

## MINUTES

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)

#### REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

June 7, 2017

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ANC), ARLINGTON, VA

**1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS:** Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), opened the June 2017 Remember and Explore Subcommittee Meeting noting that present in person were Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner and Mr. Timothy Keating, Alternate Designated Federal Officer. The DFO stated for the record that the subcommittee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 4723. The subcommittee operates under authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). The DFO, nominated by ANC Executive Director and appointed by the Secretary of the Army, is provided by ANC. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the subcommittee.

Ms. Yates reminded members not to conduct any formal business by deliberating on any substantive matters which are before the Committee as a whole for vote. Additionally, the subcommittee will report to the Committee any recommendations or information relevant as a result of the day's work. She also noted that the meeting was open to the public and reminded the attending public that they were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the subcommittee without permission of the Chair. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement with the subcommittee in accordance with the published Federal Register notice provided in the binder at the entrance of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also noted that the proceedings were being recorded in written form, and that minutes of the meeting will be prepared.

The meeting was called to order at 1500.

**2. ROLL CALL:** Ms. Yates noted a quorum for the record with the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Mr. Russell Davis (Chair), Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Mark Farley, Mr. Ronald Fetherson, Ms. Debra Fix, and Mr. Robert Hess.

Secretary of the American Battle Monuments nominee: Mr. Chet Edwards.

The following member was not present: Ms. Ryan Manion.

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3. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the 23 January 2017 Remember and Explore Subcommittee meeting were available for review in the members' binders.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. Russell Davis, Chairman, welcomed all members and thanked them for their service. He noted that his Advisory Committee membership expires on July 31, 2017 thus today's meeting would be his final meeting as Chair of the subcommittee. He relayed that it had been a privilege to serve as an Advisory Committee member for the past five years and to participate in meaningful work for the Secretary of the Army. He then called for the National Army Security Agency Association (NASAA) representative to provide their proposal to place a commemorative monument within Arlington National Cemetery.

**NOTE:** As matter of public record, duly recorded in the minutes of the October 24, 2016 meeting of the Remember and Explore Subcommittee, the NASAA made a similar proposal for the very same commemorative monument. However, the NASAA was informed that their proposal lacked a required independent survey to determine suitability of alternative sites for the commemorative monument, thus the subcommittee was unable to make a recommendation for the full Committee to subsequently consider. The NASAA was further informed that once the full Committee received a complete proposal, a vote could then be taken to recommend that the Secretary of the Army either approve or disapprove the request.

5. **ANC MONUMENT PROPOSAL:** The NASAA representative, Mr. Cecil Carver gave an overview of the history of the Army Security Agency. He stated that there were no fitting commemorative monuments for the sacrifices made by those assigned to the ASA because of the classified nature of the organization during its existence. He conveyed that the proposed commemorative monument would provide deserving recognition by the public now and for future generations to come. The NASAA presentation is appended at Tab A.

Discussion / Comments. The Chairman thanked Mr. Carver for his impassioned presentation and remarked that the subcommittee members had received a read-ahead copy of the NASAA presentation to be fully prepared for subsequent discussion.

The DFO then announced that ANC Staff comprise a working group to study all proposals for commemorative monuments to be placed within ANC. Recommendations of that working group are made to the Executive Director, ANMC who may subsequently make a recommendation to the Secretary of the Army, to either approve or disapprove the proposal. The DFO further informed that any recommendation in this regard is completely independent from the work of the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees. Recommendations to the Secretary of the Army from ANC and those from the Advisory Committee may or may not conflict. Additionally, it should be understood that the Secretary may or may not accept any recommendation from the Committee. To ensure complete transparency as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act and US Code, she requested Deputy Superintendent for Cemetery

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Support, Mr. Quackenbush to provide an overview regarding the ANC working group review of the Associations' proposal. She reminded everyone that members of the public are not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the subcommittee without acknowledgement and approval from the Chairperson.

**6. ANC MONUMENTS WORKING GROUP:** Mr. Quackenbush provided an overview of the ANC Monuments Working Group's deliberation of the NASAA proposal and resulting recommendation for the Executive Director, ANMC to consider. After assiduous study of the proposal, the working group found that placement of the proposed monument is not consistent with the mission of ANC. The ANC Monuments Working Group unanimously recommends disapproval for the placement of the National Army Security Agency Association monument within ANC. Significant factors in developing this recommendation include:

- Whether defined by the term monument or memorial, the proposal does not meet the requirements of either as defined by 38 USC § 2409;
- The proposed dimensions exceed the size of authorized markers and will consume potential burial space;
- Adequate funding and support for perpetual care appears to be insufficient; and
- The independent study did not include a uniform analysis of alternative locations, specifically Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where a monument dedicated in 1969 to ASA personnel exists.

Discussion / Comments. The Chair expressed thanks for the information provided in the recommendation to the Executive Director, ANMC. He noted that the subcommittee takes the NASAA proposal seriously, as it has for every other commemorative monument request that has been made before the subcommittee. He further stated that the information provided by the ANC working group is part of due process in considering all available information. A principal purpose for the Remember and Explore Subcommittee is to evaluate and make recommendations regarding monuments. ANC exists to honor individuals and some groups, however some organizations don't meet the requirements for recognition within ANC. During further discussion, some members voiced support for the proposal based on existing monuments such as the Military Police monument. However, the predominant assessment was that while the Army Security Agency is truly deserving a commemorative monument, Arlington National Cemetery is not the appropriate location for the proposed monument. A motion was then made for the Remember and Explore subcommittee to recommend disapproval of the commemorative monument proposed by the NASAA to the Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded, and a vote of five to two in favor of recommending disapproval to the full Committee was recorded.

The DFO noted for the record that the next day's meeting of the Advisory

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Committee was open to the public, therefore members of the NASAA were welcome to attend. Further, the Remember and Explore subcommittee is expected to report their actions with regard to the NASAA proposal. Subsequently, the Presiding Officer (Co-Chair) of the Advisory Committee may allow and consider comments from the floor before deliberating a recommendation to the Secretary of the Army. The Chair then announced the floor was closed.

**7. CALL FOR NOMINATION:** The Chair again expressed his gratitude for the privilege of working with the subcommittee and called for nominations as successor as the Chair of the subcommittee. After informal discussion regarding several potential members to serve as Chair, a motion was made to nominate Mr. Mark Farley as the new Chairperson for the Remember and Explore Subcommittee. The Chair asked Mr. Farley if he would accept the responsibilities of the position if so nominated. Mr. Farley replied that he would accept the nomination for the position. The nomination was seconded and all members voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Farley's appointment.

**8. MEETING ADJOURNED:** The Chair then called for any other business. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 1620.



RUSSELL DAVIS  
Chairman



# Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery Remember and Explore Subcommittee

7 June 2017

Name	Organization	Phone	Email
Anthony Barnes	Rep Barbara Comstock		
JUNE BRACKWELL	NASAA		
GENE M. CARVER	ASA		
Robert L Sloan	ASA		
AL SANDRUP	ASA		
FLOYD McLENDON JR	REP. ROSSER PITTENGER		
Bill Jacobson	National ASA		
C E C CARVER	ASA		
ELISEO LUJAN	ASA		

United States Army Security Agency



For Arlington National Cemetery



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**June 7, 2017 ARMY SECURITY AGENCY'S**

**PRESENTATION AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**

**As an American citizen and as a soldier who defended our freedom, it is always a privilege to visit the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery and to be permitted to speak again before this honorable Committee. However, the higher honor will be yours, when you vote yes to allow the placement of the Army Security Agency Memorial into this most sacred cemetery. It should also be duly noted that our memorial is designed to honor the Army commands and the soldiers supported; therefore, it is more than just an ASA memorial. In an environment that was as threatening as the enemy, the Army**

**Security Agency Soldier quickly discovered the distinct privilege of being the eyes and the ears on the ground and in the air for our beloved Country. Once school training was over and on duty began, we immediately realized the magnitude of our individual responsibilities and the need to be of one accord in each and every mission. Unlike other Army units, it is commonly said among ASA Veterans, we never went on maneuver exercises or trained for a mission, because we were always on a mission of monitoring our nation's adversaries. Our top secret cryptographic clearance was regarded as a badge of honor as we could not discuss our gathered intelligence, even among ourselves, unless someone had a need to know. The mental demands on the ASA soldier paralleled the physical requirements of the Special Forces soldier. This was the profile of the ASA Soldier from 1945 until it was dissolved in late 1976. The Cold War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War presented different challenges for our combat troops, and it was here that we worked hand in glove with them providing vital intelligence which resulted in whatever was required to be successful.**

**Our adversaries were found in all sectors of the world; they never took a day off neither did the ASA Soldier. Our motto was Vigilant Always and we were loyal servants to that motto for over 30 years. The freedom of our citizens and the**

**saving of lives could not and would not be compromised on our watch, regardless of the individual peril, crisis or war time conditions.**

**Forty years removed from our service, the “Unsung Heroes of the Army’s Unknown Unit”, beckons to be heard and recognized. We remember and mourn the loss of our brethren-in arms of long ago, notably the fifty-five ASA soldiers who died while in service during the Vietnam War. Accordingly, there are approximately eighty-four soldiers who were assigned to ASA units during the Vietnam War who are now interred at ANC. I was able to confirm three ASA casualties during the Korean War, however, I believe that number falls far short of an actual count.**

**In 1961 NSA and the Army authorized the first Army Combat Unit to be sent to Vietnam. Under the top secret covert designation of Radio Research Unit, 78 ASA agents were ordered to South Vietnam; their primary mission was to train South Vietnamese military personnel in intelligence gathering. By 1965, ASA personnel in Vietnam had grown to 1,487 agents and reached its peak of nearly 6,000 in 1971. In 1964 ASA worldwide had 30,000 soldiers and attained the status of a major Army field command unit.**

**Through the Cold War, and the Korean and the Vietnam Wars, the ASA supported the intelligence gathering of the United States and other allied nations in the pursuit of peace realizing its operations were not restricted to theaters of combat. The duties of the ASA veterans during the Cold War were just as demanding and vital as our intelligence gathering during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Working near and sometimes behind the Iron Curtain, ASA was keenly aware of how dangerous the world really was. We fully understood the threat of nuclear war, the potential of complete devastation to our citizens and to our allies around the world. Through all conditions, the ASA remained “Vigilant Always”, regardless of where they were deployed, the time of day or weather conditions. ASA was actively engaged with pinpointing enemy troop locations and movements and supplying said intelligence to Field Commanders, the White House, the Joint Chiefs, the Secretary of Defense and DIRNSA. I have often referred to the quotes of the Generals and Field Commanders of Vietnam in reference to the ASA intelligence gathering. These comments were earned by the courage and the often daring conditions for the ASA Soldiers. We did not seek sensationalism but were keenly aware of circumstances in which we were involved and the consequences of loss of lives if we did not render our best for each mission in a timely manner. This was our daily task, 24 by 7, not just in Vietnam, but worldwide. Everyone knows of the dangers of the point man when patrolling an unsecure area. Our missions were just as risky and the ASA**

