on, got shot at, got wounded, and died like any other G.I. in Nam. Combat Vet? You Bet! That is one of the reasons that I hoped to get this outfit rolling. Make no mistake about it-- I want everyone to know that we did a great job in Nam. Whether we worked Perimeter, Mortar platoon, K9, Gates, or wherever, we all did a job we can be proud of! Enuf said about that.

Membership:

We have around 100 members right now and are growing daily thanks to you'all. Send in those names of your buddies so we can get them signed up. My goal is 1,000 members on January 1, 1996. Is this possible? I think so. Let's see who is the top recruiter. Send in your \$10.00 and your DD-214.

Merchandise:

Those who have ordered our unique items have written back saying that their Numba 1. Look on the back page for a description.

Association Roster:

I will publish a roster of members as soon as we get our dues paid and get a few more members. In the meantime I can fill individual requests for info. No Sweat G.I.. Just ask.

Vietnam Veteran:

It's been so long that we have answered our nation's call: From all walks of life we came:

Rich, Poor, Foolish and Young:

For all 'the Glory and Fame.

We served our time in the hell called Vietnam:

Then came home and saw Saigon Fall:

The war has been over for many years:

But not in our Dreams and Fears:

Some call us cry-babies and say it was not a war:

But we know it was, and what we did it for:

We have our memorials and The Wall.

But we fought with them one and all:

We still have problems with Agent Orange and PTSD: In this great nation of Liberty?

Our government still neglects our POW/IIA"s.

And we still have problems with the VA:

We were known as America's best:

"WELCOME HOME 'to all VIETNAM VETS:

submitted by; Amador Garcia Jr.

35th SPS, Danang AB 65-66, Phan Rang A.B. 69-70, Visalia, CA.

Reunion?

OK guys this is where we need to focus some attention. Some of our members want to get together at The Wall for Veterans Day this year

and others just want to get together. Let me know your thoughts

Majority rules. I had originally thought we could get together in Kokomo,

In in Sept. Send in your vote. Let's just do it!

Food for Thought, by Steve Ray

The old saying "an army travels on its stomach" is true. Uncle Sam does his best to ensure troops in the field are well fed. Today, troops in the field are issued Meals ready to eat or "MRE's" for short. I hear that current active duty folks refer to MRE's as Meals rejected by Ethiopians or Meals Rwandans Eat. I've never eaten a MRE. therefore I cannot judge them.

I do have a definite opinion of the predecessor of the MRE. the C- Ration. Canned goodies in a box. SP folks are no stranger to C-Rats. Security Police had to cat C-Rats during training and while working on post. Most of the time there were alternatives, like getting food from the running Roach Coach, which would make the rounds of the training sites. Sometimes there was no choice.

In 1972 President Nixon's Vietnamization Program was in full swing and members of the 483rd SPS at Cam Ranh Bay AB, were busy providing OJT to ARVN soldiers. The ARVN were being trained to take over SP posts on the base perimeter, at checkpoints, and the gates. To say that training the ARVN was interesting would be an understatement but !hats another story.

While SP's were busy training the ARVN, our friends in the construction business were busy tearing down buildings. One of these buildings was the mess hall. Needless to say there were no cooks or hot food. C-Rats were a full time menu. My favorite meal was beans and franks, officially designated as a B-2 unit. The only problem with the B-2's was they came with Chesterfield cigarettes. No one would trade for those smokes. I had to give them to a local Mamasan that was always hanging around. If I wanted my favorite smoke, Marlboros, I had to take another meals like Ham and Eggs. The eggs were green and the taste would gag a maggot.

It was a real dilemma. Eat good or smoke good. Then again if you received a care package from home you could trade for lots of Marlboros. One day I discovered that American C-Rats weren't that bad at all. We were issued Korean C-Rats while manning a joint gate. Eventually we were sent over to the flightline and loaded onto a C-130. We were on our way to Thailand;

Upon our arrival in Bangkok I immediately became aware of certain smells. Could this be real? We were going to get hot food at last. Delicious, simply delicious. I ate Ice Cream for the first time in months. I'll never forget those C-Rats.

Steve Ray lives in Huntsville, Al. Presumably eating well today!

The following poem/song was written by six Air Policemen after Tan Son Nhut AB was attacked on April 13, 1966. I was one of the writers. Submitted by Terry Austin. 377th SPS.

April 3 & 10

I never will forget the night that Tan Son Nhut was hit. "C" flight was on duty then, we knew this was it.

