

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION AFTER-ACTION REPORT

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The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Executive Services Directorate, Directives Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-3100 (0704-0499). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM AS DIRECTED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please file an After-Action Report no later than 30 days after your event is complete. Your information will help other organizations in their planning of commemorative events. We encourage you to share your photos and articles of the events on the Commemorative Partner Portal on our Commemoration website to show other Vietnam veterans from around the United States how you recognized their service to our country. Submit reports using one of the following four preferred methods:

1. Through the Commemorative Partner Portal online: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/login> (preferred)
2. Email to: WHS.VNWar50th_CPP_EVENTS@mail.mil
3. Fax to: 703-692-4691
4. U.S. Mail to: The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration
Attn: Events Team Chief
1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 810
Arlington, VA 22209

FOR EACH EVENT, PLEASE SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING:

1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION: The EC-47 History Site		2. NAME OF EVENT: Elks Lodge #1880 Tribute to Vietnam War-era Veterans	
3. ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION:			
a. STREET ADDRESS: 4213 Green Meadow Drive	b. CITY: San Angelo	c. STATE: TX	d. ZIP CODE: 76904
4. LOCATION OF EVENT <i>(Site name; e.g., The Pentagon)</i> Elks Lodge #1880 2121 S. Chadbourne Street	5. START DATE OF EVENT <i>(DDMMYYYY):</i> 07112015	6. END DATE OF EVENT <i>(DDMMYYYY):</i> 13112015	
7. ACTUAL ATTENDANCE 300	8. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERANS WERE PRESENT? 40	9. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS WERE PRESENT? 35	

10. SUMMARY: *(Include the following information and anything else you would want other Commemorative Partners to know, such as: Was your event a success? How were your objectives fulfilled? Were there any issues that came up? Any media coverage? List any helpful suggestions or changes for future and lessons learned. Attach additional pages as necessary.)*

This VWC event was hosted by Elks Lodge #1880 in San Angelo, Texas, an EC-47 History Site VWC Partner Program committee member. The Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) and The EC-47 History Site representatives supported this event. Organization representatives set up the VWC banner, organization posters, and a materials display table. The Elks Lodge provided all of the required space and seating in their entry dining room and lounge area. Following the San Angelo Veteran's Day parade downtown at 10am, the Elks Lodge hosted three-hundred guests to a free, picnic-style meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, desserts and drinks. The Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler, retired U.S. Air Force veteran Gary Jackson, opened the VWC ceremony at 1pm with a welcome to all veterans of all services and their families. He introduced the guest speaker, retired U.S. Air Force veteran, Tom Nurre, who delivered prepared comments that emphasized the origin of Veterans Day celebrations and the Vietnam War Commemoration Partner Program Committee and its work in the Concho Valley. Nurre also told about the on-going veterans recognition programs being run by the Angelo State University library and history departments, and encouraged all veterans and their family members to participate by having their veteran service related photos, documents, and other artifacts copied and recorded by the university. He also encouraged them to participate in the oral history initiatives at the university. After describing the design and significance of the VWC lapel pin, Nurre invited all Vietnam War-era veterans forward to receive a VWC lapel pin and Heritage Chapter Certificate of Honor. Committee representatives Jackson, Graham and Bendinelli made the presentation. We underestimated the expected number of Vietnam War-era veteran attendees and did not have enough lapel pins immediately available. We have since contacted all the individual veterans not receiving their lapel pin immediately and made individual special presentations. See attached photos of the November 7th main event and make-up presentations on the morning and evening of November 13th. The totals in this report include all events.

This was a successful event. The Elks Lodge provided the facility, the food, and publicity for this event. The three cooperating organizations welcomed all veterans, set up the VWC displays, took photos. . .and did an overall wonderful job of recognizing and thanking veterans and their families for their service, valor and sacrifices. Vietnam War-era veterans were especially appreciative of the attention they were given. The weather was great for the parade and the rest of the day. The Elks Lodge was convenient to get to and well set up to handle the large crowd. Meal service was well organized and the serving line moved quickly. . .the food was wonderful. Veterans and their families reviewed all the organization posters, took advantage of all the VWC materials, and especially liked the lapel pin presentation ceremony.

