

September 1, 2013

Fall 2013 Issue



# Heroic Canine Memorial Moves to Security Forces Museum at Lackland

Story and cover photos by Mike Joseph, Senior Journalist, JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs





honored for his actions in saving his handler's life during an attack at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam Dec. 4, 1966. During the attack, Nemo helped hold off enemy forces saving his handler, but losing an eye in the battle. A Memorial constructed in 2005 was recently moved to the Security Forces Museum at Joint Base San Antonio, Lackland, to help tell the story of military working dogs.

**Story continued on pages 4-5** 



# Welcome Home!

# 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

Photo of President Pete Piazza courtesy of Ken Neal VSPA Photographer

Well, my fellow VSPA members, we have been working very hard so that you will have a great time at our reunion in Charleston, South Carolina from October 9th to the 13th. Trish with The Reunion BRAT has put together a great hotel package and optional tour of Patriot's Point with the USS Yorktown, the Medal of Honor Museum and a U.S. Navy Vietnam Support Base on display for all to visit. If you have not mailed in your registration forms to The Reunion BRAT, send them right away. The 628th Security Forces Squadron and the U.S. Navy Security folks assigned to their squadron have plans for an outstanding presentation and display for us when we visit them on 11 October at Joint Base Charleston. We have arranged for a great meal for lunch with the 628th SFS/U.S. Navy folks at the base picnic area.

The VSPA membership will be standing a Formal Retreat with the 628th SFS at 1700 hours on 11 October. Please remember that the uniform for the Formal Retreat is a VSPA shirt with black, brown or blue trousers, no shorts or cut offs. You can wear your VSPA hat or beret, Safeside beret, K9 beret, or a hat with your base or unit name on it. If you would like to wear your camo shirt with all of your patches, that is okay too. Our plan is simple: we will form-up as a group with the VSPA guidon as our lead point. Then we will all follow the lead of the 628th SFS Commander who will be in charge of the retreat ceremony. Remember that the law allows Veterans to salute instead of putting their hand over their heart. You do not have to remove your hat if you salute. Wives and guests will be standing on the side watching all of us and taking pictures of this very special event. After the ceremony is over, we will have a short time to meet again and talk to the 628th SFS folks. We will be on a time schedule for the buses to take us back to the hotel. One very special part of our plan is for the base Public Information Office to have a picture taken with everyone standing in formation together (both the VSPA membership & 628th SFS personnel).

#### IF YOU INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMAL RETREAT, PLEASE CONTACT DON POSS IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE YOUR NAME PLACED ON THE LIST FOR THE FORMATION.

The overall plan for this year's reunion is coming together. Now, saying that, we also know that there is always something that happens that upsets the apple cart; however, I feel we can overcome anything with the staff that we have working the reunion issues. Remember that you and your guests are part of this plan and can help out by being on time or even a little early to catch the buses to an event. THANK YOU! The itinerary will be printed on the back of your reunion ID cards.

The Reunion BRAT will also be sending a confirmation letter by September 12 that will contain more information about the reunion.

Our main goal is for everyone who attends this year's reunion to have a great time, enjoy the tour and look sharp when we stand next to the 628th SFS Defenders at the retreat. After all, this is when we, the VSPA Membership, come together to meet, tell more war stories, enjoy life as friends and comrades in arms, and support the troops who have followed in our footsteps. Mail your registration forms!

I want to extend a very special THANK YOU to Phil Carroll and Ron Eberhart for all of the work that they did to design and make the five new VSPA banners. These banners look great and will really let people know who we are. THANK YOU, Phil and Ron!

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# "Poet's Corner" Featuring VSPA Chaplain Steve Janke

Cam Ranh Bay, 483rd SPS, K9, 1970-71

#### **A Pool of Blood**

A pool of blood lay on the ground.
A pool of blood was all we found.
I saw his face
It was so young.
I saw his face.
He could not run.
A burst of lead came raining down.
A burst of lead into the ground.
I see your face sometimes at night.

I see your face, a haunting sight.
The next day you were not found.
Just a pool of blood lay on the ground.



#### **Just One Year**

Just One Year.

It didn't sound so long when we heard it.

Just twelve months
and we'd be through it.

But time seemed to stand still while we
grew old before we knew it.

Our anxiety built up
and we couldn't stop it.

As we left it seemed a dream, but no
experience would ever top it.



#### **Orphanage Yard**

Little, little orphan child Hurt because of war. Hiding very safely there Behind your heart's door.

Little, little orphan child
Staring at the ground.
Don't know what I expected today
But this is what I found.

Please let me sit down next to you And help you grieve today.

Our silence doesn't matter.

There are no words to say.

Let us come on back again.
Our time we gladly lend.
Let us come on back sometime.
We just want to be your friend.

#### **Nemo Memorial moves to Lackland**

(.....Continued from cover)

A Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland memorial to military working dogs has moved from its original location to the United States Air Force Security Forces Museum. Completed in late 2005 at the then 37th Security Forces Squadron kennel compound, the Nemo War Dog Heroes Memorial now resides outside the Security Forces Museum. The museum is located at the corner of Carswell Avenue and Femoyer Street on the basic training side of JBSA-Lackland.

"The move was facilitated by the projected relocation of the 802nd Security Forces Squadron MWD kennels to the Medina Training Annex," said Bill Cummings, a former Air Force sentry dog handler and Nemo Memorial committee member. "Moving to the Security Forces Museum will protect the integrity and heritage of an iconic memorial to military working dogs past, present and future," Cummings said.

The Nemo Memorial Committee partnered with several organizations on the relocation. They included the 802nd SFS, the 37th Training Wing, the 37th TRW Office of History and Research, and Tech. Sgt. Jason Adams 802nd SFS kennel master. Others who played a role in the project were past kennel masters Master Sgt. Jonathan Matthews, Master Sgt. Brian Hoglen, and retired Tech. Sgt. Uliani Bio.

"There were many members of the 802nd SFS, the former 37th SFS and the 37th TRW who were instrumental in preserving the history of this memorial," Cummings said.