We hit the dirt and looked around with anxious waiting eyes, and said a prayer as mortars came raining from the skies.

The Virgin boys of "C" flight had never been to war, the thoughts of seeing action here, was very, very far.

But on that night of April, April 3 & 10, The Virgin Boys of "C" flight deserved to be called men.

The Mortars kept falling for what seemed an eternity, smoke and fire began to raise as far as the eye could see.

But the men of "C" flight held their ground, and tried with all their will to hold their weapons steady and their shaking hands still.

Everyone was hoping that "Charlie" would be seen, but we all knew that the chance for this was mighty, mighty lean.

For we knew that we were ready now, and feeling pretty mean, and our shaking nerves by now had grown a little more secure.

And when it was all over and everything was calm, we realized that war here for us, had just began.

For on that night in April, April 3&10, The Virgin Boys of "C" Flight deserved to be called men.

Sung to the tune of "Sink the Bismarck"

Biography; Every issue we will feature the Air Force career of one of our members. This issue we feature John Langley our Newsletter editor.

My Air Force career began in August 1964 with Basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas. After basic I attended Air Police school also at Lackland AFB. My first duty station was at Pease AFB, New Hampshire which was only 65 miles from my home in Massachusetts. After a short training program I was assigned OJT to the K9 section at Pease. In the fall of 1966 I was accepted into the Air Forces "Safeside" program and was sent to Lackland AFB for Scout Dog training under the care of Army Instructors. After 3 months of intensive training I was sent back to Pease AFB for assignment to Vietnam as a Sentry Dog Handler. I arrived in Vietnam on April 1, 1967 at Tan Son Nhut AB. I was then assigned to the 377th Security Police K9 section there at Tan Son Nhut. I served my year in Vietnam leaving the end of March 1968. Here's where things went wrong. I was supposed to get an early out but the Air Force decided that K9 handlers were in short supply and instead sent me to Minot AFB, ND. Once there I discovered that there were no dogs at Minot because it was too cold. Catch 22 if I've heard one. Anyways instead I was sent to Missile Security where I served my last 4 months as a Strike Team Leader. I was discharged in August 1968.

Stories needed:

We need stories, poems, and biographies for our newsletter. Send them in in readable form and I will edit them.

Pleiku Air Base Assn.,

Tan Son Nhut Air Base Assn.,

These two Air Bases are in the process of forming an association. I'm told that the Pleiku Association has about 500 members. I will write a story soon on these two groups.

News releases:

We need all members to send notice to their local newspapers and any groups they belong to, to announce our formation.

Vietnam Security Police Assn. Merchandise for Sale. #1 Stuff

Patches- #1 -Vietnam Security Police Assn. Patch \$5.00

#2- Air Force Combat Veteran Patch \$4.00

#3- Full size Security Police Badge Patch \$4.00

Hat- Black Baseball hat with our Association Patch or any of the above patches. \$ 10.00.

Lapel Pin - Pewter Security Police Lapel Pin \$6.00. This pin is really nice. May be Air Force Issue.

Badge- Full size Pewter Security Police badge- Numbered.

These badges are real "Surplus" badges. 515.00 ea.

T-Shirt- Grey beefy T with a QC patch on front. \$12.00. This design is a little different from our patch.

Please add \$1.00 per item for S&H up to a maximum of \$3.00. No Cheap Charlie junk. You will be proud to Fly your Colors.

Back to Nam?

I have been approached by several different companies offering to organize a tour back to Nam. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I received lately offering a 10 day trip for \$1199 ea. An added benefit of this deal would be one of us would go for Half price. We could have a drawing among the people going to see who gets the discount.

I am going so anyone who wants to join me please let me know. The trip is not until March 1996 so we have lots of time to prepare. Our members will have first shot at this deal so don't delay.

Dues! All members who send in their dues by March 15 will be considered Charter members and will receive some benefits. Please fill out the attached form and send in your \$10.00 and your DD-214. If you've paid your dues already just fill out the form.

By John I. Frisbee, Contributing Editor

## Hero of Bien Hoa

Bien Hoa was a key to *the* enemy's capture of Saigon. It had to be held at all costs.

OF SOME 160 officers and airmen who were awarded the Air Force Cross in Southeast Asia, two of the officers were not aircrew members. Both were security police officers—Capt. Reginald V. Maisey, Jr., and Capt. Garth A. Wright. Both were decorated for extraordinary valor during North Vietnam's Tet Offensive of January 1968. This is the story of Captain Maisey's heroic leadership of men assigned to the 3d Security Police Squadron at Bien Hoa AB near Saigon.

