



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



Winter

Volume 13, Issue No2

Bud Owens and his "Greeters" at Pease AFB

Welcoming some Security Police troops home.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by VSPA President Newell Swartz

It is with pride and humility that I begin to serve my term as your president. If anyone among you has any ideas on how to operate more effectively, more efficiently or to just promote the camaraderie of the VSPA, please share your ideas with the rest of us.

Amazingly, with a war so many years behind us, we are continuing to grow in membership. But the time will come when our membership will begin to drop off. I would like to set up a budget so we can better gauge our income against our expenses. When new projects are discussed, we can also figure ways to pay for them, hopefully through self-generating income. We have to think about setting some of our funds aside in safe investments so we will always have money to generate a quarterly Guardmount when membership dues will no longer pay the cost. An example would be a painting to illustrate "The Last Man Standing" (see related article).

We will explore the idea of recruiting membership by publishing ads in other military publications explaining the VSPA and membership requirements, and we'll create some recruiting materials for members to take to local veterans' functions. It has been suggested that these materials could be distributed to members by placing them on our website Restricted Area for download by members only.

The publisher of Guardmount, Larry Ernsting has devoted himself to getting out Guardmount on a quarterly basis and the rest of your board of officers and appointed staff are also 100% behind the idea. Hopefully, the holiday season will still be with us when you receive this edition of Guardmount. I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season full of peace and goodwill. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Season's Greetings and to all a Happy New Year.

MEMBER VOLUNTEERS PARALEGAL SERVICES

VSPA member Paul Sigler (Cam Ranh Bay, 65-66) is a paralegal who has volunteered to assist VSPA members with legal issues such as Durable Powers of Attorney (both General and Medical); Wills; Trusts; Real Property (deeds etc); Small Claims and Social Security Appeals. At our age and with the medical problems many members face, powers of attorney and wills are two of the very most important documents members can provide to their families. This saves his family from having to make critical decisions at the worst possible times or leaving them without authority to make decisions. I would venture to say many members have legal questions but cannot afford attorneys. I think Paul could probably assist some of you. Legal matters are always serious issues and can be devastating if left unattended.

THE LAST SKYCOP STANDING

VSPA member Randy "Ramps" Stutler wrote a very moving poem as a tribute to the legacy of the last man standing who will receive the special bottle of liquor (tontine). Ramps is also an accomplished artist who has a concept of a painting of the last man standing with the tontine. Assuming, the VSPA has enough members who agree that we like this painting enough to purchase a print, the VSPA will pay for a limited number of prints. I suggested a price of \$50 but Ramps said he wants the price as low as possible so it will be affordable to everyone who wants one, probably in the \$25-30 range. Basically the price would include a copy of the poem and a print of the painting of the

last living member of the VSPA toasting his comrades. I don't even have a shadow box, but I would definitely buy this print to display prominently in my home and I believe most of you would also. The money from the VSPA budget for the initial outlay to purchase the prints and sell them at a small profit would be refunded to the budget with the profit then going into a fund to support Guardmount. The primary purpose of this proposal is to provide a significant tribute to our members honoring our membership in the VSPA which is based on our service to our country. Secondary to that is to add money to pay for future costs of Guardmount.

Two books written by VSPA member Jackie Kays about VSPA members experiences in Southeast Asia, "Security Police Vietnam and Thailand War Stories" and for those VSPA members who continued on into civilian law enforcement careers "Badge of Honor in War and Peace" have generated over \$750 in royalties which Jackie had donated to the VSPA. Now we have Jackie and Ramps in the preliminary stages of selecting poems written by VSPA members which Jackie will publish with the royalties going to the VSPA also. Jackie has two other books "To Die Alone" and the "Stone Throwers" which are military oriented and a good read.

VSPA STAFF CHANGES

I have added Sheila Gervase-Cain to the list of appointed staff members. Sheila provides us with the service of maintaining a hospitality room for the four days of the reunion. She actually drives out to the base, buys the beverages and snacks and delivers them. She makes sure the beverages are cold and that a variety of snacks are set out. She monitors the operation to ensure we receive top notch service from the hotel staff. Sheila provides a service that is greatly enjoyed by all and lives the VSPA Sisterhood motto of "Taking Care of Those Who Take Care of Their Own". As President of the Sisterhood, Sheila leads by example.

Don Hamilton has been appointed as Second Vice President. The idea was originally suggested by Bud Owens. The concept was well received by other board members so Don was appointed to further explore the need. If warranted, he will document the requirements in a proposal for a by-law change to be voted on in time for an election at the 2009 reunion.

FUTURE REUNION PLANNING

For next year's reunion at Luke AFB in Phoenix, Arizona, with the 56th SFS as our host unit, a committee has been set up to coordinate a memorial. Phil Carroll will chair the committee with Bill Cummings, Pete Villarreal and Hector Ramos as members. The memorial will pay tribute to the men of the 56th SPS who died in the "The Mayaguez Rescue" as well as the others who died at NKP in Thailand; and other hostile areas around the world as members of the 56th SPS/SFS.

Our 2010 reunion will be in San Antonio, TX at the home of the 37th SPS which was based at Phu Cat, RVN. The San Antonio area has touched the overwhelming majority of our members in one way or another so there will be something of interest for everyone who attends.

NOTE:

This is the last Guardmount that will be mailed out to everyone. Those with E-Mail addresses will get Guardmount at VSPA.COM. If you don't have an E-Mail address it will be mailed to you.



VSPA HISTORIAN REPORT

VSPA Historian Report 1108 Guardmount

By Mr. Kelly Bateman

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this organization in the capacity of historian. Our convention was a great success and enjoyed by all the members. Please allow me tell you about our VSPA Archives and how the donation process works. Our VSPA Archives are organized by bases in Vietnam or Thailand and each has its own 3 ring binder. Inside each Base Binder the base specific material is divided into 7 separate sections. 1. Base History 2. Special Activities 3. Personnel Articles 4. Individual and Base Awards 5. In Country Loss' 6. Unit Emblem 7. Duty Rosters / Orders. The documents contained in each of these sections are housed in archival plastic folders that protect them from wear and damage. Also preserved are VHS tapes, DVD's, magazines, books and individual file folders that are not base specific. These folders contain donated research and misc. documents by individuals submitted to the archives.

Please feel free to contact me with questions about our VSPA Historical Archives or donations of material to the archives such as copies of orders, photos, news articles, or anything related to your service in Vietnam and Thailand. All items you submit will be tagged with your name, unit, base, year of tour and date of submittal. These will be catalogued and be placed in the proper section. If you would like to send material please contact me at texask-9@swbell.net or send to VSPA Archives c/o Mr. Kelly Bateman 130 McCall Ln. Wimberley, Texas 78676 H 512-847-9805

Remember These?



Dinh Van Bui receive many important rewards for returning weapons to the Republic of South Vietnam.

MỘT THẮNG-LỢI MỚI CHO CHÁNH-PHỦ VIỆT-NAM CỘNG-HÒA.

Bạn Đinh-văn-Bư, một binh-sĩ Việt-Cộng thuộc Lực-Lượng Địa-Phương Tân-Hiệp, đã về hồi-chánh tại Trung-Tâm Chiêu-Hồi Phú-Chanh và đã chỉ cho Chánh-Quyền tịch-thu được của Việt-Cộng: 10 mìn Claymore Trung-Cộng, 42 đạn Bazoca, 75 mìn chống chiến-xa, 110 quả đạn súng cối 60 ly, 25 ký chất nổ T.N.T, 6 Thủy-Lôi Bộc-Phá, 90 thùng đạn AK 47 và 90 lựu-đạn.

