



# The Safeside Association



Volume I, Issue I

Fall 2014

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## Former 820th BDG Member Receives Award

**Editor's Note: After selecting SSgt Polly - Jan Bobseine as the first recipient of the Sergeant Major Robert C. Frink Award, we were unable to locate her, to make the presentation.**

SSgt Polly-Jan Bobseine, from Cattaraugus, NY, joined the Air Force in 2003. After completing her training at Lackland AFB, TX, she volunteered for the 820<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron at Moody AFB, GA. While serving in the 823<sup>rd</sup> SFS, Bobseine served 4 tours in Iraq and completed Army Airborne, Air Assault, and Air Force Close Precision Engagement Courses.

SSgt Bobseine was selected as a 2006 Outstanding Airman of the Year, and was Air Combat Command's Athlete of the Year. She competed with the Air Force High Power Rifle Team at Camp Perry, OH, and ran as a member of the Air Force Marathon team in 2007. In 2008, Bobseine joined the 125<sup>th</sup> Special Tactics Squadron Air National Guard unit in Portland, Oregon.



SSgt Polly-Jan Bobseine

The Safeside Association selected SSgt Bobseine as its first ever recipient of the Sgt Major Bob Frink Award for the 820<sup>th</sup> Base Defense Group.

Unfortunately by the time the Safeside Association held its reunion at Val-

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Cont'd on Page 3)

## Connected Around The Globe

*SAFESIDE members are connected around the GLOBE.*

*The Safeside motto is, "Joined to Fight." We will take the fight to the enemy, wherever they are. We were there, in Vietnam. We were there in*

*Iraq. We were there in Afghanistan. Our message to the bad guys is, "you can run but you can't hide. We joined to fight."*



***“We have now started the process of accepting membership dues via PayPal. We hope to have PayPal implemented by the time this Newsletter is published.”***



My Safeside Brothers, and Sisters;

It has been a while since my last message to you and it seems time is moving on so quickly! It is hard to believe it has been so long since I left Vietnam. I departed for RVN on 31 August 1969 and that is 45 years ago last month. Time stops for no one and seems to fly by for me.

We have a number of things happening with the Association that I would like to discuss.

We recently had our first Safeside Executive Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting at Moody AFB, GA with Safeside Council members from the 820 BDG and their squadrons. We were hosted by Col Kasuda and, as always, the hospitality was outstanding.

The meeting was attended by Gary Jones, Rick Adams, Bill McGraw, myself and the new members of the BOD. New members included, MSgt Matt Howard, TSgt Sandy De La Cruz, SrA Melissa Gonzalez and SSgt Shandi Mikes.

- One of the big issues discussed is why we are not picking up more memberships from our new Safesiders more rapidly. They are filling out the membership information, but not paying the membership dues. The new BOD members stated it was because they do not have or do not write checks. If they pay by credit or debit card, they will be more likely to join.. We have now started the process of

## The Prez Sez...

accepting membership dues via PayPal. We hope to have PayPal implemented by the time this Newsletter is published.

- Speaking of PayPal, we also plan to gradually bring our Safeside BX into this service. This is a little more complicated, without having our own secure server, but we believe we can make it work. We will start with a few items and move forward, slowly. Our goal is to make it easy to order items but to ensure we can protect our customers' information.

- We are also having Rich Nucifora design and produce tan t-shirts with the Safeside logo printed across the chest. Having seen the shirt, I am impressed and I can't wait to purchase them.

- Col Kasuda addressed the meeting and talked about how much the Association should mean to the members of the 820th. He is totally dedicated to Safeside. I also took the opportunity to present Col Kasuda with the Safeside Legacy Award for his tremendous support to our Association. He is a super individual and has moved to the Security Forces Center in San Antonio, TX. He is a dedicated member and we look forward to continuing to work with him in the future.