**soldier, like others brought their fears and nightmares home upon their return. Those who have experienced “war zones” know when the lights go out at night, it is only you and your nightmares that you continue to roll over in your mind.**

**In addition to intelligence gathering, the upper echelon of ASA established working relationships with commanders, Signal officers, intelligence staff officers and tactical communications at all levels. The ASA provided them with preplanning or surveillance techniques to improve communication in forthcoming military encounters and standards for intelligence gathering developed within the Agency, although much more sophisticated, are still in use today.**

**Major General Richard Clarke, Jr., the current Commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, did not serve during the existence of the ASA, however, he did share this statement with me: “It is well known in the Army that intelligence drives operations. The ASA ground breaking work led to the modern practice in signals intelligence and has had a positive impact on the precision of our operations.”**

**Every Army Combat Unit, which the ASA supported with intelligence, upon returning home received their due recognition and was received as heroes. This tradition continues to the present day. Not so for the ASA Veterans! I want to again call to your attention, the ASA served for over 13 years in South Vietnam; only the Special Forces served longer. However, no Army unit surpassed the ASA being awarded over 120 U.S. Decorations and 60 Foreign Citations. (For our Memorial endeavor here in the hallowed grounds of ANC, we are privileged to announce that two staunch allies of the United States, the Korean and Australian Embassies are in full support for this long overdue recognition and honor.) Our vital intelligence while working in units of less than 8 in most incidents, was secured under conditions of grave danger and was processed and delivered through long and arduous hours of dedicated efforts, sometimes at the expense of the ASA soldier’s life.**

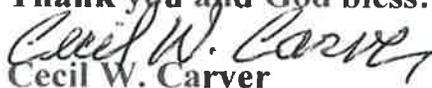
**Those who rest in quiet repose in ANC represent a living history of freedom, bought by the blood of our fallen heroes over many generations. ASA Veterans have justifiability earned said honored to join these heroes, in this place of honor, a place accessible to ASA Veterans, their families and inquiring citizens around the world. The honored soldier who rest in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the unknowns who rest nearby are considered heroes by all who visit that sacred site. The ASA Legacy is rich with heroes, men of valor, courageous and dedicated. But regardless of how we are self-described and**

heralded by former commanders, to the public and the majority of all who have worn the Army uniform, we are still the “Unsung Heroes of the Unknown Army Unit”.

With all due respect, I utter these words: What the ASA accomplished during its existence, is comparable to the excellent performance of any Army unit in devotion to duty and answering the call to arms. Under most circumstances, intelligence is required long before military action is determined and executed. Therefore, the ASA was in most cases the first to be summoned. The ASA did as much, if not more, to preserve and to secure our nation’s freedom and to have saved an untold number of lives for the United States military, its citizens, and this nation’s Allies. Please see the Korean Embassy support letter, written by Brigade General Pyo, Se Woo and I quote from him. “During the Korean War the United States Army Security Agency provided real time intelligence on North Korean and China’s troop movements that literally saved the lives of thousands of Republic of Korea soldiers and civilians. Without this timely support the Republic of Korea’s armed forces would have not achieved the success and freedom that we enjoy.” I can say with certainty based on the number of years we served in Vietnam and the intensity of that war, thousands of lives were saved there also based on the timely intelligence gathered by the ASA.

In closing, my eyes will make contact with each of you. Though I will not speak these words directly, my heartfelt appeal is simply this: Will you vote yes to admitting the ASA Memorial? Your, YES vote will end 70 years of silence. Our simple memorial will appropriately honor the Army Security Agency’s existence, the precious contribution of its service men and women who lived by the Agency motto in war and peace; educate those who do not know of its sacrifice and the service to our nation; and, secure a deserved and fulfilling recognition for our fallen ASA comrades who rest eternal at Arlington National Cemetery. Lastly, the Independent Justification Study indicated that every place the ASA could consider as home, because of ownership changes and public accessibility are no longer a proper fit. Unlike other Army units, the ASA has no place to call HOME. We are orphans by abandonment. The ASA Legacy and its future existence rest with your valuable vote.

Thank you and God bless!

  
Cecil W. Carver

A proud ASA Veteran: August, 1964-August, 1968

**A PROPOSAL FOR HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE:  
THE ARMY SECURITY AGENCY (ASA) MEMORIAL AT  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**

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**Arlington National Cemetery Case No. 173157**

**Researched and compiled for the  
National Army Security Agency Association**

**December 2016**

**John S. Heiser  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
December 2016**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to support the proposal for a memorial to the “Army Security Agency” (ASA), the United States Army’s Signal Intelligence Branch that existed from 1945 to 1976, and to locate a proper site for the memorial sponsored by the National Army Security Agency Association (NASAA), the weight of membership being veterans who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Conflict (1964-1975). To define the project proposal, it is a memorial versus a monument. The difference between these terms is:

**MONUMENT:** a physical structure to commemorate a famous or notable person or event; a statue or other structure placed by or over a grave in memory of the dead; a building, structure, or site that is of historical importance or interest. <sup>1</sup>

**MEMORIAL:** a marker or structure intended to preserve memory of an individual or organization and their record of service; commemorate service of an individual or organization; to commemorate an event. <sup>2</sup>

The NASAA proposal is for a multi-purpose memorial to those who served in the agency during its existence, commemorate ASA personnel who died while in service, and establish the Agency’s role during its existence in support of the United States Army’s mission at home and abroad.

Development and purpose of a monument or memorial requires four (4) primary elements:

1. **PURPOSE:** The memorial must be relevant to a specific unit, organization, person, or event of national significance.

*Example:* The Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and World War II Memorial are all examples of having a specific purpose and theme, placed where they are viewed by visitors to the nation’s capital. Their significance is such that they are nationally oriented or honor a person, persons or event of national significance.

2. **LOCATION:** A monument or memorial should be situated at a location where activities close to the subject being honored has specific close ties, be it a central headquarters site, a physically surviving base where operations were coordinated or took place, a cemetery where past personnel are interred, or the site where the unit saw its most active service in field operations.

*Example:* Gettysburg National Military Park, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, has over 1,324 monuments, memorials, and markers within its boundaries. Of these, 1,241 honoring units of the Union “Army of the Potomac” and

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<sup>1</sup> Webster’s Dictionary (Springfield, MA: C.G. Merriam Co., 1966) , p. 1466;

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 1409.

Confederate "Army of Northern Virginia" were placed at sites within the battlefield where these units were in action during the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863. There are exceptions to this- a memorial urn to the dead of the First Minnesota Infantry regiment resides in the Gettysburg National Cemetery at the Minnesota section, placed there circa 1868-69 before the battlefield land outside of the cemetery grounds had been designated as a memorial battlefield park.

3. DESIGN: The design of a memorial should fit suitably with the surrounding natural elements and be of a nature that tells the viewer its purpose without overtaking the landscape or elements in that landscape that have historical and cultural significance.

*Example:* The best design for a memorial is simple and should be fitting to the person/persons/organization/service unit it is meant to honor. A person of national significance (United States presidents, statesmen, social contributors, military personalities) will have more elements to it in modern design than a memorial to a single unit or organization.

4. TEXT: The objective of the memorial should be easily understood to the viewing public and provide a textual explanation regarding the unit and/or persons it honors and commemorates.

*Example:* The United States Marine Corps Memorial ("Iwo Jima Memorial") in Washington, DC, depicts a memorable event in Marine Corps history. The textual message on the memorial, "In honor and in memory of the men of the United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country since November 10, 1775," states its simple purpose with a roster of the notable battles and places where the Marines engaged in combat action. The message on this memorial with its larger than life bronze statues, readily tells the visitor the purpose of the memorial and for what or whom it is meant to remember. In this case, individual names are not necessary to recall individual service to the Corps, though its deeper meaning is to remember the sacrifice of those who died while in service as U.S. Marines.

The NASAA proposal recognizes the Army Security Agency (ASA), an official Army organization that existed in the official organizational chart of the United States Army from 1945 to 1976, the preferred location being on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery where ASA personnel are interred. The memorial is designed to meet the standards of cemetery administration and officials in charge of the agreement for placement of the memorial at a location suitable to honor the memory, service and sacrifice of ASA personnel.

This study will provide an overview of the history of the ASA and distinguish specific locations in ASA service history that would be suitable for such a memorial, including the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

## I. History of the Army Security Agency (ASA)

The long history of intelligence services in the US Army dates back to the American Revolution when spies and scouts provided critical information to commanders. Intelligence and surveillance methods in the US Army remained as a simple way of battlefield communications until 1885, when the Secretary of the Army recognized the need for an office of Military Intelligence that could provide critical information to his office and be disseminated into the field. But it would not be until April 1917 with the United States' entry into World War I when the Military Intelligence Section in connection with the Army War College was established. Officially designated as the Military Intelligence Division, General Staff in August 1918, the division had wide sweeping responsibilities for intelligence gathering and dissemination. At the close of World War I, the Army's cryptographic elements were transferred to the US Signal Corps and headquartered at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. On October 5, 1942, the Signal Corps' Cryptographic Division transferred to the new "Signal Corps Cryptographic School" at Vint Hill Farms Station, Virginia. Renamed the Vint Hill Farms School in June 1944, officers and enlisted personnel trained in cryptanalysis, traffic analysis, and cryptographic equipment maintenance.<sup>3</sup>

At the end of World War II, it was recognized that control of communications intelligence collection assets had been split between the Signal Security Agency and commanders in the Mediterranean, European and Pacific Theaters, an arrangement with significant problems in transmitting critical information in a timely manner and difficulty in delineating tactical communications intelligence from strategic communications. To better serve the purpose of the security group's mission and smooth intelligence communications, the Army Security Agency (ASA) was created on September 15, 1945, at Arlington Hall Station, Virginia, in the former Arlington Hall Junior College for Girls. Its purpose as "a global centralized unit of control over all Signal Intelligence activities" pulled together different factions of radio and telegraph surveillance to support the Army's global mission. Under the command of Lt. General William S. Paul, the ASA immediately assumed the mission of the former Signal Corps Intelligence Service and Vint Hill Farms School was renamed the ASA School on October 15, 1946.<sup>4</sup>

Transfer of ASA command to Major General Edward H. Brooks on January 1, 1949, began a new period in re-allocation of ASA resources. The ASA School moved from Vint Hills Farm to Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, that same year but due to needs for a single, concentrated facility to accommodate needs for increasing the training of personnel, specifically during the height of the conflict in Korea, the School was transferred to Fort Devens, Massachusetts in April 1951,

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<sup>3</sup> *The Army Almanac* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950), p. 57. (hereafter cited as "Army Almanac")