The 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron also worked with the Nemo Memorial committee by helping to incorporate a section of the original concrete kennel pad, built in 1967, at the new location. "Moving a section of the original pad to the new site continues the lineage of representing a home for the Vietnam era canine heroes," said Cummings, also a member of the Vietnam Security Police and Vietnam Dog Handlers Associations.

Along with the new kennel pad, the original kennel sign about the memorial has been reproduced and a Nemo sculpture was refurbished by Phil Brink. Cummings said the committee also plans to erect an additional marker at the new site.



Photo of Nemo courtesy Charles Penley

"The Security Forces museum already had an exhibit about military working dogs," said Tracy English, 37th



Nemo Memorial today at the United States Security Forces Museum at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland, TX Photo courtesy Bill Cummings

TRW Office of History and Research director. "Moving the Nemo Memorial next to it made perfect sense." The original Nemo Memorial was dedicated Nov. 15, 2005 in remembrance of the Dec. 4, 1966 predawn attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. Nemo saved his handler's life in the assault and helped repel the Viet Cong while losing his right eye and suffering a gunshot wound to the face. In June 1967, the Air Force directed Nemo be returned to the United States as the first sentry dog officially retired from active service. Nemo spent most of his retirement years at the Department of Defense Dog Center on Lackland assigned to a permanent kennel before 4 dying at Andrews AFB in late 1972.

After the attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, 4-5 Dec 1966, Col Grover K. Coe, Base Commander built a Patio and Sun Deck for the men of the 377th Air Police Squadron. It was built in the 100-Area. They gave it the building number, 117.

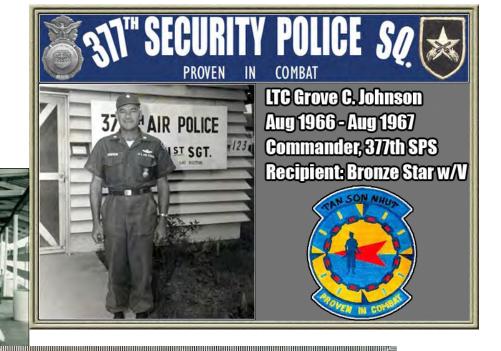
It was dedicated on 4 July 1967 in memory of:

A2C George M. Bevich Jr., sentry dog handler, handled REX 674F, AF13789063, 22 years of age, Caucasian, male, born 10 Jul 1944, Summit Hill, PA, died 4 Dec 1966 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam, Vietnam Wall panel 13-E, line 009.

A2C John Matthew Cole, AF13744976, 20 years of age, Caucasian, male, born 18 Jun 1946, Philadelphia, PA, died 4 Dec 1966 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam, Vietnam Wall panel 13-E, line 011.

A2C Oliver John Riddle, AF13809284, 21 years of age, Caucasian, male, born 23 Oct 1945, Coraopolis, PA, died 4 Dec 1966 at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Vietnam, Vietnam Wall panel 13-E, Line 012.

LTC Grove C. Johnson, was the Commander, 377th Air Police Squadron, when Tan Son Nhut Air Base came under attack, 4 Dec 1966.



DEDICATION OF THE

377th PATIO - DAYROOM - SUNDECK COMPLEX

Tan Son Nhut Air Base RVN

4 July 1967

#### "A VSPA Confrontation with Stolen Valor"

by Bill Marshall, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chairman
VSPA LM #85, Phu Cat 37th SPS, 1968-69



War Veterans have come to loathe those who make claims of heroism, wearing rank insignia and award ribbons that were never earned. In many cases, individuals never served in the service let alone in a combat zone. All of these are examples of "Stolen Valor."

The story that I will relate to you contains some of the above, especially relating to acts of heroism that never existed.

In 2004, I received a call from an Assistant Attorney General representing the Arizona Attorney General's Office in Tucson. He explained that his office was in the process of handling an appeal by a convicted killer who had been sentenced to death. The convicted murderer claimed that he was not properly represented by his counsel during his trial for an egregious crime of rape and murder in which he had mutilated the victim. Additionally, he claimed that he was suffering from PTSD which resulted from his Augmentee duty at Phu Cat Air Base. He alleged that he had led a group of men outside the wire, beyond our main line of resistance, and had encountered the enemy, engaged in hand-to-hand combat and had one of his men die in his arms. The Assistant Attorney General stated that he had found the VSPA web site in search of information that might provide some background regarding this individual's claim. Steve Gattis was contacted and provided



documentary evidence regarding attacks at Phu Cat that was used in the appeal trial. Don Poss was contacted and provided named individuals who were stationed at Phu Cat. I was one of several who were there during the period of this alleged event. The Assistant Attorney General asked if I was aware of Augmentees who were assigned security duties at Phu Cat and if I was aware of the Augmentee program. I said, "Yes Sir, I am. We had a number of Augmentees during my 12-month tour." I explained that I had worked with a number of them while assigned security duty. However, the claim of this individual regarding his enemy encounter was certainly a fabricated story that had no factual basis in the duties of Augmentees at Phu Cat Air Base because they did not work outside the wire and there had been no attacks at the time the individual alleged. He asked if it were possible that this could have

occurred without my knowledge. I replied, "Highly doubtful as we received intelligence briefings daily and being a small base, if something like this happened, all of us would know." He then asked if I would testify to my knowledge to which I said, "Yes."

Several months elapsed and I was contacted again by the Assistant Attorney General, stating that a trial date had been set and he would like for me to be present in Tucson for the appeal trial. That date finally arrived and I met the state legal team at the courtroom. Much to my surprise, I was joined with my former 37th SPS Squadron Commander and my OIC Flight Commander of Cobra Flight. It was a reunion of sorts as I had not seen them in 32+ years. We were instructed not to discuss the circumstances of the appeal claim and told that we would be called individually to give the court our testimony while answering questions from both the defense and the prosecution.

