



A Publication of the Vietnam Security Police Association

July 1, 2014

Late Spring 2014 Issue



# GUARDMOUNT

## VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION

*"We Take Care of Our Own"*



### NEMO Re-dedication Ceremony April 25, 2014 Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX

Pictured Below: Nemo's New Home at Lackland AFB,  
Adjacent to the Security Forces Museum



Photo credits front page Ken Neal

Nemo story begins on page 18

Welcome Home!



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

# President's Corner

By Pete Piazza, President VSPA



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

We are almost ready to have our 2014 Reunion in Shreveport, LA. The Reunion BRAT has worked on the issue of the hotel, and we are slowly getting all our ducks in a row to have a great time by one and all when we meet from 8-12 October 2014. If you have not called to make a reservation for your hotel room, you better get on the ball and make that call (1-800-465-4329) or the direct hotel number (1-318-688-3000).

Something that will be a little different this time around is that we are not planning to have a tour of the city or sites in and around Shreveport or Bossier City, Louisiana on Thursday. You ask why not? One reason is the cost to get the buses, plus the time spent most of that one day traveling around the city. I think it could be more fun for everyone to just hang out together at the hotel or even go on small group tours like many members did in Charleston, SC. Another reason for this is that we have folks who are planning to hold a mini-reunion and there are some other members who do not want to go on tours, but to meet with friends and comrades and just spend time together without getting on and off a bus all day.

Elections for the VSPA Board of Directors will be held this year as we do every two years; however, I will not be running for president again. When I ran for president, I said that I would do the two years left from Past President Phil Carroll's time and that would be all for me. It is also a promise I made to my wife. I can say that I started off on shaky ground way back in 2012 with open heart surgery, but with the help of the VSPA Officers we came together and had a great time in Charleston, SC and are looking to have another great time in Shreveport, too.

If you would like to run for office in the VSPA, the information about the election and a call for bios and photos is in this issue. If you have questions, please contact me so that we can get the information out to the membership in the next issue of Guardmount for mail-in ballots, or for those attending the reunion who would like to vote at the October 2014 Reunion. Our VSPA Historian, Kelly Bateman, has stated that he will retire as the Historian this year. So we are also looking for someone to take over that position.

One last thought: I hope everyone will have a great time in Shreveport/Bossier City. If you have never attended one of our reunions, please come together to enjoy the company of each other and the very special ladies of the VSPA Sisterhood. Please remember our VSPA brothers and the members of the VSPA Sisterhood who will not be with us because they have passed away since our last reunion.

## Welcome Home!



5/22/2014 - **TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla.** -- One of the Air Force's most decorated Security Forces individuals was honored May 15 during a gate dedication ceremony.

# PIAZZA GATE 31

On the day known as National Police Memorial Day, Tinker's Gate 31 was unveiled as "Piazza Gate," named for retired Senior Master Sgt. Pete Piazza.

"This is a very special day -- a gate with my name on it is very special, and it belongs to all defenders, past, present and future," said Sergeant Piazza. "Without a defender at the gate, no one on base would be safe. So, for all you defenders, I appreciate you."

Col. Christopher Azzano, 72nd Air Base Wing and Tinker installation commander, said those who know Sergeant Piazza can vouch for his humble nature. "I'm pretty sure he's a little uncomfortable having this attention focused on him," Colonel Azzano said. "In fact, Pete has dedicated his life to focusing the attention on other Airmen, our defenders in particular."

The colonel said Sergeant Piazza advocates for all past, present and future Security Forces members across Oklahoma through his active leadership in the Air Force Security Forces Association. Sergeant Piazza was elected to the Association's Hall of Fame in 2011. He also remains active as the president of the Vietnam Security Police Association, and was awarded the Warrior Medal of Valor in 2009. "It is no exaggeration to say Senior Master Sgt. Pete Piazza is an Air Force icon, an American hero in the truest sense of the word in a time when that word is used too frequently to describe people who have not met Pete's standard of service," said Colonel Azzano. "It's an honor to know the real deal."

Sergeant Piazza earned the Silver Star for gallantry in action Jan. 31, 1968, during his Vietnam tour at Bien Hoa Air Base.

The citation for the Silver Star presented to Sergeant Piazza by Gen. William Momyer summed it up: "An untold number of lives and literally hundreds of millions of dollars of aircraft and other materiel had been saved through the gallant defense of the base, led at Bunker Hill 10 by Sergeant Piazza."

Then-Staff Sergeant Piazza resupplied bunker defenders with ammunition while under a heavy barrage of gunfire. He assumed command and led an eight hour counter attack.

"It's with great pleasure that we recognize and honor an Air Force trailblazer, and there is no better way to recognize a 'sky cop' than by dedicating Gate 31 in his name," said Col. Frank Reyes, 72nd Security Forces Squadron commander. "Pete is a humble man who seeks no special attention. He dedicates himself to our Air Force and continues still to teach and mentor young Airmen."



Photo courtesy USAF photographer Kelly White

Retired Col. Ed Johnson, a longtime friend of Sergeant Piazza, sent Colonel Reyes an email because he was unable to attend the ceremony. Colonel Johnson was the 3rd Security Police commander at Bien Hoa Air Base just after Sergeant Piazza was there in 1968. "The area where the attack happened was always on my mind," said Colonel Johnson. "While we suffered losses in that battle, it was successful due largely in part to Senior Master Sergeant Piazza," he said. "He is a true Air Force hero and well deserving of this honor. I am proud to know him."

Colonel Reyes said though the battle at Bien Hoa is relatively unknown and missing from history books, "the battle is forever part of Tinker AFB, Security Forces doctrine and will never be forgotten. Senior Master Sergeant Piazza defines the badge and beret that the defenders wear, and what better way to say 'thank you for your service' than to honor him with a gate bearing his name for all to see," Colonel Reyes said.



SMSgt William Piazza Gate Dedication Ceremony  
 15 May 2014  
 Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

**PHOTO AND COMMENTS BY WALT KULA....**”Got to take my top 4 AF JROTC cadets with me to the SMSgr (Ret) William Piazza Gate Dedication Ceremony at Tinker AFB this morning (new gate from old GM to Tinker). It is very rare to have a military facility/road, etc...named after a living person. SMSgt Piazza received the Silver Star for his actions defending Bien Hoa AB on 31 Jan 1968 He has been very active with Security Forces in Oklahoma and is a good friend.”



## **A MESSAGE FROM JANET PARKER, CHAIR OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR COMMITTEE, TO THE 2013 RECIPIENTS OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR:**

Congratulations to the 2013 recipients of the Warriors' Medal of Valor. Sarge would be proud to have you included in this special group. For the new members of the VSPA, be assured that Sarge would seek you out just so he could say, "Welcome Home, Welcome to the VSPA." Not all of you had the chance to meet Sarge, though I hope you have heard about him.

Alvin W. Matthews, MSgt, USAF retired, served in the 483<sup>rd</sup> Security Police Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam from January 1971 to January 1972. He was an instructor at the Security Police Academy before he retired from the Air Force in 1980. Afterwards, he enjoyed a career as a marine mechanic for various boat dealers in our hometown of Scottsboro, Alabama. He found the VSPA on the Internet and like many of you, he kind of watched from a distance before deciding to join or attend a reunion. It is an honor to say that he is Life Member #127. Sarge posted his last Guardmount on January 4, 2008, his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday. His resting place is plot number **111** at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Scottsboro, Alabama, a plot he specifically selected to honor his Brothers.

We officially donned him "Sarge" at the Valdosta Reunion in 2005. A young Security Forces Defender, Jacob Barr, really took up with him. Jacob asked me what he should call my Daddy. He was not comfortable with Mr. Matthews or Alvin. I told Jacob, "Just call him Sarge" and the rest is history.

I could regale you for hours about the VSPA, Sarge, Reunions, and your wonderful brotherhood, all of the wonderful memories that show why we love him so. How many of you remember the firm handshake and heartfelt "Welcome Home"? He would have liked to have offered that "Welcome Home" to all 1,200 members of the VSPA.

