



The Safeside Newsletter

The Safeside Association,
Inc.

Summer 2017

820th Base Defense Group Turns Twenty

By AIC Lauren Sprunk, 23rd ABD/PA

Moody's defenders, past and present, and distinguished guests gathered, March 27 to 29, here, to celebrate the anniversary of the only active duty Air Force base defense group.

The anniversary commemorated 20 years since the activation of the 820th Base Defense Group, formerly known as the 820th Security Forces Squadron, and allowed guests to reminisce on their history, honor those they've lost, and walk through a tactical demonstration.

"One of the things that makes the 820th so unique is the desire that its members have to come back and serve or just to come back and visit," said Col. Kevin Walker, 820th BDG Commander. "It's unlike any other group I've ever seen. Our Airmen have grown a bond that in many regards is stronger than family.

"I hope [that during this reunion,] those that are 820th alumni are able to find pride in seeing and interacting with the group that they've helped build."

Attendees began the celebration with an opening ceremony where retired Brig. Gen. Richard Coleman explained how he transformed what started as an idea written down on a bar napkin into the first ever base defense group.

From there, guests went to a wreath laying ceremony where they honored the lives of the four Airmen they have lost since the group's inception: Airman 1st Class Leebarnard Chavis, Staff Sgt. Todd Lobraico Jr., Tech. Sgt. Joseph Lemm and Staff Sgt. Louis Bonacasa.

"[These Airmen] laid down their lives because they believed that everyone else's tomorrows are worth more than their todays," said Walker. "[For that,] we honor them for their courage, for their sacrifice, and for the American, the Airman and the defender that they are."

After the ceremony, the 820th BDG recognized distinguished guest and former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, retired Gen. John Jumper, by dedicating a conference room in honor of him. Jumper also re-



enlisted Staff Sgt. Scott Shirley, 824th Base Defense Squadron NCO in charge of plans and programs. Guests ended their day by watching a tactical demonstration where 820th BDG Airmen showcased their strategies, weapons and ability to work as a team with each section that makes up the 820th BDG.

"The BDG composition consists of a headquarters element, a Combat Operations Squadron, and three operational squadrons that can be tailored to meet the mission's need," said Senior Master Sgt. Justin Geers, 824th Base Defense Squadron operations superintendent. " (Cont'd on Page 3)

Rogers Rangers Standing Order #1

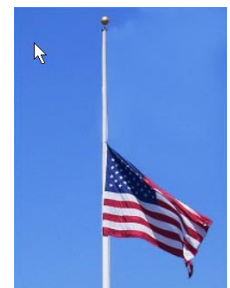
I. Don't forget nothing.

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TAPS—Final Guardmount

.Elton R Hobbs Jr 823 CSPS
Jim Rossiter 822 CSPS
John Poggi 822 CSPS
Alfred Deal, 822 BDS





CMSgt (Ret) Jerry R. Nelson
821st CSPA—President

My Safeside Brothers
and Sisters,

Hello from sunny San
Antonio, TX.

2017 is an exciting time
for the Safeside
Association and its
members. We have
made major progress
on several fronts and I
will discuss and update
our status in this letter.

As always, it is truly an
honor to serve as your
President and look
forward to making sure
all events are fun and
enjoyable for you.

Pete Villarreal, our Vice
President, and I are
knee-deep in planning
our Safeside Reunion in
Valdosta, GA, 6-9
November 2017. I am
very excited about
seeing everyone there.
This is my favorite time
for Safeside and sharing
our special
Brotherhood. We

The Prez Sez...

are planning with the 820th
Base Defense Group for
our activities. Pete will dis-
cuss details and planning for
this great event. Hopefully,
we will have our largest
reunion yet. We will be
celebrating the 1041st SPS
50th Anniversary (a year
late) and the 820 BDG 20th
Anniversary. It promises to
be a great event and I hope
you make every effort to
attend.