Our combined time in court accounted for almost the entire day. The majority of the testimony dealt with outside the wire activity at Phu Cat. My most vivid recollection of that trial was laying eyes on the defendant as I took the stand, wondering if it was possible that I might know him or recognize him as someone I had stood post with. Our eyes only met that one time and he never looked at me again, as I think he knew that the truth of his war story was about to be told in front of a judge. I spent the remainder of my time giving an account of activities on the base, my work with Augmentees and the knowledge we all shared of the intelligence reports that we received daily regarding enemy activity during my tour. The critical question: "Did you know or ever work with this individual?" I am positive that I did not and perhaps he never was an Augmentee to begin with and this was a perfect cover for his PTS claim.

Case Background: In 1980 a trio of two men and one woman was traveling across the country when they picked up a female hitchhiker. They brutally raped and killed her, then left her at a mountain site. The female accomplice turned State's evidence and testified that the two men committed the murder. The individual that I'm writing about was an Air Force Jet Mechanic who had served for a short period at Phu Cat, and was one of the individuals convicted and sentenced to die in 1982. As a result of the appeal trial, the decision was handed up to the 9th Court of Appeals. They ruled in favor of another trial for the convicted based upon evidence that both men had not been represented sufficiently by their defense attorney. However, they made a point of denying the post traumatic stress claim based upon the "Augmentee War Story" being a proven fabrication, thanks to the testimony of Security Policemen who served at Phu Cat and really did work outside the wire.

#### Editor's Notes:

- 1. As an Augmentee, the defendant would not have been allowed to accompany our personnel outside the wire at Phu Cat where the highly trained Cobra Flight handled those missions. Even as an Augmentee carrying a weapon to assist our personnel on the flight line or perimeter, the events as described by the defendant would have been one of the greatest battles of our history. We would know. We would tell the story. Roger Fox would have documented the incident.
- 2. While the honor and history of Cobra Flight at Phu Cat prevailed in this case of Stolen Valor, the defendant has continued to file other unrelated appeals. As of this writing, the defendant is alive and has been in custody in Arizona for over 31 years. He has served all of that time on Death Row except when he was in court or in another facility while in trial on one of his many other appeals, blaming his attorney for a poor defense and on other issues unrelated to Stolen Valor.
- 3. The term Stolen Valor is generally attributed to B.G. Burkett, who has written books and articles on the subject. The term is used herein with his approval.





## Vietnam Security Police Association 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion

Charleston, South Carolina - October 9-13, 2013
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina

The reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Charleston Hotel, 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, South Carolina 29418. Our contract room rate is \$115 per night, plus taxes. The rate includes FREE breakfast each morning for up to two (2) people per room and complimentary Shuttle Service to include the airport, Tanger Outlet Mall, Amtrak and 25+ restaurants in the local area. 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.

<u>HOTEL RESERVATIONS</u>: Call the CROWNE PLAZA CHARLESTON at 1-877-503-5762 to make your hotel reservations. 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: <a href="https://www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc">www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc</a> and entering the Group Code **VSP** 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, and explain the problem and they will correct the problem for you.

<u>AIRPORT INFORMATION:</u> Book your flight to "Charleston International Airport" (airport code: CHS), in North Charleston, South Carolina.

<u>REUNION REGISTRATION:</u> The registration fee is \$165 per person. An OPTIONAL tour has been planned for Patriot's Point and the USS Yorktown. The fee for the OPTIONAL tour is \$45 and includes transportation, admission to the USS Yorktown Museum and a meal in the Chief Petty Officer's Mess.

#### AGENDA: Exact times of events will be sent with reunion confirmation letters:

Reception dinner buffet with beer and wine, Wednesday evening, October 9th

Local area attractions, Thursday, October 10, OPTIONAL tour of Patriot's Point

VSPA Board of Directors meeting, <u>Thursday afternoon</u>, <u>October 10</u>

Joint Base Charleston & 628th SFS, <u>Friday afternoon, October 11</u>

VSPA business Meeting, Saturday morning, October  $12^{th}$ 

VSPA Sisterhood gathering of wives and companions, <u>Saturday morning</u>, <u>October 12th</u>

SAFESIDE Business Meeting, Saturday afternoon October 12th

Banquet dinner with guest speaker, awards and raffle, Saturday Evening, October 12th

Memorial service, <u>Sunday Morning</u>, <u>October 13th</u>

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.

This information will allow you to have a head start on your travel planning. Airfare costs seem to constantly go up so early reservations could save you some money. The room rate is locked in for us, but there will be a deadline for that as well, so it won't hurt to reserve your room early.

If you have a question or need some more information about this reunion, please contact Pete Piazza at either wpiazza@aol.com or 405-921-8900. We hope to see you at this 19th Annual VSPA Reunion!

# PARTIE CONTY POLICE SCORE

#### VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

#### **REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

#### **Joint Base Charleston**

Charleston, South Carolina OCTOBER 9-13, 2013



NAME			
RVN or Thai base	Squadronst bases outside of Vietnam or Thail	Years 19	to 19
(Do not lis	t bases outside of Vietnam or Thai	land)	
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 cu (Not for new members - to join the	nrrent? <u>Dues Renewals Only</u> the VSPA, please see "VSPA Memb	\$15 = bership" on the instruct	\$ions page).
Number of persons attending the	Reunion including you #	x \$165 =	\$
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOS PAYMENT IS DUE NOW. Call The	he Patriot's Point tour including rktown and Museum, and meal in the Chief Petty ED =		.\$
payment and registration.			
SEND PAYMENTS TO THE I	FOLLOWING ADDRESS, AND	MADE PAYABLE TO	<b>O</b> :

THE REUNION BRAT

16817 Mountainside Drive East Greenwater, WA 98022 (360) 663-2521 TheReunionBRAT@hotmail.com A Confirmation of Registration and an Itinerary will be mailed to you by September 12, 2013. 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. Make your reservations by calling the Crown Plaza Charleston Hotel at 1-877-503-5762 no later than September 12, 2013. Reserve your hotel room early. You must mention that you are with the Vietnam Security Police Association to receive your group rate of \$115 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. **JB Charleston ENTRY ACCESS FORM**: Please make sure we have your full name as it appears on your Driver's License for yourself and all guests. This information is MANDATORY for access to JB Charleston. 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 name (s) of your guests on the Registration Form and then complete the JB Charleston Entry Access Form with the first name, middle initial and last name of your guest(s) as it appears on their ID Driver's License.
- 8. **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.
- 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 honorary conditions. \$15 dues must be sent in with your application.
- 10. **REUNION COST**: The registration fee is \$165.00 per person, NOT INCLUDING the optional Patriot's Point tour which is an additional \$45.00 per person and includes transportation, admission to the USS Yorktown Museum and meal in the Chief Petty Officer's Mess.