Do you remember that contagious grin and laugh that came from his soul? Bill Cummings, do you remember the first time he hollered, "HEEL"? Steve Gattis, do you remember when you learned that you were Cam Ranh Bay brothers? Jerry Nelson, do you remember why you made the commitment to the VSPA? Richard Holstein, I know you have a particularly special memory. We have some wonderful memories of our Sarge. I am so glad that he found the VSPA. He loved this association, he loved his Brothers, and I know he is proud of the continued commitment and growth.

Sarge would definitely tear up at the thought that you continue his dream of honoring his VSPA Brothers with this medal. Thank you is not enough. You fill my heart when you honor our Sarge and by sharing happy memories of one of our great defenders.

DEFENSOR FORTIS  
WOOF, HUGS & WELCOME HOME

Janet "Sparkplug" Matthews Parker, Mama & Sarge



# RECIPIENTS OF THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR, 2013

1976 photo courtesy of Gladys Barto



***Ben Barto - Deceased.*** Ben retired as a SMSgt and served at Pleiku where he received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was VSPA Life Member #1. Ben's wife, Gladys, is a member of the VSPA Sisterhood and attended reunions with Ben. She has continued to attend reunions since his death. She donated Ben's bloody flak vest to the 633rd heritage room at Langley AFB that was built by our guest speaker, then commander Lt Col Foley, to maintain the history of the Security Police and the men of the 633rd SP Squadron at Pleiku Air Base and at Langley Air Force Base. The award was presented to Ben's wife, Gladys.

photo courtesy of Tony Morris



***Lew Goldberg*** - Lew was a career Security Policeman and retired from the Air Force as a Tech Sgt. He has been very active in the VSPA as the very first squadron liaison and continues in that role as squadron liaison with the troops who served at Binh Thuy. He has located and recruited numerous members for the VSPA and has maintained a Binh Thuy contact network that has been of great value to our presidents and vital to increasing attendance at our reunions. The Binh Thuy network maintains contact with Mom Lehman whose son, Millard Lehman, was KIA at Binh Thuy. Lew has continued in his role as Binh Thuy liaison in spite of on-going health problems and his life-threatening bout with throat cancer.



photo courtesy of Tony Morris

***Pat Dunne*** - Pat has been very active within the VSPA and has been our direct representative with the family of Elizabeth Jacobsen, the first Security Forces Defender KIA in Iraq, a relationship that he continues to maintain. He assists with the All Veterans Reunion in Melbourne, Florida every year and sets up a booth to attract Air Police, Security Police Veterans as well as current Security Forces troops who are stationed at Patrick AFB and other Florida bases. Pat is very active in Veterans activities with the Seminole Tribe and has provided the VSPA with information from the tribe regarding the Native American Indian Memorial proposal in Washington, D.C. that we approved in our business meeting. He has participated in the Color Guard

for Veterans funerals and parades to commemorate our service in Vietnam and Thailand. He traveled to Langley AFB twice with VSPA member Steve Shelt to meet with the troops assigned to the 633rd Security Forces Squadron, which was their squadron at Pleiku Air Base. He maintained contact with Lt Col Scott Foley, the commander of the 633rd while he was in Afghanistan, and recommended him as our guest speaker for this reunion.

photo courtesy of Tony Morris



**Steve Shelt** - Steve served at Pleiku then carried his knowledge and experience into the Army where he was an MP for an additional eight years and led executive protection missions in Germany and Beirut, Lebanon. He left the Army and entered the Federal Protective Services for the Department of the Army and the Department of Energy where he eventually retired. He has been active within the VSPA and has assisted in the presentation of our history to the troops assigned to the 633rd SFS at Langley AFB. He traveled to Langley AFB twice with VSPA member Pat Dunne to meet with the troops assigned to the 633rd Security Forces Squadron, which was their squadron at Pleiku Air Base. He maintained contact with Lt Col Scott Foley, the commander of

the 633rd while he was in Afghanistan, and recommended him as our guest speaker for this reunion. At the request of Lt Col Foley, Steve spoke for 1-1/2 hours to the 633rd troops regarding our history and his personal experience in Vietnam as well as the lessons learned that he has passed on to others through his training and experience in the Air Force, Army and Federal service.

**Hector Ramos** - Hector served at Binh Thuy Air Base. He served as our Vice President from 2004 to 2010. He did an outstanding job and was in charge of the planning committee for the 2007 Parade in Washington, D.C. Years before Hector joined the VSPA, he had a letter published in the book "Letters Home from Vietnam." That letter was read by Erlyce Pekas and she contacted him through the publisher. They corresponded but lost contact. However, Hector was able to locate Erlyce again before our 2004 Reunion, and is the sole person who is directly responsible for locating and introducing Mom Lehman and Erlyce Pekas to the VSPA, and then helping to plan the graveside memorial for Millard in 2004. Hector has consistently maintained contact with Mom and Erlyce, making them feel welcome at every reunion we have held since 2004. This reunion will be the 10th consecutive reunion for Mom and Erlyce due to the personal contact and effort of Hector.



photo courtesy of Tony Morris

## A Father's Legacy...

### by Janet "Sparkplug" Parker

- *Editor's note: Janet, Sisterhood Vice President and daughter of Sgt. Al Matthews, USAF and VSPA LM#127, (1942—2008) has been a contributing writer at GM for over three years. In this issue, in her 12th article, Janet discusses her plans for "Sarge's Café, Inc."*



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With Father's Day having recently gone by, I wanted to share with you a legacy about a man who lived the VSPA motto "*We take care of our own*". You may have seen the VSPA plaque in the hospitality room at a VSPA reunion that dedicates the hospitality room to the memory of Sarge. He took the VSPA motto to heart and shared it in all aspects of his life, especially during reunions where he provided pulled pork BBQ for his VSPA brothers and sisters as they gathered in the hospitality room. Some of you knew my Daddy and shared first-hand knowledge of his great food and war stories. For our new members, I hope this will help you know my Father.

We call him Sarge. I call him Daddy, Hero, Friend. Some of my best conversations with him were when we hung out at the grill, cooking, having a cold beer and just being together. He was our first recipient of the Warriors Medal of Valor and is VSPA Life Member 127, MSgt. Alvin W. Matthews USAF (Retired), 483<sup>rd</sup> SPS Cam Ranh Bay, RVN 1971-1972. He posted his final Guardmount on January 4, 2008. It was a shock to all of us. Mama and I were devastated. His grave number in the cemetery where he rests is #111 in honor of his brothers who did not survive the war in Vietnam and Thailand.

Six years and almost 6 months later, the shock is still with us. Heroes don't die. Not a day goes by that we don't think of Sarge. He was all Air Force, all Security Policeman. He was *my* security policeman. When he died, the world no longer felt safe to me but his VSPA brothers and sisters took good care of me and Mama.

That being said, I want you to know what he left here, for us. Sarge's heart was at least the size of Texas and he loved the VSPA. Lucky for us he was a great cook and he loved the joy of cooking and providing for others. His piece de la resistance was his pulled pork barbeque. I know some of you can still smell and taste that hickory flavor that he provided at every reunion, from 2004 to 2007. He shared that delight with his VSPA brothers and sisters in our hospitality room, always giving from the heart (with a war story or two). Maybe you stood in line for a portion of his masterpiece. I know we remember the big smile on his face as he served each plate. Some of you have told me you saw how happy he was serving others and that you recognized his generosity.

What he shared with the VSPA was just a sample of his generosity. Family gatherings with him were feasts. If you left Sarge's table hungry, that was your choice. He also grilled and smoked pork, ham and fried turkeys for friends and neighbors. He gave with his whole heart. What Sarge did, he did full throttle, something that I was able to witness as the grill master's assistant, helping him with the pulling and packing of barbeque for VSPA reunions and other events.

