



GUARDMOUNT

VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

"We Take Care of Our Own"



Photo by VSPA LM #80 Ken Neal

The Wall That Heals

Left: VSPA LM #347 Robert "Deke" DeCubellis (Col USAF Ret) while performing Security/Docent duties during the visit of "The Wall That Heals", 27 March 2012, March Field Air Museum Riverside, CA. Docents provide general and specific information about the Wall, as well as assisting individuals locate names upon the Wall.

Below: Night visitors to "The Wall That Heals", March AFB, Riverside, CA. 27 March, 2012. Two VSPA Members, LM #80 Ken Neal and LM #347 "Deke" De Cubellis, took part in the display, acting as Docents and Security for the traveling Wall. On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund unveiled a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States.....(story continues on page 3)



Photo by VSPA LM #80 Ken Neal





President's Corner

By Phil Carroll, President VSPA

Greetings to all, and ain't it great to be getting so close to our annual reunion? This issue of Guardmount has the final reunion agenda and registration form. Please don't miss the base-entry information that you must submit with your registration. We'll be visiting nearby Eglin AFB and possibly also Hurlburt Field on the Thursday of our visit. We're still working with the 96th Security Forces Squadron, 1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron and the 96th Ground Combat Training Squadron to finalize the details. As usual, and as our Constitution says, we will put a lot of time and effort into socializing with today's Air Force Security Forces warriors.

Florida offers a huge array of opportunities for us tourists. Friday will be a free day, with one big tour bus running several shuttles to the nearby Air Force Armament Museum. We'll have about four round-trips going there, for those who don't want to visit the nearby largest outlet mall in the country (<http://silversandsoutlet.com/>), enjoy the hospitality room, or lie around on the beach all day. There are also other museums nearby, like the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola (www.navalaviationmuseum.org/), but it takes a whole day to see that one so you'll be on your own to get there - in fact you might want to come a few days early or stay a few days late to visit more of the local attractions. Golfers especially will want some free time to check out some of the seven nearby courses, during what's reputed to be the best month for pleasant weather on Florida's Emerald Coast.

Many other attractions are available in the area, and there's a good list on our hotel's website, at www.embassydestin.com/area_info_links.php If you're flying in and renting a car, don't overlook the fact that there are three airports within easy driving distance of our hotel, Pensacola International Airport (PNS), Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) and Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS). One of these might fit your touring plans better than the others.

This year it's time for our every-other-year elections of officers, and complete instructions are in this issue of Guardmount for how to vote if you won't be attending the reunion. If you do attend, you can mail in your ballot ahead of time or vote in person when you get to the reunion. We have nearly a full crop of returning board members this year, with the exception of Pete Piazza running without opposition for the office of VSPA President. I'm very happy that a man of Pete's caliber is willing to step up and guide the VSPA with the skills and dedication he's shown so many other places in his busy life. I'm also very happy that the rest of the board members are willing and able to return. They've each done their part to support VSPA, and I would never have been able to function without their guidance and assistance.

On a personal note, I have to once more publicly thank Steve and Lise Gattis for the enormous amount of work Steve does, and Lise allows, for VSPA. Without his depth of knowledge, history and astonishing ability to get work done, I couldn't have accomplished much as VSPA president. We all owe him more gratitude than most of you can possibly know, but I especially am forever in his debt.



Welcome Home!

Phil Carroll - LM #336

Takhli, Nakhon Phanom 70-71: Tina X768, Charlie 2M45

The Wall That Heals

(Front cover story reprinted from the VVMF.org website)

On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund unveiled a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. Bringing *The Wall* home to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit, known as *The Wall That Heals*, allows the many thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing *The Wall* to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

The Wall That Heals also features a Traveling Museum and Information Center, providing a comprehensive educational component to enrich and complete visitors' experiences. The Museum exhibits are based on the concepts being pursued in the Education Center at *The Wall*: putting faces to the more than 58,000 names on the Memorial, telling their stories and chronicling the Vietnam War and the creation of *The Wall*. The Information Center serves as a venue for people to learn about friends and loved ones lost in the war. Equipped with a scanner, the Information Center also allows visitors to upload photos and remembrances of loved ones on *The Wall* to VVMF's Virtual Wall. These photos and stories are being gathered for use in the Education Center as well.

Since its dedication, *The Wall That Heals* has visited more than 300 cities and towns throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial's healing legacy to millions. In addition to its U.S. tour stops, the exhibition made its first-ever international journey in April 1999 to the Four Provinces of Ireland to honor the Irish-born casualties of the Vietnam War and the Irish-Americans who served. It has also traveled to Canada.

For more information or to learn how to bring *The Wall That Heals* to your community, please contact Danielle Schira at (202) 393-0090 or via e-mail at dschira@vvmf.org

REMAINING TOUR SCHEDULE 2012

June 14 - 17 Washington, IA All Veterans Memorial American Legion Riders Post 29

June 28 - July 1 North Kansas City, MO North Kansas City High School Football Stadium Missouri Poster and Sign Company

July 19 - 22 Owego, NY Owego Free Academy Glenn A. Warner VFW Post 1371

July 25-28 Newton, IA Iowa Speedway Iowa Grand Motorcycle Rally

Aug 4 - 12 Sturgis, SD Broken Spoke Campground Rolling Thunder

Aug 23 - 26 Klamath Falls, OR Klamath County Fairgrounds Klamath Falls Freedom Celebration

Aug 30 - Sept 3 Red Bluff, CA Tehama County Veterans

Sept 13 - 16 Morton, IL Morton Public Library The Morton Chamber of Commerce

Sept. 26 - 30 Wheaton, IL Cantigny Park First Division Museum

Oct 4 - 7 Milton, WV WV Pumpkin Festival WV Pumpkin Festival

Oct 11 - 14 Hornell, NY Hornell High School AMVETS Post 245

Nov 1 - 4 Richland, MI Gull Lake High School Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation

Nov 6 - 13 Coatsville, PA VA Hospital VA

2012 ELECTION OF VSPA OFFICERS

VSPA's By-Laws call for elections of officers every two years, with all current members being given an opportunity to vote. Current members may vote in person by attending the business meeting at the annual reunion in the alternating years when an election is held, or by mailing in a written ballot. Each member may submit only one ballot.

To vote, you must attend the reunion or print the ballot and mail it to VSPA President Phil Carroll - **your ballot must be postmarked no later than September 1, 2012**. Phil is the person to receive ballots again this year because he is not running for office, as all other officers are this year. Phil will verify your membership status and make certain that only one vote is submitted per member. All votes will be counted and verified by an election committee at the reunion.

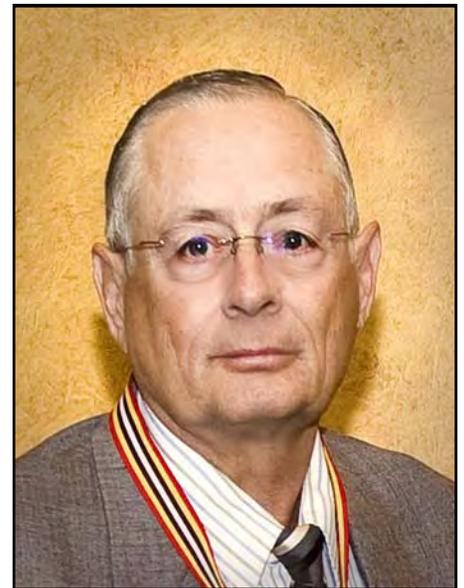
There are six positions up for election this year: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. All other positions in the VSPA are either permanent board member positions unique to an individual, or staff positions appointed by the president and board of directors. Elected officers will be confirmed and installed at our reunion in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida in October. The term of office is two years. None of VSPA's officers or staff receives any salary; all 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, as specified in the VSPA By-Laws. These candidates 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.