# Guest List Procedures 628th Security Forces Squadron Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina

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 MilitaryWorking Dog (MWD) training areas from October 9 - 13, 2013.

Please follow the example below:

Telephone #	State/Driver License#	DOB mm/dd/yy
(210) XXX-XXXX	TX./00000000	01/15/65
Telephone #	State/Driver License#	DOB mm/dd/yy
<b></b>	G	DOD /11/
Telephone #	State/Driver License#	DOB mm/dd/yy
Telephone #	State/Driver License#	DOB mm/dd/vy
Telephone #	State/Dilver Licensen	DOD IIIII/QQ/yy
Telephone #	State/Driver License#	DOB mm/dd/yy
	(210) XXX-XXXX  Telephone #  Telephone #	(210) XXX-XXXX TX./00000000  Telephone # State/Driver License#  Telephone # State/Driver License#  Telephone # State/Driver License#

- 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 JOINT BASE CHARLESTON.

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 twelfth article below.



Photo of Kim by VSPA photographer Steve Hall.

#### FROM THE FIELD

of behavioral health Kim Bayes-Bautista, MSSW, LCSW Honorary Associate Member VSPA



#### **Communalization of Grief**

by Kim Bayes-Bautista

Dr. Jonathan Shay, author of Achilles in Vietnam and Odysseus in America, is a retired psychiatrist who spent more than two decades working with combat veterans. In his book Achilles in Vietnam he discusses how it is necessary for veterans to have communalization of grief, that is, a support network of other vets and allies who share understanding of the psychological pain. He argues that when there have been significant traumas and moral injuries, the effects will be long lasting and be of serious consequence if the veteran does not have a mix of formal social ceremony and opportunities for informal telling of their story. Dr. Shay believes that: "the long term obstruction of grief and failure to communalize grief can imprison a person in endless swinging between rage and emotional deadness as a permanent way of being in the world." (p.39-40)

The bottom line is... **veterans help heal veterans**. So as you meet old friends and make new ones at the reunion and in other settings, consider acknowledging the grief you share.

Shay, J. (1994) Achilles in Vietnam: Combat trauma and the undoing of character. New York: Atheneum.

I am so sorry I can't join you for the reunion. I will miss everyone.



#### INFORMATION FOR THE SISTERHOOD

As most of you are aware, the VSPA Sisterhood exists under your "wings". For those new members, who may not be familiar with this aspect of VSPA, I would encourage you to have your wives join us. There are no dues; just a lot of love and caring as we Take Care of Those Who Take Care of their Own.



I keep a list of all the members of the Sisterhood and their contact information so that we may keep in contact with each other for any reason.

Anyone interested can get in touch with me by E-mail at <u>lilacroller1@hawaii.rr.com</u>. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have, or refer you to one of our members that can better help you.

Thank you,

Pam Talbot, Sisterhood Contact List Manager

#### "GUESS WHO" FROM LAST ISSUE:

?

**ANSWER:** 

**Bill Marshall, SAC Elite Guard 1967** 







GUESS WHO?

Can you name the VSPA member in this photo from 1968?

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; *jrmel1423@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

PAST PRESIDENT: Phil Carroll; Takhli, Nakhon Phanom 70-71; Tina X768, Charlie 2M45;

k9nightfighter@msn.com; 503-353-0443

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Steve Gattis; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; SGattis-LM49@vspa.com;

254-898-2647

#### **Appointed Staff**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN** Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; *billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com*; 614-623-3568

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT** Janet Matthews-Parker; Sisterhood VP; **sparkplugvspa@gmail.com**; 205-602-8522

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@sbcglobal net* 

CHAPLAIN Steve Janke; Cam Ranh Bay; Kobuc X448; *Jank953208@aol.com*; 201-507-9038

CHAPLAIN Jim Stastny; Korat 70-71; Boots 645M; jimstastny@verizon.net; 301-482-2659

**CHAPLAIN** Bill Cooley; Cam Ranh Bay 71-72; Mingo 30A0 *BCAJ@gvtc.com*; 830-899-7542

CHAPLAIN Jeff Kerkhoff; Tan Son Nhut 72-73; (no email); 626-338-6846

"GUARDMOUNT" EDITOR Erlyce Pekas; *erlyce@msn.com*; 602-574-7089; associate member SAFESIDE LIASON Dave Pierson; Binh Thuy 69-70; *swampur@att.net;* 

775-883-7647

PARALEGAL Paul Sigler; Cam Ranh Bay 65-66; parazig169@att.net; 918-336-3595

**WEB ADMINISTRATOR** Larry Poss; Associate Member; *larry@larryposs.com*;

702-501-7677

WEB MASTER Don Poss; Da Nang 65-66; Blackie 129X; *DonPossLM37@vspa.com*; 951-325-7244

**K-9 WEB MASTER** Monty Moore; Da Nang, Phu Cat 68-70; Kobuc X448, Giant A905, Blackie 129X **k-9@vspa.com**; 512-639-0005

**WEB QRTroubleShooter** Gary Jones: Udorn, Safeside Phan Rang, Da Nang, Tan Son Nhut; 1965; 68 -69; 71-72; *gjones003@sc.rr.com*; 843-851-7427

**WEB ADOBE PDF TECH** Greg Dunlap; Da Nang 68-69; Blackie 129X; *blackey@sonic.net*; 707-576-9683

**BB FLIGHT LEADER** Bill Marshall; Phu Cat 68-69; *billmarshallvspalm85@gmail.com*; 949-388-5664

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Tony Morris; Cam Ranh Bay 69-70; *htmorris@gmail.com*; 219-322-4418

