

SITREP

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2016

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

FORCE RECON



ASSOCIATION
U.S. MARINE CORPS

In This Issue:

- Letter from your President.
- Update on Scholarship Fund
- Update from 1st Force Reconnaissance Company
- Update from FRA Treasurer
- Notice to FRA Members
- Membership Criteria
- Taps

REMINDER!

- Dues are due in January each year
- Have you moved? Please send us your new info.
- Have you changed your email address? If you don't tell us we can't contact you.
- FRA Member Rosters can be ordered through the Supply Hooch for \$25.
- An electronic version (Adobe pdf) of the FRA Member Roster is also available at no charge.
Send an email request to CommChief@ForceRecon.com



Letter from your President

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE - January, 2016

On behalf of your Board of Directors I extend my best wishes to our FRA community for a healthy and happy New Year. Again, we convey a special welcome to all of our Reconnaissance Marines, MARSOC Marines and Corpsmen returning from deployments and we gratefully acknowledge your

continued service and the protection that you provide to all Americans. We are honored to call you our Brothers. Semper Fidelis!

2015 IN REVIEW

RECON "50" Reunion-April, 2015

The RECON "50" Reunion commemorated the initial deployment of Reconnaissance Marines into the Vietnam War. The FRA served as a sponsor and was well represented at the event held in Oceanside, Ca. in April. Special thanks to LtCol. Charlie Kershaw USMC (ret) for his leadership of the reunion, and to the men of 1RecBn and Force Company for hosting the activities at Camp Pendleton.

2015 Recon Challenge-May, 2015

The Recon Challenge held at Camp Pendleton is a multi-event endurance competition open to active duty members of the Recon and Raider communities. Every participant team carries the names of fallen Marines and Corpsmen throughout the competition to honor and memorialize their sacrifices. The FRA serves as the lead sponsor of this event providing the food and beverages for the participants and guests.

The 2015 Challenge will certainly be noted as historic for at least two reasons. First, MSgt. Dave Jarvis, and Captain Pat Zuber placed first in the event. This marks an unprecedented third time MSgt. Jarvis and his partner have won the challenge. Secondly, 2015 marks the last time Dave will compete in the event since his time in uniform is coming to a close. It remains to be seen whether Dave's "three-peat" will ever be matched, and we wish he and his family a long and prosperous retirement.

2015 FRA Annual Reunion-August, 2015

The 2015 FRA Reunion was held against the backdrop of the Washington Monument in Crystal City, Va., just outside our Capitol. We visited the oldest Marine post in existence at "8th and I" and attended the renowned "Evening Parade". Again, the FRA hosted our active duty Recon Team Leaders of the Year

at our annual memorial dinner, and we awarded \$36,500 in scholarships to deserving FRA members and their families.

2016 PRIORITIES

The following represent our key priorities for the FRA in 2016.

1. Transition the FRA Hooch operation to SGT GRIT

With heartfelt gratitude for his many years of service to the FRA, we wish Jim (MAC) McKee all the best as he transitions out of his operational roles as Executive Director and as Hooch Master. I will continue to perform any necessary functions until such time as we can replace MAC, and the Board has voted to transition our memorabilia operation to Sgt. GRIT who operates a major Marine memorabilia business and already provides this kind of third part support to several Marine Corps Veteran organizations including the 1st MARDIV Association. We are working out the final details with Sgt. GRIT and you can still order gear that MAC has in stock through our regular ordering process.

2. Support 2016 Recon Challenge

Once again, the FRA will serve as lead benefactor to the Recon Challenge event that will take place in the May timeframe at Camp Pendleton. We look forward to our continued support of the active Recon community and encourage their formal membership in our Association.

3. Implement PayPal feature for paying member dues

Our Commchief, Steve Luebbert, along with our Treasurer, Halsey Green is working on setting up a PayPal option for members who would prefer to pay their dues using this online payment provider. Speaking as a veteran PayPal user, I look forward to having this option available soon!