For President: William "Pete" Piazza ~ Life Member #141 Cam Ranh Bay and Bien Hoa, 1966 - 68; Phu Cat, 1970 - 71

Senior Master Sergeant (Ret.), born Feb. 18, 1943 in Schenectady, NY. I entered the USAF in 1960 and was stationed with Air/Security Police units at Pease AFB, NH; Kadena AB, Okinawa; Sheppard AFB, TX; Clinton-Sherman AFB, OK; Dyess AFB, TX and Homestead AFB, FL. I served three tours in Vietnam at Cam Ranh Bay AB, Bien Hoa AB and Phu Cat AB. I was also an SP instructor in the Combat Preparedness and Combat Skills/Terrorist Threat Training courses at Lackland/Medina AFB and Camp Bullis, TX. My follow-on assignments included NCOIC, SP Training, 6960th SPS (USAFSS), Kelly AFB, TX; Chief, Security Police, 6922nd ESS (USAFSS/ESC), Clark AB, Philippines; LE Superintendent, Robins AFB, GA; and, my last assignment as security superintendent, Tinker AFB, OK. I retired on March 1, 1988 but remain in regular contact with Security Forces personnel. My awards include the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the TET Offensive of January 31, 1968 at Bien Hoa AB; Meritorious Service Medal w/OLC; Air Force Commendation Medal w/6 OLCs; Air Force Achievement Medal; the Presidential Unit Citation; AF Outstanding Unit Citation w/5 OLCs and "V" Device; AF Good Conduct Medal w/7 OLCs; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal w/8 campaign stars; AF Overseas Short Ribbon w/2 OLCs; AF Overseas Long Ribbon w/OLC; AF Longevity Service Award Medal w/6 OLCs; USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon w/star; AF Training Medal: RVN Gallantry Cross w/Palm, and the

Photo by LM#639 Steven Hall



Candidate for VSPA
President Pete Piazza

I was also awarded the Warriors Medal of Valor of the Native American Nations of the United States of America by the VSPA; the Medal of Valor by the American Legion and also the AFSFA Hall of Fame Medallion in 2011.

I am very committed to the VSPA mission of maintaining our history and have spoken at numerous events throughout the country and at Air Force bases regarding our career field, especially the events surrounding TET of 1968. Most recently, I spoke at the 44th Anniversary of TET conducted by the Air Force at Lackland AFB and the Security Forces Museum. My involvement with the Vietnam Security Police Association and the Air Force Security Forces Association has been continuous for many years for the interaction with my fellow Vietnam War Veterans, active duty troops and senior enlisted leadership, as well as the command personnel who continue to gain from our experience in the war in Vietnam and Thailand. Aside from attending reunions with both of these associations, I greatly enjoy visiting defenders on post at Tinker AFB, as well as the other five SFS units in the state of Oklahoma each year.

As your president, I will use my leadership skills and experience to ensure that we continue to fulfill our mandate to preserve our history and conduct annual reunions at Air Force bases that have active duty Security Forces squadrons. I regularly communicate with members on the VSPA Bulletin Board and always look forward to seeing you at our reunions.

Welcome Home!

Pete Piazza wpiazza@aol.com

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

I would be honored to be considered for another term as your Vice President in the forthcoming election at our reunion in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. I will support the new President and perform his duties when he is unable, taking leadership roles as required and continuing to grow our organization.

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

I entered the Air Force in August 1965. My first duty station was Niagara Falls, New York and went TDY to Selfridge, Wurtsmith and Alpena (in Michigan) before being assigned to Binh Thuy RVN for the period of May 67 to May 68 (TET Offensive). I have been retired since 2005 and was awarded 100% disability service connected.

I got involved in veterans affairs in 1980 and am a charter member of VVA Chapter 77 (550 members, one of the five largest VVA chapters). I was their second President and have continued to serve in other offices and on the Board of Directors. I have also been a delegate to the VVA state council and national conventions for over 25 years. I have participated in and fought the system of the VA and watched it grow from shabby treatment of Vietnam Veterans in the 80's to the point now where we are highly respected and treated with dignity.

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

Photo by LM#639 Steven Hall



Candidate for VSPA
Vice President Greg Cain

Welcome Home!

Greg Cain GJCain@roadrunner.com

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

Photo by LM#639 Steven Hall

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.



Candidate for VSPA
Second Vice President Bill Marshall

I was discharged in 1969. 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, which I still run today. I am now easing into semi-retirement where I 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 reelection.

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 harms way and who have risked their lives to protect their base and brothers. This bond, forged by a war 40 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 two 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 eight 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 the current SEGA President. 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 reelected as the Second Vice President of the VSPA.

**For Secretary: Dennis Evans ~ Life Member #531,
Binh Thuy 1969-'70:**

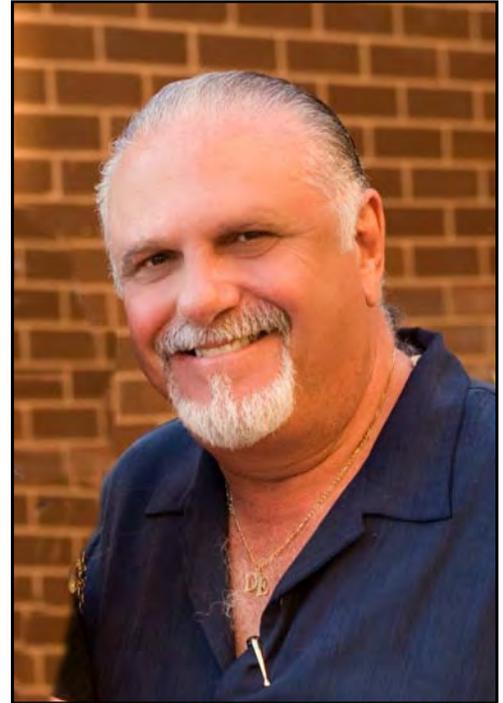
I have been a member of the VSPA for almost 5 years. I served at Binh Thuy AB, Vietnam in both Security and Law Enforcement; (although most who served in Law Enforcement at this little base, 1 mile long by 5 blocks wide) would say you served in Security the whole tour.

I served tours in the United States in ADC at Kingsley Field, Oregon and Siskiyou County Airport, Montague, California in Security. Upon my return from my tour in Vietnam, I was assigned to SAC at Beale Air Force Base in California, working in Security, Law Enforcement, Pass & ID and finally in Investigations where I became the NCOIC. At the end of my second enlistment, I chose to leave the Air Force, receiving my second Honorable Discharge and became a Deputy Sheriff for Sacramento County and retired on disability from that department. I then went into private business enterprises and am to a point of semi-retirement.

In my private life, I have served on prior Boards of Directors in the following position: 1 year as Secretary, 2 years as Treasurer; 4 years as Vice-President and 7 years as President. While performing all of the above, I found time to assist in the raising of my four children, three sons and one daughter, and as of this writing I am a proud grandfather of eight grandchildren.

I was unaware of this GREAT Association up until almost 5 years ago, when I received an email from member Steve Hall who was also at Binh Thuy. I had throughout my life, pretty much withheld the fact that I served in Vietnam. I had never received a Welcome Home, until I received mine from Steve. As I read his email and follow-up emails as well as viewing the VSPA site, I literally was overcome by chills, thinking there are others just like me and they have had the privilege of being together for some thirteen years, being brothers and understanding what we all went through. It was like a wake-up call and I took it and am proud to say within two days of the initial email, I became a member and then a lifetime member. I am so PROUD of this Association and the feeling of Brotherhood it provides. It is brothers looking out for brothers as well and their families. When a member is ill or falls upon on hard times, the membership is there for them 24/7. The motto of "We Take Care of Our Own", is not just mere words in is the STRENGTH of this great ground of men as well as those wonderful women of our Sisterhood.

I ask for your vote to serve again as Secretary of this Association and assist in the continuing growth and strength of the Vietnam Security Police Association. It will be my honor to serve you.



Candidate for VSPA
Secretary Dennis Evans

Welcome Home to all!

Dennis Evans

DennisEEvans@aol.com



**FOR TREASURER: RICHARD GARICA, LIFE
MEMBER #82, Phan Rang '69-'70:**

(see page 8 for Richard's qualifications)

For Treasurer: Richard Garcia (continued from page 7)

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.

Currently, I am a 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 have served as VSPA's Treasurer for the past four years. ~ Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) Life Member #82, VFW ~ American Legion, Massapequa Post 1066, DAV Life Member, Vietnam Veterans of America.

Welcome Home!

