

JOINED TO FIGHT

- The “Teams” virtual SAFESIDE State of the Union Address meeting was called to order at 2000 hrs Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, 23 Mar 2020 by Mr. Derry.
- 15 x SAFESIDE Association Members dialed into the meeting.
- Transcript of the meeting follows:
- Welcome and thank you very much for your participation. We have a 1-hour window to conduct our business tonight which includes questions and answers. For the SAFESIDE Association Member not able to join us on the call tonight we will be sending out minutes of all subjects covered.
- **Goal of the SAFESIDE Association State of the Union Address:** The goal of our meeting is to discuss the status of our Association, introduce you to new Executive Committee and Board Members, follow-up on old business, discuss priorities and goals, update you on new business, discuss reunion plans, and most importantly to answer any questions you may have. Another reason for this meeting is because we had to cancel the SAFESIDE Reunion scheduled for next month at Moody because of COVID-19 restrictions and I didn't want to wait to September to update you all.
- **Introduction**
 - My Safeside Brothers and Sisters! I hope you and your families are well. It's been a rough couple of years dealing with the Pandemic and all our lives were affected by COVID in one way, shape, or form. Unfortunately, because of the Pandemic we have not been able to get together as an Association as frequently as we have in the past; however, hopefully things are changing, and we all will be back to normal sooner rather than later and we can get everything back on track regarding our Association.
 - I'm very honored to be your new President of the Safeside Association. I was voted in last year by our Board of Directors and started my three-year term on 1 Oct 21. It is with pride and humility that I begin to serve my term as your president. I would also like to introduce you to my wife Daylen (or better known as Day). She will be by my side and will be a great point of contact for any of your spouses, significant others, or any family members.

- Our previous President, Paul Kasuda and all the SAFESIDE Board members before him have done an outstanding job of building a supportive, civil, and nurturing environment for those of us who share the bond of having served in our great nation and organization. I'm excited to have the opportunity to help the Safeside Association continue along that same path. I don't want to change the Safeside Association; I want to keep growing it by making the same kinds of constant improvements others have made since the Association was first formed.
- I would be remiss if I didn't thank and recognize SMSgt (Retired) Bobby LeFever who was our previous Vice President. His dedication and leadership the last couple of years to the Association has been phenomenal...thank you Bobby for everything you have done and continue to do. Thank you personally for being my mentor, confidant, advisor, and sounding board over the years.
- I would also like to recognize our Vietnam Era Association Members who are too many to mention that continue to serve and assist the Association in all capacities. Thank you all! Thank you for leading the way!
- I would like to introduce our Board Members at this time for those of you who don't know who they are or are new to the Association. We will be sending out a roster shortly of all Board Members if you would like to get in touch with any of us. See attachment 1.
 - **The SAFESIDE Executive Committee:**
 - Don "The Ranger" Derry - President
 - Hamish Stewart-Smith – Vice President
 - Robert Renfrow – Secretary
 - Ray Silhavy – Treasurer
 - Scott Shea – Membership Chairman
 - **The SAFESIDE Board of Directors** consist of the follow Association members:
 - Marcus Smith – Historian
 - Gary Jones – Webmaster
 - Dave & Kathy Pierson – BX Managers
 - Bill McGraw – SAFESIDE VA Advisor
 - Glenn Hopson – 821 CSPA Representative
 - JB McGuire– 822 CSPA Co-Representative

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- Dan Goodell – 822 CSPS Co-Representative & Safesider Heritage Facebook Administrator
- Lyle Brakob – 823 CSPS Representative
- Timothy Gallagher – 820 COS Representative
- Jeremy Rowland - 822 SFS/BDS Representative
- Jeremy Bratcher - 823 SFS/BDS Representative
- Daniel Rivera – 105 SFS/BDS Representative

NOTE: Gloria Villarreal - SAFESIDE Chaplain

- Thanks to the leadership team from the 820 BDG
 - Current Commander: Col Derrick “D-Dub” Weyand he will be retiring this summer but will be staying in the Valdosta area
 - In-Coming Commander: Ranger Col Walter “Joe” Sorensen, former 820th Alum
 - Thank you to all the Squadron Commanders, Chiefs, Officers, and Enlisted. Without your support our association will wane. You are the future of the SAFESIDE Association, and we are very proud of you all for caring the torch forward.
- **State of the Association**
 - The State of the Association is STRONG
 - Membership brief by Scott Shea – See Attachment 2.
 - Finances brief by Ray Silhvay
- **New business**
 - **Priorities and Goals:**
 - My highest priority is to keep improving services and communication to all past, present, and future members. Additionally, I want to acknowledge and incorporate our spouses, families, and significant others in everything that we do within the SAFESIDE Association.
 - **My Short-Term Goals** are: 1: To contact 100% of the 1997 820th SFG Plankholders and encourage them to join and attend the SAFESIDE Association reunion in September 2022 at Moody AFB. 2: Add 10 x new lifetime members, add 50 x new annual members by the end of calendar year 2022. 3: Dedicate the SAFESIDE Memorial Bench at Moody AFB at the September 2022 SAFESIDE Reunion.