4. Prepare and conduct the 2016 FRA Reunion

I am pleased to announce that your Board of Directors has selected **San Diego** as our 2016 annual reunion site. We are in the process of completing all the necessary arrangements with the hotel, and transportation, as well as our active duty Marine Corps partners and we look forward to yet another memorable reunion on the West Coast.

5. Fill Executive Director post and conduct 2016 Board Elections

The FRA Executive Director post still remains open and five (5) general Board Director positions expire this year and will be refilled by vote of the membership at the 2016 reunion. If you are interested in nominating a member (in good standing) for one of these positions please email your nomination(s) to Dick Ashton at Germanpanzer7@yahoo.com.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK THE FRA WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
(www.forcerecon.com).

Semper Fidelis! Al Sniadecki, President

UPDATE ON THE FRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND LANCE WOODBURN, FRA# 748

Most if not all of our membership is aware that our organization supports a scholarship fund. Once a year, at the Annual Meeting a basic report is given that states the total amount awarded for scholarships and the total applicants. I would like to take this opportunity to provide a more extensive but still concise update on the Fund and how it operates. Let me begin with some basics that will provide the foundation for the update.

The Scholarship Fund is managed by the FRA Scholarship Committee composed of three members: Al Sniadecki, Chairman, Wayne Lingenfelter, and myself, Lance Woodburn. The Committee serves at the direction of the Board of Directors. Each year the Committee accepts scholarship application forms from eligible FRA regular members and the members of their immediate families. (For the application form with complete details please access www.forcerecon.com and click on the FRA Scholarship Application (.pdf)). After the completed applications are received for processing, the Committee Chairman makes two additional copies and forwards them to the two other committee members for analysis and ranking. Academic performance is the most important element in the ranking, but also considered are extra-curricular activities such as awards, athletics, community support, and work experience, and then a personal essay stating why the scholarship is needed, what course of study is intended, and what future goals will be pursued. Each Committee member then ranks the applicants in numerical order based on the score achieved in each of the categories noted above, and forwards the list to the Chairman. The Committee then resolves any differences among the three rankings to create a combined list that all agree with. (Note: No scholarships are awarded for more than one year. However, applicants can reapply each year as long as they are pursuing legitimate course work.) The Committee's findings are then reported to the Board of Directors for review, and the approved report is then presented to the members at the Annual Meeting for final approval so that the award checks can be mailed to the appropriate scholarship applicants.

With the above summary in place, let's look at the kind of applicants the Scholarship Committee is privileged to consider. These applicants are all from this year's submission, but are nonetheless representative of the applications received over the last several years. To protect their privacy, no names will be used but only the qualifications that were part of each one's application.

1. This applicant has served on active duty in reconnaissance units and MarSOC that included combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was medically retired due to wounds received in combat. He is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Psychology with a focus on substance abuse and post traumatic stress disorder. He maintains a 3.6 GPA. In addition to his studies, he has worked as a Research Assistant in the university's Memory and Cognition Lab. He currently works as a Research Assistant in The Kohman Psychoneuroimmunology Lab. Upon receiving his Masters Degree and license certification, he plans to focus on treating combat related stress problems due to injuries and the like.

2. This applicant is the wife of an eligible member. She is working on a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a planned completion date in the Spring of 2017. She maintains a 4.0 GPA. In addition to her course work, she volunteers time gathering research data to assist certified clinicians treating active duty military and veterans. She also volunteers time devoted to the rescue of abandoned and abused animals.

UPDATE ON THE FRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND - (continued)

Upon receiving her Doctorate, her goal is the treatment of active duty military and veterans with substance abuse and combat related stress problems.

3. This applicant is the son of an eligible member. He recently graduated high school as the class Valedictorian with a 4.42 GPA (more than 4.0 because of Advanced Placement Courses and two Stanford University courses in Calculus and Physics). In addition to academic excellence, he is also a champion level swimmer in local and state level competitions and has competed in the Junior Olympics. He started his university level courses this Fall with double majors in Nuclear Engineering and Material Science and Engineering with a minor in Mathematics. His goal is to become a Nuclear Engineer. In his spare time, he has spent over 400 hours tutoring other students.