Richard Garcia

cal400@optonline.net

For Historian: Kelly Bateman LM #118 Ubon 8th SPS, K-9 1970-'71

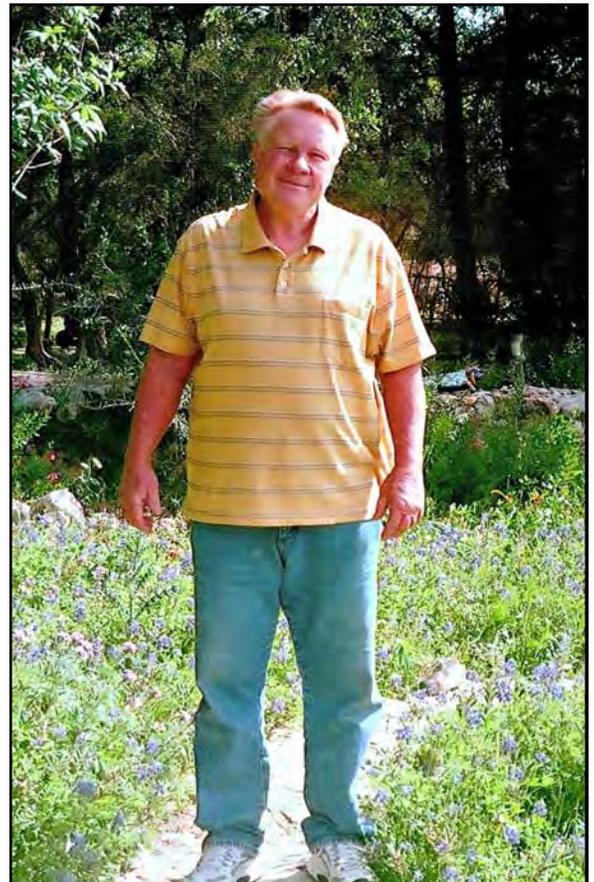
Photo submitted by Kelly Bateman

I was born and raised in Garland, Texas near Dallas. I enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1968, basic training Amarillo AFB, Security Police Tech School, Lackland, 69/70 K-9 OJT handler, Incirlik AB, Turkey, Sentry Dog School Wiesbaden, Germany 3/69. Served at Ubon AB, Thailand 5/70-5/71. K-9 Training NCO 71/72, Dyess AFB, Abilene, Texas. Attended Patrol Dog School 1971 at Lackland AFB. I was honorably discharged 5/72.

I am currently serving as VSPA Historian and am retired from ATT Customer Networks in Austin, Texas after 34 years in the Telecommunications Industry. Over the last 4 years I have catalogued and inventoried all the documents and information contained in our VSPA Archives and individual Base Archive Books. I am extremely proud to be a member of VSPA and to have served the members as Historian for the past 4 years. I would proudly serve again if elected.

I maintain consistent contact with the Security Forces Museum (as VSPA's formal representative) and the Military Working Dog School at Lackland. In the photo on the left, I am presenting the "Top Dog" Award in the Texas Law Enforcement K-9 Trials at Lackland AFB, April 7, 2010.

~VSPA Life Member #118, VDHA Life Member #1066
~VFW Post 6441 Wimberley, Texas, Life Member, VVA Post 923
San Marcos, Texas
~Founding Member "Nemo's War Dog Hero's Memorial Committee"
Lackland AFB, Texas
~Member Civilian Emergency Response Team (DHS) Hays Co.,
Texas "SAR" Team.



Candidate for VSPA
Historian Kelly Bateman

Welcome Home!

Kelly Bateman

TexasK-9@swbell.net



VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION BALLOT



PRINT AND MAIL TO:

PHIL CARROLL
VSPA PRESIDENT
P.O. BOX 8
GLADSTONE, OR 97027

Please Print Carefully and Clearly, or Type

NAME: _____
Last First M.I. (Nickname)

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE and ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____

INSTRUCTIONS

If you are attending the reunion, you may only vote one time.
You may mail your ballot, or you may wait to meet the candidates and submit your ballot at the reunion.

PRINT THIS PAGE

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS BALLOT AND MAIL TO PHIL CARROLL
WITH A POSTMARK NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2012.
CIRCLE THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE BELOW

FOR PRESIDENT

Pete Piazza

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Cain

FOR 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Marshall

FOR SECRETARY

Dennis Evans

FOR TREASURER

Richard Garcia

FOR HISTORIAN

Kelly Bateman

Vietnam Security Police Association 18th Annual Reunion

Fort Walton Beach, Florida – October 3 - 7, 2012
Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field, Florida

The reunion will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel - Destin, Florida (www.embassydestin.com/).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call the Embassy Suites - Destin, Florida at **800-701-0767** to make your hotel reservations, no later than September 12, 2012. You must tell them that you are attending the reunion of the Vietnam Security Police Association in order to receive our contract rate. If you prefer you can make your reservation on-line: http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DSIESES-VPA-20121003/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Our contract room rate is \$119 per night, plus taxes. The rate includes FREE breakfast each morning for each room occupant, and complimentary nightly managers reception. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion. If you make a reservation and it doesn't show the rate for those extra days you will be able to get it fixed when you check in. Parking is FREE. You will have to specify your choice of a smoking or non-smoking room.

AIRPORT INFORMATION: There are three airports within reasonable driving distance of our hotel: Pensacola International Airport (PNS), Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) and the closest, Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS). If you fly into VPS, "Airport Limo and Shuttles" will give us a rate of \$40 per trip (one way) for up to three people, with \$5 for each additional person over three. You'll have to make a reservation a week in advance, by calling 850-902-2246. You'll need a reservation for any return trip to the airport as well.

REUNION REGISTRATION: This year's cost is \$165 per person, which includes several meals, the tour buses, and beverages and snacks in our Alvin "Sarge" Matthews Memorial Hospitality Room.

AGENDA:

- Reception dinner buffet with beer and wine: Wednesday evening, October 3th
- Eglin AFB and/or Hurlburt Field tour and meet the Security Forces troops: Thursday, October 4th
- Local area attractions including optional Air Force Armament Museum visit: Friday, October 5th
- VSPA Board of Directors meeting: Friday afternoon, October 5th
- VSPA business Meeting: Saturday morning, October 6th
- VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions: Saturday morning, October 6th
- SAFESIDE Business Meeting: Saturday afternoon October 6th
- Banquet dinner with guest speaker, awards and raffle: Saturday Evening, October 6th
- Memorial service: Sunday Morning, October 7th

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.

We hope to see you at this 18th Annual VSPA Reunion!

"We Take Care of Our Own!"



**VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION
REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
EGLIN AFB – HURLBURT FIELD
FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 3 – 7, 2012**



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 3, 2012. 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

You must also complete the attached Eglin AFB Entry Access Form (page 13)

A Confirmation of Registration and an Itinerary will be mailed to you by September 12, 2012. 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 Embassy Suites - Destin, Florida at 800-701-0767 no later than September 12, 2012 to make your hotel reservations. You must mention that you are with the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion to receive your group rate of \$119 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

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.

PLEASE PRINT or type all information clearly. Do not use abbreviations on any portion of the registration form.

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.

HOME ADDRESS and MAILING ADDRESS: This is where we will mail your confirmation.

EGLIN AFB ENTRY ACCESS FORM: Please fill out the attached Eglin AFB Entry Access Form with information for yourself and all guests. This information is MANDATORY for access to the Air Force base. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON BASE IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE ALL THIS INFORMATION.

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.

NAMES OF YOUR GUESTS: Please provide the first name, middle initial and last name of your guest(s) on the Registration Form as well as all required information on the Eglin AFB Entry Access List Form.

RENEWAL OF ANNUAL DUES: VSPA members only - you can renew their 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.

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 Dennis Evans, toll free at 866-672-6533, or at 661-803-1812, or email him: DennisEEvans@aol.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.

REUNION COST: The registration fee is \$165 per person.

Questions? Contact VSPA Secretary Dennis Evans toll free 866-672-6533, or 661-803-1812, email DennisEEvans@aol.com



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 96TH AIR BASE WING (AFMC)
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA**

MEMORANDUM FOR: 96 SFS/S5B

FROM: 96 SFS

SUBJECT: Entry/Access to Eglin AFB for Vietnam Security Police Association 18th Annual Reunion to be held on 10/04/2012

The list of individuals below requires access to (area to be entered) in support of or to attend the Vietnam Security Police Association 18th Annual Reunion.

<u>Name (Last, First MI)</u>	<u>Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)</u>	<u>Drivers License Number and State, if over 16 years</u>	<u>Social Security Number</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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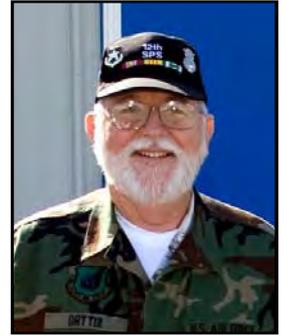
2. The following personnel are authorized to verify additional personnel who require access and will act as a POC for any additional issues.

POC:

3. The effective dates of this Base Entry/Access list are 10/04/2012 - 10/04/2012. If there are any questions or concerns relating to this list please contact me (POC) or (person to be contacted)

The People in Our Lives Who Make a Difference

By Steve Gattis, President Emeritus ~ CRB, 12th SPS ~ 1969-69 ~ LM #49



Some of us enjoyed the honor of attending the Safeside Reunion at Lackland AFB in April this year, and I also spoke to a graduating class from the Air Force Security Forces Academy. The faces of the young graduates brought back memories not only of Air Police Tech School, but also of friends in the VSPA. I looked at their faces and thought of buddies from Tech School and Vietnam, and of VSPA brothers who gather years later. At the end of the ceremony, the attending Safesiders and I were “re-blued” as we were invited to stand and recite the Security Forces Creed with the graduates. We knew we were once again part of something very special, and that the grads sincerely appreciated our service in Vietnam and Thailand. It was so meaningful that some of us wondered if we were back in blue and whether we would soon be going to squadron assignments with the graduates. We felt like we were ready to go.

