

## **2008 ELECTION OF VSPA OFFICERS**

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

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

For those members who are reading this on-line, you must be a current member in order to vote and read the bios of those who have declared their intention to run for office. Therefore, the bios and the ballot form have been posted in the Restricted Area of our web site. To vote, you must print the ballot and mail it to our Membership Chairman, Phil Carroll WITH A POSTMARK NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3. He will verify your membership status and make certain that only one vote is submitted.

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

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

**PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR BIOS.  
THE BALLOT IS ON THE LAST PAGE.**

**FOR PRESIDENT: Newell Swartz, Life Member #262, Phan Rang and Phu Cat 66 - 67:**



Brothers of the VSPA,

In October of this year, the office of President of the Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) will become vacant. After careful thought and consideration, I have decided to seek the office of President of VSPA.

I can and will devote the time and energy this position requires, so that we may continue to take care of our own. Overall, I am very satisfied with the great work of all those who currently serve as elected officials, appointed officers, and the many staff volunteers. I am happy and proud to be a Life Member of VSPA, which I joined over four years ago. I have been to the last four reunions and try to keep up with current issues of the Association.

I hope to bring about some changes through convincing you, the membership, that my ideas and proposals will enhance and improve the VSPA as a brotherhood. Our members who have

served us deserve our thanks, and I appreciate their bedrock foundation of accomplishments that my new proposals can build upon. A few changes I will bring about include delegating more authority to staff members based on their unique experiences, skills, and proven commitment to the Association as outlined in our constitution, in order to get some things done in a more timely manner. And yes, the responsibility and accountability resides with the office of President. The most critical of these are: #1 getting Guardmount out on a regular quarterly basis; and #2 finishing our history book (if it's not already done by the time of our reunion). I also will do everything I can to provide frequent and timely updates on projects such as these through emails and the bulletin boards, so our members never feel left in the dark.

Another priority will be to complete an election system which will give 100% of our members the opportunity to vote in the election of VSPA officers. I have worked with a group of our members on this issue. Significant progress has already been made but there is room for improvement.

On a personal note, I want to tell you a little about myself. I retired from the Army as a Warrant Officer in October 1976, having completed my twenty years (11 ½ USAF Security Police and 8 ½ years Army CID Agent). In January 1977, I entered the Arizona Highway Patrol Academy and retired 25 years later as a Sergeant, at the age of 63. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. My wife of 48 years and I are both in good health. My current pastimes are gold prospecting, the VSPA, keeping up with a garden, pets, and keeping 11/2 acres shipshape. I am a member of the SAC Elite Guard Association, the

CID Agents Association, the Arizona Highway Patrol Association, and the Roadrunner Prospector's Club. My 45 years of experience in military and civilian law enforcement have taught me to be my own man when I must; make decisions on my own, but to also value team work and welcome camaraderie. My military assignments have taken me to England, Spain, Germany, Libya, Turkey, Korea and Vietnam. In the USA, I have been to Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Florida, Georgia and New Hampshire.

I believe my strong desire to serve the members of the VSPA, my years as a supervisor and as an elected district representative to the Highway Patrol Association, should help me to make an intelligent argument for or against an issue. Should I be elected president, I look forward to working closely with a great group of men and women who are already serving you on a daily basis. I will always value input from membership.

The VSPA is a growing, thriving organization with many staff members who do an unimaginable amount of work to provide services for all of us and I value each and every one of them. I see one of my primary duties as providing them with the resources and discretionary authority to accomplish their job.

Of all the places in the world I have been and of all the people I have ever met, two things stand out for me: One, the USA is the most beautiful country with more to offer in splendor than any other place on earth, and two, the VSPA enjoys the utmost in camaraderie and has truly welcomed us home. I have served my country and State and now would serve VSPA as the key member leading us into future years of growth and enjoyment for our members. I will dedicate my efforts on your behalf to assure our best years as a brotherhood are ahead of us. I sincerely believe that as your President, this will prove to be true.

In summation, it is my view that we already have an outstanding group of core members who serve us on a daily basis. My vision for leading VSPA will be "enhancing what's right with the VSPA" as opposed to an attitude of "fixing what's wrong with the VSPA."