In October, Sherry and I
will attend the Vietnam
Security Police Association
reunion. It will be held in
San Antonio, TX 4-8 Oct
2017. The Reunion will be
held in the Menger Hotel,
located on Alamo Plaza, in
the center of the city. We
have a full day of activities
at Lackland AFB on Thurs-
day, October 5. This will
also be a very special reu-
nion with other Security Po-
lice Brothers and I strongly
encourage everyone to at-
tend. If you need assistance
with Registration forms or
information, please give me
a call at 210-273-4777.
Time will be short, so let's
get everyone registered and
ready to attend.

I am very happy to report
that our fund raising effort
to build a Safeside Bench at
the National Museum in
Dayton, OH has been suc-
cessful. We exceeded the
our goal and the bench has
been ordered. It is being
produced by Dodd's Monu-

ments in Dayton, OH. Cur-
rently, we are planning an
out-of-cycle reunion for the
formal dedication. We have
tentative plans to do the
dedication in late spring or
early summer of 2018.
More information will be
provided as it develops. I
would like to personally
thank each of our donors
that helped make this
dream a reality. This bench
will ensure the Safeside
legacy lives forever.

Recently, we added new
Board of Directors for all
the 820th BDG and its
squadrons. They are eager
to help us grow member-
ship and provide leader-
ship to their Association. I am
excited by their energy and
drive.

I would like to share a quick
story about one of them. In
2008, Pete and I attended
the 822 Combat Dining Out
at Moody AFB, GA. During
the event, I met a couple of
young Airmen and they
were very impressive. I
asked AIC Megan Williams
if I could adopt her, since
she was deploying with the
822. During the evening, my
dear friend, the late Horace
Reibe, who everyone loved,
met both young Airmen and
adopted both of them. I had
obtained Megan's e-mail
address and intended to
stay in touch; however,
since Horace stole my po-
tential adoptees, I failed to

do so. Early this year, I saw
a life membership applica-
tion from someone with an
e-mail address that I recog-
nized. I remembered I had
seen it, because it was very
unusual. I had no idea who
it was. Shortly after that, I
was asked to interview a
TSgt for a BOD position for
her squadron. As soon as I
saw her name Megan, I real-
ized it must be the same
young AIC. Her last name
had changed; however, it
was her e-mail address. We
had a great conversation
and she is now on our
BOD. I will be very excited
to see her and her husband
and glad that she is helping
lead the Association. Wel-
come Aboard Megan
(Williams) Gullede.

In closing, I would like to
express my sincere grati-
tude to all of you for your
service. The high point of
my year is to be able to
spend time with you at our
reunion. More information
will flow shortly, with regis-
tration details and specific
plans. I am honored to rep-
resent you as your Presi-
dent and continue to prom-
ise to help build on our
legacy and history. If I can
be of any assistance, please
give me a call or e-mail me t
JrNel1423@aol.com.

Hope to see in November!

JOINED TO FIGHT!

Jerry R. Nelson
President

820th BDG Turns 20

(Cont'd from Page 1)

The 820th continues to evolve to fulfill the integrated base defense mission, as its predecessor, the combat security police of the Vietnam era, did."

The tactics of the 820th BDG began in South Vietnam when highly successful guerrilla attacks compelled the Air Force to transform the standard practice of airbase ground defense into an aggressive defense force capable of detecting and stopping attacks on the base from outside the wire. Designated Operation SAFESIDE, the new initiative required new techniques to create the "active defense" concept which proved to be successful.

The SAFESIDE legacy returned with the activation of 820th Security Forces Group. The Group was activated on March, 17, 1997.

In the beginning, the group had difficulty finding the manpower needed to form the assigned squadrons of the 820th SFG. The group had seven flights scattered around the country who would come together to form a squadron when the Headquarters teams deployed for contingencies.

"From March 1997, the group and its seven geo-

graphically separated flights trained and became operational," said Geers. "On August 1, 1999, Detachment 1, 820th SFG stood up at Moody to plan and execute the moves of the group Headquarters staff from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and to bed down and build three new squadrons.

"On March 14, 2001, the official stand up of the group occurred at Moody and the group moved to Air Combat Command."