For the past year or so, I have become keenly aware of the food insecurity felt by school children here in the area around Birmingham, Alabama. I know this is a problem nationwide, not just locally. At times like this, I often ask "what would Sarge do?" The answer in this case was simple...you feed them. While I don't have his talent for pulled pork, I know how to contact people and put things together. That was the start of a dream that I shared with Mama. A dream she shares and has given her full support. We have established a non-profit organization aptly named "*Sarge's Café, Inc.*". Our goal is to provide meals and non-perishable food for school children who don't have enough at home and may depend on the breakfast and lunch programs in their schools. But what happens on the weekend and other times when

School is not in session? Many times they do without. I know that would not be acceptable to Sarge.

The first mission of *Sarge's Café* is this July 14 through July 17, when we will provide lunches for up to 80 students and volunteers during a summer day camp at Restoration Academy in Fairfield, Alabama. Restoration Academy is a private Christian school in the inner city. All of their students attend on privately funded scholarships. I have been to Restoration Academy and have seen these wonderful children. They are thriving and receiving an excellent education. The graduation rate for this school is 100%.

Our second mission is to establish a food bank for Restoration Academy students and their families. The school does not have a lunch room so each child must bring their own lunch. In cases when they don't have a lunch or forgot their lunch, we want to be sure that the school has something for them. We would also like for the children who are in need to have something on the weekend and have the ability to take food home for the family. This would be non-perishable food items.

Sarge's Café is currently working with One to One Personal Training and a very kind gentleman from Briarwood Academy, Scott Hannah, who coordinates the summer camps, to complete these two missions. We are collecting loose change and kid friendly, non-perishable foods from friends and coworkers. I am also planning to raffle a basket of Alabama products and memorabilia from local businesses and artists.

If you would like to help perpetuate Sarge's legacy, your contributions will honor him and will go directly to support our mission. *Sarge's Café* will not have any paid employees and we should have our 501(c)(3) number soon. Our address is: Sarge's Café, Inc., 332 County Road 626, Section, Alabama 35771 or you can contact me on the VSPA bulletin board. Feel free to call me at 205-602-8522 or email [sargescafe@gmail.com](mailto:sargescafe@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

I hope when you remember Sarge, you remember his laugh, his smile, his firm handshake, his heartfelt "Welcome Home", and how he sought out new members at the Reunions so he could be sure they got their "Welcome Home". I know I will never forget any of that, his heart, how he loved his family, his Air Force and his country and his brothers and sisters in the VSPA. Service came naturally for him and now it is my turn to continue his legacy and pay it forward as we continue to "take care of our own"

Welcome Home, Brothers.

HUGS,

*Janet*





## *The Warriors Medal of Valor Request for Nominations*

We are very fortunate to have the honor of presenting The Warriors Medal of Valor of the Native American Nations of the United States of America 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. This VSPA tradition was initiated and made possible by VSPA Life Member #127, MSgt Alvin “SARGE” 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 Powwow 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 as well as through the generous donations of the VSPA Brotherhood. I am honored to continue as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Sarge and the Nominations Committee established the following criteria for consideration: The nominee must be a member in good standing of the VSPA plus any one or combination of the following:

- a. Valor (recognized or unrecognized by the Air Force) for service as an Air Policeman, Security Policeman or Augmentee in Vietnam or Thailand.
- b. Outstanding service to the members of the Vietnam Security Police Association.
- c. Outstanding service to the military and/or Veterans.

You may submit the nomination by including his name and your justification for why this member deserves the medal. Please include as many details on his service as you can. Nominations must be submitted to me at the following email address: [janetmm62@gmail.com](mailto:janetmm62@gmail.com) no later than **August 15, 2014**. The Warriors Medal selection committee will receive nominations for the award **until August 15**. The committee must have time to review the nominations, make the selections, engrave the medals and prepare the certificates. The 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 VSPA Life Member #127  
VSPA Warrior Medal Nominations Committee Chair  
[janetmm62@gmail.com](mailto:janetmm62@gmail.com)

# **Saint Joan of Upper Darby**

## **By Frank Pilson, Cam Ranh Bay '66-'67**

I was asked by Steve Gattis to write an article for Guardmount about my wife, Joan, because many of you knew her. So, I'd like to go back to when Joan had her first pain. After 90 days of rest and recovery she was ready to go back to work. Then, on 31 December 2013, the pain returned and we went to her doctor's office to see why. He recommended surgery, and after talking about it we agreed it was the best thing to do. After the surgery the doctor came out and told me and my family that Joan had colon cancer.

Over the next four months, Joan had several operations and I stayed in the hospital with her. Then about two weeks later, Joan fell twice. Her blood sugar was over 400. I called 911 and she was taken to the hospital. The next few weeks were heck for Joan and me. Her colon cancer was moved up from Stage 3 to Stage 4. Our final stop on this trip was to a local hospice residence for Joan. I cannot begin to describe the wonderful care we both received.

One day, I brought in a small VSPA Flag, a picture of our friend and leader, President Pete Piazza, aka "the shorts" (front page of Guardmount), and a picture of the 377<sup>th</sup> SPS standing guard over Joan at a VSPA reunion. While Joan was in hospice, she told me to go to the 377<sup>th</sup> SPS reunion in Delaware . . . my wife actually kicked me out, and not far from home either. It sure was a weird feeling going to a reunion without household management. I went as a stranger and left as a friend because it was like a mini-VSPA reunion, although it seemed like the folks at the 377<sup>th</sup> SPS were a lot older than us old guys of the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Police Squadron of Cam Ranh Bay AB.

Joan and I wanted our privacy while she was in hospice and fighting the cancer until very near the end. Then, we agreed to go public with the information so that our brothers and sisters in the VSPA and VSPA Sisterhood would know. Every VSPA reunion was a celebration for us.

How can one measure a person's life? Watching my wife, my thoughts were varied and confusing. I recall the bible verses, "For what profit is it to man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" Or, "We must all account to God for our behavior in this life." Knowing that we must leave all worldly goods behind, Joan's life was measured in being a wife, mother, and grandmother, sister-in-law, friend and the most important person in our lives. The whole family was with Joan at the end of her days in the hospice. A friend suggested to me that she was Saint Joan. I guess putting up with me for twenty-two years really made her a saint. We think we run our lives, but our better half is really the one who runs our lives for us.

Joan and I viewed cancer and PTSD as the same. We were going to manage them both and win the battle, God willing. Now, after dealing with cancer, PTSD and planning my wife's funeral, I have found it a lot easier than making "decisions" with one hour of sleep.

I wrote an article called "Natural GI Hair Cuts" way back on 12 Jan 2008. I'd like to end this tribute to Joan with items 26 and 27 of that article, plus add the last three lines from my poem *Welcome Home* written in 1997:

Trusting in God before, during and after our Vietnam Service  
We take care of own and God takes care of us  
My wife went home  
I lost, which was hell

Photo courtesy of Frank Pilson.  
Joan Pilson ~ October 8, 1951 to  
May 11, 2014 ~ Rest in Peace....





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION  
REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

**Barksdale Air Force Base**

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



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

RVN or Thai base \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Years 19 \_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of your guests(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet meal selection: BEEF \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

List any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, notify: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first VSPA Reunion? YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES**

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

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

**TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED = ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

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

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

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

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

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM**

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



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

SUBJECT: Request for Visitor Access

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

Please follow the example below:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Thailand Dog Handler Fundraiser Prizes

**First Prize:** Valued at Priceless!

Air Police Shield with blue and white enamel Air Force crest and the new **Security Forces** Shield just now being issued



**Second Prize:** Valued at \$350.00  
23 + Challenge Coins (more being donated) and a  
Challenge Coin Rack. (holds approx. 80 coins).

**Second Prize:**



**Third Prize:** Valued at \$250.00  
Air Police Shield with green BDU Fatigue Shirt with in-  
country period made SSgt. Stripes and Qualification Badge.