4. This applicant is the daughter of an eligible member. She is currently in the third year of study toward a BA in Art History with a minor in Classical Studies. She is attending a university in Rome, Italy. Her GPA is 3.8. She continues to work in various university faculty administrative offices as a student assistant to help pay for her studies. Upon achieving her BA, she hopes to continue with graduate level studies with the goals of teaching art history and fostering the arts in her local community.

As you may surmise, the interests of the scholarship recipients cover a broad range of academic disciplines from science, to business, to the arts. My hope in providing these examples, is that they will inspire you as much as they inspire us on the Scholarship Committee. All the bright, dedicated, and thoughtful young men and women we consider are so different from what is too often reported in the news media about today's generation, the so-called "millennials," who are presented as too self-absorbed to care about anything but themselves and the latest electronic device.

Given the high quality of the scholarship applications, the Committee, thus far, has been able to make at least modest awards to all of the applicants. That may well change. There have been two annual increases over the last three years, 2013 to 2015 in the number of applicants: 19 in 2013, 15 in 2014, 29 in 2015. The Scholarship Committee estimates that the numbers will continue to increase in future years. Considering the state of the economy, the lack of jobs, and the increased costs of attending any college, university or advanced vocational/technical school, the need for and the increase in scholarship applications is not surprising. One result of these economic pressures is that the average individual student loan carried this year in the U.S. increased to a bit more than \$33,000. The FRA's scholarship awards, modest as they may be in a relative sense, help our recipients minimize if not eliminate these economic pressures.

To continue that support, however, means that the continued support of the FRA membership is essential. Thus far, member support has come from the Annual Meeting Auction and individual donations. Especially important have been the large donations received due to the good offices of Johann Haferkamp, member 155, who was instrumental in the receipt of \$210,000 in donations from the estate of Colonel Lauffer, USMC (Ret.), and Elliot "JJ" Reubenfeld, member 1161, whose uncle, Jerry Reubenfeld (now deceased), donated \$25,000. Those two donations put the Scholarship Fund on a more sustainable financial footing. All donations are received with deep gratitude, and are being put to good use. However, as we can all appreciate, the need for additional donations is and will be a continuing one.

UPDATE ON THE FRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND - (continued)

With that thought in mind, please remember that your financial donations are essential to the continued success of the Scholarship Fund. I know there are literally hundreds of worthy charities competing for donations. I get by mail at least a dozen a week. There are only two, however, who pertain directly to our FRA Brotherhood: The Scholarship Fund and the Assistance Fund. Both are very worthy of consideration. The Scholarship Fund, in particular, allows our organization to provide a beneficial investment in the education of the men and women who will help sustain the future of this great country. It is an investment that “speaks highly” about our brotherhood and that is deeply appreciated and remembered by those who receive it. Please help as you can and make your donations payable to the FRA Scholarship Fund.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis



1st Force Reconnaissance Company

By Major Byron Owen

This has been an eventful year for 1st Force. We have done a lot of rebuilding and training to bring the company back to where we should be as the company in direct support of I MEF. The Marines in 1st and 2nd Platoons have gone through a rigorous training plan and have conducted numerous small deployments all over South America and the Pacific.



Force 1 deployed to the North Island of New Zealand for exercise KIWI KORU in November. Kiwi Koru is a 2014 multinational amphibious exercise meant to enhance defense warfare exercise relations with New Zealand through conducting multinational training and enhancing interoperability between both forces.



Force 1 supported the bilateral CQB exercise Mississippi with over 400 NORTHERN STAR in personnel from the Chilean Special Forces and the US Army Special Forces.





The entire company supported the Air Force personnel recovery exercise ANGEL THUNDER in May in Tucson Arizona. Everyone participated in a week of lane training in mountaineering, Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and vehicle extrication before moving on to an exercise wide live scenario. Marines from Force 1 conducted full mission profile reconnaissance missions in support of personnel recovery while Force 2 conducted numerous Visit Board Search and Seizure missions off the coast of Camp Pendleton.