Today, the 820th Base Defense Group provides planning, training, equipping and preparation of three security forces squadrons. They are the only global 'first-in' force protection unit to provide fully-integrated, highly capable and responsive forces to protect overseas contingency operations around the globe at a moment's notice.

"[This reunion allows] attendees to hear and see the past, present and future of the BDG," said Walker. "They will see how the action of the past has created today's BDG and how today's BDG is preparing the way and setting the road for tomorrow's BDG."



Reunion Agenda
Monday Nov 6:
 9 AM - Golf Tourney (Course TBD)
 5 PM - Cocktails, Safeside Base Camp

6 PM - Reception Dinner, Base Camp

Tuesday Nov 7:
 9 AM - Board of Directors Meeting, Moody AFB
 10 AM - Safeside Spouses' Brunch
 11 AM - Practice for Memorial Service
 1 PM - Business Meeting, Safeside Base Camp
 3 PM - Veteran's Service Officer Briefing, Base Camp
Free Evening

Wednesday Nov 8:
 8:15 AM - Depart for Moody AFB
 9:00 AM - Memorial Service
 10 AM - Demonstrations by 820th
 12 PM - BBQ and Awards Ceremony (BX Sales)
 4 PM - Return to Base Camp
Free Evening

Thursday Nov 9:
Depart Base Camp

Hotel reservations can be made, now. Base Camp will be the Holiday Inn Valdosta Conference Center, 1805 W Hill Ave., Valdosta, Ga, 31601, phone number (229) 244-1111.

Cont'd on Page 4

Rogers Rangers Standing Order #3

3. When you are on the march, act the way you would if you were sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.

A1C Christopher Smith, 823rd Base Defense Squadron fire team member, and Retired Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, perform a cake cutting ceremony, during the 820th Base Defense Group's 20th Anniversary Celebration





SMSgt (Ret) Pete Villarreal
822nd CSPA
Vice President

Reunion Agenda (Cont'd from Page 3)

The hotel rate is \$89 a day, plus taxes; mention the Safeside Association to get the special rate. Breakfast is included, and free drink coupons are usually provided on a daily basis.

Contact Pete Villarreal if you have questions;
villa@santanet.org



The Veep Speaks

Safesiders!

I had the pleasure of attending the 820th BDG's 20th Anniversary celebration, at Moody AFB, Ga. Also attending were Glen Hopson, 821st CSPA; Gary Jones, 822nd CSPA; Bobby LeFever, 820th BDG; and Jerry Nelson, 821st CSPA. It was a great time. We had three days of festivities, including the opening ceremony, golf with the troops, and a Memorial Service of our Fallen Warriors. The guest speaker at the dinner was the former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, General (4 Star) John Jumper, a

great supporter of the 820th. Attached is a photo of us Vietnam Combat Veterans with Gen Jumper, in the photo is our favorite General – Dick Coleman, the founder of the 820th. You may notice that Gary Jones is not in the photo – at his age his bladder had other plans. LOL.

Jerry Nelson, Gary Jones, Col Don Robertson (prior 822 Commander) and I visited the 822 troops at their Headquarters. I was introduced by TSgt Jeremiah Johnson, 822 BDS Board Member. I had been anxiously waiting for this moment - the chance to stand in front of the new troops

following in our footsteps. The Eight Double Deuce will be deployed when we have our reunion in November, but I am looking for another opportunity in future years.

Talking about the reunion, Check out our tentative Agenda, on page 3. Keep in mind that mission requirements dictate that we remain pretty flexible with our planning.

Email me if you plan to attend: so far we have 66 that committed to celebrate with us.



Vietnam Combat Safesiders With Former CSAF

L to R. SMSgt (Ret) Pete Villarreal, 822nd CSPA; Brig Gen (Ret) Richard A. Coleman. Former Director of Security Forces; Gen (Ret) John J. Jumper, Former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff; CMSgt (Ret) Jerry R. Nelson, 821st CSPA; Maj (Ret) Glen Hopson, 821st CSPA. General Jumper holds the "Joined to Fight" sign presented to him by the 820th Base Defense Group.