**Fourth Prize:** Valued at \$75.00  
VSPA Commemorative Shield

**Fifth Prize:** Valued at \$75.00  
Air Force Security Police Association Millennium Shield



**Third Prize:**

**Fourth Prize:**



For a \$10 donation you will receive 6 chances to win one of the prizes. We are encouraging VSPA members to donate \$20 for 18 chances to win and to support this project. For \$50.00 you will receive 48 chances to win. You do not have to be a VSPA member to donate. Remember, you do not have to be present to win!

Chances can also be obtained for your donations at the VSPA Reunion in Shreveport, LA at the Reunion.

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

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



**Fifth Prize:**

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

John Homa  
151 CR 556  
Athens, TN 37303

**THE REDEDICATION OF NEMO'S WAR DOG HEROES MEMORIAL  
 APRIL 25, 2014 - LACKLAND AFB  
 BY STEVE GATTIS, VSPA PRESIDENT EMERITUS**



Photos courtesy of Ken Neal

It is my distinct honor to write about the people and events surrounding the rededication of Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial, now located adjacent to the Security Forces Museum at Lackland Air Force Base. I was privileged to attend the initial dedication on November 15, 2005 and the rededication on April 25, 2014. To say that both of these events were incredible is an understatement. My deep feelings of honor and pride in this memorial are overshadowed by the pride I have in the members of the VSPA who made it all possible: the dog handlers who discovered Nemo's original pad in 2003, the men who

raised funds for the construction of the memorial, the handlers who did all of the work on the kennel, and all of those who participated in the raffles held at our reunions to raise funds to honor Nemo and all military working dogs past and present.

Those in attendance included current Security Forces leadership at Lackland, current and past military working dog handlers, VSPA members, wives who are members of the VSPA Sisterhood, and several of our own Thailand Dog Handlers. The reverence I observed at the rededication ceremony conducted by the Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee was extraordinary. VSPA Life Member Ernie Childers explained the history of Nemo's Memorial. VSPA Life Member LtCol (ret) Bob Sullivan, who was Nemo's last handler, was the keynote speaker. The highlight of the event was the introduction of our newest Life Member, Air Force K-9 Handler Robert A. Throneburg, who was wounded during the attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base and saved by his wounded partner, Nemo. Robert, Ernie and our VSPA Historian, Life Member Kelly Bateman, unveiled the plaque that was researched and written by VSPA Life Member Bill Cummings.

The photos that accompany this article depict the final location of an eleven-year effort to make Nemo's War Dog Heroes Memorial a reality.



Photos courtesy of Ken Neal

The most fitting tribute to Nemo and the men who made the memorial possible is the following text taken directly from the memorial plaque dedicating the memorial and telling the story of Nemo:

Nemo was a two-year old black and brown German shepherd owned by Air Force Sergeant Samuel Cooks, Jr., at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base near Marquette, Michigan. In the summer of 1964 Nemo was procured by the Air Force and shipped to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for training. Following the required Air Force physical examination

Nemo, like the thousands of military working dogs that preceded and followed him, was given an identifying tattoo in his left ear – “A534.” He was now officially U.S. Air Force equipment.

Nemo was assigned to Airman Third Class (A3C) Leonard Bryant, Jr., during his initial training. When they completed training in the fall of 1965 the two traveled to Fairchild AFB, Washington, and started their duty assignment together as a sentry dog team with the 92<sup>nd</sup> Air Police Squadron of the Strategic Air Command.

In January 1966, Nemo and A3C Bryant were transferred to the Republic of South Vietnam and assigned to the 377<sup>th</sup> Air Police Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Nemo and Bryant worked patrolling the perimeter of the base at night from January to October 1966. Pending Airman Bryant’s transfer back to the U.S., Nemo was reassigned to A3C Robert A. Throneburg in October of 1966.

Just after midnight on the morning of December 4, 1966, a large force of Viet Cong commandos attacked Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Approximately 60 mortar rounds hit the base, and a Viet Cong guerilla force estimated to have included more than 75 saboteurs infiltrated the base perimeter.

At approximately 0110 hours (ten minutes after 1:00 a.m. in civilian time) K-9 section leader Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Tommy Shehan attempted to contact Airman Second Class (A2C) George Bevich, Jr., for a scheduled break. Pulling up to Bevich’s post, “Kilo-3,” in a vehicle, Shehan called to Bevich but there was no response. The Viet Cong had overrun Kilo-3, killing A2C Bevich and wounding Sentry Dog Rex (664F).

SSgt Shehan jumped from his truck as the attackers ran past him and threw a grenade at the truck. The grenade went off inside the truck, throwing Shehan to the ground. Fragments of the grenade tore into his body and the concussion knocked him unconscious.

At approximately 0115 hours, Sentry Dog Rebel (519X) and his handler A2C Leroy E. Marsh, on post Kilo-4, detected a group of about 20 Viet Cong. Marsh and the enemy began firing at each other and Marsh released Rebel to attack the enemy fighters. At 0200 hours, Sentry Dog Cubby (612E) and handler A2C Larry G. Laudner on post Kilo-1 challenged a group of intruders; once again gunfire was exchanged and Laudner released Cubby to pursue the attackers. At 0500 hours, Sentry Dog Toby (206F) and handler A1C Dale E. Sidwell on post Kilo-2 detected the enemy advancing and Sidwell released

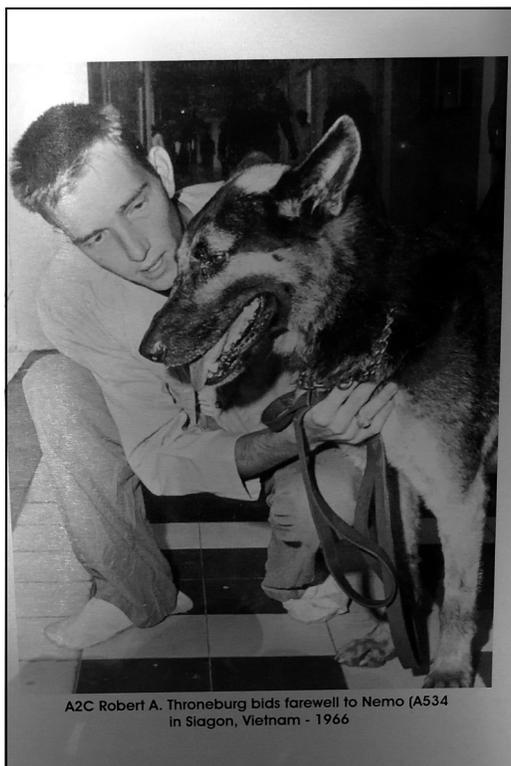
Toby to attack the enemy.

At dawn they began a sweep of the area. They knew there were at least three dogs out there. “We had no idea what happened to our dogs,” said Laudner. “We just knew we’d let them go and they didn’t come back. I assumed Cubby was dead.” They found George Bevich’s body, with Rex right next to him, standing guard, still attached to his leash. The attack was

so quick and strong Bevich didn’t even have time to let Rex go.

Three members of the 377<sup>th</sup> Air Police Squadron were killed defending Tan Son Nhut Air Base during this attack:

A2C George M. Bevich, Jr., A2C John M. Cole, and A2C Oliver Riddle.



A2C Robert A. Throneburg bids farewell to Nemo (A534) in Saigon, Vietnam - 1966

Photo courtesy of Robert Throneburg



Photo courtesy of Steve Gattis

Photo courtesy of Ken Neal



Three sentry dogs, Cubby (612E), Toby (206F), and Rebel (519X), were also killed. Fifteen American servicemen were wounded. Many, many lives were saved by three sentry dog teams detecting the attackers, not only those of the handlers and other Security Police, but also the thousands of other men on Tan Son Nhut Air Base that night. But now it was time to secure the base as daylight returned. Unfortunately, K-9 teams were not included in the daylight patrols.