PHOTOGRAPHER Steve Hall; Binh Thuy 68-69; hallstudio@att.net, 714-634-1132

PHOTOGRAPHER Terry Hall; Nha Trang 67-68; TerryHallPhotography@comcast.net; 856-981-5071

PHOTOGRAPHER Lou Reda; Phan Rang 68-69; *loureda202@gmail.com*; 419-668-7591 VSPA SCHOLARSHIP Jim "Buddah" Lebowitz; Bien Hoa 66-68; *ilz9107@earthlink.net* 

**REUNION HOSPITALITY** Sheila Gervase-Cain; Sisterhood President; *smgervase@yahoo.com*; 716-771-1157

BINH THUY LIAISON Lew Goldberg; Binh Thuy 68-69; ojdiddoit@yahoo.com; 417-877-7888 CAM RANH BAY LIAISON Trent Nentrup; Cam Ranh Bay 68-69; trent.nentrup@gmail.com; 812-341-2235

**PHAN RANG LIAISON** Vaughn Hull; Phan Rang, 70-71; Beau 132M; *VSPA\_K9@comcast.net* 734-331-2612 (leave message)

PHU CAT LIAISON Ron Arthur; Phu Cat 67-68; cobranam68@aol.com; 660-678-3501 PLEIKU LIAISON Pat Dunne (Hawk); Pleiku 1968; hawk51044@aol.com; 954-923-9001

TAN SON NHUT LIAISON Charles Penley; Tan Son Nhut 67-69; Rebel A531 *cpenley@chartertn.net*, 423-245-6863

**UBON LIAISON** Jim Watson; Ubon 68-69; Fritz X704; *jimwatk9@ca.rr.com*; 626-806-8463 **NKP LIAISON** George Conklin; NKP 1970-71; K-9 Ango 0K31; *nkpk970@gmail.com* 406-781-2269;

#### **Sisterhood**

PRESIDENT Sheila Gervase-Cain; smgervase@yahoo.com; 716-771-1157

VICE PRESIDENT Janet Matthews-Parker; sparkplugvspa@gmail.com; 205-602-8522

SECRETARY Erlyce Pekas; erlyce@msn.com; 602-574-7089

CHAPLAIN Roberts Smith: rps jackie@yahoo.com; 614-879-6835

CHAPLAIN Roberta Smith; *rps.jackie@yahoo.com*; 614-879-6835 CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY Pam Talbot; *lilacroller1@hawaii.rr.com* 815-935-



#### Time to Renew those VSPA dues......

2139

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.





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

Win one of two unique collections of USAF Air Police and Security Police Shields and Qualification Badges and, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and, Coast Guard Service Brassards and Shields. Thailand Dog Handlers attending the Vietnam Security Police Association Reunion will be holding a donation fundraiser for these two rare memorabilia collections in October, in Charleston SC 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 proven charitable funds, The USAF Security Forces Museum Foundation http://securityforcesmuseum.org/ and "The Nemo's War Dog Hero's Memorial Project," http://635thk9.com/tdhnemo.htm

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 20th. See details below. After that date we cannot guarantee your tickets will be placed into the drawing.

#### Thailand Dog Handler Fundraiser Prizes

#### First Prize: Valued at \$700.00

- \* Air Police Shield with blue and white enamel Air Force crest
- \* Air Police Shield
- \* Security Police Shield
- \* Small Size Women's Security Police Shield
- \* 50th Anniversary Commemorative Shield.
- \* SP Qualification Badges Original Style

#### Second Prize: Valued at \$350.00

- \* Armed Forces Police Brassard with a US Coast Guard Security Officer Shield
- \* Air Police Brassard with a USAF Security Police Shield
- \* Army Military Police Brassard with Military Police Shield
- \* US Marine Corps MP Brassard with a US Marine Corps Military Police Shield
- \* US Navy Shore Patrol Brassard with a US Navy Police Shield, NTC Sam Diego This prize was donated by Jerry Nelson.

For a \$5 donation you will receive 3 tickets to win one of the prizes. We are encouraging VSPA members to donate \$20 for 15 tickets to win and to support this project. For \$50.00 you will receive 39 tickets to win. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. Remember, you do not have to be present to win! Tickets can also be obtained for donations at the VSPA Reunion in Charleston, SC at the Reunion.



If you mail in a donation, after your donation is received, we will return to you your portion of the ticket and copies of your stub 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 20th for the drawing at the VSPA reunion in October. Again this donation fundraiser is conducted by the Thailand Dog Handlers Group.

Send donations with name, return address, and phone number printed clearly on a sheet of paper, make payable to:

John Homa 151 CR 556 Athens, TN 37303

FIRST PRIZE





SECOND PRIZE





#### VSPA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

Scholarship 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 greatgrandchildren 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?

#### **O**r

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 ilz9107@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	
ATTENDED	OL CURRENTLY ATTENDING OR LAST
CURRENT DEGREE/EDUCATION LEVEL	
ATTENDING	OL CURRENTLY OR PLANNING ON
GRADE POINT AVERAGE_	
NOTE: PLEASE ATTACH A COPY	OF YOUR MOST CURRENT TRANSCRIPTS.
	OL OFFICIAL, PRINCIPAL, UNIVERSITY NT CHAIR, OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.
NAME OF APPLICANT	
COMMENTS CONCERNING APPL	ICANT'S QUALIFICATIONS AND POTENTIAL:
SIGNATURE/TITLE:	



# My Time at Bien Hoa

#### By Jerry Walker VSPA LM #427 Bien Hoa, 3rd SPS 1966-67



Left: James (Jim) McClure who worked in the armory. Right: Jerry Walker. It was a nice surprise when I went to check out my weapon and saw him because we had attended the same high school.

I arrived in country at Tan Son Nhut. After one night, we were put on a bus and taken to Bien Hoa. It seemed strange to be riding on a bus in a war zone with no weapons, but we made it okay.