Sự-kiện trên cũng là một trong những thắng-lợi lớn-lao nhằm bẻ gãy mưu-toan kéo dài chiến-tranh tại miền Nam Việt-Nam của bọn Cộng-Sản. Bạn Đinh-văn-Bư sẽ được lãnh những món tiền thưởng lớn-lao và sẽ được Chánh-Phủ giúp-đỡ tái-lập một cuộc sống mới. Chánh-Phủ cũng sẽ tưởng-thưởng xứng-đáng cho những ai đã lỡ-lầm theo Việt-Cộng muốn trở về với Chánh-Nghĩa Quốc-Gia.

6-043-69.

NEW VICTORY FOR REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

I Dinh Van Bui, a VC soldier, of local forces in Tan Hiep surrendered at PhuChanh center. He informed and helped government seize many weapons from VC: 10 Claymore, 42 Bazooka, 75 Tank mines, 110 mm shell, 25 Kilograms of TNT, 90 Boxes of AK-47 bullets and 90 Grenades, These things are of the biggest victories to stop Communist's motive to stall VN War, Dinh Van Bui will get big rewards and help from South Vietnam government to start his new life.

**CÁC BẠN VIỆT CỘNG VÀ CÁN BINH TRONG BỘ ĐỘI BẮC VIỆT
NẾU LỠ BỊ THƯƠNG TÍCH, SỞ PHẬN BẠN SẼ RA SAO?**



Một cái chết đau đớn vì bị bỏ bê không ai sẵn sóc trong bệnh viện trong rừng thiếu thốn dụng cụ và thuốc men. HAY... được các bác sĩ Chính Phủ và Đồng Minh sẵn sóc và cứu sống trong những bệnh viện của Chính Phủ Việt Nam Cộng Hòa.



BẠN CỎ THỂ CHỌN LẤY CÁI CHẾT ĐAU ĐỚN HOẶC SỰ SỐNG CÒN

SP-2400

IF VC AND SOLDIERS OF NORTH VIETNAM ARE INJURED, WHAT HAPPEN TO YOU?

Either a painful death because of lacking of care in the hospital with out medications in the jungle or the injured would get care from doctors of the republic of South Vietnam and Allied Forces.

**CHÍNH PHỦ VIỆT NAM CỘNG HÒA VÀ
ĐỒNG MINH SẼ GIÚP BẠN SỐNG CÒN**

Nếu bạn bị thương hãy tìm cách trì hoãn đừng để bị đem đi. Cố-gắng ra nằm một nơi trống trải để Quân Đội Việt-Nam Cộng Hòa dễ tìm thấy bạn. Nếu được hãy vượt tuyến qua phía Chính Phủ Quốc Gia. Bạn sẽ được chở đến bệnh viện và được các bác sĩ tài giỏi tận tâm chữa trị.

**TỐT HƠN LÀ BẠN HÃY CHỌN LẤY TỰ DO
TRƯỚC KHI BỊ THƯƠNG TẠI TRẬN TIỀN**

THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM THE ALLIED FORCES WOULD HELP YOU TO SURIVE.

If you are injured, try to get in an areas where South Vietnamese Army could see you- It's good if you could cross South Vietnam border, You would be brought to hospital and cured by good doctors.

ITS BETTER TO CHOOSE FREEDOM THAN BEING INJURED ON THE BATTLE FIELD.

ISSUED IN SOLEMN WARNING:

THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 19

TO: _____

VERY SOON, _____ WILL ONCE AGAIN BE IN YOUR MIDST, DE-AMERICANIZED, DEMORALIZED & DEHYDRATED, BUT READY TO TAKE HIS PLACE AS A HUMAN BEING, TO ENGAGE IN LIFE, LIBERTY & A SOMEWHAT DELAYED PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

IN MAKING YOUR JOYOUS PREPARATIONS TO WELCOME HIM BACK INTO RESPECTABLE SOCIETY, YOU MUST MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR THE CRUDE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH HE HAS SUFFERED FOR THE PAST _____ MONTHS. IN A WORD, HE MAY BE SOMEWHAT ASIATIC, SUFFERING FROM VIET CONGITIS, OR PERHAPS FROM TOO MUCH BA MOUI BA (VIETNAMESE BEER). THEREFORE, SHOW NO ALARM IF HE PREFERS TO SQUAT RATHER THAN SIT ON A CHAIR. HE MAY PAD AROUND IN SANDALS & A TOWEL, SLYLY OFFER TO SELL CIGARETTES TO THE POSTMAN, & PICK AT HIS FOOD AS IF YOU WERE TRYING TO POISON HIM. DON'T BE SURPRISED IF HE ANSWERS ALL QUESTIONS WITH, "I HATE THIS FRIGGIN PLACE", OR "YOU NUMBER ONE BABY", OR "SORRY BOUT THAT G.I". PLEASE BE TOLERANT WHEN HE TRIES TO BUY EVERYTHING AT HALF PRICE, ACCUSES THE GROCER OF BEING A THIEF, & REFUSES TO GO INTO ANY ESTABLISHMENT THAT DOESN'T HAVE STEEL MESH OVER THE WINDOWS & DOORS.

ANY OF THESE SIGHTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED SINCE THEY CAN PRODUCE A STATE OF ADVANCED PHYSCOMANIA: PEOPLE DANCING, CHILDREN PLAYING WITH TOY GRENADES & ROUND EYED WOMEN IN SHORT SKIRTS. IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME HIS PROFANITY WILL DECREASE ENOUGH TO PERMIT HIM TO ASSOCIATE WITH MIXED GROUPS & SOON HE WILL SPEAK A RECOGNIZABLE FORM OF ENGLISH. FOR AWHILE HE MAY COMPLAIN ABOUT SLEEPING ON A SPRING MATTRESS & WITHOUT A MOSQUITO NET & NUDGE YOU OUT OF BED OCCASSIONALLY.

MAKE NO FLATTERING REMARKS ABOUT EXOTIC SOUTHEAST ASIA & AVOID MENTION OF THE BENEFITS OF OVERSEAS DUTY. MAKE NO REMARKS ABOUT HIM CARRYING HIS RAIN COAT WHERE EVER HE GOES NOR THE SOUND OF MONSOON RAIN ON THE ROOF. ABOVE ALL, ASK PERMISSION BEFORE MENTIONING ABOUT FOOD DELICACIES OF THE EAST, SUCH AS FRIED RICE & FISH, AS THE MERE MENTION MAY TRIGGER OFF AN AWSOME DISPLAY OF VIOLENCE.

FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS, UNTIL HE IS HOUSEBROKEN, BE ESPECIALLY WATCHFUL SHOULD HE RUN AROUND IN HIS JOCKEY SHORTS IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER WOMEN. ALSO TAKE HEED IF AFTER HAVING A FEW BEERS HE RUNS OUT OF THE HOUSE & WETS ON THE LAWN. ANOTHER THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT HE MAY GO & USE THE NEIGHBORS LATRINE & ASK HIS WIFE TO DO THE LAUNDRY. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL, ROUND EYED WOMEN AS HIS FIRST REACTION MAY BE TO GO INTO A STATE OF COMPLETE SHOCK. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY & HESITATION TO MOVE THE YOUNG LADY OUT OF HIS REACH.

