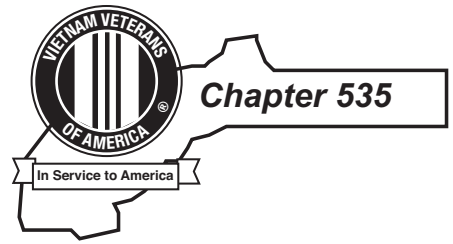




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 25 Issue 11

In Service To America and the Gold Country

November 2015

President's Message

Newsletter

Gone Fishing

Pete Burelle, President 274-3787



Our newsletter is becoming more difficult to produce as I have lost some of my information sources. After doing the newsletter for almost 20 years, I think its time for someone new to take the newsletter over. This newsletter will be the last newsletter I will produce.

With computers on everyones desk, its much easier tp produce a newsletter these days. When I started doing graphic design and newletters in 1970, we used have our type set in hot metal and printed in galley form and then pasted up. Now anyone with a computer can turn out a newsletter.

A newsletter is an important vehicle to keep members informed of what the Chapter is doing. I think its important for the Chapter to continue to produce a monthly newsletter and for someone in the Chapter will take over this job.

Bill Holman

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Veterans Dinner

When Wednesday Nov. 11th 6 pm

Where Grass Valley Elks Club

Veterans are free, all others are \$15.00.

- Salad
- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy
- Mashed Potatoes
- Assorted Vegetables
- Dessert

No host bar.

RSVP required by November 6th. Call 273-9228.

Some of My Experiences in the Air Force

Bill Holman

In some of the newsletters in the past Chapter members told some of the experiences they had while in the military. The following is some of my story.

I joined the Air Force in 1966 and spent four years and was discharged in 1970. When I enlisted I was to go into the civil engineering field, because of the three years I had already spent studying engineering in college. But things don't always work out as they were planned.

In basic training I found out that I was to become an Air Policeman. This change in assignment was because of the build up in Vietnam and the high attrition rate in the Air Police.

The Air Police, which was changed to Security Police in 1968, was divided into two sections Law Enforcement and Security. Law enforcement wore the white hats and they provided policing of the housing areas, base stores and town patrol. Security was responsible for the security of the rest of the base. This would include the flight line, fuel storage areas, special weapons storage (nuclear), alert aircraft and all security (classified) areas.

I had the chance to work both law enforcement and security. Law enforcement was easy duty, but I asked to be assigned to security, because there was less politics involved.

Security is made up of 4 flights. Each flight has about 50 personnel. We worked in shifts. Three swing shift with 24 hours off, three midnight shifts with 24 hours off and three day shifts with 72 hours off and then start the swing shifts cycle over again. During many of the periods when we had 24 hours off between shifts, we had training sessions. When we had alerts we worked 12 hours on and 12 hours off. The longest shift I worked was 36 hours.

I spent my first three years in SAC (Strategic Air Command) at Wurtsmith AFB in Michigan. The winters were brutal. I arrived at Wurtsmith AFB in December and already the snow was 3 feet deep. After three weeks of snow I went to personnel and requested to be sent to Vietnam. I thought this would be the fastest way off this base. It took me 3 years to get off that base and then they sent me to a place I had never heard of Taichung Taiwan (more about that later).

Because I was in SAC I needed a security clearance because we worked around nuclear weapon systems. It took about 3 months for the security check to be completed. During that time we had training classes and I worked in the armory. When we were cleared for our secret security clearances we were assigned to a 50 man flight.



Security Policeman state side in SAC. Notice that he is armed with an M-2 30 cal. carbine. All M-16 were in SEA. The M-2 is from WWII, but still did the job. The M-2 had a selector level to convert it from semi-auto to fully automatic. We carried 50 rounds, 10 rounds in each of five clips.

The positions in the flights were varied, from flight commander, security area supervisors security sentries central control dispatchers and security alert teams (SAT team). I started out like most new guys as a sentry on perimeter post along the runways and the post out in the middle of nowhere. I soon moved to guarding alert B-52's with nuclear weapon ordinance. I next was assigned to a SAT team, which consisted of a four man team patrolling in a crew cab 4x4. Our job was to respond to any security alerts. This could consist of someone being in a secure area without the proper security clearance to one of perimeter sentries taking fire. Our job was to neutralize the situation. The flight usually had 2 SAT teams per shift. After working our 8 hour shift we often had to pull another 8 hours of reserve SAT team duty, when we could sleep if not called to alert status. When I made the grade of sergeant I was



Security Alert Team on the job.

