

SAFESIDE ASSOCIATION

FROM THE PREZ DON DERRY & VICE PREZ HAMISH STEWART-SMITH

November 2021



My SAFESIDE Brothers and Sisters! I'm very honored to be your new President of the SAFESIDE Association. It is with pride and humility that I begin to serve my term as your president. I believe that our previous President, Col (Ret) 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. Thank you Paul for your leadership and guidance over the years. 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.

My highest priorities are to keep improving services and communicate to all past, present, and future members associated with the following units:

1041 SPS (T), 82 CSPW, 821 CSPS, 822 CSPS, 823 CSPS, 820 SFG, the individuals associated with the seven flights that came together to form a squadron when the HQ team deployed for contingencies from Eglin AFB, Lackland AFB, Davis-Monthan AFB, McGuire AFB, Vandenberg AFB, Westover Air Reserve Base and El Paso Air National Guard Base. The 822 SFS, 823 SFS, 824 SFS, 105 SFS, 820 COS, 820 BDG, 822 BDS, 823 BDS, 824 BDS, and the 105 BDS.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge and incorporate our spouses, families, and significant others in everything that we do within the association. Without them we are nothing. Nobody else in this world shares our pains and our pride, or our memories and our wounds like we do with each other and our families.

The greatest value of the SAFESIDE Association is in its members. My goal is to add to our ranks with more active-duty and previous troops in all the units and across all Air Force specialties. 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.

I want to thank Hamish Stewart-Smith for stepping up as our new Vice President. Hamish is a dear friend and will be a tremendous asset to our organization. His organizational and leadership skills are

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phenomenal. Hamish is an original 820 SFG "Plank Holder" who joined the 820th when it was stood up at Lackland in 1997. He was the Group's first S-2 Security Forces Intelligence Officer. I would be remiss if I did not thank SMSgt (Ret) Bobby Lefever, for your tremendous support over the last couple of years as our previous Vice President. Hamish has very large shoes to fill.

Additionally, I am very proud to announce that your previous Board of Directors voted unanimously to plan, design and fund a SAFESIDE Bench at the 820th Base Defense Group, Moody AFB, Georgia. 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 at <https://www.SAFESIDEassociation.org>. You may also donate by check. Send checks to our Treasurer, Ray Silhavy, 2834 Red Maple Drive, Katy, TX 77494. **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 later this year or in early 2022. We will dedicate the bench at the SAFESIDE Reunion in April of 2022.

As your President the last thing I want you to do is spend valuable time trying to figure out who I am and what my command philosophy is. Therefore, I have included a biography snapshot so you all can see:

I was born in 1963 and raised in Colchester, Vermont. I graduated from Colchester High School in 1981. I was very active as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, and I obtained my Private Pilot License at the age of 17. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1982 and served as a Staff Support Admin Specialist (AFSC: 702XOB) in the Vermont Air National Guard. I received my commission through Air Force ROTC at Norwich University, The Military College of Vermont in Northfield, Vermont, in 1985. While attending Norwich I was selected to attend U.S. Army Airborne School at Ft Benning, Georgia. I began my Air Force officer career as a pilot candidate then later as a Security Police Shift Commander at Nellis AFB, Nevada. While at Nellis, I attended U.S. Army Ranger School at Ft Benning, Georgia in 1988.

In 1992, I graduated from the Royal Air Force Regiment Junior Officer Course and subsequently served as a Royal Air Force Regiment Exchange Officer at RAF Catterick and RAF Honington, United Kingdom. I was lucky enough to be the first USAF Security Police Exchange Officer to serve as the Air Adjutant for II Squadron (Airborne) within the RAF Regiment.

In 1996 Brig Gen (Ret) Richard Coleman and Col (Ret) Larry Buckingham asked me to lead a Tiger Team to develop and design a multi-functional AFSC model force protection unit for air base ground defense better suited to the task than existing Security Police units. This unit would become the 820th Security Forces Group and was stood up at Lackland AFB on 17 March 1997. I was lucky enough to be the first S-3 Operations Officer of this new organization.

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In 2000 I was selected to be the first Commander of the 822 Security Forces Squadron at Moody AFB, Georgia. In 2008 I was selected to command the 820th Security Forces Group which proved to be the highlight of my 30-year career.