KEEP IN MIND, THAT BENEATH THIS TANNED & RUGGED EXTERIOR, THERE BEATS A HEART OF PURE GOLD. TREASURE THIS, FOR IT IS ABOUT THE ONLY THING OF VALUE HE HAS LEFT. TREAT HIM WITH KINDNESS, TOLERANCE & AN OCCASSIONAL SIX PACK OF BEER, & YOU WILL SOON BE ABLE TO REHABILITATE THIS HOLLOW SHELL OF A MAN YOU ONCE KNEW.

SEND NO MORE MAIL TO VIET NAM AFTER _____ FOR HE IS LEAVING THE TROPICS IN _____ DAYS & HEADING FOR THE LAND OF THE BIG B.X.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, THE PARTY OF THE FIRST PART HAS DULY EXECUTED THIS WARNING & SET HIS HAND HEREUNTO:

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 |
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VSPA SISTERHOOD (AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION)

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| President | Sheila Gervase-Cain | | smgervase@yahoo.com |
|-----------|---------------------|--|---------------------|

A Flag Flown Over Tuy Hoa

By Don Hamilton

The spring of 1970 found me working in the Armory at Tuy Hoa AFB, RVN. For some unknown reason I had been assigned to the day shift. I spent my twelve hour shift cleaning weapons and checking in weapons from Army soldiers that were spending the day on our base. It seemed so very strange that if you were coming onto our base, you had to check in your firearms. No side arms, rifles, shot guns, machine guns or laws despite being in a war zone you checked them all. Oh yes, from time to time we did tend to USAF SP weapons and sometimes we were asked to clean a weapon or two from those that were visiting; for a price.

It was not a secret that our base was scheduled to close and be given to the RVN. That made us all very happy because there would be a possibility of going home if you were really short. There was also the chance that you would be reassigned in country too but everyone I knew said that would never happen to them.

As rumors flew and grew, we received a strange order from higher up. We were told that the Base Commander was going to have a ceremony to turn over the base to the RVN. Our Base Commander also decided that he wanted a new US Flag to be on the pole when it was lowered for the last time. The old torn and soiled flag would no longer do.

Well Base LE was put in charge of the exchange of flags. Smartly the old girl was lowered and folded and a bright new shiny base flag was run up the pole to take her place. As fate would have it, the old dirty and tattered flag was brought to the Armory for a fitting end.

I had a strong reputation of being a scrounge. I could find PSP, lumber, paint, cement blocks, watering troughs, sheets of brownies and anything else that would fit in a duce and. So some how, some way that old girl of a flag had to be preserved for history. It was the least I could do.

Before the Las Vegas Reunion, VSPA Historian Don Graham, asked if I had any mementos from Tuy Hoa? Of course I told him of the tattered old flag that had somehow fallen from a shelf and into my duffel and was preserved for our Reunion.

So when you see a large old flag hanging on the wall behind our bright new VSPA flags, stop for a moment and take a look. You can touch the torn and tattered edges, see the dirt and grime. Know it was not the last flag to have flown over Tuy Hoa. There was a bright and clean flag for that.

She was the last working flag to fly over Tuy Hoa while our airplanes flew, our dogs guarded and our Security Police kept us safe.

NOTE: This flag is in the possession of Don Hamilton, LM #201 of the VSPA. It will be brought with me to every Reunion that I am able to attend. After my passing, my son Kevin will be the owner and will pass it on to the future generations.

By William (Pete) Piazza, SMSgt (Ret)

Sometimes a phone call to just say "Hi" or "Thank you" can lead to a very special event. Being honored is something that a lot of people do not get the chance to have happen to them, but when it does, it is something very special that is for sure.

One day in June, I received a telephone call from CMSgt Malcolm "Mac" McVicar, Director of the USAF Enlisted Heritage Research Institute at Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, AL. He wanted to know if I would like to attend the 2007 Air Force Enlisted Heritage Dinner that would be held during the 2007 Senior Enlisted Leadership Summit at Gunter Annex that CMSAF McKinley was hosting.

He explained to me that I would be one of the very special guests that would be asked to attend this event. He also told me that if I could attend, I would be getting my information from Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley's office.

Well, we talked about it and after checking my schedule of events for July 07, I told CMSgt McVicar that I would be honored to attend. He then told me that TSgt Claudia Alvarez would be contacting me to obtain my BIO and some other information for the orders and room reservations.

Within several days, I received a special request by mail from the Air University/CCC office at Maxwell AFB. The request was asking for the pleasure of my company on Thursday, 26 July 07 at the 2007 Air Force Enlisted Heritage Dinner at the Embassy Suites hotel in downtown Montgomery, AL. The dress was either mess dress for the military or black tie for civilians.

I contacted TSgt Alvarez at Maxwell AFB and gave her my information that she needed. I also asked if I could wear the AFSPA tie instead of a black tie with my suit? She told me she would check with the CMSAF office and get back to me. Several days later she, called back and said, I could wear the AFSPA tie and my ribbons, if I wanted, too.

I then thanked her and told her the date my wife (Gloria) and I would be leaving Oklahoma and driving to Gunter Annex. She told me that we would have a suite at the University Inn on Gunter Annex. She also told me that I would be receiving orders to cover this trip from the CMSAF office. Several days later I received an email with my orders attached.

Then on 24 July 07, Gloria and I departed our home for the long drive to Montgomery, AL. We stopped one night on the road so as not to get too tired. We arrived at Gunter Annex about 1245 hours, 25 July 07. We went to the University Inn and checked in and then went to building #1503 and our suite. This was an old barracks that was transformed into suites for the VIPs that come to Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex.

After checking in we went to Maxwell AFB and checked out the BX and got some lunch. When we got back to the suite, I took the book (Security Police Vietnam & Thailand War Stories) that Jackie Kays compiled from stories wrote by other AP/SP Vietnam Vets. I then went to the SNCO Academy which was near our building looking for CMSgt McVicar.

As luck would have it, I was directed to an office and as I went in, there was CMSgt McVicar sitting there. He know who I was immediately and he took me on a tour of the SNCOA building. Now at this time there were over 400 CMSgt's from all over the USAF in the auditorium. This was the Senior Enlisted Leadership Summit that was on-going.

CMSgt McVicar wanted to introduce me to several of the CMSgt's, but they were in session and did not take any breaks as they were listening to the guest speakers. So I told Mac, I would just autograph the book for him and get with him sometime on Thursday.

Then I wrote something in the book for others to read when they looked at the book. Mac told me the book would be placed in the Enlisted Heritage Hall library that the students from the SNCOA use to write their reports for their classes. I then went back to my suite.

On Thursday morning, I got up and drove to Maxwell AFB to play a round of golf. After play, I drove back to the suite. Then cleaned up and then Gloria and I went to get some lunch. After we got back, I went over to the Enlisted Heritage Hall to visit it. Upon walking in I heard a voice, that I have heard several times before, it was CMSAF (Ret) Robert Gaylor.

He was being escorted around by Bill Chivalette, who runs the Enlisted Heritage Hall. Bill also just happens to have been stationed with me at Homestead AFB way back in 1971 with the SAC Detachment there. As I walked up, Bill say hello to me and so did CMSAF (Ret) Bob Gaylor.

After Bob Gaylor and his party left, Bill and I walked around the Hall. Then Bill had to go get ready for a tour group he had coming in. I went back to my suite and rested before getting ready for tonight's event. Now to set the stage for this, you have to understand that each special guest had a escort and a military car assigned to them for their time at Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex.