Chapter 535 Information Center

Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers-Phone

President	
Pete Burelle	274-3787
Vice-President	
Al Hernandez	265-6765
Secretary	
Dave Johnson	885-1230
Treasurer	
Ralph Remick	887-8297
Past President	
Dick Corn	

Directors

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Dave Johnson	885-1230
Ralph Remick	887-8297
Ric Sheridan rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net	274-1413
Dave Chaix	269-1431
Bill Holman bholman@succeed.net.....	265-8387
Kent Haley.....	432-3551
Bart Ruud.....	823-1368
Dale Epps	368-6156
Harold Graves.....	470-8507
Dick Corn	272-5922

Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

Finance	Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson
Parade and Honor Guard.....	Pete Burelle
Membership Affairs	Ric Sheridan
Newsletter ...	bholman@succeed.net, 265-8387 Bill Holman
Nominations	Harold Graves
Christmas Year Round	Harold Graves
NCCVC	Ken Farmer
Web Master.....	Ralph Remick

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

Victor Ferrera(530) 273-3396

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	31
Life members	39
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	73



The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

www.friendsofvso.org

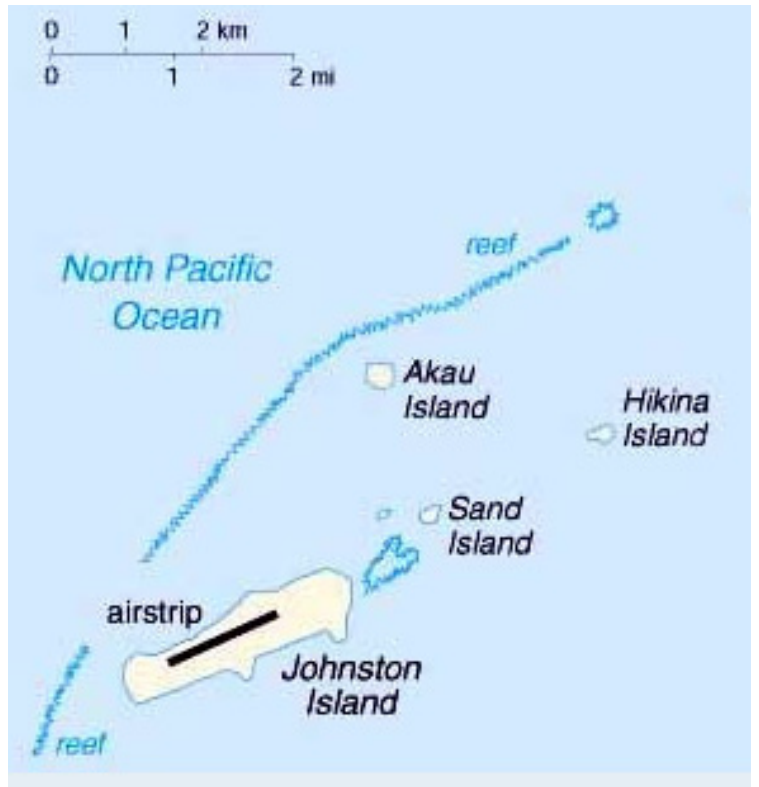
Agent Orange

Johnston Island Atoll, AFB



Ever wonder what happened to all those barrels of Agent Orange? After the Vietnam War, the United States government stored thousands of drums of Agent Orange on Johnston Island Atoll, AFB, in the Pacific Ocean, 715 miles S/W of Hawaii.

“Johnston is an unincorporated territory of the United States, nearly 700 acres in size, and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior as part of the United States Pacific Island Wildlife Refuges. For statistical purposes, Johnston Atoll is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands.”
 “Johnston has been used by the US military from 1934 to the present day. The island has been expanded many



Veterans Directory

Congress

Senate - Veterans Affairs Committee202-224-9126
House - Veterans Affairs Committee.....202-225-3527

Department of Veterans Affairs

Board of Veterans Appeals202-233-3001
Central Office202-565-8124
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act202-233-3616
Public Information202-233-3056
Veterans Health Administration202-535-7010
VA Telephone Care Program800-733-0502
Cemetery, Burial, & Headstone Info.....800-697-6947

Agencies

Department of Defense703-545-6700
DEERS Information (California).....800-334-4162
CHAMPUS (California).....800-741-5048
Office of Management and Budget Veterans Affairs.202-395-4500
Small Business Administration Office of Veterans Affairs202-205-6773

Locator & Reunion Services

Army Worldwide Locator.....317-542-4211
Navy Times Locator Services703-750-8636
Service Reunions703-998-7035
Vietnam Veterans Locator319-388-9023
Veteran's Locator Service 800-449-VETS

Miscellaneous

Vietnam Women's Memorial Project202-328-7253
Sons & Daughters In Touch CA805-872-4035
Retired Pay - Cleveland DFAS.....800-321-1080
Navy Lodging..... 800-NAVY INN
Army Lodging 800-GO ARMY

Conceal Carry Weapons Class

Dennis Fruzza, American Legion

If anyone is interested in attending the CCW course that we hold monthly in the Remembrance Room at the Grass Valley Veterans building, please contact Gary Weber at 274-7664 or <<http://weberfirearms@gmail.com/>>weberfirearms@gmail.com. Gary will then send notification emails for the next course and all of the material to the interested parties. We are charging 1/2 price for Veterans and their spouses, which at this time is \$50.00 all others \$90.00. Everyone pays the \$10.00 range fees.