Vietnam Era Safesiders to Receive Medals

By CMSgt (Ret) Lyle Brakob, 823rd CSPS

"After almost 48 years, 21 medals for duty in Vietnam have been approved. Several will be pinned by retired Chief of Security Police, General Richard Coleman during the 2017 reunion awards ceremony at Moody AFB in November. The recommendations, all for members of the 823rd Combat Security Police Squadron, Flight C, Sec-

tion 9, were approved after extensive Air Force and Congressional actions. It also took several years with the help of many to locate everyone or their next of kin. It will be great to witness these men receive the recognition they so rightly deserve"

(Editor's Note: Chief Brakob is being modest by not taking full

credit, to ensure that the dedicated service of these young Airmen and NCOs, under very difficult and dangerous conditions, was not forgotten.

When Operation Safeside was deactivated in 1969, many administrative tasks were not completed. This included processing nominations for awards and decorations.

Chief Brakob has been fighting the bureaucracy since 1997, to have medals, so richly deserved and righteously earned, finally awarded. This is what taking care of your troops is all about.)

Thanks, Chief.



Operations Support—Personnel Administration SSgt (Sep) Ronald D. Levis, 82nd CSPW

I served with the 82nd Combat Security Police Wing from May 1968 to December 1969 I was not a 1041st SPS (T) cop. I worked in personnel administration.

These are my experiences.

The assignment :

The Personnel Officer at Wheeler AFB, Hawaii, telephoned the Personnel Officer at Nellis AFB, NV and asked if he could help him find someone to come TDY to Wheeler AFB. A job description memo looking for a volunteer was issued. There was some verbal mention that the duty location might be Schofield Barracks, an Army Post. Hmm! My supervisor said that I should volunteer since my background matched what they were asking for. I had completed a 14 week personnel training tech school at Amarillo AFB, TX and 16 months at Headquarters, Lowry Technical Training Center at Denver, working with Officer and Airman Records, etc. Well OK I'll volunteer.

Hawaii Arrival:

Saturday, May 11, 1968 - You are here so get to work! The 14 hour days, seven days a week

started and continued until my return to CONUS.

My performance report said, "The operation of a personnel section which serviced personnel on TDY away from their personnel and financial records was an extremely difficult and thankless endeavor." I was responsible for preparing and maintaining 550 mobility folders. Many documents required in the mobility folders had to be requested from the personnel's home bases. I assisted in tracing missing pay checks and solving a large number of pay problems. It was almost unbelievable the number of pay problems we had to deal with. The personnel going thru training were from 101 different CONUS bases and all major air commands. The time zone difference was a major problem. I went into the office very early to try to contact personnel offices on the East Coast. Many times I would dispatch up to 40 pay messages per day. When a trainee was dropped from the

program, and there were many, a mountain of paperwork was required to expedite and control. There were only four of us with personnel AFSC. On a sad note, a senior NCO collapsed during a lunch break, from a brain aneurysm, and died at the Tripler Army Hospital.

Fort Campbell, KY:

October 8, 1968 Reported in to the 82nd CSPW, Ft Campbell – "WELL - HERE WE GO AGAIN!"

I was totally surprised that I, with a personnel AFSC and another NCO, with an administrative AFSC were the only two reporting to Fort Campbell from Schofield Barracks. All the rest of the personnel staff had returned to their home bases. We had a new Director of Personnel, TDY from Air Force Reserve, a TSgt and SSgt assigned. They had to be brought up to speed pretty quickly with the issues we would be dealing with when the 823rd CSPS arrived and started training. An additional issue Personnel had to deal with now was getting the 82nd staff to complete the officer and airman performance evaluations.

Fort Campbell, administratively, seemed to operate fairly smoothly. However, we still had numerous pay problems with the 823rd CSPS.

I received The Air Force Commendation Medal for the time I spent with the 82nd Combat Security Police Wing.

Even though the 82nd Combat Security Police Wing was deactivated in December, 1969, I remained at Fort Campbell until my release from active duty in January, 1970. I took an early out to go back to college and complete my BS degree in Personnel Management and a MBA with emphasis in Management. I retired in November 2009 as President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of The Condon National Bank in Coffeyville, KS.

