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GUARDMOUNT

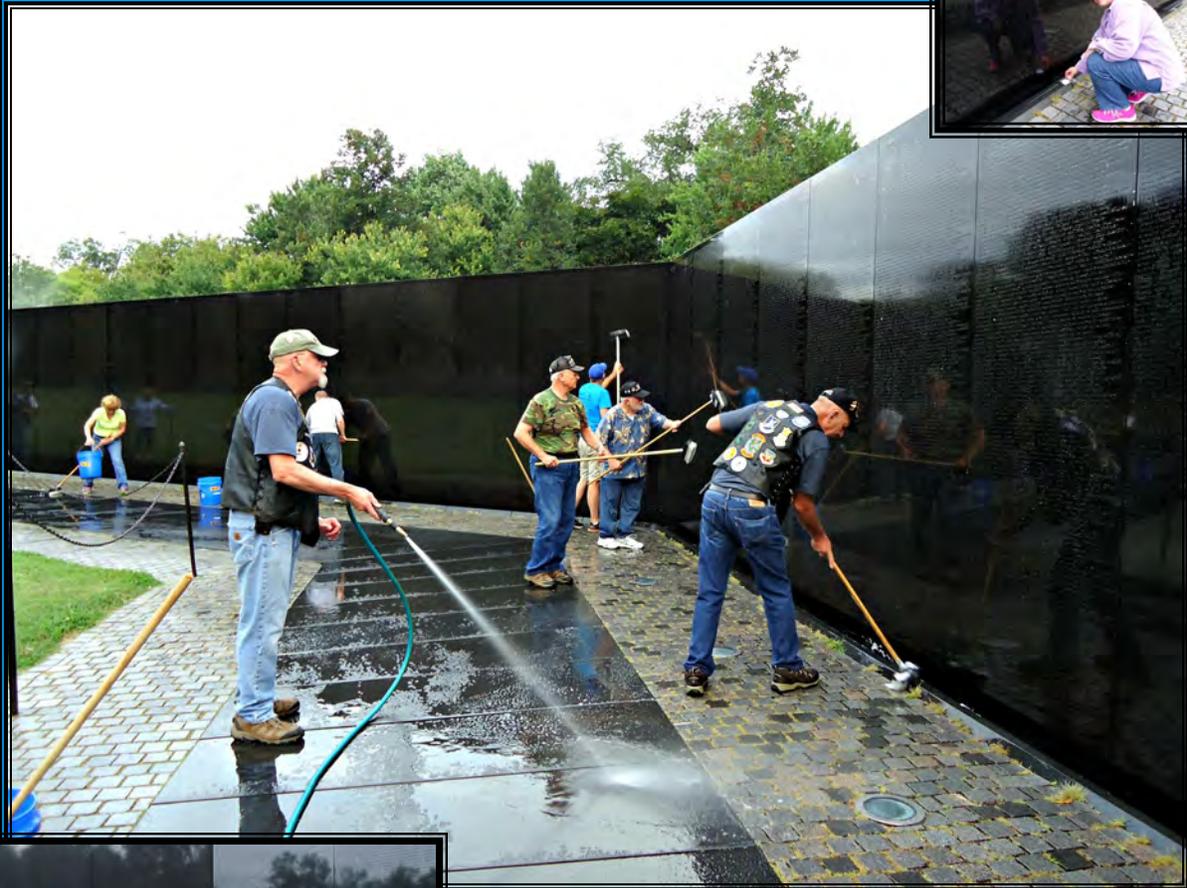
VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



Washing the Wall

An Honor That Fills The Heart



Wall Washers and VSPA members Ray Silhavy, Gary Jones, Willie Squires, Chaplain Jim Stasney, and Steve and Lise Gattis gather in a labor of love.

Story continued on pages 10 & 11 ~ Photo credits Lise Gattis

Welcome Home!



Photo of President Pete Piazza courtesy of Ken Neal, VSPA Photographer

President's Corner

By Pete Piazza, President VSPA



William (Pete) Piazza – LM #141
Cam Ranh Bay AB 1966
Bien Hoa AB 1967-68
Phu Cat AB 1970-71

We are just weeks from our 2014 Reunion in Shreveport, LA that will be held from 8-12 October 2014. Are you ready to come on down and have a great time? If you have not called to make a reservation for your hotel room yet, you better make that call ([1-800-465-4329](tel:1-800-465-4329) or the hotel number [1-318-688-3000](tel:1-318-688-3000)) since time is slowly running out.

As I said in the last President's Corner, things will be a little different this time around as we are not planning to have a tour of the city or sites in and around Shreveport or Bossier City on Thursday. This will be YOUR FREE time to do whatever YOU would like to do! One thing you may want to think about if you are a history buff is going to Barksdale AFB and seeing the 8th Air Force Museum display and aircraft parked there. There will be an Entry Authority List (EAL) on the BAFB Gates so you can travel there if you would like on Thursday (9 Oct).

There will also be some "changes" this year as I am not running for President and VSPA Historian Kelly Bateman has stated that he will retire as the Historian this year. Bill Marshall, our VSPA Membership Chairman, has asked to have someone fill his position as Membership Chairman, too. So, we are also looking for someone to take over that position who knows computers and understands how to work with databases. If you would like to assume that position, please let me know ASAP.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last two years. I know that I have received many calls and emails about the VSPA from folks who have found out about us and want to join up and come to the reunions. Keep spreading the word as more and more AP/SP Vietnam Vets are out there looking for us!

Please remember those VSPA members and Sisterhood members that will not be with us because they have passed away. Also to those who are very sick, our prayers and thoughts go out to them and their families for a quick recovery.

One last thought: I wish everyone to have a great time in Shreveport/Bossier City. Come together to enjoy the company of each other and the very special ladies of the VSPA Sisterhood.

WELCOME HOME!



PART 3 - LEOSA - HR 218

The Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act and AFM 31-125 An Update by Steve Gattis, VSPA President Emeritus

This article is Part 3 of the LEOSA Update and builds on the information provided in our last two issues of Guardmount. Many of our VSPA members who retired from Department of Defense law enforcement, the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard as Air Policemen, Security Policemen or Security Forces will soon have the opportunity to apply for credentials to carry concealed firearms pursuant to H.R 218, The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA).

The Air Force has implemented Air Force Manual AFM 31-125 that was signed and dated 22 April 2014. Headquarters Air Force Security Forces Center at Lackland will be the issuing agency and approval authority for all LEOSA identification cards for retired personnel. The Security Forces Center recently announced:

“The on-line application process to submit your forms for LEOSA credentials is NOT READY. Air Force Installation Contracting Agency (AFICA), Wright Patterson AFB, OH, has selected a contractor to issue LEOSA credentials to past/present AF law enforcement personnel. Congratulations to Defense Consulting Services (DCS) on their selection. The AFSFC and DCS staffs will now finalize the process of developing the on-line application process and credential. We will begin beta testing of this process in the very near future and hope to have examples of what our credential will look like shortly. I continue to ask for your patience as we work diligently to move this process forward. Our estimated start date for credential issuance remains 1 Sep 14 with the cost of a 926B credential at \$140 and the cost of a 926C credential at \$160 which will be valid for 5 years. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.”