The enemy attackers had been forced to hide and wait for nightfall before they could try to escape. Just before total darkness fell again that night, Sentry Dog Nemo (A534) and his handler A2C Robert A. Throneburg were posted on Kilo-5. Suddenly

Nemo alerted and Throneburg released him to attack the Viet Cong, who had evaded detection throughout the day. Nemo took on two of them, taking both to the ground but a shot was fired and Nemo went down. Nemo had been shot through his muzzle; the bullet destroyed his sinus area and exited his right eye. Throneburg opened fire but was overwhelmed by the force of the attack – he, too, was shot and fell to the ground.

Other Air Police eventually arrived on the scene, and even though grievously wounded, Nemo would not let any of them near A2C Throneburg. Nemo continued to protect A2C Throneburg as he had been trained, and shielded his handler from anyone trying to approach the team. Nemo's previous handler, A2C Leonard Bryant, had not left the base yet and that night was working at the kennels. He was quickly summoned to the scene of the attack and was able to secure Nemo and transported him to the kennels.

USAF First Lieutenant (1<sup>st</sup> Lt) Raymond Huston, the base veterinarian, was summoned to the kennels and began working hard to save Nemo's life. He performed a tracheotomy to help the wounded dog breathe. Nemo had sustained a massive gunshot wound to his muzzle, sinus area, and his right eye socket. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Huston had to remove what was left of Nemo's right eye, but like the proud, strong warrior that he was, Nemo fought hard for his life even as the veterinarian performed numerous skin grafts on Nemo's face.

Nemo was credited with saving his handler's life and preventing further destruction of life and property at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The "After Action Report" stated that the Viet Cong attackers had suffered 28 men killed in action (KIA), and an unknown number of men wounded in action (WIA). Four were captured. Twenty American aircraft received minor damage. Air operations in support of ground units in III Corps were uninterrupted. Many, many lives were saved. Not only the handlers, but the thousands of men stationed at Tan Son Nhut, plus those going home, and coming into Vietnam through this major base.

For Nemo's recuperation, A1C Leon Senecal was assigned as his handler in January of 1967. Gradually, Nemo accepted Senecal, who soon had him out and moving around on a leash. Nemo gained strength and endurance with the additional exercise.

In mid-1967 it was determined that Nemo's wounds needed more treatment than was available in Vietnam. On June 23 Air Force Headquarters directed that Nemo be returned to the United States with honors, to be officially retired from active service. The Air Force sent him home to Lackland Air Force Base, the home of the military's sentry dog program, where he could receive the best possible veterinary care.

Nemo flew halfway around the world accompanied by A2C Melvin Bryant, who was returning after completing his tour of duty in Vietnam. The plane touched down in Japan, Hawaii and California, and at each stop Air Force veterinarians examined Nemo, checking for signs of undue discomfort, stress or fatigue.

The aircraft carrying Nemo and Bryant touched down at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, on July 22, 1967. Captain (Capt) Robert M. Sullivan was the OIC (Officer In Charge) of the sentry dog training program at Lackland at the time, and he had the honor of leading Nemo’s welcome home committee.

Nemo was the first hero of his kind to return from the Vietnam War. The welcoming committee watched him walk down the ramp of the plane that had just landed at Kelly Air Force Base. He was wounded, his right eye was missing and a scar ran from below his right eye socket to his mouth. But his wounds weren’t what made him different from other returning Vietnam veterans; he was the only one who was a dog.

Nemo spent most of his retirement years at a Department of Defense Dog center at Lackland AFB, Texas. He was assigned a permanent kennel near the veterinary facility. A sign with his name, serial number and details of his heroic exploits stood out on his freshly painted home. Nemo’s presence at Lackland was a constant reminder to students learning the military K-9 trade of how important a dog is to his handler and to the defense of our military installations.

But Nemo’s service to his country did not end upon his return to the United States; he frequently was taken on tours throughout the country as a recruiter, to assist the Department of Defense in procuring more dogs for the military working dog program. From 1968 to 1970, Nemo and Capt Sullivan traveled to more than 50 cities, making TV, radio and personal appearances. Together they recruited more than 8,000 dogs to be used by the military, U.S. Customs and the Federal Aviation Administration.

In the fall of 1972 veterinarians at the Department of Defense (DoD) Dog Center at Lackland notified Capt Sullivan that Nemo was no longer responding well to antibiotics that were being used to prevent infection in his old wounds. An infection some years earlier had caused Nemo to lose most of the hair on his flanks and stomach. Now, at age 10, another infection could be fatal and cause him undue suffering. The decision was made to bring Nemo to the kennels at Andrews AFB, outside of Washington, D.C., where he could be cared for and closely observed.

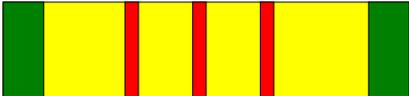
In early December 1972, Nemo fell ill with another infection. On December 18, Major Sullivan, who had been Nemo’s primary handler since Nemo returned to Lackland, travelled to Andrews and spent some time with Nemo. He recognized that the dog was extremely uncomfortable, so after consultation with the veterinarian, he ordered Nemo to be euthanized. Major Sullivan held Nemo as the shots were administered and stayed with him as he died.

The Tan Son Nhut hero was gone and would forever take his place in military working dog history. After an attempt to preserve his remains failed, the Vietnam War Hero was memorialized in a ceremony on March 15, 1973 at the DoD Dog Center.

The U.S. military sent more than 4,000 dogs to serve in Vietnam and Thailand during the Vietnam War, and it is believed that fewer than 200 made it home. It has been estimated that these dogs saved the lives of more than 10,000 American soldiers during that war. Sadly, the fate of many of these dogs remains unaccounted for and unknown to this day.

The 377<sup>th</sup> Air Police Squadron was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its “Heroic Valor” against the Viet Cong infiltration force. In the fall of 2003 a small group of former Air Force dog handlers toured the Lackland AFB Military Working Dog Training School during a military veteran’s

received their original training during the Vietnam War as sentry or patrol dog handlers at that training center.



Photos courtesy of Ken Neal

Reunion. Many of these men had received their original training during the Vietnam War as sentry or patrol dog handlers at that training center. During the tour, they noticed an old cracked cement pad with a crumbling raised border around the perimeter. They slowly realized that they were looking at the remnants of the kennel where the hero sentry dog Nemo had been retired after receiving his combat wounds in the 1966 attack on Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam. The pad was now run down and barren, with no markings indicating its history. The men decided that this was sacred ground, the last physical symbol of Sentry Dog Nemo!

Following the visit, this small group of Vietnam War veterans and a few friends formed the “Nemo’s War Dog Heroes Memorial” to tell the story of Nemo and through it memorialize all of the military working dogs that have served and continued to serve America’s armed services.

For more than two years the group worked to assemble the history, raise funds, and make plans to build a more fitting memorial on the site of Nemo’s old kennel, at what was then the 37<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron (SFS) training center. The men researched the original appearance of the site using old photographs and personal accounts.

After the years of hard work, a replica of Nemo’s kennel house was finally installed on the refurbished concrete pad. The painted sign on his old kennel that told the story of his heroism during the attack on Tan Son Nhut was replicated and placed on the new chain link fence that now enclosed the original pad. A water bucket and food pan just like those used in 1966 were placed in the kennel. Nemo’s memorial headstone, previously donated by students of the Specialized Search Dogs class at Lackland, was repositioned and the landscaping in the area spruced up. The site was now ready to be declared a memorial.

The group hosted a dedication ceremony on November 15, 2005, attended by other veterans of the 37<sup>th</sup> Air Police and Security Police Squadrons from Tan Son Nhut, troops of the Specialized Search Dog Class II at Lackland, and others totaling about 100. During the dedication, Nemo’s exploits and those of other working dogs past and present were honored. Finally, there is a memorial at America’s military working dog training center to honor all canine heroes of the military.