After reporting in and getting assigned to a hooch, I went to the armory to have a weapon assigned to me. As I stood there, I looked in and thought the guy there looked like someone I knew.

When he turned around and I saw his face, I knew it was a small world after all. Half way around the world, I found Jim McClure, a guy from my high school that I knew well. It was nice to find a friend, someone I knew who could show me around before he left in a few weeks.

Of the three of us that came in country together, I was the only one to ask to be put on the night shift. One went to law enforcement and the other was assigned to day shift security. You can read stories about him. He was Robert Bridges. Robert was a guy that everyone liked; he had a great personality and you just loved to be around him. We lost him way too soon. He was killed by lighting while in a guard tower.

I was told that Bien Hoa had not been hit for many months, which was nice to hear. The first night I was put on a jeep manning an M60 to get a feel for the base and to learn where the posts were. Around 0100, as we were driving down the taxi-way toward Bunker Hill 10, the sky lit up in front of us. I was wondering what was happening as the radio got very busy and the sergeant started driving the jeep very fast. Then I heard a sound like rolling thunder. I said, "Sarge, what is happening?" He told me that the Long Binh ammo storage had just been hit.

We drove by Bunker Hill 10 and checked the perimeter from the MP gate at the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne to the main gate, and back to the taxi way. When we got back and things had calmed down, Sarge said we had cut a wire with the wire cutter angle iron on the front of the jeep. I never knew what the angle iron was for until then, but I sure was glad someone had come up with that idea since I was up in the back of the jeep and the wire would surely have found me. We were told sappers had hit Long Binh and it was still going off when we got off shift. That was not a nice WELCOME to Vietnam and was a real wake-up for me.

One night I was put on post inside the napalm storage area. I was told to check out a 12 gauge and a .38 revolver which were the only type of weapons I could use in there. "You have got to be kidding me!" I thought, "On post in a war with a shotgun and a 38? I don't think so." (I took my M16 anyway)! I had one side of the area, someone else had the other side and there was one guy at the entry point. Think of a rectangle with barb wire about four feet high. On my side, the short side, there

was Vietnamese officer housing about five feet from the wire. On the other part of my side just across the wire, there were Vietnamese clubs. As I was checking the wire, I found that some of the boxes had fallen on the wire behind the clubs and they looked like they had been there for awhile. I reported this to our flight NCOIC. A few nights later while I was on post behind the revetments in another area, there was a flash and an explosion. The napalm storage went up. I sure was glad I was not in there. I found out later they had pulled the two guards and put a K9 in the area. The K9 handler had just arrived at the entry point for a smoke when the storage area went up. I never found out who the K9 handler was, but the entry point guard was my friend, Dennis Kanode. Neither he nor the K9 were hurt.

On May 12, 1967, I was on an entry point behind the revetments on the base side. I could hear on the radio that the K9 at the end of the runway near Bunker Hill 10 was on alert. He asked for and received permission to release his dog. Then all hell broke loose. We were hit with 189 rockets and mortars. I jumped into the sandbag fox hole at the entry point and tried to get under the concrete. At that time, the rain had washed the sand out of the bags and mine was about 18" tall. After the explosions stopped, I raised my head and looked around. The radio was very busy and there was a K9 on the loose. As I heard what was going on, I loaded a round and stayed where I was. Then I saw something moving. As I kept looking down the road in front of me in the dark, I could see movement. I kept watching as the movement turned into figures and they were coming toward me right up the road in the dark. They looked like they were carrying weapons. They were about 100 yards away. I could not get on the radio so I took aim, took off the safety, then waited and watched as the two figures approached. As they got closer, I could see that they were not trying to hide; just walking up the road. Finally, they were close enough that I could see they were not VC. As I watched them, they walked right up to me and said, "We are augmentees; where do you want us to go?"

I didn't know we even had augmentees! I didn't want to sound like I didn't know anything and since I didn't know them, I told them to go down between the next two posts and they left. Those two guys don't know how lucky they are to be alive today. To this day, I can only say God did not allow me to pull the trigger. I would like to meet them now.

My flight NCOIC was in my hooch and was a real nice guy. He would give us a choice post the last 30 days in-country. When it was my turn and I had less than 30 days, I asked for and got the chow wagon. We had one of the big blue pickups. After Guardmount, we would go get the C-rats, open the boxes, take out the meat and put them in a pressure cooker. After the cans were heated we got a large pot, put the cans of meat in and covered them with hot water. Then we went to each post and gave them a box and a can. You got hot food, but you got what you got or you threw it back in. After we got to the last post, we always had at least one jeep there. The NCOs would want what was left (they were on rations) and they were about the only ones that would eat the eggs. After we finished taking the pot back to the chow hall, we went to the sand pile and loaded all the sandbags that had been filled during the day. We took the sandbags out to the posts to replenish each one. At that time Bunker Hill 10 did not have any sandbags. Most of the posts were pretty bad.

One night in November 67 just before I returned to the World, the guys on Bunker Hill 10 said they saw someone cross the road between there and the MP entry point at the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne that had previously been the entry point for the 173<sup>rd</sup>. We went down and used slap flares, looked for foot prints but never saw anything. This kept happening every few nights until I left Bien Hoa. The big attack on Bunker Hill 10 occurred during Tet 68, two months later.



## Ramblings of an Air Force Brat... 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 two years. In this issue, Janet writes about The Wall Revisited, and observations along the way.



It has been almost six years since my first visit to The Wall, November 2007, during the VSPA Reunion in D.C, the year of THE parade. That particular Reunion was life changing for me and I believe for Sarge as well.

After the ceremony, as Daddy and I made our way to the Wall, the first time for each of us, we met Greg Cain just in front of the media stage. Daddy and Greg talked for a minute and Daddy just broke down. He had carried some dark memories of a fire fight he heard on his radio while at Cam Ranh Bay. Lives were lost and there was nothing he could do. He did not know these men, but knew their names were on The Wall. Greg, in the spirit of the VSPA, embraced Sarge and supported him in what he needed to do. Sheila joined us and we all stood there and cried. For the 58,286 names on the Wall, for the painful memories, for the love of family, and the joy of being surrounded by true Brothers in Arms.