For VSPA members who might be covered under LEOSA as a retired military law enforcement officer with a minimum of TEN YEARS OF SERVICE WITH APPREHENSION AUTHORITY, it is very important to note that the DOD policy and the Air Force procedures DO NOT confer any rights or privileges to carry a weapon or anything equivalent to the authority of an active duty law enforcement officer. The policy only delineates the qualifications that a retired officer must meet in order to receive an ID and carry a weapon, if qualified. There are many issues that are yet to be resolved by the Air Force and the newly selected contractor to issue the credentials. If you would like to read additional information from the Air Force Security Forces Center regarding the implementation of LEOSA, and read numerous answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), please use the link below:



President George W. Bush signs the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, June 22, 2004

<http://afsf.lackland.af.mil/LEOSA.html>

“CHANGE”

by Janet “Sparkplug” Parker

- *Editor’s note: Janet, Sisterhood Vice President and daughter of Sgt. Al Matthews, USAF and VSPA LM#127, (1942—2008) has been a contributing writer at GM for over three years. In this issue, in her 13th article, Janet discusses the phenomenon of “Change.”*



As I have written this column for several years now, you may have concluded that I am writing about my current life status. There is a reason it is called “Ramblings of an Air Force Brat”. I truly appreciate your indulgence.

Once again, I find myself in the midst of change. I am not a big fan of change, in fact, I really enjoy routine. The same thing day after day does not bore me, it makes me feel secure. I don’t like feeling insecure, so I desperately hold on to what I know. News flash...it does NOT work. Change will come. You can’t run, you can’t hide, you can initiate it or have it thrust upon on you, but friend, it will definitely come.

Not all change is bad. It is all pretty scary though. Change may bring you great happiness: a new relationship, a new baby, a new job, a new home. The changes we anticipate with joy don’t set us on our heels.

It’s those whammies we are not looking for, the cancer diagnosis, the death of a loved one, the pink slip, or the divorce papers. Those are the changes that really show us who we are. Your reaction explains much. Are you angry or do you start planning the next step?

What does change mean? For the last few years, the word “change” has been bantered about as a sound bite or political catch phrase, which has somewhat diminished its personal significance. As usual, I like to start with Webster’s definition:

“To make the form, nature, content, future course etc., of (something) different from what is or from what it would be if left alone” or “to transform or convert”.

Frankly, I prefer “if left alone”. Through many changes in my life, I have heard the term “new normal”. My first question is, “what was wrong with my old normal?” and I am not always ready to be transformed or converted. Yes, sometimes, change will drag me kicking and screaming into a new place.

I like to turn to scripture when I am confused and overwhelmed. Paul wrote “Pray without ceasing. In EVERY THING give thanks...” So, I am supposed to be thankful for the things that shatter my heart? Yep. That seems so unnatural. I struggle with that.

Wouldn’t it just be so much easier to be angry, bitter, and rebellious? Not really. Those are heavy weights to carry infinitely. I have had to make a decisive effort to give thanks in all things. I have had to nurture the Pollyanna that lives deep inside, as life has changed and is changing, through the good, the bad, and the ugly.

When I am on the other side, I can see that new opportunities were presented, relationships with my family and friends were strengthened, my faith renewed and after the roller coaster stops long enough to take a breath, I can be renewed.

I invite you to think for a minute about how you view change. Do you resist change? Do you avoid change? Do you try to *change* change? Or, do you try to see the other side of change? That side that makes you stronger, more faithful, more careful, more conscientious.

I know that YOU understand change very well. As you served away from home, the world did not stand still. You probably returned a different person to a different circumstance. You have also changed as some distance has come between you and that period. You now have this Band of Brothers who share memories and experiences. Without some changes in your life you would not have found that bond.

I wish you peace in all life’s changes and offer you this; I want to be the kind of person who handles change, not the person who lets change handle me.

HUGS!

WELCOME HOME!

Janet



SARGE'S CAFÉ, AN UPDATE

From Sarge's Daughter, Janet

Dear VSPA Family,

Thank you so much for your support of Sarge's Café. We are now fully recognized by the IRS as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our summer camp mission was a great success. The week of July 14 through July 18, we served lunch to students attending a day camp at Restoration Academy in Fairfield, Alabama (www.restorationacademy.org). Each day there were approximately 35 campers. Through generous donations, Sarge's Café provided lunch, an afternoon snack, and on the last day of camp, a take home lunch for each camper.

Our second mission is underway. We have set up a small food bank at Restoration Academy. Currently, we have 20 sack lunches of chef Boyardee, bottled water, pudding, animal crackers, and goldfish available to students who do not have a lunch. We will expand that to maintain 50 sack lunches on a regular basis.

October 14, 2014, I will be working with the 3rd and 4th grade classes on their "service day". The students will be decorating and filling the lunch bags for the food pantry lunch program and Sarge's will sponsor a pizza party lunch to celebrate serving.

We will also initiate Sarge's version of a weekend food program providing nonperishable, kid friendly foods for 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners to the children who do not have enough food at home. With the help of the teachers, staff, and counselors at RA, we will be sure that the children in need will be discreetly provided meals for the weekend. Our ultimate goal is to expand the food bank at RA to provide non-perishable foods to the families of RA students with the greatest need.

Thank you again for honoring my Daddy, Retired MSgt Alvin Matthews, LM# 127, through Sarge's Café in our mission to defeat food insecurity one child at a time.

Welcome Home!

HUGS!

Sparkplug

Janet Matthews-Parker

Daughter of LM #127





Vietnam Security Police Association 20th Annual Reunion Shreveport, LA – **October 8-12, 2014** Barksdale AFB, Louisiana

The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Shreveport Airport West hotel, 5555 Financial Plaza, Shreveport, LA, 71129. Our contract room rate is \$89 per night, plus taxes. The rate includes FREE breakfast each morning for up to two (2) people per room and complimentary FREE Shuttle Service to include the airport (call for the shuttle: 318-688-3000) and anywhere within a five mile radius of the hotel. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. Parking is FREE. You will have to specify your choice of a smoking or non-smoking room. The room rate is a \$26 reduction per night when compared to the hotel we used last year, a total savings of \$104 for the four nights of the reunion.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call directly with Holiday Inn reservations at **1-800-465-4329** or Holiday Inn Shreveport Airport West at **1-318-688-3000** to make your hotel reservations. You must tell them that you are attending the reunion of the Vietnam Security Police Association (**the Group Code: VTM**) to obtain our contract room rate. If you encounter any difficulty with hotel reservations, reserve the room, obtain the confirmation number, contact the Reunion BRAT at 1-360-663-2521, explain the problem and they will correct it for you. **Check-in time is 4:00 PM and check-out time is 12:00 noon.** Guests arriving before 4:00PM will be accommodated as rooms become available.

AIRPORT INFORMATION: Book your flight to “Shreveport Regional Airport” (airport code: **SHV**) in Shreveport, Louisiana.

REUNION REGISTRATION: The reunion registration fee is \$165 per person, the same as last year. Please use the registration forms published in this issue of Guardmount. ***Your EARLY registration will help us with our planning effort. Thank you.***

AGENDA Generally accurate, but this is still subject to change.

- Reception dinner buffet with beer and wine, 1700-2000 hours, Wednesday evening, October 8th
- Local area attractions, Thursday morning, October 9th - FREE TIME to do whatever you want to do.
- VSPA Board of Directors meeting, 1500-1700 hours, Thursday afternoon, October 9th
- Barksdale AFB & 2nd SFS, 0915-1400 hours, Friday morning, lunch & afternoon, October 10th
- VSPA business Meeting, 0900-1200 hours, Saturday morning, October 11th
- VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions, 0900-1200 hours, Saturday morning, October 11th
- SAFESIDE Business Meeting, TBA, Saturday afternoon October 11th
- Banquet dinner—1700 Social Hour, 1800 post colors, dinner with guest speaker, awards and raffle – end at 2200 hours, Saturday evening, October 11th
- Memorial service, 0900-1000 hours, Sunday morning, October 12th
 - Hospitality Room stocked with snacks & beverages will be open as much of the time as possible.
 - VSPA BX store will be open as much as possible

The room rate is locked in for us, but there will be a deadline (9/23/2014) for that as well so it won't hurt to reserve your room early.