My escort was TSgt Timothy Ford from the 42nd Security Forces Squadron, Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex. This outstanding NCO is an assistant Flight Chief and will also be going back to Iraq in November for another tour. So the stage is set. TSgt Ford came by to pick me up at 1745 hours, so we could drive to the Embassy Suite hotel.

We arrived at the Embassy Suite and as we pulled up, a young airmen came up to drive the car away and park it in the VIP parking slot for us. We then walked into the hotel with a special honor guard of SNCOs standing on each side of the door with swords up as each person walked under them. Once inside the hotel lobby, you could only see blue suits with zebra stripes on them all over the place.

Talk about too many Chiefs and not enough Indians (ha, ha). While trying to move toward one of the bars that was setup for everyone, I saw two chief's that were from Tinker AFB. I went over to CMSgt Phil Cherry, 72d ABW Command Chief and CMSgt Jim Foltz, 552d ACW Command Chief. We talked with them for short time and then TSgt Ford came up and said, he wanted to show me to the VIP guest lounge so we could get something to drink.

We walked into the banquet room and then out the side door to the VIP lounge. There we got a soda and met some of the other VIPs that were in the room. Several minutes later someone came into the room and asked everyone to go to their tables as the evenings events were about to start.

Once everyone was in the banquet hall, CMSgt McVicar started the event with the Chiefs honor guard Posting of the Colors, then the National Anthem and Invocation. Then Mac began the introduction of the VIP guests. Now this is something that I did not expect, but when he read my name and that I had saved all the folks on Bien Hoa AB during TET 68 and received the Silver Star for my action that morning. I got up so everyone could see me, but then everyone stood up and applauded me. Of course they had been doing that for all the VIP guests, but it just felt so special to me, because I felt I was representing all those Sky Cops and augmentees that were on duty the morning of 31 Jan 68.

The events during the evening, included a great meal and a special tribute to all Airmen Warriors. But this was also a celebration of the 40 years of the Office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. The present CMSAF and all the former CMSAF that were alive were there. There was a skit put on for each CMSAF with the folks wearing uniforms from the time periods.

Then came the closing remarks and then the singing of the Air Force Song before everyone departed for the evening. Before, I left I did get to meet with some Security Forces CMSgt's. Then, SSgt Robert Brown, from the 42d SFS, come up to me to say thanks for what I did, but I noticed that he was wearing a Purple Heart medal. I asked him where he got it and he said, Iraq. I then shook his hand and said, no, I should be thanking you for what you did.

Later, TSgt Ford and I then went out the back door to the VIP parking lot and then I was driven back to my suite at Gunter Annex. I thanked TSgt Ford and wished him well on his next tour to Iraq.

At 0625 hours, 27 July 07, we departed Gunter Annex for Oklahoma. I can say that I enjoyed the time I spent with Bill Chivalette, CMSgt McVicar, meeting some of today's Chiefs and the airmen stationed at Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex.

This was a very special event and I think that I represented both the Air Force Security Police Association and Vietnam Security Police Association with honor, because the folks I met thanked me for being there, but in truth, that was for all the AFSPA and VSPA members that served in the USAF.

By William (Pete) Piazza, SMSgt (Ret)

Here is a picture of the Memorial the 72nd SFS MWD Section has setup for Marco in their kennels. The middle coin is the VSPA coin I presented to SSgt Alissa Jones on behalf of the VSPA membership.

In case you all didn't know I made it back to Oklahoma on the 5th of April. I have attached the pictures of the Vigil we are having at the kennels fo Marco. The Vigil will be untill the memorial can be completed. We are looking at the 26th of April for the actual memorial. I would like to thank you all for you thoughts and prayers while I was on this deployment and on my way home.

Take care and God Bless,



Heritage Hall – Gunter Annex, Maxwell AFB Update

I just received this information from Ernie Childers concerning the K-9 display at Gunter Annex, Maxwell AFB, Heritage Hall, and thought many of you might like to see a few photographs of the display that has been in the works the last few years. Thank you to all that have donated “dawg” equipment – this is a beautiful display that we can all be proud of forever!

If you ever get in the area of Maxwell AFB, Alabama – please stop in and take the time to go through Heritage Hall.

A special thank you goes out to Ernie Childers and John Homa for all of the work that has been completed at the Heritage Hall – you guys have done a great job!



Forty years ago on the morning of 31 Jan 1968, the TET 1968 attack happened and many of us that were there will never forget it. Now some of us gather on Bolling AFB to rededicate the building named for Capt. R.V. Maisey, Jr., one of the 3rd Security Police Squadron hero's of the TET 68 battle at Bunker Hill #10 on Bien Hoa AB.

By SMSgt (Ret) William (Pete) Piazza

Way back in July 2007, I started getting some emails from Lee Chambers and Jim Saulnier of the Eagle Chapter of the AFSPA. They were dealing with needing information about Capt. Reginald V. Maisey, Jr. and how he was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill #10 on the morning of 31 Jan 1968 at Bien Hoa AB.

They were talking with LTC Joe Siedlarz, DIA and he wanted to know more about the battle and how Capt. Maisey was killed. Seems that LTC Siedlarz was in-processing into Bolling AFB and saw the building for Capt. Maisey, but could not find anything inside the building that told the story of why this building was dedicated to him?

Seems that this project took off as soon as it was learned that the plaque that was there was in not too good shape and hidden from everyone's view as they came into the building. Thus, the rededication project was started with the Eagle Chapter, AFSPA, 11th Wing and even the Director of Security Forces shop getting involved.

Everyone seemed to want to get on board to have this rededication project done on 31 Jan 2008, the 40th Anniversary of TET 1968 attack. This would be a fitting time to remember the two members (Capt. Maisey, 3rd SPS OPS Officer and A1C Edward Muse, a K-9 handler) both of the 3rd Security Police Squadron that were killed that morning during the attack.

Thus began an email trail with folks trying to obtain the best pictures of Capt. Maisey, Bunker Hill #10 and another other pictures that could be found dealing with the battle to ensure that we had a class item set for display in the building named for Capt. Maisey.

AFSPA took on this project and would fund for a shadow box with items and pictures to be displayed in the building so that anyone coming into the building could read and see why it was named for Capt. Maisey. Finally, the time and date were set for the rededication ceremony. It would be held at 1000 hours, 31 Jan 2008. Forty years to the date that Capt. Maisey was killed leading his men against a larger force of VC/NVA that were attacking Bien Hoa AB.

Contacts were made with Joyce (Maisey) Hunter, former wife of Capt. Maisey and LTC (Ret) Terry Maisey, his brother and a fellow Sky Cop as well as other Maisey family members. They all said they would love to attend this ceremony and felt honored.

Then in Dec 07, Jim Saulnier sent me an email and asked me if I would like to be the Guest Speaker at the reception after the rededication ceremony at the Bolling Club. I told Jim, I would be honored to do it. He also asked me to maybe talk about what happened that morning? I told him I think I could do that and that it would be a great lead in for the two books (The Battle for Saigon - TET 1968, by Keith W. Nolan and Security Police, Vietnam & Thailand War Stories, compiled by Jackie R. Kays) and a Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) coin, I was going to present to Joyce and the Maisey family on behalf of the men of the 3rd SPS and VSPA.

Also Jim Saulnier told me that Mike Campbell, 11th Wing PA shop was going to call me so he could get some information about the story he is writing for the Bolling AFB newspaper on the rededication of the Capt. Maisey building. I told Jim, have Mike call me anytime during the week would be the best. Then on 16 Jan 08, Mike Campbell called me and I answered all his questions and may have given him more then he needed, but he thanked me for the information.