The company gathered at the Admiral Baker clubhouse in June to celebrate the birth of 1st Force Reconnaissance Company on June 19, 1957. Several 1st Force alumni were present and we are hoping to get more veteran participation at our next birthday. The venue is to be determined at this point but we are looking at doing it on June 17th.



Force 3 deployed to Ancon Peru in June and trained Peruvian Marines in land warfare. Force 1 deployed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July and trained the Brazilian Commandos Anfibios. Force 2 conducted a mountain warfare training package on the Gulkana Glacier in Alaska in July.



The entire company embarked aboard the USS Boxer in support of the MEB amphibious assault exercise DAWN BLITZ in September. Force 3 conducted a long range reconnaissance mission to observe a deep MEB objective and Force 1 and 2 conducted over the horizon amphibious reconnaissance missions using helocast and combat rubber raiding craft to provide the MEB Commanding General with the intelligence required to successfully assault the landing beaches.

Force 1 is currently deployed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to support the bilateral amphibious warfare exercise UNITAS AMPHIB with 23d Marines and the Brazilian, Peruvian, Mexican Marine Corps. Force 2 and 3 are conducting training for operations and exercises we have coming up in the following year. There has been a tremendous amount of growth here at 1st Force this year and there is no sign of our momentum slowing down in the year to come.



Semper Fidelis,
Broadsword6

Force Recon Association Profit & Loss

October 2014 through September 2015

Accrual Basis

1/28/2016

From FRA Treasurer
Halsey Green

| | <u>Oct '14 - Sep 15</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | |
| Income | |
| Donations | 801.95 |
| Membership Dues | 31,986.70 |
| Memorabilia Sales | 10,061.40 |
| Scholarship Income | <u>1,325.00</u> |
| Total Income | 44,175.05 |
| Expense | |
| Bank Service Charges | 3.00 |
| Contributions | 1,150.00 |
| Liab Insurance | |
| Liability Insurance Crime | <u>1,473.75</u> |
| Total Liab Insurance | 1,473.75 |
| Licenses and Permits | 20.00 |
| Mem.purchases | 9,350.60 |
| Memorabilia shipping | 616.28 |
| Miscellaneous | 154.25 |
| Office Supplies | 1,742.83 |
| Postage and Delivery | 2,351.58 |
| Printing and Reproduction | 1,702.98 |
| Professional Fees | |
| Accounting | 1,106.25 |
| Legal Fees | <u>900.00</u> |
| Total Professional Fees | 2,006.25 |
| Recon 2015 | 13,843.63 |
| Recon Challenge | 2,899.61 |
| Repairs | |
| Computer Repairs | <u>169.99</u> |
| Total Repairs | 169.99 |
| Scholarship Awards | 31,000.00 |
| Shot Show | 350.00 |
| Telephone | |
| Tele-Conference Expense | 253.71 |
| Telephone - Other | <u>1,396.14</u> |
| Total Telephone | 1,649.85 |
| Travel & Ent | |
| Airline Fare | 1,140.12 |
| Auto Fuel | 1,037.82 |
| Auto Rental | 581.00 |
| Lodging | 231.16 |
| Meals | 680.02 |
| Travel | <u>20.00</u> |
| Total Travel & Ent | <u>3,690.12</u> |
| Total Expense | <u>74,174.72</u> |
| Net Ordinary Income | -29,999.67 |
| Other Income/Expense | |
| Other Income | |
| Interest Income | <u>7,941.50</u> |
| Total Other Income | <u>7,941.50</u> |
| Net Other Income | <u>7,941.50</u> |
| Net Income | <u><u>-22,058.17</u></u> |