If you have a question or need some more info about this reunion, please contact Pete Piazza at either wpiazza@aol.com or 1-405-921-8900. We hope to see you at this 20th Annual VSPA Reunion!



**VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION
REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

Barksdale Air Force Base

Shreveport/Bossier City, LA
OCTOBER 8-12, 2014



NAME _____

RVN or Thai base _____ Squadron _____ Years 19 ____ to 19 ____
(Do not list bases outside of Vietnam or Thailand)

RVN or Thai base _____ Squadron _____ Years 19 ____ to 19 ____

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name(s) of your guests(s) _____

Banquet meal selection: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN _____

List any special needs: _____

In case of emergency, notify: _____

Is this your first VSPA Reunion? YES: _____ NO: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Are your annual VSPA dues current? Dues Renewals Only \$15 = \$ _____
(Not for new members - to join the VSPA, please see "VSPA Membership" on the instructions page).

Number of persons attending the Reunion including you # _____ X \$165 = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED = \$ _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS, AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

**THE REUNION BRAT
16817 Mountainside Drive East
Greenwater, WA 98022
(360) 663-2521 info@TheReunionBRAT.com**

We must also have your complete full name as it appears on your state driver's license or military ID card so that you can be allowed onto Barksdale AFB with our VSPA Entry Authority List.

Confirmation of Registration and an Itinerary will be mailed to you by September 15, 2014. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the Holiday Inn Shreveport Airport West Hotel at 1-318-688-3000 no later than September 12, 2014 to make your hotel reservations. You must mention that you are with the Vietnam Security Police Association to receive your group rate of **\$89 a night, plus tax**, and that price includes a FREE breakfast. The room rate is available three days before and after the reunion should you choose to extend your stay. Parking is FREE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM

1. *The information that you provide on this form is critical for a successful reunion. All name and base information will be placed on your reunion identification badge. Guests will also receive reunion identification. The reunion ID will serve as your identification throughout the reunion and must be worn, especially while we are in all military or government facilities.*
2. *PLEASE PRINT or type all information **clearly**. Do not use abbreviations on any portion of the registration form.*
3. *RVN OR THAI BASE INFORMATION: Please list only those bases where you served in Vietnam or Thailand. When listing bases, **do not abbreviate**. When listing squadrons, please indicate Air Police, Security Police, or specific detachments. The information will be used on your reunion ID.*
4. *HOME ADDRESS and MAILING ADDRESS: This is where we will mail your confirmation.*
5. *Barksdale AFB ENTRY ACCESS FORM: Please make sure we have your full name as it appears on your ID card (**military ID or Driver's License**) for yourself and all guests. This information is **MANDATORY** for access to Barksdale AFB. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON BASE IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION.***
6. *TELEPHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS: Your contact information is vital to a successful reunion. You will also receive a copy of this roster upon arrival at the hotel.*
7. *NAMES OF YOUR GUESTS: Please provide the first name, middle initial and last name of your guest(s) on the Registration Form as it appears on their ID (**military ID or Driver's License**) they will be using to get on Barksdale AFB as this information will be our VSPA Entry Access List.*
8. *RENEWAL OF ANNUAL DUES: VSPA **members only** - you can renew your dues at the time of registration if they are not current. VSPA membership must be current in order to attend the reunion or bring a guest.*
9. *VSPA MEMBERSHIP: If you are not a member of the Vietnam Security Police Association, please do not send \$15 with this registration form. For information on how to become a member, contact Bill Marshall, at 614-623-3568 or email him: billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com. You'll have to submit a completed application form and a DD-214 showing service in the USAF as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or an Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand 1958 to 1975, and a discharge under honorable conditions. \$15 dues must be sent in with your application.*
10. *REUNION COST: The registration fee is \$165.00 per person.*



Guest List Procedures 2nd Security Forces Squadron Barksdale AFB, Louisiana

SUBJECT: Request for Visitor Access

1. Request a Visitor Access Pass for the following individual(s) for entry to the installation: The Vietnam Security Police Association will be visiting Security Forces facilities and Military Working Dog (MWD) training areas from October 8 - 12, 2014.

Please follow the example below:

<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
Doe, John D	(210) XXX-XXXX	TX./00000000	01/15/65

<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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<u>Last Name, First Name</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>State/Driver License#</u>	<u>DOB mm/dd/yy</u>
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2. I will inform my visitors that they must have current proof of insurance, proof of registration and a current/valid driver's license. Additionally, they were briefed that while on this installation all personnel and the property under their control is subject to search.

3. I understand that failure to provide any of the information requested WILL result in the denial of an installation access pass. Disclosure of information is voluntary, however; this information is necessary for validation of identity and may result in a non-issuance determination by the issuing authority.

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 8012, 44 U.S.C. 3101.

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: The date of birth is used for further identification of the individual and for retrieving information from files. Routine use could include disclosure to other investigatory authorities.

DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: Failure to provide the information to include date of birth will result in an individual being unable to gain entry onto BARKSDALE AFB.



WASHING THE WALL AN HONOR THAT FILLS THE HEART

By Steve Gattis and Gary Jones

Five Life Members of the VSPA gathered to wash The Wall on August 30, 2014. Led by Gary Jones, Willie Squires and Jim Stastny, who have been washing The Wall since 2006, they were joined by Ray Silhavy and Steve Gattis. The effort is really an honor and a commitment from the heart. Gary drives from South Carolina, Jim from Maryland and Willie from Virginia. Ray and Steve flew in from Texas along with their wives.

The opportunity to wash The Wall is scheduled by the National Park Service and allows our members to preserve the memory of our brothers who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand. While the Eagle Chapter, AF Security Forces Association, was in charge of the washing effort for Saturday August 30th and again this coming Saturday, September 27th, the VSPA led the way with a prayer by Chaplain Jim Stastny and a briefing by Gary Jones that included the history of the washing, as well as the procedures that had to be followed in order to avoid damage. Yes, granite can be damaged.

Lee Chambers is Chairman of the AFSFA Eagle Chapter. The Action Officer for the wash is Steve "Hutch" Hutchison, also of the Eagle Chapter. However, if any of you have questions about washing The Wall or future dates, contact Gary Jones, Willie Squires or Jim Stastny. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience.



WASHING THE WALL CONTINUED.....

We met at 0615 hours at the Flag pole, by the three soldiers statue. FREE on-street parking was available on Henry Bacon Drive and Constitution Avenue (on the side of the street facing the Capitol). The Wall was an easy, short walk from parking. We wore comfortable clothes, including Vietnam Vet hats and jackets. Some wore a light jacket or sweatshirt because it was a bit cool in the early morning. Shoes are always required...no flip-flops because the granite walkway can become very slippery with soap and water! We started washing about 0630 and had to be finished by 0800, when the Memorial officially opened for visitors.