Then on 28 Jan 08, my wife, Gloria and I started our drive to Washington, DC and Bolling AFB to attend this event. Spending three days on the road was alright, but made it a very long drive each day. But on the afternoon of 30 Jan 08, we arrived at Bolling AFB and went to Billeting Office to check in. Well, as everyone know "Murphy's Law" always comes into play somewhere along the

line. Today was no different, as the billeting office did not have rooms reserved for Col (Ret) Jerry and Lucille Bullock, LTC (Ret) Kent Miller and me and my wife. Finally, they did find the information, but the rooms were reserved for 31 Jan-2 Feb, instead of 30 Jan-2 Feb.

Well, after some calls to Jim Saulnier and maybe some other 11th Wing folks, this situation was taken care of and the rooms were secured for the correct time frames. My wife and I went to our SNCO quarters and Jim was picking up the Bullock's and Kent Miller at the airport. Later Jim called me to say that we all would meet at the Bolling Club for a seafood dinner they were having at 1900 hours. The meal was outstanding and everyone enjoyed the company and talking about the ceremony the following day.

After a good night's sleep we were up early in the morning, so that Kent Miller and I could have a good breakfast at Burger King on Bolling AFB (ha, ha). Then everyone get dressed up in either service dress or business attire and went to the Bolling Club to catch the bus to the Capt. Maisey building. They have a parking problem there too (ha, ha).

Once inside the building, everyone was told to go upstairs to the 2nd floor and the Arnold Auditorium for the ceremony. Here everyone was shown where they would sit and then everyone started meeting some of the Maisey/Hunter family as well as other VIP folks that were there.

A little after 1000 hours, LTC Joe Siedlarz asked the more than 100 attendees to take their seats and then he started the ceremony. There was the Presentation of the Colors, the singing of the National Anthem and the Invocation. Then the Narrator, LTC Siedlarz introduced Col. Kurt Neubauer, 11th Wing Commander and host for this event, who give his opening remarks. Then LTC Siedlarz introduced the Guest Speaker, Col. Ronald Newsom, deputy director, AF Security Forces Headquarters.

Col. Newsom talked about how Capt. Maisey lead his men that morning, even after he was wounded. How he rallied his men and stood fast even when it cost him his live in doing so. Col. Newsom also said we need to remember the lesson learned from this battle to ensure we are always prepared and to never forget that Capt. Maisey gave is all so that others may live on that morning. He set the standard high for others to follow.

Col. (Ret) Jerry Bullock, AFSPA Executive Director of the AFSPA, talked about Capt. Maisey and also talked about LTC (Ret) Kent Miller, 3rd SPS Commander at the time of the attack. LTC (Ret) Miller was one of the overlooked hero's from the battle that never received any awards for the part he played that morning.

Then came the moment everyone was waiting for, the unveiling of the Capt. Maisey shadow box (see picture). This shadow box displays pictures of Capt. Maisey, the medals that he was awarded, Bunker Hill #10 bunker, the story of the battle for Bunker Hill #10 and some other pictures of Capt. Maisey and other folks that worked with him from the 3rd SPS at Bien Hoa AB, as well as a picture of his father (CWO4 Reginald V. Maisey, Sr.) and brother (LTC Terry Maisey), who were both Sky Cops too. The 44 inch by 52 inch shadow box will be displayed prominently in the 11th Military Personnel Flight customer service area of the Capt. Maisey building for all to see.

After the ceremony everyone mingled around getting to look at the shadow box and meet with the Maisey/Hunter family and other VIPs that were there. Then it was time for everyone to catch the bus back over to the Bolling Club and get ready for the Reception and luncheon.

After a short break and checking in before the 65 guests were seated. Finally, Jim Saulnier and Lee Chambers started the program with a tribute to Capt. Maisey , called "To Our Fallen Hero" which was outstanding.

After the tribute, everyone went thru the buffet ala carte luncheon line. Once everyone had eaten, Jim and Lee again started the program for the reception. Jim, introduced the Guest Speaker, me, SMSgt (Ret) William (Pete) Piazza. I got up and took the script that I had setup for this event, but once I got started talking, I just went away from the script and started talking to everyone about what we (the men of the 3rd SPS) went thru that morning.

How we went thru some hard training from mid October thru early January on how to deploy from our M-series and regular blue Air Force vehicles. Fire our weapons at targets as a SAT team or fire team or QRF team at the on base firing range. Learn what we could and could not do to make sure we were prepared for anything the VC/NVA would throw at us anytime of the day or night.

Then, I talked about what happened on the morning of 31 Jan 68, when we arrived at Bunker Hill #10 and met with Capt. Maisey and some of the strange things that happened to us during the attack. I was telling the part about me finding Capt. Maisey's body inside Bunker Hill #10 and tripping over it. When another SP and I carried his body outside the bunker and laid it on the steps that lead down to the bottom part of the bunker.

Yes, I at that moment, I choked up and could not talk to everyone for what seemed like forever. While this was happening, I saw Mrs. Joyce Hunter (Capt. Maisey's wife) look at me and shake her head up and down as to say, that is alright and I understand about what happened that morning. That seemed to pull me back together and I went on talking about that morning.

As I completed my part of the presentation, I asked Mrs. Joyce Hunter to come up to the front of the room. I then presented to her and the Maisey family the book, "The Battle for Saigon - TET 1968" by Keith W. Nolan and told her it was from the members of the 3rd SPS. Then I presented to her and the Maisey family another book, "Security Police - Vietnam & Thailand War Stories" that was compiled by Jackie Kays from the members of the Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA). Finally, I presented her and the Maisey family a VSPA coin on behalf of the members of the VSPA. She thanked me for the presents.

As I went to sit down, the audience stood up and applauded me. To this I was very touched and thanked them for the honor. Then, Col. (Ret) Jerry Bullock was introduced and he made some remarks about today's events, talked about LTC (Ret) Kent Miller and thanked everyone for coming out. Then, LTC (Ret) Kent Miller, 3rd SPS Commander that morning was introduced and he talked about events that morning and about Capt. Maisey and what he did.

Finally, Jim Saulnier and Lee Chambers, from the Eagle Chapter called LTC (Ret) Kent Miller and me back up to present the "Pioneer Service Award" to both of us for our distinguished life-long career of distinctive accomplishments to the defense of our nation and bringing great credit upon the Air Force and the Air Force Security Police Association.

Then the program was over and everyone wanted to take pictures of everyone either as a group or in front of the Capt. Maisey shadow box. Then my wife, Gloria and I finally went back to our quarters to rest until we went out for dinner that evening with former members of the 3rd SPS and AFSPA folks.

Later, I also learned that after the luncheon, the Maisey/Hunter family went to the grave of Capt. Maisey at the Arlington Cemetery to pay their respects to him again. While there they heard Taps being played for another service some place in the cemetery. This made it seem more moving for the family.

Sometime around 1900 hours, 31 Jan 08, my wife and I, along with Col. (Ret) Jerry & Lucille Bullock, LTC (Ret) Kent Miller, Col (Ret) Joe Verna, Major (Ret) John Siedlarz and his son, LTC Joe Siedlarz went to dinner at the Charter House in Alexandria, VA. The food and company that evening was great. At the same time, Lee and Jim were hosting the 20 Maisey family members to a seafood buffet at Phillips Flagship in downtown Washington, DC.