Sincerely,  
Newell Swartz  
[roaddog2007@yahoo.com](mailto:roaddog2007@yahoo.com)

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**FOR VICE PRESIDENT: Hector Ramos, Life Member #165, Binh Thuy 69 - 70:**



I was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where I graduated from high school and joined the US Air Force. I served four years as an Air Policeman & Armed Forces Police in the Panama Canal Zone, Tower Guard at Binh Thuy Air Base, Vietnam, and finally, as Base Security in Bangor, Maine. After my discharge, I completed a two-year AAS Degree program to allow myself a choice between the NYPD, which was recruiting me, and the engineering field.

Once I succeeded with school, the obvious choice for me and a new challenge was engineering. I currently work for PSE&G in Newark as a Supervising Engineer in the Electric Sub & Switching Station Group. I'm nearing 38 years in the field of Engineering/Construction and still enjoy what I do. I've had the opportunity to travel during my career and work in New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, New Orleans, North Carolina, Ohio and Puerto Rico.

My leadership experience in military associations includes 2nd Vice President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Eastern New Jersey Chapter 779, and Vice President of the Vietnam Security Police Association, our national USAF organization that I joined in March, 2001.

My Candidacy for a Third Term as Vice President of the VSPA:

In the two terms I've served as Vice President of the VSPA, I'm extremely proud to say that the organization has seen a substantial growth in membership, including almost 400 Life memberships so that now we have over 1,200 active members and over 500 Life Members. Alongside our esteemed president Steve Gattis, and with the vision and help of charter members, board members and volunteers, the VSPA and our legacy in SEA is widely recognized by current USAF Security Forces members, Veterans' groups, historical/educational resource groups and, of course, our own VSPA brothers. Although it would be easy for me to list the individual & team accomplishments that I've been involved with in over eight years of membership, I'm most proud of how EVERYONE who has been associated with this organization has, and continues to make it a truly rewarding experience.

Sincerely,  
Hector Ramos  
[HRAMOS926@COMCAST.NET](mailto:HRAMOS926@COMCAST.NET)

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**FOR SECRETARY: Bruce Hadley and Don Hamilton (listed alphabetically):**

**FOR SECRETARY: Bruce Hadley, Life Member #71, Bien Hoa 61-62:**



I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1959 and was discharged in 1963 as an Airman Second Class. I served in Detachment #9, 2nd ADVON, Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Viet Nam in 1961-1962.

I graduated from Brooklyn College, New York City University, New York, in 1974 with a BA in Economics under the G.I. Bill while serving as a Customs Inspector in U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security. Presently, I am a Supervisor in Field Operations at JFK International Airport, Jamaica, NY.

I joined the VSPA in June, 1998, have been the Secretary for the last four years and have attended numerous reunions. The major concern I have for our brotherhood is your awareness of Agent Orange related Prostate Cancer - GET CHECKED NOW! I am a certified NRA instructor in pistols, rifles and shotguns. I also instruct women in a league that shoots rifles at a local city range and have done so for the past three years. One of my great pleasures is the opportunity to preserve our history while talking with the young troops who have followed in our footsteps.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Hadley  
[brunole@juno.com](mailto:brunole@juno.com)

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**FOR SECRETARY: Don Hamilton, Life Member #201, Tuy Hoa 69 - 70:**



After a great deal of consideration and encouragement from VSPA members, I have decided to run for the position of Secretary. I have the qualifications, experience, dedication and time to serve as your VSPA Secretary.

The Secretary has many responsibilities including officiating in the absence of the President and Vice President, serving on the Board of Directors and is a member of several standing committees, as well as record maintenance. My experience in both public and private organizations makes me uniquely qualified to be the Secretary of our VSPA.

I have been a Life Member, #201, since 2005 and have served as a member of the Electronic Voting Committee.

**Qualifications and experience:**

Family-Married (Missy) Elaine in 1967. Two sons

**Federal Government Service-**

US Air Force; 1968-1972; E-5 1970

US Postal Service; retired 2003 as Manager, Customer Service.