Friends and family were welcome, but no pets. Cameras were a requirement as we washed both The Wall and the granite walkway. Prior to our arrival, Gary advised us that the first washing could be a very emotional experience. We had been there before but never for a washing. We thought we were prepared. . .until about 50 Navy Chief Petty Officers approached in formation and walked through, thanking each one of us, shaking our hands and saying, "Welcome home." There is no way to prepare for that kind of emotion. If you ever have a chance to go to The Wall for the washing, do it. Watch the sun come up and let the whole experience fill your heart. Then stay and enjoy the sense of calm in the early morning before the crowds arrive.



VSPA SCHOLARSHIP FUND



(<http://www.vspa.com/t-rip-chestnut-1998.htm>)

The VSPA (USAF) has established a scholarship fund in memory of J.J. "Jacob" Chestnut. J.J. was a career USAF Security Policeman and served two tours in the Republic of Vietnam, with the 12th Combat Security Police and the 633d Combat Security Police. After completion of his military career J.J. Chestnut became a member of the U. S. Capital Police. In 1998, during an attack which shocked the nation, J.J. Chestnut was killed in the line of duty defending the U.S. Capital Building by a deranged individual attempting to gain access to sensitive areas. J.J. Chestnut is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

All VSPA members, spouses, children, grandchildren, stepchildren/step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are eligible to compete for this scholarship. Normally one \$1,000.00 award is given annually. The award will be granted to those seeking education beyond the high school level and may include trade schools, community colleges, junior colleges or four year college or university and graduate degrees.

The deadline for submission of scholarship applications is the first day of October each year. The basis for the award will be recommendation(s), Grade Point Average (GPA) and the applicant's response to one of the below listed questions. VSPA members may request applications on behalf of applicants via the public bulletin board on the VSPA Web Site, email, or telephone. Applications may also be requested by survivors of a deceased VSPA Member.

Please complete the biographical data and recommendation. On a separate piece of paper, please respond to one of the following questions, in 500 words or less:

1. In what instances, if any, do you feel that the United States is justified in taking military action?

Or

2. Many people feel the military today is alienated from the general population. How can such alienation be eliminated or prevented?

Submit the completed application via e-mail to jlz9107@earthlink.net or regular mail to:

Jim Lebowitz
2144 Ronda Granada
Unit G
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

APPLICANT'S BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF VSPA MEMBER AND
RELATIONSHIP _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING OR LAST
ATTENDED _____

CURRENT DEGREE/EDUCATION
LEVEL _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL CURRENTLY OR PLANNING ON
ATTENDING _____

GRADE POINT
AVERAGE _____

NOTE: PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR MOST CURRENT TRANSCRIPTS.

**RECOMMENDATION OF SCHOOL OFFICIAL, PRINCIPAL, UNIVERSITY
ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT CHAIR, OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.**

NAME OF
APPLICANT _____

COMMENTS CONCERNING APPLICANT'S QUALIFICATIONS AND POTENTIAL:

SIGNATURE/TITLE: _____



THE SECURITY FORCES MUSEUM

LACKLAND AFB, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

The Security Forces Museum lowered all flags during a closing ceremony on August 15, 2014. The ceremony was attended by over 300 Security Forces Defenders, as well as past Air Policemen and Security Policemen who are members of the Vietnam Security Police Association and the Air Force Security Forces Association. All photos were provided by VSPA Life Member Ken Neal.



Although the Museum closed, the following is an update and overview based upon the result of a combined response from thousands of former Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Security Forces Defenders who reacted with strength, resilience and determination to the news that the Security Forces Museum was closing.

UPDATE: from Ken Neal, VSPA Liaison to the Security Forces Museum and Security Forces Museum Foundation:
SEPTEMBER 12, 2014: “Today, the Apprentice Security Forces Class was in the Museum. We also had about six non-Security Forces personnel walk in as guests while the Integrated Base Defense Command, Control, and Communications class (IBDC3) was in the Museum with about 20 class members ranking from TSgt. and up to Major.”

The above update from Ken Neal is proof that the uproar created by the combined efforts of the VSPA, AFSFA, Security Forces leadership both past and present, a Facebook “Save the Security Forces Museum” page with 6,110 members, as well as members of Congress and local representatives in Texas, caused the Security Forces Museum to remain open as an integral part of the Security Forces curriculum as well as other events by appointment, even though the funding for the curator was cut from the budget.

CONGRATULATIONS! Our mass email system worked. YOUR effort to write letters and contact members of Congress, as well as the local news media, was very effective and resulted in a major change from the initial decision by the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) to completely close the Museum pending consolidation with another base museum into the Enlisted Heritage and Character Development Center, a new \$50 million complex. For more information use the following link: <https://www.myairmanmuseum.org/>



US Air Force Security Forces Museum
Joint Base San Antonio
Lackland AFB, Texas



Photos courtesy of Ken Neal

OVERVIEW

VSPA mass email communications are very important. To reproduce them here would take over 16 pages of this issue of Guardmount. Chronologically, we sent emergency email messages to all current members when the announcement was made regarding the closure of the Security Forces Museum. The following is a list of the mass email messages sent by Don Poss from our VSPA web site database:

FROM VSPA PRESIDENT PETE PIAZZA ON AUGUST 14, 2014: Talking points prepared by Gary Jones, Jerry Nelson, Steve Gattis and Don Poss for use when writing to members of Congress.

FROM VSPA PRESIDENT PETE PIAZZA ON AUGUST 19, 2014: A position paper regarding our collective response to the closure of the Security Forces Museum with the main point that we must be professional in our conduct and communication. We must remember that our Security Forces leadership and the museum foundation had nothing to do with this closure and that we must not attack our people or our curator who lost her job with the closure of the Security Forces Museum. She did an outstanding job for us. Your Security Forces Commanders have fought for years to keep the museum open. We must support them as they continue the fight to preserve our history. That support does not include personal attacks and negative comments that embarrass the VSPA on Facebook or on our Bulletin Board. Do not give away our honor by attacking those who stand with us. We must live by our motto and take care of our own. I have faith in all of you and will always remember that the toughest fighters in the Air Force fight on the ground WITH HONOR.

AN EMAIL MESSAGE ON AUGUST 20, 2014 FROM VSPA AFFILIATE MEMBER MG MARY KAY HERTOG WHOSE FATHER, DON REEVES, WAS ONE OF OUR LIFE MEMBERS:

“I have received many emails from people about the Museum closure, along with the AF SF Association emails, and I wanted to make a few comments. I'm sorry to hear SF was given zero prior notice about this decision --that was a foul. But I have to tell you this has been coming for years. I, with the help of others, intervened several times to stave off the closure as far back as 12 years ago. I believe it was Pat Bowden who came up with the great idea to change the SF Basic Apprentice course to have our new Airmen in training spend an hour in the Museum to learn about their heritage. This brought up our visitor numbers in a huge way and justified keeping the Museum open. Lackland is the only installation in the AF that supports two museums, and if one had to close, it will usually be the one with the least amount of visitors.

When I was the Director of Security Forces I was contacted about AETC not being able to keep both museums open because they couldn't afford the salaries of two curators. I made the offer to AETC to pay our curator's salary out of SF funds. They agreed to that and that has kept the museum open for a few more years.