One speaker summed up the feeling of the MWD handlers in attendance: “Let’s never forget our partners, those heroic canines both past and present, for their gallant service to our country, both at home and places so very far away. You have made us very proud to be on the end of your leash, now and forever. To Nemo and all of the Working Dog heroes – we salute you for your service in the name of freedom. The



legacy will continue as we honor all of our canine heroes, past, present and future. On behalf of all Dog Handlers from all of the United States services, we are honored to be part of this great military tradition and we will always be in debt to the service of our counterpart canine heroes. In conclusion, let us never forget our War Dog Heroes.”

The “Nemo Memorial” was moved to a new location at the Air Force Security Forces Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in April 2013. Due to the age and condition of Nemo’s original pad that was erected circa 1967 the NWDHMC made the decision to protect the artifacts that had been reconstructed at the original 37<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron kennel center completed in 2005. In lieu of attempting to move the entire pad, the 802<sup>nd</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron assisted in removing a portion of the original pad and then included that historical section of concrete within the newly placed pad at the Security Forces museum site. This transfer enabled the lineage of the site to continue to represent the home of one of the many Vietnam era canine heroes to live on for others to enjoy.

The memorial was created as a result of the efforts of the “Nemo’s War Dog Heroes Memorial Committee,” with the support of the members of the 377<sup>th</sup> Air Police and Security Police, military working dog handlers past and present, and the personnel of the 37<sup>th</sup> Training Wing, Office of History & Research, “The Memory of the Wing,” Joint Base San Antonio Lackland, Texas.

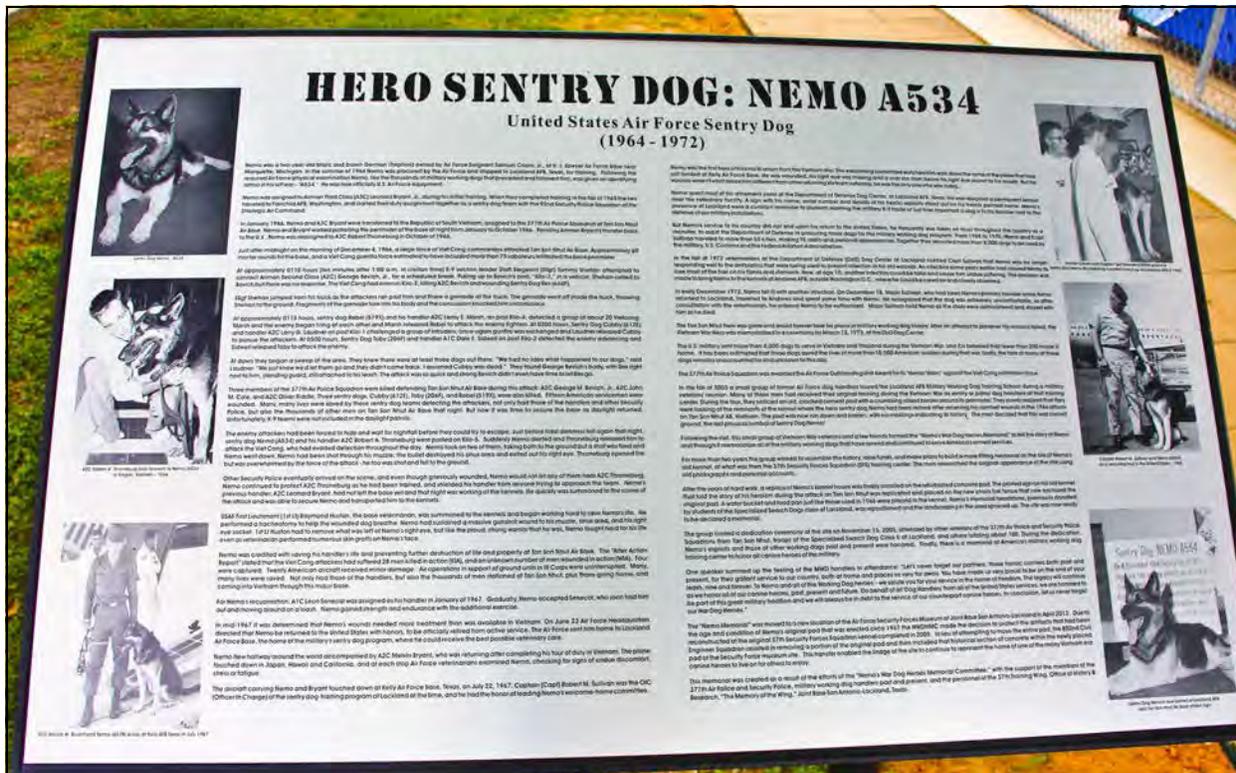
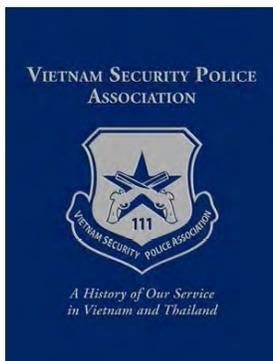


Photo courtesy of Ken Neal



# THE VSPA HISTORY BOOK

“THE BOOK” is in the VSPA BX! This is a SECOND printing, not a Volume II. If you would like to purchase one of these great books, the cost will be the same as the original price of \$54 plus \$6.95 for shipping. Please contact Van & Joyce Digby by phone or the email address below.

If you order more than one book, the shipping cost for each additional book is only \$3 rather than \$6.95. This is the original book price and shipping rate charged by Turner Publishing.

**BX STORE MANAGERS: Van and Joyce Digby are assisted by their daughter and son-in-law Kim & Brent Budzinski: 1-989-667-9117 email: [jad403@att.net](mailto:jad403@att.net)**



# 2014 ELECTION OF VSPA OFFICERS ~ CALL FOR BIOS AND PHOTOS ~

The 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, or by mailing in a written ballot which will be printed in the next issue of *Guardmount*. Each member may submit only one ballot.

There are six positions up for election: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. The other positions on our board of directors (President Emeritus, Past President and Communications Director) are permanent positions as recognized by our Constitution and By-Laws. All other positions in the VSPA are staff positions appointed by the president and board based upon expertise and willingness to serve the members of the VSPA. Elected officers will be confirmed and installed after the voting is completed at the reunion in October. The term of office of all positions is two years. The positions do not receive a salary and are entirely on a volunteer basis.

*VSPA members have until **July 31, 2014** to declare their intention to run for an elected VSPA position and must submit a bio and photo for publication in *Guardmount*.* Each person who runs must have been a regular member or life member in good standing for at least two years prior to the election. Board members must have the ability to attend future business meetings that are held at our annual reunions. They must communicate via the Internet and by phone on a regular basis, and must make the commitment to provide the time necessary to serve in the position - none of these are ceremonial positions.

If you want to run for an office on the VSPA Board of Directors you'll need to submit a photo and one-page biography. Send your materials to VSPA's *Guardmount* Editor, Erlyce Pekas, electronically (erlyce@msn.com) or by surface mail (PO Box 22035, Phoenix, AZ 85028) soon enough so that she receives your information by **July 31, 2014**. These materials and a ballot will be made available in the next issue of *Guardmount* (or mailed to those who do not have a computer and are current VSPA members) in time to allow everybody to choose their favorite candidates and submit votes.

The duties of the elected board positions below are from the VSPA By-Laws:

**PRESIDENT** - The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to:

- A) Act as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- B) Cause to be called all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- C) Preside over all regular and special meetings of the organization.
- D) Enforce the Constitution and By-Laws.
- E) Direct and supervise the operation of the organization.
- F) Prepare and present the Board of Directors Annual Report at the annual business meeting.
- G) Coordinate the confirmation of all appointed staff members with the Board of Directors.
- H) Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.
- I) Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the "Nominations Committee."