I retired as the Chief, Security Forces Division, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii in 2012. I am currently the Deputy Division Chief for the CCJ34 Joint Security Division, CCJ3 Operations Directorate, HQ USCENTCOM, MacDill AFB, Florida. I assist the Director, Joint Security Division, in providing requisite Antiterrorism and Force Protection strategic and operational planning as directed by HQ USCENTCOM within its 21 Country Area of Responsibility.

I am married to Daylen Derry and have five children: Robbie (22), Trevor (21), Leannah (20), Pauline (19) and Aria (2). We live in Valrico, Florida.

EDUCATION

1985 Bachelor of Arts in History, Norwich University, Northfield, VT

1991 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL

1999 Master of Arts in Security Management, Webster University, St. Louis, MO

2000 United States Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS

2005 Master of Arts in Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

1. August 1986 - February 1988, Shift Commander, 554th Security Police Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV
2. March 1988 - February 1989, Desert Warfare Instructor, 4554th Ground Combat Training Squadron, Silver Flag Alpha, Nellis AFB, NV
3. March 1989 - October 1991, Air Force Officer in Charge of Level IV, 3287th Technical Training Squadron and U.S. Army Company Commander, Company C, Air Base Ground Defense Command, Ft. Dix, NJ
4. January 1992 - May 1995, Royal Air Force Regiment Exchange Officer, Officer in Charge and Syndicate Officer Instructor for the Junior Regiment Officers Course, Air Adjutant, No. II Field Squadron (Airborne), and Course Commander, Officer Commanding, Basic Training Flight, Regimental Training Squadron (Basic), RAF Catterick and RAF Honington, United Kingdom
5. June 1995 - April 1997 - Chief, Program Management Division, Directorate of Corrections, HQ Air Force Security Police Agency, Kirtland AFB, NM
6. May 1997 - May 1999 - Operations Officer, 820th Security Forces Group, Lackland AFB, TX
7. June 1999 - June 2000 - Student, United States Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS
8. June 2000 - September 2002 - Commander, 822d Security Forces Squadron, Moody AFB, GA
9. October 2002 - May 2004, Commander, 15th Security Forces Squadron, Hickam AFB, HI
10. August 2004 - May 2005, Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL
11. June 2005 - May 2006, Branch Chief, Risk Assessments Branch, Deputy Director of Operations for Force Protection, HQ USCENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL
12. June 2006 to March 2008, Chief, Force Protection Division, Joint Security Office, HQ USCENTCOM,

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MacDill AFB, FL

13. April 2008 – June 2010, Commander, 820th Security Forces Group, Moody AFB, GA

14. June 2010 – June 2011, Director, Force Protection, HQ USAFCENT, Al Udeid AB, Qatar

15. July 2011 – July 2012 Chief, PACAF Security Forces Division, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI

16. July 2012 – December 2020, USAF Civilian, Senior Antiterrorism and Force Protection Analyst and Deputy Branch Chief, GS-13, Operations Branch, CCJ3 Operations Directorate, Force Protection Division, HQ USCENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL

17. December 2020 – Present – USAF Civilian, Deputy Division Chief, GS-14, CCJ34 Joint Security Division, CCJ3 Operations Directorate, HQ USCENTCOM, MacDill AFB, FL

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster

Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Combat Readiness Medal with oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal with one device

Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War On Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Awards include the Basic Administration Functional Badge, Master Force Protection Functional Badge, U.S. Army Basic Parachutist Badge, Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia, Royal Air Force Regiment Shoulder Guards, British Parachutist Wings, and the coveted U.S. Army Ranger Tab.

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant - October 20, 1985

First Lieutenant - October 20, 1987

Captain - October 20, 1989

Major - August 1, 1997

Lieutenant Colonel - January 1, 2002

Colonel - June 1, 2007

GS-13 – July 6, 2012

GS-14 – December 20, 2020

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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 on the SAFESIDE Association Board of Directors.

As many of you know, we have many members who are suffering from medical problems and may be in bad health. Let's keep our brothers and sisters in our thoughts and prayers. In the words of President Emeritus Jerry Nelson: "Over all these years, we all must stand together and need to be there for each other."

Hamish 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 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 April 2022 reunion in Valdosta! More detailed reunion information will follow.

Feel free to contact me at: dtrderry@gmail.com (813) 777-3367 or Hamish at: Hamish.stewartsmith@gmail.com (610) 246-7778

Very Respectfully,

Don "The Ranger" Derry, President & Hamish Stewart-Smith, Vice President

"JOINED TO FIGHT"