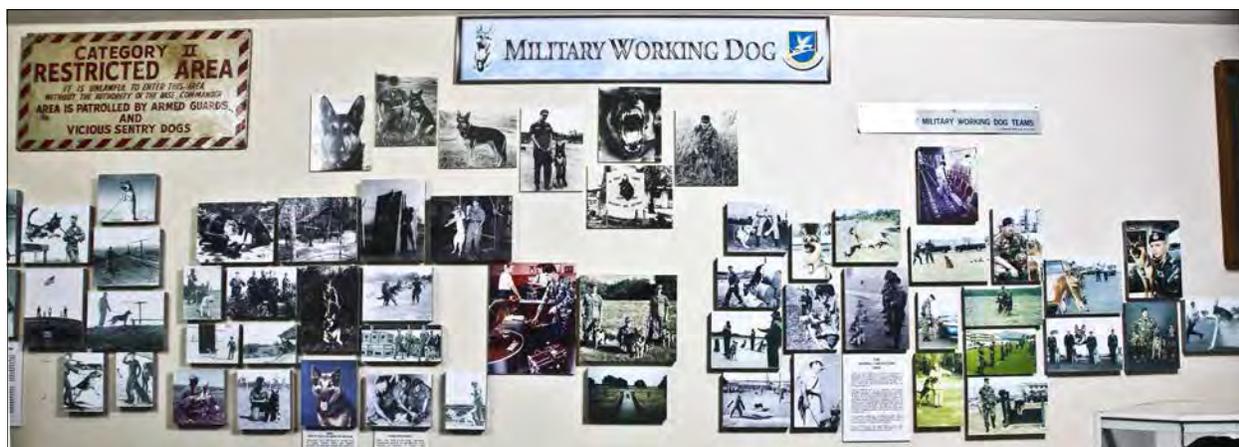


Photo courtesy of Ken Neal



Photos courtesy of Ken Neal

In my group and wing commander positions at Lackland and as the Top Cop and 2AF/CC, I was able to keep tabs on the museum and its status.

But it's a very different and difficult time now and the AF, as well as the other Services, are in dire fiscal straits due to sequestration and other issues. The AF is taking drastic measures to save money and continue its missions. Much of the cuts are coming from big personnel reductions such as selective early retirements--(4 SF colonels this year have to leave early), reduced accessions in basic training; changing high year of tenure rules to get more people out; requiring majors and lieutenant colonels in certain year groups to meet retention boards, and oh by the way, if an officer successfully makes it past a board this year it doesn't guarantee they are exempt from future boards). And there is so much more the AF is trying to do to save money and gain efficiencies, all painful to someone.

So I would ask everyone to think about the people losses versus the buildings that we are going to lose. We may not have our original museum building anymore, but we will never lose our identity as a career field. Our proud heritage and current performance of our outstanding cops around the world will never allow that to happen. But we are part of the AF and therefore we are going to be subject to sacrifices, too.

I understand we will have displays in other locations. I've heard it's the Base Library and I've also heard it may go into the new Enlisted Heritage and Character Development Center. If it's the EHCDC that's great news because thousands of people (parents and our graduated Airmen) will pass through that building every Thursday and Friday during the weekly BMT grad ceremonies and that will expose a huge number of people to SF.

There have been some very negative and downright nasty posts on Facebook from people who don't have the full story of what the AF is having to do just to accomplish our mission. Frankly I'm disappointed by that kind of unprofessional reaction. This is not a personal attack against the SF career field and I hope you can help me spread the word on the very tough fiscal environment the Services are operating in and why these decisions are being made. And the fiscal picture isn't getting any better. There will be even greater changes coming to the career field in the near future which will cause great concern too, but there's no doubt in my mind SF will make the necessary transition and continue to excel in the tremendous missions we do around the world.

Mahalo--

Mary Kay Hertog, Maj Gen (ret)"

We asked General Hertog to clarify a couple of points about the current facility and Museum funds. In the interest of brevity, we have paraphrased both the questions and her comments. Nothing has been deleted that changes the context of the questions or General Hertog's responses.

Q: What will happen with the current facility? Will it be used for Academy Classrooms, where some exhibits may be displayed?

A: These are all very valid questions about the building's final status and I'm going to contact the AETC and ask why there was no notification to SF that this was coming up fast.

Q: What will happen with the funds maintained by the SF Museum Foundation? Can they be used to construct world-class displays in the temporary facility?

A: As for the funds in the Museum Foundation, that is not controlled by the wing or AETC from what I remember. I believe that totally falls under the control and management of the SF Museum Foundation. I know as a wing commander at Lackland, I never had access to those funds.

Q: Do we have your permission to share your comments with the VSPA, Safeside Association, Thailand Dog Handlers Association and SAC Elite Guard Association and AFSFA members, so they will have a better understanding of the issues involved with the closure of the Museum?

A: Please feel free to resend my email to all of the SF related associations. I am trying to calm things down because now there are petitions being generated on Facebook and the tone is getting worse because folks just don't know what's going on behind the decision (because no one shared it with the most affected group)! You are so right in saying that if the right people had been notified, up front, alternatives could have been discussed and the command could have had SF support vice recriminations.

SUMMARY

The Security Forces Museum remains open for the Defenders attending all phases of the Security Forces Academy. It will also be available by appointment due to the overwhelming response from our members and people like Mary Kay Hertog and BG Coleman. Thanks to Ken Neal, we have a photographic record of every single display and diorama in the Museum. Yes, the Museum will be moving to a much larger temporary facility in the Base Library which has a lot more bathrooms, pending the construction of a new facility. For now, rest assured that our heritage will continue to be taught to Security Forces Defenders and the facility has not permanently closed pending the move. A full inventory has also been completed.

Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial, although adjacent to the Museum, is NOT a part of the Museum. All activity regarding Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial has been and will continue to be managed by the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee. VSPA Life Members Bill Cummings, Kelly Bateman and Ernie Childers form the nucleus of that committee.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK TO PRESERVE OUR HISTORY!



VSPA Life Member #56 Bud Owens, (A.K.A. Pease Greeter) welcomes home Master Sergeant Patrick Smith (56th SFS, Luke AFB) from his overseas tour on August 4, 2014. MSGT Smith was assigned to Creech AFB in 2006 for our reunion in Las Vegas. He personally addressed our members during our Memorial Service and rendered a long, slow hand salute that brought many of our members to tears. He had very kind words for his welcome home when he stated, "I'll tell you what, those Pease Greeters were amazing! That was the best homecoming I have ever seen."

Donation Fundraiser, To Be Held By Members of the Thailand Dog Handlers Group

Win one of five unique items of USAF Air Police, Security Forces, and Association Shields, Uniform Shirt and Shield, and Challenge Coins.

Thailand Dog Handlers attending the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion will be holding a donation fundraiser for these rare memorabilia items in October, in Shreveport LA at the VSPA Reunion. You do not have to be present to win one of these incredible collections.

All donated funds raised by this project will go to two charitable funds:

1. The USAF Security Forces Museum Foundation <http://securityforcesmuseum.org/> in the name of the Vietnam Security Police Association.

As most of you know there have been some changes as to the location and operation of the SF Museum and it looks like more changes are coming down the road. However, the Foundation itself is still in need of funding for various operational needs. Display cases will be needed at the temporary location since those attached to the old facility will not be able to be removed and there are new displays in the works that will need to be paid for and a host of other expenses that will arise in the near future. In short they still need our support. If you agree or not about the move and future location and association with other organizations, we still have to put our best foot forward and show the public as much of our history as possible. The real battle at the new temporary and permanent facility will probably be for space, and we will need as much square footage as possible. We still intend to donate half the funds generated by this fundraiser to the Foundation to use as best they see fit.