The meeting was a "super" success. Blending the 820<sup>th</sup> BDG's Safeside Council into the Executive Board of Directors ensures we will hear the voices of the young people, who will carry the Safeside legacy forward.

Sherry and I will be attending the Vietnam Security Police Association (VSPA) reunion in Shreveport, LA on October 8 – 12. The Reunion provides an opportunity to meet and spend time with many, many friends and Vietnam veterans. (Cont'd on Page 3)

I have thoroughly enjoyed each of the reunions I have attended with them. We have several Association members already registered;

Joe Spencer, Jerry Dishman, Gary Jones, David Pierson, Mike Webster, Ray Silhavy and Jimmy Clark. I am really looking forward to spending as much time with them as possible. If I have missed anyone, I am sorry.

I had a great conversation with Col Ross, the new 820<sup>th</sup> BDG/CC a few weeks ago. He has been in the 820<sup>th</sup> BDG previously and is delighted to return. He is also a great supporter of "all things" Safeside and wants to ensure the legacy is maintained and carried forward. He also suggested we have our reunion in April or May 2015. He wants the Reunion to coincide with the return of the 822<sup>nd</sup> BDS, in order for us to see how they welcome home the troops. That would be a special treat for us and I really hope we can work it out. Pete and I will begin working the reunion as quickly as we have a firm date.

Yes, it is almost that time again and I truly love being with all of you at our reunions. I hope this will be our largest one ever and something to build on!

As always, Pete and I encourage each of you to contact us if we can be of assistance to any of you. We truly hold these positions to be of service to you and to ensure the and ensure that the Association is continuing to maintain our legacy and traditions.

As many of you know, we have many members who are suffering from medical problems and may be in bad health. Please, let's keep our Brothers and Sisters in our thoughts and prayers. After all these years, we all still stand together and need to be there for each other. Take care and I hope to see you at the 2015 reunion at Valdosta, GA!

Jerry Nelson, President  
"Joined to Fight"

**Breaking  
News...  
2015 Safeside  
Reunion  
tentatively  
scheduled for  
9-11 April 2015**

## Bobseine (Cont'd from Page 1)

Unfortunately by the time the Safeside Association held its reunion at Valdosta Sergeant Bobseine had already discharged.

Attempts to locate her failed.

Then, Colonel (Ret) JD Decknick joined the Association and, through several discussions, we learned he was in contact with Polly's parents. The rest is history. We found her in Washing-

ton State, 45 minutes travel from Pete Villarreal's daughter's residence. Arrangements were made to meet the family of Polly and in June when Pete and Gloria visited their daughters in Washington State, Pete and Gloria met with Polly, David and Ruger.

Polly owns Cross Fit North Pacific, and currently resides in Washington State where she lives with her husband, David Albright,

and son, Ruger. Here recently Polly gave birth to their second son, named Griffin Oliver.

Congratulations to Polly for being an outstanding airman. Sergeant Major Bob Frink would have been proud of this young lady's accomplishments.

Joined to Fight!

**"While serving in the 823<sup>rd</sup> SFS, Bobseine served 4 tours in Iraq and completed Army Airborne, Air Assault, and Air Force Close Precision Engagement."**

## Meet the Boss—by Colonel (Ret.) John D. Decknick

Welcome back Colonel Mike Ross, and your lovely wife Mandy, to the 820th Base Defense Group and Moody Air Force Base GA. Colonel Ross recently took command of the group from Colonel Paul Kasuda, and marked yet another milestone on a great career.

First of all, farewell to Colonel Paul Kasuda. We will miss your leadership and friendship, and your stalwart sponsorship of the SAFESIDE Association. We wish you and your family the best in the future, and God's speed. Paul and I were deployed to the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group in Balad, Iraq. His leadership was critical to our unit's success in combat ops against a determined enemy, and was also evident in his leadership of the 820th. A true AF warrior is headed out to other challenges, and we will always be grateful to you for your support.