**VICE PRESIDENT and SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** - The duties of the Vice President

and the Second Vice President shall include, but not be limited to:

- A) Assist the President in the discharge of his duties.
- B) Assume the duties of the President in the event of his absence, illness, or call to eternal Guardmount.
- C) Execute the powers and authority of the President, when required, in the absence of the President.
- D) Serve as elected members of the Board of Directors.
- E) Serve as Chairman and member of the Public Relations Committee.
- F) Serve as a member of the Scholarship Committee.
- G) Prepare and present annual reports relative to the operation of their respective office at the annual business meeting.
- H) Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to their care and turn over the folder to his successor.
- I) The Second Vice President shall provide oversight for all record keeping activities and assist the President by maintaining hard copy records.

**SECRETARY** - The duties of the Secretary shall include, but not be limited to:

- A) Officiate when required in the absence of the President and Vice President.
- B) Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- C) Serve as a member of the Membership Committee.
- D) Be the clerk of the organization.
- E) Be the custodian of all business-related non-financial records and materials, with the exception of: those records which are created and maintained by the VSPA Historian, the VSPA Membership Chairman, the VSPA Treasurer and VSPA Communications Director Don L. Poss; or those records which are required for performance of the duties of the registered agent and liaison with VSPA's tax accountant and tax attorney. All such records shall remain property of the organization.
- F) Take minutes and keep permanent records of the proceedings of all annual Business Meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.
- G) Prepare and distribute election ballots, if necessary and as required.
- H) Ensure that only members in good standing vote on organizational business. The Secretary will be assisted by the membership Chairman and the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- I) Serve as official organization correspondent.
- J) Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

**TREASURER** - The duties of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to:

- A) Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- B) Act as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee if the committee is necessary.

- C) Be the Chief Financial Officer of the organization.
- D) Be the custodian of all financial records of the organization.
- E) Receive and be responsible for the collection of all monies due and payable to the organization.
- F) Have custody of all organization funds, and shall provide for the safekeeping, retention, disbursement, and investment in a manner acceptable to the Board of Directors.
- G) Receive donations on behalf of the organization.
- H) Issue letters in acknowledgement of all donations as required by tax codes.
- I) To work with the President to make such reports and returns as are required by Federal, State and local governments, the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, and these By-Laws, including the disbursement of appropriate taxes and fees.
- J) Maintain accounts appropriate to the structure and activities of the organization and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and principles.
- K) Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

**HISTORIAN** - The duties of the Historian shall include, but not be limited to:

- A) Serve as an elected member of the Board of Directors.
- B) Serve as Chairman of the Historical Committee if a committee is necessary.
- C) Prepare and present a report at the annual business meeting regarding the history projects completed during the preceding year.
- D) Keep a current folder that includes all official correspondence, records, and official materials assigned to his care and turn over the folder to his successor.

The following current members of the VSPA Board have expressed their willingness to run for office again: Greg Cain, our current Vice President will run for President, Bill Marshall our current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President will run for Vice President, Richard Garcia our current Treasurer will run again, and Jerry Nelson, our current Secretary will run again. They and all others who are interested in being a candidate for the VSPA Board of Directors must submit bios and photos by July 31, 2014.



## **PART 2 - LEOSA - HR 218**

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

This article is Part 2 of the LEOSA Update and builds on the information provided in our last issue of Guardmount. Many of our VSPA members who retired from Department of Defense law enforcement, the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard as Air Policemen, Security Policemen or Security Forces will soon have the opportunity to apply for credentials to carry concealed firearms pursuant to H.R 218, The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA).

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

“Defenders – the Air Force Installation Contracting Agency (AFICA), Wright Patterson AFB, OH, has selected a contractor to issue LEOSA credentials to past/present AF law enforcement personnel. Congratulations to Defense Consulting Services (DCS) on their selection. The AFSFC and DCS staffs will now finalize the process of developing the on-line application process and credential. We will begin beta testing of this process in the very near future and hope to have examples of what our credential will look like shortly. I continue to ask for your patience as we work diligently to move this process forward. Our estimated start date for credential issuance remains 1 Sep 14 with the cost of a [active duty] 926B credential at \$140 and the cost of a [retired] 926C credential at \$160 which will be valid for 5 years. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.”

When reading the requirements under AFM 31-125 on the following page, please keep in mind the following definition of a **Qualified Law Enforcement Officer** (QLEO) who must meet all the following criteria:

- a. Be separated in good standing from service with a DOD Component as a law enforcement officer.
- b. Before separation, have been authorized to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution, or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law.
- c. Before separation had statutory powers of arrest or authority to apprehend pursuant to section 807(b) of Title 10, United States Code (also known as article 7(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice) (Reference (k)).
- d. Before separation, have served as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of 10 years or more, or separated from service with a DoD Component, after completing any applicable probationary period of service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by that Component.

The following are the minimum basic requirements to be qualified under LEOSA and AFM 31-125 and apply to retired 926C only. Please note that these requirements for qualification are **not** the procedures:

**Section 926C.** Notwithstanding any other provision of the law of any state or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified retired or separated law enforcement officer and who is carrying the LEOSA identification may carry a concealed firearm. If identified by the USAF Security Forces as a retired or separated QLEO by the issuing of a 926C LEOSA credential, LEOSA provides exemption from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms.

1.2.1. Qualified Retired Police or Law Enforcement Officer. Retired Air Police, Security Police, Security Forces, Department of the Air Force Police and personnel separated with 10 years of aggregate service as a QLEO, in one of the aforementioned positions, may apply for USAF LEOSA Credentials under Section 926C. Individuals must meet the requirements of a qualified retired police or law enforcement officer as defined in Dodo 5525.12, Enclosure 3.

1.2.2. Individuals applicable to Section 926C must carry their USAF LEOSA credential and, IAW with LEOSA, a state firearm certification, from the state in which the individual resides, that indicates within the last 12 months, the individual has met standards for training and qualification to carry a firearm for active law enforcement officers in that state for the same type of weapon as the concealed firearm. This documentation must be signed by a certified firearms instructor for that state.

1.2.2.1. IAW S. 1132: Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Improvements Act of 2010, if the State has not established LEO firearms qualification standards, the instructor will certify the officer has completed the USAF SF handgun qualification course conducted by a state certified civilian firearms instructor using the member's privately owned firearm and personally procured ammunition. This documentation must be signed by a certified firearms instructor for that state.

1.2.2.2. Certified Firearms Instructor. A certified firearms instructor is defined as a person certified by the National Rifle Association, the American Association of Certified Firearms Instructors or an instructor utilized by a police department who is qualified/certified to conduct firearms qualification evaluations for active duty police or law enforcement officers within the state in which the qualified retired/separated member resides.

1.2.2.3. The training will be at the individual's own expense and is not the responsibility of the agency.

1.2.3. For the 926C LEOSA credential to be considered valid, the individual must have retired/separated in good standing from service as a QLEO with the USAF, not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance, be currently authorized to carry a firearm and not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm.

1.2.4. In order to maintain the LEOSA credential, a retired or separated QLEO must remain in good standing. If conditions exist that prevent a retired or separated QLEO from purchasing, possessing, or carrying a firearm, the AFSFC must revoke or recall the credential, upon learning of the member's failure to maintain prescribed standards, until conditions warrant reinstatement. At the request of the AFSFC or issuing agency, a retired/separated QLEO must surrender the credential to the appropriate authority.

1.2.5. In accordance with LEOSA Act, 926C LEOSA credentials must be issued by the agency (USAF) from which the individual retired/separated service as a QLEO. For the purposes

of LEOSA, the Air Force Security Forces Center (AFSFC) will act on behalf of the USAF as the agency for all Air Police, Security Police, Security Forces (Active Duty, ANG, AF Reserve) and Department of the Air Force Police.