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Army: "Military Intelligence- This Week In History, 15 October 1946", October 15, 2012 at [https://www.army.mil/article/89173/Military\\_Intelligence\\_this\\_week\\_in\\_history\\_15\\_October\\_1946/](https://www.army.mil/article/89173/Military_Intelligence_this_week_in_history_15_October_1946/); Thomas O'Keefe, "A History of the Army Security Agency", 1999.(Hereafter cited as "O'Keefe")

where it was renamed as the US Army Security Agency Training Center and School (USASATC&S). Command of the School was assigned to the Chief, US Army Security Agency, and attached to the US Army Garrison at Fort Devens.<sup>5</sup>

It was during this period when the curriculum was standardized into eleven courses, two for officers and nine for enlisted men. The training lasted from seven to twenty-six weeks with advanced training in communications security and communication intelligence. Between 1946 and 1951, the ASA grew to become the largest Army intelligence organization, with overseas headquarters in Germany and the Pacific. Direction and control of ASA intelligence activities and information were centralized at its Arlington Hall headquarters, near Washington, DC.<sup>6</sup>

### **The Korean War, 1951-1953**

During the Korean War, the Army Security Agency, Pacific coordinated the deployment of ASA trained personnel to South Korea to support the mission of the United States Army and United Nations troops. The 501<sup>st</sup> Army Security Communications Reconnaissance Group coordinated intelligence gathering missions for three Communications Reconnaissance Battalions (CRB) and five Communication Reconnaissance Companies (CRC's) that operated in temporary field monitoring stations. The 501<sup>st</sup> CRG received the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit citation, and was credited for participation in six campaigns.<sup>7</sup>

After the war, the agency's cryptographic intelligence operations expanded with updated equipment and technology. By 1960, the ASA had successfully provided current or updated intelligence monitoring and code breaking data to the Director of Intelligence, General Staff, for dissemination to department officials. It is notable this period of the Cold War with the Soviet Union marked a period of advanced intelligence operations that prepared personnel for the next decade of military support to protect American interests at home and abroad.

### **Deployment to Southeast Asia**

When President John F. Kennedy took office in 1961, a priority of his agenda was to defeat the spread of Communism. Under this initiative, the United States was committed to assist the government of the Republic of South Vietnam in its war against the Communist-backed insurgency through political and economic support, military supply and advisors. It was quickly recognized that special assistance was needed to combat and monitor communications between North Vietnamese-backed guerilla forces and with their strategic supports located in North Vietnam. The US Army initially supplied radio receivers and AN/PRD-1 direction-finders

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<sup>5</sup> "The United States Army Security Agency Training Center and School", *Fort Devens Dispatch*, May 5, 1964; *Army Almanac*, p. 57. General Brooks and his family are interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

<sup>6</sup> *Army Almanac*, p. 362.; U.S. Army: "Military Intelligence- This Week in History, 15 September 1945", September 7, 2012, at

[https://www.army.mil/article/86929/Military\\_Intelligence\\_\\_this\\_week\\_in\\_history\\_15\\_September\\_1945/](https://www.army.mil/article/86929/Military_Intelligence__this_week_in_history_15_September_1945/)

<sup>7</sup> "501<sup>st</sup> MI BDE History" , courtesy of the U.S. Army Military History Branch at <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/501MI/history.html>

to support this effort but expertise from American advisors was deemed necessary to fully support the mission. Subsequently, the Army Security Agency (ASA) was given the mission and initiated training for US Army intelligence personnel for deployment to Vietnam to conduct small-scale communications intelligence (COMINT) operations.

The ASA formulated two operational plans: "WHITEBIRCH, which established a 78-man ASA operational element to target local Communist guerillas, and SABERTOOTH, which would field a 15-man team to train South Vietnamese COMINT specialists." Three days after presidential approval, ASA personnel and equipment assembled at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, where they were organized as the 400<sup>th</sup> USASA Operations Unit (Provisional) with a cover designation as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Radio Research Unit (RRU). The "secret cover designations (were) utilized in lieu of actual unit designations," due to the sensitive mission of the agency in South Vietnam, so "highly classified" that no one outside of ASA command even knew of their existence. Very much outside of the norm and to preserve the top secret purpose of the unit, the ASA soldiers were required to carry United States passports and wear civilian clothing purchased at the Fort Devens Post Exchange.<sup>8</sup>

On May 13, 1961, the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU with ninety-two total ASA personnel arrived at Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base near Saigon. Distinctively, this was the first deployment of an entire Army unit to Vietnam as previous US Army advisors had arrived individually. The 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU set up operations with headquarters in an empty warehouse on the Air Base. Details from the unit worked in nearby vans and trucks, using receivers and radio interceptors to search for manual Morse signals. By the end of May 1961, the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU had completed surveys for a direction-finding network stretching over the entire coastline of South Vietnam, and was fully operational by the last of June when training South Vietnamese soldiers began.<sup>9</sup>

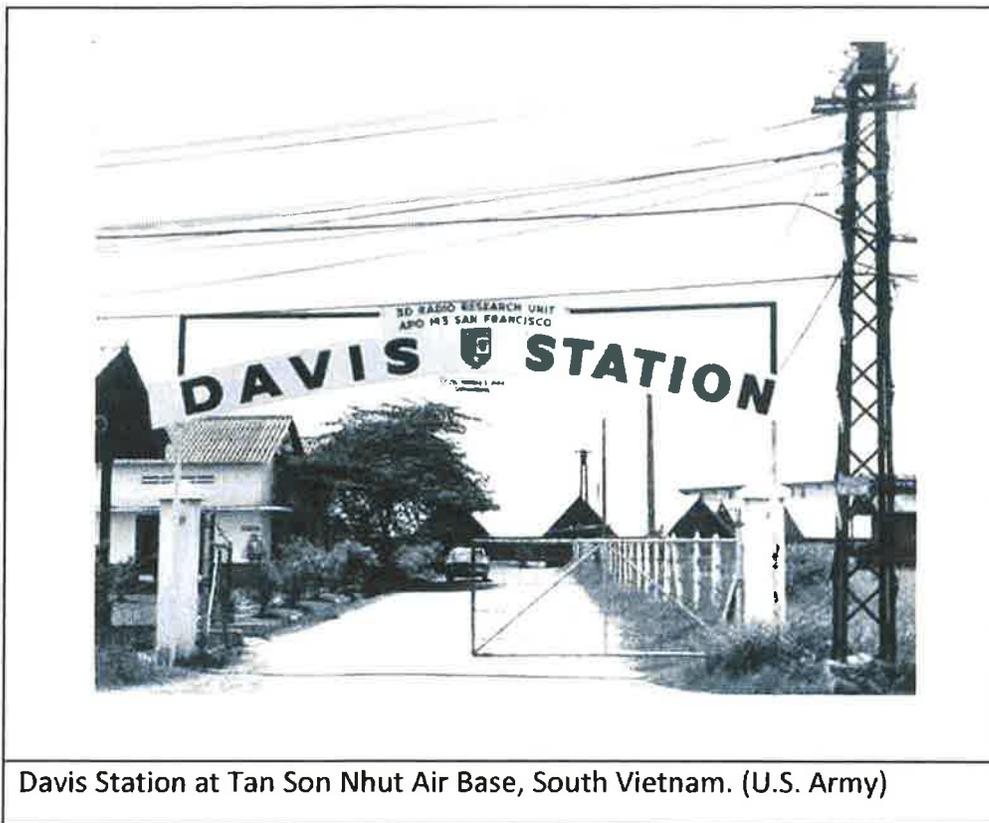
Intelligence gathered and disseminated by the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU was sent directly to support the operations of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). The 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU's monitoring operation "quickly moved from 17 hours per day to round-the-clock coverage," and additional personnel were authorized to enter Vietnam to assist with training and monitoring. One of the new arrivals was Specialist Fourth Class James Thomas Davis, who arrived in country on September 22, 1961, assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU as a Radio Research Advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). On December 13, 1961, Specialist Davis accompanied ARVN personnel on a mission to locate a new monitoring site when his truck was ambushed by Viet Cong forces. The truck in which the team was riding struck a mine, the blast overturning the vehicle and injuring the passengers. Despite his injuries, Davis was able to return fire with his own weapon but was fatally hit by enemy small arms fire and killed. Posthumously awarded the

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<sup>8</sup> Ruth Quinn, "3rd RRU arrives in Vietnam, May 13, 1961", [https://www.army.mil/article/125717/3rd\\_RRU\\_arrives\\_in\\_Vietnam\\_\\_May\\_13\\_\\_1961](https://www.army.mil/article/125717/3rd_RRU_arrives_in_Vietnam__May_13__1961). (hereafter cited as "Quinn"); Shelby Stanton, *Vietnam: Order of Battle* (Millwood, N.Y. : Kraus Reprint, 1986), p.233. (Hereafter cited as "Stanton")' Lonnie M. Long & Gary Blackburn, *Unlikely Warriors, The Army Security Agency's Secret War in Vietnam, 1961-1973*(Bloomington, IN: IUniverse, 2013), p. 41. (Hereafter cited as "Long")

<sup>9</sup> Quinn; Stanton, p.233.

Army Commendation Medal, Davis was the first ASA soldier killed in Vietnam. In his honor, the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU named their center of operations at Ton Son Nhut Air Base "Davis Station".<sup>10</sup>



Davis Station at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam. (U.S. Army)

The mission continued. The 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU began experimentation with airborne radio direction finding and after a trial period that included failures and less than satisfactory results, the introduction of new and upgraded technology allowed an operator with equipment to get close enough to pinpoint the location of an enemy transmitter with a better level of personal safety. The first ASA air mission was flown on March 22, 1962, crew and equipment packed tightly into a U-6A "Beaver", a single-engine spotter plane reminiscent of the Piper Cub aircraft used by the Army as spotter planes in World War II though a decidedly more beefed up version of any single engine light aircraft. Though the first flights were inconclusive, "Airborne Radio Direction Finding would become one of the most important intelligence assets of the Vietnam War" and was one of the primary methods used in monitoring and intercepting enemy radio-telegraph communications throughout the war. For its advanced work, the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU became the first unit in Vietnam to receive the Meritorious Unit Commendation.<sup>11</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU expanded in response to additional MACV intelligence needs. A mobile detachment of 381 officers and men was established at Da Nang, subsequently relocated to Phu Bai and

<sup>10</sup> Quinn; Davis was later recommended for the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

<sup>11</sup> Quinn; Long, p. 56. ASA personnel referred to the compliment of U-6A's as "TWA" or "Teeny Weeny Airlines".

closer to the border with North Vietnam. "Detachment J." at Phu Bai became a second permanent base for ASA air operations- designated in November 1964 as the 8<sup>th</sup> USA Security Agency Field Station to handle classified functions related to Army security, signal and electronic intelligence. On August 4, 1964, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution changed the national policy of support in Vietnam and allowed the expansion of the US Army presence with Navy, Marine and Air Force personnel including combat troops. The additional United States involvement required additional resources for intelligence gathering and by the summer of 1965, two additional RRU units had been established in country- the 7<sup>th</sup> RRU and 8<sup>th</sup> RRU, both under the umbrella command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU. Creation of direct support units for US ground forces and additional demands to support ARVN forces fractured the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU's effectiveness and to ensure the requirements made by field commanders was met, the ASA discontinued the 3<sup>rd</sup> RRU on June 1, 1966. Organic and technological resources were distributed among four new organizations under the administrative control of the newly designated 509<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Group. The 509<sup>th</sup> would eventually have approximately six thousand military personnel in country, divided into twenty+ smaller units, each divided into specialized detachments and field teams that operated in remote areas and fire bases scattered throughout Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.<sup>12</sup>