Sarge took a deep breath, took my hand and said, "Come on, Baby, we can do this." We made our way to the sacred black granite. I brought a hound's tooth hat to place at The Wall. (For any of you who may not be familiar with the University of Alabama's football heritage, *as if*, Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant wore a hounds tooth hat and hounds tooth has become a symbol of Crimson Tide Football.) Daddy asked me if had in mind a special place for this token, I did not.

Sarge went to high school with William Commodore Wood, Jr. Bill moved to Tennessee after high school and later joined the Air Force. Captain William Wood was with the 421st Tactical Fighter Squadron, at Takhli. September 2, 1972, Wood's aircraft crashed. In 1973, he was listed as MIA and during that time was promoted to Major. Bill's name is on The Wall at 1W, Row 70. Sarge asked if we could leave the Bear Bryant hounds tooth there. We did.

That is when Sarge had his "Wall Moment". Touching the cool, smooth, granite, seeing his reflection with Greg, Sheila and me beside him, he left more there than a hat. He unburdened himself in a way that he could not have done at any other time or anywhere else. As he turned, a young lady passing by looked in his tear stained face and said, earnestly, "I am so sorry". Once again, Sarge took my hand. He said, "I'm done. I'm okay." He walked away a different man.

I cannot adequately articulate what that entire experience meant to me. I felt so connected to him on a very different level than before. That was Sarge's last VSPA Reunion and possibly his most important. He got his Welcome Home, his Parade, and his Wall Moment. Had I known what was coming January 4, 2008, it would have changed everything and I might not have this precious memory.



I went back to The Wall August 3, 2013. Found 1W, Row 70. I stood there in that place and remembered a moment with my father that cannot be duplicated and that I will never, ever forget. I was tentative because I know the Wall elicits, no demands, a response. I was not sure how I would feel being there without Sarge but as I stood there, I realized, I am never without Sarge.

I hope that Greg and Sheila know how very much this experience meant to Sarge, me and Mama. That is what the VSPA does.



#### **VIGILANT SOLDIER**

by Janet Matthews Parker

Vigilant soldier
Stand your ground
Don't be moved
Protect the rest
Stand at all costs
Let the fear make you strong

Vigilant soldier
Stand your watch
Look to the sky
So truly black
Black – then red
Watch it all
Let the pain feed your courage

Vigilant soldier
Take your rest
Seek the peace
All is well
Your watch is done
You gave your all
We are safe

#### VSPA SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK



By Lise Gattis and Martha Fleming, VSPA Sisterhood

#### **HELP!** We Need Your Recipes for the VSPA Sisterhood Cookbook

Thanks to all who have contributed recipes for the VSPA Sisterhood cookbook project! This is a fund raiser for the VSPA and your support is sincerely appreciated!

It's NOT too late to contribute a recipe! Please send your recipes to me at the above email address. By the numbers, we have about 1,200 active members, an average of 250 yearly reunion attendees, and only SIXTY-SIX contributors of recipes.

I mailed 40 notes to members in June & July with stamped, self-addressed envelopes to return a recipe to me. Only 16 have been mailed back to me as of today, August 27. This project isn't just a "cookbook" but a memory book honoring your service. The book will include the name, service dates in Vietnam and/or Thailand, base name and squadron of each VSPA member represented by a recipe. The name of the person submitting the recipe will also be included. As chairperson, I've chosen to extend our deadline again in order to have a finished product more representative of the VSPA membership.

Remember, the VSPA Sisterhood Cookbook is a fund raiser for the VSPA and when completed, all proceeds from the sale will go to the VSPA. Please use my email address to send me a recipe following the instructions below.

List all ingredients in order of use in the ingredients list and directions. If you are sending something special from long ago, PLEASE update your mother's or grandmother's recipes using current brands available throughout the United States.

Your recipes should fit into the following categories: Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts Cookies & Candy, This & That.

Please provide your name and include the name of the VSPA member, their base of assignment in Vietnam and/or Thailand and your relationship to them, i.e. Jane Doe (daughter of John Doe, Da Nang AB and Korat RTAFB). PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER.

There is a category called This & That, so just about anything could go in there, including a funny recipe. Remember, these books will be sold, so please give credit to someone if they have given you the recipe. We prefer to have your own recipes or your family favorites that you have modified or made your own. Please don't send a recipe from another cookbook unless it is your own recipe.

We know that many of our husbands like to cook and we sincerely hope that they will be submitting recipes, too.

Many thanks, Lise Gattis

lwgattis@windstream.net

### Your VSPA History

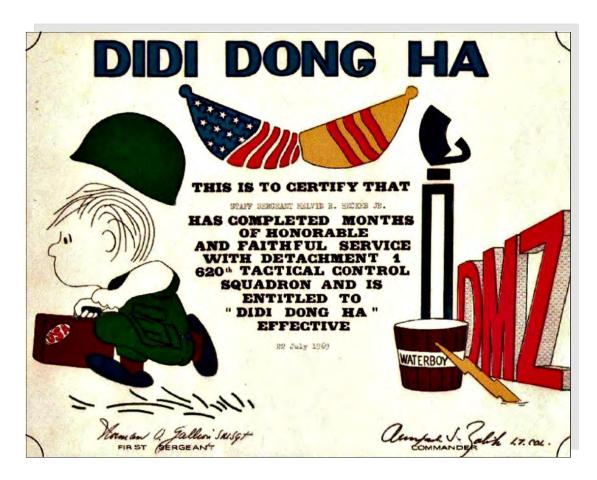
By Kelly Bateman, Historian LM #118, Ubon 8th SPS, K9, 1971-71

Dong Ha, Combat Base and Airfield, was located 12 miles south of the DMZ-RVN. This very forward "Sky Spot" base was manned by USAF SPS troops first from Da Nang Air Base, then Tan Son Nhut Air Base. This USAF unit was attached to Det 1, 620th Tactical Control Squadron and helped provide Security for the base along with US Army and USMC units. Certificate donated by Terry Sandman, Det. 1 620th TCS, Dong Ha, RVN 1966-67.