**Public Service-**

President, Central Arizona Health System Agency

President, American Postal Workers Union, Phoenix Local

Member, Arizona State Health Planning Agency

Member, Arizona Statewide Health Planning Commission

Life Member, Disabled American Veterans

Life Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Member, American Legion

**“Together we can make a difference in our VSPA.”**

Sincerely,

Don Hamilton

[achilldigger@cox.net](mailto:achilldigger@cox.net)

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**FOR TREASURER: Richard Garcia, Life Member #82, Phan Rang 69 - 70:**



Born in Puerto Rico, grew up in Brooklyn, New York.

Enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1967.  
Basic Training at Lackland AFB.

Security Police Tech School and Combat Prep Course at  
Lackland AFB 04/67 to 07/67.

After Lackland, I went to Francis E. Warren AFB,  
Cheyenne, WY 07/67 to 01/69 guarding Minuteman  
Missiles/Nuke Warheads.

I served at Phan Rang AB, RVN in the 35<sup>th</sup> Security Police  
Squadron 02/69 to 02/70, heavy weapons Tiger mortar pit  
from sundown/sunrise.

I completed my service commitment with the 370<sup>th</sup> SPS Bangor, Maine.

Honorably discharged 04/71.

Currently a Billing/Collections manager with the Episcopal Church, responsible for over 4,000  
accounts payable and accounts receivable with an estimated monthly premium cash value of over  
**\$20,000,000.00.**

Military Associations:

Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) Life Member #82

VFW

American Legion, Massapequa Post 1066

DAV Life Member

Vietnam Veterans of America

Sincerely,  
Richard Garcia  
[cal400@optonline.net](mailto:cal400@optonline.net)

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**FOR HISTORIAN: Kelly Bateman and Russ Stabler (Listed alphabetically):**

**FOR HISTORIAN: Kelly Bateman, Life Member #118, Ubon K-9 70 - 71:**



Born and raised in Garland, Texas. 60 years of age and retired from ATT after 21 years. Currently living in Wimberley, Texas, near San Antonio and married to my wonderful wife Vicki, who so kindly made the 38 guidons carried by the VSPA and Safeside in the 2007 Veterans Day Parade in Washington D.C.

USAF (68-70). Security Police OJT K9 Handler Det. 193 Incirlik AB, Turkey (USAFE).

Sentry Dog School, Wiesbaden AB. Germany, March, 1969.

Security Police Sentry Dog Handler 8<sup>th</sup> SPS, Ubon AB, Ubon Thailand (70-71), (PACAF).

Security Police K9 handler and K9 training NCO, Dyess AFB, Abilene, Texas (SAC) (71-72).

VSPA Life Member # 118.

VDHA Life Member # 1066.

Life Member VFW Post 6441, Wimberley, Texas. Life member NRA.

Currently an active member of the Civilian Emergency Response Team and SAR under the Department of Homeland Security for Hays County, Texas.

I am a Founding member of Nemo's War Dog Hero's Memorial Committee, Lackland AFB, Texas. Our Committee raised funds and, by using old photos and historical documents, completely restored USAF Sentry Dog Nemo's kennel at the present 37<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Law Enforcement Kennel at Lackland. We also placed a granite monument to commemorate Nemo and the 1968 TET attack on Tan San Nhut AFB, RVN, where he saved his partner's life. The USAF has recently declared Nemo's Memorial an official historical site at Lackland.

As the current VSPA Historian, and due to my ongoing working relationship with the Security Forces Museum at Lackland because of the Nemo War Dogs Memorial, I visited with the Director of the Museum in July of this year regarding another memorial project. We met to discuss the USAF Security Forces Museum fund raising project for their "WALL OF HONOR" to honor all USAF Air Policemen, Security Policemen and Security Forces members who have been killed in action, or were medal recipients of the Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Airmen's

Medal, Bronze Star with "V" and the Purple Heart from 1946 to present. During that same period, I also chaired a group of four other VSPA volunteer members when we spent one week at the 37<sup>th</sup> Training Wing, Lackland AFB, on a USAF project to document and catalog historical documents and photos from the DOD K9 Training Center. The documents were found during preparation for demolition of several of the older buildings. The Air Force had no funds available to save or preserve them. The documents are now preserved and will eventually be transferred to the Security Forces Museum.