We left the ceremony and subsequent Safeside-sponsored barbecue with the hope that the young ones could feel our 40 years of brotherhood and carry it with them to their assignments. We also left knowing what the Defenders did not yet know: that they were about to learn the very real aspect of what it means to wear our badge. You can't hide behind it and some of them would be hurt or killed in the line of duty.

This reality left us remembering that people will suddenly leave this world, creating a void that is often tough to take. Whether it's a family member, a friend, partner, neighbor or a brother in the VSPA, we handle our personal grief in different ways. Sometimes, we hold it in until there is nothing left of us, other times we wonder why some people handle the loss so much better than we do.

Some of us suffer PTSD and discover that losing a friend triggers a reaction we don't understand or are left alone in sleepless nights confronting the numbers of our VSPA brothers who are dying. We may realize that the goodness of these men is one sign of their selflessness. At a funeral or memorial service with the family we open doors into realizing how that person affected our lives and wonder how many of our friends will make it to the next reunion.

I was very close to Mike Daoust, my hoochmate in Vietnam. We found each other again when I joined the VSPA in 1995 and he saw my name on a roster. When he died I attended his funeral with Brian Thorne, another hoochmate and VSPA brother. We knew how much Mike had done for the VSPA, and that he was the VVA National Veteran of the Year in 1998. Mike worked constantly to help others and VSPA has an award created in his name to honor those who have worked extra hard for VSPA.

We've also lost brothers like Monk Pope and Al “Sarge” Matthews. Monk was fond of saying that someone was “Jam-up and Jelly Tight” when he liked what they had done. He made CDs for us with more than 100 songs from our era in Vietnam and Thailand. In his honor we have a “Monk Pope Brotherhood Award” that we give each year to the one VSPA member who embodies all the good things that Monk stood for.

Sarge was Mr. Hospitality with the pulled-pork barbeque he cooked and served in our reunion hospitality room every year. Now, our hospitality room is dedicated to his memory. He also made the Native American Warriors Medal of Valor available to VSPA members. Yes, we knew he believed in our motto and loved our brotherhood - when he planned for his own funeral he arranged to be buried in plot #111 as his lasting tribute to the brothers we lost in Vietnam and Thailand.

We keep on losing brothers, and now we have lost Terry Strickland. Terry served at Korat as a dog handler and helped found and construct the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial at Lackland AFB.

What we did not know was that Terry liked to write, or that Ralph Waldo Emerson was his favorite poet. At Terry's request, his family handed out the following Emerson poem to those of us at the memorial service:

*The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand,
Nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship;
It is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one
When he discovers that someone believes in him
And is willing to trust him with his friendship.*

Terry's family also gave us the following poem, written by Terry:

SIGNS

*Beautiful is your rainbow in the sky,
Making me laugh and sometimes even cry.
Not tears of sadness, but of happiness.
Just to see and be part of your faithfulness.*

*To some it is a sign for a promise of old,
With me, a reminder to be strong and bold.
For after the passing tempest of each storm,
Sunshine abounds to conform cold to warm.*

*To all the seeing, 'tis a verse from
Your infinite story,
Another secret revealed to us of your
Everlasting glory.*



Two days before I wrote this we learned that Ed Wilson had stood his final Guardmount. Ed was also very close to Monk and Sarge, and when Sarge passed away Ed provided funds to the VSPA to ensure that the Warriors Medal of Valor would continue in Sarge's name.

Today, Ernie Childers and I attended the funeral of Charter Member Bob Connor, a K-9 handler who served at Pleiku with his brother-in-law, Life Member John Risse. What many of you may not know is that these lifelong VSPA brothers-in-arms from Vietnam were married to sisters. Their combined families were much more than we understood.

As I write this and think of the brothers we have lost and who will now be listed at Life Member #111, it becomes almost overwhelming to know that we have lost four more VSPA brothers since April - each one a man who made a difference in the lives of others, served at Tan Son Nhut and who will never be forgotten by their family and friends: Ron Shultz, Lloyd Hale, Chris Godfrey and Bernard Schneider.

I encourage each of you to take the time to think of the people who have made a difference in your lives. Contact them. Thank them. If they are already protecting Heaven with our brother Skycops, think about them and thank them too. You will be better for it and they will all somehow know that they made a difference in your life.

My wife Lise and I send our thanks to all of you and to the members of the VSPA Sisterhood for making a difference in our lives.

Steve and Lise

VSPA Scholarship Fund

The VSPA has a scholarship fund established for members and their families for furthering their education beyond high school. Members, spouses, children, grandchildren, and step children are eligible.

For applications/information please contact me via
e-mail at jlz9107@earthlink.net or call me at
949-855-8901.



The cutoff date for submission is October 1, 2012.

VSPA member Jim Lebowitz BH, 3rd SPS ~ 1966-'68
Life Member # 241

Guadalupe (Lupe) Ybarra, JR passed away on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Lupe proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1971 as Security Police Sentry Dog Handler. Lupe was with The 3rd Security Police Squadron at Bien Hoa AB, RVN from August 1968 to March 1970 where he worked with 2 Sentry Dogs, "Hans" and "Hey Boy". After his tour of duty in South Viet Nam, Lupe finished his Air Force enlistment at Carswell AFB, Texas.

Lupe continued his government service when he joined the ranks of The United States Customs Service. His career as a Narcotic Dog Handler, Inspector and Senior Inspector with the Contraband Enforcement Team (CET), Houston Intercontinental Airport, Texas resulted in a total of 33 years of a combined military and civil service career when he retired in January of 2004. Lupe was an honorable, dedicated and professional individual that could always be counted on by his peers, Customs Agents and other State, Local and Federal Law Enforcement Officers to do a commendable job on all of the enforcement operations that he took part in.

Like with all U.S. Military forces who served in Vietnam and Thailand, Lupe was exposed to *Agent Orange*. Prior to, and at time of his passing, he was addressing this issue with the VA. Lupe's devoted wife Josie (who is still following up with the VA) informed me that per Lupe's wishes his body was donated to the Baylor College of Medicine, in order to learn more of the disease that took him from his family and friends. Lupe Ybarra is still serving our country and fellow man with his gracious last donation and with the memories that Josie related to me through Lupe's stories about his Air Force and Customs experiences. Josie indicated she was planning a memorial service for Lupe sometime in May of 2012.

Lupe's obituary can be found on the Carnes Funeral Home, Houston, Texas web site: <http://www.carnesfuneralhome.com/guadalupe-ybarra-jr>

Lupe Ybarra was, and always will be, a true American Patriot.

Harold "Tom" Taylor
CBPO, Retired
Customs and Border Protection and
U.S. Customs Service
(1974 – 2011)
USAF Security Police Sentry Dog Handler (1968 - 1972)
37th & 12th SPS, Phu Cat AB, RVN (1969 – 1970)



Ramblings of an Air Force Brat... by Janet "Sparkplug" Parker



- *Editors 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 almost two years. After writing four articles on surviving grief, Janet offers us reflections on "the ramblings of an Air Force Brat."*

No one knows better than all of you about anniversaries and dates...for some of you it is the holidays, for other it is an event that occurred during your tour in Vietnam but there they are. Lurking, sneaking, waiting to catch you off guard, reminding you so clearly the feeling in that moment.



Take a look at this photo...this is Sarge. This is the photo I took the date he left for Cam Ranh Bay in December 1970 to begin the tour from January 1971 to January 1972. I was 8. I remember this like it was yesterday and promise you it feels just like it did then.

If you have not guessed by now, he was and is my Hero. I was and am so proud of him. Sarge posted his last Guardmount on January 4, 2008, his 66th birthday. Two anniversaries in one. Of course, not a day goes by that I don't think of him. Not a single day.

The upcoming celebration of Father's Day is my inspiration for sharing these ramblings with you.

It is another of those days that make him feel so far away and yet so close. I will never really lose touch with him as long as I can call up the memories.

Father's Day was always a priority to me. I'd spend a lot of time trying to find the perfect gift. The hardest part of that was surprising him!

Some how, he always guessed what his birthday, Christmas and Father's Day gift was.

Sometimes, it still breaks my heart that all I can do now is make sure he has a flag and new flowers at this grave...my Wall. But, when that starts clouding my eyes, I go back to those VSPA Reunions together, grilling at home together, talking, just having a cold beer and chillin'.

