

SITREP

VOLUME 29

ISSUE 1

JUNE 2017

LINK FOREVER THOSE WHO SERVED TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

FORCE RECON



ASSOCIATION
U.S. MARINE CORPS

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Letter from your President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Memorial Day: 2017

This year we celebrated the 152nd anniversary of Memorial Day. We remember and honor those patriots who have given their lives in the defense of our Nation and our liberty. We remember and revere over one million Americans who have died to keep us free and preserve the greatest Nation on earth. “Fair winds and following seas” to our fallen heroes...May you Rest in Peace!

As our Nation continues to battle terrorism around the globe, again we extend our heartfelt gratitude and a special “welcome home” to all of our Reconnaissance Marines, MARSOC Marines and Corpsmen returning from deployments, and to our Brother and Sisters still engaged in the fight, we offer our prayers and best wishes for your safe return. Semper Fidelis!

2017 Update

2017 FRA Reunion – Quantico – September 6-9, 2017

I am pleased to announce that all the details and activities for our 2017 Reunion at MCB Quantico are just about in place and locked in. We have now scheduled the following activities: (1) tour of HMX-1, (2) tours of the Marine Corps Museum, and (3) a tour of the Raids and Recon Detachment including lunch at the Raids & Recon facility. Additionally, we will hold our ‘regular’ events to include our formal reunion dinner, our annual membership meeting and our FRA Charities auction. It has truly been a “team” effort this year in working up our Reunion mission plans and events and I want to acknowledge Board Members Dick Ashton, Dave Jarvis, and Paul Clifford for their contributions in helping orchestrate many of the events and activities we have scheduled. Reunion Registration forms have been mailed to all members in good standing the first week of June. **Hotel reservations can be booked at the Crossroads Inn, Quantico, VA at (703) 630-4444. Use the group code “Force Recon Reunion”. The block of rooms being held is limited so make your reservations asap!**

We look forward to seeing you in September!

2017 FRA Scholarship Applications Close July 1, 2017

Nominations for the 2017 FRA Executive Board positions are now being accepted, and will be voted on at the FRA Reunion in September. The positions coming vacant are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All FRA members “in good standing” are eligible to run for any of these positions. If you

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

wish to nominate a member to one of these positions, please submit the name(s) via email directly to Vice President, Dick Ashton at germanpanzer7@yahoo.com.

Recon Challenge / Challenge Recon – Camp Pendleton – April 27, 2017

The 2017 Recon Challenge/Challenge Recon took on a slightly different look this year. For the first time in the history of the event, the Recon Marines competed on one course and on a slightly different course non-Recon Marines competed. The most significant difference in the two events was the helocast/fin event that all Recon Marines were required to complete. What did not change is the grit and stamina of the participants as they endured each mile in recognition of a Fallen Recon Brother. We congratulate all 2017 warriors who participated and recognize the following Recon Challenge Winners: First Place: Sgt. Dicka and Sgt. Gillespie; Second Place: MSgt Paskvan and Captain Willis; Third Place: SSgt Leach and Sgt. Reese. More information and photos can be found at <https://m.facebook.com/MarineRecon0321/>.



Honoring a Fallen Force Recon Hero: 2nd LT Terrence Graves, 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company

On Friday, June 2, 2017, the Marine TBS Community at MCB Quantico dedicated a new residence hall in honor of 2nd LT Terrence Graves, 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company. 2nd Lt Graves was killed in action in February, 1968 in Quang Tri Province, RVN, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism. To further honor our fallen Recon Brother, the FRA staff partnered with the active duty training staff at RTS, MCB Camp Pendleton who built a spectacular memorial paddle encased in glass to protect and preserve the Medal of Honor and the other decorations awarded to 2nd Lt Graves. The paddle was presented to the TBS command and will hang in a place of prominence in the new Graves Hall. Also, during the dedication, FRA President, Al Sniadecki, accompanied by Vice President, Dick Ashton announced the naming of a 2017 FRA Scholarship in Terry Graves' honor. Mr. Sniadecki explained that as long as the Force Recon Association exists, "...heroes like Terry Graves and all of our fallen Brothers would never be forgotten."



A Recon "Legend" Announces Retirement

May, 2017 saw a storied Marine career move to its final chapter as LtCol Andrew Christian announced his retirement and subsequently relinquished command of his battalion on 25 May 2017. Few contemporary Marines have earned the level of respect, allegiance, and affection that Andy has earned. The Marines under his command nicknamed him "Leonidas" after the famous Spartan warrior and king. Additionally, he and Sarah continue to serve the MARSOC and Recon communities assisting with charitable activities whenever possible. Those of us privileged to know this outstanding human being, his wife Sara, and Son, Tyler extend every good wish for the future, and we are forever indebted for your leadership, 'warriorship', and your friendship, Sir!



OPERATION DATA CLEANUP:

Please help us Update your Information!!!!

We need your help with updating our FRA membership database. When many of our members signed up with the FRA, the information provided was incomplete...especially relative to full service dates. Many of our Vietnam and preVietnam Veterans provided service dates for only the time they served in a Recon unit. We have many members who served more than one enlistment and many who retired from the military, but our information is incomplete. **Please take the time to complete the information below and email back to**

**Commchief@forcerecon.com or mail it back to
FRA, P.O. BOX 111000, Carrollton, TX 75011.**

NAME: _____

FRA MEMBER #: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print clearly) _____

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL DATES SERVED IN THE MILITARY AND THE BRANCH OF SERVICE (FOR EXAMPLE: USMC: 5/1966-2/1969, OR USMC:1957-59 AND ARMY 1960-1891). IF EXACT DATES ARE NOT KNOWN, USE YEARS ONLY.

PLEASE PROVIDE UNIT NAMES AND SERVICE DATES FOR ALL MARINE RECON UNITS YOU SERVED WITH (FOR EXAMPLE: 5TH FORCE RECON 10/1966-11/67, 3RD FORCE RECON 12/1967 -1/1969, 3RD RECON BN 2/1969-4/1971). IF EXACT DATES ARE NOT KNOWN, USE YEARS ONLY.

2017 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



You Will Be Missed and Never Forgotten.





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

**Send Hooch Orders to:
FRA Supply Hooch
Closed until further notice**

**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

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).

Board of Directors and Officers: 2017

Al Sniadecki
President *

Dick Ashton
Vice President *

Paul Clifford
Secretary *

Halsey Green
Treasurer *

Lance Woodburn
Director

Billy Branch
Director

John Baker
Director

David Jarvis
Director

Patrick Zuber
Director

* Expires 2017

Open Seats

Executive Director



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