I also had the pleasure of working with Mike when he was the deputy commander for the then 820th Security Forces Group in 2004-2006. Mike was born to command the 820<sup>th</sup>; this fact was evident to me back in 2005. It's a

great day for our "tip of the spear warfighters" to have a combat tested and proven, alumni of the 820th at the lead. Mike left the 820th and went to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as the Provost Marshall; then he commanded the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron in combat in Iraq, commanded the 48th Security Forces Squadron at Lakenheath, England, then went to War College with the United States Army at Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania, and most recently was deployed as the Director of Force Protection, Headquarters Air Forces Central Command at Al Udeid, Qatar for two years.

I took the following info from Mike's bio: "Mike enlisted in the USAF Reserves as a Crew Chief in 1986 while attending the University of Washington. Commissioned in 1990, he came on active duty in April 1991 and is a career Security Forces officer. He has commanded two Security Forces Squadrons in combat, and two main base Security Forces Squadrons."

What isn't readily evident from the written word, is Mike's passion for the 820<sup>th</sup>; in our past, present, and future. Mike became well versed in the lessons learned from our brothers in Viet Nam, developed and implemented training to ready the best of the best to deploy in peacetime contingencies and in combat, experienced first-hand our "first to fight" base defense group in Iraq and Afghanistan, and has widespread experience across current military ops. Mike has truly "been there, done it, and gotten multiple t-shirts" with the best our AF, and frankly our joint, combined and interagency warfighters, have to offer.

Welcome back Mike and Mandy! You always told me it was your dream to command the 820th. It's obvious that dreams can come true! Congrats!



*“Welcome back Mike and Mandy! You always told me it was your dream to command the 820th. It’s obvious that dreams can come*



## Welcome New Commander!—by Col. Ross Commander 820th

Safeside,

Col (Ret) JD Decknick is exactly right when he says I got my dream job...I’ve been telling everyone who has sat in this seat since ’06 to keep it warm for me.

Wow, I am humbled to be amongst that crowd. I’ve been here since the end of June, and I still feel like I am getting started. I have big plans for the Group, but we can talk about those when you all come out for the reunion. As for that, I’d like to take the dinner back a couple of years to the Combat Dining Out style of event. Meat, potatoes, and Grog. Ahh, nothing like crawling through mud and jello with 300 of your best friends, old and new. Not to mention the water cannons... anybody remember the reunion we did in ’04 here? That was a wet time...

The men and women in the Group today are as impressive as always. They are training hard, deploying to some not-

very-nice neighborhoods, and bringing home honors every time. We are currently conducting a RIP/TOA between the 822 and 824 downrange, and the 823 is On Call. Situation normal...

Chief Artie Pearson and I had the opportunity to visit the 105 BDS recently. As you know, our NY ANG brothers and sisters are an integral part of this unit. They add incredible experience and dedication to the fight. In fact, our visit coincided with a memorial unveiling for *TJ Lobraico* who gave everything last September. The dedication was attended by Family, Squadron Mates, Squadron and Group Commanders, the Wing Commander, a BG from the TAG office, and SF from the ANG Bureau. It was awesome, but not in the overused meaning of that word. I mean, I was in awe of his dedication, the tight-knit family/team the 105 BDS is, and the support we get from them. They are Joined

to Fight.

Speaking of “Joined,” I have asked for a push for membership. This Association represents the sharpest part of our career field. Being a current member of the 820 BDG or a SAFESIDE alumnus is something to be proud of—I don’t think I will have to “sell” the idea, just need to get the word out. Though the rest of the Air Force SF community deploys and does very similar missions, they do not have the legacy, or the mindset of our Airmen. We are dedicated to training on all things combat. We are ready to go. We are Joined to Fight.

I am proud and honored to be back to the 820th and SAFESIDE; this is home. And with a lifetime membership, I’ll never “leave” again. Huah!