Do you know how cool it is to hang out with your Hero? I am so blessed that he was the man he was. We had great talks. A couple of special ones, I'll share with your indulgence.

Shortly after the 2007 DC Reunion, Daddy and I were sitting at the dining table talking about stuff. It usually turned to his Air Force career and this was no different. He said "I guess you felt like I put my job first". My honest, knee jerk reply was "No. I never thought about it. But, I knew what you did and just thought that by serving and protecting our Country, you were putting Mama and me first." He cried.

Another great heartfelt talk was over the grill one evening. Somehow, the conversation turned to belief in God. I shared this with him. "You know how you always thought you knew what was best for me as your child, and would sometimes have to say no or set rules you knew I would not like? That is how I have learned to accept God. He knows what is best and loves you whether you like it or not." He just grinned, can you see that grin? And said "Never thought of it like that".

We could share a lot of thoughts, Sarge and I. I am still in awe that we ultimately became good friends. With the love and trust that goes beyond father-daughter. He called me his running buddy and I called him my Hero.

Whatever you anniversary or sneaky dates, I invite you take a deep breath, reach way down deep and look for some odd outcome that get you through that feeling.

This Father's Day, I think I may cook something on the grill, have a cold one and say Happy Father's Day to the best Darn SP in the whole U.S. Air Force and all his best darn SP VSPA Brothers!

Happy Father's Day!



God Speed and WELCOME HOME!

Janet

BLAST FROM THE PAST-YOUR VSPA HISTORY

By Kelly Bateman, VSPA Historian ~ LM #118 ~ Ubon K-9 70-71; Baron 279M;

In this issue we have an amazing document. It is the "original" 377th SPS Tan Son Nhut AB RVN "C" Flight Duty Roster from the night of communist TET Offensive 1968. It was donated to the VSPA in 2002 by William J. McKissick, 377th SPS TSN 1967-1968. Bill passed from us in 2008 but left us an important part of our history that has survived. The duty roster was signed that night by then, Lt Mel Grover who later became Col (Ret) Mel Grover of San Antonio, Texas Col Grover was the past Director of the US Air Force Security Police Academy at Lackland AFB and is now a member of The Board of Trustees for The Security Forces Museum at Lackland. Col Grover was instrumental in the recent upgrade of the Vietnam Era exhibits at the museum and its re-dedication ceremony held on Jan. 31, 2012 at Lackland AFB. The ceremony also commemorated the 44th anniversary of the 1968 Communist TET Offensive.

We thank Bob Morrison, LM #088, for his recent donation to our archives of photos and Stars and Stripes newspaper articles on the 8th SPS, Ubon AB, Thailand. Bob was stationed at Ubon, 8th SPS, from 1968-71 and U-Tapao, 635th SPS from 1966-67. Also included in this issue is the poem by LM #598, Dunkin K. Copeland. Duncan was stationed at Nha Trang, AB, RVN 1968-69, with the 14th SPS. You may have seen this poem before, but I never get tired of it. It really speaks to all of our common experiences during our service. We really had a lonely job. We SP's did not see many of our friends except at Guard Mount or on post. Many of us have spent more time, at our reunions, with the friends we were stationed with than we did during our tours of duty.

Pleiku AB RVN was active from 1966 until 1973 with the 633rd and 6254th SPS providing security. The two photos from the Pleiku archives are of a SP fire support team taken outside a bunker and another of a Pleiku SP K-9 post labeled HH-43 Echo showing a K-9 team next to a parked chopper. No names or other information are provided with the fire support team photo OR the K-9 photo. If anyone recognizes themselves or others please contact me.

Hot, bored, tired? You bet.

*Now, many years laer, when your aches and pains wake you at 3 or 4,
before you roll over and try not to snore,*

Remember, there's still somebody out there, doing what you've done before.

Walking a post, checking a door.

In a tower, a bunker, on the ramp, standing a gate.

As you hear the rain against the roof, or the wind moan

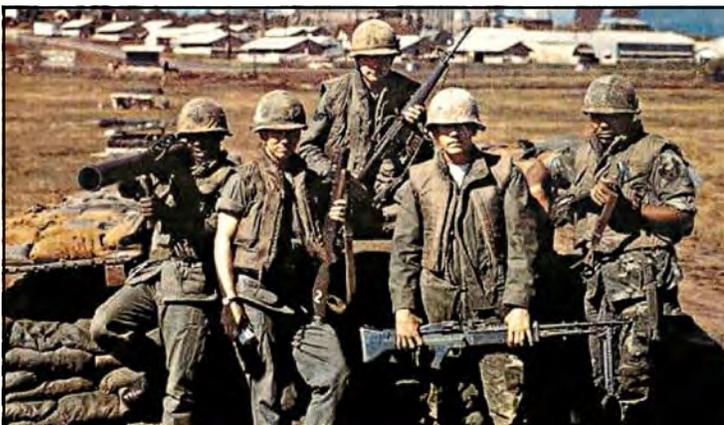
Before you pull the blankets up, thank your God, and say a little prayer

For the sentry who's still out there.

D.K. Copeland

January 2002

Nha Trang '68-'69



377th SECURITY POLICE SQUADRON - "C" FLIGHT

DATE: 20-31 Jan 68

TIME: 2030-0430

ALPHA SECTOR

POST	DUTY TITLE	NAME & RANK	EQUIPMENT
1	SECTOR NCOIC	MCKISSICK / TSGT	
2	SAT LEADER	MCKISSICK / TSGT	
3	SAT GUNNER	MOORE / FENC / SSGT	
4	SAT RIDER	WALL / SGT	3 SPR'S
5	OUTLOOK ALPHA SPECIAL POST	HURLEY / AIC	SPR
6	ENT. CONT. MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA #1 WEST		
7	ENT. CONT. MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA #1 EAST	SHAFER / SGT	SPR
8	ENT. CONT. MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA #2 NORTH	BOOTZ / COOK / AIC	SPR
9	ENT. CONT. MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA #2 SOUTH	MCCABE / AIC	SPR
10	SECONDARY SAT LEADER	JOHNSON / SSGT	SPR
11	SAT GUNNER	SMITH / SSGT	MG
12	SAT RIDER	HATHAWAY / SSGT	SPR 2
13	ENT. CONT. RECEIVER SITE	CEPOLI / AIC	SPR
14	SOUTH ENT. CONT. C-130 AREA	CAMPBELL / AIC	SPR
15	NORTH ENT. CONT. C-130 AREA	THOMPSON / SGT/AIC	SPR
16	MLR M-60 GUNNER (BUNKER)	ROBERTS / SGT	SPR
16a	ASS'T GUNNER	TERRY / AIC	MG
17	M-16 BUNKER	LEAL / AIC	
18	M-16 BUNKER	POPE / AIC	SPR
19	M-16 BUNKER	HARRIS / AIC	
20	M-16 BUNKER	IVY / AMN	SPR
21	M-16 BUNKER	JONES / AIC	
22	M-16 BUNKER	JACKSON, H / AIC	SPR
23	M-60 GUNNER	CLARK / SGT	SPR
23a	ASS'T GUNNER	DONALDSON / AIC	MG
24	M-16 BUNKER	LIPMAN / AIC	
25	M-16 BUNKER	WELBORN / AIC	SPR
26	M-16 BUNKER	KEIRSEY / AIC	
27	M-16 BUNKER	HANDY / AIC	SPR
28	M-16 BUNKER	PASSMORE	
29	M-16 BUNKER	REGAN	
30	M-16 BUNKER	WELBORN / AIC	SPR
31	M-16 BUNKER	SHARON / AIC	SPR
32	M-16 BUNKER	UCHMAN / AIC	SPR
33	M-16 BUNKER		
34	EAST WALKING GUARD, C-130 AREA	MURRAY / AIC	SPR
35	WEST WALKING GUARD, C-130 AREA	MARTINEZ / AIC	SPR
36	SOUTH WALKING GUARD, C-130 AREA	KANNAN / AIC	SPR
37	NORTH WALKING GUARD, C-130 AREA	HEINEMAN / AIC	SPR
38	ENT. CONT. TRANSIENT AMMO	ELAM / AIC	SPR
39	TOWER #5	CARSON / AIC	SPR/B
40	TOWER #6	GILBERT / AIC	SPR/B
41	TOWER #7	GRAY / AIC	SPR/B
42	TOWER #8	VANDEBERG / AIC	SPR/B
43	TOWER #9	VOTH / AIC	SPR/B
44	TOWER #10	BINGHAM / SGT	SPR/B/SPR
45	TOWER #11	ZIEM/JACKSON, M / AIC'S	SPR
46	TOWER #12	DICKENS / SGT	SPR/B
47	TOWER #13		
48	TOWER #14	TESSIER / SGT	SPR/B/S
	CSC SAT	SASSER / SGT	

LEGEND: *Augmentees

SPR - Small Portable Radio

B - Binoculars

SG - Shotgun

MG - M-60

R - M-16

LPR - Large Portable radi

SA - .38 Cal. Revolver

GL - XM-148

REMARKS:

Guardmount will be conducted at 2000 hours 30 Jan 68, at the Armory. All personnel will have required equipment. THERE WILL BE NO CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES 8 HOURS PRIOR TO DUTY. Commercial radios and reading material will not be carried on post.