Older readers and students of the Vietnam War will remember the Tet Offensive as a critical turning point in domestic support of our military commitment in southeast Asia. The media portrayed Tet as a defeat for American forces, which, in their view, had little chance of saving South Vietnam at an acceptable cost.

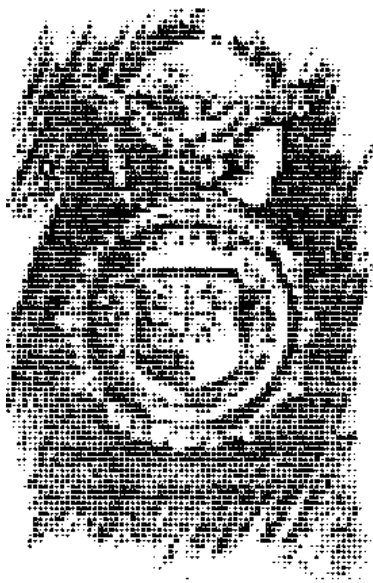
In reality, Tet was a smashing defeat for North Vietnam, which had assembled an estimated 84,000 of its own and Viet Cong troops for an assault on major cities and military bases throughout South Vietnam. All of their strikes were turned back within a few days, with the exception of the city of Hue, parts of which were taken and held by the enemy until March. More than half of the invading force is believed to have been killed and many more wounded.

A major objective of the offensive was to capture Saigon. South Vietnam's capital. The North counted on support by the South Vietnamese populace and relied heavily on surprise since a cease-fire had been negotiated for the Tet holidays. Neither happened. American commanders did not believe the North would honor the cease-fire and hence were on alert when the country-wide offensive began between 3:00a.m. and 4:00a.m. on January 31.

Key to the capture of Saigon was seizure of the huge US Air Bases—Bien Hoa and Tan Son Nhut—a few

miles to the north and west of the city. At 0300 hours the enemy hit Bien Hoa with two infantry battalions and a reinforced infantry company. About sixty percent of the attackers were North Vietnamese regulars, especially trained for the operation.

In order to reach the flightline, they had to bypass Bunker Hill 10 at the east end of the base. There, a



reinforced concrete bunker built by the French when they controlled Indochina was lightly manned by the 3d Security Police Squadron. The attack started with a ten-minute rocket bombardment of the bunker, followed by infiltration of a large number of Communist troops who continued to blast the bunker with rockets and automatic weapons.

When the attack began, Captain Maisey was at the west end of the base. He knew that holding Bunker Hill 10 was critical to defending the base. Maisey moved immediately to the Central Security Command Post and volunteered to lead the defense of the bunker, occupied by a handful of men who were firing furiously.

through the gun ports of the octagonal structure. Outside were thirty to forty security police who had come to the aid of their comrades. Maisey had to drive through the enemy's field of fire but miraculously, was unhurt.

To organize the defense and

To organize the defense and to communicate by radio with the command post, Captain Maisey had to leave the relative security of the bunker, exposing himself to enemy fire. This he did many times. His bravery and skill in directing the defense were an inspiration to the small force of security police, vastly outnumbered by the enemy and with a third of the defenders wounded.

The ferocious battle continued with enemy troops on three sides of the bunker. Ammunition soon was running low. SSgt. William Piazza drove his truck loaded with ammunition through a hail of fire to save the defenders (see *valor: The Battle of Bunker Hill 10; January 1968*, p.99). Sergeant Piazza was shortly to find himself in command of the defense.

On one of his sorties out of the bunker, Captain Maisey was hit by enemy fire but continued his report to the command post and his encouragement to his men. Now supported by helicopter gunships and an AC-47 "Spooky," they still were in imminent danger of being overrun.

At about 0430 hours, Captain Maisey again left the bunker to contact

the command post. He was hit by rocket and instantly, but the men he had led so brilliantly continued to contain the enemy until Army reinforcements arrived at dawn. Many lives and millions of dollars in aircraft had been saved by holding Bunker Hill 10 against a massive assault. For leadership of the defense at the cost of his own life, Captain Maisey was awarded the Air Force Cross posthumously.

Today an imposing building at Bolling AFB, D.C., bears the name of this gallant man, the first nonrated Air Force officer to be awarded the nation's second highest decoration for valor.

AIR FORCE Magazine / February 1993

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## Vietnam Security Police Association

### Charter Members

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Jack		Garlan	904-264-6763 FL				
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Steve		Ray					