Among those units deployed in Vietnam at this time, the 224<sup>th</sup> US Army Security Agency Battalion (Aviation) based at Tan Son Nhut Air Base was divided into five aviation companies, each with specially equipped helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to support ARVN operations and provide intelligence data to MACV. Further deployment of US Army divisions to South Vietnam in 1965-66, necessitated the expansion of ASA units to directly support American operations. The 303<sup>rd</sup> US Army Security Agency Battalion, with headquarters at Long Binh, and 313<sup>th</sup> US Army Security Agency Battalion, with headquarters at Nha Trang, deployed ASA companies to directly support Army divisions in field operations. These companies, averaging between 157 and 216 officers and men, provided classified intelligence gathered from enemy electronic devices, radio signals, and aerial observation to division headquarters as late 1972 when US combat troops were officially withdrawn from South Vietnam.<sup>13</sup>

One of the most effective missions of ASA support occurred in the summer of 1967 during project "Left Bank". Three specially equipped UH1D Hueys manned by personnel from the 371<sup>st</sup> RRC were assigned to support the 1st Cavalry Division with aerial observation and radio monitoring.<sup>14</sup> The top secret intelligence gathering eventually supported the division's objectives in back to back operations that fall.

Despite the inherent danger of duty in a combat area, casualties among ASA personnel were light until October 8, 1967, when seven members of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASA Field Station were tragically killed in a non-hostile action. The soldiers had just completed their tours of duty and in

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<sup>12</sup> Quinn; Stanton, pp. 233-234.

<sup>13</sup> Stanton, pp. 233-234.

<sup>14</sup> Long, p. 172.

company with other military personnel were beginning their return to the United States. Shortly after take-off from Phu Bai Airfield in terrible weather conditions, the C-130 crashed into Thon Canh Duong Mountain near Phu Loe, Vietnam. All eighteen servicemen and five crew members aboard were killed.<sup>15</sup> It was the highest single-day loss of ASA personnel during the Vietnam War.

With the reduction of Army divisions in Vietnam during the period 1971-1972, ASA companies supporting those divisions were disbanded and personnel re-deployed. The 509<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Group was reduced in authorized strength and operations after the incursion into Cambodia and further reduced in 1972, just before President Richard Nixon issued an executive order for a cease-fire in Vietnam in January 1973. United States military forces still remaining in Vietnam were directed to depart that country within sixty days and while the bulk of US personnel left, Army intelligence and support personnel of the 509<sup>th</sup> RRG remained in country to support ARVN's security mission. ASA crews continued to fly airborne collection missions though several were subjected to enemy anti-aircraft or small arms fire. On February 16, 1973, a crew of the 138<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company completed the Army's final ARDF mission in the vicinity of Pleiku. Barely three weeks later, on March 7, 1973, the 509<sup>th</sup> Radio Research Group was discontinued and the last of its remaining soldiers left Vietnam. ASA's twelve year tour of duty in Vietnam was officially closed.<sup>16</sup>

Despite the discontinuance of an official ASA unit in South Vietnam, individual ASA advisory personnel regularly visited the country. The last of these individuals purportedly left just before the fall of Saigon in April 1975, though the exact number and who these were is still classified by the Army as top secret.

In 1977, the ASA was officially dissolved by its merger with the Army's Military Intelligence branch to create the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM).

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<sup>15</sup> The seven ASA soldiers killed on 10-8-67 were Spc.5 William L. Stewart, Jr., Spc.4 Richard G. Feruggia, Spc.4 Terrance H. Larson, Spc.4 Robert D. Nelson, Spc.4 Joseph P. Rowley, Spc.4 John D. Saville, Jr., and Spc.4 Ronald A. Vilardo. All were interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

<sup>16</sup> Quinn; Stanton, p. 234.

### III. The Army Security Agency Memorial Proposal

The National Army Security Agency Association (NASAA), chaired by Lt. Colonel William H. Luker (USA-RET) proposes to place a memorial to the Army Security Agency (1945-1976) on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the agency's service as a priority support entity to the US Army's mission at home and overseas, most notably during the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War. Agency personnel supported the mission of the US Army and provided critical intelligence support to the domestic forces of the countries in which they served. It was during the service of the ASA overseas when Army personnel assigned to the ASA were under constant threat in combat areas and agency personnel were casualties. The memorial is intended to honor those ASA soldiers who died while in in service to the United States and remember the service of the ASA in its direct support role to combat and support units of the United States Army during the Agency's existence.

Memorial Details:

#### United States Army Security Agency Memorial

Memorial Dimensions: 38 inches wide X 6 feet high X 10 inches.

Composition: Jet Black granite with polished surface, inscription in light white color, font and textural content as illustrated.

Memorial Base: 66 inches X 20 inches X 8 inches (exposed height). Top of the base is polished Jet Black granite with unfinished edge around base.



PROPOSED ASA MEMORIAL (front)



PROPOSED ASA MEMORIAL (reverse)

**TEXT (FRONT):**

United States Army Security Agency

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN

WHO SERVED

1945 -1976

COLD WAR

Korean                      Vietnam

War                              War

Vigilant Always

**TEXT (REVERSE):**

PRESERVED FREEDOM

WHILE SERVING OUR NATION'S WORLDWIDE MISSION.

Continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii, Africa, Albania, Aleutian Islands, Australia, Cambodia,  
Caribbean, Denmark, Eritrea, France, Germany, Italy, Japan Netherlands  
Okinawa, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, South Korea  
South Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom

SAVING LIVES WHILE  
SUPPORTING ARMY UNITS

501ST COMMUNICATIONS  
RECONNAISSANCE GROUP  
3RD RADIO RESEARCH UNIT  
509TH RADIO RESEARCH GROUP  
MACV USARV CTZ RAC MR FFV  
DRAC MAR MAAG-V

INFANTRY,  
1ST, 4TH, 5TH, 7TH, 9TH, 11TH, 23RD, 25TH, 196TH, 198TH, 199TH

AIRBORNE/CAVALRY  
82ND, 101ST, 173RD, 1ST CAV, 5TH

SPECIAL FORCES  
1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

ASA WAS THE FIRST UNIT DEPLOYED TO VIETNAM AND DEPARTED 12 YEARS LATER, MARCH 1972  
AWARDED MORE THAN 120 U.S. DECORATIONS AND  
60 FOREIGN CITATIONS  
FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE

## Section IV. Memorial Site Alternatives and Evaluations

As detailed in the History of the Army Security Agency in Section II, there are geographical sites that hold significance for the history of the Agency, listed here without priority of significance:

- A. Vint Hill Farms School, Virginia**
- B. Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania**
- C. Fort Devens, Massachusetts**
- D. Arlington Hall, Arlington, VA**
- E. Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA**
- F. The Pentagon, Washington, DC**
- G. Locations outside of the Continental United States (CONUS)**

### **Evaluation of significance for each site:**

#### **A. Vint Hill Farms School, Virginia.**

Vint Hills Farm is the site of the foundation of the ASA School and training center. The installation that remained on this site after transfer of the School to Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1949 was closed in 1994 and the land sold at public sale in 1997. It is currently (2016) in private hands in mixed commercial and residential development and all traces of the original installation have been obliterated.

*Summation:* This site is considered to be unsatisfactory. Procurement of a site for the memorial would not sufficiently complement the development or be understood for its (the memorial's) significance. Not recommended.

#### **B. Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.**

Carlisle Barracks is an active military training installation and school for advanced officers training in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with a rich history dating back to the earliest days of the American military. The historic branch of the Carlisle facility is the Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC), an archival study facility with meeting rooms and adjacent grounds for interpreting the history of the United States Army from 1776 to current day. The focus of the AHEC is the individual soldier experience and operation of combat arms in all wars and military interventions in which the US Army has been involved. The use of Carlisle Barracks for ASA training between 1948 and 1951 is but a short period in the ASA's existence and holds little significance other than as a temporary facility for training during the early stages of the Cold War period. Culturally, its significance to the history of the ASA should be considered minimal.

*Summation:* The focus of the Barracks and AHEC is the individual story of the American Soldier and does not prioritize its mission of special unit recognition over preservation and education of the soldier experience. A memorial to the ASA at this location would not fit with the theme of the memorial or significantly complement the history of Carlisle Barracks. Not recommended.

### **C. Fort Devens, Massachusetts.**

As noted in Section II, Fort Devens was the site of the US Army Security Agency Training Center and School (USASATC&S) until 1976. Under the National Base Realignment and Closing Act of 1996, Fort Devens was closed and the property transferred to the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (MassDevelopment) for a 40-year period. While the US Army retains an option to reopen Fort Devens, it is uncertain what resources (if any) would be retained at the fort/site once the final determination is made. The only remaining structure at the Fort relative to the ASA is the Davis Library, named in honor of Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class James Thomas Davis, 3rd Radio Research Unit, killed in action in Vietnam on December 22, 1961. The Davis family and Army officials dedicated the library to Davis's memory on February 15, 1975. The library contents have since been moved, the building currently housing the Fort Devens Museum, a civilian-operated nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving the history of the men and women who served at Fort Devens.

*Summation:* Because of its long standing use as the US Army Security Agency Training Center and School (USASATC&S), specifically during the period of ASA deployment in South Vietnam, Fort Devens could be considered as an alternative location for the ASA memorial if situated on the immediate grounds of the School site or museum. Whether the textural content of the memorial would be suitable for this site and require possible alteration would be based solely on the desires of the committee sponsoring the memorial. Of primary concern is the perpetuity of the memorial at this location, which may be threatened if, after the agreement between the Department of the Army and MassDevelopment allows the school site to be deaccessioned as excess Federal property, the integrity and perpetuity of the memorial would be threatened. (The non-profit organization that manages the current museum has yet to return a phone call to discuss the site as an alternative; 15 December 2016)

### **D. Arlington Hall, Arlington, VA.**

The first headquarters of the ASA from 1946 to 1962, Arlington Hall is a federally owned training installation located at 111 S George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA. In 1993, it was transferred to the US State Department to become the Department of State Foreign Service Institute. Ranked as a top security installation with priority protection, the original school building that acted as a headquarters for the ASA still stands though has been heavily altered since 1946, with few cultural ties to the Army Security Agency remaining. Access to the site is restricted to State Department personnel and visitation is not allowed without high security clearance.