Kelly S. Bateman Historian, Vietnam Security Police Association LM #118

Didi Đồng Ha





(Editor's note: Didi Đồng Ha is GI slang for "You're short, you're getting out, going home!)



# Free Laptop Computers! by Ken de Russy

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

I have collaborated for several years with a local Kiwanis group that operates a state funded computer recycling program. In exchange for letting me scrounge for discarded but usable gear, I supply back to them at no charge, restored laptops and desktop systems whenever they find someone in need. They tell me what they need and I fill the order. I have also placed restored systems in several men's and women's shelters, our local senior center, the local retirement home, and supplied a "fleet" of a half dozen systems to VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance group who provide free income tax preparation for low income people. I spend considerable time repairing and restoring and lately have built up a fairly substantial "inventory" of fully restored computers.

It occurs to me that within the VSPA there could be someone who could benefit from a free computer. If there is a Security Police Veteran who is on a tight budget and needs a computer I will ship one at no cost. As well, I will provide phone tech help to get them connected and enjoying the wonders of the Internet. Any computer I would supply is fully functional, can connect to the Internet both wired or wirelessly, will play DVDs, and is equipped with a full set of programs to allow them to do all those things that make computers so much fun. The only limitation is most laptops will not have a battery that lasts very long.

You may contact me privately and I will keep in confidence any request. If you yourself do not need one you may know of one who does. I would be happy to ship to you and leave it to you to deliver it if the candidate is shy about making the request to me directly. I do not need to know to whom the computer will go. I would prefer to limit this offer to SP vets.

I am happy to report that I have shipped five to our VSPA brothers. This is the simplest of programs. Tell me you need one and I will ship you one. Laptops work especially well for the budget conscious as it is easy to find free Internet at grocery stores, coffee shops, libraries, etc. This provides privacy and access to the Internet at zero cost. No one should be without these marvelous devices.

Contact me at weflyuniv@aol.com or 360.293.8621 with any requests.

#### **Keynote Speaker Joint Base Charleston, LtCol Scott Foley ~ October, 2013**

#### Submitted by Pat "Hawk" Dunne, LM #40, Pleiku, 633rd SPS, 1968

Little did I know that an invitation to a special event would lead to a Bond of Brotherhood with my Boston Buddy, Scott Foley. When he was the CO for the 633rd SFS at Langley, he sent out invitations to Pleiku Legacy vets, for the Inaugural 633rd SFS Military Ball of 2011. The lucky few from 'Ku who attended were treated like we were General LeMay on inspection.

A return trip for the Second Ball in 2012 was just as grand. And the bond was borne, naturally, when it was known we were both Warriors in Spirit before we were warriors at war. Scott is a Lacrosse player, the "Little Brother of War", as am I. Big Medicine, I like to say!

LtCol Foley's bio tells it all, and on his return from AFG he will be taking command of the 802rd SFS at JB San Antonio-Lackland in August. From what I can tell, my measure of a leader is, if asked to follow him into "The Valley", I can say 'Got yer Back'! Hawk



#### **BIOGRAPHY**



#### LtCol SCOTT MATTHEW FOLEY

Lieutenant Colonel Foley is currently assigned as the Deputy J3, Joint Security Officer for Headquarters United States Forces—Afghanistan, New Kabul Compound; Kabul, Afghanistan. He is responsible for execution of USFOR-A Title 10 and National Support Element Force Protection, Law Enforcement and Custom requirements across the Combined Joint Area, for the 68,000 assigned U.S. Forces. He is also responsible for the operations and management of \$8B in Force Protection technology equipment for U.S., Coalition, and Afghanistan Forces. He manages the operations of 2,500 Military Police conducting Force Protection, Law Enforcement and Investigations theater-wide. Lt Col Foley joined the Air Force in 1988 as a enlisted Airmen, spending 4 years on active duty prior to being commissioned through AFROTC in May 1995. He has held a variety of positions at the Unit, Air and Joint Staff levels. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Commander of the 633rd Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base Langley Eustis, Virginia.





The 633rd Veterans: Pat "Hawk" Dunne, LtCol Scott Foley, Steve Shelt.

#### **EDUCATION**

1995 B.S. in Psychology, Southern Illinois Univ., Edwardsville, IL 1997 M.A. in Human Resource Development, Webster Univ., St. Louis, MO 2000 Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL 2008 Air Command and Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL 2013 Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL

#### ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Jun 95 –Jul 97, Behavioral Scientist, Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron, Randolph AFB, TX
- 2. Aug 97 -Mar 00, Asst. Professor of Aerospace Studies, AFROTC Det536, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY
- 3. Mar 00 -Oct 02, OIC, Training and Resources Flight, 90th Security Forces Squadron, F.E.Warren AFB,WY
- 4. Oct 03 –Apr 04, Defense Force Commander, 5th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 5. Oct 02 Aug 05, Operations Officer, 66th Security Forces Squadron, Hanscom AFB, MA 6. Sep 05 Sep 06, Chief, Force Protection Cell, 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Al Udeid AB, Outer
- 7. Sep 06 Sep 08, Deputy Chief, Protection-DefenseBranch, HQ AF Security Forces Center, Lackland AFB, TX
- 8. Feb 08 -Aug 08, Deputy Provost Marshal for Detainee Operations, MNC-I Provost Marshal, Camp Victory, Iraq
- 9. Sep 08 Jul 10, Commander, 96th Security Forces Squadron, Eglin AFB, FL 10. Jul 10 May 12, Commander, 633rd Security Forces Squadron, Langley AFB, VA 11. Jun 12 PRESENT, Deputy J3, Joint Security Officer, HQ US 27 Forces-Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan









#### 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: <a href="https://www.vspa.com">www.vspa.com</a>. WELCOME HOME TO VSPA!

**REUNION REMINDER—Charleston AFB, South Carolina, October 9-13, 2013**