NOTICE to All FRA Members

Date: February 15, 2016

From: FRA President

To: FRA Regular Members

Subject: Summary of the 2015 Changes to the FRA Bylaws

1. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the changes to the Bylaws approved by the Membership at the Annual Meeting on 22 August 2015 in Arlington, VA.
 - A. Paragraph 5.7 titled “Special Circumstances re the Removal and Appointment of Directors” was added to the Bylaws to allow for the following: (1) Removal and replacement of a director for unexcused absences from two board meeting during a one year period; (2) temporary replacement of a board member deployed overseas for less than one year; (3) removal and replacement of a director who is deployed overseas for more than one year or receives PCS orders that will not allow his continued service as a director.
 - B. In paragraph 6.4C The Secretary, the change adds the requirement for submitting CA Form SI-100 to the CA Secretary of State, and in paragraph 6.4D The Treasurer, it deletes that same requirement.
 - C. Paragraph 7.3 titled “Board of Directors Meetings” was added to the Bylaws to allow for the following:
 - 1) To specify the criteria for scheduling regular board meetings other than the annual board meeting, and
 - 2) to establish the criteria for board actions that may be taken without a meeting as allowed for in the CA Corporation Code.
2. As noted above, the changes either added paragraphs to the Bylaws or added an additional duty to the Secretary’s responsibilities and then deleted that duty from the Treasurer’s responsibilities. Each change is shown with the notation “(Chg 1)” either after the paragraph title or wherever the change occurred in the text of a paragraph.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Sniadecki, President

2016 Membership Criteria

Annual Dues - \$40

Regular Members:

Regular Members include all officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or her Allies who are now serving, or who have served, with any Force Reconnaissance Company, Regular or Reserve, Marine Division Reconnaissance Battalions, Regular or Reserve, Amphibious Reconnaissance units between 1943 and 1958, Test Unit One, and Special Mission Units. Only Regular Members shall have voting rights and serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Associate Members:

Associate Members include civilians and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and Allies who do not meet the "Regular Member" requirements as stipulated above, but who did make a significant contribution to the development of, or advancement to, operational procedures or techniques inherent in Force Reconnaissance operations or who made a valuable and unique contribution to either operational Force Reconnaissance units or to the Corporation. Associate Members do not have voting rights and may not serve as officers or on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

TAPs and Remembrance



SSgt Donald Rosche, FRA# 347, Died February 2015

Sgt George Loera, FRA# 2980, Died 23 August 2015

GySgt Craig Ramon, FRA# 200, Died 20 October 2015

SgtMaj Robert Snyder, FRA# 0569, Died 8 Nov 2015

Sgt Michael McGuire, FRA# 1247, Died 13 January 2016

Sgt Mark Tigh, FRA# 746, Died 2 February 2016

You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.



Back Page Info

About Our Organization...

The Force Recon Association Inc (FRA) was formally established on 21 September 1989, as a non-profit fraternal veterans association, in accordance with provisions of Section 501(c)19 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Our mission and our motto is "Link Forever Those Who Served Together"

The FRA strives to maintain and foster fellowship, comradeship and perpetuate the ideals and professionalism between and among its members and the members of our reconnaissance units, whether Force or Battalion Recon, Regular or Reserve.

We welcome both individual and corporate donors to contribute to our FRA Scholarship Fund and the FRA Assistance Fund. For more information regarding either of these Funds or to make a contribution, please contact the Chairman of the Scholarship and Assistance Funds via the Commchief@forcerecon.com

Founders: Patrick "Pat" J. Ryan; Thomas "Tom" L. Gibson; and Ernie "Gunny" DeFazio (Deceased).



**Force Recon
Association
P.O. Box 111000
Carrollton, TX 75011**

**Send Hooch Orders to:
FRA Supply Hooch
PO BOX 425
CHARLEMONT, MA. 01339**

**Hooch Order Forms at:
www.forcerecon.com**

**Info to the CommChief
Stephen Luebbert send to:
Commchief@Forcerecon.com**

**FRA Scholarship Info:
See FRA Web Site**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ForceRecon.com

Board of Directors and Officers: 2015 - 2016

Al Sniadecki
President *

Richard (Dick) Ashton
Vice President *

Halsey Green
Treasurer *

Paul Clifford
Secretary

James McKee
Executive Director *

Stephen Luebbert
Director *
Communications Chief

Joe Robinson
Director*

Lance Woodburn
Director *

Chad Ramsey
Director *

* Position expires as of 2016 Reunion.

**CUSTOMER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, 00000
LABEL HERE**