OFF: SSGT FENC, SGT AUBRY, SGT COOK, SGT LOWITT, AIC GIDDEN, AIC PASSMORE, AIC PEDEN, AIC FUCH, AIC WIRSING, AIC DANLICK // TDY TO SCTY OPS: AIC RAFFA // BUNKER
 DETAIL: AIC UNDERWOOD, AIC DENTON // AIC HIBBS, AIC KELSO, AIC NATION //
 DETAIL TO PICK 1 TONS BMP: AIC MCCABE, AIC WIRSING

NAME AND RANK OF FLIGHT COMMANDER
 MELVIN G GROVER, 1st Lt USAF

SIGNATURE

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

Win a unique USAF camouflage shirt with proto type Air Police badge or, an in-country (Thailand) made jacket with Security Police badge or, current day Security Forces / Security Police brassards with a Security Police badge.

Thailand Dog Handlers attending the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion in October, in Destin, FL will be holding a donation fundraiser for these three unique Security Police memorabilia items during the reunion. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate or be present to win one of these incredible items.

All donated funds raised by this project will go to two proven charitable funds, "The Nemo's War Dog Hero's Memorial Project." <http://635thk9.com/tdhnemo.htm> and, "Feed The Dawgs," <http://thedawgsproject.com>

VSPA members are encouraged to donate to this fundraiser. These two organizations are particularly in need of funds this year to support current day troops, veterans, and Military Working Dogs past and present.

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 donation (PLEASE, NO CASH!), to be received by September 21st. See details below. After that date we cannot guarantee your chances will be placed into the drawing.

Fundraiser Prizes

First Prize: Valued at \$500.00

USAF Security Police Camouflage Shirt with in country made Security Police crossed pistols patch, and Harry J's Commandos tab. Included with the shirt will be an Air Police prototype badge with white and blue enamel inlay.

Second Prize: Valued at \$200.00

A jacket made of a GI wool blanket with the US stamp on the back in the middle. It was made in 1969 in Udorn, Thailand. The lining is Thailand Camo and has never been worn. The participant patch was also made at Udorn in 1969. Labeled under the pocket is 423nd Security Police Squadron – K-9 Sec. Included with the jacket will be a Security Police badge. Jacket donated by Jay Jones.

Third Prize: Valued at \$150.00

Current day SF Sather Air Base Baghdad, Iraq and SP brassards and a Security Police badge. Brassards donated by Bill Cummings and Jim Stastny.

For a \$5 donation you will receive 3 chances to win one of the prizes. Donate \$20 and you will receive 15 chances to win. VSPA members are encouraged to donate \$20 for 15 chances to win and to support this project. For \$50.00 you will receive 39 chances to win. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. Remember, you do not have to be present to win!



First Prize



Second Prize



Photos by
John Homa

Third Prize



Send in your check or money order donation (PLEASE, NO CASH!), to be received by September 21st for the drawing at the VSPA reunion. Send donations with name, return address, and phone number printed clearly on a sheet of paper to:

John Homa
151 CR 556
Athens, TN 37303

Editor's note: Many of you know Kim Bayes Bautista, Associate Member, aka "Queen Mother" and a great friend to the VSPA. In addition to assisting with our reunions for many years, Kim is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Ft. Hood, TX. She has graciously agreed to write a repeating column for GUARDMOUNT and we gratefully present her eighth article below.



FROM THE FIELD

of behavioral health

Kim Bayes-Bautista, MSSW, LCSW

Honorary Member VSPA



EMDR—A Glimpse From My Side

I recently received my certification in Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR) which is a mode of therapy that is particularly effective with complex combat trauma. I began using it with my patients the moment I finished the training. It has been a fascinating and moving journey. To explain EMDR in simple terms, it is a therapy that processes trauma very quickly and reduces the distress associated with disturbing and unwanted thoughts. The patient's brain does the work and will take them where they need to go to process the upsetting memories.

HOW IT WORKS

The patient is asked to fix their eyes on the therapist's fingers, a pencil or a light bar as the therapist moves his or her hand back and forth in multiple sets of what is called bilateral stimulation (BLS). This eye movement activates reprocessing (just like when the eyes move in REM sleep). EMDR is not hypnosis. The patient is asked to rate their level of distress 1-10 (10 most distressing). The patient is asked to identify a negative belief about themselves and then what they would like to believe about themselves (as related to the memory).

CASE EXAMPLE

The following is being presented with patient permission but without identifying information. There are other preliminary steps in the protocol but I am focusing on the actual session. Each semicolon indicates when one set of 24-36 repetitions of BLS was completed. The patient then takes a deep breath and is asked to report "what do you get." The patient is not trying to make anything happen. His brain just goes where it goes. **(In bold are my thoughts/observations/prompts.)**

D, 36 yrs old, is a senior NCO who has been deployed to Iraq five times. He has been a gunner, a sniper on a small kill team, worked on recovery and convoy missions. He has been in countless fire fights, mortar attacks, was injured in an IED explosion and now suffers from severe anxiety, anger, and related PTSD symptoms. We began by working on his first combat experience from 2003, his second day in Iraq, as an E-1. His beginning level of distress when he thinks about this incident is 8/10. His negative belief about himself "I am helpless." What he would like to believe is "I have control." Began reprocessing. SM recalls... it's dark, 0200 in the morning; the lights across the street go out; I hear movement; I feel heat whiz by my neck and hear a loud crack in the wall behind me; I feel a burst of adrenalin, shock and amazement, someone is ******ing shooting at me!**; two more shots to my right; I feel shaky; I take off running to my chief to tell him someone is ******ing shooting at me**; hearing movement down

the street; chief says to get in the truck and move out (**patient's leg is shaking vigorously, breathing is heavy, hands are clenched on the arms of chair**); the truck is moving and we are being fired on, chief suddenly jumps out and starts unloading, all hell breaks loose in front of us; sparks, flashes, sounds of rounds hitting the truck; chief tells me to get out and use the truck for cover; (**Patient's body is trembling, legs are shaking, I prompt him by saying, "It's an old memory, keep going." He needs to push through this memory**); shooting over the hood of the truck; the antenna is hit, it makes a loud twang as its hit. I remember the fiberglass flying in our faces; I looked up and saw a guy on the roof with an AK-47 pointed down at us; I dove backwards into the back of the truck with my rifle pointed up; chief slapping my arm down and screaming "You'll hit the birds!" and not knowing what he was talking about; (**patient's body is still**) the Apache helicopters making two passes; the sound of shell casings falling all around on the ground; the Apaches hovering; (**patient is calmer, legs no longer shaking**) rounding the corner; everything becoming silent; feeling shaky; getting to the rally point; a sergeant slapping me on the back asking "How's it feel boy? You're alright. You made it."

D was surprised about how much he remembered and how he had not been aware before of the significance of sounds. As we discussed this, it made sense to him as it was in darkness and his other senses were heightened. When asked to go back to the original picture of his distress and to rate it, he had a distress level of 3/10. When SM considers the belief "I am in control" he begins to feel this is a truer statement. D also yawned and stated he felt drained but okay. He realized that facing the memory was nothing compared to facing the real thing. He stated he felt hopeful.

FOLLOW UP

D continues to report a low level of distress, 2-3/10, when he recalls the processed memory.

OBSERVATIONS

I feel such compassion for this young man. I am committed to helping him regain some sense of peace of mind. He has much more work to do but he is willing to do whatever it takes to feel whole again. EMDR seems to be a promising therapy.

I plan to complete 20 more hours of clinical supervision so I can have advanced certification and further my expertise to help soldiers and veterans.

For more information on how EMDR might help you, feel free to contact me at luelsmom@hotmail.com

Time to pay those VSPA dues.....