- **My Long-Term Goal** is to add to our ranks more Active-duty, Air National Guard, and Reserve troops which includes previous personnel in all the units across all Air Force specialties to include the individuals associated with the seven flights that came together to form provisional squadrons when the 820 SFG Headquarters element first deployed to contingency operations starting in 1997. It is my desire to encourage and nurture members to get together whenever possible, to embrace our history and heritage, and to keep our association active and viable.
- **Board of Directors Monthly “Teams” Meeting** is another new event that we have incorporated into the Associations battle rhythm. This is a great way to stay in contact with board members and discuss any old or new business or provide any status updates. Any members of the Association are invited to participate in this meeting; however, only board members are eligible to vote. If you are interested in attending a “Teams” meeting contact Hamish, our VP and he will send you an invite.
- **SAFESIDE Reunion:** The reunion is scheduled for Tuesday, 13 – Thursday, 15 September 2022 at Moody AFB, Valdosta Georgia. Travel day are Monday, 12 September and Friday, 16 September 2022. More information and details will be found on our SAFESIDE Association Website shortly.
- **Memorial Bench:** I am very proud to announce that your previous Board of Directors voted unanimously to plan, design and fund a SAFESIDE Memorial Bench at the 820th Base Defense Group at Moody AFB. The bench will represent all units associated with SAFESIDE. It will be built on the grounds of the current 820 BDG Memorial.
 - The bench will be identical to the SAFESIDE Memorial Bench, at The Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. This endeavor will cost the Association approximately \$5,000. We solicit your help to build this lasting monument to all our service in the defense of our country. You may donate by going to our SAFESIDE Website. You may also donate by check. Send checks to our Treasurer, Ray Silhavy, make your check payable to Operation SAFESIDE, Inc. Annotate the memo section with "SAFESIDE Bench Donation". With your help, we hope to complete construction of our bench in the next couple of months. We will dedicate the bench at the SAFESIDE Reunion in September.

- Jerry Nelson has spearheaded this effort and I am very thankful for everything he has done and continues to do for this project.
 - **By-Laws Refresh:** It's been years since we have reviewed and updated our By-Laws, therefore, I have appointed Paul Kasuda to scrub the existing By-Laws and to update them accordingly. Once the Draft By-Laws have been approved by the Board of Directors, we will publish them to our website for your reading pleasure.
 - **Emeritus Status for former Presidents & Vice Presidents:** The SAFESIDE Board of Directors voted on and approved Emeritus Status for former deserving Association Presidents and VPs. These individuals will be special advisors to the SAFESIDE Association Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Most recently the board voted in Jerry Nelson as President Emeritus and Pete Villarreal as Vice President Emeritus. Thank you very much gentlemen for your years of, and continues service to our Association. I don't know what I would do without your tutelage and guidance. You are true warrior leaders.
 - **Honorary SAFESIDE Member:** In September of 2021 the Board of Directors voted in Mr. Chris Hancock as an Honorary SAFESIDE Member. Chris is the owners of Kel-Lac Tactical in San Antonio, Texas. Kel-Lac is an individual equipment provider to military member's worldwide since 1951. Chris has been an avid supporter to the SAFESIDE Association for many many years and are thankful for everything he does for our organization.
 - **Monetary assistance for five 822nd BDG troops** who assisted the family of TSgt Nevin Tauchus when he passed away.
 - TSgt Tauchus, 31 passed away on 26 Nov 21 at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. He was an Active-Duty Squad Leader assigned to the 822 BDS. He died from complications from COVID-19. He left behind his wife Nikki and children Tegan, Kanin, and Grady.
 - The SAFESIDE Board voted to financially reimburse \$200 each (\$1,000 total) for out-of-pocket expenses for five Airman assigned to the 822 BDS who aided his family while they were in San Antonio.
- **What we need from our current members:**
- **Survey:** In the near future the Board of Directors will be sending out via e-mail a survey to all members. The survey's intent is to ensure the SAFESIDE Association

is vibrant, relevant and an important part of your life. We will be listening to your responses and use them to keep making our association strong and valuable to you for years to come. Your comments matter!

- **New Ideas:** We want your ideas on how to make our Association better, viable, and more attractive for current and future members. If you have any ideas on how to operate more effectively, more efficiently or to just promote the camaraderie of the SAFESIDE Association, please share your ideas with any of us the Board of Directors.
- **Participation:** Keep participating and stay involved. Continue to recruit especially our young active duty and guard troops, past and present; moreover, support our organization in any way you can.
- **SAFESIDE BX:** Continue to support our BX and spread the word about all items available on-line.
- **Volunteers:** We Need Volunteers for the following positions:
 - Webmaster
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Social Networking Administrator (New position still pending BOD approval)
 - 1041 SPS(T) Representative
 - 820 SFG/BDG Representative
 - 824 SFS/BDS Representative

Please contact a SAFESIDE Board Member if you would like to volunteer for any of these positions. If anyone from any of those units (past or present) wish to volunteer for these positions let us know! We need your assistance!

- **Award Nominations:** We are looking for Awards nominations for current BDG, previous 820th, and from the Vietnam Era Association members for the September reunion. More information about specific awards will be sent out shortly. Start thinking about nominating deserving individuals.
- **Contact Information:** Please keep your contact information up to date. Our primary way to contact members is by e-mail and or Facebook. If you don't have e-mail or a Facebook account, make sure you have a good phone number so we can contact you either by text or voice. It's my intent to establish connectivity via

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Instagram as well soon. Please send new or updated information to Scott Shea out Membership Chairman so we can stay in touch with you.

- This concludes my formal remarks. Does anyone have any questions?

Jim Harris: Jim proposed that we have a memorial for the two individuals KIA from SAFESIDE that were killed while serving in Vietnam.

Don Derry Response: I will investigate this request and get back with him.

- **Closing Remarks**

- Hamish and I, and the entire Board of Directors 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 that the Association is continuing to maintain our legacy and traditions.
- It is our honor to serve you and we are extremely excited for what's to come in this next year! Take care and we hope to see you all at the September 2022 reunion in Valdosta!

The meeting concluded at 2100 hrs EST

Meeting Minutes Reviewed and published by Don Derry on 24 Mar 22

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