I have an extensive USAF Security Forces memorabilia collection that includes uniform patches, uniforms, posters, signs, head gear, K9 gear, photographs, etc. I am currently serving out the unexpired term of our VSPA Historian Don Graham and if elected would be proud to follow in his footsteps.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Bateman  
[texask-9@swbell.net](mailto:texask-9@swbell.net)

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**FOR HISTORIAN: Russ Stabler, Life Member #319, Ubon 72 - 73**



I was born October 25, 1948 in Williamsport, PA to Rebecca and Hiram Stabler. In 1967, I graduated From Danville Area Sr. High School and started my enlistment in the Air Force.

October 67 to November 67 I was assigned to 3702 BMTS at Lackland AFB.

November 67 to January 68 I was assigned to the Air Police/Security Police School at Lackland.

68 - 70 I was assigned to Det. 3 26th TAC Recon Wing at Bad Soellingen CAFB as a Custodial Agent protecting US war making resources.

70-72 I was assigned to FE Warren AFB, Wyoming in the Missile Field where I performed duties as a SAT team Leader, CAT Team Leader SET/CAT Dispatcher, and SP Leader on strategic weapons movements. During this period I attended the 15th AF NCO Leadership School, graduating in the top 30% of the class.

72-73 I was assigned to UBON RTAFB, Thailand. Here I performed duties as perimeter guard and SRT Team leader for Tiger Flight. After 4 Months I was assigned to the Day shift as the Sector Supervisor for Alpha Sector for the base.

73-80 I was assigned to Langley AFB, VA. Here I performed duties as entry point guard to sensitive areas, SAT team leader on the Flight Line, moved into the Weapons storage as the Alarm Monitor/ Alt CSC, then duties in CSC and as the flight trainer. In this capacity I was able to take the QC pass rate from 30% to 98%. Because of this and my ABGD identifier, I was assigned to teach ABGD to members of my flight.

80-87 I was assigned to Grand Forks AFB, Grand Forks, North Dakota in the missile Squadron. I was assigned duties as the SET/CAT Flight Supervisor. While performing these duties I was assigned by the NCOIC of SET/CAT to teach ABGD and Tactics to the entire 322 MSS including the Flight Commanders and Officers. Upon completion of this assignment, I was moved to Fire Teams as a Flight Chief. After a year and a half I was assigned duties on a TAD to the Correctional facility for 180 days. Reassigned to the 322 MSS, I was assigned duties as the Senior Security in Wing Security Control, and moved over to the Training Section as the Squadron Training Manager.

During my career, I completed all upgrade training through the 09 Level. As stated, I completed NCO Leadership School, AZR and OZR training and the Managers Training Class. While in the service, I completed an Associates Degree in Civil Engineering and an Associates Degree in Forestry Management. Upon retirement from the Air Force, and while performing security supervisor work at a corporate office, I went to the University of North Dakota graduating in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master degree in Modern European History with and Asian minor. Also, while attending UND in my last three years I was the Student Representative to the Teaching Department, Student Liaison for the Bridges Committee and recipient of the UND Memorial Leadership Award.

Since then I taught Middle School, retiring from teaching to start my own two companies. I have held positions as Historian, Chaplin, 2nd Vice Commander and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander in the American Legion in Fargo, North Dakota.

I also started the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 941 in Fargo and was the first Chapter Commander for two years.

Decorations include Air Force Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal with four O/L clusters, Outstanding Unit Citation with three O/L Clusters, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and Thai wings from the Thai Government.

Sincerely,  
Russ Stabler  
[Pa1kid@aol.com](mailto:Pa1kid@aol.com)

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# VIETNAM SECURITY POLICE ASSOCIATION BALLOT



PRINT AND MAIL TO:  
PHIL CARROLL  
VSPA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  
P.O. BOX 8  
GLADSTONE, OREGON 97027

**PRINT OR TYPE CAREFULLY**  
**SO THAT WE CAN VERIFY YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND ADDRESS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I. Nickname

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY and ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS

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

### PRINT THIS PAGE

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS BALLOT AND MAIL TO PHIL CARROLL  
WITH A **POSTMARK NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 2008.**  
CIRCLE THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE BELOW

#### FOR PRESIDENT

Newell Swartz

#### FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Hector Ramos

#### FOR SECRETARY (Vote for one)

Bruce Hadley

Don Hamilton

#### FOR TREASURER

Richard Garcia

#### FOR HISTORIAN (Vote for one)

Kelly Bateman

Russ Stabler