2. SARGE'S CAFÉ, INC In Memory of MSgt. Alvin W. Matthews, USAF Retired, LM #127.

In case you are not familiar with the SARGE'S CAFÉ project, we have included some information about it from Janet Matthews Parker. "There are many reports about food insecurity in this nation. For about a year, I have had a project on my heart. I wondered about the students here in the Birmingham area who qualify for free breakfast or lunch at school and how to provide for them when school is not in session. As I often do, I asked myself "What would Sarge do?" It is no surprise that I usually get a significant answer. Therefore, in memory of Sarge's hospitality, Mama and I have set up a non-profit organization, SARGE'S CAFÉ, INC. for the purpose of providing meals to students when school is not in session, establishing or supporting food banks for that purpose and provide meals for the elderly in need as well. I will be setting up a Facebook page and Gmail address for Sarge's Café. I wanted to share with you, his beloved brothers and sisters, how I hope we will all remember him...hospitable, generous, and quick with a smile, handshake and a heartfelt Welcome Home." Daughter of LM#127 Janet Matthews Parker

If you are not able to attend the reunion you may still donate for a chance to win by sending in your check or money order (PLEASE, NO CASH!), to be received by September 26th. See details below. After that date we cannot guarantee your chances will be placed into the drawing.

Thailand Dog Handler Fundraiser Prizes

First Prize: Valued at Priceless!

- Air Police Shield with blue and white enamel Air Force crest and



Second Prize: Valued at \$350.00

- 23 + Challenge Coins (more being donated) and a
- Challenge Coin Rack, (holds approx. 80 coins).

Second Prize:

Third Prize: Valued at \$250.00

- Air Police Shield with
- Green BDU Fatigue Shirt with in country period made. SSgt. Stripes and Qualification Badge.



Fourth Prize: Valued at \$75.00

- VSPA Commemorative Shield

Fifth Prize: Valued at \$75.00

- Air Force Security Police Association Millennium Shield

The Thai Dog Handlers Group of the VSPA raffle committee would like to thank the following for their generous contributions of items for this years raffle. David Adams, The Security Forces Center Lackland, 802 Security Forces Squadron Lackland, 341 Training Squadron (Dog training center) Lackland, 2nd Security Forces Squadron (our hosts) Barksdale La., and The Air Force Security Forces Association.

For a \$10 donation you will receive 6 chances to win one of the prizes. We are encouraging VSPA members to donate \$20 for 18 chances to win and to support this project. For \$50.00 you will receive 48 chances to win. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. Remember, you do not have to be present to win! Chances can also be obtained for your donations at the VSPA Reunion in Shreveport, LA at the Reunion.

If you cannot attend the reunion and mail in a donation, after your donation is received, we will return to you your portion of the ticket and copies of your stub chances that will be placed into the drawing with your name and phone number. You must provide a return address to receive your copies.

Send in your check or money order donation (**PLEASE, NO CASH!**), to be received by September 26th for the drawing at the VSPA reunion in October.

Again, this donation fundraiser is conducted by the Thailand Dog Handlers Group and not the VSPA. Send donations with name, return address, and phone number printed clearly on a sheet of paper.

Make checks or money orders Payable to:

John Homa
151 CR 556
Athens, TN 37303





2014 ELECTION OF VSPA OFFICERS CANDIDATE BIOS AND BALLOT

VSPA members who attended our 2007 reunion in Washington D.C. voted to modify our by-laws and the election process so that the election would no longer be conducted only at the reunion business meeting. A committee was appointed to determine whether electronic voting could take place via our web site and to develop a process. The committee included Don Poss, Newell Swartz, Sam Lewis and Don Hamilton.

Don Poss thoroughly investigated electronic voting via the Internet and found that it could not be done in an efficient, cost effective manner. He looked at the process as both our Web Master and as a VSPA member who fully supported the idea of voting on-line. Other organizations that had attempted the process had numerous problems that far exceeded our ability to resolve, including multiple votes from different computers and the inability to accurately identify voters who emailed ballots. We simply do not have the manpower to search our records to verify current membership based upon multiple email addresses that have changed without notice to the VSPA, which is something we experience on a daily basis. Multiple votes on-line are a reality, not because people are dishonest, but because computers can be very confusing for some people who might worry that their ballot has not been received and they send it again, or they send it from another computer which could make them appear to be a different person. The only other alternative is to have a mail-in ballot that you can print from our web site, or receive in Guardmount, print and then return.

You can vote at the reunion. If you are not attending, and are reading this on-line, you must be a current member in order to vote and read the bios of those who have declared their intention to run for office. Therefore, the bios, photos and the ballot form have been posted in the Restricted Area of our web site. To vote by mail, you must print the ballot from the web site or from Guardmount and mail it to VSPA Sergeant-at-Arms, Keith Young, WITH A POSTMARK NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 29, 2014. Keith will not be running for office, whereas many of the other officers are running for office again. Your membership status will be verified to make certain that only one vote is submitted. All votes will be counted and verified by an election committee at the reunion.

There are SIX positions up for election this year: President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. All other positions in the VSPA are staff positions appointed by the president and board based upon their expertise and willingness to serve the members of the VSPA. Elected officers will be confirmed and installed at our reunion in Shreveport/Bossier City, Louisiana in October. The term of office is two years. The positions DO NOT receive a salary and work on a volunteer basis.

The following VSPA members have declared their intention to run for an elected VSPA position. Each person listed below has been a member in good standing for at least TWO YEARS. They are all Life Members. They have the ability to attend future business meetings that are held at our annual reunions. They communicate via the Internet on a regular basis and have made the commitment to provide the time necessary to serve in the respective positions that they seek.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN OR TURN THE PAGE FOR BIOS AND BALLOT.



For President: Greg Cain Life Member #62, Binh Thuy 67-68

I would be honored to be considered as your next President in the upcoming election in Shreveport, LA. After two terms as your Vice President, I will support the Constitution, the staff and the membership to the best of my abilities and work on increasing membership.

I have been involved with VSPA since 2002 and have attended every reunion since then with my wife, Sheila Gervase-Cain (President of the Sisterhood). I was awarded the Warrior's Medal of Valor in 2007 and the Monk Pope Brotherhood Award in 2008.

I entered the Air Force in August of 1965. My first duty station was Niagara Falls AFB with TDY'S to Selfridge, Wurtsmith and Alpena in Michigan before being assigned to Binh Thuy RVN for the period of May 1967 to May 1968 (Tet Offensive).

I have been retired since 2005, being awarded 100% disability service connected. I became involved in Veteran's Affairs in 1980 and am a charter member of VVA Chapter 77 and was their second President. I continued to serve in other offices and the Board of Directors until recently so I can devote my full energy to the VSPA.

We have a few issues I would like to have brought to the forefront in the GUARDMOUNT or the Bulletin Board online as information updates to members and to the Sisterhood, including: The continuing saga of Agent Orange, the Children's National Registry for disabilities related to A/O, and the Toxic Chemicals Bills being considered in D.C. We still have an unacceptable number of homeless veterans.

I have the dedication, knowledge and experience to serve you well. WELCOME HOME!

gjcain@roadrunner.com



For Vice President: JACK SMITH Edwin J. Smith (aka) Jack, The Old Cowboy Poet Life Member #453, Tan Son Nhut 68-69

I am seeking the office of Vice President of the VSPA. I have been a life member since 2007. I served in the USAF from 1967 -1974 and with the 377th SPS at Tan Son Nhut 1968-69 (Tet).