*Summation:* Despite the use of Arlington Hall as ASA headquarters until 1962 when the primary operational offices were relocated to the Pentagon, the significance of the memorial to those ASA servicemen lost while in service and those troops it protected during its existence, its location in this top security location that restricts access would limit the intended reach and purpose of the memorial. Not recommended.

### **E. Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.**

Arlington National Cemetery is located overlooking the Potomac River in Arlington, VA. The final resting place for America's servicemen and women, dignitaries and public servants, it is one of the most honored and recognized cemeteries in the United States. Within its grounds are buried soldiers who died while members of the Army Security Agency as well as former commanders of the ASA.

*Summation:* Arlington National Cemetery is the first choice of the National Army Security Agency Association for the ASA memorial. Its location on the cemetery grounds would recognize the existence of the ASA, service of those Army personnel assigned to the ASA between 1945 and 1977, sacrifice of ASA personnel while in service, and recognize those US Army units the ASA directly supported in Korea and during the Vietnam War.

#### **F. The Pentagon, Washington, DC**

During the reorganization of the Military Intelligence branch in 1962, ASA headquarters was moved from Arlington Hall to the Pentagon though some offices were retained at the Arlington Hall facility.

*Summation:* The Pentagon is a high security installation with strict guidelines regarding memorial tablets and plaques on the grounds and within the halls of the building. The exception is the Pentagon Memorial dedicated to personnel killed in the building and on Flight 184 during the 9/11 attack on the building. Due to its sensitive nature and continuing operation as the primary military headquarters complex in Washington, DC, access to any memorial on the site would be difficult and not fitting with the current landscape and security measures surrounding the structure and parking areas. Also, the use of the Pentagon to direct ASA operations overseas was limited to the commanders of the ASA with staff and coordinating liaison staff located at Arlington Hall. Not recommended.

#### **G. Locations Outside of the Continental United States (CONUS).**

As outlined in the brief history of the ASA in Section II, headquarters and intelligence centers overseas were only temporary features while the Army was engaged in active theaters of combat operations, assistance and security related service. The primary and most notable contribution of ASA personnel during its existence was in Korea and South Vietnam, the latter featuring headquarters sites at Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base (Camp Davis) near Saigon with detachments at Phu Bai and elsewhere. Likewise, ASA personnel operated in special observations groups based in Laos, Thailand and Cambodia. These locations in foreign countries are less than suitable and defeat the purpose of honoring the physical sacrifices of ASA personnel who were killed in action, mortally wounded, or died of non-hostile actions while in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia.

*Summation:* Though these sites are important in the history of ASA operations during the Korean War and Vietnam War, they were temporary locations in use as long as the Army's mission was approved to be in that foreign country. International relations with those nations would require negotiations far beyond the ability or outright need to place a memorial to an US Army unit where it would not be appreciated and its perpetuity could be easily compromised. Not recommended.

## IV. Conclusion

### **Final Memorial Site Recommendation**

Considering the relevance of the various locations in the United States and overseas related to the existence and operations of the Army Security Agency during its existence in the target years from 1945 to 1976, with the NASAA Memorial proposal focused specifically on the period of the Agency's service during the Vietnam War (1961-1973), this study recommends the following:

**First Site Selection (preferred):** Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

**Alternative Site Selection (secondary):** Fort Devens Museum at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

In briefly reviewing the site locations stated above, the exact location within the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery (preferred site) would be selected and approved by the director of the cemetery in cooperation with representatives of the National Army Security Agency Association, sponsors of the memorial.

The exact location of a memorial at the Fort Devens Museum (not preferred) would be examined and reviewed by the board that manages the museum grounds and depend upon the board's approval of the proposal as an appropriate structure on those grounds.

## Appendix 1

### Army Security Agency (ASA) Personnel Killed in Action/Died While in Service

Fifty-five servicemen assigned to Army Security Agency units in Vietnam died while in service, due either to hostile enemy action or non-hostile events. Names of the deceased and dates of death were confirmed through research for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, designed, constructed and dedicated in 1982. The names of all fifty-five appear on the wall of the memorial.<sup>17</sup> Accordingly, the NASAA has determined that approximately eighty-four soldiers who were assigned to Army Security Agency units during the Vietnam War are interred at Arlington National Cemetery. (A complete roster of those interred at ANC is available from the NASAA.)

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<sup>17</sup> Long, pp. 445-447.

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[https://www.army.mil/article/125717/3rd\\_RRU\\_arrives\\_in\\_Vietnam\\_\\_May\\_13\\_\\_1961](https://www.army.mil/article/125717/3rd_RRU_arrives_in_Vietnam__May_13__1961).

## **Author's Credentials**

**John Samuel Heiser**, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, graduated from Needham Broughton Sr. High School in Raleigh (1973), and Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina (1978) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in American History. A career employee of the National Park Service since 1976, he began NPS service at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia, before moving to Gettysburg National Military Park as a seasonal park ranger/interpreter in 1980. In 1997, he transferred to the historian's position with the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services at Gettysburg to coordinate library services, supervise collection of historic research source materials, and provide ranger-guided battlefield programs and special Battle of Gettysburg anniversary programs for visiting organizations, Civil War Roundtables, and park visitors. He has contributed to numerous park resource studies, cultural landscape reports, fact checked administrative reports, and provided primary source information that supported the nomination and posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alonzo Cushing, Battery A, 4<sup>th</sup> United States Artillery who fell while in action at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Outside of his National Park Service career, he produced battlefield maps for books and magazine articles on the Civil War, Gettysburg, and World War II subjects. From 1998 to 2009, he was the unit historian for the "Polar Bear Association of World War II", the organization of veterans who served in the 339th Infantry, 85th Infantry Division from 1942 to 1945, and provided textural resource material and support for the monument to that regiment and its supporting units at Camp Shelby, Mississippi (2004).

The author has no personal association or ties with the National Army Security Agency Association for whom this report was prepared.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
December 2016

January 9, 2015

Hello, I am Colonel James J. Singsank, retired USASA. I was contacted recently by a fellow alumnus of the ASA Cecil W. Carver, who informed me of an effort to erect a memorial in Arlington Memorial Cemetery to all of those who served in the Army Security Agency. After listening to Cecil's comments it seems fitting that we should join all the other military units who have been recognized in Arlington as the result of their contributions to the security of the United States of America.

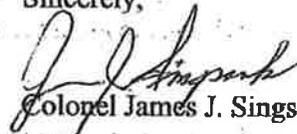
Cecil recently visited Arlington and was impressed with the recognition of these other military units, however, after searching for an ASA memorial he found nothing. Since then he has been intensely involved in contacting those of us who served in ASA all over the world to generate momentum for an ASA memorial in Arlington.

I have personally reviewed the data that Cecil has assembled and I would like to add my name, voice, and enthusiastic support for this undertaking. Personally, I cannot think of a military entity more worthy of this recognition than our own ASA. The dedication of all our officers and enlisted members of ASA deserve this special recognition for their service and their sacrifice. Perhaps, more importantly, we should recognize that the intelligence they provided resulted in many successful missions and life saving military efforts over the years.

I also know that I could not have served with a more diligent and dedicated group, whose individual and collective efforts resulted in fewer fatalities in conflicts in the Korean and Viet Nam Wars, as well as in the long lasting Cold War. It is a history of valor which was not known to the outside world because of the secrecy and silence of their mission and efforts.

Therefore, my endorsement of this effort is without reservation. I recommend that the movement and its funding commence and proceed with haste in order to receive rapid approval and success. I will repeat a quote often used by Cecil since he began this effort: "Veterans of the ASA are aging rapidly and will be like WWII vets whose memorial came too late to honor and recognize those who are still alive!"

Sincerely,

  
Colonel James J. Singsank

## Cecil Carver

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**From:** Clarke, Richard D Jr MG USARMY 82 ABN DIV (US) <richard.d.clarke6.mil@mail.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015 8:29 AM  
**To:** Cecil Carver  
**Subject:** RE: Memorial for Army Security Agency at Arlington National Cemetery

Mr Carver -

Thanks for reaching out to our Division - and highlighting the relationship between our Division and the ASA - I hope this works for you -

"It's well-known in the Army that intelligence drives operations; it certainly does in the 82nd Airborne Division. I would like to express the Division's appreciation to military intelligence professionals from all eras, including those from the Army Security Agency, who have enabled the All American Division to deploy anywhere in the world on a moment's notice to defend this nation. The ASA's groundbreaking work led to the modern practice of signals intelligence and has had a positive impact on the precision of our operations."

ATW!!!

Rich Clarke  
All American 6  
Fort Bragg, NC 28307  
NIPR Email - richard.d.clarke6.mil@mail.mil SIPR Email - richard.d.clarke6.mil@mail.smil.mil  
Office: 910-432-8200/5200  
BB: 910-580-4111

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cecil Carver [mailto:cw.carver46@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 17, 2015 11:12 AM  
**To:** Clarke, Richard D Jr MG USARMY 82 ABN DIV (US)  
**Cc:** cw.carver46@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Memorial for Army Security Agency at Arlington National Cemetery

MG Richard D. Clarke:

Sir, it is an honor and privilege to have this opportunity to address you. I will allow the Charlotte Observer web site to serve as an introduction to me, but more so to the endeavor of the ASA Memorial. This is NOT a request for any type of funding. Briefly, all the web sites



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION  
28000 761<sup>st</sup> TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

28 May 2015

Mr. Cecil Warren Carver  
2746 Oldenway Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28269

Dear Mr. Carver,

My public affairs office received your message and consulted our G2, who provided insight into the valuable service the Army Security Agency (ASA) provided to units operating in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict. Based on information you provided, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division was one such unit that received ASA support during the First Team's conduct of combat operations in that theater.

Because of the classification levels of information that the ASA handled during the Vietnam War, there is not a great deal of published knowledge about the ASA and the contributions of its members available through open source documents. However, given what we do know about the ASA, it is reasonable to acknowledge the important work done throughout its service in Vietnam with helping to save American and Vietnamese lives. Although very few Americans are aware of the ASA and its legacy, please accept the gratitude of the First Team for a job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. A. Bills", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

MICHAEL A. BILLS  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding General



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 4<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT CARSON  
6105 WETZEL AVENUE, BUILDING 1435  
FORT CARSON, COLORADO 80913

March 12, 2015

Mr. Cecil Warren Carver  
2746 Oldenway Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28269

Dear Mr. Carver,

My office has received your message and was forwarded to our historian who found the Army Security Agency (ASA) did indeed provide a great service to the 4th Infantry Division with valuable intelligence while the division was operating in the central highland of Vietnam.

The operation of the ASA remained secret due to the highly sensitive information they received and produced, not much information was found regarding ASA operations. What little unclassified information that is available has helped me to understand that without the services of the ASA more lives would have been lost during the Vietnam conflict. To those who have served in the ASA, I say thank you.

I understand you are working with fellow retired ASA members to have a memorial built at the Arlington National Cemetery to recognize the diligent efforts of the ASA and its surviving members. While I cannot speak on behalf of the staff that operate and maintain the cemetery, I can say that I support your efforts and wish you the best of luck as you pursue this goal.