Col Mike Ross  
Commander

## VP Pete's Column — by Pete Villarreal



Vice President Villarreal models new desert tan t-shirt

We have received word that our 2015 Safeside Reunion will be held sometime during the weekend of April 10. We will work on an agenda and provide everybody a copy so that appropriate plans can be made. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at this reunion. The reunions are held at Moody AFB so that we can interface with the new Safesiders, and encourage them to become members.

As the President mentioned, efforts are finally in place to implement Pay Pal for membership and for BX items. This should improve our application process, please take advantage of this service to apply or renew your membership.

President Nelson, myself and our wives just returned from paying respect to our beloved member, Major (Ret) Horace Reibe, in San Angelo, Tx. He always attended the 822<sup>nd</sup> Combat Dining Outs, and Safeside Reunions. He was a dear friend and will be sorely missed. Photos of the service will be in our next newsletter.

Elections for all positions will be held in 2015. All board positions will be open.

Election will take place at the reunion, so candidates should be present. Please notify me should you be interested in *any office*.

At the request of our Safesiders at Moody AFB we had a new shirt developed. I'm featured wearing the first one out of production. They are available for \$13 by contacting Rich Nucifora (821st CSP) at (203) 874-5448. Mention my name for a discount.

We always have a golf tournament at Moody AFB to kick off the reunion. Teams are made up of Vietnam War veterans with the new Safesiders at Moody AFB. Prizes are presented to the lowest scores, closes to the pin, etc. Regardless of who wins, it is always a blast to play with the young troops. Plan on signing up for the golf tournament.

That's all for now. We always pray for you and your families, and always keep those that paid the the ultimate price in our hearts.

Hooah!  
Joined to Fight!

Pete Villarreal

## Outstanding 820th Members! Annual Award Winners

### CONGRADULATIONS!

**Outstanding Security Forces Company Grade Officer:** Capt Daniel Evans - 824 BDS

**Outstanding Security Forces Flight-Level SNCO:** MSgt Michael Murphy - 822 BDS

**Outstanding Security Forces Flight-Level NCO:** SSgt Michael Eckert - 822 BDS

**Outstanding Security Forces Flight-Level Airman:** SrA Corey J. McGlynn - 823 BDS

**Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff SNCO:** MSgt Kelly Phipps - 820 COS

**Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff NCO:** TSgt Jeremy Burkeen - 823 BDS

**Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff Airman:** SrA Charles Valcarcel - 823 BDS

**Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff Civilian:** Mr. Joseph Sandley - 820 COS

**Colonel Billy Jack Carter Award:** TSgt Melvin Hunt - 823 BDS (This award goes to the individual judged to have made the most significant contribution to protecting AF personnel or resources)

**A1C Elizabeth N. Jacobson Award for Expeditionary Excellence:** SrA Timothy Lott - 823 BDS (This award formally recognizes the outstanding accomplishments and war fighting contributions of our youngest warriors, while in an expeditionary environment)

### Bridging the Gap Between Generations by Don Howard

**Editor's Note:** When Moody's Safeside warfighters deploy, the Safeside Association contacts Commanders and First Sergeants and offers to "adopt" deployed members. The Association Member maintains contact with the "adoptee" during the deployment, through snail mail, e-mail, social media, Skype, etc. The Association Member usually sends the deployed airman "Care Packages," containing health and comfort or entertainment items, to make the deployment easier.



**"It's been a great pleasure to become acquainted with Don. Through the deployment Don and I talked and shared stories frequently."**

The article below represents a dialog between Don Howard, a Vietnam war veteran, from the 823rd Combat Security Police Squadron and Christian "CJ" Bolander, 823rd Base Defense Squadron, deployed to Afghanistan.

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"It was with great honor to support your email dated August 18, 2013 relative to the 823rd Defense Squadron deployed to Afghanistan and adopting a fellow U.S. Air Force Security service person – Christian Bolander."