Recommendation is to download the CCW Application from the mynevadacounty web site, print it out, or obtain one from the NCSO, follow their instructions. Then take the application to the NCSO on the second floor of the Rood Bldg. Once the course is taken and the qualifying is completed, then add the certificate to the application and wait for them to call.

Three firearms can be put onto the CCW permit, qualifying with all of them, shooting 50 total rounds between the firearms.

times in size through dredging and reconstruction.

Johnston Atoll was used to store chemical weapons from Okinawa after 1970 and drums of Agent Orange defoliant from the Vietnam War in 1972.”

“An estimated 49,000 gallons of Agent Orange is estimated to have leaked annually from the drums at the Johnston



Disposal of the chemical was by incineration. Note the large cloud drifting across the base. Is it possible everyone on base could have inhaled such contamination during their service at the island?



Note on the photo where the sand is discolored by leaking barrels.



Upcoming Dates and Events

November	5	General Chapter Meeting 6 pm
November	11	Veterans Day

Experiences in the Air Force Continued from Page 2

promoted to SAT team leader and shortly after that was sent over seas.



CCK Air Force Base, Main Gate.

I arrived at my new duty station Ching Chang Kung (CCK) outside of Taichung Taiwan in 1969 for my 15 month deployment. We shared the base with the Taiwanese Air Force. I was assigned to the 6217 Support Group Security Police Squadron (PACAF) Pacific Air Forces.

The base mission was flying supplies into Vietnam 24/7 on C-130's. We had four squadrons of C-130's and we also had a squadron of C-135 refueling tankers on alert. On their return trip the C-130's were often loaded with Aluminum coffins from Vietnam, that were transferred from the C-130's to larger cargo planes for the flight back to the States.

As in the states the positions in the Air Police flights were varied, from flight commander, security area supervisors security sentries, central control dispatchers and security alert teams (SAT team), perimeter post along the runways and the post out in the middle of nowhere. I spent most of my duty time as a SAT Team leader.

We had three security perimeters around the base. The Taiwanese worked the two farthest perimeters and we



Perimeter Post at CCK Air Force Base.



Bob Hope performing a Christmas show at CCK AFB in 1969. The Security Policeman in the circle is me on duty guarding the stage to stop the Airmen from rushing it.

(Security Police) worked the close in perimeters. Keep in mind that China and Taiwan were still in a stand off war with each other. The year before I arrived at CCK AFB, Chinese commandos came ashore and penetrated the two outer perimeters of our base. The Air Police shot them when they reached our area of responsibility.

Since Taiwan was an R&R destination Taichung which was about 20 miles from our base was a favorite R&R area, in addition most of the base personnel spent much of their off duty time in Taichung. The Air police squadron had a town patrol detachment stationed in Taichung. The Air Police town patrol worked with the Taiwanese Military Police. The Air Force personnel were not allowed to carry firearms off base, but the Taiwanese Military Police, who we patrolled with were armed with model 1911 45's. Because the Air Police town patrol could not carry weapons our only defence..... billy clubs. To be assigned to town patrol you had to be over 6 feet tall and weigh over 180 pounds. Most of the town patrol duty was breaking up bar fights. Drugs were also prevalent in Taichung, so we also dealt with drug over doses.

In the four years I spent in the Security Police I made a lot of friends I served with. When you live and work with 50 guys in your Flight you get to know all about them and their families. Some of them I still keep in contact with. Some of the guys I served with died in the line of duty and I still think of them often. Not all the experiences in the service were good, but we did the things that needed to be done and we learned to deal with it. I learned a lot of life lessons in the Security Police and they have served me well to this day.

Bill Holman

Veterans Day

FREE

Breakfast

Peace Lutheran Church
828 W Main Street
Grass Valley, Calif. 95945

Wednesday-November 11th, 2015

Serving 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Veterans-Free---Veterans Id Required





Others \$5 Children under 10 Free

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November - 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1	2	3	4	General Membership Meeting 6 pm	6	7
8	9	10	VETERANS DAY	 Bill Baird	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	27	28
 William Buckley 29	30					