"Although no...engraved stone bears record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored," Daniel Webster, American Statesman.

Sincerely,

  
Paul J. VaCarrera  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

*Some ASI = Love!*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT) AND FORT CAMPBELL  
2700 INDIANA AVENUE  
FORT CAMPBELL KY 42223-5656

April 22, 2015

Mr. Cecil W. Carver  
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Mr. Carver:

This letter responds to your correspondence with the Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Thank you for taking the time to write about your service with the United States Army Security Agency. Federal ethics rules prohibit employees from endorsing non-Federal entities or private organizations in an official capacity. Your actions and your request, however, show true dedication to the Army's intelligence community.

I appreciate your interest in the United States Army, the Army Security Agency and all Soldiers, both past and present.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Conner".

David M. Conner  
Major, U.S. Army  
Secretary of the General Staff



## North Carolina Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor  
Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary

Ilario G. Pantano  
Assistant Secretary for Veterans Affairs

May 14, 2015

### **To Whom It May Concern:**

I have been asked by a member of the ASA, Cecil W. Carver, to lend my voiced to an effort to erect a memorial in Arlington Memorial Cemetery to all of those who served in the Army Security Agency.

As a Naval Officer who has served in Intelligence Billets during my 23 year career, I am intimately familiar with the value of ComSec in the successful conduct of military operations. Without military units such as ASA many of the critical missions conducted by our military forces would have failed before they even began.

I am proud to recommend support for this noble endeavor; that to recognize those who have served to make our troops safe and to ensure the success of time and security sensitive operations throughout the past 75 years.

I remain,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Glenn Batten".

P. Glenn Batten  
Deputy Director  
North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs

NC Division of Veterans Affairs  
Albemarle Building – Suite 1065  
325 N. Salisbury Street - 1315 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1315  
(919) 807 4250 (919) 807 4260 FAX  
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



**OFFICE OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHÉ  
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
2450 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

January 17, 2017

ANC Remedy Case # 173157

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Korean people wholeheartedly would like to encourage the monument honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States Army Security Agency to be erected in Arlington National Cemetery.

During the Korean War the United States Army Security Agency provided real time intelligence on North Korean and China's troop movements that literally saved the lives of thousands of Republic of Korea soldiers and civilians. Without this timely support the Republic of Korea's armed forces would have not achieved the success and freedom that we enjoy today.

Even today, our strong partnership between our two countries has strengthened the bond of cooperation and success. We still continue to conduct joint exercises with our American Allies. The United States Army Security Agency continues to be a vital component of our mutual success.

We highly recommend that the Secretary of the United States Army and Arlington National Cemetery allow approve the monument for those who were assigned to the Army Security Agency during the Korean War and for those who have served in Defense of the Republic of Korea after the Armistice was signed. It has been too long since they have been honored and thanked for their outstanding service

Respectfully submitted,

Pyo, Se Woo  
Brigade General, ROK Army  
Defense Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea





**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

BC773935

**The Honourable Eric Fanning**  
Secretary of the Army  
U.S. Department of the Army  
1600 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-1600

*Dear Mr Secretary,*

I write to express my endorsement on behalf of the Australian Army for the establishment of a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, in remembrance of the Army Security Agency (ANC Remedy Case #: 173157).

During its deployment to Vietnam the Army Security Agency worked closely with the Australian 547 Signal Troop, undertaking Signals Intelligence missions in support of both American and Australian forces. Recognition of the Army Security Agency at this time is particularly pertinent as we approach the celebration of '100 Years of Mateship' between America and Australia.

Yours sincerely

*D.A. Creagh*

**D.A. Creagh AM, CSC**  
Brigadier  
Military Attaché



Embassy of Australia  
1601 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

Tel: 202 797 3293

15 December 2016

**Mint Hill, NC 28227**  
**Home: 704 545 8087**  
**Cell: 704 907 5918**  
**jntobin@aol.com**

November 13, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

One of the most overlooked story of the Vietnam War was the contribution of the Army Security Agencies signal intelligence interception (SIGINT) personnel, their mission was to monitor enemy communications, and pass tactical and strategic intelligence to higher headquarters.

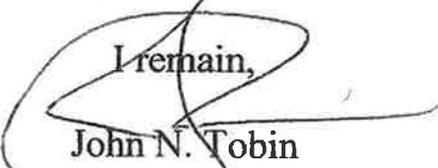
The SIGINT assets were deployed in several different venues, some were deployed in three man teams, one operator and two bodyguards, this team would attached itself to an infantry unit, to include Special Forces assets, and infiltrate with the unit into the targeted Area of Operation (AO), they would drop off and continue to their desired location. I assisted several teams on their insertion and leaving three men in a "hot" AO, as I moved off with several hundred always bothered me, but they assured me that this was their job.

Another venue the SIGINT assets used was aerial intercept units, usually twin engine C-7 Caribou aircraft, a superb aircraft capable of with extended "loiter" time, allowing for maximum duration in the AO; however, the aircraft was unarmored and to save fuel and extend flight time, would fly at low levels and slow speed. The enemy realized that these assets were deployed against them, and strove to minimize their effectiveness by using units were highly effective and unfortunately too often successful. To counter the aviation units they would increase their traffic to draw attention then engage the C-7s with medium and heavy machine guns, and hand held surface to air missiles.

One must realize that the teams and crews that engaged in these operations were highly trained and motivated, they had not received the training that we did in Special Forces but were able to perform their duties with by adapting to harsh conditions, rugged determination and the knowledge that their mission was essential. I can easily recommend any man that served with these units for any position they are technically qualified for, they will be successful, for they don't know any other path.

Should any further information be needed, please contact me.

I remain,

  
John N. Tobin



# THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Office of the President  
5310 W. 122nd Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66209  
913 449-7990  
stevenst@swbell.net

November 23, 2016

The Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America highly endorses the plans for establishing a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in remembrance the Army Security Agency. The monument is a fitting tribute to those who served and those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

The Korean War Veterans Association is a Not-for-Profit 501(c) 19 veterans service organization. We have been in existence since July 27, 1985.

The Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America is especially grateful to the Army Security Agency for all of their dedicated and much needed support during the Korean War. Due to the excellent intelligence support they provided, many lives, both American and South Korean were ultimately saved from destruction by the communist forces invading from the North.

The Army Security Agency often does not get the proper recognition for all the outstanding and professional support they provide to the soldiers on the front line. Their mission is and always will be an essential component of the defense of our Country. It has been too long since they have received the thanks they so rightly deserve.

The Korean War Veterans Association asks for your support in making this monument a reality.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Stevens*

Tom Stevens  
President,  
Korean War Veterans Association, USA

**THE MISSION OF THE KWVA/USA is**  
**DEFEND** our Nation -- **CARE** for our Veterans -- **PERPETUATE** our Legacy  
**REMEMBER** our Missing and Fallen -- **MAINTAIN** our Memorial  
**SUPPORT** a free Korea

TIM KAINE  
VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
THE BUDGET

SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

WAS  
WASHIN

January 31, 2017

Mrs. June Nickerson Blackwell  
VA

Dear Mrs. Blackwell:

Thank you for contacting me about proposals to create a memorial dedicated to Army Security Agency members. I appreciate hearing from you.

The contributions that Army Security Agency (ASA) members made to our nation's security and defense deserve the highest attention from the government. As the predecessor to the current Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), ASA provided critical intelligence support to our military during a period of significant conflict and instability around the world.

Virginia is as connected to the military as any state in the country, and our veterans represent a significant portion of our state's population. We have a responsibility to honor the commitment we made to those who have sacrificed so much to protect and defend our country at home and abroad. Please be assured I will keep your views in mind as should the Senate have the opportunity to consider legislation which would address a memorial dedicated to ASA members.

Thank you once again for sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4606

February 22, 2017

Mrs. June Blackwell  
5305 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22151-1109

Dear Mrs. Blackwell,

I appreciate the trust and confidence you have shown in me by contacting me with your letter in which you requested my assistance with a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

In an effort to be of assistance to you, I have referred your letter to the Department of the Army. I will promptly forward any information I may receive from the agency to you.

My staff and I stand ready to be of assistance in any other matter that is of concern to you.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator

MRW/ch

180 WEST MAIN STREET  
ABINGDON, VA 24210  
PHONE: (276) 628-8158

101 WEST MAIN STREET  
SUITE 7771  
NORFOLK, VA 23510  
PHONE: (757) 441-3079

919 EAST MAIN STREET  
SUITE 630  
RICHMOND, VA 23219  
PHONE: (804) 775-2314

110 KIRK AVENUE, SW  
ROANOKE, VA 24011  
PHONE: (540) 857-2676

8000 TOWERS CRESCENT DRIVE  
SUITE 200  
VIENNA, VA 22182  
PHONE: (703) 442-0670

ROBERT PITTENGER  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
9TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

224 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1976  
FAX: (202) 225-3389

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3309

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
2701 Colgate Road  
SUITE 105  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28211  
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FAX: (704) 365-6384

116 MORLAKE DRIVE  
SUITE 101A  
MOORESVILLE, NC 28117  
(704) 696-8188  
FAX: (704) 696-8190

November 10, 2016

The Honorable Eric Fanning  
Secretary of the Army  
U.S. Department of the Army  
1600 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-1600

Secretary Fanning:

A special group of veterans has contacted me about their efforts to have an Army Security Agency memorial placed at Arlington National Cemetery. My office has been in contact with the leaders of this effort for some time and I understand that they have recently made a presentation (enclosed) to the Arlington National Cemetery Committee for placement of the memorial.

Not only will the memorial honor the Army Security Agency veterans, it will mark the unrecognized work of these special units that saved so many lives. Future generations will learn their story as a result. Such recognition can only be provided on the hallowed ground of Arlington and I express my full support for this noble project. Please provide support for this effort, as the Army is Trustee for Arlington National Cemetery and I will continue to work with the patriots spearheading this project until the memorial joins the other symbols of the sacrifice of so many at Arlington.

Sincerely,

Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress

RP/rb  
Enclosure



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2017

Dear Acting Secretary Robert Speer,

I write in support of the request by members of the Army Security Agency (ASA) to erect a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) in honor of all who served in this important agency. After hearing their requests, I believe that the ASA should join the other military units recognized in ANC as the result of their contributions to the safety and security of the United States of America.

The ASA was tasked with monitoring and interpreting crucial military intelligence while maintaining silence and secrecy. ASA soldiers supported the Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War while providing intelligence that saved a countless number of American lives. ASA personnel were attached to other units such as the Army Infantry as well as armored cavalry units throughout the Vietnam War. Others were assigned to Special Forces units, all while maintaining the highest level of secrecy and remained in Vietnam until the Fall of Saigon in April 1975.