VSPA Reunion 2012 is just around the corner! 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 :)



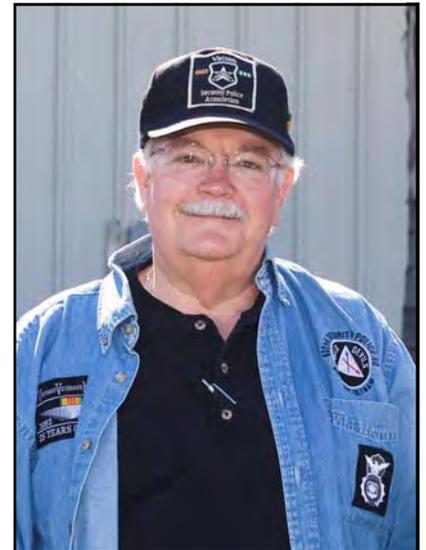
Just go to VSPA's Homepage (<http://www.vspa.com>) and on the Top Menu, click the Menu "About/Join/Dues/Help", and select the appropriate link.



See you in Florida!

“A Flight” by Steven Hall VSPA LM #639 ~ BT 632nd SPS

When I left for Basic, I flew out of L.A. It was Halloween night, 1966. We got into Lackland AFB by bus at about 3 am. The first thing they did with us was to unload us in the well of the loading docks behind a chow hall. An NCO, who for some reason had a very sour attitude, stood up on the loading dock with his hands on his hips and told us how happy he was to be there for us at ‘zero-dark thirty on Saturday morning. And "Oh, by the way, welcome to the Air Force". Then he asked for a show of hands of those who joined the AF in order to dodge the draft. A couple of morons actually raised their hands! I think their parents must have signed them up for the AF before the Army could draft them because they obviously didn't have the brains to see trouble coming. After a few well chosen words to them, we were given instructions that were "not going to be repeated again", after that they marched us into the chow hall for breakfast. Once we ate, we were put us back on the buses and taken to a white, two story barracks from the W.W.II era. Our new daddy, the Drill Instructor told us we had 15 minutes to shower, shave and hit the sack. Then he said, "and everyone WILL shave, even if you don't think you need to shave". When he hollered, "DO IT, NOW" there was a mad dash for the showers. It was elbows and you-know-whats on afterburners! People were in and out of the shower so fast they didn't even need to dry off. Guys were doubled up at the sinks and the razors were moving so fast it looked like a sushi restaurant on Saturday night. One guy was in such a hurry that he cut himself real bad using one of those double-edged “Safety Razors”. He was bleeding so much that he had to wrap a towel around his neck. It was soaked with blood. I hit the sack but had a hard time falling asleep. Then, the next thing I knew the DI was hollering at the top of his lungs, yelling at us to wake up. It was 8 am....we got a whole three hours of sleep.



Since we got there on a Saturday, none of the in-processing was done the next day. I think it was actually about 2 days later that we got scheduled into the barbershop and received our uniform issue. We'd been there just long enough to start recognizing each other, however after we got our heads buzzed, we were complete strangers all over again. The guy in the bunk above me went AWOL on the fourth night. I guess all the changes were just too much for him. The DI told us that it was futile to try to leave. It seems the local police could spot an AWOL a mile away. The cops found the guy just off base, standing at the side of the road trying to hitch a ride home. We didn't see him again, so I think they may have given him a discharge. If he would have left the day before in his civilian clothes, he might have made it. The local cops recognized he was an AWOL because he had a very short haircut and was wearing brand new fatigues without any stripes on his sleeves. He was the same guy that cut up his neck while shaving. Some guys had a real hard time adapting to the military. It wasn't really all that difficult for me. I am the oldest son from a family with 8 boys and 3 girls, I went to Catholic school (lots of discipline there) and my parents used "The Belt" if I didn't follow the rules. Being in the military wasn't so different. If I didn't follow the military rules, at least I didn't have to worry about getting "The Belt"! I was already used to the closely enforced discipline, the lack of privacy and all the commotion, so life in the barracks wasn't really much different from living in a big family. However, that dang haircut; now, that bugged me!

MINI-REUNION MARCH 9-11, 2012 ~ DAYTON, OH

By Jack "The Old Cowboy Smith" TSN, 377th SPS; 1968-'69 LM#453

The weekend of March 9th -11th, a mini reunion was held at the Hope Hotel on Wright-Patterson AFB. This is the 5th year for the mini in Dayton, OH. Those in attendance were Pat Houseworth, Jack Smith, Sam Lewis, Mike Tillman, Tom Oller, Bart Stack, David Beckley, John Galinac, Bob Griffith, Tom Bell, Tom McCandless, Rick Adams, Tommy Webb, David Ramey, Tom Dering, Doug Davis, Rennie and Larry Gould and all of our wives. Many arrived on Friday night and spent a good evening with good food and great friends at Packy's Pub located in the Hope Hotel.

On Saturday morning some of us met at the Security Police Statue where we offered up prayers for all Security Forces now serving and for all of us past Skycops. The rest of the day we toured the Air Force Museum again. They have made some improvements on the Vietnam Area. It is so nice to see the effort they are making to honor the Vietnam Veteran.

One of the high lights of the mini reunion was when John Galinac and his wife, Brenda, arrived. As you all know, John has had a terrible battle with brain cancer. At one point it was thought that John would not make it. With all the prayers and the wonders of medicine, John has survived and is doing well. John even drove all the way from Pennsylvania to Dayton.

So that's the report from the Mini reunion 2012. If you have not attended a mini reunion in your area check the VSPA BB; some get listed there. Hoping to see everyone in Florida come October for the Maxie VSPA reunion.



Gathered at the Security Forces Statue on Wright-Patterson AFB grounds.



John and Brenda Galinac



NOTE: All Officers and Staff are unpaid VSPA members who volunteer to serve their brothers in the association. Officers were elected in 2010 for a two-year term. Staff members were appointed to assist and advise the officers of the association as needed.

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USAF Security Forces Museum Turned 35!

On 22 March 1977, 35 years ago, the USAF Security Forces Museum began its legacy in the cradle of Security Forces Training at Lackland AFB, Texas. Museum staff, volunteers, detailed Airmen, and members of the public celebrated the birthday 22 March 2012 with a slideshow about the museum and a custom-decorated birthday cake.

A Brief History

-1977: The Security Police Museum opened in a temporary location.

-1979: Its first free-standing building was dedicated.

-1980s: The Museum is rapidly outgrowing its 2,700 sq feet.

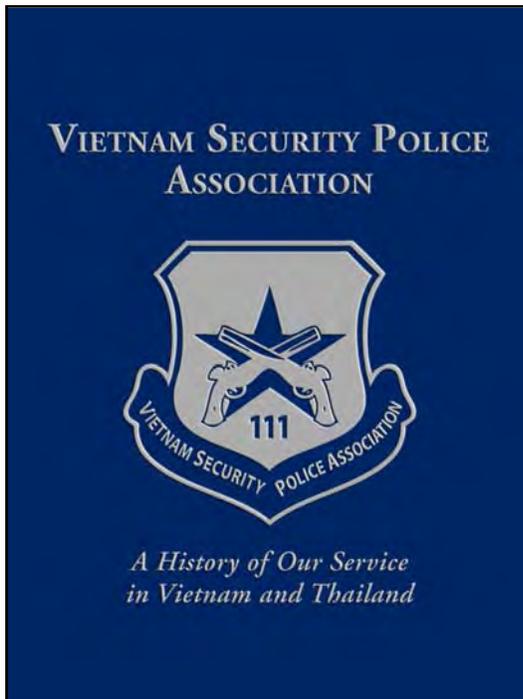
-1988: The museum's building was expanded to more than triple its size.

-2010: The name was changed to the USAF Security Forces Museum.

Today, the USAF Security Forces Museum collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits the vibrant history and heritage of the Air Force Security Forces from our inception as Air Police in 1947, through the change to Security Police during the Vietnam War, and into today's Security Forces. It has nearly 1,300 unique artifacts and more than 3,000 archival documents in its current 9,654 square feet of space.

For more information about *your* Security Forces Museum or on how you can help, please call 210-671-2615.





2ND PRINTING - BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE!

THE VSPA HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

By Steve Gattis

SGattis-LM49@vspa.com

“THE BOOK” is back in print! Of the 200 books that were ordered, 109 have been reserved or purchased. If you would like to purchase one of the remaining 91 books, the cost will be the same as the original price of \$54 plus \$6.95 for shipping. Please send an email to me stating that you would like to reserve a book. Then, make a check payable to the Vietnam Security Police Association for \$54 per book, plus \$6.95 shipping. If you order more than one book, the shipping cost for each additional book is reduced to \$3 rather than \$6.95. This is the original book price and shipping rate charged by Turner Publishing.

Please mail the check (**payable to the VSPA**) to the following address:

Steve Gattis
P.O. Box 1889
Glen Rose, Texas 76043

I send my heartfelt thanks to all of you who participated in the book or ordered a book. The 34 pages of reviews and comments regarding our book, from MG Mary Kay Hertog and many of our members have been consistently outstanding. We own a wonderful piece of our history.