I sincerely believe that being a part of the 82nd CSPW certainly helped me to be successful in civilian life.

Thanks for the experience and memories.

Well SMSgt Pete Villarreal this is my story and I am sticking to it. Ronald D. Levis, SSgt, NCOIC, Special Activities, 82nd CSPW

Trailblazing defender donates artifacts to Security Forces Museum

By Jeremy Gerlach, JBSA-Lackland Public Affairs



On the eve of his retirement, Col. Chris Bargery, Air Force Security Forces Center commander, donated several artifacts to the Air Force Security Forces Museum Annex during a ceremony held in his honor Friday.

Bargery, described as a pioneer by his contemporaries at the ceremony, was instrumental in countering insurgent threats to Airmen stationed in Iraq as part of Operation Desert Safe Side Task Force 1041.

Bargery, along with Brig Gen Bradley Spacy, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center director of expeditionary support, took a revolutionary approach by assembling a security forces team that proactively attacked enemy positions "outside the wire" at Balad Air Base in Iraq, rather than waiting for threats to

approach the installation, he said.

"We kicked down barriers as to what people thought Airmen could or couldn't do," Bargery explained. "By focusing on an information-driven strategy ... we were able to accomplish more in 60 days than other ground forces did in six months of battling insurgents."

The task force, despite being in "several scrapes," didn't suffer a single combat casualty, he added. Bargery gifted the Security Forces museum with a framed TF 1041 guidon, as well as the only group picture of the entire task force.

"In the Air Force, war isn't always fought at 30,000 feet," Bargery recalled. "Sometimes it's up close and personal ... and that's what we did with Desert Safe Side; we revived our fighting spirit."

The information-based tactics

didn't just make American and coalition service members safer – it also fostered a more positive relationship between the TF 1041 and the local Iraqis.

"When bad guys kept disappearing in the middle of the night, the Iraqis saw we weren't just rounding up military-aged males and taking them away – we were (just) going after the bad guys," Bargery explained. "And Iraqi mothers realized we weren't taking their sons."

That's not to say Operation Desert Safe Side came without complications, Bargery continued. From the start of the operation, the philosophy was wracked with skepticism from many high-level leaders as the methods were not standard Air Force operations.

Still, Bargery's gifts to the museum represent a fundamental milestone in security forces history. The colonel's involvement and implementation of

Operation Safe Side left a security forces legacy that continues to shape ground operations at Air Force and other service installations around the world, Spacy said.

"Airman can fight on the ground too — that's the lesson we learned," Spacy added. "We still have more to do, because there's an enemy out there right now and we're going to have to continue learning how to fight them."

The Air Force Security Forces Museum Annex is the only exhibit in the Air Force solely dedicated to defenders. Visitors can find more information on Bargery and the artifacts he bequeathed to the museum at <http://www.securityforcesmuseum.org/> or visit the location at building 10501 on the corner of Metzger Street and Femoyer Street. The facility is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Safeside—The Genesis: 1041st SPS(T) 50 Years Later

The following information was extracted from the official Operation Safeside Final Report:

The 1041st USAF Security Strike Force Test Squadron, later redesignated the 1041st USAF Security Police Squadron (T), was organized and designated on 1 July 1966. It functioned as a field extension of The Inspector General, Headquarters USAF, under the operational control of the Director of Security Police.

a. Phase I - Training (5 Sep - 16 Dec 66). The primary purpose of this phase was to equip and train the 1041st Security Police Squadron for deployment to an installation in the Republic of Vietnam - and to evaluate the Air Force's ability to conduct such training.

On October 13 - 16, 2016, members of the 1041st SPS (T) gathered at the Best Western Hotel, Lytle, TX for the 50 year anniversary Reunion. On Oct 14 everyone met at Tom and Val McLaughlin's home in Kyote, TX where we were served a terrific meal of barbecued ribs, deep fried turkey and delicious sides. Tom, Val, their son and daughter-in-law John and Carrie were fantastic cooks and hosts and we send them a huge THANK YOU for all they did for us.