To help you prepare for when the Air Force will begin processing applications for the credential, you should have the following ready to submit with your application. Keep in mind that these are the **minimum required procedures** under AFM 31-125:

2.1.3.1. Electronic copy of fingerprints for the purposes of an NCIC background check.

2.1.3.2. Medical declaration of physical competency may be required for individuals who are medically separated due to a service related disability. This documentation must be obtained from the applicant's primary care physician certifying the individual is not currently or previously under a physician's care for conditions that prohibit the carrying of a firearm under federal statutes.

2.1.3.3. Electronic passport type photograph as defined by the Department of State for all U.S. passports.

2.1.3.4. Copy of a state driver's license or state issued identification card.

2.1.3.6. 926C applicants. DD Form 214 (member copy 4) or NGB 22.

2.1.3.6.1. These documents must show that upon retirement or separation the member had statutory powers of arrest or apprehension under section 807(b) of Title 10, United States Code (Article 7(b), of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

The following will be printed on the back of each credential:

2.2.3.3.1. "This credential does not grant the bearer any authority to act on the agency's behalf or to exercise any law enforcement authority."

2.2.3.3.2. For 926C credentials: "In order for the named individual to carry a concealed weapon, pursuant to 18 USC 926C, this credential must be accompanied by a current (within the most recent 12 months) firearms qualification certification from the individual's State of residence. If the State has not established LEO firearms qualification standards, the instructor will certify the officer has completed the USAF SF handgun qualification course conducted by a state certified civilian firearms instructor using the member's privately owned firearm and personally procured ammunition. The named individual shall not carry a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance, and shall not be prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm."

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

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

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

# LM #56 Bud Owens and wife, Bette, Join Pease Greeters Welcoming the 700th Flight Arriving Home From Deployment.....

All photos in this article credited to FRED SCHOTTLER, official Pease Greeters Photographer since 2007.



VSPA LM #056 Bud Owens sent in two groups of photos from Flight #700 which landed at Pease International Airport in Portsmouth, NH, close to where Bud and his wife, Bette, live. Bud was with a group of 1st Cav Soldiers from Ft Hood, TX. The flight arrived early, around 5 AM on Saturday, April 26, the soldiers having been deployed to Afghanistan for 7-9 months. Bud and Bette are members of the PEASE GREETERS, and do a great job of welcoming home our military.



Bud writes: "Bette and I were both there. She was in the process of getting items ready to pass out to the troops as they re-boarded the aircraft for the final trip to TX. I was wandering around visiting with greeters and the troops as they arrived. We have greeted at least 600 of the 700 flights that have passed thru Pease International Airport.



Bette is still on the Board of Directors and is secretary and also sends out 95% of the thank you letters to donors.

For all flights, going and returning, there is food (Pizza, sandwiches, donuts, etc) for the troops. Also drinks, such as water, tonic and coffee. In one photo you can see the 4 Kurieg coffee machines that were donated and are replaced as one wears out along with all the coffee that is available. I have given out over 100 of the VSPA Challenge coins in the past but none in the last 3 years. I could not afford the cost any longer. The sweatshirt in the photo is given out to all Troop Commanders and sometimes more than one per flight. The first sweatshirt was presented to then President Bush in the Oval Office in 2008."



**Pease  
Greeters**





VSPA MEMBERS JOIN  
THE 802<sup>ND</sup> SECURITY FORCES  
SQUADRON AT JOINT BASE SAN  
ANTONIO-LACKLAND  
FOR NATIONAL POLICE WEEK AND THE  
1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL SECURITY FORCES BALL  
by Steve Shelt, Life Member #157, Pleiku

The 802<sup>nd</sup> Security Forces Squadron recognized local law enforcement and members of the Vietnam Security Police Association during National Police Week activities from May 15 to 17, 2014 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Activities included Security Forces personnel and law enforcement teams from San Antonio PD and the Bexar County Sheriff's Office who participated in a 5K memorial run at the Lackland Outdoor Adventure Center. Other events for the week included a 25-pound team ruck march at Camp Bullis, a 4-person scramble at Gateway Hill golf course, a two-day K-9 competition, an excellence in competition pistol match, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Security Forces Ball.

Thursday, 15 May: VSPA members toured S3 (Operations) followed by lunch at the Gateway Club. After lunch they toured the **343rd Training Squadron Security Forces Academy** and were briefed by Lt Col Gallagher.

Friday, 16 May: VSPA members attended the 802<sup>nd</sup> SFS Commanders Call where VSPA Life Member Steve Shelt, Pleiku, briefed Security Forces Defenders on Air Base Defense in Vietnam and Thailand. He also assisted in the presentation of awards for outstanding performance to several members of the squadron. VSPA members who attended Commander's Call were seated in positions of honor and treated with great respect by all in attendance. They were also given the opportunity to address the troops by introducing themselves and talking about their experience as Air Policemen and Security Policemen as well as their related careers after the Air Force. VSPA Members were also VIP attendees at a Basic Military Training graduation ceremony at the Lackland parade field. Following the BMT graduation, VSPA members received a briefing by the commander of the 343d Training Squadron on the direction of current and future security forces training.

Friday afternoon was occupied by a picnic barbeque with the 802<sup>nd</sup> SFS where VSPA members were invited to join the 802<sup>nd</sup> Defenders and their wives and children. We were also introduced to retired Air Force Combat Photographer Stacy Pearsall who photographed all VSPA members and each 802<sup>nd</sup> Defender for her Veteran's Portrait Project. Her black & white photographs were superb and later used in her presentation as the guest speaker on Saturday evening.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Security Forces Ball commenced on Saturday evening with a social hour and a Registration/Receiving Line. To make certain that the Defender wives could attend without financial hardship, Tiffany Foley, the wife of LtCol. Foley organized "Cinderella Fella" so that the wives of Defenders could receive formal evening gowns at no cost that were donated

specifically for them to wear and keep. There were also several sponsors of the event who made it possible for many of the Defenders to attend free or at a reduced cost. A deeply moving tribute to fallen Defenders from the Iraq and Afghanistan War was conducted by the 802<sup>nd</sup> Honor Guard and VSPA member Howard Yates, who played his bagpipes in full kilt and military regalia. After dinner, Annual Awards were presented to the outstanding 802<sup>nd</sup> SFS Airman, NCO, Senior NCO, Officer and Civilian members of the squadron. The awards were followed by the Key Note Speaker,



Retired Air Force Staff Sergeant, Mrs. Stacy Pearsall. During Stacy’s time in the Air Force as a combat photographer, she traveled to over 41 countries, served three tours in Iraq, received the Purple Heart, earned the Bronze Star with Combat V, plus Commendations for Valor and heroic actions under fire. She was also the DOD Photographer of the year for two years. Combat disabled and retired from the military, Pearsall works as a freelance photographer and educator. Her presentation covered her experiences in Iraq with Air Force and Army units and included a very moving tribute to the friends she lost in Iraq. She concluded her presentation with a photo and music montage titled, “The Veterans Portrait Project” in which her lost friends were featured along with Defenders from the 802<sup>nd</sup> and all members of the VSPA who had had their photos taken the day before. At the conclusion of The Ball, a cocktail party with live entertainment by the E-7 Band was held on the roof terrace at the Embassy Suites.

Throughout the National Police Week activities and in keeping with our mission to preserve the hard lessons learned in Vietnam and Thailand, VSPA members were reassured with the direction taken for training of our young brother and sister Defenders at the basic level, as well as the advanced training for conducting operations during deployments. As a side note, I

could see that the current Defenders are very interested in their heritage and what we accomplished in Vietnam and Thailand.

VSPA members in attendance were Steve Shelt, Howard Yates, Bob Curnick, Gladys Barto, Bruce Nickerson, Jerry Nelson, Steve Gattis, Ken Neal, Ernie Childers and Mike Hickey. Many members attended with their wives or a family member from the VSPA Sisterhood. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Security Forces Ball has already been scheduled for May of next year. Put it on your calendar and make every effort to attend; you will not regret it.



*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.*

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

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

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





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## USAF Security Police Vietnam Veterans—Welcome Home!

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

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

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

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