KIA/LOD Burial Locations List.

Gents, As you may know, VSPA is trying to locate the burial locations for our KIA/LOD AP/SPs. Tonight, several new locations were posted that were previously unknown. Check out the list at <http://www.vspa.com/vspa-kia-rip-locations.htm> and see if you may know where the gravesite is for any of the unlisted locations. The goal is to one day place flags and flowers on every gravesite of our 111, on the save holiday or reunion date. James Dale Jones is a newly discovered KIA/LOD name (story pending).



For more information, contact Don Poss, Communications Director, VSPA
DonPossLM37@vspa.com



Nominations for the Warriors Medal of Valor

It is that time of year again, when we start making reservations for the VSPA Annual Reunion and preparing for the business meetings and nominations.

Once again, we are fortunate to present The Warriors Medal of Valor of the Native American Nations to VSPA members chosen by their brothers. The medal was created and designed by Native American Chief Tall Eagle who served in the Air Force in Vietnam. His desire was that the medal may be awarded to any deserving Vietnam Veteran, not limited to Native Americans.

This VSPA tradition was initiated and made possible by VSPA Life Member #127, MSgt Alvin Matthews (Ret.). MSgt Matthews was also the first Chairman of the VSPA Committee for the selection and presentation of the Warriors Medal of Valor in 2006. Sarge received his Medal at the Pow Wow of the Cherokee Nation in Jackson County, Alabama in October 2004. Continued presentation of the Warriors Medal of Valor has been approved by a tribal council and is now made in loving memory of our Sarge and through the generous donations of the VSPA Brotherhood. I am honored to continue as Chair of the nominations committee.

As in the past, you may nominate any active member of the VSPA by submitting his name and briefly, your thoughts on why this member is deserving. Please include as many details on his service as you can.

Nominations may be submitted to jparker8@travelers.com no later than August 15, 2012. Medals and certificates will be presented at the VPSA Reunion Banquet in October.

Thank you for your service
and WELCOME HOME.

Janet Matthews-Parker
Daughter of LM #127
VSPA Warrior Medal
Nominations Committee Chair



The Scariest Post I Ever Worked.....



Robert Edwards (Ed) Cam Ranh SPS '67-'68 LM#737;

I have been thinking about some of the posts I worked, some you would have had no chance to defend if you were attacked. The worst one I remember was a pier that went out into the bay. It had lights and you were to walk up and down it looking out into the dark for anyone. I was blinded by the lights but knew anyone could see me. I was thinking of an old WW11 movie where the guard was taken out from behind while walking his post. I finally found a dark spot and got prone. Then it was all I could do to stay awake. I only worked it one night; maybe they did away with it.

Newell M. Swartz VSPA Past President, PR, 35th SPS ; PC 35th SPS: '66-'67 LM#262

Beach guard at Phan Rang guarding food and other supplies on the beach several miles from the base. Dark, no lights of any kind, by yourself and out of radio range. No bunker, just piles of supplies. Dusk to dawn. Then August of 66, at Phu Cat, we built a bunker on the railroad tracks because they were rusty and we thought un-used. Two weeks later at 0100, here comes an ARVN armored train full of soldiers. Illuminated by the headlight on the train, you just hope that one of those random shots that was fired across our perimeter from the town of Phu Cat did not occur. The ARVN just knew that their track was blocked and the train was a sitting target. We didn't know who had control of the train. No place to hide, just get your butt out in the open and start talking before somebody starts shooting.

You only spend so much time on posts that have zero survival expectancy before you just accept the fact; it either is your time or it is not.

Don Poss VSPA Communications Director, DN 23rd ABG/AP; 6252 APS: 35th APS; 366th SPS; TOPDOG45, K-9: 1965-'66: LM #37

At Da Nang AB, there was a flight line post where Vietnamese workers passed through at day break. Very little vehicle traffic passed through the gate at night. A brand new-jeep-rookie -- me -- was posted at that gate (the most dangerous post in Vietnam). It was the blackest night on the planet -- dark-360 in every direction. Me standing in front of the poor leaky-roof-excuse for a guard shack, and the biggest brightest landing-light bulb on Earth (visible from space) just dangling about five feet overhead (that's over MY head) swaying in the wind. I walk toward a shadow for cover ... 'it' followed me. Zig right -- it zigged - right along with a bazillion June bugs the size of footballs. Me - the perfect VC magnet (handsome, suave, skull full of mush). I've been set up. I'm ... BAIT. Cannon fodder! They're divvying up my stuff in the tent right now!!! (Zig Left) I'm a Bulls-eye target. Ground Zero. Lapsed Insurance policy. Pucker-factor-Ten, or squared, or whatever Miss Barth in Algebra said about that stuff. Composing my mamma's-boy epitaph and mental letters to all the chicks that would remain virgins for life [why should I be the only one?] when they hear that I've croaked (bravely) before dawn. -- Maybe I should carry that gun they gave me? Mom ... I swear I been good and haven't bought none them nasty filthy vulgar books with pictures (they're free here :) you warned me about. [God, is it okay to lie to mom to keep her from having a heart attack?] No vest. No bunker. No Americans anywhere in sight.

Then Sarge drives up with some how's-it-going-airman-coffee? I said: Just great, Sarge. No sweat – got any sandwiches? (Is he gonna make me recite my Post Security Junk?) What time is it? (or the alphabet?) Is that my relief in the back seat? (Have I distracted him yet?) (I thought: DON'T LET'EM KILLLLLLLLLLL ME...I'm a unconscious- projector -- whatever -- okay okay...I'm a sniveling cowwwwward ... mamma mamma mamma!)

Lighten up, airman -- you've only got five hours 'til dawn -- and quit that dang prancin' all around your dang post! There ain't no snipers around here.

Hail Mary...this the hour of my death...Whatever. (PS to mom's letter: give my steelie-marbles to Jerry and the Glassies to Larry) I think I'll sing ... or should I whistle? (Zig Left).

And that, I swear is the Gospel truth and exactly how it happened--scariest rookie Post ever: no sweat!

Chaplain Steve Janke; CRB, 483rd SPS; K-9 1970-'71:

In the summer of 1971 we started getting K-9 alerts every night in tri-service, Victor Tango call sign. This is where we stored bombs. We were in yellow alert for two weeks or more. Everyone dreaded looking at the duty roster upon coming back in the morning. I pulled one of those K-9 posts the night before it blew up. We were getting alerts that night too. That night was an eternity. We really thought our numbers were up. I believe we aged overnight. After it blew, there was live ordnance still going off for the next couple of days. The brass wanted K-9 to go back and walk around in the area at night in front of these generators that lit up the area. K-9 guard mount refused. The brass had a meeting and decided to withdraw from the bomb dump till the explosions stopped and set up a new perimeter away from the area and the NCOs offered to post with us. As I recall it was one intense Guardmount.

Jim DeArment 366th SPS DaNang '68/'69

(Holy cow) Well, I got one ...the day that the ASP bomb dump went up around 1830 hrs, myself and another Tiger SP were told we had volunteered to be posted on Alpha 18...get the M-60, let's go....WHAT?!...we were the only post on the southwest end of the base...they pulled all the Marines ...it was too dangerous. You couldn't even see Freedom Hill (327); this post was 400 yards from our on-base dump...They dropped us off and booked out of there ...set the 60 up and got down in the fire hole and ...just peeked over the fire hole...what a sight...rocket pods were going off.. you would see a bunch of flashes and then wonder where the hell they would land... Wam Wam Wam ...then one of the 750's went off and I watched the streaking shrapnel flying through the air...one piece landed across from us in the road...I got that the next day ...and still have that .. After two nerve racking hrs. the jeep came back to pick us up...they were yelling GET IN THE JEEP...GET IN THE JEEP..What? ...LEAVE THE 60...Hell no, I'm signed out for that ...we packed up and got in...and got out of Dodge...I asked what's the hurry...you guys done trying to kill us?...there are four 10,000 pounders in the dump and they think one might cook off...Whaaat?...and one did as we got back in the F-4 area...got behind the blast shield...the shock wave came across the runways ...you could see it through the light of the explosion...what a night that was.....I'll never ever forget the sight or the time on that post or what they were thinking to put us there in the first place.



Erlyce Pekas, Guardmount Editor
Associate Member
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Summer is here!



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!

VSPA'S NEXT REUNION—ELGIN AFB AND HURLBURT FIELD IN FLORIDA, FALL 2012
(See page 10-13 for Reunion and Hotel Registration—Reunion dates Oct. 3-7, 2012.)