On Oct 15, we were hosted by Bill Revell's daughter, Julie Geer, and her husband Rick at their beautiful Texas ranch. Helping them were Lisa (Revell) and Michael Bridges, Russ and Dora Revell, Jimmy and Priscilla

Revell and Pat Revell. During the afternoon we were served a delicious meal of smoked brisket, BBQ chicken and sides. In an outdoor entertainment facility, built in honor of her father, Julie unveiled a beautiful wooden plaque containing all the names of the original 1041st SPS (T) members. The names had been obtained and verified by Tom McLaughlin through research of original assignment and travel orders. The plaque was created by Julie and Rick Geer. As evening approached everyone gathered for the traditional passing of the Crown Royal bottle and toasting. Another huge THANK YOU goes out to Julie and Rick Geer and Revell family for their very generous hospitality. Overall the reunion was a huge success filled with love, laughter, tears and hours and hours of Bull****.

On Saturday Oct 15, Retired Brig. General Richard Coleman, former Director of Security Forces, Commander, Security Forces Center, stopped by the hotel to congratulate members of the 1041st. Also attending

activities at the Geer residence on Oct 15 was Jerry Nelson, President Safeside Association.

ATTENDEES:

Mike and Judy Burbey

John and Kathy Webster

John Griffith

Robert and Kweta Bigelow

Ronnie "Jed" Scammerhorn

Lewis and Yvonne Williams

Bob Vaughan

Emidio Tony Gasbarro and son James

Louie Romero

Farris James Hall and son Nathan

Ed Bice

Bill and Joy Potts

Mike and Sue Glines

Tom and Val McLaughlin and son and daughter John and Carrie McLaughlin

Ron and Maggie Glasscock

Bob and Hisako Sparks

Rich Clower

Steve Peckinpugh

Larry and Carlene Wallace and son and daughter Rob and Melody Blankenship

Brad Ricketts

Eddie and Darlene Whittaker and Caroline

Al and Judy Linscott and daughter April

Marilyn (Uhlenkamp) Sander and Erica Uhlenkamp

Pat Revell

Julie (Revell) and Rick Geer

Lisa (Revell) and Micheal Bridges

Russ and Dora Revell

Jimmy and Priscilla Revell

Pat Cooper

Glen Cooper, Jr

Jean Studebaker and niece Tracie Colter

Andrea Rowland

Margaret Rowland

Monica (Rowland) Shephard

Jack Hayes

Jerry Nelson

Brig Gen Coleman

Some of the original members of the 1041st SPS(T) celebrate the 50th anniversary of their founding.



Across the Miles—With the 824th Base Defense Sq Lt Mason Smiedendorf

The 824th Base Defense Squadron (BDS) is deployed to Southwest Asia at an undisclosed location, providing Base Security Operations (BSO). For some members of the 824 this is their second or third deployment to this location. Their familiarity with both the mission and the location has been invaluable in establishing continuity of operations.

The mission includes operating entry control points (EC), flight line security patrols, police units, and quick response force (QRF) units. The 824th's mission is an imperative task that is leading to the defeat of ISIS. The daily work routine consists of working with multiple Air Force agencies, along with joint patrols with Host and Coalition forces to maintain security

One of the fun morale events that the 824th recently did was a "Half Christmas" BBQ on June 24th marking the halfway point until Christmas. The unit leadership chipped in and bought some premium meat to grill along with some Cuban Cigars to enjoy. Big thanks to MSgt Lane and TSgt Gebo for grilling all the food.

TSgt Craig Stott was recently accepted into the Top Three, with his promotion to the rank of Master Sergeant. TSgt Stott has been in the Air Force for 17 years with assignments to Alaska, Guam, Germany, Delaware, and Moody. Congratulations.

In keeping with tradition, the Ghostwalkers were also recently seen "Ghostrucking."

Rogers Rules for Rangers #19

Let the enemy come 'till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up with your hatchet.



Ghostwalkers return from Ruckmarch

TSgt Craig Stott receives notice of his selection for promotion to MSgt