11. MATERIALS ACTUALLY USED: *(For each category of materials below, subtract the amount remaining from what was sent to you.)*

(1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE	(2) QUANTITY	(1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE	(2) QUANTITY
Brochures	75	Stickers: Eagle	0
Tin Pin: Eagle	0	Stickers: Seal	25
Tin Pin: Seal	50	Stickers: Flag	25
Tin Pin: Vietnam Veterans	20	Presidential Proclamations	0
Bumper Stickers	25	Other: Lapel Pins	38



November 13, 2015: Elks Lodge #1880 Exalted Ruler, MSgt (R) Gary Jackson, welcomes Vietnam War-era veterans and their families to a Vietnam War Commemorative Partners Program pinning ceremony. This event was in addition to the huge Veterans Day program held at the lodge on November 7, 2015.

(L-R): CMSgt (R) Ed Bendinelli, vice-president of the Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA); Gary Jackson. Photos by: Larry Ross



November 7/13, 2015: Elks Lodge #1880 - Chairman of the EC-47 History Site and guest speaker, CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre, made welcome remarks and explained the purpose of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War Partners Program committee organized in San Angelo, Texas. Posters from The EC-47 History Site, Elks Lodge #1880, and Heritage Chapter - FTVA, all active members of the committee, are displayed. A poster of the commemorative lapel pin Fact Sheet is also displayed. Photo by: Larry Ross





Above Photo: November 13, 2015: Elks Lodge #1880 Exalted Ruler, MSgt (R) Gary Jackson presents VWC lapel pin to Vietnam War-era veteran Allen Culver. Heritage Chapter vice-president, CMSgt (R) Ed Bendinelli pins veteran Harry Thomas. Left Photo: CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre presents Allen Culver the EC-47 History Exhibit challenge coin. This was a follow-up ceremony to present lapel pins to those veterans missed at the huge Veterans Day recognition ceremony and picnic held at the lodge on November 7, 2015. Photos by: SMSgt (R) Larry Ross, Heritage Chapter secretary/treasurer.



November 13, 2015: Heritage Chapter president JJ Graham, Heritage Chapter vice-president Ed Bendinelli, and Elks Lodge 1880 Exalted Ruler Gary Jackson presented Certificates of Honor and commemorative lapel pins to Vietnam War-era veterans Bob Jordan and Robert Byerly. L-R: Graham, Bendinelli, Jordan, Jackson & Byerly.



November 13, 2015: Heritage Chapter vice-president Ed Bendinelli congratulates Elks Lodge Vietnam Veteran Harry Thomas after presenting him the Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pin and chapter Certificate of Honor. L-R: Thomas, Bendinelli. Photo by: Larry Ross.



Photo above left: Gary Jackson congratulates Robert Byerly after presenting him the commemorative lapel pin. Photo above right: JJ Graham congratulated Robert Byerly after presenting him the Certificate of Honor. Photo below left: Ed Bendinelli presents Ken Bransdorf the commemorative lapel pin while JJ Graham awaits to present the Certificate of Honor. Photo below right: Bendinelli congratulates Bransdorf. Photos by: Larry Ross.



November 7, 2015: At the Elks Lodge #1880 Vietnam Veterans Day cookout and recognition ceremony, Heritage Chapter vice-president Ed Bendinelli presents a Vietnam Veterans Commemorative lapel pin to Bill Martin. Right photo: Bendinelli and Martin. Below photo: Vietnam Veterans pose with their Certificates of Honor presented by the Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association. The Elks Lodge and Heritage Chapter are active members of the EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program committee. L-R: Ralph Hines, Bendinelli, Bill Martin.

Photo by: Family.





November 13, 2015: Five Vietnam War-era veterans hosted to the Veterans Day cookout and pinning ceremony on November 7th who had not received their commemorative pins, and the CPP presenters: L-R: Nurre, Bendinelli, Jackson, Bransdorf, Jordan, Thomas, Culver, Byerly, Graham. Photo by: Larry Ross



Heritage Chapter - FTVA members and co-sponsors of the November 7/13, 2015 VWC ceremony hosted at the Elks Lodge #1880, San Angelo, Texas. L-R: Bendinelli, Nurre, Graham, Ross.