Then on the morning of 1 Feb 08, my wife and I started our three day drive back to Oklahoma. We had to by past parts of Virginia to miss the ice storm they had, but we made it home safely. Since this event, Mike Campbell, 11th Wing PA has put out two stories on this event. Both are outstanding and well done.

Finally, a special thanks from me to Jim Saulnier for taking this project on and doing an outstanding job and to LTC Joseph Siedlarz for making folks aware that something was missing from the Capt. Maisey building on why this building was named for him.

One Dog, One Friend, Two Handlers By: Ed Cottrell

VSPA - Life Member #222VDHA - Member #3453, 632nd SPS. Binh Thuy Fritz 554F. 65-66

After completing basic training at Lackland, Nov. 1963, I was assigned to 831ST APS, George AFB, CA. I arrived Nov. 22nd, the day president Kennedy was killed. The base was on full alert and I could not be processed in. My 1st week was just eat and sleep.

I worked security and some base police, but it got boring. My roommate was a dog handler and he convinced me to volunteer for K-9. In Nov. 1964, I volunteered, and signed a 2 year commitment to stay at George, (what a joke).

I was assigned to Fritz 554F, for 3 1/2 months, then sent to dog school Feb. 1965. I trained a dog Rex, completing school, and returned back to George.

Working Rex for a couple of months, he started having walking problems. The vet said that he had hip arthritis and was euthanized. I was reassigned to Fritz.

Nov. 1965, my 1st year of a 2 year commitment, Fritz and I were deployed to Vietnam. We staged at Travis AFB and departed with 47 dog teams, on two C130's to Vietnam. (We were 47 of the first 99 USAF dog teams in Vietnam, 1965). We arrived at Tan Son Nhut and dog teams were sent to various bases.

I was sent to Binh Thuy and base housing was not complete. All base personnel was living in billets at night in Can Tho, except security cops and K-9. During the day we sandbagged building bunkers on K-9 posts and around barracks. At night, we worked K-9 and security posts. When housing was complete. All moved on base.

Soon after I arrived, working our K-9 perimeter posts, I met the commander of the mortar platoon, Lt. Chat Van Nguyen. His platoon was located on the northwest base perimeter. During my tour, Lt. Chat and I became good friends. We shared time together having meals and drinks in Can Tho, and dinners with his fiancée's family.

In Nov. 1966, it was tearful, saying good-bye to Fritz, my best buddy of 2 years. When I arrived at the flight line to leave, Lt. Chat was there and another sad good-bye.

Lt. Chat and I exchanged a few letters. One letter he sent me, included a Christmas card, new year's card and an invitation to his Jan. 1967 wedding. We then lost contact and for 40 years I had thought about him. Wondering if he survived the war.

After my return from our 2006 VDHA reunion, in Charleston, I made contact with another Binh Thuy handler, David Homan. We communicated by phone and e-mail. To find that we not only handled the same dog, but were both friends with Lt. Chat.

In Mar. 2007, I decided to try and locate Lt. Chat. Not knowing how to write and send a letter to Vietnam, I searched our local phone book for a Vietnamese restaurant. Having no luck, I did find a few last names. Same as Lt. Chat. I called and found a Vietnamese man that is a math teacher at University of Texas-Pan American here. After explaining to him that I was not a nut and my purpose he gladly agreed to write the letters. From the 1967 wedding invitation, I sent letters written in Vietnamese to both family addresses in Vietnam.

April, one month later, I received a letter. Written in Vietnamese. I went to my new friend's house to translate. As he started to read the letter to me, I told him to read it and just tell me if it is good or bad. He told me that the letter was from Chat, not from Vietnam, and he lives in Fort Worth, Texas. (500 miles from me). I called him and I visited with him the next weekend. He visited me on memorial day weekend in southern Texas.

In Aug. a few Binh Thuy handlers had a small reunion in Fort Worth with Chat. We are planning for the San Antonio reunion, and I hope that Chat can accompany me.

Chat came to the U.S. in 1992 and became a U.S. citizen in 2004.

After 40 years, addresses from a wedding card, letters sent halfway around the world, who would have thought that I would find my friend, and living just 500 miles from me. Unbelievable.

By: Dave (Hoby) Homan, 632nd SPS. Binh Thuy Fritz 554F. 66-67

In Dec. 1967, I arrived at Binh Thuy air base and was assigned to a sentry dog, named Fritz. I worked with him for 10 months, before returning to the states to complete my 4 years of active duty. While working the Binh Thuy base perimeter, I became friends with several Vietnamese soldiers. One soldier, a 2nd Lt. and I became very close friends. He invited me to his home on different occasions to visit and have dinner.

I, like all those who was returning home, hated to leave my dog behind, and the friends that I had made.

Through time, I have connected with some of the guy's that I served with, and others from Binh Thuy, due to VDHA. I was contacted by a prior handler of a dog named Fritz at Binh Thuy. He and I became friends via phone and e-mail, to discover that we both were handlers of the same dog, Fritz 554F. We also discovered, to find, that we both had become friends with the same Vietnamese officer, Lt. Chat.

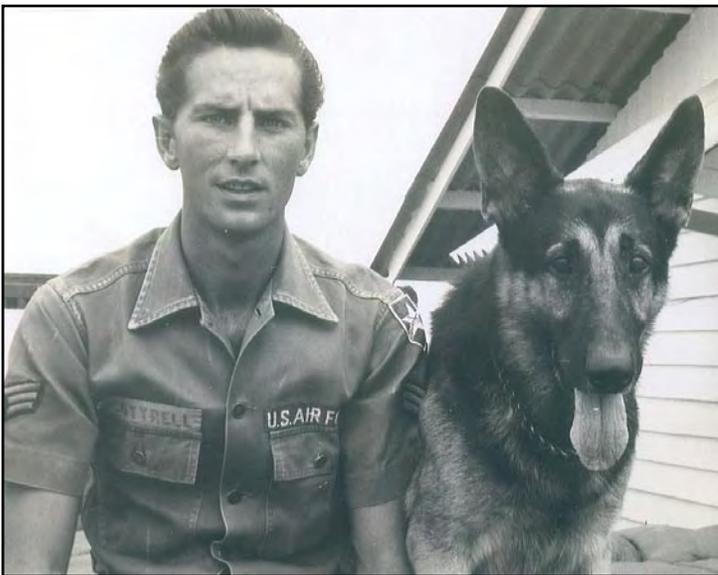
In Aug. 2007, we formed a small reunion, with the Lt. in Fort Worth, Texas, where he now makes his home. It was a very exciting time for him and us. What are the chances of this happening?



Lt. Chat Van Nguyen
Commander - Mortar Platoon
Binh Thuy 65-67



August 2007 Binh Thuy Handlers Reunion With Lt. Chat
Left to Right Edward Cottrell, Dan Bilyeau, Lt. Chat Van Nguyen, Lewis Kidd, David Homan



Edward (Ed) Cottrell Binh Thuy 65-66 Fritz 554f



Daiv (Hoby) Homan Binh Thuy 66-67 Fritz 554f

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.

Chaplain Corner

GOING HOME

The world gave me a look as
My uniform I wore.
I was feeling patriotic as
I entered Freedom's Door.

The stewardesses were talking and
Laughing behind my seat.
This is not the kind of treatment
That I expected then to meet.

If they only knew the struggles
I had faced the past year through.
They'd be ashamed and much embarrassed
Of the things they say and do.