I contacted Christian via email and we stayed in communication throughout his deployment and return to the United States via: email, Facebook chats and posts.

In November through our chats, I made contact with Brian Bolander (Christian's father) via Facebook and we had great dialog between each other. Brian mention Christian went by his name "CJ" and they were from Burlington, Iowa. Brian was in the Air Force and in our chats he quoted to me about CJ, "I am very proud of him too - he had exceeded any expectations I have had for him".

My wife (Kathy) and I had a great time preparing a gift box for Christian and sending same to Afghanistan. All of the items came from a Walgreens store in Racine, WI., where the store manager gave us his discounted employee price, due to knowing what we were purchasing and where the items were going.

We are hoping someday that we may meet each other at our condo at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri and spend some time fishing and building our relationship as a fellow U.S. Air Force comrade.

I'm very proud of Christian for serving our country and we need more men/women of this caliber for the future of America. May God Bless ALL U.S. Armed Forces of this Great Nation.

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The following text is from Christian: "It's been a great pleasure to become acquainted with Don. Through the deployment Don and I talked and shared stories frequently. As the end approached I received some well needed care packages (It's funny how a previous "deployer" knows exactly what you need). The conversations and stories continued. They still continue to grow to this day. I look forward to building a friendship with Don".

Respect,  
SrA Christian Bolander,  
823d BDS, 820th BDG, 93d AGOW



< Don Howard  
823rd Combat Security Police Sq  
Christian "CJ" Bolander, >  
823rd Base Defense Sq



### “The Boss” Entertains Vets

*Washington (AFP) - A galaxy of big-name rock, pop and country artists, from Rihanna to Carrie Underwood, will honor members of the US military at a Veterans Day outdoor concert in Washington, organizers said Friday.*

*Bruce Springsteen, Rihanna, Eminem, Dave Grohl, Metallica, Underwood and the Zac*

*Brown Band are among the acts lined up for the Concert for Valor on November 11.*

*Pay TV channel HBO said it would telecast the event live -- and without charge to viewers -- from the National Mall.*

*Also appearing will be Hollywood A-listers Meryl Streep, Tom*

*Hanks and Steven Spielberg, "among many others," organizers HBO and Starbucks said in a statement.*

*Veterans Day in the United States marks the anniversary of the end of World War I.*

*If you are going to be in the Washington area during Veteran's Day, don't miss this.*



**Bruce “The Boss” Springsteen will entertain military members and veterans at the “Concert for Valor,” on Veteran’s Day, on The National Mall, Washington, DC**



**Safesiders take the fight to the enemy.**



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### The Mission

*Our mission is to promote camaraderie between Air Force units of the Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan wars: to promote and preserve the legacy of the Air Force's only self-sustaining ground combat units.*

*Our Association brings current and former members of Operation Safeside, Operation Desert Safeside and other Safeside units together, with our common bond.*

*Join our Association today. To become a member, go to [www.safesideassociation.org/members](http://www.safesideassociation.org/members) or contact your Safeside Council representative.*

### Washing The Wall



Ray Silhavy (Left) and Gary Jones (Right), both 822nd Combat Security Police Squadron, wash the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Washington, D.C., 30 Aug 2014. In the center, is Steve Gattis, President Emeritus, Vietnam Security Police

Association.

AP/SP Vietnam Vets travel from across the country to participate. Ray flew in from Houston; Steve, from Dallas and Gary drove, from Charleston, SC.

### The Safeside BX is open.

*The Safeside BX is your place to shop for Safeside memorabilia.*

*No dress code, here. Come as you are. Need Challenge coins? We got 'em. Need hats, t-shirts, jackets? We got 'em. How about a beautiful brass belt buckle, like the one shown here? We got 'em. You can't go boot scootin' without a fancy belt-buckle.*



*Find your BX at our web site, [www.safesideassociation.org/bx](http://www.safesideassociation.org/bx)*

*We will soon accept PayPal for most purchases.*