I received the Warriors Medal of Valor from the VSPA for my service to our Brotherhood and for my service in Vietnam. I am retired from General Motors and am also a life member of the VFW and NRA. I will work with all elected and non-elected members to better the VSPA. WELCOME HOME! skycop67@yahoo.com

For Second Vice President: Bill Marshall Life Member #85, Phu Cat '68-'69:



I was born and raised in rural Van Wert County, Ohio where I worked on the family farm. I attended Ft. Wayne International Business College for one year prior to entering the United States Air Force in 1965. My assignments were primarily in SAC as an Air Policeman/Security Policeman with my first assignment at Grand Forks AFB. I was assigned to “missile facility top-side security.” I learned to endure harsh winters and hot summers. I lived inside a camper vehicle, eating T.V. dinners and providing security for Minuteman Missile silos near the farmlands of North Dakota. I was fortunate enough to be selected for a position with the SAC Elite Guard in 1967 to provide internal security for the headquarters building at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. The assignment included a specially designed uniform with a blue beret. I worked at entry control points within a building with 23 assigned Generals plus one Admiral, thousands of Colonels, Lieutenants, Captains and Majors. Additional responsibilities included: honors and ceremonies, funeral details and standboards for visiting dignitaries. This assignment was the best duty I could ask for. I would have liked to remain in the SAC Elite Guard, but the Vietnam build-up in 1968 created a large demand for Security Policemen. I was assigned to Phu Cat Air Base and am very proud that I was able to serve my country. My greatest pleasure was serving with other airmen who, in the spirit of duty and brotherhood, protected their base as well as each other.

I was discharged in 1969 as a Staff Sergeant. I worked for the Hanes Knitwear Corporation for 25 years, first as a sales representative, then as a sales manager where I was responsible for 25 sales representatives covering six western states. I took early retirement in 1996 and started my own executive recruitment company from which I recently retired. I am now fully retired and would like to give back to organizations like the VSPA which have been instrumental in bringing closure to my Vietnam experience while allowing me to initiate many new friendships throughout the USA. Because of this, I ask that I be considered for re-election.

I believe very strongly in the VSPA and its motto “**We Take Care of Our Own.**” I have been a member since 2001 and have repeatedly seen this expressed for a fellow brother. While we are all different, we share a brotherhood that can only be understood by those who have stood in harm’s way and who have risked their lives to protect their base and brothers. This bond, forged by a war 50 years ago, cannot be broken and will continue to the last man standing.

I am a life member of VSPA. I have been the Second VP and Membership Chairman for the last four years and monitored the web site bulletin board for seven years. I have attended as many of the reunions as circumstances permitted. One of the most special moments of my life was to march with 400 VSPA brothers at the 25th celebration of “The Wall” in Washington D.C., paying tribute to those who served and to those who paid the ultimate price.

Additionally, this past ten years, I created a web site that paid tribute to all the men who served on the SAC Elite Guard. From this initiative grew the SAC Elite Guard Association (SEGA) 501(c)(19), which now numbers over 700 former members and over 100 past members who have turned in their shield for the final time. I served as the first President of SEGA and presided over its incorporation during the first four years, acted as its webmaster the past two years and was re-elected in May, 2010 as SEGA President. I am currently the secretary.

I believe the experiences I have gained with the SEGA organization would be beneficial in assisting the President and Vice President of the VSPA organization in the execution of their official duties.

It would be my honor to be re-elected as the Second Vice President of the VSPA. **Welcome home!**

BillMarshallVSPALM85@gmail.com



For Treasurer: Richard Garcia Life Member #82, Phan Rang 69-70

I have served as the Treasurer of the VSPA for the last six years and request your support to serve again as Treasurer.

I was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. I enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1967 and attended

Basic Training, Security Police School, Combat Preparation (AZR) Course at Lackland AFB, 04/67 - 07/67. After Lackland, I went to Francis E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 07/67-01/69 guarding Minuteman Missiles/Nuke Warheads. I served at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, in the 35th Security Police 02/69 to 02/70, heavy weapons Tiger Flight mortar pit from sundown to sunrise. I completed my service commitment with the 370th Security Police Squadron, Bangor, Maine and was honorably discharged 04/71.

I recently retired after serving as the Billing/Collections manager with the Episcopal Church, responsible for over 4,000 accounts payable and accounts receivable with an estimated monthly premium cash value of over \$20,000,000.00. I am also a member of the VFW, American Legion, Massapequa Post 1066, DAV Life Member and the Vietnam Veterans of America. Welcome Home!
cal400@optonline.net



For Secretary: Jerry Nelson Life Member #668, Safeside, Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70

I am Jerry Nelson, currently the Secretary for the Vietnam Security Police Association. I have been a VSPA member since 2006 and volunteered to serve the 18 months of the former secretary who resigned. I retired from our Air Force, after 27 years, as a Chief Master Sergeant in 1995 and currently live in San Antonio, TX. Upon retirement, I was employed by Primerica and, after 19 years, still continue that job as an AVP, in the Field Audit Department. I also serve as President of the Safeside Association. I truly enjoy being involved with the VSPA and have formed many,

many lasting relationships as a result. We enjoy a common bond that was developed through a shared experience in Southeast Asia. I have also enjoyed being on the Board of Directors helping ensure our organization stays focused and dedicated to our ideals. After serving two years, I have decided to pursue another full term as Secretary. I truly have dedicated myself to serving our Association in any way possible. At this time, I feel I can continue to serve our membership in making sure we “take care of our own”.

I knew that I wanted to be part of VSPA the first night in the Hospitality Room while talking with Al “Sarge” Mathews. He told me about this great organization and about the Brotherhood that existed. He was totally correct and I have seen that Brotherhood at work every day as a member of the Association. I am asking for your support and vote in allowing me to continue my service to you as the Secretary. Thanks for your Brotherhood! See you in Shreveport! WELCOME HOME!

Jrnel1423@aol.com



For Historian: Steve Shelt Life Member #157, Pleiku 67-68

I have had a very diverse career within the federal government as well as private business and industry. My career began in 1966 when I enlisted in the Air Force. As a Security Policeman, I was assigned to the 410th Bombardment Wing, 410th Combat Defense Squadron, K.I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan; 633rd Combat Support Group, 633rd Security Police Squadron, Pleiku AB, Vietnam; and the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, 81st Security Police Squadron, Bentwaters RAF, England. My most memorable experience in the Air Force was defending Pleiku Air Base during the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

I separated from the Air Force in 1970 and pursued my college education while working as a warehouse manager for a pharmaceutical and hospital supply company. After graduating from Tiffin University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice I made the decision to rejoin the military and entered the Army as a Military Policeman. I was assigned to the 554th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, Patch Barracks, Germany; Headquarters U.S. European Command, Protective Service Detachment, Germany; and Forces Command, Law Enforcement Activities, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. My most memorable experience in the Army was leading protective service missions with the Multinational Peace Keeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon 1981-1983.

In 1987, I started my civilian career in federal service with the Department of Army, assigned as the Director/Physical Security Officer, Physical Security and Crime Prevention Division, Office of the Provost Marshal, Ft Sheridan IL. My responsibility included facilities and installations in six mid-western states assigned to the 4th Army. In 1989 I was recruited by the U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR). During my tenure at the DOE-SR, I was assigned as a Team Leader, Branch Chief, Program Manager, and Division Director. I managed and directed a wide range of programs to include: Physical Security, Protective Force Operations, Intelligence/Counter-intelligence, Fire Protection, Aviation, and Emergency Management. I also directed the security mission for nuclear spent fuel being transported via ocean vessels from foreign country reactors to the U.S. as part of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. After 9/11, I was assigned a collateral duty to the FBI's Southeast Joint Terrorism Task Force, CSRA Joint Agency and Midlands Weapons of Mass Destruction Working Groups representing DOE Savannah River Operations Office.