It added to the burden
I was feeling deep inside.
My anger and disappointment
I would have to start to hide.

For many years my uniform
Was safely put away.
Along with all my medals
In a hidden box to stay.

As my generation grew up
They had learned about the war,
Of the pain and many struggles
That each young soldier indeed did bore.

Once again I have the pride
That I did when I was young
After fighting in the war
And turning in my gun.

By Chaplain Steve

Lest we forget.

The fourth VSPA Reunion was held in Arlington, VA in 1998. Sometime earlier that year a Vietnam Security Police veteran learned of our newly formed SP organization and signed up. His name was Jacob J. Chestnut, or as he was affectionately known, JJ. He proudly served two tours in Nam, Cam Ranh Bay 1966 and Pleiku in 1968-69. In the summer of 1998 he was once again serving his country as a Capital Police Officer in the Nations Capital in Washington DC.

I never met JJ but I knew that he planned to attend VSPA's fourth reunion being held in Arlington, VA. Sadly those hopes of meeting his SP brothers was not to be. On July 24th, 1998 JJ and fellow officer, John Gibson, were gunned down in the Capital by deranged gunman, Russell Weston.

As I was writing this I recalled that I had an old video tape of the Memorial service that was held in the Capital Rotunda. I learned that Officers Chestnut and Gibson were only the 28th and 29th persons to receive such a Memorial in the Capital Rotunda that's usually reserved only for dignitaries.

It was an honor for the members and wives to meet with JJ's wife and some of his children at the VSPA banquet. VSPA also held a Memorial service for JJ at Arlington National Cemetery. There were few dry eyes, if any, at the site of his yet unfinished grave.

On November 1st I had the opportunity to visit Arlington with my son-in-law. He is with the FBI and ironically had just returned from a month of duty in the war zone of Afghanistan. I've been to DC several times with my family but it was 10 years since I visited Arlington. We got directions from the staff and trekked nearly a mile to JJ's site. I took a couple pictures and paid my respects. It was then that it dawned on me that it was 10 years ago that he was slain.

I just wanted to share this with those of you that remember and inform those that do not. Jacob J. Chestnut, twice a hero in service to our country. Let us not forget, rest in peace brother JJ.

Terry Morris LM



For Your Information

The following article is from page 6 of the October 15, 2007, edition of Navy Times.

What's up: About 90 percent of deceased veterans are buried in private cemeteries. As a result, their families may not have been notified that they are entitled to presidential recognition of their loved ones' service, if they were honorably discharged. Awareness of the engraved Presidential Memorial Certificate isn't a problem for the families of vets buried in national cemeteries, which routinely pass out information about the certificates. But some private cemeteries admit they do not, said Bob Manning, who works at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee and is part of a team trying to get the word out on behalf of the National Cemetery Administration.

What's next: Families of deceased vets who'd like a Presidential Memorial Certificate – more than one can be provided to next of kin and loved ones can call the closest national cemetery for more information.

An online locator is at <http://www1.va.gov/directory> .

A request form that can be downloaded and printed is online at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-0247.pdf> .

Veteran Service Officers and private funeral homes can contact the agency at pmc@va.gov

Form Approved, OMB No. 2900-0567
Respondent Burden: 2 Minutes

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
|  Department of Veterans Affairs | | PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE REQUEST FORM | |
| <p>RESPONDENT BURDEN: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average two minutes per response. Statutory authority for the Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) Program is 38 U.S.C. 112. The information requested is approved under OMB Control Number 2900-0567, and is necessary to allow eligible recipients (next of kin, other relatives or friends) to request additional certificates and/or replacement or correct certificates on receipt of the original PMC.</p> <p>The National Cemetery Administration does not give, sell or transfer any personal information outside of the agency. VA may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. Responding to this collection is voluntary. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to VA Clearance Officer (005G2), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420. SEND COMMENTS ONLY. <i>Please do not send applications for benefits to this address.</i></p> | | | |
| <p>INSTRUCTIONS: When inserting the veterans name below, DO NOT include nickname, military rank, or civilian title. Complete a new VA Form 40-0247 for each additional name and/or mailing address.</p> | | | |
| NAME OF VETERAN | | NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF PERSON REQUESTING CERTIFICATE | |
| NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES REQUESTED | | | |
| HOME OR WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER <i>(Include area code and do not insert spaces between numbers)</i> | | SIGNATURE OF REQUESTOR | |
| RETURN COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH A COPY OF THE DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS TO: | | | |
| Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C) National Cemetery Administration 5109 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-3903 | | Or Fax To: 1 (800) 455-7143 | |

Breaking the Sound Barrier

These are actual photos of aircraft breaking the sound barrier. This phenomena only happens at the instant an aircraft breaks the sound barrier and it literally appears like the aircraft goes through a wall. I hope you find these pictures as fascinating as I do.



A naval veteran of 12 years, Gary, 38, manages a crew of eight assigned to take intelligence photographs from the high-tech belly of an F-14 Tomcat, the fastest fighter in the U.S. Navy. In July, Gary had been part of a Joint Task Force Exercise as the Constellation made its way to Japan.

Gary selected his Nikon 90 S, one of the five 35 mm cameras he owns. He set his 80-300 mm zoom lens on 300 mm, set his shutter speed at 1/1000 of a second with an aperture setting of F5.6. "I put it on full manual, focus and exposure," Gary said. "I tell young photographers who are into auto-matic everything, you aren't going to get that shot on auto. The plane is too fast. The camera can't keep up."

At sea level a plane must exceed 741 mph to break the sound barrier, or the speed at which sound travels. The change in pressure as the plane outruns all of the pressure and sound waves in front of it is heard on the ground as an explosion or sonic boom. The pressure change condenses the water in the air as the jet passes these waves. Altitude, wind speed, humidity, the shape and trajectory of the plane - all of these affect the breaking of this barrier. The slightest drag or atmospheric pull on the plane shatters the vapor oval like fireworks as the plane passes through, he said everything on July 7 was perfect. "You see! this vapor flicker around the plane that gets bigger and bigger. You get this loud boom, and it's instantaneous. The vapor cloud is there, and then it's not there. It's the coolest thing you have ever seen."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

October 30, 2008

New Law Authorizes Veterans' Salutes during National Anthem

WASHINGTON – Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official head-gear. The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

Retiree Pay Raise

The Dec. 1 cost-of-living adjustment for military and federal civilian retirees, disabled veterans and survivors will be 5.8 percent, with the increase first appearing in Jan. 1 checks.

The COLA is the biggest increase in military retirement pay since 1982, and is significantly larger than the 3.9 percent pay raise Congress recently approved for active duty and reserve component members. That’s because the two annual increases are based on separate factors. Retired pay automatically increases each year to keep pace with inflation, measured by the change in the cost of goods and services. Increases in military are designed to match private-sector wage growth.

The History of the Challenge Coin

by Bob Anderson, CMSgt, USAFR (Ret)

Several years ago I witnessed the resurgence of an old military tradition called challenge coin. I first became familiar with the tradition about 10 years ago while serving in the Air Force reserves. Many units perpetuate this tradition but admittedly I did not see it during my active duty time with the Air Force. I'm not going to say they weren't around, I just didn't experience them.

In the year 2000, I became the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 147th Fighter Wing, Ellington Field, Texas Air National Guard. I had the opportunity to design my own coin. Coins are usually given out as recognition for service, outstanding contributions to the mission and serve as an immediate reward for service. In my own research I learned the history of the challenge coin and frankly was surprised when I found out that the tradition started during World War One. I get a lot of questions about the history of the challenge coin, so I thought I would share it with you. This is taken from the Marine Corps News site:

History of the Challenge Coin

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons in Europe. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

We proudly continue this tradition today with the challenge coin.