In honor of the Army Security Agency's devotion to our country, I am proud to support this endeavor to recognize those who have served to keep our troops safe and ensure the success and security of our military operations throughout the past 75 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Comstock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

October 6, 2016

The Honorable Eric Fanning  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

**Re: ANC Case #: 173157**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have become aware of the Army Security Agency endeavor seeking a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC Remedy Case #: 173157). Two of the ASA Veterans involved in this movement were born in our beloved city of Roxboro, North Carolina, in which I am currently serving as Mayor. I have reviewed their proposal for said honor and am in complete support of it.

My reason for contacting you is to offer my heartiest endorsement and support for this effort and to encourage you to also endorse their proposal when it comes before you for final approval. We did not have a lot of ASA Veterans from Roxboro, but their proposed memorial depicts every Army combat unit that was deployed to Vietnam. With this memorial added, it covers all of Roxboro's Vietnam Army Veterans and all Army Veterans from the state of North Carolina. Roxboro is rich in heritage and we would greatly appreciate the additional honor for our beloved city.

I thank you for allowing me to add my voice of support and your support of this endeavor would be greatly appreciated. Please allow me the opportunity here to extend an invitation to visit our city, as we would be honored to welcome you.

Sincerely,

Merilyn P. Newell  
Mayor

2 November 2016

The Honorable Eric Fanning  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Subject: ANC Case Number: 173157, Army Security Agency Memorial

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have become aware of the Army Security Agency endeavor seeking a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, ANC Remedy Case Number: 173157.

My reason for writing you is to offer my sincerest endorsement and support for this effort and to strongly encourage you to also endorse this proposal when it comes before you for final approval.

My intent is not to insult your intelligence, but sometimes all of us need to be reminded of a little piece of military history and the veterans who served and paved the way in forming our great nation to what it is today, through intelligence gathering in both the strategic and tactical arenas.

The United States Army Security Agency (ASA) **was** the United States Army's signal intelligence branch and has supported its fighting forces throughout history with signal intelligence since World War I, then under the auspices of the Signal Security Agency (SSA). In 1945 the SSA was reorganized as the Army Security Agency at Arlington Hall Station under the operational control of the Director of Military Intelligence.

Besides intelligence gathering, ASA was also responsible for the security of Army communications and for electronic countermeasures operations. In 1977, the ASA was merged with the US Army's Military Intelligence component to create the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM). Not only were tactical troops deployed on a large scale to support the Army in combat during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the ASA also established a worldwide chain of fixed sites know as 'field stations' for intelligence gathering.

*Semper Vigilis* is the Latin motto of the Army Security Agency, which echoes Thomas Jefferson's declaration that "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance". As we have been vigilante throughout history, we continue to be vigilante for your approval to endorse a memorial that will pay tribute to the Army Security Agency.

I with my peers that support this memorial have all been a part of the Army Security Agency, later Military Intelligence. I was one of the few women who entered (1973 – 1993, retired) and served the U.S. Army, Army Security Agency.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support and I hope you endorse this memorial endeavor honoring the Army Security Agency.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Drake

Retired, U.S. Army Security Agency

19 January 2017

The Honorable Mark Warner  
475 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gerry Connolly  
2238 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: ANC Remedy Case Number: 173157, Army Security Agency Memorial

Dear Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, and Representative Connolly,

My name is June Blackwell, and I am one of your constituents and widow of deceased veteran MSG Robert L. Blackwell, who proudly served in the United States Army Security Agency from 1959 until 1976 when it was disassembled and was reorganized as INSCOM, and then with the Intelligence and Security Command until his retirement in 1981. My husband passed on June 4, 2016 and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on November 4, 2016 in Section 55, Site 284. When I was preparing for my husband's service I became aware of the National Army Security Agency Association and their efforts to have a memorial dedicated to all ASA members placed at Arlington National Cemetery. During my husband's 21 plus years of service he spent 11 of those years in overseas assignments and was the recipient of two Army Commendation Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, Vietnam Unit, Service, and Campaign medals etc. Although his service ended 35 years ago he never betrayed his oath or the non-disclosure agreement that he signed. His last active duty assignment was as the Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of the Automated Intelligence Systems Division at the Pentagon. I only know this because it was on the Meritorious Service Medal (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) that he received on 20 May 1981. He, along with his brothers-in-arms, gave so much to this nation in the performance of their duties so you can see why I have an interest in seeing this request fulfilled.

Perhaps this endeavor can be used as a bridge to the new administration. It has already been sent to the Secretary of the Army and to the ANC Commission. However, as I am sure that you are aware, Secretary Fanning penned his farewell to the troops today, 19 January 2017, and the nominee, Vincent Viola, is yet to be confirmed. The purpose of my request to you is to ensure that this does not fall into the "circular file", but rather remains an on-going effort through the change of administrations and the confirmation process.

I am forwarding to you for your review and hopefully your collective actions, a request that the National Army Security Agency Association has put together to have a memorial recognizing

those who “Served in Silence” and were “Vigilant Always” placed at Arlington National Cemetery. The work performed by all the members of the ASA was significant to our nations’ past, current and future intelligence gathering and security. It is only fitting that a memorial be placed at Arlington National Cemetery so that no matter where that member may have their final resting place the world will know that we are safe because they were there during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War. Funding for this effort has already been established for the purchase, installation, and perpetual care of said monument. The remaining piece is the final approval and authorization to move forward.

**Following are the words of Jim Fisher who has helped to put the request together for the National Army Security Agency Association:**

**We were the intelligence arm of the US Army, tracking all US adversaries around the world from 1945 until 1976, when we were disassembled. Our footprint was in more than twenty Countries during the Cold War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In Vietnam alone, we were awarded over 120 US Decoration and 60 Foreign Citations for the 13 years of our presence, only the Special Forces served longer. All ASA Veterans had a Top Secret Cryptographic clearance. Fifty-five servicemen assigned to the Army Security Agency units in Vietnam died while in service, due to either hostile enemy action or non-hostile events.**

**The ASA has entered into the third year of our endeavor for a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery for all ASA Veterans. All entry papers have been received by the ANC Committee which includes the front and back rendition of our proposed memorial and an Independent Justification Study. One of our members, Cecil Carver, recently received the support from his US Representative from North Carolina, Mr. Robert Pittenger. I am providing one quote from the letter sent to the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Eric Fanning by Mr. Pittenger: “Please provide support for this effort, as the Army is Trustee for Arlington National Cemetery and I will continue to work with the patriots spearheading this project until the memorial joins the other symbols of sacrifice of so many at Arlington.”**

**I now offer one of the many quotes from: “The Most Secret War” by James L. Gilbert. “It is always easy for the people to see the performance of an infantry battalion or brigade in fighting and winning the battle. The performance of a support unit is not so obvious, and yet in your case (303d RR Battalion that supported II FFV), you have probably contributed to the**

**winning of more battles than any maneuver element in the country.” LTG Frederick C. Weyand, COMMANDING GENERAL, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM**

**Sir, our members are aging rapidly, most are now in their 70’s and beyond. Until this Memorial endeavor started, those that died had no faith that we would ever be recognized for our service by our Country because we served in secrecy and silence. The ASA Veterans that now are aware of the movement have faith that honorable men like you have the ability for the ASA Veterans to finally receive the honor they have earned and to protect the Legacy of the ASA Veteran.**

**Thank you for allowing me to provide evidence to you for our support and I trust you will join your fellow Congressman, Representative Robert Pittenger and become a part of this historic event to bestow the rightful resting place to the Army Security Agency Veterans in Arlington National Cemetery. Should you have any questions, I stand prepared to respond at a moment notice.**

Attached is the final Proposal for Honor and Remembrance, prepared by John S. Heiser, which was provided to the Secretary of the Army and to the ANC Commission.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to review. Any assistance that your offices can provide in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

June V. Blackwell  
5305 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22151  
703-425-4606  
[ournest@verizon.net](mailto:ournest@verizon.net)

November 5, 2016

The Honorable Eric Fanning  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

**Re: ANC Case #: 173157**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In support of our effort to have our memorial approved and constructed, I would like to give you an instance that soldiers of the ASA were able to save lives. As a Morse Intercept Operator stationed at Phu Bai, I was involved in an intercept in October 1965 where a North Vietnam unit was communicating with their control in Vinh, North Vietnam. Anxious to send his message even when the control was telling him to wait, the outstation blundered on with his message. He began sending his message in plain text Vietnamese. Being very difficult to copy, several operators joined in to insure an accurate copy. A Vietnamese linguist was called in and translated the text. The intercepted message detailed how this NVA unit was going to attack a marine outpost at Dong Ha, a small village near the DMZ. Our operations officer contacted the Marines and informed them of the message details which included time of attack, strength of the unit attacking and other attack details. The marines were able to prepare for the attack and as a result they had some wounded but no fatalities. We heard that all the NVA soldiers were either killed or captured. Not sure that is accurate.

This is just one small example of the dedication of these soldiers that had a tremendous impact of the lives of soldiers/marines.

I would appreciate any help you can give to make this memorial a reality. These ASA veterans are in their 60's, 70's and 80's or older. Time is short. These Veterans are dying every day.

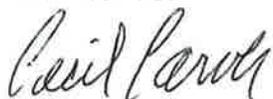
Sincerely,

James M. Bruner  
SP5 USASA 1964 - 1969

## I Am Searching For

How often have you read on different Military search sites, the lonesome cry of a relative, a loved one, or another veteran seeking earnestly his best friend (s), father, sister, uncle, cousin, the list goes on? When I see the same searching from someone outside of the ASA, the typical comment is: all I know is they were in the ASA and stationed in VN or somewhere around the world, but most importantly "I do not know what they did". For the parents of ASA veterans, I can say with some confidence, it no longer matters, as most, if not all, are deceased. Searching for ASA veterans, if you were not in the ASA, is like searching for the unknown, in a place unknown, for those in the ASA were unknown. If you think it is difficult now, in a few short years, what is difficult, will become the impossible. We are staking the honorable Legacy of the ASA, and the tribute to our fallen ASA friends on the endeavor for Arlington National Cemetery. It is not only a memorial to honor the ASA, but it serves to educate others of the important rolls we had in providing security for our citizens, soldiers during war and a saving of an untold number of lives. We have in this window of opportunity, the ability to right the wrong we have inherited by being silent and secret for over 40 years since we were no more. We invite all who can afford to join the endeavor, either by contribution or by spreading the word to fellow ASA veterans, and by veterans, we mean both male and female ASA. I know of no better way, in which our Legacy will/can be preserved than by the living. We had a few set backs on the battle fields and different stations around the world, but I add: The results of many failures does not mean you will not eventually succeed. That will be determined, not by your voice, but by individual effort and most importantly, PATIENCE. Why drag out the ASA endeavor, when if we join not only our hands, but our hearts, we can pay tribute at last not only the fallen, but also to the living. Who desires to be remembered as a veteran of: "The Unsung Heroes of the Unknown Army Unit"? Our goal is not some medal to pin on our chest, but a memorial, that shouts, Welcome Home and a Job Well Done! For someone to say that today, it would be no more than mere lip service. Again, they know not what we did. If not now, then when? If, it is not us, the living, then who? I say the time is NOW, and the who is, ALL of us! Hope to see you soon at the inauguration!