I retired from federal service in 2007 and became a consultant to both private industry and the federal government on nuclear and petroleum security, terrorism, emergency services, and aviation safety and management. I completely retired from the work force in 2012. Post retirement I have worked with the Augusta Historical Society working on the National Veterans History Project collecting (videotaping) personal accounts of American war veterans for a better understanding of the realities of war. Those accounts are sent to the National Achieves so that future generations may hear directly from the veterans. I am a member of the county Community Emergency Response Team and a volunteer at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Medical Center, Augusta, GA. I have also provided lectures to the current Air Force Security Forces on the emergence and tribulations of Air Base Defense in the Vietnam War. My favorite activity is hiking and backpacking in the mountains. I am active with veterans organizations such as the American Legion, Post 192, Vietnam Veterans of America, Vietnam Security Police Association (Life Member #157), and the Pleiku Air Base Association.

steve@visoweb.com

RECIPES & MEMORIES

THE VSPA SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK

An Update by Lise Gattis, VSPA Sisterhood



Our fundraising cookbook has been completed in time to commemorate the 20th Anniversary Reunion of the VSPA. The shipment date from the publisher is September 15. The books will be available for sale at the 2014 October reunion in Shreveport/Bossier City for \$15. After the reunion, they will be available in the VSPA BX for \$15 plus \$5 shipping.

Recipes & Memories is dedicated with thanks to the men we love and contains the recipes they enjoy. I send my heartfelt thanks to all who participated by submitting 340 recipes and some great photographs. You have contributed to the preservation of our history and a fund raising effort that will benefit the members and programs of the Vietnam Security Police Association. I also extend my personal thanks to the members of the VSPA Sisterhood for the support that we provide to each other so that we may continue *Taking Care of Those Who Take Care of Their Own*.

Lise Gattis, Editor, Member of the VSPA Sisterhood





Free Laptop Computers!

by Ken deRussy

Tuy Hoa, 31st SPS; Ban Me Thuot, 31st SPS,
TDY DET 9, 619 TCS



I have posted previously on this subject but some readers may have missed it. It was also publicized in the Summer 2013 issue of Guardmount. My thanks to the VSPA for supporting me in offering this service. I have shipped eight laptops to VSPA members.

The local computer recycling program sponsored and run by our local Kiwanis chapter and funded by the State of Washington gives me access to a large volume of recycled gear from which I select and restore computers that I then give back to various community groups. I have also made computers available to Vietnam Security Police Veterans whose budgets make it difficult to just go out and buy one. Each computer is fully restored to better than new condition, set up with every type of software a user is likely to need, and is ready to connect to the Internet. I can ship the computer already equipped with a remote viewing program making possible for me to provide tutoring or service when needed.

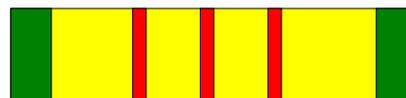
I set no restrictions to take advantage of this offer for a free computer and in nearly all cases I even cover shipping. If you can't afford a computer just contact me and I will ship you one. I spend many hours making sure every little thing is as perfect as I can make it and I am happy to give my time to make this service possible. If you can afford to you can send me a check for \$25 after you receive the computer to cover most of my out of pocket shipping expense but that is not a requirement. It is most important to me to know that no one of our Brothers is disconnected from the Internet. If you have a need for a laptop or you know someone in need please contact me at weflyuniv@aol.com or phone me at 360 293 8621 remembering I am in Pacific Time. I prefer to limit the service to Vietnam/Thailand Security Police Vets but I will entertain requests for computers for other Veterans.

Many computer users are unaware of how to keep their computers running smoothly. I have assisted hundreds of folks and it is clear that many have little idea how to really enjoy computers. It is great fun to show these folks how to overcome these common problems. I spent 25 years teaching the sports of hang gliding and paragliding. You might not think so but there are amazing parallels to teaching people to jump off cliffs and teaching people to use computers; they both look like scary and complicated things to do but I am a specialist in teaching scary, complicated things! I am a very patient guide and have had great success in tutoring computer users and servicing computers both in person and by means of the remote viewing programs and telephone. The majority of my clients are seniors, even older than we Vietnam Veterans!

I welcome requests for assistance using remote viewing and phone, at no charge to VSPA members. Computers can be exasperating and I am pretty good at turning the fearful into competent and confident users. It is fun for me and there is a good chance I can turn you into a confident user.

I hope to hear from you!

Ken



NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2012 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed.

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: William "Pete" Piazza; Cam Ranh Bay AB 66, Bien Hoa 67-68, Phu Cat 70-71; WPIAZZA@aol.com; 405-670-3101 or 405-921-8900
VICE PRESIDENT: Greg Cain; Binh Thuy 67-68; gjcain@roadrunner.com; 716-771-1157
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com; 614-623-3568
SECRETARY: Jerry Nelson; Safeside Phan Rang, Phu Cat, Tuy Hoa 69-70; jrnel1423@aol.com; 210-273-4777.
TREASURER: Richard Garcia; Phan Rang 69-70; cal400@optonline.net; 516-799-9205
HISTORIAN: Kelly Bateman; Ubon K-9 70-71; Baron 279M; texask-9@swbell.net; 512-847-9805
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X DonPossLM37@vspa.com 951-325-7244
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PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Steve Gattis; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; SGattis-LM49@vspa.com; 254-898-2647

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K-9 KENNEL MASTER Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Keith Young; Binh Thuy, Phu Cat 70-71; kcy9540@aol.com; 716-549-0715
SERVICE OFFICER Bud Owens; Binh Thuy 66-67; betbudowe@comcast.net; 603-778-1990
BX STORE MANAGERS: Van and Joyce Digby, assisted by daughter and son-in-law Kim & Brent Budzinski—MAIL ORDER available by phone 989-667-9117 or email: jad403@att.net or van403@att.net (** Please note these are new email addresses for Van and Joyce **)
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CHAPLAIN Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659
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CHAPLAIN Jeff Kerkhoff; Tan Son Nhut 72-73; (no email); 626-338-6846
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Time to Renew those VSPA dues.....

It is time to renew your VSPA yearly dues....or, better yet, pay a one-time fee and become a life member! It's easy to pay dues or re-up an expired or expiring membership. If you've been putting it off trying to find time, take a few minutes now and make it happen. :)

Just go to VSPA's Homepage (<http://www.vspa.com>) and on the top menu, click the menu "About/Join/Dues/Help", and select the appropriate link.





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USAF Security Police Vietnam Veterans—Welcome Home!

If you served in the USAF Air Police, Security Police, K-9, Safeside, or as a Security Police Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand between 1958 and 1975, there's a great brotherhood looking for you. With more than 1,300 currently active members, the Vietnam Security Police Association is where you belong.

VSPA was formed for many reasons; to reunite friends, to preserve the memories of our fallen brothers and the history of our service in Vietnam and Thailand, and to ensure that the hard lessons learned in that war would not be forgotten. Lessons of life and death, forged in war, tempered in battle, that when remembered provide inspiration to Airmen who are yet to taste combat defending the fortress, and pride for those of us who have fought and bled together.

If you're qualified and interested in membership, read more about the VSPA and how to join at our website: www.vspa.com. WELCOME HOME TO VSPA!

REUNION REMINDER—Barksdale AFB, Shreveport, LA, October 8-12, 2014