Photo collage of Vietnam War-era veterans, their families and friends gather at the Elks Lodge for the Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony. Photos by: Larry Ross



Elks Lodge 1880 and the EC-47 History Site CPP Committee honor Vietnam War-era Veterans - November 13, 2015



Elks Lodge #1880 Exalted Ruler, USAF MSgt (R) Gary Jackson, presents a Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pin to Vietnam War Veteran USAF Major (R) Christiaan Niessingh at a VWC ceremony at the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center on November 13, 2015. Photos by: Diamond McClendon, Fitness Center Rec. Assistant.



***Honoring and giving thanks to a generation of
proud Americans. . .***

The Vietnam War era Veterans

Thank you - Welcome Home



Elks Lodge #1880

2121 S Chadbourne Street
San Angelo, TX 76903.
(325) 227-6920

<http://www.elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?lodge=1880>

Elks Care - Elks Share!



The EC-47 History Site and the Elks Lodge are not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense.



Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association president, USAF CMSgt (R) JJ Graham, presents Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pin to USMC Vietnam War veteran Gunny Sergeant (R) Ralph D. Mathews at a ceremony in the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center on November 13, 2015. Photos by: Diamond McClendon, Fitness Center Recreation Assistant.



THE FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) is a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to the support and perpetuation of the objectives of the U.S. Air Force and USAF Security Service and its successor organizations.

Heritage Chapter

San Angelo, Texas



The EC-47 History Site and the Heritage Chapter are not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense.

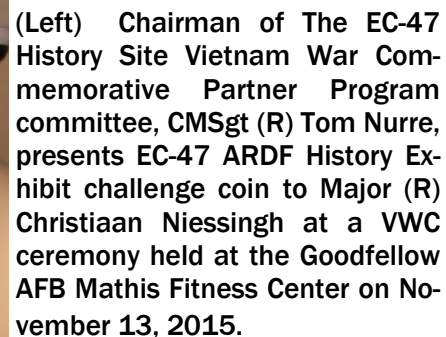
The Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association fosters a continued local awareness of the mission and accomplishments of the United States Air Force Security Service and its successor organizations. Heritage Chapter members have been key players in commemorating Vietnam veterans previously trained at or assigned to Goodfellow AFB, especially those in the EC-47 airborne radio direction finding program.

<http://www.ftva.org/chapters/heritage/index.html>

FMI: CMSgt (Ret) JJ Graham, rggraha@hotmail.com, 325 651-4236



Elks Lodge #1880 Exalted Ruler, USAF MSgt (R) Gary Jackson, presents a Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pin to Vietnam War Veteran USAF TSgt (R) Frank C. Myers at a VWC ceremony at the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center on November 13, 2015. Photos by: Diamond McClendon, Fitness Center Recreation Assistant.



(Below Left) Chairman of The EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program committee, CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre, presents EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit challenge coin to Gunny Sergeant (R) Ralph Mathews at a VWC ceremony held at the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center on November 13, 2015.

(Below) Posters displayed at commemorative ceremonies conducted by this committee honoring Vietnam War-era veterans.





EC-47 Airborne Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) History Exhibit Challenge Coin (Top: Front, Bottom: Back)

Photos by: Diamond McClendon, Fitness Center Recreation Assistant.

Chairman of The EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program committee, CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre, presents EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit challenge coin to TSgt (R) Frank Myers at a VWC ceremony held at the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center on November 13, 2015. (L-R: Jackson, Myers, Nurre)



November 13, 2015 Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony at the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center. L-R: Gary Jackson, Elks Lodge 1880; JJ Graham, Heritage Chapter - FTVA; Ralph Mathews; Christiaan Niessingh; Ernest Rudd, Mathis Fitness Center Operations Director; Tom Nurre, The EC-47 History Site.



November 13, 2015 Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony at the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center. L-R: Gary Jackson, Elks Lodge 1880; JJ Graham, Heritage Chapter - FTVA; Ralph Mathews and Mrs. Mathews; Christiaan Niessingh; Tom Nurre, The EC-47 History Site.



November 13, 2015 Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony at the Goodfellow AFB Mathis Fitness Center. L-R: JJ Graham, Heritage Chapter - FTVA; Gary Jackson, Elks Lodge 1880; Vietnam War veterans Ralph Mathews, Frank Myers and Christiaan Niessingh; Tom Nurre, The EC-47 History Site. Photos by: Diamond McClendon, Fitness Center Recreation Assistant.