“Coin Check” Rules

A “Coin Check” consists of a challenge and response. A challenge is initiated by either holding your coin in the air or slamming it on a table or floor and yelling “Coin Check!” Individual(s) challenged must respond by showing their Coin with their own unit’s logo to the challenger within 10 seconds.

Anyone challenged who doesn’t show their Coin must buy a round of drinks for all challenged, including the challenger.

Coin Checks are permitted anywhere and anytime.

If everyone being challenged produces their Coin, the challenger must buy a round of drinks for all challenged.

If you accidentally drop your Coin and it makes an audible sound on impact, then you “accidentally” initiated a Coin Check.

There are no exceptions to the rules. They apply to clothed or un-clothed. One step and an arms reach are allowed.

A Coin is a Coin. They are not belt buckles, key chains or necklaces. Coins worn in a holder around the neck are valid.

Always carry your coin as a reminder of your commitment and connection to something bigger in your daily life.

Having my coin has given me the opportunity to acknowledge excellence, acknowledge service of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and the Coast Guard. It gives me an opportunity to honor those that fought in the great wars that protected our freedom and citizens; and those folks that exemplify service and sacrifice in their day to day activities. It has allowed me to start conversations that I otherwise never would have had and make connections I would have otherwise missed.

What Are We Fighting For?™ One reason is to honor our traditions - they help us remember where we came from. Traditions should be honored and kept strong, particularly those that are fun. Bob Anderson, PhD, CMSgt, USAF (Ret) is president and founder of What Are We Fighting For?™ an association focused on re-Americanizing America and supporting the troops. For more information visit his Web site at www.WhatAreWeFightingFor.com

Editor’s Desk

I need your help for information to put in the newsletter. I am running out of things to put in the newsletter. I need your input: stories or any thing you would like to see in the newsletter.

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So please let’s keep the newsletter going!

Jan. 9, 2008

Pay in vets' work programs ruled tax free

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) – Payments provided to veterans under two specific programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs – the Compensated Work Therapy and Incentive Therapy programs – are no longer taxable, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Veterans who paid tax on these benefits in the past three years can claim refunds.

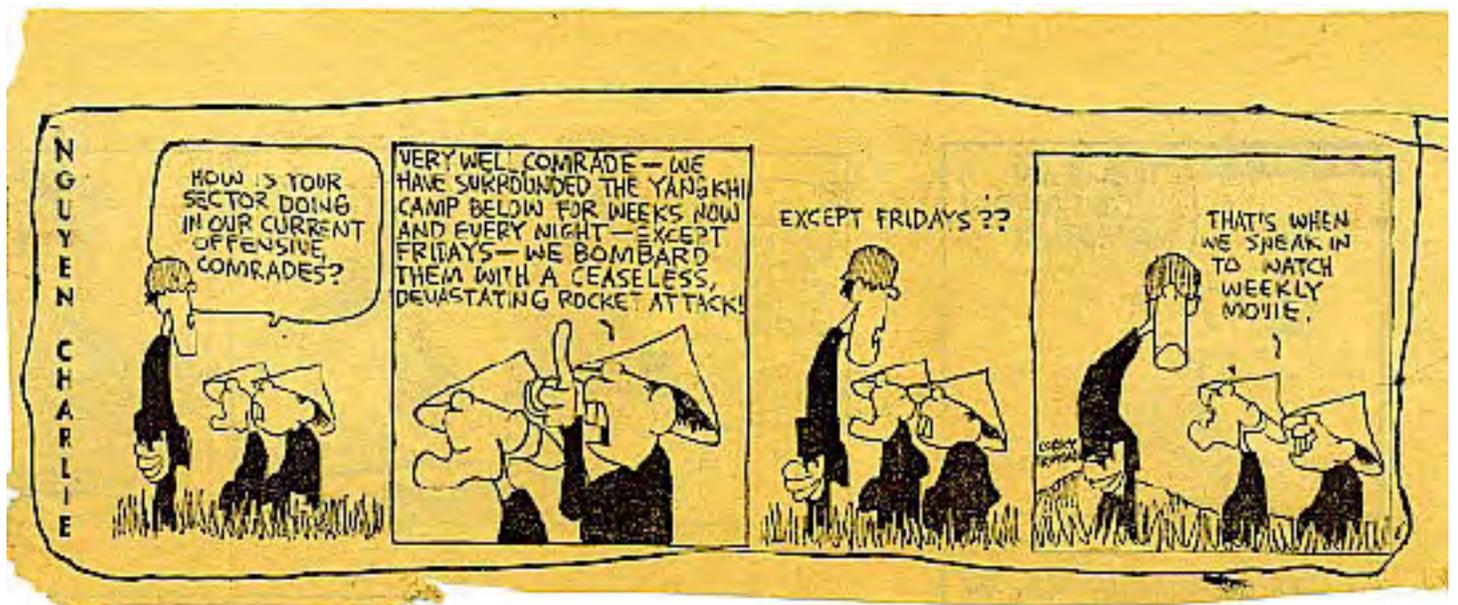
Recipients of CWT and IT payments no longer receive a Form 1099 (Miscellaneous Income) from VA. Veterans who paid tax on these benefits in tax years 2004, 2005 or 2006 can claim a refund by filing an amended tax return using IRS Form 1040X. Nearly 19,000 veterans received CWT benefits last year, while 8,500 received IT benefits.

The IRS agreed with a U.S. Tax Court decision earlier in 2007 that CWT payments are tax-free veterans' benefits. In so doing, the agency reversed a 1965 ruling that these payments were taxable and required VA to report payments as taxable income.

The CWT and IT programs provide assistance to veterans unable to work and support themselves. Under the CWT program, VA contracts with private industry and the public sector for work by veterans, who learn new job skills, strengthen successful work habits and regain a sense of self-esteem and self-worth. Veterans are compensated by VA for their work which, in turn, improves their economic and social well-being.

Under the IT program, seriously disabled veterans receive payments for providing services at about 70 VA medical centers.

For more information, contact the VA at (800) 827-1000, or visit the VA's Web site at www.va.gov. (Courtesy of VA Media Relations)



Once they were Soldiers....

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 2008

You're an 18 or 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded, and dying in the jungle in the Ia Drang Valley, 11-14-1965. LZ Xray, Vietnam. Your Infantry Unit is outnumbered 8 -1, and the enemy fire is so intense, from 100 or 200 yards away, that your own Infantry Commander has ordered the MediVac helicopters to stop coming in.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns, and you know you're not getting out. Your family is 1/2 way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day.

Then, over the machine gun noise, you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter, and you look up to see a Huey, but it doesn't seem real, because no Medi-Vac markings are on it.

Ed Freeman is coming for you. He's not Medi-Vac, so it's not his job, but he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire, after the Medi-Vacs were ordered not to come.

He's coming anyway.

And he drops it in, and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 2 or 3 of you on board.

Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire, to the Doctors and Nurses.

And, he kept coming back..... 13 more times..... and took about 30 of you and your buddies out, who would never have gotten out.

Medal of Honor Recipient Ed Freeman died last Wednesday at the age of 80, in Boise, ID..... May God rest his soul.....

1033 Dexter
Clay Center, Ks 67432