Cecil Carver



## **I Wanted The Full Eagle**

**Several months into the ASA endeavor, it became evident to all that we needed to decide on our symbol for the memorial. I had grandiose ideas of a full body eagle, with razor-like talons, a beak that would rip any adversary to shreds, and eyes that would pierce the armor of any enemy. Several ASA veterans championed what we all know as our symbol, the Eagle's talons clinching the lightning bolts. I am proud to say, I am glad they won the argument! Let me tell you why.**

**The Eagle behind the talons was never seen, but legend has it, he was the most feared Eagle to ever live, with feathers that were the envy of every bird, even the proud peacock. He could not fly among other eagles; he always flew undercover of smaller birds, and they often rode on his mighty wings to conceal him. No Eagle was a match for him, in any manner, as he was born into the ASA in 1945. For over 30 years, he grabbed the lightning as if catching a baseball; nothing got by him. But the lightning bolts were the enemies' intelligence. He was vigilant 24 x 7, always perching, and ready to pounce, at the blinking of his piercing eyes.**

**During the 30 years of the ASA existence, he lost a feather, each time an ASA'er died, either at the hand of the enemy or of natural causes. As death came to some, he continued to add to his beautiful coat of fathers with each new enlistee. In 1976, it became apparent, that he would only lose feathers going forward, for the ASA that he flew for was no more.**

**It is now 2017, we have lost the greater majority of those who ever served, to the wars, to Agent Orange, to suicides, to old age, and the list goes on. Our Eagle is almost without feathers, only a shadow of what he was in his glory days. We, the remaining, exemplify only the feathers on the Talons of the Mighty Eagle we once were. And we will not let go of the lightning in its grip as it represents our final mission for a Memorial in ANC.**

**I am glad I cannot see the full Eagle, but then I must say, how he is viewed physically is what we are today, far less in number than we ever were, but with a mission for the Ages. We have to do this for our fallen friends, our families. The citizens need to know of the valor of**

**the ASA soldiers. The NSA and the Army have had over 40 years to step forward to assist in our unveiling yet they remain in total silence.**

**I represent one of the remaining feathers around the talons and so do each of you. Please remember as long as we are feathers, the Eagle can still fly, but he is faltering fast. When we get our memorial, as always, others will only see His Mighty Talons, but we will know of His renewed energy, knowing all of the feathers will rest in peace, with knowledge that our final mission was a success.**

**When the last ASA soldier is no more, Our Eagle will be free for the first time in his life. Faithful he has been to all of us, never leaving our side or wondering in the night, as long as 1 ASA soldier was in need. His freedom is like that of ours, being in the closet for oh so long, and now he can fly among his own, knowing he leaves a job Well Done. That is who we were, still are, and the legacy we leave for all America. It is not our desire, for anyone who cannot afford to donate, to feel they are not included. When we say the memorial is for all, it will be for all. That is the only way the Eagle will be full of feathers again and fly to his highest heights. For those that can, please do.**

**God bless all, and having had the privilege to serve in the ASA, we know that blessing was from Him!**

**Cecil Carver**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cecil Carver". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name.

## May I Share A Burden With You?

Before starting GFM, I tried to get a funding waiver for the ASA endeavor, only to be told the bylaws for ANC were recently changed, and funding waivers are no longer allowed. While awaiting that answer, I reached out to over 40 organizations/companies, to sponsor our cause. As of today, I am still pursuing that avenue. Can you imagine the difficulty, trying to get an entity to sponsor the ASA, an Army unit that was disassembled over 40 years ago, and only had a history of 30 years, and I might add, all that history was in secrecy and silence? We have the same dilemma that WWII Veterans were in before they got their memorial in Washington, DC. The glaring difference between them and the ASA endeavor, everyone knew of their history and heroics. Except for a few exceptions, we are totally unknown. We are half way in getting the funding we need to go before the ANC Committee with our request. I would like to share some numbers, concerning the raising of the final \$10K.

1000 giving \$10.00 = \$.33 day for 1 month

667 giving \$15.00= \$.50 day

500 giving \$20.00= \$.66 day

400 giving \$25.00=\$.83 day

334 giving \$30.00=\$1.00 day

286 giving \$35.00=\$1.17 day

250 giving \$40.00=\$1.33 day

223 giving \$45.00=\$1.50 day

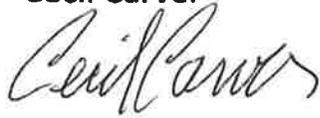
200 giving \$50.00=\$1.67 day

As you can see the daily amount for 1 month is not that much. I repeat an earlier statement, if you cannot contribute, then please pass the word. There are enough ASA Veterans that can quickly make this commitment to our fallen brothers and sisters a reality. With certainty, neither the Army nor NSA is going to champion our cause. If we do not answer the call, in the near future, the existing ASA sites, which you enjoy, will slowly disappear, and taps will be played for the last of us, but just as importantly, our legacy dies in like manner. The few

of us that are still living, can make sure that does not happen, but only if we act now. The avenues have been plowed with contacts, so all we need to do is knock, make our presentation, then await the outcome. I, and who ever, cares to attend with me are invited. Defeat is not an option. What say you my fellow ASA Veterans? Do we continue on or stop at the door of opportunity?

My best,

Cecil Carver

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cecil Carver".



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS

6TH UNITED STATES ARMY SECURITY AGENCY FIELD STATION  
SEMINOLE STATION  
HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33033

IAHOP

28 July 1967

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

THRU: Commanding Officer  
Headquarters Company  
6th USASA Field Station  
Homestead AFB, Florida

TO: SP4 E4 Cecil W Carver  
RA 14 876 271  
Headquarters Company  
6th USASA Field Station  
Homestead AFB, Florida

1. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and congratulations for the manner in which you have performed your duties since being assigned here in April 1966. During your tenure of duty, you have performed effectively and efficiently as one of the group and as a trick chief, contributing greatly to the overall capability of the Communications Center to perform its mission. During this time the Communications Center was cited repeatedly by Dirnsa for its proficiency, again showing your worth to this organization.

2. I wish to extend to you the best of luck upon your departure from this unit and continued success in what ever new endeavor you undertake.

  
WILLIAM J LAVERY  
CPT, MI  
Operations Officer



**Upper Monument Dimensions:**

38" x 10" x 72" (revised 7-7-15)

**Monument Base Dimensions:**

52" x 18" x 8"

Morse Code (height): 1/2"

Letter Size (height):

Line 1: 2"

Lines 2, 3, 4, 5: 1"

Line 6: 1-1/2"

**Emblem Dimensions:**

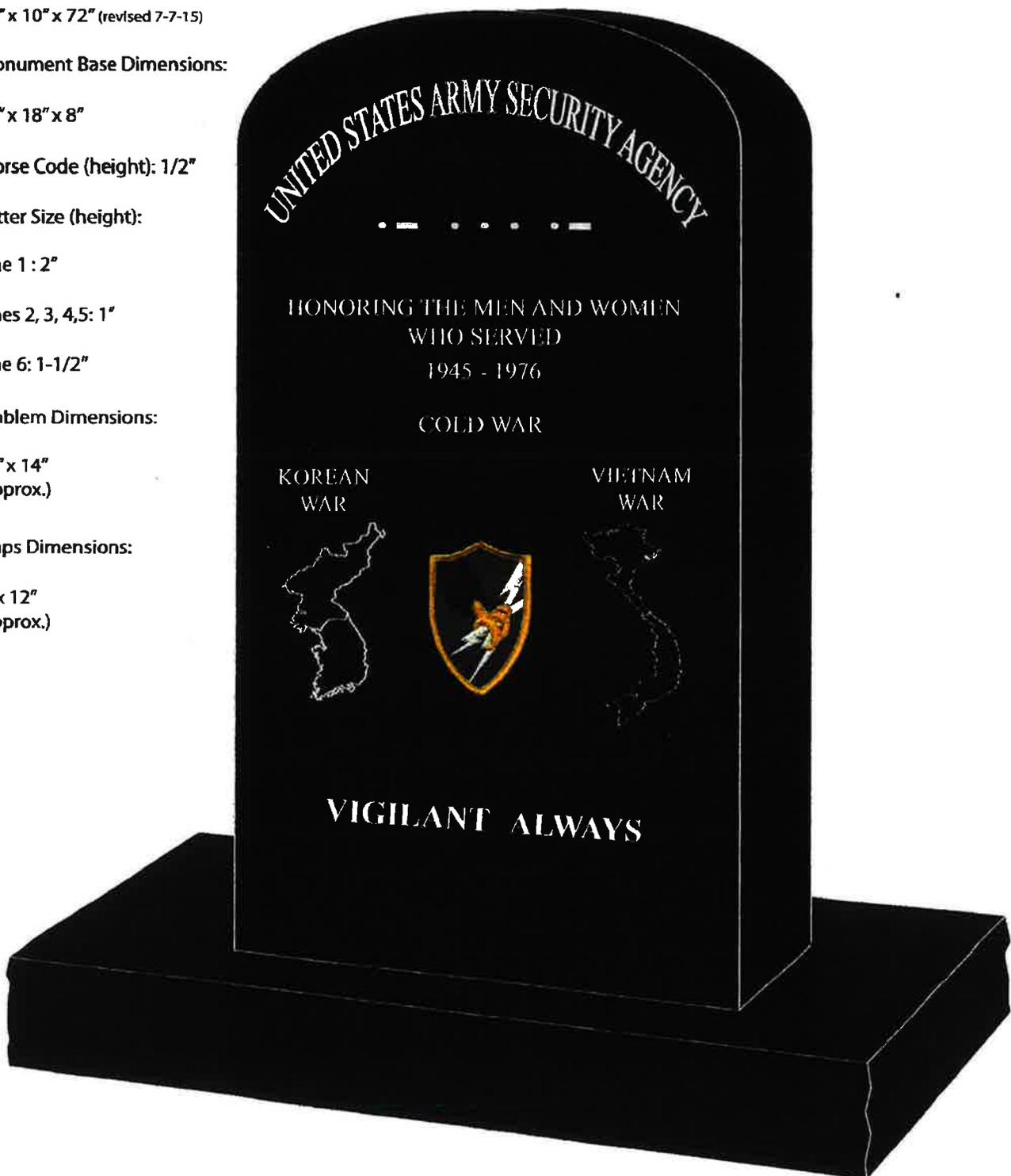
10" x 14"  
(approx.)

**Maps Dimensions:**

6" x 12"  
(approx.)

**Note for Colors:**

**White areas are recessed**



Upper Monument Dimensions:

38" x 10" x 72"

Monument Base Dimensions:

52" x 18" x 8"

Letter Size (height):

Line 1, 2, & 3: 1-1/2"

Lines 4, 5, 6, 7, 8: 3/4"

Lines 9, 10: 1"

Lines 11 - 29: 3/4"

